

# 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

## OCTOBER 2023 GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING



The October meeting will take place at our new location - Lake Kennedy Center. We look forward to seeing you there on Wednesday, October 11, starting at 5:45 p.m. (400 Santa Barbara Boulevard – Cape Coral). Cathy Dunn, Program Chair, has arranged for Russ Ringland, Founder of Future Forestry, to be our guest speaker. Future Forestry is a non-profit organization based out of Southwest Florida with a mission to rebuild the forest canopy in areas of need. For over 15 years, Future Forestry has led the effort in creating ecosystems for native plants and animals to thrive. Russ will tell us about projects that Future Forestry has undertaken and the many improvements that have been made throughout Cape Coral through their efforts – you have undoubtedly seen Future Forestry plantings along Chiquita, Skyline, Santa Barbara, Country Club and Veterans Boulevards.

*When witches go riding and black cats are seen, the  
moon, laughs and whispers 'tis near Halloween!?*

— Anonymous

**OCTOBER 2023**

*Editor--Donna Schmidt*

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***Happy Birthday to our members celebrating in October!!***

*Cathy Dunn – October 2  
Linda Bauschek – October 10  
Lillian Peterson – October 11  
Ginny Huffer – October 16  
Deb Leh – October 16*

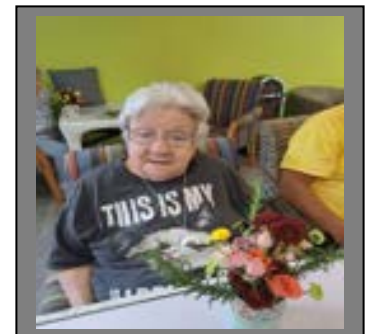
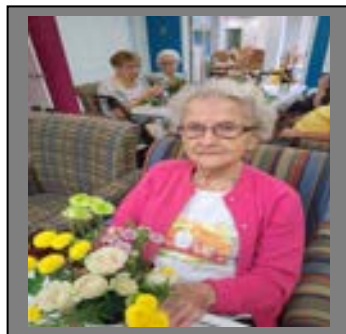
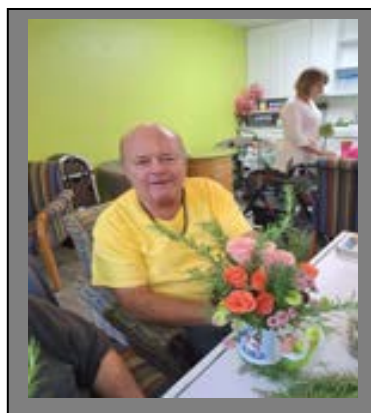
*Deborah Haggett – October 18  
Marilou Lucas – October 22  
Susan Noble – October 22  
Dale Manuel – October 23*

**NEW MEETING VENUE – LAKE KENNEDY CENTER**

We are so excited to be hosting our monthly meetings at the new venue – Lake Kennedy Center!! The Garden Club will once again be able to return to serving food and drinks. Please reach out to Kay Davis or Tina Campanella, our new Hospitality Chairs, if you have any questions. They have been doing a wonderful job working with our other members to prepare for our first meeting on Wednesday, October 11th. Hope to see you there!!

**\*\*\*\*\* CUPS OF CHEER\*\*\*\*\***

On Wednesday, September 27<sup>th</sup>, Nancy Colgan and Fran McIntyre spent some time with a few residents of the Elite Nursing Home in Cape Coral. Everyone had fun making all the beautiful flower arrangements. What a wonderful way to brighten someone's day! Please reach out to Nancy Colgan, Chair of Cups of Cheer, if you would like to volunteer at the next event.



## *Garden Club of Cape Coral*

### **Rose Garden Team By Cynthia Mahoney**

**As part of our Civic Projects, the Garden Club of Cape Coral maintains the Memorial Rose Garden at the Historical Society located at 544 Cultural Park Boulevard. All rose bushes have been donated in memory of a loved one.**

**We meet on Friday mornings starting at 8:00 a.m. (or before depending on the weather) and work for an hour. Gardening in Florida is usually performed in the mornings! Most of the time we are dead heading the spent buds and weeding. Fertilizer and mulch are added regularly.**



### **Memorial donations from a few of our Garden Club members**



**Donated by Sue Lawson**



**Donated by Paula Plum**

## Garden Club of Cape Coral



**Donated by Terry Fisher**

### **Rose Garden Team (*continued*)**

There is still room in the garden for more donated rose bushes.

Team members are Peggy Cruz, Janice Johnsen, Marilou Lucas, Paula Plum and me.

We are always looking for volunteers to join us.

*(Please reach out to Cynthia Mahoney for more information regarding the Rose Garden Team and how you can volunteer.)*

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

***October 13 – Fun with Flowers***

***October 21 - Rotary Park Tropical Plant Sale***

***October 22 - Jean Shields Memorial Dedication***

***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 volunteered to lead the Florida Arbor Day Project for the Garden Club. Please save this date as we will be asking the members of the Garden Club to participate in this special event. Additional information will be sent via a separate email as we get closer to the date. Thank you, Peggy!**

**Tropical Plant Sale – Rotary Park – Saturday, October 21<sup>st</sup>**

Our volunteers are actively putting the finishing touches to prepare for the upcoming Tropical Plant Sale. Thank you to all the Garden Club members who have donated plants!! The next steps are printing the labels, attaching the labels to sticks, and sorting out the member packets. The labels will be available for pick up at Sylvia Swartz's house on October 16<sup>th</sup> through the 20<sup>th</sup>. The labels will be located on Sylvia's front porch. Another email reminder will be sent out with additional information prior to the event. Thank you for supporting this fundraiser!! Let's hope the weather will cooperate. Thank you to Sylvia, Cathy Dunn and Colleen Carty for organizing this annual event!!

