**January 2022 FFGC BOARD OF DIRECTOR’s MEETING**

**OFFICER AND DISTRICT DIRECTOR REPORTS**

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## PRESIDENT’S REPORT

President’s Report of FFGC

Marjorie H. Hendon

January 12, 2022

I am so proud of the Florida Federation of Garden Clubs. Your District Directors, Chairman, Club and Circle Presidents, and Members are rocking and rolling.

I would like to thank all of those School and Short Course Chairman who have hosted Zoom meetings. There have been so many GC members from other States that have taken advantage of this opportunity to begin or complete Gardening, Environmental, Design, and Landscaping schools. Some State don’t offer any schools at all.

Our April 12-14, 2022 convention will take place as scheduled. We will also host a State Flower Show. A problem we have found is the Club Presidents are returning Opportunity tickets and 50/50 tickets without offering them to their members. Please, let your members decide if they want to purchase tickets or not. This is one of the few ways the hosting Districts make any funds.

We are growing. We are up over 10,000 members, again. I am so proud of our Membership retention Chairman for her work with the Assistant District Directors. Many of our members are just taking a moment to give an invitation to a friend, relative, or neighbor.

I hope you are all reading your District Directors articles in the Florida Gardener Magazine. We are now only printing up 2,500 instead of 10,000. The trees thank you for reading it on line. Wow, Covid is not slowing our Districts down, it is just changing the way we interact.

Our Book of Information will be updated February 1, so be sure and get any changes to your phone, email and physical addresses sent to Linda Johnson and Sue Roberts. They are listed in your BOI.

Our Headquarters building was fined $1,500 for 6 noise referrals to the Winter Park Police Department. Our Caterer is working hard to appease the neighbors. Even they said the sound was not as bad as it has been.

We were so surprised by the sudden passing of two of our very active Board members, Ingrid Velez (Corresponding Secretary), and Florence Cline (University of Florida Short Course Chairman). It is still hard to believe they are no longer with us.

Our Chairman have so much to share with us. We have new Directors of Wekiva Youth Camp and SEEK, $48,000 was donated to the Scholarship Fund by Mayfair Hydro, and the $750,000 donated to Wekiva Youth Camp for a new office to replace the one that burned down by the Todd family.

Summary: Our membership is once again over 10,000. Our NGC schools are helping the US garden club members to get classes completed. We have many generous members. WOW, FFGC, Deep South, and National conventions are just around the corner.

Marjorie H. Hendon

FFGC President

## 1ST VICE PRESIDENT’S REPORT

First Vice President

Tina V. Tuttle

12 January 2022

The duties of first vice president, as outlined in the Bylaws, is so much more than what is written. Duties are varied and lead to many unexplored places. Since our last meeting together via Zoom, this VP has enjoyed a myriad of events and learned an awful lot about our organization and our members.

As you are aware, the 1VP serves as chairman of the Finance Committee. The Finance Committee report is separate, but we did meet by Zoom to discuss a full agenda of six budgets, three financial reports, and the profit and loss/ investments of our organization, among other things.

Another duty is to serve on the Bylaws Committee. Having the experience of both Wekiva Chairman and SEEK volunteer, this VP worked with former President Arlene Rand and President Marge Hendon to cobble together new Bylaw articles regarding SEEK and Wekiva and offer input to many issues affecting the future of this organization.

Serving on the Headquarters and Endowment committee has proven to be eye-opening and being a part of the Strategic Planning Committee focuses our efforts toward the present and future.

This VP was asked to become a part of the FFGC Legal Issues Team and participated in discussions and Zoom meetings regarding the City of Winter Park and our property.

President Hendon asked that this VP take the lead in tracking the progress of construction of the new Office/Clinic building at Wekiva. The donors transferred the balance of their generous donation to us and our treasurer has created a separate bank account to hold the over $660,000. To date, the construction contract has been awarded and permits are being pulled. The contractor has 210 days to complete the project.

It was wonderful to participate in many of the district meeting either in person or by Zoom. This VP missed not being able to go on tour but created a Powerpoint presentation ‘Virtual Tour’ to update all district members on the happenings within our organizations, emphasizing Matching Grants, Travel and Tours, conventions and such. That information is on the website for all to see and share. She also enjoys attending the monthly Membership meetings with Assistant District Directors and sitting in on the NGC Membership Monday Zoom meetings. Recruiting, retaining and revitalizing our membership should be the top priority for every member! It was great to be able to judge awards featuring our very best members!

This VP continues to reach out in other venues besides assigned duties. She is serving as a vice-chairman for the 2022 NGC Convention to be held in Orlando in May. She has secured all tour speakers and destinations, catering and spouse tours, ensuring multiple refresher credits can be offered. She also served as co-chairman for the fall Flower Show Judges Symposium, providing all food and horticulture for the event, which hosted over 90 attendees, and presented the two Allied Topics. She worked as Classification Team leader for the Pensacola Interstate Fair Flower Show too.

She continues to give programs and workshops within her home district of District I and beyond, and has begun plans for the 2024 and 2025 conventions in Jacksonville. Plans for the 100th anniversary of FFGC are still moving forward, with a commemorative 2024 Florida Flower Arrangement Calendar now in the works.

So many programs, projects and people—truly a World of Wonder!

Tina V. Tuttle

Summary: This 1VP is fulfilling the duties and obligations of the position to the best of her ability!

