

# 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

## ***APRIL 2024*** ***GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING***



The April meeting will take place at Lake Kennedy Center. We look forward to seeing you there on Wednesday, April 10th, starting at 5:45 p.m. (400 Santa Barbara Boulevard – Cape Coral). Our April Program is the presentation of the Marty Ward Merit Awards by Co-Chairs Cheryl Byrd and Bonnie Manuel. This is our major club project, and you won't want to miss the opportunity to hear the many accomplishments of our local High School Seniors! Plan to join us to celebrate these outstanding young scholars!

*Come little flowers, it's time to wake  
And paint the world in cheer  
And sing the song of growing things,  
The warmth of spring is here !*

*~ Laura Jaworski*

**April 2024**

*Editor--Donna Schmidt*

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

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**Second Vice President – Terry Fisher**  
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## Garden Club of Cape Coral



### *Happy Birthday to our members celebrating in April!!*

**Claude Anderson – April 6**

**Peggy Cruz – April 8**

**Maria Rico Valle – April 10**

**Susie Tribula – April 20**

**Janet Franzen – April 23**

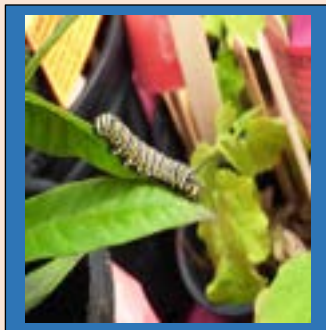
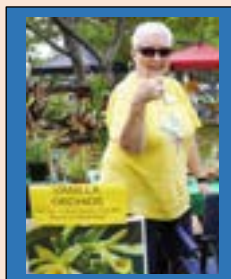
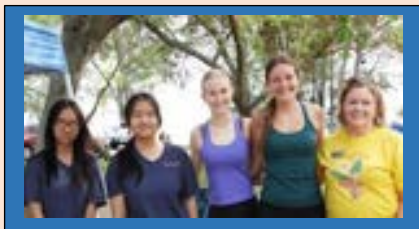
**Chandra Girdhari – April 23**

**Sarah Hogan – April 24**

**Alessia Leathers – April 26**

### *March in the Park – March 9th*

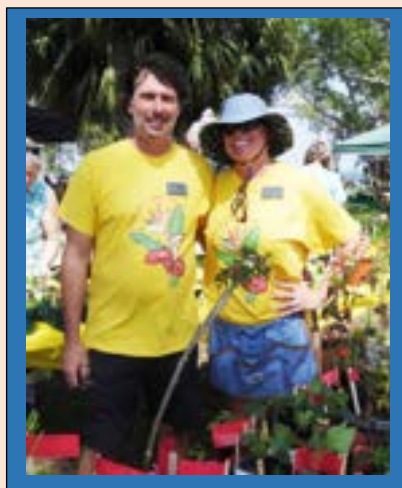
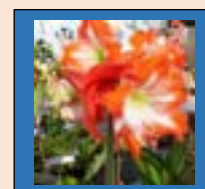
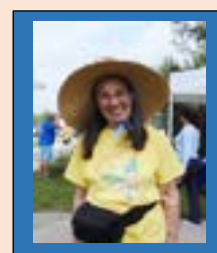
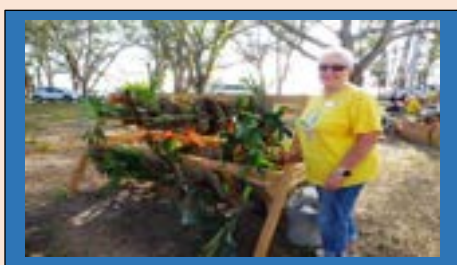
The Garden Club could not have asked for a better day! The weather was perfect, and we had a constant flow of visitors. Thank you to all the volunteers who made this event a momentous success from start to finish. Thank you to the family members who were there helping in so many ways. Thank you to the local high school students for all their help. Thank you to Bruce Lawson – he is an amazing DJ. As of today, we are estimating a profit of \$10,200 after expenses!! The total income from the plant sales is \$5,079. Thrift Booth sold over \$815, and the caladium sales were over \$490.





