**September 2020 Board Meeting**

Board Chairmen Reports

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# ADVISORY COUNCIL

# ADOPT-A-PARK

#

# AFFLIATES MEMBERSHIP

Affiliate Membership Report

 Donna Berger, Chairman

 September 16-17, 2020

FFGC has an Affiliate Membership Program where like -minded organizations, such as conservation organizations, plant societies, floral design clubs, etc, may join FFGC for $50. They receive a subscription to the Florida Gardener and an invite to FFGC Convention, as well as a listing on the FFGC website and in the Florida Gardener.

We are pleased to welcome The Institute for Regional Conservation affiliated with FFGC District X Plant American for Trees who joined in April of 2020.

We have seven Affiliate Members and would like to increase that number. This past year has been difficult in getting renewals accomplished but they are slowly coming in. We need to evaluate the system for the future which your Chairman will be working on for the next year. As your Membership chairman if you have an affiliate within your Districts Clubs and they are not listed please contact me at 772-214-8629 for information.

Hopefully we will be able to continue to build up our Affiliate Membership this coming year.

# AMAZON PROJECT

 Amazon Report

 Linda Johnson, Chairman

 September 16, 2020

The sales have been strong since the January BOD Meeting. We have made $1057.38 to date! Please don’t forget to access Amazon through the ffgc.org web site. There are instructions on the FFGC web site on how to make FFGC an app on your phone or tablet, android or apple. If you have any trouble accessing, please don’t hesitate to call, email, or text me.

Phone – 352-498-5806 (home) or 352-356-2751 (cell)

feif@bellsouth.net

 I hope everyone stays safe and healthy during these hard times.

# ARBOR DAY

# ARBORETA & BOTANTICAL GARADENS

# AWARD, DONORS

#

# AWARDS – FFGC

FFGC Awards

Valerie Seinfeld

9/16/2020

April’s Cancellation of FFGC, DS and NGC Conventions brought many obstacles to overcome

by Awards Chairs at all 3 levels. How to Distribute Checks, Certificates, Point Scoring Sheets.

FFGC Awards Chair contacted Deep South and NGC Awards Chairmen to understand what

their plans were and work accordingly.

Awards Chair began on an alternate detailed award judging plan to most submissions of FFGC

Adult Awards to be sent electronically in late April.

BOE's, Publications and Yearbooks will be sent by postal mail to various judges. The creation of

this procedure of submissions and editing by committee was approximately 60 hours to

develop. Awards Chair has been contacting FFGC chairman to help with judging awards.

Awards chair created an email address for awards submissions.

Awards Chair reformatted the FFGC Awards page into a tab featured area, thus creating an

ease in navigating to locate Procedures, Rules, new Award Applications, listing of FFGC Adult

awards, Jr. Gardener, Youth, Flower Show Achievement, Flower Show Related, Smokey

Bear/Woodsy Owl, Deep South, Deep South Project and NGC Awards. Educational documents

are also found on the FFGC Award pages. Awards Chair created and uploaded Winning FFGC

Club winners for FFGC, Deep South and NGC lists.

Updated all sponsors for all FFGC Awards. Created a Spreadsheet for the upcoming Judging of

Awards.

Awards Chair worked with the following chairs to edit, provide up to date information,

educational sample documents: Joanne Mulinare, FFGC Vice Awards Chair, FFGC Junior

Gardener, Flower Show Achievement Awards Chair, Flower Show Related Awards Chair, Youth

Awards Chair, Smokey Bear/Woodsy Owl Chair, FFFC Awards Sponsor Chair, Barbara

Jacobson and Sue Roberts.

Awards Chair mailed all FFGC Checks to winners, scanned FFGC point scoring sheets and

emailed to clubs.

Emailed all of last year's award writers the new procedures, award application, and rules.

Awards Chair mailed Smokey Bear/ Woodsy Owl certificates to clubs, mailed to Sandy Lynch

FFGC & Deep South NGC Contest Certificates.

Mailed NGC Essay Award winner her NGC $1000.00 Check.

Organised all FFGC, Deep South, NGC award certificates for distribution to District Directors.

Mailed District Directors their District Award Certificates.

Awards Chair emailed FFGC Treasurer on 8/17/2020 expenses from June through August.

Awards Chair also created individual Slideshows for each District Director to use at their Fall

District Meetings.

Worked on developing Point Score and Tally sheets in an enterable format for Judging

electronically.

The Awards Chair submitted articles for the Summer and Fall Florida Gardener

3 PowerPoint Presentations with music for FFGC Fall Board Meeting.

# AWARDS – NGC & DSS

# AWARDS – YOUTH

# BACKYARD HABITATS

#

# BARTRAM TRAIL

#

# BEES

# BIRDS & BUTTERFLIES

# BLUE STAR & GOLD STAR MEMORIAL MARKERS

**Blue Star Memorial Program**

**Blue Star Memorial Chairman**

**Rosita Aristoff**

**September 16, 2020**

1. New and Pending Blue Star Memorial Marker Activity
* Punta Gorda Garden Club (District IX) – Dedication for the new Blue Star Memorial Marker at Veterans Plaza in Laishley Park is postponed until November, 2020.
* The Hamlet Garden Club (District X) – Dedication for the new Blue Star Memorial By-Way Marker is yet to be scheduled.
* Garden Club of Cape Coral (District IX) – The Blue Star Memorial Marker for placement in Cape Coral’s Eco Park has been received and dedication date has been set for November 9th, 2020.
* Garden Club by the Sea (District VI) – A Blue Star Memorial By-Way Marker for Indialantic’s Lily Park has been received. The dedication planned for May, 2020 was postponed.
* Members of District IV – A new Gold Star Families Memorial Marker has been ordered, received and placed in storage until it can be installed and dedicated on the grounds of the National POW-MIA Memorial and Museum at Cecil Field in Jacksonville.
* Garden Club of Coral Springs (District XI) – A new Blue Star Memorial By-Way Marker has been ordered for their Veterans Park. A dedication is tentatively planned for November 11th, 2020.
* Gulf Coast Garden Club (District IX) - A new Blue Star Memorial Marker has been ordered for placement along Old US 41 in downtown Bonita Springs. A dedication is planned for November 11th, 2020.
* Estero Island Garden Club (District IX) – A new Blue Star Memorial Marker has been ordered for placement at the Fort Myers Beach Library. Dedication is planned for November 11th, 2020.
* St. Lucie West Garden Club (District X) - A new Blue Star Memorial Highway Marker has been ordered for placement along the newly completed Crosstown Parkway, now officially designated by the Secretary of FDOT as a Blue Star Memorial Highway. Dedication is planned for November 11th, 2020.
1. Summary

Since last April’s report five new markers have been ordered: one, Blue Star Memorial Highway Marker, two new Blue Star Memorial Markers, one new Blue Star Memorial By-Way Marker and one new Gold Star Families Memorial Marker.

Altogether, nine dedication ceremonies are pending, many of which were delayed due to coronavirus issues.

An article written by this chairman about the refurbishment of Blue Star Memorial Highway Markers in District II was published in the Summer, 2020 edition of *The Florida Gardener* (p.18).

Rosita A. Aristoff

Rosita A. Aristoff

Blue & Gold Star Memorial Chairman

# BOI Editor

Book of Information Report

BOI Chairman

Karen Smith

September 2020

The Fall BOI update/supplement will be distributed via email to all members of the Board of Directors and the Club/Circle Presidents prior to the end of this month. President Al ask that the distribution be delayed until after the Board Meeting, scheduled for September 16-17, 2020, so the new chairmen, bylaws and standing rules could be included.

An additional update/supplement to the 2019-2021 BOI will be published in January 2021 and April 2021.

The next printed “hard copy” of the BOI is scheduled for the fall of 2021 when the members of the Board of Directors change with the new administration.

Summary:

By printing only one “hard copy” of the 2019-2021 BOI, we saved printing costs and mailing costs. Members can reference their emailed updates or view the most current BOI, in its entirety, online at ffgc.org.

# BRICK PATHS

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Brick Path Chairman

 Joanne Mulinare

 September 16, 2020

There has been little action on this project since the last report. We had some bricks engraved early in the year and there is a short list of orders pending, but our engraver has not been responsive since the COVID shutdowns began so this chairman is looking for a new brick engraver. We are hoping to get back on track and lay some bricks before the January meeting.

Joanne Mulinare

Summary: Brick orders are pending while we search for a new engraver..

# CALENDAR – FLORIDA FLOWER ARRANGEMENT EDITOR

#

 FFGC CALENDAR REPORT

 Sept 16, 2020- Fall BOD Mtg

 Claudia Bates, Chmn

The 2021 FFGC Floral Design Calendar is completed, and has been distributed to all but 3 districts. As there was no Convention, and no District Meetings held in the Spring, this Chairman was challenged to get the Calendars distributed to representatives from the 12 districts. We determined, the cheapest and most expedient way was to give them to members from districts who came to the Summer Finance Mtg., the H & E Mtg. and the Bylaws Meeting. In this way, we were able to help some of the districts save $25-$50 to ship boxes to each district. We still have 3 districts who need to make arrangements for pick up or shipping from our new Distribution Chairman – Pat Danahy from District VIII.

This Chairman scheduled a photo shoot in October in Ocala, which followed the next day after the Fall Symposium held in Winter Park. This date was chosen as we knew there would be designers from many districts throughout the state, and we were successful in getting really great and educational designs submitted.

