

NGC ENVIRONMENTAL SCHOOL – FFGC SCHOOL CHAIRMAN/CREDENTIALS

NGC Environmental State Chairman

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Lydia Barbour

As NGC Environmental School State Chairman and Credentials Chairman, my job includes keeping the Environmental School database up-to-date and accurate. The ES Workbook contains a sheets for each type of student (active, inactive, non-member and no-credit), a sheet showing the history of courses held in Florida which remains incomplete as all history has not yet been located. There is also a key for the abbreviations used throughout the workbook. A new sheet includes Tri-Refresher Course information.

As of 4/9/2022 here is a breakdown of entries on the spreadsheet for each type of student.

- 131 active students include: 25 Masters; 59 Consultants; and 47 students still working to complete the four courses within the seven-year (or eight-year with one extension) time requirement.
- 87 inactive students, including: Those who began but did not complete the four courses with the required time period; Former Consultants or Masters who did not refresh before the expiration of their Good Standing Date (GSD); and Masters who have chosen to become Emeritus.
- 50 people who have taken classes but are not members of an FFGC garden club.
- 25 FFGC Garden Club members who have taken courses without credit.

Another aspect of my job is to remind active students of the need to take courses, either to refresh or to become a Consultant. Every Consultant or Master with a GSD of 2022 or 2023 has been notified of the upcoming courses now scheduled in Florida in 2022 and of courses available elsewhere in the US. Every student who began taking classes in 2015 and 2016 has been advised of courses available in Florida and anywhere in the US and advised to schedule themselves or to request an extension in 2022. Notes on the spreadsheet are used to track their responses and to plan additional follow-up.

In addition, as students register for courses, this Chairman verifies the data entries on Forms 6 & 7 and approves the form once complete. There are kinks to be worked out in the NGC processes when Multiple-Refreshers are involved. FFGC's Multiple Refresher Chairman is leading this effort which the State School Chairman are supporting. Another Tri-Refresher is being planned for the FFGC/UF Short Course.

The most important aspect of my job is to work with Districts and Local Chairmen to make plans and successfully deliver a Series of Environmental School Courses. The procedures worked out with Tri-Council for managing budget and financial reports seems to be working. We are still tweaking the processes related to Forms 6 & 7 between the Local, State and Deep South Accrediting Chairmen. The plan to create a Check-list has not yet come to fruition.

The Fort Myers – Lee County Garden Council in District IX, held Course 1 February 24-25, 2022. There were eight students who attended this in-person course, not as many as we had hoped. They have scheduled Course 2 for November 17-18. They are planning Courses 3 and 4, respectively for March and November 2023.

District VIII has scheduled Course 1 for October 11-12, 2022 in Tampa. The Local Chairman is assembling her team and is working on the budget. Their objective is to complete all four courses before May 2023. We are going to develop a time-line and a project plan for the four courses to ensure that all processes can be done with this overlap. We have already worked out a plan with Fort Myers schedule in mind to avoid conflict there.

District IV has begun identifying a team that will help with the planning and delivery of another series of Environmental School courses.

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

Respectfully submitted:

Lydia Barbour

4/10/2022