



The Seedling

Volume 18 Winter 2026

Gainesville Garden Club, Inc.

<http://ggcfl.org/ggc>

Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc.

<http://www.ffgc.org>

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Message from President Becky O'Brien

Dear Gardening Friends,

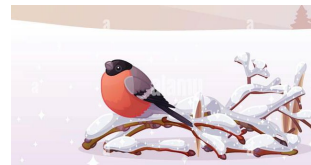
The beginning of a whole new year invites reflection, doesn't it? How will we choose to spend our time? What entices us to commit energy or "time, talent and treasure?" These winter days invite all kinds of speculation about the year ahead and I know that all of us in the Gainesville Garden Club face these individual choices.

One thing I have always appreciated as a member is the array of ways we are invited to get involved – or not! At times, I have been a member that is just grateful to make it to a monthly meeting to check-in with friends and maybe learn something new. In fact, originally, I was just focused on learning about gardening and was surprised at the many, many community projects we did. Gradually, I realized that I was making new friends and tagging along with those new friends on events and projects that sounded enjoyable, interesting and impactful to me.

My point is that we like you in the Gainesville Garden Club, however you want to participate. I'm proud that we have many different opportunities to take part. Yes, you get a lot of email and notices about what's going on. Someone is always telling you about what we've done, or even more ways to volunteer, or to buy something, to cook something, to weed something, to learn something or to please come to a meeting! It's a lot. (Sometimes, it's helpful to remember we are basically, running an all-volunteer, successful small business that's maintaining our facility and investing profits in the community.)

This newsletter highlights the choices members have made in creating the many plans ahead for GGC. Consider all these opportunities as invitations to come have fun, learn, and support our club and our wonderful community. I like all these choices because we can figure out what suits us best. I hope all 200+ of us value being a member of the Gainesville Garden Club and find a good fit for 2026.

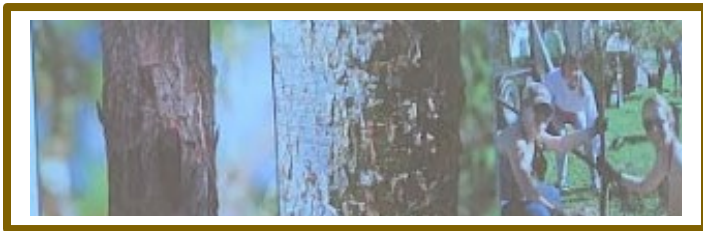
Becky O'Brien
GGC President, 2025-27



ARBOR DAY CELEBRATION

January 18 2026

“The Forest In Your Backyard” presenter Stephanie Cadaval, UF/IFAS Urban Foret Extension Coordinator spoke about ways to start thinking about native trees for your urban & suburban landscape.



Native Trees Have Special Advantages

Value to Wildlife – food, habitat, resources.

Tolerate our environment – tolerance to Florida conditions, weather patterns, different soils.

Low maintenance – easier, cheaper to maintain once established.

TOUR OF GGC GROUNDS - following the presentation on trees, Bruce Cavey, Jasmine member and owner of the landscaping company, “Gardener Extraordinaire”, guided attendees around the grounds while identifying the various trees and plants.

A poster for the Gainesville Tree Quest 2026. The poster features a large tree in the background. The text on the poster includes: "Gainesville Tree Quest 2026", "January 16, 2026 through February 15, 2026", "Celebrate Florida Arbor Day (January 16, 2026) with Gainesville Tree Quest! Learn about trees, explore Gainesville's urban forest, and have fun outdoors!", "What is Tree Quest?", "TreeQuest is an urban forestry scavenger hunt. Find tree tags on select trees in Gainesville's public parks and on the University of Florida Campus.", "Scan the QR code to participate in the game! Each tree tag contains a QR code leading you to a survey. Fill in the survey with information from the tree tag.", "Spread the Word! Anyone can participate. Encourage others to join our quest! Each survey is an entry to a prize drawing to win a tree!", "Look for the tree tag!", "Tree Locations: Depot Park, Tom Petty Park, Albert 'Ray' Massey Park, University of Florida Campus", and "Questions about this event? Contact Stephanie Cadaval at urbf@ifas.ufl.edu".

