

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

Berne Davis
 Honorary Service
 Award
 Friday, March 8
The Edison restaurant on
 McGregor Blvd,
 beginning at noon.
 Please join us after
 the Garden Council's
 General meeting
 March 8th for the
 presentation of our
 annual Berne Davis
 Honorary Service
 Award given to an
 outstanding member
 of the Fort Myers -
 Lee County Garden
 Council. This year
 an additional 4
 awards will be
 presented by the
 Garden Council's
 Board of Directors.

Busy Bee

Rainbow

Perennial

and Director - Ena
 McGrattan will
 present her own
 award.

We have a short time to breathe between our Flower show - La Florida; the first 500 years and the 2013 FFGC Annual Convention. And, during this break, we celebrate award winners at a delightful luncheon. We knew it would be a busy year, but "oh my".

I hope you all are enjoying this frenetic time as much as I - even though I have had plenty of personal challenges during the past few months. Suzy Valentine produced a fabulous show at the Rutenberg Center. The creativity of designs, the quality and variety of the horticulture, and the wonderful exhibits/booths of the plant societies truly made me proud to be in your company.

And, on March 8th the winner of the Berne Davis Honorary Service Award will be announced. The three nominees provided tough competition, but the Awards Committee has made a final selection. Also, the first recipient of the Ena McGrattan Award will be honored as well as the winners of The Board of Director Awards. I must share with you that the Board got tremendous pleasure honoring these outstanding members.



87th Annual Convention
 of the Florida Federation
 of Garden Clubs, Inc.
 Sanibel Harbour Marriott
 Resort & Spa, Fort Myers
 April 29th and 30th
ffgc.org

Now, we must turn our attention to the Convention. Let's all attend and help out Pat Grulke and her team. It is a chance of a lifetime to host this prestigious event and to showcase our part of the gardening world. But, who can argue with resort atmosphere, resort cuisine (a step above just food, ya know), Norman Love chocolate, speakers on meaningful subjects, vendors offering us supplies we can't get just everyday, and the opportunity to make new friends. There will be lots of parties too! So, I'll see you there.

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: Donna Cook - Pine Island GC - Designs
 Adjournment
 Ways & Means - 50/50 drawing -

Please join us at 9:00 am for refreshments provided by **Garden Club of Lehigh Acres**

Garden Council Meetings Dates

<p><u>BOARD MEETINGS</u> (Officers, Directors, Committee Chairs)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> FRIDAY April 5, 2013 FRIDAY May 3, 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 March 8, 2013 Hostess - GC of Lehigh Acres Program: Donna Cook - P.I. GC Next Meeting Friday May 10 Program: Installation of Officers 	<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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MARCH IN THE PARK

- a plant and garden art sale will be March 9, 2013 9:00 am until 3 pm at Jaycee Park - on the river off Beach Parkway in Cape Coral.

Great Raffle Prizes, plant vendors from around the state and free demos.

gardenclubofcapecoral.com for more information.



Garden Club of Cape Coral - the plant table is an active location. All the plants are carefully grown and tended by Garden Club members and come with identification & care cards.

2013 Strolling Flower Show at the Bell Tower Shops
“A Brilliant Celebration of Mr. Edison’s Mystical Gardens”



Designers Choice Winner was Kathryn Patterson of the GC of Lehigh Acres; “A Burst of Color for Mr. Edison” and the Runner Up was Darlene Thompkins of Poinciana GC; “Mystical Fantasies are Created at Trini’s ”

The Tri Color Award winner was Florene Johns of Poinciana GC; “Tiptoe Through the Mystical Gardens” and the Runner Ups were Sue Losey / Martha Lambert of Green Thumb; “Enchanted Jubilee! ”

Judy Gore won the Judges Award at Bistro 41 with “May His Light Shine On as We Celebrate His Brilliance”

The Gold Ribbon (best blue ribbon design using chrysanthemums) was awarded to Kathy Woodlock of GC of Cape Coral ; “Swimming with a Mystical Mermaid”

The Violet Ribbon (best blue ribbon design using tropical flowers) was awarded to Jan Padgett of Green Thumb GC; “Coastal Magic”

The Green Ribbon (best blue ribbon design using mostly foliage) was awarded to Carole Lachmann of GC of Cape Coral; “Magical, Musical, Mystical”

The Silver Ribbon (best blue ribbon design using gladiolus) was awarded to Joyce Comingore GC of Cape Coral “Mystical, Magical Metamorphosis: Fashion Transforms a Lady for the Festival”

The Crimson Ribbon (best blue ribbon design using mostly roses) was awarded to Debbie Wyatt-Stotter of the Rose Society with Gwen Bomarito and Wendy Sprague of Green Thumb; “Flavor Sensations to Mystify Mr. Edison”

Blue Ribbon winners (pictured)

Vicki Taylor - GC of Cape Coral, Winnie Stone - Royal Palm GC, Helen Parker/Jane Gale - Poinciana GC, Julia Palmer - Jasmine GC, Sharalee Dias - Poinciana GC, Violet Clemson - Poinciana GC, Theo Kavouras - Gardens of the World, Mary King - Fiddlesticks GC, Paula Novander - GC of Cape Coral, Carol LaClair/Linda Clark - Gulf Coast GC, Pat Grulke - Jasmine GC, Louella McAloose - Gulf Coast GC, Jean Shields - GC of Cape Coral, Pam Dorchak - Periwinkle GC, Kathy Rabassi - GC of Cape Coral



'La Florida' The First 500 Years -

A Standard Flower Show Honoring Our State's History Through Its People & Plants.

