

District V Meeting ~ Fall 2003
Floral City Garden Club
President's Report

My motto has always been strap on your tool belt and "garden as you go", but in keeping with State's "Keep Growing"; we changed it slightly to "Garden as You GrOw". As you know, growing entails more than just education ... it's also the selfless giving of our time and talent and this year I am proud to announce the formation of a new committee ... the Helping Hands Committee ... designed to benefit members needing assistance with transportation, household and gardening chores for illness, injury or vacation coverage.

Summer Project: In July we gave more of ourselves by completing the School Beautification Project Phase I - The Garden, with club volunteers and by providing opportunities to girls from the Eckerd Youth Alternative Camp E-Nini-Hassee.

Summer programs continued the "Garden as You GrOw" theme and sparked the interest of many:

1. A field trip in June for a program on integrated pest management and tour that demonstrated examples of how to put integrated pest management to work in the home garden by our own Master Gardener, Dawn Waltonbaugh.
2. A field trip in August, to the gardens of local artist, Betty Eicher, who showed us how she grows and dries the flowers she uses to make arrangements surrounding the bird houses, mail boxes and small wheelbarrows she makes. Betty also took us through her stained glass studio where she makes home and garden ornaments.

Fundraiser: Our Secret Garden Tour with Art, Lunch and Music fundraiser this past weekend [10/11] introduced even more people to the "Garden as You GrOw" theme. All area garden clubs and the public were invited to tour seven outstanding home gardens, each individually developed to enhance the natural setting. Local artists displayed their creations at each of the homes. Lunch was served at the Community Building where guests could relax, listen to the music of local musicians, and see or buy more art while choosing tempting items from our Ways & Means Table. It was a huge success and we grossed over \$ 3200.

Our "Garden as You GrOw" theme will continue throughout the year with new and ongoing projects, programs and fund raisers ... it promises to be a very busy and productive year indeed.

1. School Beautification Project Phase II - The Mural includes an educational painting of local wildlife and wildflowers by local artists, art students and club volunteers. Work on this project will commence this November. The mural will be accented with native and other plantings in Phase III.

2. A new video was filmed this year by club photographer Gloria Uhl to instruct members on proper pruning techniques as demonstrated by member and Certified Arborist, Michael Harnden. Copies of this video will be made available for sale.
3. **We are working in conjunction with the Floral City Historic Society by planting a garden and flowering trees to accent their new Historic Floral City Gateway Sign that was just completed at the east end of the "Avenue of Oaks" on E. Orange Avenue ... it is being dedicated this coming Saturday [10/18] at 10A and you're all invited.**
4. **Our giant annual spring plant sale will be held on Saturday, April 3, 2004, 8A at the Floral City Community Building on 8370 E. Orange Avenue ... you're all invited.**
5. **Everyone is also invited to attend "A May Day Celebration" on April 30 for the Spring 2004 District V Meeting hosted by the Floral City Garden Club. Unfortunately the place we had planned to have it has backed out at the "last minute" so we'll have to get back to you with a new location ... we're scrambling to find one.**
6. **In the Spring of 2005 we are planning another of our famous Standard Home Flower Shows. More details on this will be provided as we get closer to the date.**

Y'all come!!!