**SEPT. 2021 CONVENTION BOARD OF DIRECTOR’s MEETING**

**OFFICER AND DISTRICT DIRECTOR REPORTS**

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## PRESIDENT’S REPORT

President’s Report

September 8, 2021

Marjorie H. Hendon

The FFGC is in great hands. I always like to ask what our members’ professions are or were, before they retired. FFGC has members from every sector of the professional and non- professional fields of employment. I am so impressed with the professional way each of you go about your Chairmanship. You do take your positions seriously, like you are being paid the highest salary possible. Please, don’t forget to submit a report of what you have been doing with your Chairmanship. Send that in by Friday, Sept. 10, 2021.

We have had so much loss this year and last, of loved ones, family, and friends. This summer FFGC experienced the loss of former President Marian Hilliard. As if that wasn’t enough, we then received the news of the passing of our first male FFGC President, Al Latina. Words can’t express how thankful we are to have had these wonderful people lead us at the FL Federation of Garden Clubs. Oct. 3 will be Al’s Celebration of Life at Woodmont Park. Wear a floral shirt and hat that Al would have enjoyed. Donations could be designated to Building and Maintenance fund of Wekiva.

This President has enjoyed getting to know her Presidential duties and the people involved in running FFGC. It takes a large village to run FFGC. We have over 9,510 members in Florida, and they look to this Board to guide them in their garden club activities. They may think they don’t, but they do. Their club Presidents, District Directors, you the Board members, Committee members, Jenn our Office Manager, and your EX-Board all work so smoothly together that club’s think it is all their efforts that make the State wheels work. We all work together.

Our Schools are more important than ever. I ask you to go to your clubs and beg them to host an environmental, gardening, and/or landscape design school. We have got to get a handle on our environment, our gardens for wildlife, and designing for the rising tides. Do it this month and let’s get this ball rolling. The National representative says all the States watch what FL does. We, you, are the leaders in NGC. National watches what we do, and they are proud of your leadership.

Well, it is time to go out and make a difference, WOW the world with your actions. Do at least, one action a week for your Chairmanship.

Also, a huge thank you to those who were able to work in the Headquarters’ gardens this last week. Looks great.

Yes, I am excited to serve you for the next couple of years. It almost takes a village to help me, now add 9,509 more garden club members and you’ll know it is all hands-on deck. FFGC is in good hands, it is in your hands. We can all hold each other up so we all can experience Worlds of Wonder. Thank you.

Summary: FFGC was saddened by the loss of two of its former Presidents, Marion Hilliard and Al Latina. We have 9,510 members as of Sept. 2021. It takes all of the Board to help FFGC run smoothly.

Thank you,

Marjorie H. Hendon

FFGC President

## 1ST VICE PRESIDENT’S REPORT

FFGC 1VP Report

Tina Tuttle

September 8, 2021

This Vice President has been very busy since the Convention installation in Daytona!

The process of getting the Office/Clinic rebuilt at Wekiva Youth Camp is making progress. Cost projection for the building is $516,000. Two payments to the state park system for expenses incurred during the design phase have been made, totaling about $40,000. Two bids for the construction were received but rejected due to increased cost of lumber. The bid will be re-let in the coming weeks. Additionally, at camp, this VP facilitated the installation of a shower door at Euchee cabin and 7 split AC units in 6 volunteer cabins.

Plans for the 100th anniversary continue and history articles for *The Florida Gardener* continue to be submitted. Met with folks to gather information for an Arbor Day celebration in 2024. (Separate report)

As Vice-Chairman for the NGC 2022 Convention in Orlando, this VP has been busy setting up 4 tours that will also be used for Tri-refresher credit. Several Zoom meetings have been held with NGC President, Mary Warshauer! A quick trip to the Rosen Plaza Hotel helped finalize room assignments.

Of course, there were many in-person and Zoom meetings attended on Membership, Presidents’ Summit, spring district meetings, Awards, Wekiva, etc. Several programs were given in-person as well as using Zoom to places near and far, even California. Most recently, Zoom meetings in preparation for this fall Board meeting have been attended the last week of August and into early September (SPC, WYC, FC, Bylaws, FFSJ, Tri-Council).

As chairman of the Finance Committee, we held a meeting in-person at HQ in July (Separate report). Also met in person for H&E and Bylaws committee meetings.

