

# 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

## JANUARY 2024 GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING



The January meeting will take place at Lake Kennedy Center. We look forward to seeing you there on Wednesday, January 10th, starting at 5:45 p.m. (400 Santa Barbara Boulevard – Cape Coral). Cathy Dunn, Program Chair, has arranged for Beverly Saltonstall, founding member of the Cape Coral Friends of Wildlife, to be our guest speaker. Cape Coral Friends of Wildlife is a volunteer organization whose purpose is to preserve and enhance the habitats of protected wildlife species and to educate the community about Cape Coral's wildlife resources. Beverly will tell us about who might be living in our front lawns - our dear official City Bird, Burrowing Owls! Plan to join us to learn more about the CC Friends of Wildlife and get a preview of the Burrowing Owl Festival which will be held on February 24, 2024.

*I've always loved butterflies because they remind us  
that it's never too late to transform ourselves.*

— Drew Barrymore

**January 2024**

*Editor--Donna Schmidt*

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

***Sylvia Swartz – January 1  
Diana Henning – January 3  
Mary Ann Sedlock – January 7***

***Terry Fisher – January 8  
Charlene Anderson – January 17***

***Florida Arbor Day – Friday, January 19th***

Garden clubs across the state of Florida will plant more than 400 trees on January 19th to celebrate Florida Arbor Day and the 100th anniversary of the Florida Federation of Garden Clubs (FFGC). GCCC will be planting two Sweetbay (*Magnolia virginiana*) Native Florida trees at Sirenia Vista Park and Cultural Park.

The Duke Energy Foundation is supporting this project with a \$20,000 grant to FFGC. The grant will help garden clubs buy sizable native trees. Priority is given to large, hurricane-resistant, shade trees in keystone genera that feed more caterpillars and baby birds. This will achieve the grant's aim to increase climate resiliency and support biodiversity. GCCC has been reimbursed \$321 for the two trees that are being planted!!

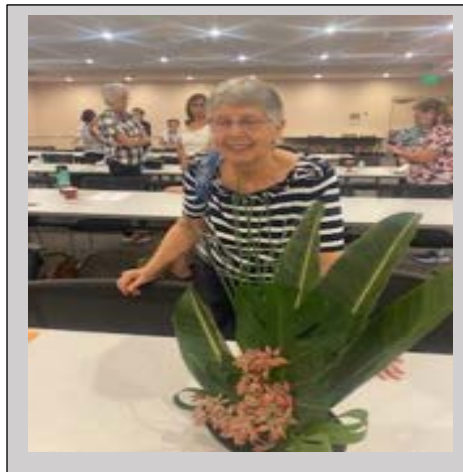
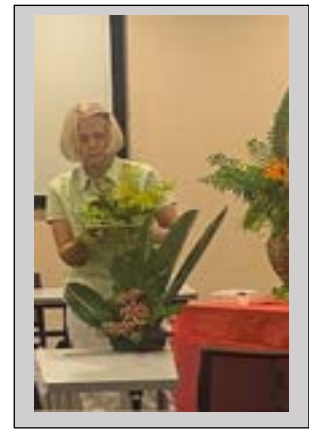
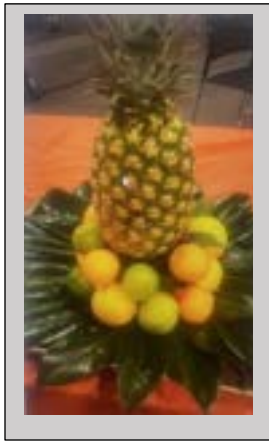
Most of Florida's 153 garden clubs will plant a single tree. The Gainesville Garden Club will celebrate by planting 100 trees. The garden clubs of District XII will plant 100 native torchwood trees in West Matheson Hammock Park. A dozen native trees will find homes at FFGC's headquarters.

Peggy Cruz and Cathy Dunn have been working on this project for months now. We hope you and your family and friends will be able to join us on Friday, January 19 at Sirenia Vista Park or at Cultural Park. The event will take place promptly at 11:00 a.m. so plan to arrive a little early to allow for time to park. Signup sheets will be available at the January general membership meeting. We will be taking lots of pictures to include in local newspapers, Facebook and on our website. Thank you, Peggy and Cathy, for all the work you have put into organizing this special event.



