

Gainesville Garden Club 1924-2024

Introduction (Excerpt from 1954 Newspaper article covering 1924-1954 with additions)

One of the largest women's organizations in Gainesville is the Gainesville Garden Club. It boasts a membership of 620 members and a long list of associate members. There are 20 circles, all named for flowers and all dedicated to civic, state and home beautifying. Gainesville's club is a member of the State Federation of Garden Clubs and takes an active part in its board meetings and flower shows.

Originating 29 years ago, the local club contains a varied and interesting history. It is naturally related to the growth of the city, and in some instances, actually perpetuated this growth. Its list of members through the years comprises many outstanding names that will live not only in the history of the Garden Club, but in the city and state records as well. Its annual flower shows have grown from a booth in the County Fair to one of the largest and most beautiful exhibitions held in the city.

September 11, 1924 The Gainesville Garden Club, as best we can tell, started with just six (or maybe eight) women at Mrs. E. L. Lord's home. Shortly after the Charter was drawn, the number had already increased to 18 members. Mrs. Lord was elected President. The club met every second and fourth Thursday of the month except in the summer when meetings were held once a month. Little is known about the early years.

Some of the charter members in addition to Mrs. Lord were: Mrs. N. W. Sanborn, Mrs. Z. T. Bashaw, Mrs. Annie Gunn, Mrs. R. K. Buckley, Mrs. Charles Voyles, Dr. Sarah Lucretia Robb, Mrs. Towns R. Leigh.

Early on they invited professors from UF to come and lecture giving the women the same access to college level learning that the men were getting. One of the original founders of the club was Dr. Sarah L. Robb who was the first female doctor in north central Florida with a college education and professional standing within the community. Many of the original members were simply known by their husband's accolades and their massive contributions to our state's early conservation movement and later, modern environmental movement would all be forgotten if it were not for the Garden Club records

There were no minutes of the first few years handed down, so the history is sketchy. However, as one charter member put it, "We were too busy talking and doing garden work to run a business-like club."

The Garden Club yearbook keeps before us the names of those members who are now listed "In Memoriam". They are Mrs. Annie Gunn, Mrs. G. T. Estabrook, Mrs. Margaret Swan Chandler, Dr. Sarah Lucretia Robb, Mrs. Ida M. Hardesty Heath, Mrs. F. H. Hayes, Mrs. Ida McDonald Thomas, Mrs. J. W. Walker, Mrs. F. A. Canova, Miss Nellie Tresevant, Mrs. G. C. Crom, Mrs. Ray Ogilvie, Mrs. W. S. Taylor, Mrs. E.H McIntire, Mrs. C. L Baird, Mrs. C. J. Hudson, and Mrs. T. M. Simpson.

There are a number of people, who because of outstanding work in cooperation with the Garden Club have been elected "Honorary Members". They are Mrs. Nellie H Doig, Mrs. J. R. Fowler, Mrs. H. Hume, Mr. C. E. Nelson, Miss Emma Robertson, Mrs. N. W. Sanborn, Mrs. E. S. Walker, Prof. John V. Watkins, Dr. H. S. Wolfe and Joseph M. Crevasse.

"Emeritus" members are Mrs. J. B. Goodson, Mrs. H. J. Babers Sr., Mrs. B. Bucholtz, Mrs. Estelle Harlan, Mrs. Fred Hull, Mrs. J. A Phifer, Mrs. R. K Buckley, and Mrs. Byrd C. Fryer.

1924 – In the Nov 24th issue of the Gainesville Daily Sun, it is reported that the meeting of the Gainesville Garden Club was postponed. This is the earliest mention of GGC in the local newspaper. This next article is in the February 15, 1925 issue which says 'GGC will honor the Jacksonville GC with "an elaborate luncheon to be given Tuesday, place to be announced later."

1925 -1926 – Mrs. E. L. Lord A flower exhibit representing a miniature home landscape won third prize of \$20 at the County Fair. In the Thursday, April 16, 1925, Gainesville Daily Sun, it is reported in the Society and Clubs Section that the GGC meeting will be at 3 pm at the home of Mrs. R. K. Buckley. May 14, 1925, the club is to meet at the "beautiful new home of Mrs. O. H. Thomas on DeSoto Ave...to discuss various matters of interest...". In a November 13, 1925 issue, it is reported that FFGC requested that GGC become an active unit in the state organization. Members voted not to join at that time, but to wait until further information was received concerning the "plans and ambitions" of the State organization.

1926 – 1927 – Mrs. Fred Heath (Ida). The first annual flower show was held April 1927 at the Episcopal Parrish House under the direction of Mrs. DeWitt Gillis, Mrs. E. L. Lord and Miss Etta Means. During the year, the group met at Paynes Prairie to set out plants along the causeway. The club was admitted to the State Federation of Garden Clubs in May. The Gainesville Daily Sun reports regular monthly meetings on Thursday at 3:30 pm at different members' homes and frequently there were articles following the meetings reporting topics, food and flowers displayed. President Mrs Heath passed away in May and her passing was mourned by all members. Through her efforts, the Club "experienced a remarkable growth and through her unflinching interest, she stimulated its members to greater efforts and accomplishments."

1927 – 1928 – Mrs. Rolf K. Buckley (Peggy) The Garden Club exhibit took first prize of \$30 at the County Fair. The second annual flower show was held with admission being free. There were now 30 members of the club. Flowers and shrubs were planted at the city gates on North Alabama Street (now 6th Street). In the September 1927 issue of the Daily Sun, members met at Mrs. N. W. Sanborn's home on Dixie Highway; members were requested to bring a guest, "Important work for the year will be planned and discussed...and the aid of each member is urged in carrying out the City beautification plan now under the supervision of the Club."

1928 - 1929 – Mrs. Edna McDonald Thomas Mrs. N. W. Sanborn broadcasted "Bird Conservation" on the radio. A Deodar Cedar tree was planted in the city park as a memorial to the late Dr. A. A. Murphree. Also living Christmas trees were planted at the new County hospital. Bird signs were placed at the City gates as Alachua County was a bird sanctuary. In March 1928, members were treated to a lecture with "beautifully illustrated by stereopticon views: by FFGC president Mrs. Arthur Garrish Cumber. The topic was not mentioned, but said she was an expert on said topic; perhaps it was her own beautiful garden which is regarded as one of the most picturesque in the state.

1929 – 1930 – Mrs. N. W. Sanborn with 31 members. The American Tree Association certified that the Gainesville Garden Club was now a member. Members planted the side of the Highway East on University Avenue to the Lake. GGC and FFGC supported bills passed by the State Legislature prohibiting Snipe signs on Highways. Later, a bill was passed regulating the size and set-back of road signs. Before these bills passed, some of members went personally to see landowners and pled for and obtained permission to remove unsightly road signs.

1930 – 1931 – Mrs. Z.T. Bashaw (Viola) was President with 30 members in two Circles with the addition of Oleander and Azalea. A flower show was held at the Twentieth Century Club (now the Women's Club). The club organized the flower show.

1931 - 1932 – The President was Mrs. B. V. Christensen and the club had 58 members and two circles, Founders and Azalea. Each Circle had their own hand-made and hand typed yearbooks and met separately in members homes.