Due to the reduction in the inventory of designs that qualify for our calendar, we scheduled a 3 hour photo shoot following the conclusion of the annual CFAA Seminar in Orlando in February. We were fortunate to have so many creative designers put their ‘leftover’ flowers, containers and line material to good use and we ended up using all but one of the designs in the calendar.

The costs for Photography were 1 full day ($1550) and 1 3 hr shoot ($485)=$2035 – This also includes editing, cropping,

shadowing, touching up photos, mailing of thumbdrives, and pizza for those lucky enough to be there during the noon

hour for the photo shoot.

This Chairman found a printer in Orlando that presented a bid several hundred dollars cheaper than the printer we have

Used in the past. The reason for the change was the new Printer – The Baker Press- stores the calendars for us and delivers cases of calendars as needed to our Headquarters. This eliminates the need for Headquarters to store over 20 cases of calendars throughout the year. We paid Baker Press $6,946.00 to print AND STORE 2,000 calendars.

Due to the pandemic and the unprecedented cancellation of our Convention – our Spring District Meetings, our attendance to our Fall BOD Meeting, and now, the Fall District Meetings, it is IMPERITIVE that everyone try extra hard to sell the calendars on hand. We are very proud of the 2021 Calendar. It is meant to be informative for designers as we featured 18 specific NGC Design types, which we hope will help sell the calendars; however, due to the cancellation of so many garden club activities, and the difficulty in having them put out for display and to sell at so many garden club venues – we really need to ask our clubs to buy them and give them as thank you gifts to speakers, students to use for inspiration and information, and to BOD members as this year – we have included the dates of the National, Deep South and FFGC Conventions and the FFGC BOD Meetings through December 2021.

This Chairman thanks the designers who submitted designs, the photographers who submitted beautiful examples of horticulture, Floral Design and Horticulture Instructors who assisted in classifying the design types, Jill Anderson for her guidance and Tina Tuttle for naming every piece of horticulture in the calendar.

#

# CONVENTION CHAIRMAN 2021

# CONVENTION CHAIRMAN 2020

2020 FFGC Convention

Christy Linke

September 16, 2020

“Perfect Harmony” was the title for the 2020 Convention that would have brought such a diversity of music, programs, workshops, vendors, as well as a State Flower Show titled “Sounds of Music”. We the Convention Committee were working right up to the last minute, praying and hoping it would go on, but all along knowing toward the end it was not going to happen. I’ve been told there is a first for everything and this is something that will go down in FFGC history.

What we did learn is that it takes a team to pull off something like a convention. A team that works together and gets things done. I as Convention 2020 Chairman want to thank that team and I cannot name them all because I know I’d forget 1 name and that I don’t want to do. Planning for 1 l/2 years and to the point where we were ready, then in 1 week this same team cancelled the convention refunding monies, cancelling vendors, cancelling speakers, workshops, and so much more. It was amazing, sad but amazing.

The most difficult thing is not seeing what everyone worked so hard on come to life. We know it would have been great. With that being said the flower show will go on, just not 2020 but in 2022. We were able to pass on to 2021 some of our programs and workshops ideas as well as what worked and what could have worked better.

Opportunity Drawing tickets were the last item left to close our 2020 Convention and that finally came to an end August 31st.

After paying all outstanding bills, refunding FFGC the $2,000.00 up front money, we still made a profit. Can’t ask for more than that for not actually having a convention.

We would like to give FFGC a check in the amount of $1,340.00 for their share of the profit from the 2020 FFGC Convention.

Christy Linke

2020 FFGC Convention Chairman

# DEEP SOUTH GARDEN CLUBS UNIFIED PROJECT

Report

Deep South Garden Clubs Unified Project

Gina V. Jogan, Chairman

September, 2020

This two-year project, concentrating on Native Plants, Litter Control and Youth is nearing an end….December 15,2020….. is the date all entries have to be in my hands! Is your club ready to submit? If your project is already underway, keep good records and photos; if your project is completed, do not wait, submit NOW.

There are monetary awards to be won! Deep South funds up to $500 for these awards to clubs, councils, individuals, districts and groups of clubs, councils, or districts. These awards are listed on-line at [www.dsgardenclubs.com](http://www.dsgardenclubs.com) and on the FFGC website as well. Once you are on the website, go to the menu to choose the project information.

Many of Florida’s clubs and districts already qualify for these awards just by doing what they normally do in the course of a year’s programs.

Books of Evidence are to be sent to this chairman **NLT December 15, 2020….this is the FLORIDA STATE DEADLINE.** This chairman will then send forward the winning BOE’s to the DSGC Regional Special Projects Chairman NLT January 31, 2021. So basically, you have until the end of this year in which to apply and be rewarded! You can’t win if you aren’t in!!!

Gina V. Jogan

Chairman, DSGC Regional Project

*Summary: The Deep South Garden Clubs Unified Project information can be found on-line at* [*www.degardenclubs.com*](http://www.degardenclubs.com) *or FFGC.org. There are many projects that will be able to apply for planting native plants, controlling litter and working with youth.*

# DUES RENEWAL COMMITTEE

FFGC 2020 Dues Renewal Committee

Sue Roberts, chairman

September 16, 2020

The Dues Renewal Committee was formed after the September board meeting and charged with redesigning the FFGC Dues renewal process for the clubs. The committee members were Jana Walling, Cissy Richardson, Joanne Mulinare and Sue Roberts, as chairman.

We designed a new process based on previous processes that had been successful. Our goal was to eliminate the double process that Wild Apricots created with clubs submitting renewal list and then waiting for an invoice from WA. The clubs and the WA database never seemed to agree and that caused delays in payment and updating of the clubs rosters. We designed a new membership renewal form and documented what lists we requested the clubs send in with the form and their money. The form helped the clubs calculate what dues they owed and we asked that payment be sent in with the initial renewal form. In most cases this involved only one mailing from the clubs and the process was complete.

We also designed an updated new interactive membership/change membership form and allowed new members to be sent in at the same time as renewals.

This processed seem to be easier to use and most clubs were submitting easily. Some did not get the announcement materials and although they submitted their lists they were waiting for an invoice before paying. Unfortunately the Covid-19 pandemic interrupted this process. Clubs were not getting their renewals in because they were cancelling meetings, so they did not know how many members were renewing. We asked them to send in what they had and we would gladly update in the fall or whenever meetings resumed. Also our office help began to work from home and we had some problems with the forwarding of mail. Some submissions were lost and had to be requested again.

As of 9/1/2020 FFGC has 167 clubs ( 3 were lost this year so far). Of those 167 clubs, 153 have been completed, and 14 have not replied at all. The total active membership count is 9378 which includes active members, spouses and life members associated with a club. We also have 220 life members at large. The best count for last year was 11015 with some noted omissions. That is an approximate decrease of 1637 members or 15%.

# EARTH STEWARD

 BOD Report

Earth Steward Recognition

Kathy Siena

September 16-17, 2020 (Zoom)

The Earth Steward Recognition began in 2013 to be given in honor of the recipient for their outstanding efforts and stewardship of our natural resources. There are several fields that it can be awarded for. They are Gardening, Landscape Design and Environment. These efforts should be clearly stated on the application form biography section for the recipient.

The recognition may be awarded by a club, district, FFGC organization or by an individual. The recipient is presented with a pin and certificate by the group awarding it. The fillable PDF application form is available on the home page of the FFGC website under “Honoring Garden Club Members”. A $100 donation goes to the “Color Our Garden Fund” of FFGC for the continued stewardship and care of the grounds at FFGC Headquarters.

121 recognitions have been given out as of this date. The chair wants to encourage Garden Club members to consider giving this honor to a worthy recipient, especially during this difficult COVD-19 time we are all facing. An updated list of all recipients is available on the FFGC website.

Summary:

A total of 121 Earth Steward Recognitions have been given to various individuals in Florida. A current list of all recipients is available on the FFGC website. Go to “Honoring Members” link or here:

# https://ffgc.org/page-18059

# EPCOT FLOWER FESTIVAL

REPORT

EPCOT FLOWER & GARDEN FESTIVAL

MARGARET KIRKPATRICK, CHAIRMAN

SUE CANGIALOSI

SEPTEMBER 15, 2020

The Epcot Flower & Garden Festival was canceled for 2020 due to CoVid19. These chairmen will stay in close touch with Disney Event Planning to hopefully, again, be able to participate in this World Showcase event for Mother’s Day, 2021.

Respectively submitted,



# FFGC FINANCE COMMITTEE

 Finance Committee Report

 Marjorie H. Hendon

 September 16, 2020

The Finance Committee met twice in August. We met at headquarters on August 4 and over Zoom on August 31. Each meeting had its ups and downs. At headquarters we could see who was talking but could not understand what they were saying. On Zoom we could hear what was being said but did not know who was saying it. Hard to make changes.

Due to so many changes and uncertainties, Treasurer Jana Walling, went over the Profit and Loss Budget vs. Actual, June 1, 2019 through August 29, 2020, line by line, with proposed budget amendments for the 2020-2021 Fiscal Year. The budget amendments, as adjusted by the FC, were adopted to be brought to the Board in Sept.

Most of the School Budgets had to be returned to the Chairman of each school. Many of the expenses that were associated with schools: renting room space, speakers’ mileage, snacks, meals, and printed papers needed to be rethought. Now we had different expenses: Zoom price, host and co-host, and cost of presentation of speaker.

