

THE COURIER



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

Berne Davis Botanical Garden

**Open to the Public
Tuesday Garden Walks
10 - 1 pm**



**Free Admission
& Parking**

Handicap parking is on
Virginia Avenue.
Regular parking is on
Larchmont Avenue.

Bring all your Friends!

Social distancing and
wearing of masks is
required.

We hope you enjoy your
visit and thanks for
working with us during
these challenging time.

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

Spring is Sprung!

Well, I guess that is a little less significant here in SWFL – beautiful weather is never far away! Our members have been busy in their gardens and even I have spruced some things up, especially my orchid area. Our Berne Davis Garden is looking pretty nice too!

Another point of passage at this time of year is our elections for the Council leadership team for the next two years. We have a great slate of candidates to vote on at our March meeting!

Unfortunately, it has been decided that it is still too soon to have our March General Meeting in person at the Garden. It will be via Zoom instead. Since it is our Annual Meeting, please encourage members to attend, especially your club delegates!

Learning, Growing, Sharing,

Your President,
Judy



For The Latest Info Check Our Website
WWW.FMLCGARDENCOUNCIL.COM

Garden Council Meeting Dates

UPCOMING BOARD MEETINGS

(Officers, Directors, Committee Chairs)

- Date: March 5, 2021
- Date: April 2, 2021

MEETINGS FROM 9:30 am - 11:30 am

Via ZOOM

GENERAL COUNCIL MEETING

For All Society and Club Members.

Please invite a spouse or friend .

ALL are Welcome !

Friday, March 12th, 2021

Via ZOOM

Link to be sent to Presidents to share

GENERAL MEETINGS

MEETINGS ARE THE 2ND FRIDAY
OF EVERY OTHER MONTH
SEPTEMBER THROUGH MAY

Via ZOOM

HOSPITALITY: 9:00 am to 9:30 am

MEETING: 9:30 am to 11:30 am

NEXT FMLCGC GENERAL MEETING - "ANNUAL MEETING"



Friday March 12th, 2021

Program: "Plant This, Not That"

Presented by: Vanessa Hazelton

The Nominating Committee has submitted the slate of candidates for the upcoming 2021 - 2023 years. We will vote on this slate of officers at the March Annual Meeting on Friday, March 12., 2021.

President: Susan Lawson

Garden Club of Cape Coral
Potpourri Designers

First VP: open

Second VP: Sylvia Swartz

Garden Club of Cape Coral

Treasurer: Hampton Agnew

Bonsai Society of Southwest Florida

Asst. Treasurer: Fran McIntyre

Garden Club of Cape Coral

Recording Secretary: Charlene Anderson

Garden Club of Cape Coral

Advisors

Judy Francino

Estero Island Garden Club
Southwest Florida Orchid Society

Mitzi Marckesano

Jasmine Garden Club

Paula Novander

Royal Palm Garden Club
Potpourri Designers
NGC Flower Show Judge
Lake Park Enrichment Foundation

Please note that the position of 1st VP is still open. If you or someone in your club would be a good candidate, please advise Mae Jean Nothstine, Chairperson of the Nominating Committee. The Council thanks Mae Jean, Ann Block and Mitzi Marckesano for serving on the Committee and finding such wonderful candidates to lead the Council into the future!

Edison - Ford Winter Estates

2350 McGregor Blvd., Fort Myers FL 33901

Web: EdisonFord.org

Monthly Garden Talk Saturday March 13, 2021 10am.

Why Native Plants are Great!

When Edison purchased his Fort Myers Estate, the site contained many native plants that thrived here. They survived easily throughout the years, and now we love to highlight the importance of growing natives, with the emphasis on- "Right Plant in the Right Place". A native garden situated on the pond is also an important part of the health of our waterways. Come see the many varieties of natives that attract wildlife, including shore birds, song birds, butterflies, and native bees.

All participants receive a 20% off coupon good towards plant purchases in the Garden Shoppe.

Edison Ford members: \$10; non-members: \$15

Garden Class - Shade Gardening in SWFL

March 16, 2021 1:30 p.m.

One of the amazing aspects of tropical gardening is the variety of plants that can be grown, and in fact, thrive in a shady part of gardens. This class will help one design a multi-layered shade garden that mixes good texture, offers color and contrast and compliments existing plants or trees. Participants are encouraged to bring their shade garden challenges for ground cover, annual or perennial recommendations. Shade garden containers are another great way to highlight a darker area of a garden, lanai or screen room and design ideas for these spaces will also be covered. Many Florida native plants are perfect additions to a well-designed shady area and it's important to understand how they grow and how to choose complimentary non-natives to create a stunning shade garden. This class will also cover watering issues and maintenance. After the in-class experience, participants will walk through two shade gardens at the Estates. Classroom time: 60 minutes; garden time: 20 minutes.

