

The Florida Gardener

Fall 2021



President's Message

Dear Friends,



WOW, the Summer's thunderstorms, hot muggy days, and FFGC Youth Camps have come and gone. The excitement for crisp cool Fall days shows, when we conduct meetings with garden club friends, discuss new projects, and we roll up our sleeves to tackle those important projects.

The Summer brought freedoms we were glad to embrace; visits with family and friends, travel, SEEK, and your Wekiva Youth Camp. Many of FFGC's committees met this summer at your Headquarters in Winter Park. Headquarters continues to be a beautiful venue for weddings and events large and small. Your Garden Club is encouraged to visit, just give Jenn, your FFGC

Office manager, a call at (407) 647-7016 so she can set up a day for your club to visit.

Your Summer camps were nearly full this summer. Over five hundred fifty campers rolled into Wekiva State Park ready for a week of fresh air, fun and games with friends, science, crafts, and nature. At the end of each week, they could be heard singing, in their parent's car, changed forever, as they pulled away from camp.

Save the Earth's Environment through Knowledge, (SEEK) conference was an eye opener for our high school students. They watched tens of thousands of bats fly out of their UF home and on their way to eat tons of mosquitoes, which were just hatching from their water filled tires and overflowing lakes. The students kayaked down the Santa Fe River, walked the Sweetwater Wetlands Park, learned about carbon, the Everglades, mammals from Florida's past, and viewed many of the experiments that are ongoing at the University of Florida, Gainesville.

Learning is not just for the young, it is never too late for us adults to learn new things. As you gather with your garden club, brainstorm as to how you could work on plantings that could be funded through our National Garden Club President Mary Warshauer's PLANT AMERICA Community Project Grants. Mary would also like for you to take pictures as you "Play Outdoors". You can go online to GardenClub.org for this and other grant information.

The Fall weather draws you out of the house for fun events. Take in knowledge from flower shows, home tours, Short Courses, symposiums, classes, and plantings. Do not forget about FFGC's Matching Grant program. Your ideas have value, let FFGC help you fulfill those ideas.

What if you are not a camper, or an adult garden club member, we do have something for you... scholarships. "NGC", "Deep South", "FFGC", and your local garden clubs all have college scholarships to offer young adults.

There are Worlds of Wonder for all to enjoy, be it Summer or Fall, you can try it all. Get outside and play with friends, you are never too old.

I value your efforts,

Marjorie H. Hendon, FFGC President



The Official Publication of The Florida Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc.,
a member of the "National Garden Clubs, Inc."
and the "Deep South Garden Clubs, Inc."

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Article & Advertiser Submission Deadlines:

Fall Issue: July 15, 2021
Winter Issue: October 15, 2021
Spring Issue: January 15, 2022
Summer Issue: April 15, 2022

**SUBSCRIPTIONS: \$15.00 per year Domestic,
\$18.00 per year International.**
Checks payable to:
FFGC - The Florida Gardener
1400 S. Denning Drive
Winter Park, FL 32789-5662



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From Your Editor

Dave Spaulding, Editor "The Florida Gardener"



As Marge Hendon stated in her article on page 5. "**Wonderful Changes**" are being made to TFG. This issue will be the final printed issue distributed to all FFGC members. Our next published issue, Winter 2021, will be distributed via email to the majority of our FFGC members. Kelley Wood has stepped up to accept the responsibility of Circulation Director beginning with the Winter 2021 issue. Kelley, I welcome you to our TFG team.

Please note the Checkerboard style ad format example on page 17. This is a reincarnation/resurrection of ad options available in previous issues of TFG. The final product will offer 12 boxes displayed in full page format. Each box will be approximately 2.2" x 2.6" and will be available for publication in TFG Winter 2021 issue.

Due to budget considerations and a designated maximum of 24 TFG page limit goal, I've had to make some tough decisions regarding article inclusion. I always try to incorporate all pertinent, interesting, and time-sensitive articles in every TFG issue.

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 attend some of the biggest gardening events in the world! Below are the upcoming trips planned for the next few years.



Floriade Expo 2022 - NEW SAILING - Amsterdam, Netherlands

Our Floriade sailing on April 23, 2022 was so popular it sold out! We are now offering an additional date to the Garden Club.

The Floriade Expo, a Dutch horticultural exposition that happens every 10 years, is going to be held in Almere (Amsterdam) in 2022. We're offering an exclusive package that includes a 2-night post-cruise package in Amsterdam and a 7-day river cruise with AmaWaterways.

If you would like more information on this new sailing, please contact Shelley for the dates and pricing!



Douro River Cruise - Spring 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. Taste wines from historic wineries and soak up the genuine beauty of one of Europe's most unadulterated landscapes on this sailing.

To be the first to know the pricing, dates & details fill out the "I'm Interested in Traveling" form.



Christmas Market Cruise - Late Fall 2023 - Danube River

Experience timeless holiday traditions and elegant pageantry along the Danube River. 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 during this festive time of the year.

To be the first to know the pricing, dates & details fill out the "I'm Interested in Traveling" form.



WAFSA 2024 - Auckland, New Zealand

The World Association of Floral Artists (WAFSA) holds a World Show every three years, however it has now been postponed to 2024 and it will be held in New Zealand as originally planned! We are in the process of putting together a unique package that includes attendance at the WAFSA convention and visits to "must see" sights in New Zealand and maybe Australia. Don't miss out on this exciting travel opportunity!

To be the first to know the pricing, dates & details fill out the "I'm Interested in Traveling" form.

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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The Florida Gardener - Wonderful Changes!!!

Marjorie H. Hendon, FFGC President

It is time for FFGC to get into the twenty-first century. One of the ways we are doing this is by placing *The Florida Gardener* online. The magazine has been coming to you this way for over a year now and we have been getting great responses from this move. It is now time to have TFG full time online.

The former Presidents of FFGC have announced this move at all Fall District Meetings over the past six years, and now the time has come. While on tour we shared the cost for printing and mailing. We try to follow the lead of National Garden Clubs, Inc. and as you know your national magazine is now only online.

We have all seen the effects of climate change and the environmental mishandling of our planet: record heat, wildfires, flooding, early hurricanes, red tide, and on and on. We can do our small part to not add to the Earth's problems by putting TFG online.

Some members may want a hard copy. Those of you that would still like to have a hard copy, simply print one out on your home printer or at your favorite copy center. Move over *National Geographic*, *Southern Living*, and just about any other magazine on the planet. TFG will be joining you to save our planet.

One other change we have made is to have members' articles submitted through the Chairman assigned to that article's topic. For example, if you had an article to submit on birds or butterflies you would look at FFGC.org's, Book of Information, to see the Chairman for that topic. Then you would send your article to Barbara Jacobson, Birds and Butterflies Chairman. She would then send it to the TFG editor, with your name as the author.

Happy reading!



DISTRICT I NEWS

Joyce Waters-Smith, Director

Counties: Escambia, Santa Rosa, Okaloosa, Walton

As an advocate of the Florida Federation and all things gardening and floral design, Joyce is an active member of three garden clubs in the area: Destin GC, Valparaiso GC and Green Thumb GC of Santa Rosa Beach. For the past 10+

years Joyce has been studying floral design, is a National Flower Show Judge and is now a Basic Floral Design Instructor and the Flower Show Judges Council District I, Assistant Director.

Since 2007 Joyce has been an Okaloosa County Master Gardener, serving on their Board of Directors several times. For the past three years Joyce has worked on the John Horton Senior Center in Walton County, using her contacts to acquire donations of free plants from Destin GC, Green Thumb GC and Okaloosa County Master Gardeners. This is a community gardening project sponsored by Green Thumb Garden Club of Santa Rosa Beach. In Spring, 2021, Joyce helped plan and plant raised vegetable beds for the seniors using a matching grant from FFGC and Green Thumb GC. Additional plantings occurred at the South Walton Habitat for Humanity Restore with plants purchased by Green Thumb Garden Club and a matching FFGC grant.

Garnier Beach GC continued to meet thru the pandemic, meeting outside, using club members as speakers. They traveled to 7 Pines Native Plant Nursery in DeFuniak Springs and had a successful plant sale in May.

Green Thumb GC of Santa Rosa Beach successfully implemented ZOOM, hosting "travel" programs to famous public gardens throughout the US. They also began using an app product called "Punchbowl" to issue meeting invitations, and virtual birthday cards each month to their members. They did several outdoor state park field trips. GTGC won 3 FFGC matching grants and have planted a raised vegetable bed at the John Horton Senior Center, and a landscape plan for the new Habitat for Humanity Restore. GTGC successfully uses "Square" a credit card application that can be used from any cell phone.

Valparaiso GC once again gave a \$3,000 college level scholarship to a horticulture student. The committee is chaired by Gail Baker and co-sponsored by the Camella Society. 4 of their members attended the State Convention. They received an FFGC matching grant to restore the gardens at Paradise Pollinator Gardens at the Heritage Museum. They hosted a Horticulture Specialty Flower Show and plant sale.

Azalea GC of Pace hosted floral design workshops with their members Catherine Houghton and Leslie Walker instructing. Catherine has just become a student Flower Show Judge. They accepted several FFGC, Regional, and National awards for their Kids Day in the Park and Non-Professional Landscaping.

Pick and Poke GC of Pensacola celebrated their 50-year anniversary. They met with GC members giving the programs on Bromeliads and another program on caladiums. They hosted their annual tour of gardens visiting 4 of their member's home gardens. Marilyn Powitzky, president said they are rejoicing to have increased their membership.

Milton GC established a very successful weekly garden newsletter called "SIT BACK SATURDAY" which includes gardening information as well as gardening events in the area. As they are preparing for their 75th anniversary in 2023, they have begun a total renovation of their landscape, removing all the old shrubs and trees, and carefully selecting low maintenance replacements.

Navarre GC acquired a property that they turned into a plant nursery and gift shop, calling it "The Green Thumb." They teach their members propagation, as well as garden related crafts. They maintain the grounds at the Blue Star memorial marker, the Navarre library, and the Emerald Coast Wildlife Refuge.

Pensacola Federated Garden Center had to close their building due to the pandemic. But that allowed them time to do much needed repairs and renovations, including a new bathroom, painting and stripping the floors. Then Hurricane Sally surprised them, leaving the landscape heavily damaged and the roof seriously damaged. After a new roof and tree removal, President Nancy Huhn says, "that new rental reservations are coming in, and the property is looking amazing".

DeFuniak Springs GC celebrated the return of their Blue Star marker, destroyed by a motorist nearly 2 years ago. They were pleased to send 4 members of their club to the State Convention. They hosted a plant sale at Lakefest and offered guided tours of their Rosalyn Carter Butterfly Garden.

Honeysuckle GC of Molino continued to meet in person despite the pandemic. In March, 14 of their members gathered in the rain and planted 14 trees and 4 trays of coreopsis at Fillingims Landing, a public park in Perdido Key that was devastated by Hurricane Sally. They have committed to supporting the public space with native plants. Ann Crawford, President, an avid Butterfly enthusiast raised and released over 75 Monarch Butterflies.

District I hosted a "President's Training" in June, chaired by Betty White of Green Thumb Garden Club and hosted by Jenny Weber of the Milton Garden Club. We had a full day of presenters including Marge Hendon, Valerie Seinfeld, Gwen Carter (via ZOOM), as well as Jane and Ed Nendick FFGC Membership Chairs (in person). Jill Cleaver presented an interesting program on technology and introduced us to the reality of how many "on-line" only garden clubs exist in our District.

The District introduced a \$250 grant program intended to assist the clubs with community gardens. The grant applications will be due to Ginger Eisele our District Treasurer by September 30, so that they may be announced at our fall district meeting in October.

District I membership and the Flower Show Judges Council will jointly fund and host a District Flower Show in Navarre, FL March 7, 8, 9, of 2022.



DISTRICT II NEWS

Sue Schmitz, Director

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

District II is filling the summer months getting to know each other better. From even the most casual get-togethers to more formal activities, we are gathering in various ways to enhance our knowledge of each other's talents.

The Port St. Joe Club is meeting every month this summer to introduce the new members and to acquaint all members with the unique talents each member brings.

The Gulf Beach Club recently sold their building due to the rising cost of upkeep. They are now working on a "new member drive" and are very excited about the outcome.

District II is glad to be associated with the Florida Federation of Garden Clubs and is working hard to fulfill the goals of FFGC.



DISTRICT III NEWS

Marilyn Larson, Director

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

Marilyn has been a member of Tallahassee Garden Club since 2009 and an active member of Coreopsis Circle, where she served as Treasurer. She was elected to serve as BOT Treasurer in 2013 and re-elected in 2016, and re-appointed in October 2020. She completed two years (2011-13) as chair of the Caladium Bulb fundraiser for TGC in addition to her Garden Club activities. In 2016 she co-chaired the Garden Club pecan sales. She is a Certified Master Gardener and when not working in her yard, assists in maintaining St. Stephen Lutheran Church grounds, where she is an active member. She is President of her neighborhood association, member of Capital Tiger Bay Club and a founding member of Capital Women's Network. She has a Master of Public Administration degree from Florida State University. She has one son, Thad, and 13-year-old grandson, Seth who resides in Tallahassee. Sharing her love of the garden is her Persian cat, Turbo, who loves to chase lizards.

The charge to weave together the various activities of the District III Clubs is a difficult task as all club activities are important and worth mentioning. As a way to share ideas across clubs by category, I have separated this report into sections to include individual club activities in: (1) **membership**, (2) **community involvement and service**, (3) **fundraising**, and (4) **educational & learning programs**. But first, as a group, our District has seven clubs separated by 100+ miles east to west: Live Oak Garden Club, Madison Garden Club, Monticello Garden Club, Perry Garden Club, Steinhatchee Garden Club, Tallahassee Garden Club, and Wakulla County Garden Club.

