

## NGC ENVIRONMENTAL SCHOOL – FFGC SCHOOL CHAIRMAN/CREDENTIALS

NGC Environmental School State & Credentials Chairman

September 6, 2022

Lydia Barbour

As NGC Environmental School State and Credentials Chairman, my job includes keeping the Environmental School database up-to-date and accurate. The ES Workbook contains a sheet for each type of student (active, inactive, emeritus, non-member and no-credit), sheets showing the known history of courses and refreshers, and a key for the abbreviations used throughout the workbook.

As of 8/27/2022 this is the breakdown of entries on the spreadsheet for each type of student.

- 129 active students include: 25 Masters; 58 Consultants; and 46 students.
- 86 inactive students.
- 2 Emeritus Masters.
- 51 people who have taken classes but are not members of an FFGC garden club.
- 25 FFGC Garden Club members who have taken courses without credit.

Another aspect of my job is to remind active students of the need to take courses, either to refresh or to become a Consultant. Every Consultant or Master has been notified of upcoming courses now scheduled in Florida in 2022 and that they are eligible to take courses anywhere in the US. This Chairman posts notes on the spreadsheet that are used to track responses and plan additional follow-up for those who are nearing the end of their time to complete courses or refreshers. These students have received two email reminders this year and the next step will be to call them:

- 5 who began taking courses in 2015 are in danger of losing their credits.
- 3 who began taking courses in 2016, one of whom is planning to complete in 2023.
- 4 Consultants & 1 Master with a 2022 Good Standing Date (GSD). They will next be offered an extension.
- 5 Consultants & 3 Masters with a 2023 GSD who will receive additional reminders.

There has been confusion this year about getting credit for refreshing. As a result, this Chairman sent all Consultants and Masters several documents attached to an email explaining how refreshing is to work. A similar email will be sent to every student when they become a Consultant.

In addition, as students register for or complete courses, this Chairman verifies the data entries on Forms 6 & 7 and approves the form once complete. Recently NGC notified us that they will no longer provide cards to students with their Good Standing Dates. Form 7 has become all the more important because it is being sent to students after they have completed a refresher so they will have a record to be used in lieu of the cards. Form 7 is still problematic, as are the handbooks which contain sometimes conflicting and often confusing information. This Chairman has been working with NGC to get the problems resolved.

The most important aspect of my job is to work with Districts and Local Chairmen to make plans and successfully deliver a Series of Environmental School Courses. The procedures worked out with Tri-Council for managing budget and financial reports seem to be working. We are still tweaking the processes related to Forms 6 & 7 between the Local, State and Deep South Accrediting Chairmen. The plan to create a Check-list has not yet come to fruition because things keep changing.

The Fort Myers – Lee County Garden Council in District IX, scheduled Course 2 for November 17-18 and it will now be via Zoom. They are planning Courses 3 and 4, respectively for March and November 2023.

District VIII has rescheduled Course 1 for January 17-18, 2023 in Tampa in-person and via Zoom. The Local Chairman has assembled her team and is working on the budget. Their current objective is to schedule Course 2 for the fall 2023, and Courses 3 & 4 in 2024.

District IV has begun identifying a team that will help with the planning and delivery of another series of Environmental School courses.

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 facilitates this work.

Respectfully submitted:

Lydia Barbour

8/27/2022