**APRIL 2021 Board Meeting**

Board Chairmen Reports

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# ADVISORY COUNCIL

# ADOPT-A-PARK

# AFFLIATES MEMBERSHIP

 **Affiliate Members**

**FFGC Annual Report**

**April 1 , 2021**

The following are Affiliate Member who joined in 2020-2021

We welcomed 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. 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.

FFGC Affiliate Program

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. These are organizations whose interests and purposes are compatible with those of FFGC. The goal of this type of partnership is to create a greater scope for the education and participation of our communities and to bring together diverse groups with similar goals. The Affiliate Member receives a subscription to the Florida Gardener and a Call to the FFGC Convention, as well as listing on the FFGC website and in the Florida Gardener.

 **Mission Statement**

“Florida Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc. promotes the love of gardening, floral and landscape design, and civic and environmental responsibility by providing education, resources and networking opportunities for our members, youth and the community”

Listed below are the Affiliate Members and the Garden Clubs who have invited them to become members of the Florida Federation of Garden Clubs.

Affiliate Member Sponsored Garden Club

Port St. Lucie Botanical Gardens St. Lucie West GC

Mounts Botanical Garden West Palm Beach GC

Heathcote Botanical Garden GC of Fort Pierce

McKee Botanical Garden GC of Indian River County

The Institute for Regional Conservation FFGC District X Plant

American for Trees who joined in April of 2020.

Respectfully submitted

Donna J. Berger

Donna Berger, Chairman

# AMAZON PROJECT

 Amazon Affiliates Chairman Report

 Linda Feifarek-Johnson Chairman

 April 12-13, 2021

 Board of Director’s Meeting

Good Morning,

I have received several emails about not having a link on our website for our Amazon Affiliates Account. So, here’s the deal; Amazon notified us last fall that we were in violation of our contract with them. However, we did not receive the notice. Jenn in the office at headquarters and I have tried to get our account re-instated but they won’t do it. They even closed our smile account. Jenn and I are unsure exactly why. It had something to do with the way the link was put up on our website. I have had it explained to me and I’m still not sure what they are talking about. The thing I am most upset about is the run-around they gave us. They told Jenn to re-apply for an associate account, which she did. They rejected that and told her she needed to appeal the decision, which she did. They rejected that and told her she needed to re-apply, which she did AGAIN and they rejected that again. She has called, I have called and they are adamant. I even got Jeff Bezos email address and sent him an email that I understand has worked for others in the past.

I had wondered why we were making less on our account and found out that sometime in April of last year they lowered their commission on everything. Where we were making 3-8%, we are only making 1-3%. Less than half. We did not receive that notice as well.

I have also received some complaints that Jeff Bezos has supported certain political agenda that are not popular among some people and they have stopped using Amazon completely. that also would account for our lowered commissions. Incoming President Marge Hendon has been made aware of this and is considering our next step.

# ARBOR DAY

# ARBORETA & BOTANTICAL GARADENS

# AWARD, DONORS

#

# AWARDS – FFGC

# AWARDS – NGC & DSS

# AWARDS – YOUTH

# BACKYARD HABITATS

#

# BARTRAM TRAIL

#

# BEES

 Bees

Christy Linke

March 18, 2021

This Chairman even with the COVID pandemic is still going to Garden Clubs and found ways to stay safe and healthy. Outside workshops were held at the Apollo Beach and Clearwater Garden Clubs where we made native bee houses. Of course speaking first on native bees and a power point presentation before the workshop. Both garden clubs had good attendance, especially since it was outside and a hands on project.

This Chairman is pleased to say that two Bee certificates were awarded for the “Promoting Bee through Knowledge” program.

This Chairman was invited for another summer bee program at the Circle B Preserve in Lakeland. This program is for children of all ages to learn about native and honey bees, as well as making a bee house out of cans and bamboo.

Summary:

My goal is always and will be educating all ages the importance of bees and the role they play in our world.

# BLUE STAR & GOLD STAR MEMORIAL MARKERS

# BOI Editor

# BRICK PATHS

.

Brick Path Chairman

 Joanne Mulinare

 April 10, 2021

This past year was quiet as orders trickled in slowly, and we have recently ordered the existing brick backlog from a vendor recommended by our former engraver. We delivered excess blank bricks to the engraver in March for her use. Since our project is a “work-in” order we were not guaranteed when the bricks will be ready for us to pick up. As it happens the bricks will be ready the day before convention starts, so this chairman will pick them up then. Once we have them in hand, we will arrange for installation in the existing pathway.

An email was sent to the donors of the recent batch of bricks to tell them we have a new engraver and their bricks are in the process of being installed.

Since the engravers’ primary business is headstones they are very busy due to COVID 19 deaths. Our project is not a top priority.

The price at this vendor is significantly higher than the previous engraver which I have reported to H&E.

Joanne Mulinare

**Summary: Brick orders were recently engraved and bricks will be installed shortly for the first time since the pandemic began.**

# CALENDAR DISTRIBUTION

2021 Calendar Sales April 2021 Reporting

Number of Calendars Printed 2000

INVENTORY

3 boxes still at printer 150

6 boxes at Headquarters 300

* 20 single 20

2 boxes at Pat Danahy’s 100

+36 single 36

\*\*\*Number in inventory 606

SOLD/ALLOCATED

Paid calendars /gifts to designers 1227

Duplicate order sent because Post Office

destroyed package (no charge) 10

Sub Total 1843

Calendars at Districts but not paid 150

 dist III 100, possibly to return 59

 dist II 50 need to contact

Missing in action 7

This accounts for all 2000 calendars.

Respectively,

Pat Danahy

Calendar Distribution Chairperson

4/2/21

# CALENDAR – FLORIDA FLOWER ARRANGEMENT EDITOR

#

# CONVENTION CHAIRMAN 2021

# CONVENTION COMMITTEE 2022

**Convention 2022 Board Meeting Report – April 2021**

FLORIDA FEDERATION OF GARDEN CLUBS

95th ANNUAL CONVENTION and STATE FLOWER SHOW

WORLDs OF WONDERS

 Convention 2022 Report

 Mary Ann Whisler/Co-Chairman

 Carol Wood/Co-Chairman

 April 2021

It is with great pleasure we announce the FFGC Convention 2022 will be held at Embassy Suites by Hilton, Lake Buena Vista South, Kissimmee, Florida (Orlando area). This was the location of the 2017 FFGC Convention.

The date of the convention is April 13th – 15th, 2022. There will be fun for everyone – bring the family for championship golf, Disney, Epcot, shopping and fun. The Convention Committee is already hard at work putting together another exciting event. The 2022 Convention will have our State Flower Show which everyone will want to see! Mark your calendars now as you will not want to miss this convention.

Our theme is Worlds of Wonder which says so much about our organization with so much to offer our members and friends. Whether you are interested in flower shows, NGC classes on gardening, landscaping, or the environment or maybe you want to help educate our future generations with Junior Gardening, Wekiva Environmental Youth Camp, SEEK (Save Earths Environment through Knowledge) our high school environmental program or community service, FFGC is the place to be and our convention will give you the information you need to accomplish those goals while meeting like-minded friends.

Don’t forget to mark your calendars for April 13 – 15, 2022 for the 95th Annual FFGC Convention and State Flower Show! See you there next year!

Summary:

Convention 2022 Kissimmee, Florida

State Flower Show in 2022

Theme is Worlds of Wonder

Mary Ann Whisler/Co- Chairman (mary.whisler66@gmail.com)

Carol Wood/Co-Chairman (carolwood@outlook.com)

# DEEP SOUTH GARDEN CLUBS UNIFIED PROJECT

Report

Deep South Garden Clubs Unified Project

Gina V. Jogan, Chairman

April 2021 Board of Directors Meeting@ FFGC Convention

Several clubs sent Books of Evidence and applied for award monies offered by the Deep South Garden Clubs Unified Project.

Books of Evidence from FFGC were forwarded to the Deep South Chairman for final judging.

Clubs winning awards will be notified by this chairman or whenever the Deep South Executive Board/Board of Directors meets again.

You may want to check online at [www.dsgardenclubs.com](http://www.dsgardenclubs.com) to see if you are a winner.

In Summary: Many projects were worthy of the Deep South Garden Clubs Unified Project awards. Three books of Evidence were sent from Florida to the Deep South Project chairman..

