



*The Florida Gardener*

*Spring 2022*



# *President's Message*

## *What? You've Never Been to a FFGC Convention?*

*Dear Friends,*



I am inviting you to join in on the fun, education, and beauty of the 95th FFGC Annual Convention. We have the beautiful Sounds of Music State flower show, Elvis, speakers, awards, celebrities, food, baskets, vendors, and parties. If you never attend another convention, this one is a must do.

The flower show is going to be better than ever. Call ahead to register your horticulture. The plants you bring are sure to make other members wonder how you grow such beautiful plants. The designs will give your mind beauty to look back on as we are unsure of what the Fall and Winter will once again bring us. You will be singing through the whole convention.

Talk about singing, Elvis will be in the house Tuesday evening. Artist Mark Schmidt will be singing the greatest hits from Elvis and Tom Jones. Tuesday evening is the Early Arrivals' Dinner. This is a special dinner that you won't want to miss.

Vendors' containers, plants, clothes, jewelry, and much more will be offered starting on Tuesday. Raffle baskets, 50/50, and opportunity tickets will be there to purchase. Be sure to leave space in your car for all the goodies you will be taking home.

Dr. Clark will be sharing how he has developed his Coleus for the Home Shopping Network and Amazel Basil for home growers and chefs. Our Wednesday lunch will feature Basil from our salad to the desert. Our lunch is followed by Deep South Director Carol Hall's recap of the activities of Deep South.

Elaine Parisi will give you more information than your mind can process on the mechanics of floral designs. You'll be scratching your head on how she keeps her designs together, until she reveals her secrets. Don't miss it.

Wednesday afternoon and evening finds the flower show opens, Districts have their parties, FFGC Awards are continued, a delicious dinner, and finally, the evening is concluded by Reina Snyder's talk on staying healthy by being outside.

During Thursday's lunch, the President of the American Camellia Society will take you on a tour through his Camellia world. Following lunch, you can pick which workshops you may want to attend and there are so many to choose from: Butterfly gardens and their certifications, botanical arts, the FFGC machine and how it all works, money making ideas for your club, membership ideas that really work, and finally a new Statewide photography club will be hatched.

If this is your first FFGC convention you will be invited to a special party that is just for you. Join the Former Presidents, District Directors, and attending Garden Club Presidents for an afternoon get-together on the veranda outside the FFGC's President's room as they welcome you to your first FFGC convention. They want to meet and hear from you.

Finally, just when you thought you'd taken in all you could absorb, you will attend the final evening's banquet. Do we have a design program just for you? You bet. Designers from all over the State: Griffin, Hamlin, Hydro, Jodoin, Jogan, Junkin, and Seinfeld will totally WOW you with their designs. WARNING, you may want to hit the restroom before this program begins. Claudia Bates will be the Master of Ceremonies, need I say more?

So, come learn, meet others, be part of the new state photography club, win something, laugh, eat, drink, REPEAT. Come be WOWED at FFGC's 95th convention.

*Marjorie H. Hendon, FFGC President*



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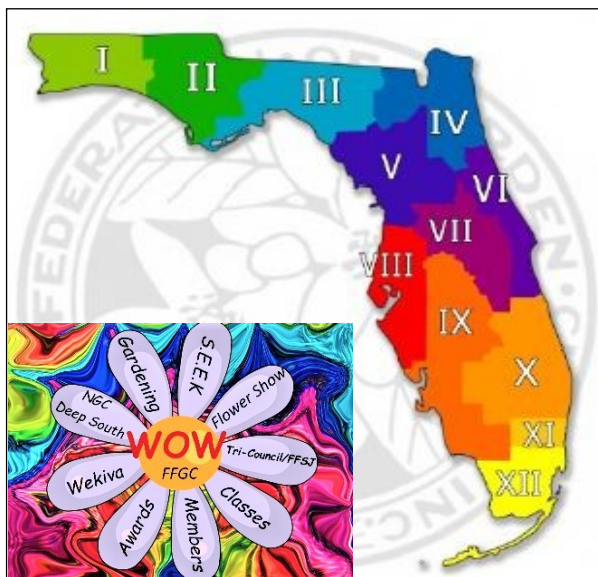
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**From Your Editor**

Dave Spaulding, Editor "The Florida Gardener"

Thanks to all for your continued support and interest in our FFGC magazine content.

I made a tough decision involving one of the articles I received, and could not publish, which contained an announcement for an NGC Standard Flower Show held at Walter Fuller Park, 7901 30th Avenue North, St. Pete, FL 33710 on April 23 & 24, 9am., and I want to restate the basic article submission requirements.

Articles must be submitted by the deadline. Exceptions will be considered based on the editor's discretion. For your reference, please see the submission deadlines published on the bottom left side of this page.

Articles must be submitted or approved by a committee chairman to be considered for publication.





# Florida Federation of Garden Clubs

## UPCOMING TRAVEL

We are excited to be traveling again, and we would love if you would join us in the future! We have multiple trips set up that offer you the opportunity to travel within the US as well as over seas! Below are the upcoming trips planned for the next few years.



### Caribbean Cruise - May 21, 2022 - Caribbean

This Caribbean cruise includes a 1-night pre hotel stay in Cocoa Beach followed by a 7-night cruise aboard Royal Caribbean's *Harmony of the Seas*! Flex your sense of wonder at the crystal-clear blue sea on the Caribbean's pristine white-sand beaches. Explore ancient ruins and colonial towns. Or take a hike through the region's tropical rainforests, passing by views of mist-covered mountains and hidden waterfalls.



### Christmas Market Cruise - December 7, 2022 - Danube River

Experience timeless holiday traditions and elegant pageantry along the Danube River on this 7 night river cruise and two night stay in Munich. Wander the stalls of Europe's most traditional and enchanting Christmas Markets while shopping for handcrafted toys and gifts and sipping hot mulled wine. Cherish all the glory and magic of the season in grand European style as you cruise along the Danube.



### Michigan Tulip Fest & Mackinac Island - May 2023

Tulip Time celebrates tulips, Dutch heritage, and the Holland, Michigan community. Since 1929, the city of Holland, Michigan has blossomed with hundreds of thousands of tulips. Visit the home of DeZwaan, a centuries old windmill at the Windmill Island Gardens. Visit the Tulip Lanes which has 250,000+ tulips, cherry, crab, and plum trees along the boulevards.  
*Dates to be announced.*



### Douro River Cruise - October 4, 2023 - Portugal

Rambling vineyards and charming native farms cling to the steep sides of the Douro River Valley, creating an incomparable backdrop to one of Europe's most unspoiled regions and to Port country - the world's oldest demarcated wine region. Join us on this 7 night river cruise with a 2 night stay in Lisbon. Taste wines from historic wineries and soak up the genuine beauty of one of Europe's most unadulterated landscapes on this sailing.



### Coastal Cruise - April 2024 - Amelia Island to Charleston

Join us on a coastal cruise sailing out of Amelia Island! Visit "Millionaire's Village," a National Historic Landmark with 240-acres of extravagant homes and winter cottages built over 100 years ago. Explore Charleston, lined with cobblestone streets and antebellum houses.  
This trip will be in conjunction with the FFGC 100th anniversary celebration convention!  
*Dates to be announced.*

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 about our upcoming trips: <https://www.funseas.com/ffgc>



Contact **Shelley Atkinson**  
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## DISTRICT I NEWS



*Joyce Waters-Smith, Director*

**Counties:** Escambia, Santa Rosa, Okaloosa, Walton

District 1 is bustling with activity, as the clubs work in the community on landscapes they support and prepare beds for spring flowers. The clubs are seeing a surge in membership and much of the credit is due to Jane and Ed Nendick who visit our clubs promoting membership, and Jenny Weber, Assistant District Director, who hosts membership recruiting meetings with the club membership chairpersons. I am pleased to report highlights of some of the club's activities.

**Green Thumb Garden Club, Inc.:** The Green Thumb Garden Club is very grateful to its members as they continue their generous giving of expertise, time and donations. We are glad to report four new members have been added in the past three months bringing our total membership to 123.

Two successful events during the 2021 **Season of Giving** were the November Holiday Bazaar, **"Where Every Day is a Celebration,"** and the members' holiday party. Seasonal decor and other items were sold out in record time at the holiday bazaar with generous donations from residents, visitors and members. We are able to increase our 2022 Mercer Scholarship awarded to a deserving horticulture college student and make other donations to Camp Wekiva, 4H Camp, Blue Star Marker and Junior Gardeners. Funds made at our holiday party, hosted in a member's home, allowed the club to increase contributions to other local organizations such as the Biophilia Center and Caring and Sharing. A hard-working, single mom with three children was chosen as our 2021 Habitat for Humanity family, with funds also being donated to Habitat's general fund to support their mission. Toys for children, gift cards for teenagers and a monetary donation were delivered by "elves" from the club to the Walton County Sheriff's Department for their Santa Patrol fundraiser.

The club had an outstanding showing at the Pensacola Interstate Fair Flower Show in October.

Member Anne Collins won a blue ribbon, a red ribbon and one of the show's Awards of Distinction in the Design Division. Gail Pizar, Joyce Waters-Smith, Janine Pitts and Kathy Edge won award ribbons in Botanical Arts "For the Birds" category. Our flourishing Jr. Gardeners program at Butler Elementary School has 28 participating 4th and 5th graders. The lesson plan created by Master Gardener Bonnie Fox has been received with enthusiasm. The children have planted marigolds, herbs and winter vegetables in raised beds. An orange tree, dubbed Ophelia, has found a home at the school.

For additional information, please go to our website, [GreenThumbGardenClubINC.org](http://GreenThumbGardenClubINC.org).

**Defuniak Springs Garden Club:** The club has been busy with a new shade garden located by our historic library. With help from our city, we were able to clean up the area and trim existing shrubs and dig up unwanted plants or those that needed to be transplanted. We have planted ferns, cast iron plants, and Autumn White Clematis vines. We have mulched the area with pine straw and placed garden gnomes for color during the winter months. New plants will be added as the weather warms. Our club continues to maintain three other gardens in the community. Programs this year have been fun and interesting including "Show and Tell" plant pass along, decorating our own straw hat with rose, ivy and the club name. We have learned about day lilies and decorated our own holiday wreath. We also participated in the Festival of Trees and took second place for our Pollinator-themed tree. We had a successful Hometown Christmas Sale selling plants, wreaths and floral arrangements. We have a great lineup of informative programs for the new year. The Club will celebrate 75 years with FFGC in April; celebrations will be planned to include the City of DeFuniak Springs and the Library.

**Milton Garden Club:** By collaborating with the City of Milton, we were able to put in a new concrete patio. Plans for the Golf Tournament are planned, and

we will be observing Arbor Day on Saturday, January 22 at the clubhouse with fun, games and demonstrations.

**Destin Garden Club:** The Destin Garden Club is pleased to report that we are now a member of the Florida Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc. The Board met with the District Board of Directors for an information sharing workshop and an introduction to the many programs that FFGC has to offer. Our January meeting featured Okaloosa County Master Gardener Lee Vanderpool instructing us on propagation of plants in preparation of their April 23rd plant sale at the Destin Library.

**Pensacola Federated Clubs:** The clubs will be hosting a "Fun with Flowers" workshop on February 7th, with Gina Jogan as the instructor. The Pensacola Interstate Fair Flower Show was chaired by Deanna Gordon, a student flower show judge, with the Pineglades Garden Circle. Jill Cleaver, President of the Magnolia Garden Club and Nancy Huhn of Pineglades revived the fairgrounds flower show space with innovation in staging and design.

**Valparaiso Garden Club** is working on their Paradise Pollinator Garden located by the Valparaiso Heritage Museum. Work has begun on a new retaining wall and a memorial tree garden. Programs this year are focused on the environment, a topical theme. Two of their programs include Seagrass Monitoring and Restoration and Gopher Tortoise Relocation Rescue program at Eglin AFB.

**DISTRICT FLOWER SHOW:** District 1 and the District 1 Judges Council are co-hosting a district-wide flower show, titled **"Southern Charm"** at the St. Sylvester's Catholic Church in Navarre, March 22 - 23, with Linda Henderson as Chair. A huge committee, representing all garden clubs, and each committee person is a very talented and professional dynamo in their area of specialty! Committee members are contacting garden clubs in the district to encourage participation and support. The Flower Show promises to be a wonderful show with active participation from our clubs, including a large section for Junior Gardeners. We hope everyone will organize a carpool and come see the show. Staging Designers promise some marvelous surprises. Meeting rooms will be available for your group to meet, as well as a continuous hospitality tea area room. Hope to see you at our March 22 - 23 **"Southern Charm"** Flower Show.

## DISTRICT III NEWS



*Marilyn Larson, Director*

**Counties:** Franklin, Wakulla, Leon, Jefferson, Madison, Taylor, Hamilton, Suwannee, Lafayette

Spring has 'sprung', however, submitting a spring news article in winter doesn't feel like it weather-wise or otherwise! Regardless of the season, District III Clubs persevere focusing on timely fall, winter and spring monthly programs, educational field trips, community projects, and activities in support of FFGC and National Garden Club programs.

