

VOL. 61 No. 2

FALL 2023

Est. 1951

THE FLORIDA GARDENER

Official Publication of Florida Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc.



THE POWER OF CARING

MADISON GARDEN CLUB

FALL 2023

FALL 2023
Vol. 61 | No. 2

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Organized April 24, 1924
Federated April 25, 1925

Charter Member
National Garden Clubs, Inc.
Member
Deep South Garden Clubs, Inc.

Mission Statement

FFGC, 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.

[FACEBOOK.com/FLGardenClubs](https://www.facebook.com/FLGardenClubs)

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DEADLINES FOR ARTICLES & ADS

Fall Sep 1 | Winter Dec 1
Spring Mar 1 | Summer Jun 1



Your attention please...

Please use the **MEMBERSHIP FORM** to notify HQ of any changes in member status, especially, relocation or death. [FFGC.org/FORMS](https://www.ffgc.org/FORMS).

SUBMIT YOUR EVENT!

To have your club's special event posted on FFGC's website calendar, please complete the Calendar Entry Form and email it to [Linda \(feif@bellsouth.net\)](mailto:Linda(feif@bellsouth.net))

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President's Message

by Tina Tuttle, FFGC President

A sincere, heartfelt thank you to all who sent sympathy and condolences upon the death of my husband, Art. He had been ill for over a year and his passing was not unexpected. After some time to regroup, I am now back in full garden club mode!

Scam alert! Please know that I will never email or text you asking you to go purchase gift cards or help me get out of jail or pay my bills! I only use my gmail.com account and only have 850 area code for my home and cell phones. The scammers are relentless but please report these emails or call me to verify any suspicious communications.

Are you or is your club working on the Nell Coe Award "100 ways to celebrate 100 years?" I sure hope so! One club member described the award as "fun and addictive"! Another club has figured out ways to conduct one project that fulfills many requirements! It's not too late to get started! Take a look at the list and plan your garden club year to include as many activities as possible!! Find details and award forms on the ffgc.org/awards-descriptions.

What a busy summer! So many clubs celebrated National Garden Week in fine style with flower shows, programs and projects and getting into the community to let them know who we are and what we do! Don't forget to apply for the National Garden Week Award! Never miss an opportunity to be visible in public. Many clubs are

going to hold their own Garden Club Week at another time during the year. Since some clubs take off for the summer, that is wonderful idea—it's cooler and your members are still in town!

The dedication of the new office/clinic building at our Wekiva Youth Camp took place on a sunny Thursday, 15 June. It was so very well attended and our benefactor, Ann Todd of Sweetwater Oaks Garden Club, beamed with pride and happiness at the dream come to fruition. Thanks to everyone who, after waiting four long years, participated and helped make the day memorable!

36 High School students enjoyed the 3-day conference SEEK at Gainesville in June. The focus of this year's conference was on the resiliency of nature in the animal world. Many thanks to Jen White and her committee for making this such a privileged and memorable learning experience.

The UF/FFGC Short Course in Gainesville celebrated 85 years of educating our members and the public. "Let's Go Native" was attended by 99 people who took part in field trips and varied classroom instruction. Thanks to Carol Binello and her committee for providing this educational opportunity!

Camp got off to a great start on 18 June. The counselors and lifeguards were trained and ready for a summer of nature study,



crafts and swimming. Nightly programs enriched and enhanced the experience. Our volunteers are the best and enabled us to carry out the mission of youth environmental education. It was hot and it rained nearly every afternoon, but the camp traditions and spirit live on!!

Short Course North took place 10-11 August in Pensacola. The theme, "In the beginning..." hosted speakers and topics dealing with soils, water, plants, and gardening basics. The new chairman, Joanne Connor, and her team of "wonderful ones" did an excellent job making our 14th year a success.

On a final note, our legal issues with the City of Winter Park have been **quashed!** The judge decided in our favor so we are much relieved!!

Your FFGC executive officers are looking forward to seeing you at the district meetings this fall. We have lots of information to share. Make your plans now to attend! See you there!

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Submit your article on a topic of great interest to you—travel, plants, book review, recipes for January, highlight a club program's success, or an experience about which others would enjoy. Submit to your District Director first!

FROM THE EDITOR...

By Lisa Packard, Editor

As editor, I am in the catbird seat watching the busy people around me—the incoming board and new district directors; the Camp Wekiva volunteers who suffered the heat this summer, and the office updating the directory with new people, and Tina assigning her chairs to committees. Plus, I watch my own club put their program together, prepare the yearbook, the budget, and themselves to get back to *garden clubbin'*.

It's my privilege to work around such hard-working and passionate people and meet so many accomplished women at last year's Convention (my first and you should go). This issue is my fourth, and I am passionate about how the magazine can improve. We are looking for stories written by you about your passion, travel, recipe, and knowledge. We will reach out to other collaborators, too, but remember to share your stories with me and also with Val Seinfeld, FFGC's social media chair. Together, we offer a big platform.

NEWS! *Sue Roberts* (webmaster) and I have made improvements to the website to achieve two things: (1) easier navigation and no more long lists; and (2) formatted for easier reading. It will be a work in progress, but your feedback and patience matter to us.

Give us your



What do you think of the new(ish) website? FFGC.org

This is the SITEMAP of the website.

HOME

- About (leadership)
- Documents (BOI)
- District Directors (resource page)
- History
- Position Statements
- Travel

AWARDS

- Award Descriptions & Rules
- Flower Show Awards
- Award Education
- Award Winners
- Club Award Categories

CALENDAR

DIRECTORY

EDUCATION (no dropdown)

MEMBERSHIP

- Club Information
- Districts
- FAQ's
- FFGC Honors
- Precious Metals
- Florida Flower Show Judges
- Tri-Council of FFGC
- Recruiting Information
- Archives - photos/presentations

PROGRAMS

YOUTH

- Junior Gardener
- Scholarships
- SEEK
- Wekiva Youth Camp
- Youth Awards & Contests

DONATE

Many, many links are not visible from the navigation bar (that's normal). We placed "hot links" for popular links.

CONVENTION 2024

YOU GOTTA PLAY TO WIN!

Convention Opportunity Drawing Tickets and 50/50 Tickets are on their way to your club president.

No need to be present to win either, but we hope you will party with us for the first of 20th time!

JACKSONVILLE 2024



FFGC
97th Convention | April 9-12, 2024
Southbank Riverwalk Hotel Jacksonville
FFGC.org/Convention

BIENNIAL STATE FLOWER SHOW
Judged Member Art Show w/ \$\$ Prizes

SPECIAL GUESTS & EARLY ARRIVAL
ENTERTAINMENT "Through the
Decades"

OPPORTUNITY DRAWINGS & TOUR OF
CUMMER MUSEUM & GARDENS

Registration coming January 2024
FFGC.org/Convention



BIG GRANT NEWS

FLORIDA ARBOR DAY GRANT

DOUBLE GRANTS FOR TREES!
by Lynn Artz, Chairman, Arbor Day

Florida will soon have more cooling shade. Garden clubs across the state will plant more than 400 trees on January 19, 2024, to celebrate Florida Arbor Day and the 100th anniversary of the Florida Federation of Garden Clubs (FFGC). Clubs are busy now finding their planting sites and choosing their trees.



