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

**OFFICER AND DISTRICT DIRECTOR REPORTS**

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## PRESIDENT’S REPORT

President’s Report FFGC

Sept. 7, 2022

Marjorie H. Hendon

WOW, what a Summer Florida Federation of Garden Clubs has had. The Florida Federation of Garden Clubs have hosted the National Convention, cleaned up their Bylaws, repaired the roof of the headquarters building, started a new photo club, welcomed a thousand new members, appointed a new Florida Gardener Magazine editor, hosted six hundred campers to Wekiva Youth Camp, forty plus students to our SEEK conference at UF, helped our Districts become independent of FFGC’s 501©(3) and started working on the 2023 convention.

FFGC was excited to host the 2022 NGC convention in Kissimmee, FL. We had 300+ in attendance and all seemed to have a great time. There was also a National GC flower show at the same time.

Our camps were full, but cost ran over budget due to cost going up on gas, food, and cost of nurses. SEEK was held at UF. FFGC has new Wekiva and SEEK Directors. Our head of Wekiva’s food service had this as her last year. Construction on Wekiva office has begun.

We welcome many new members into FFGC and into our new photo club. We hope to gain new members within this new club.

FFGC has changed their bylaws to include Wekiva and SEEK, have our year starting differently, and cleaned up many of the bylaws, articles, and policies and procedures. That took all summer and continues today.

FFGC’s Office Coordinator went outside of the HQ office to see a huge tree had fallen and clipped the SW edge of the building. Insurance was applied for and awarded. The tree was taken away, another Big Oak was also taken down, the roof and interior room were repaired. The $27,000 AC will need replacing, the drain for the septic was improved, the new floors were put down, and the interior of the building repainted.

Some of FFGC’s Districts have been using FFGC’s EIN number, they have now all been told that they need to apply for their own number. Our Treasurer is working to help them with this.

Summary: Roof, floors, and paint repairs made at HQ. Full camps and conference this summer. New photo club started in Sept. 1000+ new members into FFGC. FFGC hosted NGC Convention in Kissimmee.

Marge Hendon

FFGC President

## 1ST VICE PRESIDENT’S REPORT

FFGC First Vice President

Tina Tuttle

7 September 2022, Winter Park, FL

They say ‘a woman’s work is never done’…Well, neither is the work of the FFGC First Vice President!! Summer was not a time to relax and recharge, but rather a time to organize and revise! The position of First Vice President allows you to see how interconnected all aspects of FFGC really is—many diverse parts create the whole. What a thorough indoctrination to becoming President Elect!

As **Chairman of the FFGC Finance Committee**, many new and routine budget issues and financials were considered at two separate Finance meetings held on 28 June and 30 August. We were briefed by our investment company, Prime Wealth, and even in this depressing economy, we are continuing to see about a 4% growth in our investments. The committee worked diligently to approve or review budgets for the past and upcoming convention, several NGC schools and symposia, FFGC educational opportunities and our day-to-day expenditures within the newly approved fiscal year. We take our fiduciary responsibility seriously!

As a member of the **Bylaws Committee**, participation in the review of all Standing Rules and updating of our Bylaws to reflect the new fiscal year and dues collection process, among other things, was eye-opening. Our dear Parliamentarian gifted me my own copy of *Robert’s Rules of Order, Newly Revised* and it is already dog-eared from overuse! It certainly came in handy this summer with so much confusion regarding TIN, 501 and non-profit/tax exempt status and bylaws creating!

As a member of the **Headquarters and Endowment Committee**, it was beginning to feel as if we were cursed! Major and minor problems plagued the headquarters building from plumbing problems, air conditioning leaks, roof and building damage, etc. We never could catch a break but our insurance company was with us all the way. Oh, and the special **FFGC Legal Committee** discussed the city unexpectedly taking down our baffle trees!

As a member of the **Strategic Planning Committee**, headway is being made regarding our online garden and special interest clubs, finding a repository for our historical and essential records and important papers, as well as investigating an equitable distribution of members and clubs. For this committee, your 1VP serves as secretary.

As chairman of the **Centennial Celebration Committee**, great strides have been made in getting the *2024 Commemorative Calendar* to the printer, the centennial quilt construction directions, and the ways and means items ready for sale. Planning is underway for the myriad Centennial year events from the 2023 convention installation, reception, and unveiling of the next Nell Coe Award to the 2024 convention and biennial state flower show in Jacksonville to the 24 April 2024 birthday lunch and dinner at headquarters! Fundraising continues to be the limiting factor but we are going to have a real good time!

