

April 2022 FFGC BOARD OF DIRECTOR's MEETING

OFFICER AND DISTRICT DIRECTOR REPORTS

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PRESIDENT'S REPORT

President's Report

Florida Federation of GC

April 13, 2022,

Marjorie H. Hendon

My theme is "100 Ways to Play Outside with New Friends". The "100 Ways" is to remind FFGC's members of FFGC's 100th birthday in 2024. "Play Outside" is to go along with Mary Warshauer's theme for NGC. Finally, "With New Friends" is for the push for new members into FFGC.

My pin has, "WOW" on it, which stands for "Worlds of Wonder". This would be for all that FFGC has to offer its members.

We have been busy in FFGC. New members, classes, flower shows, plantings, and donations have all helped to make these last dozen months a blur of activity.

Our membership retention chairman has been meeting monthly with Assistant Directors to push membership. Since April 2021 we have had almost 2,000 new members join FFGC. Sadly, we have had over 100 members that have passed away.

Pensacola area hosted a very successful symposium and Short Course, a tropical Short Course was offered in South FL, and our UF Short Course will take place in the center of the state in June.

It's never too late to learn and FFGC's garden clubs have held classes. Environmental schools, landscape schools, Floral design, and Flower Show schools are being offered all over FL. We have 12 flower shows, just in the month of March, around the state.

FFGC's fifth Gold Star marker was dedicated and numerous Blue Star markers were placed around FL. Florida's garden clubs have planted and maintained pollinator gardens. One club planted 1,000 Bald Cypress trees to last 1,000 years.

Our garden clubs have planted 480,000+ trees and \$281,000+ in scholarships have been given to students. It is true, "If you give you shall receive". A special couple that has worked with campers at FFGC's Wekiva Youth Camp donated over \$750,000 for a new Wekiva office building to replace one that burned down two years ago. Another member donated \$48,000 towards FFGC's scholarship fund.

This President would like to invite all of you to the NGC convention, Orlando, FL, in May, 2022.
Visit us at FFGC.org and in 2024 for our 100th birthday celebration.

Marjorie H. Hendon

FFGC President

1ST VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Annual Report
FFGC First Vice President
Tina V. Tuttle
13 April 2022, Kissimmee, FL

Have you ever thought about how many years and years of rich experiences and commitment reside in our Board of Directors? The diversity in our backgrounds is what makes this such a vibrant organization, each bringing something unique to the table! I have been most impressed with the knowledge, skills and positive attitudes found in each of you and I am greatly saddened that I cannot personally be with you today!

The job of First Vice President requires an ability to be flexible and to take in, process and attempt myriad tasks. The learning continues with each situation presented, meeting attended, and people you come in contact with! This past year has offered a great many opportunities for personal growth:

--As your **Chairman of the Finance Committee**, and working with the 8 committee members, we have conducted 3 meetings and kept close tabs on every aspect of this organizations' money. We have gone line by line and dollar by dollar to ensure we keep your trust in managing our resources. We take our fiduciary duties very seriously! Please refer to the report of the Finance Committee for details.

--Serving on **the Bylaws Committee** has been an eye-opening experience! It is arduous duty, straining over not only the meaning, interpretation and consequences of decisions being made, but having to worry about the punctuation as well! It is my belief that my contribution to this committee has come from practical experiences while serving on the Board for 20 years and from experiences at Wekiva Youth Camp and SEEK not shared by all committee members. Tweaking is the business of the Bylaws Committee!

--As a member of the **Headquarters and Endowment Committee**, our building and grounds have become like a home away from home. Taking care of your personal residence is hard enough—now imagine that multiplied 100 times! Taking care of various issues such as plumbing, painting, flooring, furnishings, employees, grounds maintenance, code conformance, etc., must be dealt with in a timely manner along with those things that are dealt with by contract on a routine basis. Much of the work is done long-distance since few of us live in the local area.

--Being involved with the **Legal Issues Committee** has been perhaps the most difficult for me. I have been involved in very few legal issues before, yet here is the constant pressure knowing that you bear the weight of the future of FFGC headquarters and the feeling of helplessness to do anything about it. Depending on lawyers to represent us is stultifying and expensive. Waiting and waiting for legal decisions from the City of Winter Park about our future is very frustrating. Luckily, others on the committee keep us focused even if all we really want to do to bring an end to this issue is probably illegal!

--Nothing handled by the First Vice President can be considered as minor. Everything you do and every decision made will affect our members somehow. All must be taken seriously! Taking part in the monthly **Membership Meetings** has been enlightening and FUN! The planning of our **100th Anniversary**

Celebration and the conventions for 2024 and 2025 in Jacksonville and a commemorative calendar continue. Please see that separate report for more details. The construction of the **new Office/Clinic building at Wekiva** is moving at a snails' pace, but at least it is moving and we are making interest on the donation made by the Todd family in the meantime! I have been shopping online for the furniture for those office and berthing spaces. Working with the **Strategic Planning Committee** has been fulfilling as we are finally seeing some of our recommendations come to fruition! And working with **FFSJ and Tri-Council** on their projects and programs keeps me grounded in why I became a garden club member in the first place.

It may sound trite, but is meant sincerely, to say it has been an honor and a privilege serving as your First Vice President!

Tina Tuttle

Summary: The duties of First Vice President and all associated activities are too numerous and diverse to mention! The main responsibilities are handled day by day, interacting with others who serve this organization with zeal and commitment unseen by many volunteer organizations. As Chairman of Finance and a member to three other Standing Committees, many issues are brought forward and handled with alacrity, as efficiently as possible, for the welfare of our members.

2nd VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT

2nd Vice President

Christy Linke

April 7, 2022

This 2nd Vice President has been busy preparing for Camp Wekiva 2022. Working on obtaining volunteers for all of our programs as well as Nurses. Held meetings with the transition team for the interview process of an Assistant Director. Having a new Director and Assistant Director has brought about a lot of new leaning experiences. Not just for them but for this 2nd Vice President.

This 2nd Vice President was invited and attended all but 1 Membership Meeting that Jane Nendick had via Zoom once a month with the Asst. District Directors. Hearing from all the Districts has been rewarding hearing what each district is doing to gain and obtain membership.