Our District III Clubs provided funding for The Blue Star Marker District III Memorial Wreath at the National Cemetery, Tallahassee, FL, for Memorial Day, 2021. The floral wreath was placed by our district Blue Star Marker Committee Chair, Helen Purvis. The Live Oak GC placed flags and wreaths at our Blue Star Memorial as well as the Veteran's Cemetery.



The seven garden Clubs of District III are all "Precious Metals", ranging in years in existence from 95 to 30 years, which means a combined total history of gardening, community service, education, and beautification of 495 combined years! Truly our District III Clubs are sparkling gems!

The Spring District meeting, May 13, hosted by Live Oak, with "Walking the Green Path" theme in support of our FFGC President's ecology theme, was the first 'in person' meeting with over 70 registered members attending. The Fall District meeting, hosted by Tallahassee Garden Club, October 7, Chaired by Jeanell Moore, Gardenia Circle, continued the 'in person' gathering and

the 'green theme' with a program and tour of Goodwood Museum and Gardens grounds and historic house, where the meeting was held.

Membership: Except for the Live Oak GC, which gained members, our District Clubs experienced a loss of membership due to the pandemic, but we gear up to return to full fall schedules. All clubs are anxious to retain present membership while also attracting new members. Tallahassee has begun a new initiative of sending birthday greetings to each club member (but no birth dates!)

Community involvement and service continues to be a focus of our Clubs through various activities. Examples of these are: Madison GC's involvement assisting 4-H youth in landscaping the courthouse, and plans to assist a local family in the care of new landscaping. Tallahassee's year-round continued landscape maintenance of the Tallahassee Memorial Cancer Center's Healing Garden, which was originally designed and installed by club members. Tallahassee adopted an annual "Wreaths across America" program with donated funds to purchase wreaths to be placed at grave sites at the National Cemetery, and Tallahassee continues its Youth Gardening programs at 6 elementary and one middle school. Steinhatchee maintains the landscape area around their Community Center where their Club meetings are held. The Live Oak club continues to support local nursing homes with cards and handmade gifts on holidays as well as yearly teas on Valentine's Day. They also hold a yearly food drive for the group homes in their community. Wakulla County GC annually orders 800 or more bare root trees, pots them and stores for a year at a local nursery and in mid-January as part of the local Arbor Day celebration, gives the trees to participating public. Not only is this a community service, but also an educational opportunity and means of membership recruitment. Wakulla also maintains a raised garden at the local library, where their meetings are held.

Fundraising: Live Oak plans to continue their Caladium Bulb sales and is researching pecan sales, calling on Tallahassee's experience with annual pecan sales. Madison fundraising activities includes plant and craft sales. Perry has a unique on-going fundraiser with edition 1 & 2 cookbooks compiled by past club members and church members, sharing the best of local fare. Steinhatchee has also created a cookbook.

Education and learning programs: Madison GC learned about daylilies by visiting a daylily farm. Our District III flower is the DAYLILLY! Tallahassee monthly, beginning each September holds a plant exchange and horticulture program for members and the public. Perry hosted a presentation on and participated in making steppingstones and learning about swamp flowers, bugs, and insects. Monticello plans a few field trips to nurseries to learn of new available cultivars and plant varieties. Some of the Live Oak programs included flower arranging, container gardens, and gourds.

In celebration and recognition of our District III Centenarians! A special recognition to two Tallahassee Garden Club members Carol Wortham and Nell Carlile, both long time garden club members, both celebrating their 100th year birthdays (Carol in August and Nell in October) and both maintain active memberships in their club. Irene McCall from the Live Oak GC celebrates her 101th birthday this coming February; she remains an active, cherished and honored member.



DISTRICT IV NEWS

Connie Gladding, Director

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

Connie was born in Southeast Missouri, where the soil is fertile and gardens and farmlands are nourished by the Mississippi River. As the oldest of 7 children, she has fond memories of tending and snacking in the family's vegetable garden and fruit trees. Not so fond memories, of picking cotton every summer to make carnival spending money. Connie joined the US Navy out of college and served 22 years, retiring as a Commander in 1997. During her Navy service, she learned to garden and treasure the flora and fauna around the world.

DISTRICT IV NEWS - (cont'd)

She and her husband moved to Clay County in 2006, where she built a small consulting business supporting the medical, veteran, and defense industries. In 2018, Connie retired and joined the local Garden Club, where she loves serving on the club's civic projects. Also in 2018, Connie completed her training as a Master Gardener. Since 2018, she has served as her Club's President and today is the President of the Clay County Master Gardener Volunteers. Connie is active in the Northeast Florida Daylily Society as the Treasurer and is an American Hemerocallis Society Exhibition Judge. She is a Certified Gardening Consultant for the National Garden Clubs. Connie is a passionate lifelong learner and hopes to complete the Landscape Design Course during the next year.

As District IV's Director, she is eager to serve the District's members; help the clubs and circles enrich our communities, and advance FFGC goals. She sees Garden Clubs as Nature's Caretaker and her goals and actions reflect that view. Today, Connie and her husband Don reside in Green Cove Springs along the St. Johns River with their doodle Lily and kitty Shadow. Their son lives in Indianapolis. Both her son and husband are pilots, so the family does lots of flying and not surprisingly, often to visit gardens and shows.



In May, the District IV Spring Meeting was held in the lovely venue of the Garden Club of Jacksonville on the St. Johns River. The meeting had in person and zoom attendees. Our theme was "By the River" and speakers enlightened us about the 2.5 acres Lanakila gardens, a permanent nonprofit with training for organic, regenerative gardening featuring the River Garden and Flower Farm. Members enjoyed the Farm's donation of several locally grown beautiful, fragrant floral arrangements. Eager to learn more, several District IV Clubs have planned field trips to Lanakila Gardens in the upcoming year. See photo of Past Directors and current Director in attendance, including Jan Sillik, former FFGC President. Jan Litchfield joined the meeting by Zoom and isn't pictured here.

Next up, was District IV Officers' Orientation with over 50 in-person attendees July 14. All attendees received an information ("SUCCESS") packet that included the District's policies and procedures guide, meeting management basics, District budget, roster of District IV Leaders, responsibilities of Officers and District Chairs, descriptions of Florida Federation of Garden Club (FFGC) and National Garden Club (NGC) programs and schools, and the FFGC *Who We Are* trifold and the FFGC Benefits rack card. Members shared their experiences and upcoming plans on supporting membership drives, Bartram Trail Markers, Habitat for Humanity, Wekiva, Blue Star Markers, Cork Reclamation, S.E.E.K., and Pennies for Pines. Clubs and Circles leaders are hoping to gain commitments to improve existing Blue Star Markers. Although budgets have been depleted during the past year, Clubs and Circles have public programs and fundraisers planned and intend to continue to support these FFGC programs.

After the orientation, a short business meeting was convened to update members on the Fall District IV meeting hosted by the Garden Club of Orange Park October 1 and the District's GardenFest, a day of education for the public on November 5. During GardenFest the benefits of FFGC membership will be highlighted and joining encouraged. The Bartram Club will be hosting the Spring 2022 District IV Meeting and the Garden Club of St. Augustine the Fall 2022 meeting.

Other near-term events: In September, The Ribault Garden Club is hosting the District IV Flower Show School II. This is the second of four courses that includes horticulture, design and flower show procedure. The Event Chairman is Carolyn Stevens and the Sponsor is FFSJ District IV Judges Council. In November, the Bartram Club will feature a public floral design program by "The Sisterhood of the Traveling Plants" in conjunction with the local Women's Club.

At every District gathering a focus on membership is a priority topic. Sadly, the District has lost long standing clubs and circles over the past 2 years. Clubs and Circles are incorporating membership drives and partnering with other organizations in their plans for the upcoming year's activities and fundraisers. The Garden Club of Green Cove Springs has an August 'Dessert Bar' Bring a Friend event planned. Additionally, they are partnering with the local Women's Club to support a school garden. Without exception, clubs and circles have been successful at gaining membership during fundraisers, such as garden art and plant sales. The Garden Club of Jacksonville (GCJ) has gained members through their programs including the virtual programs, which are still available from the GCJ website.

District IV has three birthday celebrations in the upcoming year. The Bartram Club has a birthday party and membership drive planned for September in honor of the Club's 5th anniversary. Also in September, the Garden Club of St. Augustine will celebrate their 95th year, with their first meeting scheduled on Saturday, September 11. The Garden Club of Jacksonville will celebrate their 100th anniversary March 25, 2022. They have special events planned, including garden parties, a festive centennial day celebration, and incorporating the 100th anniversary into existing fabulous programs and events.



DISTRICT V NEWS

Donna Thomas, Director

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

Seventeen years ago, when I joined Floral City Garden Club, if you had told me that one day, I would be the District

Director, I would have told you that you needed help. Turns out that to be a garden clubber you don't have to be a plant expert or a blue-ribbon gardener. And it's a good thing because I kill plants right, left and center. Everyone finds their niche in Garden Club and mine was learning and having fun with my friends, and I get that in spades. I am honored to be representing District 5 and I pledge to you all, that I will do my best to make you proud.

District V started the new tenure with an outstanding summer of contributions from all our clubs to SEEK and Camp Wekiva with kids, money and volunteers. I've personally been volunteering for 6 years and it's a great way to connect with nature, friends, as well as an unparalleled learning experience you can't imagine if you've never been. The kids who go to these camps are fun to be with and oh so interested.

District V clubs are committed to donating time and money to support community projects for these two organizations as well as taking care of local gardens, decorating for holidays, working with the community in schools, libraries, nursing homes and countless others. Many of the projects that our clubs are involved with are annual events such as plant sales, Scrabble and Mahjong tournaments, Habitat for Homes (over 141), Fun with Flowers, Adopt-a-Highway, and numerous others.

The Floral City GC went the extra mile in projects and community participation this past year and as a result applied for and won "The Garden Club of the Year". This summer Gainesville GC is preparing for the September 2021 kickoff event of their 97th year – "Aged to Perfection", with members shopping for unique floral and gardening items to be sold by silent auction, cooking up a storm, and sampling yummy hors d'oeuvres to find the best ones to serve with wine. Tickets available at ggcfl.org/auction. The Crystal River GC's Blue Star Marker was refurbished, and a dedication was held in June at its new location on Highway 19 across from the mall by the entrance to the State Park. Brooksville GC is working on a habitat home during the summer. District V clubs meet September through May; so currently the board of directors are planning for the coming year and producing their yearbooks.

As the clubs begin their 2021-2022 year there should be a plethora of new and exciting ideas to share at the fall district meeting.

DISTRICT V NEWS - (cont'd)

This Director is delighted to advise you that the UF/FFGC/District V Short Course will resume June 5-7, 2022. Mark your calendars as the seating is limited and they go fast.

District V has 14 clubs and 11 circles. Covid 19 has made getting together over this past year very challenging for us all, but no matter where we live, we have found ways to get together and have fun doing it. My hope is that this coming year will be filled with wonderful programs, field trips and club get togethers now that we have shed our masks and are once again sharing hugs.



DISTRICT VI NEWS

Suzi Bailey, Director

Counties: Flagler, Volusia, Brevard

Theme: Planting for the Planet

Resilience has been the operative term for the District VI Garden Clubs. The past year rolled over us like a huge wave, but we managed to get back to shore with flying colors. Clubs are planning exciting and informative yearbooks, programs, fundraisers, and community projects.

Clubs are reaching out to their communities in some innovative and creative ways. Building membership, community projects, educational projects, are some of the common themes in each club. Each club has come up with ideas that we might be able to use in our clubs.

Together, our district will lift up and encourage one another in our endeavors to help make this planet a better place for our future generations.

Ormond Beach Garden Club is going to have a booth at the Home and Garden show in January at the Ocean Center, Daytona Beach. Plants will be sold, and information given out to potential new members. Fun With Flowers, Enviro Camp for children using recycled items for their planters are other ways they are creating opportunities to learn about all aspects of gardening. Melbourne Garden Club is developing a new brochure to hand out at all their events sharing with the public about their club and its activities. They are also working with the city of Melbourne to reinstall their Blue Star Marker in its original location on US 1.

New Smyrna Beach Garden Club is continuing a program that was suggested by their membership. Small interest groups sign up to attend member taught classes. A variety of classes to attend, e.g. roses, orchids, succulents, vegetable gardening, etc. It has been well received by all members, especially our newest members. Junior Garden Club has been wonderful for the children and grandchildren of our members. Their mothers attended with the children and ended up joining the club. New Smyrna Beach Garden Club will be the host club for District VI Fall Meeting on October 19, 2021 and members are busy planning for that event and working on crafting items for the annual Festival of Trees.

DeLeon Springs Garden Club has set a goal to attain new members this year. They are going to start their club year with a club mixer designed to get new members acquainted with the long-term members. Food drives, touring gardens, learning about hydroponic gardening, learning about bee and honey production. They are also planning a tea featuring a presentation on the history of DAR, led by a club member who is a Master Gardener and a DAR member.

South Peninsula Garden Club is planning activities that can inspire their appreciation of the living world and focus on the healing effects of nature post Covid. Healing Gardens, Children's Gardens, Native Plants, and Botanical Arts are a few of their programs. Field trips will be interesting, fun, and educational.

The Garden Club of the Halifax Country is preparing their club year with an opening celebration for their 100th birthday in February 2022. Their theme is Bridging the Past, Present, and Future. They will also have the annual youth

project, "Nature's Art Box". Fourth graders from two different elementary schools walk to the Ormond Beach Museum Gardens. The club members meet them and give a guided tour of the gardens. The children then create a painting of something they have observed in the garden. After finishing their painting, they make a frame of found twigs, shells, and bits of nature, to take home. The children also tour two cottages that are onsite, learning their history. One of the cottages was saved and moved to its current location by the garden club.

