

# The Courier

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER  
OF THE  
FORT MYERS / LEE COUNTY  
GARDEN COUNCIL, INC.  
2166 - 2172 VIRGINIA AVENUE  
FORT MYERS, FL 33901

**SPECIAL  
POINTS OF  
INTEREST:**

**There will be a special program at the Council Building Friday Jan. 30th at 9:30am. Floral Design instructor Liz Shaw presents "the tricks of the trade", how to make your design stand out, ideas for staging shows - small and large, etc. Cost is \$5. Contact Marty Ward to register @ 549-7516. Limited to 30 persons.**

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**HAPPY NEW YEAR**

**President's Message**

Dear Members,

Happy New Year! Hopefully yours has started off on a happy note. It's the beginning of a busy season for the Garden Council with the opening of the Gardens, our biannual flower show and the start of new leadership as Mitzi Marckesano becomes "President -Elect".

The garden is awaiting the completion of the areas designated for the horticultural societies with the James Hendry Chapter of the American Hibiscus Society leading the charge with their beautiful hibiscus beginning to grace their area. Caloosa Rare Fruit Exchange is not far behind with the coming full moon, the first week of February and Bonsai Society is in the planning stages. We're excited to see the results of their efforts and thank each of them for their enthusiasm and drive.

Betty Mazarella and Mae Jean Nothstein have been working very hard as our Flower Show Chairmen to get the show ready for March. It's coming together very nicely



with a newspaper theme this year setting the stage. I hope everyone, including the horticultural societies will participate and make this the best show yet for the Fort Myers-Lee County Garden Council. Please note that our March meeting, which falls on March 13th, during the show, will be held at the flower show on the grounds of Edison State College, instead of the usual meeting place at Riverside Community Center. The exact location has not been determined, but we'll make sure you get that information as soon as possible.

So, it looks to be an exciting second half of the year. I'm so glad to see so many of the clubs using the Garden Council Building. We're looking forward to making everything easily available to all of you in the near future. Thank you for your patience and perseverance during this time of construction and delays. We're looking forward to seeing it become the jewel of the area for many, many years to come.

Sincerely,

*Diane Raimey* - President

**January 9th 2009 FMLCGC General Meeting - Call to order 9:30 am**

- Inspirational Message - Nancy Wheeler
- Pledge of Allegiance - Winnie Stone
- Reading of the Minutes - Florene John, Recording Secretary
- Financial Report - Marty Ward, Treasurer
- President's Report - Diane Raimey
- 1st Vice President's Report - Mitzi Marckesano
- 2nd Vice President's Report - Angela Swope
- Reports of Committee Chairs (as needed)

- Wish List Committee - Sylvia Lightbody
- Gardens Committee - Angela Swope
- Horticulture Chair - Kathy Woodlock
- Public Relations - Ena McGrattan
- Old Business / New Business / Announcements
- PROGRAM: Floral Design - get ready for the upcoming spring flower shows
- Adjournment - Ways & Means 50/50 drawing

Join us at 9:00am for refreshments provided by Tropicana Garden Club

## Garden Council Meeting Dates

### BOARD MEETINGS

(Officers, Directors, Committee Chairs)

- FRIDAY JAN. 2, 2009 - moved to 1-5
  - 
  - FRIDAY MARCH 6, 2009
- MEETINGS FROM 9:30 AM TO 11:30 AM

**At the Garden Council Bldg.  
2166 Virginia Ave. Fort Myers**

### GENERAL MEETINGS

All are Welcome

- FRIDAY JAN. 9, 2009
- Hostess - Tropicana Garden Club
- Program - Floral Design
- 
- FRIDAY MARCH 13, 2009
- FRIDAY MAY 8, 2009

### GENERAL MEETINGS

MEETINGS ARE HELD THE 2ND FRIDAY  
OF THE MONTH EVERY OTHER MONTH  
SEPTEMBER TO MAY

Meeting Location:

**3061 E Riverside Dr  
Fort Myers, FL**

HOSPITALITY 9:00 AM TO 9:30 AM  
MEETINGS 9:30 AM TO 11:30 AM

To all our friends and loved ones, We Wish You *enough* ...

Enough sun to keep your attitude bright no matter how gray the day may appear.

Enough rain to appreciate the sun even more.

Enough happiness to keep your spirit alive and everlasting.

