

The Florida Gardener

Winter 2020



President's Message

Dear Friends,



Time does have a way to move rapidly at times. Covid-19 contributed to our need to modify how we communicate with each other. It was very regrettable that FFGC's Convention in 2020 was cancelled. Not many know that it takes three or more years to plan for conventions. The many members of the Committee worked extremely hard, and it was difficult on everyone when it became necessary to cancel.

FFGC members are very resourceful, and it should not be surprising that alternative plans were developed for events normally held since Covid-19 impacted our activities. We discovered ZOOM to stay in touch with one another. Although it is not a substitute for in person meetings when we have the opportunities to see one another and enjoy the camaraderie, we were able to conduct important business. The Virtual Platform Committee did remarkable work in becoming experts in hosting our ZOOM meetings, and many commented that everything worked very well. It certainly was a challenge to put together a virtual Board Meeting in September, but it was very well received. We had very good attendance for the Board Meeting. Holding committee meetings in August seemed to be a particularly good alternative. The Convention Committee is to be commended to think of a very enjoyable way to award the Opportunity Drawings during the September Board Meeting which were supposed to be a part of FFGC's 2020 convention. That was another example of our members' fertile brains.

We spent many hours dealing with legal issues with the City of Winter Park, and I assure you we will keep everyone informed about our progress for solutions with the help of our capable attorneys. Winter Park proposed a new lease which we found unacceptable, and for now, our attorneys have informed the city that FFGC plans to continue with our present lease which is in effect until 2058.

It is important that everyone understands that National Garden Clubs and Deep South Garden Clubs meetings for 2021 have been cancelled. However, FFGC's 2021 Convention in Daytona Beach WILL be held unless something unforeseeable occurs. Make plans to attend. The venue is beautiful (by the beach), and the Convention Committee is working diligently to make sure we all have a great experience. The 2021 Convention will include the Installation of the new Administration with Marge Hendon as your next President. Marge Hendon became President-Elect on October

Al Latina, FFGC President



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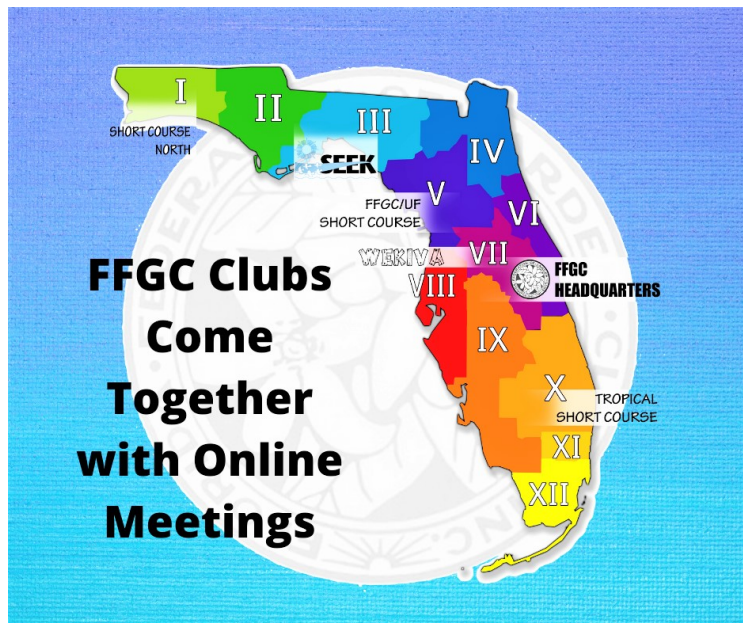


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Florida Federation of Garden Clubs

UPCOMING TRAVEL

We are looking forward to traveling again real soon, and we would love if you would join! 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.



Festival of Flowers - March 26-28, 2021 - Mobile, AL

Join Shelley on an exclusive Garden Club trip to see the Southeast region's largest outdoor flower show in March of 2021! This year the event will showcase gardens of Japanese influence, with "Zen Gardens". This trip will include a tour of Bellingrath Gardens & Home, lunch included, a shopping afternoon at the Tanger Outlet Mall and dinner at the iconic Lambert's Cafe.

If you are interested in joining this trip, please contact Shelley right away. Her contact information can be found at the bottom of this page.

Space is limited!



Philadelphia Flower Show - June 4-7, 2021 - Philadelphia, PA

The nations largest & longest running horticultural event will be held *outdoors* in June of 2021! This annual event introduces the newest plant varieties, garden & design concepts. You will have the opportunity to see breathtaking displays created by the world's finest floral & landscape designers. If you are interested in attending this event we will have a package available exclusive to our Garden Club members.

\$475 per person based on double occupancy

\$740 for a single rate

Please complete the "I'm Interested in Traveling" form if you would like more information.



Floriade Expo 2022 - May 2022 - Amsterdam, Netherlands

The Floriade Expo, a Dutch horticultural exposition that happens every 10 years, is going to be held in Almere (Amsterdam) in 2022. This year the main theme is "Growing Green Cities". We're offering an exclusive package that includes a 2-night pre-cruise package in Amsterdam, a 7-day river cruise with AmaWaterways, a tour of the Floriade Expo, and a visit to the famous 79 acre Keukenhof Gardens.

Space is limited!

Pricing starts at \$3689 per person based on double occupancy.

Air fare not included.

Please complete the "I'm Interested in Traveling" form if you would like more information.



WAFSA 2023 - Summer 2023 - Auckland, New Zealand

Have you ever been interested in attending a WAFSA event? The World Association of Floral Artists (WAFSA) holds a World Show every three years, and in 2023 it will be held in New Zealand! We are in the process of putting together a unique package that includes attendance at the WAFSA convention and visiting "must see" sights in New Zealand and Australia. Don't miss out on this exciting travel opportunity.

Pricing and dates will be available soon. Please complete the "I'm Interested in Traveling" form if you would like more information when available.

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 sign up for our Garden Club "Travel Talk" webinars hosted by Shelley: <https://www.funseas.com/ffgc>



Contact **Shelley Atkinson**
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DISTRICT V NEWS

Jeanice Gage, District V Director

District V of Florida Federation of Garden Clubs held their first District meeting using the Zoom format on October 14, 2020. We are fortunate to have Kelley Wood as a member of Floral City Garden Club. He served as our host. We were also fortunate to have fifteen FFGC officers and Committee Chairman to give reports about their committees' and upcoming events. This Director is hoping that our garden club presidents in District V will apply for the FFGC Matching Grants Program. Each club does so many projects for their community that each could apply for the grant.....and win! Even during the horrible COVID 19 Pandemic they have (carefully) continued with their projects.

Brick City Garden Club made and distributed 50 flower filled bud vases to a local nursing home, had a silent auction that raised enough money to send a child to Camp Wekiva Youth Camp, and collected enough pennies to plant one acre of trees in one of Florida's National Forests.

Brooksville Garden Club provided back packs to local students in need of food, maintained "Living Memories Garden" at Mary Stringer Museum and the garden at Eastside Elementary, and raffled off baskets monthly for the Club. They added ten new members this year.

Citrus Garden Club provided one high school student with a \$1,000 scholarship, purchased three acres of trees with \$204 donation to Penny Pines, collected food items for the Food Bank of Citrus County, and provided food and supplies to a local animal shelter. Three gardens were kept in beautiful shape. They had a program about "Gopher Tortoises" by Katie Wagner, environmental scientist. Their Youth Activity Chair, Brenda Davis, invited Katie to speak to her "Sprigs Youth Garden Group" and created a school program from the information. This group won two Junior Gardeners/Preschool Nature Posters awards. The FFGC Butterfly Award was awarded to Shaun Stehlik: "Butterfly Garden at Whispering Pines Park".

Garden Club of Crystal River continues to support many community projects. They maintain the Historic Cemetery in Crystal River and the garden at Homosassa Wildlife Park, sponsor High School, SEEK and Wekiva Scholarships, and donate to the local Food Bank. In December, the Board Members decorated aprons that were auctioned off and the money went to Penny Pines, \$300! Many great programs needed to be cancelled!

Floral City Garden Club planted a new Live Oak on Orange Avenue to replace one of the Historic Oaks that had died. They maintained their Gateway Garden, Memorial Garden and Trail Side Garden throughout the year and they packed week-end food bags for their local elementary school. They had a plant sale to support their many community projects.

Four Seasons Garden Club had many disruptions due to the pandemic. Members came to the rescue by giving a slide show of beautiful gardens and travelogue of Alaska, a demonstration of floral designs that were made and donated to Haven Hospice program. Dr. Taylor Clem, IFAS, demonstrated plant propagation and offered plants to practice his technique. Four Seasons G.C. is very active in community projects but activity has been curtailed this year because of the pandemic. They added three new members. Penny Pines \$139.

Gainesville Garden Club kicked off year 95! with a wine/appetizer/auction event. The proceeds of \$3,500 went to the Therapeutic Horticulture program at UF Wilmot Gardens. Their many community projects include roadside conservation, Fun with Flowers, Youth Gardening with Girl Scouts, Alachua County School Holiday Food Drive, Habitat for Humanity landscaped homes and prepared lunch for Women Built Habitat for Humanity volunteers, contributed \$408 to Penny Pines, sponsored students to Wekiva and SEEK, supported Ronald McDonald House, Hope Lodge, Kanapaha Botanical Gardens and Wilmot Gardens. They planted 16,103 trees. They added ten new members. Daisy Circle won a top NGC award,

The Newsletter Award, "Connections", and the Publication Award. Wildflowers Circle won the Garden Club Therapy Geriatric and Exceptional Award and the Community Service Award. Gainesville Garden Club has certainly been affected by the pandemic.

Homosassa River Garden Club continued the Stage Stand Cemetery enhancement and landscaping projects led by Sandy Teubel and volunteers. They collaborated with the local VFW and installed permanent flag holders at all 139 veteran's graves. Their hard work was appreciated by all who attended the Memorial Day ceremony. Homosassa River Garden Club won the Club Standard Flower Show Award and Patricia A. Steck won the Floralia II Designer's Choice Award.

Inverness Garden Club held two workshops to create over two hundred small flower arrangements for Hospice of Citrus County. They have found, many times over the years, since 2011, that it can "make a difference" as an unexpected sparkle of sunshine, letting patients and their families know that others are thinking of them. On June 16, 2020, they honored their member, Madelline Lund, with the "Pillar of Pride Award" for serving our club generously with distinction and pride for over thirty years,

Lake City Garden Club started their year with a program by Chase Pirtie, Habitat Manager for Ashton Biological Preserve, about the protection of the Gopher Tortoise. We made arrangements of red roses and apples for the Teacher of the Year reception. The city gates were decorated for Fall, Christmas, Spring and the Fourth of July.

Newberry Garden Club prepared Valentine baskets for Newberry Schools and Valentine arrangements for the resident's dining rooms at Ayers Health and Nursing Rehab Center. Their Annual Spring Caladium Bulb sale was held. Their total profit was \$1,109 *and a lot of smiles!* Plant sales at "Plant Expo" saw a profit of \$1,777. This money will be used to support our community projects. The club awarded two scholarships to deserving Newberry High School Seniors.

Pioneer Garden Club has community projects with Silver Springs State Park. They worked with the Park Rangers to plan and decorate the entrance for Fall, Christmas, Spring and Summer. They have a Poinsettia Fundraiser there every year. The club had a booth at the Florida Springs Festival, Marion County Library with quarterly horticulture displays. Tuscowilla Art Park-Pioneer Garden Club was awarded a NGC grant to enhance their part of the Art Park. They continue to work with the Native Plant Society and Florida Arbor Day Celebration. Three \$500. scholarships were awarded to local high school seniors. Holly Yokum of Pioneer Garden Club won the Digital Photography: Plants on the Florida Conservation List Award.

Riverhaven Garden Club hosted the District V Fall meeting on October 25, 2019. There were 120 FFGC officer, District V officers, members and guests in attendance. A gourmet luncheon prepared by chef Georgianna Bello was fabulous! Over 95% of the RHGC members participated in some way to create this event Two Pillar of Pride Awards honored two members. The annual fundraiser for RHGC Charities saw a profit of \$3,725. Two scholarships were awarded, each in the amount of \$1500. Since they began awarding scholarships in 1998, they have given 50 scholarships for a total of \$58,200. The Habitat Committee continues to do the landscaping for each Habitat home built in Citrus County. In mid-May, the RHGC Habitat group had completed landscaping its 158 Habitat homes! Our club donated over \$600. donation to Penny Pines.

Seedling Garden Club maintains the gardens at the McIntosh Civic Center year-round and decorates it for Christmas. They usually send ten to twelve children to Camp Wekiva every year. They have welcomed six new members this year.

This director is extremely proud of the Garden Club members of District V. I am constantly amazed at the amazing projects they do for their communities and the fundraisers they have to support their projects.

DISTRICT V NEWS—(cont'd)

In NGC's latest edition of "Keeping in Touch", our President, Gay Austin wrote "Be", a few "Be" ideas that can help us to continue to grow as NGC members.

Be appreciative, **Be** respectful, **Be** willing to compromise, **Be** positive, and **Be** kind to all.

Kindness opens up possibilities of connections to others so that our world benefits from our good deeds."

Read Gay Austin's article in Keeping in Touch.

Jeanice Gage, District V Director

"Kindness is free...sprinkle that stuff everywhere!"

DISTRICT VI NEWS

Judi Jodoin, District VI Director



Because of the pandemic, technology has become our friend during this period enabling us to continue to function. "Zoom" has allowed us to hold meetings, installations, judge designs etc.,. Despite the exasperation, we have learned to be patient and kind to each other. I truly appreciate your participation. We must adapt!

Cherry Laurel Garden Club, President, *Nanette Baker* and the Council of Garden Clubs of the Halifax District will meet at the large Anderson-Price Building, Ormond Beach, the second Wednesday of the month, October-May. The programs have been designed to be held at our meeting facility with social distancing.

We have two floral design programs schedule: First, Ashlee Roberson of Simply Roses, Ormond Beach, FL. Second given by our very own designer, Penny Decker. Other speakers: George Hausermann Jr., E.F.G Orchids of Deland, FL; Bob Smedley, Orlando, FL from the Central Florida Bromeliad Society, on Florida bromeliads and their care; and Susan Richmond, Director of the Ormond Memorial Art Museum and Gardens, Ormond Beach.

The Council of Garden Clubs of the Halifax District has established a partnership with the Ormond Memorial Art Museum and Gardens of Ormond Beach, FL. The Council donated \$100,000 to the renovation project of the Museum and Gardens. The two clubs currently under the Council's umbrella will be able to call the Museum and Gardens their home in about 2 years. Both Cherry Laurel and South Peninsula Garden Clubs are extremely excited about this partnership.

Commemorating the 44 original clubs that made up the Council of Garden Clubs of the Halifax District, the Council's name is mounted in bronze on the front of the new building for all to see.

Andrea Finn, Vice Chairman for FFGC 2021 Convention in Daytona Beach asked that the Council of Garden Clubs of Halifax District sponsor the Floral Design Program at this year's convention after the banquet dinner. The Council's Executive Board agreed to sponsor the prestigious Floral Designer, Sharon McGukin. Sponsoring this program will support FFGC and District VI.

Cocoa-Rockledge Garden Club, President, *Laura Ennis*: Our programs for the year: A speaker from the Brevard Zoo explained the "Adopt a Mangrove" program and gave each member a baby mangrove to care for. We held a dedication ceremony at the butterfly garden created by our club members at the VITAS Hospice in Rockledge. Members attended a field trip to Bok Tower Gardens and the St. Augustine Garden Club Home tour. We made small gift bags for holiday Meals on Wheels deliveries. We held floral design classes for our members and the community. Dr. Craig Huegel from St. Petersburg College presented a well-attended program on plant sex. A tree was planted in honor of Arbor Day in Taylor Park in Rockledge. A "Make and Take" fairy garden workshop, sponsored by our craft group.

Members made a little garden to take home. In honor of National Garden Week, members made small flower arrangements to be delivered by Meals on Wheels to underserved seniors in our area.



We support "Youth Gardeners", Camp Wekiva and SEEK, our local jewel, "The Brevard Zoo", "Indian River Lagoon Marine Resources Council", and "Wands for Wildlife", as well as the District VI sponsored 2021 FFGC Convention.

We support the District VI 2021 FFGC Convention in Daytona Beach by serving on the Opportunity Drawing committee and by soliciting donations/ads from community contacts for the Convention booklet.

Our club will also participate in the Woodsy Owl poster contest with local elementary school students.

We attended the home dedication ceremony for two new homes, each occupied by a female veteran, Lisa Stinson and Karla Grigg. Did you know there is a new Female Veteran's Village in Cocoa? Our club put together two beautiful garden-themed gift baskets which I presented to the new homeowners. It was quite a celebration, with lots of local dignitaries! There is a wonderful tradition at Habitat for Humanity whereby all the people gather around the home and touch the walls and say a prayer for the home and all who will dwell there. There was also a drive-by parade afterwards.

