

FFGC District IX Newsletter

From the desk of Susan Lawson, District IX Director



Susan Lawson

Greetings!

It's hard to believe our summer is almost over and fall is around the corner. For many of us, summer is a time to rejuvenate and plan for the upcoming events. I've been doing both of those things – Bruce and I have been road-tripping in the Southwest, seeing National Parks along the way and enjoying Pinot Noir in Oregon. But I've also been planning for our upcoming Fall DIX meeting in Lakeland and the Board meeting in Winter Park where I get to report on the many great activities our clubs have been up to since the April convention.

Please keep an eye out for the call and registration to the DIX meeting. It should be coming out at the end of August. If you'd like to make a report of your club activities, you'll be allowed five minutes to report this time – three minutes was just too short!

Also, I'd like to try something different at this meeting and I'm hoping you'll think it will be fun: a club competition for a "table for two". The first four clubs to volunteer to decorate a table for two will compete for a cash award. Awards will be selected by people's choice. The table setting should follow general NGC guidelines, but because the table is set for two instead of four, we can't technically award NGC ribbons. If your club would like to participate, please let me know. You can refer to the additional information in the newsletter if you have questions, or give me a call.

If you can find the time, I heartily recommend taking the classes that are offered. At the end of September there's Gardening School 1, and it's being offered on ZOOM. How great is that?! And Punta Gorda Garden Club is planning the FFGC Floral Design Series and the Digging It ! class.

I look forward to meeting more of you in the upcoming months at your various events. It's one of the best parts of being the District Director! Enjoy the rest of your summer.

Hugs, Susan



Need help with an award application?

Call Sylvia Swartz, DIX Awards Chair

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FFGC DISTRICT IX

Introduces a

CLUB COMPETITION



**WHAT'S
FOR
LUNCH?**

First Presbyterian Church
175 Lake Hollingsworth Drive
Lakeland, Florida, 33801

Tuesday October 15 - 11:00 AM - 2:00 AM

Being held in conjunction with the Fall 2024

District IX Meeting

GENERAL RULES

1. The Competition will be a Functional Table for 2.
2. Emphasis is on fresh plant material. No silk or other artificial plant material is permitted. No invasive plants are allowed. See Florida Exotic Pest Plant Council's Invasive Plant lists (FLEPPC on the web at fleppc.org/list). Fresh plant material may not be treated in any manner. Dry material may be painted, stained, etc. Plant material used in the design need not have been grown by the exhibitors.
3. Exhibits must be setup no later than 10:00 am. Judging will be via People's Choice.
4. A design entered in competition must be the work of more than one (1) exhibitor. Entry card must state name of club/organization with president's name.
5. The exhibitor is required to conform to the stated description and limitations of the Design Type if named in the class.
6. Plant materials used must be neatly and correctly listed on 3"x 5" cards. Botanical name preferred. A brief explanation of the design may be included but not a different title as specified by the class.
7. In this show, Designs will be judged from the front as designated by the placement of the entry card.
8. More detailed information can be found in *Handbook for Flower Shows* Chapter 7 - Design (pages 63-83).

District IX Awards

| | |
|----------------------------------|-------|
| First Place (blue ribbon) | \$100 |
| Second Place (blue ribbon) | \$ 75 |
| Third Place (yellow ribbon) | \$ 50 |
| Honorable Mention (white ribbon) | \$ 25 |



It is more fun to talk with someone who doesn't use long, difficult words but rather short, easy words like "What about lunch?"— **A. A. Milne**

WHAT'S FOR LUNCH?

Class must contain four entries

Eligible for District IX Award

Functional Table for Two (2) Set for Fall Informal Dining

Entries/Consultant: Susan Lawson | 941-979-0615 | slawson921@gmail.com

A functional table set for service of two (2) people. Convenience and sense of order must prevail. The table is planned and set for the service of food. Staged on a 30" square card table supplied by the exhibitor. Exhibitors should supply a suitable table covering that hangs to the floor. Plant material and exhibitor theme should be indicated on a 3 x 5 card.

Table appointments:

- ◆ Dishes – china, porcelain, stoneware, paper, glass, plastic, metal, wood, etc.
- ◆ Beverage service – glass, china, paper, aluminum, etc. Coordinated with other appointments.
- ◆ Flatware – plastic, wood, inexpensive metal, etc. Expensive flatware is not permitted.
- ◆ Coverings – tablecloth, place mats, runners, underlays. May be cloth or paper depending on table formality.
- ◆ Napkins - required for all Functional Tables. One (1) or more napkins may be used together; placed where best suited for the table design.
- ◆ A decorative unit (a complete floral design with or without candles and other accessories) must be included. When diners are seated for functional tables, Decorative Unit should not interfere with viewing or conversation across the table. A container grown plant alone is not a design.



“I haven’t trusted polls since I read that 62% of women had affairs during their lunch hour. I’ve never met a woman in my life who would give up lunch for sex.” – **Erma Bombeck**

DIX Club Logos



Thank you to the clubs who submitted their logos!



Club News

Arcadia Garden Club, Maria Pace (Fed. 1939)

Arcadia FB: <https://www.facebook.com/ArcadiaFloridaGardenClub>

ARCADIA GARDEN CLUB
We have succeeded in all areas of our mission!

