

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 Nov12th, 2021 General Meeting will be held in person at the FMLCGC. Please RSVP! Email or call Susan Lawson.

2021-2022 Yearbooks are available for pick up at the Berne Davis Gardens. Please have someone from your club come by on a Tuesday to collect your club books.

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

Greetings!

I'm having a hard time wrapping my head around the fact that this newsletter is for November and December, which means the Holidays are not too far around the corner!

So, I'm going to concentrate on the many things I have to celebrate and be thankful for. I have my health, and have made many new friends in just a couple of months of being President of the Garden Council. I am thankful to the folks that keep the Berne Gardens in such great condition – Nick, Carole, Margaret and Debbie Hughes, who is a trusted garden advisor. I wish I could clone them for my home garden! And I'm super thankful for my Board of Directors, who help to keep me on the straight and narrow path.

Among the things to celebrate are finally having our first in-person general meeting. Our November meeting will be held on Friday, November 12 with social time beginning at 9am, and the actual meeting starting at 9:30. We're asking folks to RSVP if they plan to attend so we can determine if the meeting will be held indoors or outdoors. We will see a "Williamsburg Christmas Decoration demonstration" by Kathy Woodlock. And then our Flower Show will be happening Friday, November 19 & Saturday, November 20. Make sure to mark your calendars with some of the many events being hosted by our member clubs on the What's Happening page.

I hope to see you in the Berne Davis Gardens and I'm wishing you and yours a Happy and Healthy Holiday Season!

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: November 5th, 2021
- Date: December 3rd, 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, November 12th, 2021

Please RSVP to Susan Lawson

[fmlcgardencouncil@gmail.com](mailto:fmlcgardencouncil@gmail.com)

Or call 941 979-0615

### 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 November 12th, 2021

**“A Williamsburg Christmas Decoration Demonstration”**

**Presented by Kathy Woodlock**

**Accredited Flower Show Judge**

## SAVE THE DATE!

We're going to celebrate the Holidays with a **COOKIE SOCIAL!**

Friday, December 10, 1:00 pm at the FMLCGC building.

The Garden Council will be decorated for the season, and there will be cookies, music, games and prizes. And we'll offer another opportunity to create something crafty to take home to celebrate the season (nominal fee \$5 for supplies).

In addition to the plant swap table, we'll also do some type of cookie swap. So, if you'd like to share items from your garden or your oven, now's your chance!

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



P.S. Our Pumpkin Social was a huge success ....



Fun marbleizing pumpkins & enjoying friends!

## *Edison - Ford Winter Estates*

2350 McGregor Blvd., Fort Myers FL 33901

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

### Monthly Garden Talks

**Saturdays 10am**

November 13, 2021 – Build an Herb Mound

December 11, 2021 – Terrariums

January 08, 2022 -- Wicked Plants

(How Plants Defend Themselves)

\$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

**November 20-21, 2021 – Edison Garden Festival**

December 4-5, 2021 - Bromeliad Sale

February 12-13th, 2022-Edison Garden Festival

### **Edison Garden Festival! Nov 20-21st, 2021 9am-4pm**

Don't miss the largest garden festival in the area!

Members Only Preview Saturday 8-9am. Enter at the corner of McGregor and Larchmont.

Check in at the Membership Table to get your special wristband (Membership ID required)

## **THE FLORIDA FRIENDLY LANDSCAPING PROGRAM**

The **Lee County Florida Master Gardener Volunteers** sponsor free classes to learn the nine principles that guide Florida Friendly Landscaping (FFL) in Lee County. The classes are two hours long with a question-and-answer period. Each principle is covered, so that you can apply what you learn to your garden. Among the topics of discussion are:

- \*Plant selection and placement
- \*Efficient irrigation
- \*Mulching and fertilization
- \*Attracting wildlife
- \*Pest management
- \*Yard waste and recycling
- \*Protecting the water supply and the waterfront



An in-person class will be held on Friday November 5th, from 1-3 pm at Rotary Park, 5505 Rose Garden Rd., Cape Coral. To register go to: <https://fflfallinperson2021.eventbrite.com/> Two classes will be offered online @ Zoom. The dates are Thursday, November 18th from 10:00 am - 12:00 pm and Monday, December 6th from 7:00 – 9:00 pm.

