

THE

Florida

GARDENER



Winter 2019



President's Message

I cannot help but reflect on all that has occurred since the last issue of The Florida Gardener was published. I'm certain all our members concur that our thoughts are with our FFGC family who were affected by the close call from Hurricane Dorian in the summer, but especially with our friends to the east in the Bahamas which was devastated from the massive storm.

The last several years have seen severe Hurricane damage in virtually all parts of our state, and we pray the cycle of so many storms will subside for many years to come. Please keep those who are trying to put their lives back together in your prayers.

Most of you are aware that our Office Manager, Liea Ward, has been on leave of absence, and that Robyn Clifton has kept Headquarters functioning effectively during the time Liea was away. A big "Thank You" to Robyn for her help.

Once again, I need to bring to your attention the email scams many of you have received during the last several months. This is a continuation of unwanted activity which has been going on for years, but the activity increased recently. Please be mindful that the content in the scam emails is an indication that they are fraudulent. Some of the requests asked the recipient to purchase gift cards which I supposedly requested. FFGC nor I will ever ask for such a request. FFGC will not solicit donations unless they are adequately discussed for important activities such as Disaster Relief to replace lost plants. In those cases, the procedure for donations will include safeguards for you to follow. To assist you in determining legitimate requests from fraudulent emails, look at the email address which is attributed to me. It will typically include a strange address which I have never used. Other fraudulent emails have indicated my need to talk with you immediately. Again, if it comes from me, I will always use my usual email address. Please delete suspicious emails; never open any attachments which might be included, and do not reply to these emails. Send me an independent email if you are unsure of the validity. In most cases I am already aware of the scams, and you may simply delete and ignore the requests. My goal is to prevent any of our members from being negatively affected by these Scammers. I agree with those who wish that Scammers would use their "talents" for better use.

I hope you enjoy reading The Florida Gardener online. We can do so much more with the computer version than with the printed copy. I have an Ad Hoc Committee reviewing the possibility of FFGC going to a restricted number of printed copies of The Florida Gardener in the future as we ask our members to read the issues online. Many Organizations are moving to online versions only. The National Gardener published by the National Garden Clubs will soon be available only in a computer form.

Another Ad Hoc Committee is reviewing how we pay our dues. We are looking for a simpler way for clubs to accomplish this yearly task. It's very important that payment is made according to established deadlines, and we think a revised payment method will help you.

FFGC's mission is ambitious and expresses the desire to accomplish many important activities. It is a reality of doing business that we cannot accomplish all we hope for without your timely support.

As we progress through the upcoming year, we are excited about the many projects we have planned, and we look forward to accomplishing much as we work together in our common goals.

Please continue to promote increased membership and ways to retain them after they join. Ed and Jane Nendick will continue to provide you with excellent suggestions to positively affect your membership, both in numbers and diversity. In the past few months we have added two new clubs to our FFGC Family, and we welcome them. Keep up the good work.

Al

Al Latina, FFGC President



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DEADLINES FOR SUBMISSIONS:

SPRING ISSUE: January 15
SUMMER ISSUE: April 15
FALL ISSUE: July 15
WINTER ISSUE: October 15



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Cover: Photo by Kathie Smith
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Page 8: Submitted by Brenda Knowles
Page 8: Submitted by Leslie Montwid
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Garden Club Members Let's Travel Together!

I am excited to provide everyone with the opportunity to chase their travel dreams. My aim is to make hassle-free, safe, and pocketbook-friendly trips! Take advantage of my 35 plus years of travel professional experience and let me be your travel guide.

Please look at the four 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!

Join Painting with a Twist for a 7-Night Mississippi River Cruise



American Cruise Line

March 7, 2020



1-Night Pre-Cruise Hotel Stay in New Orleans, then sailing Roundtrip from New Orleans, Louisiana to Oak Alley, LA; Natchez, MS; Vicksburg, MS; St. Francisville, LA; Baton Rouge, LA; and Houmas House, LA

Starting From: \$3799 pp*

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Holland America's

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June 21, 2020

No journey stays with you, mind and soul, like an expedition through Alaska. From the blue ice of massive glacial fields to the stunning grandeur of the scenery and wildlife, everything in Alaska is big, bold, and absolutely breathtaking. Including the adventures. Join us on our exclusive Alaska Cruisetour, travel with friends, and discover why our guests return year after year.

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For information on each trip, please visit www.FFGCTravel.com
Contact Shelley at 850-386-7327 Ext. 208 or Email: SAtkinson@FunSeas.com



DISTRICT III NEWS

Mickey Nyberg, Director



Counties: Franklin, Wakulla, Leon, Jefferson, Madison, Taylor, Hamilton, Suwanee, Lafayette
Flower: Hemerocallis (Daylily)
Butterfly: Aglais - Peacock
Garden Clubs in District III: Live Oak, Madison, Monticello, Perry, Steinhatchee, Tallahassee, Wakulla

The **Live Oak Garden Club** had an eventful and rewarding year. The programs they had of special interest were Landscaping with Flowering Trees & Shrubs. Other programs of special interest were Landscaping with Flowering Trees & Shrubs designing miniature landscapes in container and program on Orchids and Begonias. The Club had great support from their members and 49 members attended the FFGC Convention in St. Augustine. It was a long goal of the club to enhance the beauty of their community. The annual sale of Caladium Bulbs has achieved their goal apparent as a drive around town you will see the fruits of their labor. They have instituted an aggressive new member outreach and have been successful.

The **Madison Garden Club** focused on five major objectives.

- Improving gardens on their club grounds
- Supporting their district sponsorship of the FFGC State meeting in St. Augustine
- Fighting to ban Fracking in all forms in Florida
- Educating members with programs on the care of house plants
- The goal for this year is recycling and wildflowers initiatives as well as field trips related to goal of FFGC.

Monticello Garden Club has concentrated on building their membership. Last year they consolidated three circles into two. Their community project is sponsoring scholarships to 4-H camp. They plant and maintain the planters at the courthouse, Public Library; they decorate the opera house and Simmons house for Christmas. In addition, they help provide for the needs of the residents in the nursing and rehab centers. Propagate, grow plants, and plant 18 urns in the downtown area.

Perry Garden Club has had interesting programs featuring a local floral artisan who taught them how to wood burn and color gourds. As a fund raiser members did popular designs featuring Bob Bell and auctioned them off for the benefit of the club. Classes were held to learn how to use fresh and dried herbs and Health Coach taught about the use of edible plants and their benefits for health.

Steinhatchee Garden Club has spent a busy summer replanting the garden at the Steinhatchee Community Center. They had several presentations by our County Agent Clay Olsen. This year a lot of our members attended Master Gardener Classes and were involved with many events at the Perry Agent Office.

The annual spaghetti Dinner was a big hit and the members did a great job. All proceeds are for Camp Wekiva and SEEK. They also sponsor the Community fishing Tournaments and the Nauti Girl Fishing Tournament.

We also had a program presented on Habitat for Humanity. We learned about the new home coming to town and our club will be doing the landscaping.

The club hosted the Fall Conference in October 10, 2019 and had a great attendance for our new FFGC Officers on their visit to District III.

Tallahassee Garden Club has focused on educating members about the working of TGC and FFGC. We established a permanent web site with a professional web master. The tree count for the year was 22,777. And they continue to upgrade and repair the Historic Rutgers House better known as the Garden Center. Improvements are new roof, and projects that are required to keep a home in good repair.

The **Wakulla Country Garden Club** has been very busy with new members. One main thing was learning what native wildflower seeds do best in our native soil. Their November meeting was so much fun. Two wonderful ladies from Tallahassee Garden Club, Helen Purvis and Erica Chatham guided them through creating a floral arrangement to take home.

In Wakulla County, Arbor Day is a big celebration. They provide the threes and this year they gave away about 800 healthy, native trees in gallon or larger pots. A week later they potted up 850 more bare root trees to be given out next year.

DISTRICT VI NEWS

Judi Jodoin, Director



Counties: Flagler, Volusia, Brevard
Flower & Wildflower: Yellow Hibiscus
Butterfly: Orange Barred Sulphur
Garden Clubs in District VI: Cherry Laurel, Cocoa-Rockledge, Garden Club of DeLand, De Leon Springs, Garden Club By The Sea, The Garden Club of the Halifax Country, Council of Garden Clubs of the Halifax District, Indian Harbor Beach, Magnolia, Melbourne, New Smyrna Beach, Ormond Beach, The Garden Club at Palm Coast, Inc., South Peninsula, Tillandsia, Titusville

Cherry Laurel GC: Co-Presidents will represent Cherry Laurel at Council of Garden Clubs state and district meetings. They encouraged every member to attend and participate in the following events: FFGC 2020 State Convention in Tampa April 17-10, 2020, the District VI Spring Meeting, April 30, 2020, at The Shores Resort & Spa, Daytona Beach fantastic programs and field trips. Cherry Laurel consists of a very unique group of women who bring together many talents, experience and education. Their membership consists of master gardeners, national flower show judges, floral designers, business women, educators, historians, lifelong residents and dedicated crazy people who drive from Orlando to be with friends and club members. Cherry Laurel has attained RUBY status (60 years). This Director will present their certificate at the December holiday luncheon. CONGRATULATIONS!

