

The background of the entire image is a close-up photograph of a poinsettia plant, showing its characteristic bright red bracts and clusters of small yellowish-green flowers at their centers.

THE

# Florida GARDENER

Winter 2018



## *President's Message*

Dear Members,

Al Latina, Marge Hendon, Tina Tuttle and I cannot thank those who turned out to greet us at your FALL DISTRICT MEETINGS. It is heartwarming and so much fun to meet members and hear about all the wonderful projects, hard work and educational opportunities our Garden Clubs offer to members and non-members alike. It makes us proud to hear of all that is done to provide educational opportunities, create beauty in our parks and roadways, and enhance the quality of life for so many in your communities. You ARE an important part of this great civic organization; you might not have joined your garden club for those reasons, but we are great at providing friendships, opportunities for personal growth, and inspiring many to work hard for our youth and our environment.

We did NOT get to meet with the members of Districts II & III. Hurricane MICHAEL made landfall the same day we were scheduled to meet with those members in the Panhandle. District III escaped with minor coastal flooding and the periphery of wind damage; but many in District II suffered much, much worse. Luckily, the Garden Clubs there were not destroyed, but there was much damage to the properties involved. Trees and landscaping were destroyed, and the expenses involved in removing large trees and landscapes are not covered by the insurance. Many of you, either individually or through your local clubs, have donated to help our members in the Panhandle get started in cleaning up and re-planting. It is not too late to help our Garden Club friends and colleagues. Please send any donations to FFGC HEADQUARTERS- 1400 S. Denning Ave., Winter Park, FL- 32789, mark your check: HURRICANE MICHAEL RELIEF. We want to help in the clean up and re-planting to help restore the Panhandle's beauty with flowering trees and to help restore parks and gardens. We sincerely thank you for your compassion and generosity.

The GARDEN CLUB OF CAPE FEAR, NC called and told us they were sending a donation. They had gone through a much less devastating storm six weeks prior, and they knew what our members were going through. This is the wonderful part of being a member of your local Garden Club. You are a member of a much larger organization that shows that generosity, friendship and compassion referred to earlier.

Please do not forget to keep a record of the FLOWERING Trees you and your clubs plant and apply for COLOR OUR CANOPY Award by March 1. Everyone will be a winner--even if you don't win the award, you will have won something much greater--the knowledge and pride that you created something beautiful that will last for generations. Thank you all in advance for your enthusiastic participation.

The other Award that your clubs need to think about is the MEMBERSHIP INCENTIVE AWARD. The deadline is March 15. There are four club size categories for this award, and the prize is \$250 for each category. The **ONLY CAVEAT is that your clubs dues and list of members MUST BE submitted by March 15 to FFGC Headquarters.**

Please fill out your convention Registration found in this issue (and online at [www.FFGC.org](http://www.FFGC.org)). We will be celebrating a New Administration. Al Latina will be installed as our first male president; Al and his officers will do a fantastic job and we all want to be there to help FFGC celebrate this historic occasion.

Al, Marge, Tina and I wish you and your families a joyous and safe Holiday Season.

*Happy Holidays!*

*Claudia*



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**Spring Issue: January 15**

**Summer Issue: April 15**

**Fall Issue: July 15**

**Winter Issue - October 15**



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Photos: Cover Photo , Kathie Smith

Page 3: Patricia Shira

Page 5: Christy Linke

Page 10: Submitted by Diane Rice

Page 18: submitted by Debby Eger

## DISTRICT I NEWS

### Sandra Sherman, Director

**Counties:** Escambia, Okaloosa, Santa Rosa, Walton

**Flower & Wildflower:** Sarracenia Flower (Pitcher Plant)

**Butterfly:** Eastern Tiger Swallowtail

**Garden Clubs in District I:** Azalea of Pace, Defuniak Springs, Dogwood of Crestview, Dogwood of Gulf Breeze, Garnier Beach, Green Thumb, Honeysuckle, Milton, Navarre, Pensacola Federation (11 Circles), Valparaiso

The weather in Northwest Florida has been unusual this year, June was rain almost every day, July dry, August and September hot, October arrived and with it came Hurricane Michael. District I area had a small amount of damage. To our friends and fellow garden club members in District II and District III our thoughts and prayers are with you.

**District I** held Short Course North in August and once again it was a sell-out. The 2 day seminar had great speakers and a lot of plants given out by them, vendors selling plants, jewelry, crafts and a lot of delicious food. Each day ended with a fun-filled flower design class using flowers from the garden.

**Azalea GC of Pace** held a Kids Day in the Park to celebrate National Gardening Week. There were four stations; Bugs, Birds, Bees and Butterflies. The children were taught how important each one is to our environment and had a hands on project at each station to take home. After completing all stations they were given an information booklet and a certificate of completion.

**Defuniak Springs GC** maintains the Library Garden, working in the summer there to keep it looking beautiful. Their Knock Out Roses are outstanding. They also hosted a Lake Festival.

**Dogwood GC of Crestview** graciously provided the breakfast bread at our Fall District Meeting. The homemade bread was tasty and enjoyed by all.

**Dogwood GC of Gulf Breeze** members have been busy presenting "Fun With Flowers", and floral design classes and will be hosting "Diggin' It" classes in 2019.

**Garnier Beach GC's** theme this year is "Planting for Wildlife". They will be planting native plants for birds, bees, insects and all wildlife. Their hope is to have the three gardens they support certified by the National Wildlife Federation. They have also given out scholarships. **Garnier Beach** will host the Spring 2019 District Meeting.

**Green Thumb GC** has had programs on "Fun With Flowers" and a Floral Design Series (with 40 participants at first class). Members are working on their "Homes for the Holidays", schedule in December. They presented The American Pride Landscape awards in May. Several awards were given to different sized gardens. **Green Thumb** purchased a reef in the Gulf of Mexico about a ¼ of a mile off shore near Blue Mountain Beach. They will support the maintenance of it. The funds to purchase it were donated by members and the GWB Camellia Club. They have 33 new members.

**Milton GC** will have their annual "Tour of Homes" in December. They will be celebrating their 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary, also. They have a Junior Garden Club (a girl scout troop) both members and the girls are having a lot of fun learning together.

**Pensacola Federation of GC** will host five major events during the year. First is the "ED Series" in February (the 14<sup>th</sup> in 2019) an all-day seminar with guest speakers and breakout sessions. In March is the "Tour of Tables: (19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup>). May (18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup>) brings the popular "Secret Garden Tour" and education in Southern Gardening. They have three indoor garage sales during the year. October brings cooler weather along with the Pensacola Interstate Fair where PFGC puts on two complete standard flower shows.

Congratulations to Pick "n" Poke circle for winning the community garden blue ribbon along with the best Community Garden award and the Best Botanical Art award.

**Valparaiso GC** awarded a \$3,000 scholarship to a deserving college student at the University of Florida of Milton. She will be getting her degree in Natural Resource Conservation. At the Fall District Meeting FGC President Claudia Bates helped us present six Pillar of Pride awards to deserving members.

During National Garden Week, Valparaiso members hosted several different programs on container gardening and pollinator gardens. The programs were given at the public library and day camps for children had hands on projects for the children to take home. Valparaiso hosted the Fall District I meeting with Hurricane Michael lurking in the Gulf of Mexico (expected to hit the next day). A special thank you to the members for doing an outstanding job with the decorations, door prizes, raffle baskets, of course, all the delicious food. To our State Officers, District I sends a big **THANK YOU** for coming. The program was so informative.

I have sent an email to all clubs and circles in District I, asking them to donate enough money to Penny Pines to plant one acre of trees to help replace the ones destroyed by Hurricanes Irma and Michael. As always, from one gardening friend to another, HUGS!

## DISTRICT VII NEWS

### Sue Roberts, Director

**Counties:** Lake, Orange, Osceola, Seminole and Sumter

**Flower and Wildflower:** Hibiscus (all varieties) & Coreopsis

**Butterfly:** Monarch

**Garden Clubs:** Bloom and Grow, Camellia, Clermont, Creative Arts, Foliage of Apopka, Ixora, Sanford, Lady Lake, Lakes & Hills, Magnolia, Orlando, Palm, Pine Castle, Robinswood, Sanford, Wildflower, Spring Valley, Sweetwater Oaks, Wildflowers of D7, Windermere, Winter Park

District VII clubs are awakening after a long summer nap. It was way too hot and rainy to spend much time in the garden. Only the weeds were happy! As I write this, most clubs are just holding their first couple of meetings with welcome back teas and luncheons. Lots of planning meetings are taking place as they get their events set up for the year.

We were thrilled to complete the Landscape Design Series! All four classes were held over a two-year period and seven students graduated from all and are now new Landscape Design Consultants. Congratulations to all! Many other students just enjoyed the classes. Last week we loved touring a local landscape designer's home and then our FFGC headquarters garden. Often, we just drive into headquarters for a meeting and never go out into the gardens. They are truly a lovely and peaceful oasis in the middle of Winter Park.

We were so happy to learn at the convention that a District VII area has been honored with the Ella P. Wood Path of Sunshine Award. The Florida Department of Transportation has planted fields of wildflowers at the Okahumpka service plaza on the Florida Turnpike. They planted coreopsis, gaillardia, phlox and rudbeckia. So, keep your eyes open when you travel that way in the spring. The pictures from last spring were gorgeous.

We have several clubs celebrating anniversaries this year and next. Windermere Garden Club is celebrating their 60<sup>th</sup> year of being part of FFGC in 2018. They held a horticulture specialty flower show on Nov. 15<sup>th</sup> from 1-5 and Nov. 16<sup>th</sup> from 9-noon at the Windermere Town hall. Winter Park is celebrating their 95th year; Spring Valley will be celebrating 50 years at a holiday luncheon; and Lady Lake has been federated 65 years. Three additional clubs will be celebrating 70 years of federation next year, Camellia, Clermont and Lakes & Hills. Watch for lots of fun celebrations on the horizon!