Via Zoom this 2nd V.P. also attended finance meetings and Strategic Planning Committee meetings.

Summary: Preparing for Camp Wekiva to open in June and having camp at 100% capacity is this 2nd V.P. goal. Also to continue attending Finance Meetings and Strategic Planning committee meetings.

3rd VICE PRESIDENT

FFGC 3rd Vice President April 2022 Report
Mary Ann Whisler/3rd VP
April 2022

It is a great honor to serve FFGC. As a member of the H&E Committee and Secretary of the Finance Committee, this VP continues to learn and understand the complexities of the organization.

SEEK 2022 is accepting students for the summer session. The new Chairman of SEEK 2022/Jennifer Seymore is working to make the program a great success. It is with great pleasure to see a new person take over and bring new and creative ideas to the program. It has been a pleasure this year to work with Jennifer in turning over past information and seeing all the great new ideas she has planned.

As Co-Chairman of the FFGC Convention 2022, the team has been meeting monthly. Although I have not had a great deal of issues to handle, my Co-Chairman/Carol Wood has taken the lead and is doing a wonderful job. To date the Convention Team is on target and looking forward to a very exciting Convention 2022.

Ways and Means Reports are kept for H&E and Finance Committee. Inventory of remaining pins was taken in February 2022. Finance and H&E Committees have decided to close the Gift Shop and only sell FFGC pins.

Wekiva: This VP has been working with the Critter Camp Volunteers on Critter Camp 2022. I am looking forward to working with Mandy Howell/Critter Camp Chairman and the Critter Camp Volunteers.

Wekiva Volunteer Training was held February 11 - 13, 2022. We had 29 people attend. We catered the meals and found almost a 50% savings. We plan to cater the meals again next year and pass the savings onto the attendees. Attendees made steppingstones and terrariums for crafts. WVT training is scheduled for the weekend of February 10 to 12, 2023. The WVT attendees had the honor to meet our new Director/Shelby Mander and Assistant Director/David Kleinman. Shelby and David held a round table discussion with the volunteers, so everyone had a chance to meet and talk to our new Directors.

On Friday, February 11th this VP had the honor to coordinate the celebration of the Camp Groundbreaking which designated the start of construction for the new office/clinic. The Todd family were in attendance as well as State Park Service from Tallahassee, our Wekiva State Park Rangers, Marge Hendon/FFGC President, Christy Linke/2nd VP and many Wekiva Volunteers. Golden shovels glisten in the afternoon sun as everyone was excited to see the beginning of construction.

Wekiva Open House was held on February 13, 2022. We had over 20 families come and see the camp. Many were families of students who will be first time campers. There was a camp video offered for viewing in the dining hall along with refreshments. Camp Counselors took campers and parents around

the camp and gave them an ideal of daily camp activities. We look forward to another exciting summer at camp.

Mary Ann Whisler/3rd VP (mary.whisler66@gmail.com)

RECORDING SECRETARY

Recording Secretary

Sue Roberts

April 12, 2022

Aa Recording Secretary for this past year. I have written minutes for the post-convention board meeting last April and at the board meeting in September and January. After writing the minutes they are sent to the minute review committee before being accepted and place on the website.

I have collected all officer and board member reports, created two books of reports (one for Officers and district directors and one for board chairmen) for each meeting. These books of reports, the minutes, and the financial reports from the treasurer have been posted on the FFGC website on the 'reports and minutes' section of the MEMBER page. This page serves as an archive as there is a section for each board meeting dating back to 2019.

I have also sent many email blasts at the direction of the president to all active members and to board members. Eventually the office coordinator will take over this task.

Summary: I have competed the task of the recording secretary for all board meetings during this past year. I will also write the minutes for the full membership meeting that will occur at the convention in April 2022.

CORRESPONDING SECRETARY

Convention report
April 12, 2022
Carol Wood

I have only been in this job for 4 months so will briefly report that I manage the event calendar. Please send your events to me, I also will add flyers and registration forms to the event listings.

District Directors – you will be working with me on the fall tour schedule.

I have sent out 6 cards to ill members. Be sure to let me know if I need to send a card.

DISTRICT 1

District 1 News
Joyce Waters-Smith, Director
April 13, 2022

District I held a district-wide Flower Show entitled “Southern Charm” which was held at St Sylvester’s Catholic Church in Navarre, FL, March 21-23, 2022. Linda Henderson was the Flower Show Chairman. I want to say once again what a fabulous, “over the top” show this was. Each and every Committee Chairman did their assigned job and did it very well. This flower show was deemed a huge success due to everyone jumping in and working hard with total commitment. We were a first-class working machine! The membership booth in the lobby, designed by Jane and Ed Nendick, carried the theme with stately columns. Dressed to the “nines” were mannequins dressed as southern belles by Jenny Weber. A team including Catherine Ryan, Charlotte Croft, Judy Keliher, and Kat Spieker painted and decorated bicycles with contrived flowers that were sold following the show. Even the church manager commented on how well so many women worked with no raised voices -- only smiles and laughter. The Staging Committee, chaired by Kat Spieker and assisted by Rose Racz was so well organized and followed their floor plan as much as possible and the whole room was ready by 2:00 p.m. for welcoming entries. **Statistics from the show:** Division I Horticulture (130); Division II Design (37); Division III Education (3); Division IV Youth (47); and Division V Botanical Arts (86) for a total of 303 entries. 247 Individuals signed in our two books as attending. Many more just walked in and did not take the time or initiative to sign in.

Sweepstakes Horticulture Winner was Valparaiso GC and Sweepstakes Design Winner was Pick n’ Poke GC of Pensacola. There were numerous other awards given out to honor the beautiful horticulture entries and the wonderful designs.

The **Defuniak Springs Garden Club** members have been very active in our community gardens weeding, transplanting, planting new plants, mulching and replacing landscape timbers. One of our members is planning a new butterfly garden in our Library Reading Garden. We have had great programs and activities this year, such as pressed flowers used in various crafts, an informational talk on the invasive Cogon grass, a presentation using succulents in a floral design along with growing and propagating tips.

