



The Busy Bee

DISTRICT 1 NEWSLETTER

FLORIDA FEDERATION OF GARDEN CLUBS

GATHERING IDEAS • PLANTING SEEDS • GROWING COMMUNITY

SEPTEMBER
2026
ISSUE

What's Buzzing This Month



Fall Meeting Registration

Registration now open! Deadline
October 1, 2026. Join us as we celebrate
America 250 with a patriotic program,
speakers, luncheon and more.



Fall Plant Sale

Florida-friendly plants, native species,
monarch favorites and hummingbird plants.



Flower Show 2026

The updated schedule is here! New divisions,
simplified entries and everything you need
to prepare.



Honoring Our Military

Help us recognize veterans, active-duty
military and their families during our
Fall Meeting.



Grants & Phoenix Scholarship

Funding opportunities for clubs and
educational scholarships are accepting
applications now.



Last Chance for FlowerPower

Support the Deep South Scholarship Fund
with this year's online bulb fundraiser.

DISTRICT 1 FALL MEETING



Patriotic program,
speakers, luncheon
and more!



REGISTRATION NOW OPEN



Everything you need
to attend—details
inside.



FALL PLANT SALE



Florida-friendly plants
for pollinators and
your garden!



FLOWER SHOW 2026



Updated schedule,
new divisions, and
important details.



MILITARY RECOGNITION



Honoring veterans,
active-duty military
and their families.



GRANTS & SCHOLARSHIP



District Grants &
Phoenix Scholarship
applications now open.

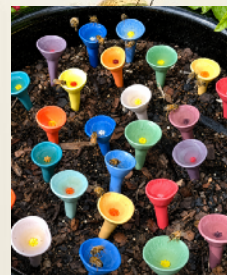


Cultivating Friendship, Education,
and Environmental Stewardship
Across Northwest Florida



Seeds of Inspiration

from Betty White



[Bee Cups](#)

Hello everyone, a couple of months ago in "Did you know," I wrote about bees needing water not just nectar. I ran across an article of more interest about bees. Most people think pesticides are the biggest threat to bees, but millions die because they do not get enough water! A ceramic artist in Vermont paints handmade clay bowls and puts them throughout her garden in the spring. The textured rim gives bees a safe place to land and drink. Searching for water as they travel back to their hive, many become exhausted before finding clean water, and they die of thirst.

"Bees are vital because they pollinate a third of the food we eat and support ecosystems." "Busy bees" keep our garden clubs going, so "bee sure to drink plenty of water!"

“



*Bee Kind... Leave a Little Water.
Every bloom begins with a healthy pollinator.*

”



Look for this symbol throughout the issue!



When you see **this symbol**, click or tap it to visit a website, send an email, view directions, register, or learn more. [Blue, underlined text](#) is also a clickable link.

Mark Your Calendar!

Okaloosa County Master Gardener Fall Plant Sale - Saturday September 19, 2026

District I's Fall Meeting Tuesday, October 13, 2026

Annual Flower Show at the Fair – Entry Day is Wednesday, October 21, 2026

Pensacola Interstate Fair and Flower Show - Thursday, October 22, 2026 through Sunday, October 31, 2026

Holiday Bazaar by Green Thumb Garden Club - Saturday, November 14, 2026 - free admission



Upcoming Buzz - Events, Deadlines & Opportunities

FFGC DISTRICT 1 Fall Meeting

Hello everyone, attached is the announcement for the District Meeting and the Call to Register with a deadline of October 1st for planning purposes for all attendees. The theme is Celebrating America 250.

The Destin Garden Club is the host club. We thank Anne Collins and her committee of Kathy Foster, Lee Vanderpool, Janet Hays, Karen Damrell and Marilyn Kennedy and other very important contributors to this event for their hard work to provide a great program. Please sign up for this meeting to be held at the First Baptist Church Fellowship Hall, 126 Harbeson Avenue, S.E., in Fort Walton Beach. The Registrar is Kathy Foster (fosterpk@gnt.com). Please send your registration directly to her address shown on the form with your check and choice of food.

Again, a kindly reminder to send in your military information to be included in the program if you have not already sent it.

Please wear patriotic colors

Thank you; I look forward to seeing you.

