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May-June, 1981

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#### THE COVER

Delox regia—Royal Poinciana. Native to Madagascar, grows to 60+ feet. This large deciduous tree, often spreading to twice its height, is best described by the West Indies name, Flamboyant Tree. In May, fern-like foliage appears, followed by masses of 4" orange-red flowers covering the tops of the branches.

Suitable for avenue plants and of easy culture in South Florida, it is used extensively in the Florida Keys, where growth is more compact and reaches approx. 30'. A member of the bean family, the blooming period is followed by flat 4" seed pods of two feet in length. Royal Poincianas are probably our most spectacular tree.

Photo by Eve Riel Hannahs, Boca Raton

**DEADLINES**—for Sept./Oct. 1981 issue—Editorial—July 15; Advertising—August 1; Circulation—August 1.

#### CONTENTS

Bartram Markers11	International Symposium12
Begonias8	New FFGC Officers4-7
Flower Show Calendar21	Organic Gardening9
Flower Show Schools21	State Life Memberships10
Ginger Collection32	Wekiva25

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The gate at the end of our "Garden Path" grows closer. When you read this message we shall have stepped through, closing the gate and bringing to an end the two years of this 1979-81 administration.

It has been a wonderful two years! Much has been accomplished, due to the efforts of a dedicated Board of Directors and to the efforts of each and every one of our 31,000 members. We thank you from the bottom of our heart for your dedicated service.

At the start of our two years together, we asked that we share the joys of gardening, our concern with environmental matters, and our total involvement with our youth programs. This you have done! Your reports reflect an ever-growing interest in horticulture, both for beauty in your surroundings and for food through vegetable gardens. You supported two additional series of Gardening Study Courses, Series II in Tallahassee and Series III in West Palm Beach. Even though the winter of 1981 brought record-shattering cold to our state, the State Flower Show in Tampa displayed an abundance of handsome horticulture specimens, giving the more than 5,000 visitors who attended, a fresh look at the wealth of beauty and pleasure available to them through gardening.

Environmental concerns continue to be a matter of great interest to you and resolutions and letters were sent to the proper authorities regarding issues important to you, such as drilling for oil in East Bay, preservation of our Barrier Islands and support of the Alaska Land Bills. This is just a small sample of the many environmental issues addressed during the past two years. In addition, you have continued your support of Land Trust activities to preserve our natural heritage, have wholeheartedly participated in "Operation Wildflower"—our cooperative effort with the DOT to bring wildflowers and other native plants back to our highways. You have made our butterfly conservation project such a success that it has been adopted as the Deep South's Conservation project during the 1981-83 administration.

Last but certainly not least, you have made FFGC's Environmental Education program a leader throughout all of National Council, with your support of our Standard Environmental Education Workshops and the EE Facilitator Training Workshop.

Youth has had your usual loving attention with an increase in High School Gardeners, the largest "SEEK" Conference and an ever-growing Wekiva Youth Camp. Continue to support our youth projects with ever more dedication and love, for our Youth are our gardeners of tomorrow, and to whom someday will pass the responsibility for preserving all the things we garden club members hold dear. You still have time to send your "SEEK" donation and make it possible for one more high school student to "Save The Earth's Environment through Knowledge" (SEEK) in August. You may still have the opportunity to enroll a camper. Check with your Wekiva Nature Camp Registration Chairman. Camp dates are: June 21 through August 1.

The "Garden Path" ends. During the past two years never a day has gone by that we have not reflected on your fantastic accomplishments. You have made it possible for your federation to be known as the leader throughout all of National Council and it has been a privilege and honor to represent you and to receive the many honors you have earned.

As we look to years ahead, we know that you will continue your efforts to make FFGC the greatest gardening organization in the world. We must continue to seek new members, continue our Youth involvement, continue our concerns with environmental matters, continue to expand our horticultural heritage and continue to meet the needs of each individual club and each individual member. With this program we cannot help but succeed!

The past two years have been a most rewarding experience, with only wonderful memories. They will always be treasured and each of you will forever be a very special member of my garden club family.

Mr. Francis A. Fink

#### National Council President Addresses FFGC Convention

The Florida Federation of Garden Clubs is honored to have newly installed President of National Council of State Garden Clubs, Mrs. Francis A. (Winnie) Fink, of Willoughby, Ohio, as principal speaker at the closing banquet of the 1981 State Convention in Miami Beach on May 8.

A native of Cleveland, Ohio, Mrs. Fink has long been involved in garden club work, helping to organize several clubs in Ohio and serving in many capacities throughout the years, including the presidency of these clubs. She was responsible for inaugurating a county-wide Garden Therapy Program for special retarded but teachable children.

Mrs. Fink has served in many areas of garden clubbing on both the state and national levels, including the Presidency of Garden Club of Ohio, Inc., extensive work with Flower Show Judging and Judges Council—she is a Master Judge—horticulture, finance and budget and with International Affiliates, to name a few. She is a Life Member of her state of Ohio and National Council.

Mrs. Fink's talents for organizing and her enthusiasm will serve her well in her two years as President of National Council, and we all wish her well.

#### **National Officers**

National Council of State Garden Clubs, Inc.

President: Mrs. Francis A. Fink, 34200 Ridge Rd., Apt. 515, Willoughby, Ohio 44094
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25414

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THE FLORIDA GARDENER MAY/JUNE 1981

#### Meet Your New-



#### STATE OFFICERS



Mrs. Edward R. Jordan, Miami

Mrs. Edward R. Jordan moved to Miami as a bride in 1940. In addition to growing a family of three girls and a boy, she began growing tropical plants and in 1955, joined the Ken-Pines Garden Club. She has been active in her church and PTA, but her main love has been garden club.

Born Virginia Hare in Mobile, Alabama, raised in Minneapolis and graduated from the University of Minnesota with a degree in Art Education, she was employed by Norman

Bel Geddes, Industrial Designer, of New York City before moving south.

Gini is a past president of her garden club, of the Council of Garden Club Presidents of Dade County and of Floralia Arrangers Club #4. She is a past member of the Metropolitan Flower Show Board of Directors, was co-chairman of the National Convention of National Council of State Garden Clubs in 1971 and secretary of the International Flower Show in 1976. She served District XII as Director in 1963-65, was Chairman of the Tropical Short Course in 1965-67 and 1971-73, edited the Book of Information and Supplement 1975-77, was FFGC Awards Chairman 1977-79, and FFGC Life Membership Chairman 1979-81. She served as Recording Secretary for FFGC, as third, second and first Vice President, as Recording Secretary for the Headquarters and Endowment Trustees 1979-81, and as Awards Chairman for the Deep South Region 1979-81.

She has given programs on many horticultural subjects, including nomenclature, orchids, day lilies, flower arranging, corsage making, parliamentary procedure and many other subjects. She has worked with young people through the Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, High School Gardeners, and has helped with the Environmental Education program of FFGC. She is a serious student of Parliamentary with far more than 100 hours of study

under Dr. Herberta Leonardy.

A Master Flower Show Judge, Landscape Design Critic and an Accredited Gardening Consultant, Gini received her FFGC Life Membership from her club in 1963 and her National Life Membership from her District in 1976. She won the FFGC Outstanding Service Award in 1976 and in 1980 was named a "Community Headliner" by the Women in Communications, Inc. for her work with the Palm Survival program in Dade County.

#### FIRST VICE PRESIDENT

Mrs. Hugh C. Simmons, Gainesville

Hazel Simmons has been in garden clubbing since 1950. A member of Begonia Circle, Gainesville Garden Club, she has served the Gainesville Club in many capacities and it was during her term as President that long-range plans were established for financing a Garden Center. A 15-year member of the FFGC Board of Directors, she has been Chairman of Short Course in Gainesville; High School Gardener Chairman; Assistant Director, then Director of District V; Past President of the Florida Council of Florida Show Judges; Finance Chairman of Wekiva Youth Camp, and Assistant Treasurer of FFGC. She has served progressively as third, then second Vice President of FFGC, filling the jobs of Program Chairman and Awards Chairman. A Master Judge and a Gardening Consultant, Hazel is interested in Parliamentary Law and has completed more than 100 hours of study under Dr. Herberta Leonardy.



#### SECOND VICE PRESIDEN

Mrs. Augustus F. Williams, Jr., Indian Harbour Beach



MAY/JUNE 1981

Betty Williams was born in Oklahoma and reared in Florida. As a member of In-Har-Bee Garden Club since 1966, she has served her club in almost every capacity, including President; her District VI as Assistant Director, then Director in 1973-75, and in various chairmanships. She has served FFGC as Editor of the 1976 and 1977 Florida Flower Arrangement Calendars and the 1979-81 Book of Information and Supplement. She has also served FFGC as a member of Awards Committees, as Recording Secretary and in the two years past as Third Vice President. A Deep South Regional Council Chairman and Accredited Gardening Consultant, Betty is a Landscape Design School student and an EE Facilitator Trainee. The owner of an extensive orchid collection, she is an enthusiastic flower arranger and corsage designer. A Life Member of FFGC and NCSGC, Betty is active in a Parliamentary Law Unit as well as other groups unrelated to garden club work.



Mrs. Suenell B. Spiro, Jacksonville

Born in Lenox, Georgia, Suenell grew up in Orlando, Florida. Following her marriage she moved around the United States and abroad with her husband who was in the Navy. When her second child started to school Suenell entered college, graduating with high honors in 1957. Working as a volunteer in many organizations, she was awarded the EVE Award for outstanding work as a volunteer. Finally settling in lacksonville, Suenell joined a garden club, eventually serving as President, as Legislation Chairman for the Deep South Region, and as Promotion Chairman for the Florida Flower Arrangement Calendar. She is a State and National Life Member.



#### THIRD VICE PRESIDENT Mrs. Dursie Ekman, Tampa

Wini Ekman has called Tampa home most of her life, having moved there as a preschooler. She is a member of Jasmine Circle, Tampa Federation of Garden Circles and has served both in many capacities, including President. Her FFGC Board Chairmanships have included Radio-TV, National Gardener, two times Symposium Chairman, National Awards, Program, Public Relations and she has just completed two years as Recording Secretary. She has served as Director of District VIII. A Master Judge, a member of Floralia VI and immediate past Director of District VIII, Florida Council of Flower Show Judges, Wini is a State and National Life Member.



