

# The Courier



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

## President's Message

Dear Members,

This spring is shaping up to be very busy months. February 27th marks the Grand Opening of the Gardens and Library from 5 to 7 pm. It will be the culmination of years of planning and hard work by the building and gardens committees. Special thanks to those who worked so hard with us in the early stages, Debbie Hughes, Sandy Kavouras, Ena McGrattan, Jerry Sibenaler to name but a few. And a special thank you to Mayor Humphrey, who took up the cause for the Garden Council and worked hard to see it come to pass. I hope you can all make it and see what has been accomplished over the past few months. The horticultural societies have been working overtime to put in their sections. I'd like to thank *The James Hendry Chapter of the American Hibiscus Society*, the *Bonsai Society of Southwest Florida*, the *Caloosahatchee Bromeliad Society*, the *Caloosa Rare Fruit Exchange*, *Florida Native Plant Society* and the *Greater Fort Myers Rose Society* for their wonderful contributions and hard work and a really big thank you to *Angela Swope*, who has made a herculean effort to get the garden ready for the opening. Of course it will be some time before *all* the plants and signs can be installed and the plants grow to be lush and beautiful. As with all new things, it will mature over time. This has been a cold winter, and some of the new plants are dormant or must wait for warmer weather to be planted. We're also still hoping some more of our garden clubs will adopt the planters and make them another beautiful garden element in the future. I'd like to thank *Jasmine Garden Club*, who has adopted one of the large pots for their signature Jasmine vine and also the shed, that is now installed on the far side of the building. Also a big thank

you goes out to *Poinciana Garden Club*, who adopted one of the large herb pots and planted a rare fruit tree for the garden in memory of Kaye Cude. Berne Davis made the Arbor possible and *Green Thumb Garden Club* contributed the fountain. If you think your club would be interested in taking a pot on as a project, please contact me or any of the officers. It will also mark the kick off of our newest fundraising project "*Grow a Vine in 2009*". We're hoping to grow our donor wall and build a Garden Foundation to give the garden funds for future needs. Please see Angela Swope or check the website for more information on that. It's a great way to leave a legacy for future generations.

Our bi-annual flower show, "*Newspaper Capers*" will be held March 12 and 13. Edison State College has graciously given us permission to have it there again. We're also having our March meeting in their adjoining Auditorium. *Betty Mazzarella* and *Mae Jean Nothstein* are the Chairpersons this year and *Mitzi Marckesano*, who has worked tirelessly on the gardens, building and fundraising and deserves our many thanks, is planning to have another wonderful preview party to open the show. There will be lots of great food and auction items this year, so be sure to contact Mitzi and get signed up to attend. You may also pay at the door the night of the event. I hope those of you who participated in this year's *Strolling Flower Show* will also sign up to do an arrangement. *Periwinkle Garden Club* once again staged an outstanding event at the Bell Tower. Be sure to read about it on page 2.

I hope you will all get a chance to go outside and enjoy the beautiful spring weather, whether it's in your garden or another.

*Diane Raimey* - President



### SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

#### • OPEN HOUSE

The FMLCGC is ready to show off their new home and demonstration gardens at 2166 Virginia Ave. Please join us Friday night - Feb. 27th from 5 to 7pm.

#### • FLOWER SHOW PREVIEW PARTY

"NEWSPAPER CAPERS" is coming to the Edison State College March 12-13. Be sure to get your tickets to the preview party!

#### • MARCH MEETING CHANGE!

This month's general meeting will be held at Edison State College on March 13.

### INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- Strolling Flower Show 2
- Horticulture article 3
- Standard Flower Show 4
- Nominating Committee 6
- Calendar of Events 6

### Friday March 13th, 2009 FMLCGC General Meeting - Call to order 9:00 am

Inspirational Message - Nancy Wheeler  
Pledge of Allegiance - Winnie Stone  
Reading of the Minutes - Florene Johns, 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)  
Flower Show Committee - Betty Mazzarella, Mae Jean Nothstein

Wish List Committee - Sylvia Lightbody  
Gardens Committee - Angela Swope  
Horticulture Chair - Kathy Woodlock  
Public Relations - Ena McGrattan  
Design Chairman - Winnie Stone  
Old Business / New Business / Announcements  
PROGRAM: *Bamboo Farm* - Nancy Palmer  
Adjournment  
Ways & Means - 50/50 drawing - Madeline Bohannan

Meeting will not be held at Riverside Community Center this month. Instead it will be held at Edison State College. See P. 2

## Garden Council Meeting Dates

### 2009 BOARD MEETINGS

(Officers, Directors, Committee Chairs)

- FRIDAY MARCH 6, 2009
- FRIDAY MAY 1, 2009

MEETINGS FROM 9:30 AM TO 11:30 AM

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

### 2009 GENERAL MEETINGS

All are Welcome

- Please note the location of our next Council meeting has changed...