The Duke Energy Foundation is supporting this project with a \$20,000 grant to FFGC. The grant will help garden clubs buy sizable trees. To be reimbursed up to \$100, a club need only plant a native tree. Priority is given to large, hurricane-resistant, shade trees in keystone genera that feed more caterpillars and baby birds. This will achieve the grant's aim to increase climate resiliency and support biodiversity. Most of Florida's 153 garden clubs will plant a single tree. The Gainesville Garden Club will celebrate by planting 100 native trees. The garden clubs of District XII will plant 100 native torchwood trees in West Matheson Hammock Park. The seven clubs of District III will each plant two trees with a

second \$100 per club contributed by the district. A dozen native trees will find homes at FFGC's headquarters.

In addition to planting hundreds of trees, garden clubs will give away hundreds of tree seedlings. A second grant from the **National Wildlife Federation** (NWF) for \$5,000 will help clubs buy native tree seedlings. Many of Florida's garden clubs have shown interest in conducting a tree giveaway. Clubs are quickly reserving tree seedlings for later shipping.



If your garden club is just now learning about FFGC's statewide tree-planting plans for January 19, and the availability of money to buy a tree to plant and tree seedlings to give away, please request more information and reimbursement forms from Lynn Artz or Dianne Amburn at ffgc24@gmail.com.

The **BOOK OF INFORMATION** (BOI) is now online (and downloadable). Expect updates throughout the year; each version will be dated "as of." You must log in to the directory to access it. An email and password is required to log in. Ask the Webmaster (Sue Roberts) if you need assistance. <https://www.ffgc.org/Documents/>

CONTINUING EDUCATION COURSES

NGC SCHOOLS

ENVIRONMENTAL SCHOOL

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

COURSE 2

Nov 7-8 | Zoom & In-Person
Tampa Federation of GC Circles
2629 Bayshore Blvd, Tampa FL
Theme: "The Land"
Host Club Chair: Kitty Wallace
(813) 992-0940 | kittwal@aol.com
Registrar: Pam Slagg
(813) 767-2710
pamslagg@hotmail.com

COURSE 2, SERIES XII

Nov 16-17 | Hybrid
Tampa GC, 2629 Bayshore Blvd
Tampa, FL 33629
Registrar: Pam Slagg
(813) 767-2710
pamslagg@hotmail.com

COURSE 3, SERIES XI

Nov 16-17 | Zoom only
Fort Myers-Lee Cty Garden Council
2166 Virginia Av, Fort Myers FL
Theme: "Air & Related Issues"
Host Club Chair: Judy Francino
(248) 425-8713 | jfrancino@att.net
Registrar: Bernadette Hamera
(239) 233-1166

GARDENING SCHOOL

Sally Flanagan | 386-428-3170
sfflan@aol.com

COURSE 3, SERIES 10 DIST. X
Nov 16-17, 2023 | In-Person only

Mounts Botanical Garden Aud.
531 N Military Trail, WPB 33415

[FLYER](#) (contact below)

Chair: Anne Hlasnicek
(561) 793-7290

ideasmith@comcast.net

Registrar: Toni Cvetko
TLCvetko@gmail.com

COURSE 4, SERIES 10 DIST. X

Feb. 20-21, 2024 In-Person

Chair: Anne Hlasnicek
(561) 793-7290

ideasmith@comcast.net

Registrar: Toni Cvetko
TLCvetko@gmail.com

LANDSCAPE DESIGN SCHOOL

Susie MacPherson | (781)249-8905
Rmacpham@me.com

COURSE 3 SERIES 37 DIST. IV

Sep 20-22, 2023 | Zoom
Chair: sfflan@aol.com | [REG form](#)
(416) 229-4763 Summer
Registrar: Barbara Magnuson
(386) 428-5313
bmagnuson1@cfl.rr.com

COURSE 4, SERIES 38

Oct. 25-26 Jacksonville Beach
Chair: Linda Broadrick
(404) 281-8991
linda.broadrick@gmail.com
Registrar: Beverly Williams
bevthepatriot@gmail.com

FLOWER SHOW SCHOOL

Susan Hillson | (561) 333-0740
Susan.Hillson@gmail.com

COURSE 1

Sep 26-29, 2023 Bradenton
**Sponsored by FFSJ District VIII
Judges Council**

Chair: Elaine Schweitzer
(941) 408-5912

likkorish4@yahoo.com

Registrar: Dianne Beaver
(941) 780-2949

diannebeaver@gmail.com

FFGC COURSES

FLORAL DESIGN STUDY

ADVANCED STUDY

COURSE UNITS 7-9

Sponsored by Garden Club of St.
Petersburg, District VIII
500 Sunset Blvd South

Chair: Jill Anderson
(727) 798-1970

jillandersn@aol.com

First Class 1/31/2024

Instructor's Certification and
Recertification Class

FFGC Headquarters,
Sep 6, Wed., from 5-7 P.M.

Chair: Jan Griffin
(813) 716-6691

billjangriffin@gmail.com

All who wish to be instructors and
those who are, must try to attend.
Dinner included with registration
fee.

FFGC/UF SHORT COURSE

Gainesville | June 2-4, 2024

See her article on page 9

Chair: Carol Binello
(352) 215-9190

carolannbinello@gmail.com

Special Presentation!

Don't miss the opportunity to hear seven exceptionally qualified instructors present a variety of essential subjects on gardening in South Florida. NGC Gardening School covers everything from growing conditions to growing in containers, choosing native plants to dealing with invasives. It all takes place at Mounts Botanical Garden in West Palm Beach on Nov. 16-7. Details and Registration available at www.ffgc.org/Education.

BUTTERFLIES



Best Butterfly Plants in 81 Easy Combos!

FFGC SCHOOLS

SHORT COURSE NORTH

Chair: Joanne Connor
(850) 512-9755
connorronald@bellsouth.net

TROPICAL SHORT COURSE TRI-REFRESHER

Jan 25-26, 2024
Chair: Maria Wolfe, District X
(561) 386-4903
tcacad_registrar@yahoo.com
Wellington Community Center
Forest Hill Blvd, Wellington FL

FLOWER SHOW SYMPOSIUM

Oct 30-Nov 2, Winter Park, FL
Chair: Gina Jogan
gvjogan@panhandle.rr.com
(850) 324-9783

ALWAYS CHECK THE
FFGC AND NGC SCHOOLS
CALENDARS FOR
CHANGES IN SCHEDULES.

www.FFGC.org/education
www.GardenClub.org/our-schools

AFFILIATE ORGANIZATIONS

By Donna Berger, Chair, Affiliate Membership

FFGC offers Affiliate Membership to organizations whose interests and purposes are compatible with those of FFGC, such as conservation organizations, botanical gardens, plant societies, floral design clubs, etc., for an annual fee of \$50. The goal is to create relationships that may offer educational and mutually beneficial opportunities. Listed below are our current Affiliate members and the garden clubs who invited them to become members of FFGC.

Florida Wildflower Foundation, sponsored by FFGC
Mounts Botanical Garden, sponsored by West Palm Beach Garden Club
Heathcote Botanical Garden, sponsored by Garden Club of Fort Pierce
McKee Botanical Garden, sponsored by Garden Club of Indian River County,
The Institute for Regional Conservation, sponsored by FFGC Dist. X Plant America with Trees Committee and, most recently, *Palm Beach Chapter of Florida Native Plant Society* sponsored by NGC/FFGC District X.

