



THE COURIER

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

NEWS FLASH

Friday—April 11th the Garden Council will hold its 5th annual Honorary Service Awards luncheon.

New location—Fiddlesticks Country Club. In addition, we are celebrating our namesake Berne Davis's 100th birthday.

So please join us for a lovely event. Look for more information from your Garden Club Presidents.

See form inside.



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

Happy, "Almost Spring"! The Groundhog saw his shadow, retreated back into his burrow and the winter weather will continue for 6 more weeks! (According to folklore.) Spring IS around the corner. Little signs are there... The Cardinals are chirping in my garden, the Doves are sitting on their nests and if you have been following my newsletter, my Bald Cypress are finally BALD!

February 18th, a beautiful "Chamber of Commerce Day" was our Open House and the Dedication Ceremony of our beloved Lorelei. The turn out for our event was impressive. The Mayor, Mr. Randy Henderson; City Council Member, Forrest Banks; Kay Holloway's Uncle Walter Sheppard; our District IX Director, Glenda Dawson and of course our own Berne Davis were some of our special guests in attendance. Forrest Banks and I completed Lorelei's ceremonial dedication with a handful of rose petals from my garden.

The Gardens looked beautiful and festive with lovely banners welcoming our guests at the entrances and colorful flags adorning the Gazebo. A touch of class was added to The Pink Garden with the beautiful pink satin ribbons displayed. (Thank you Mitzi !)

Our Garden Clubs and Plant Societies were well represented by creating beautiful Floral designs along with display boards for interest and education.

Many thanks to every one for the success of this event, but I would like to recognize a few specifically for their contributions. First Vice-President Brenda Norris who worked hard to get the clubs and societies to attend. The Greater Fort Myers Rose Society sold roses, thanks to Penny, one of its members.

The American Hibiscus Society was there in full bloom, represented by Jill and new members, Vivian and Doug. (Special thanks to Doug for sweeping the sidewalk for me.) On display, was a beautiful quilt full of Hibiscus Blooms created by Vivian that is to be used for a fundraiser. (Contact Jill Breslin at 239-415-9887 / jillbreslin.campbell@gmail.com for more information.)

Thanks to Kathy and Charlene, from the Garden Club of Cape Coral, for providing our guests with delicious pink punch and scrumptious cookies and treats! The mini cinnabons were a definite hit, as well as, Madeline's healthy and yummy cookies served out of the gazebo from the Bonita Springs Tropical Fruit Club, Inc. table. Additional recognition goes to Kay and her Periwinkle Garden Club, for attending in droves. Much appreciation for your support.

Spring is the time of New Beginnings and Renewal and I'm looking forward to our next big event, The Berne Davis Honorary Service Awards Luncheon! (April 11th). See you there!

Yours in roses,
Debbie Wyatt-Stotter
President



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

Inspirational Message - Vicki Williamson
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: David Southall - Plants that changed the world

Adjournment

Ways & Means - 50/50 drawing -

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

Garden Council Meetings Dates

BOARD MEETINGS

(Officers, Directors, Committee Chairs)

- FRIDAY March 7, 2014
 - FRIDAY April 4, 2014
- MEETINGS FROM 9:30 am TO 11:30 am

Garden Council Headquarters
2166 Virginia Ave. Fort Myers
Phone: 332-4942

GENERAL MEETINGS

All are Welcome

- FRIDAY March 14, 2014
- Hostess - **Kelly Greens GC**
- Program - David Southall- Plants that changed the world
- Next Meeting May 9, 2014

GENERAL MEETINGSMEETINGS ARE HELD THE 2ND FRIDAY OF THE MONTH **EVERY OTHER MONTH**

SEPTEMBER TO MAY

RIVERSIDE Community Center
 3061 E. Riverside Drive FM 33916

HOSPITALITY: 9:00 am to 9:30 am

MEETING: 9:30 am to 11:30 am

Just a reminder that we are asking each club and society to take a turn hosting the gardens on Virginia Avenue one Tuesday during season from 10 am to 1 pm. Opening the gardens to the public enables us to maintain our Botanical Garden status. Hostesses are required to open the gates and be available for visitors to answer questions. It's good to have at least two people there. It is also a great time to enjoy the gardens.