Betty White

Delegate information



Delegates: Each club/circle shall be entitled to delegates or alternates as follows: (From the Policies and Procedures):

"The President and one delegate for every ten paid members in good standing. If a club or circle has a co-president, each shall have a vote."

Membership of 10 to 19 - President plus one
Membership of 20 to 29 - President plus two
Membership of 30 to 39 - President plus three
Membership of 40 to 49 - President plus four
Membership of 50 to 59 - President plus five
Membership of 60 to 69 - President plus six
Membership of 70 to 79 - President plus seven
Membership of 80 to 89 - President plus eight
Membership of 90 to 109 - President plus ten
Membership of 110 to 119 - President plus eleven

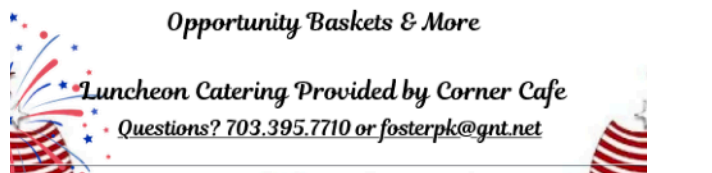
Additional delegates at District meetings shall include the District Director, the Assistant Director, each District Officer (Secretary, Treasurer and Parliamentarian), each District Chairman, each former District Director, and each member of the FFGC Board of Directors living within the District.

The names of all delegates and alternates shall be registered ten (10) days prior to each district meeting.

A delegate shall be entitled to one vote. No proxy votes are allowed.



**Please Join Destin Garden Club members for the
FFGC District 1 Fall Meeting
October 13th 9:30 a.m.
First Baptist Church Fellowship Hall
126 Harbeson Avenue SE Fort Walton Beach 3254
8:30 Registration with light morning refreshments
Presentation of the Colors by the
Eglin Color Guard
Inspiring Patriotic Program Celebrating
AMERICA
250
Wear your patriotic clothing!
Delegates' Bureau Featuring Prospective Presenters for Club
Opportunity Baskets & More
Luncheon Catering Provided by Corner Cafe
Questions? 703.395.7710 or fosterpk@gnt.net**







Registration Due by October 1, 2026

FFGC District 1 Fall Meeting - October 13th 9:30 a.m.

First Baptist Church Fellowship Hall

126 Harbeson Avenue SE Fort Walton Beach 32548

\$25 CHECK PAYABLE TO DESTIN GARDEN CLUB

SEND DIRECTLY TO: KATHY FOSTER

849 TARPON DRIVE, FORT WALTON BEACH, 32548

ime

Address

hone

Email - for confirmation of registration

Luncheon Selection: Sandwiches with two sides, Salads one side
Circle one entree plus side(s) 1. Broccoli Salad 2. Fruit Salad 3. Pasta Salad
g Salad on white with two sides 1 2 3
ub (turkey, ham, bacon, on wheat) with two sides 1 2 3
icken salad with or without grapes on Croissant with two sides 1 2 3
ggie Salad with one side 1 2 3
bb Salad (chicken, egg, avocado, bacon, feta cheese slaw, tomatoes) wi
ne side 1 2 3 **Circle Dressing Choice: Ranch House**

Please check all boxes that apply to you

☐ FFGC Officer
 ☐ District Officer
 ☐ FFGC Officer
 ☐ FFGC Chairperson
 ☐ Club President
 ☐ Club Member

☐ Former FFGC President
 ☐ Former Dis Director
 ☐ District Chairperson
 ☐ Delegate
 ☐ Circle President
 ☐ Guest



