

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**

**Jan. 3 Kelly Green Garden Club**  
**Jan.10 Jasmine Garden Club**  
**Jan.24 Gulf Coast Garden Club**  
**Jan.31 Garden Club- Cape Coral**  
**Feb. 7 Florida Herb Enthusiasts**  
**Feb.14 Estero Island GardenClub**  
**Feb.21 CrownColony GardenClub**  
**Feb.28 Florida Native Plant Soc.**  
**Mar. 7 Carissa Garden Club**

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

### **Questions?**

**Contact Susan Lawson**  
**slawson921@gmail.com**

## **ATTENTION**

The following clubs & societies  
should arrange to come by and  
pickup their 2022-23 Yearbooks

Bonsai & Bromeliad Society,  
Carissa GC, Master Gardeners,  
Native Plant Society, Periwinkle  
GC and SWFL Beekeepers.  
Thank you!

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

Happy 2023! It's hard to wrap my head around the fact that it's a new year again...I was just getting used to writing 2022 on my checks.

As usual, spring is a busy time of year in the gardening calendar. Our Master Gardener team has been taking advantage of the cooler weather to do some more garden rejuvenation. Our new orchid garden looks lovely, with some different and unusual orchids. The bromeliad area is being cleaned up after some hurricane damage with a few new plantings being added. And the Gardens have been the lucky recipient of several unusual succulents and cactus from Suzy Valentine. So our Garden team is planning a new area to highlight these additions. Please spread the word about our garden oasis...it's a lovely place to relax and rejuvenate. We're open on Tues. & Thurs. from 10am - 1pm.

If you do happen to stop by the Gardens in the next few weeks, you may see some artists doing plein air painting. BIG ARTS Sanibel Island will be holding some of their classes in our Gardens since many island gardens were devastated during Hurricane Ian. We felt it was a small way we could help support the Lee County arts community to let artists take advantage of our beautiful gardens.

Please make sure to check out our Events page. There are flower shows and various club events you might want to attend, in addition to the FMLCGC Mardi Gras social. And don't forget about the NGC Environmental Class 2 which is being held via ZOOM. If you'd like to get the word out about your club's activities, send an email to [fmlcgardencouncil@gmail.com](mailto:fmlcgardencouncil@gmail.com). Hope to see you at our next general meeting - Friday, January 13 at 9:30am.

Susan Lawson



For The Latest Info Check Our Website  
**[WWW.FMLCGARDENCOUNCIL.COM](http://WWW.FMLCGARDENCOUNCIL.COM)**

## Garden Council Meeting Dates

### UPCOMING BOARD MEETINGS

(Officers, Directors, Committee Chairs)

- Date: Jan. 6th, 2023
- Date: Feb. 3rd, 2023

**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, Jan. 13th, 2023**

**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 January 13, 2023**

**“Edible Flowers”**

**by Heather Gonzalez**

## SAVE THE DATE FOR GARDEN COUNCIL SOCIALS!

Wednesday, February 22nd, 2023. Mardi Gras Social!!

Please sign up at the January meeting.



The Garden Council grounds are looking great!

We will offer another

opportunity to create something crafty to take home to celebrate the season (nominal fee \$5 for supplies). Come and join us; mix and mingle; bring a friend and make some new friends.

Be prepared for fun!



The Christmas Social & Cookie exchange held on Dec. 9th was a huge success! All who participated in the craft took home a cute little Christmas Tree. The Christmas Cookies in the exchange were also beautiful and delicious. A good time was had by all!!

And check out our beautiful Christmas tree in the Gazebo!



## *Edison - Ford Winter Estates*

2350 McGregor Blvd., Fort Myers FL 33901

Web: EdisonFord.org

### Monthly Garden Talks

**Saturdays 10am**

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

Annual Spring Garden Festival Feb 11-12th, 2023

Biggest plant sale of the year! 9am-4pm

## ENVIRONMENTAL SCHOOL REMINDER

**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

**Class 4** will be offered in Spring 2024.

## INVITATION FROM THE POINCIANA GARDEN CLUB

**Open to the Public.**     *All Garden Club's Members and Friends Invited!*

**Plant Caladiums Event!**

**The Poinciana Garden Club Fundraising Event**

**Saturday, March 25, 2023**



9:30 to 10 AM Parking/Coffee Tea; 10 to 12 PM Caladium Tips & Planting your own

Bring: 8-inch-tall planting pot, garden gloves, & chair

We Provide: 12 mixed colors caladium bulbs, Planting mix, Fertilizer, Perlite. Fee \$35.

