**April 2023 Board Meeting**

Board Chairmen Reports

Note: to access a specific report look it up in the table of contents and note the page number. Go to the box in the upper left corner where it shows 1 of 81 and over key the ‘1’ with the page you want.

Table of Contents

[4-5 STAR MEMBERS 4](#_Toc133235988)

[ADOPT-A-PARK 5](#_Toc133235989)

[AFFLIATES MEMBERSHIP 6](#_Toc133235990)

[AMAZON PROJECT 6](#_Toc133235991)

[ARBOR DAY 7](#_Toc133235992)

[ARBORETA & BOTANTICAL GARDENS 7](#_Toc133235993)

[AWARDS – FFGC 8](#_Toc133235994)

[BEES 10](#_Toc133235995)

[BIRDS AND BUTTERFLIES 11](#_Toc133235996)

[BLUE STAR & GOLD STAR MEMORIAL MARKERS 12](#_Toc133235997)

[BOI Editor 14](#_Toc133235998)

[BRICK PATHS 17](#_Toc133235999)

[BYLAWS-STANDING RULES 18](#_Toc133236000)

[CONVENTION COORDINATOR 18](#_Toc133236001)

[CONVENTION COMMITTEE 2023 19](#_Toc133236002)

[DEEP SOUTH GARDEN CLUBS UNIFIED PROJECT 19](#_Toc133236003)

[DUES AMBASSADOR 20](#_Toc133236004)

[EARTH STEWARD 21](#_Toc133236005)

[FFGC Nominating Committee 22](#_Toc133236006)

[FFGC 100th Birthday 23](#_Toc133236007)

[FINANCE COMMITTEE 24](#_Toc133236008)

[FLORAL DESIGN STUDY 26](#_Toc133236009)

[FFSJ PRESIDENT 27](#_Toc133236010)

[FLORIDA WILDFLOWER LIAISON 32](#_Toc133236011)

[FLOWER SHOW EVALUATION/AWARDS 33](#_Toc133236012)

[FLOWER SHOW SCHEDULES 33](#_Toc133236013)

[FUN WITH FLOWERS 34](#_Toc133236014)

[GARDEN THERAPY 35](#_Toc133236015)

[HABITAT FOR HUMANITY 37](#_Toc133236016)

[HALL OF FAME 38](#_Toc133236017)

[HEADQUARTERS AND ENDOWMENT (& GROUNDS) 39](#_Toc133236018)

[INSURANCE 40](#_Toc133236019)

[INVASIVE SPECIES 41](#_Toc133236020)

[JUNIOR GARDENERS 41](#_Toc133236021)

[LIFE MEMBERSHIPS 43](#_Toc133236022)

[MATCHING GRANTS 44](#_Toc133236023)

[MEMBERSHIP 45](#_Toc133236024)

[MEMBERSHIP RETENTION 46](#_Toc133236025)

[NGC ENVIRONMENTAL SCHOOL CHAIRMAN 47](#_Toc133236026)

[NGC GARDEN STUDY SCHOOL CHAIRMAN 48](#_Toc133236027)

[NGC LANDSCAPE DESIGN SCHOOL CHAIRMAN 48](#_Toc133236028)

[NGC SCHOOLS CREDENTIALS CHAIRMAN 49](#_Toc133236029)

[NGC SPECIAL PROJECT LIAISON 50](#_Toc133236030)

[NGC & DSGC YOUTH CONTESTS 55](#_Toc133236031)

[PARKS – TRAILS - GREENWAYS 55](#_Toc133236032)

[PENNY PINES 56](#_Toc133236033)

[PHOTOGRAPHER 57](#_Toc133236034)

[PILLAR OF PRIDE 57](#_Toc133236035)

[PLANNED GIVING 58](#_Toc133236036)

[PROGRAMS & SPEAKERS 59](#_Toc133236037)

[PROTOCOL 60](#_Toc133236038)

[ROADSIDE BEAUTIFICATION/ PATHS OF SUNSHINE 61](#_Toc133236039)

[SCHOLARSHIP - DSGC, NGC 63](#_Toc133236040)

[SCHOLARSHIP – FFGC Report 64](#_Toc133236041)

[SCOUTING LIAISON 65](#_Toc133236042)

[SEEK CONFERENCE 66](#_Toc133236043)

[SHORT COURSE – UF 67](#_Toc133236044)

[SHORT COURSE – NORTH 68](#_Toc133236045)

[SHORT COURSE TROPICAL 69](#_Toc133236046)

[SMOKEY BEAR-WOODSY OWL 70](#_Toc133236047)

[SOCIAL MEDIA 72](#_Toc133236048)

[SOLAR ENERGY/WIND POWER 73](#_Toc133236049)

[STRATEGIC PLANNING COMMITTEE 74](#_Toc133236050)

[TOURS & TRAVEL 75](#_Toc133236051)

[TREES & REFORESTATION 76](#_Toc133236052)

[TRI-COUNCIL PRESIDENT 79](#_Toc133236053)

[WATER AND WETLANDS 81](#_Toc133236054)

[WEBSITE EDITOR 82](#_Toc133236055)

[WEKIVA YOUTH CAMP 83](#_Toc133236056)

[WEKIVA VOLUNTEER TRAINING 83](#_Toc133236057)

# 4-5 STAR MEMBERS

 Four/Five Star Report

4/5 Star Chair

Sally Flanagan

April 19,20 2023

I did not send a report for the Board meetings in January 2023 as there were no updates for this category.

There are also no new 4 or 5 Star recipients in Florida for the year April 2022 to April 2023.

We are hoping that the next year we will have additional people receiving one of these awards.

The present number of 4 Star persons who live in Florida and are in good standing are 11

The present number of 5 Star persons who live in Florida and are in good standing is 9

The additional number from last year is Dale DeFeo whose 4 and 5 Star awards were given when she lived in Washington. Dale now lives in Florida but her credentials on the NGC website, show her credentials for these awards being held in Washington.

Sally Flanagan

# ADOPT-A-PARK

# AFFLIATES MEMBERSHIP

# AMAZON PROJECT

# ARBOR DAY

# ARBORETA & BOTANTICAL GARDENS

# AWARDS – FFGC

  April 18, 2023

 FFGC Awards Chair

 Gwen Carter

For Awards Year, 2022-2023, one hundred ninety-six (196) FFGC Awards Applications were entered for adult awards. Since the end of judging, the Chairman has worked with 31 Awards Judges to ascertain judging results. Members of the Award’s Team communicated with Judges regularly via telephone or email. An excel spreadsheet of award winners was created for FFGC Treasurer to prepare checks for winning awards.

All winning awards were reviewed and determined their compatibility with DSGC and NGC Awards using NGC and DSGC handbooks. Twenty (20) award entries were sent to DSGC, 18 awards sent electronically, and two (2) awards mailed. FFGC received nine (9) First Place, four (4) Second Place, three (3) Third Place, four (4) Honorable Mention from Deep South, plus Second Place for the Deep South Unified Project Award. Twenty-two (22) FFGC award entries were sent electronically to NGC. We anticipate positive results at the NGC Convention in May.

Embossed seals were mailed to Junior Gardener Chairman for certificates.

The Chairman had the opportunity to work with the Convention Committee on awards presentation, protocol, logistics, and securing Cypress Creek High School’s JROTC Color Guard for the 96th Annual FFGC Convention opening on Wednesday, April 19, 2023 at 8:30 A.M.

Gathered winning awards from Junior Gardener Chair, Smokey the Bear/Woodsy Owl Chair, Youth/HS Chair, Flower Show Achievement Chair, Flower Show Related Chair, and Tree & Reforestation Chair. Purchased twelve (12) bags for each District’s winning awards with related information for District Director to be presented at Convention.

Worked with the FFGC Office Coordinator to order additional certificates and covers. Also, worked with the Office Coordinator to print winning certificates, put embossed gold seals, stamps with the President’s signature, and place in cover. Later, certificates were put in each District’s bag.

Awards Directory with FFGC & DSGC winners were typed and emailed to Florida Gardener Editor and FFGC Historian. Awards Directory will be placed on the website after Convention.

Five (5) PowerPoint presentations were prepared for winning Districts, three districts (3) during lunch, and three districts (3) at dinner on Wednesday and Thursday. Also, FFGC Top Honors PowerPoint presentation and speeches for FFGC #2 Outstanding Service Award ,FFGC #3 Leadership Award, FFGC #5B Special Achievement, Individual, Award, and FFGC #8 Garden Club of the Year Award were prepared for the last night of the Convention to honor recipients. Paths of Sunshine Awards were added to PowerPoint presentation.

FFGC Banner with new 100th Year Seal was created and ordered plus First Place ribbons ordered for Awards Room. Entries from Smokey Bear/Woodsy Owl, Junior Gardener, Poetry Contest, and Youth Sculpture Contest will be displayed in the Awards Room. Thank you.

**BARTRAM** **SOCIETY**

# BEES

 FFGC Bees Chairman

Christy Linke

April 18, 2023

This Bee Chairman has been busy speaking on bees since my last report. It was an honor to speak

at the Mangrove Chapter Florida Native Plant Society in March. There were 40 members present with two being guests just to hear about native bees. My next speaking engagement is at the Peace River

Butterfly Society in Port Charlotte. Jim Peterfeso was one of the guest and he was so excited he asked if I would come speak on native bees. As he put it my speaking on native bees sets me apart from so many speakers they have had. What an honor it was to hear that. This chairman will be speaking at a church women’s club meeting in April and looking forward to educating them as well on our beloved bees. All along this chairman always takes brochures on FFGC as well as information on our garden club in Plant City.

