



# 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

### *Your Dues are Due !*

Time to fill out the purple sheets and send in your Council Dues for 2012-2013. 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 Bernadette Hamera if you have not already received your yearbook information form. Council dues are \$30 per year for a club or plant society. All club/societies receive 3 copies of the annual yearbook and all members are emailed copies of the COURIER newsletter 5 times a year. Hope to see you all at the Gardens . Happy Spring !

My first year as your President is almost over! It is hard to believe how quickly it went and how I feel we should have done so much more. But, here is what has been happening the last couple of months.

On April 27<sup>th</sup> almost 60 members attended the Third Annual Berne Davis Award Luncheon to celebrate the service of John Losleben and Ena McGrattan. The bus trip to the Epcot Flower Show was a huge success! I heard it described as awesome, worth every penny, amazing. And I've already been asked about next year! Our own Kathryn Patterson and Terry Pinck displayed floral arrangements there. What an honor!

The 2013 Flower Show has a home and a theme. It will be held at the Eco Living Center at Rutenberg Park where we hold our general meetings. And, there is no better place to showcase our theme pertaining to the 500<sup>th</sup> anniversary of La Florida. Suzy Valentine has lots of new ideas for the show. Floral designs, horticulture, educational displays will be welcome. We will need your help to make this a wonderful Council event. More to come.

You must get a copy of our new brochure when you come to the membership meeting. It should be at our May meeting, but for sure in September. Many thanks to Paula Novander for her editing skills and to Mitzi for finding an online printer.

The garden tours have started as promised and we have even had participants! We plan to continue these tours in the Fall so please arrange to bring your family and friends to enjoy your gardens. The Rose Society is replanting the rose garden and has some great plans for their garden. Can't wait to see the results. The Mina Edison Botanical Library got a remodel, adding more storage and file cabinets. This will ease the strain of too much stuff in too little space.

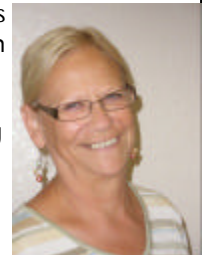
The 2013 FFGC Convention planning is in full swing. Items were taken to the Spring District IX meeting to raise money and I believe almost \$100 was raised. Pat Grulke's car could have held no more items. You go, Pat. And, that Mitzi led a rag-tag group in an attempt at a chorus line. What fun we had!

I am busy preparing our Annual Report to the City of Fort Myers, which must be presented to the City Council by August, 2012. Brenda Norris is arranging programs for next year, and Sylvia Lightbody needs you to volunteer to provide refreshments at one of our meetings next year. 2012-2013 will be an exciting, event and fun filled year at the Garden Council. The Board looks forward to continuing to work with you.

I wish you all a wonderful summer whether you're staying here or going north. I can't wait for your return in the fall and to see you at our meetings.

Working together all things are possible.

Sincerely, *Laura Jibben* - President



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

**Please Note meeting has been moved to May 18**

Inspirational Message - Madeline Wallace  
Pledge of Allegiance

Reading of the Minutes - Kathryn Patterson, Recording Secretary

Corresponding Secretary - Betty Mazzarella

Financial Report - Bernadette Hamera, Treasurer

President's Report - Laura Jibben

1st Vice President's Report - Debbie Wyatt-Stotter

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

Old Business / New Business / Announcements

PROGRAM: *Susan Moore - Lakes Park Foundation*

Adjournment

Ways & Means - 50/50 drawing -

Please join us at 9:00 am for refreshments provided by Potpourri Designers

**Garden Council Meetings**

**BOARD MEETINGS**  
 (Officers, Directors, Committee Chairs)

- FRIDAY May 4, 2012
- FRIDAY June 1, 2012

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  
 Note Date Change

- FRIDAY May 18, 2012
- Hostess - Potpourri Designers
- Next Meeting Friday Sept. 14
- Have a Great Summer !

**GENERAL MEETINGS**  
 MEETINGS ARE HELD THE 2ND FRIDAY  
 OF THE MONTH **EVERY OTHER MONTH**  
 SEPTEMBER TO MAY

Eco Living Center at Rutenberg Park  
 6490 South Pointe Blvd.  
 HOSPITALITY: 9:00 am to 9:30 am  
 MEETING: 9:30 am to 11:30 am

As many of us finish up the year of meetings and outings, you may be electing new officers. Think about honoring your past President with a brick in the memorial walkway at the Garden Council Headquarters, new orders go in June 1st. \$50 for 3 lines - up to 20 characters per line.

OR

If you have been to the Garden Council building recently you have seen our beautiful metal sculpture - "The Donor Wall of Honor", recently moved from the office to Room 2. Help us "Go Green" with a donation to the Wall of Honor: If you have any questions regarding donations to the Fort Myers - Lee County Garden Council, Inc. please contact Donations Chair Mitzi Marckesano at 561-5513.



**FMLCGARDENCOUNCIL.COM**

*Membership Chair and 1st V.P. Debbie Wyatt-Stotter has completed a Speakers Bureau for club meeting speakers; available to your club on our website. Click on FL Flower Show Judges under Registry and then Speakers Bureau list. We will be working on the website over the summer so if you have any suggestions or things you would like to see, please email me - pnovander@yahoo.com (I wear many hats...). OR if you would be interested in assisting with the re-vamp of website, we would **love** to hear from you.*

**Make Every Day EARTH DAY !**
  
 Only when the last tree has died and the last river has been poisoned and the last fish has been caught will we realize we can not eat money .
   
 Cree Indian Proverb

"Local Attractions" - a small std. Flower Show was presented by the Garden Club of Cape Coral. Over 275 horticulture entries overwhelmed show chairman, Marty Ward as she worried she would run out of blue ribbon stickers. And there were many blue ribbons, as a member of the Garden Club I know we love our plants in Cape Coral. This is a great way to show the public other options for their yards beyond ixoras and a palm. Vicky Taylor won Best In Show for her interpretation of "Captiva Sunset" (right).



