

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

DECEMBER 2023 HOLIDAY EDITION



*May the magic of the holidays fill your heart with peace
and happiness. Wishing you a joyous holiday season!*

*Embrace 2024 with open arms and a heart full of hope;
for every new year brings fresh chapters yet unwritten,
waiting for our stories to unfold.*



DECEMBER 2023

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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**“Maybe Christmas (he thought) doesn’t come
from a store, maybe Christmas perhaps means
a little bit more.”**

- The Grinch



Happy Birthday to our members celebrating in December!!

Debbie Cooper – December 6

Bonnie Klockner – December 6

Cheryl Shaw – December 11

Deborah Clements – December 17

Janine Egler – December 14

Valorie Breen – December 20

Joyce Comingore – December 21

Ria Benton – December 22

Tammy Wilson – December 28

Susan Gornall – December 30

2023 Service Award – Ria Benton

The proud recipient of the Garden Club's 2023 Service Award is Ria Benton. Sherrie Bleiler presented the award to Ria at the Garden Club's Annual Holiday Party.

Ria joined the Garden Club in 2010. The following year, she was Ways and Means chair with Babu Mathew and then chaired it alone for three more years. This is our most complex committee assignment. It is a tremendous undertaking, with many moving pieces, and especially demanding from January through March.

After that she joined the Board of Directors as Treasurer for six years, from 2015 until 2021. Serving three terms is a large commitment of time and energy.

Currently, she is one of the cashiers at our October and March plant sales. She helps with Fun with Flowers and remains an active, involved member.

We thank Ria for her years of service and appreciate all she has contributed to the success of our club. Congratulations Ria!



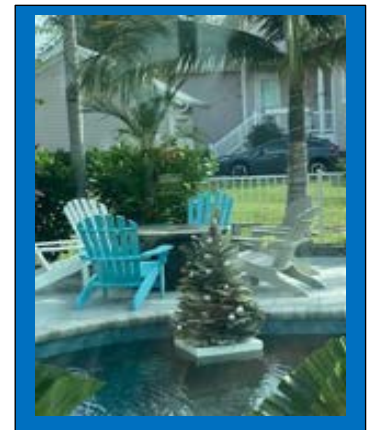
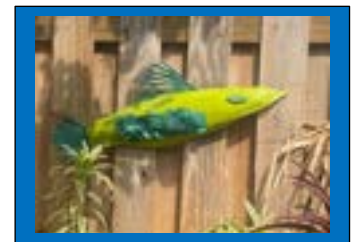
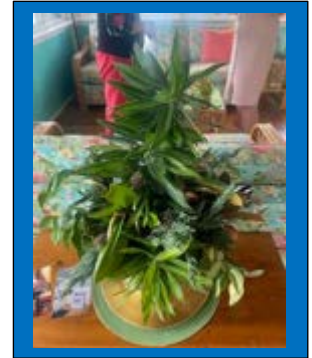
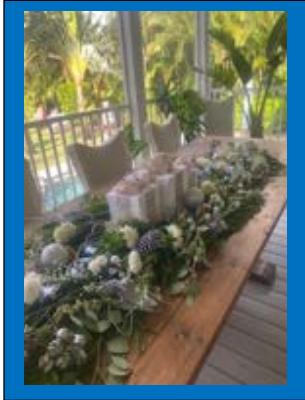
HOLIDAY PARTY

The Garden Club's Annual Holiday Party took place on Sunday, December 3rd at Lake Kennedy Center. The Holiday Party Planning Committee did an amazing job organizing this year's event!! The theme was Garden Angels and some of the members of the committee made the most adorable angel ornaments that were made from wine corks. There were two contests this year along with a gift raffle for 10 lucky winners. Colleen Carty won the prize for the yummiest dessert and Sylvia Swartz won the prize for the most beautiful centerpiece. We had 75 people in attendance this year. Thank you to all our members who brought an appetizer, side salad or dessert to share ... the food was delicious!! What a wonderful way to start celebrating the holidays together!!



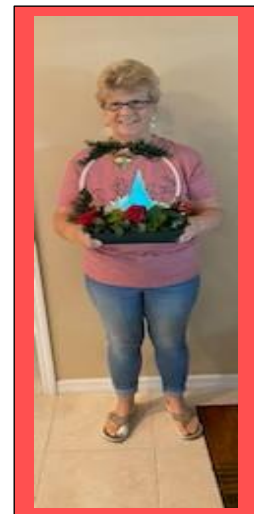
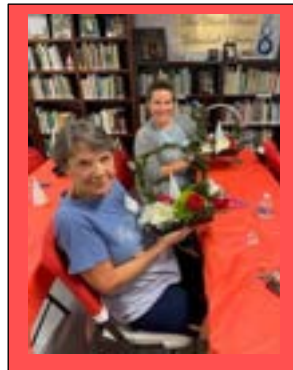
Punta Gorda Holly Days Tour

On Friday, December 1st, a group from our Garden Club, along with family and friends, joined in the fun and festivities for the Punta Gorda Garden Club's annual Holly Days Tour. We met at the Ice House Pub for lunch then took off to tour the four beautifully decorated homes. The weather for the day was perfect and it was wonderful way to get into the holiday spirit. The decorations were amazing!!



Fun with Flowers

Fun with Flowers took place on Friday, December 8th at the Garden Council building. It was a tremendous success!! The holiday centerpiece that everyone made was so very beautiful!!



Message from the President

Warmest wishes to you and yours this holiday season. As we ring in 2024, here's to a happy and bountiful new year. Wishing you beautiful moments, treasured memories, and all the blessings a heart can know.