For online registration go to: <https://fflfall2021.eventbrite.com/>

Classes for 2022 will be announced at a later date. Rain barrel workshops will also be offered.

The FFL program makes creating and maintaining a quality landscape both easier and more Florida-Friendly through helpful concepts, tools, and techniques. A Florida Friendly landscape is not only beautiful, it is also environmentally friendly. The concepts presented contribute to preserving Florida's unique natural resources. What we do in our landscape matters!



## STROLLING FLOWER SHOW UPDATE

As we mentioned in the last Courier, the Strolling Flower Show is coming back to downtown Fort Myers. It will be held the weekend of **February 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. The event will officially be open from 6pm to 8pm; voting for People's Choice will open at 6pm. The winner will be announced by the show sponsor (TBD) at 8:30 at 1st and Hendry Streets.

FMLCGC plans to have a tent available to provide information about the Berne Davis Gardens and our member clubs/societies. We'll be handing out small goodie bags (bottle of water, a few hard candies, maybe some seeds), so if your club would like to add anything to the bag or put information on the table, you are welcome to do so.

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. 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 thru the weekend.

This first year will NOT be a FFGC judged event, so you have more leeway in your creations.

**Thanks for your support!**  
**Susan**

## BERNE DAVIS GARDEN UPDATE

The Berne Davis Botanical Garden reopened October 5th to welcome visitors. Garden Council President, Susan Lawson has decorated the garden in a festive fall harvest theme. Additional plants have been placed along the path of the Larchmont Street entrance, and a new feature has been added to the area sponsored by the Bonsai Society of Southwest Florida. Hamilton Agnew has made and donated a Shishi-odoshi.

A Shishi-odoshi refers to a Japanese device made to frighten away animals which pose a threat to agriculture. It consists of a segmented tube, usually of bamboo, pivoted to one side of its balance point. At rest, its heavier end is down and resting against a rock. A trickle of water into the upper end of the tube accumulates and eventually moves the tube's centre of gravity past the pivot, causing the tube to rotate and dump out the water. The heavier end then falls back against the rock, making a sharp sound, and the cycle repeats. These fountains were originally intended to startle any herbivores, such as deer or boars, which may be grazing on the plants in the garden. Shishi-odoshi are now a part of the visual and aural design of gardens and are used primarily for their aesthetic value.

Be sure to stop by the garden to observe the Shishi-odoshi in action!

Carole Kerns  
Assistant Summer Manager



## HORTICULTURE

Finally...it is getting cooler!! It's time to add a little spice to your life and grow some herbs! Whether you start them from seed or purchase them in a store (even grocery stores have potted herbs) it is a "crop" that you can grow on your windowsill or in your yard. Thyme, basil and oregano will tolerate winter sun (while in summer take part shade). Garlic chives are easy! Lemon balm will make a soothing tea and smells divine as does lemon grass. Cilantro is very popular for salsas but will not tolerate our summer sun or heat. Try growing culantro, a more heat tolerant variety with the same flavor to have it last longer.



Sage is great for all those poultry dishes on the holidays. Texas tarragon will last through summer. Borage has pretty blue edible flowers in the spring and is available in seeds. Parsley and dill are also popular herbs and two of my favorites. Dill will eventually flower and go to seed in the heat, but you can replant those seeds! Parsley will often live a year or more. Be sure to have enough to share with the Black Swallowtail butterflies that will lay their eggs on them in spring and munch them to stems if you are lucky! This year I am planting some seeds of Calendula officinalis, a medicinal herb. Many varieties of herbs can be found at the Edison plant shop or seeds at Echo as well as various vendors and online.

Submitted: Wendy Sprague

## “The World is Yours To Explore”

WE are almost there ! The biennial Garden Council Flower Show will be held this November, honoring our Immediate Past President Judy Francino. We have some wonderful designers all signed up but we need all of you to submit Horticulture exhibits. Garden Club Presidents: please encourage all your members to look at the Flower Show schedule on the website and participate in the show.

We are fortunate to be on the same weekend as the Edison/Ford Garden Fest being held next door – so it will be busy. Let's show everyone what the Garden Council is all about. In addition to the show, we will have horticultural speakers, Master Gardeners to answer questions and refreshments so you and your friends can come and spend the day. Let's make it a Flower Show to remember. **THANK-YOU**

Set-up and entries will be done on Thursday – Nov. 18th between 9am and 4pm at the Council building.

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

Susan Lawson – slawson921@gmail.com

Phone: 941 979-0615

Janice Miller – rdjemiller@gmail.com

Phone: 606 831-7000

Paula Novander – pnovander@yahoo.com

Phone: 239 945-6548



### Open to the Public

**Friday , November 19** **1:00 pm - 4:00 pm**

Speaker: John Hampton - Orchid Society at 2:00 pm

ORCHID CULTURE in SW Florida, how to get your orchid to grow and flower

**Saturday, November 20** **10:00 am - 3:00 pm**

Speaker Tony Mauriello – Native Plant Society at 11:00 am

EXOTIC NECTAR PLANTS FOR OUR FALL VISITOR - The Ruby-Throated Hummingbird

## AWARD APPLICATIONS



### APPLYING FOR A FLORIDA FEDERATION OF GARDEN CLUB AWARD

Sylvia Swartz, District IX Awards Chair

It's that time of year again – awards season and I'd like to encourage all clubs to apply for at least one FFGC award. Scrutinize the projects your club has carried out in the past year and see if you can fit your project to an award. All the awards are listed on the FFGC Awards website and there is lots of good advice there from state chair, Christy Linke, on how to apply. If you need any help or guidance regarding your application please contact me at 239-339-3778 or email me at [tamargal2@aol.com](mailto:tamargal2@aol.com) – I'm always happy to help and if I don't know the answer to your question I will research it for you.

Below you will find a step-by-step description of what to do:

- Process: (usually carried out by the Club/Circle President or an Awards Committee)  
Review the entire list of Federation Awards at <https://www.ffgc.org> ›FFGC-Awards-Descriptions
  - 1) Review completed and ongoing projects in your Club
  - 2) Select a relevant award
  - 3) **Match** your project to the award **criteria**
  - 4) Seek advice if required from District IX Awards Chair (Sylvia Swartz, 239-339-3778, [tamargal2@aol.com](mailto:tamargal2@aol.com))
- President of club or club Committee consults and decides who will write the application
- Person writing the award should:
  - 1) Download the application form from the FFGC Awards site
  - 2) Read the description of the selected award and comply with any detailed instructions that may be contained in that award description
  - 3) Source and check the information required regarding Category, Class (if applicable) and name of Award, District Number, number of members in the Club, etc., start date, finish date, etc.
  - 4) Write the description of the project, remembering not to exceed a total of 3 pages including photos and ensuring to speak to the criteria of the award
- Pointers:
  - 1) When writing the project description, remember to tell a story with an introduction, the detail, and an appropriate closing paragraph
  - 2) Select; insert; and caption appropriate photos of the project. Make the photos as large as you can to fill the space
  - 3) Assemble the application neatly – no more than 3 pages total - including application form

Scan and Email your application to [ffgcawardentry@gmail.com](mailto:ffgcawardentry@gmail.com) to arrive by the due date (can vary but mostly Nov. 24 – notable exception Award #11: Yearbook which is due Nov. 1 and is MAILED to FFGC 3rd VP, Mary Whisler at 2755 N. Carnoustie Loop, Lecanto, FL 34461-6915

Some, like several youth and school awards and the Nell Coe Award are due in the New Year.

Keep a file copy of your complete application and email or mail a copy to District IX Awards Chair, Sylvia Swartz, 4030 SW 9th Pl., Cape Coral, FL 33914 [tamargal2@aol.com](mailto:tamargal2@aol.com)



## NGC-ENVIRONMENTAL STUDY

The Fort Myers - Lee County Garden Council is happy to announce that we are sponsoring a National Garden Club Environmental School Series!

