

*“WOW”  
World of Wonder*

**Florida Federation of Garden Clubs  
District V Newsletter**

**Spring & Summer 2021  
Issue 8**

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**MESSAGE FROM DISTRICT V DIRECTOR – DONNA THOMAS**



It was with excitement and a little bit of nervousness that I presided over the spring 2021 District meeting hosted by the Floral City Garden Club in May. Our program was presented by the Honey Badger Bee Farm and I personally learned a lot of interesting and unusual facts about bees. Thanks to all the members of my Garden Club for making this meeting a success.

Seventeen years ago, when I joined Floral City Garden Club, if you had told me that one day, I would be the District Director, I would have told you that you needed help. Turns out that to be a garden clubber you don't have to be a plant expert or a blue-ribbon gardener. And it's a good thing because I kill plants right, left and center. Everyone finds their niche in Garden Club and mine was learning and having fun with my friends and I get that in spades. The Garden Clubs are a wonderful organization that supports too many community projects to list in this message. I am honored to be representing District 5 and I pledge to you all, that I will do my best to make you proud. I honestly believe that District 5 is the absolute best and with your support and help we will keep it that way.

The President's Orientation meeting will be held Tuesday, August 10, 2021 at the Floral City Community Center in Floral City. I made a concerted effort to have this meeting in Ocala which is approximately halfway between the most distant points in our district; however, closures and restrictions due to covid-19 made this an impossible task. The meeting will be from 10 until 3 and lunch of course will be provided. Please mark your calendars. You will be getting detailed information very soon.

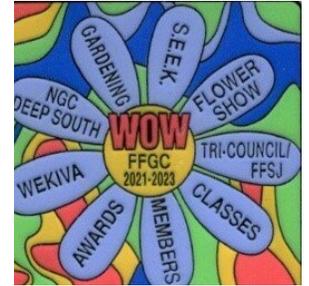
At convention, this past April, our very own, Marge Hendon (Pioneer Garden Club) was installed as FFGC President. In addition, Mary Whisler (Crystal River Garden Club) was installed as FFGC 3rd Vice President. District 5 is WOW'ing the state. I know we will all give them our full support over the next two. So, whenever you are asked and whatever you are asked to do, please say yes, and make Marge's conventions spectacular.

Convention was especially fun for me this year as I was installed as your District Director. If you do not usually go to convention, please consider coming April 2022. You will be amazed at the information you will absorb from the brilliant speakers/programs offered, as well as awards, displays, and floral designs. The food and vendors are wonderful and oh, the people you will meet. So, pack your smile and come join the fun.



## FFGC 2021-23 PRESIDENT – MARJORIE H. HENDON

**Wow, Worlds of Wonder**, is my theme for 2021-2023. The Florida Federation of Garden Clubs, (FFGC) and District V have so much to offer. Each offering is like attending a different world which you didn't know existed. When you see my pin, which Kelley and Carol Wood designed for me (pictured below), you will read some of the World titles that FFGC and District V have to offer.



Of course, all of what is offered to you as a garden club member can't be printed on one flower's petals, but these worlds like to jump out at you with excitement, beauty, and hope. Florida Flower Show Judges, Wekiva, SEEK, flower shows, classes, awards, Deep South, members, and National Garden Clubs are all petals on my WOW flower pin (pictured on the right).

Now, it is up to you to go online to FFGC.org and explore the - Worlds of Wonder - within your organization. Buckle up, it's going to WOW you.

Enjoy the ride,  
Marjorie H. Hendon  
FFGC President  
Proud member of District V



Margaret Chodosh, Gainesville Garden Club, received the Crystal Award from FFGC President Marjorie Hendon for her design entitled "*The Belle of the Ball*" which is featured on the inside cover of the 2021 FFGC Calendar



Jeanice Gage was recognized for her hard work and leadership as the 2020-2021 District Director. Jeanice was presented the Pillar of Pride and a tray by District Director Donna Thomas and Treasurer Susie Berryhill. Gainesville Garden Club members gave Jeanice a beautiful tray.

### GARDENING QUIZ

1. Vanilla flavoring is derived from which flower?
2. Which tree was traditionally planted in graveyards and is associated with eternity?
3. Which fruit was cultivated from crossing a blackberry and a raspberry?

