

THE

Florida GARDENER

Spring 2018



President's Message

Dear FFGC Members:

I trust all of you had a safe and joyous Holiday Season, and are gearing up for an action packed SPRING!

We are all working hard to ensure those who attend our Convention will return home HAPPY that they took the time to indulge in a great 3 days full of exciting ideas, beautiful plants, fantastic speakers and workshops....and the most wonderful flower show that's been held in Florida in years!

We have *SOUTHERN LIVING* coming to discuss tried and true plants for all areas of Florida; we have *ESPOMA* coming to educate us in various organic gardening trends and practices, our NGC President Nancy Hargroves will visit with us and learn about ALL we do in Florida. We will have a really fun and unique floral designer for our EARLY ARRIVALS DINNER; I promise you won't want to miss him. He specializes in designs for our homes using 'stuff' he finds in our gardens; probably not in MY garden, but in most of yours!

We are trying something new this year at our Convention. In listening to what you would like at Conventions, we will be having a Brunch and Dinner each day. We want to give you time to see and hear everything without running around trying to find everything and fitting it all in. We have planned really informative and entertaining workshops both days. Please, if you've never been to an FFGC convention, OR, you haven't attended in a while, sign up for this one. Bring your honey and your grandchildren--they'll be entertained with golf on site, museums, the Old City, Castillo de San Marcos, the Fountain of Youth and the biggest and best Outlet Mall on the East Coast.

The months between now and the end of this Club year are just full of all that makes FFGC so wonderful; Flower Shows, Floral Design Classes, Horticulture Workshops, Gardening, Environmental and Landscape Design Courses, UF Short Courses and Short Course North, all available to members of FFGC. We strive to bring the best of everything to our members. All of your enthusiasm, dedication and hard work has made FFGC one of the best State organizations in NGC.

In closing, I hope to see you at the State Convention and Flower Show in St. Augustine at the World Golf Village in ST. Augustine on April 21-24. Please come up and introduce yourself to the Officers and members attending. It's the best way to make NEW friends, learn NEW things and have FUN; give yourself a treat and join us!

Claudia

Claudia Bates, President FFGC



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DEADLINES FOR SUBMISSIONS:

Spring Issue: January 15

Summer Issue: April 15

Fall Issue: July 15

Winter Issue - October 15



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Cover: Berne Davis Botanical Garden, Ft. Myers (from the website of the Ft. Myers Lee County Council of Garden Clubs.)

Page 3: Kathie Smith

Page9: Orlando Sentinel (on-line)

Page 18: Wellington Garden Club at the tasting table, from Marylou Ruiz

Page 19: Diane Rice

DISTRICT VI NEWS

Zetta Gillespie, Director

Counties: Flagler, Volusia, Brevard

Flower and Wildflower: Yellow Hibiscus, Gaillardia (Indian Blanket)

Butterfly: Orange Barred Sulphur

Garden Clubs: *Deland, Blue Sage, Magnolia, Firecracker, Marigold, Pansy, Rose, Sparkleberry, Deleon Springs, Garden Club By The Sea, Halifax Country, In-Har-Bee, Magnolia Volusia, Melbourne, New Smyrna, Ormond Beach, Palm Coast, Tillandsia, Titusville*

This has been a very exciting and busy year for all the clubs and circles in District VI. We have celebrated many anniversaries. Cocoa Rockledge celebrated 90 years with a beautiful celebration honoring members from the past, along with several whom are still members today. Each member received a lovely rose and shared their story and memories of their club. This Director was honored to be invited and be able to attend the celebration. **Deland Garden Club** and circles all celebrated 100 Years of Garden Club. Their celebration was entitled "Gardening Through the Decades." All members dressed in costumes depicting the different decades. They also had an antique car display at the club house. It was such a joyous day helping them celebrate. **Ormond Beach Garden Club** hosted the Fall District Meeting, which was held at the historic Anderson Price Home. District VI dedicated a Blue Star Memorial Marker at Cape Canaveral National Cemetery, near Mims, Florida, on November 4th, 2017. **New Smyrna Beach Garden Club** invited this District Director to visit their meeting in December. The program was entitled "Floral Designs for Holiday Living." The program was wonderful and informative, the food delicious and their meeting was a joy to attend. As District Director the clubs were encouraged to increase their membership by 10% this year. I have not heard from most of the clubs since our District Board Meeting wasn't until February 15th, 2018, at New Smyrna Beach. Even though I have not received the final numbers, I have been informed that the **Ormond Beach Garden Club** has surpassed the 10%. **New Smyrna Beach Garden Club** was host to Course II of the National Garden Club Garden Study School, February 13th and 14th, 2018. Each club in the District continues to grow and change with the times, something we cannot avoid doing. Many of our clubs now have websites and are on Facebook where they can share their news with all. It is my pleasure and enjoyment to serve as District Director for such wonderful clubs who do so much in and for their communities.

DISTRICT X NEWS

Lynn Jones, Director

Counties: Okeechobee, Indian River, Saint Lucie, Glades, Martin, Hendry, Palm Beach

Flower and Wildflower: Orange Hibiscus and Piriqueta

Butterfly: Zebra

Garden Clubs in District IV: *Boca Raton, Boynton Beach, Fort Pierce, Green Thumb Clewiston, Indian River, Jensen Beach, Jupiter Tequesta, Oleander Palm Beaches, Palm Beach Gardens, Pipers Landing, Rio Lindo, Saint Lucie West, Stuart, Town & Country Lake Worth, Wellington, West Palm Beach*

District X Judges Council held an NGC Small Standard Holiday Flower Show entitled "Twas the Night Before...." on December 2nd and 3rd, 2017, at Port St. Lucie Botanical Gardens in Port St. Lucie, Florida. The public was treated to a small standard flower show, as well as, access to the lovely Port St. Lucie Botanical Gardens, gift shop and nursery. District X Judges Council Director, **Susan Slater**, was the General Chairperson. Among the judges and participants were student judges who had participated in the District X Judges Council Flower Show from November 2014 – November 2016. Several of the design classes featured the new designs in the new 2017 Flower Show Handbook. District X's 62nd Annual Tropical Short Course & NGC Tri-Refresher was held January 24th and 25th, 2018 at Mounts Botanical Gardens of Palm Beach County in the Clayton Hutcheson Complex. Chaired by **Donna Berger**, the two day event was enjoyed by 190 attendees. The District was pleased to have FFGC President, **Claudia Bates**, 1st VP, **Al Latina**, and 2nd VP, **Marge Hendon** as attendees, as well as, former FFGC President and District X member, **Carolyn Schaag**. Speakers ranged from Chef Nina Kauder, Vegan Chef and Award-Winning Culinary Educator to Compost Guru Ernie Lefler, Chief Sustainability Officer of Sublime Soil who focused on worms and their talents for sustainability. Shelly Zacks and Jeannie Fernsworth of the Delray Beach Children's Garden shared their experience and knowledge of developing community gardens. Teresa Watkins of Orland, Horticulturalist and Environmental Consultant, spoke on landscaping styles from around the world and received the FFGC Earth Steward Recognition from the FFGC Gardening Consultants Council. Jason McCobb, or "Farmer Jay" of Farmer Jay Pure Organics, spoke on environmental sustainability in the garden. He also received the FFGC Earth Steward Recognition from District X. Local Florida Certified Landscape Designer Laura McLeod-Volstad spoke on landscape design. **Jan Griffin**, 2018 FFGC Calendar Floral Design Winner, did a design demonstration using a variety of creative containers from sticks to plastic to metal. **Anne Scott** of the **Garden Club of Stuart**, presented her specialty, jewelry made of dried materials that can compete in the Botanical Arts Division of the new 2017 Flower Show Handbook. The two day experience was expanded by "Washed Ashore: Art to Save the Sea," a traveling collection of sculptures by Angela Haseltine Pozzi made from tons of plastic pollution from the Pacific beaches. These sculptures are a wake-up call about the world's global sea debris crisis. Also, enjoyed by the participants was Mounts Botanical Gardens' newest garden, "Windows on the Floating World: Blume Tropical Wetland Garden," which features open-gridded walkways on the surface of the wetlands to give visitors the feeling of "walking on water."

PLANT SALE!