This VP served as **Vice Chairman of the NGC convention** in May in Orlando. Although not attending, the planning and coordination for tours, workshops and speakers, a Tri-refresher and national flower show were a part of my duties. I hear Florida was a perfect host to NGC!

The Powerpoint for the **2022 officer’s tour** is nearly complete. The newly revised *District Directors Manual* is nearly complete and the **new DD Orientation** is set for 9 and 10 February 2023.

We are happy to announce that the construction of the **new Office/Clinic building** has begun at the Wekiva Youth Camp with completion near the end of March. Appropriate furnishings are being researched for the 3 offices and 3 bedrooms, kitchen, laundry and clinic.

This VP is excited to tour the districts and meet our membership and compile the 2023-2025 Board of Directors.

Tina Tuttle, FFGC 1VP

## 2nd VICE PRESIDENT’S REPORT

2nd Vice President

Christy Linke

September 7, 2022

The primary duty of the 2nd Vice President is Wekiva Youth Camp Chairman. As well as serving on Finance and Strategic Planning Committee. This 2nd V.P. attended both Finance and SPC meetings via ZOOM. Even attending a SPC the 23rd of June via ZOOM from Camp Wekiva and the other one was August 16th after returning home from camp.

Camp Wekiva was a big success this year and everything we worked on all year to get ready for camp fell into place. This 2nd V.P. stayed at camp for 6 weeks, with one of those being the week before camp started. Mary Whisler, 3rd V.P. did 1 week ,which was week 4, so this Chairman could go on vacation with her family.

Summary: Camp Wekiva was a success and attended SPC meetings as well as the finance meeting.

## 3rd VICE PRESIDENT

FFGC 3rd Vice President September 2022 Report

Mary Ann Whisler/3rd VP

September 2022

It continues to be a great honor to serve FFGC. As a member of the H&E Committee, Strategic Planning, Wekiva Board, and Secretary of the Finance Committee, this VP continues to learn and understand the complexities of the organization.

SEEK 2022 was a wonderful success with our new Chairman/Jennifer Seymore leading the program. It was with great pleasure to see Jennifer’s enthusiasm and provide new ideas and energy to the program. University of Florida provided an outstanding program and the housing in the dorms made the program more like a college experience for our students.

Ways and Means Reports are kept for H&E and Finance Committee. Inventory of remaining pins was taken in February 2022 and reviewed again in May. Orders were placed for availability of pins while the Executive Board is on tour.

Wekiva: Critter Camp 2022 was a great success. Working with Mandy Howell/Critter Camp Registration and the Critter Camp Volunteers, this VP was so impressed with the quality of instruction. Watching these young FFGC environmentalist learn about the world around them gives us hope for a wonderful environmental future. But we aren’t done yet. We have already started planning for Critter Camp 2023! Next year will be insects and butterflies and I know it will be very special.

This VP had the privilege of standing in at camp for our FFGC Wekiva Chairman/Christy Linke while she took a short vacation. Learning about camp from a chairman’s position was a wonderful opportunity and good learning experience. I am grateful to Christy for this opportunity. The last week of camp this VP had the privilege of hosting a thank you party for our FFGC Wekiva Chairman. Volunteers, State Park employees, and several husbands attended. It was a fun time and a great opportunity to thank Christy for her outstanding work as chairman these past two years.

Wekiva Volunteer Training is scheduled for February 10 - 12, 2023. The Wekiva Open House will be Sunday, February 12, 2023. Plans are already underway. Flyers will be available at the October Tour. Our focus will be on butterflies and learning all about our insect world.

The FFGC Convention was held in April and this VP attended both the State as well as the National Garden Club Convention. It was a privilege to receive the NGC Member of Honor from Deep South Region. This VP also attended the UF Short Course in Gainesville. Schedules are already confirmed for the FFGC Executive Tour in October. This VP is looking forward to meeting FFGC members across the state and getting to make new friends. Pins will be available for purchase at each of the District Meetings.

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

Summary:

Attended SEEK, Wekiva, FFGC and NGC Convention, UF Short Course

Received NGC Member of Honor/Deep South Region

Executive Tour planned for October 2022

## RECORDING SECRETARY

Recording Secretary

Susan Roberts

September 8, 2022

As recording secretary, I wrote the minutes of the pre-board meeting and the convention. After approval they were put on the website. The officer, DD and BOD chairman reports were compiled into two books and added to the website files for the convention. Financial reports and credential reports were also added. All reports and minutes were written to a thumb drive for backup also.

