

Florida Federation of Garden Clubs
District X
Fall Meeting
Wednesday, October 19, 2011
Hosted by the Garden Club of Indian River County
Bent Pine Golf Club –Vero Beach, Florida

The meeting was called to order by District X Director, Barbara Hadsell, at 9:15 AM. An Invocation was given by Rev. Dr. Casey Baggott, Executive Minister, The Community Church of Vero Beach followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the USA lead by Barbara Cook, Corresponding Secretary, Ocean Ridge Garden Club.

Helen Pearson, Chairman of the District X Fall Meeting introduced Indian River County Commissioner, Mr. Gary Wheeler, who presented a proclamation by the Board of Commissioners of Indian River County, Florida outlining the history of the garden club and applauding their efforts, accomplishments and dedicated service.

Attendees were welcomed by Kathie Althoff, President of the Garden Club of Indian River County who invited everyone to enjoy the fantastic country club facility, view, program and other activities planned for the day. Assistant District Director Emilie Palmieri of Boca Raton Garden Club gave the Response.

Appointments were made by District X Director Barbara Hadsell as follows:

Committee to Approve Minutes of this Meeting:

Ann Carter and Anne Michael of Garden Club of Indian River County (accepted)

Tellers:

Linda Gillespie and Renae Senn of Carissa Circle
Ouida Wyatt, Hibiscus Circle
Garden Club of Indian River County (accepted)

Timekeepers:

Gail Baldiree, Karen Penney of Sunflower Circle
Garden Club of Indian River County (accepted)

A report of Committee to Approve Minutes of the Spring 2011 District Meeting was given by Louise Andrews and Jan Stoorza of Garden Club of Stuart. The minutes were approved as written.

District X Director Barbara Hadsell introduced those seated at the head table:

Barbara Cook, Corresponding Secretary
Li Roberts, Treasurer and Member of the FFGC Board
Emilie Palmieri, Assistant Director
June Beers, Recording Secretary
Patty Prange, Parliamentarian
Betty Moore, FFGC 3rd Vice President
Arlene Rand, FFGC 2nd Vice President
Sue Angle, FFGC 1st Vice President
Jan Sillik, FFGC President

Past District Directors in attendance were introduced:

Gloria Blake, Former FFGC President
Jane Mills
Barbara Benefield
Patty Prange
Joleen King
Melba Campbell
Joan Graff
Sandra Arlund

District Director Barbara Hadsell acknowledged and welcomed former National Garden Club President Barbara May who now serves on the National Garden Club Board as a Permanent Home and Endowment Trustee and as Flower Show School Design Instructors' Chairman. Barbara May is a member of two garden clubs here in District X and appreciation for her continued service was expressed. Director Hadsell then requested that all those present and serving as National Garden Club, Deep South Region, State Board Members and District X Board Members and Committee Chairmen please stand to be recognized. They were thanked for the work they do in TERRIFIC TEN! (*Ref: Officers and Chairmen Attachment*)

The District Director's Report (*Ref: District X Report – Barbara Hadsell 10/19/11 Attachment*) was presented by Barbara Hadsell and stated the following:

- Membership increase of 41 as of June 1, 2011 – Total membership 1,256
- One club added – Passion Flowers (Circle spin-off from West Palm Beach Garden Club)
- District Clubs are focused on membership and will be reporting on this for the Deep South Region Unified Project “Building Membership”
- Spring District Meetings (2011 and 2012) emphasize environmental Issues
- Four “Unsolicited Awards for Plantings in Public and Private Sector “ were presented at April 2011 Spring District Meeting
- The 2010 State Convention Flower Show (organized by District X) given top NGC award
- District X Members attended WAFA Flower Show in Boston – 2 of 13 designers were from Terrific X
- Two Lunch N' Learn sessions presented in September covering Programs, Membership, Fundraising, Educational Opportunities, Awards, Community Partnerships, Garden Weeks and FFGC and NGC information – 15 Clubs sent a total of 75 representatives
- Educational opportunities for this year include two Environmental Studies and Tropical Short Course “Tropical Delights” (a Tri-Refresher with District X Web Site Interactive Registration).
- New Web Master – Newsletter is on line and a hard copy annual subscription is available for \$6
- District Director is presenting programs to four garden clubs this year and one to Quail Ridge Garden Club in the spring
- Visibility/interaction with community is a major part of many clubs activities – examples provided
- District X will emphasize NGC special projects over the next two years
 - Plantings for Public and Special Places
 - Protecting Aquatic Ecosystems
 - Photo Archiving of Accomplishments