Our biennial flower show was staged at the Eco-Living Center at Rutenberg Park on Friday evening March 1st and all day Saturday March 2nd. Show Chairman Suzy Valentine wrote a creative and informative schedule and we had a great turn-out - just over 300 people enjoyed the show. As always some interesting plants being grown out there but what was different about this show is the time periods which it covered - a lot going on in 500 years. Table coverings were rough burlap and Spanish moss draped about added an air of mystery. Add Ponce De Leon and you knew this was a special show.



Horticulture tables draped with moss

Petite designs in the library interspersed with the books....



Liz Murka won the Flower Show Chairman's award with this plaque of dried bits from the Philodendron sellom



Kathy Erickson created this fun functional picnic table for 6 complete with coconut shell bowls.



Phyllis Wayco of Royal Palm took Horticulture's top awards and the People Choice with this perfect Lady Slipper orchid

Flower Show Chairman Suzy Valentine from Gulf Coast Garden Club and "a friend"



Terry Pinck of the GC of Lehigh Acres (Design Entry chair) won the Award of Design Excellence and Table Artistry Award with "Captain's Table"









Treasurer's Report from the Board



At our last board meeting we received several Thank You notes for donations made to local school's and not for profit organizations and we thought you should know.



CROW - donation of heavy -duty leather gloves for clinic staff handling animals; Harry Chapin Food bank in honor of our speaker Dr. Ted Tidwell from Biowash; Nat'l Garden Club's - Penny Pines program; Fort Myers Middle school for beautification of their campus and finally a \$1,000 donation was made to the Florida Federation of Garden Clubs Scholarship program to honor the judges of our recent Flower Show - *La Florida*.



Please join us at our General Meeting March 8th as we prepare for a new group of Officers for the Fort Myers - Lee County Garden Council, Inc. Nominating Committee Chair - Terry Pinck will present the following slate of Officers for 2013 - 2015. Your club delegates should attend to vote; your club's delegates are listed in the Garden Council yearbook.

	President:	Debbie Wyatt-Stotter	1st Vice President:	Brenda Norris	
	2nd Vice President:	Sandy Kavouras	Recording Secretary:	Suzy Valentine	
	Corresponding Secretary:	Kay Holloway	Treasurer:	Mae-Jean Nothstine	
	Assistant Treasurer:	Kathryn Patterson			

 **Directors:** Ena McGrattan, Mitzi Marckesano, Laura Jibben 

 **Nominating Committee:** Terry Pinck, Carol Lowery, Denise Baier 



Wetlands Install



Last October after a heavy rain our little rain garden and bridge were completely flooded.

The Council board looked at several solutions and hired Jonathan Romine- Landscape Architect with EnSite Engineering to design a natural wetlands garden and elevated boardwalk. Work began in mid-February.

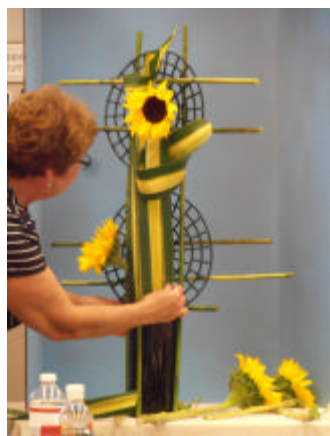


An assortment of wetland plants including 3 bald cypress trees tie in beautifully with the existing native plant garden and anchor the gazebo to the its surroundings. Garden is open Tuesday 10 - 1pm.

WHY BELONG TO A FEDERATED GARDEN CLUB ?

As we begin to wind down our “season” and pay our dues for next year - think about having your club join the member clubs of the Florida Federation of Garden Clubs.

Ever wonder what the letters FFGC mean when associated with a garden club name ? Membership in the Florida Federation of Garden Clubs gives your club access to resources on everything from design related classes, to summer camps for our community youth. Being a member can help guide your club in any direction which piques your club member’s interest while providing endless avenues for personal growth in gardening, design, education and community service. Their BOI (Book of Information) contains answers to questions on any garden club related activity. The Florida Gardener newsletter highlights events and special articles of interest to gardeners and designers alike. All this and more for only \$ 12.00 per club member per year ! Visit the FFGC website at ffgc.org to learn more about how putting FFGC behind your club’s name can help to make a difference in programs and events for this year.



