

The Florida Gardener

Fall 2022



President's Message

We Are So Fortunate to Live in Florida

Dear Friends,



How many times have you watched the evening news reporting on the fires out west, floods to our north, tornadoes hitting the center of the US and scorching temperatures within the Midwest and just shook your head? It seems like it is the lead story each night on the news. Now, after you see that bit of news how often to you think to yourself or say out loud, “I’m glad I, we, live in Florida”?

We are so fortunate to live in Florida and have the fabulous weather that we have. Our evenings are cool enough for us to need a wrap if we sit out on the porch in the evening. My first experience of staying a week at Wekiva Youth Camp was amazing. I remember sleeping in a tent, middle of July, with all the tent flaps open. During the night I would close one flap, later another, then another, and another. I was freezing, in the middle of July, in Florida.

Our mornings are filled with air that has been cleaned by the previous day’s rain shower. If by chance there was morning fog, the lite morning breeze gently lifts it out of view. The lizards and squirrels enjoy lapping the dew off our favorite plants. Then, as the sun rises to dry their wings, the butterflies and bees begin to appear. They pollinate our flowers and thank us with honey and beauty.

As the heat warms the Florida ground, the ground warms the air and it rises to the cool sky, our clouds are starting to form. Once the clouds can’t hold any more moisture, down the rain comes cooling the air for our evening pleasure. The cycle repeats day after day.

Florida has clean water, clean air, and a livable climate. How long can we expect to be so fortunate? Sure, we have hot days, but we have the beach, lakes, or springs, that aren’t an hour from anywhere in Florida to cool us down. Yes, we have hurricanes, but at least we have a day or two to plan for them. We need to continue to do our part to keep our little part of the earth happy.

What can we do to keep us and Florida happy? We can turn off the lights, turn off the water, stop buying “things”, stop fertilizing, stop spraying the one bad bug in your yard while killing the ninety-nine good bugs, and plant, plant, plant. That isn’t too much to ask. You can do that, I can do that, your neighbor can do that.

WOW, we are so fortunate to live here in Florida. We live here in Florida, for a reason. What’s your reason?

Marjorie H. Hendon, FFGC President



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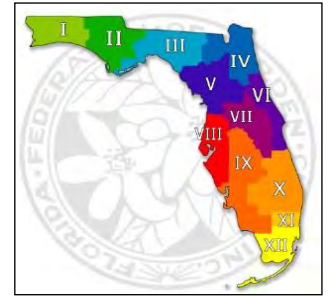


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Hummingbird from my window By: (Photo) - Debbie Byrd, <i>The Garden Club of Jacksonville, Inc. (Dist. IV)</i> This beautiful little female came in to get a drink on one of our very hot summer days. Keeping their nectar fresh and clean is so important as they, like us humans, need to stay hydrated during the summer.	
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From Your Editor



This is my final issue as your editor of "The Florida Gardener". Please welcome your new very well qualified editor, *Lisa Packard* who will assume the editor's responsibility for the Winter 2022 issue of "The Florida Gardener".

For the past three years, this position has been an exciting, frustrating, demanding, humbling, and educational experience for me.

I have strived to provide an informative, educational, visually attractive, and interesting magazine and to include specific FFGC and NGC gardening and environmental issues.

It has been a pleasure to coordinate with those in charge of providing articles, photos, and advertisements to the magazine.

This is your magazine and will continue to flourish with the support and input of all members.

Thanks,
Dave Spaulding, former Editor, "The Florida Gardener"

Florida Federation of Garden Clubs

UPCOMING TRAVEL



Holland Tulip Festival

May 11, 2023 - roundtrip Chicago

Tulip Time celebrates tulips, Dutch heritage & the Holland, Michigan community. Since 1929, the city of Holland has blossomed with hundreds of thousands of tulips. Take advantage of our custom itinerary & join us on this 8 day tour! Some of the highlights of this trip include spending the night in the Grand Hotel on Mackinac Island & visiting the 240-year old working windmill "De Zwaan".



Douro River Cruise

October 4, 2023 - Portugal

Join us on this 7 night river cruise with a 3 night stay in Lisbon. Taste wines from historic wineries & soak up the genuine beauty of one of Europe's most unadulterated landscapes on this sailing. You will visit multiple UNESCO World Heritage Sites as well as Pena Palace in Serra de Sintra, known as one of the loveliest mountain villages in Portugal.



Coastal Cruise

April 2024 - Amelia Island to Charleston

All aboard on a coastal cruise sailing out of Amelia Island! This trip will be in conjunction with the FFGC 100th anniversary celebration convention!
Dates and details to be announced.



Visit our website to learn more about our upcoming trips:

<https://www.funseas.com/ffgc>

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DISTRICT I NEWS

Joyce Waters-Smith, Director

Counties: Escambia, Santa Rosa, Okaloosa, Walton

Jenny Weber, Assistant District Director, is reporting for District I in this issue.

District I clubs continue to support ongoing National Garden Clubs, Deep South and Florida Federation of Garden Clubs programs such as Wekiva, S.E.E.K., Blue and Gold Star, and Penny Pines. We are excited about the upcoming garden club year! Here are a few things we are looking forward to.

Destin Garden Club - WOW! This amazing club just joined the Federation last year and have already done so much. They received a matching grant from FFGC for their gardens at the Destin library which are beautiful. They dedicated a Blue Star Marker. Destin GC is cohosting our Fall District meeting. Way to grow Destin!

Valparaiso Garden Club is also cohosting our Fall District meeting. The Oktoberfest theme should be a hoot! They have been busy working on the Paradise Garden Restoration Project. They are a partner with the Heritage Museum of NW Fla to decorate for "Yule of Yesteryear" holiday event. Knowing this capable group, we should see some awards at the next convention.

Defuniak Springs Garden Club will be celebrating their 75th birthday! They are planning a party in the Library Reading Garden where they have a new butterfly garden. Butterflies in Motion, a mobile butterfly house, will be there too.

Pensacola Federation of Garden Clubs has been recovering from Hurricane Sally damage to their building. They have been doing necessary repairs and some improvements over \$100,000. We are all looking forward to the return of their "Tour of Tables" March 14 & 15, 2023, as well as the "Secret Garden Tour" May 20 & 21, 2023.

Honeysuckle Garden Club, believe it or not, is already starting to plan to host the Fall 2023 District meeting! Tina Tuttle is in Honeysuckle and slated to be President of FFGC then so it's not as crazy as it seems. So far this year they plan to have a program on propagation and another on preparing to enter the Pensacola Interstate Fair Flower Show. They are also working on a sampler quilt to raffle for their new scholarship.

Garnier Beach Garden Club will be celebrating their 70th birthday! They are working on plans to commemorate the occasion which may include adding engraved bricks of former club presidents around their Blue Star Memorial.

Milton Garden Club had a very successful golf tournament in Spring, raising over \$9,000! They are excitedly dreaming of beautification projects in the city as well as possibly installing a Gold Star Memorial in the Santa Rosa County Veterans Memorial Plaza.



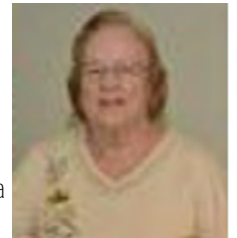
Green Thumb Garden Club has a lot on the agenda such as, 5 scholarships (WOW!), E.O. Wilson Biophilia Center Naturalists Outdoor Camp (High School), Jr Gardeners at Butler elementary, John Horton Senior center, Butterfly garden at Eden Gardens State Park, a tour of Southern Grace Lavender farm, November Holiday Bazaar (funds scholarships), and a road trip to "City of Roses" Thomasville, Georgia. Amazing to see what this club does.

DISTRICT II NEWS

Sue Schmitz, Director

Counties: Holmes, Washington, Jackson, Bay, Calhoun, Gulf, Liberty, Gadsden

ChIPLEY Garden Club is mourning the loss of a beloved former member, Louise Michaels.



Miss Louise passed away at home in her sleep on June 8, 2022, just as she so often said "that's the way I want to go". She had been living in Dothan, Alabama since the death of her husband. Miss Louise donated her body to science; however, she will be memorialized in Illinois alongside her sweetheart, Glen Michaels, at the Veterans Memorial Grounds. Miss Louise served as ChIPLEY Garden Club President for eight years, District II Director for two years, and on countless committees.

She returned to ChIPLEY frequently to attend meetings and events. Miss Louise never missed an English Tea & Garden Tour. She spearheaded the "Thrill of Thrift" fashion shows, opened her home for Christmas parties and Christmas "Tour of Homes" featuring "recycled" Christmas decor, and set up many educational opportunities for club members and the public on a wide variety of subjects. She was multi-talented, and no task made her hesitate. She loved flowers, gardening, and especially working with children - the "future gardeners" of this world.

Miss Louise will be sorely missed by her fellow gardeners. She was truly one of a kind.

ChIPLEY Garden Club has been busy "undressing" their scarecrows with plans to redress them in the fall. To stay in contact during the summer, the club has been meeting often for breakfast.

Gulf Beach Garden Club has updated the bylaws and policies of the Garden Club since selling the clubhouse. They are working on a raised bed community vegetable garden at the Senior Center.

Lynn Haven Garden Club continues to support community beautification efforts with the focus being Lynn Haven Elementary School. We have created/revitalized several landscape areas. Yet to come: a Zen Garden, a cutting garden, a succulent garden, and a raised bed garden to be used by students and teachers to foster learning about agriculture and the environment.

DISTRICT II NEWS - (cont'd)

Panama City Garden Club - starting in the fall of 2022 we will be working with the city of Panama City on our plans to tear down the old Club building that was severely damaged by Hurricane Michael. We are preserving the library which is a historic structure. There are also plans to develop the grounds into gardens for outdoor events.

Port St. Joe Garden Club has announced that Bomb Making will be their next project, wildflower seed bombs, that is. For the second-year members will provide an educational program for the Career Source camp attendees, campers ranging age from 5 to 14. The club will be holding their annual plant sale on Saturday September 10th.

Wausau Garden Club is proud to announce that they will be participating in the world renown Possum Festival.

Sneads Garden Club is busy planning a fantastic October District Meeting. Everyone in District II is looking forward to the meeting.

DISTRICT III NEWS

Marilyn Larson, Director



Counties: Franklin, Wakulla, Leon, Jefferson, Madison, Taylor, Hamilton, Suwannee, Lafayette

WOW! Worlds of Wonder is definitely practiced by the clubs in District III as was evidenced by the Clubs tree planting total count of 213,275 trees and 119 varieties, as reported for 2021-22 FFGC Program year awards. It helps that several clubs have tree farms owned by members, but regardless, that program along with contributions to Penny Pines makes District III a very active participant in the ecological

health of North Florida. WOW!

Recent leadership change as District III Assistant Director, Linda F. Johnson, has agreed to serve as FFGC Corresponding Secretary and is replaced by a new District III Assistant Director, Lana Arnold, Tallahassee Garden Club.

Live Oak Garden Club has achieved the Yellow Diamond status in FFGC Precious Metals category by being a federated garden club for 85 years. Live Oak Garden Club members present and recognized at the Spring District III meeting hosted by Wakulla County Garden Club at Sherlock Springs as shown in the picture, from left to right are Sandra Hodgson, Rosemary Ivie, Lucille Heinrich, Shirley Reaves, Alaine Solberg, Judy Loughran, and Dana Darby. Congratulations Live Oak Garden Club on an historic milestone!



Madison Garden Club begins their program year September 1 with a Hawaiian luau theme and a program on membership. Other fall program topics include a program on pollinators in October and another on native trees in November. The club is holding a "sock hop" as a fundraiser to raise funds for the Camp Cherry Lake 4-H camp, a great example of how local garden clubs support youth and community enhancements.

Monticello Garden Club held a plant sale during June as part of the Watermelon Festival. Programs planned for their club meetings include ginger lilies, garden ornaments, and chrysanthemums, a member of the Aster plant family.

Perry Garden Club. The Club is proud to announce that they added new members and many are very active. The Club, in addition to monthly programs, maintains a building and grounds used as a meeting place and rentals which keeps them busy year-round. The Fall District III Meeting will be

hosted by the Perry Garden Club, so planning is underway for the October 13 event, featuring the FFGC officers on their state-wide tour of the twelve districts.

Steinhatchee Garden Club annually sends local children to Camp Wekiva and SEEK and this summer a Steinhatchee student became a camp counselor at Wekiva because of Steinhatchee's sponsorship. The Club's new program year in September kicks off with Rita Moody as President, with membership recruitment planning underway. Timely monthly topics for fall programs include "salt water tolerant plants" as club members live near water and experience brackish water and flooding. Another fall program topic is "invasive species". Both important and timely topics to kick off the program year.