This VP attended SEEK in June, volunteering as a van driver and chaperone, and attended week 4 at Wekiva Youth Camp as Chairman in July. All the VPs and President Hendon met to renegotiate the 25-year contract with the state park system.

It is indeed an honor and a pleasure to serve as First Vice President!

Tina V. Tuttle

## 2nd VICE PRESIDENT’S REPORT

2nd Vice President

Christy Linke

September 8, 2021

Since being installed as 2nd Vice President I worked diligently to open Camp Wekiva with challenges of COVID. As Wekiva Camp Chairman which is one of the duties of 2nd VP the discussions of Protocols were big decisions in making camp safe for all who attended. ZOOM meetings with ACA (American Camp Association) were attended every month from December right up until camp opened. Laws were changing and of course vaccines came into play as well. Decisions were constantly being made and then updated as the State of Florida kept changing them. I’m happy to report that Wekiva opened with every effort of keeping all who attended safe and healthy from COVID.

Attending the finance meeting in July in person was a rare treat as so much had been via ZOOM for so long.

Ways and Means were turned over to Mary the 3rd V.P. as well as files for Wekiva Volunteer Training. Wishing her the best of luck. Both of which I enjoyed at 3rd Vice President.

Summary: Camp Wekiva opened after missing a year due to COIVD.

## 3rd VICE PRESIDENT

## RECORDING SECRETARY

Recording Secretary

BOD Meeting

Sept. 8-9, 2021

The Recording Secretary completed the minutes for the special post convention board meeting and the post convention board meeting on April 14, 2021. I also created the books of Officer/DD reports and board chairman reports and updated the website with all the reports submitted from the convention meetings.

In preparation for the Sept. board meeting I sent the call out to the board members, set up the report books, added submitted reports to the books and updated the website with these documents shortly before the meeting. They will continually be updated after the meeting.

## CORRESPONDING SECRETARY

DISTRICT 1

DISTRICT I REPORT

JOYCE WATERS-SMITH, DIRECTOR

September 8, 2021

1. District I – hosted an all day President’s training June 12 in Milton, FL. Hosted by our ADD Jenny Weber and coordinated by Betty White, our District Parliamentarian. Marge Hendon kicked off the meeting. Tina Tuttle, Jane and Ed Nendick, Valarie Seinfeld, Gwen Clark all made presentations, as well as all of the District chairpersons.
2. The Navarre Garden club hosted a training class and invited all the clubs in the District on how to start and run a junior garden club, regardless of the COVID restrictions not allowing adult volunteers into the schools.
3. The District held an Executive Board meeting in September to plan our fall District meeting. In addition, we voted to send a $100 donation to Weikiva in honor of Al Latino, to place an ad in the Florida Gardener for our upcoming flower show, etc.
4. Our District meeting will be held at the Pensacola Garden Center on October 12, chaired by Sandra Sherman, President of the Pensacola Federated Garden Clubs.
5. The Pensacola State Fair Flower show will be open to the public October 21 -31. All designers are welcome. All garden clubs are encouraged to plan field trips to enjoy the show.
6. March 8-9 the District will co-host a District wide Flower Show jointly with the District 1 Judges Council. The show will take place at St Sylvester’s church in Navarre. The chairman of the show is Linda Henderson, the show schedule is being written by Marie Harrison. We plan to apply for an NGC Award.
7. The District 1 Judges Council is hosting a Symposium in Pensacola at the 4-H building November 2 and 3. Gina Jogan is the chairperson.
8. Basic Floral Design Studies will be offered beginning January 5 and continuing for 9 weeks at the Navarre Garden Club. Rose Racz is the chairperson.

Respectfully submitted:

Joyce Waters-Smith

District I Director

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850 217-4888

## DISTRICT 2

## DISTRICT 3

FFGC District III Report

District Director

Marilyn Larson

September 8, 2021

Persevere. And all clubs in FFGC District III are persevering in spite of or because of the pandemic.

District III successfully held an ‘In person’ Spring District meeting, hosted by Live Oak Garden Club on May 13, with 70 in attendance to initiate the FFGC President’s environmental theme to “walk the green path”. Tallahassee Garden Club plans to host the Fall District Meeting October 7 to be held at the Goodwood Museum and Grounds, subject to CDC Guidelines for safety and health of members. In addition to the scripted meeting format, the featured program includes a brief overview and history of Goodwood Museum and Grounds, followed by tours of the historic house and grounds.