We will soon visit the Crestview Nursery for a demonstration of how to create a Fill and Spill hanging basket, plus we will be given advice on seasonal shade plants to purchase and use in our new Shade Garden which will complete the grant requirements from FFGC, District 1.

We will participate in Lakefest in May which brings many visitors to our Library Gardens which includes our new Shade Garden and will offer children’s activities, tour of our gardens, and plant and floral items for sale.

We are excited about our 75 years with FFGC and plan to celebrate in the fall with an ice cream social and music in our garden. We would love for any garden club to come and join us in our celebration.



Dogwood Circle of the Pensacola Federation surprised our retiring volunteer Office Manager, Bernice Reboulet, with a portrait of her beloved dog, Savannah, painted by artist Rachael. Presenting the framed portrait were Marian Hendrix, Dogwood Treasurer, and Lynn Manthei representing the office. Bernice has been a devoted volunteer for many years managing the office and training new volunteers. Although she will be greatly missed in the office, we are so happy that she will continue as a member.

On a very cold, windy but sunny Saturday in October, Dogwood Circle members met at the Garden Center building to plant ten Japanese maple trees and a cherry tree which were donated by Peggi DeArmon. Bundled in heavy jacks, wool caps and work gloves, Connie Marshall-Williams, Sandy Crisostomo and Pansy Breazeale, brought their shovels and successfully planted the trees which we will all enjoy through the years. Lynn Manthei, Camp Manager, and her crew assisted.

Garnier Beach Garden Club reports the club has had a great year! We have signed up eight new members, and we are so excited to welcome them into the club.

We had wonderful presentations from some very skilled gardeners; many who are Okaloosa County Master Gardeners. We had a presentation on attracting pollinators, how to grow a Victory Garden, and how to propagate plants. We had a great Holiday Floral Arrangement presentation and a chance to try our own skills at creating a lovely arrangement for our homes.

Our propagating lesson was particularly important toward getting ready for our plant sale in April. It is the club's only fundraiser, and we have so much fun. We sell a lot of plants to each other as well as get great participation from our community. This sale allows us to fund scholarships to SEEK, Wekiva Youth Camp and two awards in the Tri-County Science Fair where we meet the young scholars and evaluate their science projects before presenting our awards.

Two of our members were participants and winners in the "Southern Charm" Spring Flower Show hosted by the Florida Federation of Garden Clubs, District 1. Lee Vanderpool won five blue ribbons and two grower's choice ribbons, and Margaret Russell won second place for both of her design entries.

The Club also entered a display in the Succulents Section with five members contributing a total of seven succulents for the category. The club took a first place blue ribbon as well as a Club Competition award. We were a reluctant group to get involved, but now we are hooked on Flower Shows!

We had a fun Saturday at a local garden shop which held a spring festival for families to come enjoy the beauty of nature. Our club helped young gardeners plant sunflower seeds and get butterfly tattoos. We were also able to spread the word about the club and our upcoming plant sale. It is wonderful to have the community embrace the beauty of plants and the bees and butterflies that help the plants grow.

We are in the process of "updating" our club and have chosen a new club tree - the Live Oak - and a new club flower - the Coreopsis. And, we are working on a new club emblem. We thought a little updating would help us reach some of the younger members of our community.

We are finally making some strides toward better social media exposure, and it seems to help bring in new members — "Better Late Than Never."

Milton Garden Club was very fortunate to have the City of Milton assist us in the repaving of the patio on our grounds. We embarked on Phase II of our Legacy Project which concluded our re-landscaping of

the club grounds. The gardens feature native plants apart from Japanese Yews which provide privacy around the patio.

We achieved over 1,000 followers on our Facebook page. We welcomed three new members.

We were pleased to participate in the District 1 Flower Show, “Southern Charm.” President Pat Cummins received the Award for Botanical Arts Photography and won a beautiful bowl.

And, the very best thing that happened this quarter.....we secured our 501(c)3 status.

The Valparaiso Garden Club returned to in-person meetings with an Ice Cream Social. In July. It was a “sweet success.” The regular monthly meetings began September, 2021, but with smaller attendance numbers. The new slate of officers determined goals for their term increasing attendance at meetings and inspiring new membership as well as increasing security of club records.

New activities included assisting Fisher House with a home cooked meal for the holidays, Arbor Day planting of four pollinator friendly trees at Paradise Pollinator Garden, a Hypertufa Workshop taught by Jenny Weber, participating with the Yule of Yesteryear at the Heritage Museum at a Christmas meeting featuring a Dirty Santa game. One additional workshop - a “Mother’s Day Flower Design Class” will be held in May. Each participant will go home with a floral design suitable to give to mom.

The Paradise Garden Restoration Project is ongoing. Two areas that will be completed by May will have new host plants, a short retaining wall and an area for a Meditation Bench. A viewing window will be installed in the fence, and the area outside of the garden will eventually have native plants added to its perimeter.

Also in a development phase is a “member’s only” Facebook page, an email address for the club to use on its public Facebook page, and a commitment to create officer handbooks to assist new officers with their responsibilities of their office. Those that are familiar with digitizing records will be encouraged to keep their records in a digital form.

DISTRICT 2

Sue Schmitz
Convention Report District 2
April 13, 2022

District II members are grateful that we have the beauty of nature to cheer us as we face the difficulties of our world today. Unfortunately, we have lost four of our clubs, but the six we have are doing admirable work to bring joy to everyone.

Gulf Beach Garden Club enjoys having diverse agendas each month. The latest one featured member Gisela Donahue as she instructed members and guests how to create Kokedama, a Japanese plant display. Everyone left the meeting with their own creation. (picture included)

Port Saint Joe Garden Club recently held one of their famous plant sales. They are well known for presenting a huge selection of plants that thrive along the Forgotten Coast. Port St. Joe is District II's largest club. We are proud to have them for many reasons.

Panama City Garden Club is still working to replace their meeting building that was severely damaged by Hurricane Michael. Their new facility will have more space and very nice gardens so the grounds can be used for weddings.

