**January 2023 FFGC BOARD OF DIRECTOR’s MEETING**

**OFFICER AND DISTRICT DIRECTOR REPORTS**

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## PRESIDENT’S REPORT

## 1ST VICE PRESIDENT’S REPORT

Report

FFGC President-Elect

Tina Tuttle

11 January 2023, Winter Park, FL

A very busy fall quarter kept this now President -Elect on her toes! The scope of work continues to broaden and there is so much to learn with each passing day!

The highlight of this quarter was the **Officer’s Tour** of the state. We attended 11 districts and it provided a wonderful opportunity to talk to the members and ask if they would like to continue or serve on the 2023-2025 Board of Directors. Many readily committed to serve but a few positions are still open. The PowerPoint used for the FFGC presentation was created over the summer and completed in time for the Tour. This VP attended the District IX meeting by Zoom and provided the PowerPoint information to them.

Judging by the Executive Board for **Awards** #1, 2, 3, 5 and 8 was challenging with so many worthy submissions. Our comments were combined and related paperwork turned in on time to the Awards Chairman.

Serving on the **Headquarters and Endowment** Committee allowed for involvement in the decisions regarding repairs, replacement, and rehabilitation of the roof, the President’s Office, the floors, and the HVAC! Three Plant America Grants applications were written and submitted to improve the grounds at our Headquarters. Various clubs in District VII allowed use of their names for projects described. To date, no word on if we won or not. Providers were researched for a portable stage at HQ and a motion made to purchase an 8’x24’ stage in 4’x4’ sections.

Working on the **Bylaws** committee has proven challenging. A complete review of the Bylaws and Standing Rules is nearly complete. Input on issues relating to Wekiva, SEEK, president’s pins, NGC schools, dues, online clubs, and other areas have proven to be a notable contribution. Not much has been happening with the **FFGC Legal** ad hoc committee but this VP was able to secure a former judge to serve on that committee.

On the **Strategic Planning** Committee, serving as their secretary, the issues of redistricting, online clubs, disposal of physical materials at HQ, and much more gives a glimpse into the future of our organization…and the future is looking bright. The membership flyers and rack cards, both in English and Spanish, were reprinted by FSI Group and are now in inventory.

Plans continue for the upcoming **Centennial Celebration**! The 2024 Commemorative Calendar has been produced and is awaiting sale at the 2023 convention. 110 Quilt block kits were handed out on Tour and a few have already been returned. The Centennial Quilt will be a beautiful reflection of every club in the state and will be raffled at the 2024 convention. To date, 3 convention 2024 planning meetings have been held and the skit, installation, reception, flyers, program ad, educational exhibit, etc. have been developed.

Plans are in place to host the **new District Directors Orientation** in February at HQ. The *DD Manual* has been completely revised and is ready for publication. Directors will have a full agenda and visit Wekiva Youth Camp.

By default, this VP is setting up the 2023 Short Course North until a new chairman can be found. One Pillar of Pride and two Earth Steward recognition awards have been written by this VP and co-sponsored by the 2VP. And, to top off the year, this VP got to play Santa Claus at the Christmas Party for the Pensacola Federation of Garden Clubs! What fun!

It has been such an honor and a thrill to serve as the 1VP for FFGC! It has been a pleasure working with so many knowledgeable and willing volunteers. I look forward to the 2023-2025 administration with hope and happiness in my heart!

Tina Tuttle

FFGC President-Elect

Summary: The President-Elect has continued to serve in various capacities as required by the Bylaws (H&E, Bylaws, SPC, etc.) and in other areas as needed. Plans are in place for the next administration and all that entails.

## 2nd VICE PRESIDENT’S REPORT

 2nd Vice President

Christy Linke

January 12, 2023

This 2nd Vice President has completed her two years of being Chairman of Camp

Wekiva. Working to finish up loose ends and turning all paperwork over to the

in-coming Chairman, Mary Whisler.

Attending meetings as part of the Finance Committee as well as Strategic Planning

Committee.

This Vice President was also a part of the point scoring process for awards done by

the Executive Board.

Summary:

It has been an honor to serve as 2nd V.P. and all the duties it entailed. Looking forward to

the next responsibilities as I climb the ladder of The Florida Federation of Garden Clubs.

## 3rd VICE PRESIDENT

FFGC 3rd Vice President

 Mary Ann Whisler/3rd VP

 January 2023

Our first FFGC October Tour since COVID was completed October 2022. What a great experience for this 3rd VP. Having the opportunity to meet and talk with eleven districts of our twelve districts was an honor. It was a disappointment we missed meeting with District IX since the hurricane caused the District Meeting to be cancelled. However, we know we’ll see them next year and make up for the cancellation. This VP was surprised how many garden club members I’ve already met though working on conventions and SEEK. I’m looking forward to October 2023 and our next tour.

Ways and Means pins were requested at every district and our inventory had to be replenished after the first week. Many members participated in the “order ahead” option and their orders were waiting for them at the meeting. The framed FFGC ornaments were a big hit for Christmas gifts and thank you gifts as well as the coffee cups.

