

# 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

## **MARCH 2024** **GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING**



The March meeting will take place at Lake Kennedy Center. We look forward to seeing you there on Wednesday, March 13th, starting at 5:45 p.m. (400 Santa Barbara Boulevard – Cape Coral). Cathy Dunn, Program Chair, has arranged for a panel discussion at the March meeting. Colleen Carty and Sherie Bleiler will give a presentation - *My Best Successes and Biggest Lessons in the Garden*. This will be the perfect opportunity for our members to learn about the many aspects of gardening in Southwest Florida. We will also have a Q&A so bring along any questions you may have.

*If you've never experienced the joy of  
accomplishing more than you can imagine,  
plant a garden.*  
– Robert Brault

**March 2024**

*Editor--Donna Schmidt*

### ***Board of Directors***

**President – Donna Schmidt**  
**First Vice President – Cathy Dunn**  
**Second Vice President – Terry Fisher**  
**Treasurer – Patty Lyon**  
**Assistant Treasurer – Susan Noble**  
**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



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

**Colleen Carty – March 3**  
**Marge Maciag – March 14**  
**Karen Kight – March 15**

**Jennifer Asumaa – March 23**  
**Twila Thalberg – March 23**  
**Debbie Long – March 30**

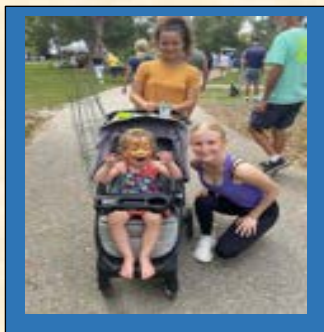
### *March in the Park – March 9, 2024*

The Garden Club could not have asked for a better day! The weather was perfect, and we had a constant flow of visitors!! Here are a few pictures from yesterday.

Look for more details in the April newsletter.

Thank you to all the volunteers who made this event a remarkable success!!

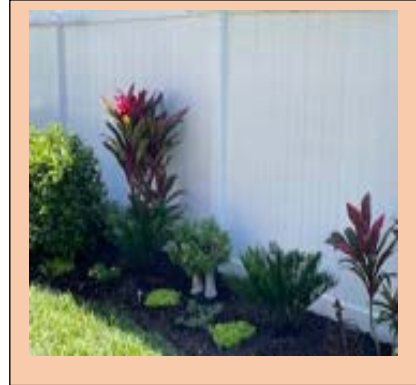
We cannot do this without you!!



## *Garden Club of Cape Coral*

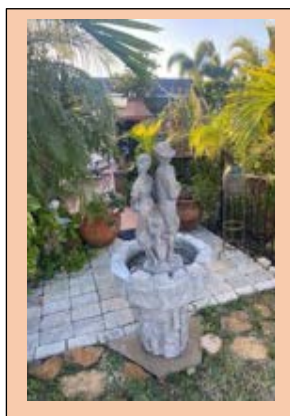
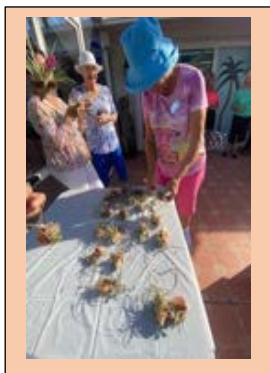
### **Garden Tour and New Member Tea – February 25, 2024**

Our garden club members had a wonderful day for the Garden Tour and New Member Tea. Thank you to Rachele Epp, Cindy Wasilak and Beverly Nugent for giving us the opportunity to tour your beautiful gardens. A special thank you goes out to Beverly and John Nugent for hosting the tea. John was very engaging as the bar tender and MC for the afternoon. Everyone went home with a special giveaway thanks to Joanne Kishfy, Cheryl Buckley, and Beverly Nugent. The weather and the time we all had together was amazing!



*Garden Club of Cape Coral*

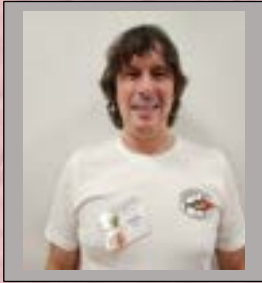
**Garden Tour and New Member Tea – February 25, 2024  
(continued)**



## *Garden Club of Cape Coral*

### **New Member – Rich Kullson**

At our membership meeting in January, Rich Kullson and his wife Melinda joined the Garden Club. We would like to share some information about Rich that he has provided. If you are a new member, please feel free to send along your bio to Sally Stevens to share with our club members.



My wife and I moved to Cape Coral after a brief visit 3 years ago. We fell in love with the area and decided to make the Cape Coral area our winter home. We both love gardening and socializing. We have a small manufacturing company in Maine and love to travel. I have 2 grown daughters and 4 grandchildren. I look forward in learning all about the difference of gardening in Florida and assisting in this club.

