FICRIPA GARDENER

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SUMMER 2023

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FFGC

Organized April 24, 1924 Federated April 25, 1925

Charter Member
National Garden Clubs, Inc.
Member
Deep South Garden Clubs, Inc.

Mission Statement

FFGC, Inc. promotes the love of gardening, floral and landscape design, civic and environmental responsibility, by providing education, resources and networking opportunities for our members, youth and the community.

FACEBOOK.com/FLGardenClubs

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Your attention please...

Please use the MEMBERSHIP FORM to notify HQ of any changes in member status, especially, relocation or death. FFGC.org/FORMS

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If your club or district has a great story to tell, submit it for a FEATURE ARTICLE in the magazine. Cover photo possible depending on editorial quality. Note the editorial deadlines and do not wait until the last minute.

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Cover Story: District 1: Mobile

from the Editor

At my first convention in Kissimmee last month, I witnessed a change of leadership that managed to skip the usual bloody coup and chaos in the streets. The Marvelous Marge Hendon passed the baton to the Tenacious Tina Tuttle with nary a tear shed by Marge*. Plan to attend the Jacksonville convention and celebrate the 100th anniversary of FFGC. By taking a front row seat to all the action, you will more fully appreciate the possibilities for you and your clubs. There were excellent speakers, a wildly popular marketplace, parties with people who are no longer strangers, and the no-way-to-describeit Trashion Show—the brainchild of Carolyn Schaag whose service and initiatives put us all to shame. Over 150 awards were given out! Congratulations to everyone. ONWARD TO THE NEXT 100 YEARS! —Lisa Packard, Editor

*That's a lie.

President's Vessage by Tina Tuttle, FFGC President — 2023-2025

The three women who gathered with Ninah Cummer in Jacksonville in 1924 may not have foreseen the fledgling organization's survival through wars, economic, cultural, and technological changes of the past century, but they would be proud of the work and bonds of friendship harvested from their seeds planted 100 years ago!

The four women representing the Garden Club of Jacksonville, the Winter Park Garden Club, The Garden Club of Halifax Country, and the Miami Garden Club were the beginning. We are the present and the future, so let's get started on a new century of garden club work!

Let me share with you some of the plans, goals, and objectives for the upcoming administration. First of all, the emphasis will always be on YOU, the members, and on FFGC, and celebrating 100 years with projects, programs and events. Our 101st year will focus on a return to the basics of garden club, to our original mission of educating, beautifying, learning about horticulture and design, working with kids and the community, and working to conserve our environment.

To that end, the Nell Coe two-year award #61 is retitled 100 Ways to Celebrate 100 years. Clubs and individuals will compete in doing garden club things. Activities are divided by club size or as an individual and applications will be due to me in March of 2025.



Cash prizes of \$250 per category will be awarded! To accomplish some of the listed activities, you and your club will need to host an event, a school or workshop, hold a program and invite the public, and apply for awards. The Awards descriptions and application are on the website. Get started today!

I can't wait to work with you in the coming administration and to meeting many of you on tour in October! I thank everyone who agreed to serve on the 2023-2025 Board of Directors, including the amazing new District Directors.

I can assure you that this will be the best opportunity ever to make Florida shine as we boldly go into our next century as the Florida Federation of Garden Clubs!

#61 Nell Coe Award 2023-2025 100 Ways to Celebrate 100 Years

www.ffgc.org/ Award-Descriptions-&-Rules

introducing our new DISTRICT DIRECTORS

DISTRICT I JENNY WEBER Escambia, Santa Rosa, Okaloosa, Walton

DISTRICT II SUE MEYER Holmes, Washington, Jackson, Bay, Calhoun, Gulf, Liberty, Gadsden

DISTRICT III LANA ARNOLD Franklin, Wakulla, Leon, Jefferson, Madison, Taylor, Hamilton, Suwannee, Lafayette

DISTRICT IV SAM RUNYON Baker, Union, Nassau, Duval, Clay, St. Johns, Putnam

DISTRICT V CAROL STEVENS Columbia, Dixie, Gilchrist, Bradford, Alachua, Citrus, Hernando, Levy, Marion

DISTRICT VI VALERIE SEINFELD Flagler, Volusia, Brevard

DISTRICT VII GWEN CARTER Sumter, Lake, Orange, Osceola, Seminole

DISTRICT VIII PHYLLIS WEBER Pasco, Hillsborough, Pinellas, Manatee, Sarasota

DISTRICT IX CLAUDIA CHOPP Polk, Hardee, DeSoto, Highlands, Charlotte, Lee, Collier

DISTRICT X MARIA WOLFE Okeechobee, Indian River, St. Lucie, Glades, Martin, Hendry, Palm Beach

DIST XI BONNY MILLER COLE Broward

DISTRICT XII SUSAN RODRIGUEZ Dade, Monroe

CONTINUING EDUCATION COURSES

NGC SCHOOLS

ENVIRONMENTAL SCHOOL

FFGC Chair: Lydia Barbour (703) 282-8924 lydiabarbour@hotmail.com

Course 1

Sep 27 - Sep 28, 2023 Bowling Green, KY | Hybrid *Registrar*: Susan R. Faller (270) 843-0407 hilferdi02@twc.com

Course 2

Sep. 12-13 | Zoom & In-person Tampa Federation of GC Circles 2629 Bayshore Blvd, Tampa FL

Theme: "The Land"

Host Club Chair: Kitty Wallace
(813) 992-0940

kittwal@aol.com

Registrar: Pam Slagg
(813) 767-2710

pamslagg@hotmail.com

Course 2

Sep 21-22, 2023 Derby, CT | Zoom *Registrar*: Virginia Casanova (203) 710-0133 ginny.casanova@ctgardenclubs.org

Course 3, Series XI

Course 3, Nov 16-17 | Zoom only Fort Myers-Lee Cty Garden Council 2166 Virginia Av, Fort Myers FL

Theme: "Air & Related Issues"