Summary: Promoting bees through Knowledge is something I will continue to speak on and educate all that will listen.

# BIRDS AND BUTTERFLIES

# BLUE STAR & GOLD STAR MEMORIAL MARKERS

**Blue Star Memorial Program**

**Blue Star Memorial Chairman**

**Rosita Aristoff**

**April 18, 2023**

1. Completed Blue & Gold Star Memorial Markers Dedications
* Camellia Garden Club (District VII) - The new Blue Star Memorial By-Way Marker dedication at the Eustis Library took place on February 17, 2023.
1. Pending New Memorial Markers Activity
* Milton Garden Club (District I) - The new Gold Star Families Memorial By-Way Marker to be dedicated at Santa Rosa County Veterans Memorial Plaza is still planned for May 29, 2023.
* Gardeners Out East Garden Club (District VIII) – A new Gold Star Families Memorial Marker has been received for placement at the new East Manatee County Library. A dedication is planned for November, 2023.
1. Replacement Markers
* Dunedin Garden Club (District VIII) – A Blue Star Memorial By-Way marker has been ordered to replace their existing marker. A dedication ceremony is planned for November 2023.
1. Price Increase
* Effective May 1, 2023 the manufacturer will be implementing price increases as follows:
* Highway/Memorial marker, post & shipping         $1,995.00
* Byway Markers                                                        $665.00
* Replacement Posts                                                 $375.00
* Refurbishment (large markers only)                     $1,200.00
1. Summary

Since the last report one new marker was dedicated and one replacement Blue Star By-Way Marker was ordered. A manufacturer’s price increase takes effect for any orders received after April 30th.

Rosita A. Aristoff

Rosita A. Aristoff

Blue & Gold Star Memorial Chairman

# BOI Editor

CONVENTION 2023 FFGC BOARD REPORT

BOOK OF INFORMATION (BOI) -- EDITOR

Lisa Packard, Editor

April 21, 2023

The *Book of Information* is under construction right now, awaiting updated information not available until the convention. It will be published by the September board meeting.

Prior Printing Costs

Printing Estimate Options for the Coming Year

Suggestions & Rationale

The previous editions have been over 100 pages primarily due to the duplication of full contact information under every name, and it repeats every time that name comes up. That literally adds ~35+ pages to the document. I suggest we do one alpha list with full contact, but under all the categories, we list only names.

As this document is easily downloadable and saved to a computer, perhaps fewer hard copies can be printed and people can download it. Also, the printing bid has been for a spiral bound notebook. Some interest has been made to have it be standard letter page so it fits easily into a binder. That would also make it shorter, so whatever people want to do.

Summary & Conclusion

Consider changing to full letter size if there is enough demand. Consider printing fewer. No strong opinion either way, but reducing the duplication will greatly reduce the overall page number which saves in printing.

 BOOK OF INFORMATION PRINT ESTIMATES 2023-2025

Receive data after April elections and installed in May.

Send communication to each DD in early April who should be in touch with each president after their elections to get the new names and contact. Currently, the BOI is 155 pages. Current questions and suggestions:

1. Have one master alphabetical listing only with full contact information in the front of the Board of Directors, BOI, past presidents, everyone.

2. Under each subsequent category, list names only. That alone will reduce the number of printed pages close to half.

3. Other printed sections include (a) the Charter and by-laws and standing rules which may stay); (b) each club and circle in the state and all personnel. Who actually requires that information? Is it necessary for all BOI recipients to have that information? Could we print copies for only those who require it and host it online for everyone else. They can download to their computer and save it.

CATEGORIES:

1. Opening pages and FFGC officers (9 pages) (8 names)

2. District Directors (2 pages) (12 names)

3. Advisory Council (1 page) (11 names)

4. Board of Directors (9 pages) (~90 names)

5. Chairmanships (10 pages) (~100 names and repetitive)

6. Committees (2 pages) (10 committees so 10 chairs and repetitive)

7. Club Listing alpha (54 pages) – cut this page from BOI; this info is provided by clubs;

Who else needs it? Online version only?

8. Past presidents (2)

9. Flower Show Judges (1)

10. TriCouncil (1)

11. Schools (6)

12. Charter/bylaws/standing rules (35 pages)

13. Club Presidents (< 200)

TOTAL 239 names but at least 100 are repetitive

Inc/ club presidents, 439 w/ 100 repetitive

BIDS: 450 copies max, not 550, both are 5x8”

Baker Press: 52 pages Spiral Bound 450 Books $1,780 RECOMMENDED with further reductions

550 Books $1,875

80 pages 550 ($2,049)

450 ($1,917)

52 pages 3-hole drill 450 books $1,541.00

550 books $1,622.00

80 pages 450 books $1,676.00

550 books $1,759.00

116 pages 450 Books $2031

550 Books $2,160.00

THE FLORIDA GARDENER PRINT BIDS

Baker Press:

"The Florida Gardener" Magazine. including self-cover. Printed 4/4 on 70# Gloss Book. Finished size is 8.5 x 11, saddle stitch, inkjet, sort, bag and deliver to BMEU for mailing. Left over copies to be delivered to FFGC Office,

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Winter Park, FL. # of mags printed  | 2000  | Cost pp  | 2500  | Cost pp  | 3000  | Cost pp  |
| 24-page magazine  | $3,079  | $1.54  | $3,414  | $1.37  | $3,770  | $1.26  |
| 28-page magazine  | $3,653  | $1.83  | $4,083  | $1.63  | $4,445  | $1.48  |
| 1 extra full-page ad covers the difference  |

# BRICK PATHS

 Brick Paths Chairman

 Annual Report

 April 19, 2023

Our vendor once again disappeared and it was not an easy job to find a new one. Engraving bricks is a specialty and the suppliers have come and go often. Throughout 2022 and into 2023 we amassed a large backlog of 40 orders for bricks which we were finally able to get engraved by Bricks and Tiles LLC of Naples FL in January. They were delivered to HQ in February. The cost for this new vendor is comparable to our previous vendors, so it is still a profitable endeavor if we can keep installation costs low. Delivery by truck is included in the price. The only add-on is if a donor wants a graphic added to the lettering, but it is still a reasonable fee after that.

Then the hunt for someone to install them started and we believe the brick repairman who has been working at FFGC HQ in recent months will be able to install them soon. While waiting for him to be available we ordered an additional 17 bricks, bringing us up to date on orders through 2023 convention. The bricks are in the storage closet that is accessed via a locked door behind the Patrons wall off the patio. Although a new chairman is taking over in the new administration this chairman will oversee this installation since many bricks were ordered in groups to be placed together, and this chairman will, as usual, send a photo of each brick to the donor once they are placed in the path.

Joanne Mulinare

Brickmaster 2016-2023

# BYLAWS-STANDING RULES

# CONVENTION COORDINATOR

# CONVENTION COMMITTEE 2023

# DEEP SOUTH GARDEN CLUBS UNIFIED PROJECT

# DUES AMBASSADOR

Dues Ambassador

Sue Roberts

April 18, 2023

The Dues Ambassador put the announcement of dues renewal procedure and the updated forms out to the cub and circle presidents and the website on March 15. Dues are due by June 30. Late notices will be sent after June 30 and then again Aug. 30. These dates are the same as last year and the forms have had only minor changes from last year.

The Office Coordinator has prepared the accounting spreadsheet and will open renewals and deposit the checks. She and I will process the clubs updating their profiles as they come in. The goal is to complete the entire update process by Sept 1. After that the clubs will continue to add new members as they get them.

The role of Dues Ambassador is to be available for all questions and issues that may arise in the clubs. Over the last two years these issues have become less and less and I hope that trend will continue this year. Next year the due dates will be moved up by one month in hopes that we can get more clubs to pay before they break up for the summer.

Summary: the Dues Ambassador’s role is to answer questions, prepare the forms, and define the renewal process and then help to get the clubs profiles updated as they are paid. Unfortunately this is a time consuming job for the month of June, July, and August.

# EARTH STEWARD

**BOD Annual Report**

**Earth Steward Recognition**

**Kathy Siena**

**April 19, 2023**

FFGC’s Tri-Council first introduced the Earth Steward Recognition in 2013. A total of 135 recognitions have been given out up to April 2023. This recognition is given to honor the recipient for outstanding efforts and stewardship of our natural resources. It can be awarded in the field of Gardening, Landscape Design, and Environment. This chairman requests that these efforts be clearly indicated on the application form biography section for the recipient.

A worthy individual can be recognized with the honor in many ways. It may be awarded by a club, district, an FFGC organization or by an individual. The recipient of the Earth Steward recognition is presented with a pin and certificate. The recipient is not required to be an FFGC member. The fillable application is available on the home page of the FFGC website under “Honoring Garden Club Members. The $100 donation goes to the “Color Our Garden Fund”, a part of the Headquarters and Endowment (H&E) budget for the continued stewardship and care of the grounds at FFGC Headquarters.

Summary:

The Earth Steward Recognition was created in 2013. A worthy individual is recognized with a certificate for this special honor as earth stewards. They also received a specially designed pin. The $100 donation is given to the “Color Our Garden Fund” at FFGC Headquarters. Since that time, a total of 135 recognitions have been given out with only two awarded during the 2023 year so far. An updated list of all recipients is available on the FFGC website at this link:

<https://ffgc.org/page-18059>

Click on Earth Steward Recipients.

