

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

P r e s i d e n t ' s M e s s a g e

Beginning Flower Arranging Classes

Classes are filled for January and February, but please join us on Monday, February 4th at 1 pm. at the Eco-Living Center for a special program "Flower Arranging Today" by District IX Director-elect—Glenda Dawson.

Cost is just \$10

Class 1 - Basic line and mechanics of design - Glenda Dawson
Mon. 1-7-13 9 - 3 pm

Class 2 - Tables: Functional and Exhibition. Accessories, bases and other objects used in design.
Marty Ward
Mon. 2-4-13 9 - 3pm

Tuesday Feb. 5 9am-Workshop

Held at Council HQ
Contact: Marty Ward
549-7516

I trust you all had a wonderful holiday season. Again we find ourselves in a new year filled with opportunities and possibilities. Now is also a good time to reflect upon what we have accomplished during the past year. I think we have made great progress on our objectives contained within our By Laws. We served as a catalyst with FFGC to petition the legislature on the importance of keeping our waters clean. This is a major initiative, which will help to ensure our waterways and our drinking water are here for generations to come. Our botanical garden designation has already drawn people from the area to tour our gardens. We have a special Red Hat Ladies' tour coming up and, as we become better known in the community, we expect greater participation. Our new rain garden will be used as an example of how to work with the topography of an area while adding beauty. The first FMLCGC scholarship was given to a student at FGCU who will be talking with us at our January meeting. Our revised website links to members' websites or, for those members without websites, provides contact information for further inquiries.

The Board is always looking for more ways to provide services and activities that our members need and desire. Just let us know how we can help you. Our upcoming 501C3 seminar resulted from a suggestion to the Board and it will hopefully provide some benefit to you.

Don't forget to talk with a Garden Council Board member if you want someone nominated for the 3 new awards being given this year. These nominations from the Garden Council Board members are due January 15th. Also, your Club/Society/Affiliate needs to get your nomination for the Berne Davis Honorary Service Award in by February 1 to Carol Lowery, Chair of the Awards Committee. Complete information is on our website and discussed in this newsletter.

And, last for this article, but certainly not least, is a reminder of the La Florida' The First 500 Years Flower Show taking place at Rutenberg Park on March 1 and 2. If you do not have a Schedule, it is on the website.

Please get your place reserved in the design classes, horticulture section, and/or the educational exhibits. Our Affiliate members will have booths; also displaying are Hibiscus, Orchid & Bonsai Societies as well the FYN Master Gardeners. This will be a show not to miss!

Working together all things are possible.

Sincerely, *Laura Jibben* - President



F M L C G C General Meeting - Call to order 9:30 am

Inspirational Message - Madeline Wallace
Pledge of Allegiance
Reading of the Minutes - Kathryn Patterson, Recording Secretary
Corresponding Secretary - Kay Holloway
Financial Report - Bernadette Hamera, Treasurer
President's Report - Laura Jibben
1st Vice President's Report - Debbie Wyatt-Stotter

2nd Vice President's Report - Brenda Norris
Reports of Committee Chairs (as needed)

Old Business / New Business / Announcements
PROGRAM: *BLOWASH - Soil Amendments*
Adjournment
Ways & Means - 50/50 drawing -

Please join us at 9:00 am for refreshments provided by **Royal Palm Garden Club**

Garden Council Meetings Dates

<p><u>BOARD MEETINGS</u> (Officers, Directors, Committee Chairs)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • FRIDAY Jan. 4, 2013 • FRIDAY Feb. 1, 2013 <p>MEETINGS FROM 9:30 am TO 11:30 am</p> <p>Garden Council Headquarters 2166 Virginia Ave. Fort Myers Phone: 332-4942</p>	<p><u>GENERAL MEETINGS</u> All are Welcome</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • FRIDAY Jan. 11, 2013 • Hostess - Royal Palm Garden Club • Program: Laura Nelson - BioWash • Next Meeting Friday March 8 • Program: Donna Cook - P.I. GC 	<p><u>GENERAL MEETINGS</u> MEETINGS ARE HELD THE 2ND FRIDAY OF THE MONTH EVERY OTHER MONTH SEPTEMBER TO MAY</p> <p>Eco Living Center at Rutenberg Park 6490 South Pointe Blvd. FM HOSPITALITY: 9:00 am to 9:30 am MEETING: 9:30 am to 11:30 am</p>
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Open House November 17th



Floss silk tree brightens the Garden Council Headquarters building .



