

THE

Florida
GARDENER

Spring 2019

President's Message



Dear FFG Members,

I want to thank all the Clubs whose members did SO MUCH this year. It is obvious we have many, many dedicated members who take joy and pride in helping to pursue the projects and goals of FFGC. The AWARDS you all have applied for are awesome! Valerie Seinfeld and Jennifer Condo worked hard to ensure our Judgment Day at Headquarters in December was a great success. We had 50+ members attend to help judge over 150 award applications. We thank Barbara May and a cadre of Flower Show Judges in Districts 10, 11 & 12 for judging our Flower Show Award applications. Those who attend our ANNUAL FFGC CONVENTION on April 7-9 at WORLD GOLF VILLAGE in St. Augustine will find out just how great so many clubs are in our organization. Additionally, many Awards applications will move forward to the DEEP SOUTH CONVENTION (March 11-13 in Jekyll Island, GA) and to NGC CONVENTION in Biloxi, Mississippi on April 29-May 3. This Officer will be so proud to represent all of you and your accomplishments at both of these Conventions.

Have you made your FFGC CONVENTION reservations yet? Have you registered to attend? If not, please do so quickly as this will be a FUN convention for all, with really interesting speakers and workshops. Have you gotten your OPPORTUNITY DRAWING tickets? Remember, in addition to the really FINE prizes, this year, the GRAND PRIZE WINNER will SPLIT, 50/50 the proceeds of Drawing. This hasn't been done before, but our Convention Chairmen, Helen Purvis and Jana Walling were very enterprising in thinking of new and different ways to make this Convention really GREAT.

This will be a very historic Convention for FFGC; Al Latina, from District 8 and Temple Terrace Garden Club will be installed as our first 'guy' President. Al is a dedicated member who will represent all of us with dignity and purpose. The Executive Officers who will be installed will help Al lead this organization with enthusiasm, dedication and foresight; their combined talents will create a stronger, better FFGC. They will earn your respect and fuel your enthusiasm and dedication to continue in our efforts to educate our youth and our members; to honor our Veterans, to create beauty in our communities thru sponsorship of plant sales, festivals, landscaping and maintaining parks and community gardens, and to help those less fortunate in beautifying their homes thru donations of plants and tools to landscape and maintain their gardens. We have developed, built and maintained a beautiful environmental camp which teaches and inspires over 600 students every summer; We provide a very comprehensive environmental conference for select high school students to inspire and encourage them to follow their interests in environmental careers; we provide OVER \$30,000 per year in scholarships for college students; we create educational opportunities for our members to fuel their own passions, and offer all these opportunities to the public. I hope you take pride in your association with your local club, in FFGC and in NGC. This is a great civic organization that contributes hundreds of thousands of dollars every year in education, beautification and protection of our very unique environment. I cannot fathom anyone NOT being proud of their membership; please know how very proud I am to have served as your President.

This is a bittersweet time for me as this is the last message I will write as your President. First and foremost, many, many thanks for all of your kind words, support, suggestions, encouragement and enthusiasm during these last two years. As some of you know, this has been a very challenging two years for our family. Your notes, phone calls and emails of support and understanding meant more than you will ever know. Sometimes, we forget how many kind people are there to help and just jump in and get the job done. This is an organization filled with unselfish, kind and compassionate people. I am most fortunate to have met so many of you. I won't miss anyone as I will still be an active, enthusiastic and busy 'garden clubber' who will still attend just about anything related to the fun and interesting programs and events that FFGC and NGC sponsors. I am lucky to have been invited and sponsored by former FFGC President, Hazel Simmons Hodges to join *Gainesville Garden Club*, and to have found so many friends in the *Lake City Garden Club*. I sincerely wish for all of you great fun and good health as you continue your enthusiasm and dedication for your local Garden Club, FFGC and NGC.

Again, many, many thanks!

Claudia



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Cover: Kathie Smith

Page 3: Kathie Smith

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DISTRICT IV NEWS

Jan Litchfield, Director

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

Flower & Wildflower: Blue Morning Glory – Ipomoea hederacea

Butterfly: Painted Lady

Garden Clubs in District V: Alligator Creek, Bartram, Callahan, Fleming Island, Garden Club of Lakes, Green Cove Springs, Hilliard, Jacksonville, Middleburg, Orange Park, Palatka, Ribault, St. Augustine, Switzerland

This Director is quite honored to have represented District IV for the past term. I've gotten to know many wonderful people and attended well-planned and interesting events. I have been especially impressed with the ingenuity, enthusiasm, and amazing ideas of the various members I have met. Our fourteen clubs vary in size and interests, and each has its own personality. I have certainly learned a lot and gotten some great ideas! Our Spring District IV meeting will be co-hosted by the Garden Clubs of Switzerland and Middleburg, which will be held in May in Orange Park and led by our new District Director Joy Elrod of the Fleming Island GC. Our NGC award winning website and Facebook pages keep track of what's going on in our District thanks to our wonderful webmaster Dianne Battle. Most of our clubs have current websites or Facebook pages, as well. Here are short reports from our clubs, both large and small.

The Alligator Creek GC hosted Garden Fest at the Bradford County Senior Center last fall, with great speakers and good attendance. They held a design program, "Falling for Flowers," in November, where members and guests created lovely fall arrangements. In December, due to several days of heavy rain, the planned speaker was not able to make it at the last minute because his road was washed out, but like true garden clubbers, they had a backup plan. They watched a documentary video, "Earth: A New Wild," which members enjoyed. Their small club is growing and they have a set of interesting programs scheduled for their spring meetings, and are also, preparing for the Bradford County Fair.

The Bartram GC is also growing. Since being chartered in September 2016 their membership has grown to 58 members including five NGC accredited flower show judges. In the fall they hosted a successful evening wine and cheese reception to introduce the garden club to the community. Civic beautification and development projects include landscaping a Habitat for Humanity home, mulching the entrance of Nassau County Council on Aging's new facility, and contributing potted plants and a floral design for their open house. They are leading the restoration of the William Bartram Trail Historical Marker in historic Fernandina Beach. They will soon sponsor a Fun with Flowers workshop, hold their first small standard flower show, titled "Booktanical Garden" and continue to exhibit floral designs year-round in the foyer of the local library. Other programs for the year include cell phone photography and how to enter photography in the Botanical Arts Design Division of an NGC flower show, turf grass management, gardening in small spaces and the art of Ikebana.

The Green Cove Springs GC continue its civic impact in the community with upgraded beautification and landscaping projects at the county library, the Head Start Children's Monarch Butterfly Way Station, and the Clay County Fallen Warriors Memorial. They are increasing their Horticultural and Environment Science Scholarship to a deserving Green Cove Springs High School senior to \$1,000. The garden club presented an herb program and a high tea for its members and guests, complete with tablescapes that included floral arrangements by their members. At this year's Florida Arbor Day celebration, in January, the club planted a Blue Ice Cypress tree at the Green Cove Springs Library, dedicated to Mrs. Norma Jones, a former librarian and one of the club's charter members, who passed away this past year. Spring events include programs on ants, mushrooms, a fairy garden make and take, and plant life in a bog.

The Fleming Island GC has been busy with club meetings featuring some really good speakers. They had a program in January on how to take care of frost-bitten plants. Spring programs include presentations on Camellias, Orchids, and Florida Wildflowers. They are also getting ready for their annual butterfly release for children, which is scheduled for May 4, 2019.

The Jacksonville GC is growing and blooming together with 32 circles and over 800 members! Great effort is being made this year to reach out to the Jacksonville community. They were host for the Fall District IV meeting. November brought renowned designer John Grady Burns to Jacksonville for the annual education program and luncheon for over 120 attendees. The club's "Fun with Flowers" and Horticulture programs provide many educational opportunities during the garden club year. They began 2019 with a "New Year, New You" fashion show and brunch. Two spring events include Blooms Galore, Vendors, and More on April 6th, and their Flower and Horticulture Show on May 3rd – 4th. In May they will present a check to the Jacksonville

Arboretum and Gardens, one of three organizations they support for their environmental, wildlife preservations, and horticultural efforts in our community.

The Garden Club of the Lakes has been averaging about 50 arrangements a month for the patients at Windsor Manor Health and Rehabilitation Center. Each meeting they have had a wonderful horticulture program. At Christmas they entered the Keystone Heights Christmas Parade, which has become an annual event for their members. Their meetings also include a flower show, recycle tips and conservations news. In February they held their 3rd Annual Junior Garden Club Day, partnering with Ace Hardware, where they invited youngsters in for a morning of horticulture related fun activities that included making a mini greenhouse, repotting plants, planting seeds and cuttings of flowers and vegetables.

Orang Park GC recently celebrated their 70th anniversary with a lovely afternoon including an impressive slide show, speeches, and a variety of luscious food and drinks. Members of our FFGC board and our district board attended. Their spring activities include the following: An Annual Horticulture Program in March, entitled Gloves on, Let's Get Digging - Landscaping at Orange Park Library -Working with the Orange Park Historical Society at Clark Park -Researching the ability to adopt Magnolia Cemetery for Wreaths Across America -Continue to save stamps, corks, box tops and cans - Making wreaths for Memorial Day Celebration at Magnolia Cemetery and a field trip to Washington State Park.