The Garden Club of DeLand recently installed adult sized monarch butterfly wings in the Sensory Garden in Bill Dreggors Park. It was a celebration of member outreach with gardening information, plant sale and children's activities. The 25-year-old Sensory Garden continues to evolve with native plant and revolves around habitat sections for specific butterflies. The community gardening project is planting and maintaining 77 downtown planters. Some of their many community projects included certification of butterfly gardens at the Spring Hill Community Gardens, supporting Habitat for Humanity home through garden consultation, volunteers, and donations, and donating over 50 plants for a church parsonage's grounds. Building membership through new ideas. One idea was a Creative Corner Committee. Flowerpot and hypertufa rock painting were the summer inaugural events. The other plans are to add Nature Strolls and to bring back their Junior Gardeners Club.

Cherry Laurel Garden Club celebrated their 70 years of affiliation with FFGC. Awards were presented, historical photos and displays were displayed. District VI Director, Suzi Bailey presented their 70th Anniversary certificate.



DISTRICT VII NEWS

Charlotte White, Director

Counties: Sumter, Lake, Orange, Osceola, Seminole

It has been a very exciting, fun, and unique experience jumping into being District VII Director and what a pleasure meeting new friends and working with everyone. New to garden club. I found the FFGC 2021 Annual Convention an over-the-top experience and encourage attendance each year. Our Joanne Mulinare received her 5 Star Award.



May 7, 2021, District VII Spring meeting, was our first in-person meeting and we packed the house. There were wonderful basket items for raffle and great awards delivered by our current FFGC Awards Chair and past District VII Director Gwen Carter. The meeting was held at the Hilton Garden Inn in Apopka and a big thank you to The Foliage Garden Club of Apopka for hosting! As District Director, it was a great pleasure to meet all our members. Our Guest speaker, Maryann Krisovitch, Florida Lake Management Society, Executive Director kept everyone wanting more!

Bloom and Grow Garden Society -- After 5 years of planning and fund raising, the Monarch Butterfly Sculpture will be installed during September in Butterfly Garden Park on Plant Street in downtown Winter Garden. If you're in the area, stop by and take a look. The Monarch Project has expanded to bring the dire plight of the Monarch and all pollinators to the forefront. Bees, birds and butterflies all benefit when the plants they need to exist are in neighborhood landscapes, yards and gardens. In October, we are selling Monarch Waystations (10 milkweed and pollinator flowers) in hopes it will make the West Orange area and beyond a haven for all insects who need these types of plants to survive.



Bloom & Grow Garden Society members have a great appreciation for trees. Currently, the City of Winter Garden does not have a tree inventory, so we partnered with them in 2021 to collect information on the Heritage Trees deemed special in Winter Garden. These trees can be on public or private property.

DISTRICT VII NEWS - (cont'd)

There are two classifications of Heritage Trees. Historic trees have a trunk diameter of 30 inches or more and Specimen trees are smaller mature trees that take on the quintessential character of their species. With the first phase of the project finished, we will have the inaugural Winter Garden Heritage Tree Walking tour on October 22nd. It will be a guided two-mile walking tour starting at City Hall of over 50 heritage trees that tell the history of Winter Garden and its people through the QR codes on the tree labels. It's a project that many cities throughout Florida could replicate. However, the Winter Garden Heritage Museum has offered to do guided tours on request. It's a great way to celebrate the fabulous historic trees in our community! You can see the trees and read their history by going to [PlantsMap.com](https://www.PlantsMap.com) and click on "Community". Enter "Bloom & Grow Garden Society" to bring up our page and the Heritage trees!

We're excited to finally start planning our 20th anniversary Spring Fever in the Garden festival for April 2nd & 3rd of 2022 after cancelling the event for 2020 and 2021 due to COVID-19. The festival's first committee meeting is in September.

Sweetwater Oaks Garden Club – GAME ON! We are grateful for the resilience of our Club members during this difficult year. Events and meetings were cancelled, but it did not keep us from being together. Last April's Plant sale helped fill our fundraising coffers by surpassing previous sales.

Our Garden Fair sponsors still donated even though the Fair was cancelled. The Clubs great reputation in the community and the work of our chairman carried us through. Arbor Day, April 30, was well attended and the "Little Gem Magnolia" planted at the home of member and master gardener Gene Perry has a gardening guardian to watch over it.



May's officer installation, performed by Margaret Kirkpatrick, was a festival of friends, catered by Tijuana Flats restaurant - "ole!". The installation program awarded each executive officer an herb plant describing the attributes that corresponded to their duties. The Junior Gardeners program has been enabled thanks to the diligent work of our member Ann Todd.

A Butterfly habitat is presently being developed at "Village on the Green" retirement community that has the residents excited to join in with our Club's members, thanks to Marjorie Abbas and her negotiations and expertise. There will be a number of surprises and delights coming soon to the Sweetwater Oaks Garden Club as we work our programs, events and field trips into the coming year's agenda. Come join us at our "Garden Fair" (March 5 & 6, 2022). "What the Caterpillar calls the End, the rest of the world calls a Butterfly." *Loa Zhu*

Orlando Garden Club entertains, gives scholarships and updates equipment. The Orlando Garden Club ended our year with a wonderful May meeting. It was our good fortune to have with us Dean Kopsell who holds the position of Professor and Chair of the Environmental Horticulture Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences at UF. We also had two students who are receiving scholarship assistance from our Garden Club with us. Each of these students spoke to the membership telling us about their responsibilities at the college - i.e. collecting pollen for research. Also, two more scholarship recipients spoke to us on a video they had prepared and sent with the professor to play to the members.

Although the year was not as we wanted it to be, the officers and committee chairman continued with fulfilling their responsibilities. For example, the Grounds and Patio committee, chaired by Frankie Smith, made great improvements in both areas - new plants around the sign and the removal of unwanted foliage at our back entrance. Also, Jerwin Gigante who is responsible for the building and property is currently improving our audio system. This is a major project and something that needs immediate attention. So, with the virus behind us, we are looking forward to a fantastic year!

Clermont Garden Club -- The Awards Just Keep on Coming! The Clermont Garden Club was recently presented a Certificate of Appreciation for the Club's efforts in Replanting and Beautifying Florida during the period March 1, 2020, through February 28, 2021. The Florida Federation of Garden Club's (FFGC) Certificate includes trees which were provided by the City of Clermont for Arbor Day and given out by Club members and trees planted by Club members. This placed the Club in second place for the number of trees planted by FFGC clubs in Florida.

Advertise your club: loan a plant to your local library or to City Hall for a couple of weeks/month, add a tabletop easel with growing facts and description, being sure to leave information about your garden club, when you meet, and contact information.



DISTRICT VIII NEWS

Kitty Wallace, Director

Counties: Pasco, Hillsborough, Pinellas, Manatee, Sarasota

Kitty Costello Wallace is a Blanche Covington awardee, the DVIII "Inspired Gardener" who grew up in Miami, following her grandmother around in her garden. She was graduated from UF and began her career in education in Tampa in 1970, retiring in 2005. During those years (raising 3 kids), she partnered with her husband in many backyard gardens and landscaping in the front yard. Following her retirement, they looked for things they could do together, so they joined the Tampa Garden Club. NGC was promoting that garden clubs get involved with community gardens and she volunteered to chair that committee. Ten years after working with the community civic association and several community partners to establish the Tampa Heights Community Garden, they are still going strong. They won the FFGC community garden award twice and once tied for first place in Deep South Unified Project. Kitty served on the Board of Directors for District VIII as Grants Chair and as Assistant District Director. She is usually found in the garden, with dirt under her nails.

District VIII Garden Clubs are using the summer to refresh and renew. Most Clubs do not have regular meetings during the summer period, however, the Dunedin Garden Club held a wonderful meeting in Edgewater Park in June, across the square from a very fine tea shop. The presentation on various teas included a review of the various flowers that are included in some of the more popular teas. The "Butterfly Pea Flower Tea", commonly known as "Blue Tea", is a caffeine-free herbal tea, or tisane, beverage made from a decoction or infusion of the flower petals or even whole flower of the "*Clitoria ternatea*" plant. Another common ingredient used in this tea is lemon grass. The flower and the tea are a vibrant shade of blue. As my grandfather used to say, "if you're lucky, you'll learn something new every day". That was certainly true for me and the members of the Dunedin Garden Club.



DISTRICT IX NEWS

Dale W. DeFeo, Director

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

District Directors have been asked to share a short get-acquainted bio about ourselves. A native Virginian, I am a 5-Star Member of National Garden Clubs, Inc. (holding master status in all our NGC schools). In addition to serving as District IX Director, I am a Flower Show School/Symposium Horticulture and Flower Show Procedure Instructor for NGC. Gardening and Garden Clubs have been a passion for more than 50 years, with experience at many levels, including serving on the National Garden Clubs Board of Directors for 20+ years, chairing numerous committees along the way. Garden Club activity began in Massachusetts, where we resided for almost 20 years.

DISTRICT IX NEWS - (cont'd)

A return to Virginia (the National Capital Area Garden Clubs, Inc) provided an opportunity to found Gardening Studies School, Gardening Consultants Council and Morning of Design Study as well as serve as state president plus serve as Chairman of the 2011 National Garden Clubs Convention in Washington, D.C. We have resided in Florida for 21 years (11 part time and 10 full time).

My education includes an MBA and numerous Horticulture and Landscape Design courses. I love gardening and garden clubs and sharing experience and enthusiasm through teaching and working with other like-minded friends (Garden club friends are the very best!).

Now, on to our District activities. Clubs are getting back in action and there will be much more to report in the next edition of *The Florida Gardener*.

It was delightful to attend the Arcadia Garden Club's final spring meeting, where officers were installed by our immediate past District Director, Leslie Montwid, using a Pearl theme written by our dear late Pat Grulke.

The Poinciana Garden Club's new community project is "Trash off Trails". This is a project to improve the trails in the county. Members do walks at Lee County Conservation 20/20 Trails with friends and family, pick up litter and clean up trails (there are 141 county trails, so perhaps other clubs may be interested in this project, too!).

Fort Myers – Lee County Garden Council is hard at work on their November 19-20 Standard Flower Show to be held at their headquarters, where another treat awaits – the Berne Davis Garden. This show is to honor FMLCG President, Judy Francino, and the show is entitled, "The World is Yours to Explore".

Naples Garden Club and The Garden Club of Lake Placid are both working on their Holiday Home Tours. Information will be available soon.

Calusa Garden Club of Marco Island continues to provide "Flowers in Public Places", which provides recognition to the club within the community. Members prepare designs that are placed in banks, municipal offices, etc., with a card providing contact information for the club. They are also working on their rescheduled Thanksgiving Plant Sale that was postponed due to Covid-19 last year.

There were 45 members in attendance at the Periwinkle Girls Garden Club spring meeting, where their new FGCU scholarship recipient, Robin Levine, was announced. They also presented checks to ECHO Farms and FGCU.

There are lots of activities taking place in District IX. Club Presidents are again asked to please share information about their clubs with this District Director so that we can let everyone know about all the exciting projects happening in our beloved District IX.

Punta Gorda Garden Club is working diligently on preparations for hosting our District IX Fall General Meeting to be held on October 26th at the Isles Yacht Club in Punta Gorda.

Finally, it is with sadness that we say good-bye to the Estero Island Garden Club. They will be missed.



DISTRICT X NEWS

Michelle Maguire, Director

Counties: Okeechobee, Indian River, St. Lucie, Glades, Martin, Hendry, Palm Beach
Theme: "Beautify Your Surroundings"

I am your new District X Director from the Pipers Landing Garden Club. I am the founder of this club which will be 8 years old in September. Originally from Hamden, Connecticut, I have lived in eight different states and overseas in New Zealand. Since the age of eight I have been involved in gardening and landscaping and currently serve as the Landscape Chairman for my HOA. I am proud to represent the largest district

in FFGC. Over the years I have met many members of the clubs I now represent. My theme for my tenure as your District Director is "Beautify Your Surroundings". With that in mind I am establishing a District Award for Beautification.

District X National Garden Week activities:

Rio Lindo Garden Club celebrated their 60th anniversary and during Garden Week they worked on the Rose Garden they maintain at the Port St. Lucie Botanical Gardens. This Garden Club also held a Fun with Flowers Event. Congratulations on your 60th anniversary. WOW!!! **Stuart Garden Club** had a successful Garden Week by leaving flower arrangements at two libraries. They also had a banner hung outside the city hall in Stuart. Eula Clark, Mayor of Stuart was presented with a proclamation by this club for Garden Week. **Oleander Garden Club** celebrated with their junior gardeners by planting native shrubs at the Green Acres Community Center. This club also presented a \$300 check to the Okeehelée Middle School for a Green School Grant. They have started a book club focusing on books about Nature. I have sent recommendations for books to a member of this club. **Boynton Beach Garden Club** has started an "Ask Ami" column in their Newsletter helping members with their gardening questions. This club also donated plants to the local Senior Center and to the mayor's liaison to their club during Garden Week as well as giving away 100 plants to their club sponsored community garden. **Boca Raton Garden Club** sent thankyou cards with packets of wildflower seeds to 20 service agencies they usually visit to celebrate Garden Week. Cards were sent to the mayor's office, Boca Raton Regional Hospital, police station, senior centers, and libraries. **Wellington Garden Club** distributed 9 floral arrangements to Village Hall, fire stations and hospitals during Garden Week. A special highlight was their planting of four Pond Cypress trees in the Wellington Environmental Preserve which supports the NGC project, Plant America. Wellington also had a successful Gold Star Memorial Celebration on Memorial Day. The **Jupiter/Tequesta Garden Club** continued working on Community Gardens in and around Jupiter and Tequesta during Covid. Their Garden Tour which had to be cancelled was finally held on May 1st. They celebrated Garden Week by preparing a Blue Pot filled with anthuriums to display at the Jupiter Community Center. The **Garden Club of Fort Pierce** finally got together to thank the old administration and welcomed the new one. Past President, Blanca Rancourt, led their Garden Week activities by placing several plant designs in city offices, memory care homes, the main library and at the Green Market in Fort Pierce. A July "Garden Tour at a New Member's Home" is being planned followed by lunch at a local restaurant. **Saint Lucie West Garden Club** held a charity clothing auction and whatever didn't sell went to a women's shelter. They had a special speaker from "Got Sprouts" who taught them the importance of sprouting for health. They are also partnering with the Boy Scouts to teach vegetable gardening. I am looking forward to this club hosting the Fall District X Meeting on October 19, 2021. The **Carissa Circle of The Garden Club of Indian River County** sent a thank you basket to the Indian River County Library for staying open during Covid. They also made a donation to the Shining Light Garden, a non-profit that grows vegetables and fruits for soup kitchens and flowers for hospital and hospice patients. This circle also donated 2 full and 1 half scholarship to the Environmental Learning Center for their children's summer camp.