## INTRODUCING FFGC DISTRICT V'S WEBSITE

As Donna Thomas was preparing for taking over as the Director of District V, she brought up the idea of having a website specifically for the district. FFGC does not have the ability to host District website on its platform, so we launched on a project to host and build a website on our own.

<http://www.ffgcdistrict5.com> was born, and launched at the Spring District V meeting. Currently available on the site is a listing of all the clubs in the district, along with links to those club's websites if they have them. The officer's Bios are available as well as pages for all the awards that were won by the District, and a photo gallery from the Spring District meeting.

More will be added as time goes on, and we welcome comments and suggestions as to what you would like to see. Feedback can be emailed to [webmaster@ffgcdistrict5.com](mailto:webmaster@ffgcdistrict5.com), and you can reach Donna Thomas at [Director@ffgcdistrict5.com](mailto:Director@ffgcdistrict5.com).

Kelley Wood, Floral City Garden Club

### DISTRICT V - EMPHASIS ON MEMBERSHIP

Did you know that you are a member of one of the largest volunteer organizations in the whole wide world? It all starts with your PERSONAL CLUB. Your membership makes your club successful, because without members there would be no Garden Clubs. This past year has been hard on many clubs and some membership has dropped off due to all the hardships we all faced because of the pandemic. People are getting excited and ready to socialize and learn about gardening.

Did you know that most people join Garden Club by ORAL invitation? So be on the look-out for potential new members by noticing those in plant nurseries, working in their yard, purchasing plants or gardening magazines or books and simply start a conversation with them about gardening and invite them to your Club's next meeting or event.

Let me know any successful ideas that your club has tried to increase membership or retain members and I will be sure to share with other clubs and circles. Consider a "bring a friend" meeting where members are encouraged to invite a friend. District V is ALIVE!

Carol Stevens, Membership Chairman, [carolstevens1950@gmail.com](mailto:carolstevens1950@gmail.com)

### DISTRICT 5 PRESIDENTS' ORIENTATION

Presidents and Circle Leaders,

You are cordially invited to the District 5 Presidents' Orientation meeting Tuesday, August 10, 2021 at the Floral City Community Center, 8370 E. Orange Ave., Floral City, FL., from 10 to 3. Lunch will be provided (lasagna), so please advise if you are a vegetarian. Dress attire: casual.

If you are a president, you can bring one guest (preferably an executive board member). If you are a circle leader you are *not* allowed a guest. RSVP as soon as possible if you will be attending.

Directions: Floral City is on Hwy. 41, if you are traveling north head toward Inverness, if traveling south head toward Brooksville. Floral City is the red light between these two locations. At the light turn right if headed north and left if headed south. The community center is the 4<sup>th</sup> building on the right. Parking in the rear as well as entrance to the meeting.

## FFGC 2021 CONVENTION HIGHLIGHTS



Outgoing FFGC President Al Latina with Incoming FFGC President Marjorie Hendon



Claudia Bates installed the new FFGC President and the other 2021-2023 officers at the convention.



Margaret Chodosh received The "Crystal Award".



Former Dist. 5 Director Mary Whisler.



Carol Wood greets attendees!



Jeanice Gage lines up!



Carol Wood & friends displays date of next year's convention.



Sandra Arnold & Margaret Chodosh

**DISTRICT V SPRING MEETING HIGHLIGHTS**  
*FUN WAS HAD BY ALL!*



## DISTRICT V GARDEN CLUB REPORTS

### FLORAL CITY GARDEN CLUB

What a strange garden club year this was! We persisted through the pandemic. Here's what we accomplished.