Palatka GC held their Azalea Days event in March, where they sold native plants, bric-a-brac, and lunch (homemade soup and sandwiches and desserts) and drinks. They are already planning their annual Bartram Frolic in the fall, which will include a Tanner who shows and demonstrates how hides were tanned and Indian encampment with several enactors with the whole teepee and artifacts on display.

The Ribault GC recently hosted a Fun with Flowers featuring flower crowns and centerpieces. They are hosting Garden Study School classes three and four in March, and also Design Study School advanced classes seven through nine this spring.

Fifteen hundred guests of the **St. Augustine GC** completed a fabulous tour of six historic houses, a boutique where all the items were hand made by the 265 members of the club, and a grand tea party with homemade baked goods. The St. Augustine Orchestra and Community Chorus provided beautiful Christmas music at the homes and the tea. In March the club helped celebrate the 70th year anniversary of the Community Chorus by providing table arrangements for the event. Each of the 10 circles in the club has selected a different outreach program to complete this year, for which the club provides up to \$200 to each circle. The April Flower and Horticulture Show is entitled "The Love Boat." The club looks forward to selecting scholarship recipients again this year and has increased their giving amount to both college age students and to Wekiva participants that they sponsor each year.

The Switzerland GC is still working with the Stetson Kennedy Foundation and planning an environmental community awareness day. They are hoping to work with other community and environmental groups to have an educational/learning day at Alpine Groves Park. They recently finished a project with an Eagle Scout to do a deep weeding in a large area of our community butterfly garden, since a few plants were overtaking the rest. They completely cleared an area and reseeded it with different Florida natives that are beneficial to butterflies.

In summary, the fourteen garden clubs in District IV are busy working to achieve the objectives of FFGC related to community outreach, education, gardening and horticulture, and the environment. See www.district4ffgc.org for more information.

DISTRICT IX NEWS

Laura Jibben, Director

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

Flower & Wildflower: Red Hibiscus & Sambucus Simpsonii

Butterfly: Monarch

Garden Clubs in District IX: Arcadia, Bouquet, Calusa, Estero Island, Fort Meade, Founders, Gardenia, Gardens of the World, Gulf Coast, Hibiscus, Jasmine, Lake Placid, Lake Wales, Lakeland, Naples, Periwinkle, Poinciana, Port Charlotte, Punta Gorda, Royal Palm, Sebring, Wauchula, Winter Haven

The **Arcadia GC's** November plant sale raised sufficient funds, in addition to other donations, for the restoration of a Blue Star Highway Marker which is planned for 2019. They are working with the DeSoto County Board of Commissioners to obtain approval for a Wildflower Resolution.

Punta Gorda GC increased their membership in 2018 by 14%, which is quite impressive. They celebrated 25 years of Holly Days Home Tours on Nov. 30th and Dec. 1st. Ticket sales hit a record high. They awarded \$15,000 in various

DISTRICT IV NEWS (continued)

scholarships, including a \$3,000 one to FFGC, and found time to host the spring 2018 District Meeting with 130 attendees. Their Junior Garden Club has been doing youth programs with the assistance of Marily Pachota, Youth Chair.

The **Cape Coral GC's** Cups of Cheer program has been well received by the senior home. Club members are getting as much joy from the program as the residents. This program receives funds from the Fun with Flowers program the club holds. They have increased membership by 15 individuals, since September.

Calusa GC hosted a sold-out Christmas Home Tour for Marco Island. They have a waiting list of potential members, as they are at full capacity. Also, they are looking forward to hosting the District IX meeting on May 7th, 2019.

Estero Island GC has formed a Water Committee to educate the public about the effects of green algae and red tide in the Gulf and to advocate for clean water. The club will start a butterfly garden on the grounds of a recreation center owned by the Town of Fort Myers Beach. Public/private partnerships continue in this club.

Bartow GC continued their 50-plus year tradition of decorating a 15 foot diameter metal wreath frame with live Ligustrum foliage and decorations. This is a public/private partnership which includes the City of Bartow and the Florida Department of Transportation.

Camellia GC of Winter Haven had a very successful quilt raffle as a ways and means project.

Port Charlotte GC decorated a Christmas tree at Signature Healthcare and shared mostly home-baked cookies with residents. The school wildflower garden has many flowers blooming, and vegetables and marigolds have also been planted.

Lake Placid GC held their Holiday Home and Garden Tour on December 1st, and it was better than ever with the weather being perfect!

The **Lakeland GC** held their Fall Extravaganza in October with close to 60 vendors participating. In November, two Blue Star Memorial Markers were refurbished, and rededication is planned for 2019. Scholarships were presented to participants to Wekiva, Florida Southern College and Polk State College.

The Fort Myers-Lee County Garden Council dedicated a Blue Star Memorial Marker in Fort Myers in January 2019.

District IX gave a \$1,000 scholarship to FFGC at our Fall meeting. The second class of the Landscape Design Course will be held in April 2019, and the class is full, with a waiting list.

DISTRICT X NEWS

Lynn Jones, Director

Counties: Okeechobee, Indian River, St. Lucie, Glades, Martin, Hendry, Palm Beach

Flower & Wildflower: Orange Hibiscus & Piriqueta

Butterfly: Zebra

Garden Clubs in District I: Boca Raton, Boynton Beach, Fort Pierce, Green Thumb, Clewiston, Indian River, Jensen Beach, Jupiter Tequesta, Oleander Palm Beaches, Palm Beach Gardens, Pipers Landing, Rio Lindo, St. Lucie West, Stuart, Town & Country Lake Worth, West Palm Beach

District X Judges Council held a well-attended Fall Symposium, November 4 – 6, 2018, at the Palm Beach Gardens Marriott. FFGC President Claudia Bates presented several of NGC's new designs, and Dot Yard, Chairperson of the NGC Flower Show Schools Committee, among other positions, presented Horticulture. One session, which featured both Dot and Claudia speaking on the new Botanical Arts Division for Flower Shows, was attended by many non-judges. Emily Kane was chairperson of the symposium and the attendees enjoyed shopping from the vendors.

District X's 63rd Annual Tropical Short Course was held January 23 – 24, 2019, at a brand new location; Embassy Suites by Hilton in Palm Beach Gardens. The location was fresh and elegant, and garden club members from all over the state enjoyed the location and the many restaurants in the area. The District was pleased to have FFGC President Claudia Bates and 2nd VP Marge Hendon in attendance. The event was chaired by Donna Berger.

Speakers ranged from Janice Duquesne, biologist with the Florida Park Service, who spoke on Florida mangroves to Jennifer Holmes of Hani Honey in Stuart and President of the Florida State Beekeepers Association, who spoke about what to plant to attract honey bees and pollinators. Mark Cassini and Matt Shipley, the Co-Founders and Co-Directors of Community Greening, an urban forestry non-profit in Delray Beach, spoke on creating and maintaining green spaces in city environments. Gardeners perked up with many questions when Alex Salazar of Tropical Acres Farms in West Palm Beach discussed growing mangoes in

South Florida. Several FFGC members, with their expertise and creativity, served as speakers: Emilie Palmieri, FFGC Fun with Flowers Chairperson, presented a variety of step-by-step seasonal designs for the home which were auctioned off to enthusiastic participants. Barbara Jacobson, FFGC Birds and Butterflies Chair introduced us to hummingbirds with tips to attract them. Parke Finold of District VIII, Flower Show Judge and Instructor, entertained us with marvelous designs created from everyday objects, hence, "The Marvelous Mundane." Last but not least, it runs in the family: 2nd VP Marge Hendon's daughter, Laura Perdomo from Ocala, focused on house plants in her presentation and sold exquisite violets and indoor plants as one of the vendors.

A major free garden event in South Florida was Gardenfest, presented for the 18th year by the **Indian River GC**. Nearly 80 vendors, of all kinds, enjoyed the shady oak trees of Riverside Park in Vero Beach, on February 2 – 3, 2019. "Ask the Experts," ran over two days and visitors were aided by teenage volunteers with wagons. Chairpersons of the event were Barbara Russell and Karen Vatland, and wouldn't you know, FFGC 2nd VP Marge Hendon and daughter Laura Perdomo were vendors.

Being District X's Director has been a joy! Thank you members of District X for electing me to serve.

Parke Finold shares some of the "Marvelous Mundane" at the 63rd Annual Tropical Short Course



CONTINUING EDUCATION

NGC GARDEN SCHOOLS:

Barbara Hadsell 561-439-4607
E-mail: barbarhasell@cs.com

ENVIRONMENTAL SCHOOLS:

Nancy Richards 561-702-0550

GARDENING SCHOOLS:

Course III April 1-2, 2019
Course IV April 2-4, 2019
Bradenton, FL

Contact: Sheryl Perkins 941-708-7082
Email: SL_Perkins@hotmail.com

LANDSCAPE DESIGN SCHOOLS

Pat Richardson 407-469-7082
Email: orgrampat42@yahoo.com

Course II Series 36 April 26-27, 2019
Ft. Myers Lee County Council Bldg.

