



GARDEN CLUB OF CAPE CORAL

April 2026

We look forward to seeing you at our next meeting on Tuesday, April 14th, at the Epiphany Episcopal Church. We hope to see you there!!

Firstly, thank you all for making March in the Park such a memorable day – everyone worked so hard to make the day a success. It was a great team effort and much of it due to the hard work of the Ways and Means Committee members and the co-chairs, Nancy Finnegan and Claudia Arguelles-Miller, who did a great job. Leftover plants will be brought to the April meeting for free distribution so be sure to come early to get the best picks!

Secondly, I am so pleased to tell you that our nominee for the prestigious Berne Davis Service Award 2026, Cathy Dunn, won the award, which was presented at a well-attended luncheon at Fiddlesticks Country Club on Tuesday, March 31. This award has been in place for seventeen years now, and members of the Garden Club of Cape Coral have won it on five separate occasions – way to go GCCC!!

Cathy also received the Fort Myers-Lee County Garden Council Perennial award, an award given by the Board of the Council for her services to the Council in promoting its mission. Congratulations, Cathy – we are so proud of you!

I will not be at the April meeting so will miss saying goodbye to those of you who are leaving us to go north for the summer – but I wish you all well and look forward to seeing you in the fall. Gail Miller, First VP, will be running the meeting in my place – thank you Gail!

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PAINTED
PARADISE -
LOVEGROVE STYLE

Friday April 24 - 2:15 PM - 4:30 PM and
Saturday April 25 - 9:00 AM - 3:00 PM

NW Regional Cape Coral Public Library
Large meeting Room - 519 Chiquita Blvd. N.,
Cape Coral, FL 33993

Open to the Public Free Admission and Parking

WE ARE
GETTING
EXCITED!

Our biennial NGC Standard Flower Show, Painted Paradise – Lovegrove Style, is set for April 24 and 25 at the NW Regional Library in the large meeting room. This show honors the bold, joyful artwork of Leoma Lovegrove, who created much of her work in Matlacha. This year's event is a SMALL Standard Show, with fewer design classes but a full horticulture section. This is a wonderful event in which we can all participate and share.

We especially need additional entries in some of the Design classes and quite a few in Division IV – Botanical Arts. If you've ever thought about trying one of these categories, this is a wonderful opportunity—we would love to see your creativity on display! **Remember, if a class isn't filled, the class doesn't get judged** so please support your peers who have already signed up and complete the sign-up lists!

If you are coming to the April meeting, talk to Sue Lawson, Kathy Woodlock, or me – we will be happy to give you any information you need. When you have decided what class you would like to enter, please email me, Design Entries Chair, at jeaport@gmail.com so I can add your name to the sign-up sheet. The current sign-up sheets will be available at the April meeting on the sign-up sheet table together with copies of the schedule.

Don't be shy - this is OUR show and it is always a great show. I know we have a lot of talented members in our club – and I suspect some undiscovered talent amongst our new members!

Jeannine

FLORAL DESIGN GROUP

The group met at Kathy Woodlock's home on March 16 for a hands-on lesson led by Nancy Colgan, who supports Susan Lawson with Fun With Flowers. Nancy showed everyone how to make flowers using cardboard palm leaves, making it a lively and inspiring day.

For help with crafting contrived flowers, come to design circle on Monday, April 20 at Sylvia's house. If you need guidance on your design entry, Susan, Kathy and Jeannine will be there to support you.



Jeanine DeLaat, Debbie Denton, and Peggy Cruz

Florida Federation of Garden Clubs

DISTRICT IX SPRING MEETING

The Garden Club of Cape Coral is a member of the Florida Federation of Garden Clubs (FFGC), which includes nine Districts. We belong to District IX, directed by Susan Lawson, one of our members and a former Club President.

Membership in the Federation invites us to learn, connect, and grow. District meetings help us meet gardeners from other District IX clubs, discover new ideas, and understand the work of the Federation.

Last year our Club hosted the District IX Spring Meeting. This year, it will be held in nearby Port Charlotte, hosted by the Port Charlotte Garden Club with Sue Lawson leading the event. The program—*Whimsy in the Garden*—will blend art, color, creativity, and plants in a fun and inspiring way.

The \$35 registration includes a light breakfast and lunch. The meeting will feature a silent auction with items from District clubs, gift baskets, a 50/50, and centerpieces for purchase. Please consider attending - we would love to have a strong showing from our members. Car pooling is strongly encouraged. The registration form was sent via email by Sylvia.



The flyer is a rectangular graphic with a green border. At the top left is a red heart with 'FFGC 9' inside. To its right is the text 'SPRING MEETING' in large green letters, with 'Whimsical Garden Wonders' in a smaller orange box below it. On the right side is a circular logo for the 'PORT CHARLOTTE GARDEN CLUB' featuring a rose. Below these elements, it says 'See you there on May 7th'. Further down, it lists 'Doors open 8 am. Breakfast 8:30 am. Call to order 10 am'. The location is 'ELKS LODGE DEEP CREEK, 1133 Capricorn Blvd, Punta Gorda'. The program is 'Whimsy in the Garden'. Speakers are 'Sara Weber, The Kitsch Kitty and Joyce Laubach, Master Gardener'. A yellow box contains the text: 'DIX Silent Auction. Each club please bring a 'Whimsical or Unusual Plant or Garden item' to donate for the District Raffle.' At the bottom, contact information for Trudie Kirkland is provided.