In the absence of a corresponding secretary, I have been sending eblasts as requested by the president.

Summary: write and keep track of all FFGC minutes and reports. Make certain that they are archived and saved.

## CORRESPONDING SECRETARY

REPORT

Corresponding Secretary

Linda Feifarek-Johnson

September 7, 2022

Since I have only been in this job for a few months I am still in the learning process.

I manage the event calendar so any events your club or district is doing, please send your events information to me. There is a form to be filled out that can be found on the FFGC website. On the home page, scroll down until you find “For all FFGC forms – click here”. I also can add flyers and registration forms for the event.

Working with the District Directors on the fall tour schedule is also one of my jobs.

DISTRICT 1

FFGC STATE BOARD MEETING

SEPTEMBER 2022

DISTRICT I REPORT

District I is pleased to report a beautiful and rainy summer. Our membership numbers are down from 630 to 590. As I contact all of the club presidents over the summer to ask what would cause our district numbers to drop, I get responses like people don’t like to pay their dues in May and June when the clubs don’t meet in June, July, or August. The President’s say their membership will pay their dues upon return to the club in September.

Our District is busy preparing for our fall District Meeting, aka, OCTOBERFEST. Yes, we plan to blow the doors off with a celebration that our FFGC Board officers will be traveling to visit our district for the first time in 4 years. We have a German restaurant catering, we have hats for all attending that include blonde hair braids, we’ll have pretzels and more surprises than you can imagine. Ummpapa!

Following the District meeting on October 11, we will proceed to the Destin Library for the dedication of the Blue Star marker. Our state board members as well as the major, county commissioners, etc will be in attendance. We are so proud of Destin Garden Club, who joined FFGC in January to be installing a Blue star marker in their first year. The landscape at the Destin Library is a stunning, show worthy garden. It is with great pride that I tell you that I started that project as the President of Destin Garden Club over 17 years ago. At least 15 members of the Destin Garden Club work every month planting new beds and pulling weeds. Lowe’s and Home Depot donate plants each month to be given as door prizes to reward the workers. The library provides a beautiful meeting space for the club to meet.

District I hosted Short Course North in August. Kat Spieker, our Short Course Director successfully moved the class to the County Extension office on the east side of the District where we found a new audience of Master Gardeners, and garden club members who had never attended a short course north before. Marge Hendon came up and stayed at Marie Harrison’s house. The speakers were fabulous, with several very interesting environmental topics.

Speaking of meeting space, that has become a hot topic this year. Most of our clubs have experienced difficulty with their meeting space. These issues are caused by the growth in our area causing higher demand for meeting space. This in turn is creating an environment of organizations, or churches, businesses or public spaces to charge rental fees, and require additional insured certificates. That or else the space is being torn down, or remodeled and closed for our use. Several of our clubs have spent the summer months scrambling around searching for new meeting locations. All of these changes will affect the membership, members who don’t normally like change.

We all look forward to the Pensacola State Fair Flower Show in October. This year the show will just run one week instead of two. Still, it’s a big show that calls for all hands on deck. Fortunately, Pensacola is a Federation of 10 clubs and circles and they have nearly 200 members to help put the show together.

## **DISTRICT 2**

## DISTRICT 3

FFGC District III Report

District Director

Marilyn Larson

September 7, 2022

Energy and enthusiasm are accurate descriptions of District III Club leaders! The seven Clubs in District III continue to persevere by being active and engaged. Although programs are not held during the summer, District III Club Presidents, District Officers and committee chairs as well as FFGC state officers within the district met the first week of August via “zoom” to engage and share their planned monthly programs, educational field trips, community beautification projects, youth-focused activities, and community outreach in support of each other. The 2022-23 program year of each club includes WOW efforts focusing on the environment by planting native plants, removing invasives, tree planting, composting, recycling yard art, and community gardens.

There are a variety of educational programs as well as workshops and field trips, and club members continue local beautification projects, youth gardening and fund-raising activities. All clubs actively adhere to programming in support of FFGC and NGC goals.

District clubs have special programs to kick off September meetings. **Live Oak Garden Club** will feature the Mayor as speaker to hear of the City’s various projects and programs and how the members can interact. Membership has increased with additional new potential members being pursued. The Club continues to support local youth, and two area high school students participated in SEEK summer camp. In October the members will hear about bee keeping, host a Fall Bazaar with vendors and head out on a field trip to Heritage Park as well as feature a monthly program on orchards.