# DUES AMBASSADOR

FFGC Dues Ambassador

April 13, 2021

Susan Roberts

As Dues ambassador my job is to answer all questions about the FFGC dues renewal process and create the forms needed for clubs to complete their renewal process. During the 2019-2021 administration we re-designed the dues renewal process and forms to be more easily used and simplify the overall process. These forms were first used for the 2020 dues renewal cycle. This includes the ‘Membership Renewal Form’ and the New/Change Membership form. The first form is sent in with the club’s renewal list sometime between April 1 and June 1. The latter form is used throughout the year as clubs add new members or need to change information about any member.

The process was more easily handled by the clubs and I was able to help them as needed getting their records and FFGC records to agree. The FFGC office manager with help from me and other helpers were able to process 160 club renewals over the summer. Unfortunately it is a time consuming process to update each clubs records through our database. Each member must be renewed individually. It took most of the summer to process all the renewals. Due to the pandemic they were slow to arrive at HQ and some clubs did not renew until they saw what would happened in the fall.

For the 2021 renewal process I updated the forms based on our experiences last year to improve and further simplify the process. The announcement of the new forms availability went out on March 15, 2021. Clubs should reply by June 1, but under the present circumstances some leeway has been allowed. We will again have to process each club and renew each member individually because of the design of our membership system.

We presently have 158 clubs with 8 in question who did not reply in 2020. The total active membership as of March 15, 2021 is 10,400. We have 222 life members who are not presently members of a club.

Summary: The dues renewal process begins on March 15 with the issuing of the forms and instructions to the clubs. The renewals are due from the clubs by June 1 and then our database is updated over the summer. I continue to answer questions and help to ensure that the club records and FFGC records correspond and are as accurate as possible.

# EARTH STEWARD

 Annual BOD Report

Earth Steward Recognition

Kathy Siena

April 11, 2021

FFGC’s Tri-Council first introduced the Earth Steward Recognition in 2013. This recognition is given to honor the recipient for outstanding efforts and stewardship of our natural resources. It can be awarded in the field of Gardening, Landscape Design, and Environment. The chair requests that these efforts are clearly indicated on the application form biography section for the recipient.

The honor may be awarded by a club, district, an FFGC organization or by an individual. The recipient of the Earth Steward recognition is presented with a pin and certificate. The recipient is not required to be an FFGC member. The fillable application is available on the home page of the FFGC website under “Honoring Garden Club Members. The $100 donation goes to the “Color Our Garden Fund”, a part of the Headquarters and Endowment (H&E) budget for the continued stewardship and care of the grounds at FFGC Headquarters.

Since 2013, 122 recognitions have been given out. However, this chair believes that Covid-19 pandemic restrictions limited the number of recognitions given out over the past year to only two so far. It is hoped that next year will bring in more Earth Steward Recognition applications. An updated list of all recipients is available on the FFGC website.

# ENDANGERED PLANTS

# ENVIRONMENTAL CONSULTANTS COUNCIL REPORT

# FFGC DATA BACKUP AND DISASTER RECOVERY PLANS

FFGC Data Backup and disaster Recovery plans

Susan Roberts

April 14, 2021

I am speaking here today about the procedure for backup and recovery of FFGC critical data. We published this plan via email on March 1, but I am here today to re-inforce the information.

If you have data associated with your chairmanship that is critical to FFGC, would be considered an FFGC asset, and would be difficult to recreate then please follow this procedure to back it up on the FFGC site. In this crazy world we live in today who knows what disaster might hit your computer, your house, your health, your area, or the state of Fl. If we have the critical data backed up we can recover with minimal difficulty.

Now is the perfect time to do this as you are completing one administration and possibly preparing your data to turn it over to a new chairman. Once your files are complete please send them attached to an email to ffgc@ffgcmail.com . Jenn Cowin will move them to a Google drive associated with FFGC HQ and keep a log of the file and the owner. She will then send emails to you probably at board meeting time (3 times a year) to send her an update of your data or let her know that there have been no changes since the last update. You will continue to have the working copy of the data on your computers. No one will change the copy stored Google Drive. This is for backup only. Google drive stores these files in the ‘cloud’ so even if we lose the office computer system we will still be able to recover when needed.

Please send the data in its ‘native’ format so it can be recovered easily. In other words, no ‘pdf’ files or ‘jpg’ pictures of files. The files should be documents, spreadsheets, or presentations or equivalents.

FFGC thanks you for doing this and it should also be a relief to you that the data is safe.

Summary: Send any critical data associated with your chairmanship to FFGC HQ for backup on our Google Drive.

# FFGC FINANCE COMMITTEE

 Finance/Budget Report

 Marjorie H. Hendon, Chairman

 April 11, 2021

The Finance Committee has been busy awarding grants, accepting budgets and financials, being excited about the donation to Wekiva Youth Camp for $700,000, and keeping up with our newest Treasurer, Jana Walling.

Jana Walling has recommended many changes be made with our finances due to State and Federal regulations. FFGC has made changes and will continue to make changes as we are guided by Jana and CPA.

The National Garden Club has discontinued mailing their magazine, so FFGC will also. This will save trees, printing and mailing cost, and some members may still get hard copies if they do not have an email address. Two thousand copies will be printed.

FFGC’s Amazon rewards account was dropped, which we have gotten cash back for seven years. No explanation as to why. FFGC will sign up for other reward programs.

The Finance Committee approved twelve Matching Grants to be handed out. They equal $4,954.00. Clubs sent in a total of nineteen grants for consideration. It was our first time handing out the Matching Grants. Some changes will be sent out.

We have been planning for FFGC’s 100th birthday. Due to the uncertainty of FFGC keeping our building, Winter Park is wanting it, some of the activities that Tina Tuttle had planned will not be able to take place. The hotel hosting the 100th birthday party and convention has changed its name to Southside Marriott.

Ann and Troy Todd, long time Wekiva Youth Camp volunteers and garden club members, donated $700,000 for new construction at FFGC’s Wekiva Youth Camp. The WSP will replace the office with this donation.

 Marjorie H. Hendon

 1st VP, FFGC

Summary: The Finance Committee continues to make changes to our Bylaws and Standing Rules due to State and Federal regulations. In keeping with NGC, our TFG magazine will go online in Sept.. Matching grants were given out and donations were taken in. This VP was honored to have served President Al Latina, as Finance Chairman.

# FFGC NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Convention Report

2020 Nominating Committee

Jo Ann Guise

April 12, 2021

The FFGC Nominating Committee is composed on one Delegate and Alternate from each of the twelve (12) Districts with a Chairman appointed by the current President. Its purpose is to find the best candidate for each elected Office. This is done by weighing each candidate’s qualifications, duties of the Office, letters of recommendation, and an interview. The current Vice-president becomes President-elect on October 1st in the even numbered years: Marge Hendon assumed the duties October 1, 1920.

All meetings were held on ZOOM. A special thank you to the ZOOM hosts who facilitated the meetings.

The 2020 Nominating Committee presents the following Slate of Officers for the 2021-23 Administration: 1st Vice-president – Tina Tuttle

 2nd Vice-president – Christy Linke

 3rd Vice-president - Mary Whisler

 Treasurer – Jana Walling

 Recording Secretary – Sue Roberts.

Serving on this Committee were:

District I – Gina Jogan District VII – Susan Mello

District II – Sue Schmitz District VIII – Jan Griffin

District – Jana Walling District IX – Laura Jibben

District IV – Kalia Baillene District X – Donna Berger

District V – Margaret Chodosh District XI – Inger Jones

District VI –Valerie Seinfeld District XII – Sharon Trbovich

 Jo Ann Guise, Chairman

# FLORIDA GARDENER CIRCULATION

Report: Circulation (Florida Gardener Magazine)

Kelley Wood

Chairman

March 30, 2021

This chairman took over responsibility August 2019. Activity has been very light as there have been no actions requiring my attention.

# FLORIDA WILDFLOWER LIAISON

#

# FLOWER SHOW SCHOOL JUDGES

# FUN WITH FLOWERS

Fun with Flowers

 Emilie Palmieri

 FFFG Board Meeting

 April, 2021

This chairman was not able to attend the convention do to Covid restrictions. She was not fully vaccinated and did not feel comfortable attending. This was the first convention missed since joining FFGC in 2005.

This chairman has shared several new ideas after receiving phone calls from clubs interested in adding Fun with Flowers to their programs.

