

A close-up photograph of a hummingbird hovering in front of a cluster of bright red, tubular flowers. The bird is in sharp focus, showing its iridescent green feathers and a white patch on its throat. Its wings are blurred from motion. The background is a soft, out-of-focus green. The title 'The Florida Gardener' is overlaid at the top in a stylized, orange, cursive font.

The Florida Gardener

Summer 2021

President's Message

Dear Friends,



WOW, when I started this journey, to become The Florida Federation of Garden Clubs' President, six years ago, I did not realize the different worlds that I would journey through.

My first two years, as 3rd VP, included being a chauffeur for the Fall tours, purchasing for retail sales on tour, moving and storage expert for Fall tour, and speaker on tour. As Second VP, I was the secretary for the Finance Committee and Chairman of Wekiwa Youth Camp. Chairman of the WYC open the worlds of fingerprinting, paperwork, food purchasing, volunteers, nurses, buses, canoes, tents, pools, parents, and 1,200 campers. The last two years opened the worlds of finance, bylaws, headquarters, endowments, awards, and convention planner. When I finish these next two years, I will be qualified for any profession.

There were the other worlds that were also opened to me. The worlds of gardening, the beauty of floral designs and landscapes, the degradation of our environment, and the coming together of friends during our darkest and happiest times. Garden clubs have something for everyone. They are 'Worlds of Wonder', which is my theme.

Within that theme is my Neil Coe two-year award, "100 Ways to Play Outside with New Friends". *Why so long?* You might ask. The '100 Ways' is for FFGC's 100 birthday coming up in 2024. 'To Play Outside' ties into our National Garden Club President Mary Warshauer's Theme, "Plant America-Play Outdoors". Finally, 'with New Friends' will be for the new members that you will ask to join your club. So, please send me and FFGC's Facebook, photos of you and your new friends playing during a garden club event, inside or outside. Check FFGC's Award #61 for more information.

There will not be a Fall tour this October. Our garden clubs need to regroup and get back in sync with their Members, District, State, Deep South, and National. Please be sure to check your FFGC website for events. There will be flower shows, classes, symposiums, youth camps, SEEK, and conventions to plan for during the year.

The Executive Board, District Directors, and I look forward to meeting all of you in the next two years. WOW, I feel another world opening up for all of us.

Marjorie H. Hendon, FFGC President





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From Your Editor

Dave Spaulding, Editor "The Florida Gardener"

Once again we have an expanded 32 page issue. Many thanks to Marge Hendon for approving the publication of our expanded issue. The issue size is due, in part to the inclusion of paid advertisement not published in the FFGC 94th Annual Convention booklet. I'm glad that we were able to include these advertisements.



I hope you enjoy this, the Summer issue of "The Florida Gardener".

DISTRICT III NEWS

Marilyn Larson, Director

Because of the 2020-21 pandemic, all clubs in the District are not reporting at this time, however, all active clubs will be included in future quarterly District III News.

Live Oak Garden Club, Shirley Reaves, President

District III Spring Meeting, hosted by Live Oak Garden Club May 13, "Walking the Green Path", featured table centerpieces of shoes filled with flowers. Emphasis was on conservation and the need to recycle, reuse, and support clean energy, protect our waters and the environment. The matching fund drive netted \$1,600 to help Hearthstone Gardens complete the Japanese Garden, partially funded by a \$1,000 Plant America grant. A beautiful bridge over a Koi pond and walking paths were constructed, along with new shrubs. Monthly workshops are held in the garden such as seeding, propagation, lawn care and pine needle basket-making, thanks to member Judith Mundy, director of the gardens.

The 2020-21 year began with 57 paid members in spite of losing three faithful members who passed away in 2020. Current membership stands at 63, an increase of six members in spite of the pandemic! The Club completed an ambitious project to landscape the front of our building. All old shrubs were removed and new landscaping installed, including irrigation, mulch and sod. Funds received for participation in the 2018 FFGC Convention helped purchase the plants and materials needed to complete the project.

During the months of September and October 2020, a series of mini-meetings featuring plant exchange and floral design demonstration were held but limited to 12 members with masks, social distancing and sanitizing observed. The mini-meetings along with monthly newsletters kept members involved. November's meeting was a board and general membership meeting to vote on revised by-laws and budget. In December, the clubhouse, inside and outside, was decorated for Christmas. Members collected non-perishable food to help fill the pantries of the ARC group homes in the community. In February, members donated over 100 valentines and delivered the cards to nursing home residents along with candy and balloons. The same month, member Irene McCall's 100th birthday was celebrated, giving her a bouquet of yellow roses and many, many cards.

The first general meeting was held March 2021 to plan the Spring Bazaar for April and hosting the District III FFGC meeting in May. All board members agreed to extend their terms for another year to accomplish and complete projects suspended due to the pandemic. The April meeting featured a container garden demonstration.

Tallahassee Garden Club

The Monthly meetings, beginning September 2020 and continuing monthly throughout the year, were held in person and via Zoom, while practicing social distancing, mask wearing and sanitization. The historic Rutgers House, the Club headquarters, was decorated for Christmas with live greenery and decorations and open for viewing by members only. The monthly plant exchange and horticulture programs, a very popular and well-attended event featuring a variety and large number of plants, were suspended subject to CDC guidelines on gathering size.

The Spring General Membership meeting was held in March with election of new officers for 2021-23, and a planned May "swearing in" ceremony.

Prior to the pandemic 'lock down', the Third Live Oak Trail was updated by members of the Club. As it turned out, the self-driving tour of featured live oak trees became a safe and scenic driving trip within the community, a diversion from being home-bound because of the pandemic.

The Tallahassee Garden Club creates "The Third Live Oak Trail". The Tallahassee Garden Club has a long history beginning in 1926, of making "A more beautiful Tallahassee". In 2020, an effort began to create the "Third Live Oak Trail", a listing of Live Oak trees, nominated by members of the community, and drawing from the earlier Trail listings. Tallahassee is a Tree City and is graced with an urban canopy of which the Live Oak tree is beloved.

The first Live Oak Trail was a listing with locations of the heritage and specimen Live Oak trees dated 1940 and repeated in 1941. It wasn't until the Tallahassee Garden Club in 2020 began the update and expansion on previous material, that the "Third Live Oak Trail" was created. The information is available for the community's use, as well as visitor use, and can be found online at tallahasseeclub.com/the-third-live-oak-trail/. The site includes an interactive map, YouTube video, links to Live Oak facts and resources, and a printable Live Oak Trail map.

DISTRICT IV NEWS

Joy Elrod, Director

It is with great pride that I report that all of District IV came together and ordered and placed a Gold Star Memorial at the Cecil Field Chapel of the High Pass flyover. These gardens have been under construction for some time now and are still being completed. However, FFGC, District IV Garden Club of Fleming Island member, Lynn Vernon asked me about putting the FFGC Gold Star there. We jumped at the opportunity and are evermore grateful for the honor. The root team consisted of Lynn Vernon, Jackie Host, Kalia Baillene and me. We had many contributors from our clubs and surrounding businesses and organizations. District IV is humbled by this honor of 2021.

Garden Club of Green Cove Springs, Connie Gladding, President

The Garden Club of Green Cove Springs is busy already! They celebrated Arbor Day with the City of GCS. In March, GCGCS participated in the City's Proclamation Ceremony of becoming a Monarch City, USA. Programs enjoyed by the members and guests have been about African Violets, Kokedama in a hands-on presentation. The Club held their annual plant sale at the Saturday (April 17th) in the Park event. Another engaging speaker via zoom spoke about helping with the survival of a cleaner St John's River. The Club voted to become a member of the Riverkeeper organization! Several members of the Club attended the stirring presentation of the Gold Star at Cecil Field. The Club also donated \$500 to help fund the memorial.

Ribault Garden Club, Jeannie Ballentine, President

The Ribault Garden Club has been sidetracked! They have been involved in the sale of some property and renovations of their clubhouse, to say nothing of the interference of COVID! Nevertheless, they continue to hold "safe" board meetings and small group meetings monthly. This has been a difficult quarter for RGC, but intensely satisfying, as all was completed by the end of April. The anticipation of resuming our normal activities with meetings, gardening, events, speakers and community involvement is exciting.

Bartram Garden Club, Kathleen Lunman, President

In January, Bartram Garden Club celebrated the life and legacy of their namesake, William Bartram, America's first great naturalist. A video of the presentation was posted on our website to enable individuals and organizations to learn about the Conference and the importance of continuing Bartram's legacy through visiting the trail. In February, zoologist Dr. Pat Foster spoke about managing wildlife in the garden, a challenge often bringing gardeners to tears! The Bartram Garden Club has planned very exciting and enticing programs and shows to come. Bartram interacts with public venues to



assist and guide them in their gardening efforts and educate them in gardening. All the while the club is continually reaching out to the public to join them and learn. They continue to comply with COVID safety guidelines. Bartram club was well represented at the dedication of the Gold Star at Cecil Field in Jacksonville.

DISTRICT IV NEWS - (cont'd)

Garden Club of Fleming Island, *Dorie Damisch*, President

The Garden Club of Fleming Island has been successfully skirting the threat of spreading COVID while also protecting themselves, by meeting outside and/or zoom presentations. GCFI has thrown itself into totally revamping the large butterfly garden in front of the Fleming Island Library and replanting it to become a Monarch Way-station. GCFI continues to collect food for the food drives. Representatives of the club attended proudly, the dedication of the Gold Star at Cecil Field in February.

DISTRICT V NEWS

Jeanice Gage, Director

Congratulations to our new Board: District V Director, *Donna Thomas*, Assistant Director, *Carol Stevens*, Secretary, *Carol Wood*, Treasurer. *Susie Berryhill* and Parliamentarian, *Ingrid Velez*.

WOW! DISTRICT V! We received many FFGC, Deep South, and NGC Awards for 2020-2021!

Editor's Note: All Florida related FFGC, Deep South, and NGC awards are contained within this issue of "The Florida Gardener".

We were also awarded a \$425 FFGC matching grant to the Jasmine Circle, Gainesville Garden Club (District V) for their project: "Gainesville Opportunity Center Garden, a Recovery Work Program"

THANKS to *Sandra Arnold*, District V Awards Chair and to all District V Presidents and Committee Chairs who assisted. And, of course to all of you who entered! We are proud of you and I know you are proud of yourselves! A special thanks to *Valerie Seinfeld*, FFGC Awards Chair who was ever present to help and encourage!

The fourteen clubs and thirteen circles of District V have continued to support their members, community, district and FFGC. Thank you for all you do!

It has been my pleasure to serve as your FANTASTIC FIVE Director for my term (2019-2021). I wish all of you the very best

DISTRICT VI NEWS

Judi Jodoin, Director

I want to thank all the District VI Garden Club Presidents who have continued to increase membership and conduct monthly meetings in imaginative ways creating "FIRSTS" in many instances utilizing Zoom technology to reach their membership and conduct business. I also congratulate the Garden Clubs who applied for and won awards in District VI CONGRATULATIONS!

A huge gratitude to the District VI Board of Directors, and Chairman for their continued support especially Assistant Director Becky Lindhorst. Garden Clubs in District VI shared creative and willing support for each other. Indian Harbour Beach G.C. had extra Camp Wekiva money set aside to support two additional kids and offered it to any G.C. President in District VI. New Smyrna Beach G.C. was able to sponsor two additional kids because of the generosity of IHBGC. Thank you Robin Chang, President.

I am proud of District VI for being the host District for the FFGC 94th Annual Convention held in Daytona Beach April 11-13, 2021. Chairman, Kathleen Terlizzo and the Convention Team had many additional huge obstacles to adjust to that were not previously imagined in their two years of carefully detailed planning. The FFGC 94th Annual Convention finally became a reality following CDC guidelines of social distancing and wearing of masks etc.. The large attendance was realized by attendance and support from all twelve Districts. Thank you to the District VI Convention Team for their creative efforts, long hard work and wonderful Ocean front location.

As FFGC District VI Director for 2019-2021 I have learned and depended on Zoom technology for being imaginative and I also appreciated the applications it provided to help everyone be in constant contact with each other to

achieve and bond membership while accomplishing the responsibilities required. I certainly missed Garden Clubs invitations that were extended to me, but was forced to cancel because of the Pandemic. I also missed the personal contact of the G. C. membership. I am grateful and privileged to have had this experience and its responsibilities. Thank you. I am proud of each of the Garden Clubs in District VI.

THANK YOU for the support of FFGC President Al Latina the entire Board and Chairmen. The newly installed District VI Director Suzi Baily is past President of New Smyrna Beach G.C. She was a business owner active in the community and a leader with a bubbly personality and is highly organized. Suzi brings many positive skills as the District VI Director 2021-2023. Valerie Seinfeld is the Assistant Director. District VI continues to be in strength and support.

De Leon Springs G. C., *Mary Clyde McKnight*, President

A tour of the Volusia County Agricultural Center was planned for our February meeting but was cancelled because it was in the mid-30s that morning and an outdoor meeting was not inviting! We will put it on the calendar for next year. The annual Make It/Bake It/Grow It Auction to benefit our treasury was held in March at the Glenwood Presbyterian Church Fellowship Center. This event is quite popular with our members, and features plants, baked goods, and homemade items such as jewelry and greeting cards. April found us outside learning how to make cement flowerpots!



The Garden Club at Palm Coast, Inc., *Carol Walker*, President

The Garden Club at Palm Coast increased its membership to 168 in the Spring. The Garden Club held its first outdoor socially distanced general membership meeting and plant sale on March 8th under the pavilion at the Veterans of Foreign Wars Club (VFW). Members were excited to attend with over 50 in attendance. The Club will finish out the 2020-21 year with the monthly meetings at the VFW pavilion.

Two orientation sessions for new members were held on February 11th to learn about the garden club structure and resources of the NGC, Deep South Garden Clubs, FFGC, District VI and the Garden Club at Palm Coast. An overview of the mission, officers, committees, Arrangers and Propagation Guilds, scholarship and community support activities and fundraising activities was presented and gave the members an opportunity to identify areas of interests. On March 16, club members participated at the City's Food Truck Tuesday event at the Town Center. This event provided an opportunity for members of the community to learn about the opportunities and resources of joining the Garden Club.

Kathleen Terlizzo, Convention Chair, and several members of the Garden Club at Palm Coast have been active in the planning of the 2021 Annual FFGC Convention on April 11-14. The members have generously provided items that have resulted in 12 baskets for the raffle at convention.

Our major fundraiser, Spring Festival & Plant Sale, dedicated to community and high school scholarships was held on Saturday, April 17, at the Palm Coast Arts Foundation location at Town Center. All of the 51 vendor booths were sold out for the event. The festival will include a wide variety of craft booths, plants and succulent gardens.

We will select our winners of our High School Poster contest. A large raffle and food trucks will be on hand for the attendees. The Festival was outdoors. In May, we presented 4 high school seniors with \$1,000 scholarships and 1 university student with a continuing \$1,000 scholarship at our May Installation barbecue to finish out the club year.

Garden Club by the Sea, *Barbara Dial*, President

On April 14 Garden Club by the Sea was honored by the non-profit group Keep Brevard Beautiful with their "We Noticed!" award in recognition of the work and effort the ladies of GCBS have performed on Lily Park.

DISTRICT VI NEWS - (cont'd)

Garden Club by the Sea—(cont'd)

The revitalization projects of Lily Park to be completed this spring include a 25 foot illuminated flagpole which will be installed next to the Blue Star Memorial By-Way Marker. The flagpole will honor our American Flag that flew over the US Capitol on January 3, 2021. We are also implementing a QR (Quick Response) digital matrix barcode. When you scan the code with your smart phone's camera app it will link you directly to a page on our website, Garden-Club-by-the-Sea.org, - dedicated to plant identification of all the plants and trees at Lily Park. Our expert IT member Casie Garrett set up the QR code so the user can find coordinated numerical labels of all the native and Florida friendly plants in Lily Park to birds-eye photos and a touring video. Clicking on the plant number will take you to a photo and more information from an additional source such as UF/IFAS Gardening Solutions. The QR sign will give members of the community access to information that will help them make better choices for their own Florida yards quickly and easily. Additional great news we received, April 2, 2021. Gatto Tires and Auto Service sent us a check for \$2,374, the ENTIRE cost of a hurricane proof illuminated flagpole. FFGC awarded Garden Club by the Sea a check in the amount of \$500, in matching grant funds for the Lily Park Revitalization. CONGRATULATIONS!

The Garden Club of Deland, Inc., Jennifer Condo, President

The Garden Club of Deland completed the 4th and final NGC Gardening School course on Jan 27th. We met online through Zoom with 73 registrants from all over the US. The event was very well organized and efficient especially with taking the exams online. We attended the Wildflower Festival on March 27th along with a hundred other vendors selling anything garden related. We sold out of our 300 caladium bulbs right away, but we do it as a membership drive. Thirty-three people were interested in joining our garden club! We sponsored Habitat for Humanity by designing and installing 3 Indian Hawthorns and 6 Ligustrums to a newly built home. We continue to maintain and weed 77 flower pots and pedestals throughout downtown DeLand on a monthly basis. We will discuss the possibility of getting rid of our circles and become one garden club.

Garden Club of the Halifax Country, Linda Armour, President

Greetings from the Garden Club of the Halifax Country, District VI. We are thrilled that the US Senate named April as national Native Plant Month. Our Garden club has partnered with the city of Ormond Beach to recreate an existing pocket park into an all native plant and tree park. Pictured here is the native Necklace Pod plant, *Sophora tomentosa*. This is a pantropical shrub or small tree in the family Fabaceae. We have cleared the invasive plants and are ready to begin the next phase. When you are in the Ormond beach area we hope you will visit Vadner Park and see the progress towards "Going Native" that is flourishing under the hard work and dedication from our garden club members and the city. FFGC Convention awarded a check in the amount of \$500.00, in matching funds application applied for Vadner Park Project. CONGRATULATIONS!

South Peninsula G. C., Sheron Weatherholtz, President

Covid-19 on the positive side has made us more creative with our monthly meetings. Since September, we have been meeting in our members' garages and had programs given by our own talented members. This allows for the necessary smaller numbers and social distancing. Our March meeting was a tour the Derbyshire Place Community Gardens arranged by one of our mem-

bers and a cause which we sponsored this year. Derbyshire Place community garden is a collaborative green space in which the participants share in both the garden's maintenance and its rewards. Neighbors, children, and local schools cultivate garden plots together, which provides fellowship, learning, self-reliance and healthier eating opportunities. Most importantly the Derbyshire Place Community Garden enhances multi-racial, multi-cultural, and multi-generational diversity as people work together to revitalize this community.

