



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

If you long for a mind at rest and a heart that will not harden . . .
Go find a gate that opens wide into a secret garden - *Source unknown*

NEWSLETTER – November 2021

November Meeting

Join us at 5:45 pm on Wednesday, Nov. 10 at the Kiwanis (360 Santa Barbara Blvd.) for a social half hour and then listen to Bob Cook, owner of **Weeds and Seeds** talk to us about vegetable gardening and the appropriate use of recommended fertilizers and pesticides. Bob is a Florida-Certified Horticulture Professional (FCHP) and knows his onions!

You'll also be able to sign up for our December Holiday Party so bring cash or your checkbook (checks payable to Garden Club of Cape Coral, endorsed 'Holiday Party'. Spouses/partners/guests are welcome – just include them in your payment. You can BYOB and it will be a fun night. I wonder what Frannie has planned for us??? Costs and food details will be available at the meeting.

Our new Horticulturist, Barbara Sery, will be giving us another fun presentation – we are so happy that she stepped up to the plate to fill this vital role – one of the main tenets of our mission is the education of our members. Thank you, Barbara!

We are still looking for a permanent Publicity Officer and also a chair for our Habitat Committee. Terry Fisher, Membership Chair, can

share with you the details of how these committees operate if you are interested.

There will also be another 50:50 Draw which is proving to be a great success – thank you Beverly and Joanne. House proceeds go to offset our monthly \$150 rent at the Kiwanis.

November Birthdays

Not so many birthdays in November – however, many happy returns of your special day – have fun!

Nancy Colgan
Sally Stephens

Janice Shrawder
Cindy Wasilak

Tropical Plant Sale, Rotary Park, October 23

Firstly, big thankyou's to Cathy Dunn, Cindy Wasilak, Colleen Carty, Debbie Haggett, Deb Leh, Nancy Colgan, Nancy Finnegan, Sue Lawson, Sylvia Swartz, Terry Fisher and Tammy Wilson for hosting plants from Dona, taking care of them, and growing and providing so many lovely additions. The quality of the plants was outstanding.

Thanks also to everyone who worked at the sale (so many of you but particularly Cathy Dunn who provided invaluable help in getting the labels done), and to those of you who supported our efforts by buying lots of plants. The sale brought in **more than \$1,300** including \$120 of glove sales, which will help augment whatever we make at MIP. That was a fabulous result and it's all down to the team effort. Thank you!

Here are some photos taken at the sale – thanks to Club photographer, Carmen Sprague both for taking them and then getting them sent to me so quickly so that they could be included in the newsletter.



Cheryl Shaw, Paula Plum, and Susan (Noble) ready for action



Comrades in arms - Elsa, Debbie, and Kim



Two 'heads' are better than one!



Cashier Paula Plum with an early customer



Sherie Bleiler and Mary Kay Kralapp ready for the onslaught of customers



Although rain threatened, it stayed dry til the bitter end!

(last two photos courtesy of Denise Gastringer – thank you, Denise!)

Now it's onward and upward to March in the Park! Let's make that our #1 focus as we work to raise money for our high-school kids and high-school gardening/environmental projects.

Garden Walk Beverly Nugent

The garden club tour was a wonderful success. An average of 25 members attended each of our three tours.

They left each garden with clippings and heartfelt thanks for the opportunity to see our gardens along with the enjoyment of intermingling with the other members, sharing thoughts, ideas, and knowledge. Many of the newer members were very excited to see the layout of our gardens and a few have asked for some members to visit their garden and help them organize their new gardens. The garden tour could not have gone any better.

Thanks to all that attended.



Beverly, Chris Prestella and Terry Fisher enjoying a chat



Mary Ann Sloan Greiner leads the tour at her home



Cliff Block and John Nugent tending bar

Halloween Party, best costume – and the winner is:



Edgar Allan Poe and the Raven - otherwise known as Frannie Cox!
Great costume Frannie!

Here are some more pics of the fun costumes:



The 3 Witches - Bev, Joanne, and Cheryl



A Skeletal Paula Plum!