Put on your walking shoes and go on the Gainesville’s Tree Quest. Learn about trees, and some of the benefits they provide. Trees are located in Depot Park, Tom Petty Park, Albert “Ray” Massey Park and on the University of Florida Campus.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Elizabeth Amdur – General
Nancy Anderson – Gardenia
Mary Carter – Jasmine
Dobbie Coats – Begonia
Ernestine Ellington – Mimosa
Bonnie Flynn – Gardenia

Monica Garcia - Mimosa
Carol Hazy - Gardenia
Katy Kavanah - Jasmine
Amber Kovach -Jasmine
Wei Wei Rizhaupt - Wildflowers
Nelwyn Townsend - General



Nature-Inspired Landscaping

Designing Sustainable Wildlife Gardens
CJ McCartney, Speaker



FFGC Webinar
Thursday, January 29, 2026
1:00pm EST
[Registration Link](#)

This talk explores how to design sustainable landscapes using native plants. We will look at keystone plants and simple ways to make a huge impact to our pollinators while creating vibrant gardens that are restorative to both our wildlife and us.



About the speaker: CJ McCartney designs native pollinators gardens, speaks on the topics of conservation, restoration of native habitats and leads hikes showing how nature informs us on creating habitats and native plant communities. She has taken landscape, horticulture and gardening classes to supplement her degree in Public Policy from Harvard University. She is on the Florida Wildflower Foundation Board and serves on the Advisory Board of Audubon Everglades.

For more information go to www.ffgc.org.

WEKIVA YOUTH CAMP - OPEN HOUSE

Jo Lee Houlihan and Moe LaTour going to the Wekiva Open House, Sunday Feb 8th. If you would like to join them, text Moe LaTour at 352 514-1831. We'll meet at GGC on 02/08 at GGC at 9 am and leave from there. If you can drive, also let her know. It's a 2-hour drive.



Learn & Design

Floral Design Classes at GGC
Six Scintillating Sessions

02/25, 03/04, 03/11, 03/18, 03/25, 03/31

Details & Registration

www.ggcfl.org/event-details/floral-design-series

\$120 for all six classes
Class size limited to 30.

Still time to
sign-up!
Act NOW!

Learn from Claudia Bates
NAC Accredited Master Flower
Show Judge & Design Instructor
Learn from each other, too.
You'll take home a new creation
each week... Plus, it's FUN!

We last were able to offer this course three years ago. Claudia Bates is much in demand across the country to teach creative floral design and we are so pleased we are now in her schedule for this six-week course. Ask our folks who took this previously and they'll tell you to sign up! Susan Thrall, Jo Lee Houlihan, Becky O'Brien, Linda Schoellhorn, Ann Osterling, Kristy Welch were just a few of our members. They were all beginners and all learned new approaches and practices to everything from conditioning flowers to last longer, to elements of design for balance and color, to formal approaches to creative floral design.

It's a creative and welcoming environment and we guarantee you'll leave impressed with yourself after a fun day. The sign-up deadline is NOW. Log on to our website and register today.



Enhancing Our Environment Cultivating Community Enriching Education

SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

OUR GROWING LEGACY

GAINESVILLE GARDEN CLUB

Donate an Experience...
Grow Our Scholarship Fund
at our Annual Fundraiser

SIP & STROLL
AT GAINESVILLE GARDEN CLUB
Friday, March 13, 2026 - 5 to 8 pm

- Guests will enjoy our gardens, music and a festive atmosphere with appetizers and hand-crafted cocktails.
- Silent auction and themed gift baskets
- Your support & logo will be recognized on our social media and promotions.
- Two complementary tickets - Value \$50

100+ Years of Service & Education

GGC is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization
WWW.GGCFL.ORG/DONATE

Save the Date – March 13, 2026 – for a Sip & Stroll – An evening in our gardens at Twilight.

