



THE COURIER

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

2nd Annual
OPEN HOUSE
Sat. Nov. 19th
10:00 - 4:00 pm

This is your chance to highlight to the public what your club or plant society is all about. AND hopefully gain some new members.

Set-up a table in the Garden Council's Berne Davis Botanical Garden and enjoy the lovely day.

The Edison -Ford Winter Estates will be having their annual plant bazaar and we'll be conducting tours of our garden, from the Estates. We'll provide the snacks and beverages, you round up your club members to make this a great day. More info - contact Paula Novander or Helene Jackley.



As I write this message I am surrounded by packing boxes and memories. My husband and I are leaving our home of over 40 years in Illinois and making the permanent move to Fort Myers Beach. I hope everyone had a great summer, the last few days we've been able to have the windows open something we won't be able to do in Florida for a few more weeks. We'll miss the farm-fresh tomatoes, corn and peaches but not the Illinois winters. So I'm ready to get to work and hope you are also.

At our board meeting last May we discussed many ways the Council can work with each and every one of you to further our objectives. We will increase our educational offerings in design and horticulture. Marty Ward is developing ideas for design workshops and Suzy Valentine is

committed to increasing our knowledge of horticulture.

In addition, our environment, including our water quality, which is critical to maintaining our way of life in Southwest Florida, is under continued attack. Bernadette Hamera has a passion for this issue and has shown a desire to lead our efforts to protect this critical resource, including coordination with our District and State organizations.

The Board expressed a desire to maximize the use of our gardens and headquarters. Mary King is the "go to gal" to schedule an event, club meeting or party. She is waiting to hear from you !!!

Betty Mazzarella, along with Madeline Wallace and Denise Baier, are busy working on special events. A President's Tea, an Open House at the gardens and the Berne Davis Award Luncheon are just some of the exciting activities that will be held in the coming year.

Whew! That's enough for now. Be assured, the Board and I look forward to a productive, invigorating, and fun two years. Let us hear from you - your ideas, suggestions, and constructive criticism are all welcome.

We will see you in September and if not then, hope to see you in November.

Working together all things are possible.

Sincerely,
Laura Jibben



Friday Sept. 9, 2011 F M L C G C General Meeting - Call to order at 9:30 am

Inspirational Message - Madeline Wallace
Pledge of Allegiance - Mitzi Marckesano
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: *Florida Roses* - Debbie Wyatt-Stotter
Adjournment
Ways & Means - 50/50 drawing -

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

Garden Council Meetings

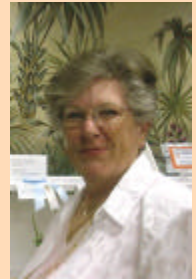
<p style="text-align: center;"><u>BOARD MEETINGS</u> (Officers, Directors, Committee Chairs)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • THURSDAY Sept. 8, 2011 <u>NOTE Chg.</u> • FRIDAY Oct. 14, 2011 • FRIDAY Nov. 4, 2011 <p>MEETINGS FROM 9:30 AM TO 11:30 AM</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Garden Council 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 Sept. 9, 2011 9:00 am • Hostess-Fiddlesticks Garden Club • Program - Florida Roses by • Debbie Wyatt-Stotter • Next Meeting Friday Nov. 11 	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>GENERAL MEETINGS</u></p> <p>MEETINGS ARE HELD THE 2ND FRIDAY OF THE MONTH EVERY OTHER MONTH SEPTEMBER TO MAY</p> <p style="text-align: center;">NEW LOCATION:</p> <p>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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New Board Members !

There were a few updates to the board over the summer so please welcome our new board members.

Recording Secretary - Kathryn Patterson (right) from the Garden Club of Lehigh Acres and a Potpourri Designer

Corresponding Secretary - Betty Mazzarella (left) is a member of the Estero Island Garden Club and Gulf Coast Garden Club as well as an accredited Flower Show judge.



Strolling Flower Show

Attention all Strolling Flower Show Arrangers !!!!

Thursday February 2nd and Friday February 3rd are the dates for the 2012 STROLLING FLOWER SHOW, sponsored by the Periwinkle Garden Club and the Bell Tower Shops. This is a sanctioned event of the annual Edison Festival of Light.

The theme this year is:

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

The 2012 show will be held at the Bell Tower Shops, corner of US 41 and Daniels Parkway. Periwinkle Garden Club members encourage all veteran and novice arrangers to participate in the judges nonstandard show. Drawing for the windows will be on Friday, November 11 at the bimonthly Garden Council meeting. Please send a representative from your Garden Club with names, phone numbers and emails for drawing participants. Look forward to seeing you at the Council Meeting.

Happy Strolling,
Donna DePhilippis, Chair
Kay Holloway, Co-Chair

A Thought To Remember A heart full of love always has something to give.



Lake Placid - 21st Annual Caladium Festival
 Friday, Saturday and Sunday August 26 - 28
 Stuart Park

The following is an excerpt from Jean Shield's weekly gardening column found in the Cape Coral BREEZE newspaper. She alternates with Joyce Comingore in sharing their gardening thoughts and researching that new plant that catches their eye or an old favorite. Enjoy this idea for a little get-away next weekend.

