



GARDEN CLUB OF CAPE CORAL

*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*

"God made rainy days, so gardeners could get the housework done.
Author unknown - *Courtesy of Valorie Breen*

NEWSLETTER February 2022

February Meeting

Our Social half hour begins at 5:45 pm on February 9th at the Kiwanis, (360 Santa Barbara Blvd.), followed at 6:15 PM by a presentation from Tata White Kellam (Naples Garden Club) and our own 1st VP Cathy Dunn who will tell us about the *Techniques and Strategies employed in developing an Orchid Garden* in the Wilderness Community of Naples.



Much kudos to Cathy Dunn for scurrying around last month and finding a replacement speaker for our January meeting in the form of David Outerbridge, Lee

County Extension Service Director, who gave a most interesting presentation on Florida's Edible Wild Plants.

February Birthdays

Barbara Cohen Kay Davis
Denise Gastringer Pam Dawson
Lenore Hutchinson Joanne Kishfy
Lynne Viacava

Happy birthday wishes to all February birthday babies. Enjoy your very special day.

February Club Special Event

February's special event on Saturday Feb. 12 is a visit to the 30-acres Peace River Botanical and Sculpture Garden, 5827 Riverside Drive, Punta Gorda. Entrance fee is \$13 (payable on entry). Carpool leaves at 9:00 AM, from Publix at Burnt Store and Pine Island Road (near 7-Eleven). Tour begins at 10:00 AM.

Change of plans regarding lunch:

We will not be lunching at Lashley Crab House with our whole group, as originally

planned. Laishley cannot accommodate the size of our group and the time of our arrival. If anyone wants to make small group reservations at Laishley, use their website, Laishleycrabhouse.com, to do so. Peace River is offering a box lunch (\$12.50). If you choose this option, please call them at 941-621-8299 with your lunch selection and provide your credit card to order. Box lunches need to be ordered **before Feb. 5!**

And a third option, if you prefer, you may have lunch on your own at a restaurant of your choosing following our tour.

We hope this answers any questions you may have, and we look forward to an enjoyable outing!

If you haven't already signed up, Cindy Wasilak and Carol Arnholt, our Special Events team, will have their event sign-up sheet available at the meeting.

New Members:

Several new members have joined the club recently and we offer a warm welcome to all. One such couple is Mirta and Joe Barnet:

"We recently bought a lot here in Cape Coral, north of Pine Island and west of Burnt Store. Now that our seawall is completed we are starting the process of building our home and we hope to live here full time by the end of the year.

A little bit about us. We currently live in Pasadena, CA and we have our own photography business, Barnet Photography. I (Mirta) love to garden! I enjoy planting things such as fruit trees, vegetables, etc. Back home I have lemon, lime, avocado and apple trees. I also grow roses and lots of succulents. We joined

the Garden Club because we wanted to meet other like-minded people, get involved in the community and learn all we can about this new climate and garden zone. The soil at our property is mostly sand and seashells so I know I have a LOT to learn! We will be visiting a couple of times this year and will try to coordinate our trip with a Garden Club event.

So glad you joined, Mirta and Joe – hope the new home build goes well.

Other New Members: If you would like biographical info included in the next newsletter, please send details together with a headshot to newsletter editor Sylvia Swartz, tamargal2@aol.com

March in the Park

For those of you who did not sign up last month **sign-up sheets** for the various March in the Park activities will again be available at the February meeting. There is also an extra sign-up sheet for a new event:

A Gluing party – to prepare the plant labels for everyone's plants!

This is always a very fun social and working event so hurry –sign up as soon as you get to the meeting! Only four slots left!!

Don't forget to return to Patty Lyon or Twila Thalberg the ticket stubs and a check or cash for the Opportunity Drawing tickets you have either sold to other people or are buying yourself. Please make checks payable to Garden Club of Cape Coral. If you have sold the tickets to others, make sure your name is

on the back of each stub so that if the person to whom you have sold the ticket is not present when the drawing is made, the prize can be given to you for onward transmission to the lucky winner.