**Lakes and Hills GC** has been busy over the summer reorganizing off the circle plan. They are marching into 'unknown territory', working out how to bring the five circle groups together into one cohesive unit. So far, everyone has been very supportive of the plan but they will have an interesting year ahead. The traditional fall garden tour that was moved-- due to Mother Nature--last year to the spring was very successful so, now, they will keep it in the spring. Mark your calendars for the last weekend in March for another wonderful day in Mount Dora. Lakes and Hills GC is also installing a Gold Star marker at one of Mount Dora's parks and they are participating with other veterans groups for a dedication on November 11<sup>th</sup>.

Other fun club events that were scheduled this fall are Clermont GC's Garden walk held on Oct. 20, and Creative Arts GC's holiday tea and floral demonstration day on Nov. 28. In 2019, look for the traditional spring events from Sweetwater Oaks GC's Garden Fair on March 2 & 3, Bloom and Grow's Spring Fever in the Garden on April 6 & 7, and the Lake County Council will be putting on a flower show on March 28 & 29. The Orlando Garden Club presented a 'Diggin' It' series that began this fall.

## DISTRICT VII NEWS (continued)

Our fall district meeting with the visiting state officers was held in downtown Mount Dora at the First Presbyterian Church and we learned about flowering trees especially suited to central Florida from Brooke Moffis, the Lake County Horticulture Extension Agent. We put our amateur artists to work coloring nature pictures to post on our "Coloring Our Canopy" board. Everyone did a great job creating a colorful display.

So, after a quiet summer, all the district VII clubs are gearing up for some exciting events this winter and in the spring. Happy Holidays to all and Happy Gardening now that the cooler weather is here.

## DISTRICT VIII NEWS

### Christy Linke, Director

**Counties:** Pasco, Hillsborough, Pinellas, Manatee, Sarasota

**Flower & Wildflower:** Hibiscus & Rudbeckia hirta (black-eyed Susan)

**Butterfly:** Zebra Longwing

**Garden Clubs:** Clearwater, Dade City, Davis Islands, Dunedin, Garden Gate, Gardeners Out East, Lakewood Ranch, Land-o-Lakes, Lemon Bay, Manatee River, New Port Richey, Palm Harbor, Plant City, Sarasota, St. Petersburg, Sunset Park, Tampa, Tarpon Springs, Temple Terrace, Top of the Bay, Valrico, Venice Area,

**Garden Clubs in District VIII:** Apollo Beach, Clearwater, Dade City, Davis Islands, Dunedin, Garden Gate, Gardeners Out East, Lakewood Ranch, Lemon Bay, Lutz Land of Lakes, Manatee River, New Port Richey, Palm Harbor, Plant City, St. Petersburg, Sarasota, Sunset Park, Tampa Federation, Tampa Bay Golf & Country Club, Tarpon Springs, Temple Terrace, Valrico, Venice

What makes District VIII known as the GREAT VIII? It's the 23 clubs that make up the District and all that they do. September started off running with a lot of the clubs having Lunch and Learn or Meet and Greets for their first meetings. Members enjoy this, especially, since it's a time to come together and catch up with everyone from the summer they haven't seen. It's a great time to have members sign up for events for the upcoming year, as well as, educating the new members on what the club does throughout the year.

We are proud to announce that there are two new Garden Clubs since September. **The Apollo Beach GC and the GC at Tampa Bay Golf and Country Club.** Both clubs come with fresh new ideas and are excited about being a part of the Florida Federation of Garden Clubs. They are up and running

with programs and field trips to educate their members.

Pictured are the Officers Installed on September 18th for the Garden Club of Tampa Bay Golf and Country Club with 28 members. Left to right are President Scott Miller, His wife Sylvia



Miller, Vice President, District VIII Director, Christy Linke, and members Barbara Sisti and Karen Miller.



Linke, President Paula Olesen, Treasurer Roberta Brady, Secretary Stephanie Koeser, and Director Mark DeFazio. (Missing from picture is Judy Siemonsma who is also a Director).

**Plant City GC** hosted the District Fall Meeting which carried a theme of Bees, and of course, School and it was entitled "Bee Smart". It was held in the 1914 High School Community Center. The 106 guests came to hear from our FFGC President, Claudia Bates, 1<sup>st</sup> VP, Al Latina, 2<sup>nd</sup> VP, Marge Hendon, and 3<sup>rd</sup> VP, Tina Tuttle. Precious Metal Certificates were awarded to Tampa Federation, 90 years Pink Diamond award and Plant City GC, 80 years Emerald award. Happy Anniversary to both clubs. District VIII knows how to roll out the red carpet and having the FFGC tour team there was an honor.

On October 26<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup>, District VIII had a Flower Show entitled "The Happiest Place on Earth". A big thank you goes to Jill Anderson and Carol Lucia, who chaired the show, as well as, Jan Griffin, who was the Horticulture Chairperson. This show did not disappoint! Walt Disney would have been proud to see his dreams come to life in a flower show. The show was judged by 26 flower show judges from near and far.

**St. Petersburgh GC** opened their doors to over 300 people coming through to visit and see the show, as well as, a plant sale outside put on by their club. Even the public got involved by voting for the design and horticulture that they liked most and this was called the People's Choice Award. It was an amazing day all the way around! It was this District Director's dream to have a Disney Flower Show and a huge thank you to District VIII for making the event come true!

**Tarpon Springs GC** geared up for their 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Charity Fashion Show entitled, "Bee the Change" which was November 13<sup>th</sup>. There was shopping, lunch and opportunity prize baskets, with all proceeds donated to charity.

Flower Shows are happening in District VIII. **Temple Terrace GC** had an NGC Standard Flower Show November 10<sup>th</sup>, entitled "Artists in the Garden", **Plant City GC** held a Small Standard Flower Show November 10<sup>th</sup> entitled "An Old-Fashioned Thanksgiving" **Manatee River GC** will hold a Standard Holiday Flower Show entitled, "All You Need is Love" on February 8<sup>th</sup>, 2019, **Tampa GC** is having a Flower Show entitled, "Celebrating Children's Literature" on March 29<sup>th</sup>, **Sarasota GC** will present a Small Standard Flower Show entitled, "I Do, I Do" on March 30<sup>th</sup>, **Venice GC** is in preparation for their Small Standard Flower Show, entitled "Fairy Tales" on April 5<sup>th</sup>, and **St. Petersburgh GC** is having a Flower Show "It's Showtime" on April 27<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup>.

**Davis Island GC** is proud to announce that they will be refurbishing their Blue Star Memorial Marker this year. **Lakewood Ranch GC** is hosting NGC Gardening School Courses I – IV starting with courses I and II January 28<sup>th</sup> – 31<sup>st</sup>, 2019 and courses II and IV April 1<sup>st</sup> – 4<sup>th</sup>, 2019. **Lemon Bay GC** had their annual Garden Fair featuring 7 wonderful gardens on November 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup>.

District VIII of the Florida Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc. is pleased to offer matching grant to the District VIII garden clubs and circles, "Plant, Bloom & Grow With Us". This fund was begun using proceeds from successfully hosting the FFGC convention in April 2014. This District VIII BOD determined that the best use of these funds would be to offer clubs an opportunity to apply to use them on local projects. Projects may be new or ongoing. Matching funds up to \$500 will be awarded to an individual club or circle. We are proud to announce \$500 was awarded to Dade City GC for their project, Saving the Monarch Butterfly by Planting Monarch Butterfly Gardens/Waystations.

Did you hear, District VIII has a new logo? Go to [www.floridistrictviii.com](http://www.floridistrictviii.com) and check it out! A big thank you for all who had a hand in designing a logo that shows why District VIII is 'The Great 8' There is always something happening in the 23 clubs in District VIII from field trips, Design, Garden Tours, Fashion Shows, and horticulture programs, it's difficult to list them all, but I can tell you this, there is always something happening somewhere! It is an honor and a privilege to be the Director of such a great District.

### A Note from your Membership Chairs: Share the Joy of Gardening

Yes, the Holidays are upon us, and we encourage you to GIFT a Membership to your Club to a friend, relative, neighbor, etc. Of course, you'd want to include one of the new Membership brochures, recently distributed at the Fall District Meetings, which lists just what a Membership in an FFGC Garden Club will give! What a thoughtful way to 'jump start' building your club's membership. I gifted a friend in Dothan Alabama (No, they do not have to be in Florida), by sending a basket filled with plants, gardening gloves, FFGC Calendar and the membership. She loved it, and still talks about this gift! If your recipient is a veggie gardener, include seed packets!

Questions? Wanna chat, share ideas? Get in touch.

Jane and Ed Nendick, FFGC Membership Chair Phone: 850-866-9319

Email: [inthebag47@earthlink.net](mailto:inthebag47@earthlink.net)

## **CONTINUING EDUCATION**

### **NGC GARDENING SCHOOL:**

Barbara Hadsell      **561-439-4607**

Email: [barbarhasell@cs.com](mailto:barbarhasell@cs.com)

### **NGC GARDENING SCHOOL**

**Course IV , Series 5**      February 12-13, 2019

New Smyrna Beach Garden Club

2000 Turnbull Road

New Smyrna Beach, FL

Contact: Sally Flanagan 386-428-3170

Email: [sfflan@aol.com](mailto:sfflan@aol.com)

**Course III , Series 6**      February 4-5, 2019

**Course IV**      March 4-5, 2019

Ribault Garden Club

705 2nd Ave., N

Jacksonville Beach, FL 32250

Contact: Carolyn H. Stevens 904-247-8269

Email: [carolynhstevens@gmail.com](mailto:carolynhstevens@gmail.com)

**Course I, Series 7**      January 28-29, 2019

**Course II**      January 30-31, 2019

**Course III**      April 1-2, 2019

**Course IV**      April 3-4, 2019

6600 River Club Blvd.

Bradenton, FL 34202

Contact: Sheryl Perkins 941-708-7082

Email: [SL\\_Perkins@hotmail.com](mailto:SL_Perkins@hotmail.com)

### **NGC LANDSCAPE DESIGN SCHOOL**

Pat Richardson      **407-469-7082**

Email: [orgrampat42@yahoo.com](mailto:orgrampat42@yahoo.com)

