

January 2024
FFGC BOARD OF DIRECTOR'S MEETING
OFFICER AND DISTRICT DIRECTOR REPORTS

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PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Report
FFGC President
Tina V. Tuttle

January 10, 2024, Winter Park, FL

A bit of a departure from the norm, and in addition to the myriad duties and obligations fulfilled since September, your President would like to present the results of the recent Membership Survey as a PowerPoint so you can see the results. Involvement with H&E, Finance, Bylaws, Strategic Planning and everything else will be covered in the reports of those chairmen.

Slide 1: The last membership survey we conducted was nearly 10 years ago. This survey, approved by the Strategic Planning Committee in November, was simplified by using a Google Docs format and instead of short answer questions, primarily dichotomous questions were asked for ease in compiling the results but also so the survey itself could be educational. The survey was built around the 6 areas FFGC has in its mission: Education, Youth, Horticulture, Design, Community and Youth. Selection of actual questions come right off our membership flier. While this PowerPoint reflects results overall, each district director has been given the specific results for their districts. This survey was sent to EVERY member—over 10,000.

Slide 2: Who took the survey? Sue Roberts provided information from the Google Drive that indicated the percentage of delivered surveys, of that number, what percent were opened by the recipient and, what percent actually took the survey. The number of actual responses was 1235, right at 12 % of our membership. These few results may not extrapolate to the wider membership.

Slide 3: Q 1. How long have you been in Garden Club? This is significant because it shows that over 60% of our members **taking the survey** (627) have been members less than 10 years. Almost 30% of those taking the survey (285) had been members for 11 to 20 years, 6% (56) had been in 21-31 years and 23 or 2% had been in 31 to 40 years.

Slide 4: Q2. Have you ever visited FFGC HQ? Responses had to do with proximity, location. The closer a district is to HQ, the more likely they have visited. 34% of those responding (348) had visited our headquarters in Winter Park. We may wish to encourage field trips to visit HQ or hold more statewide programs at our venue (Symposia, anniversary celebrations, etc).

Slide 5: Q3. Have you attended convention? Historically, between 300 and 400 folks attend annually. The 25% having attended is consistent with the history of attendance. Again, location is a factor, as is cost. Often convention goers have a role to play at the convention (Board member, club president, etc). We currently alternate our installation year with the state flower show year to draw attendance.

Slide 6: Q4. Are you aware of Awards? 70% of our members are aware of the Awards we offer. This does not reflect those who apply or win awards.

Slide 7: Q 5. Are you aware of grants? 75% are aware of the Grants available at FFGC and NGC. Again, this does not reflect those who apply or win the grants. Typically, it is the larger clubs that request grant money because many grants require matching funds. Grant writing is a skill we may wish to teach!

Slide 8: Q6. Do you receive *TFG* or *TNG* magazines? I have concerns over the 33% who answered NO, they do not receive the magazine!. *The Florida Gardener* was mailed to every member and is now sent via email to every member with an email account. Some have blocked any email from HQ. Verification of email addresses is needed at the club level so we can update member profiles. The magazine is a vital communication with our members!

Slide 9: Q7. Do you visit the FFGC Website or FB page? Less than half (46%) are visiting our website and Facebook pages. While the Facebook page enjoys over 21,000 followers, our website is there for our membership. Many factors influence whether or not a member might look for information on the website. We refer members to the website for registration forms, calendar of events and other items of interest.

Slide 10: Q8. Are you aware of FFGC Tours and Travel? Advertisement for upcoming travel opportunities are in every issue of *TFG*. Is it cost, time, location? We have a variety of USA or overseas ventures but less than 25% are even aware of the program and fewer still are taking advantage of the program offered. It is hoped that the cruise in January 2025 might inspire members to join in the fun!

Slide 11: Q9. Have you participated in National Garden Week? Many leave for the north by first week of June. We are encouraging clubs to have a Club Garden Week anytime to promote and recruit. For this survey, only 26% have actually participate in a Garden Week celebration. The programs or projects during this week do not have to be big, just an acknowledgement of the good works in our communities.

Slide 12: Q 10. Comments regarding Communications/Connections? As expected, respondents are not happy that our magazine is now online. Many applaud our efforts and commitment to communications with our membership. With the new state Newsletter, perhaps we can improve overall communications!

Slide 13: Q11. Does your community have a community garden, botanical garden or arboretum? This question was to raise awareness of the types of garden venues in their communities. Many clubs partner with these organizations in some way or take field trips to them or have speakers from these places. We do have a chairman for this issue and our website lists locations for clubs or members to visit.

Slide 14: Q12. Does your community have a Blue or Gold Star Marker? Great numbers! 70% indicate that they have one or more markers in their community! This is one of our (and NGCs) oldest projects and members appreciate honoring our military members. With the rising cost of the markers, we will have to see if the number of markers will continue to increase. Maintenance of the marker location is often a club responsibility. Our chairman has done an outstanding job of promoting this worthwhile program.

Slide 15: Q13. Are you aware of Habitat for Humanity Landscaping or Roadside Beautification? Again, good numbers for those who are aware of these two programs (63% are aware). While these two programs are disparate, they both go a long way toward beautifying the community and giving a visual reminder of how garden clubs work within a community. We have a chairman for each program and information is available to those clubs who may wish to get involved with either program.

Slide 16: Q14. Are you aware of Penny Pines, Coral Reef or Historic Preservation? 79% of those taking the survey are aware of these disparate programs. Again, we have a chairman for each and some of the programs have been around for many years. Often clubs pass the hat for Penny Pines at each meeting. Attention was given to the Coral Reefs this past year due to high temperatures in the gulf waters. Our original involvement with the Coral Reefs project has evolved as has the foundation trying to create underwater gardens of coral.

Slide 17: Q15. Comments on FFGC's commitment to the community? The variety of comments made indicate that we, FFGC, needs to do a better job of advertising our commitment to the community and environment therein. We should be justifiably proud of the impact we have made and continue to make in this regard!

Slide 18: Q 16. Do you recycle? Great numbers! 93% of our respondents indicate that they do recycle in some way. Often it is the community that drives this endeavor by offering recycling at no cost or not. We need to continue to promote recycling, reducing, reusing, repurposing, etc.

Slide 19. Q 17. Are you Water Wise? Again, over 90% of the respondents indicate they are water wise and try to use less water in watering their lawns or in their household. Knowledge of the aquifer issues and pollution sources helps bring home the need to be aware of our water usage and how to protect it.

Slide 20. Q 18. Have you read FFGCs Position Papers? Ugg, only 21% of these members know about our 9 position papers dealing with environmental issues. The papers are available online but clubs need to be reminded they outline the FFGC position on each subject and how politics plays a role in preserving our environmental integrity. These papers will be reviewed to ensure they are up to date and reflect our true stance. Our chairman for these position papers has been given additional issues to research.

Slide 21. Q 19. Comments regarding FFGCs commitment to the environment? Interesting comments regarding politics...FFGC strives not to become political in its representation of our environmental stance and lets science guide our presentation of position.

Slide 22. Q20. Do you volunteer with registered Jr Gardener club? Yikes! Only 7% indicated they work within a registered Junior Garden Club at any of the 3 levels. Lots of folks work with kids but not through a registered club. Our chairman may need to reach out to the clubs working with kids in unregistered ways and get them to register the group. It only takes 5 kids and 5 meetings to qualify!!

Slide 23. Q 21. Have you attended or plan to attend Wekiva? Ugg, only 15% of these members are willing to be involved with Wekiva. Again, it may be age, snow birds being gone, avoiding the heat or other health reasons why folks do not wish to participate in Wekiva summer sessions. But this camp only works if we have 80 or so volunteers each week during the summer to help with the nature, craft and special programs. Recently, it was noted that less than 2% of all volunteers are club members. We have started seeking volunteers from former campers and counselors. If this program is to continue, we must find willing volunteers to serve!

Slide 24. Q 22. Have you attended or plan to attend SEEEK? UGG. Hardly anyone (5%) was aware of this program which has been around for 50 years! We and the chairman needs to do a better job of advertising the benefits to high schoolers attending this 3-day conference. This program is vital to teaching college-bound youth of the careers that await them in the environmental related fields of study. We must continue to 'grow our own' environmentalists to take our place in the future!

Slide 25. Q 23. Are you aware of college scholarships? 66% indicated they were aware of the FFGC, DSGC and NGC college scholarships available for college-bound students. Many clubs have their own scholarships they give locally. With the cost of higher education, it is vital that we continue to financially support these students in their academic endeavors.

Slide 26. Q 24. Comments regarding FFGCs commitment to Youth? Most comments were very positive regarding our commitment to youth. We can always do a better job advertising and promoting the myriad programs available.

Slide 27. Q 25. Do you plant for pollinators or wildlife? 88% indicated that they do plant for pollinators and wildlife! This question was added because this is theme of NGC President...go get the certificate and let the chairman, Grace Tshanakas, know. We can and should continue to educate our members on how to plant for pollinators and wildlife.

Slide 28. Q 26. Do you plant veggie garden or in containers? 77% indicate that they are planting some vegetables or using containers as planters. Our condo dwelling members must be inventive in growing plants on the patio and enjoying the taste of fresh tomatoes and other vegetables.

Slide 29. Q 27. Do you participate in plant exchanges or propagate plants? 81% of respondents indicate that they are actively participating in plant exchanges and propagation. Many clubs enjoy propagating plants for fundraising plant sales. Plant exchanges are fun ways to encourage attendance at meetings and educating others on the names and varieties of plants available in their area. Of course, caring for the newly propagated plants and transporting them to a plant sale is always a task!

Slide 30. Q 28. Do you participate in Garden therapy or Penal therapy? Ugg only 13% (246) respondents know about our therapy programs. Avon Park is our only Penal therapy program remaining from the original 3 programs of long ago. And, working with other groups, whether residential or organized, in garden therapy takes some coordination. If samples of successful programs can be shared, perhaps others will be inspired to create garden therapy programs in their area.

Slide 31. Q 29. Comments regarding FFGCs commitment to Horticulture? Remember, from the survey in 2018, most folks joined FFGC to learn about growing plants in Florida. Here it appears that folks are clamoring for more info on how to grow, share and show their garden bounty! These programs need to be very local and specialized or very general and held on Zoom for a wider audience!

Slide 32. Q 30 Have you attended or plan to attend “Fun with Flowers”? Large response from D-4 who continues to promote this with nearly monthly programs. This is a very popular program for members and for recruitment of new members if open to the public. It is ashamed that only 41% of our respondents are able to take advantage of the program near them. The chairman has produced some YouTube videos of quick and easy designs and gives programs at convention often. This is also a great fundraiser for clubs who promote “Fun with Flowers”. It is actually fairly easy to start a monthly or quarterly program for our members.

Slide 33. Q 31. Do you enter or plan to enter flower shows? For years flower shows have been our bread and butter, one of the original tenants of garden clubbing! Here only 45% have either participated or plan to participate in a flower show. Many do not like all the rules for hosting a standard flower show but growing for showing and exhibiting is boasting the skill of the grower. Emphasis is not so much on competition as it is on the fundamentals of horticulture and designing. The Deep South theme this year promotes holding flower shows. ‘Flower show in a box’ is a quick and easy way to get started with holding flower shows locally. This pop-up flower show idea is catching on!

Slide 34. Q 32. Have you provided floral designs in the community? 42% indicate that they are putting designs in public places as a way of promoting and advertising garden clubs in their community. This is a great recruitment option! Let folks know we are here and ask them to come join us!

Slide 35. Q 33. Do you have any comments regarding FFGCs commitment to Design? The comments run the gamut of positive and not so positive remarks about designing. It is not for everyone! Those who enjoy it, often continue to study and engage in creating beautiful designs. Design is an artistic outlet available to interested members.

Slide 36. Q 34. Have you attended or plan to attend NGC Educational Opportunities (LDS, ES, GS, FSS). Only 33% indicated they were taking advantage of the NGC schools offered. The chairmen of the 4 schools are actively putting articles in our magazine and TriCouncil and our judges’ council promotes these schools at every opportunity. It may be time, cost or locations, but these schools are the bedrock of what garden clubs are all about. With Zoom, perhaps others will be able to take advantage of the courses and become accredited in one or more areas.

Slide 37. Q35. Have you attended or plan to attend Short Courses? Only 32% indicated they do or would attend the FFGC Short Courses. It may be only those taking advantage of the location—larger responses in D-I, V and X. These are such casual learning opportunities provided to the membership, stress free! Cost is

kept to a minimum. Topics are timely and lively! Master Gardeners can get CEUs and many courses are offered as a Multiple Refresher for the NGC schools.

Slide 38. Q 36. Have you attended or do you plan to attend FDS courses? A total revision of this program and manual has taken place this year, thanks to Jan Griffin and her committee. Again, this is a stress-free way to learn about floral design and hopefully lead you to taking the NGC Flower Show Schools. In this survey, only 33% are taking advantage of the courses. Again, it could be location, cost or time that is preventing members from attending.

Slide 39. Q 37. Have you attended or plan to attend Digging It courses? My fault for not promoting this program. This chairman takes sole responsibility for the meager 17% positive response for Digging It. The program has not been promoted as it deserves but will resume exposure and advertising at the next convention. The program will be put on the website so all can use any part of it for free, but the 10-course series will also be an option for those clubs serious about horticulture education.

Slide 40. Q 38. Do you attend garden club sponsored programs, workshops, lectures, etc.? 89% indicate they are attending programs, workshops and lectures...most likely in their own club meetings. But at least information is being shared on a plethora of topics. Our Programs chairman has a list of exciting topics clubs might like to consider. The new newsletter may offer some inspiration on topics and speakers for the future.

Slide 41. Q 39. Comments regarding FFGCs commitment to Education? Distance to travel and stay is daunting for some. Cost of course, hotel, food, gas, etc. are prohibitive too....According to some, we need to hold more educational programs on Zoom.

Slide 42. Q 40. What do you like most about garden club? Primarily friendships, secondarily learning. There is something for everyone in garden club and many garden clubs reflect that—dirt digging clubs, designing clubs, focused interest clubs, etc.

Slide 43. Q 41. What would you change about garden club? Rules, rigidness, volunteers to work—same 10% doing all the work. Younger members. Garden clubs have a reputation that is still touting elite women holding teas in hats and gloves. We need to work better to show that we have adapted with the times and that we are in the community doing good works.

Slide 44. Q 42. What other organizations do you belong to? All were selected: church group, craft and art, Red Hat, plant related societies, DAR, women's club, league of women voters, historical society, etc... We asked this question to see about partnering with the other clubs and using this as fertile membership recruiting grounds.

Slide 45. Q 43. Lastly, Any constructive comments? Many feel our promotion of membership needs to focus on younger members and that we need to make accommodations for working people. Many wish to keep garden club community focused and not worry too much about state or higher levels. Fundraising is a necessary evil but perhaps we can help with sharing ideas of what works best for raising funds quickly and easily.

Hope to publish these results in next issue of *The Florida Gardener*. Hope SPC will digest this information and come up with a plan on improving FFGCs' response to our members.

Tina Tuttle, FFGC President

Summary: While a member joins a club, that member is not being indoctrinated to the benefits of membership available to him or her. FFGC needs to promote itself through articles, social media, and

hosting programs, projects, workshops, etc. either in person or online. Much needs to be done as we turn the corner to our next 100 years!

1ST VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT

FFGC First Vice President
Christy Linke
January 10, 2024

This 1st Vice President has been busy attending Strategic Planning Committees, Headquarters and Endowment meetings, Bylaw meetings, and of course Finance meetings.

As Finance Chairman of the Finance Committee, the New Year started with a Finance ZOOM meeting January 4, 2024. FFGC is so fortunate that there were so many budgets to approve and review. We cannot thank these clubs and districts enough for holding these educational schools. The volunteer hours behind these schools is something not everyone will ever see. The outcome is a successful ran event and that is what our members see and know. So a huge thank you goes out to them.

As Membership Chairman we continue to send to Assistant District Directors along with Directors the generated e-mails from NGC for people looking to join a garden club in their districts. It truly is amazing how many of these come from NGC to distribute to the correct district. In the past 30 days FFGC has obtained 128 new members. This is Exciting News!!

