

2024 Annual Convention Meeting
FFGC BOARD OF DIRECTOR'S MEETING
OFFICER AND DISTRICT DIRECTOR REPORTS

Table of Contents

PRESIDENT'S REPORT - Tina Tuttle
1ST VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT - Christy Linke
2nd VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT - Mary Whisler
3rd VICE PRESIDENT - Leticia Delatorre-Gunn
RECORDING SECRETARY - Jennifer Barber
TREASURER - Jana Walling
CORRESPONDING SECRETARY - Linda Feifarek-Johnson
DISTRICT I - Jenny Weber
DISTRICT II - Sue Meyer
DISTRICT III - Lana Arnold
DISTRICT IV - Sam Runyon
DISTRICT V - Carol Stevens
DISTRICT VI - Valerie Seinfeld
DISTRICT VII - Gwen Carter
DISTRICT VIII - Phyllis Weber
DISTRICT IX - Susan Lawson
DISTRICT X - Maria Wolfe
DISTRICT XI - Taryn Palo
DISTRICT XII - Susan Rodriguez
VIRTUAL CLUBS - Leticia Delatorre Gunn

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Annual Report
FFGC President
11 April 2024

Life has been a whirlwind since installation last April. The installation itself was so sweet with a Candy theme and reception candy bar! The theme for this administration is "Celebrating 100 Years!" and the Florida Federation is acknowledging this milestone in many ways. Our convention is being held where our 4 founding mothers met to establish the Federation in 1924, in Jacksonville, and it is planned to be a birthday party like no other with games and prizes, tours and hands-on workshops, respected speakers and our major biennial state flower show too. We will celebrate our actual birthdate of 24 April with an elegant brunch and dinner at our Winter Park Headquarters. Come join us!! The Federation published a commemorative calendar (now on sale!) with a brief history and 70 factoids about our organization and featuring all the front covers of our Florida Engagement Calendar since 1953. We also offered a commemorative ornament, pin and t-shirt. Needless to say, several of our clubs are also celebrating or have celebrated their 100 th anniversary as well, including the Garden Club of Jacksonville, Winter Park Garden Club, Garden Club of Halifax Country, Miami Beach Garden Club, Gainesville Garden Club and others.

Our 10,800 plus membership is spread across the sunshine state in 12 districts and 152 garden clubs. Each individual and club has been challenged to compete actively and complete a checklist of "100 Ways to Celebrate 100 Years" so they are DOING garden club and not simply BEING garden club. Cash prizes will be awarded at the end of the administration for the clubs and individual who complete the most activities. Some have said this Nell Coe Award is 'addictive', other have told me it has 'saved' their club? To garner attention to our centennial, the Federation celebrated Florida Arbor Day by asking each club to plant a native tree at the same time on the same day, 19 January. Over 120 clubs participated and approximately 500 trees were planted. The chairman of this highly publicized event was Dr. Lynn Artz. She was able to secure a \$20,000 grant from Duke Energy to reimburse clubs up to \$100 for the purchase of their trees and another \$5,000 grant from the National Wildlife Federation toward the purchase of seedlings to be given away at the various events. Photos of this very successful day filled our Facebook page!

As we turn the corner and enter our next 100 years, the Florida Federation followed the path of NGC and discontinued the printing of our quarterly magazine, The Florida Gardener. It is now totally online, sent directly to our members' inbox, and with the expertise of our editor, Lisa Packard, it has doubled in number of pages and in its professional look and feel. To keep the lines of communication open with our members, we are creating a statewide quarterly newsletter to be called "The Idea Exchange" where clubs and districts share their news and ideas with others. The first issue is slated to be out in May. This President and the 3 Vice-Presidents took a 3-week, 3,000-mile tour of the state last October, stopping in all 12 districts to speak with our members and present an hour-long PowerPoint, "state of the state", message regarding all aspects of our organization: Educational Opportunities, Youth Programs and scholarships, Community Outreach, Environmental Programs, Design studies and Horticulture education. The district directors, most club presidents and about 1000 members attended the meetings and we felt honored to attend and share pertinent information.

It has been 10 years since we last conducted a survey of our membership. Using Google Drive, a survey was created and sent to all members via email in November. Although our return was small (about 12%), we are able to conclude that the general membership appears to be unaware of the state and national educational opportunities, resources, programs and projects available to them. We have made

it our mission to rectify that. Our Strategic Planning Committee realizes that an individual joins a club, not the Federation and is investigating ways to involve our members where they live using a variety of technical options.

Our Wekiva Youth Camp was listed in Newsweek magazine's "100 Top Summer Camps"!! We had a new Director and a new Chef in 2023 but it was a successful 6-week camp with over 600 campers participating and it looks like we are on track for another full camp this summer. On 15 June 2023, we dedicated the opening of our new office and clinic building. The original building burned in 2019 and through the generous donation by garden club members, Anne and Troy Todd, we were able to rebuild. We had 40 volunteers attend our Wekiva Volunteer Training session in February. And the Wekiva Youth Camp, established in July 1974, will celebrate its 50th anniversary this year!

In other news: The Centennial Quilt is finally done!! Did you see it in the hallway? Our Floral Design Study program, courses 1-9, has undergone a major revision to bring it up to date and offer the aspiring designer additional options. We began holding dinner and a program after our Board meetings to offer our board members an educational as well as social opportunity while in Winter Park overnight. The number of our Affiliate Members has more than doubled due to a push for like-minded organizations to join us. Our Florida Flower Show Judges will be publishing the third edition of the widely acclaimed What's Your Type book in April. Of course, what is design without horticulture? For the third year, I contributed the horticulture commentary to the book. Our Tri-Council of Accredited Landscape Design, Environmental and Gardening Consultants will hold its first retreat at the Wekiva Youth Camp this July. Our SEEK (Save the Earth's Environment Through Knowledge) will also celebrate 50 years with another 3-day conference for High School students in Gainesville this June.

It has been a pleasure to travel the state and participate in so many amazing garden club activities and meet so many wonderful members! I was fortunate to recently attend the 67th Tropical Short Course in Wellington and the "Golden Gala" in Gainesville. I even got to visit one of our newest affiliates by attending CFAA in Orlando for the first time! We, Florida Federation of Garden Clubs, are truly making a difference in our state with beautiful plantings, Blue and Gold Star Markers, flower shows, involvement with youth, programs open to the public, and so many fun and fundamental activities! Florida is seeing an estimated 1,000 people move into our state every day and we are snatching them up to become garden club members!

Our 101st year and a new century for FFGC is looking bright! We will close our anniversary year and begin of our new year with our Birthday Brunch and elegant Dinner on 24 April at headquarters. I hope you will see Judi Jodoin for your ticket and to see you there! We will be going 'back to basics' with a "Garden Club 101" theme! And we will be rewarding ourselves for a splendid administration by having our next winter Board of Directors meeting aboard Royal Caribbean's Voyager of The Seas on January 6-11, 2025. The 6-day cruise is open to anyone so why not pack your bikini and join us?

Tina V. Tuttle

President 2023-2025

Summary:

Our 100th year has seen many fun, illuminating, energizing and memorable events, changes, additions, plans, programs and projects. The momentum will surely carry us into our next century!

1ST VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT

FFGC 1st Vice President
Christy Linke
April 9, 2024

This 1st Vice President has been busy attending Strategic Planning Committee meetings once a month. The committee felt to get all topics at hand completed it was necessary to meeting once a month instead of the usual 3 times a year.

Other ZOOM meetings that this 1st Vice President has been attending are, Headquarters & Endowment, Bylaw meetings, and of course Finance meetings.

Attending the Deep South Convention in Gatlinburg, TN was exciting and so many educational opportunities which this 1st VP took it all in. Wekiva Volunteer Training in February is always in this First President's heart. Attending once again this year was no different, great friends who are all volunteers with one goal and that is to make Camp Wekiva great!

As Finance Chairman of the Finance Committee, we held a ZOOM meeting on April 4, 2024. FFGC is so fortunate that there were so many budgets to approve and review.

We cannot thank these clubs and Districts enough for holding these educational schools. The volunteer hours behind these schools is something not everyone will ever see. The outcome is a successful ran event and that is what our members see and know. So a huge thank you to them. Serving on the Finance committee along with all the dedicated members who also serve on the finance committee is such an honor. We are always looking out for the best interest of Florida Federation of Garden Clubs and our members. A big thank you goes to the FFGC Treasurer, Jana Walling. Her job is one that is 365 days a year.

As Membership chairman we continue to send Assistant District Directors along with Directors the generated e-mails from NGC for people looking to join a garden club in their districts. FFGC is growing with the help from the Assistant District Directors in making sure these e-mails go to the right club in the district.

Summary:

This First Vice President is proud to serve and find myself learning and growing every day.

Whether it is environmental, design, horticulture, botany, recycling, Jr. Gardeners, NGC schools, short courses, and this is just to name a few. FFGC truly has something for everyone.

2nd VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT

FFGC 2nd Vice President/Camp Wekiva Chair
Mary Ann Whisler/2nd VP
April 2024

As 2nd Vice President the main objective is to chair the Wekiva Youth Camp. However, there are many more areas of FFGC that the 2nd VP is involved in, Finance, Bylaws, Strategic Planning Committees, assisting in the evaluation of the headquarters issues, and assistance to the President when needed. The position of 2nd VP is a valuable learning position to become President.

Camp Wekiva 2024 is busy getting ready for another year of camp. So much must be done before our camp begins. We order our 2024 Tee Shirts, plan for evening programs, check to see all our equipment is in working order, plan for new equipment, verify background checks, secure contracts, hire new staff, and most of all start looking for volunteers. To date we are still short of volunteers for this summer and requesting volunteers to help with crafts. Also, we will be seeking a new Director for 2025 and an Assistant Director for 2024. We know the right person is out in FFGC land and we hope that clubs will help us find the right person to fill this year's position and possibly next year's Director position. We are thankful that Chef, Christopher Bates, from the Orlando High School Culinary School, and his "chefs in training" will return.

At our Volunteer Training in February, we were happy to receive a beautiful shadowbox frame with mementos of the dedication of the new clinic from Ann Todd. The timely and generous donation from Troy and Ann Todd of the Sweetwater Oaks Garden Club allowed us the opportunity to rebuild the clinic building and we will forever be grateful!

This beautiful shadowbox frame is now hanging in the clinic.

In June, before our camp starts for another year, we will be hosting a 50th anniversary party for camp alumni. Former Counselors and Campers will be invited to enjoy a flag ceremony, swim in the springs, enjoy the campfire, and remember good times at camp.

Camp is almost full. Your contribution of students, scholarships, donations, volunteering, and support continue to make Camp Wekiva our most magical place in Florida.

Campers Today – Environmental Leaders of Tomorrow

Respectively submitted: Mary Whisler/2nd VP FFGC

3rd VICE PRESIDENT

Third VP Report FFGC 3rd VP Leticia Gunn

April 11, 2024

Jacksonville, Florida

First year serving as your Third VP has brought me much learning and joy.... Along with quite a bit of work. First task was to find a way to streamline and modernize how we handled Ways and Means. By better utilizing the online tools of the Square App, we were able to glean more accurate inventory reports and be able to accept credit cards while at Convention, on Officer's Tour and at Wekiva.

Attending Fall and Winter Board of Directors Meetings has definitely assisted me in getting to know a lot of the members from all twelve Districts and delved me deeper into all things FFGC. What I can say is that your Board of Directors certainly works tirelessly to ensure the business of FFGC is run smoothly and successfully.

As Third VP, I was appointed to be recording secretary of the Finance Committee and this position has enlightened me on the huge financial responsibilities that FFGC has to fulfill.

My stewardship of Wekiva commenced with my Chairmanship of Critter Camp. This mini camp of the littlest campers has given me a small foothold on what Chairing Wekiva Youth Camp will feel like. I thank our 2nd VP, Mary Whisler in bringing me along to experience her Chairmanship of Wekiva so that I am better prepared to take it on when my time comes.

Another Big milestone was running Wekiva Volunteer Training. Frankly, what I thought was going to be a BIG undertaking.... Turned out to be a beautiful FUN weekend! Yes it was a LOT of work, but the speakers all showed up on time, the programs all ran smoothly, the camp fires were epic, and I actually got to enjoy some time with WVT attendees who all expressed very positive reviews of their experience.

