



THE

Florida

GARDENER

Summer 2020

President's Message



Dear Friends,

By the time you receive this issue of the Florida Gardener, my fervent hope is that we have recovered from the pandemic, or nearly so. It's been a trying time for all of us, some more so than others. FFGC, Deep South, and National Garden Clubs were not spared, as all had to cancel their Conventions. What a disappointment it was to realize that our Annual Convention would have to be cancelled. So many worked for so long a time to prepare for what we expected to be a most wonderful time and educational event. The Flower Show was to be one of the best, and I was looking forward to it.

There are too many to thank individually for doing their best to prepare for convention even when we knew that it would likely be cancelled. Christy Linke, Convention Chairman and Carol Lucia, State Flower Show Chairman were ready to dazzle us with their talents. I look forward to FFGC's 2022 Convention when Carol Lucia has given Marge Hendon the approval to use the "Sounds of Music" theme for her State Flower Show.

FFGC had to make a few very unusual decisions to comply with our FFGC responsibilities and still meet the "ever changing" restrictions for activities due to the pandemic virus and related medical issues. We did the best we could, given the circumstances! LC was remarkable in making all arrangements to handle our business after Orange County went into a "lockdown" requiring the temporary closing of FFGC headquarters. She had FFGC mail forwarded to her personal email and has also forwarded FFGC phone calls to her personal cell phone.

We had to implement changes to several required business activities which could not wait until the crisis was behind us. The budget was to be considered for approval at the Preconvention Board Meeting in April. Since that didn't happen, the decision was made by the Executive Committee to "approve" the new budget and ask the Board to ratify the budget in September with any required amendments which might be needed. FFGC had to approve the election of members to the nominating committee to Deep South for purposes of electing new Officers. In the rotation for naming the incoming Director and Alternate Director for Deep South for 2021-2022, it was Florida's turn, and we endorsed Carol Hall for Director and Claudia Bates for Alternate Director. We know they will do an outstanding job in their positions. FFGC also had to elect a member and an alternate to serve on the NGC Nominating Committee for the new NGC President for 2023-2025. All these nominations were endorsed by the Executive Committee, and will be offered for ratification in Sept.

A major challenge for us under current conditions is to be sure we meet our membership renewals and submitting dues for members. Please refer to the new procedures sent out by Sue Roberts, Chairman for Dues. We will need to do our best to meet the deadlines, because FFGC must have operating funds.

Finally, I want to thank Dave Spaulding for agreeing to be our new Florida Gardener Editor. We welcome him to our Board, and let's do all we can to help him in his new position.

We pray that our world will be back to a semblance of normalcy by the time you receive this issue, and we look forward to a better year.

Al Latina, FFGC President



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Summer Issue: April 15, 2021**

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***** – New Affiliate**
The Institute for Regional Conservation

DISTRICT I NEWS

Kathy "Kat" Spieker, Director

Greetings from the NW Florida Panhandle! District I is enjoying the beautiful spring weather, however, as with everyone else, suffering from all of the ramifications of the Covid-19 virus with cancellation of dozens of club and district programs and projects. All is on hold for the time being, and we are all looking forward to resuming a new kind of normal in the future.

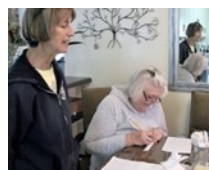
Sharon Johnson, our Short Course North Chairman has our August 13-14, 2020 meeting "Defend Florida: It's Beauty, Resources and History" all planned with terrific speakers, vendors, and programs. Stay tuned for registration information. (editor's note: the **North Short Course has been cancelled**)



Valparaiso Garden Club held a potting party in February in preparation for their annual spring plant sale, held in conjunction with The Heritage Museum of NW Florida's "Saturday In the Park" celebration scheduled for April 25. Of course, the event was cancelled, but the potted plants are being cared for by a club member until the club can safely schedule a plant sale, perhaps in the fall. The club uses the potting parties to teach proper plant identification by tagging the plants with their correct binomial name as well as the common name of the plant. They find that the binomial name is a great teaching tool for the public as well.

As Director of District I, I asked my clubs to tell me in just a few words what they have been doing to stay positive in these trying times.

The Club President of Dogwood Garden Club of Crestview, Pam Callahan, said "The membership of Dogwood Garden Club in Crestview is more than 60% elderly women. We ARE "the elderly neighbors"! We have stayed safer at home where many are enjoying yard work before the summer heat. We touch base with each other through email, our "Facebook" page and by phone. I, for one, feel peace and calm without various meetings, appointments and I don't have to come up with an excuse to NOT "go and do" .I do miss my church even though on-line devotions and sermons are good.



The Club President of Valparaiso Garden Club sent handwritten notes of encouragement to all her club members reminding them that even though they could not meet in person, they were still together in thoughts and prayers.

Other clubs have taken on food drives and mask sewing events.

And, of course, EVERYONE now has time to work in their yards! Long neglected tasks are being completed, new plantings are going in. We should all have award-worthy yards by next year!!!!

DISTRICT IV NEWS

Joy Elrod, Director

D-IV clubs are maintaining all the public gardens they have created. Many are still working with schools to award Scholarships. Membership in most clubs is growing.

GC of Green Springs member won the Clay County Fair Virtual Horticultural Competition. Clubs are attempting Zoom sessions in lieu of regular meetings in late April and May in 2020. GCGCS's goal is to award two-\$1,000 scholarships in May of 2020. The garden club is practicing good social distancing by staggering workers in the garden at the city's library.

The Garden Club of Palatka members are growing their own produce and citrus and looking into aqua-culture and above-ground gardening. Although regular meetings, thus speakers, have been cancelled, rescheduling them for future presentation are being arranged. They are maintaining their outreach to the community and signing up new members who are eager to learn!

The GC of Fleming Island is still gearing up for their annual Butterfly Release and plant sale in mid-May. The Garden is stunning!

GC St Augustine member is helping sew masks for Flagler Hospital. They continue to maintain their Butterfly and Breast Cancer Awareness Garden and the gardens at the Pena Peck historic house. Members will be doing the Nature Detectives program and author Marta Magellan has completed her book on dragonflies for the program. Members are staying in touch via email & phone calls to shop for those needing assistance.

The Bartram Garden Club has welcomed eight new members! They have had programs on Botanical Arts, Brilliant Succulents, and techniques of leaf manipulation for competitive floral design. They hold mini flower shows to prepare themselves for bigger flower shows. Members meet with Exceptional Student Education students at

Fernandina Beach HS teaching them the joy and techniques of gardening. Bartram continues to collect monies for the Penny Pines reforestation program.

The Garden Club of Middleburg is maintaining the care and growth of plants at the local library and the Wilkinson Elementary School flagpole. MGC sells plants at the Orange Park Farmer's Market as a fundraiser. Giving a Raised Garden Bed presentation at the Middleburg Lowe's. They also prepared for presenting a table showcasing their club to attract new members.

DISTRICT VI NEWS

Judi Jodoin, Director

Our world as we know it has come to a standstill. We are now wearing protective gloves, masks and being advised to stay home. We are also asked to wash our hands and not touch our face. Our vocabulary has new words like Pandemic, PPE, Coronavirus 19, social distancing, stimulus checks etc. Our churches, schools, hairdressers, beaches, gyms, state parks, amusements parks, city buildings, hotels, airlines, small business, and restaurants are shut down completely or operating at reduced levels. Items are limited and sometimes scarce at supermarkets and specialty shops. We can't touch or hug each other and are required to stand 6 feet apart from other people. Our lives have been completely disrupted, yet we survive and cope. We will get through this together.

FFGC, FFSJ, NGC, DSR: All these events have been cancelled. At this writing we are still waiting for answers if Wekiva Youth Camp will open for the summer.

The Garden Club of Halifax County: (Muffi Chanfrau, President) The cancellation of their April annual meeting used the time as their transition time for new leadership. Linda Armour is the new President for 2020-2022. Programs that are usually planned over the summer: Linda and the Program Chairman will immediately start working on Installation of Officers, the introduction of their new members and Awards at the first meeting in October because of the cancelling of their Annual Meeting. The new President is considering having their landscape architect speak to share the plan for a new civic project in partnership with the City of Ormond Beach with a commitment of \$10,000 for the transformation of an Ormond Beach pocket park into an all native tree and plant park.

Cherry Laurel Garden Club: (Nanette Baker, President) They approved sponsoring the District VI Fall Meeting after the forced cancellation of the Spring Meeting. It is rescheduled for October 20, 2020 at the Shores Resort and Spa in Daytona Beach Shores. This will include several vendors selling merchandise and many raffles.

Cherry Laurel Garden Club is honored to have won the 2019 FFGC Yearbook Award and also the 2019 Deep South Region Yearbook Award, both in the category for clubs with 30-44 members. Their 2019-2020 CLGC Yearbook is a tribute to club members and a celebration of the work they do in their communities, documenting their club's rich history and reinforcing their shared values of service and stewardship. It is not only an educational resource but it also enriches their garden club experience, making it more rewarding, informative and enjoyable. This was their first yearbook supported by local businesses in their community.

Cherry Laurel congratulates District Director Judi Jodoin and all the sister clubs in District VI that have won State and Regional awards. We appreciate your member's contributions and your continued dedication and commitment to service.

The Garden Club of DeLand: (Jennifer Condo, President) The Garden Club of DeLand decided to cancel all future garden club activities on March 14, 2020. They reassessed the situation on April 1 and decided to cancel all remaining activities until September 1, 2020. The Pansy Circle which was founded in 1950 was disbanded. We are sad to see them go and will miss them! The Garden Club of DeLand won the FFGC Award for Garden Center Program and it was forwarded on to Deep South Region where it won their Special Achievement Award. They still continue to meet in small groups to maintain the downtown planters and their building's grounds.

Indian Harbour Beach Garden Club: (Robin Chang, President) IHBGC lost one of their members to cancer in April. Judie Kraemer was past Garden Club President, she wrote the Allamanda, their monthly newsletter on and off for years and contributed in innumerable ways to IHBGC. Judie was so brave and fought the good fight for so long. God bless you Judie, you will be missed!!! They, like so many Garden Clubs, were forced to cancel events for March, April and May. President Robin was able to reach out to each of their members just to check in, say hi and make sure they were all doing well. Some members wrote letters to Garden Friends at their local assisted living facility which has been quarantined since February. IHBGC was sad about missing FFGC Convention, FFSJ Flower Show and District VI Spring Meeting.

DISTRICT VI NEWS—(cont'd)

Indian Harbour Beach Garden Club—(cont'd)

They are looking forward to the beginning of a new season and are rescheduling all the fun stuff that they missed. A Zoom meeting was conducted on April 15th. They were able to get "their ducks in a row" to start fresh, hopefully in August, and will keep in touch with this District Director.

Melbourne Garden Club: (Sandi Dix,-President) They are planning to meet on September 4th at the Eau Gallie Library as usual. Officers were elected at their March meeting and will be installed at September meeting. They are aware that things could change by then. Sandi has been calling each member every two weeks just to check on them. Sandi reports all seem to be fine. One member is making face masks for members and husbands who need them.

New Smyrna Beach Garden Club: (Kathy Healy,-President) 2020 began with a bang at 2000 Turnbull Bay for members of the NSBGC! Their programs included a member-presented MINI FLORAL DESIGN CLASS. January's Floral Design Presentation prompted a member request for an impromptu flower show, and so, on March 11th, led by FUN WITH FLOWERS members, the group worked hard on horticulture displays, linear and table designs and crosses! Entries were critiqued in the AM and open to the public in the afternoon. Participants and visitors alike appreciated the education, beauty and artistry of each entry. February's program was Eric Schmidt's ever-enlightening slides of LEU GARDENS. In March, a mother and (ten-year-old!)-daughter presented their SUCCULENT GARDEN CREATIONS. Just-for-fun in January held a second successful member-guest BINGO evening. February's famous annual RUMMAGE SALE brought their members together for HARD WORK, laughter and of course to another successful conclusion! Garden-of-the-Month signs continue to dot the NSB neighborhoods, as did dried floral arrangements in the Oncology ward of Advent Health Hospital. On tap, but rescheduled for the Fall was a TRAIN TRIP to Winter Park's museum and boat tour. Scholarship Committee members rallied to select award winners, and despite a cancelled meeting, winners were notified and the funds will be presented! On April 1st, our traditional large group membership meeting was replaced with a "socially-distanced" food drive for the local GIFTS of LOVE food pantry. Donations were placed outside the Clubhouse and Kathy is proud to report that they filled their District Director's SUV.

For now, President Kathy is sending out E-HUGS to all NSBGC members. The Awards Chairman, Karen Chapple, and her committee members successfully submitted winning Awards. The Awards won are: Garden Club of the Year Award both on the FFGC and Deep South Regions levels; Butterfly Conservation Award again FFGC and Deep South Regions levels because of the talents of members Joyce Cassidy and Barb Snyder. FFGC Facebook Award was also won by member Suzi Baily. Thank you for the constant posting of information to benefit all. FFGC Smokey Bear 1st grade level was a winner by the dedicated coordinator's help of NSBGC member Donna Johnson.

Whenever and however the NSBGC membership gathers, the members continue to work differently, and with optimism for all. There will be a celebration later to honor the hard work, patience and persistence that paid off.

The Garden Club at Palm Coast, Inc.: (Sue Bara,-President) The new President Carol Walker will be installed on June 1, 2020. The vote was taken by e-mail. Plans are not in place yet as the Garden Club will start back in September or October. So much is up in the air. Arbor Day was postponed and may take place in October. The Garden Club at Palm Coast, Inc. has a 45th anniversary coming up and is hoping to celebrate it by December 2020.

The Garden Club at Palm Coast, Inc. won the most awards in District VI: Civic Beautification Award won by Nancy Indoll, Arbor Day Award both at the FFGC and Deep South Region levels by Kathleen Terlizzo, and FFGC Garden Tour Award won by Nancy Indoll.

Tillandsia Garden Club: (Jill Stephens,-President) They ended their last two months of 2019 with two wonderful projects, Santa, Senior and Succulents and basket of Cheer fundraiser.

