

A close-up photograph of a vibrant pink flower, likely a hibiscus, with a green frog perched on its petals. The frog is positioned in the center of the flower, facing left. The background is blurred, showing green foliage and brown leaves. The text "The Florida Gardener" is written in a large, orange, serif font at the top left, and "Winter 2021" is written in a smaller, orange, serif font below it.

*The Florida Gardener*

*Winter 2021*

# *President's Message*

## *I Won the Lottery!!!*

*Dear Friends,*



When my friend, Donna Nichols, asked me to join her garden club it was like buying a lottery ticket. There is the excitement of buying the lottery ticket and the “What if I won?” thoughts. What would I do with the money? Who could I help? Where would I travel? Would I have new friends? Where would I live? There are so many “what ifs”.

I knew I was a winner the day I actually paid my money and joined the garden club. Friendships were there to be earned and enjoyed. Working on projects for the community, yard sales, flower shows, plant sales, all brought me closer to those members that I wanted to be friends with and that wanted to be friends with me. You know why these people are your

friends. This was better than winning a real lottery where you’re not always sure why people want to be your friend.

Garden Club Members show their inner and outer beauty by their floral, gardens, and landscaping designs. We all know members that love to do huge designs. Who just came to mind for you? Me, too. Sometimes a member may seem hard to get along with, and then you see their design, or their landscaped gardens. You then see someone that you would like to get to know better. You think back later as to that beautiful design/garden and the thin thread that made you best friends with a person you may never had thought would be your friend.

Being a member of FFGC makes me feel like I won the lottery when I think of traveling. I have enjoyed trips to Chipley, Miami, Tampa, Clermont, Pensacola, Japan, West Palm, The Keys, Hawaii, Istanbul, London, New Port, Dublin, China, and on and on. No lottery ticket would steer me towards the World Flower show in Ireland or the massive Camellia trees in Japan and China , but being in a garden club did. Each trip was to experience the beauty of the flora, become educated about the world, and enjoy the family and friends that I traveled with.

Education about the environment would not have taken place by winning a real lottery but does take place in my winning the garden club lottery. If I were to win the state lottery, I would have felt I had to buy more. A new car, bigger house, and more and more stuff would have been purchased. By taking NGC environmental classes I don’t know which is the bigger winner Mother Earth or me. We have got to help our planet, so turn off the water, lights, and car. When you do, pat yourself on the back and feel proud that you took that baby step to save your planet.

Now, years in the garden club, I know I did win that lottery. Maybe it wasn’t millions of dollars, but then how do you put a monetary amount on years of memories? I hope you find someone you want to be part of your garden club. Reach out and give someone you know a garden club lottery ticket. WE WON!!!

*Marjorie H. Hendon, FFGC President*



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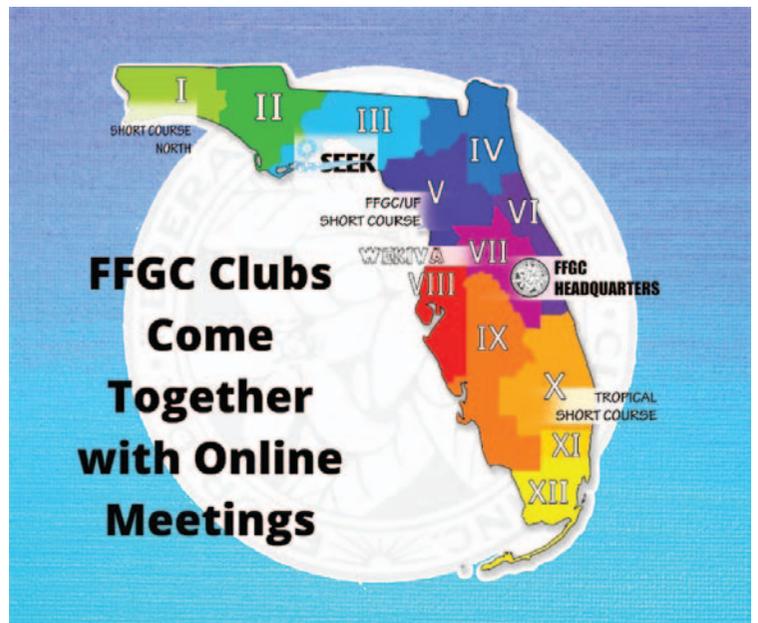
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**From Your Editor**

Dave Spaulding, Editor "The Florida Gardener"

**Evolution!** This issue of "The Florida Gardener" is the first to follow our NGC publication/distribution standard policy and to reduce our printing & distribution expenses. Future published issues will be distributed to FFGC members by their email address. Please note that all current and past issues of "The Florida Gardener" will always be available on-line at our FFGC web site: [FFGC.org](http://FFGC.org).



Thanks ro Carmen Palagruto, Temple Terrace Garden Club, District VIII, for applying his expertise in graphic arts to touch up several of the submitted portraits. Good work Carmen!

# Florida Federation of Garden Clubs

## UPCOMING TRAVEL

We are excited to be traveling again, and we would love if you would join us in the future! We have multiple trips set up that offer you the opportunity to travel within the US as well as over seas! Below are the upcoming trips planned for the next few years.



### **Caribbean Cruise** - May 21, 2022 - *Caribbean*

This Caribbean cruise includes a 1-night pre hotel stay in Cocoa Beach followed by a 7-night cruise aboard Royal Caribbean's *Harmony of the Seas*! Flex your sense of wonder at the crystal-clear blue sea on the Caribbean's pristine white-sand beaches. Explore ancient ruins and colonial towns. Or take a hike through the region's tropical rainforests, passing by views of mist-covered mountains and hidden waterfalls.



### **Christmas Market Cruise** - December 7, 2022 - *Danube River*

Experience timeless holiday traditions and elegant pageantry along the Danube River on this 7 night river cruise and two night stay in Munich. Wander the stalls of Europe's most traditional and enchanting Christmas Markets while shopping for handcrafted toys and gifts and sipping hot mulled wine. Cherish all the glory and magic of the season in grand European style as you cruise along the Danube.



### **Michigan Tulip Fest & Mackinac Island** - May 2023

Tulip Time celebrates tulips, Dutch heritage, and the Holland, Michigan community. Since 1929, the city of Holland, Michigan has blossomed with hundreds of thousands of tulips. Visit the home of DeZwaan, a centuries old windmill at the Windmill Island Gardens. Visit the Tulip Lanes which has 250,000+ tulips, cherry, crab, and plum trees along the boulevards.

*Dates to be announced.*



### **Douro River Cruise** - October 4, 2023 - *Portugal*

Rambling vineyards and charming native farms cling to the steep sides of the Douro River Valley, creating an incomparable backdrop to one of Europe's most unspoiled regions and to Port country - the world's oldest demarcated wine region. Join us on this 7 night river cruise with a 2 night stay in Lisbon. Taste wines from historic wineries and soak up the genuine beauty of one of Europe's most unadulterated landscapes on this sailing.



### **Coastal Cruise** - April 2024 - *Amelia Island to Charleston*

Join us on a coastal cruise sailing out of Amelia Island! Visit "Millionaire's Village," a National Historic Landmark with 240-acres of extravagant homes and winter cottages built over 100 years ago. Explore Charleston, lined with cobblestone streets and antebellum houses.

This trip will be in conjunction with the FFGC 100th anniversary celebration convention!

*Dates to be announced.*

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



Contact **Shelley Atkinson**  
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## DISTRICT I NEWS



*Joyce Waters-Smith, Director*

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

District I is pleased to announce the vote to accept a NEW club! Destin Garden Club, President Janet Hays, received a unanimous vote to become members of District I. They have 56 members who will be presented for acceptance into FFGC at the January 2022 board meeting.

Our District chairperson for Wekiva/SEEK, Mickey Quigley, has now been appointed to the FFGC State Board for "Adopt A Park".

District I and the District Judges council will be hosting a district wide flower show March 22-23, 2022 at St Sylvester's Church in Navarre. See our ad in this magazine.

Tina Tuttle made a motion for District I to host her conventions in 2024 and 2025 in Jacksonville. The motion passed with the leadership team including: Kat Spieker, Betty White, Jenny Weber, and Joyce Waters-Smith.

Dogwood Circle of Pensacola received a Yellow Diamond Precious Metal Certificate for 85 successful years. Van Holt applied for the award, which was presented by Tina Tuttle, FFGC 1st VP to club President, Mary Ann Whitlock.

Gina Jogan presented NGC awards to Joanne Conor-Stieb for her leadership in developing and writing programs and awards for Junior Gardener programs. Garnier Beach Garden Club received a NGC award for their newsletter, "Garden Gab". We congratulate Joanne David for her great work.

District I Grant Chairperson, Ginger Eisele awarded two \$250 grants for community landscape projects. Betty White accepted the Green Thumb Garden club grant for work at Legions Park in South Walton County. Cindy Stone of DeFuniak Springs Garden Club accepted the \$250 district award for a landscape project at the DeFuniak Springs library to create a shade garden at the book drop.

Azalea Garden Club President Deborah Kay reported nine new members at their first meeting of the season! They attribute the success of gaining new members to the use of social media. Azalea hosted the fall district meeting, with a "Hats off to Gardening" theme.

Garnier Beach Garden Club of Fort Walton Beach President Diana Doty praised the club's maintenance of 4 Blue Star Markers. Planting at the 4th Blue Star Marker was accomplished with donated plants and help from some Master Gardener interns.

Green Thumb Garden Club President Lisa Ermini reported 13 new members at their September meeting, bringing the total to 117. The \$2,000 scholarship won by Eric Brubaker was featured by his Mother, Beth, at the September meeting. Eric is currently at Auburn University School of Forestry. A Junior Gardener program has begun at Butler Elementary School, with a 5 session program using FFGC curriculum for 4th and 5th grade students. Be sure to check out their new website: [www.greenthumbgardenclubinc.org](http://www.greenthumbgardenclubinc.org). It is spectacular!

Honeysuckle Garden Club members hosted a community roadside clean up event and gathered many pounds of trash and debris. They also celebrated their 20th anniversary. The September meeting toured Alice Woodward's rose garden.

Milton Garden Club President Pat Cummins reported 4 new members crediting Facebook and social media for reaching new members. Their interesting programs have included Vermicomposting and Microplastics in our environment.

Navarre Garden Club President Faye Hatfield praised members for their work maintaining the landscape at the Emerald Coast Wild Life Refuge, and Ginger Eisele's continued dedication to propagation at their green house. Rose Racz of Navarre Garden Club will be hosting the Basic Floral Design Studies series beginning January 5 for 9 weeks.

Pick N' Poke Circle of PFGC President Marilyn Powitzky reported 28 members. In the fall the club visited the gardens of four members and enjoyed a yummy lunch. The Circle members studied every aspect of requirements for entering the Pensacola Flower Show in October, learning design techniques and tips for entering horticulture. This club has 8 FFGC life members – WOW!

Valparaiso Garden Club President Daquiri Champion reports 58 members, including 6 new members! Their \$3,000 scholarship winner, Makayla Emerson is studying Natural Resource Conservation at UF/Milton and attended their October meeting. The club has begun a huge project to tear out all the raised beds at the Paradise Pollinator Garden and replace them with the assistance of an FFGC matching grant.

## DISTRICT II NEWS



*Sue Schmitz, Director*

**Counties:** Holmes, Washington, Jackson, Bay, Calhoun, Gulf, Liberty, Gadsden

Garden Club members in District II are celebrating our most recent District meeting. Even though our numbers in attendance were lower than usual due to hesitation because of health issues, we had a fantastic

"Tropical Experience" in Panama City Beach. We enjoyed an excellent program by Kirby Holt, a superb florist. We were thoroughly entertained by the energetic Ukulele Orchestra followed by a very informative presentation by the gracious first vice president of FFGC, Tina Tuttle. We all left the meeting with new ideas and a renewed view of what we can do to make our meetings even more exciting.

## DISTRICT III NEWS



*Marilyn Larson, Director*

**Counties:** Franklin, Wakulla, Leon, Jefferson, Madison, Taylor, Hamilton, Suwannee, Lafayette

### District III Fall Meeting

WOW! Wow! Indeed. North Florida is a world of wonders ranging from its red hills, national forest, rivers and streams, to the Gulf of Mexico shoreline. Natural and built environments intertwine and preservation, reuse and repurposing historic properties and urban green spaces are a component of living "green", and that was evident in "A Visit to Goodwood", the theme for the Fall District meeting, hosted by Tallahassee Garden Club at the Carriage House, Goodwood Museum and Grounds. The décor for the day featured fall colors and pumpkin centerpieces and the Program included a tour of the historic house and grounds. The Penny Pines donation jar will now be a regular feature of district meetings under Pam Lewis as District Committee Chair. The Spring 2022 District Meeting host Wakulla County Garden Club is working on meeting plans.



**Flower Show** - Yee Hah! Giddy up cowgirl! The Tallahassee Garden Club Small Standard Flower Show theme "The American Old West", was held October 28 outdoors in the parking lot at the Rutgers House, the 1848 historic house owned and managed by the Club's Board of Trustees. The flower show committee, the "Wranglers", oversaw three Divisions – Horticulture, Design and Botanical Art. What was unique was the show was held outdoors as a drive-by (vehicles not horses) and walk-by show displayed under pop-up canopy tents.

## **DISTRICT III NEWS** - (cont'd)

**Youth Gardening** - With schools back in session, youth gardens are maintained at six (6) elementary schools and one (1) middle school by Tallahassee Garden Club. Madison GC plans to work with their local elementary schools to teach the value of growing plants and flowers. The youth are our future.

**Club Programs** - Clubs are meeting either in person, masked and social distanced, inside or outside, depending on members' level of comfort and safety as each community experience varies depending on COVID status. Clubs are creative in scheduling meetings, field trips, fundraisers and programs.

**Tallahassee Garden Club** held an orientation for new Circle chairs and treasurers of the 21 Circles and a monthly newsletter keeps members up-to-date as well as a weekly "e-blast" of weekly activities. A flock of pink flamingoes roosted on the front lawn at Tallahassee Garden Club, evidence of community outreach and support for October Breast Cancer Awareness. Plans are underway for a December 9 Open House when Tallahassee's Rutgers House is transformed with live greenery and Christmas décor both inside the house and outside.

**Wakulla County Garden Club** has an electronic monthly newsletter with a calendar of monthly programs and activities, and Live Oak has a monthly newsletter and has also increased membership with the possibility of further attracting new members through their Fall Festival.

**Monticello Garden Club** Circles met in late October and November outdoors but plan to be more active in the Spring when COVID conditions improve in their community. New member recruitment is planned for 2022.

**Madison Garden Club** is really "buzzing" as one of their programs was presented by a local beekeeper. Other creative programs on their calendar include a visit to a local goat farmer to learn the process of turning goat milk into soaps, lotions and other natural products. Madison has begun a membership challenge with the member who brings in the most new members receiving a cash prize at the end of the program year.

**Live Oak Garden Club** members are collecting plastic grocery bags and donating to a community member who processes them into sleeping mats for use by the homeless. In addition to field trips, they hold 50/50 drawings at each meeting with proceeds to Penny Pines, as well as to send students to SEEK and contribute to their scholarship fund. At each meeting a Live Oak member shares a "Green tip" as a way to advocate for environmental issues.

**Perry Garden Club** has increased their membership and plans a Christmas luncheon featuring a local designer as a fundraiser.

**Steinhatchee Garden Club** held a creative and educational monthly program on seagrass, the bladed seagrass which provides protection for the scallops to spawn in the waters off the shore. Scallops are important to their economy as scallop season brings recreational visitors who harvest the scallops. Great outdoor sport and scallops are delicious. Their Christmas luncheon will feature a money tree to collect contributions for Camp Wekiva. And Steinhatchee's upcoming program "Sex, Lies & Butterflies" should generate curiosity and attendance!

