

*THE*

*Florida Gardener*



*Fall 2020*

## President's Message

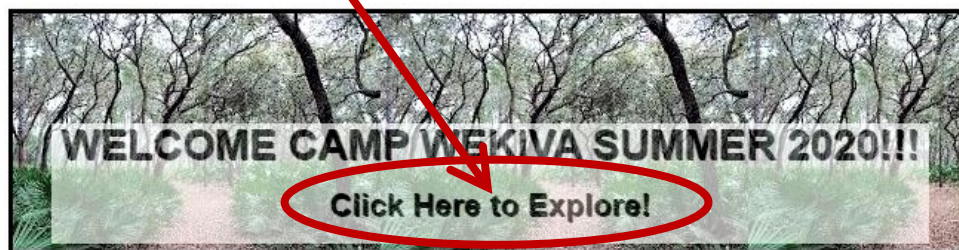


*Dear Friends,*

As I write this article, it is clear we are in for the long haul with Covid-19. I had wished for a downturn, but for now it is not looking particularly good for that to happen. I urge all of you to follow the CDC and Scientific Guidelines for lessening the chances of becoming infected and keeping others around you safe as well. Until a vaccine becomes available, all of us must do our part to get the number of reported cases down and under control. How can I say it more clearly? Wear a protective mask whenever you are out in public, avoid crowds especially crowds where masks are not being used. Social distancing is a must, and do not make unnecessary trips out of your homes. This is especially important for those of us in the age vulnerable levels. FFGC is ever mindful of the safety of our members, and I am certain your clubs are also responding effectively as well.

FFGC has suffered through several major disappointments because of the virus, but we are addressing our disappointments with effective ways to overcome our problems. We must commend our FFGC Convention Committee who worked on preparation for the Tampa Convention for three years only to find out it had to be cancelled. We were to host the Deep South Convention as well and let us not forget the work done by that Committees to prepare. Other events which fell to the effects of covid-19 included two of our short courses, and Wekiva Youth Camp, all tremendous losses for our members and friends.

These were a few of the downsides, but happily we had some good news. Tina Tuttle, FFGC's second V.P. and Chairman for Youth Camp and her team of dedicated volunteers produced an alternative to our normal camp with a virtual camp. If you have not already done so, you should view the results of their hard work on the website [WekivaYouthCamp.org](http://WekivaYouthCamp.org). **Click Here to Explore!** You will be impressed.



Our clubs have found alternative means of conducting business using Virtual Meetings. I know we all miss the personal interactions of getting together, but remember safety is the primary concern. Perhaps it will not be much longer before we can get back to our previous ways of meeting.

I am proud of our members in all that has been accomplished this past year. Florida led the Deep South in donations for Penny Pines having contributed \$21,692. Read the article by Andrea Finn, Penny Pines Chairman in this issue of the Florida Gardener. Thanks to the efforts of our clubs and the coordination of awards by Valerie Seinfeld, our clubs were awarded many NGC awards. Look for an article outlining awards elsewhere in this issue.

I cannot believe it has been over a year since I became President of FFGC. It has been quite an experience. Many good things have come our way, and many challenges had to be addressed. It will not be long for us to choose our Officers for the next Administration. Marge Hendon will become President-Elect on October 1. Please welcome her as she prepares for her administration. I know you will give her the support I have received during my time in office.

*Al Latina, FFGC President*



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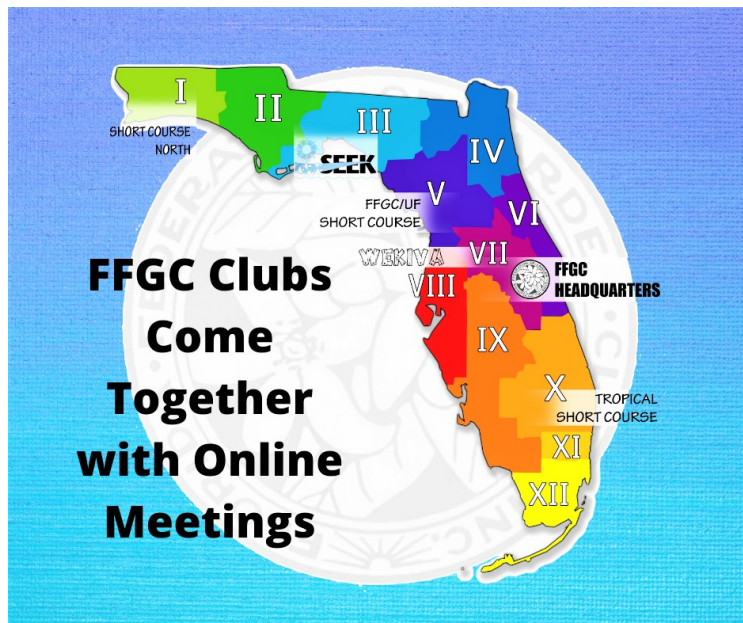
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## **DISTRICT IV NEWS**

By: Joy Elrod, Director

The **Garden Club of Green Cove Springs** has been holding monthly Zoom meetings to help members stay in touch and updated on the community projects. Members continue to maintain the gardens at the library and the Historic Triangle while taking safety precautions. The Club held their postponed annual plant sale with the City of Green Cove Springs June's "Saturday in the Park".



Braving the summer heat and wearing masks, shoppers took advantage of the bargain prices on the large variety of plants and artisan garden related wares. For the novice gardeners, Club members helped with plant selections.

All the proceeds of the plant sale go to charitable community ventures, including college scholarships to local high school students.

The **Garden Club of St. Augustine** has not able to meet due to the facility closures. Meanwhile, the Circles, committees, Board and Council have meeting via Zoom. The Club has been diligently working on the clubhouse grounds beautification to have a Zoom tour. The EPIC Flower Show is planned for March 27-28, 2021. GCSA is also planning to hold an Open House and plants and crafts sale in Spring.

The **Bartram Garden Club, Inc.** were honored recipients of three FFGC awards; Special Achievement Award for their newsletter "On the Trail We Blaze" & for the Garden Therapy Program. The Club also received the Deep South Award for Special Achievement for Garden Therapy for ESE challenged students at Fernandina Beach High School. BGC, Inc. has placed an enclosed display about native wildflowers & other indigenous plants to Florida at the Enclosed Center on the Florida Georgia line on I-95. Included is information about the FFGC and the BGC.

The **Garden Club of Orange Park** has been maintaining many public gardens they have established including around their own clubhouse. For the Fourth of July, the Whippoorwill Circle took flags to honor our Country's establishment to the Clark House in Orange Park and made a lovely display.



The **Garden Club of Middleburg** continues to support garden plots at Middleburg-Clay Hill Library and JL Wilkerson Elementary School, keeping up with weeding and replanting as needed. Their plans are to plant a number of fruit trees at the library. The club is planning to hold virtual meetings for the safety of their member's sake.

The **Ribault Garden Club** have been keeping the front and interior garden areas of the clubhouse healthy and pleasing to the eye. They are planning to rent their clubhouse for weddings and such this summer. The RGC conducts its members communications via email and other electronic sources.

The **Garden Club of the Lakes** had a wonderfully busy year of community activities, educational programs and field trips. Programs varied from organic gardening tips to making herbal soaps, a workshop on design basics and even growing edible horticulture in your front yard. Members participated in judged flowers shows and the Florist Angels used flower arranging skills to create bud vases to take to a nursing home. Members continue to support quarterly clean ups on the Blue Star Memorial Highway as well as maintaining a butterfly garden and memorial garden downtown. The annual Junior Garden Day in cooperation with Ace Hardware is a fantastic outreach opportunity to teach the basics of how plants grow and we provided free worms for their greenhouses! The club really got into the holiday giving spirit by participating in the Christmas Parade with two decorated antique cars and a Gator vehicle -- the president gave out seed packets and her children tossed candy to the crowd (folks wanted the seeds!). We sponsored a decorated tree in the library, another in a restaurant and a small one for a needy family -- all ornaments were floral or from recycled materials!

## **DISTRICT VI NEWS**

By: Judi Jodoin, District Director

We continue to read, watch, experience and live with a Pandemic that continues to climb in staggering outrageous numbers of cases and deaths in our beautiful state of Florida that we call home and we struggle and create ways to carry on with our lives. We cancel, postpone, and reschedule functions, fundraisers, meetings, travel and all activities. We learn new words: "Contact Tracing", "Pool Testing", "Follow the Guidelines", "Blue Tsunami", "Free Fall", "MASK COMPLIANCE", "Smart Testing", "Avoid Gatherings", "Diversion", and "School Openings". What will happen next? No one seems to have the complete answers. We continue therefore to avoid crowds, we wear masks, wash our hands, practice social distancing, catch up on things we have neglected, keep in contact with our Districts, pray and hope that the "New Normal" will be a phase we all may enjoy real soon.

**Cherry Laurel GC**-President, Nanette Baker. Cherry Laurel is excited about installing new officers and cautiously resuming meetings this fall. In this new era of distance learning and remote events, the club is also working with District Director, Judi, toward hosting a virtual District Fall Meeting (previously scheduled to be held at The Shores Resort and Spa) to be held Tuesday, October 20, 2020.

Club members have diligently spent the summer planning exciting programs for the upcoming year with a focus on social distancing, fewer field trips and more guest speakers and presentations. They also fulfilled community projects including donations for signage, landscaping and improvements to two area non-profits committed to historic preservation and education. The first is the Heritage Preservation Trust in Daytona Beach, owner Lilian Place Historic House and Hotchkiss House which are being renovated as a heritage museum and cultural events center. The second is the Ormond Beach Historical Society on behalf of its historic Anderson-Price Memorial Building, the club's meeting and event venue listed on the U.S. National Register Historic Places.

Summer efforts also included expanding club communication such as a new member email newsletter, growing its enthusiastic Facebook following and updating its yearbook. Cherry Laurel is honored to receive the NGC Certificate of Commendation and the First Place award for its 2019-2020 Yearbook at Deep South Region judging.

Lastly, Cherry Laurel sincerely believes in its shared values of stewardship and community service, and has stayed in touch with and cared for its members during this year's Covid-19 pandemic. The club mourned the loss of former member Jean Treloar who moved to South Florida to be near her children, and also beloved member Pat Olinger whose life and many contributions to her family, the club and her community we continue to celebrate.

**Cocoa-Rockledge G.C.** Is hosting Advanced Floral Design Classes, Units 7, 8, and 9 scheduled for October 7, November 4, and December 2, 2020. Time: 10:00 AM-3:00 PM, Location: Cocoa-Rockledge G.C., 1493 S. Fiske Blvd., Rockledge, FL. Contact: Gloria Blake (321) 537-8060 for additional information.

**Garden Club By The Sea**- President, Barbara Dial. Utilized the Spring and Summer of 2020 to work outside while practicing social distancing and begin the 3 Phase Strategic Plan for Lily Park Renovation. Phase 1 is renewal of the butterfly garden with a beautiful coquina pathway and new Florida native butterfly plants. This is a joint effort between Garden Club by the Sea and the town of Indianlantic. Special thanks to Pam Dunn, Susan Vallette, and Jeri Ronaldson for their inspiration and hard work.

**Garden Club at Palm Coast**-President, Carol J. Walker. In mid-March, the Garden Club at Palm Coast cancelled its remaining meetings, events, fundraisers, including its largest which is designated for high school seniors and community scholarship funds, Spring Festival and Plant Sale due to Covid-19.

Even though the Club's major fundraiser had to be cancelled, the Club was still able to award five (5) \$1,000 scholarships to local high school seniors. Signs were displayed at the students homes recognizing this achievement.

Members of the Propagation Guild developed a "contactless" driveway plant sale which has become very popular. Guild members also post "Plant of the Day" on the website and Facebook to keep in touch with the membership and community.

The Blue Star Marker which is located on SR-100 was decorated for Memorial Day and July 4th by Ellen Werner, Membership Chair and Carol Walker, President.

Due to Covid-19 maintenance of the gardens the Club had planted a Whispering Meadows Farm, an equine rehabilitation center, was halted in March. Volunteers began their work in June.

## **DISTRICT VI NEWS**—(cont'd)

### **Garden Club at Palm Coast**—(cont'd)

At the beginning of June, the new President, Carol Walker, put together a Covid-19 Task Force that met via Zoom sessions to discuss strategies for the 2020-2021 club year. The Club's Board planning meeting was also held via Zoom and may continue that meeting format through 2020.

The Board decided that all general meetings will be held virtually through 2020. The program will include video presentations by the featured speaker, Member Highlights video clips and PowerPoint presentations. The program will be distributed via Mail-Chimp (a promotional platform) and posted on the Club website and Facebook page each month. General meetings are tentatively planned to return to the Flagler County Extension Office in January, 2021.

Over the summer months, the membership has been entertained with gardening videos and workshops via YouTube while remaining in the safety of their homes.

**Indian Harbour Beach G.C.** - President, *Robin Chang*. Indian Harbour Beach Garden Club volunteers found new ways to continue their special relationship with residents at Zon Beachside Assisted Living. After four years of visits and garden based programs presented at the facility, the pandemic prohibited an in person interaction, so volunteers reached out to the residents with individual cards, notes, photos and drawings each addresses to a Garden Friend at Zon.

Some volunteers included their children and grandchildren, as they created special messages and pictures all about plants, flower, and gardens. Residents who had attended the Garden Club program received their personal messages.

As Pandemic precautions continued, IHB Garden Club volunteers donated 50 plants for Zon's raised wheelchair accessible plants. Volunteers grew the plants from seeds, divided their own assisting plants, or grew new plants from cuttings of flowers, succulents and herbs.

After volunteers left the plants at the door. Zon residents and staff worked together to create new gardens for all to experience the promise of Spring.

Below is an excerpt from the "Thank You" note the Zon Residents sent:

*"The cards and notes received touched the hearts of our folks, who had not been able to see their friends or family, many not understanding the quarantine or its purpose. Your messages made them feel love and special, and we thank you for being so considerate of their needs.*

*Since we have not been able to meet in groups to tend your gardens, your generous donations of plants and flowers were a godsend to give our barren raised beds some much needed color and the look of life again. We have two members of the Zon Garden Club who were able to come to the patio to help, one to decide where to place each plant and the other to play in the dirt with me. I was wearing gloves and had not been able to take pictures of them, but I want you to know that this was the highlight of their month to be able to have something purposeful to do by beautifying their grounds. It may see simplified, but for many of our seniors, they still have the need to feel useful and know that they can still contribute to their world."*

**New Smyrna Beach G.C.** - President, Kathy Healy. NSBGC members have been officially socially-distanced from each other since March, but not quite! Several planted our first Monarch butterfly garden and we had an unofficial competition to see who released the most Monarchs (yours-truly a distant third, but I'm still absolutely thrilled.) We have continued meeting bi-monthly to care for our garden grounds at 2000 Turn-bull Bay Road and chat while weeding, pruning, hauling limbs and other 'yardly' duties. Our last official group membership task was in fact held outdoors a masked-installation of three new members. What a photo op and quite another one for the Club's history books!