Port St. Joe Garden Club

April 14th, 2018 9am – 3pm

The Garden Center

216 8th Street

Port St. Joe, FL 32456

Contact: Nancy Edwards

770-713-3267

nancy_garden@hotmail.com

DISTRICT XII NEWS

Sharon Trbovich, Director

Counties: Dade, Monroe

Flower and Wildflower: Musaceae Strelitzia Reginae & Gallardia
Blanket Flower

Butterfly: Schaus' Swallowtail

Garden Clubs: Coral Gables, Coral Pines, Dadeland, Green Thumb
Clewiston, Ken Pines, Marathon, Miami Lakes, Pinecrest, South Dade,
South Miami, Sunset Park Miami, Town & Country Miami

September 2017 started out with a bang! Club and the District Meetings were rudely interrupted by Hurricane Irma. The damage from the Cat 1 storm was devastating and felt throughout the District. Severe damage to our tree canopies and gardens large and small took weeks to clean up. Debris piles in certain areas are still visible as clean up continues today. The amazing and beautiful Botanical Gardens in our area really took a major hit. However, due to the generosity of NGC and FFGC we were able to secure grants to aid in their repair. **Marylou Ruiz** and I worked very closely with applicants and we are pleased to report the following gardens are well on their way to their former beauty: All America Park \$3000, Gifford Arboretum \$2000, Kampong Botanical \$4000, Marathon GC \$4000, Miami Beach Botanical \$4000, Montgomery Botanical \$3000, and Pinecrest Gardens \$2500. In spite of heavy damage to coral Gables gardens, **Coral Gables GC** decided to continue with planning for JOY:In The Gables, their first holiday home tour in 3 years. The tour featured 5 lovely homes decorated by members, a President's Tea served by past presidents, a plant sale of beautiful orchids and bromeliads, grapevine wreaths decorated with air plants plucked from debris piles, homemade herbal vinegars and a fabulous bake sale. The city of Coral Gables donated a trolley to take over 700 attendees to see the lovely homes. Next on their plate is participating as a vendor for a community event, 'Tour of Kitchens', featuring gorgeous kitchens and chefs from top Gables restaurants serving up delectable bites. **Coral Gables GC** will sell herbs, heirloom vegetables and rare fruit trees all sourced from small farms in the Redlands. Future plans are for Arbor Day, a tree inspired talk and tree giveaway for elementary school children and the dedication of the Betsy Adams/Coral Gables GC Park. This park is in honor of a member who has been a force in the club and the city. **Coral Pines GC** as had programs on organic gardening and invasive species, such as, the Brazilian Pepper Tree, New Guinea Flat Worm and the Giant African Snail. Most meetings have a floral design by 'member extraordinaire' **Mayfair Hydro**. They hold an annual fundraising plant auction contributed by members, and field trips to Shark Valley National Park guided by a park ranger who talked about the diverse flora and fauna. Spotted there, were alligators of all sizes! Their annual holiday meeting was held in a member's home featuring delicious food, peach Bellini and a White Elephant gift exchange. They are looking forward to a future meeting at the USDA where they will learn about Water-Wise irrigation. They will also learn about the Coontie, the host plant for the Atala Butterfly. The club has gained four new members. Nowhere was the damage from Irma greater than in the Keys, and **Marathon GC** was dealt a severe blow. Their November meeting on Coral Restoration included a very enlightening slide presentation. The slides showed the devastation that the coral reefs sustained due to heavy wave action during Irma. The speaker acknowledged the generous donations and support they continue to receive from **FFGC**. We were given a tour of the club gardens by **Nancy Miller**, and what had once been a beautiful lush garden, has been reduced to a blank slate. The plant nursery that is

used for their annual plant sale that many in the Keys count on for plants for their own gardens had only a handful of plants and many empty pots. They will have their House and Garden Tour with a Small Standard Flower Show on March 3rd, a lovely way to spend the day. They announced a very generous donation of \$100,000 by Carl and Nancy Miller to the Carl and Nancy Miller Scholarship Endowment to further the education of Marathon students. The **Miami Beach GC** holds their meetings at the Miami Beach Botanical Garden which sustained a great deal of damage. **Sandy Shapiro**, former **Miami Beach GC** President and current Director of the Botanical Garden was seen hard at work clearing brush and cutting tree branches in her pink hard hat and pink chain saw. They recently held their 13th annual Taste of the Garden, an event that sells out every year. Proceeds support educational programs of the Garden and the **Miami Beach GC** environmental activities. Food and beverages are provided by chefs that are on the culinary map of Miami. Theirs' is a culinary inspired silent auction with wonderful music to enjoy while strolling through the garden. March 10, 2018, will feature their 17th annual Miami Beach Garden Tour featuring six Miami Beach gems. The day will also feature the club's Small Standard Flower Show at the Garden. Featured will be floral designs, horticulture, plant sale and 'Gems and Junque' rummage sale. **Miami Lakes GC** recently partnered with the Marian Center for Special Children with a Shoe Box Christmas Party. The shoe box contained a stuffed animal, socks, toothbrush, pencils, coloring books among other small items. The 45 children each received a box, sang Christmas Carols and partook of punch and cookies. The club was invited back next year. There is an unused greenhouse on the grounds and the possibility of using the greenhouse to create programs for older children who want to plant a garden. **Miami Lakes GC** holds a tea each year that is open to the public and educates attendees about the benefits of gardening and garden clubs. **Pinecrest GC** held a Tropical Punch event at Pinecrest Garden to unveil a one-of-a-kind work of art. Eleven top area restaurants provided food and beverages for 175+ guests. Potting workshops were held for the Pinecrest Garden Art Show. Each year the club takes part in decorating the Deering Estate, a historical estate open to the public. **South Dade GC** is planning a Redlands Garden Tour March 17th, 2018, that will feature 4 beautiful gardens. **South Miami GC** held a very special event December 5th. The dedication of a Blue Star Memorial Marker took place at Fuchs Park in South Miami. **Andrea Little**, NGC Blue Star Marker Chair attended and dedicated this marker which reads "A tribute to the Armed Forces who have defended the United States of America." The markers date back to 1947 with 3000 markers nationwide, of which 176 are in Florida. There was an honor guard, a professional bagpiper and many veterans, as well as, garden club members. The keynote speaker was Col. Michael Farrell, 2nd in command of the Marine Corps Forces, US Southern Command. Col. Farrell remarked that groups such as garden clubs are just as important as what we do overseas. February 24th all clubs in District XII came together for Community Day at the USDA. The USDA is a research facility located on 483 acres of which 432 are covered with a forest of red mangrove trees. Most of South Florida's flowering and shade trees were developed at this facility. Garden clubs each have a table to sell various items, beverages, food, crafts and plants. The monies earned are for the clubs' benefit. There will be tree giveaways by the USDA. Last year over 350 Jacaranda seedlings were given out. There will be a membership table touting the benefits of gardening and garden club membership. Membership, attendance and volunteerism continues to be a struggle and will be the focus of our Spring Meeting. We look forward to the 92nd Annual FFGC Convention in April in St. Augustine where there is always an opportunity to learn new things and renew old friendships and make new ones.

Gardens and a Storm Aftermath

By Ellen Book

Hurricane Irma was an anxiety-ridden experience. After expecting the absolute worst, my street, my neighborhood and my city were spared a category five Armageddon. Our aftermath was a tangled mess of tree damage. While we are renown for manicured yards and bountiful foliage, Irma stole some of our leafiest canopy. Now home owners need to decide whether to replant and what are the safest choices? Rather than view trees as deficits during storms, they can perform an important function. Open landscapes devoid of vegetation are left wide-open to winds. Healthy, well-positioned tree-groupings can become a home's protective wind screen barrier by redirecting the wind.

Consider going native because these plants are often hardier than non-native ornamentals and thrive without pesticides or fertilizers. There are some exotics, however, that can adapt if they are from windy areas of the world.

To find which trees can withstand hurricane force winds by not uprooting or breaking go to the University of Florida IFAS website: <http://gardenningsolutions.ifas.ufl.edu/plants/trees-and-shrubs/trees/trees-that-can-withstand-hurricanes.html>.

You will find tips such as: 'the more rooting and soil space trees have, the less likely trees are to fail.' To provide anchorage, roots need to spread beyond the edge of the canopy and grow deep into the soil. I have been told, "Don't plant a \$5.00 tree into a .50 cent hole" and that saying becomes crystal clear after major storms.

From the website:

- "Give trees enough rooting space based on their mature size:
- Small trees need at least 10 feet by 10 feet .
- Medium trees need 20 feet by 20 feet.
- Large trees need at least 30 feet by 30 feet."

"Sidewalks, curbs, buildings, parking lots, driveways, and other urban structures restrict root development. A strong supporting root system with adequate rooting space is the most critical factor to the ability of trees to withstand hurricane-force winds in urban landscapes."

