

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**  
**Tuesdays 10 - 1 pm**

**Each Club & Society takes  
a turn providing docents.**

**Each club is responsible for  
finding 2 members to work or  
finding another club to  
trade dates with.**

### **Docent Schedule**

Nov. 02	Alva Garden Club
Nov. 09	Am. Hibiscus Soc.
Nov. 16	Bonsai Soc. Of SWFL
Nov. 23	FMLCGC Mgr. & Asst
Nov. 30	Bromeliad Soc.
Dec. 07	Caloosa RareFruitEx
Dec. 14	Carissa Garden Club
Dec. 21	FL Native Plant Soc.
Dec. 28	Closed

### **Questions?**

**Contact Susan Lawson**  
**slawson921@gmail.com**

## **ATTENTION**

The Sept 10th, 2021 General Meeting will be held via ZOOM.

2021-2022 Yearbooks will be available for pick up at the Berne Davis Gardens starting Oct 5th. Please have someone from your club come by on a Tuesday in October to collect your club books.

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

It's hard to believe it's almost September! We've been fortunate not to have had too many storms over the summer, and I'm keeping my fingers crossed that the remaining hurricane season doesn't hit us too hard because our gardens are looking really great. Our assistant Garden Manager has been working with our Gardener over the summer to keep things in shape, and I think their diligence really shows.

Your Board has decided to hold our September general meeting via ZOOM due to the recent uptick in COVID. We want to keep our members safe and were concerned about having a large gathering indoors. So as much as we would have loved to see your smiling faces in person, we now hope to see them on ZOOM. And please make sure your club members know they can all attend the general meetings.

The Berne Davis Gardens will open to the public on October 5th. The Board will act as docents in October, and then beginning in November we'll be asking our member clubs to docent. Thanks in advance for your support!

Please make sure to pass along the Courier to your all your members – there's lots of good information about what's happening within the Garden Council community that you might want to support. Make sure to check out the article about our upcoming Pumpkin Social which will be held on October 22. As part of my initiative to "Grow Friends and Flowers", we plan to hold social events in the months we don't have a general meeting.

Looking forward to seeing you soon!

Susan Lawson, President



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

## Garden Council Meeting Dates

### UPCOMING BOARD MEETINGS

(Officers, Directors, Committee Chairs)

- Date: Sept. 3, 2021
- Date: Oct. 1, 2021

**MEETINGS FROM 9:30 am - 11:30 am**

**Garden Council Headquarters**  
2166 Virginia Ave.  
Fort Myers, FL

### GENERAL COUNCIL MEETING

*For All Society and Club Members.*

*Please invite a spouse or friend .*

*ALL are Welcome !*

**Friday, Sept. 10, 2021**  
**VIA ZOOM**

### GENERAL MEETINGS

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

**Location :**

**Garden Council Headquarters**  
**2166 Virginia Ave.**

**HOSPITALITY: 9:00 am to 9:30 am**

**MEETING: 9:30 am to 11:30 am**



## NEXT FMLCGC GENERAL MEETING

**Friday Sept. 10th, 2021**

**“Hydroponic Gardening for the Home Gardener”**

**Presented by David Outerbridge**

**Lee County Extension Director, UF/IFAS**

## SAVE THE DATE!

We're going to celebrate Fall with a PUMPKIN SOCIAL! Friday, October 22, 1:00 pm at the FMLCGC building.

There will be pumpkin munchies, cider and the opportunity to create something crafty to take home to celebrate the season (nominal fee of \$5 for supplies). We will have prizes for the best pumpkin-y outfit among other things.

Also, we will have a plant swap table. If you'd like to share items from your garden, now's your opportunity. Please make sure to bring care instructions with your plants.

Come mix and mingle—bring a friend and make some new friends. Just be prepared for fun!

Please RSVP by Friday Oct 15th to [fmlcgardencouncil@gmail.com](mailto:fmlcgardencouncil@gmail.com) or 941-979-0615 so we'll know how much food to have on hand and if you'd like to be crafty.



## THANK YOU!

Fort Myers-Lee County Garden Council would like to extend a big Thank You to the Bonsai Society of Southwest Florida for the new addition to the Berne Davis Botanic Garden!

Pictured here from left to right: Jim Bremer, Bill Smith and Micky Major standing proudly with the Bald Cypress recently planted near the Larchmont entry gate.

Be sure to check it out next time you're at the Gardens.