The Officer's Tour was quite the logistical production, but it got your officers to get to know each other better and I personally really enjoyed experiencing the vastness and beauty of our paradisiacal State while getting to experience the diversity of the twelve Districts.

Closing out my first year as your Third VP brings me to an awareness that I can further foster the South Florida Club's knowledge of the many opportunities that FFGC has to offer. My final thought for this report is that I took on Third VP to give my South Florida Clubs a direct line to FFGC.... I begin to wonder if in fact, maybe, I may bring FFGC to South Florida.

RECORDING SECRETARY

Jennifer Barber
Recording Secretary
Annual Convention Meeting Report

This Recording secretary has had the pleasure of serving for the past year. My role only becomes busy prior to and after a Board of Directors meeting. I gather reports and put them together to be posted on the website, write minutes to record our actions during meetings, follow up after the meeting to retrieve reports or motion cards that do not quite make it to my inbox, ensure the accuracy of minutes and then post everything onto the FFGC website for all to enjoy.

I encourage everyone to read Officer, Directors' and Chairman reports. Personally I have learned so much about the members of this organization and all of the amazing work that they do.

Summary:

Collection and posting of Officers', Directors & Chairman reports.

Writing, ensuring the accuracy and posting of Meeting Minutes.

TREASURER

Financial Reports
Jana Walling
Annual Convention

[Statement of Financial Position - All Classes](#)

[Budget vs. Actual General Operations](#)

[Budget vs. Actual Headquarters & Endowment](#)

[Budget vs Actual Wekiva Youth Camp](#)

CORRESPONDING SECRETARY

FFGC Corresponding Secretary
Convention Report
Linda Feifarek-Johnson
April 19, 2023

I manage the event calendar so any events your club or district is doing, please send your events information to me. There is a form to be filled out that can be found on the FFGC website. On the home page, scroll down until you find "Hot Links." Click on "Forms." Scroll down to "Calendar Entry Form." It can be filled out online and emailed directly to me. I can also add flyers and registration forms for the event.

As of the last convention April 2023, I have sent out 18 cards: get well, thinking of you and thank you cards.

If you know of anyone who needs a card, please let me know.

email: feif@bellsouth.net

regular mail: PO Box 982, Steinhatchee, FL 32359

call or text my cell phone 352-356-2751 (cell) or 352-498-5806 (home).

DISTRICT I

District I is excited to host the 100th celebration of the Florida Federation of Garden Clubs at our annual convention in beautiful Jacksonville! The clubs continue to be busy with all their programs as we, as a District, are trying to improve communications with our Facebook page, website and use of Constant Contact.

The Pensacola Federation of Garden Clubs held an Educational Series in February, a tour of Tables in March and will have the Secret garden tour on May 18th and 19th. They also hosted a Girl Scouts of Gateway Council event where they learned life skills. They held a Christmas luncheon where they performed the 12 days of Christmas, choreographed by Marilyn Powitzky and sung by Tina Tuttle and other members.

Navarre garden club held their Spring Fling which was fantastic! Check out another program of this club as can be seen by District I's educational exhibit in the State Flower Show.

Valparaiso Garden Club continues to work and have educational programs with their Paradise Gardens. Sure to be represented in an award or two!

Milton garden club held an "in club" horticulture specialty show with 85 entries!. They also recently restored one of their Blue Star markers.

Defuniak Springs Garden Club has a new President, Mary Flack. She's already trying out new programs such as "Tai Chi in the garden", upcycling thrift store treasures into garden art, and epically posing the men of Defuniak garden club in a photo shoot. What a hoot!

Green Thumb Garden Club will be donating over \$14,000 in 2023-2024 to local organizations and scholarships in Walton County. These include college and youth scholarships, Junior gardeners at Butler Elementary, Eden gardens and Legion park, Penny Pines, Caring and Sharing and Habitat for Humanity.

Destin Garden Club held its first Flower Show with 130 entries. They received the Plant America grant last Spring for the fabulous work they are doing at the Library gardens. They grow people too! They reimburse members for the initial Master Gardener training.

Sadly, we are losing the "forever President" of Honeysuckle, Ann Crawford. Ann is doing fine just moving down to Daytona somewhere. We will miss all the wonderful plants she has propagated for us over the years and countless plant sales. Take care of her Daytona, you're welcome!

Finally, a great big THANK YOU!! 100% of the District I clubs participated in one way or another for Arbor Day.

DISTRICT II

FFGC 2024 DD Convention Report:
Sue Meyer - District II

So — it's been a busy year for District II. The glow of my 2023 Convention installation dimmed when I returned home and felt the depth of commitment!

My first district meeting was fabulous, because the host clubs lead me right through it! With the board's assistance, the budget was approved, we celebrated Chipley's 70th birthday with a beautiful tea party and also distributed FFGC awards from Convention!

Then came the long hot summer:

- The June President's retreat was a "Back to the Future" session; we journeyed back to the basic protocols of conducting informative meetings by preparing a good agenda that helps your secretary document items for club history; creating an efficient budget that promotes transparency for members and simplicity for the treasurer; reviewing board recommendations developed from member proposals for future projects and events; all of this pre-planning adds more time for speakers and in-depth programs; it was a very rewarding to hear such positive feedback from this event;
- In July we caught up reviewing District II history, arranged for and completed a financial audit, established dates and hosts for 2023-25 meetings and continued planning for next fall meeting; the official incorporation the district with the State of Florida was achieved, and are in process of establishing 501c3 status; also initiated and forwarded many emails regarding programs and projects throughout DII and FFGC;
- Meanwhile, the DII Clubs - Chipley, Gulf Beach, Lynn Haven, Panama City, Port St Joe, Sneads Carlisle Rose and Wausau - are reaching out to their members and communities by hosting plant sales, re-establishing "no-mow" policies for delinquent counties; creating a seed library with the local public library; beautifying downtown streets with bright plants and resting benches; growing milkweed and monarchs to replenish our pollinators; establishing native plant gardens; applied and used grant monies and selling homemade persimmon ice cream to those attending the Possum Festival in August and doing some in-house strategic planning for the upcoming program year.
- DII members work tirelessly for their members and communities by beautifying roadways, sharing fun with flowers with elementary students and seniors and some attend short courses. The Gulf Beach GC developed a children's coloring/story book that teaches about gardening by stimulating their imagination; other clubs are working hard to re-create their landscapes following our Florida weather disasters.
- We've also taken time to look to the future and outlined goals:
 - Utilization of the many talents of district officers;
 - Creation of a DII logo;
 - Design a DII Facebook page to share the club events with all;
 - Continue to re-invent the District and State Newsletter to encourage event attendance offer the ability the "steal" new ideas that work;

- Track down our district Blue Star Markers and re-emphasize their importance to all;
- Revive the “Penny Pines” program;
- Research results from Tina’s member survey and formulate a plan to recognize individual club needs and address solutions;
- Bring back basic Floral Design classes to DII;

Well, with only a year to go - this quote from Robert Frost says it all;

“The woods are lovely, dark, and deep. But I have promises to keep, And miles to go before I sleep, And miles to go before I sleep.”

THE END

DISTRICT III

DISTRICT IV

District IV Annual Report
FFGC 2024 Centennial Convention

During the past eight months, District “Fabulous” IV has been busy in presenting programs, recruiting new members, and promoting the love of gardening. We have experienced a 5% increase in membership since August 2023 to March 30, 2024.

Our Assistant Director, Steven Davies started producing a Membership newsletter with tactics for recruiting and retaining members.

Our educational programs encompassed: saving seeds, plant\propagation, natural repellants, pollinator gardening, “How do you eat an Oak Log”, i.e., growing Shitake mushroom spores; growing sprouts, trees, and coastal tree issues, container gardening and African Violets. Master Gardeners shared their knowledge on edible weeds, “building a great soil”, caring for garden tools, orchids, fall flowers, daylilies, roses, beneficial insects, composting, vermicomposting, and “landscaping with backyard ponds”. The “Save our Lakes Foundation” spoke on the water replenishment project for recovery of the lakes in Keystone Heights. Late Bloomers Garden Club in Jacksonville hosted a program on research and plant-based drug development being done by Brain Chemistry Labs: Institute for Ethno Medicine. This

NPO has developed two new drugs, under FDA clinical trials, to treat Alzheimer’s and ALS diseases.

Community Outreach: Youth gardening projects with students at Wilkinson, Doctor’s Lake, and Orange Park Elementary schools. Ribault registered 1,300 school children from 3 schools as Junior Gardeners. GC of Switzerland teaching pollinator plants, monarch butterflies and beekeeping at the Bartram Library in Mandarin. GC of Jax’s Budding Gardeners did ‘stellar strawberries, growing lettuce and terrarium gardening.

Veterans: cultivating the Taps Garden at the Vietnam Memorial in Green Cove Springs and Wreaths Across America. Lakes worked with Ace Hardware’s sponsored “Junior Gardener Day” by providing children and parents with hands-on-planting and good gardening skills, Also completed a 2 mile road clean-up by working with FL DOT’s “Adopt a Highway” program. Fleming Island is getting ready for their annual butterfly release program and Art in the Garden soiree with the Art Guild of Orange Park.

Programs: GC of Jacksonville led a tapestry design program. Ribault initiated a series of 7 programs for make and take floral designs. The Garden Club of St. Augustine and Bartram held “Fun with Flowers” programs and flower shows. Palatka GC and advisor/ Bartram Trail Society, Inc. member, Kalia Baillene, are getting ready for the annual Bartram Frolic on April 27 th ..

The NGC Landscape Design School Course 3 and 4 were held in District IV and participants toured the UNF campus botanical healing Rose and Bamboo gardens. Floral Design Studies Units 1-6 and Units 7-9 were also hosted by the Garden Club of Jacksonville and St. Augustine.

St. Augustine held a Flower Show (small standard) event. Three of the GCSA members entered designs in the Palm Coast Flower Show and won blue ribbons. Their 52 annual Holiday Tour of Homes was held in historic St. Augustine, Six historic homes were decorated, and holiday tea and bake/ gift sale held at the River House.

Our Spring meeting is scheduled for May 17 th at the Ravine. Gardens State Park in Palatka.

Respectfully submitted,

Sam Runyon, District IV Director

District V

Carol Stevens DD

April 7, 2024

Just a few weeks after the April 2023 Convention, District V kicked off the new year by revealing their 2024-2025 theme at the Spring District Meeting on May 10 in Lake City. The theme

“Be the Key that Unlocks the Beauty of the Environment”

Many Springs are located in District V so we wanted to make sure the environment was included in our theme.

Our Spring District meeting was well attended. Lake City being located at the northern point of our district many elected to come and spend the night. It takes over 2 hours to drive from one end of our district to the other. Being well attended meant much to the newly installed District Director and right away I knew this was a winning team by the kindness I was shown.

Now it was June and time for the UF/FFGC Short Course. It is held the first of June. Thanks to Carol Binnello and GGC and all members that made it a success.

Our Presidents' Orientation was held in Ocala at the Sheriff Sub station off Road 200. That is a fairly central location for our District. Booklets were handed out that listed telephone #s, email addresses of all officers, Presidents, committee chairs and etc. We had a question answer time so presidents could ask questions and give suggestions to each other. Presidents felt this was informative.

Meeting together in September at Headquarters and Camp Wekiva with the other newly elected DD was knowledgeable and entertaining.

In October we entertained the FFGC officers. When I found out our date for the tour was October 13 and a Friday at that I was wondering if I was doomed. The Gainesville GC hosted the event and it was Spooktacular. Halloween theme, photo booth, hat contest

FFGC. They were very interested in the educational programs. They also had a demonstration on arranging flowers.

Just to give you an example of what a great group we have in District V. I received a call from Four Seasons Garden Club asking about our Spring District Meeting which is hosted by Seedling. Four Seasons had received some money and wanted to use it to pay for as many Four Seasons members as they could to attend the Spring Meeting. I just thought that was so kind. Keeping members informed is certainly a way to keep them interested.

Last Thursday I visited Citrus GC in Inverness. They meet at Whispering Pines Park and have received one of the Plant America grants for their butterfly garden located in the park.. Had several applications for their scholarship money. They were so impressed they are looking at ways to give more scholarships. They had 2 designs that were set up for members to admire. A member gave a critique of the designs explaining the way the designs were alike although they looked very different.