Enough pain so that even the smallest of joys in life may appear bigger.

Enough gain to satisfy your wanting.

Enough loss to appreciate all that you possess.

Enough hellos to get you through the final good-bye.



DON'T  
FORGET

Floral Design Classes begin Thursday January 15 at 9 am at the Garden Council Bldg. 2166 Virginia Ave. (just north of the Edison Estates off McGregor Blvd.). The first class will be taught by local designers Judy Gore and Marty Ward. They have asked that students bring the following: Any questions, please contact Marty Ward 549-7516 .

1. Low, flat container - round or square - at least 10' in diameter (similar to a baking dish)
2. Pinholder or needlepoint stem holder
3. Tools - clippers, scissors, wire, "cling", etc. - Marty will have some items for sale
4. Newspapers to cover your area
5. Brown bag lunch; there will be coffee in the morning and there is a small refrigerator avail.

As part of the November Council meeting - Sandy Kavouras demonstrated a *Collage* design - recently added as a new class to the FFGC Flower show schedule. Please join us at our January meeting to see designs and ideas for the upcoming Strolling Flower show and Garden Council show - presented by the always inventive Ena McGrattan.



**There will be a special program at the Council Building Friday Jan. 30th , 9:30am. Floral Design instructor Liz Shaw presents "the tricks of the trade", how to make your design stand out, ideas for staging shows - small and large, etc. Cost is \$5. Contact Marty Ward to register @ 549-7516. Limited to 30 persons.**

## Caring for our gardens and lives

*The following is an article submitted by Jean Shields to the Cape Coral Daily BREEZE newspaper; she and Joyce Comingore split the duties for a weekly column. We hope you enjoy these thoughts for the New Year.*

A well cared for garden flourishes, and brings happiness and hope for continuing successes to its tender.

Many times our gardens are somewhat weedy and messy and not to our liking at all.

Sometimes a garden will flourish in spite of all we do with it. When we pick and arrange the plants and soil to suit our plans there is never any guarantee that all of our work and planning will result in exactly the final result we had planned. This is where experience, patience, and going with the flow will eventually pay off.

A gardener can be pleasantly surprised with the results, or disappointed and have to try again to have the garden they are hoping for.

Sometimes it may take several tries to make it work, sometimes it is easier to just let nature have its way and enjoy what we get !

Yes, a gardener can just give up and stop buying things to plant, and toiling in the too dry soil and hot sun. It is certainly easier to sit back and cover up everything with concrete and mulch.

But the true gardener does not give up for long, we just rest, regroup and reeducate ourselves and start over to plan another special place to nourish and enjoy the fruits of our labor.

Gardeners are a hardy breed and we can always find a way, or be persuaded to try, try again.

Will we succeed mightily, or in a mediocre way, or still need to get some help to get the weeds out, amend the soil, change our thinking. Maybe the gardener doesn't need to try so hard to have the perfect garden.

The true gardener will enjoy the journey on the way to reaping the rewards of a great garden. After all there are many different ways to garden, who is to say which way is the best for all.

The perils of gardening and life are pretty much alike. We all need to nourish ourselves and each other. The better the environment we are surrounded with the easier it is to succeed.

A little rain never hurts and it reminds us of how great the sunshine can be. A few setbacks are to be expected. In life as in gardening we must remember to enjoy the good times and have patience with the unwanted weeds and critters that appear, no matter how we try to keep them at bay.

Life, as well as gardens will flourish at times and fail at times. It is up to all of us to make the most of what we have, good, bad or indifferent.

We can take charge as much as possible, and not let the undesirable events overwhelm us.

We can share our lives and gardens with others. At this time of year it is a fine thing to rest up from the garden and nourish ourselves and others. When the holidays are over there will be plenty of gardening to do, and maybe a new friend to share in your success.

Happy Holidays and Happy Gardening, till we meet again.

*H. Jean Shields*



Submitted by H. Jean Shields - Past President of the Garden Club of Cape Coral  
for Kathy Woodlock, Horticulture Chairman

**2009 Strolling Flower Show**

Thursday Feb. 5th and Friday the 6th are the dates for the 2009 Flower Show, staged by Periwinkle Garden Club and sponsored by the Bell Tower Shops. The theme of this year's show is : **"Going Green for Mr. Edison"**. The **71st show** will be held at the Bell Tower Shops in Fort Myers, corner of Daniels Pkwy and Route 41. Periwinkle Garden Club invites all Garden Council members to check out this year's show. Contact Madeline Evans at 267-0961 for more information. The luncheon on Thursday Feb. 5th at 12:30 will be at the Clarion Hotel. Come see the winners announced and enjoy a great lunch.

