

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

FEBRUARY 2024 ***GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING***



The February meeting will take place at Lake Kennedy Center. We look forward to seeing you there on Wednesday, February 14th, starting at 5:45 p.m. (400 Santa Barbara Boulevard – Cape Coral). Cathy Dunn, Program Chair, has arranged Our Program for the February meeting. This will be our final briefing about March in the Park. Make sure you join us to hear all the details for preparing for MIP! Since MIP falls before our March meeting, this will be your last chance to ask questions and finalize your participation in our premier Garden Club event. You'll learn so much - how to get your plants ready for the sale, what items are being collected for the Thrift Booth and where you need to drop them off, when you can participate in the fun labeling parties and so much more! And, of course, there will be plenty of signup sheets available for you to indicate where you'd like to work on March 9th! Don't miss this opportunity to learn all about March in the Park and how you can contribute to our largest fundraiser of the year!

*For one minute, walk outside,
stand there in silence, look up at the sky,
and contemplate how wonderful life is...*

— Author unknown

February 2024

Editor--Donna Schmidt

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Elsa Schutzman**
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Happy Birthday to our members celebrating in February!!

Barbara Cohen – February 2
Pam Dawson – February 4
Kay Davis – February 13
Lynne Viacava – February 14

Denise Gastringer – February 18
Joanne Kishfy – February 19
Lenore Hutchinson – February 23

Florida Arbor Day – Friday, January 19th

Mother Nature was not very kind to us to celebrate Florida Arbor Day on January 19th. The storms with so much rain and wind that rolled in the day and night before were relentless. We made a decision that morning to cancel the event for the safety of our members. However, some of our members did not see the email announcing it was canceled and we were able to take a few pictures. Luckily, the sweet magnolia trees that were planted a couple of days before by city employees at Cultural Park and at Sirenia Vista Park survived the storm. We will order plaques to place next to the trees to commemorate this event. Thank you, Peggy Cruz and Cathy Dunn, for all the work you put into organizing this special event.



Cultural Park – Ann Block, Elsa Schutzman, Donna Schmidt and Charlene Anderson with her dog Baby Girl (aka BG)



Sirenia Vista Park – Peggy Cruz, Sherie Bleiler, Susan Noble and a few members of the Friends of Wildlife - Gigi Yarusso, Eric Nikolai, and Mark Thurmond



Peggy Cruz and Susan Noble

Garden Club of Cape Coral

16th ANNUAL MARCH IN THE PARK – SATURDAY, MARCH 9th



Member Betty McCullough has done us proud with the rain barrel. Just look how gorgeous it is – who wouldn't want to win it! Many thanks to Betty for making this so beautiful. Don't forget to return to Penny Salvesen the ticket stubs and a check or cash for the Opportunity Drawing tickets you have 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 so if that person is not present when the drawing is made, the prize can be given to you for onward transmission to the lucky winner. If you haven't yet picked up your tickets, see Penny at the Opportunity Drawing Table near the Membership table at the upcoming February Garden Club meeting.

One other word about the Opportunity Drawing, attached to the email circulating this newsletter is the "In-Kind" donation solicitation letter. We encourage you to give these to any contacts you have who might donate either a gift card or a product that can be included with the prizes donated by our vendors. This can really increase the number of prizes we have to offer throughout the day.

We're fast approaching the deadline for telling Colleen Carty what plants you can donate (February 16). Huge thanks to all who have already sent in their lists – we couldn't do it without you.

Plant labels and pricing sticks/guidance will be available for pick up from 4030 SW 9th beginning Sunday, March 2nd. When writing the pricing stick, please use permanent blank ink without a dollar sign – just a number. If you are missing labels, call Sylvia 239-339-3778. Please no additional plants - only those you have given the names and quantity to Colleen.

MIP job sign-up sheets will be out on the tables at the meeting. If you can, sign up for more than one job, there are lots of things that happen in the run-up to MIP, not just on the day. Donna Schmidt, Kids Booth Chair, is looking for additional people with the ability to paint faces. Doesn't have to be a club member – if you have a daughter, son or another family member or a friend with that talent, please check if they would be willing to help.