Homosassa GC had their, "Friends, Fun, and Games with Flowers" flower show. They had 48 Horticulture and Design entries. The judges awarded them 95 points. Interesting programs on Hydroponics and Bonsai have been presented.

Our Spring District Meeting is being hosted by Seedling Garden Club in McIntosh. Theme will be Southern Charm and if you have ever been to McIntosh I know you certainly felt and saw the Southern Charm. I visited McIntosh and was given a tour to my delight and then shared lunch with some great ladies. They also just held their plant sale last weekend. Not only do they sell plants, but Yard Art and Vendors from North Central Florida.

They also have Food Trucks so you can eat and music to keep you shopping.

Now we are back around to June and guess what! Time to get ready to learn about Landscape Traditions, Flip My FL Yard, Fragrant Plants and many other topics by attending the UF/FFGC Short Course. Also a field trip to Cedar Lakes Woods and Gardens. Don't miss out-make sure you register today.

DISTRICT VI

April 11, 2024
District VI
Valerie Seinfeld

District VI has been buzzing with excitement all year long, spreading joy like busy bees in a flower garden. Our Busy Hive of Clubs has explored many new territories and created events they have never done before or are revisiting successful ideas for the past. The art of a beautiful table has been the focal point of a few fundraisers and quite successful, while allowing members to enjoy the process of their creativity.

Two Pollinator Festivals were a hive of education, money-raising, and all-around fun. Rummage sales brought in new faces, and Floral Design workshops blossomed throughout the district.

Flower power was in full bloom with three Flower Shows, including one schedule written by a student judge, another held at the historic Rockefeller winter home and the District VI Flower Show "Busy Bees”, drawing crowds and applause. One of our clubs sprinkled joy by gifting floral arrangements to Meals on Wheels recipients, and Butterfly Gardens fluttered to certification across three counties. Green-thumbed members shared their propagation wizardry, passing on their green secrets. Plants sales drawing crowds and adding members to those that have them.

One of our District clubs held NGC Landscape Design Course 3 & 4 and did it all digitally, all paperless and on Zoom. Course 3 had members from 13 different states and Course 4 had 17 different states with members taking the course.

Plant sales sprouted funds for a local state park, while holiday cheer bloomed in assisted living facilities. Youth education programs, jr. gardeners and scholarship drives have painted our clubs as true community heroes.

Exciting programs highlighted the importance of planting native species to feed our buzzing buddies. Holiday cheer was shared with those in assisted living facilities, making gardens bloom with beauty. Clubs have been nurturing the next generation through youth education programs, gardening contests, and fundraising for scholarships, showcasing the generous spirit of District VI.

Who could forget the smashing success of Florida Arbor Day, with 100% participation and inspiring photos and videos filling our February Newsletter? One lucky Club even snagged the Plant America Community Grant, with more exciting projects like Blue Star Memorial Markers and the President’s New Coe Award in the works. District VI is truly a hive of activity and kindness!

DISTRICT VII

District VII Director
Gwen Carter
April 11, 2024

During the Summer of 2023, workshops were scheduled to keep members and prospective members involved in learning in Orlando.

DVII Clubs contributed \$79,635 in scholarships and donations to local communities. Open House and New Member Orientations were held throughout the District.

In September, members planted raised vegetable beds, built by the Boys Scouts, with Clermont Head Start students and read vegetable books to students in their classrooms.

For Breast Cancer Awareness Month, in October, 250 3-gallon trees were donated to Winter Garden residents. Flowerpots were painted and donated to Mount Dora Hospice to sell. November brought a multitude of member-grown plants and vegetables for the Annual Plant Sales anticipated by communities. A senior citizen facility's grounds, in Clermont, were transformed into a blanket of floral beauty with native and annual flowers for the residents to enjoy. Each resident received a crocheted blanket for their bed. Lake Mary Rehabilitation Hospital was decorated for the patients in December. Trees were planted at Habitat for Humanity homes in Winter Garden. Members brightened the porch with colorful pots and plants for "The Love Mission," an organization determined to abolish modern-day slavery through community awareness and education in Sanford.

Almost every club in District VII joined the other FFGC eleven (11) Districts planting Florida native trees in their communities. Many clubs gave out 100 or more seedlings to residents to increase the tree population and oxygen in the air, a very important necessity for life. January 19, 2024, was a wonderful planting day. Clubs not planting on January 19th, are scheduled to plant a tree on National Arbor Day, April 26, 2024, this year.

A Game Day held at Wekiva Springs State Park rang in the New Year for scholastic empowerment. January brought an NGC Standard Flower Show to Orlando and members and family strutted their stuff in a Fashion Show in Clermont.

In February, the Pollinator Power Project was at the Orange County Public Schools Green Schools Expo. An Inaugural Plant Sale in the Spring Valley Community was a huge success with plant materials donated from the National Wildlife Federation. Members strolled through the aisles modeling outfits at the Fashion Show in Apopka. Both Fashion Shows, in January and February, had fashions by Chico's of Winter Garden and Winter Park. There was a great turnout from supporting District VII Clubs and the community.

February continued with a free workshop giving tips learned from the Floral Design Study Units 1-9 in Clermont. Members had a fun experience creating Floral Line Designs or at least in the Vicinity. Sometimes it's not about the money but building camaraderie.

In March, more fundraisers were scheduled. In Longwood, the Annual Garden Fair was a tremendous success offering educational scholarships to the University of Florida Mid-Florida Research Campus. Working to give back to the community was the Annual Crazy Card Party in Windermere, a lot of fun and a worthy cause.

April brought Spring Fever in the Garden, in Winter Garden always a huge money maker for scholarships, charities, and community development. Celebrating Earth Day, April 22nd, 4 Trumpet trees will be planted in Winter Garden and Orlando. National Arbor Day, the last Friday in April, will be celebrated with the

planting of a Bald Cypress tree in Mead Gardens. Plus, some TLC will be given to the 1000 Bald Cypress trees planted in 2020 for the 1000 TREES for 1000 YEARS. Members continue to celebrate National Arbor Day with the planting of a tree in the Town of Lady Lake.

May will bring the Annual Garden Festival to Clermont and a Plant Sale in Centennial Park in Sanford. We are looking forward to May 9, 2024, the DVII Spring General Meeting hosted by Orlando GC to present FFGC Precious Metals for Years of Federation To:

Camellia GC, Eustis, 75 years - Diamond

Clermont GC 75 years Diamond

Lady Lake GC, 70 years-Emerald

Lakes and Hills GC, 75 years – Diamond

Spring Vally GC, Altamonte, 50 years - Platinum

Hopefully, we will have a few FFGC Awards to present to our winning clubs, as well.

Of course, in June DVII Clubs will celebrate National Garden Week,

Thank you.

DISTRICT VIII

District VIII Report for FFGC April 2024

FFGC is celebrating its 100 th year of establishment. Congratulations! But District VIII also has clubs celebrating their Federation dates.

We have 5 clubs established less than 30 years, 1 club established 63 years, 5 clubs established 70-74 years, 4 clubs established 75-80 years, 1 club established 88 years, 3 clubs established 91-94 years and 2 clubs established 96 years. I'd say that is an achievement!

But it is not their only achievements. From April of 2023 to December 2023;

- 4 clubs have held butterflies programs
- 6 clubs have had flower shows
- 7 clubs have had plant sales, plant auctions or plant marts
- 6 clubs have had activities in their gardens from art, music, and holiday celebrations
- 4 clubs continue to award garden or yard awards
- 3 clubs held NGC schools
- 6 clubs held floral design class for members
- 1 club install and landscaped a blue star marker installed
- 1 club had an entry in a Memorial Day parade
- 5 clubs had programs for seniors
- 7 clubs held education programs from bird boxes, palms, to floral care.
- 2 clubs had garden tours

3 clubs established a new garden for a boys and girls club, pollinators, and for community gardening. And from January 2024 to April 2024 they are continuing.

On January 19th, 19 Clubs planted a tree with 2 of those clubs also handing out seedlings. Apollo Beach Garden club is holding a plant sale. Clearwater has renovated their butterfly garden and grounds around their club house making it accessible for all to enjoy. Dade City garden club finished their sold out series "Make and Take". They are hoping their "Beer and Wine" series will also be a sellout. Lemon Bay is working hard getting their clubhouse and gardens repaired after the storms and hosting the District VIII spring meeting at the local country Club. Lakewood Ranch held their 2nd in a series "All about Butterflies" for the community. Manatee River held a plant auction, a flower show "it's a Barbie World and members will tour a private garden plus they are continued with The NGC Flower Show School Course 2. Plant City hosted the annual Horticulture show at the Strawberry Festival for 10 days and still found time to plan a Fun with Flowers event. Sarasota had their annual Garden Tour which was a sellout. St Petersburg Held the FFGC Floral design studies 7-9, their "home and Garden Fest" and a flower show, Cruizin in the Park. Sunset Park and Tampa Federation of garden clubs teamed up to offer the FFGC Design Course 1-7. Sunset Park then got ready for their flower show, Tale of Peter Rabbit. Tampa Federation of garden clubs held their "Wild Things" flower show and Plant Festival. Temple Terrace held their annual Spring Market in Woodland Park, with plants, speakers, and floral design demonstrations. Meanwhile Tarpon Springs in planning their upcoming annual Plant Sale. Venice Area garden club planned their garden tour,

Garden Jewels of Venice plus had an in house flower show to get members excited.

And all during this the clubs continued to hold meetings, recruit new members, raise funds, and most of all have fun.

What a year "Great Eight"!

Submitted by

Phyllis Weber

District VIII Director

pcweber@tampabay.rr.com

941-773-1018

DISTRICT IX

The “Fine District IX” covers 21 clubs in Polk, Hardee, DeSoto, Highlands, Charlotte, Lee and Collier counties, so when I use the famous line from Johnny Cash - “I’ve been everywhere, man, I’ve been everywhere” I am not kidding! And so far I’ve only attended a handful of our events. I’m going to apologize to my district members if I don’t call out one of your events specifically, but I’m going to practice some BS, and be succinct.

Borrowing a term from Naples GC, Friendraising is vital to our clubs. Our clubs have done this through summer member enrichment and appreciation lunches, teas and picnics; an all circle Valentine party; blueberry picking, fuss and brags, and a piano duo performance, to name a few. District IX clubs enjoyed field Trips to Morokami Japanese Garden, Wakodahatchee Wetlands; Fairchild Gardens, Fruit and Spice Park, Bok Tower, Peace River Botanical & Sculpture Garden. Name-dropping, in July, Gardeners Out East in Lakewood Ranch hosted John Gidding of HGTV and entertained 125 locals. Then, we’ve also held Flower Shows – from the big daddy in Naples to other beautiful shows in Punta Gorda and Cape Coral. These events have been instrumental to our membership increases – 15% for Clubs that have paid dues to date.

Fundraising is vital to our clubs. Almost all clubs hold plant sales, some larger than others. We have very successful home and garden tours throughout the year in Marco Island, Punta Gorda, Naples and Lake Placid. Periwinkle holds an auction, Sebring hosts a well-attended card party and Punta Gorda hosts Getting Crafty. Marco Island has started a new service – CGC Consulting, where FFGC Landscape Designers consult and give recommendations on FL friendly and native plants best suited to their locations. And GC of Winter Haven is in the middle of a multi-year fundraising campaign to celebrate their 100th anniversary in 2027. These items help contribute to the generous giving our clubs are able to do. In 2024, they’ve been able to give:

- Over \$40,000 in Scholarships and Education Donations
- Over \$4600 to Camp Wekiva and Seek which included a donation for “Mother Nature” Audrey Swindel who passed away this year;
- Lake Placid passes a container for Coins for Camp
- Over \$14,000 and countless hours to local Community projects such as Project Acorn, the Lake Wales Ridge Ecosystem Florida Forever Project
- Over \$1000 to Pennies for Pines

Other items I’d like to note:

Arcadia GC is grateful to FFGC for their \$500 grant for the Community Garden Accessibility Upgrade. They’ll be installing planters on 31” legs so the elder members and town residents of all abilities and ages don’t have to squat and can enjoy the benefits of gardening and their programs at the Community Garden.

Almost all our clubs participated in FFGC’s Arbor Day celebrations.

Fort Myers Lee County Garden Council registered a new Jr. Gardener Club.

Gardeners Out East will be installing a Gold Star Marker in May.

