**January 2023 Board Meeting**

Board Chairmen Reports

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# 4-5 STAR MEMBERS

# ADOPT-A-PARK

# AFFLIATES MEMBERSHIP

 Report

Affiliate Membership Report

 Donna Berger, Chairman

 January 10-12, 2023

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 Mounts Botanical Garden of Palm Beach County is now an affiliate member through The West Palm Beach Garden Club. They joined in October 2022.

We now have four (4) Affiliate Members.

**The Florida Wildflower Foundation - Florida Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc.**

**The Institute of Regional Conservation - FFGC District X Plant America with Trees Committee**

**McKee Botanical Gardens – The Garden Club of Indian River County**

**Mounts Botanical Gardens - The West Palm Beach Garden Club**

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 willing to 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 11-12, 2023

Thank you all for all your smiles! Amazon has made $1019.25 from the Amazon smile program.

To sign up on your computer: type in smile.amazon.com. Log in and in the upper left is three horizonal lines. Click on those lines, scroll down 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 (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

# AWARDS – FFGC

  January 11, 2023

 FFGC Awards Chair

 Gwen Carter

The entire Awards page was updated to reflect Florida Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc. as Awards donator. New Deep South Garden Club Awards change updated and 2022 Smokey Bear/ Woodsy Owl information updated.

A statewide Awards Workshop was held, via Zoom, September 23, 2022. The Team reviewed the Awards page, discussed FFGC awards, and answered questions from participants. The Zoom video was shared with participants and those who requested the video.

On November 4, 2022, we gathered for our Judges’ Workshop, via Zoom. The Team enlisted the assistance of FFGC members from various districts, Executive Board and a professional photographer to judge awards this year. Judges were emailed all documentation needed to judge awards before the workshop. 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, 2022. Constant communication went on between judges and the Awards Team. Judges worked to complete awards correctly, quickly, and objectively.

One Hundred Forty (140) Adult Awards Applications were received this year. Mary Whisler, FFGC 3rd Vice-president, received thirty (30) Yearbook Awards for judging.

Thanks to all of the FFGC members who gave up their precious time to judge Awards so we can celebrate clubs and individuals at the Convention in April.

Typing, printing, and embossing certificates for winning clubs/individuals is scheduled for March.

Now, it’s time to gear up and submit FFGC Awards to the National Garden Club and Deep South Garden Clubs with required documentation. All applications and state chairman reports are due to NGC Awards Chairman or designated Chairman by January 25, 2023. The Team expects more NGC and DSGC winners, this year.

Thank you.

**BARTRAM** **SOCIETY**

# BEES

 Bees

Christy Linke

January 9, 2023

This Bee Chairman is still educating on the topic of native and Honey bees. In November, 2022

at the Jackson Elementary School, in Plant City I was invited to American Teach In to speak on bees. Presenting the curriculum needed to fulfill the requirements to do an interactive program with all the 5th grade students. There were 87 in all and there was a craft and interactive workings of all the Bee jobs within the hive. Acting out these jobs of bees help our youth understand how hard a bee’s job really is. Also teaches them team work as they must work together to protect the hive, the queen, and also teaches them that each job is important to make the hive run. The teachers play an important role in this activity. They are the predators attempting to get into the hive. The kids love the fact that they have to keep their teacher out.

This Chairman is also speaking at the Native Plant Society on all pollinators. Bees, Birds, and

Butterflies. This Chairman has taking speaking engagements through March and looking

forward to each and every one of them.

Summary: From the very beginning that this Chairmanship started under Jan Sillik, my goal was and always will be to Promote Bees Through Knowledge.

# BIRDS AND BUTTERFLIES

# BLUE STAR & GOLD STAR MEMORIAL MARKERS

**Blue Star Memorial Program**

**Blue Star Memorial Chairman**

**Rosita Aristoff**

**January 11, 2023**

1. Completed Blue & Gold Star Memorial Markers Dedications
* Destin Garden Club (District I) – The new Blue Star Memorial By-Way Marker at the Destin Library was dedicated on October 11, 2022.
* Port Charlotte Garden Club (District IX - The new Gold Star Families Memorial Marker was dedicated at William R. Gaines, Jr. Veterans Memorial Park on November 5, 2022.
* Garden Club of Lakeland (District IX) – The new Blue Star Memorial Marker was dedicated at Veterans Park on November 15, 2022.
1. Pending New Memorial Markers Activity
* Camellia Garden Club (District VII) - The new Blue Star Memorial By-Way Marker dedication at the Eustis Library is planned for February 17, 2023.
* Milton Garden Club (District I) - The new Gold Star Families Memorial By-Way Marker to be dedicated at Santa Rosa County Veterans Memorial Plaza is still planned for May 29, 2023.
* Gardeners Out East Garden Club (District VIII) – A new Gold Star Families Memorial Marker was ordered for placement at the new East Manatee County Library. A dedication is planned for November, 2023.
1. Miscellaneous
* District X has refurbished the orphaned Blue Star Memorial Highway marker in Canal Point assisted by a matching funds grant from the FFGC.
* The St. Augustine Garden Club created a new living memorial garden around Florida’s longest standing Blue Star marker. A rededication ceremony on November 11th, 2022 was attended by FFGC President Marge Hendon, who gave a history of the Blue Star program, and by NGC President Mary Warshauer, who presented the actual dedication.
* In late September, Hurricane Ian caused significant damage along a wide swath of Florida’s Gulf coast and inland across the state. Within the western coastal area most seriously impacted were at least 14 Blue Star markers. Fortunately, all but one of these markers are known to have survived. We still await news on the Blue Star Memorial Marker dedicated at the Fort Meyers Beach Library in 2021.
* After conducting extensive research, this Chairman has published a booklet documenting an extended history of the NGC’s Blue Star Memorial program including developments in Florida. The extended history (without the Florida segment) has been posted on the NGC’s website within the tab on the Blue Star Markers Program.
1. Summary

Since the last report three new markers were dedicated and one new Gold Star Memorial Marker was ordered. A detailed history of the Blue Star Memorial program is now available on the NGC website.

Rosita A. Aristoff

Rosita A. Aristoff

Blue & Gold Star Memorial Chairman

# BOI Editor

 Board of Directors Meeting

 BOI Chairman Report

 Linda Feifarek-Johnson, chairman

 January 11-12, 2023

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.

# BRICK PATHS

# BYLAWS-STANDING RULES

**How To Create Club Bylaws**

Club Bylaws may not be necessary. If you have Club Policies and Procedures and you operate under the FFGC Bylaws, you can obtain a TIN and 501c3 designation with tax exempt status. Check with your bank and the SUNBIZ website to see what applies.

If you wish to construct Bylaws or Articles of Incorporation and have your club membership vote on them, please remember that your parent organizations, FFGC and NGC, are the law and you cannot go against those established bylaws.

*Robert’s Rules of Order (RRO) Newly Revised, 12th edition,* should be your guide and reference when constructing bylaws, however, you are welcome to use the FFGC Bylaws as a template. Chapter XXVI in *RRO* gives step-by-step procedures to forming a Bylaws Committee, gives things to consider for each situation, and finally, let’s you know what to put in each Article and in what order. A sample Bylaws is given at the end of the Bylaws chapter. Some Articles and titles are optional or you may wish to add additional Articles for your particular situation. Remember not to make your Bylaws too restrictive. These are the rules. How to enact the rules will come in your *Policies and Procedures*.