Wekiva Volunteer Training plans are almost complete. We have twenty members registered to date. We will be introducing our incoming Junior Gardener Chairman and both former and incoming Junior Gardener Chairmen will be at camp to discuss the program. We have scheduled great speakers for the weekend as well as some “education walks” around the camp. A fun and educational program is anticipated. There is still time to register before all the “warm” cabins are filled. However, if you can’t come for the entire weekend plan to come to Wekiva Open House on Sunday, February 12th at 11 am to 1 pm. You will have the opportunity to walk around camp with a experienced counselor, see a video of a “day at camp” and meet our Director Shelby Mander.

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 disappointed that the Office/Clinic will not be completed on time for camp.

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.

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

Summary:

Executive Tour October 2022

Camp Wekiva and Wekiva Volunteer Training

Ways and Means

## RECORDING SECRETARY

Recording Secretary

Sue Roberts

January 10, 2023

The recording secretary completed the minutes of the last board meeting and compiled all the BOD member reports into two books, one for officers and directors and one for board chairman.

These files were all posted on the website under report and minutes for the Sept 2022 board meeting.

Also the financial reports, approved Wekiva budget and bylaw changes were posted to same section of the website.

All the files associated with this meeting were written to a flash drive and will be put out to the FFGC Google drive for archive storage a the end of this President’s term.

An evote was held shortly after the last meeting and several emails were sent to board members since September.

## CORRESPONDING SECRETARY

REPORT

Corresponding Secretary

Linda Feifarek-Johnson

September 12, 2023

Working with the Tour Group, making the reservations, and talking to all the different chairmen in each district was such a wonderful experience. I have learned a lot and continue to learn each day.

I also 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.

DISTRICT 1

FFGC DISTRICT I

JANUARY 2023

BOARD MEETING REPORT

JOYCE WATERS-SMITH, DISTRICT I DIRECTOR

I am pleased to announce that we have put together a Scholarship Workshop for Thursday, January 26 from 10:00 a.m. to NOON at the Destin Public Library. We have two presenters; club members who each have several years’ experience awarding scholarships for their respective clubs. The presenters are Debbie Michel of the Green Thumb Garden Club and Gail Baker of the Valparaiso Garden Club. There will be handouts for those in attendance. We will have a ZOOM option if you are unable to travel to Destin for the workshop. Please send an email to Joyce if you would like a ZOOM link. JOYCEWS@COX.NET

I have copies The tentative agenda with me if you would like one. If you do not have a scholarship committee in your garden club, then be sure to send some of your board members who can relay this information to your club. Do not worry that your club may not have enough $$$ to award a big scholarship. We’ll talk about ways to “fund" a scholarship.

Now on to club news:

DEFUNIAK SPRINGS – Has added 3 new members since September, and now total 35. Their Christmas Tree entry decorated with dried fruit ornaments took 3rd place at the City Festival of Trees. Upcoming programs include making seed bombs, and natural fire colorants and a field trip to the Florida Pioneer Family Heritage Farm to view the Cotton Geese. Spring will bring plans to redo the entrance garden in front of the DeFuniak Springs Library. In May the club will participate in Lake Fest with children’s activities, garden tours, and plant and floral sales.

DESTIN GARDEN CLUB – Our newest member of FFGC installed their new officers at their January meeting, and we welcome Lee Vanderpool as the new president. Included with this article are some pictures from their annual make and take workshop held in the fall where they made these lovely pumpkin decorations hosted by member Anne Collins. The club will host their annual plant sale in April at the Destin Library, and are tentatively planning their first flower show for June 6 & 7. Velda Dougherty applied for and won a $1,000 Plant America Grant from NGC for a new Japanese Memorial Garden at the library.

GARNIER BEACH Garden Club, located in Fort Walton Beach will be planting an Elm Tree at their namesake park, Garnier Beach Park to celebrate their Emerald Precious Metal 70th anniversary with FFGC and Arbor Day in January. Maria Wilson, the county Forestry Agent will be the speaker, and she will instruct the planning of the tree.

The club will host their plant sale on April 15.

GREEN THUMB

We are proud to report that last year was a banner year for membership growth. Our club is now **124** members strong, with **22** NEW garden club friends joining us during May 2022 thru December 2022.  A special thank you Kathy Edge, GTGC Treasurer who also chairs our Publicity and Website activities getting the word out to the Walton County community.  Kathy works hard daily to get the GTGC news out through:

* Monthly news releases
* Website -- 80% of new members are signed up through the website
* Word of mouth -- GTGC best advertising and bringing in new members
* Guests coming to the monthly meetings
* Monthly programs that appeal to potential new members are advertised in news releases and on the website

Congratulations and thank you to Kathy, all the board members and our members!

MITLON GARDEN CLUB will host the May 9 Spring District Meeting, when their own Jenny Weber will be installed as the District Director. The theme of the meeting will be “Momma Mia” and we are assured there will be laughter, singing and dancing. In addition, the club will host a field trip to The Soundside Foundation Nature Preserve in Gulf Breeze, to include a walk thru the Camellia Trail and enjoy a picnic.