## **DISTRICT IV NEWS**



*Connie Gladding, Director*

**Counties:** Baker, Union, Nassau, Duval, Clay, St. Johns, Putnam

District IV held the annual GardenFest event November 5th at the St. Augustine County Extension Center. It is a community gathering of master gardeners, club members and the public. Regrettably, it was cancelled in previous years due to the pandemic. GardenFest is an all-day forum for learning, a membership drive, and a fundraiser. Speakers included county horticulture agents and master gardeners. This year's theme was "What a Wonderful World to

Preserve and Protect - Start in your own Yard". The Garden Club of Orange Park plans to hold a similar full day horticulture program March 2022, with the hope of attracting new members.

Thank you to the Garden Club of Orange Park for hosting the October District Fall meeting. Our 70 attendees welcomed Florida Federation of Garden Clubs (FFGC) President Marge Hendon and learned about "Protecting Florida's Water". Members queried the guest speaker on what was being done regarding the population explosion and extensive habitat loss occurring in Northeast Florida and its impact on our aquatic ecosystems, water supply, and water quality. Clubs and District Chairs highlighted their experiences and plans on supporting membership drives, award submissions, flower shows, National Garden Clubs (NGC) Schools, Habitat for Humanity, Arbor Day, Wekiva, Blue Star Markers, Cork Reclamation, S.E.E.K., youth gardening, and Pennies for Pines. A S.E.E.K. 2021 student was in attendance and shared her awesome experience. Clubs and chairs continue to submit articles to local newspapers and to the District IV newsletter. District meeting materials and pictures, District IV's newsletter, and helpful NGC and FFGC links are also available on the district website [District4FFGC.org](http://District4FFGC.org).

Also on the meeting agenda, was an award ceremony. The District celebrated the achievement of Bartram's Club NGC 1st place for the Club's website. The District Awards Chair encouraged clubs to submit awards and reviewed the specifics of the Nell Coe Award. The Social Media Chair offered assistance with the mechanics of the award submission process, either via Zoom or in person. We look forward to our 2022 District meetings: Bartram Garden Club for our Spring District meeting and St. Augustine for our Fall District meeting.

The Bartram Garden Club, The Garden Club of Green Cove Springs, and The Garden Club of Orange Park provide floral displays and seasonal gardening information at the local library. The Garden Club of Palatka planted a 10 by 30 feet vegetable garden bed at the Water Works Environmental Education Center. The Alligator Creek Garden Club is working closely with the Department of Transportation and local government to build a 300-yard-long wildflower area along a thoroughfare east of Starke. The Garden Club of Middleburg will hold a community meet and greet at their local Lowes. These events, displays, and plantings are educational and spark prospective member interests.

Several clubs held open houses which served as membership drives and opportunities for communities to learn more about District IV Garden Clubs. The Garden Club of Palatka held several open houses in the historic cypress cabin at Ravine Gardens State Park. September, The Ribault Garden Club held a grand re-opening after an extensive renovation of the Garden Club building. It was well attended by the community including attendance by two local mayors. The Garden Club of Jacksonville and Alligator Creek held open houses in October. The Garden Club of the Lakes started their year with a birthday party celebrating their Ruby Precious Metal award for being a federated club for 60 years. Likewise, The Garden Club of St. Augustine kicked off its 95th year and Bartram Garden Club had an anniversary federation party celebrating their 5th year.

Providing training benefits to our members, late September, the District IV Judges Council hosted Flower Show School Course 2. Course 3 is planned for January 25-28, 2022, and Course 4 will be May 24-27. District IV is striving to convene the NGC Landscape Design School Course 1 in February 2022 with an amazing group of instructors sure to provide wonderful training for our members.

Several clubs have efforts underway to maintain and refurbish blue star memorial markers and the living gardens. These clubs include Orange Park, St. Augustine, and Jacksonville. The Garden Club of Orange Park Arrangers Guild will make and place a wreath at the Blue Star Byway Marker in a Veterans Day ceremony. Jacksonville is pursuing the relocation of a marker to a Florida welcome station because the existing location is in a very high traffic area and precludes any visits or gardening. The Garden Club of Middleburg is pursuing establishment of a blue star marker. The Garden Club of the Lakes maintains the local Veterans Monument Garden.

## **DISTRICT IV NEWS** - (cont'd)

The pandemic continues to cause the cancellation of major fund raisers, interactions with schools, and community event favorites. However, most of District IV Clubs have recommenced their youth gardening programs, with some modifications. Ribault has added an additional school, with 900 students. Jacksonville has Budding Gardener events for children in grades 1-6. Bartram is supplying Nature Workbooks for children living in shelters and working with scouts. The Garden Club of the Lakes has a Junior Gardener Day in partnership with the Ace Hardware Store. November 4-14 The Garden Club of Jacksonville, in partnership with the Jacksonville Fair, will assist with the horticulture show at its judging. Several clubs plan to engage students in the NGC poster contests. Among cancellations is The Garden Club of St. Augustine annual "Christmas Tour of Homes". Instead, November 14th and December 12th, St. Augustine will have arts and crafts holiday sales at their club house to raise funds for scholarships, Arbor Day, Wekiva, and Pennies for Pines. Also, they have plans for a flower show May 6-7, 2022, titled "Welcome to My Garden".

District IV Clubs and Circles have an exciting and fun array of programs for this year. Clubs are working on their award submissions and holiday fundraisers showcasing their good works while playing outdoors, making new friends, and enriching our communities. The District Director plans to continue to make frequent visits, sharing information about NGC, FFGC, and other clubs.

## **DISTRICT V NEWS**



*Donna Thomas, Director*

**Counties:** Columbia, Dixie, Gilchrist, Bradford, Alachua, Citrus, Hernando, Levy, Marion

Winter is the best time of the year to live in Florida. The weather is fabulous, and the festivals and activities are an every-weekend event from October through January. The snowbirds are back so lots of extra helping hands with projects. Hurricane season is in the past and the Holiday season is in full swing. All the Clubs are busy decorating their towns, clubhouses, volunteering to make the holidays brighter for everyone in their lives and their community. Several of the Clubs are selling Amaryllis and caladium bulbs, poinsettias, and metal flowers for a Holiday fundraiser as well as hosting "Fun with Flowers" events for holiday center pieces. Field trips are back online to view the houses and museums in several of our counties that are decked out for Christmas.

Newberry Garden Club is hosting the October district meeting and it should be a smashing success with a great speaker and lots of vendors and baskets. In addition, District V is having a Digital Photography Competition at the meeting. I'd tell you the winners, but it hasn't happened yet.

Gainesville's "Aged to Perfection" fundraiser raised \$3,000, a huge congratulations to all the members that made it a success.

The Pioneer Garden Club is running a four-part "Gardening for the Seasons" article in the Ocala Gazette which started in October and will follow up in December, March and June featuring their four circles - Camellia, Daffodil, Gloriosa, and Morning Glory.

Newberry garden club will have their annual Soups, Sandwiches & Sweets event in January, tickets for sale November 9th.

Covid is still restricting some of our activities consequently, many things are tentative or in a holding pattern. Plants/bulbs/seed sales being outdoor functions however mean that in the spring life will feel normal once again. With this hope in mind our clubs are making plans and starting plants for the spring plant sales across District V.

District V is hosting the 2022 Convention consequently, everyone is gearing up to make baskets, sell tickets and volunteer to help make this convention outstanding.

## **DISTRICT VI NEWS**



*Suzi Bailey, Director*

**Counties:** Flagler, Volusia, Brevard

Theme: Planting for the Planet

We all know how Florida Fall begins. We wait for a 60-degree day and find our only sweater, throw on socks with our flip flops, and look outside our windows for fall colors. We can pretend that leaves are falling but their red and gold colors are only in our tropical gardens. That's okay though, because our winters are delightful and our northern neighbors will all be wanting to see our tropical gardens and beautiful beaches!

Meanwhile, Garden Clubs are planning programs, tours and educational seminars. DeLeon Springs Garden Club has been busy learning about hydroponic gardening. They have also been tending plants for sale at the DeLeon Springs State Park Heritage Plant Nursery. The plants are sold and they donate proceeds to the State Park. It has generated community interest including a lot of potential members.

Titusville Garden Club sponsored 9 children to Wekiva Youth Camp and Seek. They held a spring festival fundraiser to enable them to sponsor the children. They are helping to preserve the Indian River lagoon by collecting plastic bottle caps and encouraging native landscaping. A spring plant sale is planned in 2022.

Garden Club of DeLand held a plant sale which featured 1,000 plus member propagated plants and yard art. It was a great success with native plants, pollinators, and gardening advice. They also had a plant bar which held seeds to give to young gardeners to take to their home gardens.

South Peninsula Garden Club is growing and now has 21 members. They have been meeting in members garages because a new building is being constructed on the Ormond Memorial Gardens site. During September, October, November, programs about botanical arts, environment, native plants and tours have been in process. In January, Penny Decker presented an Ikebana program. In February, succulents will be presented by Jane Villalobos. In March, a tour of EFG orchids will be a fun event and finally in April they will meet at the Marine Science Center in Ponce Inlet.

New Smyrna Beach Garden Club has started a new program by pairing new members with an established mentor-member. It will help them in their first few months to get a better feel for being an active member and part of the Garden Club. They are also preparing for their annual Festival of Trees. The fundraiser was not held during the COVID restriction. It is a great event featuring decorated Christmas trees and wreaths for sale, a bake sale, holiday market, and great raffle baskets. They are so happy to restart this fun event. They are also in the process of continuing their program of special interest groups that they started last year.

Melbourne Garden Club is very excited to finally get their Blue Star Marker reinstalled. FLDOT was a big help in their project. Landscaping around the Marker will begin when the weather gets cooler. A Food Drive will be held for the South Brevard Sharing Center in November.

The Garden Club of the Halifax County is fast approaching their 100th birthday. They were founded in 1922 by Adelaide Ellicott and seven other ladies. The GCHC was the first garden club in Florida. In 1926 she assisted in organizing the Federation of Garden Clubs and she was the Federation's first president. In March of 1922, when the club was three weeks old the first annual flower show was held. In honor of their Centennial Celebration, please join them March 30-31, 2022 for their flower show, "Bridges" to be held at the Oceanside Country Club, Ormond Beach, Florida.

## DISTRICT VII NEWS



*Charlotte White, Director*

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

**Ixora Garden Club of Sanford's** September meeting was a planning meeting where the committee chairs presented the upcoming projects. This was followed by a pool-side luncheon. We are hoping to hold our meetings at members' homes this year, Zooming in those members who are not comfortable in an in-person situation. Our club is adopting the residents of a nursing home this year. During the summer there was a work-

shop to make 80 fall arrangements using recycled soup and vegetable cans, wrapped in orange tissue paper, and filled with scarecrows and fall foliage. For December, we will be giving the residents bags we have decorated with recycled Xmas cards, etc., and filling them with lotions, lip balm, and tissues.



**Wildflower Circle of the Garden Club of Sanford, Inc.'s** theme for 2021-2022 meetings is "Month by Month in Our Garden". Each month we will discuss a variety of plants that can be added to our Central Florida gardens during that particular month. We will discuss plants for the landscape, bedding plants and unusual plants that can be used as accents or in containers, with a focus on plants that attract bees and pollinators.

**Bloom and Grow Garden Society** presented a Monarch Sculpture to the City of Winter Garden.

After many years of fund raising and planning along with more than a few unexpected delays, the women of the Bloom & Grow Garden Society have finally welcomed our sweet monarch butterfly, Flora, to downtown Winter Garden. Flora "flew" into town in September, 2021. The burnished copper sculpture is a gift to the city of Winter Garden in appreciation for 20 years partnership in making their Spring Fever in the Garden festival so successful.

The dedication took place on October 5th when 150 invited guests enjoyed Flora and the park to see monarchs released among the nectar and milkweed plants placed especially for butterflies that visit.



The Monarch Project is not over. During our journey to get this sculpture made, we've discovered that the monarchs are endangered. We've started a program in area schools to encourage youth to get involved in the Monarch's plight by providing way stations and other props to help the monarchs and other pollinators. We are spreading the word to residents in the West Orange area to use their yards, landscaping beds, and other property as monarch and other pollinator zones.

**Bloom and Grow Garden Society Heritage Tree Tour** On Friday morning Oct 22, 2021, members of the Bloom and Grow Garden Society along with Winter Garden city leaders and many tree lovers gathered for the inaugural Winter Garden Heritage Tree Walk.

Attendees had green t-shirts with the Heritage Tree logo on the front and a special quote on the back that reads, "Be kind to our trees. Protect our Heritage".

**Over fifty trees had labels mounted** on them and many of them tell the story of Winter Garden and its people through the QR code. A beautifully designed "Winter Garden Heritage Tree Walking Tour" brochure contains a map of the historic district with a self-guided walking tour of the trees. In addition, the brochure has other unique features including a "Recommended Tree List for Winter Garden". The inventory of heritage trees in Winter Garden currently exceeds 100.



**Lakes and Hills Garden Club** has started their season on a high note with the receipt of a \$5,000 grant from the Mount Dora Community Trust. This grant is to help us restore a collection of Florida wildflower watercolor paintings that we received as a gift from Emma Sears Marsh in 1950.



**Lakes and Hills GC** participated in a business expo during the summer to attract new members as well as a new member tea in September for several new members that we came in over the summer. This tea attracted two more to join us. We have some exciting programs planned for this season and will be working in our four city parks as soon as the temperatures cool down.

**Camellia GC** dedicated two Florida Maples this spring to one of our founding members who celebrated her 103rd birthday in June. We are planning an exciting event for all Lake County clubs in Jan. "Billy Bartram" and friend will be visiting Lake County to tell us all about his adventures as he toured Florida and collect all sorts of flora and fauna. He will be bringing some of his collection with him and will be telling us about the Bartram trail which winds its way through Florida.

**FFGC District VII Judges Council** is sponsoring the FFGC Floral Design Classes beginning Oct 12, 2021. We hope you will take advantage of this opportunity to learn more about the "Art of Floral Design". The classes are being taught by FFGC Certified Floral Design Instructors from around the state. The Orlando Garden Club is allowing us to use their beautiful building, located in Lockhaven Park. All these newly trained designers will be able to demonstrate their new skills at a D 7 / D 7 Judges Council Flower Show in March 2022.

**Creative Floral Arrangers  
of the Americas**  
Invite you to attend  
**"SHOWTIME!"**  
**CFAA Seminar 2022**  
February 10<sup>th</sup> - 13<sup>th</sup>  
Orlando Airport Marriott Lakeside

With  
Claudia Chopp & Penny Decker  
Kathleen Hawryluk  
Anna Burns

"The Coming Attractions"  
featuring  
Mercy Abrams, Carol Friedman,  
Constance Lowery & Linda Paré

**AND a special  
Challenge Program**

5 Fabulous Design Presentations  
6 Exciting Hands-On Workshops  
50+ Kaleidoscope Design Exhibits

Registration begins October 1st  
Seminar Registration \$325.00

Registration Forms were mailed to members in September and available on the CFAA website beginning October 1<sup>st</sup>. For more detailed information on this amazing seminar visit the website at [www.creativefloral.org](http://www.creativefloral.org) or contact our registrar at [CFAAms@outlook.com](mailto:CFAAms@outlook.com)

## DISTRICT VIII NEWS



*Kitty Wallace, Director*

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

Our District VIII Board of Directors is an outstanding group of members with deep knowledge and dedication to the clubs in our district. Knowing the FFGC theme, *Worlds of Wonder*, is an engaging way to encourage others to join their local garden club. We thought that we would support our clubs' efforts to reach out to the community for new members.