## 2nd VICE PRESIDENT’S REPORT

2nd Vice President

Christy Linke

January 12, 2022

This 2nd Vice President has been busy obtaining a new Director for Camp Wekiva with the help of the Transition team that was put into place. Alumni, Devon Villereal-Dabbs, Kelley Hartman, Mandy Newton, and Chas Barber have played a very important role in making this happen. With many hours meeting on ZOOM every other week since September we have chosen Shelby Mander who is an Alumni of Camp Wekiva herself. She is from Dade City and is excited to take on her new role. It took a team to make this happen and we know we made the right decision. We are all looking forward to camp 2022.

Attending meetings as part of the Finance Committee as well as Strategic Planning Committee.

This 2nd VP was also part of the award point scoring process for the awards that were done by the Executive Board. Always a wonderful experience.

Summary: Continuing my position of Wekiva Youth Camp Chairman and seeing that all goes well with the opening of camp 2022 is my first priority and of course all other duties of 2nd V.

## 3rd VICE PRESIDENT

FFGC 3rd Vice Presidents Jan. 2022 Report

Mary Ann Whisler/3rd VP

Jan. 12, 2022

This Vice President has been continuing to learn the responsibilities of FFGC 3rd VP. This is a great honor to serve FFGC. As a member of the H&E Committee and Secretary of the Finance Committee, this VP continues to learn and understand the complexities of the organization.

SEEK 2021 was a great success and now the new Chairman of SEEK 2022/Jennifer Seymore will move the program forward. It is with great pleasure to see a new person take over and bring new and creative ideas to the program.

As Co-Chairman of the FFGC Convention 2022, the team is meeting monthly. To date the Convention Team is on target and looking forward to a very exciting Convention 2022.

Ways and Means Reports are kept for H&E and Finance Committee Records and a yearly inventory was completed in October 2021. This report was provided by the HQ Secretary.

Wekiva: Participated as Chairman of Critter Camp with the assistance of the Mandy Howell/Critter Camp Coordinator in 2021 and looking forward to working with Mandy for the 2022 Critter Camp. Additionally, this VP has been working with the Wekiva Transition Team to secure a new Camp Director, and Assistant Camp Director. FFGC Wekiva now has a director and on-going interviews are taking place to secure a new Assistant Director.

Wekiva Volunteer Training registration started on January 1, 2022, and we have over 20 people registered. This is over our registration of last year. The camp has been contracted for the weekend of February 11 to 13, 2022. We will start on Friday, February 11th at 1 pm and 2 pm will celebrate the start of construction of the new office/clinic. We are excited to meet our new Director/Shelby Mander and welcome her to camp and all the volunteers. We plan to make this another fun year for Volunteers.

With COVID still an issue, it is disappointing that the Executive Board did not tour this fall, but I know everyone in FFGC is anxious to get together again soon. Hopefully everyone can come to Convention 2022 and have a great time.

Mary Ann Whisler/3rd VP (mary.whisler66@gmail.com)

## RECORDING SECRETARY

Recording Secretary

Sue Roberts

January 12, 2022

The Recording Secretary has taken minutes at the board meetings and publish those minutes on the website. She has also put the officer reports and board chairmen reports in a book that is published on the website on the Member Page under Reports and Minutes. The financial report as submitted by the treasurer is also put on the website.

Summary: My duties are taking the minutes at board meetings. As I am also the Website Editor I am able to publish these minutes and reports.

## CORRESPONDING SECRETARY

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DISTRICT 1

District I – January 2022 Report

JOYCE WATERS-SMITH

DISTRICT I DIRECTOR

District I had a busy fall and holiday season. Following the District I fall meeting hosted by the Azalea GC of Pace, it seemed that all the clubs were hosting wreath making workshops and holiday bazaars. The Green Thumb Garden Club of Miramar Beach hosted a “Where Every Day is a Celebration” November holiday Bazaar. The unique seasonal décor and other items sold out in record time. This allowed an increase in the amount of the 2022 Mercer Scholarship which is awarded to a deserving college student each year. Additional donations from the bazaar have been made to Camp Wekiva, 4H camp, Blue Star Marker and Junior Gardeners. In December festive holiday event allowed GTGC to increase and expand contributions to local organizations. The Club chose a hard-working, single mom with three children as our 2021 Habitat for Humanity family. Green Thumb was well represented at the Pensacola Interstate Fair Flower Show in October. Five members of GTGC won ribbons, including Anne Collins, Gail Pizar, Joyce Waters-Smith, Janine Pitts and Kathy Edge. GTGC has added new members in the past 3 months, bringing the club membership to 123. Visit their website at www.greenthumbgardenclubinc.org.

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 GC and Nancy Huhn of the Pineglades GC revived the fairgrounds flower show space with innovative staging and design.

Pat Cummins, the president of the Milton GC reports the total landscape renovation of the Milton GC building and grounds is progressing with a new concrete patio. They are currently organizing their golf tournament planned for the spring, and will be hosting an Arbor Day celebration this month.

The DeFuniak Springs GC is led by president Marvis Stafford who presented the January program demonstrating a variety of ways to use pressed flowers and leaves in crafts, such as, stationary, framed art, bookmarks, and gift tags. The DeFuniak Springs club will celebrate their 75th year with FFGC in April this year. The club has been busy with the installation of a new shade garden located by our historic library, the first in the state. They have planted ferns, cast iron plants, and Autumn White Clematis vines thus far. This year’s programs have been fun and interesting including “Show and Tell” the stories about passalong plants. They decorated straw hats with roses, ivy and their club learned about daylilies and how to divide the plants. They hosted a workshop on holiday wreaths.