Congratulations to all the Award winners in District VI. Thank you to Valerie Seinfeld and all your amazing and dedicated volunteers. TGC was honored to win FFGC Community Service Award for a project so dear to their hearts. Jill personally thanked Chairman Patty Teeters for her commitment and endless hours of work on this project. They are already starting to work on their 2020 party at Seaside.

The Santa, Succulents and Seniors community project was paired with the Tillandsia Garden Club and Seaside Nursing Home and Rehabilitation Center. The purpose of the project was not only to provide Christmas gifts to residents who seldom receive gifts but to host a festive holiday celebration while providing for the residents to engage with members of the community. President Jill Stephens proposed the project

two years ago and Tillandsia member, Patty Teeters excitedly took the helm for the past two years.

Member support and involvement has been exemplary and included monetary donations, soliciting donations, shopping, filling bags, decorating the nursing home cafeteria, hosting the party and providing refreshments.

Because of member commitment every one of the 139 residents received a brightly colored cloth tote bag with clothing items, full size toiletries and sweet treats. Patty Teeters worked with the activities director regarding resident sizes so each bag was customized to the specific resident. The holiday party was met with great enthusiasm from club members and residents alike. Members dressed as elves handed out gift bags while singing Christmas carols led by Santa and Mrs. Claus. A Tillandsia member played the keyboard, filling the room with melodious joy while another member snapped Polaroid photos of each resident seated with Santa and Mrs. Claus. Seeing the residents' faces as the staff walked or wheeled them into the cafeteria was heart-warming. They were overwhelmed as they immersed in the festive décor, the party food, and the elves spreading merriment. The music and all of the gift bags flanked the tree. The joy on their faces as they opened a bag and found a clothing item that was just the right size was indescribable. The afternoon was well worth the countless hours of preparation. We waved our goodbyes as they returned to their rooms with their photo with Santa held tightly and the gift bag held close to their chests. We are not really sure who benefits the most from the partnership; the residents or the members.

Tillandsia GC started 2020 off with a wonderful Landscape Design Garden Tour at the beautiful Estate on the Halifax hosted by a Tillandsia member. In February, they visited another nursing home, Seaside Manor, to celebrate Valentine's Day. In March, GC members enjoyed a wonderful presentation from past President of the Halifax River Audubon Society. The presentation provided members with the information of how to create a garden that supports birds and wildlife and the environmental impact of these actions. Tillandsia also partnered with Habitat for Humanity. In April a Tillandsia member and Lori Gillooly, Chief Executive Officer for Habit for Humanity, presented a history of Tillandsia's support of the local Habitat for Humanity endeavors and discussed the next home build. Due to the statewide Shelter in Place order, they were unable to meet in March. Members however are taking their time to work in their gardens and continue to plant new trees and flowers. The members have had almost 80 new plantings since the first of March.

PLEASE REMEMBER WE ARE ALL IN THIS TOGETHER AND WE WILL GET THROUGH THIS!

DISTRICT VII NEWS

Gwen Carter, Director



Counties: Sumter, Lake, Orange, Osceola, Seminole

Flower: Hibiscus (all varieties)

Wildflower: Coreopsis

Butterfly: Monarch

Garden Clubs in District VII: Bloom N Grow, Camellia Eustis, Clermont, Creative Arts, Foliage of Apopka, Ixora Sanford, Lady Lake, Lakes & Hills, Orlando, Palm Garden, Pine Castle, Robinswood,

Sanford Wildflower, Spring Valley, St. Cloud, Sweetwater Oaks, Wildflowers, Windermere, Winter Park

Happy day FFGC Members.

What a terrible time for our country and the world, currently, as we all must live through the Coronavirus (COVID 19) Pandemic. Although, garden clubs are unable to support the community on the front lines, due to Social Distancing, individual members and some clubs are contributing food, supplies, and financial assistance to local organizations to deliver to healthcare workers and the community.

Unfortunately, the District VII Spring General Meeting scheduled for May 7, 2020 was canceled along with so many other garden club events. District VII would like to thank Winter Park GC, host, for all their work planning for the Spring Meeting. The District appreciates your support.

District VII Clubs did have an opportunity to complete several projects, activities, and programs before the COVID 19 Shut Down in March.

Bloom and Grow Garden Society - Bloom and Grow Garden Society members and 200 community volunteers planted 1,000 Bald Cypress trees (1,000 trees for 1,000 years) at Tucker Ranch in Winter Garden on February 22, 2020.

DISTRICT VII NEWS—(cont'd)

Bloom and Grow Garden Society - (cont'd)

Bloom and Grow provided grants to Orlando Health's School Garden Projects for elementary schools in West Orange County, assisted in landscaping homes for Matthew's Hope, Habitat for Humanity, and Home at Last for wounded veteran families, Grow Orlando, Inc. and Winter Garden Community Garden to support student work/study programs which engage 15-19 year olds in Winter Garden, Tildenville. and Ocoee, to community organizations including Oakland Nature Preserve, Nehrling Gardens, Lake County 4H, and Winter Garden Heritage Foundation. The club funded and volunteered for landscape projects at the Palm Park Gazebo in Windermere, Oakland Town Square, and Winter Garden Art Association.



Clermont Garden Club - Clermont GC planted 239 trees in the district. Clermont GC member, Jim Lobb provided numerous native trees, shrubs, and flowers which were planted in Clermont GC's garden to start a native plant demonstration garden. Each month a member of the club loans a plant to Clermont City Hall for display with information about the plant to build horticulture awareness and club interest. Happy Dollars is an activity where members voice happy events in their lives and happily contribute happy \$\$ to benefit the community. Clermont GC member, Katrina Stephenson, taught a Free Movement Workshop on March 7, 2020 to help members stay active in the garden.



Camellia Garden Club - Camellia GC planted 11 trees in the district.

Foliage of Apopka Garden Club - Foliage GC of Apopka visited Wekiva State Park with tour guide and February speaker, FFGC 3rd VP Christy Linke. Foliage of Apopka GC welcomed Stacey Matrazzo, Program Manager, Florida Wildflower Foundation as their March speaker.

Lakes and Hills Garden Club - On Florida's Arbor Day, January 20th, Lakes and Hills GC donates and plants a tree each year at a local school, town building, or park. Lakes and Hills GC planted 5 trees in the district. In February, members learned everything they wanted to know about African Violets from Linda Price, VP of Central Florida African Violet Society. Sine Wallace, owner of Wallace Fitness, helped members get fit for spring gardening. Lakes and Hills GC continues to support several area organizations, such as Lake Cares Food Pantry, The Haven, Turning Point Ranch, and Community Primary Healthcare.



Orlando Garden Club - Orlando GC has redone the patio area and added new bedding plants. Members maintain the plants in the patio area. Orlando GC has donated to Wekiva Youth Camp, Russell Home, and Primrose School.

Pine Castle Garden Club - Pine Castle GC is working with St. Mary's Preschool to help students develop a raised garden. Pine Castle GC donated supplies and tools to the school to help the students. Pine Castle GC member, Christy Anderson, oversees the raised garden behind the church grounds for anyone in need of fresh vegetables.



Robinswood Garden Club - Robinswood GC member, Cooky Kuyendal, contributed 9 pink and yellow Tabebuia trees for members to plant. The club collects labels for Wekiva Youth Camp and tabs for McDonald House.

Sweetwater Oaks Garden Club - The last big event of Sweetwater Oaks Garden Club was their Garden Fair, February 29-March 1, 2020. They had a great turnout of 55 vendors, including 2 food vendors. Lots of people were looking for unusual plants, Florida friendly plants, and information. Master Gardeners were kept busy answering questions and passing along good suggestions for gardening in Central FL. They had a Floral Design demonstration at noon. Margaret Kirkpatrick (GF Chair) and Louise Gould did several arrangements on both days. These arrangements were raffled off to delighted visitors. Speakers were Mark Miller from the city of Apopka. He is a tree expert and a wonderful speaker. Master Gardeners, Tom MacCubbin spoke about gardening in Central Florida and Bob Hotaling demonstrated how to improve Florida's sandy soil. Basses Hilal, Seminole Co. Master Gardener, spoke on growing herbs in Florida. Jim Duby from Seminole County brought his cold-blooded friends and spoke about Central FL Reptiles. Standing room only for Jim's talk. Alan and Camille Moore, beekeepers from Lake Co. brought a live beehive and spoke about bees and bee products. Children were fascinated by the beehive. Nate Graboff from Home Depot held lively Horticulture Q & A session. Junior Gardeners worked on insects for the month of February.

Windermere Garden Club - Windermere Garden Club, for Arbor Day, planted a Tabebuia tree in Windermere Town Square on January 16th, 2020. As part of the day's celebration, Windermere Union Preschool students performed. Plants and refreshments were handed out to the children. Professional tree climbers demonstrated their skills at the tree planting, January 16th, 2020, and at the Windermere Treebute on Saturday, January 18th, 2020. Windermere planted 10 trees for the district. Windermere Town Council recognized Windermere Garden Club for decorating the holiday tree at Windermere Town Hall. University of Florida scholarship students, Bobby Edwards and Geta Gallina, spoke at the club's January 2020 meeting. Annual Crazy Card Party and Luncheon was postponed until the Fall, 2020.



Winter Park Garden Club - February 26, 2020 was Winter Park's Annual Games Day Fundraiser. Monies raised benefit club scholarships and internship programs in the local communities. When a member can no longer maintain their garden, members bring patio plants and help set up a patio garden (container garden) in the member's home. Winter Park GC works with Round Lake Elementary School planting and maintaining a butterfly garden. A fund is also established to transport the students to Trout Lake Nature Center to participate in the center's educational programs.

District VII is looking forward to the District VII Fall General Meeting scheduled for October 15, 2020, hosted by Windermere GC. Thank you, Windermere GC.

District VII would like to send our condolences to former FFGC President (1999-2001) Carolyn Schaag and family for the loss of her husband, Edward Schaag on April 1, 2020. Ed was a strong supporter of the NGC, DSGC, FFGC, and District VII. He will be missed!!! Carolyn is a member of Clermont Garden Club.

DISTRICT VIII NEWS

Barbara Rao, Director

Counties: Pasco, Hillsborough, Pinellas, Manatee, Sarasota

Flower:-Hibiscus

Wildflower:-Rudbeckia Hirta

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 CC, 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

Our Garden Clubs have experienced so many cancellations and postponements in the last month that our heads are spinning. The saddest one of all was when we had to cancel hosting the State Convention and Flower Show! Not only that, but Deep South was going to share some of our time for their Convention and be joined by NGC President Gay Austin! All the clubs were so hyped and excited to share our beautiful horticulture, designs, and botanical arts for the Flower Show. Activities from Early arrivals and entertainment dinner, with enlightening programs and speakers to the last night of the Design Program it would have been a fabulous way to honor our State President with a Song in our Hearts! I am sure our President and District VIII clubs know that music can change the world because without music life would Bb (Be flat!).

These are some positive ways that members have dealt with Garden Club life in this time of pandemic. They have also supported their communities by sharing life-style changes and good examples of being neighborly and giving to others in time of need.

Apollo Beach-23 members strong spent time learning and helping to build their Community Forest Garden from an open field. They are working with a grant from FFGC and District VIII Matching Grant.

Clearwater-celebrated its new President via Zoom and conference call meetings.

Davis Island- Personally calls all its members to check up on them and to be sure their 90 plus year old members are well taken of.

Dunedin- has an active Facebook page with beautiful photos of plants and gardens from its members to keep them inspired.

Garden Gate- has a delightful way of keeping its members close in good times by having breakfast meetings and chats.

Gardeners Out East Created a member cookbook last year and is putting it to good use by asking its members to create a dish, photo it and post it in lieu of their annual meeting!

Garden Club at Hunters Green- went to an organic garden for a field trip early on and planted the veggie and tomatoes. Look for a good harvest soon!

DISTRICT VIII NEWS—(cont'd)

Garden Club at Tampa Bay Golf and CC does amazing activities within their clubs, now they keep in touch with a gardening newsletter.

Lakewood Ranch members send greetings to their members with flower photos from gardens and other posts.

Lemon Bay had the last big Flower Show before isolation kicked in and have sent videos of their show. Changed the garden workdays to be sure all members have safe distances in order to keep up with the garden.

Land O Lakes/Lutz meets at night with its 10 members.

Manatee River President has sent out emails and is checking to be sure all members are faring well.

New Port Richey with its 50 members meets on a Wednesday.

Palm Harbor Knowledge and friendship are the keys to this club keeping its members involved. Small but mighty group of ladies.

Plant City raised a great deal of money at their Garden Fest and donated it to the United Food Bank of Plant City. Their President has kept in touch with its members by a Facebook letter full of interesting information. The next Garden Fest event, free and open to the public, is scheduled for Sep. 26 (9 AM to 3 PM) - including everything for your fall gardening needs and accessories - at the Plant City Train Depot, 102 N. Palmer St.. For more information contact Sally Murphy (813) 758-5154.
Email: Sally.Murphy@aol.com

Sarasota will welcome its new co-presidents and is enjoying the beautiful gardens enhanced by the Bay. Members still work tirelessly on Friday mornings, 6 feet apart and miss the camaraderie of sharing a snack and cold drink.

St Petersburg sent a video of virtual Flower Show... what would have been. Keeping in touch with its members via email, zoom, conference calls.

Sunset Park keep in touch with its members and have kept appropriate social distancing while redoing the kitchen in their clubhouse.

Tampa put a huge Banner on Bay to Bay, reminding public to be mindful of taking care and taking time to stop and smell the flowers.

Temple Terrace hosted the fall District Meeting and has been busy with many activities with their members interests at heart.

Valrico produced the biggest basket for the Convention opportunity drawing...let's see who wins it in their club.

Venice has been keeping in touch via email and reaping the rewards of Florida Arbor Day festivities in the newspaper

Awards - District VIII got carried away again this year with Calendar girls and 12 Flower Show Awards in many categories! Deep South awards were plentiful among our clubs. Garden Therapy, Blue Star and Environmental Education were also won by District VIII clubs. Photography awards were plentiful also!!!

Programs and Flower Shows --- so many Flower Shows had to be cancelled in April, but the clubs are hard at work getting new dates on the calendar. Interesting Programs and classes had to be postponed. Even Installations were done via ZOOM and Conference calls. We are now in a total digital age!