March 13th, Edison State College, Rush Library Auditorium Building J. There will be no refreshments so EAT breakfast! Election of Officers will be held at this meeting.

**Program - Ted Tidwell,  
First Enviro Safety**

- FRIDAY MAY 8, 2009
  - Hostess - GC of Lehigh
- Program - Installation of New Officers**

### GENERAL MEETINGS

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

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

## 2009 Strolling Flower Show

### “Going Green for Mr. Edison”

Many observers and participants would agree that the 60<sup>th</sup> Strolling Flower Show at Bell Tower Shops was among the best ever. There was an overwhelming response this year with 49 arrangements/displays! The arrangers outdid themselves with beautiful, creative floral designs. One might have thought the cold weather on February 5 would be a deterrent; but, in fact, it seemed to be a stimulant.

Winners of **Blue Ribbons in the Judges Category** are as follows: “from Brown to Green and Beyond” - Pat Grulke; “Bamboo – High style Green” – Judy Gore; “Jewels from the Sea Can Make Our Planet Green” – Olga LaPata; “RECYCLE – Way to Go!” – Winnie Stone; “Omaha Wind Power” – Georgia B. Mixon; “Green, Green, Musical Machine” – Lois Gressman; “TGI Friday and TG for Everyday That’s Green” – Suzy Valentine; “It’s a ‘Tal’ Order, ‘Bot’ What Do You Do with Bamboo, Mr. Edison?” – Sandra Kavouras; “Green Fields” – Brenda Norris; “Root-Remedy Ready” – Betty Mazzarella.

**Blue Ribbon winners** are as follows: “We Don’t Have Green Bananas Today, Mr. Edison” – Victoria Taylor; “A Symphony of Green for Mr. Edison” - Cecilia Schwartz; “Pitching in Today for a Greener Tomorrow” – Barbara Brown; “Walking for Greener Tomorrow with Mr. Edison” – Kathy Woodlock; “Thyme for Candlelight” – Sue Losey and Martha Lambert; “An Eyetopia Topiary for a Green Utopia” – Guenn Martin and Martha Lambert; “Looking Toward a Greener World” – Paula Novander and Pat Molin; “In pursuit of a Tropical Paradise Island for Mr. Edison” – Mary Lithicum; “Greener on the Other Side” – Julia Palmer; “Going Green with Style” – Giles Tompkins; “Finding Oasis for Beautiful Décor” – Michelle Williams and Betty Lose; “Tequila Sunset” – Diane Raimy; “ ‘Avenues’ for a Greener Tomorrow” – Darlene Tompkins; “The A B C & D’s of Going Green” – Kathy Erickson; “ ‘Shades’ of Green” – Monica G. Freed; “Trader Rick’s Welcome Spring Greens” – Peggy Gingell; “If Mr. Edison Had Experimented with VS’s Most Famous Invention . . .” – David Southall; “Going Green Down Under for Mr. Edison” – Florene Johns; “Stirring Up Green for Mr. Edison” – Angela Swope, JoAnne Schweinfurth, and Pat Klingman; “Give a Green Light to the All-American Kitchen—Compliments of Mr. Edison” – Suzy Marshall, Nancy Wheeler, and Sue Ackert.



**Specialty Ribbons** are as follows: **Gold Ribbon** (Chrysanthemums) awarded to Monica G. Freed for “ ‘Shades’ of Green”; **Violet Ribbon** (Tropical Flowers) awarded to Mary Lithicum for “In Pursuit of a Tropical Paradise”; **Green Ribbon** (using a majority of foliage) awarded to Paula Novander and Pat Molin for “Looking Toward a Greener World”; **Silver Ribbon** (Gladiolus) awarded to Peggy Gingell for “Trader Ricks’s Welcome Spring” and **Crimson Ribbon** (Roses) awarded to Kathy Woodlock for “Walking for a Greener Tomorrow”.