New Smyrna Beach G. C., Kathy Healy, President

The New Smyrna Beach Garden Club will conclude its 2020-21 year with approximately fifteen new members; a Herculean (March) Rummage Sale; utilization of its beautiful grounds for outdoor meetings; an outstanding slate of officers for its incoming executive Board; and plans to continue its formula for member-suggested interest sessions. Our newly-founded JUNIOR GARDENERS Club will hold its session this month with a final class on the care and nurturing of Monarch butterflies, and yes—the establishment of a campus FAIRY GARDEN! The work of our Long-Range Planning Committee prior to and during the pandemic has opened the door to wise fiscal thinking to insure continued in-house and community projects for our Club. Our bi-monthly 'Weed Warriors' provided camaraderie.

DISTRICT VII NEWS

Gwen Carter, Director



Counties: Sumter, Lake, Orange, Osceola, Seminole

Flower: Hibiscus (all varieties)

Wildflower: Coreopsis

Butterfly: Monarch

Garden Clubs in District VII: Bloom N Grow, Camellia Eustis, Clermont, Creative Arts, the Foliage GC of Apopka, Ixora Sanford, Lady Lake, Lakes & Hills, Orlando, Palm Garden, Pine Castle, Robinswood, Sanford Wildflower, Spring Valley, Sweetwater Oaks, Wildflowers D7, Wintermere, Winter Park

Happy Day FFGC Members,

Wow! What a year this has been. Covid 19 swooped in creating a Pandemic not seen since 1918. Covid 19 knocked us down, for a minute, but like the great Muhammad Ali, District VII recovered quickly to do what we do best, help our community.

District VII rallied behind our local government by sewing masks and delivering food to the needy. Since we could not visit our members and friends in residential facilities, small floral containers were created by club members, taken to the facilities and left at the outside entrance for staff to distribute to residents.

As restrictions lifted and more members received their Covid 19 shots, members begin to venture out of their homes. District VII clubs continued celebrating Florida Arbor Day the 3rd Friday in January. Over 700 Florida native trees were given away free to residents in Clermont. Camellia bushes and Florida Maple Trees were donated in Tavares and Eustis by Camellia Garden Club. Spring Valley Garden Club reforest an acre of land to improve the environment each year.

For National Arbor Day, April 22, 2021, Lakes and Hills Garden Club dedicated a Live Oak tree in a Mount Dora Park. Bloom and Grow Society Garden Society members maintained the "1000 trees for 1000 Years" planted at Tucker Ranch.

Club doors and members' homes opened, still following Covid 19 Guidelines, of course, and members gathered. Our District club, Lake County Council of Garden Clubs recently saw their donation to Trout Lake Nature Center come to fruition.

Still wearing masks, District VII was outside fundraising with community plant sales, Spring Garden Festivals, and Spring Fever in the Garden. The Monarch Project, a project protecting and advocating for the Monarch Butterfly, is championed by Bloom and Grow Garden Society.



DISTRICT VII NEWS - (cont'd)

Gwen Carter, Director—(cont'd)

On Earth Day, Sweetwater Garden Club gave away native plants grown by club members to generate membership. What a smart marketing tool!



As usual, District VII clubs continue to support our youth by contributing scholarships for S.E.E.K., Wekiva Youth Camp, School Programs, State Universities and Colleges.

District VII held our District Meeting on May 7, 2021 in Apopka. We also anticipate several club Flower shows: Lake County Council Garden Clubs Flower Show, and District VII & Judges Council Flower Show are coming soon.

Lastly, it has been my pleasure and honor to serve as District VII Director, 2019-2021, and under the auspices of FFGC President, Al Latina.

Bloom and Grow Society Garden Club, *Jeanne Yazinski, President*

On April 10, 2021, in conjunction with our Monarch Project, we presented a documentary film, "Flight of the Butterflies", about the migration of the Monarch butterfly. The two screenings were at 3 pm and 5 pm with Covid 19 protocols in place. The ticket sale proceeds went toward the "Bloom & Grow Monarch Project".

On April 17, 2021 we participated in the city of Winter Garden's "Arts in April" event by creating their popular "Chalkin' It Up" chalk art contest in front of city hall on Plant Street in downtown Winter Garden. The contest normally takes place during our annual "Spring Fever in the Garden" festival but was cancelled this year due to the pandemic. Artists competed for prizes as our talented artists created flower themed sidewalk art.

Our Bloom & Grow Monarch Project, is involved in advocating the protection of the Monarch butterfly. While not officially endangered, their migration has been threatened due to loss of habitat and the milkweed which they need to breed. We contacted nurseries in our area. They put together 10 plants that help the monarchs on their journey south, which included 3 varieties of milkweed (two native & one tropical) and two types of nectar plants. We had 50 of these sets of Monarch Waystation plants for sale. We took preorders and offered them for pickup in downtown Winter Garden.

During the month of April, 2021, the "Crooked Can Brewery and Marketplace" in downtown Winter Garden offered "Monarch Beer" to benefit our Monarch Project. A portion of the cost of each glass of "Monarch Beer" sold went to our Bloom & Grow Garden Society Garden Club.

On April 30, 2021 we held our annual workday at Tucker Ranch. Last year we planted "1000 Trees for 1000 Years." On Friday April 30, we celebrated National Arbor Day by gathering a group of members and volunteers to maintain the 1000 bald cypress trees we planted. We weeded around the base of the trees to ensure they had room to grow for 1000 years! We also planted an additional ceremonial Bald Cypress (*Taxodium distichum*) to mark National Arbor Day 2021 and honor our 2019-2020 Bloom & Grow President, *Brenda Knowles*.

Camellia Garden Club, *Sue Roberts, President*

Our Garden Club donated two Camellia bushes to the city of Tavares for planting at the town cemetery. We dedicated the two bushes for Arbor Day 2021. Pictured here are club members surrounding one of the camellia bushes at the dedication ceremony.



Camellia GC also gifted the town of Eustis two Florida Maple trees which were planted at the Eustis Public Library. These trees are in honor of one of our founding members, Ruth Squire who celebrated her 102nd birthday. Our dedication ceremony was held on April 6.

Clermont Garden Club, *Marilyn Paone, President*

The City of Clermont invited the Clermont Garden Club to have a table at their Arbor Day Celebration on January 16. Our members gave out 700 slash pine seedlings, provided advice on gardening questions, and had our membership and other club information available. Many of the other invited organizations decided not to participate due to the very cold and windy weather. However, our members, *Gwen Carter* and *Debra Smidt*, didn't give up that easily and braved the cold and windy weather!

Our Garden Club participated in the Home and Garden Show in downtown Clermont on Saturday, February 27. Members sold 8 bags of caladium bulbs and a few pairs of garden gloves. They also raffled two large container gardens - one designed for shade and the other one for sun. They provided demonstrations on how to use succulents in unique planters and with items found in the yard or landscape, provided free envelopes of milkweed seeds, and provided information about our club.



We have been selling bags of caladium bulbs at our meetings and at events such as the Home and Garden Show. They are such a beautiful addition to all gardens.

On May 1, we held our Spring Garden which included numerous vendors, plants and garden related items for sale, raffle items, "Ask the Experts", "Make and Take", and a Clermont Garden Club information booth.

Our annual meeting was held on May 19 this year. when we elected our new officers for the next two years. Additionally, we recognized some of our members that have worked so hard for the club in the past and we also recognized our club's "Most Active New Member".

Some of our club members prepared small floral arrangements to take to nursing homes or assisted living facilities. They delivered them just before Easter.



Ixora Garden Club of Sanford, *Kathy Krasnoff, President*

We held our Sanford's Historic Districts' most beautiful private gardens tour of ten gardens. On this walking or driving tour, guests and members meandered down tree-lined streets to admire the well-preserved architecture's wrap-around porches, verandas and manicured gardens where there's always something blooming.

Tickets and maps were available at the Park, 900 Park Ave, Sanford the day of the event. At the Ixora Garden Club booth, we sold plants and garden-themed Mother's Day gifts at very reasonable prices. All had a wonderful relaxing day in beautiful historic downtown Sanford.

Lake County Council of Garden Clubs, *Claudette Frank, President*

The Lake County Council of Garden Clubs now consists of only three clubs, Camellia GC, Lady Lake GC and Palm GC. We met in January at Trout Lake Nature center to see the butterfly display created with funds donated to LCCGC. We were so impressed with the beautiful display created from a gift of one man's butterfly collection. Our contribution was used to create the beautiful standing racks used to display the many shadow boxes of butterflies. We also toured the Lake County Historical Museum and rearranged our cabinet displaying all the LCCGC flower show trophies and have made plans to have a Lake County flower show at the museum in 2022.



DISTRICT VII NEWS - (cont'd)

Lakes and Hill Garden Club, *Carolyn Sonnentag*, President,

We reinstated in-person meetings and many of our members have enjoyed getting together again. In February we held our own mini 'Fun with Flowers' with Alma Harford helping us create a cheerful arrangement to take home. In March we had a wonderful presentation on plants to attract wildlife to our garden. In celebration of "Arbor Day" we dedicated a live oak tree at a Mount Dora park. — All members are looking forward to a fun slate of programs beginning in the fall.

Orlando Garden Club, *Georgene Parsons*, President

While this was not an ideal year, we have not lost any members. I think the worst is over and hopefully we will be back to normal times within a few months.

Spring Valley Garden Club, *Bobette Youngs*, President,

Each year for Arbor Day, Spring Valley Garden Club has reforested an acre of land to improve the environment.



Sweetwater Oaks Garden Club, *Marion Schwendeman*, President,

We are finally able to look forward to inspiring our community, creating memorable moments for our membership and sharing our love of nature and togetherness, planning for the coming year.

Vaccinations have relieved some mental tension and we gingerly venture forward to participate safely in some programs again.

Our Club had a successful community Plant Sale (March 26-27). What a delightful event for the local neighborhood who supported our Ways and Means efforts by being so generous.

Our "Earth Day at Cranes Roost" event held on May 2 had our garden club members giving away donated native plants to the public. We used this opportunity to "Sell" our Clubs great reputation to the public, and to generate interest in joining our club.

We held an outside catered luncheon for our final meeting during which we installed our new Board members for our next fiscal next year.

We are all well versed in safety protocols which allows us to move toward "Normal", inch by inch and it feels Great!

DISTRICT VIII NEWS

Barbara Rao, Director

District VIII is large and diverse with clubs as small as 10 members to others with hundreds of members, all participating in the goals and objectives of FFGC and ultimately NGC. Our clubs are in large metropolitan cities, quaint urban communities, small farm areas, and seaside resorts. These clubs and their members bring wonderful opportunities to the citizens of the area. Weekends see Plant Sales, Garden Tours, events that are open to the public for music and craft programs. During the week, the clubs host regular meetings that are sometimes advertised and shared with the community. Our clubs are beginning to open a bit more with many having received vaccines. It is still important to practice safe guidelines. A warm hug here or there is always welcome among dear friends.

It was a blessing to be able to communicate with the clubs via telephone and emails. In person was so limited as not many clubs were having meetings. Zoom was the way to communicate for large groups.

The personal interaction with clubs was constrained, but the presidents were so willing to do whatever to keep the lines of communication open. I am so grateful to them for keeping the door to member interaction available. Even during the most isolating parts of the past year, the Board members and Presidents of the District VIII Clubs have been busy planning and looking to the future and always with a positive attitude. It is unbelievable what technology has done for us. Some of the clubs even saw an upswing in new members and a strong retention of current members.

The tenure of being Director of District VIII was a happy and humbling experience. During our two-year term we saw events postponed, cancelled, and even pushed aside for another time. But so many clubs did have plant sales and even garden tours. Other clubs had Zoom meetings, porch talks, outside programs and beach meetings. All in all, District VIII was on top of events and took on the challenge of ongoing activities with its members. Five of our clubs have had new Presidents in between the current administration. Many of the clubs will be starting with new presidents and new Boards of Directors in keeping with the two-year program. It is a pleasure to thank the tech team that helped pull the ZOOM meetings together and especially President Al Latina who had the forethought of training a great group at state level who willingly gave of time and talent to teach our own tech team made up of Kitty Wallace, Karen Eckert, Howard Warshauer and Dave Spaulding. I am sure that now we can have hybrid meetings so that all members can attend both in person and virtually. It has been a rewarding two years, sharing and greeting the Presidents and members of the clubs in District VIII. We are blessed to be an active and energetic group that is both resilient and reliant.

I am so proud to turn over the duties of District VIII to Kitty Wallace and her assistant Phyllis Weber. What a team! Thank you for your support.

Our clubs are Apollo Beach, Clearwater, Dade City, Davis Island, Dunedin, Garden Gate, Gardeners Out East, GC at Hunters Green, GC of St Petersburg, GC at Tampa Bay Golf and CC, GC of Tarpon Springs, Lakewood Ranch GC, Lemon Bay, Manatee River, New Port Richey, Palm Harbor, Plant City, Sarasota, Sunset Park, Tampa, Temple Terrace, Valrico, and Venice. Our clubs are unique, and individual in their own way and bring a strong sense of community to the District. We look forward to hearing more about their activities from the new Director!

DISTRICT IX NEWS

Leslie Montwid, Director

As I contemplate giving this last report of my term as Director of District IX, I cannot formulate my thoughts without reminiscing over the past two years. Indeed, it has not been business as usual as we were caught up in an ever changing precedent due to the corona virus pandemic. Looking back, there is a before and after.

As the new directors met in Winter Park in January, 2019 we were given our protocols by Al Latina and listened to information by various members of the executive board and chairs. We were also getting to know one another and learning bits about the other districts; size, geographics and styles. We had some fun discussing nicknames for our group – two that come to mind were Al's Pals and Al's Do Minions. Little did we know that we would not have the opportunity to convene as a group as other Directors had in the past. We actually just completed this task at convention and decided on Al's Angels.

District IX started off with a wonderful Spring Meeting at the Marco Island Yacht Club. This director, although nervous about presiding over the meeting thought "I could get used to this!" The trip from one end to the other of a very long district was worth the effort considering the camaraderie, meal, venue and special speaker on burrowing owls. Clubs requested my presence for installations, presentations on FFGC Overview at Ft Meade GC, Succulents at Lake Placid GC, Blue Star Marker Dedications in Wauchula and Garden Club of Lakeland, Fashion Shows in Winter Haven and Home Tours in Lake Placid and Punta Gorda. Every meeting came with the opportunity to know more about District IX Clubs and their incredible members.

The Fall District 2019 Meeting, held at the Winter Haven Garden Club, was anticipated with the knowledge that this director already had one district meeting under her belt and things should go smoothly. Regretfully without the company of the FFGC Officers as it was decided they would tour only once per term. Oh well, there was always 2020 and this director was already formulating a very special Fall 2020 meeting.

DISTRICT IX NEWS - (cont'd)

Then came December and January and rumors regarding a very deadly strain of flu. This director had her flu shots – no worries. As my local club concluded a very successful flower show coordinated with an historic home tour in Lakeland the first Saturday in March we didn't realize that life as we knew it would be entirely different for a long time. Everything was cancelled: meetings, end of year luncheons, conventions and people took to the mattresses as they tried to figure out the "New Normal". Members began making masks and turning to nearby gardens for diversions. Bouquet Garden Club in Winter Haven created a Care and Concern update and Project Love for those with special needs.

As the weeks proceeded it was obvious that a new platform was needed and Zoom came to the rescue with online meetings for clubs, districts, and FFGC. After canceling our Spring District Meeting, we regrouped and had a successful Fall 2020 meeting with as many virtual participants as an actual meeting. This director now has an account and will act as host for the new director at her first meeting in May. Hopefully Fall 2021 and Spring 2022 will be an actual venue as Naples Garden Club has been waiting a year and a half to honor their commitment.

We as directors of the 2019 to 2021 term didn't have a clue as we were installed two years ago and hopefully this will never happen again. Some clubs have suffered hardships with their clubhouses as revenues were extinguished, some were unable to develop the technical support to carry on meeting schedules and we all have said goodbyes to cherished friends and loved ones and missed the face-to-face visits.

However, the bright new beginning is here. As we all become vaccinated and are able to resume our former routines like: a flower show planned by Gulf Coast Garden Club, a Garden Extravaganza hosted on the waterfront by Port Charlotte Garden Club, Hop'N Into Spring fundraiser held recently by Punta Gorda Garden Club, Arbor Day Planting in Lakeland Lake Crago Park and the announcement that Avon Park will hold a Plant Sale on May 1st with over a year's worth of propagation! Sebring Garden Club has just reconvened after almost a year's hiatus with a new slate of officers.

This director wishes my successor Dale DeFeo of Calusa Garden Club and her Assistant Director, Claudia Chopp the very best and a smooth easing into a more "normal" term.

Arcadia Garden Club, Lorraine Brauckhoff, President.

Member Jamie Pipher, a local wildlife photographer, gave a presentation on "Very Small Yard to a Wildlife Refuge -Background Habitat". She provided the group with 7 simple steps taking a mobile home lot to a sanctuary for birds, butterflies, hummers and other wildlife. This past year she was able to report the first Cape May Warbler in DeSoto County in eBird, an international database. Members continue to exhibit safe practices as they resume their meeting at their clubhouse.

Bouquet Garden Club, Lois Duel, President.

Members are meeting at the Citrus Building while the Winter Haven Garden Center undergoes improvements. April's meeting included a presentation on "Organic and Hydroponic Gardening Tips" presented by Grace's Garden Center in Temple Terrace. May's Installation meeting installed Marilyn Alderman as President and will provide a catered box lunch that some members paid for a year ago and was subsequently cancelled. A long time to wait for a lunch!

Calusa Garden Club, Sara Wolf, President.

Spring 2021 was more open for GC members as many had received their shots. Several workdays were scheduled at the Calusa Park Butterfly Garden. Guided by Connie Lowery and Jackie Purvis NGC Flower Show Judges, members met at a park where they were shown designs and then practiced leaf manipulation. Martha Riss taught braiding, weaving, knotting and folding techniques of areca, pandanus, ti and papyrus leaves.



Laura & Steve Furlong,
Linda Ariel



Connie Lowery &
Jackie Purvis



Members formed an ad hoc committee at the request of Marco Island Nature Preserve and Bird Sanctuary to identify native plants and attach waterproof markers. (Pictured above: Laura Furlong, Susan Oldershaw, Donna Kay, Andee Narrato of Naples Native Plant Society, Linda Turner, and Dale DeFeo) Their final meeting was held April 8 where members enjoyed presentations of some members' personal gardens and concluded with the installation of their new president, Susan Neustadt.



Garden Club of Lakeland, Janette Baggett, President.



Circles are still socially distancing and taking the opportunity to tour gardens, parks and nurseries for their monthly meetings. Beacon Hill Circle hosted a 94th Birthday lunch for Shirley Spargos who is currently GC of Lakeland Treasurer and stepping down after years of service. She also served on the District IX BOD under the directorship of Pat Shira. Final meeting of the club on April 28th welcomed the new President, Sharon Ann Ashton.

