

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

SEPTEMBER 2023 GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING



The September meeting will take place at Palmetto Pine Country Club. We look forward to seeing you there on Wednesday, September 13, starting at 5:45 p.m. (1940 SW 9th Court, Cape Coral, off Skyline Boulevard). Cathy Dunn, Program Chair, has arranged for a presentation by GCCC Member Sylvia Swartz - "This is your Garden Club" ... everything we need to know about our club and how we fit in the National Garden Clubs and local frameworks.

*And if I asked you to name all of the things you love,
how long would it take for you to name yourself?*

— Anonymous

SEPTEMBER 2023

Editor--Donna Schmidt

Board of Directors

President – Donna Schmidt

First Vice President – Cathy Dunn

Second Vice President –
Terry Fisher

Treasurer – Patty Lyon

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Recording Secretary –
Charlene Anderson

Corresponding Secretary -
Valorie Breen

Immediate Past Presidents -
Ann Block
Elsa Schutzman

Ways & Means Co-Chair -
Sylvia Swartz

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Garden Club of Cape Coral

Betty Wethington – June 7
Alexandra McGeary – June 14
Cheryl Byrd – June 21
Dennis Leopold – June 21

Ellen Morris – July 3
Sue Dues – July 8
Kim White – July 11
Janetta Fox – July 19
Richard Sheriff – July 19
Midge Breckinridge – July 20
Nancy Finnegan – July 21
Carol Arnholt – July 23
Carmen Sprague – July 26
Cheryl Buckley – July 30
Donna Schneider – July 31

***Happy Birthday to our members who celebrated over the summer
and in September too!!***

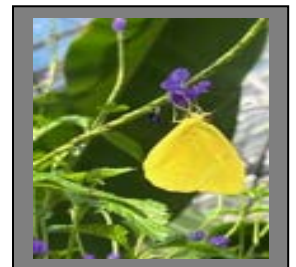
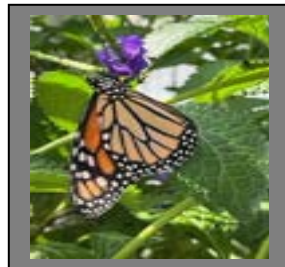
Babu Mathew – August 2
Tina Campanella – August 18
Max Breckenridge – August 20
Gail Miller – August 23
Donna Dunker – August 26
Kathy Woodlock – August 27
Debbie Gawenda – August 30



Rachele Epp – September 2
Penny Salveson – September 6
Christine Prestella – September 9
Sherie Bleiler – September 10
Fran McIntyre – September 13
Lois Luber – September 18
Susan Lawson – September 21
Barbara Salafia – September 21
Paula Plum – September 23
Donna Schmidt – September 27

-----THE BUTTERFLY ESTATES-----

A few of our members were able to take a tour of The Butterfly Estates in Fort Myers on May 13. Everyone enjoyed watching nature at its best ... so amazing and beautiful. The group then had a delicious lunch at Cristof's on McGregor. Little did we all know that The Florida Native Butterfly Society would close their doors on July 28. The Society is now located at The Shell Factory. They plan to open a small educational building once the repairs can be completed.



-----OVER THE SUMMER----- Summer Socials and Design Group

Debbie Cooper made arrangements for the Garden Club members and their guests to get together at local restaurants on the second Wednesday of the month in June, July, and August. The weather was often very hot, but everyone had a wonderful time. At the first Summer Social, a local Tupperware representative was invited to share her products ... she donated \$60 of her total proceeds to the Garden Club. Thank you, Debbie!



The Design Group met on Monday, June 19. Five members participated with the help of three of our talented designers ... Nancy Colgan, Fran McIntyre and Kathy Woodlock.



Garden Club of Cape Coral

Tropical Plant Sale – Rotary Park – October 21

As you roam around your garden, start making a list of what you may want to donate for the October Tropical Plant Sale. The Garden Club will be limiting prickly things and succulents at this time. Please no milkweed as we are trying not to contribute to the Monarch parasite known as *Ophryocystis elektroscirrha* (OE). Flowering plants always go first. Pollinator/butterfly attractors are very popular too. Edible plants are desirable. Plants, trees, and vines that flower or fruit are very nice too. Use your imagination! Please contact Colleen Carty as soon as possible. Send her a photo if you need help identifying a plant (refer to the GCCC Membership Directory for Colleen's phone number and email).