New Club Presidents - a few District VIII clubs are installing new Presidents this year...Congratulations!

DISTRICT IX NEWS

Leslie Montwid, Director

The circumstances are so different from when the last articles were submitted. So many cancellations and rearranging going on and who knows for how long. I have heard that many in our district are taking time to put gardens in order and sometimes adding to them. Others are making facemasks or donating to food banks. My husband and I have instituted the "Sunday Drives", a pastime my family did often when I was a child but somehow fell to the bottom of our priority list. It's a great time to observe what others are doing in their gardens and pick up on landscaping ideas besides Getting Out Of The House!

Here are some updates on clubs in District IX:

Arcadia Garden Club cancelled their meetings for the rest of their fiscal year. That includes a Blue Star dedication scheduled for May 28th which will be held at a later date.

Bartow Garden Club's flower show "Butterfly Connection" included lots of Horticulture, decorated gardening hats, petite hanging Flutter-Byes and arrangements featuring butterfly flowers.

The main event was an interactive butterfly experience where visitors (hundreds) could enter a screened tent and feed live butterflies. All were thrilled to have butterflies light on them. Educational exhibits carried the 'Pollinators' message.

Jasmine Garden Club in Ft Myers has been busy sewing masks. Led by Pat Gregg and Patti Barnes they are making them for the staff of Health Park Hospital. Time consuming at the beginning enlisting 20 minutes per mask; however, with assembly line skills they have honed it to 7 minutes! Many who don't sew have asked how can they help? --- By donating 100% cotton is the reply.

The **Garden Club of Lakeland** completed their flower show themed "Tea Time" in conjunction with the annual Lake Morton Neighborhood Tour just in time as quarantine went into effect the next week. Guests judged both floral and horticultural displays by voting for their favorites. The club has awarded two scholarships to students at Florida Southern College and sponsored a Wekiva camper. Plans for the 90th anniversary celebration are on hold. Members are busily working on face masks.

Gardens of the World is sadly discontinuing its' membership. This club which existed as an online model was perhaps ahead of its' time. Members did all communication through online connections and were not required to meet physically. It is fortunate that members of this unique club concept belong to other clubs.

Naples Garden Club's Home and Garden Tour, led by Patti Taylor made it possible to give back to the community by awarding grants to: Audubon's Corkscrew Swamp Sanctuary for their "Marsh and Prairie Restoration", ECHO for their "Community Gardens Provide Food and Hope", Residential Options of Florida to establish a garden for intellectually and developmentally challenged individuals, Naples Botanical Garden for continued support of Horticultural Campus, internships and Idea Garden expenses, the Global Garden at Avalon Elementary School for grades 3-5 at-risk students. Additional funding was given to Penny Pines, Seek, Coral Reef Restoration, Avon Park Garden Therapy and Wekiva. Three students at Florida Gulf Coast University were awarded scholarships. Kathleen Hawryluk has ended her "Expand Our Horizons" year as president reminding all to be "nicer than necessary". Sally Lutz will succeed her with the theme "Stop and Smell the Roses".

Port Charlotte Garden Club members must be tickled with their new history book compiled by their historian Sandi Witzke. Their club formed in 1957 worked in conjunction with developers to create the neighborhood which now exists. The cover of the History of Port Charlotte showing garden club members from that time was used in development brochures. They have the distinction of being the oldest service organization in Port Charlotte.

Punta Gorda Garden Club has awarded over \$35,000 (!!) in scholarships from their Holly Days Home Tour. They were awarded to local, state and national programs with missions related to the club: conservation, education and beautification. Seventeen new members were invited to a tour of local gardens, an orientation and a tour of a member's garden with a craft project using natural materials. Their field trip to Bok Tower, flower show, and spring luncheon all had to be cancelled. Despite this, members continue to tend public gardens to prune and weed practicing safe distances. Punta Gorda is saddened by the loss of their member Elise Haymans who had served as president of their garden club twice, Director of District IX 1977-79 and FFGC President 1989-91. Additionally, she chaired many club, state, district and national committees. She passed on April 1st.

Wauchula Garden Club suspended the rest of their activities due to the quarantine. They also have suffered the loss of four members: Dr Elver Hodges, Fay Herbert, Jeanette Perrine and Linda Holmes. They will be missed!!!

The Landscape and Design class offered by Lee County Ft Myers Council of District IX scheduled for April has been postponed until October 23rd and 24th. This is the fourth and final session.

Avon Park's "Garden Therapy" plant sale scheduled for May 2nd has been cancelled. An alternative date has not been scheduled at this time.

DISTRICT X NEWS

Carol Coleman, Director

Counties: Okeechobee, Indian River, St Lucie, Glades, Martin, Hendry, Palm Beach
Flower: Orange Hibiscus Wildflower: Piriqueta

Butterfly: Zebra

Garden Clubs in District X: Boca Raton, Boynton Beach, Fort Pierce, Green Thumb Clewiston, Hamlet, Indian River County, Jupiter Tequesta, Ocean Ridge, Oleander Palm Beaches, Palm Beach Gardens, Piper's Landing, Rio Lindo, Saint Lucie West, Stuart, Wellington, West Palm Beach

DISTRICT X NEWS—(cont'd)

It is time to catch up on District X activities. Many of our clubs have had flower shows this year. They have been well attended. Unfortunately, some events have had to be cancelled due to the pandemic. Even our meetings, social events and planned trips have been postponed or cancelled. The most important one was the District X Spring Meeting. I had spoken with Al Latina about this before making the decision. He said that under the circumstances, many of the other District Directors had done the same thing. I have made sure that all important items have been taken care of so that we follow the FFGC requirements.

As for other activities in our district (which includes all our clubs), we have established a "Plant America with Trees" program chaired by Barbara Hadsell and co-chaired by Reina Snyder, and a new position for Kimberlee Pompeo as Vice-Chair for the Barrier Islands. We are hoping for a grant to continue this much needed program of planting native trees and shrubs. Unfortunately, we had to cancel Daggerwing Day and Earth Day, but we had successful outings in Greenacres and at John Prince Park.

We had a very wonderful and well attended TSC (Tropical Short Course) and Gardening Schools Program. Both Michelle Maguire and Barbara Hadsell were instrumental in these programs. Congratulations to them both. District X has been hosting the TSC and I hope it will continue here again next year. The Fall Garden School programs are already in place.

Boynton Beach GC had a Pot Lunch Luncheon and Auction fund raiser. They also had a workshop and recognition of Poinciana Elementary School, and an Art in Bloom Flower Show.

Boca Raton GC had a Paint and Pour event and also made about 500 masks for the pandemic. They had a very successful Fashion Show.

Ocean Ridge GC had a Dunes clean-up and Restoration Project. Other activities included making Valentine's Day Floral Arrangements, A Tropical Night Gala and two projects, one for Save the Seas and the other to make masks.

Jupiter-Tequesta GC got 5 new members. They raised money for Penny Pines and had an Annual Plant Sale. The club also worked on several community garden projects.

Wellington GC had Petite Design Classes and a Garden Art Workshop in preparation for their Petite Standard Flower Show. All of which were very successful. They had an Arbor day program. Fund raisers included a paper shredding event and many theater programs at King's Academy. Two members of the club attended the Wekiva leadership training program.

Piper's Landing GC had a Floral Workshop given by Lois Acinapura, a member of their own club. Rubin Moran was a speaker and gave a talk on orchids and Bromeliads at a club meeting. The club also visited Sutherland's Secret Garden. All other activities were cancelled due to the stay at home order.

West Palm Beach Garden Club, a small club, has increased its membership by 20%. Field trips and programs were well-attended by the public and drew in prospective members. WPBGC also had 5 members participating in the District X January 2020 Flower Show, winning two top awards and other ribbons. The club keeps up daily communication during the shut-down.

DISTRICT XI NEWS

Jeri Decker, Director



The members of District XI send their prayers to all those who have been involved with our safety.

Condolences to those who have lost loved ones.

Thank you to the members who have given their time to hand out food, make masks, or donations to Feed America and the First Responders funds.

Previous to this pandemic our district was busy.

Our District has been buzzing with activities, speakers, and field trips

Wow! They will be buzzing around in schools, neighborhoods, and community planting, and educating. District XI and District XII Judges Council will finish Flower Show school course IV March 15-19. Fort Lauderdale is continuing their work with their youth gardening and floral design. They will again be sending campers to camp Wekiva. Guest speaker Kurt Jablonski, 2017 National winner spoke on African Violets. Their annual Flower Show and Secret Garden Tour, and Plant Sales. March and April meetings have temporarily been put on hold.

The Coral Springs club plans on hosting the Environmental School in November of this year, if everything clears up. They're busy collecting bottle caps to help repair wheelchairs for the handicapped, empty medicine bottles for doctors without borders,

old eyeglasses as well as corks to help our trees and oceans. Their annual Garden fest, in conjunction with the city's Art Festival has been cancelled due to Coronavirus. Speakers included at club meetings Bees Matter and Recycling.

Parkinsonia Circle visited the Morikami Museum and Japanese Gardens and worked at sensory garden at a Boys and Girls Club.

Three of our clubs Lauderdale By the Sea, Pompano Beach, and Lighthouse Point joined together to have a Flower show. Some magnificent designs are in the works.

In February our Hollywood club had their annual home and Garden Tour. Their president Susan Berry was awarded lifetime membership. Susan continues communications with her club through informal emails. I know I've enjoyed the light hearted and educational information each week.

The ladies of Pompano Beach were models during their annual Fashion Show and homemade soup luncheon.

Beautiful and unique hats were on display during Light House Points, annual Mad Hatter luncheon and Chinese Auction.

Cordia Garden Circle sponsored a Day of Games, a fundraiser to procure funds for Camp Wekiva Camperships.

Our gardens and clubs are being diversified and growing both in size and culture.

Our spring district meeting will be hosted by the Ft. Lauderdale Garden Club, but is temporarily on hold until news of virus clears.

We will be contributing scholarship funds to future SEEK, and Camp Wekiva.

We are looking forward to learning with our informative speakers, classes and sharing our knowledge with our youth and each other.

DISTRICT XII NEWS

Jean Hawa, Director



Counties: Dade, Monroe

Flower and Wildflower: Musaceae Strelitzia Reginae & Gallardia Blanket Flower

Butterfly: Schaus Swallowtail

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

Coral Gables Garden Club: "Every Landscape Matters for Insect Pollinators" with Dr. Jaret Daniels, Associate Professor of Entomology at UF and the Ferns of South Florida, "Up Close and Personal" with Plant Biologist Jennifer Possley of Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden were program highlights. Mayfair Hydro conducted a workshop: "Designing for the Metropolitan Miami Flower Show". Unfortunately, a major fundraiser, the Annual Coral Gables GC Garden Tour had to be cancelled due to COVID-19.

Coral Pines Garden Club: On January 27th, 2020 club members, spouses, and the unbeknownst honoree began planting, in the shape of a butterfly, an endangered butterfly habitat with endangered butterfly plants at East Ridge at Cutler Bay. Two weeks later, on February 10th, it was dedicated to Nancy Fehr for her many years of service to NGC (67 years), FFGC and Coral Pines GC.



The garden was developed with the help of Dr. Jaeson Clayborn (president of Miami Blue, the local chapter of North American Butterfly Association, and professor at FIU and Miami Dade College) and his students, who worked with the club in choosing the right plants and designing the space. "Connect to Protect" (Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden Pine Rockland conservation group) assisted with guidance on establishing a watering schedule for the garden's plants. Trimscape, Casey's Corner Nursery and Galloway Farm Nursery were local businesses contributing to the project.

Ken Pines Garden Club: Meeting in members' homes, the following programs were thoroughly enjoyed by all: "Bees and Flowers/Make a Beehive", "Re-Potting Orchids", and the annual "Plant Exchange".

Marathon Garden Club: On February 17th a "Decoupage a Clay Pot" workshop was held in collaboration with The Art Studio in Marathon. The pots were all beautiful and it was (relatively) easy to decoupage. Meteorologist Jon Rizzo shared his knowledge on Climate & Change - sea Level Rise at the February 21st meeting. The program of February 26th was "Plight of the Monarch"; seventy-seven people attended the event. Speakers, Jim West and Sookie, entertained the group with captivating videos of the monarch lifecycle as well as shared interesting facts of migration patterns that include the Florida Keys. Jim spent a generous amount of time fielding questions and then hosted a butterfly plant sale.

DISTRICT XII NEWS—(cont'd)

Marathon Garden Club—(cont'd)



Former District XII Director, Nancy Miller, accepted a Certificate of Appreciation as Marathon Garden Club's "Unsung Hero/Volunteer of the Year", presented by the Community Foundation of the Florida Keys.

(Photo by Suzy Curry)

Miami Beach Garden Club: The shutdown of Miami-Dade County was looming. But, by taking a leap of faith, the Flower Show Preview Friday evening and the March 14th Flower Show and Garden Tour were huge successes. President Leticia Delatorre Gunn went home with three ribbons. The wonderful weather helped make the six gardens the perfect places to tour.

Pinecrest Garden Club: On Tuesday, February 18th, 2020 a Blue Star Memorial Marker was unveiled to honor veterans at Wayside Park on the corner of U.S. 1 and Killian Drive in Pinecrest. The dedication co-chaired by Christian Armstrong and Cecilia Prah was very well planned. The Pinecrest Police Department Honor Guard raised the American and POW/MIA flags, the invocation was given by a Ret. US Navy Commander and Chaplain of American Legion Post 31. Julie Todaro (Miami Beach GC) sang the "Star-Spangled Banner", and District XII Director, Jean Hawa, gave a brief history of the Blue Star Memorial Markers. A very proud President, Kelley Schild, spoke of the importance of the day and the club's pledge to help Pinecrest maintain the marker. FFGC Blue Star Memorial Chair, Rosita Aristoff, made several impassioned comments. Also participating were the Mayor of Pinecrest and several Council Members. Ending the ceremony were a Palmetto Middle student playing "Taps" on trumpet and a bagpiper playing "Amazing Grace". A reception followed.