We have a DVIII matching grant which will fund up to \$500 to a club that is doing something to demonstrate one or more of the "Worlds of Wonder".

We also have arranged for a publicity seminar with Valerie Seinfeld, FFGC Awards Advisor and Social Media Chair, NGC Social Media Chair. This will be done on zoom on Oct. 28, at 10:00 and will be recorded. We are looking forward to learning tips on submitting information about garden club activities to general as well as social media. We are also looking forward to an introduction to Canva, a graphic arts program that can be accessed for free. We are going to put on our creative "hats" and make attention grabbing flyers.

## DISTRICT IX NEWS



*Dale W. DeFeo, Director*

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

District IX Clubs are once again becoming very active with an abundance of activities to keep members busy.

A brief recap of fall activities includes our District Meeting, hosted by Punta Gorda GC and held via Zoom with an excellent turnout. Tina Tuttle, FFGC First Vice President attended and presented the Power Point version

of the Fall Officers tour. Our program on our vast watershed was also very enlightening.

Lake Placid GC, Punta Gorda GC, and Naples GC held very successful fundraiser holiday home and garden tours. Most clubs, ( Arcadia GC, Bouquet GC, GC of Cape Coral, Calusa GC and Gulf Coast GC and Lake Placid GC are a few) had holiday luncheons and parties for their members.

Work continues on Blue Star Markers. Lakeland GC rededicated a replacement marker that was damaged. Calusa GC rescued their Blue Star plantings in the fall, as the marker was temporarily removed while Veteran's Park facilities are expanded. It will be replaced when work is completed. Many other clubs continue to maintain their markers and accompanying flower beds. The Garden Club of Cape Coral held a Blue Star fashion show fundraiser in November.

Plant sales abound. Poinciana GC held their Plant and Yard Sale. Lakeland GC held their 36th Fall Garden Extravaganza and Calusa GC held a successful sale. Spring sales include the Spring Sale at Avon Park in May, and Cape Coral's "March in the Park" plant and garden art sale in Jaycee Park.

Flower Shows are becoming a reality again. Garden Club of Cape Coral's Small Standard Flower Show, "New Beginnings" will be held January 8th. The strolling flower show, "Art Walk" sponsored by Fort Myers Lee County Gardening Council will be held February 4th. District IX Judges Council will have a Horticulture Specialty Standard Flower Show on February 10th. Art in Bloom flower show will be held at the Edison Ford Winter Estate in Fort Myers on March 6. Royal Palm GC's "The Colors of Spring" show is March 24-25. Naples GC will also host their flower show extravaganza in the spring.

A new NGC Environmental Studies School is starting in Fort Myers. Course I is February 24-25. See the FFGC website, [FFGC.org](http://FFGC.org), for details.

Finally, congratulations to Bartow Garden Club for reaching 70 years as a federated garden club. An Emerald Certificate signed by our FFGC President will be presented to the club. Congratulations also go to Bouquet GC who are celebrating their 75th birthday and to Lake Placid GC who is also celebrating turning 70!

District IX is vibrant and very busy! We plan to add even more exciting programs, tours, flower shows, and community projects as we once again return to normal activities "post COVID".

## DISTRICT X NEWS



*Michelle Maguire, Director*

**Counties:** Okeechobee, Indian River, St. Lucie, Glades, Martin, Hendry, Palm Beach

Theme: "Beautify Your Surroundings"

Summer is always a time to relax and savor your free time until your club starts up activities. This may be the case for some but not all.

The Boynton Beach GC now has a website and a Facebook page. Besides organizing this over the summer they held a community garden event by hanging orchids in the trees. They also had an ice cream social (Wish I was there) and visited Butterfly World.

Stuart GC (Satin Leaf Circle) has adopted a new civic project. The Sewall's Point Town Committee approved an installation of a Butterfly Garden at the Sewalls Point Town Park. The Satin Leaf Circle will plant and maintain the garden.

Several members of the Oleander GC joined up with the principal, teachers and students of Okeehelie Middle School to clean-up the campus. It was part of the International Coastal Cleanup Day. They collected 26 pounds of recyclables and 120 pounds of trash. An adjacent wooded area to the school was also included in the clean-up event.

West Palm Beach GC has held all their meetings by Zoom. Virtual Tours of members gardens and yards became their programs. An especially outstanding garden was from Tom Hewitt, Palm Beach County "Celebrity Garden Personality". A Blue Star Marker in Prospect Park that was damaged in 2019 and repaired in 2020 is now ready for landscaping under the guidance of their master gardener members.

Wellington GC, in partnership with the Village of Wellington held its 7th annual Community wide tree planting event. 1,000 native South Florida Slash Pines were planted with the help of Village Council members, Garden Club members, local scout troops, high school students, moms, dads and grandparents. This event helps to fulfill the National Garden Club initiative "Plant America - Plant Trees" and the "Million Tree" initiative which is committed to increasing our urban forest by planting trees.

Don't forget "Tropical Short Course - Tri-Refresher" on January 19 and 20, 2022 at the Green Acres Community Center in West Palm Beach, Florida sponsored by DISTRICT X. Details on NGC, FFGC and District X websites.

Our District meeting is coming up on October 19, 2021 at the Trails Country Club hosted by the Saint Lucie GC incorporating the District Director's theme of "Beautify Your Surroundings" at Harvest Time. Looking forward to meeting you all.

Next District X Spring Meeting will be April 26, 2022 at The Little Club hosted by the Ocean Ridge GC. The theme is "The Ocean is Our Garden". The chairman is Mary Ann Cody and registrar is Polly Joa.

## “Checkerboard Style” ADS Are Back

Only \$50.00 Per Box (Maximum 12 Boxes) - All ads are “first come – first served”

Advertise your club’s event to fit in one of the 2.2”(h) x 2.6”(w) checkerboard boxes

Contact Inger Jones, [MInger@att.net](mailto:MInger@att.net) for full details

<p><b>The Garden Club of Stuart</b> presents the 2022 <b>Secret Garden Tour</b> <b>The Joy of Gardening</b> March 26, 2022 10 am - 5 pm (one day only) \$35/\$40 day of tour for tickets and additional information visit: <a href="http://www.gardenclubofstuart.org">www.gardenclubofstuart.org</a></p>	<p><b>Advertise Your Flower Show</b></p>	<p style="text-align: right;"><b>Southern Charm</b> </p> <p style="text-align: center;">An NGC Standard Flower Show presented by Florida Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc. District I Florida Flower Show Judges, District I</p> <p style="text-align: center;">St. Sylvester Catholic Church 6464 Gulf Breeze Pkwy (Hwy 98) Gulf Breeze, FL 32563</p> <p style="text-align: center;">March 22, 2022   3pm-8pm March 23, 2022   9am-4pm</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Free and open to the public  Contact Linda Henderson 850-910-2432</p>
<p><b>Advertise Your Home Garden Tour</b></p>	<p>Over 86 Vendors! Plants Flowers Orchids Trees Native Plants Furniture Garden Art Pottery</p> <p>Great Food &amp; Youth Activities</p> <p>Riverside Park Vero Beach</p> <p>“Ask The Experts” both days</p> <p>Great Raffle Prizes! ...no need to be present to win!</p> <p>Free Admission &amp; Free Parking</p> <p>3260 Riverside Park Drive... Off Rt. 60, beachside in Vero Beach</p> <p><b>Saturday, Feb. 5, 9am - 5pm</b> <b>Sunday, Feb. 6, 9am - 4pm</b></p> <p>Bring your Wagon</p> <p>For more information &amp; directions check our website... <a href="http://www.gardenclubofrc.org">www.gardenclubofrc.org</a> Like us on Facebook</p>	<p><b>Announce Your Scholarship Winners</b></p>

### DISTRICT XI NEWS



Sharon Bogard, Director  
Counties: Broward

Such exciting news is coming out of Broward County. District XI is “electric”, moving forward at sizzling speeds. Many of our clubs and circles have reconnected with in-person meetings and events this past autumn - now re-energized and on an upward trajectory for an abundance of projects this spring.

**Coral Springs Garden Club** continues its partnership with the Fort Lauderdale Society in the “1,000,000 Orchid Project”, planting native orchids in the South Florida landscapes. Field trips are in the works; one occurred in November - Flamingo Gardens; and one is planned for January - Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden. The garden year will end with a Scholarship Luncheon in May. ([CoralSpringsGardenClub.org](http://CoralSpringsGardenClub.org))

**The Garden Club of Lighthouse Point**, with the assistance of the Pompano Beach Garden Club, will stage its Annual Standard Flower Show on March 5 entitled “Games and Toys of our Childhood”. Also scheduled are an “All the Fools” salad luncheon on April 1st and a Scholarship fundraising luncheon. ([LHPGC.org](http://LHPGC.org))

Busy **Pompano Beach Garden Club** hosted the FFGCs’ Bob Thomas Floral Design School at the end of 2021 with a great turnout and even greater designs. Reports note that its Plant and Bake Sale was also a great success. The club will also host a Fundraising Luncheon in February. Wishing them good luck with that endeavor.

Busy **Fort Lauderdale Garden Club** has a slate of events scheduled. Its Annual Secret Garden Tour of homes and gardens in east Fort Lauderdale is scheduled for February 26 and the Annual Standard Flower show, “River of Grass”, will be held April 2-3. District XI’s Annual Standard Youth Flower Shows, “Gardeners Growing Together”, will be presented by the Fort Lauderdale Garden Club. The BFF (Best Friends Forever) Intermediate/High School Group will hold its show on March 11 and the Elementary In-School Flower Shows are schedule for March 16. A great turnout of support by the District XI Clubs and Circles is expected. ([FFGC.org](http://FFGC.org))

After a busy autumn with a tour of Birch State Park and an event where each member designed a holiday tablescape, **Lauderdale-by-the-Sea** has planned spring events including presentations (Sustainable Urban Gardening, NatureScape, and a Bromeliad program), a tour of District XI Chairman of Horticulture, South Florida, Mona Johnston’s Garden, and an official flower show. Two public events will be held: A Plant, Garden Book and Bake Sale and Fun with Flowers and Tea.

**Hollywood Garden Club** reports how thankful they are to have their gardens to retreat to during these tough times. The good fellowship of being with like-minded people keeps them together. Hoping to come back stronger and celebrate their love of gardening. Their excellent newsletter keeps the members in touch. Email: [HollywoodGardenClub.com](http://HollywoodGardenClub.com). President Berry reminds us “To live in the moment - stare at a flower”. Good advice!



Dr. Clark's seminar Wednesday morning will be on his colorful coleus cultivars. Dr. Clark will also begin our Wednesday luncheon by sharing breakthroughs with his new Basil cultivars, 'Pesto Besto TM', and 'Amazel Basil'.

**Dr. David Clark** is a Professor of Horticultural Biotechnology and Genetics in the Environmental Horticulture Department at The University of Florida. He is originally from Kingsport, Tennessee.

Dr. Clark has been with the University of Florida since 1995 where he established his laboratory in the Environmental Horticulture Department. As a result of his research, Dr. Clark has built an international reputation for his work in both basic and applied plant science. His coleus breeding program has released over 95 new cultivars. Over 100 million UF coleus plants have been grown in summer gardens across the US, Canada, Europe, South Africa and Asia.

Dr. Clark serves on the Board of Directors for the Fred C. Gloeckner Foundation. In 2013 he was named a University of Florida Research Foundation Professor. In 2014 he received the Gold Medal Award from the Society of American Florists for his work on coleus breeding. In 2018 he was inducted into the Armsby Honor Society and named an Outstanding Alumnus in the College of Agricultural Sciences at Penn State University.

Join Elaine Parisi's Wednesday morning workshop for an informative demonstration with a design study discussion on mechanics, components and techniques to help construct future creative designs. Included is a "Fun With Flowers" project for your Garden Club with a handout showing all mechanics and assembly.



**Elaine Parisi** relocated from New England in 2009 along with her husband. Married to her best friend for 61 years, she is an NGC Master Flower Show Judge, and a Master Landscape Consultant. Elaine has served on the NGC National Board, the Massachusetts State Board and presently the Florida State Board. She is a member of the District V Crystal River Garden CLUB, an associate member of the Massachusetts Judges Council, and a member of National Flower Arrangers, & Creative Floral Arrangers of the Americas. Elaine is a Floral Design Units instructor under the Bob Thomas design program and presents programs

on creative uses of components for exhibition and competition. She leads two design study groups: one for 10 years and one for six years. Elaine loves gardening and discovering ways to create new moods in her garden rooms.

## **DISTRICT XII NEWS**

*Leticia Gunn, Director*



**Counties:** Dade, Monroe

Tropical Twelve is in full swing! This time of year, like the millennials say, "is our jam". When the north is storing bulbs and winterizing their homes, this is when the Clubs in our District get to play outside! The grass, though still verdant, stops growing and the hum and buzz of the lawn mowers and leaf blowers placates to a bare minimum and we get to enjoy our Tropical paradise with little to no mosquitos. While

the North is chopping wood for fireplaces and buttoning down for Nor'easters, we way down South get social and get out. We welcome our Winter Floridians back and enjoy the weather without melting into a soggy pile of cotton rags as we normally do during the summer months.

This is when the Clubs have fun with home and garden tours, botanical bazaars, refreshing public garden projects and plant sales along with Holiday parties. Ah yes, the magical time in South Florida when we don ugly holiday sweaters and flip-flops. After all, nobody photographs feet when taking holiday pictures!

This is also the time of year when the District XII Clubs plan their Field Trips. While **Miami Beach Garden Club** is going to Morikami Museum and Gardens, both Coral Gables and South Dade Garden Clubs plan to visit Miami Beach Botanical Garden. Other clubs plan to visit Flamingo Botanical Gardens and the historic Deering Estate.

**Coral Gables Garden Club** also established "The Macfarlane District Pollinator Patch" on an empty lot to create a pollinator patch and a teaching garden for school aged kids. This worthy endeavor has caught the attention of other Clubs and other like-minded organizations and, at printing time, this District Director is happy to communicate that there are two other "Pollinator Patches" currently in the works in the Miami Design District and in the Miami Shores area. Kudos Coral Gables! They say imitation is the best form of flattery.

**Coral Pines Garden Club** is going "Native" concentrating their programs on the native flora and fauna of our District's area. Do you know what a Cucurbitaceae is? It is Florida's very own Seminole Pumpkin! Native to the South West part of Florida.

**Pincrest Garden Club** also is jumping into creating a native pollinator garden in collaboration with the Women's Club of Coral Gables.

**South Dade Garden Club** will host their second annual strawberry sale, an event that last year netted them quite a number of new members! So who knows, next time they report, they might have doubled in size! Go South Dade, Go!

Make it, Bake it or Grow it! That is the neat premise of **South Miami Garden Club's** Fundraiser. All items must be made, baked or grown by Club Members and then raffled. Fun fundraising idea for these COVID limiting times!

**Ken Pines Garden Club** has adopted an eco-friendly theme for this year and they are reusing, recycling, upcycling and composting and we couldn't be prouder of them.

And lastly, when in that last week of January, you are cold and sad looking at all the credit card bills from all the holiday shopping, may I invite you to escape down to the warmth and gorgeous teal and cerulean waters of our beautiful Florida Keys and join **Marathon Garden Club** for their Annual January Jamboree on Saturday, Jan 29th, 2022 for a fun family outing and some sweet Florida sunshine. In case anyone needs me that day, that's where this District Director will be!

