

The Florida Gardener
Spring 2021



President's Message

Dear Friends,



It is difficult to imagine that the two years of my journey as FFGC President is almost coming to an end. I never expected the position would be so challenging, but it is one I would not trade for anything I have ever done in my life. By the time you receive this issue, my prayer is that we will be in a better place with the spread of Covid-19, and that the Pandemic is coming to a welcomed end. It has affected are lives greatly, and I think regularly about the effect it has had on so many families who are suffering from the loss of loved ones. I hope all this will be a bitter memory and we will move on with a more normal life.

FFGC is fortunate to have so many good and resourceful members who are resilient and found alternative methods to continue the important business of our organization. I know I am repeating my self in congratulating our members who learned how to work around all the restrictions and still managed to be as safe as possible from the spreading virus, but it bears repeating. Learning how to use ZOOM allowed us to carry on with furthering FFGC missions even though we were not able to meet face-to-face for such a long time. As I think back, I am reminded that there have been disappointments which we managed to overcome such as the need to cancel our 2020 Convention, and the inability to host the Deep South Garden Club Convention which was also cancelled. I do not need to list all of the other functions we had planned which also suffered from the effects of the Pandemic.

I especially want to highlight Wekiva Youth Camp which is always an activity for which FFGC is well known. The camp went by the wayside due to closure of Wekiwa Springs State Park and the uncertainties of safety of members had it been held. However, our Volunteers pitched in and offered a virtual camp which was a total success. What an inspiration!

Our legal problems with the City of Winter Park in using our facilities for rentals are ongoing but rest assured that we are working with the City for an amicable solution. The income from rentals is important to FFGC's ability to fund important activities which furthers our mission.

A bright spot during this administration was the generous donation from the Troy and Ann Todd family for use at Wekiva Youth Camp. Be sure to read the article in this issue of The Florida Gardener which provides details about the donation. We are grateful to the Todds for providing funds which will greatly enhance the Youth Campgrounds.

There are too many members for me to thank everyone personally for the support and volunteer generosity which made my responsibilities so much easier to carry out. Let me just say that we are a team which exemplifies the true meaning of teamwork.

My congratulations to Marge Hendon and her Board who will assume the responsibility of leadership for the next administration. We will remain in good hands.

Al Latina, FFGC President



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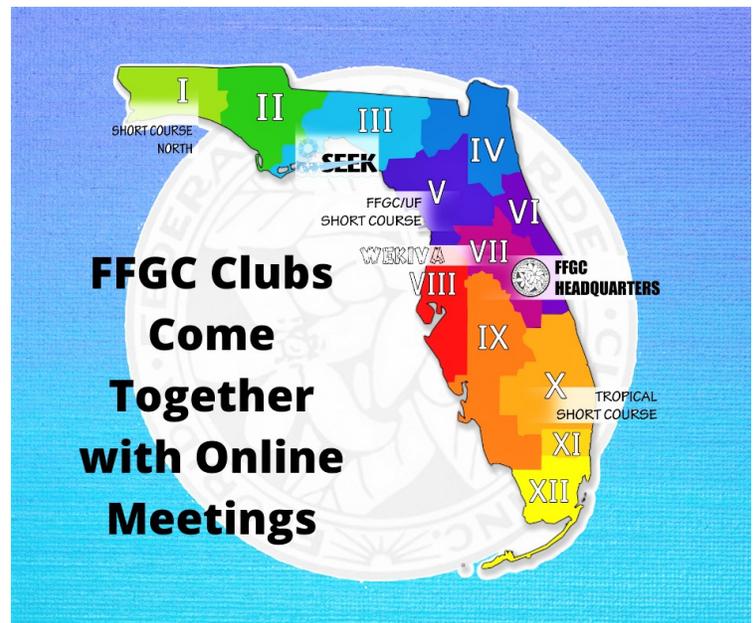


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From Your Editor

Dave Spaulding, Editor "The Florida Gardener"



Once again we have an expanded 32 page issue. Many thanks to Marge Hendon for approving the budget variance to fund the additional publication cost. In compiling the submitted articles, I've had to make some tough decisions. Even with the expanded magazine content, we simply did not have the space to accommodate all articles. If your article is not printed in this issue, I will do my best to include all bypassed articles in the Summer issue of "The Florida Gardener".

DISTRICT I NEWS

Kathy "Kat" Spieker, Director
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District I has been busy, busy, busy since our last report to the Board. Clubs and circles in our district have been holding meetings via Zoom, holding outdoor meetings, and carrying on with the business of the district despite restrictions caused by the pandemic.

At the Fall District meeting, District I elected a new Director for 2021-2023. We are proud to announce Joyce Waters Smith, a member of Green Thumb Garden Club, Inc. and Valparaiso Garden Club was elected to the position.

Clubs continued sponsoring programs near and dear to their hearts.

Valparaiso Garden Club vetted applicants for their scholarship program and awarded a most worthy candidate a \$3,000 scholarship to further her goal of a degree in Plant Sciences with minors in Greenhouse Management and Landscaping. Club members taught a program on photosynthesis to children at the local museum's day camp, held a plant sale at Saturday In The Park, and participated in Yule of Yesteryear in December. These events helped the club publicize their pollinator garden, Paradise Gardens on the museum campus. The club will also host a Horticulture Specialty Flower Show, April 24, 2021.

Navarre Garden Club held design workshops, Arbor Day ceremonies, planted a native garden at a local park, and established their permanent nursery site where plants are propagated and sold.

Garnier Beach Garden Club had a plant share with members, and was instrumental in helping the city with clean-up after Hurricane Sally. They are holding birdwatching events and native plant outings in order to maintain safety for their members.

Milton Garden Club dedicated a new Blue Star Memorial marker, raised money for the club through a member's plant sale, became a proud founding supporter of the Panhandle Butterfly House which is now located in Milton after having to be moved from the Navarre area. The club began a weekly newsletter published via e-mail by the club president to keep members up to date on club activities.

Pensacola Federation of Garden Clubs hosted a Christmas luncheon on December 8 and also held a Small Standard Flower Show which provided judging opportunities as well as opportunities for flower show school students to earn ribbons for designs and horticulture entries.

The Wonderful Ones in District I will continue to further the goals of FFGC in the future with innovative programs and ideas in this new year!

DISTRICT II NEWS

Cynthia Biegler, Director

Chipley Garden Club

In September, the Club resumed meetings outdoors, with social-distancing and required masks. Thus, regular meetings were held from September through December.

Due to Covid-19, the Chipley Garden Club sharply curtailed its projects.

With the school situation uncertain, no youth activities were scheduled.

With a limited Scarecrow Fest, members decorated the downtown area with scarecrows, and held a virtual scarecrow contest that allowed individuals and businesses to submit their entries online. Entries were judged and prizes awarded on October 31. As the vaccine becomes available, members are hopeful that in the next few months, the Club will be able to resume its usual activities.

Gulf Beach Garden Club

The Gulf Beach Garden Club has continued to meet through the fall as members social-distanced and wore masks. The club is working to enhance the community with the beauty of plants and flowers. Goals include featuring educational programs, providing opportunities for member involvement, and increasing membership.

Lynn Haven Garden Club

The Lynn Haven Garden Club has been having monthly meetings since September. The Club is fortunate to have a meeting space that is large enough to allow social distancing, and most members wear masks while in attendance. In September, Randy Fleming from the Dragon's Mead Day Lily farm discussed Propagation of Daylilies, and he brought daylilies to share with the club members. In October, Jason Leebo from Southern Grace Lavender Farm discussed the challenges of growing lavender. In November, our club partnered with the Lynn Haven Rotary Club and students from Gulf Coast State College's social services program to do a beautification project at Ruth-erford High School. Over the course of three consecutive Saturdays, the group weeded, cleaned, planted, and mulched several areas on the campus.

In December the Club participated in the City of Lynn Haven's Christmas parade. A flatbed trailer pulled by a tractor was the base of the float. Several members made decorations, and several brought things from home. A lot of fun was had in planning, decorating, parading and undecorating afterward. Likewise, in December members had the usual Christmas potluck luncheon with a "dirty Santa" gift swap and a plant swap. Lynn Haven City Manager, Vickie Gainer, was guest of honor as the Club recognized her ongoing support for LHGC.

Marianna Garden Club

Marianna Garden Club is on stand-by following their zoom meeting in September.

Panama City Garden Club

Since September, Panama City Garden Club has conducted monthly meetings and Board meetings by Zoom. In September, Julie McConnell, County Extension Horticulturist, presented a program on Butterfly Gardens. Master Gardner Jody Wood-Putnam gave a beautiful program on Camellias in October.

Jeffrey Johnson, Florida Forestry Service Senior Forester for Bay and Gulf Counties, presented the November program: "Yard Trees - Restoration, Propagation".

The traditional Christmas Luncheon was held with each member bringing her lunch and beverage, and everyone eating and visiting via Zoom.

In cooperation with Wreaths across America, wreaths were placed at the Memorial Wall in Bay Memorial Park which surrounds the Garden Club building.

Port St. Joe Garden Club

The Port St. Joe Garden Club was quite busy following the District II meeting in October. Even with Covid-19 restrictions, small workshops and zoom meetings have kept the group in touch, and against even these odds the Club continues to grow.

Christmas in the Garden, the Club's annual fundraiser, featuring baked goods, crafts, and plants was a huge success this year. To ensure the safety of membership and shoppers the entire event was held outdoors. With tents scattered on the Garden Club lawn, masks were worn, and attendees had a fun time. Christmas photos in the beautifully decorated gazebo were done for free by a local photographer. The 2020 commemorative ornament featuring a scallop shell with a heart shaped silver charm engraved with SJ Bay 2020 was a sell out with profits donated to the St. Joseph Bay Buffer Preserve.

Restoration of the Garden Club grounds destroyed by Hurricane Michael has begun. All plants in the landscaping plan were chosen carefully to be Florida friendly. The restoration plan will take several years to complete.

DISTRICT II NEWS—(cont'd)

Port St. Joe Garden Club—(cont'd)

Continued support of the reduced mowing along Gulf County roadways has inspired the Club to work with county officials to include more roads in the program and to develop a committee to observe whether mowing occurs at optimal intervals.

The Club's Christmas Parade float was titled FLOWER POWER and included a red convertible vintage Volkswagen bug named Lizzy. Members had lots of fun making huge tissue paper flowers to decorate the float. After 2 years of winning 3rd place, the Garden Club float moved up to 2nd place.

Operation Angel Tree is an annual project to provide Christmas gifts to the local assisted living center. Usually, the residence provides a wish list. Since Covid-19 issues prevented interaction, more generic gifts were selected. The membership provided over two SUV loads of gifts for the residents of Crossroads. Treats of home baked items were also provided for the staff.

The membership hopes to soon meet in the beautiful garden center for programs and fellowship. Meetings will continue by Zoom until the membership feels that it is safe to share inside space.

Sneads Carlise Rose Garden Club

Because of its large meeting space, Sneads Carlise Rose Garden Club has continued to hold regular monthly meetings. At the September meeting, Lee Garner, newly appointed City Manager, Town of Sneads discussed Ways the Town and Garden Club can work together as a team. In October, Edwin Duke, Professor of Horticulture at Florida A&M University spoke on the Importance of Native Plants. The November meeting was a Thanksgiving luncheon, and the December meeting was a Christmas luncheon.

Despite setbacks due to Covid-19, including several members being temporarily quarantined, the Club managed to continue most projects in the fall. However, the format for the annual Founder's Day luncheon for City Workers was changed to take-out lunches. Also, in October, the Club provided and distributed drink boxes for drive-by Halloween Trick or Treat Event hosted by the Sneads American Legion Post. In November, a work day at City Welcome signs was held to prepare for spring re-planting. Members built and entered a float in the annual town Christmas Parade. The Club cancelled the scheduled family Christmas dinner, opting for a club member only Christmas luncheon as part of the regular December meeting. The Club continues its ongoing membership drive, and four new members have joined.

Wausau Garden Club

Wausau Garden Club's September meeting was cancelled due to a Hurricane Sally. In October, Judy Corbus, Washington County Agriculture Extension Services discussed fall vegetables and provided recipes for greens, root vegetables, and green beans, which surprisingly can be a "fall vegetable" in this area. The weekend before Veteran's Day, the Club placed flags at the graves of veterans in the Wausau cemetery and the Moss Hill Cemetery. On Veteran's Day, members held a ceremony at the site of the relocated Blue Star Memorial Highway Marker, with local veterans and council members participating. The November meeting followed with members making seed treats for birds and yarn trees with looped yarn. In December, one of the 90+ old members shared her memories as a teenager, living on the East Coast during WWII. She stimulated the briefer memories of members who were children and toddlers during that time. A gift exchange and lunch followed the program.

DISTRICT IV NEWS

Joy Elrod, Director

Garden Club of Green Cove Springs

In Northeast Florida, we've had wonderful gardening months with moderating temperatures and perfect weather to be outside. Our Garden Club of Green Cove Springs meetings were held as hybrids, some face to face with masks and social distancing, and others joining using Zoom. October's meeting was devoted to our postponed annual Awards Ceremony and a program on grow-

ing orchids in the landscape. In November, our guest speaker Lynn Vernon



spoke passionately about the building of the only Gold Star Memorial in Northeast Florida to honor and remember the fallen and their families, who bear the loss of a loved one in military service to our

nation and the preservation of our freedom. The dedication ceremony is planned for February 2021, despite a funding shortfall. December found our members very busy helping the community to get into the holiday spirit. As tradition, the Club decorated the Library grounds and the holiday tree at Springs Park. For the first time in Club history, we teamed with the county and the local chapter of Vietnam Veterans of America to decorate the Historic Triangle grounds, including the Blue Arizona Cypress tree planted last year to celebrate Arbor Day. As done for many years, our Club placed a wreath at the Historic Triangle Fallen Heroes monument, joining with others to honor Veterans by laying Wreaths Across America. And lastly, for the second year, our Club made donations to the residents of Governors Creek Health and Rehabilitation. This year, socks, lap blankets, and word search books were delivered just in time for the resident's holiday celebration.

Representing the Garden Club of Green Cove Springs, Care Valleau and Connie Gladding received the City's Proclamation on the Celebration of Arbor Day at the January 2021 City Council meeting. The presentation was made by Mayor Van Royal.

On January 15, 2021 the City and the Garden Club of Green Cove Springs with a representative from Tree City USA, will celebrate Arbor Day on the historic Triangle grounds by planting a loquat tree.

Beginning in 2008, The Garden Club of Green Cove Springs founding year, the Club has planted a tree or made a donation to commemorate Florida Arbor Day. Most of the trees have been planted on City or County property including schools and parks. Several have been planted on Habitat for Humanity built homes.

The Garden Club of Jacksonville - Bobi McGinnis, President,

On December 20th we participated in the luminaria event sponsored by the Riverside and Avondale neighborhood where we are located. Our campus was lined with luminaria candles and the lights in the trees glowed to bring attention to our beautiful building and grounds. Members could purchase Tuk Tuk tickets and ride the neighborhood. During this time, we sold pecans and boutique items. It was a lovely event with social distancing, live music and games.

Most of our events have been in person and/or virtual via Zoom. Recent events are Horticulture programs, Fun With Flowers, Combined Circles and Budding Gardeners. When you go to our website you can see all our upcoming events. In the Blog section you can see programs that have been recorded since last spring. I am pleased to let you know that you can watch all these programs anytime you choose. I encourage you to take a few minutes and browse through our website www.GardenClubJAX.org. I believe that you will be excited about your options. The Garden Club of Jacksonville is grateful to the Jesse Ball Dupont Foundation for multiple grants that have allowed us to present these virtual programs.

Two of our Garden Club of Jacksonville "Friends Members", Circe and Shawn LeNoble, created our historic campus in Gingerbread for the Gingerbread Extravaganza, hosted by the Jacksonville Historical Society. The project received second place for the best local structure from the judges and second place in popular votes. Please check out our website to see the pictures.

Upcoming spring events include the Flower Show Series, Budding Gardeners programs, Horticulture programs and Blooms Galore and More. Designer of Distinction will be on May 13 featuring Ashley Woodson Bailey.

