



THE COURIER

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

President's Message

Flowers in Art & Music:
 The Keys to Happiness !

A standard flower show presented by Fort Myers - Lee County Garden Council, Inc.

Friday
 March 6

6:00 - 10:00 pm

The Berne & Sidney Davis Art Center in historic downtown Fort Myers.

Come enjoy "Art Walk" & the show !

Greetings to all ! The Holiday Season is over and I trust yours was as wonderful as mine! Spending time with my Grandchildren, (including the newest family member, Olivia Kate), Family and Friends always rejuvenate me and push me forward to my next adventures !

Winter is upon us, although it hasn't felt much like winter at all, my Cypress trees still know it's winter and are filling my pool with their "lovely" needles.

Now to the important part of my President's letter. As you are all aware, my dream since I was a little girl was to have a flower show and I am honored as the President of the Fort Myers Lee County Garden Council, Inc. to have the opportunity as part of our mission statement to educate the community by showcasing MY FLOWER SHOW that is coming up very quickly, scheduled for March 6, 2015. Many thanks and appreciation to Sandy Kavouras, Second Vice President and Kay Holloway, Corresponding Secretary, for making this all possible! Of course, additional thanks to all the many others that assist and participate.

Our general meeting on January 9th is going to be the last general meeting before my flower show. So I need each and every one of you to get in touch with either Suzy Valentine-Recording Secretary- suzy.valentine@att.net for your **design entries** or Joyce Comingore, jayebeec@hotmail.com for your **horticulture entries**.

Let them know what you want to enter in the flower show.

There are still openings in the design classes and quality horticulture is always welcome. As a bonus Sandy has arranged to have Bettie Call do the program for our general meeting on January 9th. She will be showcasing the different design types that are required for my flower show classes. Class 1 and Class 6 are full, but there are openings in the rest of the design classes. Please check with Suzy for a list of availabilities.

I am so excited we are actually going to be part of **Art Walk**, a premier event of the River District in Fort Myers, and my flower show will be held in the Sidney and Berne Davis Art Center. This is where the action takes place and we are proud to be a part of it! What a fantastic opportunity for us to let Fort Myers know who we are and what we do.

Mae Jean Nothstine -Treasurer, has arranged for eight educational exhibits. In addition, there will be 48 designs and I am positive, hundreds of fantastic horticulture exhibits, thanks to our talented members. So gardeners and designers unite !!!

Please enter my flower show and showcase your talents!
Call or email: Suzy (239) 992-0113 OR Joyce (239) 573-0388.

The show is just around the corner. The general meeting in January will be our last time to get together and have your questions answered before the actual show.

Together we are going to **ROCK** Fort Myers with **"Flowers in Art & Music-The Keys to Happiness" !!!**

Thank you all in advance for what I believe will be a truly successful President's Flower Show, for the Fort Myers -Lee County Garden Council, Inc.

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 - Paula Novander

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

Old Business / New Business / Announcements
 PROGRAM: *Floral Design* - Betty Call
 Adjournment
 Ways & Means - 50/50 drawing

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

Garden Council Meetings Dates

<p>BOARD MEETINGS (Officers, Directors, Committee Chairs)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> FRIDAY Feb. 6, 2015 FRIDAY March 6, 2015 <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>GENERAL MEETINGS All are Welcome</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> FRIDAY Jan. 9, 2015 Hostess - Shell Islands GC Program - Betty Call "Designs for Flower Shows" Next Meeting March. 13, 2015 	<p>GENERAL MEETINGS MEETINGS ARE HELD THE 2ND FRIDAY OF THE MONTH EVERY OTHER MONTH SEPTEMBER TO MAY</p> <p>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</p>
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ATTENTION ALL DESIGNERS

February 5th and 6th are the dates for the 2015 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.

Happy Strolling, Pam Kollmann - Chair
The Theme of the show this year is:

" People are Strolling, Flowers are Showing, All for Mr. Edison"

Award's Luncheon at **The Forest Country Club** on Thursday Feb. 5 at 12:30 pm

Reservations for luncheon are due to Mello Nash by Jan. 25th. Cost is \$25 per person.



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>

FREE Gardening Series at Rotary Park, 5505 Rose Garden Road, Cape Coral. All sessions are free.

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| The Science of Good Soil in SW Florida | - Stephen Brown | Friday, January 9 |
| Composting to Improve Your Soil | - Rachel Singletary | Friday January 23 |
| Lawn Care and Lawn Weeds | - Barbara Meyer | Friday February 6 |
| The Care and Feeding of Palms | - Donna Cressman | Friday, February 20 |



All presentation times are from 9 AM-10:30 AM. Presented by area Lee County Extension Master Gardeners.

