



KEN BURKE

CLERK OF THE CIRCUIT COURT - PINELLAS COUNTY, FLORIDA

Clerk of the County Court • Recorder of Deeds • Clerk and Accountant of the Board of County Commissioners
Custodian of County Funds • County Auditor • Clerk of the Water and Navigation Control Authority

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Clerk to perform one wedding ceremony to unite 50 couples in marriage on Valentine's Day in one of the county's most romantic spots, the Wedding Garden of the Florida Botanical Gardens

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – February 8, 2010 – Clearwater, FL – Due to an overwhelming response, the Pinellas County Clerk's Office has stopped taking reservations for its annual Valentine's Day group wedding ceremony. The 50 couple maximum capacity was reached on Friday, according to Ken Burke, Clerk of the Circuit Court.

"We have to limit the number of couples that may participate. It is such a festive event, that understandably, many couples bring their friends and families to watch the one big ceremony," said Burke. "Last year, 40 couples were wed in one ceremony in the Wedding Garden. With those 80 people, their friends and families and the Clerk's Office employees needed to run the event, it filled the entire garden."

This year 50 couples will join together at the picturesque Florida Botanical Gardens in Largo for one group wedding ceremony to be performed by Clerk Burke, on Sunday, February 14, 2010, at 2 p.m.

This is the fourth year the Clerk's Office is hosting this event. To add to the ambiance of the event **the Charmonizers** barbershop quartet has once again volunteered to serenade the couples. Publix Super Markets, Walmart and AMC Theaters of Oldsmar will provide wedding cake, water and ice.

Art & Stone Orchids will be on hand selling orchids and arrangements in support of the Florida Botanical Gardens Foundation, which provides support for the Gardens through sales and donations. Orchids that will bloom each year on Valentine's Day as a special reminder of these couples' anniversary will be available for purchase.

Couples will receive a commemorative Marriage Certificate, which will be mailed within one week from the date of the ceremony **with the** official marriage certificate. The Clerk waived the normal \$30 fee to perform the marriage. Standard marriage license fees still apply.

All couples should arrive at the Botanical Gardens by 1 p.m. on the day of the event with their marriage license and identification.

For more information regarding the process and locations to apply for a marriage license, contact Recording Services at 727-464-3008, or visit the Clerk's website at <http://www.mypinellasclerk.org>. For more information about the Wedding Garden and/or the Florida Botanical Gardens, 12520 Ulmerton Road, Largo, FL 33774, visit <http://www.flbg.org>.

Photo captions :

- <http://www.pinellasclerk.org/images/TheProcession.jpg> : The Botanical Gardens was host to the 40 couples who shared one wedding ceremony performed by Ken Burke, Pinellas County Clerk of Court, on Valentine's Day last year.
- <http://www.pinellasclerk.org/images/TheVows.jpg> : During last year's Valentine's Day group wedding ceremony at the Botanical Gardens Clerk Ken Burke united 40 couples in marriage.

- <http://www.pinellasclerk.org/images/TheCharmonizers.jpg> : The Charmonizers barber shop quartet has added a special bit of romance to the Clerk's Office Valentine's Day group wedding ceremony since the tradition began four years ago.
- <http://www.pinellasclerk.org/images/TheCouples.jpg> : Last year on Valentine's Day, the Clerk's Office worked with the Botanical Gardens to provide a setting for the single wedding ceremony uniting 40 couples in marriage.
- <http://www.pinellasclerk.org/images/TheClerk.jpg> : Friends and family gathered in the Wedding Garden at the Botanical Gardens on Valentine's Day to see Clerk Ken Burke officiate the single wedding ceremony to simultaneously unite 40 couples in marriage. The barber shop quartet provided music and the Clerk's office provide cake.