Summary: Fun With Flowers is well received and a wonderful way to invite new people to join Garden clubs as well as learn how to have fun with flowers.

# GARDEN THERAPY

# GARDENING CONSULTANT’S COUNCIL

#

# GRANTS

 **ANNUAL REPORT**

 **GRANTS**

 **Carolyn Schaag**

 **April 11, 2021**

The profile for FFGC will be updated in the beginning of the new administration to make

it more visible for possible donors. Chairmen will be asked to provide requests for their

projects and needs.

 Carolyn Schaag, Chairman

 Grants

# HABITAT FOR HUMANITY

 Report

 Habitat for Humanity Landscape Project

 Pat Caren

 April 11, 2021

While many clubs have not been able to participate in Habitat for Humanity Landscape Projects due to the pandemic, a few have been active.

In District I, Green Thumb Garden Club has happily been involved in the completion of two Habitat Homes so far this year. One homeowner was very interested in gardening and will supplement what the Master Gardeners have done at her home. The other was in need of a lawnmower and watering equipment which were purchased for her. A third house will be completed in the fall, and the club will provide either lawn and landscape equipment or gift cards so the new homeowners can purchase what they need to enhance and maintain their new homes.

In December, Green Thumb Garden Club members donated Christmas gifts to two of their 2020 homeowner families with children. The gifts were brought to the December meeting and delivered to the family homes by a club member and the Director of Habitat. The two families had been struggling and were grateful for the generosity.

Walton County Habitat for Humanity is in the process of completing a new Restore, scheduled to open in July. Green Thumb Garden Club has budgeted funds (with an additional grant request in progress) to help with the landscaping of that facility.

In District V, Riverhaven Garden Club has landscaped three homes since October and also made financial donations. Although Habitat for Humanity has not been able to complete any houses this year in their area, Brooksville Garden Club is prepared to help them with landscaping as soon new homes as are finished.

In District VI, a member of New Smyrna Beach Garden Club attends new home dedications and presents the homeowner with a gift of garden equipment, books about gardening in Central Florida, and a letter of congratulations.

In District IX, Evergreen Circle has plans to landscape a new home and present the homeowner with yard tools.

In District X, a community of seventy-six Habitat homes is being built. Part of the plan is a park which includes a children’s playground and reading garden. Pompano Beach Garden Club contributed plants for the reading garden.

Some garden clubs have made financial contributions. Dogwood Garden Club of Crestview donated $200 for landscaping and tools, hoses, etc. for two homes in their area.

 District IV has budgeted $100 for grants to clubs to assist with Habitat projects. Individual clubs also budget money for Habitat for Humanity.

As it becomes safer to gather in large groups, and with the availability of COVID-19 vaccines, more clubs will be able to resume their customary activity with Habitat for Humanity Landscape Projects.

Pat Caren

Habitat for Humanity Landscape Project Chairman

# HALL OF FAME

# HEADQUARTERS AND ENDOWMENT

Headquarters & Endowment Committee

Sue Angle, Chairman

April 13, 2021

FFGC’s Headquarters and Endowment Trustees continue to handle the business, repairs and maintenance of our headquarters building and grounds in Winter Park. Our committee conducts our business by meeting prior to our September, January, and pre-convention meetings, as well as a summer meeting which in August we were able to do in person at our headquarters. That was special since we miss the one-on-one contact, and by socially distancing it worked. Between these meetings, necessary business is conducted by emails and Zoom meetings.

As with everyone everywhere, the year of the pandemic has been a challenge for all. Because of the quarantine in Orange County, our building was closed at the end of March, 2020, and opened again at the beginning of June. During June and July, we had a Youth Nature Camp rent our building for 8 weeks which presented an interesting opportunity. Other rental events have continued since September with attendees in fewer numbers and we have been carefully monitoring the guidelines in place to assure strict compliance with noise regulations.

At the beginning of 2021, we were pleased to permit the City’s annual 5K Race use our parking lot for its starting line, and then we also allowed the staff of the Creative City Project “Down the Rabbit Hole” to use a few parking spaces while its production went on next door at Mead Gardens. This was greatly appreciated by all .

We had changes in our office personnel in 2020 when our Office Manager, LC Blass, moved out of the area. Jenn Cowin began working on September 8th and has taken on the tasks of Office Manager with a smile and willingness to learn and handle whatever is needed. The office is open to phone calls and visits from 9am to 4pm, Monday through Friday. We are happy to have Jenn working with us, and we are pleased with her friendly nature, her professionalism and her dedication to duty. I hope you have had the opportunity to speak with her – if not, she would love to meet you by phone or in person.

Susan Mello, our Grounds Chairman of almost 18 years, continues her work in the gardens and this Chairman enjoys working with her whenever possible. We’re happy to report that things are looking beautiful at our 60 year old FFGC headquarters.

After we had the city of Winter Park officials come to inspect our laurel oak tree just outside the Assembly Room, they sent crews to trim the trees whose limbs were near our power lines. The inspectors reported that they found our laurel oak to be one of the better ones in the entire city.

We recently found a large bee’s nest in that laurel oak tree - a different tree at the opposite end of our 3 acres from last year’s bees. Again we contacted the Humane Wildlife Management Company to relocate the bees from the tree, and seal the area at a cost was $589. The good news is that our location must be environmentally friendly to bring these pollinators to us – either that or they know they are safe since we have our Bee Chairman, Christy Linke, teaching us the importance of saving the bees.

Our Headquarters and Endowment Committee is also responsible for the Patron and Guardian of Gardening Honors which are the highest honors given by a club, circle, district, council or an individual to a garden club member in recognition of outstanding and distinguished service to the mission of FFGC. The information about honoring someone in your club can be found on our FFGC website, or contact this chairman for information.

We are so fortunate to have dedicated and caring Trustees on the Headquarters and Endowment Committee. They are:

President Al Latina, President Elect Marge Hendon, Treasurer Jana Walling, H&E Vice Chairman Sue Roberts, Secretary Karen Smith, Jo Ann Guise, Cissy Richardson and Mary Whisler. Headquarters Grounds Chairman, Susan Mello, completed two terms last year, so she attends as a guest. These members are sincerely appreciated for their service. Will they please stand so we can thank them with your applause.

Thank you.

# HIGH SCHOOL/INTERMEDIATE GARDENERS

#

# HISTORIAN

# HORTICULTURE

# INSURANCE

Report: Insurance

Kelley Wood

Chairman

March 30, 2021

This chairman took over responsibility from Barbara Horan in August 2019. Activity has been light as the request for insurance certificates of coverage have been minimal.

Recently worked on updating and renewing our Worker’s Compensation insurance with FBCI. We included the S.E.E.K salaries in the 2021 policy.

Renewals of other insurance will happen in the fall of 2021. I worked recently to bring our liability insurance back to the current numbers and events for 2021 as we had reduced our coverage in 2020 due to Covid-19.

# INVASIVE SPECIES

# JUNIOR GARDENERS

# LANDSCAPE DESIGN CONSULTANT’S COUNCIL

# LIFE MEMBERSHIPS

# MATCHING GRANTS

**Matching Grants Program Report**

Via Finance and SPC Committees

Marge Hendon and Gina Jogan, respective Chairmen

April convention 2021

As you are aware and have heard reported in the recent past, FFGC now has a **MATCHING GRANTS PROGRAM**. Together the Finance Committee and the Strategic Planning committee have established the criteria, have an application form which you can access online and will award up to $5,000 per year in grant funds for various projects for clubs or circles: Clubs and Circles are eligible for up to $500 in **MATCHING FUNDS** for:

a) Any activity (workshop, program or other educational event) aimed a**t increasing** **membership** by welcoming interested individuals to your Club/Circle.

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

c) Any activity to **increase awareness** of our organization’s mission, goals and objectives: *“The Florida Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc promotes the love of gardening, floral and landscape design, and civic and environmental responsibility, by providing education, resources and networking opportunities for our members, youth and community.”*

Before you hear the results of the **2021 MATCHING GRANTS PROGRAM**, I would like to give you a couple of facts:

* The Finance committee members received, read and voted on the applications.
* The votes were tallied in two ways: by percentage and by rank of average scores.
* There were 19 applications this year from 10 districts.