Cocoa-Rockledge GC: They hosted the dedication ceremony of the VITAS Hospice Butterfly Garden on Oct. 9th. This lovely garden was designed and installed by members of the GC months earlier. The Mayor and officials from Hospice were in attendance. The GC is currently participating in an "Adopt a Mangrove Workshop" sponsored by the Brevard Zoo. Their January meeting will host Dr. Craig Huegel, a noted authority on Florida wildlife and native plants. He will talk about how to bring native birds, butterflies and other species into our own backyards. Dr. Huegel operates a native plant nursery (Hawthorn Hill) and writes a wildflower blog. He is on the board of The Friends of Brooker Creek Preserve and has published four books on native plants and wildlife.

GC of DeLand: They will be studying the nine principles of Florida Friendly Landscaping program from UF. Meetings are free and open to the public. They will focus each month on one of the principles taught to them by professors, master gardeners and other leading experts in their fields associated with conservation and gardening in Central Florida. The GC hosted the first course of NGC Gardening School on Nov. 4-5, 2019. The Milkweed Circle worked with a commercial grower to produce 720 native milkweed plants for GC members and the general public. The Rose Circle hosted a three month series on bees & pollinators and honey bees & medicine taught by Donna Athearn, a local bee keeper. More than 50 GC members and their spouses planted annuals in 70 containers along Woodland Blvd. They maintain the plants year round with two or three events to completely replant the containers. Working with the city the GC selects the plants and the city provides the soil and the irrigation.

DISTRICT VI NEWS (continued)

GC By-the-Sea: They launched their 55th year in September with a program on "Proper Pruning for Healthy Trees" presented by Simon Stratford, an English born ISA accredited arborist. In keeping with NGC's mission of clean water conservation and protection, the speaker for October was Environmental Specialist Carlos Cuevas, who discussed "Loving our Lagoon." November's presenter Andrea Bolitho, from Brevard Country Waste Mgmt. discussed "Smart Recycling". A special horticulture committee was formed to research GCBS's participation in the establishment of native plantings at a new permanent water feature for migrating birds at Orlando Park. GCBS is working with the City of Indialantic to install a Blue Star by-way marker at their own Lily Park. Proceeds from the sale of engraved pavers at Lily Park will provide needed funds. College scholarships and Camp Wekiva committees are in the process of recruitment.

The GC of the Halifax Country: The Conservation and Beautification committee chairmen persuaded the city of Ormond Beach to give 21 large oak trees in honor of Arbor Day that the GC planted at seven local schools. They also organized a coalition with Volusia County to provide students, teachers, staff and local dignitaries at the Arbor Day celebration. The Conservation and Beautification committees along with many GC members provided the leadership and manpower to organize the events at the seven schools. During the summer the GC drafted a letter to the city of Ormond Beach to support the idea of removing septic tanks from the Ormond by the Sea Community.

Indian Harbor Beach GC: They continue to focus on new ways to enhance membership experiences. In place is a new welcoming committee and process that welcomed the new members at the September meeting. Business meetings have been streamlined by utilizing written reports instead of verbal. Monthly programs have been expanded providing expert guest speakers, seasonal gardening tips on diverse topics and offering new floral design classes. They continue bi-weekly presentations of garden related programs at a newly expanded assisted living facility and their successful year round "yard of the month" city wide program. Multiple fundraising opportunities to increase their community outreach. Membership in IHB GC requires full participation in learning and social experiences, as well as, ways to give back to their community to stimulate a dynamic growing GC.

Melbourne GC: They continue to support Penny Pines and Habitat for Humanity with garden baskets. MGC has increased their membership by eight this year and that includes two men.

New Smyrna Beach GC: They opened their fall season with a Board Member "Weed and Greet" session prior to its sit-down meeting. Eleven members were instructed by master gardeners how to weed, prune, trim and otherwise care for the grounds surrounding their beautiful clubhouse. Acreage was divided into five sections and will continue to be maintained throughout the year. A Marine Discovery Center program sharing current and sobering research on the use of plastics and pesticides on wildlife and shoreline grasses was the focus of the meeting. This director led a workshop creating centerpieces for the Marine Discovery Center annual gala on Oct. 24th. Members continue monthly community outreach with a Monarch Butterfly Garden certification program, a Garden of the Month program, and fundraising efforts to support Camp Wekiva, SEEK scholarships and Habitat for Humanity. Check out their Facebook page for updates.

Ormond Beach GC: In October they held a fundraising garage sale. In December they held a Magnolia Christmas wreath workshop and in February they will present their annual Flower Show. OBGC also sponsors two youth scholarships to Camp Wekiva and provides landscaping help for Habitat for Humanity. This year they will recognize a community "Yard of the Month" to promote beautification in their community.

The GC at Palm Coast, Inc.: Their first meeting was a social event with a picnic theme. Tables were set with hamburgers, hotdogs and all the fixings. Posters were made by committees and questions were encouraged from new and old members along with a plant sale. The District VI Fall Meeting was

hosted by TGPC on Oct. 22nd. This Director was honored to be working with the President, past DD, Registrar and members. Arrangers Guild, having 20 members, new and old, creating a traditional design. They are focusing on designs that would be in a Flower Show. They are planning for a fall flower show in 2020. Linda Hensler is the director. The propagation Guild held a plant sale/community yard sale at Palm Coast Racket Ball courts. Both Guilds joined forces in October to demonstrate different floral techniques and selling plants. Jane Villa-Lobos is the Director of the Propagation Guild. They also have nine months packed with programs, places to go, fundraising for many different community programs and scholarships along with lots of social fun.

Tillandsia GC: They continue to support civic projects both monetarily and with countless hours of volunteerism. Their goal is to enrich their citizens and create a beautiful community to live, work and play in. They provide and maintain the area around the rock in Ames Park for all residents to enjoy while walking with their family and pets. They collect box tops monthly to raise money for local schools, College & SEEK scholarships. Members visit Brookdale Assisted Living facility in Ormond Beach at Christmas and Valentine's Day to provide a day of garden themed arts and crafts for the residents is supported each year. Members design landscaping for Volusia Habitat for Humanity in Daytona/Ormond Beach area homes and purchase the materials and supplies and provide "women power" to assist with the installation. They solicit funds at each meeting for Penny Pines to support the replanting of trees indigenous to our region as part of the FDA Forest Service. Their "Santa, Seniors & Succulents" program provide a Christmas party for seniors at a local nursing home along with gift bags distributed to each resident by a member dressed as a Santa's Elf. All join in singing Christmas carols and sharing holiday refreshments. Toiletries were also collected and donated to a local Domestic Abuse Council to assist women seeking shelter. The "Westside Elementary Farm to Table" endeavor is supported by members with donations and volunteer hours. Elementary students are guided by two master gardeners from on planting and harvesting to provide the children the opportunity to help place food on their families' tables.

Titusville GC: Held their first exciting event Fall Extravaganza using their creative talents for this spectacular craft, book, plant and bake sale. YGC will host a famous spring plant sale on February 14th, with folks coming from all over the county to see what is interesting in trees, shrubs, flowers and vegetables offered for sale. Members cultivate plants and accept donations and purchases from local greenhouses. On March 20th, a "Fancy Hat Tea Party" will be held. Tables will be decorated by members and the public is welcome to purchase tickets. They expect an attendance of 80-100 guests dressed with gorgeous imaginative hats made with unusual materials. You can expect delicious teas, hors d'oeuvres and incredible women dancing in the parade of hats. The event concludes with a drawing for a spectacular basket donated by members and the community. Funds from all events are given to Wekiva Youth Camp scholarships. Follow TGC on their Facebook page for fun, photos and updates. The men and some women members of TGC operate a nursery called The Tree Farm. They work with plants, sow seeds and propagate plants. The nursery includes a shade house, a mist house where the propagated plants wait until ready to set out. The Tree and Plant Sale is held twice a year in October and March. The Tree Farm members donated three trees and fifteen bushes for the restoration of Veterans Memorial Cemetery in Titusville.

DISTRICT VII NEWS

Gwen Carter, Director



Counties: Sumter, Lake, Orange, Osceola, Seminole

Flower & Wildflower: Hibiscus (all varieties), Coreopsis

Butterfly: Monarch

Garden Clubs in District VII: Bloom N Grow, Camellia Eustis, Clermont, Creative Arts, Foliage, Ixora Sanford, Lady Lake, Lakes & Hills, Magnolia, Orlando, Palm Garden, Pine Castle, Robinswood, Sanford Wildflower, Spring Valley, St. Cloud,

Sweetwater Oaks, Wildflowers D7, Windermere, Winter Park

I come into this position as District VII Director, with humility, much appreciation, and eager to be the best District VII Director possible with the support and guidance from the great District VII membership. The theme for District VII is "A Melting Pot Sprouts Creativity and Depth".

District VII's Spring General Meeting, hosted by **Bloom N Grow and Grow Garden Society**, at the West Orange County Country Club in Winter Garden was an enjoyable reunion. Native plant expert, Jim Lobb, gave a thrilling presentation on "Integrating Native Plants in the Garden." Jim is a member of **Clermont GC, Camellia GC, Clermont GC, and Lakes and Hills GC** were presented the Emerald Certificate in celebration of 70 years in the Florida Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc., by former District VII Director, Sue Roberts and Marilyn Paone, District VII Awards Chair.