Member clubs were busy in their fall and winter programs making holiday decorations for local nursing homes, hosting December Christmas Parties from which several clubs donated non-perishable food for social service agencies, or raised funds to support club projects, FFGC Camp Wekiva & SEEK and NGC projects.

Of special notation: **Live Oak Garden Club** is celebrating 85 years as a federated club and reaching Precious Metal status of Yellow Diamond this year!!

Both **Live Oak Garden Club** and **Wakulla County Garden Club** had winter programs on Camellias, a popular north Florida winter-blooming flower that blooms in December through January. And **Steinhatchee** and **Perry Garden Clubs** featured programs on "make and take" stepping stones, where each member creates and designs a unique stepping stone to take home.

**Live Oak GC** had a spring field trip to a hydroponic house and an orchid grower's greenhouse.



## **DISTRICT III NEWS** - (cont'd)

**Madison Garden Club** presents a “plant of the month” at each monthly meeting followed by an informative and educational program on a variety of topics. Meetings are held monthly in the Madison Woman’s Club and in January it was a combined meeting of both clubs.

**Perry Garden Club** continues their Saw Grass and Pines cookbook sales as a fundraiser. They beautify the community by planting wildflowers, and maintain a butterfly garden and Memorial garden at the Garden Club grounds. Timely spring meeting topics include butterfly host plants and attracting and feeding hummingbirds.

**Steinhatchee Garden Club** continues the Community Center beautification where their Club meetings are held, and wildflower and tree planting. Linda F. Johnson became Club President replacing Rita Moody who stepped down. For Valentine’s Day the club prepared arrangements for a local nursing home. And a tip from their Directory: The vinegar content in pickle juice can be used in your garden to kill weeds and also its acidity helps certain flowers such as azaleas and other acid-loving flowers.

**Tallahassee Garden Club**, the largest club in D3 with 555 members (and meeting their goal to increase membership) in 21 Circles is back to ‘as normal as possible meetings’ with COVID still present. The annual pecan sale followed by their annual caladium bulb fundraiser, Christmas Open House and Petite Flower Show, both a fall and Spring General Membership meeting, and a monthly plant exchange and horticulture program keep members busy. For community projects, club members make corsages for My Night to Shine participants, and “Wreaths Across America” by raising funds to pay for 316 wreaths placed at individual markers at the National Cemetery in Tallahassee.

A monthly newsletter keeps all circles and members up-to-date and informed.

**Monticello & Wakulla County Garden Clubs** are both focusing on increasing membership. Wakulla County Garden Club holds their monthly meeting at the Wakulla Library practicing CDC guidelines to keep members safe. The FFGC District III Spring meeting, hosted by the Club is planned for May 11, 2022.

## **DISTRICT IV NEWS**

*Connie Gladding, Director*

**Counties:** Baker, Union, Nassau, Duval, Clay, St. Johns, Putnam



District IV covers Nassau, Duval, Clay, St. Johns, Putnam and Bradford counties; a lot of territory. This Director made the trek and visited all the District IV Clubs as well as returned for special occasions. It was a fabulous treat to meet the members and leaders. Thanks to all for the gracious welcomes.

Picture this! The President of the Garden Club of the Lakes on a John Deere Gator following a festively decorated Model T Ford with a Garden Club Banner in the Keystone Heights Holiday Parade. Sounds like a blast! The Garden Club members handed out milkweed, native, and Florida Friendly plant seeds along the route. Parade viewers are sure to remember that there is a Garden Club in Keystone Heights, and some may have decided that it looks like a fun bunch they would like to join.



Other clubs chose alternate ways of celebrating the holiday season. Ribault Garden Club went all out with a beautifully decorated club house, holiday tea, gift wrapping demonstration, and shopping. This District Director won a lovely hand-made, reversible holiday table runner. The Clay County Garden Clubs also got in the holiday spirit by participating in the County Parade of Trees.

**Green Cove Springs** tree drew lots of attention. Isn’t she lovely? Check out the watering can and those garden boots!

Early fall, District IV was honored to have FFGC President, Marge Hendon, attend the in-person District Meeting which was hosted by The Garden Club of Orange Park. And District IV’s annual horticulture program, Garden Fest, was nothing short of amazing; thanks to the planning committee, club members, and the speakers who produced such an enjoyable learning and shopping experience. The event had over 155 registrants. Elizabeth Hailey, the Vice President of Callahan Garden Club, was the lucky winner of the District raffle garden scooter.



The District is excited to have the Bartram Garden Club host the District IV Spring Meeting May 13, 2022 in Fernandina Beach and St. Augustine will host the District IV Fall Meeting October 25, 2022.

Garden clubs and circles took advantage of the eased COVID restrictions to meet face-to-face and to enjoy events in the district. Alligator Creek, Jacksonville and Ribault Garden Clubs hosted Open House events that highlighted the benefits of membership. Ribault also had a holiday tea with an educational program on holiday decorations as well as a shopping opportunity in December. The Garden Clubs of Orange Park and Green Cove Springs worked with the county public library system to host membership drives by holding “Book and Plant Swaps”. The Garden Club of Palatka has seen a 70% increase in membership by participating in city events, such as renovating the grounds of the historic Bronson-Mulholland House; planting a demonstration community vegetable garden; planting azaleas at the Ravine Gardens State Park; and by strengthening the club’s meeting programs. Likewise, Alligator Creek, is working with Bradford County leaders to increase wildflower plantings. Orange Park is planning to continue their partnership with the county library system by hosting a “seed swap” on February 5th. The program is a membership drive and training. Fleming Island has seen increases in membership as well, and attribute it to each member being an ambassador for the garden club, making guests feel welcome and wanted.

Our clubs have lined up a wide array of educational opportunities this winter: landscaping, flower arranging, and horticulture. First, our Assistant District Director, Beverly Williams, with our National Garden Schools District Chairperson, Linda Broadrick, have been planning our District IV sponsored NGC Landscape Design School Course 1 on February 23-24 in Orange Park. Next, Ribault Garden Club is offering NGC Flower Show School Course III January 25 to 28th. Color Your Landscape, a horticultural program hosted by the Garden Club of Orange Park will be held on March 18. Lastly, The Garden Club of Jacksonville is partnering on March 3rd with the Duval Audubon Society, Northeast Florida Sierra Club, the Ixia Chapter of the Florida Native Plant Society for a “Grow Your Own Park”, with Doug Tallamy of the Homegrown National Park project. This program is both in person and zoom. Additionally, Jacksonville’s Blooms Galore & More Event, a must attend annual plant sale, with many vendors, a kid zone and a Garden Club Academy is April 9th.

Another December passed without St. Augustine’s loved Tour of Homes. The Club had to find alternative fund-raising opportunities. They embarked on a series of “homegrown” craft and baked goods sales for the public. Over the summer, members held multiple craft making workshops. These workshops proved to offer wonderful camaraderie, a sense of community, and a sharing of skills. Other members baked mountains of goodies and still others ensured the sales events were successful. The public turnout was overwhelming with items selling out. 2022 looks hopeful and planning has begun for the Return of The Tour.



## **DISTRICT IV NEWS** - (cont'd)

There are three District clubs embarking on new Blue Star Marker projects. Jacksonville gained approval to refurbish and move the Marker from Roosevelt Blvd to the Florida Welcome Center. Jacksonville and Bartram are coordinating with the Welcome Center to ensure a smooth move for the marker's new home. St. Augustine and Middleburg have Blue Star Marker activities planned for 2022 as well.

The Garden Club of Jacksonville teamed with Duval County Master Gardeners to support the Greater Jacksonville Agriculture Fair Horticulture Show November 2021. Clay County Garden Clubs have begun to plan their participation in the Clay County Fair 2022 and its catchy theme "Big Wheels and Pig Squeals". Each Club hosts a table that highlights their clubs' activities.

Fleming Island and Green Cove Springs have spring fundraisers, membership drives, and educational programs planned involving butterflies. Fleming Island has their annual Butterfly Release event April 30<sup>th</sup>, an event the community looks forward to each spring. Green Cove Springs will have their first Butterfly Derby on Kentucky Derby Day May 7th. In honor of the city's 2<sup>nd</sup> year as a Monarch City USA, the Club will hold a ½ day educational event for the community, with refreshments, live entertainment, sales, and speakers discussing butterfly gardening.

Congratulations to the Garden Club of Middleburg who celebrates 40 years as a member of the Federation in 2022. Also, Jacksonville celebrates their 100th anniversary March 25, 2022. They are working with a landscape architect to re-imagine the grounds and will host festive centennial programs.

## **DISTRICT V NEWS**

*Donna Thomas, Director*

**Counties:** Columbia, Dixie, Gilchrist, Bradford, Alachua, Citrus, Hernando, Levy, Marion



All the holiday merriment which was great fun is now in our rearview mirror. Brooksville GC participated in a craft show making Christmas gifts with pinecones and plants while Citrus GC made Christmas ornaments for the Senior Resident Facility. Floral City GC participated in Heritage Days and sold metal flowers and Four Seasons GC made Christmas cup bouquets for local Hospice patients. Gainesville GC went all out with a Holiday Workshop as well as participating in the University of Florida Homecoming parade with a convertible driven by the president and accompanied by our own FFGC president Marge Hendon. Inverness GC hosts an annual Hospice workshop to provide gifts for those in hospice care and Newberry GC helps by supporting a local food bank. Besides bringing joy to our neighbors and friends we decorated not only our own homes but various areas in and around our communities. You'd think we'd all sit down for quite a while, but not district V.

Spring will soon be upon us and with it comes Plant Sales Galore. Most all garden clubs have an annual plant sale and District V is no exception - large or small we provide our communities with homegrown plants that flourish in their specific areas. Along with plant sales comes more festivals of all descriptions which we participate in such as the Strawberry and Florida Springs festivals.

In Central Florida spring begins in February when we all go outside and play in our gardens and yards and the gardens that we maintain around our communities. Yes, it's the time for picking weeds, clearing out flower beds and rushing to the nurseries to buy carloads of plants to put in the ground. It's also the time to begin potting plants for all those plant sales. Garden clubs all over Florida are very busy people.

Crystal River Garden Club is hosting the May district meeting and it should be spectacular. It's being held at Crystal Oaks Clubhouse, 4958 W Crystal Oaks Dr, Lecanto, Florida on May 11, 2022. There will be lots of baskets in our raffle, an outstanding speaker, great food, plenty of time to socialize and much more.

District V is hosting the 2022 Convention so naturally it's our main focus for April. Tickets can be purchased for a chance to win the stunning gift baskets that have been contributed by the district V clubs. We are looking forward to everyone having a fabulous time at the convention. As Robin Williams once said, "Spring is nature's way of saying, Let's Party!"



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## **DISTRICT VI NEWS**

*Suzi Bailey, Director*

**Counties:** Flagler, Volusia, Brevard  
Theme: Planting for the Planet



National Garden Club has a great quote that sums up the "Planting for the Planet" theme for our District; "This year gift our children/youth with the future of our planet in mind." Give them the gift of sharing your gardening knowledge and most importantly give them the gift of time spent with you. It is an investment in the future. Let's all get started and plant the seeds!

Spring finds the Garden Club of DeLand continuing to enjoy informal visits to members' gardens. As part of their community outreach, they have ordered bulbs for caladium sale at DeLand's Wildflower Festival on March 26th. A new Book Club is reading *The Last Garden in England* written by Julia Kelly. This engaging work of historical fiction covers the garden's original design in 1907, effects of WW II and restoration in 2021 and the strong women who loved the garden.



## **DISTRICT VI NEWS** - (cont'd)

Garden Club By-The-Sea is grateful to FFGC for their generous support in 2020 and 2021 for a \$500 matching grant. It has allowed them to transform their beloved Lily Park into a beautiful and educational park for the community and a serene location to honor our military. A blue star marker was installed along with a 50 ft flagpole. It was supported by the community with finances supplied by several local businesses. The Flag was raised on Memorial Day and on Veterans Day when the Blue Star Marker was dedicated. Over 100 people attended. Also, 150 names of men and women who have served in the military were read to a humble, silent crowd. Lily Park now contains butterfly gardens, native plants coquina pathway, benches and tables, an arbor, bird bath water feature, herb garden and a topiary. Lily Park is alive with visitors, children and adults.

Garden Club of the Halifax Country celebrated Arbor Day on January 21st and planted a tree with the Junior Garden Club at Pathways Elementary. Their Flower Show, "Bridges", will be open to the public on March 30th and March 31st. Invitations to all and enjoy at the Oceanside Country Club in Ormond Beach.

Indian Harbour Garden Club will be signing 300 Valentine Cards to be placed on Meal on Wheels plates. New officers for the 2022-2023 term will be nominated to serve for only one year due to the unusual times. In February, they will begin serving lunches again.

Melbourne Garden Club continues to meet in person following COVID precautions. Their food drive during December was very successful and the nonperishable items were delivered to the Sharing Center. They are working on plans for landscaping their newly re-installed Blue Star Marker in the Spring. They are also continuing to add new members to their club.

Ormond Beach Garden is planning their annual Flower Show, "Walking the Flower Path", Casements, Ormond Beach, to be held March 12, 2022. Member-created arrangements and other plants will be offered for sale. Speakers/Demonstrations and raffle baskets will be a part of the event. Fun With Flowers continue on a monthly basis. The club will sponsor three children for Wekiva Youth Camp this summer.