FLORAL DESIGN STUDY UNITS

Carol Lucia 772-393-8276
Cell: 727-656-3207
Email: lucia02@aol.com

Advanced Units 7 - 9

March 11, 18, 25, April 1, 2019
District IV

FFJS District Judges Council

Ribault Garden Club
Jacksonville Beach, FL
Time: 9:00 am
Registrar: Beverly Williams
Phone: 404-312-8530
Email: bevthepatriot@gmail.com

Short Course North

August 8, 9, 2019
"All the Things I Love"
9am - 4 pm
Santa Rosa County Extension Services
6263 Dogwood Drive
Milton, FL
Garden Club Members \$50, Non-members
\$65, lunch included both days.
Contact: Sharon Johnson 850-293-4902
Email: sjngc@mchsi.com
Registration Form online at www.FFGC.org

FFGC/UF Short Course

NGC Tri-Refresher June 9 - 11, 2019
Gainesville, FL

Contact: Florence Cline 352-332-2309

Flower Shows

Garden Club of St. Augustine

March 30, 2019 9 - 5 pm
March 31, 2019 10 - 3 pm A
Standard Flower Show "The Love Boat"
3125 Agricultural Center Drive
St. Augustine, FL
Contact: Ginny Pierucci 904-460-9473

A Small Standard Flower Show

The Lake County Council of Garden Clubs "Downtown"

March 29, 30, 2019 10 am - 3 pm
Lake Country Agriculture Center
1951 Woodlea Road, Tavares, FL
Free to the Public
Contact: Sue Cangialosi 352-874-1251
Email: susancangialosi@aol.com

Venice Area Garden Club "Fairy Tales"

April 5 - 6, 2019 10 am - 4 pm
Venice Community Center
326 S. Nokomis Ave.
Venice Area, FL
Contact: Tracey Ivy 941-412-1642

Crystal River Garden Club

April 25 - 26, 2019 10am - 2pm
Coastal Region Library
8619 W. Crystal River St.
Crystal River, FL
Contact: Jenny Huige-Wensel 352-464-4224

A Standard Flower Show

Naples Garden Club "Making Music"
March 22 - 23, 2019 9 am - 5 pm
Naples Botanical Gardens
4820 Bayshore Drive,
Naples, FL 34112
Contact: Mary Pulick
Email: marypulick@gmail.com

A Standard Flower Show

St. Petersburg Garden Club "It's Showtime"
April 27 - 28, 2019 9am - 3pm
Walter Fuller Recreation
7891 26th Avenue North
St. Petersburg, FL 33710
Contact: Jan Ankerberg 727-415-1499

A Spring Orchid Show

Tallahassee Orchid Society

53rd Annual Show and Sale 10am - 5pm
Doyle Connor Agricultural Center
3125 Connor Blvd.
Tallahassee, FL 32399

Contact: Penny Gilmer 850-556-5320

Historic Home Tour

Cocoa-Rockledge Garden Club

Eau Gallie Historic Home Tour
Saturday, April 13, 2019 9am - 3pm
Tickets are available for \$18 each through
CRGC members or at:

Rockledge Gardens 321-636-7662
Eau Gallie Florist 321-254-2584
Carousel Florist 321-456-9988

Florida Historical Society 321-690-1971, ext. 217
For online purchases and more information:
www.cocoarockledgegardenclub.com

On Tour Day purchase tickets at: Historic
Rossiter House and Museum 1320 High-
land Avenue, Melbourne, FL 32935
(see our ad on page 18)

Spring plant Sale

April 13, 2019
Garden Club at Palm Coast
Palm Coast High School
5500 E. Highway 100
Palm Coast, FL
Contact: Denise Garcia
info@gardenclubatpalmcoast.org

FFGC BYLAWS: PROPOSED AMENDMENTS

THE FOLLOWING AMENDMENTS ARE PROPOSED FOR ADOPTION AT THE APRIL 2019 FFGC CONVENTION

ARTICLE IV DUES AND FEES Section 1 b :

Annual dues of a husband and wife with Membership in the same Club shall be fourteen dollars (\$ 14.00) for a family membership.

STRIKE: husband and wife

INSERT: legally married couple

If adopted this will read: Annual dues of a legally married couple with Membership in the same Club shall be fourteen dollars (\$14.00) for a family membership.

RATIONALE: This is inclusive for all legally married couples.

ARTICLE IV DUES AND FEES Section 1 :

INSERT NEW g : FFGC Membership dues are non-refundable.

RATIONALE: Request by Finance Committee. NGC portion of dues is forwarded to NGC. The FI Gardener would continue to be received for some time. Refunds are not feasible.

ARTICLE V FINANCES Sec 4 a Special Funds :

STRIKE: (in entirety)

3. Polly Moody Memorial Youth Scholarship

4. Sally Rahm Campership

5. The Daytona Beach Garden Club Youth Scholarship Fund

9. Youth Environmental Conference Fund

11. FFGC Junior Design Award Fund

16. Conway Wekiva Fund

If adopted will read: Special Funds established by trusts, special contribution, donations and fees are: (The list will be re-numbered with the above noted funds stricken).

RATIONALE: These funds have been depleted for many years. Accounts have zero balance.

ARTICLE VII DUTIES OF OFFICERS Sec 1 President d :

STRIKE: d Be a member of Finance Committee and the Headquarters and Endowment Trustees during their term of office;

RATIONALE: Article VII Sec 1 d is redundant information. Article VII Sec 1 f clearly states: " Be a member, ex officio, of all committees except the Nominating Committee".

If adopted will be re-lettered d - o.

ARTICLE XIII BOARD OF DIRECTORS Sec 3

INSERT: c Board members who are absent from two consecutive scheduled meetings without notifying the FFGC President; do not submit written reports; or do not respond to email or telephone contacts in a timely manner, may be removed from the Board of Directors by a majority vote of the Executive Committee. The FFGC President may appoint a replacement to complete the term of appointment with Board of Directors approval.

RATIONALE: The work of committee chairmen is important and requires communication with the President if unable to attend meetings or complete the responsibilities of the Chairmanship or elected office.

ADOPT AS A NEW BYLAW: (IF ADOPTED THIS WILL BECOME ART XVI . Bylaws will be renumbered to follow in order).

ARTICLE XVI BYLAWS AND STANDING RULES COMMITTEE

Bylaws and Standing Rules are the rules adopted by an organization for the governing of its members and the regulation of its affairs. This Committee is responsible for the formulation and modification of any FFGC Bylaw and/or Standing Rule.

PROVISO: This amendment would be approved at the April 2019 Annual Meeting by attending delegates.

For the term of office 2019 -2021, members of the Bylaws Committee would be appointed by the President in consultation with the appointed Chairman.

Section 1 MEMBERSHIP:

a. The Bylaws Committee shall consist of 7 voting members: President, 1st Vice President, Chairman appointed by the President, 2 members appointed by the President in consultation with the Chairman (one member of whom is a former FFGC President), and two elected by the FFGC BOD. The Parliamentarian will serve as a non-voting member.

b. Vacancies shall be filled by the President subject to the approval of the Board of Directors.

Section 2 ELIGIBILITY: Members of the Bylaws Committee shall have served for four immediate past consecutive years and currently serve on the FFGC Board of Directors.

Section 3 ELECTION: The Nominating Committee for the Bylaws Committee would be elected in the Fall of the even numbered year (beginning Sept 2020) , Bylaws Committee members elected in Winter of the odd numbered year to begin serving at the Post Convention meeting of the odd numbered year. Elected for a two- year term with an option for a second two- year term. (Committee members appointed do not have a term limit restriction.) (Continued on page 8)

FFGC BYLAWS: PROPOSED AMENDMENTS

(Continued from page 7)

Section 4 PROCEDURE: All requests submitted to the Bylaws/ Standing Rules Committee must be in writing and include date of request, rationale and be signed by the person/committee chairman making the request. (Standing Rule # 30). Requests should be received not less than six (6) weeks prior to the next Board of Directors meeting. Notification of decision with rationale will be given to the person/committee chairman making the request when decision has been made. If approved within the Bylaws Committee, the Bylaw/Standing Rule will be presented to the Board of Directors for approval. Standing Rules may be amended or adopted by vote of the Board of Directors only. Bylaws submitted for adoption or amending shall adhere ARTICLE XXI.

Section 5 DUTIES: The Bylaws Committee duties include but are not limited to -

a. Immediately following the Winter Board of Directors meeting, all Bylaw changes to be addressed at the Annual Convention must be prepared and forwarded to the FI Gardener Chairman for the Spring issue.

