**April 2020 Board Meeting**

**Convention Meeting Cancelled**

Board Chairmen Reports

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# ADVISORY COUNCIL

# ADOPT-A-PARK

# 

Adopt-A-Park

January 8, 2020

Libby Curnow, Chairman

The Adopt-A-Park program works with our clubs to create Adopt-A-Park Programs in their communities. The online Parks and Recreation Departments can be a great resource to find parks in their area and any needs that they may have. For a list of parks go to follow this link, **https://www.cityofpsl.com/government/departments/parks-recreation/adopt-a-park-program.** Find out if they would like to have a garden sponsored and maintained by the club. This can be great exposure for the club as well as the park.

This program is open to the interpretation of the club and it is helpful to work with local Parks and Recreation Departments to find out their needs. It can be planting, pruning or weeding. Some parks will allow a sign is posted to indicate the organization which has adopted the park.

This is a wonderful way to create good working relationships with your local parks and recreation departments and brings a sense of good will to the community.

# AFFLIATES MEMBERSHIP

# AMAZON PROJECT

Amazon Report

Linda Johnson, Chairman

April 16, 2020

The sales have been strong since the January BOD Meeting. January, February and March saw record sales with April dropping off. Please don’t forget to access Amazon through the ffgc.org web site. If you have any trouble accessing, please don’t hesitate to call, email, or text me.

Phone – 352-498-5806 (home) or 352-356-2751 (cell)

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

I hope everyone stays safe and healthy during these hard times.

# ARBOR DAY

# ARBORETA & BOTANTICAL GARADENS

# AWARD, DONORS

# 

# AWARDS – FFGC

April 15, 2020

FFGC Awards

Valerie Seinfeld

Awards Chair prepared and scanned Winning FFGC Awards for NGC. Prepared Awards for

shipping 2 packages to separate award judges Mailed and emailed January 6, 2020 2 packages

$17.30.

January 18, 2020 mailed 3 packages to 3 different Deep South Judges locations. $ 32.44. The

process of preparing Awards to be shipped is making copies, scanning awards, printing DS

cover sheets. Deep South Awards does not accept electronic submissions. Deep South AWards

now require 2 copies of awards and their cover sheet.

Ordered 6 boxes of 2" Gold seals for pressing FFGC SEAL for certificates and for FFGC Floral

Units 1-9 chairman Carol Lucia and mailed Carol her box of pressed seals

.

Created 3 PowerPoints for Convention Presentations. Incomplete due to Convention

cancellation.

Worked with the Convention Committee on Awards Presentations protocol and logistics.

Worked with the following chairmen gathering award winner information, Smokey Bear/Woodsy

Owl, Junior Gardeners, Youth, Tree Count, Roadside Beautification. I provide a sharable

Spreadsheet so that Jr, Gardener Award Chair and I have an easier gathering of Award

Information.

Created a spreadsheet of Award FFGC Winners for FFGC Treasurer to create checks for

winning awards from.

Coordinated with FFGC Office to order additional Certificates and Covers giving 6 weeks

notice before actually needed..

Coordinated with Awards Sponsor Chair on Sponsors names and which awards have not been

won in the past 3 years.

Coordinated with FFGC Vice Awards chair on winning awards typed programs and added the

updated Sponsors’ names to Program.

Updated FFGC Awards webpage of FFGC platform with new dates and sponsors.

Wrote Speeches for top award presentations.

Contacted Deep South and NGC Awards Chairs after Conventions were canceled to find out

what the procedure of awarding their awards will be.

# AWARDS – NGC & DSS

# AWARDS – YOUTH

# BACKYARD HABITATS

# 

# BARTRAM TRAIL

# 

# BEES

# BIRDS & BUTTERFLIES

# BLUE STAR & GOLD STAR MEMORIAL MARKERS

**Blue Star Memorial Program**

**Blue Star Memorial Chairman**

**Rosita Aristoff**

**April 17, 2020**

1. New and Pending Blue Star Memorial Marker Activity

* Garnier Beach Garden Club (District I) – The Blue Star Memorial Highway Marker in Fort Walton Beach adopted by the Garnier Beach Garden Club was rededicated on October 31st, 2019
* Milton Garden Club (District I) – A new Blue Star Memorial Highway Marker was dedicated on Novembers 18th, 2019 at the garden club’s club house. The marker will be installed along S.R. 87 near Naval Air Station Whiting.

* Temple Terrace Garden Club (District VIII) – The orphaned Mango GC Blue Star Memorial Highway Marker adopted by the Temple Terrace GC was relocated and rededicated on November 11, 2019.
* Garden Club of Lakeland (District IX) – The club’s two Blue Star Memorial Highway Markers were rededicated on November 22nd, 2019 after having been refurbished.
* Wauchula Garden Club (District IX) - A new Blue Star Memorial Highway Marker was dedicated on November 11, 2019.
* Wellington Garden Club (District X) - A new Blue Star Memorial Marker was dedicated on November 11, 2019.
* Miami Beach Garden Club (District XII) – A new Blue Star Memorial Highway Marker was dedicated on November 9th, 2019 along Alton Road (S.R. 907) at I-195.
* Miami Beach Garden Club (District XII) – The 65 year old Blue Star Memorial Highway Marker originally dedicated along US 1 in Miami by the now disbanded Tropical Garden Club was adopted by the Miami Beach Garden Club and refurbished in December, 2019.
* Punta Gorda Garden Club (District IX) – A new Blue Star Memorial Marker has been received for dedication in their city’s Veterans Park currently scheduled for May 14, 2020.
* The Hamlet Garden Club (District X) – The new Blue Star Memorial By-Way Marker ordered in October, 2019 has been received. Dedication date is TBD.
* Pinecrest Garden Club (District XII) - A new Blue Star Memorial Highway Marker was dedicated along US 1 in their city’s Veterans Wayside Park on February 18th, 2020.
* Garden Club of Cape Coral (District IX) – A Blue Star Memorial Marker was ordered in January, 2020 for placement in Cape Coral’s Eco Park. A tentative dedication date has been set for November 9, 2020.
* Garden Club by the Sea (District VI) – A Blue Star Memorial By-Way Marker was ordered in February, 2020 for placement in Indialantic’s Lily Park. A dedication is tentatively set for May 15, 2020.

1. Hurricane Michael Impacts Blue Star Markers in District II

Six Blue Star Memorial Highway Markers in District II were restored in November, 2019 with funds provided by a special FFGC financial assistance plan. These markers are located in Chattahoochee, Cottondale, Parker, Tyndall A.F.B., Marianna and Port. St. Joe.

1. Summary

Since last September’s FFGC board meeting eight Blue Star Memorial Highway Markers and one new Blue Star Memorial Marker were dedicated. And, one new Blue Star Memorial Highway Marker, two new Blue Star Memorial Markers, and two new Blue Star Memorial By-Way Markers were ordered during that period.

With help from the FFGC six Blue Star markers in hurricane ravaged District II were refurbished to like new condition.

Rosita A. Aristoff

Rosita A. Aristoff

Blue & Gold Star Memorial Chairman

# BOI Editor

Book of Information Report

BOI Chairman

Karen Smith

April 2020

An **update** to the 2019-2021 BOI was approved by President Al Latina and posted on the website (ffgc.org) on April 10, 2020.

Additionally, these eight pages of changes (“BOI Supplement – April 2020”) were emailed to all members of the Board of Directors and Club/Circle Presidents by office manager Lc Blass the second week of April 2020. This supplement allows all members with a “hard copy” of the BOI to update/make changes to their copy.

Discussions with President Latina resulted in a decision not to print the traditional mid-term, Fall BOI Addendum, instead we would solicit changes/updates from all members of the FFGC Board of Directors, Club and Circle Presidents and publish another “update/supplement” in the fall.