Cost is \$35 for members and \$50 for non-members.

VIP Garden Tour

March 20, 2021 8 a.m. to noon or 1 p.m. to 5 p.m.

Do you love gardening? Do you enjoy learning about different plant species and how they grow in different environments? This special "fundraising tour" will take you to four private gardens in Fort Myers, including our CEO's! You will be treated to a half day (bus transportation included) with our garden staff to see the private gardens in the McGregor Boulevard area and hear the story of each garden!

This is a rare opportunity to be invited into the private gardens and converse with the owners who created, designed and visualized their own special places. You will discover that these gardens are as diverse and unique as each of the owners!

We will accept reservations for 25 guests for each tour on a 40-passenger bus so guests are adequately spaced apart. The morning tour will begin at 8 a.m. and the afternoon tour at 1 p.m. Participants will select the morning or afternoon.

Please register by calling Sherri Muske at 239-335-3677

. The cost for each tour is \$125 for Edison Ford members and \$135 for non-members. Masks are required.

Reminders from Lakes Park



1st Saturday Bird Walks year round. 8am-10am.
Meet at shelter A7

2nd Saturday Guided Garden Walks - Oct-April 9:00 am– 10:00 am
Meet at Community Garden Sign; end of parking lot #3

Wednesdays Farmers Market runs October through April 9am– 1pm!

Tuesdays & Thursdays Volunteer Work Days year round 8am-10am

ENVIRONMENTAL NEWS

With Environmental news reminding us that Red Tide and Blue Green Algae are still a problem: i.e. dead birds and fish are still arriving at our local shores, the Governor has proposed a budget that includes about \$714,000 for environmental projects. Hopefully most of it will pass.

Everglades	Amount
*Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan (CERP)	\$ 246,721,983.00
*Restoration Strategies	\$ 32,000,000.00
*EAA Reservoir (per Senate Bill 10 + FY19 request)	\$ 64,000,000.00
*Northern Everglades and Estuaries Protection Plan (NEEP)[1]	\$ 71,386,306.00
Dispersed Water Management (base funding)	\$ 5,000,000.00
Alternative Water Supply	\$ 40,000,000.00
Targeted Water Quality Improvement(NE Basins)	\$ 50,000,000.00
Water Quality Improvements (SW, WW, Septic Improvements)	\$ 100,000,000.00
Springs	\$ 50,000,000.00
TMDL	\$ 45,000,000.00
Improve Water Quality	Amount
Innovative Technologies (for harmful algal blooms)	\$ 10,000,000.00
B/G Algae TF Monitoring	\$ 10,800,000.00
Red Tide	\$ 4,200,000.00
NPS grants	\$ 14,000,000.00
State Parks	\$ 32,000,000.00
Florida Forever	\$ 50,000,000.00
Florida Resilient Coastlines Initiative	Amount
Resilient Florida Planning Grants	\$ 10,100,000.00
Resilient Florida Projects	\$ 165,688,600.00
Beach Nourishment	\$ 50,000,000.00

Another recent development is Lee County's new Water Initiative. You can access the information at: leegov.com/water. It is a well produced article and again points out how important the Water Quality is to our community. Both of these appear to be good news on the environmental front.

Submitted by: Bernie Hamera

FMLCGC Calendar - Dates to Remember

<u>Mar 9-11, 2021</u>	Tues-Thur-"Art In Bloom" Art & Floral Arrangements-Sanibel Library Noon-5p Tues & 9a-5p Wed-Thurs
<u>Mar 13th, 2021</u>	Saturday—"March in the Park" Plants & Garden Items Sale-Jaycee Park off Del Prado, Cape Coral FL 9-3p
<u>Mar 13th, 2021</u>	Saturday--Annual Plant/Bake Sale & Strawberry Shortcake Festival- Alva Museum 9am-1pm
<u>Mar 20th, 2021</u>	Saturday—Lyle Bowen Annual Bromeliad Sale in Eagle Ridge off Daniels Pkwy. \$5 ea or 6 for \$25 9a-3p Questions to Email: lylebowenart@gmail.com
<u>Apr 17th, 2021</u>	Saturday—Bonsai Society Public Auction & Picnic FMLCGC 9am-12n
<u>Apr 30th, 2021</u>	Friday—National Arbor Day
<u>Apr 10-14, 2021</u>	Saturday—FFGC Convention, Daytona, FL Register by Mar 17th-call 386-254-8200
<u>May 16th, 2021</u>	Sunday—American Hibiscus Society 69th Annual Show & Sale-Araba Temple 1-4pm

FMLCGC NEEDS

The Garden Council is looking for someone to be our Librarian. The current librarian, Marjorie Smink of Crown Colony Garden Club is moving, so we'd like to find someone to take her place. If there is anyone willing to fill this role, please contact Susan Lawson at slawson921@gmail.com. We extend a big Thank You to Marjorie and wish her well in her new home.

