



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

*Forget-me-nots — They represent the immortal love we have
for those who have gone before us - Jodee Stevens*

NEWSLETTER – November 2020

November meeting

We will again be meeting via Zoom beginning at 6:30 pm on Wednesday, Nov. 11 – plan to log on a few minutes before. Our November educational presentation will be by Master Gardener and garden club member, Carolyn France, and Master Gardener Sharon Franz, who will talk to us about the Florida Friendly Yards and Neighborhoods program.

Check out the Zoom instructions below:

Easiest way to get on a Zoom meeting is to download the Zoom App to your phone or your computer. You do not have to do that to get on a zoom meeting (directions at the end), but it really simplifies the whole process.

To download Zoom:

Open your internet browser (google, safari, yahoo etc)

In the search bar go to [Zoom.US https://zoom.us](https://zoom.us)

Click on Sign up (It's Free)

Enter your birth date

Enter your email

Zoom will send you a confirming email; be sure to access your email, open the email and follow directions to **activate** your zoom account.

To join a meeting:

- Open the email invitation from President Ann.
- Click on the meeting link.
- Enter meeting passcode (This is on the meeting invitation that Ann Block sends to you.)

To join meeting **WITHOUT** the Downloaded App

Open your internet browser (google, safari, yahoo etc)

In the search bar go to [Zoom.US https://zoom.us](https://zoom.us)

Click on Join Meeting

Type in the meeting id number and then passcode (This is on the meeting invitation that Ann Block sends to you.)

Pointers:

- Always connect **with** Audio
- Allow zoom to access your camera (this allows your picture to be shown)
- Allow Zoom to access your microphone (this allows you to be heard at meeting)

If you haven't already joined us on Zoom, this season, plan to do it this month, especially if you're a Snowbird and haven't yet returned south. We so look forward to seeing you!

Meet Two more new Members!

We extend a warm welcome to our newest members:

New Members - continued



Justeen Oess

I was born and raised in Quebec, Canada. Recently my husband, Jean-Guy, and I became US citizens. After 48 years of working in nursing I am

happily retired and living in Sandoval, Cape Coral. I love gardening and volunteering at the Edison Ford Estates.

Frannie Cox

My gardening inspiration is knowing that God created this earthly paradise not only for us to nurture, but to witness His incredible miracle of nature.



Recently moved here from Kansas City area, to a home on Seabreeze Lake, Cape Coral, with an extensive yard begging to become a lush garden. Master Gardener of Johnson County, Kansas. My garden was featured in the 2018 Garden Tour with 3,000 in attendance. Also a member of Prairie Planters Club. Formerly employed as a fresh and silk floral designer.

November Birthdays

Just three birthdays this month: Joyce Gerdin, Sally Stevens, and Cindy Wasilak. Many happy returns of your special day!

Blue Star Marker Ceremony

Our dedication ceremony was scheduled for Monday, November 9th, at Eco Preserve at 1:30 PM but has been postponed to Nov. 30th, same time because of Tropical Storm Eta. Please make sure you have responded to President Ann's invitation. Seating is extremely limited because the ceremony is being held under the Pavilion at Eco Park and we need to preserve social

distancing. Seats are being allocated on a first come, first seated basis. Of course, you may also attend and watch the ceremony from outside the Pavilion. This will be an immensely proud day for the Garden Club. So many members have worked extremely hard to achieve this at no cost to the club. Members generously donated 25 gift baskets and other items for the Fashion Show last November, which raised \$ \$1,965. through the Silent Auction. Ticket sales brought in \$2,160, and we received \$835 in donations. We may not have been able to have our scheduled Flower Show to celebrate Cape Coral's 50th Anniversary but we do have our Blue Star Marker Dedication! Grateful thanks to all who have made this possible.

Butterfly Garden the SW Cape Library Update from Sherie Bleiler

The Butterfly Garden at the Cape Coral South Library at 921 S.W. 39th Terrace, maintained by a team of gardeners from our Club, is now open during normal library hours. Access the Butterfly Garden by using the door behind the reserved bookshelves on the right. Current library hours are:

Monday - Wednesday 10 AM. to 6 PM

Thursday - Saturday 10 AM. to 4 PM

Habitat for Humanity and Plant America Grant Sherie Bleiler

Habitat for Humanity is planning on building 55 homes this year which will be accomplished with small teams of staff. We will again be installing the landscape at one of the homes. There are new City regulations to be complied with in planting the landscape, which will cost more than in previous years. Debbie Haggett and Sherie Bleiler have compiled and submitted an application to **National Garden Clubs, Inc.** (our parent organization) for a *Plant America* grant of

Habitat for Humanity and Plant America Grant – continued

\$1,000 which would defray the costs of the landscaping. More information in a later newsletter about whether our application was successful or not.

