

THE COURIER

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

President's Message

See the Jan-Feb. issue for instructions to open the large gate to the parking lot.

***Opening the Rooms ***

The large key from the lockbox opens the door and deadbolt to Room 2. You MUST open Room 2 first to disable the alarm, then you can open Room 1 (if needed). First unlock the top deadbolt and then use the key to open the door. As you enter, use the keypad just inside the door to disable the alarm. After you enter the code, the keypad will beep and you can then use Room 2. It is best to undo the door handle lock so you don't lock yourself out. When leaving the room, make sure A/C is set to 80 and lights are off. Pull the door shut, enter the code and leave the room. The keypad will beep for 30 seconds and then the room is secure. Make sure the door handle is locked before shutting the door, then just lock the deadbolt with the key. Return the keys to lockbox and spin dials. See a board member to learn the security code. THANKS

Well, we are heading into Spring - seems as though winter was short. Our gardens are blooming early due to the mild winter we did have and I've noticed a large population of grasshoppers preparing to eat my plantings!! The rare fruit trees have provided much enjoyment. Starfruit and papaya have been delicious. The aloe vera is blooming as is my Jacob's Ladder (devil's backbone). Birds are singing. It won't be long!!!

Our Arbor Day celebration was well attended by members and past presidents. Visit our tree at the Ford Edison Winter Estates. It needs lots of love to grow!!

The Periwinkle Garden Club hosted the 63rd Strolling Flower Show in early February with the same panache as always. The Tri-Color winner this year was a first time winner who was not afraid to display emotions and gratitude at the awards luncheon held at The Forest Country Club. Congratulations go to all who participated. You will be able to see the winners recreated at the Council membership meeting on March 9th.

Another successful Art in Bloom was held with our partner the Edison-Ford Winter Estates on February 26th. So many beautiful arrangements depicting artwork made it very difficult to choose the winners. As you know, this is a people's choice award. Again, congratulations to all who participated. All winners should be proud as the competition was stiff as always.

And, be sure to check the back page of this edition of the Courier as it seems March is loaded with flower shows and other events from our members!! We must try to get to all of them so we don't miss sharing all the talent of our members.

At the end of April, we are looking forward to visiting the Epcot Flower Shows. Get your reservations in as soon as possible as we have not reached our minimum numbers yet. It would be a shame to let this opportunity slip by.

And, don't forget the FFGC Convention in Jacksonville this May. Check the FFGC website for details. Your own members will be doing a "chorus line" to promote the 2013 Convention to be held right here in Fort Myers and chaired by our own Pat Grulke. I wish each and every one of you a Spring full of blooms and blossoms. We are so blessed to live in Southwest Florida.

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 - 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: *Wekiva Youth Camp - Audrey Swindal*
 Adjournment
 Ways & Means - 50/50 drawing

Please join us at 9:00 am for refreshments provided by Poinciana Garden Club

G a r d e n C o u n c i l M e e t i n g s

<u>BOARD MEETINGS</u>	<u>GENERAL MEETINGS</u>	<u>GENERAL MEETINGS</u>
(Officers, Directors, Committee Chairs) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • FRIDAY, March 2, 2012 • FRIDAY April 6, 2012 MEETINGS FROM 9:30 am TO 11:30 am <p style="text-align: center;"> Garden Council Headquarters 2166 Virginia Ave. Fort Myers Phone: 332-4942 </p>	All are Welcome <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • FRIDAY March 9, 2012 • Hostess - Poinciana GC • Program - FFGC's Camp Wekiva with Audrey Swindal • Next Meeting Friday May 11 	MEETINGS ARE HELD THE 2ND FRIDAY OF THE MONTH EVERY OTHER MONTH SEPTEMBER TO MAY <p style="text-align: center; color: red;">NEW LOCATION:</p> Eco Living Center at Rutenberg Park 6490 South Pointe Blvd. HOSPITALITY: 9:00 am to 9:30 am MEETING: 9:30 am to 11:30 am

"63 YEARS OF GROWING AND SHOWING FOR MR. EDISON".

Awards Luncheon Feb. 2nd, 2012

As Judy Gore said in her Top Ten Reasons to Enter the Strolling Flower Show - IT IS FUN. And it was a lot of fun this year with antique watering cans, percolators, mortar and pestle, sprouted onions and giant palm spathes. This show just keeps getting better and better. I did learn that when a floral designer says "Stop the car", their husbands obey and then assist in loading the "found object" or horticultural waste into the trunk. Just ask Julia Palmer about the wooden drying rack of unknown origins that appeared in her Designer's Choice award-winning design. Her dried sycamore leaves came from the Council's meeting place - the Eco Living Center so I guess it pays to always keep an eye out and a sharp pair of clippers in the car.

