

THE COURIER

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

Your Dues are Due !

Time to fill out the purple sheets and send in your Council Dues for 2013-2014. Lots of clubs are electing a new Board of Directors and we want to make sure all our information is up-to-date for the Council's annual yearbook. Please contact Treasurer Mae Jean Nothstine if you have not already received your yearbook information form. Council dues are \$30 per year for a club or plant society. Organization affiliate's fee are \$150 per year. All clubs/societies receive 3 copies of the annual yearbook and all members are emailed copies of the great COURIER newsletter 5 times a year. THANKS !

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

Happy Spring ! The word "Spring" has many meanings; Renew, Move Forward, everything in our gardens are for sure "springing" out. Our lovely weather tells the plants that winter is over and for the flowers and spring green foliage to come forward. I have such fond memories of my grandmother's garden with larkspurs, poppies, lilies and violets popping up everywhere. Now my Mother's garden follows that tradition with petunias being my favorite. In my own garden the Bald Cypress are beautiful and full, not to mention all the flowers happy that the spring showers have watered them. Plants know the difference between city water and God's spring showers ! Spring is also the busiest time for Flower Shows. Royal Palm Garden Club had the first standard Flower Show at the Garden Council headquarters, very fitting since the last show held at the old Council building was also a Royal Palm show in 2004. Judging rose shows will take me up to Thomasville, GA, then over to Jacksonville, FL as well as Tampa. It is nice to see all the friends I have collected since becoming a judge in 2001. My how time goes by I am reminded of a quote I recently came across "Peace is when time doesn't matter as it passes by".

I am enjoying serving the Garden Council, hard to believe my first year is almost over. Moving on, my son Jeremy's wedding was the perfect day; the Hut Restaurant in Buckingham a lovely setting as the bride arrived in an antique fire truck. Spring has also been a busy time for the Garden Council with Art in Bloom held April 6th at the Edison-Ford Winter Estates. Many members of the Council enjoyed having fun creating a floral design inspired by art from the Estates. The public votes on their favorite as they pass thru the restored caretaker's cottage - congratulations to the winner - Terry Pinck. The 5th annual Berne Davis Honorary Service Award luncheon was held at the Fiddlesticks Country Club on April 11th. I believe we had the highest attendance ever as we celebrated Berne's 100th birthday. This year's winner was Kay Holloway and she was so surprised and happy that Berne was there to present the award to her. It was a moment Kay and I will never forget as I presented her with the well-deserved award. I look forward to seeing you all at the last member's meeting May 9th for a wonderful design demo.

Yours in roses,

Debbie Wyatt-Stotter

President

with Fort Myers Mayor
Randy Henderson at Fiddlesticks Country Club



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: Carol Brocklesby - "East Meets West"
Adjournment
Ways & Means - 50/50 drawing -

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

Garden Council Meetings Dates

BOARD MEETINGS

(Officers, Directors, Committee Chairs)

- FRIDAY May 2, 2014
 - FRIDAY June 6, 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 May 9, 2014
- Hostess - **Gulf Coast GC**
- Program - Carol Brocklesby
- "East Meets West" design program
- **Next Meeting SEPT. 12, 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

5th Annual Berne Davis Honorary Service Awards

Busy Bee Award - Mitzi Marckesano
 Perennial - Sharron Thompson
 Rainbow - Pat Grulke & Judy Gore

Ena McGrattan awards

Pat Grulke & Mitzi for 2013 FFGC Convention
 Paula Novander - for going above and beyond
 Carolee Drotos-Swales - for gardening expertise
 Sharron Thompson for keeping us all in line



President Debbie Wyatt-Stotter has a quiet moment



Fiddlesticks GC ladies greet the attendees



Berne admires Kay's Tree of Life crystal vase - Kay was awarded the Berne Davis Honorary Service Award



Cellist & Treasurer Mae Jean Nothstine entertained us with her trio.



Ena McGrattan, Mayor Henderson and his wife Ginny from Green Thumb GC



Happy Birthday - Berne



President Debbie with HSA nominees Joyce Pilewski (Alva GC, Lehigh Acres GC) and Kay Holloway of Periwinkle GC



Fiddlesticks Country Club Great view and venue

As you hit the roads this summer - just a few suggestions...

THESE GARDENS GROW ON YOU:

The nominees sponsored by USA TODAY and 10BEST.com were chosen by a panel of experts and then voted on by the public.

The winner of the 10 Best Reader's Choice Awards for Best Public Gardens are:

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1. Longwood Gardens - Kennett Square, PA | longwoodgardens.org |
| 2. Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden - Richmond VA | lewisginter.org |
| 3. Butchart Gardens - Victoria, British Colombia | butchartgardens.com |
| 4. Callaway Gardens - Pine Mountain, GA | callawaygardens.com |
| 5. Chicago Botanic Garden - Chicago, IL | chicagobotanical.org |
| 6. Cheekwood Botanical Gardens -Nashville, TN | cheekwood.org |
| 7. Coastal Maine Botanical Gardens - Boothbay, ME | mainegardens.org |
| 8. Missouri Botanical Garden - St. Louis, MO | missouribotanicalgarden.org |
| 9. Portland Japanese Garden - Portland OR | japanesegarden.com |
| 10. Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden - Miami FL | fairchildgarden.org |

Set your GPS and enjoy a day in the garden.... happy travels !

