



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

*"Every leaf speaks bliss to me, fluttering from the autumn tree." Emily Bronte
(courtesy Val Breen)*

NEWSLETTER – SEPTEMBER 2021

September Meeting – MAJOR change

Our first meeting of the new season at the Kiwanis Hall, 360 Santa Barbara Blvd., Cape Coral, has had to be rescheduled because the Kiwanis hall is undergoing major renovation. Therefore, our meeting is rescheduled to **WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 29** beginning at 5:45 pm – **Note start time**. Apologies for the short notice but Co-Presidents Ann and Elsa have only just been notified.

This will be a happy social meeting with a Butterfly Theme incorporating a little business. Our committees will be discussing our fun upcoming events and programs. We'll have sign-up sheets for our Holiday Party on December 8, our three October Garden Tours, the Tropical Plant Sale at Rotary Park on October 23, and Ellen Morris's crafting event to assemble air plants for that plant sale. There will also be a 50/50 draw.

Co-Presidents Ann and Elsa will be asking you to respond to their invitation to attend so that we can ensure safe social distancing. Masks will be required. Although this meeting is usually our welcome-back Potluck supper, the meeting will not include refreshments for food safety reasons.

The new Program and Membership Directory will be available for distribution at the meeting. This

year it's in full color to celebrate our 25th anniversary in 2022.

Summer and September Birthdays

How many birthdays we missed during our summer break! Nevertheless: hope you enjoyed your special days:

June: Cathy Atchison, Tammy Burgess, Cheryl Byrd, Pat Foote and Betty Wethington

July: Carol Arnholt, Sue Dues, Nancy Finnegan, Janetta Fox, Ellen Morris, Donna Schneider, Richard Sheriff, Carmen Sprague, Kim White, Carol Windsor

August: Babu Mathew, Gail Miller Vicki Taylor, Kathy Woodlock

AND Happy birthday to our **September** celebrants:

Sherie Bleiler, Rachele Epp, Sue Lawson, Susan Los Huertos, Lois Luber, Fran McIntyre, Paula Plum, Christine Prestella, Barbara Salafia and Nancy Wallin!

Tropical Plant Sale, Rotary Park, October 23

Our Ways and Means Committee has been busily digging and potting plants to sell at the Tropical Plant Sale on Saturday, October 23. Many thanks to all concerned, including plant donors. We will need people to help at the sale which runs from 9 am to 2pm. Sign-up sheets will be available at the meeting. It's a good way to interact with one another in an open-air setting while having fun chatting to customers. Ellen Morris, Co-Chair Ways and Means will also have a sign-up sheet available to join her at a crafting session to mount the many air plants we have in fun and attractive ways.

Welcome to our new Members



During the summer, William (Hutch) and Lenore Hutchinson joined the club. They moved to Cape

Coral this May and have been spending most of their free time making their house their own.

Hutch and Lenore moved from Lancaster, PA. where Lenore was an administrator of two assisted living homes and Hutch was working in HVAC.

Lenore says: "Gardening in Lancaster is pretty easy; anything will grow in that rich and fertile soil, so Florida is a big learning curve for. Hutch spent 40 years in the fire company. We have two children and two grandchildren. We love all types of boating and have been blessed to do some traveling. Living in South Florida has been Hutch's dream, one of his happiest days was when he

gave his snow shovel away! We are looking forward in becoming part of the Cape Coral Garden Club."

And we look forward to meeting both of you!

Spotlight on Publicity Committee

We're choosing **Publicity** as the first committee



to spotlight for two reasons: the first to thank Pat Foote for all the time and effort and expertise she gave to her work as Publicity Chair for as long as this Editor can remember! Pat was our

perennial chair, always ensuring her press releases reached the right people; always checking her facts and always being willing to do whatever it took to ensure the Word about the club was out there. Thank you, Pat!

The second reason is that we NEED someone to step up to become Publicity Chair. The responsibilities are:

- to check monthly with the President(s) on the upcoming meeting activities;
- to write a monthly short press release describing the upcoming meeting activities and release to the media;
- to write and issue press releases as needed about any special events the Club is having.

A detailed description of the activities of the Publicity Officer is available and if you would like to review it or to volunteer, please contact either President Ann or President Elsa. Remember it's down to all of us to serve on at least one committee.

Memorial for Jean Shields



It has been suggested that a great memorial for our dear Jean, who was one of our founding members and who passed away at the end of July, would be a bench at our Blue Star Memorial Marker

garden at Eco Park. Jean served in the Military and this would seem to be a very fitting tribute to her. Treasurer Susan Noble will be happy to receive your donations either at the September meeting or by mail to PO Box 152022, Cape Coral, FL 33915. Please make checks payable to Garden Club of Cape Coral and mark "Jean Shields Memorial".

Cups of Cheer

Sue Lawson, Chair of our garden therapy program, *Cups of Cheer*, reports that a second facility, The Opal, has joined the program so the committee is now visiting two locations to make small seasonal flower arrangements with interested residents. More coffee mugs are needed so please bring any spare decorative mugs you have to the September meeting. Susan will have a donation basket available to receive them. Also, if you would be interested in joining this committee to visit the care facilities and assist the residents in making their arrangements, please contact Sue Lawson or Nancy Colgan – Contact details in the Directory.

Mark Your Calendars – 1. Garden Walks

Club member, Beverly Nugent is organizing garden walks at the homes of three members on October 14. Details to follow in the October newsletter.