Summer was a busy time for the seven clubs in the district with social gatherings, field trips, committee meetings, and yard sales, in addition to preparation of new yearbooks which was made more difficult due to loss of membership. But one club, Live Oak Garden Club, reported an increase in membership while all other clubs lost membership due to not being able to meet and gather safely for over a year due to Covid-19. Tallahassee Garden Club had two circles disband, and now have a total 21 active circles.

The Blue Star Marker program not only had the full District support for the Memorial wreath placed at the National Cemetery in Tallahassee in May, but Live Oak and Tallahassee Garden Clubs placed wreaths at Blue Star Markers in their respective cities.

District III Clubs have been busy preparing their yearbooks with member names and monthly activities and programs. Because calendars and programs are organized for the year, we’ve heard special words of appreciation and “I’m really impressed! Garden clubs really have it together” because they plan a year of programs in advance which is especially appreciated by local Extension Agents as well as other program presenters!

Clubs with special school gardens begin work in the fall on Youth Gardening programs. Hopefully, those elementary and middle school students will be future garden club members and club leaders!

And of course – flower shows! Tallahassee Garden Club plans a fall flower show, A Small Standard Flower Show “The American Old West”. Entries are due October 27 and the show is open to the public on Friday October 29. What an exciting event to kick off the garden club new year after a dreadful last year. An interesting new section “Botanical Arts” section, featuring crafts using plant materials, has been added, along with Horticulture and Design divisions.

## DISTRICT 4

Report

District IV Director

Connie A. Gladding

September 8, 2021

This District Director is honored to serve as the Florida Federation of Garden Clubs (FFGC) District IV Director for 2021-2023. The District Director’s theme is ‘Garden Clubs are Nature’s Caretaker.’ Garden Club members know the importance of taking care of nature, including its flora and fauna. Clubs’ missions focus on both the ‘art’ and ‘science’ of nature’s elements, from floral design to environmental conservation. Members strive to educate communities and protect natural resources, including native plants and habitats. Members understand that nature’s ecosystems are connected, each reliant upon others for life and sustainability.

Furthering National Garden Clubs, Deep South Region and FFGC leadership interests, this Director encourages District Club members to focus on “playing outdoors, making new friends, and enriching our communities.” Clubs may ‘Enrich’ communities by: E – encouraging environmental and earth friendly actions; N – nurturing nature; R- recruiting, recognizing, and retaining club members (member care); I- informing and educating others; C- celebrating achievements; and H- honoring the sublime in flower arranging. This Director challenged clubs to identify 1-2 actions for each of the 6 ENRICH areas that Clubs or Circles will take to strengthen our Garden Clubs.

Thank you to the Garden Club of Jacksonville, for hosting the May District IV Spring Meeting at their lovely venue on the St. Johns River. The meeting had over 60 in-person and zoom attendees. The meeting’s theme was “By the River” and speakers spoke about the 2.5 acres Lanakila gardens, a permanent nonprofit with training for organic, regenerative gardening featuring the River Garden and Flower Farm. Members enjoyed the Farm’s donation of several locally grown beautiful, fragrant floral arrangements. Eager to learn more, several District IV Clubs have planned field trips to Lanakila Gardens in the upcoming year.

Over the summer the District Director shared the information of Marion Hilliard’s passing. District IV mourned the loss and celebrated the life of Marion Hilliard. She was a treasure to this District, to FFGC, and to the conservation community. She mentored many and will be missed but remembered for all her accomplishments and passion for gardening.

Most District IV clubs did not meet during the summer; however, the clubs were very busy with planning the upcoming year. Members identified speakers and programs; and developed budgets and yearbooks. Prior to the summer break, this District Director was honored to perform the installation ceremonies for The Garden Club of Fleming Island and the Bartram Garden Club. Thank you to both Clubs for the invitations to do so.

Next up, was District IV Officers’ Orientation with over 50 in-person attendees July 14. The District Director introduced and thanked the District Leadership team of Officers and Chairpersons. Attendees welcomed the opportunity to meet fellow Officers and Chairpersons. All received an information “SUCCESS” packet that included the District’s policies and procedures guide, meeting management basics, District budget, roster of District IV Leaders, responsibilities of Officers and District Chairs, descriptions of Florida Federation of Garden Club (FFGC) and National Garden Club (NGC) programs and schools, and the FFGC *Who We Are* trifold and the FFGC Benefits rack card. Members shared their experiences and upcoming plans on supporting membership drives, Bartram Trail Markers, Habitat for Humanity, Wekiva, Blue Star Markers, Cork Reclamation, S.E.E.K., and Pennies for Pines. Clubs and Circles leaders are hoping to gain commitments to improve existing Blue Star Markers. Although budgets have been depleted during the past year, Clubs and Circles have public programs and fundraisers planned and intend to continue to support these FFGC programs.

