



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

You should sit in nature for 20 minutes a day . . . unless you're busy, then you should sit for an hour." Zen Saying (with thanks to Valorie Breen)

NEWSLETTER – April 2021

April Meeting

Our 14th April meeting via Zoom, begins at 6:30 PM. President Ann will send details shortly. It's an important meeting to attend since we will be voting on our new officers for the 2021-2023 term – see officer slate p. 3.

During the meeting, Cheryl Byrd will announce and present the Marty Ward Merit Awards and the Donna Conway Award to this year's High School winners.

For those of you new to our club, each year the Marty Ward Merit Awards Committee considers applications received from local High Schoolers actively interested in environmental/horticultural/conservation activities and selects the best of the best to receive an Award. The Donna Conway Award is given in memory of Donna by her family. It will be interesting to meet and hear about the students selected.

March in the Park

Wow, what a success! And how hard we all worked! We were blessed with the perfect day – not too hot, not too windy and no humidity! A perfect day to spend by the river. And how Cape Coral supported us – the turn out was amazing. Sue Lawson and Mona Hawes, Co-chairs Ways and Means, said:

"We had participation from 30 vendors; counted 1,372 visitors and had a full parking lot for most of the day. The event was very successful for our club - income was more than \$15,300; expenses were approximately \$4,300; resulting in about \$11,000 for the club to use in its civic work. And we've already had several vendors sign-up for next year, along with our DJ and the Boy Scouts.

"Special thanks to members for your great support of the Opportunity Drawing. Cheryl Shaw won the kayak trip; Jan Pung won the garden cart full of goodies, and Betty Wethington won the gorgeous rain barrel painted by Christine Prestella. Other top prize winners were:

#4 Edison/Ford tickets for 2 - Karen Kight

#5 Gulf Coast Symphony tickets for 2 – Andy Garlanger

#6 Sun Splash Waterpark tickets for 2 - Mike Huffer

#7 Sun Splash Waterpark tickets for 2 - Mary Ann Andrews

Thanks to all who helped to make this an outstanding day ! If anyone has suggestions for next year's event, please let us know."

Check out the photos on the next page.

March in the Park photos:



Thanks to all our members for our well-stocked plant booth



Enthusiastic Sellers can't wait to get going!



Sherie Bleiler chats to a potential Bromeliad customer



Cashiers Mary Ann Sloan Greiner and Ria Benton hard at work



Sue Lawson with Missy setting up the Membership Booth



Christine Prestella awaits her first customer at the Kids Booth

April Birthdays

Happy birthday to:

Deborah Carlson Janet Franzen
Sandy Gove (same day as Janet Franzen)!
Alessia Leathers Charisse Schreiner
And new member, Kristin Carlton!

Take time to enjoy your special day.

Contact Info for Membership List and New Directory

If there have been any changes to your contact information (e.g., address, change of email, change of phone, or prefer to use mobile phone or would like both mobile and home numbers listed,) please email change to Susan Noble, and Sylvia Swartz, _____

Officer Slate 2021-2023

Voting on the following slate of Officers will take place at the April meeting.

Co-Presidents Ann Block & Elsa Schutzman
1st VP Cathy Dunn
2nd VP Terry Fisher
Treasurer Susan Noble
Asst. Treasurer Dona Baliotis
Recording Secretary Charlene Anderson
Corresponding Sec. Martha Howard

News from the Rose Garden

The dedicated team who maintains the Rose Gardens at the Cape Coral Historical Society just finished spreading 3 cubic feet of mulch provided by the City (arranged by President Ann) on the 12 rose beds and surrounding edges that make up the garden. Here are some photos of their hard work:



Elsa Schutzman and Cindy Wasilak attack the monster pile



Elsa, Cathy Atchison, and Ann clean up the crumbs

So does Ann!



Freshly mulched bed

Great News from our Habitat Committee

Sherie Bleiler and Debbie Haggett were disappointed not to receive the *Plant America Grant* they applied for from NGC last fall. Sherie has now shared some great news!