Lynn Haven Garden Club has been busy working on our next District Meeting which will be held on April 28th. We are looking forward to a very rewarding meeting.

Sneads Carlise Rose Garden Club has graciously accepted the duty of presenting our fall District Meeting and they are looking forward to having the state officers as guests.

Chipley Garden Club spent last fall working on the butterfly garden at Falling Waters State Park. They were joyously assisted by the local Boy Scout troop. The club always looks forward to the annual visit to Kate Smith Elementary School to share their love of gardening with our "Junior Gardeners". They share lessons on horticulture, gardening and floral design. The children -462 of them this year- love finding out which ribbon they won after their projects are entered in the Washington County 4-H Youth Fair each March. Kirby Holt of Blossom's provided a program on fast-and-easy floral designs. During his visit, he was awarded the status of Honorary Member. Kirby, a member of the American Institute of Floral Designers, has provided floral design showcases and instruction, not only for many local clubs, but also nationwide. (Picture included.)

Have a wonderful summer and Keep Growing!

DISTRICT 3

FFGC District III Report
District Director
Marilyn Larson
April 13, 2022

The seven Clubs in District III continue to persevere by being active and engaged as each club adjusts to the hoped for end of the Covid pandemic. Half of the clubs in the district have reported new members and clubs continue to pursue increased membership.

Clubs have reported when possible, monthly meetings, sometimes in person either inside or outside to observe social distancing or via zoom depending on status of the Covid pandemic in each community. There have been a variety of educational programs as well as workshops and field trips, and club members continue local beautification projects, youth gardening and fund-raising activities. All clubs actively adhere to programming in support of FFGC and NGC goals.

Both a Spring District meeting May 13, 2021, with host club Live Oak Garden Club, and Fall October 7, 2021 District meeting, with host club Tallahassee Garden Club, was held in person. There was participation by a majority of the clubs in the district, and the theme of each District meeting reflected the focus on the environment, in support of the FFGC President's W.O.W. (World of Wonder) theme.

Starting this year, 2022, club activities began to 'look' more like past meetings as the anticipated end to the Covid pandemic. **Steinhatchee** made 68 floral arrangements for a local assisted living facility for Valentine's Day and their March program, a video on Sex, Lies & Butterflies, is still being talked about!. They will share their video if you wish to borrow! **Madison Garden Club** held a "natural tablescapes" program while both **Tallahassee** and **Live Oak** Garden Clubs will hold April Spring Bazaars. And Live Oak Garden Club is celebrating their Precious Metal status of Yellow Diamond – 85 years as a federated club.

Tallahassee's spring general membership meeting March 9 had 134 members attending. A highlight of the meeting was the "50+club" where 32 members were each recognized for their 50 years or more of membership in the garden club.

Monticello recently held an educational program on orchids with a number of orchid varieties available for purchase. They invited their neighbor club, Tallahassee Garden Club, to participate.

Clubs continue **beautification projects** either through community projects or beautification of their Garden club grounds. **Steinhatchee** raises money through one of their monthly programs to send children to Camp Wekiva and SEEK, and their most popular fundraiser is their infamous spaghetti dinner.

Networking between district Clubs, whether through shared program ideas or other needs, is taking place, not only between clubs in the district but Tallahassee Garden Club promoted the District I Flower Show for viewing by its members.

District III will hold its Spring District Meeting in person on May 11 at Sherlock Springs, **Wakulla** County Garden Club as host club. Sherlock Springs is a new venue for District members and the event is expected to generate interest because of the setting and facility, which is adjacent Wakulla Springs State Park. The program for the day is on native bees with program speaker, Rob Diaz Villegas, WFSU ecology blogger.

Perry Garden Club is preparing to host the fall 2022 District Meeting.

DISTRICT 4

District IV Director
Connie A. Gladding
April 5, 2022

This Spring, District IV commemorated two significant Club achievements: March 4th, The Garden Club of Middleburg celebrated its 40th Federation Gold Birthday and March 25th, The Garden Club of Jacksonville celebrated its 100th anniversary. Congratulations to both Clubs. April 28th, Jacksonville is welcoming Eileen Tongson for their Designer of Distinction series and have centennial anniversary festivities planned for the entire year March 2022-2023.

District IV has grown by 116 members since September. During clubs' activities, a special emphasis was given to gaining new members and welcoming them. Also, special events were held to focus on membership drives. For example, The Garden Club of Orange Park and Middleburg Garden Club held Seed Swaps. Both Clubs gained new members during these events. The Bartram Garden Club has welcomed twenty (20) new members, making the total membership 77, a proud accomplishment for a club only 6 years of age. Alligator Creek has a Spring Meet and Greet scheduled for April 21st helping the community to learn more about the Garden Club and encourage individuals to join.

Bartram's Garden Therapy chairman compiled, published, and delivered 20 interactive nature workbooks to children living in a local shelter for victims of domestic abuse. The workbook, titled W.O.W. World of Wonder, included pages to color, dot-to-dot, and word search activities designed to instruct the children about the Florida state flower, bird, and tree, as well as Smokey Bear and Woodsy Owl. The project's objective is to help children achieve emotional balance through the healing powers of nature.

After several years of declining membership and no meetings, The Garden Club of Switzerland held its first meeting in April. One of the club's major undertakings is the Freedom Butterfly Garden at Alpine Groves Park. This year the Garden Club is partnering with St. Johns County Master Gardener Volunteers to reinvigorate the garden and demonstrate the value of using native plants as wildlife habitat.

Clubs and Circles held fundraisers, plant sales, and 'spring flings'. Callahan and St. Augustine held successful plants sales in March. Ribault held a record-breaking Trash to Treasure sale March 4-5. Over 70 attendees paid \$10 for the Preview Party on Friday evening with wine and appetizers served in the (kitchen)Bistro. Excess items were donated to area thrift shops. April 8th and 9th, Jacksonville held their Blooms Galore and More plant sale, many vendors, a kid zone and a Garden Club Academy. Green Cove Springs plant sale is planned for April 16th. The Garden Club of the Lakes is sponsoring a "Spring Fling" in honor of Earth Day on April 23rd. There will be horticultural activities (radish necklaces, pot plantlets, etc.), water features, games and food. The garden club will be selling plants, handing out membership information and have invited other plant vendors and non-profit organizations to come join the fun. Fleming Island has their annual Butterfly Release event April 30th and May 17th, the "Art and Garden Party". May 7th, The Garden Club of Palatka is hosting an Afternoon Tea and participating in the Bartram Frolics on the Riverfront April 23rd. Middleburg's plant sale is May 14th.

