

GREAT EIGHT NEWS

Hello to all of you within the 5 counties of District VIII,

This is my first District Newsletter, and I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of you who attended the Fall District Meeting November 19, 2024, at Tampa Garden Club. At that meeting I was nominated and approved by the members present to be your District Director for 2025-2027. I thank you for supporting me and look forward to meeting as many of the 1,700 members in this district as is possible in the coming two years.



Per FFGC by-laws Directors will serve for two years, the term becomes effective at the close of the convention following election. Therefore, after installation on April 10th the convention adjourned, and Directors terms became effective. April 11th the newly installed State President, Christy Linke from District VIII, held her first official meeting with all 12 Directors at the Convention Hotel in Jacksonville.

One of the Directors responsibilities is the link between each club and the State Officers. Directors are the official reporters of activities and are charged with keeping the Clubs updated with information from FFGC and FFGC updated regarding the activities of the clubs within each district.

April and May are busy times for all Garden Clubs. It is a time of change for not only District Directors but also for District Chairpersons and Club Officers. My goal was to have a full slate of Chairpersons as well as the updated list of all 18 Presidents in our district by June 1. I believe we now have current listings for both.

I am asking all clubs to please keep me up-to-date about your activities. On the one hand, I would like to visit whenever possible when you have events and on the other hand, I need to be able to update the FFGC officers with quarterly reports as to District VIII activities.

July 15th is this Directors cutoff date to report to Florida Gardner all the news from each club. Some clubs are busier than others during this first quarter; however, everyone is surely doing something. – drop me a note so I can include your club in each edition of Florida Gardner, photos too can be submitted.

Joyce Drew
District Director



Attention Clubs: Donations from our 18 District Clubs support the District for necessary activities such as grants and donations.

Donations to District VIII are due. Minimum donation is \$.50 per member, but if your club votes to donate more, the District will be very grateful. As we all know, everything has gotten more expensive.

Please make check payable to **District VIII** and mail to : Pat Danahy . 8198 Terrace Garden Dr N. #507 . St. Petersburg, FL 33709. Thank you.

Pat Danahy, Treasurer



2025-2027 Volume 3, No. 1
June 2025

*Nurture your "Gardens"
and plant new ones*



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ON THE DVIII WEBSITE

- ◇ DVIII Board of Directors
- ◇ DVIII Calendar of Events
- ◇ DVIII Clubs/Presidents

District VIII Florida Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc.
Florida Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc.
Deep South Garden Clubs, Inc.
National Garden Clubs, Inc.

(www.floridadistrictviii.com)
(www.ffgc.org)
(www.deepsouthgardenclubs.com)
(www.gardenclub.org)

News from our DVIII Chairmen

2025 FFGC



AWARDS

Dade City Garden Club

- #43 Arbor Day Celebration
- Hollyhock Circle
- #42 Tree Planting Achievement

Garden Club of St. Petersburg

- #7 In recognition of 359 Trees Planted for Trees and Reforestation

Dunedin Garden Club

- Briony Tomalesky
- #16 District VIII Facebook

Plant City Garden Club

- #J40 Junior Achievement Pre-K 2-3, Seedlings and Sprouts
- #4 In recognition of 502 Trees Planted for Trees and Reforestation

Lemon Bay Garden Club

- Sue Killion
- #62C Digital Photography - Wildflowers
 - #62F Digital Photography - Plants in a Specific Garden
- Katy Meyers
- #133 Botanical Arts/Artistic Crafts - Celebrating 100 Years

Temple Terrace Garden Club

- Stan Kutz
- #31 Parks/City Planting Award
- Lois Kershner
- #62D Digital Photography - Flowering Tree
 - #32 Arlington Dolly Morris Award



The Awards Handbook and application and the Youth Awards Handbook and application have been updated and are on the FFGC website. Flower Show Achievement award handbook is still being updated.

ffgc.wildapricot.org/Award-Descriptions-&-Rules

News from our District Chairmen

The theme of the #61 Nell Cole Award 2025-2027 chosen by President Christy Linke is **YOUTH**. Many of our clubs are very active with Junior Gardeners or would like to start a program. As you plan your activities and agendas for the coming year, take a look at the FFGC Nell Cole award #61. By adding just a few of the requirements to your activities you could apply and **win** the Nell Cole Award. Now is the time to plan!

Phyllis Weber, Chairman

District VIII Awards

pcweber@tampabay.rr.com, 941-773-1018

To learn more visit the FFGC Awards page.



Start a new Junior Gardener Club, Intermediate, and High School Clubs.

Organize a "Fun with Flowers" day for your Junior, Intermediate, and High School Clubs.

Volunteer at Camp Wekiva

Include a Youth Division in a Flower Show

Organize interactive educational workshops

Host a plant sale with a kids' corner.



#61 Nell Coe Award 2025-2027

Maintain current Jr. Gardeners Clubs, Intermediate, High School Clubs and their achievements.

www.ffgc.org

Submit all FFGC/NCG Contest Awards and awards for Junior Gardeners and youth programs.

Submit your application for the Scout Patch and award.



Organize nature walks and garden tours led by experienced members where children can explore different plant species and their ecosystems.

News from our District Chairmen

District VIII Matching Grants

Four District VIII Matching Grants were awarded in January 2025.

Manatee River Garden Club was awarded \$500 in matching District VIII grant funds to help offset some of the expenses required to restore club grounds damaged by hurricanes Helen and Milton.

Apollo Beach Garden Club awarded \$500 in matching District VIII grant funds to rebuild and replant a dragon fruit trellis damaged by the recent hurricanes.

Lemon Bay Garden Club awarded \$500 in matching District VIII grant funds to help offset some of the expenses required to restore gardens including the butterfly garden damaged by the recent hurricanes.

Garden Club of St. Petersburg awarded \$500 in matching District VIII grant funds to help offset some of the expenses required to restore their Brides room destroyed by the recent hurricanes. The Brides room is essential for wedding rentals.