All these clubs did a lot more and I could go on and on about them. They all have made me proud to be their District Director.

Save the date: Garden Club of Stuart will host their 2022 Secret Gardens Tour, "Joy of Gardening," on Saturday, March 26, 2022. One day only. More information in "*The Florida Gardener*" Winter issue.

NEW ORGANIC GARDEN FRIENDLY FUNGICIDE

We love our St. Augustine lawns, vegetable gardens, fruit trees, orchids, bedding plants and roses. But often they fall victim to leaf spots and blights. These diseases include brown patch, powdery mildew, rust, alternaria and anthracnose. Garden Friendly Fungicide offers cost effective and easy to use control of many infections on outdoor plants. Garden Friendly Fungicide with *Bacillus amyloliquefaciens* strain D747 is concentrated because it was developed by Certis for commercial organic farming. Use only 1 teaspoon per gallon of spray solution.

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



DISTRICT XI NEWS

Sharon Bogard, Director
Counties: Broward

Greetings from District XI, the home to its Broward County Garden clubs and circles. Here in South Florida, our garden clubs break from the usual monthly gatherings since many of our members spend the summer "back North" to return in October.

Summertime is planning time: setting the schedule for meetings, programs, field trips, fundraisers, and educational opportunities. Our Clubs and Circles' Presidents stay in touch with their membership throughout this time, seeking information that will provide the upcoming year with valuable, interesting, and entertaining formats.

Jeri Decker, President of **Coral Springs Garden Club** reports that the club is planning exciting trips and programs for the upcoming year. During the summer, the members meet at local restaurants monthly. Of great interest is plans to have an evening extension for those who cannot attend day meetings. Hopefully, membership expansion will follow. The Club has received a \$500 grant from the Florida Federation of Garden Clubs' which will help fund the installation of the first 500 of 1,000 native orchids as part of the Fairchild Gardens' "Million Orchid Project". Work began on July 2 at Orchid Park, assisted by the City with volunteers and equipment. To honor National Garden Week, the Club donated 12 native butterfly plants to the Women's Club of West Broward for installation at the Robins Lodge in Davie.

100 terrarium plant kits were made by members and donated to two preschools and one summer camp. The kits included information on the plants, bugs, the parts of plants we eat and the water cycle. The children then put together their own individual terrariums and took them home.



Fort Lauderdale Garden Club continues its maintenance of its shade house garden throughout the summer, keeping the plants thriving while planning for a year of returning to in-person meetings. Plans include hosting District X's Fall meeting, preparing for its annual Standard Flower Show entitled "River of Grass", and its Secret Garden Tour. Susie MacPherson noted that she is excited to welcome members to two evening meetings this year. Normally, meetings are held on Friday morning each month but in the hope to attract a wider audience, these evening meetings were added. Broward County has notified its population that schools will now welcome volunteers. Good news for FLGC's Youth Gardening program.

Susan Berry, President of the **Hollywood Garden Club**, notes that it was a challenge to stay connected during the pandemic. Members have still not resumed formal meetings but meet in smaller groups; attend lunches and field trips help keep the momentum going. Susan continues to help her members through a newsletter, responding to questions, sharing information, pictures, answers, solutions, hints and "practical how to" that inspires all, and keeps the members in touch and always learning. Now that their meeting center has re-opened, many are anxious to return to in-person, but many are also content to continue their connection through newsletter and email blasts. Plans for a field trip are in the works but will be scheduled for cooler weather. Please check out their great website: HollywoodGardenClub.com

Congratulations to Caroline Steffen, incoming President of the **Garden Club of Lighthouse Point**. Her energy and dedication will be focused on keeping her members informed with a monthly newsletter, sharing important web-sites, webinars and information starting in August; arranging summer lunches; and visits to members' gardens so that they share their knowledge and expertise. Caroline reports that they are planning a new member activity in conjunction with a project focused on the community – sharing plant cuttings at a local park with the public. Two horticulture field trips are planned for the upcoming year along with a Standard Flower Show in March.

DISTRICT XI NEWS - (cont'd)

Caroline stated that her President's theme "Life Sustainability Through Gardening" proved true during the last difficult months. She noted that gardens have demonstrated to us how truly precious life can be. *"We can support wildlife and plants by the care we give our gardens. What we get in return by being surrounded by nature's beauty is incalculable"*.

Pompano Beach Garden Club's Edie Kappler reported that they conducted their 2021-2022 planning meeting at the end of June. Welcoming their new President, Sherry Walters and several new Board members, great ideas were brought forth for programs, events, and their annual fund-raising luncheon in February. Of great excitement is their hopes to conduct a floral design school this coming year. Details will be worked out at their August meeting. We look forward to hearing more about this later.

Wherever we are during these dog days of summer, gardeners will try to find a cool morning or evening to be in our gardens tending to the earth and its bounty. As Susan Berry of Hollywood Garden Club stated: *"No one has ever drowned in their own sweat so keep on gardening!"*

Yolanda Bernardini's **Lauderdale-by-the-Sea Garden Club** takes a hiatus during the summer months, but the Board continues to meet via Zoom. The Board is putting together the annual yearbook in binder form so that it can be updated easily. They have set "Embracing Wildflowers" as next year's theme and are working on monthly related-topics programs. Special events will likely include an informal flower exhibition and accompanying tea along with a plant and book sale. A generous member sells her hand-sewn masks and donates the proceeds to the club – from "lemons to lemonade" ..



DISTRICT XII NEWS

Leticia Gunn, Director
Counties: Dade, Monroe

Aah Summer, a time for lazy days lying about the pool sipping a cold beverage...NOT for District XII! Although none of the Clubs in our District meet during the summer months, we have lots to do to finish, continue or prepare to begin future projects and of course, plan and prepare for the coming year.

The Coral Gables Garden Club recently wrapped up their fabulous AS I SEE IT photography competition. They received images from all over the state showcasing the beauty and diversity of Florida. Seven categories were included, and each category had \$400 in cash prizes and the Marlene Kerdyk Grand prize winner received \$1,000.

The Grand prize-winning photo was taken at Fish-Eating creek in Palmdale Florida by Ana Bowers who lives in Sarasota (see photo). They plan to conduct the contest again beginning April 1, 2022.



The Coral Gables Garden Club theme for this year is "Pollinators in the Garden" and the programs and projects will reflect that theme throughout the year.

The South Miami Garden Club has been blooming and flowering during these summer months. The Board has had two dinner planning meetings. The Club's main goal will be to increase membership as there has been some attrition. Member Victoria Stevens as Club Communicator and Facebook Administrator was tasked with maintaining social media visibility of the Club and a photographer has been assigned.

The Board has reviewed the FFGC Membership Handbook that was distributed at FFGC Convention and is planning to utilize many of the suggested methods of increasing membership such as a ways and means event, getting t-shirts and printing business cards. Past President Nancy Maszta will be Programs Chair and is planning the year's programs as well as summer activities to get all the Club members excited for the coming year.

After attending FFGC Convention, Club President Annie Goodrich-Sorgie has brought back drive and enthusiasm to propel the Club to grow and prosper. The Club is poised to submit for awards for continuing and new projects and programs. Each officer and chairman has been tasked to sign on to the FFGC website and become familiar with all of the ideas, programs and wealth of resources that are in the website. The Club will meet for another summer dinner planning meeting at the end of July or the beginning of August.

Coral Pines, after having two successful in-person end-of-the-year events in April and May, club members are ready to meet in-person for the 2021-2022 Garden Club Year. Preliminary/Tentative plans include the following: two guest speakers, the first, on the history of the Deering Estate, and the second, on weeds as pollinators. They are also planning two field trips to local botanic gardens, a fund-raising activity to fulfill their commitment to the Deering Estate in its effort to restore the Garden Brooke Trail. Also in the works are a membership drive, a craft project using herbs, a plant auction, a program on floral design, raffles, and two social events, a holiday party and the end-of-the year Spring Luncheon.



Normally, no club activities occur during the summer months. However, since the coronavirus prevented Club members from entering the East Ridge Retirement Village for over a year, a small group was finally able to enter the grounds on Saturday, June 26th. After providing identification, vaccination proof, and a temperature check, eight members, with their gardening tools in hand, began weeding, hoeing, clipping, replaced two plants, and mulched the Endangered Native Butterfly Habitat that Coral Pines Garden Club planted January 27, 2020, and dedicated February 19, 2020, to Nancy Fehr (striped shirt in photo). In three hours, the work was done, and the two sections were completely refreshed. Sightings of the Atala and Polydamus swallowtail, and Zebra longwing are evidence that the right plants attract the butterflies.

The South Dade Garden Club has been busy preparing for the coming year. Since the club has been growing, it has outgrown its old meeting place at the Fruit & Spice Park. The new location will be announced next month as the Board finalizes the move.

Soon they will have a planning picnic for the Club, to plan what members want to do in the coming year and to plan for the committees, responsibilities and goals. This will help the Board determine some of the things that will be featured in our 2021-2022 Yearbook. The Club will be having classes in hypertufa pot making, painting and making homemade mixes from things you can grow in your garden this summer, among other things. These classes will be open to the public and supplies will be furnished for free on a limited basis. The Club continues to work with the Homestead Center for the Arts to bring more opportunities and events for members of South Miami-Dade County. The Club will be keeping busy!

Over the Summer, Marathon Garden Club is usually very quiet except for The Club's Thursday gardening work and plant sale. However, this Summer there has been a great deal of work done on the inside of The Club's building. The Third Vice President has led the charge to redo the Lobby and Gift Shop of Marathon Garden Club Center and it's beautiful! The members involved in the renovation can't wait for all the members to return and see the transformation.

The Club's first meeting in the Fall will be in October and for the first time in over a year the meeting will be in person at the Clubhouse. The Club's First Vice President has been busy lining up speakers for the entire season and Committee Chairs are busy working on events.

CONTINUING EDUCATION

*** NGC GARDENING SCHOOLS:

Vacant Chairman Position—TBA

*** NGC ENVIRONMENTAL SCHOOLS:

Vacant Chairman Position—TBA

*** NGC LANDSCAPE DESIGN SCHOOLS:

Vacant Chairman Position—TBA

*** These 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

NGC FLOWER SHOW SCHOOLS:

Susan Hillson, (561) 333-0740

Email: Susan.Hillson@gmail.com

District IV

The Ribault Garden Club

705 2nd Avenue North

Jacksonville Beach, FL 32250

Chair: *Carolyn Stevens*

Email: CarolynHStevens@gmail.com

Course II

Sep 28 - Oct 1, 2021

Instructors: Janice Hamlin (D, P)
Pam Braun (H)

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)

FLORAL DESIGN STUDY UNITS

Carol Lucia, FFGC Chairman

(727) 393-8276 (h) - (727) 656-3207 (c)

Email: CLucia02LUC@aol.com

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

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

All Floral Design Study Units must be registered!

District VII

Basic Units 1-6

Oct. 12, 19, 26, 2021

Nov. 2, 9, 16, 2021

Advanced Units 7-9 **Jan. 18, Feb. 8, 22, 2022**

Orlando Garden Club Loch Haven Park

710 East Rollins St. Orlando, FL.

Registrar: *Maureen Tuber* (407)-909-1461

Email: ne-tube@earthlink.net

District XI

Basic Units 1-6

Nov. 3, 10, 17, 24, 2021

(9am-3pm)

Dec. 1, 15, 2021

Pompano Beach Garden Club

Emma Lou Olson Civic Center

1801 NE 6th St. 33060

Pompano Beach, FL 33060

Chairman: *Edie Kappler* (954)-943-2699

Email: RBKappler@comcast.net

Registrar: *Cindy DeBlasio*

Email: CindyDaisy@me.com

UF SHORT COURSE

Florence Cline, Chairman

(352) 332-2309

Email: LadyBugFlorence2@gmail.com

District V

June 5-7, 2022

Gainesville

Theme: "Protecting the Life That Sustains Us"

Location to be determined

Host: *Lois McNamara*

TROPICAL SHORT COURSE

Tri-Refresher

Michelle Maguire, Chairman

(772) 485-3279

Email: MouthMom@yahoo.com

District X

in person

Jan. 19-20, 2022

Greenacres Community Center

501 Swain Blvd

Greenacres, FL

*** NORTH SHORT COURSE

Kat Spieker, Chairman

(850) 678-9898—(h) - (850) 687-6381 (c)

Email: spkfreedom@embarqmail.com

*** No Currently Scheduled Courses

FFGC FALL BOARD MEETING (2021)

Board Meeting **ZOOM** **Sep. 8-9, 2021**

ZOOM times will be Announced
the first week in September

FFGC WINTER BOARD MEETING (2022)

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

Board Meeting **Jan. 11-12, 2022**

FFGC Headquarters—Winter Park, FL

NGC FALL BOARD MEETING

Board Meeting **ZOOM** **Sep. 22-24, 2021**

ZOOM times to be Announced

DISTRICT XII NEWS - (cont'd)

The Butterfly certification program will also resume in October as there are more gardens to certify this season.

The Club's first event will be its annual Holiday Bazaar (Saturday 11/27) which will feature gently used Christmas décor and lots of interesting vendors selling plants, holiday gift items and of course, the Club's gift shop will be open. This event draws people from all over and really gets you in the holiday spirit!