1932-33 Mrs. M. M. Parrish The Gainesville Garden Club consisted of three circles, Founders, Oleander and Azalea. In 1932, GC put forth a concerted effort to make Gainesville "Green with Grass". To this end, permission was granted to enclose a "Plant Grass" request with the City light and water bills. Full instructions for planting and maintenance were included. Newspaper publicity further emphasized this project, and in the end the results were highly satisfactory. FFGC had 4 districts – Northern, Western, Central, and Southern and their headquarters was in Hollywood, FL.

The first handwritten minutes are in the GGC Archives for the October 27, 1932 meeting, though minutes were approved for the prior meeting.

1933 – 1934 - Mrs. M. M. Parrish (Mary, we always thought, but in the 1932 Yearbook the Presidents's message is signed Elma P. Parrish and her goal was to make Gainesville the Garden of Florida!) president. Five circles and 130 members. The annual flower show was at a market in the square next to Cole's Jewelry. The chairman was Mrs. Stella B. Fisher and members of the committee were Mrs. J. Speed Rogers, Mrs. H. H. Hume, Mrs. Grover Allison, Mrs. Bryant Walker, and Mrs. Fred Bryant. The FFGC Convention was held in Gainesville. Several local groups assisted. D. A. R. members sponsored a motorcade, the 20th Century Club opened its doors for a luncheon and business sessions, the Fine Arts Association loaned the pictures hung in the Club House for the occasion, and UF permitted the Garden Club to use the Student Union lounge for a special tea. The Chamber of Commerce contributed \$50 for the event. Following the Convention, it was voted to refund \$25 of this amount since after all bills were paid, there was still a balance of \$120 on hand.

1934 – 1935 – Mrs. Parrish was still president of the local club and she was also elected vice-president of the State Federation of Garden Clubs. Mrs. Fred Borland was elected secretary of that organization and Mrs. L. T. Neiland was chosen state chairman of conservation. The Garden Club held a benefit film at the Florida Theater. The film was "The Iron Duke" starring George Arliss. In October there was a Motorcade to Devil's Millhopper. In May at the end of the year, there was a Moonlight Musical at the Hotel Thomas Gardens. There were now six Circles – Founders, Oleander, Azalea, Lotus, Rose and Amaryllis- with 133 members.

A letter was written to all civic clubs about the throwing of paper cups, paper napkins, etc. on city streets; especially in front of ice-cream parlors and soda fountains. A letter was also written to George Cairns, City Manager, asking him to pass an ordinance governing lily-pools. It was suggested to Cairns that a fine or the closing of the pool permanently be the penalty for the failure to clean up a pool after due notice from the city. A plan for a Municipal Park was presented to the City Commission.

The first Short Course was held at UF and provided Garden Club members with the same college level professors and access to education that the men were getting, This how women found ways within their social constraints to wield influence in the fields of conservation and Horticulture. There is no mention of it in the 1934-35 GGC yearbook, so most likely this was an FFGC effort but heavily supported by GGC as is the case now.

1935 – 1936 – Mrs. C. A. Pound (Annie) was president of the club, with six Circles (Founders, Oleander, Azalea, Lotus, Rose and Amaryllis) with 165 members. Circle meetings started with a "Roll Call" on various topics and each members would gave a name on the topic: Examples:

Well-known Naturalist, By-laws, Beach plant, Favorite Tree, Garden Verse, etc. The yearbook included a list of books that were held in the Library which was located at that time in the "Model Bungalow at Cox Furniture." The following quotations were taken from an article in the Gainesville Sun called "Observations at a Flower Show": "Seen while strolling through, Mrs. J. Speed Rogers and Mrs. N. W. Sanborn asking all to register. Mrs. M. M. Parrish and Mrs. R. K. Buckley admiring a floral paradise. Mrs. E. G. Lancaster explaining the use of Florida Flower Maps. Mrs. Claude Lee, Mrs. Earl A. Taylor, and Mrs. Helen Phifer Glass arranging roses." Mrs. M.M. Parrish was president of the FFGC.

1936 – 1937 - Mrs. C. A. Pound. A Moonlight Musical was held at the Hotel Thomas Gardens. The yearbook states, "The Object of the Club shall be to Promote an Interest in Gardens, to Cooperate in the Protection of Wild Flowers, Trees and Birds and Encourage Public Planting and Beautification." The Club worked hard to have the City Commission adopt a City planting plan. 300 taxpayers joined with GGC by signing a petition for such a plan, but the request was not approved. The plan was approved the following year. The first camellia show was held on January 19, 1937, and was thought to be the first of its kind to be held in Florida. The yearbook included a list of books that were held in the Library which was located at that time in the "Model Bungalow at Cox Furniture."

1937 – 1938 – Mrs. L. T. Nieland (Adelaide), with 157 members in six circles. The publicity scrapbook won honorable mention in the State Federation press award. This "Publicity Scrapbook" contains early information on the club from newspaper articles in the Gainesville Daily Sun. Some of the articles were just how to grow things, but others listed meeting topics and locations and then articles about the speakers at the meetings. A ribbon was won by the club in the Hobby Show held by the Gainesville Business and Professional Women's Club. Seven gardens were toured. They were at the homes of Mrs. Miller Leake, Mrs. R.K. Buckley, Mrs. M.M. Parrish, Mrs. Fred Borland, Mrs. E. M. Emig, Mrs. Cecil Mathews, and the Horticultural Gardens at the University. After the tour, a social time was held at the UF Horticultural Gardens with light refreshments and music by a string quartette and an accordionist played a set of songs separately. A fundraising Tea and Bridge party was held at the Twentieth Century Club. The yearbook included a list of books that were held in the Library which was located at that time in the "Model Bungalow at Cox Furniture."

1938 – 1939 – There were still six circles with Mrs. D.T. Philyaw (Mary) president. The theme of the year "Make Gainesville a Tent of Coolness Spread with Carpets Soft and Green." With that slogan established, the women marched forward! This yearbook includes By-laws for the first time. New members had to have recommendations from two existing members and receive a unanimous vote of the Executive Board and the Circle. "Lack of Interest" could result in the Board forfeiting membership. An Advisory Board consisted of one representative from each

men's civic organization in Gainesville, the University of Florida, Dues were \$2 – GGC portion \$1.75 and FFGC 25cents. The Board of Alachua County Commissioners, the City Chamber of Commerce, the City Planning Board and the City Recreation Council and meetings could be called at the discretion of the GGC President.

1939 – 1940 – Mrs. Philyaw was again president. A lighted Christmas tree and doorway contest was held with some of the winners being Mrs. W. C. Thomas, Mrs. Fred Bryant, and Mrs. Cecil Gracey. The September General meeting included a luncheon celebrating the Fifteenth Anniversary and other meetings included bridge parties. Club members worked with other civic organizations to establish a Community Cultural Center. The President's message lists requirements of a standard Garden Club:

1. An active organization
2. One Flower Show yearly
3. One local pilgrimage yearly
4. Systematic course of garden study
5. Presentation of at least one authoritative speaker on garden subjects or flower arrangements.
6. Have some kind of garden project.

1940 – 1941 – Mrs. G Ballard Simmons (Evalyn). The Newsletter from the U. of F. was distributed to the members of the club. Junior Garden Clubs were established in elementary schools. Christmas wreaths were made for local buildings in the home of Mrs. L. T. Nieland. Mrs. M. M. Parrish was made custodian of Records and Fellowships in the State Federation. (A position which she held through 1957.) A provision was made that 10 cents per capita from FFGC dues be allotted to support a graduate fellowship in horticulture at UF; the local club along with many others in the state contributed to this worthy project. Our own sheriff, Mr. Joe Crevasse, was the first to receive this fellowship in 1940-41.