2023-24 Season Review

| | | |
|--|--|---|
| Scholarships & Resources for Youth 5 JROTC Awards Boy Scout Troop 60 Award Kids Karaoke Hands On Nature Cookie Club Plant Camp Santa's Workshop Suncoast Remake Learning Days DHS Green Club Kids Summer Program at the Library x 2 All Faiths Food Bank x 2 Boys & Girls Club Summer Program x 2 | Educational Speakers Sun Bulb ORCHIDS Florida Principles Florida Invasives Peace R. Audubon Society Peace R. Wildlife Rescue Bird of the Month Civic Engagement *DeSoto County Fair display *Farmers Market *Community Garden *Nocatee Elementary Garden *Community Conversations with Harwood Institute *DeSoto Resource Fair at Turner Center *Over 100 trees given away | Promote Gardening Air Layering 2 Plant Sales 2 Compost Workshops Nat'l Plant a Flower Day Pioneer Day Strawberry Shortcake & Garden Plant Booth PLANT CAMP Cyanotypes Dried Flower Wreaths Bird Feeders Origami Floral Arrangements THANKFUL FEST FIELD TRIPS Celery Fields FGCU Food Forest Wildflower Festival Avon Park Inmate Plant Sale |
|--|--|---|

Thank you Members!
 Grants: \$500 FFGC Matching Grant; \$230 NWF for Arbor Day
 \$4950 Patterson Foundation Suncoast Remake Learning Days
 \$20K Selby Foundation Small & Mighty Grant to help get new \$28K roof
 Building Improvements: New front doors, back door, bathroom lights, new fence, screened in lanai, lanai fans & lights, flower beds, NEW ROOF!
 Planted 21 trees and shrubs

DONATIONS:
 K & J Homegrown Produce
 Sandhill Native Growers
 Cyn & Doc Sutherland
 Splash N Blast Rentals
 Freund Flowering Trees
 Jersey Acres
 Publix
 501c3 non-profit

67 members
87 YEARS!!
Let's Keep Growing Together!

Arcadia Garden Club's Vice President, Elizabeth Kenney, sponsored an ad in the Peace River Shopper so the town could see Arcadia Garden Club's significant community service.

THE Arcadia Garden Club PRESENTS:

THANKFUL Fest II

PLANT SALE!!! NATIVE, RARE, HOUSEPLANTS, SUCCULENTS & VEGETABLE PLANTS!!!

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 9TH, 2024
9AM - 2PM

VENDORS | FOOD & REFRESHMENTS | FREE ENTRY

BOUNCY HOUSE BY SPLASH N BLAST!!!

PLANTS! BAKE SALE! CRAFTS! MORE PLANTS!

1005 W. MAGNOLIA STREET, ARCADIA, FL 34266
 CONTACT: MARIA PACE 863-354-0808
 OR
 EMAIL: ARCADIAGARDENCLUB2022@GMAIL.COM

Arcadia Garden Club will host its Second Annual Thankful Fest & Plant Sale on November 9. Vendors, games, food, and lots of plants!

Club News

Arcadia Garden Club, Maria Pace (Fed. 1939) cont.

For June's National Garden Week, as part of our Community Garden Accessibility Upgrade project, the Arcadia Garden Club installed two 31 inch standing planters made from trees felled during Hurricane Ian.

This project strives to make gardening accessible to more people of all ages and abilities.

The club received a \$500 FFGC Matching Grant. On June 4th the DeSoto ARC participants finished one planter for the "Adults with Disabilities Day in the Garden." On June 5th for "Plant Camp" 42 kids and guardians completed the second planter.



Tea Tasting Party in June at Arcadia Garden Club

Club News

Bartow Garden Club, Robyn Tolle (Fed. 1950)

Bartow FB: <https://www.facebook.com/BartowGardenClub>



The Bartow Garden Club once again participated in the Bloomin' Arts Festival. We sold caladiums again this year, with the proceeds going toward scholarships and support of Camp Wekiva. We also had the children make bracelets and paint butterflies that they could take with them.

The Bartow GC planted, and maintains, a pollinator garden behind the Bartow public library. Members take turns weeding, planting and caring for the garden. Here are two of our members, the garden and, if you look closely, you'll see some gators swimming around watching what was going on!



Club News

Bartow Garden Club by Robyn Tolle (cont.)

The Bartow Public Library is a great partner for us in the Bartow Garden Club. This year we participated in an Arbor Day celebration.



Cannon and Lucas, grandsons of Bartow Garden Club member and District IX Wekiva representative, Ginger Hansill, got to experience all that Camp Wekiva had to offer this summer! They stayed in the Oklawaha and Timecua cabins.



Club News

Bouquet Garden Club (Winter Haven), Bridget Fetter (Fed. 1947)



Bouquet GC met for a summer luncheon at the Back Porch restaurant in Lake Alfred.

The 24 members in attendance enjoyed the fellowship as well as shopping in the garden shop and their popular antique store.

Calusa Garden Club of Marco Island, Sara Wolf (Fed. 1983)



Calusa FB: <https://www.facebook.com/CalusaGardenClub/>

Calusa Garden Club of Marco Island meets for informal lunches monthly from April through September.

On June 1st we made and delivered 20 floral designs for breast cancer patients and families enjoying a vacation on Marco Island through the program "Little Pink Houses of Hope."



Club News

Fort Myers-Lee County Garden Council, Sylvia Swartz



FM-LC Garden Council FB: <https://www.facebook.com/FMLCGC>

[Fort Myers has a 'secret' garden that you can explore - YouTube](#)

Click Link for the video of the Momentum Company (children's dance troupe) dancing at the Berne Davis Gardens, Fort Myers-Lee County Garden Council on March 9, 2024. Some of our District IX garden clubs and local plant societies meet at the Garden Council.

For more information about this Momentum Dance Company see their website. We love them and we love our beautiful Florida Friendly certified gardens. Come stroll



Click link below for the program on **Ch 2 News** about the Berne Davis Gardens.

[Fort Myers has a 'secret' garden that you can explore - YouTube](#)

Club News

Fort Myers-Lee County Garden Council, Sylvia Swartz

Come enjoy The Southwest Florida Fiddlers! On Tuesday December 14 from 10 am to noon the Southwest Florida Fiddlers will play at the Berne Davis Gardens.



Punta Gorda Garden Club. Photo of tagged monarch.



Club News

Founders Garden Club of Avon Park, Andrea Albritton (Fed. 1947)



Founders GC of Avon Park celebrated their 77th federated anniversary in May. Members achieved 77+ activities toward the Nell Coe Award. The invited included past presidents, District IX Director Susan Lawson, and a presentation on "Bees & pollinators " by Larry Smith. The celebration was enjoyed by all!