Nominating Committee

The Nominating Committee is seeking a President for the 2021-2023 term of office. If you are interested, reach out to the Nominating Committee – Susan Noble, Sherie Bleiler or Babu Mathew. If you are not sure that you have the time or energy for it, think about finding a friend that will do it with you. We have had Co-Presidents in the past.

October's Plant of the Month – Tropical Milkweed

Grateful thanks to our Club Horticulture Chair Dona Baliotis for the great presentation on Tropical Milkweed (*Asclepias Currassavica*) that she gave us via our October Zoom meeting.

- More than 100 species in the US
- Must have in every garden
- Nectar and larval plant for butterflies and bees
- Monarch caterpillars feed on the leaves and stems
- Sap is poisonous – don't get on skin and eyes

Dona discussed the pests, primarily aphids, that affect Milkweed, saying that generally, a soft soap (Dawn Blue) solution is the best thing to use. Never use systemics which would kill the butterflies and caterpillars. Natural predators that eat aphids are Ladybugs, Hoverflies, Lacewings, and many types of beetles. Remove heavy infestations of Milkweed bugs by squishing although they are short lived and die off in cooler

weather. Hit whitefly with soap solution when it is shady or in the late afternoon to avoid leaf sunburn. Also spray the soil with the solution.

National Garden Clubs' Landscape School

National Garden Clubs offers members and non-members several specialty schools. Each school consists of four ten-hour classes held six months apart. Four of these schools are Environmental School, Flower Show School, Gardening School, and Landscape Design School.

Recently six members of the Garden Club of Cape Coral completed the Landscape Design School. The Landscape Design class is designed to develop a greater sense of appreciation and knowledge about our private and public gardens. The course covers history of landscape design to contemporary landscape architecture and the importance of providing leadership in the community landscape planning process.

Congratulations to: Ria Benton, Ann Block, Janetta Fox, Deborah Hagggett, Richard Sheriff and Kathy Woodlock for successfully completing the Class and becoming NGC-Certified Landscape Design Consultants!

Annual Directory Cover Photography Competition

The competition is underway for the photograph that will grace our 2021-2022 Directory. Email your photo(s) to Norah Hoover. Be sure to identify the subject of the photo which can be of anything in your garden or a plant that takes your eye in a neighbor's yard or any of the wonderful plants that grace our seashore. Good luck – you can enter as many times as you like. Keep 'em coming!

Rotary Park Tropical Plant Sale

Thanks to Dona Baliotis and her team of helpers, the club's plant booth had a highly successful day at the Tropical Plant sale, raising more than \$700. Much gratitude to our team of intrepid



masked helpers for all their help:

Paula Plum, Beverly Nugent, Ann Block, Sue Lawson, Sherie Bleiler, Elsa Schutzman, Ginny Huffer, Sylvia Swartz, Nancy Finnegan, Betty Wethington, Lillian Peterson, Diane Cook and photographer Carmen Sprague.

Thanks also to all who turned out to support the club by shopping on the day.



Dona and interested customer

Bulbs for Florida

There is a wide variety of tropical and subtropical bulbs suited for Florida include crinum, cannas, amaryllis, and more. Bulbous plants can be used in landscapes as bedding plants or borders and can be cut for indoor arrangements. In general, most bulbs thrive in sunny locations, but some, like caladiums, can grow in sun or partial shade. Avoid heavy shade because it will cause thin, spindly growth and poor foliage color and flowering. Your site should be well-drained and improved with organic matter. Place your bulbs in neat rows or in naturalistic drifts for an informal garden effect. Add some bulbs to your landscape for years of color and enjoyment.

Bulbs aren't just for spring and summer; several kinds can be planted in the autumn in Florida. The

gladiolus produces tall spikes of large blossoms in a rainbow of colors. It can be planted anywhere in the state and will bloom within three months of planting. For South Florida, try society garlic. This grassy-looking plant sprouts large clusters of delicate lavender flowers. Amaryllis, with its large funnel-shaped flowers, is commonly planted in containers in late fall for holiday color but also does well in the ground.

In Florida, early fall is a good time to divide bulbs. These plants develop "baby" bulbs, which, when grown to full size, are known as offsets. To divide bulbs, simply separate these offsets and replant them, pointy end up, to create new plants. Store bulblets in a cool, dry place for up to a week before planting. Bulbs like amaryllis can be propagated by cutting them into wedges. Apply a fungicide dust, and plant each section, from which new plants will grow.