**Madison Garden Club** September monthly program, featuring the District III Director will focus on membership. Other educational programs planned for the fall meetings include native trees and pollinators. Each year the Club supports the 4-H Youth Camp at Cherry Lake and their October meeting will be a fund-raiser for renovations at the camp as well as in support of Wekiva and SEEK. The Club is also undertaking a revision to their By-Laws.

**Monticello Garden Club** monthly programs include plans for a trip to Tallahassee nurseries with presentations by nursery staff, and a fall program on growing orchids and getting them to rebloom. Their Jefferson County UF-IFAS Extension agent has asked and they’ve agreed to serve on a local panel in support of a community garden.

**Perry Garden Club** hosts the October 13 District III meeting at their local Elks Club featuring the state officers tour as the program. Being the host club means they will be very busy but they have monthly fall programs that include “make and take seed balls”, a photographer displaying pictures of native plants and wildlife, and a fund-raiser featuring local floral designers creating designs to be auctioned as a fund-raiser. They recently completed repairs to the Blue Star Marker to re-secure its location.

**Steinhatchee Garden Club** fall programs include container gardening, building bird feeders and selecting and planting residential foundation plants. The Club members maintain the community center, where their programs are held, as their commitment to ongoing community beautification.

**Tallahassee Garden Club** which consists of 21 circles, with each circle having their own program topics monthly, means the variety and number of programs is extensive. To keep all members informed, the club has a monthly newsletter and weekly e-blast. An orientation meeting for new circle officers was held in August in advance of the September program year. The club will host a September new member luncheon, a “make and take” for new members, and a November General Membership meeting featuring Basil and Coleus by Dave Clark, whose program was featured at the FFGC Spring convention.

**Wakulla County Garden Club** kicks off their program year with a program featuring a plant of the month, with a focus on native plants. In October the club program of ‘upcycling garden art’ will feature ideas on reuse and recycling of materials to create garden art. Members continue to participate in maintaining over 1,000 tree seedlings which are given away as a part of their annual Arbor Day event.

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## DISTRICT 4

District IV Director

Connie A. Gladding

September 7, 2022

Over the summer, District IV clubs were very busy with maintaining community gardens, offering programs, and planning the upcoming year. Clubs identified speakers and programs; and developed budgets and yearbooks.

The Garden Club of St. Augustine held their 2022 Workshop Series “Nature Detectives for Kids” partnering with St. Johns Public Libraries and Friends of the Library. The six workshops, each at a different library, were held June, July, and August for children 6-12. The children learned about pollinators. Also, St. Augustine on August 27th held an Ice Cream Social membership drive. Over 36 potential new members attended to learn more about the Club and membership. And have ice cream. As the host for the Fall 2022 District IV meeting, St. Augustine released the registration form. It is available at https://ffgc.org/event-4941687.

The revived Garden Club of Switzerland partnered with St. Johns County Master Gardeners and the County Parks and Recreation Department at the historic Alpine Groves Park to celebrate Florida Parks and Recreation 50th anniversary in July.

The Garden Club of Orange Park held a membership drive at the Orange Park Library with a presentation on "Easy Orchids" August 27th at 10:00 AM.

Ribault held an August ‘Margaritas and Mulch’ event to improve their grounds; it was enjoyed by all. Also, Ribault has planned a Community Plant Swap with the local Neptune Beach Branch Library for Saturday, September 24th from 10:00-1:00. This Swap is a membership drive and a new community partnership for the Club.

The Garden Club of Jacksonville held monthly Horticulture Corners with guest speakers; Budding Gardeners; and Fun with Flowers events over the summer. July 1st the club installed a new Board of Trustees for 2022-2023. An Open House is scheduled for September 28th 4-7PM. The Club continues to hold special events celebrating their 100th birthday. A Birthday Brunch honoring the Club’s Founder NInah Cummer is scheduled for October 16th 12:30 to 3:30pm. Ticket cost is $100 and all proceeds go toward the capital campaign to fund the future Garden Club landscape redesign. See https://www.gardenclubjax.org/event/ninahbrunch/.

The Bartram Garden Club has a membership drive and Welcome Back Tea and Coffee Party September 8 with guest speaker Nassau County Extension Director and Horticulture Agent presenting an hour program on growing citrus. Members have been asked to bring a friend and open invitations made to prospective members on social media and in the local newspaper.

District IV is sponsoring Course 2 of the Landscape Design School. The two-day course will be held at the Ribault Garden Club September 28 and 29. Registration and details may be found at <https://ffgc.org/event-4671646>.