The icing on the cake was the FFGC Tour of all 12 Districts in October. Of course with this being the 100th year celebration of FFGC, cake and ice cream was the dessert of the day. With themes of Pumpkin Patch Party, district 1, "Drift on Down to Port St. Joe", district 2, It's A Celebration, district 3, Celebrating 100 Years, District 4, "Celebrating" FFGC 100 Years of Service, District 5, which consisted in a hat parade with members making their own custom-made Halloween and or Fall hats, "100 Years of "BEEing Happy in the Garden, District 6, where everything was BEES, "Celebrating 100 Years" district 7 where they had a parade of members who made garden inspired birthday hats, Happy Birthday FFGC, district 8, where an arch of gold and black balloons set the stage with an antique car for a photo moment, Who Whoo Are You?, district 9 where fall was in the air, Cheers to 100 Years, district 10, that even had birthday games and bubbly, Celebrate 100 Years Florida Federation, district 11, and last but not least A Magical Masquerade, district 12 where members made hand make Masquerade masks. Every district pulled out all the stops for a wonderful 100 years celebration of FFGC. This 1 VP always walks away feeling so humble and proud to be a part of this FFGC Organization. Listening to what all the clubs and districts are doing never ceases to amaze me. No matter how small or how big a club is they are mighty carrying out the missions of FFGC.

This First Vice President is proud to serve and seeing what our organization stands for and what we offer is why we do what we do. This First Vice President is excited to see what 2024 brings. So many wonderful programs/events and of course Florida Arbor Day. Happy New Year "2024".

2nd VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT

FFGC 2nd Vice Presidents Report – January 2024

FFGC 2nd Vice President
Mary Ann Whisler/2nd VP
January 2023

The 2023 October Tour was a wonderful experience for this 2nd VP. The opportunity to meet so many garden club members across the state was a great experience. So much has changed since our last tour just one year ago (October 2022). The garden club spirit is coming back and so many of our clubs are busy getting new and old projects going. Meeting new garden club friends and having time to reconnect with all our members is a great experience.

As Camp Wekiva Chairman, many scholarships and Donations were received in 2023, and many thank you cards were sent. It is very rewarding to see how all the garden clubs across the state support this camp. A great deal changed in 2023 with hiring a new chef, finding a new registrar, and a new Wekiva Treasurer. As the new Chairman, along with all the new team members, we worked closely together to keep camp running smoothly. But camp doesn't stop once the campers go home, and camp is packed up for another year. Along with all the Wekiva Committee, the 2024 camp was already being worked on. As January 2nd at 8 pm moved closer, website issues were addressed, and planning started. The Committee looks forward to another great Camp Wekiva 2024 year.

Being part of the Strategic Planning Committee is a great learning opportunity to evaluate new ideas and put ideas forward to support FFGC. As our world changes around us, our organization must continue to move forward with our goals for the future. Our Finance Committee continues to face the challenges of a large organization and to keep it running smoothly for our membership.

It is a great honor to serve FFGC. This VP continues to learn and understand the complexities of the organization and looks forward to a great 2024 for FFGC.

Mary Ann Whisler/2nd VP (mary.whisler66@gmail.com)

Summary:

Wekiva

Strategic Planning Committee

Finance Committee

3rd VICE PRESIDENT

FFGC Third Vice President

Leticia Gunn

January 10, 2024

As Third VP there has been a lot to learn and a lot to take in. It has been a whirlwind of activity since going on tour of the Districts and much has happened since then. Inventory for Ways and Means for the gift shop has been streamlined and now can be purchased online. Monitoring reorders for low inventory is managed with much more ease since all items have been transferred to the Square store. Inventory Reports are more streamlined and accurate.

Taking Ways and Means on Tour was a learning experience as to just how diverse the twelve Districts of our wonderful FFGC really are. I got to meet and speak to so many of our members and got to see first hand the beauty of our State. From the moss laden oaks of the Northeast to the Wildflowers of the Gulf Panhandle to the lakes of the middle of the State and back to the lushness of my tropical South Florida. Every District welcomed us with very diverse and fun meetings and the Tour Team bonded through the many many miles of travel we shared. As, perchance, two of the Tour Officers hailed from the outermost extremities of Florida, we found ourselves having to utilize all modes of transportations in what we came to dub the Planes, Trains and Automobiles Tour.

After the whirlwind of the October tour, preparations for Wekiva Volunteer Training went into overdrive and much progress has been done. The volunteer positions quickly filled up and the speakers were lined up. This Third VP is looking forward to a successful WVT!

In closing, I continue to be honored to serve as FFGC Third VP and am looking forward to more personal growth and many more experiences within this worthy organization.

RECORDING SECRETARY

Jennifer Barber
Recording Secretary
Winter BOD Meeting

This Recording secretary has had the pleasure of serving for the past few months. My role only becomes busy prior to and after a Board of Directors meeting. I gather reports and put them together to be posted on the website, write minutes to record our actions during meetings, follow up after the meeting to retrieve reports or motion cards that do not quite make it to my inbox, ensure the accuracy of minutes and then post everything onto the FFGC website for all to enjoy.

I encourage everyone to read Officer, Directors' and Chairman reports. Personally I have learned so much about the members of this organization and all of the amazing work that they do.

Summary:

Collection and posting of Officers', Directors & Chairman reports.

Writing, ensuring the accuracy and posting of Meeting Minutes.

CORRESPONDING SECRETARY

DISTRICT I

FFGC BOD January 2024

District I Report

District I clubs are busy doing a great many things. We, at the District level, are working on improving our communications between members, clubs, District, FFGC, DS and NGC.

Each month every garden club member in the District is emailed the District newsletter, the Busy Bee. This is our opportunity to share what is happening at the FFGC, DS and NGC. Clubs are also encouraged to share articles about what they are doing or events.

The District I Facebook page is another way to share ongoing information. We currently have 3 Admins and 6 Editors. Editors can post directly as the page. We would like to have at least one Editor from each club.

Our new Website, <https://gardenclubsnwfl.com/> is another source of information. Each club has their own page on the website so that even small clubs can have a website presence. The website has a calendar of events. We hope that clubs will use this as they plan their activities so they don't step on each others toes. The website also has a link to the latest newsletter.

So if you would like to know what the clubs are doing, go check it out!

The District is coming together planning for the 100th celebration at Convention 2024. We hope to see you all in Jacksonville.

Jenny Weber
District I Director

DISTRICT II

District II BoD Report **FFGC meeting 1.9-10.2024**

My district clubs are amazing - they work tirelessly for their members and communities by beautifying roadways, sharing fun with flowers with elementary school students and seniors, some attend short courses, but others don't have a clue what they are. One club developed a children's coloring/story book that teaches them about gardening by stimulating their imagination, another club has been making/ selling persimmon ice cream as an annual fundraiser while other clubs worked tirelessly to restore area landscapes following weather disasters....however,

instead of re-living our Club activities since our last BoD meeting, I've set some goals for District II membership, myself in preparation for the next DII director:

- * Better utilize talents of District officers;
- * Create a Facebook page for DII;
- * Continue to perfect the newly developed DII Newsletter to encourage attendance and/or support of district sister club events;
- * Continue review of meeting protocol at annual summer president/vice president retreats: compiling a useful and specific club budget, steps to review and update current club bylaws/standing rules;
- * Work with my club presidents to add new, track down those currently installed to refurbish and/or adopt orphan Blue Star Markers within our District;
- * Revive the "Penny Pines" programs for clubs who have let this program diminish within their local clubs;
- * Continue research of the Survey results, and formulate a plan to bring this information to my District clubs; recognize specific issues within those clubs and address solutions;
 - * Research the process for bringing the Basic Floral Design Classes to District II;
- * Research process for better communication between DII Director and individual district club members;
- * Etc - etc - etc;

....all with only 16 months remaining in my directorship.

DISTRICT III

District III Director
Lana Arnold
12/31/2023

District III Clubs continue to excel for their communities. It is no surprise that clubs held their annual holiday parties with white elephant exchanges, plant giveaways, gifts for needy families, and of course, great food. District III was able to provide an extra \$100 for each of our 7 Clubs to purchase a tree for planting on Arbor Day. This is in addition to other funds for native trees provided by FFGC and Duke Energy.

Madison Garden Club continues to restore a park in their community with the help of a local businessman. It is a major undertaking, but has drawn lots of interest.

Two Circles of the Tallahassee Garden Club worked together to landscape an eye sore area at a local community center and added native plants. Work continues monthly by members on Tallahassee Memorial Hospital's Cancer Center's Healing Garden.

There is much emphasis on new members with monthly outings and special programs. Tallahassee Garden Club publishes a monthly newsletter which is emailed to members and posted on the club's website. There is also a weekly e-blast from the President with reminders about events that week and with member birthdays listed.

Circle programs run the gamut from organizational meetings to interesting field trips. These field trips include state park tours, a study of "Backyard Tea Camellia Varieties", "Crafting Fall Centerpieces", "Winterizing a Garden", "Ornamental Container Gardening" and "Flower Arranging from Your Garden and Your Grocery Store."

Tallahassee Garden Club participates in the "Wreaths across America" project by purchasing fresh green wreaths which were placed on veterans' graves at the Tallahassee National Cemetery. Wreaths were also placed on two Blue Star Markers on Veterans Day.

Tallahassee Garden Club held its annual Christmas Tea and Petite Flower Show which is open to the public.

Wakulla Garden Club also initiated a bi-weekly newsletter called "The Garden Buzz" to keep everyone up to date on garden club activities.

Arbor Day has always been the major community outreach event for this Club. This year's event will be even bigger with the statewide FFGC 100th anniversary tree planting ceremony on January 19, 2024. Wakulla County Garden Club currently plans to plant two live oak trees near our Community Center Building. Along with this special Arbor Day tree planting ceremony, Wakulla Garden Club will host their annual tree give-away community outreach event on Saturday, January 20. They will distribute approximately 1,000 small native trees, which we have been maintaining since January, to Wakulla County residents. Each family is allowed to select two trees, free of charge, at this drive-thru event. The garden club and native plant society members, along with local master gardeners all work together to make this program successful.

Summary: District III has many projects being undertaken for their communities and provides many avenues for keeping members informed of activities.

Lana Arnold

District III Director

DISTRICT IV

District IV Report for January 10, 2024 Board Meeting

During the past four months, District IV has been busy in presenting programs, recruiting new members, and enjoying the company of their fellow gardeners. All of our garden clubs participated in Gardenfest 2023 and raised \$5,000.

Alligator Creek, in conjunction with their Bradford County Extension Agent, presented a refresher course on saving seeds and plant propagation. Their goal is be established as a seed-saving resource to the community so that they can propagate over 300 species of plants. This year, the members held a workshop to decorate mini-Christmas trees and donating them to the local nursing home. In addition, the club presented guardian angel shell pins that they crafted. For Arbor Day, Alligator Creek is donating a tree to the Bradford County Agriculture Center.

Bartram Garden Club of Amelia Island featured tours of local landscape-designed gardens, container-grown plantings. On Garden Center Day, the featured program was “Natural Repellants”. Each month members place complimentary floral designs in the foyer of the Nassua County Public Library. This community service gives members a chance to hone their floral design skills and educate the public on plant materials and mechanics commonly used in floral Design. In exchange for use of the Bartram Woman’s Clubhouse, the membership maintains and improves landscaping on the south and west sides of the building. This is done in conjunction with the Woman’s Club landscape committee. During the month of December, the group selected a holiday flower for each Friday of the month, and posted on Facebook, photos and tips on how to grow and maintain.

The Nassau County Beekeepers’ President gave a program on bees for the Callahan Garden Club. The speaker brought a live, working beehive for the members to observe. Tiny honey bears with local honey were presented to the membership. For the first time this year, Callahan participated in Gardenfest 2023. The group participated in the December Christmas parade and had a table with poinsettias for sale, and information to promote their club to the community. The club celebrated their 80th year affiliation with FFGC and were presented with a Double Diamond certificate at the Fall District IV meeting.

Fleming Islands continues to grow membership by inviting the public to attend horticulture Programs. Speakers have presented information on African Violets, how to care for garden tools, and building a great soil. The club continues to make monthly food and cash donations to the Green Cove Springs Food Bank. Fleming Island decorated a Christmas tree of the annual Parade of Trees in Spring Park in Green Cove Springs. After visiting the Ravines State Park gardens in the Spring, the membership met with the gardens park ranger offered to help in maintaining the flower beds. This project started in September and is ongoing.

The Garden Club of Green Cove Springs continues to maintain the flower beds at the St.Mary’s Episcopal Church. The opening meeting this year had a program on ferns and air Plants. The club submitted plants for the Jacksonville Fair Horticulture Show. Every year, the club decorates a Christmas tree for the Green Cove Springs Parade of trees, the Green Cove Springs Library and at the Historical Triangle. The Garden Club will join the City of Green Cove Springs in their annual Arbor Day celebration and a Holly Tree will be planted in the Francis Hall Park.

The Garden Club of Jacksonville chaired the Jacksonville Fair Horticulture Show. Judging was done by members of the Empire Point and Wildflower Circles and Ribault Garden Club. The Budding Gardeners had programs on “Stellar Strawberries” and participated in “Clean-up Jax” event. Fun with Flowers did a

workshop on holiday designs. The Floralia group did a program on tapestry designs. Each December, the garden club joins the Riverside Avondale Preservation “Luminaria” festival. Attendees celebrated the event by attending an evening party at the garden club. The Wildflower Circle continued its tradition by decorating mini-Christmas trees. This year the Circle made 182 trees and donated them to Community Hospice. The trees are given to the families after the Hospice patient passes.

The Middleburg Garden Club had a Fall planting at the Middleburg Clay Hill Library. At their October meeting, members create mini-pumpkin table decorations. At the Community Garde Summit at Bee Friends Farms, the group enjoyed learning more about beekeeping. Their fall plant sale was very successful with over 300 plants sold.

The Watson Realty Group allows the Middleburg membership there to meet. In exchange for this, members bring in monthly donations for service men and women serving overseas. The membership continues to tend the flowerbeds at the Middleburg Clay Hill Library.

The Garden Club of Orange Park celebrated their 75th anniversary by hosting a holiday open house. Attendees included the District chair for Representative Andy Bean. Rep. Bean issued a proclamation commemorating this event and was recorded in the Congressional Record. A member of the City Council of Orange Park was also present and announced that the City had also issued a proclamation. On December 5th, Kay Earhart, President attended the City Council meeting and was presented with the proclamation. The group continues to work with the teachers at Doctors Lake Elementary to help teach the students about plants. At Orange Park Elementary, Members work with children on gardening projects. The Arrangers Guild of Orange Park Garden Club held creative design workshops for Halloween; created wreaths for Veterans Day; and laid those wreaths at the Moosehaven and Magnolia cemeteries.

The club joined the American Legion and Town of Orange Park in laying “Wreaths Across America” Day. Also participating were local cub scouts, boy scouts and girl scout troops, the Rotary Club and VFW.

At the Garden Club of Palatka, an 80’s themed Halloween Spooktacular was held. It featured a haunted house, spooky cabin and food trucks. One of the members made a gardening quilt and raffle tickets were sold. The Putnam County Extension Agent did a program on trees. Some members attended the NGC Landscape Design held at UNF and enjoyed a tour of the campus botanical healing Rose and Bamboo Gardens.

Ribault Garden Club did an “Eating in Style” small, standard flower show. Their Fun With Flowers program was hosted by the Jacksonville Flower Market. An annual plant swap was held at the Neptune Beach Public Library and was well-attended. During the holidays, the club held a “Toys for Tots” drive and hosted their annual Home for the Holidays, Home Décor Demonstration and Tea.

The Garden Club of St. Augustine held the NGC Floral Design Course 1-6. They held a Flower Show (small standard) event. Three of the GCSA members entered designs in the Palm Coast Flower Show and won blue ribbons. Their annual Holiday Tour of Homes was held in six historic homes of St. Augustine. Members created tree decorations, floral arrangements and decorated the homes. A holiday tea was hosted at the River House and home-made treats and crafts were sold.

The Garden Club of Switzerland presented “Beauty and the Weeds, Bees and Butterfly program. This year, they joined the Friends of Alpine Grove Park Winter Festival which included a tour of a farmhouse and Santa, food trucks and music. The Children’s activity was making birds nest wreaths and decorating with seeds, protein-rich foods and fruits.

Respectfully submitted,
Sam Runyon, District IV Director

DISTRICT V

DISTRICT VI

1/9/2024
FFGC District VI Report
Valerie Seinfeld, Director

The FFGC District VI Garden Clubs have been experiencing significant growth in their membership, with a total of 1,010 members to date. All 16 clubs will be hosting a Florida Arbor Day event, and the Fall Officers on Tour District VI Meeting was attended by 89 members, including guests.