PENSACOLA FEDERATION OF GARDEN CLUBS received a District I Grant of $250 to assist with their foundation planting as part of their recovery from Hurricane Sally. They were pleased to return to their annual hosting of “Gardening in the Panhandle” a full day of workshops and lunch, always a sell out event and cancelled the previous 2 years due to the pandemic. March 14 and 15 will again see their “Tour of Tables” event provided to nurture interest in floral design and the art of tablescapes with themes from around the world. May 20 and 21 will feature the return of their annual “Secret Garden Tour”, open to the public.

VALPARAISO GARDEN CLUB – Gail Baker, programs chair organized a field trip to Elgin Air Force Base/Jackson Guard where they were provided a tour of the native garden, museum, and enjoyed feeding the deer. In the spring the club will host a make and take workshop on self-watering planter buckets. They will also host a plant sale April 29 at the Heritage Museum Garden, in conjunction with “Saturday in the Park.” May they will host a 70th Anniversary Emerald Precious Metal celebration party. May 12 & 13 the club will host a flower show.

## **DISTRICT 2**

Absent, no report

## DISTRICT 3

 FFGC District III Report

 District Director

 Marilyn Larson

 January 10. 2023

Clubs are glad to be back to a more normal way of life after living with the Covid pandemic for the past two years. They are meeting in person again and have monthly meetings and programs planned.

District III successfully held the FFGC Officers Tour Fall meeting, hosted by **Perry Garden Club** on October 13. In addition to spending lots of time organizing and planning for the fall meeting, the Club had their regular monthly meeting six days after hosting the District III meeting. The club is proud to announce an increase in membership of 8 new members with more expected during the year. Their program was a “make and take seed bomb”, not the exploding kind, but the growing/blooming kind. Their November club program was a slide presentation by award-winning photographer Cindy Moore, on native plants and wildlife. The Club ended 2022 with a Christmas luncheon and their floral design auction, an annual fundraiser for the club. The regular monthly meetings planned for 2023 are equally as educational, inspiring and fun.

 **Live Oak Garden Club** reported an increase in membership for a total of 65 members and growing! At the September club meeting, the two SEEK students shared their summer camp experiences and thanked the club for sponsorship. A workshop was held to make holiday cards for a local nursing home. The annual Fall Bazar was held October 29 with plants, vendors, yard and baked goodies for sale. Proceeds from the event are used toward two local gardens: Hearthstone Gardens and Heritage Park & Gardens and to help 4Hers and the Suwannee High School Green Team. The club keeps members informed through a monthly newsletter as well as their website and Facebook page.

**Steinhatchee Garden Club** was in the holiday spirit to end 2022, with club members decorating their community center where meetings are held. They also have a “money tree” to raise money for kids to attend Camp Wekiva and SEEK. January is another busy month with their annual spaghetti dinner, a fund-raiser for kids to attend Camp Wekiva and SEEK. And another annual event is the preparation of valentine floral arrangements for the local nursing home residents.

**Wakulla County Garden Club** began their new program year with newly recruited group of board members who set educational and informative monthly programs such as “A guide to fall planting”. The club arranged to have not only daytime meetings but alternative evening programs to accommodate working members. One of the club’s challenges is how to ensure meeting content is timely and relevant to new members. They plan to feature a native plant of the month and identify what’s blooming and why it’s significant and developing graphics to help new members grasp available opportunities and how they can participate.

**Madison Garden Club** held their annual Christmas party in December with a “dirty Santa” gift exchange. In addition, a timely program topic for their December meeting was a short demonstration by the fire department on the correct way to use a fire extinguisher. Each of their meetings features a plant of the month with information about the featured plant. A big undertaking for the club in November was election of officers for the upcoming year and approval of amended By-Laws.

**Monticello Garden Club** plans include a program by the Audubon Society and a timely topic on Amaryllis planting so that they bloom for the Christmas holiday. They also decorated the Christmas tree at the Monticello Opera House, and made Christmas ornaments Plans are in the works to organize a new garden circle if there is enough interest otherwise encourage potential new members to join the existing club/circles. Monticello will be the host club for the Spring District III meeting planned May 1, 2023.

**Tallahassee Garden Club** successfully hosted a December House Tour as one of the houses featured in the Tallahassee Symphony Tour of Homes. The Rutgers House was decked out with live greenery and creative. festive and beautiful holiday decorations for the event. The club held its annual Christmas tea and Petite Flower Show the following week as a way of inviting the community to say thank you for support received throughout the year. January activities include caladium bulb sales and a special program “Creating Art for the Garden” by artist Karen Robertson. Members will be helping with “My night to shine” by making boutonnieres for special needs ‘prom night’ attendees. The event is sponsored by the Tim Tebow Foundation

## DISTRICT 4

 Report

District IV Director

Connie A. Gladding

December 26, 2022

Fall, winter, and holiday events were widespread across District IV and a time for celebrating with the recent notification that three of our District IV Garden Clubs were National Garden Club Plant America Grant winners.