Call 239-994-8147 to RSVP before mailing your check to see if there are openings. Limit 25 participants. Make check payable to: “The Poinciana Garden Club.” Mail check by March 1st to Sandy Troy @ 4691 Horse Creek Blvd Fort Myers Fl 33905. (Please include name, email, and phone number with check.) Event at this address. Option: Purchase additional mixed colors caladiums to take home \$20/dozen. Include with registration. Caladium bulbs are purchased in March directly from caladium farms so please pre-order by March 1st. Event Committee: Kay Thomas, Margot Elmore, Lynn Marshall, Sandy Troy



## BERNE DAVIS GARDEN UPDATE

### HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE BERNE DAVIS BOTANICAL GARDEN

New Year, New Looks, at Berne Davis Gardens!

Mighty hurricane Ian swept in on September 28, and an even mightier crew swept in a week later and conducted a clean-up for the ages. Master Gardeners from Manatee, Pasco and Lee counties, along with UF representatives masterfully took on the job of clearing what appeared to be mountains of debris and branches. A few weeks following Ian, the garden never looked better! Much appreciation to all involved.



Fall of 2022 saw numerous enhancements to the lovely Berne Davis Gardens. A special highlight includes the new “Orchid Splendor” Garden, a little oasis within the larger garden. Approximately one year ago, I partnered with Sue Fero, a loyal volunteer at Berne Davis Gardens, on a project near and dear to my heart. The plantings in the aforementioned garden were “tired”, and not to the standard of our Garden. After drafting a project plan including a drawn depiction, approval was obtained to reinvent the space to become an orchid showplace. Existing plantings were “put to rest”; the soil was amended, and plans were executed. Thanks to generous financial contributions from the Fort Myers Lee County Garden Council and the Southwest Florida Orchid Society, an orchid trellis was purchased and installed. Thanks also go out to John Hampton of the SWFOS for his donation of many special orchid specimens. Adding beauty and interest to the Gardens, “Orchid Splendor” is a promise of even more to come!

Other Fall of 2022 enhancements include extensive work in the Rare Fruit Garden. The garden was expanded to include a tropical apricot and jaboticaba behind the starfruit, mango, avocado, lychee and macadamia trees.

Overall, this past Fall has seen the Master Gardeners gradually increasing the biodiversity of Berne Davis Gardens by introducing many new cultivars, including creepers, pollinators, seasonal bloomers, epiphytes, and succulents.

Please stop by soon to see the enhancements in our special “gem”, Berne Davis Gardens.

Nora Pearson, Master Gardener

**STROLLING FLOWER SHOW UPDATE**

We are pleased to announce that The Strolling Flower Show will be held April 7th, 2023. The decision to move the date to later in the season was made so that the downtown Fort Myers merchants would have more time to recover from the damages of Hurricane Ian. Hopefully this will give us enough options to accommodate all of the designers and floral arrangers who have already expressed interest!!

I plan to have a sign-up list of sites by mid to late February and will be reaching out to all of our FMLCGC members as soon as possible to give everyone time to decide and make their plans. The theme again this year is "Downtown is Blooming". We are hoping to be able to place the arrangements by 2pm on April 7th so that daytime visitors and employees in Downtown will have the opportunity to view and vote on their favorites. This will also allow the arrangers time to park closer to their spots and view and visit downtown Fort Myers before dark. We will also be asking the merchants if pickup can be on Saturday morning as an option to make it easier for you. The flower show will coincide with the monthly First Friday Artwalk organized by the River District Alliance. There will be an emphasis on plant and gardening themed vendors and space for any of the FMLCGC member organizations who wish to have a fundraiser or educational booth. The streets close by 4 pm and reopen at 10pm, so please plan accordingly. If you want to participate as a volunteer, there are lots of opportunities beforehand and the day of the flower show, please feel free to call or email me.

Thank you for your continued interest in The Strolling Flower Show and support of this long tradition of bringing our imagination and floral art to the public.

Sue Fero, 518-496-2133 or SDF40@aol.com

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

On Monday Feb. 27th, 2023 at 1pm at the FMLCGC Headquarters building there will be a sale of various floral design items..

Many of our local floral designers have been cleaning out their studios and storage areas and have donated many items to the Garden Council. We plan to offer these items in exchange for a free will offering. All donations received will go the FMLCGC.