Founders Garden Club of Avon Park were busy as bees for National Garden Club Week.

Display window at the Avon Park Library.

Founders GC AP decorates the display window 4 times a year. Themes.

- August "Plant, Bloom, Grow with Us!" (National Garden Club Week)
- November "Veteran's Day" & "Blue Star Marker"
- February "Federated in FFGC" Founders Garden Club of Avon Park
- March "Plant Sale"

Club News

Garden Club of Cape Coral, Donna Schmidt (Fed. 1998)

Cape Coral FB: <https://www.facebook.com/gcofcc>



Our May 8th monthly meeting was a picnic that took place at the Berne Davis Gardens.

Our members brought their own sandwich, and the Board members supplied the sides and dessert. We had a scavenger hunt in the gardens, played bingo, and awarded prizes were given to the winners!! This was our final meeting for the 2023—2024 season.



In May, the Garden Club participated in the first Plant Prop Swap organized by the Cape Coral Northwest Library staff.

Babu Mathew, the speaker, shared info about ginger, turmeric, and other plants. She brought samples for people to take home. Many members and about 20 the community turned out. The next library plant prop swap is on August 27th.

Club News

Garden Club of Cape Coral, Donna Schmidt (Fed. 1998) (cont.)

In May seven members of the GCCC started a new butterfly project at Cape Coral's 16-acre Sands Park. Each month, by adding a wider variety of shrubs and wildflowers, GCCC helps attract different pollinators and butterflies to Sands Park's existing gardens. Members can sign up with Sherie Bleiler.



June was the first meeting of the GCCC new committee 'Arts & Crafts.' Members created items to sell at public events: October Rotary Park Tropical Plant Sale, January 2025 Cape Coral Arts & Crafts Festival & March in the Park. Future GCCC meetings will include crafts.



The first summer social took place on Wednesday, June 12th at Fins Seafood and Dive Bar. We had a great turnout!! It is tradition for the Garden Club to get together during the summer in June, July and August. The next summer social will be over lunch at Big 8 BBQ on Wednesday, July 10th.

Club News

Garden Club of Cape Coral, Donna Schmidt (Fed. 1998) (cont.)

On June 20th, Bonnie Klockner read *The Very Hungry Caterpillar* to the preschool children at the Northwest Regional Library.

Sherie Bleiler brought along the props - milkweed and coontie plants with active caterpillars munching away and some chrysalis in a butterfly cage. There were so many children and parents who were a great audience and had so many questions.



In July Ann Block plans to meet with the Cape Coral Youth Council to establish a volunteer working relationship. Last year, a few of the students volunteered to help with March in the Park. The Youth Council's purpose is to offer activities to enrich Cape Coral's youth.



GCCC will participate in the October 19th Rotary Park Tropical Plant Sale.

Last year the Garden Club raised over \$1,700 between plant sales and the Thrift Booth. We hope to surpass this amount this year!!

Club News

Garden Club of Lakeland, Marlene Haigh (Fed. 1931)

Lakeland FB: <https://www.facebook.com/TheGardenClubofLakelandInc>



In honor of National Garden Week, it was a joy to landscape some much needed areas at the Sunrise Community Center. Plants donated by club members and Horticulture program at Avon Park.

The Garden Club of Winter Haven, Jane West (Fed. 1927)

The Garden Club of Winter Haven meets October to May; but, members continue to tend the Library Garden throughout the year. We have begun archiving of club records and are sending two campers to Wekiva, complete with items from their packing/ supply lists. We had a fun time making the stepping stones for the garden several years ago.



Club News

Gardeners Out East, Nancy Schneider (Fed. 2014)

Gardeners OE FB: <https://www.facebook.com/GardenersOutEastLWR>

Gardeners Out East will be celebrating our 10th year and are kicking off the new year with a talk about gardening in Florida by Karen Eckert, one of our Master Gardeners and a welcome by the District IX President. We are grateful for her to speak to us.



We are in a fast-growing community and are looking to new neighborhoods for additional members. Gardeners Out East will be featured in an upcoming Lakewood Ranch magazine article. We designed an enhanced logo for the year.

Gulf Coast Garden Club, Anina Bachrach (Fed. 2004)

Gulf Coast FB: <https://www.facebook.com/GCGCSWFL>

June 10th Gulf Coast Garden Club event club meeting at Denise Baier beautiful home and gardens.



Club News

Lake Placid Garden Club, Ernie Bell (Fed. 1953)



Lake Placid FB: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/514763312617247>

Caladium Floral Arrangement Contest

July 26 – 28, 2024

FLORAL ARRANGEMENT CONTEST – 2024 CALADIUM FESTIVAL



LOCATION: Caladium Arts & Crafts Co-Op, 132 E. Interlake Blvd. Lake Placid, FL

PRE-REGISTER: Call or text Jennifer Marsh at 305-342-2467. Deadline for registration is Monday, July 22nd.

DROP OFF: Between Noon and 3:30 PM on Thursday July 25, 2024

PICK UP: Must pick up between 2:00– 3:00 pm Sunday, July 28, 2024

Caladium design must be at least 80% cut caladium.

Attractive displays.

Color harmony and unified arrangement of flowers & foliage.

DESIGN, BALANCE, AND PROPORTION

DESIGN – definite design with stems arranged attractively.

BALANCE – volume and color of plant material is equal on both sides.

PROPORTION – size of flowers, foliage, and stem length to container

Flowers should be crisp and top of container and backside should not be seen.

Foam or other material holding foliage should not be seen.

CALADIUM WORKSHOP

FREE
to all who register for the
CALADIUM FLORAL ARRANGEMENT CONTEST

Or anyone interested in Caladium Floral Design

Held at the Lake Placid Masonic Lodge
103 Main Avenue
WEDNESDAY, JULY 10
9:30 AM

Bring all supplies needed to create your design.

