

**GARDEN CLUB OF
CAPE CORAL, INC.
CAPE CORAL, FL**

*National Garden Clubs, Inc.
Florida Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc.
Deep South Garden Clubs, Inc.*

**PROGRAM AND
MEMBERSHIP DIRECTORY
2025–2026**



*Hawaiian Sunset Vine (Stictocardia beraviensis) - photo courtesy of
Cheryl Buckley, winner Directory Cover 2025 Photo Contest*

Adopt the pace of nature – her secret is patience –

Ralph Waldo Emerson



**Garden Club of
Cape Coral, Inc.
PO Box 152022
Cape Coral, FL 33915**

*Organized Summer 1997
www.gardenclubofcapecoral.com
Meets 2nd Tuesday, Sept. to May
Episcopal Church, Del Prado Blvd., Cape Coral
110 members*

PROGRAM AND MEMBERSHIP DIRECTORY 2025-2026

*National Garden Clubs, Inc.
Deep South Garden Clubs, Inc.
Florida Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc.
District IX FFGC, Inc.
Fort Myers-Lee County Garden Council, Inc.*

*The most lasting and pure gladness comes to me
from my gardens – Lily Langtry*





GARDEN CLUB OF CAPE CORAL

PROGRAM AND MEMBERSHIP

DIRECTORY 2025-2026

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***FMLCGC – Fort Myers-Lee County Garden Council*

WE ARE AFFILIATED WITH:

NATIONAL GARDEN CLUBS, INC.

Mission: National Garden Clubs, Inc. provides education, resources, and national networking opportunities for its members to promote the love of gardening, floral design, and civic and environmental responsibility.

President 2025-2027: Donna Donnelly, Charleston, SC

Email: ddon21@aol.com

Theme: *Plant America for the next 100 years*

HQ Administrative Assistant: Katie Roth

4401 Magnolia Ave., St. Louis, MO 63110-3492

Telephone: 314-776-7574

www.gardenclub.org

Annual Convention: May 4-6, 2026, St. Louis, MO

NGC Education Schools available to all members:

Environmental School

Helping Members become accomplished
environmental consultants

Flower Show School

Learn all you need to know about NGC Flower Shows—
judging, entering competing, chairing

Garden School

For those who are interested in gardening, horticulture and
related subjects

Landscape School

Develop a greater appreciation of the environment,
both natural and human made.

Learn more at <https://gardenclub.org/our-schools>

DEEP SOUTH GARDEN CLUBS, INC.

www.deepsouthgardenclubs.com

Director 2025-2027: Denise Thorne

Alternate: Anette Shrader

Email: *denise@tec63.com*

Theme: *Plant the Deep South with Flowers and Trees for the Birds and the Bees*
Annual Convention: Cruise aboard Royal Caribbean “Explorer of the Seas”
March 16-21 2026

FLORIDA FEDERATION OF GARDEN CLUBS, INC.

www.ffgc.org

President 2025-2027 Christy Linke

Email: *Clinke173@aol.com 732-322-8392*

Theme: *Sharing our knowledge plants the seeds of tomorrow*

Office Coordinator Robin Hayes *ffgc@ffgcmail.com*

1400 S. Denning Drive, Winter Park, FL 32789-5662

Telephone: 407-647-7016

99th Annual Convention and Flower Show—“Once upon a Time”, Lake Buena Vista, FL , April 13-17, 2026

DISTRICT IX FFGC INC.

Facebook/DistrictIXFFGC

Director 2025-2027: Susan Lawson

Slawson921@gmail.com 941-979-0615

Fall meeting:500 3rd St. NW, Winter Haven, FL, 10/21/2025

Spring meeting: Port Charlotte, FL, May 7, 2026



Susan Lawson, DIX Director and former President of this Club—

Theme—*Cultivating minds—blooming potential*

AFFILIATIONS – continued

FORT MYERS-LEE COUNTY GARDEN COUNCIL, INC.

fmlcgardencouncil.com

Bi-Monthly Meetings 2nd Friday, Sept.-May, Council HQ
2166 Virginia Ave., Fort Myers, FL 33901

President 2025-2027: Susan Fero

Email: *fmlcgardencouncil@gmail.com*

FMLCGC Quarterly Newsletter: *The Courier*

Editor: *Shannon Lightbody*

If you are not receiving *The Courier*, please tell
our President Sylvia Swartz, tamargal2@aol.com



The Garden Council is the umbrella organization for garden clubs, plant societies and affiliates in the greater Fort Myers area. GCCC is a member and all GCCC members may attend Garden Club meetings.

Meetings are on the 2nd Friday of Sept., Nov., Jan., March, and May. Social time begins at 9:30 AM; program and business meeting at 10 AM. Meetings end around noon.

The Council's Berne Davis Botanical Garden, which was established and planted by Garden Council members, is open to the public on Tuesdays and Thursdays 10 AM -1 PM, Nov. to May, and Tuesdays 9—noon in summer.

The Council meeting room and gardens are available **free of charge** to all members and can be used for their business and social events . The gardens are also available for private for-fee photo shoots and events.

"The garden suggests there might be a place where we can meet nature halfway.

- Michael Pollan



FLORIDA FEDERATION OF GARDEN CLUBS, INC.