## What's New In Awards?

### New FFGC Awards

Gwen Carter, FFGC Awards Chairman



Our FFGC family had an opportunity to apply for six (6) new Adult Awards this year. Most adult awards were due November 24, 2021. Check out the "Awards" tab on the FFGC web site, [FFGC.org](http://FFGC.org)!

### Adult Awards

- # 42 - **Edible Garden Award** for the most outstanding garden of edibles, (fruits, vegetables, edible flowers)
- # 45 - **Edible Garden** in an Ornamental Landscape Award for a garden incorporating edibles in an ornamental landscape grown by an individual
- # 52 - **Wildlife Survival** Award will be awarded to the garden club with the most notable project or projects educating the public on the benefits of gardening for wildlife.
- # 53 - **Wildlife Garden Award** will be awarded to the garden club establishing a wildlife garden or gardens at a public place or places, to include signage to educate the public on how to garden for wildlife and the benefits of doing so.
- # 80 - **Art in Bloom Award** (Individual Award) for the best representation of a floral design inspired by a piece of art using fresh or dried flowers. (No Artificial Flowers)
- # 133 - **Floralia VI Botanical Arts Artistic Crafts Award** - To recognize the most outstanding artistic craft that has received the Botanical Arts Artistic Crafts Award in an NGC Flower Show during the current year.

### Intermediate Awards - Grades 6-8

- I-1 - **Youth Horticulture Educational Award** (New) To the overall winner of a Youth Garden Club, sponsored by a FFGC Garden Club, for the most significant effort in planting and growing horticulture in an outdoor area. Participants may seek advice from any source but must do the actual gardening themselves.
- I-4 - **Field Trip Award** (Revised) Given to student for best field trip description
- I-8 - **Wildflower Folder Award** (Revised) An award is given to the Intermediate Youth Gardener compiling the best folder about wildflowers.
- I-10 - **The "Mary Newsome Award for a Florida State Park"** (Revised) The Intermediate Youth Gardener who submits the best folder on a Florida State Park.
- I-16 - **The Mrs. Morgan P. Gilbert Tree Award** (Native Tree Award) (Revised) The Intermediate Youth Gardener who provides the best report on a Florida native tree.
- I-18 - **Butterfly Conservation Award** (Revised) Intermediate Youth Gardener for the most informative report of on the life cycle of one or more butterflies.

### Scout Awards

- S-1 - **Scout Arbor Day Award** (Revised) To recognize a Garden Club that works with Scouts to encourage them to create an activity that promotes FFGC/NGC goals and objectives for Florida Arbor Day.

### High School A Wards Grades 9-12

- HS-1 - **Youth Horticulture Educational Award** (New) To the overall winner of a Youth Garden Club, sponsored by a FFGC Garden Club, for the most significant effort in planting and growing horticulture in an outdoor area. Participants may seek advice from any source but must do the actual gardening themselves.
- HS-2 - **Field Trip Award** (Revised): The High School Youth Gardener who provides the best report (300-500 words) about a field trip to a garden, park, landscape center, school, urban gardening center, program or flower show.

### High School A Wards - (cont'd)

HS-20 - Essay Contest: Theme "The Importance of the Florida Wildlife Corridor"

### National Youth Sculpture Contest-Grades 4-8

This contest encourages students to keep our planet green and to get involved with saving the environment. Students in grades 4 through 8 are eligible to create a sculpture of recyclable, reused, and reduced materials.

**Poetry Contest** - 2021-2022 Grades K-9: Theme "Sing with the Songbirds- Exploring the Glory of Nature".

**Contest - "Smokey Bear/ Woodsy Owl"** - Children from first through fifth grades are invited to participate in the 2022 NGC (National Garden Clubs, Inc.) Poster Contest!



For Details On Youth Awards, visit:

[FFGC.org/Youth-Awards-&-Contests](http://FFGC.org/Youth-Awards-&-Contests)

Let's Have Fun Making New FFGC Friends

# 61 - **Nell Coe Award** - Awarded every other year and revised each administration since 1966. FFGC President, Marge Hendon's, theme for 2021-2023 is "World of Wonder, 100 Ways to Play Outside with New Friends" "100 Ways" is for FFGC's 100<sup>th</sup> birthday coming in 2024.

The garden club with the largest percentage of growth in each of the four (4) categories, below, will be awarded \$200. Membership is tracked from 9/1/21 to 3/31/23.

1. Small Clubs - (10-50)
2. Medium Club - (51-100)
3. Large Club - (101-199)
4. Ex-Large Club - (200+)

Winners will be announced at the 2023 Convention in Orlando, FL.

Florida Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc.  
District X presents:

## 65th Annual Tropical Short Course

GARDENING FOR LIFE  
JANUARY 19-20, 2022

Greenacres Community Center  
501 Swain Blvd  
Greenacres, FL 33463

**SPEAKERS • DEMONSTRATIONS • VENDORS**

NGC Tri-refresher Master Gardener Continuing Education

Open to garden club members and friends.  
Go to [www.districtx.org](http://www.districtx.org) for more information  
and registration. Listed under Educational Opportunities.

Michelle Maguire, Chairman  
[mouthmom@yahoo.com](mailto:mouthmom@yahoo.com)  
772-485-3279



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Group Code: FFG



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**95<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention-Florida Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc.**

**Embassy Suites-Orlando Lake Buena Vista South**

**April 12-14, 2022**

**Please print clearly and use one form for each registrant**

**First Name** \_\_\_\_\_ **Last Name** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address** \_\_\_\_\_ **City** \_\_\_\_\_ **Zip** \_\_\_\_\_

**District** \_\_\_\_\_ **Club/Circle** \_\_\_\_\_ **Phone** \_\_\_\_\_

**E-mail** \_\_\_\_\_ **Emergency Name & Contact** \_\_\_\_\_

**CIRCLE ALL CATEGORIES WHICH APPLY TO YOU**

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

**TWO DAY CONVENTION PLAN: Includes (\$30) Registration, 2 Lunches and 2 Dinners**

**Wednesday 4/13 & Thursday 4/14** \$200.00 \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**ONE DAY CONVENTION PLAN: Includes (\$15) Registration, 1 Lunch and 1 Dinner**

<b>Wednesday, 4/13 Registration with 1 Lunch and 1 Dinner</b>	<b>\$100.00</b>	<b>\$ _____</b>
<b>Thursday, 4/14 Registration with 1 Lunch and 1 Dinner</b>	<b>\$100.00</b>	<b>\$ _____</b>

**A LA CARTE REGISTRATION FOR MEMBERS/GUESTS: Use Only if not doing 1 or 2 day pkg above**

<b>Registration per day for FFGC Member</b>		<b>\$15.00</b>	<b>\$ _____</b>
<b>Registration for Spouse/Guest</b>		<b>\$15.00</b>	<b>\$ _____</b>
<b>Circle Choices: Wednesday, 4/13 Lunch</b>	<b>\$35.00</b>	<b>Dinner \$50.00</b>	<b>\$ _____</b>
<b>Thursday, 4/14 Lunch</b>	<b>\$35.00</b>	<b>Dinner \$50.00</b>	<b>\$ _____</b>

**Early Arrivals Dinner/Entertainment-Tuesday, April 12, 2022** \$41.00 \$ \_\_\_\_\_

This event is **OPEN** to all attendees/spouses/guests.

This is complimentary to FFGC Board of Directors Members.

FFGC Board of Directors will receive an official invitation requiring an RSVP.

**RESERVATIONS postmarked AFTER MARCH 21, 2022, ADD LATE FEE OF \$40.00** \$ \_\_\_\_\_

*For Faster Service, please book on-line @ <https://bit.ly/3iG5Ztb>*

**MAIL REGISTRATION FORM & CHECK-payable to FFGC 2022 CONVENTION**

**To: Skip Lamoureux, Registrar**

**9439 Preston Rd., Brooksville, FL 34601**

**Questions:**

**727-916-7547 or [ffgc2022conv@gmail.com](mailto:ffgc2022conv@gmail.com)**

**-Or: REGISTER ONLINE at FFGC.ORG DEADLINE: Monday, MARCH 21, 2022**

**NO refunds after April 5<sup>th</sup>. Registration Fee is non-refundable**

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

Dietary restrictions for extreme health issues **MUST** accompany registration. Every effort will be made to comply with your needs. **NO shellfish/fish will be served.** Dietary restrictions: \_\_\_\_\_

**HOTEL RESERVATIONS:**

Embassy Suites-Lake Buena Vista, 4955 Kyngs Heath Rd. Kissimmee, FL 34746

Deadline for Reservations: March 21, 2022

Reservations **MUST** be made directly with the Hotel by calling 407-597-4000 OR

Online – Click on link below or enter web address into your browser:

**BOOKING Website: <https://book.passkey.com/e/50193549> Group Code:FFG**

Room Rates: Starting at \$148.00 Double Occupancy

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



## TENTATIVE FFGC Convention Schedule Of Events

### FFGC 95th Annual Convention

Embassy Suites by Hilton  
Orlando - Lake Buena Vista South  
4955 Kyngs Heath Rd.  
Kissimmee, FL 34746

Sunday, April 10 - Thursday, April 14, 2022

#### Sunday, Apr 10, 2022

Early Arrival & Hotel Check-in - (No Planned Activities)

#### Monday, Apr 11, 2022 (7am – 11pm)

Flower Show Set Up —————Magnolia  
Convention Office —————Atlantis  
Storage —————East Reg. Office  
Flower Work Rm/Centerpieces ———Cypress 5  
President Ex Comm Dinner —————Time/Place TBD

#### Tuesday, Apr 12, 2022 (7am – 11pm)

7am – 11pm Flower Show Set Up ——— Magnolia  
Centerpiece Workroom ———Cypress 5  
7am – 3pm Vendor Set-Up ————— Palms A, B  
7am – 3pm Invitational Set-Up ——— Pre-Function A, B  
8am – 5pm Hort./Design Intake ——— Cypress 4  
8am – 5pm Convention Office ——— Atlantis  
8am – 5pm Storage ————— East Regi. Office  
8am – 10am FIINANCE ————— Atlantis  
9:45am - 11am Page/Hostess Mtg. combined ——— Cypress 1  
11am – 5:30pm REGISTRATION ——— West Reg. Office  
10am - 11:30am Tri-Council Meeting ——— Cypress 2, 3  
10:15am - 12:15pm H&E ————— Atlantis  
12:30pm - 1:30pm District Directors ——— Atlantis  
12:30pm - 2pm FFSJ/TC/FFGC Lunch — Palms C or D  
1:45pm - 2:15pm BYLAWS ————— Atlantis  
3pm - 7pm Vendors OPEN ————— Palms A, B  
3:30pm - 5pm Board Directors Meeting — Palms E, F, G  
6:30pm - 9pm Early Arrival Dinner ——— Palms C or D

#### Wednesday, Apr 13, 2022 - Flower Show Judging Day

Centerpiece Work Room ---Cypress 5  
7:30am - 8:40am Judges/Clerks Meeting ——— Cypress 3, 4  
8:45am - 12 noon Flower Show Judged ——— Magnolia  
8:45am - 12 noon Convention Office ——— Atlantis  
8:45am - 12 noon Storage ————— East Reg. Office  
7:30am - 5:30pm REGISTRATION ——— West Reg. Office  
7:30am - 5:30pm Invitationals ————— Pre-Function A, B  
7:30am - 6:30pm Vendors Open ————— Palms A, B  
10am - 11:30am Workshops  
Dr. Clark (Coleus) ——— Palms E, F, G  
Elaine Parisi (Design) ——— Cypress 1, 2  
11:45am **Doors Open for Lunch** — Palms C, D  
12 noon - 2pm Lunch ————— Palms C, D

#### Wednesday, Apr 13, 2022 - (cont'd)

12 noon **OFFICIAL CONVENTION OPENING**  
2:15pm - 5pm FLOWER SHOW OPEN — Magnolia  
2:15pm Ribbon Cutting —————Magnolia  
3pm - 5pm Business Meeting Opening - Palms E, F, G  
5:30pm - 6:30pm District Parties  
6:45pm Doors Open for Dinner ——— Palms C, D  
7pm - 9:30pm Dinner & Program ——— Palms C, D  
Design & Challenge  
(4) Awards - Honors

#### Thursday, Apr 14, 2022

8am - 3pm Flower Show Open/Close  
Flower Centerpieces ——— Cypress 5  
8am - 3pm Convention Office ——— Atlantis  
8am - 3pm Storage ————— East Reg. Office  
7am - 4pm REGISTRATION ——— West Reg. Office  
7:30am - 4pm Vendors ————— Palms A, B  
7:30am - 4pm Invitationals ——— Pre-Function A, B  
8:30am - 10:30am Business Continues ——— Palms E, F, G  
11am - 12 noon Workshops ———Cypress 1  
11am - 12 noon Workshops ———Cypress 2  
11am - 12 noon Workshops ———Cypress 3  
11am - 12 noon Workshops ———Cypress 4  
**Workshops are NOT confirmed—work in progress**  
12 noon **Doors Open for Lunch** — Palms C, D  
12:15 - 2:30pm Lunch/Program/Open ——— Palms C, D  
Other? Awards & Honors  
3pm Flower Show Breakdown —Magnolia  
3pm - 4:15pm Workshops ———Cypress 1  
3pm - 4:15pm Workshops ———Cypress 2  
3pm - 4:15pm Workshops ———Cypress 3  
3pm - 4:15pm Workshops ———Cypress 4  
**Workshops are NOT confirmed - work in progress**  
4pm - 5:30pm Vendor, Invitation Breakdown —Palms A,B  
5pm - 6pm President's Reception  
Upstairs - By invitation ONLY  
6:30pm - 9:30pm Final Dinner & Program — Palms C, D  
Awards & Honors

#### Friday, Apr 15, 2022 - Hotel Checkout

Embassy Suites Hotel - checkout by 11am - Note: You may adjust your scheduled checkout time with prior approval by the Embassy Suites Hotel.



# 95th Annual FFGC Convention Opportunity Drawing Worlds of Wonder



2 nights stay at Embassy Suites Lake Buena Vista South  
\*\*exclusions apply\*\*



Pink Princess Philodendron



32 inch 7-7.5 mm Pearls  
with 14 ct. gold clasp



Waterford Crystal bowl



2 Ceramic Designer Containers



Hand-made queen-size Quilt



Amazon  
Echo &  
Echo Dot



Iron sculpture by Ken Schwartz

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

Make checks payable to FFGC/ Conv 2022 and mail to:  
Barbara McGhee 4031 SE 37th Ct., Ocala FL 34480/352.572.4832  
barbaramcghee11@gmail.com

The drawing will be held April 14, 2022. You do not need to be present to win. Your generous donation supports 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 donation may be tax deductible as allowed by the IRS. Consult a tax advisor for more information. One prize per winning ticket.

