

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. 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
Dec. 06 The Poinciana GC
Dec. 13 Periwinkle Garden Club
Dec. 20 McGregor Garden Club
Dec. 27 Garden Managers
Jan. 3 Kelly Green Garden Club

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

Questions?

Contact Susan Lawson
slawson921@gmail.com

ATTENTION

2022-2023 Yearbooks are available for pick up at the Berne Davis Gardens. If your club has not picked up your yearbooks yet please have someone from your club come by on a Tuesday when the Gardens are open to collect them. Thank you!

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

What a difference a month makes! It's hard to believe that Hurricane Ian slammed into us on September 28th and now it's the end of October already, soon to be November then December and 2023!!

Here at the Garden Council Building we were fortunate that there was little damage to the building and we have been able to get one of our air-conditioning units fixed already, so our meeting room is once again ready to be used. Our grounds were covered in broken limbs, and sadly we lost our beautiful silk floss tree, but with the help of Master Gardeners, and a good tree-trimmer, I feel confident that we'll soon have our garden oasis ready for visitors. We're currently open on Tuesdays and beginning in December we'll also be open on Thursdays.

I know that there are many friends who weren't quite as fortunate, and it will take awhile till our community is "back to normal". We will try to raise your spirits with our social events – you won't want to miss our December Christmas social, and please stay tuned for other events to bring us together.

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: Nov. 4th, 2022
- Date: Dec. 2nd, 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, Nov. 11th, 2022

Garden Council Headquarters

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 Nov. 11th, 2022

“ The Caloosahatchee Water Keepers”

By John Cassani-Calusa Waterkeeper

SAVE THE DATE FOR GARDEN COUNCIL SOCIALS!

Friday, December 9th– Christmas Social & Cookie Exchange– 1-4pm at the FMLCGC Headquarters building. Please sign up at the November meeting!

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. Be prepared for fun!



The **Halloween Social** which was to be held at the FMLCGC on Oct. 14th, 2022 was cancelled due to hurricane Ian damage.

Edison - Ford Winter Estates

2350 McGregor Blvd., Fort Myers FL 33901

Web: EdisonFord.org

Monthly Garden Talks

Saturdays 10am

Dec 10th– Make a Holiday Wreath
Jan 14th– Staghorns & Jungle Cactus

Registration is required.

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

Gardening Classes

Jan 24th or 28th– Intro to FL Gardening Part 1
Jan 31st or Feb 4th– Intro to FL Gardening Part 2

These two hour programs include classroom & garden time.
Space is limited and registration is required.
Choose from Tuesdays at 1:30pm or Saturdays at 10:00am

Plant Sales & Garden Festivals

9am-4pm

November 19-20, 2022 – Fall Garden Festival
December 3-4, 2022– Bromeliad Sale

ENVIRONMENTAL SCHOOL POSTPONEMENT

Is there any topic that could be more timely than our environment?

Class 2: “Land and Related Issues” of the NGC Environmental Program has been postponed from its November dates to February 23 & 24, 2023 due to the aftermath of Hurricane Ian. We are fortunate to have all of our originally planned instructors stay with us and almost all of the students who had already registered. There is still room for more students as this is a virtual (Zoom) class, so please join us!

Class 3 will now be offered in Fall 2023 and **Class 4** will be offered in Spring 2024.

Info about the class and registration information are on the attached flyer. Please contact Judy Francino (jfrancino@att.net) or Bernadette Hamera (bhamera@outlook.com) if you have any questions.

NEWS FROM CAPE CORAL GARDEN CLUB

Due to Hurricane Ian, most of the Garden Club of Cape Coral's October events were cancelled. We are happy to announce our general meeting for Wednesday, November 9th, will feature Guest Speaker Tony Mauriello, a FL Master Naturalist. He will introduce us to "Plant Propagation Techniques". The club's Holiday Luncheon will be held at Palmetto-Pine Country Club on Wednesday, December 14th. Members and guests have three menu options and there will be entertainment. On December 21st, club members will visit the Burroughs Home and Garden's "Christmas in Fort Myers". January will begin preparations for the club's famous annual March in the Park Plant Sale featuring a variety of plants and vendors for visitors of all ages. It is held the second Saturday in March at the beautiful riverfront Jaycees Park.

Happy Gardening!
Ann Block and Elsa Schutzman
Co-Presidents
Garden Club of Cape Coral

Check this out!

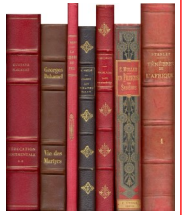
News from the Mina Edison Botanical Library By Audrey Heneage

We are fortunate here in Fort Myers to have the lovely Garden Council meeting hall for club and Association meetings as well as the Botanical Library for all members to use. Because of its location in the meeting hall the library is a recognized resource. Unfortunately we do not have unlimited shelf space. In fact, our space is limited, for the time being, to the shelves already installed. Over the years many generous people have thought to donate books to the library. I know there are many out there who love to share a beautiful book with others and we thank all who have done so. But, because of our size limitations we are not able to accommodate all the books that have been donated.

This library has a limited scope, being primarily a collection of:

- ☐ plant and gardening books specific to our climate and state
- ☐ houseplant books
- ☐ floral design & arrangement books
- ☐ resources for garden club competitions and shows

Books that fall outside these subject matters, although special, may not be suitable for our limited space & scope and often cannot be included in the collection. Going forward we will be offering up a selection of donated books for free at meetings. Please take a book if you find one that interests you! Later this year I will put out a list of subject areas we want to expand or update and relevant donations will be welcomed at that point.



Winnie Stone Turns 100!