We encourage your garden club to invite organizations near you to affiliate with us. For assistance, please contact Donna Berger, FFGC Affiliate Membership Chairman. The application form may be found on the website which lists all the benefits to the organization.

FFGC.org/affiliates

NATIONAL GARDEN CLUB SCHOOLS



NGC Landscape Design School

By Susie MacPherson, FFGC Chair

FFGC's Landscape Design School continues to attract new and returning students to its curriculum. The current curriculum covers a wide range of related points of interest such as learning the basics of a site plan, plant selection for the landscape, creating a landscaping plan for your home garden and evaluating landscape design to name just a few. Each course covers ten topics as specified by NGC.

Once all four of the landscape design courses have been successfully completed, the student becomes a consultant. Consultant status must be maintained by "refreshing" within a five-year period from the final course in a series.

There are currently two Landscape Design school opportunities available within Florida. Course 3, Series 37, will be held on September 20-22, 2023 via ZOOM. Course 4, Series 38, is being offered in-classroom in Jacksonville Beach on October 25-26. Information on registration for both courses is available on the NGC website under Landscape Design School. The NGC schools offer a unique opportunity to broaden your knowledge and respect

for the environment in your state, community or your own backyard by providing access to professionals who have created a presentation for you based on their expertise. I encourage you to consider enrolling in one of our schools whether for credit or to just take advantage of the educational opportunity.

NGC Flower Show School

By Susan Hillson, FFGC Chair

Have you ever thought about becoming a Flower Show Judge or want to learn how to put on an NGC Flower Show? Flower Show School Course I is being held at the Manatee River Garden Club in Bradenton, FL on September 26-29, 2023. This is the first of four courses which will be offered over the next year. Each course includes sections on horticulture, floral design, and flower show procedure.

Course I is an Introductory course which includes an Introduction to the 'Handbook for Flower Shows,' the basics of a flower show, discussions of growing and showing two types of horticulture with an emphasis on exhibiting, and judging using point-scoring. You will learn about the principles and elements of design and traditional line, line-mass and mass design types.

You will learn about awards, the types of flower shows you can have, and what committees are needed to produce a show. Most of all you will have fun, make new friends, and enhance your creativity!



Created by Christine Biscoglio, Master Flower Show Judge, and similar to what would be taught in Flower Show School Course 1.



SHOP FFGC ONLINE

2024 CALENDAR, 100TH ANNIVERSARY ORNAMENTS, T-SHIRTS, PINS & MORE

SHIPPING IS EXTRA. PLAN AHEAD AND ORDER YOURS FOR PICK-UP AT YOUR DISTRICT MEETINGS THIS FALL.

[CLICK HERE](#)





*Garden Club of
St. Petersburg
presents an NGC
Standard Flower Show
"Cruising into Summer"*

*April 27 & 28
9am - 3pm.
Green Thumb Festival
Walter Fuller Park
7901 30th Ave. No.,
St. Petersburg, FL 33710*

*Contact:
Chair, Jan Ankerberg
(727) 415-1499*

FFGC /UF SUMMER SHORT COURSE

By Carol Binello, Chair
UF/FFGC Summer Short Course

On June 6 – 8, 2023, in Gainesville, FFGC hosted the 85th Annual Summer Short Course, entitled “**Let’s Go Native!**” This Course is usually held in the first week of June each year, with a registration deadline of mid-May. It’s a fun, informative event that is mainly a gardening conference with attendees coming from all over the state of Florida. Registration is first opened to all garden club members. Two months later, it is opened to all master gardener volunteers and to the public.

This past June was kicked off with a registration reception hosted by the *Gainesville Garden Club*. The Course began early the next morning with two private garden tours and lectures (transportation provided). There was a myriad of professional speakers from the University of Florida, and extension offices throughout Florida. Topics included “*Landscaping With*

Backyard Ponds, Using Native Plants and Aquatics, “*Applying Ecological Principles in Your Garden,*” “*Biology of Plant Disease,*” “*Wildflowers and Weeds,*” “*Natives 101: Selecting and Using Natives in Your Landscape,*” among others.

We filled the room to capacity this year, with 99 enrolled participants, and that doesn’t count the helpers and extra people who registered for the dinner. After the garden tours, all lectures were held on the University of Florida campus. There were drawings for gift baskets, gift and plant give-aways, a banquet dinner featuring a floral design program, and opportunities to shop for plants and garden gear.

We hoped the participants would get excited about using Florida Friendly plants around their homes and offices. Our intent was to educate the public in the hopes that they will spread the word and, when purchasing plants for their yard, will think in terms of the ecological implications. There were

native plants for sale throughout the conference.

The course was approved as a Tri-Refresher, so those participants who signed up, did receive credit.

You might be interested to know FFGC established the first UF Summer Short Course in June 1936!

Please mark your calendars for next year! The **86th Annual Summer Short Course will be held on June 2-4, 2024**. Hope to see you there!



HERE'S A LITTLE TRIVIA FOR YOU.

The colors used in this magazine were selected from the photographs taken for the Spring edition. There's bluebird, goldenrod, orange, parrot, birdseed, and bougainvillea.



Get the plate that saves butterflies and bees.

Florida’s most treasured and threatened butterflies and bees depend on wildflowers for survival.

But wildflowers themselves are threatened.



Two ways to get your plate

☎ Visit FlaWildflowers.org/wildflower-tag to request a phone call.

🚗 Visit your county license plate agency.

Each purchase or renewal of the State Wildflower license plate generates \$15 to grow Florida wildflowers for butterflies, bees and birds.

UP CLOSE WITH ADOPT-A-PARK

Submitted By Mickey Quiqley, Chair

Benny Russell Park in Pace, Florida, is a popular county park that serves central and northern part of Santa Rosa County. It has the typical playground equipment and trails but in 2019 the 27-member *Azalea Garden Club* adopted the park.

Phase 1 was to put in a flower garden. The club designed the garden and submitted the plans to the Santa Rosa County Park Service for approval. In late March of 2022, they started to work on the layout and planting.

The center was a raised bed with Dark Pink Knockout Roses and Blue Liriope. Our plants were White Sasanqua Camellia (Snow Blizzard) in the center.

Phase 2 will be a Butterfly Garden with a completion date of Spring 2024. The club received two grants from FFGC to purchase plants and mulch.

Children come and ask questions about the flowers and what they are. That gives the club a chance to teach about the flowers and our environment.



AMES GRANT RECIPIENT

CALUSA GARDEN CLUB RECEIVES GRANT FROM AMES

by Sara Wolf

Publicity Chair, Calusa GC

Calusa Garden Club of Marco Island was among the fortunate garden clubs in the U.S. that received an in-kind grant from The Ames Companies. The company delivered \$250 worth of gardening tools made by Ames Tools, a division of The Ames Companies. Ames Tools manufactures and markets gardening tools and equipment through retail outlets such as Home Depot. The company is a corporate sponsor of National Garden Clubs, Inc., the national organization with which Calusa Garden Club of Marco Island is affiliated.

Susan LaGrotta, Chairman of the Butterfly Garden Committee for the Ames Tools grant, said in the application that the Butterfly Garden, located in Calusa Park, was destroyed by the floodwaters



Susan LaGrotta, Committee Chair

that inundated Marco Island during Hurricane Ian. She described the devastation caused by the hurricane, and estimated the large amount of work it would require for the garden club to amend the soil ruined by

salt water, to remove dead plants, to prune surviving plants, and to purchase and plant new pollinator plants for the garden. Since there was very little rain in May, June and July, but the temperatures were extremely high, planting new plants was not advisable. Members have directed their efforts to researching additional pollinator plants suited to our subtropical climate, choosing both nectar plants to nourish the butterflies and host plants to nourish the caterpillars. They also took this opportunity to redesign the Butterfly Garden planting areas.