Betty Kall Design program
Eco Living Center Mon. Feb 4



Terry Pinck’s design at the Jan. 11 meeting using a stump removed from the Council property.

A Florida-Friendly Landscaping™ seminar series is a good place to get started in designing and maintaining a Florida Friendly yard. Five, ninety minute classes start this Wednesday, February 27 at 9AM and continue weekly – every Wednesday for 5 weeks. You can attend one or all five.

Low volume irrigation & harvesting rainwater (Mar. 13);

Maintenance Part 1- trees and shrub care, pruning and weed control (Mar. 20)

Maintenance Part 2 – caring for older or mature landscape borders and trees (Mar. 27).

Classes are FREE. No pre-registration is required. Walk-ins are welcome. For information, call 533-7505.

March 26 Noon – 4 pm FYN Intro Eco-Living Center 6490 South Pointe Blvd.

Please pre-register call 533-7504 or 533-7522 Check the website/calendar www://lee.ifas.ufl.edu



RAIN BARREL CONSTRUCTION

Learn how to set up a recycled 55-gallon plastic barrel to collect rain water from your roof. Use the water for your landscape plants, potted plants, vegetable and herb gardens, special plant collections, etc. Workshop provides setup instruction, maintenance, artistic possibilities and a reference booklet included. This workshop will show you how to conserve water, save money, and protect water quality.

Eco-Living Center at Rutenberg Park

March 23 or April 20

Fee: \$45

9:00AM-10:30AM

Registration: 239 533-7522

Periwinkle Garden Club has honored Annette Morrone, past president, with a donation to the FMLCGC FGCU Landscape Design Scholarship for she truly believed in gardening and education. We felt it was a perfect match. Paula Edenfield will donate a brick in honor of Annette to the Council Gardens, as Annette was also a past Council President. Furthermore, Annette was instrumental in getting the Memorial for the Opening of the Tamiami Trail in 1982, currently located in the parking lot of Fresh Market at Bell Tower, close to US 41. Periwinkle and Bell Tower Shops in a combined effort have refurbished the Monument and it is visible to US 41 on goes. This commemorates the efforts made to forge through the Everglades to complete 41 to Miami; thus from Tampa to Miami, thus the TAMAMI TRAIL. Many visited the dedication including the Governor of Florida. Many lives were lost to malaria, drowning, death thru exhaustion during this event. It was truly a masterful engagement, probably thru the WPA in Roosevelt’s administration and much work required mules and dredges. A Re-dedication will take place in the Spring. We will let you know the exact date.

She truly has done so much for everyone who lives in Lee County, whether they knew her or not for SHE TRULY MADE A DIFFERENCE.

A TOAST TO THE COAST

87th Annual Convention of the Florida Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc.
Sanibel Harbour Marriott Resort & Spa, Fort Myers



April 29 & 30, 2013

Get Your Registrations & Hotel Reservations 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 can be made on the Marriott.com website - use code FFGFFGC
800-767-7777 Direct phone number Hotel Deadline: March 29, 2013

If anyone has any size bags (decorative paper or cloth) that they would like to donate, please bring them to the March meeting of the Council and give them to Sharron Thompson or Monica Freed of the Poinciana Garden Club.

Spring District IX meeting – 2013 Wed. May 1 Sanibel Harbour Meeting begins at noon.

March - April 2013 Calendar of Events

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| <i>March in the Park</i>
Garden Club of Cape Coral | Sat. March 9 9 am - 3 pm
Plants, Garden vendors, free workshops | Jaycee Park - off Beach Parkway |
| Garden Talk - How-to on <i>Herbs</i>
Edison & Ford Winter Estates | Sat. March 9 9 am
<i>edisonfordwinterestates.org</i> | 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. March 9 9 am
South Fort Myers | Meet at the Community Garden (parking lot 3)
2nd Saturdays - Sept. thru May <i>lakespark.org</i> |
| Alva GC – Annual Strawberry Festival –
21420 Pearl St. (take State Rd 80 to Alva, left on Broadway, right on Pearl St. – after the bridge) | Sat. March 9th 9 to 1 pm. | The Alva Museum (and plant sale) |
| Spring Native Plant Sale in Cape Coral
Also, Rain Barrel Workshop and Kit \$45 | Sat. April 20 9 - 3pm
9 - 10:30 | Rotary Park - 5505 Rose Garden Rd off Pelican Pkwy
Must pre-register call 533-7504 or 533-7522 & attend
90 min. workshop to receive your barrel |
| Caloosa Rare Fruit | Sat. April 13th | Our sale this year is April 13th at Terry Park. |
| EPCOT International Flower and Garden Festival Beg. of March – May <i>Disneyworld.com/flower</i> | | |

FOR THE LATEST INFO CHECK OUR WEBSITE FMLCGARDENCOUNCIL.COM

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