

GARDEN CLUB OF CAPE CORAL



Member of National Garden Clubs, Inc.,
Deep South Garden Clubs, Inc.,
Florida Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc. (District IX) and
Fort Myers-Lee County Garden Council

May 2024 Edition



This is a special edition of the Garden Club of Cape Coral newsletter which will cover the April and May general membership meetings as well as other events that have been taking place over the last two months. The Garden Club has been very busy – the presentation of the merit scholarships at the April meeting, Fun with Flowers, the Berne Davis Luncheon, the Flower Show at the Cape Coral Library, the Photography Contest, the picnic at Berne Davis Gardens, the Plant Prop Swap at the Northwest Library, the District IX meeting in Lake Placid, and most recently the new Garden Club project at Sands Park.

*Flowers are the music of the ground
from earth's lips spoken without sound.*

~ Edwin Curran

May 2024

Editor--Donna Schmidt

Board of Directors

President – Donna Schmidt

First Vice President – VACANT

**Second Vice President –
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Treasurer – Patty Lyon

Assistant Treasurer – Susan Noble

**Recording Secretary –
Charlene Anderson**

**Corresponding Secretary -
Valorie Breen**

**Immediate Past Presidents -
Ann Block
Elsa Schutzman**

**Ways & Means Co-Chair -
Sylvia Swartz**

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Garden Club of Cape Coral



SUMMER SOCIAL – WEDNESDAY – JUNE 12TH

The first Garden Club Summer Social will take place on Wednesday, June 12th starting at 6:00 p.m. at Fins Seafood & Dive Bar located at 3422 Del Prado Boulevard. Please text Debbie Cooper if you will be attending. Please include your name and the total number of people who will be attending.

Merit Scholarship Awards – April 10th

The Garden Club presented the annual Merit Scholarship Awards to four local high school students at our April 10th membership meeting. The winners – Alah Castro, Nate Lawson, Kylee Land, and Riley McFarland – have accomplished so much over the past four years. A huge thank you goes out to the Garden Club’s Scholarship Committee members – Cheryl Byrd, Bonnie Manuel, Janice Johnsen, Alessia Leathers and Chandra Girdhari. I am sure they had some tough decisions to make based on the applications that they received. On another note, special scholarship grants were given to two graduating seniors at Cape Coral High School (CCHS). The presentation took place in the Principal's Conference Room at CCHS on Thursday afternoon, April 18th. In attendance were Principal Ryan Jackson, Environmental Sciences Teacher Lori Shaw, Social Worker and Counselor Therese Edwards, representing the Garden Club were Donna Schmidt, Patty Lyon, Cheryl Byrd, Janice Johnsen, and Chandra Girdhari, and CCHS seniors Nathaniel Lawson and Brynna Street. Thank you to our Garden Club members for the special contributions you made from the bottom of your hearts to support Nate and Brynna with their future endeavors.



Fun with Flowers

The last session of Fun with Flowers for the 2023-2024 season took place on Friday, April 19th. This event once again sold out and has become extremely popular with others who are not in the Garden Club. Thank you Susan Lawson, Nancy Colgan, Kathy Woodlock, Fran McIntyre, and Elizabeth Meska from Poinciana Garden Club for helping the group with make such beautiful flower arrangements.



Garden Club of Cape Coral

Trip to Sincerely Succulents – April 20th

On Saturday, April 20th, six of our Garden Club members went to Sincerely Succulents in Buckingham to participate in the monthly Garden Club event. As you can see, they had so much fun making their own succulent arrangements at the potting bar. The group then went to lunch at Buckingham Farms. Sincerely Succulents/Maree Farms is owned and operated by a mother/daughter team. They have a wide variety of plants and planters as well and are truly knowledgeable about growing plants here in SW Florida.



