



THE COURIER

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF
 THE FORT MYERS - LEE COUNTY GARDEN COUNCIL, INC.
 2166 VIRGINIA AVENUE, FORT MYERS, FL 33901
FMLCGARDENCOUNCIL.COM

P r e s i d e n t ' s M e s s a g e

OPEN HOUSE POSTPONED !

Our annual OPEN HOUSE has been postponed . We want to coordinate with the Edison & Ford Estate's annual Garden Market, moved to Jan. This is a great membership opportunity for Council Clubs and Societies.

If your club has items for sale we would love to have you- just remember that 10% of your sales go back to the Garden Council . If you have any ideas for demos of palm weaving, plant manipulation, floral design, herb growing etc. that you would like to see - let us know. Would a plant clinic interest you ? Let us know.

Please HELP !
 Contact is Brenda Norris.

Happy Harvest For some the seasons in sunny Southwest Florida seem all the same but if you are observant you will notice the change. Our native Red Maple has foliage color that can vary from North to South Florida. The Sycamore tree with its large maple-like leaves is medium green all summer before turning brown in the fall and then dropping its leaves. To keep me aware of the changing seasons my favorite tree is a stand of pond cypress in the lowland area of my own garden. When my husband Ron and I built, we knew the area would always be wet and his choice of trees was perfect. They started as 6 inch seedlings but all lived and are now 30 feet tall gracing the sky. The incurved needles that clasp the stems fall in the winter giving the tree its "bald" label. The new growth in the spring is a bright lime green but in the fall turn reddish brown. Like the native bald cypresses you do get the knees. I've noticed that the water level seems to dictate "fall" more than the temperatures. I can always begin to see the change in all the seasons by observing this "Bald" Pond Cypress stand in my garden.

The practice of being a careful observer requires us to have quiet time in this day and age when it seems to be a luxury item.

I hope the gardens at the Garden Council Headquarters can encourage all of us to take time to be quiet and observe all that nature has to offer this harvest season.

The President's social October 11th was a great time to welcome new and devoted club Presidents that said "YES" when asked to serve. We gathered together to meet and share some treats on what I would call a "Chamber of Commerce" day. The tables were set up under the old oak tree with beautiful floral designs created by Eclectic Designers - Marty Ward and Winnie Stone WOWED us again with a special design on the lovely food table prepared by Kathy Rabassi and Charlene Anderson. Oh, Kathy's mango butter was a hit as well; now pair that with delightful garden folk and it made a perfect day for me.

Yours in roses,
Debbie Wyatt-Stotter - President



F M L C G C General Meeting - Call to order 9:30 am

Inspirational Message - Judy McCluskey
 Pledge of Allegiance
 Reading of the Minutes - Suzy Valentine, Recording Secretary
 Corresponding Secretary - Kay Holloway
 Financial Report - Mae Jean Nothstine, Treasurer
 President's Report - Debbie Wyatt-Stotter
 1st Vice President's Report - Brenda Norris

2nd Vice President's Report - Sandy Kavouras
 Reports of Committee Chairs (as needed)

Old Business / New Business / Announcements
 PROGRAM: *Jay Thurrott - Exotic bromeliads*
 Adjournment
 Ways & Means - 50/50 drawing -

Please join us at 9:00 am for refreshments provided by **Carissa Garden Club**

Garden Council Meetings Dates

<p><u>BOARD MEETINGS</u> (Officers, Directors, Committee Chairs)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • FRIDAY Dec. 6, 2013 • FRIDAY Jan. 2, 2014 <p>MEETINGS FROM 9:30 am TO 11:30 am</p> <p>Garden Council Headquarters 2166 Virginia Ave. Fort Myers Phone: 332-4942</p>	<p><u>GENERAL MEETINGS</u> All are Welcome</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • FRIDAY Nov. 8, 2013 • Hostess - Carissa Garden Club • Program - Exotic bromeliad grower from Port Orange - Jay Thurrott • Next Meeting Jan. 10, 2014 	<p><u>GENERAL MEETINGS</u> MEETINGS ARE HELD THE 2ND FRIDAY OF THE MONTH EVERY OTHER MONTH SEPTEMBER TO MAY</p> <p><i>RIVERSIDE Community Center</i> 3061 E. Riverside Drive FM 33916</p> <p>HOSPITALITY: 9:00 am to 9:30 am MEETING: 9:30 am to 11:30 am</p>
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Directions from South Fort Myers to Riverside. Take Fowler Street North (off Colonial Blvd). Cross over to Evans (a right turn) at Hanson or MLK. Turn right on State Rd 80 (Second Street) and follow Second street, which turns into Seaboard to Palm Beach Blvd. STAY LEFT (do not go right down Palm Beach). Jog left across Palm Beach onto Riverside Drive. Good Luck !

ATTENTION ALL DESIGNERS

February 6th and 7th are the dates for the 2013 STROLLING FLOWER SHOW, sponsored by the Periwinkle Garden Club and Bell Tower Shops. This is a sanctioned event of the Edison Festival of Light. Bell Tower donates gift bags and gift certificates to the top winners and are very excited about this year's event.