And we’re looking forward to our Spring 2024 meeting in Lake Placid on May 22.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Lawson

District IX Director

DISTRICT X

District X Report
Pre-Convention April 10, 2024
Maria Wolfe

The 2024 year began with an NGC Tri-Refresher Tropical Short Course entitled “Groundbreakers...Then and Now. This well attended event was filled with great speakers and became a profitable event for FFGC and District X.

Please make plans to join us on January 23-24, 2025 for a new round of gardening, environmental and landscape design speakers, not to mention the best Floral Designs you will ever see!

As one of my goals set when I became the District X Director, I asked all of the Clubs/Circles to invite me to a meeting. You remember our past Governor Lawton Chiles earned the nickname “Walkin Lawton” because of the miles he traveled visiting Florida. Well, I have become the Wanderin’ Wolfe as I have visited almost every Club in District X.

From Plant Sales, Garden Tours, Bus Tours, and FFSJ Art In Bloom event and even a “Barn” Tour in the equestrian town of Wellington, this District Director has put on the miles taking part in Club/Circle events while also sharing the exciting advantages that being a member of FFGC has to offer to every member of every Garden Club or Circle.

But, I came across a program from a District Meeting in 2018. Upon reviewing it, I discovered that 3 Garden Clubs have withdrawn from FFGC in that short 5 year period.....

That solidified my goal I set last April, to begin two garden clubs in District X during my tenure. On Monday, I met with interested individuals from an upscale retirement community in Palm Beach Gardens. They were enthusiastic about attaching orchids in trees around the property and raised bed gardening. One sweet lady said she just wanted to grow a tomato plant. With the help of the management and support of La Posada, we are locating speakers and starting the process to begin a federated Garden Club.

On Tuesday, May 16, we have an interest meeting set up in the City of Okeechobee. After a successful meeting with the City Manager, I have been in contact with the Library manager and the Reporter for the Lake Okeechobee News and their Chamber of Commerce. They are hungry for knowledge and we are just the organization to provide that education and help the community learn more about gardening, environment and landscape and Floral design. Thank you Susan Rodriguez from District XII for your Press Release that I plagiarized.

We are off and running and hope to have a Club federated by September.

Why do Clubs leave our Federation? I have no clear answer; however, my goal is to support every Club in District X by:

- Publicizing their events
- Advance notice of any Awards that can benefit them monetarily
- Sharing Grant information that can benefit them monetarily
- Being there for them when a hiccup occurs....

Robert Frost is my favorite poet and one of his masterpieces “Road Not Taken” strikes a chord with me because it describes my choices...

It ends with:

I shall be telling this with a sigh

Somewhere ages and ages hence:
Two roads diverged in a wood, and I-
I took the one less traveled by,
And that has made all the difference.

I just want to make a difference.....

DISTRICT XI

District XI Spring Report
April 8, 2024
Fort Lauderdale

November focused on the history and relationship to Birch State Park. Christmas had a “Poinsettia” themed Holiday celebration. Kudos to the Ft Lauderdale Garden Clubs Flower Show committee and all participants for an amazing, intriguing Standard Flower Show entitled “Technology and Science in Bloom” followed by the wonderful, enchanting Youth Flower Show, “Techies in the Garden”. The creativity in both shows surpassed expectations. The clubs annual fundraiser “The Secret Garden Tour”, showcased six gardens in the southwest section of beautiful Fort Lauderdale. The weather cooperated for the sellout event and the member volunteers turned on their smiles and horticulture knowledge to impress out guests who came from as far away as Europe to enjoy the flora of South Florida. In honor of Arbor Day and to celebrate the Federations 100 th Birthday, a lovely Satinleaf was planted at 11am on January 19 th in Birch State Park. Moringa Garden Circle also planted six Satinleaves in a local park at the same time. A tree planting is also scheduled for National Arbor Day on April 26th .

Sharon Bogard, President

Coral Springs has been actively engaged in various community initiatives including Community Garden Contributions. Conservation efforts at Sawgrass Nature Center. Educational outreach and Engagement – Hosted various speakers. Garden Therapy and Community Health Initiatives. Charitable contributions. Achieved a significant milestone by winning a 2000\$ grant from NGC Plant America to aid the ongoing efforts to promote environmental stewardship, community engagement and horticultural education. In February we enjoyed two informative presentations on edible medicinal herbs and a tour of the Wakodahatchee Wetlands with Kristen Hoss. We also delivered 8 handmade pots with plants to the Coral Springs Fire Department and Police Department for Valentines Day. In March we had a fun flower demonstration and hosted our 18 th annual Garden Fest. We had over 30,000 visitors.

April we had a speaker from Nova University on Sea Turtles.

We planted 43 trees during the year as a club. In addition we completed our project of planting native orchids in our parks and natural areas and planted additional bushes in the gardens created at various schools, SNC and parks.

Jeri Decker, President

Lauderdale by the Sea started the year with an inspiring speaker, Anthony Gross, Program Project Coordinator. He inspired us with his visions and knowledge of the Native Coastal Plants in resilient

environment. We are now working on a project to replenish Sea Lavender in our community. We had our Annual "Fun-Raiser" in February. We sold lots of plants, had educational exhibits and sales of garden and household items and raffle baskets.

Dorothy Mardell, President

Pompano Beach Update

Stayed busy over summer with Childrens activities at Emma Lou Olson.

For Arbor Day we planted tree at McNab Elementary School and partner with Cresthaven Elementary for school garden.

Hosted District meeting October 19 th celebrating 100 th birthday of FFGC. Approximately 50 district members attended.

At sample McDougal house we plant and care for winter garden and have added planting orchids.

We provide weekly flower arrangements for Broward Childrens Center

We collect empty prescription bottles for Michaels Ministry as a civic project.

We had our Annual Soup and Salad Fundraiser where guests were able to purchase plants, jewelry and raffle baskets and enjoy a fashion show from local business Patchingtons.

We also participated in Pompano Proud Plants and People Day with a Plant sale.

Peggy Albert, President

Lighthouse Point has had a busy year. We had luncheons and workshops over the summer months and then started off the year in October with a Halloween themed lunch and a program on Bats by Dr. Kern.

We had a Holiday workshop with make and take Holiday Airplant wreaths.

November we had a Upcycling project and program by VP Betsy Keenan. We are making Garden themed items using recycled materials to sell at our Annual Salad Lunch in March.

We planted a Satinleaf and a Sweet Bay Magnolia at Norcrest Elementary school for Arbor Day on January 19 th at 11am. We continue to mentor the 3 rd thru 5 th graders Garden Club and help them with their vegetable garden.

In February Inger Jones – NGC 5 star Master in all 4 NGC schools – gave a beginning Floral Design presentation.

In March Master Gardener Gabe Clark did a presentation on self watering containers.

Our Annual Salad Lunch fundraiser was a huge success with a 36% increase in attendance. Jesse Durko of Jesse Durkos nursery gave a wonderful presentation on Florida Friendly landscape plants. We had many raffle baskets and Silent Auction items and items for sale from our upcycling program earlier in the year.

Master Gardener Keith London gave an engaging talk on how to get recognized as a Florida Friendly Landscape in March.

We are bringing the Floral Design course to South Florida in January and February of 2025 and are looking forward to hosting a Flower Show the following year.

We are continuing to increase our membership and as a new 501c3 are working on increasing donations to our many charitable groups including Wekiva Youth Camp.

Taryn Palo, President

Hollywood has meetings at members homes. Starting with a tour of the garden and then the owner discusses what plants grow best. We share our tried and true knowledge with each other. We teach members about propagation, what kind of fertilizers to use, pest control, aesthetics of a balanced garden and plant combinations. Sometimes we bring a covered dish to share or go somewhere local for lunch. We go to local nurseries to purchase plants and learn, help members with right plant, right place. We meet every month of the year except December. Home meetings are members only and field trips include family and friends.

Susan Berry, Plesident

All of the groups in District XI have been busy promoting the goals of FFGC and continue to do so. We are looking forward to a busy and productive year.

Respectfully submitted

Taryn Palo – Director

District XI

DISTRICT XII

VIRTUAL CLUBS

2024 Annual Convention Meeting

Board Chairmen Reports

Table of Contents

4-5 STAR MEMBERS - Joanne Mulinare
ADOPT-A-PARK - Mickey Quigley
AFFILIATES MEMBERSHIP - Donna Berger
ARBOR DAY - Lynn Artz
ARBORETA & BOTANICAL GARDENS - Jolene King
AWARDS – FFGC - Sandra Arnold
BIRDS,BUTTERFLIES, BEES & BATS (Pollinators) - Jeri Decker
BLUE STAR & GOLD STAR MEMORIAL MARKERS - Rosita Aristoff
BOI EDITOR - Lisa Packard
BRICK PATHS - Charlotte White
BYLAWS-STANDING RULES - Marge Hendon
CALENDAR – FFGC EVENTS - Linda Feiferak-Johnson
CHAPLAIN - Ed Nendick
CONVENTION COORDINATOR- Connie Gladding
CORAL REEF RESTORATION - Sharon Trbovich
DEEP SOUTH GARDEN CLUBS UNIFIED PROJECT - Daphna Goldberg
DUES AMBASSADOR - Sue Roberts
EARTH STEWARD - Kathleen Siena
ENDANGERED PLANTS
FINANCE COMMITTEE - Christy Linke
FLORAL DESIGN STUDY - Jan Griffin
FFGC 100th BIRTHDAY - Judy Jodoin
FFSJ PRESIDENT - Gina Jogan
FLORIDA WILDFLOWER LIAISON - Carolyn Schagg
FUN WITH FLOWERS - Emilie Palmieri
GARDEN THERAPY - Pat Shira
HABITAT FOR HUMANITY - Pat Caren
HALL OF FAME/LIFE MEMBERSHIP/PILLAR OF PRIDE - Diane & Skip Lamoureux
HEADQUARTERS AND ENDOWMENT - Sue Roberts
& GROUNDS - Charlotte White
INSURANCE - Michele Vatararo
INVASIVE SPECIES - Inger Jones
JUNIOR GARDENERS - Brenda Davis
MASTER GARDENERS - Pat Caren
MATCHING GRANTS - Helen Purvis
MEMBERSHIP - Christy Linke
NATIONAL GARDEN WEEK - Blanca Longo Rancourt
NGC ENVIRONMENTAL SCHOOL CHAIRMAN - Lydia Barbour
NGC GARDEN STUDY SCHOOL CHAIRMAN - Sally Flanagan
NGC LANDSCAPE DESIGN SCHOOL CHAIRMAN - Sue MacPherson
NGC SCHOOLS CREDENTIALS CHAIRMAN - Lydia Barbour

NGC SPECIAL PROJECT LIAISON - TBA
NGC & DSGC YOUTH CONTESTS - Sandra Lynch
PARKS – TRAILS - GREENWAYS - Mickey Quigley
PENNY PINES - Andrea Finn
PHOTOGRAPHER - Pat Shira
PLANNED GIVING - Carolyn Schaag
PROGRAMS & SPEAKERS - Peggy Gahn
PROTOCOL - Jo Ann Guise
RECLAMATION & RECYCLING - Carolyn Stevens
ROADSIDE BEAUTIFICATION/ PATHS OF SUNSHINE Brenda Luedeman
SCHOLARSHIP - DSGC, NGC - Mary Adams
SCHOLARSHIP – FFGC - Helen Purvis
SCOUTING LIAISON - Jennifer Barber
SEEK CONFERENCE - Jennifer Seymore - White
SHORT COURSE – UF - Carol Binello
SHORT COURSE – NORTH - Joanne Conner
SHORT COURSE TROPICAL - Maria Wolfe
SMOKEY BEAR-WOODSY OWL - Jill Anderson
SOCIAL MEDIA - Valerie Seinfeld
STATE FLOWER SHOW- CONVENTION - Gina Jogan
STRATEGIC PLANNING COMMITTEE - Connie Gladding
TOURS & TRAVEL - Sally Adkinson
TREES & REFORESTATION - Kat Spieker
TRI-COUNCIL PRESIDENT - Brenda Leudeman
WEBSITE EDITOR & VIRTUAL PLATFORM TEAM - Sue Roberts
WEKIVA BLDG & MAINTENANCE - Mary Whisler
WEKIVA YOUTH CAMP - Mary Whisler
WEKIVA TREASURER - Gail Shaw
WEKIVA VOLUNTEER TRAINING - Leticia Delatorre - Gunn

4-5 STAR MEMBERS

ADOPT-A-PARK

AFFILIATES MEMBERSHIP

FFGC Affiliate Members
FFGC Annual Report
April 1, 2024

FFGC Affiliate Membership Program accepted eight new members from May 1, 2023, to March 30, 2024. We currently have a new affiliate to be approved at our FFGC Convention Business Meeting. This will bring us to a total of fourteen (14) members. We had an increase of nine (9) new members.