On Oct 25, 1940, approximately 100 members enjoyed the "delightful" anniversary (16 years) luncheon held at the Primrose Grill. The dining room was decorated with loquat branches, autumn leaves and fruit arranged by members of the Azalea Circle. President Mrs. Ballard Simmons "brought out the thought" that "It is not so much what I do in my garden which counts, but what my garden does for me." Dr. Harold Hume, UF Dean, talked about the impact of garden clubs throughout the state, developing home and public gardens, providing educational publications and events and sponsoring students through fellowships.

1941 – 1942 – Mrs. Simmons again elected president. Her message included the thought that "What you put into the Garden Club depends upon what you get out of it." Mrs. Walter Beisler reported that flowers had been kept in the U.S.O. all summer. The Club sold war bonds and

sponsored dances for servicemen. Mrs. C. A. Pound asked for Chrysanthemum plants for use at Camp Blanding. Membership was 165 still in 6 Circles with a maximum allowed number per Circle of 30 members.

1942 – 1943 – Mrs. E. W. Garris (Erma) Her slogan for the year was "Only our best is good enough." The garden club circles furnished flowers on a monthly basis for the "New USO Service Center". Most members had their own Victory Gardens and a Harvest Show was held to raise money to build an outdoor furnace for the center. The City Commission offered to donate 10 acres on South 9th Street for anyone desiring a victory garden.

Mrs. Townes R. Leigh made a gift of 18 "drug" trees to the U. of F. Pharmacy School's Medicinal Garden. Mrs. Balland Simmons was named District 3 Director and Mrs. L. T. Nieland, University Extension Chairman of the State Federation of Garden Club's Board.

1943 – 1945 - Mrs. Garris was still president. At year end, the club has six Circles with total membership of 175. In the Yearbook President's message, Mrs. Garris mourns the ravages of war in other parts of the world but is thankful that American soil was little affected. She also says that she was "drafted" to serve a third year as president but wishes the role had been taken by another. Some things never change! Her motto was "Let's garden and conserve." Dogwood Circle was established, making seven Circles in the club with 186 members.

Mrs. Balland Simmons again was named District 3 Director and Mrs. L. T. Nieland University Extension Chairman of the State Federation of Garden Club's Board. The theme of the year was "Defense". The Sears Foundation gave the Club a \$400 grant and members voted to use this money to landscape the new Hospital Annex.

In connection with Literature, the club donated the book, "The World is my Garden" to the Ship "The S.S. Gainesville Victory," launched during the summer of 1944 at Wilmington, California. Mrs. Balland Simmons was made Extension Chairman on the State Board. Mrs. M.M. Parrish established the permanent award named the "Elma Parrish Award" to go to Junior Garden Club members. The club library was presented as a gift to the public library from the Garden Club.

Mrs. E Harlan reported that an Audubon Society was to be established at each school. Mrs. Townes R. Leigh announced cooperation with the Inter-American Affairs at the University. Each Circle Christmas decorations at different locations in Gainesville: A.C.L Depot, Service Center, Bus Station, Garden Club Library, Library, Nurses Home, Hospital.

1945 – 1947 – Mrs. S. W. Getzen (Jo) The club filed a protest against action taken by the City Commission Monday night Sept. 23, at which time they voted to request the State Road Department to remove grass plots on E. University Ave. between Oak St and East Boulevard. Mrs. L. T. Nieland was elected chairman of FFGC Birds and Conservation.

The plants from the Thomas Memorial near the T. and J. Railroad were moved and planted on the hospital grounds. The State Federation of Garden Clubs sponsored a Forest Conservation Bill introduced in the State Legislature pertaining to fire prevention and reforestation.

Mrs. M. M. Parrish reported that the State Federation of Garden Clubs Student Fellowship has been named the "Harold Hume Horticulture Fellowship." Mr. Henry Swanson will be the first to study under the fellowship under the new name. In 1946, Daylily Circle was established, making eight Circles with 225 members.

1947 – 1948 – Mrs. Fred Borland (Norma Lee) The club began the year with eight Circles with membership of 368. In 1947, Magnolia Circle was established with 25 members and Mimosa Circle was also shortly after. Hibiscus and Violet Circles were also added though Violet changed their name to Chrysanthemum at year end.

The garden club made a request to the mayor-commissioner for a city planner (Appointed Oct. 30, 1947). A landscape clinic was held with Dr. H. S. Wolfe and Prof. John V. Watkins of the University and Mr. Joe Crevasse presiding. Mrs. Borland attended the "Keep Florida Green Conference" at the request of Gov. Millard Caldwell of Orlando. Donations were made to the "Seeds for Peace" movement. Mrs. B. C. Riley was appointed University Extension Chairman by the State board.

The Men's Garden Club, though not technically affiliated with GGC, was also active during this time. A joint meeting was held featuring home landscaping and gardening with Joe Crevasse being one of the speakers.

A Chrysanthemum Show was held at the Recreation Center and was open to the public. There were 30 varieties on display as well as stunning floral arrangements and decorations using different mums. Punch was served at a tea table covered with a Chinese "pins" cloth, with a centerpiece of "Golden Wedding" and yellow button chrysanthemums in a low crystal bowl, flanked by tall lighted tapers in crystal prism candelabra, created by Magnolia Circle. Other Circles did display tables and arrangements as well.

1948 – 1949 – Mrs. Borland was again president. The Pine Tree was adopted as the symbol of GGC and a lovely lanky longleaf pine was first used on the cover of the yearbook and continued to be the cover for many years. The local garden club helped organize a Garden Club of Newberry. For Arbor Day, the club donated 12 Live Oak trees (cost \$3.75 each) to the City to be planted on the Courthouse Square. A Program Award of \$25 was won for the "Tour of Kirkwood" and a Horticulture award of \$25 was won for growing Dutch iris by the Lotus Circle. The Geranium Circle was organized for business women. Other Circles were added

including Chrysanthemum and Gardenia, bringing the total number of Circles to 14 with 531 members.

1949 – 1950 – Mrs. G. G. Kirkwood (Ellen). “Rootings” were given to families living in Flavet III. The Club asked for permission to beautify an area at the intersection of 9th St. and the Archer Rd. The Recreation Center was decorated for Homecoming, and the District 3 meeting was held in Gainesville. The County Commission was asked for permission to make a park of the Tebeau School Property. The Christmas Nativity Scene was added to by the Men’s Garden Club. (Name unreadable) was selected as one of Gainesville’s outstanding women.

The Gainesville Garden Club went on record and voted unanimously to preserve the courthouse square as a city park. The 25th Anniversary tea and garden party was held at the home of Mrs. J. O’Neal Cox. Mrs. Fred Borland was appointed chairman of the garden club’s library and Short Course on the State board. Gladiolus, Gloriosa and Holly Circles were added bringing the total number to 17 Circles. Circle size was limited to 30 active members and most all Circles had that many members.