Staying closer to home ? Be sure and visit the ever-changing Naples Botanical Gardens
naplesgarden.org

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:

May 6 - Shell Islands

May 13 - Royal Palm

May 20 - Southwest Florida Orchid

May 27 - Carissa

Gardens Close until September



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-Swales FMLCGC Garden Committee



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

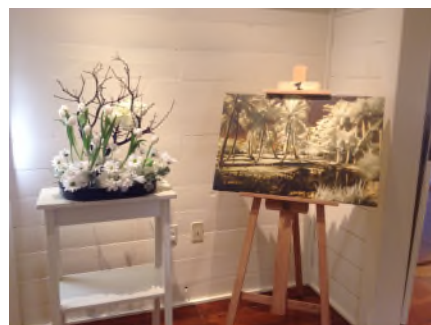
Lawn, Garden and Landscape - Publications A-Z, Brown's Plant file, PowerPoint presentations, You Tube videos, News-Press Q&A articles, Butterfly information, etc.
A wealth of information for *OUR* area.

On Friday May 2nd 25 new Master Gardeners (including this editor of the Courier) celebrated their graduation at the Garden Council headquarters with County Extension agent Stephen Brown. We hope to welcome the Master Gardeners back to the Garden Council soon. Look for more information on MG programs for your clubs.





Art in Bloom
held Sunday April 6 at the Edison - Ford Winter Estates. 15 area designers picked a piece of artwork from the Estates collection to "interpret" with a unique floral design. First place was Terry Pinck's design "Crystal Blue Persuasion"; artist is Megan Kissinger (on the left). 2nd place was Brenda Norris whose design is pictured on the right. 3rd place was a design by Ena McGrattan.



PARIS - the City of Light, City of Love presented by Royal Palm Garden Club. Pictured is Marty Ward President and Terry Pinck show chairman (right).

March 20 & 21



Vicki Williamson -
award of Design
Excellence

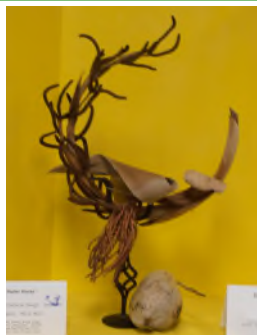
Ena McGrattan did an
illuminary design



**Florida Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc.
State Convention - St. Petersburg, FL
April 14 - 16**

What a great time to meet other Garden clubbers from around the state, enjoy the meetings, vendors (think chocolate and plants) AND enjoy the informative workshops. Besides the 2014 convention included a state-wide Flower Show, always fun to browse. The "calendar girls" for 2015 were also announced. Floral Designs by Terry Pinck, Kathleen Hawryluk and Brenda Norris will appear in the FFGC Floral Design calendar for 2015. Calendars will be available at the September meeting.





Over the River, Thru the Palms - was presented by the Garden Club of Cape Coral and the Potpourri Designers, at the Cape Coral Library - Friday & Saturday May 2nd & 3rd.
Many thanks to all who participated.

Marty Ward's design "Palm Parts" featured 5 different palms - can you name them ?

Janice Miller's first place design of Exhibition Table Type 1.



Florida Native Plant Society 34th Annual Conference

Thursday, May 15th - Sunday May 18th,

Florida Gulf Coast University

Educational Sessions, Workshops, Vendors,
Field Trips, NATIVE PLANT SALES, Evening Socials

Hosted by the Coccoloba Chapter of the Florida Native Plant Society
FNPS.ORG/conference for more info



May - June 2014 Calendar of Events

Hibiscus Society show & sale
Plants for sale, door prize drawings

Sunday June 1 1 - 4 pm
Free parking and admission

Salvation Army building - 10291 McGregor Blvd
*new location * hendrychapterahs.com

Taste of Lee \$2 admission Sat. June 28th 9 - 2 pm
Caloosa Rare Fruit Exchange & County Extension Service
see attached flyer

First Baptist Church - Community Room
corner of 2nd St. & Jackson Fort Myers

EPCOT International Flower and Garden Festival thru May
Disneyworld.com/flower

National Garden Week

June 1 - 7

Plan to promote and celebrate !

Flower Show School - Course 1

Held at Legacy Harbor Hotel

Sept. 21st - 24th

Costs include lunch and handouts

Contact Sandy Kavouras for more info

Cell: 218-6443

FOR THE LATEST INFO CHECK OUR WEBSITE FMLCGARDENCOUNCIL.COM

OFFICERS 2013 - 2015

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