

# 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 2025 Edition



The March 2025 meeting will take place at the Epiphany Episcopal Church. We look forward to seeing you there on Tuesday, March 11, starting at 5:45 p.m. (2507 Del Prado Boulevard S. – Cape Coral).

Our guest speaker is Sheryl van der Heiden who will be giving a presentation on Integrated Pest Management. Sheryl is the Extension Agent for Residential Horticulture in Lee County. She combines research-based gardening solutions with practical know-how, having grown vegetables and fruits in the South Florida landscape for nearly twenty years. Hope to see you there!!



*For each petal on the shamrock, this brings a wish your way: Good health, good luck, and happiness for today and every day!!*

**March 2025**

*Editor--Donna Schmidt*

### **Board of Directors**

**President – Donna Schmidt**  
**First Vice President – VACANT**  
**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-Chairs - Sylvia Swartz and  
Cathy Dunn**

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## February 11, 2025 – General Membership Meeting

The Butterfly Garden Team hosted the February 11th meeting. Thank you for your hospitality!! We had an abundance of delicious food and an incredibly special cake that Cindy made for the evening's special occasion – the book signing of *Cultivating Paradise*. The March in the Park committee members also gave a presentation on what our volunteers can expect on the day of our Garden Club's annual fundraiser. Thank you to Sylvia and Cathy for co-chairing the MIP Committee along with all the other Garden Club members who volunteer for this annual event. There is so much work that goes into preparing for this amazing fundraiser.



### *Cultivating Paradise*

Pictured are Sherie, Cathy and Ann – three of *The Breeze* writers on the team  
Linda and Carol and her son – daughters of Joyce and Jean, the original writers of *The Breeze*.



## March in the Park

Sylvia and Colleen sharing information about what our volunteers have been doing the last few months to prepare for MIP and the details of how everything will come together for this very special event.

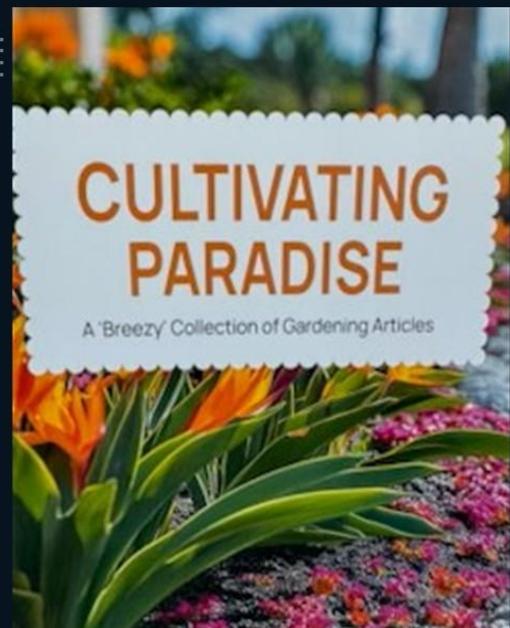
February 11, 2025 – General Membership Meeting  
(continued)

More pictures from the February 11<sup>th</sup> meeting. Cathy, Ann, Sherie, Ginny with her famous green flyers, and the delicious cake Cindy made for our new fundraiser – *Cultivating Paradise*.



## *The Breeze* Articles Booklet – *Cultivating Paradise*

*The Breeze* Articles Committee writers have been working hard over the last few months to put together a special booklet, *Cultivating Paradise*, that contains a compilation of articles that have been published in *The Breeze* over the years and will be dedicated to two of our members, Joyce Comingore and Jean Shields. For this reason, we are having a very special event at the February membership meeting that you do not want to miss. If you are interested in purchasing a booklet, the cost will be \$15.



Many Hands Make Light Work

By Cynthia Mahoney

Rose Garden Maintenance Team



Back Row: Linda Baucshek, Rich Kullson, Marilou Lucas, Sharon Horton, Chuck Horton.

Front Row: Gina Hagen, Belinda Kullson, Janice Johnsen, Paula Plum

This team maintains the History Museum's Memorial Rose Garden at 544 Cultural Park Boulevard. The museum is located at the southwest corner of newly renovated Cultural Park. The renovation was via the Go Bond approved by the Cape Coral voters a few years back.