This is in accordance with ARTICLE XX, Amendments, Section I.

b. Immediately following the Annual Convention, a list of all Bylaws and Standing Rules adopted from one convention through the year to the next annual meeting are to be prepared and submitted -

1. In the even number year to be published in the BOI Supplement.
2. In the odd number year (end of each administration) the Master Bylaws and Standing Rules needs to be updated for publishing in the BOI.

c. Immediately following the Annual Convention, the Master Bylaws and Standing Rules are updated on the website.

RATIONALE: The Bylaw and Standing Rules Committee is not in the current Bylaws and Standing Rules. All Standing Committees should be included with approved criteria.

NOTE: Bylaws will be renumbered if adopted.

ARTICLE XVI COMMITTEES Sec 3 Chairmen a and c:

a. **INSERT: Strategic Planning Committee**

STRIKE: Past

INSERT: Former

If adopted "a" will read: The Chairmen of Committees, except the FFGC Nominating Committee, Strategic Planning Committee and H&E Trustees, shall be appointed by the President at the beginning of each term subject to the approval of the Officers, District Directors and Former Presidents.


RATIONALE: These Chairmen are elected within the group. Former President is now more acceptable than Past President.

c. **INSERT: Strategic Planning Committee; Bylaws and Standing Rules Committee - (if Bylaw adopted April 2019)**





If adopted "c" will read: The Chairman of each Committee, except the Finance Committee, the Nominating Committee, Strategic Planning Committee, Bylaws and Standing Rules Committee and the H&E Trustees.

RATIONALE: The President appoints all or partially members to these committees.

Presented by the 2017-19 FFGC Bylaws Committee: Cissy Richardson, Claudia Bates, Sue Angle, Margaret Chodosh, Janice Hamlin, Susan Mello, Carol Hall and Parliamentarian Lorene Junkin.



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93rd Annual Convention
Florida Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc.

Ya'll
COME

Plant, Bloom & Grow with Us!

April 7-9, 2019



Margot Shaw
Founder/ Editor-in-Chief *FLOWER* Magazine

Monday Evening Program and Book Signing

A native of Birmingham, Alabama, Margot Shaw studied Art History at Hollins College in Virginia and Interior Design at the University of Texas. Once a self-confessed “call and order flowers girl”, Shaw reached a watershed moment when planning her daughter’s home wedding. Working alongside the floral and event designer, she recognized the artistry and inspiration involved in “flowering” and soon began apprenticing with the same designer.

APRIL 2019 ANNUAL CONVENTION SPEAKERS AND EVENTS

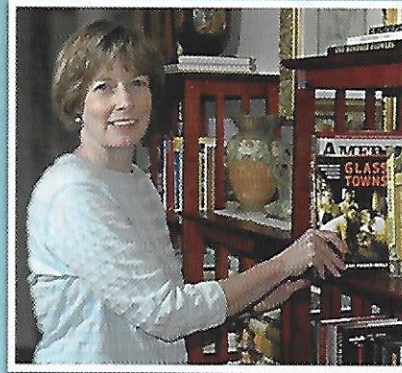


Stan Rosenthal

Speaker April 8, 2019 Monday's Brunch.

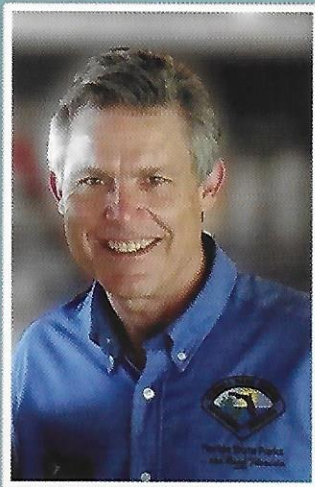
"Champion Trees of Florida"

Stan Rosenthal, University of Florida-IFAS Extension Forestry Agent Emeritus and Forester with Big Bend Forestry had worked for Extension and the Florida Division of Forestry in Leon County from 1988 to 2016. He has a Bachelors of Science degree in Forest Management from the University of Wisconsin, Stevens Point. When with Extension, he lectured, designed, facilitated and taught many classes and courses including those for Master Gardeners, Master Wildlifers, Master Naturalist, Master Tree Farmers, professional pesticide and fertilizer applicators, and International Society of Arboriculture (ISA) certified arborists. He also consulted with the public at large in the subjects of urban and rural forestry. Despite his recent retirement, he still does many of the aforementioned activities in his private business and as a volunteer.



Donna will take you on a journey of RVing in Florida State Parks during her workshop on Monday afternoon. She has Amazing Pictures.

For the past five years Donna Meredith has been RV camping her way across Florida and the U.S. with her husband and terrier Lucca. (Don't feel too sorry for her—the motorhome has a king-size memory foam bed. No way is she crawling out of a tent at this stage of life!) She views her experiences in state and national parks as mostly positive, despite summoning a tow twice and nearly stepping on a rattler once. Along the way, this life-long gardener and Tallahassee resident has written numerous travel and environment-awareness articles for the Tallahassee Democrat. She is currently Associate Editor of the Southern Literary Review and a member of Magnolia Circle of the Tallahassee Garden Club. Since retiring as an English and journalism teacher, she has published five books, all available online through Amazon and Barnes and Noble. Her award-winning women's fiction includes *The Glass Madonna*, *The Color of Lies* and the eco-thrillers *Wet Work* and *Fraccidental Death*. She also wrote the nonfiction book *Magic in the Mountains: Kelsey Murphy, Robert Bomkamp, and the West Virginia Cameo Glass Revolution*. Learn more about Donna at www.donnameredith.com.



Eric Draper

Speaker

Tuesday Brunch - April 9, 2019

"The Real Florida - How State Parks are our Best Investment"

Florida Park Service Eric Draper will discuss the ways that state and local groups including the Florida Federation of Garden Clubs accomplishes their conservation mission at Florida State Parks and why parks are a good investment.

Eric Draper is Director of the Florida Department of Environmental Protection's Division of Recreation and Parks. Florida's 175 state parks and trails, 1000 employees and nearly 15,000 volunteers provide more than 30 million unique visitor experiences on 800,000 acres of the state's best managed conservation land and have a \$3 billion annual economic impact.

Prior to being Director of the Florida Park Service, Eric Draper was President of the Florida Audubon Society. During his career he was a leading advocate for water and land conservation and Everglades restoration and is credited with helping secure billions in environmental spending and playing a lead role in most state environment policy decisions over the past three decades. In addition to his work in Florida, he spent five years in Washington DC leading grassroots environmental policy campaigns.



Elizabeth Castro DeWitt
Workshop

"Making Recycling Work in Florida."

Elizabeth was appointed the Executive Director of the Florida Beverage Association (FBA) in 2014, where she oversees public policy initiatives for the non-alcoholic Beverage Industry. In 2019, she was promoted to President of FBA. She also serves as the Chair Elect for the Florida Recycling Partnership and as the 1st Vice-Chair of Keep Florida Beautiful.

She previously served as the Manager of State Government Affairs for LyondellBasell, overseeing all legislative and regulatory strategy for the company's portfolio in the U.S. She also managed its PAC and grassroots activities.

In 2007, Elizabeth was BP's Civic Action Program Director, where she successfully launched a nationally recognized grassroots program. In 2008, she became Director of BP Civic Affairs, overseeing both grassroots and PAC efforts. In 2010, she served as the Public Information Officer and Operational Liaison in the Joint Incident Command for MC252 (BP Oil Spill).

She previously worked on multiple campaigns and as the Government Affairs Manager for Sprint Corporation

Elizabeth graduated Summa Cum Laude with a B.S. in International Business from Northwest Missouri State University, and a Master's of Business Administration.

APRIL 2019 ANNUAL CONVENTION SCHEDULE SPEAKERS AND EVENTS

Saturday, April 6

11:30 AM 2:00 PM Registration Desk Open
 12:30 PM 4:30 PM Tour to Lightner Museum
 Departs from Hotel Lobby
 12:30 PM 2:30 PM Bylaws Meeting
 Royal Melbourne
 2:00 PM 5:00 PM Invitational Designs Setup
 2:45 PM 4:45 PM Strategic Planning Committee
 Meeting -Royal Melbourne
 5:00 PM 6:45 PM Executive Board Meeting and
 Officers Dinner Royal Melbourne

Sunday, April 7

7:00 AM Centerpiece Preparation - St. Augustine G
 7:00 AM 2:30 PM Vendors Set Up Legends 1,2 & 3
 7:00 AM 3:00 PM Invitational Designs Set Up continues
 8:00 AM 5:00 PM Registration Desk Open Melbourne
 12:15 PM 1:45 PM FSSJ/Tri Council Luncheon 8:00 AM
 8:30 AM Interfaith Service - Wentworth
 9:30 AM 11:30 AM Hostess Meeting -Wentworth
 10:00 AM 2:00 PM Educational & Awards Exhibits Set
 Up - St. Augustine E & F
 10:00 AM 12:00 AM Finance Committee Meeting
 Royal St. Augustine A,B & C
 12:45 PM 2:40 PM H&E Trustees Meeting- Royal
 Melbourne
 1:45 PM 3:45 PM FFSJ Meeting -St. Augustine D
 2:00 PM 2:30 PM Pages Meeting -Wentworth
 2:30 PM 7:30 PM Opportunity Drawing Ticket Sales
 Outside St. Augustine D
 2:30 PM 7:30 PM Vendors Room Open-Legends 1,2,3
 2:45 PM 3:30 PM District Directors Meeting -Wentworth
 3:45 PM 5:15 PM Board of Directors Meeting -
 St. Augustine D
 5:15 PM 6:15 PM Calendar Girl Honors -Royal
 Melbourne
 5:30 PM 6:30 PM Cash Bar Open -
 Outside St. Augustine A
 6:15 PM Early Arrivals & Board of Directors Dinner followed
 by Fashion Show - St. Augustine A,B & C