The Calusa Park Butterfly Garden was established in 2009 as a joint project of the Marco Island Beautification Advisory Committee and Calusa Garden Club of Marco Island. Club members work in the garden on Saturday mornings once a month, and more often if needed.

When the City of Marco Island paved the bicycle and walking path in Calusa Park, the Butterfly Garden benefitted from the oval frame for the garden beds. The garden club members give tours of the Butterfly Garden upon request.



(L-R) Nanette Baumgardner, Donna Kay & Debra Kuhlman

Cover Story



**Cue the lights! Roll camera! Roll sound!
ACTION!**

By Stephani Ruff, President, Madison Garden Club as told to Lisa Packard, Editor, Florida Gardener Magazine

MADISON GARDEN CLUB SPARKS NEW ENERGY IN TOWN

When TFG heard about this story out of Madison, FL, first we thought about *George Baily*. As the story unfolded, we saw a revisioning of the Christmas classic *It's A Wonderful Life*. The only thing missing was snow and the old mean banker, Mr. Potter. It has angels.

In the heart of downtown Madison, Florida, there is a city block called **Four Freedoms Park** with a monument to veterans, a classic gazebo that makes you think of flag bunting, the town band playing, and Ann-Margret about to meet Conrad Birdie—exactly the kind of place where the mayor would have awarded Elvis the keys to the city, if he had ever visited. This is the kind of story that Frank Capra would have turned into a movie.

This story starts with a regular guy, kind of new in town, named *Billy Margraves*, owner of Muddy Dog Rock & Crystals. He looked at the park with perhaps fresher eyes and saw the potential that was lost to weeds and neglect. Billy went to a meeting at *Madison Garden Club* to ask if they could *do something* about the park. "**Can ya'll help?**" The club, led by *Stephanie Ruff*, president, loved the idea, so they approached the town government and offered to fix the garden beds. Of course, they said, "*sure, but we can't give you any money or assistance.*"

Like any good group, they started with creating a committee of mostly club members, Billy, and a few residents. As the club went to work pulling weeds in the park, one by one, people showed up to help or stop and say

thank you. Businesses began to donate supplies, like straw, soil, and mulch or cash. While the club was weeding and planting, Billy went to the city manager to ask about the condition of the sprinkler system in the park and learned it hadn't worked for 10 years and the town didn't have the money to fix it. They decided to go take a look at it and, when the city manager saw the progress of the gardeners, he returned



to city hall with the message that the city should fix the sprinkler system.

The Four Freedoms monument, built in 1944 in Madison, FL, was commissioned by President Franklin D. Roosevelt and commemorates the four fundamental freedoms—**freedom of speech, freedom of worship, freedom from want, and freedom from fear**—

that he spoke of in his January 1941 State of the Union address. Each freedom is represented with an angel.

The monument was designed by Walter Russell, given by the Women's National Institute, and dedicated in memory of the veterans of World War II and specifically **Captain Colin P. Kelly**, a former resident recognized as the first U.S. hero of the War and awarded the Distinguished Service Cross for his bravery and valor in combat.

At the present time, the club has finished and are maintaining the beds and also running a fundraising campaign of selling legacy bricks in the park for \$100 each which is earmarked for long-term maintenance. The dedication of their beautiful new park is set for September. Prior to this huge effort, the club wasn't very active, but the experience of tackling this massive project has brought renewed energy to the club *and* the town. Even Billy can't believe the response he got, and didn't expect, to his one question—**can ya'll help?**

Downtown Madison was previously designated as one of the "*Best Little Towns in Florida*" by VISIT FLORIDA. It is the county seat with a population of just over 3000 people, and is overflowing with 150-year-old structures, antique stores, outdoor shops, and one garden club and one resident that maybe saved the town, and themselves.

Stephanie Ruff & Billy Margraves





—FEATURING—

(L-R) Stephanie Ruff, Sharon Seier, Esther Decker, Billy Margraves, Diane Wylie, & Alice Smith



—THE CAST—

The Workers & Helpers

Diane Wylie, Club member
 Esther Decker, Club Secretary
 Sharon Seier, Club member
 Sharon Burgess, Club member
 Candy Tolar, Club Member
 Keith Ruff, Steph's husband
 Phil Smith, Alice's husband
 The Photographer
 Emerald Greene, Greene Publishing

—THE COMMITTEE—

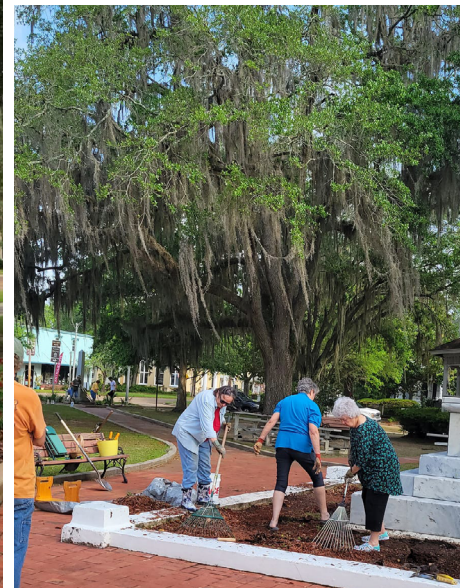
Four Freedoms Park Restoration Committee:

Billy Margraves
 Stephanie Ruff, Club President
 Alice Smith, Club Member/Master Gardener
 Bonnie Rolfe, Club Treasurer
 Brenda Newman, Club Member
 Ina Thompson, Mayor
 Marianne Lamoreaux, Citizen
 Julie Pries, Citizen

—BUY A BRICK—

Contact Stephanie Ruff
stephruff@centurylink.net

Facebook
 @mflgardenclub.org



Florida Federation of Garden Clubs

UPCOMING TRAVEL



Chelsea Flower Show in London & Paris
May 21 - 29, 2024

This century-old flower show is held on the grounds of the Royal Hospital. It is a place to see cutting-edge garden design and find ideas to take home! Take this opportunity to see gardens in London & Paris!



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

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



Christmas Markets River Cruise
December 3, 2025
(special Rates if booked in 2023)

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.



WAFA 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



DISTRICT I | JENNY WEBER, DISTRICT DIRECTOR

By the time you read this, District I will have already hosted the Short Course North. Thank you to everyone who came up for this annual learning event!

District I is busy planning great fun and games for our 100th party at Convention 2024! There will be hands-on workshops, a State Flower Show at the gorgeous

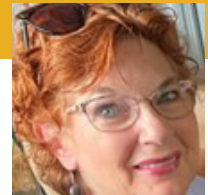
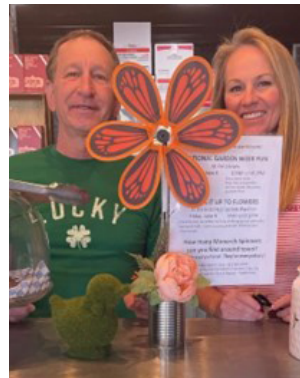
Jacksonville Garden Center, and prizes that you would actually want to win! Opportunity and 50/50 tickets will be available for you at your Fall meetings. You don't want to miss this epic event.