Host Club Chair: Judy Francino
(248) 425-8713

jfrancino@att.net

Registrar: Bernadette Hamera

GARDENING SCHOOL

Sally Flanagan | 386-428-3170 sfflan@aol.com

DISTRICT X, SERIES 10 COURSE 3

Nov 16, 17, 2023 | IN-PERSON only Mounts Botanical Garden Aud. 531 N Military Trail, WPB 33415 FLYER

Chair: Carol Stender (610) 297-1224 Carol.Stender@gmail.com Registrar: Toni Cvetko TLCvetko@gmail.com

LANDSCAPE DESIGN SCHOOL

Susie MacPherson | (781)249-8905 Rmacpham@me.com

Course 1

Sep 1315, 2023 | Hybrid Falmouth, ME *Registrar*: Harriet Robinson (207) 776-3422 harrietlewisrobinson@gmail.com

Course 1

Oct 25-27, 2023 | Zoom Waltham, MA *Registrar*: Judy Karlin (781) 784-1958 judyrkarlin@gmail.com

Course 3 Series 37

September 20-22, 2023 | Zoom Chair: sfflan@aol.com | REG form (416) 229-4763 Summer Registrar: Barbara Magnuson (386) 428-5313

FLOWER SHOW SCHOOL

Susan Hillson | (561) 333-0740 Susan.Hillson@gmail.com

Course 1

Sep 26, 27, 28, 29, 2023 (mornings only)

Sponsored by Manatee River GC

3120 1st Av W, Bradenton, FL

Contact School Co-Chairs:

Dianne Beaver

diannebeaver@gmail.com

Elaine Schweitzer

likkorish4@yahoo.com

CHECK THE WEB FOR ANY UPDATES.

www.FFGC.org/Educational-Opportunities

www.GardenClub.org/ourschools



To have your club's special evented posted on FFGC's website calendar, please complete the Calendar Entry Form and email it to feif@bellsouth.net.



CONTINUING EDUCATION COURSES

FFGC COURSES

FLORAL DESIGN STUDY UNITS

FFGC *Chairman*: Jan Griffin (813) 716-6691 billjangriffin@gmail.com

FLORAL DESIGN STUDY UNITS 2-6

Sponsored by Cherry Laurel GC District VI A-P Memorial Bldg 42 N. Beach St, Ormond Beach Chair: Andrea Finn (386) 677-2630 finn1840@bellsouth.net

Information packets & handouts will be sent to Chairman. All Floral Design Study Units must be registered.

Advanced Study Course Units 7-9

First Class January 31, 2024 Sponsored by GC of St. Petersburg District VIII 500 Sunset Blvd South *Chairman*: Jill Anderson (727) 798-1970 | jillandersn@aol.com

Instructor's Certification and Recertification Class

FFGC HQ, Wednesday, 9/13 (5-7 pm). All those who are instructors must try to attend, plus those who wish to become an instructor must try to be there as well. Dinner is included with registration fee.

SUMMER SHORT COURSE
Gainesville | TBA 2024
Chair: Carol Binello
(352) 215-9190
carolannbinello@gmail.com

SHORT COURSE NORTH

August 10-11, 2023
9am-2pm with optional one hour design workshop 2pm-3pm
FLYER

Theme "In the Beginning..."
4-H Bldg, Escambia County Ext Ofc
3740 Stefani Rd, Cantonment, FL
eight hours Master Gardener CEUs
offered and approved
Registrar: Joanne Connor
(850) 512-9755
connorronald@bellsouth.net

TROPICAL SHORT COURSE TRI-REFRESHER

January 25-26, 2024 Chair: TBA

FLOWER SHOW SYMPOSIUM

October 30-November 2, 2023 FFGC HQ Winter Park

Chair: Claudia Bates (352) 317-2831 Cbates727@gmail.com

FLOWER SHOW SYMPOSIUM

2024

TBA Pensacola



Whether you're new to Florida or lived here your whole life, and want to learn about, well, Florida, attend one of four NGC schools offered in three different ways (see below).

READ the articles on page six about two of the four NGC Schools.



IN-PERSON





HYBRID both in-person and Zoom

SEE THE FULL CALENDAR OF EVENTS ON PG 22. YES, WE'RE TAKING A CRUISE. SEE THE FLYER ON THE HOME PAGE. www.FFGC.org

NATIONAL GARDEN CLUB SCHOOLS



The National Garden Club offers four schools for FFGC members to become knowledgeable about the four areas of gardening --Environmental, Landscape Design, Gardening, and Flower Show.

Each school manages a curriculum of four courses each that confer a "consultant's" certificate upon completion and passage of a test.

The courses are offered in three formats: in-person, Zoom, and hybrid (a mix of in-person and Zoom). Each course has a suggested reading list and is hosted by a garden club or district. Some of the four courses do not always have to be taken in chronological order and, when a course is offered, it will usually have a flyer with full details and to use for registration. Each course will have a registrar who is separate from the certified, professional instructors.

Each school also has a national, regional, and state chairperson. We are lucky to have Sally Flanagan as the chair of the Gardening School. Lydia Barbour is the chair of the Environmental School, and they have submitted these articles for you.

NGC Gardening School

By Sally Flanagan, State Chair

Courses offered in Florida have been an opportunity for garden club members to learn how to plan, build, and maintain a beautiful garden at their own home as well as in a community. The NGC Gardening School is their version of Florida's Master Gardeners program. At present, we have 214 FFGC members who have availed themselves of these learning opportunities, and most have reached the status of Consultant, meaning they completed all four courses in the Gardening School curriculum. Florida is fortunate to have many qualified instructors and experts.

The next Gardening School program is Course 3, Series 10, to be held at Mounts Botanical Gardens on November 16-17, 2023. The curriculum for Course 3 includes factors affecting plant growth, container gardening, houseplant basics, native trees and shrubs, and an educational tour of Mounts Botanical Gardens. This two-day course includes lunch, snacks, and beverages and has a fee of \$65. Planners anticipate offering more courses via Zoom which allows FFGC members to attend a course in another state. Course 4 in this series may occur in February 2024. Watch for further updates on this and other courses.