The Club is a proud member of FFGC,
and we embrace its Mission
Statement:

*“To further the education of the members
and the public in the fields of gardening,
horticulture, botany, floral design, land-
scape design, environmental awareness
through the conservation of the natural
resources, civic beautification, nature
studies, and to instill in our youth the love of*

We were honored to receive the following

FFGC 2025 Awards:

Award 11—Yearbook—with a perfect 100 score

***Award 52—Environmental Education -for our
articles on gardening in SW FL, published
weekly in The Breeze newspaper***

*President 2023-2025 Donna
Schmidt (left) with FFGC
District IX Director, Susan
Lawson, receiving our awards
at the FFGC Spring DIX
meeting, Fort Myers, FL, May
21, 2025 - which we hosted.*





**GARDEN CLUB OF CAPE CORAL
(GCCC)
OBJECTIVES**

To educate members in horticulture, native plants, organic gardening, landscape design, flower arranging, environmental concerns and conservation.

To promote civic beautification and work with local youth in environmental awareness.

To promote the goals of National Garden Clubs, Inc., and the Florida Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc.

To promote friendship among fellow gardeners.



Love your soil, and it will return the love.

- Ellen Ocker Ogden

GCCC President's Message

And so we begin a new season with many new members and a new Administration. It is good to see members serving on the Board who are new to the team of officers that runs the club on your behalf.

Gail Miller, First VP and Program Chair, has recruited a great panel of speakers for us. And, new this year (but actually a return to earlier days) a member of the club will speak each month about their "Plant of the Month", not only expanding our knowledge of the great variety of plants that can be grown in our Zone 10b climate but also tapping into and sharing the knowledge and expertise that exists in our club. We will also have a monthly Q & A session, where you can ask a garden/horticulture related question and hopefully get an answer. If no-one can answer the question, we will do some research and get back to you.

New also this year will be our first ever Holiday Bazaar where we will showcase the many talents of our members in making holiday-related gift items and natural holiday decorations for the home and garden. We will stage it in the parking lot of the Museum of History, on Cultural Park Blvd. on Saturday Nov. 15.

I am so pleased to tell you that Nancy Finnegan and Claudia Arguelles-Miller have agreed to become the new co-chairs of our Ways and Means Committee, which oversees all our fund raising efforts. This is a big job and I very much appreciate their stepping up to do it. Please give them all your support. I also thank every member who chairs one of our committees—without you, it would be impossible for the club to function.

Happy gardening everyone!

Sylvia J. Swartz

President 2025-2027



BOARD OF DIRECTORS JUNE 2025-MAY 2027

President	Sylvia Swartz	239-339-3778
First VP	Gail Miller	860-394-8468
Second VP	Peggy Cruz	239-682-4631
Treasurer	Patty Lyon pro tem	757-334-0344
Asst. Treas.	Patty Lyon	757-334-0344
Rec. Sec.	Gayla Moore	239-910-6510
Corres. Sec.	Debbie Cooper	239-826-6484
Immediate Past President	Donna Schmidt	443-690-2104

Co-opted:

Ways/Means	Nancy Finnegan	410-404-1812
Co-Chairs	Claudia Arguelles- Miller	559-999-9818

(For a listing of all Committee Chairs, see p. 11)

GARDEN CLUB OF CAPE CORAL

PAST PRESIDENTS

Sherie Bleiler	1997-1999
Ginny McCarthy	1999-2001
Jean Postregna	2001-2003
Jean Shields	2003-2004
Ginny McCarthy	2004-2005
Pat Molin	2005-2007
Kathy Woodlock	2007-2009
Linda Keirstead and Barbara Salafia	2009-2011
Ginny Huffer and Kathy Rabassi	2011-2013
Ginny Huffer	2013-2015
Sylvia Swartz	2015-2017
Susan Lawson	2017-2019
Ann Block	2019-2021
Ann Block and Elsa Schutzman	2021-2023
Donna Schmidt	2023-2025

GCCC COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Blue Star Memorial	Paula Plum	717-507-8120
Butterfly Gardens, Library & Sands Park	Sherie Bleiler	239-233-2438
By-Laws/Procedures	Sylvia Swartz	239-339-3778
Club Service Award	Sherie Bleiler	239-233-2438
Cups of Cheer	Peggy Cruz and Linda Spadaccini	239-682-4631 860-604-1817
Directory	Sylvia Swartz	239-339-3778
50:50 Draw	Charlene Anderson	978-828-6696
	Susan Noble	239-772-9589
Floral Design	Kathy Woodlock	815-210-8656
Flower Show 2026	Susan Lawson	941-979-0615
Fun with Flowers	Susan Lawson	941-979-0615
Historian/Scrapbook	Cheryl Shaw	419-822-6383
Hist. Museum Rose Garden	Cynthia Mahoney	860-301-4976
Holiday Party	Carol Mainwaring & Vacant	262-271-7076
Hospitality	Kay Davis and Terry Fisher	804-339-4449 740-679-3583
Inspirational Message	Rachele Epp	402-651-6309
Marty Ward Merit Awards	Cheryl Byrd Bonnie Manuel	239-443-5295 219-871-9847
Membership	Peggy Cruz	239-682-4631
New Member Orientation	Sally Stevens	239-633-4509-
Newsletter	Roberta Murphy	630-624-8974
Plant a Tree	Marti Howard	571-263-5925
Photo Contest	Joanne Kishfy	401-714-3517
Photography	Carmen Sprague	305-766-1376
Programs	Gail Miller	860-394-8468
Publicity	Roberta Murphy	630-624-8974
Social Media	Ann Block	860-402-7408
Special Events	Susan Soucy and Vacant	603-498-4376
Strategic Planning	Jan Bargmann	630-849-8657
<i>The Breeze</i> Articles	Ann Block	860-402-7408
Ways and Means	Nancy Finnegan Claudia Arguelles Miller	410-404-1812 559-999-9818

GCCC MASTER GARDENERS

We have several Lee County and out-of-state Master Gardener members, who are great resources for our members :

Peggy Cruz	Cathy Dunn
Janetta Fox	Diane Henning
Dale Manuel	Susan Noble
Cheryl Shaw	Cindy Wasilak
Kathy Woodlock	

See their contact details in the Membership Roster

CIVIC AND CLUB PROJECTS

Civic Beautification – weekly or as needed, members work in separate teams to maintain four civic gardens at:

- **Our Blue Star Highway Marker Garden** at Ecological Preserve (2 members—Chair Paula Plum)
- **The historic Rose Gardens** at the Cape Coral Museum of History (nine members—Chair Cynthia Mahoney)
- **The SW Cape Library Butterfly Garden** (nine members—Chair Sherie Bleiler)
- **City of Cape Coral Sands Park All Native Pollinator Garden** (ten members—Chair Sherie Bleiler). Sands Park is a new project for us.