Our focus during COVID has been to improve our garden club grounds to make them more accessible and pleasing so that it can be rented for weddings and other celebrations. We hired a contractor, "Hire a Marine", to trim the palm trees, clear underbrush, and pull vines from all the trees in the north garden area. We also received the help of 4 retired naval officers. One of the officers was Diana Huntress, daughter of Fran Huntress; Fran was a long-time member of our garden club. Much more work remains.

Espoma Grant: We applied for a \$250 Grant offered by "The Espoma Company". for local clubs whose plan incorporates Espoma supplies to help bring their vision to life. They selected 20 clubs from NGC with garden projects to receive the grant. We were awarded the Espoma grant to clear the North gardens, trim trees/palms, clear underbrush, take out vines, etc. The aim was to allow our members, renters and general public to come into the gardens and have a peaceful and enjoyable experience. We planned to plant mostly native plants, bromeliads, gingers, succulents, etc. We won the grant! Members worked during the summer to clear out vines and weeds, plant bromeliads, bushes, etc. Espoma selected Rockledge Gardens to be the plant nursery where we would purchase \$250 worth of their products. We worked with Espoma to organize a photo with those involved and the products we chose to use in the garden.

NGC has a continued partnership with "The Espoma Company", the premier provider of organic plant foods and potting soils

North Garden of Cocoa-Rockledge Garden Club. This year, our scheduled garden club meetings include: an Orchid Care session, a Star Pupil/Problem Child Houseplant Show & Tell, a Holiday Floral Design Demo, a presentation on the Use of Native Plants in our yards, and a presentation on Herbs and Spices. Our club has chosen to wear masks and socially distance and our first meeting was Wed. October 14, 2020.



DISTRICT VI NEWS—(cont'd)

The Garden Club at Palm Coast, President, *Carol Walker*: The Propagation Guild had a hugely successful native plant sale at our local Wild Birds Unlimited. A new native plants subgroup of the Guild provided advice, literature and tips during the sale which sold out the first day. The native plant sale brought out the community that was interested in plants that attract birds, butterflies and other pollinators while all that attended wore masks and practiced social distancing.

An Eagle Scout project, supported by the Scholarship Committee and the Propagation Guild, is underway to landscape the entrance of the Palm Coast Historical Society. The board used its website and Facebook page to highlight videos of the officers and board members. Members continue to post plants of the day and gardening tips and webinars. The virtual September meeting had videos including a bonsai demonstration. October's event supported the All Paws Wildlife Rescue & Sanctuary. The Propagation Guild hosted monthly member garden tours and plant sales by reservations for members. The Guild also held outdoor plant sales with pre-sale options, all members come with masks on and practice social distancing. Our online fundraising activities have included the sale of our Garden Club logo face masks and a bonsai tree raffle won by a lucky club member. We will conduct our December Giving Tree efforts online for Habitat for Humanity and Flagler County Free Clinic and through contactless drop offs for our food drive for Grace Community Food Pantry. The Club is pursuing more joint community projects. We will participate in the Library Christmas Tree Program and our Plants for Pleasure program providing plants to local nursing homes over the holidays. Our annual Wreath and Tree fundraiser will complete our holiday activities. The Garden Club at Palm Coast wishes all clubs safe hugs until we meet again.

Garden Club By-the-Sea, President, *Barbara Dial*: We completed stages 1 and 2 of the renovation of Lily Park. New items in the revitalization of the park include a United Way free little library, an arbor, a topiary caterpillar, a butterfly herb garden, concrete benches, travertine and brick paves, and Ceramic decorative pots filled with Florida native butterfly plants. It's gorgeous!



We still have the gazebo to re-do and plant markers to buy but we are almost there. We want to have an outside dedication in January but are hesitant because of Covid-19. The Blue Star Memorial marker looks fabulous. We will have a really small unveiling in November. Just the Mayor, newspaper, and selected guests have been invited. The big news: a roofing company just donated a new roof for the gazebo!

The Garden Club of DeLand, President, *Jennifer Condo*: The Pansy Circle, members, founded in 1950, retired in May. We are sad to see them go and we will miss them! Sally Bohon, former Pansy circle president, spent the last year creating an activity booklet for children. She modeled the booklet on two that her daughter had created for her students in Kansas. Sally wanted to teach the next generation about discovering the garden and seeing how things grow. We will be submitting this booklet for FFGC's publication award this year and we are selling them to the public.



We won FFGC and Deep South Awards for Garden Center Program. which was for Elaine Waidelich's Horticulture Day. Our garden club also won NGC's Video Award for creating, producing, and videoing three commercials to advertise three different bee programs done by a local beekeeper in September, October and November 2019, which was viewed on our website and our Facebook page.

We continue to meet in small groups to maintain the planters along the boulevard in downtown DeLand and our building's grounds. The planters look wonderful. We helped landscape two homes with Habitat for Humanity this year and we will have one to do next year. Members have smaller gatherings on outside lanais or patios while staying 6 feet apart.

Many members feel like experts while running Zoom meetings. We have had to reschedule our fall programs including board meetings to Zoom. The Sparkleberry Circle kept in touch every week during the summer with its members discussing garden issues on Zoom.

The Caring & Sharing group has done many drive-by caravans to visit those members that are not as mobile or able to get out of the house. It has been very successful! Members stop by briefly to bring a balloon and card to the member who has been feeling secluded from the world.

The Milkweed Circle has been busy certifying gardens as a Certified Butterfly Sanctuary. We have certified 165 gardens throughout West Volusia County.

We hosted the NGC Gardening School Course 3 on Oct. 27 & 28 online through Zoom. We are gathering items for a treasure sale planned for in November. We will take pre-orders of wreaths and greens from Select Growers next month to be picked up in December.

We have made a lot of changes recently, some comfortable and some not, but I feel we are stronger and closer now more than ever even if we can't meet in person. Thank you so much!

Indian Harbour Beach Garden Club, President, *Robin Chang*: We meet via zoom and are still working to get all of our members on board. In an effort to reach out to our members individually, we have monthly birthday hostesses who send cards and deliver plants or baked goods while maintaining social distancing. Our community outreach project, in the past, was to visit and give gardening programs to the residents of Zon Assisted Living. While the pandemic has closed Zon to all public contact we have adopted 25 residents as "Secret Garden Pals". We write notes, send cards and celebrate the resident's birthday, all while remaining anonymous. The residents love it. We are having so much fun participating. We hope to be able to "reveal" ourselves to our Secret Pals.

New Smyrna Beach Garden Club, President, *Kathy Healy*: We met last week in our beautiful building on Turnbull Bay road for the first of our three Fall meetings, but after much discussion, we offered members a choice of shorter meetings throughout the day, with a maximum of ten participants per group. All present wore masks, and our industrious hostess committee members sanitized 'touch' surfaces in between each gathering. Seating was 'socially-distanced'; no food was offered, and members brought their own beverages of choice. Via the Marine Discovery Center, our program chair presented a thought-provoking video on destructive forces in our environment such as the use of plastics. On a positive note, we looked at the recycling of oyster shells for our shorelines (see Note). Our next meeting will explore the results of a member-generated survey which tapped special interests and talents among our membership. An immediate outgrowth of said survey was a three-day hands-on class in how to grow vegetables with a concluding field trip to the Community Gardens established by our Club several years ago (yes, distanced and masked!). Pop-up groups will also be forming to share tips on orchids, roses, bromeliads and landscaping, to name a few!

FESTIVAL OF TREES, our Club's signature fall fundraiser, will be conducted virtually throughout the month of November. Finally, membership looks forward to an in-house sale of fresh table-top arrangements throughout the day at our December meeting.

Note: *shuckandshare.org contains restaurants throughout our state who currently support the gathering of oyster shells.

South Peninsula Garden Club, President, *Sheron Weatherholtz*: Marty Grimshaw's Front Yard was the site of our meeting in September.

We plan to help Cherry Laurel with hosting the District VI meeting in April 2021.

DISTRICT VI NEWS—(cont'd)

South Peninsula Garden Club—(cont'd)

Because of the Corona Virus, upcoming programs could not be scheduled with any certainty so our members broke into groups with each group being responsible for a future program (including its location). Members volunteered to host the next program describing the Master Gardener's Program. One member discussed their helping provide hot meals and groceries for Derbyshire Place. They can always use more volunteers.

Another member provided an educational program about her neighbor's beautiful blooming Fishtail Palm – *Caryota mitis* – and described how much honey (20 gallons) was produced by her bees thanks to the Fishtail Palm blooms! She gave us all a taste of her "regular" local honey and the palm honey which was noticeably different in taste, texture and color.

The Garden Club of the Halifax Country, President, *Linda Armour*.



We held our first meeting to install the officers and present awards. We postponed these activities from April. The open meetings in October, November, January have all been closed to non-members. Our club has canceled all in door meetings until the spring and most will be virtual. One bright spot is we welcomed three new members;

Ann Evans, Melissa Frankel, and Dai Young. They are a talented addition to our club.

Titusville Garden Club, President, *Donna Martin*: We started our meetings again in October. Sally Scalera spoke on growing fruit trees and edible plants. We were shown how to inoculate the soil with beneficial microbes, to use only organic fertilizers, along with products that are readily available.

We have met every Wednesday for the last six months for craft day. Beautiful hand-made gifts have been created for our Fall Market Sale which was held October 15th-17th.

DISTRICT VII NEWS

Gwen Carter, Director



Counties: Sumter, Lake, Orange, Osceola, Seminole
Flower: Hibiscus (all varieties) Wildflower: Coreopsis
Butterfly: Monarch

Garden Clubs in District VII: Bloom N Grow, Camellia Eustis, Clermont, Creative Arts, the Foliage GC of Apopka, Ixora Sanford, Lady Lake, Lakes & Hills, Orlando, Palm Garden, Pine Castle, Robinswood, Sanford Wildflower, Spring Valley, Sweetwater Oaks, Wildflowers D7, Windermere, Winter Park

The word on the street is ZOOM! Before COVID 19, Zoom just meant to "Go Fast." Now the lifeline for communication is Zoom and her other counterparts, Skype, Slack, Google Hangouts, Go to Meeting, Facetime, Microsoft Teams, Google Meet, even Snap Chap, among many more. I like to think of Zoom as a lady, since Zoom does so much for everybody and keeps the organization/family going. A little humor during these trying times.

District VII Clubs are being very creative, having combo meetings, members are participating in meetings at a facility, large enough to follow social distancing guidelines, with the Zoom meeting projected on a screen while other members are Zooming in from home. Speakers are presenting their programs virtually with a question and answer section. Clubbers are doing programs outside to allow each person a safe distance to participate in activities.

We are determined to continue our support of worthy causes like Wekiva Youth Camp, SEEK, our local communities, and youth programs. Clubbers are organizing plant/craft/garden art sales, raffles, and auctions while keeping their distance and wearing masks.

Members are making flowerpots out of ice chests and wig heads. Another fundraiser, utility belts for the garden, designed by a garden club member, has turned out to be a great money maker, an ingenious idea.

In September, I was privileged to install the Executive Board of Ixora Garden Club of Sanford, via Zoom. The club's theme for September was "Seize the Moment, Leap into Action." Decorated frog cupcakes were delivered to all the members for themed snacks. However, since my home was out of the delivery area, I attempted to decorate my own frog cupcake. It looked like a Halloween frog cupcake, monstrous, but it was delicious. An example of, "Don't judge a book by its cover."

At our District VII Fall General Meeting, via Zoom, on October 15, 2020, Charlotte White was elected as District VII Director, 2021 – 2023. Charlotte is a member of Foliage Garden Club of Apopka. Congratulations Charlotte!

District VII was honored to have FFGC, 3rd Vice-President, Christy Linke and Jane Nendick, FFGC Membership Retention Chair, Zoom in to our District Meeting on October 15, 2020.

District VII extends condolences to the family of former Pine Castle GC President, Ruth Tucker, who died of Covid 19 in September 2020 and her husband, James Tucker, Chaplain of Pine Castle GC, who died of COVID 19 in September 2020, FFGC 3rd Vice-President, Christy Linke whose father passed away in September, and District VII Secretary, Mary Adams' father who passed away in October.

Bloom and Grow Garden Society, President, *Jeanne Yazinski*: If you've been on Plant Street in downtown Winter Garden lately, you probably noticed the Monarch Project banners affixed to the construction fence for the new Exchange building. Recently, a group of Bloom and Grow Garden Society members met to hang the 3 brightly colored banners to let everyone know where our copper clad Monarch butterfly sculpture will reside. When the building is almost finished, the city will start the new park that will be located between the new building and the splash pad. This is estimated to be sometime in February or March 2021. The monarch sculpture is finished and is stored until the time she will travel to her permanent spot in the midst of a pollinator garden in our charming downtown area. The monarch butterfly has been synonymous with the Bloom & Grow Garden Society since the club's inception in 1997



The Monarch Project began as an idea of the 20-Year Committee in the 2017 -18 club year to commemorate the Bloom & Grow Garden Society's 20th year in 2017. It wasn't until two years later that we finally conceptualized a form and selected an artist. We wanted this regal statue to be a gift from the club to the city of Winter Garden in appreciation for 20 years of help and partnership in making their Spring Fever in the Garden festival so successful. In April of 2021, we will celebrate our 20th festival.

Noted sculptor and artist, Don Reynolds of Sanford was commissioned to bring the gift to life. If you want to see some of Don's public art in the Central Florida area, check out the iconic cast bronze knight with lance on horseback located outside the main entrance to UCF Bright House stadium.

Bloom and Grow member, Gretchen Boyd is heading up the Monarch Project. Gretchen is a founding member of the club and its first president. In 1997, she conceived the idea for an area garden club to celebrate gardening and love of nature. Bloom and Grow is now in its 23rd year of service to the West Orange area and beyond.

If you would like to know more about the Monarch Project, visit www.bloomandgrow.club, and follow "Spring Fever in the Garden" on Facebook and Instagram.

DISTRICT VII NEWS—(cont'd)

Clermont Garden Club, President *Marilyn Paone*: A Fun with Flowers Succulent Container Gardens workshop was held on Saturday, August 29. The instructor, Cindy Simon, a member of our Club, provided the items needed for the container gardens and gave the nine attendees detailed instructions on how to plant and care for succulents. Because of COVID some people weren't comfortable attending the workshop so there were six participants who picked up kits to complete their succulent gardens at home. All will have arrangements they can enjoy for a long time.

To promote interest in gardening by the public each month we continue to select a Yard of the Month and loan a plant to the local library and City Hall. Also plans are underway for our November 7 "Fall Plant Sale and More" which is scheduled for November 7, 9-2, outside our clubhouse at 849 West Avenue, Clermont.

The Club's September meeting was held via ZOOM but our recent Board meeting was held among the trees outside of our clubhouse on a lovely fall day. Our October General meeting will also be held outside and we're hoping for good weather!

Camellia Garden Club, President, *Sue Roberts*, met in October practicing all social distancing requirements and held a silent auction for member plants. We all went home with new plants to add to our collections, both indoor and outdoor. We are planning a craft session in November to make cute decorations from clay pots to distribute to some local nursing homes for a native farm that specializes in farm to table food both on site and for many local restaurants. We are also planning an Arbor Day tree planting to honor a very special member.



The Foliage GC of Apopka, President, *Jo Oliver*: Due to the uncertainty that still surrounds each of us daily due to COVID-19 our club is not meeting at this time. We are hoping to resume our meetings soon. Our main priority for now is the safety and well-being of our members. We hope everyone is staying safe.

Ixora GC of Sanford, President, *Kathy Krasnoff*: Our first meeting of the year was held via Zoom in September. Each month has a different theme and September's was the frog with the phrase "Seize the Moment, Leap into Action!" Our Loving Committee made, decorated, and delivered frog cupcakes to the members so they would have themed snacks for the meeting. Our Learning Committee explained why frogs are important to our environment as they eat mosquitoes; provide us with medical advances, serve as an important part of the food chain; and their tadpoles filter our drinking water. Frog populations have been declining worldwide at unprecedented rates. At this meeting, we were also honored to have Gwen Carter, our District Director, install our officers. What a wonderful way to start our new gardening year!



The October Zoom meeting had the theme "Bats and other Pollinators" Again, our Loving Committee delivered delicious bat cookies (shaped like not made from bats!! 😊) Many of our members dressed in black or wore bat memorabilia to commemorate our theme. The program was a PowerPoint presentation entitled "B is for Pollination". We all had fun and three new members were welcomed into our club.

In November we plan on having our first face-to-face meeting. It will be outside, and all members will be distancing and masked. Our program is a Fall-Modified Ikebana Arrangement workshop where each of our members will be making an arrangement to take home.

"Learn, Laugh, and Love through Gardening!!"
Happy Fall Y'all!

Lakes and Hills Garden Club, President, *Carolyn Sonnentag*, is not planning any meetings until our December luncheon. But, then, we plan to start up in January with programs on flower arranging, vegetable gardening, plant tissue culture, attracting Florida birds to your yard, and a final lunch and installation meeting at the Lakeridge Winery. We also will start our Mount Dora park maintenance schedule as the



weather cools a bit. We have an offer of a young energetic helper -- a member's daughter willing to volunteer in helping to maintain our city parks for credit toward her "Bright Futures" scholarship. We will all so appreciate her help!