Final reports were received from Manatee River, Apollo Beach, and Lemon Bay. Garden Club of St. Petersburg will complete their project once their building is restored by the City of St. Petersburg.

*Barb Jacobson, Chairman
District VIII Grants*



Lemon Bay Garden Club



Apollo Beach Garden Club



Manatee River Garden Club

News from our District Chairmen



Tampa Garden Club fulfills its mission to support gardening in the community

The destruction caused by the hurricanes in September/October 2024 was really widespread in the Tampa area. President, Paula Meckley, wasted no time in proposing that a special fund be set up to help our sister garden clubs in District VIII and other community organizations that we had partnered with in the past. The board unanimously approved this fund be used to replace/repair grounds/landscaping that had been damaged by the storms. Several board members comprised this committee and contacted all of these organizations to inform them that they could request funds. A simple application process was developed; more than 20 organizations were contacted.

The Tampa Garden Club distributed \$15,000 to the following:

- Two District VIII garden clubs
- 4 community gardens,
- BC Graham Elementary School
- Senior citizens' center
- Riverview Boys & Girls Club
- A Women's Shelter

The chairperson of this Hurricane Relief Committee, Amy Hutmacher, gave a report at the Annual meeting in April. It was an honor to be able to assist our sister garden clubs and the community in this way.

*Kitty Wallace, Chairman
DVIII Community Gardens*



Apollo Beach Community Garden
after Milton storm surge



Hurricane damage at non-profit safe house



Restored with help of the Tampa Garden Club
Hurricane Relief Fund

News & Events from around the District



Ninety-one (91) members from the five District VIII counties of Pasco, Pinellas, Hillsborough, Manatee and Sarasota, met on May 13, 2025 at the Woman's Club of St. Petersburg where the Garden Club of St. Petersburg hosted the DVIII 2025 Spring meeting.

The Red White and Blue decorations not only honor the USA, they represent the NGC in its quest to Plant America. Guests were treated to a wonderful breakfast prepared by St. Petersburg Garden Club volunteers and a catered lunch.

Newly installed FFGC President Christy Linke was able to attend and presented DVIII recipients of FFGC 2025 Awards. (See list, p. 2)

Joyce Drew, Director



Manatee River Garden Club has maintained a brisk pace this spring, starting with our well-attended annual plant auction, which drew approximately 100 attendees and raised roughly \$4k! In addition to our educational presentations at each month's meetings, our programs team coordinated two field trips for members. The first was a visit to local legend Rob Branch's private garden, followed by a tour of the Sarasota Succulent Society grounds; members enjoyed bag lunches while listening to the abundant birds. The second was a trip to Marie Selby Botanical Garden, specifically to see the George Harrison



exhibit. Both trips were simultaneously sober reminders of how much damage our region experienced from Helene and Milton, as well as hopeful encouragement to us gardeners to continue forward in all things.



The highlight of our spring undoubtedly was bringing outgoing MRGC co-president Carol Friedman's vision to life with our "Color Me Florida" flower show. During the planning stages, Carol said, "All I want is to walk into the show and be immersed in color," and MRGC members did not disappoint in our celebration of all the colorful and fun things we all know and love about Florida. Our club is always enthusiastic about "staging" the show, and this year, exceptionally so. When we started dreaming about having a dock for staging, member Cathy Willard said, "I know where to get one, we lost ours in Helene, and I can bring it!" With the help of her husband, the dock was cut into pieces and brought to the club, where it was reassembled and used for staging a table class "Stone Crabs, Grouper, and Shrimp- Oh My! - Lunch at the Docks". With Carol as chair for our next flower show, we are excited to see what our collective creativity brings to life next year.

*Melanie Koester, President
Manatee River Garden Club*

News & Events from around the District



Greetings from the **Temple Terrace Garden Club (TTGC)**. We are in the summer days, and they are hot in so many ways. TTGC ended the club year with a covered dish luncheon in our clubhouse with 80 + members in attendance. In addition to our regular meeting, the following received awards: Terry Lemke was recognized with the TTGC "Outstanding Service Award" which she so very much deserved. Lois Kershner received two (2) awards from FFGC #32 for the Arlington Dolly Morris award and #62 Digital photograph - Flowering Tree. Stan Kutz received #31 Park/City planting award. TTGC is very proud of these members. Additionally, we had a 50/50 drawing and ticket holders were eligible to win opportunity drawing prizes donated from our community, all coordinated by our hospitality chair Paula Venus. The meeting was adjourned and we ate and socialized. It was a fabulous end to the club year.

August 13th will begin our 2025-2026 program year with yet another covered dish luncheon. The August meeting is a time to plan and prepare for the up-coming club year and the time when members have the opportunity sign up to serve on the TTGC committees.

September 14th members will host "Delightful Designs & Delectables," a fun event chaired by Debbie Jackson. This is an over-the-top tea party with lavish tablescapes, gorgeous floral arrangements and floral design demonstrations. The City of Temple Terrace is celebrating its Centennial year; we themed our event after this celebration naming it "Temple Terrace Through the Decades". The table decorations are a tribute to the establishment of The City of Temple Terrace. *(See invitation p. 18)*

October 22nd the TTGC will be host the FFGC Fall District VIII meeting. We are excited and delighted to welcome all the District VIII club members and especially the new FFGC President, Christy Linke and the officers. Our theme is "Falling For Gardening in our Community, it has a fall feeling. The committee started planning last September and we have met every month since, we are prepared and hope you find the meeting to be as special as we have planned for it to be. **Come meet and greet FFGC officers and learn of their vision for 2025-2027.** *(See information below ... registration p. 8)*

October also brings our annual plant exchange at our general membership meeting. This year's event is extra special as we had to cancel our meeting last year because of the hurricane ... everyone is excited to get back to nourishing 3 to 5 plants to exchange for 3 to 5 new plants. This event is well received by TTGC members.