The 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.

The Affiliate Bylaw was reviewed this past year and new wording is being presented at the FFGC Convention Business Meeting.

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

The listing of Affiliate Members is under Membership with their logo, name and website.

As your Membership Chairman I thank those Districts that have sent in new Affiliates. Please continue to encourage your clubs to have Affiliate Members. There are several perks for both the FFGC and the Garden Clubs.

Donna Berger

Affiliate Membership Chairman

Bergerdix2015@gmail.

Motion to approve the following FFGC Affiliate
Azealia's Farm Stand Inc. "Community Garden"

Florida Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc.



Motion Card

Subject of Motion: FFGC Affiliate Membership

We have a motion: To Accept the following as FFGC Affiliate:

Azealia's Farm Stand Inc. "Community Garden"

Motion made BY: Donna Berger

Secretary's Record: Date:

Motion Number: Seconded by

Motion Amended by:

Motion Adopted:

Number Voting _____ Affirmative _____ Negative _____

ARBOR DAY

ARBORETA & BOTANICAL GARDENS

AWARDS – FFGC

BIRDS, BUTTERFLIES, BEES & BATS (Pollinators)

November 30, 2023

Jeri Decker, Pollinator Chairman
Update on Pollinator Program and Certification

I am writing to provide an update on the recent developments within our Pollinator Program and the new certifications now available to our members. As the newly appointed Pollinator Chairman, I am pleased to report on the progress we have made in promoting the conservation and support of pollinators in our communities.

Upon receiving requests to expand our focus beyond bumblebees and to include all bee species, I am delighted to announce that our organization's website has been updated accordingly. It is imperative that we recognize the vital role of all pollinators, and this update reflects our commitment to the conservation of a diverse range of pollinating species.

Furthermore, I am excited to introduce the newly established Golden Pollinator Certification, and Silver Pollinator Certification which is now available for individuals who have demonstrated a dedication to fostering native and Florida-friendly pollinator habitats. This certification is awarded to those who have created welcoming environments for butterflies, bees, birds, and bats through the provision of suitable habitats and native plants. I encourage all our members to strive for this prestigious certification by creating and maintaining pollinator-friendly spaces in their communities.

Since my appointment as chairman, we have proudly awarded 4 Golden Pollinator Certifications, recognizing the outstanding efforts of individuals in supporting pollinator populations. 8 Silver Pollinators Certificates. Additionally, we have granted 10 Butterfly and Bee Certifications to acknowledge the contributions of our members to the conservation of these vital species.

In moving forward, I urge all members to actively engage in our certification process by scouting neighborhoods and fellow member's properties to identify and certify yards that provide essential pollinator habitats. By doing so, we can collectively contribute to the conservation and preservation of pollinators in our communities.

I am confident that our combined efforts will make a meaningful impact in safeguarding pollinator populations for future generations. Together, we can create a network of pollinator-friendly spaces that will benefit local ecosystems and contribute to the broader conservation of these vital species.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeri Decker
Pollinator Chairman

This report serves to inform the members of our organization about the recent developments in our Pollinator Program and the new certifications available. It also encourages them to actively participate in the certification process and contribute to the conservation of pollinators in their communities.

BLUE STAR & GOLD STAR MEMORIAL MARKERS

Blue Star Memorial Program
Blue Star Memorial Chairman
Rosita Aristoff
April 10, 2024

Annual Report Summary

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 newly built Lakewood Ranch Library. A dedication is now scheduled for Saturday May 4, 2024.

3) Replacement Markers - The Garden Club of Stuart (District X) – The replacement Blue Star Memorial By-Way marker was dedicated on November 11 th , 2023 at the City of Stuart’s Veterans Day Ceremony in Memorial Park.

Cocoa-Rockledge Garden Club (District VI) – A replacement Blue Star Memorial Highway marker has been ordered as their marker dedicated in 1991 was destroyed by a motor vehicle accident.

4) Publicity - This chairman had an article published in the summer 2023 edition of The Florida Gardener emphasizing the importance of the living memorial garden associated with each Blue or Gold Star marker.

5) Price Increase - The manufacturer unexpectedly raised the prices again effective January 1st, 2024. All District Directors were advised of the increases and the new pricing has been published in the winter edition of The Florida Gardener.

6) Summary

During the last year one new and one replacement marker were dedicated, one replacement marker was ordered, and the prices of the markers will increase as of January 1 st, 2024.

Rosita A. Aristoff

BOI EDITOR

DEEP SOUTH GARDEN CLUBS UNIFIED PROJECT

Deep South Garden Clubs Unified Project
Daphna Goldberg, Florida Chairwoman
April Board Meeting 2024

“Decorate the Deep South with a Focus on Flower Shows, Floral Design, and Colorful Public Plantings”
Awards

During this quarter, January 2024-April 2024, I wrote an article for the Spring edition of The Florida Gardener highlighting the Deep South Garden Clubs Unified Project Awards. I presented the types of awards available to Florida Garden Clubs and wrote instructions of how to apply for them.

An article that I wrote and submitted to Blooming Tales from Terrific Ten December 2023, the District X newsletter, circulated to all the District X Garden Club members. This column explained the Deep South Garden Clubs Unified Project Awards available to all Florida Federation of Garden Clubs. I encouraged members to apply for these awards if their Garden Club is having flower shows or planting gardens or container plants in public places.

I also submitted a short article to the April 2024 edition of Blooming Tales from Terrific Ten about the Deep South Garden Clubs Unified Project Awards. I encouraged clubs that are having Flower Shows or planting special gardens in public places to apply for these awards.

As the Social Media Administrator for my Garden Club, I add posts to the Boca Raton Garden Club Facebook page daily. I've posted information about the Deep South Garden Clubs Awards and encouraged my Garden Club as well as any other Florida Federation Garden Club that may see my posts to apply.

Florida Federation of Garden Clubs have been notified to apply for the awards the Deep South Garden Clubs are offering. The deadline for the awards is January 2025 so there's plenty of time to hear from them. To date, I have not been contacted for information or help for these awards.

DUES AMBASSADOR

Dues Ambassador
April 11, 2024
Sue Roberts, chairman

The notice and club renewal form went to all club Presidents and Treasurers on March 1. It was also posted on the website.

Dues renewals from the clubs will begin to come in on May 1 and will be considered late on June 30.

Processing will begin when checks and forms are received.

Summary: The 2024-2025 club renewal cycle starts May 1 – June 30. Club rosters will be updated as forms and checks arrive.

EARTH STEWARD

BOD Annual Report
Earth Steward Recognition
Kathy Siena
April 10, 2024

This Earth Steward 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. The Earth Steward Recognition was first introduced by FFGC's Tri-Council in 2013. This chairman requests that these efforts be clearly indicated on the application form biography section for the recipient.

The recipient of the Earth Steward recognition is presented with a specially designed Earth Steward pin and certificate. The recipient is not required to be an FFGC member. The honor may be awarded by a club, district, an FFGC organization or by an individual. 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 139 recognitions have been given out with two of the 139 given in 2024 so far. An updated list of all recipients is available on the FFGC website at this link:

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

ENDANGERED PLANTS

FFGC 100th BIRTHDAY

FINANCE COMMITTEE

FFGC Finance Committee
Christy Linke – Chairman
April 9, 2024

The FFGC Finance Committee, Tina Tuttle, Mary Whisler, Leticia Gunn, Jana Walling, Sue Roberts, Claudia Bates, Carolyn Schaag, Michele, Vatalaro, and Gail Shaw met via ZOOM April 9, 2024. They take their position on this committee seriously, and always looking out for the finances of FFGC.

Jana our Treasurer covered all budgets from Wekiva, H&E, Proposed vs Actuals through the end of February 2024. We cannot thank her for all the many many hours she puts into all these financials. This is a time consuming job and we appreciate her beyond words.

Grants/donations – The Florida Wildflower Foundation has donated \$5,000 to FFGC to support the SEEK program in 2024. A huge thank you goes to Carolyn Schaag who was the person behind obtaining this donation.

Wekiva Financials for 2024 camp were presented by Mary Whisler. Eight items were discussed and after an hour discussion by the Financial Committee 4 items were tabled until further information was obtained and 4 items were approved.

Budgets that were positively reviewed are: Actual Budget of Flower Show School course 2 as well as Proposed Budget of course 3, both ran by District 8 Judges Council, FFGC Tri-Council Retreat proposed budget, NGC Landscaping Design Series 37 Course 3 as well as LDS Course 4 Actual Budgets, ran by New Smyrna Beach Actual Beach NGC Landscaping Design Series 37A course 3 and 4, Lakewood Ranch GC, actual budgets were discussed and tabled until further information is obtained.

Budgets that were voted on were FFGC Tropical Short Course, Wellington, Actual Budget, FFGC State Convention 2025 Proposed budget, FFGC Wekiva Alumni Party proposed budget, Wekiva Financials for 2024, and Wekiva Volunteer Training actual budget.

Ways and Means FFGC BOD pin as well as Past President pin bids were presented by 3rd VP Leticia Gunn. Due to rising cost it was decided to look at other companies to get other bids before ordering.

This Finance Committee takes every budget presented seriously when going over them. Some are approved and some are not. We discuss them and ask questions and at times need more information therefore they are tabled . This is because we have FFGC's best interest at hand.

It was decided that our next meeting will be in June with the date to be determined.

Whether it is ZOOM or in person is also to be determined.

Summary: The FFGC Finance Committee is dedicated and always looking out for the better of the organization. We take each topic and budget one by one and discuss it.

Our mission is always to have the best interest of all FFGC members in all that comes before this committee.

FLORAL DESIGN STUDY

Floral Design Committee
Board Report
April 10-11, 2024

At the January Board Meeting a recap of the Basic 6 Designs was held and 3 designers completed the designs for the series by doing designs for classes 7-9, discussing what is required in these designs with more advanced knowledge.

The new Floral Design Manuals are complete with some final formatting changes that will be made before distribution. This will continue to be a working document with pictures of designs, tools, and techniques. Many hours and talents are reflected in this manual. Thank you to Penny Decker and Margaret Kirkpatrick for all their work in accomplishing this task.

Jan Griffin, Chairman

Class 7-9 were demonstrated at the January Board Meeting. The manuals are complete waiting for formatting. These will be living documents as they can be changed.

FFSJ PRESIDENT

FLORIDA GARDENER

FLORIDA WILDFLOWER LIAISON

ANNUAL REPORT
FLORIDA WILDFLOWER FOUNDATION LIAISON
Carolyn Schaag, Liaison

The year of 2024 is a year to celebrate and light candles on the cake:

FFGC-100 years, WYC-50 years, SEEK 50 years, and Florida Wildflower Foundation 25 years

Timeline: It began with a seed of inspiration and involvement by FFGC members:

1985 - First effort to collect required signatures for development of wildflower license plate

1991-Coreopsis designated as State Wildflower

1996 -- After years of insufficient signatures and no sponsor, signature efforts were rebooted

1997-FDOT agreed to pay the \$30,000 fee

1998- Package of \$30,000 check, 10,000 signatures, and legislative package to FDOT

1999 - Legislation approval obtained in June. First meeting of newly revised Wildflower Advisory Council held September 2 at Leu Gardens

2000 - Florida Specialty Wildflower License Plate went on sale

2024-Plate sales of \$15 each has produced over six million dollars which supports education, research, and planting

Today I have brought Coreopsis Lanceolata Lanceleaf Coreopsis in vials for distribution. Plant in the fall or winter. Grows well in sandy soils in full or partial sun. The seeds were donated by Terry Zinn, long time member of the Board, and owner of a Wildflower Seed Farm.

The Florida Wildflower Foundation strongly supports the education of our youth. Serving as the liaison this chairman is very, very pleased to present to the SEEK program a check in the amount of \$5,000.