Garden Club at Palm Coast is gearing up for a busy Spring. A Fashion Show Luncheon fundraiser on February 5th at the VFW from 11am-3pm. Proceeds will benefit programs, activities, scholarship funds. "Treasures in the Attic" sale will be held March 18-19 at the Shepherd of Coast Lutheran Church from 9am-2pm. Sponsorship of Wekiva Campers is in the final stages of decisions. April brings another fundraiser at the 9th Annual Spring Festival & Plant Sale on April 9, at the Flagler Palm Coast High School from 9am-4pm. All proceeds go to the Scholarship Program of the Garden Club. In May, they will install new officers and host an annual barbecue.

Titusville Garden Club is planning some exciting times with a special floral program. They will participate in the annual Astronaut Memorial Program. A Spring Plant Sale on February 11th-12th will be held and a Tree Farm Plant Sale on March 11th & 12th.

South Peninsula Garden Club honored two of its members at the District VI Judges Council Flower Show, "Holiday Magic" in November. The Council gave a design Award in honor of Pat Mogart for the exhibit in the Design Division which most represented Pat's unique style and a Horticulture Award in remembrance of Gwen Swertfagen for the most interesting specimen in the Horticulture Division. Their club added to these awards by donating a design container which abstractly resembled a calla lily (Pat's favorite flower) and a plant plus gift certificate for a local nursery. These gifts were donated with much love and gratitude for their years of dedication and service.

## **DISTRICT VII NEWS**



*Charlotte White, Director*

**Counties:** Sumter, Lake, Orange, Osceola, Seminole

### **Sweetwater Oaks Garden Club**

JUMPIN-GEE-HOSSA-FAT! Our Clubs first field trip of the year was in October at "Sunflower Bobs" farm, in Astatula. Thirty-six members were kids again and loving it. Huge bunches of zinnia and sunflowers were happily retrieved, then off to Scotts Family farm for lunch and Zellwood corn chowda..YUM! Village on the Green hosted our first general meeting INDOORS.

Wonderful breakfast goodies, coffee and refreshments were donated to our club. Thanks to members, Marjorie Abbas, Gene Perry, and Pete Schwenderman, we are developing an irrigation plan for our Butterfly Garden and habitat at Village on the Green. Our Holiday luncheon was amazing, with 42 members attending to sing songs, laugh and enjoy the wonderful banquet presented by the Village on the Green staff. March 5-6 Sweetwater Garden Club plans to have our Garden Fair. This annual event brings our community together every year. Hope you can come and join us. See you in the garden.

### **The Foliage Garden Club of Apopka**

The club donated over four hundred undergarments to the Apopka Elementary, Lovell Elementary, Dream Lake Elementary, and Rock Springs Elementary Schools. Sandy Bove and Carole Johns visited each school. Pictured at right is Sandy Bove, FGCA, at Lovell Elementary School, with School Nurse, Jenna Brown, who is receiving one of the donations on December 3rd.



Foliage GC of Apopka celebrated 2021 with an in-person celebration.



### **Lakes and Hills GC**

We had a wonderful holiday luncheon with 56 members and guests attending. Teresa Watkins was our guest speaker. Shortly before the luncheon several of our members made a trip to Gainesville to the UF poinsettia sale. 2022 will start off as a busy year. Our first program will be an Ikebana floral design demonstration followed by an informal fun with flowers. We will also be visiting Leu Gardens this spring and learning all about bromeliads.



### **Camellia Garden Club**

2022 has started off strong with a fascinating presentation by the Bartram Society of Florida. Camellia and Lakes and Hills GC enjoyed a visit by 'William Bartram' to learn all about his travels through the southeast states. We saw examples of his illustrations and writings about the Florida flora and fauna he found along his way.



They are also planning a Blue Star marker installation in Eustis during 2022.

### **Clermont Garden Club**

They held their Annual Plant Sale November 5th and 6th in inclement weather. Members donated Christmas bags to local Minneola Place. January will be going to Green Isle Gardens in Groveland; Valentine's Day will be tea and March a field trip to Albin Polasek Museum.

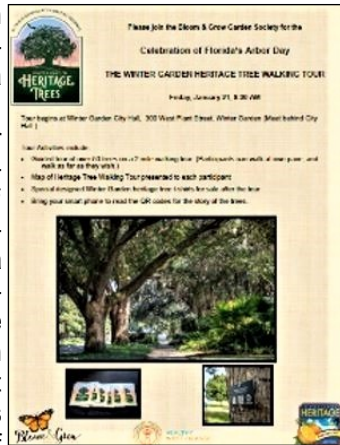


## **DISTRICT VII NEWS** - (cont'd)

### **Bloom and Grow Garden Society**

On December 8th, 2021, Bloom & Grow set up tents in downtown Winter Garden to sell our gorgeous red, white, and pink variegated poinsettias. This was our second year in selling to the public and we sold even more than last year. Funds from the sale of the plants go toward a variety of club philanthropies and projects. Thanks, our supplier, Knox Nurseries, for growing such beautiful flowers.

The Bloom & Grow Garden Society in partnership with the Winter Garden Heritage Foundation celebrated Florida Arbor Day on Friday January 21, 2022. We hosted a walking tour of the Winter Garden Heritage Trees in the city's historic district. We started at the back of City Hall at 8:30 am and walked approximately 2 miles down to Lake Apopka and back up to the Winter Garden Heritage Museum. There are 56 Heritage Trees along the route each labeled with the name of the tree and a QR code that offers insight into the tree species as well as information on the history of Winter Garden and its people. Walking tour maps, available for download on our website, were given to each attendee. It was a fun way to celebrate Florida Arbor Day!



In March, we will be selling the Queen's Wreath vines once again. You can see this gorgeous lavender flowering plant on the gazebo in downtown Winter Garden. If you are interested in purchasing, check out our website in February for information.

Early in March, we will be at Magnolia Park in Apopka along with Friends of Lake Apopka, to plant pollinator and nectar habitat beds as part of Bloom & Grow's new Pollinator Power Project. The beds will be in front of the new ecotourism center set for opening sometime in April.

In April, Bloom & Grow and the city of Winter Garden will celebrate our 20th annual Spring Fever in the Garden festival. It runs for two days, Saturday, April 2nd from 9 am to 5 pm and Sunday, April 3rd from 11 am to 4 pm. Plant Street in Winter Garden will be transformed with hundreds vendor booths selling garden and plant related items plus lots of flowers, bushes, trees for your landscape just in time for spring planting!

Our popular chalk art contest starts Saturday morning, when the tents go up in front of city hall. You can watch the artists bring the cement squares to life with nature related chalk art. \$2,000 in prizes will be awarded in numerous categories. And you can vote for your favorites.

Upcoming event this fall: The District VII Flower show, Mask's Up will be held at the Orlando Garden Club, September 30 - October 1, 2022.

## **DISTRICT VIII NEWS**



*Kitty Wallace, Director*

**Counties:** Pasco, Hillsborough, Pinellas, Manatee, Sarasota

District VIII has talented and dedicated officers. There are wonderful club presidents in the 22 garden clubs in District VIII. We held our Spring Meeting in person at the Tampa Garden Club and our Fall meeting was held on zoom. We are anticipating holding our Fall meeting at the Davis Islands Garden Club, Tampa. Our Great Eight News, newsletter has published a spring and fall edition. We think it is great fun to read about the programs and activities of our clubs!

A series of the basic Floral Design classes was hosted in the fall at the Davis Islands Garden Club. There will be another series of basic Floral Design Classes in the winter at the Temple Terrace Garden Club. The Tampa Garden Club will host an Environmental School in the fall of 2022.

We attended the celebration of Life for our dear past FFGC president, Al Latina in October at the Temple Terrace Garden Club. It was truly an afternoon of lovely remembrances and sharing.

Garden Club of St. Petersburg has invited other DVIII clubs to attend a "Flower Show 101 Refresher" at the end of January, health conditions permitting.

Several clubs have had their flower shows and several more are set to hold theirs in the spring. We are working to provide training and support to those clubs that have not had a flower show for a while.

We congratulate Dade City Garden Club for their wonderful Monarch Butterfly festival held in October.

Several of our District VIII clubs have held successful events intended to bring in new members. Notably Lemon Bay Garden Club, Dunedin Garden Club, Tampa Garden Club, Venice Area Garden Club, Plant City Garden Club, Lakewood Ranch Garden Club and Clearwater Garden Club. We are pleased to report that these clubs are growing new members.

## **DISTRICT IX NEWS**



*Dale W. DeFeo, Director*

**Counties:** Polk, Hardee, DeSoto, Highlands, Charlotte, Lee, Collier

District IX is excited that the first quarter of 2022 involved lots of activities. We are especially proud of the new NGC Environmental Studies School Series that has started. Course I was held on February 24-25 at the Fort Myers Lee County Gardening Council building. Information on Course II is available on the FFGC website. The courses do not need to be taken in order, so if you missed Course I, you may still be able to start with Course II, depending on space available. Work is also underway to start a Gardening Studies School Series in the district. More will come on that in the next report.

Flower shows are back! Naples again held their flower show extravaganza at the Naples Botanical Gardens. This large Standard Flower Show and gardening/plant item sales were missed during the COVID19 cancellations. This year the show was entitled, "Visions: Past, Present, Future," and was held March 17-20. The District IX Judges Council sponsored a Horticulture Specialty Standard Flower Show which was originally scheduled for February but was postponed to March. A Small Standard Flower Show entitled, "New Beginnings," was held by the Garden Club of Cape Coral.

The Garden Club of Lakeland, which is comprised of seven individual Circles held a special event/meeting in January, bringing all of the Circles together for a day of camaraderie, sharing information and ideas. The Circles usually meet individually, so this event was a unifying experience for those who attended.

Gulf Coast Garden Club held a horticulture event and plant sale in March, with white elephant items for sale also. Members grew many of the plants that were offered for sale.

Congratulations to Lake Placid Garden Club for their 70th Anniversary in February. An Emerald Certificate signed by our FFGC President was presented to the club.



## **DISTRICT IX NEWS** - (cont'd)

Our District IX Spring 2022 Meeting is scheduled for April 26, 2022. It is being hosted by Naples Garden Club and will be at the Naples Botanical Garden. It will be the first live meeting of this administrative term and promises to be a very special day, indeed. A special treat will be that all attendees will have time to tour the gardens that day without an admission fee. More details will be distributed at the end of March.

Despite COVID19 being on the rise in early 2022, we look forward to holding even more activities before our Snowbirds once again head north.

## **DISTRICT X NEWS**



*Michelle Maguire, Director*

**Counties:** Okeechobee, Indian River, St. Lucie, Glades, Martin, Hendry, Palm Beach  
**Theme:** "Beautify Your Surroundings"

Not much is happening with most of the clubs at this time, I suspect it has to do with the time of year.

Since the last issue District X had a successful district meeting on October 19 at the Trails Country Club. The Saint Lucie West Garden Club hosted the event and all member clubs but one attended. Georgina Tonner, President of Saint Lucie West and her crew

did an exceptional job.

This director just had her first invitation from West Palm Beach Garden Club that included my first installation of a club's officers. The host and member of the West Palm Beach Garden Club served an incredible turkey dinner with the members bringing all sorts of fixings to go with the dinner. Jeanette Molychek's son smoked the turkey. I definitely ate too much. Thank you to Lynn Jones.

Hopefully everyone in District X has registered for Tropical Short Course on January 19 and 20 at The Green Acres Community Center.

I am looking forward to going to Garden Fest in Vero Beach on February 5 and 6. It will be at Riverside Park and it is the 20th anniversary of the event. Hope to see you there.

The president of Pipers Landing Garden Club who is the main curator of our garden club butterfly garden noticed something in her yard where she has her own butterfly garden. She found a Sphinx Moth caterpillar covered with white seed like "things". She discovered after doing some research that these white seeds are the eggs of the Braconid Wasp. The wasp uses the caterpillar of the Sphinx Moth as a host. You will hear all about this in the March copy of our newsletter, "Blooming Tales".

## **DISTRICT XI NEWS**



*Sharon Bogard, Director*

**Counties:** Broward

**Omicron.** The universal mantra that drove us "undercover" once again, masked, and cautious affected District XI. Broward County reported very high numbers of hospitalizations and our members took heed. **Fort Lauderdale Garden Club (FLGC.org)** resumed remote meetings. At its first remote meeting, its floral design speaker, District XII Director, Leticia Gunn, nailed it via Zoom.

**Hollywood Garden Circle** had not met for the past two years yet members remained engaged through its Newsletter and emails. **Coral Springs Garden Club (CoralSpringsGardenClub.org)** undaunted but very careful, stayed active in its community and with club programs and activities.

**Garden Club of Lighthouse Point (LHPGC.org)** with the aid of the Pompano Beach Garden Club, produced "Games and Toys of our Childhood" and **Fort Lauderdale Garden Club** staged "River of Grass" each showcased lush horticulture and inspired designs. **Pompano Beach Garden Club** sponsored Floral Design Study Classes 1 through 9 taught by outstanding instructors and attended by enthusiastic and appreciative students.