Thank you to the St. Augustine Garden Club for hosting the Fall District IV Meeting and FFGC Officers’ Fall Tour at the St. Johns County Extension Center with the program “Gardening for Health and Well Being.” The more than one hundred attendees enjoyed the camaraderie and training. Attendees appreciated the lovely table centerpiece floral arrangements which were highly sought-after door prizes. Members look forward to the Spring District May 2023 meeting chaired by the new District Director and hosted by the Garden Club of Middleburg in Orange Park.

The Garden Club of Fleming Island 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.  Clay County Garden Clubs Fleming Island, Orange Park and Middleburg participated. 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 bad weather from Hurricane Nicole did not keep the Hibiscus Circle of the Garden Club of St. Augustine from rededicating Florida’s second oldest Blue Star Marker with its renewed living memorial garden. The ceremony was extra special with Presidents of both the National Garden Clubs, Inc. and the Florida Federation of Garden Clubs honoring our Nation’s Veterans.

For the Garden Club of Jacksonville, November brought the Greater Jacksonville Agricultural Fair and Horticulture Show. Together with the Duval County UF/IFAS Extension Center and Men’s Garden Club of Jacksonville, the Garden Club created an array of educational exhibits for display throughout the Jacksonville Fairgrounds. The members coordinated and judged the Horticulture Fair.

The Garden Club of Green Cove Springs sponsored two November community events: Winter Vegetable Gardening with Master Gardener Volunteer speaker. Also, the Club partnered with Camp Chowenwaw Park for the “Holiday Photos” event to lead kids craft creations, such as bird feeder pinecones. The Garden Club of Palatka held their first Afternoon Woodlands Autumn Tea at the Ravines State Park in Palatka. It was open to the public and a real treat for the community. The Garden Club of Orange Park held a rummage sale, built wreaths to lay at a Veterans Day ceremony and manned booths in the local Farmers Market to sell crafts, plants and promote the Garden Club.

The Bartram Garden Club Garden Therapy Committee conducted two workshops in November to the Nassau County Council of Aging. Special needs members of the Adult Day HealthCare Program made autumn wreaths with used wine bottle corks which the club collected to repurpose. Similarly, in December the club held a conservation project called “Corks for Charity.” Members transformed wine bottle corks into small wreaths to enhance the local “Meals on Wheels” (MOW) program. Each MOW family received a wreath with a holiday meal, bringing seasonal cheer to disadvantaged families, while at the same time keeping corks out of the landfills.

District IV continued to offer members and non-members a range of educational opportunities. The NGC Landscape Design School Course 2 was held at Ribault Garden Club in Jacksonville Beach, November 1-2, 2022. A team of top-notch, horticulture, landscape design, and preservation professionals provide instruction. District IV’s annual GardenFest, a day of horticulture education for the public, was November 18th at the Ravines State Park in Palatka. The State Park proved to be a perfect venue although a trek for our northern garden clubs; it easily accommodated parking and seating for more than 120 attendees, garden clubs’ sales tables, and refreshments. Thanks to the planning committee, club members, and the University of Florida speakers who produced such an enjoyable learning and shopping experience. Feedback and evaluations noted the theme “Naturally Connected” was timely and of great interest and the event an opportunity to gather garden club members and master gardener volunteers.

The District Social Media Chair published the third issue of “District Runner”, the District IV newsletter. Many thanks to this District Chair for working tirelessly to keep the website, Facebook site, and our newsletter information current and timely. For the best and most up-to-date events, see the news at the home page on the district website, [www.district4ffgc.org](http://www.district4ffgc.org). Our Facebook page, <https://www.facebook.com/district4ffgc/>, features postings from our clubs’ Facebook pages, FFGC, NGC, and Deep South. Clubs follow our Facebook Page to stay up to date on Federated Garden Clubs happenings.

December in the District was filled with holiday offerings. At The Garden Club of Jacksonville’s Budding Gardeners Program, children created floral arrangements using holiday greenery. The Ribault Garden Club hosted their holiday kickoff event “Home Décor Demonstration Morning Tea”. The return of a holiday tradition and to the delight of locals, The Garden Club of St. Augustine 51st Tour of Homes was Sunday December 4th. The Tour showcased amazing horticulture and holiday inspired decorations and designs.

And for spring events, the Landscape Design School Course 3 will be January 31 and February 1. The Garden Club of Jacksonville is sponsoring the Floral Design Study Units 1 through 6 during January, February, and March. Mark your calendars for the Garden Club of Jacksonville’s annual Flea Market on February 24 and community favorite - Blooms Galore Plant Sale on April 8. The Garden Club of the Lakes is planning a Junior Garden Club Day, February 25th. The Club, partners with the local Ace Hardware Store and offers many horticultural activities, including worm adventures, for children. The event is free and for children ages 2 to 13. The Garden Club of Orange Park Annual Horticulture Program is March 17th. It is a day of training with the opportunity to purchase items offered by the Garden Club. The program is open to the public and this year’s theme is “Gardening as Therapy”. And in April, the Bartram Garden Club will present their first NGC Small-Standard Flower Show titled “Down the Rabbit Hole” to be staged at the Fernandina Beach library. Horticulture, Design, and Botanical Arts divisions will be judged by NGC Accredited Flower Show Judges. The show will include a judged nature photography section which will be extended as a community art exhibit in cooperation with Friends of the Library. Mark your calendars for a sure-to-be amazing event.

