

Tri-Council News

Newsletter for Environmental, Gardening, and Landscape Design Consultants
Florida Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc.



February 2024

Presidents Message

Tri-Council President Brenda Luedeman



Greetings Consultants!

We are less than two months from the Centennial Celebration at FFGC's 97th Convention. If you are entering the Flower Show, setup begins at 9am on Tuesday, April 9th. The next day, Wednesday, April 10th, TC will host a box luncheon and speaker. Teresa Watkins is a dynamic presenter who is knowledgeable in all things Garden. Don't miss this! You can sign up for the luncheon on the Convention Registration link on the FFGC website. For a complete list of other events, especially the wonderful programs being offered, check out the Convention Schedule.

In this newsletter, you will find news on a variety of topics, not the least of which is our planned Retreat at Camp Wekiva this July. Other items include Camperships, National Invasive Species Week, and a list of upcoming courses.

I look forward to seeing you at Convention!



Celebrate FFGC's 97th Convention and 100th Anniversary in Jacksonville, FL.

Centennial Celebration

Inside This Issue

- 1 **President Brenda's Message**
- 2 - 3 **News**
- 4 **Calendar Info**





TC Retreat at Camp Wekiva

After the campers have gone home in late July, we will have a three day retreat to enjoy the peace and beauty of Wekiva State Park and plan for the future of Tri-Council. This will give us an opportunity to get to know one another better and discuss our ideas for programs, speakers, field trips, and more.

Air-conditioned cabins! Swimming and hiking!
Delicious food! Campfires! S'mores!

For more details, contact Brenda Luedeman (bkluedeman@gmail.com).

More News

Gardens of the World virtual Garden Club was reinstated in January. For more info or to join as a primary or dual member, contact Brenda Luedeman.

Time sensitive: This is the final week to apply for funding for alternative water supply and water conservation projects! The South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD) is accepting applications for cost-share projects until **February 26, 2024, at 4:00 p.m.** Apply at sfwmd.gov/coopfunding.

Tri-Council met in Winter Park on Tuesday 1/9/24 at FFGC Headquarters. Marge Hendon presented a brief horticulture program on Bromeliads and gave each participant a lovely plant. We received updates on HQ landscape endeavors took a brief tour of the property, including the tree that TC sponsored. Later, we hosted a barbecue dinner and program featuring Mona Johnston, who gave a fascinating talk on "Our Florida Trees...Best for Our Bugs, Birds, and Bees."

More programs like these will be offered at future meetings.

April 10 – 12, 2024 FFGC Convention and 100th Anniversary!

Watch the Power Point Presentation for ads for Tri-Council and our inaugural Retreat at Camp Wekiva.

Raffle Basket: Please bring garden-friendly items to add. Who knows? You may be the winner!

Wednesday, April 10th, 11 am to 1 pm:

Convention Luncheon Wednesday April 10 Teresa Watkins



- Program Topic: "Ten New and Exciting Plants for the Next Century"
- Author, landscape designer, horticulturist, and radio personality
- Book signing **Welcome to Your Florida Landscape**
- <http://www.she-consulting.com/books>
- [Register at ffgc.org](http://ffgc.org)

Use the Convention Registration form to sign up by March 11th. Cost for lunch and program is \$32.

National Invasive Species Week

From Florida Wildflower Foundation:

We all have a part to play in combatting invasive species to protect Florida's natural ecosystems. From our home landscapes to local natural areas, there are simple actions you can take. Here are some opportunities to learn more and get involved during National Invasive Species Awareness Week (NISAW) and beyond:

Check out our Florida Invasive Plant Resources Guide.

Volunteer at a local Weed Wrangle with your regional Cooperative Invasive Species Management Area.

Follow us on Facebook, Instagram, and LinkedIn to learn more during the week of NISAW, February 26 - March 3, 2024.

<https://www.flawildflowers.org/>

Estero Bay Aquatic Preserve at Risk

From Anina Bachrach:

The 13,800-acre Estero Bay Aquatic Preserve—bordered on the west by islands like Lovers Key State Park and to the east by mangroves along the mainland—was purchased and protected from development many years ago. Estero Bay became the first designated aquatic preserve in 1966. Now it is under threat. SB 1210, Estero Bay Aquatic Preserve, by Sen. Martin (R-Ft. Myers) (House companion HB 057 by Rep. Botana (R-Bonita Springs)) revises the boundaries of the Estero Bay Aquatic Preserve to allow a portion of the Estero Bay Aquatic Preserve to be opened up to dredging for a 300-slip marina proposed for that location. This is an egregious violation of the local conservation efforts that put this important ecosystem under protection decades ago. Audubon is working for a more protective outcome.

From the Florida Trident:

Florida Rep. Dan Daley rips North Springs water district for its “flat out disregard for the law.”

December 21, 2023 By Bob Norman

Days after the Florida Auditor General found the North Springs Improvement District had violated state laws and stymied competition while it handed out millions in public contracts, Florida Rep. Dan Daley (D-Coral Springs) has slammed the district for what he called “commonplace” disregard for the law. Daley excoriated NSID management for failing to obtain building permits for construction projects in Coral Springs, where, along with Parkland, the district supplies about 40,000 residents with water and sewer service. “It has come to our office’s attention that NSID is once again flagrantly disregarding state and local law,” Daley wrote in the letter addressed to board president Vincent Moretti. “This time in the context of local state building and permitting requirements. I would be shocked if this sort of behavior was not already so commonplace in the district.”

