

# FLORIDA FEDERATION OF GARDEN CLUBS, INC.

## ELLA P. WOOD PATHS OF SUNSHINE AWARD

[ffgc.org](http://ffgc.org)

**PURPOSE:** To recognize Roadside Maintenance Units whose workers, through their superior efforts and with special pride in their work, have improved, enhanced, and added visual quality and beauty to Florida's Interstates, US, and State Highways, while emphasizing the beneficial use of Florida's native wildflowers, grasses, shrubs, and trees on Florida state roadsides. The award recognizes and honors Ella P. Wood, Florida Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc. (FFGC) President in 1979-1981, for her exemplary service and special contributions to her community and FFGC.

**NOMINATION:** Roadside Maintenance Units may be nominated or may nominate themselves, as is often done. Please submit the [Nomination Form](#) by January 6 to Brenda Luedeman ([bkloedeman@gmail.com](mailto:bkloedeman@gmail.com)), Florida Federation of Garden Clubs. When nominating a site, please include information about the plants as well as enough detail about the location of the site so that it can be easily located on a map by someone not familiar with the area.

**SUBMISSION:** Roadside Maintenance Units can accept the nomination by submitting documentation about the nominated site by January 31 to Brenda Luedeman ([bkloedeman@gmail.com](mailto:bkloedeman@gmail.com)). Documentation may be up to three 8 ½" x 11" pages and should be arranged in an easy-to-follow format. The first page **must** contain the following information: 1) submission date of the application, 2) Roadside Maintenance Unit (name as it should appear on any award received), unit supervisor's phone, and mail and email address, and any others involved with establishment or maintenance of the nominated site, 3) Interstate, US, or state route number/road name, noting the start and end of the improved or enhanced area, including the county(ies) (and town(s)/city(ies) if applicable). Additional documentation **must** include 1) small map with the nominated site identified, 2) written narrative of the Unit's goals and accomplishments with a description of the work and activities related to planting and management of Florida native wildflowers and/or native plants, 3) anticipated future activities at this location, 4) the major wildflower species (and any other pertinent native trees, shrubs, and vines); the scientific names must be included and please note whether each species is native to Florida based on the information at <https://florida.plantatlas.usf.edu/>, 5) sharply focused photographs when the nominated site is at its peak beauty, with captions describing the improved or enhanced area. So that individuals and units of workers can be recognized and celebrated, nominees are strongly encouraged to include before, during, and after photographs of workers and others involved in the project.

**JUDGING:** Winners will be selected by a panel of judges selected by the FFGC. Judges will rely exclusively on the documentation provided by each nominee per the Submission requirements. Judges will look for evidence of:

- Preservation, conservation and maintenance of Florida native plants and/or wildflowers growing on highway rights-of-way.
- Roadside management that promotes flowering, and natural regeneration and dispersal of established Florida native seeds and plants.
- Preparation and planting of Florida native seeds and plants.
- Management of Florida native plants and habitats within the rights-of-way. Efficient use of available resources.

*While the use of species native to Florida is the focus of the award and will be a major factor considered by the judges, the FFGC realizes that there are beautiful roadside areas that may be a mix of native and non-native species, and also that the nativity status of a species may change based on scientific evidence.*

**RECOGNITION:** Winners will be recognized at the FFGC Annual Convention and at a local FFGC Fall District meeting. An engraved plaque with all winners dating back to 1988 remains on display at the State Department of Transportation headquarters in Tallahassee. The FFGC will encourage FDOT Districts and local maintenance yards, as well as counties, cities, towns, etc., to recognize the winners.



**FFGC Mission Statement** "To further the education of the members and the public in the fields of gardening, horticulture, botany, floral design, landscape design, environmental awareness through the conservation of natural resources, civic beautification, nature studies, and to instill in our youth the love of gardening and the respect and protection of the environment."