### **Special Monthly Events – April and May**

Please be on the lookout for an email that contains information about our trip to Sincerely Succulents in North Fort Myers on Saturday, April 20th with lunch to follow at Buckingham Farms. A link will be provided in the email to sign up for this event.

In lieu of our monthly meeting at Lake Kenndy Center on May 8th, we will be having a year-end picnic that will take place at the Garden Council Building. There will be a sign-up sheet at the March meeting if you would like to help with organizing the picnic. The picnic will start at 11:00 a.m. Additional information will be sent in a separate email.

### **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!

## Garden Club of Cape Coral

### Art in Bloom – Sunday, March 3, 2024

On Sunday, March 3rd, the Garden Council and Edison and Ford Winter Estates staged the Art in Bloom event which took place inside at the Caretaker's Cottage.

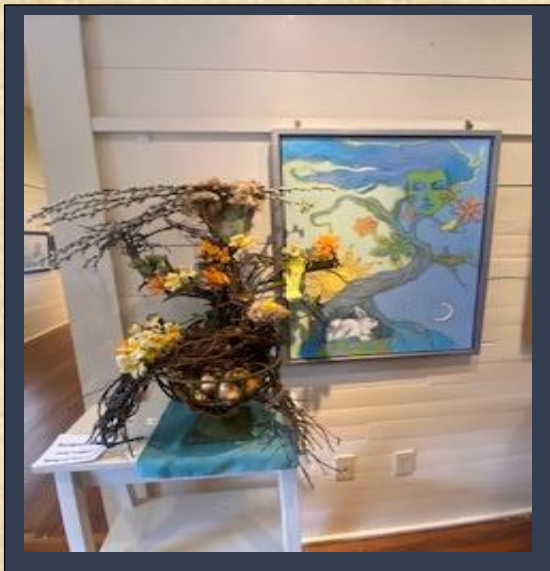
There were 16 wonderful designs created by the Garden Council designers that complemented the stunning artwork currently on display in the Cottage. A few of our Garden Club members -- Nancy Colgan, Susan Lawson, Lois Luber and Fran McIntyre -- showcased their designs. Here are the pictures of their designs and the artwork. Absolutely amazing!!!



Susan Lawson



Fran McIntyre



Lois Luber



Nancy Colgan

### FROGS IN THE GARDEN

Creating a frog habitat with native plants and a water source in your garden is a rewarding way to support local wildlife and enhance your natural space. Native frogs play a crucial role in maintaining biodiversity by controlling insect populations and serving as a vital food source for other animals. Unfortunately, frogs are rapidly disappearing all around the globe due to human activity. Because frogs are very susceptible to pollution and habitat loss, they are considered an indicator species. By supporting frogs in your garden with native plants, you contribute to restoring a healthy local ecosystem. A healthy frog population suggests a balanced environment, while a decline can indicate ecological disturbances. This makes them essential for monitoring garden health. Moreover, frogs are part of the garden food chain, serving as prey for birds and other wildlife, thereby maintaining ecological balance.

Below is a list of some of the native plants that will attract frogs to your garden.

- **Frogfruit (*Phyla nodiflora*):** This low-growing ground cover provides shelter for small frogs and attracts insects, which are a vital food source for many frog species.
- **Pickerelweed (*Pontederia cordata*):** Pickerelweed is a native aquatic plant that grows near the water's edge. It offers cover and shade for frogs and provides habitat for insects and other aquatic creatures.
- **Cardinal Flower (*Lobelia cardinalis*):** The vibrant red flowers of cardinal flower that naturally grows in wet soil and attract insects as a food source and cover from predators. (Hummingbirds love it too).
- **Milkweed (*Asclepias spp.*):** Milkweed is a host plant for monarch butterflies, but it also attracts a wide range of insects that frogs love to eat. Swamp milkweed (*Asclepias incarnata*) attracts insects and provides habitat for frogs in moist areas.
- **Black-Eyed Susan (*Rudbeckia spp.*):** The bright yellow flowers of black-eyed susan attract insects, which are an essential food source for frogs.
- **Buttonbush (*Cephalanthus occidentalis*):** This native shrub produces spherical flowers that attract pollinators and provide cover for frogs near water bodies.
- **Wild Bergamot (*Monarda fistulosa*):** Wild bergamot is a nectar-rich plant that attracts pollinators, benefiting frogs indirectly by providing a steady supply of insect prey.

Perhaps you would like to build your own frog hotel. It is quite easy – all you need is PVC pipes, a container like a plastic tub or bowl, optional native water plants, pebbles, and safe, non-toxic paint for decoration. Here's the link if you would like to add one to your garden: [Why and How to Install a Frog Hotel in Your Garden | sharingideas \(dua-tin.com\)](https://www.sharingideas.com/why-and-how-to-install-a-frog-hotel-in-your-garden/) This would be a great project to do with family and friends.