Jennifer Marsh, a two-time winner of the Caladium Floral Arrangement Contest, will be hosting a workshop with tips and tricks of the contest, complete with demos, instructions, and great advice for that win!

R.S.V.P. by text to:
Jennifer Marsh
305-342-2467

PLEASE COME - - BE CREATIVE AND JOIN IN THE FUN

Hosted by the Lake Placid Garden Club and sponsored by the Lake Placid Chamber of Commerce, Bates Sons & Daughters Caladiums and the Caladium Arts & Crafts Co-Op

Caladium Floral Arrangement Contest

Hosted by the Lake Placid Garden Club and sponsored by the Lake Placid Chamber of Commerce, Bates Sons & Daughters Caladiums and the Caladium Arts & Crafts Co-Op.



Gardeners Out East GC Gold Star Memorial dedicated at Lakewood Ranch Library.

Club News

Naples Garden Club, Peggy Collins (Fed. 1968)

Naples FB: <https://www.facebook.com/naplesgardenclub>



The Naples Garden Club's House and Garden Tour, the club's only fundraiser, takes place on February 1, 2025. Proceeds from the event supports many different organizations and the money raised is distributed back into the Naples community. The theme for this year's tour "Naples in Bloom" will again showcase some of Naples finest homes and gardens. The NGC is working hard to have another successful House and Garden Tour!



The Naples Garden Club Facebook and Instagram sites are managed and maintained by club members. The sites feature beautiful gardens, lovely flowers, and floral designs.

NGC Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/thenaplesgardenclub/>

A great year planned for programs. The Naples Garden Club has a terrific lineup of design, horticulture, and environment workshops planned for this year. Check out the program and workshop descriptions on the NGC website on August 1st. You might see a program or workshop to use for your club.



Club News

The Poinciana Garden Club, Sandy Troy (Fed. 1964)

Poinciana FB: <https://www.facebook.com/poincianagardenclub/>



TRASH OFF TRAILS FALL 2024

The Poinciana Garden Club Award Winning Community Service Project
Start Times 9 AM Sept to April
Diane Bates & Lynn Marshall, Co-chairs

- Sep 19 Caloosahatchee Creeks Preserve (East)
10130 Bayshore Rd, North Fort Myers across from ECHO
- Oct 17 Charlotte Harbor Preserve, North Cape Flats Trail,
3915 NW 44th Pl Cape Coral
- Nov 21 Billy Creek Preserve, 4320 Woodside Ave, Fort Myers



Bring water, glove, etc.
Paper bags supplied by Publix



Fall Events.

TPGC welcomes other club's members and friends to join us on Trash Off Trails, club field trips, bus trips, and programs.

The Poinciana Garden Club Fall Programs and Field Trips

Sept 10, 9:30 AM Our Gardens: what we grow and why by club members. Location: Berne Davis Gardens & Garden Council.

Oct 8, Field Trip. 9:45 AM Southern Macadamia Farm 6181 Neal Rd, Fort Myers, FL. Bring chair. Meeting in shade.

Nov 12, Field Trip. 9:00 AM Lee County Solid Waste Management & Recycling. 10550 Buckingham Rd. Fort Myers.

Nov 23, Plant & Treasure Sale Set up 6 AM open to public 8 AM to 1PM. Berne Davis Gardens. Master gardener tours available.



Club News

The Poinciana Garden Club, Sandy Troy (Fed. 1964) (cont.)

[The Poinciana Garden Club, We Welcome Guests Events Calendar 2024-2025 - YouTube](#)

Click link for our two minute YouTube video

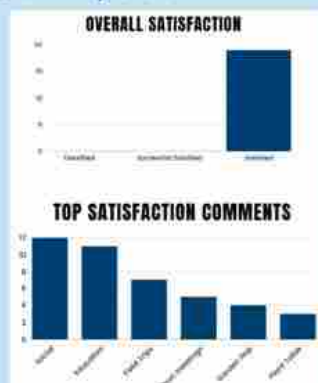
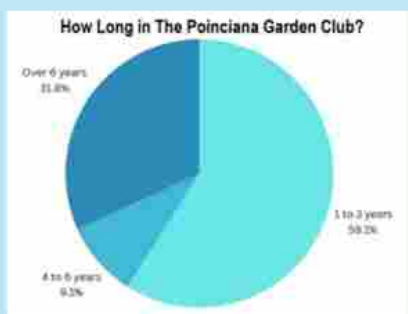


[Caloosahatchee Regional Park Trash Off Trails, The Poinciana Garden Club \(youtube.com\)](#)

Click link for **Trash Off Trails** YouTube video at Caloosahatchee Regional Park. Our award winning community service project where we walk trails for exercise, fresh air, social time, and we pick up trash. We welcome friends and other club's members.



Member Satisfaction Survey Spring 2024 The Poinciana Garden Club 53% Response Rate



Our spring member satisfaction survey results inform our board's next steps. Overall numerical scores shown here. Details of answers to questions are narratively shared with members.

Club News

The Poinciana Garden Club, Sandy Troy (Fed. 1964) (cont.)

Thank you, crafty members! TPGC members sell their handmade items at meetings and donate 10%. Last year crafters donated \$200. Our artists take special orders year around. The September meeting will be our Christmas Shopping meeting (Oct/ Nov field trips). Bring a friend!

TPCG members, Bring handmade crafts to sell at the Sept, Feb, March, April, & May meetings at the Garden Council & donate 10% to the club.



Club News

The Poinciana Garden Club, Sandy Troy (Fed. 1964)(cont.)



Click link for the YouTube video of “Creating and Decorating Bamboo Stars” Poinciana’s summer craft event. Our three workshop facilitators were members (Martha, Margot & Sandy). We so enjoy the social time we spend hanging out!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WAbOFilmA40&t=7s>



Lake Placid - After WWII caladium production began to boom in Lake Placid, where Caladiums were found to thrive on the muck soils south of Lake Istokpoga

DIX Spring Meeting hosted by Lake Placid. Fabulous!