This year's members have also been hard at work behind the scenes organizing committees, programs, classes, and a variety of events as per members' suggestions and interests. Plans are in place October through May for a wonderful 2020-2021. Fingers and toes crosses that District VI Clubs will gather with us in October then again for an FFGC grand finale at Hilton Daytona Beach Oceanfront Hotel in April! We are ready!

**The Garden Club of Halifax Country** - President, Linda Armour. Greetings! Summer of 2020 has brought challenging times due to the Coronavirus and social distancing. Still, The G.C. of the Halifax Country has begun work in partnership with the City of Ormond Beach to convert the pocket park, Vadner Park into an all native plant and native tree park. The invasive plants have been identified and removal work has begun. Our Club has been busy writing grants and looking at ways to enhance this project.

Our Sensory Garden Committee at the Museum of Arts and Sciences has kept the garden fresh and planted this summer. The Conservation Committee is working on a pamphlet on water conservation. Members tend to their own gardens and share pictures and ideas during our summer hiatus.

The fall brings programs from flower photographer in reclaiming our waters. November 10, 2020 will be an open meeting to be held at the Stetson University Aquatic Center in Deland, Florida. All programs are subject to change to the unknown status of the Coronavirus. If you enjoy the love of gardening, develop participation in horticulture and flower arranging, conservation, photography and civic involvement and education you understand our purpose

## **DISTRICT VII NEWS**

By: *Gwen Carter, Director*



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

**Flower:** Hibiscus (all varieties)

**Wildflower:** Coreopsis

**Butterfly:** Monarch

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

### **Happy Day FFGC Members.**

We still find ourselves suffering through this great pandemic. Our daily lives continue to change as we make modifications to accommodate for this "New Normal". Fortunately, we live in a technological society today, not like our ancestors who lived through the Pandemic of 1918. Communication with family, friends, and co-workers is possible over the telephone (now considered ancient by some), email, and many virtual sites.

In May, I had the privilege of inducting the Executive Board of Sweetwater Oaks GC via ZOOM. Yes, there were a few bumps, mostly my fault, but the installation was a success. It was a wonderful experience and I could do it while wearing my favorite shorts. Thank you, Sweetwater Oaks GC.

Daily, I slide on my gloves to fight with Muhammad Ali (the weeds). Like Muhammad Ali, the weeds still prevail. I will not buckle nor yield, but carry on the fight tomorrow. Hopefully, this is not a sign of insanity.

District VII clubs continue to focus on garden club business during this difficult time. They are carrying on business through social distancing, meeting outdoors, email, and virtual connections. Our District VII Presidents share how their clubs are promoting the love of gardening.

**Bloom and Grow Garden Society** - President, Jeanne Yazinski. On December 12, 2019, a contingent of Bloom & Grow Garden Society members attended the Winter Garden monthly city commission meeting to witness the approval of a monarch butterfly sculpture to be placed in a new park scheduled for the downtown Plant Street area. The club is presenting the sculpture to the City of Winter Garden in appreciation for 20 years of help and partnership in making their Spring Fever in the Garden festival so successful. The Monarch sculpture will be a beautiful addition to an already charming downtown area for all who live and visit the city to enjoy.



Bloom & Grow is pleased to announce that noted sculptor and artist, *Don Reynolds*, has been commissioned to bring this gift to life.

The placement of the large sculpture will not be completed until early 2021. The proposed park will be between the splash pad and the new mixed-use building under construction on the SE corner of Plant and Highland Ave.

Bloom & Grow member, *Gretchen Boyd* is heading up the Monarch Project. Gretchen is a founding member of the club and its first president.

The Monarch butterfly is a symbol of metamorphosis and represents significant change. Bloom & Grow Garden Society, the City of Winter Garden, and our festival, "Spring Fever in the Garden", have gone through a significant metamorphosis over the past 20 years! The Monarch butterfly also represents the change in our own lives, from birth to our rebirth. This sculpture would not have been possible without the generous support of a member of our garden club and her family in honoring the memory of their mother and father. May we all be like the mighty Monarch and be the change.

## DISTRICT VII NEWS—(cont'd)

**Clermont Garden Club** – President, *Marilyn Paone*. A “Plant A Day” was started to promote a sense of togetherness during this time of “Social Distancing”. A Clermont Garden Club member shares a plant from their garden to the members. Tina Worrell, Corresponding Secretary, emails pictures and plant information daily to members. Members look forward to seeing what everyone is growing and enjoy the daily virtual garden show.

The Clermont Garden Club was happy to learn that they received two National Garden Club awards (for Facebook and Fun with Flowers) in addition to five FFGC awards and one Deep South Award. They are planning to have another Fun with Flowers in late August and are planning to start meeting in September but possibly in an outdoor setting because of the virus.



**Camellia Garden Club** – President, *Sue Roberts*. Camellia GC donated two camellia bushes in the spring to help beautify and start a small arboretum at Tavares Town Cemetery.

**The Foliage GC of Apopka** - President, *Jo Oliver*. On May 22, 2020, the Foliage Garden Club of Apopka voted to be a part of our local history by purchasing a 12” x 12” brick commemorating the statue of Mayor John H. Land, affectionately known to all of us as “The Mayor”. Born November 5, 1920, in Plant City, FL, John served as Apopka’s Mayor for a total of 61 years. “Mayor” Land died November 22, 2014 in Orlando, FL at the age of 95.

The purchase price of this brick, bearing our logo and club name, donated to the John H. Land Apopka Community Trust, will maintain Mayor John Land’s tradition of generosity, and provide invaluable support to the Apopka community.

All funds raised will support future benevolent causes and promote a powerful legacy and Apopka’s rich history.

**Ixora Garden Club** – President, *Kathy Krasnoff*. We had a Virtual Meeting (our first!) on June 18th of the leadership to discuss our plans for the upcoming year. Our motto is “Learn, Laugh, and Love through Gardening” and we have chairpersons for a Learning Committee and a Loving Committee (hence a leadership meeting rather than a board meeting). We discussed several items:

We are delaying our first meeting from September to November. If we feel safe meeting at that time we will; if not, we will rethink the situation. Whenever we do begin meeting, we’ll need to reevaluate refreshments and our adherence to distancing and wearing masks. Safety of our members is our top concern.

Our focus this year will not be fundraising but caring for our members. The Loving Committee will be doing projects to help the members feel connected and loved (i.e. cards, calls, “thinking of you” tokens left on front doors, masked visits with edible goodies, etc.)



One of the projects of our Learning Committee is to continue to work with Goldsboro School, a science magnet K-5 school. Last year, we helped the students develop a vegetable garden and are considering continuing that as well as a sensory garden. We are also planning to give time and monetary donations to several other organizations including our local Community Garden, Wekiva Camp, and Habitat for Humanity (as the virus allows).

An ongoing focus for our club is that of the environment. This year we hope to have fun with a monthly theme that will be carried out in meeting decorations, refreshments, and even our dress. Some of the themes being discussed are frogs; bees; butterflies; bats and other pollinators; coreopsis, our state wildflower; orange blossom, our state flower.

A monthly newsletter “The Ixora Thymes” is being written and sent via email to all our members. (As soon as we get email addresses for our sustaining members, they will also get the newsletter emails) Each member is encouraged to let me know what is happening in their little neck of the woods.

**Orlando Garden Club** – President, *Georgene Parsons*. The Executive Board of the Orlando Garden Club met on June 19, 2020 in the club house. Being aware of the virus, precautions were met in the room arrangement, seating and thoroughly sanitizing tables and chairs. The executive board, committee chairmen, and circle presidents were asked to attend. Reports were given by those that had something to report. The budget for the coming year was announced and passed. All members are looking forward to a strong beginning this fall when worries of the virus are no longer the national and local topic. We were sad to lose the Orange Blossom Circle. The membership of the Circle had fallen, and several members were facing other issues. So, they reluctantly decided to disband with several members moving on to other Circles.

**Pine Castle Garden Club** – President, *Pauline White*. We are just trying to stay well.

**Robinswood Garden Club** – President, *Betsy Talpalar*. Robinswood GC will keep their officers for two more years. There was an end of the year get together at Doris’ house for members.

**Sanford Wildflower Garden Club** – President, *Paula White*. At the moment our club is in the planning phase of a hosting an event of some type (as yet unknown theme or actual type) for some time next year that we would be inviting people from the other clubs and the public to attend. Another project is to distribute books from the collection of Abby Owen. She was a master floral arrangement instructor and judge. She collected so many books about floral arranging that our club cannot house all of it.



We hope that some of our other clubs in District VII would be interested in acquiring a few of these books

**Spring Valley Garden Club** – President, *Bobbett Youngs*. Spring Valley Garden Club continues to “social distance” while also planning for our September thru May meetings. We all have our fingers crossed as we miss getting together for our meetings and socializing.

**Sweetwater Oaks Garden Club** – President, *Marion “Min” Schwendeman*. Since our “quarantine” the members of the Sweetwater Oaks Garden Club have apparently looked at it as an Opportunity! We are all spending time in our gardens and sharing our insights. We have found that the best way to garden is to “put on a wide brimmed hat and some old clothes. With a hoe in one hand and a cold drink in the other, tell somebody else where to dig”.

When weeding, the best way to make sure you are removing a weed and not a valuable plant is to pull on it. If it comes out of the ground easily, it’s a valuable plant.

Lastly, gardening requires a lot of water, most of it in the form of perspiration.

So, you see our group is looking forward to finding a safe way to get together, but in the meantime with the help of the wise words quoted here by David Hobson from “Unwritten Rules of Gardening” we soldier on and **Wear our Masks**.

See you on the other side.



## **DISTRICT VII NEWS**—(cont'd)

**Wildflowers** – President, *Noreen Engstrom*. We are actively planning for September and beyond meetings hoping that we will be able to meet again. The pandemic has curtailed all our club activities.

**Windermere Garden Club** – President, *Vicki Hearst*. Windermere GC convened for their June Board meeting with 12 in attendance. Following local Covid-19 guidelines, members, wearing masks, met outside, and sat six feet apart. The club is looking into alternative fundraising activities. Discussion was held on having a November Plant and Craft Sale to offset fundraising loss.



**District VII** is looking forward to the District VII Fall General Meeting, October 15, 2020, hosted by Windermere GC, whether Face to Face or VIRTUAL.

We are proud of our District VII Award Winners:

### **FFGC AND DEEP SOUTH ADULT AWARDS**

#### Camellia Garden Club

#11-2 - Yearbook Award, Donor John G. Wood Associates

#### Clermont Garden Club: FFGC Adult Awards

#14A-3 - Facebook Award, Donor Sandra Arnold

#36-3 - Community Service Award, Donor Jo B. Compton

#63-3 - Garden Center Program, Donor Gardening Consultants Council

#65 - Convention Delegate Award by Gwen Carter

#75 - Fun with Flowers Program Award, Donor Joan Lasek

Clermont Garden Club: Deep South 1st Place 11 A iii Horticulture Award

#### Sweetwater Oaks Garden Club

#12-3 - Newsletter Award, Donor Susan Slater

#### Windermere Garden Club

#2 - Outstanding Service Award, Vicki Hearst, Windermere Garden Club, Donor Ribault Garden Club

#17-2B - Decoration of Historic Building Award, Donor Sandra Messer

#29-A - Community Service Design Award, Donor Carol Wood

#### Winter Park Garden Club

#11-5 - Yearbook Award, Donor John G. Wood & Associates

#14-3 - DePalma/Sillik Website Award, Donor Marjorie H. Hendron

Deep South 2nd Place 33 A-5 Yearbooks #70-99 members

### **JUNIOR AWARDS**

#### Sweetwater Oaks Garden Club

#J-14C - Water Conservation - Environmental Poster Contest, Jordyn Emely, Donor Tampa Federation of Garden Club Circles, Inc.

#J-25C - Wild Plant Specimens, Priyanna Parker, Donor Jean Schneider

#J-27D - Tree Award, Alia Khali, Donor Lois Weber

#J-27G - Tree Award, Degan Paine, Donor Carol Herdel

#J-31C - Birds in Florida, Star Child Academy, Donor Pat Carver

#J-35B - Garden Insects Found in Florida, Hailey Goodwin, Donor Joleen King

## **DISTRICT VIII NEWS**

By: *Barbara Rao*, Director

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

**Flower**: -Hibiscus

**Wildflower**: -Rudbeckia Hiirta

**Butterfly**: - Zebra Longwing

**Garden Clubs in District VIII**: Apollo Beach, Clearwater, Dade City, Davis Island, Dunedin, Garden Gate, Gardeners Out East, Garden Club at Hunters Green, Garden Club at Tampa Bay Golf and Country Club, Lakewood Ranch, Lemon Bay, Lutz Land O'Lakes, Manatee, New Port Richey, Palm Harbor, Plant City, Sarasota, St Petersburg, Sunset Park, Tampa Federation, Tarpon Springs, Temple Terrace, Valrico, Venice

Even though we have not been able to meet in clubhouses since March, many clubs have been together via Zoom, video conferencing, and backyard venues. Those clubs that are blessed with gardens and outdoor spaces have made good use of the down time and met to do cleanup, major projects and just getting together socially distancing and masked! Club Presidents and members have been sure to be in touch with members sometimes just to chat and even to plan for future events.

Many of our clubs have installed new officers and we enthusiastically welcome them. Clearwater Garden Club installed **Howard Warshauer** who has been hosting Zoom meetings to keep the club members together. **Diane Scott**, new President of Dade City Garden Club, received for her club an NGC Award and FFGC awards. **Nancy Lewis and Anita Laesser** were installed as new co-Presidents of Sarasota Garden Club and are enjoying the new projects developed on the grounds by the Bay. Tampa Federation of Garden Clubs installed its new President, **Michele Valataro**, with her energy for the new grounds. Congratulations to these new Presidents, may you have happy and successful terms in District VIII and FFGC.

**Dade City Garden Club**: Although paused in many ways because of the pandemic, the Dade City Garden Club has been busy throughout the summer! New Officers were welcomed and installed using Zoom. Our Monarch Butterfly Haven certification program was launched during National Garden Week. Through this program, residents, businesses and institutions can have their gardens certified as full-cycle Monarch Butterfly habitats in support of the City's Monarch City USA's designation.



