

September, 2015

DISTRICT I NEWSLETTER

Beyond Your Own Back Yard



District Director

We're Into Something BIG!

Dear Wonderful Ones,

I'm home from the Board of Directors meeting at FFGC Headquarters and have so much to share with you. First, let me say, that being at headquarters is inspiring. It is a "must see" of beautifully landscaped grounds and an impressive building. Yes, we in the panhandle are a long way from "Oz," but think on it. Convention 2016 is less than an hour from HQ. Slated for April 17 – 19 April 2016, (theme) Inspired Gardening, will be held at the Embassy Suites Hotel in Kissimmee. To make your visit more lucrative, the FFGC State 36th biennial Flower Show, Seeds of Sunshine, will be on display. Something big you won't want to miss so plan now on being there!

I can also tell you that those who came together are just as awe-inspiring with their many talents, unending energy, and accomplishments; and they are looking for people like you to help them get the job done. It is exciting to know that we are part of something big, so check out the myriad of committees in the new Book of Information (BOI) to see where you would like to help.

Of course, opportunity drawing tickets were sent home with me and I'm sure you'll want to buy your tickets at the district meeting.

While at the meeting, Dawn Murphy, FFGC Office Manager, did a presentation on wildapricot. Ladies and gentlemen, wildapricot is not going away. Like the urge to resist computers, smart phones, and emails, of which we have all become accustomed, I believe, that when your club members learn the virtues of this "platform" they too will want to use it all the time. Support it if for no other reason than it is "Green Eco-Friendly" as it is

paperless! Unlike the stagnant website, wildapricot is an interactive site where you can contact new friends through FFGC, update your profile to let committee chairs know what you are interested in, and allows FFGC to receive equitable dues (to maintain that impressive building and grounds). So please, take the time to sign in, search the site and learn about it (oh yeah, check out the 2015 convention photos and see how many people you know!). You'll want to add FFGC@wildapricot.org to your address book so important messages don't get sent to junk.

Did you know you can add your garden club link to wildapricot for all the public to look-see. Just send an email to Dawn at ffgc@wildapricot.org and she will add a link.

Are you reading the National Garden Club's newsletter, Keeping in Touch, and the National Gardener? Did you know it is available to you on line (*Go Green!*). Just type in www.gardenclub.org, log-in with username: **member** and password: **flight** and type in the magazine in the search box; very user-friendly. Again, it brings home the message that we are a part of something big!

What else can you do? "Diggin It" has five (5) new topics and you can purchase just the supplement. Think of sponsoring a Diggin It educational series as a fundraiser. How about training at Camp Wekiva, 19-21 Feb, learning to be a counselor of our future, kids! Cost is \$75. Are you a photo buff? Enter the Florida Horticulture Photos for the 2017 FFGC calendar. Wouldn't it be exciting to see your photo on the cover of next year's calendar!

Finally, I want to mention the upcoming District 1 Fall Meeting; it's just around the corner. President Arlene Rand and her officers will visit us. I truly hope you plan to attend so you can meet a really dynamic

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OUR LEADERS

NGC President:

Sandra Robinson

Deep South Region Director:

Carol Bullard

FFGC President:

Arlene Rand

District I Director:

Sharon Johnson



group. 1st VP Claudia Bates informed us that she will be bringing “neat” stuff from the FFGC store. She has designed a new Membership Pin that allows attaching Year Bars (increments of 5 years). Bring your credit card to make shopping easier. Speak out on an FFGC survey. We’ll be collecting club yearbooks at the front door in exchange for your club’s copy of the BOI. And you’ll certainly want to receive a ribbon at the district’s Petit Flower Show, so get the details now from me or Gina Jogan to enter.

So, why do we belong? Because belonging makes us a part of something **BIG!**

Checklist for District 1 Fall

Meeting:

- Ensure your \$20 registration fee is paid
- Wear your Nametag
- Bring 3 copies of your club’s yearbook (presidents)
- Be prepared to pick up your club’s Book of Information (presidents)
- Appoint Delegates (presidents)
- Bring CASH, CHECK, or CREDIT CARD to purchase:
 - Ways & Means
 - Plants
 - Raffles
 - FFGC Calendars (last chance)
 - Opportunity Drawing Tickets.
- *Wear a smile and have fun!*



LUNCH AND LEARN

Why FFGC Membership?