After the judging on Thursday Feb. 2nd we all moved to the Forest Country Club for lunch and the award presentation. Lunch was delicious in a beautiful setting and the game of "what's in your purse" proved to be hilarious. Fortunately, no one (that means you Madeline) had to explain *why* this item was in their purse. So many blue ribbons - I don't even remember... but all these designs scored 95 points or more to be eligible for the specialty awards.

Specialty Ribbons were:

Gold Ribbon (Chrysanthemums)	Jan Padgett for "Showing Innovative Style"
Violet Ribbon (Tropical Flowers)	Darlene Tompkins for "Steaking Out History"
Green Ribbon (majority of foliage)	Carole Lachmann for " Oh My, Oh Me, It's Show 63"
Silver Ribbon (Gladiolus)	Paula Novander for "Patchington LOVES Strolling with Mr. Edison"
Crimson Ribbon (Roses)	Denise Baier & Lavonne Brekke for "Portfolio of Shades"

The Four Top Honors were: **Runner-up for DESIGNERS CHOICE AWARD** – Carol Lowery, Bernadette Hamera, Laura Jibben and Madeline Wallace, members of Estero Island, Gulf Coast and Potpourri Designers for their design "Pampering Mina at 63" shown at the *Trini in Private* store.

... and the **Winner for DESIGNERS CHOICE AWARD** - Julia Palmer from Jasmine GC with "Leave it to Edison" at Francesca's.

Runner-up for TRI-COLOR AWARD (all-fresh material) – Florene Johns from Poinciana and Potpourri Designers for her "Showing the Feminine Side" at Soma. Florene won this award last year - good job, Florene.

... and the **Winner for TRI-COLOR AWARD** – Carol Lowery, Bernadette Hamera, Laura Jibben and Madeline Wallace, members of Estero Island, Gulf Coast and Potpourri Designers for their design "Pampering Mina at 63" shown at the *Trini in Private* store.

The JUDGES CATEGORY AWARD went to Judy Gore from Jasmine GC for "Periwinkles Shine for Mr. Edison, Again", with silver palm spathes at the Brookstone (A) window.

The Periwinkle Garden Club thanks everyone who participated in the Strolling Flower Show. It is hoped that the 65th Strolling Flower Show will be the biggest and best ever. Hope to see you there.

Happy Strolling, *Donna DePhillippis*, Chair and *Kay Holloway*, Co-Chair

F F G C 2 0 1 3 C o n v e n t i o n

A big "Thank You" to all of you for your overwhelming support ! Without your enthusiasm, this super event would not be successful. To all of those who have to date been able to help us financially, we are most grateful. As a resource, Mitzi - our acquisitions' Queen, has been able to take advantage of some great bargains. By having money in the bank, we have been able to pay our bills without those expenses coming from an individual. One of Mitzi's most important finds was the badge holder. In addition, bamboo coasters were obtained for us to use as hand-outs at the 2012 convention. These coasters have our logo, invitation, dates and location printed on one side.



A REMINDER: ALL MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL ARE ALSO MEMBERS OF THE FFGC CONVENTION 2013; "A TOAST TO THE COAST" COMMITTEE.
WITH YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT, WE ARE UNSTOPPABLE.

Pat Grulke - 2013 Convention Chairman

Please join us in March for a program presented by Audrey Swindal, the "Mother Nature" of Camp Wekiva. Wekiva is a residential nature camp for 3rd to 8th grade students sponsored by the Florida Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc. with the purpose of instilling a love and respect for the "real Florida" in our youth as well as a knowledge of nature, the importance of conservation and the protection of our environment. Find out how your club can support the Camp by sponsoring a local child, collecting those Campbell



Soup labels or even volunteering. Angie Kruse of the Garden Club of Cape Coral was honored in Jan. at the District IX meeting for volunteering in 2011. The Garden Council recently sent in **500** points in Labels for Education and 50 Box Tops for Education, keep bringing them in.



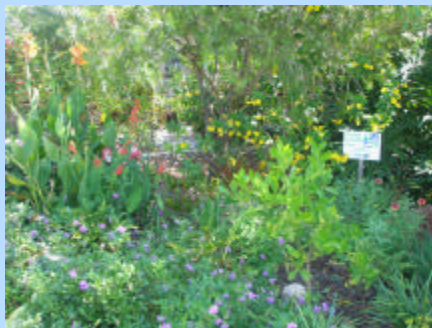
Wekiva Lake at
 FFGC's Camp Wekiva
 Wekiwa Springs State Park
 1800 Wekiwa Circle
 Apopka, FL

Guided Garden Walks at Berne Davis Gardens

Join local Master Gardeners for a guided tour of the beautiful gardens at the Fort Myers - Lee County Garden Council headquarters. Tour demonstration gardens of the SW Fl. Bromeliad Society, Greater Fort Myers Rose Society, The Hibiscus Society, Calusa Rare Fruit club, Coccoloba Native Plant, SW Florida Herb Society and others. Offered on the 2nd and 4th Tuesday's of April and May at 10 am until noon.

