



THE *Florida*  
GARDENER

*Spring 2020*



## ***PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE***

How quickly a year goes by. FFGC honored your current President by electing and installing FFGC's first male to this prestigious office. The learning curve is tremendous, and it is difficult to fully prepare for this office in advance. I must thank the FFGC family including the Officers, Former Presidents, District Directors, Board of Directors, and all of you throughout the state for your cooperation and support. Working together we have continued to succeed in all our endeavors.

We had a very successful FFGC Board Meeting in January, and much was accomplished. We learned about what was being done from the many reports which were given. All reports were well received, but I would like to highlight a few which will have a major impact on all of us going forward. Sue Roberts has done exemplary work in updating our Website, [ffgc.org](http://ffgc.org). Please take some time to become familiar with important changes and additions.

If you pull up our home page and click on Members on the Navigation Bar at the top, one of the entries is Reports and Minutes. There you will find Minutes and Reports with the latest and past information available for review. Click on what you would like to read for any given entry, and it will be downloaded to your task bar at the bottom of the page. Open it and be amazed that all reports are in a Table of Contents for you to select. Read the directions on how to instantly go to that report. Would you like a description of a Board position? For the first time we have an easy way to find the position and read the responsibilities. It's a simple process. On the Home Page alongside Members is a black dot. Click on it and a different menu appears with choices including position descriptions. This is a work in progress, and we continue to receive more descriptions regularly. Tina Tuttle has been collecting these and sending the information to Sue Roberts for entry into our Web Site.

A Special Committee has been busy discussing changes to Dues Renewal. By the time you read this they will have a new, much simpler method to accomplish what was in the past a rather cumbersome process.

Another Special Committee is reviewing *The Florida Gardener Magazine*. As you know we have an online and a printed version. Recommendations are forthcoming to modify how we distribute the Florida Gardener to our members. This will be discussed at Convention in April in Tampa.

A very important function during the annual convention is the review of Bylaws Changes for possible approval by FFGC members. The proposals are published in this issue of *The Florida Gardener*. Please take time to read and understand the changes. Bylaws approval at convention is a priority issue for all members.

While we are on the subject of Convention, did you register to attend? If you miss it, you will miss an exiting time including FFGC's Convention "Perfect Harmony" and our State Flower Show "Sounds of Music." Come early and be treated to Deep South Garden Clubs Convention hosted by Florida this year and held just prior to FFGC. The week will be full of fun-filled and educational events you won't want to miss. You will be "wowed" by the State Flower Show Chaired by Carol Lucia. Need I say more?

Your President and the Convention Chairs look forward to seeing you in Tampa. FFGC is fortunate to have Christy Linke, Chairman with the talents of Sue Angle, Jill Anderson, and Barb Jacobson as Co-Chairmen. Gina Jogan and Tina Tuttle and their expertise are heading up the Deep South Garden Clubs' Convention. Both conventions exude with talented Leaders. The mention of their names is enough to let you know you won't be disappointed with the results of their planning. Don't be left out!

*Al*

Al Latina, FFGC President



The Official Publication of The Florida Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc., a member of the National Garden Clubs, Inc. and the Deep South Garden Clubs, Inc.

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**SUBSCRIPTIONS: \$15.00 per year Domestic,  
\$18.00 per year International. Checks payable to FFGC**

**DEADLINES FOR SUBMISSIONS:**

**SPRING ISSUE: January 15**

**SUMMER ISSUE: April 15**

**FALL ISSUE: July 15**

**WINTER ISSUE: October 15**



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Photographs: Cover: Sandra Lagana

Page 3: Kathie Smith

Page 6: Provided by Gwen Carter

Page 7: Leslie Montwid

Page 8: Provided by Parke Finold

Pages 18: Gina Guilford, and Xavier Cordata via Facebook

Page 19: Provided by Kalia Bailliene

Page 20 and 22: FFGC archives

## DISTRICT V NEWS

### Jeanice Gage, Director



**Counties:** Alachua, Citrus, Columbia, Gilchrist, Hernando, Levy, Marion  
**Flower:** Daylily  
**Wildflower:** Phlox drummondii  
**Butterfly:** Eastern Tiger Swallowtail  
**Garden Clubs:** Brick City, Brooksville, Citrus, Crystal River, Floral City, Four Seasons, Gainesville, Homosassa River, Inverness, Lake City, Newberry, Pioneer, Riverhaven, Seedlings

The garden clubs of District V continue to support the many community projects for their clubs. Each club is supporting Plant America by planting trees and encouraging each member to plant at least one tree. Their projects, and fund raisers to support those projects are as varied as the clubs! Clubs have on going projects that they have kept up for many years. These projects have become traditions in their communities and are looked forward to, and are supported by local businesses. One club has Adopted a Highway for 30 years! I would venture to say that each club has a litter control project.

Most clubs in District V have *Fun with Flowers* projects. They take on these projects for the pure pleasure that they bring to people, and in the process, to themselves. One club has just landscaped their 155th Habitat for Humanity home! Clubs work to be able to give scholarships to local high school students for college, Wekiva Youth Camp, SEEK and many local projects. We support Youth Gardeners so that we can touch the lives of children in the love of nature. This director is so very proud of the clubs of District V for their dedication to their members and their community, for support of the goals of Florida Federation of Garden Clubs, Deep South Garden Club and National Garden Club. Thank you for all you do.

#### Brick City Garden Club

Brick city Garden Club has an exciting 2020 planned. For January meeting we visited a local olive oil market. We learned how all the different olive oils were made. Toni, the owner, also explained about how the vinegars they sold were produced. We had an opportunity to sample many of the products that they sold. The members left very excited to use the oils, vinegars and recipes from the Market. In February we will be making flower arrangements for the residents of a nursing home. We make the arrangements on site and personally deliver them to ladies and gentlemen there. The flowers always bring so many smiles!

#### Floral City Garden Club

The members of Floral City Garden Club have been busy during the fall with meetings, field trips and community projects. We decorate the Avenue of the Oaks, the Town Center Park and the gazebo on the Withlacoochee State Trail for the holidays with bows, garland and wreaths. We are Citrus County's Adopt-a-Highway group **having picked up litter on Orange Avenue (CR 48) for almost 30 years**, we pack weekend food bags twice a month for our elementary school as part of Citrus County Blessing (food bank). We maintain three gardens in town. The club had a great field trip in conjunction with the Brooksville Garden Club to Sunken Gardens in St. Petersburg, complete with brunch out and a tour of the gardens. Our featured speaker in November talked about replacing 135-year-old trees along the Avenue of the Oaks that have been lost in the past few years. We cooperate with the County and the Floral City Heritage Council on this project. Our monthly pot luck lunches prove that we are not only great gardeners, but really good cooks too! Come join us on the second Friday of each month at the Community Building at 11am!

#### Gainesville Garden Club

The Gainesville GC started their 95<sup>th</sup> year with membership growing from 186 to 234 including our evening group, which grew from 85 to 108 members. GGC kicked off the year with a wine social and silent auction and with proceeds of \$3,500 donated to the University of Florida Therapeutic Horticulture program at Wilmot Gardens. GGC decorated a Jeep Gladiator for the University of Florida Homecoming parade which attracted a lot of attention as the truck bed was filled plants and members of the club.

GGC has also taken *Fun with Flowers* into the community at retirement centers, nursing homes and with the Girl Scouts. Circles have many projects in our community including working with Girl Scouts, Women Build-Habitat for

Humanity, Ronald McDonald House, the GGC butterfly garden, Sidney Lanier School, Park Meadow Rehabilitation Center, hurricane relief support, books to local libraries and Veterans Honor gardens, just to name a few. Increasing our membership is a primary goal.

#### Homosassa River Garden Club

Since October our club has grown by six new members. We've had two educational (ecological and horticultural) tours. We contributed 45 hours to community projects and \$230 to the First United Methodist Church Food Pantry. One of our members is chairing an NGC/FFGC Floral Design Study Course, units 1-6, beginning February 6<sup>th</sup>. Our club supports many, many community projects.

#### Inverness Garden Club

The Inverness Garden Club will hold our second Hospice Flower workshop of the season in February. Our members and community guests will bring greens from our gardens and the club will provide the flowers and oasis. The flower arrangements are made in small cat food cans so they can sit on a bedside table for the enjoyment of the Hospice patient, their family members and the staff. We will make one hundred or so arrangements. In March we will hold our third annual Flea Market and Caladium sale to benefit our scholarship fund.

#### Newberry Garden Club

Newberry Garden Club's fall was very busy and rewarding. Our club helped the City of Newberry family decorate their main street with beautiful fall decorations. In October our club held their thirteenth annual "Soups, Sandwiches and Desserts Gala" fundraiser. This event has become a tradition in Newberry. The proceeds will help provide funds for college scholarships to high school seniors, elementary children to go to Camp Wekiva and a high school student to go to the SEEK program. We had over 30 local merchants donate prizes to be given away at our gala. Newberry is truly a small, family town and a treasure. In November our club participated in Newberry's Arbor Day program. Our club made over 13 dozen cookies for two after school programs that participated in the tree planting. In December, we donated money to Blessed Hope, our local food bank. Newberry Garden Club is very active in our community, which we are so proud.

#### Riverhaven Garden Club

Riverhaven Garden Club hosted the District V Fall Meeting at the Riverhaven Club House in Homosassa. There were 110 garden club members from the district in attendance, including our FFGC state officers and District officers. Riverhaven Garden Club has landscaped all of the Habitat homes in Citrus County since 2004. *In December, the club completed landscaping its 155th Habitat Home.* Our member, Jean Pike received the Pillar of Pride Award. At the age of 92, Jean and her church group sew quilts for every bed in every Habitat home. If there are children, they sew a teddy bear for each child. Jean is a smiling presence at every Habitat home dedication. Liza Jones, former President of RHGC, received the Pillar of Pride Award for her service and dedication to her club and to the Riverhaven community.

#### Wekiva Youth Camp Summer 2020 Schedule

June 14-20	3rd - 6th grade boys (72) 7th grade boys tent camping (16), 8th grade canoe/EE (16)
June 21-27	3rd-6th grade boys (88) 7th grade boys tent camping (16)
June 28- July 4	Co-ed week 3rd-6th grades (72) Leaders in Training 9th grade (28)
June 30 - July 3	Marine Science Station
June 30- July 2	Critter Camp 16 girls, 16 boys, finishing 1st or 2nd grades
July 5-11	Girls 3rd-6th grades (72) 7th Grade girls Naturalist program (16) 8th grade girls canoe/EE (16)
July 12-18	Girls 3rd-6th grades (88) 7th grade girls tent camping (16) 8th grade girls canoe/EE (16)
July 19-25	Girls 3rd-6th grade (88) 7th grade girls tent camping (16)

## DISTRICT VI NEWS

Judi Jodoin, Director



**Counties:** Flagler, Volusia, Brevard  
**Flower & Wildflower:** Yellow Hibiscus  
**Butterfly:** Orange Barred Sulphur  
**Garden Clubs in District VI:** Cherry Laurel, Cocoa Rockledge, Garden Club of DeLand, De Leon Springs, Garden Club By The Sea, The Garden Club of the Halifax Country, Council of Garden Clubs of the Halifax District, Indian Harbor Beach, Magnolia, Melbourne, New Smyrna Beach, Ormond Beach, The Garden Club at Palm Coast, Inc., South Peninsula, Tillandsia, Titusville

**Cocoa-Rockledge GC** has been "Sharing and Caring through Gardening" with their recent project of 162 Meals-on-Wheels gift bags for Christmas. At their January 8, 2020 meeting, the renowned Dr. Craig Huegel presented a native plant and wildlife program which was open to the entire community.

**The Garden Club of Deland** is preparing for their "Arbor Day" celebration by planting trees at the West Volusia Humane Society on January 17, 2020. **The Milkweed Circle** won their category (out of 73 other groups of non-profit/community group floats) for the Deland 71st Annual Christmas Parade. WOW! WOW! They continue to obtain native milkweed plants from a nursery grower and give them to members at meetings and the community at their local farmer's market in downtown Deland on Friday nights. They are also preparing for their 54th annual "Pageant of Crosses" event, a non-judged flower show inspired by Holy week as a gift to the community. The "Wildflower Festival" will be held in Deland on March 28th. This huge project will involve all the members of the Deland GC. They will sell caladium bulbs and promote membership.

**Garden Club by the Sea** started off the New Year 2020 with a planned trip to Rock City gardens in Vero Beach, FL. They have planned a DIY orchid potting class in February for their members. The March speaker is Scott Ward and he will speak about Orlando Park and the new migratory bird water feature that Garden Club by the Sea is helping the city of Indialantic with Florida native plants. They will host the South Brevard Garden Club Association at their April meeting. The April presenter is Elfrieda Tullar who will discuss container gardening. The year ends with the May luncheon meeting and the announcement of their scholarships and Camp Wekiva recipients. Their greatest achievement of the New Year, however, is the approval by the City of Indialantic to install a Blue Star By-Way Marker in Lily Park.

**Indian Harbour Beach GC** donated 3 large boxes to the local Women's Shelter for the holidays to assist another garden club who sponsors the shelter. They registered 8 children to Camp Wekiva from their home town, and, 3 additional children from another District VI garden club. They also sponsored 2 Critter Camp kids. They are encouraging all the children to go on and hopefully be future counselors. The annual Bunco fundraiser made enough money to send 10 more children to Camp Wekiva next year. IHBCG continues their bi-weekly presentations at the local assisted lived facility with many of the members joining in. Sadly, they made two \$68 donations to Penny Pines in memoriam. October was the first of many floral design classes to be held throughout 2020 with an amazing 25 participants.