*Butterflies Elsa and Judy and Mystery Witch
Val Breen*

And Finally:



Max and Midge looking good enough to eat!

Welcome to more new Members



Kay Davis

Kay lived in Richmond, VA for 40 years before retiring from nursing and

moving to Hampton, VA in 2010 to be closer to the water and friends made while boating. Kay says: "We began coming to Florida to vacation in 2010 and ended up in Cape Coral three years ago. We now spend six months a year here. Because we live in a condo where the owners take care of the condo grounds, I am interested in learning more about landscaping. I'd also like to know more about plants that will do well in pots in the area. I belong to the Cape Coral Friends of Wildlife and love the burrowing owls and other birds."

Welcome Kay – we look forward to getting to know you.



Jim Gastringer

Jim retired to Cape Coral in February 2021 - relocated here from Southwick Massachusetts.

with his wife, Denise, who is also a member of the club, Jim says he joined the garden club to learn more about plants and gardening. Hobbies are fixing things around the house, boating, and looking to set up a hydroponic vegetable garden at some point. Jim is member Denise's husband and sister of member Fran McIntyre!

Way to go, Jim – good luck with the hydroponic set up!

Linda Houck



Linda and her husband are from Hampton, VA, where Linda owned a mortgage company

there which she recently sold and now is employed by them!. Linda says "We lived on the Chesapeake Bay and loved boating there. In 2016 we brought our boat down the Intracoastal Waterway as far as Key West. On our return we traveled the west coast of Florida as far north as Fort Myers. In 2017 we came to Cape Coral by land and loved it here so much we bought a condo. Last year we decided to move here permanently so in June of 2020 we went back to Virginia, sold everything, moved here full time, sold our condo here and bought a house. We love it here."

So glad you made the move, Linda and found us!



Jane Anderson

My name is Jane Anderson, I was born and raised in St. Paul, MN. My husband and I have two college age daughters (one at FSU and one at the University of Minnesota). I am retired from teaching, I taught

elementary education and special education. We are not fond of winter anymore, so we moved to Cape Coral in June. I enjoyed gardening in Minnesota and plan to continue here in Florida. Coming from gardening Zone 4 to Zone 10b is a HUGE change and I look forward to exploring all the beautiful plant life to incorporate in my garden here in Florida. In addition to gardening, I also enjoy the creative arts-sewing, felting, painting, photography and rock collecting.

Claude Anderson

My name is Claude, I retired this year. I have been employed as an



environmental research engineer, a patent attorney and a pipeline safety engineer. This is the first time I have lived outside of the Midwest. I am enjoying the change in climate, and am looking forward to learning about local plant life, wildlife and doing some fishing.

Great to have you Jane and Claude!

Jean Shields Celebration of Life



Linda Behr, (Jean's daughter), and Jean's family are holding a

Celebration of Life for Jean at the Berne Davis Gardens, Fort Myers-Lee County Garden Council, Virginia Ave., Fort Myers, on **Friday, November 12, 2 to 4 PM**. The ceremony will be held in the garden, and we are all invited to attend. Jean was a well-loved member of our club, and we all miss her cheerful smiles and conversation.

Prior to the afternoon's event and also at the Garden Council, our club member and FFGC Accredited Flower Show Judge **Kathy Woodlock** will be demonstrating the art of Christmas decorations in the Williamsburg style. Again, that event will be held in the garden, beginning at 9:30 AM – social half hour begins at 9 AM. This will be a fascinating presentation – who isn't interested in seeing Williamsburg-style decorations . . . **AND** learning how to make them!

Garden Tours at the Cape Coral Historical Society

Tours of the FFL (Florida Friendly Landscape) demonstration gardens at the Historical Society, 544 Cultural Park Blvd., Cape Coral, conducted by the Master Gardeners who tend the gardens, take place on the 2nd Wednesday of each month, through April – 1 to 4PM – no reservations required. Next tour is November 10 – mark your calendar. These are interesting gardens that follow the nine principles of Florida Friendly Landscaping:

- Right Plant, Right Place. Achieving a healthy, low-maintenance home landscape starts with putting the right plant in the right place. ...

