

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

Mar. 7 Carissa Garden Club
Mar. 14 Bromeliad Society
Mar. 21 Master Gardeners
Mar. 28 Bonsai Society of SWFL
Apr. 4 Am. Hibiscus Society
Apr. 11 Alva Garden Club
Apr. 18 Dist IX Judges Council
Apr. 25 SWFL Orchid Society
May Volunteer Board Members

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

Questions?

Contact Susan Lawson
slawson921@gmail.com

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

This month I've lots of information to share. On Friday, March 10th our General Meeting is also our Annual Meeting. Please make sure delegates from your club attend because we will vote on the incoming Board and our operating budget. And we'll have a great presentation about the Naples Botanical Gardens by Donna McGinnis, President and CEO. You won't want to miss this!

I'd like to encourage you to attend our Berne Davis Service Awards Luncheon on Tuesday, April 4th as an opportunity to celebrate you and our member garden clubs and societies. Consider nominating someone from your club for the BDSA who has done a lot for your club. It's a wonderful honor to get recognition for the hard work they've done. And FMLCGC especially enjoys the opportunity to honor those who have served us. This year in particular we need occasions to celebrate...we've all been through a lot in the aftermath of Ian. So please come celebrate with us!

Our Gardens continue to look beautiful thanks to our team of dedicated Master Gardeners, and visitors attending have picked up on Tuesdays and Thursdays. The Bonsai Society has added another specimen, so we now have a lovely Bonsai exhibit. And our garden team is working on a their food forest and a new compost bin. We also hope to get a junior garden club started in the near future. Many thanks go to Judy Francino! Our NGC Environmental Class 2 which was held via ZOOM was a great success! We had attendees from all across the country, and I think several will join us for Class 3 in November. Don't forget to look at our events page to see what our clubs are up to in the next couple of months, and please plan to come to our Flower Show being held March 31 and April 1. We are still looking for a few folks to create some designs and you are all welcome to submit horticulture. But it's always a treat to see how creative people can be with plants and flowers. Also, we've got the Strolling Flower Show coming up on Friday, April 7. Please consider participating in and coming to this wonderful event.

See you at our next general meeting.

Susan Lawson
President



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!

For The Latest Info Check Our Website
WWW.FMLCGARDENCOUNCIL.COM

Garden Council Meeting Dates

UPCOMING BOARD MEETINGS

(Officers, Directors, Committee Chairs)

- Date: Mar. 3rd, 2023
- Date: Apr. 7th, 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, March 10th, 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 March 10, 2023

**“The establishment & development of the
Naples Botanic Gardens including future plans.”**

by Donna McGinnis, President & CEO

SAVE THE DATE FOR GARDEN COUNCIL SOCIALS!

Wednesday, April 14th, 2023. Spring Social!!

Please sign up at the March 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 February Mardi Gras Social held on Wed. Feb. 22nd was a huge success! All who participated in the craft took home a lovely flower vase. Everyone enjoyed the food and friendship; a good time was had by all!!



Edison - Ford Winter Estates

2350 McGregor Blvd., Fort Myers FL 33901

Web: EdisonFord.org

Monthly Garden Talks

Saturdays 10am

March 11th, 2023 Beguiling Begonias
April 22nd, 2023 Plant Propagation Techniques

Registration is required.

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

Gardening Classes

Tuesdays 1:30pm

Tuesday Mar. 21st– Growing Tropical Fruit
Tuesday Apr. 18th – Plant Propagation Techniques

These two hour programs include classroom & garden time.
Space is limited and registration is required.

Plant Sales & Garden Festivals

Grow Fort Myers Work Shops & Plant Sale—Apr 8th 9a-4pm

Upcoming General/Annual Meeting

At our upcoming meeting March 10th we will be voting on our slate of incoming 2023-2024 board members and budget. Be sure to have your delegates attend to participate in the vote!

Proposed slate of officers: President-Sylvia Swartz-Cape Coral Garden Club, 1st VP-Sue Fero-Royal Palm Garden Club, 2nd VP-Wendy Sprague-Alva Garden Club, Recording Secretary-Paula Smith-Estero Island Garden Club, Corresponding Secretary-Sylvia Lightbody-Fiddlesticks, Treasurer-Gail Shaw-Poinciana Garden Club and Assistant Treasurer-Ria Benton-Garden Club of Cape Coral.