It is great time to be a garden club member in District IV. There are so many opportunities to enjoy gardening with friends and serving our communities. This District Director is enjoying sharing time with members. 2023 looks to build upon the good times, celebrations, and successes of 2022.

## DISTRICT 5

##

District V News

Donna Thomas, Director

January 11, 2023

As you read this the holidays will be long behind us, and Spring will have sprung. Every club in district five is frantically preparing for the annual plant sales for the gathering thrones of gardeners who know that we have the best plants at the best prices.

All the clubs in this district will be working on the upcoming 2023 Convention that we expect to be spectacular. Marge Hendon has been a phenomenal president and we are all grateful for the continuing improvements in FFGC under her stewardship.

I am pleased to announce that District V’s new director for 2023-2025 who will be installed at the 2023 convention is Carol Stevens who hails from the Lake City Garden Club.

Carol was born and raised in Moultrie, Georgia. Met husband at Valdosta State College and moved to Lake City, FL in 1972. Has two adult sons and one grandson. After teaching school for 38 years, she retired and joined the garden club. “I have enjoyed learning about the care of plants, arranging flowers, photographing plants and meeting so many wonderful people. I served as President of the Lake City Garden Club for three years and am very excited about having the honor to serve as District V Director”.

Thank you, to all the members of District V, for your belief in me, your support and your friendship. It's been a pleasure and a privilege to have served as your director.

## DISTRICT 6

 District VI Director

Suzi Bailey

 January 11, 2023

In the last few months, Covid, flu and hurricanes impacted Florida. Some Districts were hit very hard. Board members, club officers and members were also impacted by illness or surgeries.

BUT…. The Garden Clubs of Florida are resilient, strong, and a determined group. After two hurricanes, District VI bounced right back and started activities again. Flower Shows, plant sales, fundraising festivals, attending schools, special interest groups, meetings and took field trips. Clubs are growing to grow their membership with fresh new ideas and personal contact.

The Fall District VI Meeting was held in-person for the first time in 2 years. New Smyrna Beach Garden Club planned an Ocean of Opportunities theme. Reports by FFGC Officers, Club and Committee Chairs were given. A special program by NSB Marine Science Center was on protecting our environment.

 Indian Harbour Beach Garden Club, Suzy Hodge, President, offered to sponsor six Wekiva Campers to District VI. This Director forwarded their generous offer to our 17 clubs and had three responses. As a result, 4 new campers are registering for Wekiva camp. New Smyrna Beach Garden Club (two camperships), Melbourne GC (one campership), and DeLand Garden Club ( one campership) are able to use these scholarships. Our Theme for our District VI Fall Meeting was “Oceans of Opportunity”. It is exciting that Indian Harbour Beach Garden Club decided to use this opportunity to share. Their investment in these children will be educating new gardeners. They have really “Planted for the Planet”! WOW!

Our Spring District meeting will be held at Garden Club at Palm Coast, Denise Garcia, President on May 9th, 2023 at Hammock Dunes Country Club.

After two years of service, this Director will step down as the District VI Director. At our FFGC Convention, we will welcome our new District VI Director, Valerie Seinfeld, DeLand Garden Club.

SUMMARY: District VI is thriving and growing, ready to look for more opportunities to “Plant for the Planet”.

## DISTRICT 7

DISTRICT VII DISTRICT

DIRECTOR REPORT

 1/11/2023



We had a wonderful Fall District meeting in October with the FFGC Board Tour Team members present, filled with facts and pertinent information. Clairmont prepared a beautiful meal, presentation, and perfect location. Thank you.

Clubs were so busy planning a huge spring summer filled with events as you will read about in the upcoming Florida Gardener

District VII’s Orlando Garden Club, partnered with Palmer's Garden and Goods, **its “Sip N' Stroll" events on November 3. Beautiful wine and cheese event.**

As district director’s visits included installing officers and visiting a beautiful setting in October of the home of our Sanford Garden club. It was a beautiful home on Saint John’s River. The setting was enhanced by the warmth and friendliness of all the members and learning all about a Confederate Rose. It was a bit of paradise.