The board of Destin Garden Club (our newest FFGC club) met with the District Board of Directors for an information sharing workshop and an introduction of the many programs that FFGC has to offer. Their January meeting featured Okaloosa County Master Gardener Lee Vanderpool instructing on propagation of plants in preparation of their April 23rd plant sale at the Destin Library. The Destin GC will visit the Emerald Coast Wildlife Refuge in February.

The Pensacola Federated Clubs will host a Fun With Flowers workshop on February 7, Gina Jogan will be the instructor.

The Valparaiso Garden Club is working hard on their Paradise Pollinator Garden located at the Valparaiso Heritage Museum. Work has begun on a new retaining wall and a memorial tree garden. The programs this year at Valparaiso GC are focused on the environment, a theme we’ve seen throughout our clubs. Their program year includes Seagrass Monitoring and Restoration and Gopher Tortoise Relocation Rescue program at Eglin AFB.

District I and the District I Judges Council are co-hosting a District wide Flower Show, entitled “Southern Charm,” at the St Sylvester’s Catholic Church in Navarre, on March 22 and 23. Linda Henderson is our Flower Show Chairman. We have a huge committee representing all of our garden clubs, and each committee person is a very talented and professional dynamo in their area of specialty! All our committee members are busy out contacting the garden clubs in our district to encourage their participation and support. It promises to be a huge show with active participation from all our clubs, including a large section for our Junior Gardeners. We hope everyone will organize a carpool and come see our beautiful show. We have a group of staging designers who promise some marvelous surprises! If you bring your garden club or judges council, we will have meeting rooms available for your group to meet, as well as a continuous hospitality tea room.

Hope to see you all at our March 22-23 Flower Show!

JOYCE WATERS-SMITH

DISTRICT I DIRECTOR

## DISTRICT 2

## DISTRICT 3

FFGC District III Report

District Director

Marilyn Larson

January 10, 2022

The seven Clubs in District III continue to persevere because of or in spite of the Covid pandemic. The intermittent ‘surges’ of the virus cause the clubs to be flexible in meeting locations, either inside or outside, observe social distancing and mask wearing when appropriate. This almost two year pandemic continues to challenge clubs – either requiring them to meet via “Zoom” if available, or Zoom and in person, or meet outside.

Looking back on 2021, both the Spring and Fall District III meetings were held in person and in spite of each host Club provision for practicing social distancing and mask wearing, it was not enforced. Health and safety are at the forefront but holding successful and engaging meetings has been invaluable. I think the challenge going forward will be how to handle the spring 2022 District meeting as the new Omicron virus variant results in ‘breakthrough’ infections to those who have received both vaccinations and the booster. Should ‘testing’ pre and post meeting be suggested? Limit attendance? If we are to live with continuation of the virus, flexibility is definitely needed. The Spring District meeting, hosted by Live Oak Garden Club on May 13, had 70 in attendance and the Fall District meeting, hosted by Tallahassee Garden Club had 82 in attendance.

Clubs have reported **monthly meetings** of workshops, field trips, a variety of educational gardening programs, continuing fund-raising activities in support of FFGC and NGC programs, beautification projects, and youth gardening activities in their fall 2021 and planned spring 2022 club activities.

**New Members**. Half of the clubs in the district have reported new members. Having the Assistant Director serve as the Membership Committee chair has been a key element in providing encouragement and support to the clubs in soliciting new members. The written manual is extremely helpful. Clubs reporting new members include Live Oak (9%) increase 5 new members), Tallahassee Garden Club (5%) or 25 new members and Madison Garden Club (7%) or 4 new members.

**The Blue Star Marker program.**  District III provides both Memorial Day and Veterans Day memorial wreaths at the National Cemetery in Tallahassee. And clubs in the District continue to place memorial wreaths at Blue Star Markers in their respective communities. Live Oak Garden Club will be adding a NEW Blue Star Memorial at Heritage Park & Gardens in Live Oak, Fl. Additionally, Tallahassee participated in Wreaths Across America, a national program, and raised funds to support installation of 316 individual wreaths placed on individual markers at the National Cemetery in December.

Perry GC, Steinhatchee GC, and Tallahassee GC continue **beautification projects** either through community projects or beautification of their Garden club grounds. Steinhatchee raises money through one of their monthly programs to send children to Camp Wekiva and SEEK.

Clubs with special school gardens began work in the fall on **Youth Gardening** programs that will continue through the school year. Tallahassee GC added a new elementary School to the number of schools the club supports through school gardens – whether vegetable or butterfly. One school garden features citrus trees.

And flower **shows**! Tallahassee Garden Club held a fall flower show, A Small Standard Flower Show “The American Old West” in October and a Petite Flower Show in December for their holiday Open House, held in the Club’s historic Rutgers House.

In Summary, progress is being achieved because District III Garden Clubs persevere!

## DISTRICT 4

Report

District IV Director

Connie A. Gladding

January 10, 2022

This Director set a goal of visiting each of the District IV clubs and Did It! It was a rewarding experience getting to know clubs’ leaders and members. Our clubs were very welcoming, and the Director learned a lot about clubs’ goals, projects, events, strengths as well as struggles. It was a pleasure getting to many of the District Clubs’ events and celebrations. The Director saw firsthand how clubs are enriching communities. The Clubs participate in a wide range of activities that ENRICH their community and their members. Examples are evident in this report of clubs *Encouraging* environmentally friendly actions, *Nurturing* Nature*, Recruiting*, recognizing and retaining club members, *Informing* and educating others, *Celebrating* achievements, and *Honoring* the sublime in flower arranging.