**New Smyrna Beach Garden Club:** Mayor Russ Owen issued a proclamation naming November 18, 2019, "**New Smyrna Beach Garden Club Day**" to help their members and invited guests celebrate their 90th year of community service. The event featured a comprehensive historical display which included the original writing desk from 1928! Past presidents posed with pride as the NSB High School Jazz Combo serenaded all with period tunes. New Habitat for Humanity homeowners accepted gardening gifts from NSBGC representatives on December 19th. Their members honored a request from their local Advent Health Hospital to decorate seven Christmas trees in various lobbies. Ladders were no obstacle to this hardworking crew who fluffed wreaths, bows, ribbons and garland. Patient and employee feedback has to date been heart-warming. Their annual "Festival of Trees Fundraiser" concluded 2019 and once again brought the membership out in full force. Despite a date and name change to accommodate this year's calendar, revenues were on target, as was artistry, community participation and camaraderie. Their famous Rummage Sale occurred on February 14 and 15.

## DISTRICT VII NEWS

Gwen Carter, Director



**Counties:** Sumter, Lake, Orange, Osceola, Seminole  
**Flower:** Hibiscus (all varieties) **Wildflower:** Coreopsis  
**Butterfly:** Monarch **Garden Clubs in District VII:** Bloom N Grow, Camellia Eustis, Clermont, Creative Arts, Foliage of Apopka, Ixora Sanford, Lady Lake, Lakes & Hills, Orlando, Palm Garden, Pine Castle, Robinswood, Sanford Wildflower, Spring Valley, St. Cloud, Sweetwater Oaks, Wildflowers D7, Windermere, Winter Park

Happy Day and Happy New Year FFGC Members!

A new decade is upon us, 2020! Wow, I hardly can believe how time flies, but no worries, District VII clubs are trucking along with continued community service.

Thank you, Clermont GC, for hosting the District VII Fall General Meeting on October 23, 2019. Also, thanks to all the District VII Clubs who donated Fall Theme Baskets for the raffle or made a cash donation. The District is greatly appreciative for your support.

District VII Clubs continue to support programs to promote conservation and environmental awareness, education of our youth, civic involvement, and community involvement.

**Bloom and Grow Garden Society's** "Stepping Out", a major fundraiser for the club was February 3, 2020. Bloom and Grow Garden Society members and community volunteers planted 1000 Bald Cypress trees at Tucker Ranch in Winter Garden on February 22, 2020.

**Clermont Garden Club** hosted an NGC Horticulture Specialty Flower Show, "Mardi Gras" on Friday, January 31, 2020 and Saturday, February 1, 2020 Each month a Clermont resident's garden is selected as Clermont Garden Club's "Garden of the Month." Clermont Garden Club's "2nd Annual Spring Garden Festival" is May 2, 2020 at Center Lake Park (next to the clubhouse). All are invited to come out for an enjoyable day.

**Foliage of Apopka Garden Club's** "35th Anniversary Fashion Show and Luncheon" was February 22, 2020. Foliage of Apopka Garden Club is very active in the community and this is the club's major fundraiser.

**Lakes and Hills Garden Club** donate and plant a tree each year at a local school, town building, or park. A "Fun with Flowers" Program was held on February 6, 2020. Lakes and Hills members maintain landscaping at several town parks. To promote civic beautification, Lakes and Hills Garden Club honors a local residential garden each month. Lakes and Hills main activity and fundraiser in 2020 is the 11th Annual Garden Tour.

**Orlando Garden Club** members work with their Junior Gardener group each month. Orlando Garden Club members take on the financial responsibility to support a different charity each month.

**Pine Castle Garden Club** members plan to increase landscaping and gardening knowledge through specific landscaping and gardening presentations. Pine Castle Garden Club continues to contribute to the Penny Pines Project.

**Robinswood Garden Club** is celebrating 60 years (Ruby Certificate) in the Florida Federation of Garden Clubs! Congratulations, Robinswood Garden Club! At each meeting, a member brings 2-3 home grown plants, shares information about the plants, and then gives the plants to members. Each November, 2-4 Thanksgiving baskets are donated for the Pine Hills Community Food Drive.

**Sweetwater Oaks Garden Club's** "Game Day" was January 16, 2020, a fun fundraiser. Sweetwater Oaks "15th Annual Garden Fair" was Saturday, February 29, 2020 and Sunday, March 1, 2020.

**Windermere Garden Club** is a partner in education with the Windermere Elementary School; the club provides flowers for hospice and the Windermere Library, and also maintain the Windermere Butterfly Garden. For Arbor Day, Windermere will have a ceremony or project to commemorate Arbor Day in Florida. Gardens are maintained near Windermere town offices and at a local elementary school with plants that will help beautify the garden and attract butterflies. (Continued on page 6.)

**Winter Park Garden Club** supports the families of Winter Park Day Nursery by collecting art supplies, food for the school's pantry and new toys for the children. Winter Park Garden Club donates a decorated Christmas tree each year to a lucky family. To promote community outreach, each month a floral arrangement or plant is presented to an individual or organization as a thank you for their important contributions.

District VII's Spring General Meeting, hosted by Winter Park Garden Club, is May 7, 2020 at Interlachen Garden Club located in Winter Park. Thank You Winter Park Garden Club!

"A Melting Pot Garden Sprouts Creativity and Depth."

## DISTRCT VIII

**BARBARA RAO, DIRECTOR**



**Counties:** Pasco, Hillsborough, Pinellas, Manatee, Sarasota

**Flower:** Hibiscus

**Wildflower:** *Rudbeckia hirta*

**Butterfly:** Zebra Longwing

**Garden Clubs in District VIII:** Apollo Beach, Clearwater, Dade City, Davis Island, Dunedin, Garden Gate, Gardeners Out East, Garden Club at Hunters Green, Garden Club at Tampa By Golf and CC, Lakewood Ranch, Lemon Bay, Lutz-Land O Lakes, Manatee River, New Port Richey, Palm Harbor, Plant City, Sarasota, St Petersburg, Tampa Federation of Garden

Clubs, Tarpon Springs, Temple Terrace, Valrico, Venice Area

Clubs in District VIII have some excellent ways of educating the public and involving their members. Many innovative activities and programs keep their members interested and active in our clubs.

**Apollo Beach** spends quality time with its members to be sure they know all about the great horticulture events and activities in their area; **Clearwater** provides gardening tips and takes care of local community gardens; **Dade City** has a lunchtime design program where it brings the designer to the workplace and supplies a light lunch and a chance to create a take home flower design.

**Davis Island** has a wonderful group of members who support its many committees and have groups with beautiful garden flower names; **Dunedin** is unique that it meets on Saturdays and at the local library; **Garden Gate** is located in Zephyrhills with Crystal Springs nearby and is active in community projects; **Gardeners Out East** is hosting our Spring District Meeting on May 5, 2020; **Garden Club at Hunters Green** our brand new club is taking on many new projects and we are so happy to have them; **Lakewood Ranch** is doing Landscape Design schools and some its members have articles in our NGC Keeping in Touch; **Lemon Bay** is having a Flower Show in March. **Lutz-Land O Lakes** is in a lovely part of our District with members participating in many activities; **Manatee River** is hosting a Spring Garden Tour later in the season; **New Port Richey** usually hosts a large plant sale; **Palm Harbor** a theme of Little Bit of Everything for its programs, **Plant City** participates heavily in the Florida Strawberry Festival; **Sarasota** was kept busy with its Fashion Show in February, the Garden Tour in March and the Flower Show at the end of March; **St Petersburg** hosts its yearly Flower Show in conjunction with the Green Thumb Festival at the end of April right after Convention; **Tampa Federation** is sponsoring a Flower Show end of March; **Tarpon Springs** supports, arranges and delivers educational and school programs to support horticultural and environmental activities; **Valrico** meets monthly and provides education for its members with all phases of gardening in homes and the community; **Venice Area** will be hosting its Home and Garden Tour in March.

Many of these clubs own their own buildings which makes it a unique situation as our primary responsibility is to be used as a central meeting place for horticulture events, flower shows, environmental concern programs for the community and other activities. It is a great responsibility and sometimes a burden to own a building. A very hearty Thank You to those clubs and their president and committees that work doubly hard to maintain their buildings by updating floors, maintenance, and gardens as well as making time to create a true Garden Club atmosphere. Not to be ignored are the clubs that use other areas for their meetings and are even more responsible to keep their members together. Bringing items for ways and means and programs, sometimes even refreshments. They need a very positive 'Thank you' for finding good places to

meet, keeping track of all the activities that need to maintain the high standard of club involvement.

Our Garden Clubs hold many events at their clubs in their communities and as fundraisers as well as gifts to the neighborhoods where they work and play. All our clubs reach out to the communities in which they live and give programs, share activities and are a strong part of the neighborhoods. We are proud of the dedication and passion our members have for gardening, floral design environmental concerns and especially our youth.



## FORT LAUDERDALE GARDEN CLUB HAS DEMONSTRATED THE IMPACT OF YOUTH GARDENER (JUNIOR GARDENERS) PROGRAMS OVER 90-YEARS FROM 1928-2018

1928--\$5 prize awarded to Girl Scout with "the loveliest" zinnia" grown for specific time

1929--School children planted trees around a "school house" (FLGC supervised)

1938--"Annie Beck" reports 3-Junior Garden Clubs organized with 95 members

1940--Garden Club budgets \$10 for children activities. Two-\$4 dollar scholarships for a week

at summer camp, and 2-\$1 dollar awards for "knowledge of native trees and plants"

1951--Junior Flower Show held in newly dedicated Glenn F. Bates Mem. Gdn Ctr. Building

1970--23 children sent to Ocala Youth Conservation Camp, with train transportation to camp

1979--FFGC (Florida Federation of Garden Clubs) established a nature camp in Wekiva Springs

State Park/Apopka...112 campers awarded 1 week camperships. Camperships:include 1 week

Camp fees and bus transportation to and from camp.

1981--Garden club plants 692 trees on school grounds; Junior Flower Show: 822 entries..106

Camperships awarded to students with the most points.

AND SO ON.....Presently, we sponsor 5 Youth Gardening Clubs....175 enrolled

2018--169 students submitted 839 entries in "Celebration, Flower Show, 2018". Camperships were

Awarded to 41 students...who again will attend Camp Wekiva, beginning June 17<sup>th</sup>.

\*\*\*\*\*ESTIMATED TOTALS: 1928-2018

FLGC awarded app. 3,500 students camperships at a cost of \$475,000.

THIS MONEY WAS RAISED and DONATED by the members of The Fort Lauderdale Garden Club!!!

WORKING WITH THE STUDENTS WAS, and IS a "LABOR OF LOVE"

## DISTRICT IX NEWS

### Leslie Montwid, Director



**Counties:** Polk, Hardee, DeSoto, Highlands, Charlotte, Lee, Collier

**Flower:** Red Hibiscus

**Wildflower:** Sambucus simpsonii

**Butterfly:** Monarch

**Garden Clubs in District IX:** Arcadia, Bartow, Bouquet, Calusa, Camelia, Cape Coral, Estero Island, Fort Meade, fort Myers Lee County Council, Founders, Gardenia, Gardens of

the World, Gulf Coast, Hibiscus, Jasmine, Lake Placid, Lake Wales, Lakeland, Naples, Periwinkle, Port Charlotte, Punta Gorda, Royal Palm, Sebring, Wauchula, Winter Haven Council of Garden Clubs

Our district is starting off 2020 with 20/20 vision. After planning and debriefing in Winter Park last week it is this director's hope that everyone can be well informed.

Two restoration and rededications were completed in November. On November 11<sup>th</sup> Wauchula held their dedication ceremony at the American Legion clubhouse. A wonderful ceremony was led by Carol Saunders followed by the unveiling outdoors which was attended by FFGC Blue Star Chair Rosita Aristoff, District Director Leslie Montwid, city dignitaries, Wauchula Garden Club members and a host of veterans. The marker has great visibility located on Highway 17, the main thoroughfare.



On November 22, Lakeland rededicated two markers having restored them earlier in the year. The meeting was presided over by Colonel Lonnie Smith retired USAF, a member of Bloomfield Circle of the Garden Club of Lakeland who attended in uniform. Also welcoming attendees was Jeanette Baggett retired Lieutenant Colonel USAF and current president of The Garden Club of Lakeland, Inc. Attendees included Rosita Aristoff, FFGC Blue Star Chair and Libby Curnow, District IX Blue Star Chair as well as Bill Mutz, Mayor of Lakeland, Garden Club members and veterans.



Lonnie Smith and Jeanette Baggett

This director attended two Christmas Home and Garden tours the 6<sup>th</sup> & 7<sup>th</sup> of December hosted by the Punta Gorda Garden Club and Lake Placid Garden Club. Both clubs use the funds raised to award scholarships. In addition to viewing lovely residences visitors were able to purchase many of the plant inspired decorations.

Under the guidance of Dale DeFeo Calusa Garden Club has completed the first phase of their Pioneer Garden featuring natives indigenous to Marco Island. District IX also welcomes Dale as the new Assistant Director.



Punta Gorda mermaid of palms, leaves and tillandsia

Kathleen Hawryluk, Naples Garden Club President and member of Gulf Coast Garden Club will be a presenter at the National Garden Club convention in Milwaukee Wisconsin on May 15<sup>th</sup>. We congratulate her for being named National Floral Designer of the Month of June 2019. Not sitting idle, she has also agreed to host District IX's Spring meeting. With the cooperative spirit of Linda LaRue Brown, Sudie Minamyer, Susan Kinkaid and Sandy Lasch to guide the new Naples Club Idea Garden at the Naples Botanical Garden will feature presentations, ambassadors and assistants volunteering from the club to do special programs on Wednesdays from 10:30 to noon. They have a list of offerings on their website.



Lake Placid members Sue Rood and Mary Meisenheimer with Leslie Montwid in middle



Bartow Garden Club has added three new members in

the fall and collected an acre for Penny Pines. Mother Nature Audrey Swindell assures that they collect at every meeting for this worthwhile effort which supports Plant America.

The Garden Club of Cape Coral held their fashion Show and will conduct a vendor show "March in the Park" on 3-14-20 to raise funds for their Blue Star Installation in November which coincides with their 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

Punta Gorda Garden Club will have a standard flower show, "Cheers to 70 years" at the Isles Yacht Club 189 W. Marion Ave on March 31<sup>st</sup>. Happy anniversary!