Garden Club of Port Charlotte, Connie Ferris, President.



Under the chairmanship of Sandi Witzke, the club held their Garden Extravaganza on March 27th. Providing an enormous plant sale, education stations, and lots of crafted items and yard art. Not only was it a huge financial success but it also was a camaraderie experience for members.

Pictured: Gretchen Comeau, Karen Sawdai & yard art)

Naples Garden Club, Sally Lutz, President

Naples Garden Club operated in a "paused" fashion with Zoom general meetings including members in design and horticultural programs. Members were invited back to Naples Botanical Garden in the fall and worked there several days a week. They planted 40 crape myrtles in pots to enhance the Idea Garden and continue to introduce new ideas to inspire visitors. The biggest accomplishment was a Virtual Garden Tour. You may view it by going to NaplesGardenClub.org and click on "Watch the Virtual Garden Tour".

Punta Gorda Garden Club, Mary Yeomans / Carol Houston, Co-Presidents.

Hop'n Into Spring, planned to raise scholarship funds after Holly Days was cancelled, was held on March 6th. The event gave members a chance to demonstrate their expertise in crafts, art and horticulture. Although the rain forced an early closure, the club still raised \$5,000! Renting space at the citywide garage sale in February and March members again raised \$1,000 at each event and will have an additional opportunity in April at the Home and Garden Show. Members attending the 2021 FFGC Convention were awarded and given thanks for their generous donation of \$3,000 to the Scholarship Fund. Congrats to new President, Judi Beaumont.

DISTRICT IX NEWS - (cont'd)

Avon Park Therapy Through Gardens, *Pat Shira*, Chair.

After a year without plant sales due to Covid the Avon Park Correctional Institute resumed the wonderful plant sale held onsite at 8100 Hwy 64 East on May 1st. The plants were plentiful at incredible prices and a box lunch could be purchased. Resuming their semi-annual schedule, the next sale will be September 25, 2021. Contact Pat at 563-853-8299 with questions.



As this Director concludes her term, many thank-you are in order for the generous support of officers, board chairs, club presidents and members who worked so tirelessly to accomplish goals during this unusual time. Also huge thanks to outgoing FFGC President Al Latina who always answers his emails and best of everything to Marge Hendon and her new board.



Design by Claudia Chopp

District IX Convention
attendees

DISTRICT X NEWS

Carol Coleman, Director

Being the District X Director has been an honor and a privilege. There were many high points and some low points caused by the pandemic. Having Tropical Short course in District X and other Educational courses was very rewarding. I was honored to do some club installations and to have visited many of the clubs. Again, the situation of Covid-19 limited my attendance to clubs I could not visit. Most of the clubs were unable to have meetings for several months and are now just starting to meet. Some clubs met by zoom and our Fall district meeting was held by zoom and was very successful.

I want to thank my assistant director, Michelle Maguire, for her help this past two years. She has stepped up to the plate on many occasions, especially with the Short Course in 2019. She also did all the educational courses. I know she will make a great District Director for 2021-2023. I wish her all the best.

Oleander Garden Club, *Beverly Lichtenstein*, President

The Oleander Club had zoom executive meetings monthly and because of an outdoor venue were able to continue with member meetings. They have had some round and abouts and scheduled speakers. They had a busy Spring lineup of speakers from the Sierra Club on "Plastics Pollution" and "Challenges of Gardening in Small Spaces" from the University of Florida. They have 2 round and abouts planned. May 10 they had their luncheon and installations of officers.

Wellington Garden Club, *Jan Seagrave*, President

The Wellington Club had the following activities while wearing masks and social distancing: They gave out seeds at a gathering, had a Plant Exchange, visited Mounts Botanical Gardens, had a Holiday Luncheon, a shredding event fundraiser, did an adopt-a-street project and maintained four gardens. All the executive and member meetings were held by zoom. Their April meeting was held in person and the future meetings will also be in person. The Spring meeting plans were up in the air, but they had the installations.

Rio Linda Garden Club of Port St. Lucie, *Elaine Minga*, President

Despite Covid concerns, the Rio Linda Garden Club of Port St Lucie was able to fund raise and rejuvenate the Rose garden at the St Lucie Botanical Gardens. They supported Arbor Day Tree Planting at the PSL Botanical Gardens memorializing recently passed members. They donated to the PSL Botanical Gardens' Faerie Forrest display, adopting a faerie who the club named "Hibiscus Rose".

They have avoided zoom meetings and have started 2021 meetings in person masked and social distancing. And they took sixty plus years of archives, scrapbooks newspaper articles and photos and digitally copied and cataloged them to their Club website. (Thank you Darlene Enzian)

St Lucie West Garden Club, *Georgina Tonner*, President

This club was able to have their fashion show in February 2020 right before the Covid lockdown. The fashion show enabled them to give to their charities including PSL Botanical Gardens and \$1,000 scholarship IRSC. They even got some new members even though they were not meeting. In 2021 they began meeting again and had Sean Hebert with "Got Sprouts". In February they partnered with the local Cub Scout Troop and purchased a garden plot through the City of Port St Lucie so the Scouts could plant the seeds they received in March and cultivate the garden throughout the year. March also featured a trip to Classic Caladiums in Avon Park, and they will hold their annual clothing auction to raise money for the abused women's shelter. Finally, the board has agreed to stay on an extra year since they did not have much to do in 2020. A Blue Star Marker was dedicated in November.

Garden Club of Fort Pierce, *Blanca Rancourt*, President

Garden Club of Fort Pierce has been holding monthly meetings in an open-air Pavilion at the Heathcote Botanical Garden in Fort Pierce. These meetings include guest speakers. Only about 20 members and guests have attended the meetings which is about 50 % of the membership. However, several members have developed an "inspirational" vegetable garden at the Botanical Garden. They share the harvest of fresh vegetables with Mustard Seed, a local food pantry. Along with the bi-monthly deliveries the members have added canned and non-perishable foods to make a more substantial gift. They have also added a cutting garden of flowers from which they make bouquets to take to senior and memory care facilities. For fund raising, the club has partnered with the Art Club of Fort Pierce to auction off original and artistic flamingoes from their clubhouse. They will also be holding a plant sale. The event is called Fabulous Flamingoes in Bloom. Another plant sale will be held for spring/summer to raise money for next year's scholarships as well as donations to Penny Pines and Wekiva.

Piper's Landing Garden Club, *Debi Dow*, President

Pipers Landing Garden Club held meetings in November and December 2020. Michelle Maguire presented a guided golf cart tour of the flora in Piper's. In February they had a tour of the House of Hope aeroponic greenhouses in Palm City. In March they welcomed Jim West, the Butterfly man, to the club's butterfly garden to discuss plants that attract and nourish Monarchs and other butterflies. In April they will hold their closing meeting and install the new officers. Programs for next year and year end reports are due. After a very challenging year, the hope is to have a better and more productive year for 2021-22.

Green Thumb Garden Club of Clewiston, *Kitty Gray*, President

Green Thumb Garden Club of Clewiston was also affected by the pandemic. Some members contracted the virus but recovered. The meeting attendance was down with 11 members attending on the average. The meetings for March, April and May 2020 were cancelled and the speakers were unable to come. Zoom meetings were not done, but the Recording Secretary made the minutes of each meeting available by email to keep everyone informed. They had the installation of officers in September and in October one of the members gave a presentation on Orchids. In December the club decorated the Clewiston Public Library. The club created a Green Thumb Garden Club Nook where the garden/horticultural books were placed to honor past garden club members and families. In March and April, the club worked on a project to beautify a designated area with plants and flowers in front of the United Methodist Church where the meetings are held. Unfortunately, they were unable to hold any fundraising projects, but had enough funds to pay for their yearly commitments.

DISTRICT XI NEWS

JerylAnn B Decker, Director

Many of our clubs have been meeting on Zoom. With the Covid 19 virus still in full force our members remain vigilant in keeping safe but finally seeing the light.

Our snowbirds are on their way home and summer planning is in the works. The District would like to wish Sharon Bogard, our new Director, much success. During my term as District Director I have been sending out video garden tours to the presidents to share with their members as well as posting on Facebook.

Coral Springs Garden Club President Jeri Decker reports that she continued presenting the Environmental School with final course April 15-16. They continue to have presentation using zoom with club members and record each meeting which is emailed to members who were unable to attend. Our newsletter is also sent to all members and shared with others in the district. They adopted Veterans Park in the city and participated in Waterway clean up and Earth Day. Their first in-person field trip was at Mount Botanical Garden in April and May scholarships luncheon were in the works.

The club has sent over 3000 corks to support our forest and oceans. They raised \$136 for Penny Pines and continue to collect empty medications bottles for Doctors Without Borders.

Lauderdale By the Sea President Yolanda Bernardini reports that their zoom meetings have been really well attended, including members out of state. During their Christmas meeting each member shared their holiday projects. Santa Claus made a surprise visit. In February they had a virtual flower show. Members showcased their plants and arrangement. In March was their first glorious face to face meeting, all under masks, at Birch State Park with a guided visit by Kristen Hoss, expert on the butterfly gardens which she helped plant. Dorothy Mardell, one of their members who wasn't able to return to Florida, has been busy sewing over 200 masks with garden and bee designs. We used that as a fund raiser during the Farmers market. It was a great success.

Pompano Beach Garden Club President Edie Kappler kept in touch with their members with a monthly newsletter and had virtual meetings with 20 members. They also sent out messages of good cheer to all the members for their birthdays by doing a drive-by and singing. They got out of their cars, with their masks on, sang and took pictures. They continued to work on civic projects, Broward Children's Center and their garden at Sample McDougald house which was overgrown after 8 weeks of shutdown. After intensive weeding, it's back in shape. Everyone tended their gardens and planned their year with their fingers crossed.

Fort Lauderdale Garden Club President Susie MacPherson planned their first in person meeting in April. The club received the Emerald Award. This was a huge honor and wonderful recognition for their club. The clubs' Shade House and its devoted keepers captured a good deal of attention. Monthly plant sales continued to be organized and drew the attention of visitors to Birch State Park. Their club continued with their involvement in the Fort Lauderdale School system. We have underwriting of scholarships for both the SEEK and the CIT programs for rising freshman. Our Youth Flower Show was held in April.

Moringa Garden Circle President Sharon Lambert Bogard prepared to host the Fort Lauderdale Garden Clubs' first in-house meeting this year. The club held one evening meeting in April to accommodate their members and guests who worked that are unable to attend workday functions. The program was on Horticulture and Design Ideas by Jesse Durkheim. They proudly contributed to nine scholarships to Camp Wekiva, one scholarship to S.E.E.K. and to sponsor one camper to the Leadership-in- Training Program. In May, the meeting installed their new slate of officers.

The Hollywood Garden Club President Susan Berry kept the club informed with beautifully narrated and informative 4-page newsletters. The newsletters gave members to do lists for each month, what needed watering, planting and how to handle insects. Due to social distancing, all meetings were on hold.

Lighthouse Point Garden Club President Inger Jones reports that they also had Zoom meetings until April, 2021. Their May, 2021 meeting of installation of officers for 2021-2023 was held in person at the Fort Lauderdale Garden Center. The club continues its donation to Penny Pines, Wekiva Youth Camp, Penal Garden Therapy, Nature Disasters and The Nature Conservancy. They're hopeful that going forward their meetings will be in person as members are desirous of meeting in person at their annual Salad luncheon in March, 2022.

DISTRICT XII NEWS

Jean Hawa, Director (2019-2021)

Leticia Delatorre-Gunn, Director (2021-2023)

Counties: Dade, Monroe

Flower and Wildflower: Musaceae Stretitizia Reginae & Gallardia Blanket Flower

Butterfly: Schaus Swallowtail

Garden Clubs: Coral Gables, Coral Pines, Ken Pines, Marathon, Miami Beach, Pinecrest, South Dade, South Miami

Coral Gables Garden Club, *Judy Mangasarian*, President

Our Board voted to continue having Zoom meetings through the end of this club year, including our May Celebration where we installed Officers and welcomed five new members. Despite Covid concerns, we've still managed to make progress on several projects. The most exciting one was our newest virtual fundraiser, an online photography competition, "As I See It", that took place from April 15th to May 31st. Anyone over the age of 18 could enter their photographs taken on a camera or smartphone and they were judged by a panel of renowned photographers. Prizes were given in five categories and the overall winner received \$1,000. Go to our website,

CoralGablesGardenClub.org, to see the winners' photographs. Our website also features articles, blogs, and resources for gardeners and floral designers. Visit it to be inspired!

Other activities included donating a "Lignum vitae" tree and giving an interactive virtual presentation to the students at Sunset Elementary School for Arbor Day 2020 (a belated celebration); dedicating a "Cassia bakeriana" and a lovely garden, donated by District Director, Jean Hawa, in memory of Principal Samuel Gay; granting four \$2,500 scholarships to deserving college and graduate students; and installing botanical markers at the historic Merrick House's garden. We also replanted the Merrick House Heritage Garden with herbs, roses (donated by the Tropical Rose Society) and caladiums (donated by Florida Boys Caladiums). Through our Project Canopy, we continued to plant trees at Coral Gables' public schools, including three mahoganies at Coral Gables High School.

Our members are looking forward to the time when we can gather in person again in September. We hope next year will be filled with hugs and happy faces!

Coral Pines Garden Club, *Sandra Deery*, President

2020 ended on two happy notes: (1) we replaced our annual holiday party with a Holiday Drive-by in which we received a gift bag filled with goodies and (2) a National Garden Club "Plant America" \$1,000 grant was awarded to Coral Pines Garden Club to support our partnership with the Deering Estate's Garden Brooke Trail Restoration Project. In January 2021 First Vice-president Dacia Jean Steiner presented the money to Nina Zanella, Executive Director of the Deering Estate Foundation. It will be deposited and used for signage along the trail. CPGC members will be responsible for additional fundraising for this project.

DISTRICT XII NEWS - (cont'd)

Our February Program involved Barbara McAdam in a Zoom presentation of Florida Friendly Landscaping which went over the nine basic Florida friendly principles in landscaping. They are: **1-** Right place, right plant, **2-**Water efficiency, **3-**Maximize mulch, **4-**Recycle household and yard wastes, **5-**Fertilize appropriately, **6-**Manage yard pests, **7-**Reduce non-point source pollution, **8-**Provide for wildlife, and **9-**Protect the waterfront.

Barbara went into detail on each principle and also advised us that Miami-Dade offers Florida Friendly programs such as landscaping irrigation, rainwater harvesting and Florida friendly yard certifications. She can be reached at bmcadam@ufl.edu and is happy to answer any questions you may have and provide you with literature on all of these principles and programs.

With one-half of our membership feeling comfortable meeting in person, we successfully held the annual plant auction in March on a very chilly, breezy morning at the picnic area at the Deering Estate.

Using social distancing and other safety protocols, one-half of our club members met at the Deering Estate in April for a floral designing session which was followed by our general meeting. Our installation luncheon will be held at the outdoor tented patio of the Golden Rule Seafood Restaurant.

Ken Pines Garden Club, Elaine Mills, President

After a year of quarantining, our club is vibrant again! Everyone is excited because in April, sixteen of our 18 members were willing to gather on President Elaine's patio for our annual plant exchange and vote on a slate of officers for the 2021-2023 year. Everyone brought their own lunch while practicing safety protocols. The installation of officers and end-of-the-year luncheon took place in May in the garden of the in-coming new president.

Several of the KPGC members are also in the Bromeliad Society which helps provide horticulture information for the garden club. Parliamentary procedures followed by the garden club will be introduced to the newer members.

Marathon Garden Club, Scarlett Duffy, President

The Marathon Garden Club will end our year with the "Installation of Officers" at the Yacht Club with a Spring luncheon and swearing in of our new board. Our Club treasurer reports that we have survived the year with a significant balance in our operating account and there is no deficit due to a year without fund raising. We will have to work very hard next year to keep the Club in excellent shape.

Our gardens and grounds are looking great and everyone is looking forward to next year. We will be having a full schedule with a Holiday Bazaar in November, our January Jamboree and our House and Garden tour in March. There may be variations in these activities but they will, hopefully, all be held.

Miami Beach Garden Club, Leticia Delatorre-Gunn, President

The new year brought the Miami Beach Garden Club to its annual January Field Trip. We had a privately guided tour of The Kampong Botanical Gardens. Members explored the beauty of the garden and regaled in the history it shares with Miami. We had a boxed lunch picnic on their beautiful grounds and much enjoyed the company of each other.

In February, the Board made the decision to cancel our March Flower Show and once again our Programs Chair Ellen Klein saw herself tasked with coming up with a program and speaker for both February and March. She looked inwards to the talents of our Club Members and for February we had our own Daryn Cowdy give a class on painting nature with watercolors and lo and behold, the artistic talents of the members emerged!

At this time, the Board also introduced a wreath decorating competition to replace our Flower Show competition. Club Members were asked to create a wreath, name it and submit a picture to be judged by an independent panel of Judges. Results were announced at our March meeting. The competition was well received and we may continue to host it in the years to come.

Our March program, Tropical Flower Arrangements, had our Club's three Flower Show Student Judges giving a tutorial on the tips and tricks of deco-

rating with tropical flowers. Our members learned a lot and were delighted to take home their very own colorful and imaginative designs.

For April and May, we are looking forward to a program on Natural Gardening, our annual Spring Luncheon and our Bon Voyage closing party. We will be celebrating National Arbor Day by donating and planting a specimen tree to the Miami Beach Botanical Garden. The Club also continues to honor our Armed Forces by placing a patriotic wreath and flags at both of our Blue Star Memorials for each patriotic holiday throughout the year. Club Members also decorated over 250 succulent plants for our Outreach Chair to deliver to the Seniors to celebrate Valentine's Day.

With many adjustments, this year has shown us not just how resilient our Club can be, but how it can thrive and persevere! I am proud to say that we have "pinned" and welcomed a new member at every meeting and look forward to the contributions these dedicated and persistent new members will bring to the Club. The Miami Beach Garden Club looks forward to continued growth and building memories while learning about all things garden while forging friends.

Pinecrest Garden Club, Kelley C. Schild, President

2021 Events started in January with our first in-person meeting at our Club home of Pinecrest Gardens. In the Banyan Bowl with stadium seating, about 20 members gathered for an informational talk on The Benefits of CBD. There was a raffle and free samples of CBD products. A video recording of the event was sent to those members not in attendance. In February, the Club participated in an update by our Community Committee Chairs, Cecilia Prah and Christian Armstrong, on the Deering Estate Garden Brooke Project. A video was filmed in advance with a virtual tour of the amazing progress our club members have accomplished including plantings with name markers and new bee homes. March was another virtual workshop with fellow member and herbalist Theresa Gilmore on cooking with herbs. The recipes were provided in advance, so our members were able to join in the cooking demonstration in their home kitchens. She provided valuable information regarding the healing properties of the herbs used in the demonstration.

