



THE  
**FLORIDA GARDENER**

*The Official Publication of the Florida Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc. | Vol. 60 No. 4 Spring 2023 | est. 1951*

**Wow!**

**FFGC 96th CONVENTION WORLDS OF WONDER!**  
**APR 18-20 · KISSIMMEE, FL** **SPRING 2023**

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1400 S. Denning DR, Winter Park, FL 32789-5662

Pay Online [www.FFGC.org/donate](http://www.FFGC.org/donate)

[ffgc@ffgcmail.com](mailto:ffgc@ffgcmail.com) | (407) 647-7016

VENUE AVAILABLE FOR EVENTS

Contact Cocktails Catering

[Cocktailscatering.com](http://Cocktailscatering.com) | (407) 446-2878

FFGC

Organized April 24, 1924 • Federated April 25, 1925

Charter Member of the National Garden Clubs, Inc.

Member of the Deep South Garden Clubs, Inc.

Mission Statement

"FFGC, 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."



# The Florida Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc.

VOLUME 60 No. 4 SPRING 2023

## President's Message

Wow, could this really be my final message as FFGC's President? What a quick eight years this has been. It just seems like yesterday when Claudia Bates asked if I would put my name in to be considered for the 3rd VP position. Of course, I told her "No way," but because Claudia could sell ice cubes to Inuits, I agreed to put in my application for the position.

Each year brought me to a better understanding of this wonderful FFGC organization. Each step of the vice president positions was so different, except for the Fall District tours.

I absolutely loved being on tour with the girls and former President Al Latina. Each District had its own personality, refreshments, baskets, vendors, and reports. I would always get yelled at for buying tickets for raffle baskets; they are so much fun to win. I would really get yelled at if I won. In West Palm, I won three huge baskets and I think I had to ride with one on my lap. We never had much room in our rental vehicle because the back was filled with luggage and Ways and Means items that we would sell to help pay for our Fall Tours.

Once I became FFGC President, I knew there couldn't be anything else to learn. I spent two Summers at the Wekiva Youth Camp and two years as Chairman of the Finance committee. I knew it all. Was I wrong! Not only did I need to know the workings of all of FFGC, I needed to know what was required of me from the Deep South Organization and the

National Garden Clubs' Organization, of which FFGC is a part. It was so much fun attending the conventions for these two groups—that's where I found out how awesome Florida's garden clubs are.

We have 3,000 new members, the most NGC schools offered, and have won many National awards. Our Florida clubs were rocking it at the State, Regional, and National levels, and having fun in the process.

Being invited and attending events was such a highlight of my two years as President. Gold and Blue Star Marker dedications touched my heart, and I always drove home with red eyes.

Home tours gave me a chance to dream of how my home could look. Flower shows were candy for my brain. Finally, Short Courses were an educational delight to learn of the environmental work being done throughout Florida.

The friendships that were made over these eight years will never be forgotten. Together we have laughed, cried, emailed, planned, prayed, attended funerals, learned, made mistakes, and grown.

I can't thank you enough for trusting me to lead FFGC over these past two years. I welcome all to our April convention so that we may say our goodbyes and then welcome in our new FFGC President Tina Tuttle.

*Thank you! Marge Hendon*





## FFGC OFFICERS

Marge Hendon.....President  
 Tina Tuttle.....1st Vice President  
 Christy Linke.....2nd Vice President  
 Mary Ann Whisler...3rd Vice President  
 Jana Walling.....Treasurer  
 Carolyn Lowry-Nation .....  
 .....Parliamentarian  
 Sue Roberts.....Recording Secretary  
 Linda F. Johnson.....Corresp. Secretary

### FYI:

**AMAZON SMILE  
 PROGRAM WILL END  
 FEBRUARY 20**

## COVER WINNER

**OLIVIA TUROWSKI**  
*Photo Cover Winner*  
*Hollywood Garden Club*

The competition was stiff, but this painted bunting is the winner! Olivia says, “We recently added bird feeders to our backyard oasis, hoping to lure some migratory birds in for a feeding session or two. We have been blessed to catch the eye of the local parrots who make twice-daily trips to the feeders, as well as some other beautiful visitors.”

## BOARD REPORTS

The Board of Directors met on January 11-12 at FFGC HQ. Click [here](#) to read reports filed. The web [page](#) has past meeting reports, too, listed chronologically.

Each committee chair submits a report. By reading those reports, you will gain great insight and understanding on the work of FFGC, and also know where you might want to get more involved.

## DISTRICT DIRECTORS

**District I** *Joyce Waters-Smith*  
 Escambia, Santa Rosa, Okaloosa, Walton

**District II** *Sue Schmitz*  
 Holmes, Washington, Jackson, Bay, Calhoun, Gulf, Liberty, Gadsden

**District III** *Marilyn Larson*  
 Franklin, Wakulla, Leon, Jefferson, Madison, Taylor, Hamilton, Suwannee, Lafayette

**District IV** *Connie Gladding*  
 Baker, Union, Nassau, Duval, Clay, St. Johns, Putnam

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**District VI** *Suzi Bailey*  
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**District IX** *Dale W. DeFeo*  
 Polk, Hardee, DeSoto, Highlands, Charlotte, Lee, Collier

**District X** *Michelle Maguire*  
 Okeechobee, Indian River, St. Lucie, Glades, Martin, Hendry, Palm Beach

**District XI** *Sharon Bogard*  
 Broward

**District XII** *Leticia Gunn*  
 Dade, Monroe

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*All are invited to submit an article.  
 Please have it approved first by  
 your District Director.*

## FROM THE EDITOR

The Florida Gardener began in 1951, before I was born. It is my privilege to usher it into 2023. Our clubs are celebrating 90th and 100th anniversaries, and we are getting older, too. While membership is growing, future members may have never experienced life before a computer or the Internet. *Can we gracefully join the 21st century and welcome these young whippersnappers and show them our Jedi powers are cool, too?* As Scarlett said, “I’ll think about that tomorrow.” Right now, we party!

Please join me at my first Convention. There will be workshops (I’m hosting one!), parties, a *Trashion* show featuring recycled trash ready-to-wear, and more parties! Let’s toast to the ladies who get stuff done!

Lisa Packard, Editor

## CONTINUING EDUCATION

### **NGC ENVIRONMENTAL SCHOOL**

FFGC Chair: Lydia Barbour  
(703) 282-8924  
Email: [lydiabarbour@hotmail.com](mailto:lydiabarbour@hotmail.com)

### **DISTRICT VIII, SERIES XII**

Course 1, Apr. 11-12 | Live & Zoom  
Tampa Fed. of Garden Club Circles  
Address 2629 Bayshore Blvd Tampa

*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, SERIES XI**

Course 3, Nov 16-17 | Zoom only  
Fort Myers-Lee Cty Garden Council  
2166 Virginia Av, Fort Myers FL

*Theme:* "Air & Related Issues"  
Host Club Chair: Judy Francino  
(248) 425-8713

Email: [jfrancino@att.net](mailto:jfrancino@att.net)

Registrar: Bernadette Hamera  
(239) 233-1166

Email: [bhamera@outlook.com](mailto:bhamera@outlook.com)

### **NGC GARDENING SCHOOLS**

Mercy Abrams, (973) 255-0134 (c)  
Email: [Mercy313@me.com](mailto:Mercy313@me.com)

### **DISTRICT X, SERIES 10**

Course 3, Feb 9-10, in-person only  
Mounts Botanical Garden Aud.

