



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 – April 2020

A MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT, ANN BLOCK



First and foremost, I hope you are in good health and happy!

As the pandemic continues to affect our country, the world, and our daily lives, I reflect on how fortunate we were to be able to go forward with our biggest fundraiser, MARCH IN THE PARK, and that we will be able to continue our mission to help the schools and the youth of our wonderful city.

I confirm that we will NOT be having our April or May meetings but we will continue with our newsletter, bringing you any pertinent information we can.

As we all practice social distancing, let's try to think of it in positive ways:

- ✓ We are part of a large group of people with diverse talents and abilities. There is nothing more powerful than a family, company, community and our wonderful Garden Club keeping in touch and offering help where needed.
- ✓ Allow everything and anything that makes you happy into your life; especially in our gardens and other pastimes like art,

music, reading, and dance. We all need joy during this time!

- ✓ We may be physically distant, but we can remain spiritually, emotionally, and socially connected.

Call a friend, send a text, share some of the amusing anecdotes that are popping up on the web, twitter, instagram, etc. Let's banish gloom and doom and know that life will return to normal.

Also, shopping is great therapy! Remember when you hear the siren call to shop, 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. Just go to our website gardenclubofcapecoral.com and click on the **SHOP** link on our home page.

REPORT ON 2020 MARCH IN THE PARK

Sue Lawson and Mona Hawes, Joint Chairs of this event have provided the following update on March in the Park:

Saturday, March 14 was a beautiful, sunny day at Rotary Park, and thanks to our many hard-working, dedicated club members, the Garden Club of Cape Coral held another successful March in the Park.

MARCH IN THE PARK – continued

Although we only clocked 729 attendees, much fewer than last year due to the Covid-19 virus concerns, our club brought in nearly \$10,000 - as much money as last year! After expenses, we'll net about \$7,500, so we'll be able to continue funding our scholarships and monetary gifts to schools.

We ended up with 38 vendors after a few cancellations and last-minute additions. Some were disappointed in their sales but understood why based on the circumstances. Good news is we already have six applications – two paid - for next year.

We overheard many people say: "I enjoy coming every year," and they were happy to think about spring growing and enjoying their gardens.

We'd like to thank all the club members for their efforts and welcome any suggestions you may have to make our event even better in the future.

Here are some pictures as a reminder of that lovely day:

Winners of the first prize in the Opportunity drawing, Mr. and Mrs. Hamera



Winners of the second prize

Sherie Bleiler at the Bromeliad table



Our Birds and Butterfly Plants table

Some of the Fabulous Club Member Hats that made the day even more fun!



MARTY WARD MERIT AWARDS 2020

The Marty Ward Merit Awards presented annually to honor our founder, Marty Ward, and funded through March in the Park, would normally be presented to our winners at the April meeting, but this is not possible this year. You will find details of the winners included with the email circulating this newsletter. The total value of the awards made was \$5,050. The committee rated twelve impressive applicants and judged these winning students most deserving as active environmentalists, generous volunteers, high academic achievers and goal oriented with college admissions and career intentions related to the purpose of the awards.

The ninth annual awards were given to Isabelle Barta of North Fort Myers High, Sarah Gerega of Mariner High, Andrew Takais of Bishop Verot High

MARTY WARD MERIT AWARDS – continued

and Nathan Wydra of Cape Coral High. Their certificates of achievement laud their community service for supporting conservancy of the environment for the future.

An additional award in memory of the late Donna Conway, long-time club member, and architect of *March in the Park*, was funded by a gift from the Conway family and friends. The award was made to Thomas Cramer of Cape Coral High. His certificate praises his commitment, as a naturalist, to promoting conservation and protection of the environment through his eco-friendly lifestyle, high school activities and work experience.