THE BUSY BEE

DISTRICT I NEWSLETTER



Upcoming Buzz - Events, Deadlines & Opportunities




Ocala County Master Gardener Volunteers

Fall Plant Sale

Price is \$7.00 per container, (tax included)
Checks made out to UF or cash only

Where?
Temp Annex in the OTC
1976 Lewis Turner Blvd,
Ft. Walton Beach, FL



Directions to the (OTC) Okaloosa Technical College, scan the QR code



SEPT 19, 2026
8am-11am

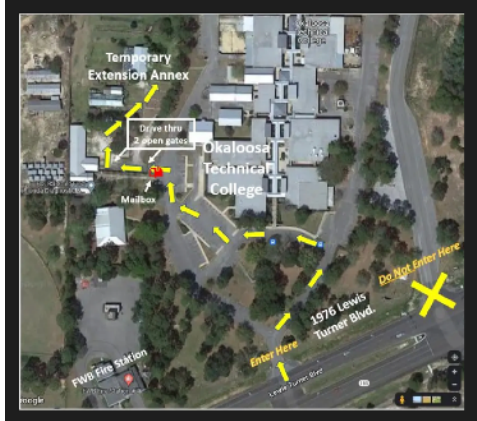
FEATURING HOUSEPLANTS & MANY NATIVE AND FLORIDA-FRIENDLYTM PLANTS:
Dozens of plants which are food and larval feeding sources for our fall migrating monarch butterflies and food source for migrating hummingbirds



This is also a perfect time to bring your black, one gallon nursery pots (only 1 gallon is needed) to donate to the Master Gardener nursery.

www.sfy1.ifas.ufl.edu/okaloosa/
AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY INSTITUTION

Take advantage of this opportunity presented by **Crestview Garden Club**. You do not have to be a Master Gardener...just RSVP to the email on the flyer. These are wonderful presentations and opportunities to learn





PENSACOLA INTERSTATE FAIR

FLOWER SHOW 2026

Celebrate America 250!

74th NGC Standard Flower Show
"Happy Birthday to U.S."

 Pensacola Interstate Fairgrounds
6655 Mobile Highway • Pensacola, Florida

WHAT'S NEW IN 2026!

- Horticulture has been reorganized into five new sections
 - Annuals • Perennials • Shrubs • Trees
 - NEW Combination Plantings section
- Hanging baskets are now judged within container-grown classes
- NEW High School Youth Horticulture Division
- Streamlined Botanical Arts Competition Horticulture and Artistic Crafts (No Botanical Arts Design Division)
- Easy Sunday pickup Designs, container plants, and awards November 1 • 8:00-10:00 a.m.

ENTER YOUR BEST
Flowers, Plants & Garden Creations!

ENTRY DAY
WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 21, 2026
7:00 – 10:30 a.m.

JUDGING BEGINS
1:00 p.m.

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC
Beginning **THURSDAY, OCTOBER 22**
4:00 p.m. when the Pensacola Interstate Fair opens

The Flower Show remains open throughout the Fair October 22-31 with Fair admission.

EVERYONE CAN PARTICIPATE!
Whether you grow:

- ROSES
- FLOWERS
- FOLIAGE PLANTS
- CONTAINER GARDENS
- TREES & SHRUBS
- FRUITS & VEGETABLES
- COMBINATION PLANTINGS

...there's a class for you! Open to all amateur gardeners and designers.

Sponsored by
PENSACOLA FEDERATION OF GARDEN CLUBS, INC.
and
PENSACOLA INTERSTATE FAIR, INC.

SUBMIT ALL ENTRIES, HORTICULTURE AND DESIGNS, on WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 21, 7:00-10:30 a.m.

and connect. See the flyer and detailed map for this event.

The **Annual Flower Show at the Interstate Fair in Pensacola** has been planned and the details are out! Its time to get growing so you can be prepared to enter candidates into the show. Many wanted changes have been implemented so check out the [details here](#).



In Bloom Across District I-

As clubs begin planning for their year, we are looking forward to hearing about your first meetings, if you had a social and any other work you have been planning for the year.

Get Growing for the Fair Flower Show!

Deanna Gordon from PFGC, was busy building the rules and regulations for the upcoming Fall Fair Flower show. Emails have been sent out with links to the detailed document, but you can also grab it here at [this link](#).

District Grants & Phoenix Scholarship Opportunities

To date no applications have been received for the **District I Grant Program**. This is a wonderful opportunity for your club to receive financial assistance for a project planned for next spring or summer. If your club has an idea that supports the mission of FFGC and District I, we encourage you to submit an application. We would love to help bring your project to life!. [Click here to access the application](#).

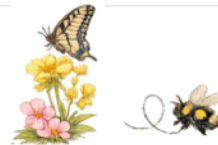
The **District I “Phoenix” Scholarship** is also accepting applications. This scholarship provides reimbursement for a portion of the cost of educational opportunities such as horticulture courses, design programs, NGC or FFGC schools, and other classes that support the mission of FFGC and District I. We encourage you to share this opportunity with your members and invite anyone interested in expanding their gardening knowledge and skills to apply. [Click here to access the application](#).