Below: a few members of Pinecrest Garden Club



The "Once in a Blue Moon" Fundraiser on Sunday, March 8th, 2020 was well attended. The early evening event had plenty of delicious food, tasty beverages, and much camaraderie.

South Dade Garden Club: "Love was in the air" at the South Dade Garden Club ... a Love of Flowers, that is! The featured February 13th speaker was Jennifer Marsh, a Florida native who has owned and operated a flower shop for 15 years. She showed the mechanics of floral design offering tips and tricks to making creative and beautiful flower arrangements. This was a presentation that all attendees thoroughly enjoyed! The well-renowned "Mango Man", Dr. Richard Campbell, was a guest speaker at the March 12th meeting. Besides learning a lot, everyone found his presentation to be entertaining and amazing!

South Miami Garden Club: In February, home-grown roses were brought by guest speaker Barbara LaPladd of the Tropical Rose Society to teach the audience how to grow hardy old garden roses in our zone 10 environment. This February program was excellent.

On Saturday, March 14th, "An Evening in a Tropical Garden", was a delightful fundraising experience for the sixty-four attendees who enjoyed the sumptuous buffet and libations while listening to a violinist. Vice-President Sandy Oltz said that Mother Nature cooperated with a picture-perfect South Florida evening in a beautiful outdoor setting. Auction Items were limited to items reflecting the Tropical Theme such as hand painted pots, original tropical artwork from noted artists, plants, and gardening items.

Elise Haymans



The Punta Gorda Garden Club joins with the family and friends of Margaret Elise Haymans in mourning the loss of this talented, resourceful, dedicated woman who passed away on April 1, 2020 after a long illness. Elise's many contributions to the local club, District IX, Florida Federated Garden Clubs, Inc. and the National Garden Clubs, Inc. are legendary. Born in Jacksonville, FL she graduated from Landon High School and then studied nursing. During that time she met her future husband Kenton Haymans, at a dance at the Naval Base. Arriving in Punta Gorda as a young wife and mother in the early 60's, Elise first joined the Junior Women's Club where she became acquainted

with a group of other young wives who became lifelong friends. In 1964 they joined the Punta Gorda Garden Club which launched her into projects involving beautification, education and conservation of our natural environment. She and Francine Herlovich started the History Park Garden and worked on creating other public gardens in Punta Gorda. While raising three sons along with her husband Ken, Elise enjoyed a lively social life, earned a degree from Edison Junior College and helped found the Charlotte County Youth Museum, devoted always first to her family and then to bettering her community.

Elise served as PGGC President and District IX Director in the 1970's, and then served on the board of directors of FFGC for ten years along with her friends Marion Wester, Anne Simpson and Virginia McDaniel. In 1989 she was chosen FFGC President. One of these years she and Marion traveled the whole state of Florida taking pictures for the FFGC calendar. During the 90's she served as Awards Chair and Recording Secretary for the National Garden Clubs, Inc. During these years Elise developed a love of flower arranging and became an award winning floral designer earning the title of Master Flower Show Judge. In 2003 she was again elected President of PGGC and later served as Parliamentarian for several years.

Perhaps most notably, Elise played a major role in the campaign to create the Florida coreopsis wildflower tag (license plate) program which has raised 4.2 million dollars since its launch in 2000. These funds are used to support native wildflower plantings along highways and public spaces, as well as environmental education and research projects.

The Elise Haymans Butterfly Garden at Charlotte Harbor Environmental Center on Burnt Store Road in Punta Gorda was originally dedicated in 1990 to honor Elise for serving as president of FFGC. The garden, designed to attract a multitude of wildlife species, was revitalized and rededicated in 2018 featuring an abundance of Florida native plants and the addition of a rain garden. In recognition of her serving as FFGC President the "Florida Elise" caladium was named for her, and Harry Goulding, renowned hibiscus breeder and Punta Gorda resident, named the "Elise" cultivar of the hibiscus species, "*Rosa sinensis*" for her.

Those who knew her best will tell you that beneath Elise's quiet, calm demeanor was a person of keen intelligence and astute judgment who worked diligently to her own exacting standards, always with charm, grace and a bright touch of humor.

Thank you, Elise, for sharing your talents and friendship with all of us.

By: Mary Yeomans, President, Punta Gorda GC

2019-2021 Yearbook Corrections and Additions

District Directors:

II. Cynthia Biegler

Office Manager & Membership Administrator:

"LC" Blass - E-mail: ffgc@ffgcmail.com

2021:

March 21-23, 2021

Deep South Convention, Huntsville, Alabama

A complete listing of the Yearbook Calendar Dates can be found at:

Members - Forms www.ffgc.org under Members - Forms



Get Your Hands in the Sand ~ Native is NOT a Dirty Word!

by Kimberlee Duke Pompeo, FFGC District X, PAT Committee,
Vice Chairman of Barrier Islands with George D. Gann, IRC Founder



Were you told as a youth not to play in the dirt? Good chance most of us were. Yet, I don't think our parents meant for us to stop caring about mother earth. Here's how the environment sees us. It's as simple as a multiple-choice question. When asked, do you crusade for the environment? ...which do you check?

Never Rarely Sometimes Always

If you checked the last box "Always" – read no more, go straight to the end where you'll find your like-minded [donate] button for a modest contribution towards nature's shouldered burden.

If you checked either of the first three than I'm afraid you have a little required reading to do. Don't worry, though. You're not alone. We're writing as a result.

People often view nature conservation and traditional views of gardening as having to choose one way or the other. It's simply not true. It's not a contrast like *hardscapes* – the stepping stones in your garden from the *softscapes* – the feathery, green ferns that delicately sway in the wind. Gardeners know that it resides in "the variety" of methods that make a visually appealing garden. Just as there are varieties of soil and dirt to grow particular flowers and foods, natives offer intrinsic beauty in a variation of colors and textures, forms and functions with the powerful contribution towards mitigating climate change.

We live in an uncertain world faced with ever-changing concerns. The most pressing in everyone's mind today is the global pandemic. Unlike the coronavirus, which will ultimately be resolved through our human perseverance, policy, medicine and technology, the climate and extinction crises are here for the long haul.

What we do in the hardlands (where people live) impacts the forests and grasslands (where nature lives).

For this reason, The Institute for Regional Conservation (IRC) was awarded a \$100,000.00 grant from Impact 100 Palm Beach County, and received gifts from New York Life and many other stakeholders, to restore the gold coast. The program aims to reach students, teachers, public officials, scientists and many other influencers in the education of replenishing the depleted native plants along our coastlines, more specifically, on our barrier islands.

Were you aware that Florida has more barrier islands than any other state? Palm Beach County, alone has a large share of these barrier islands – upland ridges formed from heaps of sand and shell from the ocean's floor. They are the natural gift we receive from massive storm waves and constant wind. Don't you think we ought to try our best to keep them?

Former Secretary of State Colin Powell invoked the "Pottery Barn Rule" for invading sovereign nations: You break it, you own it. It seems the same rule should apply to ecosystems. The environmentalists say, the Everglades is a test. It's a test of our scientific knowledge, our engineering prowess, and our political will. Yet, mostly, it is a moral test. It's our willingness to restrain ourselves and to share the earth's resources with other living things and to learn to live in harmony with nature. If we pass the test, we may actually get to keep our planet.

IRC's Restoring the Gold Coast Program is intrinsically aligned with FFGC, NGC and PAT reaching out to the local gardener, the local property owner and to local government. IRC is the newest FFGC Affiliate.

IRC is offering 4 biodiversity native starter planting kits for particular ecological zones within the barrier island ecology in Palm Beach County. Some of these kits are great for a broad gardening application. These starter kits are available to your neighborhood along with consultation to find out what natives best represent the habitat where you live. Additional information also is available for Florida residents at the Institute for Regional Conservation, Natives in Your Neighborhood where you can enter your Florida zip code and get a native plant list for your area.

www.regionalconservation.org/beta/nfyn/

Gardeners aren't afraid to get green on their knees so come join our conservation on the ground!

Please visit for all contact information:

www.regionalconservation.org/donationRGC.html

~It's a "human to nature", "garden to nature" kind of thing~

New Membership

Ed Nendick, Chairman

First it has been my pleasure to give some direction to the District Directors on increasing membership thru our monthly membership message and the seminar we gave at the last convention. Working with all the members of the Board of directors has been enlightening. This last year and a little of the preceding year my wife Jane and I have written a monthly membership message with suggestions on how to recruit new members and retain current members. We had these sent to all members of the Board and all District Directors. The purpose was to have the District Directors send the messages to their Club Presidents. In turn we hoped that the club presidents would read them at their monthly meetings. We belong to three clubs and are very proud of the Valparaiso club for appointing a membership chairperson. They have grown this year thru a focus on membership. We wish all clubs would follow their practices.

Successful ideas in the monthly messages have been:

1. The app 'Next Door' has been used successfully by several clubs to increase their presence in the 50-mile radius around their club. This app needs to be used by every club to announce what their club is doing each month. Announce every meeting date, time, place, and program content. You might send out several messages per month on your app.
2. Contact the local realtors and give them the FFGC brochure to give out to home buyers. Have the Realtor explain that your club can provide the homeowner with information on what to plant, and some of the communities best kept secrets. Invite the Realtor to join your club.
3. Meet the local newspaper editor and ask what their paper does for free for local groups. Our paper will take a picture of the officers being installed into the club. Some will publish your meetings with date, time, location, and the program. They even publish if your club has a field trip.
4. Meet the local Master Gardeners. Invite them to come to your meetings and make a presentation on what they have success with planting in your area. They could tell when to plant, how to fertilize, and what to expect the results will be.
5. In summary, we have put ideas out that need to be read at club meetings. We would hope that each club appoints a Membership Chair. We want to communicate directly with that person on what is working and give them help with using the suggestions. Remember without members we have no clubs.

I look forward to helping you grow your membership.

Ed Nendick ,Membership Chair, (630) 605-6982 (c)

Email: EdNendick@gmail.com

**In memory
John Nathaniel Schmitz Jr
District II Director**



John Schmitz passed away on Tuesday, October 1st, 2019. John had served as District II Director in 2019. John's enthusiasm for serving the community was reflected in the energy that he brought to the Director position. His cheery disposition, his constant smile, and the friendship that he offered to others will be missed. He is survived by his wife Sue, pictured with him and also a past District II Director.

Wellington Garden Club

Special Tree Planting Event

By: Twig Morris, Wellington Garden Club

February 15, 2020 at the Wellington Environmental Preserve
Kathy Siena, Event Organizer

What an amazing, beautiful day Wellington Garden Club had on Saturday, February 15, 2020 while planting almost 1500 native Southern Red Cedar (*Juniperus silicicola*) tree seedlings in the Wellington Environmental Preserve on Flying Cow Ranch Road. This was a special tree planting in addition to their annual September tree planting usually held on National Public Lands Day. They were fortunate to be able to hold this special planting because the Village of Wellington had an abundance of seedlings that were purchased and needed to be planted. Even with only a short notice the event organizer, Kathy Siena, thought the club members and the community could help by



Southern Red Cedars



Scout volunteer

calling together all their volunteers. They didn't disappoint. She was expecting about 20 people but instead had about 40 volunteers. WGC volunteers included some members from their Community Garden team and others, high school students and teachers from their sponsored youth gardens, Boys and Girl Scout youth and leaders, and Village of Wellington staff.



WGC Tree Planting Volunteers



Volunteer & Granddaughter

The National Garden Clubs "Plant America-Plant Trees" challenge set before local garden clubs was picked up and carried forward by WGC! President Trump in his State of the Union address declares the "United States will join the One Trillion Trees Initiative, an ambitious effort to bring together government and the private sector to plant new trees in America and around the world." (from editorial by Andrew Wheeler-EPA Administrator) WGC is doing their global duty as earth stewards in the private sector by planting new trees.

Advocacy Workshop

Learning to be an Advocate

By: Sheryl Perkins

In January 2020 the National Garden Club (NGC) Environmental, Gardening, and Landscape Consultants attended the Florida Federation of Garden Club (FFGC) Tropical Short Course, Tropical Adventures for their refresher training. They were invited to attend an Advocacy Workshop/Dinner on the evening of January 22, 2020. The workshop focused how an individual becomes an advocate (a person who publicly, supports, or recommends a particular cause or policy) for the environment, finds out who their elected officials are, ways to contact the elected official, and effective ways of advocating to our legislators.



Advocacy Workshop attendees with Mary Mertz, League of Women voters at the podium

The Advocacy Workshop was hosted by; FFGC Landscape Design Consultants Council and the Loxahatchee Group of the Sierra Club.



The Advocacy Workshop panel: Mary Metz, Barbara Hadsell, Jim Ewing, and Drew Martin

The program featured comments from a panel consisting of: Environmental Co-Chair League of Women Voters Palm Beach County, Mary Metz; NGC and FFGC Gardening School Chairperson, Barbara Hadsell; Political Co-Chair Sierra Club-Loxahatchee Group, Jim Ewing; and Conservation Committee Co-Chair and Media Contact Sierra Club-Loxahatchee Group, Drew Martin.

Advocacy Workshop—(cont'd)

Mary Mertz opened the meeting by asking individuals to introduce themselves, letting everyone know where they were from, if they were involved in being an advocate in their community, and their concerns on the environment. She then explained the role of the League of Women Voters in our election process.

Drew Martin and Jim Ewing led the discussion on how to be an advocate and some environmental issues Florida is dealing with. Barbara talked about garden club members partnering with community groups in environmental endeavors like the NGC project Plant America with (native) Trees project. Additional topics discussed were local, state and national environmental issues.

Some points on being a better advocate during the discussion were to familiarize ourselves with local legislators through online research, attending legislative delegation meetings, legislative office visits, and follow-up calls. Introducing oneself as a constituent to the legislator was mentioned. Providing your name, whose district you are in, and giving your address will strike a chord. Always be professional. Even if they do not agree with your viewpoint, invite legislators to visit the local natural area you are concerned about with you, so you may educate him/her. Timing is especially important before the issue is voted on. When legislature is not in session is prime time to meet, have a field trip, have a town meeting, or have legislators talk to your group.