April 10 April 24 May 8 May 22

If you can't do great things, you can do small things in a great way.



I may not be able to change the world situation but I can raise birds and butterflies. *Paula Novander*

This is a photo of my Florida Friendly front yard in Cape Coral. To find out more about Florida Yards and Neighborhoods see the Lee County Extension website: www://lee.ifas.ufl.edu
Rain barrel class at Eco-Living Center at Rutenberg Park
6490 South Pointe Blvd. Fort Myers
Wed. March 7 9:00 - 11:00 \$45 You must register to attend



Ena assists Berne Davis with watering in the coconut palm. Berne Davis (1967-1968).

Arbor Day 2012 The Garden Council honored its past Presidents with a Coconut palm planting at the historic Edison - Ford Winter Estates on Friday, January 20th. The palm is a special Malay coconut that replaces the original coconuts that lined the fence on McGregor Blvd. in front of the Edison home. From the left: Betty Sanders (1989-1991); Nancy Wheeler (1991-1993); Pat Grulke (1993-1995); Jennie Lee Zipperer (1970-1972); current President - Laura Jibben (2011-2013); Ena McGrattan (2005-2007); Mitzi Marckesano (2009-2011); and Debbie Hughes (2003-2005) - currently head Horticulturist for the Estates. Thanks to Joyce Comingore and Debbie for arranging the event and Chris Pendleton for refreshments and the young singers.

M a r c h / A p r i l 2 0 1 2 C a l e n d a r o f E v e n t s

Epcot / FFGC Flower show bus trip Saturday & Sun April 28 - 29 and 1 day trip Sun the 28th 2012
 Contact Suzanne at **C I Travel 877 597 2961 \$249 double occupancy for 2 day trip, \$139 for 1 day**
 Bus leaves Sat. April 28 at 8:30 am. For 1 day trip bus leaves Fort Myers at 6am.

SW Florida Herb Day - County Extension Sat. March 31 8:15 - 3 pm Terry Park &
 "The Year of the Rose" Presentations and "making an herb mound" demo Edison&Ford Winter Estates
 Registration required: <http://lee.ifas.ufl.edu>, click on WebTRAC or call 533-7514 \$15

District IX Spring meeting Friday April 24 Port Charlotte - Holy Trinity Lutheran Church

3rd Annual Berne Davis Honorary Service Award luncheon Fri. April 27 11:30 - 3pm Royal Palm Yacht Club, 2360 W. First St., FM

FFGC 86th State Convention "Ports of Call" May 10 - 11, 2012 Hyatt Regency - Jacksonville

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 and no seedlings.
 If you have something unusual to share we would love to see it.
 Any questions contact our Horticulture Chair - Suzy Valentine 992-0113

FOR THE LATEST INFO CHECK OUR WEBSITE FMLCGARDENCOUNCIL.COM

OFFICERS 2011 - 2013

President
 Laura Jibben 463-3690
 Email: LJibben@embarqmail.com

First Vice President
 Debbie Wyatt-Stotter 652-9140
 Email: famemane@comcast.net

Second Vice President
 Brenda Norris 489-0343
 Email: jimandbrenda.norris@gmail.com

Recording Secretary
 Kathryn Patterson 369-3488
 Email: forever.irish@comcast.net

Corresponding Secretary
 Betty Mazzarella 949-3944
 Email: bettymazz@aol.com

Treasurer
 Bernadette Hamera 233-1166
 Email: BernieHamera@yahoo.com

COURIER
 Paula Novander 945-6548
 Email: pnovander@yahoo.com

Directors
 Kay Holloway 332-0294
 Ena McGrattan 561-1735
 Mitzi Marckesano 561-5513

Strolling Flower Show



Darlene Tompkins at Omaha Steaks "Steaking Out" History" Violet ribbon for best use of Tropical Flowers

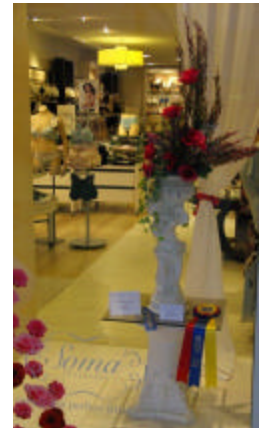
Some of the Blue ribbon winners



Carol Lowery, Bernadette Hamera, Laura Jibben and Madeline Wallace celebrate winning 2 top awards - Designer's Choice runner-up and Tri-Color. Store - Trini in Private Their design used an antique dress frame with a lovely swirl of purple orchids flowing down.