Club News

The Poinciana Garden Club, Sandy Troy (Fed. 1964) (cont.)



Potting at Carol's
Event for Poinciana Members!

Bring Pot(s) with Soil

Take plants home and care for them.

Return plants to either of our two
Plant and Treasure Sales (November and March)
at the Garden Council.

AUGUST 14TH 9:30 AM

RSVP TO CAROL: 239-226-0778

On Aug 14, 2024 at Carol's home, we are prepping cuttings and divisions for our club fundraiser sale.

Plant & Treasure Sales are open to the public
8 AM to 1 PM Saturdays
November 23, 2024 &
March 1, 2025

Loc: Garden Council, 2166
Virginia Ave, Fort Myers,
across from Edison Ford
Winter Estates.



Garden Club of
Cape Coral
maintains a
Butterfly Garden
at the Cape Coral
Public Library

Video Link: [Sherie Blieler Butterfly Gardening Garden Club Of Cape Coral - YouTube](#)

Club News

Port Charlotte Garden Club, Jeanne Larson (Feb. 1958)



Port Charlotte FB: <https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100064550145649>

Port Charlotte GC had a wonderful morning among the plants at Maria's and Bessie's Garden and Becky's Garden! Bessie gave a wonderful tour and presentation on desert roses. We lunched under the large sea grape tree at Becky's and were able to wander thru her beautiful garden. Both places are jewels in Punta Gorda!



The Bartow Garden Club dedicated a magnolia tree to Bartow Elementary Academy with a Duke Energy donation.

Club News



Punta Gorda Garden Club, Mary Yeomans (Fed. 1950)

Punta Gorda FB: <https://www.facebook.com/PuntaGordaGardenClub>



Two tables were covered with donated plants, bulbs, seeds, and rooted cuttings at the Punta Gorda Charlotte Library on June 7th in an effort to bring attention to National Garden Week. Many library patrons stopped to learn about the club, read the educational exhibits, and choose something to plant at home. We gained at least one new member. It was a positive experience for all involved.

In celebration of National Garden Week, the Punta Gorda City Council read a proclamation recognizing Garden Week and the work that PGGC does.

This took place at the Military History Museum and the proclamation was received by President Mary Yeomans.



Club News

Punta Gorda Garden Club, Mary Yeomans (Fed. 1950) (cont.)

Members of the Punta Gorda Garden Club spent two hot, humid mornings helping to clear, plant, and mulch the beds around the Vietnam Memorial at Laishley Park.

The beds were overgrown and had been damaged in Hurricane Ian and needed quite a bit of work but they were finished in time for Flag Day!



Port Charlotte Garden Club Field Trip

OFFICERS AND CHAIRMEN

NGC President..... Brenda Moore
 FFGC President..... Tina Tuttle
 FFGC District VI Director..... Valerie Seinfeld

Local School Chairman

Sally Flanagan sfflan@aol.com
 416.229.4763
 Registrar

Claudette Johnson

3531 Grand Tuscany Way
 New Smyrna Beach, FL 32168
 advtranslation@comcast.net
 724.942.7577

FFGC Gardening & Credentials

Chairman
 Sally Flanagan sfflan@aol.com
 416.229.4763



Permitted Equipment:
 Desktop or Laptop computer, Tablet, or iPad
 Operating system: Microsoft Windows, Apple MacOS, Apple iOS on iPad, Android, or Tablet.
Smart phones NOT permitted unless it is for "Hotspot" connectivity.

*Meets Zoom.com System Requirements

REQUIREMENTS FOR CREDIT

Each of the four courses consists of ten hours of lectures. Attendance is mandatory for the student to take the exam and receive credit. Exams are optional, but must be taken by those who want to be certified as an NGC Gardening Consultant. NGC garden club members completing the series of four courses with a passing grade of 70 or above may apply for the designation of NGC Gardening Consultant. 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

- 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
- Provisional Consultant status eligibility is attained after passing two exams
- Provisional Consultants may join Tri-Council
- Courses are open to residents of any State
- The courses and NGC certification do not confer professional status.

For more information on Gardening Schools, see the National Garden Clubs, Inc. website.



NGC GARDENING SCHOOL Series 11 Course 1

SEPTEMBER 30,
 OCTOBER 1-2, 2024
 8:15 AM-12:00 PM
 EST

Zoom Tech & Course Review Meeting
 (Required) Sat. Sept 28 2024
 10 AM EST

Presented via



Sponsored by
 New Smyrna Beach Garden Club
 Florida Federation of Garden Clubs,
 Inc.

OVERVIEW

The NGC Gardening School Courses are designed to provide educational information to those especially interested in gardening, horticulture and related subjects. The School consists of a series of four courses, scheduled usually for two days of instruction, followed by a general examination. Courses cover all aspects of growing, from understanding soil structure to pruning techniques, plant identification, etc. Topics include basic botany, soils, growing annuals, perennials, trees and shrubs, fruits and vegetables, lawns, pests and diseases of plants, plant classification, and selected subjects of local interest. Additional topics and areas of interest that may be covered are subjects such as the NGC Gardening with Nature program that promotes the planting of native plants as the base of the food chain that supports all wildlife including pollinators vital to our agriculture, and creating backyard habitats to help endangered species such as pollinators and amphibians.

Course Requirements

Attendance is mandatory at all lectures of a course for the student to take the exam and receive credit. Prospective consultants must take a written examination. Each course includes:

- Ten hours of lectures, including a supplemental subject lecture
- A multiple-choice exam (open book/notes) based on the lectures and required reading. Exams are optional, but must be taken by those who apply for NGC certification.