District IV planted 354 trees, 68 varieties. The Garden Club of St. Augustine planted the most trees among District IV Clubs. This Director challenged all Clubs to celebrate Arbor Day 2023 with a tree planting and special tree give-away events, partnering with the local Soil and Water Conservation District leaders. The Garden Club of Palatka held a March Plant-O-Rama at Ravine State Park.

District IV began 2022 with several educational offerings for our members and communities in addition to the Clubs' monthly ongoing programs.

January 25th to 28th, District IV Judges Council sponsored the NGC Flower Show School (FSS) Course 3 at the Ribault Garden Club. The instructors were Penny Decker for Flower Show Procedure and Flower Design with Jan Griffin teaching Horticulture. The FSS Course 4 is scheduled at the Ribault Clubhouse May 25th to May 27th. The instructors are Claudia Bates for Design and Darlene Newell for Horticulture and Procedure. Registration is now open.

February 23rd and 24th, District IV held NGC Landscape Design School (LDS) Course 1 in Orange Park with over 50 registrants. LDS Course 2 is planned for September 28th and 29th at the Ribault Garden Club. Registration will open this summer.

March 3rd, The Garden Club of Jacksonville partnered with the Duval Audubon Society, Northeast Florida Sierra Club, the Ixia Chapter of the Florida Native Plant Society for a "Grow Your Own Park", with Doug Tallamy of the Homegrown National Park project. This program was offered both in person and zoom.

March 18th, the Garden Club of Orange Park hosted "Color Your Landscape", a horticultural program. The 53 attendees appreciated the four speakers' topics: Turf Grass (Less is Best), Bromeliads in the Garden, Sustainable Roses, and Hybridization of Coleus.

Planning for 2 flower shows is underway. The Garden Club of St. Augustine will be May 6th and 7th and Ribault Garden Club's "Bucket List" is April 29th and 30th. Ribault's show will include a plant sale from members' donations. Additionally, The Garden Club of St. Augustine announced the return of the Tour of Homes. Planning continues for Dec 4th with 6 homes on the tour.

There are four District clubs embarking on Blue Star Marker projects. Jacksonville gained approval to refurbish and move the Marker from Roosevelt Blvd to the Florida Welcome Center. Jacksonville and Bartram are coordinating with the Welcome Center to ensure a smooth move for the marker's new home. St. Augustine's Blue Star Memorial Marker beautification project received permit approval and design planning is progressing for an installation this summer and a ceremony next November. The Garden Club of Middleburg has a dedication ceremony scheduled for May 21st, Armed Forces Day. This Director and FFGC President plan to attend.

April 1st to 11th, Bradford County and Clay County Garden Clubs participated in the Clay County Fair 2022 and its catchy theme "Big Wheels and Pig Squeals". Each Club built displays that highlighted their activities and to solicit new members. All received Superintendent Ribbons, as judges found it impossible to select just one.

Planning for District 2022 meetings is underway. The Bartram Garden Club will host the District IV Spring Meeting May 13, 2022 in Fernandina Beach and St. Augustine will host the District IV Fall Meeting October 25, 2022. Both clubs have venue agreements in place and committees working on all the details. The spring meeting registration is open, and its program is "Bygone Treasures Along the Amelia River".

DISTRICT 5

District V Director
Donna Thomas
April 2022 – Convention

Brooksville Garden Club

Brooksville Garden club will have a plant sale April 23rd showcasing homegrowns which will help in supporting Wekiva with scholarship recipients. They continue to maintain the Memorial Garden and the Eastside Elementary School Garden. Their last field trip for the year will be to Revine Gardens State Park in Palatka.

Citrus Garden Club

At the Citrus Garden Club February meeting Patty McCoy and Sandi Smith received the prestigious Pillar of Pride award. Brenda Davis received the Hall of Fame award for her hard work and special contribution to the club. They all received a pin, certificate and a bouquet. The clubs' annual January Mahjongg party was a huge success as well as their April Spring yard sale. These funds help to support SEEK and Wekiva as well as their Youth Garden Club at Rock Crusher School.

Floral City Garden Club

Floral City Garden Club, garden club of the year, had their annual plant sale March 26th, which was quite successful. They are sending two students to SEEK and will be supporting Wekiva with students and volunteers this summer. They have five members who are chairs for the 2022 FFGC convention. Their membership is up from 39 to 44 in the past two months

Four Seasons Garden Club

Four Seasons Garden Club is dedicated to the education of their club members as well as their community at large. They maintain the garden at the senior center facility where they have their monthly meetings as well as 2 Blue Star marker gardens. Their membership has increased by 3 new members over the past few months.

Gainesville Garden Club

The Gainesville Garden Club continues to provide landscape for Women Build Habitat for Humanity homes with plans for the next home being built starting in November. Gardens maintained by Gainesville Garden Club on a year-round basis include the Ronald McDonald house entry garden, Blue Star and Gold Star marker gardens, their own certified butterfly garden, a VA Hospital Garden, and others maintained by the circles. They also plant and assist in the maintenance of two wildflower medians, and have adopted the roadside along the University of Florida.

Garden Club of Crystal River

The Garden Club of Crystal River sponsored an NGC Standard Flower Show, “Loving Our Nature Coast”, March 29-30, at the Coastal Region Library. They are celebrating their 50th year as a federated garden club. They will be hosting the spring District V meeting—May 11, at Crystal Oaks Clubhouse in Lecanto. The “call” has gone out and registrations are underway.

Homosassa River Garden Club

The Homosassa Garden Club celebrated Arbor Day by giving away 500 samplings and received substantial donations. Their club also held a Flea Market fundraiser the last of March which has always been successful. On May 8th, they will be dedicating the tree they planted with a memorial plaque in honor of Ingrid Ricci, their previous president. In addition, their membership has increased by 22.