Tallahassee Garden Club begins the program year with newly installed Board of Trustees members, Fran Rehberg as Treasurer and Margaret Bryant as Landscape/Grounds Trustee. The Board of Trustees, Tallahassee Garden Club, oversees the Club's historic Rutgers House and grounds property. The facility is used for Club and Circle meetings, special events and rental to the general public for weddings, parties, and other private rentals. Club membership totals continue to rise through membership recruitment and retention with 579 total members through May. September begins the new program year with the Club's 21 circles hosting a variety of educational and interesting programs. Examples of Programs include a study of "Backyard Tea Varieties", crafting fall centerpieces, flower arranging from your garden and grocery flowers, and medicinal herb gardening to name a few, and Circles begin youth gardening activities with the start of the new school year. The Club's plant exchange and horticulture programs are held monthly beginning in September and the Fall General Membership meeting is planned for November 9 featuring Dr. David Clark on the topic of coleus cultivars.

A new partnership with LeMoyne Art Gallery, located several blocks from the Tallahassee Garden Club downtown, will be the Club's groundbreaking to revitalize the Helen Lind Garden at LeMoyne. This recent community partner is one example of the club's partnering with local agencies to the benefit of both. In May, a "Kentucky Derby Party" was jointly hosted at Maclay Gardens State Park and raised over \$10,000 in support of the club's Rutgers House improvements.

Taking time off for summer wasn't necessarily true for all clubs in the district as the District Director convened a "zoom" networking meeting the first week of August for club presidents to share program ideas between clubs and prepare for upcoming important calendar events.

DISTRICT IV NEWS

Connie Gladding, Director

Counties: Baker, Union, Nassau, Duval, Clay, St. Johns, Putnam

Miss your gardening friends over the summer? Several District IV Clubs didn't; they held parties, visited gardens, and hosted community events.



The Garden Club of Fleming Island membership visited each other's gardens. They enjoyed getting to know each other better and loved seeing everyone's gardens. All were so wildlife-friendly, colorful, and creative with varying maintenance schemes. Club members realized that gardens don't have to be perfect to be enjoyed by others. The gardens reflected what makes the individual gardener happy. On one occasion there was extra fun; they ended their garden visit with a pool party.

The Garden Club of the Lakes contributed school supplies for the community "Back to School Splash" event. Children participated in fun water and other games. School supplies were the winning prizes. Members got splashed and helped the children with making craft items.

DISTRICT IV NEWS - (cont'd)

The Garden Club of Switzerland partnered with St Johns County Parks and Recreation to celebrate 50 years of park service. Club members provided refreshments and tours of the Freedom Native Plant Butterfly Garden they maintain at the Alpine Groves Park. President Dianne Battle shows off the new sign.



Members of Fleming Island, Jacksonville and Green Cove Springs Garden clubs visited to celebrate the 50 years of park service and joined the tours of the butterfly garden.

The Garden Club of Orange Park hosted monthly community game days at their renovated club house. Attendees learned about the Garden Club programs and membership benefits. The Club also held a successful rummage sale, so much so, that the Club plans to hold one this Fall.

The Palatka Garden Club held an open house during Palatka's Blue Crab Festival and participated in the Ravine Garden's Pollinator Celebration.

The Bartram Garden Club members displayed floral designs at the Nassau County Public Library in Fernandina Beach. Designs are exhibited on a continuous basis every day of the calendar year. The club, partnering with Friends of the Library, by contributing floral designs which interpret their **rotating art exhibits on display at the library's community room.**

Over the summer, Clubs maintained their community gardens and **Blue and Gold Star living gardens, including Middleburg's 2022 Blue Star Memorial.** Additionally, the Hibiscus Circle of the Garden Club of St. Augustine is completing a memorial garden by their Blue Star Highway Marker.

Clubs worked on "Plant America" grant submissions and compiled interesting and varied program offerings and field trips for 2022-2023. Clubs **wrapped up summer and kicked off the year, with September's meeting** focused on Welcome Back, Open Houses, and Membership Drives. On the first Monday in September, the Garden Club of Palatka held a birthday celebration for 80 years as a federated club.

Congrats to the Garden Club of the Lakes (pictured) and the Garden Club of Green Cove Springs for winning grants from the National Garden Clubs and the Ames Tool Company. The Clubs will use the gardening tools to maintain community native plant gardens and a Head Start butterfly garden.



District IV continues in the National Garden Clubs tradition of providing members and non-members with a range of educational opportunities. The NGC Landscape Design School Course 2 will be held at Ribault Garden Club in Jacksonville Beach, September 28-29, 2022. A team of top-notch, horticulture, landscape design, and preservation professionals will provide instruction. For more information, please contact local chairs Linda Broadrick, Linda.Broadrick@gmail.com, (404) 281-8991; or Beverly Williams, BevThePatriot@gmail.com, (404) 312-8530, who is also the Registrar. Info may be found at FFGC.org under Events.

District IV Clubs have a wonderful slate of Fall events. Please mark your **calendars for these, "not to be missed", events.** **St. Augustine's Tour of Homes** comeback is December 4th, with ticket sales beginning October 1st.

Happy 100th Birthday, GC of Jacksonville

The Garden Club of Jacksonville continues with their 100th anniversary celebrations. September 28 from 4-7 celebrate the opening of 2022-23 season while learning about the year's programs



and activities. Get in the 100th anniversary group drone shot of all who attend. October 16 from 1 - 4 get your ticket for The Ninah Cumber Birthday Brunch – **Signature event in celebration of the Club's 100th anniversary.** Enjoy a catered brunch, live entertainment, boat rides on the river, lawn games and an unveiling of the preliminary landscape concept design Jeremy Marquis from ML & H.

October 25th the St. Augustine Garden Club hosts the Fall District IV Meeting and FFGC Officers' Fall Tour at the St. Johns County Extension Center with the program "Gardening for Health and Well Being". District IV's annual Gardenfest, day of education, is November 18th at the Ravines State Park in Palatka

DISTRICT V NEWS

Donna Thomas, Director



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

It's summertime and the living is easy! District V Garden Clubs, however, are busy getting together, socializing, and planning for the new year that begins in **September.** **Yes, in between vacationing, we're** putting together programs and speakers to entertain, educate and encourage new member participation for the new year. Some of the clubs are selling plants/bulbs this summer, such as Morning Glory Circle (Pioneer) but for the most part plant sale committees/responsibilities/dates are being formulated for the spring sales. There is a lot of planning for the entire year (September through May) being proposed during this time. Plans are even being put together for Christmas which seems far in the future but is just around the corner. Yes, summertime is great and District V clubs are busy as bees organizing all this information into their yearbooks to be distributed at the September meetings.

All the clubs in District V contribute in some manner, either with volunteers, sponsoring children, or contributions to Wekiva and SEEK. This year was no exception. Devon Villareal-Dabbs, FFGC Wekiva Chair and District V chair was instrumental in putting together another outstanding summer program for the campers. This summer, as every summer, leaves us all looking forward to the next summer. Thank you to everyone who makes Wekiva an incredibly special FFGC project.

The Pioneer Garden Club will host the Fall District V meeting on October 14th at **"The Barn at Bellemoor"**, 10642 SE 36th Ave., Belleview, Florida, with the theme **"Autumn Splendor in the Country"**. **The meeting will include** raffle baskets, door prizes, vendors, and valuable information from the **FFGC officers.** **Please mark your calendars now so you don't miss this wonderful opportunity for food, fun, and friends.**

This June saw the loss of Carol Wood, a special friend to everyone who knew her. She was such an integral part of District V and FFGC that her loss touches us all. Her accomplishments in our garden club were amazing. **I don't think she ever said no** to any request. She was NGC convention registrar this year, on the FFGC Strategic Planning board, co-chair for 2022 convention and was to be the co-chair for the 2023 convention, FFGC chair of awards donors, FFGC Corresponding secretary and event schedules, was president of the Floral City GC, district 5 secretary (she blamed me for the last two), was a member of the Brooksville GC, and was always there to help with any project in both clubs. She and her adoring husband Kelley worked continually for FFGC, volunteering countless hours to help anywhere they were needed. It is said that no one person is indispensable, but, in Carol's case, I'm not sure that the axiom applies. She was a uniquely special person who was my friend and is profoundly missed.



DISTRICT V NEWS - (cont'd)

And thus, summer will soon be at an end and Fall is fast approaching. I hope that you have played outside often with friends and family. Soon our snowbird friends will be back along with festivals and all manner of fundraisers sponsored by dedicated District V Garden clubs.

"A bad day in Florida is still better than a good day anywhere else".

DISTRICT VI NEWS

Suzi Bailey, Director



Counties: Flagler, Volusia, Brevard

Opportunities are everywhere! - We are so excited in District VI!

Garden Clubs in Brevard, Flagler, and Volusia have started our Fall year with 6 new Club Presidents and 9 Club Presidents in their 2nd term year. That brings us to a total of 15 clubs in our District.

We have many opportunities to bring in new members, start some new exciting projects, 100's of ways we can educate others with opportunities to

grow, play, and develop wonderful friends.

All of the Garden Club reports are coming in this year with an excitement that has been dimmed a little in the last two years.

Getting my poms-poms out!!! GO DISTRICT VI!!!

Titusville Garden Club - Donna Martin and Wendy Grants report that Titusville Garden Club is hard at work to get ready for our Fall Market Fundraiser. We are making fun holiday home decor, custom crafts, and propagating plants. Make plans to visit us for our Fall market the second weekend in November. Our event center and gardens are also busy this fall with rentals including weddings, baby showers and various parties.

New Smyrna Beach Garden Club - Marty Sibley, President, reports that their club is developing a very satisfying format for meetings and subsequent special interest group events: we use the topic of the meeting to inspire field trips and visits related to that topic. Here are some examples:

- In May 2022, Chad Truxall, from the Marine Discovery Center in New Smyrna Beach, talked about the MDC's mission informing and educating the public about the biodiversity of the marine and plant life in the Indian River Lagoon. New Smyrna Beach is home to the most biologically diverse estuary in North America. The following week our garden club members went on a field trip to the Marine Discovery Center and experienced their work "first-hand".
- In October 2022, at the first meeting of our 2022-2023 year, John Haverly, New Smyrna Beach Parks Supervisor, will discuss the contribution that our local parks make to our community. The following week, Linda Petersen will lead a group through "Doris Leeper Park" in New Smyrna Beach. Kathy Smullen will organize a field trip to Washington Oaks Park at the end of October.

During the summer months, when we didn't have a meeting, members continued to maintain and renew the landscaping around our NSB clubhouse, provide new flower arrangements every month for the oncology department waiting room at our local hospital, and plan a lively plant swap and covered dish brunch.

NSBGC has adopted the "Gifts of Love Food Pantry", providing a unique service to our community. NSBGC members know that "Hunger never takes a vacation". Donated items are collected October - May at our monthly meeting. NSBGC members continue to support Gifts of Love Pantry through the summer months by donating non-perishable food items, along with pet supplies, hygiene products and Winn Dixie gift cards or checks.



An exciting upcoming event for us is Hosting the District VI Fall Meeting. The title of the meeting is

"Oceans of Opportunity" and will feature a program by the Marine Discovery Center. The meeting will be held on October 26th, 2022. Suzi Bailey, the District VI Director, will lead the meeting with Marge Hendon, FFGC President, and 3 FFGC Vice Presidents will also attend.

Melbourne Garden Club - Lydia Barbour, President, reports Melbourne GC has been hard at work over the summer getting ready for everyone to be back together in the fall. We planned our philanthropic work and are looking into becoming a 501(c)3 corporation. Our membership recently dropped but we are looking forward to enticing new members with the plans being made for programs, trips and events. Those will include a rededication of our Blue Star Memorial Marker once the landscaping is complete. The biggest event will be the celebration of our 90th year of federation with FFGC. It will be held November 18, 2022 at the Italian American Social Club in Melbourne. We are planning an afternoon that will include plant sales, opportunity drawings, a silent auction, a celebration of our history and former Presidents, short educational programs, one of which may be out of this world, and a big welcome from FFGC President, Marge Hendon. Boy are we going to have fun!

Port Malabar Garden Club in Palm Bay - Becky Savage, President, reports that their club has 34 members and has been active since 1963. We meet at 9:30 AM on the 2nd Friday of each month from September through May. Each meeting involves an educational program and we continue our education through monthly trips. After a 20-year hiatus, Port Malabar Garden Club as rejoined FFGC.

