



GARDEN CLUB OF CAPE CORAL

*One small positive thought in the
morning can change your whole day.*

Anonymous

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

FEBRUARY 2023 NEWSLETTER

February 2023 Meeting

The February meeting will take place at Palmetto Pine Country Club. We look forward to seeing you there at our meeting on Wednesday, February 8, 2023, starting at 5:45 PM (1940 SW 9th Court, Cape Coral, off Skyline Boulevard). Cathy Dunn, Program Chair, has arranged for Beth Meehan, Lee County Master Gardener and President of the James E. Hendry Chapter of the American Hibiscus Society, to be our guest speaker. Beth will discuss the beautiful hybrid tropical Hibiscus and provide tips on growing this wonderful plant!



***February is short but it is filled with
lots of love and sweet surprises!***



***Wishing you an amazing day that's
blooming with love and happiness!***

Barbara Cohen – February 2nd
Pam Dawson – February 4th
Kay Davis – February 13th
Lynne Viacava – February 14th
Denise Gastringer – February 18th
Joanne Kishfy – February 19th
Lenore Hutchinson – February 23rd

SAVE THE DATE!!! UPCOMING GARDEN CLUB OF CAPE CORAL EVENTS

**February 16TH – Thursday
Let's Take a Trip to St. Petersburg
Sunken Gardens Bus Trip**

**February 22nd – Wednesday
Caladium Bagging Event
Cheryl Shaw's house**

**March 11th – Saturday
March in the Park – Jaycee Park**

**April 20th – Thursday
Butterfly Estates – Fort Myers
Lunch at Cristof's**

**April 15th – Saturday
New Member Tea and Garden Tour**

(Sign-up sheets will be available at the meeting)

Friends of the Cape Coral Library 50th Anniversary Celebration

The Friends of the Cape Coral Library held a 50th Anniversary Celebration on Saturday, January 21, 2023. Members of our garden club who maintain the butterfly garden at the library were also in attendance.



Garden Club Members: Susan Noble, Lois Luber, Sherie Bleiler, Cathy Atchison, Lynn Viacava and Cindy Wasilak

ECHO Global Farm – January 19, 2023

Some of the Garden Club members took a tour of the ECHO Global Farm on Thursday, January 19, 2023. The farm is located at 17391 Durance Road in North Ft. Myers. During the tour they discovered how simple technologies can improve food, water, and shelter for millions of people. More than 800 volunteers give over 75,000 hours of work yearly. More than 10,000 visitors tour the demonstration farm each year. Agricultural development workers from around the world spend from a few days to a few months at ECHO where they use the library, attend seminars and conferences, and work alongside the interns in their projects for practical, hands-on experience.



Sunken Gardens Bus Trip – February 16th

The bus trip to the Sunken Gardens in St. Petersburg will take place on Thursday, February 16, 2023. We currently have 32 people signed up for this wonderful excursion, but the bus holds 50 people. If you know of someone who might be interested in going, please contact Cindy Wasilak or Carol Arnholt (refer to membership directory for contact information). February 8th is the deadline to sign up for the trip. The bus will leave from the Sam's Club parking lot on Pine Island Road at 8:00 a.m. sharp. Hope to see you there!

Fun with Flowers – February 22nd

Fun with Flowers will be taking place on Wednesday, February 22, 2023. It will begin at 10:00 a.m. at the FMLCGC building – 2166 Virginia Avenue, Fort Myers. The cost is \$25 per person. If interested, please contact Susan Lawson (refer to membership directory for Susan's contact information). Please feel free to invite your family or friends.



March in the Park – February 11, 2023

Huge thanks to all the members who have already sent in their lists of the plants they will be able to bring to March in the Park. We really appreciate it. Final date to send in your list to Colleen Carty is February 8, the date of our next club meeting. It may seem that there's a lot of time between then and our event, but time is needed to confirm plant identification, make labels, assemble them and then finally sort them into packets for members to collect the labels for their plants together with pricing sticks and pricing guidance.

Thanks too to all those members who have signed up to help Terry Fisher and Ande Garlanger with planting dish gardens, marbelizing pots, making artsy air plant arrangements and dividing staghorn ferns. If you haven't signed up for one of those events and would like to, contact Terry or Ande (contact information is in membership directory).

We also have a Thrift booth so if you have any garden or plant related items you would like to donate, please contact Denise Gastringer. If you didn't pick up your Opportunity Drawing tickets at last month's meeting from Penny Salvesen and Twila Thalberg, you'll be able to do it at the upcoming meeting. We are also hoping that members will solicit prizes for our opportunity drawing from the hairdressers you visit, your masseuse, your cosmetologist, restaurants you frequent, florists, etc. – anyone who will be willing to donate a gift certificate to our worthy causes: monetary scholarships for Cape Coral High School students; the support we give to FFGC's Camp Wekiva and S.E.E.K.; local school gardening projects; and last but not least, donations to Rotary Park Butterfly garden in memory of members who have passed away.

Sign-up sheets will again be available at our club meeting or, if you can't attend and want to sign up for a particular job, contact Sylvia Swartz who will be happy to help you. As always, thanks to everyone for helping with this, our major fund raiser of the year. If you are new to the club and need more information about the event, contact Cathy Dunn or Sylvia Swartz, Co-chairs of our Ways and Means Committee. March in the Park only succeeds as a team effort!



