



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

Your Dues are Due !

Time to fill out the purple sheets and send in your Council Dues for 2012-2013. Lots of clubs are electing a new Board of Directors and we want to make sure all our information is up-to-date for the Council's annual yearbook. Please contact Treasurer Mae Jean Nothstine if you have not already received your yearbook information form. Council dues are \$30 per year for a club or plant society. Organization affiliate's fee are \$150 per year. All club/societies receive 3 copies of the annual yearbook and all members are emailed copies of the COURIER 5 times a year.

District IX Director Glenda Dawson will hold a workshop for new Club Presidents and Officers and New District IX Officers Tues. May 14th at the Garden Council HQ 10:00 until 2:00 pm. Light lunch provided. Please join us for Information Sharing and Planning and get to know more about FFGC, District IX, "**The Fine Nine**" as she would like us to be known. RSVP to Glenda at LDawson3@tampabay.rr.com by May 7th.

PLEASE join us Friday May 10 to say good-bye and Thank-you to the 2011-2013 Board of Directors and install the new Garden Council Board.

- 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: Laura Jibben Mitzi Marckesano
Ena McGrattan

P r e s i d e n t ' s M e s s a g e

How time has flown. It seems I just became President of the Garden Council and here it is time for me to hand over the reins to the next President. And, it is a fitting time of year for that to occur as Spring is a time of new growth and new beginnings.

Before I move on, I simply want you to know how honored I am to have served you for the past two years. I have enjoyed meeting so many of you and working with you. We continue to improve our gardens and our library. We continue to provide educational opportunities for our members through design classes and horticulture lessons. We continue to strengthen our relationships within the community. But, there is still much more to be done!

The new Board will require your support, guidance, and constructive criticism to succeed. Do not hesitate to tell them what assistance your Club/Society/Affiliate needs. I know they have big plans for the coming years.

Enjoy your summer and I'll see you in September.

Working together all things are possible.

Fondly,

Laura Jibben - President



F M L C G C General Meeting May 10 - 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: **Installation of Officers**
- Adjournment
- Ways & Means - 50/50 drawing -

Please join us at 9:00 am for refreshments provided by **Garden Council Board members**

Garden Council Meetings Dates

<p><u>BOARD MEETINGS</u> (Officers, Directors, Committee Chairs)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> FRIDAY May 3 2013 FRIDAY June 7, 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 May 10, 2013 Hostess - Garden Council Board Program: Installation of Officers Next Meeting Sept. 13th Have a Great Summer ! 	<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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4th Annual Honorary Service Award Luncheon and Board of Director Awards March 8, 2013

*Busy Bee - Nominees Denise Baier Carolee Drotos-Swales Kay Holloway Sylvia Lightbody Carol Lowery
Paula Novander Madeline Wallace 2 winners - Kay Holloway & Paula Novander*

*Perennial - Nominees Joyce Comingore Carolee Drotos-Swales Bonnie Escher Mary King Paula Novander
2 winners - Mary King & Paula Novander*

*Rainbow - Nominees Pat Grulke Judy Gore Terry Pinck Winnie Stone Marty Ward
2 winners - Winnie Stone & Marty Ward*

Director - Ena McGrattan presented her own award for outstanding service to the Garden Council - our super-organized Treasurer Bernadette Hamera was the winner.

Berne Davis Honorary Service Award - nominees Debbie Hughes, Sharron Thompson, Suzy Valentine
The winner was Debbie Hughes !
MANY THANKS to Committee: Carol Lowery, Chairman and Laura Jibben and Mitzi Marckesano



Debbie Hughes is a woman of many talents and passions. Here working with students at the Edison-Ford Winter Estates; Debbie is a former Council President and Garden Consultant.



Director Mitzi Marckesano and President Laura Jibben present Debbie Hughes with a crystal "Tree of Life" vase and the Honorary Service Award plaque.



Our amazing Treasurer Bernadette Hamera brought order and compliance to the Garden Council's finances. Not an easy task but we are running a business not just "digging in the dirt".



Council President Laura Jibben greets our namesake & benefactor Berne Davis.

Traveling around District IX one of the questions that comes up most often is “why belong to **FFGC** - the Florida Federation of Garden Clubs ? The following is a portion of a statement written by Marie Harrison that I believe answered this question. The key word is **Opportunity**. Submitted by Brenda Norris - outgoing District IX Director.

The **opportunity** for education was the first thing that had the greatest impact on me. It all began when a District I club offered Floral Design Studies. Following closely on its heels came Flower Show School ! The learning continues with symposia, judges’ meetings, garden club meetings, short courses throughout the state. Don’t forget Landscape Design Studies, Gardening Studies, and Environmental Studies Schools.. All are taught by leaders in the respective fields.