# FFGC Nominating Committee

Report

FFGC Nominating Committee

April 19, 2023

First, I’d like to recognize those members who served on the nominating committee for FFGC officers for 2023-25. If you are in the room, please stand when I call your name.

District I – Gina Jogan

District II – Sue Schmitz

District III – Jana Walling

District IV – Pat Caren

District V – Donna Thomas

District VI – Andrea Finn

District VII – Cynthia Pesch

District VIII – Carol Lucia

District IX – Leslie Montwid

District X – Kathy Siena

District XI – Inger Jones

District XII – Jean Hawa

Thank you for your service.

The task of this committee was to select a nominating slate for FFGC 1st Vice President, 2nd Vice President, 3rd Vice President, Recording Secretary and Treasurer.

Fortunately, the 2nd Vice President, 3rd Vice President and Treasurer were willing to continue.

The committee met by zoom in January to interview for 1st and 2nd Vice President and Treasurer. The

Committee met in person on Tuesday, January 10, 2023, to interview candidates for 3rd Vice President and Recording Secretary.

Today the slate we are presenting is as follows:

1st Vice President – Christy Linke

2nd Vice President – Mary Whisler

3rd Vice President – Leticia Gunn

Recording Secretary – Jennifer Barber

Treasurer – Jana Walling

# FFGC 100th Birthday

Annual Report

Centennial Celebration

Tina V. Tuttle

19 April 2023, Kissimmee, FL

The time is here!! With the beginning of this new administration, we will begin to celebrate 100 years as a vibrant, vital and viable organization, serving the community and our members. The fundraising will continue but with your help, we have raised **$35,262.45** in 80 separate donations!

Since we are such a large state, we are bringing the celebration to you and your districts so all members can participate and help celebrate!! We truly hope to involve **EVERY** **member** in some way! Please note that *much of the money raised will be returned to the districts in the form of birthday gifts, grants and discounts*. **The more you give, the more we can give back!!**

To date we have spent $10,691.68 on the **2024 commemorative calendar (**$5,761) **pins, ornaments** ($1778.33)**, candy jars, t-shirts, skit gifts** (eyeglass wipes), **and stickers** ($2348) **and banners** ($149). Sales of commemorative items will begin tomorrow night at the reception, and will be available online and on the October Officer’s Districts tour. Our goal is to sell out!

The 2024 convention committee is already up and running and promises you a wonderful 100th birthday party in Jacksonville beginning with a light-hearted Early Arrivals dinner, fabulous guest speakers, useful workshops, craveable vendors, meaningful tours, and so much fun! The schedule for the **state flower show** entitled, “Celebrating 100 Years!” and written by the District I judges’ council, has been turned over to the state judges’ council for finishing touches and final execution. It will be held at the Garden Club of Jacksonville. As part of the 2024 convention, we will have our *first-ever* **Members Art Show** so get busy creating your best work and win a cash prize! Along that same line, we will be creating a **commemorative quilt** for 2024. One hundred-twenty simple block pattern kit instructions were given out on tour last year! A dozen have already been returned and they are awesome. We will also be bringing back **Tombola**!! You can win 100 *somethings*!! How fun! And, we certainly plan to honor our four **founding garden clubs** as well as any member born in 1924!

Yes, we are planning to hold a lively **catered brunch and a separate sit-down dinner at headquarters on 24 April, 2024**, our actual birthday. Judi Jodoin has bravely taken on this special project as her chairmanship. Remember, those individuals and groups who donated $1,000 to the Centennial Celebration will receive a special invitation to the dinner!

We are hopeful that all clubs and circles will plant a tree on **Florida Arbor Day, 19 January 2024,** at exactly 11am EST so we can get statewide publicity! Lynn Artz will coordinate this project.

And so much more is being planned to recognize this milestone in the history of FFGC and for your enjoyment!

To ensure that our Centennial Celebration is truly historic, all you have to do is accept the invitation being given to each and every one of you! Please join us in 2024!

Tina Tuttle

Summary: Plans are moving forward for our Centennial Celebration in 2024: the convention, the state flower show, our official birthday party, arbor day, etc.. Funds continue to be solicited and so many projects are being planned. The goal is to make every member a participant! Make plans now to join us!!

# FINANCE COMMITTEE

Report

FFGC Finance Committee

Tina Tuttle, Chairman

19 April 2023, Kissimmee, FL

The FFGC Finance Committee met on 13 April by Zoom with all members participating. Following a welcome by chairman Tina Tuttle and President Marge Hendon, our **Treasurer**, Jana Walling reviewed our cash and investments and Profit and Loss statements. She noted that the investment portfolio was making a slow but steady comeback. She reported that the contractor for the new building at Wekiva Youth Camp has made three draws for payment thus far totaling nearly $217,000, one third of the donated amount. Approximately $40,000 of the donated Wekiva money has been set aside for the purchase of furniture and the June 15th dedication ceremony. Jana has all credit cards and banking signatory requirements ready for the next administration. The committee voted to **add a line item** to future budgets to cover our **biennial state flower show** and to include an amount to cover the **biennial training** of our new district directors.

Next, Kelley Wood, our **insurance** chairman, helped us to understand who in the organization needs to be **bonded**. Our current insurance policy allows for only 7 people to be bonded, so that number will need to be increased to at least a dozen people who are in possession of an FFGC credit card or who handle checks or can sign checks.

Sue Roberts, Chairman of H&E, reported on the status of purchases, repairs, and contracts related to the **Headquarters building and grounds**. Her report to you will include the new oven, new AC control panel, new lawn care contractor, benefits for the Office Coordinator, among other things. Sue is working with new grounds chair, Charlotte White, and Tri-Council representatives to develop a $9,000 **landscape plan** using native plants for possible planting in the fall. The committee agreed to purchase and mount an AED for the headquarters building.

Mary Whisler, as chairman of Wekiva Youth Camp, is making plans to replace the **dining hall oven** for summer 2024. The final financial report for the **Wekiva Volunteer Training** in February was under budget by $56! Mary will be turning over responsibilities of the **FFGC Ways and Means** to our new 3VP Leticia Gunn beginning with this convention. They are working together to ensure sales by credit card and cash go smoothly.

Gina Jogan will rotate off the committee with the change in administration. She will give her report to you regarding $4,925 in **Matching Grants** awarded for 2023 and changes for the 2024 application cycle. Gina was kind enough to volunteer to be the registrar for **Short Course North** and prepared a $4,300 budget for approval. She also helped with preparing budgets for the upcoming biennial state flower show of $4,580, the 2023 flower show school symposium for $5,500, and the **100th brunch and dinner parties** slated for April of 2024, combined total of $12,500, all of which were approved by the committee.

Claudia Bates, who has been asked to remain on the Finance Committee for the next administration, explained plans for the upcoming **2023 fall flower show school symposium** to be held at our headquarters. With Jan Griffin and herself as instructors, this symposium will be a no-frills venture for judges needing credit and will have limited seating.

As chairman of the **Centennial Celebration**, this chairman presented a newly revised budget of $40,000 including ways and means logo items, the birthday brunch and dinner, the member art show, the commemorative quilt, etc. The budget was approved.

As First Vice President, Christy Linke, will take over chairmanship of the Finance Committee. Her first task will be to host our summer finance meeting.

Only one budget was submitted for review: The **Landscape Design School in New Smyrna Beach** in September at $2,860 received a positive review.

Serving as chairman of the Finance Committee these past 2 years has been an eye-opening learning experience! Deep gratitude and heartfelt thanks to the members of this committee. It has been a pleasure working with you!

Tina Tuttle, Chairman, FFGC 1VP

**Summary:** The FFGC Finance Committee met 13 April by Zoom. We considered submitted budgets and financials for FFGC related educational programs and projects and HQ repairs. It is our mission to investigate every aspect of the fiscal health of our organization and make recommendations to the Board of Directors regarding expenditures, investments and avenues of revenue.

# FLORAL DESIGN STUDY

# FFSJ PRESIDENT

Report

Florida Flower Show Judges

April, 2023

Over the 2021-2023 term, FFSJ members and the twelve Districts remained busy, having 47

programs and workshops and 39 Flower Shows. District I and VIII each hosted a Symposium. What an accomplishment considering the slow return from Covid.

Districts reached out to their clubs to help mentor those who have never held a flower show and

to those who haven’t held one in years. The Program ‘Flower Show in a Box” was presented by

Gina Jogan and several Districts invited clubs to programs to actually demonstrate how easy a show can be. District VIII had two clubs organize a flower show, each commented on how the show brought their club together!

FFSJ’s project has been “What’s Your Type” A design book for beginners as well as experienced

designers. Edition 2 is to be sold at the 2023 FFGC Convention in Kissimmee. One hundred Binders and Edition 1 were printed as well as 400 copies of Edition 2. Those not sold will be taken to the NGC Convention in West Virginia. FFSJ looks forward to the continuing success of this project with Gina Jogan and Anne Collins as Co-Chairs.