Members were excited to learn that the Dade City Garden Club's annual ornament program was featured in [Beacon Design ChemArt Blog](#). Since 1994 the garden club designs and sells a holiday ornament to honor a local place or organization to raise funds and has been working with ChemArt from the beginning. The 2020 Ornament honors Dade City's Monarch City USA designation with the ornament going on sale in September.

Members have continued to tend their Circle gardens while practicing social distancing. Although the Monarch Butterfly Festival planned for the Fall has been cancelled, members are still planning a Plant Sale to be held on Saturday, October 24th at the garden center.



**CONGRATULATIONS** to the Clubs who have won 2019 NGC Awards and Deep South Awards. Realize that these Florida clubs were competing against so many clubs from all across the country and nearby states.

### **NGC AWARDS**

Dade City Garden Club—First Place Winner—Kellogg Civic Achievement Award (Community Service Project), #EC-5 Pollinator Award. The Garden Club worked long and hard and with such energy and enthusiasm that the award was so well deserved.

### **FLOWER SHOW ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS**

Certificate and Rosette, Awards- FS Club Standard Flower Show,

Plant City Garden Club: #107-B—"Jungle Mania"

Garden Club of St Petersburg: #106-A—"Its Showtime".

Tampa Federation of Garden Clubs: #FS-2A—"A World of Children's Stories"

Manatee River Garden Club: #102-A—"All You Need is Love".

### **2019 DEEP SOUTH AWARDS,**

Davis Island Garden Club #10 Aii—Special Achievement Award

Temple Terrace Garden Club: #19-Aiii—Community Action Award

**2019 FFGC AWARDS** were abundant and won by many District VIII clubs.

#### Tampa Federation of Garden Clubs

#6 Michael Echevarria, "Medal for Individual Achievement in Horticulture"

#12-4 Newsletter Award, "Forget Me Not"

#### Dade City Garden Club

#17-4A Decoration of Historic Buildings

#33-4 Clyde D. Ware Award for Civic Beautification

#### Temple Terrace Garden Club

#43-C Blue Star/ Gold Star Memorial Marker

#### Lemon Bay Garden Club

#69-A Sue Killion, \*Digital Photography- Birds/ Butterflies

#69-F Sue Killion, \* Digital Photography- Florida Scenery

#### Manatee River Garden Club

#102-A \*Holiday Standard Flower Show, "All You Need Is Love"

## **DISTRICT VIII NEWS**—(cont'd)

### **2019 FFGC AWARDS** (cont'd)

#### Garden Club of St Petersburg

#106-A \*Standard Flower Show Staged in a Public Building. "It's Showtime"

#### Venice Area Garden Club

#126 Esther Brosche Educational Exhibit Award, "Fairy Tales"

#### Plant City Garden Club

#127 Table Artistry Award, Joanne Mason, "Jungle Mania"

#131 Dish Garden, Jan Griffin, "Jungle Mania"

### **FFGC JUNIOR AWARDS**

#### Tampa Federation of Garden Clubs

#J-2C \*Youth Flower Show/ Youth Section of an Adult Flower Show"

Other accolades that have been achieved by our members and need to be acknowledged are Pat Danahy of Lemon Bay Garden Club for her award-winning design in NGC's Virtual Flower Show this past month. Sue Killion's photo of Lemon Bay Garden Club was the front cover of the Summer 2020 issue of *Florida Gardener*.

It is with much appreciation that this Director reports on all these award-winning clubs. The clubs in our district are full of dedicated members who keep us reminded that we are the Great Eight! The energy and enthusiasm and support for each other is rewarded with these clubs earning the honors and successes they deserve!

Unfortunately, with the onslaught of the virus taking over Florida, our clubs are having a difficult time planning for their Fall and Winter Programs, meetings and activities.

The good news is that there are new and creative solutions to meeting and sharing the news of Garden Clubs. We are blessed with talented members who will bring us ZOOM, virtual meetings and teach us all how to participate. Our FFGC President AI Latina provided us with education to bring back to our members.

Thank You, President AI

## **DISTRICT IX NEWS**

By: *Leslie Montwid*, Director

We all have had a lot of time to catch up on gardening projects. When I get involved in a project, invariably I go back to resources for plant information, ideas and motivation (and enjoyment). I picked up a book I purchased some years ago when I was a newbie in Garden Club; "*Easy Container Gardens*" by Pamela Crawford. Our circle president, Frankie Martin, arranged for us to view a video by the author at one of our meetings. Needless to say, it was a wonderful addition to my personal library so it was fun to pick it up for another read. Ms. Crawford referred to her assistant as being invaluable so flipping through the credits I found it was none other than Barbara Hadsell! As many times as I have referred to this book it was this last time that I got the connection. Kudos to Barbara for helping to create a wonderful book.

**Arcadia Garden Club** has plans to resume meetings in October with COVID-19 compliance. This means wearing masks, using hand sanitizer and social distancing. They also are forgoing their renowned buffet lunches for brown bags.

**Bouquet Garden Club** has been issuing "Care and Concern" communications to keep all of their members in touch. It is with great regret that the decision was made to cancel their October 2020 Fashion Show out of respect for the donors and sponsors who have supported this fundraiser through the years. Hopefully they can resume in 2021. A belated Awards Luncheon is scheduled for September.

**Calusa Garden Club** of Marco Island has initiated "Cocktails and Chat" as a means of keeping the club in tune on personal doings. And what fun! Dale DeFeo mentioned that they were having such a good time that Zoom management interrupted and gave them a full hour.

The **Garden Club of Lakeland** placed wreaths by the Blue Star Markers for Memorial Day designed by Pat Shira and Janette Baggett. The club celebrated National Garden Week by posting personal garden photos on their Facebook page which will compete to be the club's yearbook cover. Marlene Haigh and Jeanette Baggett created floral baskets which were displayed at the entrances to the two city libraries and copies of "*The Frightened Frog*" and "*The Safe Seed*" were donated to each. A proclamation was received from Mayor Bill Muntz as the city commission meeting went virtual.



Glenda Dawson decorated both Blue Star Markers to commemorate the Fourth of July. With the guidance of President Janette Baggett the board has been zooming meetings since the "shelter at home" advisory.

**Lake Placid Garden Club** managed to get their field trip to Naples Botanical Gardens in February with a full bus. On March 7th, their plant sale exceeded expectations and they celebrated with an appreciation picnic at Placid Lakes Hall on April 2nd. The end-of-year meetings were cancelled due to the coronavirus pandemic, but they are hopeful that they can resume in the fall.

**Punta Gorda Garden Club** put on a "Fun with Flowers" workshop on July 1st at Ponce De Leon Park. Fourteen members made patriotic arrangements following a demonstration by club president Mary Yeomans of a design developed by Vinita Jones. Wearing masks and socially distanced they used additional flowers to make bouquets for an assisted living facility.



A bench with an engraved plaque will be placed next to the Butterfly Garden at the Charlotte Harbor Environmental Center to honor Elise Haymans --- (editor's note: see page 9 of the Summer (vol: 58-1) issue of "The Florida Gardener"). A memorial event will be held when it is safe to do so.



Libby Curnow spearheaded the effort to install a Blue Star Marker at Veterans Plaza in Laishley Park. A recognition was received from NGC and the City of Punta Gorda. The dedication ceremony was postponed until November. (L-R Libby Curnow, Mary Yeomans, Carol Houston; Dedication recognition from NGC & City of Punta Gorda)

We, the members of District IX, share our thoughts and prayers with Laura Jibben, a former District IX Director who recently lost her husband.

## **DISTRICT X NEWS**

By: *Carol Coleman*, Director

District X has been very quiet due to the COVID-19 virus. However, we have made arrangements for the fall district meeting, October 8th, 2020, except for a confirmation of a location. If necessary, we will do a zoom meeting with the officers and those who are available as delegates. These are difficult times, but business must still go on. Awards will be sent to those if we are unable to have a meeting in person.

On a brighter note, we have secured Mounts Botanical Gardens for our "Tropical Short Course", January 21-22, 2021. We will keep you informed of any changes as it gets closer. I have confirmed the box lunches with last years' vendor and speakers have been selected. The Chairman for the TSC is my assistant director Michelle Mcguire. We hope that the epidemic is long gone by the end of January.

We also will be hosting the NGC Gardening School Course #3 on November 9 and 10 at "Mounts Botanical Gardens". Masks must be worn and we will have social distancing. If you are concerned about taking this course in person, there will be a zoom meeting on October 26 and 27. For information on the zoom meeting please contact Barbara Hadsell, State Chairman for the NGC courses.

Please read the article within this issue of "The Florida Gardener" about National Garden Week written by Twig Morris.

I hope everyone is staying safe and keeping up with social distancing and wearing masks. This is a terrible epidemic that affects the world globally and at this time Florida is being hit very hard.



## DISTRICT XI NEWS

By: Jeri Decker, Director

**Counties:** Broward

**Flower:** Allamanda Cathartica

**Wildflower:** Tribulus Cistoides

**Butterfly:** Ruddy Dagger Wing

**Garden Clubs in District XI:** Coral Springs, Fort Lauderdale, Hollywood, Lauderdale-By-The-Sea, Lighthouse Point, Pompano Beach

Many of our clubs have had their planning for next year using conference or using zoom. With the Covid-19 virus still in full force our members are remaining vigilant in keeping safe.

Our snowbirds have returned home, and summer has begun.

The District has increased their technology education. We have updated the website, started Facebook and Pinterest pages and learning how to meet with Zoom.

**Coral Springs Garden Club** had an election this year and Jeri Decker is new club President and Maryanne McKay is the new vice president. The club has started sending virtual garden videos to their members, since field trips are on hold. Plans are in the works on having a "High Tea" and "Wine and Cheese" Zoom virtual get together during the summer months.

They are currently working with the city to place a Blue Star Marker in the cities Veterans Park.

If all goes well in November, the club will be hosting an Environmental Studies class using Zoom.

The club has sent over 2000 corks to support our forest and oceans. They raised \$136.00 for Penny Pines.

Members have been working on making unique items to sell with proceeds going towards scholarship funds. An online auction as well as plant sale is also in the works. They also plan on implementing membership levels, the members will donate monies and receive perks depending on their donations.

Coral Springs will be implementing a quarterly newsletter along with information being on their Facebook pages and Website.

**Lauderdale By the Sea Garden Club** President Gail Matonik is a TV star! She just filmed a channel 6 piece on Butterfly Container Gardening and Naturescapes. It also featured their Memoria Garden in front of Town Hall. It should be airing in July.

**Pompano Beach Garden Club**, President Edie Kappler is keeping in touch with their members with a monthly newsletter. They also send out messages of good cheer to all the members birthdays, by doing a drive by and singing. They get out of their cars, with their masks on, sing, take pictures.

Most sing-alongs are kept to about 6 people.

Their garden at Sample McDougald house was overgrown after 8 weeks of shutdown. After intensive weeding, its back in shape. Everyone is tending their gardens and planning their year with their fingers crossed.

The **Hollywood Garden Club**, President Susan Berry, has been busy keeping the club informed with beautifully narrated and informative newsletters. Due to social distancing, all meetings are on hold.

## DISTRICT XII NEWS

By: Jean Hawa, Director



**Counties:** Dade, Monroe

**Flower and Wildflower:** Musaceae Strelitzia Reginae & Galardlia Blanket Flower

**Butterfly:** Schaus Swallowtail

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

Even though not all of the presidents submitted an article for this issue, they are all very concerned about when they can resume club activities, especially with Miami-Dade County

having the highest number of COVID-19 cases. Most of us are staying home, only going out for essential trips to medical appointments and grocery shopping. They all desire to continue having the same quality of programs and activities while keeping their members safe.

**Coral Gardens Garden Club**, Judy Mangasarian, President. We are trying to be optimistic here, but know that being flexible is also important. Our club has reserved meeting spaces and confirmed speakers starting in September, but we realize we may

need to go virtual via Zoom. Thank goodness for advanced technology! This virus has made us innovate and adapt as we've never done before, although managing a meeting and presentation for 60-80 members will be an interesting challenge.

Our Fall "Friend Raiser", usually a well-attended floral demonstration with a sparkling reception and social time, has been abandoned for this year, and our Spring House and Garden Tour has become just a Spring Garden Tour. No homeowners want several hundred strangers trooping through their houses, but well-spaced groups of garden tour-goers sounded possible. And we are a Garden Club, after all!

Other activities may not be in our future either, like decorating the Merrick House for the Holidays, if it is not open to the public. We might be able to help plant several hundred Red Mangrove pups and work in the Butterfly Garden at the library and Heritage Garden at the Merrick House, but will probably not be able to work with the students at Ponce de Leon Middle School on their vegetable garden or arrange for Garden Therapy for the elderly residents at the Riviera Health Resort.

In this uncertain time, we will hope for the best, but prepare for the alternative. Stay safe and well, everyone! Warm wishes from Coral Gardens Garden Club.

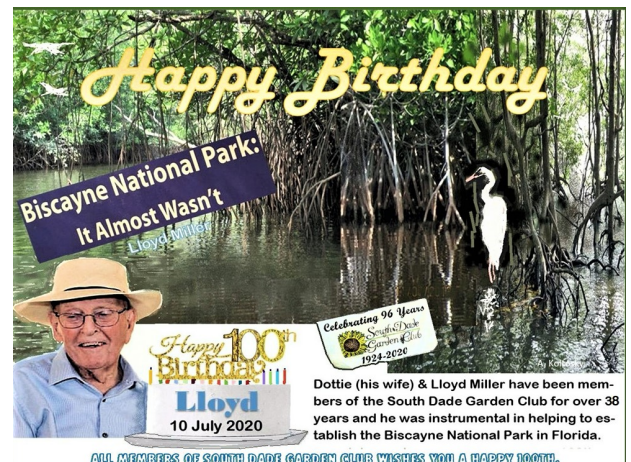
**Marathon Garden Club**: Scarlett Duffy, President. So far, we are well at the Garden Club. Our fall plans are as follows:

We will continue our monthly board meetings on Zoom in October. We have been thinking that our General meetings can be planned for outside in the Garden with mask and social distancing. We are lucky to have a large space to do this.

Our November Bazaar (Sat, Nov 28th) is being planned with outside vendors and possibly, inside sale if we can meet county guidelines. This is a fluid plan and we will have to wait and see what limitations there are with regard to COVID-19.

We are hoping for a vaccine by early 2021. This would mean our January Jamboree could be held on the 23rd and our Home and Garden Tour could go ahead on March 6th. This is very optimistic but cancelling plans at the last minute is easier than trying to get things together at the last minute.

**South Dade Garden Club**: Lloyd Miller, who turned 100 years old on July 10, 2020 and his wife Dottie (95 years old in April), have been members of the South Dade Garden Club for over 38 years. Lloyd was instrumental in establishing Biscayne National Park.



