**Script for 2021 Virtual Officers’ Tour Powerpoint**

Slide 1. Introduce the Powerpoint as replacing the officers visiting each district. It contains much information useful to all garden clubs, circles and members. It is posted on the ffgc.org website.

Slide 2. Officer introduction and Theme for the new administration, “*Worlds of Wonder*”!

Slide 3. FFGC **Mission Statement**. Have all read aloud so they are reminded who we are and what we do!

Slide 4. **Breaking News** to include the revision of our Matching Grants Program and its due date of 15 January 2022. Also, we have, hopefully, worked out a way to have all dues paid into FFGC before clubs break for the summer or lose their snowbird members for half the year. NO ONE will pay dues in 2022! We will collect dues beginning February in 2023 and all dues will be due by 1 April 2023. Consider 6 months FREE membership our gift to you!

Slide 5. Remind clubs of our new **Matching Grants Program**...Free money, up to $500 for certain club projects. All pertinent info can be found online at ffgc.org

Slide 6. Marge’s **Theme** for her administration and requirements for the 2-year Nell Coe Award #61

Slide 7. Details of the 2021-2023 **Nell Coe Award**: Membership increase with four $200 awards being given based on size of club. Again, this info on ffgc.org/awards

Slide 8. Most **awards** are due to HQ or a specific person by 24 November 2021. We will not hold Judging Awards Day at HQ…all will be judged remotely, like last year.

Slide 9. Jane and Ed Nendick, FFGC **Membership** Recruitment and Retention Chairmen, have done a fantastic job encouraging us all to recruit, retain and revitalize our membership. All Assistant District Directors are now charged with being the District Membership Chairman and a wealth of information can be found in the new Membership notebook online.

Slide 10. Some folks want to know why they should become or remain members in FFGC. Here is a short list of the VALUE of being a member.

Slide 11. Some folks want to know where their $12 membership fee goes—Here is a list of where most of the money goes to support our organization.

Slide 12. Part of retaining members is to give them **recognition** for a job well done. We are all volunteers and so the only ‘pay’ we get is in the form of recognition. Bricks for our garden sidewalk at HQ are $50 each, Hall of Fame is a pin and certificate for $100, Pillar of Pride is a pin and certificate for $100, Earth Steward is for someone doing good environmental work in their community for $100, Patron is $500 and recognizes good works over time and allows special seating at convention meals. Guardian of Gardening is a plaque at HQ and certificate for $1500 and allows for special seating at convention meals. Life memberships in FFGC covers your dues for the rest of your days for $300, life membership in Deep South Garden Clubs is only $50 and goes to scholarships given, Life membership in National Garden Club is $200 and also goes to scholarships. More info can be found at ffgc.org

Slide 13. Our **2022 convention** will be held in Kissimmee at the Hilton Orlando Lake Buena Vista South April 12-14 and will feature a state flower show.

Slide 14. By now you should have received your $2 opportunity tickets to sell and purchase to win these prizes. Also, you have received your 50/50 tickets—only 6,000 were printed and they sell for $5 each...so you have a chance to win $15,000!!!

Slide 15. Our own Carol Hall, former FFGC President, is now the **Deep South Garden Club** Director and she invites you to her 2022 convention to be held in historic Natchez Mississippi March 6-9. More info at DSgardenclub.com

Slide 16. **The National Garden Clubs** Convention is being hosted by Florida in 2022 and will be held at the Rosen Plaza Hotel in Orlando on I-Drive. It will feature a Tri-refresher and national Petite Design Specialty Flower Show. Don’t miss this opportunity to attend a national convention in your own backyard! More info at gardenclub.org

Slide 17. As most of you know, if you have an email address, you will be receiving our magazine, ***The*** ***Florida Gardener*** *The*, online. We have been telling you about this change for several years. Only those without an email account and club presidents will receive a printed copy. Now that it is fully online, it can be unlimited in its content—no restrictions on number of pages!

Slide 18. **Wekiva Youth Camp** will study Habitats for summer 2022. We need you to please consider volunteering! If you wish to send or sponsor a camper, registration begins 2 January 2022 at 8pm.

Slide 19. Here is the weekly schedule for camp—It will run from 19 June to 30 July, with 2 weeks of boys, 1 co-ed week that will include Critter Camp and Leaders in Training, and 3 weeks of girls. We have switched the 7th grade Naturalist program to the last week.

Slide 20. **Critter Camp** for 1st and 2nd graders will be 5-7 July, Week 3, for the first 16 boys and 16 girls registered on 2 January.

Slide 21. Our **Wekiva Volunteer Training** will be the weekend of 11-13 February. Much of the information you will learn will apply to Junior Gardener Programs as well. We are going to try catering our meals for this training session.

Slide 22. Wekiva Volunteer Training registration is now open. Cost is reduced back to $75 per person.

Slide 23. For those students in grades 10-12, we offer our **SEEK** 3-day conference (Save the Earth’s Environment through Knowledge). If will be held at the University of Florida in 2022, with much of the activity on campus.

Slide 24. For those students heading to college, please note that **scholarships** are available from FFGC, Deep South and National Garden Clubs for eligible students going into a field that supports one of our garden club objectives. Applications due 1 May. More info at ffgc.org/scholarships.

Slide 25. For our members, we offer a number of **educational opportunities**. Listed here are the NGC schools offered to all members: Flower Show Schools environmental schools, Gardening schools and landscape design schools. All of these schools have 4 courses and there are exams that must be passed to earn your designation as a consultant or judge.

Slide 26. Listed here are the educational opportunities that are exclusively offered to our Florida members. Please take advantage of any and all of these programs designed with you in mind!

Slide 27. Unique to Florida is the **Tri-Council** whose mission is “to protect the environment, increase knowledge in horticulture and promote excellence in landscape design”. Anyone who has completed any 2 courses in Gardening, Environmental or Landscape Design can become a member with dues of $15 annually. Many courses are held in the state and now on Zoom.

Slide 28. FFGC sponsors specifically designed **Tours and Travel** for its members. Please join us as we experience Floriade and the tulips of Holland, the Christmas markets in Germany, cruise along the Douro River in Portugal or attend the World Association of Floral Artists in New Zealand. Closer to home, we will go to the Tulip Festival in Holland, Michigan and take a cruise up the east coast in 2024. More info on ffgc.org/travel or contact our Tours and Travel chairman, Shelley Atkinson.

Slide 29. Your **Strategic Planning Committee** would love to hear your ideas of how we should prepare our organization for the future. Please contact one of the members listed or attend our meetings.

Slide 30. Is your club having a special event? Let all of our members know about it by posting it on our website. The form for submitting an event to our **FFGC Calendar** is online at ffgc.org

Slide 31. The FFGC Garden **Gift Shop** has FFGC specific items for sale including pins and ornaments. You can see the complete inventory and prices on ffgc.org.

Slide 32. **THANK YOU**, everyone for all you do and for making FFGC such a great organization!