The members of the Bloom and Grow Garden society continued their 25th anniversary celebration with two social events for our members and guests. In **January, we had our Denim and Diamonds event**, up close and personal with nature, for **a bar-b-que dinner and guided nature walk on Williamson** Island. In February, we put on our fancy clothes for a **formal dinner celebration with champagne, dinner, and dancing at Leu Gardens in Orlando.**



I walked approximately 2 miles and saw 56 Heritage trees along the route. The trees are labeled with the name of the tree plus a QR code that offers insight into the tree species as well as information on the history of Winter Garden and its people. For more information on the Heritage Tree Walk go to: <https://www.bloomandgrow.club/treeproject>

**Clermont Garden Club** will host: Emerald Magick, Flower Show at Clermont Garden Club **March 17-18, 2023.** A separate Wine Stroll on March 17 from 6-8 PM, details at our website: clermontgardenclub.com and on FFGC.org Open to Public A Garden Walk, **April 15, 2023,** Ticket information available on website: clermontgardenclub.com

**SWEETWATER OAKS GARDEN CLUB**

**Game Day Under the Pines, Jan 31**. Gather your friends, organize a table to play your favorite game. Tickets are $27. Wekiva Youth Camp. Includes breakfast items and lunch.

**The Camellia Garden Club of Eustis** & The Florida Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc. Cordially Invite You to Attend Friday, February 17, 2023, 11:00 A.M. The Dedication of the: **BLUE STAR MEMORIAL BY-WAY MARKER**, A Tribute to our Armed Forces Given to the City of Eustis from the Camellia Garden Club Eustis Memorial Library, 120 N. Center St., Eustis, Fl. 32726.

**Apopka Garden Club** is busy planning its annual Fashion Show on February 18th. Follow “The Garden Path.”

**Orlando Garden Club** will be hosting a spring Flower Show on April 13th and 14th. Silvia the planning coordinator visited LAKE COUNTY COUNCIL, CAMELLIA, LADY LAKES, AND PALM GARDEN FLOWER SHOW and was helped by Teri and Susan on the ins and outs of a Flower show. The Council Flower show was another unique event in its museum location.

**Orlando GC** News: Our Very Own **Joanne Mulinare participated in an upcoming episode of Emily Tells All.** The original **Emily Tells All** show premiered on June 3, 2021, and features fresh episodes weekly. Join Emily as she gets up close and personal in her community. Joanne represented wildflower and gardening organizations in central Florida and will **air on April 6, 2023**. Be sure and tune in and hear Joanne answer Emily’s questions and presentation highlighting Gardening organizations in central Florida. Thank you and Congratulations Joanne for representing FFGC, District VII, Orange County Garden Clubs and Circles. **Show Distribution**…You can view the list of episodes at <https://emilybonilla.com/emily-tells-all/>, it will be available on ROKU at <https://my.roku.com/account/add/EmilyBonilla>, YouTube [https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC4FeNEYkTk6PRg-uNPOIrjw?sub\_confirmation=1](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC4FeNEYkTk6PRg-uNPOIrjw?sub_confirmation=1%22%3Ehttps://www.youtube.com/channel/UC4FeNEYkTk6PRg-uNPOIrjw?sub_confirmation=1), and other social media platforms.
Audio track from the interview will be part of the **Emily Tells All**podcast available soon on Spotify. Once the show is live, we will email you a link along with our social channels and hashtags.

## DISTRICT 8

Report

District Director, District VIII

Kitty Wallace

January 11, 2023

## DISTRICT 9

This District VIII Director is reporting solid gains in membership in our 21 clubs. Membership/Educational events were held throughout the district this past fall. The District sponsored a Horticulture Extravaganza in October. This Event was chaired by DVIII Horticulture Chairman, Bessie Morse and was held at the lovely Garden Club of St. Petersburg. Topics included native ground cover alternatives to turf, supporting our pollinators, and a pictorial tour of local gardens termed “Hidden Gems.”

The Flower Show Judges Symposium was held this fall at the ­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­Day Spring Conference Center in Parrish, Florida. Symposium was hosted by the Florida Flower Show Judges District VIII, Susie Cochran, Director. It was organized by Barb Jacobson, DVIII Credentials Chairman.

District VIII newsletter editor, Karen Smith, produced another wonderful newsletter, the Great Eight News, promoting various grant opportunities such as Plant America from NGC as well as informing of upcoming DVIII events, such as:

Clearwater Garden Club was the perfect host to the DVIII Fall meeting, organizing a selection of baskets and vendors and a lovely lunch. Upcoming events include: Floral Design Basic Series, offered January to February 2023 by the Garden Club of St. Petersburg. Venice Area Garden Club plans an Adventure Tour in February, touring the Palma Sola Botanical Gardens and Selby Gardens’ Spanish Point in February. In March, wonderful Flower Shows are planned at Dade City Garden Club, Manatee River Garden Club and Tampa Garden Club. Plant City Garden Club hosted Garden Fest and Fun with Flowers this fall and will be holding their Flower Show in conjunction with the Strawberry Festival in Plant City in March. NGC Environmental School, Course 1, will be held at the Tampa Garden Club April 11 and 12th. Venice Area Garden Club hosts their “By the Beach” NGC standard flower show in April

Smokey Bear/Woodsy Owl Poster contest, chaired by DVIII past Director, Jill Anderson, was supported by DVIII by offering clubs the poster paper needed by the children to create their posters and enter the contest.