Individuals left to right: Marjorie Hendon, FFGC 1st Vice President; Mary Mertz, Environmental Co-Chair League of Women Voters Palm Beach County; Barbara Hadsell, NGC, FFGC Gardening School Chairperson; Phyllis Weber, Landscape Design Consultant Council Vice-President; and Sheryl Perkins, Landscape Design Consultant Council, President.

Each attendee received a folder containing the Florida Native Plant Society, 2019 Policy Advocacy Handbook printed by the Sierra Club. The handbook provides a 4 Step approach:

- Step 1: Know your Legislators
- Step 2: Contact your legislators
- Step 3: Relationship building
- Step 4: In the District—from field trips to delegation meeting.

Also included was an appendix with tools, (templates for emails and letters) and resources to search online for environmental impacts. The handbook advised to do your homework and have all the facts before talking to your legislators.

For people in Florida, the following websites have vital up-to-date information on the elected officers, bills, committees, and more:

www.flsenate.gov—and - www.myfloridahouse.gov.

A reference to 2020 Florida Governmental officials by counties in The Sheriff's Star, Volume 63, Issue 4. <https://www.flsheriffs.org/publications/sheriffs-star/>.

If people would like a hard copy email your request to: info@flsheriffs.org

Sheryl Perkins provided copies of the 2019 Florida Statutes dealing with issues on your yard:

373.185 – local Florida-Friendly Landscaping ordinances; 3075(4)(a) – prohibited clauses in association documents, prohibiting property owner from implementing Florida-Friendly landscaping; 720.3075(4)(a) – prohibited clauses in association documents for owner from using Florida-Friendly landscaping; and Senate Bill 82 – Vegetable Gardens – prohibits a county, municipality, or other political subdivision of the state from regulating vegetable gardens on residential properties.

By Sheryl Perkins, FFGC Landscape Design Consultants Council President

Email: sl_perkins@hotmail.com



Nature-Scape designed by Landscape Design Consultant Council Phyllis Weber, Vice-President and Sheryl Perkins, President

Youth Awards Description

Contests that can open doors to involvement with our youth without forming a special club.

FFGC Awards Chairman, Valerie Seinfeld

High School Essay Contest - Eligibility: Contests are open to High School students attending 9th through 12th grades. The contest must be sponsored by a single garden club, group of member clubs, councils or districts; or a State Garden Club.

2020-2021 "Adapting our Actions to Protect our Natural Habitats"
Due January 15, 2021: Essay Contest Rules 2019-2021

Eligibility: The High School Essay Contest is open to High School students attending 9th through 12th grades. A \$1,000 National Garden Club Scholarship will be awarded to the National Winner. If the winner is an underclassman, the \$1,000 Scholarship will be held by NGC, Inc., without accrued interest, until such time that the student enters college. At that time, the money will be forwarded to the Financial Aid Officer of the college that the student will enter. The second place winner will receive \$100. The contest must be sponsored by: a single garden club, group of member clubs, councils, or districts or a State Garden Club. All entries become the property of National Garden Clubs, Inc.

Length of essay: Between 600-700 words. The entry will be penalized if the essay does not conform to the required length. All words are to be counted. All entries must be typed and titled. Students should write the essay so it is suitable to be published in the NGC publication, The National Gardener. The winners will have their work passed on to Deep South and NGC.

Mail to **Sandra Lynch, chairman**

Smokey Bear/Woodsy Owl - sponsored by a local garden club. Competition may include students from first to fifth grade.

Mail to **Jill Anderson, chairman** January 20, 2021

The winners will have their work passed on to Deep South and NGC.

Poetry Contest - 2020-2021 Theme: "Exploring Backyard Mysteries"
Due January 15, 2021 Mail to Sandra Lynch, Chairman

Eligibility:

Special Education and English as a Second Language:

Kindergarten through Ninth Grade

General Education:

Kindergarten through Ninth Grade.

1. All entries must be typed and titled
2. Include name, address, age, grade, and school of participant on the back of entry
3. Sponsoring garden club and state garden club name must also be identified
4. Sponsoring garden club may be that of a grandparent
5. All entries become the property of National Garden Clubs, Inc.
6. Poems do not have to rhyme
7. Poems may be traditional verse, acrostics, blank verse, cinquains, diamond poems, limerick, or Haiku
8. The theme("Exploring Backyard Mysteries") should not be used as the title to any poetry.

When judging, the title is worth 10 points.

The winners will have their work passed on to Deep South and NGC.

Youth Sculpture Contest - 2020-2021 Due January 15, 2021
Mail to Sandra Lynch, chairman

1. Children in 4th grade through 8th grade will be eligible to enter the contest.
2. The sculpture is limited to a size that would fit on a 8 1/2" x 11" sheet of paper and must be constructed of recyclable, reused, and reduced material
3. Entries should include as many photographs as can be printed on the back of the entry form; (2) 4x6 photographs are recommended
4. Club entries must be sent to State Chairman by your State Deadline, 1/15/2021
5. Youth sculpture contest winners will be asked to submit a high quality photo of their entry to be used on the NGC website and in other NGC publications

The winners will have their work passed on to Deep South and NGC.

If you need any further information please contact the Chairman listed with each Award.

FFGC Affiliate Membership 2019-2020

FFGC has an Affiliate Membership Program where like -minded organizations, such as conservation organizations, plant societies, floral design clubs, etc, may join FFGC for \$50. These are organizations whose interests and purposes are compatible with those of FFGC. The goal of this type of partnership is to create a greater scope for the education and participation of our communities and to bring together diverse groups with similar goals. The Affiliate Member receives a subscription to the Florida Gardener and a Call to the FFGC Convention, as well as listing on the FFGC website and in the Florida Gardener.

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"

Listed below are the Affiliate Members and the Garden Clubs who have invited them to become members of the Florida Federation of Garden Clubs.

Affiliate Member

Blooming Freedom Nursery
Port St. Lucie Botanical Gardens
Florida Native Plant Society,

Mounts Botanical Garden
Heathcote Botanical Garden
McKee Botanical Garden
Patricia Davis Community Garden
The Institute for Regional Conservation

Sponsored Garden Club

Piper's Landing GC
St. Lucie West GC
Oleander of the Palm Beaches GC
Palm Beach Chapter
West Palm Beach GC
GC of Fort Pierce
GC of Indian River County
Pompano Beach GC
FFGC Dist. X PAT Committee
(PAT) - Plant America with Trees



NGC ENVIRONMENTAL SCHOOL

Host: The Garden Club of Coral Springs

Save the Dates

Course 1: Nov. 19-20, 2020
Course 2: Jan. 21-22, 2021
Course 3: Feb. 17-18, 2021
Course 4: Apr. 15-16, 2021

Course classes will be held at:

Fort Lauderdale Garden Clubhouse
3109 E Sunrise Blvd
Fort Lauderdale, Florida 33304

Information and registration:

CoralSpringsGardenClub.org

Call Jeri Decker: (954) 913-1616

Course classes might be virtual through ZOOM

CONTINUING EDUCATION

NGC ENVIRONMENTAL SCHOOLS:

Nancy Richards, (561) 702-0550
Email: nancyrichards@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

District XI

Crs #1: The Living Earth **Nov. 19-20, 2020**
Crs #2: Land & Related Issues **Jan. 21-22, 2021**
Crs #3: Air & Related Issues **Feb. 17-18, 2021**
Crs #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

NGC FLOWER SHOW SCHOOLS:

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

District I

Course #4 **Aug. 18-20, 2020**
Gulf Breeze, FL
Instructors: Pam Braun (H)
Gina Jogan (D,P)
Chair: Linda Henderson
Email: henderson9364@outlook.com

District XI & XII

Course #4 **Oct. 4-7, 2020**
Ft. Lauderdale, FL
Instructors: Jan Griffin (H)
Janice Hamlin (D,P)
Chair: Becky Schuberth
Email: bjschube@gmail.com

District IV

Course #3 **Oct 26-28, 2020**
Jacksonville Beach, FL
Instructors: Penny Decker (D,P)
Jan Griffin (H)
Chair: Mary Silas
Email: LSilas@aol.com

NGC GARDENING SCHOOLS:

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

District VI

Course #3 **Nov. 2-3, 2020**
865 S. Alabama Ave., Deland, FL
Contact: Jennifer Condo, (386)-873-2195
Email: Jattq3@yahoo.com

District X

Course #3 **Nov. 9-10, 2020**
West Palm Beach, FL
Contact: Michelle Maguire, (772) 485-3279
Email: mouthmom@yahoo.com

NGC LANDSCAPE DESIGN SCHOOLS:

Sue Roberts, (352)-357-3712
Email: sue@georgesuerobersts.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

District VIII

Course #3 & #4 **January, 2021**
Specific Dates to be Determined
Lakewood Ranch, FL.
Contact: Sheryl Perkins, (941) 708-2963
Email: sl_perkins@hotmail.com

FLORAL DESIGN STUDY UNITS:

Carol Lucia, FFGC Chairman
(727) 393-8276 (h) (727) 656-3207 (c)
Email: CLucia02LUC@aol.com
Basic Units (1-6) and 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!

SEEK Conference 2020

SEEK 2020 has been **cancelled**. The University has cancelled all the summer programs except for online classes. The Committee regrets we cannot provide this valuable program. With the cancellation behind us the SEEK Committee is working with University of Florida for SEEK 2021. Thank you for your support, The SEEK Committee

FFGC/UF Short Course - Cancelled!!!

An NGC Tri-Refresher

District VII—**Cancelled!!!** **Jun. 7-9, 2020**
Gainesville, FL
Contact: Florence Cline, (353) 262-4433
Email: LadyBugFlorence2@gmail.com

North Short Course - Cancelled!!!

“Defend Florida: Its Beauty, Resources, and History”
District I - **Cancelled!!!** **Aug 13-14, 2020**
Contact: Sharon Johnson
Email: singc@mchsi.com

Tropical Short Course

District X **To Be Determined**
No information is available at this time
Contact: Carol Coleman
Email: taxi44480@aol.com

FFGC Fall Board Meeting—(2020)

Pre-Board Meeting **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

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

FFGC Awards Chairman, Valerie Seinfeld

2020

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

2021

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

The Mailing addresses are on the FFGC Awards Page: www.ffgc.org

“2019” – FFGC & DEEP SOUTH AWARDS

2019 FFGC Award Winners

- #2 Outstanding Service Award**
Vicki Hearst, Windermere Garden Club (Dist. VII)
Donor: Ribault Garden Club
- #3 Leadership Award**
Leticia Gunn, Miami Beach Garden Club (Dist. XII)
Donor: Marianne A. Burbach
- #4 Award of Excellence for a Club**
Navarre Garden Club (Dist. I)
Donor: District 1 FFGC
- #5 Special Achievement Award**
A *Bartram Garden Club of Amelia Island, Inc. (Dist. IV)*
Donor: Carolyn Stevens
B *Lyn Ashton Worrell, Live Oak Garden Club (Dist. III)*
Donor: Mary Beth Wilson
- #6 Medal for Individual Achievement in Horticulture**
Michael Echevarria, Tampa Federation of Garden Club Circles, Inc. (Dist. VIII)
Donor: FFGC BOD
- #8 Garden Club of the Year Award**
New Smyrna Beach Garden Club (Dist. VI)
Donor: Lois Shuster
- #11 Yearbook Award**
1 *Azalea Garden Club of Pace (Dist. I)*
Donor: John G. Wood & Assoc.
2 *Camellia Garden Club (Dist. VII)*
Donor: John G. Wood & Assoc.
3 *Cherry Laurel Garden Club (Dist. VI)*
Donor: John G. Wood & Assoc.
4 *Miami Beach Garden Club (Dist. XII)*
Donor: John G. Wood & Assoc.
5 *Winter Park Garden Club, Inc. (Dist. VII)*
Donor: John G. Wood & Assoc.
6 *Garden Club of Cape Coral (Dist. IX) Clubs, Inc.*
Donor: John G. Wood & Assoc.
- #12 Newsletter Award**
1 *Daisy Circle of Gainesville Garden Club (Dist. V)*
Donor: Sarasota Garden Club
2 *Bartram Garden Club of Amelia Island, Inc. (Dist. IV)*
Donor: KC Jeronimo
3 *Sweetwater Oaks Garden Club (Dist. VII)*
Donor: Susan Slater
4 *Tampa Federation of Garden Club Circles, Inc. (Dist. VIII)*
Donor: Helen Nelson
5 *District (V) of the Florida Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc.*
Donor: Bea Imhoff
- #13 Publication Award**
1 *Daisy Circle of Gainesville Garden Club (Dist. XI)*
Donor: Lois Silverberg
2 *Navarre Garden Club (Dist. I)*
Donor: Cissy Richardson
- #14 DePalma/ Sillik Website Award**
2 *Rio Lindo Garden Club of Port St. Lucie (Dist. X)*
Donor: Libby Curnow
3 *Winter Park Garden Club, Inc. (Dist. VII)*
Donor: Marjorie H. Hendon
4 *Garden Club of Cape Coral (Dist. IX)*
Donor: Jan Sillik/M.E.DePalma
- #14 DePalma/ Sillik Website Award - (cont'd)**
5 *District IV of the Florida Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc.*
Donor: Jean Kelly
- #14A Facebook Award**
2 *Navarre Garden Club (Dist. I)*
Donor: Claudia Bates
3 *Clermont Garden Club (Dist. VII)*
Donor: Sandra Arnold
4 *New Smyrna Beach Garden Club (dist. VI)*
Donor: Claudia Bates
5 *District IV of the Florida Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc.*
Donor: Gwen Carter
- #15 Garden Therapy Geriatric and Exceptional Award**
1 *Wildflowers Circle of Gainesville Garden Club (Dist. V)*
Donor: Sue Angle
2 *Bartram Garden Club of Amelia Island, Inc. (Dist. IV)*
Donor: Helen Nelson
3 *Davis Islands Garden Club (Dist. VIII)*
Donor: Deborah A. Smith
- #17 Decoration of Historic Building Award**
2 B *Windermere Garden Club (Dist. VII)*
Donor: Sandra Messer
4 A *Dade City Garden Club (Dist. VIII)*
Donor: Pat Morgart
- #18 Historic Preservation Award**
2 *Pompano Beach Garden Club (Dist. XI)*
Donor: Susan Mello
- #20 Year's Horticulture Programs Award**
2 *Navarre Garden Club (Dist. I)*
Donor: Margaret Kirkpatrick
- #28 Horticulture Leadership Award**
Judith Begue, Navarre Garden Club (Dist. I)
Donor: JoAnn Guise
- #29 Community Service Design Award**
A *Windermere Garden Club (Dist. VII)*
Donor: Carol Wood
B *Miami Beach Garden Club (Dist. XII)*
Donor: Jeri Decker
- #31 The Madira Bickel Civic Achievement Award**
Garden Club of Stuart (Dist. X)
Donor: Gainesville Garden Club
- #32 Park /City Planting Award**
1 *Whippoorwill Circle of Garden Club of Orange Park (Dist. IV)*
Donor: Sarasota Garden Club
2 *Garden Club of Winter Haven (Dist. IX)*
Donor: Landscape Design Consultants' Council
- #33 Clyde D Ware Award for Civic Development**
2 *Rio Lindo Garden Club of Port St. Lucie (Dist. X)*
Donor: Ribault Garden Club
4 *Dade City Garden Club (Dist. VIII)*
Donor: Cocoa Rockledge Garden Club
- #36 Community Service Award**
1 *Wildflowers Circle of the Gainesville Garden Club (Dist. V)*
Donor: Orlando Garden Club, Inc.
2 *Tillandsia Garden Club (Dist. VI)*
Donor: Nina Ring
3 *Clermont Garden Club (Dist. VII)*
Donor: Jo B. Compton
4 *Garden Club of Cape Coral (Dist. IX)*
Donor: Leslie Monitwid