A Tree Planting Ceremony was held at the Pinecrest Gardens on Thursday, March 18, 2021. The in-person event was coordinated by Ines Mander, Environment Committee Chairman. Eight garden club members attended our event in honor of Earth Day and Arbor Day. The Pinecrest Garden staff, Harvey Bernstein and Lacey Bray participated in planting a beautiful Rainbow Gum Eucalyptus tree in a perfect setting in the gardens. Lacey Bray gave the group gathered information on the history of Arbor Day. It was a great day to share the love of gardening.



The April meeting was a zoom workshop on flower arranging. Finally, to end the season in style the Hats and Gloves (and masks) Luncheon was an in-person event as many members have been vaccinated. We enjoyed celebrating together once again.

"Share the love of gardening and promote environmental awareness through education of members and the community while supporting Pinecrest Gardens and community projects."

South Dade Garden Club, Loretta Alvarez, President

As we approach the close of another Garden Club year, we are filled with excitement and gratitude. The COVID-19 pandemic presented us with what could be obstacles, but ended up propelling us forward in unanticipated and wonderful ways!

We started out with Zoom meetings and by December we had our first hybrid in-person/Zoom holiday meeting. The Club played Santa and handed out wonderful garden gift baskets filled with all kinds of useful garden items.

DISTRICT XII NEWS - (cont'd)

Since then, we learned about creating our own Bonsai gardens with Bonsai expert Randy Brooks and took a field trip to the Morikami Japanese Museum and Gardens. It was a beautiful field trip and it gave us a chance to get to know each other better. We also learned about making our own vanilla extract from vanilla beans. Everyone who attended the meetings in person and via Zoom received their own Perpetual Vanilla Extract kits to make our own vanilla extract at home.

We also learned that where there's a will there's a way, if you want to grow your own food at home. We found out that you don't have to have a yard or even balcony to grow your own food. Even if you only have a windowsill, you can grow fresh food, whether it's herbs, lettuce or sprouts. At our meeting titled, "Vegetable Gardening: The Basics, Tips and Secrets," we learned a few things we never would have dreamed of. We also took home a sprouting kit with a mix of sweet clover, healthy fenugreek and spicy radish seeds to make an interesting sprout mix.

We then learned to think outside the box when it comes to bees. We learned that bees shouldn't be feared, but should be protected and nurtured. We learned about their roles in the hive and some interesting health benefits of honey and even bee stings!

We had Robert Fuchs of RF Orchids teach us about growing and caring for orchids. He also had some surprises for us too. Each person in attendance went home with an orchid plant as will members who are attending via Zoom.

Our meeting titled, "Weeds Glorious Weeds!" was presented by Blaire Kleiman who works with Dr. Clayborn at FIU. This may not sound like your top pick in a garden presentation, but it was a truly interesting lesson on some very unexpected aspects of weeds. I think this will end up being one of my favorite meetings!

Our last meeting will be a year-end party with a special surprise that can't be disclosed just yet. Even though our garden club year will officially come to a close in June, we are planning activities field trips and classes all summer long!

This year has been an unusual year, but it has been a wonderful year! Our membership has about tripled this year despite losing two dearly beloved members and one of our legacy members. This year we were sorry to see Lloyd Miller leave us. He worked tirelessly to help preserve Biscayne Bay. He even wrote a book about Biscayne Bay. We also lost our much-loved Artist in Residence, Al Koltosky. He taught our Budding Artists class and always was there to help out with everything. One of our club's former presidents and daughter of one of our founders, Rosemary Eliker, also recently passed away. She did so much for our club and has been instrumental in helping make the South Dade Garden Club what it is today. Each will be greatly missed and we plan on planting memorial trees in their honor.

Despite the threat that COVID-19 has brought the world, I am proud to say that we as a group have budded, blossomed and bloomed like a glorious flower that has been nurtured and has shared its beauty and fragrant scent to those around it. We continue to spread our seed to our community and our fellow gardeners. We wish the best for our fellow gardeners in Florida, our country and the world. We are happy to see the many other garden clubs who have been able to rise up and into the sunshine in this time of darkness. What a beautiful garden we are all coming together to be a united part of as we celebrate our Federation's 94th Annual Convention!

South Miami Garden Club, Nancy Browning Maszta, President

"There is light ahead. There is new energy coming our way." (Maria Shriver, 2020). With the arrival of Spring and access to vaccinations for the coronavirus, members who had not been attending meetings in person were back for the first time since the beginning of the pandemic. In March the room was filled with energy, smiles, excitement...and yes, the light and energy are returning.

Programs for the 2020-2021 year included cultivating native plants in our yards, care of bromeliads and pesky mosquitos, palms 101, and growing tropical fruit trees. We were particularly intrigued by the program from the Urban Oasis Project. The project focuses on Farmers' Markets and encourages people to grow their own foods by working with families to plant their first garden.

South Miami Garden Club donations for 2020-2021 were awarded to five groups who educate participants to conserve and protect our environment.

Wekiva Youth Camp (FFGC) donation supports scholarships for youngsters to attend summer camp.

Branches' award assists with resources to support the education of children, young adults, and their families with skills to navigate life.

Urban Oasis Project's donation is earmarked for the "give gardens" project which helps families in urban areas establish gardens to raise their own food.

Miami Waterkeeper Organization award aids in defending and protecting the quality and safety of our waters. Under their watch we can continue to swim, fish, and enjoy our bodies of water.

Coral Reef Foundation donation assists in protecting and restoring coral reefs.

Installation of the 2021-2023 SMGC Officers took place on May 4 at the Coco Plum Woman's Club in Coral Gables. District XII Director Jean Hawa was invited to install the new officers. SMGC members look forward to the 2021-2022 Garden Club year! In the meantime,

*"I do not have to go
To Sacred Places in far-off lands
The ground I stand on is Holy..
Here, in this little garden I tend, My pilgrimage ends.
The wild honeybees, the hummingbird moths,
the flickering fireflies at dusk
Are a microcosm of the Universe.
Each seed that grows, each spade of soil is full of miracles.
And I toil and sweat, and watch and wonder, and am full of love.
Living in place, in this place, for truth and beauty dwell here"*

Mary de Lavalette Poem

Gold Star Families Memorial Marker

Florida's 5th "Gold Star Families Memorial"

Lynn Vernon, District IV Gold Star Families Memorial chair



Following WWII, National Garden Clubs, Inc. wanted to honor, in a visible way, the men and women returning home as well as those who served on the home front. One of their several ways to do that was in the creation of a Blue Star Marker program, now a mere 75 years ago. The Blue Star Memorial program thrived, and over three thousand markers have now been placed across our country on highways, in gardens, cemeteries and other appropriate locations. Perhaps your Garden Club has placed such a marker in your community and you are familiar with its history. Then in recent years, NGC, Inc., had another dream which involved partnering with the Gold Star Families national organization, to recognize and honor these special families.

Gold Star Families Memorial Marker (cont'd)

What is a Gold Star family and why do Garden Clubs across our nation honor them with the Gold Star Families Memorial? Many of you already know and some of you may even be Gold Star family. A Gold Star family is a family who has suffered the devastating loss of their family member as a result of military service. Parents experiencing the death of a son or daughter, a wife losing a husband. or now days, a husband losing a wife. No coincidence, the writer of this article is a Gold Star kid, because her father was killed on active duty when she was 13. It made her who she is today and ignites within her a passion for serving our country's veterans, living or not, and the survivors they cherished.

District IV, in Northeast Florida, is made up of 7 counties, 14 clubs and 49 circles. During the Spring of 2020, just before our lives were turned upside down with Covid, a member of the Fleming Island Garden Club, approached the District IV Director, Joy Elrod, asking if she would consider the idea of getting all the clubs together to place a Gold Star Families Memorial somewhere in the District? The Gold Star Families Memorial program was nationally approved in May of 2015, and there are thousands of military families living in our seven-county area. And, could it possibly be placed on the grounds of the future Cecil Field POW*MIA Memorial and Museum in Duval County? Knowing the future Museum is a major undertaking and only in the early stages of development, the Fleming Island member had a connection with the future National Memorial and thought they too might consider the idea worthy.

Joy was on board immediately and mentioned an up-coming meeting of all the District's club presidents in St. Augustine. The idea was presented there. Those in attendance voted unanimously in favor, and the idea of finding a location for a Gold Star Families Memorial was off and running. It took a while, but the steering committee for the future POW*MIA Memorial and Museum in Duval County eventually approved the Gold Star. They also stated they would be interested in creating something even grander for what would be only the 5th Gold Star Families Memorial in all of Florida and the only memorial in this area, dedicated to Gold Star families.

The final decision was made to place the Gold Star Families Memorial on the sacred grounds of the restored and historic Chapel of the High-Speed Pass, which is currently the hub of the future, Washington D.C. level, Memorial. Joy suggested allocating District funds for the Memorial itself, and the newly formed District IV Gold Star committee, consisting of Joy Elrod, Kalia Baillene, Jackie Host and Lynn Vernon were tasked with raising additional funds to complete the growing project. Not so simple in 2020, in a Covid driven state where "fund-raising" events could not and would not take place. Yes, the funds to complete this very large project were eventually raised, however mostly by the POW*MIA committee members themselves.

So here we are in early 2021 with the date for the completion and dedication of the Gold Star Families Memorial garden being Feb. 27th. Many people from various veteran oriented groups have come together to complete and honor current and future Gold Star families who will someday visit here. A custom-made concrete bench has been donated and created with the Gold Star emblem embedded in the concrete itself, a flag pole was donated to fly the Gold Star flag, lighting for the flag pole and the Marker had to be created, extensive new irrigation, a sizeable concrete walkway to approach the Gold Star Memorial, entirely new landscaping from dirt to delightful, as well as an area for Memorial bricks to be purchased and placed for only Gold Star families. It was a monumental task, but one laden with love and appreciation.

To add to the uniqueness of this Gold Star Families Memorial, dedication day will coincide with a reunion commemorating the 30th anniversary of Desert Storm and Desert Shield and also the dedication of an Air Crew Memorial remembering local Navy personnel who died during the Gulf Wars era.

We sincerely thank the Executive Director of the POW*MIA Memorial & Museum, District IV club and committee members, and donors who have come together to create a very special place for Gold Star Families, and, as garden club members of Northeast Florida, it has been a very real privilege to honor all Gold Star families in this way.

Orphaned Blue Star Memorial Markers

Rosita Aristoff, FFGC Blue Star Memorial Chairman

Since the NGC initiated the Blue Star Memorial Program after the end of World War II there have been over two hundred Blue Star Memorial markers dedicated in Florida. Unfortunately, of this number there are about thirty Blue Star Memorial markers where the sponsoring garden club is no longer affiliated with the FFGC or the club no longer exists. We refer to these markers as "orphans".

The orphaned markers are not in all cases without benefactors. In some instances the original garden club is still active and remains committed to caring for the marker. In a few cases a city or county government, a historical society, or another non-garden club entity has taken on the responsibility to ensure that the orphaned marker visibly remains a fitting tribute to our veterans. And, there are occasions where other FFGC garden clubs have stepped in and "adopted" the orphaned marker. The Temple Terrace Garden Club deserves special mention in that, aside from the marker they ordered and dedicated themselves in 2004, the club has adopted and refurbished two additional orphaned Blue Star Memorial markers in the Tampa area. And, just last year the Miami Beach Garden Club adopted and refurbished one of Florida's earliest markers originally dedicated over sixty-five years ago along US 1 in Miami. The following photos show the before and after views of this marker on highway US- 1 in Miami.



At present there are still approximately a dozen Blue Star Memorial markers across the state which have been orphaned and have not been adopted, such as the one pictured below.



Virtually all of these orphaned, un-adopted markers are in need of restoration after typically decades of exposure to the elements. Each of them includes the NGC named usually within the medallion on top, and most also name the FFGC. As such, when the markers no longer give a proper homage to our veterans they do not reflect well on our organization. Therefore, garden clubs and Districts are encouraged to consider adoption of an orphaned Blue Star Memorial marker. Financial assistance may be available via the FFGC's Matching Grants Program. For information about orphaned markers in your area please contact the FFGC Blue Star Memorial Chairman.

Florida Arbor Day 2021

Barbara Hadsell

On Friday, January 15, members of the Oleander Garden Club of the Palm Beaches and the Greenacres C.A.R.E.S. Junior Garden Club gathered at the Native Tree Park on Martin Ave to celebrate Florida Arbor Day. Guests included city officials and members of the Wellington Garden Club and Wekiva campership recipients.



City of Greenacres Mayor Flores with Bev Lichtenstein, Oleander GC-President Plant America with Trees Proclamation for Florida Arbor Day Jan. 2021

The event opened with a greeting by OGC President, Beverly Lichtenstein. Barbara Hadsell, FFGC District X Plant America with Native Trees Chairman read a short description of Arbor Day followed by Junior Gardener members informing the participants of the ten benefits of trees. The youth portion of the program closed with a poem read by OGC member Reina Snyder, FFGC District X Plant America with native Trees Vice Chairman. The Plant America with Native Tree Proclamation signed by the Greenacres mayor was presented to the club by the City Manager.

Oleander members then gathered at each of the three memorial trees for a short memorial.

Note: The Proclamation, pictured here, can be found on the FFGC website Home page.

Plan Now for the 2022 Smokey Bear & Woodsy Owl Poster Contest

Jill Anderson, FFGC State Chairman
JillAndersn@aol.com



This Smokey Bear & Woodsy Owl poster contest gives students the opportunity to demonstrate through original drawings of Smokey Bear or Woodsy Owl their understanding of wildfire prevention and basic environmental conservation principles in a fun and easy-to-do activity.



ALL Children, first to fifth grade, that are Florida residents may participate. They must be sponsored by a FFGC Garden Club.

- ◆ Each child that enters will receive a Participation Certificate with their name on it.
- ◆ Contact schools and offer to supply the materials necessary.
- ◆ Make this activity part of the Garden Club's Jr. Gardeners or youth program.
- ◆ The child's grade must be included on the poster so that the participant can compete in the correct grade category.
- ◆ Make this part of summer activities at your Club.
- ◆ Any group of children can participate. Scout troops, after school programs, and the like are perfectly appropriate.
- ◆ Include homeschooled children
- ◆ Promotional materials are available for purchasing at [Symbols.gov](https://www.symbols.gov).
- ◆ Deadline for submissions is **January 22, 2022**.

For information; GardenClub.org/woodsyl-owl-youth-poster-contest

Questions:

Jill Anderson, FFGC State Chairman
jillandersn@aol.com

Blue Star Marker Dedication

Bonita Springs

The First Blue Star Marker in Bonita Springs was dedicated March 29th, 2021. The Gulf Coast Garden Club had been working very hard with the city and raising the money for the sign dedicated to our Armed Forces. In 1945, the National Council of State Garden Clubs, Inc. approved the Blue Star Memorial Highway Marker program. Rt. 41 is a Blue Star Memorial Highway. The purpose of the Blue Star Memorial Highway project is to erect highway markers at roadside rest stops, vista points, historical sites, and other appropriate areas to pay tribute to all who have served, those who are presently serving, and those who will serve in the nation's armed forces.

photo #1 The Blue Star Mothers-Barbara Salkow and Gold Star wife and GCGC member Karen Faye standing together by the Blue Star marker before the unveiling.

photo #2 The American Legion Post 90 presenting the colors at the beginning of the Ceremony.

Photo#3 Patricia Townsend, President of the Gulf Coast Garden Club and Marge Hendon, FFGC President accept and start the dedication of the Marker.

Photo #4 The Mayor, Rick Steinmeyer, accepts the National Garden Clubs, Inc. Certificate of the Blue Star Marker from Marge Hendon, FFGC President.

Photo #5 Tony Principato, Bugler BSA Troop 109. Bonita Springs blew Taps

Photo #6 Group photo of GCGC members and guests by newly dedicated Blue Star Marker on Old 41 in Bonita Springs



FFGC Convention 2021

Submitted by *Marge Hendon*, FFGC President

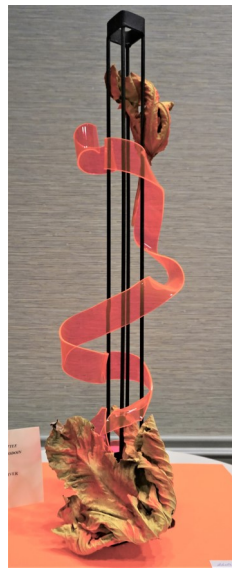
Well, if you missed the 2021 convention, last month at the Hilton Daytona Beach Oceanfront Resort, you missed having fun, being informed, and being with friends.

Sunday evening saw members dancing the night away. What is that saying, "Dance like no one is watching." Members and guest were dancing like no one was watching. We will have to do this again so those that missed the festivities will have a chance to put on their dancing shoes.

Guest speakers to breakout sessions informed us on the how to do, what to do, and when to do gardening related events. So much to learn and relearn after our COVID hibernation.

Speaking of COVID, all precautions were taken to protect members: hand sanitizing stations, distant seating, sitting in "Pods", mask wearing, you name it, it was done to protect those in attendance. All felt great to be together. A big thank you to all those that worked so hard to have AI's convention come to life. Thank you to the convention committees, vendors, speakers, floral designers, and members.

Our next convention will be held at the Embassy Suites Orlando-Lake Buena Vista South in Kissimmee, April 12-14, 2022. See you there for fun, flowers, and friends.



**Florida Federation of Garden Clubs
District VII Judges Council**



Salutes
**Teri Mallory, Judy Gore
and
Joanne Mullinare**
for
**Developing and Hosting
our
2020-2021 Zoom Program**

Success to FFGC 94th Annual Convention



By the Sea
DISTRICT V MEMBERS
Congratulate
MARGE HENDON
FFGC President 2021-23



And
DONNA THOMAS
District V Director 2021-23
along with: Carol Stevens, Asst. Director, Carol Wood,
Secretary & Susie Berryhill, Treasurer

And, Thank you for your service
JEANICE GAGE—Outgoing District Director
"By the Sea, by the Beautiful Sea"





Get the Planting Party Started

Kimberlee Duke Pompeo, FFGC District X
PAT Vice Chair Barrier Islands/Coastal Restoration

All it takes is a donor and a little desire to get the planting party started! And that's precisely what happened this winter as part of a restorative dune planting project initiated by The Ocean Ridge Garden Club (ORGC).

In the 2000s, a good thing happened for the Town of Ocean Ridge. A small parcel of oceanfront property was gifted from a private homeowner. If caring for it was not giving thanks enough, the subsequent advancements from local gardening enthusiasts have been another giant leap forward in reversing land mismanagement and paying it forward to nature – as nature intended.