After the orientation, a short business meeting convened to update members on the Fall District IV meeting hosted by the Garden Club of Orange Park October 1 and the District’s GardenFest, a day of education for the public on November 5. The program theme for the Fall meeting is “Protect Florida’s Water” and GardenFest’s theme is “What a Wonderful World – To Protect and Preserve, Start in your own Yard.” During GardenFest the benefits of FFGC membership will be highlighted and joining encouraged. The Bartram Club will host the Spring 2022 District IV Meeting and the Garden Club of St. Augustine the Fall 2022 meeting. Thank you to the hosting clubs.

This summer the District Chair for Website and Social Media tackled the huge task of migrating the District’s Website and updating the Facebook page structure. Both sites are visited by members frequently for the latest happenings. Additionally, the District Chair published the first issue of “District Runner”, the District IV newsletter. Many thanks to this District Chair for working tirelessly on these three efforts to strengthen the District’s communications benefitting all Clubs.

The National Garden Clubs Schools District Chair is exploring the possibility of convening the Landscape Course. Additionally, members have requested the District consider hosting the Environment School.

Other near-term events are: In September, The Ribault Garden Club is hosting the District IV Flower Show School II. This is the second of four courses that includes horticulture, design, and flower show procedure.  The Event Chairman is Carolyn Stevens and the Sponsor is FFSJ District IV Judges Council. In November, the Bartram Club will feature a public flora design program by “The Sisterhood of the Traveling Plants’ in conjunction with the local Women’s Club.

At every District gathering a focus on membership is a priority topic. Sadly, the District has lost long standing clubs and circles over the past two years. Clubs and Circles are incorporating membership drives and partnering with other organizations in their plans for the upcoming year’s activities and fundraisers. The Garden Club of Green Cove Springs held an August ‘Dessert Bar’ Bring a Friend event planned. Also, in August and as a membership drive, The Garden Club of Orange Park held a Houseplant and Book Swap partnering with the county public library system. The event brought out many interested community members, young and old. Other Clubs have planned Swaps as well.

District IV looks forward to three birthday celebrations in the upcoming year. The Bartram Club held a birthday party and membership drive in September in honor of the Club’s 5th anniversary. Also in September, the Garden Club of St. Augustine will celebrate their 95th year, with their first meeting scheduled on a Saturday, September 11. This District Director plans to attend the Garden Club of St. Augustine’s September meeting. And the Garden Club of Jacksonville will celebrate their 100th anniversary March 25, 2022. They have special events planned, including garden parties, a festive centennial day celebration, and incorporating the 100th anniversary into existing fabulous programs and events.

What a wonderful productive summer District IV has had! This District Director is so thankful and appreciative for the enthusiasm, talent, and willingness to serve of the District membership. Club, Circle, and District Officers and Chairpersons have stepped into their new roles, preparing the ground for an exciting year. We carry the memories of Marion Hilliard into the future and strive to meet the high standards she set.

## DISTRICT 5

**Report**

District V Director

Donna Thomas

September 2021 – BOD meeting

Counties: Columbia, Dixie, Gilchrist, Bradford, Alachua, Citrus, Hernando, Levy,

Marion

Flower: Daylily, Wildflower: Phlox drummondi (Phox), Butterfly: Eastern Tiger

Swallow

Garden Club in District V: Brick City, Brooksville, Citrus, Crystal River, Floral

City, Four Seasons, Gainesville, Homosassa River, Inverness, Lake City, Newberry, Pioneer, Riverhaven, Seedlings

Our garden clubs are always busy and that continued in most cases on some level, despite the parameters imposed by the virus. The district has persevered, and our members have been energized over the summer preparing for this coming fall. It is, however, very discouraging to again be at a ZOOM meeting instead of being up close and personal.

**Brooksville** continues to maintain two memorial gardens, as well as picking up on the Good Neighbor Trail. Habitat for Humanity remains one of their main community projects.