This fall District IV was honored to have FFGC President, Marge Hendon, attend our District Meeting. And District IV’s annual horticulture program, GardenFest, 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 District is excited to have the Bartram Garden Club host the District IV Spring Meeting May 2022 in Fernandina Beach and St. Augustine will host the District IV Fall Meeting October 2022.

Garden clubs 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.

The Garden Club of the Lakes had a blast in the Keystone Heights Christmas Parade. Garden Club members rode a festively decorated red Model T Ford with a large Garden Club Banner and the President followed on a John Deere gator. They handed out 500 packets of milkweed seed and seeds of other native plans and Florida friendly plants to parade watchers. What a wonderful way to increase the community knowledge on milkweed and native plants. Clay County Garden Clubs got in the holiday spirit as well by participating in the county’s Parade of Trees.

Bartram Garden Club and the Garden Club of Green Cove Springs continue to provide displays in the local county library. These displays, whether posters or floral/plant, are informative and make the public aware of the Garden Clubs. Both clubs have seen significant increases in membership. Middleburg also works with the local library by maintaining a butterfly garden on the library grounds.

The pandemic caused St Augustine to find alternative fund-raising opportunities since the Tour of Homes was canceled for both 20220 and 2021. This year the Club 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 tremendous with items selling out. The club is beginning to put plans in place as they host the District Fall meeting and the Tour of Homes in 2022.

The District Social Media Chair published the second issue of “District Runner”, the District IV newsletter. Many thanks to this District Chair for working tirelessly to keep the website, facebook site, and our newsletter information current and timely. For the best and most up-to-date events, see the news at the home page on the District website, www.district4ffgc.org. Our Facebook page, <https://www.facebook.com/district4ffgc/>, features postings from our clubs’ Facebook pages, FFGC. NGC. and Deep South. Clubs follow our Facebook Page to stay up to date on what we and our Federated Garden Clubs are up to.

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. Registration deadline is February 16. Next, Ribault Garden Club is offering NGC Flower Show School Course III January 25 to 28th. Lastly, Color Your Landscape, a horticultural program hosted by the Garden Club of Orange Park on March 18 is accepting registrations. The deadline for registering is March 14. 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.

Jacksonville has planning underway to celebrate their 100th birthday in 2022 and are working with a landscape architect to re-imagine the grounds. Jacksonville gained approval to refurbish and move the Marker from Roosevelt Blvd to the Florida Welcome Center. Coordination with Bartram Garden Club and the Welcome Center is underway. St. Augustine and Middleburg have Blue Star Marker activities planned for 2022 as well. Middleburg is also celebrating their 20th anniversary as a federated club in 2022.

Jacksonville also partnered with the Greater Jacksonville Agriculture Fair. Teaming with Duval County Master Gardeners, the Garden Club of Jacksonville supported the Horticulture Fair in November 2021. Clay County Garden Clubs have begun to plan their participation in the Clay County Fair 2022 and its 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 30th, an event the community looks forward to. Green Cove Springs will have their first Butterfly Derby on Kentucky Derby Day May 7th. In honor of the city’s 2nd 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.

Lastly, Hilliard Garden Club has not met for several years and requests resignation from FFGC. Although not meeting, there are attempts to resurrect the Switzerland Garden Club. At this time, the Club seeks additional time. Callahan Garden Club also mourns the loss of their Treasurer, and long-time club member Mrs. Better Flower Tanner.

## DISTRICT 5

District V Director

Donna Thomas

January 2022 – BOD meeting

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

Marion

Flower: Daylily, Wildflower: Phlox drummondi (Phox), Butterfly: Eastern Tiger

Swallow

Garden Club in District V: Brooksville, Citrus, Crystal River, Floral City, Four

Seasons, Gainesville, Homosassa River, Inverness, Lake City, Newberry,

Pioneer, Seedlings

**Brooksville Garden Club**

This year Brooksville is focusing on revitalizing the club with lunches provided by a different club group each month, a special raffle basket and floral arrangement at each meeting, field trips, stimulating programs and socializing. We continue to maintain our Memorial Garden and the Eastside Elementary School Garden.

Field trips include the Wild Horse Rescue Center, Cedar Lake Woods and gardens, and Grumbles’ House and garden center. Scheduled programs are planned on Tussie Mussies and meaning of flowers, what is a flower show and how do we present one, why grow herbs, garden pollinators for your Florida garden and all about caladiums.

November, the club participated in a craft show, making Christmas gifts with pinecones and plants. Brooksville will have a plant sale in April showcasing homegrowns which will help in supporting Wekiva with scholarship recipients.

**Citrus Garden Club**

The Citrus Garden Club is looking forward to a positive year of friendship, education, and fun. Our emphasis will be to stay well, maintain our gardens, and enjoy our planned programs.

In September we partnered with Youth and Family Alternatives, a private not-for profit agency and other Citrus County Clubs to provide school supplies and monetary donations to assist foster care children in Citrus County. Citrus continues to maintain the butterfly garden at Whispering Pines Park, Hospice Garden, and the Pine Hill Cemetery with flags for Veteran’s Day.

Citrus will be participating in two fundraisers this year, our annual Mah Jongg party January 19, 2022, and a yard sale Spring 2022 which support two students and donations to SEEK and Wekiva as well as our Youth Garden Club at Rock Crusher School.

We will be celebrating our 45th year as a FFGC club with a picnic at Whispering Pines Park in April.

**Floral City Garden Club**

Floral City GC, Garden Club of the Year, started the year off meeting in person as we have a large meeting space. Plans for the rest of the year include participating in joint community projects such as Alzheimer Walk in November, Heritage Days in December, Blessings bags for our elementary school and “Keep the Floral in Floral City” which is a garden area using permanent floral décor at the northeast corner of our red light.