If you didn't pick up your tickets last month, see Patty and Twila at the Opp. Drg. Table near the Membership table at the meeting.

Terry Fisher is still looking for more clay pots for marbelizing to sell at our Thrift Booth. Please make sure they are clean!

Don't forget Feb. 9th is the absolute drop-dead date to tell Colleen Carty about plants you will be potting/growing for MIP.

TABLES: Many thanks to the following for offering to loan tables: Sue Lawson, Terry Fisher, Twila Thalberg, Mary Ann Sloan Greiner, Cathy Dunn, Susan Noble, Lillian Peterson, Lois Lubber, Frannie Cox, Kathy Woodlock and Colleen Carty. If you can, please deliver your table to Sylvia Swartz at 4030 SW 9th Place. If you are unable to deliver please tell Sylvia.

NEW THIS YEAR: we are asking you to price your own plants. Pricing guidance will be packed with each club member's labels. Labels will be available for **pick up** from Sylvia Swartz, 4030 SW 9th Place, CC any time during the **week beginning March 2**. Labels will be in packs with each member's name on the pack. Sufficient blank pricing sticks will be included in the pack. Please write the price legibly with no dollar sign in permanent black ink.

FYi: Pricing guidance from Dona Baliotis is as follows:

Everyday things: small pots \$4, medium pots \$5-6, larger \$6+

Natives and butterfly \$5, bigger \$6-8

Unusual, rare or specialty small \$4-6 medium \$6-8, large-10-12

Spiky things especially agaves usually not more than \$4-5 unless something really different

Succulents start at \$5 and go up depending on size and rarity

Anything looking nice and in bloom - add \$1-2 to above price.

Burrowing Owl Festival

Don't forget the Burrowing Owl Festival, Rotary Park, Rose Garden Rd., Cape Coral on the 26th Feb. Denise Gastringer is staging an information table there and needs help! See Sign-up sheet with the MIP Sign-up sheets.

Denise also has a sign-up sheet seeking help at the information table at the Farmers' Market on Saturday, March 5, 9 AM to 11 AM, and 11am to 1PM. As with the table at the Burrowing Owl Festival, we're trying to get publicity for March in the Park by telling people about it and giving them the green flier about the event.

STROLLING FLOWER SHOW THIS FRIDAY

What is a strolling flower show? It's floral designs created by Garden Clubbers placed in shop or restaurant windows in a designated commercial area. Viewers can

stroll around the area to admire the floral creations.

You can visit the Strolling Flower Show in downtown Fort Myers on Feb. 4, the same night as the River District Alliance monthly Art Walk, It's also the weekend of the big Fort Myers Art Show, so there will be lots of exposure over the weekend for the clubs and societies who are participating including several designers from our club.

The event will officially be open from 6pm to 8pm; voting for People's Choice will open at 6pm. The winner will be announced at 8:30 pm at 1st and Hendry Streets on the 4th Feb.

The RDA have secured the storefront windows for the designs, and Fort Myers-Lee County Garden Council is providing signage for the designs/displays. Designs will stay in the window throughout the weekend. This first year will NOT be an FFGC judged event.

So, why not make a date for dinner with friends on Feb 4 in Downtown Fort Myers, "stroll the show!" and vote for your favorite design in the People's Choice poll. Or go look at the displays and also enjoy the big Art Show on Saturday.

Speaking of Flower Shows

It's time again for our Biennial Standard NGC Flower Show which will be staged at the SW Cape Library and open to the public on April 29 and 30.

Our Show usually attracts a lot of visitors who really admire our floral designs, the horticulture items from our gardens, and the beautiful craft offerings in Botanical Arts. You have received the schedule so

please take the time to read through it and decide on the classes you would like to enter.

Kathy Woodlock will be telling you all about the Show at our March meeting and helping you identify classes you might enter. If you're not a designer. think about Horticulture. We all have stuff growing in our yards so everyone can enter some class or other in the horticulture section. It's as easy as snipping something from your garden and fitting it to a category.

