

Gary's KFB History

1966 Lady Bird Johnson, inaugurated a federal concept entitled The Beautification of America.

1973 the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) of the United States Department of Transportation established Operation Wildflower for Interstate Highways nationwide

1971 Florida began its official Wildflower Program

1987 Florida Federation of Garden Clubs, inc. began first initiative to collect signatures.

1996 the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT), took the lead and brought together Keep Florida Beautiful, the Florida Chapter of the American Society of Landscape Architects, Inc, the Lt. Governor's Office, the University of Florida; Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences, Think Beauty Foundation, the Florida Department of Environmental Protection, the Florida League of Cities and the Florida Association of Counties in sponsoring an initiative for adoption of a state Wildflower License Plate. This group became known as the Florida Wildflower Advisory Council.

1998 November, the group submitted 12,000 signatures in support of the proposal along with a check for \$30,000 from the FDOT to the Florida Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles.

1999 June, the legislation creating the Florida Wildflower License Plate was passed. The Legislation placed the Florida Wildflower Advisory Council under Keep Florida Beautiful for utilization of its non-profit tax status. KFB established a Wildflower Account separate from their funding. KFB received separate funding from the state through DEP.

2000 February, the Florida Cabinet approved the Current Wildflower License Plate design.

The Chairman of the Florida Wildflower Advisory Council was a member of the KFB board and made several requests for research funding and marketing expenditures. There were difficulties with access and accounting of the Wildflower Account from KFB. Pinpointing the problem from this late date would be speculation but it appeared there were communication difficulties between the KFB Board, their Executive Director and their office manager.

2001 Florida Wildflower Foundation established as 501(c)3 non-profit. KFB was not funded by the State and still the Council could not ascertain an account summary from the KFB Treasurer.

2002 Legislation submitted by the Senate Environmental Committee to abolish KFB and redirect the proceeds from the sales of the Wildflower License plate to the Florida

Wildflower Foundation. Legislation did not pass. KFB was not funded by the legislature for a second year. The KFB Board was much aware of the Council/Foundation's frustration and began developing proposed procedures for funding requests.

2003 KFB was not funded for a third time.

See Draft Proposal for KFB 2004 February 1, 2004

2004 Legislation again submitted by the Senate Environmental Committee to abolish KFB and redirect the proceeds from the sales of the Wildflower License plate to the Florida Wildflower Foundation. Legislation did not pass. Politically KFB was having tremendous difficulties achieving funds from the state. It appeared the Senate President was the main block to their funding (I was not informed of the specifics). At this time the Council/Foundation began looking into other legislative placement possibilities. Placement of the Council/Foundation under a state entity would ensure support from the state. The License Plate gave us guaranteed funding without legislative authorization. However, there was a concern that the parent department would be just as difficult in dispersing 'our' funds as KFB had been. Legislation was developed with the aid of the Department of Agriculture and submitted to the Legislature without success.

See Benji and KFB Meeting 1/10/2005. The Florida Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles conducted an audit of the KFB Wildflower Account and found it to be lacking \$49,000. The invalid expenditures were attributed to administrative and marketing costs agreed upon by both KFB and the Foundation. The Council/Foundation was adamant that a divorce from KFB was imperative for its survival. The Foundation explored different avenues for the borrowing of funds to make the wildflower account whole. Member organizations were queried without success. The Foundation finally took out a loan at the Tallahassee State Bank for \$49,000 and agreed to have the license plate sales funds electronically deposited in that bank account under our direct control.

2005 Legislation submitted a third time by the Senate Environmental Committee to abolish KFB and redirect the proceeds from the sales of the Wildflower License plate to the Florida Wildflower Foundation. Legislation passed and was effective as of July 1, 2005.

April 29, 2006 Florida Wildflower Foundation registers KFB name with Department of State with Mr. Don Bell, the Board's Attorney, as the Registered Agent and the address is 1126 Brandt Drive, Tallahassee, Florida 32308 (See [www.sunbiz.org/Department of State.mht](http://www.sunbiz.org/Department%20of%20State.mht)). This was done to guarantee the Florida Wildflower Foundation would not be placed under their umbrella in the event they managed to be resurrected.

September 14, 2007, Administrational Dissolution of our KFB registration for lack of an Annual Report.

Reinstatement (See Corporation Fees) \$341.25/year to reinstate, accompanied with an annual report for each year missed. FWF has not files for 3 years = \$1,023.75 to reinstate until September '09.