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

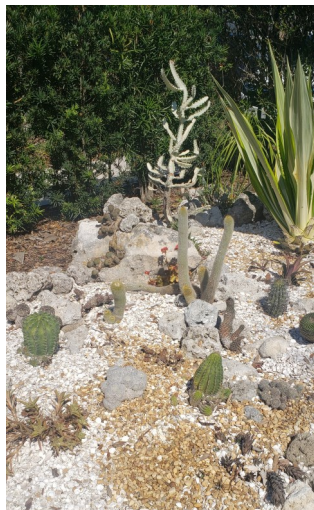
Our new Cacti Corner is “Lookin’ Sharp!”

Visitors to Berne Davis Botanical Garden have been delighted and inspired by a new feature that was created behind the Lorelei sculpture in early February. Utilizing a long forgotten cache of native stone discovered in a shady corner of the garden, our team of Lee Co. Master Gardener Volunteers redesigned the space to accommodate a generous donation of cacti and succulents from Suzy Valentine’s collection.

There’s a variety of prickly or smooth, and both tall or short forms of sun-loving succulents. Plans are being discussed to transform this mini rock-scape into a sea-floor-shipwreck scene to compliment the historical sculpture we are so proud to curate. The mythology that inspired “Lorelei” describes a legend of the siren that caused ships to wander and flounder in ancient times.

Contributions of shells — both large and small, will be welcomed at the Berne Davis facility to help create the underwater scene.

Article by Cindy Sinn,
Lee County Master Gardener Volunteer.



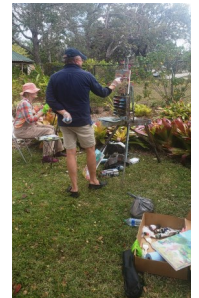
Our heartfelt thanks to both
Suzy Valentine and her late
husband David Southall for their
donation of cacti and succulents to
create this special corner of our
garden.

STROLLING FLOWER SHOW UPDATE

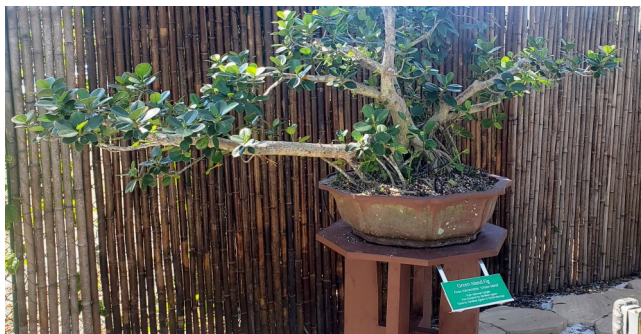
The Strolling Flower Show will be going on as planned on Friday April 7th, 2023 beginning at 2pm. If you or your club would like to participate or have any questions about this fun event, please contact Sue Fero at 518-496-2133 or sdf40@aol.com

ARTISTS IN THE GARDEN

Sanibel Big Arts has been holding painting classes in the garden...



Bonsai Society of SWFL Expands our Bonsai Exhibit



The Bonsai Society of Southwest Florida invite all fellow Council Members and the public to visit our recently expanded display at the garden.

The Bonsai Society now has three large Bonsai displays as well as a Japanese water feature, known as a “deer chaser” or shika odoshi. Our original Bonsai tree is a Ficus Benjamina planted in the “tree on rock” style. The tree sits on top, wrapping the rock with its roots which eventually reach into the ground beneath. Next the club added a “Cypress Tree Forest,” which groups multiple trees in one large rectangular pot. You may notice the larger trees are in front with the smaller trees to the back, giving it a forced perspective of a natural forest. Commonly used in landscapes, our latest addition of a Green Mound Ficus sits in a visually pleasing octagonal pot with a matching shaped stand.

All displays are elevated at a height proper for best viewing of the trees. Please note, all of our trees are in various stages of development, recovery and dormancy. Bonsai is an ever-changing and continuous art form that can be both challenging and rewarding.

If you wish to learn more about the art of Bonsai, please visit us at the Garden Council on the third Saturday of each month, from 9:00am to noon.

HORTICULTURE by Wendy Sprague

I have adopted a guanabana....

Just this past weekend I acquired a new plant. After a few years of trying to decide what kind of tropical fruit tree I needed to complete my collection, I decided on a *Annona muricata*, commonly known as a soursop or guanabana (yes, I still have a hard time saying that last word, having excitedly told my friend I bought a “guana-banana or something”...) I have wanted a fruit tree in the *Annona* family and had been unable to decide which one of the knobby, oddly shaped fruits I wanted.

