**JAN. 2022 Board Meeting**

Board Chairmen Reports

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# 4-5 STAR MEMBERS

# ADOPT-A-PARK

Adopt-A-Park

Mickey Quigley

January 12.2022

Now that the weather is cooler and outdoors is where we all want to be, consider “Adopting a Park” with your garden club.

“Adopting a Park” is a wonderful way to support your community, get exercise, and have fun with your club members in the great outdoors. You may even recruit some new members! The rewards are as varied as ideas you may have for this fun and meaningful project.

Adopting a park means different things in different communities and parks. Remember, there are National Parks, State Parks, County Parks, local Community Parks and others. Each park has its own special and unique characteristics and purpose.

Think outside the box. You may schedule a day each month to maintain a small garden, enhance a park with new plantings such as trees or native shrubs, or create a butterfly garden. Another idea is to conduct nature or native garden programs. You may want to honor someone in your club or community by creating a memorial garden. Invite the community to participate as “honorary members” when you plant a new garden or enhance an existing one. Plant native plants and flowers and conduct small classes or tutorials on the importance of native species and how to identify them. Perhaps conduct a native plant garden tour. Your club could conduct environmental programs outdoors in a park, schoolyard or other are.

Don’t forget our treasured youth. Get them involved in our local parks as volunteers or junior gardeners. Start a new “educational” garden in a school yard or enhance an existing garden. After your enhancement think about a youth story/coloring hour at the school focusing on the garden.

Doesn’t everyone love a pat on the back? Your club may be awarded prize money and your representative gets to show off their achievement and receive an award (and money) at the District meetings! What fun! To consider which award you would like to strive for visit the FFGC.org website and go to the awards section. There are so many fun possibilities. Visiting that site also generates ideas for adopt a park even if you do not apply for an award.

A perfect example of adopting a park is the Perdido Kids Park in Pensacola, adopted by my Garden Club – Sweet Bay. This project started as a memorial garden in honor of Carolyn Whitmer in 2013. Carolyn was one of Sweet Bay Garden Club’s founding members and longtime active member in PFGC and FFGC. Hoping to attract children, Sweet Bay planted colorful flowers, herbs and a tree attracting birds and butterflies. They even installed a “Little Free Library” that is quite active with over 1000 books donated and borrowed by children this year. Sweet Bay members periodically weed and plant new plants transforming the garden into a beautiful and educational area for the children. The garden club members donate seasonal decorations for the visitors to enjoy.

My name is Mickey Quigley and I have worked for the Florida State Parks since 1994 and have volunteered at Wekiva Youth Camp since 2001. I don’t need to impress upon you how important and nurturing our parks are to all of us. Lets get this program going strong! In some cases you may have to get some training or background checks, depending on the park system and what you would like to do. The Florida Federation of Garden Clubs has so many talented and energetic members!

You may be saying to yourself right now, “Our garden club does that!” I want to you to brag to the whole state and beyond how your garden club got involved and made a difference in your community in addition to the many wonderful things your clubs do already by adopting a park. Remember to place your achievements in the Florida Gardener and apply for any awards and/or grants you may be entitled to.

You may contact me at [Rangermick@Bellsouth.net](mailto:Rangermick@Bellsouth.net) and put “Adopt a Park” in the subject line. Thank you! I would love to know what your club has been doing to enhance the community in the way of “Adopting a park”.

Mickey Quigley, Pensacola, Florida

**PHOTOS:** Mickey Quigley at Tarkiln Bayou Preserve State Park in Pensacola where she works and helped preserve in 1998 with Carolyn Whitmer.

Perdido Kids Park where the garden was established and is maintained by Sweet Bay Garden Club .

Wildflowers blooming at Perdido Kids Park.

A picture containing tree, outdoor, grass, lush

Description automatically generated

A sign in front of a building

Description automatically generated with medium confidence

A person standing next to a sign

Description automatically generated

# AFFLIATES MEMBERSHIP

Report

Affiliate Membership Report

Donna Berger, Chairman

January 10 - 13, 2022

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

I’m pleased to inform you that we have a new affiliate member:

FAU Pine Jog Environmental Education Center

6301 Summit Blvd.

West Palm Beach, FL 33415

This affiliation came to us from West Palm Beach Garden Club

We now have five (5) Affiliate Members.

Florida Wildflower Foundation

Heathcote Botanical Gardens

The Institute of Regional Conservation

McKee Botanical Gardens

FAU Pine Jog Environmental Education Center

The Affiliate Membership Application and Renewal Forms are on FFGC website under FORMS. They are enterable forms. As your Membership chairman I hope that this coming year we can have more of our clubs have Affiliate members.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact this chairman.

Donna Berger

FFGC Affiliate Membership Chairman

Phone: 772-214-8629

Email: bergerdx2015@gmail.com

# AMAZON PROJECT

Board of Directors Meeting

Amazon Chairman Report

Linda Feifarek-Johnson, chairman

January 12-13, 2022

FFGC has reinstated our account with Amazon Smiles. Please go to smile.amazon.com and set up FFGC as your Smiles charity or change your current charity to FFGC.

Amazon Prime customers can set up their mobile app accounts to always shop via Smile - Desktop and Mobile App (tablets, phones) are set up separately since they are different entries into the Amazon shopping experience.

Phone - In the phone app there is a menu icon on the bottom right (3 horizontal lines).

Click the lines - this opens settings

     Country & Language

     Notification

     Permissions

***AmazonSmile***

     Alexa

     etc.

Select AmazonSmile

     Select the Charity

    Turn AmazonSmile "On"

Your browser should remember to go to AmazonSmile - and that is the only place you have to "watch" to ensure your orders are "Smiled."

If you have any problems setting it up, please email me at Feif@bellsouth.net or call at (352) 356-2751. You can also Google “how to change your charity on Amazon Smiles”. It will walk you through the steps. FFGC receives a percentage of all Amazon purchases made through the FFGC “Amazon Smiles” program. Use smile.amazon.com rather than amazon.com to log in to your Amazon account.

# ARBOR DAY

# ARBORETA & BOTANTICAL GARDENS

# AWARD, DONORS

FFGC Awards Sponsors

Carol Wood

Chairman

January 10, 2022

Awards Sponsor chair will no longer be soliciting or collecting awards money. The Finance committee decided to make it part of the budget. Money will come from the cost savings from the online move of our magazine. Any district, club, circle, or individual can continue to support any award by either going to FFGC.org/donate or send a check into Jana Walling our treasurer. Make sure that both methods have awards in the memo or comment line.

All current Awards are listed on the FFGC website. They contain the name, description, requirements, amount of the Award. Both the Awards Chairman and the Awards Sponsor Chairman strive to ensure that this information is correct and relevant.

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**Summary:** Encourage your clubs to apply for Awards and to support the program by becoming an Awards Donor. It is very enjoyable to receive an Award but is comforting to have sponsored one.

# AWARDS – FFGC

January 11, 2022

FFGC Awards Chair

Gwen Carter

The Awards Team, at the September Zoom Board Meeting, moved to reinstate six (6) FFGC Intermediate Awards and one (1) High School Award. We moved to add six (6) new FFGC Adult Awards plus one (1) new Junio Gardener Award , Intermediate Award, and High School Award. After Board approval, awards were updated on the FFGC Awards page in the Awards Description Document and Awards Submission and Procedures Document. The entire Awards page was updated.

A statewide Awards Workshop was held, via Zoom, September 17, 2021. The Team reviewed the Awards page, introduced the FFGC new and revised awards, and answered questions from the fifty-five (55) participants. The Zoom video was shared with participants and those who requested the video. A PDF of the Awards Workshop was placed on the Awards Education page for review.

On November 5, 2021, we gathered for our Judges’ Workshop, via Zoom. The Team enlisted the assistance of twenty-five (25) FFGC angels plus the Angelic Executive Board and a professional photographer to judge awards this year. Judges were emailed all documentation needed to judge awards before the workshop. All judging forms were reviewed and explained during the workshop by Team members and questions were answered to our best ability. The Judges’ Workshop Video was shared with judges to view later.

Lead judges had applications to start judging awards by December 1, 2021. Constant communication went on between judges and the Awards Team. Judges worked to complete awards correctly, quickly, and objectively.