Thomas Cramer – Cape Coral High School
Plans to major in Biology. His Goal is a Career
that embodies Scientific Study in Biology and
Environmental Science in SW Florida

Through the efforts of our Ways and Means Committee and the support of club members forty-one awards, ranging in value from \$250 to \$1,250, have been presented to worthy high school seniors since the awards were established as a civic project in 2011. This year's Awards Committee included Cheryl Byrd, Cathy Dunn, Babu Mathew, Paula Plum, Charisse Schreiner and Sally Stevens (Chair). Thank you to everyone who contributed! It's not an easy task to make comparative judgments when reviewing the talented youth who apply for the awards.

Congratulations to all our 2020 winners!

BLUE STAR MARKER UPDATE

The Blue Star Memorial Marker has been ordered and will be stored until the event. It should arrive sometime in August. We are working with the city to obtain the necessary permit. The City will provide chairs and sound system for the ceremony on November 9th, at 11:30 am in the Pavilion at Eco Park. Mark your calendars!

HOSTING CHAIR

If you would like to volunteer to chair the Hosting Committee, please contact President Ann. Duties include preparing the hosting roster for the year (September to May annually) and reminding the hosting panel each month that it's their turn. The hosting chair can also allocate members to hosting duty if that member has not had the opportunity to sign up for a particular month.

MEMBERSHIP DUES

Membership dues need to be paid to the club by the end of May in order to ensure inclusion in the next Club Directory. Dues are \$30 for an individual and \$45 for a couple.

Before you mail your check, please take a look at your entry in the current Yearbook to make sure your personal details are up-to-date and correct. If anything needs to be changed, please email or call Sylvia Swartz.

Please make checks payable to Garden Club of Cape Coral and mail your check directly to Membership Chair, Susan Noble at her home address shown in the email accompanying this newsletter or check your Directory. Checks should reach her as soon as possible and definitely by the end of May if you wish to be included in the 2020-2021 Directory.



Our Biennial Flower Show – *The Golden Years of Cape Coral*

Our flower show celebrating Cape Coral's golden anniversary of incorporation has been postponed until the Autumn. The tentative dates are Oct. 21-24, with entries being received on Oct. 22 and 23, judging on the 23rd, and open to the public after judging on the 23rd and on Saturday, Oct. 24. Once we have been able to reserve the room at the Library (no bookings are being allowed at this time), the schedule will be updated with the new details and circulated to you all.

In the meantime, this time lapse gives you all a great opportunity to look at the classes (which will remain unchanged) and select those that appeal to you, particularly in the design area. If you're a novice designer, perhaps you can use some of the spare time that we all have now to research floral design online and learn from the expertise of others.

We (the Flower Show Committee: Kathy Woodlock, Sylvia Swartz, Sue Lawson, Nancy Colgan and Fran McIntyre) are thinking of this postponement in a positive sense since it will be the first time that we will be able to showcase Florida's fall flora. Previously all our shows have taken place in the spring so this will be something really different for us. So, get those thinking caps on, take time to tour your yard and think about what will be available to you in October. Nurture it so that it will be at its best when you want to snip and cut those specimens.

Here's a reminder of what's included in the schedule:

The show has four sections: Horticulture, Design, Botanical Arts and a Special Exhibits educational section.

Horticulture



Horticulture is so easy to enter – just snip anything from your yard that matches any of the categories shown in the schedule and bring it to the SW Cape Library on entry days. You just need to know the item's botanical name, or someone will help you look it up at the show. Use the time that we now have to research your plants on the web – it's so easy to identify them by comparing photos on the web to the plants in your yard.



Design

Design takes a little more effort than Horticulture. Below you will see an extract from our schedule with examples of designs that match our classes. Remember that the theme of the show celebrates *The Golden Years of Cape Coral* so all the classes reflect that title, and it follows that your designs should try to reflect/interpret the title of the particular class you are entering.

Key things to remember: NO ARTIFICIAL MATERIAL IN THE DESIGN AND NO DYED PLANT MATERIAL

SECTION A. *Golden Nuggets* ***Class 1: Golden Sunset in Cape Coral – 12" Petite Design***

Entries Consultant: Julia Palmer

FLOWER SHOW – continued



A petite design no larger than 12" x 12" including container, staged on 18" of a black painted surface 42" high provided by Committee. Underlay to be provided by designer (counts toward overall size).

