

REPORT

EPCOT INTERNATIONAL FLOWER FESTIVAL
MARGARET KIRKPATRICK & SUE CANGIALOSI

JANUARY, 9-10, 2019

Every year for 22 years, during Mother's Day Weekend, FFGC partners with Walt Disney World and participates in the EPCOT International Flower and Garden Festival. For 21 years our "Calendar Girls" have proudly exhibited and shared their creative talents with the visitors from around the world to Epcot. In 2018, due to the changes being done to the Festival Center where we hold our Flower Show, we had to change our presence to a new location in one of the merchandizing centers. The "Calendar Girls" were invited to demonstrate floral designs, talk about garden club and give the designs to the public. Designers were scheduled to be "on stage" for 4 hour increments over Friday, Saturday and Sunday. Jill Anderson, Carol Lucia, Barb Jacobson, KC Jeronimo, Gina Jogan, Tina Tuttle, Jan Silik, Sue Cangliaosi, and Margaret Kirkpatrick, created and gave out over 300 designs. The public were delighted with the designs. This was a huge success with everyone! Thank you to all the designers that participated.

During 2019 through 2021 Disney World is reimagining Epcot in preparation for their 50th Anniversary Celebration with exciting new areas, now under construction. As a result of this construction the options for space is incredibly limited. The opportunity for FFGC and other plant societies to have a presence in 2019 is not a possibility. As the construction is completed Disney hopes to have the opportunity for FFGC to participate again. We will not know until January of 2020 if there will be a space for us to participate next year. I know this is very disappointing to us all. Be assured that Disney values the relationship it has with FFGC and the other plant societies and wants to be able to continue this relationship. Thank you to all of the garden club members, over the years, that have helped develop this strong bond with Disney.

On a very sad note, you are all aware that our Disney ambassador, Joyce Droege, whose wonderful leadership and visions have created this strong relationship with Disney, passed away after many years of illness, in December. Eric Darden, Director of Disney Horticulture and Rene Worrell, attended Joyce's Memorial Service and shared her loss with us. Thank you Joyce for all that you did for FFGC.

Respectively Submitted,
Margaret Kirkpatrick