Jerry Lower, the recipient of The Florida Federation of Garden Club's 2013 Earth Steward Award for his work in launching a native plant demonstration plot, is a native plant enthusiast and publisher of The Coastal Star newspaper. His contributions include removing nonnative invasive plants, escaped from well-intentioned but unwitting nearby exotic landscapes, and populating this valuable real estate with biodiverse natives. Communities of native plants that evolved in the Florida dune ecosystem create habitat that is stronger, more resilient to erosion and sea level rise, and also support the native wildlife that helped create the native dune ecosystem in the first place.

From Covid-19 to climate change, we know that earnest individual action is more necessary than ever before. The more recent approval from Allison Adams, Master Gardener and Chair of ORGC's Beautification & Conservation Committee, enabled a collaborative effort in mobilizing more regional conservation on the ground. Plant donor, Rita Ginsky, a longstanding member of ORGC, along with Kimberlee Pompeo, FFGC's District X PAT Vice-Chair of the Barrier Islands and Past President of ORGC, and George Gann, Founder of The Institute for Regional Conservation and an FFGC Affiliate, continued in this gardening crusade by first, assessing placement of new native species based on salt, sun and wind tolerance and further evaluation for long-range success of these turf alternatives.

George Gann has 35 years of experience in coastal restoration and is Chair Emeritus and International Policy Lead for the Society for Ecological Restoration, one of the Global Partners in the United Nations 2021-2030 Decade on Ecosystem Restoration. George is also lead author of the 2019 International Principles and Standards for the Practice of Ecological Restoration, which is cited as a key document in the official United Nations' Decade strategy.

In the careful positioning, ORGC members installed a pairing of host larvae and nectar larvae native plants preferred by butterflies. Julia Walker, a longstanding member of ORGC and Beautification & Conservation participant, best explained the goal of this season's project as a showcase for enduring conservation that can be replicated along Ocean Ridge's coastal front. ORGC hopes to increase awareness among private beachfront owners through the visual beauty of this landscape and, in its viability, demonstrate the benefits of caring for and restoring these areas. These efforts represent a dual function in the first line of defense from rising sea levels while propagating necessary plant biodiversity -all in hopes of avoiding the extinction of native species.

As an example, the existing ground cover led by Allison Adams and planted by members of ORGC in and amongst an earlier phase of young saw palmetto, is dune sunflower. The bright yellow daisy-like flowers will dazzle onlookers and native bees alike, while the sprawling root system continues to help in the stabilization of shifting sand. Once established, little care is needed and the seeds provide food for wildlife. A short-lived perennial and equally nomadic, when it thins, the plant can be cut back and supplemented with other natives.

Who said natural landscapes are less pretty?



The property is located in Palm Beach County on the east side of Old Ocean Blvd between Tropical Drive and Douglas Drive and marked by public access signage by the Town of Ocean Ridge. Pedestrians and bicyclers are invited to visit and use the beach path while appreciating the project's work. Additional information is also available for Florida residents at the Institute for Regional Conservation, Natives For Your Neighborhood, where you can enter your Florida zip code and get a native plant list for your area or you may reach out to: RegionalConservation.org/beta/infyn/

SEEK (2021)

Save Earth's Environment through Knowledge

Mary Ann Whisler, SEEK Chairman

Mary.Whisler66@gmail.com

Carol Wood, SEEK Registrar/Treasurer

CarolWood@outlook.com

Our theme this year is "Land, Water and Air"

The SEEK 2021 program will not be held at the University of Florida Gainesville campus. Due to COVID-19, the University decided to cancel all "in-person" summer programs. However, the Committee determined we could still have the in-person conference and follow the CDC Guidelines. With the help of a former SEEK student and FFGC Scholarship winner, Quinn Zackarias, (a grad student leaving this fall for Yale to work on his PhD), we are putting together a great educational program.

SEEK will begin on Monday, June 28th to Thursday July 1st. We will follow all CDC Guidelines and will require masks and social distancing. The committee wants the conference to be safe and healthy. All meals will be catered and, weather permitting, most meals will be outdoor. Our first afternoon presentation and field trip will be to Sweetwater Preserve, a wetland preserve that reclaims water runoff from roads. The host of this field trip is Dr. Kaplan/ Dept of Biological Engineering. His research and design are the culmination of the Sweetwater Preserve. Other conference activities include field excursions to springs located in state parks and an experimental solar car lab. We will also have an Associate Professor speaking on "Everglades Restoration".

Our final day on Thursday will be a presentation from Dr. Donley on the UF Research program for undergrad's, a UF Panel to discuss Environmental Careers at UF, and student presentations on environmental issues. We plan to invite parents and garden club members (reservations required) to attend the wrap up.

For those who are unfamiliar with the FFGC SEEK Program, it is an educational conference for students finishing the 9th grade to students starting the 12th grade. Students are encouraged to attend all three years. Our garden clubs across the state contact science teachers at local high schools to find students interested in the environment. FFGC wants to encourage these students to be our future environmental advocates. FFGC members can retrieve all the flyers and registration information from our FFGC.org website. The conference will be limited to approximately 25 to 30 students due to CDC Guidelines.

Our state is experiencing a vast population growth with no slowdown in the near future. By helping educate our young and future Floridians as well as our members, we will continue to have advocates interested in the conservation of Florida.

Together we will make a difference!

editors note: CDC guidelines regarding Covid-19 are changing on a daily basis. I suggest that you contact either *Mary Whisler* or *Carol Wood* for any updates to this published article.

Enjoy 'By The Sea'
FFGC 2021 Annual Convention



Camellia Garden Club
Eustis – FFGC District VII



ChIPLEY Garden Club
2021 – A New Beginning

Where flowers bloom,
so does hope.

Invite Birds for Diversity in the Garden

Each morning I am enthralled by the antics of various birds as I walk around the garden sipping my morning cup of coffee. Ruby-throated hummingbirds indulge in the offerings of the red pentas at the edge of the herbaceous border. House finches and cardinals vie for perches on the sunflower feeder. Nuthatches and tufted titmice scurry up and down among branches of the mixed shrub border looking for food. Mourning doves glide in for a landing on the sand path. Brown thrashers scratch in the mulch, and mockingbirds wait for a turn at the fig tree. Carolina wrens flit in and out among the cypress knees searching for bugs and spiders. A woodpecker's drumming resonates through the morning air as it investigates a pine snag. My world is alive with a cacophony of sounds and fluttering's of wings.

How did I get to be this lucky? What special things have I done to orchestrate this daily extravaganza? I remember the time when I could not distinguish between a tufted titmouse and a chickadee. Birds were birds and I took little notice of them. Somewhere along the way my awareness increased, and I began to buy books to identify them. My interest was piqued, and I began to learn more about their habits and requirements. Soon I found myself so intrigued that I began buying plants I knew they would like, installing bird feeders and baths, and constructing brush piles and dust holes. My efforts have been rewarded many times over.

Birds, I have learned, require shelter from the elements, protection from predators, water, natural food, and nesting sites. I began the venture in my garden by paying attention to the native plant species that already existed and making sure they were retained. I was lucky because I started with a mature assortment of native trees that included oaks, pines, junipers, hollies, and blackgum, all of which established an effective canopy. Native shrubs and small trees at midstory included beautyberry, wild blueberries, persimmon, hawthorn, sparkleberry, and saw palmetto. Underneath it all was a groundcover of wildflowers and creeping vines. To these I added a more native trees, shrubs and herbaceous plants that increased the availability of food and shelter and increased diversity.

Plants are not the only important feature in my yard birds like. I frequently see woodpeckers debarking pine snags and dead limbs. They are searching for insects that hide in the crevices or hollowing out nesting sites. Birds of various kinds use the dirt pathways for their dust baths and grit requirement. A brush pile provides hiding places for mice, garter snakes, lizards, toads, and many insects of immense interest to the wrens and other ground-feeding birds. Rocks incorporated among the flower borders are used as perches for birds and hiding places for tasty ants and beetles. Natural mulch underneath the trees and shrubs is home for worms, roly-polies, millipedes, and other scrumptious morsels. Birdbaths meet water needs.

Since my love affair with the birds, I have become a more responsible environmental steward. I am more tolerant of the insects that manage to damage some of my plants. Not surprisingly, my avian friends' list of gourmet treats closely resembles my list of dreaded pests. The birds devour aphids, cutworms, caterpillars, grasshoppers, and other unsuspecting insects whose sole intent is to dine on my ornamental plantings.

My yard is not a mess of the jumbies as one might assume from this description. It is not a wild, unordered garden, although it is attractive to wildlife. Its diversity offers seasonal change and color that is hard to achieve in the coastal South. It is a place where I enjoy sitting and being immersed in the sights and sounds of nature. Before I realize it, calmness and serenity seep into my most innermost being, and I am refreshed, and my spirits renewed.

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For publication in *The Florida Gardener*

New Membership

Ed Nendick, Membership Chair

This year's successes include:

Many of our Garden Club Members have received the Covid vaccination. We are safer to do the wonderful things every club does to beautify the environment. We are free to continue educating our members thru workshops and classes.

Our monthly messages are being published and sent to all District Directors and on our web site for all to enjoy.

We have published a Membership and Retention Manual to be given out to the Assistant District Directors for use with their clubs. It details the things to do to get new members and to retain current ones.

This Year we will build upon the ideas that got new members.

Advertise your clubs often. Place your meeting date, time, location, and topic of discussion in your local paper free listings of happenings to advertise. Publish the above on your Next-Door App under Gardening. Do these monthly. During the last several months of publishing Garden club Meeting dates etc., print your last meeting dates and agenda before summer and your return to meeting in the fall.

Ask your local real estate agent to put out the FFGC brochures for their customers. Ask a real estate agent to join your club and put them on your advertising committee.

In summary with the disappearance of the Welcome Wagon organizations, the Garden Clubs are the place new people moving in can go to make friends, learn about their communities, learn what grows in their communities, and make a difference in those communities. There are 1,185 new people moving into Florida every Day!

The Creative Floral Arrangers of the Americas
 *Wish you a great convention & Invite you to attend the*
CFAA SEMINAR 2022
At the Orlando Airport Marriott Lakeside, Orlando, FL
February 10th —13th
*Fabulous Design Programs
Exciting Hands-On Workshops
Kaleidoscope of Design Exhibits
Networking with Top Designers
Fabulous Vendors*
For information on this amazing seminar visit www.creativefloral.org

Dune Restoration – Phase 3

Ocean Ridge Garden Club

Mary Ann Cody, President - Submitted by Barbara Hadsell

Ocean Ridge Garden Club (ORGC) has completed a third stage of replanting a small stretch of dune along Old Ocean Boulevard by installing native plants favored by pollinators. These include plant hosts for caterpillars, others with flowers that are particularly preferred by butterflies, and some that provide food for both. For instance, caterpillars feed on the leaves and butterflies sip the nectar from flowers of bay cedar, black bead, frog fruit phyla. But yellow top plants attract only the butterflies, while passion flower is a plant of choice only for caterpillars, so these plants must be paired with another species. Each was also carefully positioned according to its level of salt, sun and wind tolerance. The plants are part of Butterfly packs that were donated to the club by the Institute for Regional Conservation along with guidance for planting.

The dune was gifted to the Town of Ocean Ridge over a decade ago, and ORGC has maintained the site by trimming back existing plants. But the dune had gradually been taken over by invasive plants until last year when it became obvious that a drastic make-over was needed. The project leader is Allison Adams, a Master Gardener and the new Chair of ORGC's Beautification & Conservation Committee.

Since dune ecosystems are protected by law in Florida, a local representative at the Department of Environmental Protection was consulted to make sure the club had approval to get started with the first phase in August of 2020. Allison began the project by researching dune-friendly plants to select hardy salt-tolerant species that had deep sand-stabilizing roots and required little maintenance. "The dead plants we removed from the dune were primarily golden creeper. Although dune friendly, it does not like salt spray, said Allison. A group of ORGC members assembled on the dune in August to plant a dozen small saw palmettos. Then in October, the spaces between the palmettos were filled in with dune daisies to provide a ground cover.

Allison said that her committee views the dune as a long-term project since it will always need maintenance. "Over the next year we will continue beautifying the dune with the help of our Garden Club members by adding more plants," she said. As committee member Julia Ward explained, "In addition to restoring the dune, the goal of the project is to create a showcase of native plantings as an example of sustainable conservation that can be replicated all along the Ocean Ridge dune". In doing so, ORGC hopes to increase awareness among beachfront property owners of the benefits of restoring native plants to dune areas.

Pedestrians and bicyclers on Old Ocean are invited to visit the dune regularly to view the progress. The dune is located near the end of Tropical Drive, and is marked by Town of Ocean Ridge signage as a beach access point.

ORGC's Beautification & Conservation Committee has also installed plantings at various sites in Ocean Ridge and has led and/or participated in beach clean-ups. The club also participated in Florida Atlantic University's Million Orchid project to restore native orchids in Florida.



ORGC members Julia Walker and Rita Ginsky consult with dune neighbor John Dragonas, who has provided access to water for new plantings and assisted with planting.

Left to right: Allison Adams, Kristine de Haseth, Julia Walker and Rita Ginsky all pitched in to install the most recent additions to the dune cared for by ORGC.



FFGC Awards Update

Valerie Seinfeld, FFGC Awards Mentor 2021-2023

The Following Awards will be discontinued as per The Florida Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc. Standing Rules 23. Awards a. Awards having no activity for four (4) successive years will be discontinued after the close of an administration. The following awards have not been awarded for 2000 – 2016 and will be discontinued:

FFGC Award #22 Horticulture Award, #45 Water Gardening, #68 Celebrate Coreopsis, #52 Environmental Award Involving Community Education, #57 Bird or Butterfly Sanctuary on School Grounds, #59 Wildflowers Matter, #67 Pressed Wild Flower Collection, #79 Special Youth Programs Award, #80 Disabled Veterans Humanitarian Award

Junior Awards

FFGC J-4 Conservation Project, FFGC J-5 Birds at School, FFGC J-6 Wild Flower Wiz

Intermediate and High School I-4 Field Trip Award, I-7 Pitcher Plant Preservation, I-8 Wild Flower Folder, I-10 Mary Newton Award for FL State Parks, I-16 Mrs. Morgan P. Gilbert Tree Award, I-17 Butterfly Award, I-18 Butterfly Conservation Folder, I-25 Wild Plant Specimen, I-26 Tree Award,

HS-15 Pitcher Plant Preservation, HS-16 Butterfly Award, HS-21 Land Trust Essay Award.

Please check our FFGC website during the month of June for updated Award Applications. www.ffgc.org

New awards will be added to bring more relevant awards to our organization. Look for those additions in September 2021. Yearbook Awards are due November 1st, 2021 to FFGC 3rd VP.

Most Adult Awards are due November 24th, 2021.

Valerie Seinfeld, FFGC Awards Mentor



By The Sea

FFGC 2021 Annual Convention

Congratulations to our new team led by *President Marge Hendon*, our own *Sue Roberts* as FFGC Recording Secretary, and the New District 7 Director *Charlotte White*



Wishing Everyone a Wonderful Time at Daytona Beach

LAKES & HILLS GARDEN CLUB

of Mount Dora, FFGC District VII

Pioneer Garden Club congratulates our very own

 **Marge Hendon**



Florida Federation of Garden Clubs President

2021-2023

A Dedicated & Talented Leader



By the Sea

District VIII Florida Flower Show Judges



Thanks Jan Griffin, FFSJ President and the 2019-2021 Executive Committee

&

Congratulates Incoming Officers Parke Finold, President Gina Jogan, 1st Vice President and the 2021 - 2023 Executive Committee

Enjoy the 94th Annual State Convention "By the Sea"

Indian Harbour Beach Garden Club



RIP Judie Kraemer - August 15, 1943 - April 06, 2020.

In memory of Judie Kraemer who served as President, Vice President, Recording Secretary, and Treasurer of our club. Judie was more than an officer, she was a Master Gardener, a tireless worker, an editor but more especially a friend. We miss her terribly!