Monday April 8

7:00 AM 5:00 PM Registration Desk Open
 7:30 AM 5:00 PM Vendors Room Open -Legends 1,2,3
 8:30 AM 10:45 AM **93rd Annual Convention Opening
 Session** - St. Augustine D
 9:30 AM 3:00 PM Spouse/Guest Program
 Meet in Lobby
 11:00 AM 1:15 PM Brunch (Open Seating)
 St. Augustine A, B & C
 Ann McCormick, Deep South Director, Stan Rosenthal -
Champion Trees, Awards: Honoring District I, II and IV, Pillar
 of Pride, Hall of Fame, 4-5 Star

Educational Opportunities

1:30 PM 4:00 PM Floral Design-Carol Lucia +9
 Designers - St. Augustine D
 1:30 PM 2:45 PM Stan Rosenthal - Trees and
 Hurricanes -Wentworth
 1:30 PM 2:45 PM Liz DeWitt, Florida Beverage
 Association - Troon
 3:00 PM 4:30 PM Mark Peters, Crotons & Cordylines
 Wentworth
 3:00 PM 4:30 PM Donna Meredith, RV-ing in Florida
 State Parks St. Augustine E & F
 3:00 PM 4:30 PM Liz Dewitt, Keep Florida Beautiful
 Troon

Monday April 8 (continued)

5:00 PM 6:00 PM Deep South Director Reception
 Outside St. Augustine A, B & C
 (Cash Bar)
 6:00 PM Dinner - St. Augustine A, B & C
 Margot Shaw, *FLOWER Magazine Editor*, Honoring Districts
 VI, VII and IX, FSSJ, Tri-Council, Earth Stewards

Tuesday April 9

7:00 AM 5:00 PM Convention Registration Open
 Registration Desk
 Flower Workroom Centerpieces
 St. Augustine G
 Convention Office -Royal Melbourne
 7:00 AM
 7:00 AM
 7:30 AM 5:00 PM Vendors Open Legends Ballroom
 7:30 AM 3:00 PM Opportunity Ticket Sales
 7:30 AM 6:00 PM Calendar Sales
 8:30 AM 10:30 AM **93rd Annual FFGC Convention
 Business Meeting Continues**
 St. Augustine D
 9:30 AM 3:00 PM Spouse/Guest Tour Hotel Lobby
 11:00 AM 1:15 PM Brunch (Open Seating)
 St. Augustine A, B & C
 Eric Draper, Division of State Parks and Recreation Director,
 Honoring District X, XI and XII, FFGC, Deep South, and NGC
 Life Members

Educational Opportunities

1:30 PM 2:45 PM Treasurer's and President's Workshop
 Troon
 1:30 PM 2:45 PM Membership - Ed and Jane Nendick
 Wentworth
 1:30 PM 2:45 PM Educational Ex. And Awards,
 Val Seinfeld St. Augustine E & F
 1:30 PM 4:30 PM Tri-Council Workshop St. Augustine D
 3:00 PM 4:00 PM Educational Exhibits And Awards,
 Val Seinfeld St. Augustine E & F
 3:00 PM 4:00 PM FFGC Website -Lia Ward
 Troon
 3:30 PM 4:15 PM District Directors Calendar Pickup
 WingFoot
 4:00 PM 4:30 PM Breakdown Educational Exhibits
 St. Augustine E & F
 4:00 PM 5:00 PM INSTALLATION REHEARSAL
 4:30 PM 5:30 PM District Parties TBA
 5:30 PM 6:30 PM Cash Bar Outside St. Augustine A,
 B & C
 6:00 PM 9:00 PM **Dinner and Installation**
 St. Augustine A, B & C
 9:00 PM 10:00 PM **Installation Reception**
 10:00 PM Invitational Designs dismantled after
 reception. All designs removed by 10 AM Wednesday

Wednesday, April 10

7:00 AM 12:00 PM Office/storage Clean up
 Royal Melbourne/Winged Foot
 Flower Storage/Work Room Clean up
 St. Augustine G
 8:30 AM 11:00 AM **Post Convention Board
 Meeting** St. Augustine D
 10:00 AM 12:00 PM Dismantle of all Invitational
 Designs Completed.

**FFGC properties must be removed from hotel con-
 vention space.**



Mark Peters, Crotons & Cordylines



Mark Peters will be doing a workshop on Monday afternoon on crotons and cordylines and will have some of his plants for sale.

MARK PETERS has been a gardening enthusiast since his youth, and his entire professional life has been devoted exclusively to the garden world. After attending U. Conn.'s respected Hort. Program, Mark began his career at White Flower Farm, and went on to direct horticulture at Boston's historic Forest Hills Cemetery (at which time he was an honorary member of the Mass. Hort. Society). His interest in 17th to early 20th century landscape architecture in America led him to attend specialized courses at Radcliffe College and Winterthur. In 2002 Peters started working his way increasingly South, first as Vice President for Horticulture and Living Collections at The New York Botanical Garden where he became ever more fascinated with all things tropical in the plant world and began raising orchids in his bathtub. That's when he met wife, Deirdra, Public Programs and Events Manager at NYBG, and together they ventured all the way South to Vero Beach where Mark served as Director of Horticulture at McKee Botanical Garden. After arriving in FL Mark was introduced to Crotons (*Codiaeum variegatum*) and having been totally seduced by their eye-catching ornamental foliage, the former orchid aficionado established Peters Croton Nursery, Vero Beach in 2008. Along the way he also discovered the beauty of Cordylines and growing them too. Ardent, hands-on preservationists: the Peters are dedicated not only to conservation, but to offering a wide assortment of Croton & Cordyline varieties. They're devoted to teaching gardeners how first to select and grow the right plant for the right place in their gardens, as well as how to best care for these tropical treasures in all their diversity.

Shop with Linda Fazio - Chico's
 Shop Chico's for the latest styles in women's designer clothing, shoes, accessories & more. Free shipping for Passport members!

Sunday, April 7, is going to be a relaxing evening, reconnecting with friends, dining, and a fashion show by Chico's. The Chico's Hostess will be Linda Fazio, Style Expert from the Ponte Vedra Beach store, who has established an on-line shopping site from her Chico's store. Check it out on https://mystore.chicos.com/lindafazio?incriptions=1&event_source=email

The 2020 FFGC calendar will also be unveiled and the calendar girls announced! And if that isn't enough, a lucky name will be drawn from those registered for early arrivals dinner and they will win a 2 night stay at World Golf Village Renaissance Resort, per the below terms. Must be present to win.

This certificate entitles the bearer to a two night stay any week night or weekend night at Renaissance World Golf Village Resort. Blackout dates are Dec 15-March 15, holidays and high demand times at the Renaissance World Golf Village Resort. This document must be presented upon time of order. Reservations must be made a maximum of 30 days in advance and are based on availability at time of request. Gift certificate cannot be used if not declared at time of making reservation and has no cash value. Validation date will not be extended. Not responsible for lost or stolen gift certificates.

The Garden Club of Stuart

presents

“Garden Breezes”

2019 Secret Garden Tour

March 23 & 24, 2019

stroll thru

*six lovely, private gardens &
Possum Long Nature Center*

Tickets are available at:

Big Pine Nursery
Blue Water Garden Center
Cove Gardens
The Gate
Heathcote Botanical Gardens

Pinder's Nursery
Stuart Art Supply
Kilwin's Chocolates
Palm City Palms & Tropicals
www.gardenclubofstuart.org

*\$30 per ticket through March 22 ** \$35 tour day*

for more information visit www.gardenclubofstuart.org

Garden Club Tune-Up and Repair: A Tool Kit for All Clubs



“Five Strategies for Membership Growth” was a free webinar sponsored by our membership platform, Wild Apricot. The seminar was based on the 2011 book by Sara Sladek entitled *“The End of Membership as We Know It”*. The presentation explained not only what we must do to encourage new members, but it explained **why** we need to change our recruitment strategies if we wish to gain new members.

According to Sladek, we have come to the end of an era with **62% of all memberships nationally since 1994 either stagnant or declining**. Things are no longer linear in progression and cannot remain hierarchical: business and government have been conducted the same way since the 1700s but that is changing, and we have to change too! If 67% of millennials would rather join an organization founded by millennials than an older, established organization of their parent, do we have a chance at success? **YES, WE DO!!!** We need to be inspired by the future, not challenged by it!

