

Florida Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc.
Fall Board of Directors Meeting
FFGC Headquarters, Winter Park
September 6-7, 2024
Meeting Minutes

Call to Order:

The regular Fall Meeting of the Board of Directors of the Florida Federation Garden Clubs, Inc. was called to order at 12:35 p.m., September 6th, 2023, by President Tina Tuttle. President Tuttle extended a welcome to all who were present.

Invocation/Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America

Pat Shira delivered FFGC's Chaplain Ed Nendick's prepared Invocation and led us in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America.

The Chair declared that a Quorum was present.

Regular Business in Order:

Appointment of Committees:

The chair named the following committees who were appointed with no objections.

Committee to Approve the Minutes - Joleen King will serve as Chairman, Pat Caren & Kat Spieker.

Timekeeper - Inger Jones

Tellers of the Meeting - Charlotte White & Helen Purvis

Introductions:

Several Assistant District Directors were recognized and their contribution to building and maintaining membership.

Members who serve on NGC Board of Directors and/or the Board of Directors of Deep South Garden Clubs were recognized and thanked for their service.

The Chair gave a special recognition to Former NGC President Barbara May.

The Chair gave a special recognition to Former Deep South Director Carol Hall.

FFGC Officers were recognized Leticia Delatorre-Gunn (3rd Vice President), Mary Whisler (2nd Vice President), Christy Linke (1st Vice President), Jennifer Barber (Recording Secretary), Linda Feifarek-Johnson (Corresponding Secretary), Carolyn Lowry-Nation (Parliamentarian), Jana Walling (Treasurer) and Tina Tuttle (President).

The Board sang "In the Garden".

Report of the Committee to Approve the Minutes of the Pre-Convention Meeting of the Board of Directors:

Christy Linke reported that the Minutes were approved.

Report of the Committee to Approve the Minutes of the Post-Convention Meeting and the Special Post-Convention Meeting of the Board of Directors:

Christy Linke reported that the Minutes were approved.

2 Motions were brought forth at the Post Convention Meeting that needed to be readdressed due to a parliamentary issue.

Motion: Jenny Weber, District I Director, brought forth a motion to *Continue the tradition of reciting the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America.*

Gina Jogan seconded the motion.

Motion passed unanimously.

Motion: Joleen King brought forth a motion to *Continue the tradition of including an Invocation before the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America and Benediction at FFGC meetings.*

Lydia Barbour seconded the motion.

Motion passed unanimously.

Reports of Officers:

- The officer's reports will be posted together with District Director Reports and Committee Chairman reports on the FFGC website under the Documents Tab.

President - Tina Tuttle

Treasurer - Jana Walling

Jana reviewed the following budgets: Budget vs. Actuals 2023, Proposed 2024 General Operations Budget, Proposed 2024 H&E Budget, and the Proposed Wekiva Youth Camp 2024 Budget. These budgets were sent to all members of the Board of Directors for review prior to the meeting.

Motion: *Jana Walling brought forth a motion from the Finance committee to approve the above-mentioned budgets.*

The Budgets were approved.

Mary Ann Freyer named FFGC as a beneficiary in her will. In order to receive the funds from her estate Jana Walling brought forth a motion.

Motion: *to adopt the following Corporate Resolution to accept the funds.*

The resolution states: *Be it resolved that each authorized signer shall have the authority to sign and transact on behalf of the other organization and to bind and obligate the organization to the same extent as an account owner, would be consistent with the relevant product and account opening documentation, and restrictions River Source Life Insurance Company shall be entitled to rely upon instructions received from each authorized signer to the same extent as if those instructions were provided by the organization.*

Despite this organization River Source Life Insurance company will continue to deliver confirmations, notices, and demands upon the organization to the address of record on the organization of account. The organization shall upon request promptly, furnish Rivers Source Life Insurance Company with a complete and current copy of the organization certificate of incorporation, and by-laws or equivalent documents, and all amendments there, too. This corporate organization resolution shall remain in full force and effect until written notice of revocation or modification thereof received by River Source Life Insurance Company. This corporate organization resolution may be executed in multiple counterparts, each of which shall be in original. But all of which together, shall be deemed to constitute a single agreement and submitted at the same time. Facsimile signatures on the corporate organization resolution shall be deemed to constitute originals.

The motion to adopt the corporate resolution passed unanimously.

The corporate resolution paperwork was signed by the President, Treasurer & Recording Secretary. The paperwork will be posted with the meeting minutes.

Resignations & Appointments :

Dale DeFeo has resigned as Awards Chairman

Sara Wolf has resigned as Assistant Awards Chairman

Sandra Arnold from District V was appointed Awards Chairman

Gail Shaw was appointed as Assistant Treasurer for Wekiva Youth Camp

Mary Whisler was appointed to the By-Laws Committee

Kelly Wood has resigned as Insurance Chairman

Inger Jones was appointed Invasives Chairman

Sharon Bogard was appointed as the Historian

Hearing no objections - the appointments were approved.

The resignations were accepted with regret.

Standing Committees:

Finance Committee - Christy Linke reported

The By-laws Committee - Marge Hendon reported

Marge Hendon brought forth a Motion approved in committee

Motion:

Article III Section 4 - Reinstatement

A Club which resigns in good standing may be reinstated upon payment of the current dues and a reinstatement fee of five dollars (\$5.00).

INSERT: per club. If the club is reinstated within 12 months, it will retain all earned previous benefits and recognition, including longevity. If reinstated after 12 months, all previous status with FFGC is lost.

Rationale: - Per club is added to clarify that \$5.00 is paid per club, not per member or any other numerical category.

Rationale: - Explains that when a club has been reinstated after 12 months the consequences of leaving. This is especially relevant to precious metals and other FFGC acknowledgments and benefits given to clubs.

Article IV, section 1.e. (2):

(2) Clubs forfeiting membership for non-payment of dues shall be reinstated by payment of current dues, and a reinstatement fee of five dollars (\$5.00).

INSERT: *per club.*

Rationale: Per club is added to clarify that \$5.00 is paid per club not per member or any other numerical category.

Above 2 Motions were Approved

These Bylaw changes will now go to the annual meeting for approval of the membership.

Motion:

16. PRECIOUS METALS AND GEMSTONES STATUS a. A club having a minimum of thirty years membership (*insert here*) may apply to FFGC through the District Director for one or more of the following designations: 30 years - silver; 40 years - gold; 50 years - platinum; 60 years - ruby; 70 years - emerald; 75 years – diamond; 80 years - double diamond; 85 years - yellow diamond; 90 years - pink diamond; 95 years – blue diamond; 100 years – Centenary diamond; and 125 years – blue star sapphire.

Insert: *in the Florida Federation of Garden Clubs*

Rationale: - Reduces the confusion of when clubs are eligible for FFGC Precious Metals and Gemstones

Motion: Adding a section C to Standing Rule #16 :

c. Clubs that lapse for nonpayment of dues for a period of more than one year will lose their longevity status.

These motions were sent back to committee.

H&E Committees - Sue Roberts reported

Grounds Committee - Charlotte White reported

Nominating Committee of the Strategic Planning Committee - Chairman Gina Jogan reported that Joleen King was nominated to serve a 2-year term on the committee.

With no objections, Joleen King was approved to serve.

Wekiva Youth Camp - Mary Whisler reported

Mary Whisler brought forth a motion approved in committee

Motion:

Increase the parent-paid registration price of the Wekiva Youth camp from \$350 to \$380 effective Summer 2024.

Motion passed unanimously

District Director Reports :

District I - Jenny Weber

District II - Sue Meyer

District III - Assistant DD Gail Hill

District IV - Sam Runyon

Awards Chair - Sandra Arnold reported

Sandra announced the return of Judgement Day on December 11th at FFGC Headquarters. The awards page and award application have been updated.

All award inquiries should go to flawards2024@gmail.com.

Former NGC President Barbara May updated the members on the upcoming changes to awards at the NGC level. There is an expectation that all awards will go digital in the future.

Tri-Council Liaison - Brenda Leudeman reported

Florida Flower Show Judges Liaison - Gina Jogan reported

2024 Biennial State Flower Show - Gina Jogan reported

District Director Reports:

District V - Carol Stevens

District VI - Valerie Seinfeld

Scholarships - Helen Purvis reported

Helen reported that our endowment fund is now at \$597,000!

DS & NGC Scholarships - Mary Adams reported

Membership - Christy Linke reported

Membership Dues Ambassador - Sue Roberts reported

Website - Sue Roberts reported

The Florida Gardener - Lisa Packard

The Florida Gardener will no longer be printed and mailed. This decision to go to online publishing saves FFGC a large amount of money and opens up the Florida Gardener to a larger, more interactive, and timely magazine for our members.

BOI - Lisa Packard reported

The BOI will not be printed this year. It is available online at FFGC.org. Any corrections that need to be made should be sent to Lisa.

District Director Report:

District VII - Gwen Carter

Gwen Carter made a motion to *accept the resignation of Pine Castle Garden Club, Robinswood Garden Club, and Wildflowers Garden Club of Sanford.*

The motion was accepted with regrets.

District VII - Phyllis Weber

Social Media - Valerie Seinfeld reported

If you would like your event or celebration posted on the FFGC Facebook please email Valerie at ffgcfacebook@gmail.com.

Florida Wildflower Foundation - Carolyn Schaag reported

Hall of Fame, Life Memberships & Pillar of Pride - Skip & Diane Lamoureux reported
Since the Convention, we have had 5 Pillar of Pride, 4 Hall of Fame & 9 Life Members applications.

Affiliate Members - Donna Berger's report read by Jennifer Barber

Donna Berger made a motion

Motion:

To accept the application by the Native Plant Society of Palm Beach County Chapter (sponsored by District X) as an Affiliate member of FFGC.

Lynn Artz Seconded the motion.

The motion was accepted.

Earth Stewards Award - Kathy Sienna's report read by Jennifer Barber

District Director Report :

District IX - Assistant DD Susan Lawson

District X - Maria Wolfe

Meeting Recessed at 4:26

Meeting Resumed Thursday, September 7th at 9:03 am.

A quorum was NOT present for us to conduct official business. Any motion, ratification, or approval needed for the following will be brought forth at the January BOD meeting.

Please encourage those who did not attend this meeting to attend both days of the BOD meetings. We need everyone to participate to conduct the business of this organization.

Convention 2024 - Jenny Weber reported

Update about the progress of the planning. Convention Registration will be open in January. Hotel Registration - will open in the near future. More information about the Convention is available online at www.ffgc.org/Convention

District Director Reports:

District XI - Bonny Miller Cole's read by Jennifer Barber

District XII - Susan Rodriguez's read by Leticia Delatorre-Gunn

Arbor Day - Lynn Artz reported

Matching Grants - Helen Purvis reported

Forms for the matching grants are available at FFGC.org and the deadline for submission is January 15th.

Robin Hayes, Office Manager for FFGC Headquarters, was asked to join us so that we could give her a round of applause and Thank you to show our appreciation for all of her hard work.

Special Thanks to Lisa Packard and Sue Roberts for all their dedication and hard work to turn our website into a superior looking and functioning professional & fancy website!

Announcements:

*Our next Board of Directors meeting will be at FFGC Headquarters in Winter Park on January 10th & 11th, 2024. Tri-Council will host dinner and a program at the Winter Board of Directors Meeting on Wednesday, January 6th.

*Lakes and Hills Garden Club of Mount Dora will have a special exhibit on Thursday, January 11th after the BOD meeting of a selection of their Emma Sears Marsh Wildflower painting Collection available for viewing.

*January 2025 BOD Cruise - January 6th -11th If you are interested in joining us you need to put down your \$100 deposit. Contact Shelley Atkinson at satkinson@funseas.com or visit our website at www.ffgc.org/travel

*We are looking for someone in your club who would be willing to serve as Insurance Chairman who may have some experience in the Insurance field.

*Wekiva Youth Campers need reusable Shopping bags for their Craft Projects! If you would like to donate bags or funds please contact Mary Whisler.

*Ever heard of Author Marie Q Rogers? 2020 Royal Palm Literary & 2022 Firebird Award winner? She is our very own Pat Caren! Find her books on Amazon, at your local bookstore, and watch/listen to her interviews on YouTube and Spotify.

Membership Announcement

*Transfer of Gardeners out East from District VIII to District IX

*Membership Cards have been given to District Directors and will be handed out to the clubs.

*Last Call for your FFGC 100th Anniversary Quilt pieces - The last of these will be picked up on tour.

*Tickets for the 100th Anniversary Brunch and Dinner are on sale now. Dinner is \$100 and is limited to 75 attendees. Brunch is \$50 and is limited to 300 attendees. The events will be on Wednesday, April 24th, 2024 at FFGC Headquarters in Winter Park. Brunch is 10:30 - 12:00. Dinner is

6:00-9:00. Tickets will also be available during the Fall Tour or Contact Judy Jodoin @ jodoins@juno.com to purchase tickets today.

*We have a large number of Membership Flyers (Spanish and English), old Calendars, and Florida Gardener magazines available for free for clubs and individuals to use for Floral Design and/or membership recruitment. - Please contact Robin Hayes at headquarters for more information.

* Smokey Bear posters **only** this year for his 80th birthday.... no Woodsey Owl posters.

*This from NGC--qualified persons in your state interested in serving as an NGC officer: an application to become a candidate for an NGC Office is on the NGC website under the Board section, Administrative Forms. The applicant needs to use the Board password to login (Conserve/Nature). To be eligible for nomination to the office of President or Vice-President, each nominee shall have served as President of a State Garden Club for a minimum of two years and shall have served an additional two years on the NGC Board of Directors within the 6 years at the time of the election. To be eligible for the office of Recording Secretary or Treasurer, the nominee shall have served two years as an elected officer of a State Garden Club and shall have served a minimum of 2 years on the NGC Board of Directors at the time of election.