Article I: Name. Please use the following so your name will appear close to FFGC in the listing on SUNBIZ—**Florida Federation of Garden Clubs, District \_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_Garden Club.**

Article II: Object. Please use the same statement given in the FFGC Bylaws as to our purpose (may require a bit of revision under (c)). This is basically our mission statement:

*Specifically, the purposes of the club are as follows:*

***(a)*** *To further the education of the members and the public in the fields of gardening, horticulture, botany, floral design, landscape design, environmental awareness through the conservation of natural resources, civic beautification, nature studies, and to instill in our youth the love of gardening and the respect for and protection of the environment;*

***(b)*** *To encourage the erection of memorials to veterans of the United States armed forces;*

***(c)*** *To co-ordinate the interests of the Garden Club in the State of Florida to the extent such co-ordination represents a furtherance of the activities specified in (a) and (b) above provided always that such purposes shall be effectuated by activities which are within the scope of Section 501 (c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954.*

 ***(d)*** *To do and perform all other acts and things necessary to carry out the purposes of this Corporation as a Corporation not for profit in accordance with the law in such cases made and provided.*

 ***(e)*** *Membership in the \_\_\_\_Garden club and the Florida Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc. is open to all regardless of gender, age race, ethnicity or religious affiliation.*

Article III: Members. Please use the same description of members as found in the FFGC Bylaws. We have **voting members** and **non-voting members** and a definition is given for each.

 *Voting membership shall consist of members of Garden Club, Garden Clubs organized on the Circle Plan, Councils, and FFGC Life Members and Honorary Members of FFGC who are members of a Garden Club.*

*Non-voting membership shall consist of Life Members and Honorary Members of FFGC who are not members of a Garden Club; Affiliate Member Organizations; and individuals and groups of Junior Gardeners, Intermediate Gardeners, High School Gardeners, College Clubs and Vocational-Technical School Garden Clubs.*

 If you have **club dues**, you may state that information here. You may wish to include how your club became a part of FFGC and the district and how your club/circle may, unhappily, resign from the organization.

Article IV: Officers. You will have your elected President, and Vice President plus Secretary, Treasurer, and an appointed Parliamentarian…Other officers, such as Chaplain, do not need to be listed. Be sure to clarify which officers are elected by the members and which are appointed by the President. List them in rank order, each with its own Section. Here you can address nominating procedure, ballot voting, term limits and filling vacancies. You can even address removal from office for cause!

Article V: Meetings. Most of you hold monthly meetings on a regular basis for 9 months or so, taking off the summer months. You may wish to provide a Section for a Called or Special meeting or a meeting of only the executive board. Here you will need to set your **quorum** to conduct business. Typically, a quorum is 2/3 of the majority eligible to vote if the membership was given 4-weeks’ notice of the issues being considered. If no advance notice is given, the vote must be unanimous.

Article VI: Executive Board (or Board of Directors). Be sure to define who will make up your Executive Board as opposed to who makes up your Executive Committee.

It might read: *The Board of Directors* (Executive Board) *shall consist of the officers of (your club), Former club presidents, Chairmen and appointed Board members.*

It might read: *The Executive Committee shall consist of the elected officers of (your club), the Corresponding Secretary and certain chairmen. The Parliamentarian shall attend meetings of the Executive Committee as advisor.*

Usually, the elected and appointed officers of the club are entrusted with administrative authority and responsibility. When will they meet? What authority will they have in decision making? Will everyone on a committee be eligible to vote?

Article VII: Committees. Here you will list your **Standing Committees,** each in its own Section. Examples may include Finance Committee, Festival Committee, Plant Sale Propagation Committee and so forth. Be sure to state the composition of these committees, how appointed and what is their responsibility to the club. Remember, the President is an *ex-officio* member of all committees except the nominating committee.

Article VIII: Parliamentary Authority. This one is easy….*Robert’s Rules of Order Newly Revised*, 12th edition is our authority of choice!

*Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised shall govern the proceedings of (your club) in all cases to which they are applicable and in which they are not inconsistent with these Bylaws and Standing Rules.*

Article IX: Amendment of Bylaws. Prescribe the method by which your Bylaws may be amended. Give the amount of advance notice given to members and by what manner, at which assembly the amendments may be voted on and how many votes it will take to pass the amendment (usually 2/3 of the registered delegates).

*These bylaws may be amended at any* Club meeting *by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the delegates present and voting, provided the proposed amendments shall have been presented in writing to the Board of Directors for approval, and a copy of the approved amendments shall have been sent to each club member at least four (4) weeks prior to meeting.*

 *Without the prescribed notice, these Bylaws may be amended at any club* *meeting by unanimous vote*.

And there you have it!! Do not make it harder than it needs to be and please do not add or take away anything that is in conflict with the FFGC or NGC Bylaws. If you need help, please do not hesitate to contact the FFGC Parliamentarian or the FFGC Bylaws Chairman.

# CONVENTION COORDINATOR

# CONVENTION COMMITTEE 2023

Convention 2023

Susie Berryhill

January 11, 2023

Are you ready for convention?

We just want to go over some convention highlights for you.

Starting with registration. You can now register online as well as do a mail-in registration.

To register online: go to the home page on the FFGC website and scroll down to convention and then register online there. You can also download a paper copy if you want to mail you registration in. and, there is also a registration form in the winter edition of The Florida Gardener.

And remember: Registration deadline is March 27.

Ata the bottom of the registration form is the hotel reservation information. You can register online or call the hotel directly. There again the deadline is March 27.

You can also get the information to place an ad in the convention program there.

Early Arrivals Dinner: as board members you will receive a complimentary invitation to the Early Arrivals dinner on Tuesday night.

And important: you must RSVP to this invitation!

And if you RSVP to come and do not show up -- you will be billed $45.

And you will of course need to make a reservation and pay for your spouse or companion.

You won’t want to miss the Trashion Fashion Show. It should be quite entertaining.

Opportunity Drawing and 50/50 Drawing: I know the holidays were on everyone’s minds and these tickets may have been forgotten.

Please sell your tickets and send your money to the Chairmen, Barbara and Valerie. Their names and addresses are on the tickets.

And impress upon your club Presidents and members to purchase these tickets.

This money supports the convention over and above your registration feed which basically covers our meals.

We do not want to wash dishes to pay for the hotel services! I will round you all up and take you to the kitchen to help!!

President’s Reception: this will be for first time attendees again this year. So encourage members wo have not attended a convention to attend this year.

We have some wonderful and interesting speakers and workshops lined up for you this year.

Invasive Plants/ Edibles in your yard/ sea Turtles/ seaoats Plants. Adaptive Gardening Tools/ Photography Club/ Bonnet Springs Park. How Plant cultivars are Created

And of course, we get free breakfasts and happy hour drinks!

And most important: Our State and district Officer installation will be on Thursday night. And Miss Tina will be installed as our new President and she has a fun reception planned!

# DEEP SOUTH GARDEN CLUBS UNIFIED PROJECT

Deep South Garden Clubs Unified Project

Gina Jogan, Chairman for Florida

Winter Board Meeting, January,2023

This Chairman is sad to report that not a single application was submitted for the Deep South Unified Project!

It should have been easy:

Native Plants, both flower and trees, planted at schools, in city or municipal areas or in home landscapes…that encompassed just about everywhere our members, clubs and districts are planting….so, you could have entered the **Deep South Garden Clubs Unified Project:**

* **Planting Native Trees, Flowers or Vegetables in your City**…. Individual clubs, a group of clubs, Councils or Districts can apply
* **Planting Native Trees, Flowers or Vegetables at your School/s….** Individual clubs, a group of clubs, Councils or Districts can apply
* **Planting Native Flowers or trees in YOUR landscape**…. Individual homeowners can apply

Admonishing you: This was not the way to honor the Deep South Regional Director from Florida, Carol Hall, nor make our President, Marge proud of us, or make FFGC shine at the Deep South Convention in Kenner, LA in the spring.

Gina V. Jogan,

# DUES AMBASSADOR

Dues Chairman/Ambassador

January 10, 2023

Susan Roberts

The dues renewal process completed in September. New members are now added as they come in and tracked for the Nell Coe Award.