District VI is also planning to refurbish one marker, and two clubs, the Melbourne Garden Club and Cocoa Rockledge Garden Club, are planning to install new Blue Star Memorial Markers. The South Peninsula Garden Club has witnessed an unexpected membership growth, thanks to their warm and welcoming environment. The Garden Club at Palm Coast held its first Flower Show, which was a great success with over 110 views each day and excellent press and community participation. The Ormond Beach Garden Club will hold its annual Flower Show in the spring, with the theme “Brighten Your World with Birds, Bees, Flowers, and Tea,” and District VI will come together for a Flower Show named “Busy Bees” on March 8th and 9th, with Andrea Finn as the Chairman. The New Smyrna Beach hosted a successful Festival of Trees, raising funds for college scholarships. The Garden Club of DeLand hosted a Monarch Magic event in the Sensory Garden, where children and their adults learned about butterflies through crafts, storytellers, a parade, and giveaways. The Garden Club by the Sea plans to hold a similar event in the spring. The DeLeon Springs Garden Club’s President is organizing membership-building events, and the Tillandsia Garden Club will be hosting the District VI Meeting in Daytona Beach. The Indian Harbour Beach Garden Club is excited about their planned programs. In January, the Cherry Laurel Garden Club will enjoy a bus tour of the Scenic Ormond Loop guided by the Ormond Beach Historical Society. They also hosted a meeting with a Master Beekeeper program, where attendees learned about native bees and wasps.

The Garden Club of the Halifax Country has been successful in engaging with upper elementary school students in learning about trees on their campus before planting three native varieties on their field, by chairing Florida Arbor Day. Port Malabar is dedicating more focus to their programs, with an interesting speaker demonstrating how to use “air plants” in décor.

With all the excitement and growth, these Garden Clubs are blooming into something truly special!

DISTRICT VII

District VII Director

Gwen Carter

January 10, 2024

District VII clubs continue working to enhance our footprints on community improvements and relationships with the local communities and surrounding areas.

Beautifying Minneola Place, a senior Citizen and mentally challenged residential facility, was completed in November, Club members removed the sod and installed a blanket of flowers, Catela Guavas, Red Hibiscus, Red Petunias, Red and White Pentas, and Blue Daze planted under the marquee that was cleaned. A large shrub was trimmed to perfection. Each resident was gifted with a quilt for their bed crocheted by a member's sewing group.

The Lake Mary Rehabilitation Hospital was decorated for Christmas for the patients to enjoy. Trees were planted at a Habitat for Humanity home in Winter Garden. Clay pots were painted for Breast Cancer Awareness and donated to Mount Dora Thrift Store to sell.

We still work with Head Start students in Clermont planting vegetable gardens and reading vegetable books to students in their classes.

Through a Love Committee Project, club members decided to brighten up the front porch of Love Mission's Office by repainting the sad looking flowerpots on their front porch. Love Missions is an organization dedicated to the abolishment of modern-day slavery through community awareness and education.

A membership drive and plant sale were held in Eustis at the Lake County Fairgrounds Flea/Farmer's Market to raise funds.

Educationally, we will offer the National Garden Club Floral Design Study Units 1-6 in Lady Lakes and a National Garden Club Standard Flower Show in Orlando both in January.

For the first time, an FFGC garden club will be hosting a Fashion Show in Clermont in January with fashions by Chico's.

District VII looks forward to joining the other 11 Districts at 11am on January 19th as we plant our Florida Native Trees to celebrate Florida Arbor Day.

Currently, District VII has 13 individual clubs, 1 advanced design club, and 1 district club working to promote floral design, civic beautification, environmental education, opportunities for our youth, and to stimulate a love of gardening for all.

Sadly, I would like to make a motion to accept the resignations from Palm Garden Club due to low membership.

Thank you.

Florida Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc. Motion Card

District VII Director
Palm GC Resignation
Gwen Carter
January 10, 2024

Subject of Motion: Resignation of Palm GC

We have a motion: I move to accept the resignation of Palm GC.

Motion made BY: Gwen Carter, District VII Director

Secretary's Record: Date: January 10, 2024

Motion Number: Seconded by: N/A Motion Amended by: N/A

Motion Adopted:

Number Voting ____54____ Affirmative ____54____ Negative ____0____

DISTRICT VIII

FFGC Board Report District VIII, Phyllis Weber District Director What a busy past four months! ONE Garden Tour was held by Lemon Bay Garden Club. We have had TWO successful and inspiring Flower Shows from the Plant City, and Sarasota Garden Clubs. There were THREE NGC Schools. The NGC Flower Show School Course 1 hosted by Manatee River Garden Club and NGC Environmental Course 1 and 2 presented by Tampa Federation of garden clubs. There were also FOUR social gatherings. Dade city celebrated their member's birthdays as well as their club's 75 anniversary. Plant city also celebrated their 75th anniversary. Dunedin held an "Appreciate Our Members" party and St. Petersburg had a "Meet and Greet". FIVE Fun with Flowers events were held by Apollo Beach, Tampa, Plant City, Venice Area, Lakewood Ranch and Temple Terrace garden clubs. With arrangements going to senior centers, as a thank you to supporting business and to other community organizations. There were SIX community wide activities. Sarasota Garden Club held Music in the Garden, Painting in the Garden and Christmas in the Garden. Dade city held Holiday Magic and Tarpon Springs held their Fall Festival. Temple Terrace participated in The Arts Festival. There were SEVEN community outreach programs. Plant City's "A Christmas Party" and floral arrangement for the Community Care Center. Lakewood Ranch's Permanent Arrangements for Meals on Wheels, and "Everyday Toiletries" for Stillpoint Missions. St Petersburg worked with nursing home residents making fresh floral arrangement. Manatee River took demonstration and Floral Design center pieces to local shelters plus helped with Habitat for Humanity landscaping of new homes. Tarpon Springs took their Fall Festival proceeds and held a party for the Boys and Girls club. There were NINE education programs to Increase and retain members. Dade City's 3 "Make and Take" series. Apollo Beach's expanded composting and Community Gardens. Tampa Bay's "Balancing Act" by Vero Stewart and Ecosystems by Doug Tallamy. Lakewood Ranch's "All about Palms" and growing them. Dunedin's program on heirloom rose and growing them in Florida. Also Venice Area's floral care and basic design classes. There were TWELVE garden renovations and plantings. Dade City's 6 circle garden were replanted plus a central patio installed in preparation for the Fall FFGC District meeting. Tampa installed an educational butterfly garden at an elementary school. Clearwater started their heirloom rose garden, and established a walkway through their butterfly garden. Lemon Bay renovated their hurricane damaged gardens. Manatee River, Lakewood Ranch and Sarasota are maintaining and refreshing their gardens. If this wasn't enough our clubs are planning FOUR plant sales. ELEVEN Educational Schools, FFGC Floral Design Schools 1-9, NGC Flower Show School 2-4, TWO Standard Flower Shows, TWO garden tours and THREE Fun with Flowers. And we have NINETEEN District VIII Clubs planting a tree on Arbor Day plus TWO clubs handing out 75 seedlings. Happy New Year.

DISTRICT IX
FFGC District IX
Claudia Chopp Director

District activities September 2023- January 2024

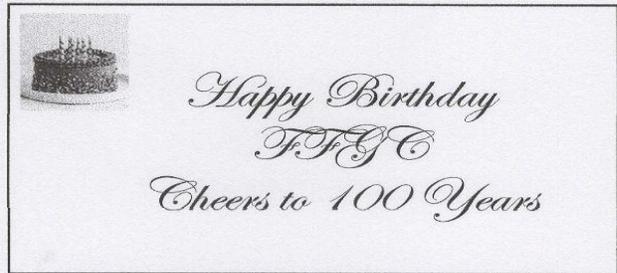
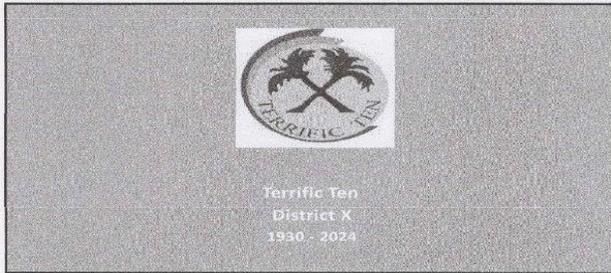
Punta Gorda Garden Club held an Annual Holly Days Home Tour and Poinsettia Sale, December 1&2, 2023. A craft sale was included. and four homes were toured.

Lake placid Garden Club held a Home and Garden Tour of five homes and a Bonsai garden. December 2, 2023. Complimentary refreshments were served, and a Boutique with homemade items was featured.

Fort Myers - Lee County Garden Council held The third NGC Environmental School on November 11-17 2023.

All clubs are planning the Florida Arbor Day tree planting in January
Regular meetings with interesting programs have been held by all clubs.

1/7/2024




“Groundbreakers...Then and Now”
 Tropical Short Course

- Thursday, January 25 – Friday, January 26, 2024
- Location: Wellington Community Center – Grand Ballroom 12150 Forest Hill Blvd, Wellington, Fl.
- Speakers: Learn about Gertrude Jekyll – a groundbreaking female landscape designer from Victorian times & Project Paradise who will premiere a new movie on seagrass restoration and saving our beloved manatees.
- Floral Design Experts will dazzle you with a creation each day
- Great raffle prizes and vendors
- \$85.00
- Deadline to register has been extended to January 15. I have registration forms today if needed.




“Groundbreakers...Then and Now”
 Tropical Short Course
 Friday Night Stars Dressage Freestyle show.

How much does FNS cost? Admission is FREE
When is FNS? Friday, January 26, 2024 6:00 Gate Opens, 7:00 Show Begins
Where is FNS? Equestrian Village 13500 South Shore Blvd, Wellington, FL 33414

Parking: On-site parking is \$20 per car.
Are there places to eat?
 Of course! Enjoy our delicious on-site food vendors. They offer refreshing drinks, delicious meals, and tasty snacks that are sure to satisfy every craving.
Are there places to shop?
 Yes! We have a wide variety of stylish and unique onsite boutique vendors. From equestrian attire and tack to striking clothing and accessories, our vendors have something for everyone.
Good to Know!!!
 This is an outdoor event and seating is in bleachers. Stadium seat cushions would be advantageous. Please bring clothing for warm or cold weather... we live in Florida!




Art In Bloom

Join us for a celebration of art and flowers featuring imaginative floral interpretations of selected works from the Posh Gallery collection. Sponsored by District X FFSJ

Saturday, February 10, 2024 12:00am – 7:00pm

Free admission – bring friends & family

Posh Gallery
 9089 W. Atlantic Ave Suite 104
 Delray Beach, Fl. 33456



**NGC – Gardening School
 Course 4**

February 20-21, 2024
 8:30am – 3:30pm

Mounts Botanical Garden
 531 N. Military Trail
 West Palm Beach, Fl. 33415

\$75.00 Course
 \$ 8.00 Exam

Some of the subjects covered:

- Plant Classification – Dr. Kimberly Moore
- Specialized Styles of Gardening
- Techniques for Growing Woody Ornamentals
- Pruning Techniques
- Characteristics of Plant Families
- Gardening for Wildlife and the Environment

Visit www.DistrictX.org for registration form

Quality Vendors!

- ♦ Trees
- ♦ Plants
- ♦ Pottery
- ♦ Flowers
- ♦ Orchids
- ♦ Furniture
- ♦ Garden Art
- ♦ Native Plants

Great Raffle Prizes!
—no need to be present to win!

Great Food & Youth Activities!

Nature's Finest Marketplace

Riverside Park in Vero Beach

Free Admission
Free Parking

2500 Riverside Park Drive—Off Rt. 60, Deardside

Saturday, Feb. 3, 9 am - 5 pm
Sunday, Feb. 4, 9 am - 4 pm

Check our web site for more information & directions...
www.gardenclubvero.org

Hosted by Garden Club of Indian River County, Inc.

See you there!

Oleander Garden Club of the Palm Beaches, Inc.

Presents
"Sounds of Spring"
Gourmet Hors d'oeuvres - Wine - Outdoor Concert

2024
Thursday, March 14, 2024 from 5:00 - 7:30 pm
\$40.00 per person

Holy Trinity Episcopal Church
Parish Hall and Courtyard
2111 Holly Place, West Palm Beach, FL 33401

Located in downtown West Palm Beach off of Taylor Street just north of Chapin Square Roundabout

Featured Performer
Nicole Grohove
Organist and music director of Holy Trinity Episcopal Church
Facilitated ensembles of the Scottish Club & The British Club
Performed at Carnegie Hall

Hidden Treasure

Presented by
The Garden Club of Boynton Beach Chapter
1922-1923 Annual
March 20, 2024

A Luncheon & Fashion Show
at the Westchester Country Club
12250 Westchester Club Dr., Boynton Beach, FL 33437
11:30 am - 2:30 pm
Presale tickets \$45.00

Boynton Beach Garden Club
presents
BLOSSOMS & BUTTERFLIES
A Luncheon/Fashion Show

Noon to 3 pm, Wednesday, March 20, 2024
Westchester Country Club
12250 Westchester Club Dr, Boynton Beach 33437

\$45

Fashions from 6+ Boutiques Raffle Baskets 50/50 Raffle Vendors

SAVE THE DATE!

The Garden Club of Stuart
presents
2024 SECRET GARDENS TOUR

"From the Tropics to the Trails"

SATURDAY, MARCH 23, 2024
10:00am - 3:00pm
Presale tickets \$35.00

www.gardenclubstuart.org
Proceeds from the garden tour benefit the GCS Scholarship Program and Outreach Programs

Wellington Garden Club
Presents an Exclusive
Tour of Wellington Stables
Saturday, April 6, 2024




River Run Farm, LLC

FFDC District X Spring Meeting REGISTRATION FORM

Oceans of Orchids

THURSDAY, APRIL 19, 2024

HOSTED BY: FIVE FLORIDA CLUBS: PALM BEACH, PALM BEACH GARDEN CLUB, PALM BEACH PALM BEACH GARDEN CLUB, PALM BEACH PALM BEACH GARDEN CLUB, PALM BEACH PALM BEACH GARDEN CLUB

REGISTRATION: 8:30-9:00 AM

PROGRAM: Begins at 9:00 AM

Guests are invited to view and enjoy Florida Orchids and other plants, including a display of Florida's native plants. The day will include a special feature: Complete a Registry application for each club member requesting. Copy also being provided.

Cost: \$20.00 for Florida club members, \$30.00 for non-members.

- Registration fee must be received by April 8, 2024.
- An application form will be provided at the meeting.
- No children and no dogs are permitted.
- A limited number of registration forms available on a first-come, first-served basis, and may run short.
- Make arrangements to arrive at the Palm Beach Club.
- Mail registration form and check to: Registrar, B.J. Barone, 4801 SW Paragate Blvd., Palm City, FL 32909. bjbarone@palmcity.com (385) 796-2652
- Feel free to contact the registrar with any questions.

GREAT SELECTION OF RAFFLE BASKETS
DRAW AT 4:00 PM

"Discover Paradise... The Florida Keys"

An NCC Standard Flower Show
Presented by
The Boca Raton Garden Club
4211 NW Pine Avenue
Boca Raton, FL 33433
561.984.9276



Saturday, April 20, 2024
10am - 3pm
SHELLEY S. GYLLSBERG
10am - 3pm

IT'S NOT HOARDING



IF IT'S PLANTS

DISTRICT XI

Fort Lauderdale Garden Club started its “garden” year in October with a program highlighting its upcoming Standard Annual Flower Show. Member consultants prepped the audience with the rules of the show, helpful hints, and encouragement to participate in design and horticulture. Our November meeting focused on our history and relationship to Birch State Park. Our archivist reminded us of our illustrious and industrious past and the Park’s manager and its non-profit group, Friends of Birch, shared their vision for its future. December brought us to our annual holiday celebration – themed “Poinsettia” - with a specially-created cocktail and a horticulture program on this beautiful holiday plant. FLGC moves into 2024 with a myriad of programs, community service, and events planned for the remainder of our garden season.

The Garden Club Coral Springs has been actively engaged in various community initiatives over the past five months, demonstrating its commitment to environmental sustainability, community outreach, and horticultural education. This report provides an overview of the club's recent activities and achievements.

****Community Garden Contributions:****

The club dedicated significant efforts to planting tomatoes and vegetables at the community garden with the aim of donating the produce to local food banks. This initiative reflects the club's commitment to addressing food insecurity while promoting sustainable agriculture and community involvement.

****Conservation Efforts at Sawgrass Nature Center:****

Members of the Garden Club Coral Springs contributed to the recovery of local wildlife by planting vegetables at the Sawgrass Nature Center. By providing food sources for recovering animals, the club actively supports the preservation of local ecosystems and wildlife rehabilitation efforts.

****Educational Outreach and Engagement:****

The club hosted guest speakers on a variety of topics, including composting, wildlife in local parks, and the replanting and care of orchids. These educational events aimed to promote environmental awareness, sustainable gardening practices, and appreciation for local flora and fauna.