To continue festivities they will bus tour to Bok Tower Gardens, a hidden jewel in the middle of District IX for a guided tour and carillon concert.

There are many wonderful things going on. Check the District IX Facebook page for all the happenings and have a great "20/20".



## DISTRICT XII NEWS

### Jean Hawa, Director



**Counties:** Dade, Monroe

**Flower & Wildflower:** Musaceae Strelitzia Reginae & Gallardia Blanket Flower

**Butterfly:** Schaus' Swallowtail

**Garden Clubs:** Coral Gables, Coral Pines, Ken Pines, Marathon, Miami Beach, Miami Lakes, Pinecrest, South Dade, South Miami

**Marathon Garden Club:** An enthusiastic start to the District XII garden clubs year began with the Marathon GC members successfully hosting the Fall 2019 FFGC District XII Meeting on October 15<sup>th</sup>, 2019 with 54 participants. Six weeks later the club had another success with the Holiday Bazaar and Christmas Rummage Sale. Some of the club's programs were "Florida Friendly Landscaping, Landscape Lighting and Products that last in our Environment and Climate and Change Sea Level Rise". Several members took a field trip to the Tamiami International Orchid Festival in January. Members who are master gardeners conducted a plant clinic at the local Home Depot Garden Center.

**Coral Gables Garden Club:** The very well attended Coral Gables Floral Extravaganza held in November was a floral designer's demonstration of easy to do Fall and Holiday floral creations. Workshops and programs were conducted at almost every meeting including the following: Fun with Flowers basic, The Secret Life of Trees, Fun with Flowers, Amaryllis, and Paper White Demonstration, Orchid Sale / How to repot and split orchids, Art in Bloom Interpretive Floral Design / Monet and Giverny, how he planned the landscaping and how it changes his art, Fun with Flowers – Holiday Décor, Create a Festive Holiday Fascinator, Every Landscape Matters for the Insect Pollinator.

**Coral Pines Garden Club:** Programs included themes such as: Backyard Safari, Birds, Butterflies and Flowers, What is Wrong with the Plant?, Sustainable Options, and Developing and Dedication of Two Butterfly Gardens. Most meetings included a horticulture presentation and a floral design. One member successfully completed Flower Show Judges School Course III hosted by District XI.

**Ken Pines Garden Club:** Interesting programs included the following: My Favorite Plant, Succulent Garden Tray Project, and Bees and Flowers / Make a Beehive. A fieldtrip to the Dr. Jeffrey Block's Botanical Garden, a World Class bromeliad collection, was a delight to all who came.

**Miami Beach Garden Club:** A welcome back potluck started off the year for the club. The much delayed Blue Star Memorial Dedication Ceremony finally took place on November 10, 2019. Even the wet, blustery weather didn't diminish the jubilation of the purpose of paying tribute to the U.S. armed forces. A field trip to the Everglades National Park Anhinga Trail was followed by programs such as: Valentine's Day Arrangements and Growing Flowers in South Florida. Trials and Tribulations, and the 15<sup>th</sup> Annual Taste of the Garden, held in conjunction with the Miami Beach Botanical Garden. Three members successfully completed Flower Show Judges School Course III hosted by District XI.

(Continued on page 8)

**Pinecrest Garden Club:** The long awaited Blue Star Memorial dedication ceremony took place on Tuesday, February 18, 2020.

**South Dade Garden Club:** Monthly meetings have local speakers from nurseries, farms or universities who made presentations about fruits, flowers, plants, rare and endangered pollinators, etc. The club hosted the 44<sup>th</sup> Annual Redland Heritage purchasing one of a kind holiday gifts, including fresh home-made baked goods.

**Presidents Council:** A unique organization amongst District XII garden clubs is the Miami Dade County Council of Garden Club Presidents. Once a month from September to May, the club presidents and vice presidents meet and share information about their garden clubs. Programs and / or guest speakers provide relevant information about gardening, the environment, pollinators, etc. This District Director relays information from FFGC and serves as a liaison between the clubs and FFGC.



## Sheep, Goats, Beetles (and humans): Their battle with Invasive Plant Species!

By Parke Finold  
Invasive Plant Species

What do a Mob of Sheep, a Tribe of Goats and a Posse of Beetles have in common?

They are all bio controls for invasive plant species. Goats have been used to eat Kudzu on the Georgia Tech campus in Atlanta. However, sheep are more discerning than goats as goats will eat anything within reach sheep will concentrate on their delectable diet of Kudzu!



A little information about Kudzu: *Pueraria montana* is a perennial vine native to Asia which can grow up to sixty (60) feet during a growing season, with as many as thirty (30) vines spreading from one kudzu root crown. It can now be found

in 11 counties in Florida. Kudzu climbs over vegetation so rapidly that it kills the plants, trees or shrubs due to shading. Kudzu has become known as the "Vine That Ate the South".

If only we could be voracious eaters like the goats – Kudzu leaves are edible! Cook them as you would kale or be the first in your neighborhood to make a kudzu quiche!

Eradication by mechanical means: during growing season, mow down every month or two. These repeated cuttings will exhaust the plant and it will eventually give up. One can use a strong herbicide. It can take at least 4 to 10 years of repeated applications to kill a kudzu vine.



### OR.... RENT SHEEP OR GOATS - "MAKE AMERICA GRAZE AGAIN!"

Another invasive plant: the Air Potato Vine – *Dioscorea bulbifera* is in the yam family. We have all seen this vine with lovely heart shaped leaves as it is as fast growing as Kudzu and is now in almost every county in Florida. So you ask: "how can this invasive be eradicated? There are three (3) ways:

1. It can be removed by hand (attached to a shovel)
2. During growing season, cut the vines to the ground and spray with an herbicide

### OR ... here's the drum role part

**for the bio-control:** Contact the University of Florida IFAS [plants.ifas.ufl.edu/](http://plants.ifas.ufl.edu/) The **UF IFAS Center for Aquatic and Invasive Plants** to order Air Potato Beetles, *Lilioceris cheni*.

The beetles will be sent directly to your front door! Just release them and start to watch these tiny red insects chomp little holes all over the heart shaped leaves. The biocontrol curbs the vine by stunting its growth.



What a perfect photograph  
– biocontrol in action!

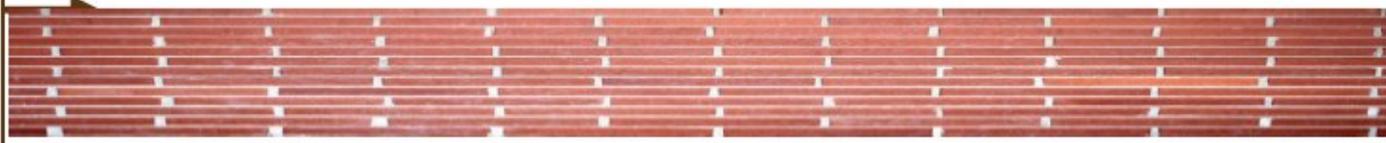
## BRICKS TO HONOR MEMBERS

Did you know you or your club can donate an engraved brick in the garden path at FFGC Headquarters to honor your members for their outstanding service?

**ORDER YOUR BRICKS TODAY @ \$50 EACH**

Go to [ffgc.org](http://ffgc.org) on the Donate tab and submit form at bottom of webpage

proceeds help maintain our FFGC Headquarters grounds



## CONTINUING EDUCATION

### NGC GARDEN SCHOOLS:

**Barbara Hadsell** 561-635-8809  
Email: [barbarhasell@cs.com](mailto:barbarhasell@cs.com)

Course I November 19 – 20, 2020  
Course II January 21 -23, 2021  
Course III February 17 – 18, 2021  
Course IV April 21 – 22, 2021  
Ft. Lauderdale Garden Clubhouse  
3109 E Sunrise Blvd.  
Ft. Lauderdale 33304  
Information & registration: [coralspringsgardenclub.org](http://coralspringsgardenclub.org)

### ENVIRONMENTAL SCHOOLS:

**Nancy Richards** 561-702-0550  
District VI  
Course 4 April 7 -8, 2020  
New Smyrna Beach Garden Club  
Contact: Sally Flanagan 385-428-3170  
Course 1 Nov. 19 -20, 2020  
Ft. Lauderdale Garden Club  
Taylor Birch State Park  
3109 E. Sunrise Blvd. Ft. Lauderdale, FL  
Course 3 Feb. 17 – 18, 2021  
Ft. Lauderdale Garden Club  
Taylor Birch State Park  
3109 E. Sunrise Blvd. Ft. Lauderdale, FL

### LANDSCAPE DESIGN SCHOOLS

**Sue Roberts** 352-357-3712  
Email: [sue@georgesueroberts.com](mailto:sue@georgesueroberts.com)

District VIII  
Course 3 9 am-4pm March 16,17, 2020  
14605 59th Ave. East  
Lakewood Ranch, FL  
Contact: Sheryl Perkins 941-979-0615  
Course 4 9 am-4pm March 18, 19, 2020  
14605 59th Ave. East  
Lakewood Ranch, FL  
Contact: Sheryl Perkins 941-979-0615  
District IX  
Course 4 April 24, 25, 2020  
Ft. Myers Council Bldg. 9am – 4pm  
2166 Virginia Ave. Ft. Myers, FL  
Contact: Vicki Williamson  
Email: [vbwilliamson47@gmial.com](mailto:vbwilliamson47@gmial.com)

### FLORAL DESIGN STUDY UNITS

**Carol Lucia** 772-393-8276  
Cell: 727-656-3207  
Email: [clucia02@aol.com](mailto:clucia02@aol.com)  
District V  
Units 5-6 March 5, 12, 2020  
First Methodist Church  
of Homosassa 9:30 am - 3:30 pm  
Contact: Pattie Steck 631-433-6064  
District VIII  
Unit 6 March 4, 2020  
Sarasota Garden Club  
1131 Boulevard of the Arts  
Sarasota, FL  
Contact: 941-955-0875 Barbara Rao

### FLORAL DESIGN STUDY UNITS:

District IX  
Unit 7-9 March 16, 23, and April 6, 2020  
2166 Virginia Ave. 9am - 3 pm  
Ft. Myers, FL  
Contact: Susan Lawson 941-979-0615

### NGC FLOWER SHOW SCHOOLS:

**Susan Hillson** 561-333-0740  
District IX  
Course IV March 15 -18, 2020  
Garden Center  
Hugh Taylor Birch State Park 8am - 5pm  
3109 East Sunrise Blvd.  
Ft. Lauderdale, FL

### FFGC/UF Short Course

(An NGC Tri-refresher)  
June 7 – 9, 2020  
Gainesville, FL  
Contact: Florence Cline 353-262-4433  
Email: [ladybugflorence2@gmail.com](mailto:ladybugflorence2@gmail.com)

### Deep South Tri-Refresher

(At Deep South Convention)  
April 14 – 16, 2020 8:30am–5:30pm  
Co-Chairperson: Barbara Hadsell 561-635-8809  
Email: [barbarahadsell@cs.com](mailto:barbarahadsell@cs.com)

### FLOWER SHOWS/EVENTS:

Small Standard Flower Show  
"March to a Spring Beat" (District IX)  
March 5, 2020 12pm-5pm  
Winter Haven Garden Center  
715 Third Street NW Winter Haven, FL

NGC Standard Flower Show  
"Hooked on Books"  
March 6, 2020 1-4pm  
March 7, 2020 9am-3pm  
The Garden Club of Stuart  
Indian River State College  
2400 SE Salerno Road, Stuart, FL  
Contact: Rosita Aristoff 772-288-7270

A Standard Flower Show  
"Art, Flowers & Anniversaries"  
March 7-8, 2020 10am-4pm  
Calusa Garden Club of Marco Island  
1010 Winterberry Dr. Marco Island, FL  
Contact: Connie Lowery [captreeconnie@aol.com](mailto:captreeconnie@aol.com)  
Contact: Jane Gregory [jane@janegregory.com](mailto:jane@janegregory.com)

A Standard Flower Show  
Lemon Bay Garden Club  
"Hey, There! What's Cookin'?"  
March 13, 2020 2pm-5pm  
March 14, 2020 10am-3pm  
NGC Standard Flower show  
"Vision 2020" - Past, Present, Future  
March 20-21, 2020 9am - 5 pm  
Naples Garden Club  
Naples Botanical Garden  
4820 Bayshore Drive  
Naples, FL 34112 239-643-7275  
Open to the public and FREE with the price of  
admission to Naples Botanical Garden  
\$19.95 adults - \$9.95 children ages 4-14

### FLOWER SHOWS/EVENTS:

A Standard Flower Show  
"Garden to Table"  
March 26, 2020 10am-7pm  
Sarasota Garden Club  
1131 Boulevard of the Arts  
Sarasota, FL 34236

A Standard Flower Show  
Garden Club of St. Augustine (District IV)  
"Welcome to my Garden"  
March 27-29, 2020  
Agricultural Center, St. Augustine  
Contact: Carol Saville, Chair  
Email: [savillecarol@bellsouth.net](mailto:savillecarol@bellsouth.net)

NGC Small Standard Flower Show  
"The Fair"  
Dade City Garden Club  
March 28,2020 10am-3pm  
Free and open to the public

A Standard Flower Show  
"The Sporting Life" March 28-29, 2020  
Tampa Federation of Garden Club Circles, Inc.  
9am-4 pm  
Contact: Kathy Echevarria  
Email: [kathy.echevarria@gmail.com](mailto:kathy.echevarria@gmail.com)  
Contact: Pam Slagg  
Email: [pamslagg@hotmail.com](mailto:pamslagg@hotmail.com)

"Spring Fever in the Garden" (District VII)  
April 4, 2020 9 am-5pm  
April 5, 2020 11am-4pm  
Downtown Winter Garden  
Contact: City of Winter Garden 407-656-4111

Unjudged Flower Show  
"The Glory of the Cross"  
April 5,2020 11am-3pm  
Garden Club of Deland  
8655 Alabama Ave. Deland, FL 32724  
Chairperson: Marshal Rawson 703 568-0008

NGC Standard Flower Show  
St. Petersburg Garden Club  
"Let's Go"  
April 25-26, 2020 9am-3pm  
Green Thumb Festival at Walter Fuller Recreation  
7891 26th Ave. No.  
St. Petersburg, FL 33710  
Contact: Jan Ankerberg 727-415-1499

### Conventions 2020

Deep South Garden Clubs  
April 13-16, 2020 Tampa, FL  
FFGC 2020 Convention  
April 16-19, 2020 Tampa, FL  
NGC 2020 Convention  
May 12-14, 2020 Milwaukee, WI

### Awards Judging Day

Dec. 3, 2020 8:30 – 1:00  
FFGC Headquarters  
1400 S. Denning Drive  
Winter Park, FL 32789

### FFGC Board Meetings (FFGC Headquarters)

FALL Pre-Board Meeting Sept. 14 – 15, 2020  
Board Meeting Sept. 16 – 17, 2020  
WINTER Pre-Board Meeting Jan. 11 – 12, 2021  
Board Meeting Jan. 13 -14, 2021



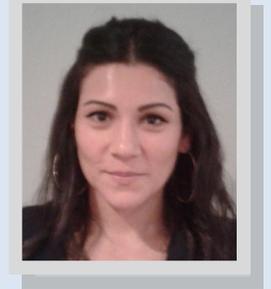
## FFGC WELCOMES LETICIA CELESTE (LC) BLASS

Liea Ward decided to follow her dream and move west on a new adventure. We thank her for her years of service to FFGC and wish her the best in her journey.