Inverness Garden Club

In May, the Inverness Garden Club will celebrate 50 years as a member of FFGC. They are making a donation to SEEK for this summer session and will be having their annual Caladium sale in April which helps in the support of SEEK and other community projects.

Lake City Garden Club

Lake City Garden Club hosted a Scrabble tournament in February to raise funds for getting involved with sponsoring participants in Wekiva and SEEK this year. Their club has been working on a Lake City Beautification Project with the city. This project has received the support of local businesses and their members will be responsible for the initial planting and semi-annual upkeep of the containers once completed.

Local officials joined the Lake City Garden Club who hosted a reception for Carlton Jones, president of the Florida Forestry Association, as the honoree of Arbor Day 2022.

Newberry Garden Club

The Newberry Garden Club held their annual plant sale April 9th which they use for \$1000 scholarships to Newberry High School seniors and to sponsor kids to Wekiva youth camp. Their club also sells 1200 caladiums in the spring for a community beautification project.

Pioneer Garden Club

Pioneer Garden Club’s fundraiser for several years has been the sale of poinsettia plants in early December which is used to fund college and camp scholarships. Judy Greenburg contributed an amazing article to the Ocala Gazette regarding the Club and City of Ocala’s participation in the Arbor Day celebrations.

Pioneer Club has planted 259 trees this year. They will be hosting the Fall District meeting, October 14th.

Seedling Garden Club

They had their annual plant sale April 2nd, and it was a huge success. They maintain the gardens at the McIntosh Civic Center where they hold their monthly meetings. They will again be sending kids to Wekiva Youth Camp. The Club publishes "The Seedling" which is a pamphlet for the community with information regarding not only their Club but also what's going on in the community for the year.

The end of the year sees all district 5 clubs celebrating in May with some such as Seedling and Gainesville installing new presidents.

DISTRICT 6

Convention Report
District VI Director – Suzi Bailey
April 13, 2022

This director is so excited to report growth and excitement in all 14 clubs in District VI in Brevard, Flagler, and Volusia counties.

Membership growth as of September 2021 has added 179 NEW members in District VI. As of February 2022, the total numbers have grown to a total 1,048 . Very exciting news!

The Garden Club of DeLand has launched a new nighttime group, the Wild Coffee Circle which promotes and encourages the use of Florida native plants that invite and attract wildlife to our green spaces, with an emphasis on birds and pollinators. Lance Harding will be the new President of this Circle. The larger DeLand group with Marshall Rawson, President, continues discussing gardening fiction. She also states that currently Creative Corner is offering origami lessons and Nature Strolls, which takes them out to explore different parks and to learn more about nature. They are also presenting speakers addressing ways toward a more sustainable future.

The Ormond Beach Garden Club will be sending two foster children to Wekiva Summer Camp this year, thanks to the generosity of some of their members. Zetta Gillespie, member and former District VI Director, is volunteering for the third year. Members will again be at the Enviro Camp at the Environmental Discovery Center. The club also plans on working on a planting/recycling project with the children.

Spring has sprung at the Titusville Garden Club with lots of events and activities. They participated in the Annual Astronaut Memorial Services at Sand Point Park and presented donated flowers. President, Donna Martin, was a featured speaker at the annual Arbor Day Celebration at the Historic Pritchard House. Successful plant sales were held in February for the main club and March for the Tree Farm. Monthly educational programs including Floral Magic by Judi Jodoin, Flower Show Judge and former District VI Director. “What you Plant Matters”, a Native plant landscaping program topic, was presented by Tim and Anna from Native Butterfly Flower, LLC. All About Owls was another program by Sam Fried who is with Fancy Adventures, LLC.

Sandi Dix, President, Melbourne Garden Club reported their club will celebrate 90 years in the FFGC. A celebration is being planned sometime in the fall with speakers, refreshments and a raffle. This club is in the process of landscaping their newly re-installed Blue Star Marker with

all native plants. The club participated in Earth/Arbor Day with the City of Melbourne. They support Penny Pines project and Habitat for Humanity with their Garden Baskets to new homeowners. They have partnered with Habitat for Humanity since 1999.

De Leon Garden Club has reported they have a good number of new members. Their weekly work morning at De Leon Spring State Park's Heritage Plant Nursery has made their club more visible when local visitors see their work and are intrigued and decide to join their Garden Club. Programs for the first part of 2022 covered local bees and honey, and hydroponics. They held their popular and successful annual "Make It-Bake It-Grow It" auction to benefit their treasury. The remaining club year will be visiting the Volusia County Ag Center for a tour, led by a Master Gardener and club member. New officers will be installed soon. May is the month set aside for their first tea party (reviving a tradition dating back to the -60s), and in June they will relax, celebrating member birthdays with cake, and hold a plant exchange.

Garden Club at Palm Coast has had a busy Spring. They held their first Fashion Show Luncheon fundraiser on February 5th, which was a great success bringing in \$4200. Those proceeds will benefit their activities, programs, and scholarships. The Arrangers Guild, held a class on Ikebana. Their Propagation Guild participated in a local plant swap in February. Club membership has grown considerably in the last two years to 207. March, their "Treasures in the Attic" sale brought in \$2,000 at the event with another \$1,000 made in support of other fundraisers. In April, the club will be highlighted by the Palm Coast Library and will be displayed for the entire month. Their last fundraiser will be the 9th Annual Spring Festival and Plant Sale. It is a fun community event with over 65 vendors, nurseries, food trucks, and entertainment. All proceeds go to the Scholarship Program of their Garden Club. On May 7th, the Club will participate with a booth for the City's Arbor Day Celebration. On May 13th, their Club will be celebrating Arbor Day. The Club year will end in May with installation of new officer's and the club's annual membership barbecue.

South Peninsula Garden Club held its April meeting at the Ormond Memorial Art Museum and Gardens gazebo. The museum is still under construction and once complete, will be the new home for their club. Amber Green gave an overview of the museum and described the interior of the new building. She also explained the options and benefits of joining the museum....one of which is membership in the American Horticultural Society. The garden club is looking forward to having a permanent meeting place in the next year.