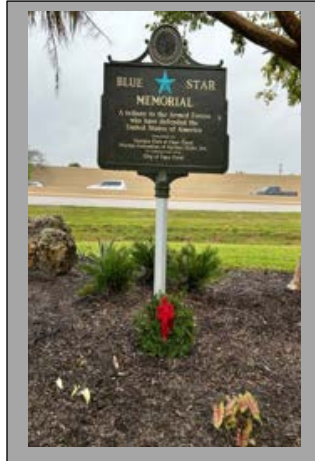
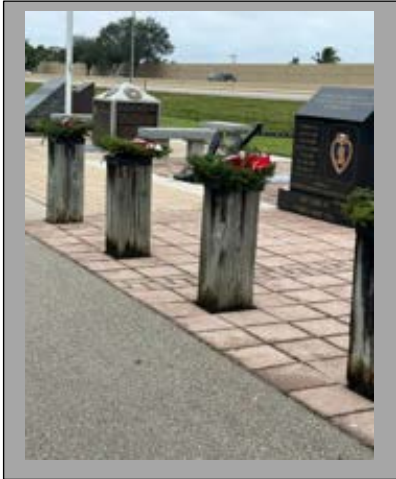
**Friends of the Cape Coral Library – December 2, 2023**

On Saturday, December 2, Kathy Woodlock and Nancy Colgan, members of our Floral Design Circle, were the guest speakers at the Friends of the Cape Coral Library meeting. Kathy put together a fresh fruit centerpiece that was made of a pineapple, lemons, limes as well as leaves from a magnolia tree. She also gave a little history and talked about how a fresh arrangement like this would often be used in colonial times for table decorations. Nancy displayed quite a few beautiful arrangements made from plants from her own garden or easily found in other areas around Cape Coral. Nancy demonstrated how easy it is to make your own natural floral arrangement and she gave away all the arrangements she made!! I can't wait to go to the next Floral Design Circle meeting!!



**Wreaths Across America – December 16, 2023**

Cheryl Shaw and Paula Plum participated in Wreaths Across America on Saturday, December 16 at the Veterans Memorial park at Eco Preserve. Despite the weather conditions, the ceremony was still held. It was a wonderful tribute to our veterans.



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

- January 10 – GCCC General Membership Meeting**
- January 12 – FMLC Garden Council Meeting**
- January 17 – Bus Trip to Fruit & Spice Park – Homestead, FL**
- January 19 – Florida Arbor Day**
- February 13 – Strolling Flower Show – Ft. Myers**
- February 15 – Bus Trip to Florida Botanical Gardens – Largo, FL**
- March 9 – March in the Park – Jaycee Park**
- March 15 – Fun with Flowers**

**March in the Park – March 9**

It's time for the 16<sup>th</sup> Annual March in the Park!! March 9<sup>th</sup> will be here before you know it!! We are hoping this year's event will stand out among all others. Please be on the lookout for emails over the next two months from our Ways and Means Committee Members. It's time to start looking at your garden or house plants to see what you can donate. Seedlings should be started. Cuttings should be propagated so there is a solid root system for a firmly established plant in a pot in two months. Lots of meetings will be taking place over the next few weeks. If you have any questions, please contact Sylvia Swartz or Cathy Dunn, Co-chairs of the Ways and Means Committee. Thank you in advance for your time and dedication to the Garden Club's annual fundraiser. It is very much appreciated, and we cannot do this without you!!



**New Sign at the Cape Coral Library Butterfly Garden**

The Butterfly Garden at the south Cape Coral library has seen many changes over the past year. The most recent change is a colorful sign identifying common butterflies of Cape Coral. It gives their name, size, and the host plant that they lay eggs on. This was paid for by library volunteers who are called "Friends of the Cape Coral Library." Sue Dues helped the maintenance person install the sign. Surrounding the sign are club members Lynne Viacava, Debbie Clements, Sue Dues, Sherie Bleiler, Valorie Breen, and Joanne Kishfy.