Congratulations to FFGC and many thanks for having this convention

2629 Bayshore Blvd Tampa FL 33629
813.251.5059 tampagardenclub@gmail.com
@TampaPlants www.TampaGardenClub.com

"2020" – FFGC, DEEP SOUTH, & NGC AWARDS

2020 FFGC Award Winners

- #1 Blanche Capel Covinton Leadership**
Mary Whisler, Crystal River Garden Club (Dist. V)
Donor: FFGC BOD
- #2 Outstanding Service Award**
Nanette Baker, Cherry Laurel Garden Club (Dist. VI)
Donor: Ribault Garden Club
- #3 Leadership Award**
Patricia Wendell, Miami Beach Garden Club (Dist. XII)
Donor: Marianne A. Burbach
- #6 Medal for Individual Achievement in Horticulture**
Michael Echevarria,
Tampa Federation of Garden Club Circles, Inc. (Dist. VIII)
Donor: FFGC BOD
- #7 Certificate Of Distinguished Service to a State President**
Ingrid Velez (Dist. V)
Donor: FFGC BOD
Kelley Wood (Dist. V)
Donor: FFGC BOD
Valerie Seinfeld (Dist. VI)
Donor: FFGC BOD
Sue Roberts (Dist. VII)
Donor: FFGC BOD
Sue Angle (Dist. VIII)
Donor: FFGC BOD
Karen Smith (Dist. VIII)
Donor: FFGC BOD
Jo Ann Guise (Dist. X)
Donor: FFGC BOD
Cissy Richardson (Dist. IX)
Donor: FFGC BOD
- #8 Garden Club of the Year Award**
Floral City Garden Club (Dist. V)
Donor: Lois Shuster
- #9 Special Membership Incentive**
A *Miami Beach Garden Club (Dist. XII)*
Donor: Jim & Helen Simmons—in Memory of Jean Port
- #10 Mentoring Award**
Sandra E. Arnold, Daisy Circle, Gainesville Garden Club (Dist. V)
Donor: Jan Sillik
- #11 Yearbook Award**
1 *The Old Fashion Garden Club - Tampa Federation (Dist. VIII)*
Donor: John G. Wood & Assoc.
2 *Oleander Garden Club of the Palm Beaches (Dist. X)*
Donor: John G. Wood & Assoc.
5 *Port St. Joe Garden Club (Dist. II)*
Donor: John G. Wood & Assoc.
- #12 Newsletter/Magazine/Bulletin Award**
1 *Garnier Beach Garden Club (Dist. I)*
Donor: Sarasota Garden Club
2 *Cherry Laurel Garden Club (Dist. VI)*
Donor: KC Jeronimo
3 *Temple Terrace Garden Club, Inc. (Dist. VIII)*
Donor: Susan Slater
4 *Wellington Garden Club (Dist. X)*
Donor: Helen Nelson
- #12 Newsletter/Magazine/Bulletin Award - (cont'd)**
5 *FFGC (Dist. XII)*
Donor: Bea Imhoff
- #13 Publication Award**
2 *Bartram Garden Club, Inc. (Dist. IV)*
Donor: Cissy Richardson
4 *Garden Club of DeLand (Dist. VI)*
Donor: FFGC District II
- #14 DePalma/Sillik Website Award**
2 *Bartram Garden Club, Inc. (Dist. IV)*
Donor: Libby Curnow
3 *Homosassa River Garden (Dist. V)*
Donor: Marjorie H. Hendon
4 *Garden Club of DeLand, Inc. (Dist. VI)*
Donor: Jan Sillik
A Facebook Award
3 *Davis Island Garden Club (Dist. VIII)*
Donor: Sandra Arnold
4 *Garden Club of DeLand (Dist. VI)*
Donor: Gwen Carter
- #15 Garden Therapy Geriatric and Exceptional Award**
1 *Daisy Circle, Gainesville Garden Club (Dist. V)*
Donor: Sue Angle
2 *Wildflower Circle, Garden Club of Jacksonville (Dist. IV)*
- #29 Community Service Design Award**
A *Winter Park Garden Club (Dist. VII)*
Donor: Carol Wood
B *Davis Island Garden Club (Dist. XIII)*
Donor: Jeri Decker
- #31 The Madira Bickel Civic Achievement Award**
Wellington Garden Club (Dist. X)
Donor: Gainesville Garden Club
- #32 Park /City Planting Award**
2 *Miami Beach Garden Club (Dist. XII)*
Donor: Landscape Design Consultants' Council
- #33 Clyde D Ware Award for Civic Development**
2 *Wildflower Circle, Garden Club of Jacksonville (Dist. IV)*
Donor: Ribault Garden Club
- #36 Community Service Award**
1 *Daisy Circle, Gainesville Garden Club (Dist. V)*
Donor: Orlando Garden Club, Inc.
2 *Navarre Garden Club (Dist. I)*
Donor: Helen Tilden
4 *Boca Raton Garden Club (Dist. X)*
Donor: Leslie Monitwid
- #37 School Grounds Beautification**
2 *Miami Beach Garden Club (Dist. XII)*
Donor: Ginny Pierucci
- #39 Arbor Day Celebration**
1 *Oleander Garden Club of the Palm Beaches (Dist. X)*
Donor: Temple Terrace Garden Club, Inc.
2 *Windermere Garden Club, Inc. (Dist. VII)*
Donor: Maureen Tuber
3 *Temple Terrace Garden Club, Inc. (Dist. VIII)*
Donor: Jean Schneider
- #40 Arlington Dolly Morris Award**
Sandra Arnold, Gainesville Garden Club (Dist. V)
Donor: Shirley Wigginton
- #43 Blue Star or Gold Star Families Memorial Marker Award**
A *Garden Club of Cape Coral (Dist. IX)*
Donor: Jackie Host
C *Miami Beach Garden Club (Dist. XII)*
Donor: Julie Eisdorfer

"2020" – FFGC, DEEP SOUTH, & NGC AWARDS – (CONT'D)

- #43 **Blue Star or Gold Star Families Memorial Marker Award** (cont'd)
D Garden Club of Stuart (Dist. X)
Donor: Rene Senn
- #44 **Native Plant Landscaping**
2 Miami Beach Garden Club (Dist. XII)
Donor: Landscape Design Consultant Council
- #46 **Garden Tour Award**
2 Miami Beach Garden Club (Dist. XII)
Donor: Carol Hall
- #48 **Flowering Tree Award**
2 Miami Beach Garden Club (Dist. XII)
Donor: Daisy Thompson
- #49 **Tree Planting Achievement Award**
Miami Beach Garden Club (Dist. XII)
Donor: Girl Scouts of Sarasota Garden Club
- #50 **Environmental Education Award**
A Garden Club of Cape Coral (Dist. IX)
Donor: Environmental Consultants
B Carolyn Warren, Garden Club of Orange Park, Inc. (Dist. IV)
Donor: Environmental Consultants
- #51 **Environmental Education Involving Youth Award**
1 Begonia Circle, Gainesville Garden Club (Dist. V)
Donor: Environmental Consultants
2 Navarre Garden Club (Dist. I)
Donor: Environmental Consultants
- #55 **Eloise Sniffen Conservation Award**
2 Navarre Garden Club (Dist. I)
Donor: Joan Ochs
- 56 **Butterfly Conservation Award**
2 Miami Beach Garden Club (Dist. XII)
Donor: Margarete Ruth
3 Garden Club of Cape Coral (Dist. IX)
Donor: Patricia Carver
- #62 **Mary S. Compton Award for Publicity**
1 Garden Club of Lighthouse Point (Dist. XI)
- #63 **Garden Center Programs**
1 Begonia Circle, Gainesville Garden Club (Dist. V)
Donor: Joan Lasek
- #69 **Digital Photography Awards**
A Birds and/or Butterflies
Holly Yocum, Pioneer GC, Daffodil Garden Club (Dist. V)
Donor: Barb Jacobson
C Florida Wildflower
Sandra E. Arnold, Gainesville Garden Club (Dist. V)
Donor: Carolyn Stevens
- #69 **Digital Photography Awards—(cont'd)**
F3 Florida Scenery
Michelle James, Davis Island Garden Club (Dist. VIII)
Donor: Mary May
- #71 **Ella Joyce Boals Program Award**
Temple Terrace Garden Club, Inc. (Dist. VIII)
Donor: Temple Terrace Garden Club, Inc.
- #73 **Public Program Award**
1 Garden Divas Circle, Garden Club of Jacksonville (Dist. IV)
Donor: Jayne Hemstreet
3 Garden Club of Orange Park, Inc. (Dist. IV)
Donor: Carolyn Stevens
4 Garden Club of St. Petersburg, Inc. (Dist. VIII)
Donor: Jackie Host

- #75 **"Fun with Flowers" Program Award**
Pipers Landing Garden Club (Dist. X)
Donor: Joan Lasek
- #76 **"Fun with Flowers" Series Award**
Tampa Federation of Garden Club Circles (Dist. VIII)
Donor: Jan Sillik
- #D-3 **District Membership Citation**
FFGC District V
Donor: FFGC BOD
- #D-8 **District Horticulture Award**
FFGC District V
Donor: FFGC BOD

Flower Show Achievement Awards

- FFGC #106 **Standard Flower Show Staged in a Public Building**
A Fort Lauderdale Garden Club, Inc. (Dist. XI)
Donor: Brenda Norris
- FFGC #107 **Club Standard Flower Show**
D Lemon Bay Garden Club (Dist. VIII)
Donor: Tampa Federation of Garden Club Circles
- FFGC #108 **Petite Standard Flower Show**
A Wellington Garden Club (Dist. X)
Donor: Inger Jones

Flower Show Related Awards

- FFGC #120 **Flower Show Focal Area Award—Class B**
B Lemon Bay Garden Club (Dist. VIII)
Donor: Floralia VI District VIII
- FFGC #121 **Flower Show Focal Area Award—Class A**
A Wellington Garden Club (Dist. X)
Donor: District IV Judges Council
- FFGC #122 **NGC Standard Flower Show Schedule**
C Lemon Bay Garden Club (Dist. VIII)
Donor: FFSJ BOD
- FFGC #123 **FFSJ Tricolor Award**
Alice Hooker, Garden Club of Stuart (Dist. X)
Donor: FFSJ BOD in memory of Esther Brosche
- FFGC #124 **Floralia II Designer's Choice Award**
Linda DeSanti, Wellington Garden Club (Dist. X)
Donor: Floralia II Tampa
- FFGC #126 **Esther Brosche Educational Exhibit Award**
Rosita Aristoff, Garden Club of Stuart (Dist. X)
Donor: Mike Brosche in memory of Ester Brosche
- FFGC #127 **Table Artistry Award**
Nancy Binger, Garden Club of Stuart (Dist. X)
Donor: Parke Finold
- FFGC #128 **Petite Award**
Susan Healy, Boca Raton Garden Club (Dist. X)
Donor: Floralia II Tampa
- FFGC #132 **Bromeliad Award**
Rosita Aristoff, Garden Club of Stuart (Dist. X)
Donor: Stephanie Susetka

Junior Gardener Awards

- J-2 **Youth Flower Show or Youth Section of an Adult Flower Show**
C Greenacres C.A.R.E.S Jr. Garden Club,
Oleander Garden Club of the Palm Beaches (Dist. X)
Donor: District VII Judges Council

"2020" - FFGC, DEEP SOUTH, & NGC AWARDS - CONT'D

- J-10 Classroom Project**
B Navarre Garden Club (Dist. I)
Donor: Jeannie Ballentine
- J-11 Litter Control Project**
A Graham Kingston, Ribault Garden Club (Dist. IV)
Donor: Davis Island Garden Club
B Kaleigh Broughman, Navarre Garden Club (Dist. I)
Donor: Davis Island Garden Club
- J-12 Land Trust Essay Award**
B Layla Utley, Ribault Garden Club (Dist. IV)
Donor: Jane Mills
- J-13 Junior Gardeners/Pre-School Nature Posters Award**
A Citrus Garden Club (Dist. V)
Donor: Jasmine Garden Club
C Citrus Garden Club (Dist. V)
Donor: Jasmine Garden Club
- J-14 Water Conservation – Environmental Poster Contest**
C Jordyn Emmely, Sweetwater Oaks Garden Club (Dist. VII)
Donor: Tampa Federation of Garden Club Circles, Inc.
- J-16 Field Trip Report**
B Autumn Simmons, Navarre Garden Club (Dist. I)
Donor: District VII
- J-20 Junior Horticulture**
A Young Buds, Valparaiso Garden Club (Dist. I)
Donor: Gardening Consultants Council
B Garden Gators, Navarre Garden Club (Dist. I)
Donor: Gardening Consultants Council
C Bloomers, Valparaiso Garden Club (Dist. I)
Donor: Gardening Consultants Council
- J-21 Poisonous Plants**
B Lucas Herrera & David Litton, Navarre Garden Club (Dist. I)
Donor: Cissy Richardson
- J-22 Pitcher Plant Preservation**
B Navarre Garden Club (Dist. I)
Donor: Judy Greenberg
- J-24 Wildflower Folder**
D Ashley Gerlach, Navarre Garden Club (Dist. I)
Donor: Sarasota Garden Club
- J-25 Wild Plant Specimens**
C Priyanna Parker, Sweetwater Oaks Garden Club (Dist. VII)
Donor: Jean Schneider
- J-27 Tree Award**
A Kaiden Watkins, Ribault Garden Club (Dist. IV)
Donor: The Garden Club of Tarpon Springs, Inc.
B Bailey Kellar, Ribault Garden Club (Dist. IV)
Donor: The Garden Club of Tarpon Springs, Inc.
D Alia Khalil, Sweetwater Oaks Garden Club (Dist. VII)
Donor: Lois Weber
G Degan Paine, Sweetwater Oaks Garden Club (Dist. VII)
Donor: Carol Herdel
- J-31 Birds in Florida**
B Mrs. Humphries Class, Ribault Garden Club (Dist. IV)
Donor: JoAnn Guise
C Star Child Academy, Sweetwater Oaks Garden Club (Dist. VII)
Donor: Pat Carver
- J-32 Butterfly Conservation Folder**
D Garden Gators of Navarre Garden Club (Dist. I)
Donor: Christia "Li" Roberts
- J-33 Butterfly Award**
A Liberty Pellitier, Ribault Garden Club (Dist. IV)
Donor: FFGC District III
D Emma Bellinger, Navarre Garden Club (Dist. I)
Donor: Elaine Waidelich
F Shaun Stehlik, Citrus Garden Club (Dist. V)
Donor: Karen Hall
- J-34 Reptiles and Amphibians Found In Florida**
B Cale Spruiell, Navarre Garden Club (Dist. I)
Donor: Mary Dipboye
- J-35 Garden Insects Found in Florida**
B Hailey Goodwin, Sweetwater Oaks Garden Club (Dist. VII)
Donor: Joleen King
- J-36 Shells In Florida**
B Kaleigh Broughman, Navarre Garden Club (Dist. I)
Donor: Mary Whisler
- J-40 Junior Achievement**
A Garden Gators, Navarre Garden Club (Dist. I)
Donor: Manatee River Garden Club, Inc.
- Woodsy Owl Poster Contest**
- Grade 1** Annabelle Hays, Garden Club of Crystal River (Dist. V)
Donor: Linda Stott
- Grade 2** Alice Hays, Garden Club of Crystal River (Dist. V)
Donor: Julie Johnson
- Grade 3** Aubree Kersey, Garden Club of Crystal River (Dist. V)
Donor: Brenda Norris
- Grade 4** Alena Hackey, Garden Club of Crystal River (Dist. V)
Donor: Ingrid Velez
- Grade 5** Luke Langenmayr, Garden Club of Crystal River (Dist. V)
Donor: Ingrid Velez
- Youth Poetry Contest**
- Grade 7** Marco Ferri, Fort Lauderdale Garden Club, Inc. (Dist. XI)
Donor: Betty Moss
- Grade 8** Andrew Smith, Fort Lauderdale Garden Club, Inc. (Dist. XI)
Donor: Daisy Circle of the Garden Club of Deland
- Grade 9** Siena Zimmerman, Fort Lauderdale Garden Club, Inc. (Dist. XI)
- Youth Sculpture Contest**
- Grade 7** Marco Ferri, Fort Lauderdale Garden Club, Inc. (Dist. XI)
Donor: Jeanice Gage
- Grade 8** Ava Frias, Fort Lauderdale Garden Club, Inc. (Dist. XI)
Donor: Ingrid Velez
- High School Essay Contest**
- HS-20** Christiana Hewlett, Fort Lauderdale Garden Club, Inc. (Dist. XI)
Donor: Cordia Circle, Fort Lauderdale Garden Club, Inc.
- 2019 Deep South Award Winners**
- DS-2 Blue Star/Gold Star Families Memorial Awards**
Aii 1st Place - Miami Beach Garden Club (Dist. XII)
Aiii 1st Place - Garden Club of Cape Coral (Dist. IX)
Aiv 2nd Place - Garden Club of Stuart (Dist. X)
- DS-5 Public Relations Award**
Aiv 2nd Place - Boca Raton Garden Club (Dist. X)

"2020" – FFGC, DEEP SOUTH, & NGC AWARDS – (CONT'D)

DS-MP-3 Social Media/Website Awards

- Aii 1st Place - Bartram Garden Club, Inc. (Dist. IV)
- Aiii 1st Place - Homosassa River Garden Club (Dist. V)
- Aiv 1st Place - The Garden Club of DeLand, Inc. (Dist. VI)
- Biii 2nd Place - Davis Island Garden Club (Dist. VIII)
- Biv 2nd Place - The Garden Club of DeLand, Inc. (Dist. VI)

DS-6 Membership Award

Florida Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc.

DS-8 Bird Award

- Ai 2nd Place - Divas Circle Garden Club of Jacksonville (Dist. IV)

DS-9 Tree Planting Award

- Aii 2nd Place - Miami Beach Garden Club (Dist. XII)

DS-11 Horticulture Award

- Aiv 3rd Place - Garden Club of St Petersburg (Dist. VIII)

DS-15 Environmental Education Awards

- Ai 1st Place - Daisy Circle of the Gainesville Garden Club (Dist. V)
- Aii 2nd Place - Navarre Garden Club (Dist. I)
- Aiii 2nd Place - Garden Club of Cape Coral (Dist. IX)

DS-15 Butterfly Conservation Awards

- Aii 3rd Place - Miami Beach Garden Club (Dist. XII)
- Aiii 1st Place - Garden Club of Cape Coral (Dist. IX)

DS-18 Adopt-A-Park Award

- Aii 3rd Place - Miami Beach Garden Club (Dist. XII)

DS-25 Arbor Day Awards

- Aii 2nd Place - Windermere Garden Club (Dist. VII)
- Aiv 1st Place - Temple Terrace Garden Club, Inc. (Dist. VIII)

DS-28 Deep South—Mentor of the Year Award

Vicki Hearst (Dist. VII)

DS-33 Yearbook Awards

- A-1 Under 20 Club Members
 - 3rd Place - The Old Fashioned Garden Club of the Tampa Federation of Garden Club Circles (Dist. VIII)
- A-2 20-29 Club Members
 - 3rd Place - Oleander Garden Club of the Palm Beaches (Dist. X)
- A-4 45-69 Club Members
 - Honorable Mention - Bartram Garden Club, Inc. (Dist. IV)
- A-5 70-99 Club Members
 - 3rd Place - Port St. Joe Garden Club (Dist. II)

DS-34 Garden Therapy Award

- Ai 1st Place
 - Begonia Circle of the Gainesville Garden Club (Dist. V)

DS - Unified Projects

- B - Litter Control
 - 1st Place - Plant City Garden Club (Dist. VIII)
- C - Youth Involvement
 - 1st Place - Wellington Garden Club (Dist. X)

NCG Awards

NGC - High School Essay

- 2nd Place - Christiana Hewlett
Fort Lauderdale Garden Club, Inc. (Dist. XI)
Essay: "Adapting our Actions to Protect our Natural Habitats"

NGC - Poster Contest - Woodsy Owl

- Grade 3 2nd Place - Aubree Kersey
Garden Club of Crystal River (Dist. V)

NGC - Poster Contest - Woodsy Owl - (cont'd)

- Grade 4 3rd Place - Alena Hackey
Garden Club of Crystal River (Dist. V)
- Grade 5 3rd Place - Luke Langenmayr
Garden Club of Crystal River (Dist. V)

NGC CS-1 Community Gardens

- Bi Oleander Garden Club of the Palm Beaches (Dist. X)

NGC CS-4 Food Bank Donations

- Bi Oleander Garden Club of the Palm Beaches (Dist. X)

NGC-L-1 Blue Star Memorial Highway Marker

- Aiii Cape Coral Garden Club (Dist. X)

NGC-L-2 Blue Star Memorial Byway Marker

- Aiv The Garden Club of Stuart, Inc. (Dist. X) - Overall Winner

This club has worked for the last several years to plant and maintain plantings at the city's "Veterans Memorial Park" and the "Blue Star Byway Marker" placed there by their club. Today the lush plantings in the area are a tribute to the care and maintenance by their club.