### **Landscape Design School**

**Series 36 Course II**      April 26-27, 2019

District IX

Ft. Myers Lee County Council Building

### **FLORAL DESIGN STUDY UNITS**

Carol Lucia      772-393-8276

Cell:      727-656-3207

Email: [clucia02@aol.com](mailto:clucia02@aol.com)

### **Advanced Units 7 – 9**

District VI      December 5, 2018

Time: 9 am

Cocoa-Rockledge Garden Club

1493 South Fiske Blvd.

Rockledge, FL

Chair: Gloria Blake 321-537-8060

Email: [seaclus@yahoo.com](mailto:seaclus@yahoo.com)

### **Advanced Units 7-9**

District VIII      January 14, 21, 28, 2019

Time:      10:00 am

Venice Area Garden Club

Audubon Building

4002 S. Tamiami, Rt. 41S

(behind South County Court House)

Chair: Sandra Walters 941-480-1815

Email: [sanwal6872@gmail.com](mailto:sanwal6872@gmail.com)

### **FLORAL DESIGN STUDY UNITS (Cont.)**

#### **Advanced Units 7-9**

District IV      March 18, 25, Apr. 1, 2019  
Time:      9:00 am  
FFJS District Judges Council  
Ribault Garden Club  
Jacksonville Beach, FL  
Registrar: Beverly Williams 404-312-8530  
Email: [bevthe\\*patriot@gmail.com](mailto:bevthe*patriot@gmail.com)

### **ENVIRONMENTAL SCHOOL:**

**Nancy Richards**      **561-702-0550**

**Course IV, Series 12**      December 4,5, 2018

Gardeners out East Garden Club  
Lakewood Ranch, FL  
Contact: Eileen Amesbury 941-465-0272

**Course 1**      March 19-20, 2019

8:30 am - 3 pm  
New Smyrna Beach Garden Club  
2000 Turnbull Road

New Smyrna Beach, FL

Contact: Sally Flanagan 386-428-3170

Email: [SFFlan@aol.com](mailto:SFFlan@aol.com)

### **TROPICAL SHORT COURSE**

District X      January 23, 24, 2019

Embassy Suites  
4350 PGA Boulevard  
Palm Beach Gardens, FL 33410  
Chairman: Donna Berger 772-214-8629

### **FLOWER SHOW SCHOOL #1 FFSJ**

District I      February 18-20, 2019

Feb 18-19, 8 am - 5 pm  
Feb 20, exam 9 am-12 noon  
Gulf Breeze Presbyterian Church  
100 Andrew Jackson Trail

Gulf Breeze, FL 32561

### **FLOWER SHOWS**

#### **A Standard Flower Show**

Garden Club of St. Augustine

“The Love Boat”  
March 30, 2019 9 – 5 pm  
March 31, 2019 10 – 3 pm  
3125 Agricultural Center Drive  
St. Augustine, FL  
Contact: Ginny Pierucci 904-460-9473

#### **A Small Standard Flower Show**

The Lake County Council of Garden Clubs

“Downtown” March 29, 30, 2019 10 am – 3 pm

Lake Country Agriculture Center

1951 Woodlea Road,

Tavares, FL Free to the Public

Contact: Sue Cangialosi 352-874-1251 Email: [susancangialosi@aol.com](mailto:susancangialosi@aol.com)

#### **A Standard Flower Show**

Naples Garden Club

“Making Music” March 22 - 23, 2019, 9 am – 5 pm  
Naples Botanical Gardens  
4820 Bayshore Drive, Naples, FL 34112  
Contact: Mary Pulick  
Email: [marypulick@gmail.com](mailto:marypulick@gmail.com)

### **FLOWER SHOWS (CONT.)**

#### **NGC Standard Flower Show**

District XI “Wedded Bliss” January 19-20, 2019  
Time: 10 am - 3 pm  
Fort Lauderdale Garden Club  
Glenn F. Bates Garden Center  
Located at Hugh Taylor Birch State park  
3109 E. Sunrise Boulevard  
Fort Lauderdale, FL 33304  
Contact: Virginia Garver 954-943-4183

#### **A Standard Flower Show**

Homosassa River Garden Club  
Saturday, March 30, 2019, 1-4 pm  
Sunday, March 31, 2019 10am-2pm  
“Florida’s Memorable Travel Adventures With Flowers”  
The Royal Dalton House  
5445 W. Oak Park Blvd.  
Homosassa, FL 34446  
352-765-3259  
Open and Free to the Public  
Chairman: Nancy A. Smith

#### **A Small Standard Flower Show**

“I Do, I Do” District IX March 30, 2019  
10 am- 4 pm  
Sarasota Garden Club  
1131 Blvd. of the Arts  
Sarasota, FL 34236  
Contact: Betty Call 978-257-6698

#### **A Standard Flower Show**

Boca Raton Garden Club, District X  
“Mother Goose” March 1-2, 2019  
Friday 1-4 pm  
Saturday 9am-3 pm  
Boca Raton Garden Club House  
Contact: Rebecca Stallard, Chair 561-400-2119

#### **Standard Holiday Flower Show**

Manatee River Garden Club  
“All you Need is Love” February 8 - 9, 2019  
Friday, 1 - 4 pm, Saturday 10 am- 4 pm  
3120 First Ave West  
Bradenton, FL 34205

#### **A SMALL STANDARD FLOWER SHOW**

Venice Area Garden Club  
“Fairy Tales” April 5-6, 2019  
10 AM - 4 PM  
Venice Community Center  
326 S. Nokomis Ave.  
Venice Area, FL  
Contact: Tracey Ivy 941-412-1642

#### **GARDENFEST**

**District X** February 2 and 3, 2019  
Riverside Park 9 am- 4pm  
Vero Beach, FL

#### **SPRING GARDEN FEST!**

Melbourne Garden Club February 16, 2019  
9am-2 pm  
American Homesteading Foundation  
535 Hammock Road  
Melbourne Village, FL

## NGC ENVIRONMENTAL, GARDENING AND LANDSCAPE DESIGN SCHOOLS

By Barbara Hadsell, Gardening Schools Chairman

The NGC Board approved the Landscape Design School's new curriculum at the Fall Board meeting. The curriculum will include a segment in each course explicitly aimed at redesigning a home landscape, including a three-hour class devoted to creating a personal plan. We will also focus on sustainability. Fundamentally, we need to be aware of the environmental burdens the typical suburban lawn and a few shrubs places on the national landscape. Even moderate changes in planting choices and cultural practices can make significant impacts on the ecosystems around us. This will be an exciting and dynamic approach to landscape design. Instructors will provide course outlines, and use of Stewards of the Land will be discontinued. Details about the transition dates (still to be determined) are forthcoming.

The final draft of the new combined Schools Handbook is nearing completion. However, it is important now and in the future to continue using **only** the interactive forms available on the NGC Schools website. The free Adobe Acrobat Reader software must be downloaded by the individual before downloading the interactive forms to your hard drive. Forms must be completed only on your hard drive and saved there before attaching and emailing to the appropriate person for signature. NO completed forms are to be sent (emailed) to Headquarters without the proper signatures at the bottom or without sending to all parties designated on each form. To assure timely and accurate processing, follow the instructions on all forms.

Now is the time of year for each Consultant to review the Good Standing Date for each School completed and if that date is 12/31/2018, the Consultant must refresh in 2018 or apply before 12/31/2018 for an extension. Remember that there is no requirement to test when refreshing. Also, for students taking tests in all three Schools, the new policy is Open Notes, Open Book.

Attention Environmental Consultants ! Use your knowledge to advocate in the legislative process. One of the mission statements of NGC is:

"to review environmental problems and their possible solutions, to promote environmental literacy and to advocate sound environmental stewardship." – *Keeping in Touch Nov. 2015*.

Know the positions of your legislators. One of the main reasons to join a garden club, given by new members, is to become educated about local gardening practices.

Also, our seasoned gardeners are challenged to **PLANTAMERICA!** NGC Gardening School provides current valuable information to meet those objectives.

## NGC ENVIRONMENTAL SCHOOL

By Nancy Richards

I love to talk about the NGC Environmental School. But, what exactly does this school entail? I'd like to go back to basics and explain how easy it is to become educated in Florida's unique environmental issues and how to become a NGC Environmental Consultant.

Environmental School (ES) was developed to teach the science behind many of today's environmental issues, most of which are quite complex. How people can make a significant effect in their homes and communities is stressed.

Each Environmental School is broken down into four different courses – an introduction to environmental studies, air, land, and water issues. Each course, for instance, water, is broken down into eight hours of class instruction and two hours of hands-on nature discovery field trips. Generally each course is taught over two days.

The full coursework adds up to 40 hours of instruction! Classes include ecology, sustainability, endangered plants & wildlife, ethics, agriculture, backyard wildlife habitat, just to name a few.

People just need to register for the course, pay the nominal fee, attend, and take the test to start becoming a NGC Environmental Consultant.

"Wait one minute", some of you are thinking, "did I correctly read the word, 'test'?" This is generally where people panic! But believe me, our tests are nothing to worry about. Our tests are open book, and subject matter is reviewed prior to any test taking.

## NGC GARDENING SCHOOL—VALUE TO MASTER GARDENERS

By Barbara Hadsell, Gardening Schools Chairman

At a Florida Federation of Garden Club Board of Directors meeting, District Directors were asked to appoint a Master Gardener liaison. So one might ask, how does our NGC Gardening School fit in with the University of Florida Extension Service Master Gardening program? According to the Master Gardeners' website, "The learning process never ends for Master Gardeners!" Consider inviting your area's Master Gardeners to an NGC Gardening School. Here is what two FFGC garden club members (who are new Master Gardeners) had to say.

"I have really enjoyed and benefitted from the Master Gardener program. It might seem redundant, but I also have gleaned a lot from the NGC Gardening Course. To have the opportunity to experience continuing education in an area of interest that you can choose is a gift. For me, it is also quite incredible to have a relatively short learning session from instructors who have spent a large portion of their lives becoming experts in their fields." - Rebecca Stallard

"I finished the Master Gardening class last spring but felt that the NGC Gardening School would be a good review. Course I had up-to-date information, especially for South Florida, and I have learned beneficial information for my zone and others. Thank you for this great class.