## Garden Club of Cape Coral

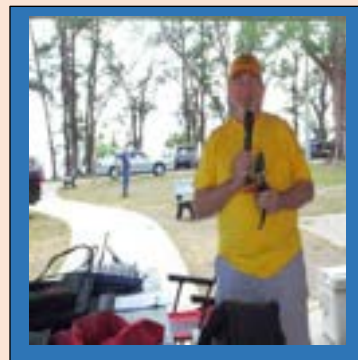
### *March in the Park – March 9th (continued)*





## Garden Club of Cape Coral

### *March in the Park – March 9th (continued)*

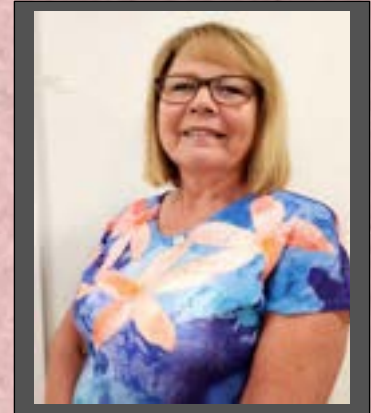


## ***Garden Club of Cape Coral***

### **NEW MEMBERS**

We had four new members join the Garden Club at our March 2024 meeting. Please give a warm welcome to Sharon Horton. Sharon is originally from Parkville, Maryland. She and her husband Chuck have two children. Her son Brad and his wife Darla have moved to Cape Coral. Her daughter Lindsay and her husband Tom live in Phoenix, Maryland. Sharon's husband Chuck is retired from their electrical contracting company.

Sharon and her son Brad now run the business in Maryland and have recently started operation of the business here in Florida. Sharon spent 32 years in the wholesale floral industry in Maryland.



If you are a new member, please feel free to send along your bio to Sally Stevens to share with our club members in the newsletter.

### **\*\*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**. 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 follow:  
\$30 individuals -- \$45 couples

### **TRIP TO SINCERELY SUCCULENTS – SATURDAY, APRIL 20th – NORTH FORT MYERS**

You still have time to sign up for the succulent potting bar party at Sincerely Succulents that will take place on Saturday, April 20th starting at 10:00 a.m. If you do not want to sign up for the potting party, please feel free to come along and do some shopping at Sincerely Succulents and Maree Farms. Please feel free to invite your family and friends. The cost is \$15, and this amount will also be applied to your succulent creation which usually runs around \$35 to make. Below is the link to sign up for the event. Emails will be sent out to the members who have signed up for the potting party and to the members who would like to join the group for lunch. Please contact Donna Schmidt if you have any questions.

<https://www.sincerelysucculents.com/products/10am-garden-club-of-cape-coral-rsvp-4-20-24>



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

### **Picnic – May 8th – Berne Davis Garden Council Gardens – Fort Myers**

The Picnic Planning Committee had their first meeting on Friday, April 5th regarding the Garden Club picnic taking place on Wednesday, May 8th. The picnic will begin at 11:00 a.m. Please feel free to bring along your family or friends. We will have a scavenger hunt in the gardens. We will also play a couple games of bingo giving away some wonderful prizes. Members will be asked to bring along a sandwich of their choice to share with the group. Plates and markers will be provided to identify the sandwich you will share. The board will be providing the sides, chips, and desserts. Bring your own beverage – bottled water will be provided along with cups, plates, and utensils. Look for the sign-up sheet at the April meeting – be sure to include the number of guests as well. Reminder emails will also be sent out to members over the next few weeks. We will not have a monthly evening meeting at Lake Kennedy Center on Wednesday, May 8th. The picnic will be in place of this meeting. This is the club's last meeting until September. We hope you can join us!!



### **Berne Davis Award Luncheon – April 23rd – Fort Myers**

**The annual Berne Davis Award Luncheon will take place at the Fiddlesticks Country Club in Fort Myers on Tuesday, April 23rd. Forms will be available at the meeting on Wednesday, April 10th, if you would like to attend. We currently have 15 members signed up for this event to represent our Garden Club. The cost is \$35 per person.**

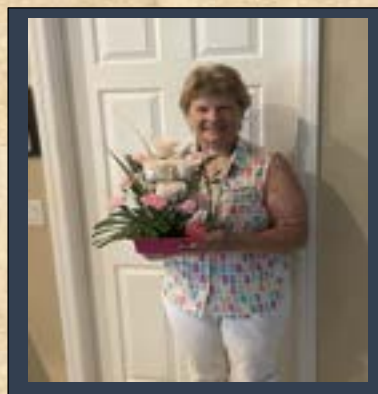
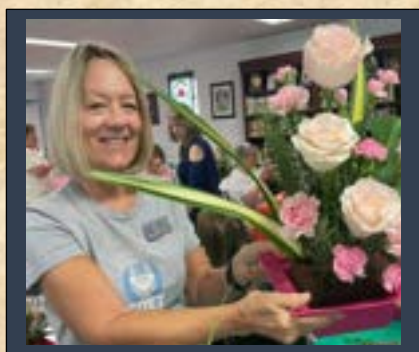
**The form and your check need to be mailed to Charlene Anderson no later than Friday, April 12th so you still have time to register. Contact Charlene if you should have any questions. Hope to see you there!**

