



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 !

Hello Club Presidents, Members and Friends of the FMLCGC, Inc.!

Well, it's almost show time, not only for our lovely plants and trees that bloom this time of year here in the Fort Myers and Lee County areas, it's also show time for our up and coming March 6th **"Flowers in Art & Music-The Keys to Happiness"**. Our dearly departed friend, Sandy Kavouras, would have wanted all of us to carry on to the best of our abilities. I know we will all do our best to make this show a memorable and enjoyable one for all.

I would like to extend a special thank you to Janice Miller of the Gulf Coast Garden Club, for accepting the Flower Show Chair on Sandy's behalf. Janice worked tirelessly throughout this past summer doing much to contribute to this show. As we all pull together down the final stretch, I wish to thank all of those, who graciously stepped forward to continue to do what needs to be done, for this show to be a reality. I know we will put on a show that will showcase the beauty of Flowers, Horticulture, and Flower Design at it's finest as well as continuing to remind us of the things that count and bring us happiness in life.

If you haven't done so already, please get in touch with :

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.

Class 1 and Class 6 are full. However, please check with Suzy for a list of availability that remain.

The next few months are going to be busy ones. Coming up before the FM-LCGC, Inc. flower show, will be the Gulf Coast Garden Club's, "Destination Paradise" on February 27th & 28th. For any questions call President Kathy Erickson: 239-947-1989 or email: KathyGCGC10@gmail.com.

On March 14th at Jaycee Park at 9am, the Garden Club of Cape Coral will be presenting "March In The Park". Over 40 plant related vendors will line the shores of the Caloosahatchee River in Cape Coral.

Next up, beginning March 22th through March 25th, Gardens of the World (GOT World), is sponsoring Course II of Floral Design. For additional information, please contact, Terry Pinck at: 239-368-5156 or email: terry.pinck@gmail.com. Sandy's passion was to find the floral designer in all of us and she believed that education was the key to this.

Be sure to save the date, for "The 6th Annual Berne Davis Honorary Service Award Luncheon, to be held at the lovely Lexington Country Club on Friday April the 10th. Many thanks to Mae Jean Nothstine for making the venue possible. Details for the Luncheon is on page 7.

Please contact Kheri Schaar from the Periwinkle Garden Club for information on how to nominate someone from your club for this award.

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 -

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

Old Business / New Business / Announcements
PROGRAM: *Bugs-Good, Bad and Ugly- David Southall*
Adjournment
Ways & Means - 50/50 drawing

Please join us at 9:00 am for refreshments provided by: **Green Thumb Garden Club**

G a r d e n C o u n c i l M e e t i n g s D a t e s

BOARD MEETINGS

(Officers, Directors, Committee Chairs)

- MONDAY March 9, 2015
 - FRIDAY April 3, 2015
 - FRIDAY May 1, 2015
- 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 13, 2015

- Hostess - **Green Thumb Garden Club**
- Program - **David Southall**
 "Bugs-Good, Bad and Ugly"

Friday May 8, 2015

Hostess-Alva Garden Club

GENERAL MEETINGS

MEETINGS 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

Second Annual Grow the Garden Gala a fundraiser to benefit the creation of the Children's Garden at Lakes Park

LAKES PARK ENRICHMENT FOUNDATION FUNDRAISER GALA The Grow The Garden Gala fundraiser will be held at the **St. Charles Yacht Club in Fort Myers on Sunday, March 15, 2015 from 3:30 PM to 6:30 PM.** Admission is \$60 per person - \$100 for VIP tickets. The Garden Gala starts at **3:30 PM** with hors d'oeuvre, refreshments and viewing the art & activity auction items. At 4:00 PM Riko Niiya, Southwest Florida Symphony Concert Master, will entertain accompanied by a string trio and followed by a short program and live auction. **All proceeds benefit the creation of a Children's Learning Garden.**

To make reservations call 239-481-7845 or go to www.lakespark.org.

More information call **Sandy Johnston** Lakes Park Enrichment Foundation **239-482-4740**

COMMUNITY GARDEN 5TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION YOU'RE INVITED

February 24, 2015 6:30 – 8:30 P.M

Wa-Ke Hatchee Recreation Park & Center, 10000 Bass Road Fort Myers, Fl.