Corresponding Secretary Report by Barbara Cook of Ocean Ridge Garden Club read two thank you notes. The first was a message from Lorraine Gabler acknowledging our participating in the September 16, 2011 Winter Park, Florida "Gala in the Garden" 50th Anniversary Celebration. A second thank you note was from Joan Prior and concerned the \$50 FFGC #61 Nell Coe Award funded by District X.

Treasurer Li Roberts presented a comprehensive report for the period April 1, 2011 thru September 30, 2011 as follows:

Checking Balance (4/1/11)	\$18,636.03
Period Income	\$ 2,471.50
Period Expense	<u>\$ 2,821.74</u>
Ending Balance (9/30/11)	\$18,285.79
Certificate of Deposit	<u>\$ 7,253.07</u>
Total Assets	\$25,538.86

District members were informed that the correct profit realized by District X from hosting the 2010 State Convention was \$7,500. *A discrepancy occurred due to the fact that two convention expenses (\$500 for FFGC Advance Hotel Deposit and \$1,000 for 2011 Convention Installation Set Aside) had not been paid. The convention bank account closed in September 2010 showing District X received \$9K while FFGC received \$6K. The \$3K discrepancy was corrected when \$1.5K was paid (from District X) to FFGC. As this is not an unbudgeted expenditure, no vote was necessary. Note that profits of a state convention are split 50/50 between the host and FFGC. (Ref: FFGC District X – Treasure’s Report Attachment)*

Chaplain Jane Mills honored eight members that passed away since the spring 2011 District Meeting. (Ref: Memorial Service 10/11 Report Attachment)

- Linda Yates - Rio Lindo Garden Club
- Rose McGovern - Boca Raton Garden Club
- Elaine Taylor - Garden Club of Stuart
- Anne MacMillan - West Palm Garden Club
- Sue Bradley – Garden Club of Indian River County
- Kitty Waddell – Garden Club of Indian River County
- Carolyn Worthington – Garden Club of Indian River County
- Kitty Karst – Garden Club of Indian River County

A Credentials Report was given by Suzy Randle from Garden Club of Indian River County. There were 72 Delegates and 0 Alternate Delegates for a total of 72. Report was adopted without debate.

District was honored to have FFGC Officers greet members and make presentations at this meeting. Officers expressed their appreciation for the previous evening’s hospitality and for this opportunity to address our group.

- Jan Sillik, FFGC President brought members up to date on her trip to Washington D.C. for the NGC Convention. She commented on the recent World Association of Flower Arrangers event in Boston that was well represented with thirteen Florida flower designers that “did us proud” creating their fantastic designs. She remarked that Membership and Protecting Aquatic Eco Systems are our current significant challenges. Garden clubs represent the largest volunteer organization in the world and make a significant impact on environmental challenges. Florida is second to California and we must work diligently to reverse the trend of declining membership and concentrate on attracting and retaining members. New hand-out publications and electronic tools are available to assist in meeting these challenges. Additionally, new club options (men’s clubs, weekend clubs, working person clubs and the like) need to be explored.