FFSJ continues to be strong and a vital part of the FFGC community

Parke Finold

FFGC-FFSJ Liaison

What’s Your Type? co-chair

**FLORIDA GARDENER**

CONVENTION 2023 FFGC BOARD REPORT

FLORIDA GARDENER -- EDITOR

Lisa Packard, Editor

April 18, 2023

***PROTOCOL AND PROCEDURES OF THE MAGAZINE***

Since the January 2023 meeting to now, *The Florida Gardener* has produced the Spring edition which was mailed to over 2,000 people and posted online. We held a cover photo contest which was won by Olivia Turowski of Hollywood Garden Club, District XII—a gorgeous picture of a bird.

From the beginning, but especially since the last issue, I have tried to understand the entire process and protocol of the magazine with a special interest in the reliability of the distribution list for mailed copies and how that list has been monitored for accuracy. The commercial printer, Baker Press, provides a list of undeliverable addresses to us after every issue so we can edit them. That list is provided to Circulation. After the Spring edition, I began to look at the flow of information and areas of responsibility. I have not found one procedure nor one protocol for checking those addresses, nor any proof that notified changes were made. Since those addresses have repeatedly been mailed multiple times, it is fair to assume that monitoring the accuracy of the list has not been happening. *As a result, FFGC has wasted considerable money delivering magazines to hundreds of deceased or relocated people*.

Action on cleaning up the list is underway. Baker Press and I both searched addresses on Google and found tons of obituaries. Tina Tuttle has asked district directors to address the list of life members which continues to yield a long list of names to remove.

FFGC cannot afford to waste money on anything, especially something so easily avoidable. The process is undergoing a rigorous examination and a new procedure must be in place prior to the next edition.

**The new publishing schedule is:**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Fall -- due Aug 1; in mailboxes by Sep 1** (as clubs are just starting) | **Winter -- due Dec 1; in mailboxes by Jan 1 (**so clubs can include December activities and submissions don’t mess up their busy December schedules) |
| **Spring -- due Mar 1; in mailboxes by April** (just before convention) | **Summer – due Jun 1 (well after the convention); in mailboxes by July** 1  |

**Past expense averaged over the last year (print + postage together):**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| # of issues mailed | average of 2,063 per issue | 4x a year |
| ~ cost per issue is $1.80 | (2,063 magazines x 4 issues/yr) =  | 8,252 total magazines printed at $1.80 each |
| **COST** | **$14,853.00** |

**Distribution Needs Examination:**

Tina and others have been addressing the life members distribution list and removing those who are deceased or relocated out of state and left no forwarding address. I would consider that last category as someone who opted out. We cannot be expected to honor a promise if they do not tell us where they are. **I have requested a Wild Apricot report on who is on each of the lists below and that any final changes occur before the summer edition gets mailed July 1**.

* All BOD members (~70)
* Magazine for Life members (**# unknown**)
* Paid subscribers (15)
* Members who do not have an email address in the Wild Apricot database (**?**)
* All District Directors (12)
* All club/circle presidents

 (~ 150 clubs total, with circles it is likely to be a minimum of 500 copies)

* All members with “Send Hardcopy” flag set (**?**)

**Issues to be Reviewed:**

1. Our website does not have the ability to check the statistics/analytics to document or quantify how many people actually read the magazine online; we are not tracking that. **Solution**: *Opening a Google Analytics account (free), we could access a lot of information. Just need a Gmail account to start an analytics account.*
2. Revisit some of the categories under the distribution tab. (a) Anyone who moves and fails to provide a forwarding address has just indicated they are no longer interested and should be removed. (b) Should someone receive a free printed copy because they don’t have an email account? (c) What is “hard copy?” **Suggestion**: *Clarify these categories and discuss who is truly eligible for a printed copy.*
3. New procedures need to be created that will guarantee the veracity of our database and ensure proper monitoring is occurring. FFGC has wasted $$$ on undeliverable addresses and deceased members. **Suggestion**: *Consider hiring a dedicated part-time dedicated database manager and no longer leave it up to a volunteer.*
4. Eventually, a discussion will need to occur about what the magazine is and isn’t. What format the magazine takes in the future should be discussed. It could be morphing into something that could be of wider interest and use a different vehicle to disseminate district news, and class schedules, etc.
5. Create a new policy on how lifetime benefits. No organization should create a built-in, unsound fiscal policy.

Printing Estimates for 2024-2025:

I sought three bids, but received only two. Our current printer offered the best price and their service to us has been phenomenal.

Summary and Conclusion

* Always work towards better and better content that represents the magazine and has valuable to members and subscribers.
* Revisit the distribution list and evaluate procedures and protocols for eligibility and monitor obsolete information. Establish a Google account to capture magazine stats, among other stats.
* Discuss the future format and content of the magazine vs another adding a secondary less formal newsletter with district news, etc.

RATIONALE:

1. The magazine expenses exceed income. *With the current situation, people who do not receive a hard copy are subsidizing those who do*. Members, nor FFGC, should not be subsidizing it. It has the potential to be a quality product that is fully supported by subscribers and a few more advertisers. The annual print bill is over $14,000 and is $8/year per person who receives a hard copy. The members who do not receive a hard copy, and FFGC, are paying the difference. That is not a sound fiscal policy.

**FLORIDA GARDENER – CIRCULATION**

# FLORIDA WILDFLOWER LIAISON



# FLOWER SHOW EVALUATION/AWARDS

# FLOWER SHOW SCHEDULES

# FUN WITH FLOWERS

Fun with Flowers

 Emilie Palmieri

 FFFG Board Meeting

 April 15, 2023

This chairman has provided “Fun with Flowers” workshops and demonstrations with several garden clubs in her District X , XI as well as a local condo association. Everyone left with new knowledge of the ease of flower arranging.

This chairman has shared several new ideas after receiving phone calls from clubs interested in adding Fun with Flowers to their programs. Many of these clubs have posted photos on their Facebook page. It is a delight to see them having so much fun with this program.

A list of member who may be willing to demonstrate Fun with Flowers in their clubs and districts has been started.

Summary: Fun With Flowers is well received and a wonderful way to invite new people to join Garden clubs as well as learn how to have fun with flowers. Wouldn’t it be great to have someone from each District willing to share this program.

# GARDEN THERAPY

**GRANTS**

****

# HABITAT FOR HUMANITY

# HALL OF FAME

FFGC HALL OF FAME

SANDRA MESSER

APRIL 26, 2023

April 2021 Citrus Garden Club registered 1 recipient. District V

January 2022 Garden Club of Stuart registered 1 recipient. District X

April 2023 Garden Club of Stuart registered 1 recipient. District X

May 2023 Coral Gables Garden Club registered 3 recipients. District XII

May 2023 The Garden Club of Deland registered 1 recipient. District VI

May 2023 Garden Club of St. Augustine registered 1` recipient. District X

# HEADQUARTERS AND ENDOWMENT (& GROUNDS)

H&E Trustees

April 19, 2023

Sue Roberts, chairman

The period since our last board meeting in January has been a busy time at headquarters. Projects that have been completed and problems that have been addressed include:

 Last year shortly after this meeting a big tree fell on our building. All repairs associated with that disaster have been completed and insurance claims have been settled.

 Larsen Landscaping and tree service has cleared our property of all the hurricane damage as well as dead and dangerous trees.

 Grandtopia, our landscape service signed new contract in February and resigned in March

 New Landscaper hired

 New Refrigerator installed

 Brick repair across the property has been completed

 Cocktails Catering did a landscape job on the corner to make it presentable for spring weddings. Since he did that we voted to not ask him for the 10% yearly increase that is allowed in his contract for this year.

 Due to a power problem with the city wires coming into the building our oven dated 1999 died. A new wall oven has been installed.

 Other miscellaneous minor problems across the facility have been addressed.

Future projects include the purchase of an AED for headquarters, landscaping project for corner of building, replacement of camellias in the President’s garden, repairs of the driveway and parking lot, and addressing the back path from parking lot to patio. Maintenance of our building and the grounds is a constant effort and I could not do this job without the help of our Office Coordinator, Robin. We thank her for all she does.

I would like to welcome Charlotte White as our new grounds director. We will be working on relandscaping of the front corner of the building with a native plant garden over the summer.

I want to thank the three members of the H&E committee that will be leaving us after this administration:

 Marge Hendon – thank you for your guidance over the last two years

 Mary Whisler – her term is complete

 Sue Angle – has completed six years on H&E and was past chairman. This last year of her term she has been an advisor to me and always there to answer questions. And she always knows the answers!

I also thank the other members of H&E:

 Tina Tuttle, Jo Ann Guise, Joanne Mulinare, Jana Walling, always watching out for our finances and Gwen Carter, who has been our amazing secretary. And we will welcome three new members to the committee shortly.

Thank you

Sue Roberts, Chairman of FFGC Headquarters & Endowment Trustees

# INSURANCE

# INVASIVE SPECIES

# JUNIOR GARDENERS

**LEGISLATIVE POSITIONS & POLICIES**

# LIFE MEMBERSHIPS

FFGC NATIONAL GARDEN CLUB &

DEEP SOUTH LIFE MEMBERSHIPS

SANDRA MESSER

There have been no Deep South Life Memberships.

There has been two National Life Memberships registered.

One in March 2023 given by The Naples Garden Club. District IX

One in April 2023 given by The Garden Club of St. Augustine. District IV

# MATCHING GRANTS

# MEMBERSHIP

                                                                                                                                 New Membership Chair

                                                                                                                                                       Ed Nendick

                                                                                                                                                       Apr. 2023

Successes of 2023 include.

1.      An increase in new members.

2.      The programs of 2 by 2 have been a success. The first person has a friend to go to the meetings with. They are much more comfortable participating.

