



## GARDEN CLUB OF CAPE CORAL

*Always end the night with a positive thought.  
No matter how hard the day may have been,  
there is always a reason to be grateful.  
Let tomorrow be a fresh start.  
- Power of Positivity*

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

## APRIL 2023 NEWSLETTER



***Welcome April! Wishing you a  
wonderful month filled with love  
and happiness!***



***Cheers to another year!! May all your  
birthday wishes come true!!***

Claude Anderson – April 6  
Peggy Cruz – April 8  
Maria Rico Valle – April 10  
Susie Tribula – April 20  
Janet Franzen – April 23  
Sarah Hogan – April 24  
Alessia Leathers – April 26

### *April 2023 Meeting*

The April meeting will take place at Palmetto Pine Country Club. We look forward to seeing you there at our meeting on Wednesday, April 12, starting at 5:45 p.m. (1940 SW 9th Court, Cape Coral, off Skyline Boulevard). Co-Chairs Cheryl Byrd and Bonnie Manuel will present the 2023 Marty Ward Merit Awards to several young people from the Cape Coral area.

Our business meeting will follow which will include nominations for the Garden Club's board members for the 2023-2025 term.



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

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

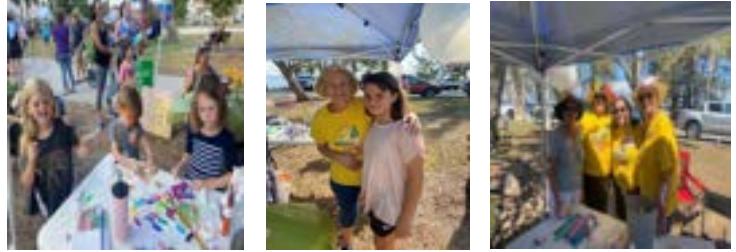
**May 13 – Saturday  
Butterfly Estates – Fort Myers  
Lunch at Cristof's**

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



# March in the Park 2023

March in the Park 2023 was a huge success! The day started out with a little bit of rain right before setting up ... after that the weather was wonderful with lots of sunshine. We had over 1,600 plants available for purchase along with 60 vendors! It was a perfect day and a great fundraiser for the Garden Club. A huge thank you to Cathy Dunn and Sylvia Swartz, cochairs of the Ways and Means Committee, as well as to all of the other volunteer!



*Special thanks  
to our DJ  
Bruce Lawson!!*





## Garden Council Berne Davis Luncheon April 4

Charlene Anderson was nominated for the Berne Davis Tree of Life Honorary Award at the Garden Council luncheon that took place at Crown Colony Country Club on Tuesday, April 4. Congratulations Charlene!! We are so proud of you!!



## Fun with Flowers – April 14

Fun with Flowers will be taking place on Friday, April 14. 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 and friends.



## Other Local Flower and Gardening Events

**April 7 – Downtown Ft. Myers River District – Strolling Flower Show – 6:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m.**

The Fort Myers-Lee County Garden Council has partnered with The River District Alliance to bring the beauty of flowers to the downtown area. The garden council will be transforming the window fronts of the local businesses for a one-night only exhibition during the April Art Walk. Hope you will be able to attend this one-of-a-kind window display.

**April 7 – April 8 – Edison & Ford Winter Estates – Grow Fort Myers Plant Sale and Workshops**

Friday, April 7 - 12:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. – Plant Sale Only

Saturday, April 8 - 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. – Plant Sale and Workshops

Additional information as well as ticket information for workshops is available on-line at [Fort Myers Museums, Attractions, Things To Do | Edison Ford Winter Estates.](#)

**April 7 and April 14 – Rotary Park Cape Coral – Design A Florida Friendly Yard – 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.**

The City of Cape Coral is offering this workshop with the help of experienced horticulturalists in the area. You will be designing a personalized landscape so bring a drawing of your yard. This program meets on Friday, April 7 and Friday, April 14. Participants need to attend both days. The fee is \$20. Registration is available at

<https://webtrac.capecoral.gov/wbwsc/webtrac.wsc/search.html>.

(Note: This is a great resource to search for other gardening and social events taking place in Cape Coral.)

**April 15 – FMLCGC Headquarters - Bonsai Society Public Auction & Picnic – 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.**

This Annual Auction will take place on Saturday, April 15. Many Bonsai items will be for sale. There will be a Styling Competition, a silent auction, a live auction and raffles. They will have "Smilin' Dave's Grab 'N Go" and a picnic. Parking will be available on Larchmont Street. Additional information is available on-line at [Bonsai Society of Southwest Florida, Inc. \(bonsaiswfl.org\)](#). (Note: Visitors are also welcome to tour the Garden Council on the third Saturday of each month, from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m., to learn more about the art of Bonsai.)