The new dues renewal process will begin on March 15, 2023 when the new form and letter will go to the club presidents. By-law changes affecting the due dates and late dates will be discussed and possible added at the April convention.

Summary: This job will recommence in March 2023 for the 2023-2024 season.

As of 1/5/2023

Clubs – 155

Individual members 9104

Life members 651

Spouses – 432

Total 10187 plus 248 life at large

5 non-renewing clubs – Mariana, Riverhaven, Sanford Wildflowers, Garden Gate, St. Lucie West

3 returning clubs – Palm Harbor, Miami lakes, and Tampa Bay G and CC

3 new clubs – Destin, Deltona and Port Malabar

# EARTH STEWARD

**Earth Steward Recognition**

**Kathy Siena**

**January 11, 2023**

The Earth Steward Recognition is given to honor the recipient for outstanding efforts and stewardship of our natural resources. It was first introduced by FFGC’s Tri-Council in 2013. This recognition can be awarded in the field of Gardening, Landscape Design, and Environment. The recipient’s efforts should be clearly indicated on the application form biography section.

This recognition may be awarded by a club, district, an FFGC organization or by an individual. The recipient of the Earth Steward recognition is presented with a pin and certificate. The recipient is not required to be an FFGC member. The fillable application form is available on the home page of the FFGC website under “Honoring Garden Club Members. The $100 donation goes to the “Color Our Garden Fund”, a part of the Headquarters and Endowment (H&E) budget for the continued stewardship and care of the grounds at FFGC Headquarters.

Summary:

The Earth Steward Recognition is a great honor recognizing outstanding members or friends that have shown care and stewardship for our natural resources. An updated list of all recipients is available on the FFGC website at this link:

<https://ffgc.org/page-18059>

Click on Earth Steward Recipients.

# ENDANGERED PLANTS

 Endangered Plant Advisory Council

Jane Villa-Lobos

Winter Board meeting January 11-12, 2023

The state Endangered Plant Advisory Council was held virtually by consensus of its members on October 20, 2022. Prior to the meeting, members submitted evaluation forms ranking the four organizations that applied for funding in 2023. Richard Moyroud, moderator of the meeting, announced the grant recipients. Archbold Biological Station ($61,055.81), Fairchild Tropical Garden ($63,009.59), Bok Tower Gardens ($61,625.66), and Key West Botanical Garden Society ($30,308.93).

Members reviewed the status of plants on the Regulated Plant Index since the last review. The date for the next meeting will be in late October 2023.

Respectfully submitted,

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Jane Villa-Lobos

FFGC Endangered Species Chairman

**Summary**: The October EPAC meeting was held virtually by consensus of its members. Members reviewed grant applications and submitted evaluations via email. The next meeting will be held in late October 2023.

# ENVIRONMENTAL ALERTS

# FFGC 100th Birthday

Report

FFGC Centennial Celebration

Tina Tuttle

11 January 2023, Winter Park

Our organization has some of the most generous and genuine volunteers in all the world! It was a pleasure to talk with so many members while on the Officer’s Tour and to receive financial, administrative and personal support for the upcoming Centennial Celebration!

To date, we have collected just over **$33,700!** That amount came from the donations of fourteen $1,000 individual donors and $970 other individual donations, four district $1,000 donations and $1,271 other districts, $3,100 from judges’ councils donating $1,000 and another $300 from other judges’ councils’ donations, $7,936 from clubs and circles and another $1,880 from other donations. This is wonderful! But there is still time if you wish to participate by donating to the fund. The simplest way to give is by your credit card on the ffgc.org website, go to Donate and scroll down to Centennial Celebration. Easy, peasy!

The *2024 Commemorative Calendar* has been printed and **it is awesome**!! It features every cover of *Florida Floral Arrangement Calendar* since 1953 plus 70 historical factoids about FFGC. The commemorative logo ornaments and pins have been procured and they are, in fact, beautiful! These items and more will be available for purchase on 20 April 2023! Kits of fabric and directions have been distributed to clubs to create quilt blocks that will make our centennial quilt. Several blocks have already been returned and they are unique and amazing! Plans for an elegant 100th birthday brunch and dinner are underway for 24 April 2024 here at headquarters. Plans to celebrate the 19 January 2024 Arbor Day will garner publicity throughout the state! And, so many more delightful events are being planned in every district and for every member who wishes to partake! And although separately funded, plans for the 2024 centennial convention in Jacksonville are underway promising you an unforgettable convention experience!

I can’t thank you enough for your support of this **once in a century event**! How lucky we are to be a participant in this part of FFGC history!

Tina Tuttle

 Summary: Funding is needed to support planned events commemorating our 100 years! Please donate!

I have a motion:

I move that FFGC adopt the new 100-year logo and replace our current logo on all stationery, forms, documents, etc. beginning April 20, 2023.



# FINANCE COMMITTEE

Report

FFGC Finance Committee

Tina Tuttle, Chairman

11 January 2023, Winter Park, FL

The FFGC Finance Committee met on 4 January by Zoom and the committee was joined by **Scott Corkhill** for an update on our property and liability insurance policies; Lloyds of London for the FFGC Headquarters building and contents and Nautilus for Wekiva Youth Camp and SEEK Conference. We felt the building contents were overvalued and will verify the inventory and perhaps lower that part of the $18,773 annual policy. We also need to have appraisals for the jewelry we own in the form of the Presidents’ pins. After the committee ratified two e-polls relating to a Wekiva Budget Amendment and the Gardening School in West Palm Beach, we tackled **budget reviews** for Environmental School in Tampa ($3400) and Landscape School in Jacksonville ($4225). Both were favorably reviewed. We reviewed financials of budget versus actual for **SEEK 2022 ($5589 over budget)** and the **Fall 2022 Flower Show School** **Symposium** held in November in District VIII (profit of $1893 for each of the 3 sponsors). We appreciate our all the hard work that went into these sponsored school and the profit share contribution to the operating fund. We voted to approve the budgets presented for **Short Course North** in August in Pensacola for $4300, and an E-poll was held on 5 January regarding the proposed budget for the UF/FFGC Short Course in Gainesville in June for $10,450. A **Wekiva Budget amendment** requesting a 26% increase in the food budget and kitchen staff pay for a fourth worker at $12/hour, plus several necessary equipment repairs will be brought to this board by the camp Chairman later. We conducted our review of our **service contracts** and found many were outdated, not on file or on a month-to-month vice annual basis. We are in the process of rectifying that situation!

Treasurer, Jana Walling, reviewed our **Statement of Activity** and answered questions from the committee and the BOD who received a copy last week. Jana noted that we received the approximately $20,000 in funds for the **Avon Park Correctional Institute** previously held by District IX **and the expenses related to the damage to our building** last June**,** including our deductible of $17,761. And, yes, our **investments** continue to lose money, but such is the way of the world now.

Our **Headquarters and Endowment** chairman, Sue Roberts, informed us that all work related to that wind damage was completed but we have additional insurance claims to file and that our new $27,500 air conditioning unit was being installed. Sue submitted a request from H&E regarding a **pay increase for our part-time, hourly Office Manager**.

Second Vice President and outgoing **Wekiva** Chairman, Christy Linke, and Third Vice President and incoming Wekiva Chairman, Mary Whisler, together gave us an update on how camp registrations and program plans were proceeding for summer 2023.

This chairman gave a report on the progress of the **Centennial Celebration** funds amounting to $33797 and related planned projects and expenses. The Baker Press in Orlando completed the production of our 2024 *Commemorative Calendar* for $5,695.

The FFGC **Matching Grants** program continues to be well received. Applications are due 15 January and up to $5000 will be awarded at convention. We briefly discussed updating our FFGC informationon **SunBiz.org,** including modifying our **logo trademark** to recognize our centennial year, which adds an outer ring to our existing medallion. Additional English and Spanish membership rack cards and brochures were printed and are available in the work room if you need to replenish your supply.