Orlando Garden Club, President, *Georgene Parsons*, held a Combo Meeting. Some members were in the building, spaced apart, and others on Zoom. The speaker presented a PowerPoint on Compost, with a Q&A. October meeting to include a Beekeeper. Plant exchange to take place at meeting. Board meeting was held with 10 members in attendance. Did voting with Zoom and in person. The Tangerine Circle had a cocktail party on the club's patio.



Sanford Wildflower Garden Club, President, *Paula White*: The Wildflower Circle of the Garden Club of Sanford is busy with preparations for an event they will host at the Garden Club on Saturday, March 6 and Sunday, March 7, 2021. Hours for the event are 10 AM to 3 PM both days.



There will be educational displays showcasing Wildflower Circle activities and the horticultural and charitable groups it supports and encourages. The event will have a Unique Boutique featuring plants, garden and floral design books and related items for sale. There will also be a Raffle and Silent Auction Table with a variety of items.

Please send your email address to:
GCSwildflowercircle@gmail.com

Spring Valley Garden Club, President, *Bobbett Youngs* began our meetings after postponing them last March. We will continue holding them in our community park pavilion, which is open air, and provides the space to social distance. Masks are required and will be provided as well as hand sanitizer.



Fingers crossed; our speakers have agreed to proceed as they feel safe with the precautions we have taken.

Sweetwater Oaks Garden Club, President, *Marion "Min" Schwenderman*: Our members have enjoyed weekly U-Tube programs, presented every Monday to keep the blues away, by our 1st VP for Programs, Bernie Delafield.

We digitally travelled to Buchar Gardens and Longwood Gardens. We watched beauty berries being harvested and cooked into a lovely looking jelly, right in front of our eyes. I will never look at that plant again in the same way. Orchids danced in our thoughts after seeing "The World's most Beautiful Orchids" on U-tube. In January, our club is taking a field trip to EFG Orchid Farm in Deland. They will have an informed audience.



We are also planning a "POP-Social", the week before Halloween, in the outside with social distancing and masks at our usual meeting place. This will be the first time that we will be getting together, this year. WE are all looking forward to enjoying snacks, a free raffle of hand painted pots, a floral design by a member, but most of all CONVERSATION with our soil sisters and brothers. We are keeping our gardening network alive and well!

DISTRICT VII NEWS—(cont'd)

Sweetwater Oaks Garden Club—(cont'd)

I leave you with this thought..."A weed is a plant that has mastered every survival skill, except how to grow in rows" (by David Hobson) --- I'm diggin' it!

Windermere GC, President, *Vicki Hearst*, held a plant sale, Nov. 7, 2020, at the Windermere Recreational Area, 11465 Lake Butler Blvd. Windermere. Assorted plants and garden art items were available for purchase, plus several opportunity drawings. Windermere GC is repurposing Styrofoam ice chests by making flower containers. Flower pots are also created from wig heads and a member is sewing garden utility belts, all great fundraisers.

Winter Park GC, President, *Cynthia Pesch*, held a picnic at the Mead Garden Pavilion, with social distancing. Everything is now on Zoom! Our members seem to be happy with Zoom. October program was: "How Wolves Change Rivers" and "How Whales Change Oceans", accessed via you tube.



DISTRICT VIII NEWS

Barbara Rao, Director

Still not meeting in person on a large scale. The Garden Clubs of District VIII are busy with club activities. Many have postponed their in-house meetings, and any close encounters in favor of Zoom meetings. Plant sales both virtual and in person have been plentiful and well planned for the fall. Many of the Garden Tours will be Spring events. Flower Shows are being planned and so looked forward to! District VIII always has a bevy of flower shows in the Spring and the clubs are recipients of many awards, both National and state. National Garden Club Flower Show Achievement Awards were won by many of our District VIII Clubs that put on some fantastic shows and were enjoyed by all the visitors. Most clubs got in just under the wire and were successful.

NGC Club Standard Flower Show Awards for 100+ members were won by Garden Club of St Petersburg with Cindy Ordes, President accepting the Ribbon and award at an outdoor Plant Sale. Tampa Federation of Garden Clubs also won for "A World of Children's Stories" President Michele Valataro receiving the award. NGC Holiday Standard Flower Show award went to Manatee River Garden Club accepted by Janice Hamlin and given to Chris O'Grady, President. Plant City Garden Club won the NGC Achievement Award for Club Standard Flower Show award for clubs under 49 members. The FFGC Flower Show awards were highlighted earlier. Other NGC awards were won by Lemon Bay Garden Club member Sue Killion for her photographs. Dade City Garden Club received many prestigious awards for Historic Buildings and Pollinators among the awards. Dade City has been in the news with its outdoor plant sale and Monarch City festivities. Clearwater Garden Club had a super successful virtual Plant Sale, all plants were pre-ordered, and picked up at the club. These clubs and their members practiced social distancing, and everyone wore masks. A great way to see members and while outdoors, have a little interaction while being safe

All our clubs from Apollo Beach, Clearwater, Dade City, Davis Island, Dunedin, Garden Gate, Gardeners out East, GC of Hunters Green, GC at Tampa Bay Golf and CC, GC of Tarpon Springs, Lakewood Ranch, Lemon Bay, Manatee River, New Port Richey, Palm Harbor, Plant City, Sarasota, St Petersburg, Sunset Park, Tampa, Temple Terrace, Valrico to Venice Area Garden Club have participated in meetings in one form or another. Creative and clever has been the catch word for our clubs. Our Presidents have been busy keeping the clubs interacting with committees and making sure members are aware of what is going on and the clubs are beginning to plan for future activities.

Plant sales virtual, and in person, have been a great tool to get members involved and earn a little extra money since most big fundraisers have been put on hold. A creative way to include members and give back to the community by sponsoring a day devoted to plants. There are some clever and useful tips that the clubs who have had these plant sale fun raisers will be willing to share!

Program speakers are being searched out by our clubs from lists of virtual programs on zoom, or in person speakers from the local county extensions services. Local garden centers offer outdoor programs and ideas on what to plant and our members have taken advantage of these and created programs built on their ideas.

New activities at some of our clubs have included refurbishing the inside with new bathrooms, like the ones at Garden Club of St Petersburg. New flooring, paint and new light fixtures have been placed in Sarasota Garden Club's Great room. Many clubs have taken this quiet time to spruce up their club houses, create new gardens and areas where members can meet more comfortably now when outside is the place to be.

District VIII was happy to have its Fall District Meeting via ZOOM. The opportunity to see everyone and share some social time at the beginning was a great treat. We were able to accommodate 65 members on three screens and by using the chat option everyone had a chance to see and share in an orderly fashion. We also had the pleasure of electing our next Director Kitty Wallace who will be installed in April at our Convention in Daytona Beach. Zoom worked so well for us with a terrific tech team in place and creative members, Kathy Echevarria and Kitty Wallace who dazzled us with an Awards presentation resplendent with fireworks and music! President Al presented Clearwater Garden Club its Emerald Precious Metal status. President Howard Warshauer received the award in person at a Clearwater place of business new to him! We hope to have another Zoom meeting to view programs of interest in Design, Horticulture and Environmental issues. Zoom can be a burden and overwhelming but a great advantage when this is the only way to meet safely.

This director has had the pleasure to travel to some clubs to present their NGC awards at plant sales, outdoor events and even coffee shops as well as the prettiest parks in the area!

Even though District VIII has had to put many things on hold our members are not just biding their time idly. Each club is dealing with meeting in person, in the gardens, zoom or by telephone. Looking forward to the time when we can greet each other with a hug and be shoulder to shoulder at our club meetings until then we will be socially distance wear masks and smile with our eyes.

DISTRICT IX NEWS

Leslie Montwid, Director District IX

We are zooming through this year at an amazing pace it seems. Thank goodness for that in some respects. We are so busy learning new things about virtual meetings that it seems our time has just been moved into different work arenas. Some of our clubs are off and running while others are taking a break and that's ok as there is no "one size fits all". As we hold our district meeting this fall, virtually hosted by Port Charlotte Garden Club, we will elect our new director. It is our fervent hope that the new director can have some normalcy at her first meeting to be hosted by Naples Garden Club in the spring.

Avon Park Founders Club was approached by the Avon Park Historical Society in March requesting help in maintaining the the grounds around the Historical Museum. The grounds were planted several years ago but there was no up-keep and the area was overgrown and in need of weeding. For the past several months garden club members have met on the first Saturday



of the month to pull weeds, prune shrubs and relocate plants. The club met in September at the museum where they were given a guided tour and enjoyed lunch in the Pullman Car. This club also maintains the Chamber of Commerce Garden.

DISTRICT IX NEWS—(cont'd)

Bouquet Garden Club had to cancel their annual Fall Fashion Show due to Covid concerns. In October they have their first in-person meeting at the garden center with restrictions mandated by the City of Winter Haven. Several members have been busy in September pulling weeds, trimming, mulching and replanting in the Butterfly Waterfall Garden.

Estero Garden Club on lovely Fort Myers Beach is exploring many outdoor venues for their meetings. On their upcoming list is a trip to Echo Global Farm, an eco-tour of Estero Bay and a visit to the demo garden at the Native Plant Society in Bonita Springs. In January they will partner with the Fort Myers Beach Library to give presentations in an open-air covered facility. Utilizing Florida Friendly landscaping practices they are also offering a program entitled "What's in the Water" which focuses on nutrient pollution and solutions to their island area. A Blue Star Memorial installation has been approved to be placed at the library. Due to safety concerns the dedication will be delayed until May 2021 which gives time to make the ceremony special!

The Garden Club of Lakeland met at Grasslands Country Club in September to recognize their award winners for a luncheon postponed from April. Members have been busy painting numerals at curbside as a fundraiser since the annual Fall Garden Extravaganza in the downtown square was cancelled. They are in the process of reordering a Blue Star Memorial Marker to replace the Highway marker which was damaged beyond repair. The new installation was made possible with assistance of the Lakeland Parks and Recreation Department and a generous donation by the Polk Sheriff's Charities. A program is scheduled for Veterans Day to acquaint members with the history of the Blue Star program. Members will provide pictures of family who have served in the Armed Forces.

Lake Placid Garden Club will hold its 10th Annual Holiday and Home Tour on Saturday December 5th including the Café and Boutique. The proceeds will benefit scholarships, camperships and sponsorships of local youth which they support so generously every year.

Punta Gorda Garden Club has regrettably cancelled their annual Christmas Home Tour due to Covid but they have plans to hold it in 2021 and the same homeowners have given affirmation that they will do the tour next year. In an effort to recoup some of the proceeds which are all given in scholarships they are tentatively planning a creative craft and plant sale to be held in the Methodist church parking lot in the spring of 2021. Stay tuned for more details.

Winter Haven Council of Garden Clubs is transferring the operation and maintenance of their Garden Center building and grounds to the City of Winter Haven effective November 1. The clubs and council will continue to have access to the meeting space. Because of the impending change the October 17th Trash and Treasures Plant Sale was tabled.

This director would like to thank the FFGC tech team who guided our district tech team as we launch our first district meeting by zoom. We especially thank Valerie Seinfeld who gave so graciously of her time and expertise to make it all possible.

DISTRICT X NEWS

Carol Coleman, Director

The District X Fall Meeting was held on Oct. 8, 2020 where attendees enjoyed seeing each other via Zoom. The Wellington Garden Club hosted the meeting and the Vice Mayor of the Village of Wellington welcomed everyone. Tanya Siskind expressed the pride the Village has in their partnership with the Wellington Garden Club in their many collaborative projects. Together the Village and the Garden Club are planting the seeds for a greener Wellington.

District X delegates enthusiastically elected Michelle Maguire as their new District Director. Former NGC President Barbara May was introduced and thanked for her many years of service

Boca Raton Garden Club, President, *Mary Kaub*, reported that the Boca Raton Club sewed over 2,500 cotton masks this summer as a community outreach project. The masks were given away free, but donations were accepted. The club made over \$2,600 with 19 members participating. They have two upcoming fundraisers. Fall Craft Sale October 16 – 17 9:00 – 2:00. Holiday House Craft & Plant Sale October 29 – November 1 9:00 -3:00. Masks required and social distancing. Parts of the sale will be outside under tents. Contact Mary if you want to shop ahead of time or to set-up an appointment.

Boynton Beach Garden Club, Co-President, *Toni Cvetko*, gave a synopsis of her clubs use of Zoom to hold meetings. Currently the Boynton Beach club is having success combining in-person with Zoom to hold their member meetings so that those members who feel most comfortable attending while staying safe at home can do so. Finding the correct speaker distance from the camera and microphone has been the biggest challenge. But a little tweaking each time pays off.

St Lucie West Garden Club, President, *Georgina Tonner*, has continued to hold regular meetings with typically 25 of 39 members in attendance. As their major yearly fundraiser occurred before the pandemic lockdown, they were able to fund their donations as usual - \$2,000 to Port St Lucie Botanical Gardens, \$1,000 to Indian River State College and \$300 to Camp Wekiva. On Veterans Day, November 11, 2020 at 9:00 AM, SLWGC will be dedicating a Blue Star Memorial Highway Marker on the Crosstown Parkway in Port St Lucie at the intersection of Floresta and Atlantis.

Wellington Garden Club, President, *Jan Seagrave*, highlighted their many projects this year – PAT project planted 1,500 trees, Blue Star Marker Dedication, NGC Petite Flower Show, butterfly garden, plant exchange in a park, seed distribution in a park, shredding project, and plant sale. A garden tour to be held later this year.

Garden Club of Fort Pierce, President, *Liz Cohen*, spoke on the community gardens her club has planted at Heathcote Botanical Gardens and the plant sale the Fort Pierce Club will be holding at Heathcote's Fall Festival on Sat, October 17, 9 – 4 and Sun, October 18, 10 – 3.

Oleander Garden Club of the Palm Beaches, President, *Beverly Lichtenstein*, (*Barbara Hadsell* assisting), reported holding zoom and limited in-person planning meetings and will be holding their upcoming meeting in an outdoor pavilion. For their Junior Gardeners, they held a drive-by milkweed giveaway. The educational materials included in the packet and the butterfly chrysalis that were attached to many of the milkweed stalks hopefully added excitement and educational opportunities for the entire family during this unusual time.

District X Horticulture Chair, *Kat Rahlia*, shared some information about Doug Tallamy.

Many of you have heard me mention Douglas Tallamy and his book "*Bringing Nature Home*". I would like to encourage you to read his new book. "*Nature's Best Hope*". This book will give you the background on specialized relationship between plants insects and birds. His inspirational message will help you see how you can make a difference in your own yards. You may enjoy watching his recent talk he gave to Audubon which is available on the [YouTube](#) web site at:

[YouTube.com/watch?v=xAbO1a67_mM](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xAbO1a67_mM)

A Presentation by Doug Tallamy: "*Restoring the Little Things that Run the World*"

Although the Tropical Short Course will not be held in January of 2021 due to COVID -19 meeting restrictions, the District looks forward to resuming hosting this annual event in January of 2022.

It was announced that the Garden Club of Fort Pierce will be hosting the Spring 2021 District X Meeting. At this time no determination has been made as to whether it will be a "ZOOM" or in-person meeting.

DISTRICT X NEWS—(cont'd)

Barrier Islands

By: *Kimberlee Pompeo*, PAT Chair for the Barrier Islands

Autumn is our second spring, and our District X Director, Carol Coleman, did offer a springboard into a new season of horticultural good deeds. We officially “Fell into Natives” with George Gann’s empowering education on nature conservation. Well received, George spoke to a well-attended group of district delegates on the many restorative opportunities that surround ‘Each One’ of us to do our ‘Plant One’ part. There are native planting commonalities within our region and, more importantly, regional differences as to where to, what kind, and how to plant ecologically sustainable natives. Local garden clubs and native plant societies can do great things with the right information, and getting started in your neighborhood is more accessible than what you may have thought. District X attendees were invited to check out the IRC website for their tailor-made biodiversity starter kits and “Natives in Your Neighborhood” search engine for native planting directions.

Click on the following link:

<https://www.regionalconservation.org/donationRGC-KP.html>

Unsolicited Landscape Design Awards “2020 Style”

By *Stormi Bivin*

Annually, District X confers four *unsolicited* awards in the public and private sectors for well-designed and maintained landscapes. Four categories of nominees are considered: Small Business, Private Residence, A Public Facility and Private Facility. But what does “unsolicited” mean and how does one get nominated?

“Unsolicited” means that the owner of the site has not requested to be considered. Someone else, typically a garden club member, has noticed the property and feels it has merit. All landscaping must have been completed for at least one year and must be viewed from the street. Examples of past nominees have included gas stations, churches, libraries, local businesses, municipal buildings/parks, private residences and apartment buildings.

Each spring, nomination forms with photos, are filled out and submitted to the ULDA Chair for consideration. A panel of judges, comprised of NGC Landscape Design Consultants, visits each nominated site to appraise and score, using the NGC Design School “*Standard For Evaluating Landscape Design*” score sheets. Once on-site, they assess the following: *First Impression, Suitability of Design to Purpose, Functionality, Aesthetic Design Principles, Materials & Structures, Maintenance and a Final Impression.* Once the evaluation process is complete, these score sheets are submitted and the winners are selected. The awards are typically presented in person at the Spring District meeting, but for 2020 the process was a bit different.

