



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 - 2:00 pm

Please join us at the Berne Davis Botanical Gardens to take a garden walk, find out about other clubs and the specialty plant societies or just enjoy a day in the gardens. Hope to see you.



The FMLCGC is in full swing. The Presidents Tea was a success with representatives from 14 Clubs, 4 Societies, and 1 Affiliate attending. In addition to a garden tour and delicious refreshments (provided by the Events Committee), the Presidents shared challenges they were encountering and benefited from the advice and counsel of others. In my opinion, this exchange of information and ideas was the highlight of the Tea. Our Open House is set for November 19th. Many Clubs and Societies have decided to participate. However, we still need volunteers to escort garden tours. Let Paula or me know of your interest to help. You don't have to commit for the whole day or even half of the day. A couple of hours of your time would be of great assistance. Many Clubs, Societies, and our Affiliates are hosting holiday events for all to enjoy.

Check the Courier back page and/or the Council website to ensure you miss nothing. And, lastly, during this season, I wish you and yours a most joyous time with family and friends. See you on November 11th at our membership meeting. Don't miss Thomas Hecker's program - Sexy, Sustainable Succulents.

Working together all things are possible.

Sincerely,

Laura Jibben - President



Visiting the Garden Council grounds:

To open the large gate off Virginia Ave., the key is in the Lock Box located on the left end of the gate. Please ask a board member if you do not know the combination. Use the small key to unlock the padlock and open the gate. The large key will open Room 2 BUT you must have the security code as the building is alarmed. When you return the keys be sure to spin the dials on the lockbox.

Happy Fall ! Whether you live here full time or part time, Fall in Florida is magnificent. Our gardens are happy the cooler weather has returned. We gardeners are happy we can mulch, weed, transplant, and plant in comfort. The gardens at Council headquarters are being well tended on a weekly basis by a group of volunteers (more are always needed - contact Paula Novander) from our Clubs and Societies. Thanks to all of you! We did have a rather large tree limb fall on our fence and do considerable damage. Thanks to Debbie Hughes for finding it. Our partner, the City of Fort Myers, cleaned up the debris immediately. A big thank you goes out to them. We are securing estimates for the fence repair now and hope to have things returned to normal very soon.

Friday Nov. 11, 2011 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: *Sexy, Sustainable Succulents - T. Hecker*
Adjournment
Ways & Means - 50/50 drawing -

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

Garden Council Meetings

<p><u>BOARD MEETINGS</u> (Officers, Directors, Committee Chairs)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • FRIDAY, Nov. 4, 2011 • FRIDAY Dec. 2, 2011 <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 Nov. 11, 2011 • Hostess - Estero Island • Program - Sexy, Sustainable Succulents by Thomas Hecker • Next Meeting Friday Jan. 13 	<p><u>GENERAL MEETINGS</u> MEETINGS ARE HELD THE 2ND FRIDAY OF THE MONTH EVERY OTHER MONTH SEPTEMBER TO MAY</p> <p>NEW LOCATION: 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</p>
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Top 10 Reasons to Participate in the Strolling Flower Show by Judy Gore *with apologies to Dave*

- 10. It Is Fun** – Garden Clubbers love to use flowers to create beautiful things. You can be as serious or as novel as you like.
 - 9. No Classes** – You don't have to compete against judges or more experienced designers. Each design is judged on its own merits. No restrictions. You can do designs you like, but stretch and grow; don't do the same type over and over. By the way, this also keeps you judges and more experienced designers on your toes – NO EXCUSES. This show does qualify as a design entry for recertification.
 - 8. They Give Lots of Great Ribbons and Prizes** – The Bell Tower Merchants love it and give lots of nice gift certificates to some of their stores. Next to playing with flowers, Garden Clubbers do love to shop.
 - 7. You Meet Lots of Great Ladies** – People who love flowers are special people. Huge crowds come and all love it and appreciate your efforts.
 - 6. It is Fun** – It keeps those creative thoughts flowing and gets us up and out of our recliners. If you don't use it you lose it.
 - 5. The Shopkeepers Love You** – They are very cooperative and encouraging and get really excited when their window is judged.
 - 4. You Get Great Experience** – and develop the confidence to use flowers for your personal expression and enjoyment, in your home, club meeting, church and FUTURE FLOWER SHOWS.
 - 3. The Periwinkles Put on a Great Luncheon** – and you get to visit with all your friends in other Garden Clubs. Design with Flowers, Shop and Eat – what more could you ask for.
 - 2. You Are Part of a Great Tradition** – The Periwinkle ladies have been working hard for the very unique Strolling Flower Show for over 60 years. Support their efforts and be part of a great Fort Myers tradition.
- #1 Top Reason**
1. Did I Say "It Is Fun" – Everyone is a winner! Just entering helps you grow



