**APRIL 2021 CONVENTION BOARD OF DIRECTOR’s MEETING**

**OFFICER AND DISTRICT DIRECTOR REPORTS**

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## PRESIDENT’S REPORT

## 1ST VICE PRESIDENT’S REPORT

1st VP Report

Marjorie H. Hendon

April 12, 2021

WOW, hasn’t this been a year for the books? This VP continued to attend meetings, take classes, and meet new District Directors all on Zoom. She attended Blue and Gold Star Marker dedications. She also opened her farmyard to meetings. Finally, much of her time was spent on filling her Board for her 2021-2023 administration.

Zoom was the way to meet during the COVID lockdown. Gardening classes were attended very comfortably online. A $700,000 donation to Wekiva Youth Camp, was discussed with the Todd family doners as to their wishes for the funds. It was decided a new office would be built to replace the one, at Wekiva Springs State Park, that burnt down. The new District Directors received their manuals to review. All completed on Zoom.

Along with Zoom meetings, this VP attending in person meetings. A Gold Star Memorial marker was dedicated at Cecil Field, outside of Jacksonville, with this VP speaking. She then traveled to the southern part of Florida to Bradenton for a Blue Star dedication. A dedication ceremony was held at Wekiva Youth Camp for Ed Schagg. This was headed up by Tina Tuttle and Christy Linke. The ‘Al Latina’ hibiscus was acquired from Matthew Martindale by this VP.

In order to have socially acceptable meetings with garden clubs, design groups, and FFSJ, my farmyard was offered as a meeting location. With cats on laps, roosters and chickens seeing what each attendee brought for a lunch, and always being at each meeting on time, it actually worked out.

Our headquarters in Winter Park continues to be the jewel that the City of Winter Park wants to take possession of. A committee was formed to acquire lawyers to take WP to court to keep our rights and our building. These meetings were held on Zoom and in person.

This is one book that this VP does not want to read again.

Marjorie H. Hendon

1st VP FFGC

Summary: Zoom was used, all over the state, for meetings, classes, and introductions. In person meetings, Gold and Blue Star Memorials, had to be socially distanced due to COVID. Some matters were taken care of by Zoom and in person meetings. It was an honor to serve Al Latina as 1st VP and acquire his ‘Al Latina’ hibiscus.

## 2nd VICE PRESIDENT’S REPORT

FFGC Second Vice President Annual Report

Tina V. Tuttle

12 April 2021, Daytona, FL

This past year and the Corona virus have made me think like Dorothy in *The Wizard of Oz*…there’s no place like home! Due to the Corona virus, I have been able to attend a tri-refresher in Michigan, a Gardening Study course in Deland, give 2 programs for the Pacific Coast Region and another program to the Southern California Garden Club, have held meetings with NGC officials regarding the 2022 convention or flower show schools instruction plus been able to attend over 30 different Zoom meetings with various committee members, boards, districts, and other officials…all in my sweatpants!! And, my yard has never looked so good. This virus gave me *TIME*; time to think and set goals, time to innovate and plan, time to catch up and finish projects, time to relax, and time to prepare. For me, the past year was, as Martha Stewart says, ‘a very good thing’!

Let’s start with the major 2VP chairmanship, **Wekiva Youth Camp**. By now you know that camp didn’t happen last year in the traditional sense, but rather virtually. A full 6-week curriculum of activities you could do at home was devised by our Nature Coordinator, Kathy “Birdie” Rigling at virtually no cost and made available to anyone, anywhere on the wekivayouthcamp.org website. Over 1,000 people checked out the activities offered each week from as far away as Vietnam and Germany. Thanks to the innovative Olivia Morand and numerous counselors, we were able to record all the camp songs, blessings, the Conservation Pledge and nature, history, and environmental minutes. A NGC awards submission was made highlighting this innovative action. The 9th grade LIT program was held online under the spectacular direction of Devon Villereal-Dabb. New *Wekiva Song Books* were printed thanks to Ben Morand retyping the book!