Board members, club and circle presidents were asked to submit updates/changes prior to July 1, 2020 for the Fall 2020 supplement.

An additional update/supplement to the 2019-2021 BOI will be published in January 2021 and again in April 2021.

The next printed “hard copy” of the BOI is scheduled for the fall of 2021 when the members of the Board of Directors change with the new administration.

Summary:

By printing only one “hard copy” of the 2019-2021 BOI, we saved printing costs and mailing costs. Members can reference their emailed updates or view the entire BOI updated online.

# BRICK PATHS

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Brick Path Chairman

Joanne Mulinare

March 25, 2020

This past Fall was quiet as orders trickled in slowly, and not enough to meet the minimum order of 10 for the engraver to get to work. So I placed a reminder notice in the Spring Florida Gardener giving the members the information they needed to order commemorative bricks.

We had the minimum order of 10 bricks ready by mid-January, and they were made up quickly, with one misprint that will be redone. We have subsequently had 5 new orders which were submitted, but I believe the engraver is waiting for an additional few to come in to make 10 before he proceeds. Once these are in hand I will get a handyman to install them.

An email is sent to all donors of the installed bricks and it includes an offer to send a photo of the brick (s) they ordered. Several always except the offer and are sent their photos.

Joanne Mulinare

Summary: Brick orders are pending and recently engraved bricks will be installed shortly.

# BY-LAWS AND STANDING RULES COMMITTEE

# CALENDAR OF FFGC EVENTS

# CALENDAR – FLORIDA FLOWER ARRANGEMENT EDITOR

# 

# CALENDAR – FLORIDA FLOWER ARRANGEMENT SALES & CIRCULATION

# CHAPLAIN

# 

# CONVENTION COORDINATOR

# 

# CONVENTION CHAIRMAN

# CORAL REEF RESTORATION

# DEEP SOUTH CONVENTION

# DEEP SOUTH GARDEN CLUBS UNIFIED PROJECT

# EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

# EARTH STEWARD

BOD Report

Earth Steward Recognition

Kathy Siena

April 15, 2020

The Earth Steward Recognition was first introduced by FFGC’s Tri-Council. This recognition is given to honor the recipient for outstanding efforts and stewardship of our natural resources. It can be awarded in the field of Gardening, Landscape Design, and Environment. The chair requests that these efforts are clearly indicated on the application form biography section for the recipient.

The honor may be awarded by a club, district, an FFGC organization or by an individual. The recipient of the Earth Steward recognition is presented with a pin and certificate. The recipient is not required to be an FFGC member. The fillable application is available on the home page of the FFGC website under “Honoring Garden Club Members. The $100 donation goes to the “Color Our Garden Fund”, a part of the Headquarters and Endowment (H&E) budget for the continued stewardship and care of the grounds at FFGC Headquarters.

The first Earth Steward Recognition was given in 2013. We have given out a total of 120 recognitions with four of those 120 given in 2020 so far. An updated list of all recipients is available on the FFGC website.

# ENVIRONMENTAL ALERTS

**ENDANGERED PLANT ADVISORY COUNCIL**

# ENVIRONMENTAL CONSULTANT’S COUNCIL

# EPCOT FLOWER FESTIVAL

# FFGC 100th Anniversary

FFGC 100th Anniversary Annual Report

Tina V. Tuttle

16 April 2020

~~Tampa Downtown Hilton~~

**Fundraising:** The fundraising campaign as announced at convention 2019 and as published in *The Florida Gardener,* has raised $15,250 by September 2019 and $17,841.07 by January 2020. Funds are slowing coming in to support our 100th anniversary. To date, 28 donations have been made in varying amounts totaling **$18, 291.07**. A large candle has been made to measure our success. We have so much to do but we can’t make headway without required funding.

**History Book**: “*The First Fifty Years: Florida Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc. 1925-1975*” has been retyped so it can become the ***new*** history book for the Federation. Former Historian, Margaret Chodosh, has been helpful in providing the history for the last 4 presidencies. It is hoped that this complete history book will also include a history of Wekiva Youth Camp, which turns 50 in 2024, a history of the Blue Star Markers in Florida and a history of SEEK.

**Publicity:**  This chairman continues to place historical articles on FFGC decades in *The Florida Gardener*. A decade will be featured in each of the next 7 issues. Additionally, informational articles are being published to alert members how plans are coming along and to ask for their financial support so all plans can come to fruition.

**2024 Convention Venue:** The venue for the 2024 anniversary convention has been selected and decorating ideas are being discussed!! We will hold our 2024 and 2025 conventions at the Lexington Hotel in Jacksonville. The Jacksonville Tourist Development Council has provided us a limited grant! A tour of the Cummer Museum in Jacksonville will also be offered. Requested info from Lexington Hotel on purchase by Marriott.

**2024 State Flower Show:** Our biennial state flower show will be held in 2024 at the Garden Club of Jacksonville, one of our first garden clubs. District I FFSJ will write the schedule based on the titles used in ALL our previous state flower shows.

**Commissioned Commemorative Sculpture**: Met with **new** President of the Florida Sculptors Guild and determined a timeline for submission of concept art (due to FFGC by July 14). Drafted a contract to be entered into with the artist allowing for $5000 up-front money and $5000 payable upon completion with dedication ceremony to take place at HQ on 24 April 2024.

**Dedication Luncheon and Dinner**: 24 April 2024 will be the day to celebrate our anniversary with a ticketed buffet luncheon and plated dinner at HQ catered by Cocktails Catering. The dedication of the sculpture will take place between the meals.

**Opportunity Quilt**: The pattern for our Centennial Opportunity Quilt has been designed and will be introduced in kit form in 2021-2022. Members will create the blocks, which will be collected and assembled into our opportunity quilt by this chairman.

**Member Art Show:** The rules and sections for the anniversary Art Show have been drafted and entry blanks designed. A room at the venue will be set aside for the show and cash prizes will be awarded in each category.

**100th anniversary Logo items for sale**: Thelogo items will become available at convention 2023. Obtained price quotes on anniversary items to sell or give away: a pin, ornament, shirts, Candy Jars with 100th logo, sticky note pads, 50th anniversary items for Wekiva Youth Camp (Bracelets, lanyards).

**Officer’s Tour 2023:** Districts have been alerted that each Fall District meeting in 2023 will be a **FFGC Birthday Party!**

Tina V. Tuttle, 2VP and 100th Anniversary Chairman

**Summary**: Plans are coming together nicely for celebration of our 100th anniversary. Fundraising is slow but steady. Our 2024 convention venue has been contracted. An exceptional variety of activities and related anniversary items are being developed. A timeline for rolling out the parts and plans has been developed for the next 3 years.

# FINANCE COMMITTEE

# FFSJ PRESIDENT/LIAISON

Report

Florida Flower Show Judges

April 16, 2020 Jan Griffin

This Chairman, with the help of all the FFSJ District Directors gathered the information for our President Al Latina on the number and types of Flower Shows held in Florida. Most of those shows had already been held, however, with the COVID- 19 Virus, those that hadn’t been staged by the middle of March were cancelled.

Just about all the active Flower Show Judges were involved in the Florida State Flower Show in some way. All the judges had been signed up to judge the show and all the gifts had been purchased. The schedule had been completed; all the design classes were filled, and horticulture entries were being submitted. With the cancellation of the Flower Show and Convention due to the COVID-19 Virus all plans were put on hold until 2022.

We had one student ready to take the April Handbook Exam and the test was also cancelled. That student will be eligible to take the exam in October. Schools in Ft. Lauderdale and Jacksonville Beach have been postponed to later dates. These dates will be announced when the new dates have been approved.