531 N Military Trail  
West Palm Beach, FL 33415

Chair: Carol Stender  
(610) 297-1224

Email: [Carol.Stender@gmail.com](mailto:Carol.Stender@gmail.com)

Registrar: Toni Cvetko

Email: [TLCvetko@gmail.com](mailto:TLCvetko@gmail.com)

### **NGC LANDSCAPE DESIGN SCHOOLS**

Susie MacPherson (781)249-8905  
Email: [Rmacpham@me.com](mailto:Rmacpham@me.com)

### **DISTRICT IV, SERIES 37**

Course 3, Jan 31-Feb 1 | Zoom

Chair: Sally Flanagan

(386) 428-3170

Email: [sfflan@aol.com](mailto:sfflan@aol.com)

Registrar: Barbara Magnuson

(386) 428.5313

Email: [bmagnuson1@cfl.rr.com](mailto:bmagnuson1@cfl.rr.com)

### **NGC FLOWER SHOW SCHOOLS**

Susan Hillson | (561) 333-0740

Email: [Susan.Hillson@gmail.com](mailto:Susan.Hillson@gmail.com)

### **FLORAL DESIGN STUDY UNITS**

Carol Lucia, FFGC Chairman

(727) 656-3207 (c)

CLucia02LUC@aol.com

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 (5-6) | Mar 21, Apr 11  
The Arrangers Guild of Palm Coast  
Flagler Co. Extension Service

150 Sawgrass Rd, Bunnell, FL 32110

Chair: Linda Hensler

(386) 437-2613 (h | (386) 569-4584 (c)

Email: [LHensler@bellsouth.net](mailto:LHensler@bellsouth.net)

### **UF/DISTRICT V SUMMER SHORT COURSE**

June 6-8, 2023

"Let's Go Native!"

Gainesville Garden Club & UF

Gainesville, Florida

Chairman: Carol Binello

(352) 215-9190

Email: [carolannbinello@gmail.com](mailto:carolannbinello@gmail.com)

Registrar: Karen Beaty

(352) 256-7209

Email: [mimibeaty@bellsouth.net](mailto:mimibeaty@bellsouth.net)

### **SHORT COURSE - NORTH**

August 10-11, 2023

9am-2pm with optional one hour design workshop 2pm-3pm

*Theme* "In the Beginning..."  
4-H building at the Escambia County Extension office  
3740 Stefani Rd.

Cantonment, FL (Pensacola)

8 hours Master Gardener CEUs offered and approved.

Tina Tuttle, Chairman Pro Tem  
(850) 587-2361

### **TROPICAL SHORT COURSE**

#### **TRI-REFRESHER**

January 2024 (Date-TBA)

District X

Maria Wolfe, District Director

Cell: (561) 386-4903

Email: [tcacad\\_registrar@yahoo.com](mailto:tcacad_registrar@yahoo.com)

Complete information is always on the FFGC website:

<https://ffgc.org/Educational-Opportunities>

CHECK OUT THE WORKSHOPS @ CONVENTION—PG 19

## CALENDAR

- FEB 9-10 District Directors Mtg  
FFGC HQ Winter Park
- FEB 12 Wekiva Youth Camp  
Open House 2023
- MAR 8-10 Deep South Convention  
Kenner, LA
- APR 18-20 FFGC 96th Convention  
Kissimmee, FL
- MAY 2-5 NGC Convention  
White Sulphur Sprgs, WV



Have your very special events posted on the FFGC calendar by using this [form](#) and sending to the [Recording Secretary](#).

## FESTIVALS

- JAN 28 [Camellia Society Show](#)  
Ocala, FL
- FEB 4-5 [Gardenfest! Vero Beach](#)
- MAR 25 [FL Wildflower & Garden Festival](#)  
Deland, FL
- JUN 18 [Waterlily Celebration](#)  
McKee Garden
- JUL 28 [Caladium Festival](#)  
Lake Placid, FL

## NATIONAL GARDEN WEEK

**NATIONAL GARDEN WEEK** is celebrated nationally during June 5-11, 2023. Since Florida has great weather year-round, we can celebrate Garden Week anytime, and we have permission from the NGC to do so. FFGC encourages clubs to ***pick their own week*** to celebrate ***XYZ Garden Club Garden Week***, and use the spirit of Garden Week to encourage pride in your community, interest new members, and work with other groups to be part of those efforts. [WEB](#)

## NGC GRANTS

### PLANT AMERICA

Up to \$1,000.00 is available for direct expenses of key projects. Projects submitted for receiving a grant may be a joint venture with another organization(s). Visit the website for full details, scope of projects, instructions, dates and the application.

[WEB](#) | BY: APR 1—OCT 1

### ESPOMA

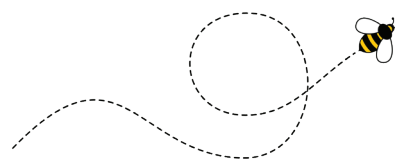
Espoma and NGC are helping communities with grants of \$250 worth of Espoma plant foods and potting soils. Visit the website for full details, instructions, dates and the application.

[WEB](#) | BY: OCT 1—MAY 31

### AMES GARDEN TOOLS

Ames has grants of garden tools of up to \$250 for local community gardening projects. Visit the website for full details, instructions, dates and the application.

[WEB](#) | BY: JAN 1—MAR 1



BEE a Pollinator and get an NGC [grant](#) for your efforts.


## AWARDS

You may not be alone in feeling like it's easier to get a pilot's license than apply for an FFGC award. Almost, but not quite. First, the awards committee is fine-tuning the paperwork. Most awards have the same deadline of November 23 so the committee has time and you have time but, for now, read through *Awards & Descriptions* ([on the WEB link](#)) so you can find an award that already aligns with your club activities—or to what you might aspire to do.

The FFGC [WEB](#) page contains [descriptions and rules you need to become familiar](#). [Linked on that page are the THREE DOCUMENTS to guide you](#).

1. *Awards & Descriptions*
2. *Rules & Procedures*
3. *The Award Application Form*

There is a link to the Comparative Chart that shows when you are eligible to also apply for Deep South Garden Clubs and/or National Garden Club awards.


 Final judging on last year's applications is occurring right now for awards to be given at the Convention. More to come on this topic to prepare you for the November deadlines.

These refer to the achievement awards. There's a different set of FFGC HONOR awarded at the Convention (see page 7).


## [CLUB AWARD LISTINGS](#)


## FFGC BOARD REPORTS FROM JANUARY MEETING

**AWARDS**—140 Adult Awards Applications were received this year. Mary Whisler, FFGC 3rd Vice-president, received 30 Yearbook Awards for judging!

**BLUE STAR MARKERS**—Since September 2022, three new markers were dedicated and one new Gold Star Memorial Marker was ordered. A detailed history of the Blue Star Memorial program, and the process of having one installed in your town, is now available on the NGC [website](#) or download the pdf here. 

**DUES—BY THE NUMBERS AS OF JAN 2023**  
There are 155 clubs | 9,204 individuals | 651 life members | 432 spouse members = 10,187 total

**ENDANGERED | INVASIVE PLANTS**—Many people cannot identify or know how to handle species that have been deemed by the Florida Invasive Species Council as either Category 1 or Category 2 invasives. As of 2019, those lists included 81 Category 1 and 85 Category 2 invasives. Using those lists is problematic for most gardeners. Lydia Barbour reorganized the invasive plant list and translated the scientific name into a common name. That list is now in use by the Florida Native Plant Society and local native plant nurseries and soon by the Florida Wildflower Foundation. You can download your own copy here. 

**FFGC 100TH ANNIVERSARY**—Donations came from 14 individual \$1,000 donors and \$970 from other individual donations, \$1,000 donations from four districts, and \$1,271 other districts, \$3,100 from judges' councils donating \$1,000, and another \$300 from other judges' councils' donations, \$7,936 from clubs and circles and another \$1,880 from other donations for a grant total of \$33,700 to date! If you wish to donate, visit the <https://ffgc.org/Donate>. Thank you so much! We have a new 100th anniversary logo as well. 