The **Three Top Honors** were awarded as follows: Runner-up for **DESIGNERS CHOICE AWARD** – David Southall for “If Mr. Edison Experimented with VS’s Most Famous Invention . . .” and the Winner for **DESIGNERS CHOICE AWARD** Julia Palmer for “Greener on the Other Side” and the Winner for **TRI-COLOR AWARD** – Darlene Tompkins for “ ‘Avenues’ for a Greener Tomorrow”. There was a three-way tie for the **JUDGES CATEGORY AWARD**, and the recipients are as follows: Lois Gressman for “Green, Green, Musical Machine”; Betty Mazzarella for “Root-Ready Remedy” (see photo) and Winnie Stone for “RECYCLE—Way to Go!”.

Periwinkle Garden Club thanks everyone who participated in the 60th Strolling Flower Show. It is hoped that the 61st Strolling Flower Show will be even bigger and better.

Submitted by Madeline Evans - Co-Chair

## Caring for our gardens and lives

### Bald Cypress

#### Bald Cypress -A Signature Tree of Florida

In January of 2008, It was suggested that Garden Clubs and individuals purchase memberships to the National Arbor Day Foundation and in doing so receive Bald Cypress or Live Oak seedlings. These then could be planted in various native areas in the county. The Garden Club of Cape Coral did so and received in the mail last December five live oak bare root seedlings which were planted by a member and are growing in pots. Ten bald cypress bare root seedlings were delivered to my address, planted in pots and eight of them are flushing out new delicate feathery green foliage. These will be planted behind the Historical Society of Cape Coral in the native plant garden on National Arbor Day. Russ Ringland of Cape Coral has taken on a personal endeavor to plant bald cypress and slash pines in the low lying areas between ramps along Veterans Parkway in Cape Coral. Right now these look like dead sticks but soon will be sporting new summer growth.

One might say that these trees are too big to grow on a small lot. Not so. At least one member of the Cape Coral Garden Club has one at the corner of the lot. Although bald cypress usually grow in swampy areas, they are quite adaptable to drier sites. They are one of the conifers that sheds their leaves in the winter, hence the bald title. Maintenance is very low or none at all. Full sun is preferred along with residing in zones 8-10a however they survive as far as upstate New York. In many ways, the bald cypress trees are the "redwood" of the eastern US.

Bald cypress is attractive in every season. In spring, the leaves are a beautiful light green shade as they flush out. These slowly expand to produce a ferny, darker green mantle. In autumn, the leaves turn various shades of reddish brown before falling. In winter, the leafless tree reveals a beautiful pyramidal form with a rich cinnamon brown bark. The knees so often associates with bald cypress do not develop on upland sites. In wet sites, the gardener must consider their presence as they may make walking in a grove of these trees difficult and mowing all but impossible. This is an excellent specimen to beautify retention ponds, drainage swales and canal banks.

Kathy Woodlock, Horticulture Chairman



Kathy's award winning stretch design for the 60th Strolling Flower show "Walking for a Greener Tomorrow" - Crimson Ribbon - best use of Roses

*Florida Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc.*

As your club begins signing up members for the next year please consider becoming a member of the Florida Federation if your club does not already belong. Do you know all the programs that the Federation supports, especially for the youth of Florida? Poster contests for the little ones, Critter Camp, Camp Wekiva engage junior gardeners; high school students enjoy SEEK programs; new are rain barrel and recycling programs - just some of the projects supported by your contributions. Find out more on the Federation's great website:

[www.ffgc.org](http://www.ffgc.org)



**EXTRA ! EXTRA ! READ ALL ABOUT IT !**

Fort Myers / Lee County Garden Council, Inc. presents...

***Newspaper Capers***

A Standard Flower Show at Edison State College 8099 College Parkway - Bldg. S will be presented by the Garden Council Thursday March 12 and Friday March 13 with takedown on Saturday March 14, 2009. Entries will be accepted from 2 pm until 8 pm on Wednesday March 11th and from 9 am until 11am Thursday the 12th. Judging will commence at 2:00 pm on Thursday, with a preview party beginning at 5 pm and general free admission from 7 pm until 9 pm Thursday and Friday March 13th from 9 am until 5 pm. All exhibits must be removed between 9 and 11 am on Saturday March 14th. All entries MUST be pre-registered. Horticulture Chairman is Brenda Norris and 3 Council members will be taking entries; broken down by exhibitor's last name. Please call or email Joyce Comingore (at 573-0388 or JaybeeC@hotmail.com) if your name begins with an "A - I". If your last name begins with a "J - Q" please call or email Kathy Woodlock (242-6303 or KathyW@earthlink.com) and finally "R - Z" should register with Beverly Zorn at 432-0407.