We have an exciting year planned; we have a butterfly garden area at Turkey Creek Sanctuary. Our club designed, purchased, and installed native plants and currently maintain the area. We hope to expand our presence in the community. We will be a stop on the "Landscaping with Florida Natives Yard Tour" scheduled in October. The landscaping tour is an annual event run by the Conradina Chapter of the Florida Native Plant Society. We have a boat ride visit to Pelican Island this fall and next spring a visit to the Brevard Zoo. We have an annual fundraiser and donate to 8 local charities and 2 state level charities.

DeLeon Springs Garden Club - Debra Griffin, President, reports that this club is excited to get a new year underway. We had tremendous growth at the end of last season, so we will start our September meeting with a member mixer. It will be fun, games and a potluck to get everyone acquainted. With temperatures starting to cool down a bit, an educational venture with a potluck is scheduled for our October meeting. Master Gardner Julia Laughlin will be presenting a class on rooting. It will be a stimulating topic that shall be employed by many. And then, off for a garden tour in early November with a bag lunch. Everyone loves a road trip.

Fun at the meetings is not the only time you will find us together. A large group volunteers in the Heritage Nursery in DeLeon Springs State Park on Tuesday mornings from 8-10. We propagate new plants, maintain the nursery stock, provide educational materials to children and do sales. All funds go to the park. Speaking of funds, we have our annual Fall Plant Sale scheduled for October 8th from 8-2 at Jerryville (on US 17) in North DeLand.

We have been working hard to reestablish some past projects and added a new one. Our club will restart our Garden of the Month. The committee will judge and acknowledge the hard work with a monthly sign to encourage neighbors to beautify our surroundings. A monthly nonperishable food drive has had life breathed back into it. And an educational project for children has been established to help children understand plants and growth.

DISTRICT VI NEWS - (cont'd)

It is always tough to mix old with new, but here we go again. To celebrate our club, a committee was formed and a seal was created for our club. Special thanks to the committee chair, Barbara Gallenkamp, resident artist, Sandra Ford, and members, Cheryl Dukes and Nancy Clark for creating a spectacular piece of art that will live on forever with our club. The significance of each part of the seal include water for the spring; sugar cane, oranges, live oaks and magnolias have grown in our area for generations and represent inland central Florida; the Egret migrated here in the 1800's and can be spotted on the river; flowers and garden tools represent our work at the park. The magnolia is our club flower and I hope to see more of it in the future on correspondence and T shirts.

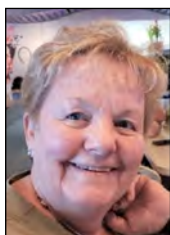


Garden Club of DeLand - Marshall Rawson, President, reports that a **presentation on collecting and saving seeds for the library's new seed bank** was well-attended. This presentation and seed bank are a joint effort between Volusia County Master Gardeners, Friends of the Library and the Garden Club of DeLand at the DeLand Regional Library. The Milkweed Circle's Butterfly Squad just certified monarch butterfly sanctuary #200. Our Book Club, Origami classes and pop-up visits to members' gardens have kept us together. Members have started propagating for our plant sale. Caring for two local garden projects has been met with tremendous dedication and interest by our members and the local community.

Cherry Laurel Garden Club - Carly Lamoso, President, reports that their club is so very proud of our member, Penny Decker, who at the FFGC Convention in April won top honors as both DSCG and FFGC Mentor of the Year! Our Club is also honored by our recent DSGC and FFGC Yearbook Awards. In conjunction with our club's theme of "Plant Florida Natives", our Community Projects committee has named its vision "Planting the Seeds of the Future" and has chosen to support three important local projects: children's butterfly, herb and Florida native gardens at Daytona's Chiles Academy community school, replanting of the native plants path at the Ormond Beach Environmental Discovery Center, and supporting families in need by purchasing plants, fertilizer, soil and other items to grow a vegetable garden at the Derbyshire Place Community Garden in Daytona Beach. In addition to a variety of planned speakers and field trips, our Programs Committee is scheduling visits to these sponsored project gardens.

DISTRICT VII NEWS

Charlotte White, Director



Counties: Sumter, Lake, Orange, Osceola, Seminole



Anne Todd receiving Pillar of Pride from President Min of Sweetwater Oaks Monday for all her work at Wekiva Youth Camp and Junior Gardener: Anne told us she is ready to work Wekiva Youth Camp registration this year.

Lakes and Hills Garden Club is planning a full calendar of activities and meetings for the fall. We had a fun summer meeting in June with a program on Fl. Friendly Landscaping given by Reggie Doherty, a master gardener, followed by lunch. Those who attended so enjoyed catching up with one another that we plan another educational program plus friendly lunch in August. We had been busy in the spring maintaining our city parks and will be back to clean them up in the fall when some cooler weather arrives.

Camellia Garden Club is busy putting together their programs for the fall. Our members are taking tender care of their horticulture for two fall flower shows, the D VII flower show Oct 7th and 8th and the Lake County Council's flower show in Nov 4th and 5th. We will also participate in a special Lake County program that will be given by Teri Mallory of Lady Lake in January. She is going to teach us how to dry flower petals and then use them in assorted styles of botanical arts. The plans for the installation and dedication of our Blue Star marker are moving ahead for November.

Clermont Garden Club had 30 vendors (the largest number to date) line the shores of Center Lake and the grounds of the Clermont Garden Club for the Spring Garden Festival on Saturday, May 7, 2022. Hundreds enjoyed shopping with local nurseries, specialty plant growers, artisans of garden art and food vendors.

Open House and New Member Orientation is to be held Wednesday, August 17, 2022, 10 AM. We will invite all current members and our new members to an open house and new member orientation. The event will be open to the public.

On Saturday, October 15, 2022, 9 AM - 2 PM, the Clermont Garden Club will sponsor its 18th Garden Walk, featuring at least 6 local home gardens. Plans are currently underway to solicit sponsors for what has always been a strong fundraiser for the club. Tickets are \$15 each in advance and \$20 day of the event. For information and ticket sales, please contact Marilyn Paone, Paone@icloud.com or Margaret Piper, FlowerGal@cfl.rr.com.

Annual Member Plant Sale returns on Saturday, November 5, 2022, 9 AM - 2 PM. Members of the Clermont Garden Club bring plants that they have grown to this annual public sale. Many repeat customers return every year to see what is new. Everything from bromeliads, orchids, native plants, herbs, shrubs, and trees are offered.

Ixora of Sanford President, Kathy Krasnoff, turned over her reign of two years to new president Ingrid Dodd. Past President Kathy had fascinating two years getting covid years back to normal. They started a monthly newsletter - "The Ixora Thymes". Their theme these two years has been "Learn, Laugh and Love through Gardening". We made jade cutting doorhangers and placed one on each of our member's front door. Jade is "the friendship plant" and we wanted to express the strength of our friendship.



Winter Garden - Bloom and Grow Garden Club held their 20th Annual Spring Fever in the Garden festival in downtown Winter Garden the first weekend of April. Over sixty thousand people attended the two-day event that was an ode to spring. Plant vendors were everywhere with lots of colorful flowers. The chalk art contest almost got rained out, but we did the judging before the skies opened and washed it all away. Kidzone attracted huge crowds along with our eclectic line up of entertainers. The "Ask the Garden Experts" booth was inundated with people asking an entire range of gardening questions. Our festival date for 2023 will be April 1st & 2nd.



The Bloom & Grow Garden Society is celebrating the anniversary of 25 years of service to our community in the 2022-2023 club year. We have planned 25 diverse events that will appeal to members and community alike.

These events will be charted to see how popular they are with members, so we know what they are most interested in. It will be a valuable tool for future planning.

DISTRICT VII NEWS - (cont'd)



We are planting 25 pink trumpet trees at area schools along with a 250 of the trees to Winter Garden residents. This, along with tree plantings at a city park and area healthcare facilities, should make early spring in our city a flowering pink cloud. We had a Sip & Stroll in

June that 40 members and guests strolled the gardens of 3 members in the same subdivision. We will have flower and terrarium arranging classes at local shops and a tour of Bok Tower plus much more. On September 21st, we will have a pollinator plant sale in downtown Winter Garden that will include Monarch way stations, pollinator gardens and plants for small patio or porch pots. On December 1, we will have our annual poinsettia sale with gorgeous plants grown especially for Bloom & Grow by Knox Horticulture. We are looking forward to all fun activities and important projects during this celebratory year. Follow us on Facebook at [facebook.com/BloomAndGrowGardenSociety](https://www.facebook.com/BloomAndGrowGardenSociety) to get updates on our projects. Check out our website at: [BloomAndGrow.club](https://www.BloomAndGrow.club).

Orlando Garden Club - We have been in existence for almost 100 years!

The Orlando Garden Club is planning quarterly "Meet and Greets" at our clubhouse for 2022-2023 to educate people about our club, our members, and the benefits of membership. We plan to host our first party in the fall once the weather cools. Our plan is to host the events outside in our lovely garden, with the option of ducking inside in the event of a downpour. Themes will be determined as we go along once we get a sense of the community's wants and needs. This is an effort to flex with the changing times while maintaining our longtime efforts and goals.



September 2022 Program: "A Volunteer's Tour of Yosemite National Park" presented by Orlando Garden Club member, Ruth Heine. She and her husband volunteered in Yosemite National Park for eleven years, from May thru October. Ruth will discuss the many plants and animals living in the park, including the giant Sequoia trees, waterfalls, bears, coyotes, birds, and meadows. She will also share her adventures as a park volunteer living off the grid in a 30 foot fifth-wheel RV. As volunteers, Ruth and husband John supported many wide-ranging activities, to name a few: shoveling ash from fire rings, rebuilding the horse stables, building picnic tables, campground hosts, grant writer, mother, and father of the bride and frequent problem solving. Best of all, they lived among extraordinary natural beauty, experiencing the diversity of Mother Nature's offerings in Spring, Summer, and Fall.

District VII Flower Show - District VII and District VII Judges Council will host a fall Flower Show the first weekend in October (October 7/8). "Mask Up" is the theme there will be a variety of floral design entries. Fall District VII meeting will be October 27th

DISTRICT VIII NEWS

Kitty Wallace, Director

Counties: Pasco, Hillsborough, Pinellas, Manatee, Sarasota

District VIII in West Central Florida has beaches along the gulf coast, rolling hills in Pasco County, preservation areas within the wildlife corridor, and several special springs, including the green swamp. There are 21 active Garden Clubs in this district.



Outgoing president of Temple Terrace Garden Club introduced their incoming president, Gwen Mora. She also reported a successful summer event, the 5th annual *Delightful Desserts and Designs*, a unique tea party and table design event, which took place at the Temple Terrace Golf & Country Club. Four talented floral designers gave demonstrations showcasing original floral designs.

Sunset Park Garden Club recounts a number of memorable community projects that were completed this past year including introducing incoming president, Lizz Harmon.

Paula Olsen, president of Apollo Beach Garden Club related the exciting addition of a donated wooden boat to their community garden which has become the new Tiny Tots garden. Members enjoyed a summer speaker, urban forester, Rob Northrop.

Dade City Garden Club is celebrating their 75th anniversary in 2022-23. Monarch butterflies and family fun will take center stage at the 3rd Annual Dade City Monarch Butterfly Festival on Saturday, October 22, 2022. The Festival will be held at Polly Touchton Park hosted jointly by the Dade City Garden Club and the Dade City Youth Council. For more information, visit the website at [DadeCityGardenClub.com](https://www.DadeCityGardenClub.com).

New Port Richey Garden Club recently awarded two \$1,000 scholarships. **Students were invited to write an essay on "What Can We Do to Protect the Environment?"**

Lemon Bay Garden Club ended the year with a bang. They celebrated **Arbor Day by planting a tree and hosting a children's activity involving making paper hats**, and lots of fun.

Pat Swindell, president of Venice Area Garden Club, shared the exciting news that one of their members, Linda Thivierge, won a blue ribbon for her dancing floral design at the state flower show at the FFGC convention - Division 3, Section B, Class 6, Botanical Arts, Latin Dance music, Rhumba

State Flower Show 2022: District VIII excelled at the State Flower Show held in Orlando at the Florida Federation of Garden Clubs (FFGC) Convention on April 13 & 14, 2022. The State Flower Show is held at the FFGC convention every two years. This Flower Show was created by DVIII members for the Tampa convention that was cancelled in 2020 by the pandemic. It was led by DVIII members, chairman, Carol Lucia, Garden Club of St. Petersburg, and Vice Chair, Lori Richi, Manatee River Garden Club. Special shout out to Barb Jacobson (Treasurer & Show Schedule) and Elaine Schweitzer (focal area & educational exhibits) of Lemon Bay GC, Brenda Johnson (clerks) and Carol Friedman (staging) of Manatee River GC, Parke Finold (judge's), Pam Slagg (photography exhibits), and Kathy Echeverria (youth exhibits) of Tampa Fed GC, Bessie Morse (entry cards) and Jill Anderson (Show Schedule) of St Pete GC; Jan Griffin (Horticulture) and Darcy Stottlemeyer (Horticulture placement) of Plant City GC.