"The third event is three days and exactly an old fashioned fun time for the whole family. The annual Caladium Festival will be held in Lake Placid on Friday, Saturday and Sunday, the 26th, 27th, and the 28th. The whole town of Lake Placid will be in a festive celebration as they show off their lovely caladium fields and hundreds of caladiums to buy and to admire. They have a whole neighborhood with yards landscaped with dozens of caladiums as they vie for the most beautiful caladium display. An air-conditioned bus ride takes you thru the rolling hills at the edge of town to the acres of caladium fields. No walking around the fields, just a tremendous view of colors as you slowly ride by the fields. A guide will enlighten viewers about the history and growing of caladiums. Then the bus goes through the beautiful neighborhoods with all the yards full of caladiums.

A joy to behold. It is the kind of scene that makes you want to come back home and start planting 25 happy little bulbs in your own yard. (Note: for as little as \$5 a bag).

You do not have to do bulbs, of course, there are plenty of gorgeous plants for sale. The hard part is making a decision of what color combination do you want the most - the flamboyant foliage of "Red Flash" or "Rosebud". Maybe the mottled green of the large leaf "Florida Elise", or maybe my favorite "Miss Muffet" that has a smaller leaf with a light green edge and white center speckled with dark crimson. They can be grown in the soil, and do not have to be removed each winter. They do like a nice moist space for the first two weeks and then they do well without any special care. They make a great potted plant but shade is their desired spot. There are some that do well in the sun, just pay attention and plant the right one in the right place. No special soil. I have a "Miss Muffet" in a pot on the lanai that has been there three years. When I do not water enough it droops to remind me to water please. The plants will come with instructions. There is plenty of ice cream, sandwiches, platters of foodstuffs and shade and lots of hometown talent and music. There is one main street so plan on finding a parking spot on a side roadway. Lake Placid is located out on route 27 North, you just cannot miss it.

Keep cool; it won't be long before we can go about without an umbrella in one hand and sunscreen in the other. Till we meet again ... happy gardening, somewhere....."

H. Jean Shields

Past President of the Garden Club of Cape Coral

Caladium bulbs and plants for sale, arts & crafts, food and refreshments, Florida Friendly and ornamental plants, antique and classic car show on Saturday. Enjoy the many murals gracing the local buildings. Bus rides to the caladium fields and caladium displays in nearby subdivisions. Last year our tour guide actually stopped our bus at his mother's home and allowed us to walk around her incredible yard; flower beds edged with hundreds of caladiums. P. Novander



More info at lpfla.com/caladium



Someone was NOT sitting around this summer
Look for our new signs and landscaping along the Larchmont Street sidewalk.
Former President Mitzi Marckesano was busy all summer interviewing landscapers, chasing down permits and getting everything to the City of Fort Myers. Greenscapes will be installing plants soon. Thank-You Mitzi & crew.



FFGC 2013 State Convention

In 2013 the Florida Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc will hold their annual convention at the Sanibel Harbour Marriot Resort. Chairman, Pat Grulke and her team visited the venue in April and declared it "Wonderful".

Pat has a special request for a pin to be custom designed by Mark Loren Jewelers that will be used as a raffle prize. If anyone has old 14K gold or platinum to donate towards this unique piece please contact Pat at patgrulke@hotmail.com.

Pat also has a logo contest for "A TOAST TO THE COAST". Colors are Sky (sunrise/sunset), dark green palm fronds, blue water and beige sand. Entries need to be in a .jpg format and email to Pat by August 31.

See the website www.ffgcdistrict9.org for details.



S E P T . / O C T 2 0 1 1 C a l e n d a r o f E v e n t s

FFGC's Gala In The Garden luncheon & fashion show Celebrating 50 Years at Winter Park Sept. 16th *SOLD OUT*

SW Florida Orchid Society Auction	Mon. Oct. 10 7:30	Eco Living Center at Rutenberg Park,
District IX Fall Meeting The Olde Marco Inn	Fri. Oct. 14 2011 Coffee at 9:30	The Calusa Garden Club of Marco Island More info on District 9 website
Garden Council President's Tea 2166 Virginia Ave.	Fri. Oct. 21 2pm ? watch for more info ...	A welcome for the new Garden Club Presidents to the Council Headquarters
Fall Native Plant Sale Sponsored by Coccoloba Chapter of the Florida Native Plant Society	Oct. 22 9 to 2 pm	Manatee Park Palm Beach Blvd. Plants, worm castings, seeds and Flora-mulch
Flower Show School Course III Naples FL	Nov. 2-4, 2011	Catherine Ware - Registrar 263-2286 catherinekware@aol.com Gail Pica - Chairman 774-3507 GPFFjudge@gmail.com
OPEN HOUSE and Edison Fall Fair	Nov. 19 9 to 2 pm	Garden Council Headquarters 2166 Virginia Ave.
Jasmine GC Annual Holiday Coffee & Auction Auction starts at 10:00am Holiday wreathes, table-top trees, centerpieces, baked goods, jams and jellies	Nov. 15 Coffee at 9:30	Royal Palm Yacht Club
Bromeliad Society Plant Sale & Show	Sat. Dec. 3 and Sun. Dec. 4	Terry Park

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