I have a passion for gardening and am looking forward to the next course." - Nancy Cavnar

Did you know that many Master Gardeners do not know about your club's wonderful activities—garden tours, youth clubs and contests, our environmental youth camps, monthly club programs, field trips and social events?

Please make sure that your club's Master Gardeners mention the garden club's local activities at their meetings, and invite the Master Gardeners to join your club and attend your programs and fundraisers. And don't forget to remind them that many times Continuing Education Units are available for those Master Gardeners who attend educational programs.



At the end of all four courses, attendees are then designated as NGC Environmental Consultants. Consultants must then "refresh" or take continuing education credits to keep their good standing status.

Please watch for Environmental School courses in *The Florida Gardener*, the FFGC website, and under "Educational Opportunities" on [www.DistrictX.org](http://www.DistrictX.org). If you spend time in other areas of the country, the National Garden Clubs website lists all courses offered throughout the country. The courses can be taken in any order, so if Course 3 is offered at a convenient date and place for you, you can start there.

So, I hope I have taken some of the mystery out of these NGC schools and what they entail. I can be contacted at [NancyRRichards@gmail.com](mailto:NancyRRichards@gmail.com) and would be happy to answer any questions you may have.

**Nancy Richards**  
FFGC Environmental State School Chairman/Credentials

### National Garden Week

*The first full week of June each year National Garden Clubs, Inc. designates as National Garden Week. Please include June 2-8, 2019 in your calendar for the upcoming year! Please consider an activity that will help Florida club members and communities celebrate and recognize the value of gardening and civic partnership. It is a week to promote the love of plants, flowers and horticulture!*

Visit: <http://gardenclub.org/projects/national-garden-week.aspx> to find ideas for projects that will help our communities to "Plant, Bloom & Grow with Us".

## **IN YOUR WINTER GARDEN**

**THE UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA PROVIDES A GREAT DEAL OF REFERENCE MATERIAL FOR GARDENERS ON THEIR EDIS WEBSITE. <http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu>. FOLLOWING ARE EXCERPTS FROM THE "FLORIDA GARDENING CALENDAR" (REVISED SEPTEMBER 2016) \***

### **NORTH FLORIDA : What to Plant in December**

**Annuals/Bedding plants:** Masses of petunia, pansy, snapdragon, lobelia, alyssum, and viola add color in winter. **Bulbs:** Amaryllis can be forced to bloom now or planted outdoors for spring blooms. **Herbs:** Some examples of cool-weather herbs include parsley, thyme, sage, dill, fennel, garlic, comfrey, and cilantro. **Vegetables:** Reliable cool-season vegetables include cabbages, collards, beets, and broccoli.

### **NORTH FLORIDA : What to Do in December**

**Poinsettias:** Enjoy one of the most popular indoor holiday plants. With proper care, this colorful plant gives weeks of color. **Cold damage:** Wait until warm weather returns to cut back cold-damaged plants. **Vegetable garden:** Make sure that seeds and transplants are properly spaced for good development of tubers and vegetables. **Houseplants:** Inspect regularly for pests on indoor plants. Keep in mind that adequate light is a key factor to ensuring that indoor plants thrive. **Soil test:** Consider performing a soil test if plants do not perform as desired or if new plantings are planned. **Compost/mulch:** Use fallen leaves to provide the carbon ingredient needed for successful composting and also to make a good mulch. **Garden pests:** Continue monitoring and treat as needed. While cooler weather generally means fewer pests, some populations actually increase at this time of year.

### **NORTH FLORIDA : What to Plant in January**

**Annuals/Bedding plants:** Cool-season annuals include pansy, viola, petunia, and snapdragon. **Bulbs:** Crinum, agapanthus, and gloriosa lily can be planted now. Mulch to protect from cold temperatures. **Camellias:** Select and plant camellia this month. Visit local nurseries now for the best selection of colors and forms. **Vegetables:** Irish potatoes can be planted now. Start with healthy seed pieces purchased from a local nursery or online seed catalog. Continue planting cool-season crops, including broccoli, kale, carrots, and lettuce.

### **NORTH FLORIDA : What to Do in January**

**Deciduous fruit:** Plant deciduous fruit trees now to give the roots time to develop before the warm, dry spring months. Prune and fertilize existing trees. **Cold protection:** Be ready to cover tender plants to minimize damage. Frost/freezes are likely this month and next. **Irrigation:** Water plants if temperatures are higher than normal and rainfall is scarce. **Shrubs and trees:** Prune non-spring flowering shrubs and trees this month to improve form. Consider a hurricane-resistant tree, such as live oak, bald cypress, cabbage palm, or crape myrtle. **Crape myrtle:** Remove seed pods, crossing branches and small twiggy growth to improve the appearance and form of the plant. Hard pruning is not required. **Pests:** Control persistent scale insects on citrus, shrubs, camellias, and deciduous fruit trees; apply horticultural oil while plants are dormant.

### **CENTRAL FLORIDA: What to Plant in December**

**Annuals/Bedding plants:** Add color to the winter garden by planting masses of petunia, pansy, and snapdragon. **Bulbs:** Amaryllis can be forced to bloom now or planted outdoors for spring blooms. **Herbs:** Plant herbs that thrive in cool weather such as parsley, thyme, sage, dill, fennel, and cilantro. **Vegetables:** Cool-season vegetables to plant this month include celery, cauliflower, lettuce, cabbage, and carrot.

### **CENTRAL FLORIDA What to Do in December**

**Cold protection:** Prepare now to protect tender plants should cold weather threaten. **Lawn disease:** Continue to watch for brown patch and large patch, fungal diseases that cause areas of grass to turn brown. Since treatment is difficult, prevention with proper cultural practices is key. These diseases become active when the soil temperature, measured 2–4 in. deep, is between 65°F and 75°F and go dormant when the weather warms in May. **Houseplants:** Inspect regularly for pests on indoor plants. Keep in mind that plant-specific temperature, light, and humidity are key to ensuring that indoor plants thrive. **Soil test:** Consider performing a soil test if plants do not perform as desired or new plantings are planned. **Compost/mulch:** Use fallen leaves to provide the carbon ingredient needed for successful composting and also to make a good mulch. **Landscape and garden pests:** Continue monitoring and treat as needed. While cooler weather generally means fewer pests, some populations increase at this time of year.

### **CENTRAL FLORIDA What to Plant in January**

**Annuals/Bedding plants:** Plants that can be added to the garden during the coolest months include dianthus, pansy, petunia, viola, and snapdragon. **Bulbs:** Crinum, agapanthus, and gloriosa lily bulbs can be planted now. Provide a layer of mulch to protect from cold temperatures. **Camellias:** Select and plant camellias this month. Visit local nurseries now for the best selection of colors and forms. **Vegetables:** Irish potatoes can be planted now. Start with healthy seed pieces purchased from a local nursery or online seed catalog. Continue planting cool-season crops, including kale, broccoli, carrots, and lettuce.

### **CENTRAL FLORIDA : What to Do in January**

**Deciduous fruit:** Plant these fruit trees now to give their roots time to develop before the warm, dry spring months. Prune and fertilize existing trees. **Cold protection:** Prepare to cover tender plants to minimize damage and be sure covers extend all the way to the ground. Frost or freezes are likely this month and next. **Irrigation:** Irrigate lawns and landscape plants minimally as this is their dormant season. **Shrubs and trees:** Prune non-spring flowering shrubs and trees this month to improve form. **Crape myrtle:** Remove seed pods, crossing branches, and small twiggy growth to improve the appearance and form of the plant. Hard pruning is not required. **Pests:** Apply horticultural oil to citrus, shrubs, camellias, and deciduous fruit trees while plants are dormant to control scale.

### **SOUTH FLORIDA: What to Plant in December**

**Annuals/Bedding plants:** To add color to the winter garden, plant masses of begonia, impatiens, and geranium. **Bulbs:** Amaryllis can be forced to bloom now or planted outdoors for spring blooms. **Herbs:** Plant herbs that thrive in cool weather; such as parsley, thyme, sage, dill, fennel, and cilantro. **Vegetables:** Cool season vegetables to plant this month include broccoli, carrots, kale, green onions, and others.

### **SOUTH FLORIDA: What to Do in December**

**Poinsettias:** Enjoy one of the most popular holiday plants. Protect it from cold until spring, and then plant it in the garden for next year. **Irrigation:** Irrigate if the weather has been warm and dry. Monitor plants for signs of stress and water only as needed. **Lawns:** Continue monitoring for brown patch and large patch fungal disease until May. Proper cultural practices are key for control. **Houseplants:** Inspect regularly for pests on indoor plants. Keep in mind that plant-specific temperature, light, and humidity are key to ensuring that indoor plants thrive. **Soil test:** Consider performing a soil test if plants do not perform as desired or if new plantings are planned. **Compost/mulch:** Use fallen leaves and plant debris to provide the carbon ingredient needed for successful composting and also to make a good mulch. **Landscape and garden pests:** Continue monitoring and treat as needed. While cooler weather generally means fewer pests, some pest populations actually increase at this time of year. **Holiday trees:** Consider enjoying a live southern red cedar and then plant it in the landscape when the holidays are over. **Protect:** Protect tender orchid, impatiens, and tomatoes from falling temperatures.

### **SOUTH FLORIDA: What to Plant in January**

**Annuals/Bedding plants:** Plants that can be added to the garden during the coolest months include begonia, browallia, lobelia, dianthus, dusty miller, and nicotina. **Bulbs:** Winter is a great time to plant bulbs that will bloom in the spring. Examples include Clivia lily, crinum, and agapanthus. **Herbs:** Many herbs thrive in cooler temperatures, including tarragon, thyme, dill, fennel, and any of the mints. **Vegetables:** Many vegetables can be planted this time of year. This the last month to plant Irish potatoes, beets, broccoli, Brussels sprouts, cabbage, cauliflower, collards, kale, mustard, and turnips.