- Water Efficiently. ...
- Fertilize Appropriately. ...
- Mulch. ...
- Attract Wildlife. ...
- Manage Yard Pests Responsibly. ...
- Recycle Yard Waste. ...
- Reduce Stormwater Runoff.
- Protect the Waterfront



They even have a weed patch to encourage pollinators that love those plants – even though we might not appreciate them so much!

It's that time of year again – Holiday Party!!!

Frannie Cox will have details of our December 8 fun-filled Holiday party available at the November meeting, including the cost, so please come to the November meeting prepared with your check book or cash – checks payable to Garden Club of Cape Coral and marked 'Holiday Party.' Spouses/partners/friends welcome – just include them in your payment. BYOB

Our November Trip

Nov 12, 2021, Friday
Sundance Orchid Nursery
 16095 S. Pebble Lane, Fort Myers

Meet at Publix (Cape Coral Pkwy & Santa Barbara) to carpool – leave Publix at 8:45 am
 Tour starts at 10 am, followed by lunch at Bahama Breeze, 14701 S. Tamiami Trail about 12:15 pm - Contact Cindy Wasilak to register
 Contact details in the Directory or contact newsletter@gardenclubofcapecoral.com

Fort Myers-Lee County Garden Council Standard Flower Show 19 and 20 November

This Standard Flower Show celebrating the Presidency of most recent Past President, Judy Francino will take us on a tour of the world. The various design classes all feature the travel theme *The World is Yours to Explore*. Several design classes still have openings and there are even more openings in the Botanical Arts Section. The schedule is available on the home page of the Garden Council: www.fmlcgc.com – contact Paula Novander to register – her contact details are in the schedule.

Join many of your club members who have already signed up to enter and let's see Garden Club of Cape Coral take on the World!

To enter the horticulture section is so simple – go out in your yard and take clippings of your plants that are at their best – take them to the Garden Council on the 18th or 19th Nov. and you will be advised on what class(es) you can enter with your clippings – it's as simple as that. Sue Lawson will have some samples to show you at the November club meeting and she will also be able to tell you what design classes have vacancies.

Companion Planting

Now that we're all busily planting our vegetable gardens for the Florida growing season, here's a handy list of companion planting ideas:

Beans: Herbs, carrots, cauliflower, cucumbers, and cabbage

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

Garden Myths

The Neighborhood Gardener Oct. 2021

Every pursuit has its myths and legends; gardening is no different. From poisonous poinsettias to homemade pesticides, gardening's tall tales offer plenty of intrigue.

Here are more of our favorite garden myths, along with the grains of truth that inspired them.

Poisonous Poinsettias (FALSE)



"Poinsettias are not poisonous, although some people are mildly allergic to their white, milky sap." (*Poinsettias at a Glance*, Sydney Park Brown).

"As a houseplant, the amount of plant material available for consumption is so small that the species is definitely overrated as a hazard." (*Toxic Plants of North America, 2nd edition, 2013*)

Like most plants, poinsettias do contain toxins, but not in dangerously high concentrations. You would have to eat a lot of poinsettia to receive a harmfully high dose. That said, keeping poinsettias out of reach is still a good idea. Sensitivity to chemicals varies by size, age, health, and other factors. Cats and dogs that eat poinsettia may suffer some mild side effects, like diarrhea and drooling. These symptoms are not usually severe enough for a trip to the vet. Poinsettia sap does contain latex, too. Gardeners, children, and pets with latex allergies should avoid handling them. Otherwise, practice common sense and caution and enjoy your holiday poinsettias.

But while we're talking holiday plants, check your garland and wreathes. Lilies, holly, and mistletoe are all more toxic than poinsettias. These are not a good choice for homes with children or pets. When in doubt, call Poison Control at 1-800-222-1222. For pets, call the ASPCA Animal Poison Control Center at 1-888-426-4435.

Dish Soap Makes a Great Aphid Spray (FALSE)



As tempting as DIY recipes can be, homemade pesticides are dangerous. Very few of these recipes come from research-based sources. In fact, many online recipes are simply "click bait." They lure you in but offer advertisements rather than sound garden advice.