April 20, 2024 is the deadline for submitting applications to the NGC Nominating Committee Chairman, Betsy Steele, JLS5@truvista.net.net.

*FFSJ is offering 32in x 48 in Gator Board for purchase at cost.

Craft Color \$30 or White/Black \$30

Contact Margaret Kirkpatrick at mmaui@cfl.rr.com for more information. Submit Orders and Payment by December 1st and orders will be delivered by the January Board Meeting.

Benediction: Ed Nendick's benediction was delivered by Tina Tuttle

Meeting Adjourned at 10:15

Respectfully Submitted:

Jennifer Barber

Jennifer Barber, Recording Secretary

Approved by:

Joleen King

Joleen King, Chairman, District X

Pat Caren

Pat Caren, District IV

Kat Spieker

Kat Spieker, District I

September 2023
FFGC BOARD OF DIRECTOR'S MEETING
OFFICER AND DISTRICT DIRECTOR REPORTS

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PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Report of the FFGC President,
Tina V. Tuttle
6 September 2023
Winter Park, FL

The five months since installation have flown by but each day was filled to the brim with garden club related doings! So many emails with attachments to read, so many text messages and phone calls and meetings in person and by Zoom. Whoever said garden clubs take off for the summer is sadly mistaken!

Looking back over the calendar of events and noting the activities demanding action, your president has tried to positively react and work proactively to steer our organization on its way.

Presented here is just a smattering of what has been happening this summer:

--First some good news was received on 15 August when our lawyer forwarded the City of Winter Park decision from Judge to quash the suit against us! After nearly 4 years of angst, we can rest easy and continue to rent our building without interference from the City--for now.

-We still have another legal issue pending involving the slip and fall that happened in February. We have answered the 25 interrogatory questions and received a settlement offer of \$195,000. Our insurance company has a law firm handling the case so we just have to wait patiently for the outcome.

--More good news and after another long wait since April 2019, the new office building at our Wekiva Youth Camp was finally completed and dedicated on a sunny and warm 15 June. Our benefactor, Anne Todd, was able to attend and beamed at what was just a dream 4 years ago.

Money donated covered not only construction costs but also all furnishing and there is even some money left over for other needed camp projects. Since I was unable to attend, Mary Whisler will report the full story.

--If you were wondering about our FFGC underwater coral reef garden in the Keys and the ever-increasing, harmful temperature of the Gulf water, we learned that our coral babies were moved a bit north and a bit deeper to cooler waters to ensure their health. Sharon Trbovich will have more news on that front.

--Some not so good news came in June when we realized that the new air conditioning unit, still under warranty, was repaired and repaired and finally determined to be beyond repair. Your president contacted our local repair business and demanded a new unit be installed and, "son of a B", it was installed in less than 48 hours. Because we were charged for the labor and coolant costs, your president then drafted a letter to Trane requesting a refund on the nearly \$11,000 expense. Sue Roberts will bring you up to date on that episode and news on the floor, the oven, surge protection, the well, and various other events here at headquarters over the summer.

---The 2024 Convention Committee has met twice this summer and is in daily communications via email. We are putting together a fun and eventful opportunity for all who attend in Jacksonville April 10-12! Trying to contribute more than just ideas, your president saw to the printing of opportunity tickets, 50/50 tickets, Tombola packaging, flower show entry tags as well as some flower show staging, your membership cards and more.

--Proudly, FFGC brought several educational opportunities to our membership this summer:

UF/FFGC Short Course in Gainesville and Short Course North in Pensacola were successful in presenting refresher and CEU training credits to attendees and worked to garner a small profit to share with FFGC. SEEK's 3-day conference was held in Gainesville for nearly 40 environmentally aware high school students and, of course, the Wekiva Youth Camp was full to capacity with 600 campers from June through July.

--Surely your president was not the only one attending garden club activities this summer.! Didn't we all attend our district meetings in May? Didn't we all work to get recognition during National Garden Week in June? Did we all attend club birthday celebrations, open houses and welcome back teas? Didn't we all take time to review and revise important forms, timelines, and website information to ensure all was correct? Seeking to conquer pending items, a series of small group meetings were held by Zoom over the summer. One group considered pros and cons and made the tough decision to have our magazine and Book of Information online only, another group discussed creating a new website and yet another group passed vital information and recommendations to our Strategic Planning Committee about future concerns. The plan is to continue to tackle one issue at a time with small groups of stakeholders within our organization.

--In the aftermath of Hurricane Idalia, and in preparation for other storms this season, contact was made with the NGC Natural Disaster Program Chairman, informing her that FFGC Clubs do intend to apply for funds to repair and relandscape projects destroyed by the wind and water. We feel for our member clubs and will work to help them recover in any way we can. It is hoped that your president is living up to expectation and leaving no doubt that my heart and soul, energy, skills, talents, and knowledge are being used to serve you, the members and the organization as a whole. If not, please let me know how I can best represent the Florida Federation of Garden Clubs for the next two years.

Thank you,
Tina V. Tuttle

Summary: Your President has worked all summer on various projects to enhance the operation and mission of our organization. She remains available to listen to all ideas, recommendations, suggestions and criticism from members and looks forward to serving each of you well.

1ST VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT

FFGC First Vice President
Christy Linke
September 6, 2023

After being installed as 1st VP of FFGC at the April Convention this Officer has been learning and moving forward to fill the position. With each committee that you serve on as 1st VP it helps to build you for the position you've worked so hard to get to. President Elect and President.

Serving on the Strategic Planning Committee, Chairman of Finance, Headquarters & Endowment Committee, Bylaws Committee, and Membership Chairman.

As Chairman of the Finance Committee, our first meeting was June 14th with the introduction of our New Wekiva Treasurer, Gail Shaw. Jana is mentoring Gail for a smooth transition into the position of Wekiva Treasurer. E-polls were necessary prior to the finance meeting. Lynn Artz presented a grant from Duke Energy Foundation for funding for 66 FFGC garden clubs to purchase native trees to plant on Florida Arbor Day 2024. The committee approved or reviewed NGC schools and Symposium. FFGC budgets were reviewed as well as all other financial reports that were sent to this Committee to approve or review. As a member of the Bylaw Committee, we all met on the 16th of August. Marge Hendon the Chairman of this committee had an agenda that was discussed by all and we will meet again on September 6th.

As Membership Chairman, a meeting was held at convention in April with the new Assistant District Directors who were at the convention. A lot was discussed as to the next two years and the role they play in membership. Another meeting was held via ZOOM August 30th and topics were obtaining new members and retaining them, affiliate membership, on-line garden clubs, articles in their District Newsletters, and of course what are clubs doing to make their new members feel welcomed. An invitation went to all Asst. District Directors to attend the FFGC Board Meeting in September, with an in person meeting September 6th.

As a member of the Headquarter & Endowment Committee, meetings were held to discuss the issues that our building was still having. Sue Roberts, head of this committee had a full agenda and has been diligently working to stay ahead of the problems. As a member of the Strategic Planning Committee, attending ZOOM meetings as they come up. Always discussing what FFGC can do for their members is always a priority.

This 1st Vice President also volunteered at Camp Wekiva for a week in the 7th grade primitive camping program, as well as acting Chairman for Mary Whisler while she took a well deserved vacation. A day that was planned for years finally happened at Camp Wekiva and attending the dedication of the new office/clinic building was such an honor. Seeing Ann Todd's smiling face for something that she got to see finally happen was priceless.

With FFGC tour right around the corner this 1st VP is excited to visit all the districts and hear what all the clubs have been doing and what they have planned. Tour is always a humbling experience and look forward to this being my 3rd FFGC Tour.

2nd VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT

FFGC 2nd Vice President
Mary Ann Whisler/2nd VP
September 2023

As my term of 2nd VP begins, this VP looks back amazed that I have learned so much. FFGC is a wonderful organization. So many people volunteer long hours to make FFGC grow and be successful. I look forward to the next two years.

Ways and Means and Wekiva Volunteer Training was turned over to our new 3rd VP Leticia Gunn. We met to exchange ideas and paperwork. I look forward to working with Leticia and know we will work closely together to make FFGC even more successful.

As Camp Wekiva Chairman Elect before April 2023, this VP was already working on recruiting Volunteers and handling camp issues. In April 2023 and becoming Wekiva Chairman, camp was already close to opening. Many scholarships and Donations were received, and many thank you cards were sent. A great deal changed this year with hiring a new chef, a new registrar, and a new Wekiva Treasurer. We dedicated the Office/Clinic just in time for camp.

It continues to be a great honor to serve FFGC. As a member of Strategic Planning, Wekiva Board, and the Finance Committee, this VP continues to learn and understand the complexities of the organization.

Mary Ann Whisler/2nd VP (mary.whisler66@gmail.com)

Summary:

Wekiva

Ways and Means

Committees

3rd VICE PRESIDENT

RECORDING SECRETARY

Report
Recording Secretary
Jennifer Barber
September 5, 2023

Since the Convention in April I have been working with Sue Roberts to gain access to the website and all of the previous Board Meeting Documents. Sue has been extremely gracious and generous of her time and expertise, which I have greatly appreciated.

I have worked on the meeting minutes for the Post Convention BOD meeting which have been posted to the website.

I am currently working with all of the Officers, District Directors and Board of Directors Chairmen to collect reports and continue to prepare myself for my first Full BOD meeting. I am looking forward to learning more about FFGC and all of the functions and accomplishments of our members and clubs.

In Summary:

The recording secretary has taken meeting minutes, compiled reports for upcoming meetings and worked with the previous recording secretary for a successful transition.

CORRESPONDING SECRETARY

DISTRICT I

Report
DISTRICT I DIRECTOR
Jenny Weber
September 5th, 2023

District I has been busy playing and planning for the FFGC 100th celebration, AKA the 2024 Convention in Jacksonville. We have been having too much fun coming up with ideas for all to enjoy.

At the local level garden clubs are already starting to launch another fabulous year. Pensacola Federation of Garden Clubs hosted a Tea for Tina, honoring our own Tina Tuttle as President of FFGC. The whole District was invited and it was a lovely event.

Destin Garden Club's fabulous first flower (FFFS) show "Garden Party" with tour of the Destin Library's grounds during Garden Week! They also did a Southern Summer Garden tour of member's gardens culminating in a bayside picnic. They have made great progress with the installation of the Japanese Garden. Their brand new Fall photography class was just announced to the membership.

DeFuniak Springs Garden Club had a baby shower for their new mother to be at that time, Melisa Graves. There's a new way to welcome new members... before they're even born!

Milton Garden Club was recognized for their 75 years of service to the community by the board of Santa Rosa County Commissioners. Great way to get public recognition for the work they do.

Valparaiso Garden Club had three events. Their Saturday in the Park plant sale on 29 April which earned the club over \$1300. On May 10th they celebrated their 70th Anniversary. Their Mothers Day Flower Show at the Heritage Museum May 12-13 had 147 entries.

Honeysuckle Garden club hosted a program on Photography of Native birds by Dan Freeman. It was well attended and the snacks were great! Hint: indoor programs during scorching heat seem to be quite appreciated.

respectfully submitted

Jenny Weber District I Director

“What I Did on My Summer Vacation”

The thrill of the 2022-23 April FFGC Annual Convention was pretty much worn off by the time I returned home from my scheduled trip to follow St. Paul’s Journeys around Greece, Turkey and those beautiful islands between the two countries in the Aegean Sea. But, I digress....

Here’s what happened during the long summer months:

- Completed planning and facilitated DII 2023 Spring Meeting hosted by Chipley and Wausau Clubs;
- Created a DII budget, that was approved at the Spring Meeting, to better document our income and expenses;
- At the DII May 10th meeting, Chipley celebrated their 70th anniversary with a “tea party” luncheon as the new BoD found our sea legs;
- On June 15th DII BoD hosted the “Back to the Future” Summer Meeting for our Presidents;
- Journeyed back to the basic protocol of conducting informative yet succinct meetings: efficient budget, good agenda, documented motions and non-conversational minutes!
- During July it was time to catch up on reading documents of past events:
- Reviewed and re-organized notes from spring Club visits;
- Reviewed and arranged for an audit of the DII financial records in preparation for a new director and treasurer;
- Established dates and hosts for DII Meetings for the balance of directorship;
- Continue working with committees for the DII 2023 Fall Meeting on October 11th hosted by Port St. Joe that will welcome the “FFGC Tour Team”.
- To add to the inside fun (our heat wave prevented much gardening):
- DII is now an incorporated entity with our own TIN that finally allows legal banking
- The next step is seeking 501.c.3 status that would allow applying for applicable grants.
- Throughout the summer many emails were initiated and forwarded regarding new and upgraded programs and projects involving our District Clubs and FFGC.

Respectfully submitted,

O. Sue Meyer

Port St. Joe Garden Club

FFGC District II Director
DISTRICT III

District III Director
Lana Arnold
09/06/2023

District III Clubs continue to excel for their communities. We have 7 clubs in our District III and over 800 members. Listening to the Club Presidents tell about their activities at our District Meeting on May 16, was inspiring to do more. There are many wonderful projects and here are a few highlights from their outstanding works.

Madison Garden Club is restoring a park in their community with the help of a local businessman. It is a major undertaking, but has drawn lots of interest. Stay tuned on more information for this exciting project. Madison GC will be hosting our Fall District III meeting where our State Officers will be our honored guests on Oct. 12 and exciting plans are underway.

