



# THE COURIER

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

## President's Message

### 1st Annual Berne Davis Honorary Service Award

All clubs and societies are invited to nominate an outstanding and deserving member whose community service goes above and beyond normal participation. See the web for an application and more information. DEADLINE is 4-1-10 Join us April 10th for social at 12:30 - lunch at 1:00 pm, at the Royal Palm Yacht Club, Fort Myers.

Cost: \$25 per person  
Contact: Nancy Wheeler, Registrar  
11741 Memory Lane  
Fort Myers, FL 33919

### WELCOME

Pine Island Garden Club  
A unanimous vote at our March 12th meeting approved Pine Island's club membership in the Council.

Carlene Sharples - President

The Saints went marching in - SUPERBOWL 2010!!  
The ides of March- portends a forecast of FUN in 2010!

Time marches on - and so do WE!

We are marching forward in 2010 with a new collaborative venture with the Edison-Ford Winter Estates. "Art in Bloom" an interpretive floral design competition will be held on March 7<sup>th</sup> from 1-5 pm at the Estates. By the time you read this message there will have been a People's Choice Award winner. Good luck to all of the talented floral designers. A new auxiliary parking lot for Garden Council is nearing completion. It will be directly across from our newly installed WEST gate. This lot will provide much needed parking for our larger Clubs and Special Events. It will have 43 parking spaces and three handicap spaces with access ramps and a cross-walk across Larchmont Avenue. Funding for this lot was from Councilman Flanders-Ward 4 budget for Neighborhood Improvement. This lot will be shared with Edison Park Elementary School for overflow as well as Edison & Ford Winter Estates during their heavy tourist season. Our thanks go out to Councilman Flanders for earmarking funds on behalf of Garden Council.

We have a new addition to the Gardens at Headquarters. The Florida Herb Enthusiasts have planted a new "mound style" herb garden. It is just wonderful to have so many Societies providing us with such beauty and enthusiasm in their areas of expertise. Thank you FHE from Council.

We had the Gardens cleaned, trimmed, and mulched. They withstood the cold temperatures without significant damage.

We were lucky, compared to the landscaping at some of our homes, which really took a hit. Our *Gardening Gurus* are still looking into planting a few new areas, as well as bolstering some that are already in place. The vines for the Arbor have been planted and the Queen's Wreath is already in bloom. We have ordered and placed some botanical signs as well as dedication plaques. Come by and take a peek, we are looking good!!

The Advanced Floral Design classes are going well with 40 attending the 1<sup>st</sup> lecture by Janice Hamlin of Bradenton, FL. The next day design workshops were attended by 18 students who learned hands-on Unit 7. There are two more lectures and workshops scheduled for March 4<sup>th</sup> and March 18, 2010. Come learn from the EXPERTS. A special thank you goes out from Garden Council to Marty Ward for arranging for these design experts to come to Fort Myers and give these special classes to our members. Contact Marty at 549-7516 for more information.

I hope all Clubs and Societies are well underway with selecting their nominee for the 1<sup>st</sup> Annual Berne Davis Honorary Service Award. All of the information regarding this Award is available for downloading on Council's website. Remember, it must be received by April 1<sup>st</sup>. Garden Council will be announcing the 1<sup>st</sup> Winner of the Berne Davis Honorary Service Award at a luncheon at the Royal Palm Yacht Club, Saturday April 10<sup>th</sup>. Social begins at 12:30 pm with luncheon at 1pm. It should be a very special event with our talented Garden Clubs providing a unique table design with a nautical theme for each table. Please get your reservations in, the cost is \$25.

We've been busy... maybe it's just March Madness!!!

Mitzi Marckesano, President

### Friday March 12, 2010 F M L C G C General Meeting - Call to order 9:30 am

Inspirational Message - Nancy Wheeler  
Pledge of Allegiance - Ena McGrattan  
Reading of the Minutes - Paula Novander, Recording Secretary  
Financial Report - Bernadette Hamera, Treasurer  
President's Report - Mitzi Marckesano  
1st Vice President's Report - Angela Swope  
2nd Vice President's Report - Laura Jibben

Reports of Committee Chairs (as needed)  
Gardens Committee - Angela Swope  
Award Banquet updates  
Old Business / New Business / Announcements  
PROGRAM: *Estero Bay Aquatic Preserve - S. Erickson*  
Adjournment  
Ways & Means - 50/50 drawing - Wanda Schmoyer