Due to the lack of photos and cost of printing the Florida Flower Arrangement Calendar each year, the Finance Committee has voted to discontinue producing the calendar and when taken to the FFGC Board they also voted to discontinue the calendar. Even though the FFAC’s Chairman has brought expenses down, other issues have occurred. People are not as inclined to use calendars, convention flower show cancellation due to Covid-19, and cost of photo shoots all play a part in this decision.

Strategic Planning Committee Chairman, Gina Jogan, has summited The FFGC Matching Grant Program, which was also approved by the FFGC Board. $5,000 will be allocated per year, with up to $500 to be given out to garden clubs that fit the grant criteria. Go to FFGC.org to read the details.

 Thank you,

 Marjorie H. Hendon

Summary: The Finance Committee found that meeting through Zoom was the safe and easy way to conduct meetings. Much of the 2020-2021 FFGC budget had to be amended due to Covid-19. All school budgets had to be revised due to C-19. Florida Flower Arrangement Calendar will no longer be produced by FFGC. Strategic Planning Committee has come up with The FFGC Matching Grant Program for garden clubs.

# FFGC NOMINATING COMMITTEE

FFGC 2020 Nominating Committee

Jo Ann Guise

September 16, 2020

As directed by the FFGC By-laws, the 2020 Nominating Committee met via ZOOM on Friday, August 28, 2020 at 2:30 PM. Twenty two (22) of twenty six (26) possible members were in attendance. Since some members originally named to the committee did not seem to meet the qualifications set in the By-laws, the Chairman and Vice Chairman consulted the Chairman of By-laws to clarify the two years’ of BOD service stipulated. It was decided:

1. Most important is that ALL twelve (12) Districts be represented on the Committee
2. 2BOD members serving their first term on the BOD do qualify for the two year requirement.

District Directors were contacted and replacements were named that were qualified to serve.

 The FFGC Nominating Committee is comprised of one member -a Delegate- and Alternate elected from each of the 12 Districts. The Chairman and Vice-chairman are elected from the BOD. Its duty is to select one candidate for each elected office, with the exception of the President. Marge Hendon, current 1st Vice-President assumes the duties of President-elect on October 1, 2020.

 The two Offices needing candidates now are 3rd Vice President and Recording Secretary.

 To be eligible for these two (2) elected Offices a candidate shall have completed a minimum of one year on the Board of Directors at the time of nomination. For 1st Vice-President it is minimum service of three years on the Board of Directors. Each candidate must submit a Letter of Endorsement signed by the individual’s Club or Circle (NOT the DISTRICT) and sent to this Chairman by October 30, 2020. Up to three (3) Letters of Recommendation must be sent by November 15, 2020 stating specific reasons for the position sought. The current and former FFGC Presidents may NOT write Letters of Recommendation. Each candidate also submits to this Chairman by November 15th, the FFGC Resume Form -found on the Website for download- showing qualifications for the Office.

 All eligibility, duties, and requirements for an Office are on the Website; check the BOI- Articles VI-eligibility; VII-duties; VIII-nominating committee; IX-election; finally Standing Rule 16-endorsements and IMPORTANT DATES. Questions: contact via text/email this Chairman.

Jo Ann Guise, Chairman District VI Valerie Seinfeld

Mary Whisler, Vice-chairman District VII Susan Mello

District I Sharon Johnson District V III Jan Griffin

District II Sue Schmitz District IX Laura Jibben

District III Jana Walling District X Donna Berger

District IV Kalia Baillene District XI Inger Jones

District V Margaret Chodosh District XII Sharon Trbovich

# FFGC 100th Anniversary

FFGC 100th Anniversary Annual Report

Tina V. Tuttle

16 September 2020

**Fundraising:** The fundraising campaign as announced at convention 2019 and as published in *The Florida Gardener,* had raised $15,250 by September 2019 and $17,841.07 by January 2020. We were unable to solicit donations at the cancelled 2020 convention. To date, 36 donations have been made in varying amounts totaling just over **$20,000.** We have so much to do but we can’t make headway without required funding.

**History Book**: “*The First Fifty Years: Florida Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc. 1925-1975*” has been retyped so it can become the ***new*** history book for the Federation. It is hoped that this complete history book will also include a history of Wekiva Youth Camp, which turns 50 in 2024, a history of the Blue Star Markers in Florida and a history of SEEK.

**Publicity:**  This chairman continues to place historical articles on FFGC decades in *The Florida Gardener*. A decade is featured in each of the next 6 issues. Additionally, informational articles are being published to alert members how plans are coming along and to ask for their financial support so all plans can come to fruition. The 100th will be discussed at the Zoom District meetings as part of the Officer’s Virtual Tour.

**2024 Convention Venue:** The venue for the 2024 anniversary convention has changed its name to **Southbank** and is now a Marriott hotel.

**2024 State Flower Show:** Our biennial state flower show will be held in 2024 at the Garden Club of Jacksonville, one of our first garden clubs. District I FFSJ will write the schedule based on the titles used in ALL our previous state flower shows.

**Commissioned Commemorative Sculpture**: Met with the President and Vice President of the Florida Sculptors Guild on 3 August in Altamonte Springs. They provided this chairman with a notebook of 11 submitted concept designs. A group has been assembled to review the art and make a selection. A call for other artists to submit was made on 10 August. This chairman was asked not to enter into a contract with the artist allowing for $5000 up-front money and $5000 payable upon completion until HQ is certain of the outcome of ongoing legal proceedings. Plans are for being made for a dedication ceremony to take place at HQ on 24 April 2024.

**Dedication Luncheon and Dinner**: 24 April 2024 will be the day to celebrate our anniversary with a ticketed buffet luncheon and plated dinner at HQ catered by Cocktails Catering. The dedication of the sculpture will take place between the meals.

**Opportunity Quilt**: The pattern for our Centennial Opportunity Quilt has been designed and will be introduced in kit form in 2021-2022. Members will create the blocks, which will be collected and assembled into our opportunity quilt by this chairman.

**Member Art Show:** The rules and sections for the anniversary Art Show have been drafted and entry blanks designed. A room at the venue will be set aside for the show and cash prizes will be awarded in each category.

**100th anniversary Logo items for sale**: Thelogo items will become available at convention 2023. Obtained price quotes on anniversary items to sell or give away: a pin, ornament, shirts, Candy Jars with 100th logo, sticky note pads, 50th anniversary items for Wekiva Youth Camp (Bracelets, lanyards).

**Officer’s Tour 2023:** Districts have been alerted that each Fall District meeting in 2023 will be a **FFGC Birthday Party!**

Tina V. Tuttle, 2VP and 100th Anniversary Chairman

**Summary**: Plans are coming together nicely for celebration of our 100th anniversary. Fundraising is slow but steady. Our 2024 convention venue has been contracted. An exceptional variety of activities and related anniversary items are being developed. A timeline for rolling out the parts and plans has been developed for the next 3 years.

# FLORIDA GARDENER CIRCULATION

# FLORIDA WILDFLOWER LIAISON

 FLORIDA WILDFLOWER

 FOUNDATION LIAISON

 September 16, 2020

 Carolyn Schaag

The new design of the Florida Wildflower License Plate has increased sales. Since the wildflower plate was introduced 20 years ago sales have surpassed $4,200,000 and has funded education, planting, and research of Florida native wildflowers. Additional income is derived from grants, donations, and membership funds.

It was with immense sadness the Board Members received the news of the passing of our friend, colleague and mentor Gary Henry on August 8. It was through Gary’s work and dedication that the Florida legislation approved the Florida Wildflower license plate,

founding of the Florida Wildflower Foundation, shaped the FDOT’s Wildflower Program when it officially began in the 1970’s, served as FWF’s first executive director, and assisted FFGC in the Paths of Sunshine program.

Gary had deep respect for FFGC, its members, and its goals! He willingly gave guidance on wildflowers, roadside beautification, and related topics. Many FFGC members have worked with Gary over the past 40 years. Gary was presented the FFGC Medal for Achievement in Horticulture in 2009. Florida has blossomed with wildflowers because of Gary’s love of wildflowers. Thanks to FFGC for bringing word of his passing to the FFGC membership.

 Carolyn Schaag, Liaison

 Florida Wildflower Foundation

SUMMARY: Gary Henry was presented the FFGC Medal for Achievement in Horticulture in 2009. He was literally everything to Florida’s wildflowers. Had it not been for his work, Florida would not have the nation-leading highway wildflower program it does today!

#

# FLOWER SHOW SCHEDULES

# FUN WITH FLOWERS

# GARDEN THERAPY

Garden Therapy

Patircia A. Shira, chairman

September 16,2020

GARDEN THERAPY-PENAL THERAPY-AVON PARK

The Avon-Park correctional Institution is still on lockdown. They have over 100 cases of Covid-19 and two deaths have been reported.

Officer John Meeks has continued to maintain the nursery as much as possible without the inmates. We do not know how long this will be the situation. We will resume the nursery activities as soon as the lockdown is lifted.

The October, 2020 Plant Sale has been cancelled.

SUMMARY:

The program will continue as soon as possible.