Two dangers to your property are trees that are "over-mature" in the latter part of their lives or wind-sensitive species that have demonstrated poor survival against hurricanes between category 1 and 3. Both situations can endanger lives and property. Some of the locally planted trees found on the lowest wind resistance list include queen palm, Australian pine, melaleuca, Washington palm and weeping banyan.

Wind-resistant species include sabal palm, Canary Island date palm, manila palm, lignum vitae, dahoosie holly, live oak, gumbo limbo (a tree that loses leaves and small branches but stands up well to winds.)

For more choices of wind-tolerant Florida plants, I recommend reading the very relevant: *Stormscaping : Landscaping to Minimize Wind Damage in Florida* by Pamela Crawford, copyright 2005.

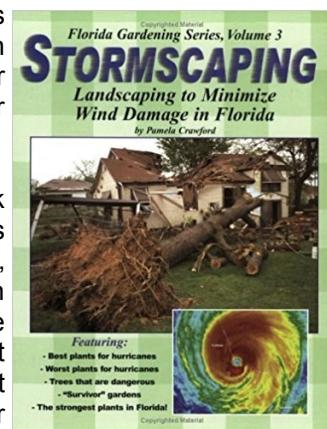
This book features the best and worst plants for hurricanes, trees that are dangerous examples of "survivor" gardens, and her 188 hardy choices for the "strongest plants in Florida!" Crawford offers photos of post-storm plant damage with recommendations about whether the plant can heal and survive or if it should be removed.

Important tips from her book include "Plant clumps of trees rather than singles. Clumps, which should hold up better in wind, should contain at least five trees." Two others are: "Do not plant trees that grow over 40 feet tall within falling distance of your home," and "Use the most wind-

tolerant material on the outer edge of your screen This is the area that will receive the most wind. Plant more delicate material between the wind screen and the house." (see pages 40-43 of *Stormscaping*).

The book offer pictures of a post-Hurricane Frances home garden, with one of the most optimistic sentences in her book. "You'll be surprised how fast...your garden recovers." A picture of this gorgeous, tidy yard, blooming with colors just three months later, prove her point.

For more advice, from a UF/Cooperative Extension's Urban Horticulture Agent about "what we've learned from past storms," visit www.tinyurl.com/floridatrees. There you will find a PowerPoint presentation full of photos of good and bad pruning practices, tree characteristics that lead to success or failure, and the factors that lead to increased storm damage.



Editor's Note: *Stormscaping: Landscaping to Minimize Wind Damage in Florida* by Pamela Crawford is available at Amazon.com

CONTINUING EDUCATION

NGC GARDEN SCHOOLS:

Barbara Hadsell 561-439-4607
Email: barbarahsell@cs.com

Environmental Schools:
Nancy Richards 561-702-0550

GARDENING SCHOOL

District X

Course III, Series 5 **November 8-9, 2018**
8:30 am - 4:00 pm

New Smyrna Beach Garden Club
2000 Turnbull Road
New Smyrna Beach, FL
Contact: Sally Flanagan, 386-428-3170,
Email: sfflan@aol.com
Registrar: Barbara Magnusson

Course IV, Series 5 **February 12-13, 2019**
8:30 am - 4:00 pm

New Smyrna Beach Garden Club
2000 Turnbull Road
New Smyrna Beach, FL
Contact: Sally Flanagan, 386-428-3170,
Email: sfflan@aol.com
Registrar: Barbara Magnusson

LANDSCAPE DESIGN SCHOOLS

Course III, Series 35 **March 27-28, 2018**

Winter Park Garden Club Building
1300 S. Denning Drive
Winter Park, FL 32789
Chair: Pat Richardson 407-469-7082
Email: ogrampat42@yahoo.com

FLOWER SHOW SCHOOL

District IX **April 4-6, 2018**

Naples Botanical Garden
4820 Bayshore Drive
Naples, FL 34112
Chair: Sondra Quinn 239-732-0528
Email: squinn1940@gmail.com
Registrar: Louella McAloose 239-405-7475
Email: louellam@comcast.net

FLORAL DESIGN STUDY

Contact: Carol Lucia Phone 772-393-8276
Cell: 727-656-3207 Email: clucia02@aol.com

District VI Class 6 March 7, 2018

Cocoa-Rockledge Garden Club
1493 So. Fiske Blvd., Rockledge, FL 32955
Chair: Gloria Blake 321-537-8060
Email: seaclus@yahoo.com

District VIII

Tampa Federation of Garden Club Circles, Inc.
Advanced Units 7-9 **March 14, 21, 28, 2018**
Tampa Garden Club 10am – 2pm
2629 Bayshore Blvd., Tampa
Chair: Kathy Echevarria 813-240-5272
Email: kechev@aol.com

District XI and Judges Council XI

Advanced 7-9 March 15, 22, 29, 2018
Ft. Lauderdale Garden Club
3109 East Sunrise Blvd., Ft. Lauderdale
Chair: Rebecca Schuberth 954-463-4511
Email: bjschube1@gmail.com

Annual Horticulture Program

“Spring Back to Nature”
Garden Club of Orange Park **March 2, 2018**
Orange Park Masonic Lodge
511 Kingsley Avenue, Orange Park, FL
Contact: Saduko Long 904-272-6867
Email: jjlsm1@att.net

FLOWER SHOWS

District IX A Standard Flower Show
“Lights! Camera! Action!” **March 3-4, 2018**
10am - 4pm Marco Island Art Center
Contact: Lindy Kowalczyk 239-389-1333
Email: lkowalczyk@aol.com

NGC Horticulture Specialty Flower Show
“Gadzooks! Gnomes and Greenery”
District VIII March 16, 2018 2-5 pm
March 17, 2018 10am-3pm
Lemon Bay Garden Club
480 Yale Street
Englewood, FL

Garden Club of Halifax County
GCA Flower Show March 21-22, 2018
March 21; 3-5pm, March 22; 9am-12 pm
Oceanside Country Club
75 N. Halifax Drive, Ormond Beach, FL 32176
Contact: MaryJo Harrington 386-672-7363 or
Amy Nowell 386-679-9041

District IX

Standard Flower Show **March 23-24, 2018**
“Naples Style”
Naples Botanical Garden
4820 Bayshore Drive
Naples, FL
Contact: Sally Lutz 508-207-5744
Email: smlo2748@gmail.com

Jupiter/Tequesta Garden Club April 6 -7, 2018

Small Standard Flower show
“What a wonderful Life”
Jupiter Community Center
200 Military Trail, Jupiter, FL
Contact: Emily Kane 561-575-3887

District X : Garden Club of Indian River County

“Impressions of Vero” **April 8, 2018 12-4 pm**
Garden Club of Indian River County
2526 17th Avenue
Vero Beach, FL 32960
Contact: Faye Estes 772-567-4602

Wellington Garden Club

NGC Standard Flower Show
“A Tropical Heatwave” **April 14-15, 2018**
The Mall at Wellington Green (Center Court
near elevators) 10300 W. Forest Hills Blvd.
Wellington, FL 33414
Contact: Twig Morris 201-230-6324

NGC Major Flower Show:

2018 FFGC Convention **April 21-24, 2018**
“Fabulous Florida”
World Golf Village Renaissance Resort
500 South Legacy Trail
St. Augustine, FL
Contact: Elaine Schweitzer 941-408-5912

The Garden Club of Cape Coral and Pot Pouri
Designers **April 27, 2018; 1-5pm**
April 28, 2018; 9am-3pm

A Standard Flower Show:
“April in the Garden”
Cape Coral Library
921 SW 39th Terrace, Cape Coral
Contacts: Kathy Woodlock 239-242-6303
Vicki Williamson 802-324-3847
Email: gardenclubofcapecoral.com

NGC Flower Show April 28-29, 2018

April 28; 9am-4pm, April 29; 9am-3pm
District VII “Go for the Gold”
Green Thumb Festival
Walter Fuller Park Community Center
7891 26th Ave
St. Petersburg, FL 33710
Contact: Jan Ankerberg 727-415-1499

Port St. Joe Garden Club June 9th, 2018
9am - 3pm

A Standard Flower Show
“By the Sea . . . By the Sea”
The Garden Center
216 8th Street
Port St. Joe, FL 32456
Contact: Barbara Conway 850-227-8096
Email: bconway@fairpoint.net

Sarasota Garden Club October 13, 2018
9 am - 4 pm

A Standard Flower Show
“Pirates in Paradise”
Free to the Public
1131 Blvd of the Arts, Sarasota, FL
Contact: Dianne Beaver 941-780-2949
Email: diannebeaver@gmail.com

