

HISTORY OF TRI-COUNCIL OF FFGC

On January 10, 2008, six members of the Florida Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc. met at the home of Pat Carver at Dade City. Present were Carolyn Schaag, Past President of FFGC and President of Gardening Consultants' Council; Darcy Stottlemeyer, President of Landscape Design Consultants' Council; Pat Carver, President of Environmental Consultants' Council; Joan Pryor, Past President of FFGC; Sue Angle, 3rd Vice President of FFGC; and Jayne Hemstreet, State Schools Chairman.

The goal of the meeting was to bring the three Consultants' Councils together for the purpose of sharing meeting time before FFGC Board Meetings three times a year, publishing a joint yearbook, promotion of education, publishing a joint newsletter, sharing common projects, and building stronger organizations.

The decision was made the group would be named Tri-Council and would be led by a Tri-Council President. All Presidents and Vice Presidents would serve a two-year term, concurrent with the FFGC President, and each President would appoint other Tri-Council officers.

The first joint meeting was held on January 16, 2008, with Carolyn Schaag presiding. The recommendation was presented and approved and the Tri-Council became a reality.

On September 10, 2014 members adopted Bylaws naming the Tri-Council of FFGC, stating the objectives, listing qualifications for membership, establishing the offices of President, Vice-President, Secretary, and Treasurer as elected positions for a two-year term, listing duties of the Officers, and regulations on finances, meetings, and committees. The three Consultant Councils adopted new Bylaws at this same meeting which eliminated a secretary, a treasurer, and a separate bank account for each of the Councils and established a Tri-Council secretary, treasurer, and one bank account that would serve the organization starting with the 2015-2017 administration.

On September 14, 2014, Tri-Council of FFGC adopted Standing Rules creating the FFGC Tri-Consultant and FFGC Master Tri-Consultant status to recognize those who have completed all three schools. The first award certificates and pins were presented on April 19, 2015 at the FFGC Convention in Boca Raton, Florida. Florida is the only state in the US known to have this status.

At the September 12, 2018 meeting the Tri-Council adopted a Standing Rule to annually sponsor camperships with whole or partial funding for children, grand children, and great grandchildren of a Tri-Council member to attend Wekiva Youth Camp or the SEEK Conference.

Tri-Council of FFGC Presidents:

2008 – 2011	Pat Carver
2011 – 2013	Barbara Hadsell
2013 – 2015	Carolyn Schaag
2015 – 2017	Inger Jones
2017 – 2019	Carolyn Lowry-Nation
2019 – 2021	Inger Jones