We are planning a Sip and Stroll affair with delicious hearty appetizers, yummy drinks and live music for ambiance. Shifting to the Spring will enable us to enjoy our own lovely gardens, so put it on your calendar and wait for more information!

If you would like to assist in any way, contact Linda Schoellhorn (Lschoell@gmail.com or text 352-226-0102).

Help us reach out to possible sponsors for our Sip N Stroll event coming up in March. If you have a contact or an idea, please share it with Kathy Stephens kathryn@kathystephens.com, cell: 512 431-8892 or contact Candy Dennis at candydennis@hotmail.com, cell: 352-283-0259.



BLOSSOM BREW & BBQ



FEB 15, 2026 / 2 - 6 PM



BBQ & PLANT SALE
@ FIRST MAGNITUDE BREWING CO.

- 🍷 TROPICAL, NATIVE, VEGETABLE PLANTS
- 🍷 LOCAL FOODS & ARTISAN
- 🍷 BBQ BY DANNY OF LOOSEYS
- 🍷 VEGETARIAN FOOD TRUCK
- 🍷 LIVE MUSIC & TRIVIA CONTEST
- 🍷 CRAFT BEERS
- AND SO MUCH MORE.

LEARN MORE AT GGCFL.ORG.

Blossoms Brew & BBQ is a great fundraiser for GGC. We need members to help sell these wrist bands to folks coming to First Magnitude. The brewery donates wrist bands to us that we can sell for \$10 each. We keep the entire \$10 and the wearer gets a \$1 off a large beer.

Valerie Mountjoy reports we need 4 to 5 volunteers working from 3:45 to 5:45 that afternoon. Please text Valerie if you can help: 352-284-4318. Thank you!



Mimosa Circle is pleased to announce that we have rescheduled our annual fundraising event which this year being a Mardi Gras theme, will be held on May 28th. Mark your calendars!



Begonia Circle will be selling 7 varieties of caladiums for sale this year.

Order forms will be given out in February with delivery in March. Please place your order then. Remember first come, first served.

FUN WITH FLOWERS

March 17th Sign up on or before March 1st at your circle meeting or by going on-line to ggcfl.org.

Questions: Contact Shelley Warner at 352 665-8836 or warnerscedu@aol.com



FFGC CONVENTION 2026 & STATE FLOWER SHOW

APRIL 14-17, 2026

Embassy Suites, Lake Buena Vista, FL

2026 STATE FLOWERSHOW



Florida Federation of Garden Clubs

"Let's Go to Convention 2026"

April 14th - 17th, 2026

State Flower Show

Speakers

Workshops

Vendors

District Parties

PJ's & Pancakes

Awards

Convention Registration is Now Open
Visit: ffgc.com for all the details

Embassy Suites
Lake Buena Vista South
4953 Kyngs Heath Rd,
Kissimmee, FL 34746

Board Meeting

GGC GENERAL MEETING & HOLIDAY DESIGN WORKSHOP

Holiday Market Organizing Team

Mary Birch Hanson - Chair
Anne Osterling, Beth
Brietenbach, Barb Trainor
Donna Berthold, Gail Cook,
Mary Munson

Wayne Berthold, Karen Markey, Lynette Worley, Mary
Shindler, Blanca McNab, Matthew McNab, Patti Farley,
Mary Chiozza, Kathy Ames, Ruth Ann Wycoff, Cathy Zigler,
Carol Krauser, Chris Payne, Chris Waldman, Diane McCall,
Inez Brooker, Jo Lee Houlihan, Laurie Spear, Lois
McNamara, Lorene Junkin, Sandra Brooker, Mo Latour,
Sandra Arnold, Leah Oehmig, Carol Wiltbank, Kathy Post,
Carol Hazey, Paula Waterman - Plus our Circles & She Shed



GGC President Becky O'Brien presented an overview of the club's coming activities.



A majestic old live oak on the far end of our parking area was irreparably damaged in a 2022 storm. When it was removed, Horticulture Chair Kathy Fanning suggested sowing native wildflower seeds around the gigantic tree trunk. With the Board's approval, she initially sowed four species of wildflowers: *Coreopsis* Black eyed Susans and blanket flowers. The next spring, a mass of yellow mostly *Coreopsis leavenworthii* and *Coreopsis lanceolata* graced the area.