November marks the launch of our annual Poinsettia sale fundraiser, and the community really shows their support for the garden club. TTGC also shows support of other clubs like the Temple Terrace (TT) Arts Council, we participate in their Art Festival, by purchasing an ad in their program and having a booth showcasing what the TT Garden Club does. Temple Terrace has a Melech Hospice House in the community, and we support the patients by making wreaths for the holidays to go on each patient's door. We want them to know we are thinking of them at the holidays.

December is distribution time, to the community, poinsettias purchased our November fundraiser. Instead of a General meeting we have a holiday luncheon with festive decorations and a photo opportunity. This is a fun event for the club and a time to give blessing for a happy holiday and a bright new year.

Gayle Mohr, President
Temple Terrace Garden



Temple Terrace Garden Club will host our

DVIII Fall 2025 Meeting

FFGC President Christy Linke and her officers will outline
their vision for 2025-2027

Wednesday, October 22, 2025

Temple Terrace Golf & Country Club, 200 Inverness Ave., Temple Terrace, FL 33617

Registration \$40 - Coffee 9 a.m. - Call to order 10 a.m.

(See registration form on following page)



District VIII Fall Meeting Registration

District VIII Fall Meeting
Wednesday • October 22, 2025



Hosted by the Temple Terrace Garden Club

Temple Terrace Golf & Country Club (TTGCC)
200 Inverness Avenue • Temple Terrace, Florida 33617

Registration & Coffee - 9:00 am Call to Order - 10:00 am
DEADLINE TO REGISTER: October 1, 2025

\$40.00 includes registration, morning hospitality and lunch. Please make check payable to:
Temple Terrace Garden Club, Inc. (TTGC)

Mail check & registration form to:

Jan Resch, Co-Treasurer
1323 N Riverhills Drive
Temple Terrace, FL 33617

janresch2@gmail.com 813-695-7641

- Payment must be included with registration
- Carpooling strongly encouraged
- Covered drop-off portico available at main entrance of TTGCC
- Parking: TTGCC • 200 Inverness Ave (*enter from Belle Terre Ave*)
- Parking: Woodmont Clubhouse • 415 Woodmont Avenue
- Please bring CASH for 50/50 and baskets

Your Name _____

Address _____

City _____ Zip _____ Garden Club _____

Phone _____ Email _____

** Dietary restrictions and/ or allergies _____

Please check ALL categories that apply to you. (*Information needed for Meeting Credentials Report*)

_____ Visitor/Guest _____ District VIII Club Member _____ District VIII Circle Member

_____ NGC Officer _____ Former NGC Officer (Office: _____ Years: _____)

_____ FFGC Officer _____ FFGC Committee Chair

_____ Former FFGC President (Years: _____)

_____ District VIII Director

_____ District VIII Board Member (District VIII Officers and Committee Chairs)

_____ Former District Director (Years: _____)

_____ Club President _____ Circle President

DELEGATE - PLEASE CHECK DELEGATE IF:

- You are a Club or Circle President
- You are attending in place of your Club or Circle President OR
- You were selected to be a delegate by your Garden Club OR
- You are a District VIII Officer or Committee Chairman
- You are an FFGC Officer or FFGC Chairman living in District VIII OR
- You are a former FFGC President or Former District VIII Director living in District VIII

_____ **ALTERNATE** - Selected by your Garden Club or Circle as an Alternate

News & Events from around the District



Venice Area Garden Club ... At our May meeting we enjoyed an in-club Flower Show that highlighted our floral design and horticulture talents. In June, we will conclude our program year with a picnic and speaker on butterflies. Horticulture and Floral Design Workshops were enjoyed by all. We will have a summer meeting in August at the Presidents home.

Due to the hurricane damage, we had to cancel our Garden Tour, our major fundraiser. We pivoted to an enhanced Plant Sale. It proved to be a one-day success. The entire club worked together. Beautiful plants, crafts, our garden shop, floral designs, vendors, master gardeners, food trucks, live demonstrations and more, all contributed to a successful day. We are awarding \$24,000 in scholarships to local students and summer campers.

We applied for and received grants from Florida Federated Garden Clubs, Inc. and National Garden Clubs, Inc. to rehab the Venice City Hall Atrium Gardens. The atriums look beautiful with all the new plants, trees, and edging. Our volunteers worked so hard, and we had so much fun. It was a momentous day for VAGC Community Garden efforts. We continued our work cleaning up Skip Stasko Park, Venice.

We are hoping over the next two years more of our membership will be stepping into leadership positions. We are a group of 120 volunteers. We are all special at what you do to make this club fun and successful.

Our Garden Tour dates for next year are Friday, March 13 and Saturday March 14, 2026. We are having a Standard Flower Show, January 31, 2026. *Please check our website for all the details. Veniceareagardenclub.com*

*Sara Stafford, President
Venice Area Garden Club*



Venice City Hall Atrium



Skip Stasko Park , Venice



Scholarship Award Presentation

News & Events from around the District



Sarasota Garden Club continues to work closely with The Bay Park Conservancy as they redevelop significant areas of land and buildings around The Bay, which includes our club house and gardens. At our May General Members Monthly Meeting, AG Lafley (right), Founding CEO of The Bay, gave us an update on the future plans around the club house, considered part of the Cultural District.

We eagerly await the re-planting of the grounds immediately behind our club, which was also the home of the Butterfly Club, that was ruined by salt-water flooding.

Park Features - Phase 2 - The Bay Sarasota



Last month we completed the renovation of our Falling Water area of the garden, which comprises a waterfall and pond which, due to old age, had begun to fail. We worked with The Bay and **Stocking Savvy Environmental Consulting**, which we'd highly recommend, to repair, replace, replant and restock. This company's motto is "Native Plants, Native Fish, Native Florida" – very much in line with our mindset too.