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"2019" – FFGC & DEEP SOUTH AWARDS—(CONT'D)

- #38 Civic Beautification/Garden of the Month Award**
4 *The Garden Club at Palm Coast, Inc. (Dist. VI)*
Donor: Navarre Garden Club, Inc.
- #39 Arbor Day Celebration Award**
2 *Miami Beach Garden Club (Dist. XII)*
Donor: Maureen S. Tuber
4 *The Garden Club of Palm Coast, Inc. (Dist. VI)*
Donor: Stephanie L. Susetka
- #40 Arlington Dolly Morris Award**
Catherine Ryan, Azalea Garden Club of Pace (Dist. I)
Donor: Shirley Wigginton
- #43 Blue Star or Gold Star Memorial Marker Award**
A *Wellington Garden Club (Dist. X)*
Donor: Jackie Host
C *Temple Terrace Garden Club, Inc. (Dist. VIII)*
Donor: Rose Vickers
- #46 Garden Tour Award**
4 *The Garden Club at Palm Coast, Inc. (Dist. VI)*
Donor: Manatee River Garden Club, Inc.
- #50 Environmental Education Award**
A *Temple Terrace Garden Club, Inc. (Dist. VIII)*
Donor: FFGC Environmental Consultants
- #51 Environmental Education Involving Youth Award**
1 *Azalea Garden Club of Pace (Dist. I)*
Donor: FFGC Environmental Consultants
2 *Wildflower Circle of the Garden Club of Jacksonville (Dist. IV)*
Donor: FFGC Environmental Consultants
3 *Garden Club of Cape Coral (Dist. IX)*
Donor: Eileen Zebroski
- #56 Butterfly Conservation Award**
1 *Daisy Circle of Gainesville Garden Club (Dist. V)*
Donor: Rita Hilton
4 *New Smyrna Beach Garden Club (Dist. VI)*
Donor: Louise Allen
- #58 Promoting Bees Through Knowledge Award**
B *Wellington Garden Club (Dist. X)*
Donor: Sue Angle
- #62 Mary S. Compton Award for Publicity**
5 *District (V) of the Florida Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc.*
Donor:
- #63 Garden Center Programs**
3 *Clermont Garden Club (Dist. VII)*
Donor: Gardening Consultants Council
4 *Garden Club of DeLand, Inc. (Dist. VI)*
Donor: FFGC District V
- #65 Convention Delegate Award**
Gwen Carter, Clermont Garden Club (Dist. VII)
Donor: Jayne Hemstreet
- #66 National Garden Week Award**
4 *Wellington Garden Club (Dist. X)*
Donor: Barbara Horan
- #69 Digital Photography Awards**
A *Sue Killion, Lemon Bay Garden Club (Dist. VIII)*
Donor: Barb Jacobson
B *Diane Scott, Dade City Garden Club (Dist. V)*
Donor: Donna Thomas
C *Patricia Wendell, Miami Beach Garden Club (Dist. XII)*
Donor: Carolyn Stevens
D *Michelle James, Davis Islands Garden Club (Dist. VIII)*
Donor: Clermont Garden Club
- #69 Digital Photography Awards - (cont'd)**
E *Holly Yocum, Pioneer Garden Club of Ocala (Dist. V)*
Donor: Elsie Haymans
F *Sue Killion, Lemon Bay Garden Club*
Donor: Mary C. May
- #71 Ella Joyce Boals Program Award**
Garden Club of Orange Park, Inc. (Dist. IV)
Donor: Virginia P. Redmond
- #73 Public Program Award**
2 *Navarre Garden Club (Dist. I)*
Donor: Gloria Blake
4 *Green Thumb Garden Club (Dist. I)*
Donor: Jackie Host
- #75 "Fun with Flowers" Program Award**
Clermont Garden Club (Dist. VII)
Donor: Joan Lasek
- #76 "Fun with Flowers" Series Award**
Dade City Garden Club (Dist. VIII)
Donor: Jan Sillik
- #78 Parks and Grounds Program**
Miami Beach Garden Club (Dist. XII)
Donor: Jean Schneider
- #79 Special Youth Program(s) Award**
4 *Wellington Garden Club (Dist. X)*
Donor: Andrea L. Hellmann
- #81 Floral Designer's Award**
Susan Hillson, Wellington Garden Club (Dist. X)
Donor: District I Judges Council
- Flower Show Achievement Awards**
- #102 Holiday Standard Flower Show Award**
A *Manatee River Garden Club (Dist. VIII)*
"All You Need is Love"
Donor: Orlando Garden Club/FFSJ
- #106 Standard Flower Show Staged in a Public Building**
A *Garden Club of St. Petersburg (Dist. VIII)*
"It's Showtime"
Donor: Kathleen Hawryluk/FFSJ
- #107 Club Standard Flower Show Award**
B *Plant City Garden Club (Dist. VIII)*
"Jungle Mania"
Donor: Tampa Federation of GC Circles, Inc/FFSJ
C *Homosassa Garden Club (Dist. V)*
"Florida's Memorable Travel Adventures with Flowers"
Donor: Tampa Federation of GC Circles, Inc/FFSJ
D *Boca Raton Garden Club (Dist. X)*
"Mother Goose"
Donor: Tampa Federation of GC Circles, Inc/FFSJ
- Flower Show Related Awards**
- #120 Flower Show Focal Area Award**
A *Plant City Garden Club (Dist. VIII)*
"Jungle Mania"
Donor: Floralia VI District VIII
B *Boca Raton Garden Club (Dist. X)*
"Mother Goose"
Donor: Floralia VI District VIII

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“2019” – FFGC & DEEP SOUTH AWARDS—(CONT'D)

Flower Show Related Awards—(cont'd)

- #121 Flower Show Staging Award**
B *Boca Raton Garden Club (Dist. X)*
"Mother Goose"
Donor: District IV/FFSJ Judges Council
- #122 Standard Flower Show Schedule**
B *Manatee River Garden Club (Dist. VIII)*
"All You Need is Love"
Donor: FFSJ/BOD
- #123 FFSJ Tricolor Award**
St. Petersburg Garden Club (Dist. VIII)
"It's Showtime" Mary Pat Troy
Donor: FFSJ/BOD
- #124 Floralia II Designer's Choice Award**
Patricia A. Steck, Homosassa Garden Club (Dist. V)
"Florida's Memorable Travel Adventure with Flowers"
Donor: Barbara Rao
- #126 Esther Brosche Educational Exhibit Award**
Karen Schulteis & Diane Gantz, Venice Garden Club (Dist. IV) "Fairy Tales"
Donor: Mike Brosche
- #127 Table Artistry Award**
Joanne Mason, Plant City Garden Club (Dist. VIII)
"Jungle Mania"
Donor: Parke Finold
- #131 Dish Garden**
Jan Griffin, Plant City Garden Club (Dist. VIII)
"Jungle Mania"
Donor: Linda Felfarth-Johnson

Junior Gardener Awards

- J-1 Junior Design Award**
A *Charlotte Nelson, Valparaiso Garden Club (Dist. I)*
Donor: Royal Palm Garden Club
B *Reaghan Baker, Valparaiso Garden Club (Dist. I)*
Donor: Joan Lasek
- J-2 Youth Flower Show or Youth Section of an Adult Flower Show**
C *Tampa Federation of Garden Club Circles, Inc. (Dist. VIII)*
Donor: District VII Judges Council
- J-6 Wildflower Whiz**
C *Greenacres C.A.R.E.S. Jr. Garden Club, Oleander Garden Club of the Palm Beaches (Dist. X)*
Donor: Eileen Zebroski
- J-10 Classroom Project**
B *Ms. Pamela Gadboys' B Class, Navarre Garden Club (Dist. I)*
Donor: Jeannie Ballentine
- J-11 Litter Control Project**
A *Graham Kingston, Ribault Garden Club (Dist. IV)*
Donor: Davis Island Garden Club
B *Kaleigh Broughman, Navarre Garden Club (Dist. I)*
Donor: Davis Island Garden Club
- J-12 Land Trust Essay Award**
B *Layla Utley, Ribault Garden Club (Dist. IV)*
Donor: Jane Mills
- J-13 Junior Gardeners/Pre-School Nature Posters Award**
A *Sprigs Jr. Garden Club, Citrus Garden Club (Dist. V)*
Donor: Jasmine Garden Club
C *Sprigs Jr. Garden Club, Citrus Garden Club (Dist. V)*
Donor: Jasmine Garden Club

- J-14 Water Conservation – Environmental Poster Contest**
C *Jordyn Emely, Sweetwater Oaks Garden Club (Dist. VII)*
Donor: Tampa Federation of Garden Club Circles, Inc.
- J-16 Junior Field Trip Report**
B *Autumn Simmons, Navarre Garden Club (Dist. I)*
Donor: District VII
- J-20 Junior Horticulture**
A *Young Buds, Valparaiso Garden Club (Dist. I)*
Donor: Gardening Consultants Council
B *Garden Gators, Navarre Garden Club (Dist. I)*
Donor: Gardening Consultants Council
C *Bloomers, Valparaiso Garden Club (Dist. I)*
Donor: Gardening Consultants Council
- J-21 Poisonous Plants**
B *Lucas Herrera and David Litton, Navarre Garden Club (Dist. I)*
Donor: Cissy Richardson
- J-22 Pitcher Plants Preservation**
B *Garden Gators, Navarre Garden Club (Dist. I)*
Donor: Jayne Hemstreet
- J-24 Wildflower Folder**
D *Ashley Gerlach, Navarre Garden Club (Dist. I)*
Donor: Sarasota Garden Club
- J-25 Wild Plant Specimens**
C *Priyanna Parker, Sweetwater Oaks Garden Club (Dist. VII)*
Donor: Jean Schneider
- J-27 Tree Award**
A *Kaiden Watkins, Ribault Garden Club (Dist. IV)*
Donor: The Garden Club of Tarpon Springs, Inc.
B *Bailey Kellar, Ribault Garden Club (Dist. IV)*
Donor: The Garden Club of Tarpon Springs, Inc.
D *Alia Khalil, Sweetwater Oaks Garden Club (Dist. VII)*
Donor: Lois Weber
G *Degan Paine, Sweetwater Oaks Garden Club (Dist. VII)*
Donor: Carol Herdel
- J-31 Birds in Florida**
B *Mrs. Humphries Class, Ribault Garden Club (Dist. IV)*
Donor: JoAnn Guise
C *Star Child Academy, Sweetwater Oaks Garden Club (Dist. VII)*
Donor: Pat Carver
- J-32 Butterfly Conservation Folder**
D *Navarre Garden Club (Dist. I)*
Donor: Christia "Li" Roberts
- J-33 Butterfly Award**
A *Liberty Pellitier, Ribault Garden Club (Dist. IV)*
Donor: FFGC District III
D *Emma Bellinger, Navarre Garden Club (Dist. I)*
Donor: Elaine Waidelich
F *Shaun Stehlik, Citrus Garden Club (Dist. IV)*
Donor: Karen Hall
- J-34 Reptiles and Amphibians Found In Florida**
B *Cale Spruiell, Navarre Garden Club (Dist. I)*
Donor: Mary Dipboye
- J-35 Garden Insects Found in Florida**
B *Hailey Goodwin, Sweetwater Oaks Garden Club (Dist. VII)*
Donor: Joleen King

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“2019” – FFGC & DEEP SOUTH AWARDS—(CONT'D)

Junior Gardener Awards ((cont'd)

- J-36 Shells In Florida**
B *Kaleigh Broughman, Navarre Garden Club (Dist. I)*
Donor: Mary Whisler
- J-40 Junior Achievement**
A *Garden Gators, Navarre Garden Club (Dist. I)*
Donor: Manatee River Garden Club, Inc.