FFGC AWARDS

Garden clubs in District VIII earned 29 FFGC awards and 3 Deep South awards. We are inspired by our sister garden clubs.

District VIII Spring Meeting: Members of District VIII Garden Clubs were treated to a lovely tea party by the Davis Islands Garden Club at the 2022 Spring meeting. After 2 years of pandemic stops & starts it was absolutely inspirational to meet in person at a club and be treated in such a luxurious way. Hats off to Davis Islands Garden Club. Special thanks to president, Sondra Heiken and chair, Marie Nazareth. Flowers from vice president, **Michelle James' yard were colorful delights at each table. And heartfelt thanks to all participants.**

Upcoming events:

Basic six design classes are hosted by Plant City Garden Club: **Wednesday's July 13 - August 17, 2022 (10AM. to 2PM)**. First United Methodist Church 303 N. Evers Street, Plant City. For more information call Jan Griffin (813) 716-6691 or email BillJanGriffin@gmail.com.

DISTRICT VIII NEWS - (cont'd)

Monarch Butterfly Festival in Dade City - October 22, 2022.

District VIII Fall meeting will be held at the Clearwater Garden Club on October 24, 2022.

District VIII Horticulture Extravaganza will focus on Florida Gardens' Hidden Gems; with horticulture presentations on groundcovers and pollinators (interactive). October 28 2022.

Basic six design classes are hosted by Garden Club of St. Petersburg. 2023 Dates: January 4, 11, 18, & 25 February 1 & 8 6 Classes - \$80. Contact Jill Anderson, Registrar, JillAndersn@aol.com, 8014 12th Avenue S. St. Petersburg, FL 33707.

DISTRICT IX NEWS

Dale W. DeFeo, Director



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

District IX Clubs were active during the summer months and have planned exciting events for the **fall, even though many "snowbirds" will not return** until the first of the year.

We had three clubs celebrating significant anniversaries this summer. The Garden Club of Cape Coral celebrated their 25th anniversary with a lovely luncheon and program. The Poinciana Garden

Club celebrated 60 years, also with a lovely celebration. These celebrations were in recognition of when the clubs were formed. The clubs will be eligible for celebrating their 25th and 60th anniversaries of being federated clubs next year. Arcadia GC also celebrated their 85th birthday. Congratulations!

Poinciana Garden Club **members were so enthusiastic about their "Trash off Trails" project, they continued it through the summer months and into fall,** walking the trails very early in the mornings to avoid our scorching heat. **Their "Cups of Cheer" program, where designs in tea cups are taken to those needing a cup of cheer, will continue.**

The Gulf Coast Garden Club members stayed connected with monthly **visits to members' homes to tour gardens and exchange plants or snip cuttings.** Of course, since these were garden club events, food was also involved. These informal tours and gatherings provide an excellent way for new members to get to know other members in a casual and friendly setting. Fall Field Trips are planned to Buckingham Farms and Tigertoes Herb and Tea Farm, Sundance Orchids and Bromeliads and Shangri-La Springs Gardens.

Lakeland Garden Club is joining with other organizations for an event at Hollis Gardens in September which is sponsored by Plant Swappers. Their Club Fall Extravaganza at Munn Park is planned for October 22nd. This event will feature 60 garden-related vendors and other activities. They are also holding a workshop on succulents, and they will be gathering to complete and distribute 250 holiday bags to Viste recipients.

Bartow Garden Club **has "pulled through COVID and came out better".** They have held a profitable caladium sale, which enabled them to donate to Camp Wekiva and Penny Pines programs. They staged an educational exhibit on Butterfly Gardening in cooperation with the Bartow Art Guild. Because of this exhibit, Bartow Garden Club has been invited to build a Butterfly Garden at the Bartow Public Library and they plan to add another at Bartow City Hall.

Calusa Garden Club met during the summer at local restaurants to visit and discuss what was growing well and not so well in their gardens. Maintenance of the Memorial Markers and Butterfly Garden was done monthly. Members continued their Flowers in Public Places ongoing project

by completing designs and having them displayed in public locations, along with information about Calusa Garden Club and how to join. A pre-**Thanksgiving Design and Plant Sale is planned.** "Gad About" trips to local points of interest (always including lunch, of course) will continue.

Gardenia Garden Club is hosting their Junior Gardeners and their mothers for a day of planting, games and garden foods. They are also participating in an art and flower show at their Art Museum. A special Tea to celebrate past club presidents will be held in December.

In June the Arcadia Garden Club celebrated its 85th anniversary and joyously won approval of 501c3 nonprofit status from the IRS! The June meeting brought the return of the potluck lunch for the first time since the pandemic, and the engaging speaker, Andy Firk presented a slide show on **"Florida Food Forests". The Club began a "Plant Camp" with 7 young gardeners and 7 adults bringing home seeds they started.** We donated a small scholarship to the JROTC. Our exciting new project is revitalizing and planting 6 raised beds in the Community Garden at the library. We had field trips to Bok Tower, local food forest Bamboo Grove, and the Punta Gorda Botanical Garden. We started with 21 members in October 2021 and ended in June with 40 FFGC members. The Arcadia Garden Club is growing together!

Our District IX Fall General Meeting, co-hosted by Cape Coral Garden Club and Fort Myers Lee County Garden Council, will take place at the Embassy Suites Hotel, Estero, on October 14, with FFGC Officers in attendance. An exciting day is planned.

Garden Club Friends are the Very Best!

DISTRICT X NEWS

Michelle Maguire, Director



Counties: Okeechobee, Indian River, St. Lucie, Glades, Martin, Hendry, Palm Beach

Many of the clubs last major activities before summer start with what they did for Garden Week.

The Garden Club of Stuart has been busy with National Garden Week by planting counties at the Martin County Art Council. Members of the Garden Club of Stuart who are also Master Gardeners **helped out at "The Taste of the Tropics" at the Martin County Extension Service.**

Oleander Garden Club of the Palm Beaches in conjunction with the City of Green acres planted three native trees at the Burrowing Owl Park on June 7. A group of ten junior gardeners also participated by holding up pictures of animals that benefit from the native trees that were planted and reciting a short rhyme about that animal. Greenacres Public Works staff supervised the junior gardeners as they shoveled dirt around the new trees.

Boynton Beach Garden Club, in conjunction with the city of Boynton Beach, celebrated Earth Day by holding a workshop filling seed packets with milkweed seeds and prepared 100 Salvia plants for a plant giveaway. **The Schoolhouse Children's Museum awarded the Boynton Beach Garden Club with an "Ignite Volunteer Award" for their dedication to the creation and maintenance of the Butterfly Garden at the Museum.** Boynton Beach Garden Club will be hosting the Spring District X meeting on Thursday April 27, 2023 at the Westchester Country Club. Members will be working on their baskets all summer and fall for this event.

Ocean Ridge Garden Club held a very successful District X meeting in conjunction with a Judges Council Flower Show. The featured speaker was **Susan Lerner Director of Horticulture at Pan's Garden.** There has NEVER been a Flower Show with a District X meeting and many members of District X were thrilled to experience one. Kudos to all those involved with this endeavor.

DISTRICT X NEWS - (cont'd)

Pipers Landing Garden Club got together with Lois Acinapura, who then instructed our members how to construct a very large flower arrangement. Over 30 members were there at our clubhouse having a great time putting the arrangements together. We then brought some of the arrangements to two Nursing Homes, our local Fire Station and the Cummings Library in Palm City.

Rio Lindo Garden Club has planned three "Out 'n About" events for June, July and August, which are informal social and/or learning events. June event was at Florida Oceanographic in Stuart. One of the speakers from this facility will be featured at Tropical Short Course in January talking about Oyster Reefs. July event will be at Loggerhead Marine Life Center in Juno Beach. August event is a fun putt-putt golf tournament. All are welcome at any "Out 'n About" event from Rio Lindo Garden Club.

District X again will be hosting Tropical Short Course on January 25 and 26, 2023 at the Green Acres Community Center. Registration is online at District X website (DistrictX.org). Four speakers and two Floral Designers will make up the program. Continental breakfast is included as well as lunch both days. Stadium seating will be back with assigned seating. Get your registration in early. **(Editor's Note: Refer to the "Continuing Education" article for contact information, etc.)**

DISTRICT XI NEWS

Sharon Bogard, Director
Counties: Broward

The Garden Club of Coral Springs has been busy scheduling speakers for its upcoming 13 meetings for 2022-2023 just for its current and prospective members. The local Senior Citizens' center has offered free meeting space and in turn, the Club will provide the residents with Garden Therapy classes. Four additional Saturday morning meetings are planned to meet the needs of the working community and Northwest Regional Library will partner with the Club to host and advertise the Saturday meetings free-of-charge! The Club plans to hold six Youth Group meetings next year following FFGC youth curriculum. It will continue to mentor and educate the high school students at Marjory Stoneman Douglas monthly, as well as help with its garden needs, and plans to assist Forest Glen Middle School with its installation of a Food Forest. Club members will continue to volunteer at Sawgrass Nature Center, Plant Swap at a local Community Garden, upkeep of the Club's Pollinator Garden and Blue Star Memorial, our Multiple City Yard of the Month Awards, and work on the Orchid Project, and the Club's largest fundraiser in March, "GardenFest", where 10,000 people plus visit over a two-day period. President Jeri Decker reports: "Wow, I'm already tired".

The Fort Lauderdale Garden Club will resume its regular general meetings in early October. Prior to its first meeting, the Board will host a welcoming "reception" via Zoom for new and prospective members to learn about the many projects that the Club undertakes and to "meet" some of its committee chairs. The Club's goal is to capture the interest of new friends and encourage them to get involved in a project that interests them. To continue that momentum, the Club has added a new Board position, "New Member Development", to help ensure that new members feel welcomed and engaged in the Club's programs and events. The first meeting in October will begin with a guided informative tour of the Club's beautiful gardens at its Garden Center in Birch State Park. All members and guests are invited to come to the evening meeting prior to our social time to take advantage of learning about the extensive plantings and future plans for introducing more native species. The tours will be led by a few of the Club's member-horticulturists who have devoted years to maintaining and nurturing the grounds. A unique program is planned for the same evening -The "Art" of Flowers". A Moringa Garden Circle member, Cindy Jenkins, will demonstrate the art of painting flowers in watercolors. It will be a fascinating and fun evening for everyone.



Lauderdale-by-the-Sea Garden Club will begin to prepare for hosting the Fall District XI meeting upon its return in October. Since the 20th is the date for the meeting and with visitors from the State Garden Club's Board, all attention will be focused on the Fall District XI meeting. With this dynamic group, it will surely be a successful and entertaining event.

Pompano Beach Garden Clubs have field trips planned from November through April; from Wakodahatchee in Delray to Fairchild Gardens in Miami. They are looking forward to a full schedule of speakers, horticultural information, and exciting floral designs. The Club will be planting the Sample-McDougald house Winter Kitchen Garden when the weather starts to cool.

The Garden Club of Lighthouse Point has an exciting year coming up. Its brand-new community center at the City's Dan Witt Park is now open and the Club can now resume meetings open to the public. Starting in October the Club's program will be on growing vegetables and will have heirloom tomato seedlings available and instruction on how to make them thrive. October 15th is "Dinner Under the Stars", a city-sponsored event that will provide an opportunity to interact with the community. The city provides tables for 10, chairs, and a live band. The Club will provide decorations and food. Cost is \$15 per person. Friends and significant others are welcome. GCLP will offer workshops on Fun with Flowers, Plant, Pest Identification, and Propagation.

Hollywood Garden Club is enjoying the outdoors, where they hold its monthly meetings, take field tours to members gardens, share cuttings, demonstrations, and hold plant raffles. All its club news and information are sent by E-mail, including its awesome monthly Newsletters and "Things To Do List".

To be sure, all Broward clubs will have an exciting, entertaining, educational, and a healthy and happy new garden year.

