



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

**3rd Annual
 OPEN HOUSE
 Sat. Nov. 17th
 9:00 - 2:00 pm**

Please join us at the Berne Davis Botanical Gardens to take a garden walk, find out about other clubs and the specialty plant societies or just enjoy a day in the gardens. Contact Open House Coordinator Terry Pinck at 368-5615 for more information. If your club has items to sell - we welcome your group. All proceeds from the Open House will go towards our FFGC scholarship. Hope to see you.

Welcome back to the Garden Council! The Board and I are happy to see you return. While enjoying the summer, we presented our Annual Report to the City of Fort Myers. We thought you might like to read a part of it and see all the accomplishments you have made during the past year.

Objective: Conduct programs and engage in educational activities that enlighten the Council and the general public as to the need for beautification, conservation and historic preservation:

- The Mina Edison Botanical Library is being joined by the "Botanical" Berne Davis Gardens. The Board has voted to make our lovely gardens a Botanical garden. Volunteers Carolee Drotos-Swales and Paula Novander are working on botanical signs. The gardens will be open on a regular basis to the public. We have become a member of the American Public Gardens Association. We are most excited about this, as is Berne Davis, and have Winnie Stone to thank for planting this idea and seeing it bloom.
- * Sponsored a summer camp experience at Wekiva, a residential nature camp for 3rd to 8th grade students sponsored by the Florida Federation of Garden Clubs (FFGC).
- * Sponsored a summer camp experience at the Edison Ford Winter Estates for a local child.

- * Contributed to LARC, Inc. to assist in providing gardening opportunities for their clients. This effort was championed by Debbie Wyatt-Stotter, First Vice President.
- * At each of our five general membership meetings, we have a standing agenda item to present floral designs and explain the design to attendees. Winnie Stone, Floral Design chair for the Garden Council, leads this effort.
- * At each of our five general membership meetings we have a standing agenda item to present horticulture specimens and discuss their growing habits, their botanical names, and their uses to attendees. We added this item this year. Suzy Valentine, Horticulture Chair for the Garden Council, leads this effort.
- * Two members of the Garden Council, Terry Pinck and Kathryn Patterson, were selected by the FFGC Committee to have their floral designs included in the FFGC 2013 Calendar. Terry was selected as the cover designer for the Calendar, which was announced at the FFGC Convention in Jacksonville this May. This is a major honor for both our members as competition is statewide and very strong.
- * Established a Speakers Bureau to aid members in finding appropriate speakers for events. This is posted on the Garden Council website.
- * Published 5 editions of the Courier, the Garden Council newsletter, which is sent to all members. Articles on upcoming events, gardening subjects, and current activities of the Garden Council are included. This is produced by volunteer Paula Novander, a member of the Garden Club of Cape Coral and Potpourri Designers and the librarian of the Mina Edison Botanical Library.

(Laura's report to the City of Fort Myers is continued on the next page.)

Working together all things are possible.
 Sincerely, *Laura Jibben* - President



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

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: *Hospice Horticultural Therapy*
 Adjournment
 Ways & Means - 50/50 drawing -



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

Garden Council Meetings

<u>BOARD MEETINGS</u>	<u>GENERAL MEETINGS</u>	<u>GENERAL MEETINGS</u>
(Officers, Directors, Committee Chairs) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • FRIDAY Sept. 7, 2012 • FRIDAY Oct. 5, 2012 MEETINGS FROM 9:30 am TO 11:30 am <p style="text-align: center;">Garden Council Headquarters 2166 Virginia Ave. Fort Myers Phone: 332-4942</p>	<i>All are Welcome</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • FRIDAY Sept. 14, 2012 • Hostess - Jasmine Garden Club • Program - "Dolly" Tomalinas • Next Meeting FRIDAY Nov. 9 • Program: Holiday Wreaths - Ena 	MEETINGS ARE HELD THE 2ND FRIDAY OF THE MONTH EVERY OTHER MONTH SEPTEMBER THROUGH MAY <p style="text-align: center;">Eco-Living Center at Rutenberg Park 6490 South Pointe Blvd. FM HOSPITALITY: 9:00 am to 9:30 am MEETING: 9:30 am to 11:30 am</p>

(PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE - continued - Annual Report to the City Of Fort Myers - presented Monday August 20, 2012)