Garden clubs have continued to generously donate to Wekiva Youth Camp. I hope you are aware that there are three ways to donate: To camper scholarships, to the general fund or to our Building and Maintenance Fund to help heal our ailing 47-year-old buildings. In preparation for the upcoming summer, we purchased many COVID virus-related items thanks to a $1000 donation from Winter Park Garden Club and we reviewed for change some practices. Upgrades will be made to the technology thanks to Lemon Bay Garden Clubs’ donation in honor of one of their members, and a new 20”x 64” shower door installed in Euchee. Volunteer recognition dog tags were procured, native plant identification tags have been made, and a new power point about camp was developed and debuted at the combined circles meeting of the Garden Clubs of Jacksonville in March. Join us for our Wekiva Workshop today to see the presentation and ask any question you may have about camp.

A generous donation of $700,000 was given to camp by the Todd family in Longwood and we now have secure funding to rebuild the Office/Clinic that burned in April of 2019. Look for construction to begin later this year and a grand opening next spring. In February, we were able to hold a dedication of Tequesta volunteer cabin in memory of Ed Schaag during a fun Wekiva Volunteer Training weekend.

In preparation for our **100th anniversary**, plans are firmly in place for the 2024 and 2025 conventions in Jacksonville, for funding of special projects and events, the 2024 state flower show schedule and staging, an anniversary edition of our *Florida Arrangement calendar*, commemorative pins, tours and so much more! Please, won’t you consider making a donation from your district or club or you personally to help us celebrate this momentous occasion! Some plans will have to go by the wayside if we haven’t raised sufficient funds. Currently, 41 clubs/individuals/districts/judges’ councils have donated nearly $23,000! And, don’t forget that 2024 will be the 50th anniversary of Camp Wekiva too! Party plans and limited-edition items are being arranged for that too!

As a **member of the Strategic Planning Committee,** seeing the Matching Grants program come to life and be offered to 12 club projects was quite fulfilling and providing direction for Roma Castings to create new Past President and Blanche Covington pins allowed a glimpse into the future. A close working relationship with our Membership Committee aided in securing diversity in our growing ranks. The published history articles for *The Florida Gardener* reminded us that our past was rich and continues to inform our present and future.

Two years as your second VP have flown by! There was a lot to learn and much was accomplished with the skillful help of others. My sincere thanks to all who have helped me on this journey. I look forward to an exhilarating term as your first VP should I be elected.

Tina V. Tuttle

Summary: As chairman of the Wekiva Youth Camp, was able to offer virtual educational activities when camp was canceled due to COVID. Camp improvements were made to provide additional sanitation and virus precautions. Physical improvements were also made. A donation will allow for fully funding the reconstruction of the Office/Clinic building.

The 100th anniversary plans are in full swing as are the plans for the 2024 state flower show and 2024 and 2025 conventions in Jacksonville.

January 2 submitted Building Program to architects at Make Design Studios

Jan exchanged many emails with architects and camp manager and Todd family to decern contracting issues with National Philanthropic Trust (NPT) and their Donor Advised Fund (DAF) and FFGC.

Jan Ordered COVID related items for WVT and camp (2 hand wash stations, 2 sanitizer stations, 2 temporal scanners—sanitizer stations had to be returned at request of Christy)

Jan Began ordering process for past president’s pins (sending mould to Roma Castings), Blanche Covington pins from Roma and #6 horticultural achievement pins from Levy in Tampa. Began ordering process for 100th anniversary ornaments, pins from C. Sanders Emblems and stickers from A+ signs.

Jan 11 ‘attended’ Finance Committee Zoom meeting—gave Wekiva B&M request for new refrigerator

Jan 12 phone conversation with FFGC lawyer Justin Munizzi of Longwood on contract issues to build at camp.

Jan 13-14 Attended FFGC Zoom BOD meeting. Gave Wekiva report orally, filed 100th and 2VP reports.

Jan 15 Submitted article on 6th decade of FFGC history to editor of TFG

Jan 15-18 prepared craft items (Balloon birds) for WVT. Prepared ‘How To’ directions for same.

Jan 20 gave Zoom presentation on Basic Botany to Pacific Coast Region! Over 100 in attendance including NGC 1VP!

Jan 26-27 attended Zoom Gardening Study Course 4 from DeLand for refresher credit.