As you know, the officers took our **Tour** this past fall. Jana tells us the expenses were about $8500 including car rental, gas, and hotels. We thank you for allowing us this invaluable opportunity to visit the membership. Mary sold approximately $1200 in Ways and Means on the trip and has ordered additional member pins totaling $1013 to last another year.

The committee plans to **meet by Zoom** prior to the April convention so we can take our time to discuss each agenda item completely without time constraint. We are blessed to have such a dedicated, knowledgeable and vocal Finance Committee including Marge Hendon, Christy Linke, Mary Whisler, Jana Walling, Kelley Wood, Sue Roberts, Claudia Bates, and Gina Jogan. We work hard and are brutely honest but we all strive to be good stewards of your funds!

Tina Tuttle, Chairman, FFGC 1VP

**Summary:** The FFGC Finance Committee met in January by Zoom. We considered submitted budgets and financials for FFGC related educational programs and projects and HQ repairs. It is our mission to investigate every aspect of the fiscal health of our organization and make recommendations to the Board of Directors regarding expenditures, investments and avenues of revenue.

# FLORAL DESIGN STUDY

# FFSJ PRESIDENT

Parke Finold reported on the ‘What’s my Type’ book. It has been updated and will be available at the convention.

**FLORIDA GARDENER**

WINTER 2023 FFGC BOARD REPORT

FLORIDA GARDENER -- EDITOR

Lisa Packard, Editor

January 11, 2023

The Winter 2023 edition of *The Florida Gardener* is now one for the books. Approximately 1800 issues or so were mailed out for a combined cost of $3,600 printing + postage. Apparently, we have 15 subscribers who pay $3.75 per issue for a total of $225. The cost per issue is about $2. We earned about $1,360 in advertisement fees and ran at a **deficit of $1,900** given that printing and postage was $3,600. The printed copies are distributed to:

* All BOD members (~70)
* Magazine for Life members (?)
* Paid subscribers (15)
* Members who do not have an email address in the Wild Apricot database (?)
* All District Directors (12)
* All club/circle presidents

 (~ 150 clubs total, with circles it is likely to be a minimum of 500 copies)

* All members with “Send Hardcopy” flag set (?)
* All current advertisers (6)

This accounts for ~600 copies but we’re printing ~1800 copies so the “?” categories—magazine for life members, and probably club circles—are making up the difference.

The layout was changed for better legibility and included content with emphasis on FFGC to better inform members about opportunities that exist for their clubs and themselves. The reception to that was very positive. The whole process ran smoothly between the editor, the printing staff, Kelley Wood (circulation), Inger Jones (sales), and Barbara Hadsell (education).

The focus will continue to include more content providers and expand the message of what FFGC does and less emphasis on less compelling information from district directors. We are holding a photo cover contest, but it’s been difficult. We will have some good options.

SUMMARY & CONCLUSION

This edition was attractive, well presented, and included more FFGC content. The intention is to expand on that, include more content providers, and limit the district director reports to key and vital information to provide more space for vibrant content.

RECOMMENDATION

My recommendation is to cease all printing and go online only, a national trend that will save considerable funds. If FFGC moves to an online version only, we do away with postage and will not be restricted to 24 pages. If we move to a subscriber basis only, here are the cost breakdowns provided by the current printer:

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Quantity Printed** | **Price @ issue** | **Total Print** | **# Subscribers** | **Subscriber Cost** | **Net Revenue (minus print)** | **Subscriber Cost** | **Net Revenue (minus print)** |
| 650 | $3.19  | $2,075.00  | 650 | $3.75  | $2,437.50  | $4.00  | $2,600.00  |
| 1200 | $2.02  |  $ 2,421.00  | 1200 | $3.75  | $4,500.00  | $4.00  | $4,800.00  |
| 1500 | $1.75  |  $ 2,625.00  | 1500 | $3.75  | $5,625.00  | $4.00  | $6,000.00  |
| 2500 | $1.31  |  $ 3,278.00  | 2500 | $3.75  | $9,375.00  | $4.00  | $10,000.00  |
| 4000 | $1.06  |  $ 4,221.00  | 4000 | $3.75  | $15,000.00  | $4.00  | $16,000.00  |

TODAY:

We have 15 subscribers @ $3.75 each issue for a total of $225

We print copies for hundreds of people at no cost; it’s a gift.

I don’t know how many Magazine for Life recipients there are.

Currently, $1.80 from FFGC Dues is for the magazine. The individuals don’t pay that, the clubs do. Would people have a problem with re-allocating that $1.80 to a worthy cause?

PROPOSED:

* Join the national trend to end printing and distribution across the board except for Magazine for Life people (quantity unknown but guessing it can’t be that bad); would be subsidized by paying subscribers
* Offer subscription at the current or increased rate of $4 but sell it four issues so accounting doesn’t have to process orders every quarter – so $20 for four issues.
* Encourage all to subscribe, but if you only got 2,500 people, you would still earn between $9-10,000 instead of spending $1900.

RATIONALE:

1. As a nonprofit, we are not here to lose money. We are currently subsidizing the magazine – it is always online for free.
2. We can produce a magazine that offers more engaging content that informs and excites the membership.

**FLORIDA GARDENER – CIRCULATION**

Report: Circulation (Florida Gardener Magazine)

Kelley Wood

Chairman

January 10, 2023

0We are holding steady at about 2100 printed hardcopies of The Florida Gardener and have not been getting many requests to be added to the list.

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

\*\* We remove “Do Not Send Hardcopy” from all categories if the member has requested not to get a copy.

# FLORIDA WILDFLOWER LIAISON

# FLOWER SHOW EVALUATION/AWARDS

# FLOWER SHOW SCHEDULES

# FUN WITH FLOWERS

# GARDEN THERAPY

January 11, 2023

Garden Therapy-Penal Therapy-Avon Park

Patricia A. Shira, Chairman

GARDEN THERAPY-PENAL THERAPY- AVON PARK

The “Therapy Through Plants” program at the Avon Correctional Facility is still being

very successful. We have 11 inmates working in the Nursery most days of the week.

Our funds have been transferred to FFGC and the program is working very well.

John Hopkins, the manager, has a successful program in action. The training program

is continuing to be successful. The inmates are starting to propagate new plants for our

spring sale, May 6,2023 9:00 to 2:00. They are interested in growing night blooming

plants for the sale. I have ordered seeds for them. I believe this will be a successful

project and a fun new plant option for our sales.

The nursery is still working around an occasional shortage of staff. This effects the time

they are able to work in the nursery. Most weeks they are able to be in the nursery 5

days which helps greatly with their production of new plants to sell in May.

A notice will be sent out to the Club Presidents about the May plant sale. Hopefully we

will have great participation. This event helps with funds to help purchase the

necessary supplies to operate the nursery successfully.

The donations we receive from the Districts throughout the State are greatly

appreciated. Without everyone’s financial help we could not be successful.

We have had a number of repair expenses with our mowers. We will be ordering the

fiberglass sheets to repair our greenhouses damaged in a hail storm. This will be a

large expense. Prices have gone up on all our supplies.

SUMMARY:

We hope the relief of the staff shortage will help the nursery with their production. Our

training program is continuing. They have many beautiful plants and will have more

with the addition of our night blooming collection.

**GRANTS**

# HABITAT FOR HUMANITY

 Habitat for Humanity Landscape Project

 Pat Caren

 January 10, 2023

Last year, this chairman began contacting clubs and affiliates around the state to encourage more cooperation between the parties and more involvement in landscape projects. The response was overall positive and a long-term plan was made to accomplish this goal. Unfortunately, other responsibilities have taken up much of this chairman’s time and little actual work on the plan was accomplished. However, this is the New Year, time to go forward.

Participation in Habitat for Humanity Landscape Projects had lagged during the pandemic, but business seems to be picking up. With spring coming, we should see more activity.