Instructor Liz Shaw displays a "vertical" design created in the Floral Design class Jan. 29. Now is the chance for you students to show off your new

**Division I - Horticulture**

***Go Lifestyles***

Section A - *Classifieds* - Collections

Section B - *Health and Fitness* - Container-grown flowering plants

Section C - *Home Seeker* - Cut foliage specimen - one stem

Section D - *Taste* - Edible / Culinary specimens

Section E - *Tropicalia* - Container-grown foliage plants

Section F - *Home & Garden* - Cut flowering specimen - one stem

Section G - *Real Estate* - Foliage or flowering - shrub or tree - 12" to 30" stem

**Division II - Design**

***The News Press***

Section A - *Local and State* Eligible for Designer's Choice Award

Section B - *Comic Page* Eligible for Petite Award

Section C - *Gulf Coasting* Eligible for Table Artistry Award

Section D - *Travel & Leisure* Eligible for Tri-Color Award

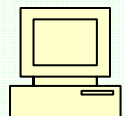
Section E - *Books* Novice Class

All Designers must pre-register with Kay Holloway - 332-0294 or [Hollowaykay@aol.com](mailto:Hollowaykay@aol.com). Any questions, contact either Betty Mazzarella ([bettymazz@aol.com](mailto:bettymazz@aol.com)) or Mae Jean Nothstine ([maejeanoth@aol.com](mailto:maejeanoth@aol.com)); the General Chairmen. The full schedule is available on our website.

Check out the newly updated Garden Council website.

You can now download forms for memorial bricks; horticulture forms for the upcoming Flower show or even check out old Couriers.

[WWW.FMLCGARDENCOUNCIL.COM](http://WWW.FMLCGARDENCOUNCIL.COM)



### How to Plant Your Garden of Friends

First, you come to the garden alone,  
while the dew is still on the roses ...

#### FOR THE GARDEN OF YOUR DAILY LIVING,

Plant three rows of peas:

1. Peace of Mind
2. Peace of Heart
3. Peace of Soul

Plant four rows of squash:

1. Squash gossip
2. Squash indifference
3. Squash grumbling
4. Squash selfishness



Plant four rows of lettuce:

1. Lettuce be faithful
2. Lettuce be kind
3. Lettuce be patient
4. Lettuce really love one another

No Garden Is Without Turnips:

1. Turnip for meetings
2. Turnip for service
3. Turnip to help one another

#### TO CONCLUDE OUR GARDEN, WE MUST HAVE THYME:

1. Thyme for each other
2. Thyme for family
3. Thyme for friends

WATER FREELY WITH PATIENCE AND CULTIVATE WITH LOVE.  
THERE IS MUCH FRUIT IN YOUR GARDEN  
BECAUSE YOU REAP WHAT YOU SOW. NOT BAD, HUH ? !

Every garden needs some flowers, so I have added some GLADS.

1. Glad to live in a free country
2. Glad to have all my good friends
3. Glad to be able to worship God !
4. Glad to have a great family.

My heart told me to send this to people that I wanted God to bless and I picked you .

found on the Internet, forwarded by Nancy Wheeler

**Mina Edison Botanical Library  
Shaping up Nicely**

Librarian Brenda Norris shows off the well organized and well stocked shelves of the Virginia Ave. Council building's new library. Brenda and her committee have worked hard getting the books organized by categories such as Houseplants, Outdoor Plants, Flower Show Horticultural reference, Florida, etc. The horticulture reference books can be checked out for use at a flower show but other books are reference only - not to be removed.



The library hours are from 10 am until 2 pm on Fridays or make an appointment with Brenda at [Norris\\_bcb@msn.com](mailto:Norris_bcb@msn.com). The library and entire Council Building will be open to all Friday, Feb. 27th at the Open House 5:00 - 7:00 pm.

Please join us to see all the garden plantings now in place, structures, and lighting as the night progresses. Punch and cookies will be served. We really hope to see everyone there!