We must hone our skills using technology, such as Social Media, to enhance the garden club experience and adapt to utilizing the on-line information that is easily accessible. She also praised FFGC for the \$18K in scholarships given out this summer and discussed the meaningful and practical conservation project called Penny Pines for the rejuvenation of forests. A collection for Penny Pines raised \$120.38. (*Shirley McKendree is the State Chairman for Penny Pines.*) It was pointed out that the “Gala” was a huge success with an exceptionally large attendance of over 400. Jan encouraged members to attend the May 10-12, 2012 State Convention “Passport to the World” to be held in Jacksonville, Florida. Her traveling Vice Presidents then presented on the 2011-2013 theme of *Know, Sow & Grow*.

- Sue Angle, 1st Vice President (*KNOW*) stated that we all have a responsibility to educate ourselves and the public. She commented on the many opportunities available to garden club members highlighting features of National Garden Club Schools, Garden Study Courses, Landscape Schools, Environmental Schools, “Fun with Flowers” programs, Digging It, and Tropical Short Courses encouraging members take advantage of them. She pointed out benefits of the National Garden Magazine and availability of scholarships.
- Arlene Rand, 2nd Vice President (*SOW*) explained the operations of Wekiva Youth Camp and the volunteer opportunities that are both fun and rewarding. She recognized District X volunteers with certificates of appreciation for their support and the Critter Camp (a minicamp for students who have completed K-2 grade, giving them the experience of regular camp but with more security).
- Betty Moore, 3rd Vice President (*GROW*) talked about member retention and the need to “hold the hand” of new club members ensuring that they are oriented and comfortable with garden club activities. She pointed out that a “greeter” is a good way to acknowledge attendees and make them feel welcome and that we need to learn about their interests and make sure they know about future programs and are invited back. Headquarters has kits available to assist with membership including information on forming a garden club. She encouraged us to diversify our clubs and talked about a mayor that was so spellbound when learning about a local garden club to the point he decided to join. She also detailed an excellent ways and means program called “Welcome to our Home” that was not only a fundraiser but also a program that drew many new members.

Jan Sillik made final remarks about “Keeping in Touch” on the NGC.org web site and the “Plant it Pink” program that needs to catch on in Florida. She reminded us that “a goal without a plan is nothing but a wish”.

BREAK at 10:55 AM

Committee and Club Reports began at 11:10 AM. The purpose of these three-minute reports was to expose clubs to new ideas and report content will be placed on the District X Web Site.

- NGC “Special Projects” – “Protecting Aquatic Ecosystems” – Dotty Wisch
- Environmental Consultants Course IV – Li Roberts
- NGC “Special Projects” – “Plantings for Public & Special Places”
 - Landscape Design Award Program – Barbara Horan
 - Neighborhood Stabilization Program – Twig Morris
 - Butterfly Gardening with Youth at Oxbow – (*Uta McFadden*)
 - Native Plants, Wildflowers & Butterflies – Ann McCormick
 - Community Projects in Vero Beach – Kathy Althoff
 - Edible Gardens with Juniors in the Community – Sandra Arlund

- Community Outreach – Eagle Scouts and Elks – Patty Moun
- How Do We Fund All These Programs – The “Easy Way” – Elena Shelton

Jan Sillik remarked that these were all fabulous projects and that they should be put in for awards. Director Barbara Hadsell advised that the new award application is on line and entry deadlines are published in the “*Book of Information*” available today in the outer lobby and to be picked up by clubs. Yearbooks Award deadline is the end of this month.

11: 55 AM – Blessing for Lunch by Chaplain, Jane Mills.

1:25 PM – The meeting reconvened with recognition of three awards:

- Garden Club of Indian River County #17 Home Standard Flower Show
“Waldo’s Way” by National Garden Club (top award in the U.S.)
- *Garden Club of Stuart – editor Li Roberts ... NGC recognition for their Yearbook*
- District X Convention 2010 State Convention #11B State Flower Show
“Shrunken Treasurers” by National Garden Club (top state flower show in the U.S.)