DISTRICT IV NEWS—(cont'd)

Garden Club of St Augustine

Our club had a successful Wreath Sale at our clubhouse in December. For the January, 2021 Florida Arbor Day, we are giving away 73 Florida native trees in 3 gallon pots. Our 10 Circles continue to meet safely either on Zoom or in local large gazebos in parks or communities. We are starting to plan for a plant sale at our clubhouse in May.

Ribault Garden Club - Jeannie Ballentine, President

During Quarter 4, RGC has cancelled all Garden Center Day meetings/programs in compliance with meeting guidelines from the CDC. We have continued with a monthly board meeting each month and circles continue to meet in smaller groups monthly.

Also, during this quarter, RGC has commissioned a renovation plan for potential contractors who will submit bids for the construction. As of January, constructor bids are in the hands of the members of the Long-Term Planning Committee. This committee will choose a contractor at a meeting on Tuesday 1/12, and work will begin in the clubhouse immediately. We will continue with a monthly board and circle meetings at an alternative location.

We hope to have work completed by April 1, 2021, so that all meetings and events can resume in the newly renovated clubhouse.

The Bartram Garden Club, Inc. - Kathleen Lunman, President

The Bartram Garden Club, Inc., resumed meetings in October with a Hypertufa-Container Workshop conducted by Amy Wilson. In this outdoor session, masked participants worked at individual card tables (spaced 6' apart), mixed the hypertufa ingredients, and molded containers for succulents and even decorative mushrooms. Reservations were required, but the workshop was open to the public. Everyone enjoyed making unique creations, and the Club welcomed four new members as a result of the activity! Photos of some of the completed projects are on the Club's website and Facebook page.

At the December meeting, members learned four napkin-folding techniques for their holiday tables and prepared holiday centerpieces on tiered servers provided by the Club. The members were asked to reserve in advance as the Club prepared card tables set apart in compliance with safe-distancing guidelines. Using a selection of various greens and flowers, members were guided through floral design techniques for small arrangements. The Club featured their completed designs on the website and the Facebook page.

The January 14 meeting will feature the legacy of William "Billy" Bartram, America's first great naturalist, with a presentation by members of The Bartram Trail Conference, Sam Carr, and a Bartram reenactment by Mike Adams. This informative and entertaining meeting provides the opportunity for members and guests to learn about the Club's namesake and how to relive his travels throughout Florida. Beginning on Amelia Island, he made significant botanical and horticultural contributions through his identification and illustrations of numerous native plants and animals.

A very long-awaited event will take place after the meeting on January 14. The Bartram Trail Historic Marker, originally erected by a former FFGC club in 1981, has been lovingly and expertly restored through the efforts and support of The Bartram Garden Club, Inc., and will be installed and unveiled at the original location at the waterfront in Fernandina Beach at 1:30 after the special meeting's program on William Bartram by the members of The Bartram Trail Conference. The Club is honored, as Amelia Island's only federated garden club, to spearhead the restoration of this marker to its original condition, the fifth marker to be placed in the state and the tenth Bartram Trail marker nationwide.

Now that the Fernandina Beach Library has reopened, Club members created floral designs that are placed in the lobby. Members have guidelines for the displays-and each artist's creative arrangement is on display for two weeks. The Club has received considerable positive feedback on the designs by both the Library's administration and visitors.

The Club continues to accept donations of aluminum cans for the Kans4K9s program to provide veterans in need with service dogs, one of which is already in training. In addition, the Club accepts corks for the District's-supported cork-recycling program. Members generously contribute "loose change" at meetings to donate to the Penny Pines reforestation program.

DISTRICT V NEWS

Jeanice Gage, Director

This Director is proud of all fourteen clubs in District V for their service to their Club, District V, Florida Federation of Garden Clubs, Deep South Garden Clubs, and National Garden Clubs!. The last year has been a very difficult time for everyone. The President of each club has found very inventive ways to continue community projects and have programs to keep their members connected. It is our hope and prayer that 2021 will see the end of this horrible pandemic and for us to be able to meet together again.

Brick City Garden Club - Betty Young, President

Brooksville Garden Club - Diane Lamoureux, President

The Brooksville Garden Club holds their regular meetings in person each second Wednesday of the month at Sylvan Grove recreation center. Because the room is so large, we are easily able to maintain social distancing. The only real problem we are having is trying to get guest speakers because of the pandemic. Because most of our community projects are done outdoors, we have been able to continue these as well. At our meetings we continue to collect money for Penny Pines and food and money for Project Heartfelt. We continue to maintain the garden at Eastside Elementary, we go once each season to spruce it up. We also pick-up trash once a month (September-May) at our good neighbor trail. Habitat has not been able to complete any homes this year, but we are prepared to help them with the landscaping as soon as a few are finished. In November we had a field trip to Cavallo Farms, where we were able to enjoy a lunch outside on the farm. We have a field trip planned in January to go to the Sparacia and Witherell Winery. We normally plan a field trip every other month (September-May). We have been able to continue to be active as a club, with a few minor adjustments.

Citrus Garden Club - Sandra Hume, President

The Pandemic didn't slow down the Citrus Garden Club. Our meetings ended in March like everyone else, but thinking "out of the box" has worked for us. We met in August and had a plant exchange from our car trunks in the Whispering Pines parking lot. Our meetings have been held at the park. The seating was spaced and everyone wore a mask. Our attendance has been over 30 people and we even had two new members. We kept our meetings to an hour even with programs. Those members that did not physically attend meetings were informed, each month through our "Clippings" newsletter and quick "blasts" from our President. Keeping members informed was vital and the members loyalty is fantastic. We maintain four areas, Vista (Hospice) Garden, Nature Garden at Whispering Pines Park, Wags and Whiskers Garden at the Citrus Animal Shelter, and the Pine Hill Cemetery. The UF IFAS Extension has opened 2021 classes for members who choose to register and join the zoom lectures. In a nut shell, we are having fun at the meetings, learning and sharing.

We collected \$174 for Penny Pines.

The Garden Club of Crystal River - Virginia Strum, President

We have had fantastic programs this past year: "Gardening in Florida's Sandy Soil", "King's Bay Restoration", and "Air Plants".

At our December meeting, Board members decorated aprons that were auctioned off. As a result, \$200 was donated to Penny Pines.

We held several fund raisers to support our Club's community projects; maintaining the Historic Cemetery in Crystal River, High School scholarship, table decorations for nursing home, donations to food banks, and ringing the bell for Salvation Army.

DISTRICT V NEWS—(cont'd)

The Garden Club of Crystal River (cont'd)

We contributed enough to Penny Pines for three acres. We are in the process of relocating the Blue Star Marker, due to road construction. We have one new member and when we meet again one more will join us. Two schools are participating in the Woodsy Owl poster contest.

Floral City Garden Club - *Susie Metcalfe*, President

Floral City Garden Club has been busy with our outdoor projects. We have six different service activities and five different club projects in our community. We pack weekend food for our local elementary school twice a month and fund two children for the whole year, we have donation baskets at all in person meetings for a girl's residential camp and a seniors assistance program, we are part of Adopt-A-Highway (31 years), we post monthly Horticulture Hints and Plant of the Month articles on our website and have a monthly column in the local newspaper. We send two campers to Wekiva and two participants to SEEK each year. Our community projects include a gateway garden, a Memorial Garden in the town center park, and a pollinators attracting garden beside the Withlacoochee State Trail. We decorate the historic trees and the town center park for the holidays. We have another exciting project started in 2021 in conjunction with the Heritage Council to put more "floral" in Floral City! We will be hosting the District V Spring Meeting on May 19, 2021. Come celebrate "Friends in the Garden" with us!

Four Seasons Garden Club - *Peggy Van Houten*, President

Our Four Seasons Garden Club activities restarted in September. Our October meeting was titled "Edible Insects and Florida Butterflies and Pollinators" by a speaker from the Florida Museum by Zoom. Members could sit in the room and talk to the speaker and other members at home. Our November meeting was a tour of the A Nan Buddhist Statue Park in Gainesville. It is a free park with a Temple, and several large imported Buddhist religious statues situated on several acres of manicured grounds. Many gazebos are situated over the property for individual use. This location has won awards with the Gainesville beautification program. In the meantime, communication by email, zoom and the phone has kept members in touch. I know that outdoor yard work has probably been a priority for most of our members!

Gainesville Garden Club - *Linda Schoellhorn*, President

The Gainesville Garden Club's dedicated members have worked hard to continue operating with masks and social distancing and with many cancellations, membership has increased from 219 to 226. We began our year with a General Meeting and Memorial service with a speaker who started the Homeless Center Community Garden. In December, we were able to hold our Holiday Workshop though at a reduced capacity. We have continued holding Fun with Flowers, offering members the option of picking up materials and following the video posted on you Tube to assist in making the design. We are using Zoom and You Tube for our meetings and to showcase some of our speakers. Our fundraisers went partially online, selling Amaryllis bulbs, holiday note cards and other items made by our members. Having much free time, members designed and installed a new Celebration Garden on our grounds. We also planted two medians in Gainesville with wildflower seeds, gave our adopted roadside a much-needed pickup, we maintained gardens at Ronald McDonald House, Haven Hospice and our own butterfly garden. We have continued to publish our newsletter, the "Seedling", to keep members informed.

Circles donated food to schools, Ronald McDonald House and the Elks Mobile Unit, made poinsettia napkin rings and floral designs for local nursing homes, designated a "Yard of the Month" and continued to be as active in the community as possible. Many members participated in the District V photo contest and walked away with most of the winners. We are hoping to be able to hold postponed activities in 2021 and end our year on a strong and happy note !

Homosassa River Garden Club - *Ingrid Ricci*, President

Homosassa River Garden Club 2020, the year of challenges and innovations. We had visual tours of our gardens in the spring and again this Christmas Season of our Holiday decorations. In September, we gathered for a bag lunch at Fort Island Park. In November, our program on how to make seasonal flower arrangements, were raffled and won by two lucky members. We gained three new members and sadly, lost two, We donated \$450 to the Homosassa library for the purchase of two books in their honor. Current membership is 61. We continued maintaining and improving the Historic Stage Stand Cemetery with edging around the landscaped beds and new plantings. Through the end of November 302 volunteer hours were dedicated to this project with a cost of \$750. We donated \$68. to Penny Pines, \$300 to the food pantry, and awarded one \$1,500 scholarship. One of our members was honored with a "Pillar of Pride" award for her outstanding leadership and dedication to the club and community. We are now preparing to bag and distribute 500 Redbud (*Cercis canadensis*) tree saplings for Arbor Day. Members are proud of their accomplishments and of the awards bestowed on the club by FFGC and NGC. We ended our year grateful and motivated to continue in 2021. Ready to celebrate their 40th year anniversary!

Inverness Garden Club - *Priscilla Arnold*, President

The Inverness Garden Club lost it's meeting place due to Covid restrictions at the library and will be able to start meeting again in January following the library and CDC guidelines (wearing masks and social distancing). We did hold our fall Hospice workshop at an outdoor picnic area and provided over 100 small floral bouquets for Hospice patients in our communities. It has become one of our favorite outreach programs. A second outdoor workshop at the Master Gardener's Garden at our local Extension Service had to be postponed due to a bad storm. We are looking forward to a field trip to Bob Wines Camellia nursery in January. We have some interesting programs coming up with Leo Bush of Bush Brothers Beehives, a house plant auction, a trip to the Florida Best Blueberry Farm, and finally, creating a Butterfly Haven by one of our own Master Gardeners. We all look forward to a healthier, more active year ahead.

Lake City Garden Club - *Carol Stevens*, President

The Lake City Garden Club began the year with its first meeting in October presented by the owner and designer, of Lake City Florist. She demonstrated how to make a fall wreath and tips on how to tie a large bow. We continued our holiday theme in November by having six of our own Garden Club demonstrate ways to decorate your home for Thanksgiving and Christmas. We had pine cone trees, arrangements in large vases and other glass containers, and farm house displays using pizza pans. We used the decorations as door prizes. This reminded us how fortunate we are to have such talented members in our club. We did not have our usual social in December because of the up-turn of Covid-19 cases. With vaccinations beginning soon we hope to meetings back on schedule in 2021. We send out detailed minutes so our members that can't attend will be informed about our Garden Club Meetings. Our club Donated \$107.74 to Penny Pines.

Newberry Garden Club - *Genie Smith*, President

Newberry Garden Club has two circles in our club. Total number of paid members is 49. Fifteen members have chosen not to attend meetings this year due to Covid-19. Those members are either over sixty-five, have compromised health concerns, or have family members with those concerns. We are able to keep them up to date on the programs this year. We had six new members this year.

Our main community project was to our Newberry Elementary School and Oak View Middle School here in Newberry, in the spring and fall. We had local businesses that donated rose bushes and Lady Palms for their spring gardens. Fall flowers and shrubs were purchased by NGC for approximately \$75. Six members and four family members volunteered over twenty hours clearing and planting school gardens. Oak View Middle School honored Newberry Garden Club with a "Thank you, Newberry Garden Club" on their marquee!

DISTRICT V NEWS—(cont'd)

Newberry Garden Club (cont'd)

We stopped our meetings from March-May, and resumed our meetings in September. Our meetings have been either inside (safety protocols in place) or in October we met outside and had a very informative meeting on rose propagation. We sold caladium bulbs (safety protocols in place) in the spring and made \$812.00. In May, we had our annual outdoor plant sale; all plants were donated and planted by members for the sale. The profit was \$1,777. We donated \$68 to Penny Pines!

2020 was a very trying year! We look forward to 2021 with hopes for the better!

Pioneer Garden Club of Ocala, Inc. - *Tricia Evans*, President

Pioneer Garden Club was awarded the National Garden Club Plant America grant for its 2019/2021 project at the Historic Tusawilla Park. We are proud to be on target for a February/March 2021 completion of all NGC requirements. The project has partnered with the Marion Big Scrub Native Plant Society, Marion Audubon Society, Marion Daylily Society, and the city of Ocala to beautify the Historic Tusawilla Park. This restoration project is implementing the environmental practice of restoring native plants to create a bird/pollinator habitat in a publicly accessible urban landscape. The project is one of several activities to promote The Pioneer Garden Club President's theme "Bloom Ocala, Bloom Marion County". Plantings will benefit bird habitats and beautify our community, educate citizens about native Florida plants, and strengthen collaboration with local environmental and horticultural organizations and college students.

As part of our Florida Arbor Day Celebration on January 15, the dying non-native Crape-myrtle (*Lagerstroemia indica L.*) on the reservoir side of Tusawilla Park will be replaced with Sweet bay Magnolia (*Magnolia virginiana*) trees. This native tree was chosen by the Pioneer Garden Club and the Marion Big Scrub Chapter to replace dying crepe myrtles along the pond at Tusawilla Park. The event is educational in format and will feature the launching of the 2021 "Penny Pines" program by the Pioneer Garden Club. The "Penny Pines" program by the U.S. Forest Service is dedicated to the replanting of damaged forested areas in our National forests. The Pioneer Garden, located within the Art Park, is being enhanced to include a natural hard scape of local lime-rock boulders with small water holding features to serve the watering needs of butterflies and other pollinators. Pioneer Garden Club has established a scholarship (minimum of \$500 per year) with the College of Central Florida Foundation to be awarded to local high school seniors to assist in their first year. The students must be planning to major in Biology, Agribusiness or be seeking a College Credit Certificate in Horticulture and Landscape Management. Daffodil Circle plans to contribute an additional \$500. per year to this Pioneer Garden Club, Marge Hendon Scholarship Trust. PGC decorated Silver Springs State Park entrance for the Christmas holidays. Two circles added new members this year. We have tried to stay in close contact with our members through this difficult year.

Riverhaven Garden Club - *Kathy Lutkus*, President

Riverhaven Garden Club has 44 members-one less than last year. Even though we met only once, our charity work continues. We made donations to Habitat and have continued landscaping Habitat homes. We have landscaped three homes since October. We collected nearly \$400 in monetary and gift card donations and donated nonperishable items to provide Christmas dinners for 37 clients and family of the CASA spousal abuse center. We also donated many bags of dog and cat food to two local agencies. We will be working with Habitat to landscape twenty homes by April.



DISTRICT VI NEWS

Judi Jodoin, Director

This District VI Director continues to value the input and be extremely proud of the accomplishments, flexibility and creativity even with the challenges of Covid-19 in the Garden Club's in Flagler, Volusia, and Brevard Counties.