Yay! Our garden club has received a \$3,000 grant to do the Habitat landscape project and the Florida Friendly classes. Debbie Haggett and Sherie Bleiler sent a grant request into LCEC. Among other things, they were impressed

Habitat news -continued

we would be teaching people not to plant trees under power lines and awarded us a grant. Yippee!



Here is the house as it looked Sunday. The septic tank is in and the dirt is all smoothed over by now. The outside is painted, so it will be ready to landscape soon. With

this grant, we will be able to purchase good sized plants. What we really need now are gardeners to plant it all. About a half dozen of you have volunteered, but we could use more!

Please contact Sherie Bleiler if you are interested in participating in landscaping.

(sjbleilers@gmail.com or (239) 233-2438) There is no schedule yet, but let Sherie know: Do you prefer certain days of the week? Would you like to work just one day or multiple days? We will schedule about six mornings, with no more than five working each day, due to Covid considerations. We will work 8:00 AM -noon, probably April 20th - May 7th. Due to scheduling fewer people because of Covid, Habitat has not given us our work dates yet. If doing the actual labor is not your thing, perhaps you can help in another way. Does anyone have a rototiller we could use to blend in the compost? Does anyone have a pickup truck to pick up plants and deliver them to the site?

Here is an earlier view of the house.



New Members:

A very warm welcome to three more new members:

Mary Kay Robbins-Kralapp,
Kristin Carlton and
Deborah (Debbie) Mackey.

Kristin's bio will follow in the May newsletter but here is some info about Debbie and Mary Kay:

New member Debbie Mackey is a winter resident from Churchville, Bucks County, Pennsylvania just outside of Philadelphia. In 2019 she retired from the Council Rock School District where she was a high school teacher/ curriculum coordinator. Debbie and her husband Norm are seasonal residents of Cape Coral who return to PA to enjoy family activities with their children and three young granddaughters. Debbie enjoys cooking, genealogy, boating and gardening and looks forward to becoming involved in activities with the club.

May Kay Robbins Kralaap has lived in CC since 2007 and always wanted to be a part of an organization that focuses on plants and growing. Hailing from Michigan and Kentucky, having a career as a nurse-attorney and a primary caregiver to her father and husband, she is looking forward to learning, loving, and growing in this next chapter of life. She loves spending time with the grandchildren who, unfortunately, live out of state. Boating, reading, music, essential oils, rocks, and learning are indispensable to her world. She is excited to make new friends!

Pond in a Pot! *(adapted from Gardeners' World)*

Water adds a new dimension to any garden and a pond-in-a-pot is the ideal place to grow miniature waterlilies and other small aquatic plants. This idea is quick and easy to make and requires minimal care. The larger the container, the more impressive the display, although it's best to limit yourself to one or two well-chosen types of plant. Use too many and your pond will quickly become cluttered.

Pond in a Pot - continued

You will need:

- Tin bath, or other large container
- Waterproof sealant
- Bricks (6)
- Medium planting baskets (3)
- Aquatic compost
- Assorted aquatic plants (6)
- Oxygenating plants (2)
- Washed pea gravel
- Large feature stone, a little taller than the height of the container

Thoroughly clean the tin bath or chosen container and seal drainage holes with silicone. Place the bricks around the container's edges, ready to raise the plants to the right level. If you're using a container shallower than a tin bath, you may not need the bricks.

Knock the aquatic plants from their pots. Put a layer of aquatic compost in the bottom of the planting basket and position the plants. Each basket should



Planting basket

accommodate two or three plants. Fill in around the roots with more compost, firming as you go, then water thoroughly to settle the compost. Top it off with a layer of pea gravel across the surface.

Fill the container two-thirds with water. Carefully lower the baskets into the water, standing them on the bricks. If you're viewing the pond from one direction, place the taller plants at the back; if viewing it from all sides, place in the center. When you're happy with the arrangement of the plants, top up the level of the water to around 2" below the rim of the container. Adding a stone to the pond that just breaks the surface of the water gives birds a landing platform from which to take a drink. Add a couple of oxygenating plants to help aerate the pond and limit growth of algae.