The next order of business was to elect a District Nominating Committee. Recording Secretary, June Beers, read the revised FFGC Bylaws concerning the Election of District Nominating Committee and subsequently nominated Sandra Arlund, Jane Mills and Patty Prange to serve on this committee. They were each asked if they were willing to serve by the District Director. All agreed. There were no other nominations so a voice vote was taken. The motion was approved.

Mr. Rob Markut, GCCS, Bent Pine Golf Course Superintendent was the guest speaker on the topic of “Protecting Natural Resources on the Golf Course”. Prior to coming to Bent Pine Golf Course he worked for The Legacy at PGA in Port St. Lucie, Fl. This golf course is the fifth facility in the world to receive Audubon’s “Signature” Award for wildlife conservation, habitat enhancement, energy efficiency and water conservation. In his presentation he described the planning, equipment, processes and management skills required to achieve these same objectives at Bent Pine. Constant monitoring is required to achieve optimal irrigation water management. Other factors discussed that are essential to protecting natural resources include equipment calibration, integrated pest management, effective handling of pest problems at vulnerable stages, biological controls and efficient use of chemicals. Numerous photos of key wildlife were viewed as Mr. Markut discussed the efforts in place to preserve their habitat and ability to live in harmony with other land use.

Jan Sillik honored Connie Lydon, immediate past president of the Rio Lindo Garden Club of Port St Lucie, with the Hall of Fame Award. She also acknowledged Passion Flowers Club, a spinoff from West Palm Beach Garden Club, with 27 members.

Kathie Althoff, President of the Garden Club of Indian River County, announced that CountUS AnTENette would be staying with the Garden Club of Fort Pierce. This honor goes to the District X club having the highest percent of their members in attendance at the meeting.

Ken Lenoff, District X Horticulture Chair announced the winner of the Horticulture Exhibits benefitting Wekiva. Small Leaf Jade won over Succulent Dish Garden by only \$.11 and \$31.41 was raised. Four more floral designs will compete at the Spring 2012 meeting continuing in support of Camp Wekiva.

Jan Sillik then made star “Know, Sow & Grow” theme pin presentations to her vice presidents, Barbara Hadsell, Kathie Althoff, Li Roberts, Gloria Blake, Emily Jennings, Barbara May and CountUS AnTENette. Each of these members (and the CountUS) has made significant contributions to the organization.

There was no additional New Business.

Director Barbara Hadsell requested that the chairmen and committee members from the Garden Club of Indian River County who were responsible for and worked on this meeting please stand and be recognized for their efforts. Barbara presented Helena Pearson with lovely large spray of fall flowers.

Patty Moum, President of Boca Raton Garden Club, announced the Spring District X Meeting would be held on April 20, 2012 and hosted by her club. The program for that meeting will feature a floral design presentation by FFGC 3rd Vice President and Master Flower Show Judge, Betty Moore. Additionally, there will be a presentation on the Lake Worth Lagoon Project by Alyssa Dodd. The meeting location is the Embassy Suites, 661 Northwest 53rd Street, Boca Raton, Florida - Phone: (561) 994-8200.

Suzie Randall moved to amend the voting delegate report to 53 voting delegates due to a miscount. All were in favor. Motion carried. She then presented the final registration report as follows:

National Board Members	3
Former National Presidents	1
FFGC Officers	4
Former FFGC Presidents	1
District X Director	1
District X Officers	6
Former District X Directors	7
Club Presidents	13
Circle Presidents	7
District X Members	134
Guests	2
TOTAL REGISTRTION	140

(Ref: District X Registration Report as of 10/19/2011 – Attached) Credentials Report Adopted.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 2:27 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

June L. Beers (Electronic Signature)

June L. Beers, District X Recording Secretary – Garden Club of Fort Pierce

Approved:

Ann Carter (Electronic Signature)

Ann Carter, Garden Club of Indian River County

Anne Michael (Electronic Signature)

Anne Michael, Garden Club of Indian River County