1950 – 1951 – Mrs. James W. Day (Bee). The club decided to cooperate with the Men’s Garden Club in creating the camellia garden to honor the late M. R. Roy Wilmot. “Flowers for Peace” was the theme of the flower show. Mrs. Roscoe McLane Sr. won the Sweepstakes. Mrs. H. S. Wolfe had 250 pine seedlings planted at the city schools on Labor Day. The General Meeting in November featured Church floral arrangements, and on different dates that month, Gainesville churches held open houses to exhibit the arrangements. The Short Course in June’s theme was “Planning and Planting for Home and Civic Beautification.” Many Circles visited Mrs. Taylor Bright’s Daylily Garden in Ocala. Mrs. Bright was a noted daylily breeder in the 40’s and 50’s and had a velvety red variety named after her. Former president Adelaide Nieland also had a named Persian lilac hybrid named after her. Looking through a catalog finds several other noted garden club members with varieties named after them.

A garden tour and plant exchange were held with Mrs. Richardson and Mr. McMullen co-chairmen. Daisy and Rose Circles were established, bringing the total to 19 Circles with close to 570 members. Dues increased to \$3 per year with thirty-five cents going to FFGC

1951 -1952 – Again Mrs Day. “Southern Charm” was the name of the flower show. Mrs. Oscar Thomas Jr. won the tri-color award. Mrs. Paul L. Hanna was appointed chairman of the book service and Mrs. Dallas E. Dickey chairman of the State and National Parks and Memorials by the District director. Begonia Circle established bringing the total number of Circles to 20. Circles met at different times of the day – morning, afternoon and evenings.

1952 – 1953 – Mrs. H. H. McDonald (Opal). An award of a green ribbon was given for the Camellia Show “Blossom Time” which was held at the Student Service Center on Feb 14, 1953. Mrs. Paul Tew won a yellow ribbon at the State Flower Show and the Gainesville Garden Club won a white ribbon with its “Forest Preserve” entry. Each Circle voted to contribute \$100 to the Garden Center Building Fund. A “Don’t Be A Litterbug” campaign was conducted. Honorary membership was bestowed on Mr. Joe Crevasse. A Negro Garden Club was originated and called “The Green Thumb”, though this was never included in the Yearbook. Mrs. Frank H. Lewis presented an award cup to the Florida Federation. Mrs. W. H. Beisler was named Chairman of Visiting Gardens on the State Board. Mrs. R. Fairing was made director of Dist. III.

1953 – 1955 – Mrs. George F. Baughman (Hazel). There were still 20 Circles. Through the efforts of the Garden Clubs, the Sabal Palm was designated as the State Tree. The flower show cooperated with the Chamber of Commerce and opened Gainesville’s Centennial with its Camellia Show. A large Garden Therapy Project was conducted at the Florida Farm Colony. The Perry House at UF was in consideration to be designated as the permanent home of Florida Federation of Garden Clubs as a State Garden Center. Won the FFGC Publicity Scrap book award. Circles produced a monthly radio program on WRUF. Short Course was shown in the yearbook for the first time, June 21-23, 1954, though it was supposedly first held in 1953.

1955-1956 – Mrs. W. H. Beisler (Georgia). “Joy in Gardening” was her theme. 20 Circles, 586 members. Balance in checking at year end was \$2,929 and \$3,964 in the Building Fund. The opening General Meeting of the year was held at the UF Student Center, with speaker Dr E. W. McElwee: Informal Landscaping for Small Homes.

1956-1957 - Mrs. Robert L Fairing (Beatrice). Still 20 Circles and dues were paid by 573 members. the Installation luncheon was held at the Gainesville Golf and Country Club. Circle programs included (just a few among many) Personal Enjoyment of Beauty through Civic Planning, The Florida Water Table, Tour of Wilmot Memorial and Greenhouses, Compost Piles, Protecting Our Highways, Prize Winning Broadcasts, What an Artist sees in Flower Arrangements, Gift Wraps using Flowers and Live Materials.

1957-58 – Mrs. B. C. Riley (Ruth). 20 Circles with 587 members. Hwy 441 planted by donations and efforts of GGC with palms, daylilies, pyracantha and other shrubs, all which speak to the public of the interest of our club in beautifying Gainesville. For this work, GGC won the Alice Rush McKeun Bronze plaque. Also planted pyracantha and Japonica Sylvestris on the east boundary of Waldo Road.

Special Note: Marjorie Harris Carr joined the Garden Club in 1957 and sat on the Board of Directors from 1958 until 1962. Her first major project with the Garden Club was successfully fighting for the preservation of Paynes Prairie and restoring the landscape. This fight, which

started in the late 1950s wasn't completed until Paynes Prairie Park was created in 1970. Carr (who also co-founded the Alachua Audubon Society) with the Garden Club used these both as powerful Statewide and National nationally recognized groups to give herself political standing. It was through her connection at The Garden Club that Carr learned about the US Army Corps of Engineers plan to construct the Cross State Barge Canal, a section of the Ocklawaha River, a conservation project that would define her career and earn her, a Teddy Roosevelt Conservation Award and induction into the Florida Wildlife Federation conservation Hall of Fame. The Gainesville Garden Club was the first organization in the state to stand with her against the proposed barge canal. Construction was finally stopped in 1971 and while there is still lots of work to be done to undo the damage of the remaining Dam, instead of having the Florida cross state our Canal, we have the Marjorie Harris Carr Cross Florida Greenway.

Jasmine Circle began in 1957 and disbanded for a time but was re-established by Millie Evans in 1997 as an evening meeting group. This Circle became the largest of all Circles, with close to 90 members at one time. In 1958, the Circle met in the evenings and opened each meeting with a "Short Talk on Conservation."

1958-59 - Mrs. B. C. Riley. 21 Circles (Jasmine Circle added) with 628 members. Per her President's Message in the Yearbook, the main focus for this year was Conservation due to the rapid growth and many changes taking place in the state. Under Birds chairman Mrs. Archie Carr worked with DOT to establish

roadside turnouts at either end of Paynes Prairie for better observation of bird life – a "first" for GGC. The idea, developed by the roadside development, the birds and conservation committees, was enthusiastically endorsed by the State Road Dept, the Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission, the Florida Audubon Society and the Florida State Museum. The State Road Department made the two turn-out areas on Hwy 441 South and dredged for ponds nearby. Birds flocking to these ponds will give passing tourists a chance to enjoy them "in the wild", a rare opportunity for most people. Circle programs included (to name only a few) Birds of Paynes Prairie, Mrs. Archie Carr, "Flowers of Hawaii, Dr. Thomas Sheehan, Fashion your Spring Bonnet workshop, "Growing and Propagating Amaryllis, Mrs. W. Harling, "Gardens of the Bible, Dr. Harvey Meyer, Corsage Workshop, Swimming and Supper Party, Obligations and Rewards of Garden Club Work, Mrs. Neiland.

1959-1961 - Mrs. Flake A. Parker (Tina). Her theme was "Know, Grow and Show". The Spring flower show was held at Hotel Thomas - "From Far and Near". "Off with A Buzz" was the initial meeting of the club with a "buzz" session for each standing committee outlining the year's work. A Garden Club radio program on WRUF was hosted by a different circle each month. In

1959 there were 21 Circles with 636 members. In 1960, there were 22 Circles, adding Carnation Circle. In 1959, dues were raised to \$4 per member with \$1 going to FFGC. In 1960, Carnation Circle was added bringing the total # of Circles to 21. Total funds held in all accounts was \$6,594, the largest of which was the Building Fund at \$4,654.