Bulbs for Florida include:

Agapanthus
Cannas
Croscosmia
Rain Lilies

Amaryllis
Crinum Lilies
Hurricane Lily
Spider Lily

New Thoughts on Planting Trees and Shrubs by Charlie Nardozi *(excerpted and abridged from the National Gardening Association weekly newsletter, September 18)*

Fall is a great time to plant trees and shrubs in warm regions when the weather has cooled, so newly planted trees and shrubs have time to get their roots established during the cooler winter months and be ready for new growth in spring

The recommendations on how to plant trees and shrubs have been updated from new research and techniques. The main idea is to create an environment similar to what happens in a forest

New Thoughts on Planting Trees and Shrubs – continued

where trees and shrubs thrive. Plants grow in native soils without compost, fertilizer, and other additives. Unless your soil is very dusty sand, or very compacted, adding rich soil amendments to the planting hole only slows the progress of roots growing into the native soil. By adding a rich soil medium, the roots stay in the artificial hole you've made. Instead, backfill with native soil, then water in the roots as you add the soil, so the roots get used to the native soil immediately.

It's best to dig a hole 3 times the diameter of the container or rootball and exactly as deep (not deeper than the container).

Another technique that goes against my earlier horticultural training is to check and prune the roots of your plants before planting. Landscapers and arborists have shown many cases when trees and shrubs have been strangled by their own roots as they age. In the nursery, trees and shrubs grow in plastic containers or burlap balls. Over time the roots start circling the container and root ball. If not corrected before planting, those roots will continue circling in the ground. It may take several years, but eventually those roots will get large enough to strangle the plant causing it to die. The solution is before planting, wash off all the soil from the purchased tree or shrub, even evergreens, to examine the roots. Tease out and prune any circling roots so they are pointing away from the crown. Then plant as described.

Once planted, mulch with bark or wood mulch to help maintain the soil moisture. Use gator bags around newly planted trees and shrubs to apply moisture slowly over time, especially if you have a dry fall. This reduces the amount of work and the need to remember to water.

Usually it's best not to stake and tie trees. The movement of trees swaying in the breeze helps the roots grab hold of the native soil faster. Of

course, if you live in an extremely windy area or your tree is very tall and spindly, you may want to stake and tie them for one season. If so, always attach the tie loosely to the trunk so the tree can still rock some in the wind. Also, place a tree guard around young plants to prevent mice, vole, and rabbit damage in winter. If necessary, use a mesh or wire fence to prevent deer damage.

About Charlie Nardozzi

Charlie Nardozzi is an award winning, nationally recognized garden writer, speaker, radio, and television personality. He leads Garden Tours around the world and consults with organizations and companies about gardening programs.

Upcoming Events:

Now until Nov. 29 -Marie Selby 45th Anniversary Orchid Show, Marie Selby Botanical Gardens, Sarasota.

Nov. 11: Remember to log on to the **Fort Myers- Lee County Garden Council** meeting via Zoom. President Ann will be sharing the invitation with you later this week. If you have never attended a Garden Council meeting this is an easy way to do it without travelling to Fort Myers.

Meeting begins at 9:30 am. Guest speaker is Alyssa Streleckis, presenting what should be a remarkably interesting program on the *Use of Essential Oils in Gardening*

Nov 14 Poinciana Garden Club
Annual Plant and Yard Sale Sat., 8 AM
FMLCGC Headquarters , Virginia Ave., Fort Myers.

Nov. 16 Floral Design Series Unit 9
Creative Containers & Designers Choice Award
10:00 AM - 3:00 PM
FMLCGC Headquarters Price: \$40
Contact Susan Lawson to register by email
pastpres@gardenclubofcapecoral.com

Upcoming Events – continued

Nov 20-21 Bonsai Society of Southwest Florida
39th Annual Show and Sale Sat-Sun, 9am-3pm
FMLCGC Headquarters, 2166 Virginia Ave., Fort
Myers

Nov. 20-21 Edison-Ford Winter Estates Garden
Fest 9 AM to 4 PM daily. More than 40 garden
vendors. Food trucks and live music. Free entry.

Dec. 5 and 6 Caloosahatchee Bromeliad Society
Annual Plant Sale Sat. 9AM-4pPM and Sunday
10AM-3PM, Araba Shrine Center, 2010 Hanson St,
Fort Myers.

Dec. 5 Lake Placid Holiday Home Tour, 12 to 4
PM. Tickets \$15. The event will be Covid 19
compliant. If you choose, bring an ornament to
add to the “Giving Tree” located at the Holiday
Café and it will be donated to a needy family in
time for Christmas. Holiday Café, open at 11:30
AM, is at the Women’s Club, 10 N. Main Avenue
in Lake Placid. Complimentary refreshments and
several unique gift items available.

The next Newsletter will be published in early December. Please send articles/information to Sylvia Swartz on anything you would like included - tamargal2@aol.com or if you have comments on the format/content, please share them!