The soursop is native to Central and South America as well as the West Indies. My research showed that it can be grown in extreme south Florida. I know I am taking a chance growing it here in Alva, but I am counting on a little global warning to help me along. A soursop tree can reach 15-30' high but may be pruned to 8-12 feet and maintained after it has finished fruiting. They prefer full sun and will require some protection from cold as they cannot withstand a freeze or long periods below 50F. This may be a challenge, but perhaps an over story of a much larger tree and some surrounding shrubbery will protect it? I will try and take the chance. It will need to be watered until it is established and will require only occasional watering during drought conditions once it is situated in it's new home. A balanced fertilizer with minor elements is recommended. The *Annonas* are deciduous, so my new little tree will lose it's leaves during the winter months. The seeds are toxic, so don't leave them lying around where children and pets can accidentally eat them.



So why grow a soursop or guanabana? Despite it's tart sounding name, it is a sweet, custard-like fruit that is somewhere between a strawberry and pineapple in flavor. The soursop is the only *Annona* that can be processed and canned. The pulp is commonly used in milkshakes and ice cream. And they look cool! Don't be afraid to do a little research and try an unusual tropical tree. You may be pleasantly surprised!

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!

“ ALL THAT GLITTERS”



WE are almost there ! The biennial Garden Council Flower Show will be held at the end of March honoring our sparkly President – Susan Lawson. The title of the show is “All That Glitters” and we have some wonderful designers all signed up.

Now we need all of you to submit Horticulture exhibits. Garden Club Presidents: please encourage all your members to look at the Flower Show schedule on the website and participate in the show.

Let’s show everyone what the Garden Council is all about. In addition to the show, we will have horticultural speakers, Master Gardeners to answer questions and refreshments so you and your friends can come and spend the day. Let’s make it a Flower Show to remember. THANK-YOU

Set-up and entries will be done on Thursday – March 30th between 9am and 4pm at the Garden Council building.

PLEASE contact one of the Show’s Co-Chairmen if you have any questions.

Nancy Colgan - nancyjcolgan@gmail.com Phone: 651 341-5409

Paula Novander – pnovander@yahoo.com Phone: 239 945-6548

Open to the Public

Friday , March 31 1:00 pm - 4:00 pm

Speaker: Wendy Sprague 2:00

All about Herbs in Southwest Florida

Saturday, April 1 10:00 am - 3:00 pm

Speaker: John Hampton - Orchid Society at 11:00 am

ORCHID CULTURE in SW Florida, how to get your orchid to grow and flower



Sample Reflective design - Pinterest



*She leaves a little sparkle wherever she goes. –
Kate Spade*

Cut Specimens of Herbs

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

Mar.11th, 2023 Saturday-Alva Garden Club **Plant & Strawberry Shortcake Festival** 9-1pm Alva United Methodist Church

Mar.11th, 2023 Saturday-Garden Club of Cape Coral **March in the Park** 9-3pm Jaycee Park off Del Prado at Beach Pkwy.

Mar. 17-18th, 2023 Friday-Saturday-Naples Garden Club Flower Show "**Just Imagine!**" at Naples Botanical Garden

Mar.31-Apr.1, 2023 Friday & Saturday Biennial FMLC Garden Council NCG Standard Flower Show "**All That Glitters**".
Fri 1-4pm & Sat 10am-3pm

Apr. 4th, 2023 Tuesday-Berne Davis Honorary Service Award Luncheon 11:30am at Crown Colony Golf Club

Apr.15th, 2023 Saturday-Bonsai Society Public Auction & Picnic at FMLCGC Hdqtrs. 9a-12noon

Apr. 29th, 2023 Saturday-American Hibiscus Society **70th Anniversary Show & Sale** 1pm-Sold Out at the First Assembly Of God Church 4701 Summerlin Rd, Fort Myers, FL

**Reminder: The Berne Davis Botanical Garden is open to the public on Tuesdays & Thursdays 10-1pm

BERNE DAVIS HONORARY SERVICE AWARD LUNCHEON

This year's Berne Davis Honorary Award luncheon is scheduled for Tuesday April 4th, 2023 at Crown Colony Golf & Country Club. Located south of Summerlin on Winkler. Plan to attend! Reservations are required. Please submit your form and check before March 28th. This event is Always the highlight of the season!

Your Board Members

President-

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

Recording Secretary-

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Email: beadiel@gmail.com

Treasurer-

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First Vice-President-

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