DISTRICT XII NEWS

Leticia Gunn, Director
Counties: Dade, Monroe

Planning, Planning, & Planning! That is what the Clubs of District XII are doing this summer. District XII 2022-2023 year is shaping up to be a good one

As District XII Director, my first mission was to unify the Clubs and work together to achieve more, and we certainly had some progress in that area last year with Clubs joining up for Field Trips & Garden Tours. Furthermore, Coral Pines Garden Club hosted an off-season Flower Show "At Home" on June 1st to assure that the Student Judges from District XII completed all of their requirements in time to take their final "Flower Show School" test in October. Also, in aiding the progress in the unison of our District's Clubs, South Dade Garden Club has shared a list of their speakers and programs with the other Clubs.

From her summer home in North Carolina, South Miami Garden Club President reports that after completing a very successful 2021-2022 year, their Board has met and established an emphasis on membership drives for the 2022-2023 year by combining membership drives and fundraisers such as their very popular "Make It, Bake It or Grow It" luncheon and auction.

Ken Pines Garden Club's planning is well under way, and they are excited about their Field Trip and hands on kokedama moss class. Ken Pines and Miami Lakes Garden Club, being the smallest Clubs in the District, are planning membership drives and will be focusing on strategies to increase their membership.

More exciting news from District XII comes directly from Coral Gables Garden Club who are busy planning their first Flower Show in nearly 30 years! Aply named "Coral Gables, The City Beautiful" will be a Small Standard NGC Flower show and we can't wait to see what this talented Club brings to the Flower Show world! If you are in the neighborhood, come over to the beautiful Biltmore Hotel on April 24, 2023 to enjoy the Show.



DISTRICT XII NEWS - (cont'd)

Meanwhile, Miami Beach Garden Club has been involved in some different types of flower and show activities as various members of the Club were asked to create two Flower Walls to serve as backdrops for a Fashion Show that is part of Miami's Swim Week. While completely out of their element, the Club Members found that they enjoyed the learning process and camaraderie of creating beautiful backdrops for such an elite event. Pictures prove the Members delivered a beautiful product making Miami Beach Garden Club proud.



While Marathon Garden Club is also planning their upcoming year, the members celebrated the big win of one of their own. After driving a couple of hours north to enter their plants in the Coral Pines "At Home" Flower Show, Club Member Jakie Sparber won the Horticulture Best In Show! The submission was an impressive Encyclia Orchid and it deserved such an honor!

Mary Harriman's "Towering Inferno" design, (pictured at right), from Miami Beach took the Design Best In Show award.



While Pinecrest Garden Club Co-Presidents take a breather after hosting the Spring District Meeting, we would like to thank and congratulate them on a very successful execution of our first in person meeting in two years!

Well, that is all for now! Looking forward to a new Garden Club year and cooler temperatures. It is hot in Miami!

Florida Wildflower Foundation

Jeff Caster, FFGC Life Member
Chair, Florida Wildflower Foundation



To celebrate and honor Carolyn Schaag, Anne MacKay, and Nancy Bissett, the Florida Native Plant Society (FNPS) hosted an hour-long panel discussion moderated by Stacey Matrazzo, Executive Director of the Florida Wildflower Foundation. Before most of us were aware that native plants mattered, Carolyn Schaag, Anne MacKay, and Nancy Bissett were outspoken on behalf of pitcher plants, blazing star, coreopsis, milkweed, and more. It may be unmeasurable, but certainly it's been meaningful that these three women donated so many hours, evenings, and weekends conserving, protecting, restoring, organizing, teaching, meeting, and mentoring - away from their families and careers.

The Foundation wanted to honor these three native wildflower advocates and activists in a significant way. After all, they've already received countless other awards and honors, including the Foundation's highest honor the Elizabeth Pate Coreopsis Award. Often, because of Elizabeth Pate, the Florida Federation of Garden Clubs is referred to as the mother of the Foundation. Following Elizabeth's lead, the FFGC collected 10,000 signatures necessary for the 1999 Florida Legislature to create the Florida Wildflower Specialty License Plate, and to dedicate the proceeds to research, education, planting, and conservation of Florida native wildflowers.

In May, during the prerecorded and the live portion of the panel, Carolyn, Nancy, and Anne, answered questions, exchanged stories, and shared lessons learned throughout their long lives and careers; a memorable and inspiring gift to the next generation of conservationists. Find it on the Foundation's website, FLAWildflowers.org.



Carolyn Schaag, Stacey Matrazzo, Nancy Bissett, Anne MacKay

Carolyn Schaag has been a garden club member for 62 years, and as many *Florida Gardener* readers know, was FFGC president 1999-2001. Carolyn has served in most offices, chairmanships, and positions at every level of garden clubs, and always with strong support from husband Ed. Though Carolyn may have been president the year the wildflower tag was created, she always shares the well-deserved recognition with her FFGC friends, especially Marion Hilliard and Elizabeth Pate.

Anne MacKay, well known as a "First Lady of Florida", is a strong leader in her own endearing way; just ask Governor MacKay. Inspired by Lady Bird Johnson, and frequently referred to as Florida's Lady Bird, Anne's early advocacy for Florida native wildflowers and for the Foundation was an open invitation to other prominent State leaders to become involved.

Long before there was a wildflower tag, Nancy Bissett and her husband Bill were two of Florida's leading native plant and landscape researchers, educators, and conservationists. When many of us still believed that "native plants" was a euphemism for weeds, Nancy was outside collecting, planting, restoring, and teaching about native seeds and plants.

At first unsure, Carolyn, Anne, and Nancy were eager to participate on the panel when they heard that, as part of the celebration, the Florida Native Plant Society (FNPS) was establishing, in their honor, an internship program for young conservationists. Though still in search of a catchy name for the program, the Foundation agreed to match all donations made to support the interns. To everyone's satisfaction, \$15,000 was raised during the few days of the 41st FNPS Annual Conference, which was held as a virtual meeting.

Congratulations and thank you Carolyn, Anne, and Nancy!

FLORIDA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY
41ST ANNUAL CONFERENCE
SATURDAY MORNING FEATURED ROUNDTABLE
Florida Wildflower Foundation
The Early Days
Carolyn Schaag, Anne MacKay, and Nancy Bissett

Get the plate that saves butterflies and bees
Florida's most treasured and threatened butterflies and bees depend on wildflowers for survival. But wildflowers themselves are threatened.
FLORIDA
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Each purchase or renewal of the beautiful State Wildflower license plate generates \$15 to grow Florida wildflowers for butterflies, bees and birds.
Two ways to get your plate
Visit FlaWildflowers.org/wildflower-tag to request a phone call.
Visit your county license plate agency.



December 1-31, 2022



Ring in the season at Harry P. Leu Gardens with our annual **Holiday Blooms at Leu** exhibit. Thousands of colorful and unique poinsettias along with beautiful, seasonal flowers and foliage will create a wonderful, magical garden for the holiday season. This is the largest display of holiday plants in the Gardens' history! Stroll the 50-acres of beautiful vignettes, container gardens and grounds to put you in the yuletide spirit.

1920 North Forest Ave.
Orlando, FL 32803
407.246.2620
leugardens.org



Nature Workbooks for Children in Distress

By: *Beverly Williams*, Co-President

The Bartram Garden Club, Inc.

Assistant Director District IV

Approved by: Marge Hendon

The 1998 edition of NGC's "*Garden Therapy Manual*" describes garden therapy as the use of garden-related activities to aid physical, mental and emotional health. Not surprisingly, many universities now offer career training in the science of "Horti Therapy".

Dr. T. L. Senn, developer of the "Horti Therapy" program at Clemson University, is quoted in the manual:

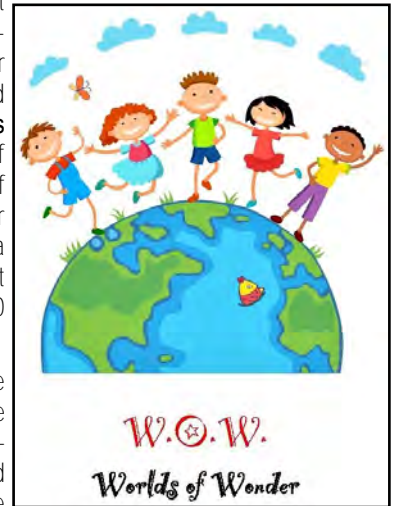
- If you are sad, plant something, it will make you happy.
- If you are happy, plant something, it will make you happier.
- If you have nothing to do, plant something, it will give you an interest.
- If you are too busy, plant something, it will help you relax.

This is most likely a philosophy that many NGC members have fulfilled. Why not consider sharing with others what we have learned about the healing powers of nature, especially children!

This idea took shape when Jill Guenther, a professional physical therapist, joined our garden club last year. Her skill set seemed a natural fit for "Horti Therapy".

She and I reviewed the NGC *Garden Therapy Manual* and noted the list of special groups which might benefit from a garden therapy project, specifically children living in shelters for battered women. We approached the outreach director of Micah's Place, a local shelter for victims of domestic abuse, with the purpose of highlighting emotional therapy for children at the residence. On a typical day 10 - 15 children live at the shelter, and anywhere from 100 - 150 within one year.

Since their identities may not be revealed for privacy reasons, we decided to create an age-appropriate nature workbook to aid the staff in teaching them about the wonders of nature.



Jill compiled a coloring book inclusive of word search and dot-to-dot exercises with a nature theme using pictures she found online. In addition, FFGC Smoky Bear/Woodsy Owl Chairman, Jill Anderson, pointed us to the U.S. Forestry Service website. The workbook includes pictures and information about the Florida state bird, tree, flower, and wildflower, along with Smoky Bear and Woodsy Owl. One page depicts animals commonly found in a typical Florida beach community such as ours.

I included some simple "Fun Facts" about William Bartram, America's first naturalist and club namesake, such as "he was threatened by wolves, alligators and bears!". Opposite is a full-page size alligator to color.

Next step: what to title the booklet? With her permission we elected to use FFGC President Marge Hendon's theme, "W.O.W." subtitled "Worlds of Wonder."

20 spiral bound copies were published and delivered to the residence in February 2022. Additional copies have been printed to share with the director of children's programs at our local library.

The staff at Micah's Place supervises and encourages the children to use their workbooks. Their feedback has been heart-warming!

CONTINUING EDUCATION

<p>NGC ENVIRONMENTAL SCHOOLS <i>Lydia Barbour, (703) 282-8924</i> Email: LydiaBarbour@hotmail.com</p> <p><u>District IX</u> <u>Course 2</u> Nov. 17-18, 2022 in-person ONLY</p> <p>Fort Myers - Lee County Garden Council 2166 Virginia Avenue, Fort Myers, FL 33901</p> <p>Theme: "Land & Related Issues" Host Club Chair: <i>Judy Francino</i> (248) 425-8713 Email: JFrancino@att.net</p> <p>Registrar: <i>Bernadette Hamera</i> (239) 233-1166 Email: BHamera@outlook.com</p> <p><u>District VIII</u> <u>Course 1</u> Jan. 17-18, 2023 Rescheduled from Oct. 2022 in-person & ZOOM hybrid</p> <p>Tampa Federation of Garden Club Circles 2629 Bayshore Blvd., Tampa, FL 33629</p> <p>Theme: "The Living Earth" Host Club Chair: <i>Kitty Wallace</i> (813) 992-0940 Email: KittWal@aol.com</p> <p>Registrar: <i>Pam Slagg</i> (813) 767-2710 Email: PamSlagg@hotmail.com</p>	<p>NGC GARDENING SCHOOLS <i>Mercy Abrams, (973) 255-0134 (c)</i> Email: Mercy313@me.com</p> <p><u>District X</u> <u>Course 1</u> - Series 10 Nov. 14-15, 2022 in-person ONLY</p> <p>Mounts Botanical Garden Auditorium 531 N Military Trl. West Palm Beach, FL 33415</p> <p>Chairman: <i>Carol Stender</i> (610) 297-1224 Email: Carol.Stender@gmail.com</p> <p>Registrar: <i>Toni Cvetko</i> Email: TLCvetko@gmail.com</p> <p>NGC FLOWER SHOW SCHOOLS <i>Susan Hillson, (561) 333-0740</i> Email: Susan.Hillson@gmail.com</p> <p>NGC LANDSCAPE DESIGN SCHOOLS <i>Susan MacPherson, (781) 249-8905 (c)</i> Email: RMacpham@me.com</p> <p>District IV <u>Course 2</u> - Series 38 Sep. 28-29, 2022</p> <p>Ribault Garden Club 705 2nd Ave. N, Jacksonville Beach, FL 32250</p> <p>Event Chair: <i>Linda Broadrick</i> (404) 281-8991 Email: Linda.Broadrick@gmail.com</p>	<p><u>Course 4</u> - Series 38 Oct. 26-28, 2022 ZOOM Only Waltham, MA</p> <p>Registrar: <i>Susan MacPherson</i> (781) 249-8905 (c) Email: RMacpham@me.com</p> <p>FLORAL DESIGN STUDY UNITS <i>Carol Lucia, FFGC Chairman</i> (727) 656-3207 (c) Email: CLucia02LUC@aol.com</p> <p><u>Basic</u> Units (1-6) and <u>Advanced</u> Units (7-9) Information packets for Floral Design Study will be sent to Chairman, including handouts.</p> <p>All Floral Design Study Units must be registered</p> <p><u>District VI</u> <u>Basic Units (1-6)</u> Oct. 18, Nov. 15, 2022 Jan. 17, Feb 21, Mar.21, Apr.11, 2023</p> <p>The Arrangers Guild of Palm Coast Flagler Co. Extension Service 150 Sawgrass Rd. Bunnell, FL 32110</p> <p>Chairman: <i>Linda Hensler</i> (386) 437-2613 (h) (386) 569-4584 (c) Email: LHensler@bellsouth.net</p>
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Nature Workbooks for Children in Distress- (cont'd)

"The nature workbooks have brought so much joy to our shelter. The children can relax and get a chance to focus on the beauty of the world around them, even if they're going through a tough time."
 "They have been a great healing tool for the kids. Inspiring them to get outside and connect with nature is so powerful and helps them find ways to stay grounded."