Since we were all quarantining during early spring, the award process was delayed. Fortunately, eleven submissions from six clubs in the District had been received earlier in the year, as our members had been scouting out properties in January and February before COVID struck. Once some definitions of how to accomplish this goal with social distancing became apparent, the project was resurrected and carried out with ease. Actually, the outdoor field trips were welcomed by our judges who had been “staying safer at home” for weeks. They safely navigated and completed the task, with aplomb! The scores were tallied and the winners were selected.

The awards were presented (via ZOOM) at the Fall District Meeting on October 8, 2020, hosted by The Wellington Garden Club. This year’s winners included a **Starbucks** in West Palm Beach (Small Business), a Median planting in **Sewall’s Point** (Public Facility), **Barcelona Apartments** in Jupiter (Private Business) and the **James Residence** in Lantana (Private Residence). Again, in a typical year, the awards are presented at the District luncheon to a member of each garden club having a winning nominee. This year, being anything but typical, the awards were mailed to the representatives of the clubs. Each of the four clubs will present the framed award certificate to their individual winners as shown in the photo.

Let’s hope we can do this again in 2021 with a bit more “face” time!



Manager, Michael Serra with employees, Jessibeth and Eliza, accept their Starbucks Landscape Design Award



Starbucks Landscape Design Award Plantings at a Small Business



Barcelona Apartments Landscape Design Award Plantings at a Private Facility



Town of Sewall’s Point Landscape Design Award Plantings at a Public Facility



James Place Landscape Design Award Plantings at a Private Residence

DISTRICT XI NEWS

Jeri Decker, Director

By: *Susan Berry*

Hollywood Garden Club, President, *Susan Berry*: Our club sent instructions, provided by FFGC, to members on how to join Zoom for District XI meetings so that our members could practice the Zoom application before attending our Board and General Zoom meetings starting in October.

To retain and increase our membership, we mentioned the Hollywood Garden Club to residents in our area’s “NextDoor” email publication. We are updating our website, and are adding informative content to our Facebook page.

We enjoy seeing members’ photos of their beautiful plants and videos of their gardens. Susan Berry and other members have answered questions that members ask. Free cuttings have been offered to be picked up at the front of members’ homes. Blue Star marker information was sent to all the members.

Our club distributes monthly newsletters and a “Things-To-Do List”. We added an “Easy Gardening with Susan” article to our Newsletter. Members have shared their gardening knowledge with neighbors on their block to help them beautify their homes.

DISTRICT XII NEWS

Jean Hawa, Director



Counties: Dade, Monroe

Flower and Wildflower: Musaceae Strelitzia Reginae & Gallardia Blanket Flower

Butterfly: Schaus Swallowtail

Garden Clubs: Coral Gables, Coral Pines, Ken Pines, Marathon, Miami Beach, Pinecrest, South Dade, South Miami

Due to the necessity of social distancing, meeting in person is almost passé. As a result, ZOOM has become the lifesaver to most of our garden clubs. Having members who are technologically advanced or are willing to take on the challenges of learning how to host a virtual meeting will be the driving force to help keep our garden clubs functioning, as well as, provide us with the impetus to fulfill our various missions.

"Make lemonade out of lemons" became this Director's mantra this summer. A new cliché, "Pass it forward" came into the picture. The President of the South Dade GC met the owner of a specialty grower of tropical plants and landscaping nursery who needed the help of the District XII garden clubs. Due to health reasons, she was closing the nursery but needed help to further reduce her inventory to aid her financial situation. As a result, an email was sent to all the garden club members inviting them to purchase the remaining limited inventory within the next two weeks. The responses were immediate and several appointments were set up to allow social distancing. On the day of this Director's appointment, she followed the President of Coral Gables GC who proudly showed off her trunk filled with sheets of pillow moss which was used in her garden. Pictures of her recently mossed area were seen in a Virtual Garden Tour by the attendees at the District XII Fall Meeting held on October 19, 2020. We were very impressed by the nursery owner's knowledge and history of plants as she was impressed and grateful that our members helped her out.

Coral Gables Garden Club: Members of the Board of Directors CGGC met virtually to adapt club activities. Working with a professional web designer, the Coral Gables Garden Club has created a **spectacular** web page. Everyone is encouraged to go to www.coralgablesgardenclub.com to see how the club is handling its Library Butterfly Garden, Garden Therapy for those in rehab, The Lamar Louise Curry Park, Penny Pines Project, Red Mangrove Project, and School Gardens, and many others. Most recently, the CGGC members unanimously voted to dedicate their "Project Canopy" to Life Member Sallye Jude.

Picture: Sallye Jude with the Proclamation that declared September 22, 2020 Project Canopy Day dedicated to her, and a poster created by Betsy Tilghman



Coral Pines Garden Club: Have you heard the adage, "Work Smarter, not Harder"? That's what COVID-19 has taught us. As the members of Coral Pines learned the mechanics of Zoom, we have been able to connect with our members without leaving the house. At our September meeting, after a brief revealing of "What We Did in Quarantine for Six Months", we learned about Aquaponic Gardening, the combination of aquaculture and hydroponics, and how to create our own aquaponic garden. Our freshly appointed first and second vice-presidents quickly took on their new responsibilities for handling programs and hosting. Our first meeting ended after a horticulture lesson about curry and an instruction about creating a cascading floral arrangement. October's meeting began with members being asked, "If you were a fruit, what would you be and why?"

Responses were varied and enlightening. The program was an impactful virtual tour of the proposed restoration of the Garden Brook Trail at the Deering Estate. Our members agreed that we should become actively involved with this project. A horticulture lesson and a floral arrangement followed. In November, a virtual presentation will be a Rain Barrel Workshop. Hopefully 2020 will end with our annual Holiday White Elephant Party.

Ken Pines Garden Club: Hopefully in November, we are going to have a very informal occasion on the patio of the club's President with everyone bringing their own lunch just to see each other. If things improve, a program and speaker on violets is planned for the January meeting.

Marathon Garden Club: So far, we are well at the Garden Club. Our monthly board meetings are held on Zoom. By opening up the nursery on Thursday mornings for three hours, it has brought much joy to the local citizens. It pleased us because we were able to sell some plants. We have been thinking that our general meetings can be planned for outside in the Garden with mask and social distancing. Having a large space to do this is fortuitous. The October program was about "Plants You Can't Kill, What to Put in the Ground, and Native vs. Non-native". The Sustainability Director of Monroe County will do a Zoom presentation on "Water Quality in our Canals" in November. The November 28th Bazaar is being planned with outside vendors and possibly, an inside sale if we can meet county guidelines. This is a fluid plan and we will have to wait and see what limitations there are with regard to COVID-19. Hopefully we will have our holiday party "Under the Stars".

Miami Beach Garden Club: The **Tropical 12 FFGC District XII Facebook** page initiated by our club President in April is going strong. We were the first club to start using Zoom when the coronavirus shut down our country. Having the Miami Beach Botanical Garden reopen allowed us to very successfully conduct our first meeting in October virtually and in-person. It was entitled, "Let's see what's going on in our garden". The virtual and/or live will continue in November with Container Gardening and the annual Holiday Party will be a socially distanced picnic.

Members are extremely proud of their accomplishments as evidenced by the number of awards bestowed upon them from FFGC and NGC. The club is highly motivated to continue with their programs and projects.

Pinecrest Garden Club: A survey to all members (on survey monkey) resulted in the majority of members wanting virtual meetings and small groups only. Our kickoff meeting using zoom will be a succulent workshop. Field trips in groups of 10 or less (masks/socially distancing) might be arranged.

The Community Committee has several projects that are perfect for socially distanced gardening at our home garden of Pinecrest Gardens and The Deering Estate. Since Fundraising events are not possible, we are selling Glazed Tiles for a project installation.

South Dade Garden Club: In the last issue of The Florida Gardener, the SDGC reported on the upcoming 100th birthday celebration of Lloyd Miller. Sadly, Lloyd, the creator and preserver of the Biscayne National Park, passed away on August, 23rd. Biscayne National Park, the largest marine park in the National Park System, protects the longest stretch of mangroves left on Florida's East Coast, the clear, shallow waters of Biscayne Bay, over 50 of the northernmost Florida Keys, the northern end of the world's third-longest reef tract, and evidence of 10,000 years of human history.

The club's October virtual meeting was dedicated to learning the basics of starting a garden and then learning a few interesting tips to make the job easier and affordable. Future topics include learning about free Perpetual Vanilla kits to make your own Vanilla Extract. Another possible project will be growing and maybe selling a specialty strawberry.

DISTRICT XII NEWS—(cont;d)

South Miami Garden Club: The club is still planning for a hybrid approach (in-person and Zoom). Program Co-Chairs are currently seeking programs that focus on practical gardening, as well as, conservation and preservation of natural resources. Other Board Members are working on the selection of a facility that will be appropriate, that is meeting the public health safety regulations issued by the CDC, allowing us to see friends in a safe environment, while also including those members who are home through Zoom. Implementation of these **tentative** plans are now dependent on the community public health.

Editor's Correction!!!

Page 9 of the Fall issue of "The Florida Gardener":

Coral Gables Garden Club (District XII) was improperly listed as Coral Gardens Garden Club.

As your FFGC "The Florida Gardener" editor, I apologize for this incorrect listing.

Additional apologies and corrections will follow

Membership

A recap of ideas that have been successful.

1. Use the Next Door App to publish your meeting dates, times, and programs on a monthly basis
2. Ask local realtors to give you a place in their office to place the FFGC brochures

New ideas.

1. Ask each Club member to invite a friend or neighbor or member of their Church to come to the next club meeting
2. Ask your realtor to come to your next meeting
3. Ask your local newspaper to come take pictures of your club members and publish it in their community newspaper. Ask if the members would allow their names published along with the picture of the members.
3. Invite the master gardeners to make a presentation on what plants and trees grow well in your area.

Sincerely

Ed Nendick, Membership Chair

We publish a new message monthly

2021 FFGC CONVENTION SPEAKERS - PROGRAMS & WORKSHOPS

RENEE STAMBAUGH (4/12) Lunch

"Enhance Your Yard and Attract Wildlife Using Native Plants"



Renee is the owner of Native Plant Consulting in St Augustine. She is a member of the St Johns Extension Advisory Committee. Learn how to create an eco-friendly landscape that attracts birds, bees, butterflies and other pollinators to your yard. This program is designed to encourage everyone to use low maintenance plants and environmentally sustainable practices saving time, money and energy.

SHARON McGUKIN (4/12) Dinner

"New Trends in Floral Design"



Sharon is known nationally for her floral expertise. Having started her career of over 40 years as a small town florist, Sharon now travels the US, Canada and Europe presenting floral programs and tracking floral trends. She often writes articles on wedding design and floral trends for prominent floral industry publications. In 2009, Floral Management Magazine named Sharon as one of the floral industry's top ten "Rock Stars". Sharon and her husband, Tim, live in Carrollton, GA.

MICHAEL ECHEVARRIA (4/13) Lunch

"Update: Coral Reef Restoration Techniques 2.0 Project"



Michael is the President of Reef Renewal USA, Inc. Coral reefs are important for many reasons aside from containing the most diverse ecosystem on the planet. They protect coastlines from the damaging effects of wave action and tropical storms and provide habitats and shelter for many marine organisms. Michael will update us on the progress of the evolving coral reef restoration techniques.

INSTALLATION BANQUET (4/13)

"New President, Officers, Directors Installed"

WORKSHOPS

Tina Tuttle & Christy Linke (4/12)

"Wekiva leadership Training"

Joe Parr (4/12)

An in-depth look at the plants featured in *The Movie Garden: "Scary Plants in the Movies"*.

Terra Freeman (4/12)

"Creating a Rain Garden in Your Landscape"

Terra is an Urban and Commercial Horticulture Agent with the UF/IFAS Extension, St Johns County

Jane Villa-Lobos (4/12)

"The Techniques of Propagating Plants" and tips on starting a "Propagation Guild" in your Garden Club.

Ed & Jane Nendick (4/12)

Membership: "Seeking New Members and Retaining Current Membership"

Kelly Wood & Valerie Seinfeld (4/12)

Kelly and Valerie will show you the techniques of hosting a meeting using the ZOOM platform

Elizabeth (Leah) Diehl, RLA, HTM (4/13)

"Healing Gardens"

Leah is director of the Therapeutic Horticulture Program at Wilmot Botanical Gardens at UF. She is a landscape architect, a master gardener and a registered horticultural therapist.

Donald Spence, Ph D (4/13)

"Trees: Planting, Maintenance and Pruning"

Dr. Spence is a Board Certified Master Arborist.

Carol Lucia (4/13)

Along with 9 amazing floral designers, Carol will review the "Floral Design Study" program.

Lynda Penry (4/13)

"Start'm While They're Young" - Developing a Junior Garden Club

**94th Annual Convention-Florida Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc.
Hilton Oceanfront Resort, 100 N Atlantic Ave, Daytona Beach-April 11-13, 2021**



Please print clearly and use one form for each registrant

Last Name _____ First Name _____
 Address _____ City _____ Zip _____
 District _____ Club/Circle _____ Phone _____
 E-mail _____ Emergency Contact _____

CIRCLE ALL CATEGORIES WHICH APPLY TO YOU

- | | | |
|--|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> FGC Officer | <input type="checkbox"/> District Director | <input type="checkbox"/> Club/Circle Member |
| <input type="checkbox"/> FFGC Board Member | <input type="checkbox"/> Delegate or Alternate | <input type="checkbox"/> First Time Attendee |
| <input type="checkbox"/> FFGC Former President | <input type="checkbox"/> Club/Circle President | <input type="checkbox"/> Guest/Spouse/Companion |
| <input type="checkbox"/> FFGC Life Member | | |

TWO DAY CONVENTION PLAN: Includes Registration, 2 Lunches and 2 Dinners

Monday, April 12 and Tuesday, April 13 \$170 \$ _____

ONE DAY CONVENTION PLAN: Includes Registration, 1 Lunch and 1 Dinner

Monday, 4/12 Registration with 1 Lunch and 1 Dinner \$100 \$ _____
 Tuesday, 4/13 Registration with 1 Lunch and 1 Dinner \$100 \$ _____

ALA CARTE REGISTRATION FOR MEMBERS/GUESTS:

Registration for FFGC Member	\$30.00	\$ _____
Registration for Spouse/Guest	\$15.00	\$ _____
Circle Choices: Monday, 4/12 Lunch \$28.00	Dinner \$42.00	\$ _____
Tuesday, 4/13 Lunch \$28.00	Dinner \$42.00	\$ _____

Early Arrivals Dinner/Entertainment-Sunday, April 11, 2021

This event is **OPEN** to all attendees. Please indicate if you plan to attend. It is complimentary to FFGC Board Members. FFGC Board of Directors will receive an official invitation requiring an **RSVP**. Yes, will attend No, Unable
 Dinner and Show for FFGC Members/Spouses/Guests (\$30) \$ _____

RESERVATIONS MADE AFTER MARCH 17, 2021 ADD LATE FEE OF \$40 \$ _____

MAIL REGISTRATION FORM & CHECK-payable to FFGC 2021 CONVENTION

To: Jennifer Condo, Registrar	Questions:
1318 Glenwood Road, DeLand, FL 32720-2110	386-873-2195 or jattq3@yahoo.com
Or: REGISTER ONLINE at FFGC.ORG	DEADLINE: WEDNESDAY, MARCH 17, 2021
NO refunds after April 5th. Registration Fee is non-refundable	

You must be registered to attend ANY programs, meals, workshops. NO WALK INS accepted.
 Dietary restrictions for extreme health issues **MUST** accompany registration. Every effort will be made to comply with your needs. NO shellfish will be served.

HOTEL RESERVATIONS: Hilton Oceanfront Resort, 100 N. Atlantic Ave, Daytona Beach, FL

Deadline for Reservations: March 17, 2021

Reservations **MUST** be made directly with the Hotel by calling 386-254-8200 OR Online - Click on link below or enter web address into your browser:

https://www.hilton.com/en/hiv/groups/personalized/D/DABDHHF-FFGC21-20210410/index.jhtml?WT.mc_id=POG

USE Group Code: FFGC21 Group Name: Florida Federation of Garden Clubs

Room Rates: Starting at \$155.00 Double Occupancy

Registrar Use Only: Reg No. _____ Check No. _____ Deposit No. _____

94th Annual FFGC Convention Opportunity Drawing



OIL PAINTING: Seaport Village,
Size 4'x5', Solid Wood Frame



METAL DESIGN SCULPTURE:
By Ken Schwartz



CERAMIC VASE:
By Hergesheimer



TWO NIGHT STAY: Hilton Oceanfront Resort,
Includes Tour Package & Dinner for Two



TURTLE LOVE: Sterling Silver
Necklace & Drop Earrings



DAISY BLUES GARDEN ITEMS: Includes Doormat,
Mailbox Wrap, Flag & 2-12" Flower Pots



CLASSIC CHAPEL BIRDHOUSE:
Includes Outdoor Pole



FITBIT CHARGE 3:
Fitness tracker

Suggested Donation: \$2 per ticket. ORDER TICKETS TODAY!