### **SOUTH FLORIDA: What to Do in January**

**Landscape:** It's a good time to plant woody shrubs. Water frequently to get new plantings off to a good start. **Irrigation:** Water plants if temperatures remain higher than normal and rainfall is scarce. **Shrubs and trees:** Prune non-spring flowering shrubs and trees this month to improve form. **Crape myrtle:** Remove seed pods, crossing branches, and small twiggy growth to improve appearance and form. Hard pruning is not required. **Cold protection:** Bring sensitive plants like orchids inside if a frost or freeze is predicted. Thoroughly water and cover sensitive plants in the landscape 12–24 hours before a freeze. **Pests:** Apply horticultural oil to citrus, shrubs, and deciduous fruit trees while plants are dormant to control scale. Apply copper spray to mangos after bloom.

\*From: UF/IFAS Publication# ENH1189, revised September 2016, Sydney Park Brown

\*From: UF/IFAS Publication # ENH1190 , revised September 2016, Sydney Park Brown

\*From: UF/IFAS Publication# ENH1191, Revised September 2016, Sydney Park Brown

## The Environment

## The 2018 Water Resources Development Act

### Becomes Federal Law!

By Inger Jones

Environmental Alert Chairman

### Wellington Garden Club and District X Represented at Everglades Foundation Symposium

by Diane Rice

District X members Barbara Hadsell, Beverly Lichtenstein (not shown), Pamela Stokes and Diane Rice attended this year's John Marshall Everglades Symposium held on September 22nd.

This year, the Everglades Foundation Symposium program included discussion not only on the need for Everglades restoration but also the need to have a comprehensive water policy that will protect all of Florida--including Florida's marine life.



Left to right: Barbara Hadsell, Pamela Stokes and Diane Rice

Before the hurricane of 1928, most of the land south of Lake Okeechobee was marshland, with water naturally flowing south through the river of grass known as the Florida Everglades. But, after the tragic loss of life when Lake Okeechobee flooded, the decision was made to build a dike around the lake, and also to manage the water level within the lake through a series of canals where excess water was pumped east and west out of the lake to the rivers and eventually to the Gulf of Mexico and the Atlantic Ocean. Today, instead of having water from the lake naturally percolating south towards the Everglades, the water that is pumped east and west carries with it the pollutants from wastewater treatment areas and agricultural run-off, causing our estuaries and coastal ocean areas to be clogged with algae blooms and red tide which in turn provides toxic air and leaves our beaches and waterways littered with dead marine life.

What was both interesting and scary was the scientific data presented by Dr. Larry Bond from Florida International University. Dr. Bond presented the results of a study on the impact of toxic waters. The study examined what happens in the brains of dolphins who live and swim in the waters. Through autopsies on the dolphins, Dr. Bond found that their brains had an accumulation of a tangled protein--the same type of tangled protein found in ALS (*Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis*) patients.

This, compounded with data that shows increased hospitalizations for respiratory issues, COPD and asthma when algae blooms and red tide occur is why we need to respond to good Florida environmental policies and laws.

What should we do? In the short run we should alert the decision-makers and then protect ourselves the best we can. In the long run we should make it our goal to effect change. So there really is no time to sit back. Whether you want to participate with Everglades Restoration, contribute to Captains for Clean Water, get a Facebook page to speak out or react to our emailed garden club environmental alerts to call our State Congress representatives during legislation to vote for good environmental laws. Choose one or two of these initiatives and then stick with it because the health and life of Floridians depend on all of us doing what we can to make sure there will be clean water for our children and grandchildren.

The bill, referred to as WRDA, provides for a critical and fundamental Everglades Restoration and estuaries enhancement project that will enable excess water to be directed south out of Lake Okeechobee instead of east and west to the St. Lucie and Caloosahatchee Rivers and estuaries. The project is designed to move water from Lake Okeechobee through 6,500 acres of filtering marshes to clean the water and store it in a 10,500 acre reservoir. The reservoir is estimated to cost about \$1.6 billion, which will be split evenly between the federal government and the state of Florida.

The bill also directs the U.S. Army Corp of engineers to implement a five year harmful algal bloom technology development program to identify and develop improved strategies for prevention and management techniques, early detection and procedures to reduce harmful algal blooms.

According to excerpt from an article published in *Treasure Coast Newspapers* on October 23, 2018, by Tyler Treadway and Ali Schmitz, "The preliminary design of the project from the water management district includes a 23-foot-deep, 10,100-acre reservoir to store up to 78.2 billion gallons of excess lake water and a 6,500-acre man-made marsh to clean the water before it's sent south to Everglades National Park and Florida Bay.

*The project is expected, when used in conjunction with other existing and planned projects, to reduce the number of damaging discharges from Lake Okeechobee to the St. Lucie and Caloosahatchee rivers by 63 percent.*

*It also will send an average of about 120.6 billion gallons of clean water south to the thirsty Everglades and Florida Bay."*

Florida's Senators Nelson and Rubio both worked to have this program included in the bill. President Donald Trump signed the federal Water Resources Development Act on October 23, 2018. WRDA includes a nationwide list of water projects that includes the reservoir south of Lake Okeechobee.

Our voices will be needed to continue the momentum to support project funding in the 2019 and 2020 federal budgets to keep the project moving, and at the state level we will need to pursue a commitment from the new administration to ensure the project is started.

### International Coastal Clean-up

by Diane Rice

This year, it was a privilege to be working with the Sea2Shore Alliance in the International Coastal Cleanup. Some 90 volunteers collected over 100 pounds of trash. In addition to volunteers from Wellington Garden Club, a number of other organizations joined the effort to clean-up Ocean Ridge Inlet and Beach. Representatives from St. David's EYC, Wellington HS, Palm Beach Central HS, Park Vista HS, Atlantic HS, South Tech and Boca High Schools

Sea to Shore Alliance and Sea Angels each dedicate a crew once a month to help clean this beautiful beach. For more of what Sea to Shore Alliance and Sea Angels do for marine life please visit [sea2shore.org](http://sea2shore.org) and [SeaAngels.org](http://SeaAngels.org).

## Internet Security Refresher

By Phyllis White,  
Non-Print Communication Committee  
and Social Media Coordinator

Yes, we are all under cyber attack. "Phishing," hacking, spam, malware, viruses — are all bad actors. Everyone using a computer or smartphone is vulnerable, but there are some simple steps to avoid falling prey to surveillance, stolen data and frozen computers. **The golden rule is to set strong passwords, update apps from reliable sources, have good anti-virus protection, and know which emails and files are suspicious (and get rid of them).**

**Account Passwords** Create a new password for every account. It should contain at least 12 to 16 characters and contain a combination of numbers, symbols, uppercase letters, lowercase letters, and spaces. According to [cnet.com](http://cnet.com), "the password should be free of repetition, dictionary words, usernames, pronouns, IDs, and any other predefined number or letter sequences."

**Public Wi-Fi** They may be fine when you're in a hurry and checking the weather forecast, but don't use public Wi-Fi to make a credit card purchase or look at your bank account balance. Your passwords and pin information may be exposed on public hotspots. If you're staying in a hotel, check to see if the room Wi-Fi is private. It usually is public in the lobby.

**Ransomware and Phishing Scams** These are phony emails with links or attachments that look like they're from a business you know (bank, cable provider, or credit card company). Delete the email and report it to the company where you have your account. Do NOT click on links or attachments. Phishing scams are emails that request personal information to qualify for long-forgotten ancestor's estate, or when the name of a garden club friend shows up needing bail in Mexico, or emails asking to fund a "Go Fund Me" account. Do NOT click on anything that looks fishy or is out of the ordinary. Do NOT send money or buy cash cards to send to the email sender. Do NOT respond with your password and pin information. If you happen to click on a bad email or attachment and your computer freezes, disconnect your computer from the network immediately and contact a cybersecurity expert or online security firm and let them help you. Update your malware software!

**Encryption** Your privacy relies on your data being secure. The average citizen should usually only worry about tech companies tracking them to serve up ads pertinent to your browsing sites. Installing an ad blocker will stop pop-up ads. Check the security in the browser bar for the locked icon when making an online purchase. iPhones are seen as the most secure mainstream device today. Modern and newer Android devices usually come with strong security features, but there isn't a universal implementation of encryption yet. Your iPhone encrypts as soon as you lock your screen, but Android devices have to be shut down entirely.

Focus on prevention as much as on real time soft-ware protection against threats. Think before you click!

**Please be assured, NO ONE FROM FFGC WILL REQUEST ANY PERSONAL ACCOUNT INFORMATION from you. EVER!**  
**As always, if you are in doubt, please call FFGC Headquarters at 407-647-7016.**

## Protect yourself from Identity Theft

The Internet is not the only place where security breaches can occur. The following information from [USA.gov](http://USA.gov) has some useful tips regarding the most common types of schemes. Identity (ID) theft happens when someone steals your personal information to commit fraud.

The identity thief may use your information to fraudulently apply for credit, file false tax returns, or get medical services. These acts can damage your credit status, and cost you time and money to restore your good name. You may not know that you're the victim of ID theft immediately. You could be a victim if you receive:

- ⇒ Bills for items you didn't buy
- ⇒ Debt collection calls for accounts you didn't open
- ⇒ Denials for loan applications

Children and seniors are especially vulnerable to ID theft. Child ID theft may go undetected for many years. Victims may not know until they're adults, applying for their own loans. Seniors are vulnerable because they often share their personal information with doctors and caregivers. The number of people and offices that access their information put them at risk.

**Types of ID Theft** There are several common types of identity theft that can affect you: **Tax ID theft** - Someone uses your Social Security number to falsely file tax returns with the IRS or your state. **Medical ID theft** - Someone steals your Medicare ID or health insurance member number. Thieves use this information to get medical services or send fake bills to your health insurer. **Social ID theft** - Someone uses your name and photos to create a fake account on social media

Secure your internet connections, use security features, (like those described in the previous article by Phyllis White) and review bills.