See what you missed!

Check out this link to see Anina Bachrach's photo record of the most recent Fort Myers-Lee County Garden Council presentation, given by Master Gardener Vanessa Hazelton on "**Plant this – Not that**". **Click on the following link:**

<https://photos.app.goo.gl/QwStkVz4LKaoSoL7>

Anina, a member of Gulf Coast Garden Club, is the Garden's Council's photographer and did a great job with this presentation, particularly when you consider that she was photographing a Zoom presentation through her computer!

This presentation is just a sample of the many educational speakers who present to the Council at their meetings in September, November, January, March, and May each year so why not take advantage of all this great information and attend the Council meetings, dates of which are always in this newsletter and in the Directory. **All** members of the Garden Club of Cape Coral are eligible to attend these meetings since the Garden Club is a member of the Council. It's a great way to meet folks from other garden clubs and to hear what they are doing.

Talking about the Garden Council, congratulations to President Ann, who was the recipient of the Council's 2021 **Busy Bee Award** in for the hard work she did with the Council's Nominating Committee.

Something different For Your Yard - Foxgloves

Foxgloves - tall, dramatic spikes of tubular flowers with speckled throats. Foxgloves bloom in midsummer and add elegance to a perennial border, woodland area, or shade garden. Their

Foxgloves – continued

low-growing foliage is topped by 2- to 5-foot-tall flower spikes, depending on the variety. Flower colors include pink, red, purple, white, and yellow. They are biennials or short-lived perennials. However, although individual plants may be short-lived, foxgloves readily self-sow and multiplies. Foxgloves leaves contain digitalis, a potent heart medicine, and are considered poisonous. They are hardy in zone 10.

- Easy care/low maintenance
- Multiplies readily
- Good for cut flowers
- Deer resistant

Ongoing Care - Apply a thin layer of compost each spring, followed by a 2-inch layer of mulch. to retain moisture and control weeds. Water plants during the summer if rainfall is less than an inch per week. Stake tall varieties to keep them upright. Remove the central flower spike after flowering to encourage other side shoots to form and produce more flowers. However, if you want the plant to self-sow and multiply, leave the flower spike intact on the plant so seeds can mature and disperse.

Choosing a site to grow foxgloves - Select a site with full sun to light shade and moist yet well-drained soil.

Set plants out in spring or fall, spacing plants 1 to 2 ft apart, depending on the variety: sow seeds in early summer. Prepare the garden bed by using a garden fork or tiller to loosen the soil to a depth of 12 to 15 inches, then mix in a 2- to 4-inch layer of compost. Dig a hole twice the diameter of the pot the plant is in. Carefully remove the plant from its container and place it in the hole so the top of the root ball is level with the soil surface. Carefully fill in around the root ball and firm the soil gently. Water thoroughly.

Lakes Park Reminders

1st Saturday Bird Walks year-round –

8 AM-10 AM. Meet at shelter A7

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

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

Tuesdays & Thursdays Volunteer Workdays year-
round 8 AM-10 AM

Upcoming Events:

April 10 to April 14 – FFGC Convention Daytona
Beach –details on FFGC Website

April 13, 1:30 PM Edison Ford - Container
Gardening and Introduction to Floral Arranging.
\$35 for members and \$50 for non-members.

April 17 9 AM to noon - Bonsai Society of SW
Florida Public Auction FMLCGC Headquarters

April 30 National Arbor Day

Sunday, May 16 1-4 PM - American Hibiscus
Society Annual Show and Sale Araba Temple,
2010 Hanson St., Fort Myers, FL

Newsletter Online

Our monthly newsletter is always available online
– go to our website at

<https://www.gardenclubofcapecoral.com/getinvolved/newsletter/>

*The next newsletter (the last until September) will
be published in early May – please submit ideas,
articles, suggestions to Sylvia Swartz, Editor,
tamarqal2@aol.com.*

Comments/suggestions always welcome.