Interviews to replace Liea have taken place and we are happy to announce our new Office Manager, Leticia Celeste (LC) Blass – she likes to be called ‘LC’.

LC came to us from SL Biomedical Center in Orlando where she was their Administrator and decided to stay in the Orlando area when the company moved to California. Her background includes the development of marketing concepts for social media, web-sites, as well as office management.

LC has great appreciation for the work that our garden clubs do in our communities and looks forward to meeting our FFGC members by telephone and in person. Please be sure to greet LC and make her feel welcome in our Garden Club family.



LC Blass



## 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Plans

By Tina Tuttle

It was originally planned that the events for celebrating our 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary would be held close and kept as a surprise for our members. However, as we were soliciting funds to support all that is planned, folks, understandably, wanted to know how their donation was going to be used. Remember, the plan was to ask *100 people, clubs, circles, federations, organizations, sponsors, etc. to donate \$1000 and 1000 people, clubs, circles, federations, organizations, sponsors, etc. to donate \$100.* \$1000 donors become “candles” on our cake! To date we have had 17 individuals, 2 districts, 2 judges councils, and several clubs to give between \$20 and \$1000 and one club has taken the option of pledging \$250 annually for four years. Expenses for our anniversary celebration can be offset by grants or sponsorships that have not yet been contacted. If you know of a business, company or organization that might like to sponsor this year-long event, please pass along that name to your Strategic Planning Committee.

Here are some of the planned events, products and ideas that your 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary committee have come up with that will need funding **prior to** the events in 2023 and 2024:

**The 100-year History of FFGC Book**—a paper-sided, bound book of 220+ pages dedicated to the history of FFGC as well as a history of all our Blue Star Memorial Markers, Wekiva Youth Camp and SEEK. Each administration will get 2 pages in the book. Information will be similar to the articles appearing in *The Florida Gardener*. The first 50 years have been re-typed and the last 50 are being researched and written. Estimated cost for 1,000 copies is \$10,000. A free copy will be given to each \$100 and \$1000 donor. This book will be on sale beginning April 2023 for \$15 each.

**Commemorative Statue at Headquarters**—We have contacted the Florida Sculptures Guild to put a “Call for Artists” to create a suitable sculpture, depicting our 100 years, to be placed in front of our Headquarters building and dedicated on our actual birthday, 24 April 2024 at 3 pm. Estimated cost of the sculpture is \$10,000-\$15,000 depending on what it is made of. Additionally, FFGC will construct a suitable plinth or base and seating for the sculpture at a cost of approximately \$5000. It is hoped that the names of each \$1000 donor will be somehow incorporated into the statue or seating arrangement.

**Birthday Reception**—A catered, heavy hors d’oeuvres reception for members will be held at our headquarters on 24 April 2024 at 11am and catered by Cocktails Catering. It will be followed by the statue dedication. There will be raffle baskets and silent auction items as well. Tickets will be \$35 to the first 300 people to pre-pay. (Similar to the reception given at the 90<sup>th</sup> celebration in 2014.)

**Birthday Dinner**—a plated, sit down dinner with music, catered by Cocktails Catering, will take place on 24 April 2024 at 6 pm, following the dedication of the statue at Headquarters. Only 100 tickets will be available at \$100 each and free to those who donated \$1000 toward the anniversary celebration.

**FFGC Commemorative Ornament**—C. Sanders Emblems of California has designed a beautiful ornament for us using the new 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary logo. Estimated cost for 500 ornaments is \$3000. This ornament will be on sale at the 2023 convention for \$10 each.

**FFGC Commemorative Members Pin**—C. Sanders Emblems of California has designed a pin for all to purchase with the new 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary logo. Estimated cost for 300 pins is \$1000. A free pin will be given to each \$100 and \$1000 donor. Pins will be on sale at the 2023 convention.

**FFGC Birthday Parties**—As part of every October 2023 District meeting, a birthday party celebration is expected. To help offset the cost associated with decorations and cake, each district is to receive \$1 per member for a total estimated cost of \$10,000.

**Commemorative Centennial Quilt**—Beginning with the fall district tour in October 2021, a pattern and center strip of fabric will be given out to anyone wishing to create an 8-inch square block to become a part of this exceptional quilt. The pattern is very simple and will feature a white center strip on which clubs can write a gardening quote or verse. Each person may choose the color of the 2 triangles but we were thinking that using your **district color** may help unite the quilt. Opportunity tickets will be sold for a chance to win this quilt. Estimated cost of the quilt block packets and tickets is \$500.

**Anniversary Art Show**—As part of the 2024 convention in Jacksonville, we will stage a judged art show featuring artwork made by our members. Cash prizes of \$300 first place, \$200 second place and \$100 third place overall will be given for any different type of art such as ceramic, painting, jewelry, fiber, glass, etc. Look for entry forms in April 2023.

**Arbor Day Celebration**—On 14 January 2024, each club and circle will be given the opportunity to plant a native tree at a visible, suitable location, at the **SAME TIME** throughout the state, garnering much publicity for FFGC. The anniversary committee would like to offset the cost of purchasing these trees for you. Estimated cost of \$5000 for 600 trees.

**2024 Convention Subsidies**—Depending on donations, the committee would like to offset the cost of convention registration to all attendees so that each registration is only \$100 per person. If 400 attend the cost of subsidy would be \$40,000. If we do not raise enough money to support this idea, we may give a \$19.24 discount to each attendee!

**Recognition of our 100-year old members**—Each member proving their age to be 100 years young, born in 1924, will receive a gift from the Federation. Estimated cost \$200.

**Recognition of the 4 original Garden Clubs**—Each original garden club president will be honored and presented with a bouquet. Estimated cost \$200. (Jacksonville, Winter Park and Halifax County...Miami is no longer functioning.) Of course, events normally financed during the garden club year such as the 2024 State Flower Show, a Commemorative 2024 *Florida Engagement Calendar*, the Nell Coe Award, etc. will be budgeted by FFGC.

Many other ideas are still being discussed and we are open to any ideas you may wish to share. And, yes, there will be commemorative t-shirts and hats, etc. and perhaps even a 5K walk! We will need to purchase advertising as well. If you have questions regarding the planned activities, please do not hesitate to ask them! We hope this will ease your mind somewhat as to how your generous donation to our 100<sup>th</sup> celebration will be used. Please consider giving a donation in the coming garden club year so plans can go forward with all the things that need to be done ahead of time and made ready for the 2023 convention kickoff!! We thank you in advance for your generosity and support.



# Florida Federation of Garden Clubs and the University of Florida Short Course



## Protecting the Life That Sustains Us

June 7-9, 2020

Gainesville, Florida

### Program

**Sunday, June 7, 3:00-5:00 PM** Registration & Welcome Reception. Spring Hill Suites-Marriott

At Sundown View Bats Leaving the Bat Houses on UF Campus (Transportation on your own)

**Monday, June 8, Morning:** Bus Tours to Kanapaha Botanical Gardens

**June 8 afternoon:** at the UF/IFAS Straughn Center, 2142 Shealy Drive, Gainesville, FL 32608

Sessions: "Trees that Support Wildlife," "The Story of Water," "Changes in Your Yard to Make a Difference"

**6:00 – 9:00 PM** (Separate registration required) Dinner and Design Program: "Designing Divas" at Gainesville GC

**Tuesday, June 9: 8:30- 4 PM** Sessions: "Perfect Plants for Pollinators," "Plant Blindness," "Florida Herbs," "Accessible Gardening," "Traveling: Inspiration for Garden Design"

**Lodging: Spring Hill Suites-Marriott 4155 SW 40 Blvd. Gainesville, Fl. 32608. 352-376-8873**

\$104.00 per night for King or Double Suites. Use **code FFGC** for group rate until 5-10-20

Be sure to indicate "FFGC/UF Short Course." Ask for Rebecca or Lynn.

### Registration: Deadline May 29, 2020 (One application per registrant)

Please Print

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

District \_\_\_\_\_ Garden Club \_\_\_\_\_ Dietary Restrictions \_\_\_\_\_

Please Check All That Apply

FFGC Past President \_\_\_\_\_ Exec. Board \_\_\_\_\_ Master Gardener \_\_\_\_\_ Other \_\_\_\_\_

All Categories Include the Welcome Reception on 6/7, bus travel, Monday & Tuesday lectures and lunches.

\_\_\_\_\_ \$75 FFGC Members

\_\_\_\_\_ \$95 Non Members

\_\_\_\_\_ \$40 FFGC Members 1 day \_\_\_\_\_ Monday \_\_\_\_\_ Tuesday.

\_\_\_\_\_ \$55 Non-Members 1 day \_\_\_\_\_ Monday \_\_\_\_\_ Tuesday

\_\_\_\_\_ \$35 Dinner and Design Program Monday Evening 6:30-9:00 PM.



This is a National Garden Club Approved Tri-Refresher. (\$5 fee per area collected when registering)

Check all applicable if renewing: Environmental \_\_\_\_\_ Gardening \_\_\_\_\_ Landscape \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Total \_\_\_\_\_ Check #

### **Make checks payable to District V FFGC/UF Short Course**

Mail to Rose Kimlinger, Registrar 1046 NW 125 Drive, Newberry, Fl. 32669 [rmkimlinger@cox.net](mailto:rmkimlinger@cox.net) [352 332-3577](tel:352-332-3577)

Florence Cline, Chair [ladybugflorence2@gmail.com](mailto:ladybugflorence2@gmail.com) [352-332-2309](tel:352-332-2309)



# A Bonanza of Benefits for ORGC after Rejoining FFGC !

By Barbara Hadsell

Lots of new members, new outreach to the community, a fabulously successful Gala fundraising event, and loads of new interest in learning - the **Ocean Ridge Garden Club** is riding a wave of success. It's always been a great garden club, but what is different from a year ago that has promoted all this success? Joining the Florida Federation of Garden Clubs!

The Ocean Ridge Garden Club (ORGC) had belonged to Florida Federation of Garden Clubs (FFGC) for many years before deciding to leave in 2014. A confluence of factors affected this decision. Membership had been declining, participation was waning, and the work of many was being done by a few. The leadership at the time decided it would be in the best interest of the club to sever ties with the FFGC and pursue an independent course. The club remained active locally. However, some who had a long history with FFGC were unhappy and repeatedly lobbied the other members to consider rejoining, but to no avail.

In the fall of 2018, ORGC's Civic Engagement committee presented the idea of installing a Blue Star Marker at the Ocean Ridge Town Hall to honor local men and women who had served in the military. The membership enthusiastically embraced the idea, funds were allocated and the plan proceeded. But the committee had overlooked a major obstacle. The Blue Star Marker program is owned and administered by National Garden Clubs, Inc (NGC). The markers can be purchased and installed only by an FFGC member club, since FFGC provides the umbrella of membership in NGC.

But the Blue Star Marker project had the full backing of the club and this obstacle needed to be faced. The Civic Engagement committee co-chairs and select ORGC officers met with Barbara Hadsell, District X Liaison for club memberships. Barbara clearly outlined the benefits of being an FFGC-affiliated club and the expectations of being a member, dispelling the apprehension of some club members about FFGC membership requirements. After a contentious debate, the ORGC voted to rejoin FFGC in January of 2019.

The first order of business was to revise the bylaws to align the club with FFGC requirements. A secondary benefit of revising the bylaws was the opportunity to come into compliance with federal requirements for status as tax-exempt 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. Receiving 501(c)(3) status now allows ORGC to solicit donations that donors may claim as tax deductions, which has opened doors for a higher level of fundraising. During the bylaws review process, the ORGC mission statement was concurrently rewritten to more accurately reflect historical interests, such as horticultural beautification and education and training related to gardening projects. More importantly, it was a chance to encompass additional areas of interest and activity in the statement, such as civic outreach and education, environmental awareness, conservation of local natural resources, floral design and garden-related art.

These changes have been a catalyst for enthusiasm and activism among old members, and that in turn has attracted a group of 12 highly committed new members just between October and January (the new bylaws allow for a maximum of 75 members). The greater emphasis on the coastal ecology and environment particularly appealed to some, who said that without that focus area they would not have joined the club. This new spirit has also fed some of the long-time members who are serious gardeners and flower show participants/judges and needed the affiliation with FFGC to continue to pursue these avocations.

