



# THE COURIER

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

## In The News

As part of their community outreach projects for senior living Gulf Coast Garden Club members recently planted a Butterfly Vine outside Georgia Horton window at the Emeritus Senior Living center. Butterfly vine, *Mascagnia macroptera*, besides being a nectar plant, has dried flower pods that look like butterflies. For more information, contact President Suzy Valentine.

## IT'S MEMBERSHIP TIME !

Please remember to send in your dues and yearbook information form. Contact Bernadette Hamera if you did not receive a form.

## President's Message

As this season comes to a close, I am reminded of ALL that was accomplished and what was still left on the table. We **have** moved forward, not with all of the enthusiasm I had envisioned, but with a sense that there still exists an opportunity for us to unite. It may come to fruition during my term or not, at least we made start. I guess it was a daunting task, with a real "reality check" not on my immediate radar. Maybe I thought everyone felt the way I did...NOT. Well, we tried and we learned. Now, we have questions for you. Council will be sending out an e-mail survey during the summer asking Clubs and Societies what can we do for you, what do you want/expect from Council, how can we best focus to put all of this together with a sense of unity? Well, just think about it....

Attending the FFGC Convention in Boca Raton in April, I am reminded of what is right with Garden Council, of the wonderful things WE do, as well as the wonderful things garden club members do throughout the state of Florida. From planting wildflowers, to Blue Star markers, Scholarship programs, Camp Wekiva, conservation programs as well as just being good stewards of our earth. We are ALL so very necessary...we are a family, all belonging to Mother Nature. We must protect and defend her during this trying time in our lifetime; Global warming, carbon foot prints, we all have an effect on our environment, especially the latest oil rig disaster in the Gulf of Mexico. Well, enough of my oratory...I must get "down to .business", the theme of my Presidency.

Some positive feedback from FFGC 84<sup>th</sup> Convention is that Council received Award #101-A for Garden Council's 2009 Flower Show..."Newspaper Capers". Julia Palmer of Jasmine Garden Club received Award # 128 for her petite design in the same flower show. I will receive these awards at the District IX meeting in Winter Haven, FL, May 6<sup>th</sup>. Perhaps the most prestigious award concerning Garden Council was announced at the FFGC Convention that Chris Pendleton of the EFWE won as FFGC's applicant for the National Garden Clubs, Inc.-**Award of Excellence** (for her leadership in restoration of and the new horticultural programs implemented in the gardens of the Edison & Ford Winter Estates). It will be presented to her on May 16, 2010 at the NGC Convention in Atlanta, GA. Congratulations, Chris!!

April was a very special month for Garden Council. We presented our first Berne Davis Honorary Service Award to Lois Gressman of Estero Island Garden Club. She displayed her years of outstanding participation on all aspects of Gardening and furthering the goals of Garden Council. It was a wonderful luncheon at the Royal Palm Yacht Club. We also presented certificates and ribbons to Tanglewood Elementary School 4<sup>th</sup> grade class that participated in a Junior Gardener program growing plants from seeds that were judged by Judy Gore and Marty Ward on April 21st. The children had a positive learning experience, a wonderful time and were very appreciative. Thank you to Beverly Roy of Fiddlesticks Garden Club for Chairing and organizing this program.

The Gardens are looking beautiful....hope to see you during the summer. We will be there....will you???

Mitzi Marckesano, President

## Friday May 14, 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 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:** *Master Floral Arranger - Lori Wolf*  
Adjournment  
Ways & Means - 50/50 drawing - Wanda Schmoyer

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

## Garden Council Meeting Dates

<p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>BOARD MEETINGS</u></b></p> <p>(Officers, Directors, Committee Chairs)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• FRIDAY MAY 7, 2010</li> <li>• FRIDAY JUNE 4, 2010</li> </ul> <p>MEETINGS FROM 9:30 AM TO 11:30 AM</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Garden Council Headquarters</b>  <b>2166 Virginia Ave. Fort Myers</b>  <b>Phone: 332-4942</b></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>GENERAL MEETINGS</u></b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">All are Welcome</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• FRIDAY MAY 14, 2010</li> <li>• Hostess - Royal Palm GC</li> <li>• Program - <i>Lori Wolf</i> - Master Floral Designer and Master Gardener and installation of officers</li> <li>• <u>SEPT. 17</u> - Jerry Meola - Orchids (note change of date)</li> </ul>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>GENERAL MEETINGS</u></b></p> <p>MEETINGS ARE HELD THE 2ND FRIDAY OF THE MONTH EVERY OTHER MONTH SEPTEMBER TO MAY</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Meeting Location:  <b>3061 E Riverside Dr</b>  <b>Fort Myers, FL</b></p> <p>HOSPITALITY 9:00 AM TO 9:30 AM  MEETINGS 9:30 AM TO 11:30 AM</p> <p style="text-align: center; color: red;">* <i>STAY TUNED FOR NEW LOCATION</i> *</p>
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## First Annual Berne Davis Honorary Service Award