Carolyn Schaag, Liaison
Florida Wildflower Foundation

SUMMARY: The Florida Wildflower Foundation donated \$5,000 to Save Earth's Environment through Knowledge (SEEK) for education.

FUN WITH FLOWERS

GARDEN THERAPY

HABITAT FOR HUMANITY

Report
Habitat for Humanity Landscape Project
Pat Caren
April 11, 2024

As we recover from the pandemic shutdowns, clubs around the state have been able to participate more in this program.

District I teams up with Master Gardeners who landscape new homes upon completion.

So far this year, they have completed three homes in DeFuniak Springs, in new Hope Village which will ultimately have 13 homes. Five have been completed, two more are partially completed, and several are to begin soon. Many of the new homeowners are single mothers.

Each year the Garden Club makes a generous gift to a new homeowners at Christmas. Last Christmas a family with toddler twins was chosen.

Valparaiso Garden Club raises money to donate to Habitat for Humanity for landscaping. This year they raised \$385 at Christmas time for yard tools and nursery plants for homes that will be completed this year.

A circle in Pensacola donated \$200 dollars last year and plans to do the same this year.

District IV budgets money every year to assist clubs with their Habitat projects.

Bartram Trail Garden Club is active with their local affiliate and is included in new home dedication ceremonies. The club gives the new homeowner a bucket of gardening tools, a hose with a sprayer, and a sprinkler, plus some appropriate plants. They also offer consultations on landscapes and plants to homeowners of existing homes.

While they have not done the entire landscaping for a new home, the Garden Club of Green Cove Springs has planted small gardens and presented new homeowners with plants at the dedication. For Florida Arbor Day, they planted trees at a few homes. They are currently in the planning stages for new homes, for which they will provide plants and install them.

In the past year, Brooksville Garden Club has landscaped three new homes and one is almost ready to be landscaped and dedicated for the new owners.

The Garden Club of DeLand is in the process of procuring plants for their newest Habitat house in DeLand. They are trying to use as many natives as possible. So far they have Simpsons Stoppers for the front hedges and are awaiting the delivery of more natives at the end of the month.

The Bloom & Grow Garden Society in Winter Garden has been named the official Landscape Partner with the West Orange Habitat for Humanity. They have committed to planting three 15-gallon trees in front of each new house. On September 15, they planted three trees. On December 6, they planted six trees. In addition, they gave a grant for \$6000 for landscaping at each of the three new houses built in 2023.

Melbourne Garden Club hasn't had any Habitat house dedications in a while because all the land that they had has been built out, but they have a couple of houses in progress in the Palm Bay area.

Florida clubs continue to face various challenges. Many have found creative solutions to problems such as the need for funds and the age of club members. This chairman is in a position to share these ideas with those looking for advice. Efforts to connect clubs with local Habitat for Humanity affiliates will continue.

Pat Caren
Habitat for Humanity Landscape Project Chairman

HALL OF FAME/LIFETIME MEMBERSHIP/PILLAR OF PRIDE

Annual Honors Report
4-10-23
Skip and Diane Lamoureux

Honors given since Convention 2023

Pillar of Pride	17	\$1700
Hall of Fame	5	\$500
Lifetime	14	\$4200
TOTAL		\$6400

Respectful Submitted

Skip and Diane Lamoureux

HEADQUARTERS AND ENDOWMENT

Headquarters and Endowment Committee

April 11, 2024

Sue Roberts, chairman

The FFGC headquarters building inside activity has been relatively light since January. We have a new cleaner provided by Cocktails Catering, so the building is looking much better. We have had a fire inspection from the city of Winter Park and have had to fix a few small details such as missing signs and a non-working outlet. The AED is finally installed in a visible location by the bathrooms. Many thanks go to Robin for keeping her keen eye on the building and letting us and Cocktails know when things need attention.

Outside is a different story. Charlotte White, grounds director has been scurrying to make the grounds beautiful for the April 24th party. We have a new landscaper/mowing service and they have carted away truckloads of debris left behind by their predecessors as well as our neighbors who seem to think the back of the property is a good dumping ground. We will look into cameras and locks for the fence gates to deter this activity. He has also trimmed the smaller trees and shrubs, so we are looking neat and tidy.

We cleaned out the area in the very back of the property and planted 7 Palatka holly trees paid for by the Duke Energy gift on Arbor Day. Also, Tri-council has given us a tree and we chose a Simpson stopper to go with the native garden in the front. Although small now it will grow and be shaped to grow like a small tree.

Charlotte, along with the help of Vicki Hearst from Windemere Garden Club, has planned a Florida friendly garden for the front corner damaged by the big tree. It is now planted, and sprinklers have been adjusted to hopefully keep it alive over the summer. Many thanks to the funds from the Florida Wildflower Association for helping us purchase native plants. We need to be careful, so we do not attract bees to the area used for weddings. We also had to deal with a big beehive in the large oak tree by the back door. That hole has finally been blocked so hopefully bees will find another tree away from our doors.

I want to thank the members of the H&E committee for their time and advice.

- Lana Arnold, vice chairman
- Claudia Bates
- Gwen Carter
- Jo Ann Guise
- Joanne Mulinare
- And our three officers who serve, Tina, Christy and Jana.

A special thanks goes to Jo Ann Guise who is completing her second term. She has spent six years on this committee, and we truly appreciate her service.

Also thanks to Gwen Carter who is completing her term. She has been our secretary for three years and we thank her for her time.

Two new members will be joining us after this convention to help us cope with whatever the future brings. It is never a dull moment dealing with our building and property.

HEADQUARTERS AND ENDOWMENT GROUNDS

INSURANCE

INVASIVE SPECIES

JUNIOR GARDENER

MASTER GARDENER

Report
Master Gardeners
Pat Caren
April 11, 2024

What is a Florida Master Gardener? It's a trained volunteer who is interested in gardening, eager to learn, and willing to share their knowledge with others. Doesn't this sound like the typical Garden Club member?

The Mission of the Florida Master Gardener Program is to assist Extension Agents in providing research-based horticultural education to Florida residents.

To become a Master Gardener, a person must complete 50 or more hours of training sponsored by the University of Florida and their county Extension Office. During their first year, they must contribute 75 hours of volunteer work. That may seem like a lot, but on average, an active Master Gardener will donate 94 or more hours each year.

To remain in good standing, each Master Gardener is required to complete at least 10 hours of training and 35 volunteer hours each year. The training is easy. Some garden club meetings and events qualify as continuing education hours, and there are online resources that can satisfy the requirement. Volunteer hours can be done in a variety of ways.

These are just a few:

- Answering garden-related questions by phone or at help desks
- Giving workshops at public libraries on gardening, insects, and other topics
- Demonstration gardens, community gardens, and school gardens
- Speaking for Garden Clubs and other groups
- Plant clinics

- Working at the county fair

For Florida, this is a very valuable program. In 2022, 3,230 volunteers gave 305,940 hours of their time and served 164,581 Florida citizens in 58 Florida counties.

This equates to more than \$8.4 million provided to Florida's economy. And that doesn't count the ones who under-report their hours.

Master Gardeners and Garden Club members have much in common. They share compatible interests and goals. They work hard and have fun doing it. It would make sense to encourage Garden Club members to become Master Gardeners and vice versa.

More contact between Master Gardener programs and Garden Clubs will facilitate increased membership in both organizations.

Unfortunately, few FFGC districts have Master Gardener chairmen to facilitate partnership between the two programs. That is one of the goals for this chairman to work on in the future.

Pat Caren
Master Gardener Chairman

MATCHING GRANTS

FFGC Matching Grants
Report
Helen Purvis, Chairman
April 11-12, 2024

Your club, the Florida Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc. has \$5,000 each year to offer individual clubs and circles to apply for a grant up to \$500 to include:

Any activity (workshop, program, or other educational event) aimed at increasing membership by welcoming interested individuals to your club/circle.

An activity to beautify your community, such as park plantings, school gardens, a divided road median or roadside beautification.

Any activity to increase awareness of our organization's mission, goals and objectives.

If you are present, please stand when I call your club or circle.

This past February checks in the amount of \$500 were sent to:

- Coral Gables Garden Club
- Sweet Bay Garden Club
- Destin Garden Club
- Cocoa-Rockledge Garden Club
- Milton Garden Club of Florida

- Arcadia Garden Club
- Wakulla County Garden Club
- Jasmine Garden Circle of Tallahassee Garden Club

Dogwood Garden Club of Gulf Breeze received \$425 and Gainesville Garden Club received \$325.

I appreciate the 15 applications that were received by this chairman and wish every garden club could receive funding. If your club did not receive funding, it's not because it wasn't a deserving project, but only \$5000 is available each year and tough decisions have to be made. Please don't be discouraged from applying in the future. The deadline for the next round of funding is January 15, 2025 and forms are on the home page of FFGC.org in the hot pink box "FFGC Matching Grants."

More money was awarded through Plant America Grants in the amount of \$1000: You may stand, if you're in the room:

- Steinhatchee Garden Club
- Garden Club of Coral Springs
- Coral Gables Garden Club
- Garden Club of Palm Coast

MEMBERSHIP

Membership Committee
Christy Linke, Chairman
April 9, 2024

This Chairman continues receiving and sending NGC generated e-mails with people looking to join a garden club. With the help of the Assistant District Directors following up and sending them to the correct garden club, FFGC is continuing to grow in members.

It is the Assistant District Directors that promote membership through their clubs in their district. This is done by writing articles in Newsletters and promoting Membership at their District Meetings. Just to name a couple.

This Chairman wrote an article for The Florida Gardener Magazine. This article had a twist to it. We always hear what do I get for my \$12.00, what does FFGC give to me? We have heard these reasons over and over, but what can you as a member bring to FFGC. We have so many members out there that have so many talents in so many areas. In the article it touched on the life of Audrey Swindel, AKA Mother Nature, who volunteered at Camp Wekiva for over 40 years. There are so many like her out there that have donated their time and talents to make FFGC what it is. Serving on the FFGC Board of Directors, volunteering at Camp Wekiva, being on committees, and so many other ways to volunteer in the Florida Federation of Garden Clubs.

With members volunteering their time and what FFGC can do in providing education in so many areas is what makes our organization as strong as it is.

Summary:

This Chairman will continue promoting membership along with the Assistant District Directors.

NATIONAL GARDEN WEEK

NGC ENVIRONMENTAL SCHOOL CHAIRMAN

Madam President and fellow Conventioneers

As many of you know, I care about Florida's environment. I want everyone to know that the Florida Invasive Species Council has updated their list of Category 1 and 2 Invasive Plants for 2023. HOORAY, it is no longer 2019! It is now available on their website. And they have made some great changes to the information available there: 1) There is just one list that combines both categories; 2) You can sort by scientific name, common name, zone or category; and 3) There are images of each plant available. Sadly the common name capability does not make it easy to print a common name version to take with you when shopping for plants.

They do have a menu of items for the Homeowner on their website. My hope is that the organization will decide to provide a printable list on that menu sorted by common name. Until they do, I will continue to provide their list sorted by common name to everyone I can. Every FFGC member now has links in two places on the FFGC website to both the FISC website and to my common name version. You can search the Programs menu for Invasive Plants or search the Membership menu for Tri-Council and Invasive Plants. Please feel free to download it and share it with everyone who might be in need of identifying plants to avoid buying which may only be identified by common name.

NGC GARDEN STUDY SCHOOL CHAIRMAN

FFGC Board Report
Gardening School
March 20, 2024
Sally Flanagan

Gardening School Courses 3 and 4 of Series 10 were completed in the past year in West Palm Beach, and sponsored by District X. 29 people attended Course 3, and Course 4 had 22 attendees.

I am happy to report that of those completing Course 4, 10 achieved Gardening Consultant Status having completed all 4 courses of the Gardening School. One person will become a Master Gardening Consultant having completed Course 4 in West Palm Beach in February 2024. 28 of the existing Florida Gardening Consultants/Students must refresh by the end of 2024.

Unfortunately, there aren't any Gardening Schools planned at this time in Florida for the rest of 2024, but there are Zoom or Virtual Schools being offered from various locations and information is available on the NGC website.