Take steps to protect yourself from identity theft:

- Secure your Social Security number (SSN). Don't carry your Social Security card in your wallet. Only give out your SSN when absolutely necessary.
- Don't share personal information (birthdate, Social Security number, or bank account number) just because someone asks for it.
- Collect mail every day. Place a hold on your mail when you are away from home for several days.
- Pay attention to your billing cycles. If bills or financial statements are late, contact the sender.
- Use the security features on your mobile phone.
- Update sharing and firewall settings when you're on a public wi-fi network. Use a virtual private network, if you use public wi-fi.
- Review your credit card and bank account statements. Compare receipts with account statements. Watch for unauthorized transactions.
- Shred receipts, credit offers, account statements, and expired credit cards, to prevent "dumpster divers" from getting your personal information.
- Store personal information in a safe place.
- Install firewalls and virus-detection software on your home computer.
- Change your passwords if a company that you do business with has a breach of its databases.
- Review your credit reports once a year. Be certain that they don't include accounts that you have not opened. You can order it for free from [Annualcreditreport.com](http://Annualcreditreport.com).
- If you think you have bills or charges that do not belong to you, freeze your credit files with [Equifax](http://Equifax.com), [Experian](http://Experian.com), [Innovis](http://Innovis.com), [TransUnion](http://TransUnion.com), and the [National Consumer Telecommunications and Utilities Exchange](http://NationalConsumerTelecommunicationsAndUtilitiesExchange.com), for free. Credit freezes prevent someone from applying for and getting approval for credit account or utility services in your name.



## FLORIDA FEDERATION OF GARDEN CLUBS, INC.

### ELLA P. WOOD PATHS OF SUNSHINE AWARD

**PURPOSE:** To recognize Roadside Maintenance Units whose workers, through their superior efforts and with special pride in their work, have improved, enhanced, and added visual quality and beauty to Florida's Interstates, US, and State Highways, while emphasizing the beneficial use of Florida native shrubs, trees and wildflowers on Florida state roadsides.

The award recognizes and honors Ella P. Wood, Florida Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc. (FFGC) President in 1979-1981, for her exemplary service and special contributions to her community and FFGC.

**RECOGNITION:** Roadside Maintenance Units may be nominated or may nominate themselves, as is often done.

To make a nomination, contact the Florida Federation of Garden Clubs - [ffgc.org](http://ffgc.org) or [Ldawson3@tampabay.rr.com](mailto:Ldawson3@tampabay.rr.com).

Annually on or before January 31, Roadside Maintenance Units can accept the nomination by submitting no more than three pages with the following information. Winners will be recognized at the FFGC Annual Convention and at a local FFGC Fall District meeting, community, town hall, city council or county commission meeting. An engraved plaque with all winners dating back to 1988 remains on display at the State Department of Transportation headquarters in Tallahassee.

Winners will be selected by a panel of judges selected by the FFGC. Judges will rely exclusively on the documentation provided by each nominee. Judges will look for evidence of: Preservation, conservation and maintenance of Florida native plants and/or wildflowers growing on highway rights-of-way. Roadside management that promotes flowering, and natural regeneration and dispersal of established Florida native seeds and plants. Preparation and planting of Florida native seeds and plants. Management of Florida native plants and habitats within the rights-of-way. Efficient use of available resources.

**INSTRUCTIONS FOR ROADSIDE MAINTENANCE UNITS:** Submit documentation on or before January 31. Documentation provided by nominee may be up to three 8 1/2" x 11" pages. On page one, provide the following information: Date of submission, Roadside Maintenance Unit (name as it should appear on any award received), unit supervisor, phone, address, and email contact information. Provide the location or locations where the unit has improved, enhanced, and added visual quality and beauty to Florida transportation corridors. Include the road name and/or number noting the start and end of improved or enhanced area, and any nearby defining landmarks. Include small location map with area identified. Arrange the remaining pages as best to include the following:

Photographs (especially during blooming season) with captions describing the improved or enhanced area. Nominees are encouraged to include before, during, and after-action photographs of workers and others involved in the project.

Photographs of the roadside at its peak beauty are helpful.

A written narrative of the Unit's goals and accomplishments with a description of their work and activities related to planting and management of Florida native wildflowers and/or native plants along the roadside. Include description of anticipated future activities at this location.

Submit Documentation by email to Glenda Dawson,  
[Ldawson3@tampabay.rr.com](mailto:Ldawson3@tampabay.rr.com) on or before January 31.





## World Golf Village Renaissance St. Augustine Resort

*500 South Legacy Trail St. Augustine Florida 32092 USA*



Book an unforgettable getaway at the World Golf Village Renaissance St. Augustine Resort! Whether you're here in Florida for a business stay, a golf retreat, a wedding, or a meeting, our hotel provides the ideal destination. We proudly feature two exceptional championship golf courses (Slammer & Squire and King & Bear), as well as the World Golf Hall of Fame museum. Relax and rejuvenate at The Spa World Golf Village, a complimentary shuttle ride from the hotel.

World Golf Village Renaissance St. Augustine Resort  
500 South Legacy Trail  
St. Augustine, Florida 32092 USA  
Phone: 904-940-8000  
Fax: 904-940-8008  
Toll-free: 888-740-7020



## Florida Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc.

93rd Annual Convention Registration Form

World Golf Village Renaissance Resort St. Augustine, Florida

April 7 - 9, 2019

**PLEASE COMPLETE A SEPARATE FORM FOR EACH ATTENDEE**

LAST NAME \_\_\_\_\_ FIRST NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_ CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

DISTRICT \_\_\_\_\_ CLUB \_\_\_\_\_ E-MAIL \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE \_\_\_\_\_ EMERGENCY CONTACT (Name/Phone) \_\_\_\_\_

**CATEGORIES** – Please indicate all categories that apply to you:

<input type="checkbox"/> FFGC Officer	<input type="checkbox"/> FFGC District Director	<input type="checkbox"/> Club President	<input type="checkbox"/> First Time Attendee
<input type="checkbox"/> FFGC Board Member	<input type="checkbox"/> Delegate	<input type="checkbox"/> Circle President	<input type="checkbox"/> FFGC Life Member
<input type="checkbox"/> FFGC Former President	<input type="checkbox"/> Alternate	<input type="checkbox"/> Council President	<input type="checkbox"/> Club Member

**MEMBER – Registration & Meals**

REGISTRATION FEE - Required (allows access to functions)	<input type="checkbox"/> \$ 25.00
SATURDAY- Lightner Museum Tour, St. Augustine (bus departs 12:30, returns at 4:30, Includes transportation & entry fee)	<input type="checkbox"/> \$ 32.00
SUNDAY NIGHT – Dinner & Entertainment - 6:00 pm (If you are on BOD, write "BOD" on this line)	<input type="checkbox"/> \$ 43.00
MONDAY – Brunch	<input type="checkbox"/> \$ 32.00
MONDAY – Dinner	<input type="checkbox"/> \$ 57.00
TUESDAY – Brunch	<input type="checkbox"/> \$ 32.00
TUESDAY – Dinner	<input type="checkbox"/> \$ 57.00

**GUEST – Registration & Meals**

REGISTRATION FEE - Required (allows access to hospitality room)	<input type="checkbox"/> \$ 10.00
SATURDAY- Lightner Museum Tour, St. Augustine (bus departs 12:30, returns at 4:30, Includes transportation & entry fee)	<input type="checkbox"/> \$ 32.00
SUNDAY NIGHT - Dinner & Entertainment – 6:00 pm	<input type="checkbox"/> \$ 43.00
MONDAY – Brunch	<input type="checkbox"/> \$ 32.00
MONDAY- Dinner	<input type="checkbox"/> \$ 57.00
TUESDAY – Brunch	<input type="checkbox"/> \$ 32.00
TUESDAY – Dinner	<input type="checkbox"/> \$ 57.00

GUEST TOURS  Yes, I am interested - more information will be sent, including costs - if any

**LATE REGISTRATION FEE** – If postmarked after Sunday, March 15, 2019  \$ 40.00

**TOTAL AMOUNT DUE \$** \_\_\_\_\_

**MAIL REGISTRATION FORM and CHECK** (payable to FFGC 2019 CONVENTION) **TO:**

Susan Weaver, Registrar  
2012 Walden Rd  
Tallahassee, FL 32317

An email will be sent confirming your registration  
Questions: susanweaver@comcast.net 850-445-8796

**HOTEL RESERVATIONS** - World Golf Village Renaissance Resort 500 S. Legacy Trail St. Augustine, FL 32092  
Reservation Deadline: March 15, 2019 Call: 1-800-468-3571 Group Code: FCGFCGA  
Reservations must be made directly with the hotel by calling the number above or on-line at [www.Marriott.com](http://www.Marriott.com).  
On-Line: Enter "World Golf Village" in the Destination. Once the room rate appears, use the "Edit" button in the upper right corner of the screen and choose "Group" under "Special Rates" drop-down. Then enter "FCGFCGA" in the "Enter Code" box in order to get the conference room rate of \$139.00.

**DIETARY RESTRICTIONS** If you have dietary restrictions due to severe health issues, please note that on an attachment to this form. We cannot guarantee that the hotel will be able to accommodate your needs, but they will try. Shellfish will not be served at any of these meals.

**REGISTRATION DEADLINE** - Sunday, March 31, 2019-You must be registered to attend any programs, meals, or workshops  
NO WALK INS accepted NO REFUNDS for meals after Sunday, March 31, 2019  
REGISTRATION FEE is non-refundable

Registrar Use Only: Reg. No. \_\_\_\_\_ Deposit No. \_\_\_\_\_ Deposit Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Check No. \_\_\_\_\_

**93rd Annual Convention**  
*Florida Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc.*

*Y'all  
COME*

Plant, Bloom & Grow with Us!

**April 7 - 9, 2019**

*Opportunity Drawing*

**Mega 50/50 Drawing**

Total proceeds will be evenly divided between FFGC and the lucky winner. More tickets, more proceeds.

**One Week Stay**

(during low or off season, excluding holidays) at St. George Island, FL beachfront house. Sleeps 10; 4 bedrooms, 3 baths.

\$500 refundable damage deposit, due at booking. View "Seasta" at [www.rvpsgi.com](http://www.rvpsgi.com) for further details.



**Opera Length  
Cultured Pearls**

with a 14K gold clasp



**Apple 32 gig  
Mini-iPad**



**Three Designer Containers**

Two pottery are Keiko and

David Hergesheimer,

Catalpa Lane pottery.

Metal sculpture by Ken Swartz.