Drawing for windows will be on Friday, November 8, 2013 at the Garden Council meeting. Please send a representative from your Garden Club with names, phone numbers, and emails for drawing participants.

Happy Strolling, Pam Kollmann - Chair & Kay Holloway - Co-Chair

The Theme of the show this year is:

"The Genius of Edison and the Jewels of Flowers have Strolled Together for 65 years"



SPOTLIGHT on Periwinkle Garden Club - 75 years

Periwinkle Garden Club, Fort Myers' oldest garden club, traces its history back to a branch of the Woman's Community Club, organized during the "boom era" of the twenties. In 1928 the Periwinkle branch officially became the Periwinkle Garden Club and affiliated with FFGC. Mrs. Thomas A. (Mina) Edison was a tireless worker in the community, producing several flower shows. Other notable early Fort Myers personalities include opera singer Mrs. C.B. Chadwick; Editor-in-Chief of House Beautiful magazine - Virginia Robie and Miss Jettie Burroughs. Old time members have fond memories of meetings at the Burroughs's home and garden. In 1952, the club landscaped the downtown Fort Myers library and Mrs. A. J. Rhea donated the statue of the Lorelei which will be moved to the Berne Davis Botanic Gardens this winter. Yes - Garden Council's own benefactor and Grande Dame Mrs. Sidney R. (Berne) Davis is a Periwinkle. Former school teacher, former Garden Council Director and current Corresponding Secretary Kay Holloway is a Periwinkle force. Many know Kay from her many years of involvement with the Strolling Flower Show - celebrating its 65th year. Kay provided this editor with a 12 page booklet of history which outlines the many beautification projects, community donations, long-time support of historic Edison Park school and ongoing efforts of this outstanding Garden Club. Hats (and gloves) off to the 30 plus members. WOW !

We had a great Florida Federation of Garden Clubs, District IX meeting in Lakeland Friday Oct. 18. The FFGC officers brought us up to date on all the happenings at FFGC, Wekiva and with awards. 2014 Calendar designers were mentioned - Julia Palmer (January) and Suzy Valentine (September) appear in next year's FFGC Flower Arrangement calendar.

District IX voted to hold a Flower Show in the fall of 2014 - so stay tuned.

The Periwinkle Garden Club was presented with a Diamond Club award for 75 years.

The Garden Club of Cape Coral won the Deep South Historic Preservation/Restoration award for the Rose Garden maintained at the Cape's Historical Society. President Ginny Huffer (left) accepted the award from FFGC President Sue Angle and District IX Awards Chair Opi DeFalco.



Every 3 years, an international competition in horticultural sculpture, called "mosaiculture," is presented in a major city in the world, this year was Montreal. This is not topiary but sculptures of living plants. The greatest horticulturalists in the world, from 20 different countries, submitted plans a year in advance. Steel armatures were then created to support the works (some 40 feet high); they were then wrapped in steel mesh and filled with dirt and moss and watering hoses. Then 3 million plants of different shades of green and brown and tan were ordered and grown in greenhouses all over Quebec. In late May, the horticulturalists came to Montreal and planted their plants in the forms at the Montreal Botanic Gardens, where they stood for three months. There were 50 major - incredible - sculptures along a path two miles long. If you would like to visit a few, check out:

<http://myvirtualgarden2.blogspot.com/2013/09/mosaiculture-exhibition.html>



Update of meeting locations

Due to Lee County budget cuts the Eco-Living Center at Rutenberg Park and the Extension bldg. at Terry Park were recently closed. Beside the Garden Council, several of our member Plant Societies had to move their meetings.

American Hibiscus Society - James E. Hendry Chapter	2nd Sunday	1:30 pm
Famous Dave's BBQ (Meeting room in the back) 12148 Cleveland Ave.		Fort Myers 33907
Caloosa Rare Fruit Exchange	1st Tuesday	7:00 pm
NFM Community Center (in the Park) 2021 N. Tamiami Trail (Bus. 41)		North FM 33903
Florida Native Plant Society - Coccoloba Chapter	2nd Thursday	6:30 pm
Calusa Nature Center & Planetarium (meet here) 3450 Ortiz Avenue		Fort Myers 33905
Southwest Florida Orchid Society	2nd Monday	7:30 pm
Faith United Methodist 15690 McGregor Blvd.		Fort Myers 33908

PLANT IT PINK

Many thanks to Debbie and Ron Stotter for re-planting our Plant It Pink garden - it looks great. Plant It Pink is a National Garden Clubs, Inc. initiative to honor breast cancer survivors and remember those who have not. Every year NGC, Inc. commissions a ceramic bird house from a nationally known artist and all proceeds from the sale of these bird houses are donated to the Susan B. Komen Foundation for breast cancer research. Debbie has ordered the 2012 and 2013 birdhouses so look for them soon. For more information check the website at gardenclub.org.