Steinhatchee Garden Club published a cookbook with member recipes, hosted a dinner to raise funds to send kids to FFGC camps and made valentine gifts for nursing home residents. Live Oak Garden Club designed 100+ holiday cards for nursing home residents, donated food items for two group homes and proceeds from their fundraising went to support local gardens, 4H and SEEK students.

Wakulla Garden Club is rebuilding and attracting new residents to their club. Informative programs were held every month with emphasis on native plants and tie-in's to environmental issues. Arbor Day is always celebrated with free tree giveaways.

Tallahassee Garden Club members landscaped the garden at LeMoyne Art Gallery. Work continues monthly by members on Tallahassee Memorial Hospital's Cancer Center's Healing Garden. Rutgers House, home of the Tallahassee Garden Club, was a featured home on the Tallahassee Symphony's annual tour of homes. Two Circles received "Plant America" grants to landscape Leon County Library branches and an area of a historic museum and garden. Monticello Garden Club worked with their Extension Agent on building a community garden and a community orchard. A spring plant sale was held with proceeds going for scholarships to 4H camps and other educational activities.

To sum it up, District III clubs donated almost \$2000 last year to Penny Pines! Way to go teams!

Summary: District III has many projects being undertaken for their communities.

Lana Arnold
District III Director

DISTRICT IV

Board of Directors Report District IV Fall 2023

District IV has been busy since we last met. Upon returning home from the 2023 Convention, we held our District IV Spring meeting and had representation from all our 13 clubs. Our guest speaker, Dr. David Clark, UF, spoke on “Besto Pesto” and this new variety of basil was available for sale. In lieu of accepting a gratuity for his participation, Dr. Clark suggested we donate to one of our favorite charities. The opportunity presented itself when Marilyn Hollowood, Garden Club of Jacksonville, Wildflower Circle contacted me while she was volunteering at Camp Wekiva in June. She was on her 16 th year volunteering at Wekiva. Marilyn explained that the camp needed funds for planned programs. We decided to send the \$75.00 gratuity to the camp. Our Assistant Director, Steven Davies and his wife, Marianne, were volunteering at camp for a second time. The check was mailed, and Steve presented the donation to Letica Gunn, 3 rd Vice-President. Following the District Spring meeting, we presented our “Leadership Lunch and Learn” workshop. Our theme was: Garden Clubs are the guardians of our natural world”. New and current club officers attended and had the chance to learn about Floral Design Study school, Camp Wekiva, National Garden Club courses, Tri-Council, Convention 2024, Master Gardener Liaison, our organizational hierarchy, “Snapdragon” (photography group), District IV and FFGC websites, Youth gardening, Birds, Bees and Butterflies, FFGC scholarships, membership recruitment and retention, Gardenfest, procuring 501(c) (3) status and CELEBRATING 100 YEARS OF FFGC! Lou-ann Johenboeke, President of the Garden Club of Fleming Island also gave an overview of a club president’s role. She is serving her second term.

In recognition of National Garden Week, the Bartram Garden Club was issued a proclamation by the Nassau County Board of County Commissioners. They also produced a display at their local library on horticulture, floral design, organic gardening, and pollinators. Throughout the summer, this group toured members gardens and promoted the Nassau County Extension office horticulture events. Green Cove Springs kicked off NG Week with a plant sale, butterfly information event, and focus on “Gardening with Pollinators”. Penta and milkweed plants were given away and educational material. Many of the plants sold were native. This event was held in conjunction with the Green Cove Springs Art and Car Show. Attendees were informed how the Green Cove Springs Garden Club was part of FFGC and NGC. Folks were encouraged to join the garden club. Alligator Creek spent the summer planning for the new year and are hosting an open house. Their guest speaker is Senior Daylily Judge/Instructor, former District IV Director and Master Gardener, Connie Gladding. Daylily plants will also be for sale.

The Garden Club of Fleming Island (the Flamingos) has spent this summer touring members gardens, and the orchid collection of Chris Gay, Garden Club of Green Cove Springs, and Clay County Master Gardener. Chris has orchids growing everywhere and gladly shares his knowledge. They visited the Flamingo topiary sculptures at the Cummer Museum in Jacksonville. Members have been maintaining the butterfly and Blue Star Marker gardens during these past few months. This group has continued their monthly food bank, donation drive; and is considering applying for an NGC award in conjunction with the “Plant America/Feed America” theme.

The Garden Clubs of Orange Park, Middleburg, Callahan, and Fall. Ribault has procured approval from the St. John's Library system to landscape the Neptune Beach library property. Middleburg has planned some "horticultural fellowship." events and "what is eating Gilbert Grape?" program. The Palatka Garden Club took part in the "Nature's Pollinator" event at Ravine State Gardens Park during National Garden Week.

The Garden Club of the Lakes recognizes a residence, church, or business monthly that earns the distinction of "Yard of the Month". Recently, an economically depressed community known for high crime and indigent needs was selected. In collaboration with several outreach services, yard tools, mowers, edgers, were loaned to residents. This motivated residents to completely overhaul and greatly improve their entrance sign area. The neighborhood earned the "Yard of the Month" award and is continuing the program throughout their housing area.

The Garden Club of St. Augustine have "Nature Detectives", who serve to educate the community on ecological, environmental, and botanical issues. Members have been busy preparing for their annual Holiday Tour of Homes and continuing their support of the local Area Agency on Aging. The club makes floral arrangements for the Agency's monthly meetings. Jacksonville has been very busy this summer. Their budding gardeners' programs has offered segments on pepper plants, terrarium gardening and will be participating in "clean up Jax". Their horticulture corner series is focusing on creating wildflower habitats. The annual open house is scheduled for September 28.

The Garden Club of Switzerland continues to enhance their native butterfly garden. An informational kiosk has been installed. After several years of having to hand carry water to the garden, they have gotten the county to fix the irrigation system. A butterfly cage with growing monarch caterpillars was placed in the community library as part of their educational series. Of note, Kevin Brown, with the Beaches Sea Turtle Patrol, was invited to the United Nations to speak on the plight of sea turtles. He was graciously received and queried by UN members around the world. Mr. Brown was one of the program presenters at FFGC 2023 Convention.

Thank you for the opportunity to share my District's happenings.

DISTRICT V

District V Report
Carol Stevens
September 5, 2023

District V held their first District Meeting for the 2023-2025 term in the northern point of their district, Lake City. Focusing on the new theme, “Be the Key that Unlocks the Beauty of the Environment”, the informative program was on the Springs of North Florida.

In July the District V Officers met in Gainesville for an organizational and “get to know you meeting”. The officers are excited to announce that the District will hold their fourth annual amateur photography contest. This contest is open to all members in District V. Details about the contest will be in The Florida Gardener.

In August the new club presidents were able to participate in a group discussion about the successes and challenges of their Garden Clubs. This discussion was added to the President’s Orientation Agenda as a request from the presidents as a way of networking with each other.

As the Presidents and their clubs move forward they were encouraged to change their “got to’s” to “get to’s”. Looking forward to doing things instead of feeling as if you have to do them changes attitude. With a difference in attitude, there will be a difference in performance. With a difference in performance, there will be a difference in rewards. District V is planning on great rewards.

Carol Stevens

District V Director

DISTRICT VI

District VI Report
September 6, 2023
Valerie Seinfeld

District VI has 16 very active garden clubs in Brevard, Volusia and Flagler Counties.

Our District Theme is “Bee Happy in the Garden” and our District Project is an NGC Standard Flower Show entitled “Busy Bees” being held on March 8 & 9, 2024 at the Garden Club of DeLand.

During the District VI Meeting in May 2023, the board voted for a District VI Wildflower, out of 5 wildflowers, *Monarda punctata* L. Spotted Beebalm, Spotted Horsemint, Horsemint Lamiaceae (Mint Family) was chosen.

Our District claims the honor of having one of the first 4 clubs federated with the Florida Federation of Garden Clubs in 1924, The Garden Club of the Halifax Country(1925) of Volusia County. The first FFGC President Adelaide Yates Ellicott (1925-1927) was from Ormond Beach, second FFGC Convention was held in Ormond Beach and the first garden tour in Florida "Garden Run" 1930, sponsored by the Halifax Country.

Our District VI has a monthly newsletter with the director and chairmen writing articles since May 2023. We have our own District directory, for the first time, with Club and Circle Presidents contact information, meeting days, federation dates, delegate totals based on membership numbers, listing of former directors, district chairs, district officer's contact information, Club hierarchy, FFGC pins, and District VI Policies and Procedures.

Over the summer months, Cherry Laurel Garden Club offered Design Units 1-6 with Andrea Finn, chair and Penny Decker as the instructor.

We have Garden Club By the Sea and The Garden Club of DeLand having A Pollinator Fair and a Butterfly Festival. Garden Club of DeLand is Hosting the Fall District Meeting, Melbourne is raising funds to replace a Blue Star Memorial Marker, Titusville holds a Market that members work on all year to raise scholarship funds and the same is true of New Smyrna Beach raising money for at least 2 club scholarships with their Festival of Trees and Rummage Sale, Port Malabar Garden Club is in the beginning stages of jointly working on a Palm Bay City Hall Native Garden; the native plant society, the Audubon society, and our gardening club. Indian Harbour Beach Garden Club continues to support ZON Assisted Living with programs.

Ormond Beach Garden Club has a creative group preparing for their Annual Christmas Workshop Magnolia Wreaths and a Contrived Flowers Workshop. Garden Club at Palm Coast is holding an NGC Standard Flower Show 11/16-18, 2023 and is the only Garden Club in Flagler County. Tillandsia Garden Club received a Proclamation for their 75th Anniversary Celebration and is hosting the Spring 2024 District Meeting.

District VI held a President's Summit on Zoom in mid August to share ideas about projects, speakers and events being held this year. Many documents sent electronically to be used in a President folder as a reference throughout the year.

Listed in this report are just a few items of what our clubs are planning for this year and the most important task at hand is to retain membership while adding new members. We can achieve this by Beeing Happy in the Garden.

DISTRICT VII

District VII Director
Gwen Carter
September 6, 2023

District VII Clubs have been busy during the Summer months scheduling workshops to keep members and prospective members involved in learning. Members and guests were taught by professional artist, Linda Tambini, pot painting skills. Clubs continued to work with students in the District planting trees on the school grounds.

District VII Clubs sponsored 19 students to attend Wekiva Youth Camp and members worked as camp volunteers. We also sponsored students to attend the SEEK Conference. District VII has contributed \$79,635 in scholarships and donations to students and local communities.

Clubs are hosting Open House and Member Orientations throughout the District to familiarize new members and guests about our purpose, how we work within the community, and how we fit under the umbrella of NGC, DSGC, and FFGC, plus the benefits of joining a garden club. In September, members will work, again, with Head Start, a program of the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services that provides comprehensive early childhood education, health, nutrition, and parent involvement services to low-income children and families. Members work with the children planting vegetables in raised beds constructed by a local Boys Scout Troop. Members take turns reading children's gardening books to Head Start classes.

In October, 250 3-gallon Pink Trumpet trees will be donated to Winter Garden residents in celebration for Breast Cancer Awareness Month, for the second year. We will also paint flowerpots for Breast Cancer Awareness month to donate to Mount Dora Hospice. Clubs are propagating plants and sowing seeds in preparation for the many Fall Plant Sales all over the District. Something the community looks forward to each year.

Members are scheduled to landscape an area of a senior and mentally challenged residential facility this Fall. We will continue participating in local events to promote civic development. District VII is looking forward to having our clubs come together for our Fall General Meeting and celebration of FFGC's 100 th Birthday, hosted by Camellia GC and Lakes and Hills GC in Mount Dora.

Currently, District VII has 14 individual clubs, 1 advanced design club, and 1 district club working to promote floral design, civic beautification, environmental education, opportunities for our youth, and to stimulate a love of gardening for all.

Sadly, I would like to make a motion to accept resignations from Pine Castle GC, Robinswood GC and Wildflowers GC of Sanford due to low membership.

Thank you.

DISTRICT VIII

Report for FFGC Board Meeting
Phyllis Weber, District VIII Director
Sept 7 2023

Although many of our club do not meet in the summer they have been busy promoting their clubs with community activities.

The Lakewood Ranch Garden Club Decorated hats and garden tools and marched in the local Memorial Day parade. **Gardeners out East and Lakewood Ranch Garden Club** held speaker John Giddings's "Curb Appeal" at different venues. **Sarasota Garden Club** held 2 "Music in the Garden" events and **Tampa Bay** had a "Fun with Flowers" plus a 3rd member photo contest that runs through September 30.

District VIII also held a Lunch and Learn hosted by Davis Island Garden Club. Speakers gave insight into how to be garden club officers and help inspire their members. Many new ideas were exchanged over a wonderful lunch.

Manatee Garden Club will host the NGC Flower show school beginning September 26th. All four courses are being offered with course 2 in January 2024, course 3 in May and course 4 in September.

Sarasota Garden Club will have their "Ghostly Gala" standard flower show, October 28th. But they have more planned – a plant auction this fall, a fashion show, plus a clothes swap amongst members. They have scheduled "Painting in the Garden" with instructor Corinne Jo Fallacaro on November 7th, with all materials supplied plus refreshments. Next comes their "Holiday in The Gardens" with music, dancing food and wine.

Dunedin Garden Club will place a new Blue Star memorial Marker and refurbish the surrounding landscape. They are actively maintaining a butterfly garden on Dunedin City property by adding walk ways and signage indicating larval and nectar plants.

Lemon Bay Garden Club is all set for their Garden tour on November 17th and 18th. There will be gardens in Venice and Englewood.