One particular outgrowth of the mission to promote environmental awareness and conservation is an exciting new community outreach event on March 21, 2020, from 10:00 AM to 3:00 PM at the Ocean Ridge Town Hall, 6450 N. Ocean Blvd (A1A) 33435. Awareness of plastics pollution and its impact on the ocean and beaches will be the theme of the event, entitled "Save the Seas - Plastics Free", since a vital environmental issue for Ocean Ridge is maintenance of native coastal plantings and dunes that stabilize the local beach. The goal is to engage, inform and inspire attendees with presentations, exhibitors, food trucks, a beach scavenger hunt for kids and adults, and entertainment throughout the day. Partners participating in the event include Surfriider Foundation, Nomad Surf Shop, Surfing Florida museum, Gumbo Limbo, Sea Turtles Adventure, Plastrek 2019, Sandoway House, Waste Pro, and Institute for Regional

Conservation. The committee for this event is bubbling with ideas and envisions an even larger event for 2021.

Longtime-member Barbara Cook was a champion for FFGC and is the club's liaison to District X and the state-wide organization as well. At every meeting she presents news from District X and FFGC and encourages members to take advantage of the opportunities for connection with these umbrella organizations. The courses offered by District X have sparked a renewed interest in learning. A number of members recently were first-time students at the NGC Tri-Refresher/FFGC Tropical Short Course and the NGC Gardening School Part 2 at the Mounts Botanical Gardens in West Palm Beach.

Carol Coleman has also been a great conduit for connecting ORGC to District X and the other garden clubs in the area. As part of her role as District X Director, she has attend several ORGC events and meetings. It's because of these connections to FFGC that ORGC has been able to make plans to attend floral shows, such as the Petite Flower Show sponsored by the Wellington Garden Club at the end of February. Members have also discussed partnering with another local club to plan a joint event to link the beach environment with inland features, such as a bird sanctuary. And being part of FFGC provides a venue for publicizing upcoming events throughout District X to extend invitations to member clubs.

Since rejoining FFGC, ORGC has put on a Gala evening open to the public as its primary fundraising event. The first Gala in February 2019 was a wine and cheese party held in conjunction with an "Art in the Garden" display and sale of art by local artists. ORGC members called upon their connections to procure beautiful decor and raffle prizes that enhanced the evening. It was a fun and entertaining social event that brought in double the revenue traditionally raised from an annual rummage sale.

Building on the success of the first Gala, the February 2020 "Tropical Nights" Gala was bigger and better. With the 501(c)(3) status, the organizing committee secured corporate sponsors that completely covered all costs, and members generously provided donations to build beautiful gift baskets worth more than \$200 each as raffle prizes. Ticket sold out at \$110 to \$125 per ticket, and the club anticipates that the 2021 Gala will build on the first two and raise even more money to fund club activities, community projects and scholarships.

Most of the monies raised goes into ORGC's Patrice Mahon Scholarship Fund. Patrice was the ORGC member who founded the scholarship fund that was recently so-named in her memory and led the scholarship committee for many years. In the spring of 2020, three students in the horticultural studies programs at Palm Beach State College will receive an award of \$1,000 each. Ever-more success fundraising allows the fund to grow, opportunities to make additional scholarships and awards will expand.

ORGC has traditionally installed and decorated a Christmas tree at the town hall. In December 2019, the festivities included a first-ever holiday plant sale and "Pet Photos with Santa" community event. It turned out to be a fun afternoon, with dogs and people alike posing with Santa, and purchasing lush poinsettias and other holiday plants. Unsold plants were donated to the Ocean Ridge Police, where an officer delivered the plants to shut-ins who she knew would be alone for the holidays.

The bottom line is that the advantages of belonging to FFGC are now apparent to ORGC members, and the only remaining question might be why was it such a difficult decision to return. The benefits of partnering and networking with other clubs, learning opportunities, and the support and credentialing FFGC membership provides are worth every penny of the dues and the time spent at District X events, and have come back to the club in unexpected ways. The opportunities for increased visibility and outreach to Ocean Ridge have raised the club's profile in the community, and reaped benefits for both ORGC and the town.

**NEW:** Butterfly Sanctuary Certificate to print and award to any individual, club, or organization that has established a butterfly garden. Application and Certificate:

[WWW.FFGC.ORG](http://WWW.FFGC.ORG) MEMBERS CLUB INFORMATION AND FORMS ALL FFGC FORMS

*The Florida Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc.*

*Al Latina, President 2019 - 2021*

*presents this*

*Butterfly Sanctuary Certificate To*



*Thank you for establishing and maintaining a garden  
containing larval and nectar plants for butterflies.*

*Barbara J Jacobson,*

*FFGC Birds and Butterflies Chairman*



## NEW ORGANIC GARDEN FRIENDLY FUNGICIDE

We love our St. Augustine lawns, vegetable gardens, fruit trees, orchids, bedding plants and roses. But often they fall victim to leaf spots and blights. These diseases include brown patch, powdery mildew, rust, alternaria and anthracnose. Garden Friendly Fungicide offers cost effective and easy to use control of many infections on outdoor plants. Garden Friendly Fungicide with *Bacillus amyloliquefaciens* strain D747 is concentrated because it was developed by Certis for commercial organic farming. Use only 1 teaspoon per gallon of spray solution.

Available in 8 ounce and pint containers on Ebay or ask your local independent garden retailer.



**94th Annual Convention - Florida Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc.  
Hilton Downtown Tampa, 211 N. Tampa Str. Tampa, FL - April 16-18, 2020**



Please print and use separate form for each registrant

(LAST) \_\_\_\_\_ (FIRST) \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_ CITY \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

DISTRICT \_\_\_\_\_ CLUB/CIRCLE \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL \_\_\_\_\_ EMERGENCY CONTACT (Name/Phone) \_\_\_\_\_

**CIRCLE ALL CATEGORIES WHICH APPLY TO YOU**

- |                                |                       |                        |
|--------------------------------|-----------------------|------------------------|
| FFGC Officer/District Director | Delegate or Alternate | First Time Attendee    |
| FFGC Board Member              | Club/Circle President | Guest/Spouse/Companion |
| FFGC Former President          | Club/Circle Member    | FFGC Life Member       |

**TWO DAY CONVENTION PLAN: Includes Registration, 2 lunches and 2 dinners**  
Friday, April 17 and Saturday, April 18, 2020 \$198.00 \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**ONE DAY CONVENTION PLAN: Includes registration, 1 lunch and 1 dinner**  
Friday, - Registration Fee with Lunch and Dinner \$110.00 \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
Saturday – Registration Fee with Lunch and Dinner \$118.00 \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**A LA CARTE REGISTRATION FOR MEMBERS AND GUESTS:**  
Registration for FFGC Members \$25.00 \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
Registration for Spouse or guest \$10.00 \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
Circle Choices: Friday Lunch \$37.00 Friday Dinner \$48.00 \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
Saturday Lunch \$37.00 Saturday Dinner \$56.00 \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Early Arrivals Dinner/Entertainment-Thursdays, April 16<sup>th</sup>, 2020**  
*This event is open to all attendees. It is complimentary for FFGC Board Members.*  
FFGC Board of Directors to receive official invitation requiring RSVP, Check if attending  
DINNER AND SHOW for FFGC Member (\$36) \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
DINNER AND SHOW for Spouse/Guest/Companion (\$36) \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
 Please check if planning to attend show only (\$0)  
*Flower Show Awards and Calendar Girl Honors will be presented*

**REGISTRATIONS POSTMARKED AFTER; March 26, 2020 ADD LATE FEE \$ 40** \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**TOTAL AMOUNT DUE** \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**MAIL REGISTRATION FORM AND CHECK** Payable to FFGC 2020 Convention  
TO: Karen Smith, Registrar Questions:  
P.O. Box 292646 Tampa, FL 33687-2646 kanns@verizon.net 813-382-4539  
**OR**  
**REGISTER ONLINE: FFGC.ORG REGISTRATION DEADLINE WEDNESDAY, APRIL 1, 2020**  
*No refunds after Monday, April 6<sup>th</sup>. Registration Fee Non-Refundable.*  
You must be registered to attend ANY programs, meals or workshops. NO WALK INS accepted.  
*Dietary restrictions for extreme health issues must accompany registration. Every effort will be made to honor. NO shellfish will be served.*

**HOTEL RESERVATIONS – Hilton Tampa Downtown, 211 North Tampa Street, Tampa, FL 33602**  
**Deadline for Reservations: March 26, 2020**  
Hotel Reservations must be made directly with the hotel by calling 813-204-3000  
**OR** Online – Click link below or enter the address into your browser:  
[https://www.hilton.com/en/hi/groups/personalized/T/TPANTHF-FFGC2-20200415/index.jhtml?WT.mc\\_id=POG](https://www.hilton.com/en/hi/groups/personalized/T/TPANTHF-FFGC2-20200415/index.jhtml?WT.mc_id=POG)  
USE: Group Code: FFGC2 Group Name: FFGC Annual Convention & Flower Show

Registrar Use only: Reg. No. \_\_\_\_\_  
Check No. \_\_\_\_\_  
Deposit No. \_\_\_\_\_

EVENTS AT A GLANCE  
94<sup>TH</sup> FFGC ANNUAL CONVENTION APRIL 16-18, 2020  
"PERFECT HARMONY"

**SPEAKERS/PROGRAMS – MEAL FUNCTIONS**

- Thurs. - April 16<sup>th</sup> **Early Arrival Dinner** – Flower Show Awards, Calendar Recognition  
Entertainment- Made In The Shade band playing 50's 60's & 70's Music
- Fri. – April 17<sup>th</sup> **Lunch** – Honoring Districts III, V, VII, X, and XII. Honoring our Deep South Director Lena Bateman & Gay Austin, National President, SEEK-Mary Whisler and Former SEEK student sharing his inspirational experiences.  
**Dinner**- Presenting 6 Top FFGC Awards, Speaker Neal Sanders an Author of 13 mysteries, most of which use garden club settings or horticultural plots.
- Sat. – April 18<sup>th</sup> **Lunch** – Honoring Districts I, II, IV, IX, and XI. Honoring our National Pres. Gay Austin and Deep South Director Lena Bateman. Speaker Michael Echevarria on Coral Reef Restoration.  
**Dinner** – Honoring Districts VI and VIII. Speaker John Hosek, Floral Designer known for his innovative and original style of work.

**WORKSHOPS/CONTINUING EDUCATION**

**Friday, April 17<sup>th</sup> 10:40 – 11:45 AM**

Botanical Horticulture Kathy Echevarria & Pam Slagg  
Trees and the City A Perfect Harmony Rob Northrup  
Leap into Leadership I, Parliamentary Procedure Meeting Guidelines Robin Pokorski

**2:45 – 3:45 PM**

The Green Thread, Florida Wildlife Corridor Mallory Dimmitt  
The Movie Garden, Scary Plants in the Garden Joe Parr  
Leap into Leadership II, Building your Garden Club Team Robin Pokorski

**4:00 – 5:00 PM**

What's New in Floral Design? John Hosek  
Dues Renewal, Did you hear the exciting news? Come hear what's new! Sue Roberts - The Florida Gardener, come learn the ins and outs of publishing your magazine and the cost. Kathie Smith

**Saturday, April 18<sup>th</sup> 10:15 – 11:45 AM**

Ordinary Plants, Extraordinary Stories Carol Reese  
Dues Renewal, Did you hear the exciting news? Come hear what's new! Sue Roberts - The Florida Gardener, come learn the ins and outs of publishing your magazine and the cost. Kathie Smith  
Facebook/Instagram Michelle James

**2:10 – 3:10 PM**

Fun with Flowers Emily Palmieri  
Classic Caladiums Dr. Robert Hartman

**VENDOR SALES/ FLOWER SHOW**

**Flower Show** "Sounds of Music", Bayshore Ballroom IV-VII, Ribbon Cutting Ceremony  
Thurs., April 16 @ 3:00 PM Hours: Thurs 3:00-5:00 PM Fri. 10:00 AM-5:00 PM Sat. 10:00 AM – 2:00 PM  
**Vendors** – Palma Ceia Ballroom hours: Thurs. April 16, 8:00AM – 5:00 PM, Fri. April 17<sup>th</sup>  
8:00 AM – 5:00 PM, Sat. April 18<sup>th</sup> 8:00 AM – 3:00 PM

## 2020 CONVENTION: FFGC SPEAKERS/WORKSHOPS

### NEAL SANDERS



Neal is the author of 13 mysteries, most using garden club settings or horticultural plots. His blog, "The Principal Undergardener" addresses gardening as a non-gardener who loves gardens. He has run the Mass. Horticultural Society at the Boston Flower & Garden Show, and been a speaker at other State Conventions.

### CAROL REESE



Ordinary Plants, Extraordinary Stories  
Carol Reese, a nationally-known speaker, blends equal parts gardening knowledge, natural lore, and quirky humor. She attributes her love of horticulture to being raised on a farm by generations of opinionated plant nuts, including a grandfather who dynamited his garden spot each spring to "break up his hard pan".

### JOHN HOSEK



Surroundings Events & Floral  
John Hosek is known for his innovative and original style of work with his love for flowers which began at the age of 4 helping his parents plant their gardens. He was a member of the design team for the Oscars in Los Angeles for 10 years, and is an Education Specialist for Teleflora, as well as a member of Professional Floral Communicators International.

### MALLORY LYKES DIMMITT



Florida Wildlife Corridor  
Mallory is a seventh generation Floridian who has explored the lands and waters of central Florida, receiving her B.S. in Natural Resources and a Doris Duke Conservation Fellowship earning a Master's of Environmental Management at Duke University's Nicholas School of Environment. Her projects include protecting river corridors and large landscapes in Colorado with The Nature Conservancy and research in Sri Lanka for the International Water Management Institute.

### ROBIN POKORSKY

Director for the Pacific Region of National Garden Clubs (NGC), Robin developed the "Leap Into Leadership Program." Would you like to identify, cultivate and create future leaders for your organization? Would you like to build strong leadership, secure the future, mentor tomorrow's leaders, develop leadership back like a restored "Classic", and new varieties have been introduced as a result of their extensive breeding program, skill sets and/or share leadership programs? NGC has developed a program to achieve these goals with Robin as Chairman. Robin will conduct three workshops at the Convention. These are not "sit and listen" programs. You will be actively involved!

