



GARDEN CLUB OF CAPE CORAL

NEWSLETTER – MARCH 2018

Our meeting this month is on March 14th, at our usual start time of 6:30 pm at the Kiwanis Hall on Santa Barbara. Our program will be presented by club member and Master Gardener, Paula Novander. Paula is an accredited NGC Flower show judge and she will give us a presentation on *Creative Floral Design*. She will show us the 'ins and outs' of floral design – just in time for our Flower Show at the end of April.

Greeters: Donna Conway and Kathy Rabassi

Hosts are: Becky Ruben Carol Lachmann
Vicki Taylor Carol Windsor
Andrea Blinn Yoko Semanczuk
Penny Piech Uli Fay
Aleksie Funes

If you are unable to fulfil this commitment, **please arrange a substitute** or, failing that, contact Hosting Chair, Debbie Cooper at 239-541-3263.

All Hands on Deck – it's MARCH IN THE PARK!

Our special event this month is our annual major fund raiser, **March in the Park**, taking place at Jaycee Park (off Del Prado Blvd. S.). By now, every club member should have signed up to undertake one of the many jobs it takes to make this event a success. If you don't have a job yet, please contact Carolyn France (239-424-8064 – hang-it-up@sbcglobal.net). All members are expected to help. If you are unsure what you have signed up for, contact Carolyn – she has the master list. Please make sure to wear a fun garden hat and your Garden Club of Cape Coral T-shirt. This makes it easy for the general public to

identify club members when they need help. Our Ways and Means Committee has been working hard all year to make MIP successful – and it's up to us now to make good on their plans and ensure MIP is a resounding success.

If you have not yet turned in your chance drawing tickets and/or cash, please bring them on Saturday **by 9 am** and give them to Charlene Anderson at the Chance Drawing Booth, which is the first booth you see on entering the park from the parking lot. We have many, many prizes to distribute so drawings will start early, and you don't want to miss your opportunity to win!

The importance of MIP as a fund raiser is highlighted by Sherie Bleiler, Chair of our Habitat Committee in the following article, and by the article that follows on the Club's sponsorship of Trafalgar Middle School's Builders Club.

Habitat for Humanity

One of the outreach nonprofits we support is Habitat for Humanity. Each year Habitat dedicates one house in Cape Coral for Mother's Day to a single mother. It's called the "Women's Build" and women mostly make up the teams that rehabilitate the house.

Our club has provided and installed landscaping at this build for the past several years. March in the Park provides the funding to buy plants, mulch, etc. The home this year has a plain, straight front. Can you imagine it wrapped in an

interesting yet low maintenance landscape? See photo below. Your ideas are welcome.

Address: **1110 NE 13th Pl., very close to Del Prado and Pine Island Rd.**



If you are interested in helping to prepare the beds and install the plants, Sherie

Bleiler will have a sign-up sheet at the March 14th meeting. We will work from Saturday, May



5th to Friday, May 11th. The dedication of the home will be on May 12th. We will also water for several weeks until the owner is allowed to sign all the papers and move in.

If you have any ideas, input or questions, please contact Sherie Bleiler: 239-233-2438 or sjbleilers@gmail.com.

Trafalgar Middle School

Each year, following the tallying of funds from March in the Park, the club donates to several school gardening projects in the Cape Coral area. One of those schools is Trafalgar Middle School. Club members Judy Peltier and Joyce Comingore, both Master Gardeners, have been working with the Builders Club students of this school for many years, teaching them about plants, gardening techniques and what to do with their harvests. Many pounds of vegetables and fruit are donated annually by the students to the local food bank. Judy and Joyce also show the students how to prepare and cook the products of their labor.

The Builders Club is run by teacher Al Piotter whose enthusiasm and energy are endless. The

students recently installed an additional garden – **Trafalgar Square**. Sue Lawson, Joyce Comingore, Carolyn France, Judy and Tom Peltier attended



last week's ribbon-cutting ceremony for the new garden.



Sue and Carolyn with Al Piotter

Judy and Joyce were recognized for their contribution to the garden which was built in six months by students and volunteers under the direction of Al Piotter. The plan was designed by the students who also sent out bids, letters asking for donations and did much of the physical labor. Plants in the garden will include hedges of cocoa plum, ground covers of sunshine mimosa and perennial peanut and butterfly gardens.

The Community stepped up with many monetary and material donations. Garden club members Jean Shields, Lee Hart, Carolyn France, Joyce Comingore, Yoko Semanczuk and Judy Peltier worked with the students planting the butterfly gardens last week.

Plants were donated by Carolyn France, Sherie Bleiler, Paula Novander and Judy Peltier. This week Judy is working with a group of students mulching the butterfly gardens which will be used by both students and staff.

So, just from the foregoing articles, you can see how important it is that March in the Park is a great success and only we, the members, can make it happen! See you all on Saturday!

New Member Bio



We welcome our newest member, John Hampton, a retired art teacher from Connecticut who joined our Club at the February meeting. He has been a full-time resident

of Cape Coral since April 2014. A keen orchid grower, John is President of the SW Florida Orchid Society. He is also an artist and owner of Madfish Ceramics. Say hello to John at the next meeting!

Upcoming Events:

March 9 – Fort Myers-Lee County Garden Council General Meeting Council Headquarters – Social 9 am followed by program at 9:30 am

March 13, Punta Gorda Garden Club Standard Flower Show – *Our Favorite Days*, noon–4:00 PM, First United Methodist Church, Fellowship Hall, 507 W. Marion Ave., Punta Gorda

March 18th, Caloosahatchee Bromeliad Society Annual Auction, FMLCG 2166 Virginia Ave. 12:30-3:30pm

March 23 – 24, Naples Garden Club Flower Show Naples Botanical Garden, Entry \$14.95.

April 8 – our own Garden Walk – details at the March meeting

April 13 – Berne Davis Service Award Luncheon, Fiddlesticks Country Club, Ft. Myers – details later.

April 21st -Bonsai Society Auction and Picnic, FMLCGC 2166 Virginia Ave.

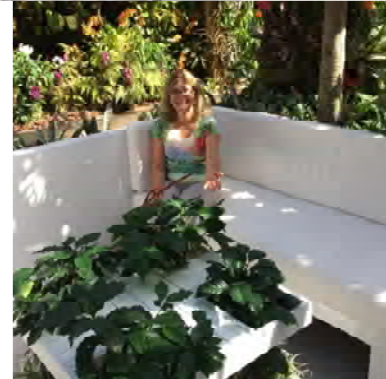
April 22 – FFGC Annual State Convention, St. Augustine FL.

February’s Picture gallery with thanks to Lois Lubber and Cheryl Byrd.

Many members thoroughly enjoyed the bus trip to the Marie Selby Gardens and here are some photos from the trip:



Cheryl Byrd in front of the wall of bromeliads



Lois Lubber enjoying the ‘living’ coffee table!



Our excellent guide



If you have anything to include in next month’s newsletter, please contact Sylvia Swartz, 239-339-3778 (tamargal2@aol.com)