Biscayne National Park, the largest marine park in the National Park System, protects the longest stretch of mangroves left on Florida's East Coast, the clear, shallow waters of Biscayne Bay, over 50 of the northernmost Florida Keys, the northern end of the world's third-longest reef tract, and evidence of 10,000 years of human history.

When southern Biscayne Bay and the northernmost Florida Keys were threatened with development (a two-pronged threat of a major petrochemical plant and the City of Islandia), Lloyd Miller was at the forefront of the fight to stop both projects. While he would be the first to point out that he didn't do it alone, Lloyd WAS the ringleader and he NEVER gave up. Thankfully, Lloyd and his fellow activists lobbied politicians, wrote letters and spoke before civic groups. Lloyd is the only person alive of the people who went to Washington DC to witness President Lyndon B. Johnson signing the Biscayne National Monument bill.

Lloyd wrote his version of the events surrounding the park's creation in his book Biscayne National Park: It Almost Wasn't. Even just five years ago, Lloyd rose defiantly to speak at a Congressional hearing on changes that would threaten the park.

We and future generations can now enjoy the natural beauty and bounty of Biscayne Bay, the offshore islands and coral reefs thanks to the efforts of Lloyd Miller.

## **DISTRICT XII NEWS**—(cont'd)

**South Miami Garden Club** (2020-2021): South Miami Garden Club's last meeting for the 2019-2020 club year was on March 3rd at Chamber SOUTH. The program was on "Everglades Preservation" presented by CEO of the Everglades Foundation, Shannon Estenoz. Members left the meeting looking forward to the "Evening in a Tropical Garden" fundraiser on Saturday, March 7, as well as, the April meeting on "Growing Edible Gardens". Within days of the fundraiser, Florida's stay at home order was issued and the remaining SMGC events for the club year were ultimately cancelled.

While plans for the 2020-2021 SMGC year are underway, they are tentative. Conversations with a random selection of members indicated some members will be comfortable meeting in-person with masks, social distancing, and other precautions. A smaller group of members will not be comfortable with in-person meetings but are willing to participate remotely even though they may not have tried virtual meetings previously.

Therefore, at this point we are planning for a hybrid approach...in-person and Zoom. Program Co-Chairs are currently seeking programs that focus on practical gardening, as well as, conservation and preservation of natural resources. Other Board Members are working on the selection of a facility that will be appropriate, that is meeting the public health safety regulations issued by the CDC, allowing us to see friends in a safe environment, while also including those members who are home through Zoom. Implementation of these tentative plans will be dependent on the community public health regulations in effect at the beginning of September.

Coral Reef Chairman:

Dear Club Presidents,

This is great news for our fabulous Bay and our beautiful Coral Reefs. I would hope that you would take a minute to share this exciting news with your members. It would be terrific if you would send a note to Rachel Silverstein, Executive Director of Miami Waterkeeper and let her know you support her efforts.

[Rachel@miamiwaterkeeper.org](mailto:Rachel@miamiwaterkeeper.org).

Hugs to all, Sharon Trbovich, FFGC Chair Coral Restoration

### **Port Everglades Dredging Project Still Delayed Until 2022**

Miami Waterkeeper has undertaken extensive litigation efforts to protect local coral reefs from the Port Everglades dredging project by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. Since filing suit against the Corps under provisions of the Endangered Species Act and National Environmental Policy Act in 2016, Miami Waterkeeper and co-plaintiffs have **secured numerous delays** to the dredging project to allow for more accurate environmental reviews to occur.

Back in 2015, the Corps conducted a similar dredging project at PortMiami that **illegally buried** an area of reef exceeding 200 football fields in area, **decimating already-threatened staghorn coral populations**.

The Corps will be submitting another status report on or before September 14, 2020. We'll continue to keep you informed on upcoming decisions, timelines, and environmental reviews.

### **Wekiva Youth Camp Goes Virtual!!**

By" *Tina Tuttle*, Wekiva Youth Camp Chairman 2020

The painful decision to cancel Wekiva Youth Camp and its special programs for summer 2020 was made on 18 May and the cancellation of LIT came on 29 June. While early-on anticipating holding some version of camp, **contingency plans had been prepared** but we felt that even if we could hold camp, it wouldn't have the same feel and substance as it had for the previous 46 years. Our overnight camp would not adjust well to social distancing in cabins or in the dining hall, cleanliness and sanitation requirements, nor operating at half capacity. Working within the stated restrictions would have been very costly as well.

On 18 May, just one month before camp was to open, we heard from the Wekiwa Springs State Park personnel that the Youth Camp in Apopka would not be opening due to COVID-19 restrictions imposed by the CDC, the state, state park system, etc. We immediately started the process of returning registration fees to camper families and sponsoring garden clubs. A week later, Governor DeSantis made a statement that all summer camp programs would be allowed to open with certain restrictions. At that point, it was impossible to turn around the camp closure processes.

The closure of the Marine Science Station, owned by the Citrus County School Board, in Crystal River, would also remain closed to us this summer. The **safety of our campers, staff and volunteers was our main priority** and seeing how the COVID numbers have continued to spike this summer, we know we made the right decision to cancel camp.

Not wanting to let our campers and their families down, we considered offering some aspects of camp online. Our webmaster, Chas Baker, was up to the task and began creating a framework on the website that would allow us to feature videos, camp activities, and environmental education. Camp Director, John Morand, introduced the virtual camp program idea to our camp families by email and through our Facebook Page. We sent notification to our members on the FFGC Facebook Page and by E-blast.

Our Nature Coordinator, Kathy "Miss Birdie" Rigling, was ever eager to create nature sessions for each week. She created introductory videos (featuring her dog, 'Scout'), lessons and activities for topics on Squirrels, Lizards, Dragonflies, Alligators and other fun animals.

Olivia Morand, who would have been a Circle Leader this summer, coordinated current and former counselors in **singing and recording all the camp songs, blessings and closing ceremony songs**. It was great fun to see so many familiar faces and feel their enthusiasm for camp!

Ben Morand, also slated to be a Circle Leader this summer, through his own initiative, re-typed the entire *Wekiva Song Book* to provide lyrics to all the camp songs! Devon Villereal-Dabb and her LIT volunteers are developing a **Virtual LIT** and that program will be available to the selected 28 campers the first week of August.

**It was truly a team effort**, and in just one month, we were able to pull something fun and meaningful together for not only our campers but anyone who visits our website. We owe a heartfelt **THANKS** to all who participated in this venture!

**The first day, 15 June, we had over 1,000 visits** to our website from all over the United States, Germany, France, and Vietnam. Each of the six Sundays we experienced similar numbers and were thrilled to have provided this virtual option for our campers. If you haven't taken the time to go to our [www.WekivaYouthCamp.org](http://www.WekivaYouthCamp.org) website and check out the virtual project, please do so and let us know what you think. Now that we have this saved on our website, we can use it, improve it and add to it at any time!

It is our intention to submit this project for an NGC Special Achievement Award!

### **Hollywood Garden Club**

By: *Susan Berry*, President, Hollywood Garden Club

I have always loved the vibrant colors of nature! When I was a young girl, my mother and I used to pull wild periwinkles up and plant them in our yard. The white ones had white stems and the pink ones were a vibrant pink. I have been gardening in my zone 10 yard (now 11) for over 50 years. The changing colors and vitality of my garden is still a source of delight to me, as are the fresh fruits and vegetables it provides.

I have been growing a variety of vegetable plants in 15 gallon recycled black pots, on top of the ground, in direct contact with the soil for many years. These pots, however, get nematodes after 2 years, requiring me to go through the time, effort, and expense of repotting them in fresh soil. To remedy this, I have now decided that I will try placing them on steppingstones or cover the ground under the pots with plastic.

I like to recycle those black nursery pots, they disappear amongst the other plants, do not show dirt, and I have a great supply of sizes. There are several ways I utilize them in my garden. I have placed small steppingstones around my garden for the colorful plants to sit on and where my sprinkling system can water them. A great idea is to place a large heavy-duty black pot upside down, in the bushes and put a smaller plant on top. This makes it just the right height to be shown off. I have even put a pot over a tree stump for another place to put another plant.

I plant flowers, coleus and caladiums in pots and change them around in my garden throughout the year. White periwinkles with the red eye are still one of my favorites to use because they can last for two years and reseed themselves. I also can make cuttings from them when they need cutting back. Being able to move the pots changes the look in the garden and lets me try out new plants that I have purchased. I can move them easily if the plants don't like it where they are.

The potted plants are placed in just the right spots where I can enjoy them from my windows in the house and from my garden benches where I sit. Repeating the colorful plants throughout my garden brings it altogether.

*Susan Berry*, Master Gardener 1998, Advanced Master Naturalist, Certified Garden Consultant and Landscape Designer, Florida Master Naturalist Program, Land Steward, FFGC Earth Steward

# 94th Annual FFGC Convention Opportunity Drawing



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



**METAL DESIGN SCULPTURE:**  
By Ken Schwartz



**CERAMIC VASE:**  
By Hergesheimer



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



**TURTLE LOVE:** Sterling Silver  
Necklace & Drop Earrings



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



**CLASSIC CHAPEL BIRDHOUSE:**  
Includes Outdoor Pole



**FITBIT CHARGE 3:**  
Fitness tracker

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

Make Check Payable to : FFGC 2021 Convention

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

Laura Ennis, Chairman, [laura.e.ennis@gmail.com](mailto:laura.e.ennis@gmail.com); 321-543-7130

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

## **FFGC History: OUR FOURTH DECADE: (1955-1964)**

By: *Tina Tuttle*, FFGC 3rd Vice President

Jessie Connor chose as theme "Facing Florida's Future" and brought to it a richness of experience in past endeavors at the local, district, state, region and national levels.

Among highlights of Mrs. Conner's administration were \$15,193 contributed to National Council's "Permanent Home Fund" from Florida members and clubs, participating in the "Buy a Brick" campaign or from special functions profits; having the names of Mrs. John R. Parkinson, Mrs. Eugene A. Smith and Mrs. Vernon L. Conner inscribed in the "Garden of Givers" and that of Mrs. Helen Cutten in the "Golden Book".

Following the emphasis of the previous administration, the report at the 1959 convention listed 77 flower shows, 572 accredited judges and 22 instructors. 85 applications were processed for Teacher Conservation Workshops, 48 attended Blanche Covington Nature Study Courses, attendance at outstanding Short Courses at UF and University of Miami increased each year.

Two beautiful State Flower Shows were held- "Florida rama" at Eustis in 1957, with Kathryn Chester's unique poem of the same name being dedicated to FFGC President Mrs. Conner, and "Florida—The Floral Way" at Pensacola in 1959. Profits from the shows were earmarked for an "Executive Office Fund". A total of 25,524 copies of the 1959 *Florida Flower Arrangement Calendar* sold brought \$18,819.98 in income revenue.

The 13th H. Harold Hume Fellowship was given. a \$500,000 Scholarship in Landscape Design and the Lucille Turner Junior Garden Club Leader Scholarship of \$50.00 were established. 11 Blue Star Markers were erected, 34 names were added to the FFGC Life Membership roster, 537 applications were made for state awards and 36 for national; Flannelgraph, Bird-o-graph and Litter-grams were produced to assist junior gardeners. "Program Patterns", edited by Mrs. C. R. Mayes, Jr., and the "Florida Garden Club Manual", edited by Mrs. Karl A. Bickel, were published. *The Florida Gardener* reverted to four issues per year but was increased to 36 pages. Presentation of Silver Traveling Trophies at State Flower Shows became a welcomed innovation, European Garden Tours with Thomas Duffy Travel Agency were begun, sale of Wild Flower napkins was added to money-making projects, and "Certificate of Membership" was given to each FFGC club, listings of private gardens to be visited were published with the cooperation of the Florida Development Commission, Ruth Pettijohn's horticultural displays at conventions were joys to behold and district meetings were made colorful by her "Garden Cart" from which the profits of \$1,009.85 was earmarked toward landscaping the dreamed-of Headquarters, the total number of Bird Sanctuaries in Florida rose to 77 and the total number of garden centers to 100, Dade County Council of Garden Club Presidents raised funds to build and equip a slat house at South Florida Mental Hospital, winning national recognition in garden therapy; a new Plant Distribution List was compiled, FFGC Membership dues were raised to \$1.00, its membership increased to 27,019 plus an additional 860 in probationary clubs and 13,015 junior gardeners.

On April 9, 1959, delegates to our 33rd Annual Convention voted favorably on the motion to accept the recommendation from the BOD that the Federation accept the offer of the City of Winter Park to lease a parcel of land in the southwest corner of Mead Botanical Garden; described as 600 feet along Maitland Ave. and 220 feet deep comprising approximately three acres for a period of 99 years for the sum of \$10.00—such property to be used as the site of a Headquarters Building for the Federation. And, that the board be authorized to proceed with all possible speed to the erection of a State Headquarters building. This recommendation had been prepared for presentation to convention delegates after careful consideration by the BOD meeting at Jacksonville Beach of the recommendations of a Headquarters Investigating Committee composed of Mrs. C. R. Mayes, Jr., Mrs. Melville Hall, Mrs. Earl W. Lau, Mrs. Harry M. Griffin, Miss Mary S. Compton, Mrs. Karl A. Bickel, Mrs. John R. Parkinson and Mrs. Connor. It read:

1. *Acceptance of approximately 3.03 acres in a beautiful wooded area of Mead Gardens offered by the City of Winter Park for a State Headquarters.*
2. *Earmarking income for the 1959 Florida Flower Arrangement Calendar, the 1959 European Garden Tour, the 1959 State Flower Show as "Executive Office Fund", transferring \$2,500.00 from State Life Membership Fund to "Executive Office Fund" and crediting half the cost of future memberships to this fund, cashing Government Bonds and crediting to "Executive Office Fund" and transferring from General Fund to the "Executive Office Fund" an amount up to \$10,000.*
3. *That opportunities for contributions be provided—these to be listed in the 1959 Spring Edition of The Florida Gardener.*
4. *The secretary at Headquarters to be known as "Office Manager"*

These recommendations by the BOD were adopted on February 4, 1959. Mrs. Conner's quote at the 1959 convention was prophetic: "What we have done for ourselves dies with us. What we have done for others and the world, remains and is immortal!"

"Gardening for Tomorrow" proved to be a prophetic theme, as well as one of vision, for the administration of Mrs. C. R. Mayes, Jr. who was installed at the 1959 convention in Jacksonville.

The thought to train Florida's youth in an appreciation of nature and understanding of conservation as one means of implementing the theme expanded from Federation sponsorship of the first Junior Nature Camp, held in Ocala National Forest in cooperation with the Florida Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission, to planning first for conservation building in the forest then for the Federation's own Youth Camp which was destined to reach fruition with the opening of "*Wekiva Youth Camp*" in the summer of 1974. A new Federation project "The Penny Jar for Little People" was started in clubs and circles throughout the state, with proceeds earmarked for a conservation-related building fund.

