VOLUME 65 ISSUE 1

THE COURIER

September/October 2022

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

Sept/Oct	**Volunteer Board Mem.**
Nov. 01	**Dist IX Judges Council**
Nov. 08	**SWFL Orchid Society**
Nov. 15	**Shell Island G.C.**
Nov. 22	**Royal Palm G.C.**
Nov. 29	**Potpourri Designers**

Full Docent Schedule can be found in your Yearbook on pg.54

Questions?
Contact Susan Lawson
slawson921@gmail.com

ATTENTION

2022-2023 Yearbooks will be available for pick up at the Berne Davis Gardens on Sept. 9th, 2022 at our 1st General Council Meeting. Or, please have someone from your club come by on a Tuesday when the Gardens are open to collect your Yearbooks.

President's Message

Happy End of Summer, early Fall!

We've been busy sprucing up the FMLCGC building, getting it ready for another season of meetings, classes and events. We are power-washing the sidewalk and pergola, and also doing some necessary electrical repairs. And we've been working on updating our Library – read more in the Courier.

Our Master Gardener team has been working through the summer to keep the Berne Davis Gardens looking good. If you'll recall, the Gardens stayed open all summer this year. And beginning in December, we'll be open on Tuesday and Thursday; that will last through Easter.

Make sure to check out the Courier to see what FMLCGC has planned for you in the next few months as well as what other Clubs and Societies are doing. Once again FMLCGC will be holding socials in the months we don't have a general meeting. Our Pumpkin Social will be held on October 14. And we'll be offering the second session of the NGC Environmental School Program via ZOOM on November 17 and 18.

Looking forward to seeing you at our September 9 meeting!

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. 2nd, 2022**
- **Date: Oct. 7th, 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, Sept. 9th, 2022
Garden Council Headquarters
Hostess Club:
SW FL Orchid Society

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. 9th, 2022"
" Air Plants of Florida"
By Tony Mauriello-Florida Master Naturalist

SAVE THE DATE FOR GARDEN COUNCIL SOCIALS!

Friday, October 14 - Halloween social- We're going to celebrate Fall with a PUMPKIN SOCIAL! Friday, October 14, 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).
There will also be 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 chance. Please make sure to bring care instructions with your plants.
Fri., Dec 9 - Christmas social & cookie exchange; Wed., Feb 22 - Mardi Gras social; Fri., Apr 14 - Spring social

The **President's Tea** was held at the FMLCGC on Monday, August 22. This event gives our club Presidents the opportunity to meet and share what's going on in their clubs as well as hear what FMLCGC has planned for the upcoming year. We were happy to host about two dozen attendees between Presidents and Board members. We'd like to extend a very warm welcome to all our new Presidents!

Edison - Ford Winter Estates

2350 McGregor Blvd., Fort Myers FL 33901

Web: EdisonFord.org

Monthly Garden Talks
Saturdays 10am

Sept 10th– Butterfly Gardening
Nov 12th– Designing a Cool Season Color Garden
Dec 10th– Make a Holiday Wreath
Jan 14th– Staghorns & Jungle Cactus (register please)

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

Gardening Classes

Oct 18th or 22nd– Vegetable Gardening for SWFL
Jan 24th or 28th– Intro to FL Gardening Part 1
Jan 31st or Feb 4th– Intro to FL Gardening Part 2
(Check Website for location & fees; registration required)

Special Events

October 1-2, 2022 – Orchid Symposium & Sale
November 19-20, 2022 – Fall Garden Festival
December 3-4, 2022– Bromeliad Sale

Fort Myers – Lee County Garden Council, Inc.
Environmental School Program
"Land and Related Issues"

The Fort Myers – Lee County Garden Council, Inc. is pleased to offer a four-part Environmental School Program, beginning with the second two-day class, "Land and Related Issues", on Thursday & Friday, November 17 & 18, 2022.

The class will be offered as Zoom Only! The Class will begin at 8:30 am and end at 4:00 pm both days and include a virtual field trip.

The Environmental School is open to Garden Club members and the general public. The cost is $55 per person.

This second class in the series will present an overview of Land Related Environmental Issues and Discussion. The remaining two classes will each focus on Air, and Water. These classes will be offered in February and November 2023 respectively.

The instructors for this class include University Professors, Extension Service Management and local well known Conservation Foundations' representatives.

The syllabus, structure and requirements for this class were developed by the National Garden Club, Inc. (NGC). Accordingly, if you take Class 1 or 2 here in Fort Myers, you can take a subsequent class or classes in another area or state, or any combination thereof, to complete the NGC series. They do not need to be taken in sequence.