Respectfully submitted

Sally Flanagan

NGC LANDSCAPE DESIGN SCHOOL CHAIRMAN

NGC SCHOOLS CREDENTIALS CHAIRMAN

NGC SPECIAL PROJECT LIAISON

NGC & DSGC YOUTH CONTESTS

PARKS – TRAILS - GREENWAYS

PENNY PINES

Penny Pines Report
Andrea Finn, Chairman
April 11, 2024

This Chairman continues to receive inquiries about Penny Pines, which is good.

Our Clubs are interested in supporting this worthwhile project.

I am ecstatic to report that we have collected \$12,575.00 from March, 2023 to February, 2024!

BRAVO FLORIDA GARDEN CLUBS!

My heartfelt Thanks go out to every Garden Club that contributed and I hope that you will continue your support to this National project.

Andrea Finn, FFGC Chairman

Penny Pines Project

SUMMARY: Total contribution for March 2023/April 2024 was \$12,575.00.

Well done FFGC!

PHOTOGRAPHER

PILLAR OF PRIDE

Annual Honors Report
4-10-23
Skip and Diane Lamoureux

Honors given since Convention 2023

Pillar of Pride	17	\$1700
Hall of Fame	5	\$500
Lifetime	14	\$4200
TOTAL		\$6400

Respectful Submitted

Skip and Diane Lamoureux

PLANNED GIVING

PROGRAMS & SPEAKERS

PROTOCOL

Year end Report
Protocol Mentor
Jo Ann Guise
April 12, 2024

This Mentor chairman sent a copy of the file 'Information needed by Protocol' to the newly named (2024) FFGC Protocol chairman, FFGC 2024-25 President, and 2024 Convention Chairman via email. it was emphasized that any changes in time or name needs to be shared with the Protocol chairman immediately.

All information—including sizes—for both Board Meetings and Conventions: Meeting Signage, Dais, and Meals -- Head Table, and Honor/Reserved Tables was shared with the new Protocol Chairman. Those assigned Honor Seating appreciate information sent via email ahead of time to help their planning purposes. This chairman's information was included with a note: 'no question is silly'.

The FFGC Board Meetings went well. No questions or challenges happened. Convention can bring new challenges; compliments to the new chairman. Two aspects need to be remembered: FFGC is an inclusionary organization; prayers and food blessings are to be 'universal' not including any specific religious references (in Jesus' name, Praise Allah, etc). At Meals, the Presiding Officer sits to the immediate RIGHT of the middle podium at the Head Table (even numbers are preferred). It begins with the presentation of the Head Table to the extreme LEFT, up to the person seated next to the podium and then turning to the extreme RIGHT presenting the remainder at the Head Table ending with her own name as Presiding Officer.

Protocol can be surprisingly exhausting: physically and mentally-- before, during and after.

Jo Ann Guise
Protocol Mentor

RECLAMATION & RECYCLING

ROADSIDE BEAUTIFICATION/ PATHS OF SUNSHINE

Roadside Beautification/Pathways of Sunshine
Chairman's Report
Brenda Luedeman
April 11, 2024

This chair is pleased that Florida Federation of Garden Clubs (FFGC) continues to recognize the accomplishments of Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) Maintenance Departments who create and maintain beautiful roadside projects with sustainable Florida native vegetation and wildflower roadside plantings. Due to many recent retirements and promotions of FDOT employees, the significance of the longstanding Ella P. Woods Paths of Sunshine program is not fully appreciated at this time. Dr. Jeff Norcini's invaluable role in the POS awards process has not yet been filled. James Oliver, FDOT Maintenance Rating Program (MRP) & Roadside Manager, is overseeing the POS Awards in the interim. The enthusiasm and commitment of individuals who will fill those FDOT positions is essential to the continued success of FFGC's roadside beautification recognition program.

Two nominations for a site in peak bloom in Spring-Summer 2023 were received. Judging took place the first week of March. Panelists representing FFGC, FDOT, Florida Wildflower Foundation (FWF), and/or Florida Master Gardeners with varied expertise met virtually via ZOOM to evaluate the applications. This chair thanks Dr. Jeff Norcini, Carol Hall, Marge Hendon, Dena Wild, and CJ McCartney for acting as jurors. FDOT Turnpike Maintenance was awarded First Place for wildflower sites at the Okahumpka Service Plaza. FDOT D3 pollinator habitat in Washington County along state Road 77 and Interstate 10 received Second Place.

Following this formal announcement of the recipients to the FFGC Board, this chair will inform all FFGC members on FFGC's website. If deemed necessary award certificates will be created and mailed directly in lieu of FFGC's customary procedure of presenting them in person at district meetings.

With the assistance of Sue Roberts, Lisa Packard and Robin Hayes, the FFGC website awards information is periodically updated to reflect any changes in guidelines, procedure, nomination forms, and contact information. This chair will display a poster promoting FFGC's Ella P. Wood "Pathways of Sunshine" Award, providing Florida State Wildflower License plate information, and offer brochures supporting roadside beautification and scenic pathways at FFGC functions when possible.

The 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023, and 2024 Paths of Sunshine Awards PowerPoints which describe and depict meritorious FDOT projects will be archived on FFGC's website Programs page at <https://ffgc.org/Programs>. Please take time to view the presentations, check out the Florida Wildflower License plates, see Ella P. Woods "Paths of Sunshine" award education exhibits at gatherings, and take time to enjoy the native plantings and wildflowers along Florida's roadways.

Respectfully submitted,
Brenda Luedeman

2019-2021/2021-2023/2023-2025 Roadside Beautification/Paths of Sunshine Chairman

SCHOLARSHIP - DSGC, NGC

Florida Scholarship Chairman Report
April 2024
Mary Adams

There were no Deep South Garden Club (DSGC) applicants for School Year 2023-2024. Two applicants applied for DSGC for 2024-2025. One (1) applicant was submitted to DSGC and this Florida applicant was selected the winner at the DSGC Convention in March 2024.

The National Garden Club (NGC) awarded 44 Scholarships in 2023. NGC awarded two scholarships to students in the state of Florida for School Year 2023/24.

The Florida Scholarship Chairman received a total of eight (8) applications for 2024-2025 School Year. Two (2) applications were submitted to NGC on February 13, 2024.

Respectfully submitted by: Mary L. Adams
Florida Scholarship Chairman, 2022-2025
DSGC/NGC Scholarship Program
Dated: April 9, 2024

SCHOLARSHIP – FFGC

Report
Scholarship and Endowment Report
April 11-12, 2024
Helen Purvis

In 1990 a group of wise garden club members established the scholarship endowment fund and it is my honor to be chair of this committee. Today I am here to thank the generous garden clubs and individuals who have contributed \$1000 or more this past year.

Another one of my jobs is to review scholarship applications and interact with the students and hear of their passions and plans. But wait, why should I be the only one. Let's listen to the students and how they feel about your generosity. (PLAY VIDEO)

5% of the last three year's average of the value of Scholarship Funds at the end of May is used to fund the current year's scholarships. Deadline for applying is May 1 and the money will be awarded to the students who meet the approved criteria. Most scholarships are granted at \$3000 per year or \$1500 per semester. Since 2007, FFGC has awarded \$246,718 to college students.

President Tuttle, I present to you this year's donors:

- Thank you to Gulf Beach Garden Club for their \$9710 donation. (Donna Schlosser)
- Thank you to the Garden Club of Ft. Pierce for their \$3000 donation. (Vivian Kobe)
- Thank you to Titusville Garden Club for their \$1000 donation (Donna Martin)

Many other clubs, circles and individuals have donated to this fund every year and we appreciate all donations, of any size. So if your club or circle or individual has donated, any amount, please stand and we can recognize your contribution, as well.

I know there's District IX, Boynton Beach, Punta Gorda, Temple Terrace GC, Coreopsis Circle of Tallahassee Garden Club.

Thank you

SCOUTING LIAISON

Report:
Scouting Liaison
Jennifer Barber
January 2024

This chairman reached out to many local Scouting groups and conferences. The goal was to get FFGC name and contact information into the hands of troops who may be looking for a supplemental contact, instructor or support in the areas that members of a garden club excel at. There may be an interest in FFGC sponsoring a patch as they have in the past. This chairman believes this idea has merit and would like to see FFGC established as a partner through out the state.

SEEK CONFERENCE

SHORT COURSE – UF

SHORT COURSE – NORTH

SHORT COURSE TROPICAL

Tropical Short Course
Maria Wolfe, Chair

Dear FFGC BOD members:

The speakers were great and the floral designs did not disappoint. Especially Susan Hillson's PP on Floral Designs through the last 100 years. The attendance was proof that the event was educational and fun. I am pleased to announce that District X shared a profit of \$1,507.02 with FFGC.

It is with great pleasure that I report that the dates for the 2025 Tropical Short Course will be:

January 23-24, 2025

FFGC District X has been allowed to book the Grand Ballroom at the Wellington Community Center at no charge. One speaker has already been booked: President Tina Tuttle will be presenting on the Digging It program.

Save the date and be sure to attend this educational event.

Tropical Short Course

Maria Wolfe, Chair

SMOKEY BEAR-WOODSY OWL

SOCIAL MEDIA

Social Media

4/10/2024

Valerie Seinfeld

FFGC Facebook has shown remarkable growth, increasing its followers from 20,000 in September 2024 to 22,100 by March 2024.

During the Florida Arbor celebration on January 19th and 20th, the Facebook Admin diligently curated and shared content from participating Garden Clubs across Florida, showcasing the importance of trees in our state. This effort, supported by dedicated members like Lynn Artz, Arbor Day Chair, highlighted the significance of trees within Florida.

The Administrator collaborated with the Convention Committee to disseminate information regarding speakers, workshops, and special events, encouraging members to register for the convention, book hotel accommodations, and participate in various activities such as selling Opportunity Tickets and 50/50 tickets. Furthermore, the Tri-Council lunch was extended to all convention attendees, emphasizing inclusivity.

Additionally, the FFGC Convention Committee pledged to match sponsor donations with corresponding promotional posts, underscoring the organization's gratitude for their contributions. Promotion efforts also extended to the 100th Celebration Brunch and Dinner at the FFGC Headquarters on April 24, 2024, as well as the Convention Art Contest and Flower Show.

Operating on a year-round basis, the Facebook page shares content related to seasons, holidays, NGC, Deep South, FFGC, Districts, and clubs, with a focus on providing both engaging and educational content. The continuous promotion of Member Clubs; events has garnered positive feedback, evident from their responses on the FFGC Facebook page.

Utilizing this free platform, FFGC has cultivated a significant online following, attracting individuals and organizations interested in community involvement and potentially seeking out local clubs within their cities.

SOLAR ENERGY/WIND POWER

STATE FLOWER SHOW

STRATEGIC PLANNING COMMITTEE

Strategic Planning Committee
Connie A. Gladding, Chairman
Spring Board Meeting, April 2024

The Strategic Planning Committee's (SPC) purpose is to look toward the future of the FFGC and advise the FFGC President. The Committee is to consider issues to protect the future of FFGC and strengthen the Corporation and other items suggested by President, Officers of FFGC Board of Directors. The Committee functions in an advisory capacity.

The Strategic Planning Committee (SPC) held a face-to-face meeting during the January Board meeting at FFGC Headquarters. Other monthly meetings were held via zoom. Each meeting agenda was focused on one of the 2024 work plan topics prioritized at the September meeting.

Members analyzed the membership survey findings and determined the impact on the matters being worked by the committee. The Committee's Education Program Advisory Paper was updated to reflect the program needs at the Garden Club level identified by the membership survey.

Progress continues to be made on the FFGC Headquarters and grounds opportunity being guided by a subcommittee. The Committee began work on identifying FFGC key functions and positions. The Committee's objective is to ensure key functions are being performed timely and correctly; that key functions are being performed by skilled, qualified individuals; that volunteers understand expectations and are willing to fill the positions; and that volunteers are not required to work near full time hours.

The Committee's criteria used to determine key functions were the number of workload hours, skill set required to perform the function, and the criticality to accomplish FFGC mission, goals, and objectives. The

2023 Fall Membership Survey offered some insight into which FFGC performance areas need improvement. The Committee developed an advisory paper identifying top positions for further investigation and consideration as paid positions instead of being held by volunteers. Next steps are to compare with other similar organizations structures; to evaluate the number of hours reported annually by Board members; and analyze the FFGC's committee structure, position descriptions, number of committees, and committee functions.