This director visited several clubs, including the Tampa Bay Golf and Country Club Garden Club, the Palm Harbor Garden Club, Dunedin Garden Club and is scheduled to visit three unaffiliated garden clubs to discuss the benefits of joining FFGC: New River Garden Club, Riverview Garden Club and Safety Harbor Garden Club. Let’s see if we can grow a few more garden clubs in District VIII.

District VIII welcomes incoming director, Phyllis Weber, Lakewood Ranch Garden Club, to be installed at the Convention in April.

Report

District I Director

Dale W. DeFeo

January 12, 2023

 District IX has faced many obstacles since fall. Hurricane Ian laid waste to much of the district. Some club members lost everything they had, while others still face incredible challenges in putting their lives back together. Throughout it all, members have continuously demonstrated their drive, resolve and ability to move forward. The following is just a small glimpse of what has been going on.

 Our scheduled and much anticipated Fall General Meeting at the Embassy Suites in Estero, sponsored by Cape Coral Garden Club and the Fort Myers Lee County Garden Council, was postponed due to the members losses and damage to the hotel itself. We missed having our FFGC Officers visit with us. We rescheduled the meeting via Zoom in early December to conduct necessary business. Tina Tuttle graciously agreed to attend and share information from FFGC. Between Covid19 epidemics and hurricanes, District IX was able to only hold one live meeting during the entire term, but our Zoom meetings were lively and informative.

 Royal Palms Garden Club decided to make a donation to another club lost all of their plants the night before their plant sale fund raiser.

 Poinciana Garden Club held a 60th anniversary celebration and festive holiday banquet even though some members could not bring a covered dish because they have no habitable homes. They have also continued their Trash Off Trails project, walking Lee County trails and preserves to remove trash. Six Mile Cypress Preserve is a frequent recipient of their efforts. Members of several other clubs have been inspired to join them in this effort.

 Lake Placid Garden Club held an incredible Holiday Home and Garden Tour that included wild turkeys and Sand Hill Cranes strolling around gardens. Young people in period costume were also present to meet and greet guests.

 Port Charlotte held a very moving dedication of a Gold Star Memorial Marker just two weeks after the storm. Many dignitaries and visitors attended. Their Veterans Park sustained damage, but they decided to hold this positive event for the community anyway. High School Band members showed up in black shorts and white tee shirts because all of their uniforms were destroyed. Fewer than 20 had instruments to play but the whole band showed up in support.

 Many other events are scheduled. Flower shows, Environmental and Landscape Design Schools, garden restorations and other events are planned. Checkout our Facebook page for details.

 It is an honor and privilege to serve as District Director of such a strong and dynamic group.

## DISTRICT 10

 Michelle Maguire

 District X Director

 January 10-12,2023

Zach Web, head of education for The Florida Oceanographic Society will be giving a presentation on Quality of our Water as it pertains to Florida on February 20, 2023 to the Pipers Landing GC. Pipers Landing GC I will also be going to the Society of Four Arts to visit the Botanical Gardens in Palm Beach which includes many sculptures by local artists.

Oleander GC of the Palm Beaches is holding a cocktail Party and fundraiser on March 21, 2023.

The Garden Club of Stuart is holding its semi annual Flower show, “A Symphony of Beauty” at the Indian River State College, Chastain campus on Salerno Road. Hours for the show are Friday March 3 from 1 to 4pm and Saturday from 9 to 3pm on March 4, 2023. This event is open to the public.

The Wellington GC is hosting a Specialty Flower Show called “ EARTH DAY- EVERY DAY “ as well as a plant sale April 22. 2023. The Flower show will be at the Wellington Community Center at 12150 Forest Hill Blvd.

Boynton Beach GC is featuring two Brown Bag Speaker Events at the two of the city’s libraries Feb, 6 and March 6, 2023 from 12 to 1pm. On March 10 and 11 at the Boynton Beach Cultural and Arts Center, Boynton Beach GC will hold their annual “ART IN BLOOM”.

Once again The Garden Club of Indian River County will be hosting “ GARDENFEST” at Indian Riverside Park in Vero Beach, Florida on February 4 and 5. Hours for Saturday are 9 to 5pm and Sunday for 9 to 4pm. Bring your own bags or garden carts to haul all the plants you want to buy. The Bougainvilla Circle of The Garden Club of Indian River County is holding an Antique Show at their garden club’s main location at 2526 17th Ave. in Vero Beach, Florida from 10 to 4pm on February 18 and 19, 2023.

Michelle Maguire, District x Director

## DISTRICT 11

 Report for FFGC Board Meeting

District XI

Sharon Bogard

January 2023

As this is this Director’s last report to the Florida Federation of Garden Clubs’ board of directors, she wishes to thank this organization for its support and friendship during her term. The clubs of District XI have also shown their support through cooperation and service during these last two years and this report personifies their contribution to the mission of our garden clubs.