***Edison - Ford Winter Estates* - Garden Talks**
Museum West Porch - 10:00 am

January 10th Container Gardening Find out the secrets to great plant combinations for containers. Containers are great for small spaces, condos, special focal points, hiding unsightly areas.

January 17 & 22 (2 day class) - Learn to Make Hypertufa

January 24 - Scarf Art with artist Marie Dyer

January 30 & February 21 & 29 - Drawing in the Garden with Megan Kissinger

February 11 - Happy Birthday Thomas Edison

February 14 & 15 Edison Festival Plant Sale with Vendors - 9 until 5 pm on Saturday and Sunday

To register contact Leanne Criswell at 239-334-7419

Costs vary - check the web at EdisonFordWinterEstates.org/events

Spotlight on Jasmine Garden Club.

Celebrating their 50th year in 2015.

A lady palm was planted at the Fort Myers Palm Garden off Bay street downtown to honor long-time member Judy Gore. The club donated \$ 2,000 to ECHO and Avon Park in recent years thanks to their annual Holiday bazaar. This year President Mitzi Marckesano reported a whopping \$3,400 as proceeds. Congratulations ! FIFTY AND FABULOUS !! Five Decades of Flowers, Friendships and FUN ! a small standard Flower Show will be presented

Thursday April 30

2 - 6 pm

Garden Council

Headquarters



The gazebo at the Garden Council building has a new name. The family of Eugene T. Baker joined long-time Council member and friend Ena McGrattan at the gardens on October 22nd for the unveiling of the sign. Victoria Baker made a very generous donation to the Garden Council and was honored herself with a bird on our Wall of Fame sculpture.

Excerpts from Joyce's article PICK A PECK OF PICKLED PEPPERS in the Cape Coral BREEZE Nov. 15, 2013

Having worked in the Produce Department of a grocery store, I was struck by the number of people that didn't know how to tell when produce was ripe and they were seeking help.

Use your sense of smell, touch, sight and taste to determine when ready. Don't judge by the size or color, but by the feel, smell and slight yield of a tomato. Smell first, then gently pull and if it falls off into your hand, it is ready, if not, wait a day or so. Tug the melon vine or squash vine to see if it will slip from the fruit. Watch the colors change on the peppers, feeling the skin flesh change from firm to pliable. Gently squeeze the okra, fondle the eggplant, and see the translucence of the pea pod fill with young tender peas. Gardening has been described as a full contact sport. Tune into all your senses to become aware of the peak ripeness, flavor and nutrition. Finally, take the taste test. It's usually best to pick in the cool, early morning, or the cool evenings. Fresh fruits and vegetables tend to be very fragrant. Pick at the peak of their vibrant colors. Corn on the cob will have brown hairy silk on the outside and inside it should be white and silky. When you peel back the husk, and press a kernel with your thumb, it should ooze milky white, not clear discharge.

Tomatoes have sugars and acids that give them their flavor which will decrease if left on the vine until perfectly red.. Don't refrigerate them—that will kill the flavor. Ripen them at room temperature.

The rule for fresh, crunchy cucumbers is about six to eight inches, with a medium to dark green color showing peak ripeness. They are at their best when they are uniformly dark green and crisp.

Broccoli needs a tight head of florets. Look for the floret to be compact, dense and firmly closed. Don't let them open into a bloom of yellow flowers - the stalk is way past its prime.

Green beans require little fuss. They can vine or be bush beans, according to their variety. Pick when 4 to 6 inches long. They return nitrogen to the soil. Remember, they snap when ripe.

Kale and Swiss Chard are harvested by breaking off the outer leaves when they are 8 to 10 inches long, as new leaves continue to grow in the center .

Cantaloupes ripen and the stems separate from the fruit. They will have tan or yellowish color between their webbing surface patterns. Cut the stem, don't pull, a damaged wound at the end leaves an opening for rot. After harvesting, they can be held at room temperature 1 to 3 days until the blossom end softens.

Okra should be harvested immature and tender,(2 to 3 inches long). The pods must be picked every other day if you want them to remain productive.

Herbs need to be kept cut back or pinched to keep them producing, and blooms kept off. Blooming changes the flavor.

Remember—vegetables and time wait for no man. Each vegetable has a precise time for harvesting. Twenty-four hours can send them into an over-ripe, bitter, tough stage. Thanks trees, for our fresh air.

Joyce Comingore: Master Gardener; Hibiscus enthusiast; member of the Garden Club of Cape Coral.