Mark Your Calendars! FFGC Short Courses

FFGC/UF Short Course: "Harmony in Your Garden" June 11-13, 2018

Gainesville, FL (Registration form on p. 10)

Chair: Jeanice Gage 352-332-1596

Email: jeanicegage@cox.net

Vice Chair: Florence Cline 352-332-2309

Email: ladybugflorence2@gmail.com

SHORT COURSE NORTH : 10th Anniversary August 9- 10, 2018

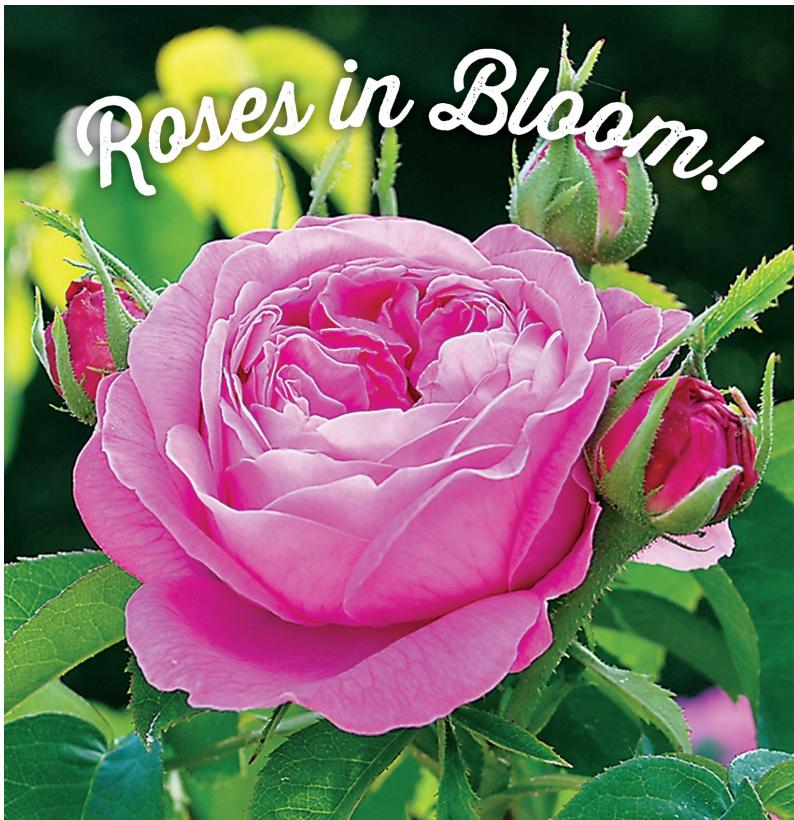
"10 Things I Want to Know"

Escambia County Extension Office 4-H Building

3740 Stefani Drive Cantonment, FL 32533

Contact: sjngc@mchsi.com

On-line registration is available through the FFGC website: FFGC.org



Wildflower Symposiums & Workshops Grants

By Nancy Harris

Wildflower Symposiums & Workshops Grants Chairman

A grant of up to \$500 is available to be used towards direct expenses for an educational program on wildflowers. State Garden Clubs, districts, councils and individual garden clubs may co-sponsor a symposium with state agencies, arboreta, native plant societies, or similar organizations.

Gardeners are eager for information on native plants; state highway or transportation departments need publicity and support for their planting programs. Try to schedule the date when wildflowers are in bloom in your location.

Subjects to be covered:

- One or more topics on native flora: endangered species, plants for butterflies, plants for special habitats, identification using keys, invasive species management, etc.
- Public planting: state highways, rest areas, preservation of community natural areas.
- Propagation of wildflowers.
- Designing native plant gardens or developing natural trails.

To Apply:

- At least two months in advance, send two copies of the tentative program and a copy of the proposed budget to this Chairman.
- If approved, half of the grant requested will be sent by NGC.
- At the conclusion of the workshop, within two months, send a short report, including a financial statement and number of people in attendance, two copies of the final program, and any publicity.

Download complete information and the grant application form from the NGC website; for questions, contact Wildflower Symposiums and Workshops Grants Chair Nancyharris1190@gmail.com

'Mother Nature' named Cox Conserves Hero



From left: Marjorie Herndon of the Florida Federation of Garden Clubs, Audrey Swindal, Wekiva Youth Director John Morand and Tom Terry, WFTV chief meteorologist.

*The following article written by Hal Boedecker is from the Orlando Sentinel, December 14, 2017.
When Mother Nature wins, don't we all win?*

So it is very good news that "Mother Nature" has been designated Orlando's Cox Conserves Hero for 2017. Audrey Swindal, 89, received the honor Wednesday. She is known as "Mother Nature" at the Florida Federation of Garden Clubs — Wekiva Youth Camp.

Because of her honor, the camp — her nonprofit beneficiary — receives \$10,000. She is revered for her knowledge of flora, her storytelling skill and her more than four decades of service to the camp.

Local judging panels selected the three finalists from nominations by the public, and the winner was chosen in an online vote.

But no one loses in this contest. Each finalist secured a \$5,000 donation for their environmental nonprofits of choice. The winner's nonprofit received an additional \$5,000.

The other finalists were:

Mick Karolick, who volunteers for the Florida Wildlife Hospital and Sanctuary, the Florida Trail Association and Habitat for Humanity. His nonprofit of choice was the Florida Wildlife Hospital and Sanctuary.

Jennifer Ferrell, who created the LESA Garden at Lawton Elementary School in Oviedo. LESA stands for Lawton Environmental Study Area, and it was Ferrell's nonprofit of choice.

Congratulations to them all.

(WFTV-Channel 9 and the Trust for Public Land recognized the three volunteers. The ABC affiliate is part of Cox Media Group. The Cox Conserves Heroes program has donated nearly \$800,000 to environmental nonprofits around the country.)

The Florida Federation of Garden Clubs and the University of Florida Short Course Offers:

Harmony in Your Garden

June 11-13, 2018 Gainesville, Florida

Program:

June 11, 5:00-7:00PM Registration and Welcome Reception. Spring Hill Suites-Marriott

June 12, Morning: Bus Tour to Schoellhorn Shade Garden. Lunch. Afternoon: Small space Gardening; Micro-Irrigation - learn to make and use; Renew, Reuse, Recycle; Updated Fertilizer Guides.

6:00 – 9:00 PM (Separate Registration required) - Dinner and Design Program by Margaret Chodosh at Gainesville Garden Club, 1350 NW 75 St., Gainesville, Fl. 32605. All are welcome. Limit 100.

June 13, Straughn Conference Center, 2124 Shealy Drive, Gainesville

8:30 Coffee and Registration. Protecting Threatened Gopher Tortoise and Indigo Snakes; Birds - Music in the Air; Using Begonias in Florida landscape. Lunch 12:00 - 1:00. Color Our Canopy (Using Native Trees).

Lodging:

Spring Hill Suites-Marriott 4155 SW 40 Blvd. Gainesville, Fl. 32608 . 352 376-8873

\$104.00 per night for King or Double suites. Use code FGCC for group rate until 5-11-18

Be sure to indicate "FFGC/UF Short Course" Ask for Marcia or Lynn

Registration: Deadline May 31, 2018 Limit:120 participants

Please Print

Name _____ Phone _____ Email _____

Address _____ City _____ Zip _____

District _____ Garden Club _____ Dietary Restrictions _____

Please Check All That Apply

FFGC Past President _____ Exec. Board _____ Master Gardener _____ Other _____

All Categories include Includes the Welcoming reception on 6/11, bus travel Tuesday, Wednesday parking pass, lectures and lunches.

_____ \$80 FFGC Members

_____ \$90 Non Members

_____ \$40 FFGC Members 1 day _____ Tuesday _____ Wednesday

_____ \$50 Non Members 1 day _____ Tuesday _____ Wednesday

_____ \$40 Dinner and Design Program, Tuesday Evening 6:30-9:00.

_____ Total _____ Check #

Make checks payable to District V FFGC/UF Short Course
Rose Kimlinger, Registrar 1046 NW 125 Drive Newberry, Fl. 32669
rkmilinger@cox.net

Jeanice Gage, Chair jeanicegage@cox.net 352 332-1596

Florence Cline, Vice Chair ladybugflorence2@gmail.com 352 332-2309

This is a National Garden Club Approved Tri-Refresher :

Check all applicable if renewing: Environmental _____ Gardening _____ Landscape _____
\$5.00 for each study will be collected at registration.