Make Check Payable to : FFGC 2021 Convention

Mail to : FFGC 2021 Convention PO Box 560111 Rockledge, FL 32955

Laura Ennis, Chairman, laura.e.ennis@gmail.com; 321-543-7130

The drawing will be held on April 13, 2021. You need not be present to win. Your generous donations support FFGC aims, goals and special projects. The Florida Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc. is a 501c(3) organization. IRS rules and regulations apply. Winners of prizes valued at \$600 or more, will be issued IRS form W-26. Your donations may be tax deductible as allowed by the IRS. Consult a tax advisor for more information. One prize per winning ticket.

NGC's Four/Five Star Program

National Garden Club's Four/Five Star Program encourages members to attend NGC's four study schools and achieve Consultant and Judge Status.

NGC offers a very prestigious National recognition to members who complete 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 all 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.

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 their State Convention.

Applications are due to the Florida State 4/5 Star Chairman by Feb 1, 2021.

Please contact the State Chair with any questions.

Jacqueline Connell, FFGC 4/5 Star Chairman
(413) 229-9977

TheMusesGarden@netscape.net

News From National Garden Clubs, Inc.

ENVIRONMENTAL, GARDENING and LANDSCAPE DESIGN SCHOOLS

The New NGC Website is UP. The password for most NGC members is NO longer required. Members of the Board of Directors were sent a link to set up their own password.

To find information on the Schools pages, select "SCHOOLS", Select Environmental, Gardening, or Landscape Design. Next is information about becoming a Consultant and link "Here". This takes you to the "Guide for Students and Consultants." The scheduled courses are in "Find a Course". Need to relick to find Scheduled Courses 2, 3, or 4. There is a link to reach the NGC School Chairman. New is the "Schools Resources" link where you find the revised Handbook, Schools Forms, Sample Spread Sheets for the State Chairmen, Directories of State Chairmen. The School's Forms are also in the "Forms Library". Please use only Forms 2020.

Check out the Multiple Refreshers page. There is a Multiple Refresher Credit Chart to aid in determining possible refresher credits when registering for a Multiple Refresher.

Information about the 4 and 5 Star Memberships is under the "Schools Overview".

The Zoom Guidelines for States seeking to conduct virtual courses were approved by the NGC Executive Committee. All of the Accrediting Chairman have a copy of the Zoom Guidelines and the Zoom Tool Kit. The Guide and Tool Kit items including PowerPoint docs on Training Zoom Hosts and Zoom Participants can be found under NGC Schools—Resources—Zoom. Easy to use links to the information for all FFGC members can be found on the FFGC website at the top of the Education page or the District X website under Resources

GardenClub.org/school/schools-resources

Local School Chairmen or sponsoring groups seeking to have a Zoom Course need to contact the ES, GS, or LDS State School Chairmen.

Note: Issues of *The National Gardener*, *Keeping in Touch*, *Newsclapes* can now be found under "Member Resources".

One of the joys of attending the Zoom Courses is listening to the enthusiasm of the participants. If you have attended one of the Zoom Courses, consider posting your comments in a Blog. Blog submissions are in "Member Resources".

Barbara Hadsell, NGC Schools Policy Committee
NGC and FFGC Gardening Schools Chairman

FFGC Scholarship

Submitted by: *James Purvis*

Thank you to FFGC members for getting the word out to students to apply for FFGC Scholarships. The following students were awarded scholarships for the 2020-21 school year:

\$3,000 scholarship awarded for the 2020-21 school year :

Gabriella Whisler, freshman at Santa Fe College – focused on environmental issues with a major in Marine Biology and minoring in communications. Attended Critter Camp, Wekiva, LIT, CIT, Junior Counselor at Wekiva and had planned on being Senior Counselor in 2020.

Sophia Pearce – freshman at College of the Florida Keys – majoring in marine biology/zoology, wants to work in coral restoration.

Blaire Kleiman- 2nd year Masters at Florida International University. Research on possible benefits of weeds as insectary plants in mango farms to aid biotic pollination and fruit yield of a valuable exotic fruit. Also received National Garden Club and Deep South scholarships.

Clara Arrate – freshman at Florida State University. Her parents immigrated from Cuba when she was nine. Wants to major in biology and attend medical school.

Aubrey Lanier – Sophomore at Florida Gulf Coast University, degree in civil and environmental engineering. Attended Wekiva, LIT and CIT.

Wade Collins –Junior at Warner University, majoring in Agricultural Studies. Grew up in Plant City on family farm, works at tractor dealership, interning at citrus nursery.

Caroline Gordon – freshman at University of Florida, focus on landscape architecture to create inspiring outdoor spaces that foster community and promote the conservation of nature.

Bentley Maddox – sophomore at Florida State University, majoring in Biology and minor in Chemistry. Recipient of 2019-20 FFGC scholarship.

\$1,000 scholarship awarded for the 2020-21 school year to:

Joseph Vernon, freshman at Tallahassee Community College, wants to major in architecture city planning.

Emily Schaag – senior at Nova Southeastern University, wants to be aquatic veterinarian. Recipient of 2018, 2019 FFGC scholarships.

Membership Retention—Simple Suggestions

Jane Nendick, FFGC Membership Retention Chair

HAPPY NOVEMBER AND WE ARE SO THANKFUL FOR YOU!!! Thank you for allowing us to assist you with your Membership, and this month we'd like to remind you of some great, proven ways for Membership Retention—which is on-going!!!!

1. To those who did not renew their membership, send a "We miss you note", perhaps telling them about your exciting Programs coming up and ask them to come and be your guest!
2. To your newest Members be sure and assign a Mentor or "Garden Guide". In having someone to sit with, call with questions, learn more about the Club, etc. the new Member feels more confident about the decision they made to become a Member. Presidents, you will always want to send a "Welcome" note, including a clear description of what will happen next, like a special event , a garden tour, program, or a heads up for the Club Newsletter.
3. A good rule of thumb is to ask, "Why did you join in the first place?" Of course you will want to keep your Members happy by having Programs, field trips, etc. to meet those needs!

We're here to help in any way we can!
SHARING THE JOY OF GARDEN CLUB,

CONTINUING EDUCATION

NGC GARDENING SCHOOLS:

Barbara Hadsell, (561) 635-8809
Email: BarbaraHadsell@cs.com

District VI

Course 4 **ZOOM** Jan. 26-27, 2021

865 S. Alabama Ave., Deland, FL
Contact: *Jennifer Condo*, (386)-873-2195
Email: Jattq3@yahoo.com

District X

Course 4 **May Be Cancelled** Feb. 22-23, 2021

West Palm Beach, FL
Contact: *Michelle Maguire*, (772) 485-3279
Email: MouthMom@yahoo.com

NGC ENVIRONMENTAL SCHOOLS:

Nancy Richards, (561) 702-0550
Email: NancyRRichards@gmail.com

District XI

Course 2: **ZOOM** Land & Related Issues Jan. 21-22, 2021

Course 3: **ZOOM** Air & Related Issues Feb. 17-18, 2021

Course 4: **ZOOM** Water & Related Issues Apr. 15-16, 2021

Ft. Lauderdale Garden Club
3109 E. Sunrise Blvd., Ft. Lauderdale, FL
Contact: *Jeri Decker*, (954) 913-1616
Email: JKenJeri@bellsouth.net

NGC LANDSCAPE DESIGN SCHOOLS:

Sue Roberts, (352)-357-3712
Email: Sue@GeorgeSueRoberts.com

District VIII

Course 3 and 4 **ZOOM?** January, 2021

Specific Dates to be Determined
Lakewood Ranch, FL.
Contact: *Sheryl Perkins*, (941) 708-2963
Email: SL_Perkins@hotmail.com

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!

NGC FLOWER SHOW SCHOOLS:

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

District I

Course IV Feb 18,20, 2021

Gulf Breeze, FL
Instructors: *Pam Braun* (H)
Janice Hamlin (D,P)
Chair: *Linda Henderson*
Email: Henderson9364@outlook.com

NGC FLOWER SHOW SCHOOLS: (cont'd)

District XI, XII

Course IV Mar. 21-24, 2021

Ft. Lauderdale, FL
Instructors: *Jan Griffin* (H)
Janice Hamlin (D,P)
Chair: *Becky Schuberth*
Email: BJSchube1@gmail.com

TROPICAL SHORT COURSE

District X

Jan 20-21, 2021

West Palm Beach, FL
Contact: *Michelle Maguire*
Email: MouthMom@yahoo.com

FFGC WINTER BOARD MEETING—(2021)

Pre-Board Meeting **cancelled** Jan. 11-12, 2021
Board Meeting **ZOOM** Jan. 13-14, 2021

FFGC SPRING BOARD MEETING—(2021)

Pre Convention Board Meeting **Apr. 11, 2021**
Post Convention Board Meeting **Apr. 14, 2021**

Hilton Oceanfront Resort
100 N. Atlantic Ave.
Daytona Beach, FL 32118
(386) 254-8200

Group Code: [FFGC21](#)
Group Name: Florida Federation of Garden Clubs

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.



FFGC Facebook

Valerie Seinfeld, Social Media and Public Relations Chair



The FFGC Facebook site is in need of videos.

Do you have a video on any aspect of gardening, landscape design, floral design, environmental concerns or any other subject in which garden club members may be interested? If so, please send your video to the FFGC Facebook

Administrator at: LikeMeFB1921@gmail.com

By the way, if you are submitting for an NGC Facebook (Social Media) award for 2021, please note that NGC wants to see videos on your Facebook page. Keep track of your successes.

Like us on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/FLGardenClubs/>

Share your Club and District News with your Facebook Administrator.

Membership Retention—Communication is Vital

Jane Nendick, FFGC Membership Retention Chair

MEMBERSHIP RETENTION MEANS “NO REVOLVING DOORS”!

Attention Club and Circle Presidents: Please, Please, Please always place a 2-minute Membership Message on your monthly agenda! You, or your Membership Chair, can use some of these ideas for your Membership Moment:

Remind the Members just who all they “belong” to....Your local Club, your local District, Florida Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc, Deep South Garden Clubs, Inc, National Garden Club, Inc, and one of the LARGEST volunteer Organizations in the WORLD!!! Wow! (Be sure to explain all the benefits of belonging!)

Since everyone does have a “What’s in it for me” sign, perhaps you might want to make a visual of the above steps to keep on display at your meetings.

Always appreciate your Members!!! Rah-rah everyone and let them know how much their membership means to the other Members in the Club.

Of course, you will always introduce Guests and ASK, ASK, ASK them to become a Member! Be sure to recognize the Member who invited the Guest.

Always keep in mind the various reasons your Members joined, then plan your Programs around meeting those needs/reasons.

Take the “temperature” of the Members periodically. In other words, don’t wait til the end of the year, only to find out folks are no longer excited about being a Member of your Club.

Remember to appreciate, communicate, delegate, and share the joy of participating in our garden club organization.

FFGC Welcomes Jenn Cowin

Marjorie Hendon, FFGC 1st Vice President



FFGC is pleased to welcome Jenn Cowin to our Headquarters as our new Office Manager. Jenn is replacing Lc Blass who moved away at the end of August, and we thank Lc for her service.

Jenn comes to us with experience as an Office Administrator which included work with the Wild Apricot platform which will help in so many ways. Jenn began work-

ing for us on September 8th and will be in the office Monday through Friday from 8:30am - 4:30pm.

She can be reached at our telephone number 407-647-7016 and by email at ffgc@ffgcmail.com. The mailing address is 1400 S. Denning Dr., Winter Park 32789.

Jenn looks forward to meeting our FFGC members by telephone and in person. Please be sure to greet her and make her feel welcome in our Garden Club family.

Find Stuff at FFGC.ORG

Sue Roberts, FFGC Website Editor

To all FFGC Members:

Do you know where to find the following information:

- FFGC Book of Information
- FFGC By Laws and Standing Rules
- FFGC Chairmanships and their Chairmen
- Minutes and Reports from Board Meetings
- Helpful Information for running a virtual (Zoom) meeting
- Any FFGC form you should need
- Latest Scheduled Events around the state
- Upcoming NGC classes
- Upcoming Flower Shows around the state
- Current and past issues of the Florida Gardener
- Current issues of NGC publications – Keeping in Touch and the National Gardener
- Tri-Council and Flower Show Judges Information
- Convention Information
- List of District Directors and the clubs in their districts
- Directory of all FFGC members

The answer is the FFGC website: www.ffgc.org.

Due to privacy concerns some of this information is behind a privacy wall. To gain access you will have to login. Your id is your email address and your password is whatever you assign yourself. On the login screen there is a ‘Forgot Password’ option. You can use this to set or reset your password. If your email does not allow you to login, the email stored in your profile on our database is incorrect. Please email ffgc@ffgcmail.com and ask for your profile to be updated with your correct email address.

Please check out this wonderful source of FFGC information.

2021 NGC Convention—Cancelled

Due to the continued world-wide Covid-19 threat and after several weeks of difficult, but necessary decisions for National Garden Clubs, Inc. I am reporting that the NGC Executive Committee voted September 18, 2020 to cancel the **2021 NGC Annual Convention**, May 17 – 21, 2021, hosted by The Garden Club of New Jersey, Inc..

After many conversations with Michelle Eggert, Conference Direct Representative and Pat Wilson, Convention Chairman, the decision was made to cancel our contract with the hotel, therefore cancelling the convention. This decision was not taken lightly, nor without hours of thought and consideration for the well-being of not only our members, but our organization.

We are grateful to all garden club members who have worked tirelessly, generous with both their time and talent to organize this convention. A very special thank you to the New Jersey garden club members who organized this annual convention.

In closing, I want to remind our members to look to our future. As garden club members, we are strong, committed and dedicated to NGC and our world. This historic National emergency is causing us to step back, slow down and reorganize activities within our homes, communities and volunteer efforts. Let’s be positive and receptive to new technologies, in continuing to grow as garden club members.

Gay Austin, NGC President

National Garden Club
4401 Magnolia Ave.
Saint Louis, MO 63110
GardenClub.org

Conservation Happens On The Ground

by Kimberlee Duke Pompeo



In the qualified words of natural historian Sir David Attenborough, "we are ultimately bound by and reliant upon the finite natural world around us.

According to scientists, humanity has dramatically influenced what is referred to as The Holocene Period, 'our now-time.' It's true, all organisms affect and influence their environment to some degree, yet none has ever changed the globe as much, or as fast, as our species is doing.

How then could a single act make any real impact in reversing the damage that has been done? It's true; some are overwhelmed by this thought and opt for no action at all. Yet, taking small steps forward is cumulatively progressive and leads to a more massive impression of resolve. Nobody wants extinction. But, we rarely see the harm we're causing because evolution is slow with continuous and steady change.

Enter the actual and real value of biodiversity. When it comes to our natural landscape, if we return the *right* plant to the *right* location, we're another step closer to reversal. We must replace native plants as nature intended, and with the help of insects, the sun, the rain, and varying weather patterns, the plants will do all the rest.

You can make a difference! Bring your *footprint* forward and help add to the larger picture in reversing the permanency inherent to extinction. Our nation's heritage depends on it!

For More Information go to the FFGC Affiliate –The Institute for Regional Conservation at:

<https://www.regionalconservation.org>

Kinberlee Duke Pompeo

District X Vice Chair, Plant America with Trees, Barrier Islands

Former President, Ocean Ridge Garden Club 2016-2019

FFGC Junior Gardening Youth Awards and Contests

Valerie Seinfeld, FFGC Awards Chair

Get ready to submit your Jr. Gardening and Youth Awards and Contests

Thank you for Writing Awards- Winners will be announced at the FFGC Convention on April

NATIONAL POETRY CONTEST Grades K - 9

2020-2021 Theme: "Exploring Backyard Mysteries"

Excite and encourage our Youth to express and explore their creative thoughts through different types of poetry. NGC's Poetry Contest enables our Youth to embrace their creativity through the art of writing. Be imaginative and join the winners to see your poetry in a printed booklet!

Eligibility:

Special Education and English as a Second Language:
Kindergarten through Ninth Grade.

General Education:
Kindergarten through Ninth Grade.

Club entries must be sent to FFGC Chairman, Sandra Lynch due by January 15th.

For details visit the web site: [FFGC.org/Youth-Awards-&-Contests](https://www.ffgc.org/Youth-Awards-&-Contests)

NATIONAL ESSAY CONTEST Grades 9 - 12

FFGC - HS-20 ESSAY CONTEST AWARD

2020-2021 Theme: "Adapting our Actions to Protect our Natural Habitats"

An award of \$25 is offered to a High School Gardener for the best environmental essay. The winning entry will be entered in the NGC High School Essay Contest. Each contestant must submit their entry on an official NGC Awards

Eligibility:

The High School Essay Contest is open to all High School students attending 9th through 12th grades. A \$1,000 NGC Scholarship will be awarded to the National Winner.

Club entries must be sent to FFGC Chairman, Sandra Lynch due by January 15th.