Smokey Bear Poster Contest

Sponsor: Cindy Rieger

- Grade 1** *Jasper Wilson, New Smyrna Beach Garden Club (Dist. VI)*
- Grade 2** *Amya Allen, Milton Garden Club (Dist. I)*
- Grade 3** *Zoey Fallick, Boca Raton Garden Club (Dist. X)*
- Grade 4** *Sally Rubay, Boca Raton Garden Club (Dist. X)*
- Grade 5** *Sophia DeSilva, Boca Raton Garden Club (Dist. X)*

Woody Owl Poster Contest

Sponsor: Cindy Rieger

- Grade 3** *Gabrielle Maxwell "Ellie", Milton Garden Club (Dist. I)*
- Grade 4** *Kirill Novikov, Boca Raton Garden Club (Dist. X)*
- Grade 5** *Kamren Dixon, Sweet Bay Garden Club (Dist. I!)*

NGC Youth Poetry Contest

- Grade 6** *Mikayla Barrett, Fort Lauderdale Garden Club, Inc. (Dist. XI)*
Donor: Betty Moss
- Grade 7** *Ava Frias, Fort Lauderdale Garden Club, Inc. (Dist. XI)*
Donor:
- Grade 8** *Siena Zimmerman, Fort Lauderdale Garden Club, Inc. (Dist. XI)*
Donor: Honeysuckle Garden Club
- Grade 9** *Micah Barrett, Fort Lauderdale Garden Club, Inc. (Dist. XI)*
Donor: Honeysuckle Garden Club

NGC Youth Sculpture Contest

- Grade 6** *Sabrina Navarra, Fort Lauderdale Garden Club, Inc. (Dist. XI)*
Donor: Becky Schubert
- Grade 7** *Kylee Reaves, Fort Lauderdale Garden Club, Inc. (Dist. XI)*
Donor: Jeanice Gage
- Grade 8** *Rylee Robbins, Fort Lauderdale Garden Club, Inc. (Dist. XI)*
Donor: Ingrid Velez

NGC High School Essay Contest

- HS-1** *Gabriela Molina, Ft. Lauderdale Garden Club, Inc. (Dist. XI)*
Essay: "The Letters E and O"
Donor: Cordia Garden Circle

2019 Deep South Award Winners

- 5-A Public Relations Award**
iv *2nd Place - Garden Club of Cape Coral (Dist. IX)*
- 10-A Special Achievement Award**
ii *3rd Place—Bartram Garden Club of Amelia Island, Inc. (Dist. IV)*
iii *3rd Place - Davis Islands Garden Club (Dist. VIII)*
iv *1st Place—Garden Club of DeLand, Inc. (Dist. VI)*
- 11-A Horticulture Award**
iii *1st Place - Clermont Garden Club (Dist. VII)*
iv *1st Place - Garden Club of Cape Coral (Dist. IX)*

- 15-A Environmental Education Award**
i *1st Place - Azalea Garden Club of Pace (Dist. I)*
ii *3rd Place—Navarre Garden Club (Dist. I)*
- 16-A Butterfly Conservation**
i *2nd Place - Daisy Circle of Gainesville Garden Club (Dist. V)*
iv *2nd Place - New Smyrna Beach Garden Club (Dist. VI)*
- 18-A Adopt-A-Park Award**
i *1st Place – Overall Winner (\$25) - Whippoorwill Circle of the Garden Club of Orange Park (Dist. IV)*
- 19-A Community Action Award**
i *2nd Place - Wildflowers Circle of the Gainesville Garden Club (Dist. V)*
ii *1st Place - Garden Club of Winter Haven (Dist. IX)*
iii *1st Place - Temple Terrace Garden Club, Inc. (Dist. VIII)*
iv *1st Place—Wellington Garden Club (Dist. X)*
- 24 Deep South Garden Club of the Year**
Overall Winner (\$50) - New Smyrna Beach Garden Club (Dist. VI)
- 25-A Arbor Day Award**
ii *2nd Place - Miami Beach Garden Club (Dist. XII)*
- 31-B Publicity Press Book – Group of member clubs, councils, districts**
1st Place - District V of Florida Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc. (Dist. V)
- 33-A Yearbooks**
3 *1st Place - (30-44 club members)*
Cherry Laurel Garden Club (Dist. VI)
5 *2nd Place - (70-99 members)*
Winter Park Garden Club (Dist. VII)
6 *3rd Place - (100-299 members)*
Garden Club of Cape Coral (Dist. IX)

NGC High School Essay Contest “Challenges in Preserving Our Natural Resources”

- 1st Place - Gabriela Molina, Florida Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc. Fort Lauderdale Garden Club, Fort Lauderdale, FL - (Dist. XI)*
Essay: "The Letters E and O"

NGC Youth Sculpture Contest

- Grade 6** *3rd Place - Sabrina Navarra*
New River Middle School
Fort Lauderdale Garden Club, Inc.,
Fort Lauderdale, FL- (Dist. XI)

NGC Youth Sculpture Contest - (cont'd)

- Grade 7** *2nd Place - Kylee Reaves*
New River Middle School
Fort Lauderdale Garden Club, Inc.
Fort Lauderdale, FL - (Dist. XI)
- Grade 8** *3rd Place - Siena Zimmerman*
Sunrise Middle School
Fort Lauderdale Garden Club, Inc. ,
Fort Lauderdale, FL - (Dist. XI)
- Grade 9** *2nd Place - Micah Barrett*
South Plantation High School
Fort Lauderdale Garden Club, Inc. ,
Fort Lauderdale, FL - (Dist. XI)

Boca Raton Garden Club

Coronavirus Masks

The Boca Raton Garden Club has always boasted talented “crafty” members as evidenced by their annual Holiday House crafts bazaar which features many handsewn gifts and household items.

Now practicing “social distancing” to fight the Corona Virus, the Garden Club is tapping its over 150 members to use their skills to make face masks and deliver them to doctors, nurses, veterinarians, nursing homes and wherever needed.



The project is being spearheaded by Mary Kaub (Garden Club's 3rd VP) and Dellie Krebs (2nd VP) who explained that the masks are made of 2 layers of cotton material so doctors, nurses and other health care providers can wear them over their other protective masks or if necessary, by themselves. Mary Kaub noted, “We currently have 19 members sewing masks at home and we're hoping more members will join us.

Mary added, “We are delivering masks to 8 local nursing homes, 5 veterinarian offices,

individual doctors' offices as well as an emergency room in North Carolina (my niece, a nurse there, called me to ask for some). We also were contacted by a Broward Hospital Occupational Therapy Floor and a Foster Care home. After an article in *The Fort Lauderdale Sun-Sentinel* newspaper, we have requests for over 400 masks, and have delivered 325.

Mary said the places they have dropped off the masks have shown their gratitude with applause and even tears and the need has been obvious. “Nursing homes are desperate and will take anything!” Mary emphasized, “We will help anyone in the community that is in dire need of protective face masks.”

To request masks, email Mary Kaub at MBKaub@aol.com

The Boca Raton Garden Club has a long history of supporting the Boca community with scholarships and junior gardening programs for local students and Garden Therapy for senior citizens at FAU's Memory and Wellness Center. Funds from Club events are also used to send students and counselors from Boca schools to Camp Wekiva nature camp each year.

Blue Star Markers Shine Again in District II



Parker, FL
Blue Star Marker

On October 10th, 2018 a devastating Category 5 Hurricane Michael struck Florida's panhandle causing catastrophic wind and storm surge destruction as it moved onward to Georgia. The areas hardest hit largely were between Panama City and Port St. Joe, continuing northward across I-10 through Marianna. In terms of storm intensity, as measured by central barometric pressure at its Florida landfall, Hurricane Michael is second only to the 1935 Labor Day hurricane – even surpassing the Miami area's Hurricane Andrew in 1992.

Thirteen months after Hurricane Michael hit Florida the cleanup and rebuilding efforts continue and will do so for years to come. Large sections of agricultural lands and forests may take decades to fully recover. Just a few miles north of where Hurricane Michael's eyewall came ashore, an estimated \$6 billion worth of US fighter jets were damaged at Tyndall Air Force Base.

Counties within FFGC's District II sustained the bulk of the wrath of Hurricane Michael. Since 1958 this District has acquired and dedicated fourteen Blue Star Memorial Highway Markers located typically along US 90, US 98 and SR 77 with the latest being in Graceville in 2016. Hurricane Michael directly impacted several of these markers.

It was not long after the storm had left the area when Sarah Darden of the Port St. Joe Garden Club ventured out to check on several Blue Star markers in the area. She found that her club's marker just south of town had been blown over and so had the marker at the entrance to the Tyndall Air Force Base as well as the one in the town of Parker just north of the base. Unfortunately, the garden clubs or circles which initially had dedicated the latter two markers no longer exist, leaving those markers orphaned.

Blue Star Markers—District II—(cont'd)

Apart from raising monies to assist hurricane affected garden clubs with their community plantings, a special FFGC fund was established solely for refurbishment of Blue Star Memorial Markers in District II.

With many thanks for the logistical efforts on the ground of Sarah Darden we are



Parker, FL
Blue Star Marker
Restored

pleased to report that the three markers at Parker, Port St. Joe and Tyndall AFB now have new support posts and their face plates have been restored to like new condition. In addition, two other orphaned markers in Chattahoochee and Cottdonale have been similarly refurbished as well as the marker for the Marianna Garden Club.



Port St. Joe, FL
Blue Star Marker
Restored

These six beautifully restored Blue Star Memorial Highway Markers shall remain proud and fitting tributes to our veterans for many more years to come.

Rosita Aristoff, FFGC Blue Star Memorial Chairman

2020 NGC Flower Show



We all share in the disappointment that the 2020 Florida Federation of Garden Clubs Convention “Perfect Harmony” and Flower Show “Sounds of Music” were cancelled.

The next FFGC flower show will take place at the April 2022 Convention during Marge Hendon's administration. On a very bright note, Marge has invited us to present “Sounds of Music” at that time.

Thank you to everyone who donated to the flower show this year and thank you to those who agreed to credit their donation toward the 2022 flower show. There will also be an opportunity to donate in 2022. The sponsorship levels will remain the same and all donors will be recognized in the convention program book.

If you are on the flower show committee or if you entered an exhibit in the flower show, your place will be held and you will be contacted closer to the time to confirm your participation.

Save your creative ideas for your design or botanical arts entry and keep your horticulture thriving.

We are excited that we will have the opportunity to hold “Sounds of Music” in 2022.

We could not produce a flower show with the excellence that members of the Florida Federation of Garden Clubs are known for without your support .

Regards,

Carol Lucia, Chairman

Lori Richie, Vice Chairman

National Garden Week

As the National Garden Week Chair for District X, I would like to remind all FFGC Garden Clubs and members of the observance of National Garden Week 2020

National Garden Week is sponsored by the National Garden Clubs, Inc. and occurs during the first full week of June each year. In 2020 it is June 7 – 13.

For District X, I will send an email to the presidents of all the Garden Clubs advising them of the dates that the National Garden Week will be observed. This email will also include tips on things to do. This year we will have to be imaginative beyond the norm because of the COVID-19 Pandemic.

I look forward to corresponding with all of you.

*Carol Ralph, National Garden Week Chair
District X*

Wellington Garden Club

Hosts Petite Flower Show at Wellington Green Mall

Twig Morris
Wellington Garden Club
District X
Wellington, FL



Flower Show Co-Chairs
Carol Lazzarino and Twig Morris
cut the red ribbon to open the show

On February 29 and March 1, Wellington Garden Club (WGC) proudly presented its Petite Flower Show "It's a Small World" in the Grand Court at the Mall at Wellington Green.

The show's theme, "It's a Small World", was inspired by exquisitely crafted doll houses created by WGC club member and District X Director, Carol Coleman. Over 500 visitors were enchanted by multiple doll houses of all sizes and shapes surrounded by incredible petite floral designs, ranging in size from 5" to 12" tall, and superb horticulture specimens that were naturally small or dwarf, as well as whimsical botanical arts, special educational, photography and youth exhibits, all of which illustrated the small world theme.

To help members learn the special skills needed to create petite designs, a series of workshops was held in the months preceding the show. WGC members and Accredited NGC Flower Show Judges and Instructors Christine Biscoglio and Susan Hillson, guided participants as they learned the finer points of creating floral designs and botanical arts exhibits on a petite scale.

Dwarf horticulture was discussed at numerous meetings and members learned how to correctly identify plants that were considered dwarf or naturally small. As a result, there were nearly 130 exhibits of dwarf horticulture on display at the show.

The Youth Division included Botanical Arts Artistic Crafts and Horticulture. Garden Club volunteers worked with two different youth groups to help them create their artistic crafts hanging ornaments made with seeds and their horticulture dish gardens.

Nearly all WGC members participated in the show in some way whether as exhibitors, staging crew, horticulture entries, hostesses, clerks, fundraising, refreshments, publicity, special events, awards, and dismantling the show. It was a great team effort and WGC received well-deserved praise from the Mall staff and show attendees.



Hanging Ornament by
Jayden Harris 5th Grade
Youth Top Exhibitor Award



Petite Exhibition Table
by Linda DeSanti
Award of Design Excellence



Petite Oncidium orchid
by Petra Russell
Award of Horticulture
Excellence



Petite Design
by Christine Biscoglio
Botanical Arts
Artistic Crafts Award

Ocean Ridge Garden Club

Face Masks for Residents



In response to a recent State-wide order urging all Floridians to wear a face covering when venturing outside their homes, members of the Ocean Ridge Garden Club (ORGC) saw a need and are filling it. With no beach access and condo community pools closed, a daily walk is an important outlet for town residents, and masks may allow pedestrians to pass each other safely along Old Ocean Blvd and elsewhere.

Since the use of N95 and other medical-grade masks should be reserved for first responders and healthcare workers, ORGC seamstress are stepping up and making cloth masks for distribution within the town. After first ensuring that all Ocean Ridge police officers, officials and staff had masks for their off-duty hours, Community Policing Officer Debra Boyle distributed masks to elderly and infirm residents with whom she regularly checks in. Next, ORGC members and many other Ocean Ridge residents were given a mask for each family member in their homes.



Masks Made by
ORGC Members

The masks are made with two layers of 100% cotton, as recommended by the CDC for cloth face coverings, with ear loops or ties. The fabrics are a variety of fun colorful prints, but, of course, neither fun nor fashion is the goal. The CDC has recommended that the public wear such masks to help prevent spreading of the coronavirus, which is particularly important since asymptomatic individuals may not be aware they have been infected and can pass it to others without precautions such as wearing a mask.

The project was led by ORGC members Kristine de Haseth (also mayor of the Town of Ocean Ridge) and Stella Kolb. Stella had the sewing skills to complement Kristine's logistical and communication skills, and a plan soon took shape. Stella acquired the needed materials and recruited another dozen members to help her construct the masks, while Kristine reached out to the town officials, ORGC members and community to offer the masks free of charge. The team effort has produced and distributed over 300 masks so far. But they were not expecting the response they have received from the mask recipients. "We have been absolutely overwhelmed by the expressions of gratitude and generous donations we have received," said Stella. "The need for these was bigger than we had even anticipated."