**….AND THE WINNERS OF THE FIRST FFGC MATCHING GRANTS PROGRAM ARE:**

$500-Garden Club by the Sea/Lily Park Revitalization Project (District 6)

$500-Garden Club of Halifax County/Vander Park Project (District 6)

$500-Lemon Bay Garden Club/Butterfly Garden Renovations (District 8)

$500 Valparaiso Garden Club/Paradise Gardens Renovations (District 1)

$500-Garden Club of Coral Springs/Million Orchid Project (District 11)

$500-Green Thumb Garden Club/Oyster Lake Beautification (District 1)

$500-Chipley Garden Club/replacing items damaged in hurricane (District 2)

$425-Jasmine Circle, Gainesville G C/Gainesville Opportunity Center Garden (D 5)

$300-Green Thumb Garden Club/Restore Project/Habitat-4- Humanity (D 1)

$275-Green Thumb Garden Club/John Horton Senior Center (District 1)

$250-Allamanda Circle, GC of Stuart/Gardens @ House of Refuge at Gilbert’s Bar (D10)

$204-Garden Club of Coral Springs/ Butterfly and Bee Garden Project (District 11)

**$4,954  Total amount of Matching Grant monies to be awarded**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| District # | Applications submitted | Applications won | Amount/total grants |
| 1 | 4` | 4 | $1575 |
| 2 | 1 | 1 | $500 |
| 3 | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| 4 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 5 | 2 | 1 | $425 |
| 6 | 3 | 2 | $1,000 |
| 7 | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| 8 | 1 | 1 | $500 |
| 9 | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| 10 | 3 | 1 | $250 |
| 11 | 2 | 2 | $704 |
| 12 | 0 | 0 | 0 |

# MEAD GARDENS

# MEMBERSHIP

 Report

 New Membership

 Ed Nendick

 Convention 2021

This year’s successes include;

 !. The covid shots have gotten into many of our Garden Club Members. We are safer to do the Wonderful things every club does to beautify the environment. We are free to continue educating our members thru work shops and classes.

 2. Our monthly messages are being published and sent to all District Directors and on our web site for all to enjoy.

 3. We have published a Membership and Retention Manual to be given out to the Assistant District Directors for use with their clubs. It details the things to do to get new members and to retain current ones.

This Year we will build upon the ideas that got new members

1. Advertise your clubs often. Place your meeting date, time, location, and topic of discussion in your local paper free listings of happenings to advertise. Publish the above on your Next-Door App under Gardening. Do these monthly. During the last several months of publishing Garden club Meeting dates etc. print your last meeting before summer and your return to meeting in the fall.
2. Ask your local Real estate agent to put out the FFGC brochures for their customers. Ask a Real Estate Agent to join your club. Put them on your advertising committee.

Please join us at convention this year. We are conducting the Scoop-EM UP Members class Monday April 12th at 10:30 AM EST. We will have fun and learn about getting and retaining Members.

Summary: In summary with the disappearance of the Welcome Wagon organizations, we are the place new people moving in can go to make friends, learn about their communities, learn what grows in their communities, and make a difference in those communities. There are 1,185 new people moving into Florida every Day!

Sincerely MR. Ed Nendick

# MEMBERSHIP RETENTION

 Report

Membership Retention

 April 2021 (Convention)

 Jane Nendick

WOW! What a challenging, but fun-filled year this has been! This Chairperson is soooo proud of all the Clubs who have found fabulous alternate ways to “meet” with Members—from Zoom, to outside activities, to meeting together in “small” groups out of the whole Club. We understand that most Clubs were able to still have their Guests Speakers, either via Zoom or join the meeting via internet! THIS IS THE WAY TO KEEP MEMBERS EXCITED! THIS IS A WAY TO INVITE PROSPECTIVE MEMBERS TO HAVE SOME FUN, WHILE LEARNING AND STAYING “SAFE”!!! Club/Circle Presidents, if you have not yet surveyed your Club for “satisfaction” of membership, please do so NOW!!! Now is the time for Members to re-up their membership, and NOW is the time to stress the VALUE of their membership, not just locally, but also the VALUE with FFGC!

The NEW Assistant District Directors will be receiving special training on all aspects of Garden Club/FFGC Membership, so we will be able to communicate much more effectively with every Club across the State. Both FFGC Membership Chairs have now written an IDEA MEMBERSHIP MANUAL featuring over 100 ideas on Recruitment and Retention of Members. WE ARE ALWAYS WELCOME TO YOUR IDEAS AND SUGGESTIONS!!!

We are so grateful for the positive support of Al Latina’s Administration, and we look forward to a fabulous relationship with the Marge Hendon Administration!!!

# NGC’S 4-5 STAR MEMBERS

# NGC ENVIRONMENTAL SCHOOL-FFGC SCHOOL CHAIRMAN/CREDENTIALS

# NGC GARDENING SCHOOL-FFGC SCHOOL CHAIRMAN/CREDENTIALS

NGC Gardening School State Chairman

Barbara Hadsell

April 11, 2021

NGC Gardening School , Series 8, Deland, was concluded in January of 2021 via Zoom with Jennifer Condo as local chairman. The total number of classroom participants (Courses 1 and 2) was 77. And the total number participating for Courses 3 and 4 via Zoom was 103. The total number receiving either credit for student participation or refreshing was 170. Students from West Palm Beach, Series 9, were invited to complete their Courses 3 and 4 vis the Deland Zoom Courses No new Series in Gardening School has been registered to date..

At present time Florida has:

101 GS Consultants (completed all four courses) in Good Standig

5 GS Emeritus consultants (Master consultants approved to become emeritus)

239 individual Gardening School participants contact information and dates of Courses attended is contained on the GS spreadsheet on file on the special Google drive at FFGC headquarters.

11 GS Consultants Good Standing Dates expired on 12/31/2020.All who had valid email addresses were notified.

Clubs and Districts are encouraged to hold Zoom or in-person Courses later in the year when it is safe to do so and to ask for assistance if they wish to hold a Course using the Zoom platform

Free Workshops were offered to all NGC Members during January and February at no cost by the Michigan Federation of Garden Clubs on how to use all aspects of Zoom.

It has been my pleasure to serve as the FFGC Chairman for the NGC Gardening Schools for the past six years. There have been six series completed during that time. I have emailed the updated spreadsheet to FFGC Headquarters where the NGC Schools database is being saved on a Google Drive. I will be happy to assist whoever our FFGC President appoints to the position.

SUMMARY: 2015-2921—6 NGC Gardening Series completed.

# NGC LANDSCAPE DESIGN SCHOOL-FFGC SCHOOL CHAIRMAN/CREDENTIALS

NGC Landscape Design State Chairman

April 13, 2021

Susan Roberts

As NGC Landscape Design State chairman and Credentials Chairman my job is to keep the landscape design consultants database up-to-date and accurate. The excel spreadsheet is on my personal computer but has been stored on the headquarters google drive for safe keeping.

After each LDS course held in Florida I update/add information to the database for each Florida student/consultant/master consultant. I also receive information from other state chairman about Florida students who attended courses elsewhere (now possible due to ZOOM courses).

After every course I communicate the roster information to a regional accrediting chairman who in turn sends the information to other state chairmen when necessary and to NGC for their database updates.

We completed one LDS series this year sponsored by the Ft. Myers Lee County Council. From that series we added 22 new consultants to our roster. Another series sponsored by Lakewood Ranch has completed two courses. The third and fourth classes have been delayed but are planned to be completed soon.

At present we have 89 Students, 59 Provisional Students, 83 Consultants, 43 Master Consultants and 5 Emeritus consultants for a total of 279 participants in the program.

Summary: As state LDS chairman I keep all records of state participants in the landscape design NGC courses and act as a liaison between the course managers and NGC to ensure that all the requirements for the classes are met and the appropriate paperwork and records are forwarded on to NGC.

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# PENNY PINES

Penny Pines Report

Andrea Finn, Chairman

April 12, 2021

Penny Pines began as a conservation program, and the conservation effort entails the planting of replacement seedlings that are indigenous (not only pine trees), to forested areas damaged by insects, fires or natural catastrophes. The plantations provide soil and water shed protection, soil stabilization, as well as beauty and shade for recreation.

Penny Pines plantation seedlings vary in composition and size, depending upon the region and type of trees selected. However, plantations may consist of up to 200 seedlings each, which means that more than 200,000 trees were planted by the monetary contributions from garden club members during 2019 through 2020.

