

SPECIAL 100TH ANNIVERSARY EDITION 1924-2024 —100 YEARS OF SERVING EARTH—

THE FLORIDA GARDENER

VOL. 62 No. 1 OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF FLORIDA FEDERATION OF GARDEN CLUBS, INC. | EST. 1953
SPRING 2024

YOUTH
GARDENERS
ARE THE
FUTURE

CELEBRATE

100
ANNIVERSARY

IN JACKSONVILLE

Florida Federation of Garden Clubs

UPCOMING TRAVEL



5-Night Western Caribbean Cruise January 6 - 11, 2025

Escape with us to Cozumel, Mexico, and Coco Cay for our board meeting at sea! Join the FFGC and friends for an incredible experience. Connect with fellow Garden Club Members and create lasting memories.



Christmas Markets River Cruise December 3, 2025

Embark on a remarkable Christmas Markets River Cruise from Basel to Amsterdam, immersing yourself in the enchanting spirit and exploring European cities along the way.



Tulip Festival in Washington State April 2026

The Tulip Festival is a major event showcasing the vibrant blooming of millions of tulips. Also, visit Friday Harbor, Butchart Gardens, and Victoria. Call or go to the website to get on the "Keep Me Informed" list.



WAFIA in Canberra, Australia February 2027

Join us for the World Association of Floral Artists International Show and Australia/New Zealand trip. Interested? Call or go to the website to get on the "Keep Me Informed" list.

Visit our website to learn more about these upcoming trips

<https://www.funseas.com/ffgc>

Contact **Shelley Atkinson**
your Garden Club Travel Advisor

(850) 386-7327 ext. 208 | satkinson@funseas.com





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FFGC.....Organized April 24, 1924
.....Federated April 25, 1925

Charter MemberNational Garden Clubs, Inc.
MemberDeep South Garden Clubs, Inc.

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Mission Statement

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

The Florida Gardener is a quarterly magazine designed to address the interests and promote the activities of FFGC, and communicates programming and opportunities for members—connecting members all over the state. *TFG* covers FFGC news, opportunities, events, club achievements, educational articles, and photographs, plus NGC news. For more information, please contact the Editor at floridagardener@outlook.com.

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Dade, Monroe

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MAY 14-16	Flower Show Symposium Pensacola
MAY 21-24	NGC Flower Show Schools, Course 3, Manatee River GC
JUN 30	Membership Renewals END
JUN 2-5	NGC Convention Denver, CO
JUN 2-8	National Garden Week
JUN 12-14	SEEK 50th Ann'y
JUN-JUL	Wekiva Youth Camp 50th Ann'y
SEP 10-12	Fall BOD Meeting Winter Park HQ
NOV 24-27	NGC Flower Show School

—2025—

JAN 6-11	Winter BOD Mtg Voyager of the Seas
APR 7-10	FFGC 98th Convention JAX

THE FLORIDA GARDENER

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SUBMISSION

TFG welcomes submissions by all FFGC members on articles related to its activities and mission. All submissions will be edited for clarity of expression, space, style compliance, grammar, syntax, structure and messaging. Photographs are encouraged, but maintain a high resolution.

ADVERTISING

Advertising inquiries are welcome. Discounts are available to clubs and club members. Visit the TFG website for a media kit or contact Inger Jones for advertising information. FFGC is a Florida 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization located at 1400 S. Denning Drive, Winter Park, FL 32789; Office phone: (407) 647-7016.

THE FLORIDA GARDENER WEB PAGE

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100TH ANNIVERSARY EDITION 1924-2024

...FROM THE EDITOR

When I read the historical record of the first 100 years of FFGC, compiled by Tina Tuttle, I was struck by one sentence:

"Four women in different counties in Florida had each organized a garden club in her community almost simultaneously and without knowledge other such groups existed in the state."

Three of those women met on April 24, 1924, at the close of a flower show in Jacksonville, to discuss the feasibility of organizing a state federation of garden clubs. Why? What did they see as the benefit of federating?

These women were **driven** by (1) the need to promote **the academic study of horticulture** to protect the environment; and, (2) the realization that if the Garden Club **movement** was **to thrive, there must be a coordinated effort to organize** more clubs throughout Florida towards one goal. My guess is they understood the **power** of a larger group of like-minded people working the same agenda. That it has survived to reach 100 years is remarkable. Collaborating groups have issues; it's not always perfect. Heck, on any given day, even Texas wants to secede. 100 years deserves a celebration. It also deserves a chance to keep going, but it's going to take this village and the one in the wings, and the little girl on the cover—with flowers she grew herself—to get there—while evolving into the next century.

This edition is *p-a-c-k-e-d* with great articles. In my interview with Carolyn Schaag, it became clear she was always driven. Take the time to read about her fascinating life, and she's not done yet, thank God. When you read the articles, I think you will see a running theme of learning, friendships, power in numbers, and we're stronger together. The passion of FFGC will be on full display in Jacksonville. That passion drives this organization—and that includes you. Like Travis Kelce says, *You gotta fight, for your right, to party.*"



Lisa Packard, Editor and lovin' it
floridagardener@outlook.com

P.S. The Florida Gardener quietly celebrated it's 70th birthday last year. Check out the Archived 1953 editions to see how consistent and dogged FFGC has been in serving their mission. www.ffgc.org/publications [scroll down for archives]

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Tina Tuttle, President

Life has been a whirlwind since our last issue! Our convention in April will be held in the same city where our four founding mothers met to establish the Federation in 1924, and it will be a birthday party like no other with games and prizes, tours and hands-on workshops, respected speakers and our major biennial state flower show, too. We will celebrate our actual birth date of April 24 with an elegant brunch and dinner at our Winter Park Headquarters. See Judi Jodoin for your tickets! SEE invitation on page 9.

KUDOS & CONGRATULATIONS

Several of our clubs are or have celebrated their 100th anniversary, including the Garden Club of Jacksonville, Winter Park Garden Club, Garden Club of Halifax Country, Miami Beach Garden Club, Gainesville Garden Club and others. I was fortunate to attend the "Golden Gala" in Gainesville, a delightful night of music, dancing, food, and friendships!

Our 10,000 plus membership is spread across the sunshine state in 12 districts and 157 garden clubs. Individuals and clubs have been challenged to compete for the Nell Coe Award #61 by completing as many items as possible from the checklist of "100 Ways to Celebrate 100 Years," so you are DOING garden club and not simply BEING a

garden club. Cash prizes will be awarded at the end of the administration (April 2025) for the clubs and individual who complete the most activities.



To garner attention to our Centennial, the Federation celebrated Florida Arbor Day by asking each club to plant a native tree January 19 at 11 am. Over 120 clubs participated and approximately 500 trees were planted. The chairman of this highly publicized event was Dr. Lynn Artz.

She secured a \$20,000 grant from Duke Energy to reimburse clubs up to \$100 for the purchase of their trees and another \$5,000 grant from the National Wildlife Federation toward the purchase of seedlings to be given away at the various events. Photos of this very successful day filled our Facebook page (and pg 35).

The 67th Tropical Short Course in Wellington was a well-attended educational event! I met so many wonderful members and enjoyed fabulous speakers on a variety of topics relating to

"Groundbreakers, Then and Now." Maria Wolfe and her committee are to be commended for putting on this annual event.

As we turn the corner and enter our next 100 years, the Florida Federations' quarterly magazine, *The Florida Gardener*, is now totally online, sent directly to your email inbox, and with the expertise of our editor, Lisa Packard, it has doubled in length and professional look and feel.

To keep the lines of communication open with our members, we are creating a statewide quarterly newsletter to be called *"The Idea Exchange"* where clubs and districts share their news and ideas with others.

The first issue is slated to be out sometime in May from our editor **Shelia Fisher** of Davis Island Garden Club.

It has been 10 years since we last conducted a survey of our membership. The survey was sent to all members via email in November. Although our return was small, we are able to conclude that the general membership appears to be unaware of the state and national educational opportunities, resources, programs and projects available to them. We have made it our mission to rectify that. Our Strategic Planning Committee realizes that an individual joins a club, not the Federation, and is investigating ways to involve our members where they live using a variety of technical options. Look for a complete report on the survey results in the next issue.

Our Wekiva Volunteer Training, organized by 3VP **Leticia Gunn**, was great fun!! Our new Director and new Chef were present along with our Craft and Nature Coordinators. According to the Camp Chairman, **Mary Whisler**, it looks like we are on track for another full camp this summer. Come volunteer!! The Wekiva Youth Camp, established in 1974, will celebrate its 50th anniversary this year!
<https://www.ffgc.org/Wekiva-Youth-Camp>



In other news: **The Centennial Quilt is finally done!!** Look for its debut at the convention!

Our Floral Design Study program, courses 1-9, has undergone a major revision to bring it up to date and offer the aspiring designer additional options. The number of our Affiliate Members has more than doubled due to a push for like-minded organizations to join us.
<https://www.ffgc.org/Affiliates>

Our Florida Flower Show Judges will be publishing the third edition of the widely acclaimed *What's Your Type* book in April.

Our Tri-Council of accredited Landscape, Environmental and Gardening consultants will hold its first retreat at the Wekiva Youth Camp this July.
<https://www.ffgc.org/Tri-Council-of-FFGC>

SEEK (Save the Earth's Environment Through Knowledge) will celebrate 50 years with another 3-day conference for High School students in Gainesville on June 12-14, 2024. Learn more about SEEK.
<https://www.ffgc.org/SEEK>

It has been a pleasure to travel the state and participate in so many amazing garden club

activities and meet so many wonderful members! We, Florida Federation of Garden Clubs, are truly making a difference in our state with beautiful plantings, Blue and Gold Star Markers, flower shows, involvement with youth, programs open to the public, and so many fun and fundamental activities! Florida is seeing an estimated 1,000 people move into our state every day and we are snatching them up to become garden club members!

Our 101st year and a new century for FFGC is looking bright! We will be going back to basics with a "Garden Club 101" theme! We will be rewarding ourselves for a splendid administration by having our next winter Board meetings aboard *Royal Caribbean's Voyager of The Seas* January 6-11, 2025. The five-day cruise is open to anyone so why not join us? Contact Shelley Atkinson for more info.

Happy Spring to all!

Tina



Did you know Tina has no middle name? She wanted to be a doctor when she grew up. Does horticulturist count?



CELEBRATING FFGC's 100th BIRTHDAY

A Special Invitation for You
Our Favorite Member

WEDNESDAY

Brunch

APRIL

24

2024

Dinner

\$50 | 10:30 AM-NOON

\$100 | 6 PM | 7 PM SEATING
DRESS IS SEMI-FORMAL

Venue

FLORIDA FEDERATION OF GARDEN CLUB HEADQUARTERS
1400 SOUTH DENNING DRIVE, WINTER PARK, FL



PURCHASE TICKETS FROM JUDI JODOIN
(386) 689-8432 | jodoins@juno.com



A Year of Ordinary Miracles

*There are those who say we have
no seasons here
And I say they don't pay
much attention to...
JAN to MARCH when cold
can make the leaves rain down
and bring the jackets out!
Then APRIL to MAY—a bountiful burst
of brilliant flowers just in time
for Pascua Florida.*

*Or the pounding rain of JUN and JULY
making the landscape lunge
upward and out in a frenzy
of growing green while
AUGUST waits with heavy heat.*

*And best of all, the soft
sighing of the start of
SEPT to DEC when the very air
delights our senses with
brilliant westering light,
while northern birds descend in hordes
of many colored Joseph Coats
devouring blooms and tiny seeds...
body building for the journey south.*

*No Seasons?
I say look again!*

Mona
Ramona Johnston
FFGC Horticulture Chairman



Orange Barred Sulphur Emerging
from Chrysalis



Native Spiderwort

More of Mona's Miracles



Woodland Beauty—
Caladium, Ironweed
& Swamp Fern



Honey Bee



Snow Fungus—
Chinese delicacy



Tiny native Sweat Bee—
Growing in my Garden
less than one-half inch long!



