

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

NOVEMBER 2023 GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING



The November meeting will take place at Lake Kennedy Center. We look forward to seeing you there on Wednesday, November 8th, starting at 5:45 p.m. (400 Santa Barbara Boulevard – Cape Coral). Cathy Dunn, Program Chair, has arranged for Barbara Manzo, Chair of eYes on Conservation 2020 Coalition, to be our guest speaker.

Barbara will be speaking to us about the Conservation 2020 program; their mission is to monitor Lee County's purchasing and management of Conservation 20/20 properties and important issues relating to growth and threats to our water supply, water management, wildlife habitat and conservation of natural resources. Barbara will also discuss the Conservation Coalition's Gardens at Lake Parks in Ft Myers. We hope you can join us for this important presentation about conserving our green spaces in Lee County!

*You often feel tired, not because you've done too much,
but because you've done too little of what sparks a light
in you.*

— Alexander Den Heijer

NOVEMBER 2023

Editor--Donna Schmidt

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Table of Contents

Page 2

Happy Birthday Members

Tropical Plant Sale

Page 3

Rose Garden Team

Page 4

Rose Garden Team (continued)

Save the Dates

Florida Arbor Day

Page 5

Cups of Cheer

Rotary Park Environmental Center
Other Local Flower and Garden Events

Page 6

Help Wanted

Pelican Elementary School

Holiday Party

Page 7

Chores and Planting Guide October
District IX Meeting

Page 8

Burroughs Home & Gardens

Page 9

Jean Shields Memorial

Page 10

Garden Club Trips

Did You Know!!

Message from the President



Happy Birthday to our members celebrating in November!!

Beverly Nugent – November 3

Janice Johnsen – November 8

Nancy Colgan – November 11

Sally Stevens – November 23

Cynthia Wasilak – November 24

Patty Lyon – November 27

TROPICAL PLANT SALE – OCTOBER 21st

The Tropical Plant Sale that took place on October 21st was a tremendous success!! The Garden Club made over \$1,700 between plant sales and the Thrift Booth. It was a beautiful day except for a few drops of rain. Thank you to the members who took the time to grow plants over the last few months, the members who helped to create the labels, and the volunteers who helped the day of the event. There were a few plants left over that were donated to Raydiant Healthcare in North Ft. Myers and to Pelican Elementary School.



Rose Garden Maintenance Team

By Cynthia Mahoney

Last month I gave you an overview of what we did at the Historical Society Rose Garden.

Here are the members of the team.



Marilou Lucas & Peggy Cruz



Paula Plum



Janice Johnsen & Cynthia Mahoney

Many thanks to those who have served in the past!!

Volunteers always needed; we will train you!!

Rose Garden Maintenance Team

By Cynthia Mahoney
(continued)



“Mrs B. R. Cant” and “Rosette Delizzie” bushes donated by Jancie Johnsen in 2022.

Save the Dates – GCCC and Garden Council Meetings and Events through December

November 8 - GCCC General Membership Meeting
November 10 - FMLC Garden Council Meeting

December 2 - Special Presentation at the Cape Coral Library
by Nancy Colgan, Kathy Woodlock and Fran McIntyre
December 3 - Holiday Party - Lake Kennedy Center
December 8 - Fun with Flowers

Florida Arbor Day – January 19, 2024

Peggy Cruz has been busy preparing for the Florida Arbor Day event that will take place at 11:00 a.m. on January 19, 2024. FFGC has requested that all the garden clubs in Florida participate as part of their 100th anniversary celebration. Our Garden Club will be planting two trees at two separate locations. Additional information will be sent via a separate email as we get closer to the date. We hope you can join us for this special event. Thank you, Peggy, for taking the lead on this project!

Garden Club of Cape Coral

Cups of Cheer

The Cups of Cheer Committee needs your help. They ask the participants at the nursing home to bring back their coffee mugs after they enjoy their floral design, but often time they do not comply. The Committee is in need of a few more mugs again. If you have any mugs or larger cups at home that you no longer use, please bring them along to the next meeting or reach out to Nancy Colgan. Please provide mugs without a company name or logo. Thank you for helping to bring cheer to someone special!