COURSE 1 HIGHLIGHTS

BASIC BOTANY

- A. Plant anatomy (roots, stems, leaves, flowers)
 - B. Plant requirements (light, temperature, water, humidity)
 - C. Life cycle of plants (annuals, biennials, perennials)
 - D. Reproduction (sexual, asexual - pollination and fertilization)
 - E. Study of plant structure (specific plant group studied)
- ### SOILS
- A. Characteristics and structure of soil
 - B. Soil testing (Extension Service/state)
 - C. Function of soil
 - D. Importance of roots
 - E. Maintenance
 - F. Fertilization (compost, fertilizers)
- ### TECHNIQUES FOR GROWING OUTDOOR FLOWERS
- A. Environmental factors and choice of plant material
 - B. Organic gardening
 - C. Crop rotation and landscape suitability
 - D. Pruning and training of plants
 - E. Problems and problem solving

- ### PLANT PROPAGATION
- A. Seed selection lecture
 - B. Vegetative propagation
 - C. Propagation

SUPPLEMENTAL SUBJECT
Study of specific local plant group

REQUIRED FORMS

Form 6 or 7 must be submitted electronically, before the Course begins. Email Form 6 to the Course Chairman.

Form 7 must be signed by the State Chair and then emailed to the Course Chairman.

RECOMMENDED READING

Botany for Gardeners, Brian Capone,
Nature's Best Hope, Doug Tallamy, Secrets to Great Soil, Elizabeth Stell

REGISTRATION FORM

DEADLINE for registration, cancellations and refunds: Monday Sept. 23, 2024
LATE REGISTRATIONS are subject to availability.



Make checks payable to:
New Smyrna Beach Garden Club

Fill out Registration Form online

Click on link below

<https://forms.gle/P7BwX1Dkn2Mm7v1V6>

Mail check to:

Claudette Johnson
3531 Grand Tuscany Way
New Smyrna Beach, FL 32168
advtranslation@comcast.net

Name: _____

Email: _____

Phone: _____

Full Course, 3 Days for CREDIT \$65.00

Add Exam Fee \$5.00

Full Course, 3 Days Refresher \$65.00

Add Refresher Fee \$5.00

Full course, 3 Days for Audit \$65.00

Total Amount of Check \$ _____

RESOURCE LINKS

The 18 UF-IFAS Best of Webinars (link below).

- Wings Over Florida: Butterfly Program
- Olives in Florida
- Planting a Refuge for Wildlife
- Top Ten Insect Problems and Top Ten Disease Problems
- Things That Go 'Ouch' in the Garden
- Alternatives to Turfgrass Lawns
- Native Alternatives to Ornamental Invasives in Florida
- Old Garden Roses
- Horticulture Therapy
- Plant Explorers: History of plant exploration
- Blueberries
- Landscape Insects Update
- Snakes and Reptiles in the Landscape
- Growing Tomatoes in the Home Garden
- The Shrimp Plant Family: Amazing Acanthaceae
- Your Landscape as an Ecosystem
- Ornamental Flowers Trees in Florida
- Invasive Plants



[Webinars to Keep You Growing - University of Florida, Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences \(ufl.edu\)](https://www.ifas.ufl.edu/webinars-to-keep-you-growing/)

The National Garden Club Free Videos: VIDEO CAFÉ

Link: <https://gardenclub.org/video-cafe>

| Videos by Category | |
|-----------------------|---|
| Welcome to NGC | ⌵ |
| Webinars | ⌵ |
| Club Resources | ⌵ |
| NGC Grants and Awards | ⌵ |
| Gardening Tips | ⌵ |
| Floral Design | ⌵ |
| Techy Tips | ⌵ |
| Virtual Tours | ⌵ |

Resource Links

To list your events on the FFGC Website Calendar click link and fill out this form and mail in OR save this link and submit later.

Link to this form: [2021-12-17 Event Calendar Request Form \(1\).pdf \(ffgc.org\)](#)



FORM TO SUBMIT AN EVENT TO THE FFGC CALENDAR

(All Events must be submitted 30 days in advance.)

Event Name: _____

Event Start Date: _____ Event End Date: _____

Event Start Time: _____ Event End Time: _____

Event Location: (Please select one) ZOOM: _____ or In Person: _____

Event Address (if in person): _____

Event Sponsor: _____

FFGC District Number: _____

Event Description (Details about your event): _____

Special Instructions (such as parking, lunch, etc.): _____

Event Chairman: _____

Phone: _____ email: _____

Person submitting this form: _____

Phone: _____ email: _____

Please complete all fields:

If you would like a registration form or flyer attached to the calendar entry, please send it as a .PDF via email along with this completed form. Send any images as a JPG file.

To use this "fillable form" download it to your computer, enter the data in the boxes and save it. Please put your garden club name and district number in the subject line of an email and attach the form and other attachments and send to the FFGC Corresponding Secretary, Linda Feifarek-Johnson at feif@bellsouth.net

Resource Links



[Registration Options \(donorperfect.net\)](https://donorperfect.net)

**Click link to register
for Calusa Waterkeeper
Ranger Academy
\$125.00**



Ranger Academy - Fall 2024 Session Open Enrollment

Session Schedule

Module 2: Pollution & Monitoring
Saturday, September 7, 2024 | 9:30am - 1:30 pm

Module 3: Advocacy
Saturday, October 5, 2024 | 9:30am - 12:30 pm

Module 4: Restoration
Saturday, November 2, 2024 | 9:30am - 12:30 pm

Location

**Six Mile Cypress Slough Preserve
Multi-purpose Room
[7751 Penzance Blvd](#)
[Fort Myers, FL 33965](#)**



**2024 FFGC FALL
DISTRICT IX
MEETING
Tues October 15
175 Lake Hollingsworth Dr
Lakeland**

**2025 FFGC SPRING
DISTRICT IX
MEETING
Wed May 21
Riverside
Community Center
3061 East Riverside Dr.
Fort Myers**

Poster Contest for Florida Children!

Your children or grandchildren can participate.

Please notify Syliva Swartz, DIX Awards Chair, when you send in an application. tamargal2@aol.com



Please, consider adding this to your club's calendar. Participants do NOT need to be registered as Junior Gardeners.