The first course of the four part series, "The Living Earth", will be offered at the Council Headquarters on February 24 & 25, 2022, 8:30 am - 4:00 pm. The fee is \$70 per person per course; \$75 after December 31.

The class consists of 9 hours of lecture plus a 2 hour field trip. Exams are required to be considered for achieving Consultant status. This course can also be used as a Refresher (without exam) by those who have already achieved Consultant status. This is planned as an "in-person" class.

If interested, please contact Local Chairman, Judy Francino at [jfrancino@att.net](mailto:jfrancino@att.net), or Registrar, Bernadette Hamera at [bhamera@outlook.com](mailto:bhamera@outlook.com) for more information. A flyer with Registration Form will be sent out to club Presidents shortly. Space is limited, particularly to comply with Covid safety protocols, and the class will be filled "first come, first served" based on receipt of check and registration form. This class is listed on both the FFGC and NGC calendars and is available to garden club members nationwide, as well as all members of the Garden Council and the General Public.

As info, Course 2 will be offered in Fall 2022, Course 3 in Spring 2023, Course 4 in Fall 2023.

## CLUB HAPPENINGS

After Covid, the *Garden Club of Cape Coral* held a FABULOUS first in-person September meeting. The theme was "Butterfly Your World" and ten lucky members received various plants to attract butterflies. September was a busy month, the club's Master Gardeners, who write the popular horticulture articles for The Cape Coral Breeze newspaper, met for an informal breakfast hosted by our president, Ann Block.

With a high five to Cathy Dunn, we started our seriously spooky F-U-N October meeting with Ana Bonstedt, the Lee County Extension Program Manager. She explained the Florida Master Gardener Training Program to our members. Our NGA award was accepted by Paula Plum for the successful Blue Star Memorial installation and dedication. On October 14th an exciting event was the Members' Garden Tours organized by Beverly Nugent. Members generously open their gardens for the enjoyment of fellow members and guests. The club participated in the Fall Plant Sale on October 23 at Rotary Park and members had 900 plants ready for sale. It was a bloomin' success!

In November club members will ready the Library Butterfly Garden, the Historical Museum Rose Garden and the Blue Star Memorial Garden for the holidays. Our Special Events Chairs, Carol Arnholt and Cindy Wasilak, have organized an exciting trip to Sundance Orchids in Fort Myers for a tour, lecture and gift shop visit, with lunch at Bahama Breeze on November 12th.

On December 4th, Club members will stroll the Punta Gorda Holly Days Garden Tour to view the beautifully decorated gardens. Lunch will be served at The Ice House before the tour. After the holidays, the Garden Club of Cape Coral, Ways & Means Chairs, Sylvia Swartz and Ellen Morris will mobilize our members for the famous March in the Park plant sale, held the second Saturday in March at Jaycees Park, Cape Coral. This event funds scholarships for local high school students and supports middle and high school environmental projects.

Sylvia Swartz won the 2019 Berne Davis Award. She will be honored in 2022 at the Berne Davis luncheon.

2021 is the Garden Club of Cape Coral's 25th Anniversary and plans are afoot for a birthday bash in May!

Health and Love  
Ann Block and Elsa Schutzman  
Co-Presidents

## CLUB HAPPENINGS

### BONSAI SOCIETY PRESENTS 40TH ANNUAL SHOW

Bonsai is an ancient art. A Bonsai is a miniaturized tree grown in a dish, resembling its large counterpart found in nature.

Literally, the word Bonsai means “A Tree in a Tray.”

Since 1973, members of the Bonsai Society of Southwest Florida have been cultivating and creating nature-inspired small trees based on this art form, which originated in the Far East over 1500 years ago.

Now the public can view the best Bonsai specimens created by local practitioners of the art by visiting the 40th annual Fort Myers Bonsai Show and Sale, November 6 and 7 at the Fort Myers-Lee County Garden Center, 2166 Virginia Ave., just north of the Edison-Ford Estates. Parking is available on Larchmont St.