NGC Environmental School

By Lydia Barbour, State Chair

The Environmental School is my passion because I care about the air, water, land, and critters. I served as the state chairman in the Washington, DC, area for five years before moving to Florida. When I arrived here, gardening and the environment were so different from the mid-Atlantic region, so I immersed myself in learning my new planting zone. I realized that the land, water, and animals that once lived where I now live were adversely affected by home construction. With ~1,000 people relocating to Florida every day, it is heartbreaking to see the resulting havoc and, even more distressing, is that most transplants will never come to understand what drew them to Florida is being destroyed by their very arrival. It is critical that we learn about the environment and what we can do to restore it, at least in our own yards.

The environmental courses address air, water, land, and critters using a new vocabulary for those elements: atmosphere, hydrosphere, geosphere, and biosphere. We learn about the interrelationships within and between those elements. We then share our knowledge with others, as individuals and as clubs, about how to garden, how to support, and how to restore the Florida environment in which we live.



Celebrate FFGC's 100th Anniversary 97th Convention | April 10-12, 2024 Southbank Marriott Hotel Jacksonville, FL FFGC.org/Convention | #FFGC100

96th CONVENTION — AWARD WINNERS

FFGC Awards Presented April 2023 by Gwen Carter, FFGC Awards Chair Awards Team: Mary Adams, Leslie Montwid, Barbara Rao, Valerie Seinfeld

Award #	Award Title	Winner(s) (District)		
2	Outstanding Service	Arjuna Dusheria, Windermere Garden Club (VII)		
3	Leadership	Maria Wolfe, Wellington Garden Club (X)		
5b	Special Achievement (Individual)	Valerie Mountjoy, Jasmine Circle-Gainesville GC (V)		
8	Garden Club Of The Year	Garden Club of Jacksonville (IV)		
11-1	Yearbook	Old Fashioned Garden Circle (VIII)		
11-2	Yearbook	Poinciana Garden Club (IX)		
11-3	Yearbook	Garden Club of Fleming Island (IV)		
11-4	Yearbook	Miami Beach Garden Club (XII)		
11-5	Yearbook	Port St. Joe Garden Club (II)		
11-6	Yearbook	Wellington Garden Club (X)		
12-2	Newsletter/Magazine/Bulletin	Boynton Beach Garden Club (X)		
12-3	Newsletter/Magazine/Bulletin	Citrus Garden Club (V)		
12-4	Newsletter/Magazine/Bulletin	Wellington Garden Club (X)		
12-5	Newsletter/Magazine/Bulletin	FFGC District V		
13-2	Publication	Chipley Garden Club (II)		
13-3	Publication	Bartram Garden Club (IV)		
14-3	Depalma/Sillik Website	Bartram Garden Club (IV)		
14-4	Depalma/Sillik Website	Gainesville Garden Club (V)		
14 A-1	Facebook	Poinciana Garden Club (IX)		
14A-4	Facebook	Garden Club of Lakeland (IX)		
15-2	Garden Therapy Geriatric & Exceptional	Wildflower Circle of the GC of Jacksonville (IV)		
15-3	Garden Therapy Geriatric & Exceptional	Manatee River Garden Club (VIII)		
17	Decoration of Historical Buildings	Camellia Circle Of The Garden Club of St. Augustine (IV)		
18-2	Historic Preservation	Pompano Beach Garden Club (XI)		
18-4	Historic Preservation	Garden Club of Stuart (X)		
20-4	Year's Horticulture Programs	Gainesville Garden Club (V)		
29-A	Community Service Design	Temple Terrace Garden Club (VIII)		
30-3	Community Gardens	Port St. Joe Garden Club (II)		
30-4	Community Gardens	Wellington Garden Club (X)		
31	The Madira Bickel Civic Achievement	Coral Gables Garden Club (XII)		
32-3	Park/ City Planting	Port St. Joe Garden Club (II)		
32-4	Park/ City Planting	The Garden Club of Stuart (X)		
33-2	Clyde D. Ware Award For Civic Development	Windermere Garden Club (VII)		
36-1	Community Service	Poinciana Garden Club (IX)		
36-2	Community Service	Garden Club of Orange Park (IV)		
36-3	Community Service	Port St. Joe Garden Club (II)		
36-4	Community Service	Coral Gables Garden Club (XII)		
38-4	Civic Beautification/Garden of the Month	Temple Terrace Garden Club (VIII)		
39-1	Arbor Day Celebration	Moringa Garden Club (XI)		
39-2	Arbor Day Celebration	Plant City Garden Club (VIII)		