The Garden Club of Cape Coral show off their entry in the Lakes Park Enrichment Foundation's annual Scarecrows in the Park contest. Groups were invited to create personalized, unique scarecrows to be voted on by celebrity judges and festival attendees during Lakes Park annual Fall Festival and Halloween Extravaganza. Lakes Park is located at 7330 Gladiolus Drive off US 41 in south Fort Myers. The Enrichment Foundation is an Affiliate member of the Garden Council. For more information, visit their website at lakesparkenrichmentfoundation.org.

ATTENTION All Strolling Flower Show Arrangers !!!

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 this judged nonstandard show. Thursday Feb. 2nd and Friday the 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”.

We are drawing for windows at the Garden Council meeting Friday Nov. 11th. 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. THANKS

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



The following is an excerpt from Joyce Comingore's weekly gardening column found in Cape Coral's BREEZE newspaper. She alternates with Jean Shields in sharing their gardening thoughts and researching that new plant that catches their eye or an old favorite.

FALL IN THE GARDEN

Nothing says, "FALL" in the garden like a chrysanthemum. As much as I have discussed an upside down gardening season for Southwest Florida, chrysanthemums will always be "Queen of the fall flowers." Like other photoperiodic plants, it takes long dark nights to form flowers. Thus, mums can be manipulated by commercial growers to set up any time of the year, but the real world sunlight says; in the fall.

First cultivated in China as a flowering herb and recorded in history as early as the 15th Century B.C., the Chinese believed it held the power of life. The boiled roots were used as headache remedies, and the sprouts and flowers were eaten in salads; the leaves were brewed for a festive drink. To honor the flower, they named a Chinese city Chu-Hsien, meaning Chrysanthemum City (Chu meaning chrysanthemum). Chrysanthemums appear in Japan around the 8th Century A.D., in the crest and official seal of the Emperor. The seals of prominent Japanese families contain some semblance of the chrysanthemum. The Imperial Order of the Chrysanthemum is their highest Order of Chivalry. They celebrate a National Chrysanthemum Day as the Festival of Happiness.

When my favorite botanist, Carolus Linnaeus, Father of Taxonomy (the scientific classification and identification of all plants), in the 17th Century, combined the Greek words chryso (meaning gold) with anthemon (meaning flower), some say it pointed out the flower's need for sunlight. Mums were portrayed as small yellow daisy-like flowers. Today there are so many varieties, each has to be classified on the basis of florets and growth patterns. Because there were a large number of species being added to its genera, some plant groups had to be split into other genera. In 1999, the International Code of Botanical Nomenclature ruled their genus as Chrysanthemum indicum, removing them from the Dendranthema genus. All are in the Asteraceae family, and are native to Asia and northeast Europe.

I have always had bad luck with mums down here and felt they were more annual than perennial. Recently I found that they last much longer if taken out of their decorative pots and put into the ground in October or November. Buy them with closed buds, because with wide open flowers they are at or past their prime for blooms. Poke them into corners of the garden to give life and color but every front door should have a basket of mums outside to welcome fall and all comers.

Once the blooms start to fade, clip the stems down to the fuller portion. New green shoots should start and form new flower buds. They may never be as full as they were originally, but you can get a second flowering. Usually, mums can be carried over through the winter, but their clumps need to be divided in the spring to overcome crowding. They grow best in well drained soil with added compost, planted 18 to 24 inches apart to prevent crowding, with good air circulation around them to prevent disease. When the shoots are 6 inches high, pinch the tips out to encourage bushier plants. Pinch again when they are 8 inches tall, and a final pinching a month later. Apply up to three applications of 6-1-6 fertilizer and water it in. Mums have shallow roots, so keep them well watered near the ground surface. Plant mums in full sun, and keep them away from street or porch lights as artificial lighting can disturb their photoperiodic cycle.