On Monday May 5, which was a beautiful day, the Sarasota Garden Club held an award ceremony in its botanical gardens to present \$50,000 from the Judith Woodbridge Schneider Foundation Memorial Legacy Scholarships.

To date, Sarasota Garden Club has awarded over \$230,000 in scholarships.

The Sarasota Garden Club Scholarship Committee awarded nine deserving local college students at its Annual Scholarship Award Ceremony at our historic clubhouse in early May. **We are happy to announce that our Club and its Members were able to grant \$50,000 in scholarship funds!**



Pictured L to R: Scholarship Committee Member Kathleen Strobel, Wesley Wehlage, Scholarship Committee Member Sharon Davisson, Maya Lander, Tori Guarino, Carter Oleckna, Nicole Norwine, Noelle Prouty, Sarasota Garden Club's Joanie Lerner and President Emily Yaffe.

Several recipients were able to take time from their studies to join us, along with some of their family members. SGC was also able to award five past recipients an additional year of scholarship funds.

Students awarded this year are pursuing careers in ocean conservation, implementing renewable energy legislation, marine science education, climate change and its effect on marine ecosystems, landscape architecture, chemical engineering focused on environmental solutions, zoology and the environment, and environmental engineering.

Club members, the committee, scholarship recipients and their families enjoyed refreshments after the ceremony in the beautiful patio garden at Sarasota Garden Club. We thank all who attended and thank the committee for all of their hard work in reviewing the application submissions.

Upcoming Events at SGC:

- **"Music In the Garden"** The SGC Hospitality Committee organize a series of 3 Music in the Garden events, 2 during the relatively quieter summer period (Sunday, June 15 and August 17 at 6:30 PM) and another to celebrate The Holidays at the end of the year. [SGC – Music in the Gardens](#)
- **SGC – SEPTEMBER General Members Monthly Meeting (GMMM)** — Our Program Committee is all set to resume GMMMs, starting off with a spicy one on September 17th - "Let's Do It - In the Garden" — Tales of Bug Love and Bloomer Boogie" with John Lampkin.

(Additional information on p.18)

Becci Bond, Communications Chair
Sarasota Garden Club

News & Events from around the District



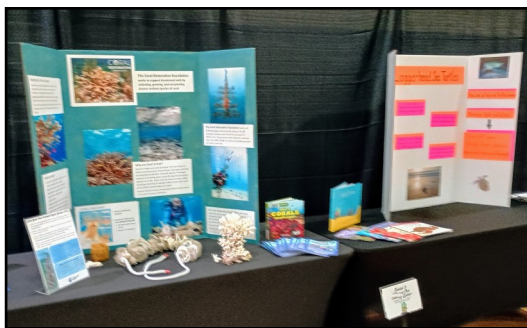
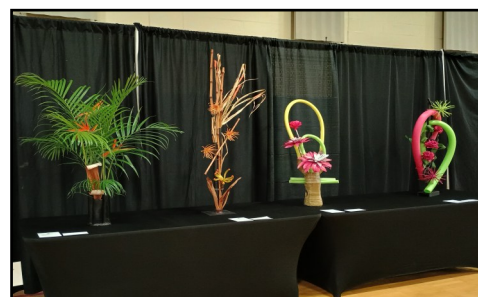
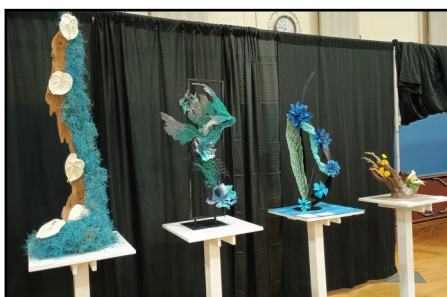
Every year the City of St Petersburg, Florida, hosts The Green Thumb Festival in one of their 83 City Parks. The Festival has demonstrations, information booths and over 100 Horticulture and Gardening Related Vendors. This year there was a butterfly tent, kids crafts, food vendors workshops as well as Arborists and city Environmental Department representatives.

The Garden Club of St Petersburg has been able to take part in this venue as a Community Outreach Program for many years. The Garden Club participation includes a children's workshop tent, a Garden Club Membership table and a BIG Floral Design and Horticulture show inside the main building.

The show entitled "Tropical Paradise" was open to the public and attracted 2,381 visitors who came through the building, chatted with the hosts on duty, voted for their favorite Design and Horticulture entries and learned about all the beautiful plants they too can grow. This year 67 member volunteers participated in the show to help with everything from set up, plant placement, clerks, hostess and Judge's Luncheon. 45 Members exhibited their growing ability by entering 264 beautiful plants along with entries in design, botanical arts, artistic crafts, photography, miniature dish gardens and educational presentations regarding the Coral Reefs and Camp Wekiva.

Education exhibits showed local efforts to maintain coral reefs, protect nesting turtles on the beaches as well as Camp Wekiva. Seed starting kits, donated by Lowe's, were handed out to enable people of all ages to start their own vegetable and flower gardens.

This year the event was Judged by Florida Federation Judges on April 25th. The Festival opened to the Public at 9AM on Saturday April 26th and again on Sunday April 27th. Next year's festival and Flower Show is April 25-26, 2026. Hope to see you there.



Teamwork!



Jan Ankerberg,
Flower Show Chairman

News & Events from around the District



Final preparations were completed in May for our Annual MOTHERS DAY PLANT SALE. This is our biggest fundraiser of the year. It was a huge effort as the intense heat this spring made it challenging to keep home starter plants thriving. To augment our home-grown plants we purchased 90 one gallon pollinators from an out of area nursery. The vibrant colored pentas, gallardia, and blue daze greeted customers the minute they walked into our clubhouse. We had a half dozen vendors and even a couple young busking "bluegrass fiddlers" - a first for our club.