# GARDENING CONSULTANT’S COUNCIL

#

Gardening Consultants Council

 President’s Report

Brenda Luedeman

August 31, 2020

This President regrets that Vice-President, Suzy Valentine, resigned due to personal circumstances and the position remains unfilled. Gardening Consultant’s Council (GCC) members interesting in serving as Vice-President for the remaining term of office are encouraged to contact me. This President looks forward to continuing to serve on behalf of the members of the GCC and to working collaboratively with Tri- Council (TC) President Inger Jones and the other 2019-2021 TC Executive Board officers. The TC Board has met and communicated via the internet over the summer as face-to-face meetings have been prohibited. This president appreciates hearing about personal or community gardening projects or programs you’ve been able to safely participate in while observing social distancing and sanitation measures and optimizing this to enhance our botanical or food source gardens. Opportunities to further “grow your knowledge” as consultants are available through innovative virtual Gardening Schools, Consultant Refreshers, Garden Club meetings, Master Gardeners programs, Botanical Gardens events, or other safe and fun garden learning environs. Please encourage all consultants and provisional consultants to become a member of Tri Council. Be mindful of your good standing date and opportunities to stay current by auditing virtual or traditional Gardening Schools or Consultant Refreshers when opportunities arise. Refer to the Florida Gardener or National Gardener publications or check FFGC and NGC websites for updated.dates, details, and registration information. This Presidents hopes all GCC members remain in robust health and that circumstances allow us to gather in person for the Tri-Council January 2021 meeting in Winter Park and our Annual Tri Council Luncheon Meeting at FFGC Convention in Spring of 2021. Please watch for updates on plans as the year evolves.

Brenda Luedeman Gardening Consultants Council President

 bkluedeman@gmail.com Cell or text: 863-207-3330

# GRANTS

 **REPORT**

 **GRANTS**

 **Carolyn Schaag**

 **September 16, 2020**

There were no requests for funding during this report period from the FFGC Board Members. The past six months have been difficult with the cancellation of so many activities due to the health concerns throughout the state. Future plans call for updating the FFGC profile.

 Carolyn Schaag, Chairman

 Grants

# GUARDIANS of GARDENING

# HABITAT FOR HUMANITY

 Report

 Habitat for Humanity Landscape Project

 Pat Caren

 September 16, 2020

This chairman contacted district directors and district and club Habitat chairmen for updated information. Very few responded. This seems to indicate that they have nothing to report, which is no surprise, the current situation making it unwise for most Garden Club members to participate in public events that could put their health at risk. However, a few reports were received.

On August 29th, the Garden Club of Green Cove Springs in District IV participated in a dedication of a new Habitat home.

In District VI, the Deland Garden Club provided landscaping and labor for a home in July. The Cocoa-Rockledge Garden Club gave gift baskets to new homeowners in the Female Veterans Village in Cocoa. Four more homes are planned in the Female Veterans Village.

Ixora Garden Club in District VII is planning to give time and monetary donations to Habitat for Humanity as the virus allows.

Garden Club members are caring and generous people who will do their best to help others during this crisis. With the inevitable rise in homelessness, Habitat for Humanity will be more important than ever as our country recovers. As new homes are built, the need for landscaping will increase and Garden Clubs will step up to the plate.

Pat Caren

Habitat for Humanity Landscape Project Chairman

# HALL OF FAME

# HEADQUARTERS AND ENDOWMENT

 Headquarters & Endowment Committee

 Sue Angle, Chairman

 September 16, 2020

 Our Headquarters and Endowment Trustees have been busy handling the business of our headquarters building and grounds by way of emails, Zoom meetings, and actually meeting together at the beginning of August at our headquarters. That was special since we miss the one-on-one contact – we socially distanced and it worked.

It doesn’t seem possible that we haven’t met as a Board of Directors since January, so let me bring you up to date on you what has been happening.

In March it was found we had a large bees nest in the notch of one of our oak trees. We contacted a Humane Wildlife Management company to relocate the bees from the tree, and following the removal of the bees, the notch was sealed. The cost was $589. This chairman had bees removed from her yard at a cost of $600 so the price was not surprising.

Because of the quarantine of Orange County, our building was closed from March 26, until the beginning of June, and during that time our Office Manager handled her duties from at home. Needless to say, the pandemic has kept our headquarters very quiet, however we did have a Youth Camp rent our building for 8 weeks in June and July which was an interesting opportunity.

Because of the issues with the City of Winter Park arising from the complaints from new neighbors who have moved into the neighborhood in the past year, as Al mentioned we made many changes in order to comply with the city’s codes. A decibel meter reader is used to take readings every half hour during an outside event and the decibel level is kept below what is the required number; those readings are recorded; approved events after 5pm, other than wedding ceremonies, would be held indoors; no DJ amplified music or speech outside; no rap or bass-heavy music is allowed; an off-duty City of Winter Park Police Officer is paid for by the caterer to monitor noise level and be on duty for the entire event; and no music will be played on the property after 10:00pm. Our Caterer has signed an agreement to strictly comply with our “Noise and Music Compliance Requirements”.

The City of Winter Park has approved FFGC to continue holding the events that are on our calendar for the next ninety days while the new lease can be agreed upon. So as Al explained, we again wait for the City of Winter Park City Manager to send us our revised lease. Our current lease is 60 years old.

Susan Mello continues her work as our Grounds Chairman making sure our building’s landscaping and the 2 ½ acres of native area are kept beautiful and a place we can enjoy and be proud of.

In August we had a leak in the Assembly Room roof which was repaired at a cost of $800. It was caused by a branch coming down from the Laurel Oak Tree just to the north of the Assembly Room. Susan had an Arborist and Supervisor from Winter Park’s Park Department

2.

come to assess the health of the tree and we were pleased to receive a report from them saying “We assessed the laurel oak last Friday. Surprisingly, this laurel oak is one of the better ones in the city. We are not concerned with the overall health or need to do any major pruning to it. We did note some branches touching the service wire adjacent to the building. We are going to have these pruned back.” This was a relief for us.

 At the end of August Our Office Manager, Lc Blass, had to move out of the area, and so resigned her position. We appreciated her service while she was with us. We are so pleased to announce that after holding interviews, we have hired Jennifer Cowin. She likes to be called Jenn. She started work on the day after Labor Day, September 8th. Jenn is very computer literate and has worked with Wild Apricot, our website platform, which is so helpful for us. She has

sent you all those e-blasts that Al has sent out in the past couple of weeks, and she is also handling the membership database with the help of Sue Roberts. Sue and this chairman went to headquarters on September 8 and 9 to help Jenn get familiar with FFGC and she has been a quick study. Jenn’s hours are 8:30am to 4:30pm, Monday through Friday and she is being paid an annual salary of $30,000. This does not include any medical benefits and will include a week’s vacation after one year. When you call headquarters, please introduce yourself and your chairmanship and welcome her to our family.

This Chairman thanks the Trustees of our Headquarters and Endowment Committee for their dedication to the work of this committee – President Al Latina, 1st Vice President Marge Hendon, Treasurer Jana Walling, H&E Vice Chairman Sue Roberts, H&E Secretary Karen Smith, Cissy Richardson, JoAnn Guise, and Mary Whistler. Mary was welcomed to H&E in April. Susan Mello continues her great work in her 16th year as Grounds Chairman and having served two terms on H&E, she now attends H&E meetings, without voting, as a guest.

Sue Angle

Chairman H&E

March- a bees nest relocated from an oak tree at $589. Due to pandemic & quarantine, office was closed from 3/26-6/1 – Office Manager worked from home. A Youth Camp rented building for 8 weeks in June/July. Explanation of Noise Compliance Requirements for Renters. Leak in Assembly Room roof repaired at $800 due to tree branch falling. City Arborist assessed tree and found healthy. Lc Blass resigned end of August, Jennifer Cowin began as Office Manager 9/8/20. Working 8:30-4:30 Mon.–Fri. Annual Salary $30,000.

# HELP DESK - COORDINATOR

# HIGH SCHOOL/INTERMEDIATE GARDENERS

#

# HISTORIAN

# HORTICULTURE

# INSURANCE

Report: Insurance

Kelley Wood

Chairman

April, 2020

Updated our FBCI (Workers’ Comp) insurance to include the current officers and paid staff.

Worked with our insurance provider and got a much-reduced rate for our Liability insurance as we are not holding any physical events for most of 2020. Total bill for this should be only $500.

# INVASIVE SPECIES

# JUNIOR GARDENERS

# LANDSCAPE DESIGN CONSULTANT’S COUNCIL

# LIFE MEMBERSHIPS

FFGC Life Membership

 September 16, 17, 2020

 Sandra Messer, Chairman

 This chairman has been working to update the list of Life Members.

I have been notified that fourteen life members have passed away since September

2019. I think it would be good to be notified when members pass away. This has

 not been the policy in the past. Since June 2019 there have been twelve new life

members registered. Thirty-six hundred dollars ($3,600.00) has been collected.

Due to Covid-19 it has been slow and I am sure it will pick up once things get back

To normal.

# MEAD GARDENS

# MEMBERSHIP

 New Membership

 September 2020

 Ed Nendick, Chairman

Since my last report in April 2020, we have received many referrals from NGC. These names we passed on to the appropriate District Director, who found the person a new club to join. These new members are one source for increasing our membership. We face a difficult time in our almost 100 year history, but with the current Zoom technology, We can still grow .

We can have meetings via Zoom until then. Any club President wanting to have a Zoom meeting with their club can get help setting it up from our Zoom Director at FFGC Headquarters just call. We need the District Directors to line up speakers to present via Zoom to their club members. It is like watching TV with the ability to ask questions. Yes, you Club Presidents will need to make sure your members have Internet and a Computer or IPHONE or Tablet or a buddy with one of these. Then schedule your Zoom meetings. I will bet the Florida Departments of transportation, agriculture, and horticulture departments of the local universities will be willing to give you a Zoom meeting! Why not call them and offer to supply your membership emails to make it easy to set up a Zoom meeting.