For luncheon reservations, complete and return the following reservation form:

*2009 "Going Green for Mr. Edison"  
Strolling Flower Show Luncheon Reservation Form  
Return by January 25, 2009*

GARDEN CLUB NAME \_\_\_\_\_

Number of Members attending: \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$23 = \_\_\_\_\_ (Amount enclosed)

PLEASE MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO **PERIWINKLE GARDEN CLUB**

Names \_\_\_\_\_  
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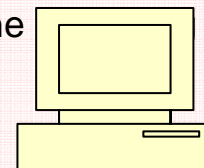
Please send this completed reservation form and check by January 25, 2009 to:

**Shirley Reaves  
1445 El Prado Avenue  
Fort Myers, FL 33901**

***Please direct any questions to Shirley Reaves at 334-0268 or Madeline Evans at 267-0961***

Check out the newly updated Garden Council website.  
You can now download forms for memorial bricks; horticulture forms for the  
Flower show or even check out old Couriers.

**WWW.FMLCGARDENCOUNCIL.COM**



This year the Fort Myer's Woman's Community Club presented their annual Holiday House at the Burroughs and Langford-Kingston Homes. Several Council members had a hand in creating these magical displays. What a wonderful way to begin the Holiday season. Jan Padgett and Green Thumb G.C., Pam Dorchak and Sandy Kavouras were some of the contributors. (Sorry if we missed any names).

Marty Ward enjoys the Music Room - "Hitting the High Notes" Chair: Ena McGrattan with help from Sylvia Lightbody, Mitzi Marckesano and Winnie Stone.



JANUARY / FEBRUARY 2009 Calendar of Events

House and Garden Show	Sat. Jan. 10; Sun. Jan. 11	Harbourside Event Center - Fort Myers
FMLCGC Floral Design Course	Thur. Jan. 15 & Thur. Jan. 29 9am begins lecture and demos	Garden Council Bldg. Virginia Ave. Brown bag lunch, workshop until 3pm
Florida Arbor Day	Friday, Jan.16	<i>Go green, plant a tree</i>
Edison Estates Horticulture Series Contact the Estates Education Dept. 334-7419 for registration/information	Sat. Jan.17 10am - noon	Propagation methods Members \$10, non-members \$20
Orchid Society Show & Sale	Fri. Jan. 23 12 - 8 pm Sat. Jan. 24 10 - 6pm Sun. Jan. 25 10 - 5pm	Clarion Hotel 12635 S. Cleveland Ave. Fort Myers Contact: Bob Fesq FesqR@embarqmail.com
FFGC Tropical Short Course Embassy Suites 661 NW53rd St. Boca Raton, FL	Mon. Jan 26 8am - 2:30pm Tues. Jan. 27 8am - 2:30pm For more info or to register email BarbaraHoran@msn.com	Lloyd Singleton, Kristin Jacobs & Jan Sillik Allen Sistrunk, Georgia Tasker & Julia Clevett
Strolling Flower Show Luncheon	Thur. Feb. 5 & Fri. Feb. 6 Thur. Feb 5 12:30pm	Bell Tower Shops "Going Green for Mr. Edison" Clarion Hotel 12635 S. Cleveland Ave.
Art Fest - Fort Myers 2009	Sat. Feb. 7 & Sun. Feb. 8	River District, downtown Fort Myers
Caloosa Rare Fruit Tropical Tree Sale	Sat. Feb. 14 9 - 3pm Contact: Rachael Singletary 543-9910 or Kurt Gearing 574-7836	Terry Park 3406 Palm Beach Blvd. Fort Myers
Garden Club of Cape Coral <i>Garden Market</i>	Sat. March 14	Jaycee Park - Cape Coral
Fort Myers/Lee County Garden Council Biannual <i>Flower Show</i>	Sat. March 14	Edison State College "Newspaper Capers"
FFGC State Convention	April 16 - 17, 2009	The Plaza Resort and Spa, Daytona Beach

**President**

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**ON THE WEB**

WWW.FMLCGARDENCOUNCIL.COM