96th CONVENTION — AWARD WINNERS

VIEW THE FULL LIST ONLINE: https://www.ffgc.org/Award-Winners

Award #	Award Title	Winner(s) (District)	
39-4	Arbor Day Celebration	Coral Gables Garden Club (VII)	
42	Edible Garden	Kathleen Bolanos (VI)	
43-A	Blue Star or Gold Star Families' Memorial Marker	The Garden Club of Lakeland (IX)	
43-B	Blue Star Or Gold Star Families' Memorial Marker	Hibiscus Circle of the GC of St. Augustine (IV)	
44-1	Native Plant Landscaping	Garden Club Of Switzerland (IV)	
44-3	Native Plant Landscaping	Davis Island Garden Club (VIII)	
44-4	Native Plant Landscaping	Coral Gables Garden Club (XII)	
44-5	Native Plant Landscaping	Lois Kershner, Temple Terrace Garden Club (VIII)	
46-2	Garden Tour	Miami Beach Garden Club (XII)	
46-4	Garden Tour Award	Wellington Garden Club (X)	
48-4	Flowering Tree	Bloom And Grow Garden Society (VII)	
50-A	Environmental Education	Milton Garden Club (I)	
50-C	Environmental Education	FFGC District V	
51-4	Environmental Education Involving Youth	Garden Club of Jacksonville (IV)	
53-4	Wildlife Garden	The Gainesville Garden Club, Inc. (V)	
56-1	Butterfly Conservation	The Garden Diva Circle/GC of Jacksonville (IV)	
56-3	Butterfly Conservation	Davis Islands Garden Club (VIII)	
56-4	Butterfly Conservation	The Gainesville Garden Club, Inc. (V)	
58-A	Promoting Bees Through Knowledge	Kathaleen Lunman, Bartram Garden Club (IV)	
58-B	Promoting Bees Through Knowledge	Bloom and Grow Garden Society (VII)	
61	NELL COE AWA	ARD "WORLDS OF WONDER"	
61-1	Navarre Garden Club (I)	61-3 Garden Club at Palm Coast (VI)	
61-2	Wellington Garden Club (X)	61-4 Gainesville Garden Club, Inc. (V)	
62-4	Mary S. Compton Award for Publicity	The Gainesville Garden Club (V)	
62-5	Mary S. Compton Award for Publicity	District V	
64-A	Library	Port St. Joe Garden Club (II)	
66-4	National Garden Week	Garden Club of Stuart, Inc. (X)	
69-A	Digital Photography Bird/Butterfly	Page Griffin, Wellington Garden Club (X)	
69-C	Digital Photography FL Wildflowers	Gweneth Collins, Chipley Garden Club (II)	
69-D	Digital Photography Flowering Trees	Lois Kershner, Temple Terrace Garden Club (VIII)	
69-F	Digital Photography Plants in FL Scenery	Bonnie Steoppleman, Garden Club of Stuart, Inc. (X)	
71	The Ella Joyce Boals Program	Garden Club of Orange Park (IV)	
73-2	Public Programs	Miami Beach Garden Club (XII)	
73-4	Public Programs	The Gainesville Garden Club, Inc. (V)	
74-B	Year's Programs	The Gainesville Garden Club, Inc. (V)	
75	"Fun With Flowers" Program	Ribault Garden Club (IV)	
76	"Fun With Flowers" Series	Garden Club of Jacksonville (IV)	
D-8	District Horticulture	FFGC District VIII	

ANNOUNCEMENTS, KUDO'S & ATTABOY'S



District IV Garden Clubs—Orange Park, Fleming Island, Green Cove Springs, and Alligator Creek—had exhibit tables with plants and information highlighting club events and encouraging membership at the Clay County Fair. Each Club won competitive Fair Superintendent ribbons. The Fair's theme "The Fair is for Everyone," was repeated on the exhibits with "So is Gardening".



District VII, Clermont Garden Club's members surprised Pat Richardson, Grounds Chairman for over 30 years, with trellis filled with gift cards.



District VII, Sweetwater Oaks Garden Club donated \$12,000 to the University of Florida, Mid-Florida Research and Education Center at Apopka. On photo, left to right: *Bernadine Delafield, Dr. Michael Rogers, accepting for UF, Cindy Nelson, and Pat Neff, Assistant Director, District VII.*



NGC's Plant America grant program remains open until *October 15*. Read the details on NGC's website—

https://gardenclub.org/plant-america-community-project-grants. From there, you will find the <u>APPLICATION</u>.



Meet the District Directors

DISTRICT I

JENNY WEBER



Howdy from District I, the wild, wild west! My husband and I moved to the Blackwater River State Forest from a suburb of Los Angeles, Torrance. We're from the South...Southern California? We have a hobby ranch with horses, cows, pigs, chickens, ducks, and dogs. I'm a Master Gardener, Past President of Milton Garden Club, and outgoing Director of District I FFSJ council. I'm honored to be District I Director during the 100th Celebration of the Florida Federation of Garden Clubs. District I is looking forward to hosting the next two FFGC conventions in Jacksonville. Our clubs are busy planning Blue Star and Gold Star events, Flower Shows, Garden Tours, and all the other wonderful projects that are **garden club**. Come on up and visit us at Short Course North, August 10-11, 2023.

DISTRICT II

SUE MEYER



I joined the Port St. Joe Garden Club in 2016 after relocating from **up north**. PSJGC members worked hard to raise membership from a just dozen active souls to winning the Nell Coe Membership Award with a 300% member increase! It's been a whirlwind of learning about Florida gardening and club protocol, but it has led to being the director of District II. The clubs in our seven counties are working hard on projects such as tree planting in local parks to container gardening in downtowns. The district's focus and goals will be to increase our environmental and conservation skills, bring a shining light to our many district accomplishments, and connect with what FFGC offers.

DISTRICT III

LANA ARNOLD



I've been a member of Tallahassee Garden Club for 17 years, served as Circle Chair, Publicity Chair, Club Treasurer, Club President, and Board of Trustees. I have served as the Recording Secretary of FFGC as well as Roadside Beautification Chair. I am a Master Flower Show judge and have been a Certified Master Gardener volunteer for 18 years. I volunteer at Conley Elementary School Garden, Friends of Maclay Gardens State Park Board of Trustees, and UF IFAS Extension Office Advisory Board. Dwight and I have enjoyed 50 years of marriage, and have one daughter, one son-in-law, one granddaughter, and two dogs. I earned degrees from both UF and Rollins College, and worked for the state, mostly with the Department of Corrections, for 32 years. Hello, District III!



Meet the District Directors

DISTRICT IV

SAM RUNYON



I am a transplant from Greenbelt, Maryland, but consider myself a seminative of Florida. I grew up helping my mother with gardening. While living in Gainesville, my mother-in-law introduced me to the art of rose growing. I started planting roses and became a test-grower for Jackson and Perkins. In 2008, I retired and moved to Fleming Island. A friend of mine invited me to attend a garden circle meeting at the Garden Club of Jacksonville. I joined the Wildflower Circle that day. I have served as their Circle President, First Vice-President twice, and awards chairperson for over 10 years. With Garden Club of Jacksonville, I served on their Board of Trustees and as Awards Co-chair. I also belong to the Garden Club of Fleming Island and am a Master Gardener Volunteer for Clay County.

DISTRICT V

CAROL STEVENS



Growing up in South Georgia, I always enjoyed the beauty of the outdoors. Camping and hiking around the country during the summers with my husband and two sons exposed us to incredible landscapes--from Sequoia trees to the tiniest wildflowers—nature is amazing. After an educational career of 38 years, I begin playing in the dirt again with members of the Lake City Garden Club, where I was President. I had the opportunity to attend District Meetings and FFGC Conventions and realized there was a bigger picture beyond my garden club--FFGC, Deep South, and NGC. Seeing the fabulous flower designs, listening to exceptional speakers. and meeting such informed and creative people made me want to become more involved with such an outstanding organization. I'm excited to digging into all things District V.