Once we get back to our new normal ,I am going to want each Club to have a Membership Chairman who I can contact each month with new ideas to bring new members into our clubs to develop the Environment, Beautification, and community issues.

Ed Nendick ,Membership Chair, Cell 1-630-605-6982 email ednendick@gmail.com

# MEMBERSHIP RETENTION

 Jane Nendick, Chair

 September Board Meeting 2020

**BANG FOR THE BUCKS!!!! THAT’S WHAT MEMBERS WHAT TO KNOW…..”IF I GIVE ABC GARDEN CLUB THIS AMOUNT OF MONEY, WHAT DO I RECEIVE IN RETURN??” PRESIDENTS OF CLUBS/CIRCLES, FROM DAY ONE, YOU MUST LET YOUR MEMBERSHIP KNOW WHAT THEY RECEIVE AND WHERE THEIR MONIES ARE BEING SPENT! FROM YOUR FIRST MEETING TIL THE LAST, EVEN VIRTUAL, YOU SHOULD HAVE ON YOUR AGENDA “MEMBERSHIP—NEW AND RETENTION”. SO, WHAT IS THE “BANG” FOR THEIR BUCKS?????**

**\*MEMBERSHIP IN ONE OF THE LARGEST VOLUNTEER ORGANIZATIONS IN THE ENTIRE WORLD!**

**\* A CHANCE TO ATTEND HORTICULTURE CLASSES IN: GARDENING IN THE AREA, PLANT IDENTIFICATION, “DIGGING IT” COURSES**

**\*AN OPPORTUNITY TO ATTEND FLORAL DESIGN STUDIES, FUN WITH FLOWERS, AND LOCAL “HOW TO” CLASSES**

**\*AN OPPORTUNITY TO ATTEND CLASSES TO BENEFIT THE COMMUNITY; EDUCATION COURSES IN ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES, LANDSCAPE DESIGN, AND FLORAL DESIGN.**

**\*PERHAPS THE MOST MEANINGFUL IS THE FUN, THE FELLOWSHIP….THE LIFE-LONG COMMITMENTS! THIS IS SOMETHING THAT MONEY CANNOT BUY!**

**FOR ANY HELP/INFORMATION, CONTACT:**

**JANE NENDICK, FFGC RETENTION MEMBERSHIP CHAIR**

**850-866-9319 OR EMAIL: INTHEBAG47@EARTHLINK.NET**

# NATIONAL GARDEN WEEK

# NATIONAL GARDENER MAGAZINE

#

# NGC’S 4-5 STAR MEMBERS

# NGC ENVIRONMENTAL SCHOOL-FFGC SCHOOL CHAIRMAN/CREDENTIALS

Environmental Schools

2019-2020 Year-End Report

Nancy Richards, State Chair

2019-2020 garden club year was a very active year for consultants refreshing in Environmental Studies (ES), a total of 23. There were only two new ES consultants, due to the cancellation of courses after the March 2020 Covid-19 quarantine.

The New Smyrna Beach series of courses will conclude November 5-6, 2020.

Fort Lauderdale is the location of a new series of courses sponsored by the Garden Club of Coral Springs. The dates are November 19-20, 2020, January 21-22, 2021, February 17-18, 2021, and April 15-16, 2021. Jeri Decker is chairman, and is planning on using the Zoom video conferencing application in case of Covid-19 restrictions.

Questions on any of these courses can be directed to this chairman at the contact information below.

***Nancy Richards***

*FFGC Environmental State School Chairman/Credentials*

*(561) 702-0550*

*NancyRRichards@gmail.com*

# NGC GARDENING SCHOOL-FFGC SCHOOL CHAIRMAN/CREDENTIALS

**Gardening School**

**Chairman**

**Barbara Hadsell**

**AUG. 31, 2020**

Series 8 of NGC Gardening School began in November hosted by the Deland Garden Club and chaired by Jennifer Condo, club President. Forty three attended with 32 FFGC members taking the exams. All passed. Five non members tested and all passed. (and will be invited to become a member of FFGC). One person refreshed. Course 2 was held on Feb. 3 and 4, 2020 with 29 testing, and three of those were not FFGC members. One person refreshed. Course 3 will be held VIA Zoom on October 26 and 28 and Course 4 in January.

 Series 9 Course 1 was also held on November 21 and 22, hosted by District X and held at the Mounts Botanical Garden in West Palm Beach. It was chaired by Michelle Maguire, Assist. District X Director and member of Pipers Landing Garden Club. 24 members of FFGC participated with 21 testing and passing and 3 refreshing. This was the first NGC Gardening School in District X and members of 9 clubs participated plus two from other districts. Course 2 was held Feb. 24, 25, 2020. 17 tested and passed and one person refreshed. Course 3 is planned for November 9 and 10 in the Mounts Auditorium classroom. This is planned as a “Hybrid” course with some instructors participating via Zoom. Course 4 will be held in Feb. 2020

Of the eighteen Gardening Consultants who needed to refresh by 12/31/2020, 7 have refreshed via Zoom. Three have Good Standing Dates that expired in 2019. All are being notified again of the two fall GS Courses and any others that may be offered in the US via Zoom.

The new NGC website is available with the newly revised NGC ES, GS and LDS Guidelines for Accreditation as well as the revised and much improved Forms. Course 3 Curriculum has now been expanded to include Native Trees and Shrubs.

Our FL Gardening School data base contains 298 student and consultant records with 93 who have completed all four courses and are in Good Standing and 5 with Emeritus status.

Please consider sponsoring a Gardening School in your area. Again, all of those who have not completed the four courses have 7 years to finish.

Your challenge—“Help Plant America and create Diversity in the Garden “ with Gardening Schools in your area!

Summary: NGC Gardening Schools offered in District VI and X began in Nov. 2019 and continue in 2020/21.

Barbara Hadsell

# NGC LANDSCAPE DESIGN SCHOOL-FFGC SCHOOL CHAIRMAN/CREDENTIALS

NGC Landscape Design Schools

Sue Roberts, Chairman

Sept., 16, 2020

The Covid-19 pandemic has put a halt to our Landscape Design Courses scheduled in 2020. The Ft. Myers series completed three courses, but was forced to postpone the 4th course due to the lockdown.

It is presently scheduled to be offered via Zoom on Oct. 23 & 24, 2020. It is still the old format of the course because the series started before the new course design was announced. We are limiting the size of this course to 40 students, because of the learning curve with Zoom, the old design format, and the pricing considerations. Most of the students were enrolled and paid before the lockdown forced the postponement.

The Lakewood Ranch Series completed 2 courses in Feb., but was forced to delay course 3 and 4. This series is the new format which contains some sizeable changes to course 4. Those design points in course 4 make delivery via Zoom a new consideration. No decision has been made at this point when to offer course 3 and 4. Course manager is waiting until they can hopefully be offered as in-person classes.

With those two series completed we hope to add about 50 new consultants to our Florida roster. Florida currently has 90 students, 76 provisionals, 58 consultants, 32 Master consultants and 4 emeritus master consultants

At the present time no other series are scheduled in Florida.

# NGC SPECIAL PROJECT LIAISON

# NGC VISION of BEAUTY PROMO

# PARKS-TRAILS GREENWAYS

# PENNY PINES

Penny Pines Report

Andrea Finn, Chairman

September 10, 2020

As we continue to cope, and starting recovering from the COVID-19 pandemic, our Garden Clubs have continued to donate to the Penny Pines Project.

We are so proud and thrilled to announce that the FFGC Garden Clubs contributed a whopping $21,692 during the period March 2019 to April 2020!

FFGC contributed the most donations from the Deep South Region (Alabama, Georgia, Louisiana, Mississippi, Tennessee, and Florida). CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL FLORIDA GARDEN CLUBS!

Just a reminder to all: The Penny Pines Donation form is on the FFGC website for your convenience. Please use this latest edition – it’s printable from the website for you to fill in and mail with your contribution to our FFGC Treasurer.

Let’s keep up the momentum and continue to “PLANT AMERICA”.

Andrea Finn, Chairman

Penny Pines Project

**SUMMARY:** FFGC Clubs donated $21,692 from March 2019 to April 2020. It was the

 most from the Deep South Region.

#

# PHOTOGRAPHER

# PILLAR OF PRIDE

# PLANNED GIVING

 **REPORT**

 **PLANNED GIVING**

 **Carolyn Schaag**

 **September 16, 2020**

One donation as a memorial was received for *The Gifts Today for Tomorrow*  Endowment Fund during this reporting period. Acknowledgement was made

to the donor.

 Carolyn Schaag, Chairman

 Planned Giving

# PLANT AMERICA WITH TREES

# PROGRAMS AND SPEAKERS

**Report**

Chairmanship: Programs and Speakers

Donna Thomas

September 2020 BOD meeting

This chairman has sent an updated Programs and Speakers list to FFGC and it is posted on the website. I sent out an email to all the District Directors to be forwarded to their respective presidents requesting information regarding their programs, speakers, and field trips for 2019 including source information and I received feedback from only 21 clubs. I would recommend that we again collect yearbooks to be directed to this chairman. Due to the covid virus and the need for ZOOM meetings I have added two new categories to this list: videos and webinars. I will again be asking the clubs for information that is going into their 2020 yearbooks.