Groundbreaking for our Headquarters Building in Mead Garden January 6, 1960-less than a year after delegates voted to establish a headquarters-was an auspicious occasion. Mrs. Mayes graciously handed to Mrs. Vernon L. Conner, who envisioned and initiated the project, the gold shovel for turning the first earth. Actual construction began two months later on March 21.

Florida's 30,143 Garden Club members contributed five cents each toward erection of a plastic greenhouse at Raiford State Prison, beamed at beautifying the prison and rehabilitating the inmates many of whom evidenced interest in being trained as nurserymen and ornamental horticulturists against the time they would return to take their place in society and need gainful occupations. (For more info read the 2 October 1987 South Florida *SunSentinal* paper.) The greenhouse at Raiford Prison-with the Federation's official seal in replica on a marble slab imbedded in a low concrete wall bordering the structure as a permanent tribute to friends who helped-was dedicated May 23, 1960. Shortly thereafter when a CA nurseryman donated \$10,000 worth of orchids to the prison appeals by officials for state funds with which to erect a second greenhouse for this collection received prompt approval-a testimony to the inmates trained by assistance from the FFGC garden therapy program. The five cents per member invested in the greenhouse and lath house at Raiford prison showed ratifying returns when the Better Citizens Club, its membership comprised of 25 inmates, enrolled in the horticulture training program, staged the first flower show at the prison.

Other firsts in the administration included initiation of a series of four accredited landscape design courses, with Course 1 held in Jacksonville October 5-7, 1959; a 6am bird walk in conjunction with the Short Course at UF, an Advanced Refresher Course offered judges at the Orlando Garden Center, addition of a High School Gardener chairman to the roster and having National Council follow suit with both using "Let's Teach Flora"-a manual for high school gardeners by Mrs. Charles H. Blanchard of Pensacola as the guide for instruction. Mrs. William C. Knox' book on *Botany*, publication of Mrs. Allan Cruickshank's book "Fun with Birds", a "Book Honoring" project which continues to add volumes to the Federation's library at state headquarters, the granting of three-week conservation course scholarships to black teachers desiring to attend FAMU, and the appointment of six Garden Club members to serve on the newly created Governor's Committee for Roadside Improvement and Safety.

Extension of the Blue Star Memorial Highway system was noted, with 14 markers added and dedicated. World Gardening advanced in strides and a shipment of dried materials made into corsages, epergnes, trays, baskets and plaques, along with treated leaves of many varieties, were sent to Singapore Garden Society for distribution in Malaya.

The Federation was hostess group for the South Atlantic Region convention at Boca Raton just two months prior to the state convention at the Palm Beach Biltmore Hotel, the business agenda for which included delegates approving proposed revisions of the FFGC Charter and Bylaws changing our tax exempt status with the IRS from 501 c 4 to 501 c 3 permitting a more liberal interpretation of this status.

Mrs. Mayes accepted three awards for Florida at the 1960 National Council Convention in Houston, TX. Attendance at both the Short Course at UF and Tropical Short Course at University of Miami increased. Twenty teachers attended the Conservation Workshop for Teachers at FSU and four of the five Federation scholarships offered at FAMU were granted. More than 200 girls enrolled at Lake Eaton Conservation Camp in the Ocala National Forest with the Sears Foundation contributing a 'campership' for each of the Federation's 12 districts.

Thirty-eight women who worked with various youth organizations attended Blanche Covington Nature Study Course at Hugh Taylor Birch State Park and conservation courses in each of the 12 districts attracted a total of 708 new members. Fourteen bird sanctuaries were established during the administration, bringing our total to 96.

## **FFGC History:** OUR FOURTH DECADE: (1955-1964) - (cont'd)

The first historic marker erected by the Federation in cooperation with the Florida Board of Parks and Memorials under a program authorized by the 1959 Legislature was dedicated at Chattahoochee October 27, 1960. The cast aluminum marker, painted deep green with gold lettering, has the State of Florida seal at the top. It marks the authentic location of the old U. S. Arsenal built in 1832. (For more info: FLheritage.com: UNITED STATES ARSENAL (1832-1861))

Governor LeRoy Collins' proclamation designating a special "Don't Be a Litterbug-Keep Florida Clean Day" at the Federation's behest was published in 82 newspapers statewide. The 8<sup>th</sup> State Flower Show, "This is Our Life", was held December 1-3, 1960, in Sanford attracted hundreds of exhibitors and visitors. Flower Show Schools gained in popularity and the Federation's 'Plant Distribution Project Cold Tolerance Report' by Nancy E. Knox and J. J. McSwiney, co-chairmen, was published.

Truly a highlight of the administration was the dedication of State Headquarters Building on February 2, 1961-not quite a year and one month after the Groundbreaking Ceremony-by Mrs. Charles H. Nettleton, first vice president of National Council of State Garden Clubs, "to the useful purpose of the Florida Federation of Garden Clubs in its services to the State of Florida and to its contributions to the beauty of our nation". A surprise feature was the presentation of an oil portrait of Mrs. Connor, gift of her Lakes and Hills Garden Club of Mount Dora, to be hung in recognition of her untiring efforts in promoting the Headquarters program.

Grand finale of the administration was the 35<sup>th</sup> annual FFGC Convention held in St. Petersburg April 12-14, 1961, which had as theme "Beatitudes of Beauty", At its conclusion Mrs. Jack W. Dunlap, as president, headed the corps of officers installed by former president, Mrs. John R. Parkinson. As a Life Member of the Garden Club of Jacksonville, FFGC and National Council of State Garden Clubs, Hazel Dunlap of Orange Park came especially well equipped to be the Florida Federation President in 1961. Beautification and Conservation were to be emphasized to and by FFGCs more than 30,000 members during the two-year administration for which the chosen theme was "Florida's Beauty—Our Heritage and our Responsibility".

"*In A Garden*", written by Mrs. J. Park Stewart of Orlando, was adopted as the Federation's official song (This can be found on our FFGC.org website) and "*Lament for the Litterbug*", by Isabel Taylor Hayes of Tampa Federation was adopted as its official "litterbug" song.

*The Florida Gardener*, in celebrating its 10<sup>th</sup> year of service to the Federation and its members, blossomed forth in full color on its covers and won the National Council State Publication Award. Four Foreign Tours carried their full quota of members on thrilling travels and earned profits for FFGC projects, a \$15,000 gift from Mrs. Josephine Bay Paul provided for the first "Gateway" planting, five Blue Star Memorial Highway Markers were erected and dedicated with the new Blue Star Marker cover made and donated by Mrs. Earl Lau of Winter Park used at each.

A greenhouse was donated to the Avon Park Correctional Institute through the Federation's Garden Therapy program, 51 Memorial Trees were planted in "Memory Woodland" at our Headquarters and 82 Life Memberships were added to the state roster. *The Botany Handbook for Florida* was printed by the State Department of Agriculture, an Historic Marker was placed in Koreshan State Park at Estero (For more info: FLheritage.com: "IN THE NAME OF HUMANITY" – Koresh), and November 29, 1962 was designated as "Don't Be a Litterbug Day" in Florida in a proclamation by Governor Farris Bryant. December 4, 1962, was designated as the first World Gardening Day in Florida by proclamation of Governor Bryant and contributions from clubs and circles provided grants of \$50 each to 47 teachers at Teacher conservation Workshops at FSU and to nine at Economics and Resource Use Workshops at FAMU.

A three-color porcelain enamel on steel official emblem bearing a replica of the FFGC seal was approved and made available for use on Civic Directories by individual clubs in improving the appearance of entrances to their towns and cities. The 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> Tropical Short Courses at University of Miami were well attended and widely acclaimed. Two Garden Club short courses at UF presented the 17<sup>th</sup>, "Beauty is Forever", to 193 members and the 18<sup>th</sup> "Magic for House and Garden" to 298; and the Federation's library was moved from UF to its permanent home at State Headquarters, Winter Park.

"Dynamic Beauty", the National Award-winning State Flower Show, made an enchanting prelude to the 36<sup>th</sup> Annual FFGC Convention which had as theme "Enchanted Heritage" and was held in Jacksonville April 2-3, 1962. It was at this convention Mrs. Dunlap and the Federation were cited for cooperation in the Girl Scout Projects during

their Golden Anniversary Year. The Florida Society of Flower Show School Instructors was organized and other firsts including publishing "Here's How To", and "Corsage Study Course" under FFGC auspices.

At the National Council of State Garden Clubs 1963 Convention in Atlanta, GA, Florida's Kitty Parkinson of Daytona Beach was elected recording secretary and four other FFGC members including Mrs. L. M. Atkinson, Mrs. C. H. Blanchard, Mrs. Vernon Conner and Mrs. C. R. Mayes were appointed to the National Board. Florida won nine National Awards and a Florida board member gave orchids she grew for decorations at the awards banquet.

Curtain ringer-down on a very successful, progressive and harmonious administration was the Federation's 37<sup>th</sup> Annual convention which had as theme "Challenging Destiny" and for which 965 enthusiastic members surged into Miami Beach April 29-30, 1963. "Gardening Together" was the theme chosen by Miami's Louise Hewlett who accepted the gavel April 30, 1963. Togetherness was evident in the friendly cooperation of nine committees who pushed "TREES" to the forefront of the many achievements of this term. To the urging of "Let's plant a tree in '63-Let's plant more in '64-Then keep our project still alive and reach our goal in '65", an incredible 1,384,294 quality trees were planted. More than 400 members shared together the joys of two Tropical Short Courses set up on a one-day study, one-day fun basis, at University of Miami. Seventy Youth leaders shared ideas and interests at two sessions of Blanche Covington Nature Study course. Continuing its strong interest in "the gardeners of tomorrow", the FFGC board voted \$500 from the general fund for the Junior Nature Camp Building Fund. Three years of earnest endeavor and united sharing by Junior Gardeners throughout the state were rewarded when a commemorative bronze plaque marked completion of their project-restoration of "The Arrivas Grove" in Old St. Augustine. Dedication ceremonies were held at The Grove January 16, 1965, celebrating Arbor Day during that city's 400<sup>th</sup> Anniversary observance.

Attendance of 5,553 adults and 158 children attested to the popularity of the 10<sup>th</sup> State Flower Show, "Florida-Our Land and People", held in Coral Gables. The Federation's share of the proceeds was \$2,254.93. A "Guardian of Gardening" category was created and Mrs. Robert A. Mooney, Miami, became the first contributor to the fund. At Mrs. Hewlett's suggestion, \$1,500 was taken from general funds to inscribe "1963-1965 Executive Board" on the special "Guardians of Gardening" Wall at State Headquarters.

There wasn't anything "Down to Earth" about the 38<sup>th</sup> Annual FFGC Convention held May 12-13, 1964, at Hollywood Beach Hotel. It was here The Florida Council of Flower Show School Instructors and The Landscape Critics Council were organized.

Flower Show Schools were held throughout the state, bringing the Judge's Council roster to 589. Continued Landscape Design Courses brought the total number of Landscape Design Critics to 60. Demands for Florida's *Flower Arrangement Calendar* could not be met-25,173 copies were sold in 1964 and 26,041 in 1965 with the profits for the latter year reaching an unprecedented \$9,647.23. Blue Star Memorial Highway Markers were erected to boost the Federation's total to 47 along 1,837 miles of Florida's approved highways. Two National and 29 State Life Members were added and inviting membership drives pushed FFGCs roster to 30,611. A total of 434 members were made aware of the many benefits derived from gardening at the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> Garden Club Short Courses, with the respective themes "Gold at your Fingertips" and "Gardening Together", at UF.

Participation in World Gardening's "people-to-people" program resulted in thousands of packages of seeds, gardening books and magazines being sent to South American and other countries. \$2,300 was contributed to CARE, Inc., and American Korean Foundation. An additional \$2,200 was spent for seeds. Florida's contribution to the program won National recognition. Fun-filled foreign tours were enjoyed including a mid-winter tour of Mexico, a Caribbean cruise, a special trip to Greece, the popular 21-day European tour, a 47-day "Grand Tour of Europe" and an around the world trip of 56 exciting days. Profits of \$3,430.50 were added to FFGC Endowment funds.

A total of 1,016 members gathered for the Federation's 39<sup>th</sup> Annual convention "Charting Our Course Together" held April 28-29, 1965 in Tampa. All were agreeably surprised and thrilled to see FFGC's own banner standing alongside "Old Glory" and the Florida State Flag. The Federation Flag was a gift by North Tampa Garden Club, the hostess group. Enthusiasm was so contagious that during the Garden Therapy breakfast donations of \$98 each were given to Avon Park, Apalachee and Raiford. These were increased by a \$400 collection from the assembly.

## CONTINUING EDUCATION

### NGC GARDENING SCHOOLS:

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

District VI

 **Course 3** **Oct 27-28, 2020**

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

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

District X

**Course 3** **Nov. 9-10, 2020**

**Course 4** **Feb. 22-23, 2021**

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

### NGC ENVIRONMENTAL SCHOOLS:


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

District VI

 **Course 4** **Nov. 5-6, 2020**

New Smyrna Beach Garden Club  
Contact: *Sally Flanagan*, (385) 428-3170  
Email: [SFFlan@aol.com](mailto:SFFlan@aol.com)

District XI

 **Course 1: The Living Earth** **Nov. 19-20, 2020**

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

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

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

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

### NGC LANDSCAPE DESIGN SCHOOLS:

*Sue Roberts*, (352)-357-3712  
Email: [Sue@GeorgeSueRoberts.com](mailto:Sue@GeorgeSueRoberts.com)

District IX

 **Course 4** **Oct. 23-24, 2020**

Ft. Myers Council Building  
2166 Virginia Ave., Ft. Myers, FL  
Contact: *Vicki Williamson*, (802) 324-3847  
Email: [VBWilliamson47@gmail.com](mailto:VBWilliamson47@gmail.com)

District VIII

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

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

### FLORAL DESIGN STUDY UNITS

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

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

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

All Floral Design Study Units must be registered!