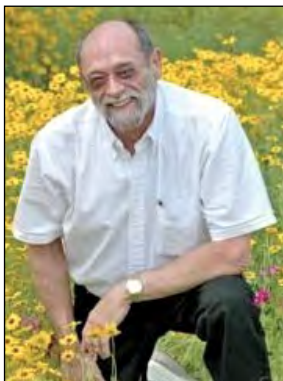
As a result, the shelter's director is open to us creating a fairy garden at the residence. No doubt other doors will open with regards to youth gardening. W.O.W. So many wonderful ways to share worlds of wonder!

Gary Henry - FDOT & (Florida Wildflower Foundation)

Submitted By: *Jeff Caster*, FFGC Life Member
 Chair, Florida Wildflower Foundation

Approved By: *Tina Tuttle*

Isn't interesting how much of the FFGC history is intertwined with the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT)? The partnership dates back to the beginnings of both organizations and our "7th Decade" recalled an amazing time of high achievement by the Florida Federation of Garden Clubs in cooperation with the FDOT. During the Federation's seventh decade, Gary Henry, the well-known much-liked landscape architect (along with his closest collaborators at FDOT, Dick Bush and Ralph Carter, both honoured and celebrated by



FFGC with Life Memberships), was the force at FDOT driving designation of state roadways as "Paths of Sunshine". By the eighth decade Gary was the unstoppable force at FDOT behind the biggest FFGC partnership of all, the Florida Wildflower License Plate and continued cooperation with roadside beautification, Glenn Glitter, Ella P. Wood Paths of Sunshine Endowment Fund, annual awards, the Florida Highway Beautification Council, Blue Star Memorial Markers and byway markers. His emphasis was always on educating the public about wildflowers and he facilitated planting thousands of acres of wildflowers and native plants on scenic highways, created wildflower posters and postcards featuring coreopsis, instituted an annual wildflower conference, and wrote the booklet *Wildflowers in Florida*.

Frequently and sincerely, Gary credited FFGC for his successes. Without FFGC, he'd have been one voice in a crowded state agency. FFGC encouragement and recognition fuelled him; gave him strength to rally the resources needed for FDOT to keep up its part of the partnership. Gary's office and home had many FFGC awards and thank you gifts and cards on display. His FFGC Life Membership meant so much and he was proud of the honour. Most of all, Gary enjoyed his friendships with fellow gardeners, wildflower enthusiasts, and stewards of nature's beauty. He loved coming to our convention to be with friends.

The FFGC and FDOT made an unbeatable team, mission driven, finding the best ways to preserve the quality of our environment and communities. Gary's passing is too sad but his memory lives on! Just look out the window as you drive along and you will see his lasting legacy.

If you wish to make a donation to Gary's memory, please consider the Florida Wildflower Foundation, 225 S. Swoope Avenue, Suite 110, Maitland, FL 32751. FLwildflowers.org

CONTINUING EDUCATION - (cont'd)

<p>FLORAL DESIGN STUDY UNITS - (cont'd)</p> <p><u>District VIII</u></p> <p><u>Basic Units (1-6)</u> Jan. 4, 11, 18, 25, 2023 Feb. 1, 8, 2023</p> <p>Garden Club of St. Petersburg 500 Sunset Dr. S. St. Petersburg, FL 33707 Time: (Wednesdays) 10 AM - 2 PM</p> <p>Chairman: <i>Jill Anderson</i> (727) 798-1970 Email: JillAndersn@aol.com</p> <p>Co-Chairman: <i>Barbara Kirkconnell</i> (727) 360-2211 Email: Indigo9933@gmail.com</p> <p><u>District IX</u></p> <p><u>Advanced Units (7-9)</u> Jan. 31, 2023 Feb. 7, 14, 2023</p> <p>Punta Gorda Garden Club First United Methodist Church of Punta Gorda 507 W Marion Ave. Punta Gorda, FL 33950</p> <p>Chairman: <i>Claudia Chopp</i> (941) 637-0331 (h) (314) 422-5564 (c) Email: CBChopp@yahoo.com</p>	<p>SHORT COURSE - Central (UF) Chairman TBA</p> <p>SHORT COURSE - North Chairman TBA</p> <p>TROPICAL SHORT COURSE <i>Michelle Maguire (772) 485-3279</i> Email: MouthMom@yahoo.com</p> <p><u>District X</u> Jan. 25-26, 2023 Greenacres Community Center 501 Swain Blvd, Greenacres FL 33463</p> <p>Chairman: <i>Michelle Maguire</i> (772) 485-3279 Email: MouthMom@yahoo.com</p> <p>Registrar: <i>Jane Zezeck</i> (304) 282-2411 Email: Zezeck@hotmail.com</p> <p>SYMPOSIUM Nov. 6-8, 2022 Registrar: <i>Bessie Morse</i> (727) 215-6666 (c) Email: Trophy540@runbox.com</p> <p>Day Spring Episcopal Conference Center 8411 25th St E, Palmetto (Bradenton Area), FL 34219</p> <p>Design & Allied Topic: <i>Lynn Fronk</i> Horticulture: <i>Jan Griffin</i></p>	<p>FFGC FALL BOARD MEETING (2022)</p> <p>Pre-Board Meeting Sep. 5-6, 2022 Board Meeting Sep. 7-8, 2022</p> <p>FFGC Headquarters 1400 S. Denning Dr. Winter Park, FL 32789-5662</p> <p>FFGC WINTER BOARD MEETING (2023)</p> <p>Pre-Board Meeting Jan. 9-10, 2023 Board Meeting Jan. 11-12, 2023</p> <p>FFGC Headquarters 1400 S. Denning Dr. Winter Park, FL 32789-5662</p> <p>96th FFGC CONVENTION Apr. 18-20, 2023</p> <p>Embassy Suites by Hilton Lake Buena Vista South Kissimmee, FL 34746</p>
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Create A Butterfly Garden in a Container!

By: *Kat Rahla,*

District X - Jupiter Tequesta Garden Club

Approved By: *Barbara Jacobson,*

FFGC "Birds & Butterflies" Chairman

Butterfly gardening can bring much joy with the time spent at home during **this pandemic**. Even if you have a "postage stamp" sized garden or just a balcony, you can start a butterfly garden. All you need is a good-sized container--the bigger the better. I would recommend about a 20-inch pot as a minimum.

If you have never had a butterfly garden before, let me give you a little background. You need two kinds of plants: ones that provide food for the caterpillars to eat and flowers for the adult butterflies to nectar on.

When most people think of a butterfly garden, they think of flowers. To feed the adult butterflies, planting certain flowering plants is very important. These are called nectar plants. But the most important plants to have in your garden for butterflies are the caterpillar food plants (also called a host plant) where the female butterfly will deposit her eggs (oviposit). Butterflies are plant-specific, meaning that their caterpillars will only eat a particular plant. The adult female butterfly knows this and will seek out these plants. Once you plant the plants specific to each species of butterflies, they will come. It is important to find native host plants from the start. Plants that are not from our area can be toxic or not provide the proper nutrients for our local butterflies. You also run the risk of introducing a nasty invasive plant in your area.

Let's start with the zebra heliconian (*Heliconius charithonia*), Florida's state butterfly! Here are three great plants to start your container garden focusing on this beautiful butterfly:



- The zebra heliconian's favorite nectar plant is the native Firebush (*Hamelia patens*). This plant is also a favorite of hummingbirds and many other pollinators. It can grow quite tall in the ground but is also easily kept as a small sized bush 4 - 6 feet tall and is manageable in a container. (Visit Pan's garden in Palm Beach - Susan Lerner has two specimens in the ground that she keeps small very successfully). Firebush is a sun-loving plant but will tolerate partial shade. This is the "thriller" in your container. While you are planting this for the zebra, don't be surprised if you spot a passing hummingbird. They love firebush and typically are seen in South Florida October through April. 
- The second plant, the corky stemmed passion-vine (*Passiflora suberosa*), may be the most important as it will be feeding your zebra caterpillars. This can be grown on a trellis or as a ground cover so can be your "spiller". It can also grow up the trunks of the Firebush. The more shade this vine receives the better, as zebra heliconians like the shade. You might also get lucky and attract two species of butterflies. Both gulf fritillaries and julias also lay their eggs on passion-vine! 
- The third plant is the native salvia, *Salvia coccinea*. It will serve as a "filler" but it's also a "thriller"! *Salvia* will provide lots of color and serve as a nectar plant for the adult butterflies. Place several of these in your container and deadhead them regularly to keep them blooming. I like to cut them back hard to maintain lush full plants, otherwise they can get tall and leggy. These will help camouflage the chewed stems and vines of the Passion vine. 

Create A Butterfly Garden in a Container! - (cont'd)

Speaking of chewed on leaves, I always ask when I advise on a butterfly garden "What is the look you are going for"? Many are surprised to hear that butterfly gardens can look somewhat unkempt. Keep in mind that the plants that you plant for the caterpillars are going to be chewed on, and some plants get nearly decimated (but will almost always grow back). There are a few tricks to hide the chewed leaves and stems. When growing the passion vine alone on a trellis, grow with coral honeysuckle or Jacquemontia vine to hide the leafless vines. The butterflies will still find the correct vine to lay their eggs on.

Here are a few other tips for creating a successful container garden:

- Grow your plants in well-draining potting mix and in a container with drain holes. These plants will be drought tolerant when established but they like moist to dry soil.
- Watering regularly is important - drip irrigation can make this easier. I have also used upside down wine bottles filled with water daily to keep the plants hydrated in the summer heat. Until the plants are established it will be necessary to water daily and check for drooping leaves and water accordingly.
- Be sure that you are not using any pesticides in the areas you are growing butterfly plants as they will kill all insects including your butterflies and their caterpillars.
- For more information on native plants, visit the Institute for Regional Conservation's website at RegionalConservation.org. They offer suggestions on where to purchase these plants. But be sure to ask if **they are native to our area and don't purchase "dwarf" or cultivars.**

Florida Federation of Garden Club Winners National Garden Club, Inc.

Flower Show Achievement Awards
Club Standard Flower Show Award

Florida District VIII for "Wild and Wonderful Florida"
Sarasota Garden Club in Florida for "Garden to Table"

Largest Increase In NGC Life Memberships
Florida Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc.

Region of Honor - Deep South Region
Mary Whisler - Garden Club of Crystal River - District V - FFGC

NGC Scholarships Deep South Region
Florida - Caroline Hope Gordon

Gwen Carter, FFGC Awards Chair
Mary Adams, Awards Team
Leslie Montwid, Awards Team
Barbara Rao, Awards Team
Valerie Seinfeld, Mentor

What does Climate Change look like in Florida?

Dr. Kimberly Moore, PhD, Professor Environmental Horticulture, University of Florida, IFAS, Fort Lauderdale REC, 3205 College Ave. Davie, FL 33314; klock@ufl.edu

When we hear the words climate change, many images come to mind. I picture melting polar ice caps and shifts in temperature and weather patterns. However, it is hard to see the impact of climate change on life in Florida when most days are hot.