- Clubs receive benefits of excellent programs plus information on projects:
 - Horticulture Study Programs such as “Diggin It”
 - Landscape Design
 - Floral Design
 - Flower Show Judging
 - Fun with Flowers
 - Environmental Issues
- Contact with program resource persons such as floral design instructors, gardening consultants, and specialists in landscape design.
- Members may volunteer as counselors to work with elementary children who attend Camp Wekiva located north of Orlando. FFGC is the ONLY garden club organization that operates a summer camp for children. Members may also send children to the camp at a reduced rate.
- FFGC sponsors an environmental studies four-day seminar during the summer for high school students in Ocala. Individual clubs may send students from their community to attend. Volunteering opportunities are available.
- Each member receives *The Florida Gardener* that provides articles on gardening-related subjects and organizational activities.
- Members may attend district meetings held twice a year and the annual state convention. A state flower show is held once during each two-year administration.
- Clubs may recommend students for scholarships on state, regional, and national levels.
- Members may be appointed to state, regional and national boards.
- All members automatically become members of National Garden Clubs, Inc. and the Deep South Region.
- Members may attend gardening short courses held throughout the year in a variety of locations. Topics related to gardening, landscaping, and the environment are explored. These courses are open to the public; garden club members receive a reduced rate.
- Rent and/or borrow a variety of videos, slides and power point slide shows from Headquarters suitable for member and/or public programs. A variety of books such as “Tidbits” are available for sale.
- Clubs have the opportunity to advertise their programs and activities on their district websites, and soon this option will be available on the FFGC website.
- FFGC garden clubs are authorized to erect Blue Star Memorials in their communities – a great source of pride to many people.
- Garden clubs have the opportunity to honor their members with a variety of recognition such as Pillar of Pride and Earth Steward to name a few.
- Access to district and state websites to locate speakers, information, and apply for awards.
- Clubs are informed about legislative issues concerning water quality, environmental, and conservation topics. As a block of voters, FFGC & NGC members can and do make their voices heard by their legislators.
- Clubs are given many opportunities to receive monetary awards for achievements. These awards can serve to track the history of the club as well as recognition.
- An opportunity for members to become active on the district, state, regional and national level if they wish to become more involved in garden club issues and projects beyond their local garden club.

NGC AND FFGC PROJECTS

Adopt-A-Waterway

There are many impaired bodies of water in the State of Florida. In keeping with our Position Statement supporting clean water, each district has been requested to Adopt-A-Waterway within their District. It is hoped that the districts and local clubs can take actions that will help improve the quality of the water in their adopted waterway or waterways. Garden clubs can hold seminars and TEACH about good gardening practices, but even more importantly we can PRACTICE good gardening habits regarding the use of fertilizers, pesticides and fungicides. We can practice the Florida Friendly Landscape Principles so that the storm water runoff does not pollute our waterways

WE can organize or join local working groups that have a common interest in protecting a particular water body. We can participate in organized cleanups and practice recycling and reuse. This cuts down on the pollution entering our waterways.

Collect Commemorative Stamps

Did you know that the Audubon Society has been collecting commemorative stamps for the Bald Eagle Stamp Program since 1968? The sales of these collectable stamps are sold and all proceeds go to help sick and injured birds of prey. The program is called Audubon Center for Birds of Prey Bald Eagle Stamp program. The Florida Audubon Center for Birds of Prey was founded in 1979 in Maitland, Florida and has treated over 12,000 injured or orphaned birds of prey (raptors) releasing more than 40% of these former patients back into the wild. Volunteers sort donated collectable stamps which are then sold to collectors. 100% of the proceeds go to help the birds. The collection and sale of special stamps has generated thousands of dollars for the Florida Audubon Society Center for Birds of Prey.

Penny Pines Programs

Donate: FFGC offers many opportunities to contribute to causes and programs close to you. On the local and state level for the U.S. Forest Service's well-known Penny Pines program, When the Penny Pines program was first started in California in 1941 as a statewide conservation program, and has been retained as a minimum donation through the years.