Mrs. Robert E. Mills, Miami

A National and State Life Member and a Master Flower Show Judge, Elaine has served eight years on the FFGC State Board, as Chairman of Books, Publicity (Newspaper, Radio and TV), Circulation Chairman of The Florida Gardener, and is currently the Trees Chairman. Originally from St. Louis, Missouri, she has lived in Miami for 30 years and has served as President of her club-Ken Pines, on the Council of Garden Club Presidents of Dade County, and as Treasurer of the Metropolitan Miami Flower Show. Elaine is married to a retired Eastern Air Lines Captain and they have one grown daughter, Meredith.

#### TREASURER

Mrs. Edward F. Smithers, Ponte Vedra Beach

Edna Smithers came to Florida from Pennsylvania and has lived in the Ponte Vedra-Jacksonville Beach area for a number of years. She joined Ribault Garden Club in 1949 and has served her club in many jobs, including President and three times Treasurer. An accountant, Edna has held the purse strings for FFGC first as Assistant Treasurer and now for the 11th year as Treasurer. She has also held the jobs of Corsage Chairman for FFGC; Membership; and Circulation Manager for The Florida Gardener.





ASSISTANT TREASURER
Mrs. O. Fenton Wells, Lakeland

Born in Missouri and a garden club member for many years, Polly has served as President of her garden circle several times as well as Treasurer of the Garden Club of Lakeland, Inc. She has held a number of chairmanships on the FFGC Board, including: FFGC Treasurer; Director of District IX; Chairman of Flower Show Schools for six years and President of the Florida Council of Flower Show Judges. She currently serves as Assistant Treasurer of FFGC. Polly is a National Council Instructor of Flower Shows, a Master Judge, an Accredited Landscape Design Critic and a Gardening Consultant. She holds State and National Life Memberships, and as a member of the Lakeland Beautification Board was named "Woman of the Year" in Lakeland in 1972.

#### District Directors 1981-1983

District I	Mrs. Robert Wilson, 266 Mississippi Ave., Valparaiso 32580
District II	Mrs. Charles H. Fischer, 951 Huntington Circle,
	Panama City 32405
District III	Mrs. Page S. Jackson, 1317 Leewood Dr., Tallahassee 32303
District IV	Mrs. Alex H. Hilliard, 2902 Greenridge Rd., Orange Park 32073
District V	Mrs. Robert A. Short, 1105 NW 40th Dr., Gainesville 32605
District VI	Mrs. Durwood White, 217 Ivanhoe Dr., Titusville 32780
District VII	Mrs. Fred Evans, Rt. 8, Box 498, Leesburg 32748
District VIII	Mrs. Francis Millican, 1733 South Dr., Sarasota 33579
District IX	Mrs. James R. Freyermuth, 3100 Gin Lane, Naples 33940
District X	Mrs. George Truchelut, 6545 Hillside Lane, Lake Worth 33461
District XI	Mrs. O. Edgar Williams, 260 Imperial Lane,
	Lauderdale-by-the-Sea 33308
District XII	Mrs. Joseph M. Langr, 1523 Washington St., Key West 33040

MAY/IUNE 1981

#### Horticulture-

# **Begonias**

**Propagation** 

By Mrs. Robert Hunter Improved Cultivars Chm.

One of the reasons interest in begonias continues at an ever increasing pace lies in its ease of propagation. This insures a constant flow of new hybrids and it also maintains reasonable prices for older varieties.

Cuttings are the customary means of reproducing a variety exactly. Stem cuttings are used for cane or fibrous rooted begonias as well as semperflorens, Riegers and most begonias of an upright or horizontal branching habit. Stem cuttings may be three to six inches long but should have, at least two nodes—one to go beneath the soil and one above. Tip leaves are left on the cutting but lower leaves that might rest on or be buried beneath the soil should be removed. Flowers and buds should also be removed.

Rhizomatous begonias are propagated by leaf cuttings. The whole leaf with two to three inches of stem is inserted into the medium in an upright or slightly slanting position so the leaf itself is held well above the potting medium. Very large leaves are sometimes laid flat on a rooting medium or even outside in a shady bed. Cut several veins in the leaf and make sure they are held in contact with the soil. A new plant should spring up at each of these cuts.

Rex leaves are often cut into wedges or segments to increase the numbers of new plants. This method is also used for other scarce and desirable rhizomatous begonias.

Cuttings should be turgid. If received in the mail or brought from a meeting they may be freshened in water for a short time. Old and wilted cuttings will not root.

The rhizomes can also be cut in sections and pressed lightly in the rooting mix. These, too, will produce new plants.

An even more challenging method of propagation is by seed. Begonias are monoecious plants—having both male and female flowers on the same plant. The female flower is easily identifed by the three-lobed ovary behind the flower. When pollen is transferred to this flower from a male flower, pollination takes place.

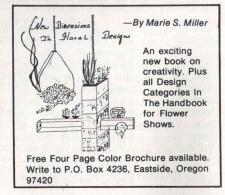
8

Once pollination has occurred the flower will drop off and the ovary behind it will swell and in due time dry and fall off. The pod should be picked before it falls off so that it does not scatter its seed. Begonia seeds are remarkably fine and great care should be taken with the harvesting and the planting of the seed or they will be lost or all dumped in one spot.

A plastic shoe box or sweater box makes a good container for growing seeds. A good medium to use would be fine peat and perlite. Milled spaghnum or vermiculite are also used. Whatever mixture is used it should be moist but not wet and above all, sterile. Put about two inches in a shoe box and scatter the seeds over this medium. Do not cover the seeds with mix but put a cover on the box and leave it until green leaves start showing. Then the box lid can be gradually removed, a little each day and the seedlings hardened off. When they have two or three true leaves they are ready to be transplanted.

Care should be taken to keep records of the crosses and the parentage of the seedlings throughout this process.

By such methods or similar ones hybrid begonias are produced and most of the begonias in commerce are a testimony to man's great activity in this field.



# Friends in Strange Coats

By Mrs. Robert P. Meier Organic Gardening Chm.

Thysanura, collembola, isoptera, corrodentia—friend, foe, food? Yes and no and maybe. The gardener's best friends and worst enemies are found in these and other orders of the insect world. Recognizing and protecting allies enhances the beauty and yield of our gardens. Mass extermination interrupts nature's balance and is detrimental to all levels of the food chain.

Insect species double all other animal species combined, plus all of the plants. They occur everywhere and feed on almost everything. How can gardeners succeed? We succeed because insects are the most important source of insect control.

Mankind needs insects. They fertilize flowers that cannot be fertilized in any other way. The beneficial insects more than fully compensate for the 2% that are injurious. It is ironic that the most destructive insects belong to groups or orders containing many kinds of utmost benefit.

Gardeners should learn to recognize

the insects that are their allies. Seeing a "bug" on a plant should not be an automatic stimuli to spray. Spraying kills more helpful bugs than injurious ones. Wide range sprays are especially harmful.

Protection of the environment, balance of nature, respect for all living creatures—a few reasons for "organic" control of insects. Instead of poisonous sprays, try the following methods. Pick off hazardous insects (of course, you'll need to do some research to determine which are hazardous); spray with bacillus thuringiensis for caterpillars; practice good gardening procedures, such as removing dead and dying vegetation, preventing weed growth, removing severely infested plants. Also control ants; encourage birds by providing food, water and cover. Pick off caterpillars; kill mealy bugs with alcohol swabs; collar young plants to prevent cutworm damage.

Most importantly, know your friends. Always friends are mantids, flower bugs, dragonflies, damselflies, lacewings, bees, syrphid flies, tachina flies and the most

(Continued on page 27)



### **State Life Memberships**

Mrs. Edward R. Jordan, Chm.

1601 Mrs. Peter Douthit, Sugar Loaf Key

1602 Mrs. John Nunnery, Jacksonville 1603 Mrs. James H. Randolph, Jr.,

lacksonville Bch.

1604 Mrs. S. T. McDowell, Live Oak 1605 Mrs. Harriet A. Olson, Vero Bch.

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1607 Mrs. Karl Kate, W. Palm Beach

1608 Mrs. J. T. Rowe, Jr., Jacksonville

1609 Mrs. W. R. Stockman, Jacksonville Beach

1610 Mrs. R. F. Johnson, Jacksonville Beach

1611 Mrs. Myrtle Iones, Port Salerno

1612 Mrs. Sara B. Nicholson, Orlando

1613 Mrs. H. H. Hattendorf, Tampa

1614 Mrs. Leo Doeblin, Port Salerno 1615 Mrs. S. M. McAllister, Belle Glade

1616 Mrs. C. Kent Schwrar, Sarasota

1617 Mrs. J. R. Widmann, Lake Park

1618 Mrs. L. deTakach, W. Palm Beach

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1646 Mrs. Edward Squire, Eustis

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1648 Mrs. Richard Chapple, Lake City

1649 Mrs. John M. Stitt, Clewiston

1650 Mrs. Donald Yeats, Fort Ogden

1651 Mrs. Marshall Orr, Panama City

1652 Sandra B. McQuagge, Panama City

1653 Mrs. H. S. Jennings, Ft. Pierce

1654 Mrs. B. C. Phillips, Miami

#### THE SEED CLUB-Help Keep **Membership Growing**

By Mrs. Frank T. Lowe Membership Chm.

Summer is here; now is the time to start looking for new members to introduce to your club in the fall. It is time to pave the way to earning a bronze colored pin for three new members or a silver colored pin for 10, or even a gold colored pin for 25 new mwmbers. BECOME A MEMBER OF 'THE SEED CLUB.'

We must seriously look for prospective new members, make a survey, sell the merits of garden club activities, promote the joy of learning how to grow flowers for beauty in the home, of growing vegetables to bolster the family budget; sharing talents and knowledge plus the benefits gained by contribuing to the community. A garden club is a SERVICE CLUB.