- Held 9 monthly meetings – 3 on Zoom and 6 in person, some outdoors, some inside
- Published Horticulture Hints every month on our website
- Packed for Blessings (our weekend food program) 18 times
- Published a Plant of the Month article on website each month
- Picked up litter on our Adopt-a-Highway section 3 times
- Held 4 Garden Workdays in our 3 public gardens
- Made \$3000 on our annual plant sale
- Help one field trip to a new nursery
- Donated items to Stock up for Seniors and Camp E-Nini-Hassee
- 4 members attended NGC classes
- Published 9 columns in the local paper about club activities
- Decorated the town center for the holidays.
- We planted the 8<sup>th</sup> ranked number of trees (73) of all garden clubs in the state
- Published a membership directory and 9 monthly calendars via email in lieu of a printed yearbook.
- 4 members held District and/or FFGC positions
- Cooperated with the FC Heritage Council on beautifying the empty lot on the corner of US 41 and CR 48
  - with gravel, painted metal flowers, and placed 5 pots of painted metal flowers in the town center.
- PUTTING THE FLORAL IN FLORAL CITY
- Received a Pride Award from Keep Citrus County Beautiful for that beautification project.
- Hosted the District V Spring Meeting.
- Applied for and received **GARDEN CLUB OF THE YEAR!!!**

### GAINESVILLE GARDEN CLUB

Linda Schoellhorn, President

This was the 96<sup>th</sup> year of the Gainesville Garden Club and most of our activities during 2020 were cancelled due COVID-19, but we were able to resume events and activities with reduced capacity in 2021. We did stay in touch with members via our Seedling newsletter and smaller Circles met in person, but our largest Circle (over 100 members) only met via zoom. Not being able to meet did not stop members from planting and putting hardscape in place for our new Celebration Garden, dedicated November 2021. For our Spring Flower Fling we had a lovely picnic boxed lunch with member Bruce Cavey leading us in a novel floral design in a head of cabbage. Surprisingly, they all looked different!

In April, as a membership drive open to the public, we held a "Grow Your own Cutting Garden" talk with Jon George of Cottage Gardens under the trees on our grounds. We invited members to sell plants related to his talk and sold craft and found items at the "She Shed". We were also able to resume Roadside Pickup, held Fun with Flowers by allowing members to pick up floral materials and follow along on YouTube, planted wildflowers in two medians in Gainesville, and our Circles were again able to do activities and crafts for local nursing homes and schools. We ended the year with a meeting of all members including a traditional served luncheon, installation of officers, memorial service and a speaker who discussed how to grow vegetables successfully in the summer. Things are looking up!

## **HOMOSASSA GARDEN CLUB - FOND MEMORIES OF INGRID RICCI**

It is with much sadness that the Homosassa River Garden Club reports the passing of our beloved leader and President, Ingrid Ricci. Ingrid left this world on Thursday, May 27<sup>th</sup> at the age of 78. Surviving is her husband Donato and four children. Ingrid was born in Cuba and came to the U.S. when she was 13. She worked as a research and development coordinator for Pfizer, and also worked as an educator and administrator. Ingrid deeply loved her country, her family and all her many friends.



Ingrid joined our club in 2013. She served several years as Hospitality Chairman. She then served from 2017 to 2019 as Vice-President, and in 2019 became club President. She was recently elected to serve another 2-year term as President. Ingrid was full of life and energy and threw herself into the various projects and activities of our club. She created an environmentally friendly yard with a drip system for water conservation and an abundance of native plants. Her yard has been featured in the Citrus Chronicle and the Citrus Gazette.

Ingrid was an avid supporter of FFGC's Wekiva Camp. She served 3 years as a camp counselor where her nickname was "Iguana". She also obtained two \$500 grants for Wekiva from her previous employer, Pfizer. Ingrid gave generously of her time and resources to our club. We will miss her kind spirit, her sense of humor and her generous nature, as will all who knew her. Submitted by: Ladonna Cohn

## **INVERNESS GARDEN CLUB YEAR END REPORT**

Priscilla Arnold, Acting President

2020-2021 has been a difficult year for all garden clubs due to COVID restrictions and we were no exception. We were unable to use our normal meeting place at the Lake Regions Library until January and our two top officers resigned for medical reasons. During the Fall we were able to arrange an outdoor location in October to gather to make about 100 floral arrangements for Hospice patients in Citrus County. One of our favorite community projects. We also arranged outdoor field trips to Bob Wines Camellia Nursery in Ocala, as well as a tour of the Master Gardeners Garden in Lecanto.