Over Memorial Day weekend we had a second fundraiser. Club members parked overflow of trucks and boat trailers from Seminole Boat Ramp our closest neighbor. When the city parking lot was full, we waved boaters to our parking lot. It was easy, profitable and we plan to repeat on future holiday weekends.

SEVEN club members attended the District VIII Spring Meeting hosted by St. Petersburg Garden Club. We were lucky to capture this picture with the "smiling" incoming FFGC President, Christy Linke.

To continue our busy month, an ICE CREAM SOCIAL was set up where members were queried "Why are you a member of our Club?" The session reflected a strong desire for more involvement in community efforts that match up with our gardening and environmental mission. We discussed ways of reaching out to the community ... by distributing plants to nursing homes and displaying local artists work inside the clubhouse. Questionnaires were filled out and are being summarized. Information will be critical in developing the programs, special events and direction of the Clearwater Garden Club this coming year.

We are continuing our monthly PLANTS IN POTS group geared toward balcony gardening. Our clubhouse is surrounded by numerous waterfront condos and we hope to garner residents interest in this new group. Lots of things in the works ---- starting Craft Saturdays and developing a Club Operational Handbook are next on the agenda.



Mother's Day Plant Sale
& Bluegrass Fiddlers



Clearwater GC members attend
DVIII Spring Meeting

Peggy Page, Vice President
Clearwater Garden Club

Attend with a friend!

District VIII — Aug. 12, 2025

LUNCH
AND
LEARN



Delightful Designs & Delectables,
TTGC — Sept. 14, 2025

Floral Design Classes, SGC —
Oct. & Nov. 2025



NGC Standard Flower Show,
TGC — Mar. 2026

See details, pp. 17-18

GREAT EIGHT NEWS 2025-2027

DEADLINE for next issue: **SEPTEMBER 1, 2025**

From your "Great Eight News" Team -

Your cooperation is requested and appreciated:

- Please email **all** submissions **to the entire team** (shown below)
- Please email **all** text submission in **WORD format only**
- Please email **all** photos, fliers and/or artwork in **JPEG FORMAT only**
- Published quarterly (June, September, December, March)

Director: Joyce Drew jdrew37@gmail.com

Website/Calendar: Sheryl Perkins sl_perkins@hotmail.com

Facebook: Briony Tomalesky tomaleskybriony@yahoo.com

Newsletter: Karen Smith kanns@verizon.net

News & Events from around the District



Apollo Beach Garden Club & Community Forest Garden

We really cannot write about one part of our organization without including the other as they are very intertwined in their activities. As you know our Community Forest Garden was hit hard with a 4 foot salt water surge with Helene then, what that didn't damage the winds and more rain from Milton helped uproot many of our larger fruit trees. We have learned what trees and plants can take some salt water and which quickly succumb to it and the long-term 'wet roots'.

With the help of some tremendous member and community support the garden was cleaned; grants from FFGC, District VIII, Tampa Garden Circle, Tampa Garden Club, and Riverview Garden Club we have been able to replace equipment, and most of all, to replace the many trees and fruiting bushes we had lost. We cannot even begin to express our gratitude to them and our community. Mother Nature is resilient and the garden is beginning to flourish again. The new trees won't bear fruit this year, but are growing amazingly.

Because there was so much rain after the surge we did not replace all the soil in our 24 garden plots, only added soil to fill up what had washed out. The plants have grown very well in the community demonstration beds and member's beds. We have decided to replace our cedar wooden beds, due to rot, with a higher metal bed and will begin that process this summer as funds allow.

We are trying something new this summer in a series of mini workshops on Saturday mornings of (1) gathering, preparing and saving seeds, (2) starting plants from cuttings, (3) air-layering, and (4) seed planting 101. The last workshop will be the start of our preparation for our November 8th Fall Plant Sale. This series was the idea of our Marketing & Event Chair, Teresa Hall. We want to encourage community to learn and & to come to the Garden. She & I have grown some heat-tolerant veggie plants and native flowering plants that are available to purchase as a mini fundraiser.

The first session we did during National Gardening Week and attracted several community members to join us.. Our local paper picked up the story on the workshops and ran a front page article this week. We expect that will really peak community members to come for the remaining sessions and ultimately to want to become members of the Club and Garden.

We end our monthly Club meeting on June 17th with a great speaker Alyssa Vinson who will speak on cultivating all things 'fungi' in your own backyard. Although her work title is UF/IFAS Forestry Agent, this is a personal passion of hers. We will have her back in the fall to discuss best trees and why for our area.

*Paula Olesen, President
Apollo Beach Garden Club*



DVIII Lunch & Learn



LUNCH AND LEARN

Sponsored by FFGC DVIII
Pasco, Pinellas, Hillsborough, Manatee and Sarasota Counties

WHEN: TUESDAY, AUGUST 12, 2025

TIME: REGISTRATION AND REFRESHMENTS 9:30 AM
PROGRAM 10AM * LUNCH 12 NOON * ENDING 2 PM

COST: \$25.00 REGISTRATION DEADLINE: AUGUST 5, 2025

WHERE: HOSTED BY DAVIS ISLANDS GARDEN CLUB
81 COLUMBIA DRIVE
TAMPA, FLORIDA 33606

SUBJECTS:

- NAVIGATING THE FFGC AND DISTRICT VIII WEBSITES
- INTRODUCTION TO SOFTWARE PROGRAM CANVA - A GRAPHIC DESIGN SOFTWARE PLATFORM USED TO CREATE SOCIAL MEDIA GRAPHICS
- AFTERNOON BREAKOUT SESSIONS FOR SPECIFIC QUESTIONS
- BRING YOUR IPAD OR LAPTOP

REGISTRATION AND PAYMENT TO DISTRICT TREASURER ... (See below)