District VII is honored to announce the admission of **St. Cloud GC** as a new member of Florida Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc. and District VII.

District VII, in conjunction with, the Judges Council has finished units 1 & 2 of the NGC Floral Design Study Units 1-6. Garden clubbers from all over the district and non-club members had a wonderful time learning floral techniques from Master Designer, Penny Decker, on October 8, 2019. The program encouraged some participants to join a garden club.



Bloom and Grow Garden Society has finished the first and second phases in a beautification project for the entrance at Health Central Park. Bloom and Grow Society's 'Spring Fever in the Garden' and 'Stepping Out, 2019,' raised a record amount of funds to donate to the community. They were able to donate \$42,000 to local schools and community and \$16,000 in scholarships. Since the inception of Bloom

and Grow in 1997, the club has donated more than \$451,000 to the West Orange Community.

Camellia GC ended their year with a beautiful plant sale with all the proceeds to be donated to Wekiva Youth Camp.

Clermont GC was fortunate to be a recipient of Lucky's Market Impact Day on April 23, 2019. **Clermont GC** received 10% of Lucky's net profit for the day. **Clermont GC** was able to donate funds to Wekiva Youth Camp, SEEK,

and local community organizations. They donated \$1,000 to East Ridge H.S. Agriculture Program to promote their 30,000 sq. ft. organic gardens located behind the school. Also, they had their first Spring Festival, in May 2019, in conjunction with celebrating 70 years in FFGC. In August, 2019, they had their first summer workshop entitled "Fun with Flowers" which was a success, with all seats being sold.



Ixora GC of Sanford had a Sees Candy Fundraiser in April.

Lady Lake GC and Lake County Council of Garden Clubs celebrated National Garden Week with "A Small Standard Flower Show" at Lady Lake Library.

Lakes and Hills GC's 11th Annual Garden Tour, their biggest fundraiser, raised funds for many scholarships given to campers at Wekiva Youth Camp, Wekiva Leadership Training and FFGC's SEEK Conference. They also gave a \$2,000 scholarship to a UF student who qualified and who will study horticulture, landscaping, natural chemical sciences or an allied subject. In addition, they donated \$600 to maintain 4 Mount Dora Parks and \$150 was spent on Arbor Day tree planting.

Orlando GC just finished a "Digging It Series" with its newly formed Jr. club. Gardener committee, chaired by Octive Healey with committee members Karen Jamieson, Susan Frost and Irma Fiametta have started a Junior Gardener program currently with 10 - 12 girls in grades 3 - 6. A group of scouts from Lake Nona is included in the membership. They have received new club members, as a result, of the Junior Gardener Program.



Pine Castle GC researched "Plants of the Bible". The Easter Lily is a modern hybrid of a flower that was on coins more than 2300 years ago.

Sanford GC (Wildflower) sponsored a student to 4-H Camp.

Sweetwater Oaks GC 2 day Garden Fair was a success and major fundraiser for the club. They provided scholarships to the UF horticulture students, sponsored youngsters to Camp Wekiva and have contributed to other environmental charities. District VII is proud to congratulate Margaret Kirkpatrick, a member of **Sweetwater Oaks GC**, Winner of the 2020 Florida Flower Arrangement Calendar Cover.



Windermere GC's Annual "Crazy Card Party" and Luncheon was very successful. They were able to donate scholarships to UF and Valencia College for students studying landscape architecture and environmental horticulture. They also provide support for Wekiva Youth Camp.



Winter Park GC's Annual Fundraiser "Games Day" had a FULL HOUSE! All the proceeds support scholarships and internships in Winter Park's local community. This

year their club members revitalized Pulsifer Park by replacing the Vincas with Lemon Sizzler, sprayed weeds and put down mulch.

District VII's Fall General Meeting, hosted by **Clermont GC**, was October 23, 2019. I consider myself blessed to be District VII's Director with an experienced Board to keep me afloat. I look forward to the next two years.



But wait...there's more! A special note from District VII:

Submitted by: Kay VanderLey & President Brenda Knowles
Bloom and Grow Garden Society centrally located in communities surrounding Orlando, has been celebrating entering our third decade of work within our communities with a landscaping program at one of the local nursing homes/recovery centers.

When management was first approached with offer of assistance, the director handling our project knew immediately what she would like to have! A little bed of ground cover had been disappointing to her each time she entered the buildings. After lots of suggestions, and some helpful drawings offered as a gift from the plant people at Disney World, we settled on a garden which surrounds the front entrance to Health Central Park to include 100 holly ferns, twenty or more drift roses and a backdrop of landscaping grasses. To our surprise and pleasure a local retailer offered a seating bench as an additional gift.

We are nearing the end of the installation, and chair of our committee spends a few hours each week deadheading roses, and checking on the progress of the plants. Bloom and Grow is so proud of our connection to our community, and our sponsorship of many and varied projects which make West Orange County a wonderful place to live.



DISTRICT VIII NEWS

Barbara Rao, Director

Counties: Pasco, Hillsborough, Pinellas, Manatee, Sarasota

Flower: Hibiscus

Wildflower: Rudbeckia hirtis

Butterfly: Zebra Longwing

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



District VIII is so pleased to announce the establishment of a brand-new club! **GARDEN CLUB AT HUNTER'S GREEN** in Tampa was formed when a group of interested neighbors got together and shared ideas about belonging to a Garden Club. They were led by a dynamic lady who had been a member of Gainesville Garden Club years ago. They wanted to belong to an organization that would be full of educational information, provide more motivation and address local issues at the same time with the strength of a larger body. They were enthusiastically welcomed at the September Board meeting with 15 paid new members. The energy and enthusiasm of the group was so heartwarming and refreshing to this Director.

BLUE STAR MARKERS in District VIII have been a very important part of our landscape with the **Temple Terrace** re-dedication ceremony appropriately on November 11; there are now 32 Blue Star Memorial Markers, Highway Markers or By-Way Markers throughout District VIII. Each has been placed by a garden club and maintained by members. Many have had re-dedication ceremonies; some have been moved to more accessible locations and others replaced with newer markers. **St Petersburg** seems to have one of the earliest markers from 1958, then the other clubs have been dedicating them one a year to now. **Lakewood Ranch GC** is the latest to dedicate a new Blue Star Marker. The Blue Star Marker is a living tribute of maintained flowering gardens and tree lined memorials dedicated to the men and women who served in the armed services.

FLOWER SHOWS are appearing in **Plant City GC, Manatee River GC, Sarasota GC, Lemon Bay GC, GC of St. Petersburg and Tampa Federation of GC**. Other clubs are having small in-house shows that give the members an opportunity to showcase their prize horticulture and experiment with designs. Our District members have so many exciting events to attend. Not only are there Flower Shows, a **Monarch Butterfly Festival in Dade City** and delightful garden and house tours. These events raise money for Scholarships and bring in community members who get to see what Garden Club is all about. **Lemon Bay, Sarasota, Venice**, are just few Spring garden and house tours.

Each club in District VIII deserves a shout out for all the education, community beautification, gardening expertise it brings to the community. From **Apollo Beach to Venice Area Garden Club**, they host community leaders, girl scouts, senior centers and try to be visible in their area and bring education and enjoyment to their local areas.

DISTRICT IX NEWS

Leslie Montwid, Director

Counties: Polk, Hardee, DeSoto, Highlands, Charlotte, Lee, Collier

Flower: Red Hibiscus

Wildflower: Sambucus simpsonii

Butterfly: Monarch

Garden Clubs in District IX: Arcadia, Bouquet, Calusa, Estero Island, Fort Meade, Founders, Gardenia, Garden of the World, Gulf Coast, Hibiscus, Jasmine, Lake Placid, Lake Wales, Lakeland, Naples, Periwinkle, Port Charlotte, Punta Gorda, Royal Palm, Sebring, Wauchula, Winter Haven

District IX is very busy with Blue Star Markers. On the heels of **Arcadia Garden Clubs** re-dedication, **Cape Coral, Lakeland** and **Wauchula** are all slated to have similar events in the fall of 2019. **Punta Gorda** will be installing an additional marker in their Veterans Park.

A Pioneer Garden is in the planning stages by **Calusa Garden Club** on the Marco Island Historical Grounds. Members have researched plants that were grown in the area in the late 1800s. Installation is planned for late October. They have also put together a power point presentation to educate members on the services/resources that are provided from the local level all the way up to NGC.

Another successful plant sale at Avon Park Correctional Institute garnered over \$3,000 for the facility which will be used to purchase items for the nursery. Although recently retired, Tommy Sauls was on site for the event in a volunteer mode. Officer John Meeks, the new coordinator was on hand to facilitate the event.

As part of the **Winter Haven Council of Garden Clubs** who hosted the District IX Fall Meeting at their lovely facility in downtown Winter Haven, **Bouquet Garden Club** held their Fall Fashion Show the very next week. These busy members will use the proceeds to award scholarships.

Lake Placid will host their annual Home Holiday Tour on December 7th. **Punta Gorda Garden Club** will be hosting their tour as well. Both clubs give a great amount back to their respective communities in scholarships. It was noted in the Spring magazine that **Punta Gorda** awarded \$5,000. in scholarships when in fact it was \$15,000. Sorry for the error and here's hoping events for both clubs will be fruitful again!