- * Designed a brochure and handout to distribute at Garden Council public events to encourage membership in member clubs and societies. The Edison Ford Winter Estates, an Affiliate member of the Garden Council, has offered to make these available at their Information Booth.
 - * Participated in efforts to protect our Southwest Florida water quality through the FFGC. Bernadette Hamera represented the Garden Council with FFGC.
 - * Volunteers began conducting tours on a regularly scheduled basis. Tours were conducted twice a month in April and May, 2012. We plan to increase these to once a week beginning in October and will be coordinating with the schedule for garden tours at the Edison Ford Winter Estates, who has offered to encourage their attendees to visit the Berne Davis Gardens too.
 - * Held our 2nd annual Open House on November 19th, 2011. Several demonstrations including palm weaving, boondoggling etc. were occurring as well as sale of orchids, bromeliads, garden gloves, cookbooks, to mention just a few. Lakes Park Enrichment Foundation, an Affiliate Member of the Garden Council, manned an information booth. About 40 people toured the Berne Davis Gardens after visiting the Garden Market at the Edison Ford Winter Estates as did a group of Master Gardeners led by our Assistant Treasurer and Master Gardener Carolee Drotos-Swales. Paula Novander organized this event.
 - * Held the 3rd Annual Berne Davis Honorary Service Award Luncheon. Ena McGrattan, former President of the FMLCGC, was the recipient being honored for her commitment to her garden clubs and the Garden Council, especially in securing our current headquarters building. John Losleben, a 30 year member of the Greater Fort Myers Rose Society, was the runner up. Betty Mazzarella, Denise Baier, and Madeline Wallace, our Events Committee, did a fantastic job of arranging this luncheon.
 - * Found a volunteer to assist in publicizing Garden Council activities. Jody Van Cooney had a career in this field for many years and brings that expertise to the Garden Council now. She has already had success getting the Berne Davis Service Award publicized as well as notices of our general membership meetings. We trust this will increase awareness of our member clubs and societies and encourage membership.
 - * Completed a PowerPoint presentation about the Garden Council to be used at public events. A high school student did this work for us as part of her community service program. It was free of charge to the Garden Council and provided her a needed project. Again, this is an effort to increase awareness of our member clubs and societies and encourage membership.
 - * Coordinated a bus trip to the Epcot FFGC Flower Show where some 30 members and non-members enjoyed learning about flowers, designs, and plants at this annual show. A trip to next year's event is planned.
- In partnership with Edison Ford Winter Estates held Art in Bloom staged at the Caretaker's Cottage on the Estates. The winner is chosen by the public and this year Todd Roy, an employee of the Estates, won with an unusual design of palm spathes. He was teamed with Kim Hambor's ultraviolet photo of the "Edison Home".
- * Sent 175 Box Tops for Education and 175 Campbell Soup Labels to FFGC.
 - * 29 members hosted a Holiday Night at the Edison Ford Winter Estates.
 - * A tea for club and society presidents was held at the Berne Davis Gardens where the Presidents shared challenges they were encountering and benefited from the advice and counsel of others.
 - * Too many events to mention were held by our member clubs and societies at which the public was invited; plant sales, flower shows, holiday auctions, open houses were among them.



Objective: Enhancing and beautifying public properties and parks.

- * Planted a coconut palm at the historic Edison Ford Winter Estates on Arbor Day 2012 in honor of the past presidents of the Garden Council. The Malay coconut is part of a program to replace the original coconuts that lined the fence on McGregor Blvd. Joyce Comingore led this effort for the Garden Council and thanks goes to Chris Pendleton, CEO of the Estates, and Debbie Hughes.
- * The Rose Society replanted the rose garden at the Berne Davis Gardens.
- * The Plant It Pink garden in the Berne Davis Gardens was replanted and the third Susan G. Komen birdhouse was erected. Proceeds from the birdhouse sales go to fighting breast cancer.
- * A gardener was hired to maintain the Berne Davis Gardens, which will supplement the efforts of our volunteers.
- * Appointed a Garden Council past president, Debbie Hughes, to serve on the Botanic Garden Committee of Lakes Park.
- * Added a pump to our recently installed water feature at the Berne Davis Gardens to aid in the elimination of duckweed.
- * Collected \$69 from attendance at general meetings to send to Penny Pines, which will help with the replanting of trees in this area of Florida. Again, Joyce Comingore led this effort.
- * New signs were erected to denote the location of the Berne Davis Gardens and Mina Edison Botanical Library. Berne even posed for a picture under one of them at our Open House!! Now that adds to the beauty of any place.

Laura's report continued with the future plans and an invitation to the City Council to our 5th Anniversary celebration - Dec. 7th

THAT GREEN THING - Once in a while those Internet forwards are worth passing on - hope you enjoy this one !

Checking out at the store, the young cashier suggested to the older woman that she should bring her own grocery bags because plastic bags weren't good for the environment.

The woman apologized and explained, "We didn't have this green thing back in my earlier days."

The clerk responded, "That's our problem today. Your generation did not care enough to save our environment for future generations."

She was right -- our generation didn't have the green thing in its day or didn't call it "green."

Back then, we returned milk bottles, soda bottles and beer bottles to the store. The store sent them back to the plant to be washed and sterilized and refilled, so it could use the same bottles

over and over. So they really were recycled. But we didn't have the green thing back in our day.

We walked up stairs, because we didn't have an escalator in every store and office building. We walked to the grocery store and didn't climb into a 300-horsepower machine every time we had to go two blocks. But she was right. We didn't have the green thing in our day.

Back then, we washed the baby's diapers because we didn't have the throw-away kind. We dried clothes on a line, not in an energy gobbling machine burning up 220 volts -- wind and solar power really did dry our clothes back in our early days. Kids got hand-me-down clothes from their brothers or sisters, not always brand-new clothing. But that young lady is right. We didn't have the green thing back in our day.