Over 14 clubs and societies participated in our annual Open House.

Garden Club of Cape Coral and their information booth

March in the Park - a plant and garden art sale is scheduled for March 9, 2013 at Jaycee Park in Cape Coral.
gardenclubofcapecoral.com for more information.

2012 - 2013 AWARDS PROGRAM updates ...

The Fort Myers - Lee County Garden Council, Inc. has re-designed their awards in time for the 2013 Celebration after our March 8th meeting. When you go to the website - click on Read More under the Berne Davis Honorary Service Awards. There you can read about the new Rainbow, Busy Bee and Perennial Awards. Please see a board member if you wish to submit a nominee. Nominations must be submitted via email to Laura Jibben, Garden Council President by 5:00 pm on Jan. 15th. In addition, the Honorary Service Award applications have been simplified, please consider honoring a member of your club and/or society. Applications must be submitted by February 1st to Carol Lowery. Good Luck to all !

"A Brilliant Celebration of Mr. Edison's Mystical Gardens"

February 7th and 8th are the dates for the 2013 STROLLING FLOWER SHOW, sponsored by the Periwinkle Garden Club and Bell Tower Shops. This is a sanctioned event of the Edison Festival of Light.

Top prizes win a special ribbon and gift certificate from one of the participating stores at Bell Tower. So join in the fun ! Luncheon will be Thur. Feb. 7th at *THE FOREST* County Club.

Happy Strolling, Pam Kollmann - Chair
& Kay Holloway - Co-Chair



Violet ribbon - 2012 best use of Tropicals Darlene Tompkins at Omaha Steaks



Council judges share accolades for their designs.



Conditioning Flowers - Just in time for our Flower Arranging classes, the Strolling Flower Show at Bell Tower and finally the Garden Council's Flower Show - *La Florida - The First 500 Years* - some hints from Ena McGrattan.

Bring water to boil in an old saucepan.

Cut at least one inch off the stems of flowers.

Protecting heads of flowers put the end of the stems of flowers into the boiling water, about one inch, keep submerged for at least 30 seconds, and then put straight into bucket of cold water for at least 4 hours but preferably overnight.

The reason for this is; when flowers are cut, they form an airlock in the stems. The boiling water releases this and the flowers are then able to drink up as much water as they need for a few days.

For hollow stemmed flowers like daffodils, put a teaspoon of bleach into water.

Roses like a little sugar. If you have a packet of mix from florist, put that into bucket of cold water it helps too, after they have been through first three steps.

To condition and clean foliage, fill sink or bath with water and a little shampoo, and immerse foliage.

Make sure stems are under water. Leave for at least four hours or overnight. If the foliage is grey and furry do not immerse, just put the stems in water.

Editor's Note: After seeing Ena's beautiful roses - I may have to consider using them for the Strolling Flower show - wish me luck ! P. Novander



Ena McGrattan (and Mitzi Marckesano) work on a stunning Holiday wreath at our Nov. meeting.

'La Florida' The First 500 Years - A Standard Flower Show Honoring Our State's History Through Its People & Plants. Open and Free to the Public. Our biennial flower show will be staged at the Eco-Living Center at Rutenberg Park on Friday March 1st from 5 until 8 pm and Saturday the 2nd from 9am until 5 pm. Entries may not be removed until after 5pm Saturday. **EVERYONE** is encouraged to enter Horticulture with their favorite plants - pot size is limited to a 10" diameter pot. Only collections & displays need to be registered in advance. Design entries must be pre-registered with Terry Pinck at 368-5615. Horticulture and Design entries will be accepted Thur. Feb 28th from noon until 5pm and Friday March 1st from 8 am until noon. Show Chairman Suzy Valentine has written a creative and informative schedule - click on General Rules under the Flower Show information on our website. See you there !

