

Gillespie Creek Journal

The Gardenia plant is named after the 1700s Scottish-American physician and botanist named Dr. Alexander Garden.

Google research further states that the Gardenia belongs to the "Rubiaceae" family, also known as the coffee or madder family. There are approximately 140 identified species of Gardenias.



**Sun City Garden Gardenia
May 2023**

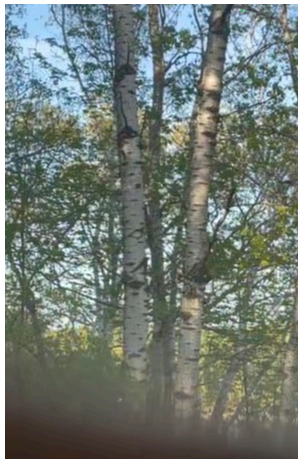
The gardenia flower symbolizes trust, clarity, hope and renewal. It also can convey the message of dreams, intuition, self-reflection, and protection. In parts of Asia, the gardenia flower is symbolic of peace and clarity and is a popular addition to a wedding bouquet or floral arrangement.

Folklore tells that King Solomon offered a Gardenia flower every morning to each of the women in his harem to avoid jealousy and favoritism.

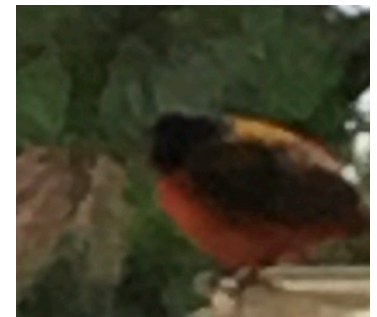
Gardenias are blooming in Arizona these late spring days.

My kind friends gifted me with this beautiful freshly cut Gardenia bouquet this past week. Its intoxicating scent brought back a treasured memory.

Mid May 1958 a Hilltop Florist truck pulled into our Mankato, Minnesota driveway. I watched the deliveryman approach our front door and rushed to answer the doorbell. Grinning the deliveryman questioned, "Does Judy Strand live here?" "Yes that's me." "Young Lady you must have a special date tonight." He gently passed a fragrant feather light clear box to me. Nestled within white tissue lay three delicate white flowers double-tied with a soft pink ribbon. "I do, tonight's our senior prom," I giggled, "Thank you," Closing and relocking the front door I shouted, "Mom, come and see!" "Honey the flowers are Gardenias, the corsage will perfectly match your dress. It smells so beautiful."



Hidden Within These Rural Stillwater, Minnesota Birch Trees a Pileated Woodpecker Couple are Nesting Today



Painted Bunting Sheltered from South Carolina Torrential Rain This Morning

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