
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
Tue. & Thur. 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.**

Tuesdays Docent Schedule

Jan. 4 Crown Colony GC
Jan. 11 Estero Island GC
Jan. 18 Fiddlesticks GC
Jan. 25 Florida Herb Enthusiasts
Feb. 01 Garden Club Cape Coral
Feb. 08 Gulf Coast Garden Club
Feb. 15 IFAS
Feb. 22 Jasmine Garden Club
Mar. 01 Kelly Green Garden Club

Questions?

Contact Susan Lawson
slawson921@gmail.com

The Berne Davis Garden

Beginning January 6th, 2022, the Berne Davis Garden will be open on Thursdays as well as on Tuesdays, from 10am to 1pm.

If the response is favorable, the garden will remain open on both days until April. This will give the public more of a chance to visit the garden and to enjoy the plants that bloom during the winter months.

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

The holidays are over, so it's back to reality. For the Garden Council, that means continued care and upkeep of the Berne Davis Gardens, which keeps the garden team pretty busy. It seems there's always some type of pest they're trying to eradicate. We're also trying to add new items of interest to the gardens – next time you come down the path from Larchmont, you can rub your hands on the rosemary bushes that have been planted as part of the efforts to add fragrance to the gardens. Member suggestions are always appreciated.

As we move into spring, our member clubs have various events planned...plant sales, flower shows, etc. Please check out our What's Happening page for some of their events and try to support our clubs. From a FMLCGC perspective, we'll be hosting the Strolling Flower Show on February 4, so come out and view the floral arrangements in downtown Fort Myers and then vote for your favorite. At the end of February, we'll be hosting the NGC Environmental class, a great opportunity to learn about the environment from local experts. Along with Edison Ford Estates, we'll be hosting Art in Bloom on March 3, and then at the end of March we'll celebrate our 65th birthday and the winner of the Berne Davis Service Awards at the Berne Davis Luncheon; guaranteed to be a fun event!

And I'm delighted to announce that starting January 6, the Berne Davis Gardens will be open on Thursdays from 10am – 1pm. This is in addition to our usual Tuesday schedule. Our garden managers, who are also master gardeners, have been able to recruit some additional master gardeners to act as docents on Thursdays. We'll try out the new schedule for a few months, and if it works, we'll continue it during "season". It's great to give folks an additional opportunity to view our lovely gardens. There's always something in bloom...how lucky we are to be the caretakers of this beautiful spot!

Hope to see you soon,
Susan Lawson-President



Garden Council Meeting Dates

UPCOMING BOARD MEETINGS

(Officers, Directors, Committee Chairs)

- Date: January 7th, 2022
- Date: February 4th, 2022

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, January 14th, 2022

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 January 14th, 2022

“Preserving Plant Material”

Presented by Mary Pulick

Mary Pulick, Master Flower Show Judge, will be talking to us at our January 14 Meeting about preserving plant material. Her presentation will come at the end of our meeting because she has planned a fun project for us to do – how to make a pressed flower bookmark. If you would like to participate in this project, please bring a pair of scissors with you. Mary will bring all the supplies. Thank you, Mary for being so kind as to do this project with us!

SAVE THE DATE!

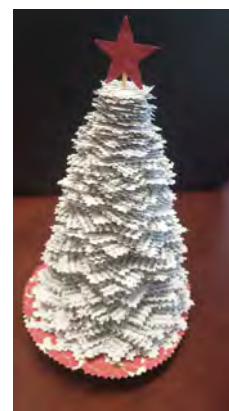
We're going to be celebrating Mardi Gras in the Gardens
on Monday Feb 21st. Please Plan to attend!



P.S. Our Cookie Social was a huge success



About 20 members attended the craft & cookie social on Friday the 10th of December. Fourteen ladies brought cookies to Exchange and everyone had a lovely time.