Civic Support - We continue the following projects:

Four times during our Sept. to May season, our garden-therapy **Cups of Cheer** team of 9 members (Co-Chairs: Peggy Cruz and Linda Spadaccini) visit with residents at a senior care facility to work with them making small flower arrangements in mugs or tea cups. The program is partly funded by our Fun with Flowers workshops.

GCCC CIVIC AND CLUB PROJECTS cont.

- **Weekly articles for *The Breeze* newspaper**
(Chair Ann Block)

Several members, including some of our Master Gardeners, in turn write weekly educational articles on garden topics for our local newspaper, *The Breeze*. These articles were recognized with the FFGC Environmental Education Award at the 2025 FFGC Convention in Jacksonville, attended by our 2023-2025 President, Donna Schmidt. This project has been ongoing for many years. Many of the articles have now been combined into a book called “**Cultivating Paradise**” which we sell as a fundraiser.

- **Fun with Flowers** (Chair Susan Lawson)

We run quarterly for-fee workshops open to the general public hosted by Susan with the help of several of our floral designers who introduce members of the public to the fun of floral design. The registration fees help support our *Cups of Cheer* garden-therapy project.

- **Donations**

We make annual merit awards to local High School students (see p. 16), and donate to local elementary and middle school garden projects. We also donate to FFGC’s Camp Wekiva; S.E.E.K; and to the Cape Coral Rotary Park Butterfly Garden in memory of members who have passed. We regularly support NGC’s Plant a Tree program, formerly Penny Pines. We plan on planting a native tree to celebrate Florida’s Arbor Day in January 2026.

GCCC CIVIC AND CLUB PROJECTS cont.

Our Ways and Means Committee (Co-Chairs Nancy Finnegan and Claudia Arguelles-Miller), comprising 21 members, organizes several fund raisers annually:

(1) **March in the Park (MIP)** - (our largest fundraiser) a juried garden art and plant show, with 30-40 garden/garden-art related vendors. The show comprises:

Our **Plant Booth** selling more than 1,000 plants raised and donated by our members, each plant being correctly botanically labeled with care information;

A **Thrift Booth** selling garden-related donated items;

A free **Kids Booth** with face painting and crafts to entertain kids while their parents shop; and

An **Opportunity Booth** that sells raffle tickets to win prizes donated by members and local businesses, including a rain barrel hand painted by one of our members.

Plus for-fee local vendors of plants, garden art, pottery, etc.

ALL members participate in the various activities that plan and run the event: e.g., parking; the Plant Booth; Thrift and Kids Booths; acting as greeters; liaising with vendors; organizing refreshments and relief for vendors; providing information at our Membership Booth; obtaining sponsorships/prizes; and running the Opportunity Drawing—which is a major part of the fund raiser. See pictures p. 59.

(2) **October Tropical Plant Sale** selling plants propagated and donated by members. Our plant booth at the sale is run and manned by members of the Ways and Means Committee.

GCCC CIVIC AND CLUB PROJECTS cont.

(3) **Holiday Bazaar**—for the first time ever we are holding a Holiday Bazaar a couple of weeks before Thanksgiving to sell holiday related items made by club members from natural materials—decorated bamboo stars; table centerpieces, wreaths, shelf ornaments, etc. This is an exciting fund raising experiment for the club and we are looking forward to a positive result.

Our **Floral design Group** chaired by Kathy Woodlock, an FFGC Flower Show Judge, meets monthly in the season at members' homes to learn and practice the art of floral design. We are staging an NGC Standard Flower Show in 2026 and these monthly gatherings teach our members the design requirements of the various classes.

Plant of the Month feature—in a return to our roots, we are restarting our monthly Plant of the Month feature. A member will speak each month about a particular plant that does well in this tropical zone 10b climate, thus taking advantage of and sharing the knowledge of our members.

Monthly Q & A - a new feature of our monthly meetings will be dedicated time for members to ask questions to take advantage of the knowledge of our membership.

GCCC CIVIC AND CLUB PROJECTS cont.

Marty Ward Annual Merit Awards

We use the income from our various fundraisers to give annual Merit Awards to local high school students. Applications are reviewed by the five members of the Marty Ward Merit Awards Committee against a rigorous set of criteria (Co-Chairs Cheryl Byrd and Bonnie Manuel). The 15th annual awards, named in memory of club co-founder Marty Ward, were granted to Camden Phillips, of Oasis High School and Sophia Lamping, a student at Cape Coral High School. These two were selected because of their academic achievements, community involvement and commitment to conserve our precious environment for the future.

Sophia Lamping also received the Donna Conway Award, which is funded by the family and friends of the late Donna Conway, a long-time member of the club who was instrumental in the establishment of our March in the Park fundraiser, the main source of income for these awards.



Camden and Sophia with the Merit Awards Committee

To see things in the seed, that is genius. -- Lao Tzu

CLUB SERVICE AWARD

(Chair—Sherie Bleiler)

This Award, created by co-founder Marty Ward, recognizes outstanding members of the Club who go above and beyond the responsibilities of regular membership in serving the Club and promoting its objectives.