One Hundred Fifty -Two (152) Adult Awards Applications were received this year. Included in that number were twenty-five (25) Yearbook Awards Applications submitted from 3rd VP Mary Whisler, seven (7) Flower Show Related Awards submitted by Parke Finold, Florida Flower Show Judge President, and two (2) Flower Show Achievement Awards submitted by Barbara May, Flower Show Evaluation/Awards. Barbara May will send both Flower Show Achievement Awards to National Garden Club.

All winning awards, not winners, will be shared with the Awards Donor Chairman, Carol Wood.

There are a lot of people who help with awards. One of those people is Sue Roberts, web master. Sue created the enterable documents for judging awards. Of course, I can’t forget the Team’s Mentor, Valerie Seinfeld, our guiding light.

Now, it’s time to gear up and submit FFGC Awards to the National Garden Club and Deep South. All applications and state chairman reports are due to NGC Awards Chairman or designated Chairman by January 25, 2022.

# BARTRAM TRAIL

# 

Winter Board Report

Bartram society

Kalia Baillene

January 12, 2022

The Bartram Society of Florida based in Palatka is active and busy. This chairman is a member of that board and works regularly to build, promote and participate in the activities of this group. One such activity is to promote affiliate memberships among the clubs and circles of the Florida Federation of Garden Clubs. FFGC and many clubs in the state have already joined. It is simple and easy to do, and is free to all clubs and circles in the state. Here is how to join: Putnamtrailsocietyofflorida.org or email me and I will forward you a copy of the affiliation form ([kaliacb@yahoo.com](mailto:kaliacb@yahoo.com)). A quarterly newsletter: ‘The Traveller’, is available to your group, as well. Many counties and cities are also joining with the Bartram Society to promote this important part of history in our state and region.

The reasoning for this association is to contribute to the efforts of the Bartram Conference to create a Bartram Corridor throughout the southeast where Bartram explored and catalogued thousands of plant and animal species. The corridor will become part of the National Parks Service and needs our support to become established. There are seven states where he visited: Florida, Georgia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Mississippi, Alabama, and Louisiana. These seven states make up the larger venue known as the Bartram Trail Conference. Every two years they have a three-day conference within the seven-state area. Participants explore venues where he visited and actively participate in the types of adventures and places he would have experienced. This year’s biennial conference is in Darien, Ga., located between Savannah and Brunswick. If you are interested in going, visit the website: bartramtrailconference.org.

Palatka has several Bartram kiosks within the Riverfront Center at102 N. Ist St., downtown. It is located off Hwy. 17, at the base of the bridge on St. Johns River. The Bartram Society has the ‘Bartram Frolics’ there each year with an ‘Indian encampment’, a fur trader, and ‘Billy Bartram’ in person. Many vendors, music, food, and entertainment, offers the whole family, a fun and educational opportunity. The

Garden Club of Palatka has a booth each year and welcomes you!

Learn more by reading the Bartram books, viewing “Cultivating the Wild” for free on Utube, or having the Bartram Society do a program for you. Stay Tuned and Thank you for supporting our Florida History.

Another humble servant, Kalia Baillene

# BEES

Bees

Christy Linke

January 12, 2022

This Bee Chairman is still educating on the topic of native and honey bees when called upon.

This Chairman was invited once again for the 4th year in a row to do another children’s bee program at the Circle B Preserve in Lakeland. This program is for children of all ages to learn about native and honey bees, as well as making a bee house out of cans and bamboo. It is very well attended.

Summary: Promoting bees through knowledge is and always will be the goal of this Chairman

# BIRDS AND BUTTERFLIES

# BLUE STAR & GOLD STAR MEMORIAL MARKERS

Blue Star Memorial Program

Blue Star Memorial Chairman

Rosita Aristoff

January 11, 2022

1. Pending Blue Star Memorial Markers Dedications

* The Hamlet Garden Club (District X) – Dedication for the new Blue Star Memorial By-Way Marker is yet to be scheduled. (This club is not affiliated with the FFGC at this time).
* The Garden Club of Lakeland (District IX) – A new Blue Star Memorial Marker was received for their Veterans Park and a dedication is yet to be scheduled.

1. Completed Blue & Gold Star Memorial Markers Dedications

* The Garden Club by the Sea (District VI) – Dedication for the new Blue Star Memorial By-Way Marker took place on November 11, 2021

1. New/ Replacement Blue & Gold Star Memorial Markers Activity

* The Garden Club of Middleburg (District IV) – A new Blue Star Memorial By-Way Marker has been ordered and a dedication is planned for May 21, 2022 (Armed Forces Day).
* Okeechobee Garden Club (District X) – The orphaned marker along US 98 adjacent to Okeechobee’s Veterans Memorial Park was damaged in a vehicle accident and the City’s Public Works Director has inquired about a replacement marker.

1. Miscellaneous

* In cooperation with NGC staff, this chairman has completed a thorough update of the NGC’s Blue & Gold Star online database for the state of Florida. Now the NGC’s database is consistent with the FFGC’s Blue & Gold Star Markers online database.

1. Summary

Since last September’s report one new marker was dedicated and one new marker has been ordered.

Rosita A. Aristoff

Rosita A. Aristoff

# BOI Editor

Board of Directors Meeting

BOI Chairman Report

Linda Feifarek-Johnson, chairman

January 12-13, 2022

Being the Book of Information Editor has been a very busy and wonderful experience. I have learned so much about FFGC, its procedures and its wonderful clubs. I have been doing updates to the BOI right along and once a month I send them to the webmaster to update the BOI online. If you have any corrections or updates, please email them to me: [feif@bellsouth.net](mailto:feif@bellsouth.net).

# BRICK PATHS

# BYLAWS-STANDING RULES

# CALENDAR – FFGC EVENTS

# CHAPLAIN

# CONVENTION COORDINATOR

# CONVENTION COMMITTEE 2022

**CONVENTION 2022**

**Carol Wood**

**Co-Chairman**

**January 12. 2022**

**The 95th FFGC Convention Chairmen (Mary Whisler and I as co-chair and Susie Berryhill as Vice-Chair) and our team have sent out the opportunity drawings and the 50/50 tickets to all Districts. This year our convention will be April 12-14th, 2022 and includes a state flower show.**

**ARE YOU AWARE, that registration costs are NOT inflated? This money covers the**

**cost of printing the Program Book, Audio-Visual equipment and Program Speakers and participants.**

**Please also realize that the food and hotel costs are not inflated, Convention profit is made**

**From sales of 50/50 tickets, raffle baskets and opportunity tickets.**

**Double check the dates for your hotel reservation as the dates changed slightly to respect**

**religious holidays. It will be held at the Embassy Suites in Kissimmee.**

**Convention Registration is open as well as hotel reservations, go to FFGC.org and scroll down to the links. Make your reservation early to ensure you have your preferred room type. Reservations are honored first come, first serve. FFGC has a specific contract, but the rooms are limited so, Pay attention to the deadline for hotel reservation and convention registration. The cutoff date Is March 21, 2022.**

**Check the website for purchase of an AD for the Program Book. The ad can be purchased by a club, Circle, District, or any individual. There are also sponsorship options on the website as well as the information on the 50/50 and Opportunity Drawing. Fabulous baskets will be for purchase as well as interesting vendors with a variety of shopping possibilities. Exciting programs and**

**educational workshops are planned to enhance your convention experience.**

**Advertisement Chairmen have the flyer done with prices so we can submit to the Florida Gardener as well as to all Garden Clubs. Sponsorship letters have gone out with a great response. Programs/Workshops are being reviewed and we are very excited about each of them. Vendor letters will be going out so we may enjoy a variety of shopping. Ads, Opportunity Drawings, 50/50, And, of course, we cannot forget the Flower Show will be in the Spring Florida Gardner as well as on the FFGC website.**

**2021 was a trying year and our team will be meeting monthly to keep ahead of Convention 2022. It’s coming up in a hurry and FFGC and District V want it to be the best yet. Come join us!**

**If you have any questions, please contact Mary Whisler, Co – Chairman, Cissy Richardson, Convention Coordinator or ME, Carol Wood, Convention Co-Chairman.**

# CONVENTION – FLOWER SHOW 2022

# CORAL REEF RESTROATION

# DEEP SOUTH GARDEN CLUBS UNIFIED PROJECT

# DISNEY CONTACT

# DUES AMBASSADOR

Dues Ambassador

Sue Roberts

January 12,2022

The dues renewal process was completed in Sept. Now there are new members and many reinstates that arrive daily as clubs began to attract back old and recruit new members. The office manager usually handles these changes and keeps a report of all new members.