There are reports of new clubs in areas where there are so many interested people it would be possible to organize several clubs. It is not too early to contact people and present the FFGC story. A few interested prospective members will make a solid basis for a new club by fall.

'THE SEED CLUB' year is June 1st to one week before State Convention. A file for each club will contain the name of the sponsor (if one) and the name of the new members. To keep this membership file up to date please report to the membership chairman: Mrs. Frank T. Lowe, 3172 Fountainhead Drive, Largo, Florida 33540.

Have a happy summer, but remember-TO BE STRONG, WE MUST GROW.

THE FLORIDA GARDENER



Admiring the second marker unveiled on the William Bartram Trail are, from left, Mrs. William Ridge, chairman of the St. Augustine Bartram Marker Committee; Mrs. W. E. Black, president of St. Augustine-St. Johns County Council of Garden Clubs, who erected the marker; and Mrs. Charles H. Blanchard, FFGC Bartram Chairman.

# Two More Bartram Trail Markers Dedicated

Two more Bartram Trail Markers have been placed in Florida, bringing the total to four. Cocoa-Rockledge Garden Club in District VI dedicated a marker at the junction of SR 46 and Hatbill Road on Friday, March 20 and The Garden Clubs of District V dedicated the fourth marker at the site of the "Paynes Prairie" state marker just south of Gainesville on US 441 on Friday, April 10.

At the time of the dedication of the second Florida marker on the grounds of the St. Augustine Amphitheatre on January 8, Mrs. Charles H. Blanchard, FFGC chairman of the Bartram Trail, said "Bartram was such a fine person. We in Florida have done so little to elevate this man. He was our PR man ... he sold America to Europeans and to everyone

else fortunate to read his book . . . and the state he loved the most was Florida." Mrs. Blanchard referred to Bartram as "our patron saint of gardening," and remarked at the time of the unveiling of the marker, that she knew of nothing more fitting at that moment than to "look upstairs and say, 'William, this is number two, with love from St. Augustine'."

Mrs. John Kressman of Trenton, FFGC chairman of Rare and Endangered Species was also a speaker at the St. Augustine dedication, and during her address called Bartram "America's first hippie . . . he just didn't make it" in the world of business. But when he went into the woods, he "became a real person." Mrs. Kressman suggested that Bartram recognized that "man is a part of what he lives in."

11

MAY/JUNE 1981

# International Design Symposium and Flower Show



Fabulous Peru, country of towering mountains, intriguing jungle, heart of the ancient Inca civilization whose horticulture gave the world potatoes, corn, tomatoes, cocoa and coffee, with its capital city, Lima, will be the setting of the International Design Symposium and Flower Show, October 13-19, 1981.

National Council of State Garden Clubs, Inc. International Affiliates in Peru will be the host for this event, which is expected to draw visitors and people participating in the Symposium from more than a score of countries throughout the world.

If you felt that you missed out on not going to Exhibition 50 last September in Washington, this is a marvelous opportunity for you to experience the exhileration of meeting with people from all over the world whose interests parallel your own in the world of gardening.

The International Flower Show, ON WINGS OF FLOWERS, will take place in the Museo de Arte, located in the heart of Lima in a beautiful park across the avenue from the Palacio de Justicia. The Lima-Sheraton Hotel, headquarters for the symposium activities, is a short distance through the park.

Of particular interest to Florida Flower Show Judges is the fact that our friends Senora Vita Sboto de Santisteban and Senora Violeta H. de Lopez-Krueger are co-chairmen of the show. Many will remember these two beautiful ladies, who took much of their flower show training in Florida at our Flower Show Schools and Symposiums.

A schedule of the show is available by writing: IDS, Lima; Horticultural Hall,

30 Elm Street, Worcester, Mass. 01608.

Kenn Stephens, International Exhibition Chairman for National Council, has been doing much of the liaison work for this Symposium and Flower Show, and those of you who did attend Exhibition 50 can testify to the fact that Kenn's talent for detail, as well as his infinite patience in dealing with great numbers of people make working with him a great pleasure. Kenn will be one of the featured speakers at State Convention in Miami and will probably be able to fill in many details of the show at that time.

Deep South Regional Representative is Miss Irene Pettijean, 503 Adams St.,

Rayne, Louisiana 70578.

Florida's Bob Thomas will be conducting an excursion to Colombia and Peru in cooperation with the Florida Federation of Garden Clubs. The trip will include the Symposium and Flower Show with Bob personally escorting the group, as well as a stop at Medellin, Colombia, known as "Orchid City," and other points of interest. See Bob's ad in this issue and the Jan./Feb. issue of the Florida

Many short tours of the area surrounding Lima are available through International Design Symposium and information may be obtained by writing to the same address as listed above for Worchester, Mass.

Don't let another fantastic opportunity slip by . . . plan now to visit Peru in October, for the time of your life!



Robert Kuendtz, Vice President of Cypress Gardens, presents FFGC President Ella Wood with an orchid plant at a surprise luncheon. Shown on the left is Mrs. Dick Pope, Jr., wife of the President of Cypress Gardens.

#### Ella Wood **Honored** by **Cypress Gardens**

President Ella Wood was honored at a surprise luncheon at Cypress Gardens in March. Seventeen guests from all over the state joined Ella and Cypress Gardens officials at the luncheon.

Robert Kuendtz, Divisional Vice President of Cypress Gardens, spoke about the gardens and about Ella's achievements during the past two years. Mrs. Dick Pope, Jr., on behalf of the gardens, presented her with a very beautiful plaque that read: "Presented to Ella Wood, President, Florida Federation of Garden Clubs ... This plague is presented to express our deep appreciation for the outstanding efforts you have afforded the Florida Federation of Garden Clubs. This plaque will serve as a constant reminder of a job well done."

Following the luncheon, guests were taken on a special tour of the original gardens, photos were taken and each guest was given a wicker basket full of wax begonia plants. Ella was presented with a yellow oncidium orchid plant.

As the pièce de résistance—during the ski show a special salute was given Ella, and as the skiers passed the grandstand, each held a fluttering flag spelling out the words "ELLA WOOD".

#### **IMPORTANT NOTICE**

(see ad in January-February, 1981 Florida Gardenerinside back cover)

#### From Bob Thomas—a change in itinerary for COLOMBIA—PERU TRIP

The trip, as now planned, is as follows:

Depart: October 10, 1981

Return: October 19, 1981

Trip includes:

• 9 nights—Lima, Peru

9 American breakfasts

 All International Design Symposium and
 Tips and taxes Flower Show Activities

Air Fare

All activities in Peru as advertised in original program

**COST \$1300** 

**Bob Thomas** 5890 - 63rd Street St. Petersburg, Fl 33709



Boy Scouts hard at work on the grounds surrounding the Winter Haven Meals on Wheels facility.

#### GARDEN CLUB— MEALS ON WHEELS WORK TOGETHER

By Phyllis Wilson Camellia Garden Club, Winter Haven

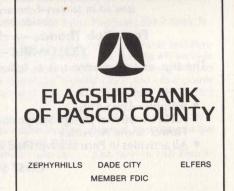
Recently the Camellia Garden Club of Winter Haven was approached to "DO SOMETHING!" with the grounds around the "new" facility for Meals on Wheels of Greater Winter Haven, Inc., which had outgrown its former quarters. In order to expand this community-wide service, an old building has been leased and given a new lease on life.

In addition to preparing and delivering hot meals to the elderly and needy in Winter Haven and surrounding communities, volunteers in the Meals program went to work restoring and replacing necessary parts of the old building.

The garden club ladies, with a long interest in city beautification, were eager to accept the challenge to "do something" on the outside. Boy Scout Troop 123 was contacted to provide labor in completely clearing out the old run-down beds next to the building. This became an Eagle Scout project with the prospective Eagle Scout organizing other Scouts and providing leadership in this worthwhile endeavor. The boys moved many pieces of heavy food storage equipment to the new building and cleared the grounds for the new planting. A bonus was discovered—a sprinkling system, which has now been renovated.

Members of the Camellia Garden Club planned and completely relandscaped the property, purchasing and planting 96 ligustrum and six podacarpus plants, fertilized and mulched the new beds and then invited the public to appraise the new facility at an "Open House" on March 22.

Area improvements such as this help "Keep Winter Haven, and America, Beautiful".



THE FLORIDA GARDENER

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NAME -ADDRESS

MAY/JUNE 1981

# GARDEN C K K BOARD

#### **ELLA WOOD HONORED**

President Ella Wood was recently honored for her leadership in encouraging butterfly conservation by receiving a personally autographed book from Kjell B. Sandved, world-renowned natural history film maker and photographer for the Smithsonian Institution. The book—BUTTERFLIES (Harry N. Abrams, Inc.) is exquisitely illustrated by Mr. Sandved and equally as exquisitely captures art in nature.

#### LANDSCAPE READING LIST

The National Reading Chairman has informed FFGC Landscape Design School Chairman, Mrs. George W. Mitchum that the book "Redoing America" by Faltermayer is out of print and has been removed from the Landscape Design School reading list. This book will not be used in the forthcoming courses in Jacksonville and Winter Park.

#### **SEEK '81 NEEDS HELP**

Contributions for SEEK '81 are slow in coming in this year and clubs are urged to consider giving an environmentally concerned high school student the opportunity of attending this outstanding fourday school, August 2-5, 1981, at the University of Central Florida in Orlando. A full scholarship is \$70 per participant; \$35 for half scholarship. A contribution of any size will be greatly appreciated. Please send all checks to: Mrs. Earl Pratt, 1935 Summerfield Rd., Winter Park, FL 32793. Mark payable to: FFGC, Inc.; indicate for Youth Environmental Conference.

#### WATER SAVING

If you are in a water shortage area or want to become a water saver, try some of these suggestions:

Take shorter and lighter showers. Experts in water conservation have suggested the "proper" shower lasts only five minutes (any longer is considered recreation).

Check for toilet leaks by putting some food coloring in your tank. If any appears in the toilet without flushing, you've got a leak which would be wasting a great amount of water.

An innocent looking dripping faucet can waste 1,000 gallons or more per year.