Apollo Beach Garden Club has been focusing on Blue Bird Boxes and attracting these special birds. They have placed 2 nesting boxes near their gardens after extensive research into location and food sources. They don't expect activity until next spring.

Plant City Garden Club is holding their Garden Fest September 30th. There will be tropical, annuals, perennials, herbs, tree, native plants and crafts for sale.

Tarpon Springs Garden club will celebrate the opening of the Junior Garden Club at The Boys and Girls Club of Tarpon Springs on September 14th. The members will teach growing seeds in eggshells and Bottle caps at the ECO-Fest at Splash Park on September 16th. Their Fall Festival begins October 14th with plants for the fall, crafts, jumble sale, and a chili and cornbread cook-off.

Dade City Garden Club will host The District VIII Meeting with The FFGC touring Board on October 27th. They will hold also their Holiday Magic in the Gardens on December 10th. Their garden areas will be transformed into a holiday wonderland with MR. and MRS. Claus, the Grinch and all their members decked in holiday attire. They have also focusing on putting hardscapes in the gardens with large decorative planters, benches, tables or sculptures.

Lakewood Ranch Garden Club will again fill 100 mugs in November with colorful Christmas decorations for Meals on Wheels Holiday Diner. They also have been collecting everyday hygiene items to fill 75 bags for the Still Point Missions. December will see them making a fresh floral arrangement for their own home or for a friend.

Tampa Garden Club will present NGC environment School Series XII course 2 on November 7 & 8. All classes will take place either in person or via zoom at the Tampa Garden Club. Go to <https://www.gardenclub.org/school/schools-resources>; or kittwal@aol.com.

DISTRICT IX

District IX Report
Claudia Chopp- Director
September 5-6, 2023

The theme for the district "Who Are WE, Then to Now, follows the State theme of Celebrating 100 Years by remembering how we have progressed. The district has clubs that are as young as 10 years old to 96 years old.

District IX clubs are as varied in interest as they are in age.

District IX includes Charlotte, Collier, DeSoto, Hardee, Highlands Lee and Polk Counties with Twenty-one Clubs, Seven Circles, with 1274 members as of August 1, 2023.

There were two clubs that did not renew membership, Arcadia and Jasmine. The Arcadia club will wait until September with their final decision. They both will be contacted and visited.

Losing these clubs brought our membership numbers down from last year, but we have received several names from the NGC requesting membership information. These requests have been given to clubs near the address of the inquiry. With those new members and a new Junior Garden Club in Ft Myers our membership numbers will not change much.

The District Spring meeting was held in Punta Gorda, the Fall meeting October 17, 2023, will be in Estero. The 2024 Spring meeting on May 22, 2024 will be in Lake Placid. We hope to have more participation by moving locations from the coast inland next year.

District IX financial balance as of July 30, 2023 is \$8607.47. Funds coming from dues and ways and means sales.

Many clubs do not meet in the Summer months yet keep busy in a variety of ways. Many clubs plan and plant for their Plant Sales. Yearbooks are finished and club programs are planned.

Many clubs offer Home and Garden Tours and Flower Shows each year.

Florida Arbor Day in January will be celebrated by some clubs.

Ft Myers will be offering the third NGC Environmental School November 16 & 17 2023, this will be held via Zoom, 8:30am - 4:00pm each day.

The District has retained membership and has stayed financially stable. Club activities are locally strong. State and National involvement could be stronger.

Claudia B. Chopp

FFGC District IX Director

DISTRICT X

District X
Maria Wolfe
Report to FFGC BOD
September 6, 2023

If you really love plants
But not sure how to grow
Gardening School Course 3
Is the place to go.
At Mounts Botanical Garden
For 2 days you will learn
Drawing you closer to a
Certificate you will earn.

District X Tropical Short Course –
A Tri-refresher so it seems
Is coming in January
Groundbreakers....Then and Now
Is our fabulous theme.

From seagrass restoration
That saves our beloved manatees
To a groundbreaking female Victorian
landscape designer who brought

Men to their knees.
But wait...one more surprise is in store
If you stay Friday night, you will see much
more.

A dressage horse show will delight you with
their prancing
Riders in black and horses that are dancing.

Henry Morrison Flagler was a business tycoon
His summerhouse is in Palm Beach
They serve high Tea each day at noon.
Join Terrific Ten on December 16 we beseech
For a Christmas celebration that will make you
swoon.

Arbor Day in Terrific Ten is gearing up.
Our District Chair is very hard at work.
Talking with clubs
And asking what' sup?
Lunch & Learn is the term you know
Meeting of the Minds is what I call mine.
Being held in Stuart in 2 weeks time
28 people already RSVP'd to show.
Sharing ideas and info is the way to go!

My rhymes are real bad
I hope you do not think I'm a clown.
I've shared all my news.
So now I'll just sit down!

DISTRICT XI

September 6, 2023
Report
Bonny Miller Cole
District XI Director

Welcome All,

The District XI Clubs are a busy diverse group of Men and Women. Here are a few highlights. Coral Springs Garden Club is turning the city into a Monarch butterfly home. Held two events to educate the public on Pollinators and another on recycling of corks collecting over 1000 corks for recycling. They work with senior citizens making floral arrangements and presenting the Language of Flowers. They have also planted 1000 native orchids in the city.

Fort Lauderdale Garden Club awarded scholarships to over 40 youth campers to Camp Wekiva and also three teens who attended the nature course at Camp Live Oak located in Hugh Taylor Birch State Park, the Club's home. The teens are part of the Nan Knox Boys and Girls Club. Nan, a past member of FLGC and benefactor, recognized the need for horticultural and environmental education in our underserved community.

Hollywood Garden Club is building membership with younger members who want to know everything about vegetable gardening at home to save grocery money.

Lauderdale by the Sea Garden Club is planning the planting a tree for Arbor Day.

Garden Club of Lighthouse Point had a Cactus Fairy Garden Make and Take with lunch. A hands-on clay class is scheduled for September.

Pompano Beach Club is busy organizing the October 19, District XI meeting. And weeding at Sample-McDougald house and taking flowers to the Broward Childrens Center.

Learn, Teach, Help and Enjoy beautifying and Saving the Earth!

This is Florida Federation of Garden Clubs' 100th year and still going strong!

DISTRICT XII

DISTRICT XII
Report
Susan Rodriguez

District XII has been taking this time to stay cool, mostly inside, regroup, and plan for the year ahead. We are nine clubs from Miami-Dade and Monroe Counties. We have had two articles printed in the local community newspaper and the Miami Herald's Neighbors section, reaching all communities. These articles focused on celebrating garden clubs and how to join or start a club. There have been significant initiatives by clubs connecting with their boards and new members by hosting luncheons, teas, and cocktail parties, keeping in touch before the season kick-offs, and planning fundraisers and programs. The Pinecrest Garden Club assisted the Village of Pinecrest with a lovely tradition called the Pioneer Luncheon, which celebrates residents over 80.

Our President's Council meets the third Monday of each month starting in September and includes all garden club past and present presidents and 1st vice-presidents of District XII. The mission of this council is to share ideas and exciting new programs.

All the clubs have organized membership drives, with the South Miami Garden Club leading the way. They are planning a special event on Saturday, October 28th, for their 23rd membership drive at the Amerant Bank Building in South Miami.

The Coral Gables Garden Club has stayed busy with a not-for-profit night at the Backstage Theater for the play Native Gardens in June. The Company supported the club's summer native plant sale by sharing the plant sale flyer in their programs for over a month and donated \$ 1,500 as part of the evening's revenue.

The Department of Environmental Resources Management (Miami-Dade County, Florida) sought community support to grow 6,000 plants from seed for a pine rockland restoration project. The CGGC volunteered to plant and nurture these seeds until October 14th, when they will be planted. The seed came from globally imperiled forests under the care of the county. The plant species are *Solidago stricta* and *Schyzicharium gracile*. This is part of a 10-acre restoration project in Kendall with 5000 trees planted and 20,000 understory plantings.

The club also had a grand opening of the AS I SEE IT photography exhibition at the Coral Gables Museum on August 10th, with over 200 people attending. The top 25 images will be on view until October 1st.

To round out the districts' diversity, our lovely Ken Pines club will be focusing its artistic attention on creating lady plaques made from seashells and stone.

We are looking forward to another great year down in District XII and hosting our state officers on October 18th at our District Meeting at the Watsco Center on the campus of the University of Miami. The Coral Gables Garden Club will be the host club.

Keep Cool,
Susan Rodriguez
President
Coral Gables Garden Club
District XII Director

September 2023 Board Meeting

Board Chairmen Reports

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4-5 STAR MEMBERS

4 and 5-Star Member Chairman
Joanne Mulinare
September 6, 2023

This committee is tasked with encouraging members who qualify to be NGC 4 and 5 Star Members to apply and to assist them in any way they need to do so.

FFGC members who have successfully completed all four of NGC's educational schools are eligible to apply for 4 Star status. Once a member has reached Master level in all four schools they may apply for a 5 Star recognition. There is an application form on the National Garden Club website which the applicant fills out and submits electronically directly to NGC. At the time of submission they choose whether they would like the award presented at our FFGC Convention or the NGC Convention. This chairman arranges for an NGC Board member to present the awards each year. Honorees receive a certificate and are then eligible to celebrate their accomplishment by purchasing special lapel pins from NGC. These awards represent a significant individual accomplishment.

More information and access to the application forms are on the Membership page of the gardenclub.org NGC website.

Joanne Mulinare

Summary: This committee is active when our members require assistance with their applications for 4 and 5 star membership and when the awards are presented in the spring.

ADOPT-A-PARK

ADVISORY COUNCIL

Advisory Council Report
Marge Hendon, Chairman
Sept. 6, 2023

This Chairman will be the newbie on this committee, being the immediate Former President. We will discuss the Presidents' Garden, the 100 th birthday celebration and convention, new meeting time, and the passing of Jo Williams. The Council's meeting time has been changed. This Advisory Council has met in the evening after the Board Meeting. Many of the members can't see to drive at night, a friend or spouse is waiting in the lobby for a member, wine is often served, and dinner with other board members is spoiled by this meeting going beyond the time allocated and the heavy hors d'oeuvres served. The meeting is now scheduled for a luncheon time of 11:00, so that more may attend and not have to worry about the concerns listed above.

The Council will discuss the Presidents' Garden. We have Camellias that we will choose to be planted within this garden, as the ones that had been planted there were not watered sufficiently and were removed.

The 100th celebration of FFGC will also be discussed. We will invite the current FFGC President to join us to discuss how this Council can help things go smoother at the Convention in Jacksonville. We look forward to hearing her plans for the coming year.

Jo Williams, Former FFGC President 1997-1999, passed away August 2023. We will reminisce about her life with FFGC.

Marge Hendon

Advisory Council Chairman

Summary: Over the next two years our meetings will be held during a lunch schedule. The Council will discuss the colors, number, and size of Camellias to be planted in the Presidents' Garden. We will hear from current President about 100th . Jo Williams, former FFGC President remembered.

AFFILIATES MEMBERSHIP

Report
Affiliate Membership Report
Donna Berger, Chairman
September 5-7, 2023

FFGC has an Affiliate Membership Program where like-minded organizations, such as conservation organizations, plant societies, botanical gardens, floral design clubs, etc. They may join FFGC for an Affiliate membership fee of only fifty (\$50.00) per year.

The following are benefits of being an Affiliate Member:

Linking the FFGC website with yours in the affiliates section in the footer that is viewable from any page on the site.

Posting up to six of your events annually on the FFGC online calendar.

Also posting those events to our social media platform, which enjoys 18,000 followers.

A discounted rate to advertise in the FFGC online magazine, The Florida Gardener, a quarterly magazine that is read by our membership of 10,000+. We can provide the media kit.

A Call to our Annual State Conventions, to which you may send a non-voting representative and request an educational/information display space, at no cost, honor seating and recognition at all meal functions.

Opportunities for presentations and speaker engagements, in person or by Zoom.

I'm pleased to inform the FFGC Board, District Directors, and members of the Board of Directors that the following have renewed their membership:

Florida Wildflower Foundation - Florida Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc.

The Institute of Regional Conservation - FFGC District X Plant America with Trees Committee (PAT)

McKee Botanical Gardens – Garden Club of Indian River County

Mounts Botanical Garden - West Palm Beach Garden Club

Heathcote Botanical Garden - Garden Club of Fort Pierce

We recently welcomed Palm Beach County Chapter of the Native Plant Society which is sponsored by NGC/FFGC District X as an affiliate member of FFGC.

The Affiliate Membership Application and Renewal Forms are on FFGC website under FORMS. They are enterable forms.

As your Membership Chairman I'm hoping that all the FFGC Districts will consider having an affiliate member. There are several perks for both the FFGC and the Garden Clubs. More detailed information has been given to the District Directors.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact this chairman.

ARBOR DAY

Report
Arbor Day Chairman
Lynn Artz
September 7, 2023

Our goal is for every garden club in Florida to plant a tree on January 19th to celebrate Florida Arbor Day and FFGC's 100th anniversary.

A \$20,000 grant from the Duke Energy Foundation is supporting this statewide project. Every club that buys and plants a native tree will be reimbursed up to \$100 for the tree plus \$5 for mulch. A reimbursement form with receipts must be submitted by December 1st.

Tree reimbursement forms are in the foyer as is one county's native tree list.

All clubs should identify their planting site soon (if not already done) and then select and reserve a suitable native tree for that site. Assistance is available to help clubs choose, obtain, and plant their native tree – and find a planting site if needed. Help with the planting ceremony and publicity will come later.