Add to these the **opportunities** we have for participation in special projects sponsored by our leaders. Educational **opportunities** for members as well as for youth are emphasized. We serve our members and community by installing plantings for public places, protecting aquatic ecosystems, and photo archiving our accomplishments. Programs have been devised for youth and adults that encourage us to support and undertake proactive initiatives for the protection, conservation, and restoration of the quality of our nation’s natural resources, and to recruit more people to help us meet these goals.

Think about Fun with Flowers, Digging It, our work with birds and butterflies, reclamation and recycling, water and wetlands, Bartram Trail Markers, Blue Star Markers, roadside beautification, Penny Pines, and many other programs aimed at making our world a cleaner and more beautiful place.

Belonging to the Federation we contribute to Nature Conservancy, Habitat for Humanity Landscape projects, and World Gardening and Natural Disasters. We are also part of thousands of dollars’ worth of scholarships awarded each year to deserving college students. We are part of programs for youth, such as SEEK and Camp Wekiva. All these activities give clubs focus and provide concrete means and reasons to work toward established goals.

We have the **opportunity** to influence legislation that will affect our environment and the welfare of our earth. Our own government agency liaison keeps us informed of legislative issues that affect the environment and formulates resolutions to help us make our voices heard. We can go to Legislative Day in Tallahassee and to the Florida Springs Rally to call attentions to the delicate state of natural springs throughout our state and to urge corrective measures. And members are kept well informed. The Book of Information is a wealth of information about our organization. Add to that the President’s kit with downloadable flyers from each chairman, the Handbook for Flower Show, The Florida Gardener, the National Gardener, and regular communiqués from our national and state presidents, our district directors and our club presidents.

Last, but perhaps most important of all, in the Federation we have met many wonderful people. We meet them at district meetings, conventions, seminars, and the like. We would not have met them in my neighborhood garden club.

What do you think **opportunity** is worth??? We believe that it is priceless, but it’s available to us for only \$12. Without a doubt, it’s the best bargain a gardener ever made!

*As they say... the **Finest Friends God Created**..... Consider joining the Florida Federation of Garden Clubs.*

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



Laura Jibben, Paula Novander - *Pillar of Pride* winner and Bernie Hamera enjoy the foyer decorated by Ena McGrattan.



Laura, FFGC Pres. - Jan Sillik and Berne Davis as Berne is presented with a hibiscus hybridized in her name.



Convention Chairman Pat Grulke and her “page” Mitzi Marckesano

Many more photos on our website !



Ena and one of her designs from Monday night’s program



Marty Ward of the Garden Club of Cape Coral is presented with FFGC Award # 2 - for Outstanding Service. Marty began in Garden Club in Indiana in 1959. Besides being the co-founder of the GC of Cape Coral - she is active in Royal Palm, Eclectic Designers, mentor to the Potpourri Designers and an Accredited Master Judge. We know her as the "Energizer Bunny". Many Congratulations Marty - we love you !

Brenda Norris- Outgoing Director of District IX is thanked for her service by FFGC President Jan Sillik.

May - June 2013 Calendar of Events

- Gators in the Garden* Edison-Ford Winter Estates thru May 25 25 local schools participate in this outdoor sculpture project.
2350 McGregor Blvd. 334-7419
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- Nat'l Public Garden Day at Lakes Park** Sat. May 10 7 am to 2pm Garden tours, birding tips and tours, speakers, demos, photo contest, etc.
7330 Gladiolus Drive between 41 and Summerlin lakespark.org
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- Mango Mania Tropical Fruit Festival** Sat. July 13 10-7 Sun. July 14 10 - 5
German-American Social Club 2102 Pine Island Road **Cape Coral** mangomaniaflorida.com
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- Caladium Festival** in Stuart Park Lake Placid, FL July 26 - 28 9-4pm Fri. & Sat. and Sun. 10-3pm
Bulbs and plants, arts and crafts, food, events and entertainment. lpfla.com

NEW - FFGC District IX Summer Workshops offered to all members \$10 base fee 10:00 am until 2:00 pm
Check the website for more information - ffgcdistrict9.org

- July 10 "New Plant Manipulation Techniques for Designers"** (Limit 25 Participants)
Instructors: Manatee River GC Members and Student Judges, KC Jeronimo and Parke Finold
Location: Fort Myers-Lee County Garden Council Headquarters: 2166 Virginia Ave. Fort Myers, FL 33901
- August 14 "Garden Glass Sun Reflectors"** (Limit 40 participants)
Instructor: Mary Blount, Evergreen Circle Member Search "Garden Glass Art" to get ideas.
Location: Arcadia Garden Center: W. Magnolia Street, on Lake Catherine, Arcadia FL 33821

FOR THE LATEST INFO CHECK OUR WEBSITE FMLCGARDENCOUNCIL.COM

OFFICERS 2011 - 2013

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