Members of an NGC member club, may be eligible to become a Master Consultant upon completion of all four classes and achieving acceptable grades in the exams. Additionally, those who are already NGC Master Consultants, may take this course to complete a "Refresher" requirement. No exams are required when taken as a Refresher.

A flyer is attached with additional information and a registration form. You may also contact Bernadette Hamera at bhamera@outlook.com or Judy Francino at jfrancino@att.net if you have questions or need more information.

Check this out!

News from the Mina Edison Botanical Library

It's been a busy summer in the Library. When I was recruited by the Fort Myers-Lee County Garden Council to revive the Library I had no idea what was in store for me. They gave me two boxes of file cards and loads of donated books and said "have at it!" Once a week for an hour or so I have been trying to make sense of what we have, what we may want to retire, and what areas we may want to expand. The rehabilitation is a work in progress but please do not let that dissuade you from borrowing a book that catches your eye while this work is ongoing!

There is now a sign-up sheet for borrowing items on a clipboard at the shelves. Please fill it out when you borrow an item. There will be a box/basket for returned items soon.

The first set of vertical shelves to the left contains the Caloosa Rare Fruit Society Collection. These books may also circulate.

The two shelves in the middle of the wall house the Berne Davis Collection. These books may be used on site only. No circulation is permitted.

The final set of vertical shelves to the right houses the Bonsai Society Collection. These books are also not available for circulation but we do have similar bonsai books in our own collection.

Currently the main collection is organized by the Dewey Decimal system similar to the public library. Different numbers are assigned by topic. A select example:

553	Bonsai
554	Cacti
557	Orchids
558	Houseplants
564	Trees & shrubs
567	Water gardens
590-98	Gardening in Florida
722-27	Floral Design

The organization of the Library is not perfect. I have found the same book in different areas and this is confusing. I will be working over time, trying to get the collection in better shape and label the shelves for easier finding. In the meantime, please browse and borrow what interests you!

Audrey Heneage

CLUB HAPPENINGS

The Poinciana Garden Club Summer Projects

This summer Gail Shaw, member, is scanning years of meeting minutes to a thumb drive and Lynn Marshall, our President, Mary Kay Alva and Sandy Troy have been scanning 25 years of scrapbook photos/awards to .jpgs preparing for our 60th Anniversary Celebration Party in December at the Garden Council.

The scrapbook .jpg photos will be loaded onto their Facebook Page in December 2022 and be readily available to current and future members. The Poinciana Garden Club started their Facebook page in April 2017 and has switched from scrapbooks to preserving events and awards on their Facebook page. Their Facebook Page now has 990 Followers. They also have videos on YouTube. Check out their Facebook page.
The Poinciana Garden Club of Fort Myers Florida | Facebook

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **Winnie Stone turns 100 years old on Oct 9th, 2022!** FMLCGC will host a celebration in her honor on Saturday, Oct 15th from 2-4pm. If you would like to attend the celebration, please RSVP to fmlcgardencouncil@gmail.com or call 941-979-0615.
- FMLCGC and the Garden Club of Cape Coral will be hosting the upcoming **District IX Fall Meeting** on Tue., Oct. 18th at the Estero Embassy Suites. You do not have to be a Florida Federated Garden Club member to attend this meeting. If you would like to attend simply list "FMLCGC" as your club on your registration form.

FMLCGC Calendar - Dates to Remember

Oct. 14th, 2022 Friday-**FMLCGC** Pumpkin Social –Crafts 1pm
Oct. 18,th 2022 District IX Meeting, Embassy Suites, Estero
Oct. 22nd, 2022 Am Hibiscus Society-Winter Hibiscus Sale –Tropical Plant Sale, Rotary Park, 5505 Rose Garden Rd. CC 9-2p
Nov.12-13th, 2022 Bonsai Society of SWFL 40th Annual Show & Sale, FMLCGC Hdqtrs. Sat 9-5pm, Sun 9-3pm
Nov. 15th, 2022 Tuesday Periwinkle Garden Club Fundraising Auction & Sale FineMark Bank (College & Winkler)
Nov. 17-18th, 2022 Thursday & Friday NCG Environmental Class, FMLCGC Hdqtrs., 8-5pm

Your Board Members

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

First Vice-President-
TBD

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-
Gail Shaw 239 464-4235
Email: gail17410@comcast.net

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

BERNE DAVIS GARDEN UPDATE

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE BERNE DAVIS BOTANICAL GARDEN by Carole Kerns

2022 marks the first year that the Berne Davis Botanical Garden has been open throughout the summer. The heat did not deter visitors, and the Master Gardener Volunteers have enjoyed showing them our summer bloomers. The Master Gardeners have also been busy this summer planting many additions to the garden.