DISTRICT II | SUE MEYER, DISTRICT DIRECTOR

Every year during National Garden Week ... we place Monarch Butterfly Spinners in the downtown flower pots and in local businesses. The major event was held at the Washington County Library and the conference room was packed full of information on bugs, bees, wildflowers, butterflies, trees, and recycling. Guests of all ages learned to make terrariums with recycled water bottles, how to make smudge sticks with herbs, and how to make floral arrangement and were able to take them home! On the way out, each guest received a free packet of seeds and information on *ChIPLEY Garden Club*, Falling Waters State Park, and Florida Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc. The public was invited to be creative at the Washington County Historical Society Farmers Market pavilion and “Chalk It Up to Flowers.” Greg Grinzingler walked away with the \$50 first place prize in the sunflower bloom contest. The PSJGC seed committee in partnership with the Corinne Costin Gibson Memorial Public Library held this contest as a tribute to Earth Day in April. The *Port St. Joe GC* Seed Committee was created in 2021 after a collaboration between the garden club membership, the Gulf County Master gardeners, the Friends of the Library, the employees of the library and funding received from a Tapper Grant. The project objective is to provide seeds at no cost to members of the community who have library cards. *Wausau GC* member Joe Tharp auctioned a possum and gave the proceeds to the HS scholarship fund! The Possum Festival Funday event is 25 years old! The Club served homemade persimmon ice cream and sold the “Possum Cookbook—*America’s Amazing Marsupials and*

Dozens of Ways to Cook Them.”



DISTRICT III | LANA ARNOLD, DISTRICT DIRECTOR

I was inspired by listening to the District III Club Presidents talk about their club activities at our District Meeting last May. Here are a few outstanding highlights from their activities. *Steinhatchee Garden Club* published a cookbook with member recipes, hosted a dinner to raise funds to send kids to FFGC camps, and made valentine gifts for nursing home residents. *Live Oak Garden Club* designed over 100 holiday cards for nursing home residents, donated food items for two group homes, and proceeds from their fundraising went to support local gardens, 4H, and SEEK students. *Wakulla Garden Club* held informative programs with an emphasis on native plants and environmental issues to begin rebuilding their club membership. *Tallahassee Garden Club* members began landscaping the garden at LeMoyne Art Gallery, and members work monthly on Tallahassee Memorial Hospital's Cancer Center's Healing Garden. Rutgers House, home of the Tallahassee Garden Club, was a featured home on the Tallahassee Symphony's annual tour of homes. Two Circles received “Plant America” grants to landscape Leon County Library branches and an area of a historic museum and garden. *Monticello Garden Club* worked with their extension agent on building a community garden and a community orchard. A spring plant sale was held with proceeds going for scholarships to 4H camps and other educational activities. District III clubs donated almost \$2000 last year to Penny Pines!



DISTRICT IV | SAM RUNYON, DISTRICT DIRECTOR



Have you ever thought of joining a garden club and traveling to new and exciting places? Come see what District IV has to offer. You can begin your journey by exploring *Alligator Creek Garden Club* in Starke. One of their members is a cosmetologist and gives lessons on making botanical beauty products. Go further north and see how the *Garden Club of Callahan* hosts a presentation and sale of daylilies. Travel to the *Bartram Garden Club of Amelia Island*. Their “**Down the Rabbit Hole**” flower showcased creative and stunning arrangements. Members focus is on culinary gardening, landscape design, and container gardening. Coming south, you will reach the *Garden Club of Fleming Island*. Future gardeners are being cultivated there by releasing monarchs in the butterfly garden. Go over to *Green Cove Springs* and learn about pollinator gardening and Florida native planting. For a more urban perspective, visit the *Garden Club of Jacksonville*. Check out their budding gardening, horticulture, and floral design events. Going west, you will arrive at the *Garden Club of the Lakes in Keystone Heights*. This club is active in revitalizing neighborhoods by providing gardening tools and expertise in enhancing landscapes. *The Garden Club of Middleburg* offers educational demonstrations, gardening resources, and what is eating “**Gilbert Grape?**” With the *Garden Club of Orange Park*, take advantage of their annual horticulture affair where educational and community experts provide lectures on environmental, organic, and therapeutic gardening. If you are interested in learning more about William Bartram, take time to visit the *Garden Club of Palatka*. They help host the annual Bartram Trail Affair. In Jacksonville Beach, stop by the *Ribault Garden Club* and enjoy their “**Margaritas and Mulch**” bash, award-winning, youth gardening programs, seed swap, and holiday tea/floral design event. The *Garden Club of St. Augustine* has “**Nature Detectives**”, which serve to educate the community on ecological, environmental, and botanical issues. Their holiday tour of homes is a “must see” affair. Your last stop will be the *Garden Club of Switzerland*. They maintain the Alpine Garden, which is all native plants, and join the county parks in hosting the **Bartram Bash**.

The Garden Club of Saint Augustine presents the 52nd *Holiday Tour of Homes* “*Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow*”

Sunday, December 10, 2023

◇◇◇◇◇◇◇◇◇◇ 12 PM to 5 PM ◇◇◇◇◇◇◇◇◇◇

Holiday Tea, Raffles and Boutique

12 PM to 4 PM at the River House

179 Marine St., Saint Augustine, FL 32084

The tour will include six homes in the historic district decorated by the Garden Club of Saint Augustine

Ticket sales start October 1, 2023, \$40 each

Purchase tickets on the Garden Club website

www.gardenclubofstaugustine.org

or by calling Shirley (732) 309-0967



DISTRICT V | CAROL STEVENS, DISTRICT DIRECTOR



District V is excited to announce their fourth annual amateur photography contest. The contest is open to all District V club members. All photos must be taken in Florida during the 2023-2024 year. Winners will be announced at the Spring District Meeting in May 2024.

The photo categories correlate with our new theme, “*Be the Key that Unlocks the Beauty of the Environment.*” The eight categories are: (1) Recycle, repurpose and reuse items in your garden; (2) Get creative with Flowers and Blooms; (3) Scenic-Beach, Coastal, Landscapes, and Swamps; (4) Butterflies-Caterpillars, Chrysalis or Butterfly; (5) Everything Birds-Birds in trees, Bird houses, Bird baths, Bird feeders; (6) Cold-blooded Critters-Turtles, Frogs, Snakes, Lizards, Fish; (7) Wildlife-Deer, Squirrels, Bats, Otters, Foxes, No Pets or Livestock; and (8) Nature at Night or Early Light. District V members will be unlocking the beauty of the environment by “flashing” from September to May. All members attending the Spring Meeting will have the opportunity to select the “Popular Choice Award”. This award will be selected from the winners of the 1st Place winning photographs. Monetary Awards will be given to winners in Best-in-Show, Most Unique and Creative Award and Popular Choice Awards.

DISTRICT VI | VALERIE SEINFELD, DISTRICT DIRECTOR



District VI has 16 very active garden clubs in Brevard, Volusia and Flagler Counties. Our district theme is “Bee Happy in the Garden” and our District Project is an *NGC Standard Flower Show* entitled “*Busy Bees*” scheduled for March 8-9, 2024, at the *Garden Club of DeLand*.