We, Cathy Dunn and Sylvia Swartz, Co-chairs, Colleen Carty, Plant Booth Chair, and the entire Ways and Means Committee thank you all SO MUCH for committing to making this year's event a resounding success.

Garden Club of Cape Coral

Trash off Trails Project – January 25th – Four Mile Cove Ecological Preserve

Our very own Sherie Bleiler has been participating in the Trash of Trails project that is being coordinated by the Poinciana Garden Club. She recently joined the group on January 25th at Four Mile Cove Ecological Preserve. Sherie has mentioned several times what a great experience this is as well as to be able to meet members from other garden clubs in our area. Here's the schedule – feel free to show up to any event that is listed.



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

- February 13 – Strolling Flower Show – Ft. Myers
- February 14 – GCCC Membership Meeting
- February 25 – GCCC Garden Tour and New Member Tea
- March 8 – Ft. Myers-Lee County Garden Council Meeting
- March 9 – March in the Park – Jaycee Park
- March 13 – GCCC Membership Meeting
- March 15 – Fun with Flowers
- April 10 – GCCC Membership Meeting
- April 19 – Fun with Flowers
- April 23 – Berne Davis Honorary Award Ceremony and Luncheon
- April 26-27 – GCCC Flower Show - The Wonderful World of Books
- May 8 – GCCC Membership Meeting - Picnic
- May 10 – Ft. Myers-Lee County Garden Council Meeting

Special Monthly Events

Please be on the lookout for a separate email that will contain additional information about our trip to Maree Farms in North Fort Myers in April and the year-end picnic that will take place on Wednesday, May 8th at the Garden Council Building. We will not be meeting at Lake Kennedy on the evening of May 8th.

Welcome New Members

At our membership meeting in January, we had a few people sign up to join the Garden Club. Please give a warm welcome to the following new members –

Diane Henning, Sandra Lee Martino, Belinda Connell Kullson, Richard Kullson, Marge Maciag, and Debbie Long.

We would like to share some information about Belinda Kullson that she has provided.



Belinda and
Richard Kullson



“A little about me. I’m from Maine and while vacationing with some friends a few years ago we decided to take a break from boating and the sun and drive around exploring the Cape Coral area. We visited a few open houses and decided when we returned back to Maine, we wanted to see more houses and started our search for our Cape Coral winter home. We found and bought our house two years ago in December 2021. It’s our 3rd winter and we absolutely love the area. I’ve always loved gardening and wanted to meet and learn from others with the same gardening passion. I’m excited to be part of the group and learn the gardening ways in SW Florida. I have three children – 22, 17, and 18 year olds. We have two cats. We love traveling and exploring the world.”



Diane Henning



Marge Maciag



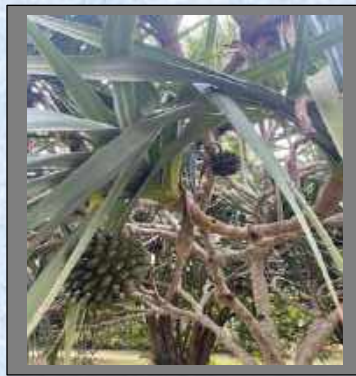
Debbie Long

Bus trip to Fruit & Spice Park

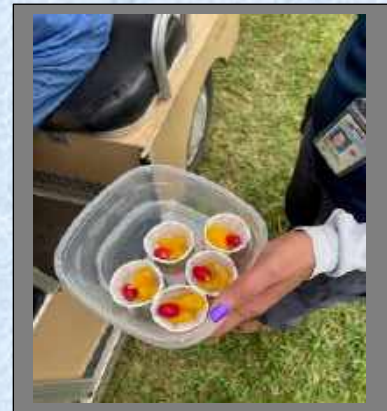
The Garden Club took off on January 17th for the East Coast to visit the Fruit & Spice Park that is nestled in the heart of the historic Redland community. It was a very long bus ride, but once we hopped on the tram, we couldn't wait to get started with our tour. The park is the only tropical botanical garden of its kind in the United States. It has more than 500 varieties of exotic fruits, herbs, spices, and nuts from around the world – 180 varieties of mangos; 70 varieties of bamboo; 40 varieties of bananas; 15 varieties of jackfruit trees and numerous other exotic edibles are grown and maintained here at the park. We took the taste tour, and we were all able to indulge our taste buds on fruits we may never experience again.



