

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. thru Apr 14th
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

Mar 1-Kelly Greens GC
Mar 8- McGregor GC
Mar 15-Periwinkle GC
Mar 22-Poinciana GC
Apr 5-Potpourri Designers
Apr 12-Royal Palm GC
Apr 19-Shell Island GC
Apr 26-SWFL Orchid Society

Questions?

Contact Susan Lawson
slawson921@gmail.com

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

We still have books available
for sale. They make great gifts.

Get your copies before they are
gone!

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

Welcome to our March/April edition of the Courier. We are now in the middle of "season", and at the Berne Davis Gardens we can really see this by the increased visitors. This is so gratifying, because our garden team works tirelessly to keep the Gardens looking good. They even have a trip planned to the Naples Botanical Gardens to get some new ideas and look for new specimens for our Gardens.

Our next General meeting will be Friday, March 11, with social half-hour beginning at 9:00. Not only do we have an informative presentation planned on "Butterflies of SW Florida", but this will also be our Annual meeting, where your Board will ask you to vote on the budget for the upcoming year. We ask that delegates be present at this meeting.

We've had a busy time the past few weeks – FMLCGC hosted the Strolling Flower Show on February 4 as part of Art Walk in Fort Myers. Please read the article in the Courier that provides more details on that event. Then we had our Mardi Gras social on Monday, February 21 – lots of food, fun and beads! We hosted the first session of the NGC Environmental School on Thursday and Friday, February 25 and 25.

Upcoming events include Art in Bloom on Sunday, March 6, and the Berne Davis Service Awards Luncheon to be held on March 31 when we'll also celebrate our 65th birthday. You won't want to miss them. Specific club events can be found on our Happenings page.

Once again, I'll put in my plug...we're always looking for volunteers. So if you would like to work with a fun gang, please reach out to me and I can share with you where we could use some help.

I'd like to close with a heart-warming story for you. Each year the Council budgets for several charitable donations, one of which is a donation to Habitat for Humanity – we give new home-owners a hose, sprinkler and sprayer to help maintain their lawn. We usually get the hose, sprinkler and sprayer from Gavin's Hardware. Most recently when we asked for the items (we were going to get 20 sets), John Gavin said he'd donate the items to us...what a lovely gesture on his part. There are many good people in this world! If you have any suggestions for organizations for FMLCGC to donate to, please let me know.

Hope to see you soon,
Susan Lawson



Garden Council Meeting Dates

UPCOMING BOARD MEETINGS

(Officers, Directors, Committee Chairs)

- **Date: March 4th, 2022**
- **Date: April 1st, 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, March 11th, 2022

Hostess: Poinciana Garden Club

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



“ANNUAL MEETING”

“Butterflies of Southwest Florida”

by

Tony Mauriello, Florida Master Naturalist

SAVE THE DATE!

Our last social this season will be in celebration of Easter. Please plan to join us on Friday, April 8, 1:00 pm at the FMLCGC building.

The Garden Council will be decorated for the celebration, and there will be food, music, prizes and maybe an egg hunt.

As always, we'll offer an opportunity to create something crafty to take home to celebrate the holiday (nominal fee of \$5 for supplies).

We'll put out a plant swap table so if you'd like to share items from your garden, now's your opportunity.

Please RSVP to 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.



Edison - Ford Winter Estates

2350 McGregor Blvd., Fort Myers FL 33901

Web: EdisonFord.org

Monthly Garden Talks

Saturdays 10am

March 19, 2022—Philodendrons and Aroids

This talk will focus on the care and placement, including those that make better houseplants, as well as those that can be dramatic tree companions.

April 9, 2022—Vines

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

Gardening Classes

Palms for Your Landscape-Tue. Mar. 8, 1:30-3 pm &
Sat. Mar 12, 10-11:30 am

We will spend 60 minutes in the classroom, then the last 30 minutes in our Palmetum. All participants will be provided with a palm seedling.

Caladium Crazy-Tue. Mar 12, 1:30-3pm &

Sat. Mar 26, 10-11:30am

We will teach you the history of caladiums, how they grow and how you can grow them in your Florida garden or up north. All participants will receive several caladium tubers.

(Check Website for location & fees; registration required)

Art in Bloom Art Show

Sunday, March 6, noon-4 p.m.

On March 6 from noon to 4 p.m., Edison and Ford Winter Estates will host the Art in Bloom art show in partnership with the Fort Myers-Lee County Garden Council. This unique one-day art show features floral designs paired with works of art from the Sustainable Conceptions exhibit.