Rotary Park Environmental Center

Gardening Classes are currently available at Rotary Park
Butterfly Gardening – December 9th – 10:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.
(presented by the Master Gardeners of Lee County)

Click on the link below to register for this class or other gardening events taking place in Cape Coral.

[Cape Coral, FL - WebTrac Activity Search \(myvscloud.com\)](https://myvscloud.com)
(Choose Gardening/Natural Walks, Talks, Tours under the Filter section)

Other Local Flower and Garden Events

Edison-Ford Winter Estates

Gardening Classes

December 2 – Amaryllis Waxing
December 8 – Holiday Wreath Making

Special Events

November 18-19 – Fall Garden Festival
November 24 – Holiday Nights Opening Night
December 2-3 – Bromeliad Sale

(Check website for location and fees; registration required – EdisonFord.org)

Florida Friendly Landscaping Program

There are many other classes available through the Florida Friendly Landscaping Program. Click on the link below to see what is taking place over the next few months.

[Florida-Friendly Landscaping™ Program - University of Florida, Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences - UF/IFAS \(ufl.edu\)](https://ufl.edu)

SW Florida Reset Fall Seed and Plant Festival & Exchange

The SWFL Reset Center is hosting an event on Saturday, December 9th, from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. The location is 13411 Shire Lane in Fort Myers. Here is the link with additional details:

[Garden Festival | Swfl Reset Center | Florida \(seedandplantfest.com\)](https://seedandplantfest.com)

Avocado Grafting Class – UF/IFAS and Fruitscapes LLC

A class will be taught by UF/IFAS Extension Lee County and Fruitscapes LLC with will show homeowners, hobbyists, and professionals the best practices in avocado grafting. The class will take place on Pine Island on Wednesday December 20th from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. for a cost of \$50. Click on the link below for additional information and to register.

[Avocado Grafting Workshop Tickets, Wed, Dec 20, 2023 at 9:00 AM | Eventbrite](https://eventbrite.com)

Garden Club of Cape Coral

HELP WANTED!!

Breeze Writer: Do you like to write? Do you want to expand your knowledge of the wonderful world of gardening in SW Florida? If so, this job is for you! The Garden Club is searching for two new writers for the articles that are published weekly in *The Breeze*. If you would like to find out more about this opportunity, please reach out to Ann Block, *The Breeze* Articles Chair.

Publicity: This position is perfect for the volunteer who really wants to know what is going on in our Garden Club. Your job will be to reach out to local media and work with the Board and the Committee Chairs. If you are interested in this position, please see Donna Schmidt or Cathy Dunn.

Marty Ward Merit Awards: Cheryl Byrd spoke at our October meeting. As she mentioned, the Committee needs one or two new volunteers to help with the process to review the scholarship applications that the Garden Club receives from local high school students. If you are interested, please reach out to Cheryl.

Pelican Elementary School – Special Project

Peggy Stamper, the STEM teacher at Pelican Elementary School, attended our October 11th meeting. The school is starting a garden this year with their students, and they need your help! Peggy is an energetic and amazing teacher and would love to collaborate with our members given that we are an incredible source of knowledge and resourcefulness. If you are interested in helping with this new special project, please stop by the front office at the school. When you arrive, please have your photo ID ready prior to entry. Let the office staff know you would like to fill out a volunteer application for "Our Garden."

HOLIDAY PARTY – DECEMBER 3rd – LAKE KENNEDY CENTER

The Holiday Party Committee has been meeting over the last few weeks to plan the perfect event for our members to celebrate the holidays together. The party will take place on Sunday, December 3rd at Lake Kennedy Center from 2:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. The Punchbowl invitation was sent via email to our member on Monday, October 30th. The theme is Garden Angels. If you are bringing a guest, please be sure to include their name in your response. The cutoff date to reply to the invitation is Monday, November 13th. If you have not received your invitation, please contact Donna Schmidt. We will be having two different contests – one is for the most beautiful centerpiece (12 contestants needed) and the other is for the tastiest dessert (10 contestants needed). Prizes will be given out to the first, second and third place winners. We will also have a "surprise" raffle. The party is now less than a month away. After November 13th you will be receiving a Punchbowl email to sign up for the appetizers, side salads, and desserts. The Committee will also be looking for volunteers to help with various activities throughout the day of the event. Signup sheets for the contests and volunteers will be available at the meeting on November 8th. We will be sending out emails often to keep you up to date on all the party activities. Please reach out to Patty Lyon, Debbie Cooper, or Kay Davis if you have any questions.