Soldier (a Monarch look alike)



Blanket Flower (Gallardia) with Zebra Longwing Butterfly

Summer Short Course, June 2-4, 2024



THE SQUIRREL, OR, ESSEX-HOUSE,
WITH CORRESPONDING DESCRIPTIONS OF ARTIFICIAL, WOOD, AND IRON SHEDS
Designed By: Paul Wales, Atlas Screen Printing

PLANT THE PLANET: *How Plants Can Save Our World*

Sponsored by

Florida Federation of Garden Clubs, District V
&
University of Florida/ IFAS

For More Information
ffgc.org/calendar

Visit **GAINESVILLE**
Alachua County, FL

Carol Binello, Event Chair
carolannbinello@gmail.com

SHORT COURSE NORTH

Edibles & More

2-Day Course

Topics of Study:

- Gardening Myths
- Exotic, Unusual & Underused edibles
- Ornamental Edibles for your Landscape
- Food Forests
- Raised Bed Soils
- Extend the Growing Season
- Managing Edible Gardens & IPM
- Aquatics

Optional:

- Tour Greenhouse & UF Milton gardens
- Hands-on Floral Design



Santa Rosa Co. Extension
6263 Dogwood Dr.,
Milton, FL 32570
&
Zoom



August 8-9, 2024
8am-3pm



Deadline: July 31, 2024

Complete Registration Form

Come Learn, Buy & Win

Vendors, Plant Sales, Door Prizes, Raffle Baskets,
Silent Auction & 50/50

NGC SCHOOLS AND FFGC EDUCATION COURSES

NGC ENVIRONMENTAL
FFGC Chair: Lydia Barbour
(703) 282-8924
lydiabarbour@hotmail.com

NGC GARDENING
FFGC Chair: Sally Flanagan
(386) 428-3170
sfflan@aol.com

NGC LANDSCAPE DESIGN
FFGC Chair: Susan MacPherson
(781) 249-8905 (c)
RMacpham@me.com

NGC FLOWER SHOW
FFGC Chair: Susan Hillson
(561) 333-0740
Susan.Hillson@gmail.com

Course 3, May 21, 2024
Course 4, Sep 24, 2024
Bradenton

FLORAL DESIGN STUDY
FFGC Chair: Jan Griffin
(813) 716-6691
billjangriffin@gmail.com
Contact: Susan Cangialosi
susancangialosi@aol.com

Basic 6 Classes
beginning Mar 25, 2024
Lady Lake

UF/FFGC SHORT COURSE
2024
GAINESVILLE
Chair: Carol Binello
Phone: (352) 215-9190
carolannbinello@gmail.com

FORM 7 MUST BE COMPLETED

SEE FLYER ON PAGE 10

FFGC & UF/FFGC Short Course
Dist. V Gainesville June 2-4, 2024

Plant The Planet: *How Plants
Can Save Our World*

- Tour of Botanical Garden
- Floral Design Banquet Dinner
- Tri-Refresher
- FORM 7 MUST BE COMPLETED
- Presenters: Cedar Lake Woods & Garden Tour Experts

Register: [FFGC.org/Calendar](https://ffgc.org/Calendar)
Contact: carolannbinello@mail.com
Phone: (352) 215-9190

ALL DETAILS [FFGC.org/calendar](https://ffgc.org/calendar)

SHORT COURSE-NORTH
Chair: Joanne Connor
Phone: (850) 512-9755
connorronald@bellsouth.net

August 8-9, 2024
Milton

SEE FLYER ON PAGE 11

SYMPOSIUM 2024
Chair: Claudia Bates
Phone: (352) 317-2831
Chair: Gina Jogan
Phone: (850) 324-9783
gvjogan@panhandle.rr.com

May 14-16, 2024
Pensacola



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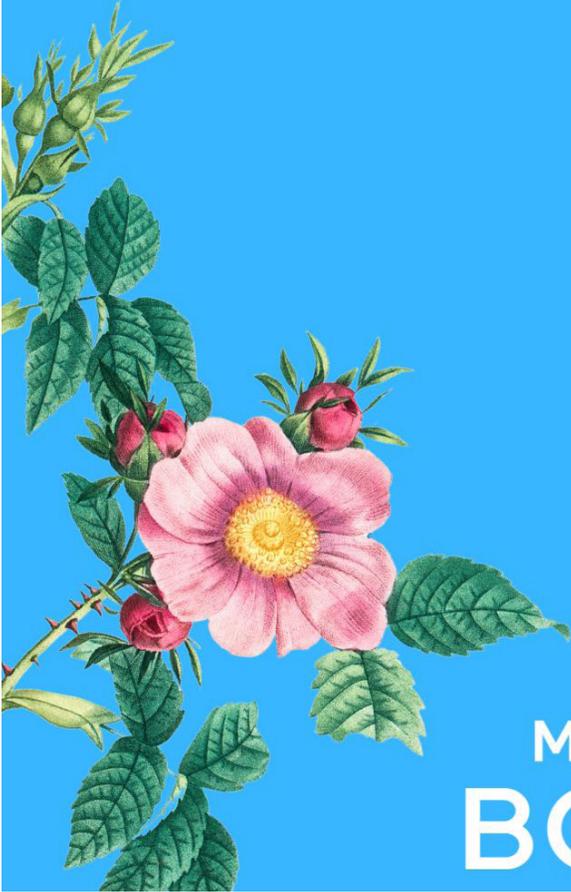
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SOUTHBANK
HOTEL

JACKSONVILLE RIVERWALK

FLORIDA FEDERATION OF
GARDEN
Clubs

APRIL 10-12 2024
1515 PRUDENTIAL DRIVE
JACKSONVILLE, FLORIDA 32207



MARRIOTT
BONVOY



1924 - 2024

CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION

CELEBRATE FFGC'S 97TH CONVENTION AND 100TH ANNIVERSARY IN JACKSONVILLE, FL

TUESDAY, APRIL 9, 2024

2-5 pm State Flower Show set up/entries
Garden Club of Jacksonville

Noon The Bartram Trails Tales with Sam Carr and Mike Adams

12:30 pm Guest Lunch Speaker, Debby Cooper, Director, Deep South Garden Clubs, Inc.
Barbara Colaciello, interpretative speaker performing as Ninah Cummer

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 10, 2024

8 am-4 pm Registration open
8 am Bylaws meeting

8 am Members Only Art Show drop off
-12:30 pm

11 am-2 pm Tour of Cummer Museum and Gardens w/ Lunch (bus provided)

11:30am Tri-Council Luncheon* with
-1 pm Teresa Watkins, S.H.E. Consulting
Ten New and Exciting Plants for the Next Century

1-6 pm Vendors Open
2 pm State Flower Show Opening Reception / Show open until 5 pm

3-4 pm Members' Only Art Exhibit open
4-5 pm FFGC Board of Directors Meeting

6 pm Early Arrivals Dinner*
7 pm Fashion Show Across the Decades
Awards for Flower & Art Show

2:00 - 3:20 Session A: Let's Be Fascinating with Esther Davis
Make a "Fascinator" for Friday pm

2:00 - 2:50 Managing Historic Cemeteries with Emily Jane Murray, Coordinator, Florida Public Archeology Network [WEB](#)

2:00 - 2:50 The Future of our Coasts, Christine Angelini (30 mins only)

2:00 - 2:50 Fun with Flowers with Emilie Palmieri, a hands-on project

2:00 - 2:50 Bees with Christy Linke, 1st Vice President, FFGC

3:00- 3:50 "Do the Canva!" with Camille Greeley

THURSDAY, APRIL 11, 2024

8 am-2 pm Registration open
7am-8am Morning Stretch
8am-6pm Vendors Open
8am-9am Coffee
9 am-5 pm Art Show Open for viewing
9 am-5 pm State Flower Show Open
9-11 am FFGC Annual Meeting

3-3:50 pm Junior Gardener's Program with Brenda Davis
Featuring a hands-on project for school children; plus ways of starting a Junior Gardener Program and applying for awards.

SPEAKERS & WORKSHOPS

3:00 - 3:50 The Plant that Devoured the South: A History of the Kudzu Plant from Japan to America with Professor Dean DeBolt

3:30 - 5 pm Session B: Let's Be Fascinating with Esther Davis

5:30-6:45 pm District Parties

7:00 pm Xavier Cortada, Banquet Speaker*
Flor500 - Growing Florida's Natural History, One Garden at a Time
Convention Slideshow & Awards

FRIDAY, APRIL 12, 2024

7-8 am Morning Stretch
8am-Noon Registration Open
8am-3pm Vendors Open (closes at 3 pm)
8am-9am Coffee
9am-3pm State Flower Show Open
9-11 am FFGC Business Meeting
Reconvenes

Noon-12 pm Brenda Moore, President, National Garden Clubs, Inc.

2:00 - 3:20 Session A: Making a Wrist Corsage with Claudia Bates, FFGC Past President, for evening banquet

2:00 - 3:50 Native Plants, Gardens and Birds with Amy Koch, President, St. Johns Audubon Society

2:00 - 2:50 Parliamentary Procedure with Carolyn Lowry-Nation, FFGC Parliamentarian

3:00 - 3:50 Butterflies in Motion with Jenny Weber, District I Director

3:30 - 5:00 Photography with Pat Cummins

3:30 - 5 pm Session B: Making a Wrist Corsage with Claudia Bates, FFGC Past President, for Friday evening Banquet



Ad Placed in *The Florida Gardener*, Spring 1953

6-7 pm Reception for NGC President, Brenda Moore and Debby Cooper, Director, Deep South Garden Clubs, Inc.

7-9 pm Laura Dowling, Keynote Speaker
Floral Design Program

* means ticketed event which you will be given at registration

EXPECT CHANGES PLEASE

GARDEN CLUB OF JACKSONVILLE
1005 RIVERSIDE AVE
GARDENCLUBJAX.ORG

CUMMER MUSEUM
829 RIVERSIDE AVE
CUMMERMUSEUM.ORG

SOUTHBANK HOTEL
1515 PRUDENTIAL DR
[WEB](#)

FFGC BYLAWS – PROPOSED AMENDMENTS

THE FOLLOWING BYLAWS TO BE CONSIDERED FOR ADOPTION AT THE APRIL 2024 FFGC ANNUAL CONVENTION:

1. MOTION: ARTICLE X SECTION 4 - CHANGE THE NUMBERS NEEDED FOR A QUORUM CURRENTLY STATES: FIFTY MEMBERS SHALL CONSTITUTE A QUORUM.

PROPOSED CHANGE: MORE THAN 50 PERCENT OF THE MEMBERS OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS SHALL CONSTITUTE A QUORUM.

2. MOTION: ARTICLE XX PUBLICATIONS, SECTION 1 - REMOVAL OF 2 PUBLICATIONS THAT ARE NO LONGER REGULARLY PRODUCED.

CURRENTLY STATES: C. FFGC CALENDAR; AND D. FLORIDA GARDEN CLUB MANUAL

PROPOSED CHANGE WOULD DELETE C. FFGC CALENDAR AND D. FLORIDA GARDEN CLUB MANUAL.

3. MOTION: ARTICLE III MEMBERS, SECTION 2. NON-VOTING MEMBERSHIP - CHANGE HOW THE AFFILIATES PROGRAM APPLICATIONS ARE SUBMITTED AND ACCEPTED.

CURRENTLY STATES: APPLICATION FOR SUCH MEMBERSHIP SHALL BE SUBMITTED TO THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS.

PROPOSED CHANGE: APPLICATION FOR SUCH MEMBERSHIP SHALL BE SUBMITTED TO THE AFFILIATES CHAIRMAN.

CURRENTLY STATES: A TWO-THIRDS ($\frac{2}{3}$) VOTE OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS SHALL ELECT.

PROPOSED CHANGE: A MAJORITY VOTE OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE SHALL ELECT.

1924 - 2024

CENTENNIAL QUILT

BUILT BY FFGC GARDEN CLUBS SQUARE BY SQUARE



FAQ's

WHEN: APRIL 10-12, 2024

WHERE: SOUTHBANK RIVERFRONT MARRIOTT HOTEL
1515 PRUDENTIAL DRIVE, JACKSONVILLE FL

WHAT

1ST TIMERS

BUS

EARLY RISERS

WHAT TO *KNOW* & WHAT TO *BRING*:

Wear comfortable, smart, casual clothing; no gardening duds. Glam up [or not] for evening meals. *Broken in shoes are a must!*

Bring required electronic devices and charging cords, maybe a small binder for writing notes, and all the usual traveling requirements. Do you need your own pillow?

Bring a bathing suit; you just might sit poolside to relax and chat with friends during rare time. The hotel is riverside so stroll the promenade in good walking shoes.

Big hotels are always cold so plan accordingly.

If you purchased raffle or opportunity tickets in advance, bring them and buy more when you get there!

Put key phone numbers in your cellphone.

Make a point of introducing yourself to others at your dinner table, or a board member if you are interested in learning how to get more involved. You will know them by their badges.

Expect a fair amount of *walking* from your room to the convention rooms. The distinguished guest speakers are exceptional this year. Read all about them in the [Speaker Bios brochure](#).

One big bus will take judges and clerks to the Flower Show at Jacksonville GC at 8 am Wednesday.

Then it will take the Cummer Museum tour at 9:30 am followed by lunch.

It will then run back and forth between the hotel and the beautiful Jacksonville GC. See the opening of the flower show and ride back for the Early Arrivals entertainment and dinner.

There will be free shuttles on Thursday and Friday, but they are not wheelchair accessible. You may choose to drive but parking will be limited.

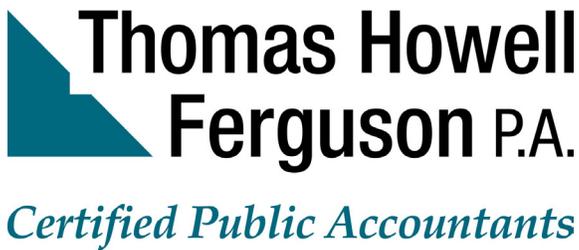
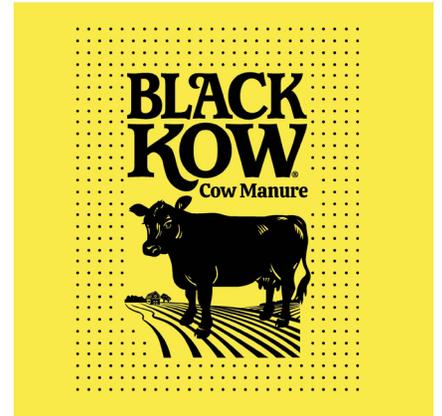
Bring exercise pants for "Morning Stretch" in the Ballroom Foyer on Thursday, April 11, and Friday, April 12, from 7-8 am.

Vendors open at 8:00 a.m. and accept cash, checks, or credit cards; and the hotel has an ATM and a business center should you need computer access.

All attendees are welcome to attend the morning business meetings on Thursday and Friday starting at 9 am and learn what's going on in FFGC on the business side. **See the schedule for room locations.**

Get ready for a really good time and to meet tons of new people and how you can dig deeper into what FFGC offers.