NGC-MP-3 Website

- Aii Bartram Garden Club, Inc. (Dist. IV) - Overall Winner
This excellent web site provides the capability for the viewer to search the entire web contents. Their web site contains many colorful photos and promotes flower shows and NGC objectives very well.
- Aiv The Garden Club of DeLand, Inc. (Dist. VI)

NGC-MP-4 Video/CD/DVD/Flash Drive

- 7Aiv Wekiva Youth Camp (FFGC)

NGC-MP-6 Membership - The Violet N. Gross Award - Winner

- A Florida Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc. (FFGC)
This award is presented to the State Garden Club showing the greatest increase in paid membership as of October 31 of the award year.

NGC-PUB 1-3 Newsletter, Magazine, or Bulletin - (13-24 pages)

- Aiii Temple Terrace Garden Club, Inc. (Dist. VIII)

NGC-PUB 1-4 Newsletter, Magazine or Bulletin - (over 24 pages)

- Civ Florida Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc. (FFGC)
"The Florida Gardener"

NGC-PUB 2-8 Publication - Other

- Aiv Garden Club of DeLand (Dist. VI)
"Make it! Rake it! Bake it"

NGC-Flower Show Awards

1-D Standard Flower Show - (100+ Club Members)

- Fort Lauderdale Garden Club (Dist. X)
"Presenting Fort Lauderdale"
- Garden Club of Stuart (Dist. X)
"Hooked on Books"
- Lemon Bay Garden Club (Dist. VIII)
"Hey There! What's Cookin'"
- Manatee River Garden Club (Dist. VIII)
"20/20 Vision"

5-A Petite Standard Flower Show

- Wellington Garden Club (Dist. X)
"It's a Small World"

NGC - Youth Sculpture Contest

- Grade 7 1st Place - Marco Ferri of St. Mark's Episcopal School
Fort Lauderdale Garden Club, Inc. (Dist. XI)
Donor: Jeanice Gage
- Grade 8 1st Place - Ava Frias
Fort Lauderdale Garden Club, Inc. (Dist. XI)

Florida Federation of Garden Clubs

UPCOMING TRAVEL

We are looking forward to traveling again real soon, and we would love if you would join! We have multiple trips set up that offer you the opportunity to attend some of the biggest gardening events in the world! Below are the upcoming trips planned for the next few years.



Philadelphia Flower Show - June 4-7, 2021 - Philadelphia, PA

The nations largest & longest running horticultural event will be held *outdoors* in June of 2021! This annual event introduces the newest plant varieties, garden & design concepts. You will have the opportunity to see breathtaking displays created by the world's finest floral & landscape designers. If you are interested in attending this event we will have a package available exclusive to our Garden Club members.

\$475 per person based on double occupancy
\$740 for a single rate

Please complete the "I'm Interested in Traveling" form if you would like more information.



Floriade Expo 2022 - April 23- May 3, 2022 - Amsterdam, Netherlands

The Floriade Expo, a Dutch horticultural exposition that happens every 10 years, is going to be held in Almere (Amsterdam) in 2022. This year the main theme is "Growing Green Cities". We're offering an exclusive package that includes a 2-night pre-cruise package in Amsterdam, a 7-day river cruise with AmaWaterways, a tour of the Floriade Expo, and a visit to the famous 79 acre Keukenhof Gardens.

Space is limited!

Pricing starts at \$3689 per person based on double occupancy.

Air fare not included.

Please complete the "I'm Interested in Traveling" form if you would like more information.



WAFA 2023 - Summer 2023 - Auckland, New Zealand

Have you ever been interested in attending a WAFA event? The World Association of Floral Artists (WAFA) holds a World Show every three years, and in 2023 it will be held in New Zealand! We are in the process of putting together a unique package that includes attendance at the WAFA convention and visiting "must see" sights in New Zealand and Australia. Don't miss out on this exciting travel opportunity.

Pricing and dates will be available soon. Please complete the "I'm Interested in Traveling" form if you would like more information when available.

Visit this site to fill out the "I'm Interested in Traveling" form: <https://www.funseas.com/ffgc-form>
Visit our website to learn more and to sign up for our Garden Club "Travel Talk" webinars hosted by Shelley: <https://www.funseas.com/ffgc>



Contact **Shelley Atkinson**
your **Garden Club Travel Advisor**
(850) 386-7327 ext. 208
SAtkinson@FunSeas.com



FFGC History-Our 7th Decade-1985-1994

By: Tina Tuttle, FFGC 3rd Vice President

1985-1987 President Betty Williams was installed as a Heritage Oak was planted in Tallahassee commemorating FFGCs 60th Anniversary. Deep South Energy Conference in Mississippi was attended by 51 members and the Deep South Water Conference in Alabama was attended by 6 members. We published *Bee a Winner, Taking a Closer Look, Let Us Pray, Guidelines for Publicity Chairmen* and revision of *Florida Garden Club Manual*. Flower Show Schools symposium was held in Orlando with District VI as host. Renaissance XXV funds were used for Headquarters' rejuvenation to celebrate 25th anniversary of the building, headquarters grounds were partially re-landscaped and new furniture was purchased. We adopted 'Paths of Sunshine' as designation for FFGC roadside beautification. Florida Legislature adopted FFGCs resolution designating state's roadways as "Paths of Sunshine". Thirty-one NCSGC awards and citations, including Bronze Seal for Landscaping Florida House and Silver Seal for work of Laymond M. Hardy. \$1,000 Urban Highway Award, Hilda Fox \$100 Roadside Award, \$100 "green point" subscription contest for *The National Gardener*, \$100 from Shell Oil Energy Program Award, Membership Ext. Citation and Presidential Citations to Mrs. Reese Harris and Mr. Bob Thomas. Garden Club of Jacksonville hosts State Flower Show "Diamond Anniversary" to commemorate 60 years of service, as a gift to citizens of Florida. Fifty-ninth convention hosted by Garden Club of Jacksonville with 811 registrants with the State Flower Show, "Florida—Nature's Bright Gem". FFGC adopted a resolution supporting acquisition of Deering Estate. Wekiva Youth Camp improvements included paddle fans with heavy wire protective enclosures in cabins and wooden fence by pool area. Bartram Trail markers dedicated in Sebastian and Longwood. Gateway Marker at I-95 Welcome Station dedicated in memory of Mrs. Jack Dunlap, FFGC President 1961-1963. We increased *The Florida Gardener* to 20 pages plus covers. Native plants and Wildflower Seed Bank was established. Wekiwa Springs State Park adopted for Deep South Adopt-a-Park regional project. Flower Show School Course 1 was held in Sarasota. Flower Show Symposia held in Orlando was hosted by District VI and Winter Haven. Landscape Design Schools Course IV was held in Sarasota and courses II and III were held in West Palm Beach. Our Penal Therapy Program added a 7th Correctional Institution for support. FFGC honored as the 'Conservation Organization of the Year' by the Florida Wildlife Federation, a trophy was presented by the Governor. We received a Certificate of Recognition from the Sarasota County School Board for Federation's work in Environmental Education. FFGC Headquarters grounds declared a Backyard Habitat by National Wildlife Federation. FFGC members attended National Council/Shell Oil Co. Hazardous Waste Conference in Washington, the Florida Federation of Women's Clubs and FFGC co-sponsored Energy Awareness Seminar. President Williams attended the Governor's First Invitational Conference on Future of Florida Parks. Publication of *FFGC Cookbook, Florida's Finest Gourmet Collection* was authorized. Mrs. Hugh Simmons and Mrs. Augustus F. Williams, Jr. each added two emeralds to the President's pendant. Twenty-first Bartram Trail Marker dedicated in Pensacola. *Bartram in Florida 1774* publication was given as gift to FFGC by editor, Helen Gere Cruickshank. "Bartram Footprints" Tour conducted by Mrs. Charles H. Blanchard. In three days 16 of 121 marker sites were visited. Members aided with the collection of information for the *Florida Breeding Birds Atlas* and attended Deep South Waste Awareness Conference in Chattanooga, TN. National Council convention in Chicago was attended by 27 members from Florida. FFGC hosted a reception honoring Mrs. Carroll Griffin. FFGC won 20 awards including Bronze Seal, Hazel Johnson Trophy for Conservation Education, and the Jessie Conner Award for Environmental Education for SEEK '85.

Our State Flower Show, "Stop, Look and Listen", was hosted by District X at Flagler Museum in Palm Beach. Our sixtieth Annual convention, "Catch the Florida Spirit", was hosted by District VI in Orlando with 719 in attendance.

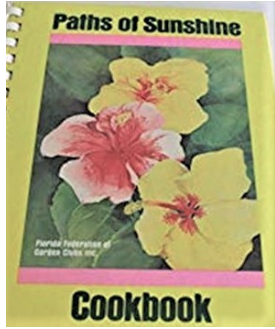
Blanche Covington Study Course was held at St. Andrews State Recreation Area. SEEK '86 Youth Conference on Coastal Awareness was held at Marineland for 80 students.

Our Junior Gardeners (1985-1986) included 157 clubs, 5,900 students; Intermediate Gardeners (1985-86) included 20 units, 539 students; and High School Gardeners (1985-86) included 19 clubs, 374 students. A total of 440 PATE books were placed with teachers. FFGC Scholarships information was entered into the Florida Department of Education system. Mrs. Dewey R. Villareal, Jr. was appointed by the Governor to serve on the Florida Council of Environmental Education. At the Wekiva Youth Camp 44 varieties of native plants were placed in the pool area. Thirtieth annual Tropical Short course was held, Fiftieth Annual Short Course at UF, 2 Flower show schools symposia, 3 Flower Show Schools, 2 Landscape Design schools, 2 Gardening Study Schools, and the Floral Design Study, 12 basic and 8 advanced, with total registration of 490. *FFGC State Flower Show Manual* completed. FFGC sponsored tours to China and Costa Rica. Membership Brochure, *Join Us*, printed and the second Marketing /Reader interest survey was conducted for *the Florida Gardener* by UF. Three former FFGC Presidents, Mrs. Charles Blanchard, Mrs. Hugh O Simmons and Mrs. Frank W Hewlett, and President Mrs. F. Williams, Jr. were honored by placing their names on the Roll of Honor Wall in Walters Hall at National Council Headquarters. FFGC accepted 2,000 copies of *Wildflowers of the South to Color and Identify*, a gift from Mrs. Raymond Greene. Plaques expressing appreciation were presented to FFGC by the Florida Director of Nature Conservancy and the Regional Director of CARE. A Certificate was received acknowledging over \$3,800 donated by clubs to the Statue of Liberty Fund. President Williams attended the four-day Third National Forestry Conference in Orlando. President Williams serves as a member of the Steering Committee of Florida Citizens Against Throwaways (dissolution in 1993).

1987 - 1989 President, Wini Ekman, chose as her theme, "Touch Tomorrow Today". 1987 in Orlando. Wekiva Youth Camp agreement renewed with the FL Dept of Natural Resources. Blanche Covington Nature Study Course 1987 was held at Archbold Biological Station. A Standing Rule was adopted to hold only one BCNSC in each administration. FFGC Scholarship in Garden Club Objectives in memory of Velma Gwinn established by District X as fully funded scholarship. Junior Gardeners (1986-87 year) 141 clubs, 4606 members. Intermediate Gardeners (1986-87 year) 6 clubs, 80 members, High School Gardeners (1986-87) 17 units, 606 members. Total of 230 PATE books placed in local schools. FFGC cited for its Outstanding Conservation and Education Activities by the Florida State Fair Authority and a plaque was presented at the Fair's Opening Luncheon. Advanced Landscape Design Seminar held in Tampa. FFGC Horticulture Study Series instituted, course 1 held in West Palm Beach. Renaissance XXV Headquarters Fund Drive concluded with \$24,141 donated. Resolutions adopted in support of designating May 23rd as 'William Bartram Day' in Florida and opposing the Desecration of Indian Burial Grounds. Deep South Regional Convention held in Baton Rouge, LA with FFGC winning 7 awards. 61st Annual FFGC Convention, "Time to Shine-Florida Style" hosted by Tampa Federation Garden Club Circles, at Hyatt Regency, Tampa with 747 registered. Bylaws amended to increase dues and to clarify FFGC scholarship names. NCSGC 1988 Convention, "The World is our Garden", was hosted by FFGC at the Sheraton Bal Harbor. Mrs. Carroll O. Griffin, FFGC President 1967-69, installed as President NCSGC. Seventeen NCSGC Awards received including the Silver Seal for Dr. Gary J. Willifret, Garden Therapy, four publications and nine flower shows. To commemorate the Bicentennial Celebration of the Constitution members planted Constitution gardens and trees in support of Plant-A-Legacy program, first year of Tomorrow's Tree Today contest, members planted 171,888 trees. Glenn Glitter and message was flashed on the scoreboards at FSU football games. A gift by her family in memory of Ella P. Wood, FFGC Past President, established the Ella P. Wood Paths of Sunshine Endowment Fund.

FFGC History-Our 7th Decade-1985-1994 - (cont'd)

Three new Botanical Gardens are Wilding Arboretum in Jacksonville, Heathcote Botanical Garden in Fort Pierce and Sugar Mills Botanical Garden in Port Orange. Donations to Penal Therapy totaled \$2,183.55. Pilot Horticulture Study Course, Series I, Courses II and III, IV and V completed. FFGC *Flower Arrangement Calendar* added month-at-a-glance section. Mrs. Charles H. Blanchard conducted the Bartram Footprints II Tour. Landscape Design Schools held in Milton, Gainesville and Pensacola. Landscape Design Critics attended the 30th anniversary celebration and National Council Landscape Design symposium at LSU. New *Program Kits* available at Headquarters. Adopted the Coreopsis as the designated FFGC wildflower. Dr. Fanny-Fern Davis' book, *Natures Seasonal Splendor, Native Plants and Wildflowers*, published. Membership total 27,446. Blanche Covington Nature Study Course was held at O'Leno State Park, High Springs. Hazel Simmons Hodges appointed to serve on the Florida Roadside Beautification Committee. *Paths of Sunshine* cookbook published.



Published *Guidelines for FFGC Convention*. FFGC Groundwater Conference, Tampa, was chaired by Energy Awareness Chairman, Francis Millican. Deep South Convention, Memphis, TN attended by 33 FFGC members. FFGC won the Hubert Owens School Ground Improvement and the Mary Louise Merriwether (for most registered High Schoolers) awards. NCSGC Convention in Houston attended by 28 members. 19 awards and citations including the Bronze Seal for Bartram Footprint I Tour. Annual Convention "Curtain Up-Class Acts" hosted by District VII, Orlando Airport Marriott. Two receptions, one honoring Mrs. Carroll O. Griffin and one introducing the *Paths of Sunshine* cookbook.

1989 - 1991 President, Elise Haymans, of Punta Gorda, was our 32nd President and she chose as her theme, "Joy-Commitment-Diversity-A Confluence for Achievement". She also served on National Council of State Garden Clubs, Inc. board of directors. In 1988, FFGC's Penal Therapy Program covered by United Press and appeared in newspapers across USA. The first Ella Wood Paths of Sunshine presented to four Districts. The 1987 NCSGC convention was hosted by FFGC and honored Floridians serving (President Carroll O. Griffin and Deep South Director elect, Jean Villareal)

Members contributed over \$1,500 to the Madison Garden Club to help replace trees destroyed by a tornado. FFGC presented the first 'Ella Wood Paths of Sunshine Award' to Units in Tallahassee. Each District adopted their individual wildflower. A campaign spearheaded by Garden Clubs prevented developers from relocating a 7-mile stretch of William Bartram Historic Highway in Switzerland. Our State Flower Show, "Land Sakes", was hosted by Tampa Federation of Garden Clubs on March 29-30, 1990 at the fairgrounds. The President and 10 members attended National Council Environmental Showcase. Eve Hannahs was appointed by State Secretary of Agriculture to the Endangered Plant Advisory Council. One Blue Star Memorial Marker and one Byway Marker were placed during 1988-'89. The Tree Planting contest yielded a total of 880,535 new trees for 1988 and 1989. Mrs. Woodrow Sayre was appointed by the Governor to serve as a member of Commission on the Future of Florida's Environment. CARE, World Gardening Projects, World's Children and Southwest Indian Foundation received \$11,937 for the two years. FDOT selected over 300 sites for planting wildflowers and native plants on maintained highways as part of the 'Paths of Sunshine' project. Our Land Trust contributions of \$5,858.31 for Tiger Creek Preserve was forwarded to Nature Conservancy. FFGC's total contribution to Tiger Creek Preserve was \$27,839.78. Resolutions adopted in 1989: (1) purchase tract of land east of Camp Blanding for a state park project in perpetuity at Hugh Taylor Birch State Park, (2) com-

mendation to the State of Florida Cabinet for supporting decision to limit development near Wekiva River, (3) proposing first full week in June as Gardening Week, (4) promotion of Monarch Butterfly as national Insect, (5) protest proposed changes in the William Bartram Scenic Highway. Resolutions passed in 1990: (1) urging continuation of ban on oil drilling of the Keys and Everglades Coast, (2) urging acquisition of the BMK Ranch and Seminole Springs, areas important to the preservation of the Wekiva River, and (3) requesting that the State of Florida consider purchase of the Great Blue Heron Rookery, 200 acres of wetlands adjacent to I-10 in Milton area. An Earth Day Proclamation was passed urging protection of the environment. Native Plants and Wildflowers Chairman, Mrs. Robert D. Wilson, compiled "*Wildflower Potpourri*". 12 members attended League of Women Voters Regional Beverage Container Deposit Workshop in Sarasota. Deep South Regional convention in Atlanta attended by 38 members. FFGC hosted a reception honoring NCSGC President Mrs. Carroll O. Griffin, Deep South Regional Director-Elect, Mrs. Dewey R. Villareal, and alternate Director-Elect, Mrs. R. Jordan. FFGC won the Celeste William Special Achievement Award and the Merriwether High School Gardeners Award. Deep South's Wildflowers "Nature's Melody" contest winner was Panhandle Native Plant Club. 29 members attended 60th Annual NCSGC Convention Diamond Jubilee in Rochester, NY. FFGC's High School Speech contest winner was Mary Kate Parks. Molly Karen Pritchard of Orange Park won the NCSGC Scholarship. FFGC won 15 awards including the Bronze Seal. FFGC had 5 entries in Design Classes and 12 entries in Horticulture at the NCSGC International Flower Show. "Changes in the Wind", FFGC's 63rd Convention in St. Petersburg 18-19 April 1989 with 635 registered, was hosted by Winter Haven Council of Garden Clubs. FFGC's Mrs. W. L. Wood, Jr. was appointed to serve as NCSGC Parliamentarian. Scholarship Endowment Fund established by President Haymans. President Haymans selected the Crepe Myrtle, Oleander and Loblolly Bay for the Adopt-A-Highway program. Fourteen Gardening Consultants refresh at UF Short Course. FFGC has 2 Life Member Gardening Consultants. Our June Board meeting was held at UF. We chose Community Land Use Management in Ecuador as our World Gardening Project. The President and three others attended the first Environmental Education Summit in New Jersey. NCSGC and Shell Oil co-sponsored Solid Waste Management Conference in Portland, OR organized by Mrs. Bobby Craig and attended by President Haymans and 3 others. First President's Summit held at Lake Yale in Leesburg with 140 participants. The second President's Summit held at San Pedro Conference Center, Winter Park. Mrs. Dursie Ekman named FFGC's representative to Clean Florida Commission. Conference Table placed in President's Office at Headquarters. New chairs have a plaque attached identifying District donors. One hundred-twenty new chairs were purchased for our auditorium. Two Tropical Short courses held in West Palm Beach during this administration. We held a [dedication of "The Quiet Place" at Camp Wekiva in memory of Billie Johnson](#). NCSGC and Shell Oil sponsor Environmental Conference, "Planet Earth: Whose Garden is it Anyway?" at Hot Springs, AR and attended by 9 FFGC members. FFGC hosted Deep South Regional Convention, "Shore Leave, Jacksonville", with Regional Director, Mrs. Dewey R Villareal, Jr. Ten awards won by FFGC and member clubs. Solid Waste Management Conference held in conjunction with FFGC's 64th State convention "Time, Tides and Treasures", held in San Destin in 1990 with 601 in attendance. AWARE awards FFGC \$500 for EE Workshop on Solid Waste Management held in Tampa. FFGC and FDOT produced wildflower posters and postcards featuring coreopsis. 23 awards accepted by President Haymans at NCSGC Convention in Seattle, WA including Gold Rosette for Best State Flower Show, "Land Sakes". NCSGC awards a Special Achievement Award posthumously to Dr. Fanny-Fern Davis.