****Garden Therapy and Community Health Initiatives:****

In collaboration with the senior center, the club facilitated garden therapy sessions, empowering seniors to create their own "pizza garden" while highlighting the health benefits of gardening. This initiative underscores the club's dedication to supporting community well-being and fostering a deeper connection to nature.

****Charitable Contributions:****

In the spirit of giving, the Garden Club Coral Springs participated in the "Toys for Tots" program for Broward Health Coral Springs, contributing to the joy of children during the holiday season.

****Grant Award:****

The club achieved a significant milestone by winning a \$2,000 grant from the National Garden Clubs' Plant America program. This grant will undoubtedly fuel the club's ongoing efforts to promote environmental stewardship, community engagement, and horticultural education.

The Garden Club Coral Springs remains steadfast in its commitment to promoting sustainable gardening practices, environmental conservation, and community well-being. Looking ahead, the club seeks to build on its recent successes and continue making a positive impact within Coral Springs and beyond.

Sincerely,
Jeri Decker
Garden Club Coral Springs

The Hollywood Garden club has been meeting at member's homes. The meeting starts with a tour of a member's garden, followed by a talk by the owner about the plants that grow the best in their yard. The educational aspects of the meetings include sharing our tried-and-true knowledge with each other. We teach members about propagation with demonstrations, what kind of fertilizer to use, pest control with the least impact on the environment, the aesthetics of a well-balanced garden, and plant combinations to use together.

The members take pictures and get new ideas. Sometimes we bring a covered dish to share for lunch or go to a good restaurant near a nursery. We have gone together to local nurseries to purchase plants for the upcoming season, and to see new plants and learn their names. We can help members with any questions they might have on choosing the right plants for the right area. We meet every month of the year except December. The home tours and meetings are for members only. The Field Trips are for the members to bring family and friends along that might want to join us on our adventures.

It's time to wish us all a Happy and abundant New Year!

With all our efforts we at LAUDERDALE BY THE SEA GARDEN CLUB , have enjoyed our initial October garden club meeting with coffee and great conversation of a once again wonderful summer. We were graced with a most inspiring speaker Anthony Gross, Program Project Coordinator.

He inspired us with his visions and knowledge of Native Coastal Plants in a Resilient Environment. We are now working on a project of replenishing the sea lavender in our community.

November proved to be Fruitful as we rode together to Fruitful Fields and shared their vision of growing and providing fresh produce for a community in need. Pictures attached.

December we shared our Holiday gathering as our Dear Marilyn taught us how to design a holiday floral arrangement with a "MAKE AND TAKE" showing off our talents. Our Mayor, Chris Vincent spoke to us while we enjoyed a holiday meal.

And now the New Year has begun with the promise of more exciting projects and plans as we enter our 100th FFGC ANNIVERSARY.

Respectfully

Dorothy Mardell LBTS GARDEN CLUB
President

Pompano Beach Garden Club Update

Stayed busy over summer with children activity at Emma Lou Olson
The children planted seeds into a small container and also made a small floral design

Planted tree at McNabb Elementary School
Partner with Cresthaven Elementary School for school garden
Both of these events are our donation to Arbor Day

Hosted District Meeting on October 19, 2023
Celebrating the 100th Birthday of FFGC
Approx 50 district members attended a day long meeting with speakers from each club
Responsible for meeting location, set up, catered lunch and registration

Sample Mc Dougald house responsible for planting and caring for winter garden including
vegetables such as peas, beans, cabbage, etc
New addition at House was the planting of orchids in trees by members

Broward Children Center responsibility for weekly fresh flower arrangements to center
Civic project to collect, donate (from members) and wrap Xmas gifts for children at center

Civic club project to collect empty prescription bottles for Michael's Ministry

Lighthouse Point started our new year off in October with a wonderful program by Dr Kern on Florida bats We also started a new “Yappy Hour” once a month at members homes. We gather to socialize and see each others homes and yards. It has been a success with some fun times. We also had a workshop making Air Plant holiday wreaths and the public was invited. Our guests and members were very creative and had a good time.

November was our upcycling workshop and December we had a lovely Holiday Lunch at Anthonys Clam House with a special gift exchange hosted by President Palo. Everyone got a little something and a great time was had.

We have many field trips, workshops and Yappy Hours coming up. We have also started a donation table bringing supplies for various organizations every month. We also have continuing project including penny pines, horticulture minute with hostesses for the month providing a design or plant centerpiece and discussing it. October and November were for Norcrest Elementary where we mentor them on their vegetable garden project. School supplies and garden supplies were provided by enthusiastic members. We are planning our Arbor Day tree ceremony at Norcrest planting a Sweet Bay Magnolia and a Satin leaf.

January will be our International Lunch with members each bringing a dish from a different country and a program by Master Gardener Gabe Clarke on self watering containers.

Our annual salad lunch is in March and we will be auctioning off many of our projects from the upcycle workshop. Candle holders, garden towers, bird feeders and birdbaths made from recycled and ceramic.

We are planning on bringing the Floral Design Course to South Florida in the fall and hope to host a flower show in early 2025.

We will be joining in the Keeper Day celebration in the city in February. This is a city wide event celebrating inspiring city leaders.

Our membership has almost doubled in the last year from 19 to 36 members, and we enjoy the enthusiasm of our new members. We are registering as a 501C 3 finally and expect to increase our fundraising events and education of the local community. We are planning more hands on workshops such as Fun with Flowers and container gardening and a plant clinic.

Respectfully submitted

Taryn Palo, President Garden Club of Lighthouse Point

Our clubs have already been busy leading up to the New Year and expect to have many activities in the coming year. All will be participating in the Arbor Day celebration. Moringa Circle will be planting 5 Satin Leaf trees with Ft Lauderdale. We are all looking forward to the New Year.

Taryn Palo, Director

District XI

DISTRICT XII

Susan Rodriguez
District XII report:
January 2024

The garden clubs in District XII are setting the stage on fire with their vibrant initiatives! Get this: there's a colossal event brewing at West Matheson Hammock on January 19th, celebrating the 100th Anniversary of FFGC, in collaboration with The Dranoff2 Foundation and Miami Dade County's DERM Department. Can you believe it? This extravaganza is open to everyone, aiming to spread awareness about our native habitats and showcase the wonders of garden club activities. Plus, it's a golden opportunity to recruit fresh talent into the district's clubs!

Hold onto your hats because it gets even better. Poetry teachers, students from Piano Slam (courtesy of Dranoff2 Foundation), and passionate garden club members are teaming up to plant a whopping 200 native trees in the protected nature preserve. And the tree lineup? Dahoon Holly, torchwood, Pond apple, cypress, elderberry, Florida Keys Blackbead, and more! As the cherry on top, at 11:00, they're planting a paradise tree (SIMAROUBA GLAUCA) to honor FFGC's remarkable 100-year journey. Paying tribute to our departed members and delving into the rich history of Arbor Day is also on the cards.

Hold on, there's more! This event isn't just about greenery—it's about community, too. The agenda includes healthy snacks provided by various clubs, and guess what? A whopping \$1000 was allocated just to buy these trees.

But that's not all that's brewing in District XII. The President's Council is a hot spot, meeting every third Monday since September. It's a melting pot of garden club presidents, past and present, along with first vice-presidents, all brainstorming to bring fresh, exciting programs to life!

Check this out: South Miami Garden Club's President Annie Goodrich orchestrated a spectacular membership drive that drew over 30 guests, showcasing their club's work through demonstrations and educational snippets. It was a hit!

And hold onto your gardening gloves, because the Miami Beach Garden Club is taking the living plant game to the streets! They've crafted a living plant installation on Lincoln Road as part of the Living Art Festival, collaborating with five other organizations and businesses. Plus, they've got a home tour and Flower Show lined up for March!

But wait, there's more green goodness! The Coral Pines President, Jean Hawa, kicked off the year with a Membership Tea Party at the Oasis at Coral Reef. From tea mastery to preserving plant specimens, they've been on a learning spree! The November pumpkin floral design workshop and the amazing floral design demo at Fruit and Spice Park staged by Sandra Deery were amazing.

Meanwhile, the Coral Gables Garden Club, under Susan Rodriguez's leadership, is hosting the "The Night At The Museum" NGC Standard Flower Show, commencing with a dazzling Fashions & Florals event at the Coral Gables Museum. Their focus on online native plant sales and their upcoming garden therapy for special needs children is truly heartwarming. Plus, they're gearing up for the AS I SEE IT Photography Competition!

And that's not all—Pinecrest is gearing up for a fabulous plant sale on January 20th, while Marathon has their annual Home Tour lined up for March 2nd, 2024.

This, my friends, is the epitome of garden clubbing at its finest in District XII!

January 2024 Board Meeting

Board Chairmen Reports

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BRICK PATHS - Charlotte White
BYLAWS-STANDING RULES - Marge Hendon
CALENDAR – FFGC EVENTS - Linda Feif-Johnson
CHAPLAIN - Ed Nendick
CONVENTION COORDINATOR- Connie Gladding
CORAL REEF RESTORATION - Sharon Trbovich
DEEP SOUTH GARDEN CLUBS UNIFIED PROJECT - Daphna Goldberg
DUES AMBASSADOR - Sue Roberts
EARTH STEWARD - Kathleen Siena
ENDANGERED PLANTS
FINANCE COMMITTEE - Christy Linke
FLORAL DESIGN STUDY - Jan Griffin
FFGC 100th BIRTHDAY - Judy Jodoin
FFSJ PRESIDENT - Gina Jogan
FLORIDA WILDFLOWER LIAISON - Carolyn Schagg
FUN WITH FLOWERS - Emilie Palmieri
GARDEN THERAPY - Pat Shira
HABITAT FOR HUMANITY - Pat Caren
HALL OF FAME/LIFE MEMBERSHIP/PILLAR OF PRIDE - Diane & Skip Lamoureux
HEADQUARTERS AND ENDOWMENT - Sue Roberts
& GROUNDS - Charlotte White
INSURANCE - Michele Vatalaro
INVASIVE SPECIES - Inger Jones
JUNIOR GARDENERS - Brenda Davis
MATCHING GRANTS -
MEMBERSHIP - Christy Linke
NATIONAL GARDEN WEEK - Blanca Longo Rancourt
NGC ENVIRONMENTAL SCHOOL CHAIRMAN - Lydia Barbour
NGC GARDEN STUDY SCHOOL CHAIRMAN - Sally Flanagan
NGC LANDSCAPE DESIGN SCHOOL CHAIRMAN - Sue MacPherson
NGC SCHOOLS CREDENTIALS CHAIRMAN
NGC SPECIAL PROJECT LIAISON - TBA
NGC & DSGC YOUTH CONTESTS - Sandra Lynch

PARKS – TRAILS - GREENWAYS - Mickey Quigley
PENNY PINES - Andrea Finn
PHOTOGRAPHER - Pat Shira
PLANNED GIVING - Carolyn Schaag
PROGRAMS & SPEAKERS - Peggy Gahn
PROTOCOL - Jolene King
RECLAMATION & RECYCLING - Carolyn Stevens
ROADSIDE BEAUTIFICATION/ PATHS OF SUNSHINE Brenda Luedeman
SCHOLARSHIP - DSGC, NGC - Mary Adams
SCHOLARSHIP – FFGC - Helen Purvis
SCOUTING LIAISON - Jennifer Barber
SEEK CONFERENCE - Jennifer Seymore - White
SHORT COURSE – UF - Carol Binello
SHORT COURSE – NORTH - Joanne Conner
SHORT COURSE TROPICAL - Maria Wolfe
SMOKEY BEAR-WOODSY OWL - Jill Anderson
SOCIAL MEDIA - Valerie Seinfeld
STATE FLOWER SHOW- CONVENTION - Gina Jogan
STRATEGIC PLANNING COMMITTEE - Connie Gladding
TOURS & TRAVEL - Sally Atkinson
TREES & REFORESTATION - Kat Spieker
TRI-COUNCIL PRESIDENT - Brenda Leudeman
WEBSITE EDITOR & VIRTUAL PLATFORM TEAM - Sue Roberts
WEKIVA BLDG & MAINTENANCE - Mary Whisler
WEKIVA YOUTH CAMP - Mary Whisler
WEKIVA TREASURER - Gail Shaw
WEKIVA VOLUNTEER TRAINING - Leticia Delatorre - Gunn

4-5 STAR MEMBERS

4 and 5-Star Member Chairman

Joanne Mulinare

January 9, 2024

Have you completed all 3 of our schools - gardening, landscape and environmental, achieving Consultant status? How about judges school – all done? If you have completed all 4 of these schools you are eligible to apply for 4 star membership status from National Garden Club. FFGC members who have successfully completed all four of NGC's educational schools are eligible to apply for 4 Star status. This is a great accomplishment and you will receive a certificate of accomplishment once your application is approved at National.

Once a member has reached Master level in all four schools by continuing to refresh may apply for a 5 Star recognition. There is an application form on the National Garden Club website which the applicant fills out and submits electronically directly to NGC. At the time of submission you choose whether you would like the award presented at our FFGC Convention or the NGC Convention.

This award is presented by an NGC Board member at the FFGC convention. Honorees receive a certificate and are then eligible to celebrate their accomplishment by purchasing special lapel pins from NGC. These awards represent a significant individual accomplishment.

More information and access to the application forms are on gardenclub.org the NGC website, and information is on ffgc.org at the bottom of the Education page. This chairman is happy to help you get the ball rolling.

Joanne Mulinare

ADOPT-A-PARK

AFFILIATES MEMBERSHIP

Report
Affiliate Membership Report
Donna Berger, Chairman
January 10-11, 2024

FFGC has an Affiliate Membership Program with like-minded organizations, such as conservation organizations, plant societies, botanical gardens, floral design clubs, etc. They may join FFGC for an Affiliate membership fee of only fifty (\$50.00) per year.

The following are benefits of being an Affiliate Member:

- Linking the FFGC website with yours in the affiliates section in the footer that is viewable from any page on the site.
- Posting up to six of your events annually on the FFGC online calendar.
- Also posting those events to our social media platform, which enjoys 18,000 followers.
- A discounted rate to advertise in the FFGC online magazine, *The Florida Gardener*, a quarterly magazine that is read by our membership of 10,000+. We can provide the media kit.
- A Call to our Annual State Conventions, to which you may send a non-voting representative and request an educational/information display space, at no cost, honor seating and recognition at all meal functions.
- Opportunities for presentations and speaker engagements, in person or by Zoom.

I'm pleased to inform the FFGC Board, District Directors, and members of the Board of Directors that we currently have eight (8) Affiliate members and five (5) to be presented at this meeting for approval. This will give us a total of 13 Affiliate members.

The Affiliate Membership Application and Renewal Forms are on FFGC website under FORMS. The listing of Affiliate Members is under Membership with their logo, name and website.

As your Membership Chairman I thank those Districts that have sent in new Affiliates. Please continue to encourage your clubs to have Affiliate Members. There are several perks for both the FFGC and the Garden Clubs.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact this chairman.

Donna Berger
Affiliate Membership Chairman
Bergerdix2015@gmail.

Motion to approve the following Affiliates.

Creative Floral Arrangers of America - CFAA
Fort Myers Lee County Garden Council - Sponsor District IX
North Florida Daylily Society, Inc.
Conradina Chapter – Florida Native Plant Society - Sponsor District VI
Tri-Council of FFGC



**Florida Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc.
Motion Card**

Subject of Motion: FFGC Affiliate Membership

We have a motion: To Accept the following as FFGC Affiliate: Creative Floral Arrangers of America – CFAA, Fort Myers Lee County Garden Council, North Florida Daylily Society, Inc., Conradina Chapter – Florida Native Plant Society, Tri-Council of FFGC

Motion made BY: Donna Berger

Secretary's Record: Date: January 10, 2024

Motion Number: Seconded by

Motion Amended by:

Motion Adopted:

Number Voting 54 **Affirmative** 54 **Negative** 0

ARBOR DAY

Report
Arbor Day Chairman
Lynn Artz
January 1, 2024

January 19th is upon us. Exciting celebrations are planned across the state to honor FFGC's 100th birthday and Florida Arbor Day.

More than 115 garden clubs will plant nearly 400 trees on January 19th. Clubs will plant trees in community parks, state parks, botanical gardens, nature preserves, and a wildlife sanctuary. Clubs will plant trees at City Halls, town squares, historic homes, memorial sites, and waterfronts. Trees will be planted on the grounds of garden clubs, churches, libraries, and a fire station. Trees also will find homes at elementary schools, recreation centers, community centers, a special needs school, an addiction recovery center, apartments for the homeless, a hospice, and a home for single mothers.