The **Citrus Garden Club** is working in conjunction with Youth and Family Alternatives in Citrus and Hernando counties for donations for our school children. They are encouraging all the clubs in those two counties to help by providing a pickup service from meetings to the facility for distribution.

This summer **Garden Club of** **Crystal River** reburied and relocated their Blue Star Marker with a dedication held in June. The marker is now located on Highway 19 across from the mall by the entrance to the state park.

This Director would like to thank garden club of the year, **Floral City Garden Club**, for hosting the first Spring Meeting for this administration. The club is currently working in conjunction with Heritage Counsel to beautify an empty lot on the corner of town for which they received a Pride Award from Keep Citrus County Beautiful.

**Four Seasons** has been holding their meetings at the Matheson Museum in Gainesville. and hope to be able to move into their old setting at the newly remodeled Senior Center this month.

**Gainesville** is always busy. Currently they are having their kickoff event “Aged to Perfection” to celebrate their 97th year as a club on the 9th which is either yesterday or today. I wish them all possible success.

In May **Homosassa River** Garden Club celebrated its 40 years as a FFGC federated club. Sadly, they lost their beloved president Ingrid Ricci in May. An anonymous donor has provided funds for the club to plant a tree in Stage Stand Cemetery and to purchase a plaque to honor Ingrid's commitment to her community.

**Inverness** continues to work with Hospice and resumed in person club meetings in January.

In April**, Lake City** did an Arbor Day program along with city officials and received a proclamation from the mayor.

A significant **Pioneer Garden Club** project was accomplished in partnership with Marion Big Scrub Native Plant Society, Marion Audubon Society, Marion Daylily Society, and the City of Ocala to beautify the Historic Tuscawilla Park and was awarded the National Garden Club Plant America Grant.

The **Riverhaven** Garden Club sponsors a community wide lecture by the Homosassa River Alliance and contributed $250 to that cause. They have completed landscaping for their 177th Habitat home.

I would like to thank all the members in District V for the outstanding job they do unfailingly, year after year. I look forward to another fantastic year of contributions, participation, and innovations from all the district 5 clubs.

## DISTRICT 6

BOD Report

Suzi Bailey, District VI Director

September 8, 2021

Theme: Planting for the Planet

Resilience has been the operative term for the District VI Garden Clubs. The past year rolled over us like a huge wave, but we managed to get back to shore with flying colors. Clubs are planning exciting and informative yearbooks, programs, fundraisers, and community projects.

Clubs are reaching out to their communities in some innovative and creative ways. Building membership, community projects, educational projects, are some of the common themes in each club. Each club has come up with ideas that we might be able to use in our clubs. Together, our district will lift up and encourage one another in our endeavors to help make this planet a better place for our future generations.

Ormond Beach Garden Club is going to have a booth at the Home and Garden show in January at the Ocean Center, Daytona Beach. Plants will be sold, and information given out to potential new members. Fun With Flowers, Enviro Camp for children using recycled items for their planters are other ways they are creating opportunities to learn about all aspects of gardening.

Melbourne Garden Club is developing a new brochure to hand out at all their events sharing with the public about their club and its activities. They are also working with the city of Melbourne to reinstall their Blue Star Marker in its original location on US 1.

New Smyrna Beach Garden Club is continuing a program that was suggested by their membership. Small interest groups sign up to attend member taught classes. A variety of classes to attend, e.g. roses, orchids, succulents, vegetable gardening, etc. It has been well received by all members, especially our newest members. Junior Garden Club has been wonderful for the children and grandchildren of our members. Their mothers attended with the children and ended up joining the club. New Smyrna Beach Garden Club will also be the host club for District VI Fall Meeting on October 19, 2021. Planning for that event and also working on crafting items for the annual Festival of Trees.

DeLeon Springs Garden Club has set a goal to attain new members this year. They are going to start their club year with a club mixer designed to get new members acquainted with the long-term members. Food drives, touring gardens, learning about hydroponic gardening, learning about bee and honey production. They are also planning a tea featuring a presentation on the history of DAR, led by a club member who is a Master Gardener and a DAR member.

South Peninsula Garden Club is planning activities that can inspire their appreciation of the living world and focus on the healing effects of nature post Covid. Healing Gardens, Children’s Gardens, Native Plants, and Botanical Arts are a few of their programs. Field trips will be interesting, fun. and educational.