Most of us associate climate change with warmer temperatures. However, this is only a small part of the story. Changes such as drought, water scarcity, fires, flooding, sea level rise, storms, and declining biodiversity are also part of the story. Living in South Florida, I am seeing the impacts of climate change through sea level rise and saltwater intrusion. The Biscayne aquifer is a shallow (surficial) aquifer that is highly permeable and underlines

Broward, Miami-Dade, Monroe, and Palm Beach counties. Being surficial, it is subject to pressure from the ocean pushing inward (saltwater intrusion) as well as sea level rise. This is changing how I use water.

But what if you do not live in Southeast Florida? Are you seeing the impacts of climate change? I would suggest that you are being impacted too. Maybe it is just a little warmer than it used to be or that you are seeing more storms. Perhaps drought or floods have impacted you. I would venture to guess that all of us are feeling the impacts of climate change regardless of where we live.

What can we do? Human activities have been the main driver of climate change in the world due to burning of fossil fuels. As gardeners, we have tools to reduce our carbon footprint and help reduce greenhouse gas emissions. For example, choosing to use renewable energy sources like solar and wind will help. We also can buy more efficient vehicles (electric and hybrid) or use bicycles, public transportations, and carpools. Many of us have also made changes in our homes using solar water heaters, low flow faucets and toilets, energy star appliances, and high efficiency heating and cooling systems.

What else? We should be planting trees and gardens. We can reduce waste and compost more. We can reduce our water use and water more efficiently. Most yards do not need to be watered as often as they are watered. Established trees and shrubs get more than enough water from rain fall and lawns will go dormant and come back when it rains. The only plants that really need to be watered are newly planted trees and shrubs and our vegetable and flower gardens. And for that we should be hand-watering them and not running our irrigation systems. I recently purchased a rain barrel and have started using the water from it to water my garden and parts of my yard. When I think about all the cisterns that were in use in the Florida Keys, it reminds me that water was not always easy to come by and it was something to be cherished. If you cannot tell, I am passionate about water conservation and have personally turned off my irrigation system and only water my lawn when the grass blades start to curl which it has not done for 2 years.

I also am passionate about composting, recycling, and reusing. Small changes can have a big impact if we all commit to making one small change to make our world a better place. Whether you believe climate change is impacting you are not, I encourage you to make a small change. Plant a tree or plant a garden and water it by hand. This will help everyone in the long run.

Tri-Council: One of FFGC's Best Kept Secrets



Greetings! Let me introduce myself. I am Pat Caren, the new President of Tri-Council. I have taken the reins from Jackie Host, dedicated gardener and my mentor, who is experiencing health problems that keep her from serving at this time. I am an Environmental consultant and a Landscape Design consultant. I've risen through the ranks of Tri-Council, from member to Environmental Representative, to Vice President, and now to the President position.



A founding member of Alligator Creek Garden Club in Starke, I served as its President for ten years, until they allowed me to abdicate. Currently, I serve as District IV Secretary and on the FFGC board as chairman for Habitat for Humanity. In addition, I have been a Master Gardener in Bradford County since 2008.

Tri-Council seems to be one of FFGC's best kept secrets. Many folks who take Environmental, Gardening, and Landscape Design courses are not aware of the existence of Tri-Council, what we do, or that they are eligible to join. Sadly, many other Garden Club members, although eager to learn more about gardening and nature, are not even aware of the existence of the NGC schools.

Tri-Council: - (cont'd)

What are these schools? NGC offers education on the art and science of the environment, gardening, landscape design, and floral design. The first three are under the umbrella of Tri-Council. Environmental School teaches **the science behind today's environmental issues and how people can make significant impacts in their homes and communities.** Gardening School provides information on gardening, horticulture, and related topics. The courses cover all aspects of growing, from soil structure to pruning techniques, plant identification, etc. Landscape Design School offers a diversity of curriculum from the history of landscape design to contemporary landscape architecture. Besides gaining a greater enjoyment of their gardens, students find the program inspirational, encouraging them to get involved in civic and private projects.

NGC schools are offered around the United States and throughout Florida. This is heavy duty learning, but it is also fun. Instructors are professionals in their fields or have the requisite higher education to make the classes interesting, relevant, and meaningful. Tri-Council promotes the schools and tries to keep the gardening community informed. These classes are open to the public, and Master Gardeners get an extra bonus - the courses count toward continuing education credits.

Originally, there were three separate councils: Environmental Consultants, Gardening Consultants, and Landscape Design Consultants. In 2008, a group of ladies, including the presidents of the three councils, met to discuss combining the consultant councils into a single, stronger, and more streamlined Tri-Council. For more information on the history, go to FFGC.org/Tri-Council-of-FFGC.

Tri-Council's objectives are to protect the environment, increase knowledge in horticulture, and promote excellence in landscape design. To complete each school, you take four courses, each of which typically takes two days. In response to the pandemic, classes began being offered on Zoom, which is more convenient and allows you to take a course offered in another state without having to travel.



New Tri-Consultants



Tri-Refresher Committee

After completing two courses of a school and passing the exams, you are eligible to join Tri-Council as a provisional member. After completing all four courses, you become a Consultant in that area, a nice thing to add to your resume. To keep your consultant status, you take refresher classes from time to time. After four refreshers, you can apply to become a Master Consultant.

You don't have to stop there. Once you complete all three schools (Environmental, Gardening, and Landscape Design), and you are a Tri-Council member, you can become a Tri-Consultant. You will then be presented with a certificate and a pin. Once you attain Master Consultant status in all three schools, you can become a Master Tri-Consultant. This time, you will be presented with a Master Pendant to attach to your pin.



Sounds complicated? Maybe it is, but in your thirst for knowledge, you take one sip at a time. If, in addition to these schools, you also complete Flower Show School, you can become a Four-Star member of NGC. From there, you can work toward

Inger Jones, new 5 Star member

Five Star status. I'm sure you've noticed Garden Club members sporting enough hardware to weigh down a much-decorated general. This is how they have earned many of their pins. You can, too.

Tri-Council not only supports the schools, but also informs members of upcoming educational opportunities. In addition, we host dinners and dynamic speakers. At the 2022 FFGC Convention, we featured naturalist AyoLane Halusky of Earth Kinship. Mr. Halusky gave a fascinating talk on the Language of Birds. Other interesting speakers will be offered at future meetings.

For the 2023 Convention, we plan to present a Trashion Show. What is a Trashion Show? Certain ladies of distinction (some may be your friends and acquaintances) will model outfits they have made out of recycled materials. **Awards will be given. You don't want to miss this! It will be loads of fun.**

Besides work and play, Tri-Council supports youth with camperships to Wekiva and SEEK. At the 2022 Convention, we assembled a gift basket and sold raffle tickets. One lucky gardener took the basket home, and the proceeds went toward sending a child to camp.



Now that you know what Tri-Council is, get on board. Visit the FFGC and NGC websites to look for available courses and sign up for one. Tell your club members and friends about it. One does not have to be a Garden Club member to take the classes, but encouraging others to participate in these educational opportunities is a great way to get our garden clubs, as well as our gardens, to grow.

Speaking of growing, as soon as you qualify, join Tri-Council. Our goal is to **have 100 members by FFGC's 100th Birthday.** Let's not keep Tri-Council a secret anymore.

District X presents:

66th Annual Tropical Short Course

Master Gardener Continuing Education

GARDENING FOR LIFE Part II

January 25-26, 2023
Greenacres Community Center
Greenacres, FL 33463
Speakers • Floral Design • Vendors
Registration is open to all

Go to www.districtx.org for more information and registration forms.
See *Educational Opportunities*

Michelle Maguire, Chairman
mouthmom@yahoo.com
772-485-3279

Gardening School - Course 1

Interested in taking your gardening skills to the next level? Looking for more information about gardening in SE Florida? District X has engaged **three of the area's most knowledgeable presenters for this fall's Gardening School, Course 1.** Take advantage of this opportunity to expand your general knowledge about gardening and horticulture. Become a more confident and successful SE Florida gardener.

Day 1: *Dr. Kimberly Moore* is a talented, highly acclaimed instructor who has taught Gardening School courses nationwide. Her presentation focuses on Botany, including plant structure and growing requirements, plus an overview of soil structure, maintenance, and fertilization. In addition, Nancy Richards, NGC Environmental and Gardening Consultant, presents an interesting program on "The Misunderstood".



Day 2: *Joel Crippen*, the Display Gardens Horticulturist for Mounts Botanical Gardens, shares Techniques for Growing Outdoor Flowers and Propagation, with a hands-on Propagation Workshop in the Mounts green house.



This two-day course, is the first of a series of four Gardening School Courses. Participants who complete all four two-day Gardening School courses will become NGC Gardening Consultants.

November 14 & 15, 2022

8:30 AM - 3:30 PM

Mounts Botanical Gardens

531 N. Military Trail

West Palm Beach, FL 33415

Registration Fee: \$65

Includes lunch, snacks, and beverages

To register, go to DistrictX.org and look under Educational Opportunities for an online interactive registration form.

For more information, contact Carol Stender at (610) 297-1224 or email Carol at: Carol.Stender@gmail.com.

National Garden Week

By: *Vivian Kobe*, NGW District X Chairman

Approved By: *JoEllen Allen*,

FFGC National Garden Week Chairman

June 5 to 11, 2022, the Garden Club of Fort Pierce (GCFP) celebrated National Garden Week.

On Monday, June 6, prior to the **City of Fort Pierce commissioners'** meeting, our members went to Fort Pierce City Hall. Shirley Walker presented Mayor Linda Hudson with a bouquet of flowers. Blanca Rancourt created a beautiful flower design which was put on display in the lobby.



The group then moved on to the Fort Pierce Police Station, where a flower arrangement was presented to Chief Diane Holey-Burney. Diane Klevers made the beautiful arrangement for the Chief. Diane also made an arrangement for the chief's staff.



Another member, Blanca Rancourt made two gorgeous arrangements for the lobby. The Chief and her staff were very appreciative.

After leaving the police station, the group broke into two groups. The first group delivered a design by Blanca Rancourt, (pic #1), to the local Alzheimer Day Care Center and the second group delivered two beautiful arrangements, by Sonja Jemison. One to the main building of the Lake Forest Park Assisted Living Center (pic #2). And the second Sonja Jemison design was delivered to the activity center of Lake Forest Park complex (pic #3).



#1 Alzheimer Day Care Center



#2 Assisted Living Lake Forest Park



#3 Activity Center Lake Forest Park



In the evening of June 6, members went back to City Hall for the City Commissioners' Meeting, where a Proclamation was read by the Mayor proclaiming June 5th thru 11th as National Garden Week in the City of Fort Pierce. Mayor Hudson fully supports the Garden Club of Fort Pierce. Also, we are very fortunate to have her as a member!



On Tuesday, June 7, members went to the Kilmer Library, downtown Fort. Pierce. As in previous years, GCFP donated 4 gardening books for the library's Gardening/Horticultural section.

Arlene Conklin did a fabulous design for the main desk, and Blanca Rancourt's beautiful design graced the special garden week "book display". Every year, the library staff provides us with shelves, for the gardening book display. The display contains gardening related books, FFGC and GCFP information, as well as a National Garden Week poster and proclamation.

Saturday, June 11, was Farmers' Market day (on the riverfront in the City of Fort Pierce). The City of Fort Pierce gives our club a booth free of charge on the Saturday of National Gardening Week. The Club set up the booth with information about gardening, FFGC and GCFP. There was a free plant give away. These plants were propagated and donated by Diane Klevers, Mary Cox and Vivian Kobe. We used this opportunity to recruit new members; many prospective new members expressed interest. We will invite them to be guests at our September meeting.



Don't Let Your HOA Be An Excuse

By: Carol Stender, President, Boynton Beach Garden Club

Can you help the environment and increase pollinators in an HOA community? Of course! But be prepared to be persistent and get your hands dirty. **Boynton Beach's Nancy Lemcke is a case in point.**

The Boynton Beach Garden Club's Butterfly Certification Committee is pleased to show off our newest Certified Butterfly Sanctuary. Nancy Lemcke lives in an HOA-controlled community. The neighborhood landscape is dominated by flat, barren turf and heavily sheared hedges. Gardening is NOT encouraged. However, Nancy has created a remarkable **3'X15' pollinator sanctuary right outside her condo door!**

Tucked neatly, but obscurely, amongst the typical community vista, **Nancy's garden explodes with dancing blossoms of red, pink, blue, white and yellow.** Host plants include a cassia for dainty sulphur butterflies, plenty of milkweed for her favorite monarchs, and a passionflower vine for zebra longwings and gulf fritillaries. The passionflower grows bravely throughout a lovely *Jatropha* tree covered in bees, hummingbirds, monarchs and swallowtails. Wild Petunia (*Ruellia humilis*) attracts both the stately malachite (*Siproeta stelenes*) and the common buckeye (*Junonia coenia*) butterflies and a native *Plumbago zeylanica* provides a spot for the eggs of the Cassius blues (*Leptotes cassius*).