1961-1963 – Mrs Hugh C. Simmons (Hazel) Hazel Simmons was a GGC/Begonia Circle member starting in 1950. It was during her term as GGC president that long range plans for financing a new Garden Center were established. She held many positions in FFGC including Short Course Chairman, High School Gardener Chairman, President of the Flower Show Judges, Finance Chairman of Camp Wekiva and FFGC Assistant Treasurer. In 1962 her theme was to "Apply, Build and Conserve Beauty!" due to the rapid growth in the City. Carnation Circle was added – 22 Circles.

In 1962, there was a very active Junior Gardening Program, sponsored by various Circles at all Gainesville schools. There was a program each month – sometimes as a talk and sometimes as displays or an activity.

GGC was incorporated on December 3, 1962. The first officers, Hazel Simmons, Betty Hudson and Inez Brooker are listed.

1963-1965 Mrs. Joseph T. Hudson, Jr. (Betty) Her theme was "Beautification through Gardening". There were now 23 Circles with the addition of the Palm Circle. The General Meeting In April was "Florida's Wealth in Wildness" co-sponsored with Alachua County Audubon Society. It included a bus tour along the Trail of William Bartram. There were Garden Tours of member's homes in January (including Wilmot Gardens), February, and May. There was an active Gainesville High School Gardener's group which met each month at the school in the Home Economics room; programs were taught by different Circles each month. The project of the year for GHS was the landscaping of the Patio and 'Barbecue' areas. In 1964, the Building Fund balance had grown to \$19,118. Sept 11, 1964 was the Ruby Anniversary celebrating 50 years for the Club, but there is nothing in the yearbook except in the President's letter mentioning it. There was a General Meeting on Sept 24th with the topic "Foundation of Garden Club Work".

Special Note: In 1963, the State of Florida initiated a Wildflower Program for the state's rights-of-way. One story says the members of GGC placed phlox seed, soil and fertilizer into gelatinous balls and tossed them out their car windows as they traveled the area. In 1973, Lady Bird Johnson initiated a national wildflower program for highways, but Florida's program was well established by that time.

1965-1967 Mrs. John M. McCown Jr. (E.J. is how she signs her President's Message but we have Marilyn) Continuing events for GGC were the Christmas tour of homes, Flower Show and Flower Show school, an active Junior Gardener program, a GGC Library and the General meeting in May was held at the Gainesville Golf and Country Club. 20 Circles with Palm disbanding, and Gardenia out too – we know they came back.

In this time frame, FFGC president Van Blanchard designed the Bartram Trail Markers which have been placed all over the State and Deep South to indicate places William Bartram visited. There are 70 markers in total and 25 in Florida. The GGC budget included a Paynes Prairie Project for \$205.30.

SPECIAL NOTE: Information up to this point was primarily written by then GGC Historian, Mrs. Rush E. Choate. Additional information was inserted as found by reviewing yearbooks and back editions of the Gainesville Sun by current Historian, Linda Schoellhorn

1967-1969 – Mrs. James D. Gammage (Flossie). 475 members with 20 Circles. Ground breaking ceremonies were held on, April 25, for the new Garden Center and the club president from 1927, Mrs. Rolf K. Buckley and Flossie Gammage, current president, turned over a spade of dirt, as the symbol of the realization of a 40-year old dream. Acreage was donated to GGC by Dr. and Mrs. Lamar Roberts. Mrs. Roberts was a member of Azalea Circle. The Architect for the building was James D. McGinley AIA, the builder was Paul G. McKinley, contractor and the landscape consultant was Tom Feiber.

HANDS was a grant from Sears, Roebuck & Co. GGC received a total of \$600 which provided seed money for various projects. Part was used to develop a Garden of the Blind at Haisley-Lynch Memorial Park in downtown Gainesville; plantings featured pleasant fragrance and texture, water fountains, benches, a guide rail and braille markers with plant ID information.

1969-1971 – Mrs. W. W. Hampton (Dot), 18 Circles with 525 members. Activities from the year's calendar included "Festive Tables" at Gainesville High School, the Holiday Homes Tour, and the State Flower Show at the UF Reitz Union which won the National Award for best State flower show. There was a garden therapy project at Sidney Lanier school for the exceptional children's wing; a garden for the blind was established in the Haisley Lynch Memorial Park; a wildflower garden was established in Hatchett Creek Park and 147 trees were donated to the University of Florida. Litter was cleaned from the Millhopper Junior Nature camp assisted by members. Monthly exhibits were placed in the Library and Alachua General Hospital as well as Sunland Training Center. The Blanche Covington Nature Study Course continued at a state park.

April 18-25, 1970 – Mayor Perry McGriff proclaimed City beautification week. Civic club workdays were held to promote cleaner Gainesville and supplies and funds were solicited from local businesses. GGC worked with the Gainesville Sun to sell 15,000 azaleas at cost to the public. The Pine Grove cemetery cleanup was a continuing project maintained by “both black and white” people. GGC members were in charge of 85 boy and girl scouts who picked up litter and cleaned up Devil’s Millhopper. A picnic and movie were held after the cleanup.

Yard of the Week – each week during the three summer months, GGC members judged three low-rent housing projects for the best maintained yard of the week. The prize was a dogwood tree or azalea donated from the City of Gainesville nursery.

GGC was recognized by the Gainesville Sun as the Club of the Year and the City presented GGC with a certificate of appreciation for outstanding public service rendered to the citizens of Gainesville.

1971-1972 - Mrs. Fred T. Laughton Jr. (Helen) “A Dream Come True” – **The Gainesville Garden Club, Inc. dedicates the new Garden Center.** There are 4,106 square feet of Floor space in the Center. Cost: \$63,330.

1971 – The first newsletter, “The Seedling”, Editor: Mrs. I.R. Raye (Gladiolus Circle). GGC promotes garden therapy for the Opportunity Center, a “retardees” center, by providing tools and training for boys. Christmas Tour of homes continued using Luminaries to light pathways. A live nativity scene with music was also staged at Duck Pond as part if the tour and a holiday bazaar was held in the garage of one of the homes. A holiday flower show, chaired by Inez Brooker was held – “A Time to be Merry”. The yearbook from that time includes library hours and also a list of the books in the library (currently the Garden Room). Plant distributions open to the public were held monthly. General Meeting topics included “Home and Neighborhood Development” by a Sears & Robuck representative, “Gardening is Therapy for Everyone” which was free and open to everyone. There were also four Corsage workshops featuring frames, dried materials, Christmas themes and chrysanthemums. Continuing projects were the Holiday Home Tour, Plant distributions, Flower Show and Landscape design schools, Flower Show, a Membership Tea, General Meetings open to the public: “Horticulture - Conservation in Our Gainesville” by Tom Feiber, co-owner of Garden Gate Nursery, “Gardening is Therapy for Everyone”. Monthly corsage workshops

1972-1974 – Mrs. Rush E. Choate (Barbara)- 1972 – First Board of Trustees, chairman Mrs. H. H. McDonald (Amaryllis Circle). Approved construction of patio on north side of building.

1973 – GGC was granted tax exemption status. Gardenia Circle with 21 members was re-formed with Chairman Mrs. Stanley Bates (Dixie), making 19 Circles with 527 members.