As programs were scheduled in advance, before the Pandemic, presenters were also forced to be creative sometimes in a completely different venue. Like our members they adapted programs accordingly. The technology of Zoom Meetings have been a resourceful partner bringing us together to accomplish all requirements of FFGC Garden Clubs.

FFGC 95th Convention: The FFGC Convention will be held at the Oceanfront Hilton Hotel in Daytona Beach on April 11-14, 2021. Chairman Kathleen Terlizzo, Andrea Finn, Gloria Blake and team members faced many new challenges. They however managed to meet these obstacles. Registration is on line. Please support their efforts, register, book your hotel and remember to say THANK YOU to a well deserved Convention Committee working through this Pandemic.

District VI submitted numerous Awards that were judged in December..

District VI Nominated and elected: Suzi Bailey as the 2021-2023 District VI Director. Suzi will be installed at Convention along with our FFGC President Marge Hendon. Lots of celebrations planned.

District VI continues to have "Diversity in the Garden" serving local communities. It has increased membership. It has promoted the technology of Zoom and has applied for grants and awards. It will host the 95th Annual State Convention "By The Sea".

De Leon Springs Garden Club: *Lorraine Sullivan*, Secretary

Neither heat nor humidity nor COVID-19 could deter us from our duties this summer at De Leon Springs State Park's Heritage Nursery! Several members meet there each Tuesday morning to organize, prune, pot, fertilize, and sell plants to benefit the park. Monthly club meetings recommenced in September with far fewer attendees due to the coronavirus but we pressed on. We refreshed our butterfly knowledge in September with a presentation by a local aficionado; October found us learning how to create wind chimes for the garden; and in November we lunched on Thanksgiving-themed foods after hearing an update on De Leon Springs by Amy Munizzi of the De Leon Springs Community Association. Finally, we opened 2021 with a January visit to EFG Orchid Growers in DeLand; the warm, humid environment was just what we needed to defrost!

Garden Club by the Sea: *Barbara Dial*-President

The 2021 New Year began with Garden Club by the Sea as the recipient of the "Plant America" grant awarded from National Garden Clubs, Inc. This coveted grant will allow GCBS to obtain QR digital plant markers and a new flagpole to be installed beside the Blue Star Memorial By-Way Marker at Lily Park. Lily Park is a public park that members have tirelessly been working on throughout 2020 to revitalize with help from the town of Indialantic and local businesses. The renewal of the park will continue in 2021 culminating with a dedication in the spring with invited community leaders and military guests. Garden Club by the Sea will continue its monthly meetings outside with masks and social distancing. Speaker topics for 2021 will include "Repotting Your Orchid", "Serene Harbor Domestic Violence Shelter Women At Risk", "Hobby Farming & Gardening" and "Kena's tips for Florida Gardening".

DISTRICT VI NEWS—(cont'd)

The Garden Club of Halifax Country: *Linda Armour-President*

The Garden Club of the Halifax Country has been hard at work in our "Going Native" project converting Vadner Park, a .6 acre pocket park in Ormond Beach, to an all native plant and tree oasis. This is a partnership with the City of Ormond Beach. We are proud to announce that our project was the recipient of a grant from "Plant America" Garden Club of America's Founders Fund Award and also we have received a Plant America Grant from the National Garden Clubs, in the amount of \$1,000.00. This NGC grant will support our purchase of native plants and trees. There were 250 applicants for this grant from around the country. As we have said in our applications, "Big things come in small packages.

Titusville Garden Club: *Donna Martin-President*

We have not had meetings since December.

We had a small get-together in December with the Space Coast Quartet entertaining us with lots of songs and good cheer. Wishing all a happy and safe New Year.

We have members with COVID-19 and for everyone's safety, we cancelled January's meeting and our Board meeting. Hopefully, we will meet in February

New Smyrna Beach Garden Club: *Kathy Healy-President*

The masked and socially-distanced NSBGC closed 2020 with a smaller, members-only version of our beloved FESTIVAL OF TREES fundraiser on December 2nd, and our membership stepped up. Utilizing the floral-design talents of several members, one person organized a preordered sale of fresh evergreen centerpieces and even had 'elves' personally deliver each one! This sale was so successful that orders have already been reserved for Christmas 2021! Raffle baskets were a big hit, and a mini- Mistletoe Market added to the holiday mood. Our very own Judi Jodoin demonstrated the art of using our own backyards to create exquisite floral masterpieces. The dynamic Teresa Watkins wowed our January meeting with new plants for 2021 and small interest group seminars continue this quarter with sessions on orchids, roses and monarch butterflies. New this month to the NSBGC is our first meeting of a JUNIOR GARDENERS CLUB! One-hour meetings are planned per month through April with a 'green curriculum', and yours -truly TRULY wishes she were ten years old again! Current District VI Director will Chair. Rumors abound that there may be a concluding fairy garden on our campus at 2000 Turnbull Bay Road.

New Smyrna Beach Garden Club is proud to support our local Habitat for Humanity Organization, since 2003, by having a member of the Club attend the new home dedications and give each family gardening gifts: 50 foot garden hose, a hose nozzle, a fan water sprayer, two books about gardening in Central Florida, hand tools or gloves. We also present them with a letter of congratulations from our Club. HAPPY NEW YEAR to all our fellow gardeners, and see you at the CONVENTION!

The Garden Club of Palm Coast, Inc.: *Carol Walker-President*

The Garden Club at Palm Coast began 2021 with an increase in membership to 163. An outdoor Holiday Dessert Social was held over the holidays to provide a safe outdoor opportunity to meet with garden club friends.

In 2021, the Garden Club will host its Treasures in the Attic fundraiser on Saturday, March 13. The location is pending the assurance of safe setting for the sale.

On March 16, club members will participate with a booth at the city's Food Truck Tuesday event at the Town Center. This event provides an opportunity for members of the community to learn about the opportunities and resources of joining the Garden Club.

Our major fundraiser, Palm Coast Spring Festival & Plant Sale, dedicated to community and high school scholarships will be held on Saturday, April 17, at the Flagler Palm Coast High School.

The Garden Club of DeLand Inc.: *Jennifer Condo-President*

The Garden Club of DeLand, on December 12, 2020, planted 700 hundred plants in the 77 pots and pedestals that line Woodland Boulevard, a very visible Beautiful Downtown DeLand, in our biannual planting event. All eight (8) Circles participated in this project. On Jan 15, they had a small gathering at their clubhouse to honor Florida's Arbor Day with a white crape myrtle planted on their grounds. On Jan 26&27 they are hosting NGC's Gardening School Course 4 online through Zoom. They are having an opportunity drawing with several excellent prizes as their biennial fundraiser on Feb 19.



Members continue to meet online through Zoom for their monthly meetings.

Pictured above: Chairmen Margaret Gillen and Julia Neumann

DISTRICT VII NEWS

Gwen Carter, Director



Counties: Sumter, Lake, Orange, Osceola, Seminole

Flower: Hibiscus (all varieties)

Wildflower: Coreopsis

Butterfly: Monarch

Garden Clubs in District VII: Bloom N Grow, Camellia Eustis, Clermont, Creative Arts, the Foliage GC of Apopka, Ixora Sanford, Lady Lake, Lakes & Hills, Orlando, Palm Garden, Pine Castle, Robinswood, Sanford Wildflower, Spring Valley, Sweetwater Oaks, Wildflowers D7, Windermere, Winter Park

Happy Day FFGC Members,

District VII activities and events continue to look differently from pre COVID-19, but our clubs are thinking outside the box. We are planning activities and events to help our neighbors who have suffered, due to the Pandemic.

Working to give back to the community is always a priority for District VII. Members are visiting facilities to give residents a special gift, offer them hope during this trying time, plus show appreciation for their life's service. Ruth Squire, 102 years young, an original member of Camellia Garden Club, had fun painting flowerpots with club members. Jo Fleming, long time member of Clermont Garden Club, was serenaded by club members celebrating Jo's 96th birthday on January 2, 2021. The celebration took place at Crane's View Assisted Living Secret Garden where Jo took on the responsibility of rehabilitating the garden. We collected socks and undergarments for local elementary school students and delivered Christmas arrangements to local Assisted Living Centers. Clubs are taking funds usually geared for horticulture projects and reallocating the funds to families that have been hit hardest by Covid 19. Members decorated public Christmas trees and trimmed lamp-posts in neighborhoods with wreaths and bows. Members even took the time to judge neighbor's decorations for Christmas and Hanukkah and presented a trophy to the winner

District VII clubs have put the spotlight on gardening by entering contests sponsored by local city governments. We are not just entering contests; we are winning the contests. We won First Place in a local Scarecrow Stroll Contest and "The Most Themed Tree" in The Holiday Enchanted Tree Forest Contest.

Clubs are having all kinds of get-togethers on Zoom, Pop Social, holiday parties, and meetings galore. Members are also meeting outside while following Social Distancing Guidelines at pavilions, parks, and gardens. Whether on Zoom or outside in the open, District VII Clubs have found alternative ways to fundraise for our various charities.

DISTRICT VII NEWS—(cont'd)

District VII Clubs continue to celebrate Arbor Day, January 16, 2021, in the community by planting trees and giving out thousands of free Florida native trees to residents.

2020 has been a year like most Americans have never witnessed, however, District VII's clubs will make 2021 a better year with more community exposure promoting our theme "A Melting Pot Garden Sprouts Creativity and Depth."

Bloom and Grow Garden Society - *Jeanne Yazinski*, President

Late last fall, Alex Ramos of Plantation Jewelers, Winter Garden, Florida, was asked by the women of the Bloom & Grow Garden Society to design a sterling silver monarch butterfly pendant. At that time, the Monarch Project was just testing its wings and sculpture could only be seen in artist, Don Reynolds sketched renderings.



Being the craftsman that he is, Alex was able to capture the beauty and intricate nature of the soon to be sculpture. He used sterling silver with shiny and satin sterling silver finishes to give the design more texture. He bent the wings and positioned the bail on an angle giving it a sense of impending flight. The approximate size of the pendant is 29mm (1 3/8 inches). And now, we are thrilled to be able to offer this exclusive piece of art for sale on this website only. The cost for the pendant is \$80 including tax with a portion going toward the monarch sculpture. Chain is not included. After purchasing, you will be able to pick up your pendant at Plantation Jewelers in downtown Winter Garden. If you would like to see it in person before you purchase, go to Plantation Jewelers, 115 W. Plant Street, Winter Garden. It will be on display. Go to Bloomandgrow.club if you are interested in purchasing the beautiful pendant.

Bloom and Grow Garden Society sold over 450 poinsettias at their plant sale in December.



The Bloom & Grow Garden Society of Winter Garden launched an exciting new tree project on Florida Arbor Day January 16, 2021. The Winter Garden Heritage Tree Project. Working with the City of Winter Garden, members will nominate over 100 Heritage Trees in 2021. These are either historic trees with trunks over 30" in diameter or mature specimen trees that are uniquely characteristic of a particular species. Each tree will be identified, measured, mapped and photographed. The data will be input into a local as well as a national data base.

Labels will be placed on each tree and a "Heritage Tree Tour" will be created. To encourage each of our members to be involved in this extraordinary project, Healthy West Orange is sponsoring shirts for each Bloom & Grow member with an inspirational quote about trees on the back and our unique logo for this project on the front. From this year forward, we will celebrate every Florida Arbor Day by visiting our Heritage Trees, cleaning the labels and updating the information in the data base. It is our hope that Bloom & Grow members will become more knowledgeable and appreciative of the trees in our City and that together we can help residents and tourists alike know, love, and protect our trees.



Camellia Garden Club—*Sue Roberts*, President

The Camellia Garden Club got together in November to paint these seasonal decorations to be donated to local nursing homes. We painted the faces on pre-painted flowerpots and made their hats. Ruth Squire, 102 years young and an original member of Camellia GC



was there to have fun painting these cute faces. Hopefully, they will bring smiles to some nursing home patients for the holidays.

Clermont Garden Club—*Marilyn Paone*, President

CGC recently won an award from the City of Clermont for the winning scarecrow in their first Scarecrow Contest. Seven club members had fun decorating the scarecrow which was on display in front of a business on Montrose Street.



The City asked organizations to decorate Christmas trees at Victory Point for their first Enchanted

Holiday Forest and CGC won the award for "Most Themed Tree". Several members provided ornaments and supplies and eight members spent a beautiful fall day decorating the tree which will be at Victory Point until January



In lieu of having a Christmas luncheon CGC's Christmas program was held on ZOOM. Clermont GC members, Chicki Broman and Julie Milburn demonstrated various leaf manipulation techniques and holiday arrangements.

CGC recently received the designation of an official Wildlife Habitat for their gardens. The sign showing the designation has been placed on one of the trees in the garden. The garden received the Butterfly certification from the North American Butterfly Association. The garden provides resources that increase the world's population of butterflies.

Members of CGC spent a day decorating the outside of their Clubhouse and front grounds. When the lights were on at night, they provided a lovely addition to the look of the building and grounds.

Clermont Garden Club members, Gwen Carter, and Debra Smidt joined the City of Clermont in celebration of Arbor Day on January 16, 2021. The City gave out 1000 Free Slash Pine trees. Clermont Garden Club members were on hand to offer information about the trees and club information.

The Foliage GC of Apopka - *Jo Oliver*, President

The Foliage Garden Club of Apopka collected Socks and Undergarments for local elementary school students; they were delivered to several Apopka Elementary Schools.

Our Beautifications Committee delivered Christmas arrangements to six local Assisted Living Facilities on December 21st

The Garden Foliage Club of Apopka chose as its Beautification Project for 2020 – A Little Christmas Cheer. The club chose a project that would bring smiles and cheer to six assisted living facilities. First VP Clara Francis, Beautification Chair Brenda Solomon, Education Chair Bobbie Daugherty, and Fashion Show Chair Sandy Bove delivered Christmas arrangements to the assisted living facilities in the Apopka area. The arrangements were purchased from Apopka Florist and the committee hand delivered the arrangements to each facility on 12/21/20.

DISTRICT VII NEWS—(cont'd)

Sweetwater Oaks Garden Club - (cont'd)

Our last program was about working with an HOA and your landscape by Tina McIntyre from the Florida Friendly extension service. We are fostering creative ideas that can reinvent our club and our lives to come back stronger because of our resilience and attitude that proves there is always a WAY.

Windermere Garden Club – Vicki Hearst, President

Windermere Garden Club, President Vicki Hearst. WGC would like to honor long time member Tanya Chesire for her years of service with a “Garden Path Brick.” Tanya has been a past club president, chairperson for countless projects, webmaster for the Windermere Garden Club and served as District VII’s Newsletter Editor.

For Florida Arbor Day, the Windermere Garden Club planted a live oak in the town square and provided 163 preschool students with a variety of tree/gardening activities. Additionally, a “sister tree” was donated to the preschool.

DISTRICT VIII NEWS

Barbara Rao, Director

We have entered the new year of 2021. May it bring us a renewed sense of hope to welcome a new normal! Our Garden Clubs have been inventive, creative, and determined not to lose sight of the needs of our members. Some clubs have curtailed activities until there is a more certain sense of safety for their members. That does not mean they have abandoned their members. Zoom meetings, phone calls, emails, newsletters have substituted for the normal in person meetings. Other clubs have brought chairs outside and used microphones to communicate with members. Still others have had field trips to Garden areas and have worked on community projects. Refurbishing clubhouses and top to bottom cleaning was enjoyed by many clubs. In the fall, I had the opportunity to visit many plant sales and Garden events and share their winning awards from the cancelled Convention. Joyful clubs welcomed these awards and proudly displayed them via email, Zoom and any way possible!

Apollo Beach kept working on their community gardens which has increased their membership to need a waiting list! Most meetings are held outside with topics such as plant grafting and plant sale in February. A busy group excited to learn more about their Food Forest.

Clearwater GC - Porch projects for members enjoyment and knowledge. Meetings held on Zoom and field trips to keep the interest and enthusiasm going. Members treated to delightful monthly newsletters.

Dade City GC - Pioneer Florida Museum and Village was festooned by the members of the six circles in time for Christmas. An annual project that brings joy to the community and special moments to the club members.

Davis Island GC has had only one in person meeting so far, mostly zooming and meeting out of doors. Will be hosting the Spring District Installation meeting in May.

Dunedin GC has been meeting in the gardens with a microphone system and entertaining their members with a well-kept Facebook page.