Coral Reef Restoration Project

FFGC is a supporter of this project wherein coral reef restoration is taking place in the Florida Keys. Over \$10,000 was donated last year by FFGC to support this project. Individual clubs are donating funds, fund raising, and visiting the reefs to support this cutting edge innovative project. FFGC has received national recognition from NGC for participating in this project.

Campbell Soup Labels for Camp Wekiva

Collect labels to help obtain equipment needed by Camp Wekiva. Just save the labels and turn them in at district meetings.

Jewelry Sales

Members are encouraged to bring in unwanted costume jewelry to be displayed at district meetings. Members may select jewelry to take home in exchange for a donation going to support Camp Wekiva and SEEK programs. (Some clubs will also hold sales at their monthly meetings. Recently, scarfs have been added to the mix and this is proving popular.)

District I Junior Gardeners 2015–2016

It's that time again. The new school year has just started. Working with our youth is a rewarding experience for both the garden club members and the students. Plan your activities now and take advantage of all the back to school sales going on to purchase your paper supplies. Use existing youth programs or create your own programs. Contact local schools, church groups, a local library or after school program to find a meeting place and students.

Have fun and don't forget that if you need help contact your District I Chairperson Judith Begue at jsbegue@aol.com for more information. Everyone make a special effort to work on youth activity this session. You will touch the spirit of every child you work with.

A gentle reminder, you must **REGISTER** your **JUNIOR GARDENER CLUB WITH THE DISTRICT I JUNIOR GARDENER CHAIRPERSON JUDITH BEGUE** jsbegue@aol.com **AND THE FFGC JUNIOR GARDENERS CHAIRPERSON** **JOANNE CONNOR** ronjoconnor@bellsouth.net. Forms are on line.



*Junior Gardeners planting
wildflower seeds*

Penny Pines

History of the Penny Pines Reforestation Program

In 1941, California's first Penny Pines Plantation was sponsored by the San Francisco Sportswomen's Association. Recognizing the great need to restore these devastated areas, the association sent their donation to the Shasta-Trinity National Forest in northern California.

Since that contribution, the number of participating groups and individuals has grown each year.

They include such organizations as the Garden and Women's Clubs, Boy and Girl Scouts of America, civic and sportsmen's clubs, and many others.

Why the Penny Pines Donation is \$68.00

At the start of the program in 1941, seedlings could be produced for about one cent each. That is why it was called Penny Pines. At the request of the contributing groups, the forest service has kept the contribution per plantation at \$68.

Approximately 680 seedlings were used to plant a typical acre. For \$68.00, seedlings for ten acres could be purchased. Site preparation and planting costs were met through regular Forest Service appropriations. Today \$68 will plant approximately 350 seedlings (all types of trees, not just pines).

The Penny Pines program was so successful that money contributed to purchase seedlings soon far exceeded appropriated funds available for site preparation and for the actual planting job.

In 1964, the original cooperative agreement was rewritten to provide that funds contributed under the Penny Pines program be used for reforestation, rather than solely for purchasing seedlings.



Garnier Beach Garden Club

"Unless someone like you cares a whole awful lot, nothing is going to get better. It's not." Dr. Seuss

'BEE'cause Garnier Beach Garden Club does care, things will get better! The programs for this year will focus on the importance and impact of our individual practices in our private and community gardens. Topics include fall gardening, good and bad insects, pollinators/crown bees, edible flowers, orchids, container gardening (keyhole, gutter) and floral design. Work in our community will include maintaining the Blue Star Memorial Garden and butterfly garden at the Fort Walton Beach Library, butterfly gardens at two elementary schools, working with students at three elementary schools, sponsoring an Arbor Day tree program, and establishing another Blue Star Marker. We are especially excited to participate in the National Garden Club Million Garden Challenge to establish one million gardens to support pollinator recovery.

We have also been working through the summer at our Arts and Crafts days to prepare for hosting the Fall District Meeting. There will be so much to see and do at this meeting you will not want to miss it. See you there!