Nancy and her Giant Milkweed

Nectar plants include plenty of red and pink salvia, some blue mist ageratum, a healthy lantana, and a bright yellow spike of goldenrod! I cannot forget to mention the lively black-eyed susans and a blue porter weed as **tall as Nancy!** However, the most astonishing plant in Nancy's remarkable garden is a giant milkweed, which is literally more like a tree! Unlike most milkweed, which is quickly gobbled up by hungry caterpillars, the giant milkweed's leaves are always available for Nancy's caterpillars, sustaining them until they reach their chrysalis stage.

When you visit Nancy's garden, look closely and you will discover plenty of caterpillars, munching quietly away, getting plumper and plumper. But don't blink or Nancy will whisk those little fellas away to a caterpillar compound on her private porch - safe from marauding wasps and hungry lizards.

Nancy has raised and released many generations of butterflies thanks to her garden. Hers is a laudable achievement, accomplished despite stiff HOA obstacles. Her example reminds us that we each one can make a significant difference!

Floriade Tulip Time Trip

By: Shelley Atkinson

Transcribed by: Kathy Spaulding



What fun we had!

The trip to Floriade in Amsterdam and the Tulip Time Cruise with Arna Waterways was a complete success!

We had a group of 79 enthusiastic travelers. Our group include Florida Federation gardeners from all over the state of Florida. They brought with them their spouses, sisters, daughters and friends. Everyone got along and even swapped email addresses to keep in touch at the end of the cruise.

As a group we visited the Floriade on our first day in Amsterdam. This happens every ten years. It was a rainy and cold day, however, inside the exhibit there were thousands of beautiful flowers from all over the world. Everyone marveled at the orchids and lilies.

I think that everyone was a little sad that because of Covid, the venue wasn't totally completed. Like everywhere right now, the Floriade ran into trouble getting workers and supplies. Everyone was a good sport and remembered that that's our world right now

Amsterdam didn't disappoint either. It is a busy place with so much to offer. There was plenty to see and do. I saw our group zipping everywhere. I heard that people went to museums, ballets, restaurants, and of course went shopping.

On the third day we headed to the docks to board Ama Waterways Ama Certo. What a beautiful ship. We were greeted with open arms and smiles. **I dare say we had the best cruise director I've ever worked with Rachel was a ray of sunshine every day.** I think everyone looked forward to our afternoon cocktails and her presentation for what was coming up the next day. She was always helpful. She made our group run smoothly!

Our first stop was the city of Hoorn. A lovely city full of history from the Dutch Golden Age and their Navigation Era. There were beautiful fields of tulips everywhere.

Next, we were off the Middleburg. This is where most everyone went to see the Delta dams and locks that worked to keep Amsterdam from flooding again. There was a flood in 1953 that killed thousands. These dams prevent the North Sea from every doing that again. Very interesting.

Then on to Antwerp and Ghent. What a day! Everyone saw lots of beautiful architecture and lovely canals. Most of the group visited the UNESCO World Heritage site of the Cathedral of Our Lady.

Rotterdam was our next stop. I heard lots of comments about Delft and all the beautiful porcelain pottery. What a treasure to take home. Also in Rotterdam, we had a tour of the Kinderdijk UNESCO Windmills. What a beautiful day that was. The windmills were beautiful. What history they hold. We had a great tour guide that lived in one of the windmills. The windmills still work after all these years protecting the fields and homes.

Last stop was in Amsterdam where we saw the beautiful Keukenhof Gardens, home to 79 acres of beautiful tulips. The different types and colors of tulips were amazing. There were beautiful pathways and venues. It was a beautiful day. A great way to end a wonderful week.

I hope everyone made memories. It is my wish that we can all gather together again and make more discoveries and memories.

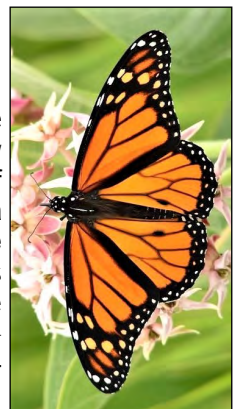
Visit FunSeas.com/ffgc to take a look at our upcoming group trips!

A Beloved Sovereign Endangered

What You Can Do To Help

By: Reina Snyder, Environmental Chairman

The International Union of Conservation of Nature (ICUN) has added the migratory Monarch butterfly (*Danaus plexippus plexippus*) to the "Red List of Threatened Species™". According to the Florida Wildflower Foundation, "Throughout Florida and the United States, habitat loss, the wide use of herbicides and genetically modified crops, and frequent roadside mowing have decreased milkweeds (*Asclepias* species), the Monarch's host plant. As a result, the number of Monarch butterflies has plunged alarmingly."



A Beloved Sovereign Endangered - (cont'd)

Monarch butterflies are probably the most recognizable species of butterflies in North America and they are one of the few migratory insects. These insects, each weighing half a gram or the equivalent of a single pumpkin or sunflower seed, fly between 1,200-2,800 miles or more to



Monarch on Milkweed

their overwintering spots; the eastern Monarchs migrate to the high mountains of Central Mexico and the western Monarchs migrate to Southern California. At half a gram and an average wingspan of 4 inches, this is **nothing short of miraculous!** If that isn't mind boggling enough, one single generation of butterflies completes this final migration southward!

This generation is known as the "Methuselah Generation" because they live so long. Most adult Monarchs live about four to five weeks, during which time they become sexually mature, mate, lay eggs and then die. However, the Methuselahs delay sexual maturity, fly thousands of miles, cluster together with millions of their friends, overwinter for a few months together and then begin migrating north to repopulate their northern territories, and they live up to eight months to accomplish all of this. It takes 3-5 generations to complete the migration cycle northward. Methuselahs also are bigger than their earlier summer cousins; it seems Nature specially upgraded them for their epic fall journeys.

Now, what can we do to help Monarchs in Florida? In the northern part of the state, Monarchs are migrators. Central and South Florida Monarchs **don't migrate**. Central Florida Monarchs are made up of some northern migrants who stay. They typically die during the winter months due to cold temperatures, being replaced by next year's migrants. South Florida has a breeding population that is present year-round. You could argue that Florida Monarchs are mostly fine. Yet their habitats are as threatened here as anywhere in the US. Here are some suggestions for how you can help Monarchs and their habitats.

Helping the Monarchs

- Plant native milkweeds. Monarch caterpillars feed almost exclusively on milkweed. (the most common *Aclepias tuberosa* - Butterfly weed along with *Aclepias incarnate* - Pink Swamp Milkweed and *Aclepias perennis*. White Swamp Milkweed are readily available in native nurseries. Plant a minimum of five plants for each species. Monarchs like the variety.
- **Don't plant tropical milkweed, *Aclepias curassavica*.** The data is piling it up that tropical milkweed hurts Monarchs on multiple fronts: poor wing development, increased occurrence of parasites (OE) which diminishes health, encourages Methuselahs to reproduce too early and reduces flying ability. For a thorough summary of scientific studies:
[MonarchScience.org/single-post/a-complete-summary-of-the-previous-and-new-science-on-tropical-milkweed-and-monarchs](https://monarchscience.org/single-post/a-complete-summary-of-the-previous-and-new-science-on-tropical-milkweed-and-monarchs)
OR click on the link: [Monarch Science](#) <click
- Attend Tropical Short Course January 25th and 26th and listen to **Jim West, Florida's own Monarch Guru, speak about Monarchs.** DistrictX.org/UpcomingEvents.html
OR click on the link: [Monarch Guru](#) < click
- Plant a minimum of 5 different species of native nectar plants for adult Monarchs. sfl.ifas.ufl.edu/lawn-and-garden/nectar-plants/
OR click on the link: [Nectar Plants](#) <click
- Get your local authorities to mow the sides of the roads less so milkweed can return.
- Get involved with the Florida Wildflower Foundation. FLwildflowers.org
- Educate club members and the public on the plight of Monarchs.

- Explore Monarch City USA and encourage your town to participate. MonarchCityUSA.com
- Work with local K-12 school systems and educators to promote land conservation and habitat restoration.
- Participate in MonarchWatch.org (Great to work with schools with the many programs and resources listed here.)
- Investigate Monarch sanctuary sites.
- Hold Monarch festivals.
- Create Monarch art.
- Sponsor a trip in October to St. Marks National Wildlife Refuge outside of Tallahassee to see the gathering of Monarchs (a top 5 viewing spot for migrants in the US - **go to the Ol' Lighthouse near the visitors' center for best viewing.**)
- Sponsor a trip to El Rosario Monarch Butterfly Sanctuary and the Monarch Butterfly Sanctuary Sierra Chincua in Mexico.

Shunning Plastic

By: *Lois Kershner*

Temple Terrace Garden Club, District VIII

Approved by: *Inger Jones*, Environmental Alerts Chairman

Frequently, I feel overwhelmed in my efforts to be a good Earth Steward. I **found encouragement in the article "Passing on all that Plastic" that appeared in the Tampa Bay Times Sunday, September 1, 2019.** Gabrielle Calise wrote about her experience of shunning single use plastic products for one week. If she could reuse or recycle an item, it was okay to buy. Otherwise she tried to figure out a way around it.

The following are some excerpts from her article that may be helpful to you on reducing single use plastic consumption.

Don't try to do it all at once. Going cold turkey can be discouraging. Instead, focus on going plastic free incrementally. Make more conscious buying decisions, but start one room at a time.

Anticipate plastic use and prepare accordingly. Keep reusable items in your desk, backpack, or car to cut down on plastic.

Learn what can and cannot be recycled. Every municipality is different but become familiar with the guidelines in your area.

You don't have to drop a ton of money to get started. Bamboo cutlery kits, fancy reusable paper towels and other zero waste items look cute, but you can achieve the same effect by repurposing items you already have.

Stay away from center aisles at grocery stores. Processed foods are likely packaged in plastic. Shop local. Items like sliced bread are hard to find outside plastic bags in supermarkets, but you can find them at **local markets and bakers. You'll have a better chance of getting your meat wrapped in paper if you go to a local butcher.**

Have plastic items that you cannot live without? Substitute an eco-friendly version. You have to collect trash or scoop up dog poop with something. If using plastic seems unavoidable, opt for a version that is compostable or made of recycled plastic. Backing earth friendly products with your money supports businesses that share this mission.

Be kind to yourself. **This is an imperfect process. You don't have to cut out all of your favorites.** Plastic will pop up, even if you are doing everything in your power to avoid it. What matters is reducing where you can.

2022 Annual FFGC Convention - Invitational Designs

By: *Marjorie H. Hendon*, FFGC President

Well, Margaret Chodosh, Invitational Design Chairman, and her Co-Chairman, Janet Chitty and Mary Lou Van Dorn, have done it again. They chose such talented designers, for some this was their first time staging an invitational design. Also, a huge thank you goes out to our creative invitational designers. They truly honored our members with their designs.



D: Lorene Junkin, District V
H: Marjorie H. Hendon



D: Claudia Chopp, District IX
H: Carol Hall



D: Anne Collins, District I
H: Tina Tuttle



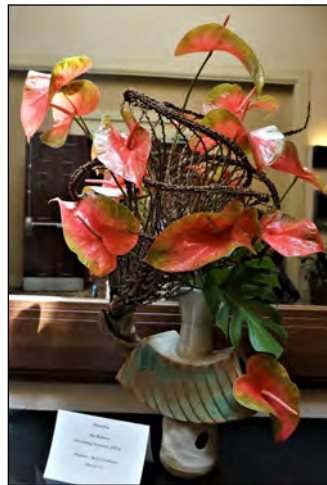
D: Rebecca Schuberth, District IX
H: Christy Linke



D: Leticia Gunn, District XII
H: Mary Whisler



D: Sue Cangialosi, District VII
H: Carolyn Lowry-Nation



D: Becky Lindhorst, District VI
H: Sue Roberts



D: Amy Wilson, District IV (Right)
H: Carol Wood (Left)



D: Sandra Deery, District XII
H: Sue Angle



D: Susie Cochran, District VIII
H: FFGC Membership



D: Helen Purvis, District III
H: Jana Walling



D: Terry Mallory, District VII
H: 2022 Convention Committee



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