Winners to date:

2013	Joyce Comingore and Jean Shields
2014	Dona Baliotis and Donna Conway
2015	Paula Novander
2016	Ginny Huffer
2017	Sylvia Swartz
2018	Carolyn France and Judy Peltier
2019	Sherie Bleiler
2020	No Award made
2021	Kathy Woodlock
2022	Charlene Anderson
2023	Ria Benton
2024	Terry Fisher



Terry Fisher (L) and Sherie Bleiler

Earn your success based on service to others— H. Jackson Brown Jr .

2024-2025 YEAR END REPORT

Year End Summary	
Starting Funds Balance	\$29,129.18
Income	34,805.09
Expense	<u>(34,869.62)</u>
Ending Funds Balance	<u>29,064.65</u>
INCOME	
Civic Projects	154.00
Club and Interest Income	5,695.26
District IX Meeting	5,309.92
In-Kind Donations	745.62
Membership Dues	3,460.00
Pass thru Monies	1,365.00
Ways and Means	17,175.29
Ways and Means 2026	400.00
TOTAL INCOME	<u>\$34,305.09</u>
EXPENSE	
Civic Projects	\$9,425.00
<i>(Merit Awards; Wekiva/S.E.E.K; School Gardens; Arbor Day; Habitat; Rotary Park Butterfly Garden)</i>	
Club Expense	6,232.43
Conference State	828.73
Directory Expense	494.90
District IX Meeting	4,246.26
FFGC and District IX Dues	1,221.00
FMLC Garden Council Dues	40.00
Flower Show	91.54
Insurance	507.02
Membership	294.30
Pass-thru Monies	4,097.95
Rent	1,100.00
Supplies - Officers	179.04
Ways and Means	5,508.57
Web Site	602..88
TOTAL EXPENSE	<u>\$34,869.62</u>
GAIN OR (LOSS)	<u>(\$564.53)</u>

2025-2026 Budget

INCOME

Civic Projects Donations	\$100.00
Club and Interest Income	1,750.00
Holiday Party	200.00
Membership Income	3,000.00
50:50 Draw	600.00
Ways and Means	15,700.00

TOTAL INCOME: **\$21,350.00**

EXPENSE

Civic Projects <i>(Merit Awards; Wekiva/SEEK; School Gardens; Arbor Day; Rotary Park Butterfly Garden)</i>	9,635.00
Club Expense	3,653.00
Conference State	850.00
Directory	500.00
FFGC and District IX Dues	1,495.00
FMLC Garden Council Dues	40.00
Holiday Party	200.00
Hospitality	100.00
Insurance	1,000.00
Flower Show	600.00
Membership	300.00
Programs	150.00
Rent	1,350.00
Supplies – Officers	685.00
Ways and Means	6,410.00
Web Site and GoDaddy	1,670.00

TOTAL EXPENSE: **\$28,638.00**

GAIN OR (LOSS) **(\$7,288.00)**

GCCC MEETING INFORMATION

At our monthly meetings at 5:45 PM at the Episcopal Church, Del Prado Blvd., Cape Coral, we enjoy a social half hour before listening to our monthly speaker. The program of speakers for the season is organized by our First VP and Program Chair, Gail Miller. See details on p. 21.

Following the speaker and a short business meeting, one of our members discusses a specific plant that suits our zone 10b gardens—our plant of the month. The meeting concludes with members sharing their knowledge by answering one another's gardening questions. Social gatherings at local restaurants, organized by member Debbie Cooper, replace our monthly meetings June to August.

Members can participate in many diverse projects. We have a Floral Design Group (Chair Kathy Woodlock) where members learn the art of floral design from experienced members. Our biennial NGC Standard Flower Show chaired by Susan Lawson, will take place in the spring of 2026 and Kathy will make sure that members of the design group get experience that will ensure success in the various design classes.

We have an informal Arts and Crafts Group which contributes craft items to fundraisers like our new Holiday Bazaar and March in the Park.

Members are encouraged to participate in the meetings of the Fort Myers-Lee County Garden Council (see p. 6), which also features speakers on environmental/horticultural topics.

We welcome to membership anyone who wants to learn about gardening in our subtropical zone 10.

How deeply seated in the human heart is the liking for gardens and gardening
– author unknown

GCCC CLUB MEETINGS AND PROGRAMS

5:45 PM 2nd Tuesday. Sept-May

Date	Program and Speaker
Sept. 9	Welcome Back Potluck Supper —no business meeting
Oct. 14	The Art and Practice of Bonsai — Richard Owen <i>Richard has been practicing the art of Bonsai since the age of 16. The oldest plant in his collection is 40 years—a plant he started from a cutting. Richard is a member of the Bonsai Society of SW FL.</i>
Nov. 11	Propagation Made Easy — Cathy Dunn <i>Club member and Master Gardener Cathy is an experienced propagator and has won many major horticulture ribbons both at our Flower Shows and other local Shows. She is President of the James E. Hendry Chapter of the Hibiscus Society. Cathy also hybridizes Hibiscus</i>
Dec. 9	Holiday Party —let's have fun! Details to follow.
Jan. 13	Orchids and their Care — Twyla Rose Leigh <i>Twyla has been growing orchids in her backyard, and at the UF/IFAS Extension Collier County Demonstration Gardens for a number of years. She belongs to the American Orchid Society, Naples Orchid Society, and the Gulf Coast Orchid Alliance .</i>
Feb. 10	Growing Herbs in SW FL — Cathy Via <i>Cathy is a an organic gardener who likes to share her love of growing and cooking with herbs.</i>
March 10	March in the Park — MIP Team <i>The MIP team give us a final briefing on March in the Park</i>
April 14	Marty Ward Merit Awards <i>Presentation of the 2026 Awards by Co-Chairs, Cheryl Byrd and Bonnie Manuel</i>
May 12	Bees & Other Pollinators — Wendy Sprague <i>Master Gardener Wendy Sprague is a member of Alva Garden Club and also First VP of the Garden Council. She and her husband Dan are enthusiastic beekeepers .</i>

CLUB SPECIAL FUN EVENTS

The program of Special Fun Events for 2025-2026 has not been finalized since a full committee has not yet been recruited. Susan Soucy has agreed to co-chair and we are currently seeking one or more co-chairs to work with her on this project.