**April 22 – Dunbar-Jupiter Hammon Public Library – The Garden Gurus - Butterfly Basics – 2:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.**

The class on Saturday, April 22 is free! The class will be at the library located at 3095 Blound Street, Fort Myers. Pre-registration is recommended. Butterfly Basics will cover the four life stages of butterflies and will focus on four types of butterflies that are found throughout SW Florida. The plants that attract these butterflies in their different stages will be discussed as well. Colorful butterfly and garden pictures will help you to envision the steps you need to take to start a butterfly garden of your own. Search on-line for [The Garden Gurus of Lee County present online: 2022/23 Gardening Series, April 22 2023 | Online Event | AllEvents.in.](#)

**April 22 – Rotary Park Cape Coral – Native Plant Sale – 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.**

The plant sale takes place on Saturday, April 22. Shop from a variety of shrubs, native trees and flowers, grasses, butterfly plants as well as tropical edibles. Plant experts will be on hand to answers questions and help you choose the right plant.

**April 22 – Rotary Park Cape Coral – Florida Friendly Landscaping (FFL) Program – Rain Barrell Workshop – 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.**

During the native plant sale, you can also find time to make and take home a rain barrel and learn why it’s a great idea. To register and pre-pay (\$50 fee) call Rotary Park (239-549-4606).



**Post Hurricane Ian Planting Guide - Sanibel Captiva Conservation Foundation**

In this resource guide provided by the Sanibel Captiva Conservation Foundation, the garden center staff answers some of the most frequently asked questions after the hurricane. The staff also identifies 57 of the most resilient species of palms, trees, shrubs, and groundcovers – including wildflowers, grasses, and ferns – that survived Ian. Here is the link to the guide - [SCCF Post-Hurricane Ian Replanting Guide.](#)



**Board Member Nominations for 2023-2025 Term**

At the April monthly meeting, Terry Fisher will announce the nominations for the 2023-2025 Board and conduct the voting. Below is the list of members along with their proposed positions.

- President - Donna Schmidt
- First Vice President - Cathy Dunn
- Second Vice President - Terry Fisher
- Treasurer - Patty Lyons
- Assistant Treasurer - Susan Noble
- Recording Secretary - Charlene Anderson
- Corresponding Secretary - Valorie Breen



**Reminder - Garden Club Dues**

A friendly reminder that the club’s annual dues are due. Please make your check made payable to: Garden Club of Cape Coral. Terry Fisher, Membership Chair, will be at the April monthly meeting to collect payment. Payment must be received before May 1 to qualify to be a district member and to include your picture in the new membership directory. If you are not able to attend a meeting, please mail your check to:

Garden Club of Cape Coral  
Attention: Membership Chair  
PO Box 152022  
Cape Coral, FL 33915

Rates for 2023-2024 dues are as follows:  
\$30 individuals  
\$45 couples

It is also time to provide any address, phone number, or emergency contact changes for the new membership directory which will be distributed in the fall. If you would like a new directory picture, please see Carmen Sprague at the April meeting.



## Name Tags

Upgraded name tags are currently available. If you requested a new upgraded name tag at the March meeting, please contact Terry Fisher (Terry's information is in the member directory). If you wish to purchase an upgraded name tag at a cost of \$8.00, please see Terry at the April meeting.



## The Ground Diaries – New Addition to the Newsletter

The Garden Club will now have a new question and answer section in the newsletter – *The Ground Diaries*. Each month we will have a question that has been submitted by one of the members of the club. As we know gardening in southwest Florida can be very challenging. Many of our members are very knowledgeable about gardening in Cape Coral. Some of our members, who are also Master Gardeners, have been trained to research questions on the UF/IFAS website. While this is researched information, sometimes the common knowledge our members have can be just as helpful. Below is the first question submitted by Bonnie Klockner. Dale Manuel, one of the club's Master Gardeners, has provided the answer to the question. If you have any questions or would like to be on the panel to answer questions, please contact Donna Schmidt.

Question: How much amending of the Cape Coral soil do you need to do before planting a flowering plant and what is best to use?

Answer: Soil remediation for Cape Coral - Most of Cape Coral was developed from canal dredging or hauled in sand. This is most noticeable when viewing new construction sites. Also adding to the soil composition are construction materials, foundation cement and block, increase soil PH. This results in higher PH soils, above 7 which is neutral. Generally plants prefer a PH of 7 or lower, with some plants, such as Gardenias or Azaleas which prefer a PH of 5.5 to 6.5.

When considering remediation of soil in Cape Coral, chemical treatments with sulfur-based products will not offer a long-term solution since soil PH will wash out. Alternatives are viable.

First choose plants which tolerate higher levels of PH. This guide is very valuable: [Plant Guide - Florida-Friendly Landscaping™ Program - University of Florida, Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences - UF/IFAS \(ufl.edu\)](#).

Secondly, mixing peat, plant compost or animal manure soils with higher PH ones is very beneficial. These are available at big box or landscape stores. Recommended rate is at equal parts.

Third, completely removing the soil for the plant or garden bed at least 12" deep and 12" wider than the planted root ball and replacing with a topsoil which is neutral in PH.

Footnote: Do not plant closer than 3' to the house foundation for two reasons: First, the soil PH will be at its highest level and secondly natural plant DNA thrives in a 360 degree direction.

**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**