The Garden Club of Fleming Island has organized a Fall Garden Club Bazaar at the Paul C. Armstrong Park in Middleburg on Saturday, October 29th from 8:30 am to 1:30 pm.  All Clay County garden clubs plan to participate: The Garden Club of Green Cove Springs, Fleming Island, Orange Park and Middleburg. This is the first time this event will be held; it is hoped to be an annual event serving as a membership drive and fundraiser.

The Garden Club of St. Augustine will host a Blue Star Marker Re-dedication Ceremony on November 11 at 2pm. The Ceremony is located at 1 St Johns Medical Park Dr, St Augustine 32086. The marker’s living garden has been revived at this second oldest marker in FL. RSVP at [dogoodthings904@gmail.com](mailto:dogoodthings904@gmail.com) by 11/4. For details see <https://ffgc.org/event-4915665>.

The Garden Club of Palatka has an Afternoon Woodlands Autumn Tea scheduled for Saturday November 19 2 – 4 pm. This is a fundraiser and membership drive. It will be held at the Ravines State Park in Palatka.

The return of a holiday tradition, The Garden Club of St. Augustine 51st Tour of Homes is Sunday December 4th 12-5pm. Tickets go on sale October 1, 2022 and cost $40. Ticket includes a tour of six decorated homes and a Tea and Holiday Boutique at the River House on Marine Street. Details are found at <https://gardenclubofstaugustine.org/index.php/tour-of-homes/>.

Lastly, District IV’s planning for the FFGC award-winning annual Gardenfest is underway. The event will be held at the Ravines State Park in Palatka on Friday November 18. It is a full day of horticulture training open to all garden club members, master gardeners, and the public. It serves as a membership drive and a fundraiser for the district and clubs. Last year’s attendance exceeded 160 individuals.

What a wonderful productive summer District IV had! This District Director is so thankful and appreciative for the opportunity to work with the Clubs’ leaders and members. With the new year kicking off, there are high hopes with lots of energy and excitement in the air.

## DISTRICT 5

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District V Director

Donna Thomas

September 2022 – BOD meeting

Our members have been energized over the summer preparing for the coming fall.

**Brooksville Garden Club’s** September meeting will be a meet and greet to plan this year’s community participation as well as sharing information of each members talents for better utilization in projects. In October they have a field trip planned to the local Master Gardener’s Botanical Garden.

At the **Citrus Garden Club’s** first meeting the members will be bringing flowers and greenery for arrangements to be delivered to the organizations they work with such as Blessing’s, Cayla’s Coats and Youth and Family Alternatives. Their programs this year are going to initiate study groups based on the program being presented.

**Garden Club of** **Crystal River** continues to maintain the historical cemetery in Crystal River.The Club has invited Mr. and Ms. Roberts, teachers from Crystal River Elementary, to their September board meeting to establish a Junior Garden Club.

**Floral City Garden Club** continues to maintain and improve three gardens plus one in conjunctionwith the local Heritage Council. September 10th will be their first participation in the downtown Inverness Home Show sponsored by The Chronical.

**Four Seasons** is starting off September with members sharing their summer adventures. They will be remembering Liz Shaw with a brief ceremony and a plaque in their garden.

A huge shoutout for **Gainesville,** garden club of the year. September 8th they are having their annual kickoff event “Aged to Perfection” to celebrate their 98th year as a club. At the October meeting, Dr. Jack E. Davis, Pulitzer Prize winner, will be giving a presentation on The Bald Eagle, the improbable journey of the American Bird.

**Homosassa River** Garden Club continues to maintain the gardens at the Stage Stand Cemetery, Homosassa River Library, and the road cleanup for Spring Cove. At their first meeting in October, they will begin planning a new fundraiser project for scholarships to be held in the new year.

**Lake City Garden Club** continues itsLake City Beautification Project. The project scope includes the removal of 21 Drake Elm trees and replacing them with 42 self-watering planters and repotting with winter plants. The Club is beginning to make plans for the district meeting in May 2023 for our new district director.

**McIntosh Seedling Garden Club’s** regular meetings are in the daytime, however, they have at least one night meeting a year as an outreach to the community. September 1 the public is invited to a special nighttime meeting for a presentation on Flower/Nature photography by local award-winning professional photographer Sean Dowie. Focus will be on using cell phone cameras!

**Newberry Garden Club** will be celebrating their club’s 75th anniversary this year. In October, the club will be participating in Newberry’s Main Street’s “Scarecrow Road” decorating a light pole that will stay up the whole month.

I would like to thank the **Pioneer Garden Club** for hosting my last district director’s meeting. It will be October 14 in Belview, Florida. In addition, their fun filled General meeting for the entire membership will be in September, with incentives such as baskets for sale and a free lottery ticket for each attendee.