Through her diligent care, Beth Meehan has brought new life to the Hibiscus section. With donations from the American Hibiscus Society, James E. Hendry Chapter, Beth has planted two Cosmic Dancers (Hibiscus rosa-sinensis 'Cosmic Dancer'), a Hawaiian Salmon (Hibiscus furcellatus Desr.), and a Jim Hendry hibiscus (Hibiscus rosa-sinensis 'Mrs. James E. Hendry'). We also had donations of a Swamp Mallow hibiscus (Hibiscus moscheutos) and four alocasia (Alocasia macrorrhizos) plants that were planted elsewhere in the garden. Beth has also been busy adding coleus (Coleus) as well as other plantings to the Pink Garden.

This summer, the garden received a very generous donation of soil and compost from the University of Florida Lee County Extension Office. Cindy Sinn has taken responsibility for the Rare Fruit section and, along with the other Master Gardeners, has spread many bags of the soil mixture around the trees and plantings there. Cindy has planted a Tropical Apricot tree (Dovyalis hebecarpa x Dovyalis abyssinica) and a Jabuticaba (Plinia cauliflora), donated by the Caloosa Rare Fruit Exchange. She has also added Spiral ginger (Cheilocostus speciosus), lemon thyme (Thymus citriodorus), lemon balm (Melissa officinalis), Caladium (Caladium), Swamp hibiscus (Hibiscus grandifloras) and a corner succulent garden. Cindy and Nora Pearson planted six varieties of tree climbing vines which were donated last spring. Nora also planted Canna lilies (Canna indica L.) in the water garden area and repurposed mistletoe cactus (Rhipsalis baccifera), some on a boulder and some in a strawberry pot. Nora and Sue Fero are redesigning a section of the garden to become an orchid showplace. Sue, a frequent volunteer at the garden, has been accepted into the Master Gardener Training Program and will begin in September

Although Audrey Heneage is a Master Gardener, she is also a librarian and has used her skills to transform the Mina Edison Library. Audrey has added some red penstemon (Penstemon digitalis) and a scorpion plant (Scorpiurus) to the garden and has moved a purple firespike (Odontonema cuspidatum) to the pollinator pathway.

We would like to thank the many people who have donated plants and cuttings for the garden, with special thanks to Sandy Troy Pennington. Sandy invited the Berne Davis Master Gardeners to her garden and generously offered a variety of cuttings from her beautiful plants. We would also like to thank the Caloosahatchee Bromeliad Society for their restoration of the Bromeliad garden. Their time and effort are greatly appreciated.

I encourage you to take a stroll around the garden and see the improvements that have been made. As always, we welcome your comments or suggestions.

HORTICULTURE

Starburst by Wendy Sprague

Adorned with stunning clusters of white/pink star-shaped flowers that appear in late winter and spring, hummingbirds and butterflies will enjoy your Starburst Clerodendrum (Clerodendrum quadriloculare). This popular shrub can grow to 15 feet as a shrub or tree. The remainder of the year you can enjoy the eye-catching foliage that is dark green above and purple below. This plant only requires minimal pruning to keep its shape, but if needed, a heavy pruning can be done after it has finished flowering. However, beware the "beast" below…as this plant produces root suckers, often far away from the plant. These can be easily mowed when young. My plant, however, though I mowed around it, migrated with root suckers to the vegetable garden and headed for the septic field. I'm afraid it was time to go. This beautiful tree requires careful placement and monitoring to keep in check. On a lighter note, it was not disturbed by insects and did well with adequate watering through the dry season. In the right setting, it could create a beautiful block of plants for a screen.

STROLLING FLOWER SHOW

The Strolling Flower Show is returning to Downtown Fort Myers again February 3rd-4th, 2023. The FMLCGC and the River District Alliance of Fort Myers are collaborating to make this event even bigger and better than last year! We are planning on being able to decorate 13 sites within the River District and are hoping that a variety of garden clubs and plant societies will participate. The designs and plant displays will not be formally judged, but there will be a "People's Choice" voting opportunity (Congratulations again to the 2022 winner; The Hibiscus Society!). We have indoor and outdoor, large and small design or display options. So, get your friends together, teams of designers and plant lovers are fine! Exhibits would be placed by 1PM on Friday 2/3 and the "People's Choice" voting will run through 10PM that evening, displays would be removed on Sunday morning. On Friday evening there will also be plant and gardening based vendors along First Street and there is booth space available for FMLCGC members who may wish to participate. You can contact Sue Fero at 518-496-2133 or SDF40@aol.com for more information.