Your deeds are made spiritual, not by what you do, but by why you do it.

A sad farewell to Betty Mazzarella

A ray of sunshine left us on Nov. 19th, 2012.

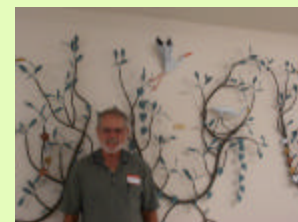
Founder of Gulf Coast GC in Bonita Springs, Corresponding Secretary for the Garden Council, Chairman of the Honorary Service Award and a mentor to more members than we can count. Betty was an accredited Master Flower Show Judge and NGC accredited Landscape Consultant. She was also active as a correspondent for her Long Island Gardeners - Suffolk South. She was an inspiration to us all and will be so missed.



*55 and 5th Anniversary
Friday Dec. 7, 2012 2 - 4 pm*



Introductions & a Thank-you to all by Director *Ena McGrattan*



*Landscape Architect
George Fogg &
our Wall of Honor*

HOSTED BY
District 9 and
the Fort Myers /
Lee County
Garden Council !

A TOAST TO THE COAST Countdown ...
87th Annual Convention of the Florida Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc.
Sanibel Harbour Marriott Resort & Spa, Fort Myers



April 29 & 30, 2013

Get Your Reservation in TODAY !

Registration forms are available on the FFGC.org website
PACKAGE PLAN Includes: Registration Fee (\$15), 2 breakfasts, 2 lunches and 2 banquets
Monday, April 29 and Tuesday April 30, 2013 \$235.00
YOU MUST BE REGISTERED TO ATTEND ANY PROGRAMS, MEALS or WORKSHOPS
Hotel reservations must be made directly with the hotel.
Reference FFGFFGC Hotel Deadline: March 29, 2013

J a n . - F e b . 2 0 1 3 C a l e n d a r o f E v e n t s

Garden Talk - <i>Winter Edibles</i> Edison & Ford Winter Estates	Sat. Jan. 12 9 am	Free to Estates members, \$5 for non-members includes a 20% off coupon to Garden Shoppe
Botanic Garden Tours - free Lakes Regional Park 7330 Gladiolus Dr.	Sat. Jan. 12 9 am South Fort Myers	Meet at the Community Garden (parking lot 3) 2nd Saturdays - Sept. thru May <i>lakespark.org</i>
Florida Arbor Day	Jan. 18	Hug a tree and thank a plant for oxygen ! <i>Joyce Comingore</i> The Garden Council will donate a tree to FFGC's Penny Pines project
Strolling Flower Show	Thur. Feb 7 Friday Feb. 8	Bell Tower Shops - luncheon at The Forest Country Club Presented by Periwinkle Garden Club
Pine Island Garden Gala	Saturday Feb. 23rd 9 - 2 pm - Phillips Park	Loads of plant vendors, demos and food <i>pineislandgardenclub.org</i>
SW Florida Burrowing Owl Festival Cape Coral Friends of Wildlife	Saturday Feb. 23rd 10 - 4 pm	Plant vendors, info, demos and entertainment Rotary Park 55505 Rose Garden Rd. , CC <i>ccfriendsofwildlife.org</i>
CFAA Seminar (Creative Floral Arrangers of the Americas)	Feb. 21-24, 2013	Marriott Orlando Airport <i>cfaofa.org</i>
La Florida - the First 500 Years	Fri. March 1 5-8pm Sat. March 2 9-5pm	Not just a Flower Show - an educational event ! Eco Living Center at Rutenburg Park

Start by doing what's necessary; then do what's possible and suddenly you are doing the impossible.
St. Francis of Assisi

FOR THE LATEST INFO CHECK OUR WEBSITE FMLCGARDENCOUNCIL.COM

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