Eagle Scout Donation – Lucas Hoehn

The Garden Club recently made a \$100 donation to Lucas Hoehn. Lucas is a senior honor roll student at Cape Coral High School and a Boy Scout with Troop 101 in Fort Myers. Lucas was working on an Eagle Scout project to build an information kiosk for the Cape Coral High School community garden. The estimated cost was between \$1,000 to \$1,200. With the help of the Garden Club and others in the area, Lucas reached his goal to complete the kiosk. Any funds raised over the goal has been donated to the community garden for future use. Lori Shaw, the teacher at the high school, sent along this note:

“We are looking forward to Lucas’s contribution and support of outreach education. He is a model student and exemplary in all that he does. We are excited to see another eagle scout project that is a stellar model for all young men and women in the community. We will dedicate a sign to the scouts and local troop so that all will know your support of our young people!”



Garden Club of Cape Coral

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!!

Valda Gowing-Schreiber joined the Garden Club in April. Valda and her husband live here in Cape Coral for 6 consecutive months and then return to their home in Gloucester, Massachusetts.

Valda is a member of the North Shore Horticultural Society headquartered in Manchester-by-the-Sea, MA, and is a member of Generous Gardeners, located in Gloucester, MA. Below is a picture of part of the gardens from her house in Essex, MA that they sold in 2019. In Florida, Valda and her husband own a condo. They are currently prepping their Gloucester home for sale in hopes to be here in Cape Coral in the very near future.



Peggy Loyson joined the club in April – “Hi and thank you for the warm welcome. I joined the garden club after the president gave a talk at the last NRC meeting. She sparked my interest. Also, two of my friends are already members and encouraged me join. I moved here from Michigan in late 2015 to be close to our daughter who is a physician in Cape Coral. My husband followed a year later after taking care of his invalid mother and selling our home. We currently bought a home in NW Cape by the golf course. I am a registered nurse and worked 48 years in the intensive care unit. Stopped working when the pandemic was too much to handle. Currently working as a volunteer for Hope Hospice. Besides our daughter here, we have a pharmacist son in Hawaii and a registered nurse daughter in Michigan. We have 2 grandchildren with another on the way. I love the outdoors and working in my back yard and lanai. I have over 90 potted plants on my lanai alone! I also like to do Pilates, ride my bike, walk on the beach, travel, and do numerous craft projects. Also do craft shows in the fall. Looking forward to making new friends and learning new information about our “Florida Friendly” environment.”

Gayla Moore joined the club in April – “I'm a transplant from Bloomington, Illinois. My husband, Todd, and I relocated to Cape Coral in 2016. Both of our adult daughters attended Florida universities and continue to live in Florida. I am a retired educator of 27 years as a teacher and principal. I am currently a local realtor and continue my love for education by teaching classes within my office. I am excited to be a part of the CC Garden Club and look forward to meeting other members, learning how to make my yard beautiful and serving the community through club activities.”

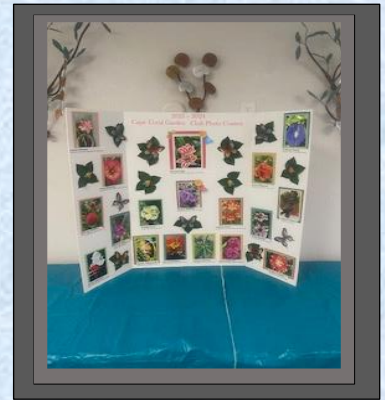
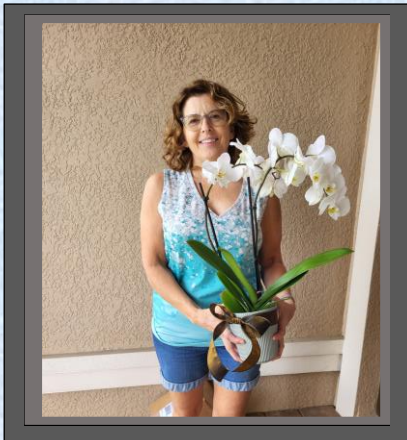


If you are a new member, please feel free to send along your bio to Sally Stevens to share with our club members in the newsletter.