### ROBERT J. NORTHRUP

Rob is an Extension Forester with IFAS in Hillsborough County. Rob will educate us about the use of Trees in our Cities

### DR. ROBERT HARTMAN

Classic Caladiums has been known as the professional producers of caladium bulbs since 2000, and under the leadership of Dr. Robert Hartman the best qualities of long standing caladium varieties have continued. Many commercial caladium varieties were developed in the 1800's and have been brought back like a restored "Classic", and new varieties have been introduced as a result of their extensive breeding program.

### JOE PARR

The Movie Garden, Scary Plants in the Garden

### EMILY PALMIERI

Fun with Flowers – As always she is educating and shares with us her talent and creative ways of using containers and flowers. Of course the whole time making it fun!

### KATHY ECHEVARRIA AND PAM SLAGG –Botanical Horticulture

**MICHELLE JAMES** – Facebook/Instagram Come learn the how two's on doing Facebook and Instagram. How to merge your events on both, creating 1.

**SUE ROBERTS** Did you hear the exciting news? Come hear what's new in dues renewal, Sue Roberts. *The Florida Gardener*, come learn what's on the horizon for your news magazine!

### MIKE ECHEVARRIA – Coral Reef Restoration

**MARY WHISLER** – SEEK (Saving the Earth's Environment through Knowledge)



# REAL

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## **FFGC BYLAWS: PROPOSED AMENDMENTS**

THE FOLLOWING AMENDMENTS ARE PROPOSED FOR ADOPTION AT THE APRIL 2020 FFGC CONVENTION:

**CHARTER, ARTICLE VI, SEC 3** The Board of Directors shall consist of its Officers, all **past** Presidents of the Federation, the Chairman of the Headquarters and Endowment Trustees, the **Chairman of each Committee** authorized by or appointed pursuant to the Bylaws, and one Director (referred to as "District Director") from each District of the State of Florida established pursuant to the Bylaws.

**STRIKE:** past  
**Chairman of each Committee**      **INSERT:** former  
members of the Board of Directors

If adopted, this would read – "The Board of Directors shall consist of its Officers, all former Presidents of the Federation, the Chairman of the Headquarters and Endowment Trustees, members of the Board of Directors authorized by or appointed pursuant to Bylaws and one Director (referred to as "District Director") from each District of the State of Florida established pursuant to the Bylaws.

### **RATIONALE:**

The original documents were written in 1924 with FOUR Districts only and minimal clubs/circle. This Charter amendment simply allows each President the flexibility to appoint a Board of Directors deemed necessary to achieve the goals and objectives of FFGC for that particular administration. NGC does not limit members serving on the Board of Directors to Chairmen only.

With the adoption of ARTICLE VI, Sec 3 CHARTER, the following changes are required for Bylaws to be correct and consistent.

### **ARTICLE VII DUTIES OF OFFICERS Sec 1 President c (1) c; (2) g and (2) i:**

**Section 1 c** Appoint at the beginning of each term, the Corresponding Secretary, the Parliamentarian and the **Chairmen of Committees** except the Chairman of FFGC Nominating Committee and the Chairman of the Headquarters and Endowment Trustees.

**STRIKE:** Chairmen of Committees      **INSERT:** members of the Board of  
Directors  
Strategic Planning Committee

If adopted this would read "Appoint at the beginning of each term, the Corresponding Secretary, the Parliamentarian and the members of the Board of Directors except the Chairman of FFGC Nominating Committee and the Chairman of Headquarters and Endowment Trustees and Strategic Planning Committee."

**Section 1 c (1)** Appointments of **committee chairmen** made at the beginning of each term shall be subject to the approval of the Officers, District Directors and **Past** Presidents at a meeting called by the President for that purpose.

**STRIKE:** committee chairmen      **INSERT:** members of the Board of Directors  
**Past**      **Former**

If adopted this would read – "Appointments of members of the Board of Directors made at the beginning of each term shall be subject to the approval of the Officers, District Directors, Former Presidents at a meeting called by the President for that purpose."

**Section 1 c (2) g** Direct the activities of all officers and **chairmen**.

**STRIKE:** chairmen      **INSERT:** members of the Board of Directors

If adopted this would read – "Direct the activities of all officers and members of the Board of Directors."

**Section 1 c (2) i** Appoint, as requested by the First Vice President, **Committee Chairmen** whose duties overlap administrations.

**STRIKE:** Committee Chairmen      **INSERT:** members of the Board of Directors

If adopted this would read "Appoint, as requested by the First Vice President, members of the Board of Directors whose duties overlap administrations....."

### **ARTICLE VII DUTIES OF OFFICERS Section 2 President-Elect b**

Select potential **Chairmen of Committees**

**STRIKE:** Chairmen of Committees      **INSERT:** members of the Board of  
Directors

If adopted this would read "Select potential members of the Board of Directors."

### **ART XIII BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

**Section 1:** The Board of Directors shall consist of the officers of FFGC, **Past** Presidents of FFGC, District Directors, Chairman of the Headquarters and Endowment Trustees and **Chairmen of Committees**.

**STRIKE:** Past      **INSERT:** former  
**Chairmen of Committees**      **appointed Board Members.**

If adopted this would read "The Board of Directors shall consist of the Officers of FFGC, Former Presidents of FFGC, District Directors, Chairman of the Headquarters and Endowment Trustees and appointed Board members."

**Section 3:** Each Officer, District Director, Chairman of the Headquarters and Endowment Trustees and **Chairman of each Committee** shall:

**STRIKE:** Chairman of each Committee      **INSERT:** member of the Board of  
Directors

If adopted this would read "Each Officer, District Director, Chairman of the Headquarters and Endowment Trustees and members of the Board of Directors shall..... (no further change)"

### **ARTICLE XV STRATEGIC PLANNING COMMITTEE**

**Section 1 Membership a** Three (3) members to be **Chairmen** on the current Board of Directors appointed by the President with the approval of the Board of Directors. Three (3) members **At Large** elected by the Board of Directors with one (1) serving a two-year term and two (2) serving a three-year term.

**STRIKE:** Chairmen      **INSERT:** serving  
**At Large**      **on the current Board of Directors**

If adopted, this will read "Three (3) members to be serving on the current Board of Directors appointed by the President with the approval of the Board of Directors. Three (3) members on the current Board of Directors elected by the Board of Directors with one (1) serving a two-year term and two (2) serving a three-year term."

**RATIONALE:** The term "At Large" is vague and does not convey criteria of persons to be elected.

### **ARTICLE XVI BYLAWS COMMITTEE Section 3 Election**

The Nominating Committee for the Bylaws Committee would be **elected** in the Fall of the even numbered year (beginning September 2020). Bylaws Committee members elected in Winter of odd numbered year to begin serving at the Post Convention Meeting of the odd numbered year. Elected for a two-year term with an option for a second two-year term. (Committee members appointed do not have a term limit restriction.)

**STRIKE:** elected      **INSERT:** selected; The Chairman shall be appointed  
by the President and two (2) members shall be elected  
by the Board of Directors.

If adopted, this will read "The Nominating Committee for the Bylaws Committee would be selected in the Fall of the even numbered year (beginning September 2020). The Chairman shall be appointed by the President and two (2) members shall be elected by the Board of Directors. Bylaws Committee members elected in Winter of odd numbered year to begin serving at the Post Convention meeting of the odd numbered year. Elected for a two-year term with an option for a second two-year term. (Committee members appointed do not have a term limit restriction.)"

**RATIONALE:** The Bylaw did not specify the number serving on the Nominating Committee nor the procedure for Committee selection.

*Presented for consideration of adoption: 2019 -2021 Bylaws and Standing Rules Committee: Cissy Richardson, Al Latina, Sue Angle, Susan Mello, Carol Hall, Carolyn Stevens, Jan Sillik. Carolyn Nations, Parliamentarian.*

# Environment:

## Pinecrest Garden Club hosts Miami Artist Xavier Cortada

By Gina Guilford  
Vice-President Pinecrest Garden Club

The first time I heard of Mr. Cortada was from his sea level rise project titled *Underwater HOA*, where residents transformed election signs into a number signifying their property elevation. Mine is 12.5.



Cortada uses mangrove seedlings to bring attention to climate change

The first time I met him was at a University of Miami Graduation Ceremony, where we both were Alumni Marshals. When I spoke to him and realized he was the Pinecrest Garden's Artist in Residence, I knew he would be the perfect person to invite to speak at our club.

Known for his work to prevent climate change--Xavier Cortada uses interactive art rooted in climate change awareness. In his own words: "I want you to plant these mangroves not where I've been planting them, but in your yard," he said as he addressed members of the Ikebana flower arranging club to participate in his art exhibit called "PlanT". It's the first urban forestation project planting salt-tolerant mangrove seedlings-- or propagules-- in residential yards to prepare for sea-level rise.

The widely recognized painter sees himself as a change agent. He describes a trip to Antarctica in 2006 as a pivotal moment. "I loved art, but science has always been my muse. I'm there with the world's most preeminent scientists studying, literally, the glaciers. So, I took these ice samples these scientists gave me melted them on paper and created ice paintings and brought them to



Miami to the governor, the mayor, exhibited them in the community."

Cortada began planting mangroves and painting them over a decade ago, and in 2018 Cortada enlisted high school students to paint 25 by 25 foot "underwater markers" on roadways in Pinecrest, showing how sea-level rise will impact the area.

At Pinecrest Gardens his "PlanT" exhibit is coupled with volunteers who give away the mangrove seedlings.

"I've created this project to help people see the invisible," he says, holding up a mangrove propagule. "Using art as a way of reframing how you think, using art as a way of engaging one another, no hysteria, it's just a little plant but it's a signal of what's to come."



Xavier's resume is eight pages long, so here's the abbreviated version. He has been a professional artist since 1997, is a UM Law School Graduate, a University of Miami professor of Practice in the Department of Art and Art History and is the Pinecrest Artist in Residence. He was named an "Influencer" by the Miami Herald this year, is a chair of the Miami Dade Cultural Affairs Council and is on the UM Alumni Association Board of Directors. His artwork is displayed at the permanent collection of the Perez Art Museum, the Frost Art Museum and the Department of State art Collection in Florida. His latest Plan(T)ing for the Future is right here in the Hibiscus Room. We are very privileged to hear him speak to our group today as he has delivered speeches about his art at: The White House, TedxFIU, CERN in Geneva, Parsons Art School in New York City, Princeton University and the US Embassy in Helsinki. Another reason we are pleased to have him here today is because he's a lifelong Cane!



Pictured with Gina Guilford in front of mangrove seedlings on exhibit at Pinecrest Gardens

## Celebrate National Garden Week in Your Community

by Fran Maris, NGW Chairman 2019-2021

Join NGC clubs across the country and celebrate National Garden Week, June 7-13, 2020. Promote the NGC objectives of beautification, education of environmental efforts, gardening, and involvement of YOUR Garden Club in your community. This week is an opportunity to encourage pride in your community, interest new members, and work with other groups to be part of those efforts.

Ideas to consider:

- Plan an educational program and/or workshop at your local library, public garden or garden center.
- Sponsor a hands-on "How Do You Select Flowers/Shrubs for Your Garden" workshop at an area nursery.
- Plan a garden tour. This is a great time to share your knowledge of growing, while sharing ideas.
- Beautify a manageable blighted area or enhance an existing garden. This would be a good opportunity to work with other groups.
- Plan an activity with a youth group or school students.
- Place a plant or flower arrangement at public facilities, along with one of the beautiful National Garden Week posters.

Publicity is the key to the promotion of National Garden Week. From the NGC Website, you can download the National Garden Week proclamation and a poster. By inviting the mayor to sign this proclamation, you have a photo opportunity to submit to the local newspaper to kick off the week. Share a photo and write up of your National Garden Week activities with your local newspaper, magazines, FFGC Facebook or your own clubs social media sites. Apply for the NGW Award in 2020 and please be mindful that the award suggests awareness throughout the week of June 7-13. Award #66 National Garden Week Award **Donors:** 1) Joan Garrison; 2) Andrea Finn; 3) Marti Walker; 4) Barbara Horan; 5) Katherine Echeverria **Purpose:** To recognize and award garden clubs who have outstanding promotion of National Garden Week. **Proof of Accomplishment:** Use the FFGC Awards Application and report in narrative style. Entry should show community awareness throughout the entire week and include local and/or state proclamations. Photographs may be included. **Award:** \$25 in the following categories: 1. Small Clubs/Circles 29 members and under; 2. Medium Clubs/Circles with 30-59 members; 3. Large Clubs/Circles with 60-99 members; 4. Ex-Large Clubs/Circles with 100 members +; 5. District

## Plants..... Nirvana for the Senses

By Kalia Baillene

If you aren't a fan of loud, gas spewing mowers and the whining buzz of weed-whackers; you and I are on the same page. I just can't stop my addiction to every kind of plant I can possibly grow. The more the merrier is my motto. Grasses main purpose is to hold down the soil; but so can flowers, shrubs, and trees. Just think of all the pesticide use that pollutes the ground and water, just to keep out the bugs and weeds, or the huge amounts of water to keep it 'green'. You probably won't be able to convert the consummate mower in your household completely; so I suggest putting in a new 'native' tree surrounded by your choice of plants at various levels. Some planning and a bit of research will help create the look you want. It takes time, learning, patience, and more to establish a beautiful garden. Take advantage of pass-along plants and those that reproduce well. Learn to plant from seeds and to propagate different varieties. Check out the end of season and reduced plant areas for some great buys.