Jennifer Yelverton





DOGWOOD GARDEN CLUB OF GULF BREEZE

By Linda Henderson, Co-President

We are busy planning for our annual fundraiser—Welcome to Our Home: Tour of Tables. Tickets are available for \$20 which includes viewing the decorated tables, eating a delicious lunch, shopping at our Ways and Means table, bidding on your favorite item on the Silent Auction table, or purchasing a ticket for several Opportunity Drawing Baskets while listening to beautiful background music. Jean Ann Hartman, whose father owned a Christmas Tree Farm, will demonstrate how easy it is to make and decorate a live wreath or swag. Linda Henderson will demonstrate how easy it is to make holiday centerpieces. Proceeds will go to fund our community outreach projects to include our Jr. Garden Club.

We are still looking for volunteers who are willing to decorate a table for eight. If this is something you would like to do, please contact Linda Henderson, 850-936-4950 or email: Martylinda@msn.com. We are offering awards—Most Whimsical, Most Original, People's Choice Award, Club Competition Award.

If your garden club would like to enter by decorating a table for 8, please contact Linda Henderson.

We are also looking forward to working with the "Little Dogwoods" this year as well. Our Jr. Garden Club will meet either on the third Saturday of each month from 10:00-11:30 a.m. or on an afternoon after school from 3:00-4:30 p.m.

Jean Ann Hartman's home in Gulf Breeze beginning on September 19. We would prefer Saturday, however, this may be too conflicted with morning sports. Hopefully, we will get enough students who are able to come to Jean Ann's backyard so participants can follow some things in the garden and experience some bugs, diseases and gardening techniques and learn other skills that would not be possible in a class-room setting. Plus, no sweeping up will be needed. If you know of a child in first through fifth grades who would like to learn gardening, please let us know. Contact Jean Ann at 316-648-6806 or Linda Henderson at 850-910-2432 (cell numbers). Since this project is funded by the garden club, there is no cost to the students or their parents. We will take donations of clear large plastic jars, etc., that would be appropriate for planting as a terrarium.

MILTON GARDEN CLUB

The Milton Garden Club hosted a full week of educational activities during National Garden Week.

- Events included a Ribbon Cutting with the Santa Rosa Chamber of Commerce combined with the NGW Proclamation presented by Mayor Wesley Meiss. In August we hosted a Welcome Back Aloha Event for members and prospective members. Johanne Fleming was presented Pillar of Pride recognition during the welcome back event.
- We will be participating in the Santa Rosa County "Beaches to Woodlands" Tour, with a presentation on "Fall Gardening in the South", Saturday, October 10 from 10 AM to 12 PM; open to the public.
- The Morning Glory Circle will host a bake sale at the MGC Clubhouse, Saturday, November 21.
- In December the Club will host our 4th Annual Christmas Tour of Homes on December 5 & 6 from 11 – 4. Tickets are \$10 per person, available pre-sale and at the door on the days of the event. Poinsettias will be available for purchase at the clubhouse.
- Please call us at 850-626-2003 for additional information.



Becky Smith

Wildapricot LOGIN Instructions

1. Click on the LOGIN link at the top of the screen.
2. Enter your email address and click on FORGOT PASSWORD if this is the FIRST TIME you've tried to log in to the site as a member.
3. You'll receive an automatically generated email from the system with instruction to create a password and complete the log in process.

Still having problems?

Email not recognized - that just means that the email we have on file for you is not the same as the email you're using to log in. No worries, just contact headquarters via email and let us know. We'll update the database with the email you want to use. Once the update is done, you can return and follow the 3 steps above.

VALPARAISO GARDEN CLUB

Oh, the excitement of a new garden club year! Many of our members are returning after a rest from garden club activities, but others have been working during the summer. The budget committee has been busy, the new committee chairmen have been secured, new programs have been scheduled, and our yearbook has been compiled. Work in Paradise Gardens continued during the summer and is looking great and buzzing with pollinators. Awards have been reviewed, and applications are in the process of being assembled. A new flower show schedule is in the planning stages.

People join garden clubs to learn more about gardening. In an effort to enhance our knowledge, a few new things are being added this year. A propagation technique appropriate to the season will be demonstrated at club meetings. Each edition of the newsletter will have a short segment featuring "What the Handbook Says" about exhibiting horticulture and designs in Standard Flower Shows. Look also for information about awards for which individuals can apply.