Pending prioritized agenda topics for 2024 are:

- Wekiva facilities and operations.
- Convention frequency. The committee will review the costs and benefits of holding annual conventions and evaluate opportunities to increase interest/attendance.
- Membership retention and recruitment. The committee will review the survey data and provide recommendations.
- Communications and key operating functions, such as the FFGC website and database.

In summary, the SPC is working through a list of priority issues to be researched, analyzed, and recommendations made. The membership survey findings will continue to be considered during Committee deliberations. Lastly, the committee is focused on identifying membership services improvements to ensure a financially viable and relevant FFGC organization; an organization that is responsive to the interests of its members.

TOURS & TRAVEL

FFGC Tours and TRAVEL
SHELLEY ADKINSON

There are five upcoming opportunities to travel with FFGC. The first one is next month to the Chelsea Flower Show in London but IT'S SOLD OUT, with 76 people headed to London and then on to Paris in May.

But there are four more travel dates. For more information, she has provided flyers or just get out your phone and scan the QR code.

The next opportunity to travel with us is in January 2025 for the FFGC Board of Directors cruise. Now you don't need to be on the board to go on the cruise or to the meetings. This will be a five-night sailing on Royal Caribbean to Cozumel, Mexico, and Perfect Day at CocoCay, Royal Caribbean's private island, with prices starting from \$368 per person.

The next is a really exciting opportunity to see and enjoy the Christmas Markets in Europe with all the local crafts, food, and drinks. Not only do you get the Christmas Markets, but also all the normal tours offered by

the river cruise. We'll also be doing some special Christmas crafts on board the ship. Note this is early December of 2025 so you are home in plenty of time for Christmas. This can be put on a payment schedule,

AND because you are here at the Convention, if you put your deposit down for this trip within the next 60 days, we are offering an early bird special of \$500 off any balcony stateroom.

The last two trips are for 2026 and 2027, so pricing is not yet available. But we have started a list of those interested in receiving more information, so you can sign up for these on the website. The first trip is to the Washington State Tulip Festival in April 2026. Not only will you be able to see all the tulip fields and participate in the festival, but we will also take the ferry to Friday Harbor for a day and to Butchart Gardens in Victoria, Canada.

The last is Wafa in Canberra, Australia in February 2027. In addition to the flower show, we'll be offering a cruise and land tour option. So, if you want more information on either of these last two, just go to the website and tell us you are interested.

Thank you.

Visit FunSeas.com for more information

TREES & REFORESTATION

Kathy "Kat" Spieker, Trees and Reforestation Chairman
1530 Royal Palm Drive, Niceville, FL 32578-3529
850-687-6381, kspieker3@gmail.com

Trees and Reforestation Report Convention April 10-12, 2024

Trees and Reforestation requested that all garden clubs of FFGC record and report trees that they planted during the period from Mar 1, 2023 through Feb 29, 2024. Thanks to the immense effort and hard work of those clubs throughout the year 60,287 trees were planted comprised of 304 tree species.

Certificates of recognition are being 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 26226

Live Oak Garden Club 24042

TOP TEN CLUBS

#1 Pipers Landing Garden Club Dist X 3296

#2 Moringa Circle of Ft. Lauderdale Circles Dist XI 1799

#3 Chipley Garden Club Dist II 1751

#4 Wellington Garden Club Dist X 675

#5 Homosassa River Garden Club Dist V 518

#6 Bloom & Grow Society Dist VII 373

- #7 The Garden Club of Stuart, Inc Dist X 252
- #8 Melbourne Dist VI 146
- #9 Boynton Beach Dist X 132
- #10 Citrus Garden Club Dist V 119
- #10 The Garden Club of Lakeland Dist IX 119

The report of Arbor Day activities is attached for the record.

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

FFGC Trees and Reforestation Report Arbor Day Celebrations March 1, 2023-February 29, 2024

1. District I Honeysuckle Garden Club planted an American Snowball Tree (*Styrax americana*) at the Barrineau Park Community Center. The event included reading history of the park, enjoying refreshments and receiving a proclamation.
2. District I Valparaiso Garden Club planted a Red Maple (*Acer rubrum*) on the campus of the Heritage Museum of Northwest Florida. A proclamation was read by the club president and a reception was held in the museum following the planting.’
3. District II Chipley Garden Club planted a Southern Live Oak (*Quercus virginiana*) at the Farmers Market Depot in downtown Chipley.
4. District II Gulf Beach Garden Club, Inc planted a Southern Live Oak (*Quercus virginiana*) at the Humble House.
5. District III Live Oak Garden Club planted a Bald Cypress (*Taxodium distichum*) at the Hearthstone Gardens in Suwannee County.
6. District IV Garden Club of The Lakes participated in planting a native maple tree at the Keystone Heights School, receiving a proclamation from the mayor. 4H students and teachers participated as well.
7. District IV Garden Club of Fleming Island planted a Red Maple (*Acer rubrum*) at the local primary school.
8. District IV Garden Club of Orange Park, Inc planted two Dahoon Holly (*Ilex cassine*) at the club grounds. Around 30 people attended and were served a soup and salad lunch after the planting ceremony. The club is really pulling together after the event and is participating in the watering schedule!
9. District V Citrus Garden Club, Inverness, FL planted a Sweetbay Magnolia (*Magnolia virginiana*) at their butterfly garden site, with a proclamation from the mayor of Inverness. Several people attended including club members, and staff from the Inverness Parks and Recreation. The club also gave away 100 Wax Myrtle (*Myrica cerifera*) to those attending.
10. District V Homosassa River Garden Club bagged and distributed 500 Red Mulberry (*Morus rubra*) as a free giveaway to the public.
11. District VI Deland Garden Club/Wild Coffee planted a Red Maple (*Acer rubrum*) at their club house and gave away Bald Cypress (*Taxodium distichum*) seedlings. One member attended the Tavares Arbor Day Celebration.
12. District VII Camellia Garden Club of Eustis planted a River Birch (*Betula nigra*) at Cardinal Cove Park in Eustis.
13. District VII Bloom and Grow Garden Society planted a Bald Cypress (*Taxodium distichum*) at Tucker Ranch at Winter Garden in honor of National Arbor Day. The society also planted a Live Oak (*Quercus virginiana*) in Historic Downtown Winter Garden, FL. The society also gave away 335 Pink Trumpet Trees (*Handroanthus impetiginosus*) which were planted at residences in Winter Garden for the project “Plant It Pink”.

14. District VII Orlando Garden Club planted a Bluff Oak (*Quercus austrina*) at the City of Orlando Lockhaven Park. Kathy Hall, Arborist for City of Orlando gave a talk and held a question and answer session on proper planting and care of trees in our landscapes.
 15. District VII Clermont Garden Club planted a Yaupon Holly (*Ilex vomitoria*) at the Minneola Place Senior/Mentally Challenged Residence with native plants surrounding the tree. Club members, city officials and the Lake County Forester attended the event.
 16. District IX Gaarden Club of Lakeland, Inc planted an Oakleaf Myrtle (*Quercus myrtifolia*) at Lake Crago Park and also had a tree giveaway.
 17. District IX Port Charlotte Garden Club planted and dedicated a Red Maple (*Acer rubrum*) at Ollie's Pond Park. The club also gave away 100 Live oaks (*Quercus virginiana*) at the Charlotte Country Fair.
 18. District IX Punta Gorda Garden Club held a member memorial Tree planting at History Park.
 19. District X Piper's Landing Garden club planted a Southern Magnolia (*Magnolia grandiflora*) during a major renovation at their community entrance.
 20. District X Boynton Beach Garden Club planted several trees at their Boynton Hills Neighborhood Garden and the Boynton Beach Butterfly Garden.
 21. District X Garden Club of Fort Pierce Planted and dedicated a tree at the Jetty Park Roundabout and A1A.
 22. District X Garden Club of Stuart gave away 250 Slash Pine (*Pinus elliotti*) to the Boys and Girls Clubs. They also planted a Bald Cypress (*Taxodium distichum*) and a Dahoon Holly (*Ilex cassine*) at Halpatioke Park.
 23. District X Wellington Garden Club planted a Southern Slash Pine (*Pinus elliotti*) at the Wellington Environmental Preserve.'
 24. District XI Moringa Circle of Ft Lauderdale planted 6 Satin Leaf Tree(*Chrysophyllum oliviforme*) at the City Park
 25. District XI Pompano Beach Garden Club planted a Powder Puff Tree (*Calliandra haematocephala*) at Cypress Elementary School.
 26. District XI Garden Club of Coral Springs planted 7 Bald Cypress(*Taxodium distichum*) at the Animal Sanctuary of Coral Springs
 27. District XI Fort Lauderdale Garden Club held a tree planting ceremony at Birch State Park with a proclamation issued and with city officials attending.
- Respectfully Submitted,
Kat Spieker, Trees and Reforestation Chairman

TRI-COUNCIL PRESIDENT

Tri-Council of FFGC
President's Report
Brenda Luedeman
April, 2024

The Tri-Council board and members have been busy planning opportunities to connect, communicate, collaborate, and recreate. On January 10, 2024 TC sponsored the Board Dinner & Program with speaker

Mona Johnston presenting “Our Florida Trees - The Best For Our Birds, Bugs, and Bees”. Our Spring 2024 Annual Meeting was offered via ZOOM. We sponsored the Lunch & Learn Program by Teresa Watkins “Ten New and Exciting Plants for the Next Century” on 4/10/24 at this FFGC Convention. It was open to all FFGC members and enjoyed by seventy-five (75). Featured plants were awarded to lucky attendees by a drawing of their lunch tickets.

We’ve also been busy planning the July 2024 Inaugural Tri-Council Retreat at Wekiva with overnight camping experiences and also with a day trip option. Wonderful activities and interesting speakers are planned. Registration opened initially to TC members in March. Modern cabin accommodations are limited to approximately 30 attendees so sign up early! Retreat invitations will be extended to all Florida NGC consultants in April. 10 full retreat and one (1) day trip attendees are already confirmed.

Those are just some of the ways in which we share knowledge with our TC member consultants, Florida NGC Consultants, and FFGC members. After all, becoming a consultant is just the beginning. With teamwork, dedication, and hard work, we came together beautifully to make things happen.

Marge Hendon shares “Plant Pointers” at each TC Meeting and gifts attending members with plants. In September 2023 we learned about the plant genera *Goeppertia* & *Calatheas* and at our January 2024 Winter Meeting “Florida Friendly Bromeliads”. She brings beautiful plants for all to purchase and take home to enjoy. We’re excited to see what Marge presents next fall.

NGC Consultant Schools continue to be offered in Florida and other states in-person and virtually in ZOOM and hybrid formats, allowing many to complete courses or refresh consultant credentials. Interested individuals even at a distance can participate to advance learning. Please refer to FFGC and NGC websites for current scheduled courses and registration details. If you are eligible to renew or join Tri-Council, ask a board member for information or locate the dues form on the TC page of the FFGC website at <https://ffgc.org/Tri-Council-of-FFGC>.

TC 2023-2025 Theme is: 3Cs of Tri-Council: Connect-Communicate-Collaborate. This president plans to continue doing just that and looks forward to serving along with the TC Board, committees, and engaged members. All contribute much and assist with TC responsibilities and planning. Thank you to the TC Officers and representatives for 2023-2025: President Brenda Luedeman; Vice-President Pat Caren; Treasurer Carolyn Schaag; Secretary & Parliamentarian Inger Jones; Consultants Representatives-Environmental Janice Miller; Gardening Marge Hendon; and Landscape Design Sally Flanagan; Finance Committee Members Inger Jones, Gwen Carter, and Connie Gladding; and TC Retreat Coordinator Mary Whisler, my co-chair Jennifer Barber, and planning assistant Charlotte White.

Respectfully,
Brenda Luedeman
Tri-Council President 2023-2025

VIRTUAL PLATFORM TEAM

WATER AND WETLANDS

WAYS AND MEANS

WEBSITE EDITOR

Website Editor
April 11, 2024
Sue Roberts, chairman

During this period website editing has continued as needed. The convention page was built and maintain. Other pages updated as needed.

A Privacy Notice and Terms of Use links were added using Termly to create the statements. Termly is a data privacy compliance solutions package recommended by Personify. Package purchase for one year for \$117.

Summary: No major changes to website occurred during this period, just normal maintenance.

WEKIVA YOUTH CAMP

WEKIVA VOLUNTEER TRAINING