Some beautiful tree choices are: white fringetree (*Chionanthus virginicus*), Redbud (*Cercis canadensis*), Red Maple (*Acer rubrum*), Mulberry (*Morus rubra*), all are deciduous, or Yaupon holly (*Ilex vomitoria*) is evergreen. The fringetree's white fluffy plumage is amazing to see and will awe your viewers. The bloom is short lived, but well worth experiencing. The redbud is one of the first to bloom and can lift your spirits letting you know the cold is gone. The Red maple bursts out in small red seedlings before the leaves begin, grows quickly, and can offer some nice shade and places for birds to rest. The mulberry within a few short years will offer thousands of dark purple berries that grow into elongated drupes (delicious for humans and birds). The Yaupon Holly is very attractive and offers delicious berries for the birds.

After you have liberated this area from the green monster, in whatever shape and dimensions you desire, you can begin laying out plants and borders. Mulch, rocks, border stones, or bricks can all be used to create attractive edges between the grass and garden area. Some minor edging will help control and maintain a pleasant appearance. If you install several garden areas over the years, placing meandering paths between sections allows for variations of garden types, diversity of plants, and seasonal changes. Learn the growth habits of the plants you choose to create artistic and logical combinations. Consider the textures, colors, sizes, care needs, and how they effect your senses and the creatures they attract. The soil, water, and sun tolerance are very important as well. Preparing the soil is so important to help nourish the plants, control the water use, and avoid unwanted weeds or bugs. If the soil is good the plants will survive.

If you have a watering system, install a drip system or have sprinkler heads that have open controls to vary the water flow. Try putting in a rain barrel nearby to gather rainwater. Keep the stinky plants and ones that bees hover over, away from doorways. Fertilize as needed to keep plants healthy.



Your path could be natural or manmade, based on your likes and budget. Start natural and evolve as you grow with the plants. Remember, the natural surfaces will absorb rain and irrigation, while hard surfaces will create runoff. If you make levels in the landscape, some runoff could be used to create a water feature for plants like lilies and Cyperus.

Water features, ornaments, seating areas, hanging baskets, and individual pot plantings can all be incorporated into the ground areas. Just minimize the amounts used, vary the objects, and don't over do it. My thoughts are to create a beautiful spot that entices the viewer without a nylon banner that spells it out. Read your garden with your senses. Observe what is happening between the plants. Smell the sweet, the citrusy, and the pungent. Watch bees and butterflies gather pollen and nectar, and birds eat berries or serenade you.

Now that you have created the space, start your organic masterpiece. Varieties of amaryllis, agapanthus, irises, daylilies, and alliums create spring and

summer blooms, which die off, but leave showy green foliage year round. They are medium in height and grow in full sun to light shade. Many spring and summer flowers grow lower than the above species and have a shorter growth span, while others bloom all summer and into the fall. You will have to learn their habits. Some will reseed and return each spring. Some bulbs will die back, stay under ground and reemerge in the spring. Some plants produce colorful leaves and inconspicuous blooms, such as caladiums and coleuses. For a list of great plants for Florida, type 'plantlist-perennials' under IFIS. They have about 70 listed. Beware of some plants that grow in more Northern climates and have been hybridized for Florida. The bulbs may produce the first year and never produce again. They may grow better in some North Florida locations.



Stone and paved borders

Some showy and delightful flowers/plants are: gaillardia, dusty miller, Johnny jump-ups, gerbera daisy, coreopsis, Mexican heather, portulaca, salvias, and so many others. See a list in Hortulana, any botanica, and visit local nurseries. Ask questions and visit regularly to see what blooms each season. Don't forget about the many flowering shrubs such as: bouganvilla, camellias, alamanda, firebush, and hibiscus. Add some fragrance, food, and medicine in pots with herbs.

Create some spaces for just sitting and relaxing. Read a book, have a tea party, or just some quiet time to watch nature. The best part of gardening is to step back and view your masterpiece. It may need a tweak or adjustment; but, all is good if you like it. Remember: "There is no place I'd rather be, than here in my garden." May yours always be delightful.

*I grow plants for many reasons: to please my eye or to please my soul, to challenge the elements or to challenge my patience, for novelty or for nostalgia, but mostly for the joy in seeing them grow. – David Hobson*

## **FFGC History: OUR THIRD DECADE:** **1945-1954**

By Tina Tuttle

The world was still at war when Mrs. Merle B. Mann assumed the office of President of the Florida Federation of Garden Clubs at the one-day convention on May 3, 1945, in Jacksonville.

As the war ended, clubs were eager to step back into regular lines of work. Old clubs that had stood by and weathered the war storm felt the buoyancy of release from tension, thus the first year of Mrs. Mann's administration was truly a period of reconstructions and rehabilitation duly reported on the Twentieth Annual convention held May 2-3, 1946, in Miami Beach. New Clubs and circles throughout the state resulted in a greatly increased membership necessitating added responsibilities. The Horticulture Fellowship project, suspended during the war, was reactivated. The name of the "Horticultural Fellowship" had been officially changed to the "H. Harold Hume Fellowship" in a prior administration, but funds had accumulated during the war years when no student was available and Mrs. Bickel was empowered by the board to sign a contract with the University of Florida reiterating the official name and providing for more than one fellowship annually until such time as the accumulated funds had been exhausted.

The "Blue Star Highway" bill was passed by the Florida Legislature May 22, 1947, as was the Federation-sponsored amendment to the Plant Protection Law.

A \$1.00 registration fee was inaugurated just prior to the 1948 convention in Jacksonville, this to be divided between the Federation and the hostess club to help defray expenses. At this convention the Federation was awarded a Certificate of Achievement by National Council for its efforts in securing the designation of U.S. 1 in Florida as the "Blue Star Memorial Highway."



Mrs. Bickel served as Publicity Chairman for National Council. She was given recognition for leadership as President of the Florida Federation of Garden Clubs and other civic work in a special citation on March 10, 1949, at Florida Southern College, Lakeland, by its President, Dr. Ludd M. Spivey. Later that same month a ten-acre tract on Terra Ceia Island was dedicated to the State of Florida and named "The Madira Bickel Mound" in recognition of the civic services both she and Mr. Bickel had rendered the state. This was the first Archaeological Monument to come under the administration of the Florida Park Service. For more, visit: [stateparks.com/madira\\_bickel\\_mound\\_state](http://stateparks.com/madira_bickel_mound_state)  
At the National Council convention in Portland, Oregon

in May, 1949, Mrs. Bickel who later served as South Atlantic Regional Director, accepted the coveted Kellogg Medal for Civic Achievement, won by Davis Islands Circle of the Tampa Federation; and the Bronze Medal for the highest State Accomplishment on Florida's Horticultural Fellowship project.

The well-attended 1949 convention was held in St. Petersburg. The Blanche Capel Covington Leadership Award, established in 1943, was presented to Mrs. C. Verne Klintworth of Tampa for efforts in roadside development. Miss Mary S. Compton of Orlando was elected President at this convention.

On March 17, 1950, at Wayside Park, a few miles north of St. Augustine, National Council Past President, Mrs. Lewis Hull, dedicated a Blue Star Marker which designated U. S. 1 as the first Blue Star Memorial Highway in Florida. Later that year four other markers were dedicated.

During Miss Compton's tenure a \$50 State Life Membership was established, the objective was to honor individuals who had made valuable contributions to the member's club and the Federation. Also, during Miss Compton's administration 50 clubs had affiliated with the Federation, swelling the total membership from 18,243 in 1951. Her chosen theme "Progress with Knowledge" was carried out.

In March 1951, the Florida Federation hosted the South Atlantic Regional meeting at the unique Belleview Biltmore Hotel. Several years later a division was made of the South Atlantic Region, creating the Deep South Region composed of Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Louisiana, Mississippi and Tennessee.

At the 1951 convention held in Daytona Beach, Mrs. J. T. Alsop, Jacksonville, was awarded the first State Life Membership in recognition of her 25 years of loyal service on the governing board. Mrs. Alsop was author of the "History of the Florida Federation of Garden Clubs" covering the first 18 years of the organization. Later she compiled the *Supplement to the History* which completed the "Quarter Century period and one year more" in the life of the Federation.

The election of Mrs. Halle Cohen to the Federation presidency at Daytona Beach in April 1951, and her assumption of the duties attendant on the office following installation at Gainesville in June, ushered in a progressive administration.

During years of work as president of the Gloriosa Circle and later of her own Garden Club of Jacksonville, meantime serving as Garden Centers chairman for National Council of State Garden Clubs, Mrs. Cohen had been exceptionally well versed in the aims, ideals and objectives of Florida Federation. She was recipient of the coveted Blanche Covington Leadership Award in 1951.

Setting "A More Beautiful Florida" as theme for her administration, Mrs. Cohen's every effort was expended to achieve this goal. Many of the "firsts" of the 13<sup>th</sup> administration were launched at the June 15, 1951 board meeting following the Short Course at University of Florida. Included were *The Florida Gardener* as the first official publication of the Federation, the first State Flower Show to be held at Lakeland and promotion of a statewide "Don't be a Litterbug" roadside beautification program. New chairmanships established during the administration

were Blue Star Memorial, Book Service, Chaplain, Civic Planning, State and National Parks, Historic memorials, *Florida Gardener*, Garden Therapy, Legislation, Life Memberships, Membership, Resolutions and State Flower Show. Mrs. Joseph R. Ellicott and Mrs. Arthur G. Cummer were recipients of honorary Life Memberships. First Vice President Mrs. Eugene A. Smith was named to work with the six district directors as supervisor, and rating sheets, to increase efficiency, were inaugurated.

During the summer of 1951 a project said to be the first such ever undertaken by a district was launched. It was the planting of a citrus grove on the 160-acre grounds of Southeast Florida Tuberculosis Sanatorium at Lantana by District VI. Launched also as a first by this district, which pioneered with President's Conferences, was a district-wide wildflower project.

Another first was an orange blossom corsage, fashioned of sea shells by Mrs. Clyde Pettijohn of Winter Haven, sent to Gatlinburg, TN, in the name of the Florida Federation to become part of a permanent exhibit in which replicas of all state flowers were mounted on a large map of the United States.

The Federated Garden Circles of Fort Lauderdale hosted the summer meeting of the State Board in August, 1952, in the Glenn F. Bates Garden Center. Included on the agenda was acceptance of the Garden Club of Lakeland's invitation to hold the First State Flower Show, with Mrs. Mark Powell as chairman, changing the date of the Short Course at University of Florida from June to February, and acceptance of an award of \$25 for roadside development from Mrs. Charles J. Brown of Mount Dora.

On September 20, 1951, the first edition of *The Florida Gardener* it's cover bearing a photograph by Halle Cohen of the Sable Palmetto came off the press. Consensus of enthusiastic garden club members throughout the state was that the publication was destined to admirably fulfill the purposes for which it was established, i.e., to present the total programs of the Federation, to give the individual member a perspective of herself in the National Council picture, to promote important projects of the Federation, and to serve as vehicle for an exchange of ideas between clubs. Mrs. John R. Parkinson was editor and Mrs. Cohen served as business manager.

Twenty-nine board members enjoyed the hospitality of Eustis Garden Club for the November 1, 1951, meeting. Agreement was reached that henceforth district directors would report at state conventions on the combined efforts of the clubs within the districts, rather than individual club presidents who would report at the respective district meetings, and the first "Don't Be a Litterbug" posters were displayed. The winter board meeting was held in Bradenton on January 17, 1952, with Manatee River Garden Club as hostess group.

"Diggin' and Doin'" was theme of the down-to-earth 1952 Short Course held February 4-5 at University of Florida with Mrs. Bright Taylor, of Ocala, as chairman.

At the National Council Convention in Biloxi, MS, March 8-15, 1952, Florida was in the nation's Number One spot for junior gardening work and National Council adopted Florida's "Don't Be a Litterbug" slogan.

"Florida, the Realm Magnificent in Flower and Song" was theme of the first State Flower Show held March 21-22, 1952, in a setting of modern architectural splendor on Florida Southern College campus at Lakeland. Willing area garden clubs helped stage the show, the state's top judges judged it, clerks and hostesses from many clubs assisted with those details.

Among garden clubs celebrating their 25<sup>th</sup> anniversaries in 1952 were the Garden Club of Winter Haven, Tallahassee Garden Club, Arlington Garden Club of Daytona Beach, Eau Gallie and Melbourne Garden Clubs.

With "Gardening with an Objective" as theme and with National Council President Mrs. G. C. Spillers as guest of honor, the 26<sup>th</sup> Annual FFGC Convention was held in Tampa, April 21-23, 1952. Reports revealed Blue Star Memorial Markers placed totaled five, the Book Service department had made progress during its first year, civic planning and beautification projects were undertaken by more than 60% of Florida's garden clubs, nine students had been assisted in graduate work in the field of horticulture through the Federation's H. Harold Hume Fellowship; 75 flower shows were registered with the state chairman, Flower Show Schools were held in many cities, 16 garden centers were in operation, there were seven Life Members of the Federation, and Florida, with 17,485 children receiving 3,824,252 hours of instruction during the year, ranked first among states in the nation under National Council's point hour system of evaluating Junior Garden Club work. Among 15 pertinent resolutions adopted by delegates in convention assembled were those calling for changing the name appearing on the Great Seal of the State of Florida—the tree being called a Cocoa when in reality it was the Sabal Palmetto Palm, and creation of an official Pascua Florida Day on March 27. (For more information: [wikipedia.org/wiki/Pascua\\_Florida](http://wikipedia.org/wiki/Pascua_Florida))

Delegates lauded *The Florida Gardener*, agreed to an increase in dues and on the continued maintenance of the Horticultural Fellowship at University of Florida. Directors for the state federation's six districts were elected at caucuses.

The charter of the Florida Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc., was granted on May 29, 1952, on an order signed by Circuit Judge D. O. Rogers and filed in the office of Clerk of the Circuit Court in Bartow, Polk County. Mrs. Cohen, as President, headed the list of subscribers in the articles of incorporation.

At the June 12, 1952, board meeting in Jacksonville the publishing of the *Year Book-Book of Information* yearly was voted and recommendation was made to National Council that the designing of the President's pin be considered.