For details visit the web site: [FFGC.org/Youth-Awards-&-Contests](https://www.ffgc.org/Youth-Awards-&-Contests)

NATIONAL YOUTH SCULPTURE CONTEST Grades 4-8

2020-2021 Theme: "Encouraging Youth to Keep Our Planet Green"

This contest encourages students to keep our planet green and to get involved with saving the environment. Students in grades 4 through 8 are eligible to create a sculpture of recyclable, reused, and reduced materials. The sculpture is limited in width to 8 1/2 inches by 11 inches. Height should be proportional to width.



Club entries must be sent to FFGC Chairman, Sandra Lynch due by January 15th.

For details visit the web site: [FFGC.org/Youth-Awards-&-Contests](https://www.ffgc.org/Youth-Awards-&-Contests)

WOODSY OWL POSTERS - Due January 20, 2021

We are celebrating Woodsy Owl's 50th Birthday!

Eligibility:

All Florida Children from first to fifth grade sponsored by a FFGC Garden Club may participate.

Children from first through fifth grade are invited to participate in the 2021 National Garden Clubs, Inc. Poster Contest! The U.S. Department of Agriculture Forest Service and the National Garden Clubs, Inc. are giving students the opportunity to demonstrate through original drawings of Woodsy Owl their understanding of basic environmental conservation principles.



Club entries must be sent to FFGC Chairman, Sandra Lynch due by January 20th.

For details visit the web site: [FFGC.org/Youth-Awards-&-Contests](https://www.ffgc.org/Youth-Awards-&-Contests)

Dates to Remember

Junior Gardening Awards J10-J30	January 30
Youth Awards	January 15
Except HS 12	January 1
Youth Contest	January 15
Woodsy Owl Poster Contest	January 20

BOI Update Available

The Fall 2020 Update of our 2019-2021 Book of Information (BOI) has been posted, in its entirety, on our website ([FFGC.org](https://www.ffgc.org)).

From the home page, choose "Home" tab, then "About FFGC" ... see listed: FFGC Book of Information (Updated 10/29/2020 - [Changes in blue](#))

Please send any requested changes to: Karen Smith @ kanns@verizon.net

Karen Smith, BOI Chairman

2021 FFGC Floral Design Calendar

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From Your Editor

Dave Spaulding



Note that this issue of The Florida Gardener is longer than its normal 24 pages, which is what the FFGC budget plans to have in each issue. However, there was much more important and interesting content that authors sent for inclusion in this issue.

The FFGC Continuing Education chairs, after having cancelled many classes due to COVID 19, found they had money remaining in their budgets. That group, led by Barbara Hadsell, generously donated the additional amount needed to allow the inclusion of this content. The FFGC finance committee, chaired by Marge Hendon approved using additional funds from the continuing education budget for the publication of the winter edition of The Florida Gardener to have the extra pages to include all the content.

Thanks to all individuals and committees involved in approving the one-time additional publication funding.

2021 Deep South Convention—Cancelled

After much consideration the DSGC 2021 Convention in Huntsville, Ala. has been cancelled. It was a hard decision to cancel, knowing there was much business that needed to be discussed, committee meetings to be held and above all the fellowship that we all enjoy. Our prayers are with all our fellow garden club members for their safety and continued garden club involvement.

2021 Floral Design Calendar

Claudia Bates

Our 2021 Floral Design calendar is out! It includes this very striking and colorful example of a "Functional Table for One". We regret the designer's name was omitted.- Sandra Deering from Palmetto Bay is the designer, and we thank her for submitting this most colorful and tropical example of a Table Design.



Sign up for FFGC's FLORAL DESIGN CLASSES and you, too, can create beauty like this!

SEEK 2021 Report

Save Earth's Environment through Knowledge

Mary Ann Whisler, Chairman

September 2020

We are sorry to say that SEEK 2020 was cancelled. The Committee regretted we could not provide this valuable program. Now with SEEK 2020 behind us, the Committee has started working with University of Florida for SEEK 2021.

SEEK 2021 will be hosted at the University of Florida/Gainesville Campus. Together with the University we will have a very comprehensive environmental program. SEEK Students for 2021 will visit labs to understand new studies in conservation and the environment, meet with a panel of UF speakers to understand environmental science careers and offerings at UF, and live in dorm housing to get an understanding of college life. Our SEEK goal is to encourage a lifetime commitment to a cleaner world and possible careers in Environmental Sciences. The Committee feels the university can offer a place to achieve these goals.

The date of SEEK 2021 is tentatively set for June 20, 2021. The cost remains at \$300 per student. Look for updated information as it comes available on the FFGC.org website.

The SEEK Committee would like to thank all the Districts, Garden Clubs and individuals that have contributed to SEEK by sending students and providing donations. The committee asks that clubs and garden club members contact their local high school counselors and science teachers to identify interested students. Without "YOU" this program would not exist.

Thank you to all FFGC Garden Clubs for giving this committee the opportunity to provide this valuable program to our high school youth. With your support, FFGC will make a difference in the young lives of tomorrow and bring hope to a more beautiful and cleaner environment.

Thank you FFGC!

Summary:

SEEK 2021 University of Florida

Finding students to attend SEEK

Thank you to all the Clubs and Districts

Mary Ann Whisler, SEEK Chairman

Email: Mary.Whisler66@gmail.com

NGC & FFGC Club Awards

NGC FS-1D Award of Merit presented to St. Petersburg Garden Club of for their standard flower show, "It's Showtime"

Pictured: Cindy Ordes (L), Garden Club of St Petersburg President and Barbara Rao (R), District VIII Director



Precious Metal Certificate Emerald, Award 70 years as a member of FFGC, to Clearwater Garden Club.

Pictured: President Howard Washauer (L) and Barbara Rao (R), District VIII Director



Tallahassee Garden Club

Received a \$5,000 check from NGC National Disaster Fund For the Replacement of Trees Damaged by Hurricane Michael

FFGC History-OUR FIFTH DECADE-1965-1974

By: Tina Tuttle, FFGC 3rd Vice President

"Education Began in a Garden" was the theme chosen by Van Blanchard for her administration, at the outset of which she emphasized the Federation would benefit immeasurably if each of its more than 30,000 members learned something about gardening every day during the two-year period.



Shortly after being elected and installed at the 1965 Convention in Tampa, Mrs. Blanchard headed the Florida delegation attending National Convention in Portland, OR, May 23-29 and she was the featured speaker at the President's Conferences in Florida's 12 districts.

In addition to a 21-day tour of Europe there were tours to the Middle East, a 28-day "American Rail Cruise" around the USA and Mexico and a 21-day trip to Hawaii, Japan and Hong Kong. Net profit from the tours, in the amount of \$2,433 augmented the Headquarters Endowment Fund.

Lectures, demonstrations and workshops of the 21st Short Course at UF June 23-25 offered many "Tips and Tricks for Gardeners". Mrs. Hugh Simons served as general chairman and 198 garden club members attended.



The President participated in the formal dedication of the Josephine Bay Paul memorial planting at the St. Mary's River entrance to Florida, June 20, 1965, when a bronze plaque in memory of Mrs. Paul was unveiled.

The entire area and nearby median strip had been designated, by act of the 1963 Florida Legislature, as a park. Planting was by State Road Department workers, in accordance with landscape architect-drawn plans. The attractive layout with a 10x12 foot pool, a five-jet lighted fountain, and the large Florida sign backed by an ornamental brick screen make a beautiful and imposing sign for visitors crossing the state line from Georgia.

Nine teachers took advantage of the \$65 scholarships offered by the Federation and attended the Teachers' Conservation Workshop held June 22-July 9, 1965, at FSU. Each student completing the course received three semester hours credit toward either an undergraduate or graduate degree.

Of the many junior gardeners attending Camp Immokelee in the summer of 1965, 51 received Junior Nature Camp scholarships—47 from the Federation and four from the Sears Foundation. From June 11-August 21 Mrs. W. S. Miller, Junior Nature Camp chairman, served as crafts instructor with her classes completing more than 770 articles excluding those for special events.

The Federation was successful in having the 1965 Florida Legislature revise the State Conservation law and add FFGC to the list of responsible groups permitted to carry on activities in public schools. Working with State Road Department officials, Mrs. Melville Hall, chairman of Legislation, also was instrumental in getting the junkyard bill enacted into law.

Mrs. Blanchard attended National Council's Conference on Conservation, held in cooperation with the American Forestry Association.

On November 12, 1965, a Southeastern Regional Beautification Workshop co-sponsored by Keep America Beautiful, Inc., FFGC, the Landscape Critics and the State Chamber of Commerce was held in St. Petersburg. FFGC past President Mrs. Jack W. Dunlap, president of the Landscape Critics Council, gave a luncheon address with her topic "The Role of Women" and citing contributions made by women's organizations in the last half century toward replacing ugliness with cleanliness and beauty.

The Federation responded to an appeal from the St. Augustine Restoration Commission and participated in the restoration program by planting an ancient garden at the Rivera House (22 St. George Street). Under the leadership of Mrs. Thomas J. Williams and Miss Kathy Sample who "close-shopped" for plants and did most of the planting themselves, an attractive garden, authentic as to landscaping and plant material, was completed in December, 1965. Money from charges for admission to view the house inside is used to maintain both the house and the garden. (From Wikipedia: The Ribera House Garden became the first formal garden in the restored downtown area. There was a dedication ceremony to open the garden in early May of 1968. The president of the Florida Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc., Carroll O. Griffin, presided over the ceremony. A committee appointed by the past president of the Federation of Garden Clubs, Mrs. Blanchard, planned the garden itself. The garden held plants of the variety that were known to have existed in colonial St. Augustine.)

At the outset of 1966 the threatened destruction of Oklawaha River County by the Cross-State Barge Canal and the questionable future facing the Suwannee River by striking it from the Wild Rivers Bill aroused Federation members to action. Mrs. Blanchard, with authorization from the Board of Directors, contacted key officials as did individual members of the board and many others throughout the state.

"Open Door" was the theme of the 10th Tropical Short Course held January 26-28 at University of Miami with Mrs. E. R. Jordan as chairman. The President of the Minnesota Federation, the past President of South Dakota Federation and two gardeners from Republic of Honduras along with many home state garden clubbers were in attendance.

Mrs. Vernon L. Conner, Deep South Regional Director and a former FFGC President, chose "Turning Trials into Triumphs", as theme for the regional convention held March 6-9 in Orlando which was attended by a record 197 delegates from AL, FL, GA, LA, MS and TN. National Council President Mrs. Fred Mauntel was guest of honor.

142 members registered for the landscape Design Study Course held March 22-24 at Headquarters. Three days later the 22nd Blanche Covington Nature Study Course opened at O'Leno State Park with 42 garden club members and other youth leaders taking advantage of the opportunities to observe nature at close range. Billy Colson of Trenton, an amateur ornithologist, brought his wild hawks, "Brunhilde" and "Harriet", trained in falconry, to give students a better understanding of predators and their role in helping to maintain the balance of nature.

Mrs. Blanchard chose "Ring Those Bells (School Bells, That Is)" as theme of the 40th FFGC Convention held April 28-29 in Pensacola, which was immediately preceded by both the Florida Council of Flower Show Judges and Florida Council of Flower Show Schools Instructors meetings.



FFGC History-OUR FIFTH DECADE-1965-1974—(cont'd)

Her record of having traveled more than 20,000 miles in performance of duties attendant to the presidency prompted the President to conclude her splendid report with a paraphrased "A thing of beauty is a JOB forever".

Reports of other officers, district directors and chairmen covered worthwhile accomplishments in all phases of garden club activities. Educational overtones were predominant in the convention program and members of "Flowers, Inc." high school gardeners who assisted with the hospitalities convinced many delegates that their clubs, too, should have high school garden units. "Pride of Pensacola" azaleas, rooted and potted by Mrs. A. D. Santillo, were among treasured favors given to convention-goers. Larger plants of the same variety were presented to National Council President Mrs. Mauntel and to Mrs. Blanchard for State Headquarters. A long-to-be-remembered experience was witnessing the "Pageant of Flags" presented by Naval Air Station Pensacola personnel.



Soon after convention the President headed the Florida Delegation at the National Council Convention in New Orleans, LA, May 8-12 and attended Presidents' Conferences in the Federation's 12 districts.

More than 200 garden clubbers attended the 22nd Annual Short Course held June 15-17, 1966 at UF. The theme "Cool, Calm and Creative" was well interpreted in classes, demonstrations, forums and workshops.

The Conservation Teachers Workshop was expanded in 1966 to include two 3-week sessions, one at Pine Jog Conservation Camp June 20-July 8 with credit for the course granted by FAU of Boca Raton and other June 27-July 16 on Bay Campus, USF. With more than \$2,220 contributed by 85 clubs, circles and individuals, it was possible to award 36 scholarships of \$65 each. 74 teacher-students took advantage of these opportunities to learn many things aimed at being helpful in teaching conservation.

Foreign tours again were spotlighted during the June-July period with \$2,181.97, the Federation's share of profits, being placed in the Headquarters Endowment fund.

Another first was chalked up by the Federation when it conducted its own Junior Nature Camp from August 7-20 at Camp Kiwanis, overlooking Mill Dam Lake in Ocala National Forest, with Mrs. W. S. Miller as chairman. The first week more than 100 boys attended. Girls, ages nine to 14, topped that number the second session. A full program of outdoors education and wholesome fun was carried out. Billy Colson and his hawks provide special entertainment and information. Past FFGC President, Mrs. C. R. Mayes Jr., served as camp nurse, being on call day and night and high school gardeners assisted as junior counselors. Although the \$30 registration fee per week for each child was \$5 less than the previous year, the net profit on the camp was \$3,235 which was placed in the Conservation Building Fund.

At the September, 1966, meeting of the Federation's Board of Director's endorsement was given HR-14922, a substitute bill known as the Scenic Rivers Bill, in the hope the Suwannee River would be included among scenic rivers.

By resolution the board called on the Florida Congressional delegation, the Senate and House committees of Interior and Insular Affairs as well as members of the Suwannee River Authority to take appropriate action to effect enactment of the bill.

In late October and early November Mrs. Blanchard and Vice Presidents Mrs. Carroll O. Griffin, Mrs. Maurice Dillingham and Mrs. Andrew A. Gurke were on the tour of 12 district meetings using education as theme of messages they gave to members in attendance.

A meeting of the Florida Landscape Critics Council in Fort Lauderdale November 9 was followed shortly by the Florida Council of Flower Show Judges symposium, a first for the council, held November 14-16 in Jacksonville.

On November 17, Mrs. Blanchard joined officials of the State Road Department and of the State Chamber of Commerce to participate in dedicatory ceremonies for Florida's second entrance way planting, located where US-17 crosses the state line into GA. Planting plans were by Mrs. Malcolm Fortson and Miss Kathy Sample, FFGC Roadside Development and Horticulture chairmen, respectively, and the State Road Department provided the labor. A bronze marker at the site honors Mrs. W. S. Jennings, long a State Chamber of Commerce champion of civic beautification and widow of Florida's 1901-1905 Governor.

At the close of 1966 Florida still lead the nation in the number of Blue Star Memorial Markers, the membership roster totaled 30,765 and its 15th Hume fellow, William C. Meredith, had completed his work for a doctoral degree in Horticulture at UF. The fellowship, now increased to \$2,7000 was then available to another graduate meeting the requirements. Edward C. Fernandez, highly recommended by Professor Hubert Owens, was again awarded the Federations' \$500 George Morrison Scholarship in Landscape Architecture at University of Georgia.

Florida Flower Show judges again assisted the Better Citizens Club of Raiford State Prison by judging their sixth annual flower show "The World of Orchids."

January 1967, brought repeats of traditional events for garden club members including Arbor Day observances and tree plantings on the third Friday and the 11th annual Tropical Short Course at University of Miami, January 25-27. It was learned during the Short Course on a field trip to the nuclear plant site of Florida Power and Light Co. that more than a commercial installation was involved. In accordance with the "Dream" of longtime FP&L Board Chairman McGregor Smith part of the company's 1,500 acres of natural wilderness was set aside for a wildlife sanctuary, another part was to be available for semi-public use with areas for Boy Scout and Girl Scout camps, marine experiments by University of Miami, nature trails, picnic areas and similar facilities.

The third historic marker sponsored by the Federation was dedicated March 8, 1967, on the site of the old Union Bank Building in downtown Tallahassee. Mrs. Blanchard, Mrs. J. D. McCullagh as Parks and Historic Memorials Chairman and Mrs. B. P. McCord Jr., president of Tallahassee Garden Club, were among participants in the ceremonies.

"Year Around Vacation Land" was theme of Florida's 11th State Flower Show held March 10-12, 1967, in the Lakeland Civic Center. Both the Florida Council of Flower Show Instructors and the Council of Flower Show Judges scheduled their business meetings on March 11 so they could also enjoy the show.

The 1967 Blanche Covington Nature Study Course was held March 12-13 at Hugh Taylor Birch State Park in Fort Lauderdale. It attracted a total of 51 students and instructors and engendered much enthusiasm. The increased enrollment resulted in a \$140.95 profit on the here-to-fore non-profit undertaking.