## *Edison - Ford Winter Estates*

2350 McGregor Blvd., Fort Myers FL 33901

Web: [EdisonFord.org](http://EdisonFord.org)

### Monthly Garden Talks

Saturdays 10am

September 11, 2021 . Cactus & their Cousins

November 13, 2021 . Build an Herb Mound

December 11, 2021 . Terrariums

\$10 for EF Members \$15 for Non-Members  
Participants get a 20% off Garden Shoppe coupon

### Gardening Classes

January 18, 2022 . Intro to Florida Gardening 1

January 22, 2022 . Intro to Florida Gardening 1

January 25, 2022 . Intro to Florida Gardening 2

January 29, 2022 . Intro to Florida Gardening 2

(Check Website for location & fees Registration required)

### Special Events

October 9-10, 2021 . Orchid Symposium

November 20-21, 2021 . Edison Garden Festival

## The Fort Myers – Lee County Garden Council Bi-Annual Flower Show this November

Unfortunately cancelled last March ó we will finally be honoring our Immediate Past President Judy Francino with ***“The World is Yours To Explore”***. The complete schedule is on the website, please look it over and decide how you would like to participate. If you have signed up for a design, you should have received an email in August from Design Entries Chairman ó Paula Novander. Please contact her if you wish to enter a design ó still plenty of openings.

If you wish to enter Horticulture, a container-grown plant must have been in your possession for at last 90 days ó eliminating those of us with brown thumbs. Cuttings from your own landscape need to have been in the ground at least 6 months. Please consider entering ó we love showing off to the public what great gardeners we are. The show is being held the same weekend as the Edison-Ford Garden Fest so we expect a good crowd.

Set-up and entries will be done on Thursday ó Nov. 18th between 9am and 4pm at the Council building. You can also bring your design in early Friday morning but the judging will begin at 9:00 am.

New designs include Botanical Arts ó more like crafts done with plant material. Something to appeal to every member of the Garden Council.

PLEASE contact one of the Show's Co-Chairmen if you have any questions.

Susan Lawson ó [slawson921@gmail.com](mailto:slawson921@gmail.com) Phone: 941 979-0615

Janice Miller ó [rdjemiller@gmail.com](mailto:rdjemiller@gmail.com) Phone: 606 831-7000

Paula Novander ó [pnovander@yahoo.com](mailto:pnovander@yahoo.com) Phone: 239 945-6548

### Open to the Public

Friday, November 19, 2021

1:00 pm - 4:00 pm

Saturday, November 20, 2021

10:00 am - 3:00 pm

***“The World is Yours to Explore”***





## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### STROLLING FLOWER SHOW IS COMING BACK!!

The Strolling Flower Show is coming back to downtown Fort Myers. It will be held the weekend of Feb. 4, 2022, in conjunction with Art Walk. It's also the weekend of the Fort Myers Art Show, so there will be lots of exposure for the clubs and societies who would like to participate. FMLCGC plans to have a tent available to provide information about the Berne Davis Gardens and our member clubs/societies.

The Fort Myers-Lee County Garden Council (FMLCGC) will be working with the River District Alliance (RDA) to put on the show. The RDA will secure the windows for the designs, and FMLCGC will provide signage for the designs/displays.

Designs can be made from fresh or dried materials. They could also be an artfully arranged collection of plants, which would hopefully appeal to some of our member societies. Another idea could be a small design somewhere in a restaurant. Designs will need to be completed by 3pm, February 4 so that they are ready to be viewed by the public. They will need to stay in the window at least thru the weekend.

RDA has committed to 10 windows. If we get more than 10 clubs/societies who want to participate, RDA will get more display space. Please let me know ASAP if your club would be interested in participating in this wonderful event—clubs can sign up for more than one window. This will NOT be a judged event, so you have more leeway in your creations. Let's make this fun!!

Thanks for your support!  
Susan

## BERNE DAVIS GARDEN UPDATE

### NEVER A DULL MOMENT AT THE BERNE DAVIS GARDEN

This has been an eventful summer at The Berne Davis Botanical Garden. In June, a member of the Caloosa Rare Fruit Exchange was concerned about a mite on the lychee tree. The lychee erinose mite is a pest of lychee fruit trees. Without treatment, an infestation of mites can severely damage the tree, fruit, and flowers. The Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (FDACS), Division of Plant Industry (DPI) was called. An inspector visited the garden a few days later and recommended treatment. It would be 12 to 18 months before DPI could treat the tree. Thankfully, our landscaper, Nick Gallant, was able to provide the necessary treatment. This involved complete defoliation of the tree and an application of a sulfur-based miticide treatment following defoliation and again, upon the onset of bud break/leaf flush. We are pleased to report that the tree is slowly recovering. Time will tell if the treatment has been successful.

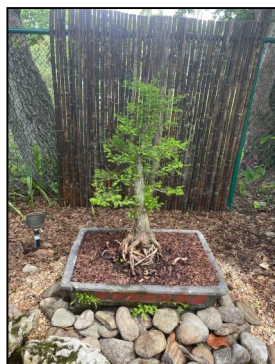
The Bonsai Society of Southwest Florida has donated a bald cypress bonsai to the garden. Since this picture was taken, the Society has completed the installation of the bamboo background which nicely showcases both bonsai trees.