Here are some relevant facts affecting our membership recruitment: The **economy** has changed and is no longer stable. Consumers and members have changed—many young people are debt ridden (average debt now over \$45,000) and some folks are experiencing a delayed adulthood. **Technology** has changed us in how we communicate. We are networking more. We get our services through technology. There have been more new developments in recent times than in all of history! **Demographics** have shifted from baby boomers (born between 1946-1964) to Generation X (born between 1965-1981) who represented the Industrial Age and who are retiring at a higher rate to younger millennials (ages 23-36 born between 1982-1993), a mobile, on-demand, innovative and collaborative age.

So, what are we to do? Below are listed **5 simple strategies** Sladek says we should consider if we wish to gain new members and thrive as an organization. Let’s see how many you can include in your circle, club or district meetings!

Offer ‘Members Only’ Benefits: Values have shifted. Our generation valued post-war wealth and having “stuff” and living the American Dream. Because of their debt and the state of the economy, millennials value sharing and non-ownership which includes the sharing of resources and information. They want a *return on investment* for the cost of membership. What can we offer them that they can’t get elsewhere? How about offering them a member training via technology, immediately useful information, exclusive services, products and access. **Think “M1” or Members First!** Think about TIME and how it is being used/spent/wasted. Time is a treasured commodity that you have control over. What do members need NOW? What do millennials need? What can we make useful and valuable to them? What products and services will engage and renew them? Help them make the *choice* to become one of us.

Offer Membership Experiences: Give them a reason to show up! Offer customer service that serves their needs. Value people over profit. Nothing formal, this is a very informal generation. Offer something out of the ordinary! Offer something **FUN**, something **challenging**, an adventure or escape. Inspire them to volunteer and want to give back to their community and make a difference (77% indicated this was of value to them). Inform them through coaching and mentoring and try to connect with them online. **Personalize everything** and design the experiences by having a **theme** that is highlighted with props at every event (seasonal or topic-related decoration).

Conduct “Bonfire” Marketing: The baby boomers needed evidence-based marketing, but millennials want to engage others, have a cause and be outcome-based. We must design visually appealing, easy, simple messages that build trust and trustworthiness. Do not alienate them by being too hierarchical. Invite younger folks to serve on a committee or in the planning of your next event. Ensure you have a written, relatable mission statement and purpose. Hold contests to get their ideas for marketing and how to bring in their younger generation of friends. Consult with your own children and grandchildren to get a better perspective!

Participate in Community Building: Escape the stereotypical and have a ‘brand’ that brings members in such as **diversity and inclusion**. Develop real relationships. Encourage engagement that rewards participation and makes each person feel they belong.

Continued on page 14.

Garden Club Tune-Up and Repair:

A Tool Kit for All Clubs

(Continued from page 13)

Here is how the Engagement Cycle works:

- a. Personally invite someone to attend a meeting.
- b. Show them what it means to belong to our organization.
- c. Do something exciting at the meeting.
- d. When the meeting is over, tell them **thank you!**
- e. Repeat often!

Engage in Problem Solving: Be future focused--Look to fill skill gaps with training and knowledge. Let newcomers know that their talent is appreciated and necessary to our evolution, think ahead, and constantly assess. Are we on the right path? What needs to change? Does our method fit the millennial mentality of collaboration, innovation, instant gratification, mobility?

Many think using **social media** is the answer. Perhaps your club has a website or is thinking about creating one. Here are **3 keys (the 3Cs) to social media success:**

Consistency: Show up and post regularly. Be sure your content builds trust, informs or provides resources others can use. Don't post boring stuff. Keep your content local and try to inspire a conversation. Tell your success stories and noteworthy news, post your upcoming events. Educate your audience, dispel stereotypes and myths. Tell them about your origin and answer FAQs.

Content: Include what people want to watch, read, share, and comment on. Grab their attention with movement, automation, and color in the visuals and videos. Never post without a picture or visual to drive home the idea presented. Give an inside view of your work in the community and its impact. Respond to comments and questions.

Confidence: Be confident in tone, voice and take risks. Post things that are timely, provocative and unexpected. Know and embrace your audience. Who are they? Why are they tuning in to your page? Tell them what they should know, and what we need for them to do.

If you are willing to try any of these optional ideas and they prove effective in membership recruitment, please share your success stories with others. Working together, we can discover what works and become a much more vibrant organization!

FFGC Finance Committee

Policies and Procedures (Rev. 9/18)

Policies:

The Finance Committee Chairman shall appoint a secretary from among the committee membership (traditionally the 3VP). The secretary shall keep minutes of all meetings of the Finance Committee and shall email minutes to each committee member within two weeks after the meeting. A copy of the minutes shall be given to each member of the committee at the next meeting and all minutes and copies of motions shall be digitized and electronically sent to HQ for safekeeping.

The Finance Chairman shall prepare an agenda and preside at all Finance meetings. If the chairman is unable to attend the meeting, the President shall preside at the meeting. Chairman shall forward to members of the committee, in a timely manner, all documents received for consideration by the committee.

The Finance Chairman shall notify all committee chairmen of activities that produce income or incur expense, for which a budget or financial statement is due, to send the necessary budget or financial statement for review at the next Finance Committee Meeting. These reminders shall be emailed eight weeks prior to the Finance Committee meeting.

The Finance Chairman or any Finance Committee member may review the Treasurer's reports.

Procedures:

Committee Chairmen requesting **an advance on budgeted items** shall submit a written request to the Finance Chairman at least six weeks prior to the Finance Meeting (advance or seed money, etc.). Any expenditure of \$3,000 or more shall need **three bids**, submitted in writing, to the Finance Chairman at least six weeks prior to the next meeting.

All requests for changes to the **salaries of FFGC employees** shall be presented, in writing, to the Finance Committee Chairman. The Finance Committee Chairman will notify all Finance Committee members.

The FFGC Treasurer shall notify the Finance Chairman of all **recurring service contracts** and renewal policies six months prior to the date of renewal so the Finance Committee has time to evaluate and review.

All **investments** (CDs, stocks, mutual funds, etc.), including scholarship, Wekiva and SEEK monies, shall be reviewed every six months by the Finance Committee. Donations of stock shall be liquidated.

All **grant applications and requests for philanthropic donations** and the solicitations of goods and services above \$100 shall come to the Finance Committee **before** being submitted to the granting entity. A list of agencies approached shall be maintained.

The Finance Committee shall conduct a review of all **budget shortfalls** annually. Reimbursement shall be approved by the Board of Directors.

Veggies and Herbs Among the Shrubs

By Kalia Baillene
Central Florida Horticulture Chair

Encouraging you to add some veggies and herbs among your trees, shrubs, and other plantings is mission # one for me. You don't have to plow an acre or disrupt your pristine landscape, or have the neighbors complain that your front yard is a farm, to have lovely, delicious eatables. Companionable planting is a great way to prevent the spread of diseases and the attraction of insects that will destroy the plant. It will cut down on the need for pesticides and your sprinkler system will save some labor for you.

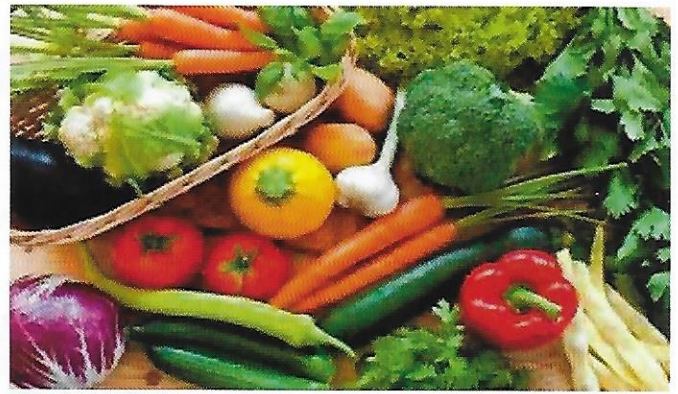
You do need to learn a bit about the growth habit of the plant. Instead of putting the plant into the ground, place it into a pot (plastic is easier to move) that blends into the landscape. If you don't like how it grows, you can relocate it. You can start several plants in other pots, several weeks apart, and rotate the younger plant to that pot, as the first one declines. Putting a large vessel into the landscape, then adding separate plantings in smaller containers will make an attractive collection.