OPPORTUNITY DRAWING

92nd Annual Convention

April 22 - 24, 2018

“VIVA LA FLORIDA”

FFGC at World Golf Village, St. Augustine, Florida

Five Fabulous Prizes

ONE WEEK STAY



at a spacious waterfront home that sleeps 6 comfortably in WEST END, GRAND BAHAMA ISLAND (must be redeemed between Sept., 2018 and April, 2019.)

OPERA LENGTH CULTURED PEARLS



with 14K gold clasp

APPLE 32G MINI-IPAD



\$\$\$ Money Tree



FOUR (4) Containers:

2 Catalpa Lane Pottery

1 Ken Swartz metallic sculpture

1 Custom blown glass sculpture



SUGGESTED DONATION \$2 PER TICKET. ORDER TICKETS TODAY!

Checks payable to: FFGC 2018 Convention

Mail to Sandra Messer, 13609 CR 49, Live Oak, FL 32060 • Email SLSMesser@windstream.net

Phone (386) 362-6886 • Cell (386) 961-6643

Drawing will be held April 24, 2018. You need not be present to win.

Your generous donations support FFGC aims, goals and special projects

Florida Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc. is a 501 (C) (3) organization. IRS rules and regulations apply.

Winners of prizes valued at \$600 or more will be issued IRS Form W2G.

Your donation may be tax deductible as allowed by the IRS. Consult a tax advisor for more information.

92nd Annual Convention
“VIVA LA FLORIDA”
FLORIDA FEDERATION OF GARDEN CLUBS, INC.

April 22 - 24, 2018

PROGRAM ADVERTISING RATES

Deadline for Ads is March 15, 2018

Rate	Description	Size
\$275	Full Page Color – Outside Back Cover	7 ½" High x 4 ½" Wide
\$250	Full Page Color – Inside Front Cover	7 ½" High x 4 ½" Wide
\$250	Full Page Color – Inside Back Cover	7 ½" High x 4 ½" Wide
\$200	Full Page Color – Interior Page	7 ½" High x 4 ½" Wide
\$125	One-Half Page Color – Interior Page	3 ½" High x 4 ½" Wide
\$100	Full Page Black & White – Interior Page	7 ½" High x 4 ½" Wide
\$60	One-Half Page Black & White – Interior Page	3 ½" High x 4 ½" Wide
\$30	One-Quarter Page Black & White – Interior Page	1 ¾" High x 4 ½" Wide
①	Email your camera-ready ad in WORD, JPEG or PDF format — or — Email your request for an ad layout to be designed for you to: Inger Jones at mjinger@att.net Add “FFGC Convention 2018” in the Subject Line.	
②	Mail your payment AND a printed copy of your ad or approved proof copy to: Susan Berryhill 4048 SE 38th Loop – Ocala, FL 34480-4937 Susiebhil@gmail.com Make checks payable to “FFGC 2018 Convention”	



92nd FFGC Annual Convention



Program Speakers



Sunday – April 22nd – Early Arrivals Dinner

Bruce Cavey - Flower Designer extraordinaire! See how you can make beautiful arrangements from greenery in your yard! No need to purchase those expensive flowers for beautiful arrangements.



Monday – April 23rd Brunch

Bonnie Satterwaite - Espoma Company – “They didn’t have Miracle Grow in the Garden of Eden”! Bonnie is originally from Savannah, Georgia and currently resides in Virginia Beach, VA. She has been involved in the Lawn and Garden industry for over 30 years with a strong emphasis on employee training and consumer seminars. Bonnie, is an avid gardener with a special interest in perennials and annual flowers. She maintains a cutting garden as well as helping introduce organic gardening to community gardens. She is currently the Southeast Territory Sales Manager for *Espoma*.



Monday – April 23rd – Dinner

We are delighted to have **Nancy Hargrove**, National Garden Club President, attend our 2018 FFGC Convention. Nancy’s theme is “Plant America”. This is a new NGC grant program, PLANT AMERICA Community Project Grants that provides financial support for new or existing projects of NGC member clubs in their respective communities. Individual garden clubs that are members of National Garden Clubs, Inc. may apply for funds up to \$1,000 for the direct expenses of projects.



Tuesday – April 24th Brunch

Trialed and Trusted Plants, Distinctly Southern

Well-known plant breeder **Buddy Lee** introduces us to the newest plant innovations from the Southern Living Plant Collection, beautiful plants developed in partnership with the editors of Southern Living. Southern Living plants are so much more than just a brand name on a label. Selected specifically for our Southern climate, they are durable, bloom bigger and longer and offer foliage as stunning and healthy as the blooms. Want your gardens to look like the pages of Southern Living®? These plants deliver. Buddy will share proper placement, planting and care tips, plus where to find easy garden plans, to ensure your gardening success.



92nd Annual Convention - Florida Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc.
World Golf Village Renaissance Resort, St. Augustine, Fl. April 22 - 24, 2018

Please print and use separate form for each registrant

(Last) _____ (First) _____

ADDRESS _____ CITY _____ ZIP _____

DISTRICT _____ CLUB/CIRCLE _____ PHONE _____

EMAIL _____ EMERGENCY CONTACT(Name/Phone) _____

CIRCLE ALL CATEGORIES WHICH APPLY TO YOU

FFGC Officer/District Director
FFGC Board Member
FFGC Former President

Delegate or Alternate
Club/Circle President
Club/Circle Member

First Time Attendee
Guest/Spouse/Companion
FFGC Life Member

FULL CONVENTION PACKAGE PLAN

TWO DAY PLAN includes: registration fee; 2 Brunch; 2 evening Dinner

Mon, April 23 and Tues, April 24, 2018 \$ 185.00 \$ _____

PART TIME REGISTRATION/MEAL PLAN - MEMBER, SPOUSE, COMPANION OR GUEST:

ONE DAY PACKAGE PLAN - Includes Registration Fee; 1 Brunch, 1 Dinner

Circle One - Monday April 23 \$ 114.00 OR Tuesday April 24 \$ 114.00 \$ _____

SINGLE DAY : A LA CARTE PLAN- MEMBER,SPOUSE,COMPANION, GUEST

(Please circle one or more options)

Monday April 23 Registration Fee (\$ 25) and/or Brunch (\$ 33) and/or Dinner (\$56) \$ _____

Tuesday, April 24 Registration Fee(\$ 25) and/or Brunch (\$ 33) and/or Dinner (\$56) \$ _____

SPOUSE/COMPANION/GUEST REGISTRATION: Full Convention \$ 10.00 \$ _____

(Allows access to Hospitality Room and functions. Meal purchase separately)

Circle meals: Mon, April 23 Brunch \$ 33 Dinner \$ 56 \$ _____

Tues, April 24 Brunch \$ 33 Dinner \$ 56 \$ _____

Spouse Tour Mon, April 23 Castillo de San Marcos (Fort) pay \$10 at location

Spouse Tour Tues, April 24 San Sebastian Winery tour (no fee), and St. Augustine Distillery tour (no fee)

SUNDAY, APRIL 22 OPENING NIGHT DINNER & DESIGN PROGRAM

Dinner purchase is required to attend Design Program.

(FFGC Board of Directors will receive special invitation to complete for attendance.)

DINNER & PROGRAM - FFGC members, spouses, guests \$ 56.00 \$ _____

Calendar/Flower Show Awards presented at a different time; Check schedule for details.

REGISTRATIONS POSTMARKED AFTER Friday, March 30, 2018 ADD LATE FEE \$ 40 \$ _____

TOTAL AMOUNT DUE \$ _____

Hotel Reservations must be made directly with hotel. DEADLINE FOR RESERVATIONS: 3/30/2018

Group Code: GCAGCAA Marriott Reservations: 1-800-468-3571

Click link below or enter the address into your browser:

[Book your group rate for Florida Federation of Garden Clubs Annual Convention](#)

Renaissance World Golf Village; 500 S. Legacy Trail, St. Augustine, FL 32092,

**MAIL CHECK PAYABLE: FFGC 2018 CONVENTION ALONG WITH REGISTRATION FORM TO: Ingrid Velez, Registrar:
20264 Camelot Drive, Brooksville, Fl. 34601-4655 * 352-277-3813 * yellowrose111977@aol.com**

REGISTRATION DEADLINE FRIDAY, MARCH 30, 2018. No refunds after Friday April 6th. Registration Fee Non Refundable.

You must be registered to attend ANY programs, meals OR workshops. NO WALK INS accepted.

Dietary Restrictions for extreme health issues must accompany registration. Every effort will be made to meet extreme health issues. Hotel may not be able to honor all requests. No Shellfish served.

