



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*

*I grow plants for many reasons: to please my soul, to challenge the elements or to challenge my patience, for novelty, or for nostalgia, but mostly for the joy in seeing them grow – David Hobson
(Courtesy Valorie Breen)*

NEWSLETTER SEPTEMBER 2022

WE'RE BACK and WE'VE MOVED!

Our first meeting of the new Season at 5:45 PM, on Wednesday, September 14 will be at our new regular venue, Palmetto Pine Country Club, off Skyline in the SW Cape. Address: 1940 SW 9th Ct, Cape Coral, FL 33991. Many of you who attended our anniversary lunch already know what a lovely place this is.

This social meeting will be a "Meet and Greet" – let's mingle and get to know one another. The business side of the meeting will be very short.

September Birthdays



Happy birthday wishes to all our September birthday babies!

Sherie Bleiler
Sue Lawson
Lois Luber
Paula Plum
Barbara Salafia
Nancy Wallin

Rachele Epp
Sue Los Huertos
Fran McIntyre
Chris Prestella
Penny Salvesen

Habitat for Humanity Landscaping Project



Progress on this year's home located at 1116 NW 14th St. has been slow. We have not yet been able to install the landscape but hope to get this done in September. Contact Habitat Committee Chair Lenore Hutchinson for more information.

Tropical Plant Bazaar



We are again participating in this sale and several members are contributing plants. The sale is on

Saturday, October 22 at Rotary Park, 5505

Rose Garden Rd., (at the very end of Pelican Blvd.) We will need members to help, and there will be sign-up sheets at the September meeting so pick your job! We need help with transporting (picking up plants the night before the sale and bringing them to Rotary Park at 8 AM on sale day (Saturday); plus two shifts helping at the sale. First shift will be 8 AM to 11:15 AM, and second shift 11:15 AM to 2:15 PM. First shift helps with set up and selling and second shift helps with selling and takedown. Last year's sale was very successful for the club, and we hope it will be again this year.

Fort Myers-Lee County Garden Council Meeting

The next meeting of the Council is on Friday, Sept. 9 at the Council building on Virginia Ave. in Fort Myers. Meeting begins at 9 AM with a social half hour. The speaker is FL Master Naturalist Tony Mauriello, who will be presenting a program on *FL Air Plants*. The meetings are usually over by 11:30 AM and it's a great way to get to know people from other clubs and plant societies in Lee County. All members of our club are welcome and encouraged to attend.

One new thing about the Council – we can now all borrow books from the Council's Mina Edison Botanical Library, thanks to their new Librarian Audrey Heneage. So, Friday the 9th would be a good day to check out what's available for your fall garden reading!

FFGC District IX Fall Meeting

President Ann recently sent out the "Call" to

the District IX Fall meeting in Estero on Tuesday, October 18. We, the Garden Club of Cape Coral, and the Fort Myers-Lee County Garden Council are jointly hosting this event and therefore we as a club have some responsibilities!

One particular responsibility is to provide the centerpieces for each table. Terry Fisher came up with the idea of planting coconuts with small plants as she did for last year's MIP plant booth, but she needs more coconut shells. If you can help with providing shells, please contact Terry ASAP so that the plants have time to grow and get established in the shells.

This is both an interesting business event and a fun social event so read all about it in the "Call" to register and send off your registration form to Libbie Curnow as noted in the registration instructions. It would be good to have a large turnout from the club since we are joint hosts.

Our Facebook Plant Swap Page

Membership Chair Terry Fisher manages this Facebook page for the club. If you don't already know about it - if you have plants to swap/looking for a plant; or want to share info on a plant or show off your plant – if you've found an interesting store or want friends to road trip with, visit the page. So many other things too as long as they are garden related. Currently 18 members use this page and there are probably lots more who would like to join so here's how: simply type into your browser search line: GardenClubPlantSwap.

Going Bats for Pest Management New Feature at Santa Rosa Extension

There is a new feature at the Santa Rosa County Extension office in recent days. The Master Gardener's worked closely with the County Extension Director and Horticulture Agent to install two bat houses. Hopefully, the houses will be filled with bats in the spring. The bat houses allow biological control of pest management in the garden. Why bats you may ask?

Biological control is a pillar of integrated pest management. It may seem a bit daunting, but the principle is simple. All things in nature have predators including insects. Biological control is simply building a conducive environment for the predators of undesired pests. One animal not often thought of in this capacity is the bat. Insectivores by nature, these underutilized creatures have a big impact to open spaces. Their steady diet of moths (Lepidoptera), beetles (Coleoptera) and flies (Diptera, which includes mosquitoes) reduce insect pressure to gardens and landscaping.

How effective can they possibly be? Pregnant females consume up to two thirds of their body weight through the summer months while rearing pups. Bats are small but keep in mind that these are not solitary animals. In south Texas, a single large colony consumes enough insects to save cotton farmers an estimated \$741,000 per year in insecticides. That is just to illustrate the point as you won't be able to attract a huge colony. There is no reason to believe a smaller colony will not provide similar services in your gardens.