LUNCH AND LEARN — REGISTRATION FORM

Registration deadline, August 5, 2025

WHEN: TUESDAY, AUGUST 12, 2025

TIME: REGISTRATION AND REFRESHMENTS 9:30 AM
PROGRAM 10AM * LUNCH 12 NOON * ENDING 2 PM

COST: \$25.00

WHERE: HOSTED BY DAVIS ISLANDS GARDEN CLUB
81 COLUMBIA DRIVE
TAMPA, FLORIDA 33606

NAME: _____ STREET ADDRESS: _____

CITY AND ZIP: _____ PHONE: _____

EMAIL: _____

DISTRICT VIII CLUB: _____ OFFICER: _____ OFFICE HELD: _____

CHECK # _____ AMOUNT \$ _____ (Note: Check payable to DVIII)

MAIL REGISTRATION AND PAYMENT TO DISTRICT TREASURER PAT DANAHY:

(Pat Danahy, 8198 Terrace Garden Drive, Unit 507, St. Petersburg, FL 33709)

We Look forward to seeing all of you. Feel free to bring your Ipad or computer. Bring your questions and give me a written copy of issues you would like covered. Anticipate Break Out sessions after Lunch content to be determined.

Joyce Drew, Director

National Garden Club (NGC) Schools



NGC SCHOOLS – OVERVIEW

National Garden Club Schools provide an opportunity for attendees to increase their knowledge of the environment, expand interest in gardening, embrace creativity in floral design and beautify homes and communities using landscape design principles. Local garden clubs, councils, districts, State Garden Clubs or Region sponsor these schools for their members.

Each School offers 4 courses with a certificate of mastery for those who demonstrate mastery of the subject matter by passing the exams. These members are considered “consultants” and can be relied upon to support the education of their local members.

- The mission of the Environmental Schools is to teach environmental literacy to cherish, protect and conserve the living earth.
- Landscape Design School aims to help members develop a greater appreciation of the environment, both natural and human made.
- Gardening School informs those especially interested in gardening, horticulture, and related subjects.
- Flower Show School is a comprehensive program that teaches all that you need to know about judging, entering, competing, and chairing a NGC flower show.

Learn about these opportunities on the FFGC website: <https://www.ffgc.org/Education>

NGC Environmental School

NGC Environmental School (ES) was developed to teach the science behind many of today’s environmental issues, most of which are quite complex. How people can make a significant effect in their homes and communities is stressed.

The school consists of a series of four two-day sessions, focusing on the living earth, land, air and water issues. Particular emphasis is placed on regional issues as they relate to the land, air, water, plants, and animals. This is particularly important in Florida with its unique environment and geology. The curriculum is constantly reviewed and periodically updated to reflect new concerns and changing situations. The required field trip in each course is an opportunity to directly explore the special interests and issues for that region.

Instructors are professionals in their fields or have the requisite higher education to make the classes interesting, relevant, and meaningful.

NGC Environmental School Course 1, Zoom, Sponsored by FFGC District IV

January 13, 2026, to January 15, 2026, 8:15 am to 12:00 pm

NGC Environmental Studies School Course 1 - Begin your Environmental Studies School with an overview of Environmental Topics that are relevant regardless of your location.

Mandatory Zoom Tech Review - January 9th 10am-11am.

Deadline for registration is January 3, 2026.

Event Chairman:

Beverly Williams

904-799-3556

bevthepatriot@gmail.com

(See brochure. pp. 15-16)

National Garden Club (NGC) Schools

OVERVIEW

The mission of NGC Environmental Schools is to advance environmental literacy for the protection and conservation of the living earth. The courses teach participants appreciation of the natural world, understanding of the interrelationships of all natural things, and actions for sustainable development. Land conservation, water conservation, and air quality is particularly emphasized.

Environmental Schools are a fun, practical, and economical approach to obtaining a basic environmental education. Local garden clubs, councils, districts, state garden clubs, or regions sponsor a series of four courses 10 hours each. These classes investigate and explore all aspects of the environment, with a focus on the interrelationships of plants, animals, and people. The goal is to maintain and renew an energy efficient and sustainable environment. Each course includes a 2-hour field trip. Tours may include natural areas, power plants, recycling facilities, nature centers, sustainable architecture, and boat trips which explore aquatic eco-systems.

For more information about Environmental School, see the National Garden Clubs, Inc. website. www.gardenclub.org

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Students must attend all lectures of a course in order to take the exam and receive credit. Prospective consultants *must* take a written examination. Each course includes:

- Ten hours of lectures, including a 2-hour field trip
- A multiple-choice exam (open book/notes) based on the lectures. Exams are optional, but *must* be taken by those who apply for NGC consultant certification.

COURSE 1 HIGHLIGHTS

- Ecology (1 hour)
- Plants- Biodiversity (1 hour)
- Environmental Science (1 hour)
- Environmental Issues (1 hour)
- Backyard Wildlife Habitat (1 hour)
- Networking and Outreach (1 hour)
- Historic Environmental Actions and Leaders (1 hour)
- Sustainability (1 hour)
- Nature Discovery Field Trip (2 hours)

REQUIRED READING*

- *The National Gardener* magazine (4 issues) available on Schools Resources page of the NGC website.
- *Guide for Students and Consultants* available on Schools Resources page of the NGC website. www.gardenclub.org

RECOMMENDED READING*

Listed on pages 38 - 39 of the *NGC Schools Handbook* found on Schools Resources page of the NGC website.

SUPPLEMENTAL READING*

Listed on pages 40 - 41 of the *NGC Schools Handbook*.

*Students must now create an account in order to access the Members Section/Schools Resources pages of the NGC website.

REQUIRED FORMS

NGC Accreditation *Form 6/Students* and *Form 7/Consultants* must be submitted to and signed by the student's/consultant's respective ES State Chairman **prior to the course.**

REGISTRATION FORM

DEADLINE for registration, cancellations, and refunds is **Saturday, January 3, 2026**

LATE REGISTRATIONS are subject to availability.