L to R : Leslie Montwid, Director, Pat Shira, Therapy through Gardens Chair, Officer John Meeks, Nursery Coordinator AVPCI.

CONTINUING EDUCATION

NGC GARDEN SCHOOLS:

Barbara Hadsell 561-635-8809
Email: barbarhasell@cs.com

District VI

Course 2 Feb. 3 - 4, 2020
865 S. Alabama Ave., Deland, FL
Contact: Jennifer Condo 386-873-2195

District X

Course 2 Feb. 24 – 25, 2020
West Palm Beach, FL
Contact: Michelle Maguire 772-485-3279
Email: mouthmom@yahoo.com

ENVIRONMENTAL SCHOOLS:

Nancy Richards 561-702-0550

District VI

Course 3 Jan. 28 – 29, 2020
New Smyrna Beach Garden Club
Contact: Sally Flanagan 385-428-3170

LANDSCAPE DESIGN SCHOOLS

Sue Roberts 352-357-3712
Email: sue@georgesueroberts.com

Course 1 Feb. 3-4, 2020 9am -4pm
Course 2 Feb. 5-6, 2020 9am - 4pm
Course 3-4 Mar. 16-19, 2020 9am - 4pm
Continental Breakfast and lunch provided each day.
14605 59th Avenue East
Lakewood Ranch, FL
Contact: Sheryl Perkins 941 708-2963

FLORAL DESIGN STUDY UNITS

Carol Lucia 772-393-8276
Cell: 727-656-3207
Email: lucia02@aol.com

District I

Units 1 – 6 and Advanced 7-9
Jan. 6, 13, 20, 27, Feb. 3, 10, 2020, and
Advanced Mar. 2,9,16, 2020
9am-2pm
Green Thumb Garden Club
Christ the King Episcopal Church
480 N. County Hwy. 393,
Santa Rosa Beach
Chair: Joyce Waters-Smith 850-217-4888
Email: joycews@cox.net

District V

Unit 1-6 Feb. 6, 13, 20, 27, Mar. 5, 12, 2020
Homosassa River Garden Club
First United Methodist Church of Homosassa
8831 W. Bradshaw St.
Homosassa, FL 3448
Chair: Pattie Steck 631 433-6064
Email: beepurr@yahoo.com

District VI

Cocoa-Rockledge Garden Club
Units 4-6 Jan. 2, Feb. 5, Mar. 4, 2020
10 am – 3 pm (Limit 30 participants)
Cocoa Rockledge Garden Club
1493 S. Fiske Blvd.
Rockledge, FL 32955
Contact: Gloria Blake 321-537-8060

District VIII

Unit 4 Jan. 7, 2020
Unit 5 Feb. 4, 2020
Unit 6 Mar. 4, 2020
Sarasota Garden Club
1131 Boulevard of the Arts, Sarasota
Contact: Barbara Rao 941-955-0875
Email: Barbara_rao@hotmail.com

District VIII

Temple Terrace Garden Club
Units 1 – 6 Jan. 9, 23, 30,
Feb. 6, 13, 27, 2020 9am – 2pm
Woodmont Clubhouse
415 Woodmont Ave., Temple Terrace
Chair: Kathy Spaulding 813-453-2707
Email: kmspauld1@gmail.com
Co-Chair: Gwen Mora 813-989-9108
Email: gmora12@hotmail.com

District IX

Fort Myers Lee County Garden Council
Units 1 – 3 Jan. 6, 13, & 20, 2020
Units 4 – 6 Feb. 10, 17, & Mar. 2, 2020
Advanced Units 7 – 9
Mar. 16, 23, Apr. 6, 2020
2166 Virginia Ave., Ft. Myers, FL
Chair: Susan Lawson 941-979-0615
Email: slawson921@gmail.com

Punta Gorda Garden Club
Advanced Units 7–9 Jan. 21, 28, and
Feb. 4, 2020
First United Methodist Church
507 West Marion Ave.
Punta Gorda, FL 33950
Chair: Claudia Chopp 941-637-0331
Email: cbchopp@yahoo.com
Co-chair: Carolyn Honour 941-575-8259
Email: cdhonour@comcast.net

NATIONAL GARDEN CLUBS

FLOWER SHOW SCHOOLS:

District I

Course 3 Feb 18-20, 2020
8 am- 5pm
Gulf Breeze Presbyterian Church
100 Andrew Jackson Trail,
Gulf Breeze, FL 32561
Contact: Linda Henderson, Flower Show
School Chair 850-936-4950

Tropical Short Course

(An NGC Tri- Refresher)

District X Jan. 22 – 23, 2020
Mounts Botanical Garden
West Palm Beach, FL
Contact: Barbara Hadsell 561-635-8809
Email: barbarhasell@cs.com

FFGS/UF Short Course

(An NGC Tri-Refresher)

District VII June 7 – 9, 2020
Gainesville, FL
Contact :Florence Cline 353 262-4433
Email: ladybugflorence2@gmail.com

Conventions 2020

Deep South Garden Club

April 13 – 16, 2020
Tampa, FL

FFGC 2020 Convention

April 16 – 19, 2020
Tampa, FL

NGC 2020 Convention

May 12 – 14, 2020
Milwaukee, WI

FFGC Board Meetings – Headquarters

WINTER

Pre-Board Meeting Jan. 6 - 7, 2020
Board Meeting Jan. 8 – 9, 2020
1400 S. Denning Drive
Winter Park, FL 32789

Wekiva Volunteer Training

Feb. 7, 2020 1pm
Feb. 9, 2020 11am
Contact: Christy Linke
Email: clinke3173@aol.com

Wekiva Youth Camp - Open House

Feb. 9, 2020 11am-1 pm
Wekiwa Springs State Park
1800 Wekiwa Circle
Apopka, FL

FLOWER SHOWS/EVENTS

A Standard Flower Show

"Mardi Gras"
Jan. 31, 2020 1 – 3 pm
Feb. 1, 2020 9am – 4pm
Clermont Garden Club
849 West Ave., Clermont, FL 34711
Chair: Alice Burrows 352-432-5568
Co-Chair: Arlene Rand 352-243-7103

NGC Standard Flower Show

"Hooked on Books"
March 6, 2020 1 – 4 pm
March 7, 2020 9am – 3pm
The Garden Club of Stuart – At Indian
River State College
2400 SE Salerno Road, Stuart, FL
Contact: Rosita Aristoff 772-288-7270

A Standard Flower Show

"Art, Flowers & Anniversaries"
March 7 - 8, 2020 10am – 4pm
Calusa Garden Club of Marco Island
1010 Winterberry Dr., Marco Island
Contact: Connie Lowery
Email: captreeconnie@aol.com
Contact: Jane Gregory
Email: jane@janegregory.com

NGC Standard Flower Show

"Vision 2020" Past, Present, Future
Mar. 20 – 21, 2020 9am – 5pm
Naples Garden Club
Naples Botanical Garden
4820 Bayshore Drive
Naples, FL 34112 239 643-7275
Open to the public and FREE with price of
admission to Naples Botanical Garden
\$19.95 for adults
\$9.95 for children 4 -14

NGC Petite Flower Show

District X

Wellington Garden Club
"It's a Small World"
Feb. 29, 2020 10am-6pm
Mar. 1, 2020 10am – 4pm
The Mall at Wellington Green
Forest Hill Ave. and State Road 7
Contact: Twig Morris
Email: twig_morris@hotmail.com

A Standard Flower Show

"The Sporting Life"
March 28-29, 2020
Tampa Federation of Garden Club Circles,
Inc. 9am – 4pm
Contact: Kathy Echevarria
Email: Kathy.echevarria@gmail.com
Contact: Pam Slagg
Email: pamslagg@hotmail.com

District VII

April 4, 2020 9am – 5pm
April 5, 2020 11am – 4pm
'Spring Fever in the Garden'
Downtown Winter Garden
Contact: City of Winter Garden
407 656-4111

NGC Standard Flower Show

St. Petersburg Garden Club
"Let's Go"
April 25 & 26, 2020 9am- 3 pm
Green Thumb Festival at Walter Fuller
Recreation
7891 26th Ave. No.
St. Petersburg, FL 33710
Contact: Jan Ankerberg 727-415-1499

A Standard Flower Show

District IV

Garden Club of St. Augustine
"Welcome to my Garden"
March 27-29, 2020
Agricultural Center, St. Augustine
Contact: Carole Saville, Chair
Email: savillecarol@bellsouth.net

A Standard Flow Show

Lemon Bay Garden Club
"Hey, There! What's Cookin'?"
March 13, 2020 2pm-5pm
March 14, 10 am – 3 pm

Indian River County Garden Club
"A Glimpse Back in Time"
Garden Club of Indian River County
2526 17th Ave.
Vero Beach, FL
Contact: Fay Estes 772-563-3422

GARDEN FEST

Tampa Garden Fest

March 28 – 29, 2020 9am – 4pm
Bayshore Boulevard, Tampa
Contact: Leona Immenhausen
Email: leeimmen@yahoo.com

District X

Gardenfest 2020

Feb. 1, 2020 9am – 5pm
Feb. 2, 2020 9am – 4pm
Riverside Park, Vero Beach, FL
Contact: 882 567-4602
info@gardenclubofirs.org

Plant Sale

Martin County Master Gardeners
April 18, 2020 9am – 12noon
Contact: Mary McNulty 772 285-1322
Email: mbk123@ufl.edu

Taste of the Tropics

Martin County Master Gardeners
Free event open to the public
June 20, 2020 9am – 1pm
Contact: Mary McNulty 772 285-1322
Email: mbk123@ufl.edu

Sarasota Garden Club

Annual Flower Show

"Garden to Table"

An Artist Floral Creations and
Horticulture Event

Thursday, March 26, 2020

10-7 pm

Free and Fun for All!