Despite the obstacles facing everyone, the garden clubs of Broward County continued to grow "2 by 2" through our garden club season with new members and innovative and interactive communication. South Florida summers sent many members north for respite and those who remained stayed in touch with each other and our "snowbird" gardeners, keeping friendships strong and information flowing.

District XI looks forward to autumn with hopes of being together and making new friends to share in the love of gardening and protecting the earth's resources – our ultimate legacy.

## **DISTRICT XII NEWS**



*Leticia Gunn, Director*

**Counties:** Dade, Monroe

The Holiday season has been very busy for District XII. The Clubs hosted their Holiday parties and meetings ahead of the Omicron wave and shifted and rearranged meetings to keep safe during the surge. Along with the meetings whether in person or Zoom, the clubs of District XII have continued to be engaged with their communities and I will highlight some of the most notable items.

**Coral Gables Garden Club** worked with the City of Coral Gables to designate an unused parcel of land as a "Pollinator Patch". The parcel will not be mowed and signage has been posted to educate the public of the importance of the pollinator patch. The parcel is being monitored and data is being collected by various groups on the number of various butterfly, bee and moth species frequenting the patch. The success of the parcel has spurred another group to incorporate a similar project in the Miami Shores area. Coral Gables will also be reprising their very popular "As I See It" photography contest that they created last year due to the pandemic.

**Coral Pines Garden Club** has committed to volunteer at the Deering Estate to maintain and enhance the Garden Brook Trail. The District now has two Clubs meeting at the Beautiful and Historic Deering Estate so this has become an important asset to our District. They are also planning a plant auction Fundraiser there in March. They continue to maintain the Butterfly/Pollinator Garden at the Assisted Living Facility and are planning a Field Trip to Montgomery Botanical Gardens.

**South Miami Garden Club** held a very successful Make-it, Bake-it or Grow-it fundraiser and have created a Therapeutic Recreational Garden for the Autism Spectrum Program at a local High School.

**Miami Beach Garden Club** is once again sending three campers to Wekiva Youth Camp. The Club has also held an educational seminar at the Miami Beach Botanical Garden and will continue to work with the Garden to develop content for the Garden's Monthly Second Saturday Seminar. The Club is looking forward to hosting their annual Flower Show and Home Garden Tour. MBGC are thrilled to be celebrating their 90th year and going strong having added 5 members this year.

**Marathon Garden Club** has created and implemented a Monarch Sanctuary Certification program in the Florida Keys and they have certified over 100 gardens and continue to work to certify gardens that do not use pesticides in their gardens. They are planning to host a Butterfly Garden Tour on March 4th. The District's Club presidents continue to meet at President's Council via Zoom and the District's Judges and Floralia Chapter have been meeting in person and will continue to meet going forward.

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## A HIGHER LEVEL OF MEETINGS AT EMBASSY SUITES BY HILTON™.

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Kissimmee, FL 34746

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Group Code: FFG



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\*Service of alcohol subject to state and local laws. Must be of legal drinking age. © 2018 Hilton. ™ indicates a trademark of Hilton.







# 95th Annual FFGC Convention Opportunity Drawing Worlds of Wonder



2 nights stay at Embassy Suites Lake Buena Vista South  
\*\*exclusions apply\*\*



Pink Princess Philodendron



32 inch 7-7.5 mm Pearls  
with 14 ct. gold clasp



Waterford Crystal bowl



2 Ceramic Designer Containers



Iron sculpture by Ken Schwartz



Hand-made queen-size Quilt



Amazon  
Echo &  
Echo Dot

**Suggested Donation is \$2 per ticket. Order tickets today!**

Make checks payable to FFGC/ Conv 2022 and mail to:  
Barbara McGhee 4031 SE 37th Ct., Ocala FL 34480/352.572.4832  
barbaramcgee11@gmail.com

The drawing will be held April 14, 2022. You do not need to be present to win. Your generous donation supports FFGC aims, goals and special projects. The Florida Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) organization. IRS rules and regulations apply. Winners of prizes valued at \$600 or more will be issued IRS form W-2G. Your donation may be tax deductible as allowed by the IRS. Consult a tax advisor for more information. One prize per winning ticket.



## TENTATIVE FFGC Convention Schedule Of Events

### FFGC 95th Annual Convention

Embassy Suites by Hilton  
Orlando - Lake Buena Vista South  
4955 Kyngs Heath Rd.  
Kissimmee, FL 34746

Tuesday, April 12 - Thursday, April 14, 2022



#### Tuesday, Apr 12, 2022

7am - 11pm	Flower Show Set Up	
7am - 3pm	Vendor Set-Up _____	Palms A, B
7am - 3pm	Invitational Set-Up _____	Pre-Function A, B
8am - 10am	Finance Meeting _____	Atlantis
9:45am - 11am	Page/Hostess Mtg. combined --	Cypress 1
10am - 11:30am	Tri-Council Meeting _____	Cypress 2, 3
10:15am - 12:15pm	H & E Trustees Mtg. _____	Atlantis
11am - 5:30pm	<u>Registration Open</u>	
12:30pm - 1:30pm	District Directors Mtg. _____	Atlantis
12:30pm - 2pm	FFSJ/TC/FFGC Lunch _____	Palms C or D
1:45pm - 2:15pm	Bylaws Mtg. _____	Atlantis
3pm - 7pm	Vendors Open _____	Palms A, B
3:30pm - 5pm	Board of Directors Mtg. _____	Palms E, F, G
6:30pm - 9pm	Early Arrival _____	Palms C or D
	BOD Dinner & Entertainment	

#### Wednesday, Apr 13, 2022

	Flower Show Judging _____	Magnolia
7:30am - 8:30am	Judges/Clerks Meeting _____	Cypress 3, 4
7:30am - 5:30pm	<u>Registration Open</u>	
7:30am - 6pm	Vendors Open _____	Palms A, B
10am - 11:30am	*** Workshops	

#### Wednesday, Apr 13, 2022 - (cont'd)

12 noon - 2pm	*** Lunch & Program _____	Palms C, D
	<b>Official Opening of Convention</b>	
2:15pm - 5pm	Flower Show Open _____	Magnolia
	Ribbon Cutting	
3pm - 5pm	Business Meeting _____	Palms E, F, G
5:30pm - 6:30pm	District Parties	
	Honor Carol Hall DS Dir	
7pm - 9:30pm	*** Dinner & Program _____	Palms C, D

#### Thursday, Apr 14, 2022

8am - 3pm	Flower Show Open _____	Magnolia
	<u>Registration Open</u>	
7:30am - 4pm	Vendors Open _____	Palms A, B
8:30am - 10:30am	Business Mtg. Continues _____	Palms E, F, G
11am - 12pm	*** Workshops	
12:15 - 2:30pm	Lunch and Program _____	Palms C, D
3pm - 5 pm	Flower Show Breakdown _____	Magnolia
3pm - 4:15pm	*** Workshops	
4pm - 5:30pm	Vendor, Invitationals Breakdown	
5pm - 6pm	President's Reception - By invitation ONLY	
6:30pm - 9:30pm	Final Dinner & Program _____	Palms C, D

\*\*\* - For information on Speakers and Workshops go to the Florida Gardener or FFGC.org home page

### Continue Thinking About Awards

Visit the FFGC Awards Page

Gwen Carter, FFGC Awards Chairman

"A Melting Pot Garden Sprouts Creativity and Depth"



### Let's Have Fun Making New FFGC Friends

#### #61 Nell Coe Award Is Coming Soon!

#### FFGC President's Project

Awarded every other year and revised each administration since 1966. FFGC President, Marge Hendon's, theme for 2021-2023 is "World of Wonder, 100 Ways to Play Outside with New Friends" "100 Ways" is for FFGC's 100th birthday coming in 2024. Check out details on Awards page under #61 Nell Coe Award.

Review On Where To Send Awards (FFGC Awards and Procedures)

FFGC Awards #1 - #81, D3, and D8, email to [ffgcawardentry@gmail.com](mailto:ffgcawardentry@gmail.com). Check out deadlines on Awards page. Most adult awards are due 11/23/22.

FFGC Awards J-1, J-3 and J-4 are emailed to [ffgcawardentry@gmail.com](mailto:ffgcawardentry@gmail.com) - Due 11/23/22.

FFGC J-2 mailed to: Barbara May; 4521 Barclay Fairway, Wellington, FL 33449 - Due 11/30/22.

FFGC Junior Gardeners Award Applications should be mailed to Jennifer Barber, 6537 Sinisi Dr., Mount Dora, FL 32757 - Due 1/2/22.

FFGC Intermediate & High School Gardeners Award Applications should be mailed to Sandra Lynch, 333 Sunset Drive, Apt. 1107, Fort Lauderdale, FL 33301-2661. There are various due dates. Consult the submission requirements at the end of each Awards Description for the deadline for each award.

**S-1** Scout Arbor Day Award should be mailed to Barbara Rao, 872 Bayport Circle, Venice, FL 34292, [Barbara.Rao@hotmail.com](mailto:Barbara.Rao@hotmail.com) - Due 1/2/22

Smokey Bear/Woodsy Owl Environmental Poster Contest Mail Posters to: Jill Anderson, 8014 12th Avenue S, St. Petersburg, FL 33707-2709 - Due 1/2/22.

Flower Show Achievement Awards - Send Book of Evidence and Flower Show Achievement Award Application to FFGC Flower Show Consultant, Barbara May, 521 Barclay Fairway, Wellington FL 33449\_Due - 11/30/22

Flower Show Related Awards use the Flower Show Related Award Application and send to: FFSJ President, Parke Finold, 2917 W. Villa Rosa Park, Tampa, FL 33611 by 11/30/22.

**FFGC Awards and Deep South Awards will be announced at the FFGC Convention 2022.**





**95<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention-Florida Federation of Garden Clubs,  
Inc.  
Embassy Suites-Orlando Lake Buena Vista South  
April 12-14, 2022**

**Please print clearly and use one form for each registrant**

First Name \_\_\_\_\_ Last Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
 District \_\_\_\_\_ Club/Circle \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_  
 E-mail \_\_\_\_\_ Emergency Name & Contact \_\_\_\_\_

**CIRCLE ALL CATEGORIES WHICH APPLY TO YOU**

- |                       |                       |                     |
|-----------------------|-----------------------|---------------------|
| FFGC Officer          | District Director     | Club/Circle Member  |
| FFGC Board Member     | Delegate or Alternate | First Time Attendee |
| FFGC Former President | Club/Circle President | Guest/Spouse        |
| FFGC Life Member      |                       |                     |

**TWO DAY CONVENTION PLAN:** Includes (\$30) Registration, 2 Lunches and 2 Dinners  
 Wednesday 4/13 & Thursday 4/14 \$200.00 \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**ONE DAY CONVENTION PLAN:** Includes (\$15) Registration, 1 Lunch and 1 Dinner  
 Wednesday, 4/13 Registration with 1 Lunch and 1 Dinner \$100.00 \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
 Thursday, 4/14 Registration with 1 Lunch and 1 Dinner \$100.00 \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**ALA CARTE REGISTRATION FOR MEMBERS/GUESTS:** *Use Only if not doing 1 or 2 day pkg above*  
 Registration per day for FFGC Member \$15.00 \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
 Registration for Spouse/Guest \$15.00 \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
 Circle Choices: Wednesday, 4/13 Lunch \$35.00 Dinner \$50.00 \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
 Thursday, 4/14 Lunch \$35.00 Dinner \$50.00 \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Early Arrivals Dinner/Entertainment-Tuesday, April 12, 2022** \$41.00 \$ \_\_\_\_\_

This event is **OPEN** to all attendees/spouses/guests.  
 This is complimentary to FFGC Board of Directors Members.  
 FFGC Board of Directors will receive an official invitation requiring an RSVP.