How can you attract bats to your property? Installing a bat house is the easiest way. They are typically a two foot by one foot structure holding single or multiple chambers in which bats roost. The house provides shelter from predation and weather while supplying a place to rear pups. Though commercially available they may be built at home with minimal cost. One word of caution – do not use cedarwood. It is too aromatic. Place the bat house in a location with morning sun at least 12 feet off the ground. Ensure there is enough airflow around the house to keep them cool, but that the structure is watertight. Mount houses on poles next to a building and you'll have better success attracting residents. With everything in place, it is time to discover who will most likely be your new neighbor.



Remember: Bats are wild animals and should be treated as such. Never touch a bat on the ground as it most likely is not healthy. Bats do not generally cause issues but have been known to be disease vectors. Call a professional to collect the animal and never bring it into your home.

Bats can be a wonderful tool in controlling pests on your property. Creating habitat can help reduce pesticide need and cost to the homeowner. More info on the IFAS site:

<https://gardeningsolutions.ifas.ufl.edu/>

Whilst on the subject of UF/IFAS, mark your Calendar for the Collier County Master Gardeners Naples Yard and Garden Show, November 12-12. 9AM TO 4PM. The show will be at the UF/IFAS Extension Collier County Office, 14700 Immokalee Rd., Naples. You will find there beautiful, unique plants for your home – just in time for the holidays. Stay for lunch, cooked by parent of Collier County 4-H youth, free drawings for prizes, informative presentations and tour the lovely, renovated display gardens, full of ideas for your own yard.

Master Gardener volunteers will be available to answer your plant and pest questions. Admission is \$5 for adults – children under 12 free. Local vendors and independent farmers will offer choices of lush, climate appropriate tropical flower and foliage plants; plants to attract butterflies, hummingbirds, and other pollinators; trees to provide fruit, shade and/or enhance your green space and perennials of all kinds. For additional information, contact Jane Monti at jmonti@msn.com or Tom Becker at filizzi@ufl.edu.

Where Did You Go This Summer?

If you made a trip this summer to somewhere you would like to share, send a photo to

newsletter@gardenclubofcapecoral.com

Donna Schneider and her husband made it to Sequoia National Park, and here they are pictured against one of the giant Sequoias.



DONNA AND KIM SCHNEIDER AT SEQUOIA NATIONAL PARK, JUNE 2022

Hope you had a great time Donna and Kim!

Newsletter Editor Needed

If you would be willing to take on compiling the Club's monthly newsletter, which is published monthly Sept. to May, please contact either President Ann or President Elsa.

Upcoming Events:

Parks and Recs Classes. Rotary Park:

Rotary Park Environmental Center, 5505 Rose Garden Road, 239-549-4406. Call to register.

Butterfly Garden Design Sept 16 1 – 3PM, \$15.

Florida Friendly Landscaping Classes:

Sept. 24 10 to noon – free

Upcoming Events – cont.

FL Friendly Landscaping Tour of several locations: Oct 8, 9 to noon \$10.

Other Interesting Events:

Oct. 7-9 Redland International **Orchid Show**, Fruit & Spice Park, 24801 SW 187th Ave., Homestead, FL 10 AM – 5 PM

Oct. 14 – FMLCGC Pumpkin Social, Garden Council, Virginia Ave., Fort Myers, 1 PM.
RSVP to Susan Lawson,
slawson921@gmail.com

Oct. 22 James E. Hendry Chapter of the American Hibiscus Soc. Winter Sale at the Tropical Plant Bazaar, Rotary Park.

Nov.12-13 **Bonsai Society** 40th Annual Show & Sale, FMLCGC, 2166 Virginia Ave., Ft. Myers Sat. 9 AM –5 PM, Sun. 9 AM – 3 PM

Nov. 15 **Periwinkle Garden Club** Fundraiser Auction and Sale, Berne Davis Arts Center, 2301 First St. Fort Myers

Nov. 17-18 NGC Environmental School, “Land and Related Issues”, at FMLCGC, 8 AM – 5PM. Registration info available from Class Organizer, Judy Francino, jfrancino@att.net, or Registrar Bernie Hamera, bhamera@outlook.com

Nov. 19 **Poinciana Garden Club** Annual Plant and Treasure Sale, FMLCGC 8 AM

Edison-Ford Estates Events

Website for Registration:

<https://www.edisonfordwinterestates.org/>

October 1-2 – Orchid Sale & Symposium

November 19-20 – Fall Garden Festival

December 3-4 – Bromeliad Sale

Edison-Ford Garden Talks:

September 10 – Butterfly Gardening

November 12 – Designing a Cool Season Color Garden

December 10 – Make a Holiday Wreath

Edison-Ford Gardening

Classes Choose from Tuesday afternoon at 1:30 PM. or Saturday at 10 AM)

October 18 or October 22 – Vegetable Gardening for SW Florida

Cape Coral Museum of History:

CAPE CORAL MUSEUM OF HISTORY
Presents
GET YOUR KICKS ON ROUTE 66
October 7, 2022, 6:30 - 10:30pm
Join us as we celebrate another unique Rosen brother advertising method for our City!
Enjoy food, cocktails and two episodes of the 1960s tv show "Route 66" that were filmed right here in Cape Coral.
Tickets \$20 each
includes food and two drink tickets
6:30 - 7:30pm - Pre-show Food and Drinks at Museum
8:00 - 10:30pm - Episode viewing and silent auction area at Cultural Park Theater

Newsletter Online

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

<https://www.gardenclubofcapecoral.com/get-involved/newsletter/>

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