The Garden Club of the Halifax Country is preparing their club year with an opening celebration for their 100th birthday in February 2022. Their theme is Bridging the Past, Present, and Future. They will also have the annual youth project, “Nature’s Art Box”. Fourth graders from two different elementary schools walk to the Ormond Beach Museum Gardens. The club members meet them and give a guided tour of the gardens. The children then create a painting of something they have observed in the garden. After finishing their painting, they make a frame of found twigs, shells, and bits of nature, to take home. The children also tour two cottages that are onsite, learning their history. One of the cottages was saved and moved to its current location by the garden club.

The Garden Club of DeLand recently installed adult sized monarch butterfly wings in the Sensory Garden in Bill Dreggors Park. It was a celebration of member outreach with gardening information, plant sale and children’s activities. The 25-year-old Sensory Garden continues to evolve with native plant and revolves around habitat sections for specific butterflies. The community gardening project is planting and maintaining 77 downtown planters. Some of their many community projects included certification of butterfly gardens at the Spring Hill Community Gardens, supporting Habitat for Humanity home through garden consultation, volunteers, and donations, and donating over 50 plants for a church parsonage’s grounds. Building membership through new ideas. One idea was a Creative Corner Committee . Flowerpot and hypertufa rock painting was the summer inaugural event. The other plans are to add Nature Strolls and to bring back their Junior Gardeners Club.

Cherry Laurel Garden Club celebrated their 70 years of affiliation with FFGC. Awards were presented, historical photos and displays were displayed. District VI Director, Suzi Bailey presented their 70th Anniversary certificate.

## DISTRICT 7

Report

District VII District Director

Charlotte White

September Board Meeting 2021

DISTRICT VII HAS HAD A VERY DIFFERENT YEAR, - YEAR OF MEETINGS OUTSIDE, ZOOM MEETINGS, AND IN PERSON WITH SOCIAL DISTANCING LIKE SO MANY OTHER DISTRICTS. ……YET GARDENERS ARE ALWAYS PLANTING, GROWING AND SHARING PLANTS! GARDENERS DURING COVID WERE AT HOME IN THEIR GARDENS.

We ARE EXCITED for Bloom and Grow Garden society who for 5 years of planning, holding Butterfly projects as fundraisers very soon in October will see their work come to culmination with a **Monarch Butterfly statue** being built in Butterfly Garden Park on Plant Street downtown Winter Garden. The butterfly fundraisers of selling butterfly plants etc. to fund statue happening has made Wintergarden a more nature friendly environment. To further enhance this project, they also are participating in Heritage Trees in classifying historic heritage trees.

All District VII Clubs continue to be very busy in each unique way. They very in size and projects. Helping schools plant gardens, sharing plants rotating monthly plants from their homes for display in businesses, creating power points to share with new members the importance of FFGC and their clubs. At convention we filled 2 -3 tables at each event, participated in giving classes/presentations and we are proud District VII has several members on FFGC Board SO WE ARE A VERY WELL-ROUNDED GROUP OF GARDENERS.

Clermont held membership open house and Sweetwater continues to be very active. And FFGC’s Award’s chair is busy at work preparing clubs for awards process for 2022.

**In 2022** the WPGC will be celebrating its **100th year birthday**.  Cynthia Pesch oversees planning our celebration. We look forward to wonderful time with them.

GARDENING CLASSES

Exciting for all gardeners in our district Orlando Garden Club will be hosting Floral Design study units, all taught by Certified Floral Design Instructors. They begin in October and go through March.

Respectfully Submitted

Charlotte White

District VII Director

## DISTRICT 8

Report

District VIII Director

Kitty Wallace

September 2021 – BOD mtg

Theme: ***There is something for everyone in the Florida Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc.***

Counties included in District VIII: Hillsborough, Manatee, Pasco, Pinellas, Sarasota,

23 Clubs in District VIII: Apollo Beach, Clearwater, Dade City, Davis Islands, Dunedin, Gardeners Out East, Garden Gate, GC of Hunter’s Green, GC of St Petersburg, GC of Tarpon Springs, Lakewood Ranch, Lemon Bay, Manatee River, New Port Richey, Palm Harbor, Plant City, Sarasota, Sunset Park, GC of Tampa Bay Golf & Country Club, Tampa Garden Club, Temple Terrace, Valrico, Venice.

Flower: Red Hibiscus Butterfly: Zebra Longwing Wildflower: Rudbeckia Herta

Newsletter: **Great Eight News,** 2 issues have been produced.