Garden Club of Cape Coral

PHOTOGRAPHY CONTEST – AND THE WINNER IS.....

The winner of this year's Photography Contest is Rachele Epp!! A total of 18 photos were submitted for the contest this year. Rachele submitted a picture of the Amaryllis Candy Striper (*Hippeastrum Reticulatum*). This amaryllis is planted in the ground around a Foxtail Palm in her yard. Rachele was not able to attend the May 8th picnic to receive her prize. Joanne Kishfy presented Rachele with a beautiful orchid at her home. Rachele's photo will be displayed on the cover of the Garden Club's 2024-2025 Membership Directory. Congratulations Rachele!!! Thank you Joanne for being Chair of the Photography Committee!!



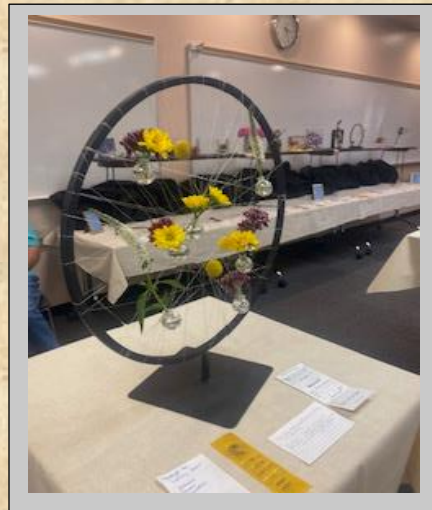
Berne Davis Award Luncheon – April 23rd – Fort Myers

This year's annual Berne Davis Award Luncheon took place at the Fiddlesticks Country Club in Fort Myers on Tuesday, April 23rd. Charlene Anderson, our Garden Club's Recording Secretary, won the Berne Davis award this year!!! Charlene has been a member of the Garden Club since 2009. During this time, she has taken on many roles and responsibilities within our Garden Club and the Garden Council as well as her current role as Treasurer of District IX. Fifteen members of the Garden Club attended the luncheon. Congratulations Charlene!!! We are so immensely proud of you and your many accomplishments!! We had fifteen members from our Garden Club attend the luncheon.



Flower Show - Cape Coral Library - April 26th and 27th

The Flower Show took place on April 26th and 27th at the Cape Coral Library. This was an amazing event. Co-chairs Kathy Woodlock and Sylvia Swartz, along with the many other volunteers, did an outstanding job. There were so many entries ... it was so extremely hard to pick out your favorite design or horticulture entry. Terry Fisher took first place for the necklace she made from leaves. Here's a special note from Sylvia - *"Many thanks to you all from Kathy and me for everything you did to make the flower show run so smoothly - from those of you who worked on classification, to placing, to clerking, it truly was a team effort, and we are so grateful to you all. The judges were very complimentary about the content of the show and the assistance they received from the clerks' team. You can all be very proud of a job well done - thank you!"*



Garden Club of Cape Coral

Picnic – May 8th – Berne Davis Garden Council Gardens – Fort Myers

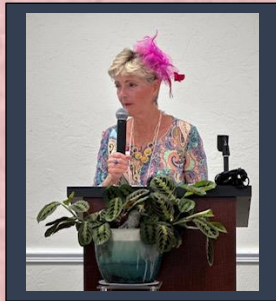
Our May monthly meeting was a picnic that took place on Wednesday, May 8th. It was an enormous success!! I genuinely believe everyone had so much fun. Our members brought their own sandwich, and the Board members supplied the sides and dessert. We had a scavenger hunt in the gardens ... we played bingo ... prizes were given to the winners!! This was our final meeting for the 2023-2024 season. Thank you to the Picnic Planning Committee for organizing such a wonderful event – Babu Mathew, Linda Spadaccini, Nancy Finnegan, Sharon Horton, and Donna Schmidt. Thank you, Sylvia, for the idea of having a picnic as well as the scavenger hunt.