I would like to thank all the members in District V for the outstanding job they do unfailingly, year after year. I look forward to another fantastic year of contributions, participation, and innovations from all the district 5 clubs. In addition, District 5 has had the honor of being the garden club of the year for two years in a row and we plan to take it again.

## DISTRICT 6

District VI Report

District VI Director

Suzi Bailey

October 26, 2022

Garden Clubs in our three counties of Flagler, Volusia, and Brevard are growing and planting. Summer has been hot but it does not stop our 15 garden club Presidents (7 are new club presidents). They are planning some exciting and creative programs, fundraisers and fun times together.

New Smyrna Beach Garden Club is busy planning their annual fundraiser,Festival of Trees, in October. Next, they will host the October 26, 2022 Fall District Meeting. Our wonderful FFFGC Officers will be in attendance. Oceans of Opportunities is the theme and beach décor will be abundant. Opportunities to bid on raffle baskets, buy goodies at the Ways and Means tables, eat a delicious lunch, and greet friends. Come and hear the opportunities to **teach**, **learn**, **create**! T.L.C.

Titusville Garden Club is planning their November Fall Market ,with holiday home décor, crafts, and propagating plants.

Melbourne Garden Club is getting ready to celebrate 90 years with FFGC on November 18, 2022. Opportunity drawings, silent auctions, celebration of their history, former club presidents, educational programs, with Marge Henson attending. Also, they are making Plans for the rededication of their Blue Star Marker.

Our newest garden club to rejoin FFGC after a 20:year hiatus is Port Malabar Garden Club, Annual fundraisers, landscaping tours in October are scheduled in conjunction with the “Landscaping with Florida Natives Yard Tour”. A boat ride visit to Pelican Island is also planned for the Fall.

DeLeon Garden Club Has planned some fun Fall activities: they continue their work as volunteers in DeLeon Springs StatePark where they propagate, educate, and maintain nursery stock. Plant sale is planned for October 8th and a Heritage Nursery Road trip garden Tour in planned for November. They are restarting Garden of the Month, food drives, and children educational projects. They have designed a beautiful seal for their club which is featured in the Florida Gardener.

DeLand Garden Club has started a new seed bank in a joint effort with Master Gardeners, Friends of the Library, and DeLand Regional Library. They have just certified their #200th Monarch Butterfly Sanctuary. Book clubs, origami classes, visits to their members gardens, propagation, upcoming plant sales, have kept them working and having fun together.

Cherry Laurel Garden Club has developed a community project “Planting the Seeds of the Future”. It will help support 3 local groups: children’s gardens, replanting natives at the Ormond Beach Environmental Discovery Center, and helping families develop vegetable gardens, Derbyshire Place Community Center in Daytona Beach. Cherry Laurel GC is very excited to-relocate their club meetings in October to the Orlando Memorial Art Museum & Gardens.

Ormond Beach GC has been busy working with children’s educational and environmental projects this summer. They are busy making wine cork plant holders, and wreath making.

District VI Presidents And Circle Presidents were invited to a Zoom Workshop on August 26, 2022. Nine Presidents attended. Agenda included: Introductions, CREATING Yearbooks, BOI- and Glossary of Terms, CREATING, Monthly Calendars, Parliamentary Procedures,Grants & Awards, Fundraising ideas, FFGC AND DISTRICT VI Dues& Renewals, Florida Gardener DUE DATES-reports, Social Media & Web sites, purchasing FFGC pins, and a Q&A FOLLOWED.

Summary: Empowering the Club Presidents was our goal. Smiles and Laughter were included (with a Pop Quiz and Prizes).

## DISTRICT 7

DISTRICT VII

Charlotte White

District VII Director

District vii has had a VERY BUSY SUMMER…. Including the district board itself. Charlotte White District Director, Sue Roberts, Joanne Mulinare and Pat Neff

Started the process to form bylaws, articles of incorporation to conform with FFGC directive. DD Charlotte White then proceeded to obtain a TIN/EIN number for District VII. With the help of Joanne Mulinare and Treasurer Mary Collins the bank account was moved to new bank with the correct EIN number. So, we are making progress. DD Charlotte White performed 3 installations of officers in May and August.

Many of our clubs have excitement and are growing. Several of our clubs are facing the aspect of too many members aging out. Thus, reporting the sad news that the Wildflower Circle of the Garden Club of Sanford has dissolve. A check of $250.00 sent to FFGC. A copy of the report is attached for file.

