

# FFGC DISTRICT VIII NEWSLETTER

Winter, 2011

Jill Anderson,  
District Director

**"Let's Celebrate...  
Growth, Environment, Education, Friendship, and  
the Beauty of Nature through Gardening"**



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**2012 FFGC  
Convention  
May 10-11, 2012**

Jacksonville Hyatt  
Regency Riverfront

## DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

*Greetings Great Eight!*

*I hope you all had a wonderful Thanksgiving holiday and you are probably getting ready for the Christmas season. That means that there are lots of garden club activities now and continuing into the spring.*

*Please, be mindful of our members who are not able to attend meetings. A card or phone call will keep them in touch and brighten their day. This is a good time to invite a guest...or maybe a new neighbor to a meeting. Now that everyone is back, our clubs are in full-swing and there is usually a program for every gardening interest.*

*I recently attended the Holiday Luncheon of the Venice Garden Club featuring a "Welcome to Our House" theme showing designs that can be done to decorate your house during the holiday season. They did a great job...read more later in the newsletter. If this is a program that your club would like to do, let me know and I can pass along some information about this FFGC special project program.*

*After the holidays are over, we will turn our attention to spring activities...with many clubs planning flower shows. There is a list included later in the newsletter. Please, plan to visit a flower show and support the clubs sponsoring them. This is an excellent bridge to the public to educate them on horticulture and design...and invite them to join a garden club.*

*I am asking all district clubs to participate in the Penny Pines project to re-plant our forests damaged by the wildfires. This is an easy project that can make a difference for future generations.*

*I know there are many community gardens starting up. I would like to know of any locations and information about them. I will print them in the next newsletter.*

*Please, remember to collect the Campbell soup labels...as well as many other products. These labels purchase much needed items for Camp Wekiva. Take them to your club meetings or bring them to the Spring District meeting.*

*TO ALL...Merry Christmas, Happy Holidays and Happy New Year!*

*Hugs...Jill*

### I WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!

How can I improve communication with the clubs in District VIII? Do you want your club's event in the next newsletter? Do you have a question, need help?

Contact me... [jillandersn@aol.com](mailto:jillandersn@aol.com) or 727-798-1970 (cell)

## INCREASE MEMBERSHIP

- Ask More People
- More Participation
- Invitations
- Friendly Meetings
- Interesting Programs
- Mentoring
- Have a Plant Sale
- Have a Plant Exchange
- Reach Out in your Community
- Flower Shows
- Field Trips
- Craft Workshops
- Try Something NEW!



**SAVE THE DATE!**  
**Temple Terrace**  
**Tuesday, May 1, 2012,**  
**Temple Terrace Golf &**  
**Country Club**

## Poinsettia Fun Fact...

The poinsettia can reach heights of 12 feet with leaves measuring six to eight inches across. It is actually a small tropical tree belonging to the Euphorbia plant family.

Last year more than 65 million were sold nationwide.

They are not poisonous. If ingested, this plant can cause stomach irritation and discomfort.



## Community Gardening

Tampa Garden Club's own Kitty Wallace won top honors and was presented Outstanding Public & Community Service Award by Tom Snelling, Acting Director of Growth Management for the City of Tampa.

Councilwoman Lisa Montelione and Tampa City Council presented a commendation to Kitty on October 27, 2011 at 9:00 am, in City Council Chambers in recognition of her award.

Kitty, we are proud of you and we know that you are most deserving of such an appropriate recognition.

### CONGRATULATIONS KITTY WALLACE!

*Kitty Wallace, District VII  
 Community Gardening  
 Chairman, Received  
 Outstanding Public &  
 Community Service Award.*



## Tampa Happenings

The Tampa Garden Club is reserving parking (\$20.00) for the Gasparilla Parade and the Children's Parade 1-21-12 and 1-28-12. We are also selling potty passes for \$3.00 (both dates).

The Tampa Garden Club will be hosting a Valentine's Evening Event. We will call this one, "Let's Have a Heart to Heart." Music and a sit down dinner will make it perfect for dear friends to avoid the restaurant scene.

