



# GARDEN CLUB OF CAPE CORAL

PO Box 152022, Cape Coral, FL 33915

## NEWSLETTER – APRIL 2019

### APRIL MEETING

Our meeting on April 10th at the Kiwanis Hall, 360 Santa Barbara Blvd. will be a little different this time. The evening will begin with our customary social half hour at 6:30 pm., followed by President Sue bringing the meeting to order at 7 pm. Our Chaplain, Cynthia Mahoney, will lead us in a thought for the day and the Pledge of Allegiance

Following that, Sally Stevens, Chair of the Committee, will make presentations to the winners of our Marty Ward Merit Awards. The awards are so named to honor our founder, Marty Ward who was a tireless worker for this club and very interested in furthering the interest of young people in gardening and the environment generally.

Our business meeting will follow together with the raffle and then club member, Kathy Woodlock, Master Gardener and Flower Show Judge, will be demonstrating several ways of leaf manipulation using plant material from palms. If this is not something that you are interested in, please feel free to leave.

Greeters:	Carolyn France	Susan Wilson
Hostesses:	Debbie Cooper	Sue Nagy
	Jan Schrawder	Babu Mathew
	Judy Peltier	Paula Plum
	Sandra White	Amanda Veilleux
	Lois Luber	Jill Botvinik
	Sue Lawson	
Beverages:	Bonnie Manuel	Christine Prestella
Table centerpiece:		Susan Lawson

**If you are unable to fulfil your hosting or greeting duty, please arrange to switch with someone or, as a last resort, contact Debbie Cooper, Hospitality Chair at 239-541-3263.**

### Reminder from Babu Mathews, Membership Chair

It's time to renew your membership – this month and May are your last chances to renew before the close of our season. If you have not renewed by the time our new Directory goes to press in August, your information will not appear in the new Directory. Make your check payable to Garden Club of Cape Coral and endorse it 'dues'. Renewal rates are unchanged:

\$30 single member, \$45 Couple, \$15 Youth

If you joined the club in January of this year or later, the dues you paid at that time cover you for the 2019-2020 season (September 2019 to May 2020).

### Election of Officers 2019-2020

Don't forget we will be electing our new officers at this meeting – please be present to make your vote count. The slate is as follows:

President:	Ann Block
Joint First VP's/	Elsa Schutzman and
Program Chairs	Nora Hoover
Second VP and	
Membership Chair	Susan Noble

Treasurer	Ria Benton
Assistant Treasurer	Dona Baliotis
Recording Secretary	Martha Howard
Corres. Secretary	Nancy Wallin
Past President	Susan Lawson

Thanks to all for volunteering to stand.

## Advance Notice of change to meeting times beginning Sept.

Following comments from numerous members over several months, the Board voted at their last meeting to amend the start time of our meetings to 6 pm, **beginning with our September 2019 meeting.**

## Habitat for Humanity 2019

This is the 8th year, our garden club will be landscaping a home for Habitat for Humanity during their "Women's Build" project. Each year, Habitat dedicates a home for Mother's Day to a single mother. Teams of mostly women descend on the house for two weeks to put the finishing touches on the home. The new owner will be there working on her days off work also.

Habitat gives a "hand up", not a "hand out". Potential owners need to have a steady source of income, good credit score and pay the down payment and closing costs. Owners also accept a mortgage, according to their income. Habitat carries the mortgage over that amount. Owners need to take classes on home maintenance and give 300+ hours of "sweat equity" working to build their home or other Habitat homes.

Our previous projects were older, mostly foreclosed homes, that already had trees, etc. on them. This year, it is a new build. City landscaping rules are different with a new home. We need to obtain at least 20 bushes, and three or four trees. Our trees need to be 10'

tall! Sherie Bleiler, chair of this Committee, is not sure if we will need to pick them up or ask Habitat to get them. This depends on where we purchase them. The bushes need to be 18", except coonties, which need to be 12". If you would like to make a donation to help cover the cost of the larger trees and bushes required, please give a check to our Treasurer, Ria Benton, endorsed 'Habitat', made payable to Garden Club of Cape Coral.

Please contact Sherie:

- If you would like to help transport plants.
- If you have plants you would like to donate.

Our planting days will be May 4th - 10th, working mornings from 8:00 - noon (or less). If you would like to volunteer a morning, there will be a sign-up sheet at the meeting.

Address: 1331 NW 33rd Ln. (near Del Prado, north of Kismet) Drive by if you'd like to see the progress. Here is a picture of the house taken April 1.



All suggestions are welcomed! Please contact Sherie Bleiler, 239-233-2439 or email: [sjbleilers@gmail.com](mailto:sjbleilers@gmail.com)

## Busy Bee Award

Nominations are still open for our first ever round of Busy Bee Awards. This award recognizes a club member who is very active in the club, a real Busy Bee, who's always willing to help and participates in whatever he/she can. You can nominate the same person more than once (i.e., at each meeting you could complete a nomination form for your nominee) and give it to Jean Shields, Chair of this Committee. Alternatively, just email Jean, ([hijean1@comcast.net](mailto:hijean1@comcast.net)) with the name of your nominee and she will make sure it is included in the vote. Voting closes soon – Winner announced at our May meeting.



## Berne Davis Service Award Luncheon

The 2019 Berne Davis Service Award Luncheon will be held at Fiddlestick Country Club, Fort Myers on Wednesday, April 24. This luncheon, organized by the Fort Myers-Lee County Garden Council, is held every year to honor the recipient of the Berne Davis Service Award 2019. It's a very pleasant social event when you can meet people from other clubs/societies in the area. The cost is \$25. Checks made payable to FMLCGC, should be given or sent to Charlene Anderson, 2721 SW 36<sup>th</sup> Lane, Cape Coral, FL 33914. Please also indicate your food choice of either chicken or fish.