# PROTOCOL

# PUBLICITY & PUBLIC RELATIONS

# RECLAMATION & RECYCLING

# ROADSIDE BEAUTIFICATION/ PATHS OF SUNSHINE

# SCHOLARSHIP – NGC & DSGC

#

# SCHOLARSHIP –FFGC

Scholarship and Endowment Committee

Board report September 16-17, 2020

Helen Purvis, Chairman

11 applications were received by this chairman. It was challenging for some of the students to meet the requirements since the schools shut down due to the pandemic and financial advisors were not available to the students. Exceptions were made for some students so they would be eligible to receive a scholarship. One applicant withdrew due to personal issues.

The committee, consisting of myself, Jana Walling, Lynda Perry, Susan Hillson and Carol Martin reviewed 10 applications and point scored them using the same system and awarded the following:

$3000, distributed $1500 for each semester to:

Gabriella Whisler, freshman at Santa Fe College – focused on environmental issues with a major in Marine Biology and minoring in communications. Attended Critter Camp, Wekiva, LIT, CIT, Junior Counselor at Wekiva and had planned on being Senior Counselor in 2020.

Sophia Pearce – freshman at College of the Florida Keys – majoring in marine biology/zoology, wants to work in coral restoration.

Blaire Kleiman- 2nd year Masters at Florida International University. Research on possible benefits of weeds as insectary plants in mango farms to aid biotic pollination and fruit yield of a valuable exotic fruit. Also received National Garden Club and Deep South scholarships.

Clara Arrate – freshman at Florida State University. Her parents immigrated from Cuba when she was nine. Wants to major in biology and attend medical school.

Aubrey Lanier – Sophomore at Florida Gulf Coast University, degree in civil and environmental engineering. Attended Wekiva, LIT and CIT.

Wade Collins –Junior at Warner University, majoring in Agricultural Studies. Grew up in Plant City on family farm, works at tractor dealership, interning at citrus nursery.

Caroline Gordon – freshman at University of Florida, focus on landscape architecture to create inspiring outdoor spaces that foster community and promote the conservation of nature.

Bentley Maddox – sophomore at Florida State University, majoring in Biology and minor in Chemistry. Recipient of 2019-20 FFGC scholarship.

$1000, distributed $500 for each semester to:

Joseph Vernon, freshman at Tallahassee Community College, wants to major in architecture city planning.

Emily Schaag – senior at Nova Southeastern University, wants to be aquatic veterinarian. Recipient of 2018, 2019 FFGC scholarships.

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

I would like to acknowledge receipt of $3000 donation from Punta Gorda Garden Club, $1000 donations from Live Oak Garden Club and Tallahassee Garden Club in District III, $1000 from District IV, and $1315.00 donations in memory of Ed Schaag.

SUMMARY: $1500 for fall 2020 semester to Gabriella Whisler, Sophia Pearce, Blaire Kleiman, Clara Arrate, Aubrey Lanier, Wade Collins, Caroline Gordon and Bentley Maddox. $500 for fall 2020 semester to Joseph Vernon and Emily Schaag. Acknowledged donations.

# SCHOOL GARDENS

# SCOUTING LIAISON

# SEEK CONFERENCE

SEEK 2021 Report

 Mary Ann Whisler/Chairman

 September 2020

We are sorry to say that SEEK 2020 was cancelled. The Committee regretted we could not provide this valuable program. Now with SEEK 2020 behind us, the Committee has started working with University of Florida for SEEK 2021.

SEEK 2021 will be hosted at the University of Florida/Gainesville Campus. Together with the University we will have a very comprehensive environmental program. SEEK Students for 2021 will visit labs to understand new studies in conservation and the environment, meet with a panel of UF speakers to understand environmental science careers and offerings at UF, and live in dorm housing to get an understanding of college life. Our SEEK goal is to encourage a lifetime commitment to a cleaner world and possible careers in Environmental Sciences. The Committee feels the university can offer a place to achieve these goals.

The date of SEEK 2021 is tentatively set for June 20, 2021. The cost remains at $300 per student. Look for updated information as it comes available on the FFGC.org website.

The SEEK Committee would like to thank all the Districts, Garden Clubs and individuals that have contributed to SEEK by sending students and providing donations. The committee ask that clubs and garden club members contact their local high school counselors and science teachers to identify interested students. Without YOU this program would not exist.

Thank you to FFGC Garden Clubs for giving this committee the opportunity to provide this valuable program to our high school youth. With your support FFGC will make a difference in the young lives of tomorrow and bring hope to a more beautiful and cleaner environment. Thank you FFGC!

Summary:

SEEK 2021 University of Florida

Finding students to attend SEEK

Thank you to all the Clubs and Districts

Mary Ann Whisler/SEEK Chairman

(mary.whisler66@gmail.com)

# SHORT COURSE – CENTRAL

# SHORT COURSE – NORTH

# SHORT COURSE – TROPICAL

# SMOKEY BEAR-WOODSY OWL

Smokey Bear & Woodsy Owl

Jill Anderson, Chairman

August 1,2020

28 posters from 4 FFGC clubs were submitted for 2020 awards. 8 winners were submitted to Deep South; 5 Smokey Bear and 3 Woodsy Owl.

An article was sent to The Florida Gardener encouraging clubs to participate in the 2021 contest. Entries must be sponsored by a garden club and the participant must be a resident of Florida.

Deadline for the 2021 posters is January 20, 2021. All rules are listed on the NGC web site.

Certificates of Participation and Poster Entry Stickers were sent to garden clubs that sent entries to be distributed to the participants.

**2020 SMOKEY BEAR/WOODSY OWL POSTER CONTEST PARTICIPATION**

SMOKEY BEAR

GRADES

1st - 3

2nd - 1

3rd - 4

4th - 6

5th - 5

WOODSY OWL

GRADES

1st - 0

2nd - 0

3rd - 2

4th – 2

5th - 5

GARDEN CLUB PARTICIPATION - 4 Clubs

SWEET BAY GC - Pensacola - 10 Posters

Smokey Bear - 5

Woodsy Owl - 5

BOCA RATON GC - 13 Posters

Smokey Bear - 10

Woodsy Owl - 3

MILTON GC - Pensacola - 8 Posters

Smokey Bear - 7

Woodsy Owl - 1

NEW SYMURNA BEACH GC - 5 Posters

Smokey Bear - 5

Woodsy Owl - 0

**TOTAL WINNERS SUBMITTED - 5 Smokey Bear, 3 Woodsy Owl**

**TOTAL POSTERS SUBMITTED - 28**

Summary: 28 posters from 4 FFGC clubs were submitted for 2020 awards. 8 winners were submitted to Deep South; 5 Smokey Bear and 3 Woodsy Owl.

**2021**

**Report**

Smokey Bear & Woodsy Owl

Jill Anderson, Chairman

September 15,2020

Last year 28 posters from 4 FFGC clubs were submitted for 2020 awards. All who entered the contest received colorful Certificates of Participation. Eight winners were submitted to Deep South; 5 Smokey Bear and 3 Woodsy Owl.

In preparation for 2021, an article was sent to The Florida Gardener encouraging clubs to participate in the 2021 contest. On September 9th, NGC posted a change for the contest. This year there will only be Woodsy Owl posters to celebrate his 50th birthday. So...NO Smokey Bear posters for 2021.

The poster contest is an opportunity for local Garden Clubs to connect with their communities. The contest may be used to promote the club, attract children and their parents, and raise awareness of the importance of caring for the environment.

Posters are to be completed by individual student artists. Competition may include students from first to fifth grade.

Posters must feature Woodsy Owl.

Woodsy Owl posters must include Woodsy’s conservation message: Lend a Hand, Care for the Land!

All poster entrees must be sponsored by a local Garden Club and the participant must be a resident of Florida.

The Local Garden Club Chair must submit the poster entries to this state Chairman no later than January 21, 2021.

All rules and information are listed on the NGC web site or you may contact this chairman for information.

SUMMARY:

This year there will only be Woodsy Owl posters to celebrate his 50th birthday. Competition is open to students from first to fifth grade. The deadline for submission is January 21, 2021.

# SOCIAL MEDIA

Social Media report

September 16,2020

Valerie Seinfeld

Posting daily, sharing FFGC clubs posts, Events, Gardening Inspiration quotes,

Award Descriptions, Award Deadlines, sharing NGC posts, Garden Posts, Floral Design Posts, Educational etc…

Increased “likes” on FFGC FB page starting

April 23, 2018 with 1138 “likes” to December 29, 2019 9312 “likes” with

September 15, 2020 12,002 “Likes” 12, 592 “Followers” the viewership with

members and others from around the US and the World.

Measuring how well a

post does is available and valuable information to get a rhythm in what your

audience wants to see. Every Facebook Administrator can track their progress

from day to day to month to month by visiting the “Insights” tab. Take a Screen shot of each month to see how well the posts are received. We will be using this to measure Club Facebook pages in 2020 for the Facebook Award.

This administrator has recently learn to use a Graphic Tool to create eye

appealing and professional looking Facebook posts.

Congratulations Florida Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc. for winning the 2019

First Place NGC Award for Facebook page.