A second grant for \$5,000 from the National Wildlife Federation will help interested clubs buy native tree seedlings to give away. Reimbursement cannot exceed \$1/seedling. However, we found a source for seedlings under \$1 that will ship anywhere in Florida in early December. Fifty (50) clubs can each give away 100-200 seedlings and be reimbursed. Ten (10) clubs can give away 500 or more seedlings. However, clubs need to order their seedlings NOW or there will be no seedlings left to buy. A 2-part reimbursement form is to be submitted in stages.

Seedling reimbursement forms are in the foyer along with a list of the seedlings still available. I ask each of you to make sure your garden club knows about this project and is making plans to take part. Please also urge your club to Go Native, Go Big, Go Keystone! We need most clubs to plant a large, hurricane-resistant, shade tree. Choosing a keystone genus (such as an oak) will feed numerous caterpillars and baby birds. Let's bring more cooling shade to Florida and support biodiversity. Small native trees will be reimbursed but should be for sites that require a small tree. Non-native trees may be planted but are not eligible for grant funds.

Summary

Every garden club is asked to plant a tree on January 19th. Grant funds will help clubs buy native trees to plant and native tree seedlings to give away. Make sure your own garden club – and the clubs in your district – have the information they need and are planning to take part.

Lynn Artz
Arbor Day Chairman

ARBORETA & BOTANICAL GARDENS

AWARDS – FFGC

BOD Report
FFGC Awards Committee
Sandra Arnold
September 6, 2023

It is my privilege to be appointed as the 2023-2025 FFGC Awards Chairman. As such I have been researching what has been done and thinking of what I would like to do in the future. Thanks to the help of a very knowledgeable member, Lisa Packard, I have gotten a head start in learning about what is needed and ideas for the future. I have asked her to be on the awards committee and she accepted. Following the board meeting I will begin appointing the rest of the committee to help with planning and decision making.

I do have one thing I wish to bring before the board. I would like to hold an awards judging day on December 11, 2023. The awards use to be held annually at headquarters prior to Covid which changed it to being done via Zoom with the awards committee members selecting the winning applications. I feel it is important that FFGC go back to hosting judging day, as it is a way to give members a chance to be involved in the process. Those who have been judges in the past will be paired with two members who may not be familiar with the process. This will be a wonderful learning opportunity and increases the interest and numbers of applications sent in each year.

When I was asked to be the Awards Chairman for the first time at my club, I was not given any information from the former chairman and when I contacted the District Awards Chairman, she told me to go to the FFGC website and click on awards. Needless to say, my first attempt at awards was pitiful. So, I attended “Judgement Day” (name to be changed) at headquarters and was able to see first-hand how applications should be completed. I picked up tips from reviewing winning awards, and was able to learn even more by talking with other awards chairmen.

There will be the expense of copying awards and forms to use in judging, and having lunch available for the attendees. In both cases, I will ensure that the expenses are minimal.

Sandra E Arnold
FFGC Awards Chairman

BEES, BIRDS, BUTTERFLIES and BATS

BLUE STAR & GOLD STAR MEMORIAL MARKERS

Blue Star Memorial Program
Blue Star Memorial Chairman
Rosita Aristoff
September 6, 2023

1) Completed Blue & Gold Star Memorial Markers Dedications

Milton Garden Club (District I) - The new Gold Star Families Memorial By-Way Marker was dedicated at Santa Rosa County Veterans Memorial Plaza on May 29, 2023.

2) Pending New Memorial Markers Activity

Gardeners Out East Garden Club (District VIII) – A new Gold Star Families Memorial Marker has been received for placement at the new East Manatee County Library. A dedication has been rescheduled for January 13, 2024.

3) Replacement Marker

The Garden Club of Stuart (District X) – Due to weathering which substantially deteriorated the club's marker, a replacement Blue Star Memorial By-Way marker was ordered.

4) Publicity

This chairman had an article published in the summer edition of The Florida Gardener emphasizing the importance of the living memorial garden associated with each Blue or Gold Star marker.

5) Summary

Since the last report one new marker was dedicated and one Gold Star Families Memorial Marker's dedication was rescheduled.

Rosita A. Aristoff

Rosita A. Aristoff Blue & Gold Star Memorial Chairman

BOI Editor

FFGC BOARD REPORT FALL 2023
BOOK OF INFORMATION (BOI) -- EDITOR
Lisa Packard, Editor
August 3, 2023

BOOK OF INFORMATION (BOI)

The Book of Information is now online! Since it is electronic only, we can easily update it on the fly.

Members may download and save it to their own computer for their own copy without having to go online, but should check for updates on the online version.

BRICK PATHS

BYLAWS-STANDING RULES

Bylaws Committee Report
Marge Hendon Chairman
Sept. 5, 2023

This Chairman conducted a Zoom meeting with those on the committee that could make it, 8/2023. Most of the business that needed to be completed by the Bylaws Committee was completed within the last two years of Cissy Richardson's Chairmanship of this Committee. Our current mission is to identify the members that are continuing and obtain new members for this 2023-2025 Committee.

This September 2023 Board meeting will help clear up the questions about the length of time that clubs may still be considered as part of FFGC if they haven't paid their dues. Also, at what point does the club lose its qualifications for Special Metals and Gemstone Status by not paying dues in a timely manner.

We have had a couple of members drop this committee due to personal circumstances. We will discuss replacing them.

Thank you,
Marge Hendon
Bylaws Committee Chairman

Summary: There shouldn't be that much for the Bylaws committee to work on this year, as most was cleared up 2021-2023. We will be looking for members to replace those having to drop out of the committee. We will stress on clubs paying dues on time to continue to be a club in good standing.

CALENDAR – FFGC EVENTS

CHAPLAIN

CONVENTION CHAIR

CONVENTION STATE FLOWER SHOW

Report
State Flower Show
Gina Jogan, Chairman
September 2023

The state flower show, “Celebrating 100 Years’ was written by the FFSJ District I Judges’ Council. The Schedule is now online as a DRAFT, pending finalization of some few minor staging issues...these will

be solved after this meeting when this chairman will visit the venue.

This Schedule consists of five (5) Divisions with the following Sections and Classes:

Horticulture- eight (8) sections with 109 classes.

Design -seven (7) sections w/3 classes each equals 21 Classes and the option of 84 designs.

Youth- Juniors (Horticulture), Intermediates (Design) and High Schoolers (Educational Exhibits)

Education-12 districts and 3 Special Projects: Wekiva, Blue Star Memorials, the History of FFGC

Botanical Arts-Artistic Crafts, Botanical Designs and Botanical Horticulture.

Entry tags have been printed.

Stickers, instead of ribbons, for the Blue, Red, Yellow and White and 90+ placement have been procured.

Twenty-four (24) Top Exhibitor Awards have been ordered from National Garden Clubs, Inc.

Signage is being printed and the theme staging is being planned.

As you will see, there is something for everyone and we hope that everyone will want to enter.

Your entries will be taken in on April 9th from 2-5PM. Judging is April 10 th .

There will be a ribbon cutting and reception at the Garden Club of Jacksonville venue, after judging is completed, at 2 PM on April 10 th .

The Garden Club of Jacksonville will have plants for sale and arts/crafts vendors in the side gardens during the Flower Show.

There are still a couple of openings on the committee. Look at what is open and volunteer your services

or say “yes” when asked to serve.

Please come join us and “Celebrate 100 Years” of FFGC.

CORAL REEF RESTORATION

DEEP SOUTH GARDEN CLUBS UNIFIED PROJECT

DUES AMBASSADOR

Dues Ambassador

Sept 6-7, 2023

Sue Roberts

The Dues Renewal process was completed this year by 7/31/2023. Our renewal number on 8/31/2023 are:

Individual Members 8879

Life Members 604

Spouses 390

Life members at large 266

Total Active 10139

Affiliate Members 6

Not renewed yet 30

We had 155 clubs last year. We lost 5 clubs with this renewal cycle – Arcadia, Jasmine, Robinswood, Green Thumb of Clewiston and Pine Castle.

And 2 clubs have not renewed to date: Palm Harbor, and Tampa Bay Golf and Country Club with approximately 30 members.

Presently that leaves us with 148 clubs renewed.

To compare with previous year:

Sept 2022 after renewals 9845

May 2023 before renewals 10580

Aug 2023 after renewals 10139

New members added during renewals 1050

Members deleted during renewals 1400

We are slightly ahead of last year at this time. Numbers show we have no problem recruiting new members but we have a retention issue.

EARTH STEWARD

BOD Report
Earth Steward Recognition
Kathy Siena
September 4-7, 2023

Tri-Council was instrumental in introducing the first Earth Steward Recognition in 2013. This recognition is given to honor the recipient for outstanding efforts and stewardship of our natural resources. It can be awarded in the field of Gardening, Landscape Design, and Environment. This chairman requests that these efforts be clearly indicated on the application form biography section for the recipient.

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

Summary:

The first Earth Steward Recognition was given in 2013. A total of 137 recognitions have been given out with four honors given in 2023. An updated list of all recipients is available on the FFGC website at this link:

<https://ffgc.org/page-18059>

Click on Earth Steward Recipients.

ENDANGERED PLANTS

FFGC 100th Birthday

FINANCE COMMITTEE

FFGC Finance Committee

Christy Linke-Chairman

September 6th, 2023

The FFGGC Finance Committee, Tina Tuttle, Mary Whisler, Leticia Gunn, Jana Walling, Sue Roberts, Claudia Bates, Carolyn Schaag and our new Wekiva Treasurer Gail Shaw all bring so much knowledge to this committee. They all take their position on this committee serious and looking out for the finances of FFGC.

The finance committee has met twice since convention. June 14 and September 1st. As well as two e-poll votes.

We held our first Finance meeting this summer, June 14, 2023 in person at FFGC Headquarters. It was held via ZOOM and in person so all could attend. We are excited to have Gail Shaw who belongs to the Poinciana Garden Club as our new Wekiva Treasurer.

Kelley Wood reported that our insurance company, Corkhill Insurance, is still working on the paperwork from the slip and fall incident during a Cocktails Catering event.

Nick Chason from Proper Wealth Financial Group spoke to us about the investments that FFGC has and how the market was doing. He reported that 60 percent of FFGC's investments are in bonds and 35 to 40 percent in stock type investments. The recommended wealth management plan is to stay as it is.

Jana reported on the budget to actual as of 5/31/23. Discussed was Avon Park had held a plant sale which brought in \$8,558.00, Wekiva B&M interest of \$2,180.00, this is due to the Todd donation which has been accruing, Ins claim proceeds for damage to the Presidents' office is \$17,000.00 and Wekiva registration monies and camperships.

Grants, Lynn Artz had presented a grant from Duke Energy Foundation for the funding of 66 FFGC garden clubs to purchase native trees to plant on Florida Arbor Day 2024. This grant could be anywhere from \$7,000 to \$10,000. Due to the deadline date, it became a priority to have an e-poll vote. Of course with all in favor Lynn moved forward applying for this grant. Report of ratification of vote was reported at this finance meeting. Carolyn Schaag brought a motion to move forward on a grant from Publix of \$5,000 for the funding to help cover food cost for Wekiva Youth Camp. Motion passed.

Leticia the 3rd VP reported on the sales of the "100th birthday celebration" part of ways and means at convention. Bringing in a total of \$1,640.00.

Budget reviews of Flower Show courses 1-4 District VIII Judges Council, Flower Show Symposium District

1, NGC Environmental Schools course 3 & 4 Fort Myers-Lee County Garden Council, NGC environmental School Hybrid course 3 Tampa Garden Club, and NGC Environmental School ZOOM course 4 Tampa Garden Club, were all positively reviewed. Proposed budget for FFGC State Convention 2024 was submitted with questions. Was sent back, and later revised and an e-poll vote was sent out and voted on proposed budget passed. H&E, Sue Roberts reported Hdqts. continues to have expenses, air conditioners needing surge protectors \$700, irrigation needing the well repaired \$7,500, once this is completed the President's garden will be planted with Camellias, using monies from FL Wildflower Foundation, \$5,000 as well as requesting funds from Duke Energy. Other donations were made as well for this project.

The second finance meeting was held via ZOOM on September 1st with a full agenda to cover. This meeting lasted 2 1/2 hours with everything on the agenda and then some covered. President Tina Tuttle welcomed all and reported that the lawsuit with the city has been squashed. Rentals can continue without reporting to the city.

Jana our treasurer covered all budgets from Wekiva, H&E, Proposed vs Actuals 2023 and of course cash and investments. I do not know where we would be without her knowledge and help all who present budgets and she even keeps them straight. This part of the budget meeting was over an hour alone. Kelley wood reported on insurance hikes that will be coming in the near future. Two ratification of e-polls were reported. One being 2024 convention budget and the other purchasing an over for Wekiva priced at \$11,503.37. Budgets that were positively reviewed were, NGC Landscape Design Series 38 Course F4, Jacksonville and NGC ES Course 4, Series 10, February 22 & 24 West Palm Beach.

FFGC Tropical Short Course budget went back to Tri-Council to revise. Actual budgets were Convention 2023 which a check was sent to FFGC in the amount of \$5,022.60.

It was decided to continue meeting via ZOOM and the next meeting will be January 4th. Again I cannot thank each of the committee members enough for their time, knowledge, and dedication to making sure that the monies of FFGC are used in the best of the interest of the organization.

Summary: The FFGC Finance Committee met June 14 and September 1st. All budgets submitted for approval/review were handled as well as any other financial circumstances that arose. That also included e-polls and grants. Our mission is always to have the best interest of all FFGC members in all that comes before this committee.