Garden Gate GC - Created Favors for Meals on Wheels. Meet monthly, outside, but half present due illnesses. Tree City so they are involved in planting for Florida Arbor Day.

Gardeners Out East GC spent time caring for a beautiful butterfly garden that is enjoyed by neighbors and members. Plants are being pruned to allow for an easier walkway. Members take much pleasure in the garden.

Green GC At Hunters - Members have been trying to meet via Zoom, container gardening is next month’s topic. Small but mighty group whose president is keeping them together.

GC At Tampa Bay Golf & CC enjoyed a lovely Christmas event with plant exchange and next month will have a container garden program. Community minded folks.

GC Of Tarpon Springs provides school programs with its members and education.

Lakewood Ranch GC has been meeting at the Gazebo and is having zoom meetings with its members. Lots of future planning taking place. A small club with enthusiastic members and president.

Lemon Bay GC - Outside meetings with designing women. Communication is going well. New floors being refurbished in clubhouse. Garden Work always keeps them busy.

Manatee River GC - Not meeting in person till next fall. Keeping in touch with members via email.

New Port Richey GC - Not holding in person meetings currently. Horticulture meets weekly outside to propagate plants and learn new techniques. Held plant sale and earned \$500, donated to Metropolitan Ministries.

Palm Harbor GC - Program theme of A Little bit of Everything keeps the members involved.

Plant City GC - Meetings are being held and they are having Steed farms come to talk about Community sponsored agriculture that connects the producer to the community.

Sarasota GC - Horticulture study group meets monthly and programs are held. Looking forward to The Gardens in Paradise Tour in March. Flower Show will be held next October.

St. Petersburg GC - Zoom meetings in progress and small circle meetings in person. Have had time to clean and renovate the building. City to spruce the outside, ready to embrace 2021! Waiting for our members to come back. Boutique redone too.

Sunset Park GC - meeting at club house with some members. Planning to hold Flower Show in March. A small, but mighty club.

Tampa GC members are meeting in small group within their circles. Full member meetings also take place.

Temple Terrace GC members enjoy wonderful newsletters and have won awards. Club Working on Plant Projects and great winner of the District VIII Grant.

Venice Area GC - Monthly meetings outdoors till Spring, Garden Tour will take place in March. Art in Bloom with floral designs at the Art Center is an upcoming event.

Valrico GC - Provides education for its members and the community.

District VIII summary:

Even though many events and activities that our clubs normally hold in the months from January to May are on hold till next year, we will follow the advice of our FFGC Membership chairs and Plan on Purpose. Such a great idea with a real focus to the future. Planning gives us hope and keeps us focused on the future. In many cases we are the glue that binds many of our members lives with activities and a reason to participate in creative and interesting events.

District VIII has tried to overcome some isolation the virus brought by bringing joy to its members while keeping in touch and looking forward to the future. Club members, presidents, Board of Directors have worked so hard to keep spirits up and positive attitudes going.

DISTRICT VII NEWS—(cont'd)

The Foliage GC of Apopka—(cont'd)

The Beautification Committee broke up into teams and delivered the arrangements to Brookdale Senior Living, Wellsprings Residence, Advent Health, Greenbrier Retirement and Bear Lake Retirement Home. All the facilities seemed to be thrilled and the committee enjoyed the experience delivering a little Christmas cheer to the residents and staff.



Beautification Chair Brenda Solomon stated, "We wanted to find a project we could do during the quarantine. My mother is in an assisted living facility over in Melbourne and has not been able to get out. We started thinking about something we could do to spread a little Christmas cheer over here in Apopka and the assisted living facilities seemed like a great

option." The six facilities were chosen to donate to and contacted to ask if they would like to receive a Christmas arrangement. They were all very appreciative, but one facility was not allowed to have fresh flowers. The florist put a card on each one that said Merry Christmas from the Foliage Garden Club of Apopka. We also did a personal Christmas card to accompany each arrangement. All the facilities were incredibly pleased.

Brenda thanked Sandy, Bobbie, and Clara for giving up their afternoon at this busy time of the year and all the work they did in preparation. She thanked President Jo Oliver for allowing the committee to go forward with this project and all her moral support!



Our President, Jo Oliver, has resigned because she will be moving to Valdosta to be with her daughters, after the loss of her husband this year. We will sure miss you next year and wish you the best.

Ixora GC of Sanford - Kathy Krasnoff, President

We had planned to start back with face-to-face meetings in November with an outside flower arranging workshop. Due to the uptick in Covid-19 cases and because I was in South Carolina, our meeting was canceled. We had booked a party venue and had planned to have a Christmas party for December. That also was scrapped. Instead, we are now planning to have a Zoom party. A Christmas bag will be delivered to each member's home with gifts from our board members the day prior to the meeting. We are planning to have presentations on easy decorating, opening of English crackers, and games (Xmas trivia). We will be dressed in Xmas attire and Zoom pictures will be taken of our event. Not the same as being in person but this is the next best thing. We moved our deposit and reservation for the party venue to our May meeting. We are planning to wear hats (maybe gloves!) and have a very special tea party. We hope to start our face-to-face meetings in February with an outside program. Our speaker will be discussing Antique Roses (how appropriate for Valentine's!) Though our fundraising has been curtailed this year, we did sell amaryllis bulbs and pecans. We are taking some of the money we had planned to give away this year and reallocating it to families that have been hit hardest by this virus. Even though we usually give to projects that are oriented toward horticulture endeavors, this year is different.

Lady Lake Garden Club – Claudette Frank, President

The Lady Lake Garden Club decorated a Holiday tree in the Lady Lake Library. Claudette Frank, Sue Cangialosi, several members, and Sue's granddaughter decorated the tree.



Lakes and Hills Garden Club – Carolyn Sonnentag, President

Lakes and Hills Garden Club held a socially distanced Christmas luncheon. Our officers are shown posing before a collection of beautiful poinsettias that we sold to members. We had only a small number of members attend but it was such a blessing to find a place that we could all enjoy lunch six feet apart. It was a tiny hint of normalcy – a gift for the Christmas season.

Orlando Garden Club – Georgene Parsons, President

Our December Board meeting and General Meeting were cancelled in December due to the concerns of the virus. Our October and November meetings were held in our beautiful Garden House with our speakers coming to us via Zoom. The few members sat with masks at tables six feet apart and all other precautions. So, with the small attendance, the membership decided to cancel the December meeting. Despite all this uneasiness, our members have given wonderfully to the various charities that are supported by the OGC. Hopefully in January we can begin the new year with moving toward some regularity of meeting and working towards our goals of successful gardening. One sad note: Ginger Long passed away several days ago. She was a member of Lake Silver Shores Circle where she held many leadership positions and was a National Garden Club Life Member.

Lake Silver Shores Circle – Ruth Heine, President

There were about 12 members at our November meeting; while enjoying a wonderful "Moving Art" video by Louie Schwartzberg, the circle members made 20 fleece lap-blankets to be donated to our circle charity – *Share the Care* – an adult day care and respite for frail, physically and cognitively impaired adults, including those diagnosed with Alzheimer's and Parkinson's disease. A special thanks to Vicki McKeague, Kay Clapham, and Frankie Smith for doing the lap-blanket prep work. At the end of the meeting each member received a copy of Mr. Schwartzberg "Moving Art" video, featuring deserts, flowers, forests, and oceans.

Pine Castle Garden Club – Pauline White, President

President sent a letter of encouragement to all members.

Sanford GC Wildflowers Circle - Paula White President

The Wildflower Circle of the Sanford Garden Club is rescheduling its open house event planned for March 2021. The future date for the event has not been determined due to the conditions regarding the Corona Virus. Once we all have a clear path beyond this health emergency, the future date of our event will be set. Anyone who wishes to receive updates on details about our open house can send an email address to: SGCwildflowercircle@gmail.com.

Spring Valley Garden Club - Bobette Young, President

Spring Valley Garden Club is taking advantage of our cooler weather by holding meetings in the park pavilion. Speakers feel safe with the social distancing the pavilion allows. In December we decorated the lampposts in our neighborhood with wreathes and bows, as well as adorning all our oak trees with big red bows which line our entrance.

As our neighbors trim their homes, yards and trees with holiday decorations members enjoy judging all the lights for Christmas and Hanukkah presenting the winner with a trophy.

Sweetwater Oaks Garden Club

Marion (Min) Schwenderman, President)

A "POP-social" brought 23 members of Sweetwater Oaks garden Club together, safely, October 29, for a fabulous time. Free raffles of hand painted pots, floral designs, handmade floral note cards were won by many attendees. Of course, personal conversation was the best gift of all, and brought everyone's spirits up. Our Holiday luncheon was cancelled due to the dire reports of the pandemic; Best to be safe than sorry, was the board's decision.

We are working toward getting all members knowledgeable to use Zoom for presentations and meetings. We had several virtual education sessions that were attended by one third of the membership.

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DISTRICT VIII NEWS—(cont'd)

District VIII summary—(cont'd)

I have been blessed to have been District Director for these past two years with all these remarkable people. It was a memorable time filled with some disappointments like the convention cancelled; but other glorious activities like traveling to the clubs to hand deliver the awards and meet with members at Garden and Plant sales. Talking with Club Presidents and sharing their energy and enthusiasm was the highlight of this administration. Our Zoom District Meeting was unique, fun, and entertaining. Looking forward to an in-person Spring District Meeting where I can turn over the District to Kitty Wallace who will be fantastic and keep District VIII Great!

District VIII is proud to announce the recipient of "The Diversity in the Garden Matching Grant Award" for \$500 to Temple Terrace Garden Club. The members have worked very hard to create an atmosphere of diversity for their membership. It presents an opportunity to create a more unique organization and a welcoming atmosphere. CONGRATULATIONS TEMPLE TERRACE-GARDEN CLUB

DISTRICT IX NEWS

Leslie Montwid, Director

We can attest to the fact that even though the CDC guidelines are making life difficult our clubs are still finding creative ways to get the job done.

Arcadia Garden Club - Lorraine Brauckhoff, President

They have devised a way to handle physically meeting at their clubhouse with social distancing and restricted lunch guidelines. They are planning a plant sale for the 29th of January. Also in the works are a Sip and Paint (painting on canvas) and a Pot People session where they will personalize clay pots. Proceeds from these projects will be used to make up for losses on rentals of their building.

Avon Park Founders Club - Anita Helbig, President

In keeping with tradition, Avon Park decorated City Hall for Christmas. Last year the club began using recyclable material to make the decorations. This year pudding cups were transformed into bells with mini pinecones as clappers. They were placed on wreaths and hung at doors and stair rails. This club is dedicated to recycling; members save newspaper which is donated to local businesses to be used as packing material.

Bouquet Garden Club - Lois Duel, President

Bouquet held their May Awards ceremony in October. They presented a Lifetime membership to Eugenia Tucker whose accomplishments include Bouquet President (twice), FFGC Hall of Fame, FFGC Pillar of Pride, Penny Pines Award, Winter Haven life Membership, Deep South Pillar of Pride, Life Member of National Garden Clubs, Inc. Additionally two Penny Pines awards were presented to Martha and Larry Walker and Christine Prussia.

November's meeting presented a background for "Project Love of Eloise". Donations helped buy Thanksgiving turkeys and Christmas hams. In December two SUVs were filled with gifts for this project and a delightful presentation by Lois Duel with Pam and Tom Bontecou gave insight into spices and herbs for the holidays.

District 8

Certificate of Appreciation

This certificate is awarded to
 TEMPLE TERRACE GARDEN CLUB
 FOR WINNING THE DISTRICT VIII
 MATCHING GRANT AWARD

ALL LATINA, PRESIDENT FFGC
 BARBARA RAO, DISTRICT VIII DIRECTOR

JANUARY 2020

DISTRICT IX NEWS—(cont'd)

The Garden Club of Cape Coral - Ann Block, President

This club dedicated a Blue Star marker on November 30th at their Eco Park Pavillion. The dedication coincided with Cape Coral's 50th Anniversary and was attended by veterans, the City of Cape Coral, FFGC and the Garden Club of Cape Coral. The marker is surrounded by more than 100 beautiful red and white flowers at 2500 SE 24th St.

On December 5th they held their annual Holly Days Gathering which had to be adjusted to take place at Rotary Park with distancing, masks, and pared down refreshments. It was an opportune time to talk about the big plant sale "March in the Park" at Rotary park on March 13th.

Estero Garden Club - Paula Smith, President

As they move into Spring months Estero looks forward to more outdoor trips beginning in March with a culinary herbs presentation by Master Gardener Dolly Tomalinas which will be held at the Fort Myers Beach library in their open air space. With many orchid lovers in the group they will visit Sundance Orchids in April to learn about their care and maybe take some home! As they will not be enjoying their end of the year luncheon and plant auction, they will be listening by ZOOM to Penny Jarret about the NOAA-Planet Stewards Education Project grant which she received focusing on the island's solution to nutrient pollution. Part of this grant is designed to encourage use of native plants in landscaping by establishing demonstration gardens.

The Garden Club of Lakeland - Janette Baggett, President

Circles continue to meet in small groups devising many activities which can be held out of doors visiting native nurseries, an apiary and volunteering for the city gardens by propagating and pruning. An outdoor fundraiser was initiated in November to paint curbside house numbers and the response has residents waiting in a queue. In December 350 floral arrangements were made at various homes, garages and gardens to be distributed through the Viste Meals on Wheels Christmas dinners.



A Habitat home has been backed into February when Evergreen Circle will landscape the yard and present the new homeowners with yard tools. The combined circles are planting a tree on Arbor Day in the new Crago Park. The planting, an annual tradition, is sponsored by Sturdy Oaks Circle and the City of Lakeland.

Lake Placid Garden Club - Karen Denning, President

Several members assisted FI Fish and Wildlife with weeding and potting of oaks to be planted on the Lake Wales Ridge. Known as "Little Acorns" the club has been helping the Ridge Rangers and biologists to bring back the scrub jays. Having helped with this project for several years members work monthly in shifts weeding and potting. The rewards are seeing the growth of oaks, olives and native flowers. Their Garden Therapy program, which was formerly craft sessions with residents of Lake Placid Health Center, was revamped to make arrangements from members yards which are delivered to smiles from their recipients. The rose garden on Main St and memorial garden at the American Legion are being maintained.



The Holiday Home and Garden Tour was held on December 5th and was successful in raising proceeds for scholarships and camperships

Port Charlotte Garden Club - Connie Ferris, President

Port Charlotte has jumped in to participate in Charlotte County's Centennial Celebration which will highlight the club's 63 year history with "A Garden Extravaganza" on March 27th. Education will be provided regarding butterfly gardens, exotic plants and succulents. Proceeds from sales of plants, craft items and yard art will be dedicated to scholarship awards.



Punta Gorda Garden Club

Mary Yeomans, President

Observing social distancing, November's meeting was held at South County Park. Members brought tall candleholders and were led by Vinita Jones and Claudia Chopp to make Thanksgiving table arrangements

A dedication ceremony was held at the Charlotte Harbor Environmental Center immediately after the funeral for Elise Haymans. A bench was placed by the butterfly



garden dedicated to her tenure as FFGC President. The family invited all to a meal in the pavilion where many shared fond memories of Elise.



Elise Haymans

(L to R): Sarah Corey, Branch Haymans, Michael Haymans, Richard Haymans

(editor's note): see page 9 of the Summer issue (vol: 58-1) of "The Florida Gardener"

The Flower Show for March was cancelled but plans are to have one next year. Members continue to tend the public gardens but may move to the new library if the old library is sold.

The club partnered with "TEAM Punta Gorda" to beautify the downtown with street planters and will plan the second phase of the "America in Bloom" program.

A fundraiser called "Hop' N into Spring" will be held on March 6th at the First United Methodist Church in Punta Gorda. We hope to raise money selling crafts, plants and artwork created by members. Please check the club website. Also, space will be rented at the Citywide Garage Sale held on February 6th. Proceeds from these activities will raise money to replace lost revenue for scholarships due to the "Holly Days Home" tour which had to be cancelled.

Winter Haven Garden Council Clubs (Bouquet, Camellia and Gardenia) were hosted by the City of Winter Haven to an "Appreciation Tea" as they donated their center to the city in exchange for use of the premises.