DISTRICT VI

VALERIE SEINFELD



Born and raised in Miami, Valerie was a music educator, musical theater singer-actor, and opera singer. After 22 years of running a successful business in Miami, Valerie retired to DeLand with her husband, Robert, in 2006, where she joined the Garden Club of DeLand in 2011. A a lifelong learner, she has been called an "Energizer Bunny." She encourages everyone to take advantage of the value of club membership. She has been involved in FFGC awards, social media, floral design, virtual platform, and the Strategic Planning Committee. She created the format of the awards presentation at convention and, during the pandemic, assisted in moving awards into electronic submissions, virtual judging, and the use of Zoom for virtual meetings. Now the exciting adventure of being the District VI Director begins.



Pictured L-R: Sam Runyon, District IV, Phyllis Weber, District VIII, Valerie Seinfeld, District VI, Claudia Chopp, District IX, Maria Wolfe, District X

Jenny Weber, District I, Sue Meyer, District II, Tina Tuttle, Susan Rodriguez, District XII, Bonny Miller Cole, District II, Carol Stevens, District V, Gwen Carter, District VII



Meet the District Directors

DISTRICT VII

GWEN CARTER



I am honored to be recycled as Heavenly Seven's District Director for 2023-2025. I had the privilege of serving as District VII Director from 2019 – 2021. For the last two years, I have served as FFGC's Award Chair. I am also pleased to serve as Clermont Garden Club's President, my home club for the next two years. A southern girl by birth, I have traveled and lived all over the states and abroad as a military spouse and educator. District VII plans include more Blue Star/Gold Star Memorial Markers and share our love of gardening with the community through flower shows, garden walks and festivals, and Spring Fever in the Garden. I look forward to working with all of District VII Clubs and Circles during my tenure as District VII Director.

DISTRICT VIII

PHYLLIS WEBER



Hello! I am honored to be the District Director of "The Great Eight." I changed climate zones from Connecticut to Florida in 2004 where I was a Master Gardener and an NGC Landscape Designer. I am an inaugural member of the new Lakewood Ranch Garden Club and have held every position as our club grew. I am still learning about the Florida plants, even after all these years. Our District clubs are planning flower shows, tours, and programs and activities for our members and youth plus an NGC School. These activities will involve members, and non-members actively working together. What a" Celebration" The Great Eight will have for the next two years.

DISTRICT IX

CLAUDIA CHOPP



Hello! We moved to Florida in 2007 from the St. Louis area, and I joined the Punta Gorda Garden Club. I have been an active National Garden Club member since 1994, as a Flower Show Judge and Instructor. For many years I served on the National Garden Club Board in a number of positions. My favorite being the *Vision of Beauty* Calendar Chairman for six years. This year I went Emeritus as a Flower Show Design instructor but still remain a Master Flower Show judge. I have held several FFGC positions and was the Director of DIX Judges Council for the past two years. Now that we are full time residents of Florida, I hope to get more involved and to know everyone better.



Meet the District Directors

DISTRICT X

MARIA WOLFE



I was born in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, thanks to my father's military service, but I was raised in Charlotte, North Carolina, where I grew up in a Greek household. After attending Elon College, I moved to Florida for the next 45 years of my life! Before retiring, I worked in banking and education, so I like to say I have worked with people's two most important assets—their money and their children. My love for plants grew from seeing my mother be so successful growing indoor plants. Watching Doug Tallamy's webinars during COVID, I learned how a diverse native landscape provides homes for insects that keep the balance in our gardens and yards. I am excited to learning the "Terrific Ten" members. Perhaps you remember former Governor Lawton Chiles whose wanderings throughout the earned him the nickname Walkin' Lawton? Well, I want to be the Wandering Wolfe.

DISTRICT XI

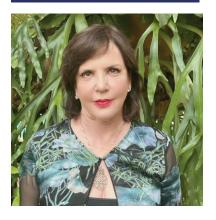
BONNY MILLER COLE



Broward my be a small district but we are Electric! All the clubs are very active and diverse in their projects and aim to bring beautification, education, and conservation. My mom, Pat Miller, was a Charter member of the Moringa Circle of the Fort Lauderdale Garden Club, Inc. so it was just natural for me to join in 1981. I have served on the board of FLGC and Moringa in many capacities over the years. I graduated with a BFA in clay and all arts and taught preschool for 30 years. I own my studio and teach pottery and clay art on the weekends to adults and kids. It is natural to find me in the dirt! I am excited to guide this Electric Eleven District in any way possible.

DISTRICT XII

SUSAN RODRIGUEZ



A native Floridian, I graduated from the University of Florida where I met my husband of 40 years. After retiring from my corporate position to raise my three children, I became an active community volunteer. I began painting with landscapes in acrylics and moved on to oils and watercolors. My neighbor persuaded me to include my historic home in the Coral Gables Garden Club's Home & Garden Tour in 2008. I joined the club just wanting to learn about landscaping and floral design. Here I am, now a third-term club President and District XII Director. I am looking forward to increasing awareness of what garden clubs do and to increasing the membership for District XII.

96th CONVENTION MEMORIES



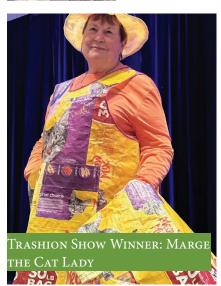






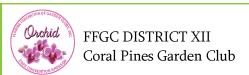






















ARTICLES



ARBOR DAY January 19, 2024

By Tina Tuttle and Lynn Artz

I cannot believe I missed the 2023 Florida Arbor Day completely. I saw a news clip last night on TV with the Mayor planting a tree and reading something about the benefits of trees. The announcer mentioned the first Arbor Day in Nebraska, but not a single garden club person was present....just a bunch of guys and one woman in a forester uniform. We used to hold a huge Arbor Day celebration and planted a tree by the FFGC garden center. My local garden club has planted trees on this day as well, but we no longer meet in January, so we don't think about it.