28 Jan Zoom call with Mary Warshauer, incoming NGC president, about 2022 NGC convention in Orlando. Typed up notes from that meeting.

Jan 29 Rewrote minutes for December Wekiva Committee meeting and forwarded to secretary. Spoke with architects for Todd building regarding paved parking.

Jan 30 Reviewed and ranked FFGC Matching Grants applications

Feb 5 meeting at Wekiva Youth Camp with Todd family, architect presentation. Found out about getting 3 bids per IRS and reducing building expense to $500K plus $200K for camperships…Told them we didn’t need that much in camperships.

Feb 5-7 Attended WVT in Apopka…conducted craft session making ugly birds, gourd birds, provided s’mores skewers.

Feb 6 chaired the dedication of Tequesta cabin in memory of Ed Schaag…set up and reception.

Feb 7 Phone conversation with Cindy and Peter Zimmermann regarding who is in charge and has final say. They will get 2 more bids for project. Communication is key! Typed memorandum for the Record of phonecon.

Feb 8 Typed letter to Roma Castings requesting 3 Blanche Covington pins and 3 past president’s pins and mailed mould for past prez pin to them in Miami. Fielded questions from Wekiva committee regarding Todd Building.

Feb 9 Attended part of Marge’s District Director meeting—spoke about 100th and WYC. More questions from committee for Todd Building.

Feb 11 attended Tri-council special called meeting to vote on proposed change to Rules and Policies. All passed.

Feb 15 Worked on Wekiva Powerpoint and Volunteer Recognition. Zoom with Todd building ad hoc committee and Zimmermanns

Feb 16-18 Flower Show School, Course 4: In charge of all foods, horticulture, and set up/take down

Feb 21-22 Tried to get survey and round table for diversity going with membership chairmen.

Feb 24 Gave Zoom presentation on “Seven Plants that Changed the World” for NGC Pacific Coast Region with 200 in attendance!

Feb 26 Gave program on “Plant Oddities” to Dogwood garden club

Feb 28 Gave program on ‘Pansies and Violas’ to Honeysuckle Garden club and led the craft.

March 8-9 Traveled to Jacksonville to give Powerpoint program on ‘Wekiva’ to the combined garden clubs of Jacksonville. While there asked Jax President, Bobi McGinnis, about holding state flower show with reception and what staging is available. Went to Cummer Museum next door to discuss tour and catering possibilities. Went to Southside hotel to see if any changes had been made to Lexington hotel logo…only minor changes made so far.

March 9-11 Worked on Wekiva items: Euchee shower door, picked up various mail and checks, another refrigerator for third volunteer cabin. Met with Robert Brooks and Larry Fooks, district mgr., regarding office/clinic and Zimmermanns…

March 13 Received and forwarded to Marge, a letter prepared by Larry Fooks, outlining process to rebuild office/clinic with Todd donated money.

March 16 gave a Zoom program for the southern CA Garden Club on “Basic Botany”. Donated the honorarium to the 100th fund.

19 March watched 2 webinars: ‘Board of Directors capacity’ and ‘8 annoying board members’

23 March drafted letter to Eric Draper regarding WYC office being paid for by Todds. Sent it to Robert and Marge for chop…mailed 24 March.

30 March Attended Strategic Planning Zoom meeting in the morning and the first Diversity Zoom in the afternoon.

1 April Assisted District I Judges Council in developing the schedule for 2024 state flower show.

2 April Began putting together the 2021 Virtual Officer’s Tour power point!

## 3rd VICE PRESIDENT

## RECORDING SECRETARY

## CORRESPONDING SECRETARY

DISTRICT 1

## DISTRICT 2

## DISTRICT 3

## DISTRICT 4

FFGC DISTRICT IV 2019-2021

QUARTERLY REPORT APRIL 2021

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

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

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

In January, Bartram Garden Club has been celebrating the life and legacy of their namesake, William Bartram, America’s first great naturalist. We placed the video of the presentation on our website to enable individuals and organizations to learn about the Conference and the importance of continuing Bertram’s legacy through visiting the trail. In February, zoologist Dr. Pat Foster spoke to us about managing wildlife in the garden. A challenge often bringing gardeners to tears! The Bartram Garden Club has planned very exciting and enticing programs and shows to come. Bartram interacts with public venues to assist and guide them in their gardening efforts and educate them in gardening. All they while the club is continually reaching out to the public to join them and learn. They continue to comply with COVID safety guidelines. Bartram club was well represented at the dedication of the Gold Star at Cecil Field in Jacksonville.