Avon Park Correctional Institute

After a total lockdown and many cases of the Covid-19 virus, the nursery now has trustees on the premises. Retired manager, Tommy Sauls works with the present manager, Officer John Meeks, as a volunteer to educate the workers on the FNCLA principles. It is hopeful that there will be a spring plant sale in May.

Florida Landscape and Design School

Holding the final class by ZOOM in October after delays from the shutdown, District IX has completed instruction for all four of the landscape classes.

A very hearty and appreciative thank you goes to Vicki Williamson who chaired this endeavor from beginning to end.

DISTRICT X NEWS

Submitted by *Michelle Maguire*, District X Director Elect

At Pipers Landing in Palm City we have been planting Dahoon Hollies. I love seeing these trees especially around Christmas time. We are installing two nine-foot trees of this cultivar to celebrate Florida Arbor Day which is January 15. The trees were not transported at this time to their designated spot for me to take a picture of them. Instead, I took a photo of one of the Dahoon Hollies we planted last year for Florida Arbor Day. I also took a picture of our Butterfly Garden which is in the same area where the trees are to be planted.

DISTRICT X NEWS—(cont'd)

It is so important that we try to plant native trees as recommended by our Plant America With Trees program. We must remind ourselves that trees remove carbon dioxide and reward us by giving us oxygen. What a great gift from Mother Nature.



DISTRICT XI NEWS

Jeri Decker, Director



District XI would like to welcome our new Director for 2021 – 2023, Sharon Lambert Bogard (pictured at left).

We wish you healthy, happy years ahead.

Happy New Year, were all looking to getting vaccinated and being able to meet in person.

Most of our clubs are still meeting virtually, with one of our clubs meeting in person with approximately 20 members.

Pompano Beach Garden Club members have been meeting in person, small meetings with approximately 20 members. Our members presented the program in November and December. We have birthday lunches outdoors with 12-15 people. We contributed plants to the reading garden at Habitat for Humanity's Reading Garden in Pompano Beach. One or two members make a floral design to contribute to the Broward Children's center once a week. We prepared the kitchen garden at Sample-McDougald House with new soil, then replanted, and re-mulched. This labor was performed by 3 groups of 3-4 very dedicated members. We are having a gift drive for the Broward Children's center.

Garden Club of Lighthouse Point will be having all meetings via ZOOM until further notice.

Meeting presentation on "FL NATIVE TREES -Best for our birds, bees and bugs", Mona Johnston

Meeting presentation 'DIET' is not just a 4-letter word -Dr. Marlene Wolf

Holiday Lunch presentation "POINSETTIA'S - what to do with them after the holidays.

Our Moringa circle speakers for each meeting are Moringa members (a first). We could not get any "outsider" to present via Zoom. Some of our programs were Winning the Blue Grow for the show, Compost: Toil for Healthy Soil, And Celebrate the Season. Our youth groups have been on hold.

Ft. Lauderdale Garden Club: As with most garden clubs, FLGC has only met virtually since commencing our "season" in October. Our Board has agreed to conduct its business via zoom into the new year and most likely beyond. We held our first general club meeting in October via zoom with the intent that it would be a "learning session" for our members. Although it might have been initially intimidating, those that have joined the zoom meetings have had few issues and are becoming more comfortable with the arrangement each month.

Our biggest challenge for our meetings has been the scheduled speakers who have mostly declined to present their programs via zoom. Some of our members have graciously filled in as speakers and have done a wonderful job. We are all looking forward to Janet Black's design presentation, "Designs to Inspire", in January via zoom.

FLGC was featured in an article in a local publication, "Neighbors of Victoria Park and the Isles." The article appeared in the December issue much to our delight!

Our club's activities have continued as much as social distancing will permit. Our hugely talented and committed Grounds committee have been working steadily in our gardens around our garden center. They have never looked more beautiful and have been a great source of interest for visitors coming to Birch State Park. Our Shade house committee decided to set up monthly plant sales that are open to park visitors and have sold all plants that were made available.

We will continue to be involved with our Youth programs in several of the Ft. Lauderdale schools. We will be providing plants, seeds, growing material and instructions to the students in January. Their nurturing efforts will be showcased at our annual Youth Flower show that will hopefully be scheduled in the spring if permissible.

Our two largest projects and fundraisers, our annual Standard Flower Show and the Secret Garden Tour, have both been postponed until February, 2022. It was discouraging to conclude that postponing was the safest and most responsible option for our members and for the public.

Our club's most valuable asset is our extraordinary membership. We have a core of determined and dedicated volunteers who commit their time and expertise in many capacities to ensure the continued vitality of our organization.

The **Garden Club of Coral Springs** has completed the dedication of the Blue Star Memorial during the towns Veterans Memorial along with planting a native butterfly and bee garden in the park, with approximately 60 % member participation.

We successfully completed our online auction helping to raise funds for scholarships. Our awards committee submitted application for two awards Blue Star and Newsletter.

Our club this year has started a Patrons membership called "Bouquet of Giving" this has enabled us to pay for Blue Star Memorial and garden, money for scholarships as well as business expenses.

We are currently hand building succulent pots and filling with succulent from members gardens to be given out on Valentines Day to a local Assisted Living Facility.

We also have started the Golden Bee Award. Each month a member who has gone above and beyond receive a certificate of appreciation along with a handmade honey milk bee soap, and wooden carved bee both made by our members.

We continue to meet by zoom and had presentations on Sea Turtles, Orchids, and Edible Gardens.

Coral Springs Garden Club also continues to host the Environmental School by zoom.

DISTRICT XII NEWS

Jean Hawa, Director

Counties: Dade, Monroe

Flower and Wildflower: Musaceae Stretlitzia Reginae & Gallardia Blanket Flower

Butterfly: Schaus Swallowtail

Garden Clubs: Coral Gables, Coral Pines, Ken Pines, Marathon, Miami Beach, Pinecrest, South Dade, South Miami



DISTRICT XII NEWS—(cont'd)

Coral Gables Garden Club - Judy Mangasarian, President

Greetings from the Coral Gables Garden Club!

We are doing well despite COVID-19 restrictions by having all of our meetings via Zoom. Our programs have been given as PowerPoint presentations and our workshops have been videotaped and posted on our website for our members to view at any time. At this point, we will not be meeting in person until health authorities deem it safe to do so.

Our newest effort to increase the urban forest, Project Canopy, took root, literally, when we planted three large oaks and three *Cassia bakerianus* at two of Coral Gables' public schools. Steve Pearson, of Tremendous Miami, is planting a native garden for us at a third school, and two more schools are making plans for their trees later this year. When we sent a plea for donations to this project, the response was immediate and generous, including the donation of a whole tree by District Director, Jean Hawa, in memory of Samuel Gay, the former Principal of G.W. Carver Middle School. Thank you, Jean! This "first ever virtual fund-raiser" was quite a success. Our new website, www.coralgablesgardenclub.org made this possible, as well as giving us a platform for blogs about the environment and videos of floral designs. Please check us out!

In other news, we will be working with the City to establish a pollinator plant demonstration garden at a newly purchased vacant lot, destined to become a park. We look forward to keeping a "Little Free Library" well stocked with books at the Betsy Adams and Coral Gables Garden Club Park. The City is making progress on the Lamar Louise Curry Park, using a bequest from our long-time member, Miss Curry, and planned for land across from the Venetian Pool. The Garden Club has offered planting suggestions and will work with the City to make it a colorful vision of which Miss Curry would be proud.

Many of our events in the next four months may be cancelled, but we are finding other ways to engage our members and the public in the joys of gardening!

Coral Pines Garden Club - Sandra Deery, President and Dacia Jean Steiner, 1st Vice-President

Friends, as we happily say goodbye-bye to 2020, let's take a moment to be grateful and proud that we were able to successfully conduct three Zoom club meetings with interesting topics and speakers, nearly 60% of our members completed the Survey Monkey because they want our club to be the best it can be, and we started to form a partnership with the Deering Estate that will increase the visibility of our club, create engagement opportunities and help with recruitment. Sadly, we lost two members to the eternal garden, Delma Jean Rumenick and Barbara Lape.

To end the year on another high note, we want to proudly announce that we have been awarded a \$1,000 National Garden Club "Plant America" grant to support our partnership with the Deering Estate's Brook Trail Restoration Project.

Ken Pines Garden Club - Elaine Mills, President.

We have not met since March. I sent emails and have tried to arrange get togethers but no one is interested. We are planning a February meeting with a speaker but that will not be firm until after the FFGC Board of Directors Meeting.

Marathon Garden Club - Scarlett Duffy, President

At this point, we will continue to have our board meetings at the Club. Our General Meetings are questionable. We hope that by April, we will be able to have some sort of installation of new officers and there is a plan to have a butterfly garden certification of up to 15 members. We would hope to go into the community and help with establishing and certifying a few gardens.

We will continue to offer our scholarships to graduating seniors and a committee will be collecting applications. We continue to maintain our gardens and work the nursery and gift shop.

Things are still slow and we look forward to being able to get a vaccine. Take care and stay well,

Miami Beach Garden Club - Leticia Gunn, President

We are continuing our monthly meetings at the Miami Beach Botanical Garden virtually and in-person. Due to COVID concerns, we canceled the flower show and membership luncheon. However, in the 2nd week in March we are planning the annual home garden tour adding a botanical art display in several locations.

South Dade Garden Club - Loretta Alvarez, President

Our garden club year started differently than expected due to the COVID-19 pandemic. We were forced to rethink our year, since we couldn't meet at the Fruit and Spice Park, as usual. We began having Zoom meetings, as did many other groups, but they didn't have the same impact as our usual meetings and somewhat lacked the social interactions that we were accustomed to. Nonetheless, we had our meetings and our members were able to learn new things about gardening.

We are starting a new YouTube channel, which has been created, but won't be officially launched until a little later in the year. Our Facebook page has gained popularity within our group and helped to bring us new members. But it was our new WhatsApp page that really united our members and helped them to interact on a daily basis.

We had our first event in November with our first fundraiser at the "Thanks Growing" event at the Fruit and Spice Park. We were selling strawberry plants, which proved to be a big success and introduced new members to our club. We will have more than doubled our membership in the first half of the year so far, which is impressive since our first in-person meeting was in December at our Holiday Party, which was a catered event, with gift swag packages for everyone attending.

Our first meeting of 2021 will be on the Art of Bonsai, presented by Bonsai expert, Randy Brooks. We are following that meeting with a field trip to the Morikami Japanese Museum and Gardens. We also plan on having a class on making light weight Hypertufa pots in one of our classes. We have also restarted our monthly Blooming Artists painting classes and plan on various hands-on workshops with topics ranging from Plant Propagation and Grafting to Making Your Own Beauty Products with ingredients from your garden. We are also planning on having our annual Garden Tour, which we were unable to do last year, because of COVID-19.

Despite all, it is proving to be a wonderful year and our club members are very excited about what lies ahead!

South Miami Garden Club - Nancy Browning Maszta, President

Over this past summer SMGC Officers planned for the 2020-2021 Garden Club year. Of utmost concern was the health and safety of members in the middle of a global health crisis. Conversations with members regarding their preferences for meeting led to a hybrid format - in-person meetings for those comfortable with masks and social distancing at a carefully selected facility, as well as meetings via Zoom for those needing to stay at home. The lovely luncheons previously provided by members throughout the year were replaced with delicious, catered, boxed lunches. In-person meetings October through December have been attended by 19-22 members each month. Additionally, four to nine members have attended via Zoom. Thanks to the VPs for Programs for making Zoom possible.

December 1st at our monthly meeting there was a focus on our mini fundraiser a **Make, Bake or Grow Auction**. Members participated in the auction either in-person or via Zoom. We had outstanding auction items contributed by members as well as FUN! Total funds raised from our event \$1,356.

DISTRICT XII NEWS—(cont'd)

South Miami Garden Club (cont'd)

On December 7th, Pearl Harbor Day, members placed wreaths at the **Blue Star Memorial Highway Marker**. The marker was donated and placed in December of 2017 by SMGC in collaboration with the City of South Miami on the corner of US1 and 80th Street in South Miami. It is "A tribute to the Armed Forces who have defended the United States of America". Memorial Markers are placed by local Garden Clubs along major thoroughfares across the United States to honor our service men and women.

The site was stunning with the holiday wreaths and red periwinkles that surrounded the marker. The flowers were planted in November after club members spent time on a Saturday afternoon weeding around the base of the marker. SMGC then provided the flowers to the City of South Miami for planting. Thanks to SMGC members and the City of South Miami for overseeing the project.

Club members connected with the South Miami community again as they decorated the gargantuan **Christmas tree at the South Miami/Coral Gables Elks' Lodge**, our new home away from home. Located in the entrance hall, the tree was visible to all who entered during the holiday season. Thanks to the Elves who volunteered.

As 2020 ended, I thought about December of 2019 when we had "no clue" about what was in front of us. Fortunately, we are resilient. We can learn and we have learned. People have tapped into their ingenuity, their generosity, and their adaptability. The pandemic has forced us to change the way we do some things. As a result, we have managed to be creative in our thinking and often more efficient. I am optimistic the positive changes will follow us into the future.

"There is light ahead. There is new energy coming our way"
(Maria Shriver, *The Sunday Paper*).

An Extremely Generous Gift

Tina Tuttle, Wekiva Youth Camp Chairman, FFGC 2VP



For the most part, the year 2020 was incredibly disheartening. But, as the year was coming to an end, a bright light of **hope**, brighter than the Christmas Star, came shining over our Wekiva Youth Camp! We were contacted by, Cindy Zimmermann, youngest daughter of Ann and Troy Todd, 32-year members of Sweetwater Oaks Garden Club in Longwood. Many of you know and remember Ann and Troy from their longtime association with the "Wekiva Wheels" that helped with camper registrations each Sunday during camp sessions. The Todd's and their family have decided to **make a difference and leave a legacy** to the Wekiva Youth Camp with a very generous monetary donation to our Building and Maintenance Fund. The funds from the Ann and Troy Todd Charitable Fund are earmarked to build a new building that will include multi-use spaces for educational purposes, storage, recreational activities and contingency functions.

We are excited to incorporate many of the standards for a **LEEDS green building** in this design! An ad hoc committee, headed by President-Elect Marge Hendon, was formed to imagine and prioritize a conceptual building plan, working closely with the state park administrators, for approval. Input was sought from many camp stakeholders but the goal was always to maintain the beauty and balance of the ecologically sensitive sandhill community and the feel of camp. Our ideas started out modestly but grew as we brainstormed about what the future of camp will look like. We hope you will be pleased with what we envision!

Ann and Troy Todd grew up together as childhood sweethearts, surrounded by tobacco fields, back in the woods of rural Windsor, North Carolina, elevation 3 feet. They have been married 68 years and have two daughters, Cindy and Sandra. Troy worked in the communications field for over 40 years until his retirement. They have been active not only in Sweetwater Oaks Garden Club but also in their church and community. They wanted their gift to go to a place where it would make a difference and not given to an organization with already overflowing coffers.

If you wish to leave a legacy to the Wekiva Youth Camp, please contact your philanthropy advisor. Our camp is nearing its 50th anniversary and many upgrades and renovations are needed. The Building and Maintenance Fund, long administered by Marion Hilliard, is encumbered and needs replenishing. Please consider making a pledge to help us fulfill our mission of "Campers Today-Environmental Leaders of Tomorrow".

Amazon Affiliates Program

Linda Feifarek-Johnson, Chairman

There has been some confusion about the Amazon Affiliates Program. It is in NO way connected to the Amazon Smile Program. FFGC does not belong to the Smile program because we do not get as much money back from that program. Some members have tried to use the Smile Program and were informed that FFGC does not belong to it and it has created a bit of confusion. The Amazon Affiliates Program can ONLY be accessed through the FFGC.com website

I have also included the instructions to make FFGC.org an icon on your phone or tablet. Once you have made FFGC an icon, you won't have to google it every time you want to access Amazon through FFGC. This will save you a step in the process.

To set FFGC as an app in iPhone or iPad – google and pull up FFGC home page on your iPhone or iPad. On bottom of the iPhone page find a square with an arrow pointing up. This square is at the top of the screen on an iPad. Tap this icon. A menu screen comes up. Scroll down to and tap on "add to home screen". Rename the icon if you wish.

To set FFGC as an app on android - open your browser. Tap the browser icon on your home screen or app drawer. open the menu (press the menu button on your device or tap the menu button icon in the upper-right hand corner of the browser window). Tap settings, tap general, tap "set home page" and then tap OK to save.