The 2020 NGC Symposium for Florida is scheduled for November 6-7, 2020 in Pensacola.

Jan Griffin

President Florida Flower Show Judges

# FLORAL DESIGN STUDY

# FLORIDA GARDENER CIRCULATION

Report: Circulation (Florida Gardener Magazine)

Kelley Wood

Chairman

April 2020

We have had a few requests for missing issues of the magazine – in all cases the member (via their club) had not yet paid their dues and as such their subscription was made in-active. I’ve suggested to all that they work with the clubs to keep the dues current. We do not print but a few extra copies so in most cases the missing issue cannot be replaced. All the more reason to head towards an on-line magazine format.

# FLORIDA WILDFLOWER LIAISON

ANNUAL REPORT

FLORIDA WILDFLOWER

FOUNDATION LIAISON

April 16, 2020

Carolyn Schaag

The Florida Wildflower Foundation (FWF) had their 20th anniversary on September 1, 2019. The income has increased by the sale of the new Wildflower specialty tag. Other income is derived from membership dues, grants, and contributions. Per state guidelines the funds are used for Education, Planting, and Research of Florida native wildflowers.

Meetings are held the third Thursday on line. FWF participates in the annual Wildflower Festival held in Deland every year in March; however it was cancelled this year. FWF supports FFGC with affiliate membership and a ½ page ad in the quarterly edition of *The Florida Gardener.*

Carolyn Schaag, Liaison

Florida Wildflower Foundation

SUMMARY: Florida Wildflower Foundation is an FFGC affiliate member and sponsors a

½ page ad in the quarterly edition of *The Florida Gardener.*

# FLOWER SHOW EVALUATION/AWARDS

# 

# FLOWER SHOW SCHEDULES

# FUN WITH FLOWERS

# GARDEN THERAPY

Garden Therapy

Patircia A. Shira, Chariman

April 03, 2020

**Garden Therapy-Penal Therapy- Avon Park**

This program has been on lockdown because of the Covid-19 epidemic. Our Program manager, Officer John Meeks has not been able to have the inmates out in the nursery. Officer Meeks has been trying to maintain the nursery as best he can without help.

We had to cancel our May 2020 plant sale. We have a good balance of funds so we have been able to order supplies that Officer Meeks has needed to maintain the operation.

We have plans to hold our October, 2020 plant sale. It will depend on the covid-19 epidemic.

summary:

This program is a great benefit to the inmates. Hopefully we can continue with the work at Avon Park as soon as the lockdown is lifted.

# GARDENING CONSULTANT’S COUNCIL

# GRANTS

ANNUAL REPORT

GRANTS

Carolyn Schaag

April 16, 2020

An update was provided to the FFGC Profile for the Central Florida Foundation to reflect

the FFGC mission.

Only one request for a donation was received from FFGC membership, application was made but denied.

A donation of $45.93 was received from generated donations through the AmazonSmile

Foundation.

Publix Super Markets donated a $200 gift certificate for hospitality at the Conventions.

Carolyn Schaag, Chairman

Grants

SUMMARY: Two donations were received in the past year.

# GUARDIANS of GARDENING

# HABITAT FOR HUMANITY

# HALL OF FAME

# HEADQUARTERS AND ENDOWMENT

Headquarters & Endowment Committee

Sue Angle, Chairman

April 16, 2020

FFGC’s Headquarters and Endowment Trustees are responsible for the repairs and maintenance of our Headquarters building and grounds, and conduct their business by meeting prior to our September, January and pre-convention Board of Directors meetings, at a summer meeting in July, and by email in between.

Over the past year, changes in our office personnel resulted in the hiring of our Office Manager, Leticia (Lc) Blass, who began work on October 21, and is now skillfully managing our headquarters. Because of the quarantine of Orange County, our building has been closed since March 26, 2020, and during this time Lc is handling her duties from at home. When we get beyond this pandemic and open again, Lc will be in our headquarters office from 8:30am – 4:00pm Monday through Friday. We are happy to have Lc working with us, and we are pleased with her friendly nature, her professionalism and her dedication to duty.

This year some much-needed maintenance and repairs to our almost 60-year-old building were able to be accomplished. This was thanks to the success of our rentals with Cocktails Catering, as well as the benefits from our agreement with the Center for Spiritual Living for Sunday mornings and some evening classes.

In May, long-needed outside painting brought new life to our headquarters building at a cost of $8,730. June and July rains brought more leaks to our roofs. The old leaking flat roof over the kitchen was replaced with a pitched roof and the skylight was removed, the gift shop roof leak was repaired, and the 2 foyer skylights were also leaking so were removed and their space repaired, for a cost of $7,800.

We are fortunate to have numerous beautiful trees on our 3 ½ acres, which of course require trimming and sometimes removal. This year we were able to catch up with some extra tree work that had been needed, which added up to about $3,000. In addition, the edging of the walkway to President’s Garden which had loosened was repaired for $750.

We are also very thankful for donations given to our headquarters and grounds. A $1,000 donation was received from a generous garden club member to be used for new landscaping for the front of our newly-painted building which was greatly appreciated. We are also thankful for beautiful new light fixtures in our Assembly Room which were purchased and installed (with H&E approval) by Cocktails Catering.

Our Grounds Chairman, Susan Mello, continues to spend countless hours to make our property the beautiful setting it is and we appreciate so much her dedication to FFGC. Last summer, being concerned about the Air Potato Vine that has been covering and smothering our bushes, Susan was able to obtain air potato beetles, free of charge, from the University of Florida IFAS to help eradicate the vine. When at headquarters for our September Board Meeting, we were able to see the results of the lacy effect of the leaves they have been devouring. FFGC Invasive Plant Species Chairman Parke Finold recently wrote about this invasive pest in the

recent Spring Florida Gardener, and we will hope to be able to get beetles to keep after the vine again this summer.

This Chairman thanks the Trustees of our Headquarters and Endowment Committee for their dedication to the work of this committee – President Al Latina, 1st Vice President Marge Hendon, Treasurer Jana Walling, JoAnn Guise, Susan Mello, Cissy Richardson, Sue Roberts, and Karen Smith.

Sue Angle

Chairman

Headquarters & Endowment Committee

Headquarters outside painting - May - $8,730. July - kitchen roof leaks repaired, skylight removed and flat roof replaced with pitched roof, gift shop leaks repaired, and leaking skylights in foyer removed - $7,800. Susan Mello released beetles gotten free from UF IFAS to combat air potato vine. Leticia (LC) Blass hired as Office Manager 10/21/19. New light fixtures in Assembly Room compliments of Cocktails Catering. Trees trimmed, some removed - $3,000. Edging of walkway to President’s Garden repaired - $750.

# HEADQUARTERS GROUNDS

# HELP DESK - COORDINATOR

# HIGH SCHOOL/INTERMEDIATE GARDENERS

# 

# HISTORIAN

# HORTICULTURE

# HOSPITALITY

# 

# INSURANCE

# 

Report: Insurance

Kelley Wood

Chairman

April, 2020

Updated our FBCI (Workers’ Comp) insurance to include the current officers and paid staff.

Worked with our insurance provider and got a much-reduced rate for our Liability insurance as we are not holding any physical events for most of 2020. Total bill for this should be only $500.

# INVASIVE SPECIES

Parke Finold

April 2020

An article featuring 2 invasive species in Florida , Kudzu and Potato Vine, was published in the Spring issue of *The Florida Gardener.* An second article is planned for 2021.

Parke Finold

# JUNIOR GARDENERS

**Report**

**Junior Gardener**

**Lynda Penry, Chair**

**April, 2020**

This chairman received seventy-seven entries for Junior Gardener awards. Seven judges met on February 4 at the Fort Walton Beach library to evaluate the awards, most of them were entertaining and enjoyable to examine. Fifty clubs were registered but not many of those sent award applications. Therefore, this chairman will contact those clubs to encourage them to submit applications next year.

