



## Grants and Scholarships

by Marsha Wilke and Betsy Lieberman

### Where the Eaton Grants Went for 2020

The Manatee River Garden Club has been helping with community beautification and educational garden projects with funds from the Elizabeth M. Eaton Grants for over 45 years. Grant money is received yearly from the Fund for distribution, and applications are reviewed for varied public projects. From butterfly gardens at the Bishop Museum and Cortez Historical Museum, tropical fruits at the Palma Sola Botanical Garden, to earth boxes for WD Sugg Middle School, our Grants and Scholarship Committee has found wonderful projects in which to invest.

The 2020 Eaton award winners have been announced by Committee Chair Betsy Lieberman. They include

\*Healthy Start Coalition of Manatee for the Washington Square Community Gardens in Bradenton. Restored and new raised beds are now available for gardeners. This is a model community garden and is supported with educational programming by UF/IFAS Extension in Manatee County.

\*Manatee County Agricultural Center for establishment of a Community Sensory Garden, with special plants selected for their aroma or their feel and sitting areas for all to enjoy.

\*Myakka City Elementary School Garden Club for increasing storage and garden supplies and tools for their vegetable garden. Their "crops" are certified to store and use in the school's cafeteria. Member Bev Chapin says salad greens her grandson picked from this school garden were delicious!

\*Florida Maritime Museum for reestablishment of the Butterfly Garden after a construction project for handicap access disturbed the existing garden.

\*UF/IFAS Extension for enhancing and extending the educational rose garden area. Our Horticulture Study Group toured this garden last winter. This is a very popular area for new residents and winter visitors.

\*Palma Sola Botanical Park for establishing a teaching Butterfly Garden and sitting areas.

\*Manatee River Garden Club to improve drainage and improve the North entrance to the facility. This will enhance the entry from Lewis Park parking and improve the safety of the area. It will also improve the photo opportunities for event rentals.

Most projects will begin in the fall so winter and spring visits will be available at all winners' properties.



Mack Lessig (UFIFAS Extension), JoAnn Spencer (Washington Park gardener) and Rebecca Moreland (Volunteer) admire sesame in the Manatee Square Community Garden