1311 Boulevard of the Arts
Sarasota, FL 34236

Update: Pinecrest Gardens

Two Years Later...surviving IRMA

It was five days before our first meeting as Co-Presidents of the Pinecrest Garden Club and Hurricane Irma was bearing down on South Florida. Where would it hit? No one really knew for sure but in an abundance of caution we decided to cancel the meeting.

Irma did come our way and did significant damage to the Pinecrest Gardens, our local botanical and historical gem and the club's "home". We are fortunate to be able to hold our meetings and fundraising events at the Gardens and we wanted to find a way to help them with restoration of the areas most significantly affected by the storm. At the suggestion and with the guidance of our amazing District XII Director, Sharon Trbovich, we applied for and were awarded a National Garden Club Disaster Grant. The funds we received were used to restore the Tropical Hardwood Hammock at the entrance to the Gardens.

Fortunately, the Pinecrest Gardens was able to partially open its doors just three weeks after Irma wrecked havoc and we were able to resume our monthly meetings at this historic property. Beauty and order has now completely been restored and we invite you to come visit if you are in the area.

Christian Armstrong & Cecilia Prah
Pinecrest Garden Club

FFGC History: OUR SECOND DECADE: 1935-1944

By Tina Tuttle, 2nd Vice President

Presidents during this decade:

Mrs. (Eluva P.) M. M. Parrish (1935-1937) of Gainesville
Mrs. Porter (Olive P.) Baldwin (1937-1939) of West Palm Beach
Mrs. Harry M. (Lona) Griffin (1939-1941) of Daytona Beach
Mrs. W.H. (Blanche C.) Covington (1941-1945: War-time extended term) of Tallahassee, "Defend Home and Country--Its Beauty, Morale and Bounty"

Notable Events:

First 'Short Course for Garden Clubs' held at University of Florida, June 1936
Honorary memberships conferred on Dr. H. Harold Hume, 1937, Dr. David Fairchild and Dr. Horace McFarland, 1938
Lending Library established, 1939
First *Book of Information* published, 1942
Blanche Covington Nature Study Course established, June 1944

Conventions:

- *1935 in Palm Beach (March 20-12)
- *1936 in St. Augustine (March 25-26)
- *1937 in Pensacola (March 31- 1 April)
- *1938 in Jacksonville (March 24-25)
- *1939 in Miami (March 30-31)
- *1940 in Daytona Beach (11-12 April)
- *1941 in Sarasota (April 2-3)
- *1942 in Hollywood/ Ft Lauderdale (April 29-30)
- *1943 was cancelled due to WWII and gas rationing
- *1944 in Tampa (May 10-11)

Club Affiliations with the Federation:

1936-Tarpon Springs, Panama City, Perry (Daisy)
1937- Stuart, Wauchula, Clewiston, Ft Pierce/Capron Trail, Live Oak, Wildwood
1938-Ft Myers/Periwinkle, Jasper, Winter Haven/Gardenia, Fernandina/Founders, Lake Park, Canal Point and Pahokee Community
1939-Interlachen/Rainbow, Neptune Beach, Arcadia, Leesburg, Apopka, Palm Beach, Key West
1940-Delray Beach, Chiefland/Suwannee River, Highland Park
1941- Palatka, Crescent City, Ft Lauderdale/Poinciana
1942- Lake Helen, Chattahooche, Green Fingers
1943-Clermont/Minneola, Homestead/South Dade

The 1935 convention was held in Palm Beach where Mrs. M. M. Parrish of Gainesville was elected as Federations' sixth president. Mrs. Parrish appointed the first Bird Chairman to the Board and the first Short Course of garden subjects was held at the University of Florida in June, 1936, following the 11th annual convention in St. Augustine. At the 1937 convention in Pensacola an Honorary Membership in the Florida Federation of Garden Clubs was conferred on Dr. H. Harold Hume, who had given so generously of his time and talents to the organization. Dr. Hume presented to Mrs. Parrish the idea of establishing a "fellowship fund" whereby a worthy student could further his studies in Florida plant life. Realizing the merit of such a worthwhile project which could be handed down to posterity, the President worked tirelessly toward this goal and it was largely through her efforts a later administration brought to fruition the H. Harold Hume Fellowship in Horticulture.

Also, through the efforts of Mrs. Parrish, appointed earlier by the Governor to a special committee for the purpose of studying conservation laws in Florida, two bills presented to the Legislature were enacted into laws. They were requiring courses of instruction covering conservation of natural resources in the state's high schools and colleges, and an act establishing a School of Forestry at the University of Florida.

Mrs. Porter Baldwin of West Palm Beach was installed at the Pensacola convention as President of the Federation for the 1937-1939 administration. She was very earnest in her work and remarkable strides in several phases of garden club activities were made under her leadership. Special emphasis was placed on garden tours, garden centers and junior garden clubs.

At the 1938 convention in Jacksonville, Honorary membership in the Federation was bestowed upon Dr. David Fairchild and Dr. Horace McFarland in appreciation for their contributions to the development of plant life in Florida.

Mead Botanical Garden in Winter Park, gradually developed on 55 acres of swamp land, was established as a tribute to Dr. Theodore L. Mead who spent 40

years in the development of amaryllis and orchids.

During Mrs. Baldwin's tenure, the Federation endorsed the movement to provide a State Park on the banks of the Suwannee River and to erect a monument in memory of Stephen Foster, beloved American song writer. Also, in mid-winter 1939 a Fairchild Tropical Garden horticultural exhibit financed by the Federation won a medal at the New York World's Fair.

Mrs. Harry M. Griffin of Daytona Beach, with her lovable husky voice and her delightful spontaneous spirit of good humor, was installed as President at the 1939 convention in Miami for a two-year administration replete with accomplishments. She was able to consummate as a permanent federation activity the H. Harold Hume Fellowship Fund. Joseph M. Crevasse of Tampa was chosen by the College of Agriculture at University of Florida as the first recipient of the Hume Fellowship in Horticulture. He contributed much over the years in return to the Federation by sharing his knowledge as an instructor in Flower Show Schools and in other ways.

The first Florida State Flower Show, sponsored by Mead Botanical Garden, was held in Orlando May 3-5, 1940. It was endorsed by the Federation and opened by the President, Mrs. Griffin. Unceasing efforts of Federation leaders over several years led to enactment by the Florida Legislature in 1941 the bill regulating outdoor advertising.

Mrs. Griffin was instrumental in establishing the Lending Library at the University of Florida, which made many books available for use by garden clubs. Also, during her tenure, it was made possible for the Horticulture newsletter from the university to be sent to each individual member of the Federation. However, later, due to economic conditions, they were sent only to presidents of clubs. Finally, they were discontinued.

The city of Miami made a few lots in Simpson Park available to Miami Garden Clubs so their dream of owning a garden center was realized. On January 12, 1941, the Charles Torrey Simpson Memorial Building was dedicated as a tribute to the great horticulturist who had shared his knowledge and expertise with the clubs.

Mrs. W. H. Covington of Tallahassee followed Mrs. Griffin as Federation President for the 1941-1943 administration, being installed at the 1941 convention in Sarasota after having worked closely with her as roadside development chairman since the 1940 convention in Daytona Beach. Being conversant with the fact climatic conditions in Florida did not permit any set rule for tree distribution, she asked each club to study trees and shrubs of its locality and send in a censored list to be compiled. The compilation was completed by the University of Florida and is available for use by interested persons and for reference in future roadside plantings.

Suddenly, the dark clouds of war descended! The whole country was thrown into turmoil; but under the calm leadership of Mrs. Covington, the Federation held together. A program was adopted to concentrate on beautification of Red Cross buildings, hospital grounds, and those around Army and Navy camps. Victory gardens were planted but supplanted rather than replaced flowers, which were taken and sent to ill and homesick servicemen. War bonds were bought by clubs and the Federation.

During this period of war hysteria some clubs withdrew from the parent group but others were added and all decided that, first, each should fit itself into lines of helpful relationship in the war effort of its community; and, second, that despite diversities normal garden club objectives should not break down and the two-year nature study plan should be carried out.

A convention was held at Hollywood the first year of Mrs. Covington's administration but, due to drastic restrictions on use of gasoline, it was decided to omit the annual event in 1943. Decision also was reached that all officers of the Federation automatically hold over and all members of the board continue to meet and function as usual, with the district directors and committee chairmen to carry on work in their several capacities.

The 1944 convention, held in Tampa, was tantamount to "old home week". Trains and buses were used and garden clubbers pooled their gasoline for automobile transportation with a splendid attendance resulting. New committees were formed to cover many phases of work, including the planting of trees as War Memorials. A new district was formed, bringing the total to seven.

WHO WAS WILLIAM BARTRAM?

