



THE COURIER

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF
THE FORT MYERS - LEE COUNTY GARDEN COUNCIL, INC.
Home of the Berne Davis Gardens and Mina Edison Botanical Library
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

Florida Arbor Day

Please join us at 11:00 am Friday Jan. 20th for a coconut palm planting at the historic Edison-Ford Winter Estates. The Estates are replacing a row of coconut palms along McGregor Blvd. that had been in place since Thomas Edison's day. The Council purchased a palm in memory of all the Past President's and their names will appear on a plaque. Come out and support the Council, Edison-Ford Estates and Florida's Arbor Day.



Once again we are blessed to have a new year awaiting with a myriad of opportunities for each of us, our Clubs/Societies, and our Council.

But, I get carried away; my job is the Council. Let's see, we ended 2011 providing our large bee hive a new home, re-hanging the staghorn fern alleviating pain to its host tree, repairing the fence damaged by a fallen tree limb, and having some minor repairs made in our headquarters. Not glamorous tasks, but important all the same. Our recently added water feature came with some duck weed, which we need to address in the not to distant future. I was invited to meet with Chris Pendleton, President and CEO of the Edison & Ford Winter Estates, and Brenda Norris, in her role as District IX Director, accompanied me. We had a productive discussion with Chris and look forward to working with her in the future to benefit both the Council and the Estates. 29 Council members hosted a holiday night at the Estates and we had a wonderful time. The weather was spectacular and the grounds inspiring. Our Open House in November was a major success - thanks goes to Paula Novander who championed this effort. Your Board has a busy 2012 planned also.

We are working to:

Re-establish a Speakers Bureau which can be accessed via the Council website. This is a suggestion that came from the President's Tea this Fall.

Welcome the five new members who volunteered to work in the gardens. We hope to be able to open the gardens for the pleasure of the public and/or tour groups. At our Open House in November, we had over 40 people enjoy our gardens. I even had one of them give me a donation! But, we need you to make this happen so we will have enough volunteers to staff this effort on a continuing basis. It is not too late to volunteer. Contact Paula Novander or me. We are also in the process of hiring a professional gardener to augment our volunteers. Increase the Council's visibility through our publicity efforts, but we are finding that to be more difficult than we would have thought. If this is your expertise, please call Jeanne Hill. Complete a PowerPoint presentation about the Council within the next several months. This presentation would be available to Clubs and Societies who may want to educate their members to Council activities as well as be used by Council officers and committee chairs to educate the public about what we offer.

Research a potential bus trip to the Epcot flower show in April. This idea came from our Nov. general membership meeting. Strengthen our partnerships with the City of Fort Myers, Edison & Ford Winter Estates, Lakes Park Enrichment Foundation, and the Eco-Living Center at Rutenberg Park.

Working together all things are possible. Remember, this is your Council.

Let us know how we can help.

Sincerely,
Laura Jibben - President



Friday Jan 13, 2012 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 - Betty Mazzarella
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: Russ Luther - ECHO non-profit organization
Adjournment
Ways & Means - 50/50 drawing -

Please join us at 9:00 am for refreshments provided by [Periwinkle Garden Club](#)

Garden Council Meetings

<p style="text-align: center;"><u>BOARD MEETINGS</u> (Officers, Directors, Committee Chairs)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> FRIDAY, Jan. 6, 2012 FRIDAY Feb. 3, 2012 <p style="text-align: center;">MEETINGS FROM 9:30 AM TO 11:30 AM</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Garden Council Headquarters 2166 Virginia Ave. Fort Myers Phone: 332-4942</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>GENERAL MEETINGS</u> All are Welcome</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> FRIDAY Jan. 13, 2012 Hostess-Periwinkle Garden Club Program - Russ Luther from ECHO farms * Next Meeting Friday, March 9 Program—Audrey Swindal—FFGC—Camp Wekiva 	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>GENERAL MEETINGS</u></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;">Eco Living Center at Rutenberg Park 6490 South Pointe Blvd. HOSPITALITY 9:00 AM TO 9:30 AM MEETINGS 9:30 AM TO 11:30 AM</p>
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* **ECHO – Educational Concerns for Hunger Organization** Russ Luther – Faith Relations Coordinator
 ECHO's Mission is to equip people with the resources and skills to reduce hunger and improve the lives of the poor.
 ECHO's Vision is to honor God through sustainable hunger solutions.

We're starting something new at the Council meetings.
Bring a plant – take a plant

Identify – (botanical name preferred).
 If you bring a plant – you get a ticket.
 We'll call the ticket numbers at the end of the meeting and you pick up a plant to take home.
 Please, only healthy non-invasive plants.
 Must be rooted in a 6" – 1 gal. pot, nothing gigantic.
 If you have something unusual to share we would love to see it.
 Any questions contact our Horticulture Chair – Suzy Valentine 992-0113



HAPPY NEW YEAR'S 2012

2012 Strolling Flower Show

The theme this year is:

“63 YEARS OF GROWING AND SHOWING FOR MR. EDISON”.