I missed the annual tree giveaway held at the local library by the extension agent. Again, nary a garden club member present to help the master gardeners—two free trees obtained through grants. 66

Now is the time to start
planning for next year's
statewide Arbor Day program
on January 19, 2024! I am
asking every club and circle
to plant a tree at the same time
throughout the state at
II am EST and 10 am CST.

99

NOW is the time to think about where to plant the tree—city park, public library, county courthouse, school, church, garden club center, arboretum? Sunny spot or shady spot? NOT near a powerline!

NOW is the time to think about what type of tree to plant — Native? Flowering? Shade Tree? Understory? Evergreen or deciduous? Specimen or rare tree suitable to your USDA growing Zone? How tall will it get? What is the life expectancy of the tree? 100 years? Which pollinators and birds will most benefit? Be sure to get the botanical name and perhaps have a nice plaque made with the name and the occasion of planting by your club.

NOW is the time to think about what size tree to plant— Three gallon? Five gallon? 15 gallon? Size relates directly to cost. Be sure to provide for it in the budget or start asking for a nursery to donate a tree. If heavy, how will you get it to the planting location? If large, who will dig the big hole?

NOW is the time to think about the care of the tree—who will water it for the first few weeks to get it settled in? What about future maintenance?

NOW is the time to think about inviting public officials, other garden clubbers, master gardeners, foresters, youth, and more. Who will take part in the planting? Will you have golden shovels? Who will speak about the planting and give the history of Arbor Day? Will there be refreshments following the planting? I recommend tree-shaped spritz cookies! Will you invite the TV crew for film at 11? Why not make a motion at your next meeting proposing an Arbor Day planting by your club or circle on January 19, 2024, at 11 am EST / 10 am CST.

At your club's next meeting, put Arbor Day 2024 on the agenda. Choose your club's Arbor Day coordinator and start to make plans. Your District Director and FFGC's new Arbor Day Chairman, Lynn Artz, will soon be in touch. On FFGC's 100th anniversary, let's make this the best Florida Arbor Day ever!

https://www.arborday.org



CELEBRATE FFGC's 100th ANNIVERSARY

PLANT A TREE ON JANUARY 19, 2024

To kick-off our year-long celebration, every garden club in Florida is asked to plant a native tree on Florida Arbor Day

STATEWIDE @ 11 am EST / 10 am CST

Timeline

Jul 19 Decide WHERE to plant your tree.

Aug 19 Decide WHAT kind of tree and WHERE to get it.

Sep 19 Decide WHO will plant and water the tree.

Decide WHO to invite to the planting.

Oct 19 SHARE details of your planting plan. Get help if needed.

Nov 19 FINALIZE your garden club's Arbor Day plan.

Dec 19 PREPARE media releases for January posting.

Jan 19 PLANT your Arbor Day tree in your community!

On FFGC's 100th anniversary, let's make this the BEST Florida Arbor Day EVER! > >

—Tina Tuttle, President, FFGC



The Blue Star Living Memorial Program

By Rosita Aristoff, FFGC Blue & Gold Star Memorial Chair

Many garden clubs have planted or refreshed the gardens associated with their Blue Star Memorial markers, yet there are still markers standing alone without nearby plantings or the gardens have been left untended.

Since its formation, the National Garden Clubs (NGC), initially called the National Council of State Garden Club Federations, advocated for preserving the natural beauty along the ever-expanding federal highway system which ushered in a proliferation of unsightly billboards and litter. Early on, NGC established a Roadside Development Chairman to promote the beautification of highways, parks, and playgrounds with attractive plantings. In 1944, the Garden Club of New Jersey had an inspired idea, based upon a massive Roadside Development project that involved planting thousands of flowering dogwood trees along a fivemile stretch of highway in honor of New Jersey veterans serving in WWII. The concept was for garden clubs to



District VIII Blue Star, Stuart GC

honor our Armed Forces by creating "living memorial gardens," unlike the typical stone and/or metal monuments erected by other patriotic groups at the time. In 1946, NGC expanded this concept nationwide by merging the Roadside Development and Living Memorial chairmanships into a new Blue Star Memorial Chairmanship with the vision of a "ribbon of living memorial plantings traversing every state."

It was more than two years that a memorial marker was designed so that the public would know that the gardens being created were memorials in tribute to our veterans. The program was always about the beautification of the highways and byways with memorial plantings—not about the signage.

Garden clubs are encouraged to renew their efforts towards respectfully honoring our veterans by means of living memorial plantings. The Blue & Gold Star Memorial Program involves a commitment *in perpetuity* to the maintenance of these gardens as well as the markers. The FFGC's Matching Grant Program may be a source of funding for the memorial gardens. When a new garden is planted, or an existing garden is significantly enhanced, it may be appropriate to have a rededication ceremony and/or apply for an FFGC Award (#43 B or D).

Let's continue to honor our veterans by ensuring the memorial gardens or plantings around the markers are, and forever remain, a fitting tribute to all those who have served, are serving and who will serve.

In Flanders Field

by John McCrae

In Flanders fields the poppies blow Between the crosses, row on row, That mark our place; and in the sky The larks, still bravely singing, fly Scarce heard amid the guns below.

We are the Dead. Short days ago
We lived, felt dawn, saw sunset glow
Loved and were loved, and now we lie,
In Flanders fields.

Take up our guarrel with the foe:
To you from failing hands we throw
The torch; be yours to hold it high.
If ye break faith with us who die
We shall not sleep, though poppies grow
In Flanders fields.

A Marker in Eustis

By Sue Roberts, Eustis GC



This past February, Camellia Garden Club of Eustis (District VII) (pictured below) dedicated a NGC Blue Star By-Way Marker at the Eustis Public Library. We had a wonderful dedication ceremony with Eustis city officials, FFGC leaders, garden club members and guests in attendance. This project took over a year as we had to earn the money for the plaque, determine a location with the City of Eustis, obtain the proper permits, obtain a grant from FFGC to complete the installation of the marker, and create a memorial garden surrounding the plaque. Our club members designed and planted a red, white and blue garden using plants that were carefully selected to meet our goals of using hardy Florida natives in a patriotic color scheme. In attendance was Marge Hendon, FFGC Past-President, and Charlotte White, Past District Director and Rosita Aristoff.