In her absence I have been doing the updates and completing the report.

Questions still do come in from the clubs so I am available to answer. This spring we will have to decide on a new process or continue with the present one. It worked very smoothly for the 2021=-2022 renewals as the club records and the FFGC records were mostly in agreement. So I am confident in the Personify membership numbers. As of 1/1/2022 we have 8895 active members, 690 life members, and 373 spouses for an active membership of 9958. We also have 220 life members who do not belong to any garden club at this date.

# EARTH STEWARD

BOD Report

Earth Steward Recognition

Kathy Siena

January 12-13, 2022 (via Zoom)

Being given the recognition as Earth Steward is an honor that recognizes the recipient for their outstanding efforts and stewardship of our natural resources. It first originated in 2013. At present 124 recognitions have been awarded to various recipients throughout the state of Florida not only as members in garden clubs but in the private sector. Recognitions can be given in the areas of Gardening, Landscape Design and Environment. This chairman requests that these efforts should be clearly stated on the application form biography section for the recipient.

There are several ways to bestow the recognition. Garden Clubs, Districts, the FFGC organization or private individuals may send in an application for this special recognition. The recipient is presented with a pin and certificate by the group or individual awarding it. The fillable PDF application form is available on the home page of the FFGC website under “Honoring Garden Club Members.” A $100 donation goes to the “Color Our Garden Fund” of FFGC for the continued stewardship and care of the grounds at FFGC Headquarters.

Interested individuals and groups might consider giving this honor to a worthy recipient. An updated list of all recipients is available on the FFGC website. Scroll to “Honoring Garden Club Members” or click on this link: https://ffgc.org/page-18059

Summary:

A total of 124 Earth Steward Recognitions have been given to various individuals in Florida. A current list of all recipients is available on the FFGC website. Go to “Honoring Garden Club Members” link or here: https://ffgc.org/page-18059.

# ENDANGERED PLANTS

# ENVIRONMENTAL ALERTS

# FINANCE COMMITTEE

Report

FFGC Finance Committee

Tina V. Tuttle, Chairman

12 January 2022

The FFGC Finance Committee met via Zoom on Tuesday, 4 January 2022 at 10am EST to consider a number of agenda items. Present were: Tina Tuttle, 1VP and Chairman, Marge Hendon, FFGC President, Christy Linke, FFGC 2VP, Mary Whisler, FFGC 3VP and committee secretary, Jana Walling, FFGC Treasurer, Kelley Wood, FFGC Insurance, Sue Angle, Chairman of H&E, and Gina Jogan, former treasurer. Claudia Bates, former FFGC President, was unable to attend.

Following a welcome from FFGC President, Marge Hendon, the **minutes** of the September meeting were approved and filed.

Jana Walling gave a full report of our finances including **Budget to Actual statement and investment** status, highlighting any items of interest such as memorials (for Al Latina $2075, for Ingrid Velez and Marion Hilliard $300), donations ($48,000 to Scholarship, with $40,000 of that put into our investment account) and notable expenses. She also started a discussion regarding pros and cons to **change the FFGC Fiscal Year** from 1 June to 31 May to 1 January to 31 December and the **collection of membership dues** from 1 June to 1 April in 2023. These issues will be taken to Bylaws. Jana made a motion for FFGC to fully pay for all FFGC **awards** (up to $12,000) eliminating the need for award sponsors--passed. She gave us a report on how districts can come under our **TIN** umbrella.

Sue Angle gave the report for **H&E** noting the need to fill the vacated Officer Manager position (position listed on Craig’s List, discussion on full or part time to take place in H&E meeting) and expenses related to the upkeep of our headquarters building and grounds (addition of benches, tree trimming, roof leaks, sink replacement, etc.).

Kelley Wood reported that our **insurance** policy was renewed on 1 October. He will identify the 7 people who are authorized to handle money for FFGC. He will also obtain **membership cards** for $500.

As a committee we **ratified the E-poll votes** taken this past quarter relating to Environmental School Course 1 in District IX and Landscape Design School in District IV.

We passed the **submitted budgets** for SEEK 2022 to be held in Gainesville ($12,000), the Wekiva Youth Camp 2022 proposed budget ($181,845), the 2022 Short Course North budget ($2120) to be held in Crestview and **positively reviewed** the Flower Show School Course III to be held in District IV ($2210).

We reviewed the budget versus actual **financial reports** for Flower Show School Course II in District IV and received an incomplete financial report from the Fall Flower Show Judges Symposium held in District I (awaiting final postage figures).

Tina Tuttle provided an update on the **100th anniversary** with donations now totaling $26, 627 and expenses of $1867 and planned expenses for publication of a 2024 commemorative calendar—bids have been received from 2 companies-- and purchase of a full-page ad in *the National Gardener* magazine for $650. Tina also attempted to learn the status of our Former President and Blanche Covington pins from Roma Casting in Miami.

Many thanks to those who serve on this committee and the chairmen who diligently submit required reports in a timely manner. The work of this committee continues to show good stewardship of our finances.

Tina V. Tuttle

Summary: The FFGC Finances are in good shape thanks to the efforts of all involved in various aspects of income, expenses and wise investment.

# FLORAL DESIGN STUDY

# FFSJ PRESIDENT

**FLORIDA GARDENER**

**FLORIDA GARDENER – CIRCULATION**

Report: Circulation (Florida Gardener Magazine)

Kelley Wood

Chairman

January 9, 2022

The first “mostly electronic” issue of the Florida Gardner was published in December. We reduced the printed number of copies from almost 10,000 to about 2400. This chairman has received very little in the way of feedback regarding the change. One small circle in Lakeland asked that their members received the hardcopy as they are elderly, and few have access to a computer. A flag was added to the membership database that allows us to do that at an individual level.

We did a campaign in the fall asking all club presidents to update as many email addresses as they could. Membership rosters we made for each club and sent out. We received a good response and added several thousand addresses, thus resulting in the low printed copy numbers mentioned above.

Listed here are the categories that receive the hardcopy magazine.

* All BOD members
* Magazine for Life members
* Paid subscribers
* Members who do not have an email address in the Wild Apricot database
* All District Directors
* All club/circle presidents
* All members with “Send Hardcopy” flag set
* All current advertisers (advertisers added after this time will be sold “digital” only)

# FLORIDA WILDFLOWER LIAISON

# FLOWER SHOW EVALUATION/AWARDS

# FLOWER SHOW SCHEDULES

# FUN WITH FLOWERS

# GARDEN THERAPY

Text, letter

Description automatically generated

# HABITAT FOR HUMANITY

# HALL OF FAME

# HEADQUARTERS AND ENDOWMENT (& GROUNDS)

Headquarters & Endowment Committee

Sue Angle, Chairman

January 12, 2022

Since our Headquarters & Endowment Trustees met by zoom in the fall, they have been very busy taking care of the business of our headquarters building, grounds and personnel by zoom, e-blasts and e-polls. Thank goodness for this technology since business does not shut down when we are not meeting in person.

Our headquarters continues to be busy with wedding rentals and we continue to deal with the City of Winter Park as President Marge has mentioned.

Cocktails Catering replaced our main restroom sink faucets at their cost. As you may remember, they were the kind that the water is supposed to shut off itself, but it may shut off before you’re finished washing your hands, so then you push it to start up again, and then the water keeps running longer than you need it and you wonder if it’s ever going to go off. They weren’t working properly and so Cocktails installed new ones that can be turned on and off by hand – with no cost to us. They also installed bistro lighting over our outdoor patio area at their expense which is a beautiful addition.

More good news – The old green wooden bench on the patio between the parking lot and Assembly Room was removed and replaced with 4 heavy-duty outdoor metal benches and in addition 2 benches for the front entrance – thanks to our President Marge and friend John Davis. The 6 Benches were purchased at a total cost of $1,162.54 with no cost for all the labor of assembling, removal and replacement thanks to Marge and John.

We had roof leaks repaired at a cost of $1,843.00, and tree trimming to comply with our insurance inspection which cost $1,800.00. Many thanks to our Grounds Chairman Susan Mello for handling this.

As you know, Jenn Cowin our Office Manager resigned as of 12/14/21, and since we knew hiring a replacement would be impossible during the holidays, decision was made to close our office until after the new year and after our Board Meetings. Our Trustees have met and voted to hire a part-time Office Coordinator who will work 20 hours a week, Monday through Friday at $15.00 per hour. This was advertised on Craig’s List and FFGC’s Facebook last evening and 3 resumes were received by 6:00am this morning. If anyone knows of someone who might fit the needs of our office, please contact me as we will begin interviewing as soon as possible.