FLORAL DESIGN STUDY

FFGC Board Report
Floral Design Studies
Jan Griffin
Sept. 5-6, 2023

Floral Design Studies has just finished the Basic 6 Series in District VI. Chairman Andrea Finn felt the classes were a huge success with some very creative new designers. The Advanced Series is scheduled in District VIII in St. Petersburg the end of January and the first part of February. Jill Anderson is the chairman.

A workshop for the instructors, perspective instructors, and interested observers has been planned for Wednesday evening from 5 P.M. to 7:30. All those who want to teach Floral Design Studies must attend a workshop before teaching. Dinner will be from 5 P.M. to 5:30 when the instruction will begin. The instructors will do a design and talk about techniques and suggestions for teaching the classes.

If you are interested in holding the series in your District, contact Jan Griffin, billjangriffin@gmail.com or 813-716-6691 to get the information needed to hold your classes.

Summary

The Advance Classes are planned in St. Petersburg in January and February. A Floral Design Studies workshop has been planned for Wednesday, September 6, 2023.

FFSJ PRESIDENT

2023Report
Florida Flower Show Judges
Gina V. Jogan, President
September 2023

Florida Flower Shows judges report:

At the 2023 Convention, the second edition of the new “What’s Your Type?” design manual, written and published by FFSJ under the direction of Parke Finold and Janice Hamlin, et al, was unveiled to enthusiastic sales. After the Convention, these books and inserts were taken to the National Garden Clubs Convention at the Greenbrier in WV and sold. Over the summer, books and inserts were packaged and mailed to buyers from as far away as California, Washington, North Carolina, New York and so forth..... During the summer months applications and photographs of specific design types were submitted to be included in the third edition of “What’s Your Type?” which will be unveiled at the 2024

Convention in Jacksonville. Edition #1 is in its second reprinting! Parke and Janice, creators of the manual, have given the reins to Anne Collins.

The FFSJ pages on the FFGC website were updated with our officers, chairmen and roster of members listed. Our Yearbook has been assembled, edited for corrections, and published. Thank you, Barb Jacobson, and Margaret Kirkpatrick.

FFSJ will host an NGC Symposium October 30-November 1, 2023, here at HQ. Claudia Bates and Jan Griffin are the instructors. Applications are online. Another Symposium will be held in District I in the spring (May 14-16, 2024). Applications are online.

“Factual Notes’ was written and distributed online for all judges with articles from various chairmen on a variety of topics.

As the Liaison to FFGC’s Floral Design series program, this chairman worked with Jan Griffin, Chairman, to update and edit the Floral Design Series manual, bringing it up to date. A program for recertification of FDS instructors is/was slated for Tuesday evening (September 5 th , 2023). To be an instructor for this program one must be an accredited judge, so we are all pretty much involved in this educational project.

Florida Flower Show Judges Council was tasked by the FFGC President, to take on, host and stage the 2024 State Flower Show, “Celebrating 100 Years”, to be held at the Garden Club of Jacksonville venue during the state convention. The FFSJ Council in District I wrote the schedule....there are Divisions for Horticulture, Design, Education, Youth, and Botanic Arts Divisions.... something for EVERYONE...

It is now online as a DRAFT pending some final details when the committee visits the venue after this board meeting. Please be sure to support this effort by entering or volunteering to help in some way. There are several key positions still open on the committee.

FFSJ has taken on the financial responsibility for the Flower Show Related Awards, numbers 120-133. The FFSJ Awards committee will review and edit the awards.

FFSJ appreciates being allowed to participate in the FFGC Board meeting and conventions.

Kathy "Kat" Spieker, Florida Flower Show Judges Director, District I
1530 Royal Palm Drive
Niceville, FL 32578-3529
850-687-6381, kspieker3@gmail.com
FFSJ Report Board of Directors Meeting
September 5, 2023

District I currently has 8 Accredited judges, 2 Accredited Life Judges, 8 Accredited Master Judges and 2 Emeritus judges.

Our meetings this year will focus on better understanding of the Handbook For Flower Shows and its revisions.

Our District is also looking into forming a group of judges who would be available to garden clubs to present a program explaining how to plan and execute a flower show, by in-person meetings as well as electronically disbursing information.

The District is again planning for another Gala celebration after last year's resounding success.

District I is planning a Symposium May 14-16, 2024.

District I judges are always looking to learn more so we are looking forward to all the opportunities we will have to judge flower shows, attend symposiums, and schools.

And an added reminder, you still have time to sign up for the Symposium being held right here at HQ October 30-November 1, 2023! Claudia Bates is teaching Design, and Jan Griffin is teaching Horticulture. Allied Topics are Expression and Interpretation by Claudia Bates, and Botanical Arts-Artistic Crafts by Jan Griffin. See me today for a registration form!

Respectfully Submitted,
Kathy "Kat" Spieker, FFSJ District I Director

FLORIDA GARDENER

FFGC BOARD REPORT FALL 2023

FLORIDA GARDENER -- EDITOR

Lisa Packard, Editor

August 3, 2023

THE FLORIDA GARDENER

THE PUBLISHING SCHEDULE IS: FALL SEP 1, WINTER DEC 1, SPRING MAR 1, SUMMER JUN 1

On August 1, a meeting was held to discuss whether to continue printing and mailing the magazine to our distribution list of ~2,000. The attendees were members of the Strategic Planning Committee and the Executive Board. The SPC is Lisa Packard, Connie Gladding, Val Seinfeld, Sue Roberts, Christy Linke, Mary Whisler, Leticia Gunn, Linda Johnson, Helen Purvis, Jana Walling, Inger Jones.

It was decided to print the Fall edition but, starting with the Winter edition (Dec 2023), the magazine would be available online only. The rationale for this decision was (1) the overall production cost was not covered by dues; (2) to be fair everyone because only 2,000 were receiving a printed copy anyway; (3) to remove the page limitation due to printing and build the magazine into something much more meaningful to not only our members, but the public as well. We will focus more on creating content that covers all the areas of interest mentioned in our mission, furthering our education on those topics, inviting guest authors from outside of FFGC, and diversifying the content so it reads more like a magazine and less like a club newsletter.

Because we value the reports from the Districts, we are creating a new communication vehicle dedicated solely to districts and clubs that will be emailed to every single member. The details and format will be worked out (if they aren't already prior to the reading of this report), but we promise to deliver something that better serves the membership than what went before, and perhaps more frequently than quarterly.

FFGC will create an ad hoc committee dedicated to creating a new venture that is aligned with our mission and benefits the membership.

FLORIDA WILDFLOWER LIAISON

Report
Florida Wildflower Foundation Liaison
Carolyn Schaag
September 6, 2023

The Florida Wildflower Foundation will meet by zoom on September 21 for their 24th Annual Meeting. The Foundation first met as the Florida Advisory Council at Leu Gardens in Winter Park on September 2, 1999. Of the original members this member is the only one still serving on the board. A current assignment is tracing the history which parallels often with FFGC.

Stacy Matrazzo, Executive Director, presented a program on Invasive Plants at the FFGC Convention. She has done many programs for the local clubs.

FWF reaches out to teach our young through the Seeds for School which has been most successful. This program now includes Seedlings for School. FFGC clubs are encouraged to support this program in your local schools and youth garden clubs. FWF seeks wildflower avenues to support education of the youth.

The Foundation met for a successful planning session on August 5th at Bok Tower. Our host provided dinner and a tour of the gardens and tower.

The FWF Board meets by zoom on the third Thursday of the each month and on September 21 will welcome new member, Ramona Johnson, who is the FFGC Horticulture, a Master Tri-Consultant, and under UF/IFAS is a Master Gardener Volunteer, Master Naturalist, Advisor for Yards & Neighborhoods Urban Horticulture, and Education and a National Wildlife Habitat Steward. Also Ramona serves as President of Tamarind Village HOA at Coconut Creek and was instrumental in receiving Broward County Emerald Award for first certified Florida-friendly development, and Coconut Creek lifetime achievement for environmental leadership. Ramona will add to the Wildflower coverage needed in south Florida and FWF welcomes her to our team!

FWF has a strong financial status and ranks 22nd in state for specialty tag sales with only a \$15.00 donation per tag. In addition to tag funds, FWF receives membership fees, donation, and grants. The most recent grant was \$5,000 from the Bee Kind Shop.

Summary: Florida Wildflower Foundation ranks 22nd in state with special tag sales.

FUN WITH FLOWERS

GARDEN THERAPY

HABITAT FOR HUMANITY & MASTER GARDENER LIAISON

HALL OF FAME, PILLAR OF PRIDE & LIFE MEMBERSHIP

HEADQUARTERS AND ENDOWMENT (& GROUNDS)

Headquarters & Endowment Committee
September 6, 2023
Sue Roberts

The H&E Committee met on August 31, 2023 to review the state of the building and the grounds and to approve a proposed budget for 2024.

Chairman Sue Roberts reported that the building was finally back in good shape. The AC is working, the floor is repaired, the new well pump is installed and the sprinklers are now in working order, the new oven is working and a new kitchen fan has been installed.

An AED has been purchased, but the cabinet required for mounting has not yet arrived. Should we need it, it is in Robin's office and available during this meeting.

We have ordered four boxes of matching flooring to replace what was used in repairing the floor. We will be prepared for the next need for additional product.

We are working on a release form for volunteer workers. An attorney is reviewing it before we put it into effect.

We have been working with the Winter Park Post office to correct some mail delivery problems that we have had over the summer. Hopefully we have reached an understanding that our mail will not be returned to sender. If this happens to any mail you send to headquarters please let Robin know immediately. Unfortunately we do not know what we do not receive!

All bricks have been installed, all plaques have been updated and Marge's brass plaque on the outside brick wall is in place.

We reviewed the proposed 2024 budget for H&E that has already been presented. Please pray that next year is a calmer year for this old building!

Charlotte White, our grounds chairman, will now give you a report of the outside activities and there have been a lot in spite of the 100 degree weather.

H&E REPORT:
GROUNDS REPORT
CHARLOTTE WHITE
August 30, 2023

We made quite a lot of progress considering the heat of over 100 degrees.

1. They were going to be doing a promotional shooting at noon and wanted the property tidied up. Wednesday, August 16th Bob, and I went down and weeded tall weeds directly on sidewalk and re-weeded along some area of the house as time allowed. We then blew all the sidewalks/ patio area.
2. YESTERDAY, August 28th, WAS MONUMENTAL DAY- When weeding last time, I introduced myself to the local lawn care at the house across the street. We walked the property; he gave me a

quote of \$1100 for starting some major projects not done since before covid. In additionally we picked up pizza, drinks, and wings. To keep them working and not leave for lunch break – they were over the top appreciative.

1. 4 men 7 hours yesterday filled the back of a dump truck and some pieces in a lawn trailer.

a. 8:30 to 4:00 100 degrees Bob and I re-weeded more in the house area – Bob had to leave for work. Sue Roberts cleaned up the Blue Star bed and front edge of driveway. We can schedule more weed days safer when heat is not 102.

b. Agreed contract -----Invasive trees in the philodendrons, WEEDS IN SHRUBS AROUND the perimeter in back (he did all around raised patio.)

c. Trimmed shrubs around raised patio- they are not the height they need to be but if we trimmed more than only the woody bottoms would be left.

They were trimmed off the wall.

d. Pulled and removed weeds taller than myself at beginning of sidewalk area. Raked and put in trailer.

e. Benches back on sidewalk so lawn service can mow area.

f. Invasive Mexican Heather was mowed off, they had been hit with heat or freeze damage and looked bad. We were going to pull out, however, at 4:00 and I was READY TO LEAVE, and the truck was full. They now can be removed easier or when grown back will look nicer. Really need removed and something planted there.

2. NOTES OF FINDINGS WHILE WORKING NOW THAT WE COULD SEE:

a. Going to follow up and request to be on location when Quality First Lawn and Shrub Care fertilizes the next time, I am present. Their last visit was

8/1/2023. The shrubs we weeded would have died shortly with weeds choking out. Also, not sure evidence of correct fertilizer and could fence line herbicide be added. (Used in farms and will not hurt animals etc.) for weed control. But the shrubs are in poor condition.

b. Next clean up found two piles of lawn debris left by previous lawn care people will have that removed.

c. Found beautiful The Holly tree which is covered with kudzu – will find the beginning and cut vine (we think it was starting Mead Garden side).

d. There is a beautiful stag horn on ground that we can hang when deciding on plantings, it fell from tree that was removed. I removed the weeds (each time) and sprayed for ants.

I know long report but feel we are making progress, but life is like WEEDS when you get one section cleaned up other pops up. Will work on parking lot side next time.

THANK YOU SO MUCH FOR ALL YOUR SUPPORT

Charlotte White

HISTORIAN

HORTICULTURE

INSURANCE

INVASIVE SPECIES

JUNIOR GARDENERS

August 2023
Junior Gardener Report
by Brenda Davis

I want to thank Lisa and Sue for their hard work in making the Youth Section of our FFGC website more user-friendly. As a Junior Gardener leader, the website has been very hard to navigate in the past. I am more than sure our new club leaders will find the information and use of the site more manageable.

A new addition to our Junior Gardener Forms this year will be the addition of a parent permission slip acknowledging their child is participating in club activities at school. I added this because the new Parental Rights Law that went into effect this school year says all parents MUST be notified of participation in clubs at school. I had all my parents sign a consent at Open House. I felt the permission slip keeps us within the law and is a safety net against any wrongdoings. It is optional but recommended.

To date, I have only two registered FFGC Junior Gardener Club. I have spoken over the summer months to several districts starting clubs but have yet to receive any registration forms. I encourage all district presidents to make sure their district Junior Gardener Chairperson helps get these forms filled out and sent to the state chairperson (Brenda Davis.) I am most happy to assist with the task of getting the forms filled out and to the right people.