THANK YOU TO OUR CONVENTION SPONSORS



PINECREST GARDEN CLUB
BARBARA PAREIRA





VOYAGER OF THE SEA

1/6/2025

If you think you might be interested in attending the FFGC Board Meeting aboard the *Voyager of the Sea* cruise from January 6-11, 2025, you need to reserve your place by sending our travel agent, *Shelley Atkinson*, your \$100 deposit. *The room hold is limited so do not wait until the last minute.* Your deposit is refundable up until the day of final payment in October. Bring friends and family for vacation; the only business will be the board meeting. Shelley handles everything and will send any information required for the trip. See her ad on [page 2](#) for her contact information.

<https://www.royalcaribbean.com/cruise-ships/voyager-of-the-seas>

[CRUISE VIDEO](#)

[VIEW THEIR BROCHURE TRAVEL](#)

DEEP SOUTH GARDEN CLUBS UNIFIED PROJECT

by Daphna Goldberg, Chair
FFGC Deep South Unified Project
dmkdaisy@yahoo.com

FFGC is a charter member of Deep South Garden Clubs, Inc., the regional organization for the south. Deep South offers the **unified project award** that is open to six states in their region.

There are two such awards:

(1) Class I: Club Competition;
and

(2) Class II: State Competition.
Each state may submit only one award per one of three categories: NGC Flower Show, Floral Decoration for Public Event or Space, and Club Competition-Colorful Plantings. A certificate and a \$200.00 cash award will be offered. These awards include:

- Youth Gardening projects, or Garden Therapy activities
- Presenting Flower Shows
- and Planting native trees and shrubs at schools and neighborhood parks for pollinators, birds and bats.

Applications are due January 15, **2025**. Complete information is detailed on their [website](#). Be sure to follow the directions on the application—including taking before and after pictures

of your projects and activities and a Book of Evidence—and submit on time as directed. Please contact Daphna with any questions. Florida can win! 🌸

<https://www.deepsouthgardenclubs.com/unified-project-award>

“WHAT’S YOUR TYPE?” EDITION #3 - 2024

Anne Collins, Chairman
“What’s Your Type?”

Edition #3 of Florida Flower Show Judges’s wildly popular *What’s Your Type?* is almost here! Edition #3 of our Floral Designer’s notebook and manual features 30 beautiful photographs of 10 NGC design types—each one designed by FFGC club members.

Since *What’s Your Type?* is uniquely perfect for both beginning and experienced floral designers, its following has gone national as well.

What’s Your Type? Edition #3 will be unveiled and for sale at the in Jacksonville from April 10-12. A limited number of reprints of Edition #1 and Edition #2 will also be available for just \$20.

To ensure that you get your copy, reserve / pre-order now with Sally Flanagan, our Florida marketing representative, via email at sfflan@aol.com. We’ll have them ready for payment at our booth in the vendor room. Pickup is quick and saves on shipping costs! 🌸

For more information about *What’s Your Type?*, please visit the FFGC website: <https://ffgc.org/Flower-Show-Judges>





GAINESVILLE GARDEN CLUB

Celebrates 100 Years



A GROWING LEGACY

Founded by visionary members seeking to advance garden research and urban beautification, the Gainesville Garden Club initially convened in members' homes.

However, by 1930, the club's burgeoning success saw over 100 women eager to join, prompting the initiation of garden circles like Founders, Azalea, Camellia, and Oleander, which met monthly.



In its formative years, the club was dedicated to civic projects and supporting servicemen during World War II, also collaborating with other organizations to establish a Community Cultural Center. In the 1950's and 60's, members were leaders in efforts to create Paynes Prairie Nature Preserve



As membership flourished, the need for a permanent home became evident. In 1968, Dr. Lamar and Mrs. Louise Roberts generously donated four acres for construction of the current Garden Center. In the 1990s with a generous endowment by Laura Carmichael, the facility was expanded.

Since its inception in 1924, Gainesville Garden Club (GGC) has left an indelible mark on its community, hosting the FFGC Annual Convention in 1933, actively supporting wartime efforts during World War II, and post-war. shifting focus to civic beautification, conservation and education that continues today.

The establishment of the GGC Garden Center in 1969 further solidified its commitment to education and community involvement on the campus.

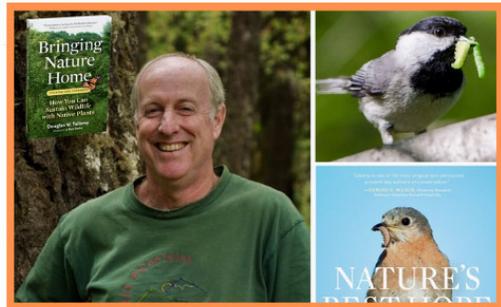
*“Founded in 1924, our mission remains to foster friendships, to provide opportunities to learn together, and to sponsor civic and environmental projects of direct benefit to Gainesville residents.
~Jo Lee Winterrowd, GGC Pres*



Taking part in the Gala celebration were GGC past presidents: L-R Sandra Arnold, Claudia Bates, Lorene Junkin, Inez Brooker, Linda Schoelhorn, Jo Lee Houlihan(current) and Fran Maris.



Our education program with local girls troop teaching them about Arbor Day and the importance of native plants and trees to the community. They potted 100 plants and took home a tree to plant in their yards.



Continuing our commitment to community education, GGC is bringing nationally known expert, Doug Tallamay speak about making your yard a Homegrown National Park.

“ Today we continue:

- **Enhancing Environments**
- **Enriching Education**
- **Cultivating Communities**

COMMUNITY SERVICE

Gainesville Garden Club (GGC) continues to lead with dozens of community projects, enriching the environment through initiatives like landscaping at Ronald McDonald House since 1989 and supporting Habitat for Humanity's Women Build.

Working with organizations like Created Gainesville, we have established gardens at new residential facilities, schools, and non-profits.

GGC also contributes to civic duties such as roadway median plantings, highway cleanup and floral arrangements for institutions, scholarships for conservation education.

Educational workshops offer insights into gardening techniques and conservation efforts, while forums in collaboration with UF/IFAS, since 1935 underline GGC's role in community enrichment and horticultural education.

Each year, GGC welcomes over 6,000 visitors to 75+ private, public and educational events, highlighting the commitment to fostering community ties and environmental stewardship.

CAPITAL CAMPAIGN

On February 24th, GGC held a Gala to celebrate its 100 Year Anniversary and launched a Capital Campaign. Our goal is to raise \$100,000 for our reserve funds, marking our 100-year legacy and allowing us to continue our community outreach.

OUR 100TH YEAR

GGC has launched a year-long special emphasis on funding scholarships for youth program and graduate education by boosting support for SEEK and Wekiva.

Join us on Saturday, October 1 for a Fall Horticulture Expo. We in partnership with Master Gardener's and UF/IFAS to pre author Doug Tallamay, on **Bringing Nature Home.**

He's a co-founder of Homegro National Park and we want to help spread the word on his important ideas to restore vital habitat for the bugs and the be ultimately, for us.

Together, we continue to nurt Florida and make a lasting imp on our environment and the legacy we leave to the next generation. GGCFI.org



DEC 6 & 7,
2024

— for our —

31ST ANNUAL

Holly Days
HOME TOUR

in historic
Punta Gorda, FL

PGGC.org



MEMBERSHIP MATTERS

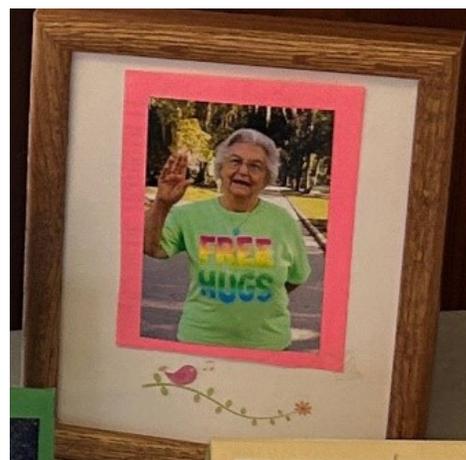
by Christy Linke
clinke3173@aol.com

The usual conversation around membership is about recruiting new members, the activities focused on recruiting, and what members get for their dues. However, what's equally, if not more important, is the members we already have, how diverse they are, what varied talents and interests they have, and how their gifts enrich our clubs and friendships.

Each of us joined our local garden clubs for a variety of reasons, but the two strongest reasons are to learn what's growing in our yards and to meet new people—educational and social reasons.

FFGC and National Garden Clubs, Inc. provide a variety of educational classes for further learning—environment, horticulture, landscape design, floral arrangement, and flower show studies—and your guest speakers provide great information—and fun—at your meetings. Take a friend, and you have a winning combo!

FFGC's mission is everyone's mission and it's delivered by you in your towns by planting trees, refreshing garden beds, and delivering flowers to local organizations.



AUDREY SWINDAL

There is a member who brought something very special to us through Camp Wekiva. She was an elementary school teacher, mentor, friend, an outdoor enthusiast and camp volunteer for over 40 years and touched the lives of so many of our young adults today. Her name is **Audrey Swindal**, known to many of us as “Mother Nature.” She earned this camp nickname because of her extensive knowledge of flora as well as her storytelling ability.

With a degree in botany and elementary education, she served as a role model for environmental stewardship. If you had a question about trees, wildflowers, or wildlife at Camp, she is who you would go see. Her knowledge was priceless.

It was her dedication that earned us the grant in the amount of \$10,000 which built the new nature hut at Camp with air conditioning as well as the purchase of the new storage shed. Her legacy lives on in so many lives she touched, from campers, counselors, volunteers, and the forever friends she made at FFGC and Camp Wekiva.

She is just one of many members who have impacted FFGC and Wekiva Youth Camp just by sharing who they are, their knowledge and their talent with this organization.

FFGC is celebrating 100 years of wonderful members like Audrey which built this organization into 100 layers of friendship and knowledge that has strengthened us. We may not know it when we join, but when you ask what we get for our dues, we get selfless members like Audrey—and others who contribute, educate, volunteer and more from all districts—who serve everyone to make the federation stronger. 🐝

Inhale love



Exhale gratitude

FOUR STAR & FIVE STAR MEMBERS

by Joanne Mulinare, Chair, Four and Five Star Members
love2garden@gmail.com

FFGC and NGC provide many ways to honor club achievements, but NGC also offers Four and Five Star membership honors for individual achievement.

Four and Five Star Members are FFGC members who have successfully completed all four of National Garden Club's educational schools—Landscape Design, Environmental, Gardening and zFlower Show School. Once completed, the member is eligible to apply for Four Star status. To reach Five Star status, a member has reached Master level in all four schools.

Five Star requires a higher level of learning. To reach this level, course refreshers are required at least every five years for Environmental, Gardening and Landscape Design Schools. Refreshing is required every three years for Flower Show School. Members may complete refresher courses as often as one time per year.

NGC manages this program and the application process. You will find complete information and the link to apply on their website. You will decide when how you wish to receive your award--at the national or state

NGC Four & Five Star
Click to Learn More

convention or mailed to you. The FFGC committee chair arranges for an NGC Board member to present the awards each year.

Honorees receive a certificate and are eligible to purchase the special lapel pins (\$22) from NGC. These awards represent a significant individual accomplishment. Feel free to contact the FFGC Committee Chair, Joanne Mulinare, with any questions at all. 🐝

Four Star Members in good standing



Abrams, Mercy
Blake, Gloria
Finn, Andrea
Hendon, Marge
Hillson, Susan
Junkin, Lorene
Kane, Emily
Meier, Wilda
Miller, Janice
Slater, Susan

Five Star Members



Dawson, Glenda
DeFeo, Dale
Flanagan, Sally
Jones, Inger
Lucia, Carol
Luedeman, Brenda
Mulinare, Joanne
Schaag, Carolyn
Tuttle, Tina

AFFILIATE MEMBERS OF FFGC

by Donna Berger, Chair, Affiliates
Bergerdx2015@gmail.com

Florida Wildflower Foundation

Sponsor—FFGC

Creating pathways throughout Florida – Reconnecting Florida for Pollinators, Wildflowers, and People. The license plate, which may be purchased, protects and preserves native natural Florida.

www.flawildflowers.org

Heathcote Gardens of Fort Pierce

Sponsor—GC of Fort Pierce

Heathcote Gardens has the largest collection of tropical bonsai trees in the U.S.

www.HeathcoteBotanicalGardens.org

McKee Botanical Garden

Sponsor—GC of Indian River County

Escape into their 18 acre-lush jungle with more than 10,000 plants which is one of Florida most extraordinary botanical collections.

www.Mckeegarden.org

The Institute for Regional Conservation

Sponsor—FFGC District X Plant America with Trees Committee Biological inventory/monitoring, vegetation mapping/GIS, ecological restoration, prescribed fire, and exotic plant control.

www.regionalconservation.org

Mounts Botanical Garden of Palm Beach County

Sponsor—West Palm Beach GC A mission to “inspire and educate nature” and a history

spanning over 40 years, Mounts is the oldest and largest garden in Palm Beach. They have many different exhibits as well as horticultural classes.

www.Mounts.Org

Palm Beach County Chapter of the Florida Native Plant Society
Sponsor—NGC/FFGC District X
www.palmbeach.fnpschapters.org

Butterflies in Motion, Inc.

Sponsor—Milton Garden Club Their mission is to educate people about Florida native butterflies and their environment.

www.butterfliesinmotion.net

Florida Flower Show Judges, Inc.