The following districts submitted applications:

District 1 – 29 applications

District IV – 17 applications

District V – 15 applications

District VII – 15 applications

District X – 1 application

Valerie Seinfield and this chairman are planning to make strategic changes to the Junior Gardener awards to help clarify and simplify them. The Board will be informed regarding any changes.

District Directors and/or District Junior Gardener Chairmen, please remind your Junior Gardener leaders that awards numbered J-1 through J-6 are due November 30th to Valerie Seinfield. The remaining awards are to be submitted before January 30th and sent to this chairman. Also, it is imperative for Junior Garden Clubs to be registered before they many apply for an award.

To better support our JG leaders, Christy LInke plans to have a workshop during the Wekiva Training. District I plans to have a workshop for all district JG leaders.

Summary

Changes may be made to the Junior Gardener award descriptions.

More support will be given to Junior Gardener leaders to better fulfill the FFGC mission statement, “instill in in our youth the love of gardening and the respect and protection of the environment.”

# LANDSCAPE DESIGN CONSULTANT’S COUNCIL

# LEGISLATIVE POSITIONS & POLICY

# LIFE MEMBERSHIPS

# MEAD GARDENS

**Report**

**Mead Garden Liaison**

**Cynthia Pesch**

**April, 2020**

**Mead Garden Liaison**

Board meetings of Mead Botanical Garden were held in January and February of 2020 in the clubhouse, but starting in March 2020 the board met using Zoom because of the Covid-19 pandemic. Their big fund raiser, The Duck Derby, had to be cancelled, along with most activities held in the garden because of Covid-19. The garden is still open daily, and has proven to be a popular spot for people to walk in nature while respecting social distancing.

Cynthia Pesch

Chairman of Mead Garden Liaison

Mead Botanical Garden had to cancel all activities in the garden due to Covid-19, but the garden remains open for walkers and has proven to be a popular spot as visitors respect social distancing.

# MEMBERSHIP

# MEMBERSHIP RETENTION

Report

Membership Retention

April 2020

Jane Nendick, Chair

What a wonderful year this has been working with all of you! Thank you so much for sharing your ideas with us and trusting us enough to call with questions ideas, and concerns. We have certainly learned from you!!!

Just a few reminders for Membership Retention  
1. Now is the best time ever to have personal contact with Members. Either phone ,email, snail mail, text! We are encouraging each District Director to have personal contact with each of you Club/Circle Presidents, and Presidents we ask that you have personal contact with each of your members. We received a “form” letter from our President, but there was a handwritten sentence that simply let us know she was thinking of us during this time. WOW! Our hearts are still singing over this simple act!

2. Appreciation of each Member cannot be stressed enough!

3. Utilize the FFGC Brochure to remind Members what “bang for their buck” they receive.

4. Above all, if a Member is not going to renew find out why. If a Club/Circle is not renewing, FIND OUT WHY! Please, please do this and share your findings with us.

5. WHEN this “stay at home order” is lifted, plan something FUN for your Club/Circle, hopefully this Summer. Together, plan fun, learning, exciting Programs – field trips are wonderful! Remember, a Club does not have to meet every month! Garden Club should be a place to make new friends, perhaps share refreshments, learn about Gardening, Horticulture, Floral Design, Environment, tending to God’s Garden – the World Around Us! Your leadership shoud always be thinking of ways to keep our valuable Members.

Questions? We are here to help you in anyway! (850-866-9319, call/text)

# NATIONAL GARDEN WEEK

# NATIONAL GARDENER MAGAZINE

# 

# NGC’S 4-5 STAR MEMBERS

# NGC ENVIRONMENTAL SCHOOL-FFGC SCHOOL CHAIRMAN/CREDENTIALS

Environmental Schools

2019-2020 Year-End Report

Nancy Richards, State Chair

2019-2020 garden club year was a very active year for consultants refreshing in Environmental Studies (ES), a total of 23. There were only two new ES consultants, due to the cancellation of courses after the March 2020 Covid-19 quarantine.

The New Smyrna Beach series of courses will conclude November 5-6, 2020.

Fort Lauderdale is the location of a new series of courses sponsored by the Garden Club of Coral Springs. The dates are November 19-20, 2020, January 21-22, 2021, February 17-18, 2021, and April 15-16, 2021. Jeri Decker is chairman, and is planning on using the Zoom video conferencing application in case of Covid-19 restrictions.

Questions on any of these courses can be directed to this chairman at the contact information below.

***Nancy Richards***

*FFGC Environmental State School Chairman/Credentials*

*(561) 702-0550*

[*NancyRRichards@gmail.com*](mailto:NancyRRichards@gmail.com)

# NGC GARDENING SCHOOL-FFGC SCHOOL CHAIRMAN/CREDENTIALS

Gardening School Chairman

Barbara Hadsell

April, 2020

NGC GARDENING SCHOOL

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Series 8 of NGC Gardening School began in November hosted by the Deland Garden Club and chaired by Jennifer Condo, club President. Forty three attended with 32 FFGC members taking the exams. All passed. Five non members tested and all passed. (and will be invited to become a member of FFGC). One person refreshed. Course 2 was held on Feb. 3 and 4, 2020 with 29 testing, and three of those were not FFGC members. One person refreshed. Course 3 will be held in November.

Series 9 Course 1 was also held on November 21 and 22, hosted by District X and held at the Mounts Botanical Garden in West Palm Beach. It was chaired by Michelle Maguire, Assist. District X Director and member of Pipers Landing Garden Club. 24 members of FFGC participated with 21 testing and passing and 3 refreshing. This was the first NGC Gardening School in District X and members of 9 of clubs participated plus two from other districts. Course 2 was held Feb. 24, 25, 2020. 17 tested and passed and one person refreshed. Course 3 is planned for November. Plant America with Trees was enthusiastically discussed for possible programs for these Gardening consultants to pursue. To support these Gardening students/consultants Plant America projects as well as District X Club PAT projects, a portion of the funds not needed for GS expenses for Courses 1 and 2 were placed in the District X PAT Grant fund.

Eighteen Gardening Consultants need to refresh by 12/31/2020. This includes a few whose Good Standing Date expired in 2019. One TriRefresher is planned in June in Gainesville and two NGC Gardening Courses in November. All 18 have been notified.

As mentioned in past reports, all tests in NGC Gardening, Landscape Design and Environment Schools are now Open Book, Open Notes. And the new NGC GS, ES, and LDS Handbook is available electronically under Schools on the NGC website and you may copy it free of charge. All three Schools are using identical interactive forms and only showing Pass/Fail—no test scores and using only multiple choice questions—no essay or fill in the blank questions.

Please consider sponsoring a Gardening School in your area. Again, all of those who have not completed the four courses have 7 years to finish.

Your challenge—“Help Plant America and Diversity in the Garden “ with Gardening Schools in your area!

Summary: NGC Gardening Schools are being offered in District VI and X began in Nov. 2019 and continue in 2020.

Barbara Hadsell

FFGC-NGC Gardening School Chairman

# NGC LANDSCAPE DESIGN SCHOOL-FFGC SCHOOL CHAIRMAN/CREDENTIALS

Susan Roberts

NGC LDS Florida State course chairman

& Credentials chairman

April 2020

Landscape Design School Series 37 Course 1 and 2 were held in Lakewood Ranch on Feb. 3-6, 2020. There were 39 registered in course one with 35 taking and passing the tests. In course 2 there were 28 registered with 27 taking and passing the tests.

One student completed her consultant requirements by taking course 1 and 2.

Course 3 and 4 were scheduled of March 17-20, 2020 but were cancelled due to the coronavirus situation. They will be rescheduled in the fall.