Miami Beach Garden Club had its final event of the 2020-2021 year, and it was a Bon Voyage celebration themed Bee Well, decorated with beautiful handmade beehive centerpieces (picture included). The theme delivered three messages, an ode to the pollinating bees, a reminder to continue to stay safe from Covid and the usual farewell for the summer. This theme also sets up the theme for the upcoming year which is The Healing Garden. Second VP and FFGC Leadership Award recipient Patricia Wendell has put together programs that will reflect the bounty of healing that can come from plants. Marcia Bartczak, a contact Patricia made at the FFGC Convention last April will be the Club's first Speaker and present a program on Therapeutic Gardens. Patricia has also lined up a Speaker Mike Ortiz of Sip JoJo Tea for later in the year on Healing Teas which will feature a Tea Ceremony Presentation and tasting. For its annual Field Trip, Club Members will enjoy a bus trip to the Morikami Japanese Museum and Garden.



Under the stewardship of its three current Flower Show student Judges, the Club also plans to host its annual Flower Show titled Happy Hour in conjunction with the Miami Beach Botanical Garden's annual Home Garden Tour.

This proud District Director is happy to report that this summer, for the first time in a long time, Miami Beach Garden Club sent three sponsored campers to Wekiva Youth Camp. Three girls, parents and myself made the long trip to deliver the third, fourth and fifth grade happy campers to Wekiva for their week-long camp experience. As it was my first time visiting, I can't stress enough just how impressed the parents and I were with the camp facilities and staff. The girls' apparent glee will hopefully be replicated in more District XII campers as the Clubs in the District strive to sponsor more campers next summer.

SEEK (2021)

Save Earth's Environment through Knowledge

Mary Ann Whisler, SEEK 2021 Chairman

Email: Mary.Whisler66@gmail.com

Our theme this year is "Land, Water and Air"

WE DID IT! SEEK 2021 was a great success! The presenters were awesome and except for a little rainy afternoon it couldn't have been better. Our program advisor and counselor, Quinn Zacharias (former SEEK student) did a wonderful job of getting the best speakers. No words can express our appreciation. Dr. Kaplan/Dept of Biological Engineering kicked off our program on Monday afternoon with a trip to the Sweetwater Preserve.

SEEK (2021) - (cont'd)

The preserve is a man-made environment that takes road run off and grey water from the local waste management plant and turns it into clean water.

The preserve has been made into a beautiful walkable park with birds and wildlife. It is a truly wonderful example of recycling for water conservation! Our trip to the UF Research Park on Wednesday gave students insight into UF student research. They saw the development of a solar car from design, circuit board development, welding frames to completion sometime in 2023. All funds are obtained through grants and generous donations to the UF Solar Club. Dr. Ann Wilkie a research professor in bioenergy and sustainable technology in soil and water sciences gave students an overview of the importance of sustainable soil and water in feeding the future generations. She left us with one thought "everywhere you go you are on the earth's soil, that soil is like our skin, without the soil we have no earth".



Students were lead through hands-on experiments in mask filtration. Our final day wrapped up with an outstanding presentation from Dr. Laura Rodriguez an environmental engineer and CEO of an international company that develops air cleaners for energy plants. She

explained her educational journey from beginning her undergraduate studies to achieving her PhD. She was truly an inspiration to all our students.

This program could not have happened without the great volunteers who were there throughout the conference. Our lunches and dinners were provided by former FFGC President, Claudia Bates. We had lots of wonderful food. The unsung hero's who are rarely noticed but work their hearts out were volunteers Donna Thomas (District V Director), Diane Sullivan (Tampa Garden Club), FFGC President Marge Hendon and FFGC Vice President Tina Tuttle who drove our vans. And last, but not least Carol Wood who has worked throughout the year on registration. They are the "heart" of this program.

We aren't done yet! The committee has already started working with the UF team to bring SEEK to UF and the UF campus. We have been assured that UF will welcome us in 2022 so stay tuned! SEEK 2022 is right around the corner! FFGC SEEK is educating the future generation in preserving our planet! Our "thank you" to every FFGC garden club for your support and generous donations to this program. You have made this program successful!



The Alligator Newspaper (UF student paper) published an article on SEEK and I'd love for the membership to see this article: Environmental conference for Florida high school students held in Gainesville - The Independent Florida Alligator Alligator.org/article/2021/07/seek-conference

Tri-Council of FFGC

Nancy Richards, President, Tri-Council of FFGC

Mission Statement: The Tri-Council of FFGC consists of FFGC members who have completed, or are in the process of completing, NGC Environmental, Gardening or Landscape Design schools. Tri-Council augments education by stressing environmental protection, horticultural knowledge, and excellence in landscape design.



Many of our NGC consultants are unaware of the Tri-Council of FFGC. The Tri-Council is made up of consultants, and people working toward becoming consultants, from NGC Gardening, Environmental and Landscape Design schools. Tri-Council provides opportunities to further your education by engaging speakers, exploring community projects, and providing networking opportunities.

Let me introduce myself. I am Nancy Richards, a member of the Boca Raton Garden Club in District X, and a consultant in two schools, gardening and

environmental. I'm also the past State School/Credentials Chairman of the NGC Environmental School. I accepted this position as President of Tri-Council because of the interest people have shown in continuing their education and discovering ideas for community outreach.

I've chosen as my theme, "Stewards of our Habitats". Coming up with a theme is difficult; I wanted something to tie in the three NGC schools that Tri-Council represents, and emphasize who we are.

If one looks up the word "steward" in the dictionary, she gets a very bland definition. However, a biblical worldview of stewardship can be defined as: "Utilizing and managing all *resources* God provides for the glory of God and the *betterment* of His creation." That is the definition that appeals to me.

We have one earth, one life to live on this planet, and one chance to improve what has been given us. All three of the Tri-Council schools give us the tools to be worthy stewards.

Becoming a member is easy; simply provide your course history of each school and a sum of \$15. The application form can be downloaded at FFGC.org/Tri-Council-of-FFGC. You can be a consultant in one, two or all three of the Tri-Council schools, and the two-year membership is only \$15. Upon joining you are entitled to all the perks of membership.

Tri-Council has exciting plans for the year ahead, which includes hosting a recyclables fashion show and dinner during the January FFGC Board of Directors meeting, and a retreat to Silver Springs.

We'd like you to join us in these activities.

Matching Grants Program Report

Via Finance and SPC Committees

Marge Hendon and Gina Jogan,
respective Chairmen

As you are aware and have heard reported in the recent past, FFGC now has a MATCHING GRANTS PROGRAM. Together the Finance Committee and the Strategic Planning committee have established the criteria, have an application form which you can access online and will award up to \$5,000 per year in grant funds for various projects for clubs or circles: Clubs and Circles are eligible for up to \$500 in MATCHING FUNDS for:

- Any activity (workshop, program or other educational event) aimed at increasing membership by welcoming interested individuals to your Club/ Circle.
- An activity to beautify your community, such as park plantings, school gardens, a divided road median or roadside beautification.
- Any activity to increase awareness of our organization's mission, goals and objectives: "The Florida Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc promotes the love of gardening, floral and landscape design, and civic and environmental responsibility, by providing education, resources and networking opportunities for our members, youth and community".

Before reading the results of the 2021 MATCHING GRANTS PROGRAM, here are a couple of facts:

- The Finance committee members received, read and voted on the applications.
- The votes were tallied in two ways: by percentage and by rank of average scores.
- There were 19 applications this year from 10 districts.

And the Winners of the First FFGC Matching Grants Program are:

- | | |
|---------------|--|
| District VI | \$500-Garden Club by the Sea
Lily Park Revitalization Project |
| District VI | \$500-Garden Club of Halifax County
Vander Park Project |
| District VIII | \$500-Lemon Bay Garden Club
Butterfly Garden Renovations |

Matching Grants Program Report—(cont'd)

District I	\$500 Valparaiso Garden Club Paradise Gardens Renovations
District XI	\$500-Garden Club of Coral Springs Million Orchid Project
District I	\$500-Green Thumb Garden Club Oyster Lake Beautification
District II	\$500-ChIPLEY Garden Club Replacing Items Damaged In Hurricane
District V	\$425-Jasmine Circle, Gainesville G C Gainesville Opportunity Center Garden
District I	\$300-Green Thumb Garden Club Restore Project – Habitat for- Humanity
District I	\$275-Green Thumb Garden Club John Horton Senior Center
District X	\$250-Allamanda Circle, GC of Stuart Gardens @ House of Refuge at Gilbert's Bar
District XI	\$204-Garden Club of Coral Springs Butterfly and Bee Garden Project

Plant Wildflowers- Girl Scout Patch

Barbara Rao, FFGC Scout Liaison
Barbara_Rao@hotmail.com

What is the FFGC Girl Scout Wildflower patch? A youth activity that ENGAGES Garden Club members with local Girl Scout troops and provides joy and enrichment by teaching, sharing knowledge and learning about Wildflowers in all their natural beauty.



NGC/ FFGC Wildflower patch has a coreopsis flower and Sulfur butterfly imposed on a green background and was designed by a member of Lemon Bay Garden Club, District VIII. Members of Sarasota Garden Club and Lemon Bay Garden Club created lesson plans and activities to correspond to requirements which earn the patch. These lesson plans are as diverse as the troops and created by the Garden Club members. For the younger girls, simple identification techniques are used. For the older girls, models of wildflower gardens are created and used as the basis for hands-on activities in their own yards or community plots. Local Scout troops are introduced to local Garden Clubs who can help them earn the patch by teaching the benefits of planting wildflowers and using them to attract pollinators. Inspiration and interest in wildflowers promote the reduction of extra irrigation and fertilization as the wildflowers flourish in native habitats. A great way for the girls to dig in the dirt and be rewarded with butterflies!

Teaming with local scouts brings knowledge of natives and wildflowers by introducing how to plant at Garden Club grounds, local community gardens and scout homes. The Club members experience the pleasure of participating with the youth and the scouts receive the expertise and experience of the club members. This is an excellent opportunity for a club with young mothers, young at heart grandmothers or those who want to become involved with youth and reach out for new members. FFGC has an excellent Youth Program, but sometimes it is difficult to get into a school classroom setting. With Girl Scout troops the Wildflower patch program has activities, which can be handled by the troop leaders and Garden Club members together. Many troops want more detailed learning experiences which the Garden Club can provide. The Garden Club can create other learning environments with the Girl Scout Troops such as have a Florida Arbor Day Program which can be eligible for an award. Troops can participate in Flower Shows and add to the schedule with exhibits and activities.

Girl Scouts of Gulf Coast Florida based in Sarasota was instrumental in getting the word out to the local troops that members of local Garden Clubs are ready and able to help the local troops earn the Wildflower Patch.

Each region of Florida has its own headquarters and will be most helpful in putting a Garden Club and troop together. Research local troops and invite the leaders to learn about the Wildflower Patch. By getting the Garden Clubs involved with Girl Scout troops creates a new world for both groups.

The Wildflower Patch is available to Garden Clubs for distribution to Scout troops. The Lesson plans and activities are determined by the age and ability of the troop.

The purpose of the Patch is to help local Garden Clubs be involved in promoting a partnership with local Girl Scouts to reach a higher level of environmental stewardship.

Plant America Community Project Grants

Margaret Chodosh, NGC Liaison/NGC President's Special Project

Please all District Directors and Club Presidents encourage your members to apply for **Plant America Community Project Grants** due by Oct. 15, 2021. Through plant America grants up to \$1,000 is made available to be used for direct expenses of projects. Projects submitted for receiving a grant may be a joint venture with another organization/s. The scope of these projects in communities may include: beautification and/or restoration, community gardens, school gardens/classrooms, landscaping for "Habitat for Humanity" homes, landscaping of "Blue Star Memorial Markers", implementation of environmental practices, and a horticulture or environmental education event for the public.

Project Eligibility - Who May Apply:

Individual and near garden clubs that are members of National Garden clubs Incorporated please note that recipients of previous plant America Community project grants are not eligible to apply. Four clubs in Florida received this award last year: Garden Club by the Sea, Oleander Garden Club of Palm Beaches, Coral Pines Garden Club and Garden Club of Halifax County! Let's have very detailed information on submitting your application, application deadline, scale of points, funding guidelines, and final reports are on NGC website. If you have questions regarding Plant America project grants, please contact:

[David Robson](mailto:David.Robson@ngc.org), Plant America Project Chairman.
Applications must be submitted by October 15, 2021.

My contact info is email : LIchod@gmail.com.

WOW--Hot off the Press!

"Network With Nature"

Written by: *Brenda Moore* Illustrated by: *Emily Lackey Anderson*



Encourages children to put down their screens and play outdoors! for K through four children's book #1346 The cost is \$10.00. You can order from headquarters: 4401 Magnolia Avenue St Louis Missouri 63110-3492 Telephone: (314) 776-7574

Email: [Gardencub.org/store/network-nature-k-4-childrens-book](https://gardencub.org/store/network-nature-k-4-childrens-book)

New NGC 4 and 5 Star Members

Jacqueline Connell, FFGC 4/5 Star Chairman

National Garden Club offers a very prestigious National recognition to members who attend the four national study schools: Environmental, Gardening, Landscape Design, and Flower Show. Members are eligible to apply to become NGC Four Star Members after they have successfully completed the requirements for all four schools and have become a Flower Show Judge. Members who continue refreshing and go on to attain Master Status in all four disciplines including Master Flower Show Judge, may apply for NGC Five Star Membership, the highest of NGC honors. Four/Five Star Membership represents a significant individual achievement and recipients are rare and treasured members of NGC

New NGC 4 and 5 Star Members - (cont'd)

The Florida 4/5 Star Committee is thrilled to announce that five distinguished FFGC Members were honored with these esteemed National Garden Club recognitions at the Daytona Convention. Former State President Sue Angle introduced the Honorees as former National President Barbara May presented their Certificates of Merit. Andrea Finn received the Certificate of Merit for becoming a National 4 Star Member. Certificates of Merit for becoming 5 Star Members were presented to Tina Tuttle, Brenda Luedeman, and Joanne Mulinare.