Companion planting of herbs & landscape

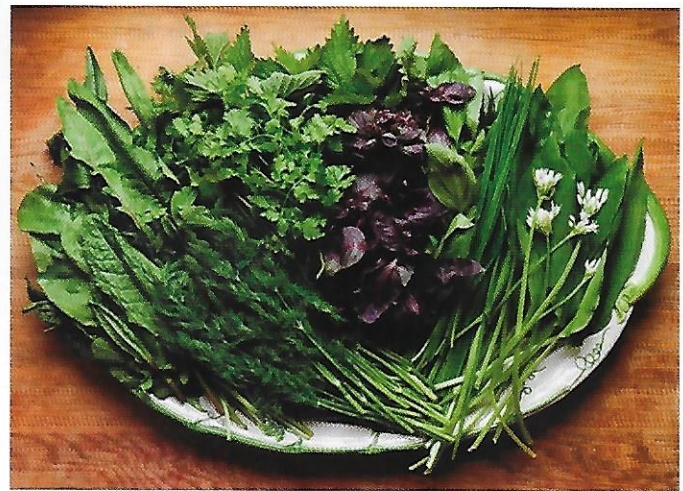
We all know the basics for plant growth is the proper light, watering, and soil. An easy way to help you remember is to use a basic potting mix and add perlite, mulch, or sand for plants that want more drainage. Few plants can live in deep shade and many tender leaf plants cannot withstand the full midday sun. Filtered light is a good choice. Always check the labels to be sure. Place popsicle sticks next to plant and color the tip with a blue marker if it needs extra water or yellow if it needs more sun. This will help you learn placement and remind you to give a bit more water to those in need. If you have an automated sprinkler system and/or it doesn't rain for a couple of days, the plants may need some water.

Don't forget to replenish their nutrients with a bit of granulated fertilizer after planting. It will last longer. Here are some suggestions for the 'out front' areas: bush type small tomatoes, basil, yarrow, fennel, chives, leeks, scallions, mints, Swiss chard, kale, lettuces of all varieties, mustard, broccoli (stalk may show, so put lower plants in front of them). You can grow these out of public view and against a fence or trellis: climbing vines such as beans, peas, melons, vining tomatoes, squashes, cabbages, and okra.



Vegetable medley

Here are some suggestions for the 'out front' areas: bush type small tomatoes, basil, yarrow, fennel, chives, leeks, scallions, mints, Swiss chard, kale, lettuces of all varieties, mustard, broccoli (stalk may show, so put lower plants in front of them). You can grow these out of public view and against a fence or trellis: climbing vines such as beans, peas, melons, vining tomatoes, squashes, cabbages, and okra.



Fresh cut herbs

Now that you have decided to integrate your landscape with veggies and herbs; here are some resources to explore. Most seed growers will give you information about the plant that will inform you about its growth habits and needs, along with some description of its flavor. Look at online sources first to learn more about the plant. Often they will give you a discount and free shipping for being a new customer and by registering to receive email notices.

Some sources are: Sow True Seeds (my favorite), Park Seeds, Burpee. Also, look at your hardware stores, big box stores, and the local feed stores. You can buy seed in bulk and measure out what you need (a quarter ounce goes a long way). If you have a BWI near you; they will sell to garden clubbers and the packages are larger and last a while. The price is better; but, make sure your trunk or rear compartment is empty and buy 2-4 bags at a stop. It is a warehouse operation. Two 40lb. bags of soil and one bag of sphagnum moss runs about \$50.

There are many organizations, plant societies, botanical gardens, garden and plant festivals where you can find information about plants. Visit their websites, join them, visit them, invite them to speak to your club, go to the festivals and support the growers. One such site is the National Garden Bureau, info@ngb.org. Look up their site and find out what species are trending, new seasonal plantings, about pollinators, and special plantings. Coming this spring: new email sources to ask questions and get information from your state horticulture chairs, stay tuned

Joy is playing in the garden. May yours be ever colorful and tasty!

NEHRLING GARDENS
CORKS, CALADIUMS
& CANVASES
SAT., APRIL 27
5 - 8 PM
2267 Hempel Ave
TICKETS \$50
IN ADVANCE AT
www.NehrlingGardens.org
\$60 AT
DOOR

INFORMATION
info@NehrlingGardens.org
407-445-9977

Nehrling Gardens is owned and operated by a local all-volunteer non-profit that is rehabilitating Dr. Henry Nehrling's historic home and gardens, creating new teaching gardens and providing a historical, horticultural and environmental enrichment center for the community. The gardens are open for tours and volunteers on the first and second Saturday's of the month; office hours Tues & Wed from 10am - 2pm; and private tours are available by appointment.

Stroll through the Gardens at sunset while sampling wines & foods from regions of the world where the plants of Nehrling Gardens originated, view artists at work with original art for purchase at our auction while listening to live music. www.NehrlingGardens.org

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.



A Once In A Lifetime Tour Of
Deeridge Farms Gardens
Presented by
Wellington Garden Club

Saturday, April 13, 2019
9AM - 4PM

The Wellington Garden Club is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. This fundraiser will provide scholarships to local students for school or camp and give monetary support along with member guidance to benefit many local community projects.

The Ticket to the event includes:

- * Mobile guided tour of gardens and mini-farm on 68 acres in Wellington, Florida
- * Tour of a variety of gardens, such as the Japanese, bromeliad, vegetable gardens, the orchid house, and much, much more
- * Access to the grounds that are the location of the Palm Beach Masters, Deeridge Derby, and Palm Beach Open equestrian events
- * Access to plant vendors who will offer a variety of plants, orchids, and trees for sale.
- * Crafts created by garden club members that will be available for sale
- * A chance to win an assortment of raffle prizes - raffle tickets available for purchase
- * Complimentary refreshments
- * Access to Master Gardeners to answer gardening questions
- * Free parking on the property

\$100 per person - TICKETS ARE LIMITED

Available exclusively through the Wellington Garden Club Website:

www.wellingtongardenclub.org

Please note there is no handicap accessibility.

FFGC Opportunity Drawing 93rd Annual Convention April 9, 2019

Five Fabulous Prizes. One ticket has five chances to win one of the prizes. April will be here soon so now is the time to collect tickets and donations. All tickets should be mailed to Marilyn Larson, 2806 Starmount Lane, Tallahassee, FL 32303. If you need more tickets, notify her by phone (850) 570-3223 or email Marilyn Larson at mrlarson850@comcast.net

Important information about tickets.

Each district received a supply of tickets for distribution to clubs and circles within the district. If you need additional tickets, you may want to check with your District Director as to whether any tickets are available in your district. Otherwise contact Marilyn Larson for additional tickets.

Complete the left side of the ticket with donor name, address, and contact information. Easiest way to fill in the ticket is by using return address labels. Keep the right side of the ticket (right portion at perforation). Count tickets and corresponding donations prior to mailing. The number of tickets should match donation amount (i.e. ticket stubs #000-010 would be 11 tickets not 10). If mailing, envelope with tickets/donations should be postmarked March 22, 2019 at the latest to arrive in time to be included in April 9 drawing. Additional tickets will be available at the FFGC Convention.



HOLLY'S ORCHIDS

“I have the prettiest
bloomers in town!”™

I'd love to speak with your
club members about these
wonderful plants.

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Orchids & African Violets

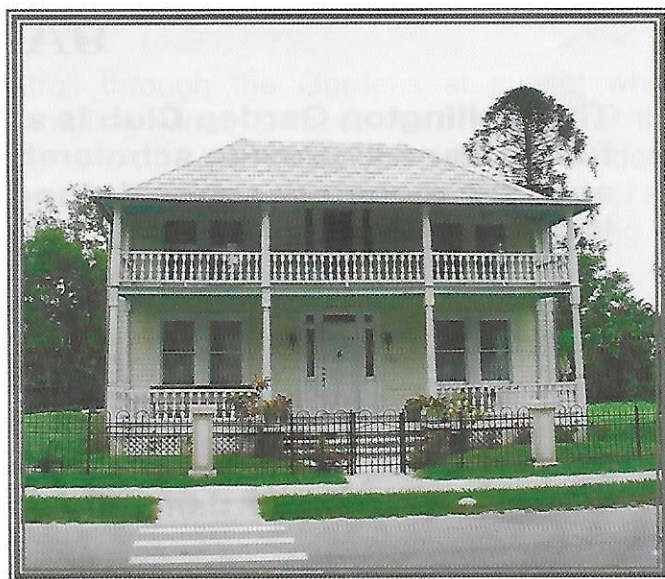
Available for Speaking Engagements

COCO-ROCKLEDGE GARDEN CLUB HISTORIC HOME TOUR

The Cocoa-Rockledge Garden Club proudly presents the Eau Gallie Historic Home Tour on Saturday, April 13, 2019, from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

This walking tour is in a historic riverside neighborhood in Melbourne featuring lovely homes and water views. Disabled parking area is also available. We are selling Crafts and Baked Goods and offering complementary refreshments.

Tickets are available through CRGC members or at:
Rockledge Gardens 321-636-7662; Eau Gallie Florist 321-254-2584;
Carousel Florist 321-456-9988; Florida Historical Society
321-690-1971, ext. 217.



Donation of \$20, which includes \$2. for admission to the Rossetter House and Museum. For online purchases and more information: www.cocoarockledgegardenclub.com

NGC SCHOOLS NEWS: from Barbara Hadsell, NGC Schools Chairman

Please welcome Sue Roberts as the new Landscape Design School Chairman for FFGC. And thank Pat Richardson for her work as LDS Chairman, replacing Karen Gott who we were sad to lose last fall.