**THE FLORIDA GARDENER**—A motion was made to host the magazine online only effective with the Fall issue and offer a mailed, printed version for the current subscription rate of \$15. The #1 rationale was to enable a more engaging magazine that expanded coverage and #2 to convert it from a loss to a profit budget item. It was decided to investigate several things further, which is underway. Anyone is capable of having the best idea, so if you have an idea to share, please email the [Editor](#).

**NGC ENVIRONMENTAL SCHOOL**—NGC manages the Environmental School, but FFGC has a state chair who

works with Districts and local chairpersons to plan and deliver a series of Environmental School Courses. Currently there are two active schools, Fort Myers in District IX and Tampa in District VIII. District I is considering beginning a school in the latter part of this year. The goal is to teach environmental literacy through a variety of courses. Learn all the details [online](#) or [contact](#) Lydia Barbour, the FL chair.

**PENNY PINES PROJECT**—NGC and the USDA Forest Service formed a partnership to sustain our national and urban forests through this reforestation/forest education program. Local garden clubs donate funds and the Forest Service plants trees in areas that need them. Florida ranks #1 as biggest donor to the program. Learn [more](#).

**SCHOLARSHIPS**—Six scholarships were awarded at \$1,500 each. Donations to the scholarship fund were given by the garden clubs of *Ft. Pierce, Jean Hawa, and Gulf Coast for a total of \$15,000*. This fund, started in 1989-91, awards annual scholarships to qualified college students. Donations are tax deductible and donations of \$100 or more are acknowledged in *The Florida Gardener* magazine and the donor is honored with a certificate at the district meeting. Donations of \$1,000 or more are acknowledged at the state convention. Contributors of \$20,000 or more will have a scholarship named in their honor. The deadline for FFGC is May 1 and information is on the FFGC [website](#). Encourage your local students to apply!

**STRATEGIC PLANNING COMMITTEE**—The SPC considers many topics designed to streamline, modernize and energize the FFGC. Your experiences and suggestions are valuable. Feel free to drop a note to Committee Chairperson, [Gina Logan](#).

**TRICOUNCIL**—Tri-Council has big plans for the FFGC Convention in April. The emphasis will be on President Marge Hendon's theme of Recycling. Tri-Council members are dreaming up creative ways to repurpose, recycle, and compost materials rather than let them end up in landfills. Recycled art will be on display at the convention. At the Early Arrivals Dinner, attendees will be regaled with a Trashion Show. Models will design and model their own fashions out of recycled items. So far, seventeen models have signed up. President-Elect Tina Tuttle will be the emcee.

READ ALL REPORTS, PAST AND CURRENT HERE:

[FFGC.ORG / MEETINGS & MINUTES](https://ffgc.org/meetings-minutes)



# FFGC PROGRAMS FOR CLUBS

## FFGC HONORS

by Lisa Packard | Approved by Tina Tuttle

Individuals and clubs may bestow an honor on a member who has demonstrated outstanding dedication to the mission and vision of the Florida Federation of Garden Clubs. Please consider one of the many offerings below. These honors are typically bestowed at the annual convention. For full details, visit the [web](#).

You may have seen members with this information on a badge, in your yearbooks, or maybe they are wearing special *jewelry*.

Guardian Of Gardening Honor | Patron Honor  
Earth Stewardship Honor | Hall Of Fame | Pillar Of  
Pride | Bricks On The Path Of Sunshine...and more.

Each honor has a chairperson, a description online, an application, and requires a fee paid to FFGC.



Marge,  
Thank you so very much for  
sharing tears of joy, leadership,  
laughter, and kindness.

*“If your actions create a legacy  
that inspires others to dream  
more, learn more, do more and  
become more, then, you are an excellent leader.” —  
Dolly Parton*

## DEEP SOUTH GARDEN CLUBS...

... has a new online address:  
[DeepSouthGardenClubs.com](http://DeepSouthGardenClubs.com)



## AFFILIATE PROGRAMS

by Donna Berger  
Affiliate Membership Chair

The Affiliate Membership Program invites Florida organizations that share our mission of conservation and environmental concerns to join FFGC for \$50.

The goal of this type of partnership is to create a greater scope for the education and participation of our communities and to bring together diverse groups with similar goals

In return, they receive (1) a subscription to and listing in *The Florida Gardener*; (2) an invitation to the FFGC Convention; and (3) a listing on the FFGC website.

These organizations are affiliated with local clubs like yours! We encourage you to invite such organizations near you to become affiliated with you and FFGC. The application form is online.

Florida Wildflower Foundation  
Sponsored by FFGC  
PO Box 6870  
Tallahassee, FL 32314 | [WEB](#)



The Institute of Regional Conservation  
Affiliated with FFGC District X Plant  
America with Trees Committee  
100 East Linton Boulevard, Suite 302B  
Delray Beach, Florida 33483 | [WEB](#)



McKee Botanical Gardens  
Affiliated with Garden Club of  
Indian River County  
350 US Highway 1  
Vero Beach, FL 32962 | [WEB](#)



Mounts Botanical Gardens  
Affiliated with West Palm  
Beach Garden Club  
559 N. Military Trail  
West Palm Beach, FL 33415 | [WEB](#)



## DISTRICT NEWS



### DISTRICT I NEWS

*Joyce Waters-Smith, Director*

*GARNIER BEACH GARDEN CLUB, in Fort Walton Beach, will be planting an elm tree at their namesake park, Garnier Beach Park to celebrate their Emerald Precious Metal 70th anniversary with FFGC and Arbor Day in January. Maria Wilson, the county Forestry Agent will be the speaker, and she will instruct the planting of the tree.*

VALPARAISO GARDEN CLUB organized a field trip, thanks to Gail Baker, programs chair, to Elgin Air Force Base/Jackson Guard for a tour of the native garden, museum, and feeding the deer. In the spring, the club will host a workshop on self-watering planter buckets. They will also host a plant sale April 29 at the Heritage Museum Garden, in conjunction with *Saturday in the Park*. *They will host a party to celebrate their 70th Emerald Precious Metal anniversary.*

District I hosted a Scholarship Workshop in January. We had two presenters; club members who each have several years' experience awarding scholarships for their respective clubs. The presenters were Debbie Michel of the GREEN THUMB GARDEN CLUB and Gail Baker of the VALPARAISO GARDEN CLUB.

DEFUNIAK SPRINGS GARDEN CLUB has increased membership to 35. At the City Festival of Trees, their entry, decorated with dried fruit ornaments, took third place. Upcoming programs include making seed bombs and natural fire colorants and a field trip to the Florida Pioneer Family Heritage Farm to view the Cotton Geese.

DESTIN GARDEN CLUB installed new officers at their January meeting, and welcomed new president, Lee Vanderpool. The club will host their annual plant sale in April at the Destin Library. Velda Dougherty applied for and won a \$1,000 Plant America Grant from NGC for a new Japanese Memorial Garden at the library.

GREEN THUMB GARDEN CLUB membership grew to 124 members, with 22 new garden club friends

joining us since last May. A special thank you to Kathy Edge, GTGC Treasurer, who also chairs our Publicity and Website activities, for getting the word out to the Walton County community. Kathy's publicity efforts include monthly news releases; 80% of new members sign up on the website; word of mouth, our best tool for advertising; and visiting guests and programs that appeal to the public and are advertised.

MILTON GARDEN CLUB will install Jenny Weber as the new District Director at the May 9 Spring District Meeting. The theme of the meeting will be *Mamma Mia*, and we are assured there will be laughter, singing and dancing. The club will host a field trip to The Soundside Foundation Nature Preserve in Gulf Breeze and include a picnic and walk through the Camellia Trail.