A special thank you to Susan Fero who worked on the Orchid Society area in June. She and her husband fixed, painted, and installed a trellis which will be used to display orchids. Nick Gallant also assisted with the installation.

It has been fun each week to discover which plants are blooming in the garden. Of special interest was the summer-blooming bromeliad *Portea petropolitana*. The plants produced tall coral colored bloom spikes with purple flowers. They were quite stunning.

The Berne Davis Garden will reopen on Tuesday, October 5th and will be open each Tuesday from 10:00 AM until 1:00 PM. Please visit us to see what is blooming in the garden. After your tour of the garden, you can relax by the fountain or in the gazebo. It is a wonderful way to recharge. We hope to see you there!

Carole Kerns  
Assistant Summer Manager





## FMLCGC Calendar - Dates to Remember

<b><u>Sept 24, 2021</u></b>	Friday-Fun with Flowers- <b>Garden Club of Cape Coral-FMLCGC Bldg</b> , 10am-12noon, \$20pp RSVP by Sept 17th, 2021 to 941-979-0615
<b><u>Oct. 1-3rd, 2021</u></b>	Friday-Sunday Tamiami Orchid Festival-Miami-Dade County Fair Expo, Miami, FL 10am-5pm
<b><u>Oct. 22nd, 2021</u></b>	<b>Friday-FMLCGC Pumpkin Social óCrafts, Plant Swap, Food and Prizes-FMLCGC Bldg, 1pm</b>
<b><u>Nov. 6-7th, 2021</u></b>	Saturday-Sunday <b>Bonsai Society of SWFL</b> 40th Annual Show & Sale, FMLCGC Sat.9a-5p Sun 9a-3p
<b><u>Nov. 9th, 2021</u></b>	Tuesday <b>SWFL Orchid Society</b> Annual Auction/Fundraiser, Faith United Methodist, 15690 McGregor Blvd
<b><u>Nov. 13th, 2021</u></b>	Saturday <b>Poinciana Garden Club</b> Annual Plant & Yard Sale, FMLCGC Bldg,
<b><u>Nov. 19-20th, 2021</u></b>	<b>Friday-Saturday FMLCGC Flower Show óThe World is Yours to Exploreö, Fri 1-4pm 7 Sat 10am-3pm</b>
<b><u>Nov. 20-21st, 2021</u></b>	Saturday-Sunday <b>American Hibiscus Society</b> Winter Sale, in conjunction with Edison Ford Plant Sale

## Local Farmer's Markets

BuyLocalLee.com/Farmers-Markets



Lakes Park	Wed. 9 - 1 pm	Free Parking at 7330 Gladiolus Drive, Fort Myers 33908	Oct. -Apr.
Bonita Springs	Sat. 8 - 12 pm	The Promenade, 26795 South Bay Drive , Bonita Springs	Oct.ó Apr.
Cape Coral	Sat. 8 - 1 pm	Downtown, SE 47th Terr. and SE 10th Place, Cape Coral	Year Round
Coconut Point	Thur. 9 -1 pm	23106 Fashion Dr., Estero, FL (closed Thanksgiving)	Oct. óApr.
Jet Blue Park	Mon. 9-1 pm	11500 Fenway South Dr. Fort Myers, FL 33913	Jan.-Mid Mar.
Green Market	Sat. 9 - 1 pm	Alliance of the Arts, 10091 McGregor Blvd. - Fort Myers	Year Round
Sanibel Island	Sun. 8 - 1pm	Sanibel City Hall, 800 Dunlop Road, Sanibel, FL 33957	Oct. -May
Sanibel Outlets	Fri. 9ó 1pm	Outlet Mall, 20350 Summerlin Rd., Fort Myers, FL 33908	Jan-Apr.
Captiva Island	Tues. 9 - 1pm	South Seas Island Resort, 5400 Plantation Rd., Captiva 33924	Nov 30-Apr.26
River District	Thur. 9 ó1pm	Centennial Park, 201 Cleveland Ave., Fort Myers, FL 33901	Year Round

## Your Board Members

### President-

Susan Lawson 239-282-2328  
slwason921@gmail.com

### Recording Secretary-

Charlene Anderson 978-828-6696  
Email: beadie1@gmail.com

### Treasurer-

Hamilton Agnew 239-707-1000  
Email: hamagnew@gmail.com

### First Vice-President-

Mae Jean Nothstine 314-374-7633  
maejeanoth@gmail.com

### Corresponding Secretary-

Sylvia Lightbody 239-561-5704  
Email: slightbody@comcast.net

### Assistant Treasurer-

Fran McIntyre 860-967-9681  
Email: tances2185@sbcglobal.net

### Second Vice-President-

Sylvia Swartz 239-339-3778  
Email: tamargal2@aol.com

## In Memory of

### Helen Irene Shields

October 20, 1934 ó July 24, 2021

Helen I. (Jean) Shields of Cape Coral, FL passed away July 24, 2021.