Brenda Davis

LEGISLATIVE POSITIONS & POLICIES

MATCHING GRANTS

MEMBERSHIP APPRECIATION, RETENTION & RECRUITMENT

MEMBERSHIP

Membership Committee
Christy Linke, Chairman
September 6th, 2023

This committee is made up of the 12 Assistant District Directors. The first meeting was held at convention 2023 in Orlando with those that were in attendance. Discussing the next two years and how we can obtain/retain member as well as the goals of this committee.

Receiving emails from NGC from those who are interested in becoming a member in a garden club is something that comes frequently. After finding the correct district to forward them to, this Chairman sends them right away to the Asst. District Director to forward to the correct garden club.

An invitation to all Asst. District Directors were sent to attend the FFGC Board Meeting. They play a vital role in FFGC as membership chairman for their districts. A meeting was held September 6th with those that came to the board meeting. We also held a ZOOM meeting August 30th with topics of on-line clubs, affiliate membership, how to obtain new members, and of course retain them. Once they join keeping them interested and engaged is so important. Discussion on Asst. District Directors writing a membership article in their District newsletter for their members to read. Sharing these newsletters to all districts is a great way to share information and ideas with other garden clubs.

Since taking on the position of membership chairman, has taught us all that sharing information is where it is at. It's one of the greatest tools that we can use to help FFGC grown in numbers.

Summary:

This chairman will continues working with the Asst. District Directors to help all districts grow in numbers, which will increase FFGC membership numbers.

NGC ENVIRONMENTAL SCHOOL CHAIRMAN

FFGC_o SCHOOL CHAIRMAN & ES CREDENTIALS CHAIRMAN

NGC Environmental State Chairman

September 1, 2023

Lydia Barbour

The most important aspect of my job as NGC Environmental School State Chairman is to work with Districts and Local Chairmen and their teams to make plans and successfully deliver Environmental School Courses. Currently there are two active schools, Fort Myers in District IX and Tampa in District VIII. Districts I, District IV and a GC in District VI are considering beginning a school in 2024. Fort Myers plans to conduct Course 3 November 16-17, 2023 and Tampa plans to conduct Course 2 November 7-8, 2023.

This Chairman also actively works with students, reminding them to take courses to complete their accreditation as Consultants or to refresh on their way to becoming Masters or retaining that accreditation. This often involves helping them with NGC's Form 6 or 7 as they register for the next course or refresher. Form 7 is now the tool that is used by Consultants and Masters to keep track of their refresher history.

An important aspect of the job is ensuring that the Environmental School database is up-to-date and accurate so that the students as well as the FFGC and NGC organizations have

accurate information about the school and the students.

As of 9/1/2023 the number of each category of student is: 123 active students, increased by 6 due to the two courses conducted in the spring. That number includes including 36 Masters, 48 Consultants, and 40 students still working to complete the four courses within the seven-year time requirement.

Summary: Assisting, guiding and supporting Local Chairmen and students are the important elements of this Chairman's work. Maintaining an accurate database and supporting documentation supports this work.

Respectfully submitted:

Lydia Barbour

NGC GARDEN STUDY SCHOOL CHAIRMAN

FFGC Board Report
Gardening School
Sally Flanagan
September 5, 2023

At present, we have 214 registered active people who have taken one or more of the Gardening School Courses. There are 35 inactive Consultants and 6 Emeritus Consultants. One Consultant refreshed at the Zoom Massachusetts Gardening School in April. We had 7 Gardening Consultants refresh their credentials at the University of Florida/FFGC ShortCourse North in June. There are 6 Consultants who need to refresh their credentials by the end of 2023 and these people have been contacted and informed of the upcoming Course. 6 Consultants did not refresh their credentials within their 2022 deadline. I have contacted all these as well in hopes that they will take the 2 courses necessary to bring their credentials in line.

Now that Zoom is a convenient venue for consultants, there is really no excuse to let credentials lapse. Consultants need to keep up to date with the NGC website under Schools to find these Zoom courses, but I hope to make all those needing courses informed about upcoming Gardening Schools.

Gardening Schools 1 and 2 Series 10 were held earlier this year in West Palm Beach, Florida. Course 3 is well into the planning stage to be held November 16 and 17, 2023 and course 4 is in the planning stage as well. There is a new Chair for this Series (Anne Hlasnicek). We hope that through these schools we will get some new Consultants and enable those needing refreshing to bring their credentials in line.

We also hope that the Tri Council will offer opportunities for Consultants to come together for enrichment by hearing competent and interesting speakers in various facets of the NGC Schools and partaking in events to further their education related to the NGC Schools.

In summation

There are 214 Florida Garden Club members who are maintaining their Gardening Consultant journey. There is a Gardening Series in place at this time in person in West Palm Beach availing those that want an in class experience, but several Zoom schools are available for those individuals that find travelling to courses not viable. We hope that Tri Council will step up to help not only in assisting with the production of schools, but provide exciting opportunities for Consultants to use their knowledge and increase their Gardening education.

NGC LANDSCAPE DESIGN SCHOOL CHAIRMAN

NGC SCHOOLS CREDENTIALS CHAIRMAN

NGC SPECIAL PROJECT LIAISON

NGC & DSGC YOUTH CONTESTS

NATIONAL GARDEN WEEK

PARKS – TRAILS - GREENWAYS

PENNY PINES

Penny Pines Report
Andrea Finn, Chairman
September 6, 2023

Due to the summer hiatus of Garden Clubs, there has been little activity.
This Chairman has nothing to report at this time.

Andrea Finn, FFGC Chairman
Penny Pines Project

SUMMARY: No report at this time, due to summer hiatus of FFGC Garden Clubs.

PHOTOGRAPHER

PLANNED GIVING

PROGRAMS & SPEAKERS

PROTOCOL

RECLAMATION & RECYCLING

ROADSIDE BEAUTIFICATION/ PATHS OF SUNSHINE

**SCHOLARSHIP - DSGC, NGC
Florida Scholarship Chairman Report**

By: Mary L. Adams,
Florida Scholarship Chairman,
DSGC/NGC Scholarship Program
Dated: August 13, 2023

The Florida Scholarship Chairman submitted two qualifying applicants to the National Garden Club (NGC) Scholarship Awards Program. NGC awarded the state of Florida two scholarships. The students are Mackenzie Spiroff of the University of Florida and Jorge Martinez Del' Angel of Florida A&M.

Each recipient received funds in the amount of \$3800.00 for the Fall Academic Year 2023-2024.

No applicants were received for submission to Deep South Garden Club (DSGC) Scholarship Program.

SCHOLARSHIP – FFGC

Scholarship and Endowment Committee

Board report Sept 6, 2023
Helen Purvis, Chairman

The FFGC finance committee has recommended that 5% of the average value of the past three years scholarship funds be available for college scholarships. 7 applications were received by this chairman by May 2023 and 5 scholarships in the amount of \$3000 each was awarded to:

Madison Ryan – Florida State University, Sophomore with environmental law in her future. Madison is a past recipient.

Blaire Kleiman – PhD Student in Earth Studies at Florida International University. Blaire is a past Recipient.

Caroline Gordon –Senior at University of Florida, majoring in landscape architecture and urban planning. Caroline is a past recipient.

Celeste Schreiber – Freshman at University of Florida, majoring in forest resources and conservation.

Crystal Eller – Junior at University of Central Florida majoring in health sciences. She is a past wekiva camper and counselor.

Noah Francis (who many of you recognize as a former Wekiva camper and counselor) met all the requirements, but is only taking 9 hours at Florida Gateway College since he already had many credit hours towards his degree and he needed more work hours. He will take 12 hours next semester to be a fulltime student and \$1500 will be awarded to him.

One applicant changed her mind and is going out of state.

These monies will be divided into two semesters and the students must maintain a 3.0 GPA to receive the second half in the spring.

I can't say this enough and it comes from these students too.

Thank you for your generous contributions to the FFGC scholarship fund.

Since convention, \$1500 has been donated and our total scholarship endowment fund is \$597,000.

SCOUTING LIAISON

Report
Scouting Liason
Jennifer Barber
September 5th, 2023

Since taking over the role of Scouting Liason, this chairman has reviewed previous BOD reports, researched Girl Scout Hierarchy structures through out Florida and conversed with the previous Chairman about the history, goal, function and success of this program.

This chairman sees the value of continuing a partnership with scouting groups to promote our values and share the resources of our organization to reach a larger audience of young people.

It is the hope of this chairman to amplify the benefits of working with scouting groups while providing the tools necessary to make the experience positive for everyone.

It is also the hope of this chairman to work in tandem with the Junior Garden Chairman, Brenda Davis to promote Junior Garden Clubs.

In the past this position made available a Wildflower Patch for Scouts and there has been a renewed interest in this patch in the past year. Making this patch available again is being assessed.

In Summary:

This chair has researched the past function and value of this Committee to plan a new and hopefully robust future.

SEEK CONFERENCE

SHORT COURSE – UF

UF/FFGC Summer Short Course
Carol Binello
September 5th - 7th

On June 6 – 8, 2023, Gainesville, Florida hosted the 85 th Annual Summer Short Course, entitled “Let’s Go Native!”. This Course is usually held in the first week of June each year, with a registration deadline of mid-May. It’s a fun, informative event that is mainly a gardening conference with attendees coming from all over the state of Florida. Registration is first opened to all garden club members. Two months later, it is opened to all master gardener volunteers and to the public. This past June was kicked off with a registration reception hosted by the Gainesville Garden Club. The Course began early the next morning with two private garden tours and lectures (transportation provided). There was a myriad of professional speakers from the University of Florida, and extension offices throughout Florida. Topics included “Landscaping With Backyard Ponds, Using Native Plants and Aquatics”, “Applying Ecological Principles in Your Garden”, “Biology of Plant Disease”, “Wildflowers and Weeds”, “Natives 101: Selecting and Using Natives in Your Landscape”, among others.

We filled the room to capacity this year, with 99 enrolled participants, and that doesn’t count the helpers and extra people who registered for the dinner. After the garden tours, all lectures were held on the University of Florida campus. There were drawings for gift baskets, gift and plant give-aways, a banquet dinner featuring a floral design program, and opportunities to shop for plants and garden gear.

Our goal was to get participants interested and excited about using Florida-friendly plants around their homes and offices. Our intent was to educate the public in the hopes that they will spread the word and, when purchasing plants for their yard, and will think in terms of the ecological implications. There were native plants for sale throughout the conference.

The course was approved as a Tri-Refresher, so those participants who signed up, did receive credit.

Please mark your calendars!

The 86th Annual Summer Short Course will be held on June 2-4, 2024.

Hope to see you there!

SHORT COURSE – NORTH

Report
Short Course North
Joanne Connor

Short Course North 2023 was held August 10 & 11, 2023 at the Escambia County 4H facility in accordance with its rotation of the three Northern FL counties. FFGC President Tina Tuttle initiated the planning of Short Course North including the site, theme and acquisition of speakers. Joanne Connor joined the chairmanship in April.

Attendance has been increasing at Short Course North since the Covid Pandemic. 59 people attended the 2-day workshop where 8 speakers gave presentations on “In the Beginning. . .” with such topics as Plants of the Bible by President Tina Tuttle, Native Americans and Native American Plants by the Principal Chief of the Florida Cherokee Indians, the Changing FL landscapes and Escambia Bay by county extension agents. The evolution of Lawns, plants by pollinators and the dependance on soil composition were given by extension agents and a UFL professor. Also, two optional programs, one Kokedami demonstration and a collage hands-on were conducted by judge & designer, Gina Jogan. In addition to the learning experience, the attendees had opportunities to purchase plants provided by 2 garden clubs, and items from 4 vendors, raffle baskets, and a silent auction. Door prizes were awarded to all attendees.

Short Course North was advertised on the FFGC website, local news media, District I newsletter, emails to past attendees and to Master Gardeners in the three counties. Master Gardeners could earn 8 CEUs for attending the workshop. Garden Club participants were charged \$50 for the 2- day workshop, and non-members were charged \$65. The additional \$15 could be used to goin FFGC and District I. District I received \$1,394.57 and \$981.57 is being given to FFGC from Short Course North 2023.

Respectfully submitted,
Joanne Conner

SHORT COURSE TROPICAL

SMOKEY BEAR-WOODSY OWL

Report
Smokey Bear & Woodsy Owl Poster Contest
Jill Anderson, Chairman
August 29, 2023

The 2024 contest is dedicated to Smokey Bear's 80th birthday! Children from first through fifth grade are invited to participate in this annual drawing contest featuring Smokey Bear! ONLY SMOKEY BEAR posters will be accepted this year.

Smokey Bear is recognized both nationally and internationally as the symbol for wildfire prevention, with his motto being "Only You Can Prevent Wildfires".

Since 1944, Smokey Bear has taught people how to help prevent wildfires and how to be careful with campfires, barbecues, matches, and more.

For more about Smokey Bear visit <https://smokeybear.com>

<https://gardenclub.org/smokey-bear-woodsy-owl-youth-poster-contest>

Any child/group of children may participate. Scout troops, after-school programs, summer camps, and the like are perfectly appropriate. Children must be Florida residents and sponsored by a garden club. The child's grade must be included on the poster so that the participant can compete in the correct grade category. Stickers for this information are available from this state chairman.

Deadline is January 20, 2024

For information, contact

FFGC State Chairman, Jill Anderson

jillandersn@aol.com

SOCIAL MEDIA

September 5, 2023
FFGC Social Media
Valerie Seinfeld

FFGC Social Media continues to grow in followers.