Fla. Div. of Consumer Services

#### 90 AND STILL GOING

Think you're over the hill? There's one gal in Florida who's here to prove that chronological age has nothing to do with imagination and excitement for life. Lillian A. McSweany wrote the artistic section of the fabulous State Flower Show schedule published in The Florida Gardener in the past three issues. Mrs. McSweany is 90 years old.

#### **BUTTERFLY CHAIRMAN**

The FFGC Chairmanship "Butterflies," founded by President Mrs. John G. Wood, is now Regional! Mrs. Glenn L. Millar, Deep South Director, has adopted Butterflies as a Deep South project. REMEMBER—Once again FFGC was first!

#### WONDER

God's world is a wonder I cannot explain;
The broad flowing river,
The wide rolling plain;
The tall purple mountains,
The sky soft and blue,
The sun sinking westward
In magical hue.
God's world is a wonder;
Its work so divine.
I own not one acre
Yet it is all mine.

O. J. Robertson from Nevada-Gardening Horizons

#### **UPSIDE DOWN?**

Is the grass pink orchid pictured on the cover of the January/February issue of The Florida Gardener upside down? Photographer Eve Hannahs says absolutely not! Many native orchids grow that way, and yet, some don't. So take it from an expert—Eve says it's right side up. ALSO, the September/October issue of The Gardener caused some comment. Was the banana bloom upside down? Water drops do not flow uphill, and Cypress Gardens says the bloom grows that way. Upside down or not, isn't nature wonderful!

#### **MULCHING WITH NEWSPAPERS**

The Kansas Gardener reports a "recipe" for mulching with newspapers. Dig a hole about 2x3 ft. Place a layer of newspapers 2 inches thick. Sprinkle a cup of fertilizer, then ½ inch of soil over the papers. After six layers, water and keep moist. This makes a rich black compost in nine months. Why not top with mulch to keep it moist? The newspapers may be added to the compost pile if earthworms are also supplied. Some seed and nursery catalogs offer the worms for sale.

THE FLORIDA GARDENER

#### BARTRAM BROADSIDE

BARTRAM BROADSIDE—A Limited Edition Artistic Broadside. Suitable for framing, 9x12. Sepia on ivory. Number one of a series: "Coquina Quarry, Anastasia Island, St. Augustine." Visited and described by William Bartram. Signed by artist Lola Josey, St. Simons Island: \$10 donation. Unsigned: \$5 donation, for Bartram Marker Fund. Start with No. 1! Order from St. Johns County Audubon Society, Box 965, St. Augustine, FL 32084.

#### **ENCHANTED GARDEN CORNER**

By Kathy Sample
"Wildflower Hill" at FFGC Headquarters is beginning its second year. It's a
thrill to see a plant come back and bloom
the next season! Over 300 species of native
flora are growing here. Bartram recorded
flora growing on fields burned by the
Indians but "lately returned to their verdant grandeur." His famous Ixia, the cardinal flower and "an endless variety of
phlox that enamel the swelling green
banks" were found in these fields.

Bartram Wildflower Study Club is following Bartram's Trail and finding an endless variety of enchanting scenes described by him in his "Travels." There is adventure today if you have an inquiring mind and some get-up-and-go!

# **American Land Trust ACRE CLUBS**

1976-1981

The following clubs, circles and individuals have, in the last five years, been responsible for adding an acre or more to the American Land Trust Nature Preserve at Tiger

Creek-virgin Florida land being held in trust for generations to come.

A list of contributors will soon be prepared to hang in the Headquarters at the Tiger Creek Preserve. In order that this list may be as complete and accurate as possible, all contributors should check to be sure their name is listed, and spelled correctly. If a discrepancy is discovered, please notify Land Trust Chairman: Mrs. Hugh B. Manson, 731 John Anderson Dr., Ormond Beach, FL 32074, immediately so the error may be corrected before the final plaque is ordered.

Arlington Garden Club, Ormond Beach, Dist. VI

Bayberry Garden Circle, Federated Circles of Ft. Lauderdale, Dist. XI

Belle Glade Garden Club, Dist. X

Biscayne Park Garden Club, Miami, Dist. XII

Bok, Mrs. Cary W., Camden, Maine

Bossard, Mr. and Mrs. George C., Frostproof, Dist. IX

Bougainvillea Circle, Garden Club of Indian River, Vero Beach, Dist. X

Broward County Garden Club, Dist. XI

Bryan, Mr. and Mrs. Don S., Bartow Garden Club, Dist. IX

Canal Point Garden Club, Dist. X

Central Florida Fern Society

Chorisia Garden Circle, Federated Garden Circles of Ft. Lauderdale, Dist. XI

Clearwater Garden Club, Dist. VIII

Conway Garden Club, Orlando, Dist. VII

Coral Pines Garden Club, Coral Gables, Dist. XII

Cordia Circle, Federated Garden Club of Ft. Lauderdale, Dist. XI

Crystal River Garden Club, Dist. V

Cummer, Wellington W., Jacksonville, Dist. IV

Dadeland Garden Club, Coral Gables, Dist. XII

Daetwyler Shores Garden Slubs, Orlando, Dist. VII

Davis Island Garden Club, Tampa, Dist. VIII

Davis, Mr. and Mrs. Sydney R., Periwinkle Garden Club, Ft. Myers, Dist. IX

Dommerich Hills Garden Club, Maitland, Dist. VII

Dopler, Richard F., Babson Park, Dist. IX

Driftwood Circle, Sarasota Garden Club, Dist. VIII

Dunedin Garden Club, Clearwater, Dist. VIII

Ekman, Mr. and Mrs. Dursie, Tampa, Dist. VIII

Eglin Air Force Base Officers Wives Garden Club, Eglin, Dist. I

Floral Garden Club, Floral City, Dist. V

Florida Landscape Critics Council

Forest Hills Garden Club, Tampa, Dist. VIII

Federated Garden Circles of Ft. Lauderdale, Dist. XI

Founders Circle, Avon Park Federated Garden Clubs, Dist. IX

Founders Circle, Conway Garden Club, Orlando, Dist. VII

Founders Circle, Manatee River Garden Club, Bradenton, Dist. VIII

Garden Study Club, Delray Beach, Dist. X

Gardenia Circle, Manatee, River Garden Club, Bradenton, Dist. VIII

Gerhard, Donald and Wenona

Gilchrist County Garden Club, Dist. V

Griffin, Jr., Mr. and Mrs. B. H.

Garden Club of the Halifax Country, Daytona Beach/Ormond Beach, Dist. VI

THE FLORIDA GARDENER

Hibiscus Circle, Avon Park Federated Garden Clubs, Dist. IX

Hibiscus Circle, Clermont Garden Club, Dist. VII

Hibiscus Circle, Federated Garden Circles of Ft. Lauderdale, Dist. XI Highlands Garden Circle, Avon Park Federated Garden Clubs, Dist, IX

Highlands Garden Club, Sebring, Dist. IX

Indiantown Garden Club, Indiantown, Dist. X Inverness Garden Club, Inverness, Dist. V

Ivy Garden Club, Pensacola, Dist. I

Ixora Circle, Manatee River Garden Club, Bradenton, Dist. VIII

Jacaranda Circle, Manatee River Garden Club, Bradenton, Dist. VIII

Junior Gardeners, Florida Federation of Garden Clubs

King, Dr. and Mrs. Maurice A., Madison, Dist. III

Keppie, Louise M. Clearwater, Dist. VIII

Ken Pines Garden Club, Miami, Dist. XII

Key West Garden Club, Dist. XII

Lake and Hills Garden Club, Mt. Dora, Dist. VII

Lake of the Hills, Lake Wales, Dist. IX

Lake Placid Garden Club, Lighthouse Point, XI

Lake Weir Garden Club, Weirsdale, Dist. V Landscape Garden Club, Miami, Dist. XII

Laude, Dr. and Mrs. Walter, Lake Wales, Dist. IX

Lawson, Martha T., Winter Haven, Dist. IX

Lemon Bay Conservancy, Englewood, Dist. VIII

Maitland Garden Club, Dist. VII

Manatee River Garden Club, Bradenton, Dist. VIII

Marathon Garden Club, Marathon Shores, Dist. XII

McCoy, Ruth, Lake of the Hills Garden Club, Lake Wales, Dist. IX

Melbourne Garden Club, Dist. VI

Moseley, Mrs. Nicholas, Pompano Beach, Dist. XI

Murray, Mr. and Mrs. D. Bruce, Winter Haven, Dist. IX

Naples Garden Club, Dist. IX

Newbold, Clement B., Lake Wales, Dist. IX

North Palm Beach Garden Club, Dist. X

Ocean Ridge Garden Club, Dist. X

Okeechobee Garden Club, Dist, X

Orange Lake Garden Club, Largo, Dist. VIII

Owre, Dr. Oscar, Miami, Dist. XII

Pahokee Garden Club, Dist. X

Palm Circle, Manatee Garden Club, Bradenton, Dist. VIII

Palos Park Garden Guild, Palos Park, Illinois

Pelican Island Garden Club, Vero Beach, Dist. X

Pine Castle Garden Club, Dist. VII

Planters Circle, Bartow Garden Club, Dist. IX

Pollard, Mr. and Mrs. Donald D.

Pompano Beach Highlands Garden Club, Dist. XI

Port Salerno Garden Club, Dist. X

Punta Gorda Garden Club, Dist. IX

Radcliffe, Lavina S., Avon Park, Dist. IX

R. F. Development, Lake Wales, Dist. IX

Raley, Mr. and Mrs. William L., The Garden Club of Winter Haven, Dist. IX

Rawlings, Jr., Dr. Frederick P., Lake Wales, Dist. IX

Riverview Garden Club, Dist. VIII

Rose Circle, Lake Wales Garden Club, Dist. IX

St. Petersburg, The Garden Club of, Dist. VIII

Seagrape Garden Club, Lighthouse Point, Dist. XI

Seagrape Circle, Sarasota Garden Club, Dist. VIII

Stuart, Garden Club of, Dist. X

Sunset Park Garden Club, Tampa, Dist. VIII

(Continued on page 22)

# Butterfly Books

There are many beautiful butterfly books for "oohing and ahing" because of the contents AND the price. There are others affordable to all, with good texts and incredibly beautiful pictures.