Once you have set FFGC home page as an app, tap on it, scroll down to the bottom and tap Amazon. Once the Amazon home page comes up, you will have to sign in ONLY the first time you use it. After that, Amazon will remember you and you will automatically be signed in.

How easy is that? Easy-peasy. Now I want to see our sales soar!

CONTINUING EDUCATION

NGC GARDENING SCHOOLS:

Barbara Hadsell, (561) 635-8809
Email: BarbaraHadsell@cs.com

Refer to the National Garden Club web site for School schedules and registration information.

GardenClub.org

NGC ENVIRONMENTAL SCHOOLS:

Nancy Richards, (561) 702-0550
Email: NancyRRichards@gmail.com

District XI

Course 4: [ZOOM](https://www.zoom.us) **Apr. 15-16, 2021**

Water & Related Issues

Host Club Chair: *Jeri Decker*

Garden Club of Coral Springs

Registration: CoralSpringsGardenClub.org

Contact: *Jeri Decker*, (954) 913-1616

Email: JKenJeri@yahoo.com

NGC LANDSCAPE DESIGN SCHOOLS:

Sue Roberts, (352)-357-3712
Email: Sue@GeorgeSueRoberts.com

Refer to the National Garden Club web site for School schedules and registration information.

GardenClub.org

NGC FLOWER SHOW SCHOOLS:

Susan Hillson, (561) 333-0740
Email: Susan.Hillson@gmail.com

District XI, XII

Course IV in person **Mar. 21-24, 2021**

Ft. Lauderdale, FL

Instructors: *Jan Griffin* (H)

Janice Hamlin (D,P)

Chair: *Becky Schuberth*

Email: BJSchube1@gmail.com

FLORAL DESIGN STUDY UNITS

Carol Lucia, FFGC Chairman
(727) 393-8276 (h) - (727) 656-3207 (c)
Email: CLucia02LUC@aol.com

Basic Units (1-6) and Advanced Units (7-9)

Information packets for Floral Design Study will be sent to Chairman, including handouts.

All Floral Design Study Units must be registered!

TROPICAL SHORT COURSE

Tri-Refresher

Michelle Maguire, Chairman
Email: MouthMom@yahoo.com

District X in person **Jan. 19-20, 2022**

Greenacres Community Center
501 Swain Blvd
Greenacres, FL

NORTH SHORT COURSE

Kat Spieker, Chairman
(850) 678-9898—(h) - (850) 687-6381 (c)
Email: spkfreedom@embarqmail.com

District I in person **Aug. 12-13, 2021**
Panhandle 8 am - 4 pm

Theme: "Defend Florida, Its Beauty, Resources, and History"

Location to be Determined

Host to be Determined

FFGC SPRING BOARD MEETING—(2021)

Pre Convention Board Meeting **Apr. 11, 2021**

Post Convention Board Meeting **Apr. 14, 2021**

Hilton Oceanfront Resort

100 N. Atlantic Ave.

Daytona Beach, FL 32118

(386) 254-8200

Group Code: [FFGC21](https://www.ffgc.org)

Group Name: Florida Federation of Garden Clubs

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.

Available in 8 ounce and pint containers on Ebay or ask your local independent garden retailer.



94th Annual FFGC Convention Opportunity Drawing



OIL PAINTING: Seaport Village,
Size 4'x5', Solid Wood Frame



METAL DESIGN SCULPTURE:
By Ken Schwartz



CERAMIC VASE:
By Hergesheimer



TWO NIGHT STAY: Hilton Oceanfront Resort,
Includes Tour Package & Dinner for Two



TURTLE LOVE: Sterling Silver
Necklace & Drop Earrings



DAISY BLUES GARDEN ITEMS: Includes Doormat,
Mailbox Wrap, Flag & 2-12" Flower Pots



CLASSIC CHAPEL BIRDHOUSE:
Includes Outdoor Pole



FITBIT CHARGE 3:
Fitness tracker

Suggested Donation: \$2 per ticket. **ORDER TICKETS TODAY!**

Make Check Payable to: FFGC 2021 Convention

Mail to: FFGC 2021 Convention PO Box 560111 Rockledge, FL 32955

Laura Ennis, Chairman, laura.e.ennis@gmail.com; 321-543-7130

The drawing will be held on April 13, 2021. You need not be present to win. Your generous donations support FFGC aims, goals and special projects. The Florida Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc. is a 501c(3) organization. IRS rules and regulations apply. Winners of prizes valued at \$600 or more, will be issued IRS form W-2G. Your donations may be tax deductible as allowed by the IRS. Consult a tax advisor for more information. One prize per winning ticket.

FFGC BYLAWS—Proposed Amendments

BYLAWS to be considered for adoption at the April 2021 FFGC Annual Convention. This includes Bylaws that were unable to be approved at the April 2020 FFGC Convention.

* AMENDMENTS PROPOSED FOR ADOPTION AT THE APRIL 2020 FFGC CONVENTION. However, the 2020 FFGC Convention was cancelled due to Covid-19.

* FFGC BYLAWS - PROPOSED AMENDMENTS - SEPTEMBER 2020 AND JANUARY 2021

* CHARTER, ARTICLE VI, SEC 3

The Board of Directors shall consist of its Officers, **past** Presidents of the Federation, the Chairman of the Headquarters and Endowment Trustees, the **Chairman of each Committee** authorized by or appointed pursuant to the Bylaws, and one Director (referred to as “District Director”) from each District of the State of Florida established pursuant to the Bylaws.

STRIKE: **past**

Chairman of each Committee

INSERT: **former**

members of the Board of Directors

If adopted, this would read – “The Board of Directors shall consist of its Officers, all former Presidents of the Federation, the Chairman of the Headquarters and Endowment Trustees, **members of the Board of Directors** authorized by or appointed pursuant to Bylaws and one Director (referred to as “District Director”) from each District of the State of Florida established pursuant to the Bylaws.

RATIONALE:

The original documents were written in 1924 with FOUR Districts only and minimal clubs/circle.

This Charter amendment simply allows each President the flexibility to appoint a Board of Directors deemed necessary to achieve the goals and objectives of FFGC and that particular administration. NGC does not limit members serving on the Board of Directors to Chairmen only.

* ARTICLE VII DUTIES OF OFFICERS Sec 1 President c (1) c; (2) g and (2) i:

Section 1 c Appoint at the beginning of each term, the Corresponding Secretary, the Parliamentarian and the **Chairmen of Committees** except the Chairman of FFGC Nominating Committee **and** the Chairman of the Headquarters and Endowment Trustees.

STRIKE: **Chairmen of Committees**
and

INSERT: **members of the Board of Directors except**
and the Chairman of the Strategic Planning Committee

If adopted this would read – “Appoint at the beginning of each term, the Corresponding Secretary, the Parliamentarian and the **members of the Board of Directors** except the Chairman of FFGC Nominating Committee, the Chairman of Headquarters and Endowment Trustees **and the Chairman of the Strategic Planning Committee.**

Section 1 c (1) Appointments of **committee chairmen** made at the beginning of each term shall be subject to the approval of the Officers, District Directors and **Past** Presidents at a meeting called by the President for that purpose.

STRIKE: **committee chairmen**
Past

INSERT: **members of the Board of Directors**
Former

If adopted this would read – “Appointments of **members of the Board of Directors** made at the beginning of each term shall be subject to the approval of the Officers, District Directors, and **Former** Presidents at a meeting called by the President for that purpose.

FFGC BYLAWS—Proposed Amendments

Section 1 c (2) g Direct the activities of all officers and **chairmen**.

STRIKE: chairmen

INSERT: members of the Board of Directors

If adopted, this would read – “Direct the activities of all officers and **members of the Board of Directors.**”

Section 1 c (2) i Appoint, as requested by the First Vice President, **Committee Chairmen** whose duties overlap administrations.

STRIKE: Committee Chairmen

INSERT: members of the Board of Directors

If adopted this would read “Appoint, as requested by the First Vice President, **members of the Board of Directors** whose duties overlap administrations.”

RATIONALE FOR ART VII OFFICERS (President and President Elect) are to be consistent with verbiage “members of the Board of Directors” instead of Chairman.

* ARTICLE VII DUTIES OF OFFICERS

Section 2 President Elect b Select potential **Chairmen of Committees**

STRIKE: Chairmen of Committees

INSERT: members of the Board of Directors

If adopted this would read “Select potential **members of the Board of Directors.**”

* ARTICLE IX ELECTION OF OFFICERS **INSERT NEW: Section 3 NATIONAL/STATE EMERGENCY**

In the event a National/State Emergency prevents the Election of Officers to be held at the FFGC Annual Convention, elections may be held by mail. This procedure follows NGC adopted guideline.

1. The Recording Secretary will send each Club, Circle or Council President an email for nominations of persons wishing to be a candidate for consideration as an FFGC Officer. The Slate of Officers presented by the Nominating Committee will be included with this email. The date and time nominations close will be stated on the Recording Secretary’s email announcement.
Name of person wishing to be nominated must be received within five days of original email from the FFGC Recording Secretary. The name of nominee along with address, telephone and email address must accompany nomination. The Office being sought must be included and permission from the person being nominated to have their name placed on the ballot. The Nominating Committee Chairman will authenticate request to be placed on the ballot.
2. Ballots shall be sent by electronic/postal mail to:
 - a. Board of Directors as delegates
 - b. Presidents of Clubs, Circles, and Council as delegates with the correct number of additional ballots for the Club, Circle and Council based on FFGC Bylaw ARTICLE XI, Representation.
3. The date and time ballots must be received shall be annotated on ballots. All ballots must be returned to FFGC Headquarters within fifteen (15) days via electronic or postal mail. The Electronic Ballot should indicate “Ballot” on subject line. The postal mail should indicate “Ballot” on envelope.
4. Three tellers will be appointed by the President to count ballots at FFGC Headquarters.
5. A plurality of the ballots returned shall determine the results.
6. Immediately upon the report of the Tellers to the FFGC President, the President and/or Nominating Committee Chairman will notify the candidates of the election results. The President will notify the delegates of election results. The Officers elected shall assume their duties immediately upon notification except for the Treasurer who shall assume the duties at the close of the fiscal year.

FFGC BYLAWS—Proposed Amendments

* ARTICLE X MEETINGS INSERT NEW: Section 3 NATIONAL/STATE EMERGENCY

If an FFGC Annual Convention cannot be held in the event of a National/State Emergency, official business may be conducted to include but not limited to Election of Officers –FFGC ARTICLE IX and Bylaw Amendments FFGC ARTICLE XXI. Bylaws may be approved invoking the Florida Statute 617.0303 Emergency Powers. Refer to FFGC ARTICLE IX-Election of Officers; ARTICLE XXI-Amendments: FFGC Standing Rule # 26 E-Mail Voting Guidelines and FFGC Standing Rule # 27 Guidelines for FFGC Electronic and Telephone Meetings.

* * ARTICLE XIII BOARD OF DIRECTORS

* Section 1 The Board of Directors shall consist of the Officers of FFGC, **Past** Presidents of FFGC, District Directors, Chairman of the Headquarters and Endowment Trustees and **Chairmen of Committees**.

STRIKE: **Past** **Chairman of Committees** **INSERT:** **Former** **appointed Board Members**

If adopted this would read – The Board of Directors shall consist of the Officers of FFGC, **Former** Presidents of FFGC, District Directors, Chairman of the Headquarters and Endowment Trustees and **appointed Board Members**.

* Section 3 Each Officer, District Director, Chairman of the Headquarters and Endowment Trustees and **Chairman of each Committee** shall....

STRIKE: **Chairman of each Committee** **INSERT:** **members of the Board of Directors**

If adopted, this will read – Each Officer, District Director, Chairman of the Headquarters and Endowment Trustees and **members of the Board of Directors** shall.....*no further change....*

* INSERT NEW:

Section 5 In the event of a National/State Emergency, official business may be conducted invoking Florida Statutes 617.0303 Emergency Powers. Meeting may be conducted with a quorum present using video/audio conferencing or similar telecommunication invoking Florida Statute 617.0303 Emergency Powers. A quorum of the Board of Directors shall be one-half (½) of the members serving on the current Board of Directors.

* ARTICLE XV STRATEGIC PLANNING COMMITTEE

Section 1 Membership a Three (3) members to be **Chairmen** on the current Board of Directors appointed by the President with the approval of the Board of Directors. Three (3) members **At Large elected** by the Board of Directors with one (1) serving a two-year term and two (2) serving a three-year term.

STRIKE: **Chairmen** **At Large** **INSERT:** **servicing on the current Board of Directors**

If adopted, this will read – Three (3) members **servicing on the current Board of Directors** appointed by the President with the approval of the Board of Directors. Three (3) members on the current Board of Directors elected by the Board of Directors with one (1) serving a two-year term and two (2) serving a three-year term.

RATIONALE: The term “At Large” is vague and does not convey criteria of persons to be elected.

* ARTICLE XVI BYLAWS COMMITTEE

Section 3 Election The Nominating Committee for the Bylaws Committee would be **elected** in the Fall of the even numbered years (beginning September 2020). Bylaws Committee members elected in Winter of odd numbered years to begin serving at the Post Convention Meeting of the odd numbered years. Elected for a two -year term with an option for a second two-year term. (Committee members appointed do not have term limit restriction.)

STRIKE: **elected** **INSERT:** **selected; The Chairman shall be appointed by the President and Two (2) members shall be elected by the Board of Directors.**

FFGC BYLAWS—Proposed Amendments

* ARTICLE XVI BYLAWS COMMITTEE

Section 3 Election (cont'd)

If adopted, this will read “The Nominating Committee for the Bylaws Committee would be **selected** in the Fall of the even numbered years (beginning September 2020). **The Chairman shall be appointed by the President and two (2) members shall be elected by the Board of Directors.** Bylaws Committee members elected in Winter of odd numbered years to begin serving at the Post Convention meetings of the odd numbered years. Elected for a two-year term with an option for a second two-year term.

(Committee members appointed do not have a term limit restriction.)

RATIONALE: The Bylaw did not specify the number serving on the Nominating Committee nor the Process/procedure for the Committee selection.

* ARTICLE XVII COMMITTEES

Section 3 CHAIRMEN

a. The **Chairman of Committees**, except the FFGC Nominating Committee; Headquarters and Endowment Trustees and Strategic Planning Committee shall be appointed by the President at the beginning of each term subject to the approval of the Officers, District Directors and Former Presidents. Subsequent appointments of **Committee Chairmen** shall be approved by the Board of Directors.

STRIKE: CHAIRMEN, Chairmen of Committees, Committee Chairman

INSERT: MEMBERS OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

members of the board of directors

Chairman; Chairman; Chairman; FFGC; Early Appointments;

members to the Board of Directors.

If adopted, will read:

Section 3 MEMBERS OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The **members of the Board of Directors**, except the FFGC Nominating Committee **Chairman**, Headquarters and Endowment Trustees **Chairman** and Strategic Planning Committee **Chairman** shall be appointed by the President at the beginning of each term subject to the approval of the Officers, District Directors, Former **FFGC** Presidents and **Early Appointments** to the Board of Directors. Subsequent appointments of **members to the Board of Directors** shall be approved by the Board of Directors.

RATIONALE: Consistent wording - the Board of Directors are members rather than Chairmen.

* ARTICLE XIX DISTRICTS **INSERT NEW**

Section 4 f

In the event of a National/State Emergency, an Electronic/Telephone meeting may be scheduled to conduct necessary business of the District. The protocol for this meeting is developed by the District using the Bylaws/Standing Rules of the District and guidelines of Standing Rule # 26 and # 27. Two consecutive meetings of a District may not be cancelled.

* ARTICLE XXI AMENDMENTS: **INSERT NEW**

Section 3

In the event of a National/State Emergency, the Bylaws may be amended invoking the Florida Statutes 617.0303 Emergency Powers and 617.0207 Emergency Bylaws. Bylaws approved invoking the FL Statutes will be in effect until the termination of the emergency. The Bylaws approved during the time of the National/State Emergency must stand adoption by the delegates at the next FFGC Annual Convention.