## CONTINUING EDUCATION

### NGC ENVIRONMENTAL SCHOOLS:

Lydia Barbour, (703) 282-8924  
Email: [LydiaBarbour@hotmail.com](mailto:LydiaBarbour@hotmail.com)

#### District IX

Course 1 Jan. 24, 25, 2022

Lee County Gardening Council  
2166 Virginia Avenue, Ft. Myers 33901

Theme: "The Living Earth"  
Host Club Chair: Judy Francino  
(248) 425-8713  
Email: [JFrancino@att.net](mailto:JFrancino@att.net)

Contact: Bernadette Hamera  
(239) 233-1166  
Email: [BHamera@outlook.com](mailto:BHamera@outlook.com)

### NGC LANDSCAPE DESIGN SCHOOLS:

Susan MacPherson, (781) 249-8905  
Email: [RMacPham@me.com](mailto:RMacPham@me.com)

#### District IV

Course 1 - Series 38 Feb. 23, 24, 2022

Mariott Courtyard Orange Park  
610 Wells Road  
Orange Park, FL 32073  
8 am - 4 pm

Contact: Linda Broadrick  
(904) 491-7759 (h) - (404) 281-8991 (c)  
Email: [Linda.Broadrick@gmail.com](mailto:Linda.Broadrick@gmail.com)

### NGC GARDENING SCHOOLS:

Mercy Abrams, (973) 255-0134  
Email: [Mercy313@me.com](mailto:Mercy313@me.com)

\*\*\* NGC Gardening Schools are not currently scheduled in Florida. Refer to the National Garden Club web site for all School schedule options and registration information.  
[GardenClub.org](http://GardenClub.org)

### NGC FLOWER SHOW SCHOOLS:

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

#### District IV

Course III Jan 25-28, 2022  
Instructors: Penny Decker (D)  
Jan Griffin (H, P)

Course IV May 24-27, 2022  
Instructors: Claudia Bates (D)  
Darlene Newell (P, H)

The Ribault Garden Club  
705 2nd Avenue North  
Jacksonville Beach, FL 32250

Chair: Carolyn Stevens  
(904) 247-8269 (h) - (904) 631-3395 (c)  
Email: [CarolynHStevens@gmail.com](mailto:CarolynHStevens@gmail.com)

### FLORAL DESIGN STUDY UNITS

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

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

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

All Floral Design Study Units must be registered!

#### District I

Basic Units 1-6 Jan. 5, 12, 19, 26,  
Feb. 2, 9, 2022  
Advanced Units 7-9 Feb. 16, 23  
Mar. 2, 2022

Navarre Garden Club  
St. Sylvester Catholic Church  
6464 Navarre Pkwy, Navarre, FL 32566

Chairman: Rose Racz (850) 684-1440  
Email: [waracz@gmail.com](mailto:waracz@gmail.com)

Registrar: Lisa Hudson (850) 376-3397  
Email: [Lisa.Hudson@gmail.com](mailto:Lisa.Hudson@gmail.com)

#### District VIII

Basic Units 1-6 Feb. 15, 22,  
Mar. 1, 8, 15, 22, 2022

Temple Terrace Garden Club  
415 Woodmont Ave.  
Temple Terrace, FL 33617

Chairman & Registrar:  
Gwen Mora (813) 541-8622  
Email: [GwenMora@gmail.com](mailto:GwenMora@gmail.com)

## FFGC History-Our 9th Decade-2005-2014

**President Joan Ochs, 2005-2007**, chose as her theme "Keys to Harmony". Membership was 16,122. During this administration, several new campaigns were developed along with a new membership brochure. NGC asked us to plant "Patriotic Trees" in remembrance of our veterans, firemen, and policemen, and the clubs wholeheartedly participated. Programs were held throughout the state to inform residents about Florida's water issues. Districts held water rallies and water conferences to educate the public about water conservation, water management, and water protection. A special project related to the water issue and to the Deep South Regional Project was the "Rain Barrel" project promoted by Florida's Youth Groups. In the Deep South "Kids Count" challenge, Florida's youth proved that they could help conserve water.

FFGC won many Deep South Awards in 2006 including "High School Gardeners" and the "Community Action Award". A student from Tarpon Springs placed first in the "Poster Contest". In 2007, FFGC won "Special Achievement for Water Conservation" and Ribault Garden Club won for "Environmental Education". Individual clubs won first place for "Historic Restoration", "Landscape Design", "Historic Preservation", "Environmental Education", "Butterfly Conservation", "Adopt-a-Park", "Historic Trails", "Conservation Award", and "Publicity Press Book".



FFGC won NGC awards for "The Florida Gardener" and "Yearbooks". An award for "Literary Horticultural Interest" went to Marie Harrison. In 2007 FFGC won two very prestigious awards: "Conservation Efforts" and "Award of Excellence for State Garden Clubs". Two clubs won awards for "Blue Star Memorial Marker Landscaping" and two clubs won awards for "Publicity Press Book". Other awards won were "Civic Achievement" and "Landscape Design for an Outdoor Classroom". Seven clubs/circles received "Standard Flower Show Achievement Awards".

FFGC hosted the 77th NGC Convention at the Rosen Centre Hotel in Orlando with the theme, "Paths to Sunshine" and the one-day FFGC 80th State Convention with the theme "Sunrise and Shine!". FFGC's 81st convention was held in Tampa, May 4-5, 2007 and followed the theme "Harmony in the Garden". Many informative workshops were offered. The 31st Biennial State Flower Show "Adventure Comes Naturally", was held in conjunction with the Orlando Home and Garden Show at the Orange County Convention Center, March 9-11, 2007.

Blue Star Memorial Marker placements increased dramatically due to grants from the "Principal Financial Group". The new Florida total was 127.

There were six NGC Flower Show Schools and four Flower Show judges' Symposia held with 32 new flower show judges added to our roster. Other NGC schools included Landscape Design School, Gardening Courses in Districts I, X and IX, Environmental, in District VII, and Gardening, Environmental and Landscape Design Refresher courses offered in 2006 and 2007. Other Schools offered included four statewide Short Courses and two Wekiva Youth Camp Leadership Training sessions.

## CONTINUING EDUCATION - (cont'd)

### SHORT COURSE – Central (UF)

Florence Cline, (352) 332-2309  
Email: [LadyBugFlorence2@gmail.com](mailto:LadyBugFlorence2@gmail.com)

### District V

June 5-7, 2022

Theme: "Protecting the Life That Sustains Us"

Gainesville Garden Club  
1350 NW 75th Street  
Gainesville, FL 32605

### Co-Hosts:

Lois McNamara (352) 283-8556  
Email: [LoisMcNamara1@gmail.com](mailto:LoisMcNamara1@gmail.com)  
Florence Cline (352) 332-2309  
Email: [LadyBugFlorence2@gmail.com](mailto:LadyBugFlorence2@gmail.com)

### SHORT COURSE - Tropical

#### Tri-Refresher

Michelle Maguire, (772) 485-3279  
Email: [MouthMom@yahoo.com](mailto:MouthMom@yahoo.com)

### District X

Greenacres Community Center  
501 Swain Blvd  
Greenacres, FL 33463

Jan. 19-20, 2022

### SHORT COURSE - North

Kat Spieker, (850) 687-6381  
Email: [spkfreedom@embarqmail.com](mailto:spkfreedom@embarqmail.com)

### District I

Theme: " Our Worlds of Wonder: Save, Re-store, Teach, Enjoy"

Okaloosa County Extension Office  
3098 Airport Road  
Crestview, FL 32539

### Hosts:

Joyce Waters-Smith (850) 217-4888  
Email: [joycews@cox.net](mailto:joycews@cox.net)  
Okaloosa County Master Gardeners  
(850) 689-5850

### FFGC WINTER BOARD MEETING (2022)

Pre-Board Meeting Jan. 10-11, 2022  
Board Meeting Jan. 11-12, 2022

FFGC Headquarters  
1400 S. Denning Dr.  
Winter Park, FL 32789-5662

### 95th FFGC CONVENTION

Apr 12-14, 2022

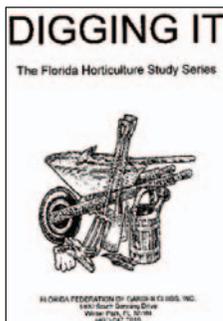
Embassy Suites by Hilton  
955 Kyngs Heath Rd  
Kissimmee, FL 34746

(407) 597-4000  
Group Code: FFG

## FFGC History-Our 9th Decade-2005-2014 - (cont'd)

Additionally, there were 23 series of "Floral Design Study Units" held, with 175 certificates issued, and two workshops on "Floral Design" during the State Convention plus a refresher course for instructors.

For Mother's Day weekend in 2006 and 2007, thirty designers created elegant designs for EPCOT, and other members served as hostesses. "Florida Flower Arrangement Calendar, 56th edition (2007)", debuted at the NGC Convention in Orlando. To increase calendar sales, a contest among Districts was developed with a \$500 prize. "Fun with Flowers" continued to be an excellent introductory program for floral design. At the Coleus Festival in Silver Springs, Jan Sillik demonstrated floral designs for three weekends, and other members provided additional floral designs to encourage public interest. NGC adopted a plan to "Replant the Gulf Coast" after Hurricanes Katrina and Rita destroyed much of the vegetation. FFGC asked that clubs "pass the hat" for contributions. A "Habitat for Humanity Walkathon" donated \$4000. Home Blitz for June, 2006 brought together clubs and 122 homes for a gigantic landscaping project. Over 150 flats of annuals were donated to highlight this outstanding effort. \$400 was made available to each District to landscape "Habitat for Humanity" homes. A "Digging It" poster and theme was developed by a student and an "Instructors Manual" was published to facilitate the course.



A new FFGC chairman position for "Men's Membership" was established to track the number of men in FFGC and to encourage men to join a local garden club. A new membership brochure was printed. Several innovative ideas such as 'Mommy and Me' were offered to recruit potential members. In 2006, FFGC won the award for the most NGC Life memberships with 33. FFGC boasted two five-star members. Sales of the Florida Wildflower license plate surpassed the million-dollar mark. FFGC received two education grants and four planting grants from the Florida Wildflower Advisory Council in 2006.

FFGC Scholarships from 2005-2006 amounted to \$17,000 and were given to 8 college students. In 2006-2007, three scholarships, amounting to \$5,625, were given. One Florida student won a Deep South Scholarship for \$1,000 and one Florida student received a \$3,500 NGC scholarship.

SEEK continued to be a viable program for 70 high school students annually. Held at UF, the 3-day conference offered students subjects as diverse as "Making Paint" to "Chasing Lightening" to "Global Warming". Youth groups maintained high numbers with Eco- Gardeners totaling , 3,247 Juniors, 32 Intermediates and 108 High School gardeners. A "Youth Award" booklet was prepared to assist youth leaders to find awards and distribute award application information to their youth groups.

The Deep South Regional Youth Project, "Kids Count", was to make rain barrels. Water Conservation was the foremost goal of this administration. A mini-water conference was held in January 2006 and then, throughout the next year, eight districts held water conferences or festivals to promote the protection of our water resources. These activities contributed to FFGC receiving NGCs Award of Excellence. FFGC agreed to partner with Nature Wise in the production of a DVD entitled "Florida's Water: Health of Our Future" with a donation of \$1,000. Wekiva Youth Camp added new programs such as horseback riding and high ropes plus "Adventure Week for Girls" to attract campers. "Critter Camp" and the 9th grade "Program for Leaders in Training" were continued. A special endowment of \$23,000 from the Conway Garden Club was established to provide special programs for Camp Wekiva. Garden clubs donated over \$5,000 in 2005-2006 to the "World Gardening/ Natural Disasters" fund

President **Margaret O'Donnell**, 2007 – 2009, chose as her theme "Focus on Florida". Our membership was 15,156. FFGC celebrated our 85th year as an incorporated federation within the National Garden Club. Seven new garden clubs joined FFGC. To carry out the focus on "Clean Water", videos of water programs were given to each District. The "Water Conservation" program was adopted by NGC as endorsed by FFGC with the Board voting to join the "Clean Water Network". NGC President Barbara May's Focus on Native Plants had all 12 Districts featuring projects involving our Florida native plants to help preserve water. The "Gifts Today for Tomorrow" Endowment Fund was established at the 2008 convention. Memorial gifts were given and a gift to honor the 2007-2009 FFGC Board of Directors was given by President O'Donnell. To focus on membership, packets of information about new club formation were created and given to District Directors. In addition, new Club Certificates were instituted.



## FFGC History-Our 9th Decade-2005-2014 - (cont'd)

Deep South awards received by FFGC in 2008 included "School Ground Improvement", "Tree Planting", "Butterfly Conservation", and "Wildflower". Deep South's "Life Membership Award" was won by Florida in 2008. NGC awards won included "Conservation", "ECHO" (Educational Concerns for Hunger Organization), "Native Plant Garden" (Educational Publication), "A Roadside Award", "Standard Flower Show staged in a Public Building", and "Junior Leadership".

Deep South Awards received by FFGC in 2009 included the following categories: "Butterfly Conservation", "Publicity Press Book", and the "Regional Smokey Bear/Woodsy Owl Poster Contest". NGC Awards received in 2009 included the following categories "Educational Publications", "Roadside Beautification", "Award of Excellence for an Individual", "Radio and/or TV", "Butterfly", "Publicity Press Book", "Community Landscape Design", "Youth Environmental Concerns", and "Video/CD". Flower Show Awards went to two garden clubs as well as a state "Standard Flower Show Certificate of Excellence", "Patriotic Standard Flower Show", and a "Petite Flower Show". NGC category "Regional School Garden Project and Notable School Garden Project" was won. The 2009 "Aqua Woman of the Year" for leadership in defense of the Clean Water Act and dedication to protecting all our nations' waters was presented to former FFGC President Marion Hilliard at National Convention.

FFGC hosted the Deep South Regional convention "Going Coastal" March 30-31, 2008 along with the Spring 2008 Judges' symposium, March 27-28, and the 32nd Biennial State Flower Show and a Tri-refresher April 1-3, as well as the 82nd FFGC State Convention, April 2-3 all on Pensacola Beach. NGC President, Barbara May and Deep South Director Mary Summerville, were our guests for these events. The 83rd FFGC State Convention was held at The Plaza Resort and Spa, Daytona Beach, April 15-17, 2009 with the theme "The Sands of Time", which included an appearance by Mrs. Ellicott, FFGC's first president and a tribute paid to the great ladies of FFGC.

Florida Arbor Day was observed with special programs and activities presented by 48 clubs. 123,340 trees were planted from March 2007-February 2009. A two-year project featured community gardens where districts could reach out to neighborhoods, schools and churches. A handout was prepared "Pretty PEP Gardens", to help get more people gardening and to attract new members. Many educational opportunities were made available such as NGC Flower Show Schools, Flower Show judges' Symposium, Environmental Schools and Refreshers, Landscape Design Schools and Refreshers, Gardening Schools, Floral Design Study courses, both Basic and Advanced, with workshops at both Conventions and a refresher course for instructors. "Fun with Flowers", a make-and-take workshop, and Horticulture partner "Digging It", sponsored by clubs and both open to the public. 53rd Annual Tropical Short Course was held November 2008 and 73 members attended the FFGC/UF Short Course in March 2009.

2009 marked the 16th year FFGC participated in the EPCOT Flower and Garden Festival with 30 creative floral designs created for the Mother's Day Flower Show. The 58th edition of the *Florida Flower Arrangement Calendar* had 42 designs which included photos and descriptions of the new NGC designs added for reference. A new pin for designers with a design in any of the 58 calendars was made available. A new booklet of ideas on "How to Stage Flower Shows" was hot off the press and a second supplement to the original "Fun with Flowers" manual were on sale at headquarters. The 'Stroll on the Beach' at Deep South Convention raised \$3,069 for Habitat for Humanity landscaping projects. Life memberships and honors given during this administration included 4 NGC Life, 9 DS Life, 64 FFGC Life, 31 Pillar of Pride, and 13 Hall of Fame. 2007-2009 Guardians of Gardening honorees included Jo Williams, Joan Pryor, Carolyn Schaag, Elise Haymans, Canny O'Donnell, Gina Jogan, Phyllis Wood and Winifred Stanley. Patron honorees included Joan Ochs, Gina Jogan, Tina Tuttle, Karen Hall, Sara Johns, Ann Shandelmayer, and June Richcreek.