The Tampa Heights Community Garden, coordinated by Kitty Wallace of TGC has become the go-to place for those who are interested in starting a garden. A Temple Terrace group visited on a Saturday.

The recent Garden Fest held on a Sunday was a day of awards for every garden. The "Holiest Leaves Award" was given to a garden that had too many visits by hungry critters who feasted on Squash leaves. Every garden was recognized and a great time enjoyed by all, especially the kids who played in a hay bale maze. A RD (Kitty's Daughter) was on hand to make a stir fry from garden products and a salad from a harvest of lettuce and cucumber. Kids are learning that food doesn't always come off the shelf!

The Tampa Garden Club's flower show April 20-22 and called the Orange Blossom Express, will once again be host to the **Bromeliad Guild** of Tampa Bay to have a show within a show.

Check the web site [www.tampagardenclub.com](http://www.tampagardenclub.com).

***For The Birds... Utilize orange slices, suet, seed, or peanut butter smeared on a pine cone. You can also string unsalted popcorn to attract the birds.***

## Promoting Bees through Knowledge

*Christy Linke, District VIII Bee Chairman*

As District VIII Bee Chairperson it has been a busy couple months that just seemed to buzz by. The program Promoting Bees through Knowledge is up and flying. At the District VIII fall meeting this Chairperson was asked to do an education table on Bees. The questions that members asked were amazing and just excited this chairperson even more to get out there and spread the word on Bees. Members asked where can I get a bee speaker for our meetings. I want to let everyone know that your local Bee Keepers Association, example, Suncoast Beekeepers Assn. and Tampa Beekeepers Assn. is more than willing to come out and speak and they don't charge. Although a little gas money never hurt but it is not expected. They want to educate and bring attention to the importance of bees. At the Jackson Elementary School on The Great American Teach day the Plant City Garden Club just had a speaker on bees educate 79 students. We also had a local Beekeeper speak at our monthly meeting. The speakers were obtained through Tampa Bay Beekeepers Association, but there are other local groups as well. This chairperson is proud to report that the Plant City Garden Club has met two criteria's for the first FFGC Bee Certificate. So come on let's all start spreading the word on pollination through Promoting Bees through Knowledge and applying for your Bee Certificate today.



### FFGC Amazon Sales \$\$\$

#### Support FFGC

Want a relaxing way to shop for the holidays, and at the same time benefit Florida Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc.?

Shop from amazon.com through ffgc's website.

Simply go to [www.ffgc.org](http://www.ffgc.org) and select Amazon sales. It is easy and safe...and does not cost you a single thing to benefit FFGC.

Not an Amazon member...joining is easy and free.

<http://www.ffgc.org>

## Penny Pines

Your pennies CAN help reforestation in Florida's most damaged National and State Forests.



For just \$68, your District, Club and Circle can help to purchase and plant trees in Osceola National and John Bethea State Forest which have had over 11,000 acres destroyed by the Okefenokee fires in 2010 and 2011. The US Forest Service is trying to reforest 250 to 500 acres per year to replace trees destroyed in these fires.

What better way to show FFGC's commitment to improving and preserving our environment.

At your Circle, Club or District meetings have a jar with the words "Penny Pines" on it. Members can drop their pennies or loose change into the jar at each meeting. When your money accumulates to \$68, ask your Treasurer to mail a check for that amount to the Florida Federation of Garden Clubs.

It just takes "cents" to make the "change" and save our National Forests. PLEASE HELP!