CREDIT: PAT CUMMINS, MILTON GC DISTRICT I

PENSACOLA FEDERATION OF GARDEN CLUBS received a District I grant of \$250 to assist with their foundation planting as part of their recovery from Hurricane Sally. They were pleased to return to their annual hosting of *Gardening in the Panhandle*, a full day of workshops and lunch. March 14 and 15 will again see their *Tour of Tables* event provided to nurture interest in floral design and the art of tablescapes with themes from around the world. May 20 and 21 will feature the return of their annual "Secret Garden Tour," which is open to the public.



## DISTRICT NEWS



### **DISTRICT II NEWS** *Sue Schmitz, Director*

The clubs in District II are continuing their wonderful programs. All of us are looking forward to some warmer weather in order to replant our gardens after the extreme weather we had that killed many of our plants. I want to say how much I have enjoyed being the District II Director and to extend best wishes to our incoming Director, **Sue Myers**.



### **DISTRICT III NEWS** *Marilyn Larson, Director*

WOW! Worlds of Wonder, FFGC President Marge Hendon's term and theme is timeless. Thank you, Marge, for your theme and leadership the past two years.

LIVE OAK GARDEN CLUB's spring workshop instructed members in the construction of compost containers for kitchen scraps. Their April program, "Trees in Suwannee County," is in recognition and celebration of Arbor Day. Their end of the year floral arranging competition completes their program year. MADISON GARDEN CLUB spring programs focused on container gardening by Laura Coleman and a *Fun with Floral* design lead by Lana Arnold, incoming District III Director. MONTICELLO GARDEN CLUB will host the Spring District III meeting on May 9. PERRY GARDEN CLUB maintains a building and grounds used as a meeting place and rentals which keeps them busy year-round. Their spring program topics included a program on Wynn's Daylily Garden and make and take steppingstones taught by fellow member, Linda F. Johnson.

STEINHATCHEE GARDEN CLUB ends their program year with a program on hummingbirds presented by Suwannee County Extension Agent, Carolyn Saft plus a program on making steppingstones.

TALLAHASSEE GARDEN CLUB started the new year by making concrete leaf molds into garden art. They held their spring general membership meeting and elections in March. New officers are installed in

May. The April extravaganza and Flower Show is a popular and well-attended event. The year ends with a fundraiser *Derby in the Gardens* at Alfred B Maclay Gardens State Park. WAKULLA COUNTY GARDEN CLUB continues to meet with program topics focusing on environmental lifestyles, a goal encompassed in the FFGC President's WOW theme. We prepared for the annual Arbor Day celebration by giving away trees for residents to plant!



### **DISTRICT IV NEWS** *Connie Gladding, Director*

*Three District IV Garden Clubs —GREEN COVE SPRINGS, ORANGE PARK, AND SWITZERLAND—were National Garden Club Plant America Grant winners.*

THE GARDEN CLUB OF ST. AUGUSTINE hosted the Fall District IV Meeting and FFGC Officers' Fall



Tour at the St. Johns County Extension Center with the program *Gardening for Health and Well Being*. The bad

weather from Hurricane Nicole did not keep the HIBISCUS CIRCLE OF THE GARDEN CLUB OF ST. AUGUSTINE from rededicating Florida's second oldest Blue Star Marker with its renewed living memorial garden. The ceremony was extra special with

Presidents of both the National Garden Clubs, Inc. and the FFGC



honoring our nation's veterans. The rededication was made possible by widespread community involvement and financial support, with over 50 hours of volunteer support from local Boy Scouts and JR ROTC cadets.

*District IV will sponsor the NGC Landscape Design School Course 3 on January 31 and February 1. Also in January, the GARDEN CLUB OF JACKSONVILLE is offering the Floral Design Study Units 1—6.*

## DISTRICT NEWS

GARDEN CLUB OF JACKSONVILLE'S annual Flea Market is February 24 and

community favorite plant sale, Blooms Galore, is on April 8. The GARDEN CLUB OF ORANGE PARK Annual Horticulture Program is March 17. The program is open to the public and this year's theme is "Gardening as Therapy."

In April, the BARTRAM GARDEN CLUB will present their first NGC Small-Standard Flower Show titled "Down the Rabbit Hole" to be staged at the Fernandina Beach library on APR 14-15. Horticulture, Design, and Botanical Arts divisions will be judged by NGC Accredited Flower Show Judges. [LINK](#)



The club also made these lovely wreaths for Meals on Wheels families.



### DISTRICT V NEWS Donna Thomas, Director

We want to express that Marge Hendon has been a phenomenal president, and we are all grateful for the continuing improvements in FFGC under her stewardship.

Our new 2023-2025 District V director is Carol Stevens from the LAKE CITY GARDEN CLUB. Carol was born and raised in Georgia, where she met her husband at Valdosta State College and moved to Lake City, FL in 1972. They have two adult sons and one grandson. After 38 years of teaching school, she retired and joined the garden club. Carol served as President of the Lake City Garden Club for three years and is honored to serve as District V Director.

Thank you to all the members of District V for your belief in me, your support and your friendship. It's been a pleasure and a privilege to have served as your Director.



### DISTRICT VI NEWS SUZI BAILEY, DIRECTOR

*TILLANDSIA GARDEN CLUB is working on their 75th Anniversary celebration to be held on May 11.* They are also

working on landscaping for a Halifax Habitat for Humanity home.

All 16 clubs and circles are bouncing back and two clubs—PORT MALABAR GARDEN CLUB AND DELTONA GARDEN CLUB—have rejoined FFGC.

The Fall District meeting in October was hosted by the NEW SMYRNA BEACH GARDEN CLUB with our theme being "Oceans of Opportunities." Jessie Wayles from Marine Discovery Center gave a wonderful program on our Environment. They also held their annual Festival of Trees to support community projects, scholarships, and camperships.

A big thank you to INDIAN HARBOUR BEACH GARDEN CLUB for offering our District Clubs six free scholarships to Wekiva Youth Camp which will help the children become our future gardeners, environmentalists, and caregivers of our planet.

CHERRY LAUREL GARDEN CLUB held a successful fundraiser to support their community projects and scholarships. Their spring program will be on native plants, bromeliads, and community gardens.

The GARDEN CLUB OF DELAND has a new sculpture commissioned by Karen Hall for their sensory butterfly Garden. They have had three excellent speakers: Dr Jason Evans-Stetson, Environmental program; Byron White, CEO of Yaupon Brothers Tea Company- history of yaupon tea; and Kaydie McCormic, Seminole County Extension Agent- Program on Nighttime Pollinators, Amazing Moths.

A member of PORT MALABAR GARDEN CLUB hosted a crafting project. Speaker Doug Tallamy will discuss "Bringing Nature Home" at the January meeting. At the Christmas luncheon a collection was taken for the Salvation Army. The Spring District Meeting, hosted by the GARDEN CLUB AT PALM COAST, will be



## DISTRICT NEWS

held at Hammock Dunes on May 9, 2023. Welcome to our new District VI Director, **Valerie Seinfeld** of DeLand Garden Club. This Director would like to thank her Board, Committee Members, Club Presidents and Officers. Their support, encouragement, and laughter has been a blessing. My gratitude to each of you.



### **DISTRICT VII NEWS** *Charlotte White, Director*

CLERMONT GARDEN CLUB hosted the Fall District I meeting. They also hosted Emerald Magic, a St. Patrick's Day

Flower Show at Clermont Garden Club. A separate Wine Stroll was held on March 17. Our Garden Walk is on April 15, 2023. Ticket information is available on [website](#).

ORLANDO GARDEN CLUB's Joanne Mulinare participated in an upcoming episode of *Emily Tells All*. Joanne represented wildflower and gardening organizations in Central Florida and the show will air on April 6, 2023. Thank you, Joanne, for representing FFGC, District VII, Orange County Garden Clubs and Circles. Audio track from the interview will be part of the show podcast available soon on Spotify. We will share a link so you can watch it when it's available. Members will also be presenting *Spring in the Air*, a Flower show April 13 and 14th.