Our Berne Davis Botanic Gardens are open weekly - we invite your clubs to enjoy the garden and help us out as docents. Thank you for signing up with your club members to host at the Berne Davis Gardens on Virginia Avenue in November and December as listed below, from 10 am to 1 pm.

- 5 - November - Alva Garden Club
- 12 - November - American Hibiscus Society, James E. Hendry Chapter:
- 19 - November - Southwest Florida Bonsai Society
- 26 - November - Caloosa Rare Fruit Exchange
- 3 - December - Calusa Bromeliad Society
- 10 - December - Carissa Garden Club

If you have any questions, please contact Carolee via email or at 239-561-1846. We appreciate your participation in helping to share the gardens with members of our community
 Carolee Drotos-Swales - Garden Coordinator



Creating and maintaining a backyard wildlife habitat is easier than you think and there are many reasons to garden for wildlife. See Suzy Valentine for information on getting your garden certified. nwf.org



Tropicana Garden Club presents "Fun with Herbs"
 We meet at Tropicana craft house, off McGregor near John Morris Rd.

Plan to attend the first "FUN WITH HERBS" class on the first Thursday after the Activities Fair in January. The first meeting will be held at Gwen Bomarito's home, 11527 East Palm Drive. Stop by to visit, at the "Tropicana, "FUN WITH HERBS" Booth, at the Activities Fair to see a list of available class choices and to pre-register for the classes.

At our first meeting those present will select the herb topics to be explored in 2014. Demonstrations and samplings of dishes using the herb or herbs featured in the lesson are planned. There will be hands-on workshops using fresh and dried herbs, an Herb Tea, an Herbal luncheon, a field trip, an Italian Feast, herbal dips, spreads, breads and more. Depending on the wishes of the group, we usually meet bi-weekly at 1 PM at the Craft House for 5-6 weeks. Watch forthcoming newsletters and posters for more specific details. If you would like to teach a class or assist Gwen, that would be "awesome". If you have ideas or suggestions of what you would like included, please let me know as soon as possible at gwenbomarito@yahoo.com or by phone so I can get some materials ready while I am still in Illinois. Come join us for **Fun with Herbs !** Bring a friend.

Gwen Bomarito in Illinois until Nov. 10th 309-359-8009 In Fort Myers 239-985-0299

Nov. - Dec. 2013 Calendar of Events

Bonita Springs Tropical Fruit Club Lilies Plaza, adjacent to Riverside Park on old 41 - Bonita Springs	Sat. Nov. 9 9 am - 3 pm	Annual fruit tree sale Info call 851-4448
Jasmine GC Holiday Coffee & Auction Auction starts at 10:00 am	Tues. Nov. 12 Coffee at 9:30	Covenant Presbyterian, 2439 McGregor FM Holiday wreathes, table-top trees, centerpieces, baked goods, jams and jellies
Periwinkle Club Holiday auction Live Auction begins at 7:00 pm.	Wed. Nov. 13th	Registration, food, drink and silent auction at 5:30 pm Fine Mark Bank, 12681 Creekside Lane off College Pkwy.
Poinciana GC Plant & Yard Sale	Fri. Nov. 16 8 am - 4 pm Sat. Nov. 17	3806 Edgewood Dr. - Fort Myers
Annual Bonsai Society Show Workshops & seminars	Fri. Nov. 16 10 - 5 pm Sat. Nov. 17 10 - 5 pm	Lee County Election Center 13180 S. Cleveland (US 41) across from Bell Tower
Bromeliad Show & Sale	Sat. Dec. 7 - 9:00 to 5:00 pm	Sun. Dec. 8 10:00 - 3:00 pm Sale in Terry Park Pavilion - 3410 Palm Beach Blvd.
Holly Days Home Tours Meet at Methodist Church to purchase tickets	Friday Dec. 6 & Sat. Dec. 7 11 - 4pm	Punta Gorda Garden Club Check the web at www.pggc.org

FOR THE LATEST INFO CHECK OUR WEBSITE FMLCGARDENCOUNCIL.COM

OFFICERS 2013 - 2015		
<p>President Debbie Wyatt-Stotter 652-9140 Email: famemanehair@embarqmail.com</p> <p>First Vice President Brenda Norris 489-0343 Email: jimandbrenda.norris@gmail.com</p> <p>Second Vice President Sandy Kavouras 656-1406 Email: sandrakavouras@yahoo.com</p>	<p>Recording Secretary Suzy Valentine 992-0113 Email: suzy.valentine@att.net</p> <p>Treasurer Mae Jean Nothstine 590-0217 Email: maejeanoth@aol.com</p> <p>Corresponding Secretary Kay Holloway 332-0294 Email: hollowaykay@aol.com</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">COURIER</p> <p>Paula Novander 945-6548 Email: pnovander@yahoo.com</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Directors</p> <p>Laura Jibben 463-3690 Ena McGrattan 561-1735 Mitzi Marckesano 561-5513</p>