Top of the list for beautiful photography and useful information are those by Kjell (pronounced "shell") Sandved, a photographer and film maker for the Smithsonian Institution's Museum of Natural History. His book "Butterfly Magic", published for Penguin Books, is \$4.95. There is another by Mr. Sandved entitled "Butterflies". The latter is a Harry N. Abrams, Inc., publication.

Alexander B. Klots, author of the Peterson guide to Butterflies has written "Butterflies of the World", published by Bantam Books. The 156 pages are filled with photographs of spectacular color, accompanied by a wealth of information. Price \$1.95.

An enchanting little book by Henry F. Swanson of Winter Park, Florida, tells of his relationship with his Red Admiral Butterfly friends in his backyard. He taught them to drink honey-water from his fingers and learned to know different individuals. His records of visitations and butterfly behavior are most interesting. The book is entitled "Butterfly Revelations" and can be obtained by writing to: Women of the Church, First Presbyterian Church, 106 East Church St., Orlando, 32801. Price \$3.50 + 4% sales tax for Florida residents, plus 53¢ mailing charges.

For those who wish to determine all stages of the common and beautiful Lepidoptera is a Little Golden Guide, "Butterflies and Moths" by R. T. Mitchell and H. S. Zim. The guide is for the more common species. For only \$1.95 there are 153 pages of beautiful, life-like illustrations of metamorphosis, including the adult. Simply a MUST for identifying caterpillars. Their food plants are listed. As in other books, please skip the chapter on collecting!

The Florida Federation publication "Color Me a Butterfly" can be purchased at Headquarters for \$2 + 8¢ tax and 60¢ postage.



# Cypresswood Golf & Country Club

It's time to escape back to nature in one of John Wood's totally planned environmental communities. Cypresswood features executive single family residences and expansive patio homes surrounded by a Championship Golf Course.

Cypresswood has four models of patio homes and a unique variety of single family residences. Write for information today!

JOHN G. WOOD & ASSOCIATES, INC. 409 E. CENTRAL AVENUE WINTER HAVEN, FLORIDA 33880 PHONE 813-294-7681

# Flower Show Calendar

Mrs. Joe C. Robinson, Flower Shows Chm.
11080 Seventh St. East, Treasure Island, FL 33706
(Please register your shows with this chairman)

#### 1981

April 11-12, Plant City, A POTPOURRI OF PASTIMES, Plant City Garden Club, Inc., Mrs. James Baldwin and Mrs. Benton Harrelson, Co-Chm.

April 25-26, Lake City, **HOLIDAY WITH FLOWERS**, Lake City Garden Club, Garden Center; Mrs. I. I. Moody and Mrs. Alex Stevens, Co.-Chm.

April 29, Ormond Beach, **HOW DOES YOUR GARDEN GROW,** at the Women's Club, Ormond Beach Garden Club; Mrs. G. Leo Noirot, Chm.

May 1, Palm Bay, CARNIVAL OF FLOWERS, Port Malabar Garden Club, Port Malabar Methodist Church; Mrs. Patricia Seyfert, Chm.

May 15-16, Kissimmee, **DRACULA**, the Kissimmee Art and Cultural Center, Kissimmee Garden Club; Mrs. Chester Toomer, Chm.

Nov. 14-15, Melbourne, **ARTS 'N FLOWERS,** In-Har-Bee Garden Club, Inc., at the Brevard Museum of Art.

#### Florida Native Plant Society Conference and Workshop

The fledgling Florida Native Plant Society, organized less than a year, held its first statewide Annual Conference and Workshop in Winter Park at Rollins College on April 24 and 25. The program was co-sponsored by the Florida Conservation Foundation, the Sanibel-Captiva Conservation Foundation and the Environmental Studies Program at Rollins College.

The Native Plant Society was created for, and hopes to accomplish the following goals: to educate—educate children in public schools, officials in municipal and county governments, developers and the public at large about the destruction of Florida's native plants. They hope to

develop guidelines for community native plant protective ordinances; to encourage the use of native plants, to develop resources of information about where and how to get native plants, how to relocate them and how to propagate them. Other goals include developing guidelines for the management of public lands, wildflower areas and private woods; and to lobby for protective legislation.

Persons interested in joining The Florida Native Plant Society should contact FNSP, Florida Conservation Foundation, Inc., 935 Orange Avenue, Winter Park, FL 32789. Annual dues are \$12 (single); \$15 (family) \$25 and up (contributing) and \$50 and up (organization).

#### Flower Show Schools

Mrs. John H. Howarth Flower Show Schools Chm.

GAINESVILLE—COURSE V
October 6-8, 1981
Instructors:
Mrs. Frank Woodruff III
Mrs. O. Fenton Wells
Chairman:
Mrs. John Havelock
P.O. Box 147
Archer 32618

#### **CLASSIFIED ADS**

Rates: \$1.25 per 40 character line. Minimum ad: 5 lines at \$6.25. For further information, contact: Mrs. Crowell Dawkins, 4705 Clear Ave., Tampa, FL 33609.

**ORCHID GROWERS.** Join the American Orchid Society. Monthly Bulletin of more than 120 pages each worth the dues of \$20.00 yearly. American Orchid Society, Inc. (FG), 84 Sherman Street, Cambridge, Mass. 02140.

TOPIARY FRAMES, charming animal shapes; ideal for gifts; discount available to clubs. Consider topiary for your fund raising activities. Write for price list, **Topiary**, **Inc.**, **41 Bering**, **Tampa**, **FL** 33606.

#### FFGC PROGRAMS

The Program Award for Butterfly Education was presented for the first time at State Convention '81 to the Wilding Garden Club of Jacksonville. The slide presentation, a requirement of the award, was photographed by Priscilla H. Bowers who spent many hours patiently photographing the metamorphosis of a Monarch butterfly. The poetic interpretation was written by Marge Billiard. (Her poem appears on this page).

Donor of the award was State Butterfly Chairman Eve Riel Hannahs, familiar to readers of The Florida Gardener for her photography and numerous articles on butterflies. The butterfly chairmanship was created by President Ella Wood who was concerned about the departure of butterflies from the Florida landscape because of increasing urban development and the use of poisonous pesticides. Other states are now becoming aware of the need to protect this endangered species and Deep South plans to add a butterfly chairman to direct educational information throughout the Region.

#### **CLUB PROGRAMS**

Club Program Chairmen planning programs may order slides from State Headguarters on the life cycle of the butterfly. The book on Florida butterflies COLOR ME A BUTTERFLY is still available. A quick and easy reference for program ideas can be found in any good encyclopedia. Remember, butterfly programs are for education, beauty appreciation, and protection and not to encourage collection!! Why not use a camera to capture the rare beauty of a "winged flower"? Who knows, you might win the Butterfly Award next year! This may not be easy, but an interesting program about nature's most beautiful creature is within the reach of every Florida Federation Garden Club.

#### The Monarch

By Marge Billard Wilding Garden Club lacksonville

From wings of love a tiny speck appears— Hidden beneath a milkweed leaf, Barely visible but wonderously rich. Behold! A bright striped creature with many legs! Milkweed munchinggrows thru lunching! Upside down and holding-**Body secretions** cover and harden. Thru opaque green his stripes are seen. The home becomes light patterned in sight, Rustled and stirrings a new life emerging! Stretching and striving a coming "aliving." Perfection of pattern in colors so bright, Strengthening, flutteringsoaring at last! God's Miracle Traveler begins life's long flight!

#### BENDING THE TWIG GARDEN BOOK

For children, Lessons and answers for counselors. Conservation, birds, insects, planting and projects. Price \$3.99 for copy and postage. By Peggy Houston Gaertner, 1217 Laurel Ave., Venice, FL 33595.

#### Acre Clubs—(Continued from page 19)

Tarpon Springs, Garden Club of, Dist. VIII Temple Terrace Garden Club, Dist. VIII Tinker, Mr. and Mrs. Wellington H. Travelers Palm Beach Garden Club, Jupiter, Dist. X Ventrick, Nora E., Winter Haven, Dist. IX Warren, Lynne A., Green Farms, Connecticut West Palm Beach Garden Club, Dist. X. Wolfinbarger, Olga I, Gardenia Garden Club, Winter Haven, Dist. IX Wood, Mr. and Mrs. John G., The Garden Club of Winter Haven, Dist. IX Zephyrhills Garden Club, Dist. IX

#### **Opening Tosohatchee Preserve to Hunting**

By Tess Cammack FFGC Legislation Chm.

On Dec. 2, 1980, the Florida Cabinet voted to transfer the wildlife management functions of the Tosohatchee Preserve in Orange County to the Florida Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission (FGFWFC) which is notably pro-hunting. The Commission voted to allow 18 days of hunting (for the present) during the month of January.

Florida's Environmentally Endangered Lands Act of 1972 was designed for the conservation and protection of environmentally unique and irreplaceable lands as valued ecological resources of our state. Under that Act, after long negotiation, Tosohatchee Preserve was acquired. The management concept for Tosohatchee was agreed to and adopted by the Government and Cabinet. It provided for multiple uses and specifically prohibited hunting.

Almost immediately after these lands were acquired for preservation in 1977 and paid for with state tax money, hunting interests started pressing to open the preserve for hunting. Conservationists called for in-depth studies which were subsequently made and which showed why hunting should not be permitted on Tosohatchee. Based on these studies, the Cabinet voted in 1978 to prohibit hunting on Tosohatchee. Pro-hunting forces continued to open to hunters within a 50-mile radius of Tosohatchee, and so, quietly on Dec. 2, 1980, the Cabinet passed a resolution delegating the responsibility for wildlife management in this area to the FGFWFC and to allow hunting.