**Other Local Flower and Garden Events**

**Edison-Ford Winter Estates**

Gardening Classes

December 2 – Amaryllis Waxing  
December 8 – Holiday Wreath Making

Special Events

October 14-15 – Orchid Symposium & Sale  
November 18-19 – Fall Garden Festival  
December 2-3 – Bromeliad Sale

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

**Florida Friendly Landscaping Program**

Free classes to learn the nine principles that guide Florida Friendly Landscaping in Lee County. Click on the link below to find a class and register. The next class is via Zoom on October 26. In person classes will be taking place on November 3 and November 18 at the Rose Garden in Rotary Park. There are many other classes available through UF/IFAS that you may be interested in.

[Lee County - University of Florida, Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences - UF/IFAS \(ufl.edu\)](http://www.ufl.edu/lee-county/extension/fflp/)

**Bonsai Society Show**

The Bonsai Society of Southwest Florida would like to invite everyone to their Annual Bonsai Show taking place on November 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> at the Garden Council Building in Ft. Myers.

**SW Florida Reset Fall Seed and Plant Festival & Exchange**

The SWFL Reset Center is hosting an event on Saturday, December 9<sup>th</sup>, 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 \(seedandplantfest.com\)](http://www.seedandplantfest.com/)

## ***Garden Club of Cape Coral***

### **Rotary Park Environmental Center Classes Presented by the Master Gardeners of Lee County**

Free Gardening Classes that are currently available at Rotary Park

Plant This, Not That – October 28<sup>th</sup> – 10:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

Vermi Composting – November 4<sup>th</sup> – 10:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

Butterfly Gardening – December 9<sup>th</sup> – 10:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

Click on the link below to register for the classes. You can also search for other gardening events taking place in Cape Coral.

[Cape Coral, FL - WebTrac Activity Search \(myvscloud.com\)](http://myvscloud.com)

*(Choose Gardening/Natural Walks, Talks, Tours under the Filter section)*

### **Pelican Elementary School – Special Project**

Peggy Stamper, the STEM teacher at Pelican Elementary School, will be attending the Garden Club meeting on October 11<sup>th</sup>. The school is starting a garden this year with their students, and they need your help! Peggy is an amazing teacher and would love to work with our members given that we are an incredible source of knowledge and resourcefulness. Please stop by to talk with Peggy about this new project and pick up a volunteer application!

### **HELP WANTED!!**

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**

Denise Gastringer has volunteered to be our Publicity Chair. Please feel free to reach out to Denise as she is open to suggestions as to how we should promote our Garden Clubs events. Thank you, Denise, for taking on this role!!

**CHORES AND PLANTING GUIDE FOR OCTOBER - ZONE 10**

- Even though temperatures are still warm, begin planting for the cooler months ahead. Impatiens, alyssum, and dianthus are good plants for the fall/winter garden.
- Plant bulbs of agapanthus, rain lily, and Clivia lily now for blooms next spring or summer. Add organic matter to the planting bed for best results.
- A wide range of herbs can be planted from seed or transplants this month. Some to include are dill, fennel, parsley, and cilantro.
- Easy vegetable crops that can be grown now include beans, broccoli, carrots, collards, lettuce, green onions, peppers, radishes, spinach, and tomatoes.
- Fertilize plants that are not performing as desired. This is the last month of the year to fertilize shrubs and trees.
- Prepare beds and set strawberry plants this month. Strawberries also make a colorful and tasty container planting. Either way, water daily until plants are established.

(Source: *Sew True Seed*)



**DID YOU KNOW??!!**

Sunflowers are not just pretty faces!! They are often planted to help clean up contaminated soil. Sunflowers are known as phytoremediators, meaning they can absorb and accumulate heavy metals and remove toxins from the soil ... effectively detoxifying it. These beautiful and cheerful flowers not only brighten up gardens, but they also contribute to environmental cleanup efforts.

(Source: *GardenTabs.com*)

**Suggestion Box**

We now have a suggestion box!! The box will be located on the tables with the sign-up sheets for our monthly events and other activities. Please take a few minutes to fill out a card and drop it in the box before you leave the meeting. We want to hear from you about your ideas and opinions!!

**Message from the President**

We are looking forward to seeing everyone at our next meeting on Wednesday, October 11<sup>th</sup> at Lake Kennedy Center. We will be busy over the next few months with meetings and other activities. We appreciate everyone who has volunteered to help with our special events and projects.

**Donna Schmidt**



Beautiful centerpiece from our September meeting

***If you want to touch the past, touch a rock.  
If you want to touch the present, touch a flower.  
If you want to touch the future, touch a life!***

**- Author Unknown**