Through 2023 and 2024, Kathy added more seeds or transplants of at least a dozen additional species. This past year, after several dry Spring months, black-eyed Susans—hundreds, maybe thousands—dominated the area for several months. (Black-eyed Susans *Rudbeckia hirta*) prefer dry conditions).

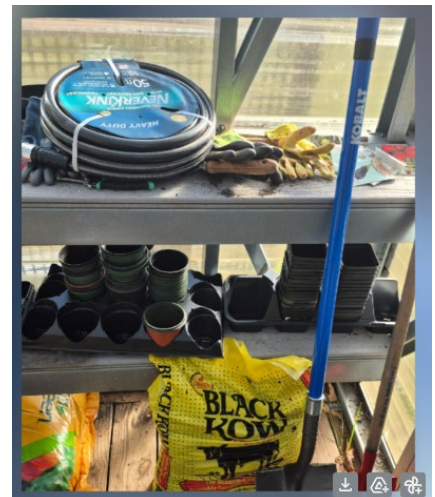
By Lois McNamara

YOUTH GARDENER PROGRAM

GAINESVILLE HIGH SCHOOL: Begonia Circle volunteers assisted GHS students with their fall/winter Garden. The Kids planted kale, lettuce, carrots, kohlrabi, dill, cilantro, strawberries, and sweet peas.

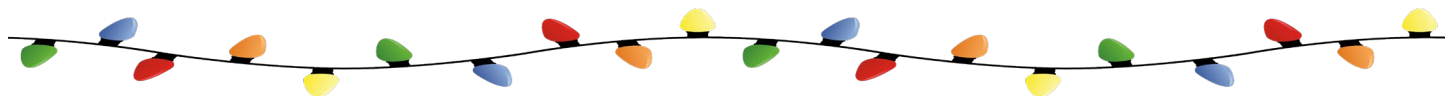


SYDNEY LANIER SCHOOL - Volunteers from Begonia and Mimosa Circle are kindly assisting Sydney Lanier School with their Fall/Winter Garden. Thanks to the generous donations from Lowe's and the Gainesville Garden Club, the children have been able to start cultivating a vegetable garden. Currently they have planted radishes, strawberries, sweet peas, collard greens, lettuce, carrots, cabbage, kale and beetroot.



HOLIDAY MARKET

On November 29th the Gainesville Garden Club hosted a Holiday Market. It was well attended; vendors were happy with their sales; the circles that sold their creations did well. The She Shed crew sold an array of beautiful items and plants. Begonia Circle offered Begonias Kitchen. Donna Berthold and her team offered warm, delicious food for sale. Mimosa Circle sold baked goods, and Jasmine Circle sold hot chocolate! All of these were a great addition to a wonderful event. Below numbers prepare for and participate at the market



RONALD MCDONAL HOUSE – BUILD A GINGERBREAD HOUSE COMPETITION



GGC was a sponsor of this annual event and the following members participated in the competition: Betty Anderson, Sandra Arnold, Amber Kovach, Karen Markey, Leah Oehmig and Barbara Trainor. The She Shed was on-site with (left to right): Valerie Mountjoy, Linda Schoellhorn and Gail Cook.





NOVEMBER BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

Roadside Beautification – Karen Beaty Our first 2025-26 Cleanup was scheduled for Saturday, November 15. We conducted litter removal on a portion of 13th Street from Archer Road to 16th Street - GHS. We met at 9 am at All Star Automotive. Fourteen volunteers wore safety vests, with pickers, trash bags and carts on both sides of 13th Street. One volunteer collected the trash bags and deposited them by Adopt-A-Highway signs for FDOT pickup. Future litter removal dates are still to be determined.

Webmaster/Social Media – Kristy Welch

You can visit the Tutorials Tab on the Club Documents & Forms page of our website for information about Forever.com which also includes photos taken over the years.