By Kalia Baillene



William Bartram

In 1978, The Florida Federation of Garden Clubs began the 'Bartram Society of Florida', to commemorate the heroic efforts of the Bartrams. A bronze marker was designed to be placed in certain locations by Garden Clubs, to honor them and educate others about their accomplishments.

John Bartram and his son William, known as 'Billy' Bartram first visited Florida in 1765. John was a botanist, horticulturalist, and naturalist. Carl Linnaeus called him the 'best botanist in the world'. Son Billy accompanied his father on many trips and became an accomplished illustrator of plants and animals.

Billy embarked on a four year journey to seven southern colonies in 1773 to explore the flora and fauna. By March 1774, he was exploring the St. Johns River. When he reached the Indian village of Cusawilla (Micanopy), they gave him a feast. After he told Chief Ahaya of the Alachua Seminole tribe, what he wanted to do, they named him 'puc puggy' meaning flower hunter. (One of the adult cabins at Wekiva is named puc puggy.)

He was a naturalist, artist, and poet; who catalogued, drew, painted, and named hundreds of plants and animals.

Billy went to Amelia Island and toured Lord Egmont's plantation, then sailed with him to Cow Ford (Jacksonville), where he bought a sailboat and continued south on the St. Johns River. He made stops in Switzerland at the Fatio plantation, then to Fort Picolata. He continued south and stayed quite awhile in the Palatka area, attending a watermelon festival in the summer. He visited Murphy's Island (previously an Indian camp) then an English trade area, explored areas south through Lake George and all the way to Astor and Blue Springs.

The Florida Museum of Natural History describes his writings this way: *"Bartram wrote of his own personal experiences and scientific observations in living and traveling. He was the first person to use personal experiences in writing about nature. He wrote about the frontier of Florida as it was just being explored. He described the plants with rich botanical detail. He presented animals in their natural surroundings.*

He wrote about the rattlesnakes of north Florida. He describes the soft-shelled turtle in detail. He listed 215 kinds of birds, with notes on their habits.

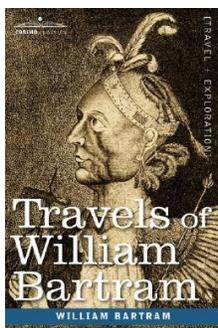
With poetic language, he described roaring alligators, unfolding tropical blossoms, and the lush Floridian landscape. Bartram's writing style influenced famous poets of the time, Wordsworth, Shelley, Coleridge, and others.

When Bartram visited Wakulla Springs, near Tallahassee, he saw the mouth of an underground river emerging on its way to the Gulf. He describes in detail the mysterious ways of Florida's underground rivers. He accurately described the layers of limestone and clay that open for waters to flow out as rivers above ground until the waters once again sink into the sand.

In 1774, Bartram visited an area of Florida that is near Gainesville. He called this land the "great Alachua Savannah." He described the area through his writing and drawings. Today it is called Paynes Prairie."

-- an excerpt from the Florida Museum of Natural History about William Bartram

Bartram published an account of his adventures in 1791 in a book called Travels. It was a moving and wonderful book and quickly became an American classic. The book told about Bartram's travels in eight southern states including Florida. Its readers particularly enjoyed the descriptions of exotic, subtropical Florida.



The Palatka Bartram organization, recently renamed, 'The Bartram Society of Florida', has been working for several years to become the designated International site for the recognition of Bartram's achievements. They printed an interpretive map of the St. Johns River, from Palatka to Lake George, which marks the points of interest Bartram explored. Markers are located at each site designated on the map. The maps are free and available at the Palatka riverfront museum.

The Bartram group sponsors the 'St. Johns Bartram Frolic' each Fall. You can experience times past. Chief 'Longbow's Indian encampment, complete with a large teepee, displays many original and handmade artifacts. The "Tanner" displays many hides and furs, showing the tools used and explains how to skin the animals. "Billy" himself, walks about telling of his adventures. Many other vendors participate. It is a family fun day for all. (Bartram Society of Florida events are posted to Eventbrite.)

Bartram groups, headed the Florida association, is working with Congress and the National Park Service to create a Bartram Corridor throughout the southeast. Once created, the public will have more opportunities to explore the wonders of nature, experienced by 'Billy'.

The Bartram Garden Club Celebrated William Bartram

Carolyn Stevens, 2015-2017 District IV Director of the Florida Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc., along with Fernandina Beach resident, Beverly Williams, spearheaded the organization of a federated garden club to serve the Amelia Island area residents. Orientation meetings were held in June and July of 2016. It was decided the name of the club would be The Bartram Garden Club, Inc. in recognition of famed colonial naturalist William Bartram, who set foot in Florida on Amelia Island in 1774 and recorded its flora and fauna. Twenty-six charter members joined during the first official meeting in September and the club was chartered by FFGC the following week.

In additional homage to the Bartram name, the former Rose Garden Club of Fernandina Beach erected a historical marker at the city's waterfront indicating a site of Mr. Bartram's travels and influence on the area.



An illustration by William Bartram, circa 1774

Sandhill Crane (*Grus canadensis pratensis*). the Florida subspecies here performing its mating dance, William Bartram called by the Creek name "Wattoola." Because sandhill cranes lay only two eggs in grassy mounds in undisturbed marshes, Paynes Prairie Preserve is an important nesting site in Florida.



Holiday Amaryllis Festival

**A Community Event at
Historic Nehrling Gardens**

Saturday, December 14th 9am - 3pm

2267 Hempel Avenue, Gotha

**Pictures On
The Porch With
Santa & Mrs. Claus**

**Spectacular and rare hybrid
amaryllis bulbs as well as
blooming amaryllis
to purchase
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and Prize Drawings

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and Holiday Treats

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Christian Armstrong & Cecilia Bush, Director, Garden Club

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Plant America With Trees:

Each One (member), Plant One (native tree)

"A new initiative has been proposed for the 2019-2021 administration by the NGC Climate Control Chairman, Victoria Bergesen, using PAT - Plant America with Trees. We encourage plantings by EACH garden club member during this administration. Imagine the impact of 165,000 tree plantings across America! It is our hope to help offset the loss caused by our many natural disasters that have destroyed areas and create a strong impact of our commitment to preserve natural areas in our communities and world." NGC President Gay Austin, Nov. 1, 2019 in Keeping In Touch



Our FFGC membership is distributed all across the state, with many in urban/suburban areas. These densely populated areas have claimed natural habitats. They have been built over, paved or planted with turf grass and exotic species. Many exotics are invasive, actively destroying native flora and fauna and isolating native species in ever smaller areas. Native plants do not sequester more carbon than nonnatives do, but they give our biomes a better chance of surviving by creating wildlife corridors. (Excerpt by Victoria Bergesen)

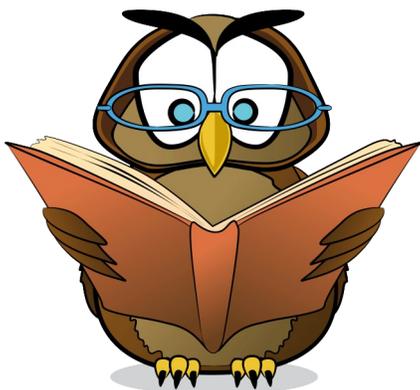
Please start planning now on how you can set up planting projects with your members and community organizations like the Boy and Girl Scouts, Master Gardeners, City Parks and Planning, church youth groups, Green schools, youth garden clubs and many others to make this a successful country-wide program. Plan a district-sponsored native tree educational garden that your clubs can contribute to. Partner with your Native Plant Society and your Extension Service. The opportunities are unlimited.

P.S. Your stories and photos will be much appreciated and shared.

Start PAT TODAY.

Barbara Hadsell barbarahadsell@cs.com

NGC and FFGC Gardening School Chairman



Who Knew?

By Marjorie Hendon
Finance Committee Chairman

New members, welcome. Each of you paid a membership fee to be a member of your garden club. Did you know twelve dollars of that membership fee goes to your Florida Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc.? Yes, your local garden club is part of something bigger, the Florida Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc., or FFGC for short. FFGC is then part of Deep South Garden Clubs, Inc. and National Garden Clubs, Inc. Take some time to go to dsgardenclubs.com and gardenclub.org, for the National website. But, back to FFGC.

FFGC has a beautiful headquarters building. It is located at 1400 S. Denning Dr., Winter Park FL. Just like the citizens of the US own the White House in DC, the FFGC members own the garden club headquarters in Winter Park. If you and your garden club would like to visit headquarters, just give them a call to set up a time to visit. Due to events taking place at headquarters, be sure to call first.

Call first? That means there must be a phone, someone to answer that phone, electricity for the lights, air conditioning, furniture, water, garbage service, a lawn, lawn service, pest control people, insurance, etc. You know the list goes on and on at your headquarters. Who knew? So, back to your FFGC dues of twelve dollars.

Let's break down that \$12. One dollar goes to National Garden Clubs. Three dollars for staff payroll. Four dollars goes to print and distribute *The Florida Gardener*. One dollar for insurance. One dollar for printing the Book of Information and supplement. One dollar to cover the auditors of the financial books. Finally, one dollar covers our platform, ads, awards, and other miscellaneous items to keep up our building.

Congratulations on your new or renewed membership into your local garden club, Florida Federation of Garden Clubs, Deep South Garden Clubs, and National Garden Clubs. So, now you know.