Grant funds from the *Duke Energy Foundation* have fully reimbursed 75 clubs for buying nearly 40 species of 160 native trees to plant. Southern live oaks were the most popular tree choice. However, 8 other species of oak, the top keystone genus according to Tallamy's research, also will be planted. Sweetbay

magnolia and red maple were popular choices as were baldcypress and dahoon and yaupon hollies. Leftover grant funds will buy trees for FFGC's headquarters.

At least 26 clubs are giving away more than 5,000 native tree seedlings and will be reimbursed by our grant from the *National Wildlife Federation*. Seedling species include live oaks, bald & pond cypress, wax myrtle, red cedar, sweet gum, winged elm, red mulberry, and 4 pine species.

Quite a few clubs have sought Arbor Day proclamations from their local governments. Wonderful tree-planting ceremonies are planned with local dignitaries participating and the public invited. Efforts are underway to publicize events locally and statewide.

Thank you to each and every board member who has promoted and supported this project. Plan to attend at least one tree planting and be sure to take photos to send to local media, post on Facebook, and send to FFGC.

Summary

More than 115 garden clubs will plant nearly 400 trees on January 19th to celebrate Florida Arbor Day and FFGC's 100th birthday. At least 26 clubs will give away more than 5,000 native tree seedlings. Please help to publicize tree plantings before and after January 19th and take photos.

Lynn Artz
Arbor Day Chairman

ARBORETA & BOTANICAL GARDENS

AWARDS – FFGC

FFGC AWARDS 2023-2025 Board Report - January 10, 2023

The FFGC Awards judging has been completed, with the exception of #62 Mary S. Compton Award for Publicity, which has a due date of January 15th. There are 78 awards listed in the handbook (does not include Flower Show or Youth Awards) and to date 140 applications have been submitted. Out of the 78 awards, 11 awards had only one entry each and 3 awards had no submissions. Therefore, I propose that the following deletions and additions for Board consideration.

FFGC AWARDS & DESCRIPTIONS

Not applied for in 4 years

21 HORTICULTURAL ACHIEVEMENT Description/Purpose: To recognize the most outstanding activities in the field of horticulture and to promote planned gardening activities in the study of horticulture by club members. Proof of Accomplishment: Report should include an outline of the year's plan, goals, and results.

Membership participation is emphasized. Award: An award of \$25 is offered Categories: All categories are eligible.

26 PIONEERS IN FLORIDA HORTICULTURE Description/Purpose: This recognition is for the early horticulturists who contributed significantly to the knowledge of horticulture grown in the diverse climate of the state of Florida. Garden clubs can recognize the individuals and the plant genus or family most associated with that individual and plan garden club programs and activities featuring those plants. Prior Winners Of Pioneers In Florida Horticulture Award 1999 – Dr. Henry Nehrling 2000 –William Bartram 2013 – Thomas A. Edison Submission: Recommendations, with qualifications, may be sent the Awards Chair who can then bring it to the President for Executive Board.

45 EDIBLE GARDEN IN AN ORNAMENTAL LANDSCAPE AWARD Description and Purpose: Garden incorporating edibles in an ornamental landscape grown by an individual. (Ornamental landscaping serves the primary purpose of adding visually pleasing plants to the landscape. In contrast, some gardens are established with the purpose of providing food, shade or a privacy screen from neighbors. While plants used in an ornamental landscape may serve other purposes as well, the reasons for their selection in an ornamental landscape are their visual qualities and decorative effect.) Add your edibles in harmony with your ornamental landscape. Proof of Accomplishment: Before planting edibles photos showing ornamental garden and after photos of the edibles that were grown included in an ornamental landscape. Include your landscape plan, and a list of the edible plants you included. Did you grow from seed or with an already established plant? Award: An award of \$25 is offered Category: Individual NGC Specific Point Score G-2

Note: Awards #21 and #26 are not listed in the Deep South or NGC Award listings and therefore, I propose that they be deleted. Award #45 is not listed by title or by description, so I propose revising it to reflect the Deep South & NGC Award.

NEW AWARDS - I propose that the following awards be added to next year's award listings:

***Litter Control:** Sponsoring a project in the field of litter control, encompassing such activities as waste reduction, recycling, and endeavors for a quality environment. Youth involvement to be emphasized.

Bird Award: Outstanding activity in the protection or care of birds, such as establishing, maintaining, identifying, or marking sanctuaries; or promotion of legislation relative to bird welfare. If sanctuary is by official ordinance (new or maintain).

Edible Gardening: Most outstanding garden of edibles, fruits, vegetables, and/or edible flowers. A. Garden of edibles grown by a member or club; B. Gardens incorporating edibles in an ornamental landscape grown by a member or club.

Fundraising to Support Community Service Project: Emphasis on unique raising funds for community service project. Name and description of event and the planning, marketing, implementation and funds raised. Winning fundraising Ideas will be featured in the *Florida Gardener*.

***Historic Trails Award:** For a worthwhile project of lasting value involving a historic trail such as the Bartram Trail, The Natchez Trace, etc.

Organic Practice: Outstanding project or educational activity emphasizing and employing the use of organic materials and methods in gardening.

Digital Media: Recording/digital media supporting any of the following FFGC, Deep South and NGC objectives: History/Archives, private or public Garden Tours, Flower Shows, Projects, Programs, or other.

* Florida Federation of Garden Clubs sponsors these NGC Awards

AWARD CATEGORIES

I propose that the FFGC Award Categories be changed to:

1. X Small Clubs/Circles 10-25 members
2. Small Club/Circles 26-50 members
3. Medium Club/Circles 51-100 members
4. Large Club/Circles 101-200 members
5. X Large Club/Circles 201+ members

AWARD JUDGING

I propose that the Assistant Directors in each district oversee awards judging in their district. They can judge so select judges. There should be a minimum of 3 judges and encourage up to 5.

FORMS USED BY JUDGES

I propose that changes to the following forms be approved: the FFGC Award Application Tabulation Sheet; the Florida Federation of Garden Clubs, In. Final Judging Form; and award specific forms such as #11 Yearbook, etc. Forms will be included in the Awards Handbook next year for easy access by the judges and an opportunity to see what the judges look for before submitting an award(s).

Report submitted by Sandra E. Arnold, FFGC Awards Chairman

BIRDS, BUTTERFLIES, BEES & BATS

Date: November 30, 2023

To: All Members of FFGC and Madam President
From: Jeri Decker, Pollinator Chairman
Subject: Update on Pollinator Program and Certification

I am writing to provide an update on the recent developments within our Pollinator Program and the new certifications now available to our members. As the newly appointed Pollinator Chairman, I am pleased to report on the progress we have made in promoting the conservation and support of pollinators in our communities.

Upon receiving requests to expand our focus beyond bumblebees and to include all bee species, I am delighted to announce that our organization's website has been updated accordingly. It is imperative that we recognize the vital role of all pollinators, and this update reflects our commitment to the conservation of a diverse range of pollinating species.

Furthermore, I am excited to introduce the newly established Golden Pollinator Certification, which is now available for individuals who have demonstrated a dedication to fostering native and Florida-friendly pollinator habitats. This certification is awarded to those who have created welcoming environments for butterflies, bees, birds, and bats through the provision of suitable habitats and native plants. I encourage all our members to strive for this prestigious certification by creating and maintaining pollinator-friendly spaces in their communities.

Since my appointment as chairman, we have proudly awarded three Golden Pollinator Certifications, recognizing the outstanding efforts of individuals in supporting pollinator populations. Additionally, we have granted eight Butterfly and Bee Certifications to acknowledge the contributions of our members to the conservation of these vital species.

In moving forward, I urge all members to actively engage in our certification process by scouting neighborhoods and fellow members' properties to identify and certify yards that provide essential pollinator habitats. By doing so, we can collectively contribute to the conservation and preservation of pollinators in our communities.

I am confident that our combined efforts will make a meaningful impact in safeguarding pollinator populations for future generations. Together, we can create a network of pollinator-friendly spaces that will benefit local ecosystems and contribute to the broader conservation of these vital species.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeri Decker
Pollinator Chairman

This report serves to inform the members of our organization about the recent developments in our Pollinator Program and the new certifications available. It also encourages them to actively participate in the certification process and contribute to the conservation of pollinators in their communities.

**Blue Star Memorial Program
Blue Star Memorial Chairman
Rosita Aristoff
January 10, 2023**

1) Pending New Memorial Markers Activity

- Gardeners Out East Garden Club (District VIII) – A new Gold Star Families Memorial Marker has been received for placement at the newly built East Manatee County Library. A dedication is being rescheduled for spring, 2024.

2) Replacement Markers

- The Garden Club of Stuart (District X) – The replacement Blue Star Memorial By-Way marker was dedicated on November 11th, 2023 at the City of Stuart's Veterans Day Ceremony in Memorial Park.
- Cocoa-Rockledge Garden Club (District VI) – A replacement Blue Star Memorial Highway marker has been ordered as their marker dedicated in 1991 was destroyed by a motor vehicle accident.

3) Price Increase

- The manufacturer unexpectedly raised the prices again effective January 1st, 2024. All District Directors were advised of the increases and the new pricing has been published in the winter edition of *The Florida Gardener*.

4) Summary

Since the last report one replacement marker was dedicated, one replacement marker was ordered, and the prices of the markers will increase as of January 1st, 2024.

Rosita A. Aristoff

Rosita A. Aristoff

Blue & Gold Star Memorial Chairman

BOI EDITOR

FFGC BOARD REPORT WINTER 2024
BOOK OF INFORMATION (BOI) -- EDITOR
Lisa Packard, Editor
December 26, 2023

BOOK OF INFORMATION (BOI)

The *Book of Information* is online and updated every month.

BRICK PATHS

BYLAWS-STANDING RULES

CALENDAR – FFGC EVENTS

CHAPLAIN

CONVENTION COORDINATOR

Hello everyone.

Registration for the 100th Celebration at the 2024 FFGC Convention is now available! Please register early, especially if you would like to partake in the hands on workshops or the Cummer Museum tour as spaces are limited. When Hotel registrations opened there was a slight kink in the process that has since been addressed. We hope to see you all in Jacksonville!

Jenny Weber

CORAL REEF RESTORATION

DEEP SOUTH GARDEN CLUBS UNIFIED PROJECT

DEEP SOUTH GARDEN CLUBS UNIFIED PROJECT

Daphna Goldberg, Deep South Unified Project Florida Chairwoman District X Boca Raton Garden Club
FFGC Board Meeting Report January 2024

“Decorate the Deep South with a Focus on Flower Shows, Floral Design and Colorful Public Plantings”

Since accepting this position after my District’s Fall Meeting, I sent an email to all FFGC District Directors informing them about the Deep South Unified Project Awards. I included information about the types of Awards available and the entry deadlines of the Deep South Garden Clubs. I mentioned to the District Directors that this information should be shared with each of the Garden Clubs in their District. I gave the website address where they could find specific information about the deepsouthgardenclubs.org awards. Garden Club Presidents or Chairwomen of Garden Club projects that relate to the Deep South Director’s theme, quoted above, should send me the information, photos and summary of their project which I will submit to Deep South Garden Clubs. The Florida Federation of Garden Clubs have a year to submit their entries by the deadline, January 31, 2025.

I submitted an article for the Winter edition of *The Florida Gardener* to provide information about these awards to all our FFGC Members. Lisa Packard, editor of the FFGC *Florida Gardener*, liked the article but did not have a spot available in the current magazine. She informed me that she will include my article about the Deep South Garden Clubs Unified Project in the Spring edition of *The Florida Gardener*.

I sent an article to Cyndie Sable, editor of District X’s newsletter with information about these awards. My District’s newsletter, *Blooming Tales* will have a reminder for Garden Club members about the Deep South Garden Clubs Unified Awards available for their Flower Shows, Floral Designs and Colorful Public Plantings projects. The Winter edition of *Blooming Tales* will circulate District X with a reminder that Garden Club projects should get more recognition by applying for the Deep South Unified Project Awards.

DUES AMBASSADOR

Dues Ambassador
Jan 10, 2024
Sue Roberts

The dues renewal process was completed in Sept. Since then we have added another club to the renewal roster, Arcadia.

We now have a total of 10619 members with 10 affiliate members. We add approximately 100 new members a month.

New Dues renewal forms will be distributed on March 1 for the 2024-2025 year.

The first Earth Steward Recognition was given in 2013. Tri-Council helped create this new recognition and honor that was made available to all worthy recipients. 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. It is important that these efforts be clearly indicated on the application form biography section for the recipient.

This recognition may be offered to a worthy individual from various sources. It may be awarded by a club, district, an FFGC organization or by an individual. Each recipient of the Earth Steward recognition is presented with a specially designed Earth Steward Recognition pin and FFGC certificate. The recipient is not required to be an FFGC member. It is hoped by this Chairman that applications for this great honor will be forthcoming during this special FFGC Anniversary year 2024. 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 first Earth Steward Recognition was given in 2013. A total of 137 recognitions have been given out with four honors given in 2023. None have been requested as of January 2024. 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.

ENDANGERED PLANTS

FFGC 100th BIRTHDAY

FINANCE COMMITTEE

FFGC Finance Committee
Christy Linke – Chairman
January 10, 2024

The FFGC Finance Committee, Tina Tuttle, Mary Whisler, Leticia Gunn, Jana Walling, Sue Roberts, Claudia Bates, Carolyn Schaag, Gail Shaw, and our new Insurance Chairman, Michele Vatalaro who brings to the board a wealth of knowledge on Insurance, all met via ZOOM Thursday, January 4, 2024. President Tina Tuttle reported that the slip and fall insurance claim has now been sent to Cocktails Catering due to it occurred during their event. She also welcomed and wished everyone a Happy New Year and how we are so lucky to have so many schools going on to review/approve. Jana Walling our FFGC Treasurer has been very busy preparing all the financial statements. Going over budget vs. actuals financials January – November 2023, Statement of Activity by Class, January – November 2023, H&E Budget vs. Actuals, January – November 2023, Wekiva and Seek budgets as well as FFGC Statement of Financial Position as of November 30, 2023. Going over these financial statements at times line by line, is what this committee does with the members best interest in mind at all times. **Ratification of two e-polls** were reported since the last time this committee met on September 6, 2023. NGC LDS Course 4 Series 47A and Tropical Short course January 25-26, 2024. Both were positively Reviewed/approved.

H&E, Sue Roberts reported we are in good shape going into 2024. Minor items such as ceiling fan replaced in kitchen and AED installed are two items that have been recently done. After discussing the H&E budget it was voted on to move monies from FFGC general funds into H&E to help with costs of running the building.

Mary Whisler, 2nd VP reported that Wekiva Youth Camp is 54% full as of this date. Leticia Gunn reported on ways and means sold on FFGC 2023 Tour were \$1,557.47. She also reported the Wekiva Volunteer Training has 40 attending this year.

Budgets that were approved are: WVT proposed budget 2024, FFGC/UF/District Short Course 2024, June 2-4, 2024 Gainesville proposed budget, and Short Course North proposed Budget, August 8 & 9, 2024 District I, II, III.

Budgets that were positively reviewed are: NGC LDS Series 37, Course 4, Date Feb. 7, 8, 9, 2024, New Smyrna Beach GC, NGC ES Course 3, Series XII, spring 2024, Hybrid Course at Tampa Garden Club, NGC ES course 4, Series XII, fall 2024, Hybrid Course at Tampa Garden Club, FSS Course 2, January 23-26, 2024, District VIII Judges Council,

Actual budgets were: NGC ES Course 1, Series XII 4-11, 12, 2023 Hybrid Course Tampa Garden Club, NGC ES Course 2, Series XII, 11/7-8 2023 Hybrid Course, Tampa Garden Club, Flower Show School, Course 1, September 26-29, 2023, District VIII Judges Council and Flower Show Symposium October 30-November 1, 2023.

Brought to finance from the Floral Design Manual committee was a recommendation to raise the Floral Design Study instructor's fees from \$100 to \$150.00. In a way of not bringing the cost to our Members, it was discussed that a stipend from FFGC be given to the club who is hosting these classes to help offset the fee increase.

Florida Federation of Garden Clubs will now have a 12x12 paver on the grounds of NGC's headquarters in St. Louis, Missouri and will link to the Missouri Botanical Gardens, spreading more awareness of NGC than ever before. Making all the states a Focal point and Florida is one of them!

FLORAL DESIGN STUDY

Jan Griffin
Floral Design Committee
January 10-11, 2024

Board Report

The Floral Design Committee has been very busy. A Workshop was held on Wednesday evening September 5, 2023, following the Board Meeting. Six Designers went over the Basic Designs to be studied in the FFGC Floral Design Studies Program. A list of Instructors was compiled following the Workshop.