Registrar Use Only: Reg. No _____

Check No. _____

Deposit No. _____

'Twas the Night Before...



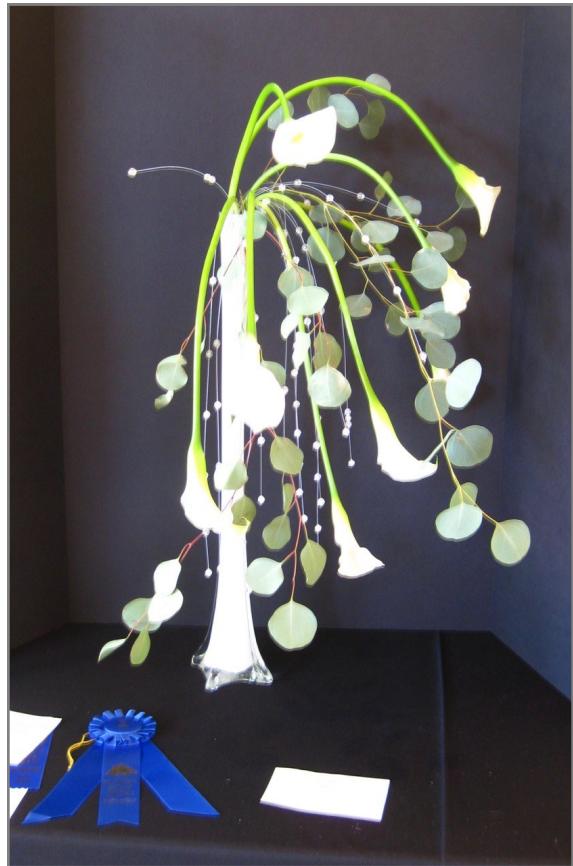
Susan Slater, District X Judges Council Director welcomes participants and guests

District X Judges Council held an NGC Small Standard Holiday Flower Show on December 2 and 3, 2017 in the Port St. Lucie Botanical Garden. District X Judges Council Director, Susan Slater was the general chairperson.

Among the participants were student judges who had participated in the Judges Council flower shows from 2014 and 2016. Several of the design classes featured the new designs in the 2017 Flower Show Handbook.



Foyer Arrangement by Phyllis Gidley



"Best in Show" Cascade Design by Elaine Minga



Grouped Mass Design Blue Ribbon Winner by Doty Greene

FFGC BYLAWS: PROPOSED AMENDMENTS

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE FFGC BYLAWS SUBMITTED BY THE 2017 – 2019 FFGC BYLAWS COMMITTEE: TO CONSIDER FOR ADOPTION AT THE APRIL 2018 FFGC CONVENTION

ARTICLE III MEMBERS Sec. 3 Resignation, Reinstatement

A club wishing to resign shall submit a written notice to its District Director and Headquarters. Following further contact with the Club by the District Director, the resignation shall be presented as a first reading to the Board of Directors by the District Director at the next Board of Directors Meeting. The District Director will give the 2nd Reading of the resignation at the following Board of Directors meeting.

~~AMEND BY STRIKING IN ITS ENTIRETY - ARTICLE III MEMBERS Sec 3 Resignation, Reinstatement~~

~~AMEND BY INSERTING: ARTICLE III MEMBERS Sec 3 Resignation~~

In the event a Club does not submit written notice to the District Director and notification is received from Headquarters of non-payment of dues, the District Director shall make contact with the Club to verify membership standing. If contact is unable to be made or confirmation of resignation is received, the District Director will present this information at the next Board of Director's meeting as notice of resignation.

If adopted: A club wishing to resign shall submit a written notice to its District Director and Headquarters. Following further contact by the District Director, the resignation shall be presented to the Board of Directors by the District Director at the next Board of Directors Meeting. In the event a Club does not submit written notice to the District Director and notification is received from Headquarters of non-payment of dues, the District Director shall make contact with the Club to verify membership standing. If contact is unable to be made or confirmation of resignation is received, the District Director will present this information at the next Board of Director's meeting as Notice of Resignation.

RATIONALE: This change was requested by FFGC Parliamentarian in response to communications with District Directors with regard to the Resignation process.

ARTICLE IV: DUES AND FEES Section 2 and Section 5

Section 2 The annual dues of a Council shall be thirty-five (\$35) and shall be remitted to Headquarters on or before June 1.

~~STRIKE SECTION 2 IN ITS ENTIRETY AND RENUMBER SECTIONS.~~

RATIONALE: Finance Committee requested change. Dues collected through member Clubs and Councils are the same members.

Section 5 The annual fee of an Affiliate Member Organization shall be thirty five dollars (\$35) and shall be remitted to Headquarters by June 1.

~~STRIKE: \$ 35 INSERT: \$ 50 STRIKE: by June 1 INSERT: on the year's anniversary date of affiliation~~

RATIONALE: Finance Committee requested the increase of annual fee to \$50.00 with invoicing to coincide with the anniversary date of affiliation.

ARTICLE XIII BOARD OF DIRECTORS SECTION 5 QUORUM

A quorum of the Board of Directors shall be one-third (1/3) of the members.

~~STRIKE: one third (1/3) INSERT: one half (1/2)~~

TO READ: A quorum of the Board of Directors shall be one- half (1/2) of the members.

RATIONALE: With Hurricane Irma in Sept creating a dangerous hardship for members to attend the scheduled Board of Directors meeting, the meeting was cancelled. It was realized that this meeting could have been held based on the 1/3 attendees or approximate 40 members. It is felt this is too small a quorum to conduct the important business of FFGC.

CONVENTION TO DO'S ASAP!

CONVENTION REGISTRATION: Fill out the fillable Convention Registration form online, print it and mail it in, or Complete the registration form from *The Florida Gardener* (Winter and Spring Issues) . Remember to fill out the form completely; double check the amount due, and ONLY one form per person. Postmark by March 30, 2018, after that, ADD \$40. NO WALK-INS.

MAKE HOTEL RESERVATIONS: Telephone 1-800-468-3571 Group Code: GCAGCAA . Or use the link provided on the FFGC website. Reservation deadline March 30, 2018. No Exceptions.

OPPORTUNITY DRAWING TICKETS: Sell your tickets; Send in money; Request more tickets! Order tickets: Sandra Messer, 13609 CR 49, Live Oak, FL 32060 Email: SLSmesser@windstream.net Phone: 386-326-686 Cell: 386-961-643 Checks payable to 'FFGC 2018 Convention'

2018 PROGRAM BOOKLET AD: Place an ad to honor your Club, Your District, Memorial, Club Anniversary. Ned help designing it? Contact Inger Jones: mjinger@at.net Due March 15, 2018

Remembering Berne Davis

In an obituary from March 21, 2016, Amy Benet Williams writes: "Beloved Fort Myers philanthropist Bernese (Berne) Davis died in March of 2016 after a life spent cultivating beauty and culture in Southwest Florida. She was 102."

Berne was President of FGC from 1973-1975, her term saw the official opening of Camp Wekiva, the establishment of the Elizabeth McCullagh Scholarship for High School Gardeners, the adoption of the Youth Manual compiled by the Federated Garden Circles of Ft. Lauderdale, and the Act which established the Bureau of Environmental Education.

Berne Davis is well known for her philanthropic work and as a patron of the arts. She and her husband were instrumental in the restoration of the Ft. Myers arts center, now named in their honor. Williams also noted "She also helped revitalize the gardens

at the Edison & Ford Winter Estates endowed an Florida Gulf Coast University professorship and created a meditation garden at the Lee Memorial Health System's Regional Cancer Center".



The Botanical garden (Pictured on our cover) in Fort Myers also honors Berne Davis. The Gardens were professionally designed and lovingly planted by members of the Fort Myers-Lee County Garden Council, Inc. Among them are areas full of bromeliads, hibiscus, rare and tropical fruit, roses, herbs, native plants, orchids and a bonsai display. The grounds are graced with trees, shrubs, and container plantings along a memorial paver walkway. A large fountain, gazebo and rain garden add to the ambiance of peace and

tranquility. The Berne Davis Botanical Garden is open to the public and is located at 216 Virginia Avenue (off McGregor Boulevard), Fort Myers.



GARDENING CONSULTANT'S COUNCIL

Marylou Ruiz, Gardening Consultants Council President

Due to Hurricane Irma our Gardening Consultants have been working overtime to help our public and private gardens to recover from the storm.