Our fundraisers this year are Painted Metal Flowers at Heritage Days and our annual plant sale in the spring.

Our members decorate the town in red bows prior to Heritage Days every year. We maintain three gardens as well as roadside cleanup for three miles of county roads. We sent two students/two volunteers to SEEK, one student/four volunteers this past year and will be supporting Wekiva with students and volunteers this summer. We have five members who are chairs for the 2022 FFGC convention. Our membership is up from 39 to 44 in just two months.

**Four Seasons Garden Club**

Our Four Seasons Garden Club has been meeting at the Matheson Museum due to covid but will soon be returning to our 4 Seasons Garden Club Home.

We started our club year Sept. 14th with a presentation about “Mushrooms” by Dr. Matthew Smith, in person as well as on Zoom. The new Yearbook was distributed to members and has been proudly submitted for an award.

Our October program will be a visit to the Micanopy Museum to learn about that community's colorful history. A walk through an adjoining garden will be available. The Mosswood Farm Store and Bake House, which is nearby, has given us permission to tour their garden which uses the “principles of permaculture.” In November, the program will be “The Florida Springs,” given by Dr. Robert Knight, and in December Master Floral Designer Liz Shaw will demonstrate how to make gift Christmas cup bouquets for the Hospice patients. We have done this on a regular basis for many years to bring cheer to hospice patients while we learn

to improve our floral decorating skills.

**Gainesville Garden Club**

The Gainesville Garden Club kicked off their 97th year with a wine social and silent auction which we call Aged to Perfection. This event was open to the public and we gained a few new members as a result. Over $4,000 was earned and will be used to support our aging facilities and our community projects.

GGC was represented in the University of Florida Homecoming parade with a convertible driven by the president and accompanied by FFGC president Marge Hendon and former GGC president Fran Maris. Much waving and smiling was shared with the cheering crowd and hopefully increased awareness of our organization!

Over the summer, we landscaped our 14th Women Build Habitat for Humanity home. The Women Build homes are done by single women with children and the homes are primarily built by women. We plan to provide lunches on Saturdays for the next home being built starting in November.

Our first General Meeting of the year speaker was Edie Lyons who spoke to us about Edible Plants in your Landscapes and we also sold some of those plants. We were able to again provide Fun with Flowers in person starting with a Halloween themed arrangement in October. A membership open house was held on Oct 14th to attract new members and recognize those who have recently joined.

Gardens maintained by GGC on a year-round basis include the Ronald McDonald house entry garden, Blue Star and Gold Star marker gardens in Gainesville, our own certified butterfly garden, a VA Hospital Garden, and others maintained by our circles. We also plant and assist in the maintenance of two wildflower medians in Gainesville. GGC has adopted the roadside along the University of Florida and members pick up trash on a quarterly basis, starting again in October.

The next General Meeting will be the Holiday Workshop in December and will feature a Nature's Southern Living Garland and brunch. Members will be able to pick up Amaryllis bulbs ordered during our annual fundraiser and shop at Santa's workshop for seasonal items created by our members. Our six circles have resumed meetings, and all have their own fundraising and community service projects providing an enormous impact in the Gainesville area.

**Garden Club of Crystal River**

We are a 55-member club, having gained two new members. Worked with the city maintenance department and FDOT to host our rededication of our blue Sta marker in June as it needed to be moved due to road construction.

In keeping with the Nature Coast "Save OLE Water "week, our speaker for September was Devon Villareal-Dabbs on water quality and management in Citrus County. October a nursery person with plants for sale joined us and gave us tips on the care and fertilizing of our house and outdoor plants.

We had a yard sale November 12-13 to benefit our scholarship fund for a deserving Crystal River student.

Application for NGC grant has been submitted for work with Crystal River Women's Club to revitalize their plants and landscaping. 

The Garden Club will be sponsoring a flower show January 27-28, 2022, at the Coastal Region Library in Crystal River. Crystal River Garden Club will be hosting the spring District V meeting—May 11, 2022, at Crystal Oaks Clubhouse in Lecanto. Please mark your calendars.

One member who joined last year has successfully completed Environmental School Courses 1through 4 and volunteered at Wekiva this past summer. Our club won awards for Woodsy Owl poster contest grades 1 thru five last year and plan on sweeping it again this year!

**Homosassa River Garden Club**

Each Homosassa River Garden Club meeting includes educational programs on Horticulture, Floral Design, and Avian Life. Our speakers this year include Natural Treasures Farms, former Wekiva camp attendee and youth camp counselor, Florida Wildlife Foundation, SW Florida Water Management, and Eel Grass Restoration Project. The first field trip is in October to Jane Weber's Garden in Dunnellon, Florida.

Beautification projects are scheduled as follows: Homosassa Library in October, Stage cemetery in October, and an Adopt-a-highway in November.

Planned fund raisers include the sale of floral arranging supplies, wine totes and tote bags, and Seafood Raffle tickets.

The club allocated $700.00 for Wekiva and $350.00 for SEEK. After her passing, Ingrid Ricci's family requested that funds be donated to a scholarship fund. An academic scholarship of $1300.00 will be awarded in her name. Other scholarship amounts have yet to be determined. A Grant Writing committee has been formed to take advantage of the monies that are available.

**Inverness Garden Club**

In May, the Inverness Garden Club will celebrate 50 years as a member of FFGC.

During this time, our membership numbers have dwindled due to covid. To tackle problems, the club updated our bylaws and identified ways of attracting new members.