**RESERVATIONS postmarked AFTER MARCH 21, 2022, ADD LATE FEE OF \$40.00** \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**For Faster Service, please book on-line @<https://bit.ly/3iG5Ztb>**

**MAIL REGISTRATION FORM & CHECK-payable to FFGC 2022 CONVENTION**  
 To: Skip Lamoureux, Registrar Questions:  
 9439 Preston Rd., Brooksville, FL 34601 727-916-7547 or [ffgc2022conv@gmail.com](mailto:ffgc2022conv@gmail.com)  
 -Or: REGISTER ONLINE at [FFGC.ORG](http://FFGC.ORG) DEADLINE: Monday, MARCH 21, 2022  
**NO refunds after April 5<sup>th</sup>. Registration Fee is non-refundable**  
 You must be registered to attend ANY programs, meals, workshops. NO WALK INS accepted.  
 Dietary restrictions for extreme health issues **MUST** accompany registration. Every effort will be made to comply with  
 your needs. **NO shellfish/fish will be served.** Dietary restrictions: \_\_\_\_\_

**HOTEL RESERVATIONS:**  
 Embassy Suites-Lake Buena Vista, 4955 Kyngs Heath Rd. Kissimmee, FL 34746  
 Deadline for Reservations: March 21, 2022  
 Reservations MUST be made directly with the Hotel by calling 407-597-4000 OR  
 Online – Click on link below or enter web address into your browser:

**BOOKING Website:** <https://book.passkey.com/e/50193549> Group Code **FFG**

Room Rates: Starting at \$148.00 Double Occupancy

**Registrar Use Only:** Reg. No. \_\_\_\_\_ Check No. \_\_\_\_\_ Deposit No. \_\_\_\_\_

**“SOUNDS OF MUSIC”  
The 38<sup>th</sup> Biennial FFGC Flower Show**

**Florida Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc.**

**April 13 – 14, 2022 – Embassy Suites, Kissimmee**

CONTACT NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ EMAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE NUMBER: \_\_\_\_\_

GARDEN CLUB/ORGANIZATION OR INDIVIDUAL TO BE  
RECOGNIZED: \_\_\_\_\_

DONATION AMOUNT ENCLOSED: \_\_\_\_\_

DONATION	SPONSORSHIP LEVELS
\$25 - \$99	Alto
\$100 - \$499	Tenor
\$500 - \$1,000 +	Soprano

*Make checks payable to:*  
“FFGC 2022 Convention Flower Show”

**PLEASE MAIL TO:**

**Barb Jacobson**

21 Southwind Drive, Englewood, FL 34223-3131

Thank you for supporting “Sounds of Music”



# FFGC BYLAWS - Proposed Amendments

The following Bylaws to be considered for adoption at the April 2022 FFGC Annual Convention

ARTICLE III MEMBERS, Section 1 Voting Membership and Section 1 a. (1)

ARTICLE IV DUES AND FEES, Section 1 Dues and Fees; Section 1 d.

ARTICLE XI REPRESENTATION, Section 1 b; Sec 1 b (1); Section 1 b. (2)

**STRIKE: Independent**

Rationale: FFGC has Garden Clubs and Garden Clubs organized on the Circle Plan.  
Independent club is not correct. Aligning information to be consistent.

ARTICLE III MEMBERS, Section I Voting Membership (1), (2), (3)

ARTICLE III MEMBERS, Section 2 Non-Voting Membership , a., (2)

ARTICLE XVII COMMITTEES, Section 3 Members of the Board of Directors b.

ARTICLE XIX DISTRICTS, Section 2 District Directors b. (1)

**STRIKE: typewritten**

Rationale: "typewritten" is obsolete.

ARTICLE III MEMBERS, Section 1 Voting Membership a. Eligibility, Admission (4) Life Members

**STRIKE: upon approval of Life Membership Committee and**

Rationale: A Life Membership Committee for approval does not function.

ARTICLE IV DUES AND FEES Section 1 b.

**STRIKE: family**                      **INSERT: couple**

ARTICLE IV DUES AND FEES Section 1 e. (1)

**INSERT: and until**

This will now read: membership and all privileges shall be forfeited unless and until reinstated.

ARTICLE IV DUES AND FEES Section 1 f.

**STRIKE: husband and wife**                      **INSERT: legally married couple**

Rationale: Consistency in Bylaws. Couple and legally married couple were adopted as official verbiage.

ARTICLE IV DUES AND FEES Section 2.

**STRIKE: of**                                      **INSERT: for**

**STRIKE: Member**                              **INSERT: Membership**

**STRIKE: Operating**                              **INSERT: General**

Rationale: Clarify sentence and consistency in noting General Fund.

This will now read: The fee for a Life Membership shall be three hundred dollars (\$300.00), the sum to be placed into the FFGC General Fund.

ARTICLE V-FINANCES Section 1. - Fiscal Year

**STRIKE: June 1**                                      **INSERT: January 1**

**STRIKE: May 31**                                      **INSERT: December 31**

Rationale: The Finance Committee has requested the changes above. The FFGC current fiscal year creates accounting problems. One major hurdle is Wekiva funding as they reflect in two years based on FFGC current accounting. Annual Convention could also be in two years' accounting. Changing the fiscal year would give a more complete picture of FFGC accounting.

This will now read: The fiscal year of FFGC shall be from January 1 through December 31.

ARTICLE V-FINANCES Section 1. b.

**STRIKE: Pre-Convention**                              **INSERT: fall**

This will now read: The Finance Committee shall prepare a budget for adoption by the Board Of Directors at its fall meeting.

# FFGC BYLAWS - Proposed Amendment - (cont'd)

The following Bylaws to be considered for adoption at the April 2022 FFGC Annual Convention

## ARTICLE V FINANCES Section 2. - Finance Committee

**INSERT:** Section 2. d.

The Finance Committee shall approve all budgets directly related to FFGC including but not limited to Short Courses, Annual Convention, State Flower Show, SEEK and Wekiva. Budgets from outside groups/hosting groups including but not limited to NGC Schools are reviewed and accepted.

Note: (Current Section 2.d. will be re-lettered to Section 2.e.)

## ARTICLE V FINANCES Section 4 c. - Special Funds

**STRIKE:** educational      **INSERT:** operational

This will now read: Any surplus accruing to any restricted fund may be used for operational purposes within the scope of that fund.

## ARTICLE V FINANCES Section 4 a. - Special Funds

**STRIKE:** existing **ARTICLE V Finances Section 4 - Special Funds**

**INSERT:**

- (1) The FFGC Scholarship Fund is established to award postsecondary scholarships to eligible students pursuant to the FFGC Scholarship Program as authorized by the FFGC Board of Directors.
- (2) The Headquarters & Endowment Fund - The Headquarters and Endowment Fund is established to provide for the maintaining of Headquarters Building and Grounds. The Color Our Garden Fund is part of the Headquarters and Endowment Fund and budgeted for the continued stewardship and care of the grounds of FFGC.
- (3) Wekiva Youth Camp Building and Maintenance Fund - Established to provide funds and support for the FFGC Wekiva Youth Camp building and maintenance program.
- (4) Wekiva Youth Camp Operating Fund - The operating fund of WYC shall be maintained to defray expenses and pay bills.
- (5) The Gifts Today for Tomorrow Endowment Fund
  - (a) Established to provide funds to enhance the financial future of FFGC.
  - (b) The fund is restricted to FFGC needs not encompassed by the General Budget or self-sustaining entities.
  - (c) Only income produced from the principal may be used once per Administration as recommended by the Finance Committee subject to the approval of the FFGC Board of Directors.

Rationale: Request to update funds to current status as several are no longer viable with funds being depleted.

## ARTICLE VII DUTIES OF OFFICERS Section 5 d. - Recording Secretary

**STRIKE:** a bound      **INSERT:** an electronic

This will now read: Present to the FFGC Board of Directors an electronic copy of the Minutes and of the Reports as soon as possible after the close of the term of office.

## ARTICLE VII DUTIES OF OFFICERS Section 6 h. - Treasurer

**STRIKE/REPLACE ALL** Section 6 h. - Treasurer

**INSERT:** Section 6 h. Coordinate with the President the engagement of a Certified Public Accountant for purposes of completing an annual tax return as required by the Internal Revenue Service. Additionally, coordinate with the President the engagement of a Certified Public Accountant for conducting an audit upon the replacement of current Treasurer. The President shall submit the Certified Public Accountant firm for FFGC Board approval pursuant to Article VII, Section 1. k. The audit shall be reported at the Board of Directors meeting following completion.

## ARTICLE VII DUTIES OF OFFICERS Section 8 a. – Parliamentarian

**STRIKE:** and

## ARTICLE VII DUTIES OF OFFICERS Section 8 b. - Parliamentarian

**INSERT:** ; and

## ARTICLE VII DUTIES OF OFFICERS Section 8 c. - Parliamentarian

**INSERT:** c. Be knowledgeable of the FFGC Charter, Bylaws and Standing Rules.



# FFGC BYLAWS - Proposed Amendment - (cont'd)

The following Bylaws to be considered for adoption at the April 2022 FFGC Annual Convention

## ARTICLE X MEETINGS Section 1 a. - Annual Convention

**INSERT:** An Annual Convention shall be held, the place and date to be subject to the approval of the FFGC Executive Committee.

## ARTICLE X MEETINGS Section 1 b. - Annual Convention

**INSERT:** The Voting Strength is determined on the Credentials Report submitted by the FFGC Treasurer from information supplied by the Convention Registrar. Three Credentials Reports are adopted - Opening Day Business Meeting; second day Business Meeting; and final Credentials Report at the close of Convention. The Registrar presents the Registration Report.

## ARTICLE XII EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE Section 2.

**STRIKE:** or           **INSERT:** or by email and/or electronic means

**Rationale:** Business requiring immediate action by the Executive Committee should use every means possible to make contact with the Executive Committee. In case of natural disaster or other unforeseen circumstance all available means of communication should be available.

**This will now read:** It shall be the duty of the Executive Committee to transact business requiring immediate action either in session, by mail or by email and/or electronic means between meetings of the Board of Directors, and the Committee shall submit a full report at the next regular meeting of the Board of Directors.

## ARTICLE XIV HEADQUARTERS AND ENDOWMENT TRUSTEES

**INSERT:** Section 6 a - Honors and Funds

The Honors listed below have been established to honor Garden Club members or others who have distinguished themselves in garden club work for FFGC. The minimum fee/contribution for each of these honors will be placed in the H&E Fund. Specific details of each honor are listed in the Standing Rules, # 4. HONORS. These honors are Guardian of Gardening; Patron; Hall of Fame and Earth Steward and "Bricks Along the Garden Path".

**INSERT:** Section 6 b - Honors and Funds

"Color Our Garden Fund" is a Headquarters and Endowment Fund established for the continued stewardship and care of the FFGC grounds at Headquarters. This is a budgeted item for FFGC supported by donations including Earth Steward contributions/fees.

**Rationale:** Clarification that Color Our Garden is supported by Earth Steward contribution/fees.

## ARTICLE XVII SEEK (NEW) (Save the Earth's Environment through Knowledge) Conference

**INSERT:** ARTICLE XVII SEEK (Save the Earth's Environment through Knowledge) Conference

The SEEK Conference is held annually at various locations throughout Florida for students entering Grades 10-12. The mission is to increase student environmental literacy through hands-on and field-based educational experiences, to inspire student interest and involvement in environmental conservation and protection, and to promote student development of environmental stewardship ethics as well as environmental career opportunities.

### Section 1 - Structure

- a. The Chairman of SEEK shall be appointed by the FFGC President.
- b. A Vice Chairman shall be appointed by the FFGC President after consultation with the Chairman.
- c. The FFGC Treasurer may serve as the Treasurer of SEEK unless an Assistant Treasurer is appointed by the FFGC President for this purpose.
- d. The SEEK Chairman and SEEK Vice Chairman shall serve as members of the FFGC Board of Directors. Other SEEK committee members will not serve on the BOD in that capacity but may serve on the FFGC BOD in another capacity.
- e. All paid staff or those receiving stipend, shall be contracted annually with contracts signed by the FFGC President. All staff shall be fingerprinted and vetted by the Florida Department of Children and Families (DCF) Level II background check or equivalent.
- f. Volunteers shall be fingerprinted and vetted by a DCF Level II background check or equivalent.

# FFGC BYLAWS - Proposed Amendment - (cont'd)

The following Bylaws to be considered for adoption at the April 2022 FFGC Annual Convention

## ARTICLE XVII SEEK (NEW) (Save the Earth's Environment through Knowledge) Conference - (cont'd)

### Section 2 - Finances (as listed in FFGC Bylaws Article V, Section 4, Special Funds)

- a. The budget for the SEEK Conference shall be prepared and presented annually by the Chairman and Vice Chairman for approval by the Finance Committee in January prior to being presented for approval by the FFGC Board of Directors at the Winter Board of Directors Meeting.
- b. The Operating Fund shall be maintained and all invoiced bills paid promptly by the Treasurer, SEEK Chairman or designate.
- c. All donations for Scholarships/Financial Aid to the general operating fund shall be acknowledged in writing and used for the purpose intended/indicated.
- d. Insurance will be required as deemed necessary for the protection of FFGC. The FFGC Insurance Chairman should be consulted.

### Section 3 - Operations

- a. The Chairman shall be responsible for the planning and execution of all conference programs in accordance with established Policies and Procedures.
- b. The Chairman, Vice Chairman and Registrar shall be responsible for managing attendee registrations and scholarships.

Rationale: SEEK has not previously been in the Bylaws. If adopted, Bylaws will be renumbered.

## ARTICLE XVII COMMITTEES Section 3. e. - Members of the Board of Directors

**STRIKE: e. Vice-Chairmen of Committees, with the exception of State Flower Show and State Conventions, are not members of the Board of Directors in that capacity.**

Rationale: In keeping with National guidelines on the Board of Directors and the FFGC President being able to select the members serving on the Board of Directors, the FFGC President can select a BOD necessary to carry on the goals and objectives of FFGC.

Note: If "NEW" ARTICLE XVII and XVIII are adopted the Bylaws will be renumbered including above.