This series was being conducted under the new outlines for Landscape Design. Course 1 and 2 are not that different from the previous outlines. The differences in course 3 and 4 are more major so we will have to wait until the fall to see the difference in action. It has been extremely difficult for the course manager to find instructors for these courses. It requires landscape design professionals. They are extremely busy and not willing to spend the prep time needed to teach these classes. If they agree we have to fight to the last day to get their outlines and test questions. This makes the course manager’s job very difficult and time consuming.

The Fort Myers series 36 was to complete course 4 in April 2020 but it was cancelled due to coronavirus situation. It was also be rescheduled in the fall of 2020.

There are presently 91 Students, 76 Provisional Students, 66 Consultants, 42 Master Consultants and 5 Emeritus Master Consultants in the State of Florida. With the completion of course 4 in the series 36 and 37 we will add approximately 50 more consultants.

Summary: The NGC Landscape Design Courses scheduled in Florida in the spring of 2020 were interrupted by the coronavirus situation and hope to be completed in the fall of 2020. We will then need to look for future sponsors.

# NGC SPECIAL PROJECT LIAISON

# NGC VISION of BEAUTY PROMO

# PARKS-TRAILS GREENWAYS

# PENNY PINES

# PHOTOGRAPHER

# PILLAR OF PRIDE

# PLANNED GIVING

**PLANNED GIVING**

**Carolyn Schaag**

**April 16, 2020**

No donations were received this year to the *“Gifts Today for Tomorrow”* Fund. The

Committee met in January to discuss creating more interest and awareness in the

Fund. The fund balance at the beginning of the year was $5,384.81.

Carolyn Schaag, Chairman

Planned Giving

# PLANT AMERICA WITH TREES

# PROGRAMS AND SPEAKERS

# PROTOCOL

# Convention Report

Protocol

Jo Ann Guise

May 2, 2020

This chairman sent the FFGC President, Al Latina and Convention Chairman, Christy Linke, a list of information needed by the Protocol Committee in late summer of 2019. She received information from the FFGC President regarding assignments for the meals and Business meetings for the 2020 FFGC Convention. The information will be used for setting up the Head Tables, preparing the Presiding Officer’s patter, and seating for the Business Meetings.

A preliminary list of individuals who will need place cards at all meals was prepared and sent to Sue Roberts, assisting the Protocol Chairman. As more names would become available they will be added and seating will be finally determined for the Head Tables and Honors Tables.

Preparations continued as time drew closer. With the outbreak of the Corona 19 Virus in late February transmitting from China to Italy, the President and the Convention Chairman debated whether to cancel the Convention. When New York City became infected and involved, the U.S. government declared a “Shelter in Place”. The Convention was canceled.

This chairman sent Sue Roberts an email suggesting she keep the place cards already made for 2020 for the FFGC 2021 Convention as many of the names will be identical. Sue was pleased she had not deleted them and could use them for 2021.

# PUBLICITY & PUBLIC RELATIONS

# RECLAMATION & RECYCLING

# ROADSIDE BEAUTIFICATION/ PATHS OF SUNSHINE

# SCHOLARSHIP – NGC & DSGC

# 

# SCHOLARSHIP –FFGC

# SCHOOL GARDENS

# SCOUTING LIAISON

# SEEK CONFERENCE

SEEK 2020 Report

Mary Ann Whisler/Chairman

April 2020

I am sorry to say that SEEK 2020 has been cancelled. The University has cancelled all the summer programs except for online classes. Dorms and cafeterias will not be open. The Committee regrets we cannot provide this valuable program. With the cancellation behind us the SEEK Committee is working with University of Florida for SEEK 2021. We have contacted all our garden clubs and students regarding the cancellation. FFGC SEEK will refund all 2020 SEEK money. If your garden club made a donation or provided a scholarship, we are giving the clubs two options. We will refund your money, or if you will allow, SEEK will hold the money over for 2021 students. The SEEK Committee has given 2020 students the option of being pre-registered for the 2021 program.

SEEK 2020 moved to the University of Florida/Gainesville Campus in order to put together a very comprehensive environmental program. SEEK Students for 2021 will study Florida’s Hydrogeology, visit labs to understand the aquifer and springs, visit the Natural Area Teaching Laboratory to understand Forest resources and conservation as well as the wetland ecosystems. Our SEEK program will end with a panel of UF speakers who will discuss environmental science careers and offerings at UF. Attendees will live in dorm housing to get an understanding of college life. Our SEEK goal is to encourage lifetime commitment to a better environment and possible careers in Environmental Sciences. The SEEK Committee feels the university can offer a rich environment for our SEEK Students to learn.

The date of SEEK 2021 will be published in the fall. 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 ask 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 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 2020 held at University of Florida Cancelled

Options for donations

Thank you to all the Clubs and Districts

Mary Ann Whisler/SEEK Chairman

(mary.whisler66@gmail.com)

# SHORT COURSE – CENTRAL

# SHORT COURSE – NORTH

# SHORT COURSE – TROPICAL

Tropical Short Course

Chairman

Barbara Hadsell

April, 2020

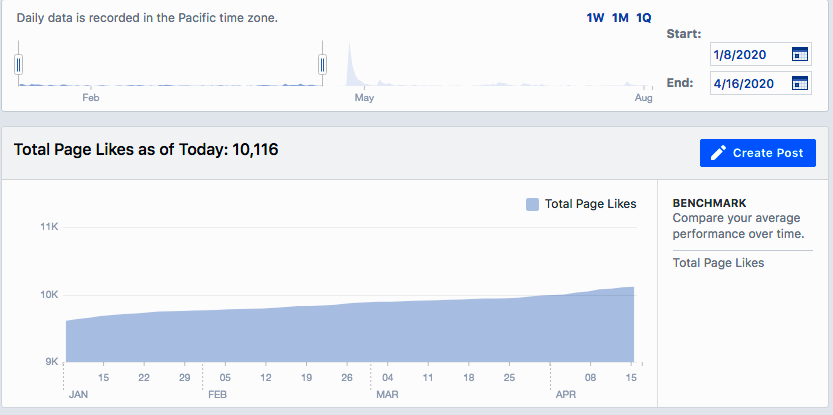
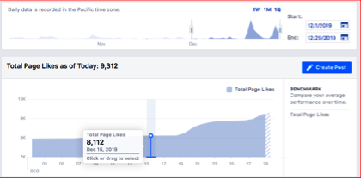
The District X Florida Federation of Garden Clubs 64th Annual Tropical Short Course, “Tropical Adventures” at the Mounts Botanical Garden in West Palm Beach was held on January 22 and 23 with 130 attending. It was an NGC Tri-Refresher with 30 refreshing. The approved budget was met and a check for $906.62 has been sent to FFGC Treasurer Jana Walling.

Summary: Tropical Short Course, Jan. 22 and 23, 2020 returned to the Mounts Botanical Garden in West Palm Beach and was an NGC Tri-Refresher.

# SMOKEY BEAR-WOODSY OWL

# SOCIAL MEDIA

# 



April 15, 2020

FFGC Social Media

Valerie Seinfeld

Please Note: Number of Likes on December 29, 2019

**9312**

Please Note: Number of Likes January 8 to4/16, 2020 **10,116**

Posting daily, sharing FFGC clubs convention posts, Events, Gardening Inspiration quotes, Award Descriptions, Award Deadlines, sharing NGC posts, Garden Posts, Floral Design Posts, Educational etc...Increased “likes” on FFGC FB page starting April 23, 2018 with 1138 “likes” to April 16, 2020 10,116 “likes” the viewership with members and others from around the US and the World. Measuring how well a post does is available and valuable information to get a rhythm in what your audience wants to see. Every Facebook Administrator can track their progress from day to day to month to month by visiting the “Insights” tab. Take a Screen shot of each month to see how well the posts are received. We will be using this to measure Club Facebook pages in 2020 for the Facebook Award.