FFGC Gardening Consultants council president Marylou Ruiz reports that she and District XII Director Sharon Trbovich and our Gardening Consultants, Master Gardeners and Garden Club members have been able to obtain Grants from the National Garden Club Natural Disaster Fund to help our gardens to replant and replace some of the foliage and trees lost in the storm. Grants have been received as follows for the following:

District XII: Montgomery Botanical	\$3000
Miami Beach Botanical Gardens	\$4000
Kampong Botanical Garden.	\$4000
All America Park.	\$3000
Gifford arboretum	\$2000
Marathon Garden Club	\$4000
Pinecrest Gardens—application pending	

District XI: Flamingo Gardens, Davie —application pending

Also note that one of our Gardening Consultants, Nancy Richards, has created a program whereby she and her club members are giving lectures about gardening and other topics at Senior Centers in their district.



Wellington Garden Club Master Gardeners at the "tasting" table with tropical fruit from trees being planted at Unbelievable Acres. Left to right Ann Hlasniecek, Barbara Hadsell, Mary Drexler, Doreen Baster, Larry Grosser and Linda DeSanti.

District X: The Wellington Garden Club was given a grant of \$4,000 to help restore Gene Joyner's Unbelievable Acres Botanical Garden in West Palm Beach. Gardening Consultant Barbara Hadsell and the Master Gardener members of Wellington Garden Club worked with the Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts and members of the Greenacres Jr. Garden Club to plant tropical fruit trees to replace those that were damaged or destroyed during Hurricane Irma. The restored garden were dedicated on FL Arbor Day where the Girl Scout Cadettes received their Tree badge.

Congratulations to Nancy and her team. This a perfect example of what Gardening Council Consultants can do with the knowledge they have acquired from taking the NGC Gardening School Courses.

It is part of the mission of the Gardening Consultants Council members to take this knowledge and share it with the community. Consultants are asked to encourage their garden club members to join them in creating meaningful programs that promote good gardening practices.

Celebrating 70 Years

Milton Garden Club

Special Events & Projects

- ◆ Arbor Day Event with Free Trees
- ◆ Milton Festival of Flowers' Show
- ◆ Milton Festival—Plant Sale
- ◆ Blue Star Marker—Milton Host
- ◆ Earth Day Community Cleanup
- ◆ Adopt a Plot at Milton Cemetery
- ◆ Adopt a Pot at Imogene Theatre
- ◆ Santa Rosa Kids House Support
- ◆ Christmas Tour of Homes

Going Strong at 70!

Milton Garden Club

5265 Alabama Street

Milton, FL 32570

850.626.2003

or miltongardenclub@yahoo.com
Follow us on FB: MiltonGardenClubFL

Natural Disaster USA Fund

Extends a Helping Hand

The Natural Disaster USA Fund was established by NGC in 1997 to receive monetary contributions from states, clubs and individuals for the purpose of assisting local and state clubs with their garden-related restoration efforts. This fund has helped to replant parks, municipal gardens and other garden related sites due to natural disasters caused by floods, hurricanes, earthquakes, tornadoes, ice storms and wildfires. Grants of up \$5000 per project may be awarded in a fiscal year to local or state clubs.

Grants of up \$5000 per project may be awarded in a fiscal year to local or state clubs. The application form can be downloaded from the link below. The application must include the location of the site involved, nature and severity of the disaster, proposed restoration plan by the garden club, estimated itemized cost of the project, as well as funds received from outside sources. A scale of points guideline is used for determining the grant to be awarded. Applications are to be emailed to [Patricia Smith](mailto:Patricia.Smith@ngc.org), Chairman: Grants, Natural Disasters

The Natural Disaster USA Fund is supported solely by the generous donations of dedicated garden club members, and has extended a helping hand by awarding grants to many fellow garden clubs across the country. We ask for your contributions to keep this fund alive so that we will be able to continue to provide much needed assistance to clubs restoring garden-related areas devastated by any past, present or future natural disasters. Make checks payable to *Natural Disaster USA Fund* and mail to the attention of the NGC Treasurer, at Headquarters, 4401 Magnolia Ave., St. Louis, MO 63110-3492. All donations are tax deductible, and will be gratefully acknowledged!

Here Today, Gone Tomorrow...

Emma pushes through the heavy doors. She rushes down the stairs red-faced and heart pounding. She was relieved to have entered the room with a little time to spare. She exchanged smiles with other gardeners as she quickly found a seat. Charlotte, a longtime member with a friendly demeanor, stopped by to greet her. As the gavel sounded, Charlotte scurried off to sit with her friends. Emma was left sitting alone at the table.

Emma was the newest member of the garden club. It was her second meeting, and Emma was anxious to be involved and gain new friends. After several more meetings, Emma stopped attending. The club members couldn't understand why she left. Emma couldn't understand why she wasn't accepted. Maybe Emma had the responsibility to be more assertive, but club members certainly had a greater responsibility to integrate Emma into their garden club. Attracting new members to your garden club may be a frustrating and challenging process, but then losing a new member through neglect is truly an "unforced error" and a very common pitfall of many clubs! The following are tips to prevent member loss through neglect::

- The Club President should send a welcome letter to new members. A questionnaire inquiring as to their interests and expertise should accompany the welcome letter with a self-addressed envelope for easy return. The information may reveal interest and aptitude for club projects that new members would find interesting;
- A Fellowship Committee should develop strategies for members to develop friendships. Good fellowship will discourage the development of cliques within the club;
- The Courtesy Chair should link a new member to a club member who will be their "Garden Club Buddy." That person's assignment would be to contact the new members to see how they are doing, and to remind them to attend the next club meeting, event or activity. The "Garden Club Buddy" may even ask if the new member would like to go together to the next club activity;
- All club members should wear permanent name tags that are easily readable. Often people, both new acquaintances and long-time members, are reluctant to keep asking one another for their names. They are embarrassed that they didn't remember the other person's name from prior introductions. Sadly, instead of asking one more time, they often just ignore each other.
- New members should receive their name tags at the second meeting. Take this opportunity to reintroduce the newer members to the club;
- Give a small gift (bulbs, packet of seeds or a small plant) to welcome new members at the first meeting and introduce them to the club;
- Give new members a club yearbook on their first day as a member. This reinforces to new members that they do belong to the organization! The yearbook will allow new members access to club information, member addresses, and phone numbers;
- Ask new members to join a committee and/or ask them to help with a project. The task can be small, but it will give new members a feeling of ownership and involvement in the club;
- Send out birthday cards to club members and cards for other occasions. It reminds all members that they are a part of the garden club family who cares for them.

Alex Schulz, VP Growth, Facebook.com states,
"Retention is the single most important thing for growth."

Remember, it takes months to find a new member and only seconds to lose one.

- Donna Rouch, NGC Membership Chairman

SHARING THE JOY OF GARDEN CLUB

(Ways to increase/maintain club membership)

by Jane Brewer,

Gulf Beach/Panama City Garden Clubs, District II Membership Chair

1. WHO DO YOU KNOW: Actually MAKE A LIST of those in your neighborhood; members of other Clubs in your Community; parents of children/grandchildren; your favorite cashier at the grocery....well, you're getting the idea.

2. DOOR HANGERS: Keep some in your car ready to hang. The tag could say something like, "In appreciation of the pleasure your yard plantings bring to those who pass by. Won't you please join us (date of next GC meeting, including time)." Also include your name and contact information.

3. WORK WITH YOUR LOCAL NURSERY/BIG BOX STORES/ANYWHERE PLANTS ARE SOLD: Ask if you could place a Garden Club Information sign at their check out counter. Be sure to make it attractive and include all contact information.

4. USE OLD FASHION FANS: Make and randomly hand out fans printed with "I'm a Garden Club Fan!" followed by , "would love for you to be my guest at our next gathering to find out why". Don't forget to include contact information! (Wouldn't it be fun if your "fan" was in the shape of a flower??!!)

5. PRINT: Add this to the back of your Garden Club shirt: "Ask me about the fun of gardening!"

6. PLACE: Advertising/contact information at your local Welcome Center, Chamber of Commerce, Real Estate offices, etc.

7. FISH HOOK: Glue a fish hook (sand the sharp point, please!) on members' name tags and the hook can be removed when the member brings a Visitor to meeting. "GET OFF THE HOOK CAMPAIGN!"

8. FLORIDA GARDENER MAGAZINES: Place your old *Florida Gardener* magazines in Doctors' offices, Salons, Nail shops, etc. Of course the cover page should be a "flyer" about your Club with contact information--be sure to staple to front cover of magazine!

9. PUBLICITY, PUBLICITY, PUBLICITY: Place ALL your Programs, Community activities, New Members' pictures in your local publications (Contact information, of course!)