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

## DISTRICT 5

## DISTRICT 6

District VI Director

Judi Jodoin

April 1, 2021

This District VI Director for the past year had not imagined nor was prepared on how she would conduct her required responsibilities or be of any productive support to the Garden Clubs in Palm Coast, Volusia, or Brevard Counties which makeup District VI. Enter “ZOOM”.

This past tumultuous year was a huge learning experience that had not been written in any of our manuals of procedures. The world Pandemic changed and affected all our lives in conducting “business as usual”. No social contact, lock downs, social distancing 6’ apart, wearing of masks etc.

Under the leadership of FFGC President Al Latina and all 12 District Directors we ventured into a new technology: “ZOOM”. We learned how to operate and conduct Zoom Meetings as a new tool reaching our garden clubs members and conducting orientation and practice. Using Zoom was timely, interesting and necessary. District VI Spring and Fall meetings, FFGC BOD Meetings, Garden club Meetings, Installations of new officers, workshops, seminars, programs, horticulture and floral design classes were now conducted and executed. We were forced to adapt and be creative while our membership increased, meetings and business were conducted and awards and grants were applied for via Zoom technology. This District VI Director is looking forward to the FFGC Convention in Daytona Beach which District VI is proud to host.

This District VI Director thanks FFGC President Al Latina and all the District VI Garden Club Presidents, Convention Chairman, FFGC Chairman, the Zoom technology support team and all District VI members for their support and achievements.

We welcome our new District VI Director, SUZI BAILEY, who will be installed at the FFGC Convention. Please give Suzi the welcome and support that you graciously gave me. It has been my deep pleasure, and experience to serve each Garden Club in District VI.

Summary: Reflecting back and moving forward on District VI strengths and growth.

## DISTRICT 7

District VII Director

Gwen Carter

April 12, 2021

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

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

As restrictions lifted and more members received their Covid 19 shots, members begin to venture out of their homes. District VII clubs continued celebrating Florida Arbor Day the 3rd Friday in January. Over 700 Florida native trees were given away free to residents in Clermont. Camellia bushes were donated to the City of Tavares for planting in the cemetery. Two Florida Maple trees were gifted and planted at Eustis Public Library, in honor of a founding member of Camellia GC. Each year, an acre of land is reforested to improve the environment.

For National Arbor Day, April 22, 2021, a live oak tree will be dedicated at Mount Dora Park. “1000 trees for 1000” years planted at Tucker Ranch in Winter Garden in 2020 will be maintained by members. The club will also plant an additional ceremonial Bald Cypress to honor a past President of the club.

Club doors and member’s homes are opening, still following Covid 19 Guidelines, of course, members are getting together. Our District club, Lake County Council of Garden Clubs recently saw their donation to Trout Lake Nature Center come to fruition. Their donation was used to create beautiful standing racks to display shadow boxes of butterflies at the center.

Still wearing masks, District VII is outside fundraising with community plant sales, Spring Garden Festivals, and Spring Fever in the Garden. The Monarch Project, a project protecting and advocating for the Monarch Butterfly, is championed by a District VII club. Local nurseries agreed to put together a set of 10 plants that help the Monarchs on their journey south. 50 sets will be sold to promote Monarch Way Stations. A Brewery will be selling Monarch beer to benefit the Monarch Project. A documentary “Flight of the Butterflies” will be shown in Winter Garden and a Monarch structure will be erected soon.

On Earth Day, a club is giving away native plants grown by club members to generate members. What a smart marketing tool.

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

District VII is looking forward to several club flower shows, Lake County Council Garden Clubs Flower Show, and District VII & Judges Council Flower Show coming soon.

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

Thank you.

## DISTRICT 8

## DISTRICT 9

## DISTRICT 10

## DISTRICT 11

## DISTRICT 12