The show will be held at the Bell Tower Shops, corner of US 41 and Daniels Parkway. The show begins Thursday Feb. 2nd with judging at 10:00 am, awards luncheon at 12:30 and finishes Friday February 3rd. Sponsored by the Periwinkle Garden Club and the Bell Tower Shops; it is a sanctioned event of the annual Edison Festival of Light. Luncheon sign up: **The Forest Country Club** in south Fort Myers off US 41 @ 6100 Club Boulevard SW 33908

Please confirm by January 25, 2012.

Choice 1: Spinach & Brie Salad. Spinach topped with a wedge of warm almond encrusted brie garnished with fresh berries and drizzled with our strawberry & white balsamic vinaigrette.

Choice 2: Pecan Dijon Salad. Fresh romaine, seasoned chicken breast, bacon, avocados, pecans, tomatoes, and shredded cheese drizzled with honey Dijon dressing.

For luncheon reservations, please see your club President or Strolling Flower show coordinator. If you have several members attending the luncheon, complete the form sent to your President and include 1 check payable to **PERIWINKLE GARDEN CLUB**. Please send to: **Shirley Reaves 1445 El Prado Avenue Fort Myers, FL 33901**; questions 334-0268.

Happy Strolling,
 Donna DePhilippis, Chair 489-4342
 Kay Holloway, Co-Chair - 332-0294

Horticulture Education Resource List

Welcome back to all our snowbirds. If one of your New Year's resolutions is to learn more about the plants that surround us here in South Florida, there are many ways to increase your knowledge.

1. Visit a meeting of one of our member Plant Societies:

AMERICAN HIBISCUS SOCIETY - JAMES E. HENDRY CHAPTER Website: hendrychapterahs.com
 MEETINGS: 1st Sunday (Sept. - June) (no mtg. in Dec & April) 1:30 pm
 LOCATION: Covenant Presbyterian Church 2439 McGregor Blvd. Fort Myers

BONSAI SOCIETY OF SOUTHWEST FLORIDA Website: thebonsaiswfl.com
 MEETINGS: 3rd Saturday (Monthly) 9:00 am
 LOCATION: SPALC Building 6281 Metro Plantation Road, Fort Myers

CALOOSA RARE FRUIT EXCHANGE Website: crfe.org
 MEETINGS: 1st Tuesday of each month 7:30 pm
 LOCATION: Lee County Extension - Terry Park - 3406 Palm Beach Blvd, Fort Myers

CALOOSAHATCHEE BROMELIAD SOCIETY Website: bsi.org (Internation Bromeliad Society)
 MEETINGS: 3rd Sunday (No meeting in April or Dec.) 1:15 Workshop
 LOCATION: Covenant Presbyterian Church 2439 McGregor Blvd. Fort Myers

FLORIDA HERB ENTHUSIASTS
 MEETINGS: 3rd Wednesday (September - May) 7:00 pm
 LOCATION: Fort Myers - Lee County Garden Council HQ, 2166 Virginia Ave. Fort Myers

FLORIDA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY - COCCOLOBA CHAPTER Website: fnpscoccoloba.org
 MEETINGS: 2nd Thursday (September - May) 7:00 pm
 LOCATION: Eco-Living Center at Rutenberg Park 6490 South Pointe Blvd. Fort Myers

GREATER FORT MYERS ROSE SOCIETY
 MEETINGS: 2nd Sunday (Sept. - June) 2:00 pm
 LOCATION: Fort Myers - Lee County Garden Council HQ, 2166 Virginia Ave. Fort Myers

SOUTHWEST FLORIDA ORCHID SOCIETY Website: swfos.org
 MEETINGS: 2nd Monday (all year except December) 7:30 pm
 LOCATION: Eco-Living Center at Rutenberg Park 6490 South Pointe Blvd. Fort Myers

2. Florida Yards and Neighborhoods begins its 10th year of offering classes starting Wed. Jan 11th. Class begins at 9:00 am followed by a walking tour of the Eco-Living Center demonstration gardens at 10:30am. **Right Plant, Right Place Solutions For Your Yard** is the topic for class 1. The Eco-Living Center is located at 6490 South Pointe Blvd. in south Fort Myers. Register with the Lee County Extension Service at <http://lee.ifas.ufl.edu>.

3. Edison & Ford Winter Estates - Garden Shoppe. Head Horticulturist Debbie Hughes and her staff present a variety of classes on the 2nd Saturday of every month. Free to members, only \$5 for non-members. Jan. 14th - Seasonal winter plants. On the web at edisonfordwinterestates.org, - click Education, then Horticultural programs.