FFGC 9 **SPRING MEETING** **Whimsical Garden Wonders** **PORT CHARLOTTE GARDEN CLUB**

See you there on May 7th

Doors open 8 am. Breakfast 8:30 am. Call to order 10 am

ELKS LODGE DEEP CREEK, 1133 Capricorn Blvd, Punta Gorda
PROGRAM: Whimsy in the Garden.
Speakers: Sara Weber, The Kitsch Kitty and Joyce Laubach, Master Gardener

DIX Silent Auction. Each club please bring a 'Whimsical or Unusual Plant or Garden item' to donate for the District Raffle.

For information contact Trudie Kirkland, 863-604-7301, trudieand3dogs@gmail.com

Solomon Castle Tour

Even with a smaller group, the visit to Solomon's Castle in Ona was full of fun. Claudia and Bob were joined by her dad, along with MaryAnn, Valda, Linda, and Paul for a beautiful day exploring this unusual castle made from reclaimed materials like aluminum printing plates and scrap metal. The castle serves as the home, studio, and gallery of its creator, Howard Solomon.



MARIE SELBY BOTANICAL GARDENS



Thursday, April 16

10:30 am

1534 Mound St

Sarasota, Fl

(941) 366-5731

selby.org

The next garden club trip will be to Marie Selby Botanical Gardens in Sarasota. Marie Selby Botanical Gardens provides 45 acres of bayfront sanctuaries connecting people with air plants of the world, native nature, and our regional history. Established by forward-thinking women of their time, Selby Gardens is composed of the 15-acre Downtown Sarasota campus and the 30-acre Historic Spanish Point campus in the Osprey area of Sarasota County, Florida. The Downtown Sarasota campus on Sarasota Bay is the only botanical garden in the world dedicated to the display and study of epiphytic orchids, bromeliads, gesneriads and ferns, and other tropical plants.

Lunch will be at 1:00 PM at The Green Orchid Restaurant, which is on site of the gardens.

If you are interested in going please let Susan know via email, text or phone. She will also have a signup sheet at the next meeting.

The group rate cost is \$25.00 per person and they will only take one transaction for payment, as we are getting the group rate. Please prepay Susan \$25.00 so she can pay for the group as a whole. You can give her a check, cash or Venmo her.

Special Events 2026-2027

Don't forget – it there's a special place that you would like to visit and think it would make a good trip for one of our monthly visits, tell Susan Soucy.

She is currently planning our 2026-2027 trips and would love to hear from you.

soucysls2016@gmail.com

cups of cheer

Cups of Cheer always brings excitement and gratitude from the Atrium residents. Thanks to all the members who help make this event truly uplifting. The last Cups of Cheer of 2025/2026 will be April 29th & 30th.



Fun with Flowers is complete for the season. We had a great turnout on April 1 and everyone loved the design that was created. Thanks to Marti Howard for the pictures.



Help Keep the Rose Garden Blooming

The Rose Garden Maintenance Team cares for the Cape Coral Museum of History's Memorial Rose Garden each week. Several current helpers are heading north for the season, so extra hands are needed this summer.

Join the team on Friday mornings at 8 AM. The time needed is about an hour each week, sometimes every other week. No rose experience needed—just a willingness to enjoy the morning outdoors and meet friendly club members.

Please think about choosing community beautification as your Garden Club committee.

Contact Cynthia Mahoney
860-301-4976 or cynchampmah@comcast.net



Berne Davis Luncheon & Award Ceremony 2026

Berne Davis Service Award winner

Fort Myers-Lee County Garden Council Perennial
Award winner

CATHY DUNN



Upcoming Events

DATE	CLUB	EVENT	TIME	LOCATION
April 11th	GCCC	Ways and Means committee	9:30 AM	SW Cape Coral library
April 16th	GCCC	Marie Selby Botanical Gardens, Alexander Calder & The Nature of Movement Exhibition	10:30 AM	Sarasota
April 20th	GCCC	Floral Design Group	10:00 AM	Slyvia's home 4030 SW 9th Pl
April 24th & 25th	GCCC	<i>Painted Paradise - Longrove Style</i> Standard Flower Show	2:00 PM - 4:30 PM 9:00 AM - 3:00 PM	NW Regional Library 519 Chiquita Blvd N, Cape Coral
April 29th & 30th	GCCC	Cups of Cheer		29th @ NW Library 30th @ the Atrium
May 7th	District IX	Spring Meeting	8:30 breakfast call to order 10:00	ELKS LODGE DEEP CREEK 1133 Capricorn Blvd, Punta Gorda 33983
May 12th	GCCC	General Meeting	5:45 PM - 8:00 PM	Epiphany Episcopal Church
June 7 - 13		National Garden Week		

2025-2026

Officers

President

Sylvia Swartz

First VP/Program Chair

Gail Miller

Second VP/Membership

Peggy Cruz

Treasurer

Jeannine DeLaat

Asst Treasurer

Patty Lyon

Recording Secretary

Gayla Moore

Corresponding Secretary

Annelise Kump

Ways & Means

Nancy Finnegan

Claudia Arguelles-Miller

Past President

Donna Schmidt

General meetings are held on the second Tuesday of the month, September - May, beginning at 5:45 PM, at the Epiphany Episcopal Church 2507 Del Prado Boulevard S. 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

Thank you for reading!

There are lots of ways to stay connected with garden club news and events between meetings: our website, Facebook and articles in the Breeze.

website address: <https://www.gardenclubofcapecoral.com/>

Facebook link: <https://www.facebook.com/gcofcc>

Latest articles in The Cape Coral Breeze

Roberta Murphy

630/624-8974

roberta.murphy1959@gmail.com

Please feel free to contact me with items/pictures/events you would like to see in the next newsletter.