Our district claims the honor of having one of the first four clubs federated with the Florida Federation of Garden Clubs in 1924, the Garden Club of the Halifax Country (1925) of Volusia County. The first FFGC President Mrs. (Adelaide Yates) Joseph R. Ellicott (1925-1927) was from Ormond Beach, the second FFGC Convention was held in Ormond Beach, and the first garden tour in Florida “Garden Run” was in 1930, sponsored by Halifax Country.

Ormond Beach Garden Club has a creative group preparing for their Annual Christmas Workshop Magnolia Wreaths and a Contrived Flowers Workshop. The *Garden Club of DeLand* showcases their Monarch Magic Festival which celebrates and educates the public on butterflies at the Sensory Butterfly Garden within Bill Dreggors Park, city-owned and Garden Club maintained. Saturday, November 4, *New Smyrna Beach Garden Club* (1936) is holding their always successful Festival of Trees and Rummage Sale raising money for multiple club scholarships, youth programs and FFGC donations. *Garden Club by the Sea* is building a children’s vegetable garden this fall and hosting a “Pollinator Fair” in the Spring. *Indian Harbour Beach Garden Club* continues to support ZON Assisted Living with small easel painting and other genetic projects. *Titusville Garden Club* will hold their Fall Market with amazing artistry on October 27-28. *Port Malabar Garden Club* is in the beginning stage of jointly working on a native plants garden at Palm Bay City Hall in collaboration with the native plant society, the Audubon society, and their garden club. *Melbourne Garden Club* is in the fundraising phase of replacing their damaged Blue Star marker. *Garden Club at Palm Coast* is holding an *NGC Standard Flower Show* November 16-18, 2023, and is the only Garden Club in Flagler County. *Tillandsia Garden Club* received a *Proclamation for the City of Ormond Beach* at the 75th Anniversary Celebration May 11, 2023, “A Walk Through History.”

SEND YOUR CLUB NEWS TO VALERIE, FFGC'S SOCIAL MEDIA (FACEBOOK) CHAIR. WE HAVE 20,000 FOLLOWERS. GET YOUR MESSAGE OUT! @FLGARDENCLUBS



DISTRICT VII | GWEN CARTER, DISTRICT DIRECTOR



District VII Clubs have been working through the summer. Lake Silver Shores Circle of Orlando GC hosted workshops to keep members involved with learning. Clubs are planting trees on school grounds. Bloom and Grow Garden Society will give away 250 3-quart trees to honor Breast Cancer Awareness Month in October. Tangerine Circle (Orlando GC) and Clermont Garden Club hosted students at Wekiva Youth Camp and S.E.E.K Conference this summer as well. District Clubs hosted Open House and New Member Orientations meetings to share the benefits of being a member of a garden club and emphasizing community development. We look forward to the District VII Fall General Meeting, October 26, 2023, with the FFGC Tour Team, hosted by Camellia Garden Club of Eustis and Lakes and Hills Garden Club.

DISTRICT VIII | PHYLLIS WEBER, DISTRICT DIRECTOR



Several clubs are hosting NGC courses; check page six for what and where. *Sarasota Garden Club's Ghostly Gala* NGC Standard Flower Show will occur October 28 from 10am to 4pm. Check our website for details: www.floridadistrictviii.com. *Dunedin Garden Club's* fall calendar includes many civic projects including a new Blue Star Marker and landscaping, a butterfly garden at the Dunedin Public Library, plus nurturing over 500 tropical plants salvaged and relocated adjacent to the butterfly garden from the former Kellogg cereal magnate's property before it was bulldozed.

Lemon Bay Garden Club will host their **Garden Tour in Venice** and Englewood on November 17-18. *Plant City Garden Club* is holding **Garden Fest** September 30. *Tarpon Springs Garden Club* will celebrate the opening of the **Junior Garden Club** at The Boys and Girls Club of Tarpon Springs on September 14. *Dade City Garden Club* will host their **Holiday Magic in the Gardens** on December 10. Their garden areas will be transformed into a holiday wonderland with Mr. and Mrs. Claus, the Grinch and club members decked out in holiday attire.

DISTRICT IX | CLAUDIA CHOPP, DISTRICT DIRECTOR



Our District IX has over 1,000 members in clubs and circles, with some as small as seven or as large as 268 members. *Punta Gorda Garden Club* hosted the Spring District meeting in April and is **celebrating 73 years by organizing their annual Home Tour and Flower Show** for the upcoming season. *Winter Haven GC* is celebrating their 96th year of being federated and *Lakeland GC* celebrates 94 years. *Lakeland Garden Club* redid the landscape on a local horse rescue farm with donations from Lowes and other donors who gave plants, paint, and time. *Lake Placid* is celebrating 90 years and hosted their annual caladium sale this past summer! *Lakewood Ranch GOE* is the youngest club at only 10 years old. *Cape Coral Garden Club* is in their 25th year and hosts summer socials with members meeting at various restaurants. They have an active design circle that meets and does beautiful designs. Members spend the summer growing the plants they sell at their October Tropical Plant Sale. Everyone is looking forward to the Fall District IX meeting in October at the Embassy Suites in Estero. The hosts will be the Fort Myers Lee County Garden Council. *Naples Garden Club* is now in its 70th year and is planning their annual Home and Garden Tour, a Flower Show, and some very special programs. *Port Charlotte* is working on their Annual Garden Extravaganza, having plant sales, and celebrating their 66th birthday. *Avon Park Founders Garden Club*, at 76 years, is working on events listed on the 100 Activity Participation Table. That is, collectively, **574 years of garden club achievement, civic engagement, and friendship.**



DISTRICT X | MARIA WOLFE, DISTRICT DIRECTOR



When you think of a *Groundbreaker*, whom do you think of? Neil Armstrong, Clarence Thomas, or someone less famous but one who had a profound effect on your life? Please join District X on Thursday–Friday, January 25-26, 2024, for **Groundbreakers....Then and Now**, the Tropical Short Course & Tri-Refresher being held in Wellington, Florida. One speaker is highlighting Gertrude Jekyll, the first female landscape designer from Great Britain. Another groundbreaking speaker will be premiering an award-winning movie on seagrass restoration. Visit www.DistrictX.org for registration information. Also check out the site for our quarterly newsletter, *Blooming Tales*, and more information about the exciting activities of each of the District X clubs.

District X was very creative in the many various ways they celebrated National Garden Week. The communities in our four counties were so fortunate to reap the rewards of their efforts. Congratulations to all. The Club/Circle Presidents are getting together in September to share ideas for speakers, acquiring new members, and innovative fundraising ideas. It is called *A Meeting of the Minds*. This gathering will foster working relationships that can only help all of the *Terrific Ten* Garden Clubs.



Gardeners Out East with John Giddings (Curb Appeal). SEE article on page 20. District XII carefully planting endangered seeds.

DISTRICT XI | BONNY MILLER COLE, DISTRICT DIRECTOR



Here are a few highlights from District XI. *Coral Springs Garden Club* is turning the city into a Monarch butterfly home. They held two events to educate the public on Pollinators and another on recycling of corks collecting over 1000 corks for recycling. They work with senior citizens making floral arrangements and presenting the Language of Flowers. They have also planted 1000 native orchids in the city. *Fort Lauderdale Garden Club* awarded scholarships to over 40 youth campers to Camp Wekiva and also to three teens who attended the nature course at Camp Live Oak located in Hugh Taylor Birch State Park, the Club's home. The teens are part of the Nan Knox Boys and Girls Club. Nan, a past member of FLGC and benefactor, recognized the need for horticultural and environmental education in our underserved community. *Hollywood Garden Club* is building membership with younger members who want to know everything about vegetable gardening at home to save grocery money. *Lauderdale by the Sea Garden Club* is planting a tree for Arbor Day. *Garden Club of Lighthouse Point* had a Cactus Fairy Garden Make and Take with lunch. A hands-on clay class is scheduled for September. *Pompano Beach Club* is busy organizing the October 19 District XI meeting, weeding at Sample-McDougald house, and taking flowers to the Broward Childrens Center.