Mrs. Cohen edited the Fall, 1952, edition of *The Florida Gardener*. In the name of the more than 21,000 FFGC members the President protested the leasing of lands within boundaries of Everglades National Park to private corporations for exploring for oil purposes.

Another first of the 13<sup>th</sup> administration was issuance of the *Florida Gardener Engagement Calendar*, with distribution beginning in September, 1952, for 1953. Mrs. Lee Millican of Palatka was calendar committee chairman. The cover bore a beautiful Cypress Garden scene, in color. There were 55 photographs of flower arrangements and gardens. It was priced at \$1.00 plus three cents sales tax and profit, on the 14,000 copies

sold, was more than \$4,000 to the clubs and \$188.71 to the Federation. Still another first was the sponsoring by District IV of the initial Garden Therapy Workshop in Florida held October 10, 1952, at Orlando.

At the fall board meeting held October 23, 1952, in Ocala a resolution vigorously opposing cutting of timber for commercial use, sale or lease of timber rights and processing of timber in State Parks was adopted. Mrs. Lester Simon accepted the responsibility of placing an exhibit in the Tampa Federation's spring flower show "America The Beautiful," in a class reserved for the 11 states of the South Atlantic Region. The State Board also recommended that garden clubs operate on budgets with an amount included for delegates' expenses to convention so that attendance would impose no hardship on delegates.

More than 800 plants, provided by the Horticulture Department with Mrs. William C. Knox as chairman, were distributed at the six district meetings for the purpose of obtaining plant summaries on the 26 different species in the distribution. The summary in formation was for use in bulletins to supply members with actual growing records in the three plant zones of the state and to provide adequate advisory information to the general public. District I's first project, a district-wide flower show, was held in Pensacola October 29-November 3, 1952.

January, 1953, ushered in a season of Camellia shows in the central and northern sections of Florida as forerunners of the greatly increased number of spring shows. Tallahassee Garden Club used camellias in decorating for the inauguration of Governor Dan C. McCarty. Arbor Day was observed widely throughout Florida on the third Friday in January with garden clubs and schools, where junior gardeners participated, taking the lead in planting flowering and shade trees.

At Fort Pierce in the Garden Center of St. Lucie County Federation, Mrs. Cohen conducted the winter board meeting on January 16, 1953. The Federation's corporate seal was displayed for the first time and the Alice Rush McKeon Bronze Medal Award for Roadside Development was accepted.

"The Plan's the Thing" was theme of the 9<sup>th</sup> annual Short Course at University of Florida, held February 2-1, 1953, and attended by 132 garden club members. An "Ask me Another" question and answer forum, with instructors as members of a resource panel, was featured.

Mrs. Cohen headed the Florida delegation at the South Atlantic Regional Meeting in Pinehurst, NC, February 10 and 11, 1953.

"The Florida Story—Exotic Beauty and Golden Glory" as theme of the Second Annual Florida Flower Show held March 12-14, 1953, in Fort Lauderdale. Perhaps for the first time all horticultural specimens and plants were grouped by families for added nomenclatural and educational value. Floral arrangements with titles descriptive of the State of Florida challenged the imagination and artistry of exhibitors and provided inspiration for more than 10,000 spectators. A large map of the state was laid out in bitter blue grass in the center of the War Memorial Auditorium and was studded with plants and shrubs representative of the natural growth in the several areas of Florida depicted.

Garden Clubs of Monticello, Lake City, Indian River County (Vero Beach), St. Petersburg and Lake Wales

were among those celebrating their 25<sup>th</sup> anniversaries. A 25-year history of the Lake Wales Club, compiled by Mrs. Gerald Pierce, revealed reference by the *Tampa Morning Tribune* to Lake Wales as "That beautiful city east of the dump pile" spurred garden club members into their first clean-up campaign, prodding the Chamber of Commerce, volunteer trucks, and workers were recruited to move the dump pile containing 125 discarded automobiles, assorted cans, bottles and junk. Encouraged, three teams including merchants and Boy Scouts staged a citywide clean-up and Edward Bock's offer to finance the first year of a five-year beautification plan was accepted.

The ninth Nature Study Course was held at Torreya State Park March 25- April 1, 1953. Gregory Mansion, said to be a perfect example of Southern plantation architecture, housed the 25 students and the faculty members.

"Nature's Bounty for a More Beautiful Florida" was theme of the 27<sup>th</sup> FFGC Annual Convention held April 8 thru 10, 1953, at Miami. Restoration and beautification of cemeteries stood high among civic projects, many school and churchyards were landscaped, parks and approaches to cities beautified. The sixth Blue Star Marker was placed on U. S. Highway 1 by the Garden Club of Jacksonville and a seventh was purchased to be placed at Daytona Beach. The total number of amateur accredited flower show judges reached 103 and there were 20 nationally accredited instructors for Flower Show Schools in Florida. 16 garden centers in club-owned buildings served their communities and 11 additional centers occupied quarters in civic buildings. Advancement of horticulture ranked foremost in the FFGC program; 18,663 trees, 31,964 shrubs and 3,644 roses were planted in municipal and home gardens. A combined *Year Book* and *Book of Information* was published for the first time. Delegates left the convention with these words of Dr. J. Ollie Edmunds, president of Stetson University and a featured speaker, "Gardens have always been an outlet for the expression of qualities that are good in man and garden club members can make Florida what they want it to be... now is the time to determine what kind of state we will have 25 years from now...a national nursing home or a casino of glittering lights and entertainment or "A more Beautiful Florida," ringing in our ears. With the closing of the convention and attendance by the immediate past FFGC President at the 1953 National Council Convention in San Francisco, the curtain was lowered on one of the Federation's most successful regimes.

Mrs. Eugene A. Smith of Fort Lauderdale became the 14<sup>th</sup> President of the Florida Federation of Garden Clubs on April 10, 1953, at the close of the organization's 27<sup>th</sup> convention. In accepting the gavel, she said, "Let us educate, participate and cooperate in the programs planned for our members and continue to learn and share nature's beauty." Deeply interested in the Peace Rose project, she encouraged each member to "plant, produce and share this symbol of peace."

Early in Mrs. Smith's administration the 1953 Florida Legislature passed the bill designation the Sabal Palm as the Florida State Tree. In expressing appreciation to legislators, who handled the Federation-sponsored bill and to members of FFGC who did effective work in securing its passage, the President paid tribute to her predecessor Mrs. Halle Cohen who, as chairman of resolutions in 1949 wrote the first Sabal Palm Resolution which was adopted at the 23<sup>rd</sup> Annual

Convention in St. Petersburg. "She did not stop working for the passage of this bill until it became a law", Mrs. Smith said. Governor Dan McCarty signed the Sabal Palm bill on June 17, 1953. At approximately the same time the planting of a Sabal Palmetto Palm in the glen at Rainbow Springs climaxed the first board meeting of the new administration. On February 22, 1954, another Sabal Palm was planted by the Federation on the State Capital grounds in Tallahassee in memory of the late youthful governor who had died about nine months after taking office.

The sum of \$5,000 was approved by the board of directors toward the purchase of 160 acres in Collier County which encompassed the last stand of virgin cypress and also the rookery for thousands of herons, ibis and other birds. Action of the board was ratified by delegates to the 28<sup>th</sup> convention, thus the Corkscrew Swamp Sanctuary in Everglades National Park became a part of the Federation's heritage. (For more information: [corkscrew.audubon.org](http://corkscrew.audubon.org))

Voluntary contributions from clubs, circles and individuals amounting to \$2,196 which was presented to National Council of State Garden Clubs toward the building of its Permanent Home in Shaw Botanical Gardens St. Louis, Mo.

Theme of the 28<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention, held March 30-April 1, 1954, in Orlando was "Each Florida Mile a Mile of Beauty," and that of the 3<sup>rd</sup> annual State Flower Show held concurrently with the convention in the spacious Orlando Coliseum, was "Pascua del Florida—Feast of the Flowers".

During the business session of the convention delegates, by resolution, also urged civil defense on a permanent basis, endorsed the use of anti-billboard pledge seals and deplored action of the Internal Improvement Fund Trustees in abrogating its commitment to convey lands to the National Park Service to be part of Everglades National Park. Much emphasis was placed on highway zoning needed to control all forms of roadside business with each member being urged to help promote zoning legislation. Planting of "Miles of Beauty" gained impetus.

On June 21, 1954, impressive dedication ceremonies were held at a five-room frame and stucco building on the western edge of the University of Florida campus and known as the Pery House, which the university leased to the Federation for use as a State Headquarters. The arrangement proved temporary but the Sabal Palm, donated and planted there at dedication time by the Federation's first Hume Fellow, Joe M. Crevasse, lived on. Also, in June 1954, Florida was re-districted into 11 districts instead of the former six. In accordance with the bylaws the President appointed a committee composed of immediate past directors of the four largest districts, with First Vice President Mrs. John R. Parkinson serving as chairman. The division was necessitated by the expansion, in size and scope, of the Federation and the need to lessen travel demands on district directors.

A statewide Conservation Workshop was held at University of Florida December 6-8, 1954, with "down to earth" information given on preventing soil erosion,

protecting existing forests and planting new ones, purifying lakes and streams so the aquatic life might exist and the water be fit for use, and other facets.

Highway A1A was designated as "Ocean Trail" by act of the Florida Legislature and also, at the Federation's behest, *Magnolia grandiflora* was removed from the Conservation List. By special arrangement with the Florida State Plant Board, it was established certificates would be issued free to garden clubs or circles having plant sales or exchanges. The first Advanced Refresher Course for flower show judges was conducted at the University of Florida February 7-9, 1955.

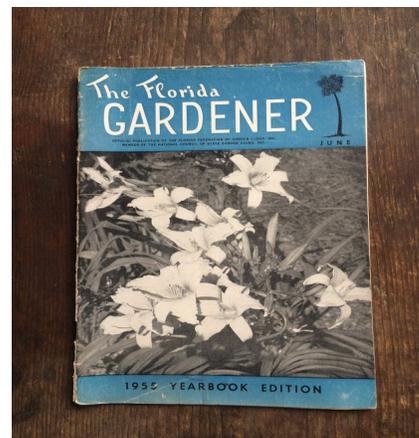
Junior gardening, Blanche Covington Nature Study Course, roadside development, garden therapy, flower shows, fellowships and scholarships, and many other phases of garden club activities were continued with success. A committee to "Keep Florida Green" was named by Governor LeRoy Collins and FFGC President Mrs. Smith was appointed chairman.

The 29<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention, with "Conserve and Promote Florida's Beauty" as theme, was held April 14-16, 1955, in Jacksonville. Immediately following, on April 16-18, was the Fourth Annual Flower Show, theme of which was "Florida for Better Homes and Gardens" held in Ocala with the Pioneer Garden Club joining the Federation to sponsor the event.

Mrs. John R. Parkinson of Daytona Beach was installed President of the Florida Federation at its 29<sup>th</sup> annual convention April 17-19, 1955, at the George Washington Hotel in Jacksonville. In her acceptance speech she announced "Joy in Gardening" as theme of the administration. Mrs. Parkinson had been active in both the Garden Club of America and her hometown garden club, served as parliamentarian in other organizations, filled several chairmanships on National Council, and was the first editor of *The Florida Gardener*—official publication of the Federation. During her tenure *The Florida Gardener* was published six times each year instead of four, the Conservation Teacher Scholarship was established and four area conservation conferences were held. Also, the first Landscape Design Course took place at the University of Florida, the first advanced refresher course for Flower Show Judges was held, the Tropical Short Course was initiated, "*Junior Gardengraphic*" was published, and the National Council of State Garden Clubs, Inc., convention was held in Miami.

Work was done in the field of endorsing and preserving historic memorials and in protecting parks. Efforts to secure passage of the permissive State Enabling Act for Zoning and a bill requiring trash trucks to be equipped with a secured covering were redoubled. The "Don't Be a Litterbug" slogan was widely used in connection with advancement of the Federation's roadside development program. Specific plants for the advancement of garden centers were accepted, a booklet of garden center floor plans was made available, more junior garden clubs were added and a broader view of garden therapy was encouraged. A State Flower Show, "La Florida Linda", was held at Daytona Beach, fellowships and scholarships were continued, the garden club library was increased and book service made available to members. The first all color *Florida Flower Arrangement Calendar* was published, many flower shows and flower show

schools were held, the Plant Distribution Project was introduced and much emphasis was placed on improved methods in home cultural practices.



The Federation in cooperation with Sears Roebuck and Co. co-sponsored a Hands Beautification workshop at Ponte Vedra Beach with lady Byrd-Johnson, wife of President Lyndon Johnson, as featured speaker. Garden club members from 11 states attended.

New state and national Life Memberships were presented and state and national awards won at the 30<sup>th</sup> annual convention held in Tallahassee. In 1957 our bylaws were amended to read "In the even years the District Directors shall be elected." (Their terms of office to coincide with those of the state Officers.)

One of the highlights of Mrs. Parkinson's administration was the hosting of the 28<sup>th</sup> annual convention of National Council of State Garden Clubs. The event was held at Bayfront Park Auditorium in Miami March 31-April 4, 1957, and the theme chosen by National President Mrs. Bradley Morrah was "Happy Gardening—An Art and a Science". Forty-five states and nine affiliate groups were represented at the meeting, in conjunction with which the Miami Metropolitan Flower Show was held for the added enjoyment of convention-goers.

Immediately following the National Council convention, the Federation's 31<sup>st</sup> annual convention was held, also in Miami. In enlarging on Mrs. Morrah's theme, Mrs. Parkinson said "An art and a science is the creation of beauty in our homes, our surroundings and our communities; an art and a science is our manner of working together; and art is eternal and science is continuing development, so our organization's life is on-going."

In 1963 Mrs. Parkinson was elected recording secretary of National Council and was the first Florida Federation member to serve as a national officer. On June 18, 1965 a tragic plane accident took her life and that of her distinguished husband.

*Note: Be sure to look on page 10 for some exciting ideas and plans being discussed for the FFGC 100th Anniversary Celebrations!*



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