**Suggested donation is \$2 per ticket. Order tickets today!**

**Make checks payable to: FFGC 2019 Convention**

Mail to: Marilyn Larson, 2806 Starmount Ln, Tallahassee 32303-4216, [mlarson850@comcast.net](mailto:mlarson850@comcast.net), 850-570-3223.

**The drawing will be held April 9, 2019. 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 501(c)(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.



**93rd Annual Convention**  
*Florida Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc.*

*Y'all*  
COME  
Plant, Bloom & Grow with Us!

April 7 - 9, 2019

**PROGRAM ADVERTISING RATES**

**Deadline for Ads: March 7, 2019**

RATE	PLACEMENT DESCRIPTION	SIZE
\$275	Full Page Color – Outside Back Cover	7 ½" High x 4 ½" Wide
\$250	Full Page Color – Inside Front Cover	7 ½" High x 4 ½" Wide
\$250	Full Page Color – Inside Back Cover	7 ½" High x 4 ½" Wide
\$200	Full Page Color – Interior Page	7 ½" High x 4 ½" Wide
\$125	One-Half Page Color – Interior Page	3 ½" High x 4 ½" Wide
\$100	Full Page Black & White – Interior Page	7 ½" High x 4 ½" Wide
\$60	One-Half Page Black & White – Interior Page	3 ½" High x 4 ½" Wide
\$30	One-Quarter Page Black & White – Interior Page	1 7/8" High x 4 ½" Wide

**STEP 1**

Email your camera-ready ad file (not hard copy) in high resolution PDF format:  
**Inger Jones at [mjinger@att.net](mailto:mjinger@att.net)**

Add "FFGC Convention 2019" in the Subject Line.

**STEP 2**

Mail your payment and a printed copy of your ad to:

**Jana Walling**

**2121 Olivia Drive, Tallahassee, FL 32308-6164**

Make checks payable to "FFGC 2019 Convention".

# Creative Floral Arrangers of the Americas CFAA SEMINAR 2019

*February 21<sup>st</sup> – 24<sup>th</sup>*

*Orlando Airport Marriott Lakeside*

5 Fantastic Design Programs

60+ Kaleidoscope Designs

Exciting Hands-on Workshops\*

Networking with Top Designers

Fabulous Vendors!



**Featuring International Designer CRAIG BULLOCK**

With presentations by:

**Lois Shuster & Friends, Andrea Little, Patricia Bowman and Sandra Nielsen**

**Registration begins October 1, 2018**

**Full Seminar Registration \$325.00**

**Saturday Only Registration \$225.00**

For registration forms, membership and information on this amazing seminar check *Design Dimensions*, visit [www.creativedesign.org](http://www.creativedesign.org) or contact Maureen Tuber at (407) 844-2882.

## Over 85 Vendors!

- ◆ Plants
- ◆ Flowers
- ◆ Orchids
- ◆ Trees
- ◆ Pottery
- ◆ Furniture
- ◆ Fountains
- ◆ Garden art



Youth Activities  
&  
Great Food



Rain  
or  
Shine



Gardenfest!  
nature's finest marketplace

**"Ask  
The Experts"**  
both days

**Great  
Raffle  
Prizes!**

*...no need to be  
present to win!*



**Free Admission  
&  
Parking**

**Riverside Park - Vero Beach**

3250 Riverside Park Drive.....Off Rt. 60, beachside

**Saturday, Feb. 2, 9 am - 5 pm  
Sunday, Feb. 3, 9 am - 4 pm**

Check our web site for more information and directions...  
[www.gardenclubofirc.org](http://www.gardenclubofirc.org)

Like us on Facebook





## The State Wildflower license plate gets a new look!

### THE FACTS

Each time a State Wildflower specialty plate is purchased or renewed, \$15 is raised for wildflowers, wildlife and wild places.

The State Wildflower plate has raised \$4.2 million for native, natural Florida since 1999.

A butterfly takes center stage on the new plate to increase awareness of the pollinators' plight. It perfectly illustrates the wildflower-wildlife connection!

### HOW TO CHANGE YOUR PLATE

Purchase it with a phone call or by visiting your tax collector's office.

#### **No more standing in line at your county tax collector's office.**

Simply visit the link below to fill out a form online. You'll receive a phone call from the Indian River Tax Collector's office, which will process the sale.

### DON'T WAIT, ORDER YOUR PLATE!

Go to <https://flawildflowers.wufoo.com/forms/order-your-plate/>

### COST

- If you have the current State Wildflower license plate and would like to switch to the new design, the one-time fee is \$40.15 by mail.\*
- If you have a valid Florida license plate and would like to replace it with a State Wildflower plate, and it is more than 3 months until your birthday, the one-time fee is \$60.15 by mail.\*
- If your plate is eligible for renewal and you would like to switch to the State Wildflower plate, you will pay the renewal fee plus a one-time fee of \$51.75 by mail.\*

\*Cost includes a \$15 donation to the Florida Wildflower Foundation. Mail fees are \$3.75 and are not applicable should you visit a tax collector's office.

***Help our butterfly take flight – spread the word about the new look.***



Learn more about the plate at [www.FlaWildflowers.org/wildflower-tag](http://www.FlaWildflowers.org/wildflower-tag)

# Sunset Park Garden Club Celebrates 90 years!

by Debby Eger

Ninety years counting and celebrating we are at the Sunset Park Garden Club! And as we do such, we reflect on our predecessors and our proud history. It all began in the year 1928. Sunset Park, a residential community was being developed. Charles Glover, one of the developers was married to Alma and their home was one of the new residences. On June 5, 1928 a group of ladies met at this home to form the Sunset Circle of Tampa Federation of Garden Club Circles. At that meeting over 90 years back, what is now called the "Sunset Park Garden Club" emerged.

In that inaugural year the ladies busied themselves landscaping the shores of Lake Kipling and the parkways of the neighborhood. The year 1931 opened with the club withdrawing from the Tampa Federation and the name officially changed to "Sunset Park Garden Club." The early 30's were spent planting the oak trees lining Westshore to Gandy, of which most still stand today, creating a lovely canopy. The club was instrumental in getting Tampa Electric Co. to run power poles to Sunset Beach so lights would be available for the many picnics, family suppers and fundraisers that were to come. Around 1934 a gazebo was erected in the park and later evening dances with an orchestra occurred!

In 1935 the club received a deed from McDonald Construction Co. for the old Water Works building at 4624 Browning Ave. The City of Tampa was taking over the water mains and the old pump house would no longer be needed. The hull of the old building was repaired and rebuilt and that fall the club was formally opened with a reception.

Throughout the years, the ladies of the club sponsored charities, set up a lending library, erected street markers, delivered Christmas baskets to the needy, planted trees at Mabry and Roosevelt Schools and continued landscaping the parkways and triangles of the neighborhood. The year 1936/37 was marked with the first "style show," assisted by Mr. Ernest Maas of the historical "Maas Brothers," a Tampa cornerstone fashion department store!

During the 40's our club joined the war effort by raising funds for the Red Cross and sewing over a thousand "kits" and over four thousand "housewives." In the 50's the club began focusing on flower arranging, flower show, corsage-making and horticulture. Fundraising to beautify and maintain the club included selling



food at elections, dessert card parties, cookbook sales and building rentals. Through these funds and donations, a clubhouse room addition was completed and the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary saw the dedication of this new structure in 1959. Today, our members continue our traditions with educational programs, field trips and lunch at each meeting, as well as an annual Card Party and Flower Show each spring. Keeping up our Tampa treasure clubhouse is of the utmost importance and 2018 saw the completion of a new roof, donated by Quality Roofing of Tampa!

Our history of hospitality and graciousness continues as well. Therefore, we invite you to visit us at our clubhouse and step back in time as you explore the old pump house and history that lines the walls.

Holiday Amaryllis Festival  
A Community Event at  
Historic Nehrling Gardens  
[www.NehrlingGardens.org](http://www.NehrlingGardens.org)  
Saturday, December 8th 9am - 3pm  
2267 Hempel Avenue, Gotha  
Bring a new toy or nonperishable food item for a local charity and receive a ticket for our prize drawing  
Pictures On The Porch With Santa & Mrs. Claus 10am - 2pm  
Spectacular and rare hybrid amaryllis bulbs as well as blooming amaryllis to purchase for the holidays  
Nehrling Gardens  
Historic Florida Garden 1885

## DEEP SOUTH GARDEN CLUBS INC. 2019 CONVENTION "Savor the Sea"

March 11-13, 2019



The Garden Club of Georgia, Inc. will host the 58th Annual Deep South Garden Clubs, Inc. Convention at Jekyll Island Convention Center, the only ocean front convention center in the southeast on March 11-13, 2019. Hotel accommodation are at The Westin Jekyll Island.

The convention will feature a NGC Tri-Refresher, speakers, four workshops, three tours and vendors. The Garden Club of Georgia, Inc. will host the 58th Annual Deep South Garden Clubs, Inc. Convention at Jekyll Island Convention Center, the only ocean front convention center in the southeast on March 11-13, 2019. Hotel accommodation are at The Westin Jekyll Island.

The convention will feature a NGC Tri-Refresher, speakers, four workshops, three tours and vendors. The Garden Club of Georgia, Inc. will host the 58th Annual Deep South Garden Clubs, Inc. Convention at Jekyll Island Convention Center, the only ocean front convention center in the southeast on March 11-13, 2019. Hotel accommodation are at The Westin Jekyll Island. The convention will feature a NGC Tri-Refresher, speakers, four workshops, three tours and vendors.

## New Blue Star Memorial Marker Unveiled at FFGC Headquarters

On a hot and humid September 12<sup>th</sup>, 2018, a moving dedication and unveiling ceremony of the Blue Star Memorial Marker took place. In attendance were the FFGC board, including the District Directors, members of the Tri-Council and members of the Florida Flower Show Judges. Other dignitaries attending were the Mayor of Winter Park, a representative from the local US Congresswoman's office, Mead Gardens Executive Director, Commander of American Legion Post 112, Senior Vice Commander of VFW Post 4287, a contingent of Patriot Guard Riders and a number of veterans.