We are moving through the list of clubs alphabetically. The clubs responsible for the next three months are as follows:

March 4th – Green Thumb Garden Club

March 11th – Gulf Coast Garden Club

March 18th – Jasmine Garden Club

March 25 - Kelly Greens Garden Club

April 1 - McGregor

April 8 - Periwinkle

April 15 - Pine Island

April 22 - Poinciana

April 29 - Potpourri Designers

May 6 - Royal Palm

May 13 - Shell Islands

May 20 - Southwest Florida Orchid

May 27 - Carissa



Please let me know who will be representing your club on the date designated by calling 239-561-1846 or emailing cdrotosswales@yahoo.com. Thank you for helping us share the gardens with our neighbors and visitors. Carolee Drotos FMLCGC Garden Committee

Periwinkle Garden Club - Strolling Flower Show for 2014***"The Genius of Edison and the Jewels of Flowers have Strolled Together for 65 years"***

Flower Show Chairman - Pam Kollmann and her committees pulled off another wonderful Strolling Flower show. After enjoying the designs on Thur. Feb 6th we headed to the Forest Country Club for a lovely lunch and the awards presentation. The blue ribbon winners were Theo Kavouras, Ellen Chadwick, Sharon Meola, Joyce Comingore, Jan Padgett, Vicki Williamson, Florene Johns, Kathy Woodlock, Darlene Tompkins, Kathryn Patterson, Julia Palmer, Carole Lachmann, Helen Parker and Paula Novander. Poinciana GC won for the most designs entered again !

The Gold Ribbon (best blue ribbon design using chrysanthemums) was awarded to Kathy Woodlock* of GC of Cape Coral ;

"Everyone Can Bank on the Genius of Mr. Edison and the Jeweled Flowers of Mrs. Edison"

The Violet Ribbon (tropical flowers) was awarded to Vicki Williamson* Lehigh Acres/Royal Palm GC; "Do You See What I See ?"

The Green Ribbon (mostly foliage) was awarded to Carole Lachmann* of GC of Cape Coral;

"Stand Up and Cheer—It's Our 65th Year"

The Silver Ribbon (gladiolus) was awarded to Ellen Chadwick of Poinciana GC, "Leaves Along the Path"

The Crimson Ribbon (roses) was awarded to Florene Johns* of Poinciana GC,

"Floral Jewels and Eclectic Fashion Celebrate the Genius of Mr. Edison"

* also members of

the Potpourri Designers

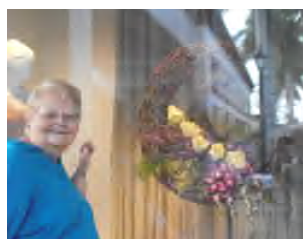
Judges Award to Sandy Kavouras of Gardens of the World, " So, Ma - Wanna Stroll ?" at Soma

Tri-Color Runner Up was Theo Kavouras of Garden of the World, "Jewels and Fashion" at Brodeur-Carvell

Tri-Color Winner was Sharon Meola of Poinciana GC, "Inflorescence Invention" at Brookstone

Designer's Choice Runner Up was Kathy Woodlock, GC of Cape Coral at Jos. A. Banks

Designer's Choice was Darlene Tompkins of Poinciana GC at Saks - "Side by Side for 65"



Darlene Tompkins at Saks

Ellen Chadwick - at Brookstone





1st Vice President Brenda Norris oversees the planting of a new Geiger tree at Lakes Park in celebration of Florida's Arbor Day - Jan. 17th. Wes Higgins (holding the shovel) and the Lakes Park Enrichment Foundation are affiliate members of the Garden Council.

Vivian of the Hibiscus Society shows off her embroidered quilt being raffled off, drawing is June 1.



Open House Feb 11 - Dedication of the Lorelei
A beautiful spring day



It is Flower Show Season

Inspirations of the Spirit - a Japanese Floral Exhibit presented by the Naples Chapter #160 of Ikebana Intl. Moorings Presbyterian, 791 Harbour Dr. in Naples. Fri. March 14 10 - 5pm & Sat. March 15 10 - 4pm.

Paris - City of Light, City of Love - a standard Flower show presented by Royal Palm Garden Club, at the Garden Council headquarters. Thursday March 20th from 4 - 8 pm and Friday March 21st from 9 to 3 pm.

Alice in Wonderland - presented by the Naples GC, at the Botanical Gardens, 4820 Bayshore Drive, Naples 34112 Friday March 28 & Saturday March 29 from 9 until 5pm, includes a Garden Market this year.

Art in Bloom at the Edison -Ford Winter Estates - in collaboration with the Garden Council includes selected artwork and created floral designs for display and judging. Open to the public. Judging completed by 4 PM Sunday April 6. Free

Over the River, Thru the Palms - presented by the Garden Club of Cape Coral and the Potpourri Designers, at the Cape Coral Library - 921 SW 39th Terr. in Cape Coral 33914. Friday May 2nd from 3 until 5pm, Saturday May 3rd from 9 until 3pm.