The Trustees also discussed the use of the room used for ways & means at headquarters and whether to continue using it as a gift shop or instead have that room available for meetings and event use, with our ways and means being available for sale on our website as it is now. This recommendation from the Strategic Planning Committee was approved and this change will be accommodated in the months ahead.

We will now be looking into having the much needed interior of the building painted.

As you can tell, our H&E committee is busy virtually when not meeting in person. I want to thank our dedicated Trustees who include President Marge Hendon, 1st Vice President Tina Tuttle, Treasurer Jana Walling, H&E Vice Chairman Sue Roberts, Secretary Gwen Carter, Jo Ann Guise, Cissy Richardson, 3rd Vice President Mary Whisler, as well as our long-time Grounds Chairman, Susan Mello, who attends as a guest. These members are sincerely appreciated.

Sue Angle

# INSURANCE

Report: Insurance

Kelley Wood

Chairman

January 9, 2022

All insurance policies were renewed Oct 1, 2021, except for our Workers Comp policy that was renewed in April of 2021. A new certificate was obtained for Wekiva and the Orlando Garden Club reflecting our policy in effect for 2022.

A review of our “money handlers” shows that we have more than the 7 that are covered by our surety bond. I will work with Corkhill insurance to get a quote to add the required number of people (mostly likely 2-3 more), waiting for the change in Awards Sponsorship to be announced, reducing that number by 1.

Corkhill Insurance has agreed to be a Camellia Level ($500) sponsor for the 95th Annual convention this coming April in Kissimmee.

# INVASIVE SPECIES

# JUNIOR GARDENERS

Junior Gardener Report

Jennifer Barber

1/12/22

Currently preparing for Junior Garden Award submissions which are due on January 30th.

Working on questions for Junior Gardener Chairs to present at the Wekiva Leadership Training at Camp Wekiva to collect ideas, areas of improvement, success stories, and feedback from clubs.

Ongoing work is being done to create a collection of resources for Junior Gardener Chair/Leaders and create a database of information for future FFGC Junior Gardener Chairpersons to be passed on to help with transitions.

Respectfully submitted by Jennifer Barber - FFGC Junior Gardener Chair

**LEGISLATIVE POSITIONS & POLICIES**

# LIFE MEMBERSHIPS

# MATCHING GRANTS

**Matching Grants Program Report**

Gina Jogan, Chairman

January 2022

As you are aware and have heard reported in previous reports and articles, FFGC has a **MATCHING GRANTS PROGRAM**. There is an application form which you can access online (FFGC.org; Forms) and the committee will award up to $5,000 per year in grant funds. Clubs and/or Circles are eligible for up to $500 in **MATCHING FUNDS** for:

* Any activity (workshop, program or other educational event) aimed at **increasing** **membership** by welcoming interested individuals to your Club/Circle.
* An activity to **beautify your community**, such as park plantings, school gardens, a divided road median or roadside beautification.
* Any activity to **increase awareness** of our organization’s mission, goals and objectives: *“The Florida Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc promotes the love of gardening, floral and landscape design, and civic and environmental responsibility, by providing education, resources and networking opportunities for our members, youth and community.”*

Winners of the first annual Matching Grants Program were announced at the Convention in Daytona Beach; **follow-up reports**  have been sent in**.** Some had to step back for a while during the pandemic; others have continued their project work in spite of the pandemic.

To date, eleven (11) **new applications** have been received and will be ‘judged” by a committee-appointed panel. Winners will again be announced at the upcoming Convention 2022. Stand by if you sent in an application….

If you aren’t in, you can’t win…..and we KNOW that your clubs and circles are doing wonderful projects in all the award categories. Looking forward to your application!

**SUMMARY:** New applications have been received and judging of the applications will take place so winners can be announced at Convention 2022.

# MEMBERSHIP APPRECIATION

# MEMBERSHIP

Report

New Membership

Ed Nendick

Jan 1, 2022

Last Year’s successes include.

1. Monthly Membership messages from New Membership to Retention. Emphasizing both current and new members.
2. Participation in FFGC board of Directors with new ideas on gaining new members.
3. We reviewed how to use the App Next Door and taught it to the District Directors.
4. When NGC made a 20% increase in membership, we fostered that FFGC take that goal for each Club.
5. We published the steps to start a new club with goals of starting a new club in each district.
6. Publish on our FFCG web Site our membership brochure.

This Year we have.

1. Bring in new members two by two. Every person we encourage to join has in the back of the idea that if only my friend would go it will be easier, and I would feel more comfortable. So, ask if they have a friend to bring with them to the meeting.
2. My beautiful wife started a group of assistant district directors to oversee membership. It has monthly Zoom meetings in which each director brings up what they did in their districts to increase membership. Each meeting has more participation, and each director is praised for their work.
3. The current theme is to go set up a Membership both in at least one county event per year. The Green Thumb Garden Club’s Membership director Jan had one person in the crowd inviting people to visit their table and one person sitting with new members filling out their applications and giving out their schedual of events for the year. They signed up 5 new members that day. Congratulations Jan!
4. We have been invited to be membership team for Deep South and the same principles apply and will be fostered there.
5. We also attend an NGC membership meeting. The movement is growing. So, get on board join the team. Help your District Directors.

Summary: In summary with the disappearance of the Welcome Wagon organizations, we are the place new people moving in can go to make friends, learn about their communities, learn what grows in their communities, and make a difference in those communities. There are 1,085 new people moving into Florida every Day!

Sincerely

MR. Ed Nendick

# MEMBERSHIP RETENTION

REPORT

MEMBERSHIP RETENTION

JANE NENDICK

01/2022, BOD MEETING

**THIS CHAIRPERSON COULD NOT BE MORE EXCITED TO REPORT THAT AS OF DECEMBER 2021, THE MEMBERSHIP IN FFGC WAS 9758, PLUS 220 LIFETIME MEMBERS AT LARGE!!!! Thank you, as always, to our hard working Assistant District Directors (ADDs).**

**Starting just after Convention 2021, we initiated a monthly Zoom meeting with our ADDs. During these “gatherings”, the ADDs share with eachother exactly what they are doing to work with their Club/Circle Presidents or Membership Chairs.**

**Some Districts have held “Round Table” discussions with the Presidents; some have started their own Monthly Membership Newsletters; some have held their own Zoom meetings; some have had fun-filled socials, etc. But for all Districts, contact-contact-contact has been #1 !!! It’s keeping the Membership “mindful” of what is important in retention.**

**Secondly, we believe our Monthly Membership Message, which is sent to all the Board of Directors, plus all Club/Circle Presidents serves as a great reinforcement/reminder of how important it is to keep our present membership!!! We’d like to stress to all, that if it has not yet been done, please give your Club the “Membership Satisfaction Survey” ASAP!!! This can be found at ffgc.org/membership, or obtain a copy from your District ADD.**

**In summary: Keep Membership in the forefront at each and every gathering. Communicate in all ways with all your Members---yes, even those who cannot attend the meetings.**

**EACH AND EVERY MEMBER SHOULD FEEL APPRECIATED, ALWAYS!**

# NATIONAL GARDEN WEEK

# NGC CONVENTION 2022

NGC 2022 Convention Report

Gina V. Jogan, Chairman for NGC

January 2022 Board Meeting

This is your personal invitation to the 2022 NGC Convention, **A Playground of Possibilities,** hosted by FLORIDA. I am honored to be your Convention chairman along with Claudia Bates and Tina Tuttle.

We will be meeting in **Orlando, Florida from May 16-20** … those dates are inclusive of the pre-convention meetings and tours and two post-convention tours at the **Rosen Plaza Hotel**, one of the premier hotels in the area, situated at 9700 International Drive.

We are planning an early arrival night featuring the NGC **Award of Excellence winners** and of course, the last evening will be our **Design banquet**.

We are offering a wide variety of **workshops, speakers and presentations**. Several of our breakout sessions will be hands-on!! We have workshops for those who enjoy design and, not to be left out, we will offer workshops for the horticulture enthusiast, too….. Be sure to mark the sessions you plan to attend when you fill out your registration.