Social Media Chairman Valerie Seinfeld September 16, 2020

https://www.facebook.com/FLGardenClubs/

# S**OLAR ENERGY/WIND POWER**

9/16/2020

Margaret Chodosh

Solar and Wind Energy Chair

Here are some suggested sites and resources that relate to the state of energy production in Florida:

<https://www.fdacs.gov/Energy/Energy-Programs>

 <https://www.prnewswire.com/news-releases/the-national-solar-tour-is-100-virtual-301119114.html>

“This largest annual grassroots solar event will take place virtually on [nationalsolartour.org](https://c212.net/c/link/?t=0&l=en&o=2900481-1&h=910621688&u=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.nationalsolartour.org%2F&a=nationalsolartour.org) from September 28th - October 4th, 2020. National Solar Tour week will showcase live programming focusing on electric vehicles, schools, homes, businesses and community building through solar along with virtual tours of solar and sustainable homes, businesses, schools, religious institutions and more. These events and tours will empower people to learn about solar technology and the process of going solar from their neighbors and people nationwide, all from the safety of their home. RSVP to get access to the online National Solar Tour at [nationalsolartour.org/rsvp2020](https://c212.net/c/link/?t=0&l=en&o=2900481-1&h=2352649854&u=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.nationalsolartour.org%2Frsvp2020&a=nationalsolartour.org%2Frsvp2020).”

# STRATEGIC PLANNING COMMITTEE

Report

Strategic Planning Committee

Gina V. Jogan, Chairman

September, 2020

Your Strategic Planning committee met via Zoom on August 28th, 2020. This committee researches your issues and refers their findings to the appropriate chairman for further action or motions to be made to the BOD. The following were discussions and actions taken on your behalf:

-Ingrid Velez was introduced as the **newest member of the SPC**, replacing Jan Sillik who is no longer able to serve.

-The **Matching Grants Program** is ready to go to the BOD for approval, and will be presented by Marge Hendon, chairman of Finance Committee.

-Regarding the **Wild Apricot Membership Platform** (which is now called Personify): there are capabilities that Personify offers that FFGC is not using to capacity; the system we have in place and pay for can take care of convention registrations, payments, credit cards, membership cards, posting *The Florida Gardener*, and so forth. Registrations and payments for Wekiva Camp could also be accommodated. We have a subcommittee working on the switch over under the direction of the newly formed IT committee headed by Kelley Wood (with Jennifer Condo and input from Karen Smith)

-Getting information to the many club and circle presidents continues to be the focus of the **Membership Committee**. FFGC has the capability to directly contact these folks with vital membership information through the FFGC office. Your membership team will gladly attend your district meeting, or any other meeting, and/or give membership workshops…..in person or virtually…..

-SPC was charged with defining the ‘**value of FFGC membership**”: It was decided that what you put into your membership is what you will get out of it: consider the following: friendships, educational opportunities, convention opportunities, travel, projects, information, etc.

-SPC is continuing to look at ways to **streamline the BOD**, consolidating duties and forming subcommittees to accomplish goals. This committee is working with the incoming President on comparing necessary chairmanships with those listed in NGC, DSGC. Some chairmanships are redundant, no longer essential or are underutilized.

-An SPC subcommittee is ‘cleaning up’ the **forms that are on the FFGC website**, making sure they are in template format, carry the FFGC Logo and all information included is current and up-to-date. Other **position descriptions** are still outstanding and need to be submitted to Tina Tuttle.

-SPC supports the efforts going forward to celebrate our 100th birthday. Chairman, Tina Tuttle, will have more for you in her report.

**Summary:**  This advisory committee refers research findings on timely issues to the appropriate committee chairman or sends information directly to the FFGC President for action. This committee is planning long and short range for the future of FFGC.

*Gina V. Jogan, Chairman*

# TOURS & TRAVEL

# TREES & REFORESTATION

# TRI-COUNCIL PRESIDENT

 **Inger Jones**

**President Tri-Council**

**FFGC BOARD MEETING**

**9-16-2020**

**ZOOM**

 **Good Morning Officers and FFGC board members,**

**Tri-Council has felt the ripple event of covid-19. We too also our first ZOOM meeting on 8/31/2020. We certainly miss the camaraderie of our members but this platform gave us the opportunity to at least see and “chat” with our consultants.**

**Covid-19 has showed us that with self-quarantining, hand washing, wearing of masks, closing of cities, and no vehicular traffic countries around the world experienced blue skies devoid of smog!! However that changed as soon as we prematurely started to open up our cities/states/countries and you know where we are today.**

**Sort of makes you think that after celebrating 50 years of Earth Day, we are still not listening to Mother Nature.**

**Environmental, Gardening and Landscape Design schools will now be offered via ZOOM until such time it is safe for us to meet. Visit FFGC website for updates.**

**Now more than ever this covid-19 pandemic has forced us to ‘see’ climate change/global warming in our own backyards and noticing that some plants are suffering from the heat and the rain that is drowning some of our plants. Add to this the loss of our pollinators -- bees, butterflies, wasps to mention a few. What do we do.**

**Well, we have the answer. We have NGC Schools to offer all of our members which educates us through Florida Friendly Landscaping as well as scientific based information from university professors and leaders in their chosen fields.**

**Replacing our schools using ZOOM I feel will allow for increased attendance by our members using virtual learning. This will allow for new membership in Tri-Council. If high schools, colleges, universities can offer virtual learning so can we! Remember that old adage --- YOU ARE NEVER TO OLD TO LEARN!!**

**In closing,**

**Tri-Council will continue to spread the word by encouraging garden clubs, circles and districts to host NGC schools. Remember we are all connected so we are all affected.**

**Thank you,**

Inger Jones

# WATER & WETLANDS

Water and Wetlands Report

Water and Wetlands' Chairman

Jackie Host

September 2020

Greetings Mr. President, FFGC Officers and Fellow Board Members. It is

in the Fall that I am warning you about the upcoming “Silent Spring”. It's no

longer just a prophetic book and movie. It's a reality. Scientists report we're

witnessing the planet's sixth mass extinction. There already have been five.

Entomologist Verin Krefelt reports that insects could vanish within a century at the current rate of decline.

Insects are essential for the functioning of all ecosystems. Many other

creatures, and biological species including humans, depend on them for food, for pollination and recycling of nutrients. A study published in the journal of *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences* states that “animals all over the planet are declining so rapidly that a process of “biological annihilation” is now in progress.

Pollinators are considered the canaries in the coal mine. After their

extinction many other species will follow. According to a report published in the *Biological Conservation Journa l* reports expansive agriculture and particularly the use of pesticides have created a huge habitat loss for insects and other creatures as well. Acres of wildflowers, otherwise known as weeds, have turned into sterile ground due to the massive use of pesticides and fertilizers.

Unfortunately, industry and home owners also use these chemicals and

greatly contribute to that loss of habitat for insects and many other biological species. Climate change, overpopulation, rampant development, and pollution are other causes for the overwhelming decline of insects. The U.N. Convention on Biological Diversity reports that an almost unbelievable but true statistic of 150 species are lost every day.

What is the solution to stopping this devastating decline of species?

Organic farming, cleaner cars, overall reduction of toxic chemical use, and less development and destruction of native habitats. What does that have to do with water you may ask this Water and Wetlands Chairman. Everything. The same things that are killing our oceans, springs, lakes and rivers are killing the butterflies. Everything is connected and sewn together in the grand tapestry of life on earth.

Respectfully submitted: Jackie Host

# WEBSITE EDITOR

FFGC Website Editor

Sue Roberts

September 16, 2020

This chairman has continued to update the website as requested adding new information and removing out of date files. I have enhanced the publications that are available on the website including all of the NGC newsletters and magazines and an archive of Florida Gardener magazines.

During the dues renewal process I have made many changes to the directory entries. I have noticed that we have many emails that are wrong or out-of-date. To communicate with our members we need to make an effort to update emails as they are the member’s login id.

We have grown concerned over the safety and security of some of our files that expose member address information. Aa a temporary fix we have put those particular files behind a required login. President Al Latina is creating a committee to look at the safety and security of our website. That committee will decide how much member information should be restricted to members only as opposed to public access. This is where the updated login ids will become more important.

We also need to establish some procedures to control the amount of files stored on the website. There are many outdated files that need to be removed. Replacements are just added as requested, but the older versions are not removed.

The cancellations caused by Covid-19 have caused many website changes noting cancelled events such as classes and the convention. I have also updated many forms making more and more forms interactive pdf files.

# WEKIVA YOUTH CAMP

FFGC Wekiva Youth Camp Annual Report

Tina V. Tuttle, Chrm.

16 April 2020

~~Tampa Hilton Downtown~~

Wekiva Youth Camp was in session from 16 June until 27 July 2019 and celebrated its 45th anniversary.

Very special thanks to Marge Hendon and Christy Linke for serving as camp chairman in my absence.

Camp set up, Counselor orientation and Lifeguard training took place from 5-15 June.

American Camping Association “visit” held 18 July. Wekiva passed without any noted discrepancies on the 198 inspection items.

Created the design for and contracted with Joe Bastian in Ohio for 325 2019 camp T-shirts. Contracted with Great Impressions for 600 water bottles and 600 stickers.

Purchased all camp set-up items including OTC medications for clinic, photo holders, closing ceremony candles, etc. Purchased items needed for each camp session: Nature’s photography items, Craft supplies, camping equipment and curriculum items (rope, first aid supplies) for 7th grade tent camping.

Procured 600 copies of educational materials from US Forestry Service on Trees for all attendees. Cut 100 pieces of bamboo for 7th grade programs walking sticks.

Camp was 100% full paid with max attendance of 640-- very few no-shows.

Contracted staff personnel: Director, Assistant Director, Waterfront Director, the Nature and Craft coordinators, as well as the Cleaning company and kitchen staff. Requested and received event insurance and contracted LIT transport and facility rental at Crystal River Marine Science Station. Contracted with Century Link to have burned out phone and internet lines moved and installed in Ais and Tequesta. Sent tax certificate to Century Link so we will no longer be charged state tax. Obtained tax cards for Walmart, Hobby Lobby and Best Buy.