District VI

**Advanced Unit 7** (10AM-3PM) **Oct 7, 2020**

**Advanced Unit 8** (10AM-3PM) **Nov 4, 2020**

**Advanced Unit 9** (10AM-3PM) **Dec 2, 2020**

Cocoa-Rockledge Garden Club  
1493 S. Fiske Blvd., Rockledge, FL 32955  
Contact: *Gloria Blake*, (321) 537-8060  
Email: [seaclus@yahoo.com](mailto:seaclus@yahoo.com)



Offered via Virtual **ZOOM** Meeting

### NGC FLOWER SHOW SCHOOLS:

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

District XI & XII

**Course IV (cancelled)** **Oct. 4-7, 2020**

Ft. Lauderdale, FL  
Instructors: *Jan Griffin* (H)  
*Janice Hamlin* (D,P)  
Chair: *Becky Schuberth*  
Email: [BSchube1@gmail.com](mailto:BSchube1@gmail.com)

District IV

**Course III** **Oct 26-28, 2020**

Jacksonville Beach, FL  
Instructors: *Penny Decker* (D,P)  
*Jan Griffin* (H)  
Chair: *Mary Silas*  
Email: [LSilas@aol.com](mailto:LSilas@aol.com)

### TROPICAL SHORT COURSE

District X **Jan 20-21, 2021**

West Palm Beach, FL  
Contact: *Michelle Maguire*  
Email: [MouthMom@yahoo.com](mailto:MouthMom@yahoo.com)

### FFGC FALL BOARD MEETING—(2020)

Pre-Board Meeting (**cancelled**) **Sep. 14-15, 2020**

 Board Meeting **Sep. 16-17, 2020**

FFGC Headquarters  
1400 S. Denning Drive  
Winter Park, FL 32789

### FFGC WINTER BOARD MEETING—(2021)

Pre-Board Meeting **Jan. 11-12, 2021**

Board Meeting **Jan. 13-14, 2021**

FFGC Headquarters  
1400 S. Denning Drive  
Winter Park, FL 32789



## Netherlands & Belgium River Cruise

Included Excursions to:

- Keukenhof Gardens
- Floralia Flower Show
- Tulip Farm
- Kinderdijk Windmills
- Floriade 2022

407-517-4744  
[www.VibrantTravelCo.com](http://www.VibrantTravelCo.com)

Florida Seller of Travel # ST15578

**Florida Federation of Garden Club Winners  
National Garden Club, Inc.**

**NGC AWARD WINNERS—2019 PROJECTS / ACTIVITIES**

**FFGC Awards Chair, Valerie Seinfeld  
FFGC Vice Awards Chair, Joanne Mulinare**

**#CS-2 The Kellogg Achievement Award (Community Service Project)**

Aiv- Garden Club of Stuart - District X

**#EC-5 Pollinators**

Aiv- Dade City Garden Club - District VIII

**#FD-2 Floral Design Program**

Aiii- Clermont Garden Club - District VII

**#G-2 Edible Gardening**

Cii- Pompano Beach Garden Club—District XI

**#MP-2 National Garden Week**

Aiv- Wellington Garden Club—District X

**#MP-3 Social Media/Website**

**Website**

Aiv- Garden Club of Cape Coral—District IX

**Facebook**

Biii- Clermont Garden Club - District VII

Biv- Florida Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc. - State

Bv- District IV of the Florida Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc.  
District IV

**#MP-4 Video/CD/DVD/Flash Drive**

Aiv- Garden Club of DeLand - District VI

**2019 NGC Publication Award**

PUB 2-1 Ai Daisy Circle of Gainesville GC Garden Club Manual  
District V

**Yearbook Award**

YB-1(3) (30-44) Cherry Laurel Garden Club—District VI

**HIGH SCHOOL ESSAY WINNERS 2019 HIGH SCHOOL ESSAY CONTEST**

NATIONAL GARDEN CLUBS, INC. \$1,000.00 Scholarship Winner:  
Gabriela Molina  
(Sponsored by Fort Lauderdale Garden Club) - District XI

This essay, "Challenges in Preserving Our Natural Habitats", cited the challenge of preserving our forests 'known as the lungs of our world' and our oceans and coral reefs "known as the lungs of our water". These challenges could be begun to be faced when people as a whole become committed to cleaning up the environment.

**FLOWER SHOW ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS**

**Certificates and a Rosette**

**Award FS-1B Club Standard Flower Show 21-49 Members**

Plant City Garden Club—"Jungle Mania" - District VIII

**Award FS-1D Club Standard Flower Show 100+ Members**

Boca Raton Garden Club—"Mother Goose".—District X

Garden Club of St. Petersburg, Inc.—"It's Showtime" - District VIII

Homosassa River Garden Club—"Florida's Memorable Travel

Adventures with Flowers"—District V

Tampa Federation of GC, Inc.

"A World of Children's Stories" .—District VIII

**Award FS-2A Holiday Standard Flower Show 1 Club**

Manatee River Garden Club "All You Need Is Love" - District VIII

**Shows receiving Certificates of Commendation for holding a flower show supporting the aims and objectives of National Garden Clubs, Inc.**

FS-1D - Naples Garden Club "Making Music" - District IX

**NGC POETRY WINNERS 2019 – 2020**

**First Place**

**SEVENTH GRADE**

Ava Frias,

Sponsor: Ft. Lauderdale Garden Club, FL - District IX

**2020 NGC Scholarship Recipient**

Blaire M. Kleiman

Jessie M. Conner Scholarship

**Award Due Dates for 2020-2021 & Where to mail your Awards**

By: Valerie Seinfeld, FFGC Awards Chairman

**2020**

#11 Yearbook Award	<b>Nov. 1</b>	mail to :Christy Linke
#4 Award of Excellence	<b>Nov. 1</b>	mail to :District Director
#9 Special Membership Incentive	<b>Nov. 24</b>	See FFGC Awards Web Page
#61 Nell Coe Award	<b>Nov. 24</b>	See FFGC Awards Web Page
Most FFGC Adult Awards	<b>Nov. 24</b>	See FFGC Awards Web Page
Flower Show Achievement Awards	<b>Nov. 30</b>	mail to: Barbara May
Flower Show Related Awards	<b>Nov. 30</b>	mail to: Jan Griffin
Deep South Garden Club Awards	<b>Nov. 24</b>	See FFGC Awards Web Page
National Garden Club Awards	<b>Nov. 24</b>	See FFGC Awards Web Page
Jr. Gardeners Awards J-1, J-3 - J-6	<b>Nov. 24</b>	See FFGC Awards Web Page
Jr. Gardeners Award J-2	<b>Nov. 30</b>	mail to: Barbara May
DSGC Unified Project Award 2019-2021	<b>Dec. 15</b>	mail to: Gina Jogan

**2021**

Intermediate Gardener Awards	<b>Jan. 15</b>	mail to: Sandra Lynch
High School Award HS-1	<b>Jan. 1</b>	mail to: Sandra Lynch
High School Awards	<b>Jan. 15</b>	mail to: Sandra Lynch
High School Essay	<b>Jan. 15</b>	mail to: Sandra Lynch
Poetry Contest	<b>Jan. 15</b>	mail to: Sandra Lynch
Youth Sculpture	<b>Jan. 15</b>	mail to: Sandra Lynch
Smokey Bear/Woodsy Owl	<b>Jan..20</b>	mail to: Jill Anderson
Junior Gardening Awards J10-J40	<b>Jan. 30</b>	mail to: Lynda Penry
D-3 District Membership Citation	<b>Mar. 1</b>	email to: FFGC Awards Chair

The Mailing addresses are on the FFGC Awards Page [www.ffgc.org](http://www.ffgc.org)

## 2020 Awards - "New Procedures" A Covid-19 Response

By: Valerie Seinfeld, FFGC Awards Chair

You did a wonderful job on submitting awards in 2019 and the numerous FFGC, Deep South and NGC winning awards is the proof. Congratulations!

Normally we have around 75 judges on the first Thursday in December judging your award applications, this year we needed to respond to Covid-19 early on to insure safe judging for all.

We came up with a way to judge at a distance.

On June 1st every FFGC member received by email with an update on how to submit awards #1-81, J1 through J10, and District Awards, by November 24, 2020. Visit our website [www.ffgc.org](http://www.ffgc.org) Awards Page, if you need the new *FFGC Awards Application, Rules and Procedures, and Award Descriptions*. Please check out the new Award tabs on the FFGC website for easier navigation.

Most of these awards will be emailed to [FFGCawards@gmail.com](mailto:FFGCawards@gmail.com). There are exceptions: Yearbooks, BOE's and hardbound publications, and that information is provided in the "Rules and Procedures" document.

Please review and enter Award #61 Nell Coe Award "Diversity in the Garden", #49 "Tree Planting Achievement", and #9 "Special Membership Incentive" Award, they are biennial awards or occurring every other year.

## SMOKEY BEAR POSTER CONTEST

Submitted by Jill Anderson



Please, consider adding this to your club's calendar. Participants do NOT need to be registered as Junior Gardeners.

Children from first through fifth grade are invited to participate in the 2020 National Garden Clubs, Inc. Poster Contest! The U.S. Department of Agriculture Forest Service and the National Garden Clubs, Inc. are giving students the opportunity to demonstrate through original drawings of Smokey Bear or Woody Owl their understanding of wildfire prevention and basic environmental conservation principles.

*Any child/group of children may participate.* Scout troops, after school programs, and the like are perfectly appropriate. Children must be Florida residents.

See Smokey Bear and Woody Owl Contest Poster Rules for details:

<http://gardenclub.org/youth/smokey-bear-poster-contest.aspx>

The child's grade must be included on the poster so that the participant can compete in the correct grade category. Children must be Florida residents and sponsored by a garden club

Contact Jill Anderson, FFGC State Chairman  
[JillAndersn@aol.com](mailto:JillAndersn@aol.com)

Local winning posters must be received by the Smokey Bear & Woody Owl State Chairmen by January 20, 2021.

**\*\*\* FIVE SPONSORS STILL NEEDED!**

Please contact Carol Moore ... [CarolWood@outlook.com](mailto:CarolWood@outlook.com)

**Smokey Bear: (3rd thru 5th grades) & Woody Owl: (2nd and 3rd grades)**

## "Zoom" for FFGC - "Finest Friends God Created"

How do we meet and stay in touch during these times?

Meaningful virtual meetings of all types and social hours, teleconferences, emails, phone calls, drive by birthdays, Community Gardening (with distancing) bring us all closer.

"Zoom", a virtual meeting place, has updated its security and you can hold a 40 minute meeting with up to 100 participants for free. Set up another meeting right away, if you need more time. The doors of opportunities for Club, Committee and District Meetings are now open to all this fall.

Throughout these months of distancing, clubs have been meeting, planning and sharing. Some have given a virtual tour of their home gardens, or sometimes we just socialize during happy hour. We have seen clubs offering free Webinars and you can upgrade and create these through Zoom.

NGC Schools are being offered on Zoom so everyone can continue their Courses and Refreshers. Virtual Flower Shows have become popular.

Al Latina, FFGC President, felt a need to explore virtual meeting possibilities and asked a group to form a Technical Administrators Team. Barbara Hadsell got us started with NGC members that she had worked with as NGC began setting up "Virtual NGC Schools". Kelley Wood has agreed to Chair this Committee with team members Barbara Hadsell, Jennifer Condo, Sue Roberts, and Valerie Seinfeld.

In July, we held 3 Zoom Meetings, the first Host was Cherie LeJeune, President of the National Capital Area. Presidents' Susan Miner of New Hampshire and Janet Hickman of Michigan joined Cherie to kick off this first Zoom Meeting. We had a social hour with the FFGC Board, and a District Directors Meeting. Training members during Social Hours make learning FUN!

Through all of the adjustments we are making, we keep in mind the goals of the Florida Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc. and the National Garden Clubs, Inc.

*"Florida Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc. promotes the love of gardening, floral and landscape design, and civic and environmental responsibility by providing education, resources and networking opportunities for our members, youth and the community."*

Until we meet again, see you on Facebook!

Valerie Seinfeld  
FFGC Social Media Chairman  
FFGC Awards Chairman  
FFGC Technical Administrator Member

## Get Ready to Zoom

By: Al Latina, FFGC President

I do not think there is anything good to say about a Pandemic. These have been difficult times for all of us, and I sincerely hope you are all safe and well. The Pandemic's effects on our lives have made us give thoughts to ways to continue to conduct our business while we all stay more at home than attending person to person meetings. FFGC has been researching alternative methods for meeting consistent with CDC Covid-19 guidelines especially for folks my age.

We have put together a team of talented members who have knowledge about setting up and using Virtual Platforms such as Zoom. Kelly Wood, Jennifer Condo, Barbara Hadsell, Sue Roberts, and Valerie Seinfeld have agreed to research and test how we might best use Virtual Platforms. Marge Hendon, who will become FFGC President Elect on Oct. 1, and I concur that we need a Standing Committee to assist us with educating members in the use of Virtual Platforms such as Zoom. I have virtually (no pun intended) zero knowledge about Zoom, but it seems to be an excellent alternative to onsite meetings. As an organization FFGC is probably late at the Starting Gate because I am aware that some FFGC Districts and Clubs have been using Zoom.

FFGC has tested Zoom for several events, and as we learn more about its capabilities, I believe we will make better use of what it has to offer. It seems to be working well for us. Our Team is ready to help any FFGC District or clubs which needs information about how to set up an account and how to use the Platform. We will continue to schedule Help Sessions as they are needed.

The September Board meeting will be a **Zoom** event and the future may include additional virtual meetings. So, get ready, and let us **Zoom!**



## Oleander Garden Club

Celebrates "National Garden Week"

By: *Reina Snyder*



First through fifth graders planting Southern Live Oaks in Freedom Park, Greenacres.

Amid the turbulence of current times, Oleander Garden Club of the Palm Beaches and the City of Greenacres held a special event June 10 at Freedom Park, honoring youth and a brighter future. The event honored both National Garden Week, the Plant America with Trees initiative, and the rededication of Freedom Park by planting two native live oaks, donated by the City of Greenacres, a Tree City USA that is responsible for protecting and caring for 8,000 native trees.

Taking part in the planting were a small group of members from the Greenacres C.A.R.E.S. Junior Garden Club, an after-school program of second through fifth graders, supported by the Oleander Garden Club of the Palm Beaches. National Garden Week is an annual event for the Oleander Garden Club that acknowledges the importance of gardening and the numerous contributions of gardeners, from providing beauty, balanced ecology, community building, youth support and education. In celebration of National Garden Week, Greenacres C.A.R.E.S. Junior Garden Club members created miniature dish gardens for the City of Greenacres' officials as a thank you for all of their support



Barbara Hadsell and Beverly Lichtenstein of Oleander Garden Club presented Mayor Flores of Greenacres with the Proclamation of National Garden Week.

Barbara Hadsell, National Garden Clubs and FFGC Gardening School Chair, coordinated the celebration, introducing Beverly Lichtenstein, President of Oleander Garden Club. According to Lichtenstein, National Garden Week gives us the opportunity to encourage pride in our communities, work with our cities, and especially our youth.