Come and have a look at these treasures! You'll be glad you did.

We sadly say goodbye to the Caloosa Rare Fruit Exchange & to Jasmine GC who are disbanding.

**HORTICULTURE by Wendy Sprague****Winter's Chill...**

This year's Christmas Eve temperature dip into the 40's and 30's prompted several questions in my mind: What will a cold snap do to our plants? How can we best deal with it? According to the University of Florida, tropical plants can suffer cold injury at temperatures below 50 degrees! Prior to reading this, I had always only worried when the temperature got to freezing or a frost warning. Sub-tropical plants can acclimate to sub-freezing temperatures, while temperate plants can withstand below freezing temperatures.

What to do? Move container plants into a protected, warmer areas. Push your potted plants together and protect roots with mulch. A grafted tree can be insulated with tree wraps. Covers should extend to the ground to trap heat and can be weighted with rocks. Ideally, they should not touch the foliage. Frost cloth, bedsheets or quilts will do. Small plants can be covered by water jugs cut to fit. Home irrigations systems are not designed to keep plant surfaces continually wet with a film of liquid water, so it is not recommended to leave your sprinklers running.

After warmer temperatures return, check your plants, especially those in containers for water needs after a freeze, apply water to allow thawing and rehydration of plants, without overwatering. Check for dead wood by scraping bark with a fingernail, green tissue will show your plant is still alive. Black or brown color shows dead tissue. Be patient, brown leaves may be removed, your plant may recover with a little care, and cut it back only where necessary. If you are unsure, wait a little and see where it does or doesn't re-sprout before pruning.

In the future, a little planning may help. You can mix cold tolerant plants with tropical plants so your landscape won't be devastated in a freeze. Create microclimates under the over-story of a tree or near the house where tender plants may be better protected from brisk winds. Keep you plants healthy with proper nutrition – a healthy plant is better able to withstand some cold impacts. A moist soil will absorb more solar radiation than a dry soil, to re-radiate heat during the night to bring the nighttime temperature up a bit. With a little planning, and a little luck, we should have healthy surviving plants in 2023!

**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!

## CHAIRS FOR SALE

The FMLCGC is selling some of our extra folding chairs. If you or someone you know could use a few folding chairs we are asking just \$10.00 each. These are very sturdy and will be sure to come in handy. Please contact Susan Lawson if interested at: 941-979-0615 or email slawson921@gmail.com.



## FMLCGC Calendar - Dates to Remember

- Jan. 9th, 2023** Monday **Crown Colony GC** is hosting Captains for Clean Waters speaking at Crown Colony Club House 10:30a FMLCGC Members are welcome. *Please RSVP to PattyBird70@gmail.com.* Consider staying for lunch. Select from menu; credit card required.
- Feb. 9th, 2023** Thursday **Judges Council** NCG Standard Flower Show "A Piece of Cake" at FMLCGC Bldg 1:30-4pm open to public
- Feb. 14th, 2023** Tuesday **SWFL Orchid Society** Annual Auction/Fundraiser at Faith United Methodist Church, 15670 McGregor Blvd. Preview 6:30pm Sale at 7pm
- Feb. 22nd, 2023** Wednesday **Garden Club Cape Coral** is hosting "Fun with Flowers" \$25 fee. At FMLCGC Bldg 10am RSVP to Susan Lawson at 941-979-0615
- Feb. 22nd, 2023** Wednesday Garden Council Spring Social-Mardi Gras. Crafts and fun! \$5.00 fee. At FMLCGC Bldg 1-4pm
- Feb. 24-25th, 2023** Friday & Saturday **Gulf Coast GC** hosting NCG Small Standard Flower Show "Visiting the Library" Friday 1-5pm; Saturday 9am-3pm at Bonita Springs Public Library, 10560 Reynolds St., Bonita Springs 34135
- Mar. 31-Apr. 1, 2023** Friday & Saturday Biennial Council NCG Standard Flower Show "All That Glitters". Fri 2-4pm & Sat 10am-4pm
- \*\*Reminder:** The Berne Davis Botanical Garden is open to the public on Tuesdays & Thursdays 10-1pm

## SAVE THE DATE!

This year's Berne Davis Honorary Award luncheon is scheduled for Tuesday April 4th, 2023 at Crown Colony Country Club. Located south of Summerlin on Winkler. More information will follow, but be sure to save the date and plan to attend this fun event!

## Your Board Members

### President-

Susan Lawson 239-282-2328  
slawson921@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