Social Media Chairman Valerie Seinfeld January 8, 2020

https://www.facebook.com/FLGardenClubs/

# S**OLAR ENERGY/WIND POWER**

# STRATEGIC PLANNING COMMITTEE

Report

Strategic Planning Committee

Gina V. Jogan, Chairman

April, 2020

YOUR Strategic Planning Committee serves in an ADVISORY capacity ONLY and is a non-budgeted committee

The committee has been charged to look at ALL aspects of the Florida Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc. to assess immediate needs, those needs for tomorrow and needs into the future of the organization. Findings arebrought to the President and/or the Executive Committee for further discussion, implementation, enactment, referral to other committees, to be brought to you, the BOD, for informational purposes, etc.

Presently this committee is discussing the following issues, some of which are new and some which are from previous meetings and some still need follow up:

**-A New Grants Program:** allowing clubs/circles/districts to request funding for specific/special projects in the community which will increase visibility for FFGC….see information attached here:

**The FFGC Matching Grants Program**

Florida Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc. is pleased to offer **matching grants up to $500** to all Florida federated Garden Clubs and Circles in good standing. This fund was begun using the proceeds from a bank account no longer encumbered. The FFGC Finance Committee determined that the best use of these funds would be to offer our circles and clubs an opportunity to apply to use them on local projects.

The mission statement for FFGC states ***“The Florida Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc promotes the love of gardening, floral and landscape design, and civic and environmental responsibility, by providing education, resources and networking opportunities for our members, youth and community.”*** The focus and objectives outlined below form the basis for Club or Circle projects/activities that may qualify to receive matching funds. Projects/activities may be new or ongoing.

a) Any activity (workshop, program or other educational event) aimed a**t increasing** **membership** by welcoming interested individuals to your Club/Circle.

b) An activity to **beautify your community**, such as planting native plants in a park, a school garden, a median or on a stretch of road.

c) Any activity to **increase awareness** of our organization, it’s mission, goals and objectives.

The Grant application is available online and may be downloaded from the [www.ffgc.org](http://www.ffgc.org) website.

**Grant application deadline is January 15 annually**. Funds will be awarded at our annual state convention. Grant funds **must be expended by December 31** of the year awarded and **a one-page report with pictures** sent to the FFGC Finance Committee Chairman (FFGC 1st Vice President, President-elect).

-**The Membership Platform**: Wild Apricot (Personify) was contacted and they do not send IT out to places of business for training in the use of the platform’s many capabilities. This will continue to be researched. Kelley Wood, current Insurance Chairman for H&E, and a retired IT has agreed to look into the many facets of WA (Personify) and was granted administrative access to the platform. It is understood that we, FFGC, use very little of what the platform is capable of doing for the organization. We look forward to Kelley’s report back to us.

Points for discussion as regards the platform: Wekiva’s website should transfer over to WA; Paying for events, donations, registrations could be handled by WA rather than paying other entities to do this for us at conventions, lunches, programs, schools, etc.

-**Communication:** information must be passed through Districts, members and Social Media. Esure that every District Director has the appointed Membership and Retention chairperson for every club. Get them on an email list so we can share ideas with them and them with us. This seems to be an ongoing problem. Again WA could be helpful once we know what it can generate and whether or not it could reach all members….this ‘lockdown’ for Covid-19 shows what good it could do for us to be in touch with each other by virtual meetings and blogs, and other such media methods. Information is not getting past the District levels into the clubs and to individuals.

- **New Membership Levels:** Subscription only, Gift, and On-line clubs and memberships; be inclusive! It was suggested that we cone in line with the levels that National garden Clubs uses and add a glossary of what each level means…some clubs and circles have varying levels that are not recognized by NGC, DS or FFGC.

This from the membership MR:

1.Reading the monthly message at each club function. (we belong to three and never heard membership mentioned in over a year! ) Clubs MUST appoint a membership chair

2. Working with local relators to get our Broncheau to all new home buyers

3. Work with local paper to get our clubs meetings, officers install pictures, and field trips published . We need each of these done ASAP!

-**Digitizing our historical records and files:** to preserve our history and have it housed/maintained. **To this end our President, Al Latina, was asked to contact someone at the University of South Florida regarding this possibility.** We will continue to research this.

-**Phasing out the Florida Gardener in hard copy:**  An Opt-out/Opt-in form is on each individual profile. Each member can easily opt out or in for the magazine. Regarding going digital over time: *The Florida Gardener* ad hoc committee report...did not give a firm decision as to how to go forward with fewer issues, smaller size magazine, cheaper paper , etc...It was suggested to go online only with the next administration, but we will work with the new editor to see what can be done.

-**The VALUE of membership:** what do we get for our membership fees? (Refer to Marge’s article in TFG)

Nothing has been done with this for several years. Revisit obtaining ‘perks’ for **member discounts** at nurseries and other locations (this discussion relates to **membership cards** possibly printed in house by/through Wild Apricot (Personify).

The following from one committee member: *“*We have a fantastic membership team – who have worked diligently and are trying to get the “grassroots” of our organization to make this effort a number one priority. This is the responsibility of the District Director. One of their major responsibilities, in my opinion, is to work closely with their district membership chair to locate and promote possible new clubs in their district. With all the new residents in FL, it should not be impossible. New housing developments are springing up over all of FL – we need to be visiting their community centers promoting our wonderful organization. CHANGE is needed – what worked in the past obviously is not working as well in the now...New ideas are needed to be embraced, and if one doesn't work, try another – but it all starts at home in your district. “

- **Realign our committees and chairmen with NGC list.** Are there ramifications of Bylaws change reported at January meeting regarding Committee chairman vs BOD member sitting on the BOD at meetings? NOTE: there were the 2 people nobody knew at our last BOD meeting)……it was suggested that someone or several people check people on the BOD into each meeting disbursing nametags and any necessary printed materials….that way if you are not on the BOD, you do not gain entry….If you are a chairman, then you are a BOD member, if you are a committee member, you are not necessarily on the BOD……though you may be if you have another Chairmanship. This needs bylaw and standing rules changes.

**-Resizing/restructuring the BOD:** Reduction in the number of people serving on the BOD. Again, this goes along with restructure of the BOD to come in line with NGC.

-**Expanding the role/duties of the 2nd and 3rd VP’s: A letter to ByLaws recommending that** they also serve on the H&E Committee with the rationale that their future administrations will be affected by decisions made by that committee and that they may be aware of all aspects of this organization and the running of the physical plant (our HQ building/grounds/rentals/contracts, etc); this recommendation was returned with a negative response by the Chairman of Bylaws. (attached here)

On Thursday, January 30, 2020, Cecelia H. Richardson <[suncit@msn.com](mailto:suncit@msn.com)> wrote:

**Good Morning!**

**At the direction of the Bylaws and Standing Rules Committee -**

**A recommendation was received from Al Latina on behalf of the SPC regarding the addition of Second and Third Vice** **President to the Headquarters & Endowment Trustees.   This was placed on the meeting agenda.**

**The members of the Bylaws and Standing Rules Committee met on January 7, 2020.  This agenda item was discussed** **in detail.  Following our normal procedure in reviewing requests, this was also presented to the H&E Trustees for** **their input.**

**At this point in time,  the consensus of opinion is not to increase the size of the H&E Trustees Committee with additional** **members.**

**Rationale:     \*  The President, First Vice President and Treasurer serve on H&E.**

**\* The Chairman of H&E serves on the Executive Committee with the President, all Vice Presidents and other** **Officers.**