The Rose Garden needed of a new layer of mulch. Normally we purchase Floramulch from the "Go Mulch" store on Nicholas Parkway. Floramulch is shredded melaleuca (invasive) trees from the Everglades.

Rich Kullson visited the "GO Mulch" store in Ft Myers and asked for a charitable donation of mulch to the Rose Garden. **And he got it!!!**

Many Hands Make Light Work  
(continued)

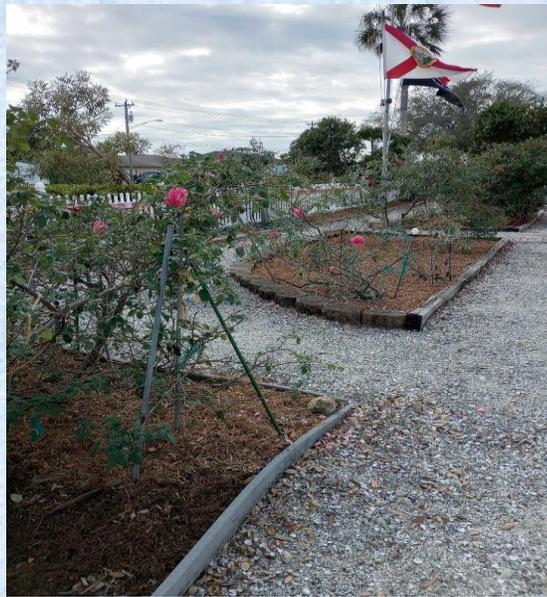
On January 17<sup>th</sup> Rich and I picked up 36 bags of **donated** mulch. Rich and Chuck carried the mulch bags to the rose beds. The rest of us spread the mulch in the beds.

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Many Hands Make Light Work  
(continued)

The new mulch spruced up the image of the Rose Garden



Many thanks to Sharon Horten's husband, Chuck, for his assistance.

We currently have 4 members who are snowbirds. The team needs helpers over the summer. Please consider community beautification as your Garden Club committee.



Contact Cynthia to discuss the wonderful work they do at the Rose Garden.



**HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO OUR MEMBERS  
CELEBRATING IN MARCH**

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

Twila Thalberg – March 23  
Debbie Long – March 30  
Claudia Arguelles-Miller –  
March 30

**\*\*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, our Membership Chair, will be at the March meeting to collect payment. Payment must be received by April 1st 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

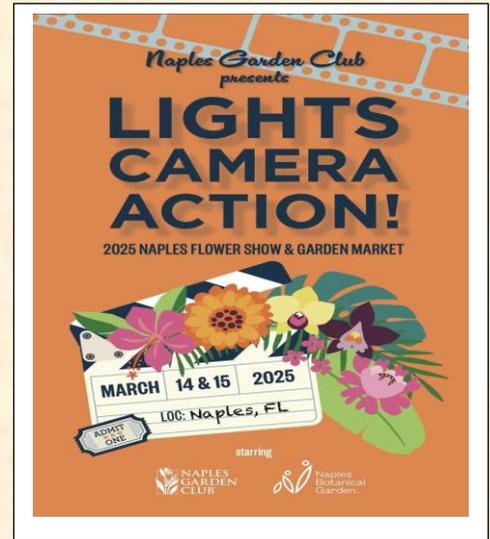
**NEW COMMITTEE - STRATEGIC PLANNING COMMITTEE**

At the request of some of our members, we are forming a new committee – the Strategic Planning Committee. We have someone who is volunteering to lead this endeavor who has experience in this area. As our Garden Club continues to grow, we would like a committee of five to seven members to help establish a mission statement, set overall goals, and develop a plan to achieve those goals. Please contact Donna Schmidt if you have any questions or are interested in joining this committee.

**OTHER EVENTS**



**Rotary Park – Butterfly Garden Design – March 14, 2025**  
 Learn all about butterflies found in this area and what plants & flowers are best to attract them. Please bring pictures or drawings of your yard so the design expert can help you create a butterfly-friendly landscape of your own. Tour the butterfly house and gardens as part of this class, too. \$15 per household. Pre-registration is required. For more information and to reserve your spot, call 239-549-4606.