3.      All districts are encouraging adding members using all or most of the things suggested in the past

Please keep up the good work and remember a smile and a polite greeting to a visitor are your very best tools to bringing new members in. Just smile and ask if the person would like to meet more Like-Minded People, which should allow the conversation to go toward your Garden Club.

Please continue to use the Next-Door App. It is free and it advertises for Garden Clubs. Use it every month to advertise your meetings, programs, and up and coming trips. Let everyone know who to contact to join.

Please encourage everyone in your club to just ask their neighbors, church members, and civic club friends to visit your meeting and remember what we mentioned in the above paragraph.

Membership is two parts; a. new members; b. Retaining current members You need to have two people in your club advocating for both parts.

As this is one of my last meetings as New Membership Chair, it has been a great thrill to have worked with each and everyone of you. I will be around to help the next New Membership Chair.

Ed Nendick

# MEMBERSHIP RETENTION

 Report

 Jane Nendick

 Membership Retention Chair

 April, 2023

**We have discovered, along the way, that there are several reasons Garden Club Members choose not to renew their Membership:**

1. **Former Members felt a LACK OF VALUE for their Membership dues. (Little “bang for the buck”!) Every meeting, the general Membership should be “reminded” in some way, just what this Program means…or what this Fundraiser can do…or how the Club has helped their community in some way.**
2. **Former Members felt LEFT OUT of their Garden Club Community. The very minute a new person joins, they should be given a Club responsibility, according to THEIR INTERESTS!**
3. **Former Members felt the Programs were BORING and did not meet their interests! This is why the Membership Form should be completed by ALL! This form has the Members list their interests.**

**In conclusion, there are several Forms in the MEMBERSHIP MANUAL/HANDBOOK (on the ffgc.org/Membership website) that are essential to Retention: Membership Form; Membership Survey and Suggestions; Membership Exit Form. Of course, the Club’s Leadership MUST meet the needs/wants of the Membership. A hard copy of this Manual is kept for each District by the Assistant District Director and is passed to the new Assistant District Director for sharing.**

# NGC ENVIRONMENTAL SCHOOL CHAIRMAN

 NGC ENVIRONMENTAL SCHOOL – FFGE SCHOOL CHAIRMAN/CREDENTIALS

NGC Environmental State Chairman

April 18, 2023

Lydia Barbour

The most important aspect of my job as NGC Environmental School State Chairman is to work with Districts and Local Chairmen and their teams to make plans and successfully deliver Environmental School Courses. Currently there are two active schools, Fort Myers in District IX and Tampa in District VIII. Districts I and IV are each considering beginning a school in the fall of this year. Both Fort Myers and Tampa completed courses in the last two months despite their areas being devastated by Hurricane Ian in September. Fort Myers completed Course 2 in February and Tampa completed Course 1 a week ago.

This Chairman also actively works with students, reminding them to take courses to complete their accreditation as consultants or to refresh on their way to becoming Masters or retaining that accreditation. This often involves helping them with the paperwork confirming eligibility to take the desired course. As a student registers for a course, this Chairman verifies the data entries on Forms 6 & 7 and approves the form once complete. Because Form 7 has now replaced the cards that NGC formerly sent students alerting them to their GSD, this Chairman forwards the approved Form 7 to each student when notified of successful completion of a course.

An important aspect of the job is ensuring that the Environmental School database is up-to-date and accurate so that the students as well as the FFGC and NGC organizations have accurate information about the school and the students.

As of 4/14/2023 the number of each category of student is: 117 active students including 32 Masters, 46 Consultants, and 39 students still working to complete the four courses within the seven-year time requirement. I anticipate that 11 new students will be added once the data for the two courses can be entered, bringing the total students to 128.

Summary: Assisting, guiding and supporting Local Chairmen and students are the important elements of this Chairman’s work. Maintaining an accurate database and supporting documentation supports this work.

# NGC GARDEN STUDY SCHOOL CHAIRMAN

# NGC LANDSCAPE DESIGN SCHOOL CHAIRMAN

# NGC SCHOOLS CREDENTIALS CHAIRMAN

# NGC SPECIAL PROJECT LIAISON

                                               Final report Liaison to NGC President Special Projects

                                               Margaret P. Chodosh

                                               April !8, 2023

8 grants awarded to FL.

Application process, access at:

<https://gardenclub.org/plant-america-community-project-grants?fbclid=IwAR2jMAmunZVEbKGv4CzUVB8Om4GenK8pqrHQtyovXZLm7nI9koJ2DtkSz94>

summary:

**2022-2023 PLANT AMERICA COMMUNITY PROJECTS  GRANT RECIPIENTS**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **CLUB NAME** | **STATE** |
| Oakdale Garden Club  | California Garden Clubs. Inc |
| Ledyard Garden Club  | Federated Garden Clubs of  Connecticut, Inc. |
| Nichols Garden Club  | Federated Garden Clubs of  Connecticut, Inc. |
| Babies Breath Circle of Tallahassee Garden Club | Florida Federation of Garden  Clubs, Inc. |
| Citrus Garden Club  | Florida Federation of Garden  Clubs, Inc. |
| Destin Garden Club  | Florida Federation of Garden  Clubs, Inc. |
| Garden Club of Green Cove  Springs | Florida Federation of Garden  Clubs, Inc. |
| Garden Club of Orange Park  | Florida Federation of Garden  Clubs, Inc. |
| Garden Club of Switzerland  | Florida Federation of Garden  Clubs, Inc. |
| Jasmine Garden Circle  Tallahassee | Florida Federation of Garden  Clubs, Inc. |
| Milton Garden Club  | Florida Federation of Garden  Clubs, Inc. |
| Ardsley Park-Chatham  Crescent Garden Club | Garden Club of Georgia, Inc |
| Burkeland Garden Club  | Garden Club of Georgia, Inc |
| Gray Garden Club  | Garden Club of Georgia, Inc |
| Marietta Council of Garden  Clubs | Garden Club of Georgia, Inc |
| Morning Glory Garden Club  | Garden Club of Georgia, Inc |
| Pine Needle Garden Club  | Garden Club of Georgia, Inc |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Pine Tree Garden Club Hartwell | Garden Club of Georgia, Inc |
| Rose Garden Club  | Garden Club of Georgia, Inc |
| Union Point Garden Club  | Garden Club of Georgia, Inc |
| Darien Garden Club  | Garden Clubs of Illinois, Inc |
| Garden Club of Evanston  | Garden Clubs of Illinois, Inc |
| Lincolnshire Garden Club  | Garden Clubs of Illinois, Inc |
| Lecompte Garden Club  | Louisiana Garden Club  Federation, Inc. |
| Bloomfield Garden Club  | Garden Club Federation of  Maine, Inc |
| Camden Garden Club  | Garden Club Federation of  Maine, Inc |
| Bolton Hill Garden Club  | Federated Garden Clubs of  Maryland, Inc. |
| Evergreen Garden Club of  Harford County | Federated Garden Clubs of  Maryland, Inc. |
| Oxford Garden Club  | Federated Garden Clubs of  Maryland, Inc. |
| Holland Garden Club  | Michigan Garden Clubs, Inc. |
| Brandon Garden Club  | Garden Clubs of Mississippi,  Inc |
| Cherokee Rose Garden Club  | Garden Clubs of Mississippi,  Inc |
| Isola Garden Club  | Garden Clubs of Mississippi,  Inc |
| Seven Pines Garden Club  | Federated Garden Clubs of  Missouri, Inc. |
| Webster Groves Garden Club  | Federated Garden Clubs of  Missouri, Inc. |
| Great Falls Flower Growers  | Montana Federation of Garden  Clubs, Inc. |
| Desert Gardeners  | Nevada Garden Clubs, Inc |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Bow Garden Club  | New Hampshire Federation of  Garden Clubs, Inc. |
| Point Pleasant Garden Club  | Garden Club of New Jersey,  Inc. |
| West Trenton Garden Club  | Garden Club of New Jersey,  Inc. |
| Chappaqua Garden Club  | Federated Garden Clubs of  New York State, Inc. |
| Community Garden Club of  Marlborough on Hudson | Federated Garden Clubs of  New York State, Inc. |
| New Bern Garden Club  | Garden Club of North Carolina,  Inc. |
| Transylvania Garden Club  | Garden Club of North Carolina,  Inc. |
| Lebanon Town and Country  Garden Club | Garden Club of Ohio, Inc |
| Penn-Cumberland Garden  Club | Garden Club Federation of  Pennsylvania |
| Pucketos Garden Club  | Garden Club Federation of  Pennsylvania |
| Tuckaleechee Garden Club  | Tennessee Federation of  Garden Clubs, Inc. |
| Lexington Garden Club  | Virginia Federation of Garden  Clubs, Inc. |
| Town and Country Garden  Club/Roanoke Garden Club | Virginia Federation of Garden  Clubs, Inc. |
| Cowen Garden Club  | West Virginia Garden Club,  Inc. |
| East River Mountain Garden  Club | West Virginia Garden Club,  Inc. |
| Edgewood Garden Club  | West Virginia Garden Club,  Inc. |
| Garden Club of Greater  Milwaukee | Wisconsin Garden Club  Federation |

# NGC & DSGC YOUTH CONTESTS

# PARKS – TRAILS - GREENWAYS

# PENNY PINES

Penny Pines Report

Andrea Finn, Chairman

April 19, 2023

I don’t have a lot to report at this time. I have received many inquiries about Penny Pines the past few months. They range from why do they have to be in $68 increments, to applying for a grant to restore local urban forests. Many of our Clubs are still using old forms, and don’t know that our Forms are on-line at the FFGC website. I have answered all their queries and they seem to appreciate that.