Youth Gardeners - Blanca McNab

Volunteers needed for GHS Wednesday 3-430pm. GHS Allocated Committee budget will assist with purchase of Soil, Starter and seeds. An initial visit was made to Sydney Lanier School. The teacher would like to establish a vegetable garden, pending grant money. Strawberry plants and Expo t-shirts were donated along with seeds and soil purchased. Volunteers are needed at Sydney Lanier too!

NEW BUSINESS

Steve Provost gave an update on the 5 median the GGC is supporting.
Moe LaTour voiced concerned about our laptop and a need for updates.

MOTIONS

It was determined we did not have a quorum when it came to vote on said recommendations. Consequently, Kathy Powell, BOT, presented the following recommendations as an eVote.

- *Approved \$750 to purchase and install blinds in the Men's bathroom and the Garden Room.
- *Approved of an amount not to exceed \$300 to install a gate and purchase ground cloth for the nursery area.
- *Approved \$340 to purchase up to 10 utility carts to be used by the Roadside Beautification team. It has been suggested that 4 carts be purchased initially to see how they work.
- *Mona Rippe made a motion to purchase a Windows Updated Laptop not to exceed 650 dollars and a small lockable cabinet to keep it secured. Seconded by Patti Farley. Approved.

Our Board of Directors minutes are now being posted on our website – ggcfl.org. Log in and from the drop-down menu to the right, select Members. From list that will show up on the left, select Documents. Minutes is a brand-new tab and click. Keep in mind, there will always be a delay in posting, as the minutes need to be approved before being posted. Thank you – Kristy Welch!

BEGONIA CIRCLE – Lynnette Worley

Begonia Circle broke our own record by donating 573 pounds of food to Bread of the Mighty Food Bank. Along with a Mason Group we donated Christmas toys to under privileged students at Alachua Elementary School; several members selected a family from the Salvation Army Angel Tree and two members competed with other GGC members in the Ronald McDonald House Ginger bread contest and won! Begonia is sponsoring 2 campers at Wekiva and will be selling Caladium bulbs in the spring. Members toured Sweetwater Wetlands in comfort – photo on right.



GARDENIA CIRCLE – Susan Thrall & Shelley Warner

In the short time between the September and October meetings, Gardenias spent their time planning for Expo. Gardenias recruited vendors, planned and recruited volunteers to give presentations. Members also covered events making sure renters had everything they needed. We provided food for With Flowers and recruited two new presenters at Fun with Flowers. Begonia members planted herbs from the nursery into pots and decorated pots for the Christmas market, Assisted the planning and headed up the short course in June. Weeded the butterfly garden in October

JASMINE CIRCLE – Linda Schoellhorn

At our October meeting, Patrick and Linda Stoddard, of Lucky Buddha Farms, presented “The Magic of Mushrooms”. After their talk, members were able to buy mushroom growing packages. Dr. Cynthia Nazario-Leary stopped by and we were able to give her and Kathy Stephens rousing applause for all their hard work for the Expo. Jasmine members assisted with the Veterans Garden Tour including member Bruce Cavey’s garden, Short Course, Butterfly Garden, Hosting GGC rentals, Roadside pickup and medians and more. We stay busy!

MIMOSA CIRCLE – Patty Farley

In September Mimosa members worked on a children’s craft project. The project shows the life cycles of a tomato, strawberry, butterfly & dragon fly. We visited Veterans Park Memorial twice a week to maintain the entrance garden. We gave \$300 to the Midnight Sky Scholarship Fund. Three members worked on Oct 1st getting Down & Dirty. Twelve members attended the December General Meeting and “Jingle & Mingle” Cavey, Floral Designer, taught Attendees how to create beautiful holiday floral arrangements.