## ARTICLE XVIII WEKIVA YOUTH CAMP (re-number remaining ARTICLES)

**INSERT: The Wekiva Youth Camp (WYC), held annually at Wekiwa Springs State Park, Apopka, FL shall be executed under the current 25-year formal Agreement (DEP Contract # R 2498, expiring 2047) with the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), Division of Parks and Recreation. The purpose is "a Youth camp with major program emphasis on nature appreciation, preservation, and conservation, for the education and enjoyment of youth."**

### Section 1 - Structure

- a. The Chairman of the Wekiva Youth Camp (WYC) shall be appointed by the FFGC President. The Chairman shall be responsible for the planning and execution of all camp programs in accordance with established Policies and Procedures including Financial Aid decisions.
- b. WYC Vice Chairman and WYC Treasurer shall be appointed by the FFGC President after consultation with the Chairman. All other committee members will be appointed by the WYC Chairman.
- c. The FFGC Treasurer may also serve as the Treasurer of WYC unless an Assistant Treasurer is appointed by the FFGC President for this purpose.
- d. The WYC Chairman, WYC Vice Chairman and the WYC Treasurer shall serve as members of the FFGC BOD. Other WYC Committee members will not serve on the BOD in that capacity but may serve on the FFGC BOD in another capacity.
- e. All paid staff shall be contracted annually and contracts signed by the FFGC President. All paid staff shall be fingerprinted and vetted by a Florida Dept of Children and Families (DCF) Level II background check or equivalent.
- f. Volunteers, and others as deemed necessary, shall be fingerprinted and vetted by a DCF Level II background check or equivalent.



# FFGC BYLAWS - Proposed Amendment - (cont'd)

The following Bylaws to be considered for adoption at the April 2022 FFGC Annual Convention

## ARTICLE XVIII WEKIVA YOUTH CAMP (re-number remaining ARTICLES) - (cont'd)

### Section 2 - Finances (as listed in FFGC Bylaws Article V, Section 4, Special Funds)

- a. The annual budget for the Wekiva Youth Camp shall be prepared by the Chairman and WYC Treasurer (with input from committee) and presented for approval by the Finance Committee in January prior to being presented and for approval by the Board of Directors at the Winter Board of Directors Meeting.
- b. The Operating Fund shall be maintained by the WYC Treasurer, and all invoiced bills paid promptly by the WYC Treasurer or designate.
- c. A Building and Maintenance (B&M) Fund shall be maintained by the WYC Treasurer and used for approved purchases related to FFGC fixed assets at camp. For purchases over \$3,000, three bids shall be obtained, and purchase approved by the FFGC Finance Committee.
- d. All donations for camperships /Financial Aid to the operating fund or to the B&M Fund shall be acknowledged in writing and used for the purpose intended/indicated.
- e. Insurance will be required as designated in the formal Agreement between FFGC and the DEP and as deemed necessary for the protection of FFGC.

### Section 3 - Operations

- a. The Registrar shall be responsible for managing camper registration (credit cards and cash payments) and camper cabin assignments.
- b. Wekiva Volunteer Training (WVT) shall be held annually in February. Chairman for this training shall be appointed by the FFGC President.
- c. Program Coordinators shall be responsible to the WYC Chairman for program curriculum, planning and execution.

**Rationale:** Wekiva has not previously been in the Bylaws.

**Note:** All Bylaws will be appropriately renumbered.

**Bylaws Committee:** Cissy Richardson, Marge Hendon, Arlene Rand, Tina Tuttle, Rosita Aristoff, Margaret Chodosh, Judi Jodoin and Parliamentarian, Carolyn L. Nation.

## Personal Guide to Convention

Convention 2022  
April 12-14, 2022

Everyone asks what do we wear at convention.

Business casual during the day is always fun, but comfortable shoes are a must! Evenings you can stay dressed as you are or dress up a bit. For the Final Evening you can snazz it up a bit, add a little bling! It can get chilly in the air-conditioned hotel, bring a sweater or light jacket.

Can I attend the Annual Business Meetings, even if I am not a delegate?

Of course, and you really should. You will learn so much from all the different District Director and chairman reports. New business gives you a better picture of how FFGC is adding fresh ideas to help each member receive a wonderful education in horticulture and floral design, not to mention lifetime friendships formed in our organization. FFGC-"Finest Friends God Created".

After I arrive, what do I do?

When you arrive, go to the FFGC registration desk, sign in and get your Convention badge and Convention Program Book. The schedule is in the book, so carry it with you. You can attend as many workshops as you want, make sure you have something to take notes with.

What forms of payments do Vendors take?

Shopping! We have some really fun Vendors at Convention. Bring cash, checkbook, and credit cards. There is also an ATM in the hotel. Some vendors take only cash or checks. Be sure to buy your Opportunity Drawing and 50/50 tickets. There are also Raffle Baskets, drawings for those are daily!

What else is there to do? Besides all the Workshops and Programs at meals?

In Palms A&B you have vendors, raffle baskets, awards, and educational exhibits. Educational exhibits give you the opportunity to learn more about FFGC programs. Take pictures, meet people!! Come learn how to write better awards applications. See examples of the awards won this year. Make sure you share all the things you learn and see with your club when you return home.

## Speakers / Programs / Workshop

Convention 2022  
April 12-14, 2022

**Tuesday: Early Arrivals/BOD Dinner:**

WOW! Join us for a blast from the past! Elvis & Tom Jones are in the house!!!

**Wednesday: Morning Workshops:**

Dr. Clark's seminar Wednesday morning will be on his colorful coleus cultivars. WOW! Colorful coleus cultivars developed at UF for gardeners. Join our "Sneak preview"! Proven Winner, Home Shopping Network and Ball Seed Company are a few companies that come to view and bid on the latest cultivars.

Elaine Parisi: WOW! Join Elaine for an interactive demonstration on the mechanics, components and techniques used in constructing creative designs. Handouts will be available on a Fun with Flowers project for your Club.



## You could WIN up to \$15,000

<p>Drawing will be held April 14, 2022 Send Money &amp; Stubs to:</p> <p><b>Chairman:</b> <b><u>Valerie Prisciandaro</u></b></p> <p><b>4056 SE 38th Loop Ocala, FL 34480 352-445-6946</b></p> <p>Tickets limited to 6,000</p> <p>One prize per winning ticket.</p>	<p><b>Donation \$5.00 EACH</b></p> <p><b>50/50 RAFFLE</b></p> <p>Florida Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) organization. IRS rules and regulations apply. Winners of prizes valued at \$600 or more will be issued IRS form W2-G. Your donation may be tax deductible as allowed by the IRS. Consult a tax advisor for more information.</p> <p>Make Checks payable to: FFGC / Conv 2022</p>	<p><b>SEE Your Club's FFGC Member Liaison for tickets</b></p> <p><b>You do NOT need to be present to win.</b></p>
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### Speakers / Programs / Workshop - (cont'd)

#### **Wednesday Luncheon Speaker: Dr. Clark**

WOW! Wide Open Wonders - Dr. Clark will talk about basil. Basil is the "go to" herb for many Chefs! Lunch today features basil from entrée to dessert! And Carol Hall- Deep South Director

#### **Wednesday Evening Speaker- Reina Snyder**

WOW! Hearing birds sing, seeing squirrels play, smelling flowers and soil or simply picking a flower from your garden - what great joy each day is in our lives!

#### **Thursday Morning Workshops:**

Photography: WOW! How to start a FFGC photography club in Florida. Be on the ground floor of this fun group.

Butterfly Gardens: WOW! Wings of Wonder - plants for the Florida coast to central Florida, how to certify your cities butterfly gardens.

Money Making: WOW! Your club made how much! Sharing the best ideas for money making.

#### **Thursday Lunch Speaker/ Program**

WOW! Patrick Andrews, President of the American Camellia Society, gardener extraordinaire, has a nine-acre garden which features camellias, palms, native plant woods, bromeliads, citrus, and azaleas! Today, the focus will be on his extensive camellia garden containing 2,100 plants, 1,550 cultivars and over 40 species.

#### **Thursday Afternoon Workshops**

The Nuts and Bolts behind FFGC: WOW! What clubs need to know - Insurance, Website, Headquarters, Virtual, Honors and Treasurer's tips!

Membership Round table: WOW! Sharing the secrets of increasing your membership and keeping all members active and involved.

Botanical Arts: WOW! Worlds of wonder! Botanical Arts preserve and share the beauty of flowers, trees and things in nature that excite you! Amazing samples of flowers, leaves and manipulated plants to delight you.

#### **Thursday Evening Speaker / Program**

WOW! This program will have designers on stage with a design completed except for their flowers. It is to show members that you don't have to go to a fancy florist or Floral wholesaler to get beautiful flowers for a design. You can just go to your local plant nursery or box store.

### VENDORS

We have many exciting vendors coming from all areas - from Fairy Hair to wraps and accessories. Lots of plants too! Make sure you have plenty of time to see all our vendors.

Don't forget to get your Opportunity tickets and 50/50 tickets in the vendor area. Someone will win lots of cash.

**Convention Registration: Deadline is March 21,2022 / No refunds after April 5th,2022 / Late fee of \$40 after deadline**

To register for convention, go to <https://bit.ly/3iG5Ztb>

**Hotel Reservations must be made by March 21,2022**

To make hotel reservations go to <https://book.passkey.com/e/50193549>  
Group code **FFG** or call hotel directly at (407) 597-4000

All Convention 2022 information is located on the Home page of FFGC.org

Have any questions: Call Carol Wood @ (813) 235-3917 or Mary Whisler @ (352) 212-6661

**REMEMBER - pack your comfortable shoes; wrap or sweater; welcoming SMILE and your gardening inspiration to share with others!**

### FFGC Welcomes Robin Hayes

GOOD NEWS! There is a new friendly face in our FFGC Headquarters Office and we want you to meet her. Robin Hayes began working as our Office Coordinator on Tuesday, February 1, and we are so happy to have her with us. Robin's hours will be 9 am - 1 pm, Monday through Friday.

Robin has had a variety of work experience and is impressed with everything she is learning about our organization and all that our clubs do in our communities. She is very willing and anxious to know more and to meet all our FFGC members by telephone and in person.

She can be reached at our headquarters office telephone number (407) 647-7016 and by email at [FFGC@FFGCmail.com](mailto:FFGC@FFGCmail.com). The mailing address is 1400 S. Denning Dr., Winter Park 32789.

Please be sure to greet Robin and make her feel welcome in our Garden Club family.





## CONTINUING EDUCATION

### NGC ENVIRONMENTAL SCHOOLS:

Lydia Barbour, (703) 282-8924  
Email: [LydiaBarbour@hotmail.com](mailto:LydiaBarbour@hotmail.com)

#### District VIII

Course 1 Oct. 11, 12, 2022  
in-person & Zoom hybrid

Tampa Federation of Garden Club Circles  
2629 Bayshore Blvd., Tampa, 33629

Theme: "The Living Earth"  
Host Club Chair: *Kitty Wallace*  
(813) 992-0940  
Email: [KittWal@aol.com](mailto:KittWal@aol.com)  
Contact: *Pam Slagg*, Registrar  
(813) 767-2710  
Email: [PamSlagg@hotmail.com](mailto:PamSlagg@hotmail.com)

#### District IX

Course 2 Nov 17, 18, 2022  
in-person ONLY

Fort Myers - Lee County Garden Council  
2166 Virginia Avenue, Fort Myers 33901

Theme: "Land & Related Issues"  
Host Club Chair: *Judy Francino*  
(248) 425-8713  
Email: [JFrancino@att.net](mailto:JFrancino@att.net)  
Contact: *Bernadette Hamera*, Registrar  
(239) 233-1166  
Email: [BHamera@outlook.com](mailto:BHamera@outlook.com)

### NGC GARDENING SCHOOLS

### NGC LANDSCAPE DESIGN SCHOOLS

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

[GardenClub.org](http://GardenClub.org)

### NGC FLOWER SHOW SCHOOLS:

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

#### District IV

Course IV May 24-27, 2022  
Instructors: *Claudia Bates* (D)  
*Darlene Newell* (P, H)

The Ribault Garden Club  
705 2nd Avenue North  
Jacksonville Beach, FL 32250

Chair: *Carolyn Stevens*  
(904) 247-8269 (h) – (904) 631-3395 (c)  
Email: [CarolynHStevens@gmail.com](mailto:CarolynHStevens@gmail.com)

### FLORAL DESIGN STUDY UNITS

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

#### District VI

Basic Units 3-6 Mar. 24, Apr 28,  
May 26, TBD

Coco Rockledge GC  
1493 Sfiske Blvd. PO Box560111  
Rockledge, FL 32955

Chairman: *Gloria Blake* (321) 537-8060  
Email: [seaclus@earthlink.net](mailto:seaclus@earthlink.net)  
Registrar: *Reenie Bryan* (321) 632-4312  
Email: [Reenie\\_Bryan@bellsouth.net](mailto:Reenie_Bryan@bellsouth.net)

#### District VIII

Basic Units 1-6 Mar. 10, 17, 24. 31  
Apr. 7, 14

Manatee River Garden Club  
3120 First Avenue W.  
Bradenton, FL 34205

Chairman: *Janice Hamlin* (941) 745-5920  
Email: [HamWoman@aol.com](mailto:HamWoman@aol.com)

### SHORT COURSE - Central (UF)

*Carol Binello*, (352) 215-9190  
Email: [CarolAnnBinello@gmail.com](mailto:CarolAnnBinello@gmail.com)

#### District V

June 5-7, 2022

Gainesville Garden Club  
1350 NW 75th Street  
Gainesville, FL 32605

Theme: "Protecting the Life That Sustains Us"

Co-Hosts:

*Lois McNamara*: (352) 283-8556  
Email: [LoisMcNamara1@gmail.com](mailto:LoisMcNamara1@gmail.com)  
*Carol Binello*: (352)-215-9190  
Email: [CarolAnnBinello@gmail.com](mailto:CarolAnnBinello@gmail.com)

### SHORT COURSE - North

*Kat Spieker*, (850) 687-6381  
Email: [spkfreedom@embarqmail.com](mailto:spkfreedom@embarqmail.com)

#### District I

Aug. 11-12, 2022

Theme: "Our Worlds of Wonder:  
Save, Restore, Teach, & Enjoy"

Okaloosa County Extension Office  
3098 Airport Road  
Crestview, FL 32539

Hosts:

*Joyce Waters-Smith* (850) 217-4888  
Email: [JoyceWS@cox.net](mailto:JoyceWS@cox.net)  
Okaloosa County Master Gardeners  
(850) 689-5850

### FFGC History - Our 10th Decade (Thus Far): 2015-2024

*Tina Tuttle*, FFGC 3rd Vice President

President **Arlene Rand** (2015-2017) chose as her theme: "The Garden of Inspiration". At that time, FFGC had 200 Clubs with 11,470 Members in 12 Districts.