[http://ffgc.org/projects/NGC\\_penny\\_pines/index.html](http://ffgc.org/projects/NGC_penny_pines/index.html) or contact Brenda Johnson, District VII Tree Chairman @ [gamblecrk@msn.com](mailto:gamblecrk@msn.com)

## You Know You're Addicted to Gardening When...

author Unknown

- *Your neighbors recognize you in your pajamas, rubber clogs and a cup of coffee.*
- *You grab other people's banana peels, coffee grinds, apple cores, etc. for your compost pile.*
- *You have to wash your hair to get your fingernails clean.*
- *All your neighbors come and ask you questions.*
- *You know the temperature of your compost every day.*
- *You buy a bigger truck so that you can haul more mulch.*
- *You enjoy crushing Japanese beetles because you like the sound that it makes.*
- *Everything you touch turns to "fertilizer".*
- *Your non-gardening spouse becomes conversant in botanical names.*
- *You find yourself feeling leaves, flowers and trunks of trees wherever you go, even at funerals.*
- *You dumpster-dive for discarded bulbs after commercial landscapers remove them to plant annuals.*
- *You plan vacation trips around the locations of botanical gardens, arboreta, historic gardens, etc.*
- *You sneak home a 7 foot Japanese maple and wonder if your spouse will notice.*
- *When considering your budget, plants are more important than groceries.*
- *You always carry a shovel, bottled water and a plastic bag in your trunk as emergency tools.*
- *You appreciate your Master Gardener badge more than your jewelry.*
- *You spend more time chopping your kitchen greens for the compost pile than for cooking.*
- *You like the smell of horse manure better than Estee Lauder.*
- *You rejoice in rain...even after 10 straight days of it.*
- *You have pride in how bad your hands look.*
- *You have a decorative compost container on your kitchen counter.*
- *You can give away plants easily, but compost is another thing.*
- *Soil test results actually mean something.*
- *You understand what IPM means and are happy about it.*
- *You'd rather go to a nursery to shop than a clothes store.*
- *You know that Sevin is not a number.*
- *You take every single person who enters your house on a "garden tour".*
- *You look at your child's sandbox and see a raised bed.*
- *You ask for tools for Christmas, Mother/Father's day, your Birthday and any other occasion you can think of.*
- *You can't bear to thin seedlings and throw them away.*
- *You scold total strangers who don't take care of their potted plants.*
- *You know how many bags of fertilizer/potting soil/mulch your car will hold.*
- *You drive around the neighborhood hoping to score extra bags of leaves for your compost pile.*
- *Your preferred reading matter is seed catalogs.*
- *And last but not least... You know that the four seasons are: **Planning the Garden, Preparing the Garden, Gardening... and Preparing and Planning for the next Garden***



## Holiday Home Tour Dec. 16<sup>th</sup> - 1pm to 3pm St. Peterburg

Take a holiday journey through five uniquely appointed waterfront homes in The Yacht Club Estates neighborhood and support The Garden Club of St. Petersburg Fundraiser. Tickets are \$20.00 until Dec 9th, \$30.00 after that date.

*The homes are located within walking distance or a short drive to one another. All homes are one level—no stairs to climb! You will enjoy light refreshments, entertainment, opportunity items for drawings, and boutique items for sale by various vendors at each home.*

*Please purchase your tickets as a group so you can tour the homes together due to the scheduled rotation.*

*Our Home Tour is not wheelchair accessible.*

*Out of area guests may pick up your paid tickets at the Garden Club of St. Petersburg. 500 Sunset Drive S. 33707, at 12:30 pm on the 16th to start your Holiday experience only minutes from the Garden Club.*

*Make check payable to "GCSP"*

*Mail to: Bea Rahter,  
1074 79<sup>th</sup> St. S., St. Petersburg, 33707  
For more information please contact:  
shuet@tampabay.rr.com / 727-384-6947 or  
bbrahter@earthlink.net / 727-343-7937*

## Gardening Studies - Course IV

The Venice Area Garden Club is hosting the Gardening Studies course IV on March 21 and 22, 2012.

It will be held at the Twin Lakes Extension Service office in Sarasota.

The class goes from 9:00 to 4:00 with registration and coffee starting at 8:30.

Register by emailing Rose Borton at [rborton@aol.com](mailto:rborton@aol.com).

The cost is \$42.00 for the class and \$5.00 if you are planning to take the test for certification.

If there are questions you can call Maida Atkins at 941-408-3118.