Hadsell, Lichtenstein, and members unable to attend, gave special thanks to Greenacres City for the two 15-foot Southern Live Oak trees. Southern Live Oaks are majestic trees that are emblems of the South. Crowns of the largest Southern Live Oaks reach diameters of 150 feet (45.7 meters)—nearly large enough to encompass half of a football field.

On average, the crown spread is 80 feet and the height is 50 feet. Branches usually stem from a single trunk, which can grow to five or six feet in diameter. These nearly evergreen trees have a deep tap root system that makes them resistant to strong winds. According to Doug Tallamy, Professor of Entomology, University of Delaware, oaks support more life than most other tree species, up to 500 different species of organisms.



In the coming years, these majestic, matured trees will welcome visitors to Freedom Park. Some of the children from the Greenacres after-school program C.A.R.E.S. had special shovels to help with the planting of the trees. It will be these children and others that will see these trees grown and provide a more beautiful tomorrow.

Oleander Garden Club of the Palm Beaches members Beverly Lichtenstein, Barbara Hadsell, and Janet Stein with City of Greenacres After-School Program C.A.R.E.S. Junior Garden Club members planting two native Southern Live Oak trees for National Garden Week and the Plant America with Trees initiative.

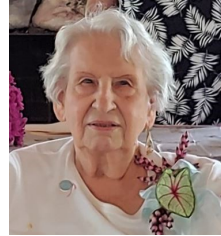
Plant America with Trees (PAT) is a National Garden Club initiative that charges each garden club member to plant a native tree in 2020—this will result in over 165,000 native trees to be planted nationally. We face uncertain times, both from a health standpoint and an environmental one. PAT offers a way for garden club members to contribute to positive change by planting native trees.

<http://gardenclub.org/projects/plant-america.aspx>

*Reina Snyder*, Vice Chairman, District X  
Plant America with Trees: Each One, Plant One  
Oleander Garden Club of the Palm Beaches  
[reinasnyder@gmail.com](mailto:reinasnyder@gmail.com)

## Madeline Lund - Pillar of Pride

By *Sandra Hume*, President Inverness Garden Club—District V



The Inverness Garden Club, held a surprise for its honored member Madeline Lund at Whispering Pines Park on June 18, 2020.

Madeline was being honored with the Pillar of Pride Award. She has made many contributions to the Inverness Garden Club during her thirty years as a member. She has held every office available. Her passion and expertise is creating miniature Floral designs and she has generously shared her talents with others. She still continues to teach and give programs on designs and share information on bromeliads.

Madeline has exhibited purpose, pride and productivity for the Florida Federation of Garden Clubs.

FFGC extended a warm welcome as a Pillar of Pride member AND wished her a very special HAPPY NINETY SIXTH BIRTHDAY.

Jeanine Gage, District V Director presented her with the award. We met outside under a pavilion and all wore our masks. It was a very special occasion and we were pleased to share the award with her as well as wishing her a Happy Birthday.



## Lunches for Our First Responders

By: *Sharon Gaskin*, Temple Terrace Garden Club—District VIII



A big thank you to Sharon Gaskin, our TTGC President, and Cheri Donohue, President of the GFWC Temple Terrace Woman's Club for taking advantage of a compassionate opportunity for our clubs to step up and offer lunch to the first responders and ancillary staff in our own city of Temple Terrace. The members of the Temple Terrace Garden Club voted unanimously to fund this project. Using funds from the cancelled FFGC convention, the club donated over \$500 to fund these lunches. TTGC was inspired by the selfless donation of the monies set aside from the cancelled

Cheri Donohue, kept her 6' distance as she donated gift cards for "Fuzzy's Tacos" to Temple Terrace Police Chief, Ken Albano

FFGC convention's BOD dinner.

The GFWC Temple Terrace Woman's Club partnered with our garden club to arrange for delivery of gift cards and lunches. Cheri contacted the TT police and fire departments to set up days and times for delivery. Sharon contacted "Fuzzies Tacos" who provided the gift cards or actual lunches for these very important folks in our community. We are very fortunate in these economically uncertain times to have sufficient income from our various projects to provide this service to our community.



3 amigos from the Temple Terrace Fire Department, accepting the lunch certificates. "Gracias" to the TT Garden and TT Woman's Club.

## Wellington Garden Club

Celebrates "National Garden Week"

By: Twig Morris

National Garden Week Chairman

Every year during the first week of June, Wellington Garden Club (WGC) joins with garden clubs across the country to celebrate National Garden Week, a project of National Garden Clubs, Inc. (NGC).



WGC Members proudly display the Plant America with Trees banner following the planting of a Gumbo Limbo, a Florida native tree

A special highlight this year was the planting of a Florida native Gumbo Limbo tree in Wellington's Foresteria Park on Wednesday, June 17 at 9:00 a.m. In addition to celebrating National Garden Week the event also supports the NGC President's Project "Plant America with Trees". The Club is sponsoring the tree planting through Wellington's Commemorative Tree Program that is administered by the Public Works Department.

President Jan Seagrave and WGC member Mary Anne Greely assist with planting the Gumbo Limbo as part of National Garden Week and Plant America with Trees.



According to Jan Seagrave, WGC President, "This program is a perfect way for our Club to enhance our community and to celebrate National Garden Week and the Plant America with Trees project." WGC National Garden Week Chairman, Twig Morris, added, "We are so grateful for the support our club receives from Wellington and are delighted we can show our appreciation in this way."



Station 20 Fire Fighters and WGC Member, Stormii Bivin



WGC member Kathy and John Siena (2nd and 4th from left) present flowers to Wellington's Public Works Department

On June 8, WGC members began National Garden Week by creating floral arrangements that were distributed to Wellington's first responders at four fire stations and two hospitals, as well as to Wellington's municipal offices and library. WGC members are shown on the following page creating arrangements and distributing them to the recipients.



L-R: WGC members Mary Anne Greely, Kate Kouba, Linda DeSanti, Twig Morris



L-R: Wellington Regional Hospital Veronica May, Physician Relations Manager; WGC members Twig Morris and Pam Tahan, CEO; Colleen Thielk,

Wellington Garden Club (WGC) is a 501(c) (3) nonprofit organization that has been serving Wellington area communities since 1982. Its motto is "Gardening Makes a World of Difference." The club is a member of the Florida Federation of Garden Clubs (FFGC), District X, the Deep South Region (DSR) and National Garden Clubs, Inc. (NGC).

For more information see [www.WellingtonGardenClub.org](http://www.WellingtonGardenClub.org).

## Energizing Youth with Educational Activities during the Pandemic

By: FFGC Youth Volunteers

With all of the turmoil we've been living with for the past several months area Garden Clubs have been working to keep youth engaged through environmental restoration and education.

**Lauderdale-by-the-Sea.** On a recent morning at a Lauderdale-by-the-Sea beach, a handful of volunteers, both young and young at heart, gathered to weed out invasive scaevola sprouts and plant native sea oats. Sea oats occur throughout the coastal Southeast on dunes and beaches, preventing erosion and actually building dunes by helping to accumulate sand. Sand is trapped by the long leaves of sea oats, upward growth is stimulated, and rooting occurs, thus, mitigating erosion and building more and bigger dunes. This plant is extremely drought- and salt-tolerant, making it a key planting for dune restoration.

**Lauderdale-by-the-Sea Garden Club** members teamed up with the Youth Environmental Alliance (YEA), a nonprofit environmental education organization founded in Davie, Florida in 2005.

The mixed team of youth and adults worked for two hours to restore the dunes in the hot sun. Outdoor restoration projects can't be moved online yet they are still happening, just in small groups of 10 for social distancing. YEA and Lauderdale-by-the-Sea Garden Club use projects like this as an opportunity to teach science in this period of educational uncertainty.

**Stuart.** The Garden Club of Stuart has been working with the Boys and Girls Club of



Palm City, preparing for the fall planting with four, raised herb and vegetable beds. Weeds were removed and the beds covered with tarps to eliminate weeds and some pests. The two native and wildflower beds are flourishing and provide habitat for butterflies and nectar-seeking wildlife. Four trestle tables have been painted and provide an excellent outdoor learning center. The students are excited to learn about plants and enjoy harvesting and taking home what they have grown. Many have never had the experience of gardening and

come ready to work in the garden. One fun project was all about worms. Many of the children had never been up close to a worm and, before the lesson was over, had adopted a worm before putting it in the garden. Lots of fun and screams. Cyndy Trossbach, Youth Chairman, District X, Youth Chairman, Garden Club of Stuart

**Valparaiso.** The Valparaiso Garden Club is working with 25 junior garden club members ages K-7th grade in three different groups to accommodate social distancing and safety protocols. Future work is planned in the garden as well as some field trips.

**The Palm Beaches.** Oleander Garden Club of the Palm Beaches (OGC) has been working with Greenacres C.A.R.E.S. Jr. Garden Club members to promote environmental education and awareness.

## Energizing Youth with Educational Activities during the Pandemic—(cont'd)

Starting in early April, a few members of OGC worked at Greenacres Community Center organizing the Jr. Gardeners' notebooks that the students had been working on weekly since October. Via USPS the students received their notebooks with additional activities from the Florida Coastal Office and an educational coloring and activity book from South Florida Water Management District entitled, "Saving Energy and Water." The Jr. Gardeners also received their botanical arts projects they had been working on in February and activities for at-home projects.



At the end of April, with the help of Greenacres Community Center employees who coordinated a curbside pick-up with the parents of the Jr. Garden Club members, a few OGC members put together more educational activities all revolving around butterflies. They

also picked up five milkweed plants for each student with instructions on how to care for their plants as well as what to expect when caterpillars appeared. The OGC members and employees of Greenacres Community Center delivered the plants and packets to the cars. Many of the Jr. Garden Club members were in the cars and it was exciting for the children as well as the adults to see each other!



In early June six dish gardens, made by the Jr. Garden Club members, were delivered to Greenacres City Hall as a "thank you." Oleaner Garden Club members have enjoyed working with the Greenacres community during the Pandemic. *Janet Stein, NGC Environmental Consultant, Corresponding Secretary- Oleaner Garden Club*

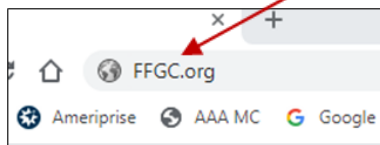
## Calling All FFGC Amazon Users—(\$\$\$)

By: *Dave Spaulding, FFGC Editor*

### ACCESS AMAZON via FFGC.ORG

If you're an Amazon shopper, like my wife, you can help our Florida Federation of Garden Clubs (FFGC) by accessing Amazon through the FFGC.org web site. It's a simple process and our FFGC receives a small percentage (\$\$\$) from Amazon for every purchase made through our web site. There is no additional charge to you. Once you're linked to the Amazon web site, simply sign on as you normally do.

1. Enter "[FFGC.org](http://FFGC.org)" in the url field of your web browser. This will take you to the FFGC web site home page

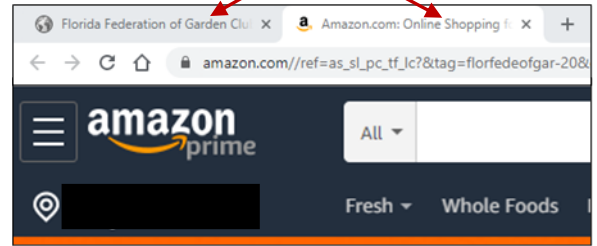


2. Use the scroll bar on the right-hand side of the screen and scroll all the way to the bottom of the home page. On the bottom left of the home screen, you will see:

**SHOP THROUGH AMAZON -- CLICK ON THIS LINK: [AMAZON.COM](http://AMAZON.COM)**

3. Click on the [AMAZON.COM](http://AMAZON.COM) link. This will take you to your familiar Amazon web site where you may continue your sign on and shopping as normal.

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



The Florida Federation of Garden Clubs is a participant in the Amazon Services LLC Associates Program, an affiliate advertising program designed to provide a means for sites to earn advertising fees by advertising and linking to [amazon.com](http://amazon.com).

## How Can You Help Grow A Forest?

By: *Andrea Finn, FFGC Penny Pines Chairman*

One way is to help establish a "Penny Pines Plantation" in a National Forest.

The plantations are a part of the regular National Forest reforestation program planted on burned-over and brush covered areas which are potentially productive timberlands. Planting sites are selected by the Supervisor of each National Forest. These plantations provide soil protection, watershed protection, soil stabilization, future harvestable timber, as well as beauty and shade for recreation.

Your Garden Club can participate in a meaningful and practical conservation project by contributing \$68.00 to a Penny Pines plantation as part of the costs of replanting replacement and/or trees indigenous (not just pine trees) to a particular damaged area, whether by fire or by other natural catastrophe.

We have 3 National Forests in the State of Florida: Ocala National Forest, Osceola National Forest, and Apalachicola National Forest. All our contributions are earmarked to go to these forests. We need to promote education in conservation by creating public awareness of the need to protect and manage our National Forest resources.

CONGRATULATIONS FLORIDA GARDEN CLUBS! You contributed \$21,692 from the period March 2019 to April 2020.

FFGC contributed the most donations from the Deep South Region, which includes Alabama, Georgia, Louisiana, Mississippi and Tennessee. I was absolutely thrilled when I got the news.

I'm hoping we contributed the most in NGC, but I haven't heard anything yet.

GOOD NEWS! The Penny Pines donation form is now on the FFGC web-site and can be printed off from there for your use! Go the FFGC homepage. On the left side there is a column of topics. Click on Community Projects & Programs. When that comes up there will another list of topics – click on Penny Pines. The donation form will appear and you can print it out. Keep up all the good work and let's continue to "PLANT AMERICA" - (NGC Theme for 2019-2021)

## New Membership

By: *Ed Nendick, Chairman*

This has been an interesting time. Hurricanes, Pandemics, Riots, and social unrest. This all worries me! When I get worried, the one thing I want to do first is call my friends. Friends are people who get together and have common thoughts.

There are lots of friends I have gained from the Garden Clubs. I suggest that the same is true of all of you. Even though we had no convention or District Meetings, we have our phones, our memories, and our friends in the garden clubs.

This pandemic has brought about a new form of communication called Zoom. You still can see and talk to your friends. We need to get one member of each Garden Club to get a free Zoom account and then email all the members an invitation to join their Zoom meeting. It can be a P.J. Party with wine. Somehow the word needs to get out maybe through a phone tree call. You may want to invite any of the people on the Board of Directors and give them an opportunity to speak on their specialty field. Mine is New Members and my wife Jane's is Retention.

Please email me if you want help.