Speaking of registration: something new this year….**all registrations will go through NGC Headquarters and all transactions will be by credit card…..we are going paperless!**

NGC is offering a **Tri-refresher** (and there are 4 tours that count as refresher credits, as do many of our speakers and several of our workshops!)

**Tours will** go to such places as: Mead Gardens, Old Winter Park, Leu Gardens, Polasek Museum and Sculpture Gardens, Audubon Birds of Prey, Several Nature preserves, Camp Wekiva @ Wekiwa Springs State Park, the Nehrling Gardens and home, Heritage tree trail, the rebirth of Lake Apopka, and the list goes on….

Outings and smaller tours are planned for your **spouse, guest or travel companions** and there are many things to see and do within walking distance of the hotel. These smaller tours will go to NASA @ Cape Canaveral, Canine Companions, Daytona Speedway, Warbirds Museum and perhaps a visit Don Garlitz’ Drag Racing museum….

NGC is also presenting an **NGC Petite Design Specialty Flower Show**. The title includes President Mary’s theme of **Playing Outdoors**… the schedule will go online soon….and make your design reservation soon!

We have brought in some new and **unique vendors** for your shopping pleasure…and some of our favorites will be back as well!

This is a unique opportunity for Florida Federation of Garden Clubs….we are the host state….we have an opportunity to experience our parent organization and meet like-minded members from across the USA. Please support our efforts and make Marge proud of us: Come join friends by the pool, learn something new, share your love of all things NGC and experience a **playground of endless possibilities**.

Your 2022 Convention team: Gina Jogan, Tina Tuttle and Claudia Bates…..

# NGC ENVIRONMENTAL SCHOOL CHAIRMAN

NGC ENVIRONMENTAL SCHOOL – FFGE SCHOOL CHAIRMAN/CREDENTIALS

NGC Environmental State Chairman

January 12, 2022

Lydia Barbour

As NGC Environmental School State Chairman and Credentials Chairman, my job includes keeping the Environmental School database up-to-date and accurate. Any data missing from the Excel Spreadsheet has been located and completed. The Spreadsheet has been expanded into a Workbook to establish sheets for tracking information related to type of student (active, inactive, non-member and no-credit). Because NGC forms now require the city in which courses have taken place, a sheet has been created showing the history of courses held in Florida and is being populated as information is found. The last sheet added provides a key for the abbreviations used throughout the workbook.

As of 12/28/2021 here is a breakdown of entries on the spreadsheet for each type of student.

* • 124 active students include: 22 Masters; 62 Consultants; and 40 students still working to complete the four courses within the seven-year (or eight-year with one extension) time requirement.
* • 86 inactive students, including: Those who began but did not complete the four courses with the required time period; Former Consultants or Masters who did not refresh before the expiration of their Good Standing Date (GSD); and Masters who have chosen to become Emeritus.
* • 50 people who have taken classes but are not members of an FFGC garden club.
* • 25 FFGC Garden Club members who have taken courses without credit.

Another aspect of my job is to remind active students of the need to take courses, either to refresh or to become a Consultant. Every Consultant or Master who had a GSD of 2020 or 2021 has either chosen to become inactive or has requested an extension. Every Consultant or Master with a GSD of 2022 or 2023 has been notified of the upcoming courses now scheduled in Florida in 2021 and of courses available elsewhere in the US. Every student who began taking classes in 2015 and 2016 has been advised of courses available in Florida and anywhere in the US and advised to schedule themselves or to request an extension in 2022. Notes on the spreadsheet are used to track their responses.

In addition, as students register for courses, this Chairman verifies the data entries on Forms 6 & 7 and approves the form once complete. There are kinks to be worked out in the NGC processes when Multiple-Refreshers are involved. FFGC’s Multiple Refresher Chairman is leading this effort which the State School Chairman are supporting.

The most important aspect of my job is to work with Districts and Local Chairmen to make plans and successfully deliver a Series of Environmental School Courses. Because NGC has published a new Tri-School Handbook in 2021, with new Forms and common instructions for the use of those Forms; and because many of the FFGC NGC School Chairmen are either new to Florida or to their roles, we are working together to put together a process that merges NGC, Deep South, FFGC and Tri-Council

requirements. This process will be tweaked until we have confirmed that all parties agree that it meets all requirements. Once finished a check-list will be created and posted on the Tri-Council website.

Elements that have been developed to assist Local Chairmen include a budget template approved by Tri-Council and a database of potential instructors. The budget template will also be posted on the Tri-Council website.

The Fort Myers – Lee County Garden Council in District IX, will be holding Course 1 February 24-25, 2022. District VIII is identifying the Local Chairman to begin planning for Course 1 in Tampa in the Fall of 2022.

Summary: Assisting, guiding and supporting Local Chairmen and students are the important elements of this Chairman’s work. Maintaining an accurate database and supporting documentation supports this work.

Respectfully submitted:

Lydia Barbour

# NGC GARDEN STUDY SCHOOL CHAIRMAN

FFGC State Chairman

Mercy Abrams

February 12, 2022

The FFGC Gardening School spreadsheet has been revised to facilitate ease of use. The spreadsheet is now in workbook format with sheets for active, inactive and emeritus status. In addition, a sheet for courses that have been offered has been added. This is to aid in filling out Form 6 and Form 7 for students and consultants.

There are currently 103 Consultants of which 14 are Master Consultants. There are 97 students who are in the process of obtaining Consultant status. There are 34 members who are inactive. There are 6 members who have Emeritus status.

All consultants who were required to refresh prior to 12/21/2021 were notified of the requirement. All consultants who need to refresh prior to 12/31/2022 were sent a similar notification. As courses were being offered via Zoom or in-person notifications were sent out to the appropriate group.

The LDS, ES and GS State Chairs are working collaboratively to create templates to aid in the process of offering courses. This is a work in progress.

I am hopeful that an in-person GS course will be offered Fall 2022. I am working with a District IX Garden Club to explore this opportunity.

Respectfully submitted,

Mercy Abrams

# NGC LANDSCAPE DESIGN SCHOOL CHAIRMAN

FFGC Board Meeting Report

Landscape Design School

January 12, 2022

Susan E. MacPherson

FFGC LDS Chair

Course 1, Series 38 LDS is being sponsored by Orange Park, FL. This new series will follow the new curriculum established by NGC. They are receiving enthusiastic support as they have 25 ready to enroll. The local chair, Linda Broadrick, has received approvals for the course and registration has now begun. The roster of instructors is impressive and it should follow that there will be solid material shared with the students.

At present, the state’s records show that there are 91 students, 57 provisionals, 85 consultants, 42 Master consultants and 4 Emeritus status. There are 18 consultants, according to the records, who will need to refresh this year. I have contacted them to advise them that the Orange Park Course is open for registration. I also advised that Tropical Short Course is also open to be attended via zoom. At this writing, there are no virtual LDS courses approved by NGC according to their website. This puts a great deal of pressure on consultants to find conveniently located Courses to fullfill their refreshing requirements. We need to encourage more clubs and/or Districts to undertake the effort to sponsor our schools.

I have three goals that I intend to reach during the next year for FFGC in my role as LDS Chair. The first is to continue to work with Clubs or districts to support their efforts to organize and initiate new series of courses that will be intellectually stimulating and interesting to both students and refreshers.

Secondly, I would like to explore some innovative approaches to kindle interest among the state’s clubs and districts to sponsor the three schools. I feel it is important to de-mystify the process to assure potential local chairs that the organization of a school course can be simplified into a very manageable process. As state chair, my responsibility is to reassure potential local chairs that they have a “team” at their back to support them and guide them thru the process. Organizing any of the schools necessitates a great deal of time and dedication which can be justified by compelling reasons to initiate or continue a Course series. Those reasons need to be succinctly described and promoted by the Federation, Tri-Council and the state chairs.

Finally, I need to continue the superb work that Sue Roberts has invested in bringing the LDS into compliance with what National now requires of their forms. What Sue has researched and documented is all on a comprehensive spreadsheet.

I would like to thank the Federation for their confidence in me and thank those that I’ve worked with so far their patience and guidance. I am excited about this new position and grateful for the opportunity to be part of this Board.

Thank you.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan MacPheson

# NGC SCHOOLS CREDENTIALS CHAIRMAN

Board of Directors Meeting

Credentials Chairman Report

Linda Feifarek-Johnson, chairman

January 12-13, 2022

I am learning quite a bit in my new position. I have not received much new information in the past few weeks. As for the spreadsheets I have, I show:

Landscape Design School has 225 students in Good Standing and Landscape Design School with 266 students in Good Standing.