A lovely group of friends were able to celebrate Winnie Stone's 100th birthday with a small gathering on Saturday, October 15th. Winnie didn't want cake, so we enjoyed delicious cookies, punch and some beautiful meringue trees. Our guest of honor looked in great health. She even rode out the hurricane in her own home.



What a remarkable woman!!



CLUB HAPPENINGS

Publix Sponsors The Poinciana Garden Club

Publix Corporate Offices, Community Relations is a proud sponsor of The Poinciana Garden Club! One of The Poinciana Garden Clubs community service projects is to walk some of the 141 trails of Lee County Park trails and the Conservation 20/20 preserves and enjoy exercise, fresh air, comradery and pick up trash along the trail. Publix donated paper bags to our community service project for the dry trash we pick up. The club wants to avoid using plastic. If you would like to walk with Poinciana on Trash Off Trails or attend a club program or field trip as a guest check out their Facebook Page or call 239-994-8147. Link to our award-winning Facebook page...

<https://www.facebook.com/poincianagardenclub/> (First place award National Garden Club, Inc.)



CANCELLATION ANNOUNCEMENTS

District IX Fall Meeting on Tuesday, Oct. 18th at the Estero Embassy Suites was cancelled.
The Poinciana Garden Club's Plant & Treasure Sale, Saturday, Nov. 15th has been cancelled.
The Bonsai Society of SWFL 40th Annual Show & Sale for Nov 12-13th has been cancelled.
Periwinkle Garden Club Fundraising Auction & Sale for Nov. 15th has been cancelled.

STAY TUNED AS MANY OF THESE EVENTS MAY BE RESCHEDULED AT A LATER TIME.

FMLCGC Calendar - Dates to Remember

Dec. 3-4th, 2022 Saturday & Sunday Caloosahatchee Bromeliad Society Annual Plant Sale in conj. Edison-Ford Winter Estates

Dec. 9th, 2022 Friday Christmas Social & Cookie Exchange, FMLCGC Headquarters, 1-4pm

**Effective Dec 1, 2022 the Berne Davis Botanical Garden will be open to the public on Tuesdays & Thursdays 10-1pm

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
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Treasurer-

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

Assistant Treasurer-

Fran McIntyre 860-967-9681
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BERNE DAVIS GARDEN UPDATE

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE BERNE DAVIS BOTANICAL GARDEN by Carole Kerns

The phrase “Hope springs eternal” took on a new meaning as we watched the garden recover, following Hurricane Ian’s devastating impact. Our landscaper, Nick Gallant, worked three hours just to make a path, so that he could get access to the garden. Tree branches and debris were scattered everywhere, and the force of the wind knocked down the beautiful silk floss tree.

Nick spent many hours clearing debris and cleaning up the garden. David Outerbridge, the University of Florida Lee County Extension Office Director, led a team of master gardener volunteers from neighboring counties to clear the debris from the garden. Joined by Nick Gallant, Garden Council President Sue Lawson, and Master Gardener Volunteer Nora Pearson, they were able to clean up the remaining debris. Master gardener volunteers Nora, Audrey Heneage, Beth Meehan, Sue Fero (in training), and myself have been pruning, transplanting, and staking plants in preparation for our fall and winter visitors.

Nora and Sue Fero are planning to transform the garden across from the Bonsai section into “Orchid Splendor”. Plants were moved and transplanted to make space for the orchids and several Florida Friendly plants. We are pleased that this plan can now move forward, due to a generous donation from the Southwest Florida Orchid Society.

Beginning the first week in December and continuing through March, the Berne Davis Botanical Garden will be open from 10:00 am – 1:00 pm on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Docents will be available on Tuesdays, and master gardener volunteers will be there both Tuesdays and Thursdays to answer questions and provide information. We invite you to come take a look as we begin an exciting new chapter at the Berne Davis Garden.



Some of the damage from Hurricane Ian.



New Hope as the Powder Puff Plant still blooms!

HORTICULTURE by Wendy Sprague

Since Hurricane Ian, I am surprised and pleased by some plants that have survived and bloomed. While my Royal Poinciana tree got shredded, and the large Fiddlewood that was exposed to all winds was a mess and needed severe pruning, the Java Glory Bower, smaller and tucked amongst other vegetation survived.

Clerodendrum speciosissimum is a tropical shrub of the family Lamiaceae, native to Indonesia. The bright orange/red blooms attract butterflies, bees, and hummingbirds almost year-round in South Florida. They will grow in shade or sun and only require moderate water. While they can get leggy, they are easily maintained and only grow to about 6 feet tall. They propagate readily from seed and I can often find young ones to pot up for a plant sale or trade. Their slightly fuzzy, heart-shaped leaves are attractive even when they are not blooming. These plants came with the house when I bought it 20 years ago.



I was lucky, in Alva, and most of my plants were sheltered. I plan to bring some plants to the Garden Council Meeting in November to share with those who were not so fortunate.

STROLLING FLOWER SHOW UPDATE

We hope that everyone is safe and healthy and moving forward from Hurricane Ian. Many of the Downtown Fort Myers businesses sustained damage; mostly from water intrusion and are working hard to be up and running by the holidays or at least “in season”. Susan Lawson and I met with the River District Alliance to discuss the Strolling Flower Show and how, where and when to have it in 2023. I will be sending a list of our options to all of the Club and Society Presidents with our options, so that they can be shared with their members, and encourage your responses/opinions by early December. The Strolling Flower Show may look a little different, but our commitment to provide beauty and education to the public remains unwavering.

We thank you all for your patience and assistance in this process. Stay tuned for further updates!

Thank you , Sue Fero

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!