CLUB HAPPENINGS

Alva Garden Club

On February 6, the gardens of three Alva Garden Club members were visited: Jan Blythe, Nancy Lee and Pat Heath. Shown here are the club members that participated in the tour. The garden path with clock represents only a small portion of Jan's garden overlooking the Caloosahatchee from the south side. The large spider lily (Queen Emma/Crinum Augustum) in Nancy's yard on the north side of the river is surrounded by Orange Aechmea Blanchetiana bromeliads. Pat's front steps show a beautiful variety of potted plants, in addition to many the group viewed in the grounds surrounding her home.



Royal Palm Garden Club

On February 18th our club met via zoom and Jason Boeckam, Coordinator of Lee County Conservation 20/20 was our speaker. Jason shared Conservation 20/20's history, information about the 147 preserve locations and the recreation, hiking and butterfly observation opportunities. Check out Conservation 20/20's website: Conservation 20/20(leegov.com).

Our upcoming March 18th meeting will be at the Garden Council in the gazebo for a Bonsai Demonstration by Phil Krieg, member of the Southwest Bonsai Society. Anyone interested is welcome to attend. Please bring your own food and drink and plan to wear a mask.

Poinciana Garden Club

On January 12th our club met at the Garden Council under the gazebo in a warm drizzling rain. Some brought lawn chairs some sat on the benches. Everyone loved meeting outside under the gazebo and seeing each other again. Debbie Hughes, Senior Horticulturist at the Edison Ford Winter Estates, spoke on the topic of "Growing Plants to Use in Floral Design." We so enjoyed Debbie's presentation; she is so knowledgeable and funny. Our meeting was short and sweet. As always, we had our fundraiser plant exchange. More photos posted on our Facebook page.



News from the Estero Island Garden Club

Although so many of our events have been cancelled or modified this year, we are excited about a new project! The Estero Island Garden Club is partnering with the town of FMB and the historic Mound House to establish a native pollinator friendly demonstration garden in one of the town's right of ways.

The intent of the garden is to beautify our town and educate the public on the benefits of native plantings. Our first vice president, Randa Veach, is heading this project with support from several of our members that completed the Landscape Design Courses. The project is supported partly by funds from the NOAA-Planet Stewards Education Project grant that the Mound House received last year. The grant is also part of the island wide water quality testing that is being conducted to look at the nutrient source pollution originating from Fort Myers Beach. The Cocoloba Chapter of the Florida Native Plant Society has offered a generous donation of native plants and priceless advice! We are designing, planting and will be responsible for long term maintenance of the garden. We are hoping this garden will be the first of many similar projects on Fort Myers Beach.

Paula Smith
President, EIGC

"ART IN BLOOM" TO SHOWCASE TALENTS OF ISLAND FLORAL DESIGNERS AND ARTISTS

The popular "Art in Bloom" biennial event returns to the Sanibel Public Library for three days only on March 9, 10 and 11. Members of **Shell Islands Garden Club** have collaborated with artists from the Sanibel-Captiva Art League to produce an exhibit featuring innovative floral design and art. According to SIGC Vice President, Gwenda Hiett-Clements, "The show has generated such positive vibes from library patrons in the past. This will be the fifth time the Garden Club has presented Art in Bloom at the Sanibel Public Library. Fifteen floral designers are matched with 15 artists. The resulting flower arrangements are interpretations of the artists' paintings. The results are unbelievably creative and works of art in themselves."

The public is invited to view this special presentation at the library from 12 p.m. to 5 p.m. on March 9; 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. on March 10; and 9 a.m. to 12 noon on March 11. The exhibit will be presented in two areas of the library upstairs. There is no charge for this event. Sanibel Public Library is located at 770 Dunlop Road.

Shell Islands Garden Club has over 100 members who share an interest in floral design, horticulture, local philanthropy and conservation. The group meets on the second Tuesday of the month from October through May. Field trips and special events are also held during the season. More information is available at sanibelgardenclub.org

The Sanibel-Captiva Art League was founded in 1964. Its mission is to create art, share art, support art education, and to enhance the community artistically. The organization's website is sancapart.com.