Last year I reminded the students who needed to file extensions or needed to take courses by the end of the year. I am in the process of finding schools to take and notifying the students who need to take courses this year. It is an interesting job and I have learned a lot!

# NGC SPECIAL PROJECT LIAISON

Special Project Liaison

Margaret Chodosh

January 12, 2022

This committee chair continues to follow NGX’s President’s special projects.

# NGC & DSGC YOUTH CONTESTS

# PARKS – TRAILS - GREENWAYS

# PENNY PINES

Penny Pines Report

Andrea Finn, Chairman

January 12, 2022

During the first three months of our new NGC President Mary Warshauer’s administration, from June 1, 2021 through the end of August, 2021, 32 States donated a total of $18,700 for 275 plantations of native tree seedlings for the U.S. Forest Service National Forests.

The largest contributor state is FLORIDA, with $3,060 for 45 plantations! Congratulations to all the garden clubs in Florida who made these contributions – you’re the best!

Did you know ----- Penny Pines will accept donations from women’s clubs, DAR Chapters, Churches, and individuals all interested in supporting our efforts. Pass the word! Pass the FFGC website info around for the donation forms.

DONATION FORMS INFORMATION: WE have been informed by NGC they will no longer automatically send out certificates to donors. You have to request the certificate from now on!

WE HAVE REVISED OUR DONATION FORM TO REFLECT THIS OPTION!

The new forms are on the FFGC website with “Rev. 9/2021” in the bottom left corner of the form. Use these forms only, please. If you have forms with other Rev. dates on them, throw them away. We have also made it possible for you to type right onto this new form on the website – how convenient is that!

Andrea Finn

FFGC Penny Pines Chairman

**SUMMARY**: **Florida Garden Clubs donated $3,060 from 6/1/21 – 8/31/21. New donation**

**Forms are now on the website. Use the new form only.**

# PHOTOGRAPHER

# PILLAR OF PRIDE

# PLANNED GIVING

# PROGRAMS & SPEAKERS

Chairmanship: Programs and Speakers

Donna Thomas

January 2022 BOD meeting

This chair received numerous replies to her request for information regarding club programs, speakers, and field trips for 2021-2022 including source information. Using this information this chair has updated information on the FFGC website.

# PROTOCOL

Report

Protocol Committee

Jo Ann Guise

January 14, 2022

This chairman attended and participated in the first ZOOM meeting of Chairmen for the 2022 FFGC Convention being held April 10-14 at the Embassy Suites in Kissimmee, Florida.

Forwarded to Marge Hennon, FFGC President, is a three (3) page work sheet entitled “Information needed by Protocol for Convention”. With completion of the work sheets, all of the meal information needed for the Program Book and the Protocol committee to prepare and function well is complete.

This chairman will be participating in a restricted ZOOM meeting with the President, Convention Chairmen, and Convention Co-Ordinator before the January Board of Directors meeting.

SUMMARY: Participation in ZOOM meetings aids in preparations for the April 10-14 FFGC Convention at the Embassy Suites in Kissimmee, FL. A work sheet was sent to aid the President in completing the meals’ and Honors assignments and designations.

# RECLAMATION & RECYCLING

January 12, 2022

Winter Board Meeting

Recycle and Reclamation

Carolyn H Stevens, Chairman

As you all remember as part of the Recycle & Reclamation, we added the Cork Project. Cork Club in Houston, Texas, accepts used wine corks to be recycled. The company then donates 2 cents per natural cork, one cent going to Save the Forest and 1 cent to save the Ocean. The artificial corks are recycled as plastic used to make milk cartons, playground toys, etc..

In the past Cork Club provided pre-paid shipping labels for the corks. Then the cost of shipping was deducted before the donations were made. Due to the pandemic, causing a lack of employees and a shipping problem, Cork Club is no longer providing the prepaid shipping labels.

When the company stopped the shipping labels, we still had 10,500 corks to ship. The corks we were shipped at a cost of $102.00. So, sadly at this time it is not cost effective to continue the Cork Project until the shipping cost return to normal or until the company resumes the expenses.

For the last 3½ years, the members of Florida Federation of Garden Club have recycled 176,752 corks. Cork Club has donated $121,802.00 to date. Corks are not in our recycle bins. Hopefully we can resume this project, soon.

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# ROADSIDE BEAUTIFICATION/ PATHS OF SUNSHINE

# SCHOLARSHIP - DSGC, NGC

# SCHOLARSHIP – FFGC

FFGC Scholarship

Helen Purvis, Chairman

January 12, 2022

This chairman was able to award the second semester scholarships to the following students that maintained their 3.0 GPA. All of them far exceeded the 3.0. There are only 8 students listed, although we had 9 students at the beginning of the year because Wade Collins graduated in December, 2021, and his mother thanks us profusely for the financial help.

Caroline Gordon, Gainesville, Sophomore at University of Florida, landscape design.

Amy Kutzler, Port St. Lucie, Freshman at University of Florida, park ranger or conservationist.

Ailee Rae Odom, Gainesville, Senior at University of Florida, environmental education.

Sophia Pearce, Key West, Sophomore at College of the Florida Keys, marine science.

Cayla Smith, Hastings, Junior at University of Florida, agriculture and consumer education.

Mackenzie Spiroff, Debary, Freshman University of Florida, environmental research.

Cassie Valenti, Fort Myers, Junior at Florida Gulf Coast University, environmental studies.

Gabriella Whisler, Gainesville, Sophomore at Santa Fe College, marine biology and/or photo journalism.

And, now, if we were in person, is when I’d bring out the marching bands, balloons and confetti. So close your eyes and imagine! A donation in the amount of $48,000 has been added to the scholarship account. Mayfair Hydro from Palmetto Bay, District XII, has written the check to show her support of the FFGC Scholarship program. Thank you Mayfair. She hopes her donation will inspire others to support this project. Proper recognition will be given at convention in April.

SUMMARY: 8 checks in the amount of $1500 was awarded to students for second semester. A $48,000 donation from Mayfair Hydro, Palmetto Bay, District XII.

# SCOUTING LIAISON

SCOUT LIAISON

BARBARA RAO CHAIR

JANUARY 12,2022

This chair has been pleased to have received two invitations to supply Wildflower Badge patches to a Brownie troop and a Girl Scout troop. There has not been any interest at all in applying for patches as the troops are not meeting as much and they are doing things in small groups at homes. NGC Chair for Scouts has used the FFGC badge in past articles about Youth (Keeping in Touch ). This information was similar to what we use here in Florida. There were some requests following that article. Responses were provided.

Solar Energy Chair contacted this chair to attempt to work together and prepare a badge for that category. An announcement is going out to District Directors asking to contact their club presidents with the latest information about Scout Badges. There is an Award for the Club that hosts an Arbor Day program with Scouts. That information is also available to District Directors. I realize that everyone is so constrained with time and health issues that sometimes these programs fall by the wayside.

Hopefully a gentle reminder to let the Directors know we are up and able to help with Youth activities may spur some interest. This position is one of great opportunity to local troops and it will be a viable program again when things begin to return to normal.

Barbara Rao

# SEEK CONFERENCE

SEEK Jan. 2022 Report

Jen White/Seymore/Chairman

Mary Whisler/Vice-Chairman

January 12, 2022

We would like to introduce our new SEEK Chairman/ Jen White/Seymore. Jen is a member of the Tallahassee Garden Club and a former Wekiva student and Volunteer. We hope everyone will give a big welcome to Jen. We know she will be bringing great new ideas to SEEK. Check out the new registration forms on our website.

Our theme this year is “What do we know about our Environment”.

The committee has already been working with our UF Partners. During the next few months, we will be completing our agenda to bring SEEK to the UF campus. We look forward to visiting new labs and hearing from various UF Professors on environmental careers. Our plans include a return to the Research Lab that we visited last year. Our students will be staying in a UF resident hall and having their meals at one of the university cafeterias. This will be a great way for students to experience college life.

We have added a new PowerPoint presentation to the website called “Where they are now”. This gives an overview of the program and shows what an impact the program has been on students lives. Check it out.