FFGCs Wildflower License plate boasted sales over \$2,000,000 enabling the Florida Wildflower Foundation to accomplish many worthwhile projects. Significant progress was made with DOT accepting and planting wildflower seed donated by FFGC clubs. Mr. John Wood donated a large butterfly bench to the grounds at FFGC headquarters in honor of his wife, Ella, a former FFGC President. Pavers were installed and a flower garden was planted near the bench. Nine Scholarships were given to 2 freshman, 5 undergraduate, and 2 Master degree students.

SEEK (Save the Earth's Environment through Knowledge) a 3-day conference for grades 10, 11 and 12 moved to Wakulla Springs State Park. Wekiva Youth Camp held its 3rd annual Open House in February following the annual Wekiva Leadership Training. Gardening and Nature photography were added to the curriculum as well as bicycles, thanks to the generous donations of many members and clubs. An environmental program with emphasis on water was offered to a limited number of 8th graders. The 2-night Wekiva Critter Camp for K-2nd grade was so popular in 2008, two sessions were scheduled. FFGC/UF Short Course moved to Crystal River in 2008 and focused on Landscaping with Native Plants, Water Issues, Community Gardens and ended with a trip to Homosassa Springs Wildlife Park. The 73rd 2009 Short Course held in Ocala March 4-5 with the title "Focus on Florida's Future" and qualified as a Tri-refresher. Short Course North was adopted and will take place August 2009 in District I, sponsored by District I, FFGC and the Friends of the Milton Gardens. World Gardening/National Disaster letters of thanks were received for donations given by FFGC to National Disasters Relief Fund, National Disasters International and ECHO.

**President Carol L. Hall**, 2009-2011, chose as her theme, "Reach out - Be a Mentor". FFGC membership stood at 14,541. The FFGC Mission Statement was adopted: "To further the education of the members and the public in the fields of gardening, horticulture, botany, floral design, landscape design, environmental awareness through the conservation of natural resources, civic beautification, nature studies and to instill in our youth the love of gardening and the respect and protection of the environment."



On February 16, 2010, 23 FFGC members participated with 19 other groups at a rally at the State Capitol Building to support springs protection legislation. FFGC members visited legislators and presented the FFGC Position Paper in Support of Clean Water. Districts were adopting at least one body of surface water that was degraded or impaired and took measures to improve this body of water. "Legislative Days", March 21-22, 2011, was attended by 46 members who visited the State Capitol Building and its lawmakers and later toured environmental sites in Perry. Resolutions passed: To oppose portions of the I-75 Highway Beautification and Tourism Pilot Project submitted by the FDOT to the Federal Highway Administration and urge funding by the 2010 Legislature for the reauthorized Florida Forever Program.

Policies and Procedures of FFGC Finance, Headquarters and Endowment were reorganized and revised, including an updated manual and budget. Each district developed and voted on a district Policies and Procedures manual. Electronic communication was used to eliminate excess waste and expense in mass printing of FFGC material.

Flower Show Schools, 4: Flower Show Symposia: 2 per year, Environmental Schools: 1, Landscape Design Schools-1, Tri-Refresher for Gardening, Landscape Design and Environmental Consultants-2, Refresher for same-1, Tri-Council 2-year project was Landscaping and Gardening in an Environmentally Sensitive Way, plus Tri-Council prepared a workshop, 'Making a Difference', to assist members in communicating with decision makers. FFGC has eleven 4-star members and seven 5-star members, 51 Standard Flower Shows, 1 State Advanced Standard Petite Flower Show (Biennial), 1 Standard Youth Flower Show, FFGC members co-chaired 2011 Deep South Region Petite Advanced Standard Show March 14-15 in Lafayette, LA. FFGC participated in 2009 EPCOT Mother's Day Flower Show at the EPCOT Flower and Garden Festival with 29 designs.

## FFGC History-Our 9th Decade-2005-2014 - (cont'd)

In 2010 FFGC participated with 30 designs. The 59th edition of the *FFGC Flower Arrangement Calendar* for 2010 tied with the Georgia organization for the NGC Tommy Donnan Certificate of Merit. The 60th edition of the *FFGC Flower Arrangement Calendar* was published in memory of Wilma Paulauskas for 2011. Floral Design Study Units: 6 basic and 3 advanced classes; *Digging It!* A horticulture study series, *Fun with Flowers*, a hands-on program of creative activities to attract and inspire new and old members, all presented by clubs throughout Florida. The first FFGC Short Course North was held August 13-14, 2009 at Santa Rosa County Extension office in Milton, featuring the Nine Principles of a Florida Friendly Landscape. The second FFGC Short Course North, Conservation Begins in Your Garden was a Refresher held August 12-13, 2010 at the same location. The 54th Tropical Short Course, Tropical Gardens, a Tri-Refresher, was held January 26-27, 2010 at Mounts Botanical Gardens, West Palm Beach. The 55th Tropical Short Course, Tropical Horizons, was held January 25-26 2011 at the same location. FFGC /UF 74th Short Course, The Circle of Life: mentoring, a Tri-Refresher, was held March 11-12, 2010 at Pioneer Garden Club in Ocala. The 75th FFGC/UF Short Course was held June 8-9, 2011 in Gainesville. Wekiva Youth Camp was accredited by the American Camp Association. Wekiva Leadership Training, a weekend of training for new camp volunteers, was held in February of 2010 and 2011, followed by an Open House for the public. The 2010 summer session operated at 90% capacity. An air-conditioned cabin was completed in 2010. Three other cabins were renovated in 2011. The State of Florida granted WYC a special exemption: Retain the original camp colors of moss green and quarry. Labels for Education continued to be a popular fundraiser for WYC. SEEK (Saving the Earth's Environment Through Knowledge) was held at Wakulla Springs State Park during the summers of 2009 and 2010 for 3-day conference. Activities and field trips were hands-on and exciting, with students staying in the historic Wakulla Springs Lodge. Junior Gardeners totaled 3,368, in 94 clubs, Intermediate Gardeners totaled 79 in 6 clubs and High School Gardeners totaled 20 in 3 clubs. In 2009-2011, fourteen college students received a total of \$27,000 in scholarships for study in fields related to garden club objectives. Many garden clubs award college scholarships as well as Camp Wekiva camperships and SEEK scholarships. Florida students won two NGC scholarships in 2010 and one in 2011, and one Deep South Region Scholarship in 2010.

Both Habitat Landscaping and fundraising were on-going projects throughout the state. FFGC led the way in Habitat Walk-a-thon pledges (\$23,006.68) at the 2010 NGC Convention. The sale of previously owned costume jewelry was profitable at both district and state levels, culminating in the Great Jewelry Exchange at the Deep South Convention. Seven new Blue Star Markers



were placed and seven were refurbished and/or re-dedicated. "Golden Days" honored our senior members with hundreds of daffodil bulbs planted in north Florida. An FFGC member created a contrived daffodil that could be used where the bulbs would not grow. Several garden clubs

worked with civic organizations, applying for grants and designing community gardens. FFGC won the Deep South Unified Project "Protecting Our World, Living Green, Living Clean". FFGC donated \$1,000 to Delaware Garden Club for the Dover Air Force Base memorial garden at the Center for the Families of the Fallen. \$4,789 was contributed by FFGC to ECHO (Educational Concerns for Hunger Organization), World Children's Fund and NGC Natural Disasters USA. \$4,347 was sent to Global Partners for the purchase of water filters for Haiti. "Gifts Today for Tomorrow" Endowment Fund collected \$3,027 during this administration. 72 Butterfly Sanctuary Certificates were awarded. 8,369 trees were planted from February 2010-February 2011. Ten clubs observed Arbor Day. A new partnership was developed between FFGC and the Florida Wildflower Foundation for a wildlife

education and planting program in schools. FFGC is represented on the Florida Wildflower Foundation Board. Since 2000 the license plate had generated \$2,500,000 for wildflower projects. FFGC provided one of seven representatives appointed by the Commissioner of Agriculture to serve on Florida's Endangered Plant Advisory Council.

Clubs celebrating 30, 40, 50, 60, 70, or 80-year anniversaries received "Precious Metal" certificates. Guardians of Gardening honor was given to Elizabeth Pate. Patron honorees included Elizabeth Pate, Addie Lou Harris, Cindy Rieger, Carolyn Whitmer and Carol Hall. Other honors given included 38 Hall of Fame, 61 Pillar of Pride, 98 FFGC Life Members, 7 Deep South Region Life members, and 6 NGC Life Members.

The 2010 Convention, "Tropical Treasures", April 22-24 in Boca Raton, was our 84th state convention. The state flower show, "Shrunken Treasures", won NGC State Flower Show Award in 2011. 2011 Convention, "The Race is on! The Stakes are High!", April 14-16 in Ocala was our 85th State Convention. Deep South Region Awards in 2010 included Historic Preservation and/or Restoration, Special Achievement Award, Butterfly Conservation, Arbor Day Award, Publicity Press Book, Smokey Bear/Woodsy Owl Poster Contest, Youth Poetry Contest, "Our Beautiful World", High School Essay contest, "Respect the World Around Us". NGC Awards for 2010 included Literary Horticultural Interest, Award of Excellence for an Individual, Decoration of Historic Building, and 5 Standard Flower Show Achievement Awards. Deep South Region Awards in 2011 included School Gardens Project, Environmental Education Award, Adopt-A-Park Award, Community Action Award, Conservation Award, Smokey Bear/Woodsy Owl Poster Contest, High School Essay Contest, Deep South Unified Regional Project, Individual Club, Youth Division, School Gardens Project. NGC Awards for 2011 included NGC Youth Poetry Contest, Literary Horticultural Interest, Special Achievement, Junior and/or Intermediate Garden Club, State Flower Show, Publications, (*The Florida Gardener*), Educational Membership, Calendars, *Florida Flower Arrangement Calendar* for 2010, three Standard Flower Shows, Presidential Citations, Community Landscape Design, and Civic Projects with Native Plants.

**President Jan Sillik**, 2011-2013, chose as her theme: "A Time to Know, Sow, and Grow". We had 204 Clubs with 13,200 members. Trout Lake Nature Center, a 230-acre wildlife preserve located in Eustis, became an affiliate member. 144 Blue Star Memorial Markers are now in Florida. We held 5 Flower Show Schools and 2 Symposia and hosted the Instructor Symposium and gained 7 new Judges. We held 4 Environmental Schools, 2 Landscape Design Schools, 2 Tri-Refresher for Gardening. We gained 8 Five Star Members and 16



Four Star Members. 1 Bee Certificate was issued, 67 new Butterfly Sanctuary Certificates, and 19,847 trees planted /given with many clubs celebrating Arbor Day. We held 53 Standard Flower Shows, our biennial State Advanced Standard Flower Show and 1 Standard Youth Flower Show. Scholarship Fund has received \$21,599.41 in 2011-2013. Many garden clubs award college scholarships as well as Camp Wekiva camperships and SEEK scholarships. Labels for Education earned 70,000 points, and eight large free items were ordered for summer program at Wekiva Youth Camp.

45 Floral Design Study Units were offered with 285 Certificates issued. "Digging It" and "Fun with Flowers" programs were held to attract new and inspire old members. Short Courses were held in South Florida, in Gainesville and in North Florida. FFGC boasted 3 High School Garden Groups registered in 2011 and 79 Youth Garden Clubs and in 2012, 93 Youth groups with membership of 4,398 Youth Gardeners. Wekiva Youth Camp, a partnership between FFGC and the State Park Service, had 540 children attend in summer of 2011 and about 600 in 2012. A yearly Wekiva Leadership Training was held for volunteers. S.E.E.K. (Save the Earth's Environment through Knowledge) was based at Wakulla Springs Lodge with 60 attending in spring 2011 and 2012.

## FFGC History-Our 9th Decade-2005-2014 - (cont'd)



Our 86th Annual Convention was held in Jacksonville, May 10-11, 2012. The theme was "Ports of Call", and "Passport to the World" was our biennial State Flower Show. 2013 Convention was held in Fort Myers, April 29-30, entitled "A Toast to the Coast". *The Florida Gardener*, published four times a year, covered all facets of garden club activities, projects, educational opportunities, legislative alerts, book reviews as well as upcoming Flower Shows and events and news from 12 Districts. It also included Youth Activities such as Wekiva Youth Camp and SEEK. Two new columns in *The Florida Gardener* and on our website are "FFGC Listens" and "Take A Byte". Our website, [www.ffgc.org](http://www.ffgc.org), is the model website for other states. District II Vernon Garden Club won Florida Highway Beautification Council grant for \$100,000 to assist with beautification of State Highway 79.

"Welcome to our house" was the president's special project to introduce the public to floral designs in the home. "Welcome to Our Home" fundraisers were held in Districts I, IV and VII and donations to FFGC totaled \$2800. District Directors hosted Lunch and Learn Workshops, got involved with community action projects and tried new ideas to garner new members. FFGC published a new manual, "Tabletop Treasures: Centerpiece Ideas for Special Events" in which all districts participated and provided ideas. "Gala In the Garden" was held September 16, 2011 celebrating 50 years in our FFGC Building, profiting \$16,610.

The Legislative Positions and Policies Committee presented four prospective position statements that were adopted by the FFGC Board of Directors including "Protect Aquatic Ecosystems", "Control Invasive Species", "Defend Our National Parks", and "Love Florida State Parks". FFGC joined Florida Conservation Coalition, a bipartisan group recently founded by former Florida Governor and US Senator Bob Graham and Nathaniel Reed as an Affiliate Member. Position paper entitled "Conserves Natives Plants" shows FFGC's commitment to ensuring the resiliency and long-term viability of native plants, especially rare and endangered species. Our Position Paper entitled "Supports Clean Air" shows our commitment to ensuring that we all can live in healthy environment. FFGC endorsed and supports Florida's water and land legacy in their statewide campaign to restore Florida's long-standing conservation commitment. A "Speak Up Wekiva" event was held February 16, 2013 and was sponsored by Florida Conservation Coalition to raise awareness about the need to restore the impaired Wekiva River, the trouble Springs that feed it and all of Florida's treasured waterways.

FFGC participated in EPCOT Mother's Day Flower Show at the Flower and Garden Festival. 34 designers presented outstanding designs on May 6-7, 2011, and 35 designs April 27-29, 2012. In 2013 we celebrated 20 years of Mother's Day Flower Shows. Penny Pines collected \$6,807.89 to help with reforestation in Florida's most damaged National forests. World Gardening/Natural Disasters raised \$3,365, 16 during 2011-2013 administration. 11 Hall of Fame awards were given in 2013 making a total of 492, "Gifts Today for Tomorrow" Endowment Fund has a total of \$4292.50. FFGC approved participation in Coral Restoration Foundation's reef building project, "An Underwater Garden".

FFGC's Tri-Council established a new recognition honoring one who has made notable efforts in the stewardship of our natural resources. Earth Steward honorees included Pat Carver, Marion Hilliard, Jo Williams, Berne Davis, Alice Changstrom, and Joan Pryor. Former president, Marion Hilliard, was recognized by Clearwater Network as 'one of the most valuable active members of their network' and received a Deep South Directors Citation in recognition of her dedication.