Venues under consideration are as follows:

Jones Landscape Nursery (Moore Haven—just over an hour's drive)

Jones Landscaping Nursery is more than a landscaping company and a nursery. Many years of finding rare plants and making them available to collectors, nurseries, landscapers, botanical gardens, and researchers have made their inventory unique.

Babcock Ranch Eco Tour

Swamp Buggy \$24 per person

Wigerts Bonsai Nursery ,N. Fort Myers – to complement Richard Owens' Bonsai program

The Bent Brush; Cape Coral, FL 33904 – choose an item to paint

Twisted Acres—air plant emporium

Peace River Wildlife Center

Coopers Hawk – Wine Tasting, Fort Myers

Wonder Gardens

Calusa Nature Center and Planetarium

Six Mile Cypress Slough

In his garden, every man may be his own artist without apology or explanation. —Louise Beebe Wilder

NATIONAL, STATE, GCCC & LOCAL EVENTS CALENDAR

- Aug. 20 GCCC Board Meeting , 2PM SW 9th Pl
- Sept. 9 GCCC Club Welcome Back Potluck Supper—
5:45PM, Episcopal Church Del Prado Blvd., CC
- Sept. 9-11 FFGC, Inc. Fall Board Meeting, FFGC HQ,
Winter Park, FL
- Sept. 12 FMLCGC General meeting— Program:
The Larchmont Project, Mike Flanders
- Sept. 17 GCCC Board Meeting, 2:15 PM SW 9th Pl
- Sept. 18 NGC, Inc. Fall Board Meeting - St. Louis, MO
- Sept. 27 Plant Sale, Avon Park Correctional Facility,
9 AM—2 PM
- Oct. 8 GCCC *Fun with Flowers*, FMLGC 10 AM
Registration form available on our website
- Oct. 10 Fort Myers-Lee County Garden Council
(FMLCGC) Fall Social,
- Oct. 14 GCCC Club Meeting 5:45PM Episcopal Church
- Oct. 15 GCCC Board Meeting 2PM SW 9th Pl
- Oct. 18 Tropical Plant Sale, Rotary Park 9 AM—2 PM
- Oct. 18 Edison Ford Estates Fall Festival 9AM-4PM
- Oct. 21 FGC District IX Fall Meeting, Winter Haven, FL
- Oct 25-26 IFAS Naples Yard & Garden Show, Naples
- Oct 29 GCCC Cups of Cheer Garden Therapy Prog.
- Oct. 29 Poinciana GC—Learn to make flowers from
Cardboard Palms—Instructor: Nancy Colgan
10:30 AM, FMLCGC Registration req.

NATIONAL, STATE, GCCC & LOCAL EVENTS CALENDAR

- Nov. 1-2 Bonsai Society of SW FL Annual Show 9 AM
FMLCGC HQ
- Nov. 12 GCCC Club Meeting 5:45PM Episcopal Church
- Nov. 14 FMLCGC General Meeting—Program:
Simply Succulents, Nancy Colgan
- Nov. 15 GCCC Holiday Bazaar, Museum of History
544 Cultural Pk Blvd., CC. 9 AM to 2 PM
- Nov. 18 Periwinkle GC Auction & Sale 5:30 PM Fine
Mark Bank, College Pkwy & Winkler, F. Myers
- Nov. 19 GCCC Board Meeting, 2PM SW 9th Pl
- Nov 22 Poinciana GC Annual Plant and Yard Sale
FMLCGC HQ 7AM-1PM
- Nov. 22-23 Edison Ford Autumn Garden Festival
- Dec. 3 *GCCC Fun with Flowers*, FMLGC 10 AM
Registration form available on our website
- Dec 4 GCCC Cups of Cheer Garden Therapy
- Dec 5 and 6 Punta Gorda Holly Days Home Tour 10-4 PM
Christmas Around the World
- Dec. 6 Lake Placid Garden Club Holiday Home and
Garden Tour, 9 -3PM Tix from Sally
865-243-5576
- Dec. 6-7 Caloosahatchee Bromeliad Soc. Annual Show
and Plant Sale, Edison Ford Winter Estates,
Fort Myers FL, 9 AM to 4 PM
- Dec, 6 Bonita Springs Tropical Fruit Club Fruit Tree
Sale, 9-1 PM, St. Mary's Church, Bonita Beach
Rd., Bonita Springs