CAMELLIA GARDEN CLUB OF EUSTIS dedicated an NGC Blue Star Memorial By-Way Marker in the City of Eustis by the Camellia Garden Club and placed at the Eustis Memorial Library. BLOOM AND GROW GARDEN SOCIETY members continued their 25th anniversary celebration with two social events for our members and guests—*Denim and Diamonds* event and we put on our fancy clothes for a formal dinner with champagne, dinner and dancing at Leu Gardens in Orlando. We also celebrated Florida Arbor Day with a guided walking tour of the Winter Garden. See more information on the [Heritage Tree Walk](#).

We invite all FFGC members to our 21st annual *Spring Fever in the Garden Festival* in downtown Winter Garden on Saturday, April 1 from 9 am to 5 pm and

Sunday, April 2 from 10 am to 4 pm. The festival is the quintessential ode to spring and will have something for every member of the family including shopping a wide selection of flowers and plants, a wide variety of entertainment, strolling through the chalk art contest, having your gardening questions answered by experts in horticulture, watching the kids play in Kidzone. For detailed festival information, visit [here](#).

THE WINDERMERE GARDEN CLUB hosted our *Crazy Card Party Fundraiser* at the Windermere Town Hall. The theme was *Looking Sharp* and was dedicated to the memory of Peggy Collins. The event included lunch, bridge playing, raffles and a silent auction.



### **DISTRICT VIII NEWS** *Kitty Wallace, Director*

District VIII is gaining membership across all 21 of our clubs. We sponsored a *Horticulture Extravaganza* in the Fall. Topics included native ground cover alternatives to turf, supporting our pollinators, and a pictorial tour of local gardens termed "Hidden Gems." The Flower Show Judges Symposium was held this fall and hosted by the Florida Flower Show Judges District VIII, Susie Cochran, Director. It was organized by Barb Jacobson, Credentials Chairman. CLEARWATER GARDEN CLUB hosted the District Fall meeting, organizing a selection of baskets and vendors and a lovely lunch. We look forward to fascinating upcoming events, including *NGC Environmental School, Course 1, will be held at the Tampa Garden Club April 11 and 12*. District VIII welcomes incoming director, Phyllis Weber of Lakewood Ranch Garden Club to be installed at the Convention in April. [Horticulture Extravaganza](#)





## DISTRICT NEWS



### **DISTRICT IX NEWS** *Dale W. DeFeo, Director*

District IX has shown great resilience and determination in recovering from the devastation of Hurricane Ian. Meetings, programs, holiday tours and parties, anniversary celebrations, plant sales and a special Gold Star dedication were held. District IX is commended on all that is being accomplished.

This Director thanks the officers, Claudia Chopp, Assistant Director; Charlene Anderson, Treasurer; Paula Novander, Corresponding Secretary and Mercy Abrams, Recording Secretary, for their support and hard work. Thanks also goes to Libby Curnow, Parliamentarian and each Committee Chair, Advisor, and Club President. Without you, District IX would not be the strong, dynamic organization that it has shown itself to be. It has been a real pleasure to serve with each of you. **Claudia Chopp** will be installed at our FFGC Convention in April as District IX Director, 2023-2025. She is a capable leader who is truly an asset to District IX.



### **DISTRICT X NEWS** *Michelle Maguire, Director*

THE GARDEN CLUB OF STUART is holding its semiannual flower show, **A Symphony of Beauty**, at the Indian River State College, Chastain Campus on **March 3 and 4** and is open to the public. WELLINGTON GARDEN CLUB is hosting a **Specialty Flower Show** as the Wellington Community Center called “**EARTH DAY- EVERY DAY**,” as well as a plant sale April 22, 2023. Once again, *THE GARDEN CLUB OF INDIAN RIVER COUNTY* will be hosting “**GARDENFEST!**” at **Indian Riverside Park in Vero Beach, Florida on February 4 and 5**. Hours for Saturday are 9 to 5 pm and Sunday for 9 to 4 pm. Bring your garden carts to carry your purchases to your car.



### **DISTRICT XI NEWS** *Sharon Bogard, Director*

*THE GARDEN CLUB OF LIGHTHOUSE POINT's member, **INGER JONES**, received the well-deserved Five-Star Membership award for completing all four NGC-sponsored schools and where the level of Master is obtained. Inger continues her mentorship to new members and is a role model to all.*

*Susan Berry (pictured center), President of HOLLYWOOD GARDEN CLUB, epitomizes this mission. Her good work was rewarded with the coveted Florida Friendly Landscapes' Gold Level Award presented by representatives of the University of Florida/IFAS. Heartfelt congratulations to Susan for her dedication to the principles of sustainable gardening.*



Outgoing Director Sharon Bogard wishes to thank the garden clubs of Broward County—*CORAL SPRINGS GARDEN CLUB; FORT LAUDERDALE GARDEN CLUB, AND ITS CIRCLES BAYBERRY, CORDIA, MORINGA AND PARKINSONIA; HOLLYWOOD GARDEN CLUB, LAUDERDALE-BY-THE SEA GARDEN CLUB, THE GARDEN CLUB OF LIGHTHOUSE POINT, AND THE POMPANO BEACH GARDEN CLUB* for their support and friendship during her tenure. She is proud of these stewards who honor the earth through good gardening practices, reach out to their communities and, most importantly, encourage its young people to learn about the environment.

We welcome our new Director, **Bonny Miller Cole**, who will preside over the annual District XI meeting hosted by the *GARDEN CLUB OF LIGHTHOUSE POINT*. Bonny has attended garden club meetings since she was a child, accompanying her mother, the late Pat Breslin Miller, who was also a lifelong member of the Moringa Garden Circle. As a second-generation member, Bonny has served in every officer capacity of that Circle, as well as all Fort Lauderdale Garden Club offices except that of President for which she was nominated the year she began her teaching career.

## DISTRICT NEWS



### **DISTRICT XII NEWS** *Leticia Gunn, Director*

We are excited to add three judges to our Council of Judges and to have clubs that haven't had a Flower Show in 30+ years, such as Coral Gables, host a show this April. Speaking of Flower Shows, Miami Beach is again hosting a Flower Show in conjunction with their 20th Garden Tour.

Funds have been raised by various clubs to aid various worthy organizations, our smallest club, Miami Lakes, raised funds to donate to the Marian Center Special Education School. South Miami Garden Club raised over \$2,000 to donate to Miami WaterKeepers.

Sadly FFGC, District XII, and Marathon Garden Club mourn the loss of Nancy Miller, Flower Show Judge and past District XII Director. The club is establishing the entire island of Marathon as a butterfly sanctuary because of their butterfly garden initiative!!! How cool is that?? We know Nancy will be very proud of that up in heaven!!

South Dade Garden Club is bringing in the big guns and inviting speakers, such as Dr. Jeffrey Block, an expert in Botanical Medicine and Pharmacology.

District XII is active in the community and, most notably, the members of Coral Pines Garden Club which continues to volunteer at the venerable Deering Estate, the 1920s era estate of Charles Deering, Chicago industrialist, environmentalist and first chairman of International Harvester. Listed on the National Register of Historic Places, it is a cultural asset and historic site.

Ken Pines will be delving deep into all things bromeliads by going on a behind the scenes tour of a Bromeliad nursery as all District XII clubs pursue further education.

The Coral Gables Garden Club continues to expand their *As I See It* photography contest. We look forward to the success of the club under its president and incoming District XII Director, **Susan Rodriguez**. As

my term as district director wanes, I am filled with a mixed sense of what more could I have done to assist my District's Clubs and add to sense of WOW at how much our nine clubs have achieved!