Cherry Laurel Garden Club just concluded yearlong celebrations of its 70th Anniversary as a FFGC federated garden club. They Celebrated the legacy of the many women who have contributed so much to the community over the past seven decades. In particular, the clubs appreciates the continuing affiliate participation of Margaret Callon Lyon, a founding member who joined in 1948! During the summer, the club is preparing to meet in its new home, the

Ormond Memorial Art Museum & Gardens, which has recently completed an extensive renovation. Gallery events, flower shows, educational and artistic are in the planning stages. Cherry Laurel held a NGC Small Standard Flower Show. Sending students to both Wekiva and SEEK this year and congratulates one their past SEEK attendee who now moves on to study botany at the college level.

Indian Harbour Beach Garden Club has been in the process of electing new officers. Robin Chang and the current board has served for three years. The new officers will serve one term so they will be able to get back on track. Many members were lost due to Covid restrictions but as meetings are returning, they are growing their membership.

District VI will hold their Spring Meeting via Zoom on April 28th. The will be held at New Smyrna Beach Garden Club on October 26, 2022.

DISTRICT 7

DISTRICT VII 95TH CONVENTION REPORT

Charlotte White

April 12, 2022

District VII has had a very full year! Coming out of covid we hit the ground rolling in beatification projects, butterfly exhibits, that were five years in the works as well as great guest speaker presentations at our different district VII club meetings.

District VII astonishing supports the communities they reside in with scholarship's, city projects, save the trees, planting new trees/celebrating arbor day and edible plantings along a walking path. Clubs have been involved in learning about Bartram trail and placing blue star markers.

Very exciting to always watch Clermont Garden Club host their flower shows and activities to grow club and make new members feel welcome. Sweetwater GC holds their annual Sweetwater sale each year and the community is hugely supportive of this event. Wintergarden is involved in saving trees, protected areas and beautifying their city. Hopefully, you will enjoy one of their presentations in the workshops at this convention. District VII has 14 members here today attending from one club and excited for the Sanford club to have their president attend as it is her first convention.

Our articles in the Florida gardener are overflowing with activities. And we have to cut information or there wouldn't be room for other districts to report their news.

We have held two in person district meetings and two by zoom.

Both district meetings had great presentations, over 80% leadership participation, 50/50 and basket fundraiser. We have continued to maintain and grow our district funds and stayed well within our budget. The dates have been set for our May and October district meetings. We look forward to our FFGC board officers visiting our October district meeting.

We have very active flower show group they have held multiple events and classes. The classes were amazing and creations were extraordinary. They have another show planned for October 6th.

We have Winter Park Garden Club celebrating 100 years with April 27th celebration.

We continue to support headquarters and participated in clean up weekend, and as always multiple of our district members are at headquarters working regularly and were instrumental in selection of new employee, and the overall success and maintenance of headquarters.

As District Director calendar is not big enough to attend every event.

DISTRICT 8

Kitty Wallace
Convention Report
April 13, 2022

District VIII is alive with talented, dedicated garden loving members. We are 22 clubs strong. The pandemic has put a few clubs into a bit of a rocky place, but with the help of our intrepid Assistant Director, Phyllis Weber, we are working to stabilize their situation. District VIII, or “Great Eight” as we like to say, has a wealth of talent. We have Flower Show judges, Floral Design instructors and award winning designers. Two of our clubs hosted Floral Design classes this year. 7 clubs hosted Flower Shows. There were butterfly festivals, plant festivals, and garden tours. There were new member events as well as tea parties and wine walks. There are 6 District VIII clubs that support and/or participate in their local community gardens. Our District VIII facebook page is always humming with information from our clubs, thanks to our chair, Briony Tomalesky.

There are upcoming events in District VIII. We plan a horticulture extravaganza in October at the Garden Club of St. Petersburg. The first class of the Environmental School will be held in Tampa in October. The remaining classes of the Landscape Design School will be held at Lakewood Ranch Garden Club this coming year.

DISTRICT 9

District IX Director

Dale W. DeFeo

April 14, 2022

Spring has been a very busy garden club season. Clubs are back at work and contributing to our communities in numerous ways.

Blue Star Markers have been installed by 21 of our 24 clubs and most have installed and maintained the surrounding gardens. Arcadia, Avon Park Founders and Gulf Coast Garden Clubs are working to install gardens around their markers.

Our communities are certainly more beautiful because of garden club members. Naples Garden Club installed a water feature in their Idea Garden at the Naples Botanical Garden. Lake Placid Garden Club weeds around seedling oaks at the 2500-acre Florida Fish and Wildlife conservation land. Florida Scrub Jays are in desperate need of these oak trees for their continued preservation. Poinciana Garden Club walks the Prairie Pines Preserve to remove trash from the trails for the benefit of both visitors and wildlife. Avon Park Founders help maintain the Chamber of Commerce Garden on Main Street, a garden at the Historical Railroad Museum and their own Blue Star Marker Florida Friendly Garden. Calusa Garden Club of Marco Island plants trees and gardens at the Leigh Plumber Park.

Support for community members old and young is abundant. Lake Placid Garden Club is able once again to do monthly Garden Therapy at the Orchid Cove Nursing Facility and they have a youth Fun with Flowers program. Other clubs report that they eagerly await permission to resume their work with seniors and youth post Covid.

The generosity of our clubs is amazing. Scholarship funds include college and vocational school scholarships, Camp Wekiva, SEEK, and other sponsorships. The total for all current scholarship awards and donations exceeds \$55,000.

Flower Shows educate the public, too. There was an Art in Bloom Show sponsored by Fort Myers Lee County Gardening Council and Horticulture Specialty Shows were sponsored by District IX Judges Council and Lakeland Garden Club. Standard shows were held by Punta Gorda, Naples and Royal Palms Garden Clubs. Cape Coral 's show is upcoming as well as the Strolling Flower Show in Fort Myers.

District IX clubs are making our local areas, district, Florida and our world a better place.

DISTRICT 10

District X Director Report

Michelle Maguire

April 13, 2022

District X has had a very successful year. We have increased our membership and held a successful Tropical Short Course.