TENTATIVE Schedule Of Events

FFGC 94th Annual Convention
 Hilton Oceanfront Resort, Daytona Beach, FL
 Sunday, April 11 - Tuesday, April 13, 2021

Sunday, April 11

8:00 am – 10:15 am	Finance Meeting
9:30 am – 11:15 am	FFSJ Meeting (FI Flower Show Judges)
9:30 am – 3:30 pm	Vendors, Educational Exhibits, Invitationals PLACED
10:30 am – 12:15 pm	Headquarters & Endowment Trustees Meeting
11:00 am – 5:00 pm	Registration Desk Open Hours
11:30 am – 1:15 pm	FFSJ/Tri Council Luncheon
12:30 pm – 2:15 pm	Strategic Planning Committee Meeting
1:30 pm – 3:15 pm	Tri Council Meeting
2:30 pm – 3:15 pm	Bylaws Committee Meeting
3:00 pm	Vendors, Sales Tables Open
3:30 pm – 5:00 pm	Board Of Directors Meeting
5:15 pm – 6:15 pm	Cash Bar
6:15 pm – 9:00 pm	Early Arrivals & Board Of Directors Dinner President Al's Remarks to BOD. - Entertainment

Monday, April 12

7:30 am – 4:30 pm	Registration Desk Open Hours
8:30 am – 10:15 am	Opening Ceremony - 94th Annual FFGC Convention
10:30 am – 11:45 am	Workshop 1: " <u>Forming Junior Garden Clubs</u> " – Lynda Penry
10:30 am – 11:45 am	Workshop 2: " <u>Membership Team</u> " – Ed & Jane Nendick
10:30 am – 11:45 am	Workshop 3: " <u>Scary Plants in the Garden</u> " – Joe Parr
12:00 pm	Doors Open
12:15 pm – 2:30 pm	Lunch - Awards, Honors Program: "Attracting Wildlife Through the Use of Native Plants" – Renee Stambaugh Note: Lena Bateman will speak Mon or Tues luncheon
2:45 pm – 4:00 pm	Workshop 4: " <u>President/Treasurers -Dues/Website</u> " – Jana Walling & Sue Roberts
2:45 pm – 4:15 pm	Workshop 5: " <u>Wekiva Leadership Training</u> " – Tina Tuttle & Christy Linke
2:45 pm – 4:15 pm	Workshop 6: " <u>Horticulture & Botanical Arts</u> " – Kathy Echevarria & Pamela Slagg
5:30 pm – 6:30 pm	Cash Bar - (Reception Lena Bateman)
6:30 pm	Doors Open
7:00 pm	Dinner - Awards, Honors Program: Design "New Trends in Floral Design" - Sharon McGukin

Red Color – Special Committee Meetings

Tuesday, April 13

7:30 am – 4:00 pm	Registration Desk Open Hours
8:30 am – 10:30 am	Business Meeting Continues
10:50 am – 11:50 am	Workshop 1: " <u>Healing Gardens</u> " – Elizabeth (Leah) Diehl, RLA, HTM - Leah is director of the Therapeutic Horticulture Program at Wilmot Botanical Gardens at UF. She is a landscape architect, a master gardener and a registered horticultural therapist.
10:50 am – 11:50 am	Workshop 2: " <u>Trees: Planting, Maintaining, Pruning</u> " - Donald Spence, Ph D - Dr. Spence is a Board-Certified Master Arborist
10:50 am – 11:50 am	Workshop 3: " <u>Bylaws & Parliamentary Procedure</u> " – Cissy Richardson & Carolyn Nation
12:15 pm	Doors Open
12:30 pm – 2:30 pm	Lunch - Awards, Honors Program: "Update: Coral Reef Restoration" - Michael Echevarria
2:50 pm – 3:50 pm	Workshop 4: " <u>Coral Gardening Plus</u> " - Michael Echevarria
2:50 pm – 3:50 pm	Workshop 5: " <u>Create a Rain Garden in Your Landscape</u> " – Terra Freeman - Terra is an Urban and Commercial Horticulture Agent with the UF/IFAS Extension, St Johns County
2:50 pm – 4:15 pm	Workshop 6: " <u>Floral Design</u> " – Carol Lucia - Along with 9 amazing floral designers, Carol will review the "Floral Design Study" program.
4:00 pm	Ed Exhibits, Vendors, Invitational Designs DISMANTLED
4:00 pm – 5:00 pm	Installation Rehearsal
4:30 pm – 5:30 pm	District Parties
5:30 pm – 6:30 pm	Cash Bar
6:30 pm	Dinner - Awards, Honors Farewell To Al Latina Installation Of New Administration Reception Following Installation

Wednesday, April 14

8:30 am – 9:00 am	Post-Convention Board Meeting – Officers, District Directors, Former Presidents, and Early Board of Director Appointments
9:15 am – 10:30 am	Post-Convention Board Meeting

2021 FFGC CONVENTION SPEAKERS

MICHAEL ECHEVARRIA

"Update: Coral Reef Restoration Techniques 2.0 Project"



Michael is the President of Reef Renewal USA, Inc. Coral reefs are important for many reasons aside from containing the most diverse ecosystem on the planet. They protect coastlines from the damaging effects of wave action and tropical storms and provide habitats and shelter for many marine organisms. Michael will update us on the progress of the evolving coral reef restoration techniques.

RENEE STAMBAUGH

“Enhance Your Yard and Attract Wildlife Using Native Plants”



Renee is the owner of Native Plant Consulting in St Augustine. She is a member of the St Johns Extension Advisory Committee. Learn how to create an eco-friendly landscape that attracts birds, bees, butterflies and other pollinators to your yard. This program is designed to encourage everyone to use low maintenance plants and environmentally sustainable practices saving time, money and energy.

SHARON McGUKIN

“New Trends in Floral Design”



Sharon is known nationally for her floral expertise. Having started her career of over 40 years as a small town florist, Sharon now travels the US, Canada and Europe presenting floral programs and tracking floral trends. She often writes articles on wedding design and floral trends for prominent floral industry publications. In 2009, Floral Management Magazine named Sharon as one of the floral industry's top ten “Rock Stars”. Sharon and her husband, Tim, live in Carrollton, GA.

2021 FFGC CONVENTION - All You Need to Know

The 94th Annual FFGC Convention is scheduled April 11 – 13, 2021, Hilton Oceanfront Resort, Daytona Beach. Plans are well underway for a safe, interesting and educational convention.

Please read the following information so you will be up to date on all happenings

HOTEL: Rate has been lowered to \$ 105 inclusive for double/single

Oceanfront or Ocean View for all room assignments within inventory

24 HOUR CANCELLATION POLICY

A ONE NIGHT charge will be applied to your credit card at the time of reservation. The hotel balance will be paid at checkout.

All reservations made through FFGC Group Code will receive revised confirmation form

FFGC Group Code: FFGC21

FFGC Group Name: Florida Federation of Garden Clubs

Hotel: Covid-19 Precautions including Guest Rooms, Public areas, Food and Beverage

Housekeeping for room only by request

Social Distancing in common areas including elevators, escalator etc.

Face coverings required at all times for Guests and Staff

Restrooms and other areas frequently cleaned and sanitized

Sanitizers available within hotel

CONVENTION ACTIVITIES:

Social distancing in ALL areas including, but not limited to, meals, meetings, breakouts, etc.

(Meetings & meals etc. focus on social distancing and safe practices)

Masks are required by attendees and staff

Masks & Antibacterial Sanitizers will be available on site.

Frequent cleaning and sanitizing of all public areas including restrooms

Every effort is being made by the hotel staff and Convention Committee to have a “safe” environment for Convention.

Wonderful programs, speakers and educational opportunities are planned. Lena Bateman, Deep South Director, will be in attendance as our honored guest. Join with us as we say “farewell!” to Al Latina and his administration and welcome the Installation of Marge Hendon and her incoming administration. A Tentative Schedule of Events is posted on the website and is included in this issue of “The Florida Gardener”.

REMEMBER: Hotel Reservations are made directly with hotel by calling 386/254-8200 or hotel website listed on the Convention Registration Form in the FI Gardener or posted on ffgc.org. Group Code: FFGC21.

Convention Registration is printed in FL Gardener or on the website ffgc.org. You may send in paper Registration Form OR use the new Easy Reg computer generated Registration which is easy & efficient. Credit Card may be used with Easy Reg.

**The Deadline for Hotel Reservations & Convention Reservation is :
March 17, 2021**

This has been a most unusual year for all of us in so many ways but we persevere and move forward! Convention planning has been no exception with many twists and turns with planning. We are hopeful as many as possible will attend the 94th FFGC Annual Convention.

One more reminder: business casual is the dress code- bring a sweater-comfortable shoes-pack your masks/sanitizers and don't forget to pack your patience, smile and love for FFGC.

Membership Retention

Jane Nendick, Membership Retention Chair

(850) 866-9319 (Call or text)

Happy 2021! At last, a new beginning! So let's encourage our Club/Circle to set some goals for these next months, January – May. Let's PLAN ON PURPOSE! You see, without focusing and planning for Membership growth and retention, there is no Club or Organization! Membership, happy, learning, sharing, growing Members, should be every Club's TOP PRIORITY! And by following these suggestions, should actually be simple to achieve:

PLAN ON PURPOSE all activities around building your Membership. Example: Instead of saying, “We'll have a Flower Show and maybe folks will come and want to join us.....” say instead, “How can we best entice the community to come to our Flower Show and WANT to join us?”

PLAN ON PURPOSE all Club programs and activities to entice your Community and excite your present Members. (Ask your Members what they would like for programs, remembering Field Trips are always fun and interesting!)

PLAN ON PURPOSE, Club Officers, constant communications with your Members (text, emails, phone calls, etc) and with your Community (newspaper, social media, TV, etc.)

PLAN ON PURPOSE to watch your Membership grow with enthusiasm and fun and deeper friendships!

Remember, we're always “here” to assist you in any way!!!

FFGC History-OUR SIXTH DECADE-1975-1984

By: Tina Tuttle, FFGC 3rd Vice President

President Velma Gwinn, 1975–1977, chose for her theme, “Accept the Challenge of Today”. The 1975 Convention was held in St. Petersburg, April 28-30, entitled, “Our Golden Anniversary—Fifty years of Involvement”. We had 1,064 clubs and circles and 28,901 members. The State Flower Show “Florida...A Beacon of Involvement” was held April 12-13 in West Palm Beach. The 1976 convention was held in Miami Beach on May 3-4, our 50th convention, entitled, “Salute to America”. Flags of our Nation were given to Headquarters by Mrs. R. Malcolm Fortson. During Mrs. Gwinn’s administration FFGC had several significant events. Our *Fifty-Year History* was published in 1975. ‘Operation Wildflower’ was adopted. Members supported an act creating the Office of Environmental Education in the state government. FFGC contrived flowers sent to decorate the Blue Room’s Christmas tree at the White House. An Intermediate Gardener Chairman was appointed and 27 units registered. The Korean-American Scholarship Foundation presented a plaque and established a scholarship in tribute to the late Mrs. Arlie Hopkins. During this time a total of 164 State Life Memberships and 21 NCSGC Life Memberships were presented. Mrs. Vernon L. Conner was installed as NCSGC President, FFGC’s first National President. FFGC hosted a reception for Mrs. Conner at the NCSGC Convention. SEEK ’74 won Deep South Public Relations Award and SEEK ’75 Youth Conference was held at FSU.

Wekiva Youth Camp opened for a 5-week session. The first International Flower Show was held in Miami Beach with a reception hosted by FFGC. Seven new booklets were published by FFGC. Mrs. Carroll O. Griffin was elected Director of Deep South Region for 1977-1979. First Award #6, Horticultural Medal for Individual Achievement, was presented to Mr. Mulford Foster of Orlando. Resolution from FFGC acted upon by the DOT and the legislature naming Ives Dairy Road (County Road 854, locally known as Dan Marino Boulevard, and Honey Hill Drive, an east–west commuter road spanning 8.7 miles across northern Miami-Dade County) and the Sunshine Parkway and all Florida Expressways now built or to be built in the future as Blue Star Memorial Highways. Bartram Trail Proclamation signed by Gov. Ruben Askew. Mrs. C. H. Blanchard, Sr. and Mrs. John Kressman named by Gov. Askew as members of Bartram Trail Conference. Mrs. Blanchard named a Florida Patriot. Six NCSGC Awards and six NCSGC Flower Show Awards won. Sears Environmental Action Leadership Medals awarded to Mrs. Roger T. Waybright. FFGC student aid yearly grant of \$700 established. First Bilingual Landscape Design School held in Miami. First State Environmental Educational Workshop held at Wekiwa Springs State Park.

1977–1979, President Jean Bates Villareal chose for her theme “Learning is a Growing Thing”. The State Flower Show was held in St. Augustine. Our Fifty-first convention was held in Tampa. The State Flower Show “Florida - Challenge to Beauty” was held in St. Augustine. Affiliate Memberships was established allowing 2 plant societies and 17 foreign clubs to join FFGC. Award #6, Medal for Individual Achievement in Horticulture, was presented to Mr. and Mrs. Lewis Vaughn. \$39,000 was given to American Land Trust for Tiger Creek. (For more information on Tiger Creek Preserve, go to <http://bit.ly/xkN3Rg>.) Blue Star Markers number 96. Eighteen Flower Show Schools were held in Florida with 673 in attendance. FFGC dedicated gardens of the Brokaw-McDougall House in Tallahassee.



Fifty-six thousand “Liberty” trees were planted. Fifty thousand flowering dogwood trees were planted by one district in honor of William Bartram. National Councils’ 1977 Calendar cover featured a design by Mrs. Truman Green of Tampa.

The first male District Director was elected, Mr. Henry S. Chillias of District III. Sixteen National awards received, including first place in American Land Trust contest. Dorothy Karly of Key West was our National Scholarship winner. Wekiva Youth Camp opened for a 5-week session. SEEK was co-sponsored by the Deep South Region. First 6-member team attended U. S. Forest Service Environmental Facilitator’s Workshop. Polly Moody Memorial Youth Scholarship was established. Two symposia and two Landscape Design Study courses were held. Six “How To” booklets were produced to replace the Presidents’ Kits. The first College Garden Club in the nation was formed at Broward Community College. ‘Glenn Glitter’ service mark was registered as belonging to FFGC, Inc. (Below article from *Defuniak Springs Herald*, 16 March 1972, page 2.)

PAGE 2



“KEEP FLORIDA GLITTER CLEAN” - Mrs. Wanda Hughes of the Florida Federation of Garden Clubs, Ed Mueller, Secretary of the Florida Department of Transportation, and DOT Artist C. T. Kemp pose with “Glenn Glitter”, new symbol of the anti-litter campaign being conducted by the Federation and DOT.

DOT Joins Garden Clubs In Fight Over Litter

The Florida Department of Transportation has joined forces with the Florida Federation of Garden Clubs in a concerted effort to keep litter off Florida’s streets and highways. Secretary of Transportation Edward A. Mueller said, “Florida Garden Clubs have an excellent anti-litter program. They have long been in the forefront of the battle to keep our communities clean. The Department of Transportation has been spending in excess of \$1 million a year maintaining and cleaning the litter from the roadsides of Florida.”

“Mrs. John McClellan, Anti-Litter Chairman of the Florida Federation of Garden Clubs, approached me with the idea of joining forces and resources in combating the litter problem

Bartram Trail funded for \$100,000 for a study. Mrs. Vernon L. Conner, outgoing NCSGC President, voted Honorary President of FFGC. Bartram Trail Society of Florida was granted a charter by the State Department of Florida. Tiger Creek Nature Preserve was dedicated at Bok Tower in Lake Wales. Gov. Askew proclaimed March as ‘Keep Florida Glitter Clean’ Month. First ‘Greening of the Government’ program established. Deep South Regional Convention was held at Lake Buena Vista, hosted by FFGC. Seven Deep South Awards won by FFGC. Fifty-third convention held at Daytona Beach in 1977, hosted by the Garden Club of Jacksonville. FFGC pamphlet *We’re Somebody* was distributed. Nineteen NCSGC awards received by FFGC. First six-weeks session at Wekiva Youth Camp held. Four High School Gardeners attended first National Youth Environmental Conference. First Garden Study Course held at FIT in Melbourne. First Geriatric Program started. First cruise symposium held. State Flower Show, “Season’s Greetings from FFGC” was held in Orlando on December 1-3. Ten Flower Show Schools held throughout Florida. Landscape Design Study Courses held in Miami, Tampa and Chipley.