FFGC hosted four NGC Flower Show Schools, four Flower Show Symposia, three Environmental Study Schools, three Landscape Design Schools, three Gardening Study Schools, and hosted the NGC Instructor Symposium. FFGC boasted eight Five Star Members and 16 Four Star Members. Clubs in FFGC held 30 Standard Flower Shows, two Small Standard Flower Shows, one Youth Standard Flower Show, and FFGC held its 36th Advanced State Standard Biennial Flower Show. We held 19 of our own Flower Design Study Units-7 Basic, 12 Advanced, and 148 certificates were issued. Fifteen of the "Digging It", Horticulture Study Courses were held and five new topics were added to the curriculum. "Fun with Flowers" was presented by many clubs throughout Florida. Three Short Courses were held annually including the



59th and 60th Tropical Short Course, 79th and 80th FFGC/UF Short Course and the 7th and 8th Short Course North. Wekiva Youth Camp, founded in 1959 and American Camp Association accredited, operated at or near full capacity both summers with the help of "EasyReg" for registration. In 2015, a flagpole donated by family of Lorraine Gabler was dedicated. S.E.E.K. (Save the Earth's Environment through Knowledge) was held at Wakulla Springs State Park in 2015 and Silver Springs State Park in 2016. Junior Gardener Chairmen serving three or more years were awarded a FFGC Junior Gardener pin by President Rand.

Our 90th Convention, hosted by District VII, was held at the Embassy Suites, Lake Buena Vista South, Kissimmee, April 17-19, 2016. The theme was "Inspired Gardening" and Sandra Robinson, NGC President, was our guest. "Seeds of Sunshine" was the title of our biennial Advanced Standard Flower Show held in conjunction with the 2016 Convention.

The 2017 Convention was hosted by the FFGC Board of Directors at Embassy Suites Lake Buena Vista South, Kissimmee, April 26-28. The theme was "Inspired Gardeners" and Carol Bullard, Deep South Garden Clubs, Inc. Director, was our guest and presented Deep South Awards. President Rand presented 12 FFGC "Inspired Gardeners", one from each district, with a Member of Honor Award.

## FFGC History - Our 10th Decade (Thus Far): 2015-2024 - (cont'd)

President Rand emphasized, "It is through our Youth Programs that we can inspire our young people. They are our future; may we each take a part in their mentoring." Because of this statement, one member was inspired to offer a Native Plant patch for Girl Scouts in Sarasota. The Sarasota Garden Club received a \$3,000 grant from the Doris M. Carter Family Foundation to continue our work with the Girl Scouts. President Rand also inspired the members of Lauderdale by the Sea GC, District XI, to install almost 300 orchid plants from A1A going west on Commercial Boulevard to the Inter-coastal waterway.

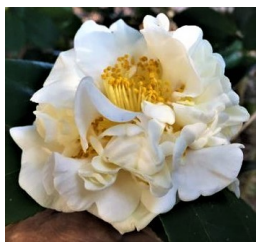


Another focus of President Rand was the placement and installation of Blue Star Memorial Markers. Floral City Garden Club collaborated with American Legion Post #225 to unveil a new "Blue Star Memorial By-Way" marker in the Floral City Town Center at Linear Park. By June 2016, FFGC First VP, Claudia Bates, had successfully concluded an exceptional arrangement with the Florida State Elks

Association for a grant sufficient to purchase markers for **nine** national cemeteries within Florida including: (1) Bay Pines National Cemetery, (2) Florida National Cemetery, (3) Saint Augustine National Cemetery, (4) Sarasota National Cemetery, (5) Tallahassee National Cemetery, (6) Jacksonville National Cemetery, (7) Cape Canaveral National Cemetery, and (8) Barrancas National Cemetery. Including restorations, this was a record-breaking 26 Blue Star Memorial Marker projects done by our clubs and districts during her administration!

President Rand's Special Project earned over \$14,000 with each District participating in "FFGC Treasures", a competitive pageant fundraiser. We were delighted to learn that the 2016 Mrs. Lyndon B. Johnson Achievement Award was presented to Florence Cline of Gainesville, in January 2017 in Washington DC. Florence had been a dedicated, inspirational and engaging member of "Keep Alachua County Beautiful" for 25 years. Christia Li Roberts was named to the "Hometown Hero Hall of Fame" and accepted a \$1,000 donation for Wekiva Youth Camp. In December 2015, the NGC Award of Distinguished Service was presented to Ann Tate for 55 years of dedicated garden club service.

President Rand volunteered at "S.E.E.K. and Wekiva Leadership Training" in 2016. President Rand was presented with a Camellia registered in her name, *Camellia japonica* 'Arlene Rand', and received a Certificate of Distinguished Service upon completion of her term of office. District VII honored Arlene Rand by making her a FFGC Patron. The 2015 -2017 President and 12 District Directors had engraved bricks installed at FFGC headquarters.



A Long Range and Strategic Planning Committee was established as a standing committee in April 2017 to study future events, including our 100th anniversary celebration. Twenty Affiliate Members were listed on the FFGC website, eight of which were acquired through the efforts in District X. A "Fun with Flowers", step-by-step, manual in CD format was made available in April 2017. Five \$3,000 scholarships were awarded in 2015 and two Florida applicants won \$4,000 NGC scholarships. In 2016 we had one NGC winner of \$4,000 and 3 FFGC winners of \$3,000 each.

In 2015 and 2016, FFGC participated in the EPCOT International Flower and Garden Festival, featuring designers from FFGC. Clubs and circles donated a phenomenal \$12,000 to Penny Pines in 2015-2016. The Board of Directors and club members collected and donated \$2,000 to Disaster Relief for Louisiana. FFGC contributed \$2,934.54 to ECHO. Donations were also made to Coral Reef Restoration Foundation, SEEK, Wekiva Youth Camp, and myriad district community projects. FFGC continues to work to keep Florida a "No

Fracking" state. FFGC Headquarters became the permanent address for Deep South Garden Clubs, Inc. Position papers were approved by FFGC to include Expand Renewable Energy Generating Capacity, adopted September 2015, Protect Florida Springs, adopted January 2016, and adopt Florida-Friendly Landscaping, adopted January 2016.

FFGC was represented by eight members at the NGC Convention 2016 in Grand Rapids, Michigan and several members attended the 2017 NGC Convention in Richmond, VA. Fifteen members attended the 2017 Deep South Convention in Louisiana. "The Florida Gardener" featured a new horticulture article in each issue written by FFGC Horticulture Chairmen. District VI has a new 8-acre park, the Timucuan Oaks Botanical Garden at Ponce Inlet, which features an historic lighthouse. Ten members of the "Therapy through Plants", a part of our penal therapy program, received their certificates from Florida Nursery Growers and Landscaping Association in areas of nursery work, landscaping, aquatic pesticides, plant pesticides and hydroponics. Certification will qualify inmates for jobs in the Nursery and Landscaping business upon release. Profits from the sale of our "Florida Floral Arrangement Calendar" now are used for scholarships. Our "Adopt-a-Park" chairman reported 35 clubs and one district holding "Adopt-a-Park activities". A National Consultant's Day was held during National Garden Week, June 2017, that gave NGC's Consultants a stronger sense of purpose and provided a way to share information they learned. FFGC hosted the 2018 NGC Fall Board Meeting in Orlando. Thirty-four "Precious Metals" certificates were given to clubs celebrating 90, 85, 80, 75, or 50 years of federation. Thirty-seven NGC Awards were presented at the Awards Banquet in May 2015, Louisville, KY. Seventeen Deep South Garden Clubs, Inc. awards were presented at the convention in 2015, and 23 Deep South Garden Clubs, Inc. awards were presented in 2016. In 2015, NGC Awards were presented for Publications, Conservation Education, Decoration of Historic Building, Standard Flower Show Achievement, and in 2016, eleven Standard Flower Show Achievement Awards, including a Holiday Standard Flower Show award, were given. A 2016 NGC Youth Poetry Contest winner and an NGC Youth Sculpture Contest winner were sponsored by Ribault Garden Club. "Bee a Wildlife Action Hero" award of \$250, given to the garden club committing the largest percentage of public places to gardening for wildlife, was won by Greenacres C.A.R.E.S. Junior Garden Club. "The Frightened Frog" Youth Award, Protecting Our Pollinators Youth Award and Container Gardens for our Pollinators were also won by Greenacres C.A.R.E.S. Junior Garden Club. Our NGC Scholarship recipients were Quinn Zacharias and Raymond Odeh.

President **Claudia Bates**, (2017-2019) chose as her theme: "Plant, Bloom and Grow with Us". We were asked to plant seeds of membership by welcoming anyone who visits your club or circle and plant more seeds by inviting friends and family to attend a program, lecture, field trip, or other activities your club or circle plans for their education and enjoyment. Bloom with new enthusiasm and new friendships, help your club beautify something in your community; a park, a school garden, or a median. Grow your clubs and circles with new members who will bring new energy, new friendships and will create an opportunity for others to contribute to your clubs' successes. We had membership totaling 11,749.



A new FFGC Mission Statement was adopted in 2018. 10,000 new membership brochures and rack cards were created and distributed in English and Spanish.

President Bates's special project was "Color Our Canopy". Members were encouraged to plant blooming trees all around Florida. A list of flowering trees was made available on the FFGC website in the summer of 2017. Our organization awarded a total of \$1,000 to clubs in each size category who planted the most flowering trees during this administration. 200,000 trees were planted from 221 different tree species.



## FFGC History - Our 10th Decade (Thus Far): 2015-2024 - (cont'd)

Membership took a two-prong approach: retention of current members and recruitment of new members. *The Florida Gardener* was made available online for all members. Judgment Day was held twice during this administration, planning and organizing a marathon session to get all awards judged. The following year, awards were judged remotely due to the COVID-19 virus.

Another big event was "Trash or Treasure", held at headquarters in January 2018, including a plant sale, food truck, interesting vendors, and an appraiser of jewelry and other belongings.

"Viva la Florida" Convention and State Flower Show were held April 21-24, 2018 in St. Augustine at the World Golf Village. NGC President, Nancy Hargroves, was our guest. The "Early Arrivals" dinner featured an extraordinary Floral Designer making beautiful arrangements from greenery in his yard. We had 424 registered. At the 2019 convention in St. Augustine at the World Golf Village, entitled, "Y'all Come", 426 members attended.

As members of FFGC, we are members of an organization dedicated to educating our members and those in our communities. Three Short Courses were held each year of the administration, one Landscape Design school, three Gardening Study schools and three Environmental Study Schools. Three Flower Show Schools and four symposia inspired 40 Flower Shows and 226 members receiving Floral Design Study Certificates. Our Florida "Fun with Flowers" and "Digging It" courses taught our members and community about having fun while learning. Our youth activities included Junior Gardener groups, Wekiva Youth Camp and SEEK. Our members beautified our communities by landscaping "Habitat for Humanity" homes, planting parks, community gardens, and helping to renew and restore storm damages in botanical gardens all over the state. We honored our veterans with Blue Star Memorial Markers all over the state and in all nine National Cemeteries. We continued to expand the "Paths of Sunshine in Florida" which began 30 years ago!



Thanks to the Garden Club of Deland, designated a "Monarch City USA", the first city in Florida to hold this distinction. In December 2017, "Mother Nature", Audrey Swindal, was named Cox Conserves HERO and her nonprofit beneficiary, FFGC's Wekiva Youth Camp, received \$10,000. This gift provided a complete renovation of the Nature Hut at Wekiva Youth Camp.

President Bates attended NGC meetings of the BOD and conventions, in Richmond, VA, St. Louis MO, Philadelphia, PA, Biloxi, MS and Orlando, FL. She also attended Deep South Garden Club meetings held in Tunica, MS, Memphis, TN and Jekyll Island, GA from 2017-2019. Awards given to Claudia M. Bates at the 2019 convention included a new *Camellia japonica* cultivar named, 'Claudia M. Bates' and she received the high honor, "Guardians of Gardening", bestowed on her by District V.