**FLASHBACK!**  
 REMEMBERING FAVORITES FROM  
 TIMES GONE BY



A NATIONAL GARDEN CLUBS, INC. SMALL STANDARD FLOWER SHOW  
 PRESENTED BY  
 GULF COAST GARDEN CLUB  
 AT  
 BONITA SPRINGS PUBLIC LIBRARY  
 10560 REYNOLDS STREET  
 BONITA SPRINGS, FL 34134

FREE AND OPEN TO PUBLIC  
 MARCH 21, 2025: 1 P.M. – 4:15 P.M.  
 MARCH 22, 2025: 9 A.M. – 3 P.M.

Member of National Garden Clubs, Inc. (NGC); Deep South Garden Clubs, Inc;  
 Florida Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc. (FFGC), District IX, FFGC

**Strolling Flower Show**  
 Awesome Blossoms  
 Tuesday March 18, 2025, 10 AM to 4 PM  
 Sidney & Berne Davis Art Center  
 2301 First St., Fort Myers, FL

Sponsored by the  
 Fort Myers-Lee County Garden Council  
 No Admission Fee. Donations Accepted.

Same day art exhibit: Marvin Rouse  
 Art 4 the Senses: See, Smell, Touch, & Sound

Opportunity Drawing \$20 for 7 chances  
 Do not need to be present to win.

- 1 Voucher: 4 box seats - Red Sox / Minn. Twins 3/25/2025 1 PM game
- 1 Voucher: 4 box seats - Minn. Twins / Pitt. Pirates 3/24/2025 1 PM game
- 1 Voucher: 2 tickets to the Naples Botanical Garden - no expiration date
- 1 Voucher: 2 tickets to the Naples Botanical Garden - no expiration date
- 1 Voucher: 2 tickets to the Florida Repertory Theatre '24/25 Season
- 1 Voucher: 2 tickets to the SWFL Symphony '24/25 Season

STP 3/6/2025





COME EARLY FOR BEST SELECTION!

**TROPICAL PLANT SALE**

**SATURDAY, MARCH 22ND**  
**9 AM - 2 PM**

at Rotary Park  
 5505 Rose Garden Road  
 Cape Coral, FL 33914  
 239-549-4606



**Punta Gorda Garden Club**  
 Presents  
**An NGC Standard Flower Show**  
 At  
 Isles Yacht Club  
 1780 West Marion Ave.  
 Punta Gorda, FL 33950

**Celebrate America**



Free Admission 1-3 pm

**Tuesday March 25, 2025**  
 Open to the Public

**SAVE THE DATES**

***Below is a list of dates to add to your calendar for Garden Club events and meetings now through May 2025***

- \*March in the Park - March 8**
- \*Monthly GCCC Meeting - March 11**
- \*Garden Council Meeting - March 14**
- \*Garden Walk and New Members Tea - March 15**
- \*Design Group - March 17**
- \*Fun with Flowers - March 21 (evening session)**
- \*Butterfly Garden Open House and Tours - April 5**
- \*Monthly GCCC Meeting - April 8 (Marty Ward Merit Award Presentations)**
- \*Design Group - April 21**
- \*GCCC Trip to Conservancy of Southwest Florida - April 24**
- \*Fun with Flowers - May 2 (evening session)**
- \*Cups of Cheer - May 8**
- \*Garden Council Meeting - May 9**
- \*Monthly GCCC Meeting - May 13**
- \*District IX Meeting - May 21**

**DISTRICT IX MEETING – MAY 21, 2025**

Our Garden Club has been asked to host the FFGC's District IX Spring Meeting. Susan Lawson is the Director of District IX and is also a member of our amazing Garden Club. We will be inviting members of the other clubs in District IX to join us for this event that will take place on Wednesday, May 21st. A continental breakfast as well as lunch will be served. There will be a guest speaker, and we will also have a photo contest for all the clubs to participate in. Our Arts and Crafts Committee will be making the table centerpieces. Other members will be making desserts or help with organizing the materials for this event. We will have sign-up sheets at our meetings now through April and we will have planning meetings over the next few months. Donna Schmidt and Patty Lyon are co-chairs for this event. Additional information will be sent out via email.