The work continues, with more members getting involved, with the goal of providing face masks to residents of Ocean Ridge until they are no longer needed. "The Ocean Ridge Garden Club does many things for the Town, and we are happy to work together to do what we can in this uncertain time to unite and keep our community safe," said Mayor de Haseth.

1. Over 300 masks have been hand-made and distributed to town officials and staff, ORGC members and residents of McCormick Mile Beach Club, Inlet Cay Homeowners Association, Sabal Island Civic Committee, Crown Colony, Colonial Ridge and Ocean Ridge Yacht Club, among others.
2. Ocean Ridge Garden Club has received donations from many mask recipients and sponsors that helped to support this service project. At least 15 ORGC members have been active participants.
3. Mask recipients available for comment include George Lettis (410-279-3807) of Colonial Ridge in Ocean Ridge, and Tana (561-234-5643) of Crown Colony, also in Ocean Ridge. Persons quoted in this press release include Kristine de Haseth (561-445-5094) and Stella Kolb (732-221-1979).
4. The ORGC President is Mary Ann Cody, mcgjinma@nycap.rr.com, (518) 506-2578

Jackie Reed, Publicity Secretary, (571) 225-2773

Email: drjareed@gmail.com



Barrier Island Beachfront Re-Nourishment & Ecological Sustainability

by Kimberlee Duke Pompeo



Like something out of Waterworld, the futuristic 1995 American post-apocalyptic action film, the ramshackle, steel barge positioned 1/4 mile offshore begins to pump silt and other material from the ocean's floor through a submersible pipe.

While the world, and I mean every inhabitant in it has questioned their exposure to COVID-19 it's reasonable to say that being in a vat of chlorinated water might be the safest place on earth. Poolside was one of my two treasured locations witnessing this season's remarkable and efficient beach re-nourishment project on the barrier island.

It's opening night and seated in the front row of the mezzanine, we begin to watch the dredging process employed by the Great Lakes Dredge & Dock Co. of Oak Brook, Illinois from the balcony of our 4th floor condo. As the excavated sediment sprays the starved shoreline, the dredger barge looks like a floating city sparkling its prisms of light from a distance.

In June of 2019, under the Flood Control and Coastal Emergencies Act, Congress authorized the use of federal tax dollars and The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to oversee the coastal replenishment. Earmarked for a variety of undernourished beach areas along the southeast coast of Palm Beach County, these displaced sands from currents, tides, wind-driven water and years of storm impact were about to be returned to the Ocean Ridge Hammock Park in Ocean Ridge/Boynton Beach. The hammock is a secluded area of public beachfront doubling up as a unique habitat for native trees and native plantings in our great State of Florida. The 8-acre mini-forest is positioned beautifully to be listed as a National Treasure thanks to the pioneering women of our local, seaside gardening club established in 1966.

At the water's edge, the process is well underway. In 2 shifts of 12 hours, 7am to 7pm working around the clock these brave individuals mobilize 4,000 pound machinery of giant portion with remarkable grace. The operation resembles a stirring up from the bottom of a dirty fish tank. As the granular sand showers the beach so does debris and seashells. Everything comes to the surface by way of a channeled pipe sprinkling into a large caged basket. The unwanted plastics and garbage are separated from the natural seashells and the water/sand slurry begins to create sand ripple ruts where only the water runs back to the sea. The remaining 'fill area' where the work men and women continue is now a new extension of our coastline. It's fascinating to watch and equally gratifying to know that our law makers wisely purposed our tax dollars.

As gardeners, it's safe to say that those earlier letters in 1974 to the US Department of the Interior urging our capital's bureau of outdoor recreation to retain this park's natural state gave the impetus of our community gift this season. Paying it forward while not forgetting to pay homage to those barrier island visionaries gives true meaning to our motto 'The Ocean is our Garden'.

Kimberlee Duke Pompeo
District X Vice Chair for the Barrier Islands
Former President, Ocean Ridge Garden Club 2016-2019



Beach Re-Nourishment



Beach Re-Nourishment Completed

2020 FFGC Convention

It started out with a theme, then a title. It then became Convention 2020 with a date of April 17-19, 2020 titled Perfect Harmony. The memories of this convention will be just that memories. It will be the convention that went down in history as the first convention ever cancelled due to the Coronavirus. We, the committee, held on to the very end working diligently and praying it would not have to be cancelled, knowing in the back of our mind that it probably would. When you know for the safety and wellbeing of all of our FFGC members, family, and friends it was the best thing we had to do. In the end yes it was cancelled but the friendships and the learning from this experience is what will be forever and those are the memories we hold on to. Working alongside wonderful and talented people are what this Convention Chairman cherished most. The enthusiasm of District VIII members was overwhelming as well as from other districts too.

Registration monies were refunded, speakers and workshops were cancelled, sponsorship monies and ad monies refunded, Early Arrival entertainment cancelled, and all this was done within a week to two after cancelling an entire convention that was up and ready to go. So many people behind the scenes to make this happen and I know I'd forget to mention one so a big thank you to all who had a hand in making this happen quickly and proficiently. Amazing it takes 18 months to get to the point that we all were and only one to two weeks to shut it down. Now that is team work at its finest.

Opportunity Drawing tickets will be sold up until August 31, 2020 with the drawing being held at the September 17th Board Meeting. There will be a drum with all the ticket stubs and we will draw the winners live on Facebook. Winners will also be put on the FFGC web site.

There are two changes on the Opportunity Drawing Prizes:

1. The two Nights stay at the Hilton Tampa Downtown- plus 2 tickets to the Florida Aquarium, w/Boat Tour, Dinner for 2 at Ybor's Columbia Restaurant has been cancelled.
2. New package added is one week stay at Sandcastle II condo at Indian Shores and two tickets to The Florida Aquarium.

Please keep mailing in your ticket stubs and monies to the address on the tickets. FFGC-2020 Convention, P.O. Box 4136, Tampa, FL 33677. If you are in need of additional tickets please e-mail Kathy Echevarria at kathy.echevarria@gmail.com or Kitty Wallace at kittwal@aol.com and they'll be more than happy to forward additional tickets to you.

We cannot thank you and your clubs enough for all the support you have given to the 2020 Convention to what we know would have been a wonderful convention.

Our wish to each and every one of you as well as your families is that you have stayed safe and healthy during this time of the Coronavirus. This convention has come and gone and now on to 2021 Convention which will be held in Daytona. Wishing them success with what we know will be a wonderful convention to look forward to.

Regards, Christy Linke
2020 Convention Chairman

Plant America with Trees

Going Native—Initiative with Area Youth for Creating Positive Change

NGC President Gay Austin's new initiative, Plant America with Trees: Each ONE, Plant ONE represents a commitment of each NGC member to plant a native tree during 2020—that's a commitment of 165,000 native trees across America!

Why is planting native trees so important?

There are many reasons: native trees are easier to take care of in their natural habitats, requiring less resources than non-natives, less work, less fuss; native trees help create wildlife corridors; they help restore local habitats; and, maybe most significantly, they create the very air we breathe, filter air pollution, help reduce ozone levels, and sequester carbon out of the air, helping to cool the planet.

Taking advantage of a year-round growing season, Florida Garden Clubs got the jump on this initiative partnering with a variety of youth groups early in 2020. This is a winning strategy for community building and education. Our youth are eager to contribute positively to the future and they have been thrilled to get their hands dirty doing the planting—a key for Garden Clubs with older members. Parks and Recreation Departments and City governments provide the land—various park beautification efforts—and these groups also provide continued maintenance of the plantings until they are established. Local Garden Clubs have been the sponsors of the projects detailed below and have provided the fundraising. Garden School consultants have provided planting expertise along with native nursery staff, and they also secured the native plants at competitive prices. It takes a village!



Boy Scout Troop 199

Boy Scout Troop 199 of the West Palm Beach area, part of the Gulf Stream Council, and local garden club members dug in to plant 60 native saplings as part of merit badge activities for the Boy Scouts of America at a local park in Palm Beach County.

The next event took place in the City of Greenacres.

Members of Greenacres C.A.R.E.S. Junior Garden Club and its club sponsor, Oleander Garden Club of the Palm Beaches, Florida, planted six varieties of native trees while participating in a Florida Arbor Day dedication. The dedication included city officials and members from the county parks department. Funds for the tree-planting project were obtained through monetary donations from local community members in memory of loved ones.



Greenacres C.A.R.E.S.
Junior Garden Club
Boy Scout Troop 199

Seventy-three local high school students helped kick off the third celebration of Florida Arbor Day, gathering early on a Saturday to participate in reconciliation ecology—naturalizing a trail as part of an ongoing restoration project by Palm Beach County Parks and Recreation. The high school students, representing five area Latinos in



Latinos in Action

Action organizations, restored habitat in a naturalized area of the park by planting several varieties of native plants, including several live oaks. A special treat—endangered Gopher Tortoises were spotted along the trail—an excellent sign reconciliation ecology is succeeding!



Latinos in Action

Latinos in Action works with schools and students across the nation to instill leadership qualities and empower and strengthen Latino-student communities to create positive change.

Another Florida Arbor Day dedication celebrating Plant America with Trees, area NGC Flower Show judges partnered with Port St. Lucie Botanical Garden in Port Lucie, Florida, in a Judges' Council "Mother Earth"-themed Flower Show.

In addition, members of Rio Lindo Garden Club in Port St. Lucie, area Master Gardeners and representatives of the Port St. Lucie Botanical Garden, as well as other local and state organizations, visited fourth-grade students at three area elementary schools to speak about Florida Arbor Day and the important role trees play in the environment. Also in attendance were representatives from "Keep Port St. Lucie Beautiful," a community beautification initiative and an affiliate of Keep America Beautiful, which engages individuals through education, responsibility, public and private partnerships and volunteer action.



Port St. Lucie Botanical Garden
Florida Arbor Day Celebration

Representatives from the Florida Forest Service, a division of the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, distributed over 1,200 slash pine seedlings to students to take home, plant and nurture. Slash pines are conifer trees found in the North and Central coastal plains of Florida and Southeastern United States.

In addition to the activities profiled, Florida Federation Garden Clubs plan to implement a Plant America with Trees event during National Garden week in June. Several native tree plantings are planned for this week.

Community outreach, participation and education in the planting of trees, bolstered by dynamic fundraising efforts, are key elements to the success of a Plant America with Trees: Each ONE, Plant ONE initiative. Please note that the careful selection of planting sites should include a plan that provides ongoing professional maintenance. This will ensure that native trees will reach maturity and continue to give the planet the carbon sequestration necessary to offset the effects of a changing climate, as well as support critical wildlife corridors.

Reina Snyder, Vice Chairman, District X
Plant America with Trees: Each ONE, Plant ONE
reinasnyder@gmail.com

The Plant America with Trees: Each ONE, PLANT ONE projects in Florida available on: YouTube <https://youtu.be/3i2-IS1T7g>



The Institute for Regional Conservation

Conservation of rare plants, animals, and ecosystems

100 East Linton Boulevard, Suite 302B, Delray Beach, Florida 33483 USA (305) 247-6547

admin@regionalconservation.org www.regionalconservation.org

Over the past 35 years, IRC has developed key program areas designed to prevent local extinctions of rare plants and animals, and restore native ecosystems for a sustainable future. Gardening with natives is viewed as essential to conservation success.

FFGC COVID-19 Actions

The Florida Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc. is again helping the community. Due to COVID-19 the owner of Cocktails Catering, Avery Porter, has had to cancel all events he had scheduled at our headquarters. Avery wrote to FFGC, "We are using our resources during this time to feed families and frontline responders. It cost us \$2.15 per meal. It is our hope to deliver 10,000 meals per week until this crisis is over." This is where FFGC entered the picture.

The Finance Committee voted, "to donate \$2,150 to Cocktails Catering to offset cost incurred as Avery and his staff provide meals to first responders/families during this pandemic crisis". The rationale was that from the monies set aside from the convention's BOD dinner, FFGC could donate 1,000 of those, much needed meals, thus the \$2,150 dollar amount. I am so proud of the members on the Finance Committee. This assistance is so needed in communities.

If you or your club haven't been able to find a good cause and would like to help, Cocktails Catering will be pleased to send a receipt for your tax refundable financial contribution. Checks made out to Cocktails Catering may be mailed to Cocktails Catering, 9640 Boggy Creek Rd, Suite #5, Orlando, FL 32824.

It seems the Boca Raton Garden Club's Mary Kaub, Dellie Krebs, and nineteen other members have been busy sewing hundreds of face mask, which have been used around Florida and the Nation.

Let others know what your garden club may be doing to help in your community.

Stay safe.

Marjorie Hendon
1st VP FFGC

PLANT AMERICA WITH TREES

PAT-Launched at FFGC January BOD and Tri-Council Meetings



On January 8 a three-prong approach to educate FFGC members to the NGC Plant America with Trees, Each One (member) Plant One (native tree) was initiated. In the morning, each of the Consultants Council—Environment, Gardening and Landscape Design discussed and voted to share in the funding of a native tree to be planted in the Headquarters landscape. Since that

time the Tri-Council Executive Committee decided on an East Palatka Holly tree.

Pictured: Barbara Hadsell, NGC Plant America with Trees-Vice Chairman, Dr. Don Spence who presented program "Plant Florida with Native Trees", and Brenda Luedeman, FFGC Gardening Consultants Council President

During the lunch time social hour an informal discussion was held covering possible native tree planting projects for FFGC clubs and their members, especially those involving partnering with community organizations. The NGC Gardening Consultants could be utilized to assist in these projects. PAT projects are detailed in a separate article in this issue of TFG.

Plant Florida with Native Trees Dinner and Program was sponsored that evening by the Tri-council of FFGC. The keynote speaker was Don Spence, PhD., Associate Professor of Biology, Bethune-Cookman University, Daytona Beach. Dr. Spence gave an educational and inspiring presentation to BOD members and members were encouraged to plan native tree planting projects this year. Dr. Spence offered to make presentations to FFGC clubs on our Native Trees.

Barbara Hadsell, NGC Vice Chairman Plant America with Trees
NGC and FFGC Gardening Schools Chairman
Environmental, Gardening and Landscape Design Master Consultant

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.

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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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