

It's hard to believe that this is the final board meeting until October but I think everyone here deserves a break. It's harder to believe that this past month has been so busy.

First off, there was the Annual Spring Luncheon on April 13 at Sandhill Cove. Charlene Cook, Chairman of the event, presented a beautifully arranged dining room complete with lovely floral arrangements made by her and Donna Baker, and a varied array of raffle items. Ninety-three members and 13 guests attended, which included several past presidents and honorary members, After a delicious lunch, student scholarships and awards were presented. Karen Vaina then presented a program on teaching children to love nature, showcasing her very own children's book.

Certificates of Appreciation

Leslie Perna, Louise Andrews, Sue Dudzic, Debra Smith

Advanced Floral Design Study Series – Units 7,8,9

Judy Baily, Ruth Ann Decker, Mary Lersch, Donna Berger, Rana Holbrook

Earth Steward Award Jim Moir

Community Service Award Debbie Sahlberg

Distinguished Service Award Susan Licari

Cindy Trossbach Outstanding Youth Award Morgan Fowler

Pillar of Pride

Helen Goller (Tabebuia Circle)

Lisa Weidenheimer (Jacaranda Circle)

Karen Bonney (Garden Club of Stuart)

Hall of Fame Susan Licari

Member of the Year Bonnie Stoepelman

The very next day after the luncheon, the FFGC Annual Convention began and lasted for four days. Your president was pleased to attend, as well as Donna Berger, Karen Bonney, and Rosita Aristoff, who serves as Parliamentarian of FFGC. What a delightful experience that was. In addition to meeting the officers of the state club, there were many opportunities to meet and exchange ideas with members throughout the state. For anyone who wonders “Why a Federated Club?”, the answer was obvious. Meeting people who have the same devotion to promoting gardening at all ages, protecting the environment, beautifying our surroundings, and enjoying all facets of nature is invigorating. And realizing we are part of a much wider sphere than our community, including the clubs in all the districts, the Deep South Region, the state of Florida, and the nation, is mind boggling. We can take pride in being a part of that. There were also many workshops and programs available, recognition of awards, as well as the most beautiful flower show one can imagine. This convention is open to all members of the garden club, and it would be great to see many there next year.

FFGC Awards Winners

(Announced at Convention **Yearbook**. (Susan Licari)

DePalma Sillik Website. (Mary Ann Abegeggen)

Patriotic Standard Flower Show “Red, White and Bloom”

(Nancy Binger, Show Chair) e(BOE submitted by Susan Licari)

Flower Show Focal Area

Standard Flower Show Schedule

Botanical Arts Artistic Crafts Award (Rosita Aristoff)

Deep South Winner

Yearbook, second place, (Susan Licari)

The third big event this month was the Spring District X meeting hosted by the Garden Club of Boca Raton. Our District Director, Mary Ann Cody, presided over the meeting and distributed awards that were announced at the Convention. The speaker was not a gardener, but a fisherman who alerted us to the environmental dangers in the oceans. We had 5 members attend. Unfortunately, it came at the end of the season when people were going away. The next District meeting is in the fall and hosted by the Wellington Garden Club. The date is October 22, and the theme is "Pay It Forward! Through Gardening & Giving Back". Put it on your calendars. This president would love to see two full tables from the Garden Club of Stuart. Try it. You'll love it.

Two members have been appointed to do an audit over the summer. They are Karen Bonney and Kim Wildenberg. Many thanks to Li Roberts, Maria Smundin, Susan Slater, Pat Dermody, and Helen Goller for their work on the Civic Budget.

In closing. I want to thank the executive board for all the support you have given me over this past year. You are a super team, and we would never have had such a successful year without each and everyone of you. Kudos to all of you.