## Plant City Happenings

Plant City Garden Club is planning two big events in the very near future. The first event is a Standard Flower Show titled 'Sea To Shining Sea' to be held on February 2, 2012 from 5:00 P.M. to 8:00 P.M. at the Walden Lake Country Club, 2001 Clubhouse Drive, Plant City. This Flower Show pays tribute to our National Beaches and Parks. Plant City always enjoys their one day Flower Show and it is evident by the enthusiasm of the garden club members with their great focal area, wonderful educational exhibits, terrific designs, and top-notch horticulture. We invite everyone to come out to see the show, enjoy a wonderful buffet dinner (\$10.95 for a delicious buffet) put on by the Walden Lake Country Club as well as great entertainment. It really is a wonderful and fun evening out so you will not want to miss it. You must call ahead for dinner reservations at 813-754-8575.

Plant City Garden Club is working on is a horticulture show at the Florida Strawberry Festival. Everyone in Hillsborough County is welcome to enter this show co-sponsored by Plant City Garden Club and the Florida Strawberry Festival. Entries must be brought to the festival grounds either Tuesday, February 28, 2012 from 5 P.M.-8 P.M. or on Wednesday, February 29<sup>th</sup> from 9 A.M. to 2 P.M. The judging takes place early Thursday morning on March first before the Festival opens. The plants must remain in the show for the entire ten days of the Strawberry Festival. Their owners pick up plants on Monday morning March 12<sup>th</sup> from 9:00A.M. till 11:00 A.M. Plant City Garden Club Members take shifts to be at the show to answer the public's questions and make sure the plants are taken care of for the ten days. If you have any questions and would like to enter horticulture in this show, contact Jan Griffin at 813-754-8685.



## "Welcome To Our House" Hosted by Venice Garden Club

*On Dec. 1st, this District Director attended the Venice Garden Club's Holiday Luncheon, featuring a "Welcome to Our House" program. Barbara Rao, Sarasota Garden Club, Kathy Myers and Barbara Jacobson, Lemon Bay Garden Club presented 17 great designs along with instructions on how to make them. Some lucky people got to take them home as door prizes or opportunity prizes.*

*The designers led the audience through a "virtual" house starting at the front door, with decorations for each room...that even included a man cave! This was a beautiful program, not to mention a lovely and festive luncheon.*

*There were approx. 150 in attendance...with about 70 being guests. Monies from the luncheon will benefit Camp Wekiva...so it was a win-win day!*

*Thank you to President Susan Mather and the Venice GC for your warm hospitality...Jill*



*Designer: Barbara Rao, Sarasota Garden Club, Kathy Myers and Barbara Jacobson, Lemon Bay*

## Tropical Short Course 2012

There is still time to sign up for District X's Tropical Short Course. "Tropical Delight" to be held on Jan. 31, Feb. 1, 2012 at the Mounts Botanical Garden in West Palm Beach. It is a Tri-Refresher. Check the FFGC web site for registration details  
[www.ffgc.org](http://www.ffgc.org)

## Garden Club of St. Petersburg Happenings

**CARD & GAME PARTY - Feb 2, 2012 11:30 AM** at the Garden Club Center **LUNCH & FUN** - Bring Your Friends & Cards or Games Cost - \$12.00 - Reservations and pay in advance by Jan. 20th Reservations to Alice Mullen: 727-360-0153 Chairmen - Rosalie DiMento 727-321-5870 and Susan Cooper 727-525-7993

### FLEA MARKET - COLLECTIBLES - PLANT SALE - Feb 23 - 25

**Preview Night - Feb. 23rd - 5-7 PM - Cost \$5.00** included wine and cheese

**Friday, Feb. 24th - 9AM - 3 PM & Saturday, Feb. 25th - 9AM - 1 PM - Free Admission**

All profits from Clothing, Shoes, & Handbags on the patio will go to the Roof Fund..