We are celebrating our Community Garden! We've come a long way to where we are today. The Garden has been a source of great joy to so many gardeners! You have been a part of that and we'd love to see you again to celebrate the successes that we have experienced over the years.

There will be a lot of sharing from gardeners with good memories and there will be special guests. Please mark date!

Edison - Ford Winter Estates - Garden Talks

February 28th: Foliage Botanical Illustrations - Drawing in the Garden with Megan Kissinger

March 7th: (Day 1 of 2 day class) - 10:00 a.m. - Continuing with our popular Hypertufa Garden projects - **Edison Greenhouse**

March 10th: (Day 2 of 2 day class) - 10:00 a.m. or 5:00 p.m. - **Edison Greenhouse**

March 14th: Garden talk on fragrant plants - Debbie Hughes will walk the attendees around and discuss how to plant and care for our odoriferous plants!

March 14th: 9:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m. Scarf Art with artist Marie Dyer - West Museum Porch at Edison Ford

March 25th: 1:00 - 4:00 p.m., Drawing Peaceful and Contemplative Gardens - Drawing in the Garden with Megan Kissinger

To register contact LeeAnne Criswell at 239-334-7419

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

FOR THE LATEST INFO CHECK OUR WEBSITE FMLCGARDENCOUNCIL.COM

Deadline for submission the next issue of 'The Courier' will be the 15th of April.

Publication date anticipated by the 20th-25th of April. Submissions welcomed after the publication of current issue

Please send any pertinent dates and information regarding your Clubs and Functions to elizkeeler@aol.com.

Thank you!



ATTENTION ALL DESIGNERS

March 10, 11 and 12 at the Sanibel Public Library
"ART IN BLOOM"

"SHOWCASES THE TALENTS OF ISLAND FLORAL DESIGNERS AND ARTISTS"

Library Lobby 12 p.m. to 5 p.m. on March 10; 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. March 11; 9 a.m. to 12 noon on March 12.

There is no charge for this event.

Shell Islands Garden Club currently has 88 members who share an interest in floral design, horticulture, conservation and local philanthropy

Caption: Eleanor Dominek's painting "Leo II" and Gwenda Hiatt-Clements' interpretation Questions, please contact Carol Zell (239) 395-2122.

STROLLING FLOWER SHOW WINNERS 2015



TOP AWARDS:

DESIGNERS' CHOICE - MARY KING - FIDDLESTICKS GC / JASMINE

DESIGNERS' CHOICE RUNNER UP - VICKI WILLIAMSON

TRI COLOR WINNER - VICKI WILLIAMSON - LEHIGH GC / ROYAL PALM

TRI COLOR RUNNER UP - KATHY SPILKA - GULF COAST GARDEN CLUB

JUDGES' AWARD - SUZY VALENTINE - GULF COAST GARDEN CLUB

BLUE RIBBON WINNERS:

MONICA FREED - PONCIANA

JOYCE COMMINGORE - GARDEN CLUB OF CAPE CORAL

DOY WILLIS - PONCIANA

SUZY VALENTINE - GULF COAST GARDEN CLUB

MARY KAY ALBA - PONCIANA

PAULA NOVANDER - GARDEN CLUB OF CAPE CORAL

MARY KING - FIDDLESTICKS GC/JASMINE GARDEN CLUB

CAROLE LACHMAN - GARDEN CLUB OF CAPE CORAL/ POTPOURRI

DONNA COOK - PINE ISLAND GARDEN CLUB

LINDA MOULASION - PONCIANA

SHIRLEY WIGGINGTON - NAPLES GARDEN CLUB

VICKIE TAYLOR - GARDEN CLUB OF CAPE CORAL/ POTPOURRI

KATHY SPILKA - GULF COAST GARDEN CLUB

WINNIE STONE - ROYAL PALM GARDEN CLUB

TERRY PINCK - LEIGH HIGH/ ROYAL PALM /GOTW /POTPOURRI /

ELECTIC DESIGNERS

VIOLET CLEMSON - PONCIANA

JULIA PALMER - JASMINE

FLORENE JOHNS - PONCIANA

GWENN MARTIN - PONCIANA

LOU ANN GOOD - PONCIANA

VICKI WILLIAMSON - LEHIGH GARDEN CLUB /ROYAL PALM

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



Gulf Coast Garden Club: March Speaker is Adrienne Diaz, "Secrets of Growing Herbs and Spices" 2nd Monday of the month, from 9 to 11:30 at Unity Church in Bonita Springs 28285 Imperial Parkway.