Garden Club of Cape Coral

District IX Spring Meeting – May 22nd – Lake Placid

The District IX Spring Meeting took place on Wednesday, May 22nd. This was the first meeting for Susan Lawson in her new role as District IX President. Little did I know, we were going to the caladium capital of the world. Hosted by the Lake Placid Garden Club, 97 members from various garden clubs in District IX along with 5 guests attended this event. The speaker, Dr. Robert Hartman, gave a highly informative talk on the history of caladiums and how they breed new varieties. Several FFGC awards were presented by Sylvia Swartz to the club presidents who were in attendance at the meeting. The Garden Club won three awards – one for Fun with Flowers, one for Community Service for March in the Park, and one for the Newsletter!! The Garden Club also received a check in the amount of \$75 (\$25 for each award). The Garden Club of Cape Coral will be hosting the District IX Spring Meeting in May 2025.



Happy Birthday to our members celebrating in May!!

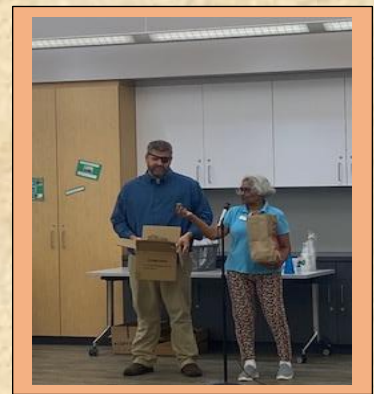
Gwen Pitts – May 1st
Ann Block – May 3rd
Frannie Cox – May 3rd
Mary Ann Sloan Greiner – May 6th
Andrea Garlanger – May 7th
Nora Hoover – May 11th
Mary Kay Robbins-Kralapp – May 20th

Linda Keirstead – May 21st
Belinda Kullson – May 21st
Jane Anderson – May 23rd
Cynthia Mahoney – May 24th
Linda Spadaccini – May 28th
Elsa Schutzman – May 31st

Garden Club of Cape Coral

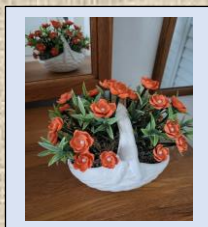
Plant Prop Swap at the Northwest Library – Tuesday, May 21st

The Garden Club participated in the first Plant Prop Swap that took place on May 21st. This event was organized by the staff at the Cape Coral Northwest Library. Babu Mathew was the guest speaker. She talked about ginger, turmeric, and other plants that she grows in her garden. She had a bag full of samples that she passed around so others could take them home. Peggy Cruz and Chandra Girdhari also attended the event, and they also brought some plants to share. Peggy had a couple desert rose plants that she grew from seed. There was a good turnout with about 20 others from the community, and everyone was able to talk about what brought them to the meeting. There were lots of plants both indoor and outdoor that were available to swap. Will Blydenburgh, the Branch Manager, and his staff will be planning another event for some time in August. It was a lot of fun and we were able to meet others who also have the love of gardening and enjoy watching our gardens grow.



Arts & Crafts

We would like to get a group of our members together over the summer to share ideas and to start making crafts and other art to prepare for upcoming fundraising events. If you are interested in joining us with this new adventure, please contact Donna Schmidt. We plan to meet once a month in June, July, and August before our 2024-2025 season begins in September.



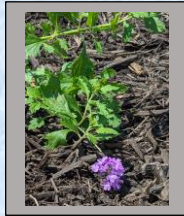
Garden Club of Cape Coral

Sands Park Project

The Garden Club has just started a new project at Sands Park. This 16-acre park has one section designated as a butterfly garden. The City just dedicated this new park 6 months ago, so all the plants are newly planted in the ground. Although there are many plants already planted in the butterfly area, we plan to add more variety. Each month, club members can sign up to work in the morning to add some plants which will attract butterflies and pollinators.