One very popular home remedy is to dilute dish "soap." Any soap, even insecticidal soaps labeled for garden use, can injure plants if used incorrectly. Worse still, dish "soaps" are not true soaps. They are detergents, synthetically produced and chemically designed to be powerful cleaners. As degreasers, they can easily destroy a plant leaf's cuticle.

We at UF/IFAS do not recommend these mixtures for a number of reasons. The safety hazard to plants, animals, and people are significant. Finally, application of unregistered chemicals onto crops sold as food is illegal.

Painting after Pruning (TRUE but...)

Bretziella fagacearum is a fungus that causes a disease called oak wilt, but this disease is not currently found in Florida. In Texas, where oak wilt is most common, immediately painting pruning cuts is a common practice. The hope is to prevent the insects that spread *B. fagacearum* from infecting the newly pruned tree. That said, research has yet to show how effective this method of prevention is.

In Florida painting fresh cuts is not necessary. In fact, UF/IFAS does not recommend this for any tree species. Healthy trees can seal their wounds on their own. They also have plenty of chemical defenses against disease. If a cut is going to decay, paint will not prevent the process. If moisture gets trapped beneath the paint layer, it may even speed decay.

If you're serious about avoiding the spread of disease in your garden, we do have some tips. First and foremost, disinfect your garden tools between each plant. Scout often to look for signs of disease. Treat or remove diseased branches quickly. One of the best ways to prevent disease is simply to keep your landscape healthy.

On the subject of trees, we have a bonus myth for you. Did you know that trees are not the same shape below ground as they are above?

To put it another way, the depth of the roots is not the same as the height of the canopy. A better way to imagine the shape of a tree would be to picture a wine glass. The roots, in this picture, are like a coaster underneath. The root zone is usually wide, even wider than the branches above. Especially in Florida, these roots are also often quite shallow.

You can protect the health of your tree by protecting the root zone. Avoid the area beneath the dripline when you bring vehicles or heavy equipment near trees.

Preventing Garden Diseases

National Gardening Association newsletter
10/16/2021 Suzanne DeJohn

Most garden diseases are caused by fungi -- microscopic relatives of the common garden mushroom. Mature fungi release millions of spores that are then carried on the wind or otherwise get transferred to our plants. And if the conditions suit them, the spores germinate and penetrate leaf tissue, creating spots, lesions, or other symptoms. Most fungi need moisture to germinate, so damp leaves are an open invitation. Some diseases are soil-borne and are transported to foliage when raindrops splash soil onto plants. Preventing infection is the best way to control fungal diseases.

Tools and Materials

- disease-resistant varieties
- drip irrigation or soaker hoses
- mulch
- pruners
- rubbing alcohol

1. Choose resistant varieties. Plant breeders have created varieties with built-in resistance to certain diseases. For example, look for tomato

varieties with V, F, or T after the names; these indicate resistance to verticillium, fusarium, and tobacco mosaic diseases.

2. Space plants properly. Adequate spacing allows good air circulation, which helps keep foliage dry.

3. Water the soil, not the foliage. Drip irrigation and soaker hoses are better than overhead sprinklers.

4. Apply mulch. Soil-borne diseases can be thwarted with a layer of mulch, which prevents soil from splashing onto leaves.

5. Rotate crops. Plants in the same family are often attacked by the same diseases, so rotate annual crops. For example, avoid planting solanaceous plants, including tomato, pepper, potato, and eggplant, in the same garden bed year after year. Rather, rotate with plants in a different family, such as cucurbits (squash, cucumber, pumpkin).

6. Remove and destroy diseased plant tissue. If only a few leaves are affected, prune them off and discard (don't compost; composting may not kill the disease organism). Sterilize pruning shears with rubbing alcohol between cuts.

7. Don't overfertilize. Plants pumped full of fast-acting nutrients (especially nitrogen) grow quickly, but this succulent growth is very attractive to disease organisms. Aim for slow, steady growth by providing slow-release nutrients.