We were blessed last year to gain some talented and enthusiastic new members. We are thankful for our experienced ones who constantly teach us how to be better gardeners and floral designers. Many opportunities exist in our club for everyone to get involved. The more you do, the more you learn. Valparaiso Garden Club is excited and ready to have a great garden club year as we learn more about how we can make a difference to "Bees, Birds, and Butterflies, In Our Backyards and Beyond."

Darolyn Weiss, President

NAVARRE GARDEN CLUB

Navarre Garden Club has been quite busy this summer. We began with a lovely flower show in June. We supported our community theater group in a production by decorating the foyer to match their theme, and sold a few plants too. We supported the key presenting ceremony at a home built for a wounded soldier where earlier this summer we planted a lovely flower bed to beautify this house. And last but not least of our summer activities, we were honored by the Chamber of Commerce as Member of the Month as they recognized our accomplishments in our community seen through the FFGC Award of Excellence and the Deep South Region's Arbor Day Award. Looking ahead, we will kick off our new year with an introductory Tea at the home of one of our members.

Our president has spiced up training for our committee chairs by inviting them and their spouses to a poolside party with training. One of our main fund raising events, Santa's Workshop, is scheduled for Nov 21st at Navarre Conference Center. We hope to see you there.

Rachel



PENSACOLA FEDERATION OF GARDEN CLUBS

Hello to all from Pensacola Federation of Garden Clubs new Co-Presidents, Melinda Smith and Lynn Manthei. We hit the ground running with the 2015 Secret Garden Tour chaired by Virginia Page. Due to the diligence and hard work of the committee, this fund raiser made over \$13,000. On August 20th, the Membership Coffee was held at the Pensacola Garden Center. Deanna Gordon, 2nd Vice President, chaired the event. Approximately 120 people attended, feasted on a wide variety of delicious tidbits, and enjoyed an informative, chuckle-inspiring presentation by Ann Crawford on horticulture for the upcoming Fair Shows.

Lynn and I are very proud of PFGC and are honored to be Co-Presidents. Our slogan is "Honor the Past and Build for the Future." It is our desire to carry on into the future the ideals and efforts of our founding mothers. We are dedicated to leaving our part of the world a beautiful place. Ya'll come and see us.

Melinda & Lynn

Sweet Bay Circle

We are looking forward to an exciting and productive year! The Perdido Kid's Garden is an ongoing project at this children's community park. Several members work caring for our section. Fall brings the County Fair where we **will be working** as both Clerks and Hostesses and also **entering** the Fair's Club competition. The members will also be providing many horticulture entries. We look forward to participating in the "Tour of Tables" next March. Several members work tirelessly caring for our portion of the Pensacola Garden Center Grounds.

It is not all work. There will be Christmas celebrations in December, and opportunities to learn new things. We will have some very informative programs to pique **our** interest during the year. The members will be offered the chance to participate in some delightful field trips as well as attend some classes, such as "Fun with Flowers" in February. Sweet Bay joyously looks forward to a wonderful year of service, learning and fellowship.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- October 6** FFGC District I Fall meeting and Petite Small Standard Flower Show, St. Mary's Parish Life Center, Ft Walton Beach. State officers present. Hosted by Garnier Beach Garden Club. State officers attending.
- October 21** First Small Standard Flower Show "Cruising" at the Pensacola Interstate Fair, building 7.
- October 27** Second Small Standard Flower Show at the Pensacola Interstate Fair, Building 7
- November 6** Pensacola Federation of Garden Clubs indoor Garage Sale at the Garden Center, 1850 N. 9th Avenue 8am-2pm. 432-6095 for more information & rent a table
- November 8-10** Flower Show School Symposium, Palm Beach Gardens, Fl. Horticulture instructor is Darlene Newell. Design instructor is Barbara May.
- November 17-19** Flower Show School Course 4, Gulf Breeze Presbyterian Church. Horticulture (Succulents/Bromeliads) with Tina Tuttle. FSP and Design (Tables) with Gina Jogan.
- December 8** Pensacola Federation of Garden Clubs Christmas Luncheon, Pensacola Yacht Club
- December 12** 77th annual Pensacola Camellia Club Camellia show and plant sale at First Baptist Church, 500 N. Palafox Street in downtown Pensacola. Small Standard Flower Show "Christmas Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow".