



GARDEN CLUB OF CAPE CORAL

PO Box 152022, Cape Coral, FL 33915

Member of National Garden Clubs, Inc., Deep South Garden Clubs, Inc.,
Florida Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc., (District IX) and Fort Myers-Lee County Garden Council

NEWSLETTER – January 2020

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Come join us at our first meeting of the new year on January 8, doors open at 5:45 pm and refreshments will be available. Meeting will begin promptly at 6:15 pm when we will be hearing from Robin Gretz, of Cape Coral Parks and Recreation department, who will talk to us about Florida Friendly Food Gardening and how to combine edibles and ornamentals in our landscapes.

Greeters: Susan Kennedy Peggy Monkus
Hosts: Sally Stevens Nany Finnegan
 Andrea Garlanger Becky Ruben
 Charlene Anderson Susan Noble
 Sylvia Swartz Connie Posl

Beverages:
 Barbara Cohen Pat Foote

Serving Table Centerpiece: Nancy Colgan

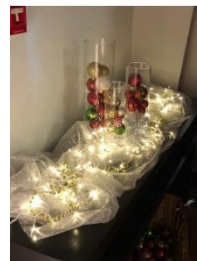
If any of you can't fulfil the function indicated, try to get someone to do it for you. As a **last** resort, contact Connie Posl (763202-9445) .

Don't forget to support our monthly Opportunity Drawings! The income from this helps defray our rental of the Kiwanis Hall.

Whilst on the subject of not forgetting, remember to shop at Amazon by clicking on the link on our webpage. We get a small percentage of your purchase and it costs you nothing to do this.

And Santa did come!

Hearty congratulations to Debbie Cooper, Connie Posl and the Holiday Party Committee for a spectacular event. Thanks too to Santa Claus Cliff (Block) for making the party go with a swing and to Bruce Lawson for supplying the lovely seasonal music. A lot of people put a great deal of effort into this event and I'm sure we all appreciated it! Eighty-six members and guests attended- our biggest yet! Some photos follow:



One of the beautiful decorations



Our Jovial Hosts



Santa and Mrs Claus-Block



The stunning Entryway Decorations

Marty Ward Club Service Award

Congratulations to Sherie Bleiler, the 2019 recipient of our highest distinction, the Marty Ward Club Service award, which is given for service to the club beyond the norm.

The award was presented by Jean Shields, who chairs the MWCS Award committee.



Sherie is a founding member of our club – she was our first President and continues to work tirelessly in our involvement with Habitat in the annual Women’s Build and the presentations made to new Habitat owners throughout the year. She also organizes the Bromeliad section of our plant sale and has hosted our annual Garden Walk several times. Well done Sherie – richly deserved.

March in the Park Explained!

Our newer members are probably mystified when we glibly refer to “March in the Park” or “MIP”.

March in the Park is our annual fundraiser that generates the cash that allows us to fund our Marty Ward Merit awards to local high-schoolers and other civic donations.(See below). It’s annual event, organized by the Ways and Means Committee and takes place in March at Jaycee Park (hence *March in the Park*) and all club members are expected to be involved.

As Club members, we all wear **March in the Park tee-shirts** (provided by the Club free of charge.) If you joined the club since April of 2019, you will need to let Gail Miller know the size of tee shirt that you will need. There will be an appropriate sign-up sheet at the meeting for you to enter your details. We also ALL wear hats cutely decorated. This makes it easy for visitors to identify members of the club if they have questions

March in the Park income is generated by

- our Plant Booth selling plants grown by members – see photo below of our 2019 plant booth



Our Plant booth 2019

- our Thrift booth selling items donated by members (if you have something to donate contact either Valorie Breen (239-541-0656)
- vendors who pay a fee to the club to sell their wares (all garden related in some way)
- by an Opportunity drawing, using prizes donated by local organizations and the vendors.

It’s a huge task and the Ways and Means Committee divides itself into sub-committees to cope with the work involved – like

- recruiting vendors
- obtaining sponsorship of the event
- getting publicity through press and TV, and placing roadside signs, and banners
- recruiting speakers to speak at the three or four workshops that are offered free of charge to those attending the event
- soliciting prizes for the Opportunity Drawing
- liaising with the City and Police

At this January club meeting, you will be able to sign up for the job that you would like to do at March in the Park (March 14th) - jobs like security, manning the Opportunity Booth, helping at the Kids Booth or at the Plant Booth or the Membership booth, car parking, greeting visitors as they enter the event, hospitality tent for vendors, plant transportation, and lots more. The event only works if everyone participates. So, sign up early to get the job you want.

March in the Park – continued

At this meeting, Charlene Anderson, Opportunity Drawing Chair, will be distributing envelopes to each member containing opportunity drawing tickets worth \$20 for each member to sell to friends, family, neighbors etc. or to buy themselves.

More about our Plant Booth – Dona Baliotis, Horticulture Chair, does a fabulous job organizing this, and sales at the Plant booth have increased every year since the beginning of March in the Park – but it only works if we, the members, grow the plants for sale. Please let Dona know as soon as possible what you are growing. Dona prepares a printed label for every plant which obviously means that she needs as much time as possible to do this.

Sue Lawson and Mona Hawes (Co-Chairs of Ways and Means) are looking for speakers for the free workshops we stage at MIP. If you have a specialty garden-related or floral design topic that you could speak about, please contact either Sue (239-282-2328) or Mona (239-282-2868). It would be great if we could supply our own speakers for this event to demonstrate our knowledge to the people of Cape Coral.

Marty Ward Merit Awards 2020

We began our scholarship awards program in 2011 as a civic project, supported by the club's annual March in the Park fundraiser. The awards are presented to deserving high school graduates in memory of Marty Ward, a co-founder of the Garden Club of Cape. The awards were named for her as a way of honoring her spirit, expertise and leadership. Scholarships ranging in value from \$250 in 2011, up to \$1,250 per recipient in 2019 have been awarded to 36 Cape Coral-resident students from eight various high schools.

Awards committee members who have served since 2011 are Ginny Huffer and Kathy Woodlock. Current members are Cheryl Byrd,

Babu Mathew, Paula Plum, Sally Stevens (Chairperson) and new members, Cathy Dunn and Charisse Scheiner.

You may know senior students who meet the eligibility requirements of the awards and you are invited to view the process the merit awards committee has created to identify worthy recipients of the awards. Detailed information and the application are available on our website.

www.gardenclubofcapecoral.com/awards/merit-scholarship/

Applications must be submitted by February 19, 2020 and awards will be presented at our April meeting.

This year there will also be a scholarship award in memory of club member Donna Conway, who passed earlier this year. Jerry Conway, Donna's husband, made a generous donation for this purpose and members wishing to similarly contribute may send or give check or cash to Ria Benton, our Treasurer. Checks should be made out to Garden Club of Cape Coral, annotated *in memory of Donna Conway*. Our mailing address is PO Box 152022, Cape Coral, FL 33915.

Our January Flower Show



New Beginnings

We're getting very close to our small Standard Flower Show on January 18th. If you joined the club since September 2017, you can enter both horticulture and design classes. This show is aimed at novices – people who have not entered a show before and who need to see how it works by entering! The Flower Show Committee has worked hard to put this event together so please support it. The show will not be open to the public but is standing in place of a January outing so all club members are invited to visit the show, open noon to 3 pm., on January 18 to support and encourage our new

New Beginnings – continued

members who have entered either the horticulture or design sections.

Members who joined since September 2017 are invited to enter and all of those who have a green plant or shrub or tree or flower in their garden can enter the Horticulture section. It's as easy as clipping either a single stem with leaves or flowers or bringing along a container grown collection or single plant.

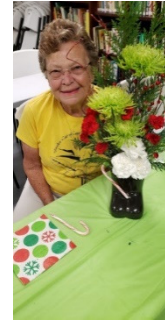
Be brave – take the plunge and enter! The Design classes have been selected to be very appropriate for novice designers and our resident Flower Show judge and expert flower designer, Kathy Woodlock will be very happy to help and advise you. Kathy is staging a workshop at her home, 1103 SE 14th St., Cape Coral, on January 9, so that you can learn the basic principles. So far, Ann Block, Cindy Wasilak, Pam Dawson, Debbie Haggett and Ellen Morris have registered but there's room for lots more. Contact either Kathy Woodlock (239-242-6303) or Sylvia Swartz (239-339-3778) to register or sign up at the meeting. There is no charge to register.

Of course, there will also be our biennial Standard Flower Show in April that we put on in conjunction with Potpourri Designers. So, don't forget that the Fort Myers-Lee County Garden Council is organizing a complete Floral Design Course running from January to March, 2020, beginning Jan. 6. More details from Sue Lawson (239-282-2328). Advance registration is required. These classes will certainly be helpful to anyone planning on entering the April Show – and you can take classes on an individual basis – you don't have to do the whole series.

Fun with Flowers Workshop

Sixteen people joined us at our very successful December *Fun with Flowers* session and we all had a good time. See photos below. You will find a registration form for the January session

attached to the email circulating this newsletter, which will be held on Friday, January 31, 10 AM to noon at the Fort Myers-Lee County Garden Council. The deadline for sign-up is January 24. The \$20 cost covers flowers and container. Bring your own clippers. The January session will focus on an arrangement for Valentine's Day. These workshops are open not only to club members but the general public as well so register a friend too!