The object of this organization is to maintain a superior standard of flower show judging by educating judges holding NGC certificates. Educational opportunities are provided through supporting flower shows.

<https://www.ffgc.org/Flower-Show-Judges>

Creative Floral Arrangers of America (CFAA) (sēē-fáh)
Sponsor—District VIII. A nonprofit organization focused on creative floral design, committed to sharing knowledge and providing instruction to floral design enthusiasts. We host international floral designers at an annual seminar in January, publish the Design

Dimensions magazine, hold Kaleidoscope members' showcase, and offer a network for our members.

www.creativefloral.org

Fort Myers Lee County Garden Council

Sponsor—District IX

Home to Berne Davis Botanical Garden.

www.flmcgardenCouncil.com

North Florida Daylily Society, Inc.

Sponsor—FFGC

<https://nfdaylily.com/>

Conradina Chapter - Florida Native Plant Society

Sponsor Lydia Barbour

www.fnpachapters.org

TriCouncil of FFGC

<https://www.ffgc.org/tri-council>

About Affiliate Membership

The Affiliate members are listed on FFGC Website under Membership along with their logos.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Donna Berger, FFGC Affiliate Membership Chairman at (772) 214-8629 or email Bergerdx2015@gmail.com.

<https://www.ffgc.org/Affiliates/>

BUY THIS TAG!

by the Editorial Board



The Florida Wildflower Foundation (FWF) is a loyal advertiser in this magazine—that's why this auto tag looks so familiar, right?

After years of trying, FFGC along with FDOT and other conservation groups, established the State Wildflower license plate in 1999. Of course, the tag features the Coreopsis, our state wildflower.

\$15 from every purchase and renewal of the State Wildflower license tag is donated to the FWF to sponsor environmental education grants for public places, and much, much more.

SINCE 1999, PROCEEDS HAVE REACHED

\$6,000,000

Florida Wildflower Foundation offers webinars and an annual landscape demonstration garden matching grant called **Viva Florida**, to establish or enhance a native demonstration planting in a park, nature center or other public space.

100TH ANNIVERSARY EDITION 1924-2024

Viva Florida Grant: <https://www.flawildflowers.org/viva-florida>

Catch this one next year as the grant period opens Jan 1 and closes March 15.



FWF offers field trips to natural areas to see wildflowers in bloom, grants for schools to create campus wildflower gardens (Seedlings for Schools), and many resources for choosing, growing and maintaining native plants.

FYI, FLORIDA WILDFLOWER GROWERS COOPERATIVE has a special pollinator seed pack sold by the pound. <https://www.floridawildflowers.com/southeast-region-seed-mixes/>



FDOT programs

<https://www.flawildflowers.org/fdot-wildflower-program/>

In 1985, the Florida Federation of Garden Clubs and FDOT Maintenance developed the Ella P. Wood Paths of Sunshine Awards program, which annually recognizes the superior efforts of Roadside Maintenance Units that improve, enhance and add beauty to Florida's roadways while emphasizing the beneficial use of Florida native shrubs, trees and wildflowers.

If you want to know more about that, contact Brenda Leuderman, Chair of Roadside Beautification and Paths of Sunshine. bkluedeman@gmail.com

Got yours yet?

<https://www.flawildflowers.org/wildflower-tag/>

UP CLOSE WITH Carolyn Schaag

by Lisa Packard, Editor,
The Florida Gardener

INTRODUCTION

If you have been involved at the state level, you know Carolyn Schaag, who served as president from 1999 - 2001 and is still going strong. She will be 88 on her birthday this October 9.

Carolyn has been a garden club member for over 60 years with over half that time on the FFGC Board of Directors. Her list of achievements and honors are impossible to shortcut. She has been an officer for nearly everything from Wekiva and SEEK, Flower Show Judges, Tri-Council, Environmental, Gardening, and Landscape Design Consultants' Councils, and several committee positions, raised a ton of money for the organization and, as president, addressed the Florida State Legislature and planted a tree on the state grounds. During her presidency, they also placed a time capsule in a safe at HQ that is not to be opened for 100 years.

She served as District X Director and is also a Life Member of FFGC, Deep South Garden Clubs, and NGC plus has most of the FFGC honors—Four and Five Star Member, Patron, Hall of Fame, Pillar of Pride, Earth Steward, Blanche Capel

Leadership Award, Guardian of Gardening and presidential citations. She created the honor for Master Tri-Consultant and was the first to receive it.

She is the most decorated member as she has every single honor available.

Carolyn has been a flower show judge for nearly 60 years. She has served on the boards of Deep South and NGC as well.

Camp Wekiva holds a special place in her heart. There is a candlelight ceremony on closing night that she started, a tradition



Roadside Beauty 1999

she established 30 years ago, a warm memory she carried over from her 4-H days. It is estimated that 27,000 candles have been lit with pledges to protect the environment. She continues to volunteer at the camp for a week each summer.

Carolyn is most proud of her 25 years with the Florida Wildflowers Foundation (FWF). She was part of the team of people that established and designed the FWF License plates, and establishing FWF as a nonprofit promoting planting wildflowers and the state roadside beautification efforts. For every license plate sold, FWF earns \$15. Since its inception in 1999, \$6 million have been raised and re-invested in FWF education, grants, and research. Seeing a roadside ablaze with coreopsis (the state wildflower) is **"breathtaking and knowing I was a very, very small part of making that happen is heart-warming."**

At the Florida Native Plant Society Annual Conference Panel Discussion held on May 21, 2022, FNPS established an internship program in honor of Nancy Bissett, Anne McKay, and Carolyn Schaag for young conservationists. During the conference, \$15,000 was donated.

→ Given the significant role FFGC played in creating the license plate, all members are encouraged to consider buying it.



Cover of The Florida Gardener, 1999

CHILDHOOD

Born in a farmhouse in Illinois, her family of nine lived off the land. They had a huge garden with vegetables, including popcorn, and Carolyn inherited a love of flowers from her mother. Each spring, when they planted the vegetable garden, they devoted a section of it to flowers. Her mother would pick flowers and put them in a Mason jar.

At age 10, she joined the local 4-H club started by Ida, an elderly lady in her rural community. She ended up

spending three years in 4-H and entered a competition each year and winning! One year was flower arrangement, one year in baking, and one year by sewing her own dress. At age 11, she was in the 4-H booth demonstrating how to make corsages and flower arrangements for the public. She was named the Most Outstanding Female 4-H member in her county by age 13 and received a week's stay at 4-H camp and represented her county at the Illinois State Fair. A young woman named Mary, whom she still remembers

fondly, worked at the County Extension Office, and took Carolyn to the State Fair for three years in a row and to the summer camp. On the final night of camp, everyone circled, lit candles, and sang "*This Little Light of Mine.*" Says Carolyn, "*this became a personal goal for my life. My mother, Ida, and Mary inspired me to become a leader and encourage youth to protect the Earth.*"

In high school, she learned typing, shorthand, and bookkeeping, and was on the Student Council, and involved in theater, chorus, and tumbling. She served as editor of the school paper in her senior year and, to pay for her lunch, served meals in the school cafeteria. Is it any surprise she graduated as Valedictorian?

LOVE & MARRIAGE

She met Edward, her eventual husband, through her brother; they were fraternity brothers. When she was 20, they had a big country church wedding followed by dinner and dancing with a Polka band. Their first son arrived six years later, and when pregnant with her second son, she went on maternity leave from Lockheed Aircraft as a secretary and never went back to work. While home, a neighbor invited her to garden club meeting in Marietta, GA. Everyone was asked to make and wear a hat. Carolyn's hat was a tree with a small cradle hanging in it—Rock-A-Bye-Baby! She was invited to join the club, and

it wasn't long before she was club president and started the Garden Club of Georgia.

Edward Schaag held a degree in architectural engineering, but did several things before opening his own business and the young couple with three boys was able to reach a level of comfort. She and Edward had a loving relationship and were deeply rooted in their faith, which Carolyn attributes to the success of their marriage. Carolyn has one granddaughter and five grandsons. Edward was very supportive of Carolyn's garden club activities. In fact, he chaired the Spouse Programs at 13 conventions for FFGC, Deep South, and National and named a Life Member of FFGC and received Presidential citations.

They celebrated 63 years of marriage before Edward passed.

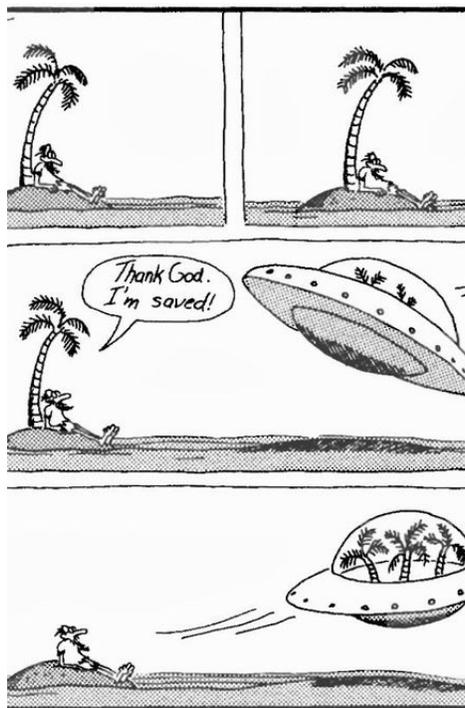


Trashion Show Model, 2023
The Farmer's Daughter

A staunch advocate for the environment and recycling, it was Carolyn's idea to hold last year's "Trashion Show" at the convention to illustrate creative recycling. Her "trash" name was *The Farmer's Daughter*. SEE photo below.

TODAY

During my conversation with Carolyn, it is clear Edward was her deep love and she misses him dearly, but she is surrounded by family and friends. Ms. Schaag has done it all and is simply unstoppable. She has been relentless in her pursuit of her dream. It's evident that Carolyn dreams big and is happiest if her dreams benefit others. It was my deepest pleasure to be able to talk to her about her story. 🍷



Gary Larsen

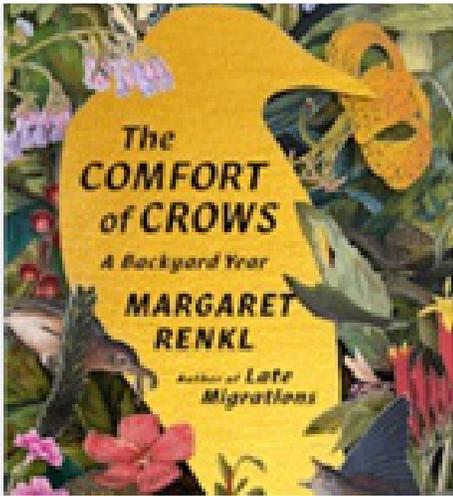
BOOK REVIEW

THE COMFORT OF CROWS, by Margaret Renkl

Reviewed by, Regina Doherty,
President, Camellia GC of Eustis

Some people believe that the first bird you see in January is the symbol for your year. I saw a catbird. If this is true, then my year will be filled with intuitive decisions, awareness of my surroundings, and spiritual transformation. I like those ideas and look forward to the changes that will occur.

In Margaret Renkl's, *The Comfort of Crows - a Backyard Year*, she keeps a journal of the beauty of nature we can observe if we just slow down! Each chapter contains Renkl's weekly observations through the seasons for a year with beautiful illustrations by her artist husband. Each chapter also includes a quote from naturalists, poets, authors, and even scripture. She depicts how nature changes (whether we're aware or not) in detailed descriptions that are so vivid I can see through her eyes and hear the songs of birds. This book is inspirational, visually imaginative, and contains nature's spiritually comforting moments. She speaks of how the climate is changing local/native growth and animal endangerment/extinction. She relates how human progress has



wiped out species (e.g., American Chestnut) or has sent wildlife to less populated areas, and how creatures and plants she knew as a child she sees less and less or—not at all.

I highly recommend this book with its short chapters, vivid words, and picturesque descriptions that encourage us to observe nature every day. 🌸

I can scroll and worry indoors, or I can step outside and remember how it feels to be part of something larger, something timeless, a world that reaches beyond me and includes me, too.

—Spring, Week 4

Super fun game you can play while on the phone, too. ▼



FFGC MATCHING GRANTS PROGRAM

by Helen Purvis, Chair
Matching Grants Program
jpurvis77@comcast.net

FFGC has a Matching Grants program that awards up to \$500 to any Florida federated garden clubs and circles in good standing for direct expenses of projects, new or ongoing, to the activities listed below:

- Any activity (workshop, program, or other educational event) aimed at increasing membership by welcoming interested individuals to your Club/Circle.
- An activity to beautify your community, such as park plantings, school gardens, a divided road median or roadside beautification.
- Any activity to increase awareness of our organization's mission, goals, and objectives.

Last year, 15 applications were received, and 10 applications were awarded matching funds. The total amount available to distribute is \$5,000 and applications are ranked. The following clubs/circles were awarded \$500 from the FFGC Matching Grants program for 2024:

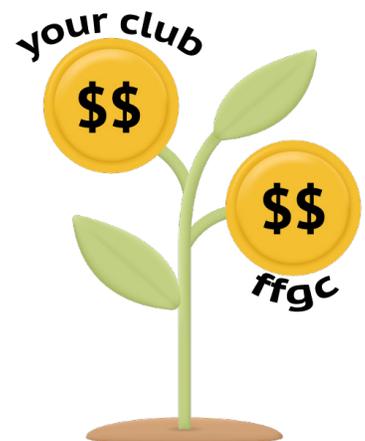
Coral Gables Garden Club; Sweet Bay Garden Club; Destin Garden Club; Cocoa-Rockledge Garden Club; Milton Garden Club of Florida; Arcadia Garden Club; Wakulla County Garden Club; Jasmine Garden; Circle/Tallahassee Garden Club. Dogwood Garden Club of Gulf Breeze received \$425, and Gainesville Garden Club received \$325.