Margaret Kirkpatrick and Penny Decker have been working diligently on a revised manual. With the help of Lisa Packard all the necessary forms will be fillable, pictures will be added to the manual, some new techniques and additional plant materials will be added and a PowerPoint presentation on the classes has been worked on for our Workshop held on January 9th. The Advanced Designs were presented at the recent workshop with our PowerPoint presentation on the Basic 6 classes and with the presentation of our new manual.

Certificates have been made and sent to those completing the Floral Design Studies Classes.

Basic 6 classes are planned to begin this month with Tampa/Sunset Park doing a series beginning January 15, Chairmen Tuky Vargus and Parke Finold. Lady Lake is planning the Basic 6 series to begin January 8, 2024, Chairman – Susan Congolosi. St. Petersburg has planned the Advanced Classes to begin on January 31 and District VI, Palm Coast Arrangers Guild will be sponsoring the advanced classes beginning February 20, 2024.

Summary

Workshops have been held to present the revised manual and bring our instructors up to date. All classes have been put on the FFGC Calendar. Certificates have been mailed to those completing the classes.

Jan Griffin, Chairman

Florida Flower Shows Judges report:

Greetings from FFGC's newest, or one of the newest affiliate organizations! We'd also like to report that FFSJ is now a recognized 501C-3 entity and has their own tax exemption certificate from the state of Florida!

At the 2023 Convention, the second edition of the new "What's Your Type?" design manual, written and published by FFSJ was unveiled to enthusiastic sales. During this past summer applications and photographs of specific design types were submitted to be considered for inclusion in the third edition of "What's Your Type? ". The chosen designs were photographed in November and this newest insert will be unveiled at the 2024 Convention in Jacksonville. To say that this project is a run-away best seller is an understatement!

FFSJ hosted an NGC Symposium October 30-November 1, here at HQ. Claudia Bates and Jan Griffin were the instructors. A check (2 checks) was sent to FFGC Treasurer in the amount of \$2318.42. Another Symposium will be held in District I in the spring (May 14-16, 2024) with Frances Thrash of VA teaching Design and David Robson from Illinois presenting Horticulture. Applications and registrations for this event are online.

At this same event, FFSJ and FFGC shared in the cost of a new LAPEL MICROPHONE system for use at HQ. This was at a cost of less than \$300 each organization. (\$289.50)

Awards for all Flower Show Related entries, awards #120-#133, were sent to this chairman. A panel of Master Judges was assembled, and 31 submissions were judged. Awards will be given at the upcoming convention.

As the Liaison to FFGC's Floral Design series program, this chairman worked with Jan Griffin, Chairman, and Margaret Kirkpatrick to update and edit the manual, bringing it up to date. A program for recertification of FDS instructors was held September 5th, 2023; another program was scheduled January 9th, 2024. To be a Floral Design Studies instructor, one must be an accredited judge, must have attended the series the required number of times and recertify at least once per administration.....so we are all pretty much involved in this educational project.

Florida Flower Show Judges Council was tasked by the FFGC President, to take on, host and stage the 2024 State Flower Show, "Celebrating 100 Years", to be held at the Garden Club of Jacksonville venue during the state convention. There are five Divisions: Horticulture, Design, Education, Youth, and Botanic Arts Divisions. . . something for EVERYONE. . .

The final schedule is now online. (PLEASE NOTE THERE ARE SOME CHANGES!) The committee-supplied staging is here with me....so, please decide on your entries and let me know ASAP! Please be sure to support this effort by entering or volunteering to help in some way. There are several key positions still open on the committee.

FFSJ appreciates being allowed to participate in the FFGC Board meeting and conventions.

FLORIDA GARDENER

FFGC BOARD REPORT WINTER 2024
FLORIDA GARDENER -- EDITOR
Lisa Packard, Editor
December 26, 2023

THE FLORIDA GARDENER

THE PUBLISHING SCHEDULE IS: FALL SEP 1, WINTER DEC 1, SPRING MAR 1, SUMMER JUN 1

The Fall 2023 issue was the last printed edition, but it had a great story in it from Madison County Garden Club that I shared with *The National Gardener*, and they posted it!

The Winter 2023 issue was our first online version only and grew to a whopping 50 pages. It was emailed to all members and 98% were successfully delivered, but 2% were undeliverable. The challenge there is finding the members and updating their address. It had a 58% open rate, representing almost 5,000 people.

The content included all areas of FFGC operations, NGC programs, and articles from over a dozen people covering horticulture, a book review, nonprofit tidbits, butterflies, pollinators, the Bartram Trail, Arbor Day, and others.

Because the districts are supposed to be doing their own newsletter—although that has not gotten off the ground—I included a section called *Garden Clubbin'*—which played off a term Tina Tuttle used during the fall tour. I encouraged clubs to send in photographs of them actively engaged in a program and not just sitting at a table. If I could get better photographs, I could use them in other ways, but they are too pixelated so I would like to send an email to all club presidents asking them to share an explanation on how to take a photo for a magazine and phone settings to ensure it is high resolution.

Overall, everything went well, submissions were on time, and the magazine received many compliments and interest in subscribing. I have included possible subscription rates and the net revenue to FFGC with this packet. I also plan to ask the board to consider accepting a motion to solicit subscriptions and, if at least 1,750 agree, we consider going back to print by the summer edition. Inger and I think we could get 2-3 more full page advertisements to also offset expense and maximize revenue while maintaining the overall integrity of the magazine's purpose.

My *Note from the Editor* in the last edition asked for help. I heard from one person, but I would like to hand pick some people to help research a few things, write articles when we're light (if we are), help find guest authors, and *proofread, proofread, proofread*.

FFGC BOARD REPORT WINTER 2024
FLORIDA GARDENER -- EDITOR
Lisa Packard, Editor
December 26, 2023

FLORIDA WILDFLOWER LIAISON

FUN WITH FLOWERS

Fun with Flowers

Emilie Palmieri

FFFG Board Meeting

January 11, 2024

This chairman agreed to conduct a “Fun with Flowers” workshop at the Florida Federation of Garden Clubs 100th Anniversary Celebration in Jacksonville April 9- 12, 2024.

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.

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 teach their members how easy it is to have Fun with Flowers.

GARDEN THERAPY

January 10, 2024

Garden Therapy-Penal Therapy-Avon Park

Patricia A. Shira, Chairman

We have ordered the panels for repairing the hail damaged roofs of the greenhouses. They have been received and the work will begin after the Holidays. We will be purchasing shelves for the greenhouses to replace the old wooden ones that have decayed over the years.

We have eleven (11) inmates involved in the work program. Tommy Sauls still goes to the Nursery to teach the inmates about, plants, horticulture and pesticides. He teaches once a week.

We had several lockdowns during the summer and fall. This makes it hard for John Hoskins and the inmates to maintain the nursery and plants.

On my last visit to the Nursery, it was in great shape. Many wonderful plants are thriving in the greenhouses. The inmates are always busy propagating new plants, up potting current plants and working in the greenhouses and on the Nursery grounds. We are continually ordering supplies necessary for the ongoing work at the Nursery.

The fall plant sale was very successful and will provide funds for a repairs and supplies needed.

The support from the Florida Garden Clubs helps to keep this "Therapy through Plants" program successful and is very much appreciated.

SUMMARY: We continue to have a full workforce in the Nursery. All repairs will be completed soon. The proceeds from our plant sales continue to support the Nursery.

HABITAT FOR HUMANITY

HALL OF FAME/LIFETIME MEMBERSHIP/PILLAR OF PRIDE

FFGC Honors Report
Spring 2024
Diane & Skip Lamoureux
Report

Life Members

10 Members

\$2700

#4792- Patricia Wendell \$0 cost reissue

Pillar of Pride

10 Members \$1000

Hall of Fame

4 Members

\$400

Total \$4100

HEADQUARTERS AND ENDOWMENT

Headquarters & Endowment Committee
Sue Robers, Chairman
January 10, 2024

Headquarters has been quiet since our last meeting in September. There have been no new problems.

- The big room AC and its heat component have been completed.
- The AED has been installed.
- The bride's rooms have been redecorated, courtesy of Cocktails Catering.
- The kitchen fan has been replaced.
- The fire extinguishers are uptodate.

Tina and I have completed an employee evaluation of Robin Hayes and have given her an outstanding rating.

We are still struggling with the grounds. We do not have the volunteers to keep up this large property and the expense of paying for its upkeep is immense. So we pick and choose our projects on a priority basis. Folks who come here only once or twice a year may not see progress. But please know that we are constantly working on what needs to be done the most. Unfortunately the plants do not stop growing as we struggle with expenses and resources.

Sue Roberts

HEADQUARTERS AND ENDOWMENT GROUNDS

H&E Grounds Report
Charlotte White
Jan. 10, 2024

Since August meeting:

The Well was replaced which meant the sprinklers in some areas had to be updated.

Camellias were planted and are blooming. – two-day event for plantings

Work weekly with Bald Guy lawn service

Weeded around the Gazebo so it could be painted.

Bob and I had several trips to weed. Last time was the week before Christmas removed 6 tubs just in front of the Presidents window area.

Just had the trees trimmed in the front island area. A vine was cut that was about 6 inches in diameter that was going across all the tree line area as well. Obtained 3 separate quotes from Mr. Larson, chose at this time to only do the front island. The others were trimming the tree at the back door and bring equipment in to trim all the palms.

In communication to obtain 7 trees from Duke energy to be planted for Arbor day along the back wall for sound barrier. 7 Palatka hollies were chosen and delivered. To be planted this week.

Also, in communication with interviewing new lawn service, two lawn companies no show or did not want to take on the property. The third we have a quote to clean up work for now and mid-April. Still being reviewed.

Three tentative Saturday workdays are on the calendar – 2/10, 3/23, 4/13 .

Three tentative Saturday workdays are on the calendar – 2/10, 3/23, 4/13 .

INSURANCE

INVASIVE SPECIES

Junior Garden Winter Report 2024

Registered Junior Gardener Programs by District

District I =0

District II=0

District III=0

District IV=3

District V=1

District VI=0

District VII=1

District VIII=0

District IX=1

District X =5

District XI=2

District XII=0

Total Clubs registered with state =13

|

MATCHING GRANTS

Matching Grants Program Report
Helen Purvis, Chairman
January 10, 2024

FFGC has a MATCHING GRANTS PROGRAM. There is an application form which you can access online and the committee will award \$500 to clubs and/or circles that meet the following criteria:

- Any activity (workshop, program, or other educational event) aimed at increasing membership by welcoming interested individuals to your Club/Circle.
- An activity to beautify your community, such as park plantings, school gardens, a divided road median or roadside beautification.
- Any activity to increase awareness of our organization's mission, goals, and objectives.

This is a MATCHING GRANT and there is \$5000 per year in grant funds. In 2023 \$4,925 was awarded To 13 different clubs. The deadline is January 15 and to date only 1 application has been received. This chairman apologizes because this is my first year as chairman and, obviously, I have not done a good job of recruiting applications, so the deadline is extended to January 30. Go home and talk to your clubs/circles. I know you are doing projects that need matching funds. This has to be a current project, not one that you completed last year. There are guidelines that spell out what we will accept as well as what we will NOT accept. Simple 2 page application. The committee would love to award all \$5,000 this year.

MEMBERSHIP APPRECIATION

MEMBERSHIP RECRUITMENT

MEMBERSHIP RETENTION

Membership Committee
Christy Linke, Chairman
January 10, 2024

This Chairman cannot thank the Assistant District Directors enough for promoting Membership through their district/clubs.

This Chairman receives e-mails generated from National Garden Clubs, Inc. with people reaching out to them looking to join a garden club in Florida. After looking at the address, this Chairman sends it to the proper Assistant District Director who in turn reaches out to the correct garden club in their District. We have been doing this since it started June 1, 2023. This Chairman is proud to announce that in the past 30 days we have 128 NEW members.

At last report on September 6th, 2023 this chairman reported we had sent 70 of the generated e-mails. As of this report January 10th we have sent another 39. That is a total of 109 generated emails since June, 2023 sent to our Assistant District Directors. This Chairman thanks them for acting quickly on following up on these e-mails.

This chairman wrote an article for the Winter Florida Gardener on membership, the gift of giving FFGC Membership to a friend, why people join a garden club and the different reasons. Always in the back of our mind should be how we can welcome new members and the importance of making them feel welcome the moment they walk into a meeting. Finding what their passion is and incorporating it in a garden club event. There is so much talent in our members that we are not aware of. Let's not forget to keep our members engaged and wanting to come back.

Summary:

This Chairman will continue promoting membership along with the Assistant District Directors. Keeping communication with Asst. D.D.'s at all times is this chairman goal for 2024.

NATIONAL GARDEN WEEK

National Garden Week
Blanca Longo Rancourt, Chairperson
January 1, 2024

National Garden Week will be celebrated this year on June 2 - 8. As in previous years, garden clubs throughout Florida will be celebrating by conducting events to promote gardening, floral design and environmental responsibility.

Since National Garden Week is celebrated the first week of June, at a time that most of the clubs don't meet, President Tina Tuttle has come up with a great idea. This year Garden Week can be celebrated anytime, not just in June. However, the only thing is if a club decides to celebrate Garden Week any other time other than June 2 - 8, it can't be called National Garden Week.....so put your thinking cap on, be creative and celebrate ! As the new chairperson for National Garden Week, I will be sending out information to all the Districts, hopefully with good ideas to celebrate the week.

Hopefully, there will be an increase in participation, events and in the process attract new members.

NGC ENVIRONMENTAL SCHOOL CHAIRMAN

NGC ENVIRONMENTAL STATE SCHOOL AND CREDENTIALS CHAIRMAN – Lydia Barbour Report for
the FFGC January 9, 2024 Board Meeting

The most important aspect of my job as Environmental School State Chairman is to work with Districts and Local Chairmen and their teams to make plans and successfully deliver Environmental School Courses. Here is the status of the Series conducted in 2023:

- Tampa GC (District 8) completed Courses 1 & 2 in Series 12, and will not offer more courses in 2024. They broke even at the end of Course 2 so there is no outstanding financial obligation. At this point it is unknown how or when Series 12 will be completed.
- Fort Myers-Lee County Garden Council (District 9) completed Courses 2 & 3. The local college professors are short staffed and therefore it is likely that Course 4 will be scheduled in 2025. • District I, District IV and a GC in District VI are considering beginning a school in 2024.

As Credentials Chairman, my primary responsibility is to actively work with students, reminding them to take courses to complete their initial four courses to become a Consultant or to refresh to retain their Good Standing as Consultants. This often involves helping them with NGC's Form 6 or 7 as they register for the next course or refresher. Two things to note about using these forms:

1. Form 7 is the tool that is used by Consultants and Masters to keep track of their refresher history. We are now hearing that they appreciate their value, especially those attending more than one school.
2. NGC has enabled and encouraged communication with Accrediting and State Chairmen in other Regions and States to help expedite updating student and Consultant records and Forms 6 or 7 in a timely fashion. So many are taking courses via Zoom all over the US that this has proven to be a big help. We had several students who took Course 1 with NGC 10/30-31, then Course 2 with Tampa 11/7-9, then Course 3 with Fort Myers 11/16-17. Communication helped everyone update the student records in time for the next 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 12/31/2023 the number of each category of student is:

- 118 active students, the same number at the end of 2022, despite adding 20 new students in 2023. • That number includes 26 Masters, 50 Consultants, and 42 students.

This year, the USDA published the Hardiness Zone map for 2023, the first update in many years. The fact that we know things are getting warmer were confirmed by this report. The map for Florida was published in the Winter Issue of The Florida Gardener. The US map can be found at [2023 USDA Plant Hardiness Zone Map | USDA Plant Hardiness Zone Map](#) which offers tools to enable customization for each state.

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.

Respectfully submitted,
Lydia Barbour

NGC GARDEN STUDY SCHOOL CHAIRMAN

FFGC Board Report

Gardening School

Sally Flanagan

December 29, 2023

Course 3 Series 10 was held in West Palm Beach November 16/17, 2023

26 persons registered and 21 took the exam and passed. 20 of those that passed were NGC members, and one was a non-member of NGC.

There were a few unfortunate incidents at the course including one person who due to flooding at her home, was unable to attend at the last minute and has had to ask for an extension which has been granted.

2 persons were involved in an incident at the hotel and required emergency room attention so were unable to complete the 2nd day. Also, one of the instructors got ill and one of the attendees had to fill in which required a last minute okay from NGC. All in all it was a success, but the chair was overwhelmed and has resigned as the chair of the upcoming Course 4. Carol Stender who was the chair of Courses 1 and 2, is also the chair of Course 4

Course 4 of this Series is to be held in West Palm Beach February 20,21, 2024.