Jean was born in Coldwater, MI, the daughter of Alice and Lester Balch of Battle Creek, MI. After graduation from High School, Jean joined the US Air Force and was stationed at Eglin AFB during the Korean War. She was honorably discharged in 1954 and returned to Carney's Point, NJ with her Husband and first child. Jean and her growing family moved to Pennsville, NJ, where she enjoyed working for the Pennsville Sunbeam and Century 21 Realty. Jean attended Gloucester Community College and earned a 2-year certificate in Inhalation Therapy, and worked part time at Gloucester Hospital. Jean and Art retired in 1994, and relocated to Cape Coral, FL, where they joined the New Residents Club, the Navigator Boat Club, and the City Canal Watch Program. Jean also worked part time at both Cape Coral and Health Park Hospitals. Jean wrote articles for the Cape Coral Breeze for many years, and was a long time, honorary life time member, of the Cape Coral Garden Club. Jean enjoyed volunteering at the Edison Home and loved digging around helping things grow and bloom. Jean was very active with garden club events and conferences, and enjoyed creating flower arrangements and designs for the various flower shows in and around Lee County. Jean volunteered for many jobs at the Fort Myer-Lee County Garden Council over the years - she was a friend. She served on many gardens committees, worked in the gardens, loved trimming on the Bird of Paradise. She was Hostess Chair for several years - being the first one at the meetings making sure all was well with the Host club. She was a winner of the Berne Davis Honorary Service award. Photo below is Jean "resting" at the 2013 FFGC Convention - she was in charge of hostesses there. And the 2011 Blue Bottle tree shown above was up in Punta Gorda - she always wanted a bottle tree.



A bright star has left this earth.

Condolences may be sent to her family at her daughter's address.

Linda Behr  
15421 Thorton Road  
Fort Myers, FL 33908

Monday, August 16th about 15 people attended President's Tea. It was great to make some new friends and share some FMLCGC plans for the upcoming season.

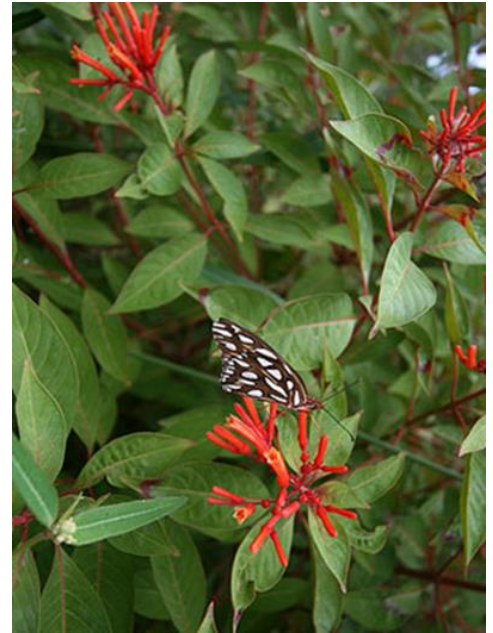


## HORTICULTURE

By Wendy Sprague

### “What’s Your Favorite Plant?”

When a group of Florida gardeners were asked, “What’s your favorite plant?” the near-unanimous answer was, “Firebush!” There are so many reasons! Firebush is heat and drought tolerant, attracts birds, butterflies, hummingbirds, and bees. It is attractive year-round, with pretty foliage, bright orange tubular flowers and seeds. Firebush has no serious insect or disease problems. Just be sure to plant it in an area that is well-drained as this plant does not like wet feet.



*Hamelia patens* var. *patens* is the native variety, which can reach up to 15' high but can be maintained at 5-8' if necessary. Other non-native varieties (African Firebush, *Hamelia patens* var. *glabra*) have subtle differences to their leaves and flowers. There are even dwarf varieties, such as *Hamelia patens* “Compacta.”

Not only is this plant attractive to butterflies and bees, but hummingbirds will regularly visit to sip the nectar. Fruit eating birds, such as mockingbirds and catbirds will enjoy the fruit as it darkens from orange to black. The Pluto Sphinx moth uses the leaves as larval food.

An occasional trimming will help keep your Firebush in good shape. Just be sure not to trim too often, as you could eliminate the flowers and fruit that are so attractive to wildlife.

This year I was frequently entertained by visiting bumblebees – what a treat! Firebush is truly a Florida Friendly plant – what’s not to like?

### REMINDER

Does your Club or Plant Society have special events, news or accolades they would like included in the next Courier? Great! Please email your information and/or photos to [carynkast@gmail.com](mailto:carynkast@gmail.com) at least 2 weeks before the publishing of the newsletter. Kindly make your subject in the email “Courier News”. Thank You!