Children from 1st- 5th grades are invited to participate in this annual drawing contest featuring conservation icons Smokey Bear & Woodsy Owl. Every child that participates will receive a certificate of participation. Certificates may be ordered for free at www.symbols.gov/ngc-poster-contest.

Any child/group of children may participate. Scout troops, after school programs, and the like are perfectly appropriate. Youth camps are a great time to do this project.

Children must be Florida residents and sponsored by a FFGC garden club or a member of a FFGC Garden Club.

The child's grade and information must be included on the back of the 7'x11' poster so that the participant can compete in the correct grade category. A free downloadable label is found at www.symbols.gov/ngc-poster-contest.

See Smokey Bear and Woodsy Owl Contest Poster Rules for details:

<https://gardenclub.org>

Posters may be pre-judged locally and the winners sent to the State Chairman. Posters must be received by the Smokey Bear & Woodsy Owl State Chairmen by **January 20, 2025**.

Questions:

Contact Jill Anderson, FFGC State Chairman
jillandersn@aol.com

Sharing Tips

Please SEND US YOUR Tips for Plant Sales

Question from: Carolyn Lowry-Nation, founder of Gardeners Out East Garden Club

Send tips to: DIXnewsletter@outlook.com

TIPS From The Poinciana Garden Club

- Pick Chair/Coordinator. Committee.
- Pick a location off a high traffic street.
- The morning of the event post an ad with plant photos on Craigslist and Yard Sale Facebook pages. Assign this role ahead of time.
- Include in advertising where the raised funds are being donated.
- Signs at several intersections. Put up signs 1 hour prior to opening (waterproof, big print, address, reuse).
- Designate responsible person for putting up, taking down and storing signs.
- Ensure a location where parking does not disturb neighbors. Clarify public bathroom use.
- Establish the address, date, set up time, open time, break down time for members to sign up. Circulate a sign up sheet at meetings for people to sign up for two hour shifts and sign up for set up and break down.
- Identify members and vehicles who will take unsold items to where? What time?
- Identify # tables needed, who is bringing tables and set up time.
- Identify who is bringing cash box, small table, 2 chairs (in the shade with 2 people to cover break times).
- Hold a cutting propagation party 4 to 6 months in advance or remind members to start propagating at home.



- Herbs and bromeliads sell well for some clubs.
- Remind members to: Wear name tags so customers know who they speak with. Bring pens, sticky dots for prices, hand wipes, grocery bags, water and snacks.
- Advise members to drop off plants one hour prior to opening to the public and **bring all plants pre-labeled with plant name and price.**
- The morning of the event post an ad with plant photos on Craigslist and Yard Sale Facebook pages. Assign this role ahead of time.
- Have a clipboard for customers to write their name & email address who are interested in being a guest at a club meeting. Membership chair available?
- Some clubs sell furniture/household goods etc. e.g. "Plant and Treasure Sale"

Sharing Tips

How Does Your Club Seek New Members?



Email to: DIXnewsletter@outlook.com

Please send in your club's strategies, flyers, event descriptions for an article.

Would you like to write a brief article (max 400 words) about why your community service project was a success? Two to three photos would be great.

Send your proofed article to
DIXnewsletter@outlook.com

What information about other clubs are you curious about?

Send your question to
DIXnewsletter@outlook.com



UPCOMING EVENTS

NGC & FFCG Events

Sept 30 to Oct 1, 2024

NGC Gardening School Course 1 ZOOM

Ten hours of lectures (mornings only) on various gardening subjects. There will be an open book, multiple choice test at the end of each day based on the materials presented in the lectures.

Event Chairman: Sally Flanagan; 416-229-4763; sfflan@aol.com

Link: [NGC GS Brochure](#)

Sails January 6, 2025



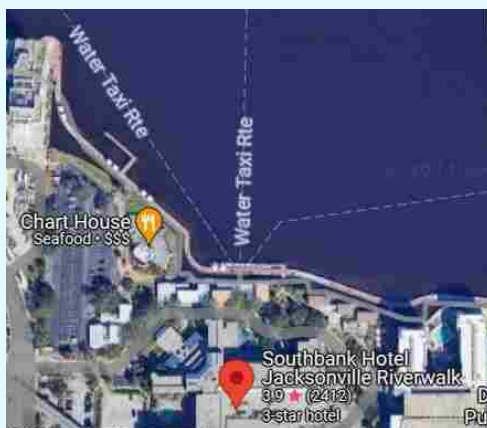
FFCG 5-Night Western Caribbean Cruise

<https://www.ffcg.org/resources/Documents/2023%20Documents/January%202025%20board%20meeting%20cruise.pdf>

April 7-10, 2025

FFCG Annual Convention "Once Upon a Garden" Installation Year

Southbank Hotel
Jacksonville Riverwalk,
1515 Prudential Dr.
Jacksonville 32207



Board of Directors Meeting on the cruise

- Mon Jan 6 Port Canaveral
- Tues. Jan 6 At Sea
- Wed Jan 8 Cozumel, Mexico
- Thur Jan 9 At Sea
- Fri Jan 10 Perfect Day at Coco Cay
- Sat Jan 11 Port Canaveral

TBD 2025

NGC Convention

DISTRICT IX EVENTS

AVON PARK'S THERAPY THRU PLANTS SALE

September 28
9am-2pm

2024 FFCG FALL DISTRICT IX MEETING

Tues October 15
175 Lake Hollingsworth Dr
Lakeland

DEEP SOUTH GC CONVENTION

Mar 11-13
Valdosta, GA

2025 FFCG SPRING DISTRICT IX MEETING

Wed May 21
Riverside
Community Center
3061 East Riverside Dr.
Fort Myers

Letter to the Editor

Digitizing years of club documents. One club's story.

From: Jane West <natjanewest@icloud.com>
 Sent: Monday, June 3, 2024 7:42 AM
 To: Sandy Troy_Pennington <stroy_penn@msn.com>
 Subject: Re: does your club have a logo?