March Garden Trip to The Corkscrew Woodlands Butterfly Garden, that Betty Mazzarella helped to develop. Date : Thurs. 19, 10:00. Call Leslie Allen 973.886.5711 to register. \$5.00 donation.

April is our **Spring Luncheon** held at Bonita Bay Country Club in Bonita Springs. Speaker : **Janis Miller 'The Meaning of Flowers'** Bring a Spring Design for your place setting not to exceed 5 inches, fresh and /or dried plant material. Cost : \$30. This is also the Installation of new officers.

Garden Trip to the Bonita Nature Place. 27601 Kent Road, Bonita Springs. Donation, \$5.00. Date: TBA

For more information on any of these programs, call Kathy Erickson 239.947.1986 or email at kathygcgc10@gmail.com

Garden Council - Berne Davis Botanical Garden**Open Tues. 10 - 1 pm**

Feb. 24 - Rose Society
 March 3 - Green Thumb GC
 March 10 - Gulf Coast - confirmed
 March 17 - Jasmine GC
 March 24 - Kelly Greens Confirmed
 March 31 - McGregor - confirmed

April 7 - Eclectic Floral Designers
 April 14 - Pine Island
 April 21 - Potpourri
 April 28 - Lee County Master Gardeners
 May 5 - Shell Islands

May 12-Southwest Florida Orchid Society
 May 19-Open
 May 26-Open

* Details for entering the garden
 will be provided

Please let me know who will be representing your club on the date designated by calling 239-561-1846 or email cdrotosswales@yahoo.com.

**** Hostesses are required to open the gates and be available for visitors to answer questions. At least two people should be present.**

Garden Club of Cape Coral**Annual fundraiser 'March in the Park' Saturday-March 14th, 9am to 3pm. Jaycee Park, in Cape Coral**

This sale will be held in attendance will be over 50 vendors, including the Garden Club, with palm trees, shrubs, natives, bromeliads, perennials and ground covers of all kinds. Unique and beautiful garden art, including gourds, glass towers, sea shell designs, stepping stones, natural soaps oils and salts will be. The Lee County Extension Master Gardeners will be available all day to answer questions or problems you may have in your yard. The Hibiscus Society, and The Historical Society and Museum will also have information for the public.

Admission and Parking are Free. For more information please visit www.gardenclubofcapecoral.com or contact Ginny 239-257-2654.

Garden Council 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***

Thursday April 30, 2 - 6 pm Garden Council Headquarters

**ALVA GARDEN CLUB PRESENTS IT'S****ANNUAL PLANT SALE**

**SATURDAY - MARCH 14, 2015
 9:00 A.M. TO 1:00 P.M.**

ALVA MUSEUM

21420 East Pearl Street, ALVA

BENEFITING THE ALVA MUSEUM

From Highway 80, cross the Alva Bridge

Turn Rt. On Pearl St. & go one block

TOUR OUR 100 YEAR OLD MUSEUM

STRAWBERRIES & VEGGIES

HOMEMADE PIES,CAKES, COOKIES.

Used book sale

Additional Info: Nina at : 239-728-3180



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

Entries in **HORTICULTURE** 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 !