Make checks payable to:

FFGC District IV

Mail form below with check to:

Sadako Long

2445 Country Club Blvd
Orange Park, FL 32073
904-705-5369 c

JJLSML@att.net

Registration is not confirmed until receipt of form and check by the registrar.

PLEASE PRINT LEGIBLY

Name _____

Address _____

Phone (h) _____ (c) _____

Email _____

NGC Club Name _____

State/District _____

ES Course #s Previously Attended for Credit _____

_____ Full Course 3 days for CREDIT \$65.00
Add Exam Fee 5.00

_____ Full Course 3 days for REFRESHER 65.00
Add Refresher Fee 5.00

_____ Full Course 3 days AUDIT ONLY 65.00
No Credit Received

TOTAL AMOUNT OF CHECK \$ _____

National Garden Club (NGC) Schools

OFFICERS AND CHAIRMEN

NGC President Donna Donnelly
 FFGC President Christy Linke
 FFGC District IV Director Steve Davies
 904-465-5818
stmrdivies@gmail.com

Local School Chairmen
 Beverly Williams
 904-799-3556 c
beythepatriot@gmail.com

Sally Flanagan
 386-428-3170 c
sfflan@aol.com

Registrar
 Sadako Long
 2445 Country Club Blvd
 Orange Park, FL 32073
 904-705-5369 c
JJLSML@att.net

FFGC ES & Credentials Chairman
 Jennifer Barber
 407-607-4500
jenniferbarberffgc@gmail.com

PERMITTED EQUIPMENT

Desktop or Laptop Computer, or Tablet
 (such as iPad)

**Smart phones permitted *only* for
 Hotspot connectivity.**

OPERATING SYSTEMS

Microsoft Windows, Apple MacOS, Apple
 iPadOS, or Android on Tablet. All other
 devices: Refer to [zoom.com](https://zoom.us) for
 compatibility.

REQUIREMENTS FOR CREDIT

NGC garden club members completing the series of four ES
 courses with a passing grade of 70 or above may apply for
 the designation of **NGC Environmental Consultant**. Please
 note, these courses and NGC certification do not confer
 professional status.

Each of the four ES courses consists of ten hours of lectures.
 Attendance is mandatory for the student to take the course
 exam and receive credit. Exams are optional, but must be
 taken by those who want to be certified as an NGC
 Environmental Consultant. Refreshers do not take the
 course exam.

All lectures and exams are open to the public for the stated
 fees, regardless of National Garden Club, Inc. membership.

A non-member student who has successfully completed the
 four courses and passed the exams may apply for
 consultant certification upon joining a garden club affiliated
 with NGC within one year after completing the series.
 Certificates of Completion may be issued to non-NGC
 students.

FAQs

- Daily schedule is 8:15 a.m. EST to approximately noon
- There are 3-4 lectures per day with breaks
- **Instructors' outlines are emailed in advance to all
 registered attendees**
- **Exam questions are multiple-choice and taken from
 the lectures**
- Refreshers do not take the exam
- Courses do not have to be taken in sequence
- More than one course may be taken per year.
 Refreshers credit is granted only once a year.
- Provisional Consultant status eligibility is attained after
 passing two courses
- FFGC members who are Provisional Consultants may
 join FFGC Tri-Council
- Courses are open to residents of any State
- The courses and NGC certification do not confer
 professional status.



National Garden Clubs ENVIRONMENTAL SCHOOL Series 16, Course 1 Zoom Only

JANUARY 13-15, 2026
8:15 a.m. - 12 noon EST

Please Register Data Online
Click here

[https://forms.gle/
 rYf9bNteqHGJHoES9](https://forms.gle/rYf9bNteqHGJHoES9)

**Mail check and brochure
 payment form to Registrar**

Zoom Tech Review Mandatory
Friday, January 9, 2026
10 - 11 a.m. EST



Sponsored by
Florida Federation of Garden Clubs
District IV

Save the date ... plan to attend ... bring a friend



Temple Terrace Garden Club
Invites you to

Delightful Designs and Delectables

Celebrating 100-year Anniversary of
The City of Temple Terrace

Explore "Temple Terrace Through the Decades"
as displayed by our members in Creative Tablescapes,
Crafted Floral Designs & Afternoon Tea

Sunday, September 14, 2025, 1 - 4 p.m.

Temple Terrace Golf & Country Club, 200 Inverness Avenue,
Temple Terrace 33617

Tickets \$30.00

To purchase tickets contact: Gayle Mohr 813-334-5120 or
gaylemohr51@gmail.com

Sarasota Garden Club General Members Monthly Meeting Wednesday, September 17, 2025



"Let's Do It - in the Garden"

- Tales of Bug Love and Bloomer Boogie -
by John Lampkin



About our SPEAKER:

John Lampkin is an avid naturalist and Nature photographer with credits in many field guides, books, journals, websites and blogs, and he won the 2020 "American Butterflies" magazine photo contest. As a professional composer, his woodwind quintet, "Insects: A Musical Entomology in Six Legs" won the Grand Prize in a Composers Guild international competition. John also constructs crossword puzzles for the New York Times, Wall Street Journal, the LA Times and other venues, with many of his puzzles having Nature themes. Except for his fascination with bugs and plants he is totally harmless.

Please join us for our Spicy SEPTEMBER Meeting!

1st in the new Season.

Sex is a driving force that shapes the lives of all living things, so our garden bloomers and their pollinators have more in common than you might think.

- What is this force that unifies us all?
 - How does it function?
- What are some of the astonishing, outrageous, and wildly bizarre ways that Nature gets the job done?

Armed with his camera and thinking cap, John Lampkin has been photo-documenting some answers over the past 25 years in gardens far and wide.

"Let's Do It!" will amaze, entertain and educate, all at once!

9:30am start

- 9:30 - Refreshments & Social Time
- Members' Business Meeting
- Speaker's Presentation and Q&A
- Raffle & more Social Time - don't rush away!