If you have questions before our March meeting, contact either Kathy Woodlock or Sylvia Swartz or any one of the other Flower Show Committee members: (Sue Lawson, Nancy Colgan, Fran McIntyre.)

If you've already decided on a class you would like to enter, contact the Class consultant listed in the Schedule for an entry card. Entry cards will also be available at the March meeting.

Gardening and Butterfly Garden Design Classes

Rotary Park Environmental Center, 5505 Rose Garden Road, 239-549-4406.
Registration is required.

Florida Friendly Landscaping Classes:

Class 2: Tuesday 2/8 1-3 PM

Classes 3: Saturday 3/26, 10 AM -noon

Classes 4 Thursday, 4/28 2-4PM

Butterfly Garden Design:

Friday, Feb. 4 - 1-3 PM

Tree and Shrub Pruning

Saturday, 2/5 9 -11 AM

Design a Florida Friendly Yard:

Friday, 9 AM – noon, 4/1/ and 4/8

Don't forget – pre-registration is

REQUIRED.

The Parks and Recs Dept. also offers free nature talks suitable for all ages – take your grandkids:

Florida's Mammals: learn about all the mammals in SW Fl., including prehistoric mammals that once roamed our land:

Tuesday, 3/15 1 -2PM

Florida Snakes:

Tuesday, 1-2 PM 4/12 – learn about native snake species, how to identify venomous snakes and the importance of snakes as Mother Nature's pest control.

Wild Edibles Walk – 3/16 10 -11 AM

Maybe you'll see some of the plants that David Outerbridge described at last month's meeting.

All classes/activities at Rotary Park. More information available at information@capeparks.com where you will also find information on Guided Preserve Hikes at Eco Preserve and Rotary Park; Florida Friends Yards Tours; a *Nature of Cape Coral* Bus Tour;; information on the *Art of Nature Journaling* (an Introductory Series) and much much more.

Tour the **Butterfly House and Garden** at Rotary Park on any Monday, Friday, and Saturday weekly, 10:30 am.

Cape Coral Historical Society

If you're interested in the history of Cape Coral and would like to contribute to the running of the Society and Museum, the Cape Coral Historical Society is actively seeking people to join their Board.

Contact Janel Trull, Executive Director, for more information, or stop by the Historical Society, 544 Cultural Park Blvd., which is open on Thursday, Friday, and Saturday weekly.

The current focus exhibit is "All the News that's Fit to Print – Cape Coral's *The Breeze* newspaper.

Carolyn France, Master Gardener, and her colleague Master Gardeners who maintain the Historical Society Florida Friendly Certified Gardens, offer tours of the Gardens every Wednesday, 1 to 4 pm. October to May. While you're there, visit the Rose Garden too, which is maintained by a team of members led by Cynthia Mahoney and Cathy Atchison – who always need additional helpers to join the team – so contact Cynthia or Cathy if you are interested.

Upcoming Events

2/8 SW FL Orchid Society - Orchid Auction at Faith United Methodist Church, McGregor Blvd., Fort Myers 9 am – come early - sells out quickly

2/12 and 2/13: Edison-Ford Garden Festival, Edison-Ford Estates, McGregor Blvd., Fort Myers.

2/22 and 2/26 – Floral Arranging with
Tropicals, Edison-Ford Estates

2/24 and 2/25: **NGC Environmental
School** Class 1 at the Fort Myers-Lee
County Garden Council (FMLCGC), Virginia
Ave., Fort Myers.

For more information and to register visit
fmlcgardencouncil.com. or call Judy
Francino, series organizer, at
248-425-8713, email: jfrancino@att.net.

3/6 – *Art in Bloom* – the Caretaker's
Cottage at Edison-Ford Estates. See
works of art interpreted in flowers.
Entry \$5

3/18 – *Fun with Flowers* at FMLCGC,
10 AM to noon. Register on our website.
Open to the Public

The next newsletter will be published in
early March. Please send news, info on
events, suggestions, etc. to Editor, Sylvia
Swartz, tamargal2@aol.com