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

September 8 - FMLC Garden Council Meeting
September 13 - GCCC General Membership Meeting

October 10 - Keep Lee County Beautiful - Youth Environmental Council –
Location to be determined - Special Presentation by Sherie Bleiler

October 11 - GCCC General Membership Meeting

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

District IX Fall Meeting – October 17

Embassy Suites Hotel – 10450 Corkscrew Commons Drive – Estero

Members of the Garden Club are welcome to attend this event. The meeting did not take place last year due to Hurricane Ian. FFCCG State Officers will be part of the program and they will be letting us know what is new at our State Headquarters. We will put together a gift basket as a donation to raise funds for the Garden Council. GCCC will also donate an item for the silent auction which benefits District IX. The cost will be \$38.00 which includes a light breakfast and lunch. An email will be sent to our members with additional information along with a registration form to return to FMLCGC by October 11. If you plan to attend, we will be able to carpool since it is about 30 minutes away.

Garden Club of Cape Coral

Photo Contest

The winner of this year's photo contest is Debbie Cooper for her picture of Passion Vine. Cathy Dunn submitted two photos that came in 2nd and 3rd place. Congratulations Debbie!

The picture of the flower will be on the front cover of the 2023-2024 Program and Membership Directory.



GCCC Special Events

Below are the GCCC special events that will be taking place starting in October through May 2024. Additional information will be provided at the general membership meetings regarding dates, location, and cost. Look for the sign-up sheets!! Reminder emails will also be sent out.

October

Burroughs Home and Garden
Fort Myers – Carpool

February

Marie Selby Botanical Garden
Sarasota – Carpool

November

Florida Botanical Garden
Largo – Bus trip

March

March in the Park
Jaycee Park

December

Holly Days Home Tour
Punta Gorda – Carpool

April

Potluck picnic before our snowbirds take off
Fort Myers-Lee County Garden Council Building

January

Fruit and Spice Park
Homestead – Bus trip

May

Maree Farms and Sincerely Succulents
Fort Myers – Carpool

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 two classes are via Zoom on September 23 and 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 \(ufl.edu\)](https://www.ufl.edu/ifas/)

Garden Club of Cape Coral

Special Projects

GCCC will be participating in the upcoming **Florida Arbor Day** event on Saturday, January 19, 2024. Cathy Dunn has been working on this project over the summer. We are looking for two members to volunteer for this special event.

Pelican Elementary School is starting a garden this year with their students! We will be working with Peggy Stamper, the STEM teacher. She is an amazing teacher and would love to work with our members given that we are an incredible source of knowledge and resourcefulness. Let us know if you would you like to volunteer and have fun digging in the dirt with the students!

Please contact Cathy Dunn or Donna Schmidt for more information.

Late Summer in your Florida-Friendly Landscape – A few quick tips - UF/IFAS – By Anne Yasalonis

We all know how very hot and humid it has been. Below is the link to an article that you may find very resourceful to keep your garden activities to a minimum. Anne offers several suggestions to prepare for the fall and winter months ... pruning, weeding, mosquito breeding prevention. There are links for other resources within the article for pest management and hurricane preparedness. This is one of the many useful articles posted on the UF/IFAS website.

[Florida-Friendly Landscaping Archives - What's Happening Around Florida \(ufl.edu\)](#)

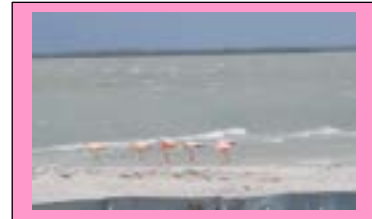
Flamingos – Audubon Florida – By Erika Zambello

Have you heard? For the first time in almost a century, Floridians are seeing a lot of flamingos!! They were blown in by Hurricane Idalia. The American Flamingos have landed as far north as St. Marks Wildlife Refuge in Wakulla County all the way south to Collier County, including a record sighting in Alachua County.

Hope you enjoy reading the article – here is the link.

[Flamingos Arrive with Hurricane Idalia | Audubon Florida](#)

The flamingos have even been spotted on the Sanibel causeway!
Maybe they will find a home at "Ding" Darling Wildlife Refuge!!



Message from the President

I hope you have had an amazing summer!! It is hard to believe September is here already. I am looking forward to seeing everyone at the meeting on September 13. I realize some of you may not be back by then, so keep an eye out for emails that I will be sending along to keep everyone up to date on the activities of our Garden Club. The board members have been working hard during the summer months. I wanted to give a huge THANK YOU to Sylvia Swartz for all her hard work on the Program and Membership Directory. This directory is full of useful information ... please take some time to read through it. Thank you, Cathy Dunn, for your amazing support ... you are the best! I want to thank all the Committee Chairs as well. We cannot do this without you!!

Donna Schmidt