WILDFLOWERS CIRCLE – MJ Stoeker

October had the circle members travel to Lake City, FL Our host was MJ Stoeker. Thank you’s go to Terry Murphy, Nadine Russo, Diane Lauramoore and Claudia Lambert for creating an amazing Table scape “as our grows, so do our friendships” Special shout out to Erin Harlow; Columbia County Extension agent for all the fresh cut sunflowers and zinnias used. Our GGC president Becky Obrien joined us for information and spiced cider before creating hammered

GARDEN TRIVIA

1. Which of these flowers is native to North America? A) chrysanthemum; B) lotus; C) marigold
2. Which of these insects is not considered beneficial to a garden? A) spiders; B) grasshoppers; C) ladybugs
3. How long can seeds remain dormant in the earth? A) years; B) one season; C) months
4. What parts of plants are used to produce essential oils? A) seeds and petals; B) roots and leaves; C) Both A&B
5. What kind of plant is a flowering cherry tree? A) perennial; B) shrub; C) deciduous

Answers on page 15

2026 FFGC DISTRICT V & UF SHORT COURSE

GGC will host Short Course on May 31 – June 2. Mark Your Calendars. Short Course is a premier horticultural program for you and Master Gardeners. Grow your knowledge as you meet 90 plant-loving folks from across the state.

This year's theme, "Tools for Tomorrow," identifies emerging environmental challenges and explores innovative, research-based solutions. Attendees will enjoy:

Exclusive Guided Tours

- UF's Field and Fork Gardens
- A private Gainesville Garden

Expert Presentations

Eight sessions featuring UF faculty and regional plant specialists sharing the latest research and practical guidance at the UF Straughn Center. Learn, connect and be inspired. ---+

Special Member Pricing

- Registration, only \$115 includes 2 lunches, 1 continental breakfast & 3 refreshment breaks
- Sunday, 5/31, Welcome Reception at GGC from 3-5 pm, includes She Shed & Circle shopping
- Monday Floral Design Dinner (separate \$50 registration) at GGC, features Bruce Cavey & Happy Hour with She Shed & Circle shopping

Registration Schedule - Spaces are limited!

- Garden Club Members: Opens February 1
- Master Gardeners: Opens March 1
- General Public: Opens April 1

FFGC DISTRICT V - UF SHORT COURSE



TOOLS FOR TOMORROW

May 31 - June 2, 2026

University of Florida Straughn Center

A premier horticultural program focused on identifying emerging environmental challenges and exploring innovative, research-based solutions.

FFGC Member Registration Opens February 1
Master Gardeners March 1, General Public April 1
Deadline May 8

www.ffgc.org/education

Registrar: monarippe@gmail.com



Visit
GAINESVILLE
Alachua County, FL

Funded in part by
Visit Gainesville, Alachua County

Tentative schedule and registration form are available at <https://ffgc.org/Education> & on GGC Partner Events at [2026 Short Course](#). Register now and join us for an enriching and inspiring horticultural experience! Contact Paula Waterman paularhoades@gmail.com to help with this fun event.

Lodging

Invite your friends from across the state to join you at the conference. A special rate of \$103 + tax is available at the Drury Inn until May 6. The event is funded in part by Visit Gainesville, Alachua County.



Florida Federation of Garden Clubs-District V and
the University of Florida Short Course

TOOLS FOR TOMORROW

May 31 - June 2, 2026

Gainesville, Florida

Registration Opens Feb 1 to FFGC Members, Mar 1 for MGVs and Apr 1 to
the Public

Sunday, May 31 3:00 – 5:00 pm Registration & Welcome Reception at Gainesville Garden Club, 1350 NW 75th Street.

Monday, June 1 CULTIVATING IDEAS

Morning Tours: UF Field & Fork Garden (innovations in sustainable food production) followed by a Private Garden Tour hosted by Michelle Jensen. Bus leaves from the Drury Inn at 9:00 am and returns to Straughn Center for lunch.

Lunch at 12:00 pm: Sessions begin at 1:00 at the UF/IFAS Straughn Ctr. 2142 Shealy Drive, Gainesville, FL 32611

Sessions: Growing Local by Anna Prizzia; Plant Pathology in the Future Garden by Dr. Kevin Korus; Invasive Intelligence: Plant Threats by Christian Wannamaker

Evening: 5:30 - 8:30 PM at the Gainesville Garden Club. Happy Hour, Dinner & Design Program: Floral Designing by Bruce Cavey, Gardener Extraordinaire (**Separate registration required**)

Tuesday, June 2 TOOLS IN ACTION 8:45 am – 3:45 pm at the UF/IFAS Straughn Center

Continental Breakfast will be served.