## Donations to Local Schools

Following our very successful March in the Park, the Board decided to increase the donations we make to local schools for their horticulture programs. Accordingly, we will be giving seven schools \$400 each: Cape Coral HS (for herb

garden), Trafalgar MS (for Builders club), Island Coast HS (to grow duckweed for their tilapia farm), Diplomat HS (improve garden, add swing for autistic students), Mariner HS (Sensory garden), Mariner MS (drip irrigation), Ida Baker HS (herb garden). The Board also agreed to give Alex Mackey, one of our 2014 Merit Award winners, \$300 to assist towards her travel expense to China as part of her master's degree program on Sustainability. The total of these civic donations is \$3,100.

We will also, of course, be making our annual Marty Ward Merit Awards to local High School students at our upcoming meeting. The total amount being awarded this year is \$4,000.

## Coral Trace Spruce Up Project

The first session to clean up the courtyard garden at Coral Trace took place on March 28. Planting will take place on April 4. Many thanks to all those who have worked on this project: Ria Benton, Janetta Fox, Debbie Haggett, Debbie Clements, Becky Ruben, Ginny Huffer, Ann Block and a special shout-out to Nancy Finnegan for the use of her rototiller and donation of some tropical sage.

Whilst on the subject of Coral Trace, we continue to be in need of mugs for use at our monthly visits to residents when we make small floral arrangements in coffee mugs or tea cups. For some strange reason, none of the cups/mugs ever reappear at our subsequent visits so please help if you can by

donating replacement mugs/cups for us.  
Thank you!



*New Border made by Debbie Clements*



*Spruced up Shade Garden*

## **Blue Star Memorial Marker**

Thank you for your overwhelming support for this project at the May meeting. Plans for the Blue Star Memorial Marker are already underway. We are excited to have Razzle Dazzle present a Fashion Show as our fund raiser. More about that

later. Right now, we have four members on the committee, Ann Block, Paula Plum (Chair), Jean Shields and Elsa Schutzman. We need your help so contact Paula to sign up (239-424-8157 or by email [paprplum@gmail.com](mailto:paprplum@gmail.com)). It will be fun as well as being a very worthwhile community project.

## **Landscape Design Course 2**

If you are interested in the Landscape Design course being offered April 26 and 27 at the Fort Myers-Lee County Garden Council HQ, please reach out to Vicki Williamson asap at [vbwilliamson47@gmail.com](mailto:vbwilliamson47@gmail.com). They have a couple of openings. The courses do not have to be taken in order.

## **FFGC District IX Spring Meeting**

If you would like to attend this meeting which will be hosted by Calusa Garden Club in Marco Island on May 7, the registration form is included with this email. Cost, which includes lunch, is \$35. If you want to stay overnight, there is a block of 2-bedroom/2-bathroom suites available, so you could share a room. Reservations for these rooms will probably go fast so act quickly to reserve. Hope some of you are able to attend...it's always nice to hear what other garden clubs are up to. Please let President Sue know if you plan to attend so that car pooling can be arranged.

## **LAST FUN WITH FLOWERS OF THE SEASON**

It's not too late to sign up for the last *Fun with Flowers* program for this season – April 12<sup>th</sup> at FMLCGC building. The cost is only \$15 and includes all supplies. Registration form on our website. The new program will begin again in the fall.

## LAST BUT NOT LEAST – OUR SURVEY!!

Every few years, the Board prepares a survey to sample members' thoughts/comments about the Club and how it's being run. President Sue will be distributing this via email and will also bring a few copies to the April meeting. Please return them as soon as possible to President Sue – we really want to hear from our membership.

## Upcoming Events

Apr. 7 to 9, FFGC Annual Convention 2019, St. Augustine

Apr. 12 – Fun with Flowers at FMLCGC, \$15 – all supplies included. Registration form on our Website. Register by April 5.

April 12 and 13 Gulf Coast Garden Club Flower Show, 3 to 6PM on the 12th and 10-4 PM on the 13<sup>th</sup> at the Unity Church, 28285 Imperial Parkway, Bonita Springs, FL.

Apr. 13 - 10:00 am, Roses in SWFL  
Edison Estates Monthly Gardening Talk:  
\$10.00 Members, \$15 Non-Members

April 20 Native, Butterfly and Edible Plant Sale, Rotary Park – There is also a rain barrel class that same day at Rotary Park.

April 20 - Bonsai Soc. of SW FL – Auction and Picnic – 9 am to 1 pm., FMLCGC HQ

April 24 – Berne Davis Service Award Luncheon, Fiddlesticks Country Club

May 7 – FFGC District IX Spring Meeting, Marco Island – see registration form below.

And the spring native, butterfly and edible plant sale at Rotary Park is Saturday, April 20. Folks can also sign up for a rain barrel class.

### Reminders from Lakes Park

**1st Saturday** 8AM Bird Walks 12 months a year.  
Meet at shelter A7

**2nd Saturday** Guided Garden Walks - Oct-April  
9:00 AM– 1:00 PM  
Meet at Community Garden Sign; end of parking lot #3

Wednesdays Farmers Market - runs October through April 9AM– 1PM

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If you have items you would like included in the May newsletter, please email details to Sylvia Swartz, [tamargal2@aol.com](mailto:tamargal2@aol.com)