Example of a petite design

Class 2: Diving for Gold in Cape Coral – 8" Petite underwater Design -

Entries/Consultant: Julia Palmer

Example of petite underwater design



A creative design staged on 18" of a black painted surface 42" high provided by Committee, having some or all plant material and other optional component(s) submerged in water. Plant material and other components under water must contribute to the overall design and are selected for their lasting quality.

Class 3: A Salute to Cape Coral - 5" Petite Creative Mass design -

Entries/Consultant: Julia Palmer



Petite creative mass design example

A creative design staged on 18" of a black painted surface 42" high provided by the Committee, emphasizing a greater proportion of plant material and components other than space. The silhouette of the design is visually closed, and rhythm contained within. Open spaces may be incorporated within the closed silhouette. Designer underlay optional.

SECTION B. **Eating Out in the Cape**

Class 4: Picnicking on Cape Coral Beach - A Functional Table for Alfresco dining

Entries/Consultant: Susan Lawson

Table setting for two



A functional table set for service of 2 people with a decorative unit (a completed floral design using plant material and other accessories) included. A container-grown plant alone is not a design. Staged on a 30"

square card table supplied by the committee.

Exhibitor should supply a suitable table covering.

Class 5: Caloosahatchee Reflections - An Exhibition Table

Entries/Consultant: Susan Lawson



Designer's choice of materials staged on half of a 6' table (36" W) x 30" D, x 29" high, covered with a beige cloth supplied by Committee, incorporating a 48" high by 32" wide staging panel backboard provided by the exhibitor. (Backboards available on loan from Committee). Underlay optional. Created artistically to suggest the service of food with no requirements as to the type or number of table appointments. Plant material must be used as needed for the overall design.

Class 6: Brunch on the Boat - A Tray design -

Entries/Consultant: Susan Lawson



Example of tray design for

A tray (supplied by exhibitor) for one, with a Decorative Unit in proportion to the one place setting. Will be staged on 1/4 of a 6' table covered with a beige cloth provided by the Committee. Space

allotted measures 36" W x 15" D x 29" high, freestanding. The tray requires an appropriately-sized Decorative Unit with the stability of the Decorative Unit given importance.

FLOWER SHOW – continued

SECTION C. *Tripling the Gold*

Class 7: *Sunrise over the Beach –*

Creative Line Design

Entries/Consultant: Fran McIntyre

Example of a creative line design:



A creative design where line is dominant with a minimum of plant material and other optional components. The line may be straight, curved or a combination. There may be one or more points of emergence and focal areas. Use of a two-dimensional 48" x 32" wide

staging panel is suggested. Underlays supplied by exhibitor are permitted.

Class 8: *Golden Days in Cape Coral - Duo Design*

Entries/Consultant: Fran McIntyre

Example of a duo design



(front)

A creative design staged on half of a 6' x 30' x 29" high table covered with a beige cloth supplied by Committee. Design is organized in one container or containers joined to appear as one. Organized as two designs back to back and entered in two separate design classes with the schedule specifying both titles. Each side appears as a distinctly different design. Staging must allow for easy viewing on both sides of the design.

Class 9: *Golden Nights in Cape Coral – Duo Design*

Entries/Consultant: Fran McIntyre

Example of a duo design (back)



A creative design staged on half of a 6' x 30' x 29" high table covered with a beige cloth supplied by Committee. Design is organized in one container or containers joined to appear as one. Organized as two designs back to back and entered in two separate design classes with the schedule specifying both titles. Each side appears as a distinctly different design. Staging must allow for easy viewing on both sides of the design.