We continue to host a Hospice workshop to provide gifts of for those in hospice care. Our first workshop was in October. The Kokedama workshop was highly successful with ten participants going home with a beautiful, well-formed example of Kokedama. Barbara McGhee was our instructor providing live moss and bromeliads.

In November we had our fist fund raiser at the Inverness fairgrounds, selling household goods, tools, jewelry, and plants.

**Lake City Garden Club**

Currently, our club has seventy members. As of January, we will again be advertising our meetings and hosting a thirty-minute breakfast social prior to meetings. We have a speaker to provide an educational and informative program each month and a 50/50 drawing at the conclusion of each meeting.

In the past year, we received a recognition certificate for planting 320,000 trees for the Trees and Reforestation Arbor Day record. This past spring, our members planted butterfly gardens at the Lake City VA Domiciliary and around a memorial gazebo at Westside Elementary. Our club has been working on a Lake City Beautification Project with the city. The project scope includes the removal of 21 Drake Elm trees and replacing them with forty-two self-watering planters. This project has received the support of local businesses and our members would be responsible for the initial planting and semi-annual upkeep of the containers once completed.

Our club will again be hosting a Scrabble tournament in February to raise funds. We have plans for becoming involved in SEEK and Wekiva programs with scholarships, volunteers, and donations.

**Newberry Garden Club**

Our club consists of two circles with a total membership of fifty. In June of this year, our club awarded two Newberry High School seniors $1000.00 scholarships.

We are currently working on a beautification project at Oak View Middle School's front entrance. Our club hosted back to school brunches for Newberry Elementary School's and Newberry High School's faculty and staff.

A variety of educational programs and field trips will be held this fall. Our September meeting had a detective from Santa Fe Police Dept. to give a discussion for Safety Awareness for Seniors. We will also visit Sweet Roots Organic Gardens in December. In October Newberry Garden Club hosted the District V Fall District meeting.

Our club will have a "cut & stick" program in November. We will root all our plants for our annual plant sale in April.

Our club is teamed with Florida Peanut Association and Newberry City Hall in collecting jars of peanut butter to help feed the needy in our community.

Our club teamed with the First Baptist Church in collecting food for baskets to be given to needy families for their Thanksgiving meals. In December, a monetary gift is collected from both of our circles and given to Blessed Hope, a local food bank.

**Pioneer Garden Club**

Pioneer Garden Club has continued to thrive even during these challenging times. Circles stayed connected during the pandemic through in person meetings under safe conditions, through Zoom, phone contacts, emails, and drive by visits. Regular meetings are beginning to occur, and membership is growing.

Our Community Partnerships includes Silver Springs State Park seasonal decorations, October Trunk or Treat, Florida Springs Festival, and assistance with gardens. At Marion Country Headquarters Library we have quarterly horticultural displays. At Tuscawilla Art Park we are helping with added signage to the garden, daylily planting, native plants in garden in partnership with the Native Plant Society, and Florida Arbor Day Celebration. In addition, articles are appearing regularly in the Ocala Gazette.

Each circle plans a year of activities which include programs, field trips, guest speakers. Our fundraiser for several years has been the sale of poinsettia plants in early December is used to fund college and camp scholarships. The Garden Club has established the Pioneer Garden Club Marge Hendon Scholarship Trust with the College of Central Florida. The first scholarship is to be awarded this fall.

Our club has several members who are chairs for the 2022 FFGC convention. The Pioneer Garden Club will be hosting the Fall October 2022 District meeting as well as a Horticulture specialty show in conjunction with the meeting.

**Riverhaven Garden Club**

Just two years ago, many of you joined us in Homosassa when we hosted the District V Fall luncheon. As we all know, however, so much has changed in that brief time!

Now, I regret to inform you that the Board for the Riverhaven Garden Club has recommended that the Club dissolve. The final vote was taken in November when most of our snowbird members returned.

Several factors led to this change for our club. We are limited, by our charter, to membership from within our Riverhaven Community, an aging demographic, fewer members who wanted to step forward for leadership positions and demands from our Community Club for insurance coverage that was expensive. A substantial portion of our remaining membership has or will be joining the Homosassa River Garden Club and we have pledged a significant portion of our funds to their Club so that our mission to landscape all homes for Habitat of Citrus County will continue. We have completed the landscaping of our 185th Habitat home under the leadership of Karla Kiesler. She is also a member of the Homosassa River Club, and we are so happy that both Karla and the Club have so generously agreed to help us continue that service to our community.

We also partnered this summer with the Citrus Garden Cub to collect school supplies, backpacks, and monetary donations for foster children and their families through the Youth and Family Alternatives Agency for Citrus County. Our joint efforts have led to the donations of more than six hundred dollars and six plastic storage bins filled with supplies, clothes, and backpacks for these foster families.

Although we are saddened that our Club will be dissolving just months shy of its

anniversary, we look forward to our members joining a vibrant dub that shares our community goals and whose club is open to all. We will remain in the FFGC, and we will continue to do good for one another and for the community we share.

Notice of Resignation – Brick City

This District Director was contacted by FFGC regarding non-payment of membership dues for the current year, to wit June 1, 2021, through May 31, 2022, for the Brick City Garden Club.

Contact has been made three times to encourage the club to remain a member. Attrition due to membership aging and covid restrictions has caused a significant drop in their members. Consequently, the club members have voted unanimously to withdraw from the Florida Federation of Garden Clubs.

This was the final verbal decision received by this director from the president of the Brick City Garden Club, Pam Burrell, on September 30, 2021.