**The Garden Club of Coral Springs**, District XI’s super-energized garden club, has “irons in every fire”. Working on its 1,000,000 Orchid project, mentoring three youth groups, planting trees in its city, working with senior citizens on garden therapy, petitioning big box stores to sell native plants, and hosting Saturday meetings for its working members while maintaining its normal evening meetings. Led by the fearless and tireless former schoolteacher, President, Jeri Decker. who has served in this capacity for three years, leads by example. Her membership is engaged and forever growing – a model for all garden clubs.

**Fort Lauderdale Garden Club** is led by Susie MacPherson who is always present and a great communicator. This Club and its Circles are facing tumultuous times with the loss of its agreement with the State of Florida to continue its arrangement to occupy the Garden Center. The hard work put in by Susie, and the Club’s former Presidents was formidable, but the State would not budge. Undaunted, the Club will continue to meet on a Special Permit only basis but will look for a new permanent home elsewhere. As FFGC President Marge Hendon reminded all, a garden club is about people and not places, and Fort Lauderdale Garden Club embraces this sentiment. One door may close, but another will open to an opportunity yet to be realized. FLGC strong!

**Hollywood Garden Club**’s President Susan Berry recently received the coveted Florida Friendly Landscapes’ Gold Level Award presented by representatives of the University of Florida/IFAS. Heartfelt congratulations to Susan for her dedication to the principles of sustainable gardening and this award epitomizes the mission of FFGC garden clubs.

**Lauderdale-by-the-Sea** has a plethora of talent, as witnessed by their successful hosting of District XI’s annual fall meeting. This club meets in their Town Hall and because of that, it is very attuned to the needs of its community. A Commissioner is a member of the Club and the Mayor and Town Manager often attend the meetings. Lauderdale-by-the-Sea Garden Club is a great example of community outreach.

**The Garden Cub of Lighthouse Poin**t’s member, Inger Jones, received the well-deserved Five-Star Membership award for completing all four NGC-sponsored schools and where the level of Master is obtained. Inger continues her mentorship to new members and is a role model to all.

Kudos to **The Pompano Beach Garden Club** members who give their time and expertise at the Sample-McDougald Garden - a kitchen garden the club helps maintain. There are three team leaders who recruit members from the club monthly. This garden produces vegetables that are given to the local fire departments. This kitchen garden is an example of how vegetables are grown and how people lived before grocery stores. The team leaders are integral to the success of this project.

## DISTRICT 12

 District XII Report

 Leticia Gunn

 01/11/2023

District XII is excited to have added three more judges to our Council of Judges! We are also

excited to have Clubs that haven't had a Flower Show in 30 plus years, such as Coral Gables,

putting on a show this April. Speaking of Flower Shows, Miami Beach is hosting their 7th

consecutive Flower Show in conjunction with their 20th Garden Tour. In addition to all the Flower show excitement, the District’s Council of Judges is planning on bringing the Floral Design Study Basic Units to District XII and opening it up to all the Clubs. At this time I would also like to acknowledge the passing of long time member and NGC Accredited Judge, Sallye Jude.

Funds have been raised by various Clubs to aid various worthy organizations, our smallest

Club, Miami Lakes, raised funds to donate to the Marian Center Special Education School.

South Miami Garden Club raised over 2000 dollars to donate to Miami Water Keepers, an

organization that monitors water quality in Miami.

Sadly FFGC, District XII and Marathon Garden Club have lost a major member, Flower Show

Judge and past District XII Director, in Nancy Miller and while we mourn her loss deeply, the

club is poised and in the process of establishing the whole island of Marathon as a Butterfly

Sanctuary because of their butterfly garden initiative!!! How cool is that?? I am sure Nancy will

be very proud of that up in heaven!!

South Dade Garden Club is bringing in the big guns and having speakers that require evening

engagements with Speakers like Dr. Jeffrey Block, an expert in Botanical Medicine and

Pharmacology. They also created a very successful fundraiser which included the whole

District.

Pinecrest Garden Club continues their collaboration with renown eco-artist Xavier Cortada to

promote the importance of mangroves in our barrier islands. He has planted over a million

mangroves and continues his effort with help from our Clubs.

District XII continues to be involved with the community through civic engagement, most notably

the members of Coral Pines Garden Club continues to volunteer at the venerable Deering

Estate.

Education is ever the pursuit of all of the Clubs of District XII and Ken Pines will be delving deep

into all things bromeliads by going on a behind the scenes tour of a Bromeliad nursery. Miami

Lakes donated books to the Miami Lakes Library.

Incoming District Director Susan Rodriguez and Coral Gables Garden Club continue to expand

their “As I See It” Photography contest and I cant wait to see what beautiful photography comes

in to be judged and what a fantastic job Susan will do as District Director.

Lastly, I would like to say that as I deliver this, second to last report, I am filled with a mixed

sense of what more could I have done to assist my District’s Clubs and also a sense of WOW

and amazement at how much a District of 9 Clubs has achieved through a pandemic and all!

Thank you for the opportunity to serve.