1979 - 1981 President Ella P. Wood chose as her theme, “Cultivate Communication-Harvest Rewards”. Convention 1979 was held in Lake Buena Vista. Convention 1980 was held in Miami Beach, our 53rd convention. Many significant events happened during Mrs. Woods’ administration. The first Environmental Education Workshop School was held. President’s Pin/Pendant given by Henry Chillias in memory of Frances Chillias.

The first Environmental Conference was held. FFGC won NCSGC Bronze Seal Award for twenty-year Penal Therapy Program. ‘Operation Wildflower’ Project with Florida DOT begun (<https://flawildflowers.org/fdot-wildflower-program-partners/#/ffgc>.)

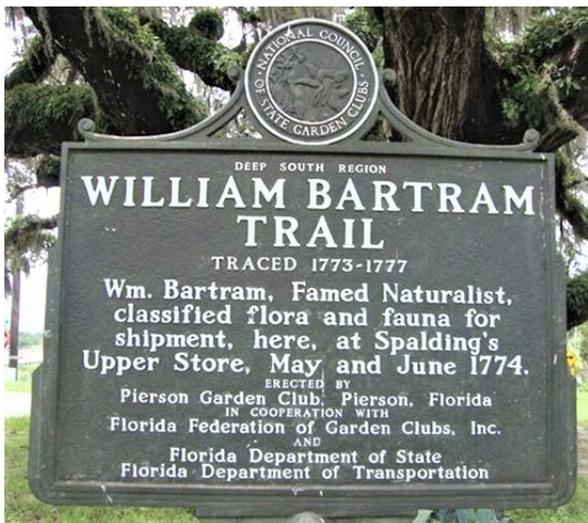
It was Ella who hired headquarters manager, June Richcreek. Soon thereafter, a computer was installed at Headquarters! Ella was assisting Berne Davis and Elise Haymens, who were co-chairs of 1987 NCSGC convention in Miami, when she unexpectedly died.

FFGC History-OUR SIXTH DECADE-1975-1984—(cont'd)

Blue Star Markers number 105. Bird Sanctuaries number 214. Fifty-third FFGC Convention held in Hollywood, hosted by District XI. Over 100 National Life Memberships awarded in honor of NCSGC's 50th anniversary. A total of 152 State Awards presented at Convention. Six Flower Show Schools held throughout Florida. Two Landscape Design Study Courses held in Tampa and Chipley. 23 NCSGC Awards, including the Bronze Seal for Wekiva Youth Camp, were awarded to FFGC. NCSGC gave Presidential Citations for 153 Life Memberships. FFGC *Collect* adopted. A delegation attended the HANDS workshop in Norfolk VA. *Grow with Us* (membership pamphlet) was published. 1979 President's kits, containing information on horticulture, membership, guidelines for presidents and treasurers, and floral design study, were distributed. First District (V) co-sponsored Environmental Workshop at Withlacoochee State Forest. Floral Design Study Program adopted and first unit of Floral Design Study was held in St. Petersburg. First Butterfly Program adopted. First Arboreta and Botanical Gardens Program adopted. Four Landscape Design Study Courses, 11 Flower Show Schools, 2 Gardening Study Courses and a flower show symposium were held during this administration.

Governor's Proclamation to "Keep Florida Glitter Clean" adopted in 1980. Seven awards won at Deep South Convention, Biloxi, MS. 54th FFGC Convention in Lake Buena Vista was hosted by Winter Haven Council of Garden Clubs. Total of 150 FFGC awards presented at that convention. FFGC By-laws revised. Twenty-two NCSGC Awards received, including Bronze Seal for 20-year Penal Therapy program. Eleanor R. Crosby Scholarship awarded to David Taylor, Orlando.

SEEK 7th Annual Youth Environmental Conference at UCF. FFGC President visited the White House for Alaska Lands briefing. Delegation to 'Exhibition 50', Washington, DC climaxing NCSGC 50th Anniversary. Flowers arranged by FFGC members for the Flower Festival at the National Cathedral. 1980 Presidents Kits distributed, included a flyer on FFGC publication *Color Me a Butterfly* and printed pamphlets *Make it a Winner*, *Glenn Glitter* and *Parade of Florida Schools*. Environmental Education Workshop was co-sponsored by FFGC and Districts VIII and IX. First Environmental Education Workshop School by FFGC was held at Wekiva Youth Camp.



First William Bartram Trail Marker in all NCSGC dedicated at Pierson FL, placed by Pierson Garden Club. A Flower Show Symposium, 14 Florida Design Study Series, 4 Landscape Design Courses, 3 Gardening Study Courses, and 9 flower Show Schools were held. 33 NCSGC Life Memberships, were awarded, more than any other state. FFGC Life Memberships total 176. Resolutions adopted to support a National Garden Week, to name a state forest in honor of Evelyn M. Waybright, to designate the Bartram Trail a Scenic and/or Historic Trail, to support the issuance of stamps, to re-designate the Suwannee River as an Outstanding Florida Water, and to protect barrier Islands.

President Virginia 'Gini' Jordan (1981-1983) chose as her theme one word, "Grow!" The 1981 convention was held in St. Petersburg. State Flower Show "Many Moons over Florida" held in April in Tampa. The 1982 convention was held in Clearwater.

During this administration, the first Energy Awareness Conferences were held. The Nature building added at Camp Wekiva. We adopted 'Florida House' in Washington D.C. as an on-going project. Initiated 'World Gardens Grow' program in cooperation with Cypress Gardens.

William Bartram Trail Markers dedicated in St. Augustine Amphitheater, Rockledge, Paynes Prairie and Fenandina. Governor's Proclamation 'Keep Florida Glitter Clean' was made in April 1981. Blanche Covington Mini Environmental Education Workshop was held at Camp Wekiva. Velma B. Gwinn Wildflower Hill Native Garden was dedicated at the January Board meeting. Seven awards won at Deep South convention in Louisiana. Spring Symposium held in Ocala. Thirty NCSGC awards (more than any other federation) received at Convention, including the Silver Seal for Dr. Thomas F. Sheehan of UF. Thirty new NCSGC Life Memberships were given (more than any other federation). Two Gardening Study Courses, two Landscape Design Courses, two Flower Show Schools, and five Floral Design Study Series were held. FFGC Convention held at Carillon Hotel, Miami Beach with District XII as host. NGC awards presented at FFGC Convention. A total of 134 Life Memberships were given. Positions adopted to proclaim a State Garden Week, to protest transfer of management of the Tosohatchee Preserve to the Florida Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission, and to protest further development of Watson Island. The size of *The Florida Gardener* now 8 1/2" by 11" with 16 pages. Our President attended first National Council Energy Conference in Washington, DC. *Exotica* added to the Library in memory of Charles Blanchard. Two emeralds added by Mr. John G. Wood and Mrs. Edward R. Jordan to President's Pin/pendant given by Mr. Chillas. Seventeen Floral Design Studies classes held (over 500 certificates awarded). Four Flower Show Schools, 1 Symposium, 3 Landscape Design Courses and Gardening Study courses were held. Two Bartram Trail Markers were placed. First Energy Awareness Conferences held. FFGC Hosted National Council Board of Directors meeting at Headquarters. Environmental Education workshop held in the Keys with first Salt Water Investigation. *Youth Manual* revised. *Coloring Book* revised. President attended first Deep South Energy Awareness program at Auburn University. Fifty-sixth annual convention held in St. Petersburg. Resolutions adopted: to change name of Cary State Forest (Bryceville) to Waybright, to object to hunting in Paynes Prairie, to oppose mining lease in Osceola Forest, and to extend the Endangered Species Act. Twenty-one NCSGC awards, including Greatest Increase in Membership. Also awarded were the Bronze Seal for Floral Design Studies and Silver Seal for Marjorie Stoneman Douglas. Three Bartram Trail markers dedicated, 8 Flower Show Schools and 2 symposia held. Four Landscape Design Courses, three Gardening Study courses were held. President attended National Council Environmental Education Workshop at Land on the Lakes, TN.

President Hazel Simmons (1983-1985) chose as her theme, "Plant Seed-Discover Life" The 1983 convention was held in Orlando. The State Flower Show, entitled "The Wonderland that is Florida", was held in Pensacola in April. The 1984 convention was held in Jacksonville. This administration hosted many significant events.

The *Directory of Florida Parks and Gardens* published. *Work and Time Table for Food Gardening* published. Miami cabin, to house two couples, was built at Camp Wekiva. Plans accepted by Department of Natural Resources for swimming pool at Camp Wekiva and it was completed for Summer 1984.

FFGC History-OUR SIXTH DECADE-1975-1984—(cont'd)

Swimming pool at Camp Wekiva - completed, 1984.



The first Landscape Design Symposium was held. Two Landscape Design Schools, five Flower Show Schools, and two Gardening Study Courses held. *Florida Wildflowers and Roadside Plants* by C. Ritchie Bell and Bryan J. Taylor published, sponsored by FFGC. Fifty-seventh Annual Convention hosted by Clearwater Garden Club. Sear's Leadership Development program initiated at convention in Clearwater. Governor Graham proclaims March and April "Keep Florida Glitter Clean" months. 17 NCSGC Awards, including Jesse M. Conner Landscape Architecture Scholarship to Carlota M. Sanz of Key Biscayne. Sears Leadership Development Workshop held for FFGC Board of Directors. FFGC accepted an invitation to provide a design program at the 11th World Orchid Conference. Prior issues of *Book of Information* were bound in hard cover for FFGC Library. Kits of FFGC publications/materials were made available for distribution to new clubs. Landscaping completed at Florida House, Washington, D.C. SEEK conference moved from UCF to Canterbury Retreat and Conference Center. Resurfaced Headquarters driveways and parking area. Adopted resolutions in support of Frontier River Conservation District Act, deauthorization of Cross Florida Barge Canal, designation of Panhandle and Big Bend Section as Areas of Critical State concern, and opposing development of Ft. George Island and proposal to develop Gulf Intracoastal Waterway. *The Miracle of Butterflies* published. Flower Show School Symposia held in Orlando and Tampa.

Penal Therapy/Roadside Development Operation Wildflower/seed propagation programs begun. Accepted from Wilhelmina F. Greene 2000 copies of *Exotic Flowers to Color and Identify*, color film of exotic flowers and 10% royalty of sales. Approved 'Paths of Sunshine' annual award for Florida DOT maintenance units. 58th convention hosted by Gainesville Garden Club at Orlando with 622 registrants. Energy Conference held at Ft. Walton. Water Conference held in Sarasota. Flower Show School symposia held in Pensacola and Jacksonville. Deep South Regional Convention, 'Magic Keys', hosted at Key West. Twenty-one awards and citations given from NCSGC, including Bronze Seal for '83 SEEK Conference, Silver Seal for endeavors of Kenneth D. Morrison, and a Presidential Citation for Mrs. John G. Wood. Adopted resolution to declare Florida a Butterfly State. We supported legislation to control outdoor advertising. FFGC sponsored a tour to Ireland and England.

SEEK 2021 Report

Save Earth's Environment through Knowledge

Mary Ann Whisler, Chairman

Carol Wood, Registrar

Our theme this year is "Growing Florida with a Healthy Environment"

For those who are unfamiliar with the FFGC SEEK Program, it is an educational conference for students finishing the 9th grade to students going into the 12th grade. Students are encouraged to attend all three years. Our garden clubs across the state contact science teachers at local high schools to find students interested in the environment. Many students are trying to de-

termine "what will be my major in college". FFGC wants to encourage these students to be our future environmental advocates. FFGC members can retrieve all the flyers and registration information from our FFGC.org website. The SEEK committee is ready to help with presentations and information. The conference will be limited to approximately 40 students.

This year SEEK 2021 will be at University of Florida Gainesville campus on Monday, June 28th to Thursday, July 1st. Working with the university we will require mask and social distancing. The committee wants the conference to be safe and healthy. There will be two students per room with a shared bathroom with the adjoining bedroom. All linens will be provided by the student. All meals will be provided by the university cafeteria. Students will arrive at the campus between 10 am to 11:30 am. There will be a short welcome and review of the next few days. Lunch will be served at one of the colleges cafeterias followed by afternoon presentations. Some of the conference activities: field excursions and experimental activities at UF Labs, exploring Florida's hydrogeology, explore the impact of changing climate, and visit the School of Forest Resources and Conservation. Our final day after lunch on Thursday will be a wrap up program with a UF Panel to discuss Environmental Careers and offerings at UF. We plan to invite parents and garden club members (reservations required) to attend the wrap up.



Our state is experiencing a vast population growth with no slowdown in the near future. We as FFGC Members are always concerned with the conservation of our beautiful state. FFGC has seen a growth of interest in our NGC Environmental School. By helping educate our young and future Floridians as well as our members, we will continue to have advocates interested in the conservation of our resources and keep Florida beautiful. We thank each and everyone of our FFGC Garden Club members for all your support by your generous contributions and help in identifying students to attend the SEEK program.

Together we will make a difference!

Programs and Speakers

Donna Thomas, Programs/Speakers Chair

We are always looking for programs and speakers for our Garden Club meetings and there is a place on the FFGC website with suggestions. These lists have been compiled from all the Garden Clubs in the state and hopefully you will find what other clubs are doing helpful. To access these resources, go to FFGC website, click on the Members tab, then click the Club Information and Forms tab. Under Resources at the bottom of the page are two files: Websites That May be of Interest to Garden Clubs and Garden Club Program Ideas. Also, on the home page there is a file with suggestions for places to visit: Attractions for Garden Club Visits in Florida. These are downloadable PDF files so you can peruse at your leisure. If you would like to share ideas with our members, please contact me so they may be added.

Florida Federation of Garden Clubs

UPCOMING TRAVEL

We are looking forward to traveling again real soon, and we would love if you would join! We have multiple trips set up that offer you the opportunity to attend some of the biggest gardening events in the world! Below are the upcoming trips planned for the next few years.



Philadelphia Flower Show - June 4-7, 2021 - Philadelphia, PA

The nations largest & longest running horticultural event will be held *outdoors* in June of 2021! This annual event introduces the newest plant varieties, garden & design concepts. You will have the opportunity to see breathtaking displays created by the world's finest floral & landscape designers. If you are interested in attending this event we will have a package available exclusive to our Garden Club members.

\$475 per person based on double occupancy
\$740 for a single rate

Please complete the "I'm Interested in Traveling" form if you would like more information.



Floriade Expo 2022 - April 23- May 3, 2022 - Amsterdam, Netherlands

The Floriade Expo, a Dutch horticultural exposition that happens every 10 years, is going to be held in Almere (Amsterdam) in 2022. This year the main theme is "Growing Green Cities". We're offering an exclusive package that includes a 2-night pre-cruise package in Amsterdam, a 7-day river cruise with AmaWaterways, a tour of the Floriade Expo, and a visit to the famous 79 acre Keukenhof Gardens.

Space is limited!

Pricing starts at \$3689 per person based on double occupancy.

Air fare not included.

Please complete the "I'm Interested in Traveling" form if you would like more information.



WAFA 2023 - Summer 2023 - Auckland, New Zealand

Have you ever been interested in attending a WAFA event? The World Association of Floral Artists (WAFA) holds a World Show every three years, and in 2023 it will be held in New Zealand! We are in the process of putting together a unique package that includes attendance at the WAFA convention and visiting "must see" sights in New Zealand and Australia. Don't miss out on this exciting travel opportunity.

Pricing and dates will be available soon. Please complete the "I'm Interested in Traveling" form if you would like more information when available.

Visit this site to fill out the "I'm Interested in Traveling" form: <https://www.funseas.com/ffgc-form>
Visit our website to learn more and to sign up for our Garden Club "Travel Talk" webinars hosted by Shelley: <https://www.funseas.com/ffgc>



Contact **Shelley Atkinson**
your **Garden Club Travel Advisor**
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Florida Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc. MISSION STATEMENT:

“Florida Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc. promotes the love of gardening, floral and landscape design, and

civic and environmental responsibility by providing education, resources and networking opportunities for our members, youth and the community.”



Get the plate that saves butterflies and bees

Florida's most treasured and threatened butterflies and bees depend on wildflowers for survival. But wildflowers themselves are threatened.



Each purchase or renewal of the beautiful State Wildflower license plate generates \$15 to grow Florida wildflowers for butterflies, bees and birds.

Two ways to get your plate

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 Visit your county license plate agency.