Tips

Fungi aren't the only disease-causing microorganisms. Some diseases, such as fire blight, are caused by bacteria. Others, such as tobacco mosaic, are caused by viruses. Bacterial and viral diseases are difficult, if not impossible, to control in the home garden. Sometimes environmental conditions, such as a late frost, cause symptoms similar to disease infection so rule these out first.

Consider the plant, the time of year, and the degree of damage before resorting to pesticide sprays. A small amount of damage on tomato foliage at the end of the season may be tolerable,

while the same damage in early summer may warrant control.

Diseases can spread quickly if not contained, so observe plants frequently. Note that most plant diseases are host-specific; that is, they attack similar plants or plants in the same family. For example, the powdery mildew species that attacks tall phlox is different than the one that attacks cucumbers.

Upcoming Events:

11/6 and 11/7: Bonsai Society of SW FL40th Annual Show and Sale at Fort Myers-Lee County Garden Council, Virginia Ave., Fort Myers, 9 AM daily

11/12 9 AM Fort Myers-Lee County Garden Council – “A Williamsburg Christmas”, presented by GCCC club member Kathy Woodlock – in the garden at the Fort Myers-Lee County Garden Council, Virginia Ave., Fort Myers. Social half hour 9:30 AM

11/12 – 2 PM “**Celebration of Life for Jean Shields**”, Fort Myers-Lee County Garden Council – Berne Davis Gardens. Please mark this in your calendars and plan to attend to pay tribute to one of the founding members of our club, and hard-working member of both our Club, the Garden Council and previously the Board of the Cape Coral Historical Society.

11/12 – Club visit to Sundance Orchids – details at meeting

11/13 Poinciana Garden Club Annual Plant and Yard Sale at Fort Myers-Lee County Garden Council

11/19 and 11/20 – Fort Myers-Lee County Garden Council Standard Flower Show – *The World is Yours to Explore*

Several of our members are entering the show in the design and horticulture classes – come visit the Garden Council and view their handiwork!

11/20 and 11/21 – Edison-Ford Estates *Garden Festival* – many plant vendors

11/20 American Hibiscus Society – James E. Hendry
Chapter Winter Hibiscus sale in conjunction with
the Edison-Ford Estates Garden Festival

Ford-Edison Estates Events:

Edison VIP Tour Naples Botanical Garden, Tin City and Boat Cruise November 13, 8:45 a.m.

Join us for a fun day touring unique attractions in Naples! The group will meet at Edison and Ford Winter Estates in the morning for snacks and then depart by bus (provided by Dolphin Transportation) at 8:45 a.m. The first stop will be Naples Botanical Garden, where guests will get a private docent-led 90-minute tour. Founded in 1903, the property is more than 170 acres- almost 10 times as large as Edison Ford.

The second stop on the tour is at Tin City. This historic location was used by the Calusa Indians as far back as the 1500s. In 1887, a 600-foot pier was built in the Gulf of Mexico with easier access for industrialists and celebrities including Thomas Edison, Harvey Firestone, and Greta Garbo. When the Seaboard Airline Railroad was constructed, this beautiful location became an economic and transportation hub for Naples and the fishing industry. After lunch, the group will take a two-hour, private eco cruise aboard a Pure Florida boat with a master naturalist who will provide an educational and fun talk about the ecosystem and one of the largest mangrove forests. Guests might get to see some dolphins during the boat cruise.

All tours are subject to change and are based on availability. Space is limited. Pre-paid, advanced registration is required. Edison Ford members get a discount; guests can join today and take advantage of the discounted price. Tour cost for Edison Ford members is \$135 for Edison Ford members and \$150 for non-members. Cancellations must be made 14 days prior to the tour date to receive a full refund unless the vacancy can be filled. Cancellations made by Edison and Ford due to unforeseen circumstances will warrant a full refund or credit for another

tour in the same season.

Face masks are required on the bus. COVID protocol at each location will be followed. For questions or to make a reservation for this or any tour, please contact Sherri Muske at 239-335-3677. Tours fill up quickly; space should be reserved in advance.

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/>

Comments/suggestions always welcome as are suggestions for items to include. Contact editor Sylvia Swartz at newsletter@gardenclubofcapecoral.com