FFGC History-OUR FIFTH DECADE-1965-1974—(cont'd)

Clubs contributed \$2,100 to World Gardening for CARE and \$2,446 for the American Korean Foundation, conservation goals included appointment of a consultant in resource-use education and the establishment of "islands of green" nature center, 260 flower shows were sponsored, 830 members attended Flower Show Schools with 300 taking the examination, 89 clubs participated in the Civic Improvement Contest under the direction of Mrs. Flake Parker with Cherokee Circle of St. Augustine Garden Club winning the \$500 cash award given by Sears-Roebuck on landscaping of the entrance to the Cross and Sword amphitheater. More than 600 species of plants have been propagated and distributed by Mrs. William C. Knox and D. J. McSwiney since the plant distribution project began in 1962.

The clubs of District IV hosted the 41st FFGC Convention April 4-5 1967, in Jacksonville. Guests of honor were National Council 3VP, Mrs. Maxwell Steel and Deep South Regional Director, Mrs. Vernon L. Conner. During the closing moments of her administration, Mrs. Blanchard presented Presidential Citations to several corporations and agencies, including Florida Phosphate Council, Sears Foundation and Florida Power and Light Co. for outstanding services to the Federation. A special citation went to Miss Kathy Sample, Horticulture chairman, for installing a three-foot border of native plant material surrounding a large enclosed porch at the Robert Meyer Hotel which constituted a magnificent, informative horticultural exhibit.

Mrs. Carroll O. Griffin stepped into the Federation presidency at its 41st annual convention in Jacksonville with an abundance of know-how. The fact each of the new officers she headed also had served as a district director made for a smooth "change of the guard".

"Promoting and Protecting Florida's Beauty", theme for the new administration was emphasized at President's Conferences in each of the 12 districts in the Spring of 1967 and later at district meetings in the fall. Horticulture, conservation, education and youth activities were named as special emphasis phases. Early in the administration Mrs. Griffin attended the dedication of Hispanic Garden in St. Augustine, landscaped under Federation auspices for presentation to the Restoration and Preservation Committee of Florida's oldest City; that of Titusville Garden Center and a Blue Star Highway Marker at Boynton Beach. She also was honoree at a tea given by Winter Park Garden Club in the State Headquarters Building.

"We're the Girls from All Florida" and "Creating Community Concepts" were themes of the administration's two informative and well-attended Short Courses at UF. A repeat of the President's chosen theme and "Prologue to Tomorrow" were those of equally outstanding Tropical Short Courses at University of Miami.

Under Mrs. Griffin's leadership garden clubbers met the challenge of helping preserve and protect Corkscrew Swamp Sanctuary's major source of water and provide a buffer against drainage by donating \$7,000 to help purchase 2,640 acres of adjoining land. Naples Garden Club members gave the requested 25 cents each then voted \$1,000 from the club treasury to help.

Florida Power Corporation, Florida Power and Light Co., Tampa Electric Co., Winter Park Telephone Co. Florida Gas Corporation, Murphy Oil Corporation and Gulf Power Company were among "the angels" co-sponsoring with the Federation Landscape Design Courses during the administration.

The Federation was represented by a large delegation at Governor Claude Kirk's Environmental Quality Conference held December 12-13, 1967 in Tallahassee and chaired by Richard D. Pope of Cypress Gardens. One of the three invited keynote speakers was Mrs. Melville Hall of Zephyrhills, FFGC historian who had earned the Blanche Covington Leadership Award in recognition of her work as Roadside Development chairman during a previous administration. She shared the spotlight with State Senator Tom Slade of Jacksonville and H. O. Martin of Lakeland. President Griffin chaired the panel session on "Education and Responsibility".

The Federation's delegation proudly witnessed the installation of Florida's own Mrs. Vernon L. Conner as treasurer at the 1968 National Convention in Milwaukee where Mrs. Griffin accepted several national awards among them the State Publication Award of Merit on "Craft Therapy" by Mrs. Earl W. Lau of Winter Park.

For the 10th year FFGC sponsored travel projects for members, their families and friends with the Tom Duffy Travel Service handling arrangements. The net profit on tours totaled \$2,041.30 and was added to the Headquarters Endowment Fund.

Some kitchen equipment generously donated by the Ship Repair and Dry Dock Co., Tampa, was put to good use during the Junior Nature Camp at Camp Kiwanis on Mill Dam Lake in Ocala National Forest which was attended by 250 boys and girls in separate weeks. This firm also donated bunks, tables, and stoves for use when the Federation would have its own camp.

Civic Development gained momentum and school grounds beautification advances. Parks were completed and the Florida Petroleum Council joined the Federation in urging oil companies to clean up and landscape their properties. Mrs. Griffin accepted for Florida the Deep South Region's Hubert B. Owens Trophy for School Ground Improvement won by Orlando Garden Club on its landscape beautification project at Ferncreek Elementary School.

A Garden for the Blind, established in the southeastern corner of the lawn at State Headquarters under the chairmanship of Mrs. Joseph M. Fahey of Lake Mary, was presented by District VII to the Federation and dedicated by Mrs. Griffin April 16, 1968.

The Federation's newest publication, a cookbook entitled "*Florida's Finest Gourmet Cooks*" with Mrs. Victor Nixon of Orlando as editor, made its debut at the 42nd annual convention held in Hollywood Beach May 16-17, 1968. By the close of the administration 3,398 copies had been sold.

Considered so timely and of such importance the Board of Directors authorized its printing in *The Florida Gardener* was the speech by Hon. Raleigh W. Greene of St. Petersburg on "Patriotism is not a Dirty Word". In addition to state and national awards to clubs in Florida Association of Landscape Architects' municipal beautification awards were presented to St. Leo, Dunedin, Ormond Beach, Deerfield Beach, Belle Glade, Palatka, Sanford, Gainesville and Leesburg.

Two well-attended symposiums for Flower Show Judges were held during Mrs. Griffin's tenure, the first at Pensacola in September 1967 and the second at Miami Beach in May 1968.

As 1968 drew to a close Mrs. Griffin could proudly look back on the third annual FFGC sponsored Conservation Teachers' Workshops at Pine Jog and Florida Southern College attended by 28 teachers, with clubs and circles contributing \$1,216 toward the \$80 scholarships and the Florida Phosphate Council contributing \$500 to help defray expenses at the Florida Southern Workshop then doing a repeat the next year, the Federation's third year of independent camping with 287 boys and girls at Junior Nature Camp at Camp Oklawaha on Long Lake near Ocala; the fourth annual Florida conservation Week at UF; participation in the Civic Development Conference presented by the Florida Landscape Critics Council and FAU; 37 dedicated women attending the 24th annual Blanche Covington Nature Study Course at O'Leno State Park; Florida leading the nation with 67 champion trees.



FFGC History-OUR FIFTH DECADE-1965-1974—(cont'd)

FFGC boasts a total of 65 Blue Star Markers with approximately 2,280 memorialized miles of Blue Star Highways. The total number of markers rose to 73 before the administration closed. In this connection the President accepted for the Federation a handsome Blue Star Marker cover, handmade by Mrs. Earl W. Lau for dedications, from District VII.

The number of designated bird sanctuaries increased to 158 in Florida, with 225 of the Federation-approved green and white "This is a Bird Sanctuary" designatory signs being placed. Automobile plates in green and white bearing the FFGC name and a replica of its official seal became available at Headquarters.

A donation of \$300 was made toward establishment of a nature trail at Silver Lake in the Apalachicola National Forest. An inventory showed more than 500 books in the library at State Headquarters and the names of Mr. and Mrs. George W. Morrison, Maitland, were added to the Guardians of Gardening roster in appreciation for an additional gift of \$5,000 in stock. The total amount in H&E Fund rose to more than \$50,000 and that in the Junior Nature Camp Fund increased beyond the \$30,000 mark.

Mrs. Griffin cut the ribbon opening the 12th State Flower Show and helped judge "Florida, A state for All Seasons" held in cooperation with the Tampa Federation of Garden Club Circles in March, 1969. The Federation's one-third of the profit \$2,428.11, was presented at the "Happiness Is" curtain ringer-down convention of her administration held April 28-May 1, 1969, in Miami Beach.

As the administration closed a total of 26,719 of the 36-page all color "*Florida Flower Arrangement Calendars*" for 1969 had been sold. Junior gardeners registered totaled 5,836. There were 669 intermediate and 360 high school gardeners of record. 37 applications for Visiting Gardens cards had been issued, 43 had attended the Blanche Covington Nature Study Course at St. Andrews State Park, 45 clubs owned Garden Centers and 16 leased, World Gardening contributions had totaled more than \$3,984 with 9,000 pairs of used eyeglasses. The numbers of state Life Memberships increased to 111 and National Council to 17 for the administration.

The President's amiabilities and capabilities earned for her the well-deserved Certificate for Distinguished Service, as well as the love and admiration of members of the Federation.

Mrs. Maurice S. Dillingham of Santa Rosa Beach was installed as President of the Florida Federation in a candlelight ceremony conducted by Mrs. Vernon S. Conner at the 1969 convention in Miami Beach. She chose as theme for her administration "Concern Today for Tomorrow" stressing conservation to preserve for future generations the natural beauty abounding in Florida and the training of the state's youth for this purpose. The week following her installation she attended the National Council of State Garden Clubs convention in Dallas, TX, and proudly accepted four national awards for Florida. Included were two Purple Rosettes for standard flower shows won by individual clubs; the White Ribbon Special Achievement Certificate won by a club, and the Blue Star Marker Certificate of Merit won by the Federation for dedicating 12 new markers.

During the two-year administration 61 teachers were granted scholarships to Teacher Conservation workshops held at Florida Southern College in Lakeland, and at Pine Jog Conservation Center in West Palm Beach. The Short Course at UF attracted 405 persons and the Tropical Short Course at the University of Miami was attended by more than 300 Floridians. Junior Nature Camp was held at Camp Oklawaha and O'Leno State Park, respectively, with a total of 604 boys and girls attending.

In March of each year Blanche Covington Nature Study Courses was held, first at O'Leno State Park and second at St. Andrews State Park, with good attendance.

Landscape Design Schools gave many the opportunity to take the examination toward their Landscape Critics Certificate. A primer for "*Design and Development of Landscape Environment*" was published, five foreign tours were sponsored, and a total of 29 bird sanctuaries were added during these two years.

Past State President Mrs. Vernon L. Conner was elected 2VP of National Council during this administration and Mrs. Dillingham was appointed Parliamentarian by the National President.

A Speaker List was revised and published. Florida won two Regional awards and 14 National awards at the Chicago convention among them being the Best State Flower Show, "Florida, A State for all Seasons", Best Publication, *Florida Flower Arrangement Calendar*, Best Federation Year Book, the Book of Information, and Greatest Increase for Membership. Five names were added to the Patrons Plaque at Headquarters and one on the Guardians of Gardening Wall.

Mrs. Dillingham's interest in conservation led to her appointment as secretary to the Board of Trustees of a newly organized group called 'Conservation 70s'. Leading conservationists, scientists, members of the Florida House of Representatives, Senate and Cabinet comprised this group. Their goal was to put together a system of laws and administrative legislation for the preservation of Florida's natural resources. Clubs in the state donated \$3,76.77 to 'Conservation 70s'.

Many flower shows were held and 1,439 attended Flower Show Schools and two Symposiums bringing the total of certified judges to 661. Hundreds attended the 13th Annual Florida State Flower Show, "A Quest for Knowledge, Beauty and Joy", at Gainesville. A booklet on installations was published, Junior and High School gardener programs were aired on radio and television, State Bird Day was observed on May 1 each year and Arbor Day on the third Friday in January, \$4,200 was budgeted for Fellowships and Scholarships, contributions of money and supplies were made to three correctional institutions and more than 50,000 *Florida Flower Arrangement Calendars* were sold.

It had long been the dream of the Federation to someday own its buildings for Junior Nature Camp. In 1971 negotiations were started with the Division of Recreation and Parks Department of Natural Resources in Florida for the establishment of a facility in Wekiwa Springs State Park. This project was destined to grow into a beautiful camp owned and operated by FFGC.

The 44th annual convention was held at Daytona Beach in 1970 with "Harmony" as the theme chosen by Mrs. Dillingham. This was faithfully and interestingly carried out by the 717 who attended.

On May 16-20, 1971, the Federation hosted the National Council convention at the Americana Hotel, Bal Harbour. Immediately following this event the 45th annual state convention was held. The theme chosen was "Florida's World of Creativity". Mrs. Dillingham reported that members had clearly supported her administration theme "Concern Today for Tomorrow" in letter writing which was responsible for halting the rape of the Everglades, halting work on the Cross-State Barge Canal, discouraging the use of harmful pesticides and products containing phosphates, and preservation of the Bald Eagle.

Delegates voted to raise the dues from club members to \$1.50 per capita starting June 1, 1971.

Appropriate is the word for the theme "Friendship and Unity in Gardening" chosen by Anne (Mrs. Andrew A.) Gurke of Hollywood, FFGC President, for the 1971-1973 administration.

March 8-12, 1972, was datelined Jacksonville where statewide efforts were pooled to present a meeting of the Deep South Region followed by the exciting State Flower Show, "Boldly we Search", and informative annual meetings of Florida Councils of Flower Show Judges and Flower Show School Instructors.

FFGC History-OUR FIFTH DECADE-1965-1974—(cont'd)

Florida was chosen to hold the Pilot Youth Environmental Conference, sponsored by National Council of State Garden Clubs and Shell Oil Company. It was held at FIT in Orlando in August, 1972. 22 cities were represented, 52 High School Gardeners with 17 directors and alternates, 17 Intermediate Gardeners with 6 directors and alternates, three adult steering committee members and one consultant attended. Honored guests included National Council's President Mrs. Maxwell Steele, 2VP Mrs. Vernon L. Conner, High School Gardeners Chairman Mrs. Carl Dahlgren, Conservation Chairman Elizabeth Mason, FFGC President Mrs. Gurke, Conference Chairman Mrs. J. B. Threlkeld and four important representatives of Shell Oil Company.

Two Blanche Covington Nature Study Courses brought delightful and companionable experiences to campers at Camp O'Leno near High Springs.

Tropical Short Course was moved from University of Miami to Broward Community College, Ft Lauderdale, and the 16th and 17th presentations were attended by hundreds eager to learn about growing, showing and sharing. The Garden Club Short Courses at UF have become one of FFGC's most popular events. 'Flowers, Inside and Out' attracted 225 gardeners.

Four courses of Landscape Design Schools were completed adding 21 new names to the Landscape Design Critics roster, 95 Junior Gardening, 8 Intermediate Gardening and 24 High School Gardening units were registered; 191 attended the Flower Show Schools Symposium, "Beauty—is our Thing", at Palm Beach Shores; \$5,422.27 was contributed by clubs and circles for World Gardening and Mrs. Arlie Hopkins received a special pin from CARE in recognition of her outstanding services; 14 resolutions of concern to garden clubbers were approved; \$1,200 was given by members for garden therapy at Raiford; Grants were made for Conservation Teachers Workshops at UWF, Pensacola and at Pine Jog Environmental Science Center, West Palm Beach; nine National and 27 State Life Memberships were conferred; two Guardians of Gardening and 6 Patrons were added to the honor rolls at State Headquarters.

The Federation's 45th Annual Convention, "Under the Big Top", held at Sarasota May 2-4, 1972, placed emphasis on ecology, conservation, restoration, environment and youth. Pride of accomplishment was laced with gaiety during the presentation of four National non-competitive, one district, 57 senior and 16 junior State awards. The spectacular climax was Florida Council of flower Show judge's distinctive flower arrangement program depicting circus animals and characters.

National Council's convention in Cleveland, OH, May 14-18, 1972 was highlighted for Florida with four non-competitive, six highly competitive and the announced at Jacksonville Regional Awards, Hubert Owens School Grounds Improvement Trophy and Subscription to *National Gardener*, the presentations of the NCSGC Silver Seal to Dr. Jerome Keuper, President of FIT, and a Presidential Citation to Jay Blanchard of Winter Park.

A new revised edition of *Florida Garden Club Manual* was published.

Carol Beck, botanist, was honored October 12, 1972, with a plaque being placed in Highlands Hammock State Park in recognition of valuable knowledge and time given to garden clubs.

The Elizabeth McCullagh Scholarship (\$1,000 annually) for High School Gardeners was established in loving memory of "Liz" (Mrs. W. D.) McCullagh, a many time member of the FFGC Board of Directors and dedicated garden clubber.

A Litter Control Conference was held at State Headquarters January 22, 1973. "Glenn Glitter" has been adopted as a state symbol and Interdisciplinary K-12 Anti-Litter Curriculum Packets are now available for use in Florida Schools. Litter Control Chairman Mars. John B. McClland received state, national and Keep America Beautiful honors.

At the NCSGC Convention in Seattle, WA, May 13-18, 1973, Mrs. Vernon Conner was elected 1VP. The Federation won top awards for State Flower Show, *Florida Flower Arrangement Calendar* and Litter Control and Supt. M. B. Jordan of Raiford Prison received National's Silver Seal.