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Wellington Garden Club
Presents

"It's a Small World"

An NGC Petite Flower Show



February 28 - March 1, 2020

THE MALL AT
WELLINGTON GREEN

10300 W. Forest Hill Boulevard
Wellington, Florida 33414

SAVE THE DATE!

STAY TUNED FOR MORE DETAILS

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.



Winter Woes and Spring Fever

Kalia Baillene, Central Fl. Horticulture chair

Of course it's too chilly to have spring fever; but, we have to order those seeds and plan ahead. Not being able to part with a single plant until I have five pots growing and can now share; I drag, tote, and cover all those precious green babies whenever temps fall below 40'. Why? Because, I wrote a note to myself and posted it on the frig: "There is no where in the world I would rather be than here in my Garden." (except to include children and grandchildren) It is a beautiful and peaceful place.

I love the arrival of Spring and enjoy having an artfully arranged variety of plants placed in groups around the yard, with quiet, lovely seating areas. It is so rewarding and 'Zen' to watch birds eat berries from the trees and shrubs or watch butterflies, bees, hummingbirds, and dragonflies slurping down nectar. It is also rewarding to have a neighbor pass by and ask, "What is that plant?"; and actually be able to tell them the botanical and common name! I'm working on it. The ultimate goal is to have most plants labeled with that info, so I don't have to remember when asked. You can find a variety of labels at garden shops or on *Amazon*. Buy sturdy metal ones that can be written on with a marker.

If you have a ground area to start some veggies and herbs, prep your soil by the end of February and be ready to put out seeds according to package instructions or IFIS (University of Florida) sources. The same can be done for potted ones. Using slow release fertilizers can lighten your load and make feeding so much easier. Water is 'so very precious', I urge you to use rain barrels and few, if any pesticides. Order a box of ladybugs or other good bugs to share your plants with. Add a fruit tree to your landscape. Remove too many shrubs and replace with a fruit producing one like pomegranate, blueberry, goji berry, or grapes. Better to pick and eat, and only hand trim when needed.

Part of what I would like to teach you are some botanical names. I am showing two in this writing and will share more later. Below are a rubber plant, 'Ficus elastica' robusta, var. (also in a burgundy and variegated) and 'buddha belly' 'Jatropha podagrica'.



Ficus elastica



Jatropha podagrica

Ficus elastica is a tropical plant from Asia, usually grown in pots, but grows robustly in the ground. It is part of the family of figs and when mature can produce a small round fruit. It can be reproduced from the roots, cuttings, or air-layering. There are many varieties, but you will commonly find the solid green, variegated, or burgundy varieties. It will tolerate full sun and little water. Fertilize occasionally.

Jatropha podagrica is a type of Euphorbia from tropical Americas. It is usually grown as a container plant and has a poisonous sap with the toxin 'curcin'. Its common names of Buddha belly and gout plant comes from its bulging base (vasculum)* full of thin sap. It has large showy leaves and clusters of small coral flowers that bloom several times a year. Within the

flowers, it will develop a marble size seed pod, containing three seeds. As soon as you see the sides of the pod start to crack, cover it with a plastic sandwich bag to capture the seeds or they will pop out overnight. Occasionally you might find one growing in a nearby pot. They can tolerate full sun, but I prefer filtered light and less watering. Fertilize quarterly or lightly each month.

If you have plants you would like to know more about, send a pic and/or some information you want to know and maybe we can include it in a future writing. Don't forget to make use of our horticulture help desks: NORTH FL: Micky Nyberg, adriananyberg@gmail.com, CENTRAL FL: Kalia Baillene earthsage4u@gmail.com, and SOUTH FL: Donna Box tropicalsouth@galtran.com. We aren't professionals, but we are curious and want to learn and pass it on. Give us a few days to answer. Thanks.

Some online seed sources are: Eden Brothers and Sowtrue Seeds. Top Tropicals (Ft. Myers) has many rare and unusual fruiting plants, and Pokey's in Zellwood has the greatest citrus and many varieties of tropical fruits, berries, and nut trees. Tell the help desks where great resources are in your area and online sources too.

My first economics instructor didn't give weekend homework because she said: "All work and no play makes John a dull boy." So after your labors, put on your patio attire, pour your favorite beverage, and blissfully enjoy your garden.

Wishing you "Visions and fragrance appetit!"

I grow plants for many reasons: to please my eye or to please my soul, to challenge the elements or to challenge my patience, for novelty or for nostalgia, but mostly for the joy in seeing them grow.

-- David Hobson

NGC: Wildflowers and Native Plants Gardening

Wildflower and native plant gardens provide a unique, colorful landscape that is pollinator friendly and hardy in nature. Once plants have been established, these gardens require very little maintenance, yet provide vivid color and wildlife habitat for many years. Wildflowers are generally resistant to disease, and native plants have evolved to survive in their particular local climate.

It's easy to introduce wildflowers and native species to outdoor gardens, especially with a little research. Plant flowers, grasses, shrubs, and trees that are native to your area for a reliable base. Then feel free to experiment with other varieties that interest you that may be native to a warmer, or colder, climate.

Wildflower and native plant gardeners do their part to ensure our pollinators are safe. Local pollinating insects and animals are particularly drawn to native plants because they have coevolved with the species. In addition to being full of beautiful color, these gardens are a haven for bees, butterflies, and birds.

Planting native flowers and plants can make for a completely unique garden, but be careful that it doesn't become overgrown. Sometimes wildflowers and native plants can become invasive and problematic. Mowing around the perimeter of a wild garden can help solve this problem.

A wildflower and native plant garden can be a wonderful opportunity to teach children about the animal and plantlife that thrives around them. The wide variety of interesting species will draw their attention and give them a chance to better understand their native habitat.

For more information, contact:

[Doris Jackson](#), Chairman: Wildflowers and Native Plantings National Garden Club

DISTRICT X GREEN SCHOOLS IN ACTION

On Oct. 14, Oleander Garden Club of the Palm Beaches, in partnership with Pratt and Whitney, West Palm Beach Elks Lodge #1352 and FAU Pine Jog Environmental Education Center Green School program created and participated in "Sowing Seeds of Green School Success" at North Grade Elementary School in Lake Worth. Over 120 volunteers which also included teachers, parents, students and siblings created and filled 4 -10'x 2'x 12" raised beds for square foot gardening, built 4 hydroponic towers and installed 64 strawberry plants, filled 30 recycled egg carton seed trays with a variety of lettuce, tomatoes and pepper seeds, and planted a 10 foot native flowering tamarind shade tree that attracts yellow Sulphur butterflies and has edible seed pods.

The event was made possible financially by a grant from Pratt and Whitney and was offered to help North Grade Elementary in its efforts to become a recognized "Green School" for the first time. Elks Lodge members donated some of the components for the raised beds and installed irrigation. Oleander Garden club members donated the NGC Saved Seed and Frightened Frog books to the school library and utilized both books at the event for "story time" interactive educational classes when the children finished their seed tray planting. A tree and gardens dedication ceremony was held as the event concluded with a wonderful presentation from a 5th grade student on the attributes of the tamarind tree which she and her classmates had researched. An impressive conclusion to an awesome morning!

District X Speaks Out at Wellington Council Meeting on Saving Wellington Preserves

by Diane Rice

Kudos to District X Director Carol Coleman and Environmental Chairman Diane Rice who spoke out against rezoning the Wellington Preserves in the Wellington Mall at the Village of Wellington (VOW) Council Meeting on Monday, October 7, 2019 and a special thanks to the Wellington Garden Club attendees and family members namely: Linda DeSanti, Lisa Ferrano, Ann Finch, Roxanne, Christine and David Henry, Twig Morris, Ellen Rawlings, Deborah Russell, and our own Wellington Garden Club President Jan Seagrave.

According to the New York Times --- in the last 50 years the number of birds in the United States and Canada have declined by 3 billion and hence the approximate 32 acres now deeded Preserves is crucial to these birds very existence. These preserves also provide Nature's own air conditioning thru transpiration in the leaves of the trees that exist there. This is seen world over as welcome relief given that the US National Research Council in June 2006 announced



the Earth is the hottest it has been in the last 400 years.

As Environmental Chairman I submitted an article to the *Palm Beach Post* and *Town Crier* and parts of which were published in both newspapers. The submission centered around ten-year-old Elbridge Gale Elementary student Skyler Peterson who, with his class of 25,

wrote letters to the Village of Wellington asking them to vote 'no' on rezoning and save the Wellington Preserves for the birds and trees and future generations.

Saving deeded Preserve land is not just a local issue, it is a global issue. Greta Thunberg addressed the UN Embassy on Sept. 20th and exclaimed that, "This Earth is on Fire ". And, according to the *Washington Times* on October 7, 2019 hundreds of activists with the Extinction Rebellion raised the bar by staging demonstrations in New York City, Berlin, Madrid, London and Amsterdam.



In Wellington we had our own protest rally at Starbucks thanks to Mark Offerman of Palm Beach County Environmental Alliance. The rally gave me an opportunity to talk on the local news about the need to keep Wellington Preserves for birds, trees and its cooling effect.

Global Warming awareness is not all about protesting - it is also about saving green spaces in your part of the world to contribute to global cooling. As members of the FFGC we can make a difference by responding to Environmental Alerts posted through Inger Jones and Pat Carver - the last one about the EPA had a deadline of Oct. 15th.