In 2017 the NGC discontinued its Sage and Roses Program and held a raffle to distribute the remaining accumulated funds. Our President Claudia Bates was the lucky winner of



Left to Right: 2nd VP Marge Hendon, Past President, Sue Angle, President Claudia Bates, 1st VP Al Latina and 3rd VP Tina Tuttle

the prize monies which were earmarked for a Blue Star Memorial Marker in Florida. Although the amount received was not sufficient to fully fund a marker, an anonymous donor provided the additional money needed to acquire the marker, begin the creation of a living memorial garden and provide for a modest dedication ceremony.



Representatives from the VFW, American Legion and Patriot Riders comprised the Color Guard

A prominent site in front of the parking area at headquarters adjacent to the entrance to Mead Gardens was chosen for the marker and its new garden. The FFGC then extended its irrigation system to this selected area in order to allow more flexibility when adding new planting material.



The FFGC is very proud to show its appreciation for those members of our Armed Forces who valiantly defend the United States of America.

Are you curious about the impact of some of our Garden Club programs and activities? NGC published the following statistics in the November 2018 Issue of

**Keeping in Touch: By the Numbers**

- 418 **Plant America** Grant Applications received in 2017
- 28 **Plant America** Grants awarded in spring 2018
- 161 **Plant America** Grant Applications received in October, 2018
- 544 members, spouses and guests attended the 2018 NGC convention in Philadelphia
- 5,415 copies of The Saved Seed and 10,000+ copies of The Frightened Frog sold
- 8,000 copies of the 2018 Vision of Beauty Calendars sold
- 6,989 copies of the 2019 Vision of Beauty Calendars sold
- 22 Gold Star Families Memorial Markers dedicated from June, 2017 to October, 2018
- 111 Blue Star Memorial Markers dedicated in the same time period
- 9,000 followers on the NGC Facebook page
- 800+- applications for NGC awards plus review of about 300 yearbooks submitted in 2017

**AWARDS REMINDER !**

Although most of the FFGC awards were due Friday, November 30, 2018, there are some awards that have due dates in January, and March.

- #17 Decoration of Historic Buildings (Historic Preservation Award) December 31, 2018
  - #61 Nell Coe Award "Color our Canopy" has a **new due date**, March 1, 2019
  - #62 Mary S. Compton Award for Publicity - Book of Evidence January 15, 2019
  - #70 President's Project - Membership Incentive Award - March 15, 2019
  - #J10-J49 Junior Gardeners Awards - January 30, 2019
  - #I-4 - I-26 Intermediate Gardeners Awards - January 1, 2019
  - #HS -12, HS-15, HS-16 High School Awards - January 1, 2019
  - #HS-20 Essay Contest Awards - January 15, 2019
- National Poetry Contest** - 2018-2019 Theme "Pop Goes the Seed" January 15, 2019
- Youth Sculpture Contest** - January 15, 2019

For detailed descriptions of all of the awards offered, visit the FFGC website at [FFGC.org](http://FFGC.org). Links to applications and instructions for the awards are also available on the website.

## 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.**



# Garden Club Members Everywhere

## Let's Travel Together!

You all have been asking, and your requests have been heard and heeded. As the Chair of Travel and Tours for the Florida Federation of Garden Clubs, I and your president, Claudia Bates, have made some exciting plans.

I have taken the time to go over your responses and tailor trips to the places that you all want to see! Unfortunately due to time, we are only able to offer one trip in 2018, but we think that you will be excited with that choice and the options that we have provided for you for 2019. I have been working closely with a few companies to learn the ins and outs of their payment schedules to ensure that you will have the proper time to plan and choose your desired trips.

As we announce the options, please keep in mind that the space on these trips will be held based on an active show of interest. It is important for me to reserve these spots as soon as I can. Help me help you by booking your trip as early as possible. The quicker we can fill up these trips the more places we can go!



I have done my best to provide a variety of choices for 2019 based off of your requests; however, the fun does not stop here. Continue to send me suggestions so that I can look into future trips; this way the travel opportunities never end.

I am excited to provide everyone with the opportunity to chase their travel dreams. My aim is to make hassle free, safe, and pocket book friendly trips! Take advantage of my 25 plus years of travel professional experience and let me be your travel guide.

Please look at the six trips that we are featuring and give me a call. Be sure to check the website for more details. I look forward to getting to know each of you!

### Upcoming Florida Federation Garden Club Trips:

- **Rose Bowl Parade: December 29, 2018 - January 3, 2019:**
  - Price: \$1,950 pp dbl; \$100 deposit; Deposit due: Aug 1<sup>st</sup>
- Philadelphia Flower Show: March 1- March 4, 2019:
  - Please contact for further details
- **Holland Michigan Tulip Festival: May 9 - May 15, 2019:**
  - \$2189 pp dbl; \$200 deposit; Deposit due: June 15<sup>th</sup>
- Chelsea Flower Show: May 22 - May 30, 2019:
  - Contact for pricing; \$200 deposit; Deposit due: July 1<sup>st</sup>
- **Autumn Colors of New England: Sept. 29 - Oct. 7, 2019**
  - \$2,855 pp dbl\*; \$200 deposit; Deposit due: June 25<sup>th</sup>
- Northern Italy: Cinque Terre: Sept. 28 - Oct. 6, 2019
  - \$2,590 pp dbl\*; \$200 deposit; Deposit due: June 25<sup>th</sup>

For more information go to:  
[www.FFGCTravel.com](http://www.FFGCTravel.com)



Call Shelley at **(850) 386-7327 x208**  
Or email: [SAtkinson@FunSeas.com](mailto:SAtkinson@FunSeas.com)  
Contact for single occupancy rates  
\*2019 rates are subject to change

## **Tropical Short Course 2019 Speaker Program “Tropical Journey”**

Wednesday, January 23, 2019 8:00 AM to 3:00 PM

### *“Biology and Ecology of Mangroves”*

Janice Duquesnel, biologist with the District 5 Administration Office of the Florida Park Service, will give an overview of the mangrove ecosystem and its functionality. She will also talk about the three species of native mangroves and the characteristics that define each species.

### *“Planting for Honeybees, and other Pollinators, in South Florida”*

Jennifer Holmes, owner of Hani Honey Company, will tell us that there is something blooming all year long in South Florida, and that the honey bee and pollinators are there. The listener will enjoy a discussion about the many plants, both edible, fruiting, flowering and everything in between that attract them. We hope to enjoy a taste of honey during free time.

### *“Community & Canopy”*

Mark Cassini is the Co-founder and Co-Director of Community Greening, an urban forestry non-profit along with Matt Shipley who is the Co-Founder and Co-Director of Community Greening, an urban forestry non-profit. Mark and Matt will speak to us about creating and maintaining green spaces, cleaning up litter, developing a canopy of trees planted for shade and educating the public.

### *“Creative Designs with Seasonal Accents”*

A fun-filled program will be presented by FFGC Fun with Flowers Chairman, Emilie Palmieri. She will give step-by-step creative design instructions to teach attendees new ideas and skills for the home for seasonal accents, entertaining and special occasion decorating.

Thursday, January 24, 2019      8:00 AM to 3:00 PM

### *“Mangoes in South Florida”*

Alex Salazar of Tropical Acres Farms is a Commercial Mango grower since 2011 and will present information on modern mango horticultural care, varieties and flavor.

### *“Why Hummingbirds Hum”*

Barbara Jacobson, FFGC Birds and Butterflies Chairman and former District VIII Director, will present amazing facts about these fabulous and feisty tiny acrobats. Barbara will talk about their species, anatomy, metabolism, migration and nesting diet. We will learn about some of the favorite plants that attract hummingbirds to your yard.

### *“Beat the Heat with Indoor Plants”*

Laura Perdomo, owner of The Peacock Cottage in Ocala, FL brings to us a unique and creative perspective to “common” houseplants. Laura will show us the amazing world of having fun exploring a variety of plants and interesting ways to display them. Think about this question “Have you made a miniature garden yet for your house?”

### *“The Marvelously Mundane”*

Parke Finold, Flower Show School Judge and Instructor will present a journey on objects found around the house that can be used for design. Parke also serves on the FFGC Board of Directors, is Past President of ‘Floralias’ II and VI and currently serves as Vice Chairman of District VIII Judges Council.

## **The FFGC 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.”

### **Florida Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc. - District X**

#### **63rd Annual Tropical Short Course**



#### **“Tropical Journey”**



#### **Embassy Suites by Hilton**

**4350 PGA Boulevard**

**Palm Beach Gardens, Florida 33410**

**January 23-24, 2019**

Tropical Short Course is an annual two-day educational event sponsored by FFGC and District X. The course presents dynamic and interesting speakers on the environment, gardening, landscape and floral design and will be held at a beautiful, new hotel location. There will be lots of great raffles and vendors on site. Enjoy the indoor gardens and swans.

*See the registration form on the FFGC and District X websites for more details on cost, hotel reservations and directions.*

**Donna Berger, TSC Chair**

**donnaberger1@gmail.com**

**772-214-8629 mobile**

**[www.ffgc.org](http://www.ffgc.org) or [www.districtx.org](http://www.districtx.org)**





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Black Kow® builds the organic matter content of the soil, adds nutrients, increases microbial activity, and improves drainage and moisture retention. It's a healthier and environmentally friendly alternative to synthetic fertilizers.

**Black Kow® offers many soil improvement advantages...**

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- Free of Chemicals
- Safe for Edible Gardens
- Excellent Source of Nutrients
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*The Florida Gardener*

1400 S. Denning Avenue  
Winter Park, FL 32789-5662

## REMINDER! MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

FFGC 93rd Annual Convention "Ya'll Come" is April 7-9, 2019

Deep South Convention "Savor the Sea" is March 11-13, 2019

National Garden Clubs Convention "Gathering on the Gulf" is April 29 - May 2, 2019

Information and interactive registrations are available on line at [ffgc.org](http://ffgc.org)

## The State Wildflower license plate has a new look!



This plate protects Florida's wildflowers, wildlife and wild places.

Get yours today – [www.Flawildflowers.org/wildflower-tag](http://www.Flawildflowers.org/wildflower-tag)