Mark Your Calendars – 2. Presentation on Hydroponic Gardening for The Home Gardener

At the September 10 meeting of the Fort Myers- Lee County Garden Council, David Outerbridge, Director of the Lee County Extension Service, will be giving a presentation on *Hydroponic Gardening for the Home Gardener* – something we may all be interested to see. The meeting will be via Zoom, so you don't even have to drive into Fort Myers. President Ann will circulate the Zoom invitation a few days before the event. Sign up to see this not-to-be missed presentation.

The Florida Fall Garden Starts in August!

Extract from the Neighborhood Gardener, 8/13/2021

If you're thinking about getting your vegetable garden going again, you're a Florida gardener! Even though it's hotter than a pepper patch in the Sunshine State, it's time to start planning the fall garden.

Think about getting going with bush and pole beans, eggplant, peppers, and small-variety tomatoes in early September. For these heat-loving crops the idea is to get them up and thriving so they can set a crop before that first cold spell slows them down. Beans are ready to harvest in 50-60 days from seed so they will be ready well in time for your Thanksgiving meal.

Remember to save room in your garden space for your traditional fall crops like lettuce, cabbage, broccoli, spinach, greens, and chard. Since we are in a hurry to get these up and going, use healthy transplants if possible or get your seeds started right away. With the cooling temperatures and shorter days come fewer insects and weeds making it a very enjoyable time to garden. You

The Florida Fall Garden Starts in August – continued

might be envisioning a large traditional garden or several 4x8 raised beds, but if you don't have space like that, plant edibles wherever you can in the landscape. Find spots that have adequate sunlight and are close enough to the garden hose and plug in a patch of beans or a few mustard greens.

If you are a container gardening aficionado include edibles in your pots. Some favorite varieties for containers are 'Red Giant' mustard, Lacinato kale, and 'Freckles' lettuce. They are beautiful as well as delicious. Herbs like chives, cilantro, sage, and thyme are easy to incorporate in your containers and are so convenient for cooking.

Keep these plants thriving with regular watering and fertilization. Two or three light applications of fertilizer during the growing season are recommended. Apply the fertilizer just beyond the outside leaves. Leafy vegetables such as lettuce, kale, and collards benefit from side dressings of nitrogen-containing fertilizer.

For lots of invaluable information on growing edibles in your Florida yard be sure to visit <https://gardeningsolutions.ifas.ufl.edu/get-growing/>.

What to Plant and Do in Your Garden in September

What to plant:

Annuals/Bedding plants: If summer beds need refreshing, try scarlet sage, nasturtium, celosia, and wax begonia for color into fall.

Bulbs: Plant gladiolus every two weeks to stagger blooming. Stake each plant.

Shrubs: Consider placing native shrubs, like beautyberry, marlberry, firebush, and dahoon holly, where you can view the birds that enjoy them.

What to do:

Lawns: Continue to monitor the lawn for signs of insect damage. Fall armyworms, chinch bugs, mole crickets, and sod webworms are still active this month.

Fertilizer Bans: Lee County prohibits the application of fertilizer to lawns and/or landscape plants during the summer rainy season (June–September).

Vegetable gardens: Prepare the fall vegetable garden if not done in August. Using transplants from your local garden center will get the garden off to a fast start, but seeds provide a wider variety from which to choose.

Perennials and bulbs: Divide and replant perennials and bulbs that have grown too large or need rejuvenation. Add organic matter to planting beds and monitor water needs during establishment

Irrigation: Check that irrigation systems are providing good coverage and operating properly before summer rains taper off.

Citrus: Fertilize citrus with a balanced fertilizer either this month or in October. Use controlled-release nitrogen because rain will not leach it from the soil too quickly

Review this Companion Planting list:

Beans: Herbs, carrots, cauliflower, cucumbers and cabbage

Review this Companion Planting list – continued

Beets: Cabbage, onions, and kohlrabi

Carrots: Tomatoes, peas, onions, leeks, and rosemary

Cucumbers: Beans, radish, sunflower, dill, and beets

Lettuce: Beets, broccoli, bush beans, cabbage, and strawberries

Onion: Dill, chamomile, asparagus and peas
Tomatoes: Onions, basil, lettuce, garlic and marigolds

Spinach: Peas, eggplants, cauliflower and beans

Peppers: Tomatoes, okra, parsley basil and carrots

Sign up on AmazonSmile!

You can now sign up for AmazonSmile using your smart/iphone. Simply:

- Open the Amazon app on your phone;
- Select the main menu and tap on “AmazonSmile” within Programs and Features;
- Select Garden Club of Cape Coral as your charity;
- Follow the on-screen instructions to activate AmazonSmile in the mobile app.

Upcoming Events:

9/24 and 10/10: our own **Fun with Flowers**, FMLCGC HQ, 10 AM to noon, Registration form available on our website. Contact Susan Lawson (info in Directory) for more details.

10/01 Miami Orchid Society’s *Tamiami International Orchid Festival*, Homestead, FL

Ford-Edison Estates Events:

9/11 Edison-Ford Estates, 10 AM Garden Talk: *Cactus & Their Cousins* \$10 Members, \$15 Non-Members

10/09 Edison-Ford Estates Orchid Symposium

10/29 *Rhythm on the River* – Edison-Ford Estates, Appalachian Road Show Band, Gates open 5:30 PM Members \$30, Non-Members \$35. At the door \$40.

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

Newsletter Online

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

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

The next newsletter will be published in early October – please submit ideas, articles, suggestions to Sylvia Swartz, Editor, newsletter@gardenclubofcapecoral.com. Comments and suggestions welcome.