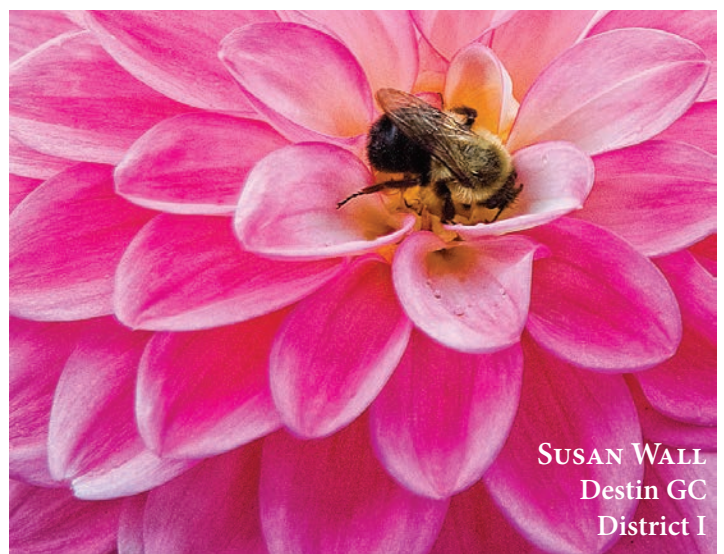
### **HONORABLE MENTIONS FOR THE COVER:**



LUCIA VRANIZAN  
District V  
McIntosh Seedlings GC



BONNIE SIEPP  
Coral Gables GC  
District XII



SUSAN WALL  
Destin GC  
District I



## Q&A'S WITH SUZI, JOYCE & SHARON—OUTGOING DISTRICT DIRECTORS

**Q: What was your initial interest in serving as district director (DD)?**

**SUZI:** I held several officer positions over many years, and professionally owned my own business. I love to interact and encourage others and did so through the DD position.

**JOYCE:** I wanted to create some district wide events, and to have clubs work together and share ideas.

**SHARON:** I was recruited by a former Director. I had no intimate knowledge of the post but could not refuse Becky Schuberth. I had just retired and wanted to become more involved. I figured I could best serve in a capacity where I felt the support of long-time members.

**Q: How did reality of the position differ from what you expected?**

**SUZI:** The pandemic was a huge obstacle towards building relationships. Zoom is not a platform for socializing but we did get the business accomplished. Plus, I am a speaker, a people person. Writing/editing are not my forte. We are all gifted in different areas, and I do know my abilities.

**JOYCE:** Our District Flower Show was more than I could have imagined. The talent across the district was fantastic. Everyone, working together, was an incredible learning experience and they learned from each other. Our publicity chairperson for the event created a database of all the press release contact information, all the club websites and Facebook contacts. This was then shared with all the clubs to help with their future events.

**SHARON:** I was overwhelmed. The previous Director handed over her correspondence but I had no basis for understanding what was ahead of me. The relationship with the “State” was daunting. It took about six months before I felt familiar and comfortable in my role.

**Q: How did you learn that you could move up? Did you ask? Were you asked by someone else?**

**SUZI:** While serving on the District VI Board, the Nominating Committee asked if I would serve. They knew my background. Being club president or having experience on your District board will be extremely helpful. Having access to former DDs for exchanging ideas and feedback is great encouragement for a new director. Monthly meetings would also be beneficial.

**JOYCE:** It is such a mistake to wait to be invited. I spent my entire 24 years in Florida waiting to be recognized and invited. If you are interested in something, let one of the leaders know. I had a reputation in Colorado as an organizer, but no one knew me here.

**SHARON:** I did not learn I could move up to Director. I was simply asked to fill the role.

**Q: What are the most important attributes or skills should a district director have?**

**SUZI:** Patience, flexibility, kindness, confidence, public speaking ability, organization, leadership skills, and computer skills. I later understood I would need to contribute articles for *Florida Gardener* and write reports for FFGC.

**JOYCE:** (1) a car that gets great gas mileage and a set of good tires. My district meetings are often 2.5 hours away. The growth of the District caused long trips to attend a meeting that nobody wants to do; (2) a ZOOM account. Meeting on ZOOM has been a life saver; and (3) the ability to LISTEN. Just listen and work on a solution—get back to them. The wrong response is “that’s the way it’s always been done.” I hate it when I hear that within our organization, so I never give that unhelpful answer.

**SHARON:** You must reach out to each club and genuinely appreciate their individual situations. I think you need to attend as many of their meetings/functions as possible and be available to help. Writing skills and time management are a must.

**Q: I’m assuming you have attended a convention. How would you encourage new members to attend?**

**SUZI:** I have attending FFGC Conventions for seven years. I ask club presidents to invite their successor to Convention. If necessary, supplementing their resources to attend. A personal invitation makes all the difference. Invite them to sit with you at workshops, business meetings, and luncheons. During my tenure as DD, I held an annual seminar. Together, we worked through a binder full of information, including Convention attendance. I made it fun and they said they it was worth it.

**JOYCE:** The conventions with the Statewide Flower Shows are the best value of the trip. Quality workshops and lunch and dinner speakers are critical. Also, the awards and recognitions at the convention are huge. It would be great to hear newer names.

**SHARON:** I was thrilled to be at the last convention. I had been to one before but there wasn’t a flower show, and I felt the lack of creativity. This last convention was joyous. The programs were wonderful and I felt more interaction with the state officers. I encourage everyone I know to attend convention—the photography exhibit should visually stimulate attendees.



## ADVOCACY IN ACTION

### **WATERKEEPERS FLORIDA'S BIG WIN FOR WATER**

Submitted by Inger Jones,  
Environmental Chairman/Water

#### **A BIG WIN FOR FLORIDA WATER**

Waterkeepers Florida, chaired by Matanzas Riverkeeper, and in partnership with Environmental Defense Alliance, sent a petition to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) urging the agency acknowledge that Florida's water quality standards were woefully outdated and urgently in need of revision. EPA issued a determination that agreed with us. The determination identified 40 priority toxic pollutants with outdated standards that need to be updated and 37 priority toxic pollutants for which Florida has no regulatory standards—despite the fact that standards are required under the Clean Water Act of 1972. EPA has 12 months to develop new and updated water quality regulations.



**WATERKEEPERS®**  
FLORIDA

#### **THE MANDATE**

2022 marks the 50th Anniversary of the Clean Water Act of 1972—one of the most effective U.S. laws ever enacted and a model for clean water laws across the globe. By establishing citizens' right to enforce it, the Clean Water Act served as a powerful tool to end the culture of dumping raw sewage and industrial waste into our rivers without consideration of public health, public use, or environmental repercussions.

#### **WHAT WE CAN DO**

Support your local chapter. See [KEY LINKS](#) to find yours.

#### **ABOUT WATERKEEPERS**

Waterkeepers Florida is a regional entity composed of all 15 organizations in Florida to protect and restore our water resources across over 45,000 square miles of watershed, which is home to over 15 million Floridians. They facilitate collaboration and collective action on statewide issues.

#### **CLEAN WATER ACT 1972**

The Clean Water Act sought to ensure every American had access to safe, clean water, but that promise is not yet fulfilled. Florida's waters are continually plagued by harmful algae blooms. 2021 set a new record for manatee deaths due to starvation caused by poor water quality. Waters across the state are becoming impaired faster than we are able to restore them.

Using the Clean Water Act, Waterkeepers across Florida have been fighting for over 20 years to protect the waterways that are the lifeblood of our state and will continue to stand watch to ensure the new water quality standards are put into effect. Florida has 12 months to fix its water quality or EPA will do it instead.

#### **KEY LINKS**

[Clean Water Act of 1972](#)  
[WATERKEEPERS FLORIDA](#)  
[Find Your Local Chapter](#)  
[PRESS RELEASE ON WIN](#)

#### **FFGC POSITION PAPERS**

FFGC Position statements articulate our perspectives on a key issues, includes a rationale for our position, and suggests a course of action for our legislators, governmental agencies, members and the broader community.