Sally Flanagan, pictured at right) received her 5 Star Certificate of Merit separately.

To these accomplished members, we honor you, we congratulate you and we are inspired by you. You make us all very proud!



Looking ahead to next year, Applications are due to the **FL State 4/5 Star Chairman by Feb 1, 2022**. On the Application Form, which is available on the NGC website, applicants are asked to choose whether they wish to be presented with their certificate at the National Convention or the FL State Convention.

Please contact the State Chair with any questions.

Jacqueline Connell, FFGC 4/5 Star Chairman

TheMusesGarden@netscape.net

(413) 229-9977

FFGC History-Our 8th Decade-1995-2004

By: *Tina Tuttle*, FFGC 1st Vice President

President Marion B. Hilliard, 1995 – 1997, chose as her theme “Caring for Creation Through Service, Stewardship and Sunshine”. In 1995, membership was 21,600 and in 1997, 22,500. The Nell Coe two-year project was “Establishing Urban Wildlife Habitat Areas”.

A new *Membership Brochure* was published for 1995-1997.

Jess Connor’s South African Krugerrand with bezel and chain was presented to FFGC by former NCSGC and FFGC President Ellen Griffin in September 1995. President Hilliard represented FFGC at the 7th annual National Urban Forestry Conference in New York. Florida Forestry Council Urban Community Award received for our Hurricane Andrew Tree Project. Partnership plaques presented by Walt Disney World for FFGC participation in 1995 EP-COT International Flower and Garden Festival. A *Floral Extravaganza* at EPCOT was held featuring programs on Floral Design and a Mother’s Day flower show. Disney World 25th Community Service Award of \$3,000 and Silver Anniversary Trophy were presented to Wekiva Youth Camp program. Wekiva campers: 1995-(610), 1996-(598). The new Wekiva Canteen was dedicated in June 1995. SEEK conference held at UF with 70 students each summer.

We amended our standing rule for Precious Metal status to include clubs with 30, 40, and 50 years in FFGC. “*Book of Information*” was published in loose-leaf format. Scenic Highways/Greenways/Rails to Trails and School and Backyard Gardening chairmanships were added to the FFGC Board. Headquarters “Color Our Garden” program was initiated to renovate and re-landscape our headquarters grounds. The project received over \$3,000 in donations. The first edition Florida Series Ornament design, the state with orange blossoms, was approved with profits to be shared 25% to General Operating Fund and 75% to Headquarters and Endowment Fund for Headquarters Renovation Projects.

The second edition Florida Series Ornament, featuring the Monarch Butterfly,



the official FFGC Butterfly, was introduced at 1997 Convention. \$25,000 given to Scholarship Endowment Fund. Nine scholarships of \$1,500 and one for \$3,000 awarded in 1996. Ten scholarships given in 1997. “Tea and Croquet in the Park” to kick off Miami’s Centennial Celebration. Two FFGC sponsored Legislative Days were held at the Capitol with Governor Lawton Chiles proclaiming the day “FFGC Legislative Day”. We had 5,560 Youth Gardeners registered in over 150 units. One youth flower show was held with 1,200 participants. We published a new “*Youth Manual*” for group leaders. A new VCR program on *How to start a Youth Group* was taped. Garden Club of Switzerland won National Gardening Association \$500 seed and tool grant in recognition of their multi-level youth program. 121 school Butterfly Sanctuaries were registered and 67 Butterfly Sanctuary Certificates were presented to individuals, parks, hospitals, a prison and public areas and 8 Butterfly Gardens were certified. NCSGC/Shell Oil PETALS grant for I-10 Welcome center was co-sponsored by FDOT. NCSGC/Shell Oil PETALS grants were given to 15 clubs totaling \$6,725. Hazel Hodges, former FFGC President, received the first Highway Beautification Partnership Award from the “Keep Florida Beautiful” Commission. Hazel Dunlap Memorial Plaque relocated at new I-95 Welcome Center and Memorial tree dedicated in 1985. Landscaping was completed at I-95 Welcome Center entrance and parking corridors designated as a Special Project of FFGC and FDOT. Native Wildflower Seed Bank was active in collecting and sharing seeds throughout the state. 22,000 pounds of wildflower seeds were planted. The first FFGC sponsored Wildflower Conference: “Whose Roadsides are They Anyway” held October 1996. Four Wildflower Education Information Display Boards were placed at I-10, I-75 and I-95 Welcome Centers. President Hilliard and Elizabeth Pate, Roadside Beautification Chairman, were appointed to the I-75 Tourism and Highway Beautification Task Force by the Florida Legislature. \$15,000 grant was presented to FFGC/FDOT from the Federal Highway Administration. Five FDOT Maintenance Units received Ella P. Wood ‘Paths of Sunshine’ Awards. President Hilliard honored with a plaque for her commitment, support, and cooperation from FDOT. President Hilliard represented FFGC at the Governor’s Council for Sustainable Florida, the Environmental Education Award dinner, dedication of Titusville Garden Club Garden Center and Specialty Gardens, the NE Florida Environmental Round Table, the Environmental Education Resource Council, Greenscapes annual meeting, and dedication of landscaping at Wekiva Youth Camp, winner of the Rucker Award for Landscape Design.

Four fall and spring Flower Show Schools Symposia were held (Tampa, Pensacola, Maitland, and Jacksonville Beach). Four Flower Show Schools held, adding 22 judges. 26 Basic Floral Design Study Workshops with 100 Certificates awarded in 1997, 3 advanced series completed, and a 2-day refresher workshop for Floral Design Instructors was held in September, 1996. With Bob Thomas instructing, we introduced the “*Revised Floral Design Manual*” for instructors. Gardening Study Course was completed, four Short Courses were held, 2 at UF and 2 at West Palm Beach. Two Penal Therapy Horticulture shows held at Avon Park Correctional Institute. Two Horticulture Study Seminars were held in south Florida.

“Checkerboard Style” ADS Are Back This is a Sample

Only \$50.00 Per Box - All ads are “first come – first served”

**Advertise your club’s event to fit in one of the (12) 2.2” x 2.6” checkerboard boxes
Contact Inger Jones, MJInger@att.net for full details**

<p><u>Advertise Your Home Garden Tour</u></p>	<p><u>Advertise Your Community Garden</u></p>	<p><u>Announce Your Scholarship Winners</u></p>
<p><u>Advertise Your Flower Show</u></p>	<p><u>Advertise Your Field Trips</u></p>	<p><u>Advertise Your Fun With Flowers</u></p>

FFGC History-Our 8th Decade-1995-2004 - (cont’d)

Landscape Design School was held at headquarters. Two South Florida Tropical Horticulture shows were held with FFGC as co-sponsor. Two Blanche Covington Courses were held at Wekiva Springs State Park. Our District Speakers Directory list was revised. AV slide programs were reviewed, revised and new programs added. Monsanto Corporation donated 10 copies of “A Natural Balance: restoring native habitats and Paradise Found: Protecting the Galapagos Archipelago”. We published revised “Bee a Winner” booklet.

NGCSC 1996 Installation of Officers included Marion Hilliard, Phyllis Wood and Jean Villareal. Garden Clubs helped restore Hurricane Opal damage through contributions to Friends of Florida State Parks. A \$7,000 goal for roof restoration of greenhouses at Avon Park Penal Correctional Institute was achieved. Penal Therapy Fund initiated to establish the first Botanical Garden at Avon Park. The 1997 Arbor Day “Pull a Pepper, Plant a Tree” youth activity resulted in pulling 3,380 Brazilian Pepper and planting of 27 specimen trees. Plans, funding for Wedding/Special Event Gazebo on Headquarters patio approved. Blue Star Memorial Marker originally dedicated at site on US 1, Fort Lauderdale, replaced during special ceremony.

FFGC won Emerald Award for Deep South project, “Networking with the Birds”. 829,525 trees were planted for “Millions of Trees for the Environment”. Approximately \$10,000 contributed to World Gardening. \$60,000 added to FFGC Scholarship Endowment Fund. Camellia Woodville, variety ‘Marion Hilliard’ presented by Anna Barfield, registered African Violet “Marion’s Enchanted Trail” presented and *Euphorbia millii* variety ‘Marion

Hilliard’ presented by Frances Hunter.

1996 Deep South Awards included: *The Florida Gardener*, Membership, High School Gardeners, Junior Garden Club Award, Intermediate Gardeners Award, club awards for Historical Preservation & Restoration and Butterfly Conservation. Youth awards included “Keep America Beautiful”, High School speech contest, two youth poetry winners, three Smoky Bear & Woodsy Owl Poster Contest winners. 1996 NCSGC awards included NCSGC Silver Seal, Bronze Seal for Floral Extravaganza at EPCOT, six certificates for publications, Silver Trophy for Conservation Education at Wekiva Youth Camp, 10 Flower Show Awards, Exxon Civic Development Award, “*Tell me about Energy*” award and two Publicity Press Book awards. 1997 Deep South awards included High School Gardeners, Intermediate Gardeners Awards, and club awards, Historic Preservation, and Tree Planting. Youth Award included “*Our Strategy for Endangered Species Survival*”, High School Essay Contest, and one poetry winner. 1997 NCSGC awards included 14 flower show awards, Silver trophy for Conservation Education for Junior Ranger Program at Wekiva, a special certificate for SEEK ‘96 High School level conference, and six state and club publications awards. Operation Wildflower Roadside award won first place and \$1,000, and PETALS State entry won cash award of \$500.



FFGC History-Our 8th Decade-1995-2004 - (cont'd)

Resolutions adopted: Opposition to the proposed Highway Advertising Equity Act, support of retaining Chapman Field as Miami USDA Horticulture Research Station, opposition to Property Taking legislation, support of the Roadside Beautification Act, opposition to a Florida Vegetative Logo Program, support of strong clean water policy, support of Revitalization of Ocklawaha River, opposition to Closure of Division of Forestry Miami Coconut Palm Orchard, support of Office of Environmental Education, support of Acquisition of Perdida Pitcher Plant Prairie Preserve by CARL (Conservation and Recreation Lands) Program, support of consideration of Melaleuca mulch as an environmental alternative to Cypress mulch and support of Preservation 2000. We also supported the strengthening and protection of the Endangered Species Act, support of the Scenic Highway Protection Act, support of Clean Water Act, support of funding the Blueway Project (Indian River Lagoon) by the CARL program, support of revised land and resource management plan, and support of Blackwater Heritage Trail.

The 1996 Deep South Regional Convention "Wings and Things of Wonder" was hosted by FFGC in Orlando with 298 attending. The 1996 FFGC convention, "A Gardening Celebration on Florida's First Coast", held in Jacksonville and hosted by Garden Club of Orange Park and District IV, registered 502. Bylaws were amended to increase individual dues to \$9, husband and wife dues to \$10, and the FFGC President to be "Editor-in-Chief" of *"The Florida Gardener"*.

Our 26th State Flower Show, "The Worlds of Gulliver", was hosted by the Judges Councils of Districts VI and IV, held in Daytona Beach in conjunction with 1997 Convention, 'Sea, Sand and Surf' hosted by District VI, registered 542.



President Jo Williams, 1997 – 1999, chose as her theme, "Now is the Time to Touch Tomorrow". FFGC Membership was 20,000, making it the largest club in NCSGC. Membership was 19,199 as of December 1997. The total FFGC Life Memberships 2,005 in 1997 and 2,108 in 1998. Four organizations were accepted as affiliates: Harry P. Leu Gardens of Orlando, Audubon House and Tropical Gardens of Key West, Central Florida African Violet Society of Orlando, Botanic Gardens, Inc. of Naples. Silver Springs, recognized as new affiliate.

Twenty-five national awards were presented, including 14 Flower Show rosettes. FFGC received the Governors Environmental Education award for Wekiva Youth Camp. A slide program of designs made by FFGC members was prepared. The special FFGC Youth Project was "Grandmother Stories for Youth Ears NATURE-LY". FFGC donated \$1,000 to the National Fund for the US Botanical Garden. At the 26th annual Community Service Awards Ceremony, the Walt Disney World presented a trophy and check for \$3,000 to Wekiva Youth Camp. SEEK '97 was held at UF with 68 students in attendance. Deep South Regional Project "Naturally Native" was participated in by many clubs. Over 2,000 trees were planted in Miami's Margaret Pace Park by members of District XII (founder and past president of the Miami Garden Club).



FDOT agreed to provide \$30,000 to fund efforts to obtain Coreopsis Specialty License Plate; FFGC furnished 10,000 signatures for the license plate. The sale of the plate provides a wildflower research center in Florida to sustain, enhance and expand Florida's

heritage of native wildflowers.

Special presentation held for membership and a tribute given to Ellen Griffin by Past Presidents of FFGC. Seven benches were added to the patio area at

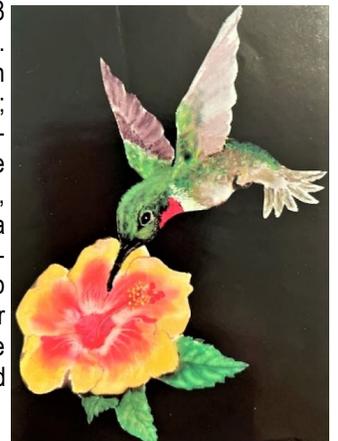
Headquarters. \$40,000 from H&E Fund was used to remodel the FFGC Headquarters building entrance. Eight FFGC Scholarships for 1997-1998 were awarded. A Scholarship Tea entitled "Aura of Earth" was held at the 1924 historic home in Coral Gables, proceeds benefit the Scholarship Endowment Fund Program. The remainder of the Hurricane Andrew Fund (\$2,200) was donated for trees for Habitat for Humanity projects in the Miami area. Landscape Design Courses were held in Jacksonville, Winter Park, and at the Garden Club of Jacksonville. Gardening Study Courses were held



Robert C. Thomas

at Pinellas Extension Office, in Bradenton, and in District VIII at the Hillsborough Extension office in Seffner. Floral Design Study was sponsored by Garden Club of Crystal River and Palm Garden Club. Flower Show School held in St Petersburg. A Horticulture and Floral Design Show was held at Avon Park Correctional Institution on March 21. FFGC fall Symposium was held in Winter Haven and the spring Symposium held April 13-15 in District IV. Tampa Federation of Garden Clubs held a fall Symposium and the Spring Symposium was held in Pensacola. President Williams assisted creating a book on creative design, a legacy of Bob Thomas' life work.