Show hours are Saturday November 6, 9AM – 5PM and Sunday November 7, 9AM – 3PM. Admission is free. In addition to the exhibit, the show features Bonsai-cultivating workshops and demonstrations, raffles of Bonsai trees and accessories, vendors of Bonsai-related items, and friendly docents to offer information and insight.

All are invited to attend. A full schedule of show events is available at [www.bonsaiswfl.org](http://www.bonsaiswfl.org)



### News from Estero Island Garden Club on Fort Myers Beach

The Estero Island GC kicked off the new season on Oct 18th with a tour of our new Pollinator garden followed by lunch at the Whale restaurant on Fort Myers Beach.

We are looking forward to our Nov 1st meeting at the Fort Myers Beach library where we will have a presentation on container gardening by Debbie Hughes from the Edison Ford Estates. In November the club will also meet with Tony Mauriello from the Native Plant Society for a walking tour of Barefoot Beach County Preserve to explore plants of the barrier island.

Again this year the Estero Island GC will partner with the Fort Myers Beach Library as a sponsor for the Salvation Army Angel Tree Program. Angel tree tags with children's holiday gift requests will be placed on the garden club tree at the library waiting for members and library patrons to fill those holiday wishes! We will wrap up 2021 with a plant sale at the Fort Myers Beach Women's Club holiday event on Dec 11th. Our members have lots of fun decorating their plants for the holiday season!



## News from AHS James E Hendry Chapter

This past June, the American Hibiscus Society had their annual convention in Tampa. Several of our James E. Hendry women won top honors in Florida Division. For growers with seventy-five plants or less, NANCY KOPP won Collector's Sweepstakes. For an exhibitor showing in their first or second year, MICKI DOUGHERTY won Amateur Sweepstakes. MICKI was named to the AHS Board as a Director for a four-year term. NANCY has been on the board and has two more years as a Director for American Hibiscus Society.



## THANK YOU!

Next time you are visiting the Berne Davis Gardens be sure to check out the area around the fountain. The orchids scattered around are courtesy of the SWFL Orchid Society and were installed by Susan Fero.



They are certainly a beautiful addition to our gardens!

Many thanks to the River District Allilance for lending us this Halloween Pumpkin Totem to display in the Berne Davis Gardens this past month. It's been a big hit with all our visitors!



## 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!



CELEBRATION OF LIFE!  
JEAN SHIELDS NOV 12TH, 2021  
2-4pm AT FMLCGC FOLLOWING MEETING  
ALL ARE WELCOME TO ATTEND

On October 9th our dear friend Winnie Stone celebrated her 99th Birthday.  
Happy Birthday Winnie!



## FMLCGC Calendar - Dates to Remember

**Nov. 6-7th, 2021** Saturday-Sunday **Bonsai Society of SWFL** 40th Annual Show & Sale, FMLCGC Sat.9a-5p Sun 9a-3p  
**Nov. 9th, 2021** Tuesday **SWFL Orchid Society** Annual Auction/Fundraiser, Faith United Methodist, 15690 McGregor Blvd  
**Nov. 13th, 2021** Saturday **Poinciana Garden Club** Annual Plant & Yard Sale, FMLCGC Bldg, 8a-5p  
**Nov. 19-20th, 2021** Friday-Saturday **FMLCGC Flower Show** "The World is Yours to Explore", Fri 1-4pm 7 Sat 10am-3pm  
**Nov. 20-21st, 2021** Saturday-Sunday **American Hibiscus Society** Winter Sale, in conjunction with Edison Ford Plant Sale  
**Dec. 4-5th, 2021** Saturday-Sunday **Caloosahatchee Bromeliad Society** Annual Plant Sale, at Edison Ford Winter Estates  
**Jan. 21st, 2021** FLORIDA ARBOR DAY

## Your Board Members

### President-

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

### First Vice-President-

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

### Second Vice-President-

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

### Recording Secretary-

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

### Corresponding Secretary-

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

### Treasurer-

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

### Assistant Treasurer-

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