Sandi Fox, Flea Market Chairman 727-345-4693

Both events held at:

Garden Club of St. Petersburg

500 Sunset Drive South

St. Petersburg, FL 33707-1136

727-381-8920

## Labels for Wekiva



YOU can be a "SOUPER" garden club member by supporting the Wekiva Youth Camp with UPC CODES from Campbell soup and other products.

Through the Labels for Education program we can get a lot of free stuff for Camp such as art supplies, office and classroom accessories, computers, cameras, walkie-talkies, microscopes, physical education items, and books.

Save the UPC CODE from all Campbell Soups. Other items are Swanson, V-8, Pepperidge Farms, and Franco American. Some jars require the lid. Please see the chart that follows. Please note that some products are worth 5 points. Watch for special programs in the grocery stores for bonus coupons!

Bring your labels to your garden club meetings or to the Spring District meeting.

Garden Club Members are SOUPER, Wekiva Youth Camp is SOUPER, let's join forces to make this a SOUPER project!

## In Memoriam



### HELEN ECONOMIDIS,

*Passed away August 22, 2011.*

*Past president of Tarpon Springs Garden Club, past president Retired Educators of North Pinellas, past board member of the League of Women Voters and past program chairman of American Assoc. of University Women. As you can see Helen gave much to our community and she will be missed.*

### Belen Brown

*Passed away October 14, 2011*

*Belen was a native of Puerto Rico and a resident of Clearwater Florida.*

*Belen joined the Garden Club in 1967 and was a member of the Clearwater Garden Club. She was a Floral Design Instructor, Accredited Master Flower Show Judge and Landscape Design Consultant, Life Member of NGC and FFGC.*

*A memorial is planned and the date will be announced.*



### Osceola M. Rodriguez

*Osie Rodriguez passed on Oct 29, 2011.*

*For some 30 years she participated in every activity of the Garden Club and enjoyed every minute of it. She was District VIII Director 2003-2005.*

*Osie held many offices in the Garden Club, including President of her Circle, Calliandra and President of the Tampa Federation of Garden Club Circles 1984-1986.*

*Osie was an Accredited Master Judge and loved Judging Flower shows and participating in them..*

*She was a Life member of the Florida Federation of Garden Clubs and the National Garden. In addition she was honored with a Pillar of Pride.*

## RECYCLE TIPS...

### Coffee Filters

Use old coffee filters in the bottom of pots prevent soil from falling out but it lets the water drain.

### Lighter Hanging Baskets

Fill the bottom of hanging basket liners with packing peanuts or plastic bags tied in knots. Less soil, lighter to hang.

### Free Funnel

Cut 5"- 6" off the top of a 2 liter bottle. Need a smaller one, use the top of a water bottle.

## Plant City Happenings

This fall the Dade City Garden Club was pleased to host our FFGC state president Jan Sillik. She gave us a delightful demonstration and workshop entitled "Fun with Flowers" Her easy to listen to style brought smiles and laughter to all of us.

After lunch we held a workshop that Jan ran with patience and polish. She instructed us, step by step, how to create our own Thanksgiving centerpiece that we could take home for our holiday tables.

It was truly a day that the Dade City Garden Club will remember. Future thoughts, we are looking forward to our March 16<sup>th</sup> - 17<sup>th</sup> Flower Show, for we are always jam packed with flower entries.

The next General Meeting will be on Monday, January 16<sup>th</sup>. Breakfast will be at 9:30 and our speaker, Eileen Hart will present at 10:00. Her topic will be Camellia's care and the propagation of. She comes highly recommended and is known by many of our members.

For more information or RSVP call Diane Scott 352 668-3261.

The 2011 Pasco Packing ornament has arrived and is being distributed to each circle. If anyone is interested in this ornament call Betty Jones at 352-521-0020. The Dade City Chamber loved the ornament and thinks we have a big seller. Cost is \$20.00 (same as last year). –

Go to our web site for more information, [www.DadeCityGardenClub.com](http://www.DadeCityGardenClub.com)

Submitted by Dade City Garden Club Program Chairman, Diane Scott



## Water Conservation, Save Our Bays

### Protectors of the Environment

Wouldn't it be a great legacy if FFGC and FFGC District VIII were known as Protectors of the Environment?