1974-1975 – Mrs. Karl the Losen (Kay) The firm Black, Crow and Eidsness completed the new access road (69th Terrace – 71st Street) and covered the entire cost. A gate to the Garden Center was installed on the south end of the parking area. The Golden Anniversary was celebrated by the Club starting with a reception held in conjunction with the Women's Club and the DAR to honor Mrs. Lawton Chiles. A fundraising Gala was held at the Women's Club which was transformed into a turn of the century park setting. Tickets were \$15.

Two flower shows were held and two Flower Show schools were also held. Corsage workshops and plant exchanges were held each month and a new civic award was created where any circle could nominate a person "who has added to the pleasure of the community by a beautifully kept yard or garden, visible to the street." The annual Christmas Tour was held with a profit of \$1,880.45. An open workshop entitled "Fun with Terrariums" was held. The Spring Pilgrimage, an historic tour of downtown Gainesville homes, was held for the first time. Each Circle provided floral arrangements for the homes.

Conservation efforts chaired by Mrs. Philpott collected 45,345 pounds of paper, 1,133 pounds of glass and 44 pounds of aluminum.

1975-1977 – Mrs. Earl J. Killgore (Winnifred) 1976 – GGC started Fun with Flowers. The Dianthus Circle was a runner-up for the FFGC Best Programs Award. Continuing activities included a Flower Show held in the Gainesville Mall "Apply, Build, and Conserve for a Beautiful Community", Flower Show and Landscape Design schools, donation of \$1.253 to the City for Community Plaza plants, a benefit dessert bridge event with proceeds going to the Community Plaza, Christmas Bazaar, the Christmas Tour of homes – "Christmas in Kenwood", the Shands Hospital Flower Project (flowers are given to patients), the Duck Pond Spring Pilgrimage, a youth gardening education project called "Project Flower Bud", and collecting aluminum, glass and paper for recycling.

1977-1978 – Mrs. Marvin Brooker (Inez) The Short Course theme was "Floral Fantasy" and was held at UF Reitz Union. The cost was \$15 for the three-day course; renowned floral designer Bob Thomas was a featured speaker. The April Flower Show was "Let's Appreciate" and was chaired by Inez Brooker and held in the Gainesville Mall. Tickets to the Christmas Tour of homes were \$1.50. Trustees approved an additional rental charge of \$10 for wedding rehearsals held the day before the big event. Items from the Trustees include bookshelves for the library, a piano cover, rack for kitchen tables, a timer for the fountain system, and a curtain for the stage. Gladiolas Circle held a Luncheon Card party for \$3. The Fall District V meeting was held at GGC – cost \$4.50, served by Dianthus Circle – "everyone knows what good cooks they are!" Ikenobo-Ikebana and Corsage classes were held. Rentals Chair reported the difficulty in collecting rice thrown at weddings and a motion was passed to recommend millet or bird

seed be used and a fee of \$25 if rice was used. All Circles donated plants for free plant give aways to the public. Mrs. Brooker held a Christmas wreath workshop at the Garden Center and the General Meeting in January was on Camellia Care and floral designs were made featuring camellias. Collection of paper and aluminum continued to meet conservation efforts. Dr. Don Goodman requested that GGC consider participating in the development of the Botanical garden, though due to legal issues, GGC declined until the Charter was approved to allow such partnerships.. Trustees voted, among other things, that a pencil sharpener be placed in the kitchen.

1978-1980 – Mrs. Robert Short (Emma) June 19, 1980 – Property for the parking area was purchased – 2.25 acres; cost \$24,000 in cash. In 1979, the Short Course was held at the Reitz Student Union at UF. Topic on one of the days was “Florida’s Flora on Bartram’s Historic Trail”. In March, a flower show titled “Home and Garden Show” was held at GGC.

1980-1982 – Mrs. Henry C. Lunsford (Frances) There were 574 members. GGC worked with the City to build the wrought iron fence and gated entrance to Evergreen Cemetery and planted flowering trees.

1982-1984 – Mrs. Gustav Harrer (Lib) GGC completed construction of Kanapaha Garden’s first gazebo. Mrs. Hugh Simmons (Hazel), Begonia Circle, elected president of FFGC, 1983-1985. There were 571 members.

Sept 30, 1984 - GGC Celebrates 60 years with an open house and flower show. GGC had a membership of 605 active members (with 20 Circles), 10 honorary members, 15 Emeritus members, 36 associate members, 11 master judges, 2 life judges, 2 Emeritus judges, 5 Florida Landscape Critics, 9 Provisional Florida Landscape Critics, 1 Student Florida Landscape Critic and 2 Gardening Consultants.

1984-85 - Mrs. R. S. Mullin (Catherine) Completed 14 civic projects in the city, including landscaping the Airport entrance, establishing a Butterfly garden at Kanapaha Botanical Gardens, landscaping at the Thomas Center Gardens, Alice House, and Hannah’s Adult Congregate Living Facility; Youth Gardening in 9 areas schools; a GGC members chairs the 1985 Spring Pilgrimage; donated \$500 to Girls Club of Alachua County. There were 605 members.

1985-86 – Mrs. H. V. Weems, Jr, (Camilla) Christmas Tour of Homes was top project. “Adopt a Spot” projects continued at the Airport Atrium and grounds and in downtown Gainesville at the Tower Clock historical site, in cooperation with the City of Gainesville. There were 619 members with 20 Circles.

1986-87 - Mrs. H. V. Weems, Jr, Christmas Tour of homes, landscaping at the Ronald McDonald House, Hope Lodge, the new Girls Club of Alachua County and Gainesville Airport. Plant

distribution for Woodland Park with 100's of young trees and shrubs, bushels of bulbs and fertilizer to fill two pickup trucks, a van and a station wagon, plus money donations; a \$500 scholarship to a UF student.

1987-89 – Mrs. J. Paul Junkin (Lorene) 564 members. A "Burning the Mortgage" celebration was held at the Garden Center. Lorene Junkin and Clubhouse Chair, Flossie Gamage burned the mortgage! Landscaping at Girls Club of Alachua County (over \$2,000 spent); Fashion Show hosted at Girls Club with \$2,400 donated; decorated homes for Spring Pilgrimage, contributed money and labor to Thomas Center Grounds; over 800 youths enrolled in Youth Gardener program.

Continued landscaping and support of Ronald McDonald House, Hope Lodge, Gainesville Regional Airport, Kanapaha Botanical Gardens, Thomas Center Gardens, Girls Club and Acorn (the newest project). A Fashion Show brought \$2,000 to the Girls Club in addition to landscaping. Youth Gardeners planted 17 trees donated by the Club, one each in a school. New Butterfly Garden started at the Garden Center; Christmas Tour of Homes and two Standard Flower Shows. Received Award for Garden Club of the Year from FFGC.

1989-90 - Mrs. H. V. Weems, Jr. (Camilla) 585 members. Christmas Tour, Standard Flower Show and continued projects from year before.

1990-91 – Mrs. Anthony F. Randazzo (Lynne) Continued projects Ronald McDonald House, Hope Lodge, Spring Pilgrimage, Spring Garden Festival, Girls Club (Fashion Show), Youth Gardeners, Christmas Tour of Homes. New project – landscaping Ring Park. Presented Earth Day Proclamation by Gainesville City Commission. Butterfly Garden (in the parking area) at GGC dedicated December 10, 1990, and was declared one of 20 Butterfly Sanctuaries in the State.