The deadline for the next round of matching funds is January 15, 2025, and are awarded by selecting a project that fits into the criteria stated on the application.

Forms are on the Home page of the website on the lower half in the “hot pink” buttons. You may go directly to the fillable [PDF](#) from here. ALL information about the grant is on the application form. 🌸

HOW TO APPLY:
Application is limited to two (2) pages.

Page 1: Application Form
Page 2: Budget
Page 3: is only allowed if the description of project requires an additional page



THE FLORIDA GARDENER

Volume 2

Spring, 1953

Number 3

Editor's Page

This is the convention issue and the pages are so filled we have to hold over several interesting articles until June, the last issue of the club year. The deadline for all copy is **April 12.**

Some one asked: "Why go to convention?"

Different people go for different reasons depending upon their attitudes toward life. Whether you go as a delegate or simply as a visitor (any member is welcome), here are some of the things attendance at convention can mean:

1. You meet and mingle and make new friends among the diversified people who have an interest in common—love of growing things and creating beauty. (I think people are the most interesting growing things on earth so I place the fellowship with the members of the Federation as the first pleasure derived from convention.)
2. You learn how our big organization functions, and transact the necessary business.
3. You hear guest speakers who open new vistas.
4. The forums contribute new ideas to burnish your thoughts.
5. You see gardens and horticulture of another section of the state.
6. You see arrangements designed with materials found in another area of Florida.
7. On display will be many exhibits including books and materials to facilitate our garden club work.
8. You get out of your daily routine. If you have been working too hard in your garden or in your club, then come to convention because it is stimulating and just because it is fun.

"Nature's Bounty for a More Beautiful Florida," the convention theme, has a lush and luxuriant sound, and Miami a reputation as a gracious hostess, so we believe April 8, 9 and 10 will be happy days.

Have you heard?:

"Happiness adds and multiplies when you divide it with others."

A small boy's philosophy: "The more friends you have, the more you own of the world."

Katherine G. Parkinson

GARDEN CLUBS

Liberal commission offered

for subscriptions to

Tropical Homes and Gardening

ONLY magazine devoted to gardening
problems of entire Florida

BOX 304, CORAL GABLES, FLA.

CLEWISTON INN

CLEWISTON, FLORIDA

(Finest Small Hotel South)

COMPLETELY AIR CONDITIONED

LOVELY ROOMS + DINING ROOM
COCKTAIL LOUNGE

BANQUETS AND MEETINGS WELCOMED

Phone 5

Page 3



PLANT FOR POLLINATORS GARDEN

by Grace Tshanakas
gtshanakas@gmail.com

[NOTE: If you check out page 21 from the Winter 2023 Edition of TFG, you will find more explanatory information and links to apply for this project. What follows is an update on previous applications.

Plant America is a special project of the 2023-2025 administration of the National Garden Club (NGC) led by NGC President Brenda Moore (who will be an evening speaker at the convention). **The program has three components:**

- Plant America, Plant for Pollinators
- Plant America, Landscape for Wildlife
- Plant America, Feed America

PLANT AMERICA, PLANT FOR POLLINATORS [\[Application\]](#)

Florida is setting the pace in the Plant America, Plant for Pollinators initiative, with 29 applications submitted out of a total of 198 nationwide, including our very own Tina Tuttle's garden (pictured above). Florida clubs are making significant strides in supporting pollinator habitats, **outshining Texas**, which follows with 20 applications.

PLANT AMERICA, LANDSCAPE FOR WILDLIFE [\[APPLICATION\]](#)

In the Landscape for Wildlife component, Florida boasts three participating clubs out of a total of 62 nationwide. Recently, Boca Raton joined the ranks, contributing to the state's commitment to nurturing wildlife habitats.

PLANT AMERICA, FEED AMERICA [\[APPLICATION\]](#)

Among Florida clubs, the Garden Club of Fleming Island shines

brightly, exemplifying generosity by donating to the Food Pantry of Green Cove. Led by Margaret McDowell, this club's dedication is commendable. While only two donation forms have been received from Florida, the spirit of giving remains strong. Across the nation, 122 donation forms have been received, showcasing the collective effort of garden clubs in supporting communities in need.

Florida garden clubs are highly engaged and attaining impressive accomplishments!

As we sow the seeds of generosity and conservation, please direct any inquiries about the program to the Florida state coordinator, Grace Tshanakas. Stay tuned for more updates on the Plant America program as we nurture gardens, wildlife, and communities across the Sunshine State!

Refer to NGC web site for any updates to this information.. The links by each title is the application for that grant. 🌿

[NOTE: If you check out page 21 from the Winter 2023 Edition of TFG, you will find more explanatory information and links to apply for this project. What follows is an update on previous applications.]



EEK! I WISH IT WAS JUST A MOUSE!

Inger Jones

Inger Jones, Chairperson
Invasive Species
mjinger@att.net

Brace yourselves!!

Florida is waging a decades-old war against invasive species. Reptiles, mammals, birds, fish, and plants continue to take over new habitats and wreak great havoc in the ecosystem. Trying to control all of them is costing Floridians **over \$100 million** a year as they continue to spread into **1.7 million acres**. That's worth caring about.

WHAT IS THE MEANING OF INVASIVE SPECIES?

An invasive species is any species that is not native to a particular area, that has been introduced by human activity, intentionally or unintentionally, and causes, or is likely to cause, harm to the environment as well as our human health and well-being.

Let's look at reptiles. Florida is sometimes called *ground zero* for the number of invasive reptiles that now call the state home. *There are over 60 species*, but the following are exceedingly high on the list of the most destructive.



Cuban Brown Anole (*Anolis sagrei*) are causing native reptile species to become threatened, endangered, or even extinct.

Burmese Python (*Python bivittatus*) have no predators and



are disseminating throughout the Everglades. Preying on everything, even fighting to the death with our Florida gators.



Argentine black and white tegu (*Salvator merianae*) A new invader to the Everglades with no predators, this has created a double whammy in the Everglades as it eats our Florida gator eggs!



Red eared slider (*Trachemys scripta elegans*) One of the most invasive animals in the world!! Red to look at but they prey on smaller invertebrates including Florida's endemic and native lizard species.



Green Iguana (*Iguana, iguana*)
 These large herbivorous lizards cause extreme damage to natural ecosystems. They eat every type of plant and have no predators here. They are everywhere from natural habitats to our backyards. The trickle-down effect of their voracious appetites affects people, native plants, and urban landscapes as well as native animals. They are the largest iguana in the Americas!
<https://myfwc.com/wildlifehabitats/profiles/reptiles/green-iguana/>



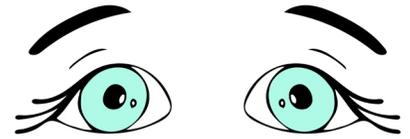
South American Brown Basilisk (*Basiliscus vittatus*) These are kept in check in South America by native predators, but it has no predators here. Populations in Florida are increasing uncontrollably.



Veiled chameleon (*Chamaeleo calyptratus*) and is widely captive bred (captive propagation, closed environments). They compete with other lizards and consume insects, plants, and smaller lizards. These are considered invasive in Hawaii. The Panther Chameleon (*Furcifer paralis*) is one listed in Florida.



Cuban Knight Anole (*Anolis equestris*) compete with our native green anole. They prey on smaller lizards, frogs, and birds. Eating any plants in natural Florida habitats, such as pinelands and rockwood hammocks) they prefer arboreal and suburban habitats, where they prey on smaller lizards, frogs, and birds. They are typically seen hanging out and blending in on the bark of trees.



If you see any of these reptiles, RUN to your phone and ...
 Call Florida toll-free hotline:

1-888-IVEGOT1

Call your local County Extension Office.

Additional information:

<https://www.audubon.org/news/invasive-reptiles-are-taking-over-florida-and-devouring-its-birds-along-way>

<https://myfwc.com/wildlifehabitats/nonnatives/python/patrol/>

<https://www.wusf.org/environment/2021-12-08/florida-tegu-lizards-migrating-north-what-invasion-means-for-state-wildlife>

<https://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/publication/UW365>

It's just me. I won't hurt you.



CAMP WEKIVA CELEBRATES 50 YEARS

Mary Whisler

Camp Wekiva 2024 is busy getting ready for another year of camp. So much must be done before our camp begins. We order our 2024 Tee Shirts, plan for evening programs, check to see all our equipment is in working order and, most of all, start looking for volunteers. For new FFGC Members, FFGC Wekiva Youth Camp is the only youth environmental camp in the entire country that is sponsored by an NGC State Federation. It all started 50 years ago by forward-thinking and generous FFGC Garden Club members. It celebrates its 50th anniversary in 2024.

The camp is focused on environmental education. Located at Wekiva State Park we accept youth from Grades 1 to Grade 9. It started with the intention of giving young people a place to learn about conservation and how to enjoy the beautiful outdoors.

The activities are centered around different age groups. Critter Camp is for campers completing Grades 1 and 2. Our campers who have completed Grades 3 through 6, Primitive Camp for Grade 7, Environmental and Canoeing for Grade 8, and by invitation only, Our Leaders in Training (LIT) Grade 9.

The camp fees are borne by parents, camp volunteers, and FFGC's 157 garden clubs by generously offering scholarships that enable children in your community to attend. The garden club scholarships allow the cost to families to remain reasonable while still providing a great educational experience for our campers.

Our Chef, *Christopher Bates*, from the Orlando High School Culinary School, and his "chefs in training" will run the newly renovated kitchen. Our registrar, *Barbara Fowler*, is working to register over 600 campers. *Gail Shaw* is the new Wekiva Treasurer and is working with our FFGC/Wekiva Treasurer, *Jana Walling*. Nurse Coordinator, *Nancy Steinbuechler* is contacting nurses for weekly coverage in our new clinic. We are happy to report that our Camp Director, *Shelby Mander*, will be returning and, as of late February, we are interviewing for an Assistant Director.

CAMPERS TODAY ENVIRONMENTAL LEADERS OF TOMORROW

Our Nature Coordinator, *Kathy Rigling*, teaches campers almost everything about birds, bugs, butterflies, trees, and native plants. This year's focus will be



on Florida's native trees. Hikes are a daily event and campers will see gophers, rabbits, deer and even an occasional bear or snake. Our Craft Coordinator, *Julie Valentine*, teaches the craft sessions. Julie was a Wekiva camper and counselor. *Mandy Howell* is Coordinator for Lifeguard Training, Waterfront Director and our First and Second Grade Program known as Critter Camp. Mandy wears many "hats" and does them all very successfully. *Lindsay Loftin* is our Primitive Coordinator and joins us each year from Tennessee where she is a firefighter, mother of three young children, and a past camper and counselor. She teaches our 7th Grade campers how to tent camp in a primitive area, cook meals on an open fire, and just enjoy nature at its best. *Kelly Hartman*, Environmental Education and Canoeing Coordinator, teaches issues with our Florida waterways and water issues. She also teaches the art of teamwork and leadership

while learning how to handle a canoe. At the end of the week, the 8th grade campers will complete their training by paddling down the Wekiva River. *Devon Villareal-Dabbs* is our Leaders in Training (LIT) Coordinator. The LIT (grade 9) program is by invitation only and leads campers in leadership skills to become our future counselors. This is a critical program as most of our incoming counselors come through this program. Also, Devon took on the position of FFGC Vice Chairman, and is a very integral part of the camp running smoothly. Camp Wekiva is truly lucky to have this hard-working team.

At our Volunteer Training in February, we were happy to receive a beautiful shadowbox frame with mementos of the dedication of the new clinic from *Ann Todd*. The timely and generous donation from *Troy and Ann Todd* of the Sweetwater Oaks Garden Club allowed us the opportunity to rebuild the clinic building and we will forever be grateful! We hope Ms. Todd is happy to see what her wonderful donation created. This beautiful shadowbox frame is now hanging in the clinic.

In June, before our camp starts for another year, we will be hosting a 50th anniversary party for camp alumni. Former Counselors and Campers will be invited to enjoy a flag ceremony, swim in the springs, enjoy the campfire, and remember good times at camp.

Last year, our camp was 100% full, except for a few last-minute cancellations. As of the end of February 2024, the camp is almost 75% full. All our special programs are full and a “wait list” is getting long. We are still requesting volunteers to help with crafts and nature. If you have a week open this year, we encourage you to volunteer. The shining star of camp is you, the garden club members. Your contribution of students, scholarships, donations, volunteering, and support continues to make Camp Wekiva the second most magical place in Florida. 🌸



HOW TO CERTIFY YOUR GARDEN AS POLLINATOR FRIENDLY HABITAT

by Jeri Decker, Chair, Bees, Butterflies and Birds
jkenjeri@att.net

Any Florida resident or business whose property meets the requirements may apply to FFGC or NGC for a Pollinator Habitat Certification.

Visit the FFGC website (FORMS) to see the different certificates available for **Bees** and **Butterflies**, and two special categories, **Silver Pollinator** (if you have bees, butterflies and birds), and **Golden Pollinator** (if you have bees, butterflies, birds, and bats).

If you apply, include several labeled photographs so your property can be evaluated for certification.