District VII” has been remarkably busy with the October 7TH and 8th NGC Standard Flower Show – Masks UP. It will be held at the Orlando Garden Clubhouse, 710 Rollins Street Orlando, Fl. It is Free and open to the public. Will be fantastic garden show with all aspects of competition. Look forward to the horticultural section.

Very Exciting our very own Joanne Mulinare was interviewed by Emily Bonilla, Orange County Commissioner District 5, about FFGC and Orlando Garden Club for her TV show called *Emily Tells All*. Commissioner Bonilla started this talk show to reach her constituents and keep them informed and engaged in their communities and government. Discussion topics included encouraging garden club membership, Wekiva Youth camp, scholarships, and our educational opportunities. They air fresh episodes on her YouTube channel and most social media outlets. Joanne’s episode will be entitled “*Bloom Where You Are Planted”* and it is scheduled to air next April. Right now, you can go to [*youtube.com*](http://youtube.com/) and search “Emily Tells All” To see her current shows.

Our Garden Clubs have been busy over the summer with Pollinator projects and welcome back tea’s. Bloom and Grow planted trees in every school in their district. It was busy spring; summer and we look forward to a beautiful fall.

## DISTRICT 8

Report

District VIII Director

Kitty Wallace

FFGC BOD September 7, 2022

Madame President, Officers, Members of the Board of Directors,

District VIII Clubs have been planning their programs and events. Each club has been encouraged to have some type of New Member Event: a tea, an open house, a special program.

We have lost one club, the Garden Gate Garden Club in Zephyr Hills has closed. But the Palm Harbor Garden Club has resurrected itself and is coming back strong. Our newest club, Garden Club of Hunter’s Green, is starting its third year and holding steady.

The District VIII Horticulture Extravaganza is chaired by our Horticulture Chair Bessie Morse, Garden Club of St. Petersburg. The featured program will be on Florida Gardens, Hidden Gems. October 24th at the Garden Club of St. Petersburg.

Bessie was part of the Nature team at Wekiva during the last two weeks of camp. Other District VIII members on board at Wekiva were Nurse Nancy (Garden Club of St. Pete) and her daughter Amy, Diana Sullivan (Tampa Federation) at Critter Camp, Michelle James (Davis Island GC) and this member volunteered in the office during the last week. Our Christy Linke was the Camp Chair. We are very proud of her.

Dade City Garden Club will host its Annual Monarch Butterfly Festival in October.

Thank you,

Kitty Wallace

## DISTRICT 9

District IX Director

Dale W. DeFeo

September 7, 2022

District IX Clubs lost many “Snowbird” members for the summer, but those who remained worked diligently.

Bartow Garden Club “pulled through COVID and came out better.” They held a successful caladium sale and part of the proceeds were donated to Camp Wekiva and Penny Pines programs. They staged an educational exhibit on Butterfly Gardening at the Art Guild event, which resulted in their being asked to build a Butterfly Garden at Bartow Public Library and they are planning another at Bartow City Hall.

Calusa GC members met monthly during summer at local restaurants for lunch. They also continued work at the Butterfly Garden at Calusa Park and planting at Sarrison Park. A Pre-Thanksgiving Design and Plant Sale is planned. Monthly “Gad About” trips to local points of gardening interest continue.

Gardenia GC participated in an art and flower show at their Art Museum. They hosted a fun day of planting, games and garden foods for their Junior Gardeners and their Moms. A special Tea to celebrate club past presidents is planned for December.

Poinciana Garden Club celebrated their 60th anniversary and members continued their Trash Off Trails project. Lakeland Garden Club is participating in an event at Hollis Gardens in September. Their Club Extravaganza at Munn Park is planned for October. Gulf Coast Garden members held summer visits to members’ homes and gardens, which involved food, plant exchanges and camaraderie. Garden Club of Cape Coral celebrated their 25th anniversary during the summer. These are but a few examples of club activities.

Exciting news! District IX received our EIN number, Incorporation Certificate and SUNBIZ registration during the summer, thanks primarily to the work of our Treasurer, Charlene Anderson. We are in compliance with FFGC. The Avon Park Garden Therapy project funds will once again be handled by FFGC instead of District IX.

We are also excited to have our FFGC Officers visit on October 18, at our Fall District Meeting, “Fall in Love with District IX.” The meeting will be held at the Embassy Suites Hotel in Estero and is co-sponsored by Fort Myers Lee County Garden Council and Garden Club of Cape Coral.