### **District IX Spring Meeting – May 22nd – Lake Placid**

The District IX Spring Meeting will take place on Wednesday, May 22nd. The cost will be \$38.00 per person and includes breakfast and lunch. The deadline to register for this event is May 6th. We will carpool since – the venue in Lake Placid is about 90 minutes from Cape Coral. We hope you will be able to join us to support Susan Lawson in her new role as President of District IX. This is the perfect opportunity to meet members of other garden clubs in District IX. An email will be sent to our members with additional information and the registration form. Registration forms will also be available at the April 10th meeting. If you have any questions, please reach out to Donna Schmidt.

**Fun with Flowers**

**Fun with Flowers took place on March 15th. This session sold out. Everyone looks like they had an amazing time!! The arrangements are so beautiful!!**





### **MOLASSES IN THE GARDEN**

Are you looking for an easy, low-cost way to feed your plants? You might want to consider feeding plants with molasses. Molasses plant fertilizer is a wonderful way to grow healthy plants and, as an added benefit, using molasses in gardens can help fend off pests. Let's learn more about molasses as fertilizer.

#### **What is Molasses?**

Molasses is the by-product of beating sugarcane, grapes, or sugar beets into sugar. The dark, rich, and sweet liquid is commonly used as a sweetener in baked goods, as a natural remedy for many ailments, and added to animal feed. Even though it is a by-product, molasses is full of vitamins and minerals. As a result, molasses as fertilizer is possible too.

#### **Feeding Plants with Molasses**

Using molasses in organic gardening practices is nothing new. The sugar refinement process goes through three stages, each yielding a type of molasses product. Blackstrap molasses is created from the third boiling of sugar in the refinement process. Blackstrap molasses is high in calcium, magnesium, iron, and potassium. It also contains sulfur and a host of micronutrients. Using molasses as fertilizer provides plants with a quick source of energy and encourages the growth of beneficial microorganisms.

#### **Types of Molasses Fertilizer**

Unsulphered blackstrap molasses is commonly added to organic fertilizers to give plants the necessary carbohydrates and trace minerals that they need to be healthy. Molasses can be added to organic liquid fertilizers, compost tea, alfalfa meal tea, and kelp, to name a few. When molasses is added to organic fertilizers, it provides food for the healthy microbes in the soil. The greater amount of microbial activity in the soil, the healthier plants will be. Add molasses at a rate of 1 to 3 tablespoons (14-44 ml.) to 1 gallon (3.5 L.) of fertilizer for best results. Molasses can also be added to water and sprayed on plant leaves or poured on the soil. When the molasses is sprayed directly on plant leaves, the nutrients and sugar are absorbed quickly, and nutrients are immediately available.

#### **Pest-Free Gardens**

Using molasses in gardens has the additional benefit of fighting off pests. Since molasses increases the overall vitality of plants, pests are less likely to attack your garden. Use a molasses and water mixture every two weeks, in addition to your molasses fertilizer, for best results. Molasses plant fertilizer is an excellent non-toxic and cost-effective way to keep your plants happy and pest free.

Source: [www.gardeningknowhow.com Types Of Molasses Fertilizer - Tips For Using Molasses In Gardens | Gardening Know How](http://www.gardeningknowhow.com/Types-Of-Molasses-Fertilizer-Tips-For-Using-Molasses-In-Gardens/)

