



## GARDEN CLUB OF CAPE CORAL

*A mistake that makes you humble is  
better than an achievement that  
makes you arrogant.*

**Quotling**

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

### MARCH 2023 NEWSLETTER



***Dear March, bring colors to my life  
as you bring to the earth!***



***Wishing you the happiest and the  
brightest day ever!!***

Colleen Carty – March 3  
Kathy Rabassi – March 9  
Karen Kight – March 15  
Twila Thalberg – March 23  
Justine Oess – March 23  
Zoe Abernathie – March 24  
Elizabeth Guilfoyle – March 31

### ***March 2023 Meeting***

The March meeting will take place at Palmetto Pine Country Club. We look forward to seeing you there at our meeting on Wednesday, March 8, starting at 5:45 p.m. (1940 SW 9th Court, Cape Coral, off Skyline Boulevard). As is our tradition, we will not have a guest speaker for the March club meeting, but rather a review of all the logistics for March in the Park! This is a very important meeting, and we encourage all our members to attend so that our set-up for the sale goes smoothly on Saturday, March 11.



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

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

**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

Don't forget to return to Penny Salvesen 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 - 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. You can also mail your stubs to Penny Salvesen with the check - see refer to membership directory for address. If you haven't yet picked up your tickets, see Penny and Twila at the Opportunity Drawing Table near the Membership table at the March meeting.

Thanks to all who attended the label making and tablecloth making gathering. It was such a productive morning and only took about two hours to get everything done and everyone had fun too!

Many thanks also to all the members who have grown plants for MIP. Your plant labels can be picked up from 4030 SW 9th Place, Cape Coral beginning March 1. They will be on the front porch. Your label packets will include pricing guidance and blank pricing sticks. Please write the price in permanent blank ink without a dollar sign - just a number. If you are missing labels, call Sylvia Swartz. Please no additional plants - the list closed February 8. Plants need to be at Jaycee Park as soon as possible after 7:00 a.m. Place plants near the table with the same color tablecloth as the plant label.

Members have donated more than 1,500 plants for our plant booth which is a record number and many are plants that we haven't had before so that's very exciting.

Most of the MIP job slots have been filled and you will receive a telephone call telling you the job you signed up for and reconfirming time slots.

Cathy Dunn and Sylvia Swartz, Co-chairs of the Ways and Means Committee, thank you all SO MUCH for committing to making this year's event a resounding success. Now we just need the weather to co-operate!



March in the Park - March 12, 2022

## 14<sup>th</sup> Annual Berne Davis Honorary Service Award Luncheon - April 4

The 14th Annual Berne Davis Honorary Service Award Luncheon will take place on Tuesday, April 4 at the Crown Colony Country Club, 8851 Crown Colony Boulevard, Fort Myers, FL 33908. Susan Lawson, a former President and current member of our club and President of the Garden Council, was the recipient of the Tree of Life Award in 2022. The cost is \$35 per person. If you are interested in attending, Ann Block sent out an email on February 28 that includes the reservation form to attend the service award luncheon. The deadline to submit the form along with payment is March 28th.

## 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 or friends.

## Burrowing Owl Festival – February 25

The Garden Club set up a tent at the Cape Coral Friends of Wildlife’s 21<sup>st</sup> Annual Burrowing Owl Festival that took place on February 25. Denise Petersen (chair of the Garden Club’s Outreach Committee), Denise Gastringer, Francesca McIntyre, Ginny Huffer, Janice Johnson, and Sherry Embrey were there to represent the club. Denise said, “I was told last year’s event, which I had also attended, had over 5,000 people there. I don’t know what the final count was this year, but there seemed to be at least, if not more, people in attendance this year. Children even had face painting and other activities at their own table.” Here are a few pictures from this annual event.



## Bus Trip to Sunken Gardens – February 16

On Thursday, March 16, some of the Garden Club members, along with a few guests, set out on a new adventure to the Sunken Gardens in St. Petersburg. Thank you, Cindy and Carol, for organizing this fantastic bus trip!! The weather was perfect for a stroll through the amazing gardens. The garden is a botanical paradise in the midst of the city. The bus driver did a wonderful job maneuvering through the tiny streets. The garden is over 100 years old and is St. Pete’s oldest living museum. The gardens were created by George Turner, Sr., a plumber. In 1903 he drained a shallow lake that was actually an ancient sinkhole! The paths guide visitors through a living collection of thousands of plant species, lush tropical plants and flowers, cascading waterfalls, and a flock of flamingos. We played a trivia game on the way up and Sylvia won the prize for correctly answering the most questions. Here are a few pictures, some with comments, about this wonderful trip.



# Sunken Gardens...



Nancy Finnegan - The beautiful flamingos!



Karen Kight - I thought the waterfall and fish made a lovely view!



Sylvia Swartz - The flamingos were both beautiful and fascinating to watch



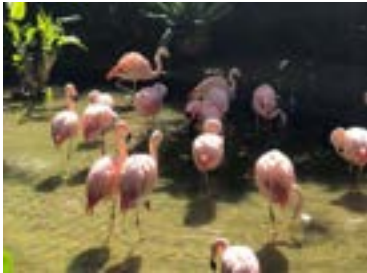
Lois Lubber - The new sign ... beautiful and classic design



Joanne Kishfy - Bougainvillea 20 feet high



Cindy Wasilak - Elsa and I had similar thoughts about the deepest section



Carol Arnholt - Beautiful flamingos and peaceful setting



Bonnie Klockner - Beautiful tranquility and a lovely group of friends



Sherry Embrey - the Old Man Palm, Coccothrinax crinita



Donna Schmidt - So peaceful



Carol and Cindy



Betty McCullough



## 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 March and April monthly meetings 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



## Other Local Flower Events

March 17-18 - 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 18 – Rotary Park Tropical Plant Sale

Location: 5505 Rose Garden Road

Cape Coral, FL 33914

Time: 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

March 21 – 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.

March 31 - April 1 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.

April 7 - Strolling Flower Show  
(additional information in the next newsletter)



## Garden Council News

The Annual/General meeting of the Garden Council is taking place on Friday, March 10. Members will be voting on the slate of incoming 2023-2024 board members and the budget. Please feel free to attend and participate in the vote. The proposed slate of officers includes our very own Sylvia Swartz who is running for President!



## Rotary Club of Cape Coral Events – Florida-Friendly Landscaping Program

The Florida-Friendly Landscaping Program is offering gardening and family activities that will be taking place at the Rotary Park in Cape Coral. The Florida Yards and Neighborhoods (FYN) or Florida Friendly Landscaping (FFL) Program is a partnership between the landscape industry, the University of Florida Cooperative Extension Service, Florida's National Estuary Programs, Florida's Sea Grant College Program, and various State and local environmental agencies. The program focuses on yards, as they are the first line of defense for estuaries, rivers, lakes, aquifers, and the City's canal system. For more information, click on this link - [Welcome to Cape Coral, FL](#). For questions or to register for the activities, please call 239-549-4606. Thank you, Sherie Blieler, for sharing this 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**