We were able to resume meetings in January with masks and social distancing with a limited number attending and two gracious members volunteering to lead the meetings. Programs included "All About Bees" with Leo Bush; "Care of House Plants" and a house plant auction. "Blueberry Farming" with Tony Russ at Florida Best Blueberry Farm in Inverness; "Creating a Butterfly Haven" with Janet Reed in March; and we had a Flea Market Fundraiser at Stokes Flea Market. Our new Slate of Officers was elected in April and installed in May. We all look forward to a healthier outlook for all garden clubs next year! Wishing you all a Happy Gardening Summer!

## **RIVERHAVEN GARDEN CLUB**

Kathy Lutkus, President

This has been a year of change and of challenges for Riverhaven Garden Club. In the course of this year, 32% of our members have moved, many of them Board members and key committee members. However, because of the vaccines, we have been able to hold monthly meetings from March through May. Our final meeting was a hands-on floral design mini class led by Patti Steck of the Homosassa River Garden Club which was a huge success, brought in two new Garden Club members, and resulted in \$100. in donations to Pennies for Pines.

Our charity work has continued. We have sponsored a community wide lecture by the Homosassa River Alliance, and contributed \$250. to that cause. We have just awarded three scholarships of \$1,500 each, and totaling \$4,500, to graduates from Lecanto and Crystal River High Schools. We have aided our Community Club with donations and landscaping in the installation of a military honor park in our community. Also, thanks to our Habitat chair, Karla Kiesler, we have just completed landscaping our **177<sup>th</sup> Habitat home** and are now also donating a basket of with garden hose, sprinkler, and garden tools to each new home. The good work continues as we learn to cope throughout a year of great change!

## *FFGC 2021 AWARDS*

# 1	<b>Blanche Capel Covington Leadership</b>	Mary Whisler, Crystal River Garden Club
#7	<b>Certificate of Distinguished Service to a State President</b>	Ingrid Velez
#7	<b>Certificate of Distinguished Service to a State President</b>	Kelley Wood
#8	<b>Garden Club of the Year</b>	Floral City Garden Club
#10	<b>Mentoring Award</b>	Sandra Arnold, Daisy Circle at GGC
#14-3	<b>Depalma/Sillik Website Award</b>	Homosassa River Garden Club
# 15-1	<b>Garden Therapy Geriatric &amp; Exceptional</b>	Daisy Circle, Gainesville Garden Club
#36-1	<b>Community Service Award</b>	Daisy Circle, Gainesville Garden Club
#40	<b>Arlington Dolly Morris Award</b>	Sandra Arnold, Daisy Circle at GGC
#51-1	<b>Environmental Education Involving Youth</b>	Begonia Circle, Gainesville Garden Club
#63-1	<b>Garden Center Program</b>	Begonia Circle, Gainesville Garden Club
#69-A	<b>Digital Photograph Birds and/or Butterflies</b>	Holly Yocum, Pioneer Garden Club
#69-C	<b>Digital Photography Award Florida Wildflower</b>	Sandra Arnold, Daisy Circle at GGC
D-3	<b>Membership Citation</b>	District V
D-8	<b>District Horticulture Award</b>	District V
J-13A	<b>Junior Gardeners/Pre-School Nature Posters</b>	Citrus Garden Club
J-13 C	<b>Junior Gardeners/Pre-School Nature Posters</b>	Citrus Garden Club
J-33 F	<b>Butterfly Award</b>	Citrus Garden Club
FFGC	<b>NGC Woodsy Owl Poster Contest</b>	Garden Club of Crystal River
	<b>1<sup>ST</sup> Grade - Annabelle Hays</b>	
	<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Grade - Alice Hays</b>	
	<b>3<sup>rd</sup> Grade - Aubree Kersey</b>	
	<b>4<sup>th</sup> Grade - Alena Hackey</b>	
	<b>5<sup>th</sup> Grade - Luke Langenmayr</b>	