In the June 1, 2019 through May 31, 2020 NGC administration year, members of NGC donated $71,944 to U.S. state and national forests. This amount translates to 1,058 Penny Pines plantations.

Donations to Penny Pines during this period came from garden clubs from across the U.S. FLORIDA LED THE WAY WITH THE MOST PLANTATION DONATIONS.

CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL THE GARDEN CLUBS IN FLORIDA FOR THEIR DONATIONS! JOB WELL DONE!!

To those clubs who have never donated, consider donating to the Penny Pines program. It’s a simple, easy way for individuals and clubs to play an active role in the restoration of our forests. A $68 donation buys a lot of seedlings!

Andrea Finn, Chairman

Penny Pines Program

**SUMMARY: Florida Garden Clubs donated the most money to the Penny Pines Program in NGC for the period June 1, 2092 to May 31, 2020.**

# PLANNED GIVING

 **ANNUAL REPORT**

 **PLANNED GIVING**

 **April 11, 2021**

 **Carolyn Schaag**

One memorial donation was received during the past year for the *Gifts Today for Tomorrow*

Endowment Fund.

The Planned Giving Committee will create publicity during the next administration to make more members aware of the Fund.

 **Carolyn Schaag, Chairman**

 **Planned Giving**

# PLANT AMERICA WITH TREES

# PROTOCOL

Report

Protocol

Jo Ann Guise

April 15, 2021

This chairman sent the FFGC President, Al Latina and 2021 Convention Chairman, Kathleen Terlizzo, a list of information needed by the Protocol Committee in late summer of 2020. There was still a question if the 2021 Convention would be virtual or in person.

When the decision was finally made that it would be in person, this chairman received information from the FFGC President regarding assignments for the meals and Business meetings for the FFGC’s 94th State Convention. The information was used for setting up the Head Tables, preparing the Presiding Officer’s patter and seating for the Convention. A preliminary list of individuals who would need place cards was prepared and sent to Sue Roberts, assisting the Protocol Chairman. As more names became available, especially for the Installation, they were also sent to Sue.

Meals and Business meetings were held in the same room. With the necessary CDC and hotel requirements and guidelines for safe distancing in all events, preparations began for this chairman to establish a seating solution. The hotel allowed a MAX of 6 people seated at a round table usually for 10. “PODS” were established to have registrants sit with only members of their Districts. The Districts had tables assigned to them depending on the number of registrants. At ‘Honor’ tables were the Former Presidents, FFGC Officers not on the dais or Head Table, Pages, and those needing to be near the floor podium. Most folks followed the directions; there are always a few who feel rules don’t apply to them. The challenges were the late cancellations and registrants who were, of course, in different Districts for seating purposes.

There were more 1st timers attending this Convention than members of the BOD. Al Latina outgoing President presided admirably while enduring serious health issues.

Jo Ann Guise

FFGC Protocol Chairman

# ROADSIDE BEAUTIFICATION/ PATHS OF SUNSHINE

Roadside Beautification/Pathways of Sunshine Chairman’s Report

 Brenda Luedeman

 January 13, 2021

This chairman was blessed to work with Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) liaison and Landscape Architect Jeff Caster last year. With his guidance, communications were shared with FDOT districts, encouraging nominations of meritorious efforts by roadside maintenance crews responsible for designing, establishing, and maintaining sustainable Roadside Beautification Programs and Paths of Sunshine. FFGC members Sue Angle, Christie Linke, Helen Purvis, and Carol Hall served with me as jurists along with FDOT liaisons Jeff Caster and Gary Henry in mid February 2020 to evaluate the merits of the five applications received. Then Covid-19 emerged and changed the world as we’ve known it. All garden club activities were canceled for the foreseeable future compelling changes in the awards process. This coincided with the retirement of Mr. Caster on 2/29/2020 the passing of Gary Henry. Thankfully the new FDOT Wildflower Program Contracter Jeff Norcini is an enthusiastic partner in establishing new ways to recognize FDOT accomplishments and collaborate with the Florida Wildflower Foundation (FWF). Award recipients were announced to the FFGC Board and membership at ZOOM meetings and a powerpoint describing and depicting applicant accomplishments was created for all to appreciate now and in future. FFGC’s Awards Chairman Valerie Seinfeld provided guidance and office manger Jenn Cowin created and mailed award certificates directly to recipients in lieu of FFGC’s usual procedure of presenting them in person at district meetings. Six nominations were received for the 2021 Ella P Woods POS awards and jury panelists representing FFGC, FDOT, and FWF with different areas of expertise met virtually in February to evaluate the applications. This chairman thanks the jurists who assisted me this year including Sue Angle, Christie Linke and Carol Hall of FFGC, Dena Wild of FWF, Jeff Caster retired FDOT, and Jeff Norcini FDOT. Recipients of the 2021 awards are: 1st place – FDOT District 2 in FFGC D-V Tie for 2nd place - FDOT District 3 in FFGC D-II and 2nd place – FDOT District 8 in FFGC D-X 3rd place – FDOT District 2 in FFGC D-III Honorable mention: FDOT District 2 in FFGC D-III and FDOT District 2 in FFGC D-III Please take time to view the 2020 and 2021 Paths of Sunshine Awards details in the Powerpoints on FFGC’s website, see the Ella P Woods “Paths of Sunshine” award educational exhibit at meetings, and enjoy the wildflowers along Florida’s scening highways which continue to thrive despite the pandemic. Respectfully submitted, Brenda Luedeman 2019-2021 Roadside Beautification/Pathways of Sunshine Chairman bkluedeman@gmail.com cell or text: 863-207-3330

#

# SCHOLARSHIP AND ENDOWMENT

Scholarship and Endowment Committee

Board report April 12, 2021

Helen Purvis, Chairman

I hope you have enjoyed the slides of the recipients of the 2020-21 scholarships from FFGC. 8 $3000 scholarships were awarded to

Clara Arrate – freshman at Florida State University

Wade Collins – junior at Warner University

Caroline Gordon – freshman at University of Florida

Blaire Kleiman – Florida International University

Aubrey Lanier – Sophomore at Florida Gulf Coast University

Sophia Pearce – freshman at College of the Florida Keys

Bentley Maddox – sophomore at Florida State University

Gabriella Whisler, freshman at Santa Fe College

$1500 to

Emily Schaag- senior at Nova Southeastern University

Joseph Vernon – freshman at Tallahassee Community College

These scholarships were made possible by the generous donations of all of you and all members of the Florida Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc. Recognition is given at the annual conventions to those donations of $1000 or greater. But I would like to give recognition for **ALL donations** at this time. A sincere THANK YOU to all of you.

At this time President Latino and Jana Walling, Endowment Chairman, will join me in giving certificates of recognition. I will be calling those who I know are here today.

$1000 donation from District IV, Joy Elrod, Director.

$1000 donation from District VI, Judy Judoin, Director.

$3000 donation from Punta Gorda Garden Club, Mary Yeomans, President, in District IX

$1000 donation in 2019, $1000 in 2020 and $1000 in 2021 for a total of $3,000 to Tallahassee Garden Club, Joan Stout, President, In District III.

Those not here today but will be given recognition at their district meetings are:

$1000 donation from Boynton Beach Garden Club, District X

$1000 donation from Live Oak Garden Club, District III

The deadline for FFGC scholarships is right around the corner, May 1, and you can talk to me or go on the website under Youth scholarships for the forms if you know of a deserving student.

# SEEK CONFERENCE

 SEEK 2021 Report

 Mary Ann Whisler/Chairman

 April 2021

Our theme this year is “Land, Water and Air”

For those who are unfamiliar with the FFGC SEEK Program, it is an educational conference for students finishing the 9th grade to students starting the 12th grade. Students are encouraged to attend all three years. Our garden clubs across the state contact science teachers at local high schools to find students interested in the environment. FFGC wants to encourage these students to be our future environmental advocates. FFGC members can retrieve all the flyers and registration information from our FFGC.org website. The conference will be limited to approximately 25 to 30 students due to CDC Guidelines.

This year SEEK 2021 will not be at the University of Florida Gainesville campus. Due to COVID the University decided to cancel all “in-person” summer programs. However, the Committee determined we could still have the in-person conference and follow the CDC Guidelines. With the help of a former SEEK student and FFGC Scholarship winner, Quinn Zackarias, (a grad student leaving this fall for Yale to work on his PHD), we are putting together a great educational program. SEEK will begin on Monday, June 28th to Thursday July 1st. We will follow all CDC Guidelines and require mask and social distancing. The committee wants the conference to be safe and healthy. There will be two students per hotel room with a private bathroom. All meals will be catered and weather permitting most meals will be outdoor. Students will arrive o Monday at the hotel between 10 am to 11:30 am. There will be a short welcome and review of the next few days. Lunch will be served followed by afternoon presentations and a field trip to Sweetwater Preserve, a wetlands preserve that reclaims water runoff from roads. The host of this field trip is Dr. Kaplan/Dept of Biological Engineering. His research and design was the culmination of the Sweetwater Preserve. Other conference activities: field excursions to springs located in state parks and an experimental solar car lab. We also will have an Associate Professor working on Ever Glades restoration. Our final day on Thursday will be a presentation from Dr. Donlley on the UF Research program for undergrad’s, a UF Panel to discuss Environmental Careers at UF, and student presentations on environmental issues. We plan to invite parents and garden club members (reservations required) to attend the wrap up.

Our state is experiencing a vast population growth with no slowdown in the near future. By helping educate our young and future Floridians as well as our members, we will continue to have advocates interested in the conservation of Florida.

Together we will make a difference!

Summary:

SEEK 2021 Gainesville Florida

Changing the location of SEEK

All Star panel of Professors and Grad Students presenting

# SHORT COURSE – UF

# SHORT COURSE – NORTH

Kathy “Kat” Spieker, Short Course North Chairman

1530 Royal Palm Drive

Niceville, FL 32578-3529

850-687-6381

spkfreedom@embarqmail.com

SCN Report Convention April 11-13,2021

You are cordially invited to attend FFGC’s Short Course North (SCN) 2021. This year’s theme “Defend Florida: Its Beauty, Resources, and History” was inspired by past Federation President Blanche C. Covington’s (1941-1945) theme “Defend Home and Country—Its Beauty, Morale and Bounty” (from *The Florida Gardener* Winter 2019 edition). Though a different war was waged in the 1940s, her theme inspires us as to defend Florida against pollution, Global Warming, and other challenging issues.

Our program kicks off on 12 August 2021 from 8:00 a.m. to 3 p.m. and continues

13 August same time. The location of this year’s event is to be determined.

Registration will be available on the FFGC website. Tickets cost $65; however, Garden Club Members receive a discount for a cost of $50. Lunch is included.

Master Gardeners attending both days receive 10 Continuing Education Units.

Of course all of our plans hinge on the pandemic restrictions being eased to the point that safe meetings can be held.

After June 1, 2021 SCN will re-evaluate our scheduled date of August 12 and 13 2021 due to facility restrictions and reluctance of and restrictions on the governmental speakers to be allowed to speak to a group in an enclosed area, we will determine whether to move the classes to October or November.

Stay tuned and keep planning to join us!!!

Respectfully Submitted,

Kathy “Kat” Spieker

Short Course North Chairman

# SHORT COURSE – TROPICAL

# SMOKEY BEAR-WOODSY OWL

Smokey Bear & Woodsy Owl

Jill Anderson, Chairman

March, 2021

Posters from four (4) FFGC clubs were submitted to this chairman for 2021 Woodsy

Owl Poster Contest award. Two clubs judged their posters at the local level and sent

just the winning posters to be judged at the state level. Local reports were sent along

with the winning posters to this chairman. Smokey Bear posters were not a part of the

contest this year. The 5 winners were submitted to the Deep South poster chairman.

Several articles were sent to The Florida Gardener during the year to encourage 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 was 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.

Garden Clubs are encouraged to make this youth contest part of their summer youth

programs.

**2021 WOODSY OWL POSTER CONTEST PARTICIPATION**

# SOCIAL MEDIA

April 11, 2021

Social Media Chair

Valerie Seinfeld

****

# S**OLAR ENERGY/WIND POWER**

Margaret Chodosh
Solar and Wind Energy Chair

I found this relatively concise discussion of the Florida solar power industry:
<https://www.hklaw.com/en/insights/publications/2021/02/update-on-solar-power-plant-development-in-florida>

Also, details about the solar tour: <https://ases.org/tour/>

Margaret Chodosh, Wind and Solar Chairman

# STRATEGIC PLANNING COMMITTEE

Report

Strategic Planning Committee

Gina V. Jogan, Chairman

April Board of Directors’ Meeting, 2021

Your Strategic Planning Committee continues to look at issues facing FFGC as we go forward in our ADVISORY capacity, looking at and assessing the immediate and long-range needs of the organization.

The new **MATCHING GRANTS PROGRAM** is off to a great start for its inaugural debut….12 Matching Grant winners will be/were announced and receive/d their awards at the Luncheon on Monday (April 12,2021). A total of $4,954 will be/was presented this year. Nineteen applications were received!

Several committees plan to try out EasyReg using the **MEMBERSHIP PLATFORM,** (Wild Apricot/Personify) for registrations…why pay for something we already have on hand?

**MEMBERSHIP RETENTION AND RECRUITMENT** remains an issue. Without members, we have no organization! After our recent meeting, a ‘round table ZOOM” was held focusing on Membership Diversity: some of the topics included **language barriers, the cost of membership dues** and **overcoming generational bias**. Ways to recruit and retain members were also discussed.

Your ***FLORIDA GARDENER* MAGAZINE** delivery is going to change in the near future. If you have an email address, that’s how you will be receiving your magazine.

All the official **FORMS** listed on the FFGC website have been updated. These forms now have the official FFGC logo on them and have a consistent format. Those belonging to other entities, such as FFSJ (Judges) or TriCouncil (LD, GS or ES) have their own logos and are linked to those entities. We hope to have the forms fillable online soon.

**NOTE:**  Our FFGC Insurance and liability limits the number of people in the organization who can legally handle the monies of the organization. All monies should go directly to the FFGC Treasurer with notation as to what the money is for in the MEMO line…. The Treasurer will inform chairmen of funds received.

Donations to the **100th ANNIVERSARY of FFGC** are slow coming in. Please consider this in your club’s 2021 budget…or give from your personal budget for the coming year…..you can now donate directly using the **DONATE** button on the FFGC website. Some items planned for the celebration may have to be sidelined for lack of funds.

An article has been written by this chairman for **The Florida Gardener** magazine explaining more about what this Standing Committee does and how it works in its capacity as an advisory committee.

In Summary: The STRATEGIC PLANNING COMMITTEE continues to be here for YOU and this organization and will research issues that you bring to us…don’t be shy….no suggestion is too small or too big!

# TOURS & TRAVEL

# TREES & REFORESTATION

Kathy “Kat” Spieker,Trees and Reforestation Chairman

1530 Royal Palm Drive

Niceville, FL 32578-3529

850-687-6381

spkfreedom@embarqmail.com

Trees and Reforestation Report Convention April 11-13,2021

Trees and Reforestation requested that all garden clubs of FFGC record and report trees that they planted during the period from Mar 1, 2020 through Feb 28, 2021.

Thanks to the immense effort and hard work of those clubs throughout the year, **289,138** trees were planted comprised of **227** tree species.

Certificates of recognition are being awarded to the following clubs and/or circles for their extraordinary efforts to restore trees for habitat and beauty throughout the state.

**SPECIAL RECOGNITION TO:**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Lake City Garden Club** | **277,035** |
| **for 277,000 long leaf and slash pine seedlings planted on members’ farms and ranches****TOP TEN CLUBS** |  |
| **#1 Tallahassee Garden Club** | **9515** |
| **#2 Clermont Garden Club** | **704** |
| **#3Gainsville Garden Club** | **572** |
| **#4 Temple Terrace** | **383** |
| **#5 The Garden Club of Deland** | **213** |
| **#6 Chipley** | **112** |
| **#7 Live Oak Garden Club** | **102** |
| **#8 Floral City Garden Club** | **73** |
| **#9 Newberry Garden Club** | **68** |
| **#10 The Garden Club of Lakeland, Inc** | **59** |

Respectfully Submitted,

Kathy “Kat” Spieker, Trees and Reforestation Chairman

# TRI-COUNCIL PRESIDENT

 **Inger Jones**

**President Tri-Council**

**Convention Meeting**

**April 11, 2021**

**Good Afternoon! It is great to see all of you today.**

**Due to covid-19 we all experienced changes in our lives and activities. Tri-Council was no exception. We missed the in-person meetings but due to covid-19 many of our consultants attended Zoom schools for Environmental, Gardening and Landscape Design in the comfort of their homes.**

**It was during this time that Tri-Council took the opportunity to make changes/updates to their bylaws. This revitalization was accomplished. It was voted on and adopted on February 11, 2021 with an effective date of APRIL 1, 2021.**

**With schools being held in Florida and all over the country, we look forward to an increase in Florida consultant membership. New Membership forms and applications are on the FFGC website under Members.**

**I wish to thank all Tri-Council members for their support and cooperation during 2019-021. I look forward to our new administration and working with our new President.**

**In closing,**

**As a Tri-Council member I will continue to spread the word by encouraging garden clubs, circles and districts to host NGC schools. Remember – “WE ARE ALL CONNECTED AS WE ARE ALL AFFECTED”.**

**Thank you,**

Inger Jones

# VIRTUAL PLATFORM TEAM

Report: Virtual Platform Team

Kelley Wood

Chairman

March 30, 2021

The 2-day January 2021 board of director’s meetings were held via zoom with great success.

The effort was a great success and we were able to hold all of the needed committee meetings ahead of the board meeting.

We continue to use ZOOM for a number of committee meetings and helping out Districts and Clubs learn how to use the platform to continue to operate in light of Covid-19.

Sue Roberts has worked out a procedure to use our Google Drive to store critical business information. Jenn has developed a file structure and an instruction letter was sent to all Committee Chairmen to send their documents to headquarters to file.

# WATER AND WETLANDS

**Water and Wetlands Report**

**Water and Wetlands' Chairman**

**Jackie Host**

**April 11-14, 2021**

This Director has signed petitions, sent emails and letters, to many, many

diverse governmental bodies and officials over the last year supporting citizens

throughout Florida who are fighting to keep clean water, land and air for

themselves and future generations. Every day alerts of sewage spills, salt water

intrusion, red tides, pollution, pollution, and pollution, light up my computer

from all over Florida. Not only everything from the springs, rivers, and lakes

inside Florida suffer pollution, but also the ocean waters that surround us are

suffering. The wildlife is dying. The plants are dying. People are dying because

contaminants that cause cancer and other disorders are seeping into our

potable water systems.

At one time we did not know how devastating phosphate mines and other

mining can be to the earth. Now we do, and yet the greedy will keep doing it as

long as the government sides with big businesses and industries instead of the

citizens. Why should anyone get away with poisoning our water, our land, and

natural resources? It should be a criminal offense to knowingly do practices

that pollute the environment. Paying fines are not enough.

Now we have a crisis caused by Piney Point phosphate plant located in Tampa

Bay. After many years of poor oversight by our government of the phosphate

mining industries' toxic discharges, they have caused devastation so vast it can

be seen from outer-space. Most of the phosphate mines have been bankrupted

and the industry has basically walked away and left Floridians to pay for the

massive clean up bills.

**T**he loss and devastation to the environment of the beautiful Tampa Bay is

shameful. Yet again and again local community governments fall for the same

old, “more jobs in the community” and “economic stimulus” lies. Unbelievably,

after citizens and scientists point to the horrible mess the industry left in other

areas, new phosphate mines are still threatening to plop themselves down in

pristine areas of Florida. Don't let them do it. Our natural resources are

priceless.

SUMMARY: The Piney Point phosphate plant and other phosphate companies

have caused a massive environmental crisis in the Tampa Bay Area from

decades of toxic discharges. The devastation the industry caused is so vast it

can be seen from space. People who knowingly keep doing practices that cause

environmental harm should be held accountable and face criminal and civil

prosecution.

Respectfully submitted: Jackie Host, Water and Wetlands Chairman

# WEBSITE EDITOR

FFGC Website Editor

April 13, 2021

 Convention board meeting

Susan Roberts

As FFGC Website Editor for the past two years I have strived to make the website more user friendly and more accurate. I have presented the website to the new directors who discovered that there was a great deal of information there that would answer most of their questions. I encourage all members to spend some time looking around the website. There is a lot of information there and it cannot all be visible on the home page. You need to learn the organization for the website to be most useful.

This quarter I have redone the FFGC Honors page to include all available honors in one place and updated all the recipient’s lists. I added the Paths of Sunshine video which was not presented at the last board meeting.

A page for Convention 2021 was created and has all the important information such as registration and hotel information, opportunity drawing, advertising rates and schedule. This page will be removed after the convention completes.

Matching Grants information was added and all publications links are kept up to date as new issues of fl. Gardener and NGC publications come out.

Also behind the scenes, I have reorganized the file structure to be easily managed and eliminated many old files. We have also update most forms to follow a similar format with a logo in the upper left corner and for the form to be an enterable pdf form where necessary.

In addition to organizing the file structure we also implemented a backup/disaster recovery file storage mechanisms using a Google Drive associated with headquarters google id. Files essential to FFGC with critical data should be sent to FFGC Office manager for storage on the google drive. This will hopefully insure that FFGC can recreate or access critical data if ever needed. I have defined a naming structure for these files and the office manager will keep a log of files voluntarily stored there by board chairman and officers so that we will be able to request updated files on a regular basis.

There will be many updates required after the convention completes for the new administration.

Summary: This chairman strives to keep the website up to date and usable for our membership.

# WEKIVA YOUTH CAMP

Wekiva Youth Camp Annual Report

Tina V. Tuttle

12 April 2021, Daytona Beach

For the first time in its 47-year history, Camp 2020 was cancelled due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The State Park Service and Wekiwa Springs State Park did not open the Youth Camp for our use so all registrations were refunded and camper families were notified of the situation by email and Facebook. To alleviate some of the disappointment, it was decided to try and pull together an online, virtual version of camp. It was a success beyond our dreams! The counselors, coordinated by Olivia Morand, recorded all the camp songs, blessings, the Conservation Pledge, nature/history/environmental minute presentations, so all could sing-along, with lyrics on the screen. The amazing Kathy “Birdie” Rigling, our Nature Coordinator prepared six nature study lessons and activities on a variety of animals found at camp. Director, John Morand gave a welcome segment and our webmaster, Chas Barber, got it all set up on the website so that each Sunday, camper families could log on and join in the fun! We had over 1000 folks each week from as far away as Vietnam and Germany! The material remains online for anyone to see. We have submitted this virtual effort to NGC for an award.

Leaders In Training, our 9th grade program, was canceled later in the summer of 2020 when the Marine Science Station remained closed to us. Devon Villereal-Dabb coordinated her volunteers to present the entire LIT on Zoom the first week of August with 28 campers attending. Those campers were interviewed to become our Counselors in Training for summer of 2021.

Ben Morand retyped the entire *Wekiva Song Book* and we had 500 copies printed at a cost of $600. They will be for sale at camp in 2021.

We purchased many COVID-related items for camp including 2 hand washing stations, 2 temporal scanners and 2 hand sanitizing stations. We have procedures in place to make registration as safe as possible. Three small refrigerators were purchased for volunteer cabins ($247 each).

Two Wekiva Youth Camp Committee meetings were held by Zoom, one in September and one in December. All committee members continued to work toward a safe and efficient camping season.

Volunteer Recognition was on our list of projects. 100 black dog tags were etched to be given to volunteers who have served more than 5 years. To recognize the volunteer efforts of Edward Schaag, Tequesta Volunteer Cabin was dedicated to his service with a small plaque during Wekiva Volunteer Training in February 2021.

A power point presentation was developed to outline all 6 programs at camp. It was debuted at a combined circle meeting at Garden Club of Jacksonville in March 2021 and will be shown at convention during a Wekiva workshop. Also, during the workshop, attendees will make a journal and be given a craft bird, birds being the theme for summer 2021.

Clubs continue to be more than generous in their donations toward camp by giving camperships and donating specifically to building and maintenance and wish list items.