Unfortunately, there are no more Gardening Courses planned in Florida at this time, and I am going to try and promote the Gardening Schools at this upcoming FFGC Board Meeting in January.

Respectfully submitted

Sally Flanagan

NGC LANDSCAPE DESIGN SCHOOL CHAIRMAN

NGC SCHOOLS CREDENTIALS CHAIRMAN

NGC SPECIAL PROJECT LIAISON

NGC & DSGC YOUTH CONTESTS

PARKS – TRAILS - GREENWAYS

PENNY PINES

Penny Pines Report
Andrea Finn, Chairman
January 10, 2024

This Chairman has answered many inquiries from our Garden Clubs regarding the Penny Pines project. They range from not receiving their certificates sooner to not knowing that their donations only support National Forests. All were answered.

The total amount of donations sent on to NGC as of November 30, 2023 was \$ 1,308.67.

Andrea Finn, FFGC Chairman

Penny Pines Project

SUMMARY: Total contributions as of 11-30-23 was \$ 1,308.67.

PHOTOGRAPHER

PILLAR OF PRIDE

PLANNED GIVING

PROGRAMS & SPEAKERS

PROTOCOL

RECLAMATION & RECYCLING

January 10, 2024
Winter Board Meeting
Recycle and Reclamation Report
Carolyn H Stevens, Chairman

In the years this Chairman has been in this position as the Recycle and Reclamation Chairman it has become evident that the changes to achieve recycling is to change the way we think and do things. It is not enough to just recycle or reuse or repurpose. Our only chance of change is to rethink how much longer we can allow companies to produce the products that are filling our landfills. We, as a whole, need to let the manufacturers know we no longer can accept using so much plastics. We need to go back to cardboard for some products. (Yes, it does use trees). More trees can be planted to adapt. Cardboard is broken down in land fields and goes back to soil. (Compost)

As we have all heard, quit buying water in bottles. In the late 70's when water in plastic bottles was first introduced, I, too, was thrilled. Finally, I could get water when out in public. I remember wanting water and having to ask for a coke, hold the coke, to get venders to "sell" me some water. So bottled water was a God send! Little did any of us know that enough water bottles would be sold to circle the earth in bottles once a year. Now that we do know, it is our obligation to stop the use of bottles and use refillable containers. Bring your own!

There are so many ways to recycle, reuse and repurpose that it would be hard to list every way. A few: Using reuseable bags for grocery bags. Reuseable bottles for water or other drinks. Plastic sandwich containers instead of plastic bags. Or glass instead of plastic containers.

The only way to continue our efforts is to educate the public. I stumbled across on u-tube, a few great songs designed for young children about recycling.

Reduce, Reuse, Recycle

Reduce, Resue, Recycle – words that we all know.

We have to save our planet so we can live and grow.

We might be only children, but we still will try, you see.

And we can save our planet- it starts with you and me!

Recycle

We Recycle what we use,

Separate things and you should too!

Glass and paper, plastic, tin

Go in your! recycle bin

We must start now, we can wait,

Quick, or it will be too late!

ROADSIDE BEAUTIFICATION/ PATHS OF SUNSHINE

Roadside Beautification/Pathways of Sunshine
Chairman's Report
Brenda Luedeman
January 10, 2024

This chair is pleased that Florida Federation of Garden Clubs (FFGC) wishes to continue recognizing the amazing accomplishments of Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) Maintenance Departments and all those who create and maintain beautiful roadside projects. The awards commend sustainable Florida native vegetation and wildflower roadside plantings that delight the eye, benefit the environment, and support essential pollinators. I have been privileged to work closely with Gary Henry, Jeff Castor, Jon Heller, and Jeff Norcini of the FDOT for the past six years. Due to many recent retirements and promotions, new FDOT employees who are recent residents of Florida are filling those positions and as such are unacquainted with the significance of the longstanding Ella P. Woods Paths of Sunshine program. Until such time as the individual fulfilling Dr. Norcini's invaluable role in the POS awards process is determined, James Oliver as the FDOT Maintenance Rating Program (MRP) & Roadside Manager will be overseeing the POS Awards. The enthusiasm and commitment of individuals now filling those FDOT positions is essential to the continued success of FFGC's roadside beautification recognition program.

2024 Nominations for a site in peak bloom in Spring-Summer 2023 are accepted until January 19, 2024 with applications due by February 5, 2024. Judging will take place in the end of February. Panelists representing FFGC, FDOT, Florida Wildflower Foundation (FWF), and/or Florida Master Gardeners with different areas of expertise will meet virtually via ZOOM to evaluate the applications. Following formal announcement of the recipients to the FFGC Board, this Chair will inform all FFGC members in attendance during the convention's awards presentations and later notify the FDOT. If deemed necessary award certificates will be created and mailed directly in lieu of FFGC's customary procedure of presenting them in person at district meetings.

With the assistance of Sue Roberts, Lisa Packard and Robin Hayes, the FFGC website awards information will be periodically updated to reflect any updated guidelines, procedure, nomination forms, and contact information. This chair will display a poster promoting FFGC's Ella P. Wood "Pathways of Sunshine" Award, provide Florida State Wildflower License plate information, and other offer brochures supporting roadside beautification and scenic pathways at FFGC functions when possible.

The 2020, 2021, 2022, and 2023 Paths of Sunshine Awards PowerPoints which describe and depict meritorious FDOT projects are archived on FFGC's website Programs page at <https://ffgc.org/Programs>. Please take time to view the presentations, check out the Florida Wildflower License plates, see Ella P. Woods "Paths of Sunshine" award education exhibits at gatherings, and take time to enjoy the native plantings and wildflowers along Florida's roadways.

Respectfully submitted,

Brenda Luedeman

2019-2021/2021-2023 Roadside Beautification/Paths of Sunshine Chairman

SCHOLARSHIP - DSGC, NGC

Florida Scholarship Chairman Report

The National Garden Club (NGC) awarded 44 Scholarships in 2023, each in the amount of \$3800.

NGC began accepting online applications for the 2024 School Year on December 15 through February 1, 2024.

All eligible students are requested to submit applications online using the forms on the NGC website. Some recent changes to the application process are as follows:

Simplified Financial Aid Form: based on student's actual need and no longer requires Financial Aid Officer signature.

Changes in full-time status: more graduate student flexibility in credit hours

Ineligibility for doctoral students has been dropped.

Transcripts no longer must be an unopened, original document. Students may download them from their student account and include them with any form of application.

Deep South Garden (DSGC) is accepting student applications through February 1, 2024. All forms are available on the DSGC website and must be completed according to the directions and mailed to the Florida State Chairman by February 1, 2024.

Respectfully submitted by: Mary L. Adams

Florida Scholarship Chairman,
DSGC/NGC Scholarship Program

Dated: December 28, 2023

Checks have been written in the amount of \$1500 and mailed to the following schools for the second semester.

Celeste Schreiber from Fort Myers, attending University of Florida, double major in music and environmental research.

Caroline Gordon, from Gainesville, University of Florida, majoring in landscape architecture and urban planning. Caroline had an internship with a landscape architectural firm in Orlando this past semester and received glowing comments.

Crystal Mia Eller from Altamonte Springs, University of Central Florida, majoring in health sciences.

Blaire Kleiman from Miami, attending Florida International University, Phd student studying climate change impacts on crops and pollinators.

Noah Francis from Steinhatchee, attending Florida Gateway College. He wants to be a forest ranger. Noah had successfully applied for a scholarship but was not a fulltime student last semester. He is a fulltime student this semester.

Madison Ryan from Tallahassee, attending Florida State University. Madison received a scholarship last semester. Her father was a victim of early-onset dementia and died this past November. She had a rough semester and was not able to take her final exams. Her professors have allowed her to take her exams next week and upon a satisfactory outcome, her scholarship check will be written.

These are some of the issues that we work through because these students are all so deserving that you send to us. Please keep reaching out and encouraging students to apply for these scholarships. Deadline is May 1 and all the forms are online.

I never get tired of thanking all of you and our members for their continued monetary support. Last January, I happily reported Gulf Beach Garden Club in Panama City Beach gave \$10,000 and this January Gulf Beach Garden Club in Panama City Beach gave \$9,710! Recognition will be given at our annual convention in April.

SUMMARY: Five \$1500 checks were written for scholarships. One is pending. Donation of \$9,710 from Panama City Beach GC, District II.

SCOUTING LIAISON

Report:
Scouting Liaison
Jennifer Barber
January 2024

This chairman reached out to many local Scouting groups and conferences. The goal was to get FFGC name and contact information into the hands of troops who may be looking for a supplemental contact, instructor or support in the areas that members of a garden club excel at. There may be an interest in FFGC sponsoring a patch as they have in the past. This chairman believes this idea has merit and would like to see FFGC established as a partner through out the state.

SEEK CONFERENCE

SHORT COURSE – UF

SHORT COURSE – NORTH

Report:

Short Course North 2024
Board of Directors Meeting
January 2024

Short Course North 2024

Short Course North will be held on August 8 & 9 at the Santa Rosa County Extension in Milton, FL. The topics will concentrate on Edible Gardening. The presentations will be by a UFL professor, County Extension Agents and experts currently working in this field. An optional field trip to the greenhouse and gardens at UFL Milton is in the planning process as well as an optional Floral Design hands-on session.

Topics are: Gardening Myths, Raised Bed Soils, Food Forests, Extending the Growing Season, Using IPM for Productive Edible Gardening, Exotic, Unusual, and Underused Vegetables and Herbs for the Panhandle Gardener, & Ornamental Edibles for Your Landscape. In addition to the presentations there will be Plant Sales, Vendors, an Educational Display, Raffle Baskets and Silent Auction.

An educational, interesting, and fun event is planned for all.
FFGC members, Master Gardeners and the public are welcome to learn and enjoy at Short Course North 24.

Submitted by,
Joanne Connor
Short Course North Chairman

SHORT COURSE NORTH BUDGET
August 8 & 9, 2024
District I, II, & III
Santa Rosa County Extension
6263 Dogwood Dr., Milton, FL 32570

Treasurer: Ginger Eisele, geisele@mchsi.com

Chairman: Joanne Connor, ronjoconnor@bellsouth.net

Estimated Revenue:	Notes	Budgeted	Actual
Registration	Attendees	45 x 2 days = 90	
Daily Registration	# 1 day	\$35x 4 = 140	
	# 2 day (FFGC/MG)	\$50x 40 =2000	
	# 2 day (Public)	\$65x1 = 65	
Vendors booths	Price per booth \$25	\$100	
Plant sale	See note below \$25	\$50	
Raffles	Price per tkt/# to sell \$1, 6/\$5	\$150	
Silent Auction		\$100	
TOTALS		=\$2,205	

Actual

Rental of room/site	\$	
Rental of A/V equip	\$0	
Misc equipment rental	\$0	
Morning hospitality (2 days)	\$1.50/person=	\$135.
Lunches (2 days)	\$9.50/person=	\$855.
Delivery/tip caterer		
Meals-guest speakers	7	\$175
Speakers fees	\$25 ea.	\$100.
Program materials and supplies for speakers		\$25
Duplication of handouts, student folders, nametags, raffle tickets, etc.	\$30/ink, \$7/ paper, \$4/file folder, \$15/Name badge.=	\$56
Postage and telephone		
Comp room (2 nights) for the FFGC President	\$0	
Raffle items (if not donated)	\$50	
Silent Auction	\$50	
TOTALS		=\$1,346

* Raffle, Plant Sales, Silent Auction, & Vendors income for host group.

SHORT COURSE TROPICAL

SMOKEY BEAR-WOODSY OWL

Report

Smokey Bear & Woodsy Owl Poster Contest

Jill Anderson, Chairman

August 29, 2023

The 2024 contest was dedicated to Smokey Bear's 80th birthday! Children from first through fifth grade were invited to participate in this annual drawing contest featuring Smokey Bear! ONLY SMOKEY BEAR posters were accepted this year.

The FFGC Deadline for this State Chairman to receive posters to be judged is **January 20, 2024.**

The winning Florida posters in each grade will be send to DSGC on February 10. The Deep South winners will be sent to NGC to be judged by National Forest Service employees and National poster winners will be announced at NGC's National Convention in May.

ALL students that submit posters will receive a participation certificate that will be given at the FFGC convention. If Local Chairmen want certificates earlier than that, contact Jill Anderson, State Chair

**For more about Smokey Bear visit <https://smokeybear.com>
<https://gardenclub.org/smokey-bear-woodsy-owl-youth-poster-contest>**

Any child/group of children may participate. Scout troops, after school programs, summer camps, and the like are perfectly appropriate. Children must be Florida residents and sponsored by a garden club. The child's grade must be included on the poster so that the participant can compete in the correct grade category. Stickers for this information are available from this state chairman.

**For information, contact
FFGC State Chairman, Jill Anderson
jillandersn@aol.com**

SOCIAL MEDIA

January 9, 2024
FFGC Social Media
Valerie Seinfeld

The FFGC Social Media is being updated on a daily basis, with upcoming FFGC Events, Inspirational Quotes, news articles on some of our clubs and sharing of our club's posts.

From September through December 25 we have had reach 1.2 million.

Month of December we were up in our Facebook reach by 60.5%

Up with Facebook visits by 35.9%.

Up with New Likes and follows by 25.7%

20,751 Followers

Our recent cover page for Facebook.

Plans are to promote Arbor Day and Convention, NGC Grants for the spring months, FFGC Tree Planting Record, Flower Show and other NGC Schools.



SOLAR
ENERGY/WIND
POWER

STATE FLOWER
SHOW

Report
State Flower
Show
Gina Jogan,
Chairman
January 2024

The state flower show, "Celebrating 100 Years" was written by the FFSJ District I Judges' Council. The Schedule has been online as a DRAFT since September and about 5 of you have registered to bring your entries. A few tweaks were made to the schedule to better fit the flow of traffic in the venue and the final version is ready for you to peruse online. Many of the committee-provided staging is here with me today and ready for you to pick up....but you have to register to enter!

This Schedule consists of five (5) Divisions with the following Sections and Classes:

- Horticulture- eight (8) sections with 109 classes.
- Design -seven (7) sections w/3 classes each equals 21 Classes and the option of 84 designs.
- Youth- Juniors (Horticulture), Intermediates (Design) and High Schoolers (Educational Exhibits)
- Education-12 districts and 3 Special Projects: Wekiva, Blue Star Memorials, the History of FFGC
- Botanical Arts-Artistic Crafts, Botanical Designs and Botanical Horticulture.

Entry tags have been printed. They are in triplicate....so be aware of that as you are filling them out. Stickers, instead of ribbons, for the Blue, Red, Yellow, and White and 90+ placement have been procured.

Twenty-four (24) Top Exhibitor Awards have been ordered and received from National Garden Clubs, Inc. Signage is being printed and the theme staging is being planned.

As you will see, there is something for everyone and we hope that everyone will want to enter. Your entries will be taken on April 9th from 2-5PM. Judging is on April 10th. By the way, the Flower Show venue is NOT at the Convention hotel, but at the Garden Club of Jacksonville, across the river.

There will be a ribbon cutting ceremony and reception at the Garden Club of Jacksonville, after judging is completed, at 2 PM on April 10th.

The Garden Club of Jacksonville is planning have plants for sale and arts/crafts vendors in the side gardens during the Flower Show...get in some retail therapy after viewing the Flower Show.

There are still a couple of openings on the committee. Look at what is open and volunteer your services or say “yes” when asked to serve.

Please come join us as we “Celebrate 100 Years” of FFGC.

STATE FLOWER SHOW

Report
State Flower Show
Gina Jogan, Chairman
January 2024

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Please come join us as we “Celebrate 100 Years” of FFGC.

STRATEGIC PLANNING COMMITTEE

Strategic Planning Committee
Connie A. Gladding, Chairman
Winter Board Meeting, January 2024

The Strategic Planning Committee’s (SPC) purpose is to look toward the future of the FFGC and advise the FFGC President. The Committee is to consider issues to protect the future of FFGC and strengthen the Corporation and other items suggested by President, Officers of FFGC Board of Directors. The Committee functions in an advisory capacity.

The Strategic Planning Committee (SPC) held productive and lively meetings in September, October, and November. Each meeting agenda was focused on one of the topics prioritized at the September meeting. September’s meeting was in person and October and November were held via zoom.

The meetings’ agenda topics were the FFGC Headquarters and grounds; membership survey; and an educational program to improve membership services.

The SPC researched, analyzed, and reached agreement upon recommendations. Two advisory position papers were developed, and membership survey questions were suggested.