Because hunting on Tosohatchee Preserve is contrary to the purpose of the purchase of the Preserve, the Florida Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc., meeting in regular session Jan. 6-7, 1981, in behalf of its more than 30,000 members, adopted a resolution requesting the Cabinet to rescind the Tosohatchee Preserve and instead adhere to the original plan to preserve the endangered species and unique environment of Tosohatchee. FFGC further resolved that copies of the resolution be sent to Governor Graham, Secretary of State George Firestone, Attorney General Jim Smith, Comptroller Gerald Lewis, Treasurer William Gunter, Commissioner of Education Ralph D. Turlington, and Commissioner of Agriculture Doyle E. Connor.

When Tosohatchee was bought for \$16 million, the Dept. of Natural Resources plan provided: "Wilderness associated outdoor recreation uses, such as camping, hiking, picnicking, fishing, horseback riding and natural scenery appreciation may be permitted where compatible with primary environmental protection purposes. Hunting shall be prohibited because of its impact on endangered and threatened species and other recreational uses of the property."

We urge you to write to the Governor and members of the Cabinet, address: The Capitol, Tallahassee 32301, and oppose hunting considered incompatible with protecting the ecosystem that Tosohatchee was acquired to preserve.





Children at Seamands Boy's Hostel in Yadagiri, India, shown proudly working with tools provided by Ribault Garden Club.

#### **World Gardening Program Expanded**

By Mrs. Roscoe Smith World Gardening Chm. Ribault Garden Club, Jacksonville Bch.

Camellia Circle members of Ribault Garden Club, Jacksonville Beach, as an organization, listened and watched, but other than their annual contribution to CARE, felt unable to do very much about the greatest menace to peace in the world today. HUNGER.

This caused great frustration. The members felt a need to work more closely in assisting the hungry people of the world. As so frequently happens, "When the going gets tough, the tough get going," so they spearheaded a drive to plant gardens in orphanages overseas.

Word of this wordly project spread quickly to other circles of the club where it met with such enthusiasm that endorsement was sought to make it a state-wide program.

At the January 8th, 1981 meeting of the Florida Federation of Garden Clubs a motion was approved to endorse World's Children, Inc., to receive specified World Gardening donations by members of FFGC for garden related activities.

World's Children, Inc., is a Floridabased nonprofit organization founded in 1965 and dedicated to seeking aid for the destitute children housed in orphanages overseas. There are 58 of these orphanages located in 12 countries: India, Sarawak, Columbia, S.A., Puerto Rico, Japan, Malaysia, Guatemala, Panama, Brazil, Korea, Mexico and Taiwan. They are all desperately poor.

Feeding these children is a matter of great concern. Cost of food has risen sharply and at an alarming rate in all countries. As our aid must be "garden related," through our program we collect funds to assist the orphanages to buy seeds, plants, fertilizer, tools and the like, to plant gardens and to grow their own fruits and vegetables. This is the epitome of World Gardening in its purest form.

One hundred percent of all funds donated are sent directly overseas by World's Children, Inc., to be used for gardens at the orphanages. All donations are tax deductible. There are many means of raising funds for this program without interfering with the commitments of your circle's budget. One circle raffles a plant at each meeting. The winner of the plant supplies the plant for the next month and gives instructions for its care. This not only adds to the horticultural interest of the meeting, but supplies a flow of funds for World Gardening. Some circles donate their Birthday Pennies, some individuals give in memory of a loved one, or just for the joy of giving. Everyone wants to give something!

The far-reaching impact of this program is already being felt. Letters of appreciation are arriving from orphanages

(Continued on next page)

THE FLORIDA GARDENER

# Camp Time's Coming

By Mrs. Gustave Harrer Wekiva Youth Camp Chm.

By the time you read this article, the first campers, both young and old, will be packing their tooth brushes and binoculars and dreaming of a week-long living and learning experience at beautiful Camp Wekiva. Though some of the weeks are already filled by May, it's not too late to get your little camper registered for one of the weeks. And there are constant cancellations because of changes in summer plans. Many on the waiting lists will get to go, so get your registration in now.

It's also time to take your collected items to your District Director or to one of the adult volunteers for your district. Your Director knows who they are. As you can see from the S & H thermometer, we especially need a few more green stamp books to get that 16mm sound projector we're hoping for. You can send those directly to this chairman if you like (Mrs. Gustave Harrer, 2815 NW 29th St., Gainesville 32605).

In addition to the stamp books and natural materials, we can use Naugahyde scraps (at least  $7\frac{1}{2}x14''$ ) for camp notebooks.

The adult staff is nearly complete, but if you wish to volunteer, we'll find a place. There is a need for male counselors—high school seniors or older.

And we always welcome visitors. Just let this chairman know, so that we can roll out the red carpet.

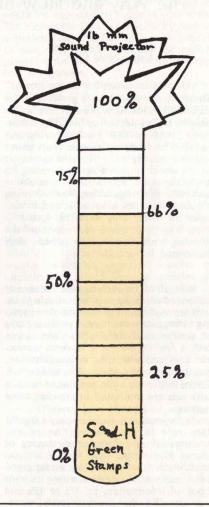
overseas. The children are showing great interest and excitement as they learn to plant seeds, care for the plants, and harvest their own food. Now they want to form their own garden clubs within the orphanages! In a letter from India we are told that they have also purchased a few flower plants. Food for the spirit! Nothing could be more inspiring for a garden club than to learn that our contributions are the means of providing some beauty in the lives of those children.

The following excerpt is from a letter received by the club from Seamands Boys Hostel, Yadagiri, India:

"Our boys enjoy working in the garden. We grow quite a lot of greens and vegitables (sic) for them to eat. They prefer vegitable from their own garden better than the market ones. So with great interest they work to grow vegitables. With the mony you have sent now \$30 we are planning to get a good fence fixed for this garden to guard against stray cattle which is a menace in our place. With the fence we can avoid a lot of loss of our crops. The boys are very anxious to get this fence fixed. This will give them additional interest in the garden work.

"We have planned to have a garden

"We have planned to have a garden club in our hostel and they would like to write to you about their programme."



#### The Why and How of Growing Native Plants

By Dr. Fanny-Fern Davis Native Plant Chm.

What do we mean by "native plants?" These are plants which are growing under natural conditions, without man's assistance so far as selection or breeding is concerned. All of our horticultural plants today have been developed from plants which originally were native in some part of the world. In fact, a very interesting bit of background information concerning our cultivated vegetables, flowers, vines, shrubs, and trees is to be found in discovering where they were first found by man. It helps us better to understand the growing conditions under which they thrive best for us today.

#### Why?

With all of the exciting new varieties of cultivated plants so readily available to us, why are some of us so interested in growing native plants in our own yards, in parks or on the roadside? In this short space, only a few of the more obvious reasons can be listed with a bit of amplification; but it is to be hoped that they will be sufficient to stimulate you to think of reasons why you are interested in growing these natives.

1) By so doing, you may play a significant role in the preservation of our endangered and threatened species of plants. This means that, first of all, you must know what species are endangered or threatened in your area (see current Book of Information, pp 175 to 178 and consult with the State Forestry representative in your county). Then locate where these plants are in your environs and be prepared, should the ground be disturbed for any reason—from building a new shopping area to laying a new sewer line, to go in with the permission of the owner and dig the plants up ahead of the bull-dozer; undertake to duplicate their environment and transplant them.

2) You may develop an interesting, original and effective landscape design by using strikingly beautiful native trees, shrubs, or herbaceous annuals and perennials.

3) Often it will be found that certain desirable birds and butterflies can be attracted to your yard by the food and

shelter you can provide by introducing specific native plants.

4) You may infect all those who visit your garden with your enthusiasm for the all-too-seldomly appreciated beauty and charm of our native plants.

Some of the advantages of using native plants include:

1) They are easy to grow and reproduce if you have the proper environment. Fortunately for us in Florida, the most wide-spread species of Wildflowers thrive in poor or sandy soil.

2) It is comparatively inexpensive if you procure plants from your own

countryside.

3) If they have been thriving in your own countryside, they are probably more resistant to prevailing disease and insect pests, and are better adapted to your customary rainfall, temperature and daylength pattern than many comparable horticultural varieties.

4) They usually thrive without the pampering that so many greenhouse and nursery-grown plants require to become

established.

5) Frequently, in the case of annual and perennial wildflowers, they will successfully seed themselves—howbeit some-

times too successfully.

On the other hand, there are a few words of caution, if you would avoid disappointment. As has just been indicated, if the annuals (and occasionally the perennials) like your environment too well they may seed themselves too prolificly, in which case it is important to treat the unwanted plants as weeds and remove them. Remember that whereas a few are delightfully attractive, more may detract from the charm and beauty of the few. Also native woody specimens may be a bit more rangy and less perfect in form than their cultivated counterparts. So, native trees and shrubs may require considerable pruning unless you prefer to keep the "natural" rather than the "well-groomed" effect.

#### How?

As with all planting, it is important to select those native plants for which you have ideal growing conditions. Native plants cannot be brought in from a pine woods and be expected to thrive in hot

THE FLORIDA GARDENER

sun or a shady bog. Selection of specific plants for specific locations is important.

Also, there are two ways of establishing native plants. One is by bringing in established plants. In this case, younger, smaller plants are more likely to make the adjustment than are older and bigger plants. Then, too the time of year is important, the most desirable time being just prior to when the best growing conditions are anticipated. When bringing a plant in from its native habitat, particularly if it is a tree or shrub, it is important to have an over-size hole prepared before lifting the plant and bringing it in. Use organic feeding, because the plant in its native habitat has not been accustomed to chemical fertilizers.

There are many advantages to establishing your native plants, particularly annuals and perennials, by planting seed which you may collect the preceeding season or purchase from commercial seedhouses. There are seedhouses and nurseries that specialize in providing seed and nursery stock of native plants from many sections of the country. With careful study before selecting your plants, it is possible to introduce into your garden plants which are native in other sections of the country which have comparable growing conditions of day-length, rainfall and temperature. It is possible in confined areas to create proper soil and moisture conditions, if shade-factor, temperature

and day-length are correct.