**Cape Coral Breeze - Garden Club Articles**

*For those of you that do not get the Cape Coral Breeze delivered to your home, you can find the most recent article written by a member of the Garden Club of Cape Coral at this link -- <https://www.capecoralbreeze.com/opinion/local-columns>.*

*You can also click on the link below and use the magnifying glass icon to search for "Garden Club." This will bring up additional information regarding the Club's events including March in the Park and Fun with Flowers.*

[News, Sports, Jobs - Cape Coral Breeze](#)

*The Garden Club is currently looking to add two new writers to The Breeze Articles team. 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! If you would like to find out more about this opportunity, please reach out to Ann Block, The Breeze Articles Chair.*



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

### **Other Local Flower and Garden Events**

**Edison-Ford Winter Estates**

#### **Gardening Classes**

**Tuesdays 1:30 p.m. and Saturdays 10:00 a.m.**

**January 23<sup>rd</sup> & 27<sup>th</sup> – Intro to Florida Gardening Part I**

**January 30<sup>th</sup> & February 3<sup>rd</sup> – Intro to Florida Gardening Part II**

**February 20<sup>th</sup> & 24<sup>th</sup> – 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 10<sup>th</sup> & 11<sup>th</sup> – Annual Spring Garden Festival 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.**

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

Don't forget to stop by Pelican Elementary School to sign up for the garden project working with Peggy Stamper, the STEM teacher at Pelican Elementary School. 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."



### **TRASH OFF TRAILS PROJECT – JANUARY 18**

**Sandy Troy Pennington with the Poinciana Garden Club is inviting all gardeners to join her and participate in "Trash off Trails." On January 18th, she will lead a group here in Cape Coral at Four Mile Cove Ecological Preserve starting at 9:00 a.m. While enjoying a walk through one of our local 20/20 preserves, the group picks up trash. It is an interesting way to explore some trails with Sandy as our guide. She makes a video for each walk and posts it on Facebook. You are all welcome to join the group at Four Mile Preserve, 2500 SE 24th Street. Hope to see you there!!**

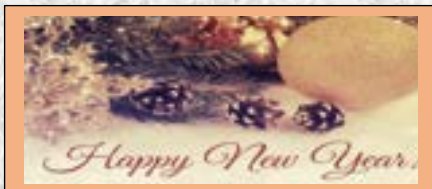


**CHORES AND PLANTING GUIDE FOR JANUARY – ZONE 10**

- Plants that can be added to the garden during the coolest months include begonia, browallia, lobelia, dianthus, dusty miller, and nicotiana.
  - Winter is the perfect time to plant bulbs that will bloom in the spring. Some examples include Clivia lily, crinum, and agapanthus.
  - Many herbs will thrive now that temperatures are cooler, including tarragon, thyme, dill, fennel, and any of the mints.
  - Many vegetables can be planted this time of year, like beets, broccoli, brussels sprouts, cabbage, cauliflower, collards, kale, mustard, and turnips.
    - This the last month to plant Irish potatoes.
      - Contact seed companies to receive their new year catalog.
  - Make plans for the coming seasons garden. Decide where your crops will rotate from last year, and start carpentry projects like cold frames, trellises, and indoor lighting set-ups if possible.
  - Look over last year's planting, fertilizing, and spraying records. Make notes to reorder successful varieties as well as those you wish to try again.
  - Add garden record keeping to the list of New Year's resolutions. Make a note of which varieties of flowers and vegetables do best and which do poorly in your garden.
  - It is a suitable time to plant woody shrubs. Water frequently to get new plantings off to a good start.
  - Water plants if temperatures remain higher than normal and rainfall is scarce.
    - Bring sensitive plants like orchids inside if a frost or freeze is predicted. Thoroughly water and cover sensitive plants in the landscape 12–24 hours before a freeze.
  - Apply horticultural oil to citrus, shrubs, and deciduous fruit trees while plants are dormant to control scale. Apply copper spray to mangos after bloom.  
(Source: *Sow True Seed*)

**Message from the President**

*Happy New Year! I hope that you and your family and friends enjoyed the holidays. We have a lot going on in the club over the next few months ... two bus trips to places most of our members have never been to before. And most importantly the 16th Annual March in the Park!! I hope you will take some time to dig up some overgrown plants in your garden or propagate an indoor house plant that will go to new homes. I want to thank all our members in advance who volunteer for this event. I am amazed at how wonderful this fundraising event 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!!*



**Donna Schmidt**