My mother and grandmother used flowers in our food. All parts of Chrysanthemum indica are edible. The leaves can be boiled or steamed and used as greens, or the flower's petals sprinkled in salads, teas, clear soups or used as a garnish. Be sure it is C. indica. According to our Manual of Minor Vegetables published by the Florida Cooperative Extension Service, there is a special chrysanthemum just for eating. It is listed as Chrysanthemum coronarium L, commonly called garland chrysanthemum. A lovely leafy version of the ornamental plant, having small bright yellow daisy-like blooms, it can be eaten about a month after the seed is sown. Sow seeds in the fall or early spring. REMEMBER—anytime you eat a plant, be sure it has not been exposed to pesticides and chemicals not allowed on foodstuffs by the USDA. This means, you can't eat the potted plants you buy at the stores.

Which leads me to the mum used for a pesticide, Pyrethrum, obtained from C. coccineum and C. cinerariifolium. These two have now been placed in the Tanacetum genus. When you hear about a pesticide that is a "natural" insecticide, this is it, along with Neem. Pyrethrins attack the nervous system of all insects. When used in amounts less than deadly, they seem to have a repellent effect. Harmful to fish, it is less toxic to mammals and birds. This is why some people say mum petals are insecticides, but, only the Tanacetum genus ones are. Their common names are Painted Daisy, Painted Lady, Tansy, Feverfew, Costmary, Alecost, Dalmatian and Persian Chrysanthemum. Used in combination with Neem and insecticidal soap, it is a safe, effective, environmentally friendly garden insecticide. DO NOT confuse it with permethrin, a man-made synthetic insecticide which has low toxicity but is highly toxic to cats and other animals.

So for now, MUMS the word ---and thank a plant for good air, and elimination of the bad air.

Joyce Comingore: Master Gardener; National Board member of the American Hibiscus Society; Arbor Day Chairman for the Fort Myers - Lee County Garden Council, Inc.; FFGC District IX Tree Chairman and a member of the Garden Club of Cape Coral.



The new signs identifying the Berne Davis Gardens and Mina Edison Botanical Library at the Fort Myers - Lee County Garden Council are finally in place. Just in time for our Open House on Nov. 19th. The beautifully landscaped walkway leads directly to the Headquarters' building and gardens from the new parking lot off Larchmont street we share with the Edison & Ford Winter Estates. Come check it out.

FFGC Fall District IX Meeting Oct. 14

hosted by the Calusa Garden Club of Marco Island

What a beautiful setting, the Hideaway Beach Club right along Sandbar Point and all decorated for the fall. The FFGC State Officers were there; Jan Sillik - President, Sue Angle - 1st V.P., Arlene Rand, 2nd VP with a Wekiva update and Betty Moore 3rd VP. Pat Grulke spoke about the 2013 FFGC Convention that will be held in Southwest Florida for the first time in 86 years. Stay tuned. Also in the photo are Brenda Norris (far right) - District IX Director, Elise Haymans and Berne Davis - past FFGC President.



N O V . / D E C . 2 0 1 1 C a l e n d a r o f E v e n t s

Poinciana GC Annual Plant sale Nov. 11 & 12 8 - 4 pm 3806 Edgewood Ave. Fort Myers
and Garage Sale contact Monica Freed for more info 694-4807 33916-1004

Jasmine GC Annual Tues. Nov. 15 9:30 Royal Palm Yacht Club, 2360 W. First St.
Holiday Coffee & Auction Refreshments 9:30 - Auction starts at 10:00 am
Holiday deco, table-top Christmas trees, glassware, homemade cakes, cookies, jams and jellies

OPEN HOUSE Sat. Nov. 19 10 to 2 pm Garden Council Headquarters
Garden walks, free admission, refreshments 2166 Virginia Ave. FM

Edison Garden Market Nov. 19 & 20 9 to 4 pm Edison & Ford Estates, McGregor Blvd.
Loads of plant vendors and garden decorations for sale under the banyan tree

Bonsai Society Meeting Sat. Nov. 19 9am Support Personnel Assoc. of Lee County
Demo and workshop by Mike Cartret using dwarf clusia 6281 Metro Parkway, Fort Myers

Charlotte Harbor Nature Festival Sat. Nov. 19 10 - 3pm Charlotte County Sports Complex
Annual free event CHNEP.org for more details 2300 El Jobean - SR 776

Bromeliad Society Plant Sale Sat. Dec. 3 9 - 5 pm Lee County Extension - Terry Park
and Show Sun. Dec. 4 10 - 4 pm 3406 Palm Beach Blvd., Fort Myers

Holiday House FM Women's Community Club at the Burroughs and Langford Kingston homes
begins Fri. Dec. 9 - Dec. 23 5 - 9 pm daily Admission is \$5

FOR THE LATEST INFO CHECK OUR WEBSITE FMLCGARDENCOUNCIL.COM

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