



## GARDEN CLUB OF CAPE CORAL

*When a man moves away from nature,  
his heart becomes hard.*

**Lakota proverb**

### JANUARY 2023 NEWSLETTER

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

### *January 2023 Meeting*

The January meeting will take place at Palmetto Pine Country Club. We look forward to seeing you there at our meeting on Wednesday, January 11, 2023 starting at 5:45 p.m. (1940 SW 9th Court, Cape Coral, off Skyline Boulevard). Cathy Dunn, Program Chair, has lined up a great speaker – Heather Cook Gonzalez, Lee County Master Gardener Volunteer, will be our guest speaker at the January meeting. Her presentation is titled "Confessions of a Flower Eater" and she will share techniques to grow, harvest and prepare edible flowers that will make your appetizers bloom and your cocktails blossom. Heather was a speaker at March in the Park last year and she is not only very knowledgeable - her enthusiasm is contagious! Don't miss this engaging speaker!



*A new year means a new chapter. I hope  
2023 is an incredible part of your story!*



*It's your special day – get out there and  
celebrate!!*

Sylvia Swartz – January 1<sup>st</sup>  
Becky Ruben – January 5<sup>th</sup>  
Mary Ann Sedlock – January 7<sup>th</sup>  
Terry Fisher – January 8<sup>th</sup>  
Christine Prestella – January 15<sup>th</sup>  
Charlene Anderson – January 17<sup>th</sup>  
Barbara Ternon – January 17<sup>th</sup>

### **\*\*\*SAVE THE DATE\*\*\* UPCOMING GARDEN CLUB OF CAPE CORAL EVENTS**

**January 19<sup>TH</sup> - Thursday  
ECHO Global Farm Tour**

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

**February 22<sup>nd</sup> – Wednesday  
Caladium Bagging Event  
Cheryl Shaw's house**

**February 22<sup>nd</sup> – Wednesday  
Fun with Flowers**

**March 11<sup>th</sup> – Saturday  
March in the Park – Jaycee Park**

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

# Annual Holiday Party

The holiday luncheon was a great success – 85 people attended the event!! So much fun was had by all.



***Special thanks to our GCCC Board for making the Holiday Party happen! And a VERY special thanks to John Nugent (Beverly Nugent's husband).***



# Wreaths Across America

On Saturday, December 17, 2022, Paula Plum (Chair) and Cheryl Shaw, who maintain the garden at the Blue Star Memorial Marker in Eco Park, participated in the Wreaths Across America ceremony. Wreaths were laid at the Blue Star Memorial Marker in memory of those who have proudly served our country.



## Butterfly Garden Progress

While each of us have been dealing with hurricane damage on our personal property, the Butterfly Garden committee has been busy cleaning up our garden at the SW Cape Coral Library. A big THANK YOU to our committee members: Cathy Atchison, Sherie Bleiler (Chair), Valorie Breen, Debbie Clements, Sue Dues, Joanne Kishfy, Lois Lubber, Elsa Schutzman and Cindy Wasilak.

The FOCCL (Friends of the Cape Coral Library) volunteer group has donated \$8,000 to enhancing the butterfly garden. We now have a deck box to store our gardening equipment tucked behind the palm trees! There are 2 new tables, which will soon have umbrellas adding more shade. The pergola has a shade cloth over the top, cooling off that area also. Plants are gradually

leafing out and beginning to bloom once again, enticing the butterflies to return. The leak, by the door at the entrance to the garden, has been fixed. It is now open to the public once again!! You are all welcome to sit awhile and enjoy the garden.



## Upcoming Trips

A trip has been planned to tour the ECHO Global Farm on Thursday, January 19, 2023. The farm is located at 17391 Durance Road in North Ft. Myers. Please meet at 9:00 a.m. at Sam's Club on Pine Island Road in the far west front parking lot. The fee is \$10.50 for the tour. There will be a buffet lunch at Misto after the tour. Misto is located at 231 Del Prado Boulevard in Cape Coral. The buffet lunch is \$25.00.

A bus trip is planned for Thursday, February 16, 2023. Let's take a trip to St. Petersburg Sunken Gardens!! The cost will be \$50.00 for the bus and \$12.00 for your entrance to the Sunken Gardens. Book your seat now by signing up at our January 11<sup>th</sup> meeting. Please make out a check in the amount of \$62.00 made payable to Garden Club of Cape Coral. There is a minimum of 30 people to book this bus trip. The bus will be leaving at 8:00 a.m. Meet at the Sam's Club on Pine Island Road in the far west front parking lot. The bus will return around 5:00 p.m. Lunch will be on your own at the Carrabba's, Panera or Outback Steakhouse near the Sunken Gardens. Let's get this show on the road! Deadline to sign up is January 20<sup>th</sup>. Please see Carol or Cindy with any questions or to turn in your checks.



## March in the Park – Saturday, March 11, 2023

March in the Park is a little over two months away!! Please look for the sign-up sheets at the next meeting. Also, please email Colleen Carty and Sylvia Swartz the list of plants you will be donating. A number of meetings will be taking place to prepare for this wonderful event. Mark your calendar for the caladium bagging event scheduled for Wednesday, February 22<sup>nd</sup> at Cheryl Shaw’s house. Additional information will be provided via email. Behind every successfully organized event there is an extraordinary team of volunteers!!



