

FFGC & District X 69<sup>th</sup> Tropical Short Course and Tri-Refresher: "Gardening into the Future" January 22-23, 2026

Name:.....Garden Club:.....District:.....  
 Address:.....City:.....State:.....Zip:.....  
 Phone:.....E-mail:.....  
 Dietary restrictions for box lunch:.....

Registration postmarked by January 5, 2026:

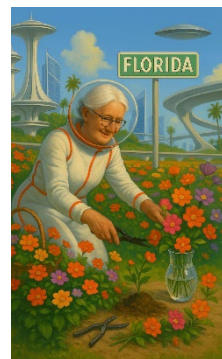
- ☐ Attend both days - \$95  
☐ Attend Thursday only - \$65  
☐ Attend Friday only - \$65

(For registration postmarked AFTER January 5, add \$25)

Registration includes continental breakfast and box lunch for each day registered.

ALL INFORMATION ABOVE MUST BE COMPLETED. NO REFUNDS AFTER JANUARY 19, 2026. Make checks payable to:

FFGC DISTRICT X. Numbered seating by date of registration received. Mail completed form and payment to:  
 Toni Cvetko, 911 Gardenia Drive #151, Delray Beach FL 33483-4817



The 2026 Tropical Short Course will be held at  
 Wellington Community Center  
 12150 Forest Hill Blvd  
 Wellington FL 33414

PLEASE NOTE: The Wellington Community Center is NOT the first building you come to in the Municipal Complex. It is BEHIND the building on Forest Hill Blvd. The address is in large numbers at the top of the building.

From North/South via I-95

Exit #68 US 98/Southern Boulevard – Head west for 11.6 miles. Turn left on Forest Hill Boulevard. At the 3<sup>rd</sup> traffic light, (2.1 miles), turn right into the Municipal Complex.

From North/South via Florida's Turnpike

Exit #97 US 98/SR 80 (Southern Boulevard). Head west (right) for 7.9 miles. Turn left on Forest Hill Boulevard. At the 3<sup>rd</sup> traffic light (2.1 miles), turn right into the Wellington Municipal Complex.

**OVERNIGHT ACCOMMODATIONS:**

District X has arranged reduced room rates at:  
 Fairfield Inn & Suites-Wellington  
 10616 Forest Hill Boulevard  
 Wellington, FL. 33414

Please note that the cutoff date to make reservations at the reduced rate is 12/22/2025.

**TO RESERVE BY PHONE**

Call (855) 999-0489 and request a reservation under District X Tropical Short Course.

**TO RESERVE ONLINE:**

Use this link to make reservations:

<https://www.marriott.com/event-reservations/reservation-link.mi?id=1758729940160&key=GRP&app=resvlink>

Please enter your arrival date and departure and choose whether you want a **King bed (\$254/night)** or **two Queen beds (\$274/night)**.



# Gardening into the Future

## The 69<sup>th</sup> Annual Tropical Short Course and Tri-Refresher

presented by

Florida Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc  
 and  
 District X



Jackie Reed, 2026 TSC Chair  
 drjareed@gmail.com

## Thursday, January 22

9:00-9:30 **Registration and Continental Breakfast**

9:30-9:45 **Welcome and Opening Remarks**  
Mary Ann Cody  
*District X Director*



9:45-10:45 **FFGC's Jr. Gardener Program**  
Christy Linke  
*FFGC President*

Strategies to engage young gardeners and promote environmental education through the FFGC Junior Gardener Program.

10:45-11:05 **Morning Break**

11:05-12:05 **Orchids to Know and Grow**  
Rich Ackerman  
*Past President of Ft Lauderdale Orchid Society & Master Gardener*

Learn about a mix of native and exotic orchids that will look beautiful in your landscape while playing an active role in your local ecosystem.

12:05-12:50 **Box Lunch**

12:50-1:50 **New Species for FL Gardens**  
Kimberly Moore, PhD  
*Associate Center Director & Professor UF/IFAS Ft. Lauderdale Research and Education Center (UF LREC)*

Florida Gardeners are discovering new plant species that thrive in our unique climate. This talk will highlight trial gardens at UF FLREC and how they help identify promising additions to local landscapes.

1:50-2:10 **Afternoon Break**

2:10-3:10 **Saltwater Intrusion & Gardening**  
Kimberly Moore, Ph.D.  
*Associate Center Director & Professor*

Many people are unaware of where their water comes from and how gardening practices can contribute to saltwater intrusion. This talk explores the connection between our landscapes and our freshwater resources.

3:10-4:10 **Judges Floral Design Challenge**  
Four Flower Show Judges will be given the same containers, florals, leaves and accents with 30 minutes to create an arrangement as the audience watches. Each will then explain their design, and the audience will vote on their favorites by a show of hands.

## Friday, January 23

9:00-9:30 **Registration and Continental Breakfast**

9:30-9:45 **Welcome and Opening Remarks**  
Mary Ann Cody  
*District X Director*

9:45-10:45 **Community Gardening**  
Shelly Zacks  
[www.delraybeachchildrensgarden.org](http://www.delraybeachchildrensgarden.org)  
Michiko Kurisu  
*@swintoncgp on Instagram*  
*Swinton Community Growing Project on Facebook*

How do nature-based spaces like children's gardens and food forests enrich cities, communities, and individuals of all ages? Why is it now more important than ever to provide access to nature and gardening? Shelly Zacks of the Delray Beach Children's Garden and Michiko Kurisu of the Swinton Community Growing Project, a food forest and community garden in Delray Beach, will share the mission and impact of their not-for-profit organizations that bring nature to people of all ages.

10:45-11:05 **Morning Break**

11:05-12:05 **Designing Delray Beach Children's Garden**  
Allan Hendricks  
*Landscape Architect*  
*VP of Caulfield & Wheeler, Inc*  
[www.cwi-assoc.com](http://www.cwi-assoc.com)

Planning and installation of a garden designed to engage children and inspire their play while promoting environmental learning.

12:05-12:50 **Box Lunch**

12:50-1:50 **McNab House Sensory Garden**  
Sarah Mulder  
*Project Manager*

Plans for creating a botanical garden that stimulates all 5 senses for everyone to enjoy at a historical home in Pompano Beach.

1:50-2:10 **Afternoon Break**

2:10-3:10 **Landscape Design using Native Species**  
Debra Yates  
*Spatial Designer & Artist*  
Benjamin Burle  
*Naturalistic Garden Designer*  
*Yates Burle Studio*  
[www.debrayates.com](http://www.debrayates.com)

Creating sophisticated native gardens in residential settings, how and why privacy buffers should replace sterile hedges, and custom pools nestled within well-designed spaces.

3:10-4:10 **Floral Design**  
Mayfair Hydro & Sandra Deery  
*NGC Accredited Judges*

FFGC President	Christy Linke
District X Director	Mary Ann Cody
District X Assistant Director	Jackie Reed
Registrar	Toni Cvetko
Treasurer	Li Roberts