Pollinator Gardens should have the following four sources:

#1 FOOD

It is essential to include a diverse array of native plants that bloom at different times of the year. This diversity ensures a continuous and reliable supply of nectar, pollen, and larval food sources, addressing the specific needs of various pollinator species. Here are some key elements that pollinator gardens should have:



Choose a variety of **native plants** that are adapted to the local climate and soil condition;

Include **flowering plants**, shrubs, and trees to cater to different pollinator species.

Select plants with **staggered blooming periods** throughout the growing season to provide a constant supply of food.

Prioritize plants with **nectar-rich flowers** to attract and nourish adult pollinators. Consider species like bee balm, cone flowers, and milkweed known for their abundant nectar production.

Include plants **that produce ample pollen** to meet the nutritional needs of pollinators. Bees, in particular, benefit from flowers like sunflowers, asters, and goldenrods that provide abundant pollen.

Integrate **host plants** that attach certain **species that lay eggs** on specific host plants, so research and include these in your garden.

#2 SHELTER

Create diverse habitats with a mix of open spaces, sheltered areas, and different plant heights to accommodate various pollinator species. Incorporate features like rocks, logs, or water sources to enhance habitat diversity.

Providing shelter and nesting sites enables pollinators to nest and seek refuge during the winter months contributes to their overall well-being. Here are key considerations for incorporating shelter and nesting sites in a pollinator-friendly garden:

Integrate **diverse plant structures**, such as dense shrubs, grasses, and perennials, and varied heights to offer shelter from wind and predators and to create a layered environment for nesting and roosting.

Leave some **deadwood, brush and rock piles and stones** in the garden, as it provides nesting sites for solitary bees and other insects.



Allow a layer of **leaf litter** to accumulate, offering a natural habitat for ground-nesting bees, small mammals, and beneficial insects.

Install *bee houses* or *insect hotels* with nesting tubes in sheltered locations to attract solitary bees and other pollinators.

Include *late-blooming plants* such as witch hazel or winter heath, to attract pollinators when other food sources may be scarce.

Lastly, leave them alone!

#3 WATER

Water is essential for pollinators as well as humans. A reliable water supply contributes to the well-being and sustainability of pollinator populations.

Here are key considerations for incorporating water sources in a pollinator-friendly garden:

Place non-slippery *shallow containers with fresh water* to offer drinking stations for pollinators and add rocks to avoid drowning.



Mud Puddles, Water Features, and Moist Soils to maintain sections of the garden with consistently moist soils to support ground-nesting bees. *Floating platforms* provide safe landing spots for bees and butterflies that may struggle to land directly on the water's surface. Solitary bees prefer sandy soil for construct partitions.

#4 REMOVE INVASIVE PLANTS



Remove invasive plants which compete with native vegetation and disrupt ecosystems. Invasive plants can alter the structure and composition of ecosystems, leading to a decline in biodiversity. They can disrupt these relationships, leading to a decline in what the neighborhood has to offer pollinators. 🐛

Ask Jeri Decker about applying. Certificates are online at [FORMS](#).



RELATED SOURCES

The Washington Post
Natives vs Navitar Plants: Do pollinators notice a difference?
<https://www.washingtonpost.com/home/2024/02/27/do-nativar-plant-varieties-attract-pollinators/>

[INVASIVE PLANTS BY ITS COMMON NAME 2023](#)

Florida Invasive Species Council (FIPS) You can find it online under PROGRAMS and scroll down.

You won't want to miss the presentation at convention on KUDZU: The Plant That Devoured the South, presented by Dr. DeBolt on Thursday, April 11 at 3 pm.

JUNIOR GARDEN AWARDS AND VERY SENIOR JUDGES

by Brenda Davis, Chair
Junior Gardeners
cresseycaligus@gmail.com

It is an exciting time in the world of Junior Garden Clubs. Award submissions arrived right on time, January 2, for a total of 60 applications from the following three clubs: Citrus Garden Club (District V), Ribault Garden Club (District IV), and Foliage Garden Club of Apopka (District VII). We had plenty of work ahead of us trying to find a first-place winner in each category submitted.

This is my first year in this role, and I was tasked with finding unbiased judges to score these award projects. Now I have had a few good ideas in my lifetime, but this idea was one of my best! I solicited the expertise of five residents in a local assisted living facility. Several of these ladies retired from the school system. I knew they would take it seriously and be good for both of us. It was a win win!

We were given use of a private dining room located just off the main dining room. Lunch was being served to the residents at the time and things got very interesting. I could see the inquisitive looks of the many diners! I believe I could have several more judges if I needed



Residents from Cedar Creek Assisted Living.

them. They were all very eager to help. Around the table, I placed the letters A through E on bright bumblebee containers with plants.

They didn't know the plants were to be their thank you gifts when judging was complete.

After getting comfortable and talking about the task at hand, they got right to work. Once judging was complete, I gathered all scoring cards and averaged the scores to come up with a final score. The top scorers became our first-place winners. Our greatest hurdle that day was trying to figure out how to accommodate four walkers and one cane in such a limited space,



but we made it work.

My Junior Gardeners will have the opportunity to display their terrariums at Cedar Creek Assisted Living Facility at the end of the school year. If your club is in need of an audience for a youth flower show, I suggest you contact a center like Cedar Creek. You will have a captive audience and the residents will enjoy the day as well.

FFGC currently has 15 registered youth clubs—11 Junior Garden Clubs, one Intermediate Garden Club, and three High School Garden Clubs.

If you are interested in learning more about the world of Junior Gardening, please stop by my workshop at the convention Thursday, April 11, 3:00-3:50.

Participants will be doing a hands-on activity that I do with my Junior Gardeners. It will be a creative art experience and you will not get dirty. I will do what I do best...make you feel like a kid again!🌸

COVER STORY

Youth Gardening

by Lisa Packard, Editor
The Florida Gardener
floridagardener@outlook.com

Since children will inherit the earth, it stands to reason that youth interest in gardening and environmental concerns and interest starts early. I had an opportunity to chat with two moms who started an incredible garden club at a local elementary school. Here's what they had to say:

Rebecca Gloddy and Carly Sinigoi are two mothers with kids attending Gemini Elementary School in Melbourne Beach. They had a vision to create space for a garden to introduce students to planting and growing their own vegetables and flowers. After meeting with then Gemini's Principal Mrs. Julian in 2018, they received the green light.

tfg

How and why was the club formed?

ggc

We started with garden consisting of two raised beds for the kindergartners. We used our own funding, time, and muscle to build and fill the bins. We were able to conduct projects once a week at recess time for the kindergarten classes which included both of our sons.

Our dedication was evident over time and Principal Julian allowed us to plan a larger garden on the north playground. We conducted plant sales to raise money and erected a working

tfg

What is the structure of the group? Who is in charge, who helps and how, and when/where do you meet?



garden for other grade levels to enjoy.

After many days, hours, and evenings of sweat and hard labor, along with key community helpers, the garden was constructed. Over the years, with different volunteers and donations, the garden evolved to what it is today.

ggc

A chicken named *Big Papa Puff* was dedicated as the President of the Garden Club until he was eaten by a raccoon, or some critter. The Gemini Garden Club is currently organized by ourselves, Sara Russo (whose daughter, Aven, graces our cover), and Sonya Ostensen. After the school reopened post-COVID, Sonya was given the responsibility of watering and ►

maintaining the kindergarten garden. She also organized special planting events for the kindergarten classes and helped with *Green Thumb Thursday* projects while learning more about gardening with the students. Last year she recruited volunteers by promoting the garden club through different emails, texts, and articles in *Geminews*, the school newsletter. Sonya started running the Green Thumb Thursdays for 1st through 5th grades when we were too busy.

This year, Rebecca and Sonya conduct Green Thumb Thursdays for 4th and 5th Grades. This takes place every Thursday during the students' recess times. The students may choose to join in the garden projects or to just enjoy recess. The kids

sometimes split the time or just want to sit in the garden area and relax. We try to focus their attention on the project at hand if they are interested.

The only rule for garden club is No Drama.

Sara Russo currently runs the First Grade Garden time for Green Thumb Fridays. She sets up projects such as planting the Butterfly Pea Vine seeds for a tea party made from the vine's purple flowers, pumpkin seed experiments, dried pressed flower crafts and more. Sara became involved with the Garden Club first as a parent volunteer and then as a social media promoter of the *Arts in the Garden* event in October. That event raised funds to support the garden and a memorial in the new music garden to

honor Gemini's beloved music teacher, Mr. Brian Meisenburg, who passed away. The event consisted of food truck vendors, a farmers' market, a student rock band for entertainment, high-end art sale, and featured a live mural painting by artist Chris Maslow on the garden wall! Sara had connections in the very talented local art scene. It was an incredible and fun community event.

tfg

How do the kids take responsibility for the activities?

ggc

The garden is very hands-on as the students control planting, watering, weeding, cutting back overgrown plants, and one of their favorites, harvesting and tasting the fruit and vegetables they have grown. The kids get excited to see their seeds grow into flowers and vegetables. For example, last year they grew cucumber and tomatoes from seed.

Upon harvesting, we cut up the cucumbers and let each student eat them. Some students had never tried a cucumber before and ended up loving them! The passion fruit was one of the most successful crops and very fun to sample as well!

We also have red worm composting that students help feed and maintain in bins with scraps from the garden. When the students wash the bins with water, it produces what is called *worm tea* which is a natural



fertilizer that students pour on the crops or flowers growing.

Generally, if we give an interested student a specific job, they tend to take ownership and pride in the garden. However, there is one special volunteer who always seems to motivate

ggc

The garden operates during school hours. As registered Brevard School volunteers, we are allowed access to the garden outside of school hours and during weekends to conduct maintenance and water system checks, hurricane prep and



ggc

Last year we did a cabbage weigh-off where each class had their own bin and grew cabbages from seed. The largest cabbage was harvested, and each class collectively guessed the weight. The class who guessed closest to the actual weight won a pizza party served with homemade coleslaw from the cabbage harvest by garden club volunteers.

our students. She is the one and only Miss Vickie. Miss Vickie does not have any children or grandchildren enrolled in Gemini. She shows up almost every week to volunteer. Students gravitate to Miss Vickie as she fills them with positivity and garden wisdom. She is one of a kind! There is one unspoken rule, you don't tell Miss Vickie no!

cleanup, or prepare for special projects.

We try to start plantings during the appropriate growing season. Although, as extreme weather conditions are becoming more prevalent, hurricanes and Florida heat take a toll, it does not always work out.

tfg

How do you deal with the seasons and school schedule?

tfg

Do you give out any awards at the end of the year?

Occasionally fresh homemade lemonade is provided to students who participate in the garden. For example, this year we had the opportunity for 4th and 5th grade students to mulch the garden and the bicycle area. Using money from past fundraisers, six pallets of mulch were purchased. On two different dates we held a *Mulch Party* during Green Thumb Thursday. The students who helped to mulch were served fresh handmade lemonade and popcorn. It was amazing to see the teamwork these students pulled off with little guidance ►

from the area, some collected the empty mulch bags, and others spread and raked. The bicycle area was mulched in less than 40 minutes as students put down 4.5 pallets of mulch (338 bags)!



tfg
What's on your immediate wish list for the club? How can parents or non-school based businesses or volunteers help, given the school limitations? Do you get what you need or do you just buy what you need yourselves?

ggc
 Mulch is always one of our main necessities. Most of the money from fundraisers is dedicated to purchasing mulch. Currently, we are trying to wrap up funding for picnic tables made from recycled materials to go under the donated gazebo in the north garden.

Our main wish is for consistent volunteers. We currently have a wonderful group of core volunteers for 1st, 4th, and 5th grades who make Green Thumb Thursday and Fridays possible. It would be amazing to have more committed volunteers for the school's other grade levels who are willing to get their hands dirty with the students. We did K-5th grades last year, with some parental participation. Yet there was no consistency which strained the few dedicated garden club volunteers.

The local community has been paramount in supporting the Gemini School Gardens both by volunteering and supporting our plant sale fundraisers. Every penny of funds raised are used to maintain Gemini's gardens and conduct garden projects.

tfg
What are some of your larger projects? Is there an opportunity for a full circle moment?

ggc
 One of the largest projects conducted last year was the potato crop. Every student in the school was able to plant potato eyes. There were nine large towers standing four feet high, made from chicken wire, PVC piping, and drip hoses. It was Gemini's first attempt at growing a potato crop. We were planning to have a French Fry party for the students with a successful crop. Unfortunately, the crop failed, partly due to the heat, lack of watering, and

the method used. Despite the failed crop, the kids had a blast knocking over the towers and digging through the dirt in search of potatoes. However, it was a lesson that not all crops and plantings succeed despite our best efforts. This echoes in life when agriculture practices end up with failed crops causing food shortages, etc.

This school year we have started a new potato crop using a different method and, so far, the potatoes are thriving. As the students come to the garden and see the potato leaves sprouting up, we explain the new method of covering the leaves with fresh dirt and watering thoroughly and then allowing time for the leaves to grow further upward. This is another life lesson—that failures are merely opportunities to learn from and try again until you succeed. It looks like there may be a French Fry Party after all!