Our guide Madilyn



Pandanus tree



Australian rainbow eucalyptus tree



Garden Club of Cape Coral

A Very Special Story



Carol Arnholt wanted to share this special story with our members. As you will see in the picture that was taken at our visit to the Fruit & Spice Park, Carol is holding two very special trivets. Her husband Bob grew up in the Redland area and his Grandma made the trivets, along with many more, at the park in 1950-1951. During this time, the Fruit & Spice Park offered many classes and other miscellaneous hobby-related activities. Grandma also attended the classes to gain knowledge for growing avocados as they owned a 20-acre grove in the Redlands. As we were driving around the area, Carol pointed out the high school her husband attended. Bob always said it was a wonderful place to grow up in. What a wonderful memory along with having the trivets to treasure forever!!

Garden Tour and New Member Tea – Sunday February 25th

This year's Garden Tour will take place on Sunday, February 25th starting at 1:00 p.m. We will begin the tour at Rachele Epp's home then head over to Cindy Wasilak's gardens. At 3:00 p.m., we will end the tour at Beverly Nugent's home where we will host the tea to welcome the new members of the Garden Club.

Beverly will have signup sheets at the February meeting for members to bring sandwiches, sides, or desserts. Beverly has graciously offered to serve iced tea and wine. There will be some very special giveaways – it's a secret so you will have to be there to see what they are.

We hope to see you on the 25th!! Thank you, Beverly, Rachele, and Cindy, for opening your homes for this very special event, as well as our other members who have volunteered. An email will be sent out with additional information and directions.

Photography Competition – Deadline March 31st

The Garden Club's Annual Photography Competition will end on March 31st. Members will be able to submit up to two pictures for the contest. The pictures must be taken in the State of Florida, preferably in Zone 10, between April 1, 2023, through March 31, 2024. Photos must be taken in jpg format to easily be resized. Please reach out to Joanne Kishfy for additional information. If you win, your photo will be on the cover of the membership directory next year!

CHORES AND PLANTING GUIDE FOR FEBRUARY – ZONE 10

- Plants that perform better in the cooler months include petunia, pansy, verbena, dianthus, strawflower, and lobelia. Protect from frosts and freezing temperatures.
 - Good performers for annual bedding plants in the Deep South’s mild winter include impatiens, verbena, dianthus, strawflower, and lobelia.
- Many bulbs can be planted now. Divide large, crowded clumps. Provide adequate water for establishment. Some examples include Amazon lily, crinum, and agapanthus.
 - Consider replacing areas of grass with drought-tolerant, low-maintenance groundcovers.
- Winter vegetable gardening is in full swing. Last month to plant cantaloupes, cucumbers, eggplant, lettuce, peppers, spinach, and tomatoes for a late spring harvest. Protect crops in the unlikely event of a frost or freeze.
- Prune roses this month to remove damaged canes and improve the overall form. After pruning, fertilize and apply a fresh layer of mulch. Blooming will begin 8–9 weeks after pruning.
- Fertilize shrubs and palms by spreading fertilizer evenly over the soil surface and watering it in. Follow with a fresh layer of mulch to conserve moisture and reduce weeds. Delay pruning any cold-damaged branches until new growth starts.
- Disease-susceptible varieties of avocado and mango may require applications of copper fungicide.
 - Fertilize citrus trees now if not done in January. Frequency and amount of fertilization depend on the age of the tree.
(Source: *Sow True Seed*)

Other Local Flower and Garden Events

Edison-Ford Winter Estates

Gardening Classes

February 20th & 24th – Palms in the Landscape

**(Click on link below for location & fees; registration required –
[Fort Myers Museums, Attractions, Things To Do | Edison Ford Winter Estates](#))**

Special Events

February 10th & 11th – Annual Spring Garden Festival 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Burrowing Owl Festival – Saturday, February 24th



Cape Coral’s Annual Borrowing Owl Festival will take place on Saturday, February 24th at Rotary Park. The Garden Club will have a tent set up so we hope you can stop by and say hello to Sarah Hogan and her daughter who will be there to greet everyone. Thank you, Sarah, for volunteering for this event.