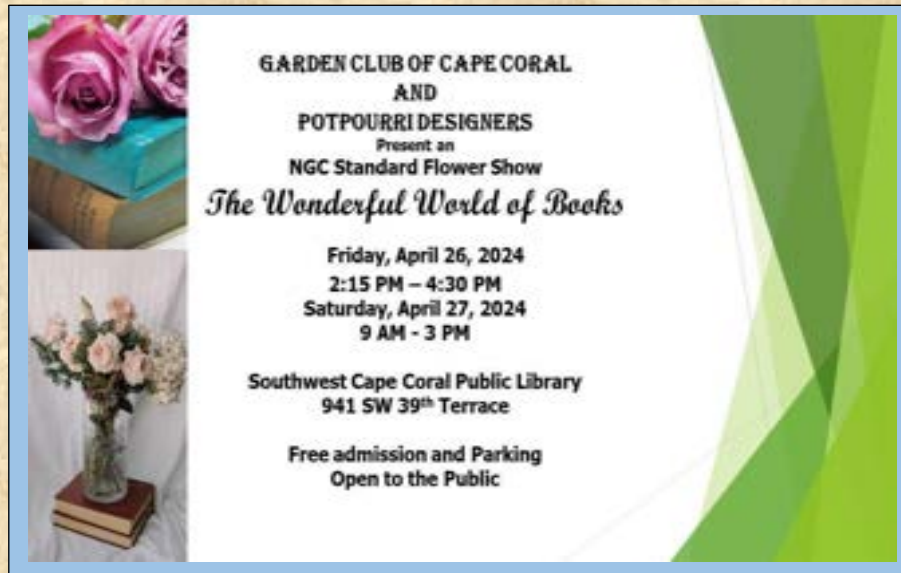




## Garden Club of Cape Coral

### *Flower Show – Cape Coral Library – April 26th and 27th*

Don't forget – the 2024 Garden Show is taking place at the Cape Coral Library on April 26th and April 27th. Please contact Kathy Woodlock or Sylvia Swartz if you would like to enter a floral design or need additional information. The Design Group will be meeting on Tuesdays (April 9, April 16, and April 23) at 1:00 p.m. at Nancy Colgan's house to prepare for this event.



### CHORES AND PLANTING GUIDE FOR APRIL – ZONE 10

- Plant heat-tolerant annuals, such as coleus, vinca, and portulaca.
- Cannas thrive in the heat of summer. New varieties have colorful leaves as well as flowers.
- Some to start now includes basil, coriander, cumin, and mint.
- Beans, Chinese cabbage, Southern peas, and sweet potatoes can still be planted. Mulch beds well and monitor irrigation if the weather is dry.
- Monitor insect activity and learn which bugs damage plants and which do not.
- Identify and conserve beneficial insects. Some insects should be encouraged in your yard!
- Watch for pests, disease, and nutritional disorders on developing tomato plants.
- Identify and treat environmental and nutritional disorders in palm trees.
- Divide clumps of bulbs, ornamental grasses, or herbaceous perennials to expand or rejuvenate garden beds or to pass along to friends.
- Choose from a wide variety of shrubs to add to the landscape now.

(Source: *Sow True Seed*)

### Photo Contest

The Garden Club Photo Contest closed at midnight on March 31st. We had 11 participants, and 18 photos were submitted. A special thank you to Joanne Kishfy for her hard work to organize this event. The winner of the contest will be announced at the picnic on May 8th. Good luck to all the participants!!

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

### **Edison-Ford Winter Estates**

**Celebrate Clara Ford's Birthday With A Garden Tea Party**  
**April 11th | 2 p.m. to 4 p.m.**

**Grow Fort Myers Plant Sale And Workshops**  
**April 13th | 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.**

**Garden Class: The Fragrant Garden**  
**April 23rd (Tuesday 1:30 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.) or April 27th (Saturday – 10 a.m. to Noon)**

[Fort Myers Museums, Attractions, Things To Do | Edison Ford Winter Estates](#))

## **OTHER GARDEN EVENTS**





## Garden Club of Cape Coral

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

April 10 – GCCC Membership Meeting

April 19 – Fun with Flowers

April 20 – Sincerely Succulents in North Fort Myers

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

### Message from the President

*I hope you enjoy this edition of the GCCC Newsletter. There were so many pictures from March in the Park – thank you Carmen Sprague. I couldn't include them all but if you notice we were able to capture so many moments from the day. A big thank you to everyone who volunteered before, during and after the event. The members of the Ways and Means Committee did an amazing job pulling everything together. 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!!*

*I am sorry I will not be at the April membership meeting to see in person the local high school students receive their well-deserved scholarship awards. Congratulations to the students who have worked so hard over the last four years. Cathy, Sylvia, Charlene, and I will be attending the FFGC Convention in Jacksonville to celebrate the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the FFGC. This will be my first time and I am looking forward to attending the programs and meeting members of other garden clubs in Florida. I will be sure to take lots of pictures to share.*

*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**

