

SERVICES

Food Pantry

At each meeting, members donate non-perishable food for the local food pantry, Gifts of Love. This organization maintains a food bank that is available to any community members who are in need. In the last 15 years since the pantry opened, our Club has donated hundreds of pounds to this wonderful organization staffed entirely by volunteers.



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Pet Food

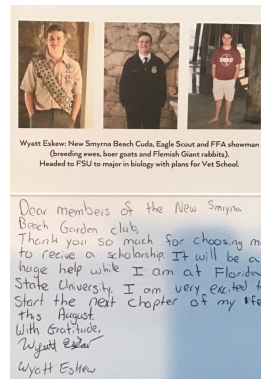
There is a display at every meeting for members to deposit pet food and supplies for the Southeast Volusia Humane Society, which cares for unwanted and displaced animals in our area.

Future Farmers of America

Every year we donate \$500 each to the FFA Clubs at the Middle School and High School at their Awards Night. The funds can be used for supplies, activities, and other expenses at the FFA farm in New Smyrna Beach.

High School Scholarship

Our Garden Club awards a \$1000 scholarship to a deserving New Smyrna Beach High School each year. We require that who apply are pursuing a degree in the field of agriculture, sciences, or environmental sciences. The Awards Committee the applications and selects a recipient of the annual Scholarship. The student is introduced to our Club at the May and receives the scholarship at the High School Honors Night. year, because of generous donations in memory of a member's who passed away, we were able to award two scholarships, \$2,300, to New Smyrna Beach Seniors studying for degrees in Coastal Engineering and Veterinary Science.



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Habitat for Humanity

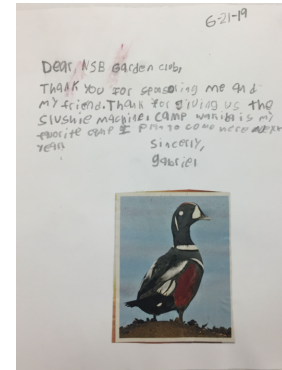
When a new Habitat for Humanity home is dedicated in our community, a committee of members present the new homeowners with a 50 foot garden hose, hand sprayer, hose nozzle, seeds, two gardening books, and a Letter of



Congratulations from the Garden Club. We hope to cultivate knowledge and enthusiasm for gardening in their new home.

Camp Wekiva and SEEK

Each year our Club budgets an allotment obtained from several fundraising efforts to provide scholarships to a High School Senior entering college, for elementary school students to attend Camp Wekiva, and High School students attending the SEEK Conference. If we have more deserving students for Camp Wekiva and SEEK than we have funds, we have several very generous members who sponsor additional scholarships. Our Club sponsors two to four elementary school students to attend Camp Wekiva in the summer. Members are encouraged to nominate students who might be interested in attending the camp and a committee selects as many applicants as funds will allow.



The campers are invited to our meeting in the Fall to describe their experiences and thank members for the opportunity to attend the camp.

Another committee contacts the High School to find students who might benefit from participation in the annual SEEK (Saving Earth's Environment through Knowledge) Conference. We have found that this experience can have a great impact on a student in not only learning about Florida wildlife and ecology, but also helping the student gain confidence, self-understanding, and an awareness that can influence a lifetime.



Penny Pines

During the year, Club members donate to the Penny Pines Restoration Project, A National Garden Club program which works with U.S. Forest Service to replant the damage done to our forests by fires, disease, and other natural disasters. We collect pennies and larger coins to purchase seedlings for replanting.



Coral Restoration Foundation

Our Club also encourages donations to this organization which has partnered with FFGC in a pioneering project to restore and preserve our coral reefs for future generations. The goal of the Coral Restoration Committee is to raise funds for this conservation effort, to create a special FFGC Coral Garden, and to raise awareness and educate our members and our communities of the importance of the protection and restoration our ocean reefs. Our members have given generously to this project as well as the Penny Pines.