FFGC asks all Presidents to do environmental email blasts to all its members so that we can make a difference as the largest volunteer gardening organization in Florida.



Pictured above is daily flooding in Miami from sea level rising due to Global Warming.

After all, in the end, what matters?

What kind of earth are we giving to our children and our grandchildren?

For more information on FFGC's position on

Environmental Issues, contact:

Inger Jones - mjinger@att.net (Environmental Alerts)

Ramona Johnston - 12banger@bellsouth.com - (Legislative Positions and Policies)

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**April 16 – 18, 2020
Hilton Tampa Downtown**

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RATE	PLACEMENT DESCRIPTION	AD SIZE
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\$200	Full Page Color – Interior	7 ½” High x 4 ½” Wide
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EMAIL your camera-ready ad in high resolution PDF format to:

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Subject line of Email: “FFGC 2020 Convention Ad”

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

Bessie Morse

1850 52nd Ave North, St Petersburg, FL 33714

Make checks payable to “FFGC 2020 Convention”

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Hilton Downtown Tampa, 211 N. Tampa Str. Tampa, FL - April 16-18, 2020**



Please print and use separate form for each registrant

(LAST) _____ (FIRST) _____

ADDRESS _____ CITY _____ ZIP _____

DISTRICT _____ CLUB/CIRCLE _____ PHONE _____

EMAIL _____ EMERGENCY CONTACT (Name/Phone) _____

CIRCLE ALL CATEGORIES WHICH APPLY TO YOU

- | | | |
|--------------------------------|-----------------------|------------------------|
| FFGC Officer/District Director | Delegate or Alternate | First Time Attendee |
| FFGC Board Member | Club/Circle President | Guest/Spouse/Companion |
| FFGC Former President | Club/Circle Member | FFGC Life Member |

TWO DAY CONVENTION PLAN: Includes Registration, 2 lunches and 2 dinners
Friday, April 17 and Saturday., April 18, 2020 \$198.00 \$ _____

ONE DAY CONVENTION PLAN: Includes registration, 1 lunch and 1 dinner
Friday, - Registration Fee with Lunch and Dinner \$110.00 \$ _____
Saturday – Registration Fee with Lunch and Dinner \$118.00 \$ _____

A LA CARTE REGISTRATION FOR MEMBERS AND GUESTS:
Registration for FFGC Members \$25.00 \$ _____
Registration for Spouse or guest \$10.00 \$ _____
Circle Choices: Friday Lunch \$37.00 Friday Dinner \$48.00 \$ _____
Saturday Lunch \$37.00 Saturday Dinner \$56.00 \$ _____

Early Arrivals Dinner/Entertainment-Thursdays, April 16th, 2020
This event is open to all attendees. It is complimentary for FFGC Board Members.
FFGC Board of Directors to receive official invitation requiring RSVP, Check if attending _____
DINNER AND SHOW for FFGC Member (\$36) \$ _____
DINNER AND SHOW for Spouse/Guest/Companion (\$36) \$ _____
 Please check if planning to attend show only (\$0)
Flower Show Awards and Calendar Girl Honors will be presented

REGISTRATIONS POSTMARKED AFTER; March 26, 2020 ADD LATE FEE \$ 40 \$ _____

TOTAL AMOUNT DUE \$ _____

MAIL REGISTRATION FORM AND CHECK Payable to FFGC 2020 Convention
TO: Karen Smith, Registrar Questions:
P.O. Box 292646 ffgc2020convention@gmail.com
Tampa, FL 33687-2646 813-382-4539

OR

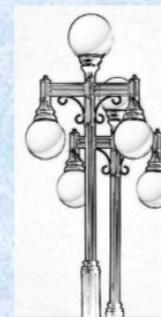
REGISTER ONLINE: FFGC.ORG REGISTRATION DEADLINE WEDNESDAY, APRIL 1, 2020
No refunds after Monday, April 6th. Registration Fee Non-Refundable.
You must be registered to attend ANY programs, meals or workshops. NO WALK INS accepted.
Dietary restrictions for extreme health issues must accompany registration. Every effort will be made to honor. NO shellfish will be served.

HOTEL RESERVATIONS – Hilton Tampa Downtown, 211 North Tampa Street, Tampa, FL 33602
Deadline for Reservations: March 26, 2020
Hotel Reservations must be made directly with the hotel by calling 813-204-3000
OR Online – Click link below or enter the address into your browser:
https://www.hilton.com/en/hil/groups/personalized/T/TPANTHF-FFGC2-20200415/index.jhtml?WT.mc_id=POG
USE: Group Code: FFGC2 Group Name: FFGC Annual Convention & Flower Show

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94th Annual FFGC Convention

Opportunity Drawing



One week stay at Sandcastle II condo at Indian Shores.
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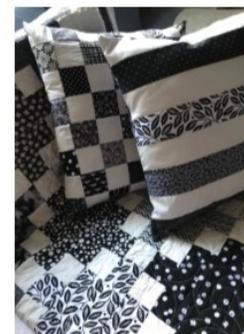
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Silver necklace, earrings, & bracelet set.



I-pad 6 generation; 32GB



Handmade quilt and pillow set



Gronomics Vertical Garden, assembled. Plants not included.



Wooden Platter with stand



Metal sculpture by Ken Schwartz



Hergesheimer design containers.

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

Make checks payable to FFGC 2020 Convention . Mail to FFGC 2020 Convention at PO Box 4136 Tampa, 33677
Kathy Echevarria, kathy.echevarria @ gmail.com; 813-240-5272. Kitty Wallace, kittwal@aol.com; 813-992-0940

The drawing will be held April 18, 2020. You need not be present to win. Your generous donations support FFGC aims, goals, and special projects. The Florida Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc. is a 501c(3) organization. IRS rules and regulations apply. Winners of prizes valued at \$600 or more will be issued IRS form W-2G. Your donations may be tax deductible as allowed by the IRS. Consult a tax advisor for more information. One prize per winning ticket.



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IT'S TIME TO BEGIN THINKING ABOUT OUR 2020 FFGC CONVENTION :

WONDERING WHAT, WHEN, WHERE AND WHO?

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94TH Annual FFGC Convention and State Flower Show

Thursday, April 16 – Sunday, April 19th, 2020

Hilton Tampa Downtown - 211 N. Tampa Street - Tampa, FL

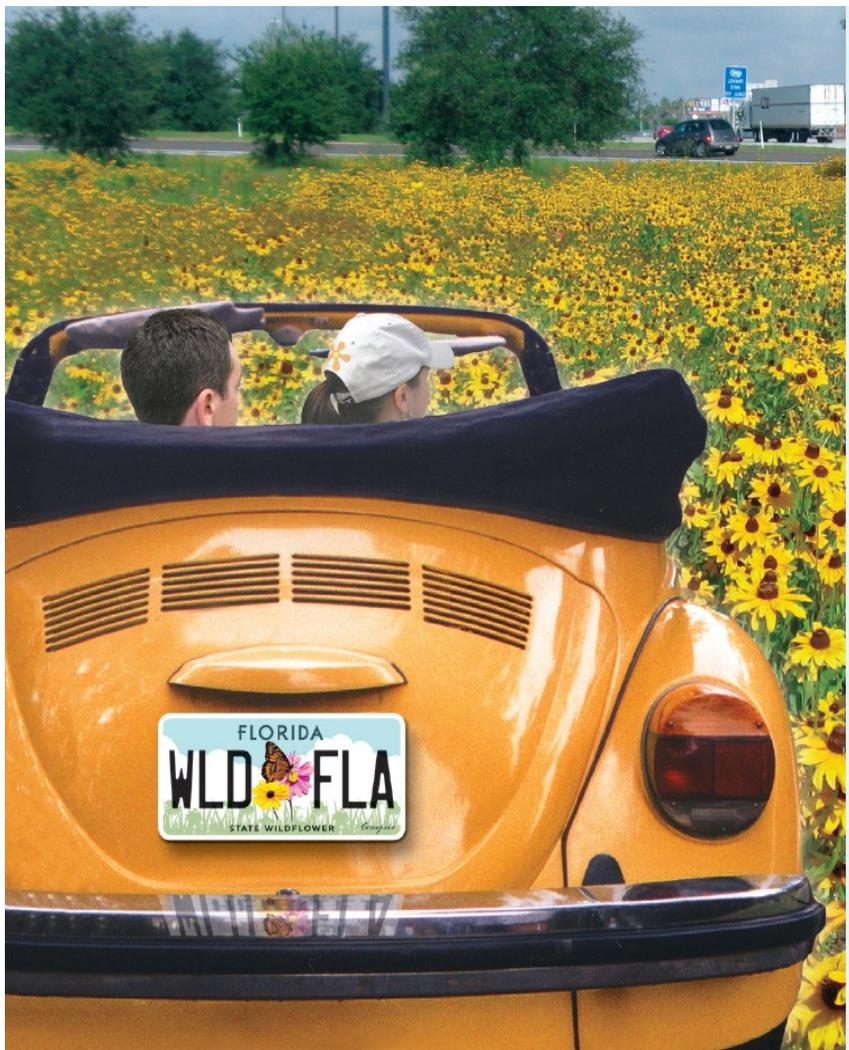
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