There are numerous flower shows, plant sales and gardening projects scheduled through the fall. Our club members exemplify what being a garden club member means. We are a hardworking group and there will be more exciting things to report as fall activities get underway.

## DISTRICT 10

Michelle Maguire

District X Director Report

September 7, 2022

This director is so proud to be in District X. I have some amazing people with incredible knowledge on various subjects and not just in gardening. I have learned so much more on the mechanics of being a part of FFGC than I thought possible.

The recent Florida Gardener represents a lot about District X and its capabilities. Most of this issue was about what District X has been doing educationally.

Tropical Short Course will again be sponsored by District X on January 25 and 26, 2023 at The Green Acres Community Center. More on this will be mentioned with my Tropical Short Course report since I am the chairman.

District X will hold a Parliamentary Procedure Workshop on September 15, 2022 by Zoom at 10am for all Presidents, Circle Club Presidents and interested members. You must send email address if you want to attend to District X Director, Michelle Maguire to get Zoom invite.

Rio Lindo Garden Club is hosting many events during the summer to attract new members as well as inviting former members of The Saint Lucie West Garden Club to come and join them. It is with regret that The Saint Lucie West Garden Club has dissolved. Rio Lindo Garden Club also WON an Ames Tool Grant and held an event featuring the Ames tools in the Rose Garden of the Port St. Lucie Botanical Gardens.

Garden Club of Fort Pierce did an outstanding job during Garden Week as reflected in the Article by Vivian Kobe, Garden Week Chairman for District X in the Florida Gardener. The Garden Club of Stuart is planning its Flower Show, “Symphony of Flower” and the chairmen have been working hard all summer. The date is March 3 and 4, 2023.

Boynton Beach Garden Club is having a plant sale on Nov. 4 from 5-8pm at the Town Center. They are also having a “Fall Into Fashion “ fundraiser at the West Chester Country Club on Nov. 9 from 12-3pm. This club is also chairing the Gardening Studies School at the Mounts Botanical Garden on Nov.14 and 15 from 8:30am to 3 pm. Contact Carol Stender, president of Boynton Beach Garden Club for more information.

Oleander Garden Club of the Palm Beaches is fortunate to have a strong partnership with the City of Greenacres which has been named “Tree City USA” by the National Arbor Day Foundation for the past 30 years.

As with most clubs that are mostly snow birds, Pipers Landing Garden Club and West Palm Beach Garden Club have taken the summer off and will resume activities in October.

District X has developed a program conducted by Reina Snyder for “ Supporting Our Pollinators” by providing education at our Fall and Spring district meetings and the Florida Department Transportation.

## DISTRICT 11

District XI

Sharon Bogard

September 2022

The Clubs in District XI take a break during our sweltering summer. Many members are snowbirds and return to the cooler (not so much this year) northern states. The few diehards who remain continue their focus on planning for the new garden year.

**The Garden Club of Coral Springs** is excited to use their FFGC grant to help with the installation of its first 500 out of 1,000 native orchids sponsored by Fairchild Gardens’ “Million Orchid Project”. During National Garden Week the club donated 12 native butterfly plants from its gardens to The Woman’s Club of West Broward. The members also assembled 100 terrarium plant kits along with care instructions to two preschools and one summer camp.

This summer, the **Fort Lauderdale Garden Club and its Circles** formed a strategic planning committee.  The focus of concerns: engagement of new Club members, community outreach, its youth program, and educational opportunities. The outcomes: a new members’ “reception” via Zoom, "greeters" at each meeting and displaying volunteers needed posters**.**It will invest both time and money in civic projects: increase its visibility at the Birch State Park where its Garden Center is located.  Its Youth Program’s will focus on volunteerism, adopt an underserved school, invite teachers, and administrators to its general meetings, and establish a college environmental-related scholarship. Under educational opportunities, the Club will hold tours of its garden and increase awareness of upcoming NGC Short courses.

The **Hollywood Garden Club** is planning its programs for monthly meetings and field trips. Their plant exchange is held at every meeting, so members’ gardens all reflect a “little something from everyone”.

**The Garden Cub of Lighthouse Poin**t opens its season with its President,

Taryn Palo, instructing members on how to start a vegetable garden.

On October 15th the club will participate in the City’s "Dinner Under the Stars" event.

**The Pompano Beach Garden Club** will present programs such as "Planting for Life" in October and "Antique Roses" in November. In December, members will create Holiday Table Designs. At each meeting throughout the year members will conduct horticulture and floral design lessons.

The generosity and kindred spirit of the Broward County clubs demonstrate the true spirit of the mission of garden clubs.

## DISTRICT 12