Garden Club of Cape Coral

CHORES AND PLANTING GUIDE FOR NOVEMBER - ZONE 10

- Find some time to create a display of fall colors with cool-season plants. Some examples include impatiens, strawflower, cape daisy, and pansy.
- Many bulbs like to get their start in cool weather. Bulbs to plant this month include amaryllis, crinum, and the many varieties of elephant's ear.
- Continue planting herbs from seeds or plants. A wide variety of herbs like cooler, dryer weather, including cilantro, dill, fennel, parsley, sage, and thyme.
- Lots of choices exist for November including beans, broccoli, kale, snow/English peas, and strawberries.
- Divide and replant overgrown perennials and bulbs now so that they establish before the coolest weather arrives.
- Turn off systems and water only if needed. Plants need less supplemental watering in cooler weather.
- Watch for hornworms on tomatoes and poinsettias planted in the landscape. This pest can quickly defoliate a plant. Handpick or treat only the infested area.

(Source: *Sew True Seed*)

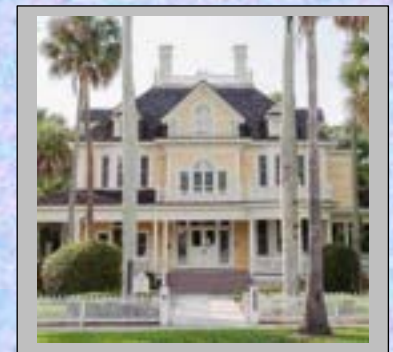
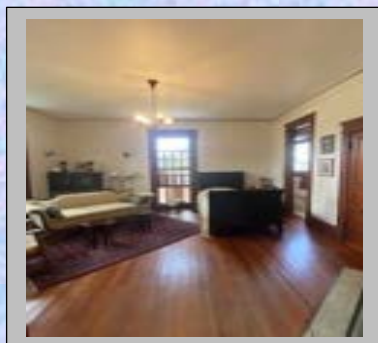
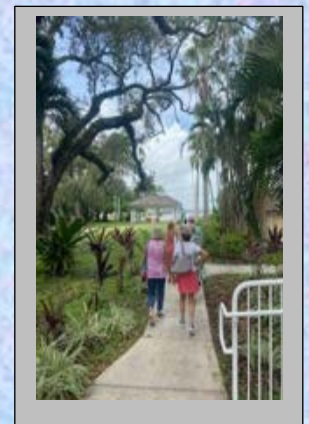
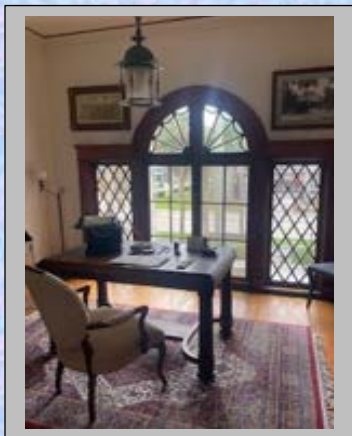
DISTRICT IX MEETING - OCTOBER 17TH

The Garden Council, led by Sylvia Swartz and Charlene Anderson, hosted the District IX FFGC meeting at the Embassy Suites Hotel in Estero on Tuesday, October 17th. Leslie Montwid, Director Pro Tem, presided over the meeting. Tina Tuttle, the President of FFGC, along with the Second and Third Vice Presidents, delivered an amazing Power Point presentation that provided so much insight on the structure and activities of the FFGC as well as sharing the many benefits that are available to its members. Our very own Ann Block gave the Invocation as well as the Blessing prior to enjoying the delicious lunch. Members from all over the district attended the meeting, some driving as far as three hours that morning. It was a wonderful event with 74 members and 5 guests in attendance. Our Garden Club had the most members - 17!! There was a gift basket raffle, silent auction, and a 50/50. The members of our Garden Club's Design Circle made the beautiful centerpieces.