This year, 15 floral designs and other works of art will be on display in the Edison Caretaker's House, an original "Cracker House" and one of the oldest standing structures in Lee County. Prior to the show, participating Garden Council members are paired with a piece of artwork and create a floral display based on their interpretation of the art -- using the same colors and design feel.

Art in Bloom is included with general admission, or tickets may be purchased to view the art show only for \$5 (does not include tours of the homes, lab or museum). Visitors may vote for their favorite floral design; the winners will be announced at the end of the show.

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:

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



Register for Upcoming Winter 2022 Free Classes

Saturday	3/26/22	10am-Noon	Rotary Park, 5505 Rose Garden Rd. Cape Coral or zoom
Thursday	4/28/22	2pm-4pm	Rotary Park, 5505 Rose Garden Rd. Cape Coral or zoom

In addition, a rain barrel workshop will be offered on Saturday, April 16, 2022 at 10:00am at Rotary Park Environmental Center, 5505 Rose Garden Rd. Cape Coral, FL. The cost is \$45.00 which includes the rain barrel. To register call Rotary Park at 239-549-4606. Participants are asked to pay via credit card.

STROLLING FLOWER SHOW UPDATE



WINNER- PEOPLE'S CHOICE DESIGN



APPRECIATION LUNCHEON



PEOPLE'S CHOICE DESIGNERS

The Strolling Flower Show took place on Friday, February 4 in Downtown Fort Myers in conjunction with Art Walk. There were nine beautiful designs created by groups of talented designers. Designs were in store windows from Friday afternoon thru Sunday afternoon. The general public had the opportunity to vote on a favorite design and the winner was announced at a luncheon held at the Council building. The People's Choice winner was "She's all A Bloom in Downtown Fort Myers" by the Hibiscus Society.

Of course, we thought everyone was a winner!

Best Underwater Design – "Global Tranquility" by Estero Island Garden Club

Best Historical Representation – "Stroll Back in Time" by Periwinkle Garden Club

Prettiest in Pink – "Rejuvenation" by Poinciana Garden Club

Best Celebration of Life – "Beautiful Flowers for a Beloved Lady (Jean Shields)
by Garden Club of Cape Coral

Best Dress Design – "The Eclectic Ladies" by Potpourri Designers

Most Colorful Flowers – "She's All A Bloom in Downtown Fort Myers" by Hibiscus Society

Best Tropical Design – "Welcome to Paradise" by Royal Palm Garden Club

Best Vertical Design – "Relax, Reflect, Revive" by Poinciana Garden Club

Best Interpretation of Host Business – "What Separates us From the Animals is Our Ability to
Accessorize" by Edison and Fort Estates

Pictures of the designs and luncheon will be on our website. If you'd like to be on the organizing committee for next year's fun event, please send me an email or call. slawson921@gmail.com or call 941-979-0615.

BERNE DAVIS GARDEN UPDATE

Margaret Walker
Berne Davis Garden Manager

Our board approved a trial to have our garden open twice per week on Tuesdays and Thursdays starting the first week in January through March 2022. Additional Florida Master Gardeners were recruited to cover the extra day. These wonderful volunteers have been planting and maintaining our collection. They have provided new ideas and great observations.

We are thankful to the member society docent volunteers. All these extra volunteers have enhanced the visitor experiences. The garden is beautiful this season and many visitors have expressed appreciation of our peaceful, attractive garden.

Please see the “What’s Blooming” section of the website for current features. It is our hope to increase educational experiences to local elementary schools as well as inviting Girl Scouts to earn their gardening badge in the near future. Our team meets frequently and evaluates our progress. We encourage feedback and thank Susan Lawson and the board for their support.

Presidents Award for horticulture



Audrey Heneage



Nora Pearson



Cindy Sinn

CLUB HAPPENINGS!

One of The **Poinciana Garden Club's** community service projects is to walk some of the 141 trails of Lee County's Conservation 20/20 properties. On January 25, 2022 a few of our club members walked Yellow Fever Creek Trail. Our project is called "Trash off Trails" we pick up trash along the walk. We so enjoy the comradery, exercise, environmental cleanup, fresh air and peace. Our next Trash Off Trails event is on Feb. 22, Pop Ash Creek Preserve in North Fort Myers.