Sept 25 Garden Fest & More at the Plant City Historic Train Station

October 2 Sarasota - Garden To Table Flower Show

October 11- Nov. 29th  Floral Design Study, Units 1-6 at the Davis Islands Garden Club

October 23 Monarch Festival, Dade City

Plant SALE – Garden club of St. Petersburg

We had a wonderful Spring meeting in May using a hybrid format, which worked very well. Our Fall District Meeting will be October 13th, done virtually.

June – National Garden Week was celebrated with special activities by most clubs in District VIII.

We are very pleased to see that some clubs have had an increase in membership. We are focusing on increasing membership in each club.

District VIII Matching Grant is due November 15th.

Respectfully Submitted.

Kitty Wallace

## DISTRICT 9

Report

District IX Director

Dale W. DeFeo

Sept. 8, 2021

**DISTRICT IX:**

The Spring District IX meeting was conducted via Zoom. It was hosted by Calusa Garden Club of Marco Island. FFGC President, Marge Hendon attended and spoke about her theme, “Worlds of Wonder” and how it relates to NGC and Deep South themes. The theme of the District IX meeting was “Going Native in Florida,” and the program was presented by Eric Jadaszewski, owner of Everglades Native Designs, LLC. He spoke on “Florida Native Plant Landscapes.

Due to COVID19, most spring events such as flower shows, luncheons, meetings, etc. were either cancelled or downsized. Several clubs moved their meetings to outdoor sites with social distancing the norm.

Arcadia Garden Club held their spring installation meeting in June. Leslie Montwid, Immediate Past District IX Director, presented a succulent program and installed their new officers. Social distancing was required throughout.

Calusa Garden Club held their spring installation meeting outside of the church where they usually meet. This Director had the privilege to installing the 2021-2023 officers.

On May 22, the Estero Island Garden Club held a dedication service for a Blue Star Memorial at the Fort Myers Beach Public Library.

A Presidents Tea was hosted by the Fort Myers Lee County Garden Council in August at the Berne Davis Garden in Fort Myers. There were 16 in attendance, and it provided an opportunity for club presidents to meet each other plus a chance for this District Director to meet and chat with each president. As of this date, the Council flower show is still scheduled for November.

The spring plant sale at Avon Park Nursery was held and was very successful. However, the decision has just been made to cancel the sale scheduled for September 25, due to both COVID19

and the resignation of the Manager, John Meeks. No further information is available at this time.

Punta Gorda Garden Club agreed to sponsor the Fall 2021 District IX Meeting on October 26, and it was scheduled to be held at the Isles Yacht Club in Punta Gorda. However, out of safety concerns and the probability of low attendance, the meeting has been scheduled for the same date but will be held via Zoom. The speaker for this meeting will provide information on the state of the Everglades Watershed that affects everyone in the district.

There has been a loss of members in District IX. Estero Island Garden Club voted in the spring to not remain federated. That is a loss of 60 members. Fort Meade, with 30 members, notified the District Director in April that they are “suspending” state/district membership until COVID19 is over. Also, Jasmine Garden Club with 14 members has not paid dues in two years and are suspended by FFGC. Each of these clubs has been contacted to see if there is something the District can do to get them to reconsider, to no avail. It appears the decisions are mostly COVID related. The good news is that some clubs are growing in size.

Dale W. DeFeo

Director, District IX, FFGC

## DISTRICT 10

District X Director

Michelle Maguire

September 8 & 9, 2021

District X has been very busy helping all the presidents and circle club presidents with their responsibilities. We have created a timeline to help them month to month.

This District director has held several Zoom meetings on general information they need as well as specifics such as Parliamentary Procedure, By-Laws and Membership. Two more Zoom meetings are scheduled in late September about our District Chairmanships and what they do and how presidents can utilize what the chairman have to offer.

We had a successful District meeting on April 22 by Zoom with two programs on African Violets and Petit Designs by Jackie Davies. Even with the problems with Covid, we had over 85 participants.

Vivian Kobe, our Garden Week District Chairman has written an extensive article about what all the clubs have accomplished during Garden Week in June. The many copies of District X clubs Garden Week reports sent to me were amazing including the photos.

Our district has scheduled our Fall meeting on October 19 at the Trails Golf and Country Club in Port St. Lucie hosted by the Saint Lucie West Garden Club.