That is a very good question - we MIGHT [have a logo] - but if we do, we haven't used it for a long time. We are beginning the processor organizing 15+ boxes of GCWH memorabilia and transfer it to digital format. - finding the proper format and method are step 1 & 2. If we unearth a logo during the process you shall get a jpg-- but for now, our answer is "I don't think we have one."

Do you know of any other club that has digitized their records? I would love to "pick their brains".

Thanks, Jane West

Hi Jane, Most clubs store a variety of documents e.g. minutes, scrapbooks, awards and treasurer reports. Older clubs find that transferring crates of binders between secretaries and other officers can be cumbersome or risk loss. Even if digitized to preserve quality and reduce volume using a thumb drive or preserving files on one member's cloud storage risks loss.

In 2021 The Poinciana Garden Club treasurer and secretary discussed the problem. We are a small club. However, as years go by secretaries were turning over to new incoming secretaries many heavy crates with minutes and treasurer reports in three ring binders that required home storage space (usually in humid garages). Additionally, the club had crates of scrapbook binders of deteriorating materials that no one really wanted to lug and store.

In 2017 Poinciana stopped scrapbooking. The club's new public Facebook Page (FB) became the place photos of events are stored. Not all members use Facebook, however FB provides free storage that does not deteriorate. Only one member in the club since 2017 asked to not have her photo on Facebook. Our FB page has over 1300 followers including dozens of other garden clubs across the US. In 2018 we won National Garden Club Social Media, Facebook Award and other awards since then.

Gail our treasurer, in 2021, volunteered to scan all the minutes in the binders into PDFs. She then combined BY YEAR PDF minutes for each year. We decided it was not necessary to preserve treasurer reports so those were not scanned.



Sandy (FB admin) trained two other members, Lynn and Mary Kay to scan scrapbook photos and documents using a free phone ap called CamScanner. Lynn and Mary Kay, over several months, scanned scrapbook items and sent Sandy the PDFs by email. Sandy combined the scrapbook PDFs by year. Sandy has two apps on her phone to scan (CamScanner & Lens).

In the summer of 2021, Sandy created a new private FB Group that is attached (linked) to the club's public FB Page. The private FB Group has a "Files" TAB. In Files PDFs are loaded in chronological order. Only active members have access, and few want it. Mostly Presidents and Recording Secretaries pull from Files.

What do we store in Files on the Private FB Group?

Every January the past year's PDF minutes are combined and stored. All PDF Yearbooks and Award Certificates are stored. All updated versions of blank Club Application forms. If a speaker has especially helpful handouts and gives permission those are scanned to a PDF and stored.

What application do we use for combining each year's PDF minutes?

We use an online tool called smallpdf.com No fee, no download, no log in is required. Link: <https://smallpdf.com/>

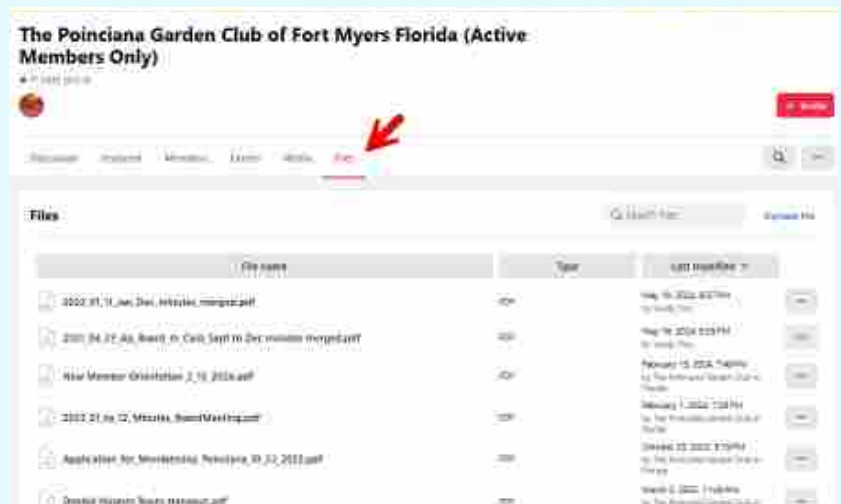
Tips:

1. There are many benefits to installing a scanning app like CamScanner on your phone. At meetings we scan, make a PDF of new member applications and instantly send the PDF by email to members who need it (yearbook editor, membership chair, presidents, etc.). We batch scan speaker handouts, business cards, to include in minutes or store electronically in Files on private FB.

2. Organize your minutes chronically by year/month before using smallpdf.com to combine a year's worth of PDF minutes.

- 2024_01_minutes
- 2024_02_minutes
- 2024_02_board_minutes
- 2024_03_minutes

3. In one officer's Job Guide, we assign the job of saving all PDF minutes for each year and combining the PDFs & loading to "Files" the private FB group.





District IX Contacts

Director: Susan Lawson 941-979-0615

slawson921@gmail.com

Treasurer: Charlene Anderson

beadie1@gmail.com

Recording Secretary: Mary Yeomans

mymrsphysics@aol.com

Corresponding Secretary: Paula Novander

pnovander@yahoo.com

Parliamentarian: Libby Curnow

eacurnow@kernow.com

Advisors: Leslie Montwid

ronmontwid@yahoo.com

Cissy Richardson

CHRWinterHaven@gmail.com

Dale DeFeo

dwdefeo1@aol.com

Awards Chair: Sylvia Swartz, 239-339-3778

tamargal2@aol.com

Chair Fall District IX Meeting, Lakeland:

Sharon Ann Ashton

saakrn@3rivers.net

Chair Spring District IX Meeting, Cape Coral:

Donna Schmidt

ibeleafinyou@yahoo.com

Facebook Admin: Brenda Kvamme Luedman

bkluedeman@gmail.com

Facebook Page: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1309829002404914>

District IX Newsletter & FFGC Idea Exchange newsletter:

Sandy Troy 239-994-8147

stroy_penn@msn.com

Left click on any link in this newsletter to get to the online site.



Garden Club of Cape Coral Flower Show April, 2024