Lois Gressman received the first annual Berne Davis Honorary Service Award at a luncheon at the Royal Palm Yacht Club April 10 sponsored by the Fort Myers - Lee County Garden Council. We had 6 outstanding women nominated by their clubs or plant society for their community service and club activities. The nominees were *Joyce Campbell* from Caloosa Rare Fruit Exchange, *Joyce Comingore* of the James E. Hendry Chapter of the American Hibiscus Society, *Judy Gore* from Jasmine GC, *Lois Gressman* from Estero Island GC, *Ena McGrattan* from Fiddlesticks GC and *Marty Ward* from the GC of Cape Coral. Lois has been a floral designer for 37 years, and is an Accredited Master Judge in the Florida Federation of Garden Clubs. She has served as properties chair for District IX and Council Flower shows. Locally she has contributed her time and talents to Estero Island's Arbor Day, Times Square beautification, Mound House restoration and was involved early on in the preservation of Matanzas Pass on Fort Myers Beach. We hope she shares this award with her husband Harold, builder extraordinaire for the Council's Flower shows.



*l to r* Marty, Ena, Lois, Judy, Joyce and Joyce Campbell

Berne Davis has spent a lifetime promoting garden clubs. She has given great support to her community and sponsored many events in the arts, education and horticulture.

Many thanks for all the clubs who donated centerpieces that were raffled at the end.



Berne Davis & Lois Gressman

### **COUNCIL SPONSORS FIRST JUNIOR GARDENER PROGRAM**

Tanglewood Elementary was the site of the first Junior Gardener Program sponsored by the Fort Myers-Lee County Garden Council. Inc.. On April 21, 2010 Ms. Carla Stumpo and her eighteen fourth graders presented their individual Loofa and Morning Glory plants to Master Judges Judy Gore and Marty Ward. Every student received a Certificate of Participation given by Beverly Roy and ribbons for the best looking plants by Master Judges, Judy Gore and Marty Ward. Both Judges agreed that it was very difficult to judge these plants as they all looked wonderful. After judging was completed the children happily planted their plants outside and enjoyed cupcakes and punch.



**Tree of Life - Berne Davis**

The following is a distillation of Kay Holloway’s speech introducing “First Lady of Fort Myers” Berne Davis at the first annual Fort Myers - Lee County Garden Council’s Honorary Service Award luncheon April 10th. The Tree of Life is engraved on the crystal vase awarded to Lois Gressman.

*The Tree of Life is a symbol of both religious and secular ideas. The beginning - the seed - from which comes the trunk. The trunk provides the structure from which the branches sprout. From the branches come the leaves, the flowers, the fruit and hence the seed again. Such a symbol has a similar meaning when we look at the Berne Davis Honorary Service Award. Berne’s wisdom, fortitude, courage, tenacity and beliefs stimulate growth in many areas.*

**Education:** PACE girls program, FGCU Professorship chair endowed in Landscape Design & Horticulture, scholarships  
**Community:** The Healing Garden at the Lee Memorial Regional Cancer Center

**The Arts:** Supporter of the Alliance for the Arts, Florida Rep’s Arcade Theatre, Woody Hanson’s Seminole photo exhibit

**Historic Preservation:** Edison-Ford Estates endowment, Sidney & Berne Davis Art Center - restoration and preservation of the Old Post Office and Federal building, support of the Lee Trust for Historic Preservation

**Gardening:** Raised monies for a Scholarship endowment for FFGC, donated the arbor at Council HQ, sharing her garden for special events and even sharing her plants and seedlings, Berne is also a Flower Show Master judge.