We have our work cut out for us, as many protections for the water and the environment have been slashed. We must do our best to improve our adopted impaired water bodies, Tampa Bay, Sarasota Bay and Lemon Bay. Seek out working groups who are busy trying to improve the water bodies such as the Tampa Bay Estuary and the Sarasota Bay Estuary Programs. Volunteer to our area chairmen, Linda Schilke and Karen Flaacke for ideas as to what we as members and clubs can do to help.

The 2012 Legislative Session will soon begin. There will be bills that will affect our interests in clean waters for the state of Florida. Your FFGC Environmental Alert team will try to stay on top of the bills as they progress through the committees. PLEASE, if an Environmental Alert comes to you from our District Director or your Club President, take time to read their concerns and communicate with your legislative representatives. As registered voters and concerned citizens, we have the right and the responsibility to speak up for the best interests of Florida and its citizens.

We must hold our decision makers accountable to the Florida Constitution, which they are pledged to uphold. Article 11, Section 7 says "It shall be the policy of the state to conserve and protect its natural resources and scenic beauty. Adequate provision shall be made by law for the abatement of air and water pollution and excessive and unnecessary noise and for the conservation and protection of natural resources."

*Pat Carver, Environmental: Water & Wetlands & Save Our Bays Chairman, District VIII*

**DISTRICT VIII BOARD of DIRECTORS ~ 2011-2013**

Director	Jill Anderson	727-798-1970	jillandersn@aol.com
Assistant Director	Janice Hamlin	941-745-5920	hamwoman@aol.com
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		813 877-3357	kechev@aol.com
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Butterflies	Lois Weber	727-938-2947	lweber49@aol.com
Community Gardens	Kitty Wallace	813- 239-3261	Kittwal@aol.com
Endangered Species	Rose Vickers	941- 729-1138	RoseV@aol.com
Floral Design Study	Carol Lucia	727-393-8276	clucia02luc@aol.com
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Water, Wetlands & Environmental	Pat Carver	828-926-3991	carverge@aol.com
Ways and Means	Karen Flaacke	813-792-8014	flaacke@aol.com
Wekiva, SEEK	Lois McLane & Sue Angle	813- 854-4566	loismclane1@verizon.net
		941-351-1103	sueangle@comcast.net
Wildflowers & Roadside Beautification	Lori Richie	941-795-7567	loririchie@aol.com
Youth	Anastasia Seelig	727-781-9049	arseelig@yahoo.com



**Dates in District VIII**

*The latest dates reported for 2012.*

- Feb 2 - PLANT CITY "Sea to Shining Sea"
- March 16-17 - DADE CITY
- March 23-24 - LEMON BAY "Treasures From Trash"
- March 24 - CLEARWATER
- March 31 - April 1 - SARASOTA "A Gem of a Show"
- Apr. 21-22 - TAMPA "Orange Blossom Express"
- April 28-29 - ST. PETERSBURG "Spirit of America"

**Floral Design Classes in FFGC District VIII**

**Oct. 29, Nov. 5, 12, 2011**  
Units 7 - 9

Plant City Garden Club  
Chairman: Jan Griffin, Ph. 813-754-8685,  
billjangriffin@yahoo.com

**Jan. 3, 10, 17, 24, 31, Feb. 6, 2012**  
Units 1-6

Sarasota Garden Club  
Chairman: Barbara Rao, Ph. 941-493-4002,  
cell 401-524-5289  
barbara\_rao@hotmail.com

**Jan. 24, 31, Feb. 7, 21, 28, March 2, 2012**  
Units 1-6

The Elegant Gardeners of Sun City Center  
Chairman: Joan Lawhead, Ph. 813-634-3338  
jswlawhead@verizin.net

*Classes must be registered with Floral Design  
Chairman to obtain credit and  
certificates for students.*

**WE'RE ON THE WEB!**

<http://floridadistrictviii.com>