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

## Garden Council Meeting Dates

|   |   |  |
|---|---|--|
| <p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>BOARD MEETINGS</u></b><br/>(Officers, Directors, Committee Chairs)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• FRIDAY APRIL 2, 2010</li> <li>• FRIDAY MAY 7, 2010</li> </ul> <p style="text-align: center;">MEETINGS FROM 9:30 AM TO 11:30 AM</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Garden Council Headquarters<br/>2166 Virginia Ave. Fort Myers</b></p> | <p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>GENERAL MEETINGS</u></b><br/>All are Welcome</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• FRIDAY MAY 14, 2010</li> <li>• Hostess - Royal Palm GC</li> <li>• Program - Lori Wolf - Master Floral Designer and Master Gardener and installation of officers</li> </ul> | <p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>GENERAL MEETINGS</u></b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">MEETINGS ARE HELD THE 2ND FRIDAY OF THE MONTH EVERY OTHER MONTH SEPTEMBER TO MAY</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Meeting Location:<br/><b>3061 E Riverside Dr<br/>Fort Myers, FL</b><br/>HOSPITALITY 9:00 AM TO 9:30 AM<br/>MEETINGS 9:30 AM TO 11:30 AM</p> |
|---|---|--|

## STROLLING FLOWER SHOW Celebrates 60 Years

“60 Years of Strolling for Mr. Edison”

This show just keeps getting better. Sponsored by the Bell Tower Shops in association with the Edison Festival of Light, Kay Holloway and her army of club members from Periwinkle Garden Club put on a terrific show, fun luncheon and awards ceremony. The program “Strolling Thru the Years” took us from the days of dress hats and gloves to bell bottoms and Cabbage Patch dolls.

Many, many blue ribbons

- Gold ribbon (mums)- Paula Novander - GC of Cape Coral
- Crimson ribbon (roses) - Joyce Comingore - GC of Cape Coral
- Violet ribbon (tropicals) - Suzanne Wilson - Carissa GC
- Green ribbon (foliage) - Audrey Secest - Gulf Coast GC

Judy Gore won the Judges’ award

- Tri-color - Terry Pinck - GC of Lehigh Acres
- Runner-up - Vicki Taylor - GC of Cape Coral
- Designer’s Choice - Julia Palmer - Jasmine Garden Club
- Runner-up -Darlene Tompkins - Gardens of the World

THANKS to the participating Bell Tower Shops and Amy Fletcher-Smith Marketing Director for their continuing support.

SEE YOU NEXT YEAR !



Judge Chairman Berne Davis, Council President Mitzi Marckesano, Strolling Flower Show Chairman Kay Holloway and Periwinkle Garden Club President Madeline Evans. all enjoyed the awards luncheon.



**Strolling In Style At Chico’s**  
Gold Award  
Paula Novander -  
Potpourri Designers and  
Garden Club of Cape Coral



Terry Pinck (right) congratulates fellow Potpourri Designer Vicki Taylor - Terry won the Tri-color award and Vicki was runner-up. Julia Palmer won Designer’s Choice for her innovative place setting at TGIFriday’s. Darlene Tompkins (far left) was runner-up.

**Caring for our gardens and lives**

**Hold Those Clippers**

Old Man Winter sure came a calling this January and February. While our local freeze problems are not the worst catastrophic happening in the world, it will be a costly problem at the market as well as on the home grounds. Gardeners who have tolerated these dangerous temperatures in the past will be able to leave their clippers alone for a few weeks as plants and soil slowly warm up and natural plant growth resumes. There are a few things you can clip, but not many. The main problem with cutting everything back now is that you will be exposing tender green plant areas that will not withstand another serious drop in temperature. We do not have a long winter period but it can be a serious threat while we get through January and February. You will no doubt see articles or hear talk of OK, by Feb. 15, we will be in the clear as far as a drastic drop in temperatures. Maybe.

There are several trains of thought about when our cold season ends. The sure thing is that the cold season varies and we cannot accurately predict what will happen in advance. Certainly pick up all the dead leaves and even give a bush a good shake and all the leaves that need to come off will drop. A row of once pretty Pentas that are now brown sticks can be left alone and will gradually start growing at the soil line at their own pace. The beautiful Ti plant look pretty discolored and brown around the edges, they can be trimmed back now. Immediately they will start to grow and will be fine in two or three months time. Crotons do really well but will show some weakness. I just wait it out and only trim if there is a broken stem. Bird of Paradise will be looking curly leaved with some white dried edges. Just wait to trim. I am still amazed how these tropical plants live out in the hot Florida sun and still manage to tolerate several nights of extreme cold. Trees did not fare as well, especially fruit trees. Please call the Lee County Extension Service for up to date care on trees and other specific questions concerning growing things in Lee County.

One last note, my Christmas cactus is blooming well. It is a little off its mark for a Christmas bloomer, but hey, I know lots of great, late bloomers among us.

*H. Jean Shields*

Taken from Jean's article Jan. 23, 2010  
The Cape Coral **Breeze** newspaper

President of Potpourri Designers,  
Past President of the GC of Cape Coral.

**ART in BLOOM**

Sunday, March 7 the Edison & Ford Winter Estates in collaboration with the Fort Myers - Lee County Garden Council combined art work with interpretive floral designs. Designers included: Glenda Campbell, Lois Gressman, Judy Gore, Debbie Hughes, Sandy and Theo Kavouras, Betty Mazzarella, Ena McGrattan, Brenda Norris, Jan Padgett, Chris Pendleton, Gloria Freitas Steidinger, Winnie Stone, Darlene Tompkins, Suzy Valentine and Nancy Wheeler.