You can read more on The Florida Center for Government Accountability website: <https://flcga.org>

Warning!

From Janice Miller:

Cape Coral, in Southwest Florida, is now under Water Restrictions. This is due to a lack of rain providing enough water in the aquifers in this area. Watering restrictions are also included. They fear not having a sufficient amount of drinking water in the near future. My fear is this issue is only the beginning.

Some Good News!

From Mary Whisler:

In Case You Missed It: Governor Ron DeSantis Awards Nearly \$10 Million for Innovative Technologies to Combat Harmful Algal Blooms TALLAHASSEE, Fla.

On January 11, 2024, Governor Ron DeSantis announced nearly \$10 million for innovative technologies to combat harmful algal blooms. Funding is being provided for 10 projects that will mitigate the effects and impacts of harmful algal blooms, including blue-green algae. Harmful algal blooms impact beaches and waterways when there are excessive nutrients present, and can produce toxins that harm fish, mammals and people. You can read more on the Department of Environmental Protection website: <https://floridadep.gov/>

Announcements

Camperships:

Tri-Council sponsors camperships with whole or partial funding for children, grandchildren, or great grandchildren of Tri-Council members to attend the Wekiva Youth Camp or the SEEK Conference. Deadline for receipt of application is March 31. Youth must have a secured space in the program and parent must pay the \$40 activity/processing fee in advance for WYC.

To apply, contact Carolyn Schaag.

Tri-Consultant Pins and Certificates will be awarded at the Tri-Council Convention Luncheon on April 10. See page 12 of the TC Handbook for application and requirements. The completed application must be received by Carolyn Schaag, Chairman, by March 20.

Currently, there are no courses offered in Florida. Some out of state courses are being held by Zoom.

ENVIRONMENTAL SCHOOL COURSES/REFRESHERS

Course 1

Mar 18 - 21, 2024. St. Louis, MO (Zoom - Afternoons)

Course 2

Mar 11 & 12, 2024 Virtual School via ZOOM

Register: Pat Rupier (patrupier@gmail.com)

>Registration deadline February 26th<

Apr 24 - Apr 25, 2024 Bowling Green, KY (In-Person Classroom).

Sep 27 - Sep 28, 2024 Sheboygan, WI.

Course 3

Apr 06 - Apr 07, 2024 Modesto, CA (In-Person Classroom). Register: Berni Hendrix 209-402-2351

Sep 19 - Sep 20, 2024 Derby, CT (Virtual via Zoom).

Course 4

Mar 02 - Mar 03, 2024 Modesto, CA (In-Person Classroom). Register: Berni Hendrix 209-402-2351

Apr 12 - Apr 13, 2024 Manistee, MI (In-Person Classroom).

Sep 18 - Sep 19, 2024 McHenry, MD (In-Person Classroom).

GARDENING SCHOOL COURSES/REFRESHERS

Course 1

Mar 28 - Mar 29, 2024 Streamwood, IL,.

Apr 29 & 30, 2024 Tacoma, WA (In-Person Classroom)

Course 2

Apr 25 - 27, 2024 Chelmsford, MA (Hybrid)

Jun 12 - Jun 13, 2024 Spartanburg, SC (In-Person Class).

Sep 27 - Sep 28, 2024 Marion, AR.

Course 3

Mar 04 - Mar 05, 2024 Athens, GA (Virtual)

Mar 16 - Mar 23, 2024 Cushing, OK (Virtual)

Course 4

May 4 - May 18, 2024 Cushing, OK (Virtual)

Register:

May 8 & 9, 2024 Columbia, MD (In-Person Classroom)

May 8 & 9, 2024 Columbia, MD (In-Person Classroom)

LANDSCAPE DESIGN SCHOOL COURSES/REFRESHERS

Course 1

Mar 13 - Mar 14, 2024 Athens, GA (Virtual via Zoom)

Mar 26 - Mar 27, 2024 Clinton, CT (Virtual via Zoom)

Apr 17 - Apr 18, 2024 Lansing, MI (In-Person Classroom)

Jun 21 & Jun 22, 2024 North Hills, CA (In-Person Classroom)

Course 2

Jul 12 & 13, 2024 North Hills, CA (In-Person Classroom)

Course 3

Apr 02 - Apr 03, 2024 Athens, GA (Virtual via Zoom)

Jul 26 & 27, 2024 North Hills, CA (In-Person Classroom)

Course 4

Apr 11 - Apr 12, 2024 Billings, MT (In-Person Classroom)

May 29 - May 30, 2024 Athens, GA (Virtual via Zoom)

Aug 9 & 10, 2024 North Hills, CA (In-Person Classroom)

NGC MULTIPLE REFRESHERS

February 27 – 28, 2024. Zoom Bi-Refresher (Gardening and Landscape Design). Contact:

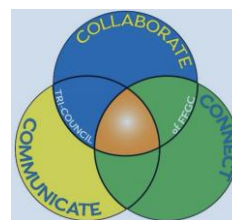
Michigan Garden Clubs/Online registration:

<https://migardenclubs.org/tri-refresher-course-august-9-10-2022/>

April 7 - 9, 2024. Lancaster, PA. Tri-Refresher: Multiple Refresher in Environmental, Gardening, & Landscape Design. Lancaster, PA. Contact person: Joyce Crider 717-825-3101 jcrider616@gmail.com

Refer to the FFGC and NGC websites for more information.

=====





Come have fun with us!