We look forward to receiving your applications and supporting the outstanding work being done throughout District I!



PFGC Membership Tea Celebrates Friendship, Flowers, and New Beginnings

There is something special that happens when gardeners gather—not just to admire flowers, but to share stories, friendships, and a shared love of gardening.



In Bloom Across District I-

Continued... **PFGC Membership Tea Celebrates Friendship, Flowers, and New Beginnings**

This year's Pensacola Federation of Garden Clubs Membership Tea welcomed members, guests, and prospective members for an afternoon filled with beautiful floral displays, elegant tea service, delicious refreshments, and meaningful conversations representing each of our Garden Circles.

Throughout the Garden Center, each circle created a unique display reflecting its personality, traditions, community projects, and history. Guests were invited to browse photographs, awards, newsletters, and memorabilia while learning about meeting locations, educational programs, and volunteer opportunities. Every display offered a glimpse into the rich diversity of experiences available through membership in our Federation. *Congratulations to **Debbie Kay, Membership Chair**, for a successful event!*



Centerpiece from her garden by **Ann Morris, Dogwood Circle, PFGC**



**FlowerPower
Online Fundraiser**



Let's support The Deep South regions fundraiser!

The Deep South region is providing a last chance to purchase bulbs for the Deep South Garden Club scholarship with an **online bulb program** for this fall's bulbs. You have only about a month left to place your order; bulbs ship 10/15/2026.

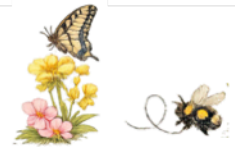
On behalf of the District, a \$100 donation has been given to the Deep South Garden Clubs for their scholarship program. Denise Thorne has expressed her thank you and appreciation for the donation.



Last chance for bulbs for the DSGC scholarship! We are excited to offer several New Items to our Fall 2026 Program! New items will be marked with a red, New Item banner on the top left of the picture. The deadline is October 15. Items will ship in early October.

<http://DSGC.fpfundraising.com>

Contact Ways and Means Chairmen, Kathy Sudduth, with questions.
kathysudduth@gmail.com 251.978.0661



Short Course North 2026 (SCN)

SCN 2026 is now in the history books and thanks to all 65 who attended, the district made a nice profit of \$2,154.36 which will be split with FFGC. Additionally, the district earned 255.00 raffles and donations. So, our **net profit is \$1,332.18 for District 1!!**

Special thanks to Gina Jogan, registrar, Sheila Salerno, check-in, and Jenny Weber, 50/50 sales!

The theme for this 17th annual session was **"Possibilities"**. We enjoyed speakers from all 4 District I county extension offices, from UF, US Forestry, American Daylily Society Region 12, a grower of unusual edible plants and the owner of Food Trucks for the Birds. Topics ranged from Oyster Gardening, Urban Forestry, Foodscaping to Daylilies, The Great Pollinator Census, Soils, and chemicals on your lawn. All topics were well received!

Yummy and filling lunches were catered by Sonny's BBQ and Publix and breakfast snacks were provided. We had two plant vendors and various donated door prizes (books) were given away. The district held a 50/50 and horticulture identification guessing game each day. Congratulations to our winners!

Tina Tuttle, Short Course North Chair

"How doth the busy bee improve each shining hour and gather honey all day from every opening flower."

Isaac Watts



Parting Petals

Some final thoughts from Betty.

Lest We Forget, This year marks another solemn anniversary of September 11, 2001—a day forever etched in our nation's history.

As we pause to remember, we honor the nearly 3,000 innocent lives lost, the courage of the first responders who ran toward danger, and the countless families whose lives were changed forever. We also remember the strength, compassion, and unity that emerged in the days that followed. May we never take for granted the freedoms we enjoy or the sacrifices made to protect them.

***At the going down of the sun and in the morning,
we will remember them.***

"Remember. Honor. Never Forget."



Betty can be reached at bettyw74@yahoo.com

*Stacy can be reached at ffgcdistrict1busybee@gmail.com.

Betty White, Editor
Stacy Swift, Creative Designer
September 2026 Issue



*Bee Busy, Bee Strong,
and Bee-lieve in yourself!*