**\* All of the above serve on the Finance Committee with the Second and Third Vice President.**

**\*  Second and Third Vice President serve on the SPC Committee.**

**\*  Second and Third Vice President oversee Camp Wekiva.**

**With the above stated exposure, a constant flow of important information, relating to Headquarters building and grounds,** **should be readily available and accessible to the Second and Third Vice President.   The Joint Finance/HE meeting also** **provides an opportunity for sharing needed information plus the oral report by the H&E Chairman at the BOD meetings** **and the Annual Convention.**

**An "overload" of responsibilities is not fair to the Second and Third Vice President based on current expectations of their** **time and service.   This "overload" has been voiced by the Vice Presidents serving FFGC.**

**If there are any questions, please let us know by responding to the 2019-21 Bylaws Committee as a group and directing the** **response to me.**

**Cissy Richardson**

-**Ensuring that there are Position Descriptions (not how-to-do-this-job descriptions)** for each chairmanship/committee. This compilation helps an incoming President in organizing a Board of Directors, combining similar ‘jobs’ and making sure that those who say ‘yes’ to a job actually know what the job entails! There are some few of these still missing and Tina Tuttle, 2nd VP, has this for action.

-**Supporting the 100th anniversary of this organization-** Monies are slow in coming in for this event to celebrate our 100th birthday. With no convention, word was not going out to membership….other avenues of getting the word out will be explored.

**-Working closer with bylaws/ standing rules:** to bring requests to the forefront; to obtain timely replies

-**What is the future of the Library? the Gift Shoppe?** Do we need them? When was the last time you checked out a book? Should we have gift items available for the two times a year we come to HQ? There is $ in the H&E budget for the purchase of items to sell in the shop, however, with only going to HQ two times per year, that seems a wasted expenditure.

It was suggested that we do away with the gift shop and allow, on the two times per year that we meet at HQ, we allow folks to bring a limited number of items to sell in the shop….giving a % or making a donation to HQ. As regards the Library, no one wants the library, but no one wants to get rid of it either. Books have been culled and donated.

# TOURS & TRAVEL

# TREES & REFORESTATION

# TRI-COUNCIL PRESIDENT

**Inger Jones**

**President Tri-Council**

**FFGC Board Meeting**

**Convention April 14, 2020**

**Cancelled**

**Due to covid-19 our FFGC convention was cancelled causing us to miss the comradarie of fellow members and our wonderful Flower Show.**

**Tri-Council webpage has been updated and under Members on the home page.**

**Covid-19 has showed us that with self-quarantining, closing of cities, and no vehicular traffic countries around the world experienced blue skies devoid of smog!! However that changed as soon as we started to open up our cities/states/countries.**

**Sort of makes you think that after celebrating 50 years of Earth Day, we are still not listening to Mother Nature.**

**Covid-19 pandemic has forced us to ‘see’ climate change/global warming in our own backyards.**

**Environmental alerts are still being sent to keep you apprised on what is going on in our state. Many things don’t make the papers or the TV like “The current Land and Recreation *Grants* Program - Promotes and fosters partnerships to enhance and sustain Florida's natural and cultural resources and provide increased outdoor recreational opportunities for Florida's citizens and visitors”**

**Translated this program allows for acquisition or development by private enterprise of land for public outdoor recreation sites and facilities for the general public!**

**Tri-Council looks forward to successful ZOOM schools that will allow for increased attendance and increased consultant membership! If high schools/colleges/universities can offer virtual meetings, so can we!**

**In closing,**

**Tri-Council will continue to spread the word by encouraging garden clubs, circles and districts to host ZOOM NGC schools. Remember we are all connected so we are all affected.**

**Thank you,**

Inger Jones

# WATER & WETLANDS

# WEBSITE EDITOR

Susan Roberts

Website Editor

April, 2020

As Website Editor I have continued to update the website as required. The Office manager has taken back the events and directory section so I have only been dealing with the home page and the member page.

I added all the information about the state flower show and state convention only to remove it all after the cancellation due to the coronavirus situation. I have added the monthly membership messages and the requested Tri-council and FFSJ information. I have also added the new dues information package and the two new forms that will be used by the cubs when paying their 2020-2021 dues.

I have completed the book of job description and as new ones are completed I update this book. The officer and board reports from the Jan. 2020 Board meeting were added to the reports sections as soon as they became available.

As requests have been made to me I am happy to update or correct any section with errors.

Summary: I continue to update the website with new information and additions and corrections as needed.

# WEKIVA YOUTH CAMP & Wekiva Building and Maintneance

FFGC Wekiva Youth Camp Annual Report

Tina V. Tuttle, Chrm.

16 April 2020

~~Tampa Hilton Downtown~~

Wekiva Youth Camp was in session from 16 June until 27 July 2019 and celebrated its 45th anniversary.

Very special thanks to Marge Hendon and Christy Linke for serving as camp chairman in my absence.

Camp set up, Counselor orientation and Lifeguard training took place from 5-15 June.

American Camping Association “visit” held 18 July. Wekiva passed without any noted discrepancies on the 198 inspection items.

Created the design for and contracted with Joe Bastian in Ohio for 325 2019 camp T-shirts. Contracted with Great Impressions for 600 water bottles and 600 stickers.

Purchased all camp set-up items including OTC medications for clinic, photo holders, closing ceremony candles, etc. Purchased items needed for each camp session: Nature’s photography items, Craft supplies, camping equipment and curriculum items (rope, first aid supplies) for 7th grade tent camping.

Procured 600 copies of educational materials from US Forestry Service on Trees for all attendees. Cut 100 pieces of bamboo for 7th grade programs walking sticks.

Camp was 100% full paid with max attendance of 640-- very few no-shows.

Contracted staff personnel: Director, Assistant Director, Waterfront Director, the Nature and Craft coordinators, as well as the Cleaning company and kitchen staff. Requested and received event insurance and contracted LIT transport and facility rental at Crystal River Marine Science Station. Contracted with Century Link to have burned out phone and internet lines moved and installed in Ais and Tequesta. Sent tax certificate to Century Link so we will no longer be charged state tax. Obtained tax cards for Walmart, Hobby Lobby and Best Buy.

Welcomed Lindsay A. Loftin and Mandy N. Howell as new coordinators for 7th grade tent camping and Critter Camp, respectively. Mandy also served as Waterfront Director.

Of the 81 volunteers, 63% (51) were garden club members. Ten of the volunteers came for more than one week! Twenty-four volunteers attended the Wekiva Volunteer Training held last February.

Processed over 80 volunteer fingerprinting and level 2 background checks through Florida Agency for Healthcare Administration.

Contacted volunteers by phone and email for required medical and insurance information.

Working closely with registrar, Betty Moxley, assisted over 30 families with Financial Assistance for camp registration fees.

Made deposits. Coordinated reimbursements and bill payment.

Revised the Wekiva Dress Code with help from Circle Leaders and counselors. Our Camp *Songbook* is under revision.

Assistant Director created an online survey for parents. Results are very positive.

Coordinated volunteers to assist with check-in, lice check, sale of camp items, Canteen and check-out.

Fully participated in Naturalist program led by Kalia Baillene during week 4.

**Inventoried all FFGC held items** stored and used at camp. Packed out camp into the shed and HQ on 27 July.

Purchased new Amana Washer and Dryer for camp, to replace those lost in the fire, using Wekiva B&M account. Replaced faucet in the kitchen using B&M money. Purchased a new computer tower, surge protector and 2 Wifi extenders fried in lightning strikes. Lightning also took out the new air conditioner in Nature Hut. Parts were ordered.

Donated to Goodwill or disposed of Lost and Found items and items no longer useful to camp.

Held **End of Camp meeting** with **State Park** personnel and later with staff on 22 July.