The paper addressing the recommendations for the annual educational program is included as an attachment to this report. It is an interim report and will be updated after reviewing the recent membership survey findings. The educational program report recommendations include providing a quarterly training offering in various formats from distinguished national and international speakers. Also recommended is the creation and maintenance of an online learning library to include recordings.

Committee January plans include convening a joint fact-finding session with H&E and Finance on January 8th with representatives from Cocktails Catering and Mead Gardens discussing the future of the FFGC

Headquarters and grounds. The SPC January meeting agenda activities are to analyze the findings of the FFGC Headquarters and Grounds joint session and the membership survey data.

Prioritized agenda topics for 2024 are:

- Wekiva facilities and operations.
- Convention frequency. The committee will review the costs and benefits of holding annual conventions and evaluate opportunities to increase interest/attendance.
- Membership retention and recruitment. The committee will review the survey data and provide recommendations.
- Committee structure and staffing. The committee will review the committee structure, job descriptions, and number of committee positions and provide recommendations.
- Communications and key operating functions, such as the FFGC website.

In summary, the SPC is working through a list of priority issues to be researched and analyzed and recommendations made. It is expected that the membership survey findings will influence this Committee's deliberations. Lastly as a priority, the committee is focused on identifying membership services improvements to ensure a financially viable and relevant FFGC organization; an organization that is responsive to the interests of its members.

DRAFT ISSUE PAPER – ANNUAL EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM

Purpose: Recommend creation of an annual educational program to benefit members and public consistent with FFGC objectives. Desired outcome is to retain and grow FFGC membership services by strengthening membership benefits and public awareness.

Background: Board approved the online publication of The Florida Gardener. This resulted in a budget line item available for other use. President, Tina Tuttle, requested the Strategic Planning Committee (SPC) develop a recommended educational program with a prioritized list of opportunities. Desired date for the SPC report is January 2024 Board Meeting.

Discussion: SPC reviewed similar organizations' offerings to their members, such as NGA. Typical components align with the American Horticulture Society (AHS) membership survey findings that lead to creation of AHS Lifelong Learning Program.

- Desire for more learning opportunities in virtual formats.
- Desire for more opportunities to learn with fellow members in regions.
- Desire a variety of learning venues- workshops, classes, conversations, and talks.
- Desire for some in person programs including tours and gatherings.
- Offer the public an opportunity to become a member.

For sustainment, AHS solicits sponsors and asks speakers and instructors to submit proposals online. Learning offerings are promoted on a semester basis with the capability of the reader to view the full schedule of upcoming events.

Lessons Learned and methods used during the COVID pandemic were reviewed. FFGC press releases and position papers were discussed but further analysis is needed. SPC members expect that the 2023 Fall

Membership Survey will offer further insights into members' desires and influence this paper's recommendations.

Recommendations:

Develop, publish, and promote an annual educational program. Engage nationally and internationally respected gardeners, designers, and plant professionals. Expand beyond Florida-only presenters. Use quality as a priority selection criterion. Include quarterly offerings and diverse speakers, topics, and formats. Examples of formats are workshops, classes, panels, facilitated discussions, field trips, and tours.

Create an online Learning Library modeled after the National Gardening Association.

<https://garden.org/learn/>

Ensure presentations are offered in person and/or recorded as podcasts and webinars. Use Vimeo and you tube so that the sessions may be viewed on an as needed basis or at a convenient time for the viewer.

Include "how to" offerings.

Include engagements that appeal to all learning levels, beginner, intermediate, and expert. Ensure program learning objectives include plant materials and selection; approaches and techniques; and cultivation and maintenance.

Leverage and promote past and upcoming NGC educational programs, including the NGC Schools.

Enable viewers to submit questions and comments during a Q/A.

SPC evaluate the membership survey findings and update recommendations as needed. SPC further evaluate how press releases and position papers may be leveraged.

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 Winter BOD Meeting Jan 9-11, 2024

Trees and Reforestation has been gearing up to begin accepting club and circle tree planting reports for the report year of March 1, 2023 through February 29, 2024. We have an EXTRA DAY to plant this year!!!

Trees and Reforestation is confident that EVERY club and/or circle will be participating in our Arbor Day celebrations coming up on January 19, 2024. Clubs and circles are reminded to make sure to count all the trees that they plant or give away at their celebrations!

Trees and Reforestation has also updated its reporting form to a fillable form, which is available on the FFGC website.

Trees and Reforestation is in contact with District Directors currently to remind all clubs of the 2023-2024 counting season!

Respectfully Submitted, Kathy “Kat” Spieker, Trees and Reforestation Chairman

TRI-COUNCIL PRESIDENT

Tri-Council of FFGC
President’s Report
Brenda Luedeman
January 10, 2024

This president wishes to again thank 2021-2023 FFGC President Marge Hendon for the opportunity to highlight NGC Schools and Tri-Council (TC) of FFGC enrichment opportunities when we connected, communicated, and collaborated to create the Gardening, Environmental, and Landscape Design exhibits *plus* coordinated the Trashion show for FFGC 2023 Convention. With teamwork, dedication, and hard work, it all came together beautifully. WOW!

TC Board members were busy planning this fall as we hope to accomplish more amazing things when we come together for this January 2024 Winter Meeting, at the upcoming FFGC 2024 Convention, and in Summer 2024 with a proposed Tri-Council Retreat at Wekiva.

Marge Hendon shares “Plant Pointers” at each TC Meeting and gifts attending members with a plant. In September, we learned about the plant genera Goeppertia & Calatheas and at our January 2024 Winter Meeting “Florida Friendly Bromeliads”. Please see a TC member if you wish to purchase some of the beautiful specimens offered for sale.

This evening 1/10/24 at 5:15pm we hope you plan to join us for the TC-sponsored Board Dinner & Program with speaker Mona Johnston presenting “Our Florida Trees - The Best For Our Birds, Bugs, and Bees”. Mark your calendar to attend the TC-sponsored “Lunch and Learn” at the FFGC Convention hotel on 4/10/24 with speaker Teresa Watkins presenting “Ten New and Exciting Plants for the Next Century” if your commitments allow.

NGC Consultant Schools continue to be offered in Florida and other states in-person and virtually in ZOOM and hybrid formats, allowing many to complete courses or refresh consultant credentials. Interested individuals even at a distance can participate to advance learning. Please refer to FFGC and NGC websites

for current scheduled courses and registration details. If you are eligible to renew or join Tri-Council, ask a board member for information or locate the dues form on the TC page of the FFGC website at <https://ffgc.org/Tri-Council-of-FFGC>.

TC 2023-2025 Theme is: 3Cs of Tri-Council: Connect-Communicate-Collaborate. This president looks forward doing just that and looks forward to serving along with the TC Board, committees, and engaged members in future. All contribute much and assist with TC responsibilities and planning. Thank you to the TC Officers and representatives for 2023-2025: President Brenda Luedeman; Vice-President Pat Caren; Treasurer Carolyn Schaag; Secretary & Parliamentarian Inger Jones; Consultants Representatives-Environmental Janice Miller; Gardening Marge Hendon; and Landscape Design Sally Flanagan; and our Finance Committee Members Inger Jones, Gwen Carter, and Connie Gladding.

Respectfully,

Brenda Luedeman

Tri-Council President 2023-2025

VIRTUAL PLATFORM TEAM

WATER AND WETLANDS

WAYS AND MEANS

Square Breakdown

Week 1
10/9-13/23

Sales	
Gross Sales	\$469.80
Returns	\$0.00
Discounts & Comps	\$0.00
Net Sales	\$469.80
Gift Card Sales	\$0.00
Tax	\$30.14
Refunds by Amount	\$0.00
Total	\$499.94
Payments	
Total Collected	\$499.94
Cash	\$213.00
Card	\$274.16
Other	\$12.78
Gift Card	\$0.00
Fees	-\$9.34
Net Total	\$490.60

Week 2
10/16-20/23

Sales	
Gross Sales	\$628.70
Returns	\$0.00
Discounts & Comps	\$0.00
Net Sales	\$628.70
Gift Card Sales	\$0.00
Tax	\$40.19
Refunds by Amount	\$0.00
Total	\$668.89
Payments	
Total Collected	\$668.89
Cash	\$220.45
Card	\$448.44
Other	\$0.00
Gift Card	\$0.00
Fees	-\$14.39
Net Total	\$654.50

Week 3
10/23-27/23

Sales	
Gross Sales	\$397.90
Returns	\$0.00
Discounts & Comps	\$0.00
Net Sales	\$397.90
Gift Card Sales	\$0.00
Tax	\$25.70
Refunds by Amount	\$0.00
Total	\$423.60
Payments	
Total Collected	\$423.60
Cash	\$59.64
Card	\$363.96
Other	\$0.00
Gift Card	\$0.00
Fees	-\$11.23
Net Total	\$412.37

Tour Totals

Cash Total

Credit Total

Other Total (Check)

Square Fees

Net Total for Tour W&M

\$ 493.09

\$1,086.56

\$ 12.78

- \$ 34.96

\$1,557.47

***After Square Fees**

Ways & Means Tour

Ways and Means Report

Though many items were sold the most sold item was the 100th Anniversary ornament with the membership pin a distant second.

While on Tour, there was an issue with the online store orders. One of the t-shirts was not charging automatic shipping cost, and we had to sell two of them without the shipping added. However, as soon as I noticed, I had Robin fix it and all items now reflect shipping when ordering online.

Interesting side note was to see that the sales dipped at the Districts that are closest to Headquarters. Districts X and XII produced the most sales.

Items requested at various Districts was the "clothes hanger" for the ribbon that the membership and honor pins get pinned onto.

An item that is running very low in inventory is the Green 10 year Bar. I have requested a quote for a re-order and have received it. The quote is for two quantities and I caught a discrepancy so I contacted C. Sanders Emblems. They corrected the discrepancy and removed the die charge as this is a reorder from 2021.

100 \$2.09 per each total of \$259.94 includes \$25.00 gold finish and \$25.94 freight
200 \$1.89 per each total of \$457.08 includes \$50.00 gold finish and \$29.08 freight

Estimated delivery 10 to 12 weeks. Payment can be via Credit Card.

Leticia Gunn
Third VP

WEBSITE EDITOR

Website Editor

Jan 10, 2024

Sue Roberts

We have continued to do minor updates to the website since the major changes over the summer.

As updates come in from the BOD chairmen they were made quickly to keep our data UpToDate.

We have implemented some statistics recently and find that at times we have a very busy site and at others it is rarely used. The month of December we had 2K users over the month with a spike on Dec 13 up to 1.2 K because the Florida Gardener came out that day. Our most popular pages except for that one day are the home page followed by the calendar and the directory.

I continue to try to keep our webpage accurate and timely. Any redesign will have to be done by a committee once a new vehicle is chosen.

WEKIVA YOUTH CAMP

FFGC Camp Wekiva Report – January 2024

FFGC 2nd Vice President/Camp Wekiva Chair

Mary Ann Whisler/2nd VP

January 2024

The Wekiva Committee has been hard at work since September getting ready for camp 2024. Registration started on January 2, 2024, at 8 p.m. Within the first five minutes the server was crashing due to heavy traffic. Within the first half hour all our girls Critter and girls Canoeing was full. On the second night of registration, which is for 3rd to 6th grade campers, the camp was 54% full. With this overwhelming response we can only conclude that our camp is valued by parents and campers. Our Vice Chairman/Devon Villareal and Registrar/ Barbara Fowler are working to see that applications are reviewed and correct. Our Web Coordinator/Chas Barber has been monitoring the server issues and keeping alert to any further crashes. Many items on the Wish List have already been funded by generous garden clubs across the state. Mandy Howell/Waterfront Director is working on our Lifeguard needs and the new requirements for ACC (American Camp Association). While attending WVT, Lindsay Loftin/ Primitive Coordinator will be checking that the tents are ready and is pleased that the tent sealant is already funded for this year. Kelly Hartman/Environmental and Canoe Coordinator will also verify our canoes are in good shape while she is at WVT. Last year we arrived at camp to find the canoe trailer had flat tires. We have had monthly meetings to discuss issues and plans for camp. The Committee is still trying to determine the best layout of the new Clinic/Office building. The registration pages have been updated by Vice Chairman/Devon Villareal to make it easier for camper registration. We are excited to know that our Chef Bates will be returning, and we have plans as a “thank you” to our counselor alumni who have helped make this camp so successful by hosting a celebration of the 50th Anniversary in June at camp.

But what do Garden Clubs need? Below are a few tips that may make things easier regarding Wekiva:

Sponsoring a camper: If your garden club wants to sponsor a camper there are a few easy steps. First determine the camper and contact the parent/guardian. Make sure the family is willing to transport the camper going to/from camp as well as completing all the health information required. Explain to the parent/guardian that they must sign-on to the Wekiva website to register (registration began January 2, 2024, at 8 pm for special programs and January 3rd 8 pm for all other programs). They can pick the date that best works for them. (Schedule is on website and The Florida Gardener Magazine). The family registers the camper and when ask for payment they choose “pay by check”. Once completed the parent/guardian will notify the garden club that registration for their camper is complete, and the week the camper will attend. At this point the garden club has the option to ask the parent/guardian for part of the registration fee. This gives the family some “skin in the game” and there are no last-minute cancellations. Once the fee amounts between the garden club and parent are determined (fee cost on Wekiva website) the garden club writes a check to FFGC Wekiva Youth Camp and sends the check with the name of camper on lower left side of the check and the week the camper is attending. The check should be sent to Barbara Fowler/Wekiva Registrar, 46 Ishie Ave., Bronson, FL 32621 (386-937-3259). Your job is done, and your camper is registered!

Now if you want to donate, this can be for sponsoring a camper or helping with expenses for camp, please send your check to Jana Walling, 2121 Olivia Drive, Tallahassee, FL 32308. Let her know if you want this donation to go to a scholarship (we always have campers who need a little help but don’t know anyone at a garden club to contact), something from our Wish List, or just the general funds needed to help run camp.

VOLUNTEERS! We really need help with Volunteers. **Especially individuals** who are willing to work in our Nature Program. You need to be able to hike rough terrain in warm weather (hikes are no more than 30 to 45 minutes at a slow walk), help teach the Nature Program and participate in the nature games. This year’s program is trees, and you can adopt your very own tree at camp, learn the top 20 native trees of Florida and take back this information to your clubs. If you have volunteered within the last 5 years you only need to fill out the fingerprint form and send it to me (Mary Whisler/Wekiva Chairman, 2755 N. Carnoustie, Lecanto, FL 34461 or just scan and email mary.whisler66@gmail.com. You will find this form when registering. If you are a new volunteer, we will need you to be fingerprinted. We will walk you through the process, find a local company for you to get the prints done, and can reimburse you for the cost (up to \$80.00). We also need volunteers for our Office and Crafts which are in an air-conditioned environment. NOW best of all if you are bringing your child or grandchild, you get a reduced fee of \$175.00. We can’t thank our volunteers enough for all their work. Registration is already open for volunteering. Just go to the Wekiva website and look at the bottom of the registration page for volunteers. We are ready and waiting! And don’t forget to come to Wekiva Volunteer Training (WVT), February 9-11th and Open House February 11th! Questions regarding WVT and Open House should be directed to WVT – Open House and 3rd VP Chairman/Leticia Gunn 786-445-5125. (ldelatorregunn@gmail.com)

We hope you find this information helpful and look forward to another great summer at FFGC Wekiva Youth Camp. Thank you for all your support of camp. Mary Whisler/Wekiva Chairman/2nd VP (mary.whisler66@gmail.com) 352-212-6661

Cost and Fees:

Camper Not Sponsored by a Garden Club:

Registration	340.00
Activity Fee	35.00
Processing Fee	<u>5.00</u>
TOTAL FEE	\$380.00

Camper Sponsored by a Garden Club:

Registration	240.00
Activity Fee	35.00
Processing Fee	<u>5.00</u>
TOTAL FEE	\$280.00

Camper Child/Grandchild with Volunteer (same week):

Registration	135.00
Activity Fee	35.00
Processing Fee	<u>5.00</u>
TOTAL FEE	\$175.00

For your convenience, you can now pay by credit card.

Please Note that Fees for Critter Camp (1st or 2nd Graders) are \$130 and Leaders In Training (9th Graders) are \$405. Detailed Information is available on these specific Program Registration Forms.

Financial Assistance is available to assist with all or part of the Registration Fee (not including Critter Camp or Leaders in Training).

There are NO REFUNDS for fees paid after May 15th. Additionally, payments for Camper Registrations that are not used (because of cancellations after May 15th or No Shows) are NOT carried from year to year.

Summary:

- Getting ready for Wekiva Camp
- Sponsoring a Camper
- Camper Fees

WEKIVA VOLUNTEER TRAINING