Back then, we had one TV, or radio, in the house -- not a TV in every room. And the TV had a small screen the size of a handkerchief (remember them?), not a screen the size of the state of Montana. In the kitchen, we blended and stirred by hand because we didn't have electric machines to do everything for us. When we packaged a fragile item to send in the mail, we used wadded up old newspapers to cushion it, not Styrofoam or plastic bubble wrap. Back then, we didn't fire up an engine and burn gasoline just to cut the lawn. We used a push mower that ran on human power. We exercised by working so we didn't need to go to a health club to run on treadmills that operate on electricity. But she's right. We didn't have the green thing back then.

We drank from a fountain when we were thirsty instead of using a cup or a plastic bottle every time we had a drink of water. We refilled writing pens with ink instead of buying a new pen and we replaced the razor blades in a razor instead of throwing away the whole razor just because the blade got dull. But we didn't have the green thing back then.

Back then, people took the streetcar or a bus and kids rode their bikes to school or walked instead of turning their moms into a 24-hour taxi service. We had one electrical outlet in a room, not an entire bank of sockets to power a dozen appliances. And we didn't need a computerized gadget to receive a signal beamed from satellites 2,000 miles out in space in order to find the nearest pizza joint.

But isn't it sad the current generation laments how wasteful we old folks were just because we didn't have the green thing back then?

REDUCE

REUSE

RECYCLE

FMLCGARDENCOUNCIL.COM

President Laura Jibben, COURIER Editor Paula Novander and others have been hard at work with Kim Dailey of Papyrus Document and Design working on a complete re-do of the website - so watch for a completely new look. Please give us your feedback.



The invitation has been extended Members of District 9 line up at the 2012 FFGC convention for "A Chorus Line" song to promote our 2013 FFGC convention "A Toast to the Coast"

*2 Garden Council members have designs in the 2013 FFGC Design calendar. **Ireland Forever** by Kathryn Patterson and the cover design - **Hearts and Flowers** by Terry Pinck. Both are members of the Garden Club of Lehigh Acres and Potpourri Designers. CONGRATULATIONS !*



"A Brilliant Celebration of Mr. Edison's Mystical Gardens"

February 7th and 8th 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.

Drawing for windows will be on Friday, November 9, 2012 at the bimonthly 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



S e p t . - O c t . 2 0 1 2 C a l e n d a r o f E v e n t s

Fall Plant Sale - Avon Park Corr. Institute	Sat. Sept. 29 9 - 2 pm	Avon Park, FL
SW FL Orchid Society Annual Auction	Mon. Oct. 8 7:00	Eco Living Center at Rutenberg Park,
FFGC District IX Fall Meeting	Fri. Oct. 19 Coffee at 9:30	Sebring, FL More info on District 9 website ffgcdistrict9.org
Fall Native Plant Sale Sponsored by Coccoloba Chapter of the Florida Native Plant Society	Oct. 20 9 to 2 pm	Manatee Park Palm Beach Blvd. Plants, worm castings, seeds and Flora-mulch
Jasmine GC Holiday Coffee & Auction Auction starts at 10:00 am	Nov. 13 Coffee at 9:30 Holiday wreathes, table-top trees,	Royal Palm Yacht Club, Fort Myers centerpieces, baked goods, jams and jellies
Poinciana GC Plant & Yard Sale	Fri. Nov. 16 8 am Sat. Nov. 17	3806 Edgewood Dr. - Fort Myers
OPEN HOUSE and Edison Fall Fair	Nov. 17 9 to 2 pm	Garden Council HQ 2166 Virginia Ave.
Annual Bonsai Society Show Workshops & seminars	Nov. 17 9 - 6 pm Nov. 18 9 - 5 pm	Lee County Election Center 13180 S. Cleveland (US 41)
Bromeliad Society Plant Sale & Show	Sat. Dec. 1 and Sun. Dec. 2	Terry Park
Punta Gorda GC <i>Holly Days</i> Christmas Home tours	Fri. Nov. 30 & Sat. Dec. 1 12 - 5 pm (\$10 for 4 homes)	Various locations in Punta Gorda check their website at www.pggc.org

FOR THE LATEST INFO CHECK OUR WEBSITE FMLCGARDENCOUNCIL.COM

OFFICERS 2011 - 2013

President
Laura Jibben 463-3690
Email: ljibbenfmb@embarqmail.com

First Vice President
Debbie Wyatt-Stotter 652-9140
Email: famemanehair@embarqmail.com

Second Vice President
Brenda Norris 489-0343
Email: jimandbrenda.norris@gmail.com

Recording Secretary
Kathryn Patterson 369-3488
Email: forever.irish@comcast.net

Corresponding Secretary
Betty Mazzarella 631 849-4317
Email: bettymazz@aol.com

Treasurer
Bernadette Hamera 233-1166
Email: berniehamera@yahoo.com

COURIER

Paula Novander 945-6548
Email: pnovander@yahoo.com

Directors

Kay Holloway 332-0294
Ena McGrattan 561-1735
Mitzi Marckesano 561-5513