NATIONAL, STATE, GCCC & LOCAL EVENTS CALENDAR

Dec 12	FMLCGC Holiday Social & Cookie Exchange, 1-4 PM, Garden Council
Jan 6-8	FFGC Winter Board meeting, Winter Park , FL
Jan. 9	FMLCGC General Meeting—Program: 20 Easy to grow Wildflowers, Sara Burke
Jan. 13	GCCC Club Meeting, Episcopal Church
Jan 16	Fl Arbor Day —we will plant a tree!
Jan 16,23 & 30	Punta Gorda GC Floral Design Units 7-9, Buttonwood Village Clubhouse, Punta Gorda
Jan. 21	GCCC Board meeting, 2:15 PM., SW 9th Pl
Jan 26	Tropical Plant Sale Rotary Park—Hibiscus Soc., James E. Hendry Chapter participating
Jan. 31	Naples Garden Club House & Garden Tour—Stroll through Paradise
Feb. 5	GCCC Cups of Cheer Garden Therapy Program
Feb. 10	GCCC Club meeting, Episcopal Church
Feb. 14	Poinciana GC Plant and Treasure Sale, Garden Council 7 AM-1PM
Feb 18	GCCC Board Meeting 2:15 PM. SW 9th Pl
Feb. 18	GCCC <i>Fun with Flowers</i> , FMLGC 10 AM Registration form available on our website
Feb. 18	Poinciana GC Bus Trip to Fairchild Gardens
Feb. 20	FMLCGC Social, 1-4PM, Garden Council
Feb. 28	Burrowing Owl Festival, Rotary Park, CC, 10-4
Mar. 10	GCCC Club meeting, 5:45 PM Episcopal Church
Mar. 13	FMLCGC General Meeting—Program: Exploring for Plants in the Caribbean, Dan Skean

NATIONAL, STATE, GCCC & LOCAL EVENTS CALENDAR

- March 14 Alva Garden Club Strawberry Shortcake Festival and Plant Sale 21440 Pearl St. Alva., 9 AM -1 PM
- March 14 March in the Park! Rotary Park, CC 9 AM to 3 PM
- Mar. 16-21 Deep South Garden Clubs Convention—Cruise aboard the *Explorer of the Seas* - ALL welcome including family and friends
- Mar. 18 GCCC Board Meeting 2:15 PM SW 9th PI
- April 1 GCCC *Fun with Flowers*, FMLGC 10 AM
Registration form available on our website
- April 10 FMLCGC Social, 1-4PM, Garden Council
- April 13-17 FFGC Annual Convention, *Once upon a Time*, Lake Buena Vista, FL
- April 14 GCCC Club meeting 5:45PM, Episcopal Church
- April 15 GCCC Board Meeting, 2:15PM SW 9th PI
- April 18 Bonsai Society of SW FL Auction of All Things Bonsai 9 AM—1PM, FMLCGC
- April 24 National Arbor Day
- April 30 GCCC Cups of Cheer Garden Therapy Program
- May 2 Plant Sale, Avon Park Correctional Facility, 9 AM—2 PM
- May 5 FFGC D.IX Spring Meeting, Port Charlotte, FL
- April 13 James E Hendry Chapter of the American Hibiscus Society Annual Show and Sale, 1-3 PM Covenant Presbyterian Church, McGregor Blvd., Fort Myers

I often think that the night is more alive and more richly colored than the day.- Vincent Van Gogh

NATIONAL, STATE, GCCC & LOCAL EVENTS CALENDAR

May 4-6	NGC Convention, St. Louis, Mo.
May 8	FMLCGC General Meeting—Program: Edible Landscaping, David Outerbridge
May 12	GCCC Club Meeting 5:45 PM Episcopal Church
May 20	GCCC Board meeting 2:15 PM SW 9th Pl
June 7-13	National Garden Week
July 24-26	Caladium Festival, Lake Placid
Sept 15-17	FFGC Fall Board meeting
Sept. 17	NGC Fall Board meeting—virtual



*How deeply seated in the human heart is the liking for gardens
and gardening – author unknown*

**National Garden Clubs, Inc. Flower Show Judges
FFGC District IX**

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MEMBERSHIP ROSTER 2025-2026

*Indicates FFGC Life Member

**ALL MEMBERS ARE ENCOURAGED TO
DISCUSS ANY ISSUES OF CONCERN WITH
THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

**ALL PERSONAL INFORMATION IN THIS DIRECTORY IS
FOR THE USE OF GARDEN CLUB OF CAPE CORAL MEMBERS,
AND ITS BUSINESS ACTIVITIES ONLY !**

*Please do not share phone numbers, email or home
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MEMBERSHIP ROSTER 2025-2026—cont.



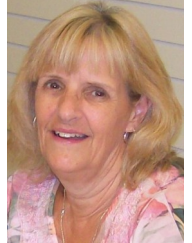
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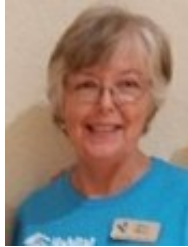
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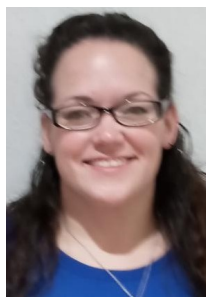
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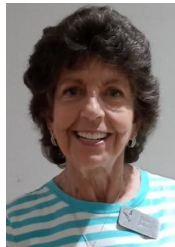


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MEMBERSHIP ROSTER 2023-2024—cont.



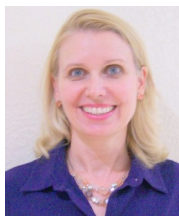
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MEMBERSHIP ROSTER 2023-2024—cont.

New Member who joined during the summer:



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Remembering friends we
recently lost:



JOYCE
COMINGORE
1932-2024

ELLEN
MORRIS
1947-2024



GARDEN CLUB OF CAPE CORAL BYLAWS

ARTICLE I - NAME

The name of this Club shall be Garden Club of Cape Coral.

ARTICLE II - OBJECTIVES

The Garden Club of Cape Coral is organized exclusively for charitable, educational (both horticultural and floral design) and the beautification of public property.