This is another life lesson—that failures are merely opportunities to learn from and try again until you succeed.

tfg
What do you think the kids enjoy most?

ggc
 The students' interests seem to vary per age group. Younger grades (Kindergarten, 1st and 2nd) are little busy bees in the garden and love to plant and

water seedlings. Many of the 3rd and 4th graders enjoy harvesting and sampling the vegetables and fruits, as well as naming and playing with the worms in the compost bins. Overall, students simply love to dig in the dirt whether they are filling pots for seeds, covering potatoes, or clearing out bins.

tfg

What continuity have you seen from the kids who have been involved over a few years?

ggc

It is interesting to observe the students who were exposed to gardening from K-2nd grades as opposed to those who missed that early exposure with the COVID shutdown. **Kids exposed to gardening early on tend to be more active and excited about the garden.** Last year the 3rd grade class was a challenge. It took half a year of consistent Green Thumb Thursdays before they really started to show an interest as a group. However, by the end of the year, these kids were running out to greet us with big smiles on their garden days. We came to realize that this group was not exposed as early to gardening as school had shut down in the last part of their kindergarten year and the garden didn't get up and fully running again until the latter part of their 2nd grade year.

tfg

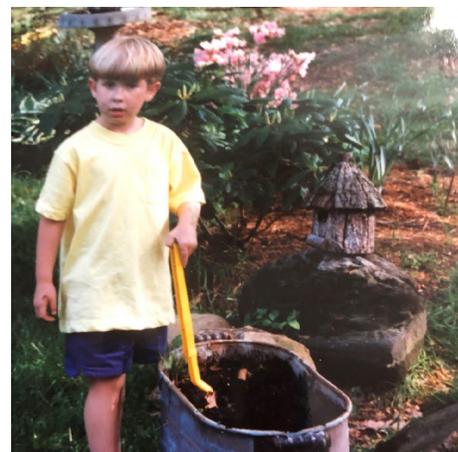
My last interview was the former White House florist hired by Obama. Does that make you feel special?

ggc

Indeed! The Gemini Garden Club is grateful to be considered for this article. Thank you for allowing this opportunity to share our school garden adventures! We would also like to thank Principal Carver and Amy Lee, Head Custodian, whom have been amazing with their support of the Garden Club's goals and efforts. 🌿



An article from *Spacecoast Living* with photographs not usable here. <https://spacecoastliving.com/a-growing-experience/>



▲Morgan (son of the Editor), now 35 and the King of Nepenthes in CA. He was a



"Teach the children. We don't matter so much, but the children do. Show them daisies and the pale hepatica.

Teach them the taste of sassafras and wintergreen. The lives of the blue sailors, mallow, sunbursts, the moccasin-flowers. And the frisky one—inkberry, lamb's-quarters, blueberries. And the aromatic ones—rosemary, oregano.

Give them peppermint to put in their pockets as they go to school. Give them the fields and the woods and the possibility of the world salvaged from the lords of profit.

Stand them in the stream, head them upstream, rejoice as they learn to love this green space they live in, its sticks and leaves and then the silent, beautiful blossoms. Attention is the beginning of devotion."

- Mary Oliver

<https://www.poetryfoundation.org/poets/mary-oliver>

summer camp leader at the Smithsonian Zoo (DC) because the competition was tough and the hiring person asked, "who wants to work in the bat cave." Only one person answered YES. We had "diggin' duds" and a "diggin' song." Yes, I raised a gardener.

—Editorial Privilege

A CAMELLIA BY ANOTHER NAME WOULD NOT BE AS SPECIAL TO DISTRICT VII.

by Gwen Carter, District Director, D-VIII, dabney50@aol.com



Not many of us are fortunate enough to have flowers named after us. Most times, we are named after flowers.

Camellia japonica, named 'Arlene Rand' was presented to Arlene in her honor for serving as Florida Federation of Garden Clubs Inc. President, 2015-2017, at the 91st FFGC Convention in Kissimmee.

At the time, Clermont Garden Club purchased two plants to be planted on the club grounds. They were purchased from the grower, Mark Crawford, who has a nursery in Valdosta, GA, called Loch Laurel Nursery.

The club members presented Arlene with gold plaques designating the location of the 'Arlene Rand' in the Clermont Garden Club's garden. 'Arlene Rand' continues to bring beauty to the garden.



Camellia japonica 'Arlene Rand' (2019)

A small to medium-sized anemone-form to full-peony form blooms are produced on a lowish, spreading plant. A seedling of Hagaromo (a Higo), it was selected by John Davy of Panhandle Growers of Milton, Florida. He named it for the former president of the Florida Federation of Garden Clubs. 🌸

FFGC SCHOLARSHIP AND ENDOWMENT FUND

by Helen Purvis, Chair
Scholarship Fund
Jpurvis77@comcast.net

FFGC offers college scholarships for college bound and graduate students. The deadline for applying is May 1, 2024, and the forms may be downloaded from the FFGC website (www.FFGC.org/youth/scholarship) or you can contact this chairman for any additional help or questions.

This past year, five \$3,000 scholarships were awarded to: Celeste Schreiber, University of Florida; Caroline Gordon, University of Florida; Crystal Eller, University of Central Florida; Blaire Kleiman, Florida International University; and Madison Ryan, Florida State University. Noan Francis received a \$1,500 scholarship to attend Florida Gateway College.

The Scholarship is funded by donations by individuals and/or clubs and circles throughout Florida. To make a donation, please send your check made payable to FFGC Scholarship Fund to Jana Walling, 2121 Olivia Dr., Tallahassee, 32308. Recognition will be given to those donating \$1,000 or more at FFGC Convention and in this magazine.

COOL LINKS

Florida Botanical Foundation
<https://www.flbgfoundation.org/>

FLORIDA BOTANICAL
GARDENS BY STATE
<https://ahsgardening.org/directo-ry-print/?state=FL>

WIKIPEDIA LIST OF ALL OF
THEM
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_botanical_gardens_and_arboretums_in_Florida

LIST OF BOTANICAL GARDENS
<https://gardenclubatpalmcoast.org/resources/list-of-public-botanical-gardens-in-florida>

VERANDA MAGAZINE'S TOP 15
<https://www.veranda.com/outdoor-garden/g28724797/florida-gardens/>

VISIT FLORIDA'S LIST
<https://www.visitflorida.com/things-to-do/outdoors-and-adventure/gardens/>

IFAS State Map of Locations
<https://directory.ifas.ufl.edu/googleearthdisplay?pageID=1>

WILDFLOWERS FOUNDATION
There is a ton of information on how to select and grow different wildflowers for different situations.
<https://www.flawildflowers.org/brochures/>

20 EASY WILDFLOWERS
Online under PROGRAMS

—GRANTS—

JAN 1-MAR 1
NGC / AMES
Grant season open

[WEB](#)

APR 1 - OCT 15
PLANT AMERICA
COMMUNITY PROJECT
Grant season open to fund projects carried out in 2025. Up to \$2,000 is available to cover direct expenses of projects.

[WEB](#)

OCT 1 - MAY 31 (2024)
NGC / ESPOMA GRANT
Grant season open

[WEB](#)

NGC / WILDFLOWER
ROLLING GRANTS
Grants may be up to \$500 for direct expenses for an educational program on the subject of native plants and wildflowers.

[WEB](#)

FLORIDA WILDFLOWER
FOUNDATION— Viva Florida
Landscape Demonstration
Garden grants
Grants to purchase native wildflowers and plants for public projects. [WEB](#)

FEED AMERICA
<https://gardenclubwebsite.wufoo.com/forms/zsknpl11e4aocl/>

WILDLIFE HABITAT:
<https://gardenclubwebsite.wufoo.com/forms/z16n6ku90w6df5v/>

PLANT FOR POLLINATORS:
<https://gardenclubwebsite.wufoo.com/forms/zl7pbyz17msloz/>

FFGC MATCHING GRANT
all details are on the online FORM; deadline is January 15, 2025

[FORM](#)

GARDENING IS A STEM ACTIVITY!

Many organizations (Lego) and states (Alaska for one) and

 recognize gardening and horticultural activities as a blend of art and science

 and may qualify for STEM grants

Gardening can be considered both a science and an art, as it requires knowledge and creativity to cultivate plants effectively. The science aspect focuses on understanding the principles that govern plant growth, including soil composition, sunlight exposure, and water requirements. <https://sunshinegreenhouse.com/>

WILDFLOWER WATERCOLORS ON TOUR

by Sue Roberts, Lake and Hills Garden Club
sue@suegeorgeroberts.com

At the FFGC Board of Directors meeting in January 2024, at our headquarters, we were treated to a wonderful display of wildflower watercolors from the Lakes and Hills Garden Club in Mount Dora, FL. They have held a botanical watercolor collection by Emma Collin Sears Marsh, an American painter who lived from 1871 to 1960, was gifted to the Lakes and Hills Garden Club by the artist in 1950. The collection is comprised of 246 watercolor paintings depicting wildflower and blooming plants observed by the artist across the state of Florida in the early 20th century.

A resident of Mount Dora until her death in 1960, Emma Collin Sears Marsh was the wife of George Marsh, the minister of the Congregational Church of Mount Dora from 1910-1918. Conserved by the garden club in 2020, these watercolors are present

to honor Marsh's lifetime pursuit of documenting and celebrating the species of our state. It is the commitment of the Club that these paintings be preserved for further enjoyment and education in the Central Florida community.



Botanical watercolor collection by Emma Collin Sears Marsh, an American painter who lived from 1871 to 1960, was gifted to the Lakes and Hills Garden Club.

While Marsh lived and painted primarily in Central Florida, it is apparent from the species depicted in the collection that she also traveled within the state to observe and record her subjects. The geographic range of plant species depicted in this exhibit extends from the northernmost Panhandle to the Florida Keys.

The aesthetic beauty of the paintings is readily apparent to any viewer, but Marsh's commitment to the scientific accuracy of her depictions should not be overlooked. While many of the taxonomic notes Marsh record in the lower margins of the paintings are now outdated, the skill and scientific accuracy of Marsh's paintings allow us to identify the species by their modern classifications. Detailed notes on the physical appearance of each species were often recorded on the verso of the painting in the artist's handwriting



for later classification. The wildflower and blooming plants documented by Marsh throughout the 1920's were predominantly native and naturalized species. However, state-listed invasive species and Plants endemic to the state that are now considered threatened or endangered, also appear with the collection. Much of the habitat that Marsh would have observed these species in has been disturbed by development in the last century. During her lifetime, Marsh used her observations and

her painting to educate the public and inspire appreciation of the flora she observed through her many lectures at garden club meetings and organizations throughout the state. On behalf of the artist and the diverse species she studied and painted, the Lakes and Hills Garden Club of Mount Dora present this collection to further educate the public and bring awareness to the natural beauty and ongoing need for preservation of the state's wildflower populations. The next exhibit will be at the Albin Polasek Museum in Winter Park in August of 2024. 🐾




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GRAND CELEBRATION OF FLORIDA ARBOR DAY 2024

Lynn Artz

On January 19, garden clubs across Florida held impressive Arbor Day ceremonies, tree plantings, and tree giveaways. What a grand way to kick off FFGC's 100th anniversary year!

More than 125 garden clubs celebrated Florida Arbor Day by simultaneously planting about 500 trees. Trees found homes in parks and at schools, waterfronts, and town squares. Some clubs planted their first ever Arbor Day tree.

The most popular tree choice for clubs was southern live oak (*Quercus virginiana*), a keystone genus native throughout the state. Live oaks support wildlife, can live for 400-500 years, and are fire- and hurricane-resistant. Red maple, bald cypress, and sweet bay magnolia were other popular choices. Most impressive was the tree diversity with more than 50 species chosen, the majority native to Florida.

The Duke Energy Foundation supported this project with a \$20,000 grant, the goal being to increase climate resiliency and support biodiversity by planting native trees. Grant funds fully reimbursed 78 clubs plus FFGC headquarters for buying and planting nearly 40 species of 164 native trees.

At least 26 clubs gave away more than 8,000 native tree seedlings. Nearly 30 species were offered. Although several clubs obtained donated seedlings from the Florida Forest Service, most were reimbursed through a grant from the National Wildlife Federation.

The 10 garden clubs in District 12 shined by planting 300 native trees in West Mattheson Hammock Park. Perry Garden Club countered the destruction of Hurricane Idalia in Taylor County by planting 18 native trees and giving away nearly 3,000 seedlings. Tallahassee Garden Club sponsored 3 Arbor Day events at which 47 trees were planted and 400 seedlings were given away. District 6 had active participation by all 15 of its clubs.



What a wonderful celebration! Thank you all for making this the best Florida Arbor Day ever. 🌿

Lynn Artz, Chair, FL Arbor Day
lynn_artz@hotmail.com



FLORIDA ARBOR DAY



Melbourne GC



Wild Coffee Cir.

ARBOR DAY VIDEOS
PRESS PLAY ▶

[COCOA-ROCKLEDGE GC](#)

[CORAL GABLES GC](#)

[SARASOTA GC](#)

[GAINESVILLE GC](#)

FLORIDA ARBOR DAY



Camellia GC



Temple Terrace GC



Homosassa GC



Gainesville GC



Poinciana GC

Tallahassee GC



Perry GC



Lakeland GC



CAMARADERIE AMONG GARDEN CLUBS

by Gwen Carter, Clermont Garden Club President, District VII

by Gwen Carter
dabney50@aol.com

Clermont Garden Club used their February general meeting for a free workshop in creating a Line Floral Design. The club president (myself) guided members through the process. Members had a good time working on their designs while fellowshiping with each other. It's not always about the money, but the camaraderie among members. 🌸



Gwen Carter, President,
Clermont Garden Club



TECH BUDDIES

by Lisa Packard, Editor TFG

When the personal computer landed on office desks in the 1980s, employers trained staff on how to use Microsoft Word and other software programs. If you were not working, you pretty much missed out. I did. That meant when I returned to work, I had to get my own training on my own dime, if I could find them.