Deep South Convention 2011 Awards included Environmental Education Award, Adopt-A-Park Award, Community Action Award, Smokey Bear/

Woodsy Owl Poster Contest, High School Essay Contest "The Environment - Our Responsibility"; Deep South Convention 2012 Awards included 7 Certificates of Achievement, Scholarship Program, Paid Subscriptions to the National Gardener Magazine, Smokey Bear/ Woodsy Owl Poster, and Yearbook Awards. NGC Convention 2011 Awards included Literary Horticultural Interest, Special Achievement, Junior and/or Intermediate Garden club, Publications Award for The Florida Gardener, Educational Award, Membership Brochure. Presidential Citations, School Gardens Project, Community Landscape Design, Civic Projects with Native Plants, and 2 Standard Flower Shows. NGC Convention 2012 Awards included Publications, Membership, Yearbooks, and 5 Standard Flower Shows. One Second grader received first prize for Smokey Bear/Woodsy Owl Poster Contest. Deep South Awards won in 2013 included National Gardener Award, Historic Preservation/Restoration Award, Tree Planting, Horticulture, Environmental Education Award, Butterfly Conservation, Adopt-A-Park, Community Action Award, Wildflower Award, Arbor Day, DS Region Mentor of the Year, NGC Youth Sculpture Contest, Smokey Bear Woodsy Owl Poster Contest.

NGC Awards won a their 84th Annual Convention 2013 in Seattle, WA included Garden Center Award for Valparaiso Garden, Special Achievement for District X, Youth Horticulture Education Award for Tampa Federation of Garden Circles, 6 Publications, Blue Star Memorial Landscaping, and Byway Marker for The Garden Club of Stuart, Horticulture Therapy Garden Project, Decoration of Historic Building, and Environmental Education. Three standard flower show awards and the NGC President's Project, "Plantings for Public and Special Places". The Youth Environmental Concern Award was won by Wekiva Youth Camp for the 7th grade program, and applicants won 2 NGC Scholarships.

**President Sue Angle, 2013 - 2015** chose as her theme: "Through the Garden Gate--Our Legacy and Our Future". We had 200 Clubs with 12,737 members. Convention 2014 was held in St. Petersburg April 14-16, 2014 with the theme: "Florida Center Stage and included FFGC's State Flower Show "In the Spotlight". The 2015 Convention was held in Boca Raton April 17-19, 2015 with the theme, "Rhythm of the Tropics". The 2013 -2015 Presidents' project encouraged clubs to showcase all they do to educate members and the community about floral design, horticulture/gardening, nature and the environment. The project encouraged clubs and/or districts to hold a one-day public event focusing on what garden clubs do as well as benefits from joining a garden club, and emphasized the need of documenting what we do for future generations.

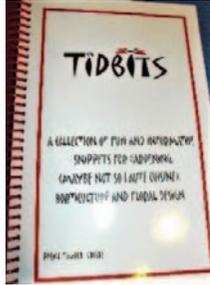


Five Flower Show Schools were held along with two Flower Show Symposia (39 judges advanced status). We held four Environmental Study Schools, three Landscape Design Schools, two Tri-Refreshers for Gardening Schools. We hosted the NGC Instructor Symposium. We now had 7 Five Star Members and 11 Four Star Members. 58 Standard Flower Shows were held including our 35th Biennial Advanced Standard State Flower Show with 84 Designs and 358 Horticulture entries. We held 17 Basic and 8 Advanced Flower Design Study Units and 170 Certificates were issued. "Digging It, a Horticulture Study Series" courses were held as well as 'Fun with Flowers' to attract and inspire new and old members. Three Short Courses held: 59th Tropical Short Course, 78th FFGC/UF held in Gainesville and the 6th Short Course North held in North Florida.

Wekiva Youth Camp, the only residential youth camp sponsored by a state garden club and an ACA accredited camp, saw 15% growth for 2013 and 2014 sessions due to new EASYREG online registration. S.E.E.K. (Save the Earth's Environment through Knowledge), in existence 40 years, was currently based at Wakulla Springs State Park and had 60 attendees in 2013 and 58 attendees in 2014. Junior Gardeners Chairmen serving for three or more years were awarded a newly designed FFGC Junior Gardeners Pin by President Angle.

## FFGC History-Our 9th Decade-2005-2014 - (cont'd)

Our newly published book, "Tidbits", contained information provided by members on a variety of topics of FFGC interest. Each submission was noted with member name and club. 750 copies were sold. All board members submitted electronic reports to save paper! All FFGC members now had access to board member reports through the FFGC website. Five \$2,000 Scholarships were given in 2013-2014 and Florida's two eligible applicants won NGC scholarships. FFGC created the Earth Steward Award to honor anyone who had made notable efforts in the stewardship of our natural resources. President Angle presented an Earth Steward Award to former Governor and U. S. Senator, Bob Graham, for his dedication to Florida's natural resources. In his thank you remarks he announced "there was no one he would rather have on his side than FFGC!" President Angle was presented an Earth Steward Award along with 53 deserving recipients in the 2013-2015 administration. FFGC members, along with 200 other groups in Florida, endorsed the campaign to place "Florida Water and Land Conservation" constitutional amendment # 1 on the November 2014 ballot. The Water and Land Conservation Amendment passed!



16 garden enthusiasts traveled with FFGC to the World Flower Show in Dublin. Florida was proudly represented by our most creative designers. At the 20th annual EPCOT Mother's Day Flower Show, 35 designers created floral designs. In 2014 FFGC clubs/circles donated a phenomenal \$11,579 to the National Forest Service for the Penny Pines Project. 11 new Blue Star Memorial Markers were dedicated and 20 Butterfly Sanctuary Certificates were awarded.

Pratt & Whitney awarded the Wellington GC a \$5,000 Green Power Grant for work at an elementary school and landscaping Habitat for Humanity Homes.

Two new Position Statements were approved in 2014: Reduce Marine Plastic Pollution and Ban Hydraulic Fracturing in Florida. We held detailed discussions about our newly selected membership platform and website, [ffgc.wildapricot.org](http://ffgc.wildapricot.org). We collected \$2,600 from our affiliation with Amazon.com in 2013.

FFGC's 90th Year Anniversary in 2014 had an exciting start "Through the Garden Gate" with a well-attended Garden Party at headquarters in September which included a commemorative planting in our new President's Garden, silent auction, raffle baskets, food, displays and designs.



The American Legion held a flag raising ceremony at headquarters with a flag that was flown over the Capitol on 9-11-2002. Members planted trees and wildflowers, held Flower Shows, Leadership, Lunch and Learn sessions, gave away thousands of native trees and held plant sales, won NGC Award Operation Wildflower for Roadside Beautification and \$500 for their work on the William Bartram Trail, attended NGC and FFGC educational opportunities and held a variety of fundraisers. Many clubs were presented "Precious Metal Certificates" for their outstanding service.

FFGC was represented by 17 members at the NGC Convention 2014 in Norman, OK, and created Invitational Designs to honor NGC President and Deep South Regional Director. A Blue Star Memorial Marker was given to FFGC, the result of a name being drawn from participants in the 'Sage and Roses' program.

At the 2015 FFGC Convention Boca Raton, President Angle was honored with a "Guardian of Gardening" from her district and a registered Bromeliad, *Tillandsia* 'Sweet Sue', was presented.



FFGC members were engaged in identifying environmentally threatened Aquatic Ecosystems, learning about them and supporting organizations actively involved with reducing threats. Member donations to the Coral Restoration project totaled over \$20,000, and a coral reef was named for FFGC! 37 NGC Awards were presented at the 2015 NGC convention in Louisville, KY. NGC Award of Excellence was presented to Ken Nedimyer, founder and president of the Coral Reef Restoration project.

27 Deep South Awards won in 2013 in Savannah, GA at convention including, *National Gardener Award*, *Historic Preservation/Restoration Award*, *Tree Planting*, *Horticulture*, *Environmental Education Award*, *Butterfly Conservation*, *Adopt-A-Park*, *Community Action Award*, *Wildflower Award*, *Arbor Day*, *Deep South Regional Mentor of the Year*, *Deep South Regional Project (State and Club)*, *NGC Youth Sculpture Contest*, *Smokey Bear/Woodsy Owl Poster Contest*. Deep South Awards for Convention 2014 in St. Petersburg included *School Grounds Improvement Award*, *Historic Preservation*, *Tree Planting Award*, *Horticulture Award*, *Landscape Design Award*, *Educational Environment Award*, *Environmental Conservation Award*, *Butterfly Conservation Award*, *Adopt-A-Park Award*, *Community Action Award*, *Wildflower Award*, *Conservation Award*, *Deep South Regional Garden Club of the Year Award*, *Publicity Passbook Award*, *Youth Sculpture Contest*. 2013 NGC Awards won in Buffalo, NY included three *Publication Awards*, *Garden Center*, *Special Achievement*, *Blue Star Memorial Marker Landscaping*, and *Youth Environmental Concerns*. Flower Show Awards included four *Flower Show Achievement Awards*. NGC Awards included *Operation Wildflower Roadside Beautification*, and two *Scholarships*. NGC Awards won in 2014 in Norman, OK included *Cookbook Publication Award*, *Operation Wildflower*, two *Youth Recyclable Sculpture Contests* and two *scholarships*. Awards for a *Club Standard Flower Show*, a *Holiday Standard Flower Show*, and a *Standard Flower Show Staged in Public Building* were also won.

## Tri-Council of FFGC

Jackie Host, Tri-Council President



"Shining the Light on Gardening, Landscaping and the Environment!"



Greetings from Tri-Council! It is my honor to humbly serve as the new Tri-Council President, replacing Nancy Richards, who stepped down for health reasons. The other Executive Board Members are: Pat Caren, Vice-President; Inger Jones, Secretary and Parliamentarian; Carolyn Schaag, Treasurer; and Brenda Luedeman, Gardening Consultant Liaison. The Landscape and Environmental Liaisons are to be appointed.

Tri-Council of FFGC are FFGC members who have completed an NGC: Landscape School, Gardening School, or Environmental School. You may become a provisional member after completing 2 courses for one school. Tri-Council goals are the same today as when the organization was formed in 2008, that is, networking/the sharing of common information and projects, and promoting education through meaningful programs and NGC Schools. Dues are only \$15 for two years. The application form is on the FFGC website, [FFGC.org](http://FFGC.org), on the Tri-Council page.



Jackie Host and Pat Caren  
Environmental Chairman

The first meeting held by the new Tri-Council Executive Board was very productive and plans for meetings and events for the next two years were discussed. FFGC President, Marge Hendon, attended and has invited Tri-Council to host a "Trashion" Show/Dinner at the January Board meeting. Stay tuned, that is going to be a lot of fun.

## You could WIN up to \$15,000

<p>Drawing will be held April 14, 2022 Send Money &amp; Stubs to:</p> <p><b>Chairman:</b> <b><u>Valerie Prisciandaro</u></b></p> <p><b>4056 SE 38th Loop</b> <b>Ocala, FL 34480</b> <b>352-445-6946</b></p> <p>Tickets limited to 6,000 One prize per winning ticket.</p>	<p><b>Donation \$5.00 EACH</b></p> <p><b>50/50 RAFFLE</b></p> <p>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 W2-G. Your donation may be tax deductible as allowed by the IRS. Consult a tax advisor for more information.</p> <p>Make Checks payable to: FFGC / Conv 2022</p>	<p><b>SEE Your Club's FFGC Member Liaison for tickets</b></p> <p><b>You do NOT need to be present to win.</b></p>
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### Tri-Council of FFGC - (cont'd)

Other events discussed were an educational retreat at Silver Springs and possibly a legislative retreat in Tallahassee next year, Covid permitting. Members also want to take advantage of more Zoom educational programs because Zoom can reach members all over the state. Excellent speakers are being lined up. Zoom programs are free to members barring exceptional circumstances.

Tri-Council members want you to know we are working hard to promote the NGC Schools in Florida. There has never been a time when education about the environment, sound landscaping and gardening practices have been more important than right now. NGC Schools are one of the best ways to start your education and stay up-to-date.

Tri-Council strongly encourage Districts and Clubs to sponsor more NGC Schools for your members. Make them as affordable and convenient for your members as possible. Education is the key for a future world where clean water and air are considered important, and necessary. We believe, once people know the facts, they are not as likely to be sold a poor bill of goods by, inept employees, sleazy politicians and/or greedy money-grabbers. Working together, we do make a difference.

If you want to know anything more about Tri-Council, please contact me at my email address: [JHost48@gmail.com](mailto:JHost48@gmail.com), or phone: (352) 235-0722.

### 7th Annual Tree Planting

Kathy Siena, Wellington Garden Club

Approved by: Kat Spieker, Trees & Reforestation Chair



Wellington Garden Club (WGC), in partnership with the Village of Wellington, held its 7th Annual community-wide event on Saturday, September 25, 2021. The Garden Club was happy to move forward with their annual tree planting after the September 2020 tree planting was cancelled because of COVID restrictions. Garden Club Event Chairman, Kathy Siena, said that 1,000 native South Florida Slash Pine (*Pinus elliotti* "Densa") seedlings were planted in pre-dug holes by 125 volunteers. The seedlings and pre-dug holes at the Wellington Environmental Preserve were prepared in advance by Village of Wellington Landscape Division staff. Village Council members and the Town Manager joined in for the tree planting. Some of the other volunteers were Wellington Garden Club members and friends, local scout troops, high school students, moms, dads, and grandparents.



It was a magnificent and balmy day for the seedlings to be planted. It was also a special day because it was held on National Public Lands Day which was established in 1994 and is celebrated annually at various public lands across the United States. It promotes earth stewardship and volunteer conservation of our beautiful lands.

Wellington Garden Club with support from the Village of Wellington helps continue to beautify our Village and helps fulfill the National Garden Club initiative "Plant America-Plant Trees" and the "Million Tree" Initiative which is committed to increasing our urban forest by planting trees. Thanks to all the volunteers who came out to participate in the plantings. The job was completed in less than two hours! We look forward to the next annual tree planting on Saturday, September 24, 2022.

### Amazon FFGC Link

Linda Feifarek-Johnson, Amazon Chairman

[Feif@bellsouth.net](mailto:Feif@bellsouth.net)

(352) 498-5806 (h)

(352) 356-2751 (c)



The "Amazon Smiles" program is back with FFGC! I know it's been a while but FFGC has reinstated our account with Amazon Smiles. Please go to [smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com) and set up FFGC as your Smiles charity or change your current charity to FFGC. If you have any problems setting it up, please email me at [Feif@bellsouth.net](mailto:Feif@bellsouth.net) or call at (352) 356-2751. You can also Google "how to change your charity on Amazon Smiles". It will walk you through the steps.

Editor's note: FFGC receives a percentage of all Amazon purchases made through the FFGC "Amazon Smiles" program. Also, use [smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com) rather than [amazon.com](https://amazon.com) to log in to your Amazon account.

See you on FFGC "Amazon Smiles"!

## Junior Garden Club

Jennifer Barber, Junior Gardener Chair

There Is No Better Time To Start A Junior Garden Club

After an unprecedented 18 months, kids have finally gone back to face-to-face learning, volunteers are being welcomed back, and there is a renewed interest in all things outdoors.

Organizations, schools, and non-profits all over the country are talking about the Environment, the importance of getting kids outside to experience 'green hours', and how to engage youth to develop a passion for stewardship. With lockdowns in place, families developed interests in growing their own food, beautifying their surroundings, and joy in experiencing nature in their backyards. Imagine the long-term benefits of capturing this excitement and building these relationships with the kids, their families, your community, and your club.



Starting a Junior Garden Club is easy. Traditional brick-and-mortar schools are the obvious choice but where else do kids congregate in your community? Consider starting a Junior Garden Club with the following: an After School Program, 4-H, Scouts, Spring Break Camps, Head Start Programs, local YMCA, Libraries, Boys & Girls Clubs, Churches, Garden Centers, Day Cares, etc. **Junior Garden Clubs only need to consist of a minimum of 5 members, between VPK and 5th Grade, and for the club to meet 5 times in a calendar year.** What you choose to do for meetings is completely up to you and your club. There are resources for programs and projects on the FFGC website, websites that are dedicated solely to gardening with kids, your district Junior Garden Chair, and myself.