Design Group Meeting – January 19, 2023

The club's design group – a gathering of members interested in learning floral design – met at the home of Nancy Colgan on January 19 to learn the principles of mass design. A different type of design will be taught at each meeting. Before embarking on design constructions, Kathy Woodlock, the group's leader, discussed the aims of the group:

- To instruct interested learners in the art of floral design.
- To visit local Flower Shows to learn by observing the work of others – we will carpool and make it a fun excursion with lunch at a restaurant local to the show being visited.
- The group will meet on the 3rd Monday of each month.
- The group needs a name – ideas will be discussed at the next meeting.

Nancy Colgan will facilitate carpooling to the Judges Flower Show at the Fort Myers-Lee County Garden Council on February 9, 2023. The next meeting of this group will take place on February 20, 2023 (location to be determined). So, mark your calendars, and contact Kathy Woodlock if you would like to join this group. It's very informal and a lot of fun. Kathy, Nancy and Sue Lawson helped each of the novice designers put together their arrangements.



“Ag Ventures” - What mutual help is all about! – January 20, 2023

For the last couple of years, including this year, member Colleen Carty has obtained a family Kayak trip as a prize in our Opportunity Drawing at March in the Park. The kayak tours are organized by Tish Roland, 4-H Youth Development Agent with UF IFAS Extension Service who requested the garden club’s help at “Ag Ventures” one of the annual events every January at the Immokalee Livestock Show. Three volunteers from the club, Ande Garlanger, Terry Fisher and Sylvia Swartz wondering what they had let themselves in for, had a blast as what turned out to be a very fun event. First graders from several schools rotated through five stations:

- Station 1 – making seed necklaces with the Garden Club of Cape Coral (how appropriate!)
- Station 2 – petting baby goats
- Station 3 – hands on time with rabbits
- Station 4 – Learning about the importance of recycling
- Station 5 – learning about butterflies

The photos below show Ande and Terry instructing the first group about how seeds grow and what they need to grow. Every kid in each group that rotated through got to make their own seed necklace using a pinto bean nestled in a damp cotton ball in a small ziplock bag hung on a rope of gaily colored wool. Some kids could tie knots, others couldn’t but they all went onto the next station proudly wearing their seed necklaces. Ande said: “we all had so much fun doing this and will certainly be there again next year.”



Garden Club of Cape Coral – 2022 Club Service Award



Congratulations to Charlene Anderson who received the 2022 Club Service Award at the January club meeting!!



Gardening Tip of the Day!

BANANAS!! Keep a pitcher or glass container mostly filled with water. As you eat bananas, add the peels to the water until the container is full or you run out of bananas. Cover the container to prevent mold from forming. After a few weeks, the peels will turn black and the water will darken. Once you notice this, strain the water from the peels and apply the banana water to your plants!



Garden Club of Cape Coral Merit Scholarship Award

The application process for the 2023 Garden Club of Cape Coral Merit Scholarship Awards is now open! Application information and forms are available on garden club website. Please read all application parts and follow the instructions carefully to complete your application. Deadline for completed applications including supporting documentation is Midnight, Friday, February 17, 2023.



Other Local Flower Events

February 9, 2023 - Judges Flower Show

Title: "A Piece of Cake"

Location: FMGC Building

Time: 12:30 - 3:00 p.m.

March 17-18, 2023 - Naples Flower Show

Title: "Just Imagine"

Location: Naples Botanical Garden

Note: Flower Show is free but there is an entrance fee to Botanical Garden

Time: 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

March 31st - April 1st FMLC Council Show

Title: "All that Glitters"

Location: FMLC Building

Time: March 31 - 1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.

April 1 - 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

February 24 – 25, 2023 - Gulf Coast Garden Club

Title "Visiting the Library"

Location: New Library 105 Reynolds Street

Bonita Springs FL

Time: February 24 - 1:00 p.m. -5:00 p.m.

Time: February 25 - 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

March 21, 2023 – Punta Gorda Flower Show

Title: "Salute to Broadway"

Location: Isles Yacht Club

1780 Marion Ave, Punta Gorda, FL

Time: 1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.

April 7, 2023 - Strolling Flower Show

(additional information in the next newsletter)



UF|IFAS Extension – What to Plant in February

Annuals/Bedding plants: Good performers in south Florida's mild winter include impatiens, verbena, dianthus, strawflower, and lobelia.

Bulbs: Many bulbs can be planted now. Divide large, crowded clumps. Provide adequate water for establishment. Some examples include Amazon lily, crinum, and agapanthus.

Groundcovers: Consider replacing areas of grass with drought-tolerant, low-maintenance groundcovers.

Vegetables: Winter vegetable gardening is in full swing. Last month to plant cantaloupes, cucumbers, eggplant, lettuce, peppers, spinach, and tomatoes for a late spring harvest. Protect crops in the unlikely event of a frost or freeze.

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

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

Comments and suggestions are always welcome!

Please contact me at newsletter@gardenclubofcapecoral.com

Donna Schmidt