DOWNLOAD STATEMENT IN SUPPORT OF [CLEAN WATER](#).

SEE ALL OF OUR POSITION STATEMENTS — [online](#).

- Expand Renewable Electricity Generating Capacity
- Protect Florida Springs
- Adopt Florida-Friendly Landscaping
- Ban Hydraulic Fracturing In Florida
- Reduce Marine Plastic Pollution
- Promote Civic Beautification
- Love Florida State Parks
- Defend Our National Parks
- Control Invasive Species
- Protect Aquatic Ecosystems
- Conserve Native Plants
- Support Clean Air
- Support Clean Water

#### **COMING SOON**

On our 100th anniversary, we will celebrate all FFGC contributions to our environment and conservation. For instance, "*Delegates to the convention endorsed a bill to create a State Arbor Day on the third Friday in January.*"

—FFGC 2nd Convention  
Ormond Beach | January 11, 1927

## ARTICLES

### TWO STEPS TO BECOMING AN IRS 501(C)(3) CHARITABLE ORGANIZATION AND A REGISTERED NONPROFIT IN THE STATE OF FLORIDA.

By Lisa Packard | Approved by Tina Tuttle

WHAT IS A 501(C)(3)? – Section 501(c)(3) is part of the US Internal Revenue Code that allows your nonprofit to be exempt from federal income tax and be considered a charitable organization—that is an organization established for specific purposes and eligible to solicit funds. There are many kinds

of nonprofits, but charitable and educational are the categories that fit garden clubs. Your organization will be given a Tax / Employment Identification Number (EIN) (Step 1). The EIN allows you to open a business bank account and register for the Charitable Solicitation status with the state (Step 2). Charitable organizations may apply for grants and solicit

“  
*Nonprofit is a tax status, not a financial plan. All businesses want to earn a profit. Nonprofits retain their profits. For profit pays out dividends.*  
”

donations, and donors may deduct that donation from their taxes, with some exceptions.

#### STEP ONE – [APPLY ONLINE](#) for IRS EIN

File online for an IRS 501(c)(3) tax-exemption number. You will receive a Letter of Designation (NOT AN EMAIL) with your new tax ID number. Save it for all eternity. It will be required at various points in the future.

#### STEP TWO – [APPLY ONLINE](#) for Sunbiz

You are registering your organization as a new corporation in the state of Florida Division of Corporations (known as [www.Sunbiz.org](#)). The online process will create your Articles of Confederation.

This enables you to solicit charitable donations. You are required to stay in compliance. Never ignore paperwork from Sunbiz.

*The easy peasy directions are now on the website under Members / FAQ's.* Included in the downloadable attachment are three paragraphs of great interest: (1) [What Are Articles of Confederation?](#) (2) [What Are Bylaws?](#) and (3) [Charitable Solicitations Registration.](#)



### FLORAL DESIGNING WITH CAMELLIAS

By Margaret Chodosh | Approved by Marge Hendon

Dinh Swanson served as chair of hospitality for the Camellia Society for many years. After she passed away, her husband, John, of Gainesville Camellia Flower Show wished to honor her by seeking four *floral designers to illustrate how to use camellias in designs.*



From left to right: Mary Whisler, Third Vice President FFGC, Margaret Chodosh, BOD Liaison to NGC President Special Project FFGC, Marge Hendon, President of FFGC, and Lorene Junkin, Board of Director Membership Appreciation Chairman FFGC.

### JUNIOR GARDENING

by Joyce Waters-Smith, FFGC District I Director

Meet Cole Poston, a 17-year-old from Pensacola (District I) who received his first plant, a cactus, at



age five, which eventually led to a strong passion for growing tropical plants, especially orchids. He now has his own greenhouse full of diverse plants ranging from orchids to anthuriums to rare species like the Monstera Delicious Alba. He loves to share his passion with other young people and

loves to see kids getting their hands dirty. He gets questions such as “how did I grow that plant so well” or “how is that plant in such perfect shape?” The reason is my greenhouse. Cole would love to share his knowledge with your club’s Junior Gardeners. Please contact him at [postoncole@yahoo.com](mailto:postoncole@yahoo.com).



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Group Code: FGC



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APR 18-20, 2023  
KISSIMMEE, FL



SPEAKERS  
WORKSHOPS  
AWARDS &  
INSTALLATIONS

### HOTEL INFO & REG

Embassy Suites  
Lake Buena Vista  
4955 Kyns Heath Rd  
Kissimmee, FL

Book: (407) 597-4000  
Use Group Code FGC  
Book [online](#)  
Rates begin at \$148

### CONV. REGISTRATION

[DOWNLOAD REGISTRATION FORM](#)



Postmarks after  
March 27, 2023 trigger a late  
fee of \$40.  
No refunds after April 5.  
Registration fees are non-  
refundable.

FFSJ and TriCouncil Lunch  
Tuesday, April 18  
REGISTRATION FORM



### TIPS FROM THE PRO'S

- Wear business casual with comfortable shoes! Now is not the time to break in cute shoes.
- Add a little bling for the installation and final dinner or anytime!
- Dress in layers so you can manage temperature swings.
- You may attend the Annual Business Meeting even if you are not a delegate—and you should! This is the best time to learn about FFGC and meet the leadership. Ask questions! It may be you someday.
- Upon arrival, go to the FFGC registration desk and get your Convention badge and Program Book. The schedule is in the book which you will want to keep with you. You may attend as many workshops as you want. Bring something for taking notes.
- Bring cash and credit cards. There is an ATM in the bank.
- Don't be shy. Say hello to everyone! This is a friendly group. You'll go home with new friends.

### DEADLINES

#### FEBRUARY 21

*Purchase Advertisement in  
Convention Program Book*  
*Contact:*  
[Kelley.Wood@gmail.com](mailto:Kelley.Wood@gmail.com)  
art assistance is available

*Book your hotel  
by MAR 27*

**APR 4 BOOK  
FFSJ/TRICOUNCIL  
LUNCHEON**

#### APRIL 19

*Purchase 50/50 Raffle  
Tickets*

\$5 from Club Pres.  
*Drawing April 20  
may be absent  
Pay online*

Send stubs to  
Valerie Prisciandaro  
**ON THE WEB PAGE**

<https://www.FFGC.org/Convention-2023>



FLORIDA FEDERATION OF GARDEN CLUBS, INC.

# 96TH CONVENTION

## WORLDS OF WONDER

### TUESDAY, APRIL 18, 2023

9:30 AM—11:15 AM	FFSJ Meeting
11:00 AM—5:30 PM	Registration open
11:30 AM—1:00 PM	FFSJ and Tri Council Luncheon—open to all (register by Apr 4)
1:15 PM—3:00 PM	Tri Council Meeting & District Directors Meeting
3:30 PM—5:30 PM	Board of Directors Meeting
6:30 PM	Early Arrivals & BOD Dinner & <i>Trashion</i> Show

### WEDNESDAY, APRIL 19, 2023

7:30 AM—4:30 PM	Registration open
8:30 AM—10:30 AM	Opening Ceremony for 96th Annual Convention
10:45 AM—11:45 AM	Workshops <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Tools—Jessica Sullivan, Adaptive Gardening</li><li>▪ Invasive Plants—Stacey Matrazzo, Executive Director Florida Wildflower Foundation</li></ul>
12:00 Noon—2:00 PM	Lunch & Speaker is Laura Perdomo on Begonias
2:15 PM—3:45 PM	Workshops <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Photo Club (Snapdragons) Marianne Silas &amp; Friends</li><li>▪ President, Treasurer, Parliamentarian &amp; Bylaws—Learn Your Position</li><li>▪ Planting Edibles—Theresa Marie Badurek, AG for Pinellas Cty</li></ul>
5:30 PM	District Parties
7:00 PM—9:30 PM	Dinner & Speaker—Josh Henderson, CEO Bonnet Springs Park, Lakeland

