

District V Meeting ~ Spring 2005
Floral City Garden Club
President's Report

The Floral City Garden Club has had a good year.

Membership: We began in the fall with 67 members which has grown to 74 ... an increase of 7 members.

Fund Raiser: We held our annual plant sale this past month and it was a huge success ... we made \$2400 to put in our coffers. One added feature of our plant sale this year was bags of Rabbit Berries ... a natural fertilizer ... we sold-out ... 75 bags went like hot cakes and took orders for another 35 bags. It's wonderful stuff and users are claiming great results. Planning meetings are already underway for our next biennial Secret Garden Tour which will be held on Saturday September 24 [with 10/1 as a rain date]. As the event draws closer, you will be notified of ticket prices and everyone is invited to come.

Arbor Day: FCGC celebrated Arbor Day by planting two replacement 15-18 ft. Live Oaks valued in excess of \$600 on our beautiful "Avenue of Oaks" aka E. Orange Avenue. One of the oaks was donated by our Certified Arborist and member Michael Harnden and his wife Christine and the other was donated by the club.

Horticulture: most of our programs highlight some area of horticulture, but the one that members seemed to really enjoy was when they brought a favorite plant or cutting and explained how they grow it or asked questions about it. One of the main reasons our members list for joining is to learn more about Florida Gardening, but we find that there usually just isn't enough time at most meetings to discuss horticulture the way we would like to ... so we voted recently to have an open Q&A period one half hour before the start of each meeting give members an opportunity to ask their gardening or plant related questions and lets them know about near-by horticulture or flower show event. This change has been very well received and is fast becoming a much anticipated session each month.

Civic Beautification: FCGC volunteers maintain four gardens in town year-round ... our Gateway Garden, the Rose Garden, a Butterfly / Hummingbird garden on the Withlacoochee State Trail and our Memorial Gardens.

Junior Gardeners: FCGC has 8 enthusiastic Junior Gardeners participating in monthly meetings, but unfortunately none of the mothers wanted to let them go to camp this year because of all the kids in the news lately.

Scholarship: FCGC will be presenting a \$500 scholarship in June to a graduating high school student that plans to pursue botanical sciences in college this fall.

Legislation and Historic Preservation: FCGC members made an all-out drive to call or write letters to each person on the board of county commissioners regarding changes to the proposed tree ordinance ... changes that would not

give contractors the exemption they wanted allowing them to clear-cut property for building purposes.

Respectfully submitted,
Jo Ann Quackenbush, President
May 11, 2005