1991-92 – Mrs. Anthony F. Randazzo 530 members. Christmas Tour of Homes, Standard Flower Show – "The Saga of Paynes Prairie", Spring Garden Festival, Fashion Show for Girls Club; homes decorated for Spring Pilgrimage; donations to Camp Wekiva; recycling of aluminum, glass, plastic and paper. China dishes for GGC kitchen bought by Amaryllis Circle. GGC won the FFGC Garden Club of the Year award.

1992-1994 – Mrs. James C. Parker (Jean) Christmas Tour of Homes, floral arrangements for Spring Pilgrimage, youth activities at Spring Garden Festival at Kanapaha Botanical Gardens, Garden Therapy program for State Prison, Ronald McDonald House, Hope Lodge, landscaping at Devil's Millhopper State Park, the Veterans Memorial at Kanapaha Park, Babers Park, Habitat for Humanity homes and North Florida Special Care Center. Scholarships to Camp Wekiva and a \$500 scholarship to a UF student. Donations to St. Francis House, Joyce House and to World

Gardening. A \$3,000 donation was given to the Kiwanis Playland Park for landscaping. China dishes purchased for the GGC kitchen by Camellia Circle. GGC again won FFGC award for "Garden Club of the Year".

1994-1995 – Mrs. Howard S. Coleman (Marion) 539 Members. Holiday Tour of Homes and Bazaar (formerly called Christmas Tour); Spring Pilgrimage, youth activities at Spring Garden Festival; Standard Flower Show; Garden Therapy for State Prison; Flower Show School – Course IV- 3 day course led by Inez Brooker and Leona Venettozzi (well known daylily breeder; also mother of Tina Tuttle – FFGC president and her sister Gina Jogan – FFGC treasurer); Babers Park; Landscaping at Devils Millhopper Park, the Veteran's Memorial, Habitat for Humanity homes and North Florida Special Care Center. Scholarships to Camp Wekiva and a \$500 scholarship to a UF student. Plant distributions for the public, Butterfly and Bird sanctuaries at GGC. There are 18 Circles in the club with membership of 539. 1,100 youths enrolled in Youth Gardener Program.

1996-1998 - Claudia Bates. Circles made quilts to fund Altrusa House and their other continuing projects. Floral Design classes were held and Bob Thomas, a world-famous floral designer taught classes at UF/FFGC Short Course. 230 Crape myrtles were planted along NW 16th Avenue. Fun with Flowers was started by Claudia Bates and another FFGC member, Jan Sillik. Mimosa Circle celebrated their 50-year anniversary. 17 Circles with 520 members.

1998-2000 - Barbara Agee. 527 Members. GGC celebrates its 75th Anniversary, a Diamond Jubilee, with a Tea. Founders Circle donated a quilt to GGC on October 28th that lists each circle and the flowers that represent them. Mimosa Circle donated the Memorial Tree of Life with leaves to be engraved with names of deceased members and honored associates.

2000 -2002 – Marjorie Turner. 451 members, 19 Circles. Claudia Bates was District V Director. Three members were named to the FFGC Hall of Fame for their outstanding service: Flossie Gammage, Lib Harrer and Emma Short.

2002-2003 – Marion Sproul 465 Members. Decorative Tiles were installed in the courtyard area. The tiles were designed and created by Linda Holbrook of Wildflowers Circle. GGC erected a new sign at the Club's north entrance and closed the gated southern entrance permanently.

2004-2006 – Nina Ring 413 members. GGC held a Silverware Shower asking members to buy place settings for \$1.99 in the Bentley pattern, using coupons from Publix. GGC held A-Z Treasure Marts, "A Fall festival with arts, crafts, plants, collectables for sale, flower arranging

demonstrations, Bingo, food and treasures to delight all!" The cost was \$35 for a 10X10 space. Profit 2005 - \$588 and 2006 - \$530. In 2006 there were 14 Circles with 413 members.

2005-2007 –Eva Ault 367 members, 15 Circles. Her son Bryan designed and installed the first GGC website. A Blue Star Marker was dedicated April 14, 2004, at the Malcom Randall VA Medical Center. March 2007, Ellen Shapiro, Jasmine Circle chairman, was nominated for the Gainesville Sun's Annual Community Service Award.

2007-2009 - Andrea Little– 12 Circles, 355 members. Jasmine held Secret Garden Tour; GGC held an Oktoberfest at Kanida Nursery with Rick Schoellhorn of Proven Winners as the speaker; lunch and demonstrations were included in the \$15 price. GGC paid \$6,220 for a Gazebo at Kanapaha Botanical Gardens. Gourds were used to make bird houses and were then painted and decorated – taught by Claudia Bates. Inez Brooker led a flower waxing demonstration.

2009-2011 – Jeanice Gage 286 members, 11 Circles. GGC published a cookbook as a fundraiser with recipes from members. A standard Flower Show was held at Dudley Farms and included historical exhibits. With Inez Brooker as District V director, a Blue Star Marker was installed at the I-75 rest stop at exit 382 (no longer exists). A "Green Thumbs" event was held on Bluebirds, after which GGC placed three bluebird houses on GGC grounds (two remain). A new butterfly garden was designed by Ellen Shapiro and opened May 2010 in its present location – prior to that it was at the far end of the parking lot in a shaded area. At end of the year, Azalea, Founders and Lotus Circles closed or left GGC, leaving 8 circles and 198 members.

2010 – Laura Carmichael building addition - Using a large financial gift donated by member Laura Carmichael, the addition was completed and dedicated on October 24, 2010; among the guests was James McKinley, a noted mid-century modern architect who designed both buildings. The new building is approximately 1275 square feet and has a small kitchen and two accessible restrooms opening to the outside courtyard. The garden at Haven Hospice is named Laura's Garden after our own GGC benefactor, Laura Carmichael. The kitchen in the main building was also renovated with new cabinets and appliances.

2011-2013 – Florence Cline, (she loved Ladybugs, so many events focused on using that for motif) – GGC won the "Outstanding Group" award from the City Beautification Board. Members traveled to Epcot to view FFGC weekend and floral displays. "Mayhem and Murder"

was a fun program held during the year, with members from all Circles being the characters. Steppingstones for the butterfly garden were made and donated by Wildflowers Circle. The year ended with 6 Circles and 210 members. Forget-Me-Not and Daylily Circles gone.

2013-2015 – Peggy Billings – GGC held “First and Second Annual Garage Sales” (and last); Wildflowers taught a steppingstones workshop; “The Yearling”, a standard flower show was held at The Villages with Four Seasons Garden Club. GGC Celebrated their 90-year anniversary with guests from FFGC. Membership 187 – same 6 circles (Begonia, Daisy, Gardenia, Mimosa, Jasmine and Wildflowers). GGC won the City Beautification award for Outstanding Group.