I have not received any money figures yet for this year from Jana Walling. I’ll probably see them on the next financial statement.

Andrea Finn, FFGC Chairman

Penny Pines Project

**SUMMARY:** Many inquiries were answered. Have not received donations

 summary from FFGC Treasurer yet.

# PHOTOGRAPHER

# PILLAR OF PRIDE

# PLANNED GIVING

****

# PROGRAMS & SPEAKERS

# PROTOCOL

2023 FFGC Protocol

Report

April 19, 2023

Jo Ann Guise

The 2023 Convention Committee had the experience and knowledge of Cissy Richardson Convention Co-ordinator as she mentored her newly appointed successor Connie Gladding. Cissy was still responsible for covering all bases. Cissy worked closely with everyone providing suggestions and possibilities to ensure a seamless transition.

It helped and aided this Chairman to be included in all the pre-convention Zoom meetings for current and latest information for the changing decisions that happened.

This Chairman is also mentoring her successor, Joleen King as FFGC Protocol Chairman.

Susie Berryhill, Convention Co-Chairman was an additional asset as she provided timely Minutes of the meetings and updated Charts for the Meals and Assignments.

With much of this committee continuing to work on the 2023 Convention, and the previous year’s experience behind them, this Chairman has looked forward to being involved in the 2023 Convention.

# ROADSIDE BEAUTIFICATION/ PATHS OF SUNSHINE

Roadside Beautification/Pathways of Sunshine

 Chairman’s Report

 Brenda Luedeman

 April 2023

This chairman completed a second term as the Roadside Beautification and Paths of Sunshine (POS) Chairman for 2021-2023. COVID-19 and variants continued to minimize in-person interaction, so virtual technology communications and digital recognition have continued to be essential in fulfilling this position. Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) and it’s landscape architects, managers, and roadside crews etc. continue to initiate, enhance, and support Roadside Beatification in diverse areas of Florida. Appreciation is shown for all sustainable Florida Friendly practices and any roadside beautification efforts, but the POS Ella P. Woods award especially encourages and recognizes Florida native vegetation and wildflower plantings that are pleasing to see while benefiting the environment and supporting essential pollinators.

FDOT Wildflower Specialist Jeff Norcini, who has has been a fabulous liaison in the awards process, retired in February, and his successor has not yet been determined. This chairman is grateful for his guidance and the oversight of Gary Henry, FWF Board President and former FDOT Landscape Architect, in revising and updating the award guidelines and judging criteria plus established new ways to recognize FDOT accomplishments while staying true to goals and objectives of the POS award. PowerPoint presentations describing and depicting applicant accomplishments were created in 2020, 2021, 2022, and 2023 for all to view and appreciate.

 Four nomination/applications were received and evaluated for the 2023 Ella P. Woods POS awards. Panelists representing FFGC, FDOT, FWF, and Master Gardeners with different areas of expertise met virtually via ZOOM on February 23, 2023 to evaluate the applications. This chairman appreciates and thanks moderator Jeff Norcini and the jurists including Sue Angle, Christie Linke, Carol Hall, and Brenda Luedeman of FFGC, Dena Wild of Master Gardeners, C.J. McCartney of Florida Wildflower Foundation (FWF), and Jeff Norcini FDOT Wildflower Specialist.

The 2023 award recipients are:

 **1st place** - FDOT District 8 Turnpike Enterprise/Turnpike Maintenance Unit/Osceola County: For one of the most stunning wildflower displays in turnpike history with nearly 14 acres over 2 sites enhancing native wildflower communities along the stretch of the turnpike corridor in the medians of Turnpike Mainline (SR-91) at MP 216 and MP 226 (Osceola County). Future goals include expanding the the northernmost area by 50% and wrapping the wildflowers even more around the pine flatwoods and cypress swamps. (FFGC D-VII Director Charlotte White)

**2nd place** - FDOT District 2 Chiefland Maintenance/Pond Locations: US-27A (SR-500) between Chiefland and Bronson (Levy County): For Monarch butterfly/pollinator habitat: For a research project with Dr. Jaret Daniels, Univ. of Florida, with a purpose of evaluating can wet and dry retention pond areas be planted and managed as habitats for the monarch butterfly and other pollinators with planted native milkweeds as well as native nectar plants? (FFGC D-V Director Donna Thomas)

**3rd place** – FDOT District 2 Chiefland Maintenance: SR-121, approx. 6.5 miles southwest of US-41 in Williston (Levy County): For mapping native milkweeds on SR-121 in a research project with Univ. of Florida and Duke Univ. Native milkweeds are critical to the spring monarch re-migration and colonization in Florida. Chiefland Maintenance Office is protecting milkweed areas by marking them with signs so that that these areas are not mowed. (FFGC D-V Director Donna Thomas)

 **Honorable Mention** - FDOT District 3 Chipley District Office/SR-83 at the I-10 Interchange, Infield Area (Walton County): For Wildflowers to support Monarch butterflies and other pollinators Inspired by the nationwide Candidate Conservation Agreement with Assurances for the Monarch Butterfly on Energy and Transportation Lands. Native wildflowers serve as nectar plants. Status and future plans Two-phase plan - One: Herbicide to treat for undesired weeds and grasses; then seeded native wildflowers Two: Ongoing program of targeted herbicide treatments to reduce undesirable weeds while preserving showy wildflower species, both naturally occurring and introduced. (FFGC D-I Director Joyce Waters-Smith)

 Following formal announcement of the recipients to the FFGC Board, a 2023 POS PowerPoint Presentation describing and depicting the above accomplishments will be displayed to inform all FFGC members in attendance at the convention’s awards presentations. If FFGC in-person meetings take place, award recipients can be recognized with certificates in person in their geographical areas, ideally when the FFGC Executive Officers complete fall tour. I respectfully request that FFGC District Directors allow time on their meeting agendas for brief award certificate presentations if merited by a FDOT maintenance crew within their district, and that I be informed of meeting date, time, and location so that award recipients can be so advised. Award certificates will be created and mailed directly to recipients in lieu of FFGC’s customary procedure of presenting them in person at district meetings if deemed necessary.

With Sue Robert’s or FFGC office assistance, FFGC website awards information will be periodically updated to reflect any updated guidelines, procedure, nomination forms, and contact information. A poster promoting FFGC’s Ella P Wood “Pathways of Sunshine” Award, Florida State Wildflower License plate information, and other brochures supporting roadside beautification and scenic pathways at this FFGC Spring Convention 2023 and at future FFGC functions when possible.

 Please view the 2020, 2021, 2022, and 2023 Paths of Sunshine Awards details archived in the PowerPoints on FFGC’s website, see Ella P Woods “Paths of Sunshine” award educational exhibits at gatherings, and enjoy the native plantings and wildflowers along Florida’s roadways.

# SCHOLARSHIP - DSGC, NGC

Chairman DSGC and NGC Scholarships

Mary Adams

April 18, 2024

A total of seven applicants applied for the state of Florida Federation of Garden clubs Scholarship for 2023. Two applicants were chosen and submitted for consideration for the NGC scholarship. NGC has accepted the applicants. Their names are Jorge Del’ Angel from Florida A&M of Tallahassee and Mackenzie R. Spiroff of the University of Florida.

There were no submissions for the Deep South Garden Club Scholarship.

# SCHOLARSHIP – FFGC Report

Scholarship and Endowment Report

April 20, 2023

Helen Purvis

In 1990 a group of wise garden club members established the scholarship endowment fund and it is my honor to be chair of this committee. Today I am here to thank the generous garden clubs and individuals who have contributed $1000 or more this past year.

Another one of my jobs is to review scholarship applications and interact with the students and hear of their passions and plans. But wait, why should I be the only one. Let’s listen to the students and how they feel about your generosity. (PLAY VIDEO)

5% of the last three year’s average of the value of Scholarship Funds at the end of May is used to fund the current year’s scholarships. Deadline for applying is May 1 and the money will be awarded to the students who meet the approved criteria. Most scholarships are granted at $3000 per year or $1500 per semester. Since 2007, FFGC has awarded $246,718 to college students.

President Hendon, I present to you this year’s donors:

Thank you to Gulf Beach Garden Club for their $10,000 donation. (Sue Schmitz)

Thank you to the Garden Club of Ft. Pierce for their $3000 donation. (Vivian Kobe)

Thank you to Tallahassee Garden Club for their $2000 donation. (Sue Griner)

Thank you to Lake County Council of Garden Clubs for their $2000 donation. (Sue Roberts)

Thank you to Jean Hawa for her individual contribution of $2000. (Jean Hawa)

Many other clubs, circles and individuals have donated to this fund every year and we appreciate all donations, of any size. So if your club or circle or individual has donated, any amount, please stand and we can recognize your contribution, as well. I know there’s Boynton Beach, Port Charlotte, Pompano, Temple Terrace, Palm Beach, Punta Gorda.