AND PERHAPS THE MOST IMPORTANT.....

10. FIND OUT "WHAT HAPPENED" TO FORMER MEMBERS: All folks want to be valued, so find out WHY that individual left and/or is not as "happy" with GC anymore. Then find a way to correct the concern. Remember, there is a place for everyone in Garden Club and let's bring back the JOY to share about our Clubs!!!!!!

Engaging our Youth ... in Environmental Issues

by Diane Rice



Left to right: Wellington High School student: Alana McMahon, Barbara Hadsell, Drew Martin and Diane Rice

What is the reward when we plunge headlong into the Environmental issues facing our communities? It is twofold: first the gratification in knowing our time and energy has helped to save our resources; but the other, even greater reward, is when our youth join us in the effort by showing others the way.

The Wellington Garden Club (WGC), through their Environmental Chairman Diane Rice, lists as part of its mission --- Engaging the Youth --- with several annual events. For example, every year the Wellington Garden Club partners with Keep Palm Beach Beautiful, Inc. and the International Coastal Cleanup and invites many high school students to come out to pick up the plastics from our beaches. (See the article in *The Florida Gardener, Winter 2017*) Then, in January, for three weekends, students from the Environmental Club of Wellington High School manned an exhibit at the South Florida Fair to explain the threats of fracking in the Big Cypress Preserve and how this carelessly uses our precious water resources and jeopardizes the health of the Florida aquifer. This year one of those students independently joined this chairman in the October 23rd Everglades Symposium held by the Everglades Foundation as shown in the above photograph.

No doubt, we understand the need for young people to join the local grass roots efforts in safe-guarding our land, air and water. This year Martin and Palm Beach Counties had three months of algae bloom on their waterways and lost a great deal of their fishing economy. The year before, the Big Cypress Preserve was under environmental threat from the permitting and exploration for oil through seismic testing. Although we were not allowed to see exactly what they were doing in the deep preserve--where the endangered Florida Panthers and other scarce species live--there was a glimmer of hope when young and old alike made their voices heard against an application to drill for oil in the Broward Everglades. Against all odds the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) sided with South Florida Wildlands and community --- disagreeing with a state administrative judge and writing a Final Order denying an application to drill in the Preserve. Had this application been accepted, there could have been a possibility of oil companies fracking proximate to people's homes.

Yes, I have a dream that one day the young will show the old just how to take back our state parks, preserve our water, wetlands and watershed and prevent fracking and LNG (liquefied natural gas) production in this state before it is too late .



EDIBLE GARDENING

(FROM: NATIONAL GARDEN CLUB INC. WEBSITE)

Grow Your Own Healthy Fruits & Vegetables

In line with President Nancy Hargroves administration theme "Plant America," the NGC Edible Gardening committee is focused on raising the awareness of the many benefits of creating an edible garden. Whether in the form of a Community Garden, an Urban Farm, or simply a favorite backyard project, edible gardens have the means to transform lives and communities wherever they are located.

Historically Significant

Edible gardens might not typically be associated with baseball or barbecue, but edible gardening is an American tradition just the same. After our country began transitioning from being primarily an agriculture economy, most families in non-urban areas continued to maintain a family garden, and in some cases, family orchards. These produced fresh fruits and vegetables that graced that family's table throughout the growing season, supplementing wild game and purchased meats and providing an abundance that was "put up" by canning methods to sustain the family's food supply during the winter months. Particularly during World War II, the U.S. Government asked citizens to help save food for the troops by growing their own fruits and vegetables. While the Americans of the 1940's commonly planted these "Victory Gardens" to help the war effort, time and urban migration have reduced the number of individuals and families with access to ground to plant traditional vegetable gardens to supplement their day to day needs. With fewer gardens in place, the means to teach younger generations the methods, reasons and benefits of a local garden have fallen away.

Our Goals

Our goal is to reverse this situation and to encourage the creation of Victory-styled gardens to accomplish several things: provide a healthy source for fresh fruits and vegetables; to teach our younger generations the joys and mechanics of creating and maintaining an edible garden; to reverse the effects of "food deserts" throughout the country that contribute to food insecurity for children and families; to shorten the trip between you and your next meal; and provide a habitat that supports pollinators and other wildlife critical to maintaining a healthy ecosystem.

Health Benefits

Local edible gardeners benefit by knowing exactly where their food came from—their own backyard. Not only do edible gardens provide healthy fruits and vegetables, an edible gardener can sleep soundly knowing each step that went into their growing and harvesting their produce because they were the ones to do it. Edible gardens also give people a reason to get outside for some fresh air and vitamin D.

Reduce the Miles Between You and Your Meal

Whether it's a small town gathering or national club, edible gardening can bring a community together. The National Garden Club seeks to unite likeminded people by encouraging them to shop local. Farmer's Markets are a great way for gardeners to buy and sell produce, and shoppers are learning about and supporting their community at the same time.

Treat Your Garden Like You Would Like to be Treated: Growing Tips

In order to successfully reap what he or she sows, it is imperative that the gardener use good soil. Topsoil, the dirt that one can find in their own backyard, could be contaminated or polluted and isn't healthy for the garden or the gardener. The better option is to buy high-quality, organic soil from a trusted source. Purchasing safe and healthy soil and planting in raised beds ensures a quality food from a garden of merit.

Being soil smart isn't the only key to a healthy edible garden. A well-pollinated garden is a happy garden. Planting blooms that attract bees, butterflies, and hummingbirds near an edible garden helps vegetables to grow healthy and strong. While the gardener should be cautious to mix blooms and vegetables in the same bed, some vegetables will attract pollinators on their own. Keep in mind that many flowers, like roses and nasturtiums, are edible and their petals can be the finishing touch on a beautifully prepared dish. By planting flowers for pollinators, you're making your backyard more colorful and contributing to a thriving local ecosystem!

Finally, make sure all your hard work is worthwhile. Plant rosemary, garlic, or lavender near your garden to ward off pests like rabbits and deer—they won't like the smell. If invasive insects are your problem, releasing ladybugs or praying mantises into your garden. They prey on unwelcome bugs and can be a natural and safe solution.

For more information, contact: Bud Qualk, Chairman, Edible Gardening

News of Note from Nancy Hargroves, President of NGC:

(from the February 2018 Issue of *Keeping in Touch*)

...There is a new deadline for applications for AMES Tools for your club's gardening projects - **APRIL 15**. The application and details of the grant process will be available on the NGC website by March 1.

March will also bring another new venture for National Garden Clubs. P. Allen Smith has generously offered to provide an opportunity for NGC to raise funds for the **PLANT AMERICA** Community Project Grants.

Several types of plants (see photo of *Impatiens hawkeri*), including a gift item, will be available for purchase from P. Allen Smith using a code that will be given to NGC members.



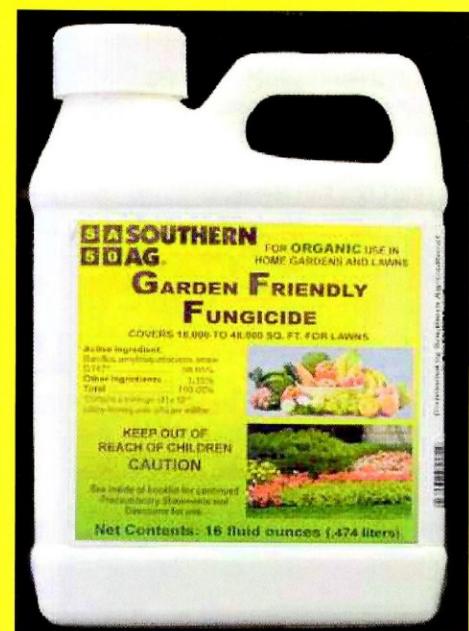
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Final details will be emailed to each state president to send out to all of the clubs, as well as being posted on the NGC website and NGC's Facebook page. If your club would like to be added to the email blast that will be sent to all of the states, please send your club's email address to Katie Roth at NGC Headquarters, kroth@gardenclub.org.

NEW ORGANIC GARDEN FRIENDLY FUNGICIDE

We love our St. Augustine lawns, vegetable gardens, fruit trees, orchids, bedding plants and roses. But often they fall victim to leaf spots and blights. These diseases include brown patch, powdery mildew, rust, alternaria and anthracnose. Garden Friendly Fungicide offers cost effective and easy to use control of many infections on outdoor plants. Garden Friendly Fungicide with ***Bacillus amyloliquefaciens*** strain **D747** is concentrated because it was developed by Certis for commercial organic farming. Use only 1 teaspoon per gallon of spray solution.

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