Sessions: Counting on Pollinators by Jeremy Rhoden; Wildlife in the Landscape by Dr. Johnson's Lab; Good Bug, Bad Bug by Dr. A. Dale's Lab; Roots of Resilience: Tree Health by Dr. Marguerite Beckford; Cultivating Curiosity: Gardening with Children by Tony Ashworth

Lodging: Please book directly with the hotel. Drury Inn & Suites, 4000 SW 40 Blvd. Gainesville, FL 32608.

Reserve online at www.druryhotels.com OR call 800-325-0720. Refer to Group #10163286 to receive rate of \$103 plus tax per night for Double Queen Suites or King Suites. Use code **UF-FFGC** for group rate until **MAY 6, 2026**.

Registration: Open February 1 and to the Public on April 1. Final Deadline is **May 8, 2026** (One application per registrant) **PLEASE PRINT**

Name _____ Phone _____ Email _____

Address _____ City _____ Zip _____

District _____ Garden Club _____ Dietary Restrictions _____

All Categories Include the Welcome Reception on May 31, bus travel, Monday & Tuesday lectures and lunches.

____\$115.00 FFGC Members (both days) ____\$60.00 FFGC Members 1 day ____Monday ____Tuesday

____\$130.00 FFGC Non-Members (both days) ____\$70.00 Non-Members 1 day ____Monday ____Tuesday

____\$ 50.00 Dinner and Design Program on Monday Evening ____ Tri-Refresher, payable now or at Registration

____ **GRAND TOTAL** Check # _____

National Garden Club Tri-Refresher (\$5.00 fee per school). Check all applicable if renewing:

Environmental ____ Gardening ____ Landscape ____ Unless refresher is at a master level, you can only refresh in one of the schools and only refresh once in a calendar year. (**To receive approval, Form 6 or 7, as applicable, must be filled out and sent to the applicable ES, GS, LS State Chairman. (FFGC website <https://gardenclub.org/school/schools-resources>)** **Do not send the forms directly to the Registrar.**

Make checks payable to: FFGC District V Short Course Mail your check **WITH REGISTRATION FORM** to:
Mona Rippe, 644 NE 10 Place, Gainesville, FL 32601. monarippe@gmail.com

Paying by credit card? Contact Mona Rippe at 901-340-0214. An additional fee (3%) will be applied.

Funded in part by Visit Gainesville, Alachua County





DISTRICT V PHOTOGRAPHY COMPETITION

District V will be hosting its fifth photography competition with the deadline for submitting photographs - March 31st. All winning photographs will be shown at the Spring District V Spring Meeting. During the meeting attendees will select the "Popular Choice Award" from the first-place winning photographs.

COMPETITION GUIDELINES:

1. Competition is open exclusively to District V members who are amateur photographers.
2. Photos will be accepted beginning March 1, 2026, through March 31, 2026.
3. There will be NO fees for photo entries.
4. Members are allowed to enter one photo in up to five categories.
5. All photos must be taken in Florida.
6. Photographs taken in enclosed exhibits or with people in them will not be accepted.
7. Members who won a 1st Place Award last year are not eligible to enter a photograph in the same category but may enter other categories.
8. Awards will be given as follows: First Place, Second Place, and Third Place. Honorable Mentions will be awarded when judges feel photographs merit it.
9. By entering the contest, photographers grant permission to District V to use their images online and in print for non-commercial purposes. The photographer retains all rights to their photos and may use them in any way they choose.

All entries must include the following information:

- Category
- Title of your photo and the location of where the photo was taken.
- Your name and garden club/circle
- Your email address and phone number
- Save your photo as follows: category, garden club, your last name

CATEGORIES INCLUDE:

1. Butterflies: caterpillars, chrysalis or butterfly
2. Birds: birds flying, in trees, birdbaths, bird houses, bird feeders, etc.
3. Flowers: (No still life photos)
4. Insects: bees, ants, dragonflies, bugs, beetles, etc.
5. Reptiles: lizards, snakes, turtles, alligators, etc.
6. Wildlife: deer, squirrels, bats, otters, opossum, foxes, etc. (No pets or livestock)
7. Garden Accents: solar lights, swirly whirly rotating spinning decorations, yard art, statutes, gnomes, steppingstones, fountains, ponds etc.