President **Albert 'Al' Latina**, (2019-2021), our first male president and a "man of many hats", chose as his theme: "Diversity in the Garden". FFGC had 160 clubs and 10,600 members in 12 Districts.

Florida was to host the 2020 DSGC (Deep South) convention "Nurturing Nature" April 13-15 in Tampa but it was cancelled due to the COVID-19 Pandemic! Likewise, the 2020 convention in Tampa, Hilton Downtown, "Perfect Harmony" April 16-18 and the State Flower Show, "Sounds of Music" had to be cancelled due to COVID-19 Virus. The 2021 convention at



the Hilton Daytona Beach Oceanview Resort, April 11-13 was held and followed strict COVID CDC abatement protocols. The Board of Director and committee meetings were held online during 2020 using Zoom, another first for our organization. The COVID pandemic also prevented President Latina's executive officers taking their annual fall tour but a PowerPoint presentation was available to all districts showing all the news.

New in 2021 was a Matching Grants Program giving grants up to \$500 each to clubs for projects that put forward NGC and FFGC objectives. In its first year, 12 grants were given.



COVID-19 couldn't stop us from learning or attending NGC Garden Study, Environmental or Landscape Design schools. Each adapted course was held virtually and offered to anyone, anywhere, without need to travel. Members were able to renew their accreditation or begin earning course credit toward certification.

Instruction, conducted by Zoom, was recorded for future use. In addition to the original Floral Design Study program, in 2020 a Floral Design Study Group went virtual with online Zoom instruction and critique for anyone interested in participating. People from all over the USA and abroad joined in the fun! Floral designs were judged by panels of NGC accredited

judges and discussed with the attendees so all gained a better understanding of the principles and elements of design and how to write effective comments for flower shows.

New memorial markers were ordered consisting of 12 Blue Star and two Gold Star Family markers. Also, 14 existing markers were restored to like-new condition and rededicated.

The office/clinic building at the Wekiva Youth Camp burned to the ground in April 2019. A generous donation from the Ann and Troy Todd family fully funded the rebuilding of a new office/clinic.



Unfortunately, this administration, as well as the next, had to deal with some legal issues involving the City of Winter Park and our lease agreement to retain our established headquarters in Winter Park.

A beautiful Hibiscus was named in honor of Al Latina. The "Al Latina" Hibiscus (registered in 2021) is 'Purple Pashmina' x 'Mayan Princess'. Al passed away 28 August 2021.

President **Marjorie (Marge) Hendon** (2021-2023) chose as her theme: "Worlds of Wonder"! She asks us to find "100 ways to play outdoors with new friends!"

The 2022 convention is planned to take place at the Kissimmee Embassy Suites, April 11-16, 2022, and will include the postponed State Flower Show, "Sounds of Music".

Florida is slated to host the 2022 NGC convention at the Rosen Hotel in Orlando May 15-19, 2022. It includes a wide variety of speakers and tours inspired by President Mary Warshauer's theme "Play Outdoors—A Playground of Opportunity".

If all goes well, we plan to hold the installation convention in 2023 again at the Kissimmee Embassy Suites, April 17-21, 2023





## **FFGC History** - Our 10th Decade (Thus Far): 2015-2024 - (cont'd)

Thus far in her administration, President Hendon has overseen a long overdue Headquarters clean-up/fix-up. With an emphasis on growing our membership numbers, the Assistant District Directors were asked to become the membership chairman for their districts. Membership numbers are rising again!

Bettina (Tina) V. (Arthur) Tuttle will be our President 2023-2025 and chooses as her theme "Celebrating 100 Years!"

Our 2024 convention will be held in Jacksonville, the site of our very first convention, at the Marriott SouthBank Hotel and will include a biennial state flower show entitled, "Happy Birthday". The 2025 convention will also be held in Jacksonville at the Marriott Southbank Hotel. During this administration will also celebrate the Wekiva Youth Camp's 50th anniversary!

## **FFGC Presidential Commendation**

By: Tina Tuttle

During our recent Flower Show Schools Symposium in Pensacola, President Marge Hendon presented the first-ever FFGC Presidential Commendation to a young person for "exceptional actions under difficult circumstances". Former SEEK attendee, Alana Roberson, age 17, was recognized for her courageous, focused and practical life-saving events which took place on October, 7, 2021 at her home in Molino, FL.



For clarity, the body of the FFGC Presidential Commendation reads:

*"On this date, **Alana Roberson**, age 18, was preparing to go to school when she was called upon by her Mother to assist a friend from uncertain harm. Upon finding the only accessible door locked, Alana kicked the door from its frame. She immediately accessed the situation and found their dear family friend bleeding on the floor, and unresponsive. Knowing that time was of the essence, she immediately began CPR, as she had been trained to do, and continued this life saving skill until professional help arrived.*

*Her level-headed and quick response to a critical situation proved her maturity, confidence and strength of purpose. Despite the unfortunate outcome, she is to be commended for her heroic actions."*

## **New Blue Star Memorial By-Way Marker**

Barb Dial, Garden Club by the Sea

Edited by: Rosita Aristoff, Blue & Gold Star Memorial Chair

On Veteran's Day, November 11, 2021, Garden Club by the Sea presented the dedication of their "Blue Star Memorial By-Way Marker" at Lily Park in Indialantic, Florida.



Lily Park, named after former club president Lily Givens, has undergone two years of extensive renovations with the help of funds from the NGC, FFGC, local businesses, the Town of Indialantic, and Garden Club by the Sea members. The newly added native plants, butterfly garden, topiary, community herb garden, and more at Lily Park has transformed the site into a beautiful and educational park for the community including a serene location to honor our military.

Over 100 friends, neighbors and veterans were in attendance at the dedication. And, during the ceremony more than 150 names of local men and women who have served in the United States Armed Forces were read to a silent, humble crowd.

Club President Valerie Karas and Lily Park co-chairs Pam Dunn and Susan Vallette read the history of the Blue Star Memorial program and presented the dedication certificate to the Honorable Mayor Dave Berkman, who commended the club for their work in the park.

Other notable guests included Combat Veterans Motorcycle Association FL 20-1, Melbourne High School ROTC, Reverend Darice Dawson of Eastminster Presbyterian Church and Father Zacharias Thornbury of Saint Katherine Greek Orthodox Church.

The "Blue Star Memorial By-Way Marker" was placed among the living memorial plantings adjacent to the newly acquired 50 foot American flag pole as can be seen in this poignant photo of a veteran reverently paying his respects after the ceremony.

## **Adopt-A-Park!**

Mickey Quigley, Adopt-a-Park Coordinator

Now that the weather is cooler and outdoors is where we all want to be, consider "Adopting a Park" with your garden club.

"Adopting a Park" is a wonderful way to support your community, get exercise, and have fun with your club members in the great outdoors. You may even recruit some new members! The rewards are as varied as ideas you may have for this fun and meaningful project.

Adopting a park means different things in different communities and parks. Remember, there are National Parks, State Parks, County Parks, local Community Parks and others. Each park has its own special and unique characteristics and purpose.





## **Adopt-A-Park!** - (cont'd)

Think outside the box. You may schedule a day each month to maintain a small garden, enhance a park with new plantings such as trees or native shrubs, or create a butterfly garden. Another idea is to conduct nature or native garden programs. You may want to honor someone in your club or community by creating a memorial garden. Invite the community to participate as "honorary members" when you plant a new garden or enhance an existing one. Plant native plants and flowers and conduct small classes or tutorials on the importance of native species and how to identify them. Perhaps conduct a native plant garden tour. Your club could conduct environmental programs outdoors in a park, schoolyard, or other areas.

Don't forget our treasured youth. Get them involved in our local parks as volunteers or junior gardeners. Start a new "educational" garden in a school yard or enhance an existing garden. After your enhancement think about a youth story/coloring hour at the school focusing on the garden.

Doesn't everyone love a pat on the back? Your club may be awarded prize money and your representative gets to show off their achievement and receive an award (and money) at the District meetings! What fun! To consider which award you would like to strive for visit the FFGC.org website and go to the "Awards" tab. There are so many fun possibilities. Visiting this site also generates ideas for additional FFGC award topics and is an interesting area of general information even if you do not apply for an award.



A perfect example of adopting a park is the Perdido Kids Park in Pensacola, adopted by my Garden Club - Sweet Bay. This project started as a memorial garden in honor of Carolyn Whitmer in 2013. Carolyn was one of Sweet Bay Garden Club's founding members and long-time active member in PFGC and FFGC. Hoping to attract children, Sweet Bay planted colorful flowers, herbs and a tree attracting birds and butterflies. They even installed a "Little Free Library" that is quite active with over 1,000 books donated and borrowed by children this year. Sweet Bay members periodically weed and plant new plants transforming the garden into a beautiful and educational area for the children. The garden club members donate seasonal decorations for the visitors to enjoy.



My name is Mickey Quigley and I have worked for the Florida State Parks since 1994 and have volunteered at Wekiva Youth Camp since 2001. I don't need to impress upon you how important and nurturing our parks are to all of us. Let's get this program going strong! In some cases you may have to get some training or background checks, depending on the park system and what you would like to do. The Florida Federation of Garden Clubs has a great resource pool with so many talented and energetic members!

You may be saying to yourself right now, "Our garden club does that!", I want to you to brag to the whole state and beyond how your garden club got involved and made a difference in your community in addition to the many wonderful things your clubs do already by adopting a park. Remember to place your achievements in the Florida Gardener and apply for any awards and/or grants you may be entitled to..

You may contact me at [RangerMick@BellSouth.net](mailto:RangerMick@BellSouth.net) and put "Adopt a Park" in the subject line. Thank you! I would love to know what your club has been doing to enhance the community in the way of "Adopting a park".

## **Wekiva Youth Camp**

*Christy Linke, Wekiva Youth Camp Chairman*

Plans are underway for another exciting summer at Wekiva Youth Camp. With last year behind us and closing two weeks early due to Covid we are

looking forward to a full six weeks of camp this summer. Our occupancy even with COVID ran at 90% so don't forget to register your children without delay to avoid disappointment.



We have exciting news to report and that is we have a new Camp Director. Her name is Shelby Mander and comes to us from Dade City where she is Vice President of the Dade City Garden Club circle which she helped establish for young, working women. She is a 4th grade teacher, an avid outdoorswoman and a certified Master Herpetologist. What is a Herpetologist you ask? She is someone who specializes in the study of reptiles and amphibians. She is passionate about educating and inspiring youth to see the beauty and importance of our environment. She attended Camp Wekiva as a child and is very excited to be giving back to the place that helped mold her. Let's all welcome Shelby to the Wekiva Family.

More exciting news is that Camp Wekiva has a new Staff Position, Nurse Coordinator. Nancy Steinbuechler, AKA Nurse Nancy, has accepted the position. She is a member of the Garden Club of St. Pete and has been volunteering at camp as a nurse since 2014. Her past volunteering as a nurse, setting up the clinic, closing camp, and played a crucial part last summer in the COVID protocols that we put into place to make camp as safe of an environment as we could. We are so lucky to have Nurse Nancy as our new Nurse Coordinator. Welcome aboard Nancy!!!

One of the highlights of camp is the Wednesday Evening program and this year we are thrilled to have "The Snake Man" returning. The kids love his antics and live snakes that he brings. He educates on venomous and non-venomous snakes with live nonvenomous on display.

To the clubs, circles and councils that have donated monies to Wekiva, thank you. Budgets are tight and especially with the years we have had since dealing with COVID. Thank you for putting Wekiva in your budgets for donating. Every donation is appreciated!!

For those who have volunteered in the past you know what key role you play in camp. Whether it's in the office, crafts, nature, or nurse, each and every volunteer is an important part of what makes camp run. For those of you who have never volunteered at camp but have thought about it, we welcome you to come to camp for the experience that you'll walk away wanting to come back year after year.



If you have never been to camp, consider spending a week as a volunteer. Check out our Website: [WekivaYouthCamp.org](http://WekivaYouthCamp.org) for more information.

## **Short Course North Scheduled!**

*Kathryn "Kat" Spieker, Short Course North Chairman*

The Short Course North program is scheduled to be held August 11-12, 2022 at the Okaloosa County Extension Offices at 3098 Airport Road, Crestview, Florida 32539.

Two jam-packed days of learning and fun are scheduled under this year's title, "Our Worlds of Wonder: Enjoy, Teach, Save, & Restore". We will be studying "Choctawhatchee Bay shoreline and oyster bed restoration", "Trees in our lives", "Blackwater River Keepers", "Florida Trail Association and Nokuse Wildlife Refuge", "4H history, Past, Present and Future", "Planting your own backyard wildlife and pollinator refuge", "Container Grown Garden Principles", "The impact of the Eglin AFB Reservation and its management practices", "Do you REALLY need grass in your landscape", and a few other topics to be announced.

By attending these two days of classes ( 5 each day), Master Gardeners will be allowed to claim 10 CEU credits in their volunteer record.





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

*civic and environmental responsibility by providing education, resources and networking opportunities for our members, youth and the community.”*

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