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 at least 2 weeks before the publishing of the newsletter. Kindly make your subject in the email "Courier News". Thank You!

Fort Myers – Lee County Garden Council
Environmental School Series

All Students are required to read:

* NGC's *The National Gardener* (4 issues per year)
* *Guide for Students & Consultants* available on the NGC website and provided in student packets with course outlines

Recommended Reading:

* Darke, Rick and Tallamy, Douglas *The Living Landscape: Designing for Beauty and Biodiversity in The Home Garden*; Timber Press (2014)
* Miller, Tyler G., Jr., *Living in the Environment: Principles, Connections and Solutions*; Books/Cole Publishing Co.
* Tallamy, Douglas W., *Bringing Nature Home; How You Can Sustain Wildlife with Native Plants*. Updated & expanded; Timber Press (2009)
* Tallamy, Douglas W., *Nature's Best Hope: A New Approach to Conservation that Starts in Your Yard*; Timber Press (2019)

For questions or more information,
Please contact:
Judy Francino
Jfrancino@att.net
248 425-8713

National Garden Clubs, Inc.
Environmental School

Goals and Objectives:

A. Develop a citizenry that is aware of, and concerned about, the total Environment and its associated problems, and which has the knowledge, attitude, motivation, skill and commitment to work individually and collectively toward solutions of current problems and the prevention of new ones.
B. Promote NGC, Inc. Env. School
C. Foster value systems that preserve the biotic community
D. Increase awareness of the interdependence of life on earth
E. Prevent pollution to protect public health and heal the planet
F. Help citizens become involved with their communities and natural world
G. Network and reach out to all segments of the community to achieve goals
H. Encourage conservation education
I. Promote inclusion of environmental education in classrooms and youth organizations throughout the country
J. Establish Environmental Councils to provide opportunity for personal growth and community service for NGC, Inc. Environmental Consultants and Provisionals.

National Garden Clubs, Inc.
Environmental School
Series XI, Course 2
Zoom Only

November 17 & 18, 2022

Sponsored by
Fort Myers – Lee County Garden Council, Inc.

A member of
District IX
Florida Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc.
Deep South Region

Environmental School Series

The Environmental School provides continuing education about the land, water, air, and earth on which we live. Course content is established by National Garden Clubs, Inc. (NGC). Four sequenced courses (1 through 4) comprise a series.

Each course consists of ten hours of instruction, which will include field trips and tours to related locations. The Consultant Certification Card is issued to NGC members after they have completed Environmental School Courses 1 – 4 with a passing grade of 70 or more on every exam. These four courses must be completed within 7 years. Exams are optional, however, if you wish to be an accredited Environmental Consultant, you must take the exams. After passing two courses, a student becomes a Provisional Consultant and may join an Environmental Consultants Council. To remain in Good Standing, every five years Consultants must continue their education by attending an ES Refresher or Course, no exam required. After a Consultant's fourth refresher, the Consultant becomes a Master Consultant. Consultants or Master Consultants may earn refresher credit only once within a calendar year.

Course 2: Land & Related Issues
Offered Thursday & Friday,
November 17 & 18, 2022
8:30 am – 4 pm Cost: $55 pp

Course 3: Air and Related Issues
To Be Offered February 23 & 24, 2023

Course 4: Water and Related Issues
To Be Offered November 16 & 17, 2023

Classes open to all Garden Club members and the general public!

Course 2 will take place via Zoom - sponsored by the Fort Myers – Lee County Garden Council Inc.

This class will include 8 hour-long lectures with a 5 question exam after each. There will also be a virtual Field Trip that must be attended to complete the course.

Exams will be administered via ClassMarker software.

NGC Environmental School
Course # 2, Series XI
November 17 & 18, 2022
Registration Form
Zoom only
Deadline for Registration: Nov 1, 2022
Number of students will be limited!
Register Early!

Name_____

Address_____

_____

Home Phone_____

Cell Phone _____

Email_____

Garden Club_____

District & State _____

❑ **Student**
❑ **Refresher Class (No Exam Required)**

Send Registration form with check for $55 to Fort Myers – Lee County Garden Council, Inc.

Mail to Bernadette Hamera
8740 Lueck Lane #1
Fort Myers, FL 33919
bhamera@outlook.com