

Floral Garden Club October 12, 1956 to Present Day

The first meeting of the Floral Garden Club was held October 12, 1956, with 15 members and hand written yearbooks. The Floral Garden Club was the second garden club organized in Citrus County. The first project was a Five Year Plan to landscape the library grounds, which was on the east side of Route 41 South. The landscaping was continued until the new library was built in 1969. The Civic Beautification Committee of the Club and the Woman's Club joined together to help beautify the are by planting Palm Trees on both sides of U.S. 41, both north and south. 1958 the club became a member of the FFGC (Florida Federated Garden Club), the first in Citrus County, and in the later 50s Christmas arrangements were sold and a Junior Gardeners club formed. The Magnolia Junior Garden Club was organized January 26, 1960 and was dissolved in 1963. By the 1960s many Flower Shows were being held with some of them at the Citrus County Fair grounds. Arrangements were made for patients at the Citrus Memorial Hospital and the District V meeting was held in Floral City. By 1970 there were 53 members and one committee was delegated to provide floral arrangements monthly for the library. That same year on Arbor Day five cedar trees were planted between the library and the Masonic Building. Later on in the 70s a flagpole was installed in front of the Community Building as well as planting the Arbor Vitae along the building.

In 1978 the club was asked to landscape the entrance to the new Floral Park.

We have created and maintain seven different gardens in Floral City.

1. 1965 a 5-year plan to landscape library grounds was adopted, but became an ongoing project. 1993: it became the Memorial Garden. 1995: the labyrinth was completed, handmade stepping stones were added, as well as benches and birdbath and dedicated it to the community on October 27, 1996The Floral City Community Memorial Garden was established in 1993 and dedicated in 1996 for the initial purpose of honoring deceased Garden Club members. The purpose soon expanded to include honoring all members of the Floral City Community and their loved ones.
2. 1998: Corner Flower Garden Project. We created a garden at the corner of Old Floral City Rd and CR 48.

3. 1999: Junior Gardeners helped install the first Butterfly Garden (School Beautification Project).
4. 2001: We created a bird & butterfly garden on the south entrance to the State Trail off E. Orange Avenue. 2006: this garden was awarded a citation by the Keep Citrus Beautiful Organization.
5. Rose Garden: 2004 we received the rose garden to maintain from the Friends of the Garden Club in January.
6. Corner of CR 41 and CR 48
7. Pots and Spots

Floral City Garden Club has worked on numerous community projects over their 55 years including:

1997 assisted in planting 18 trees, 25 vines and 10 shrubs all native plants along the Withlacoochee Trail.

1989 to 1997 the Post Office beautification project.

1981 made decorations and adorned the Community building for Christmas. Later made wreaths, placing them on the Oak trees and gazebo.

1989 (to present) was first garden club to participate in Citrus County's Adopt-A-Highway.

2005 purchased giant red bows to decorate the Avenue of Oaks.

Present day over 200 red bows are hung on the Avenue of the Oaks with red bows, candy canes and garland decorating the trailhead and gazebo to decorate for Christmas.

2003 the Gateway Garden and Sign.

2003-2005 painted a large educational mural at Floral City Elementary School depicting native plants and wildlife.

We support the Heritage Council with their Heritage Days since December 1992 by assisting with lighting luminaries, dress in period costumes and host in various historic homes throughout Floral City.

1982 we sponsored 2 children to go to Camp Wekiva. In 1988 we began a Junior Gardeners after school group to teach children to appreciate and cultivate our natural resources. We still sponsor 2 or more children to Camp Wekiva annually.

Since 2001 we have awarded scholarships to Citrus County High School seniors studying in the field of botany, agriculture, horticulture and conservation.

A necessary function of a club is to raise money not only for its own use but to donate to worthy organizations such as Camp E-Nini-Hassee, scholarships, maintain community projects and to purchase a oak tree annually for Arbor Day. So we have had fundraisers that included Flower Shows, Garden Tea with an Arts and Craft Show and Secret Garden Tour. Our main fundraiser since 1994 has been our spring annual plant sale.

Information from: A History of Floral City, page 29
A History of Floral City (Revised Edition of Feb. 1986) pages 115 and 116.
Floral City Garden Club yearbook.