**FFGC DISTRICT IX  
SPRING 2025 MEETING**

**SAVE THE DATE  
Wednesday, May 21, 2025**

**Riverside Community Center  
Fort Myers, FL**



**WELCOME TO PARADISE**



*Hosted by*  
**The Garden Club of Cape Coral**

**ANNUAL PHOTOGRAPHY COMPETITION**

The Garden Club is seeking photos for consideration for our annual photography competition. This is a fun way for gardeners to share memorable flowers, gardens, landscapes, etc. The winning photo will appear on the cover of our annual Membership Directory and the Cape Coral Garden Club Facebook page.

- Competition is open to all active members of the Garden Club
- Photos must be taken during the **November 1, 2024, to March 31, 2025**, time period.
- Photos must be taken within the State of Florida, preferably our gardening zone (Zone 10).
- Photos should include both the scientific (Latin) and the common name of the flower, tree, cactus, etc.
- There will be a 2-photo limit on the number of photos submitted by each participant.**
- Photos should be sent in jpg format, capable of being resized.**
- Submissions are to be sent to Joanne Kishfy **no later than March 31, 2025.**
- Photos will be sent to the judges and de-identified to prevent bias.
- The winner will be announced at the May Garden Club meeting.



**FOLLOW US ON FACEBOOK AND INSTAGRAM!!**

For more information about our Garden Club and other garden clubs and organizations in our area, please check out the following Facebook pages. We have over 1.3K followers on our Garden Club page. Please take the time to like and follow our page. We also have an Instagram page – *capecoralgarden*. If you are on Facebook, Ann Block, our administrator, posts daily with pictures about our Garden Club and other useful information.

*Garden Club of Cape Coral*  
*Fort Myers-Lee County Garden Council, Inc.*  
*District IX FFGC*  
*Florida Federation of Garden Clubs*  
*UF IFAS Ext – Lee County*  
*Rotary Park*  
*Edison and Ford Winter Estates*



The March special event is our annual Garden Walk and New Members Tea. This will be taking place on Saturday, March 15. We will start the garden tours in the early afternoon and then have the new member tea at the home of Beverly and John Nugent immediately following the tours. If you have never been to this event in the past, it is a wonderful way to see what some of our members have growing in their gardens. It is also another way to meet others in our Garden Club.

Look for the sign-up sheets at the March 11th meeting.  
Hope to see you there!!!

**Garden Club Picnic – Friday, February 21, 2025**



The picnic took place at the Fort Myers-Lee County Garden Council Building. We had about 25 member in attendance. It was a beautiful day to explore the Berne Davis Botanical Gardens as well.

**Garden Club Picnic – February 21**

Garden Club Picnic – Friday, February 21, 2025 (continued)



**Garden Club Picnic  
February 21**



Thank you, Tim Fisher, for cooking the burgers and hot dogs!! Everyone had a wonderful time!!

**March in the Park  
Plant Label Making  
Session  
February 24**

Teamwork!! That's what it takes to make MIP a huge success!!



**Joanne Kishfy – Seashell Flowers**

Joanne Kishfy is one of our exceptionally talented members who makes flower arrangements out of seashells! She entered the 2025 Sanibel Shell Show that took place March 6-8 at the Marriott Sanibel Harbour Resort & Spa. She took first place and was awarded a trophy as well for her beautiful seashell flower arrangement.  
**Congratulations Joanne!!**



**Message from the President**

Whew!! We did it!! What a wonderful day yesterday at March in the Park!! I want to thank all the volunteers who helped the day of and the months leading up to MIP. Most of all, I want to acknowledge Sylvia Swartz and Cathy Dunn for their time, energy, dedication, and leadership. We are grateful for your support to allow the Garden Club to continue fulfilling our mission and give back to our community every year. THANK YOU!!! We cannot do this without you!!

We have quite a few events that will be taking place over the next couple of months - the New Member Tea and Garden Tours, the Butterfly Garden Open and House and Tours, the Fort Myers-Lee County Garden Council Flower Show, our trip to the Conservancy of Southwest Florida, and the District IX meeting. Be on the lookout for many emails over the next few weeks providing all the details for each event.

Our Garden Club continues to grow in so many ways. If you have any suggestions or ideas, please feel free to share them with me or anyone on the board.

Have a Happy St. Patrick's Day!!

Donna Schmidt