April 2023: 15K likes • 18.2K followers

September 2023:

Chair requirement: Chair posts everyday. Following what is happening on the National, Regional, State, District and Local Levels. There is an FFGC Officer as another Administrator on Facebook.

History: April 2017 this chair started with 1139 Likes.

Fact: FFGC Facebook Page is the most Liked and Followed NGC State Club Page in the Country.

8/7/2023- Our Followers reached over 20, 000 over the summer months









8/26/2023 20,332 Followers

Page Overview

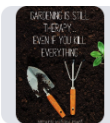
Followers: 20,267

[Create a post](#)


Last 28 days

 Post reach 	3,604,106
 Post Engagement 	255,924
 New Page likes 	475
 New followers 	825


Top Performer




Published by Valerie Fronk Seinfeld  · July 13 at 7:28 AM · 

Post Impressions 

2,782,355

Post reach 

2,641,387

Post Engagement 

175,444

Audience

20,332 Facebook followers

Age and Gender

- Men 15.70%
- Women 84.30%



Published by Valerie Fronk Seinfeld · August 19 at 7:57 AM ·

Post Impressions ⓘ

120,076

Post reach ⓘ

118,805

Post Engagement ⓘ

6,414

Interactions ⓘ



88
4



117



1.7
K



26



3



1



Reactions

2,726

STRATEGIC PLANNING COMMITTEE

Strategic Planning Committee
Connie A. Gladding, Chairman
Fall Board Meeting, September 2023

The Strategic Planning Committee's purpose is to look toward the future of the FFGC and advise the FFGC President. This Chairman is humbled by this opportunity to serve and commits to the FFGC membership that all advice offered will be consistent with the members' best interests.

The Strategic Planning Committee (SPC) convened September 6, 2024 and walked through a full agenda. All ten members were in attendance. Members include FFGC President, the three FFGC Vice Presidents, and a former NGC President. Membership is not static and several seats are term limited. Tina Tuttle agreed to serve as the recording secretary for the committee and suggested the incoming member accept this position.

Old Business items discussed were:

The top of the old business topics was the report from the SPC Nominating Committee. The recommendation was that Jolene King be nominated to fill this committee's position. Committee members were in full agreement and the recommendation will be presented to the full Board of Directors later in the day.

Next the committee tackled a review of an extensive list of past issues compiled by this Chairmen from a review of the past three years' minutes. These issues included: need for Committee Vice Chairmen; Board of Directors position term limits; storage of the organization's information; disposition of library materials; need for redistricting; surveys of membership 2024/25; online clubs; and Headquarters and Wekiva facilities and grounds.

Members determined whether these past issues needed to remain as priority issues for the committee. Headquarters/Wekiva facilities and grounds and the membership surveys will remain on this committee's agenda.

Helen Purvis agreed to serve as Chair, FFGC Matching Grants and presented suggested improvements to the program. All changes were approved.

New Business topics addressed included:

Physical Headquarters building. Tina Tuttle shared the news that the lawsuit had been resolved in FFGC's favor. Members agreed to convene a meeting devoted to this topic soon.

Opportunities to improve member benefits and public awareness. The committee reviewed a plan of action to analyze alternatives. Additionally, members reviewed The American Horticulture Society (AHS) recent findings that led to the establishment of the AHS Lifelong Learning Program. Members agreed to identify and analyze opportunities and to provide an interim report at the January Board of Directors meeting.

Convention frequency. The committee agreed to review the costs and benefits of holding annual conventions and evaluate opportunities to increase interest/attendance.

Membership retention and recruitment. All agreed this is the #1 Strategic issue for the committee. The purpose, method and content for the Fall Membership survey were identified. Members committed to reviewing the survey data and to provide preliminary findings and potential recommendations at the January Board of Directors Meeting.

Committee structure and staffing. It is increasingly difficult to identify willing members to fill the necessary committee positions. The committee will review the committee structure, job descriptions, and number of committee positions and provide recommendations. The FFGC's membership directory should enable the identification of potential candidates within the members' profiles.

Communications and key operating functions.

The website is our face to the world, and it has been improved. Information must be easy to find, up to date, and accurate. Alternatives need to be examined to improve communications and other key operating functions.

To summarize: This Strategic Planning Committee developed a list of priority issues to be researched, analyzed and recommendations made. These issues will drive the Committee's work effort for the next 18 months. Help your organization improve by completing the membership survey. Help the SPC to focus on matters that you care about. The findings will influence this Committee's deliberations. Lastly, know that this committee is looking to ensure a vibrant, impactful FFGC organization; an organization that is responsive to the interests of its members.

TOURS & TRAVEL

TREES & REFORESTATION

Kathy “Kat” Spieker, Trees and Reforestation Chairman

Trees and Reforestation Report

Fall BOD Meeting Sept 6-7, 2023

Trees and Reforestation requested that all garden clubs of FFGC record and report trees that they planted during the period from Mar 1, 2022 through Feb 28, 2023. Thanks to the immense effort and hard work of those clubs throughout the year, 133,131 trees were planted comprised of 304 tree species.

Certificates of recognition were awarded to the following clubs and/or circles for their extraordinary efforts to restore trees for habitat and beauty throughout the state.

SPECIAL RECOGNITION TO:

Tallahassee Garden Club 85,308

Live Oak Garden Club 40,270

TOP TEN CLUBS

#1 Boynton Beach Dist X - 1,442

#2 Moringa Circle Of Ft. Lauderdale Circles - 1,271

#3 Pipers Landing Garden Club - 928

#4 Wellington Garden Club - 751

#5 Parkinsonia - 612

#6 The Garden Club of Middleburg, Inc - 589

#7 Homosassa River Garden Club - 518

#8 Temple Terrace - 451

#9 The Garden Club of Palm Coast - 358

#10 Bloom and Grow Society - 288

Thirteen Clubs held Arbor Day Celebrations this last year. Trees and Reforestation is encouraging ALL garden clubs to participate in this year's Arbor Day Celebration January 19, 2024 to honor FFGC's 100th Anniversary.

Trees and Reforestation has also updated its reporting form to a fillable form, which is available on the FFGC website.

Trees and Reforestation is in contact with District Directors currently to remind all clubs of the 2023-2024 counting season!

Respectfully Submitted, Kathy “Kat” Spieker, Trees and Reforestation Chairman

TRI-COUNCIL PRESIDENT

Tri-Council of FFGC
President's Report
Brenda Luedeman
September 5, 2023

Tri-Council (TC) had a very productive and collaborative Spring as they coordinated and participated in Environmental, Gardening, and Landscape Design Exhibits for FFGC 2023 Convention. The exhibits, along with FFSJ's Flower Show Schools Exhibit, showcased what NGC Schools offer and provided a creative ways to share multi-faceted knowledge. This Tri-Council President coordinated the effort that required connecting, communicating, and collaborating for many months in planning and execution of the displays. Thank you to 2021-2023 FFGC President Marge Hendon, the convention planning committee, and all representatives, state schools chairs, and who participated in planning and constructing these displays. More than 100 live native plants were exhibited then sold to happy conventions attendees. With teamwork, dedication, and hard work, it all came together beautifully. In keeping with Marge Hendon's theme of recycling, repurposed items and recycled art were displayed at the convention. Ideas were shared on how we as individuals can help reduce, reuse, and recycle items.

Carolyn Schaag also coordinated a creative TC Trashion Show for the Early Arrivals Dinner. TC and FFGC members designed fun and fabulous fashions out of recycled and repurposed items. Models were accompanied by emcee Tina Tuttle's humorous dialog as they promenaded on stage and showed attendees how they turned "trash to treasure". Who knew trash could be so much fun!

As raising awareness of environmental concerns becomes more necessary, the educational component of FFGC and TC is becoming even more significant. NGC Consultant Schools were offered by Zoom during the pandemic, allowing many to complete courses or refresh consultant credentials. In-person courses have now resumed. Thankfully there are ZOOM and/or hybrid courses offered that allow students at a distance to participate. Please refer to FFGC and NGC websites for current courses scheduled in Florida or other states and the details about course offerings where interested individuals can advance learning. TC will also plan programs and events that educate and engage our members.

Our slate of TC Officers and representatives for 2023-2025 are: President Brenda Luedeman; Vice-President Pat Caren; Treasurer Carolyn Schaag; Secretary & Parliamentarian Inger Jones; Environmental Consultants Representative Janice Miller; Gardening Consultants Representative Marge Hendon; and Landscape Design Consultant Representative Sally Flanagan. All have been busy this summer assisting with TC tasks and planning. This president looks forward to serving along with my board of TC officers, committees, and engaged members over the next two years. Our theme is:

3Cs of Tri-Council: Connect - Communicate - Collaborate
Becoming a Consultant is Just the Beginning!

Brenda Luedeman
Tri-Council President 2023-2025

VIRTUAL PLATFORM TEAM

WEBSITE EDITOR

Website Editor

Sept 6-9, 2023

Sue Roberts

At the last FFGC BOD meeting in April, an ad-hoc committee was formed to investigate creating a new website for FFGC. After some discussion, it was suggested that our present website host and database handler, Personify (formerly Wild Apricots) has the capabilities to enhance our website rather than investing in a new product.

Beginning in July Lisa Packard and I started to redo the primary navigation plan and then began updating the site to match. We have a sheet describing this new plan on your tables. The top half of the sheet describes the top menu bar and the options under each tab. The bottom half shows the footer that you will now find on every page. It has many 'hot links' in blue to various pages in the website. So you can get many places from the top menus and then if you reach the bottom of a page you can link to the most popular places without returning to the top menus. Also in the middle of the Home page there is a new section of 'Hot links' in hot pink. We hope that all these changes and additions will make your navigation through the site much easier.

We have sent this newly organized site out to you for comment a few weeks ago. All our returned comments were positive and we did incorporate most of the suggestions that came back.

We have also been calling on you, the chairmen, to update the content of your sections. Many had not yet addressed the new administration to change content and forms, if only the dates and chairmen names. We thank you for responding. The accuracy of our website really depends on you. Your sections that describe our active programs, forms, and contacts need to be kept accurate to be of any help to our garden club members. Lisa and I can only update what we are given. After we got the navigation changes in place we spent some time on the cosmetics – putting a new theme in place that enhances the color and layout of each page. Hopefully it will now wake you up.

We have implemented some statistics recently and find that we have a very busy and large website. The month of August (a typically slow time for garden club activities) has showed that we had approximately 1100 users access more than 10000 views/pages on our site. Lisa and I may have skewed those numbers a bit as we have been moving around the site extensively. But it still shows a lot of activity, and we expect that to spike considerably when the new issue of the Fl. Gardener is announced.

I have merely been an editor for the past several years, trying to keep the site accurate and timely. Thanks to Lisa's help I have learned a lot about the better design of a website and together we have learned a lot about the capabilities of Personify. Hopefully, with your help, we will continue to improve the site's appearance, accuracy, and timeliness.

WEKIVA YOUTH CAMP

FFGC 2nd Vice President/Camp Wekiva Chair

Mary Ann Whisler/2nd VP

September 2023

The 2023 Camp Wekiva is now over, and camp packed up for another year. As Chairman this VP has learn so much about camp. There were so many new people doing outstanding jobs to make camp run smoothly. Our new chef (Chris Bates) from the Orlando High School Culinary School and many of his “chefs in training” ran the kitchen through so many issues it would take pages to explain. We are proud to inform our FFGC members that in July Chef Chris Bates won the 2023 National Educator of Excellence Award in Dallas, TX. We are truly lucky to have him and his team on our Wekiva Staff. Our new registrar (Barbara Fowler) took on the position from our past registrar (Betty Moxley) and did an outstanding job. Gail Fowler took on the new role of Wekiva Treasurer and trained with our FFGC/Wekiva Treasurer (Jana Walling). The Office/Clinic was completed in June, just in time for camp! The dedication was held just before camp started and we were happy to see so many garden club members attend the dedication. We hope Ms. Todd was happy to see what her wonderful donation created. This Chairman must give thanks and gratitude to Kelly Hartman Volunteer/Coordinator of our EE/Canoe Program. Kelly took over the organizing of the dedication and made everything run smoothly. From planning the program to having our counselors sing camp songs, Kelly made it happen. We will be forever grateful.

Our camp is now turning 50 years old and numerous issues have been identified. The kitchen was in critical need of repair. The ovens in the kitchen were not working efficiently. Even with several repairs, our chef could not keep them working. Our appliances were breaking down due to being stored for ten months in a non-air-conditioned building. The old wiring in the camp caused power outages and the sewer/water system continued to cause issues. However, there is always a “silver lining” in every story. The State Park Service is renovating the kitchen this fall. With the generous donations of garden clubs and several individuals, we have purchased a new stove. Both our warmer, mixer and most critical of all “the slushy machine” received repairs. And garden clubs donated funds for four new luggage carts, two new tents, ramp curbs, fire boxes, golf cart repairs, ceiling fans and so much more.

Our camp was, except for a few last-minute cancellations, 100% full, with a waiting list in many programs. Parents from all over the state are anxious to have their children attend our camp. What Camp Wekiva offers cannot be replicated. We have dedicated staff, volunteers, and the most exceptional counselors you could imagine! Almost every counselor has been a camper and loves this camp as much as we do. But the shining star of camp is you, the garden club members. Your contribution of students, scholarships, donations, and support continues to make FFGC Camp Wekiva. We look forward to another 50 years of FFGC Camp Wekiva!

Mary Ann Whisler/2nd VP (mary.whisler66@gmail.com)

Summary:

Wekiva 2023

Camp Wekiva 50 Years Old

100% Full for 2023

WEKIVA VOLUNTEER TRAINING