We have a generation of people who missed it, and are left behind more and more every day.

I would like to suggest club members already know who in their midst is struggling and pair up with those folks by serving as a **TECH BUDDY**. Leave no garden club member behind. The tech buddy assumes the responsibility of making sure their buddy is aware of mundane and important things and, perhaps, help with online registrations or finding a link to something.

People do not like to ask for help, but it would be comforting to know someone reliable is on call for them, and their call is not bothersome.

I am willing to teach basic things thru my Zoom account. Send an email to the Editor if interested, and we will set up small Zoom groups. A bunch around one computer is okay, too!

WHAT IF YOU THREW A FAIR AND 3,000 PEOPLE CAME?

by Jeri Ronaldson, President
Garden Club by the Sea (D VI)
gardenclubbythesea@gmail.com

There was a buzz in the air as the members of Garden Club by the Sea (GCBS) hosted their first “Pollinator Fair” on Sunday March 3 at Nance Park in Indialantic Florida. About 3,000 visitors attended this free, fun, family friendly event designed to bring awareness about pollinators and their importance to the ecosystem.

The Town of Indialantic is located within the Atlantic Flyway, a major north-south flight route for hundreds of migratory bird species. The Garden Club learned that as the birds migrated back and landed in Indialantic, many died of starvation due to a lack of food sources prohibited by the plethora of highly manicured and chemically treated lawns. Club members decided to bring awareness of this ecological predicament and formulated a plan to educate the local community about the importance of pollinators to our ecosystem.

Under the direction of GCBS President Jeri Ronaldson, the members spent the past year
100TH ANNIVERSARY EDITION 1924-2024



developing and promoting their first pollinator fair. The Garden Club provided tents for other local garden clubs and nonprofit organizations generously financed by sponsorship.



L-R Alice Williams, Beth Evander, Jeri Glynn-Ronaldson, and (sponsor) Alan Landman.

Gardening friends from Melbourne Garden Club, Island Garden Club and Indian Harbour Beach Garden Club participated in the fair. Nance Park was the perfect venue, as it is located

adjacent to the innovative Mikey Goodwin Playground and Indialantic beach and shops. Six food trucks provided a variety of delicious food and ice creams, so there was ample adjacent activities to enjoy. Vendors were selected because they were known to members, and then vendors invited other vendors which aided in quality control. We were careful to accept only vendors who had enough merchandise to last the full day. Brevard County has many environmental organizations devoted to the environment and fragile plants and animals who were very excited to participate.

Florida Master Gardeners and wildlife organization experts were on hand to answer questions and provided information about how to grow and support our local pollinator ecosystem of bees, butterflies,



birds, bats, sea turtles, gopher tortoises, plants, and flowers (and owls).

The local vendors brought an extensive selection of native plants for purchase. Honey vendors, Greek's Bees, and LKC Honey had "live" bee exhibits they used to teach visitors about one of our most important pollinators.

The club used two people to serve as designated counters and the Indianalantic police and several vendors concurred that 3,000 people attended. The club followed up with all the participating organizations and vendors who said they would all do it again. The Town's new Sustainability Committee pledged a more active role should the club decide to make this an annual event. They are hosting a Monarch Challenge very soon and used our Pollinator Fair as their kick-off event.





The two big sponsors, Alan Landman PA, and Outdoor Enhancements happily agreed to sponsor again.



The kids craft area was a hit as children were able to make their own bee house, wildflower “seed bomb” and were taught about a bee’s life with an entertaining interactive bee game. All visitors were invited to help the club complete a “pollinator hotel” with pieces of bamboo, pinecones, leaves, sticks, flowers, and seed pods. The completed bee house will be placed in Lily Park.

Lily Park contains a large pollinator garden with a water feature, bird feeder and a large

variety of Florida native and Florida friendly plants. The club won a Plant America grant two years ago that is featured on the National Garden Club’s website [<https://gardenclub.org/plant-america-community-project-grants/>].

We are also thrilled to be featured on NGC’s Facebook right now. [<https://www.facebook.com/NGCSOCIALMEDIA/>]

ABOUT GCBS

The club has about 45 members, many of whom have been members for many years. They will celebrate their 60th anniversary this year. Lily Park features a QR code sign which links to their website and offers plant and horticultural information.

WEBSITE

<https://www.sbgca.org/garden-club-by-the-sea-1>

MIGRATORY BIRD DASHBOARD

Look on the Migratory Bird Dashboard to find your area to see who is in your night sky. <https://dashboard.birdcast.info/region/US-FL-009>



FFGC COMMITTEES & CHAIRS

actual listings are in the Book of Information (BOI).

→All board documents are [online](#) for review.

4-5 STAR MEMBERS	Joanne Mulinare
ADOPT-A-PARK	Mickey Quigley
AFFILIATES MEMBERSHIP	Donna Berger
ARBOR DAY	Lynn Artz
ARBORETA & BOTANICAL GARDENS	Jolene King
AWARDS	Sandra Arnold
BIRDS, BUTTERFLIES, BEES & BATS	Jeri Decker
BLUE STAR & GOLD STAR MEMORIAL MARKERS	Rosita Aristoff
BOI EDITOR	Lisa Packard
BRICK PATHS	Charlotte White
BYLAWS & STANDING RULES	Marge Hendon
CALENDAR	Linda Feif-Johnson
CHAPLAIN	Ed Nendick
CONVENTION COORDINATOR	Connie Gladding
CORAL REEF RESTORATION	Sharon Trbovich
DEEP SOUTH GARDEN CLUBS UNIFIED PROJECT	Daphna Goldberg
DUES AMBASSADOR	Sue Roberts
EARTH STEWARD	Kathleen Siena
ENDANGERED PLANTS	Inger Jones
FINANCE COMMITTEE	Christy Linke
FLORAL DESIGN STUDY	Jan Griffin
FFGC 100th BIRTHDAY	Judy Jodoin
FFSJ PRESIDENT	Gina Jogan
FLORIDA WILDFLOWER LIAISON	Carolyn Schagg
FUN WITH FLOWERS	Emilie Palmieri
GARDEN THERAPY	Pat Shira
HABITAT FOR HUMANITY	Pat Caren
HALL OF FAME/LIFE MEMBERSHIP/PILLAR OF PRIDE	Diane & Skip Lamoureux
HEADQUARTERS AND ENDOWMENT	Sue Roberts
HQ & GROUNDS	Charlotte White
INSURANCE	Michele Vatalaro
INVASIVE SPECIES	Inger Jones
JUNIOR GARDENERS	Brenda Davis

MATCHING GRANTS Helen Purvis
MEMBERSHIPChristy Linke
NATIONAL GARDEN WEEK Blanca Longo Rancourt
NEWSLETTER Shelia Foster

NGC ENVIRONMENTAL SCHOOL CHAIRMAN Lydia Barbour
NGC GARDEN STUDY SCHOOL CHAIRMANSally Flanagan
NGC LANDSCAPE DESIGN SCHOOL CHAIRMANSue MacPherson
NGC SCHOOLS CREDENTIALS CHAIRMAN.....
NGC SPECIAL PROJECT LIAISON Blanca Longo Rancourt
NGC & DSGC YOUTH CONTESTS Sandra Lynch

PARKS – TRAILS GREENWAYS Mickey Quigley
PENNY PINES Andrea Finn
PHOTOGRAPHER Pat Shira
PLANNED GIVING Carolyn Schaag
PROGRAMS & SPEAKERSPeggy Gahn
PROTOCOL Jolene King
RECLAMATION & RECYCLING Carolyn Stevens
ROADSIDE BEAUTIFICATION/ PATHS OF SUNSHINE Brenda Luedeman

SCHOLARSHIP - DSGC & NGCMary Adams
SCHOLARSHIP – FFGC Helen Purvis
SCOUTING LIAISONJennifer Barber
SEEK CONFERENCEJennifer Seymore-White
SHORT COURSE – UF Carol Binello
SHORT COURSE – NORTH Joanne Conner
SHORT COURSE TROPICAL Maria Wolfe
SMOKEY BEAR-WOODSY OWL Jill Anderson
SOCIAL MEDIA Valerie Seinfeld
STATE FLOWER SHOW CONVENTIONGina Jogan
STRATEGIC PLANNING COMMITTEE Connie Gladding

TOURS & TRAVEL Sally Atkinson
TREES & REFORESTATIONKat Spieker
TRI-COUNCIL PRESIDENT Brenda Leudeman
WEBSITE EDITOR & VIRTUAL PLATFORM TEAMSue Roberts
WEKIVA BLDG & MAINTENANCE Mary Whisler
WEKIVA YOUTH CAMP Mary Whisler
WEKIVA VOLUNTEER TRAINING Leticia Delatorre-Gunn

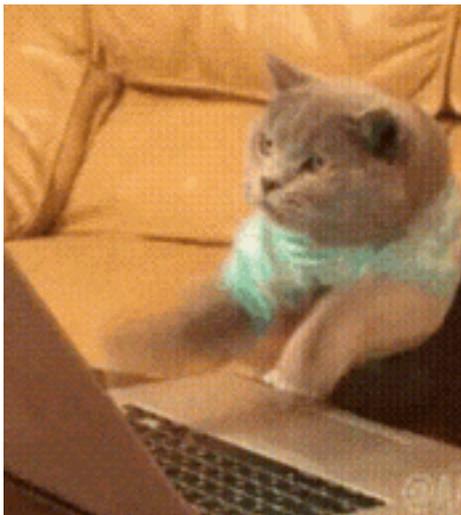
PHOTO: SHELLEY BRODKA

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Drop us a line to ask a question or respond to an article or start a conversation, realizing it's three months until the next issue.



We're listening!



CLICK [HERE](#)

1924

Music

Jazz gained popularity in 1920s.

- Radio and phonograph records were becoming popular and able to provide music in the home setting.
- Public dance halls, clubs, and tea rooms opened in the cities.
- Popular Tin Pan Alley composers like Irving Berlin incorporated ragtime influence into their compositions.

Fashion

Dress hemlines rose and waist lines lowered to the hip. • Celebrities in the 1920s and 1930s would combine casual pieces with formal pieces for a new look. • Shoes of this era had high and wide heels. Many women would wear heels with their swim suits to mark their femininity. • Hats were very popular, such as cloches, turbans and pokes. • Handbags were often vanity bags with built-in mirrors. • By the mid-1920s many women expressed themselves by cutting their hair short, wearing small skirts that showed their ankles, and by doing dances that were considered bad, like the Charleston. • Fingerwaves and pincurls were popular for medium to longer length hair. • Notable Designers of the 1920-1950s include Jeanne Lanvin, "Coco" Chanel, and Pierre Cardin.

Prices

Average income	.....\$2,196
New Car	..... \$265
New House	.....\$7,720
Gallon of Gas	..... 11¢
Loaf of Bread	..... 9¢
Gallon of Milk	..... 54¢
First Class Stamp	..... 2¢

Life Expectancy	..... 54.1 yrs
Victrola	..... \$150.00
Chevrolet Roadster	.... \$480.00
Sirloin Steak	.....\$0.396
Eggs	..... \$0.478
Milk	..... \$0.138
Bread	.....\$0.088
Flour	..... \$0.049
Potatoes	..... \$0.027
Sugar	..... \$0.092
Coffee	..... \$0.433
Cheese	..... \$0.392
Salmon	.....\$0.32/ pound
Oranges	.....\$0.54/ dozen
Corn flakes	..... \$0.09

Headlines

People still received their news through the newspaper, but the radio was gaining attraction.

- Feb 13th – The tomb of King Tutankhamun tomb opened
- February 22—Calvin Coolidge becomes the first President of the United States to deliver a radio broadcast from the White House
- May 4 – Johnny Weissmuller wins three gold medals at the Summer Olympics in Paris, France.
- Nov – The first Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade is held.
- J. Edgar Hoover appointed Director of the Bureau of Investigation, later known as the Federal Bureau of Investigation.
- 20% of Americans had cars
- 25% of women worked outside the home.
- Divorce rates doubled in 1920s;
- Walt Disney creates his first cartoon, "Alice's Wonderland."
- Paul Whiteman introduces George Gershwin's Rhapsody in Blue.



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NEW ORGANIC GARDEN FRIENDLY FUNGICIDE

We love our St. Augustine lawns, vegetable gardens, fruit trees, orchids, bedding plants and roses. But often they fall victim to leaf spots and blights. These diseases include brown patch, powdery mildew, rust, alternaria and anthracnose. Garden Friendly Fungicide offers cost effective and easy to use control of many infections on outdoor plants. Garden Friendly Fungicide with *Bacillus amyloliquefaciens* strain D747 is concentrated because it was developed by Certis for commercial organic farming. Use only 1 teaspoon per gallon of spray solution.

Available in 8 ounce and pint containers on Ebay or ask your local independent garden retailer.



CALL FOR ARTICLES FOR THE SPRING 2024 EDITION DUE OUT JULY 1, 2024

THEME: Horticulture! Let's really dig into it. What's your favorite plant and why?

Submission checklist:

1. Please go through a director or committee Chair before submitting anything.
2. Reserve space in advance. Large submissions at the last minute might be delayed until the next time.
3. Photos must not be pixelated. If children are included, we assume you already secured permission.
4. Clarify and educate as you write--clarify what you are writing about (assume the reader is completely unfamiliar) and add links for further reading.
5. Club reports go to your District Director for the newsletter about club activities, *except* when it's really big news or could be a teaching moment for other clubs. Please copy or share with *tfg*.