### **DEEP SOUTH AWARDS**

DS MP	<b>Social Media/Website</b>	Homosassa River Garden Club
DS 15	<b>1<sup>st</sup> Place Garden Therapy Geriatric &amp; Exceptional</b>	Daisy Circle, Gainesville Garden Club
DS 34A	<b>Environmental Education Involving Youth</b>	Begonia Circle, Gainesville Garden Club
NGC	<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Place Woodsy Owl Poster Contest</b> Aubree Kersey	Garden Club of Crystal River
NGC	<b>3<sup>rd</sup> Place Woodsy Owl Poster Contest</b> Alena Hackey	Garden Club of Crystal River
NGC	<b>3<sup>rd</sup> Place Woodsy Owl Poster Contest</b> Luke Langenmayr	Garden Club of Crystal River

### **FFGC 2021-2022 Awards**

District V Garden Clubs and members won an array of awards in 2021 and we can win even more in the coming year. Go to [ffgc.org](http://ffgc.org) and click Awards to get the award descriptions and the form to use when applying. Be sure to pay attention to the due date so that your award will get in on time. If you have any questions or need assistance in completing your award, contact Sandra Arnold District V Awards Chairman at [searnold6348@gmail.com](mailto:searnold6348@gmail.com) or call her at 352 870-6161.

## DISTRICT V PHOTOGRAPHY COMPETITION & EXHIBIT

District V will be holding its second photography competition this year with emphasis on the theme “World of Wonders. Members are encouraged to take photos this summer and early Fall in the categories listed below. We will be accepting photographs via email. Deadline for submitting photographs will be October 1, 2021. Judging will be conducted and the winning photographs will be shown at the Fall 2021 District V Meeting on October 20, 2021. Attendees will select the “Popular Choice Award” from the photographs on display and the winner will be announced.

### Photography Competition – “Worlds of Wonder” theme

- Competition is open exclusively to garden club members of District V who are amateur photographers. Professional photographers cannot submit photos in this competition.
- Maximum 3 entries per adult
- There is a \$ 2.00 entry fee per photo or \$5.00 for 3 entries.
- No photographs with people/humans will be accepted.
- Photograph must have a brief description of; specific bird(s), butterfly(s), wildlife, gardens, trees/plants, plant material, and the location where it was photographed.
- Retouching or manipulation is allowed as long as we can tell the photo conforms to the theme. Any editing must be done by the photographer entering the photo.

### Photograph Categories

1. **Flower(s)**
2. **Gardens** - Flower or Vegetable
3. **Butterflies** - Caterpillar, Chrysalis or Butterfly
4. **Garden Visitors** - Birds, Bees, Bugs, Wildlife/animals
5. **Tree(s)** – in bloom, colorful foliage, fruit, etc.
6. **Black and White** (of one of the categories above). A black and white photograph is an image where all color has been removed (either in the digital process or through the choice of film). It consists of shades of gray tone that generally go from dark (black) to light (white). Send photographs to Kelley Ward at [kelleywood@gmail.com](mailto:kelleywood@gmail.com). If you have any questions or need additional information about the competition, email Sandra Arnold at [searnold6348@gmail.com](mailto:searnold6348@gmail.com) or Carol Wood at [carol@kdubdub.com](mailto:carol@kdubdub.com)

### NGC presents

### The Magic of SnapSeed with Rad Drew

Introducing our first celebrity National Garden Clubs Zoom workshop with internationally renowned photographer, Rad A. Drew!

Learn to process images on your iPhone or Android phone  
Using the powerful free app, SnapSeed!

Wednesday, July 14, 2021

5:00 – 6:30 PM EST

Zoom Online Workshop

Price: \$10.00

To register go to [NGC.org](http://NGC.org) and search SnapSeed

## NATIONAL GARDEN CLUBS, INC

### Breaking News!

**For all NGC Photographers - NGC club members and affiliated club members are invited to join our NGC Photographers' Facebook Group!**

The group will help NGC club members improve their photography skills through exploring various topics and challenges.

Our gallery of pictures, critiques and featured photographers will stimulate your creativity and advance your techniques.