An Award Winning Mobile Butterfly House

Cover Story

Milton Garden Club (District I) received an NGC Plant America Grant to foster a winning collaboration with Butterflies in Motion, Inc., a mobile butterfly house that educates the public about Florida's native butterflies. The mobile exhibit is supported and served by members of the Milton Garden Club.

Being mobile, the butterfly house visits public places, such as schools, parks, retirement homes, and festivals, to teach the public about the life cycle of butterflies, share Florida friendly gardening practices, such as reducing or not using pesticides that harm these delicate creatures, and how to create an environment for them to thrive. The Plant America grant covered expenses for the live butterflies, caterpillars, and chrysalis.

The first appearance of the mobile butterfly house was at an NGC Standard Flower Show called "Southern Charm," presented by District I and Florida Flower Show Judges, District I, in March By Jennifer Weber, District I Director

2022. The Milton Garden Club has sponsored five trips with the Girls Scouts of Gateway Council. The club also assembled butterfly gift bags for each scout that includes informational flyers, activity sheets, lip balm, and milkweed seed balls made by club members who got very dirty making them [see picture at the bottom of page 19].

Our mobility meant we could take our show on the road, and we are now working with the local school board to arrange Fall visits this year. After three days on tour, the butterflies start to fade, so we plan a butterfly release on the third day. We had to learn how to protect the plants and butterflies while in transit. In hindsight, we would have figured out the wind issue before our first reveal to avoid fighting the horrible tarp while being covered by local media.

Our inaugural season was March through October 2022 and start-up expenses were a big challenge. We had the educational component and a small budget plus volunteers. We had limited funds to buy the trailer, build a house on it, and buy butterflies. My husband, Barry, did the structural work of building the butterfly house atop a 4x8' utility trailer to make it mobile. Our regular operating expenses for each appearance averaged \$250. Local businesses have generously donated, including an annual donation from a garden club member for whom we placed a plaque on the house as a memorial to her daughter. As you can imagine, that was quite an emotional moment.

Myself and Holly Baker are currently the only trained *butterfly wranglers* for negotiating the release of the butterflies. When not out for exhibit, our club parliamentarian, Bill Walter parks the butterfly house at his house under a carport.

We purchased our butterflies from a Florida Butterfly farm. However, our supplier was right in the middle of Hurricane Ian's path and their farm was damaged, so we received our last batch just two days in advance of the hurricane. The supplier now sells butterfly host plants instead of live butterflies.



While Butterflies in Motion is a separate nonprofit, 100% of the volunteers are from the garden club and the club funds most of the expenses. In addition to the Plant America Grant, Milton Garden Club also received FFGC Award #50-A for Environmental Education at this year's FFGC Convention, as well as Honorable Mention for Award #8 from Deep South Garden Clubs for Environmental Education.

If your club is interested in learning more, please message us through <u>Facebook.com/</u>
MiltonGardenClubFL.







NGC SCHOLARS

by Mary L. Adams Florida NGC/DSGC Scholarship Chair

The National Garden Club (NGC) selected two Florida students for the NGC Scholarship Award in the amount of \$3,800 each for 2023-2024. The students chosen from a group of outstanding candidates are: *Jorge Del'Angel*, of Florida A&M University and *Mackenzie Spiroff* of the University of Florida.

Jorge wants to earn his doctoral degree and be a role model to his community in his hometown. His studies have evolved from raising awareness regarding fighting food insecurity, to landfill engineering. Mackenzie would like to continue her pursuit of environmental and pollinator studies. Her hopes and dreams are to one day become a researcher for a corporation or a professor at a university. She would like to be "on the frontlines combating climate change and playing a role in restoration of thriving pollinator species."

Congratulations to the students!

Brag a little.

Share your story of a successful event, your challenges, and your problem solving efforts. What's the secret to your success?

Share your experience!

Email: floridagardener@outlook.com



Florida Federation of Garden Clubs





Savannah, Jekyll Island & Beaufort Motorcoach Trip *April 12 - 16, 2024*

Gain a taste of old-world Southern charm on our bus tour from Jacksonville to Savannah, Jekyll Island, and Beaufort! More than just a Savannah bus trip, this vacation package combines a rich experience in Savannah with the beauty of these fascinating southern treasures.



Chelsea Flower Show in London & Paris May 21 - 29, 2024

This century-old flower show is held on the grounds of the Royal Hospital. It is a place to see cutting-edge garden design and find ideas to take home! Take this opportunity to see gardens in London & Paris!



5-Night Western Caribbean Cruise January 6, 2025

Join us and other FFGC family and friends for our board meeting at sea! This is a great way to meet fellow Garden Club Members.



Visit our website to learn more about these upcoming trips <u>https://www.funseas.com/ffgc</u>

Contact **Shelley Atkinson**your **Garden Club Travel Advisor**(850) 386-7327 ext. 208 | satkinson@funseas.com