Sue is a consultant in Landscape Design and currently a District Director. Also note that tests in the following schools will ALL be open-book, open notes: Environmental, Gardening and Landscape. A newly designed NGC handbook that encompasses all three Schools mentioned above, will be available on the NGC website. And please consult all the NGC School, symposium and Multiple Refresher dates listed in this issue. Thank you to Gloria Blake and Sally Flanagan for co-chairing Course I of the Environmental School next spring.

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April 7 - 9, 2019

PROGRAM ADVERTISING RATES

Deadline for Ads: March 7, 2019

RATE	PLACEMENT DESCRIPTION	SIZE
\$275	Full Page Color – Outside Back Cover	7 ½" High x 4 ½" Wide
\$250	Full Page Color – Inside Front Cover	7 ½" High x 4 ½" Wide
\$250	Full Page Color – Inside Back Cover	7 ½" High x 4 ½" Wide
\$200	Full Page Color – Interior Page	7 ½" High x 4 ½" Wide
\$125	One-Half Page Color – Interior Page	3 ½" High x 4 ½" Wide
\$100	Full Page Black & White – Interior Page	7 ½" High x 4 ½" Wide
\$60	One-Half Page Black & White – Interior Page	3 ½" High x 4 ½" Wide
\$30	One-Quarter Page Black & White – Interior Page	1 7/8" High x 4 ½" Wide

STEP 1

Email your camera-ready ad file (not hard copy) in high resolution PDF format:

Inger Jones at mjinger@att.net

Add "FFGC Convention 2019" in the Subject Line.

STEP 2

Mail your payment and a printed copy of your ad to:

Jana Walling

2121 Olivia Drive, Tallahassee, FL 32308-6164

Make checks payable to "FFGC 2019 Convention".

CAMP WEKIVA Dedicates “MOTHER NATURE’S” Hut

By Devon Villareal-Dabbs

In July of 2017, I was sweating in Euchee during a week of Camp, reading the Orlando Sentinel, when I came across the Cox Conserves Hero Award application. I promptly texted my Camp pals Mandy Howell and Kelly Hartman and asked what they thought about nominating Mother Nature. We all agreed that she would be a shoe-in to win the Award and Mandy – being not at Camp that week and with a superior internet connection - promptly jumped on the application, which was of course due... the next day. When we found out that Audrey was selected as a finalist - after the Cox folks finally convinced her it wasn't a hoax - we began to frequently and obnoxiously share the voting information across social media with the help of fellow volunteers and current and former staff members across the state and country. To no one's surprise, but perhaps her own for some humble reason, she won and here we are today to celebrate the beautiful outcome of the Cox Conserves prize funds that she dedicated to Camp Wekiva.

Audrey first became involved with FFGC's youth endeavors in 1971 where she stayed in a fifty-year old cabin that was falling down in Oleno State Park while her son, Tommy, attended camp for the first time. She was told by a lady named Jean Villareal that she would not need to bring anything or plan anything as she would be assisting a former volunteer. By divine intervention however, she decided to bring a week's worth of activities, which turned out to be useful as the other volunteer never showed. It was also during this first year that she earned her Camp nickname, when the young men she was teaching, impressed by her knowledge, quoted a popular advertisement at the time stating, "you can't fool Mother Nature!"

Mother Nature's membership in the Bartow Garden Club pre-dates her time at Camp. Mabel Miller, known at camp as "Petunia" and also of the Bartow Garden Club, first envisioned FFGC's operation of a youth camp. In the early 1970s, each of the FFGC's twelve Districts were asked to raise funds to construct a cabin to be donated to Camp and Mother Nature motioned that the Bartow Garden Club build a cabin instead of building a garden center that they had been saving money for. That cabin would become the thirteenth camper cabin at Wekiva, named Embokpagee and meaning "little flower" in honor of Petunia Miller. That first year at our new home in Wekiva only the office, clinic, thirteen camper cabins, craft hall, and dining hall were present. There was no Nature Hut, no canteen, no storage, no pool, and volunteers stayed in rented office trailers with an outdoor shower. Of course there was also, no air conditioning. Through the dedication of long-term volunteers, FFGC leadership, and the tremendous and generous donations of many garden clubs throughout the state, Wekiva has continued to grow and flourish.

Many of you have likely heard me speak of my time as a camper at Wekiva and my young impressions of Mother Nature. At the impressionable age of 9, when first introduced to her I quite literally thought I was meeting Mother Nature, as in THE Mother Nature. She seemed to know everything about everything as our Nature volunteer and she fearlessly handled a snake that she kept in her cabin (much to the chagrin of some of her fellow volunteers I understand). Audrey has volunteered with the Nature, 7th Grade Primitive, Critter Camp, and Naturalist Programs over the last nearly fifty years and I don't know for certain whether she has ever been a Craft Lady but she is quite good at that too.

While my childhood memories are filled with her voice and her constant presence at Camp, it is as an adult that I came to truly understand and appreciate just what a privilege it is to know Audrey, to work with her, and to have a fervent need for her to understand just how much we value her. As the years go by and those familiar faces from my childhood are no longer with me at Camp, it has become abundantly clear how much I took their presence for granted and my regret for not

sharing that appreciation with them sooner runs deep. We owe our volunteers at Wekiva much and more, and I encourage FFGC to consider developing the Audrey Swindal Dedicated Service Award as a program recognizing our long-term Wekiva staff members and volunteers. It is because of dedicated, long-term volunteers like Mother Nature that many of our volunteers, myself included, leap at the opportunity to return each summer - somewhat recklessly in regard of age, employ, or infirmity - to share our knowledge with our youth and to come together in a place that we love.

Mother Nature, and so many other volunteers, have shaped the character of generations of young Floridians at this Camp for the last 45 years. They have done so with little more than our outdoor classroom, donated supplies, and a deep commitment to the environmental education of our youth. It goes deeper than that however. While we have had many valued men as volunteers, directors, soon-to-be first male president, and certainly many dedicated partners who have supported the women of Wekiva, it was WOMEN who forged this path. Imagine the gumption of a small group of women in the 1970s to propose and receive matching funds from the government to open a youth camp in partnership with the State Park system to be operated and sponsored by Garden Clubs. It is without a doubt because of Camp Wekiva that I chose a degree and career in the environmental field but it is also in part because of the WOMEN of Camp Wekiva, that I am the woman and mother that I am today.

In 2014, I arrived for WLT about 8 weeks post-partum. Mother Nature shared stories with me of child birth and nursing her own children, fighting for autonomy over her choices as a mother – battles I had only recently come to understand. I realized then that the deep need I felt for my choices during my own path to motherhood and the CONFIDENCE and DETERMINATION I had to make those decisions also came in part from this place, from these women. My leaders here from a young age emboldened me that not only should I care for our environment and for the natural order of things but also that I should be able to stand on my own two feet and loudly and respectfully demand the same from others. As a woman in a male-dominated science field, I have NEVER felt less than – a sentiment I learned is shared amongst my female Wekiva peers – and that comes not only from my own amazing mother and grandmothers but is also deeply rooted in the strong, predominantly female leadership here at Wekiva and in FFGC.

Kids don't *need* technology or the newest contraption. Kids don't *need* mindless entertainment. We see this during the holidays when the act of opening gifts and playing with bows or a cardboard box are often far more satisfying than the gift itself. Kids NEED a magnifying glass and ant lions. Kids NEED to be allowed to sing songs at the top of their lungs and be ridiculous. Kids NEED to sweat, to do chores, to learn to work together, and to have a s'more around a campfire with other children from different walks of life. Our kids NEED to unplug from our Digital Age and marvel at the living web of life surrounding this very special place. Our kids need Camp Wekiva now more than ever and our kids NEED Mother Nature.

Mother Nature, Audrey, we are blessed by your dedication and by your love for Wekiva, for our youth, and for our environment. We are grateful for the opportunity to show you our appreciation and we pray that O Great Spirit continues to bless this Camp for many summers to come as you and those you have inspired carry on with our humble but critical mission of teaching our youth the value of environmental stewardship, friendship, and determination.

We love you all the way to the Springs, and back.
Thank you.

File photo: Cox Conserves hero "Mother Nature" Audrey Swindal (2nd from left) along with Marge Hendon, FFGC 2nd VP. (far left) receives the \$10,000 award on behalf of Wekiva Youth Camp



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Mega 50/50 Drawing

Total proceeds will be evenly divided between FFGC and the lucky winner. More tickets, more proceeds.

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Make checks payable to: FFGC 2019 Convention

Mail to: Marilyn Larson, 2806 Starmount Ln, Tallahassee 32303-4216, mslarson850@comcast.net, 850-570-3223.

The drawing will be held April 9, 2019. 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 501(c)(3) organization. IRS rules and regulations apply.

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REMINDER!



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It must be an oversight, as I don't see your ad for the 2019 Convention Program Book.

Remember, upon receipt of your ad, we will reserve a space for you. We are here to help you with your creative effort, so please do not hesitate to ask. Look inside on page 18 for a copy of our Advertising Rates. Looking forward to hearing from you and remain...

In gardening,
Inger Jones

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