### THURSDAY, APRIL 20, 2023

7:30 AM—4:30 PM	Registration open
8:30 AM	96th Annual Convention continues
10:45 AM—11:45 AM	Workshops <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Horticulture Entries—Bessie Morse, Phyl Lawson, Pat Strawn</li><li>▪ Tech Tools to Grow Your Garden Club—Lisa Packard Editor, The Florida Gardener</li></ul>
12:00 Noon—2:30 PM	Luncheon and speaker Kevin Brown on Sea Turtles Workshops
2:45 PM—3:45 PM	▪ The Shoreline Sea Oats—Kevin Brown
2:45 PM—4:30 PM	▪ Floral Design Workshop—Carol Lucia & Friends
5:30 PM—6:30 PM	First Time Attendees President's Reception—Invitation Only
7:00 PM—9:30 PM	Final Banquet & Installation of New Officers



## FFGC BYLAWS: PROPOSED AMENDMENTS

### THE FOLLOWING AMENDMENTS ARE PROPOSED FOR ADOPTION AT THE APRIL 2023 FFGC CONVENTION:

#### ART III, IV and XI ESTABLISHING ONLINE (E) CLUB

##### ART III MEMBERS

###### Sec 1 Voting Membership

a. Eligibility, Admission **INSERT: (4) ONLINE (E) CLUB**

**(4) An Online (E) Club shall have a membership of not less than ten (10). Application for membership shall be submitted to the FFGC Board of Directors through the FFGC 3rd Vice President. The application shall be accompanied by per capita dues and an alphabetical list of names, District number, mailing address and email address of all members. A majority vote of the Executive Committee shall elect the club which shall immediately be entitled to all rights and subject to all responsibilities of membership. Ratification shall follow at the next Board of Directors meeting.**

##### ART IV DUES AND FEES

###### Sec 1 **INSERT: ONLINE (e) CLUB**

If adopted, this will read:

The annual dues of each Garden Club, **Online (E) Club** and each Garden Club organized.....

d. **INSERT: including Online (E) Clubs**

**If adopted, this will read:** Annual FFGC dues of member belonging to two or more Garden Clubs

including **Online (E) Clubs** and Garden Clubs organized.....

##### ART XI REPRESENTATION

###### Sec 1 b. Garden Clubs

**INSERT: including Online (E) Clubs**

**RATIONALE:** Formation of Online (E) Clubs are being considered within FFGC structure. An Online Club existed many years ago, but was never formally adopted as an FFGC Club. The Bylaws listed above will include this new club designation for FFGC.

\*\*\*\*\*

##### ART IV DUES AND FEES

Sec 1 e. **STRIKE: e and (1) in entirety.**

**e. Dues shall be payable to FFGC and shall be remitted to Headquarters by June 1. Dues of members enrolled after June 1 shall be payable immediately.**

**(1) Dues shall be delinquent if not received by June 30, and a notice shall be sent. If not received by November 1, membership and all privileges shall be forfeited unless and until reinstated.**

**INSERT:**

**e. Dues shall be payable to FFGC and shall be remitted to Headquarters by May 1. Dues of members enrolled after May 1 shall be payable immediately.**

**(1) Dues shall be delinquent if not received by May 1 and a notice shall be sent. If not received by June 1, a notice shall be sent. If not received by June**

**30, membership and all privileges shall be forfeited unless and until reinstatement. PROVISIO: Effective date – January 1, 2024.**

**RATIONALE:** Addresses the issues:

(1) Club members/Officers leaving for the summer without having paid dues for upcoming year.

(2) Timely submission of updated information for the Book of Information which is compiled over the summer for fall distribution including current contact information for Officers and members.

(3) NGC dues are payable June 1, and delinquent Oct 31. The current FFGC Bylaw for dues collection has a delinquent date of Nov 1 which is after the delinquent date for FFGC to pay NGC dues. Therefore, FFGC dues are delinquent and does not allow FFGC dues/membership numbers reported to NGC to be accurate.

**PROCEDURE:** The FFGC Membership Chairman would send Dues Notice out the middle of March. With Bylaw revision, the dues would be delinquent June 1 and a notice sent. Dues not received by June 30 would result in forfeit of membership privileges. Revision proposed allows for collection of FFGC dues prior to the summer hiatus that many clubs observe.

\*\*\*\*\*

##### ART V FINANCES

###### Sec 3 General Funds

(after sentence – The General Fund of FFGC shall be derived.....)

**FFGC BYLAWS: PROPOSED AMENDMENTS CONT'D**

**INSERT: A reserve shall be established within the General Fund to support the Penal Garden Therapy Program at the Avon Park Correctional Institution. The source of funding shall be specific donations and specific fundraisers therefore, and the use of the funds shall be exclusively for support of Avon Park Correctional Institution Penal Garden Therapy Program.**

**RATIONALE:** The Avon Park Correctional Institutional Penal Garden Therapy program was an established FFGC project. District IX coordinated this program. This is an FFGC project and should be included in the FFGC Bylaws including all funding detail.

\*\*\*\*\*

**ART XXI DISTRICTS**

Sec 1 Structure **STRIKE: a. INSERT: a. (1) Districts form an integral part of the overall FFGC organizational structure.**

If adopted, this will read:

- a. (1) Districts form and integral part of the overall FFGC organizational structure.
- (2) Districts shall be established with boundaries defined by the FFGC Board of Directors.
- d. Transfer of a member Club from one District to another may be granted by the Board of Directors, provided such transfer is approved by the Directors of the respective Districts.

**INSERT: FFGC STRIKE: is INSERT: was previously INSERT: and their District Board of Directors.**

If adopted, this will read  
d. Transfer of a member Club from one District to another may be granted by the FFGC Board of Directors, provided such transfer was previously approved by the FFGC Directors of the respective Districts and their District Board of Directors.

**INSERT: e. Bylaws for Districts are generally not required. Policies and Procedures are usually adequate. However, Articles of Incorporation, Bylaws, Policies and Procedures must conform to FFGC Bylaws. The Articles of Incorporation and/or District Bylaws must be reviewed by the FFGC Bylaws and Standing Rules Committee prior to District approval.**

**INSERT: Sec 4 Finances Districts are required to obtain individual TIN number in order to become unique organizations for IRS tax filing purposes. A 501 (c)(3) is not required in most instances.**

**RATIONALE:** FFGC is clarifying current Fl Sales Tax Laws that affect Districts.

\*\*\*\*\*

*Presented for consideration of adoption: 2021-2023 Bylaws and Standing Rules Committee – Cissy Richardson, Marjorie Hendon, Arlene Rand, Tina Tuttle, Rosita Aristoff, Margaret Chodosh, Judi Jodoin and Carolyn Nation, Parliamentarian.*



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# Florida Federation of Garden Clubs

UPCOMING TRAVEL



## Alaska Cruise Tour

July 9, 2023

*Vancouver to Fairbanks*

**This summer, experience Alaska up close on an Inside Passage cruise from Vancouver to Whittier aboard Holland America's Noordam. Extend your stay in Alaska with a land tour to Denali National Park. There you will have the opportunity to go on excursions to see the wildflowers of Alaska!**



## Coastal Cruise

April 13, 2024

*Charleston to Amelia Island*

**All aboard on a coastal cruise sailing out of Charleston, South Carolina! This trip will be in conjunction with the FFGC 100th-anniversary celebration convention!**



## Chelsea Flower Show in London

May 2024

*Dates and details to be announced.*

**Join us in May 2024 for the  
Chelsea Flower Show!**

**This century-old flower show is held on the grounds of the Royal Hospital. It is the place to see cutting-edge garden design and find ideas to take home!**

*We will offer an add-on to Paris.*



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Mission Statement:



“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.”

[www.FFGC.org](http://www.FFGC.org)

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