Video on You tube: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=F4xxsWeXRJ0>



The **Royal Palm Garden Club** program topic on Feb. 17th was 'Flowers in Interior Design' presented by Milly Pereira, Interior Designer and member of Royal Palm Garden Club. Members were enthralled with her great information and her interior design displays including three of Milly's own acrylic paintings.

Check out this YouTube video for more of her beautiful display.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-dIdfy_QItE&t=95s



On February 12, 2022, the Sunset Chapter of the American Hibiscus Society held a hibiscus show at the Tampa State Fair. The **James Hendry chapter of Fort Myers** was well represented at the head table including: Best of Show Single (Dream Catcher / Madeleine Dougherty), Best of Show Double (Indian Bride / Madeleine Dougherty), Best of Show Miniature (Pink Pride of Hankins / Nancy Kopp) and Best of Show Seedling (A Touch of Velvet / Madeleine Dougherty).

News from the **Estero Island Garden Club**

Our club is resuming some of our favorite events after taking a break since 2020! We recently held our Chinese Auction and Raffle with members bringing their favorite plants, garden decor and live arrangements. This is a fundraiser for our club and a chance to share great ideas! In February, we welcomed several new members and saw the return of many familiar faces as well. We are proud to have established the Estero Island Garden Scholarship for a student enrolled in the new Water School at Florida Gulf Coast University. We are looking forward to a trip to the Bailey Homestead Preserve on Sanibel in March but most especially we are excited to travel to Delray Beach to visit Morikami Gardens! As our year winds down, we will celebrate Spring and welcome our new board at the Burroughs House and Gardens in April for a guided tour of the historic home and gardens. We will enjoy a catered lunch, as well, in the pavilion overlooking the Caloosahatchee River. This will be a true garden party...Hats included! - Paula Smith, President, Estero Island Garden Club



President - District IX
Judges Council - Claudia
Chopp
Chairman - District IX
Director - Dale DeFeo
dwdefeo1@aol.com

You are invited to enjoy ...

FOR THE LOVE OF GARDENING - A Horticulture Specialty Show
PRESENTED BY THE JUDGES COUNCIL OF DISTRICT IX, FFGC
Fort Myers-Lee County Garden Council Building
March 10, 2022

Free and open to the public 12:30-3:00 p.m.

District IX Judges Council extends from Lakeland to Marco Island

Come see what Flower Show Judges LOVE to grow.

Florida is a Tropical paradise and we love to take advantage
of our perfect (almost) weather. **Guaranteed** something for everyone.
Cut specimens and container grown horticulture only !

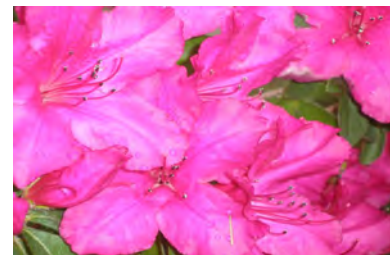
"COLORS OF SPRING"

AN NGC STANDARD FLOWER SHOW
PRESENTED BY THE
ROYAL PALM GARDEN CLUB

and

POTPOURRI DESIGNERS

Members of the FORT MYERS - LEE COUNTY GARDEN COUNCIL, INC.



FREE AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

MARCH 24 - 25, 2022

Thursday 3 - 6 p.m.

Friday 9 a.m. - 2 p.m.

We will have our Easter Bonnets decorated



ALVA GARDEN CLUB

ANNUAL



PLANT AND STRAWBERRY SHORTCAKE SALE



**Saturday March 12, 2022
9:00 - 1:00 p.m.**



at

ALVA LIBRARY & MUSEUM
21420 Pearl Street
Alva, FL 33920



We will have a large selection of
plants, strawberry shortcake,
homemade baked goods,
used books, raffles
and much more for sale!



In accordance with CDC guidelines, masks are required inside the Museum.
Visit the Alva Garden Club website at: alvagardenclub.org



HORTICULTURE

Thoughts on Frost Damage and Plant Sales

Here we are heading into spring, having just survived a brief but often damaging cold snap, depending on where you live. It's been just long enough since the last freeze that I needed to check my resources for proper pruning techniques. Despite the ugly brownness that offends our senses, it is prudent to delay pruning until all further chances of cold damage are past and wait till new growth starts. Your fingernail is the handiest tool to check the extent of damage: gently scrape the bark to be certain of where to prune – you may be surprised by how much green is still hiding underneath.