On May 22nd, seven members of the garden club gathered with our shovels and rakes to add a variety of shrubs and wildflowers. Pictured are Deb Leh, Cindy Wasilak, Elsa Schutzman (behind Cindy), Tanya Rowland, Valerie Breen, and Reina Diaz. Reina is a scholarship recipient from 2023 who has offered to volunteer each week in our gardens. She is a Botany major at FGCU. We planted senna and porter weed bushes. Wildflowers included gaillardia, coreopsis, and beach verbena.

In June, we will schedule our 2nd planting day. If you would like to participate and request a certain day of the week, please contact Sherie Bleiler. Otherwise, our tentative date is Thursday, June 20th, 8:00 - 10:00.



Garden Club Board and Committee Chair Positions

As the Board recently announced, Cathy Dunn has stepped down as First Vice President of the Garden Club as she will now be the President of the Hibiscus Society. Cathy will still be involved with the Garden Club and will be available to assist the new Vice President and answer any questions. We wish Cathy all the best in her new role with the Hibiscus Society!!

The Garden Club also has a few Committee Chair positions that are currently open. We will be sending out an email listing the positions and what each entail.

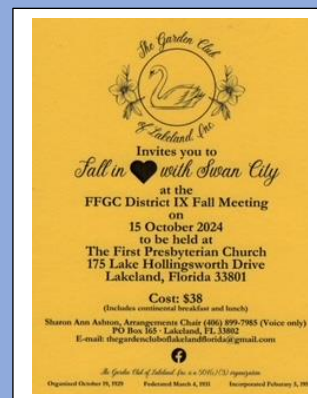
If you are interested in the Vice President position or have any questions, please feel free to contact Donna Schmidt or any of the other Board members.

CHORES AND PLANTING GUIDE – ZONE 10

- Annuals that can take full sun during the increasingly scorching summer months include celosia, portulaca, vinca, and some coleus.
- Summer's warm, rainy months are the perfect time to plant palms. Make sure not to cover the trunk with soil.
- Plant heat-loving herbs, including basil, ginger, summer savory, cumin, Mexican tarragon, and rosemary.
- Plant tropical vegetables, such as boniato, calabaza, and chayote this month.
- Monitor the landscape and garden weekly for harmful insects. Knowing which insects attack a plant can aid in identification and treatment.
- Watch for drought stress and water as needed if rainfall has been spotty. Focus on new plantings and follow watering restrictions. When rains begin, shut down the irrigation system.
- Produce more plants by air layering, grafting, division, or cuttings.
- Lightly prune summer-flowering shrubs, like hibiscus, oleander, and ixora, during the warmer months to increase blooming.
- Clean up your vegetable garden and solarize the soil for 4–6 weeks to kill pests and disease.

(Source: *Sow True Seed*)

OTHER GARDEN EVENTS



Garden Club of Cape Coral

Message from the President

My first year as the new President of the Garden Club has ended. I have so enjoyed collaborating with all of you. I have learned so much as to what a garden club is all about and the role the club plays in the amazing community we live in. I have relied on the board members for guidance and support. I want to mention that Cathy Dunn has been there for me every step of the way. Thank you so much for all you have done for me and the Garden Club. I am most certain that the other Board members cringed when they received the agenda for the Board meetings. I must say, they could be very lengthy, but we were able to accomplish so much in the time we had allotted for each meeting. Everyone was willing to get involved with the new projects that crossed our paths on top of dealing what we already had on our plates. I am speaking on behalf of myself and all the Board members – this is an amazing Garden Club with so many wonderful people to work with and to enjoy spending our time together. Thank you to all our members who participated in March in the Park to make the scholarship awards possible. And thank you to the members who made a special donation to the other scholarship funds this year.

Throughout the summer, we will be getting together often for those who are still in the Cape. We will have our monthly social get-togethers. We will be taking some trips together. We will be working on arts and crafts. Please keep an eye out for the emails making the announcements for all these special events.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve as your President. I look forward to working with all of you in our journey to learn and grow in all that we do to educate our members, to promote civic beautification in our community, and to promote friendship with our fellow gardeners. Have a wonderful summer. See you in September!!

Donna Schmidt