The objectives of this Club shall be:

1. to educate in horticulture, native plants, organic gardening, landscape design, flower arranging, environmental concerns and conservation.
2. to promote civic beautification and work with youth in environmental awareness.
3. to promote the goals of National Garden Clubs, Inc. and the Florida Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc.; and
4. to promote friendship among fellow gardeners.

ARTICLE III – MEMBERSHIP

Section 1. Membership of the Club shall be of four classes: Active Participating, Sustaining, Patron and Honorary. All classes shall have voting rights.

A. An Active Participating member is one who participates actively in and promotes the objectives of the Club. Each member is expected to have regular attendance at meetings and serve on one or more committees during the fiscal year.

B. A Sustaining member is not required to take part in Club activities unless they so desire. They may not hold office or be a chairperson of a Standing Committee. No person shall be admitted initially to the Club as a sustaining member. A member wishing to change to Sustaining Membership shall submit an annual written request for consideration to the Board, such change being considered only after 10 years of regular membership; each case shall be judged on its merits.

C. A Patron member is any individual or business who is desirous of providing additional financial support to the Club. A Patron member is not required to take part in the Club's activities unless so desired. A Patron member is not eligible to hold elective office.

D. An Honorary member is any individual who meets the following criteria:

- (1) has been a member of the Club for 15 consecutive years;
- (2) is qualified to receive special recognition for outstanding achievement because of service on the Board or committee

GARDEN CLUB OF CAPE CORAL BYLAWS—cont.

participation, Club involvement and the pursuit of garden Club objectives.

An Honorary Member may vote and hold office but is not expected to pay dues. Honorary membership is bestowed by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the membership. Only the Executive Board officers may recommend the award of honorary membership. A member may not request honorary membership for themselves. The candidate for Honorary membership should be advised of the nomination to see if they want to accept or if they would prefer to remain an Active member,

Section 2. Membership in this Club is open to anyone interested in participating in the many areas of garden Club objectives. The number of Active Participating members shall not be limited until such a time as ordered by the Board of Directors.

Section 3. Membership in this Club is terminated when a written resignation is presented to the Board of Directors by the Membership Chairperson. Failure to pay dues by April 1st will terminate membership.

Section 4. Guests must register upon arrival at a meeting. A non-member may be a guest no more than two times in one year.

ARTICLE IV – OFFICERS

Section 1. The officers of the Club shall be a President, First Vice President, Second Vice President, Recording Secretary, Corresponding Secretary, Treasurer and Assistant Treasurer. These officers shall perform the duties prescribed by these Bylaws and by the parliamentary authority adopted by the Club.

Section 2. There shall be a Nominating Committee of 3-5 actively participating members of the Club, the Committee Chair being appointed by the Board at the November meeting preceding the election of the new Board. The President and President Elect (First Vice President) may not serve on this committee. It shall be the duty of this committee to nominate candidates for the offices to be filled at the April meeting. The Nominating Committee shall report at the March meeting. At the April meeting, the slate will be presented again and nominations from the floor shall be permitted; followed by the election.

Section 3. The officers shall be elected to serve for two years or until their successors are elected and their term of office shall begin at the May Board meeting following the election on

completion of business by the outgoing Board. If there is only one nominee for an office, the vote may be by voice.

Section 4. No officer shall be elected to the same office for more than one two-year term in succession unless extraordinary circumstances prevail, e.g., the Nominating Committee has been unable to identify a willing successor.

ARTICLE V – MEETINGS

Section 1. The regular meeting of the Club shall be held on the second Wednesday of the month unless otherwise ordered by the Board of Directors. No regular meetings will be held in June, July and August.

Section 2. A special meeting of the Club may be called by the President. Special meetings shall also be called promptly by the President upon written request of twenty (20) members.

Section 3. The Annual Meeting shall be held in May of each year and shall be for the purpose of presenting reports of Officers and Committee Chairpersons and for the installation of officers and such other business as may come before the meeting.

Section 4. Twenty (20) members with voting rights including three (3) officers shall constitute a quorum at any general meeting.

Section 5. The Budget is to be prepared by the Finance Committee appointed by the President after the close of the fiscal year which is July 1 to June 30. The Committee shall include but is not restricted to the Treasurer, the Assistant Treasurer, and the President. The Budget shall then be presented to the Board of Directors for approval and then to the Membership for adoption at the October meeting. Items not specified in the Budget shall be discussed at a regular Board meeting and the expenditure voted on and recorded in the Minutes. Urgent expenditure may be described and voted on via email circulated to all Board members, the majority vote prevailing..

Section 6. The Treasurer shall present an annual report and books and papers to the Finance Review committee, consisting of one member of the Board and two volunteer Club members, after the close of the fiscal year so the reviewed books can be presented to the incoming Treasurer and a report given by the Finance Review committee chair to the Board of Directors.

GARDEN CLUB OF CAPE CORAL BYLAWS—cont.

ARTICLE VI - BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Section 1. The Board of Directors shall consist of all officers of the Club, immediate Past President, Chairs of Committees that manage that Committee's allocation from the Club's budget, and any Committee Chair co-opted by the Board as necessary.

Section 2. The management, direction, and determination of the general policy of the Club shall be vested in the Board of Directors.

Section 3. Major projects not included in the Club's approved budget shall be presented as a recommendation by the Board of Directors for approval by a majority vote of the membership at a regular Club meeting before further action is taken by the Board of Directors. Any commitment involving disbursement from Club funds of more than five hundred dollars (\$500.00) shall be considered a major project.

Section 4. With the exception of the months of June and July, there shall be a monthly meeting of the Board of Directors. The time and place of the meeting shall be determined by the President.

Section 5. A quorum at any Board of Directors meeting shall be half of the Board of Directors present at the meeting. In the event of a tied vote, the President shall have the casting vote.