Welcomed Lindsay A. Loftin and Mandy N. Howell as new coordinators for 7th grade tent camping and Critter Camp, respectively. Mandy also served as Waterfront Director.

Of the 81 volunteers, 63% (51) were garden club members. Ten of the volunteers came for more than one week! Twenty-four volunteers attended the Wekiva Volunteer Training held last February.

Processed over 80 volunteer fingerprinting and level 2 background checks through Florida Agency for Healthcare Administration.

 Contacted volunteers by phone and email for required medical and insurance information.

Working closely with registrar, Betty Moxley, assisted over 30 families with Financial Assistance for camp registration fees.

 Made deposits. Coordinated reimbursements and bill payment.

Revised the Wekiva Dress Code with help from Circle Leaders and counselors. Our Camp *Songbook* is under revision.

 Assistant Director created an online survey for parents. Results are very positive.

Coordinated volunteers to assist with check-in, lice check, sale of camp items, Canteen and check-out.

Fully participated in Naturalist program led by Kalia Baillene during week 4.

**Inventoried all FFGC held items** stored and used at camp. Packed out camp into the shed and HQ on 27 July.

Purchased new Amana Washer and Dryer for camp, to replace those lost in the fire, using Wekiva B&M account. Replaced faucet in the kitchen using B&M money. Purchased a new computer tower, surge protector and 2 Wifi extenders fried in lightning strikes. Lightning also took out the new air conditioner in Nature Hut. Parts were ordered.

Donated to Goodwill or disposed of Lost and Found items and items no longer useful to camp.

Held **End of Camp meeting** with **State Park** personnel and later with staff on 22 July.

Confirmed dates for WVT and Open House 7-9 February 2020

Confirmed dates for 2020 camp sessions: Wednesday, 3 June-Saturday, 25 July.

Discussed rebuilding of clinic/office building, which burned 28 April, and possible $80,000 shortfall in insurance for replacement of clinic/office. New building will not be ready for 2020 camp session so we will continue to be short by 8 beds.

 Short and Long-term goals and objectives for camp have been developed and submitted.

Plans for next year include adding an additional week of boys’ 7th grade tent camping, implementing new clinic procedures, starting a phased replacement of aging items (carts, tents, swim rescue items, etc.) and changing the financial functions and contracting of staff personnel.

Our theme for next year is “Nature Detective” and will focus on Birds.

All remaining 2018 and 2019 camp t-shirts are available in the gift shop for the reduced price of $5 each.

**A motion** from the Wekiva Youth Camp Committee and endorsed by the FFGC Finance Committee: that Wekiva Youth Camp registration fees be increased by 3% across the board beginning with 2020 registrations: The Non-sponsored camper fee will go from $315 to $325, garden club sponsored camper fee will go from $240 to $250 and volunteer sponsored camper fee will go from $140 to $145. Critter Camp will go from $90 to $100. LIT will remain at $375.

Rational: Actual cost per camper is $312. When campers are sponsored by a garden club or volunteer, the camper is subsidized by donations generously given. This year donations were down and did not meet budgeted income. A comparison with other overnight camps in Florida show that our camp is by far the least expensive in the state by well over $200 per week and that our staff and counselors are among the lowest paid. **Motion Passed.**

**Another motion** from the Wekiva Youth Camp Committee and endorsed by the FFGC Finance Committee: that our Wekiva Youth Camp staff be given a 10% raise and our Director and Assistant Director be paid for a seventh week, Orientation week: Counselors-in-training (CITs) will go from $90 a week to $100 a week, Junior Counselors will go from $100 a week to $110 a week, Senior Counselors will go from $240 a week to $265 a week, Circle Leaders will go from $325 a week to $360 a week. A seventh week for our Director will be an additional $1000 and for our Assistant Director, an additional $500. Our Nature and Craft coordinators will go from $250 to $275 a week. Waterfront Director from $500 to $550 and Lifeguard stipend from $30 to $35 each week.

Rational: A comparison of pay with other FL overnight camp counselors and staff show that our camp is paying on the lower end of the $8.44-$16.34 per hour scale. Even including room and board of $194 a week, our counselors are working 19 hours a day for little compensation compared to responsibility. **Motion Passed.**

The 2020 Wekiva Youth Camp contracted session will be held from **14 June to 25 July** 2020 and celebrate its 46th anniversary. Camp set up, Counselor orientation and Lifeguard training will take place from 3-12 June. This year will feature an additional tent camping week for 7th grade boys.

The camp **budget** of nearly $200K has been thoughtfully created incorporating the staff raises and hikes to the registration fees as voted on at the September 2019 BOD meeting.

The SunTrust **Bank account** was successfully closed and the new Centennial Bank account opened. All checks, credit cards and deposit slips for SunTrust have been destroyed.

The Wekiva **webmaster** is now Chas Villereal and she has worked diligently with us to update the Wekivayouthcamp.org website information.

**EasyReg** opened on 2 January at 8pm EST. John Morand and I worked to add a “Hold Harmless” agreement section as well as a confirmation number setting that allows parents to return to the registration to upload medical/physical and insurance documents and photos of their camper. Emails were sent from the Camp Director to families previously attending alerting them to registration time.

The design for **camp T-shirts** has been made and bids were sent to 2 companies in December 2019. We will NOT be providing water bottles this summer. We have many left in inventory and are asking each camper to bring their own. The only items for sale as Ways and Means will be current and past t-shirts.

**Contracts** for camp staff personnel have been drafted for President Latina’s signature. (Director, Waterfront Director, the Nature and Craft coordinators, as well as the Cleaning company and kitchen staff. (Assistant Director position has not yet been filled.)

We are assembling a list of **items to purchase** for this upcoming session including new binoculars, cameras, an “EnviroScape” and tents plus full-size refrigerators for volunteer cabins.

Our **theme** for next year is “Nature Detective” and will focus on Birds. We are working to procure 450 copies of educational materials for all attendees that are no longer produced by the US Forestry Service on Animal Tracking.

This chairman has cut over 800 13”x13” squares of fabric for a pillow making craft! This chairman will also conduct a stepping stone craft at WVT.

This summer will be the 5-year limit of initial **fingerprinting and background checks.** That means that approximately half of our volunteers will have to be re-screened through DCF at a higher cost ($44.66 each versus $13 each).

This summer we plan to implement new **nursing procedures** (separate nurse station, pill count, etc.) and ensure all volunteer nurses are not only licensed, but also insured. A new policy for administering meds at remote locations (LIT and primitive) has been developed.

Rebuilding of the **clinic/office building**, in a style similar to Tequesta, is still under consideration by the state park system.

Assisted with Wekiva Volunteer Training (February 7-9) by hosting 2-day craft session to make 32 stepping stones.

Attended Wekiva Youth Camp Open House on 9 February.

Began purchasing necessary items for camp: ‘tree cookie’ nametags, photo holders, Nature items (Selphie ink and paper, cameras, binoculars, etc), T-shirts with design of the camp map, and EnviroScape for 8th grade EE (paid for by Cause Donations).

Created spreadsheet for volunteers by week and session. Holding off on getting updated background checks done in case camp is canceled for summer 2020. Only those with **expiring** background checks (after 5 years) will be renewed at this time.

Created spreadsheet for Financial Assistance requests and donations made by clubs. To date, have given out 10 camperships totaling $1300. Wrote thank you notes for all donations made to camp.

Wrote the position description for Chairman of Camp and sent to President and Sue Roberts. Answered questions and provided requested information to the Bylaws Committee.

Received bid to replace corner shower in Euchee. Bid from Bath Fitters is just under $3000.

Developed Wekiva Building and Maintenance (B&M) Budget and submitted it to the Finance Chairman to include replacement of shower in Euchee, 3 full-size refrigerators for Euchee, Seehookee and Ais, replacement of doors at recreation closet.

Began discussion and communication with committee, parents and staff/volunteers regarding **COVID-19** and the decision to hold camp or not for summer 2020. Notice of camp placed on website and on our Facebook page. The State Park is closed until 15 May when a decision will be made to reopen the park or continue to keep it closed. Governor DeSantos closed all state parks without an end date on 23 March. Checking with Marine Science Station in Crystal River to see if LIT can be held there. If not, Critter Camp may be in jeopardy. Giving close attention to recommendations from American Camp Association regarding insurance coverage during this event (Kelley Wood asked to contact Scott Corkhill agency regarding our coverage), prevention of communicable diseases, screening processes to put in place, etc.

All staff and contractor positions have been contracted (Director, Assistant Director, Crafts, Nature, Food Service, Cleaning Service and Aquatics Director).

Two outside programs have been contracted for Tuesday and Wednesday afternoons of camp: The park service will provide a program on animal tracks and the Raptor Rescue organization will give a program featuring 4 live birds.

As of 23 March, the camp registrations were 90% full but volunteer positions were at about 50%.

Developed 6 Wekiva History Minutes to present at Flag Ceremony each evening.

Tina V. Tuttle, 2VP, Wekiva Youth Camp Chairman

**Summary:** Although the 2019 Wekiva Youth Camp went off without much distraction, the 2020 camp session is in jeopardy due to COVID-19. We are in a ‘wait and see’ mode until state and national directives allow us to open camp. We are continuing to plan for camp but have plans in place should camp be canceled.