

FLORIDA FEDERATION OF GARDEN CLUBS, INC.

ELLA P. WOOD PATHS OF SUNSHINE AWARD



PURPOSE: To recognize Roadside Maintenance Units, whose workers, through their superior efforts and with special pride in their work, have improved, enhanced, and added visual quality and beauty to Florida's Interstates, US, and State Highways while emphasizing the beneficial use of Florida native shrubs, trees and wildflowers on State roadsides.

The award recognizes and honors Ella P. Wood, who was Florida Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc. (FFGC) President, 1979-1981, for her exemplary service and special contributions to her community and FFGC.

BACKGROUND: Paths of Sunshine (POS) was launched in 1985 to give special recognition for outstanding efforts exhibited by Florida Department of Transportation Maintenance Units responsible for either the planting or care of Florida native plants and/or wildflowers along Interstates and Federal Highways. Since 2005, eligibility has been granted to any government or private roadside maintenance unit whose project was located on a section of the Florida Highway System. In 2011, a longstanding partnership with the Florida Wildflower Foundation (FWF) was formalized which adds interest and promotes Florida native wildflower education. Selection of winners is based upon how effectively a nominee fulfills the Paths of Sunshine judging criteria.

DIRECT ALL INQUIRIES AND CORRESPONDENCE TO:

Lana Arnold, Roadside Beautification Chairman
Florida Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc.
320 Spruce Creek Drive
Tallahassee, FL 32312
850 509 7758
iamag8tor@comcast.net

NOMINATIONS: Any Section of Interstate, Federal or State Highway may be nominated by any individual or group of individuals. POS Nomination Forms are found on the FFGC and FWF websites. Contact information (email and/or phone number) must be included. The deadline for nominations is September 30 of each year, and must include the location of the nominated section(s) of a highway(s). Photographs should not be included with the initial nomination form. The roadside maintenance unit or names of maintenance personnel do not need to be identified. Following receipt of the nomination form, the FFGC Roadside Beautification Chairman, or designee, will contact the nominee with information about how to prepare and submit necessary documentation. County and non-designated public roads are not eligible.

DOCUMENTATION: If a nominee accepts the nomination, it becomes their responsibility to submit the following documentation to the Roadside Beautification Chairman at the address above by January 31. Information should be readable (typed preferred) in an 8 ½" X 11" portrait or landscape format and limited to twelve (12) pages (six pages front and back) including:

- Application form
- Name and/or number of Interstate, Federal Highway, or state highway
- County and municipality, if applicable

- Start and end point of improved or enhanced area, state or county road markers, and any nearby defining landmarks. Include small reduced size map with planting area identified.
- Name, address, email, and phone number of roadside maintenance unit and contact person responsible for the nominated section of highway.
- Photographs with captions describing the improved or enhanced area. Nominees are encouraged to include before, during, and after action photographs of workers and others involved in the project. Photographs of the roadside at its peak beauty are helpful.
- A written narrative (1,000 words or less) of the nominee's goals and accomplishments with a description of the work and activities related to planting and management of Florida native wildflowers and/or native plants along the roadside.

Documentation becomes the property of the FFGC. Entries may be used to promote the Ella P. Wood Paths of Sunshine Award, as well as to help illustrate the beauty, environmental, and cost saving benefits obtained by planting Florida native plants and wildflowers along State highways.

JUDGING CRITERIA: A committee of no less than three judges designated by the FFGC Roadside Beautification Chairman, or designee, will rely exclusively on the documentation provided by each nominee to select award winners based on the following judging criteria.

- The preservation, conservation and maintenance of Florida native plants and/or wildflowers growing on highway rights-of-way.
- Roadside management that promotes flowering, and natural regeneration and dispersal of established Florida native seeds and plants.
- Preparation and planting of Florida native seeds and plants.
- Management of Florida native plants and habitats within the rights-of-way.
- Efficient use of available resources.

AWARDS: Each finalist (first, second and third place) shall receive a framed certificate provided by the FFGC, as well as:

- Third place will receive Seed Certificates equivalent to \$100
- Second place will receive Seed Certificates equivalent to \$300
- First place will receive Seed Certificates equivalent to \$500. The first place winner's name will be engraved on the plaque on permanent display at FDOT Headquarters in Tallahassee.

Thanks to the generosity of Mr. John Wood, and partnerships with the Florida Department of Transportation and the Florida Wildflower Foundation, and revenue received from the Wildflower License Plates, the Florida Federation of Garden Clubs is able to present Ella P. Wood Paths of Sunshine Awards.



FFGC Mission Statement

“To further the education of the members and the public in the fields of gardening, horticulture, botany, floral design, landscape design, environmental awareness through the conservation of natural resources, civic beautification, nature studies, and to instill in our youth the love of gardening and the respect and protection of the environment.”