**This month's Facebook Group challenge is "Upshots" a technique using your smart phone in selfie mode, or your camera, photographing the subject from below. grab your camera/and or your cell phone, give it a try and share your best shot with our NGC Facebook Group.**

*This technique has been perfected by our Facebook Group coordinator, Lynn O'Shaughnessy, whose prize winning image is featured here.*

**Here is the link to our NGC Photographers Facebook Group**  
[NGC Photographers](#)

### PLANT AMERICA – PLAY OUTDOORS

The theme for NGC President Mary Warshauer's administration is **Plant America- Play Outdoors**, a singularly focused initiative on gardens and gardening. Both a call to service and a description of what NGC clubs do, Plant America supports the main reason that people say they join a garden club - to learn about gardening!

Covering any and every aspect of gardening, horticulture, garden design, and community service, it applies to every kind of garden: Blue Star plantings, vegetable gardens, community gardens, container gardening, neighborhood plantings, urban farms, low-water xeriscape gardens and more.

Projects in local communities are what distinguish us from the work of other gardening organizations. Towns, cities, neighborhoods, and roadsides across the United States are all beneficiaries of National Garden Clubs projects.

## FFGC "100 WAYS TO PLAY OUTSIDE WITH NEW FRIENDS"

Within that theme is my Neil Coe two-year award, "100 Ways to Play Outside with New Friends". Why so long? You might ask. The '100 Ways' is for FFGC's 100 birthday coming up in 2024. 'To Play Outside' ties into our National Garden Club President Mary Warshauer's Theme, "Plant America-Play Outdoors". Finally, 'with New Friends' will be for the new members that you will ask to join your club. So, please send me and FFGC's Facebook, photos of you and your new friends playing during a garden club event, inside or outside. Check FFGC's Award #61 for more information.

### District V, FFGC & NGC IMPORTANT DATES

#### District V President's Orientation

Tuesday, August 10, 2021  
Floral City Community House

#### Fall District V Meeting

October 20, 2021  
Newberry Garden Club

#### FFGC 2022 Convention

April 12-14 2022  
Kissimmee, FL

#### NGC 2022 Convention

May 17-20, 2022  
Orlando, FL

#### UF/FFGC Short Course

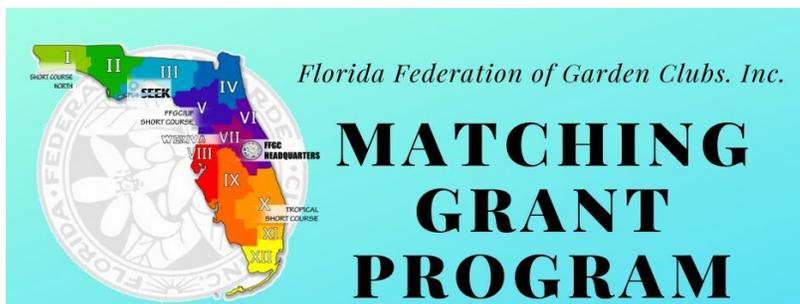
June 5-7, 2022  
Gainesville, FL

### NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

The deadline to submit club reports, event information, photos, etc. for the District V Fall Newsletter is October 1, 2021. Please send to Sandra Arnold, Newsletter Chairman at [searnold6348@gmail.com](mailto:searnold6348@gmail.com).

### Quiz Answers

1 Orchid, 2 Yew, and 3 Loganberry



Florida Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc. is pleased to offer matching grants up to \$500 to any Florida federated Garden Clubs and Circles in good standing. The focus and objectives outlined below form the basis for Club or Circle projects/activities that may qualify to receive matching funds.

Projects/activities may be any activity (workshop, program or other educational event) aimed at increasing membership by welcoming interested individuals to your Club/Circle; An activity to beautify your community, such as park plantings, school gardens, a divided road median or roadside beautification; Any activity to increase awareness of our organization's mission, goals and objectives.

The Grant application is available online and may be downloaded from the [www.ffgc.org](http://www.ffgc.org) website. Grant application deadline is January 15 annually. Funds will be awarded at our annual state convention. Grant funds must be expended by December 31 of the year awarded and a one-page report with pictures sent to the FFGC Finance Committee Chairman (FFGC 1st Vice President, President - elect). There will be a \$5,000 cap placed on grants awarded annually



FFGC  
[ffgc.org](http://ffgc.org)



Deep South  
[dsgardenclubs.com](http://dsgardenclubs.com)



NGC  
[ngc.org](http://ngc.org)