Environmental Seed Producers Inc., P.O. Box 5904, El Monte, Ca. 91734 are specialists in seed of native plants. They provide a most helpful Computer Pack of cards describing 64 different species. Each card gives the natural geographic range of the plant together with the range in which it might be expected to thrive as well as the plant size, number of seeds per pound, flowering time, color, recommended use, and rate of sowing per acre to get a uniform stand. The cards are punched and a needle provided, so it is possible by using the needle to get all cards of plants with a given characteristic, and then select from among those all with a second characteristic and continue until all specifications have been met. For example, one could locate all species with any desired combination of characteristics such as a spring-flowering, bushy perennial plant with red flowers which requires a shady location. Then from the map on the card you can see where it grows natively and whether it might be expected to thrive in your area. The Computer Pack is available by mail at a modest cost of \$5.00 and is most helpful to one who wants to introduce native plants from some other part of the country into her garden.

Another company specializing in wildflower seeds is the Applewood Seed Co., P.O. Box 4000, Golden, Colorado 80401. Send for a Catalog, if you are interested in procuring seeds of native plants. Their smallest packages of seeds cost \$1.00 and contain as few as 25 in the case of Yucca to

4,000 for Monkey Flower.

On the other hand, if you want to start with plants, be sure to send for a catalog from Laurel Gardens, Rte. 2, Box 563A, Lenoir, N.C. 28645. They have over 500 species growing in their nursery, and list in their catalog: 200 species of herbaceous plants; 27 species of ground covers; 36 species of native ferns; 30 species of aquatic and bog plants; 35 species of deciduous trees and shrubs; 14 species of evergreen trees and shrubs; and 15 species of native terrestrial orchids. Better still, if you go north this summer, go by and see the nursery, by prearrangement, of course.

And for you who plan to move in native plants from their native habitat, may I summarize what should be our ethical behavior.

- 1) Observe laws of trespass and state laws for conservation of endangered and threatened species.
  - 2) Ask the owner for permission.
- 3) Lift only from colonies of ten or more plants and then leave half of them.
- 4) If possible collect from areas being cleared.
- 5) Take only those for which you have beds prepared.
- 6) If cutting wildflowers, never strip a plant of all its flowers. Leave some for

#### Friends

(Continued from page 9)

important beetle-ladybeetles. Some insects are always foes: thrips, aphids, scales, carpet beetles, mealy bugs, house flies, mosquitoes, botflies, fleas. Harmful to plants? No, not all, but in some way detrimental to man. Learn your friends, fight your foes, preferably with hand to hand combat.

# How Can We Preserve Our Wildflowers?

By Sylvia Booth Brockner

The following article appeared in the Colorado Gardener. Although many of the wildflowers mentioned are different than those found in Florida, the conditions and problems are often the same and can be related to Florida wildflowers.

Recently I was asked by a friend if I would write an article urging people not to pick wildflowers because she felt they were "being picked to the point of extinction."

It is true that some species of wildflowers do suffer from picking but unfortunately there are many other factors that enter into the decline of our wildflowers. The problem is just not that simple.

Probably the single most important factor in the decline of wildflowers is the disappearance of habitat. As all gardeners know, most plants have very specific requirements for growth, and wildflowers are no exception. Alpines will not grow at low altitudes; moisture loving plants will not grow on the dry plains and plants adapted to acid soils will not survive if the soil is alkaline.

Man is constantly altering the surface of the earth and each time he does so some species of plant suffers. Habitat destruction in itself is a complicated matter resulting from various activities. We all recognize the obvious destruction of a bulldozer constructing highways, dams and parking lots, but do we also recognize the destruction of habitat caused by fire, by draining or conversely by flooding low valleys and marsh lands for agriculture or irrigation? Overgrazing on much of our federally owned lands causes not only the actual destruction of wildflowers by consumption but also compacts the soil so that few plants can grow.

Even such seemingly innocent appearing activities as small boys romping daily on a hillside or tourists tramping through delicate habitat can soon create problems of erosion and/or compaction. Much of our land is fragile in the semi-arid southwest. Ground covers are sparse and easily worn away. Erosion quickly takes over where land is abused.

Forestry also creates problems for wild-

flowers. When a forest is thinned to improve conditions for the trees the forest floor is exposed to increased sunlight. This may create better conditions for some species but most certainly will be detrimental to the shade-loving species of wildflowers.

Many wildflowers were damaged or destroyed in the Front Range Forests by a blitz aimed at controlling the Rocky Mountain Pine Beetle. True, some open sunny hillsides may now be carpeted with the blue mist penstemon, but will the yellow lady slippers and the birdfoot violets which once grew there return? How long will it take for the forest to return to the conditions which these rare plants require? We don't know.

Many of the flowers on the Colorado Federation of Garden Clubs Wildflower Conservation List were never abundant to begin with, simply because of their very special requirements. A flower like the fabulous Tulip Gentian, Eustoma grandiflorum, was formerly common in wet places on the plains. Wet places on the plains are few and far between. Virgin prairie has all but disappeared. Wet sloughs have all too often been drained to make more land for agriculture or gouged out for stock ponds or reservoirs for irrigation.

In either case the moisture loving wildflowers are lost. The tulip gentian has become an endangered species. Other rare plants are found at higher altitudes. Bog laurel and bog orchids are usually found in Colorado high in the mountains where their feet are planted in wet mountain bogs. Such habitat is not plentiful, but as long as these boggy places exist so will the flowers.

Our state flower, the beautiful blue columbine, is probably most threatened by "diggers." There are still an incredible number of people who believe they have the right to dig any wildflower they wish. Other rare flowers which suffer from digging are the wood lily, yellow lady slipper, mariposa lily, leather flower, Rocky Mountain and blue clematis, ball cactus and paintbrush.

Wildflowers are protected by law on public lands. This includes most state or federally owned land as well as city and county parks and even roadside rights of way. However such legal protection means little usuess it is enforced.

Private landowners on the other hand have the right to do as they wish with whatever grows on their land. All too often they give permission for plants to be dug or harvested. Thus such plants as sundew are found for sale in super markets and many others are available through nurseries.

Recently there has developed a growing industry in the sale of wildflower seeds. While this practice can most certainly be beneficial in increasing the abundance of many species, it could also be detrimental to others. Collecting the seeds from perennial plants presents little danger; the plant remains to produce again. However, large scale collecting of the seeds from annuals in the same area for several years could conceivably endanger the species in that location. As usual we must temper our actions with moderation and wisdom.

It would seem that the preservation of America's wildflowers is a multi-faceted task, one to which the garden clubs of America have often contributed a helping hand.

As in any movement, an educated public is a powerful force. If every garden club across America would work to educate the populace in their area on the need for and methods involved in wildflower conservation, think what could be accomplished.

Planting wildflower seeds, in the proper area, under proper conditions, may well help to reestablish some species as well as beautifying our roadsides. Another project to consider is the rescuing of wildflowers ahead of construction. Permission may almost always be granted to remove plants in an area that is about to be bulldozed, flooded, paved or otherwise destroyed. Some of the plants that are moved to new locations may not survive, but if any of them do, it is better than losing them all.

It is probably pointless to advocate that wildflowers should never be picked under any conditions. It is self-defeating to take such an attitude, for how can we justify denying a two-year-old the joy of picking dandelions or the picking of a few blossoms of such common plants as sunflowers and asters? We must instead educate the public to pick only the very common flowers, to protect all flowers

that are uncommon and to help in the never-ending effort to preserve habitat.

To preserve our wildflowers it is essential that we preserve ecological niches of various types. Garden clubs can help in establishing such wildflower sanctuaries in their towns and in supporting organizations such as The Natural Conservancy and National and local Audubon Societies in their efforts to establish nature preserves where critical wildflower habitat is conserved.

By maintaining such small plots of various habitats, many wildflowers would be able to reestablish themselves. As man makes deeper and deeper inroads into our once natural areas it becomes ever more important that prime examples of different habitats be set aside so that future generations may know and enjoy a wild and diversified flora.

#### WEEDS

A farmer once sighed after he had finished weeding his garden. His back was bent, the perspiration ran down his face. "If not for those cursed weeds," he said to himself, "gardening would be such a joy. Why God made weeds is really beyond me."

The farmer mused a little as he contemplated the heap of weeds he had pulled out. Suddenly one of the weeds spoke up. Its face was already pale and wilting, but it mustered enough strength to speak in self-defense.

"You should not speak ill of any of God's creatures," the little weed said. "You have given us a bad name and decried our presence in the world. We render you a thousand uses you may not be aware of. We tend your soil when you are not there to cultivate it. We prevent your precious earth from being washed away by the rain. We do not allow it to be carried away by the wind as dust. And do we not justify our existence even in your carefully cultivated garden? Your flowers would never be able to stand the elements . . . if we did not toughen them. In their skirmishes with us they gain strength. When you enjoy their splendor, remember that we had a part in their growth."

(Continued on page 31)

#### YOUR FFGC BOARD IN ACTION

Board Meeting January 6-7, 1981 Headquarters, Winter Park

Members of the Board of Directors:

• Heard Mrs. John G. Wood, President, report on helping arrange flowers at the Washington Cathedral in conjunction with Exhibition 50 and providing a photograph of the floral design she and Mrs. John Kressman created on St. Mary's Gate for the permanent files; serving as a team leader at the EE Workshop co-sponsored by Districts VIII and IX, and attending National Council Board Meeting in Colorado Springs. Board members witnessed presentation of her check for the FFGC Scholarship Fund representing money normally spent for her own personal Christmas cards and postage, pursuant to a recommendation by National President Mrs. Carl A. Dahlgren.

· Recognized many facets of the Federation's program on which officers work, as

reflected in their reports.

 Heard District Directors and Chairmen report on widespread participation in litter control, tree planting, the planting of wildflowers, recycling, garden therapy, Spring flower shows, horticulture workshops and many other projects. The first National Council William Bartram Trail Marker, placed by Pierson Garden Club, was dedicated. Another is to be dedicated at St. Augustine and still another at Paynes Prairie near Gainesville. State Road 13 has been designated an official Wm. Bartram Scenic Highway.

Accepted the resignation of Mrs. Otis Marshall as District II Director and ratified
 President Wood's appointment of Mrs. Charles H. Fischer to the post. Mrs. Betty B.

Wilson was approved as assistant director of District XII.