Thank you

# SCOUTING LIAISON

# SEEK CONFERENCE

# SHORT COURSE – UF

# SHORT COURSE – NORTH

Annual Report

Short Course North

Tina V. Tuttle

19 April 2023, Kissimmee, FL

Like a boomerang, the Short Course North chairmanship, created in 2009, has come home to roost….with me. A series of unfortunate circumstances caused the person who asked for this chairmanship to withdraw her name at a critical point in the planning process. After asking several District I people, who have religiously attended the Short Course for the past 14 years, no one was willing to take the job. So, instead of waiting for a new chairman to show up, Gina Jogan and I decided to go ahead with plans for the **10 and 11 August 2023** session. We met with the extension agents from Escambia and Santa Rosa counties on 8 December 2022, after having secured the 4-H building in Pensacola, *at no cost*, for the course. Also attending were the Shermans, mother and daughter, who normally work the kitchen for this event, and Ann Luther, a possible candidate for chairman. We discussed a **theme, “In the Beginning…”** that would lend itself to a variety of topics about how plants, soil, water and other gardening items come into being. We tossed around several possible speakers to present on interesting topics that would allow the Master Gardeners in attendance to earn 8 hours of CEUs. We will again offer the optional one-hour design segment daily.

With the new year, this *temporary* chairman contacted perspective speakers and secured 8 presenters needed and one plant vendor thus far. We have university professors, extension agents, a native American, among others, to educate and entertain the expected 100 attendees. Contracts will be drafted and sent in the near future.

It was decided that the event would be catered rather than have the Shermans cook the lunches.

The informational flier and registration were designed and have been posted on the FFGC website under Events. Gina Jogan will serve as our registrar and our district treasurer, Ginger Eisele, will handle the funds. A budget of $4300 was approved at the January FFGC Finance Committee meeting. The registration price remains $50 for garden club members and $65 for all others in attendance (this price has remained consistent for 14 years!).

An article was written and sent to *The Florida Gardener* editor for publication in the summer issue.

Since we had time at our original meeting, we went ahead and discussed the Short Course North for August 2024 and, since it was close to lunch time, we decided on a theme “I’m Hungry”, all about sowing, planting and growing food crops.

The search continues for a permanent chairman.

Tina Tuttle

**Summary**: Short Course North will take place on 10 and 11 August at the Escambia County 4-H Building in Pensacola. This year’s theme is “In the Beginning…”. Speakers and vendors have been secured on a variety of interesting topics. Lunches will be catered. The registration price remains $50 for garden club members and $65 for non-garden club attendees. Look for an article in the next issue of *TFG* and the registration flier and information can be found on the FFGC website.

# SHORT COURSE TROPICAL

 Tropical Short Course Final Report

 Michelle Maguire, Chairman

 April 18, 2023

This is my final report as Tropical Short Course chairman. This was my third year as chairman and a committee member for the past six years. I have enjoyed my years as chairman mindful that it takes a village to have a successful two day event. Over the past three years I want to thank, Donna Berger, Jane Zezeck, Barbara Hadsell, Barbara Campbell, Emilie Palmerie, Joleen King, Li Roberts, Blanca Rancourt, Mary Kaub and Stephanie Aleffandrini-Giarraffa, these people were my chairman for all the different parts for TSC.

After much scrambling up until the last minute, we had 94 attendees. Thanks to the raffle, 50/50 and auctioning off of flowers, District X had a successful fundraiser. Based on the evaluations we received, our speakers were given high marks for their presentations. I am pleased to present a check for $1004.82 to FFGC and thank them for their continued support.

Michelle Maguire, Tropical Short Course Chairman

# SMOKEY BEAR-WOODSY OWL

**Annual Report**

Smokey Bear & Woodsy Owl

Jill Anderson, Chairman

April 2023

151 posters were judges either at the local or state level.

10 Garden Clubs submitted posters.

All eligible posters were judged and the winners in each grade level were sent to the Deep South. poster chairman. The Deep South winners were sent to NGC. A State Chairman report accompanied our FFGC winners when they were submitted to Deep South.

Awards were won in each grade at Deep South. The National winners will be announced by NGC after the US National Forest Service makes their final selection.

Florida poster winners at Deep South are:

SMOKEY BEAR POSTER CONTEST -

1st Grade – 2nd Place Damarian Rodgers, GC of Crystal River

2nd Grade – 1st Place Lila Mathis, GC of Orange Park

3rd Grade – 2nd Place Ethan Pringle, GC of Orange Park

WOODSY OWL POSTER CONTEST –

4th Grade – 2nd Place Dialog Benjamin, Temple Terrace GC

5th Grade – 1st Place McKayla Detloff, New Smyrna Beach GC

Students from first through fifth grade were invited to participate in the 2022 Poster Contest! Brought to you by the National Garden Clubs, Inc., and the US Forest Service. The entries must be sponsored by a local garden club and be florida residents.

The poster contest is listed on the FFGC web site under Youth Awards & contest https://ffgc.org/Youth-Awards-&-Contests

It includes links to NGC for poster timeline, tips, history, and information about entering the poster contest.

Miami Beach Garden Club found that the art teachers in the area were underfunded, so they offered a $100 sponsorship to buy supplies to teachers that participated. They submitted 92 posters.

District 8 offered any club who wanted to participate 11x17 cardstock. There were 4 Garden Clubs who participated and submitted a total of 85 posters.

This chairman continues to reach out to garden clubs to increase entries for next year.

**Summary:**

151 posters were judges either at the local or state level.

10 Garden Clubs submitted posters.

There are 5 winners at the Deep South level. NGC will announce National winners at a later time.

# SOCIAL MEDIA

 FFGC Social Media

 April 17, 2023

 Valerie Seinfeld, NGC

 Social Media Chair

FFGC Social Media continues to grow in followers.

 [15K likes](https://www.facebook.com/FLGardenClubs/friends_likes/) • [18.2K followers](https://www.facebook.com/FLGardenClubs/followers/)

Chair posts everyday. Following what is happening on the National, Regional, State, District and Local Levels.

April 2017 this chair started with 1139 Likes.

FFGC is the most Liked and Followed State Page in the Country.

# S**OLAR ENERGY/WIND POWER**

# STRATEGIC PLANNING COMMITTEE

Report

Strategic Planning Committee

Gina V. Jogan, Chairman

Convention Meeting, April 2023

The Strategic Planning Committee has discussed many issues since January’s report:

**Headquarters**: from the President’s report pertaining to the physical building: kitchen (new over), landscaping (new lawn maintenance company), legal issues (nothing new at this time), storm damages (repaired and reimbursed by our insurance), air conditioner (new unit needs a new panel) and so forth.

**Membership:** it is strongly suggested that dues payment be moved **forward to May 1st** to avoid snafus that occur when changing club officers, ‘snowbirds’ going north, etc. Member deaths need to be reports in a timely manner by cubs, districts.

**On-line Garden Clubs** an Ad hoc committee is working to bring back Gardens of the World and special interest clubs such as an Environmental, Wekiva Alumni or Horticulture club…. and a new on-line club in the works is a group of teachers from Plant City. (Snapdragons Photography Club is not a garden club, but a group of like-minded folks who meet monthly).

**Current Library**: Discussion of dismantling and disposing/selling of books. Presidents of Tri-Council and FFSJ will be asked to see if any books should be retained.

**Matching Grants:** applications have a new requirement: how does the project fit the FFGC criteria for the Grants? Also, NO grants considered for work completed/wanting reimbursement for the projects. Late applications are not accepted.

**Districts:** Discussion (they were designated in 1958) with a disparity of 220 to 1500 members! Representation is skewed. Finances have become an issue; Districts must have their own EIN. Travel time/distance/time should be a consideration. Directors will research/decide.

**Member Personnel:** It was suggested that we resurrect this to more easily fit jobs to people.

**Terms limits:** of 6 years (3 terms) for all chairmanships remains on the table for discussion.

**Membership:** retention and recruitment issue continue. Lack of communication seems to be the main problem/key.

**An exit poll**: for the Federated clubs that disband…. many leave due to ageing-out of members…others for ‘complaints’ against FFGC

**100th celebration of FFGC:** Kickoff will be at the 2023 Convention/installation.

**New Members:** Lisa Packard, Leticia Gunn and Connie Gladding will join the SPC.

**To summarize:** YOUR Strategic Planning Committee is addressing issues, suggestions, recommendations, problems, etc. brought to us by YOU, the members, for investigation. There is nothing too big or too small to be brought to us. This committee is looking forward to the future of FFGC. This chairman thanks those with whom she has worked since the inception of the SPC. It was an honor to serve you and FFGC.

# TOURS & TRAVEL

# TREES & REFORESTATION

Kathy “Kat” Spieker,Trees and Reforestation Chairman

1530 Royal Palm Drive, Niceville, FL 32578-3529

850-687-6381, kspieker3@gmail.com

Trees and Reforestation Report Convention April 18-21,2023

Trees and Reforestation requested that all garden clubs of FFGC record and report trees that they planted during the period from Mar 1, 2022 through Feb 28, 2023. Thanks to the immense effort and hard work of those clubs throughout the year **133,131** trees were planted comprised of **304** tree species.