Donna Thomas, District Director

***District V of the Florida Federation of Garden Clubs***

[Pick the date]

Dear Donna,

I would like to inform you and the officers of District V of the ***Florida Federation of Garden Clubs*** that the membership of the ***Riverhaven Garden Club*** has voted to dissolve our Club and terminate its membership in the FFGC. Since the FFGC membership for all of our members has been paid for this year, some of our members may choose to become a member of another local FFGC Garden Club.

We understand that this action, although voted on by our members, needs to be presented and approved by the District V Board. Thank you for doing this on our behalf. We are disappointed to be leaving just months before our fortieth anniversary of membership, but we leave treasuring the friendships we have made, and the good we have done for our community.

With appreciation,

**George**

**Hewlett-Packard Company**

## DISTRICT 6

District Director

Suzi Bailey

January 11, 2022

A new Covid variant has affected most of the clubs in District VI. Meeting in person has been limited, so clubs are finding creative ways to meet. Clubs are meeting outside, eliminating lunches, or offering box lunches for takeout. Zoom meetings are still an option for most clubs.

Offering small interest groups, and field trips, are a popular option. Clubs have circles, guilds, are still meeting in some clubs. Blue Star Markers were established, and some were repaired and landscaped.

Fund raisers, flower shows, educational schools are still being held. Community gardening, Habitat for Humanity, butterfly certifications, are continuing. Creating floral designs for hospitals, nursing homes, schools are still happening on a limited basis. Participation in environmental clean-ups, recycling efforts are ways that clubs are working to help our planet.

For the foreseeable future, we are learning that we have to adjust and realign our expectations of how our garden clubs have operated in the past. It is not always easy to accept these changes but club members are finding new and creative ways to grow our membership.

District VI membership is growing by leaps and bounds! As of December, Cherry Laurel GC reported 2 new members, Cocoa-Rockledge GC, 3; DeLeon Springs GC, 7; Garden Club Byt-The-Sea, 1; Garden Club at Palm Coast, 61 (recently paid members included in this number); Indian Harbour Beach GC, 3; Melbourne GC, 8; New Smyrna Beach GC, 23; Ormond Beach GC, 4; South Peninsula GC, 2; Titusville GC, 16. This is 156 new members!

Garden Clubs have so much to offer…Growing and learning together, developing wonderful friendships so let’s Plant the Seed and watch it grow.

## DISTRICT 7

**DISTRICT VII REPORT JANUARY 2022**

Charlotte White District VII Director

DISTRICT VII FALL FLORAL DESIGN STUDY UNIT A HUGE SUCCESS AT THE ORLANDO GARDEN CLUB IN OCTOBER HUGE SUCCESSS

A picture containing indoor, plant, flower, decorated

Description automatically generatedA plant with yellow flowers

Description automatically generated with medium confidence A picture containing flower, plant

Description automatically generated A picture containing flower, indoor, pink, plant

Description automatically generatedA picture containing text, indoor, plant, decorated

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**Lakes and Hills GC**

A picture containing flower, red, plant, decorated

Description automatically generatedWe 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 their poinsettia sale. These beautiful plants made festive centerpieces for our luncheon.

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. In addition we will have work days in the city parks that we maintain. We have attracted new members at every meeting and hope to continue this trend throughout 2022.

**Camellia GC**

A picture containing indoor, person

Description automatically generatedCamellia members enjoyed a Christmas coffee along with our silent auction to support Wekiva Youth Camp campers.

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 many examples of his illustrations and writings about the Florida flora and fauna he found along his way.

We also will have a strawberry picking outing and we are planning an exciting new project to install a Blue Star marker in Eustis during 2022.

**BLOOM & GROW GREAT HAPPENINGS**

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 A picture containing text

Description automatically generatedGarden 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. $2000 in prizes will be awarded in numerous categories. And, you can vote for your favorites.

where you can ask questions and get up close and personal with raptors and birds.

 Be sure to check out our 20th anniversary tee shirt which pays special homage to our Monarch butterfly project available for sale at our Bloom & Grow booth.

It’s all set in charming, historic downtown Winter Garden, with its brick lined streets, quaint shops, great restaurants, a splash pad for the kids, Flora, our copper monarch sculpture, lush landscaping, and a lovely vine covered gazebo. Come out and plan to spend the day! For more information, go to:  <https://www.springfeverinthegarden.org/>

**A picture containing text, person, indoor, wall

Description automatically generatedThe Foliage Garden Club of Apopka** 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 above is Sandy Bove, FGCA, at Lovell Elementary School, with School Nurse, Jenna Brown, who is receiving one of the donations on December 3rd. The nurses and administration were please to receive these decorative bags and contents for the Christmas Holidays.

2021-2022 In person Celebration

A group of people posing for a photo

Description automatically generated with medium confidence

**Sweetwater Oaks GC** - JUMPIN-GEE-HOSSA-FAT! Our Clubs first field tip 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.

January 17 we will be hosting our Game Day fundraiser at Wekiva Presbyterian Church .Raffles,Silent Auctions,and surprises are planned.The food is great and the company better..

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,

A group of women posing for a photo

Description automatically generated with medium confidenceA group of people standing in a room

Description automatically generated with medium confidenceText, letter

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**BIG EVENT WILL BE THE UPCOMING** The District VII Flower show, Mask’s Up will be held at the Orlando Garden Club, September 30 - October 1, 2022. 

## DISTRICT 8

District 8

Kitty Wallace

January 12, 2022

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 is it 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. The deadline for the DVIII Matching grant is January 15th.