**MARCH / APRIL 2009 Calendar of Events**

|  |                            |   |
|--|----------------------------|---|
| Garden Opening Dedication & Open House   | Fri. February 27th, 5-7 PM | 2166 Virginia Ave., Council Building    |
| Flower Show Preview Party  | Thurs. March 12 5pm -7pm   | North Lobby Edison State College Bld S  |
| Fort Myers/Lee County Garden Council   | Thur. March 12 7pm-9pm     | Edison State College - Bldg. S          |
| Biannual <i>Flower Show</i>  | Fri. March 13 - 9am - 5pm  | "Newspaper Capers"                      |
| <hr/>  |                            |   |
| Garden Club of Cape Coral <i>Garden Market</i>   | Sat. March 14              | Jaycee Park - Cape Coral                |
| <hr/>  |                            |   |
| Edison Estates Orchid Culture and Care   | Sat. March 14 10am - 1pm   | Estates Education Dept. 334-7419        |
| <hr/>  |                            |   |
| FMLCGC Floral Design classes   | Thur. March 12 & 26 9am    | Virginia Ave Council Building           |
| <hr/>  |                            |   |
| Naples Garden Club   | Sat. March 28 10am - 4pm   | Naples Botanical Garden                 |
| Standard Flower Show "In The Bag"  | Sun. March 29 10am - 4pm   | 4280 Bayshore Drive                     |
| Contact: GC Office 262-1272 or Gail Pica at <a href="mailto:gail514@comcast.net">gail514@comcast.net</a> |                            | (off Thomasson)                         |
| <hr/>  |                            |   |
| Herb Day   | Sat. April 11 9am - noon   | Lee County Extension (Terry Park)       |
| <hr/>  |                            |   |
| Edison Tropical Fruits at the Estates  | Sat. April 11 10am - 12pm  | Estates Education Dept. 334-7419        |
| <hr/>  |                            |   |
| FFGC State Convention  | April 16 - 17, 2009        | The Plaza Resort and Spa, Daytona Beach |
| <hr/>  |                            |   |
| Native Plant Sale - Coccoloba chapter  | Sat. April 18 9am - 2pm    | Rotary Park - Cape Coral                |
| <hr/>  |                            |   |
| District IX Spring Meeting   | Thur. May 7                | Hosted by Garden Club of Sebring        |

**Report of Nominating Committee 2009 - 2011  
Committee: Betty Mazzarella, Chairman, Barbara Moore and Barbara Schafer (resigned)**

|                                 |                  |                             |                   |                              |
|---------------------------------|------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------|------------------------------|
| <b>President:</b>               | Mitzi Marckesano | <b>Treasurer:</b>           | Bernadette Hamera | <b>Nominating Committee:</b> |
| <b>First Vice President:</b>    | Angela Swope     | <b>Assistant Treasurer:</b> | Nancy Wheeler     | Sharron Thompson             |
| <b>Second Vice President:</b>   | Laura Jibben     | <b>Directors:</b>           | Ena McGrattan     | Winnie Stone                 |
| <b>Recording Secretary:</b>     | Paula Novander   |                             | Betty Mazzarella  | Florene Johns                |
| <b>Corresponding Secretary:</b> | Helene Jackley   |                             | Diane Raimey      |                              |

Nominations may be made from the floor at the March 13th General Meeting provided those nominated have consented to serve if elected.

**OFFICERS FOR 2007-2009**

**President**

Diane Raimey 565-4755  
Email: [draimey@aol.com](mailto:draimey@aol.com)

**First Vice President**

Mitzi Marckesano 561-5513  
Email: [Couponqwn@hotmail.com](mailto:Couponqwn@hotmail.com)

**Second Vice President**

Angela Swope 690-3312  
Email: [Aswope@bearpawsystems.com](mailto:Aswope@bearpawsystems.com)

**Recording Secretary**

Florene Johns 731-0337  
Email: [Florene44@comcast.net](mailto:Florene44@comcast.net)

**Corresponding Secretary**

Helene Jackley 368-7406  
Email: [helenefoe@embarqmail.com](mailto:helenefoe@embarqmail.com)

**Treasurer**

Marty Ward 549-7516  
FAX: 549-2364

**Assistant Treasurer**

Nancy Wheeler 267-7521

**Courier**

Paula Novander 945-6548  
Email: [pnovander@yahoo.com](mailto:pnovander@yahoo.com)

**Directors**

Ena McGrattan 561-1735  
Sylvia Lightbody 561-5704

**On the web**

[WWW.FMLCGARDENCOUNCIL.COM](http://WWW.FMLCGARDENCOUNCIL.COM)