MONETARY AWARDS:

An award of \$25 will be given for photos in the following areas:

- "Best-in-Show Award" – judged by the judging panel
- "Most Unique & Creative Award" – has a WOW factor – judged by the judging panel
- "Popular Choice Award" – voted on by attendees at the Spring District V Meeting.

Photographs will be judged on: good composition, representative of category, color, print quality, creativity & uniqueness.

Note: District V Director Jo Lee Houlihan is looking for a chairman to oversee the photography contest. If you are interested, please send her a text message at 954 410-6454.

CALENDAR – GGC, FFGC, & NGC

March

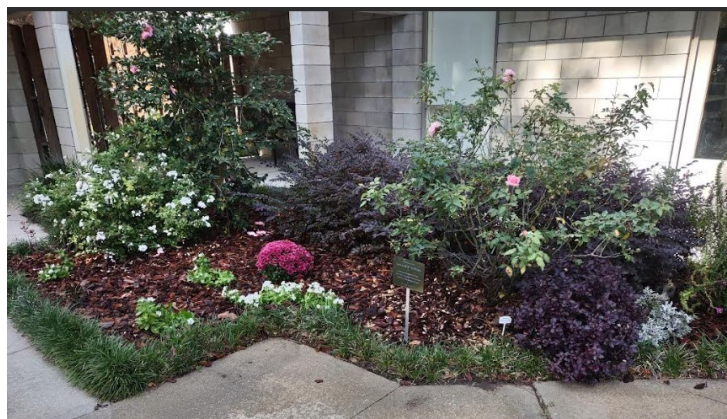
- 3 Grounds Workday – Down & Dirty
- 13 “Sip & Stroll” Evening Fundraiser
- 17 Fun with Flowers
- 19 Board of Directors
- 26 Circle Meetings

April

- 9 Board of Directors
- 14-17 FFGC Convention
- 21 Fun with Flowers
- 23 Circle Meetings
- 30 Grounds Workday – Down & Dirty

May

- 4-6 NGC Convention, St. Louis
- 7 General Meeting & Plant Swap
9:30 – 11:30 am. Speaker Rachel Mallinger, Ph.D. “Gardening for Native Bees of Florida”.
- 8 Mother’s Day Tour
- 13 District V Spring Meeting at the Citrus Garden Club
- 14 New Board of Directors
- 21 End of the year Circle Meetings
- 28 Mardi Gras Luncheon



Thanks to the Begonia Circle for planting flowers in the courtyard garden.

NATIONAL GARDEN CLUBS

From Penny Pines to Plant-A-Tree

As some of you may already be familiar with this program when it was called Penny Pines, the new name "**Plant-A-Tree**" better reflects the program's mission and will help us reach a wider audience.

Your garden club can participate by contributing to this meaningful conservation project. All contributions help the Forest Service to plant trees across the national forest system where reforestation is needed most—the places most impacted by wildfires, flooding, drought, and other forest disturbances.

GARDEN TRIVIA ANSWERS

- | | | |
|------------------------|--------------------|-------------|
| 1. C) marigold | 2. B) grasshoppers | 3. A) years |
| 4. C) all of the above | 5. C) deciduous | |

Newsletter Submissions

If you wish to submit Circle or member news, projects, programs, or photos for the Winter newsletter, please send them in by March 15th to searnold6348@gmail.com.

Thank you,

Sandra Arnold, Editor

GARDEN CLUB WEBSITES

Gainesville Garden Club
Websites: ggcfl.org



Florida Federation of Garden Clubs (FFGC)
Website: ffgc.org



Deep South Garden Clubs
dsgardenclubs.com



National Garden Clubs
Website: NGC.org