• Federated Sabal Point Garden Club of Longwood, VII; Saga Bay Garden Club, XII.

Accepted the invitation for District VI to host the 1986 FFGC Convention.

 Heard the Headquarters Endowment Fund totals \$138,339.82 and the Contingency Fund \$19,390.14; also there is \$990 in the Velma Gwinn Memorial Fund, \$690 in the James Warren Bates Memorial Fund. Joy Kennan Ward's name has been placed in the "Silver Book" at Headquarters; two names have been added to the "Parade of Presidents Book" and five to the "In Memoriam Book."

• Approved action of Headquarters and Endowment Trustees in raising the grounds maintenance contract to \$375 per month, placement of a sign costing \$450 to designate location of Headquarters, installation of a chain link fence to protect the Velma Gwinn Wildflower Hill from vandals, replacement of the Fran Chillas Memorial Clock which was stolen from the foyer, and installation of a bell at the front door so the door can be kept locked.

 Heard a new slide program on butterflies should be added to the list in the Nov./Dec. 1980 FLORIDA GARDENER and all requests for information on slide programs should be sent to Headquarters.

Attended a formal dedication of the Velma Gwinn Memorial Wildflower Hill

Garden and learned that over 280 different plants are growing there.

Adopted a resolution requesting the Florida Cabinet to rescind its ruling transferring wildlife management functions of the Tosohatchee Preserve to the Florida Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission, urging cabinet members to adhere to the original plan to preserve the endangered species and the unique environment of Tosohatchee; and another requesting Governor Robert Graham to proclaim the calendar week beginning the first Sunday of June each year as "State Garden Week" in Florida.

• Endorsed World's Children, Inc. of Winter Haven, a licensed, charitable, non-profit organization, to receive specified donations for gardening activities from member clubs, circles and individuals; learned contributions to the Haitian World Gardening project

total \$7,769.33 to date.

Learned a small chest-type freezer has been acquired for Camp Wekiva with S & H

Green Stamps.

30

• Approved establishing an award in memory of Clyde Ware, the same to be funded by garden clubs which have participated in the HANDS program.

• Approved advancing \$500 to the 1981 Convention Committee for pre-convention expenses, same to be repaid following termination of the event.

• Heard the officer nominees for the 1981-83 administration are Mrs. Edward R. Jordan, President; Mrs. Hugh C. Simmons, First Vice President; Mrs. Augustus F. Williams Jr., Second Vice President; Mrs. Dursie Ekman, Third Vice President; Mrs. Suenell Spiro, Recording Secretary; Mrs. Robert E. Mills, Corresponding Secretary; Mrs. Edward F. Smithers, Treasurer; and Mrs. O. Fenton Wells, Assistant Treasurer.

 Elected Mrs. Gustave Harrer, Miss Rosemond Meriwether, Mrs. E. R. Hunter, Mrs. James Gotcher and Henry Chillas delegates to the Deep South Regional Convention.

• Elected Mrs. Jordan, Mrs. Simmons, Mrs. Williams, Mrs. William B. Lemons, Mrs. W. Reese Harris, Mrs. Joe C. Robinson, Mrs. Hunter, Miss Meriwether and Chillas delegates to the National Council Convention, with Mrs. Eldon Corbin, Mrs. Olin Brimberry, Mrs. James R. Freyermuth, Mrs. Bruce H. Pollock, Mrs. William F. Thaxton and Mrs. Harrer as alternates.

#### **Planting New Trees**

from Wood Words Florida Department of Agriculture Division of Forestry

Far too many of the young shade trees planted by homeowners with all good intentions and high hopes this spring will be dead before fall.

The heat and drought that come with August and September in Florida are relentless dangers to newly-planted trees, advises the Florida Division of Forestry. They're likely to start off in the spring with a burst of growth, but falter when the hot sun begins to sear them in mid-summer, and then give up the ghost before cool weather returns.

This is particularly true of the little forest trees you may have moved into your yard from the wild. Much of the root system may have been damaged in freeing a tree. It's much easier to keep a nursery-grown tree alive that crucial first year, but the untutored homeowner still can go wrong.

The first step in assuring your tree's survival comes when you plant it. Follow the usual instructions well and dig a wide hole, set the tree no deeper than it grew before and spread the roots carefully; refill with soil and conditioners and finally water thoroughly to resettle the dirt closely around the roots. In most cases, the tree will also benefit from a heavy mulch about six inches thick, spread in a circle two feet out from the trunk in all directions. Oak or pine leaves are perfect mulch

The second, and often neglected step, should be taken in the summer. It is simply to water the tree properly and regularly during those hot, dry months. Water standing constantly on a tree's roots can kill it, but only the most unobservant

homeowner is likely to let this happen.

Far more likely is a failure to water a new tree often enough for it to stay healthy. Likely you'll find out in August whether you planted the tree correctly some months earlier.

If the roots are embedded in soil that is rich in humus (peat, rotted leaves, etc.) and are protected by a porous moisture-holding layer of mulch, and if these conditions are maintained all summer, then the little tree that was knee high at the start may be head high by the end of the first growing season.

Furthermore, it will be much less endangered by the stresses of its second

and subsequent summers.

But if the roots were squeezed into an inadequate hole in tough, unrelenting soil, or if the owner neglects supplying water that crucial first summer, then look for the tree to start off growing well in the soft days of spring, only to wilt and likely die by September.

#### Weeds

(Continued from page 29)

The weed made a marked impression, and then although almost exhausted it continued in a peroration: "The vegetation you cultivate is like the people in your own world. They need some opposition to be toughened for the formidable business of living."

The weed resumed its silence. The farmer straightened his back as he wiped his brow. A smile of satisfaction came over his face. He looked out on the field that was yet to be weeded, but he knew that weeding would no longer be a disagreeable task. By Ben Zion Bokser, from Hallmark's "The Jewish Spirit."

—Submitted by Mrs. Rella B. Wexler, Mexico Beach, FL

#### GINGER COLLECTION

By Dr. Frederick B. Essig Director, University of S. Florida Botanical Garden

One of the most exciting aspects of the development of the University of South Florida Botanical Garden has been the growth of the ginger collection. Everyone knows the common spice ginger, Zingiber officianale, but do you know that the ginger family, Zingiberaceae, consists of over 1300 species? Most of these have striking, exotic foliage, and many of them have conspicuous blossoms as well. The shell ginger and the white or butterfly ginger are familiar to Florida gardeners as they are hardy and easy to grow, but there are many more that appear to be equally easy to grow.

We have been actively collecting gingers at the Botanical Gardens for more than four years, from cultivated sources and from the wild in South America, New Guinea and elsewhere. We currently have about 80 different species and varieties, making our collection one of the largest in the country. Many of the species are still juvenile, as they were started from seed, but a year or two ago many came into bloom for the first time. The majority of our gingers-are not properly identified to species, so they will need much study over the next few years.

#### Categories of Ginger

As far as culture is concerned, gingers fall into two main categories: deciduous and evergreen. The deciduous types die down to the rhizome each winter and come up vigorously in the spring. They are handled like Cannas, lilies or other "bulb" plants. Examples include the genera Hedychium, Curcuma, Kaempferia, Globba and Zingiber. As they rest underground during the winter, they are oblivious to the notorious and erratic cold spells of Florida.

The evergreen gingers include Alpinia, Costus, Brachychilum and Tepeinochilus. These species normally maintain foliage above ground all year round. Some of them, like the shell gingers can tolerate mild freezing temperatures with little damage. Under more severe freezing they will die down to the rhizomes and come up again in the spring. This will usually set back the flowering schedule, however, as

they require a long season of vegetative growth before blooming.

The more tender of the evergreen types are much harder to grow in our area. The red ginger (Alpinia purpurata) and the torch ginger (Nicolaia elatior) are very sensitive to cold. They will decline or die down in the winter. If they come up in the spring at all, they do so slowly and require more than a year of vegetative growth to reach flowering size. These gingers will bloom in the Tampa Bay area only in the most protected locations or after several mild winters, and are not recommended to local gardeners.

#### Menninger Flowering Tree Conference

The 2nd Annual Menninger Flowering Tree Conference, in honor of Dr. Edwin A. Menninger of Stuart, Florida is scheduled for May 14-15, to be held at the Quality Inn at Cypress Gardens, Winter Haven, Fl. Sponsored by the Wholesale Division of the Florida Nurserymen and Growers Association, the purpose of this Annual Conference is to promote the appreciation and encourage the use of flowering trees.

The conference is open to all who are interested in subtropical and tropical trees. Among the invited guest speakers are: Dr. Hare of the U.S. Forest Tree Research Lab.; Dr. John Popenoe, Director of Fairchild Botanical Gardens, Dr. Francis Ching, Director of the Los Angeles State and County Arboretum and Dr. Don Egolf, Director of Research at the National Arboretum in Washington.

Topics to be covered include plant importation, tree propagation, producing specimen trees and getting new plants into the trade. There will be a community workshop and a plant and seed exchange.

Dr. Menninger himself will attend a dinner at the conference and a guided tour of Cypress Gardens will be conducted.

For further information please contact: Cheryl Fox, P.O. Box 16796, Temple Terrace, Fl 33687 (813/985-8511).

THE FLORIDA GARDENER



Wildflower Site

The logo selected to designate Wildflower plantings along the highways of Florida. The background for the signs will be brick red.

#### THE FLORIDA GARDENER READER SURVEY

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November

# **CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

May	7-8	FFGC Convention, Carillon Hotel, Miami Beach	
,	9	Post-Convention Board of Directors Meeting, Miami Be	ach
		SPRING DISTRICT MEETINGS	
	13	District III—Perry	
	14	II—Marianna	
	15	I—Ft. Walton Beach	
	18	IV—Palatka	
	19	V—Beverly Hills	
	20	VII—Clermont	
	21	VIII—Dunedin	
	22	IX—Winter Haven	
	26	VI—Cocoa Beach	
	27	X—Indiantown	
	28	XI—Lauderdale-by-the-Sea	
	29	XII—Miami	

4-6 Landscape Design School, Series XIII, Course 3, Jacksonville