Section 6. Each Officer and Chairperson of each committee shall submit a written annual review of duties to the President by June 1st so that the Club's Guide for Officers and Committee Chairs may be reviewed and updated annually. Any changes or additions to the Guide shall be approved by the Board before incorporation in said Guide. Each Officer and Chairperson shall turn over to the successor or to the President such books and records as belong to that office upon expiration of the term.

ARTICLE VII – COMMITTEES

Section 1. Standing committees shall be Program, Special Events, Ways and Means, Communication, Directory, Membership, Publicity, Historian, Hospitality/Hostess, Civic Beautification, Horticulture, Bylaws, Budget and such other Standing Committees as from time-to-time may be established by the Board of Directors. The Chairs of these committees shall be appointed by the President, subject to the approval of the Board of Directors.

GARDEN CLUB OF CAPE CORAL BYLAWS—cont.

Section 2. Special Committees may be appointed by the President or the Board of Directors.

Section 3. The quorum of Standing and Special Committees shall be a majority.

Section 4. The President shall be ex-officio, a member of all the committees except the Nominating Committee.

ARTICLE VIII - PARLIAMENTARY AUTHORITY

The rules contained in the current edition of Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised shall govern the Club in all cases to which they are applicable and in which they are not inconsistent with these bylaws and any special rules the Club may adopt.

ARTICLE IX – AMENDMENTS These bylaws may be amended at any meeting by a two-thirds (2/3) majority vote of the members present and voting, provided that the proposed amendments have been submitted in writing and read at the previous meeting. Proposed amendments to the bylaws without previous notice shall require a unanimous vote.

ARTICLE X – DISSOLUTION

Should this Club dissolve and by due process of law shall dissolve, all assets of whatever nature which remain after just debts and liabilities have been satisfied shall be used for such educational or public purposes as will complete or continue undertakings for the public benefit which have already begun by the Club. No part of the net income shall inure to the benefit of any member or be distributable to its members or officers. Upon the dissolution of the organization, assets shall be distributed for one or more exempt purposes within the meaning of section 501 (c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code or corresponding section of any future federal tax code or shall be distributed to the federal government or to a state or local government for a public purpose. Any such assets not disposed of shall be disposed of by the Court of Common Pleas of the county in which the principal office of the organization is then located, exclusively for such purposes or to such organizations or organization as said Court shall determine which are organized and operated exclusively for such purposes.

1999, Amended, 2001, 2002, 2009, 2016, 2018, 2019, 2023, 2024

LOCAL HORTICULTURAL ORGANIZATIONS

American Hibiscus Society- James E. Hendry Chapter

Website: hendrychapterhibiscus.com

Meets at Fort Myers Lee County Garden Council HQ
(FMLCG)

2nd Sunday Sept. – Nov. and Jan—April, 1:30 – 3:30 PM

Beekeepers Association of SW FL

Website www.basfbees.org

Meets at FMLCGC – 3rd Thursday 6:30 PM

Bonsai Society of SW Florida

Website: bonsaiswfl.org

Meets at FMLCGC – 3rd Saturday, 9 AM

Caloosahatchee Bromeliad Society

Meets at FMLCGC - 3rd Sunday 1:15 PM except April & Dec.

Cape Coral Friends of Wildlife

Website: ccfriendsofwildlife.org

Meets at Rotary Park, Cape Coral

2nd Tuesday Sept.—May, 7 PM (social 6:30 PM)

Florida Herb Enthusiasts

Meets - 3rd Thursday 1 PM

Lakes Park Enrichment Foundation

Website lakesparkenrichmentfoundation.org

FL Native Plant Society – Coccoloba Chapter

Website: fnpscoccoloba.org

3rd Tuesday 6:30 PM—check website for updates

Southwest Florida Orchid Society

Meets at Faith United Methodist, 15690 McGregor Blvd.,
Fort Myers

2nd Tuesday except April and Dec., 6:30 PM

Lee County UF/IFAS Extension

Website: sfyl.ifas.ufl.edu

3410 Palm Beach Blvd (Terry Park) FM, FL 33916

239-533-7504

HIGHLIGHTS OF OUR 2025-2026 SEASON

2025 Garden Tour and New Members Tea

*Members tour
Colleen Carty's
gardens.*



Group photo following the Tea



*Many of our 2025-2026 new members,
pictured at the home of hosts Beverly
and John Nugent*

Our plant booth, Museum
of History 50th Anniversary
Celebration



March in the Park 2025



Sarah Hogan surveys one small section of our large plant booth, each plant having its own correct botanical label with care instructions



Rachele Epp at the Pollinator Plants table



The Busy Kids Booth run by a team of GCCC volunteers

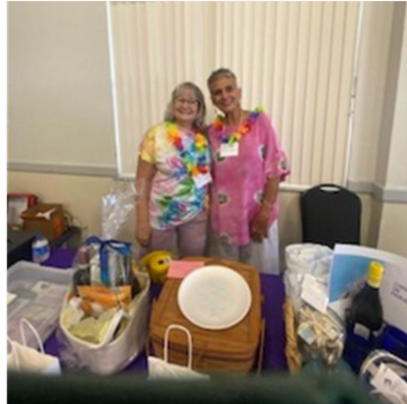


Debbie Cooper, Thrift Co Chair (foreground) staging the Thrift Booth with items donated by our members

Hosting FFGC DIX Spring Meeting



Colleen Carty & Peggy Cruz help out at the photography competition booth



Terry Fisher & Debbie Cooper at the Gift basket raffle table



Presenter Beth Meehan , James E Hendry Chapter ,American Hibiscus Society

Susan Lawson presents Sandy Troy Pennington, with Award # 12 Newsletter—Sandy edits and compiles the newsletter for the District.