[EdNendick@gmail.com](mailto:EdNendick@gmail.com)

**NGC 2019 HIGH SCHOOL ESSAY  
WINNER CONTEST \$1,000.00  
Scholarship Winner:  
Gabriela Molina - Florida**



**"Challenges in Preserving Our  
Natural Habitats"**



**2019 High School Essay Contest**

National Garden Clubs, Inc. **\$1,000.00**

By: *Valerie Seinfeld*

Scholarship Winner: *Gabriela Molina* (Sponsored by Fort Lauderdale Garden Club) (Florida-Deep South Region) This essay, "*Challenges in Preserving Our Natural Habitats*", cited the challenge of preserving our forests "known as the lungs of our world" and our oceans and coral reefs "known as the lungs of our water". These challenges could be begun to be faced when people as a whole become committed to cleaning up the environment.

**Membership Retention**

By: *Jane Nendick*, FFGC Retention Membership Chair

Bang for the bucks!!!! That's what members want to know. "If i give my garden club this amount of money, what do i receive in return??"

Presidents of clubs/circles, from day one, you must let your membership know what they receive and where their monies are being spent! From your first meeting til the last, even virtual, you should have on your agenda "membership, new and retention". So, what is the "bang" for their bucks?

- \* Membership in one of the largest volunteer organizations in the entire world!
- \* A chance to attend horticulture classes in: gardening in the area, plant identification, "digging it" courses
- \* An opportunity to attend floral design studies, fun with flowers, and local "how to" classes
- \* An opportunity to attend classes to benefit the community; education courses in environmental studies, landscape design, and floral design.
- \* Perhaps the most meaningful is the fun, the fellowship, and the life-long commitments! This is something that money cannot buy!

For any help/information, contact:

Jane Nendick, FFGC Retention Membership Chair—(850) 866-9319

email: [InTheBag47@earthlink.net](mailto:InTheBag47@earthlink.net)

**NEW ORGANIC  
GARDEN FRIENDLY FUNGICIDE**

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

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



## Coral Springs Community Garden and Food Forest

By: *Lynn Rochelle*, Garden Club Coral Springs - District XI

In 2009, the City approached the Rotary Club of Coral Springs to help begin a Community Garden. Members of Coral Springs Garden Club would also assist. A number of residents became involved in the project and took over the running and organization of the Garden. Individuals rent a plot and grow vegetables of their choice.

In 2014, one of the gardeners and organizers, *Judi Gulko*, had a vision to develop the lot adjacent to the garden into a Food Forest. A Food Forest grows trees and other perennial plants in an ecologically sustainable way which improves the environment. Utilizing permaculture design, it is developed by mimicking nature and placing companion plants together as in a forest. The mission of the Food Forest is to grow and teach about tropical plants that are found abundantly here in South Florida and provide a healthy ecosystem for humans and pollinators.



Left to right: *Satya Rudin*, Community Garden Manager; *Judi Gulko*, Food Forest Developer; *Susan Liberatore*, Volunteer

In keeping with the philosophy of the Food Forest, Judi has incorporated the system of the seven F's. The seven F's are fun, fiber, fuel, fertilizer, food, fodder, f(ph)armaceutical (meaning herbs with medicinal properties). All waste is composted.

The Forest incorporates seven layers. Trees, such as Ackee and Soursop, are the tallest. Root vegetables like casaba and sweet potatoes are the lowest, being underground. Mimosa pudica is a ground cover and various heights of shrubbery lie in between. Some plants, such as marigolds, are planted for their insect repellent properties.

After the tragic shooting at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School, the Helena Ramsay Memorial Garden was created, incorporating bamboo plantings to honor each victim and a Meditation Labyrinth, a symbol of the journey of life.

Volunteers help maintain the property and can enjoy the fruits of their labors. Guests are welcome, but are asked to respect the Forest and not help themselves. For further information, contact Lynn Rochelle at: [b1sk1e@aol.com](mailto:b1sk1e@aol.com).

## Virtual Resources, Tools Now and Forward

By: *Cherie Lejeune*, President of National Capital Area Garden Clubs

So along came the MONTH of MARCH. The words CANCELLED were rubber stamped across all of our calendars. Shocked, scared, anxious, sums up most of the garden club's leadership and member's reactions.

What happened next, I liken to wildflowers popping up in places you never imagined.

Public Institutions like museums and Public Gardens from coast to coast took a quick assessment of their situation. They not only strategized a plan to keep their plants alive with limited staffing, but within a short period creativity exploded with offerings to both educate and entertain online. You can find endless programs being offered on nonprofit sites, deep into the 2021, winter months.

By March, I knew I had to pivot for STATE and District Meetings were scheduled. I immediately went about finding online resources and began making lists to share with my Club Presidents, District Directors and even my Region.

Next came my ask to all the NGC STATE Presidents seeking their recommendations for 5 programs or tours they would endorse as good ones. After all, THERE ARE NO MORE BOUNDARIES. No travel or accommodation fees. That is still a work in progress for not everyone believed that this would last, well they guessed wrong, sadly.

So, what is involved with a presenter. You negotiate a price for a ZOOM or Live Stream session. Live Stream is good for you have no restrictions like ZOOM usually capped at 100 attendees for most accounts (yes you can pay more to bump out the numbers). My recommendation is 45 minutes of material, including Q & A. Too much time online creates fatigue and we all recognize that by now. To me, a PowerPoint via a SHARED SCREEN is the same content you would see in person, but perhaps online you pay more attention. Consider the opportunity to add presenters who come far away. I'm hoping that our NGC South American affiliates will bring their horticulture to us during the next six-to nine months. I'm volunteering to do a US Botanical Garden or the US National Arboretum (our official address) tour for you, just let me know. Have a camera? You can do live or video anywhere with green interest and I can include a Q & A with the head of the gardens to share with everyone and support these efforts.

Most of you have found out that your regular club presenters have adapted and are willing Zoom presenters. Even tap your own members as presenters. We all have smartphones, so how about creating a video and playback for a ZOOM meeting of one of your own outings or, you can upload it to a YOUTUBE channel and it can be private linked or available to the public. Many garden clubs and even NGC STATES have channels now on YOUTUBE. Note some of the green celebs have presentation material online, paid for by other nonprofits. You can play them for free online. So instead of paying \$250-\$1,000 for the presenter, you can negotiate a \$75-\$200 fee to come at the end for a Q&A. Or capture questions to be answered via email and you then share. The variations of adapting the HOW with WHOM...use your imagination!

You will find many of the STATE Master Gardeners and Naturalists, Audubon Society, National Wildlife, National Geographic, Sierra Club, Nature Conservancy and similar organizations are all sharing programs with the public that are available. Remember they are all "parked" at an internet address and all you need is your host on ZOOM to connect to the material and SCREEN SHARE! Most of the material is FREE or, a small donation fee. Or simply offer a list of recommendations of programs for members to explore on their own.

There is simply so much available, that is now getting hard to narrow down choices for the upcoming program year. We at NCAGC are doing pop-up sessions as rewards for our clubs which we will host probably once a month. We have movies and special speakers. We send out the date and time and hopefully, many will take advantage of it. In some cases, we will repeat the program by popular demand.

So, some of my favorites:

Who has been to the New York Botanical Garden? Their long-planned spring exhibit was cancelled but they adapted beautifully. Go to this link for the magnificent Virtual Tour of The Orchid Show: Jeff Leatham's Kaleidoscope. You can still see it and other NYBG videos by using your web browser to search for:

**"new york botanical garden orchid show"**

Select any of the Jeff Leatham's Kaleidoscope Virtual Tours and enjoy!

The Smithsonian has done at least 10 programs on their 'Let's Talk Gardening' series, available to all, free. As well as the US Botanical Gardens. Check out your favorite public gardens to see what they are offering.

**Want to pop over to the UK, go to: England National Garden Scheme:**

<https://ngs.org.uk/>

AND NOTE THAT THE Chelsea Flower Show, the Virtual version, IS still available online.

The benefit of virtual resources will enrich what we can offer going forward even when we return to meeting in person. Clubs who don't have big program budgets, this is a win. With a laptop, WIFI in the location and a screen, you can project a ZOOM session with a special presenter or, simply enjoy a movie (launched from a URL), even a tour or similar. NOTE we have found speakers, who don't have to travel are price negotiable.

I am now the Central Atlantic Region Virtual Resource Chair. Yes, I am lobbying NGC powers, to create a new COMMITTEE that will pool online, speaker, resources for a HUB for everyone to share.

Email: [latripp24@gmail.com](mailto:latripp24@gmail.com) to contact me. Hopefully, I will post a link soon and your President AI, can distribute some of my resources.

For now, wishing you a great start to your garden club year, Stay safe!

## Breaking News from NGC

By: *Barbara Hadsell*

- \* The new NGC Website is up. A User-Friendly, no-member -password required, "go-to" site for information on all the NGC Schools, Projects, Youth and Scholarships, Awards and Grants and even "Find a Club". [www.gardenclub.org](http://www.gardenclub.org)
- \* NGC Gardening School has added a new topic to Course 3. "Native Trees and Shrubs" effective Sept. 1, 2020. This reflects the increasing interest in biodiversity and the importance of native planting in our horticultural endeavors.
- \* A NGC Zoom Beta Advisory Group has been working throughout the summer, developing guidelines for accreditation of NGC Schools using Zoom as a virtual platform.
- \* Go to the NGC website under Schools, Gardening School to see the Testimonials from our FFGC Gardening Consultants, Rebecca Stallard and Nancy Cavnar, members of the Boca Raton Garden Club.
- \* A new NGC Virtual Resources list has been compiled for use by states, districts and clubs for planning virtual programs. Please refer to the "Virtual Resources" article by *Cherie Lejeune* on page 21 of this issue of "The Florida Gardener".
- \* A newly revised NGC Environmental School, Gardening School and Landscape Design School Handbook is now available on the NGC Schools website and supersedes previous editions. The newly revised Schools Forms for 2020 are now also available on the website and replace the previous School Forms.

## A Pandemic in Our Environment

By: *Jeri Decker*, District Director XI

The worldwide disruption caused by Covid-19 pandemic has resulted in numerous impacts on the environment and the climate.

We have a considerable decline in planned travel. This has helped many regions to experience a large drop in air pollution. Nature has had a chance to replenish. Fish have been replenishing since fishing fleets are sitting idle.

Some animals have been spotted in cities as people stay home due to lockdown and travel restrictions. Bears inside children baby pools, deer in backyards and sea turtles spotted laying eggs on beaches they once avoided.

Now is the time to learn what you can do to help our environment now and for future generations.

From the comfort of your home, please register and join our "Environmental" Zoom class, November 19 & 20, 2020



### Environmental Zoom Class.

Sponsored by: Garden Club Coral Springs

## COURSE 1 HIGHLIGHTS For Thursday

### Ecology

- Earth's Life Support Systems
- Ecosystem
- Environmental Challenges and Opportunities
- Ever consuming Society

### Plants – Biodiversity

- Role of Species in our Ecosystem
- Ecological Niche **Environmental Science**
- Principles of Environmental Science
- Renewable and Non- Renewable Resources
- Aspects of Pollution, Consumption, Technology, and Economic Factors
- How to Manage and Achieve Balance and Sustainability

### Environmental Issues

- Tragedy of the Commons
- Beneficial and Harmful Impacts by Humans on Environment

### Backyard Wildlife Habitat

- Creating Habit for Wildlife in home, school, public, and commercial setting

### Networking and Outreach

- Ways to effectively work with individuals, organizations, institutions, businesses, industry and government.

## Historical Environmental Actions and Leaders

- History of Human Actions on Environment
- Environmental Education key to Survival
- Landmark Legislation to preserve and protect the Environment

## Sustainability

- Green Energy
- Thinking Globally/ Acting Locally and Committing

## Registration form at:

[www.browardgardenclubs.org](http://www.browardgardenclubs.org)

or

[www.coralspringsgarden.org](http://www.coralspringsgarden.org)

For more information, contact *Jeri Decker*—(954) 913-1616

## History of FFGC Tri-Council

By: *Inger Jones*, Tri-Council of FFGC



On January 10, 2008, six members of the Florida Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc. met at the home of *Pat Carver* at Dade City. Present were *Carolyn Schaag*, Past President of FFGC and President of Gardening Consultants' Council; *Darcy Stottlemeyer*, President of Landscape Design Consultants' Council; *Pat Carver*, President of Environmental Consultants' Council; *Joan Pryor*, Past President of FFGC; *Sue Angle*, 3rd Vice President of FFGC; and *Jayne Hemstreet*, State Schools Chairman.



The goal of the meeting was to bring the three Consultants' Councils together for the purpose of sharing meeting time before FFGC Board Meetings three times a year, publishing a joint yearbook, promotion of education, publishing a joint newsletter, sharing common projects, and building stronger organizations.

The decision was made the group would be named "Tri-Council" and would be led by a "Tri-Council" President. The President would serve a two-year term, concurrent with the FFGC President, and each President would appoint the Tri-Council officers.

The first joint meeting was held on January 16, 2008, with *Carolyn Schaag* presiding. The recommendation was presented and approved and the "Tri-Council" became a reality.

On September 10, 2014 members adopted bylaws naming the "Tri-Council of FFGC". The three Consultants' Councils adopted new Bylaws at this same meeting which eliminated a secretary, a treasurer, and a separate bank account for each of the Councils and established a "Tri-Council" secretary, treasurer, and one bank account that would serve the organization starting with the 2015-2017 administration.

On September 14, 2014, the "Tri-Council of FFGC" adopted Standing Rules creating the FFGC Tri-Consultant and FFGC Master Tri-Consultant status to recognize those who have completed all three schools and are NGC Consultants in Good Standing.

The first award certificates and pins were presented on April 19, 2015 at the FFGC Convention in Boca Raton, Florida. Florida is the only state to date that has this recognition for NGC consultants. For more information, visit the administrative page:

[FFGC.WildApricot.org/Tri-Council-of-FFGC](http://FFGC.WildApricot.org/Tri-Council-of-FFGC).

Through our schools, we gain the knowledge from experts in the field and scientific based data to communicate to our fellow gardeners, neighbors, relatives, community, civic leaders and State legislators. So what are you waiting for, sign up now for any of the schools being offered via Zoom. Go to <https://ffgc.wildapricot.org/Educational-Opportunities>. Any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

"Together we can make a difference"

*Inger Jones*. President – 2019-2021

[MJJinger@att.net](mailto:MJJinger@att.net)

## Editor's Correction!!!

Page 11 of the Summer issue of "The Florida Gardener":

The article was written by *Kathy Siena*, event organizer, not *Twig Morris*.

As your FFGC "The Florida Gardener" editor, I apologize for misrepresenting the article's author.

Additional apologies and correction will follow!



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# The Florida Gardener

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## Florida Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc. MISSION STATEMENT:

*“Florida Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc. promotes the love of gardening, floral and landscape design, and civic and environmental responsibility by providing education, resources and networking opportunities for our members, youth and the community.”*




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