President Haymans appointed to three-year term on Executive Committee of newly formed Florida Urban Forestry Council. Both SEEK conferences held at Marineland in St Augustine. FFGC, DOT and Monsanto sponsor Wildflower Conference in Kissimmee.

FFGC History-Our 7th Decade-1985-1994 - (cont'd)

Bluewater Bay Garden Club, District I, received \$1,000 from ALCOA Aluminum for recycling project. FFGC and Florida Department of Natural Resources co-sponsor Acidic Deposition Conference in Tampa. 12 FFGC members attend AWARE Retreat on Energy Issues at San Pedro Center. "Past Reflections...Future Vision" State Flower Show in Tallahassee. 39 pilgrims trace William Bartram's footprints "along the Gulf Coast with Bartram". 22nd Bartram Marker in the state was dedicated in Switzerland. Blanche Covington Nature Study Courses held at Camp Keystone and Withlacoochee State Park. FFGC awards 9 scholarships totaling \$12,750 to Florida scholars. Pioneer Horticulture Study Course completed in West Palm Beach. A seventh course added to feature "Grandmothers Garden" Workshop. Elise Haymans' Butterfly Sanctuary dedicated at Charlotte Harbor Environmental Center (for more info:

YourSun.com/PuntaGorda/Elise-Hayman-s-Garden/article_d3cebac2-e362-11e8-8958-e32ed2d08ae1.html



Florida has total of 22 butterfly sanctuaries. A Desert Storm Memorial Garden featuring crepe myrtles was planted at Naval Air Station Pensacola.



New Adult volunteer and counselor cabins constructed at Wekiva Youth Camp. Resolutions adopted include supporting Monroe County's petition urging FDOT to designate Highway 1 as Harry S. Truman Blue Star Overseas Memorial Highway and urging the Governor and the Legislature to maintain and continue full funding of the Bureau of Recreational Lands Management, Division of Parks and Recreation. FFGC contributed \$10,000 to NCSGC Friendship Garden at the National Arboretum. FFGC membership is 27,334. We have 443 High School Gardeners. The Scholarship Fund reaches goal of \$160,000. Scholarship on Environmental Issues, honoring Mary Jo Clayton Sanders, in amount of \$3,500 approved. Scholarship honoring Velma Gwinn increased to \$1,500.

Landscape Design School, Series 22, was sponsored by District VIII. Coreopsis designated as State Wildflower by Florida Legislature. Sam's Club donation of \$1,000 used for Flowering Tree Landscape Project at I-95 Welcome Center. FFGC honored outgoing Regional Director, Mrs. Dewey R. Villareal, Jr. at Deep South Convention. FFGC sponsored new Deep South Regional award of \$80 honoring Mrs. Charles H. Blanchard for outstanding efforts promoting William Bartram and his ideals. Penal Therapy contributions total \$4,746.75 for 1989-91. Fiftieth Anniversary of the FFGC Library. Bylaws amended to read "Vice President to become President-Elect October 1 of even numbered years". FFGC 65th state Convention, "Fast Forward '91," hosted by District XII, held in Miami with 598 in attendance. FFGC brought home 34 awards from NCSGC Convention including Silver Seal Award for FFGCs entry "ECHO" (Educational Concerns for Hunger Organization), Garden Club of Deland won 1st Exxon \$500 Civic Development Award. FFGC won \$1,000 Operation Wildflower Award for Rural Highways. Ellen Griffin scholarship awarded to Larry Arthur Alden of Tallahassee. Two emeralds were added to the Presidents Pin for 89-91 and 91-93 administration.

1991 - 1993 President Addie Lou Harris from Deerfield Beach chose as her theme, "Unity Through Sharing". State Flower Show "Past Reflections... Future Visions" was held in Tallahassee.

Wild Pine Nature Center was established as an educational environmental center/outdoor lab. SEEK Conference held at Marine Science Station, Crystal River. Blanche Covington Nature Study Course held at Wekiva with study of "Project Learning Tree". FFGC served as hostess to the National Council's Winter Executive Board Meeting in San Destin. President Addie Lou Harris and Bob Thomas represented NCSGC at Chelsea Flower Show in England and won a Silver Gift Award. At our January Board meeting a celebration was held for completion of 30' by 18' addition to Headquarters and complete refurbishing of the rest of our headquarters building. Governor Lawton Chiles presented President Addie Lou Harris with the Environmental Education Award for outstanding program at Camp Wekiva. District X gave \$1,000 for landscaping at Headquarters. Junior Gardeners registered in Florida (including 2,000 in Virgin Islands) totaled 9,758. Tropical Short Course was held at Mounts Botanical Gardens, West Palm. University of Florida Short Course was titled "Tough Plants for Tough Times". FFGC had representation at the Bartram Footprints Tour IV to Philadelphia, PA and conference held in Savannah, GA. FFGC donated to the gazebo at AMERIFLORA '92. Our 12 districts planted 455,502 trees. The Deep South Convention was held in Biloxi, MS with nine delegates attending. National convention, "Reaching for the Gold", was held in Philadelphia, PA. FFGC won a Bronze Seal and Wekiva Youth Camp won the Silver Seal Marjory Stoneman Douglas Award. FFGC Board Meeting and 66th annual Convention, "Discovery", was held in West Palm Beach with 630 registrations. NCSGC President Mrs. James C. Dawson attended our Pre-convention. The Blanche Covington Nature Study Course was held at Wakulla Springs. SEEK conference was held at Big Pine Key "Sea Camp:". Donations to CARE and World's Children Fund totaled \$5,830. Landscape Design Courses were held in Tallahassee by the Ft. Myers-Lee County Council. Horticulture Study Courses were held in Miami.

FFGC History-Our 7th Decade-1985-1994 - (cont'd)

FFGC established the Hurricane Andrew Tree Fund. Due to Hurricane Andrew, the FFGC 1992 State Flower Show, "A New World", was moved from Miami area to coincide with 1993 Convention in Orlando. We saw the successful completion of six more "Holiday Happenings" by Bob Thomas. FFGC established 'Hall of Fame' honor. \$79,000 was added to our Scholarship Fund. 3 new publications: *Conservascaping*, *Installations Workbook* and *Shall we Pray* were added. We purchased a Swan Computer and Panasonic Printer, purchased new light fixtures for the assembly room and foyer, and 6 chairs for the President's Office. IBM donated a PSI computer and printer to FFGC. New floral designs for Headquarters designed by Bob Thomas. Donations made to Headquarters included 2 table lamps for the foyer, a new coffee pot, a FAX machine, 3 secretarial chairs and room dividers for the new addition. Our board/Pre-convention dinner were hosted by the AWARE committee. Scholarships were established honoring James and Edna Crowl and W. Reese Harris. 6,444 Youth Gardeners were registered in Florida. Jennifer Cheerier of Tallahassee was the winner of a \$4000 NCSGC Scholarship. Three Flower Show Schools held in Districts VII, XII and by the Tampa Federation. A lily was propagated and named "Addie Lou" by Jean Wooten, Miami and Robert Fuchs, President of RF Orchids, propagated and registered an orchid "Addie Lou" honoring President Harris.

1993 - 1995 President Beth Wilson of Valparaiso chose as her theme, "Share the Spirit of Gardening through Love, Labor and Laughter". During her administration, FFGC sponsored the first series of Environmental Studies Schools and 13 Environmental Consultants were accredited. Two series of Landscape Design Schools were held in Tallahassee and Ft Myers. 19 new Landscape Design critics were accredited. 22 series Floral Design Study Courses were held. Four Flower Show Symposia were held. Six series of Flower Show Schools were held with 47 new judges accredited. Two Gardening Study Courses and Four Short Courses were held over the 2 years. Two Penal Therapy judged Horticulture Shows were held at Avon Park Correctional Institute. Two SEEK conferences were held at UF (both named finalists in the Governor's Environmental Education Awards program, SEEK '93 received NCSGC Bronze Seal). Two Blanche Covington Nature Study Courses were held. Over 6,500 youth gardeners were registered; 6000 Junior, 383 Intermediate and 324 High School Gardeners. Our High School Gardeners program received Deep South Award #14 for 1994 and 1995. The first FFGC sponsored Wildflower conference was held. FFGC and FDOT collaborated in planting 2,655 acres of wildflowers, in printing a new wildflower poster and in compiling the booklet, *Wildflowers in Florida*. FFGC presented a 'Paths of Sunshine' Award to FDOT maintenance units at 1994 and 1995 conventions. Seventeen NCSGC/Shell Oil PETALS grants were received statewide. FFGC was represented at Mexico's Federacion Nacional de Asociaciones y Clubes de Jardineras Horticulture Seminar held in Orlando. New Life members totaled NCSGC, 49; FFGC, 148; Hall of Fame, 64. Contributions given by generous members during 1993-95: NCSGC Seed Court Garden, \$4,000; Nature Conservancy's 'Join the Scrub Jay Circle' \$8,000; World Gardening, \$8,506.80; ECHO and Hurricane Andrew Tree Project added to World Gardening projects. Library additions included 7 NCSGC tapes of Floral Design Courses, a slide program of the 1993 State Flower Show, "A New World". FFGC received NCSGC Gold Rosette for the best State Flower Show in 1993. Our Bylaws were amended; Membership dues raised to (a) \$.50, (b) \$2.24, (c) \$5.00 and \$2.50, Life membership fee raised to \$100, and Affiliate dues increased to \$25. FFGC was represented at NCSGC Conventions in Stamford, CT and Dallas, TX and at Deep South Regional Conventions at Knoxville, TN and Augusta, GA. FFGC was represented by 6 members at NCSGC Seed Court Garden dedication. Hurricane Andrew Tree Project donations totaled of \$23,111.28, including an Urban Forestry Grant of \$17,548 and 405 eight-to-ten-foot trees planted at 9 Homestead schools. Daylily 'Beth Wilson' hybridized by Jean Wooten, Coral Gables Garden Club. At Headquarters,

we renovated the stage area of the auditorium, installed a public address system and security system, purchased a sofa for the library, received lavalier microphone donated by FCNAFSJ. Three names were placed on the Guardian of Gardening Wall: Mrs. Robert D. Wilson, Mrs. Charles H. Blanchard, Mrs. Walter P. Glover. Inez Brooker and former FFGC member Carolyn Smith represented NCSGC at Chelsea Flower Show 1994, receiving Silver Medal Award. Two series of Horticulture Study Courses held in Miami and Punta Gorda. Wekiva Youth Camp, celebrated 20th anniversary in 1993 and instituted 'Wekiva Wheels', special registration volunteers. We approved building a free-standing Canteen facility. FFGC endorsed the management of Wekiva Geo Park as one entity that no further development for the public be allowed in Wekiva Springs area, and established a teaching herbarium. Floral designs were exhibited at Walt Disney World's International Flower/Garden Festival Mother's Day celebrated at EPCOT in 1994, and Cypress Gardens in 1995 and an FFGC exhibit was displayed on Earth Day at EPCOT in 1993-94. We computerized the late Fanny-Fern Davis' 10-year study, "*The Flowering Dates of Florida's Wildflowers*" and approved the printing of the study. We approved the use of our 'Glenn Glitter' logo on Apalachee-Big Bend Girl Scout Council Badge. Table designs were made for Governor's Environmental Awards Banquet in 1993, 1994, and 1995. Resolutions passed included (1) endorsing the continuance of operations of USDA's Sub-tropical Horticulture Research Station, Chapman Field, Miami, (2) objecting to the usurption of public lands at Bill Baggs Cape Recreation Area (Key Biscayne) and any other state recreation area, (3) supporting the Guana Tolomato Matanzas National Estuarine Research Reserve in Ponte Vedra, and (4) supporting the inclusion of the Sopchoppy River in the National Wild and Scenic River System. FFGC nominee, Sarah Bailey, named Florida's 1994 'Woman of the Year' in Agriculture. The Governor's Cabinet and Senate passed resolutions proclaiming the first full week of June as Florida Garden Week. A dedication of an accessible boardwalk for the disabled at Wekiva Springs State Park made possible by Garden Club donations totaling \$11,000. FFGC received 'Take Pride in America' and 'Take Pride in Florida' awards for state-wide tree planting projects. Nine college scholarships were awarded through our Scholarship Endowment Fund. FFGC became the first organization to join 'Friends of Florida State Parks' in 1994. The Monarch butterfly chosen as the official FFGC Butterfly. Two International tours to Australia and New Zealand were offered. 1994 Convention, "Love, Labor and Laughter" held in San Destin, hosted by District I with 604 registered. NCSGC President Mrs. Graem Yates and Deep South Regional Director, Mrs. K. O. Tubb attended. 1995 Convention, "Artistry in Gardening" held in Orlando, hosted by District VII, with 724 registered. "Artistry in Space", 25th State Flower Show, held at Orlando Expo Center in conjunction with our 69th State Convention.

Blue Star & Gold Star Families Memorial Markers

Rosita Aristoff, Blue Star Memorial Chair

To All Latina: This is just to give you a brief overview of the Blue Star and Gold Star Families Memorial Markers activity during your entire two-year tenure as FFGC President. (This information does not appear in this chairman's annual report for the 2021 Convention)

During the last two years there have been a total of **14 new markers ordered** consisting of 12 Blue Star and 2 Gold Star Families markers. This is one of the better two-year periods for marker orders especially considering the likely impact of Covid-19 on such activities. To put this in perspective, during the overall period from 1989 through 2000 only 3 markers were ordered in Florida.

The other accomplishment of note during your tenure as President is that across the state there were also **14 existing markers which were restored** to "like-new" condition. This appears to have been an all-time high in terms of marker restorations during a two-year period.

I am very proud of the FFGC clubs for their efforts during such a challenging time.

CONTINUING EDUCATION

NGC GARDENING SCHOOLS:

Nancy Richards, (561) 702-0550
Email: NancyRRichards@gmail.com

*** NGC Gardening Schools are not currently scheduled in Florida

NGC ENVIRONMENTAL SCHOOLS:

Nancy Richards, (561) 702-0550
Email: NancyRRichards@gmail.com

*** NGC Environmental Schools are not currently scheduled in Florida

NGC LANDSCAPE DESIGN SCHOOLS:

Nancy Richards, (561) 702-0550
Email: NancyRRichards@gmail.com

*** NGC Landscape Design Schools are not currently scheduled in Florida

NGC FLOWER SHOW SCHOOLS:

Susan Hillson, (561) 333-0740
Email: Susan.Hillson@gmail.com

*** NGC Flower Show Schools are not currently scheduled in Florida

Note: *** Refer to the National Garden Club web site for all School schedule options and registration information.

GardenClub.org

FLORAL DESIGN STUDY UNITS

Carol Lucia, FFGC Chairman
(727) 393-8276 (h) - (727) 656-3207 (c)
Email: CLucia02LUC@aol.com

Basic Units (1-6) and Advanced Units (7-9)

Information packets for Floral Design Study will be sent to Chairman, including handouts.

All Floral Design Study Units must be registered!

UF SHORT COURSE

Florence Cline, Chairman
(352) 332-2309
Email: LadyBugFlorence2@gmail.com

District V

June 5-7, 2022

Gainesville

Theme: "Protecting the Life That Sustains Us"

Location to be determined

Host: Lois McNamara

TROPICAL SHORT COURSE

Tri-Refresher

Michelle Maguire, Chairman
(772) 485-3279
Email: MouthMom@yahoo.com

District X

in person

Jan. 19-20, 2022

Greenacres Community Center

501 Swain Blvd

Greenacres, FL

NORTH SHORT COURSE

Kat Spieker, Chairman
(850) 678-9898—(h) - (850) 687-6381 (c)
Email: spkfreedom@embarqmail.com

District I

TENTATIVE

Aug. 12-13, 2021

Panhandle

8 am - 4 pm

Theme: "Defend Florida, Its Beauty, Resources, and History"

Location to be Determined

Host to be Determined

FFGC FALL BOARD MEETING—(2021)

Pre Board Meeting

Sep. 7, 2021

Board Meeting

Sep. 8-9, 2021

FFGC Headquarters

1400 S. Denning Dr.

Winter Park, FL 32118

FFGC WINTER BOARD MEETING—(2022)

Pre Board Meeting

Jan. 10-11, 2022

Board Meeting

Jan. 11-12, 2022

FFGC Headquarters

1400 S. Denning Dr.

Winter Park, FL 32118

NGC FALL BOARD MEETING

Board Meeting

Sep. 22-24, 2021

St. Louis, MO

NEW ORGANIC GARDEN FRIENDLY FUNGICIDE

We love our St. Augustine lawns, vegetable gardens, fruit trees, orchids, bedding plants and roses. But often they fall victim to leaf spots and blights. These diseases include brown patch, powdery mildew, rust, alternaria and anthracnose. Garden Friendly Fungicide offers cost effective and easy to use control of many infections on outdoor plants. Garden Friendly Fungicide with *Bacillus amyloliquefaciens* strain D747 is concentrated because it was developed by Certis for commercial organic farming. Use only 1 teaspoon per gallon of spray solution.

Available in 8 ounce and pint containers on Ebay or ask your local independent garden retailer.





Great things start in the garden

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“Florida Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc. promotes the love of gardening, floral and landscape design, and

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