Florene Johns at Soma - "Showing the Feminine Side" won runner-up of Tri-color with all fresh flowers and foliage.



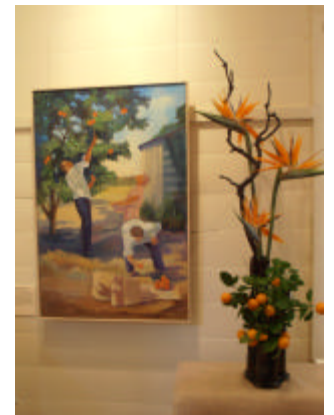
Art In Bloom

Sunday Feb. 26th 1 -4 pm
Staged in the Caretaker's Cottage
Edison & Ford Winter Estates

Art in Bloom is a collaborative project of the Estates and the Garden Council. Floral designers provide their interpretations of artwork displayed at the Estates. Voting is simply by the visitors; a People's Choice for their 3 favorite designs.



The winning design was done by Todd Roy - an employee of the Edison & Ford Winter Estates. Todd used an unusual palm spathe from the Estates to illustrate Kim Hambor's ultraviolet photo of the "Edison Home". You may also have seen Todd's work at the Strolling Flower Show, he assisted Debbie Hughes with the Saks window- a Tribute to Thomas Edison.



2nd Place - "The Orange Pickers" a painting by Florence Sansom enhanced with a design by Mary King.



Terry Pinck (center) receives her award from Debbie Hughes of the EFWE.



3rd Place - "The Storks" also by Florence Sansom as interpreted by Terry Pinck.

P l a n t s a l e s a n d e v e n t s

GC of Cape Coral - **March in the Park** Sat. March 10 9:00 - 4:00 pm
 Over 40 Plant and garden materials and decor vendors, raffles, food and demonstrations every hour
 Jaycee Park - at the river on Beach Pkwy, off Del Prado in the SE Cape
 For more info or directions, Ginny Huffer 540-7988 or Kathy Woodlock 242-6303
 Website: gardenclubofcapecoral.com



Annual Alva Garden Club celebration Sat. March 10 9:00 - 1:00 pm
 Plant sale / Open House at the town Museum / bake sale / raffle and old-fashioned strawberry shortcake social.
 Alva Museum 21420 E. Pearl Street Call Wendy Sprague 728-6543 for more info and directions.

2012 Naples Orchid Show and sale March 16-17-18 www.NaplesOrchidSociety.org
 Moorings Presbyterian Church 791 Harbour Drive Naples 34103 for info 239 403-7155

Spring Native Plant sale Sat. April 21 9:00 - 2:00 pm. Coccoloba Chapter
 Free admission and parking, expert advice. Thousands of plants plus a Butterfly House
 Take Cape Coral parkway west, left on Pelican to Rotary Park

U p c o m i n g F l o w e r S h o w s

"Tropical Elegance on the Gulf Coast" A placement show by Gulf Coast Garden Club
 Thur. March 15 noon - 7:00 pm The East Indies Company 11985 Tamiami Tr. N. Naples

"LIGHT" A Standard Flower Show by the Naples Garden Club
 Friday March 30 and Saturday March 31 9:00am to 5pm
 Naples Botanical Garden, 4820 Bayshore Drive, Naples
 Chair: Kathleen Hawryluk 239 455-5113
 Admission: \$12.95 to the Botanical Garden includes Admission to the show



"Local Attractions" A small Standard Show by the Garden Club of Cape Coral
 Fri. April 27 3:00 - 5:00 pm Sat. April 28 9:00 - 3:00 pm
 Cape Coral Public Library 921 SW 39th Terr. West on Cape Coral Pkwy, right on Skyline to Mohawk

"The World Around Us" A small standard show by Royal Palm Garden Club
 Wed. March 14 5:00 - 8:00 Thur. March 15 9:00 - 1:00 pm Zion Lutheran Winkler Ave. at Gladiolus

Flower Show School – Course IV April 4-5, 2012 Naples
Registrar: Catherine Ware 239 263-2286 catherinekware@aol.com
 Chairman Gail Pica 239 774-3507 email GPFfjudge@gmail.com

These shows will give our newest Novice Flower Show judges a chance to show what they have learned. Congratulations to Terry Pinck of Lehigh Acres GC, Royal Palm GC and Potpourri Designers and Janice Miller of Gulf Coast Garden Club.