OTHER EVENTS

Below is additional information for other events you may be interested in.

Strolling Flower Show

Tues Feb 13th, 2024, 10 AM to 4 PM

Location: Sydney & Berne Davis Art Center
200 1st St, Fort Myers, FL

Sponsored by the
Fort Myers Lee County Garden Council

Some day arr exhibit "Dinner Menu The Set" By Heidi Love Laves




Openings: 10:15, 10:30am
 Held the Spring Flower Show at the Berne Davis Art Center, 200 1st St, Fort Myers, FL
 Members take a Spring tour of gardens: 8:00am-10:00am, 10:00am-12:00pm
 Market Booths for the "Vegetable Garden" at the Berne Davis Art Center
 Complimentary admission for 2 in any county during the 2023-24 Southeast Florida
 Spring Show
 *Members are part of table in any 2023-24 Florida/Palms association Florida
 Garden Tour
 *Admission to the Club and outdoor space, and its boxes
 No admission fee. Donations accepted.






100th
Anniversary



April 10-12, 2024

Flower Show

Workshops

District Parties

Inspiring Speakers

Come and Celebrate 100 years

For more information, please use this link
for the Centennial Celebration at the FFGC
Convention – [Convention \(ffgc.org\)](http://ffgc.org)



Berne Davis Botanical Gardens

Looking for a day trip to Downtown Fort Myers?

No Entrance Fee - Open Tues & Thurs only 10 AM to 1 PM
2166 Virginia Ave, Fort Myers

Across the street from Edison Fort Winter Estates
Park in the Larchmont Ave lot

Stroll, take photos, or sit and relax in the botanical gardens with bromeliads, hibiscus, rare and tropical fruit, roses, herbs, native plants, cacti, and a bonus display.
 Tours with a Master Gardener at 10 AM and 11 AM, Tues & Thurs.

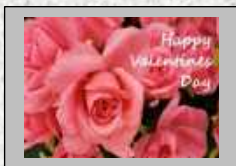
Tues Feb 13, 10 to 4 - Strolling Flower Show, Sydney & Berne Davis Art Center
 Sat Mar 2, 8 AM Plant & Yard Sale at FFLCGC, The Polkline Garden Club
 Sat Mar 9, 9 to 3 PM March in the Park Garden Club of Cape Coral, Joyride Park, and of Beach Pkwy, Cape Coral
 Sat Mar 9, 9 to 1 Annual Plant & Strawberry Shortcake Festival Alva Garden Club at Alva United Methodist Church, 21440 Pearl St, Alva.

Looking for a garden club or plant society near you?
 Contact the Fort Myers Lee County Garden Council (239) 333-6842 (FFLCGCG)
 Check out their website directory for garden clubs and plant societies.
 Web site: <http://www.floridagardenclub.org> (FFLCGCG)
 Fort Myers Lee County Garden Council, Inc. | Facebook
 Member of National Garden Clubs, Inc.,
 Florida Federation of Garden Clubs & American Public Gardens Assoc.

Message from the President

It's almost here – March in the Park! Only one month away! The members of the Ways and Means Committee have been working extremely hard to bring everything together for this event. We hope you have taken some time to dig up some overgrown plants in your garden or propagate an indoor house plant to sell at MIP. We are asking our members to use the attached form letter to ask for in-kind donations that will be raffled off. I want to thank all our members in advance who are taking the time to volunteer for this event. I am amazed at how wonderful this fundraiser turns out, year after year. We cannot do this without the many members who come together to make this a tremendous success. As I often say, we cannot do this without you!!

If you have any suggestions regarding the Garden Club, please feel free to reach out to me via e-mail, text or give me a call. We are always looking for new ideas to share with our members and I welcome your feedback as well. Hope you have a very Happy Valentine's Day!!



Donna Schmidt