Melbourne Garden Club did a Habitat for Humanity house dedication in August. They provided a garden basket filled with gardening tools, gardening information, and a plant. The local affiliate had two ground blessings in August and September, so the club looks forward to two more house dedications in the coming months.

District IV budgeted $200 to assist clubs with their Habitat for Humanity projects. Requests from clubs for this grant money was such that it became apparent that more money is needs to be dedicated to this fund in the future.

The Garden Club of Orange Park reported they are making plans to collaborate with Clay County Habitat. Fifteen homes have already been built but do not have much in the yards except grass that was placed there upon completion of the house. The affiliate’s Family Services Coordinator asked the club to get involved and do what they could for the homeowners. The club asked the District for funds and for advice on how to proceed if they could not get grant money. The District provided $100 which allowed them to purchase pear trees. The homeowners were so excited with their trees, the club applied for a Plant America Grant in order to do more. They give each new homeowner an option of a fruit tree or a raised vegetable garden. For the next set of homes, their goal is to get the trees in during the winter and start the vegetable gardens in the spring, as the weather allows.

Shamrock Circle of the Garden Club of St Augustine is looking forward to landscaping Habitat for Humanity homes. They reported struggling with follow up maintenance for previous community projects and hope that Habitat homeowners would be inspired to maintain their own yards.  They plan to use Florida Friendly landscape principles, which would be both attractive and low maintenance.

Clubs around the state face various challenges. Many have found creative solutions to problems such as the need for funds and the age of club members. This chairman is in a position to share these ideas with those looking for advice. Efforts to connect clubs with local Habitat for Humanity affiliates will continue.

Pat Caren

Habitat for Humanity Landscape Project Chairman

# HALL OF FAME

# HEADQUARTERS AND ENDOWMENT (& GROUNDS)

H&E Committee

January 10, 2023

Sue Roberts, Chairman

A tremendous amount of work has been accomplished at FFGC Headquarters since we last met in Sept. 2022.

Before I give you the details, I want to thank our Office manager, Robin. This list would not be as complete if were not for her help in getting the estimates and in staying on top of all the workers. I could not have done this without her being onsite and her dedication and follow through with all the details. Sue Angle and I review Robin’s performance at one year and gave her an outstanding rating and a $2 per hour raise.

Projects Completed:

1. Tree damage to President’s office has been completed. As you can see the office is now usable again. The damaged wall and roof were repaired, the floor replaced and the ceiling light fixtures were replace and updated to LED bulbs. The building entire roof was replaced with approval of the insurance company (excepting the two flat areas by the kitchen). There was a small leak in the assembly room which has been corrected. We are still negotiating with the insurance company because more structural work had to be done than originally estimated.
2. All the brick work around the building has been cleaned, repaired or replaced as needed. Also many of the cement walls and some sidewalks were repaired. This job has taken a long time due to weather delays but is now complete.
3. The white gate has been replaced. The red gate and crumbling brick wall has been repaired and now needs to be painted.
4. The large air conditioning unit for the assembly room has been replaced.
5. All the blinds have been cleaned.
6. The sign out on Denning Drive has been cleaned.
7. The pots by the front door have been replanted.
8. Storm damaged trees after Ian and Nicole swept through have been trimmed or removed.
9. Kitchen Refrigerator was replace during the meeting. Cost of $801 from Lowes.

New Projects

1. Landscaping plans as weather improves
2. Possible Parking lot repaving
3. Reconfiguring the round stepping stones area

# INSURANCE

Report: Insurance

Kelley Wood

Chairman

January 10, 2023

We had significant damage to our HQ building caused by a falling tree. We filed an insurance claim and have received a check for a bit over $50,000. The work has been completed at a total cost of over $85,000. I have Scott Corkhill in conversation with the adjuster from the insurance company to see what more we can claim based on actual replacement costs.

Scott Corkhill of Corkhill Insurance was a speaker at the January Finance Committee that I could not attend. He reviewed our insurance policies and answered questions.

No update on the slip-and-fall claim that we received from Morgan and Morgan.

# INVASIVE SPECIES

Environmental Report

Lydia Barbour

January 10, 2023

FFGC adopted a position statement on May 10, 2012 entitled Control Invasive Species. In it there is a statement that says that “Invasive species pose a serious threat to ecological integrity by reducing biodiversity and degrading habit and forage.” Elsewhere it says that only a fraction of the plants in Florida are invasive.

I have found that many gardeners and members of our organization do not know how to identify or to handle species that have been deemed by the Florida Invasive Species Council as either Category 1 or Category 2 invasives. As of 2019 those lists included 81 Category 1 and 85 Category 2 invasives. However, using those lists is problematic for most gardeners, I being one of them, because I am not well versed in equating all scientific names to their common name.

To solve that part of the problem for me, I took those lists and resorted them by common name. Then I shared that new version with all garden club members and others in my community. This list is now posted on the webpage of the Conradina Chapter of the Florida Native Plant Society. Most recently I provided it to the Florida Wildflower Foundation and hope to see it posted on their website soon. And not too long ago I attended a presentation by a local native nursery who was using my version to help attendees recognize invasives, while telling them how to handle any they find. It is working!

I propose that FFGC’s position paper be revised to include these lists as attachments and to provide guidance about the handling of invasive plants.

When I talked with Marge about this she suggested that I provide it to Devon Villareale-Dabbs and Pat Caren. Pat asked me to make the presentation to the Tri-Council, which I did 1/10/23 and they are considering adopting it. Devon has my documents and recommendation and hopefully we will have something to present at Convention.

Lydia Barbour

January 12, 2023

[Control of Invasive species Position Paper](https://ffgc.org/resources/Documents/2023%20Documents/FFGC%20Position%20Statement%20-%20Control%20Invasive%20Species%20%281%29.pdf) –May 2012

[Category 1 Invasive Species](https://ffgc.org/resources/Documents/2023%20Documents/Category%201%20Invasives%20Common%20Name%202019%20Florida%20Exotic%20Pest%20Plant%20council.pdf)

[Category 2 Invasive Species](https://ffgc.org/resources/Documents/2023%20Documents/Category%202%20Invasives%20Common%20Name%202019%20Florida%20Exotic%20Pest%20Plant%20Council.pdf)

# JUNIOR GARDENERS

Report

Junior Gardener

Jennifer Barber

January 11-12, 2023

Junior Gardener award submissions are due January 2nd. At this time

there are only a handful of registered Junior Garden Clubs. The hope was

that the number of clubs would increase this year but unfortunately, that has

not been the case. The lack of registrations does not necessarily mean that

there are no FFGC clubs working with youth. Based on my conversations

over the past few months I do believe garden clubs are engaged and

committed to introducing our Youth to the joys of gardening and the

importance of the natural world but many are choosing different avenues to

reach this audience.

We have had several submissions for awards and are eager to begin the

process. Awards will be announced at the 2023 Convention.

Wekiva’s Volunteer Training Weekend will be February 10-12. Anyone who

would like to learn more about Camp, the Junior Gardener Program, FFGC

Youth Programs, and how to volunteer is encouraged to attend. For more

information about the weekend please visit www.wekivayouthcamp.org

It has been my privilege to serve as the Junior Gardener Chair and I thank

President Marge Hendon for the opportunity. I am confident the next Chair

of the Junior Gardener Program will bring her expertise and vision to the

program along with her passion for children and do a truly remarkable job!

**LEGISLATIVE POSITIONS & POLICIES**

# LIFE MEMBERSHIPS

# MATCHING GRANTS

**Matching Grants Program Report**

Gina Jogan, Chairman

Winter Board Meeting, January 2023

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.”*
* **NOTE THAT THERE IS SOMETHING NEW ON THE APPLICATION FORM….YOU NEED TO LET THE COMMITTEE KNOW HOW YOUR PROJECT FITS INTO THE CRITERIA FOR THE GRANTS**

Some groups have had to step back from their projects during the pandemic; some have been given extensions to get back on track with their projects….