What: National Public Garden Day at the Botanic Garden at Lakes Park  
 When: May 11, 2012 6:00 AM to 1 PM  
 Where: Lakes Regional Park, 7330 Gladiolus Dr. , just off Route 41  
 Gardens are located at far right of parking lot #3, get free parking with downloaded pass from [lakespark.net](http://lakespark.net)  
 Bird Fly Out will be from the bridge adjacent to Whistle Stop Restaurant behind the RR museum  
 Who: Sponsored by the Lakes Park Enrichment Foundation a 401C3 organization that enriches the park with many projects including an expansion of the Botanic Garden at Lakes Park.

6:25 Bird fly out of over 4,000 birds: White Ibis, Great Egrets, Snowy Egrets, Tricolor Herons ,Anhingas, Cormorants, Brown Pelicans, Great Blue Herons, Cattle Egrets  
 7:00 – 9:00 Pancake Breakfast, \$10 a plate, advanced purchase only.  
 8:00 Bird Walk by Vince McGrath, super local birder and the Lee County Bird Patrol  
 9:00 – 1:00 Demonstrations by master gardeners, garden centers, SWF Orchid Society, Pine Island Garden Club, ECHO including a Photo Lecture, Flower arranging demo - Marty Ward and Judy Gore and a Foundation Information table

9:00: Guided Tour of flower gardens  
 10:00 Guided Tour of Community Garden  
 11:00 Children's Garden Tour and activity  
 12:00 Guided Tours of gardens

Book signing: Susan Stans – Healing Plants: Medicine of the Florida Seminole Indians

For more information contact:

Wesley E. Higgins, PhD

Botanic Garden at Lakes Park

or

Susan Moore - Lakes Park Enrichment Foundation

Lakes Park - 7330 Gladiolus Drive, Fort Myers, FL 33908

481-7845 281-3180

botanicgarden.moore9@gmail.com

lakesparkenrichmentfoundation.org



Vertical Bromeliad Garden - plants donated by Wes Higgins, and Pine Island Botanicals , Inc.



A big THANK-YOU to our handymen Rhey and Joe for their help in getting us organized at the Garden Council headquarters. They began with putting in much needed heavy-duty shelving and tool hooks in the garden storage shed. You can actually walk in there and find something. Next was the additional tall storage cabinet and file drawers and cabinet in the library. Custom built, they look like they have always been there. And finally the broken blinds have all been replaced. We have never looked better.



Mina Edison looks over library cabinets

And a huge Thank-you to our new gardener Gerard Pinck. Gerard took one look at the gardens and began with removing about a ton of oak leaves - many packed into the air conditioner units. He cleaned up the shell paths that had pine mulch mixed in and dredged the rain garden and installed a circulation pump. After a major cleanup in Native Plant area, he is working on trimming, mulching and fertilizing. I get tired thinking about it all. So nice to have a man around the garden.



3rd Annual Berne Davis Honorary Service Award Luncheon  
Royal Palm Yacht Club - April 27, 2012

President Laura Jibben (right) along with Berne Davis (center) present the "Tree of Life" crystal vase to former Council President, Floral Designer extraordinaire and Royal Palm (and Fiddlesticks) Garden Club member Ena McGrattan. Ena was honored for her commitment to her clubs and the Garden Council, especially in securing our current headquarters building. Also present was runner-up John Losleben, a 30-year member of the Greater Fort Myers Rose Society, 2011 winner Bill Wollschlager of Hibiscus Society and our first winner - Lois Gressman of the Estero Island GC. Many thanks to Award Chairman Betty Mazzarella for a lovely lunch and her committee Carolee Drotos-Swales, Madeline Wallace and Diane Baier for a great event. Couldn't have done it without the help of LaVone Brekke and Kathy Erickson. Hugs also to Kay Holloway for her "Tree of Life" presentation. Please consider nominating an outstanding member of your club next year.

**May / June 2012 Calendar of Events**

FFGC State 86th Annual Convention      Thur. 5/10 -& Fri 5/11      "Ports of Call"  
Jacksonville, FL at the Hyatt Regency Riverfront

Garden Talk - Summer Veg. Gardens      Sat. May 12    9:00 am      Edison and Ford Winter Estates  
Learn what grows best in the SWFL summer, pest control, etc. \$5 for non-members, incl. 20% off at Shoppe

Bonsai Society of SW Florida Picnic and Auction      Sat. May 19 10 - 2pm      FMLCGC HQ  
Auction begins at 11:00 - all Garden Council members are welcome to attend. More info David 233-1177

SW FL Orchid Society Bus Trip to Inter. Orchid Fest.      Sat. May 19      Fruit & Spice Park in Homestead  
\$20 for members - \$25 for non-members. Contact Dianne Holly 270 925-2170 or dph0806@embarqmail.com

*6/3 - 6/9 Celebrate! National Garden Week*

James Hendry Chapter - Am. Hibiscus Society      Sunday June 3      1 - 4 pm      Araba Shrine Temple  
Show & Sale      Get there early for the best selection      Fort Myers

**Taste of Lee** Tropical Fruit Fair      Sat. June 30    9 am to 2 pm      First Baptist Church Community Room  
\$1 entry fee over 12 years old      For more info call Rachel      239-543-9910  
Free parking, free gardening advice as well as canning and nutrition info, prize for the best "Carmen Miranda"

**FOR THE LATEST INFO CHECK OUR WEBSITE [FMLCGARDENCOUNCIL.COM](http://FMLCGARDENCOUNCIL.COM)**

**OFFICERS 2011 - 2013**

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