District XII represents nine clubs from Miami-Dade and Monroe Counties. There have been great initiatives by clubs connecting with their boards and new members by hosting luncheons, teas, and cocktail parties, keeping in touch before the season kick-offs. The *Pinecrest Garden Club* assisted the Village of Pinecrest with a lovely tradition called the Pioneer Luncheon, celebrating residents over 80, chaired by member *Anna Sora Vadillo*. All the clubs have organized membership drives, with the *South Miami Garden Club* leading the way. They are planning a special event on Saturday, October 28 for their 23rd membership drive at the Amerant Bank Building in South Miami. The *Coral Gables Garden Club* has stayed busy with a not-for-profit night at the Backstage Theater for the play *Native Gardens* in June. The Company supported the club's native plant sale by sharing the plant sale flyer in their programs for over a month and donated \$1,500 as part of the evening's revenue. The Department of Environmental Resources Management (Miami-Dade County, Florida) was looking for community support to grow 6,000 plants from seed for a pine rockland restoration project. Coral Gables Garden Club volunteered to plant and nurture these seeds until they will be planted on October 14. The seed came from globally imperiled forests under the care of the county. The plant species are *Solidago stricta* and *Schyzicharium gracile*. This is part of a 10-acre restoration project in Kendall that will have 5,000 trees planted and 20,000 understory plantings. The club also had a grand opening of the *AS I SEE IT* photography exhibition at the Coral Gables Museum on August 10 with over 200 people attending. The top 30 images will be on view until October 1. To round out the districts' diversity, our lovely *Ken Pines* club will be focusing its artistic attention on creating lady plaques made from seashells and stone.

DISTRICT XII PARTNERS WITH CORAL GABLES MUSEUM

by Susan Rodriguez, District XII Director

In response to the challenges posed by the Covid-19 pandemic, the **AS I SEE IT** photography competition emerged in 2021 as an online fundraiser to support various projects and programs of the Coral Gables Garden Club. The competition aims to raise funds through the power of photography, engaging participants virtually while promoting the club's initiatives. The grand opening was August 10th, with over 250 people attending. It was great to see members and *Leticia Delatorre Gunn*, FFGC Third Vice President, out that evening. This year, we collaborated with the Coral Gables Museum's photo contest **Capture Coral Gables** and launched an exhibition that will last until October 1. This contest focuses on urban life in Coral Gables and the beauty of the community.

The finalists of the **AS I SEE IT** third annual juried photography competition will be exhibited in Gallery 109. Organized by the Coral Gables Garden Club, this project presents stunning nature and wildlife photography in the several categories. *"This is the first time our talented finalists and winners will be invited to exhibit, and we are very excited to collaborate with the Coral Gables Museum. I do not doubt that the public*

will be moved by the exquisite quality and beauty of our contestants' photos," said Susan Rodriguez, President of the Coral Gables Garden Club and organizer of the competition. The proceeds from this competition will go towards supporting conservation and environmental projects, scholarships for college and graduate students studying natural sciences and landscape architecture, and the Coral Gables Garden Club's community outreach programs.



District XII, Susan Rodriguez and Leticia Delatorre Gunn (L-R).

GARDENERS OUT EAST HOST LIGHTNING FAST FUNDRAISER

*Carolyn Lowry-Nation
Gardeners Out East President
FFGC Parliamentarian*

Late summer was upon the Gardeners Out East Garden Club in Lakewood Ranch, FL, (GOE), when lightning struck. Not the kind you might think. The club president, and FFGC's Parliamentarian, *Carolyn Lowry-Nation*, attended FFGC's District VI and UF's Short Course in Gainesville in June. She noticed her conference mate was holding a flyer about an event in the Villages featuring someone whose name she recognized. She couldn't believe it! How did they snag him!?

She thought if the Villages could get him, perhaps GOE could, too!

She was super excited to call this person's publisher to ask for the moon. That's when lightning struck. Not only was the speaker still in Florida, but he was also only 45 minutes away and would be happy to attend something in their town if they could act quickly as he was about to fly home to Switzerland.

Imagine Carolyn's excitement when she told her club that **John Giddings of Curb Appeal** fame, who happened to be in Florida for his book tour—*At Home with Nature: A Guide to Sustainable, Natural Landscaping*, agreed to host a quick book signing at their club!

The club went into **overdrive**. They were able to secure the building

where the club meets, for free! A free speaker and a free place! *Nancy Schneider*, the Publicity Chair, worked her magic and got a ton of free press in three different newspapers due to the reputation of the speaker. Media not only advertised the event, but they also posted after-event articles, too. While they had to act quickly, they quickly gathered a raffle basket filled with donated items worth \$100 which they turned into \$455 thanks to the ticket sales team of *Ginny Kepp, Gwen Grottola, Joan Graceffo, Sandy Hanagan, Jeanne Michaels, and Mary Auger. Maddie Daraio*, membership chair, manned the door and *Karen Eckert* ordered plants to dress the stage. *Gwyneth Paget* coordinated the after-party to give everyone a chance to rave about the presentation and celebrate their incredible luck and ability to pull off the speaker they could never afford.



John Giddings (above) had the ladies captivated by what he presented, but also his good looks. Prior to hosting *Curb Appeal*, he earned a B.A. in architecture from Yale and a M.A. from Harvard's Graduate School of Design. In graduate school, he worked as a runway model for shows by Armani and Gucci. The club welcomed five new members at their next meeting! Now that's lightning in a bottle.

SMOKEY BEAR POSTER CONTEST. HE'S 80 YRS OLD!

*Jill Anderson
FFGC State Chairman
jillandersn@aol.com*

The 2024 contest is dedicated to Smokey Bear's 80th birthday! Children from first through fifth grade are invited to participate in this annual drawing contest featuring Smokey Bear!

Smokey Bear is recognized both nationally and internationally as the symbol for wildfire prevention, with his motto being **Only You Can Prevent Wildfires!** Since 1944, Smokey Bear has taught people how to help prevent wildfires and to be careful with campfires, barbecues, matches, and more. For more about Smokey Bear visit <https://smokeybear.com> <https://gardenclub.org/smokey-bear-woodsy-owl-youth-poster-contest>

Any child/group of children may participate. Scout troops, after school programs, summer camps, and the like are perfectly appropriate. Children must be Florida residents and sponsored by a garden club. The child's grade must be included on the poster so that the participant can compete in the correct grade category.



WILLIAM BARTRAM: PART I

By *Kalia C. Baillene*
Bartram Society Chair

THE BARTRAM LEGACY:
DISCOVERING THE VALUES OF
NATURE

The American Colonies were developing well, expanding into new territories in the southern part of the country, and the King of England wanted to know what kind of value the newer lands held for future sales and development. The natural resources of the land would determine how much profit he could acquire through land sales and land grants to certain persons who were willing to turn that natural terrain into riches. The value brought from the land in lumber, furs, precious metals, and agricultural goods were key to those profits.