To date, only seven **new applications** have been submitted for this calendar year. Be sure to get your applications in soon! Deadline is 15 January! Winners will be announced at the upcoming Convention 2023. 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.

Not all the clubs who won and were awarded Matching Grand funds last year have sent in the REQUIRED report on their finished project. Please do so…it is overdue!

**SUMMARY:** New applications are being received and judging of the applications will take place so winners can be announced at Convention 2023 in Kissimmee.

# MEMBERSHIP

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 Report

 New Membership

 Ed Nendick

 Sept. 7th,2022

Since January of 2022 successes include.

1. A tremendous increase in new members.
2. The programs of 2 by 2 have been a success.
3. All districts are encouraging adding members using all or most of the things suggested in the past

Please keep up the good work and remember a smile and a polite greeting are your very best tools to bringing new members in. Just smile and ask if the person would like to meet more people like minded ,which should allow the conversation to go toward your Garden Club

# MEMBERSHIP RETENTION

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 Report

 Membership Retention

 Jane Nendick, Chair

 January BOD, 2023

**Congratulations to everyone for your outstanding recruiting efforts. Since September 2021, YOU have added upwards of 2600 new Members! That’s an average of 177 per month! (As President Marge would say, “WOW”!) We are all so proud of you!**

 **HOWEVER…..**

**We really must work on our RETENTION of those new Members! It’s defeating our purpose if folks simply come in your front door, to only disappear out the back door!**

**Now we all know we cannot solve a problem unless we can accurately define that problem(s). One easy way to do this is to give your Members the Satisfaction and Suggestion Survey which can be found on our ffgc.org/membership website in the Membership Handbook. However, it will not do any good unless the Club Officers/Board take all suggestion to “heart” AND plan how to overcome the problem! Your Members will greatly appreciate having their voices heard! So LISTEN, LISTEN, LISTEN to them! Then take ACTION!**

**Remember that the 3 main “keys” to Membership Retention are:**

1. **Appreciate: What is your Club doing to show appreciation, thus value, to your Members? Perhaps a certificate of appreciation, even for the “little” things done? What about running some of your Members as a “feature” in your Monthly Newsletter or on your website (with permission, of course). Always give credit where credit is due!!!**
2. **Communicate: How often does your Club send out communications to the Members? What about Thank You notes? Get well cards? We missed you at or last meeting? Communicate as a group and as individuals! Members will offer great Program ideas too!**
3. **Listen: If a concern arises in your Club and the Officers are unaware the problem even existed, the odds are, the Officers were NOT listening to the Membership!!!**

**Summary: Membership Retention starts the first second a prospective member enters the Club environment! APPRECIATE , COMMUNICATE, LISTEN!**

# NGC ENVIRONMENTAL SCHOOL CHAIRMAN

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 NGC ENVIRONMENTAL SCHOOL – FFGE SCHOOL CHAIRMAN/CREDENTIALS

NGC Environmental State Chairman

January 9, 2023

Lydia Barbour

As NGC Environmental School State Chairman and Credentials Chairman, my job includes keeping the Environmental School database up-to-date and accurate.

As of 1/8/2023 here is a breakdown of entries on the spreadsheet for each type of student.

* • 118 active students include: 31 Masters; 46 Consultants; and 41 students still working to complete the four courses within the seven-year (or eight-year with one extension) time requirement.
* • 99 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 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. Those who began taking classes in 2015 and those whose GSD was 2022, have been alerted that they were in danger of losing the credits or their status as a Consultant or Master with information about upcoming courses or an offer to provide an extension. Notes on the spreadsheet are used to track their responses. Sadly 10 of those students chose to become inactive at the end of 2022.

In addition, as students register for courses, this Chairman verifies the data entries on Forms 6 & 7 and approves the form once complete. Because Form 7 has now replaced the cards that NGC formerly sent students alerting them to their GSD, this Chairman forwards the approved Form 7 to each student when notified of successful completion of a course.

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. Currently there are two active schools, Fort Myers in District IX and Tampa in District VIII. District I is considering beginning a school in the latter part of this year.

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

# NGC LANDSCAPE DESIGN SCHOOL CHAIRMAN

# NGC SCHOOLS CREDENTIALS CHAIRMAN

 Report

 Credentials Chairman

 Linda Feifarek-Johnson

 January 11-12, 2023

This chairman is still helping students with their NGC Landscape Design and Gardening courses. If they have any questions about what courses they have taken or need to take, I find the information for them. I have also directed them to the proper chairman for any other problems. I am finding NGC schools available and notifying the students who need to take courses or to file extensions if necessary.

# NGC SPECIAL PROJECT LIAISON

Special Project Liaison

Margaret Chodosh

January 10,2023

District lV received 3 Plant America grants.  The garden clubs were Green Cove Springs, Orange Park, and Switzerland. Congratulations! Continue to foster grant applications and provide deadline information.

# NGC & DSGC YOUTH CONTESTS

# PARKS – TRAILS - GREENWAYS

# PENNY PINES

Penny Pines Report

Andrea Finn, Chairman

January 11, 2023

I am frequently asked by Garden Clubs why the donations have to be in $68 increments for Penny Pines. Here’s the answer:

When the program started, seedlings cost about a penny each. About 680 seedlings were enough to plant an acre; so $68 could plant 10 acres. The Forest Service now calls the 10 acre parcel a “plantation”. The amount of $68 increments is set by the US Forest Service in a Memorandum of Understanding – a contract with NGC. And that’s the Answer! It’s in our contract. Of course at the rate of inflation right now, we are getting about 200 seedling (depending on the size and variety) per acre. But the $68 increment still stands.

Our Clubs were very generous for the period June through November 2022. We collected $3,128.00 for that time frame. I am thrilled with that number. I hope we can keep the momentum going.

Andrea Finn, FFGC Chairman

Penny Pines Project

**SUMMARY:**  **The $68 increment for donations is set by the US Forest Service in a Memorandum of Understanding - a contract with NGC. FFGC contributions from June – November, 2022 totaled $3,128.00.**

# PHOTOGRAPHER

# PILLAR OF PRIDE

# PLANNED GIVING

# PROGRAMS & SPEAKERS

Donna Thomas

Speakers/Program Chairman

Jan. 11, 2023

Donna supplied an updated list of Attractions, Programs, and websites for the website.

# PROTOCOL

Report

Protocol

Jo Ann Guise

January 11, 2023

This chairman was invited and attended all the Zoom meetings for the 2023 FFGC State Convention. Kelley Wood and Susie Berryhill have accepted the lead Chairmanships working with Marge Hendon, FFGC President.

A list of questions, and data needed by the Protocol Committee was sent to Marge Hendon, Kelley Wood, Susie Berryhill, Cissy Richardson, and Connie Gladding who has accepted the position of Convention Coordinator, following the retirement of Cissy Richardson.

There is a lag in receiving the needed information from the President re Speakers, assignments and Workshop personnel. There are still areas of discussion needed to be cleared and determined for the Installation. Sue Angle and Sue Roberts have agreed to work with this chairman assisting the Protocol Committee.

An in person meeting is scheduled for Wednesday evening January 11 in the President’s office after the BOD ends that afternoon.

SUMMARY: Meetings have been held to determine the details for the FFGC 2023 Convention. Information is slow in being updated.

Jo Ann Guise

Protocol Chairman

# RECLAMATION & RECYCLING

# ROADSIDE BEAUTIFICATION/ PATHS OF SUNSHINE

# SCHOLARSHIP - DSGC, NGC

BOD Report – Jan. 11, 2023

DSGC/NGC Scholarship

Mary Adams

The online application option is now available on the NGC Scholarship webpage. According to NGC Scholarship Chairman, all updates have been made to the webpage, including forms, guidelines, 2022 award list and State Contact roster. Eligible students can apply online by scrolling down to the list of links. Students may click on the application form and download and/or print.