Already have a Junior Garden Club? Don't forget to apply for an Award! Awards are available for Junior Gardeners at the State, Regional and National levels. FFGC Awards were reviewed and modified over the summer.

Preschool, or VPK, was added as an eligible grade level and 6th grade was promoted to Intermediate Gardeners. Award J-25 was changed from a Wild Plant Pressed Specimen Folder to a Native Plant Folder of drawings and descriptions. Award J-31 was changed from Birds in Florida to Aquatic Birds in Florida. Award J-33 was changed from a Butterfly Award to Protecting Pollinators Award.

Awards for the 2021 calendar year are due by January 30th. In order to be eligible for an award, *you must be a registered Junior Garden Club.* Not sure if your club is registered? Contact Jennifer Barber at [jdrwho.3@gmail.com](mailto:jdrwho.3@gmail.com) to confirm your club registration, ask questions or anything else you may need help with. **Please visit the Junior Gardener Page at [FFGC.org](http://FFGC.org) for more information regarding Junior Garden clubs and Awards.**

Interested in National Garden Club awards for youth? Please visit the NGC website and email your award application to the FFGC Awards Chair, Gwen Carter, at [FFGCawardentry@gmail.com](mailto:FFGCawardentry@gmail.com) by November 24th.

## New FFGC Affiliate Member

Donna Berger, FFGC Affiliate Membership Chairman  
(772) 214-8629

We have recently received a new FFGC Affiliate Member for the Florida Gardener:

FAU Pine Jog Environmental Education Center  
6301 Summit Blvd  
West Palm Beach, FL 33415

They are affiliated with the West Palm Beach Garden Club.

Established in 1960, Pine Jog Environmental Education Center is dedicated to developing, researching, and disseminating educational programs and services that cultivate environmentally literate and engaged citizens. It is a self-supporting unit of Florida Atlantic University's College of Education.

**Lauren Butcher, Educational & Training Programs Coordinator**  
**Green Schools Recognition Program & Climate READY**  
FAU Pine Jog Environmental Education Center  
6301 Summit Blvd, West Palm Beach, FL 33415  
Phone: (561) 686-6600 ext. 409  
E-mail: [LButcher2013@FAU.edu](mailto:LButcher2013@FAU.edu)

## Promoting Pollinators for National Garden Week

Reina Snyder, Vice Chairman, District X,  
Plant America with Trees

Approved by: JoEllen Allen, National Garden Week Chair



Oleander of the Palm Beaches Garden Club and Greenacres Junior C.A.R.E.S Garden Club celebrated National Garden Week by planting native shrubs in their Native Tree Garden, a teaching garden of several different Florida habitats, at Greenacres Community Center. Junior Gardeners helped plant

two native firebushes and two native beautyberry bushes. Firebush is a hardy, fast-growing and showy evergreen shrub to small tree found in hardwood hammocks and coastal and upland forests. It typically blooms spring through fall but can bloom year-round in warmer climates. Its nectar-filled flowers vary in length, attracting both butterflies and hummingbirds. Birds and small mammals eat the fruits and hummingbirds come for the nectar. The Firebush attracts bees, including bumblebees and butterflies notably the Florida's state butterfly, the Zebra Longwing. It also plays larval host for Pluto Sphinx moths.

Beautyberry is a woody shrub found in pinelands and hammocks throughout Florida. The plant's foliage offers cover for small wildlife and its bright purple fruits look almost artificial they are so striking. Beautyberry is native to flatwoods and hammocks but thanks to birds it spread near and far. Many bird species consume the showy fruit. It also attracts various pollinators including many types of native bees along with the non-native honeybee.

Junior Gardeners read aloud the many benefits of pollinators to garden club members and city officials. In attendance were the City of Greenacres City Manager, Andrea McCue and City Councilwoman, Paula Bousquet. Oleander Garden Club of the Palm Beaches thanks the City of Greenacres for their wonderful collaboration to beautify our community with native trees and shrubs.

## Promoting Pollinators for National Garden Week - (cont'd)



Oleander Garden Club of the Palm Beaches represented here by Co- Presidents Becky Walton and Janet Stein and Greenacres Junior C.A.R.E.S. Garden Club celebrated National Garden Week by planting an native pollinator garden as part of a larger teaching garden of native Florida habitats.



City of Greenacres Councilwoman Paula Bousquet reading the National Garden Week Proclamation with Oleander Club Co-Presidents Janet Stein and Rebecca Walton presiding.

Greenacres Junior C.A.R.E.S. Garden Club finishing the planting of a native Firebush for the pollinator garden.



Greenacres Junior C.A.R.E.S. Garden Club planting native Beautyberry for the pollinator garden.



## Vermiculture - A "Worm-ful" way to Compost

Kalia Baillene, Central Fl. Horticulture Chairman

Happy Worm Farming for the most delicious foods, greenest, and healthiest plants ever!

Vermiculture is the art of composting with special composting worms. Your soil is the very best ingredient of your gardening and makes the product you are growing survive or thrive. The cheapest and best fertilizer is vermicompost or decomposed materials made by worms into composted matter. You can add the composted worm castings to your soil around your vegetables, flowers, or any plant either in pots or in the ground.

There are hundreds of videos showing ways to make your own worm composter or you can spend \$75 to several hundred dollars for a commercial bin. It depends on how much you want to do for yourself or how much compost you want to make.

I am going to give you a quick and easy way to make your own and what you will need. It should take about two hours once you have assembled all the items you need. (You should make the bin ensemble before getting your worms, if you aren't going to complete the process in one day).

You will need six things to make your worm composter:  
2 plastic bins (35 gal.) & 2 small plastic bowls(recycled)  
Bedding  
Worms  
Water  
food source  
Drill with 1/4" blade bit

The **plastic bins** come with lids that you will use and should be opaque, because worms like to live in the dark and shy away from light. Most videos show the same size being used; however, you could use a shallower one for the bottom as long as it is the same length and width.

The **bedding material** can be from several sources:

Coco Coir (available online or from any garden center, prices vary and you will need a 5 lb. piece or enough to make 4+ quarts.)

Coco Coir comes dehydrated, and is made from coco fibers, must be soaked in water to hydrate and crumbled. It doesn't have any bacteria, fungi, spores, or seeds and is very easy to work with, but adds to your costs.

Shredded newspaper and/or junk mail (no colored or slick paper), small bits of cardboard, dead leaves and small twigs. If you choose paper, you can add some leaves and twigs to the top. You'll need about a 5-gallon bucket full and loosely packed.

Then you'll need the garden soil to blend with the other bedding materials and sprinkle on top of the worms, approximately one small bag or a garden pail full.

The **worms** used are called red wigglers (*Eisenia fetida*). They are voracious composting worms, not earthworms found in your yard. You might have a local source from a bait shop or you can order online. The best source is Uncle Jim's Worm Farm: [UncleJimsWormFarm.com](http://UncleJimsWormFarm.com) or (800) 373-0555. You can order by internet. You can order several amounts: 1,000 worms-\$38.95, 2,000 worms-\$46.95, or buy a stainless-steel compost pail for \$24.95 and get 500 worms for \$20.00. The 2,000 worms will weight approximately one pound. You will need to feed the worms the same weight in scraps weekly as the weight of how many you use. They will reproduce and you will need to increase the amount fed gradually. It doesn't matter how many you start with. The more worms, the more scraps needed and the faster you will have vermicompost. They will need to be fed every few days or once a week, depending on how many you use and how fast they are able to compost all the food. I'd go for the pail and 500 worms. The pail has a six-month charcoal filter and fits neatly under the sink.

The **water** is used to moisten the bedding layer. You will want to sprinkle it on or pour very lightly. The area needs to be moist, but not too wet. We'll use one quart of water for this one.



The **food source** is mostly your food scraps.

You can also add a few leaves and more shredded paper at the same time. The scraps of food will be added loosely on top or you can dig small holes within the bedding, to place small amounts in two areas. They will eat most vegetable and fruit scraps, but do not like citrus peels and onions/peppers. Do not add meat, fat, bones, or dairy. You can add yellowing leaves from garden veggie/herb growth as well.

Trying to reach a balance in how much you feed them and how much water you add, will keep your bins odor free and the worms happy and productive. If you over feed the worms and they are not able to compost all the scraps, it will rot and cause odors. If you over water them, they could drown and die. If you don't feed them enough, they will try to crawl out and you have wasted all. So just put small amounts of water and food in to begin with. Check it every few days and adjust, mostly the food level, as needed. Some days you may have too many scraps and sometimes not enough. You can freeze small bags, and have available on demand.

## Vermiculture - A "Worm-ful" way to Compost - (cont'd)

I would use quart bags, put enough in to flatten the bag and keep a few handy for times you are away or eating out. Don't forget to label and keep together.

Ready to build the best fertilizer source ever?

**Step 1:** one bin will not have any holes. The lid will be the bottom, the bin will sit on this. If you are using two different size bins, the smaller one will be the bottom ( it will catch the water that drains out).

**Step 2:** drilling the holes. drill about 12 holes on the bottom of the 2nd container, within two inches of the edge. Space them somewhat evenly around the sides and center. Water from the composting will drain through them. Drill five holes on the long sides and three holes along the shorter sides 3-4 inches from the top of the container. This is to allow air flow into the bin.

**Step 3:** Place the two empty plastic containers inside the bottom bin in opposite corners, top down. They will allow space for the water to drain into the bottom bin. Place the top bin inside the bottom bin, which will be on top of the two small plastic containers.

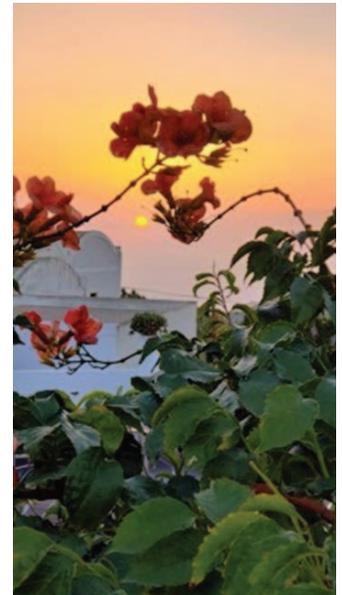
**Step 4:** Layering the other items. If using coco coir, layer the crumbled pieces evenly on the bottom, it will be about four inches or more thick. If using shredded paper and leaves, make sure the paper is fluffy and loose in the bin. Pour the water over this layer of bedding to moisten but not make it too wet. If water is left over, it's OK, don't use it. Spread two cups of soil over the bedding, spread the worms around the bin, breaking up those that may have balled up together. Sprinkle the rest of the soil over the worms. Spread the scraps loosely around the bin (same weight of food scraps as weight of worms). Cover and snap down lid.

Place the bins in a shady, dry place with some air flow. The worms like to be kept in the shade and fairly cool. So do not put them in a sunny location. If you want to elevate them on some blocks, a table, or other object, that's OK too. They can be kept on a porch, or in a garage. Check on them in three days. If all the scraps are gone, give a few more. Check after one week. If there are still scraps, from either feeding, scoop out, discard and put in fresh scraps (ratio of worm to food). You can add a cup of water, if you think all looks a bit dry, but don't over-do it. Feed weekly. When they have finished eating all the bedding and scraps for about three months: you can harvest the compost, use it and restart the cycle.

Here's how to separate the worms and vermicompost. (I assume you will want to wear gloves, but you don't have to). The worms are a bit moist, but won't hurt you or crawl too far or fast. Scoop out some (maybe half) of the compost onto a piece of plastic or the top lid. Form it into a log shape and pat together gently. Wait a few minutes. The worms will migrate to the bottom away from the light. Scoop the compost off the top and put it into a bucket to use. Gather up the worms into a container to restart the bins. Repeat the process until all the compost is gathered. If a worm or two remains in the separated compost, sprinkle them into your plant or garden area or pick them out and add to the others. The ones in the garden will continue to compost and reproduce. If you don't want to separate the worms and compost; you can make a third bin with bedding, water, and food; then place it on top of the 2nd bin after the food is gone. Drill 12 holes in the 3rd top and exchange the

two tops, so the worms will migrate from bin 2 to bin 3. Use the compost and have that bin ready for the next cycle. By the way, both males and females lay eggs and each egg makes 3-20+ baby worms. Use the liquid from the drainage to feed your plants. If you want more worm tea, you can put some compost in a pale, add water, and strain off the liquid. Use both the tea and compost in the plants. With extra

worms, you could build a larger bin, spread them into the garden, or give/sell to friends or bait shops. Maybe you could go fishing!



## Invasive Air Potato Vine

Karen Smith, Temple Terrace Garden Club, District VIII  
Approved By: Parke Finold, Invasive Species Chair

For years, residents and park managers battled with invasive air potato vines, (*Dioscorea bulbifera*), as the vine aggressively covered our landscape. You see, air potato grows prolifically here because it's not from our neck of the woods and, as a result, our ecosystem lacks air potato's natural predators.

After extensive research on its safety and impact, the air potato leaf beetle was approved for release in Florida. This beetle helps control the air potato vine population by eating its leaves and stunting its growth. Air potato leaf beetles are small red beetles with a black head, (see photo).

This petite insect's larvae turn those large glossy leaves into lacy, hole-filled, skeletonized leaves which significantly reduces the vine's natural ability to overtake a yard, park, or entire natural area (see photo).

Each beetle lives only (6) weeks, but can lay up to 1,000 eggs on the ground. They fly up to 10 miles and eat only the foliage of the air potato vine. This particular type of beetle was first released in the US in 2013 to control the spread of these invasive vines. Currently, the USDA will provide information, (free of charge), to anyone who has an air potato vine invasion on their property. FFGC received and released two cases of beetles, (50-100 beetles per case), on the grounds at FFGC Headquarters and plans to repeat this process in the spring.



Adult *Lilioceris cheni*

Photograph by Ted D. Center,  
USDA/ARS Invasive Plant Research Laboratory, Fort Lauderdale, FL

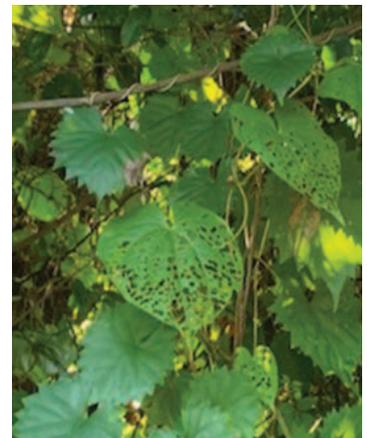
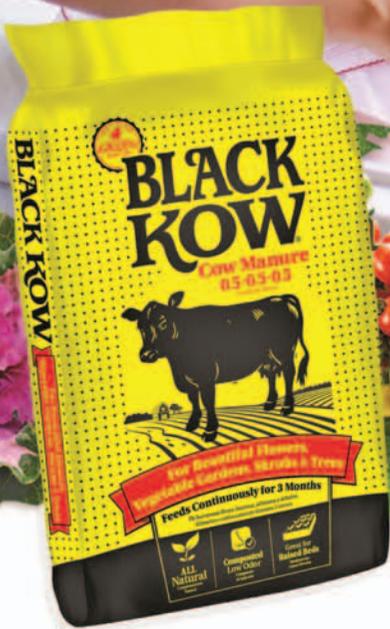


Photo taken at FFGC Headquarters (9/11/2019)  
Notice the air potato beetles only ate air potato vines, not surrounding plant leaves.

**Editor's Note:** The "Air Potato Vine" invasive species alert was originally referenced in an article by Parke Finold, Invasive Species Chair, and published in the Spring 2020 issue of "The Florida Gardener" - (see page 8).



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