2015-2017 – Sandra Arnold – Jasmine & Mimosa Circles landscaped Women’s Build Habitat for Humanity Home and provided lunches on Saturdays. GGC held several field trips - Rose Petals Nursery and Dudley Farms, Cedar Lakes Woods & Gardens. A Wedding Expo was held. Anna Prizzia of Forage Farms presented a horticulture program. Gardenia Circle held fundraising program – “Sisterhood of the Traveling Plants”. Jasmine Circle held a combined meeting on Florida Springs with Debra Segal as speaker. Wildflowers hosted a Steppingstones Workshop. GGC participated in Ronald McDonald House Gingerbread Fundraiser by selling wreaths and using proceeds to landscape entry to Ronald McDonald House. Circles provided crafts for kids at the Kanapaha Gardens Spring Festival. A Small Standard Flower Show held March 2016- “Bamboozled!” and was held at the Kanapaha Garden Spring Garden Festival. Membership 180 with 5 circles, Daisy Circle disbanded.

2017-2019 – Fran Maris, President & Claudia Bates FFGC President. Dedicated a Blue Star Marker at Kanapaha Veterans Park and a Gold Star Marker at the VA Hospital. (For putting the marker in place, Fran worked with two vets. They picked up the marker at UPS and with Randy Maris's help, got it to Kanapaha: the guys dug a hole, put the marker in and poured bags of cement to set it! They did it all themselves!) GGC partnered with the City of Gainesville for an Arbor day program and tree give-away at the newly renovated historic Cotton Club. The First Aged to Perfection wine social and Open House was held in September. Continued Women Build Habitat home landscaping, Ronald McDonald House entry landscaping as Gingerbread fundraiser, Haven Hospice Attic (Gardenia), Sidney Lanier School (Jasmine). Did planting at the UF Veterinary Hospital – Pet sitting Hospital. Assisted teachers at Kanapaha Middle School Gardens. Field trip taken to Red, White & Blues farm for blueberry picking. Held Green Thumbs workshop – Garden to Table: In the Kitchen with Herbs. Combined Circle programs held – Composting and Recycling (Mimosa & Begonia), Therapeutic Horticulture (Gardenia), Birds and How to Attract them to your Yard (Begonia & Mimosa), Residential Composting & Recycling

(Gardenia), Amaryllis Bulb presentation & sale. Field trip hosted by Cottage Gardens – Four Seasons of the Florida Garden. “Junk in the Trunk” garage sale held. Continued maintenance of adopted roadside along 13th Street. Did cleanup and landscaping of the Matheson Museum Library (converted from an old restaurant – the Melting Pot). Participated in the UF Homecoming parade driving member David Willkomm’s Model T Ford. Membership 228 and back to 6 circles with Daisy re-established.

2019-2022 – Linda Schoellhorn – Kicked off 95th year with Aged to Perfection, welcoming old and new members. Proceeds of \$3,500 were donated to the Wilmot Gardens Therapeutic Horticulture Program. New IFAS extension agent Taylor Clem presented “Solutions at your Fingertips”. The Garden Party and Fashion Show featured Haven Hospice Attic models and fashions with items for sale; \$1,200 in proceeds was donated to Haven Hospice. The new Storage Room addition was completed and the roof over the kitchen and old storage room was replaced. December 2020, COVID shuts down all activities. BOD meetings were held via ZOOM and as many events as possible held outdoors. Members, led by Jean Fouraker, designed a new Celebration Garden outside the Laura Carmichael Building, working outdoors; it was dedicated Nov, 2021 in memory of Suzanne Frye. GGC adopted two Roadside Medians for wildflower plantings. Boutique d’Junque online sale was held and earned \$2,000. The first “Grow Your Own Garden” was held featuring Cutting Garden plants with Jon George and was held under the trees in the parking area. GGC won the FFGC Garden Club of the Year award for being so active during the COVID year. GGC President Linda drove with FFGC President Marjorie Hendon in the UF Homecoming Parade. Membership 192 with 6 circles.

2022-2025 – Jo Lee Winterowd Houlihan – Centennial Years celebrations! A new website was introduced with many new functions providing information, allowing ticket purchases, member signups and more. The new website also won an FFGC award. A Capital Campaign was held to support major expenses to maintain our campus, support our community projects and provide educational opportunities to members and the community. September 2022, Aged to Perfection was held. In October the General Meeting featured Dr Jack Davis, author of the Bald Eagle. In November, GGC hosted the Rare Plant Society sale with food trucks and a plant sale. February 2023, GGC held a fundraising lunch (Blossom, Brew & BBQ) at Cypress & Grove Brewery with invited vendors and BBQ from Loosey’s. Claudia Bates taught the Floral Design series 1-6 and 7-9. Fun with Flowers continued as a popular series.

2023-2024 activities: The District V Fall meeting was held at GGC with a Spooktacular Halloween Brunch. Aged to Perfection was held and featured prominent local artist Nick DeCarlis and his Jazz band with a mid-century modern theme. Funds raised from this event were designated for a new Bartram Trail Marker at Paynes Prairie. A Garden Tour was held on

Nov 11th honoring Veterans and the funds raised were used to restore a Blue Star marker on Archer Road. In February, the 2nd Blossom, Brew and BBQ was held at First Magnitude Brewery with Loosey's again providing the BBQ; vendors sold plants and craft items.

February 24, 2024 – GGC Gardener's Golden Gala was held celebrating our 100 years. FFGC officers were in attendance and past and current GGC presidents were featured. Music was provided by a Jazz singer and members dressed to portray the speakeasy theme. Specialty cocktails and appetizers were served. The buildings and grounds were done up in fabulous decorations and there were dancers who showed us how it was done in the 1920's.

In March, GGC hosted the Children's Corner for the last time at Kanapaha Botanical Gardens. In April, a Grow Your Own Songbird Garden event was held under the trees in the parking area. Former members Ellen and Alan Shapiro were the speakers. WUFT filmed GGC in a their "Greater Good" programs showcasing all that we do in our community. You can still watch this on the WUFT website. An Arbor Day Celebration was held – "100 trees for 100 years"; Peggy McDonald, author of a biography of Marjorie Harris Carr, was the speaker.

2024-2025 – 100 years! The Centennial Birthday Celebration luncheon was held September 12, 2024 with speaker, Erica Mollon, a historical Preservation Planner, who talked about GGC's history and its impact on Gainesville over 100 years.

October 18-19, 2025, GGC and the Master Gardener Volunteers held the Fall Horticultural Expo at the Equestrian Center in Newberry. Doug Tallamy, author of several books promoting native plants was the speaker. Attendance of over 1,700 guests exceeded expectations, and all felt it was an exceptional family friendly community event. In December, a Holiday Market was held featuring local artists and crafters, as well as Santa for the kids. In February, Blossom, Brew and BBQ was held at First Magnitude Brewery; plant vendors were invited. In March, the Garden Party and Fashion Show was held featuring GGC models (including male members) with clothing from Dillard's.

April 22, 2025 – Earth Day – the Bartram Trail Marker at Paynes Prairie was dedicated by GGC members and community partners, Friends of Paynes Prairie, Alachua Conservation Trust and the FFGC Bartram Trail Chairman. One side of the marker was dedicated to former GGC member Marjorie Harris Carr who was instrumental in Paynes Prairie being established as a State Preserve. Speakers celebrated the impact of Carr and GGC on our community and made us all feel very proud to belong to such an organization!

The final General Meeting of the year in May featured member Steve Provost talking about Bromeliads and included the Memorial service and installation of new officers. On May 20, 2025, the District V Spring meeting with new District Director Jo Lee Houlihan, was held at GGC. Membership was at 201 with 5 circles after Daisy Circle disbanded.