Club Directory Photography Competition

We've all got phones now that take great photos. Winner last year was Debbie Cooper and you can see her great photo on this year's Directory cover. Closing date is March 1, and entries. Entries may be emailed to Norah Hoover, Co-First Vice President, nshoover1@comcast.net. Some entries have already been received but we would like to see lots more. Go ahead, showcase your gardens and plants that you're proud of.

February Event - Ringling Bus Trip



Reservations are still being taken for our club outing Feb 15, 2020 to Ringling Museum and Gardens in Sarasota. The cost for the bus ride and admission to the museum and garden grounds is \$50. Lunch will be on your own at the site. The bus will leave from the Coralwood Mall.

February Trip – continued

Sign-up must be made by Jan 15th with no refund after that date. We need 35+ attendees or the trip will be canceled. Friends and family can come too - just register them and give your check or cash to any member of the Events team: Donna Schneider, Lois Lubber or Christine Prestella.

Upcoming Events

Cape Coral Historical Society is offering the following programs at their 505 Cultural Park Blvd. location:

Rain Barrels:	Jan. 21 9:30-11:00
Rose Gardens:	Feb 18 9:30- 10:30
FL Yards/Neighborhoods	Mar. 17, 9:30-11:00
Butterfly Gardens	Apr 21, 9:30-11:00

Contact Janel Trull, CCHS Exec. Director, for more information (239) 772-7037)

The Master Gardeners who care for the FYN gardens at the Historical Society host garden tours the 2nd Wed of the month, Oct through April, 1pm to 3:30pm at the CC Historical Museum. No registration required. Contact Master Gardener and club member, Carolyn France, (239-424-8064) for more information

Jan. 7 and 14 - Edison Ford Gardening Classes – Introduction to Florida Gardening – 2-part series, 1:30 pm. Member \$35 or \$50 for both sessions, Nonmembers \$50 or \$75 for both.

Jan. 10 – Fort Myers-Lee County Garden Council Meeting. Social half hour 9 am. Program (*Mixing and Matching Edibles and Flowers*) by Adrienne Diaz (Miss Potter's Place) at 9:30 am.

Jan. 11 – Edison-Ford Winter Estates Monthly Garden Talk – Introduction to Florida Gardening. \$10 Members, \$15 Nonmembers. Participants get 20% discount at Garden Shop.

Jan. 13 – Cups of Cheer Garden Therapy, Coral Trace – contact Sue Lawson if you would like to help.

Jan. 17 – Arbor Day!

Jan. 18 – SW Florida Orchid Society Tamiami Orchid Festival Tour \$25 members, \$30 non-members. Contact GCCC member John Hampton (860-343-3704) for information.

Jan. 18 – American Hibiscus Society Winter Plant Sale, Salvation Army Hall, 10291 McGregor Blvd., Ft. Myers, 2 to 4 PM

1/31 Fun with Flowers, FMLCGC HQ \$20, 10AM to noon. Registration required. (See info earlier in this newsletter)

Free Guided Nature Walks 8 – 9:30 am:

Jan. 4 and Feb 1. – Prairie Pines Preserve, 18400 N. Tamiami Trail, N. Fort Myers ¼ mile – Easy

Jan. 11 and Feb. 8, Galt Preserve – 3661 Stringfellow Rd., St. James City., 1.5 miles – Moderate

Jan 18 and Feb. 15, Caloosahatchee Creeks Preserve, 10130 Bayshore Rd., N. Fort Myers (east side entrance) 1 mile, Easy

Jan. 25 and Feb. 22, Wild Turkey Strand Preserve, 11901 Rod & Gun Club Rd., Fort Myers, 1.8 miles, Moderate

Jan 22 and Feb. 26, Pine Island Flatwoods Preserve, 6351 Stringfellow Rd., St. James City, Pine Island, 1.1 miles, Moderate.

Reminders from Lakes Park

1st Saturday 8 AM Bird Walks 12 months a year. Meet at shelter A7

2nd Saturday Guided Garden Walks - Oct-April **9:00 – 10:00 AM.** Meet at Community Garden Sign; end of parking lot #3

Wednesdays Farmers Market runs October through April 9 AM– 1 PM

Tuesdays and Thursdays – Volunteer Work days year round 8 am to 10 am

The next Newsletter will be published in February. Please send information to Sylvia Swartz on anything you would like included in the newsletter - tamargal2@aol.com