## DISTRICT 9

District IX Director

Dale W. DeFeo

January 12, 2022

District IX members finished out 2021 with a flurry of activities. Most held holiday luncheons, home and garden tour fundraisers and other celebrations. Lake Placid GC and Punta Gorda GC held a home/garden tours. The Gulf Coast Garden Club raised funds by raffling off delightful gift baskets at their luncheon. Calusa Garden Club of Marco Island also had a very successful fundraiser raffle of donated items from the community at their “Black and White” evening event with spouses and significant others invited. Clubs in the Fort Myers Lee County Gardening Council (FMLCGC) participated in a holiday social with cookie swap, plant exchange and crafting a holiday tree from pages of old books.

We are excited that the first quarter of 2022 involves lots of activities, too. We are especially proud of the new NGC Environmental Studies School Series that has started. Course I will be held on February 24-25 at the Fort Myers Lee County Gardening Council building.

Flower shows are back! Naples will again hold their flower show extravaganza March 17-20 at the Naples Botanical Gardens. The show is entitled, “Visions: Past, Present, Future”. District IX Judges Council will hold a Horticulture Specialty Standard Flower Show which was originally scheduled for February but was postponed to March 10. A Small Standard Flower Show entitled, “New Beginnings,” was held January 8, by the Garden Club of Cape Coral. A strolling flower show, “Art Walk” will be held February 4, and “Art in Bloom” will be held at the Edison and Ford Winter Estates on March 6. Royal Palm’s “The Colors of Spring” show will be on March 24-25.

The Garden Club of Lakeland, which is comprised of seven individual Circles is holding 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 is hosting 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 will be presented to the club.

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 in 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 10

District Director Report

District X

Michelle Maguire

Jan. 12, 13, 2022

District X has been very busy with attracting new members with some wide ranging activities. Garden Clubs from Fort Fierce and Boca Raton held plant sales, bake sales and yard sales in October.

Boynton Beach garden Club is having a Potluck Luncheon with an auction, Baskets and 50/50 on January 11, 2022. I will be joining them. Many other clubs have activities in February. The first one is Gardenfest sponsored by The Garden Club of Indian River County on February 5th and 6th from 9am to 5 pm at Riverside Park in Vero beach. I have been many times and have seen our own president, Marj Hendon there. Saint Lucie West Garden Club is holding their “Central Park in Bloom” fashion show on February 15th at the Trails Country Club. Oleander Garden Club is having a “Sounds of Spring” fundraiser with a concert at Holy Trinity Episcopal Church in West Palm Beach on February 21. Finally, The Garden Club of Stuart is having their Secret Gardens Tour on March 26 10am to 5pm.Tickets can be obtained by going to their website [www.gardenclubof](http://www.gardenclubof) stuart.org and for more information.

We had a successful District X Meeting on October 19, 2021 sponsored by the Saint Lucie West Garden Club with 85 members attending. The next District X meeting will be on April 26, 2022 at the Little Club sponsored by the Garden Club of Ocean Ridge. “The Ocean is our Garden” is the theme.

District X will be once again be holding its fundraiser, Tropical Short Course on January 19 and 20 at the Green Acres Community Center. I will be giving my report as chairman at my time on the agenda.

Respectfully submitted,

Michelle Maguire, District X director

## DISTRICT 11

District XI

Sharon Bogard

January 12, 2022

The District XI clubs had returned from a summer hiatus with good cheer and the vim and vigor and took on fundraising, flower design schools, plant sales, learning and teaching; all the good things that make garden clubs work. But during the holidays, Broward County Garden Clubs took time to celebrate with festivities centered around friendship.

**Coral Springs Garden Club** ended the year with a fabulous holiday party at Coopers Hawk. Toys were collected and donated to Broward Health Coral Springs. Notwithstanding the break for celebrations, members weeded Veterans Park and volunteered at Sawgrass Nature Center. Some participated in the Neighborhood and Environment Committees and at the Back-To-Nature Program, both city projects.

**Fort Lauderdale Garden Club** hosted its annual holiday luncheon with attendance of nearly 50 members and friends. Even FLGC’s youth groups celebrated with field trips before getting their hands dirty – growing plants for the Youth Flower Show. Parkinsonia Garden Circle also rang in the season by collecting toys for the Nan Knox Boys and Girls Club. Cordia Garden Circle hosted its annual potluck celebration and Moringa Garden Circle’s President welcomed her members at her new home where carols were sung with great joy while watching the spectacular Fort Lauderdale Boat Parade.

The **Hollywood Garden Club** has not met in person in over a year, yet their friendships are stronger. Email has kept this club close as they remembered members’ birthdays, shared photos of showstoppers in their gardens, checked on each other’s well-being, held Zoom meetings, and produced an awesome monthly newsletter. Small groups continue to dine out and take field trips together. President Susan Berry noted that her plants received plants for Christmas!

The **Garden Club of Lighthouse Point** held its holiday festivities at a local restaurant with a Santa Hat raffle and a sale of home-made baked goodies. The proceeds from the sale of the table Poinsettias went to the Penny Pines project. Members arrived in their holiday finest and ended the celebration in song.

**Pompano Beach Garden Club** celebrated the season at its regular December meeting where several members brought floral decorations and dishes to share. Members generously donated gifts to the Broward Children's center, a facility for the severely handicapped, that has benefitted from this Garden Club’s commitment over the past several years.

The generosity and kindred spirit of the Broward County clubs demonstrate the true spirit of the season. The District XI Director and its Board wishes all members and friends peace, good health, and happy gardening.

## DISTRICT 12

District 12 report

Leticia Gunn

January 12,2022

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, 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.

This concludes my report of District XII.