GALA '97 held in Tampa with a profit of \$22,257. A total of 6,161 copies of the "1998 Florida Flower Arrangement Calendar" were sold with a profit of \$7,458.91. Blanche Covington Nature Study Course held January 22-25 at Sea camp, Newfound Harbor Marine Institute facility in Big Pine Key (for more info www.seacamp.org). The 42nd Annual Tropical Short Course, "Time out in the Tropics", held in West Palm Beach. Guidelines for a proposed FFGC certified Butterfly Sanctuary were adopted. Two Environmental Awareness Seminars entitled "Protecting your Water: Every Citizen's Responsibility" were held. Legislative Day was held, and President Williams addressed the Cabinet of the State of Florida at the Capitol. In March 1997, Legislative Day was again held in Tallahassee. Two new FFGC Historic Preservation awards were adopted. Horticulture Study Course held in Miami. The FFGC, Winter Park Garden Club, the Federated Garden Circles of Fort Lauderdale, and Berne Davis donated four engraved bluestone granite pavers to the National Garden in Washington, DC (for more info: usbg.gov/national-garden). Thirty-four garden clubs applied for and received PETALS grants. FFGC Convention, "Splendor in the Tropics" was held in Fort Lauderdale April 29-30 with attendance of 457. "Path of Sunshine" garden planned to complement the newly refurbished FFGC Headquarters. At the NCSGC convention in Denver, an Award of Excellence was presented to FFGC's nominee, Katy Moss Warner, Director of Horticulture and Environmental Initiatives for Disney. Twenty-two Florida clubs won Deep South and/or NCSGC awards for 1997-1998. 146 attended Short Course at UF in 1997 and UF Short Course '98 was held June 10-12, theme "Florida Natives", with 186 in attendance. FFGC donated \$1,000 to NCSGC Disasters Fund. Receipts for the National Garden Project total \$10,038 for the first year of the four-year project. Welcome Station Wildflower Information Boards on I-75 and I-10 were completed; brochures were created highlighting wildflowers and their locations throughout the state. FFGCs award winning website, FFGC.org, went online July 25th. Wekiva Youth Camp '98 went on record as the hottest with 13 days of record heat! New camp *Songbook* was published. New award for Horticulture established. Third edition of the Florida Series ornament, the Ruby-throated Hummingbird, was introduced.



FFGC History-Our 8th Decade-1995-2004 - (cont'd)

"Let's Celebrate", FFGC's 27th State Flower Show, held at headquarters November 19-20. The "Path of Sunshine Garden" was dedicated to Bob Thomas. As part of the celebration, 150 butterflies were released into the garden. Bricks for the "Path of Sunshine Garden" at FFGC Headquarters were sold for \$30 each. The new foyer was named for Addie Lou Harris. NCSGC President, Babs Barnette, was present to help with the ribbon cutting.



A dedication ceremony, hosted by the Federated Garden Circles of Fort Lauderdale, for a Medicinal Garden was held February 28 at Nova Southeastern University, College of Pharmacy. On March 6, the first Standard Flower Show held in a penal institution titled, "Putting our Act Together", was staged at Avon Park Correctional Institute, accomplished through teamwork between inmates, administration and the Lake Placid GC, Hibiscus GC and the GC of Sebring. 1999 FFGC Convention "Celebrate! Diamond Jubilee" was held in St Petersburg hosted by Winter Haven Council of Garden Clubs, 446 in attendance.

President Carolyn Schaag, 1999 – 2001, chose as her theme: "Centuries in Blossom". In 1999 membership was 19,633, and in 2000 it was 19,362. 18 organizations joined FFGC as affiliate members. Youth Membership for 1990-2000 included 5,400 juniors, 282 intermediates and 143 high school and in 2000-2001, 3,610 juniors, 298 intermediates, 96 high school.



The Nell Coe two-year project was "Youth Achievement". A hot pink hybrid hibiscus was named 'Carolyn Schaag'.

The year 1999, was the 75th anniversary of organization of FFGC. The year 2000, our January Board meeting was the 75th anniversary of 1st FFGC Board meeting and drafting of constitution and bylaws.

2001 *Florida Flower Arrangement Calendar* was our 50th edition. Year 2001, FFGC 75th State Convention. *The Florida Gardener* 50th anniversary. New century and millennium commemorated with time capsule placed at Headquarters (in the safe), to be opened in 2100, and Living History tree, a George Washington Holly, was planted at Headquarters January 12, 2000.

Deep South awards, 18 in 2000 presented in Nashville, TN, 13 in 2001 presented in Calloway Gardens, GA. NCSGC awards, 26 in 2000 presented in San Diego, CA including Award of Excellence for Individuals to Dr. Thomas C. Emmel (butterfly expert), 26 in 2001 presented in Chicago, IL, including Award of Excellence for Individual to Thomas J. MacCubbin and \$1000 Operation Wildflower Awards to Valparaiso GC, Palm Harbor GC and FFGC for "Crossroads in Blossom" project. Butterfly Sanctuaries total of 122. Clubs

planted 150 Century Trees in their communities to celebrate this new century plus over 132,500 trees. Short Course UF in Gainesville held in June 1999 and 2000. Tropical Short Course held in West Palm Beach in February 2000 and 2001. Landscape Design School held in Sebring. Environmental Studies School held in Bradenton. Wekiva Youth Camp Leadership Training held at Camp in February 2000. Blanche Covington Nature Study Course held at Sanibel Island in September 2000. Fifteen Flower Show courses held in Marathon, Orlando, Pensacola, Tallahassee and West Palm Beach. Four Flower Show Judges Symposiums in Altamonte Springs, St. Augustine, Palm Beach Gardens and DeLand. Floral Design classes in all districts with 27 of basic design and 14 of advanced designs. Two one-day workshops held for certified Floral Design Instructors. Two major Deep South Regional Project conferences held at Headquarters in 2000, in March, "Blossoms and Butterflies", in September "Environmentally Yours". FFGC members created floral arrangements for Mothers' Day at EPCOT International Flower and Garden Festival each year. FFGC served as hostesses for NCSGCs Butterfly Garden at EPCOT in 2000. March 28, 2000 declared 'FFGC Day' when President Schaag addressed the Governor and Florida Cabinet at State Capitol in Tallahassee and planted a Heritage Tree on Capitol grounds.

The 74th annual convention, "A Century Awakening", April 26-27, 2000, at Embassy Suites in Boca Raton, with NGC President Deen Smith as special guest and speaker, and Flower Show Judges Councils' first Petite Standard Flower Show, "Jubilee Junket", to celebrate their 50th anniversary. The 75th annual convention, "International Magic", April 21-22 at Grosvenor Resort in Buena Vista, with Deep South Director Peggy White as special guest and speaker, State Flower Show, "EPCOT Escapades", held at EPCOT.



Fourth edition state ornament featured Coreopsis, Florida State Wildflower. Fifth edition featured Great Blue Heron. A bill establishing a special wildflowers license plate featuring Coreopsis was signed by Governor Jeb Bush in June 1999. Final design approval granted in February 2000 by Florida State Cabinet.



President Schaag and former First Lady Anne MacKay hosted a coming out Garden Party at FFGC Headquarters for the new license plate. President Schaag appointed to the Florida Wildflower Advisory Council and Florida Wildflower Foundation. Garden clubs landscaped 100 Habitat for Humanity homes. Run, walk and rock and roll-athons were held throughout the state to raise funds. Headquarters rear patio improved, and garden path added with engravable bricks. Stepping stones featuring district flowers, a gift of Jeni Jordan, were placed in the garden.

FFGC Fall 1999 Board meeting postponed a week due to a hurricane. FFGC hosted NCSGC Executive Board meeting in Winter 2001 at Disney. FFGC Board Dinner in April 2001 was held at EPCOT. Three cruises to Panama Canal, Alaska and New Orleans earned \$13,700 for FFGC.

A new pin signifying membership in FFGC National Garden Project was introduced: contributed over \$23,000 to Butterfly Garden within National Garden in Washington, DC. Three FFGC members, Elise Haymens, Carolyn Schaag, and Joyce Droege won awards at the National Flower Show held in San Diego in May 2000. A \$500 grant for "Crossroads in Blossom" project to beautify I-75/I-10 intersection grew to \$300,850 in partnership with FDOT.

Book of Information and Supplement, Presidents Kits, 2 *Florida Flower Arrangements Calendars*, new *Florida Garden Club Manual*, *Headquarters Has it*, *The Florida Gardener* (Quarterly), brochures for Wekiva Youth Camp and Junior Gardeners, flyer for Arboreta and Botanical Gardens in Florida and membership flyer "Plant, Grow, Blossom" were published. FFGC website recognized as "outstanding".

A new wildflower poster was presented at 2001 FFGC Convention. Elizabeth Pate represented FFGC at "Managing Roadsides Naturally" National Conference at Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center in Austin, TX.

FFGC History-Our 8th Decade-1995-2004 - (cont'd)

We awarded 4 college scholarships in 1999 and 8 in 2000. Four new scholarships were established and 8 previous scholarships increased from \$1,500 to \$2,500. Both summers 80 high school students attended SEEK at UF in Gainesville. Both summers 600 campers attended WYC. In June 1999 FFGC celebrated 40th anniversary of a youth camp and was recognized for its 25th year anniversary of Wekiva Youth. Fran Mainella, Director of DEP Division of Recreations and Parks, attended the 25th Wekiva Youth Camp Birthday Bash summer of 1999 and presented an award. Camp improvements included new furniture, an air conditioned dining hall, construction of roofed deck on Nature Hut, sun shelter at pool and a ground breaking ceremony for the 4 bedroom/2 bath cabin. Florida State Park system voted as Americas Best and presented state Parks Gold Medal and past FFGC WYC Chairmen received replica pins. New programs and chairmanship was established with emphasis on Children's Gardens. Children involved in youth flower shows, planting trees at schools for Arbor Day and Earth Day.



President Gloria R. Blake, 2001 – 2003, chose as her theme "Joy in Gardening". Membership: 18,707. Fourteen organizations joined FFGC as affiliate members. The Nell Coe Award for Achievement in Education in horticulture, design, conservation or nature studies was offered during this administration.

Deep South Awards, 6 first place winners in 2002 presented in Orlando, FL, including the Deep South Region Life Membership Award, the School Grounds Improvement Award, the High School Gardeners Award, the Butterfly Conservation Award, and the Garden Club of the Year Award. In 2003 at Gulf Shores AL, 7 first place winners, including the School Grounds Improvement Award, the Environmental Education Award, the Wildflower Award, the Deep South Unified Regional Project Award, and the Deep South Life Membership Award, plus the NGC Publicity Press Book Award, the Member Award of Honor, the Deep South Life Membership Trophy. In 2002, on an NGC Convention cruise to Bermuda, Florida received 7 Certificates of Merit for publications, 6 rosettes for flower shows, a Certificate of Merit for Blue Star Memorial Marker, 2 NGC scholarship winners from Florida, the Award of Excellence for the FFGC website, won for State Flower Show, and received the May Duff Walters Trophy for Preservation of Beauty. In 2003, at the NGC Convention in Biloxi, MS, FFGC received 9 flower show rosettes, 4 Certificates of Merit for publications, a Certificate of Merit for National Garden Week, 2 NGC scholarship winners from Florida, Special Achievement Certificate, won Hazel Johnson Trophy for Conservation for work at Wekiva Youth Camp, received the Jessie M. Connor award for Environmental Education, plus won "Leaf Our Way into Century 21", and for FFGCs project, "Crossroads in Blossom", received Operation Wildflower.

FFGC 76th State Convention, April 17-18, 2002 at the Radisson Resort in Cape Canaveral had as its theme, "FFGC Blast Off". Special speakers included Addie Lou Harris, Deep South Region Director and Link Johnson, Floral Designer. A Petite Flower Show, "Out to Launch" was sponsored by the Florida Council of Nationally Accredited Flower Show Judges. FFGC 77th State Convention, April 30-May 1, held at the Adams Mark Hotel, Jacksonville with the theme of "Rainbows on the River" and guests and speakers included Lois Shuster, NGC President and Penny Decker, Floral Designer. Biennial State Flower Show, "Cruising Down the River", was held in conjunction with the convention.

We sponsored the following NGC Schools: 6 Flower Show Schools, 4 Flower Show Judges symposiums, Landscape Design Study and Refresher Course. Gardening Study Refresher course. Four statewide Short Courses (2 Tropical and 2 in conjunction with the UF); 28 Floral Design classes held with 447

certificates issued. Two 1-day workshops for Floral Design Instructors, several Presidents Summits held, a Nature Study leadership conference as well as the Wekiva Youth Camp Leadership Training, and an Environmental Awareness Seminar entitled "Today's Challenge: Good Earth Keeping". Mothers' Day at EPCOT in conjunction with the Flower and Garden Festival featured 30 FFGC designers in 2002 and 31 in 2003. In addition, FFGC members presented two floral design demonstrations every Sunday for 6 weeks. Sixth in Florida ornament series (2001-2003) featured the Zebra Longwing Butterfly, the official State of Florida butterfly. The specialty license plate has been purchased by 24,536 loyal gardeners and has thus provided funds of \$383,040 for wildflower research. New wildflower poster featuring "Coreopsis lanceolata" distributed to all district directors for 2001-2003 and FFGC purchased coreopsis seed for distribution.