Our “thank you” to every FFGC garden club for your support and generous donations. You have made this program successful. Check out the UF newspaper article: The Independent Florida Alligator   
<https://www.alligator.org/article/2021/07/seek-conference>

Jennifer Seymor/SEEK 2022 Chairman [(jlwhiteuf@gmail.com](mailto:(jlwhiteuf@gmail.com))

Mary Whisler/Vice-Chairman ([mary.whisler66@gmail.com](mailto:mary.whisler66@gmail.com)) 352-212-6661

# SHORT COURSE – UF

# SHORT COURSE – NORTH

Short Course North Winter Activity Report

Kathryn “Kat” Spieker, Chairman

[spkfreedom@embarqmail.com](mailto:spkfreedom@embarqmail.com)

FFGC Board of Directors Meeting Jan 10-13-2022

The chairman and her helpers are working hard on the Short Course North program scheduled to be held August 11-12, 2022 at the Okaloosa County Extension Offices at 3098 Airport Road, Crestview, Florida 32539.

Two jam-packed days of learning and fun are scheduled under this year’s title, “Our Worlds of Wonder: Enjoy-Teach-Save-Restore”. We will be studying Choctawhatchee Bay shorline restoration and oyster bed restoration, Trees in our lives, Blackwater River Keepers, Florida Trail Association and Nokuse Wildlife Refuge, 4H history and going into the future, Planting your own backyard wildlife and pollinator refuge, study of the Floridan Aquifer, Container Grown Garden Principles, The impact of the Eglin AFB Reservation and its management practices, do you REALLY need grass in your landscape, and a few other topics to be announced.

By attending these two days of classes ( 5 each day), Master Gardeners will be allowed to claim 10 CEU credits in their volunteer record.

Examples of vendors from the local area being contacted are yard arts, landscape design, plant sales, and of course some jewelry bling, and must-have garden tools.

Watch for the registration coming out soon. It will be published at the FFGC website as well as in the Florida Gardener Magazine as well as garden club websites and local media outlets.

We are looking forward to meeting in a brand new location this year and thank the County Extension Agents at the Okaloosa County Offices for helping us make this the best Short Course North yet.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kathryn “Kat” Spieker, SCN Chairman

# SHORT COURSE TROPICAL

Tropical Short Course

Chairman of TSC

Michelle Maguire

Jan. 12 and 13, 2022

On November 16, 2021 my committee met for an update on their responsibilities. Mary Kaub, Garden Club of Boca Raton is running the continental breakfast and setting up the lunches for both days. Catering by Panera Bread for lunch has been set up by me regarding choice of food and delivery to the Green Acres Community Center. Blanca Rancourt from GC of Fort Pierce is our raffle chairman and has sent out letter to all clubs in District X of what is required as far as donations. They can send baskets or contribute money to buy raffle items. She will inform the committee how many clubs have participated.

Donna Berger is the registrar for Tropical Short Course. She took care of the registration form with directions on how to fill in form and where to send checks for registration and the emphasis on form 7 to be filled out with the registration form to be able to attend TSC which is also a tri-refresher. She will be giving updates on how many are registered along with seating assignments. Barbara May is the Tri-refresher chairman who will coordinate those refreshing with the schedule of tours and the list to be given to the State Schools Chairman for credit.

Barbara Hadsell is the Speaker Program chairman. She gave us the latest agenda for all those speaking for both days. The program for both days has already been listed on the District X website since October. We are so excited about having Doug Tallamy as our speaker for the first day.

Vendor chairman, Barbara Campbell has 10 vendors and is still looking for a Orchid vendor. Blanca Rancourt, a member of the Orchid Society of Fort Pierce will try to help.

There will be 16 tables of ten people for attendees. Those refreshing will be seated together. The Green Acres Community Center site for TSC has said there will be no restrictions concerning COVID.

Just a reminder that Tropical Short Course is on January 19 and 20, 2022 at the Green Acres Community Center in Green Acres, Florida at 501 Swain Blvd. Hotel accommodations are at the Hampton Inn West Palm Beach/Turnpike. Special rates for Garden Club members have been secured. Sheila Tyson, sales rep for the hotel is the person you need to talk to for reservations. Hope to see you there.

Respectfully submitted, Michelle Maguire chairman of TSC

# SMOKEY BEAR-WOODSY OWL

# SOCIAL MEDIA

January 12, 2022

Social Media Chair

Valerie Seinfeld

FFGC Facebook Page .

Continue to post daily and the page continues to grow with “Likes” and Followers”

Christy Linke is the 2nd Administrator on this Facebook Page

Administrator is using video creation now to promote posts in a different manner.

Administrator has added posting to the “Story”.

Followers still enjoy Garden quotes the most…

Administrator looks forward to posting the events and programs of FFGC. Any Chairman may contact FB

administrator with ideas to promote their program. Facebook Administrator has created a dedicated email

address for members working on the new Nell Coe Award to contact administrator with their photos for

**14,040 likes Jan. 2022 We have Quite a Following!**

13,735 likes Sept 2021

Up from April 2021 **13,060**

**14764 followers Jan. 2022**

14,425 followers Sept. 2021

Up from April 2021 **13,716**

# S**OLAR ENERGY/WIND POWER**

**Solar Update**

**January 6-12, 2021**

**Solar/Wind Chairman: Grace Tshanakas**

**Financial: Installing Solar in Florida**

•Avg Cost to **install**solar $11,177 –$15,122

•Net 20-year **savings**$30,676 –$41,503

•**Payback**period 7.2 –9.7 years

•Electricity bill **offset**80 –109 %

•Price has declined **36%** in the past 5 years

**Florida Incentives for Solar**

•Florida **net metering**

•Property **tax exemption**

•**Sales tax exemption** (6% savings)

•The federal solar **incentive tax credit** (26% savings) \*thru 2022

**Federal Infrastructure Bill –Clean Energy** (passed both the House and Senate)

•**$1.2 trillion,** $62 billion for Dept. Of Energy

•Invest $7.5 billion tobuild out the first-ever national network of **EV chargers**in the United States

•Invest $5 billion to deliver thousands of **electric school buses**nationwide

•$50 billion to **protect against droughts, heat, and floods** –in addition to a major investment in the **weatherization**of American homes ($3.5 billion)

•$65 billion investment in clean **energy transmission**and the **electric grid**

**Build Back Better Bill –Clean energy** (passed in the House)

•**$1.75 trillion**, $555 billion for climate and clean energy

•Cut the cost of installing rooftop solar for a home by around 30 percent, shortening the payback period by around 5 years

•Lower the cost of an **electric vehicle** that is made in America with American materials and union labor by **$12,500** for a middle-class family.

•Target incentives to **grow domestic supply chains** in solar, wind, and other critical industries

•Bolster resilience and natural solutions to climate change through an investment in **coastal restoration, forest management, and soil conservation**.

**In 2020, Floridawas 3rdin solar energy capacity. 3.74% of states electricity from solar.**

# STRATEGIC PLANNING COMMITTEE

Strategic Planning Committee Report

Gina V. Jogan, Chairman

January Board Meeting, 2022

The following are agenda items your Strategic Planning Committee is considering, researching, discussing or referring to other committees for input:

1. Printed **Membership cards**, with FFGC President’s signature and administration dates will be available in January….Districts will add names of members and ‘perks’ for their district.

2. The membership survey found that **communication and interesting programs** are what keep folks coming to meetings or joining clubs. It was noted that membership is rebounding and the ‘2x2 in ’22’ slogan is working!

3. The committee is working on verbiage for Bylaws affecting the **change of Fiscal year** from June-May to January-December. Clubs may continue to collect the FFGC dues but hold them until 2023. There is an informational power point explaining this proposed change; please contact Valerie Seinfeld for more information.

4. **On-line clubs:** During the last 2 years of Pandemic, we have discovered that we are meetings on- line… we are, in fact, acting as an online garden club in many instances. Does your club want to be an on-line club? Would you host an on-line club? We’d like to work with you.

5. SPC is working with H&E to effect a change so **our building’s gift shop** area to be turned into another meeting space and outfitted for such. The only gift items FFGC will hold in the future will be pins. To become more private, curtains or blinds will need to be installed on the doors leading into the foyer. Further, the use of the library was discussed; books need to be purged, donated, and those with value, sold or given to collections.

6. **Scanning** old magazines and other documents is now somewhat on hold due to the loss of our officer person. Kelley Wood has scanned and uploaded some of the old Florida Gardener magazines.

7. **Matching Grant** applications are coming in. All winners from last year either sent in the required update on their projects or were contacted to do so. To date, this Grants Chair has received \_\_\_\_\_ applications for the 2021-2022 administration.