District X will hold its’ annual Tropical Short Course on January 19 and 20, 2022 at the Green Acres Community Center. It is a tri-refresher as well as our only fundraiser for the district. Doug Tallamy is one of the featured speakers. Registration form and flyer can be found on our district website, district.org. These forms can also be found at the FFGC website.

Lastly, District X has started its’ own Facebook page. Type in the search box Ffgc District X Garden Clubs with an email address of [ffgc.districtx.gardenclubs@gmail.com](mailto:ffgc.districtx.gardenclubs@gmail.com)

Respectfully submitted,

Michelle Maguire

## DISTRICT 11

District XI Director

Sharon Bogard

September 09, 2021

It is my pleasure to report for District XI on the garden clubs of Broward County.

Our clubs and circles have made it through a tough sub-tropical summer and now they are looking forward to implementing their projects, programs and events worked on during the hiatus.

**Coral Springs Garden Club** intends to focus on its participation in the Fairchild Gardens’ Million Orchid Project funded partly by a $500 grant the Florida Federation of Garden Clubs. It will also work towards developing a new garden club which would meet solely in the evenings with the hopes of attracting younger working people.

**Fort Lauderdale Garden Club** will continue using Zoom for its Board meetings but will hold its general meetings in person. Also, to reach a wider audience, they have planned to hold two evening meeting this season. Its Secret Garden Tour and annual Standard Flower Show continue as works-in-progress.

**Hollywood Garden Club, the Garden Club of Lighthouse Point and Lauderdale-by-the-Sea Garden Club** connected, through the summer months, with their members through a variety of ways: Zoom, newsletters**,** photos, YouTube videos, and webinars, etc., that inspired and kept communication open and the members in touch with each other. **Lauderdale-by-the-Sea Garden Club** plans to host an informal floral exhibit entitled “Embracing Wildflowers”, in conjunction with a tea and plant and book sale.

And the big news! **Pompano Beach Garden Club**’s summer’s hard work has come to fruition. They will host a Floral Design School in late autumn, specifically November 3 through December 15 … and this District Director signed up immediately upon notice.

Finally, District XI’s fall meeting will occur on October 22. Our program, “Adopt-A-Dune”, is a non-profit project that seeks citizen involvement in the removal of invasive material and replacement with native vegetation along our shoreline. It has attracted the interest of our city officials and our Mayor and City Commissioner will both be in attendance and hopefully many, many of our garden club members. The call will go out on the 10th, and I look forward to a positive response from our gardening community.

Thank you, everyone, for your time.

## DISTRICT 12

D XII Report

Leticia Gunn

Sept. 9, 2021

Good morning Madam President, Board and fellow District Directors. The Clubs of District XII

do not meet during the summer, however this does not mean we have not been busy. All of the

clubs have been preparing over the summer lining up program Speakers, working on Budgets

and creating yearbooks amongst other things. Most of the District’s Clubs will be conducting

their first meeting in September. Some in person, some via Zoom and some will continue last

year’s hybrid in person/Zoom meetings.

The District meeting is planned via Zoom only for October 18th and the Districts President

Council will host it’s first meeting both in person and via Zoom on September 20th.

The Diversity of the programs the Clubs have lined up is as diverse as the membership of our

District. From herbal tea ceremonies to how to create healing gardens to composting and

perma-culture to upcycling items in our garden. The Clubs will be exploring both new and

known topics such as Nature photography, weeds and pollinators Ikebana and poisonous plants

in our gardens.

There are two Flower Shows planned to be hosted, one by the District with participation open to

all the District’s another by Miami Beach Garden Club for their member’s participation. Also

within the Flower Show realm, the District is about to add four new Flower Show Judges to

District XII Judges Council.

Unity of the Clubs in the District has been a goal of this District Director so that Clubs can learn

from and support each other. There is evidence of that unity already in progress as clubs are

planning outings with other Clubs and hosting Field Trips.

As with all the other Districts, Covid forced the Clubs to come up with creative new ways of

conducting Club activities and some of these new activities were so successful the Clubs will be

incorporating them into this year’s activities as well. Coral Gables GC hosted a very successful

State Wide Nature Photography contest, Miami Beach held a door wreath contest, South Dade

hosted a pre-order plant sale that somehow netted them a bunch of new members and

Marathon implemented a Butterfly Home Garden Certification program that they will carry thru to

the new year.

All in all, it is shaping up to be an interesting year as we continue to navigate through these

Covid times with the Clubs aiming to deliver exciting Garden Club experiences in what seems to

be our new normal.