Sources: Garden For Wildlife - [Supporting Frogs & Wildlife with a Native Plant Garden \(gardenforwildlife.com\)](https://www.gardenforwildlife.com/supporting-frogs-wildlife-native-plant-garden/)  
Plants and Gardening - [Why and How to Install a Frog Hotel in Your Garden | sharingideas \(dua-tin.com\)](https://www.sharingideas.com/why-and-how-to-install-a-frog-hotel-in-your-garden/)

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

- Plant heat-tolerant annuals, such as crossandra, gazania, melampodium, and zinnia that will last into fall.
- Plant gladiola corms 6 inches apart and 4 inches deep; stake as they grow.
- Plant caladium for a showy tropical display all summer.
- Plant an array of culinary and medicinal herbs now. In addition to their culinary value, many herbs are ornamental and attract butterflies to the garden.
- This is the last month to plant arugula, beans, cantaloupe, carrots, celery sweet corn, endive, okra, radish, squashes, Swiss chard, and watermelon.
- Prune perennials and shrubs when new growth begins after the end of the dormant season. To guard next season's blooms, begin pruning after the last flowers fade but before the new buds set.
- Add mulch to minimize weeds and conserve moisture during dry weather.
- Monitor landscape plants for insects, especially for the presence of aphids on tender new growth. Insects become more active during warm weather.
- Fertilize palms and ornamental shrubs if not done last month.
- Add variety and interest to the landscape and table for years by planting exotic fruits this month.

(Source: *Sow True Seed*)

**\*\*IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT\*\***  
**GARDEN CLUB MEMBERSHIP DUES**

A friendly reminder that the club's annual dues are due. Please make your check made payable to: **Garden Club of Cape Coral**. Terry Fisher, Membership Chair, will be at the March meeting and Donna Schneider and Carmen Sprague will be at the April meeting to collect payment. Payment must be received by April 10th to qualify to be a district member and to include your picture in the new membership directory. If you are not able to attend a meeting, please mail your check to:

Garden Club of Cape Coral  
Attention: Membership Chair  
PO Box 152022  
Cape Coral, FL 33915

Rates for 2024-2025 dues are as follows:

\$30 individuals

\$45 couples



# Garden Club of Cape Coral

## Other Local Flower and Garden Events

### Edison-Ford Winter Estates

#### Gardening Classes

#### Garden Class: The Power Of Florida Native Plants

March 19 at 1:30 p.m.

March 23 at 10:00 a.m.


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

## OTHER GARDEN CLUB EVENTS



  
**Hibiscus Show and Sale**  
APRIL 6, 2024  
COVENANT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
2439 McGregor Boulevard  
Fort Myers  
1:00 – 3:00  
Plenty of free parking  
**400 PLANTS**  
\$20 each  
All credit cards accepted  
[www.hendrychaplerhibiscus.com](http://www.hendrychaplerhibiscus.com)



Shell Islands Garden Club  
and Sanibel Captive Art League present  
**"ART IN BLOOM"**  
   
March 18, 19, 20  
2024  
Sanibel Public Library  
770 Dunlop Road  
Sanibel Island  
Members of the Shell Islands Garden Club will present a grouping of original artwork in a special exhibit of artists and colorful floral arrangements.  
**1 Day Only!** Don't miss this special "Art in Bloom" event located in the main library during library hours.  
"Art in Bloom" Hours:  
Monday, March 18 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.  
Tuesday, March 19 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.  
Wednesday, March 20 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.  
[sanibelgardenclub.org](http://sanibelgardenclub.org)



 **Calusa Garden Club**  
*Presents its Third Annual*  
**Home Garden Tour**  
March 21, 2024  
Two Sessions:  
Morning: 8:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.  
Afternoon: 1:15 p.m. - 5:15 p.m.  
Guided tour of four beautiful specialty gardens, demonstrations, wine and cheese reception, door prizes.  
Tickets: \$63.00  
Purchase online at [calusa.org](http://calusa.org), Event Lib, March 23 Home Garden Tour  




**PUNTA GORDA GARDEN CLUB**  
PRESENTS  
**An NGC Standard Flower Show**  
At  
Isles Yacht Club  
1780 West Marion Ave.  
Punta Gorda, FL 33950  
  
**NAME THAT TUNE**  
Save the Date  
Free Admission  
Tuesday March 26, 2024  
Open to the Public  
1 - 3 pm

**Message from the President**

*March in the Park was an enormous success! More information will be in the next edition of the GCCC newsletter. A big thank you to everyone who volunteered both before and during the big day. The members of the Ways and Means Committee did an amazing job pulling everything together. And the weather could not have been better. We cannot do this without the many members who helped to make this a tremendous success. As I often say, we cannot do this without you!!*

*Wishing you a Happy St. Patrick's Day!!*

*May the dreams you hold dearest be those which come true  
and the kindness you spread keep returning to 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 innovative ideas to share with our members and I welcome your feedback as well.*

**Donna Schmidt**

**FIRST DAY OF SPRING – MARCH 19TH**

*Spring: A lovely reminder of how beautiful change can truly be!!*