Edison - Ford Winter Estates

2350 McGregor Blvd., Fort Myers FL 33901

Web: EdisonFord.org

Monthly Garden Talks

Saturdays 10am

January 08, 2022 -- Wicked Plants
(How Plants Defend Themselves)

March 19, 2022—Philodendrons and Aroids

April 9, 2022—Vines

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

Gardening Classes

Jan. 18th – Intro to Florida Gardening 1-1:30-3:30pm

Jan. 22nd – Intro to Florida Gardening 1- 10am-Noon

Jan. 25th – Intro to Florida Gardening 2-1:30-3:30pm

Jan. 29th – Intro to Florida Gardening 2- 10am-Noon

(Check Website for location & fees; registration required)

February 22, 2022-Floral Arranging with Tropicals

February 26, 2022-Floral Arranging with Tropicals

Edison Garden Festival! Feb. 12-13th, 2022 9am-4pm

Don't miss one the largest garden festivals in the area! More than 40 vendors, food trucks and live music!

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

Join us for a free class to learn the 9 principles that guide Florida Friendly Landscaping (FFL) in Lee County. Each principle is covered so you can apply what you learn to your own garden. Among the topics of discussion:

- 1) Plant selection and placement
- 2) Efficient irrigation
- 3) Mulching & fertilization
- 4) Attracting wildlife
- 5) Pest management
- 6) Yard waste & recycling
- 7) Protecting the water supply & waterfront



REGISTER FOR UPCOMING WINTER 2022 FREE CLASSES (in person or on zoom)

FRIDAY	JAN 7, 2022	1-3PM	ROTARY PARK, 5505 ROSE GARDEN RD. CAPE CORAL
TUESDAY	FEB 8, 2022	1-3PM	ROTARY PARK, 5505 ROSE GARDEN RD. CAPE CORAL
FRIDAY	FEB 18, 2022	3-5PM	ONLINE VIA ZOOM EN ESPANOL
SATURDAY	MAR 26, 2022	10A-12N	ROTARY PARK, 5505 ROSE GARDEN RD, CAPE CORAL
THURSDAY	APR 28, 2022	2-4PM	ROTARY PARK, 5505 ROSE GARDEN RD, CAPE CORAL

ONLINE ZOOM REGISTRATION: <https://fflwinter22zm.eventbrite.com/>

SPANISH CLASS REGISTRATION: <https://fflwintersp.eventbrite.com/>

IN-PERSON CLASS REGISTRATION: <https://fflwinter22.eventbrite.com/>

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 garden remains the most peaceful place in Fort Myers. The plants are in bloom and the colors are magnificent. Please consider coming to the garden soon. In January 2022, the garden will be open on Tuesday and Thursday from 10-1pm. Florida Master Gardeners and individual Garden Society docents will be in attendance and available for information and assistance with the self-guided tours. Bring your tea or coffee and stroll in our beautiful garden.

Current blooming of shrubs and plants will be featured at the welcome table and directions for their location will be given. Each week something new is in bloom so come often.

Margaret Walker
Garden Manager



“The World is Yours To Explore”



Presidents Award for horticulture



Suzy Valentine

Designer's Choice & Design Excellence Award Winner

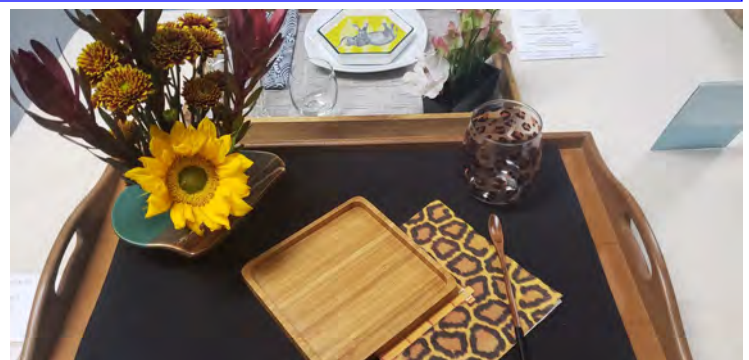
Thank you to all who participated in making this show a huge success!
You are all winners in our eyes!

Judy Francino pictured below with the Presidents Award for design winner.