Local Farmer's Markets - buylocallee.com

- Fenway South Mon. noon - 4pm 11500 Fenway South Drive (JetBlue Park) off Daniel's Parkway , FM
- River District Thur. 7 - 1 pm Under the Caloosahatchee bridge in Centennial park off W. First St. , FM
- Lakes Park Fri. 9 - 1 pm Free Parking - Lots of fresh veggies 7330 Gladiolus Drive, Fort Myers
- Bonita Springs Sat. 8 - 1pm Promenade at Bonita Bay, 26811 S. Bay Drive 691-9249
- 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
- Sanibel Island Sun. 8 - 1pm Sanibel City Hall, 800 Dunlop Road - more than 45 vendors

Garden Council - Berne Davis Botanical Garden Open Tues. 10 - 1 pm			
Jan. 6 - Carissa GC	Jan. 13 - Poinciana GC	Jan. 20 - GC of Lehigh Acres	Jan. 27 - Estero Island GC
Feb. 3 - Native Plant Society	Feb. 10 - FM Herb Enthusiasts	Feb. 17 - Gardens of the World	Feb. 24 - Rose Society
March 3 - Green Thumb GC	March 10 - Gulf Coast GC	March 17 - Jasmine GC	March 24 - Kelly Greens
March 31 - McGregor Garden Club	Please contact Carolee Drotos-Swales with any questions: 561-1846 or cdrotosswales@yahoo.com .		
<i>EACH CLUB IS RESPONSIBLE TO FIND MEMBERS TO REPORT or WORK WITH ANOTHER CLUB TO "TRADE" DATES</i>			

Southwest Florida and Lee County FAIR - Creative Living Exhibits
Fair runs from Feb. 26th until March 8

A warm welcome is extended to residents of Southwest Florida to show your creations and talents in the Creative Living Exhibits, held at the Southwest Florida Fair at the Lee County Civic Center.

Entries in Photography, Art, Pottery, Treadcraft, Quilting, Canning & Culinary, etc. will be taken Sat. Feb. 21st and Sunday Feb. 22nd. **HORTICULTURE** entries on Wed. Feb. 25th.

WEB SITE: www.swflcfair.com which explains dates, times, age, categories, general and department rules and how to pre-register. For additional questions or information, contact Pat Palmer 313-8058. Show off your creative side !

Calendar of Events

FLORIDA ARBOR DAY	Jan. 16th	Go Plant a Tree !
CFAA Seminar 2015 (Creative Floral Arrangers of the Americas)	Feb. 19 - 22	Marriott Orlando Airport cfaofa.org
Pine Island Garden Gala	Saturday Feb. 21st 9 - 2 pm - Phillips Park	Loads of plant vendors, demos and food pineislandgardenclub.org
SW Florida Burrowing Owl Festival Cape Coral Friends of Wildlife	Saturday Feb. 28th 10 - 4 pm	Plant vendors, info, demos and entertainment Rotary Park 55505 Rose Garden Rd. , CC ccfriendsofwildlife.org
MARCH in the PARK Garden Club of Cape Coral	Saturday March 14th 9 - 2pm	Jaycee Park on the river off Beach Pkwy Loads of plants and plant related items, vendors, food
Rhythm of the Tropics Embassy Suites - Boca Raton	April 18-19 see the FFGC website or your Florida gardener for complete information	FFGC 89th Annual Convention

Gulf Coast Garden Club presents - "Destination ... Paradise" Where Nature is Your Neighbor
 Friday, Feb. 27 3 pm to 6 pm
 Saturday, Feb 28 10 am to 4 pm
 Unity Church of Bonita Springs
 28285 Imperial Parkway Bonita Springs 34155



FOR THE LATEST INFO CHECK OUR WEBSITE FMLCGARDENCOUNCIL.COM

OFFICERS 2013 - 2015		
<p style="text-align: center;">President</p> <p>Debbie Wyatt-Stotter 652-9140 Email: famemanehair@embarqmail.com</p> <p style="text-align: center;">First Vice President</p> <p>Paula Novander 945-6548 Email: pnovander@yahoo.com</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Second Vice President</p> <p>Sandy Kavouras 656-1406 Email: kavouras62@gmail.com</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Recording Secretary</p> <p>Suzy Valentine 992-0113 Email: suzy.valentine@att.net</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Corresponding Secretary</p> <p>Kay Holloway 332-0294 Email: hollowaykay@aol.com</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Treasurer</p> <p>Mae Jean Nothstine 590-0217 Email: maejeanoth@aol.com</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Asst.. Treasurer</p> <p>Peg Andrews Email: A16137@aol.com</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Advisors</p> <p>Laura Jibben 463-3690 Debbie Hughes 271-4004 Bernadette Hamera 233-1166</p>