Local Farmer's Markets - buylocallee.com

Fenway South
 River District
 Lakes Park
 Bonita Springs
 Cape Coral
capecoralfarmersmarket.com
 Green Market
 Sanibel Island

Mon. noon - 4p
 Thur. 7 - 1 pm
 Fri. 9 - 1 pm
 Sat. 8 - 1pm
 Sat. 8 - 1 pm
 Sat. 9 - 1 pm
 Sun. 8 - 1pm

11500 Fenway South Drive (JetBlue Park) off Daniel's Parkway , FM
 Under the Caloosahatchee bridge in Centennial park off W. First St. , FM
 Free Parking - Lots of fresh veggies 7330 Gladiolus Drive, Fort Myers
 Promenade at Bonita Bay, 26811 S. Bay Drive 691-9249
 Downtown, SE 47th Terr. and SE 10th Place, over 100 vendors
 Alliance of the Arts, 10091 McGregor Blvd. - Fort Myers 939-2787
 Sanibel City Hall, 800 Dunlop Road - more than 45 vendors



FORT MYERS-LEE COUNTY GARDEN COUNCIL Inc.**Presents****A Standard Flower Show****March 6, 2015****6 PM-10 PM****Free and Open to the Public****Sidney and Berne Davis Art Center****2301 First Street****Fort Myers, Florida 33901****Second Floor-Elevator Available-Handicap Accessible****Fort Myers Mayor, Randy Henderson, will cut the ribbon signifying the opening of the show on Friday.**

The show is part of the monthly Downtown Fort Myers Art Walk

Special Awards for Design**“The Jim Griffith Award”**; Jim is the Chairman and CEO of the SBDAC.**“The Berne Davis Award”**, Mrs. Berne Davis, is well known and a respected benefactor of Fort Myers, the Local Garden Clubs, and Past President of the Florida Federation of Garden Clubs.**“Debbie Wyatt-Stotter Award”**, The Garden Council’s current President, will also present an award.**Additional information: contact Debbie Wyatt-Stotter, 239-707-6078, or fmlcgcpres@embarqmail.com**

For those who were unable to attend the ***Celebration of Life for Sandy Kavouras***, a printing of the Words that were said by **Debbie Wyatt-Stotter President of Garden Council**, that lovely day in the **Berne Davis Gardens**



Good afternoon! I’d like to welcome all of you to our Celebration of Life for Sandy Kavouras. Our purpose today is to honor the love and enthusiasm Sandy had for life, people, the Gardens, Flowers and specifically floral designs. She was a wonderful friend and mentor to many, some of which are here today for this celebration.

Sandy once told me that she believed in the Golden Rule: “do unto others as you would have them do unto you” - Matthew 7:12 and I believe she lived her life in that way.

At this time, some of you may feel that life isn’t fair and in the words of Joyce Meyer, “Life isn’t fair, but God is faithful. He heals the wounds and bruises of the brokenhearted. We may not know why things happen the way they do, but we can know God. We can know His love, forgiveness, and mercy. When we are sad and emotionally distraught, one of the very simple yet profound things that helps is this: to look at and be thankful for the good things you do have rather than dwelling on the injustices you’ve suffered...Trust God’s love for you and His faithfulness in your life, and choose to be thankful”

I am thankful and have gratitude in my heart to say that Sandy was a very special friend in my life. I am honored to have known Sandy and I’m happy that I was able to be there for her.

Sandy’s creative mind was always at work on the next big design or flower show. Her latest creation, “Flowers in Art & Music – the Keys to Happiness” will go on as scheduled thanks to Sandy’s brilliant organization and attention to detail, we will be able to pull together as a family with our new Chair, Janice Miller and the many others who have stepped up to make this show a success and honor the legacy of Sandy Kavouras.

At this time I would like to offer the podium to any of you who may want to share your thoughts, special moments with or stories about Sandy.

Thank you all so much for coming, and sharing in this Celebration of Life for Sandy, I’m sure she’s right here with us enjoying the Gardens and smiling down upon us.

May your faith always be greater than your fears, we love you Sandy

C a l e n d a r o f E v e n t s

SW Florida Burrowing Owl Festival
Cape Coral Friends of Wildlife
ccfriendsofwildlife.org

Saturday Feb. 28th
10 - 4 pm

Plant vendors, info, demos and entertainment
Rotary Park 55505 Rose Garden Rd. , CC

GARDEN COUNCIL TO PRESENT

Friday, March 6
6:00 -10:00 p.m.

Sidney and Berne Davis Art Center
2301 First Street Fort Myers

FREE STANDARD FLOWER SHOW "Art in Flowers & Music—the Keys to Happiness."