**Service:** President of FFGC 1973-1975, Serves on National and State Garden club boards, altar guild for 1st Methodist church  
 As you discern - Berne is a Prime Mover in our midst.

What a blessing to have her with us.

Kay Holloway - Periwinkle Garden Club



*Berne Davis*



*Kay Holloway*



*FMLCGC President Mitzi Marckesano*

**Caring for our gardens and lives**

**Have you thanked a green plant today ?**

Thank you, thank you lovely plant,  
 Eye-delighting oxidant.  
 You gratify the eye and then.  
 To top it off, make oxygen.  
 You beautify and then, to boot,  
 (Oh lungs rejoice) you depollute.  
 Thank you for this twofold bliss,  
 Wrought by photosynthesis.  
 (Now I hereby bequeath to you  
 A life supply of CO2).

*Don Anderson.*



Charles Schulz drew his Snoopy dog with a simple line. Using a little imagination, can you find him in the design lines ? *Julia Palmer*

Julia Palmer of Jasmine Garden Club received FFGC Award # 128 for her petite design in the Council's 2009 Flower Show "Newspaper Capers" - Peanuts class.

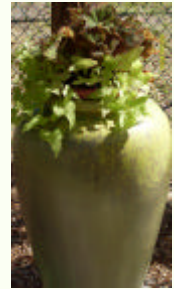
Many thanks to John Sibley and the Native Plant Society for adding coontie palms, 2 fire bush trees, native flowers and additional muhly grass to fill in the native area. These plants will all be very happy as the summer goes on.

**WORK DAY Feb. 25th, 2010**



Dana, Pat and Angela worked on the Bromeliad garden

The Herb mound has been put in place by the SW FL Herb Enthusiasts - come see the Gardens !



Helene and Paula planted the containers around the garden.



Hybrid hibiscus blooms from a display at the Berne Davis Honorary Service Award luncheon

**MAY / JUNE 2010 Calendar of Events**

FFGC District IX Spring Meeting      Thur. May 6      Winter Haven  
 Brenda Norris - Asst. Director of District IX presented the FMLCGC a Platinum Certificate for 50 years as a member of the Florida Federation of Garden Clubs and Poinciana Garden Club was presented a Gold Certificate for 40 years.

Monthly meeting of the      Sat. May 15      9am to noon      Support Personnel Assoc. of Lee County  
 Bonsai Society of SWFL      Contact Becky Bodnar 463-4102 bdlg. 6281 Metro Plantation Rd. FM

James E. Hendry Chapter      Sun. June 6      1 - 4 pm      Araba Temple - Hanson St. Fort Myers  
 Am. Hibiscus Society Show & Sale      Wanda Schmoyer - Pres.      [unistew@embarqmail.com](mailto:unistew@embarqmail.com)

Contact for more information or if your organization would like to set up a booth.

Over 1,000 hybrid hibiscus plants will be offered for sale

Potpourri Designers      Mon. May 24      1 pm      Garden Council HQ - Virginia Ave.  
 Pres. Jean Shields [Hijean1@comcast.net](mailto:Hijean1@comcast.net)      Mon. June 28      1 pm      Garden Council HQ - Virginia Ave.

Garden Club of Cape Coral presented "*Inspired by Mother's Love*" a small flower show April 30 and May 1  
 Division I - Horticulture  
 Section A - Container grown Foliage, Grower's Choice award went to Linda Kiestead.  
 Section B - Container grown Flowering, Grower's Choice award went to Paula Novander  
 Section C - Container grown Cacti and Succulents the Award of Merit went to Peg Blissman for her cactus "family".  
 Section F - Cut Specimens - Trees and Shrubs the Arboreal award went to Kathy Woodlock  
 The overall Award of Horticulture Excellence went to Peg Blissman.  
 Division II - Design  
 Class 1 - *Mother's Favorite Color* (staged on the pedestal) 1st place - Donna Conway 2nd place - Kathy Woodlock  
 Class 2 - *A Springtime Tea* (Functional Table) 1st place (Blue Ribbon) - Vicki Taylor 2nd place - Carol Windsor  
 Class 3 - *Grandma's Treasures* 1st place - Paula Novander 2nd place - Cecelia Schwartz  
 The Best in Show award went to Vicki Taylor's Asian table      Co- Chairmen - Marty Ward & Paula Novander



**OFFICERS 2010 - 2011**

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(Brenda replaces Diane Raimery)