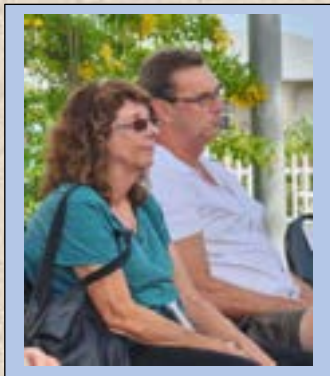
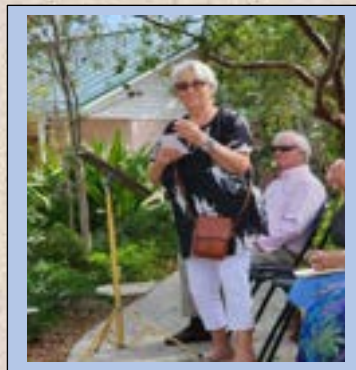
Burroughs Home and Gardens Tour – October 12th

On Thursday, October 12th, some of our members took a trip over to the Burroughs Home and Gardens in Ft. Myers. There we took a few hours to step back in time to the year 1918. Our docent, Donna, was amazing explaining the history of the home and the families who lived there. Many famous Americans, from Thomas Edison and Henry Ford to Charles Lindbergh often visited the home. The home has remained authentic to the early 1900's with many of the original furnishings and pictures from the family. It must have been amazing growing up in one of Ft. Myer's largest, most stately mansions. After the tour, which lasted over two hours, we had a wonderful lunch together at The Lucky Screw. If you want to plan an outing with your friends and family, this tour is highly recommended.



Jean Shields Dedication Memorial Service – October 22nd

Jean Shields was a founding member of the Garden Club. She was admired and loved by so many people. Sadly, she passed away in July of 2021 during a time in our lives when it was difficult to come together. A dedication ceremony in her honor took place on Sunday, October 22nd, at the Cape Coral Museum of History. Family and friends gathered for a memorial service to honor her legacy. Jean's daughter, Lin, and her son Art were in attendance. Linda Keirstead's husband, The Reverend Earl Keirstead lead the memorial. The heron statute was installed a few months ago by Terry Fisher and her husband. It was a beautiful day to remember someone so close to so many hearts. Thank you, Charlene Anderson, for organizing such a wonderful ceremony.



GARDEN CLUB UPCOMING TRIPS

The Garden Club will be taking quite a few trips between now and the month of February. Here is the schedule and what you need to know.

- Thursday, November 9 – Trip to Marie Selby Botanical Gardens – Carpool – Lunch to follow
- Friday, December 1 – Holly Day Tours in Punta Gorda – Carpool – Lunch in Punta Gorda before the tour
- Wednesday, January 17 – Fruit & Spice Park in Homestead – Bus trip – Private tasting tour – Picnic lunch at the park
- Thursday, February 15 – Florida Botanical Gardens in Largo – Bus trip – Docent-led tour – Late lunch at a restaurant on the way home

Look for signup sheets at our meetings. A separate email for each trip will be sent explaining the process to make payment for the bus tours through Lake Kennedy Center. The Garden Club will not need to collect money from you for any of the trips. The emails will explain how payments will be made for each event.

DID YOU KNOW!!



Source: Rural Sprout

Bee Balm (Monarda) are lovely flowers that resemble a daisy with an unruly hair day. If you plant them, you'll make a lot of pollinators happy. However, the local mosquito population won't be thrilled. Bee balm has a particularly strong scent reminiscent of the bergamot orange (hence bee balm's nickname of bergamot), which mosquitoes don't like. Consider planting bee balm around areas where you enjoy spending time outdoors to help keep those annoying skeeters away. Bee balm is a popular medicinal plant used to alleviate nausea, menstrual cramps and even help you sleep.

Message from the President

We are looking forward to seeing everyone at our next meeting on Wednesday, November 8th at Lake Kennedy Center. A few of our members have been terribly busy preparing for the Holiday Party and other events as well as all the amazing trips we have scheduled over the next few months. As I often say, we cannot do this without you!! I hope you and your family and friends have a wonderful Thanksgiving.



Donna Schmidt

***If you have a garden and a library,
you have everything you need!
- Marcus Tullius Cicero***