Monarch Butterfly Sanctuary Gardens

Last year the City of New Smyrna Beach became the second city in Florida to receive a Monarch City USA designation. The City's Public Works Director asked our Club to help with a plan to promote the recovery of the monarch butterfly population in our community. Our Garden Club implemented a program to give our residents and businesses



an opportunity to develop plantings and become a Certified Monarch Butterfly Sanctuary Garden. A Butterfly Certification Committee was formed to compile a list of the larval and nectar food plants required for the garden and an application form for the certification. Fourteen Club members quickly signed up as certifiers. Once an application was received, two certifiers visited the garden to ensure that the appropriate number and type of plants were included. The gardener then paid a \$25 fee to cover the cost of certification as well as a lovely aluminum sign identifying their home or business as a Certified Monarch Butterfly



Sanctuary Garden. Our Club has publicized the program throughout our community as well as nearby cities through our Website, Facebook page, and local newspapers. We obtained a table at the Spring Fest in downtown New Smyrna Beach to educate the public on the plight of monarch butterflies and garner interest in a gardener/owner who wished to plant and maintain a Sanctuary Garden. Monarch butterfly information, required plant lists, and applications were available, and suitable plants were offered for sale.



In the first 3 months, until May 31, a total of 36 gardens were certified: 3 businesses and 33 residences. Our Club members' gardens comprised 53 % of the gardens certified. In late October the committee began accepting new applications. This endeavor has been an exciting opportunity for us to bring our community together for a worthwhile cause.

PROGRAMS

At monthly meetings, our members are responsible for providing a creative centerpiece, napkins, and other table decorations. They meet the day before to set out the centerpieces and tableware and prepare the table for the luncheon that follows our business meeting and speaker. Over 75% of our membership participates at least once during our eight month season.

District VI Meetings

Since our Garden Club has a large Clubhouse, we are often asked to host District VI meetings as well as the Judges' Council meetings in our building. Several members are tasked with decorating and setting the tables, preparing refreshments, and providing equipment for speakers when needed. This year our own Judi Jodoin was appointed to District VI Director.



Fun with Flowers

This Program met for six sessions, with approximately 10 persons at each. A different arrangement was undertaken each time following an instructional period. Attendees brought many of the materials which they shared among the group. A few of the themes were vertical arrangements, a holiday centerpiece, Hogarth curves on a candlestick, and all-foilage arrangements. Each class ended with a discussion of concepts learned and how well they were executed. The arrangements were on display at the subsequent Garden Club general meeting. Attendees expressed enthusiasm, especially about using home grown materials minimizing purchases. The classes were led by member Sally Flanagan, FFGC Life Member and accredited Life Flower Show Judge. Recently our Sally Flanagan was awarded the Pillar of Pride honor.



FFGC Continuing Education Courses

The NSBGC hosted and chaired NGC Course 2 of Environmental School, covering subjects such as Ecology, Agriculture, Source Reduction of Pollutants, Coastal Zone Management, and Gardening with Nature. A Nature Discovery Field Trip is included. In all, there were 10 hours of instruction. Lunch was provided.

Monthly Programs

Our speaker for October, Jessy Wayles, a graduate from the University of Central Florida with a B.S. in Environmental Science, brings over twelve years of professional and volunteer experience to the Marine Discovery Center. She expanded her interest in environmental science through a variety of volunteer work including relocating sea turtle nests, tagging and measuring sea turtles, and assisting with data collection on fresh water turtles in Florida's springs.



Arbor Day

Our Club participated in the City of New Smyrna Beach Arbor Day celebration and is working with the City to receive a Tree City USA designation.

Smokey Bear/Woodsy Owl Poster Contest

Each October our Club contacts local elementary schools to encourage their participation in this national poster contest for students in Grades 1-5. We prepare a packet with rules, procedures, and tips for completing the posters. Students may complete the artwork at school or at home. We collect the posters that have been created by the students and select a number of them to submit to the FFGC Poster Chairperson. We provide certificates and other rewards to all participants. Several of our local students have been winners at the State and Deep South levels. We then arrange a small ceremony for the winners at their school and present their award certificates and checks.



New Smyrna Beach Garden Club 90th Anniversary Celebration

Our Club proudly celebrated its 90th Anniversary on November 15th. The Club has grown from a small group of women who loved gardening and held meetings in members' homes in 1929, to a very active group of over 120 today (and still growing). The Gala, held in our beautiful Clubhouse, included dignitaries and other members of our community. One member, a professional pastry chef, a spectacular cake to celebrate the occasion, and other members provided beverages. An historical display, vintage cars, music by the New Smyrna Beach High School Jazz Trio, and a slideshow were featured. Our own talented floral designers created centerpieces for each table. With a budget of only \$500, we were able, through generous donations from a majority of members, to provide a fabulous celebration to mark a milestone in our wonderful history and our commitment to the community of New Smyrna Beach.



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