Shell Islands Garden Club

March 10, 11 &12

Sanibel Public Library Lobby-(3/10-3/11) 12pm to 5pm,
(3/12)9AM to Noon

"SHOWCASES THE TALENTS OF ISLAND FLORAL DESIGNERS AND ARTISTS"

Garden Club of Cape Coral
Annual fundraiser

March 14th, 9am-3pm
'March in the Park'

Jaycee Park, Cape Coral
www.gardenclubofcapecoral.com

Gardens of the World (GOT World),
Course II of Floral Design

March 22-March 25th

Terry Pinck, # 239-368-5156
email: terry.pinck@gmail.com

Lexington Country Club

April 10th Friday 11:30 A.M.

See page # 7 of this issue
for submission form

"The 6th Annual Berne Davis Honorary Service Award"

Additional information: Kathy Rabassi 945-2675 or Charlene Anderson 978-828-6696

Embassy Suites - Boca Raton
'Rhythm of the Tropics'

April 18-19

FFGC 89th Annual Convention

See The Florida Gardener publication or FFGC website for more information

Grants for school wildflower gardens - apply now!

Schoolteachers throughout Florida are eligible for the Florida Wildflower Foundation's Seeds for Schools Grants, include native wildflower seeds for campus gardens, classroom resources, expert consultations and a garden sign. The Seeds for Schools program provides Florida native ecotype wildflower seeds with which to establish a campus wildflower garden.

The program aims to: Increase children's awareness of the environmental, historical and cultural significance of Florida's unique flora and fauna. Get children outside to explore nature.

Help students achieve state academic math, science and reading standards.

Public and private pre-K to K-12 teachers may apply

Applications will be accepted until 5 p.m. March 31.

Questions? Email Claudia Larsen at CLarsen@FlaWildflowers.org.



A Timely Message for All Regarding Email Privacy

With concerns increasing regarding the need for computer and personal identification privacy, a timely suggestion was brought forward. The suggestion was for all correspondence to the Group be sent using the BCC field of emails. To keep group members email addresses private: When sending a Group email put all the **Group emails in the BCC field**. When wishing to reply **Do Not** send **Reply All** unless it pertains to the entire group. If wishing to reply privately put the desired recipient's email address in the **To: field and put the group address in BCC**:

President

Debbie Wyatt-Stotter 707-6078

Email: famemanehair@embarqmail.com

First Vice President

Second Vice President

OFFICERS 2013 - 2015

Recording Secretary

Suzy Valentine 992-011

Email: suzy.valentine@att.net

Corresponding Secretary

Kay Holloway 332-0294

Email: hollowaykay@aol.com

Treasurer

Mae Jean Nothstine 590-0217

Email: maejeanoth@aol.com

Asst. Treasurer

Peg Andrews

Email: A16137@aol.com

Advisors

Laura Jibben 463-3690

Debbie Hughes 271-4004

Bernadette Hamera 233-1166

Honorary Service Award Luncheon
Friday April 10, 2015 – 11:30A.M.

The staff of Lexington Country Club will be catering the luncheon this year and they are offering the following:

includes house salad, starch and seasonal vegetable, fresh baked rolls, coffee, tea & soda and cake for dessert.

Choice 1: *Baked Chicken Breast filled with boursin cheese, fresh spinach and Pine Nuts Veloute Supreme*

Choice 2: *Grilled Tilapia with Mango and Pineapple Chutney Chardonnay Beurre Blanc*

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

==Please return by March 30, 2015==

GARDEN CLUB NAME: _____

Number of Members Attending: _____ **@ \$25 =** _____ **Amount Enclosed**

PLEASE MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO: FMLCGC

NAME	CHOICE NUMBER	NAME	CHOICE NUMBER
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____

Lexington Country Club is located at 16257 Willowcrest Way in Ft. Myers.

From US41 go west on Gladiolus Dr. to Summerlin Rd.

Take a left onto Bass Rd. (Healthpark will be to your right)

Follow Bass Rd to the end to the Lexington Country Club Gatehouse at 16257 Willowcrest Way.

Send your registration form and check to:

Peg Andrews
 16137 Edgemont Dr
 Ft. Myers, FL 33908

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