They also have the option to complete application online and upload the necessary documents, i.e., personal letter list of achievements, letter of recommendation, completed financial aid form and transcripts. When the NGC Chairman receive the online applications, they are forwarded to the State Chairman of NGC/DSGC. The system was tested and is working properly.

# SCHOLARSHIP – FFGC

Report

Scholarship and Endowment Committee

Helen R. Purvis

January 11, 2023

Checks have been written in the amount of $1500 and mailed to the following schools for the second semester.

Madison Ryan, Florida State University, freshman with environmental law in her future.

Miller Maddox, Florida State University, working on her masters in science education.

Caroline Gordon, University of Florida, majoring in landscape architecture and urban planning.

Ailee Odom, University of Florida, graduating with a degree in Forest Resource Conservation.

Cayla Smith, University of Florida, a degree in Agriculture Education and Communications.

Cassie Valenti – Florida Gulf Coast University, ecological research on connections between wildlife and their habitats. She will graduate in May.

All of the above students were able to maintain their required GPA of 3.0 and above.

Sadly, one of the students that received a scholarship in September was not able to maintain a GPA of better than 3.0 and was not eligible to receive the remainder of her monies.

But my report gets happier. Donations to the scholarship fund were made as follows:

$3000 from Garden Club of Ft. Pierce.

$2000 from Jean Hawa

$10,000 from Gulf Beach Garden Club

Recognition will be given at our annual convention in April.

Now is the time to go home and encourage students to apply for a scholarship. Deadline for FFGC is May 1 and information is on the FFGC website.

Summary: 6 scholarships for second semester students in the amount of $1500 each were awarded. Donations of $15,000 were acknowledged from Garden Club of Ft. Pierce, Jean Hawa and Gulf Coast Garden Club.

# SCOUTING LIAISON

# SEEK CONFERENCE

# SHORT COURSE – UF

# SHORT COURSE – NORTH

Short Course North August 10 & 11, 2023

Short Course North Chairman, To Be Determined

FFGC Winter BOD January 10-12, 2023

The thirteenth annual Short Course North was held August 11 & 12,2022 FOR THE FIRST TIME at the Okaloosa County Extension Office in Crestview FL. This course was sponsored by FFGC District I. The theme for this year was **“Our Worlds of Wonder: Enjoy-Teach-Save-Restore”** Topics relating to this theme were selected by extension agents in cooperation with the committee so Master Gardener Advanced Training credits (CEUs) would be granted. We had 53 registered this year. We were honored to have our President, Marjorie Hendon join us both days.

We are looking forward to another exciting and educational program coming up in August , 2023. Plans are already underway so stay tuned for further updates and announcements!

Dates for this year’s Short Course are August 10 & 11, 2023, meeting at the Escambia County Extension office in Cantonment, FL.

# SHORT COURSE TROPICAL

Michelle Maguire

 Tropical Short Course

 January 10-12,2023

Tropical Short Course Report

Tropical Short Course is being held on January 25 and 26, 2023 at the Greenacres Community Center. Registration starts at 8:00am with introductions starting at 8:30am. There are two speakers each morning, followed by one Floral Designer in the afternoon. There will be plenty of time to participate in the District Raffle and to visit with Vendors of all kinds. Two of the speakers are bringing Butterfly plants and Native Orchids relative to their presentations.

So far we have 50 registrants and need a lot more if we are to make any money for this District fundraiser.

Thankyou,

Michelle Maguire, TSC chairman

# SMOKEY BEAR-WOODSY OWL

Smokey Bear & Woodsy Owl Poster Contest

Jill Anderson, Chairman

January 29, 2023

This chairman continues to receive posters for this year's contest. They will be judged and sent to Deep South before their deadline of February 24.

Deadline for posters to be received by this state chair is January 20, 2023. All rules are listed on the NGC web site: https://gardenclub.org/smokey-bear-woodsy-owl-youth-poster-contest

Students from first through fifth grade were invited to participate in the 2022 Poster Contest! Brought to you by the National Garden Clubs, Inc., and the US Forest Service. The entries must be sponsored by a local garden club and be florida residents.

Three (3) garden clubs participated, and 46 posters were submitted from WEKIVA. One club pre-judged the posters and sent only winners to be judged at the state level, the others sent all posters that were completed locally.

All eligible posters were judged and the winners in each grade level will be sent to the Deep South. chairman. The Deep South winners will be sent to NGC. A State Chairman report will accompany our winners when they are submitted to Deep South.

All winners will be announced at the FFGC 2021 State convention. Certificates of Participation with names on them will be given to District Directors to be distributed to participating sent to clubs.

This chairman has purchased Smokey Bear bookmarks (English/Spanish), Woodsy bookmarks, rulers and Smokey stickers for use to promote the poster contest.

This chairman has purchased Smokey Bear bookmarks (English/Spanish), Woodsy bookmarks, rulers and Smokey stickers for use to promote the poster contest.

This chairman continues to reach out to garden clubs to increase entries for next year.

**Summary:** Posters have been received and judged. Winners were sent to the Deep South Chairman.

# SOCIAL MEDIA

# S**OLAR ENERGY/WIND POWER**

 **Solar UpdateJanuary 2023**

**Solar/Wind Chairman: Grace Tshanakas**

**FloridaUpdate**

1. In 2022, Florida set a goal of 100% renewable energy by 2050. 40% by 2030. 63% by 2035 and 82% by 2040.

**Inflation Reduction Act of 2022 –2023 Updates**

1. Solar –beginning in 2023, families will be able to claim a 30% discount on installing solar systems paired with battery storage as well as battery storage installed without solar.
	1. Energy efficient home –beginning in 2023$1200 credit for adding insulation or installing efficient windows and doors and up to $2000 for installing electric heat pumps
	2. $150 credit for a home energy audit. State programs will begin to offer rebates for electric appliances of up to $4000 and $8000 for low-income households
	3. Electric vehicles –beginning in 2023, income-qualified households will be able to receive a tax credit up $7500 for new vehicles and $4000 for used. The vehicles must be produced in North America and cost less than $80,000
	4. Wind –There are several incentives and rebates aimed at manufactures and distributors of wind systems to increase deployment.

**Garden Club of St. Petersburg**

1. The St. Petersburg GC have agreed upon a solar installer. Their board has approved an approximate expenditure. The solar hardware and labor is eligible for a 30% rebate
2. The Garden Club roof needs to be repaired prior to the solar installation. The club is waiting to understand whether the roof will be eligible for a 30% rebate

# STRATEGIC PLANNING COMMITTEE

Strategic Planning Committee

Gina V. Jogan, Chairman

Winter Board Meeting, January 2023

The Strategic Planning Committee has tackled, many issues since September:

* President’s report pertaining to the physical **Headquarters** building: landscaping, legal issues, storm damages, insurance, flooring, air conditioner problems and so forth.
* **Membership:** it is strongly suggested that dues payment be moved **forward to May 1st** to avoid snafus that occur when changing club officers, ‘snowbirds’ going north, etc.
* Pursuing the idea of establishing **On-line Garden Clubs** ….an Ad hoc committee is working to bring back Gardens of the World. These clubs might be special interest such as environmental, Wekiva Alumni or Horticulture….
* Scanning back issues of The Florida Gardener and other such **historical documents** is continuing to preserve fragile paper documents. Kelley Wood is doing this work. Several universities (local) were asked about housing/archiving our bound books….no replies.
* **Current Library**: Discussion of dismantling and disposing/selling of books. Presidents of Tri-Council and FFSJ will be asked to see if any books should be retained.
* **Matching Grants** applications will have a new requirement for applicants to fill out: how does their project fit the criteria for the grants?
* Discussion is ongoing regarding **Districts** (they were designated in 1958) with a disparity of 220 to 1500 members! Representation is skewed. Finances have become an issue; Districts must have their own EIN. Travel time/distance/time should be a consideration.
* A **Phased Replacement Plan** at HQ and Camp Wekiva for items with a value of over $500 that routinely need replacement, repair or upgrading has been implemented; inventory items are depreciated by the IRS.
* It was also suggested that we resurrect the **Member Personnel** profile to more easily fit jobs to people. Discussion regarding Vice-chairmen needed…
* **Terms limits** of 6 years (3 terms) for all chairmanships is also on the table for discussion.
* **Membership** retention and recruitment issue continue. Lack of communication seems to be the main problem/key.
* **Awards** will now be paid for by FFGC. **Awards #120- #132, the Flower Show Related Awards, will be paid for by FFSJ.**
* Plans for the **100th celebration of FFGC** are ongoing. Kickoff will be at the 2023 Convention/installation.
* Of concern is the disbanding of Federated clubs….we need **an exit poll**; many leave due to ageing-out of members…others for ‘complaints’ against FFGC.