Destination ... Paradise presented by Gulf Coast GC is currently on hold - looking for a location

New to the area or just looking for good horticultural information - the County Extension Service has it !

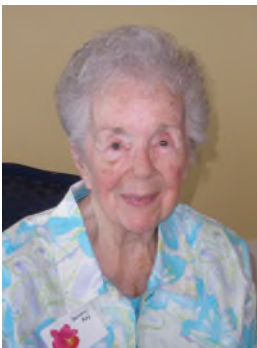
Homepage for Lee County Extension <http://lee.ifas.ufl.edu/>

Lawn, Garden and Landscape - Publications A-Z, Brown's Plant file, Powerpoint presentations, You Tube videos, News-Press Q&A articles, Butterfly information, etc.

A wealth of information for *OUR* area.

University of Florida - Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences <http://ifas.ufl.edu/>

Florida Friendly Landscaping <http://fyn.ifas.ufl.edu/index.html>



In Loving Memory of Beverly Jean Ray

The Fort Myers - Lee County Garden Council is forever grateful for the efforts of Bev Ray. As the current editor of the COURIER I remember the years that Beverly put together the newsletter, back in the days of typewriters and snail mail. She was President of the Council when they joined the Florida Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc. She and Marty Ward began the Garden Club of Cape Coral and Bev was instrumental in forming the Eclectic Floral Designers. A Master Flower Show judge, she also had designs exhibited in the FFGC calendar. Beverly served as District IX Director and was State Chairman for Historic Preservation. Her final wishes were for memorials to be sent to the Garden Council. Thank-you Beverly from the bottom of our hearts.

Local Farmer's Markets

Fenway South	Mon. 2 - 6 pm	11500 Fenway South Drive (JetBlue Park) off Daniel's Parkway Fort Myers	www.buylocallee.com
River District	Thur. 7 - 1 pm	Under the Caloosahatchee bridge in Centennial park off W. First St. - Fort Myers	321-7524
Lakes Park	Fri. 9 - 1 pm	Free Parking - Lots of fresh veggies 7330 Gladiolus Drive, Fort Myers	533-7375
Cape Coral	Sat. 8 - 1 pm	Downtown, SE 47th Terr. and SE 10th Place, over 100 vendors	capecoralfarmersmarket.com
Green Market	Sat. 9 - 1 pm	Alliance of the Arts, 10091 McGregor Blvd. - Fort Myers	939-2787



Florida Native Plant Society 34th Annual Conference

Thursday, May 15th - Sunday May 18th,
Florida Gulf Coast University
Educational Sessions, Workshops,

Hosted by the Coccoloba Chapter



Field Trips, NATIVE PLANT SALES, Evening Socials

FNPS.ORG/conference for more info

March - April 2014 Calendar of Events

Memorial for Betty Mazzarella

Tuesday March 11

11:00 am

Join the members of Gulf Coast GC

and the many others who loved her for a special memorial at the Council gardens

Alva GC - Annual Strawberry Festival

Sat. March 15

9 to 1 pm.

The Alva Museum (and plant sale)

21420 Pearl St. (take State Rd 80 to Alva, left on Broadway, right on Pearl St. - after the bridge)

Grow The Garden

Sunday March 23

3:30 pm

St Charles Yacht Club LakesPark.org

An elegant afternoon of Chamber Music and an art auction benefiting the Lakes Park Enrichment Foundation

A fundraiser to assist in their mission to create a Children's Garden at the Park to educate and excite

Honorary Service Award luncheon

Friday April 11

12:00 pm

celebrate Berne Davis 100 - Fiddlesticks CC

Caloosa Rare Fruit Exchange plant sale

Sat. April 12

9:00 - 3:00 pm

at North Fort Myers Rec off old 41 Just north of Pine Island Road/Bayshore

Spotlight on the South
Florida Center Stage

April 12-13

The Deep South Region Annual Convention and

April 14-16

FFGC 88th Annual Convention

Hilton - St. Petersburg Bayfront

see the FFGC website or your Florida gardener for complete information

District IX meeting

Tuesday April 22

9:30 coffee, call to order 10:30

hosted by Lake Placid GC

Elk's Lodge - 200 CR621 Lake Placid 33582

FOR THE LATEST INFO CHECK OUR WEBSITE FMLCGARDENCOUNCIL.COM

OFFICERS 2013 - 2015

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Honorary Service Award luncheon
Friday April, 11th 12:00 pm
Come Celebrate Berne Davis's 100th birthday

The staff of Fiddlesticks Country Club will be catering the luncheon this year and they are offering the following: includes bistro salad and birthday cake.