In November of 2020 we were informed of a generous donation of $700,000 from the Ann and Troy Todd family of Longwood (and Sweetwater Oaks Garden Club) through the National Philanthropic Trust. We prepared a wish list of projects and met with the family in early December. When we were informed that they were only interested in new construction, a 2-room multi-purpose space was designed but deemed too small in scope. An architect firm, Make Designs, was contacted to design a building that would seat 200 people, a project approved in the Wekiwa Springs Unit Management Plan. Make Designs presented their fabulous design to the family and our committee in February. Unfortunately, the entire concept has to be scraped when miscommunication led us to determine the IRS restrictions for bidding, permitting cost overruns and such became prohibitive. Instead, it was decided in March 2021 that the Todds would help us rebuild and furnish the office/clinic that burned in April of 2019. We are currently coordinating with the state park system (letter sent to Eric Draper in March, meeting with district supervisor Larry Fooks in March, also) and the Donor Advised Trust to ensure construction starts in the fall with hopes of a grand opening next spring.

Three boxes of passdown materials and history plus a thumb drive of all camp correspondence was given to my successor, Christy Linke. Christy has taken over many aspects of preparing for camp 2021 such as contracting, fingerprinting, financial aid requests and ordering needed supplies. Camp is in good hands!

I will volunteer as camp chairman for Week 4 of camp this summer.

Tina Tuttle

Summary: Camp 2020 was canceled due to COVID but held virtually on our wekivayouthcamp.org website. Committee meetings were held by Zoom. A donation of $700,000 will be used to rebuild the office/clinic building. All related camp materials have been passed down to incoming 2VP, Christy Linke.

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January 2 submitted Building Program to architects at Make Design Studios

Jan exchanged many emails with architects and camp manager and Todd family to decern contracting issues with National Philanthropic Trust (NPT) and their Donor Advised Fund (DAF) and FFGC.

Jan Ordered COVID related items for WVT and camp (2 hand wash stations, 2 sanitizer stations, 2 temporal scanners—sanitizer stations had to be returned at request of Christy)

Jan 11 ‘attended’ Finance Committee Zoom meeting—gave Wekiva B&M request for new /replacement refrigerator

Jan 12 phone conversation with FFGC lawyer Justin Munizzi of Longwood on contract issues to build at camp.

Jan 15-18 prepared craft items (Balloon birds) for WVT. Prepared ‘How To’ directions for same.

Jan 29 Rewrote minutes for December Wekiva Committee meeting and forwarded to secretary. Spoke with architects for Todd building regarding paved parking.

Feb 5 meeting at Wekiva Youth Camp with Todd family, architect presentation. Found out about getting 3 bids per IRS and reducing building expense to $500K plus $200K for camperships…Told them we didn’t need that much in camperships.

Feb 5-7 Attended WVT in Apopka…conducted craft session making ugly birds, gourd birds, provided s’mores skewers.

Feb 6 chaired the dedication of Tequesta cabin in memory of Ed Schaag…set up and reception.

Feb 7 Phone conversation with Cindy and Peter Zimmermann regarding who is in charge and has final say. They will get 2 more bids for project. Communication is key! Typed memorandum for the record of phonecon

Feb 15 Worked on Wekiva Powerpoint and Volunteer Recognition. Zoom with Todd building ad hoc committee and Zimmermanns. Decided to cancel new building plans and go with rebuild of Office/Clinic.

March 8-9 Traveled to Jacksonville to give Powerpoint program on ‘Wekiva’ to the combined garden clubs of Jacksonville.

March 9-11 Worked on Wekiva items: Euchee shower door, picked up various mail and checks, another refrigerator for third volunteer cabin. Met with Robert Brooks and Larry Fooks, district mgr., regarding office/clinic and Zimmermanns…Plans are 60% complete. Construction could begin as early as August and be completed by next spring.

March 13 Received and forwarded to Marge, a letter prepared by Larry Fooks, outlining process to rebuild office/clinic with Todd donated money. Requested invoices from Robert for money spent so far by the state.

March 24 Sent letter to Eric Draper, State Parks, informing him of Todd donation to complete Office/Clinic.

# WEKIVA CAMP REPORT

 FFGC Wekiva Camp Report

Christy Linke

March 19, 2021

At the January Board Meeting President Al Latina appointed me Chairman of a Standing Committee for Wekiva Youth Camp. This Chairman knows that being chairman of a camp comes with a lot of responsibility. This year camp comes with COVID challenges and concerns. But we are having camp and we will make it work. Camp is 65% full and campers are still being registered. With parents waiting to see where we are with COVID and as camp gets closer we are confident that this number will rise.

Volunteers are sending in their registrations on easy reg and as fast as they come in this Chairman is sending responses back that it was received. Volunteers concerns are COVID related and what is being implemented. With COVID vaccines becoming more plentiful and Volunteers receiving them it will lessen the fear a bit of contracting COVID. To date we have 28 Volunteers that have sent in their forms to volunteer this summer.

A meeting was held in January by Tina where it was discussed that we will have portable hand washing stations as well as portable sanitizing stations. These items have been purchased as well as temporal thermometers. Temperatures will be taken on arrival day at camp. The kitchen staff will be serving the campers this year instead of the normal serve yourself lines. This was implemented at Wekiva Volunteer Training and worked out quite well.

Contracts have been written and signed by the Director of Camp, John Morand, Craft Co-Coordinator, Julie Valentine, Nature Co-Coordinator, Kathy Rigling, Food Services 2021, Teresa Mahoney, and Cleaning Services, Michelle Williams.

This Chairman will have a ZOOM Meeting, after this Convention, with all staff and those involved in making Camp Wekiva 2021 a safe and healthy place for all those that attend.

Summary: Camp Wekiva this summer does bring challenges and this chairman knows we need to make it a safe and healthy place for all those that attend. With the precautions we are taking we know that we can still make Camp Wekiva memorable for all campers who attend this year. So Here’s to Camp Wekiva!

# WEKIVA VOLUNTEER TRAINING

 FFGC Wekiva Youth Camp Report

Christy Linke

March 19, 2021

This Chairman is pleased to report that we had 23 attendees at Wekiva Volunteer Training, February 5-7th, 2021. On Saturday, February 6th we had the Ed Schaag’s dedication of Tequesta where we had 32 more guests attend for lunch. That day the plaque that honored Ed was revealed above the door of Tequesta and what an honor it was to have Carolyn and the Schaag family present for this memorable dedication. Thank you to Tina who prepared for this day.

Of course with COVID masks were worn, temperatures were taken arrival day, and social distancing was at its best. The kitchen staff served the food which took place of our usual buffet style line. Even with all of the COVID rules put in place everyone who attended had a great time and it was just felt good to be back at Camp Wekiva.

Open House Sunday, February 7th was quite a surprise to all of us. We couldn’t believe how many families came to tour the camp. 21 families in all!! The primary question was are we having it and what type of precautions will be taking against COVID. With explaining what we will be putting in place, they were less concerned and said they were going to sign up their children, and some already had signed them up prior to open house.

Summary: Wekiva Volunteer Training was held along with a dedication honoring Ed Scgaag. Wekiva Open House was busier than ever with families coming out that day.

# WILDFLOWER REPORT

 ANNUAL REPORT

 FLORIDA WILDFLOWER

 FOUNDATION LIAISON

 Carolyn Schaag

 April 11, 2021

FWF Board Member Terry Zinn will present a Webinar on Wildflower Farming on March 23. To kick off National Wildflower Week, which is the first full week of May, two field trips are planned on May 1. One is Wildflower Farm Day at Terry Zinn’s Alachua farm; and second is SERV service day removing invasives at Spring Hammock Preserve in Seminole County.

The sale of the Wildflower Tag continues to climb and with grants, membership fees, and individual and business contributions more funds are available to support the many ongoing programs in Planting and Conservation, Research, and Education.

Marketing is promoted through county mail campaigns, rack cards, the Florida Gardener ad, social media and newsletter prompts, and the FWF web site.

Planting grant applications are received and granted through the Viva Florida program and the Seedlings for Schools program.

Research projects are being done in several areas of the state and the findings are shared in different ways.

Education has always been high on the list. Currently volunteers are working to translate the FWF handouts to Spanish. Presentations to garden clubs, FNPS chapters, etc. are being done via Zoom.

The Florida Wildflower Foundation has 12 members on the Board of Directors. Monthly meetings are held on the third Thursday of each month. Currently this board member is serving on a special bequest team in final recommendations for the use of bequest from Gary Henry’s estate.

 Carolyn Schaag, Liaison

 Florida Wildflower Foundation

SUMMARY: Programs and projects abound throughout the state in Education, Research, and Planting of native wildflowers.