To summarize: YOUR Strategic Planning Committee is addressing issues, suggestions, recommendations, problems, etc. brought to us by YOU, the members, for investigation. We are here to research, discuss and make and take these to various committees in the organization for actions. There is nothing too big or too small to be brought to us. This committee is looking forward to the future of FFGC.

# TOURS & TRAVEL

# TREES & REFORESTATION

Kathy “Kat” Spieker, Trees and Reforestation Chairman

1530 Royal Palm Drive, Niceville, FL 32578-3529

850-687-6381, kspieker3@gmail.com

Trees and Reforestation Report Winter BOD Meeting January 10-12,2023

Continued reporting on the project:

 Trees and Reforestation requested that all garden clubs of FFGC record and report trees that they planted during the period from Mar 1, 2021 through Feb 28, 2022.

Thanks to the immense effort and hard work of those clubs throughout the year, **497,087** trees were planted comprised of **335** tree species.

Trees and Reforestation is in contact with District Directors currently to remind all clubs of the 2022-2023 counting season!

Let’s break 500,000 trees this year!!!!!!

Respectfully Submitted,

Kathy “Kat” Spieker

Trees and Reforestation Chairman

# TRI-COUNCIL PRESIDENT

 Tri-Council of FFGC Pat Caren

 January 10, 2023

Tri-Council has seen some changes in leadership. Brenda Luedeman graciously assumed the role of Vice President after this former VP took the reins from Jackie Host as President. Just as graciously, Carolyn Lowry-Nation took Brenda’s place as Gardening Representative. Tri-Council has a dedicated core of hardworking volunteers, and the hope is that new consultants will soon be available to fill vacant chairmanships.

The Art of Advocacy packet, compiled by Inger Jones, Jackie Host, and the late Marion Hilliard, has been distributed to Tri-Council members, for those who wish to become advocates for environmental and other issues. The future may hold opportunities for Tri-Council members to become more involved in the legislative process.

Camperships are available to the children and grandchildren of Tri-Council members who attend Wekiva Youth Camp and SEEK. Once the children are signed up for camp, consultants can apply for these camperships. This is a perk for members of Tri-Council which also helps support the camps.

Tri-Council has big plans for the FFGC Convention in April. The emphasis will be on FFGC President Marge Hendon’s theme of Recycling. Tri-Council members are dreaming up creative ways to repurpose, recycle, and compost materials rather than let them end up in landfills. Recycled art will be on display at the convention.

At the Early Arrivals Dinner, attendees will be regaled with a Trashion Show. Models will design and model their own fashions out of recycled items. So far, seventeen models have signed up. President-Elect Tina Tuttle will be the MC.

The three schools (Environmental, Gardening, and Landscape Design), plus the Flower Show School, will have exhibits in the Magnolia Ballroom. These “parking lots,” each ten by twenty feet, will display what the schools teach and how this knowledge can benefit the students as well as their communities. This exhibition will raise awareness of the educational opportunities Garden Club has to offer.

As we emerge from the pandemic, more schools are being offered in person as well as online. District IV competed Landscape Design Course 2 in November and Course 3 is planned for February. Hurricane Ian caused Environmental Course 2 to be rescheduled from November to February. Tropical Short Course will be offered in January, which is an opportunity for consultants to refresh. Other schools scheduled for the next few months are Environmental 1 in Tampa, Environmental 2 in Ft. Myers, Gardening 2 in West Palm Beach, and more nationwide, many available by Zoom.

After students complete their second course of a school, they are eligible to join Tri-Council as Provisional Members. Lately, a handful of students have taken advantage of this opportunity. It is anticipated that more will join as word of what Tri-Council has to offer, gets around.

Pat Caren

Tri-Council President

# VIRTUAL PLATFORM TEAM

Report: Virtual Platform Team

Kelley Wood

Chairman

January 10, 2023

Have hosted several committee meetings via ZOOM in advance of the Winter 2023 BOD meeting. We’ve also hosted 2 Photography Club meetings; club is now known as “Snapdragons”.

I have been assisting Sue Roberts with website and database work. I have been performing monthly membership and website backups and storing those on our Google drive.

# WATER AND WETLANDS

# WEBSITE EDITOR

FFGC Website Editor

January 10,2023

Susan Roberts

Editing of the website is a continuing job. There have not been many additions since September, just corrections.

Summary: Corrections continue. Major changes will be coming with the changed of administrations in April, 2023.

# WEKIVA YOUTH CAMP

 Wekiva Youth Camp Report

Christy Linke

January 9, 2023

This Chairman held her last Wekiva Board Meeting in September 2022. It was two wonderful

learning years and so happy I had the opportunity to hold this position. While Chairman the

job of obtaining a chef started taking place the last two weeks of camp 2022. This was due to

Teresa Mahoney who was our head kitchen person was not returning. Knowing this we started

the process hoping we could show the kitchen during camp and Teresa could pass all information

on to that person. We did interview one in July, but knowing that was the first we continued

looking. Devon Villereal was a big help in this process. This Chairman and Devon started revising

the Kitchen contract due to this is the time to do it if we are hiring a new head person. Chef

Christopher Bates who runs the culinary program at the Apopka High School applied and was

definitely qualified. This Chairman, Mary Whisler, Devon Villereal, and Teresa Mahoney met

with Chef Bates Saturday, November 19th, 2022 and showed him around the kitchen to where

he asked many questions. To date he has not signed the contract but we are getting closer to that.

This Chairman put out an e-blast the first of September for a new registrar for camp Wekiva. Betty Moxley after taking this volunteer job on for 12 years was not returning. Knowing we needed to obtain a registrar asap that task of obtaining a registrar started. This chairman is proud to say that

Barbara Fowler of the Newberry Garden Club in District 5 stepped up to the plate and said yes. Barbara,

myself, and Betty met at headquarters for a training day. Barbara is doing a great job and Betty is a phone call away.

As my two years are completed I wish Mary all the best in her new Chairmanship of Wekiva Youth Camp

Summary:

Wekiva Youth Camp continues to thrive, even after returning after Covid 19 when camp was closed in 2020. It was like starting all over again. Camp Director, John Morand after 14 years stepped out of the position and the task of finding a new Director started. Camp went on with Shelby Mander. Registrar Betty Moxley, stepped down and a new registrar was obtained, Barbara Fowler. Camp Wekiva went on. Teresa Mahoney, after 12 years advised us she wasn’t coming back, obtaining a new cook/chef started. Camp went on. Nothing can stop Camp Wekiva when you have the Wekiva Alumni backing you and of course the reputation our camp has and what it stands for. Campers Today, Environmental Leaders of

Tomorrow.

# WEKIVA VOLUNTEER TRAINING