4. Lakes Regional Park - guided tours of the Botanic Garden, 2nd Sat. of each month. Join us for a strolling tour of what's in flower lead by a Master Gardener or Botanist/Horticulturalist. Visit the Rose Garden, Aquatic Garden, Succulent Garden, Fragrance Garden and Community Garden. Learn about plans to expand the gardens into the 18-acre site. Meet at Community Garden at the end of parking lot #3 at 9:00 a.m. Tour lasts approximately 1 hour; all ages welcome. Lee County Parks & Recreation Parking fee: \$1.00/hour or \$5.00 per day. Lakes Regional Park is located at 7330 Gladiolus Drive, Fort Myers. lakesparkenrichmentfoundation.org



A THOUGHT TO REMEMBER

*Kind words are easy to speak,
but their echoes are endless.*



Update on Lakes Park Foundation

What's Blooming in the Lakes Park gardens – contact Susan Moore
 Lakes Park Enrichment Foundation
 12508 Lakewood Court Fort Myers, FL 33908
 481-7845 281-3180
 botanicgarden.moore9@gmail.com
 lakesparkenrichmentfoundation.org

The **Southwest Florida Orchid Society** has scheduled a bus trip to the Tamiami International Orchid Festival in Miami on Saturday, January 28. Cost is \$20 for members and \$25 for non-members and includes admission to the Festival. Contact Carol Warrell at 561-0587 for additional information.

2013 FFGC State Convention countdown

Sanibel Harbor Resort - April 28 - 30
 This is the custom designed 24K gold pin by Mark Loren Designs, just one of the raffle items already collected by Pat Grulke and her committee members. To get involved, contact Pat at 482-3774 or patgrulke@hotmail.com. I hear they have also lined up donations from Norman Love Chocolates. Stay tuned !



A big *Thanks* to Bev Ray and Pat Grulke for their gold donation.

J A N . / F E B . 2 0 1 2 C a l e n d a r o f E v e n t s

Florida Arbor Day	Friday Jan. 20 th	Tree planting at 11:00 am at Edison & Ford Winter Estates
Judges Council	Feb. 16	Northern Trust bank, Fort Myers contact Suzy Valentine 992-0113
Art in Bloom III	Sun. Feb. 26 th 1 - 5 pm	Floral Design show in cooperation with Edison & Ford Estates Entry to caretakers cottage is \$5, see Debbie Hughes to enter the show
March in the Park Garden Club of Cape Coral	Sat. March 10	Plant Vendors, Demos, food and fun Jaycee Park - at the river on Beach Parkway, off Del Prado S.
2012 Naples Orchid Show and sale	March 16-17-18	Moorings Presbyterian Church www.NaplesOrchidSociety.org 791 Harbour Drive Naples 34103 for info 239 403-7155
District IX Spring meeting	Friday April 24	Port Charlotte - Hold Trinity Lutheran Church
3rd Annual Berne Davis Honorary Service Award luncheon	April 27 th 12:30 - 3:00 pm	Royal Palm Yacht Club - 2360 W. First Street Fort Myers
Epcot / FFGC Flower show now set for Friday thru Sun April 27 - 29 2012 - Disney World, Orlando		
Garden Club of Cape Coral Biennial Flower Show – "Local Attractions"	Thursday April 26 th - setup, open to the public on Saturday April 28 th	Cape Coral Library - 921 SW 39 th Terr. off Mohawk

OFFICERS 2011 - 2013

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Open House Nov. 19th

OPEN HOUSE

Hope you didn't miss our 2nd annual Open House, even our namesake Berne Davis was in attendance. We had great orchids being raffled, boondoggling and leaf manipulation demos by some of the Potpourri members and Poinciana had plants and misc. for sale. GC of Cape Coral had long-wearing nitrile gloves and books for sale, Green Thumb sold their cookbooks and Alva had plants. Lakes Park Foundation had their information all setup. Members of Native Plant, Hibiscus, Bromeliad, Orchid and the Herb Enthusiasts were all on-site to greet visitors and answer questions. Ecelectic Designers had designs in place and Royal Palm had their info available. President Laura Jibben lead a tour of about 40 people from the EFWE Garden Market thru our demo gardens at 11:00am. Carolee Drotos-Swale had a group of her fellow Master Gardeners come thru at 1:00 pm. The weather could not have been better. We had such a great time visiting with each other, in the beautiful gardens. I heard a lot of "next year we should" suggestions so it sounds like the momentum is building. So next year be ready for a bigger and better OPEN HOUSE at the Fort Myers - Lee County Garden Council - Berne Davis Gardens.. Remember the Council belongs to us all. Please get involved. Paula Novander

Wendy - Alva GC & Herb Enthusiast



Terry & Kathryn boondoogle



Berne Davis & our new sign



Orchid Society setup under the pergola

Plant It Pink garden looking good



Gazebo with Angel trumpets

Hibiscus Society answers questions



GC of Cape Coral information



Paula, Berne and Winnie greet visitors

