



GARDEN CLUB OF CAPE CORAL

NEWSLETTER – SEPTEMBER 2017

Our first meeting of the new season is on Wednesday, September 13, 6:30 PM at our new venue:

**Kiwanis Hall
360 Santa Barbara Blvd.
Cape Coral**

This is a much larger meeting room than at the Arts League and should make for a comfortable meeting place for many years to come. By the way, is anyone in the club a member of the Kiwanis? If you are, please let Sue Lawson know.

As always, our **September meeting** is a **Potluck supper** so that we can socialize and catch up on all the summer news. There will be no formal program but Sylvia will show an updated PowerPoint presentation to remind all of us what our garden club is about and how we do it.

Susan, our new President, will be sharing with each of you via email the food item you should bring – don't make too much. We don't each need to cater for the entire meeting. Just make it the size that you would serve at home.



There is no **Club outing** in September but October 14 we will be visiting Six Mile Cypress Slough and Southern Fresh Farms in Fort Myers – details and sign-up sheets will be available at the meeting.

Summer News

Our three summer gatherings were very successful and our thanks go to Debbie Cooper for all the effort she put into getting people together and arranging the venues (June was Paradise Pizza; July we met at Judy and Tom Peltier's home in the North-West Cape, and August was at Jason's Deli). All the gatherings were well attended and were a wonderful way of getting to know one another better. Great job Debbie!



Debbie is our Hosting Chair this year and will contact the greeters and lead host each month to remind them that their stint is coming up at the next meeting.

Since our May meeting, Corresponding Secretary Nancy Wallin has been busy, mailing the following cards to members:

Condolence card to Becky Ruben on the passing of her daughter-in-law;
A get-well card to Vincent Duncan, following knee surgery;
Congratulations cards to Kathy Woodlock and her husband, Jim on their 55th Wedding Anniversary and to Sue Lawson on her retirement; and a thank you card to Sandy Barutha, a former member of the club, who donated items for our sales table at March in the Park.

Up Coming Events:

September 8 – Fort Myers-Lee County Garden Council general meeting. 9 am. Social. 9:30 am Business meeting followed by program on Curb Appeal by Vince Molnar of Riverland Nursery.

September 9 – Edison-Ford Winter Estates Monthly Garden Talk on: The Good and Bad Bugs of Florida, by Barbara Meyer, Master Gardener, 10 am. Members \$10, Non-Members \$15.

September 14 – Edison-Ford Winter Estates Moonlight Garden Talk and Tea on the RHS Hampton Court Flower Show and about Tea – how on Earth did it make it this far? 11am;12/30 pm, reservations are required. \$20 Non members, Members \$10.

September 19 or November 3 – Learn the nine principles of **Florida Friendly Landscaping** sponsored by the University of Florida Extension Service at Rotary Park. The session will cover plant selection and placement, efficient irrigation, proper mulching and fertilizing.

September 30th – **Avon Park Correctional Facility Fall Plant Sale. 9 am to 2 pm.** Lunch \$5. If you're interested in attending, contact Susan to arrange car-pooling.

October 3 - FFGC District IX Fall meeting with the FFGC Officers attending. Theme of the meeting, at the Embassy Suites in Estero, is *The Magic of Fall*. Please tell Susan if you plan to attend and she will give you a registration form. We register individually. The cost is \$32 and includes morning coffee and lunch.

October 13 – FYN (Florida Yards and Neighborhood) Fall Gardening series kicks off at Rotary Park, Cape Coral, with Bob Cook, a Certified Horticulturist, speaking on *Tips for a successful lawn in SW FL*. All classes are free.

From time to time, when I come across interesting DIY gardening projects, I will include them in the newsletter. Here's one I think you will like from NGC's Container Gardening Chair, Mary Ann Moreno.

Succulents in a container – Wall Art for your Garden



Picture a lovely frame filled with succulents that can be hung on a wall, gate or garage – wherever you want it to be.

Begin with the frame, 3' x 2' (pictured). Drill a hole on each corner to fasten the corners together with one 2" screw. Measure and cut a length of wood to brace the middle of the frame. Nail or staple the middle support bar to the frame. On the outside of one edge of the frame, measure and drill holes for the two hanger screws. Paint your frame and wait a day.

Buy 1" chicken wire and hardware cloth, usually found in rolls in the big box stores. Cut chicken wire to cover one side of the frame. Use staples along the edge of the frame to attach the wire. This is the side you will use to plant the succulents. Turn frame over and staple hardware cloth to the frame. Drill and screw the wires securely to the edges.

You're ready to plant! You'll need succulents of assorted sizes, sphagnum moss, potting soil and wire cutters. Choose succulents that grow in your area, or more exotic ones that cannot take freezing temperatures. Cut the chicken wire to create a space for the roots or root stem. The moss and soil should be placed around each individual plant, packing tightly. The cut wires can be turned back into the area of planting to hold the succulents in place. Use a variety of large and small types of succulents. Step back and look at your work of ART. Lay your frame flat on a level surface, where it will get sun and shade for several weeks. You must be patient. Check the frame daily, keep the plants moist with a light spray from a hose, and do not stand it up until the plants have started growing!

If you have items you would like to include in the newsletter, please email details to the Newsletter Editor, Sylvia Swartz, tamargal2@aol.com, or phone 239-339-3778.