Garden clubs in every district sponsored landscape projects for Habitat for Humanity homes. Funds available from FFGC to assist clubs in landscaping projects total \$4,483, raised by Habitat walk-a-thons, plus donations of \$12,416 and donations of plants from nurseries. Major Headquarters renovations included a new irrigation system, remodeling of the kitchen with new appliances, and a handicapped bathroom. Construction of a new addition for extra storage plus two extra meeting rooms and another bathroom began. In 2002 President Blake and several FFGC members visited the State Capitol and spoke to the Florida cabinet about FFGCs youth programs and in 2003 FFGC was represented by officers and members at the Florida Cabinet for Legislative Day with President Blake again addressing the Governor and the Cabinet about environmental concerns and goals of FFGC. During the presentation, Governor Bush expressed his wish to join FFGC, which he did! Over \$5,000 received from FFGC sponsored cruises to the Caribbean and Hawaii. Donations to the Nature Conservancy of Tiger Creek totaled more than \$5,000. Fourteen clubs and one district received PETALS grants totaling \$4,700 and FFGC received a PETALS grant of \$1000 for beautifying the I-75 Ellisville Rest Centers for a total of \$5,700. "Book of Information" and Supplement, two Presidents Kits, two "Florida Flower Arrangement Calendars", "Headquarters Has It" brochure, "The Florida Gardener" (quarterly), membership flyer, "Joy in Gardening", and new brochures "Forming a Garden Club Made Easy" and "Mentoring members" were published. A new endowed scholarship given in memory of former FFGC President Ella Wood. 15 scholarships were made available ranging from \$2,500 to \$3,500. Seven scholarships were awarded from 2001-2002 and 9 scholarships were awarded for 2002-2003. SEEK with 60 students, was held at UF in the summers of 2001 and 2002. In 2002 it was extended to 4 days to allow more coverage of topics such as The Weather and The Lightning Stalker. Florida reported a two-year total of 770,145 trees planted. Wekiva Youth Camp served over 600 students each summer. The 4-bedroom volunteer cabin was christened "Tequesta" and occupied for the first time. An addition to the program in 2002 was Critter Camp for Kindergarten through second grade. A new Camp Wekiva slide show was made available from headquarters. Over \$11,000 was donated to FFGCs World Gardening and Natural Disasters project.

President Joan W. Pryor, 2003 – 2005, chose as her theme: 'Keep Growing'. Membership was 17,700. The Nell Coe Award was given for best stand of wildflowers or native plants on a trail in Florida.

The 2004 Deep South Regional convention was held in Baton Rouge, LA. FFGC received first place in School Grounds Improvement, Historic Preservation, Membership Award, Butterfly Conservation Award, Adopt-a-Park, Community Action Award, and Intermediate Gardeners Award, plus the Deep South Member Award of Honor to Eugene J. Spargos of Lakeland.



In 2005 at Tunica, MS, FFGC received first place in "Volunteers with 20/20

FFGC History-Our 8th Decade-1995-2004 - (cont'd)

In 2005 at Milwaukee, WI, FFGC received eight flower show awards, two publication awards, the NGC Conservation Award, Roadside Beautification Award, and DeFuniak Springs received the NGC Special Award for Historic Gardens. The Member Award of Honor was given to Marie Harrison, the Helen S. Hull Award to Inez Brooker, and the Award of Excellence to Jim Thomas.

FFGC 78th State Convention, April 19-21, 2004, was held at the Hilton-UF Conference Center, Gainesville. The theme was "Ready, Set, Go" with special speaker June Wood, NGC President, Lorraine Gabler and Sue Kerslake, Designers, Charlotte Porter, Bartram Historian, Don Goodman, Director of Kanapaha Botanical Gardens, John Moran, Nature Photographer, and Eddie Payne, Floral Designer for Rose Parade, plus tours to Kanapaha Botanical Gardens and Payne's Prairie, both described by William Bartram in "Travels". FFGC State Convention "Beauty by the Bay" and 30th Biennial Flower Show, "Bay in Bloom", April 28-30, 2005, was held at the Grand Hyatt Hotel, Tampa. Guest speakers were Bonnie T. Borne, Deep South Regional Director, Jennie Lee Zipperer, Woman of the Year in Agriculture, Joe Parr, Busch Gardens Horticulturist, and Kenn Stephens, Floral Designer.

Many of Florida's Blue Star Markers were refurbished and rededicated during this administration and several new ones have been added bringing the total to 117.

An innovative approach for the Winter Board meeting of 2004 divided members into Cluster Meetings that allowed an exchange of ideas pertinent to each group. The Fall Board meeting of 2004 was cancelled due to hurricanes.

Flower Show Schools were held, along with four Flower Show Judges Symposiums, Landscape Design School, Garden Study School and Refresher Courses for Gardening, Environmental and Landscape Design. Other Schools offered included two Tropical Short courses, two Gardening and Design Seminars, a Blanche Covington Nature Study Leadership Conference, two Wekiva Youth Camp Leadership training sessions, 21 Floral Design classes with 14 in basic design and 7 in advanced design, two one-day workshops for Floral Design Instructors, several Presidents Summits and one Deep South Regional Workshop, "Project Wet".

For the 10th and 11th years, FFGC participated in the EPCOT Flower and Garden Festival with over 30 designers participating in the Mother's Day Flower Show and seven members giving demonstrations throughout the weekend. The publication of the 55th *Florida Arrangement Calendar* was notable for being photographed digitally.

NGC recognized members who completed the four NGC schools. The first Four Star Members in Florida were Joan Pryor, Joan Garrison, Jean Skoien, Carol Lucia, Rose Vickers, Barbara Jones and Betty Waterfield. During this administration, "Fun with Flowers" was established as a statewide program and a copyrighted manual was created for distribution in 2004. FFGC continued partnership with Habitat for Humanity by landscaping over 100 homes and raising over \$14,000 for the program. In addition to the emphasis placed on planting Native Plants and Wildflowers on Trails in Florida, a separate thrust was made to encourage the use of native eco-type seeds in Florida. A new award, "Pillar of Pride", was established to recognize members of purpose, pride and productivity. In the first two years, 37 members were given this honor. To recognize clubs that have existed for more than 80 years, the Precious Metals status of Double Diamond was approved. "Presidents Kits" were prepared. Four Principal Financial Group Historic Grants totaling \$6,000 were given to four clubs, Fort Myers, Tallahassee, DeFuniak Springs and Tampa. Throughout this administration, eight special publicity releases were prepared for clubs to use in their hometown papers. In 2004, five students and in 2005 nine students each received scholarships of \$2,500. Donations to the scholarship endowment fund totaled \$6,737.

Cruises from New York to Maine and Nova Scotia and from Miami to Bermuda and a trip to the Rose Bowl Parade New Year's Day, 2005, highlighted FFGCs trips.

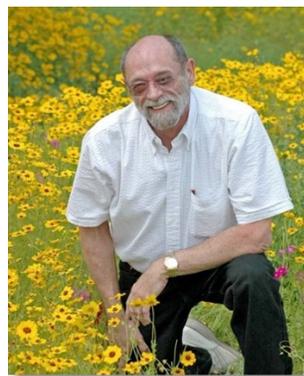
In fulfilling the goal of America-a-Bloom, garden members planted 10,797 flowering trees. Sale of the red daisy pin in 2004 and the long-winged zebra butterfly pin in 2005 were special fund projects. Wekiva Youth Camp was accredited by the American Camp Association (ACA). A new program started at Wekiva in 2003 was a 9th grade program, Leaders in Training (LIT).



This invitational program is limited to those campers who have been recommended by the 8th grade leaders. Wekiva Leadership Training emphasized water in 2004 and black bears in 2005. Improvements to counselor's cabins, bathrooms, dining hall, and the craft hall were completed at Wekiva Youth Camp.

FFGC History – Gary Henry (FDOT)

From: *Tina Tuttle*, FFGC 1st Vice President



Isn't it interesting how much of the FFGC history is intertwined with the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT)?

The partnership dates back to the beginnings of both organizations and our 7th Decade recalled an amazing time of high achievement by the Florida Federation of Garden Clubs in cooperation with the FDOT.

During the Federation's seventh decade, Gary Henry, the well-known much-liked landscape architect (along with his closest collaborators at FDOT, Dick Bush and

Ralph Carter, both honoured and celebrated by FFGC with Life Memberships), was the force at FDOT driving the designation of state roadways as "Paths of Sunshine". By the eighth decade, Gary was the unstoppable force at FDOT behind the biggest FFGC partnership of all, the "**Florida Wildflower License Plate**". Gary continued cooperation with roadside beautification, Glenn Glitter, Ella P. Wood Paths of Sunshine Endowment Fund, annual awards, the Florida Highway Beautification Council, Blue Star Memorial Markers and byway markers. His emphasis was always on educating the public about wildflowers and he facilitated planting thousands of acres of wildflowers and native plants on scenic highways, created wildflower posters and postcards featuring coreopsis, instituted an annual wildflower conference, and wrote the booklet *Wildflowers in Florida*.



FFGC History – Gary Henry (FDOT) - (cont'd)

Frequently and sincerely, Gary credited FFGC for his successes. Without FFGC, he'd have been one voice in a crowded state agency. FFGC encouragement and recognition fuelled him; gave him strength to rally the resources needed for FDOT to keep up its part of the partnership. Gary's office and home had many FFGC awards and thank you gifts and cards on display. His FFGC Life Membership meant so much and he was proud of the honour. Most of all, Gary enjoyed his friendships with fellow gardeners, wildflower enthusiasts, and stewards of nature's beauty. He loved coming to our convention to be with friends.

The FFGC and FDOT made an unbeatable team, mission driven, finding the best ways to preserve the quality of our environment and communities. Gary's passing is too sad but his memory lives on! Just look out the window as you drive along and you will see his lasting legacy.

If you wish to make a donation to Gary's memory, please consider:

The Florida Wildflower Foundation

225 S. Swoope Avenue, Suite 110
Maitland, FL 23751.

FFGC Butterfly Sanctuary Certificate

By: *Carol Stender*, District X
submitted by: *Barbara Jacobson*,
Chairman: FFGC Birds and Butterflies

In the Fall of 2020, former president of the Boynton Beach Garden Club (District X) Christine Johnson launched a project: "FFGC Butterfly Sanctuary Certification". Already a bird and bee friendly garden, Christine's latest plantings are designed to attract and nurture various species of Florida butterflies, particularly the Monarch butterfly whose numbers have decreased dramatically in recent years.

The Monarch butterfly's host plant is the genus *Asclepias* (Milkweed), but many of the over 100 species of this native plant fail to thrive in southeast Florida's climate and the species that does thrive was not readily available locally. After she expressed her concern, friends and family started sending milkweed plants from North Carolina, Georgia, and local nurseries. Many of the milkweed plants already had Monarch eggs deposited on them. Once "hatched", the caterpillars devoured the milkweed leaves. But another problem soon presented itself.



As soon as the caterpillars populated the milkweed, the many birds in her wildlife friendly garden began happily gobbling them up! Undaunted, and with the help of her brother, Christine manufactured grow boxes, boxed frames covered with screening.

Once the boxes were ready, the milkweed plants with eggs on them were placed inside where the caterpillars were free to devour the leaves of their host plant. Now safe from the birds, the caterpillars became pupa, or chrysalis, out of which eventually emerged the mature Monarch butterflies.



Thus, Christine had created an actual Monarch butterfly nursery. Her nursery has raised and released hundreds of Monarch butterflies. I visited Christine's gardens in early January. As soon as I got out of my car, I was greeted with an abundance of flowering foliage, abuzz with bees and flitting butterflies.

A lush protective canopy from two mature live oaks shelters her front yard.



Each oak is surrounded by its own garden, resplendent with a wide variety of flowering plants and bushes, bromeliads, begonias, impatiens, and ferns. A great, healthy diversity of plantings is the hallmark of Christine's gardens and, I am sure, a key to their success. Additionally, included in each garden one finds at least one unique water feature, numerous bird houses, and a collection of well-placed garden art. The overall effect is most charming.

As we strolled around the house, Christine pointed out various wildlife-friendly plantings. A few of Christine's favorites include:

- *Hamelia patens* (Firebush) a magnet for butterflies and hummingbirds
- *Duranta erecta* (Golden Dewdrop) full of frilly purple flowers
- *Passiflora suberosa* (Corky Stem Passion Vine), larval host plant for Zebra Longwing, Gulf Fritillary and Julia butterflies
- *Rondeletia leucophylla* (Panama Rose) A favorite nectar plant.



Two of my favorites were a unique *Clerodendrum smithianum* (Light Bulbs Plant) full of dangling white flowers which truly resemble miniature light bulbs and the fragrant *Aloysia virgata* (Sweet Almond Bush), a favorite nectar plant for the attractive endangered Atala butterfly.



Christine also includes the host plant for the Atala butterfly in her garden, the *Zamia integrifolia* (Coontie).



The Atala butterfly, thought extinct until recently, is dependent for its survival on the Coontie "palm". At the larval stage, the Atala caterpillar eats the leaves of the Coontie exclusively. I took a few minutes to get a photo of a cooperative Atala that remained still as I circled around for the best lighting.

Christine also has a few lovely *Cassia* with their full bright yellow flowers, the Beautyberry bush, striking with its bright reddish-purple berries, and the Simpson's Stopper - all butterfly favorites.



I enjoyed spending time sitting on one of the well-placed seats in her lush, colorful garden, taking in the warm live atmosphere of her resplendent garden, complete with woodpeckers hammering in the live oaks, colorful songbirds (including the beautiful elusive painted bunting, a frequent visitor to Christine's garden) flitting from tree to bush, butterflies floating from flower to flower, and bees swarming bushes covered in flowers. Eden revisited.



Christine was awarded her Certificate at a club meeting by Carol Stender. Christine's accomplishments were featured in an educational exhibit at the 2021 FFGC Convention.

Find the "[FFGC Butterfly Certificate Application](#)" under "[All Forms](#)" at the [FFGC.org](#) web site.

CONTINUING EDUCATION - (addendum)

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

FLORAL DESIGN STUDY UNITS

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

Registrar: Lisa Hudson (850) 376-3397

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

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



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