**People's Choice Award Winners**  
Debbie Hughes (center) received First Place, Ena McGrattan (right) was Second and Suzy Valentine was awarded the Third place

“Nearly 300 ballots were cast from members of the Estates, Garden Clubs and visitors. The exhibit was a huge success and the Estates plans to continue *Art in Bloom* every season” said CEO Chris Pendleton.

Debbie Hughes' Award winning design in Edison's laboratory design included a reel of movie film intertwined.



*WORK DAY* scheduled

*Please join us at the Council Gardens for an informal work day Tuesday March 23rd at 10 am. We have some office work to catch up on and may need some light trimming and weeding. Please feel free to come and see the gardens. Contact Angela Swope for more information. Hope to see you !*



FFGC Instructor Janice Hamlin works on a design Feb. 25th.

### Advanced Floral Design Study

Floral Design is a three-dimensional art form using plant material as the medium.

The final Unit 9 demonstration will be presented by Carol Lucia **Thursday March 18** at the Covenant Presbyterian Church at 1 pm. The Church is located at 2439 McGregor Blvd., just south of the Edison Estates, enter in the back for the Fellowship hall.

The workshops are done on Friday at the Council Headquarters, select either the morning session at 9:00 am or the afternoon at 1pm. Please contact Marty Ward at 549-7516 if you want to watch the demos and / or participate in a workshop.

Floral Design - the Art of organizing the Design Elements of plant materials, according to Design Principles. Design Elements are the ingredients - Light, Space, Line, Form, Color, Texture, Pattern and Size. Design Principles - the recipe to put it all together - Balance, Dominance, Contrast, Rhythm, Proportion and Scale.

### MAY / JUNE 2010 Calendar of Events

|   |   |   |
|---|---|---|
| A placement Flower Show hosted by Gulf Coast Garden Club                  | <b>Wed. March 17</b><br>1 pm - 7 pm                   | Agostino's Fine Furniture, 24971 S. Tamiami Tr.<br>Free admission, refreshments   |
| FFGC Adv. Floral Design - Unit 9  | Thur. March 18 - demo 1pm<br>Fri. March 19 - workshop | Covenant Presbyterian church<br>Garden Council Headquarters.                      |
| Bonsai Society trip to east coast nursery contact: James Gehring 772-1411 | Sat. March 20   | bus leaves at 7:30 from SPALC bldg.   |
| Butterfly program w/ Master Gardener Donna Cressman                       | Sat. March 27 10am                                    | Riverland Nursery 13005 Palm Beach Blvd.  |
| "Sunny Styles" Fashions & luncheon contact Gwen 985-0299                  | Thur. April 1   | Tropicana Garden Club clubhouse off McGregor Blvd at John Morris Dr.              |
| <b>FMLCGC Honorary Service Awards lunch</b>                               | Sat. April 10 - 12:30 pm                              | Royal Palm Yacht Club - S. First St. Fort Myers                                   |
| Herb Day 2010 contact Claudia 533-7514                                    | Sat. April 10 9 - noon                                | Lee County Extension.. Terry Park - Palm Beach Blvd.                              |
| FL Fed of Garden Clubs, Inc. "Tropical Treasures"                         | April 23 - 24   | 84th State Convention, Boca Raton www.ffgf.org for registration info              |
| "Inspired By Mother's Love" Flower show                                   | Fri. April 30 3 - 5pm<br>Sat. May 1 9:30am - 3pm      | Hosted by Garden Club of Cape Coral CC Library 931 SW 39th Terr. off Mohawk Pkwy. |
| District IX Spring Meeting  | Thur. May 6   | Winter Haven  |

#### OFFICERS 2010 - 2011

**President**

Mitzi Marckesano 561-5513

Email: [fmlcgardencouncil@hotmail.com](mailto:fmlcgardencouncil@hotmail.com)

**First Vice President**

Angela Swope 690-3312

Email: [Adswope@embarqmail.com](mailto:Adswope@embarqmail.com)

**Second Vice President**

Laura Jibben 463-3690

Email: [LJibben@embarqmail.com](mailto:LJibben@embarqmail.com)

**Recording Secretary**

Paula Novander 945-6548

Email: [pnovander@yahoo.com](mailto:pnovander@yahoo.com)

**Corresponding Secretary**

Helene Jackley 368-7406

Email: [helenefoe@embarqmail.com](mailto:helenefoe@embarqmail.com)

**Treasurer**

Bernadette Hamera 233-1166

Email: [BernieHamera@yahoo.com](mailto:BernieHamera@yahoo.com)

**Courier**

Paula Novander 945-6548

Email: [pnovander@yahoo.com](mailto:pnovander@yahoo.com)

**Directors**

Ena McGrattan 561-1735

Betty Mazzarella 949-3944

Diane Raimey 565-4755