Certificates of recognition are being awarded to the following clubs and/or circles for their extraordinary efforts to restore trees for habitat and beauty throughout the state.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **SPECIAL RECOGNITION TO:** |  |
|  |  |
|  |  |
|  |  |
|  **Tallahassee Garden Club** | **85308** |
| **Live Oak Garden Club** | **40270** |
| **TOP TEN CLUBS****#1 Boynton Beach Dist X** | **1442** |
| **#2 Moringa Circle of Ft. Lauderdale Circles Dist XI** | **1271** |
| **#3 Pipers Landing Garden Club Dist X** | **928** |
| **#4 Wellington Garden Club Dist X** | **751** |
| **#5 Parkinsonia Dist XI**  | **612** |
| **#6 The Garden Club of Middleburg, Inc Dist IV**  | **589** |
| **#7 Homosassa River Garden Club Dist V** | **518** |
| **#8 Temple Terrace Dist VIII** | **451** |
| **#9 The Garden Club of Palm Coast D VI**  | **358** |
| **#10 Bloom & Grow Society Dist VII** | **288** |

The report of Arbor Day activities is attached for the record.

FFGC Trees and Reforestation Report Arbor Day Celebrations March 1, 2022-Feb 28, 2023

1. District X, Wellington Garden Club celebrated Public Lands Day Sept 24, 2022 with a program and community wide activity to plant 650 Southern Florida Slash Pines at the Wellington Environmental Preserve
2. District V, Homosassa River Garden Club observed Arbor Day by bagging and distributing 500 Red Mulberry saplings at local Publix stores
3. District X, Garden Club of IRCC/Bougainvillea Circle celebrated Arbor Day by planting a butterfly garden with plants and trees at the Wabassa School which is a special education center school serving students from ages 5-22. Individual members of the circle will be planting their own trees at various sites
4. District V, Newberry Garden Club observed National Arbor Day with a tree planting at Newberry’s park.
5. District X, Rio Lindo Garden Club observed Arbor Day January 20, 2023 with a tree planting of a Sabal Palm at Port St. Lucie Botanical Garden. The club provided drinks and snacks to attendees. 51 members attended to welcome guests. As always, a beautiful ceremony under the trees.
6. District VI, Melbourne Garden Club observed Arbor Day with a program with the City of Melbourne. 80 trees were given away
7. District VI, The Garden Club of Palm Coast celebrated Arbor Day with a planting of 2 memorial trees ( a bottle brush and Japanese Blueberry). The club also donated money to the Arbor Day Foundation for tree plantings in Florida
8. District IV, Garden Club of Orange Park contributed money to Penny Pines donated by members and circles
9. District X, Garden Club of Fort Pierce conducted a tree planting ceremony in which large pots of Little Gem Magnolia trees were placed along Orange Avenue in Fort Pierce to enhance a beautification project
10. Districdt IV, The Garden Club of St. Augustine, Inc observed Arbor Day on January 20, 2023 with a native plant giveaway focusing on trees that would be beneficial to pollinators, birds and other wildlife. Handouts with information on each tree species were given out as well as a handout on how to plant and care for the trees
11. District V, Citrus Garden Club observed Arbor Day April 29, 2022 with a tree planting at Pine Hill Cemetery in memory of a garden club member
12. District VII, Bloom and Grow Garden Club observed National Arbor Day April 29, 2022 with a gathering at Tucker Ranch in Winter Garden to give TLC to bald cypress trees planted in 2022 for the project “1000 Trees for 1000 Years”. A ceremonial Bald Cypress was planted in honor of club president, Jeanne Yazinski. 61 members attended. The club also observed Florida Arbor Day on January 20, 2023 with a Guided Heritage Tree Walking Tour through the Historic District of Winter Garden using a brochure created in 2022 “Winter Garden Heritage Trees Walking Tour” for self-guided tours. 57 members attended with 5 tour leaders present
13. District X, Piper’s Landing Garden Club planted two trees in the community to observe both National and Florida Arbor Day

Respectfully Submitted,

Kat Spieker

Trees and Reforestation Chairman

# TRI-COUNCIL PRESIDENT

 Tri-Council of FFGC Pat Caren

 April 18, 2023

Tri-Council has been working hard to prepare for the FFGC Convention. President Marge Hendon requested that the three schools (Environmental, Gardening, and Landscape Design), plus the Flower Show School, create exhibits in the Magnolia Ballroom. These “parking spaces,” each ten by twenty feet, will showcase what the schools teach and how this knowledge can benefit the students as well as their communities. This exhibition will raise awareness of the educational opportunities Garden Club has to offer.

TC Vice President Brenda Luedeman headed the committee, made up of the Environmental, Gardening, and Landscape Design representatives as well as the state chairmen and consultants, to plan and construct these displays. Many hours of planning and several Zoom meetings have gone into this effort.

The displays will be colorful as well as inspiring, as more than 100 live plants, many flowering, will be included. One challenge is to have the “parking spaces” completed before the Convention opens on Tuesday, and to have everything broken down and removed on Thursday in time for the room to be cleaned and prepared for President-Elect Tina Tuttle’s inauguration. Teamwork and dedication, as well as hard work, are called for.

As if that weren’t enough to keep Tri-Council members busy, the long-anticipated Trashion Show is scheduled for that evening. At the Early Arrivals Dinner, attendees will be regaled by models who have designed and made their own fashions out of recycled items, i.e. trash. President-Elect Tina Tuttle will be the emcee.

With society creating excessive amounts of trash, a large percentage of which is paper and plastic, it is imperative that we individually help reduce, reuse, and recycle items to keep them out of the landfills. In keeping with President Hendon’s theme of Recycling, repurposed items and recycled art will be on display at the convention.

The educational component of FFGC is becoming more and more relevant with increased storm damage and other environmental concerns. Canals and other waterways in Florida await cleanup of toxic items and substances. Red tide and other algae are an ongoing problem. A new challenge is Sargassum, a variety of seaweed also called Brown Algae, an enormous mass of which will arrive at the Florida east coast sometime in June. Its size is twice the width of the United States. Besides degradation of the environment and loss of marine life, these algae cause illnesses in humans and millions of dollars in economic damage.

Raising awareness of these issues and educating ourselves and the public are an important part of Garden Club.

Schools were held by Zoom during the pandemic. There is now a transition back to in-person learning and also hybrid courses, which allows some students to tune in by zoom while others learn in-person.

District IV competed Landscape Design Course 3 in February.

Hurricane Ian caused Environmental Course 2 in Ft. Myers to be rescheduled from November to February.

In April, Tampa offered Environmental Course 1 as hybrid.

In June, the UF/District V Short Course, a Tri-Refresher, will be held in Gainesville.

Short Course North will take place in August in Cantonment.

In September, Landscape Design 3, a Zoom course, is planned in New Smyrna Beach.

Gardening Course 3 will be held in West Palm Beach in November.

Besides these, several classes are being offered around the country by Zoom.

Tri-Council will install new leadership at the convention. The slate of officers is:

President                      Brenda Luedeman

Vice President                 Pat Caren

Treasurer                         Carolyn Schaag

Secy. &Parliamentarian   Inger Jones

Environmental Rep.         Janice Miller

Gardening Rep.            Marge Hendon

Landscape Design            Sally Flanagan

With these officers taking the reins, Tri-Council is expected to do much good over the next two years.

# WATER AND WETLANDS

# WEBSITE EDITOR

FFGC Website Editor

Sue Roberts

April 18, 2023

This website editor has kept the website up to date through out the year. Occasional changes to the format have been made, but mostly the time has been spent keeping the information up to date and accurate.

The corresponding Sec. takes care of the Event page. The awards chairman monitors and updates the award page. The Office Coordinator now maintains the member profiles and therefore keeps the directory up to date. The convention chairman is responsible for the convention page.

The website editor is only responsible for the home page and the member page and their associated child pages.

At the change of administration there will be major changes to update the entire website.

Summary: The website editor is responsible for the accuracy and timeliness of the information on the website.

# WEKIVA YOUTH CAMP

# WEKIVA VOLUNTEER TRAINING

 FFGC 3rd Vice President/Camp Wekiva Chair

 Mary Ann Whisler/3rd VP

 April 2023

Wekiva Volunteer Training was a great success with 30 volunteers attending. We introduced our incoming Junior Gardener Chairman. Both our former and incoming Junior Gardener Chairman discussed the program and awards for the program. We scheduled great speakers as well as “education walks” around the camp. Wekiva Open House on Sunday, February 12th had many new parents and campers attend as well as our new Registrar, Barbara Fowler, and her husband.

Camp Wekiva is again in Chairman transition. As Chairman Elect this VP has been working closely with the outgoing Chairman to make a smooth turnover. A great deal has changed this year with hiring a new chef and working with a new registrar. We are excited that the Office/Clinic will be completed in time for camp, and the dedication is scheduled for June 15, 2023.

Numerous issues have been identified for the 2023 camp season. It was determined that the ovens in the kitchen were not working efficiently. The committee notified the Park, and service repairs were made to handle this year’s season. Due to the age of the stove/ovens the committee suggested that we place bids for a new stove/oven to be installed once the kitchen renovation is started in August 2023. Both our Warmer and Mixer needed repairs. An estimate was approved by Finance Committee and repairs have been scheduled. Four new luggage carts have been ordered, two new tents, ramp curbs, and fire boxes using the generous donations of garden clubs.

In March this Chairman requested District Directors contact their garden clubs to help find volunteers for Wekiva. It was an overwhelming success! Volunteers registered and we have filled all our needed positions. It was wonderful to see how our garden club members jumped in to help with camp.

In April the committee was contacted that Wekiva Youth Camp was voted “One of the Best Summer Camps” by Newsweek Magazine. This is a great way to celebrate our 50th anniversary.

Summary:

Wekiva Volunteer Training, Camp Wekiva, One of the Best Summer Camps