Blue Ribbon Recipients

- Class 1: River Cruises— Claudia Chopp
- Class 2: Come Fly with me—Nancy Colgan
- Class 3: Sailing the Oceans Blue—Suzy Valentine
- Class 4: Repast—Vicki Williamson
- Class 5: Camp Cocktails—Mitzi Marckesano
- Class 6: N-S-E-W—Laura Sullivan
- Class 7: Spice Bazaar—Dale DeFeo
- Class 8: Souvenirs—Laura Sullivan
- Class 9: Dive Treasures—Sandy Gove
- Class 10: Travel Gear—Winnie Stone
- Class 11: Travel Memories—Sylvia Lightbody
- Class 12: Travel Topiary—Susan Lawson



People's Choice Award –Design “Camp Cocktails”

The Garden Tourist's Florida *Guide Book* by Jana Milbocker

The FMLCGC is proud to announce its' inclusion in "The Garden Tourist's Florida" guide book written by Jana Milbocker. It is a guide to 80 tropical gardens in Florida and our beautiful Berne Davis Garden is featured in the Southwest Florida section of the book!

The FMLCGC Board has decided to order some of these books and offer them for sale to both members (\$20) and to the general public (\$25). Our supply will be limited so if you would like to purchase a copy for yourself or friends as a gift, please let us know how many you would like. We can increase our order if we know how many people may be interested. We will be selling them at the Strolling Flower Show and at the Gardens on Tuesdays as a fund raiser. In addition, they will also be available at our next general meeting.

If your club is looking for a fundraiser idea, you may want to consider selling this book as well.

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, or Registrar, Bernadette Hamera at 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.

The tri-fold brochure and registration form are available at the Gardens and on our website.

HORTICULTURE

HO...HO...HO...Holiday Plants!

Tis the holiday season...and what plant is more appropriate than the Poinsettia?? Well, perhaps a Florida native plant? Poinsettias are native to Mexico. But did you know, mistletoe is native to Florida? The classic Mistletoe we sing of in Christmas carols is native to Europe, but Florida has it's own native Mistletoe, *Phoradendron leucarpum*. It's green leaves can be spotted in the tops of deciduous trees after their leaves have fallen. Mistletoe has a small flower that can produce a white sticky seed. These seeds are deposited in the tops of trees by birds. As the seed develops, it needs no soil, as it produces a feeding organ called a haustoria that taps into the thin bark of trees like laurel oaks, sycamores, hackberries, and elms. This parasitic plant will feed off the host's tissues, absorbing water and nutrients. Too much mistletoe can actually kill a tree. The berries are poisonous to most creatures except birds. The plant is poisonous when eaten, so be careful decorating. On a lighter note, mistletoe is the only food source for the larvae of the great purple hairstreak butterfly, *Atlides halesus*, one of our most beautiful southern butterflies.



Another holiday plant is holly. Once again, our native holly is not the prickly one so often used to “deck the halls.” However Dahoon Holly, *Ilex cassine*, does have beautiful red berries “decking” the green leaves from late summer through winter. Like the mistletoe, Dahoon Holly is a good food source for birds so these boughs are best left on the tree. Dahoon Holly is dioecious, and only the female plant will have berries.

THANK YOU!

Thanks to all who volunteered as docents for the 2021 Holiday House in Fort Myers! Kudos to the Estero Island Garden Club who provided nine docents on Dec 22nd, 2021! All proceeds from the Ticket sales are given back to the historic homes. Please consider helping with this worthwhile project next holiday season.

ASSISTANCE NEEDED

Berne Davis Gardens is looking for some shutters to use for a holiday project next season. If you know of any shutters that are not being used or are looking for a new home, please let us know!



FMLCGC Calendar - Dates to Remember

Jan. 21st, 2022 Friday FLORIDA ARBOR DAY

Feb. 4th, 2022 Friday STROLLING FLOWER SHOW downtown Fort Myers 6:00pm-9:00pm

Feb. 8th, 2022 Tuesday SWFL Orchid Society hosting Orchid Auction 7pm at Faith United Methodist Church

Feb. 21st, 2022 Monday MARDI GRAS SOCIAL at FMLCGC

Feb. 24-25th, 2022 Thursday & Friday NGC ENVIRONMENTAL CLASS 8:30am-4:00pm at FMLCGC building

Your Board Members

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