## Scholarships

The scholarship application information for 2023 and the application forms are now active on the Garden Club of Cape Coral website for all club members and the public to view – if they are interested or just curious.

Second, the Merit Scholarship committee will have a table/booth set up at March in the Park this year to spread word about the scholarships to the public. We hope this will draw more attention to these awards and encourage people to buy plants and other merchandise from the Garden Club, as this function provides the funding for the scholarships each year.

Also, the Florida Federation of Garden Clubs, the National Garden Clubs, Inc., and the Deep South Region are proud to sponsor a variety of youth programs, high school and college scholarships for Florida residents. If you have a family member or a friend or neighbor who might be interested in applying for a scholarship, this is the perfect time to share this link – <https://ffgc.org/Youth-Programs>. The Federation is actively looking for applicants.



## Treating Cold and Damaged Plants – UF/IFAS Article

As we know, January and February are the coldest months in Florida and plants can be damaged by low temperatures. But with your help, cold-damaged plants can often recover.

### Water

After a freeze, check the soil around your plants. Plants may not be getting the water they need if the soil has dried out or if the water in the soil is frozen.

Watering the area can help defrost the soil and provide your plants with an available source of moisture. Even injured plants need water.

### Fertilizer

While you may be tempted to add a little fertilizer to your plants to help speed their recovery hold off. If you fertilize too early you could encourage new growth before cold weather has gone. It's best to wait until spring to begin fertilizer application. Once the danger of frost has passed, an application of fertilizer can help speed recovery.

## **Pruning**

Don't prune cold-damaged plants right away. The dead foliage looks bad but will help insulate plants from further injury. In the spring, assess the extent of the damage by scraping the bark with your fingernail. Cold-injured wood will be black or brown under the bark. To be certain where to prune, wait until plants begin to sprout new growth.

Herbaceous plants like impatiens and begonias that are damaged by the cold may collapse. If this happens, it's best to cut them down and remove the plants to prevent fungal or bacterial problems from arising as they decay.

## **Lawn**

Seeing your lawn turn brown during the winter can be worrying for some homeowners; however, this is a normal part of your lawn's winter dormancy. Come spring time your lawn should rebound and begin producing new green growth.

But when hard freezes hit, your turfgrass may be injured. If temperatures suddenly fall below 20 degrees Fahrenheit, your lawn may be permanently damaged. The grass may initially appear wilted, and then turn to a whiteish or brown color. It may mat to the ground and smell putrid. If your lawn does not recover in the spring, you may have to replace some of the grass with sod pieces or plugs.



## **Gardening Tip of the Day!**

**EGGS!!** Place a whole raw egg into your planter! It slowly decomposes and becomes natural fertilizer under the soil!

Also, don't throw out the water you boil your eggs in. The water contains tons of calcium your plants will thrive from. Just let the water cool and pour it into the soil around your plants.

## **OTHER FUN GARDENING ACTIVITIES**



### **Garden Council**

The General Council Meeting for all Society and Club Members will take place on Friday, January 13, 2023, at the Garden Council Headquarters, 2166 Virginia Avenue in Fort Myers. The doors open at 9:00 a.m. and the meeting starts at 9:30 a.m. Heather Gonzalez will be the guest speaker and the topic will be "Edible Flowers."

There will be a Garden Council Mardi Gras social on Wednesday, February 22nd, 2023. They will offer an opportunity to create something crafty to take home to celebrate the season. There is a nominal fee of \$5.00 for supplies. Bring a friend and make some new friends. Sign up will be available at the General Council January 13<sup>th</sup> meeting.



### **Edison Ford Winter Estates**

Gardening classes are being offered on Tuesday, January 24<sup>th</sup> or Saturday, January 28<sup>th</sup> - Intro to Florida Gardening Part 1 and on Tuesday, January 31<sup>st</sup> or Saturday, February 4<sup>th</sup> - Intro to Florida Gardening Part 2. The two-hour programs include classroom and garden time. Space is limited and registration is required. Choose from Tuesdays at 1:30 p.m. or Saturdays at 10:00 a.m.

The Annual Spring Garden Festival is taking place on February 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup>, 2023. This is their biggest plant sale of the year. The hours are 9 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. Additional information – [www.EdisonFord.org](http://www.EdisonFord.org).



## FMLCGC and the River District Alliance of Fort Myers Strolling Flower Show

The Strolling Flower Show is returning to Downtown Fort Myers again Friday, February 3rd and Saturday, February 4th, 2023. The Fort Myers-Lee County Garden Council and the River District Alliance of Fort Myers are collaborating to make this event even bigger and better than last year! They are planning to decorate 13 sites within the River District and are hoping that a variety of garden clubs and plant societies will participate. The designs and plant displays will not be formally judged, but there will be a “People’s Choice” voting opportunity. Last year’s winner was The Hibiscus Society! There will be indoor and outdoor, large and small design or display options. Get your friends together, teams of designers and plant lovers are fine! Exhibits will be placed by 1:00 p.m. on Friday February 3rd and the “People’s Choice” voting will run through 10:00 p.m. that evening. Displays will be removed on Sunday morning. On Friday evening there will also be plant and gardening based vendors along First Street and there is booth space available for FMLCGC members who may wish to participate. Contact Sue Fero at [SDF40@aol.com](mailto:SDF40@aol.com) for more information.

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](mailto:newsletter@gardenclubofcapecoral.com)

Donna Schmidt