The FFGC 47th Annual Convention with "Nature's World of Fantasy" as theme was held May 21-24, 1973, at Disney World where the largest delegation of record assembled. Only superlatives have been used to describe the setting, the enchantment of arrangements and the skilled planning of the convention especially the "fascinating" as applied to the artistry of "It's A Small World" presented by the Judges' Council or the "inspiring" to the programs and the "informative" to the workshops.

Over 30 years of enthusiastic and vigorously active participation in Garden Club affairs brought Berne (Mrs. Sidney R.) Davis well prepared to the leadership of FFGC. From wide knowledge and experience, she knew the value of personal involvement and the strength of unity and aptly chose as her theme "A Time to be Involved". In her acceptance speech Berne stated "It is time, indeed, to become involved in planting flowering trees throughout the State to replace the thousands of trees being destroyed by housing and other developments, to be involved with the youth of our State and to teach them what their roles are in making this wonderful world work as it does; and to be involved in making a decided gain in membership of our Federation".

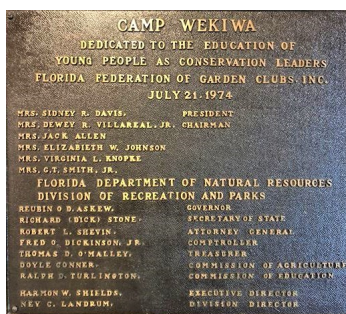
Wishing to be involved in the National Bi-Centennial celebration, the Federation voted to restore and remodel the gardens at historic Brokaw-McDougal House in Tallahassee.

In October 1973 the "Glenn Glitter" symbol was registered in the Federation's name and received a citation from "Keep America Beautiful" for this new approach in promoting litter control. (See *Florida Almanac 2007-2008*, page 451)

On 7-9 November, 1973 a Landscape Design School was held in Winter Haven. Others followed during the administration. On November 13-15, many enthusiastic members attended the first Bilingual Flower Show School in Miami.

In an effort to support the President's desire to become more involved with the State's youth, 27 Intermediate Garden units were organized with a total of 864 members. A superb manual entitled "Youth" was compiled by the Federated Garden Circles of Fort Lauderdale, under the direction of the Junior Gardening Chairman, and was approved and accepted by the Federation. There are 83 Junior Garden Clubs with 4,373 members who will benefit from this manual. High School Gardeners participate in 22 units with 494 members and the Elizabeth McCullagh High School Gardening Scholarship was awarded to Dorothy A. Karl.

After much planning Wekiva Youth Camp was dedicated and officially opened July 21, 1974, with 400 young boys and girls attending! Then on August 11-14 FFGC's first Environmental Youth Conference, "SEEK '74" was held in Orlando with 143 young people and adults in attendance



US Highway 90 was officially designated as a Scenic Route in Florida. On November 15, 1974, a Blue Star Marker was dedicated on US-90 bringing the total number of markers in the state to 87.

Garden Therapy projects brought joy to many handicapped people, and an average of 140 inmates were trained in horticulture and artistic ability through contributions to four Correctional Institutes—one of which presents an annual Standard Flower Show. M. B. Jordan, vocational supervisor at Raiford Prison, was awarded the National Council Silver Seal for his humane relations with the inmates.

Two Garden Club Short Courses were held each year and many garden clubbers attended Blanche Covington Nature Study Courses. "Operation Wildflower" was incorporated into the program of roadside and recreational area beautification.

FFGC History-OUR FIFTH DECADE-1965-1974—(cont'd)

Awards won by the Federation include the Golden Rose of Sharon Award presented by the Korean Foundation for its World Gardening program; four National Awards for non-competitive flower shows, and another for increase in membership; Deep South Regional Award for the largest numerical gain in membership; and Year Book (Book of Information) without advertisements.

Many local flower shows were held during the two-year administration with spotlight focused on the 15th State Flower Show held in West Palm Beach April 13-14, 1975, with the theme, "Florida-a Beacon of Involvement".

The Board of Directors voted to support the National Council-sponsored International Flower Show at Miami Beach in 1976. Flower Show Schools were held by local clubs and two Flower Show Schools Symposiums drew large crowds. The Federation boasts 626 Flower Show judges and 15 Instructors for Flower Show Schools.

During the 1973-1975 administration two H. Harold Hume Fellowships, three George Morrison Landscape Design Scholarships, two Taylor Alexander Ecology Scholarships and two Elizabeth McCullagh Scholarships for High School Gardeners were awarded by the Federation.

The study of horticulture always plays a large part in the programs of all garden clubs, and many members participated in the plant distribution project of the Federations. Many Garden Centers and Libraries offered information and served a great purpose in communities of the state. More than one million trees have been planted in parks and recreational areas, in city beautification, roadside development projects and on home grounds.

"A Time to be Involved" was theme for the 48th Annual FFGC Convention held in Tallahassee on April 30- May 2, 1974. Many state and national awards were won. A Presidential Citation was presented to Ney C. Landrum, State Parks Department, for his support of Camp Wekiva.

Throughout the two years 164 State Life Memberships were presented, bringing the total to 940. 21 National Life memberships were added. State Bird Day was observed each year on May 1 and many communities were proclaimed Bird Sanctuaries. The beautiful *Florida Flower Arrangement Calendar* was a sell-out each year and was enjoyed by thousands. Each issue of *The Florida Gardener*, published four times per year, was packed with information for every FFGC member.

Florida was proud to host the PATE (People and Their Environment) Leadership Training Course at the University Inn, DeLand, in mid-February. The course was attended by two delegates each from 17 southern states and the District of Columbia. This was an all-expense event with Shell Oil, Wesvaco and International Paper Companies picking up the tab. The Federation was excited over Mrs. Vernon L. Conner being installed as President of the National Council of State Garden Clubs, Inc. at the convention in Salt Lake City, UT, May 18-23, 1975. This was the first time a Florida member served as National Council President! The Federation sponsored four foreign tours proceeds from which were used for Mrs. Conner's reception, The Florida Council of Flower Show Judges appropriated \$500 for decorations for this event.

The 15th State Flower Show "Florida -A Beacon of Involvement" was presented in West Palm Beach April 12-13. A tremendous effort by the Federation and the West Palm Beach Garden Club proved to be an exciting experience. The Florida Council of Flower Show judges and the Flower Show School Instructors held their annual meetings in West Palm Beach during the flower show period.

One of the dreams of the President, Mrs. Davis, was to see the records of 50 years of FFGC activities compiled and printed in book form. She appointed a committee to affect this compilation and the book was printed for distribution at the 1975 convention in celebration of the FFGC Golden Anniversary.



A surprise presentation of a plate bearing the inscription: "Sidney R. Davis. Fort Myers, honoring BERNESE R. DAVIS, FFGC President 1973-1975" to be placed on the Guardians of Gardening Wall at State Headquarters was a thrilling close to the administration of Mrs. Davis.

Landscape Design Consultant Council

By *Sheryl Perkins*, President, Landscape Design Consultant Council, Tri-Council of FFGC

With coronavirus hitting the world, Landscape Design Consultant Council (LDCC), President, Sheryl Perkins, and Vice-President, Phyllis Weber, wanted to find a way our members could meet and a way to continue the study of education on landscaping topics per our LDCC Bylaws.

We started to attend ZOOM courses online and found ZOOM might be the way of the future. We started by asking individuals and researching topics our members would be interested in.

We came across the "Stormscaping: - Landscaping to Minimize Wind Damage" PowerPoint presentation created by Barbara Hadsell. Barbara Hadsell and Pamela Crawford did research on how some trees, shrubs, and ground-covers handled wind (hurricanes) better than others which resulted in a list of how to avoid expensive mistakes in landscaping, tips on keeping your trees standing after the storm, maintenance, and design secrets to significantly minimize wind damage, and more.

We reviewed the presentation where references were made to one of Pamela Crawford's many books, articles and photo compilations regarding all things on gardening for South Florida. The book we used is "*Stormscaping: - Landscaping to Minimize Wind Damage in Florida*". I ordered the book. This is the first gardening/landscaping book I have read, which talks about "wind tolerant plants", a new term I had not heard before. "Wind tolerant plants" is defined as how much wind a plant/tree/shrub can handle before falling or sustaining long term damage. In the book, plants, trees, and shrubs are categorized by their wind tolerance. I was amazed after reading the book, in which she referenced two other books: "*Easy Gardens for South Gardens*", and "*Best Garden Color for Florida*". I now have three books which helped me redesign my yard and prepare for the next series of hurricanes or strong wind storms.

Florida is known for having strong winds and hurricanes. Also, while searching for a topic, Florida was hit with two hurricanes: Sally and Delta. We thought, "What a great topic to bring to our Landscape Design Consultant Council!"

On October 7, 2020 the Florida Landscape Design Consultant Council held its first ZOOM Program: Stormscaping, Landscaping to Minimize Wind Damage presented by Barbara Hadsell.

I want to give you some valuable information she presented to us. Barbara started the presentation about their research in Florida after Hurricanes Frances, Jeanne, Charley, and Ivan hit Florida. Ninety percent of Pamela's nursery plants were dead. Beautiful gardens were devastated throughout Florida.

Barbara and Pamela were inspired to find new solutions from the devastation to help gardeners learn from the past. They turned every stone they could by talking with extension agents, gardeners, meteorologists, and emergency managers. They read every article and book referencing hurricane damage to vegetation they could find to learn about what they had experienced and what could be done better. They talked with Max Mayfield, Director of the National Hurricane Center in Miami, Florida; saw pictures of downed trees and gardens from ground zero from Hurricanes Frances, Jeanne, Charlie, and Ivan; consulted with botanical gardens; sent surveys to county extension agencies in affected areas; and contacted garden clubs hit by recent hurricanes in Florida. Their research was detailed, extensive and time consuming.

Landscape Design Consultant Council—(cont'd)

By *Sheryl Perkins*, President, Landscape Design Consultant Council, Tri-Council of FFGC

The pictures below show one picture of the garden before the hurricane and one picture after the hurricane showing the plants that survived. The containers still looked good and the wind-sensitive plants like heliconia that were unaffected.



After reviewing the massive information some answers were found to improve chances for our gardens to survive during the windy times to come. Barbara and Pamela defined five StormScaping Principles:

1. Understanding hurricane basics. When are they coming? What will they do to me? Most Category 1 – 3 hurricanes, representing 90% of Florida hurricanes, cause damage only to vegetation with three exceptions: properties extremely near the eye of the hurricane, roof damage, and flooding damage. Category 4 and 5 storms often take down any landscape.
2. Know your plants' wind tolerance. Some trees take a lot of wind, i.e., live oak. Some trees take very little wind, i.e., ficus trees, black olives.

Insurance does not cover falling trees, unless the tree damages buildings/vehicles. Do you have money set aside for this emergency? It was estimated the cost to remove the tree was \$10,000 and that the tree removal company would not cover any collateral damage to irrigation systems.

Barbara discussed some of the best and worst trees for Florida.

On the whole, palms do better than shade trees. In hurricane Charley, near ground zero, a Sabal Palm (Florida State tree) did better than an oak, which died.



Sabal Palm and Oak



Dactylifera Palm

Palms which stood up: Coconut Palms, Foxtail Palms, Phoenix Palms, Saw Palmettos, Roebellini, Royal Palms, Thatch Palms.

Some palms did not do well. Queen Palms have a low wind tolerance. People reported to Barbara and Pamela the Queen Palms were falling all over Florida.

Concerning shade trees, Live Oaks did the best in Florida.



Live Oak

The worst: Ficus, Australian Pines (accounted for 60% of the tree debris when Charley hit and 94% in Andrew), Black Olives (broke up badly).



Ficus

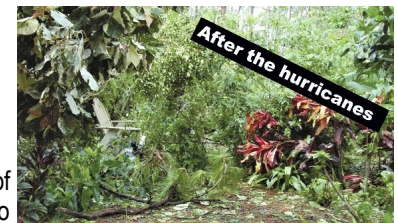


Australian Pine

Laurel Oaks caused more damaged than any other shade trees in Central Florida.



Laurel Oak



After the hurricanes

They recommend if you have any of the following trees close enough to your house, which might fall on the house, think about removing: Acacia, Australian Pine, Ficus, Laurel Oak, Melaleuca, Queen Palm.



She mentions some of the best shrubs are arboricola, dracaenas, plumbago and good groundcovers are thick-leaved bromeliads, bulbine, and purple queen.

3. Understand other reasons why trees fall.

Trees fall more in wet soil (where flooding happened and roots were under water for a period of time) than in dry soil. Trees also blow over more easily when planted in small spaces (parking lot-try a palm); or planted in shallow or compacted soil.

Clumps of trees stand up better than singles, so place wind-sensitive trees in the middle of a clump of wind-tolerant ones. Plant small trees, which do not grow over 12 feet tall, under or near power lines.

Most devastated homes were in the open. Homes surrounded at a distance with wind-tolerant trees (20 to 40 feet tall) had less damage, because their homes and gardens were shelters by the trees.

One of the gardens which survived had a fence and double layer of wind-tolerant palms/trees on the property line to protect the gardens within.

4. Design to minimize wind damage. Healthy plants recover much faster after the storm, saving you time, aggravation, and money in the long run.

Landscape Design Consultant Council—(cont'd)

Maintenance is very important in taking care of your garden year round: watering, trimming groundcovers, shrubs, and trees (trimming trees allows the wind to go through the canopy instead of toppling the tree(s) and have a routine tree trimming plan once or twice a year—not two days before a hurricane), mulching, pest control, soil preparation, fertilization, and planting.

5. Proper storm maintenance and aftercare are important steps in saving your garden and your money. Here are important tips:

- (1) First priority is the downed trees. Some of those trees could be saved. Place burlap or soil on the roots and keep the roots damp until you can upright the tree. Small trees are easy to upright. Use 8 foot landscape timbers for stakes, bury them 3 – 4 feet in the ground, tie tree to stake with soft rope. Remember to loosen rope as the tree grows and do not forget to water. Leaving those trees on the ground is the most expensive hurricane mistake.
- (2) Second priority is to check the roots of plants. Wind may have blown the roots around leaving air pockets with no soil at the base. Solution is to add soil to the original level and water to remove air pockets.
- (3) Palms can take a year or more to die. Do not cut off damaged fronds. Take care not to damage the center bud of the palm. Give them time to recover.

Remove any trees or broken branches which are obviously dangerous.

Trimming: if it looks bad, cut it, usually in the winter or spring. However, if a hurricane is coming, regardless of the time of year—break the rule only during this time if needed. Improper tree trimming is a major cause of damage for the next storm. Hurricane cuts (cutting healthy fronds) to palm trees hurt them in the long run. If you don't know how to properly trim the tree consult an arborist.

Plants damaged by water can take a year to die. If you have saltwater damage you need to water the plants to wash out the salt from the soil. Water more frequently.

Do not fertilize if the roots are badly damaged. Give the plants a few months before fertilizing. Fertilize with a mild, slow-release blend.

Some shade plants will need to be removed because they now receive more sun.

If you would you like more information, you may purchase Pamela's book, *StormScaping* on eBay, Amazon, or your local book store.

In conclusion, this was an amazing presentation and I hope the small amount of information here has inspired you to learn more about your plants' wind-tolerance. If you would like to review the PowerPoint, you can email me at: sl_perkins@hotmail.com. We received rave reviews from the attendees. Florida's LDCC's first ZOOM Program was a success. Phyllis and I have received many topics from the attendees for future topics for use with ZOOM. We are now planning on holding a ZOOM program on a different topic dealing with landscaping.

We did have some glitches holding our first ZOOM, but they were minor. I recommend for others to try holding a ZOOM. I think this is the way of the future. Some suggestions:

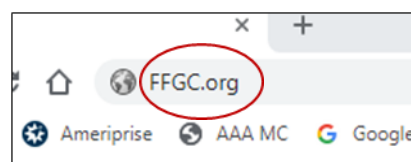
1. Open the waiting room at least 30 minutes before the program starts for people new to ZOOM, so they have a chance to understand the buttons on their computer, iPad, or phone. (mute, unmute, how to ask questions in the Chat area so they do not interrupt the speaker.) Inform the attendees in advance of the time for learning the controls and the time the presentation will start. This also allows those knowledgeable to have private chat with their old friends until the official time the program starts.
2. Have a designated person to read the questions from the Chat and inform the attendees of this.

3. Having the presenter share their screen while talking, not the host. Why? Some people were distracted when the presenter said next slide. The host is distracted with other jobs (letting people into ZOOM who are late, etc.)
4. After the ZOOM meeting is ended, have the organizers stay on ZOOM after everyone has left and review the good and bad of the event.
5. Request that the participants provide feedback and suggestions for improvement by email. A pre-defined questionnaire would help inspire participant responses.

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2. Use the scroll bar on the right-hand side of the screen and scroll all the way to the bottom of the home page. On the bottom left of the home screen, you will see:

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Note the two open tabs, one for the FFGC web site, and the current/open tab for Amazon.com Online Services.

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Editor's Note: *It was reported in the FFGC board meeting, that the 2019 FFGC income generated by these re-directed Amazon purchases was **\$1,499.50***

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




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