Special Exhibits

Entry to the Special Exhibits section of the show is by invitation and the following have accepted invitations to provide information on aspects of Cape Coral life:

Judy Peltier (Club Member): *Developing Cape Coral's Caring Residents of Tomorrow – Trafalgar Middle School's Food Bank Project*

Sylvia Swartz (Club Member): *Restoring the Cape Coral Historical Society Rose Garden after Hurricane Irma*

Janel Trull (Executive Director of the Cape Coral Historical Society)
50 Years of Cape Coral



Botanical Arts

These are all craft projects and oh so many of our members are great crafters!

Class 1 *Rewarding 50 years* A Golden Anniversary Giftbox

A decorative Golden Anniversary gift package (shoebox supplied by the Committee) decorated using fresh and/or dried plant material, displayed on a 15" x 15" space supplied by committee with appropriate underlay provided by the exhibitor.

Class 2. ***Celebrating 50 years***

An Invitation to a Golden Anniversary

Tea

Create a 4"x 6" paper invitation (blank card supplied by Committee) for a golden anniversary

FLOWER SHOW – continued

tea using dried or fresh flowers. Invitation must be able to be slipped in an envelope - not high-relief. Staged on part of a single staging panel provided by the Committee.

Class 3. ***Topping out the Golden***

Anniversary Celebration

A wearable Fascinator suitable for a Golden Anniversary Formal Event

A decorated Fascinator (supplied by Committee). Exhibit must include some fresh and/or dried material. Only dried material may be treated. Staged on a mannequin head (supplied by the Committee) on quarter of a 34" square card table supplied by committee.

How to enter:

On the scheduled date in October bring your horticulture entries to the back, side door of the Library during the designated times that you will find in the updated schedule. You will receive it as soon as the date has been finalized. Only the dates will have changed – everything else will be the same.

We hope to run a design workshop and more information will be available on that when it is safe for us to gather together again.

Club Directory Photography Competition – continues!

Keep those entries coming! Go ahead, showcase your gardens and plants that you're proud of. It's very simple, just take a photo of a plant, a flower or your entire garden and send it to Norah Hoover, Joint First VP. We still need the entries by May 30 so that the winning photograph can be featured on our 2020/2021 Directory which will still be published in the fall.

CLUB TRIPS/EVENTS

There will be no further Club trips in this current season.

So, What to do now?

Make good use of your extra spare time – start a vegetable garden. Whoever thought that Victory Gardens would make an appearance again!!

This paragraph is quoted from the National Association of Gardening Weekly newsletter:

“Each year April is **National Garden Month** and this year gardening is seeing a huge increase in interest around the world. The number of visitors to Garden.org have nearly doubled from last year's numbers. The official National Garden Month website has a list of helpful articles and resources that you can share with your friends and family to help them get started gardening”!

Here's what you can plant in April courtesy of the University of Florida Extension Service:

What to Plant in April

Annuals/Bedding plants: Plant heat-tolerant annuals, such as coleus, vinca, and portulaca. **See Annuals:** http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic_annual_landscape_plants

Bulbs: Cannas thrive in the heat of summer. New varieties have colorful leaves as well as flowers. **See Bulbs for**

Florida: [http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic bulbous flo
wers](http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic_bulbous_flo wers)

Herbs: Some to start now include basil, coriander, cumin, and mint.

See Herbs: [http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic herbs](http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic_herbs)

WHAT TO PLANT IN APRIL – continued

Vegetables: Beans, Chinese cabbage, Southern peas, and sweet potatoes can still be planted. Mulch beds well and monitor irrigation if the weather is dry. **See** *Vegetable Gardening in Florida*: [http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic vegetable g
ardening](http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic_vegetable_g ardening)

In conclusion, let's remember that, despite Covid 19, spring is burgeoning – feels like summer. Nature continues to reward us with the changing seasons as sure as night follows day. We will get through this and come through the other side. Stay happy, enjoy your gardens and look to the future and happier times.

The next Newsletter will be published in early May. Please send information to Sylvia Swartz on anything you would like included in the newsletter.