Choice 1: Chicken Francais with Wild Rice Pilaf, Roasted Asparagus

Choice 2: Mahi with Champagne Beurre Blanc with Wild Rice Pilaf, Roasted Asparagus

For luncheon reservations, please complete and return the following reservation form:

Tickets for a glass of house wine will be available for \$7 - CASH.

Please return by March 25, 2014

GARDEN CLUB NAME _____

Number of Members attending: _____ @ \$25 = _____ (Amount enclosed)

PLEASE MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO **Fort Myers - Lee County Garden Council**

NAME	Choice Number	NAME	Choice Number
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____

Fiddlesticks County Club is at the south end of Fiddlesticks Blvd. off Daniels Pkwy (near I-75). Head south on Fiddlesticks Blvd. Drive approximately 1 1/4 miles to Fiddlesticks Gate and Security House, then straight ahead on Fiddlesticks Blvd. to Canongate Drive, turn left on Canongate and the Club House is straight ahead and to the left of Canongate Drive, approximately 1/4 to 1/2 mile.

Send your registration form and check to
Kathy Rabassi
2817 SW 36th Street
Cape Coral, FL 33914

Please direct any questions to: Kathy Rabassi 945-2675 or
Charlene Anderson 978 828-6696

A carrot , an egg, and a cup of coffee...

You will never look at a cup of coffee the same way again.

A young woman went to her mother and told her about her life and how things were so hard for her. She did not know how she was going to make it and wanted to give up. She was tired of fighting and struggling. It seemed as one problem was solved, a new one arose.

Her mother took her to the kitchen. She filled three pots with water and placed each on a high fire. Soon the pots came to boil. In the first she placed carrots, in the second she placed eggs, and in the last she placed ground coffee beans. She let them sit and boil; without saying A Word.

In about twenty minutes she turned off the burners. She fished the carrots out and placed them in a bowl. She pulled the eggs out and placed them in a bowl.

Then she ladled the coffee out and placed it in a bowl. Turning to her daughter, she asked, "Tell me what you see."

"Carrots, eggs, and coffee," the daughter replied.

Her mother brought her closer and asked her to feel the carrots. She did and noted that they were soft. The mother then asked the daughter to take an egg and break it. After pulling off the shell, she observed the hard-boiled egg.

Finally, the mother asked the daughter to sip the coffee. The daughter smiled, as she tasted its rich aroma the daughter then asked, "What does it mean, mother?"

Her mother explained that each of these objects had faced the same adversity: boiling water. Each reacted differently. The carrot went in strong, hard, and unrelenting. However, after being subjected to the boiling water, it softened and became weak. The egg had been fragile. Its thin outer shell had protected its liquid interior, but after sitting through the boiling water, its insides became hardened. The ground coffee beans were unique, however. After they were in the boiling water, they had changed the water.

"Which are you?" she asked her daughter. "When adversity knocks on your door, how do you respond? Are you a carrot, an egg or a coffee bean?"

Think of this: Which am I? Am I the carrot that seems strong, but with pain and adversity do I wilt and become soft and lose my strength?

Am I the egg that starts with a malleable heart, but changes with the heat? Did I have a fluid spirit, but after a death, a breakup, a financial hardship or some other trial, have I become hardened and stiff? Does my shell look the same, but on the inside am I bitter and tough with a stiff spirit and hardened heart?

Or am I like the coffee bean? The bean actually changes the hot water, the very circumstance that brings the pain. When the water gets hot, it releases the fragrance and flavor. If you are like the bean, when things are at their worst, you get better and change the situation around you. When the hour is the darkest and trials are their greatest, do you elevate yourself to another level? How do you handle adversity? Are you a carrot, an egg or a coffee bean?

May you have enough happiness to make you sweet, enough trials to make you strong, enough sorrow to keep you human and enough hope to make you happy.

The Happiest of People Don't Necessarily Have the Best of everything; They Just Make the Most of Everything that comes along their way. The brightest future will always be based on a forgotten past; you can't go forward in life until you let go of your past failures and heartaches.

When you were born, you were crying and everyone around you was smiling.

Live your life so at the end, you're the one who is smiling and everyone around you is crying.

May we all be COFFEE!!!!!! !!