COMPLETE CALENDAR 2023-2025

—2023—	—2024—

JUN 6-8 AUG 10-11 SEP 5-7	Summer Short Course, Gainesville Short Course – North 9am-2pm Pensacola Fall Board of Director's Meeting, HQ	JAN 9-11 JAN 19 JAN 23-26	Winter Board of Director's Meeting, HQ Celebrate Arbor Day NGC Flower Show Schools, Course 2
SEP 12-13	NGC Environmental School, Course 2, Series III Zoom & In-person Tampa GC	JAN 25-26	Manatee River GC, Bradenton, FL Tropical Short Course
SEP 13	FFGC Floral Design Study Unit	APR 10-12	97th Convention, Southbank Marriott hotel, Jacksonville—incl. state FLWR show
	Instructor's Certification and Recertification Class 5-7 PM, FFGC HQ	APR 24	FFGC 100th birthday celebration, HQ
SEP 20-22	NGC Landscape Design School, Course 3,	MAY 14-16 MAY 21-24	Flower Show Symposium, Pensacola, FL NGC Flower Show Schools, Course 3
SEP 26-29	Series 37 ZOOM New Smyrna GC NGC Flower Show Schools, Course 1		Manatee River GC, Bradenton, FL
	FFSJ District VIII Judges Council,	JUN 2-5 JUN 2-8	National Garden Club convention, Denver National Garden Week
OCT 10-27	Manatee River GC, Bradenton, FL Fall Officer's Tour to District Meetings	JUN 12-14	SEEK celebrates 50 years
OCT 30-NOV NOV 16-17	2 Symposium at FFGC HQ in Winter Park	JUN-JULY SEP 10-12	Wekiva Youth Camp celebrates 50 years Fall Board of Directors Meeting, HQ
NOV 10-17	NGC Environmental School, Series XI, Course 3 Zoom only Fort Myers	NOV 23	Most Awards due
NOV 16-17	(FL)-Lee County Garden Council (D. IX) NGC Gardening School, D. X, Series 10,	NOV 24-27	NGC Flower Show Schools, Course 4 Manatee River GC, Bradenton, FL
	Course 3 IN-PERSON ONLY Mounts Botanical Garden, W. Palm Beach		—2025—
NOV 22	Awards (most) due to FFGC	JAN 6-11	Winter Board of Directors Meeting
	FO ON EDUCATIONAL COURSES IN FL: /ffgc.org/Educational-Opportunities	APR 7-10	Voyager of the Seas! FFGC Annual Convention and Installation Southbank Marriott Hotel, Jacksonville

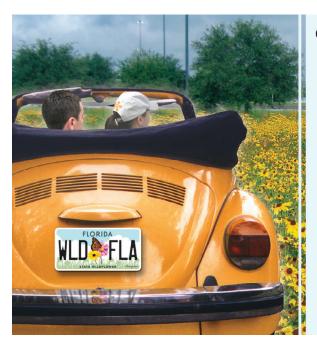
CURRENT INFO ON EDUCATIONAL COURSES IN FL:

https://ffgc.org/Educational-Opportunities

NGC Courses nationwide can be found at:

https://www.gardenclub.org/our-schools

COMPLETE LIST OF FFGC OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS FOR 2023-2025



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.



Two ways to get your plate

Visit FlaWildflowers.org/ wildflower-tag to request a phone call.

Visit your county license plate agency.

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

FFGC COMMITTEES & CHAIRPERSONS 2023-2025

	1	MAINFENSONS 202	
4-5 Star Members		COMMITTEES	
			Charlotte White
•	Quigley, Mickey		Kelley Wood
Advisory Council		Invasive Species	-
	Donna Berger	Junior Garden Club	
	Lynn Artz	Legislative Positions & Policies and Legal	,
Arboreta & Botanical Gardens	Joleen King	Life Memberships	Lamoureux
Awards	Dale DeFeo	Membership Recruitment	Dist Directors
Awards Assistant	Sara Wolf	Membership Retention	1VP coord=12 Asst Dist Directors
Bartram Society of FL Co-Ch	Carolyn Stevens	National Garden Week	Jane Nendick
Bartram Society of FL Co-Ch	Kalia Baillene	NGC & DSGC Youth Contests	Sandra Lynch
Birds. Butterflies, Bees, Bats	Jeri Decker	NGC Environmental School Ch	Lydia Barbour
Blue Star Memorial	Rosita Aristoff	NGC Gardening School Ch	Sally Flanagan
BOI Editor	Lisa Packard	NGC Landscape Design Sch Ch	Susie MacPherson
Brick Paths	Charlotte White	NGC President's Special Project	
Bylaws, Standing Rules Cmte	Marge Hendon	Liaison Parks-Trails-Greenways	Quigley Mickey
Calendar - FFGC Events	-	·	Carolyn Lowry-Nation
	Ed Nendick	Penny Pines	, ,
	Jenny Weber	Photographer	
	-		Skip and Diane
Conv CoChair			Lamoureux
Conv St Flower Sh Ch			Carolyn Schaag
Conv St Flower Sh VCh			Tina Tuttle
Conv Vice Ch	•	Programs & Speakers	
Convention Coordinator	-		Jolene King
Coral Reef Restoration	Sharon Trbovich	Reclamation & Recycling	
Corresponding Secretary	Linda Feifarek- Johnson	Recording Secretary	Jennifer Barber
Disney Contact	Margaret Kirkpatrick	Roadside Beautification & Paths of Sunshine	Brenda Luedeman
DSGC Unified Project	Sandra Arnold	Scholarship – DSGC/NGC	Mary Adams
Dues Ambassador	Sue Roberts	Scholarship - FFGC	Helen Purvis
Earth Steward Recog.	Kathleen Siena	Scouting Liaison	Jennifer Barber
EPAC	Mona Johnston	SEEK Conference	Jennifer Seymore-
FFSJ President	Gina Jogan	Short Course - Central UF	1 A / 1 1 /
Finance Committee	Christy Linke	Short Course - North	Joanne Connor
Floral Design Study		Short Course - Tropical	
	Jan Sillik - Revision	Smokey Bear-Woodsy Owl	
Florida Wildflower Liaison			Valerie Seinfeld
Flower Show Evaluation/		Strategic Planning	TBA
Fun with Flowers	•	The Florida Gardener-Editor	
Garden Therapy			Shelley Atkinson
	Carolyn Schaag		Jana Walling
Habitat for Humanity and Master	Pat Caren	Trees & Reforestation	· ·
Gardener Liason Hall of Fame	Skip and Diane	Tri-Council President/ Liaison to	Brenda Luedeman
Headquarters & Endowment	Lamoureux	FFGC Virtual Platform	Kallay Maad
			-
	Inger Jones	Website Editor	
	Mona Johnston	Wekiva Bldg & Maint.	*
Hospitality		Wekiva Youth Camp	1
HQ Floral Design	Cnodosh/Junkin	Wekiva Youth Camp ASST	Devon V-Dabbs



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"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."

www.FFGC.org

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