Someone with knowledge about nature, and what was there to profit from, came under the purview of John Bartram, royal botanist to the King.

John Bartram was a third generation Quaker whose religious background was a major teaching ground on being a naturalist. John wanted to become a Doctor, but with no schools in the area, he applied his studies in a scientific approach to cataloging and recording everything he collected and grew. His 102-acre farm along the riverfront in Philadelphia is considered America's first botanical garden. He traveled about collecting all kinds of trees, shrubs, and herbaceous plants. He saved seeds and shared them with others to start gardens on their lands. The appointment as royal

botanist and the stipend to travel to the southeastern area sent William on the quest for new specimens to collect and to survey the lands for all it could offer. He started the trip in 1765, picking up his son, William (Billy), in North Carolina to help him, since he was already 66 years of age. They bought a small bateau, loaded it with supplies and paddled down the waterways through the Carolinas, Georgia, and Florida into the St. Johns River.

William kept a daily diary of everything they saw. He recorded in detail the weather, land, plants, and animals. Billy drew sketches of the flora and fauna, taking them back to their homestead to reproduce in paintings and more drawings. Those writings and drawings were all sent to England where they are archived. You can read the entire published version of John's writings in his book *The Travels of William Bartram*.

Read PART II in the Winter edition to hear about the second trip to

Florida for Billy's solo adventure with Indian guide and trader 'Job Wiggins' and introductions to the Indian chiefs 'Mico Chlucco,' the Long Warrior and 'Cow Catcher.'

For further reference:

BartramTrailSociety.com

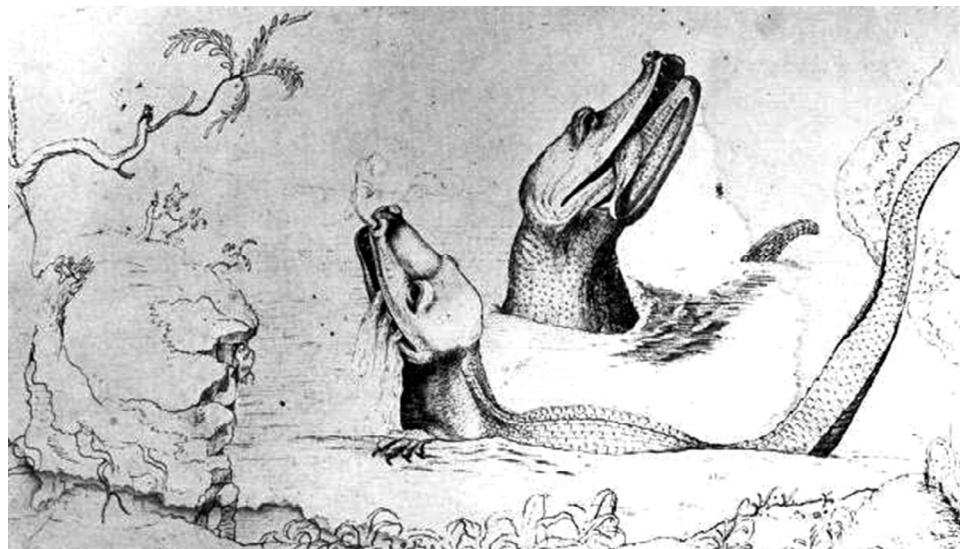
[Facebook/BartramTrailSociety](https://www.facebook.com/BartramTrailSociety)



Limpkin Tantalus ephouskyca



William Bartram



Billy's drawing of ALLIGATOR, which he initially called small dragons.

MEMBERSHIP

By: *Christy Linke, 1st Vice President
Chair, Membership & Finance*

Summer vacations are coming to an end, kids are back in school, and those who went to their second home for the summer months are returning to Florida. Some garden clubs were still getting together having fun with flowers, workshops, garden teas, plant sales, flea markets, field trips, Short Course North and so many other events to keep members busy through the summer months.

If you volunteered at Camp Wekiva during the six weeks of camp, that is still another way you were involved during the summer. Some clubs were meeting to plan the year to come for their members, setting up programs and speakers that will interest their members. The Florida Federation of Garden Clubs and the clubs are really a year round organization.

Most clubs will be starting back up in September. What does your club do at the first meeting? One idea is a Lunch and Learn or maybe a garden tea party. Everyone bring a covered dish to share and your Program Chairman talks a little about each speaker/program for the months to come. Does your club do a garden club directory? Weather you do digital or hard copy, make sure each person has access to it for the first meeting. Have each Committee Chairman talk about what their committee does. This is a great opportunity to get members to sign up to help with events that are planned. This is a great way to get your members involved

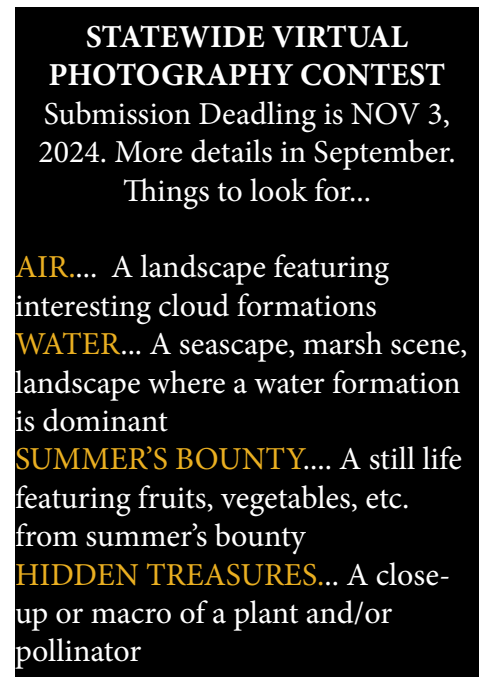
and to understand, especially new members, the missions of your garden club. For the brand new members, have a little something to give them. Make them feel special. Have mentors available to help the new members. It is so important to make them part of the club right away. Let them talk about themselves. Like, how did you come to find us, we are so glad you did, we'd love to hear about you! The first meeting sets the stage for the whole year.

Each District has an Assistant District Director that is your membership chairman. They are more than willing to talk to clubs about membership. I would like to introduce them to all of you: **District I**, Lori Echols, gtgcloriechols@gmail.com, **District II**, Sarah Darden, srdarden@hotmail.com, **District III**, Susan Weaver, susanbweaver@comcast.net, **District IV**, Steve Davies, stmdavies@gmail.com, **District V**, Sandra Arnold, searnold6348@gmail.com, **District VI**, Debra Griffith, mzgriffman@cfl.rr.com, **District VII**, Pat Neff, prneff04@verizon.net, **District VIII**, Michelle James, michelle@nerdygirls.net, **District IX**, Susan Lawson, slawson921@gmail.com, **District X**, May Ann Cody, mcginnma@nycap.rr.com, **District XI**, Melissa Weekley, **District XII**, Joanne Rosenbluth-Rigl, jrosesrigl@aol.com.

At the beginning of the new garden club year there is always so much to share about what your club is doing to obtain new members and retain the ones you have. Reach out to your Assistant District Director in your District and share what your club is doing to obtain new

members and, of course, retain them once they join.

We are over 10,000 members strong so let's all join forces and make that number grow and all learn from each other.





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