8. There was a suggestion for us to be able to **use the ‘donate’ button** when coming to HQ for meetings where we want to purchase lunch….obviously this will not happen in January, but perhaps in the future.

9. Discussion is ongoing as to whether the **districts** want to realign/reconfigure themselves.

10. **Credentialing** information was garnered from NGC HQ on how it is done for voting purposes. It would involve the registrar for meetings or conventions. FFGC will credential by using the name badges (color or icon)

11. **Hiring a professional CPA to help** take care of our rather large treasury was discussed. This has been set aside for the time being due to the high cost involved. Other options might be to reduce the amount of work for our treasurer by having an assistant or, during the summer, by not paying the WYC staff on a weekly but a monthly basis.

12. The topic of **Hybrid meetings** was brought up and dismissed due to need to rent equipment.

13. Several suggested **“Plan B”** were discussed in the event we lose the HQ building. It was noted that many states do not have HQ buildings and have successfully run their corporations. Committee meetings are held online and then board meetings are cut to one day at a hotel or other facility. SPC and FFGC are in a ‘wait and see’ mode, but we do need to think about having a Plan B….do you have a suggestion of how we can stay a viable corporation without a HQ building?

14. As always, if you or your club, district have **concerns or suggestions**, please feel free to contact this Chairman and we will put you on the agenda.

# TOURS & TRAVEL

# TREES & REFORESTATION

# TRI-COUNCIL PRESIDENT

Tri-Council Report

January 12, 2022

President's Report

Jackie Host

It gives this President great pleasure to announce that we have three new

Representatives on the Tri-Council Board: Brenda Luedeman, Gardening

Representative, Janice Miller, Environmental Representative, and Barbara Magnuson,

Landscape Design Representative. We are also delighted that we have been able to

start working with the new FFGC School Chairmen: Lydia Barbour, Environmental &

Credentials; Mercy Abrams, Gardening; Susie MacPherson, Landscape Design; and

Linda Johnson, Credentials Chairman for Gardening and Landscape Schools.

Tri-Council members are encouraging districts and garden clubs to sponsor NGC

Schools for their themselves and their communities. At the last general meeting, Tri-

Council members voted unanimously to loan $300 seed money to clubs that need help

setting up new schools.

Since the last FFGC Board Meeting the Tri-Council Board has been working on a new

rules and procedures, a Directory, and planning meetings and programs through 2022.

We had a program put on by the St. Johns Riverkeeper at our last Board meeting which

was very well received, and Ramona Johnson, Master Naturalist and Master Gardener

gave us a very informative program about bringing the “wild” to our garden and “why”

we should do it, at our last general meeting. My personal goal is to provide our

members with a free educational program at our general meetings and one program

between each meeting.

As may have heard, the Tri-Council Trashion Show has been postponed. That is right,

POSTPONED. We still want to do it at a meeting or convention in the future so don't

throw away anything you've started. If you haven't started then go ahead and start

working on your outfit. Not crafty, get someone on your club to help you. This will be

a blast when we finally get to do it!

Trips planned to visit Silver Springs and Tallahassee have also been put on hold

waiting to see how Covid plays out but if things clear up we definitely will begin

working on those plans, once again.

As always, Tri-Council wants to shine the spotlight on gardening, landscape and

design, and the environment!

Summary: Tri-Council has had three educational programs for their members since

the new year started. Members are encouraging NGC Schools and voted to loan clubs

$300 in start up funds. While the Trashion Show has been postponed due to Covid

members are encouraged to save their outfits as we will have the show at a later date.

Covid also spoiled plans for trips to Silver Springs and Tallahassee, but we are still

hoping we will be able to plan on the this next year.

# VIRTUAL PLATFORM TEAM

Report: Virtual Platform Team

Kelley Wood

Chairman

January 9, 2022

Have hosted several committee meetings via ZOOM and am currently preparing to host the Winter 2022 Board of Directors meeting via ZOOM this coming week.

Have been assisting Sue Roberts with website and database work as our office manager left us late in the year. Sue and I have been performing monthly membership and website backups and storing those on our Google drive.

# WATER AND WETLANDS

Water and Wetland's Report

Water and Wetland's Chairman

Jackie Host

January 12, 2022

Happy New Year, President Marge, Officers and Fellow Board

Members. While we'd like to have an optimistic report on water and

wetlands, we have to tell you this has been a hard year for most of our

natural resources. Although we have heard that air quality has

improved in some parts of the world because of Covid keeping people

home, it has not stopped the proliferation of pollution, over-permitting

of water withdrawals, the imminent rise of the ocean because of

climate change and the horrible mismanagement of fragile wetlands

by filling and dredging, in Florida.

Florida was once where rich people moved because of the tax breaks

and the elderly moved here to retire. Now a lot more people are

moving here from all over the country to escape the brutal weather

and natural disasters. For some years they have been saying 1000

people a day are moving to Florida, but more recent population stats

will probably show even more. The developers are getting ready for

everybody by building more villages. Too bad they don't know how to

make water. We have already drained the aquifer down south and

now the Floridan Aquifer, which we all depend on, is starting to

dramatically drop because of too many withdrawals.

The answer to saving our water and wetlands from pollution and

over-permitting is to elect legislators who really care about the

environment. Protecting Florida's natural resources should be the

primary goal of everyone who runs for office. It should be a primary

goal for all of us.

Summary- Over-development of Florida's water and wetlands can be

prevented by electing people who are sincere about protecting

Florida's water and wetlands. Respectfully submitted, Jackie Host

# WEBSITE EDITOR

FFGC Website Editor

Sue Roberts

January 12, 2022

As website editor, I have continued updating the website as needed and adding files, announcements, and other info as sent to me. There were many updates at the change of administration and again this fall as clubs began to meet.

We developed a backup plan using the Google Drive and backup techniques provided recommended by Personify. As a result the website and the member database are regularly backed up. The office manager and Kelley Wood helped to put this plan together and Kelley is now implementing it regularly in the absence of an office manager. There is also a plan for board members to back up FFGC data associated with their chairmanship, but few are using it. We need to encourage this so the FFGC’s assets are backed up.

Any club that wants their email on the National Garden club website can notify me. We have arranged to group the request in batch and turn into NGC secretary for update. Also if a club has a website or a facebook page that they would like linked to their name on the ‘Find a Garden Club’ on the FFGC website please send to me.

Summary: Website updates continue as needed and requested by board chairman.

# WEKIVA YOUTH CAMP

Wekiva Youth Camp Report

Christy Linke

January 12, 2022

Camp 2021 might be over but this Chairman has been busy with the Transition Team in place to obtain a new Director. With the news of John Morand retiring as Director of camp after 14 years we knew we had a big job ahead of us. What better team to put together then the alumni of Camp Wekiva. Kelley Hartman, Devon Villereal-Dabbs, Mandy Newton, Chas Barber along with myself and Mary Whisler have been meeting since September every two weeks via ZOOM. These meetings were used to outline and plan the interview process of the new Director as well as the Assistant Director. After posting the job of Director on the ACA site we received 4 resumes. This Chairman did the phone screening interviews with the applicants, then they were given a time for the ZOOM interview with the whole Transition team. The questions were ones that we the team came up with to really understand where the applicant was coming from. Keeping the traditions of camp the same and not wanting to change what Camp Wekiva is about was important to us. After all 4 interviews it was not hard to decide who the best candidate was for the position of Wekiva Director. Shelby Mander who was actually a camper herself in 2007, lives in Dade City, and with her enthusiasm for camp we the transition team knew we had our Director.

We are now in the process of doing the same thing for Assistant Director. To date we have two applicants from the ACA posting. We will be doing the phone screening and interviewing in January 2022. The hours put into this process is many but in the end we know that we have the best candidates for our beloved Camp Wekiva.

We are ready for the opening of 2022 registrations starting with Sunday, January 2nd at 8:00 P.M. and Monday, January 3, at 8:00 p.m. The web site has been updated and all new forms put on for camp 2022.

The proposed budget was completed and sent to finance.

Summary: This Chairman is proud to be part of this transition year of bringing a new Director to Camp Wekiva in 2022. This could not have been done without the Transition Team that worked long hours to make it happen. Here’s to Camp Wekiva 2022!!

# WEKIVA VOLUNTEER TRAINING

# YOUTH GARDENERS AWARDS