Sarasota Garden Club October & November 2025



Sarasota Garden Club presents: NGC'S Floral Design Study Classes

WHEN?

Sarasota Garden Club will host
Classes 1-6 (10 am - 2 pm -
Mondays October 6, 13, 20, 27
November 3, 10) in Great Room
of 1131 Blvd of Arts, Sarasota.

WHAT? 9 Units in total:

- Unit 1: Containers, Basic Tools and Vertical Designs
- Unit 2: Conditioning Plant Materials & Triangular Designs
- Unit 3: Elements and Design Principles of Design and Curved Designs
- Unit 4: Table Settings and Horizontal Designs
- Unit 5: Accessories, Features and Bases
- Unit 6: Transporting Materials and Expressive Designs

Manatee River Garden Club (MRGC) will be offering the
Advanced Classes 7-9 in January
2026. Sign-up for these will happen
during the first 6 classes and there will be
additional costs.

- Unit 7: Dried Materials and Decorative Wood
- Unit 8: Advanced Creative Designs
- Unit 9: Creative Containers and Designers Choice Award

This is a terrific opportunity for all garden club
members in this district who have an interest in
improving their designing skills, to gain creative
insight to a whole new world of floral design.

**Cost: \$120 per student - payment
due with reservation (Units 1-6)**

**Registration is open from June 16 until
August 16 (cut off date)**

If SGC reaches the capacity of 25 students, the cut-off will be
announced and a waiting list will be formed.

- **PAYMENT:** Mail your check and the registration
form to Dorinda Wilkinson, Registrar, 400E
MacEwen Drive, Osprey, FL 34229

Each Student will receive a manual with full explanations of all
six classes, what materials/tools will be needed and which
designs will be created.

SGC will provide a designer starter kit with some mechanics, a
container, and plant material needed for the first class.
SGC will also provide plant materials for Classes 2 & 3.

**We look forward to hosting you and
helping you learn about this truly
fun and creative art form!**

If you have questions about these classes, contact:

Emily Yaffe, President
emily.sarasotagardenclub@gmail.com / 941 780 7808



AN NGC STANDARD FLOWER SHOW

**Saturday & Sunday
March 28 - 29, 2026
9am - 4pm**

Presented by Tampa Federation of Garden Club Circles, Inc.
2629 Bayshore Boulevard, Tampa, Florida 33629
813-251-5059

Member of National Garden Clubs, Inc. Deep South Garden Clubs, Inc.
Florida Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc. & District VIII

Open & Free to the Public, Wheelchair Accessible Held
in conjunction with Tampa GreenFest

Florida Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc.

2025-2027 Club Yearbook Information

National Garden Clubs, Inc.

www.gardenclub.org

4401 Magnolia Avenue St. Louis, MO 63110
Administrative assistant: Katie Roth (314) 776-7574
Donna Donnelly, President
Charleston, South Carolina
Ddon21@aol.com
Theme: "Plant America for the next 100 Years"

Deep South Garden Clubs, Inc.

www.deepsouthgardenclubs.com

Denise Thorne, Director
402 Bass Road, Watertown, Tennessee 37184-4251
615-289-2138
denise@tec63.com
Theme: "Plant the Deep South with Flowers and Trees for the Birds and the Bees"
Annette Shrader, Alternate Director
131 Ussery Rd., Clarksville, TN 37034
931-801-8832
Annette.shrader@yahoo.com

Florida Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc.

www.ffgc.org

Christy Linke, President
2909 Aston Ave., Plant City, Fl. 33566-9301
Clink3173@aol.com
732-322-8392
Theme: "Sharing Our Knowledge – Plant the Seeds of Tomorrow"

1st Vice President - Mary Whisler
2nd Vice President - Leticia Gunn
3rd Vice President - Maria Wolfe
Treasurer- Jana Walling
Recording Secretary - Blanca Longo Rancourt
Corresponding Secretary - Linda Feifarek-Johnson
Parliamentarian - Rosita Aristoff

Florida Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc.

FFGC Headquarters Office Coordinator: Robin Hayes

E-mail: ffgc@ffgcmail.com

1400 S. Denning Drive, Winter Park, Fl. 32789

407-647-7016

FFGC District Directors

I Betty White

II Sarah Darden

III Dianne Amburn

IV Steve Davies

V Jo Lee Houlihan

VI Debra Griffith

VII Jennifer Barber

VIII Joyce Drew

IX Susan Lawson

X Mary Ann Cody X

I Taryn Palo

XII Anita Grossman

Important Dates:

| | |
|-----------------------|---|
| April 8-11, 2025 | FFGC Convention 2025, Southbank Hotel, Jacksonville, Fl. |
| May 22, 2025 | NGC Post Convention Board of Director's Meeting (Virtual) |
| June 1-7, 2025 | National Garden Week |
| September 9-11, 2025 | FFGC Fall Board of Director's Meeting, Headquarters |
| September 18, 2025 | NGC Fall Board Meeting (Virtual) |
| October 6-24, 2025 | FFGC Officer's Tour |
| January 6-8, 2026 | FFGC Winter Board of Director's Meeting, Headquarters |
| January 16, 2026 | Arbor Day |
| March 16-21, 2026 | Deep South Garden Clubs Convention cruise |
| April 14-17, 2026 | FFGC Convention 2026, Embassy Suites, Lake Buena Vista, Fl. |
| May 16-17, 2026 | NGC 2026 Convention, St. Louis, Mo. |
| June 1-6, 2026 | National Garden Week |
| September 15-17, 2026 | FFGC Fall Board of Director's Meeting, Headquarters |
| September 17, 2026 | NGC Fall Board Meeting (Virtual) |
| January 12-14, 2027 | FFGC Winter Board of Director's Meeting, Headquarters |
| April 5-9, 2027 | FFGC Convention 2027, Embassy Suites, Lake Buena Vista, Fl. |
| May 13-17, 2027 | NGC 2027 Convention, Wisconsin |