A good resource for cold-damage to palms can be found at: <https://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/publication/mg318>. I have plenty of pruning to do to reshape some of my shrubs, trees and prepare my Muscadine Grapes for the coming season. Now is the time, as it appears future danger of frost is past. Most frost events are usually done by mid-February in our area.

Spring is also the time for plant sales! For most of us, the news of an upcoming plant sale brings joy and excitement. To ensure that you don't have as much pruning as I do, be sure to use restraint (what!?) and common sense when purchasing your new plants. We all have experienced "I must have THAT plant!" only to get home and discover we have no idea where to plant it properly. Planting the "right plant in the right place" can save you many headaches, as well as dollars. A good resource is the University of Florida's Plant Selection Guide:

https://ffl.ifas.ufl.edu/media/fflifasufledu/docs/FYN_Plant_Selection_Guide_2015.pdf

When shopping at plant sales, take a moment to use your phone to research your potential purchase. Try to include "ifas" or "South Florida" in your searches for the most pertinent information to your area. A little research may show you that your desired plant may do better further north or south than your location or it may require more maintenance or care than your lifestyle allows.

With all the work ahead of us, don't forget to stop and smell the roses (um, yeah, they will need pruning too!).



Cracker Rose



Flowering Maples, Abutilon sp, found at a plant sale

By Wendy Sprague

REMINDERS

The **Berne Davis Luncheon and Awards** is approaching quickly.! Please be sure to select your club nominees and gather the necessary information to put forth. This is a great way to recognize the outstanding efforts of your members. Nominations are due by March 18th, 2022. Also, please plan on attending the Berne Davis Luncheon; reservations should be made no later than March 24th. Form is attached on page 11. Don't delay...pay for your luncheon today! We will be celebrating the Garden Council's 65th Anniversary at the luncheon as well. It's sure to be a wonderful event!

FMLCGC Calendar - Dates to Remember

- Mar. 6th, 2022** **Sunday** ART IN BLOOM in conjunction with Edison Ford Winter Estates 12noon-4pm (\$5 donation)
- Mar. 10th, 2022** **Thursday** Judges Council Flower Show at FMLCGC
- Mar. 12th, 2022** **Saturday** Garden Club of Cape Coral's MARCH IN THE PARK 9am-3pm at Jaycee Park in Cape Coral
- Mar. 12th, 2022** **Saturday** Alva Garden Club's Strawberry Shortcake Festival & Plant Sale 9am-1pm at Alva Museum
- Mar. 20th, 2022** **Sunday** Caloosahatchee Bromeliad Society Silent Auction 12:30pm at FMLGC Bidding at 2pm
- Mar. 24-25th, 2022** **Thurs. & Friday** Royal Palm GC Flower Show "Colors of Spring" Thur. 3-6pm & Fri. 9-2pm FMLCGC
- Apr. 16th, 2022** **Saturday** Bonsai Society of SWFL Auction 9am-12noon at FMLCGC
- Apr. 29-30, 2022** **Fri. & Saturday** Garden Club of Cape Coral Flower Show Fri. 3-4:30pm & Sat. 9am-3pm at SW Cape Library in Cape Coral
- Apr. 30, 2022** **Saturday** American Hibiscus Society's 69th Annual Show & Sale 1-4pm @ First Assembly of God 4701 Summerlin Rd., Fort Myers, FL

Your Board Members

President-

Susan Lawson 941-979-0615
slawson921@gmail.com

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Treasurer-

Hamilton Agnew 239-707-1000
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Assistant Treasurer-

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



**13th Annual
Berne Davis Honorary Service
Award Luncheon &
65th Anniversary Celebration
Thursday, March 31, 2022**



Where: Fiddlesticks Country Club
15391 Canongate Drive
Fort Myers, FL 33912

When: 11:30am Gather 12:00 noon Luncheon

Cost: \$32 per person

Theme: "ENCHANTED GARDEN" ~ Hats & Gloves Encouraged

Menu: 3 Courses ~ Choice of Chicken or Salmon

Reservations Required: Charlene Anderson, 2721 SW 36th Lane,
Cape Coral, FL 33914

Questions: Please call Mitzi Marckesano 239-222-2818

Please mail this form to be received no later than March 24, 2022 along with your check made out to FMLCGC in the amount of \$32.00 per person.

TO: Charlene Anderson, 2721 SW 36th Lane, Cape Coral, FL 33914

Attendee Name: _____

Garden Club: _____

Luncheon Choice: _____