Confirmed dates for WVT and Open House 7-9 February 2020

Confirmed dates for 2020 camp sessions: Wednesday, 3 June-Saturday, 25 July.

Discussed rebuilding of clinic/office building, which burned 28 April, and possible $80,000 shortfall in insurance for replacement of clinic/office. New building will not be ready for 2020 camp session so we will continue to be short by 8 beds.

Short and Long-term goals and objectives for camp have been developed and submitted.

Plans for next year include adding an additional week of boys’ 7th grade tent camping, implementing new clinic procedures, starting a phased replacement of aging items (carts, tents, swim rescue items, etc.) and changing the financial functions and contracting of staff personnel.

Our theme for next year is “Nature Detective” and will focus on Birds.

All remaining 2018 and 2019 camp t-shirts are available in the gift shop for the reduced price of $5 each.

**A motion** from the Wekiva Youth Camp Committee and endorsed by the FFGC Finance Committee: that Wekiva Youth Camp registration fees be increased by 3% across the board beginning with 2020 registrations: The Non-sponsored camper fee will go from $315 to $325, garden club sponsored camper fee will go from $240 to $250 and volunteer sponsored camper fee will go from $140 to $145. Critter Camp will go from $90 to $100. LIT will remain at $375.

Rational: Actual cost per camper is $312. When campers are sponsored by a garden club or volunteer, the camper is subsidized by donations generously given. This year donations were down and did not meet budgeted income. A comparison with other overnight camps in Florida show that our camp is by far the least expensive in the state by well over $200 per week and that our staff and counselors are among the lowest paid. **Motion Passed.**

**Another motion** from the Wekiva Youth Camp Committee and endorsed by the FFGC Finance Committee: that our Wekiva Youth Camp staff be given a 10% raise and our Director and Assistant Director be paid for a seventh week, Orientation week: Counselors-in-training (CITs) will go from $90 a week to $100 a week, Junior Counselors will go from $100 a week to $110 a week, Senior Counselors will go from $240 a week to $265 a week, Circle Leaders will go from $325 a week to $360 a week. A seventh week for our Director will be an additional $1000 and for our Assistant Director, an additional $500. Our Nature and Craft coordinators will go from $250 to $275 a week. Waterfront Director from $500 to $550 and Lifeguard stipend from $30 to $35 each week.

Rational: A comparison of pay with other FL overnight camp counselors and staff show that our camp is paying on the lower end of the $8.44-$16.34 per hour scale. Even including room and board of $194 a week, our counselors are working 19 hours a day for little compensation compared to responsibility. **Motion Passed.**

The 2020 Wekiva Youth Camp contracted session will be held from **14 June to 25 July** 2020 and celebrate its 46th anniversary. Camp set up, Counselor orientation and Lifeguard training will take place from 3-12 June. This year will feature an additional tent camping week for 7th grade boys.

The camp **budget** of nearly $200K has been thoughtfully created incorporating the staff raises and hikes to the registration fees as voted on at the September 2019 BOD meeting.

The SunTrust **Bank account** was successfully closed and the new Centennial Bank account opened. All checks, credit cards and deposit slips for SunTrust have been destroyed.

The Wekiva **webmaster** is now Chas Villereal and she has worked diligently with us to update the Wekivayouthcamp.org website information.

**EasyReg** opened on 2 January at 8pm EST. John Morand and I worked to add a “Hold Harmless” agreement section as well as a confirmation number setting that allows parents to return to the registration to upload medical/physical and insurance documents and photos of their camper. Emails were sent from the Camp Director to families previously attending alerting them to registration time.

The design for **camp T-shirts** has been made and bids were sent to 2 companies in December 2019. We will NOT be providing water bottles this summer. We have many left in inventory and are asking each camper to bring their own. The only items for sale as Ways and Means will be current and past t-shirts.

**Contracts** for camp staff personnel have been drafted for President Latina’s signature. (Director, Waterfront Director, the Nature and Craft coordinators, as well as the Cleaning company and kitchen staff. (Assistant Director position has not yet been filled.)

We are assembling a list of **items to purchase** for this upcoming session including new binoculars, cameras, an “EnviroScape” and tents plus full-size refrigerators for volunteer cabins.

Our **theme** for next year is “Nature Detective” and will focus on Birds. We are working to procure 450 copies of educational materials for all attendees that are no longer produced by the US Forestry Service on Animal Tracking.

This chairman has cut over 800 13”x13” squares of fabric for a pillow making craft! This chairman will also conduct a stepping stone craft at WVT.

This summer will be the 5-year limit of initial **fingerprinting and background checks.** That means that approximately half of our volunteers will have to be re-screened through DCF at a higher cost ($44.66 each versus $13 each).

This summer we plan to implement new **nursing procedures** (separate nurse station, pill count, etc.) and ensure all volunteer nurses are not only licensed, but also insured. A new policy for administering meds at remote locations (LIT and primitive) has been developed.

Rebuilding of the **clinic/office building**, in a style similar to Tequesta, is still under consideration by the state park system.

Assisted with Wekiva Volunteer Training (February 7-9) by hosting 2-day craft session to make 32 stepping stones.

Attended Wekiva Youth Camp Open House on 9 February.

Began purchasing necessary items for camp: ‘tree cookie’ nametags, photo holders, Nature items (Selphie ink and paper, cameras, binoculars, etc), T-shirts with design of the camp map, and EnviroScape for 8th grade EE (paid for by Cause Donations).

Created spreadsheet for volunteers by week and session. Holding off on getting updated background checks done in case camp is canceled for summer 2020. Only those with **expiring** background checks (after 5 years) will be renewed at this time.

Created spreadsheet for Financial Assistance requests and donations made by clubs. To date, have given out 10 camperships totaling $1300. Wrote thank you notes for all donations made to camp.

Wrote the position description for Chairman of Camp and sent to President and Sue Roberts. Answered questions and provided requested information to the Bylaws Committee.

Received bid to replace corner shower in Euchee. Bid from Bath Fitters is just under $3000.

Developed Wekiva Building and Maintenance (B&M) Budget and submitted it to the Finance Chairman to include replacement of shower in Euchee, 3 full-size refrigerators for Euchee, Seehookee and Ais, replacement of doors at recreation closet.

Began discussion and communication with committee, parents and staff/volunteers regarding **COVID-19** and the decision to hold camp or not for summer 2020. Notice of camp placed on website and on our Facebook page. The State Park is closed until 15 May when a decision will be made to reopen the park or continue to keep it closed. Governor DeSantos closed all state parks without an end date on 23 March. Checking with Marine Science Station in Crystal River to see if LIT can be held there. If not, Critter Camp may be in jeopardy. Giving close attention to recommendations from American Camp Association regarding insurance coverage during this event (Kelley Wood asked to contact Scott Corkhill agency regarding our coverage), prevention of communicable diseases, screening processes to put in place, etc.

All staff and contractor positions have been contracted (Director, Assistant Director, Crafts, Nature, Food Service, Cleaning Service and Aquatics Director).

Two outside programs have been contracted for Tuesday and Wednesday afternoons of camp: The park service will provide a program on animal tracks and the Raptor Rescue organization will give a program featuring 4 live birds.

As of 23 March, the camp registrations were 90% full but volunteer positions were at about 50%.

Developed 6 Wekiva History Minutes to present at Flag Ceremony each evening.

Tina V. Tuttle, 2VP, Wekiva Youth Camp Chairman

**Summary:** Although the 2019 Wekiva Youth Camp went off without much distraction, the 2020 camp session is in jeopardy due to COVID-19. We are in a ‘wait and see’ mode until state and national directives allow us to open camp. We are continuing to plan for camp but have plans in place should camp be canceled.

# WIND AND SOLAR ENERGY