Many of the clubs held Plant Sales and we had two Garden Tours, one held by The Stuart Garden Club and the other from The Wellington Garden Club. The Stuart Garden Tour had over 800 attendees and three members donated paintings that were raffled off. The Wellington Garden Club had over 200 attendees. I had the pleasure of visiting The West Palm Beach Garden Club and installed their officers. I attended three garden Clubs for their monthly meetings. They were Saint Lucie West Garden Club, Oleander Garden Club of the Palm Beaches and Rio Lindo Garden Club.

Garden Club of Indian River County had a very successful GARDEN FEST in February and they also had a plant sale in March. Rio Lindo Garden Club participated in the Port Saint Lucie Botanical Gardens annual rummage sale, "Junk in the Trunk", The members worked for two days gathering items that took up four parking places. Oleander Garden Club recognized April as the NGC Plant America month by dedicating their newly planted native garden called "The Infinity Pollinator Garden" for Earth Day. The Garden was funded by an NGC Plant America grant.

The Garden Club of Fort Pierce held their annual Plants in the Park Sale featuring plants and Gardening accessories. All gardening organizations in the area participated. All year long this garden club grows vegetables that they donate to Mustard Seed. Ocean Ridge Garden club held a "Plastics Free Day" on April 2 in conjunction with the Town of Ocean Ridge. This club is the host for the Spring District X meeting in conjunction with a Standard Flower Show. Rebecca Stallard, our FFSJ chair for District X is coordinating the flower show.

Pipers Landing Garden Club held a successful Butterfly Program conducted by "The Butterfly Guy", Jim West with plants for our butterfly garden. Pipers Landing also celebrated Garden Week early with floral arrangements made by members and given to the local library, fire station and two nursing homes. A copy of the proclamation from NGC was left at each location.

Wellington Garden Club planted over 1000 slash pine seedlings in September for National Public Lands Day.

Respectfully given,

Michelle Maguire, District X Director

DISTRICT 11

District XI
Sharon Bogard
April 12, 2022

The Garden Club of Coral Springs recently recognized Broward Health Coral Springs with the “Yard of the Month Beautification” award for the hospital's beautification efforts on its campus. They donated to the Penny Pines Ocala National Forest fund in memory of one of their members who passed away last year. The club joined the Coral Springs Festival of the Arts at The Walk with its own booth promoting the garden club.

Fort Lauderdale Garden Club' Secret Garden Tour was by all measures extremely successful. It sold out a month before the deadline date; the weather cooperated, the gardens were lovely, the homeowners and vendors were happy and the committee, exhausted. They rallied to produce two Youth Flower shows and the Annual Standard Flower show. The Circles have supported all these events while fundraising, enjoying field trips, and programs within their own Circles. Moringa Garden Circle has generously donated a large Tamarind tree to be planted at Broward General Hospital in memory of those lost to COVID and in honor of Broward General's healthcare workers. Cordia Garden Circle and Bayberry Garden Circle each reports two new members and Parkinsonia Garden Circle has four new members.

The **Hollywood Garden Club** met in person for the first time in two years. They chose beautiful TY Park to meet; to share plants and gardening tips.

Lauderdale-by-the-Sea Garden Club recently hosted its annual Plant and Bake Sale. Also available were garden books and accessories. Raffle baskets added to the festivities and helped with the fundraising.

The **Garden Club of Lighthouse Point** cancelled its small flower show this year and was rained out from participating in the City's Dining Under the Stars annual dinner. No worries, this Club has their fingers in many pies, most notably looking to increase its exposure in the community and educating members through great programs and field trips. Its annual Salad Luncheon fundraiser was a great success and enjoyed by members from all over Broward County.

Pompano Beach Garden Club hosted the Floral Design school. Its instructors and students gave it high scores. Final class was held March 30 and attendance throughout was great. Pompano Beach participated in the city-sponsored Granny's Attic. They currently had a great speaker on Bonsai and look forward to more programs of interest.

DISTRICT 12

April 13, 2022
District XII
Leticia Gunn

Good Morning Madam President, Board and FFGC Members and Guests. As I prepared the reports of Club Presidents, I started to realize just how many ways our District Garden Clubs interact with the community and various notable organizations within our District. This realization reminded me of the wonderful places we have to boast about in District XII.

Two of our Clubs are currently working to fulfill Fairchild Botanical Gardens lofty yet achievable One Million Orchids Project. The project entails the placement of 1 million native orchids throughout Miami Dade.

The beautiful and Historical Deering Estate is now home to two of the districts Clubs and their Artists in Residence program has presented painting of Nature programs for our Clubs.

While South Miami Garden Club is working with University of Florida and their Conserving the Earth's Resources thru landscape program. Other Clubs have visited the University of Miami's Gifford Arboretum.

The District has Clubs working with The Underline.... A transformation of the land below the Metrorail into a 10 mile linear park, urban trail and public destination.

Coral Gables Garden Club hosted a Fashions and Florals at the stately and historical Biltmore Hotel and is now in the midst of conducting their second annual Photography contest that they have opened to Everyone and anyone that fancies themselves a photographer. Please be sure to check out their As I See It Photography Competition.... A juried Nature and Wildlife Photo Competition.

Miami Beach Garden Club hosted their annual Standard Flower Show and Home and Garden Tour In March in conjunction with their "jewel in the concrete jungle" of a home, The Miami Beach Botanical Garden. The Botanical Garden and the Club have also hosted other District Clubs with guided tours and lunch after at the bustling Lincoln Road. If you are ever in Miami Dade.....I encourage you to visit that lovely Garden. Miami Beach is also looking forward to celebrating their 95 year of incorporation at their upcoming Spring Luncheon hosted at the venerable and exclusive Indian Creek Country Club.

PineCrest GC will be hosting our District Meeting in May in their lovely home of Pinecrest Gardens. If you are further down South in Miami Dade, I encourage you to visit THAT garden.

In closing, It is with great pleasure that I stand here to announce the reinstatement of the Miami Lakes Garden Club! Please join me in celebrating growth for District XII!

Thank you for your time.