

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

September 2024 Edition



September 2024

Editor--Donna Schmidt

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President – Donna Schmidt

First Vice President – VACANT

**Second Vice President –
Terry Fisher**

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-Chairs -
Sylvia Swartz and
Cathy Dunn**

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Message from the President

**Welcome back fellow Garden Club members!!
Looking forward to seeing everyone at the September
meeting taking place at our new meeting location –
the Epiphany Episcopal Church
located at**

2507 Del Prado Boulevard S. in Cape Coral.

**The Garden Club will now be meeting on the
second Tuesday of the month.**

**We look forward to seeing you there on
Tuesday, September 10th, starting at 5:45 p.m. Along
with our potluck, a fun craft session and a few
announcements, we will have a guest speaker,
Peggy Stamper the STEM Educator and School Garden
Leader at Pelican Elementary.**

***We don't stop gardening because we grow old, we
grow old because we stop gardening!!!***

Garden Club of Cape Coral

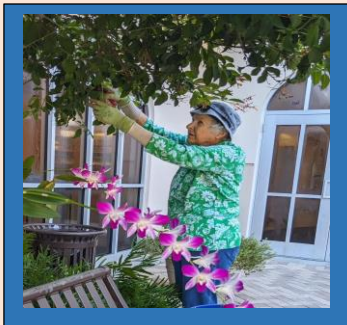
SUMMER SOCIALS

The Garden Club had four social gatherings over the summer – Fins Seafood & Dive Bar, Big 8 BBQ, Hurricane Grill & Wings, and Nevermind. A huge thank you to Debbie Cooper for organizing the events!! What a wonderful way for some of our members to get together!!



BUTTERFLY GARDEN AT THE LIBRARY

The Library Butterfly Garden team has been hard at work over the summer. As you will see from the middle picture, the members are standing under the brown bud allamanda vine ... look at all the blooms!! Pictured are Elsa Schutzman, Lynne Viacava, Cindy Wasilak, Valorie Breen, Debbie Cooper and Sherie Bleiler, the leader of this amazing group of volunteers. Joanne Kishfy took the picture. Thank you for all your hard work and dedication to keep this beautiful garden maintained and growing!!



Elsa is trimming the dwarf firebush next to a dendrobium orchid in bloom



Monarch drinking from dwarf poinciana



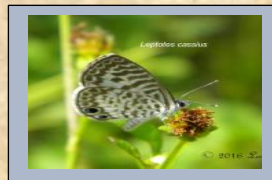
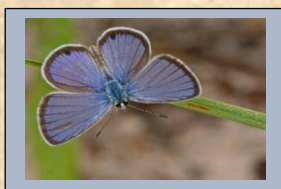
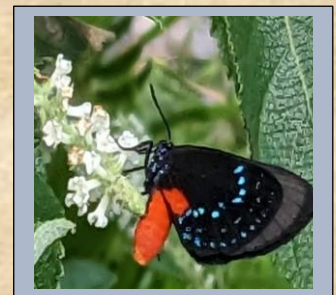
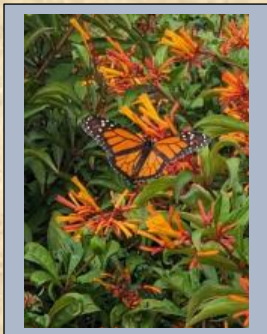
Cloudless Sulphur that emerged while the team was working

SANDS PARK BUTTERFLY GARDEN PROJECT
Do you like to dig in the dirt?

Earlier this year, Sherie Bleiler approached the Garden Club Board and asked if we would like to get involved with the butterfly garden at Sands Park, a new park located in SW Cape Coral. The Board agreed this would be a wonderful idea to participate in the development and maintenance of the new garden. During the past three months, eight club members have become city park volunteers and added 127 small plants. However, the team still needs more volunteers to become involved with this wonderful project. They have removed many yards of overplanted dune sunflower as well. However, trimming of the dune sunflower is still a serious problem, overtaking the regular bushes that have been planted. If you would like to trim some borders between the sunflower and bushes, please bring a hedge trimmer. This is a 2-person job, with one person pulling and holding up the vines, while the other person wields the trimmer.

Rotary Park had money they needed to spend to buy plants! Sherie ordered some plants from All Native nursery – lantana, salvia, and milkweed – which have all been planted. Rotary Park now has more money to purchase plants, but we need more volunteers as well. All you will need to do is bring a large shovel plus your small trowel. There are always weeds to attend to as well. Please bring a weeder or small hand shovel to help remove the full root. Bring a kneeler or stool or whatever helps you weed comfortably. At times, watering may need to happen. If this is the case, the volunteers will be asked to bring water jugs from home. You are welcome to visit the beginning stages of this "work in progress" at any time. The current members of the team are Ann Fowler, Cindy Wasilak, Deborah Leh, Elsa Schutzman, Sally Stevens, Tanya Rowland, Valorie Breen, Sherie Bleiler, and Reina Diaz, a college student who was awarded a Garden Club scholarship in April 2023. Thank you all for your hard work to promote civic beautification in our city.

Sherie recently took this picture of a monarch visiting the firebush (left). The team hopes to have Atala butterflies eventually due to the many coontie bushes at Sands Park (right). Keep your eyes open for tiny ceraunus blue butterflies around the plumbagos. They are blue on one side and speckled on the other, as in the pictures below.

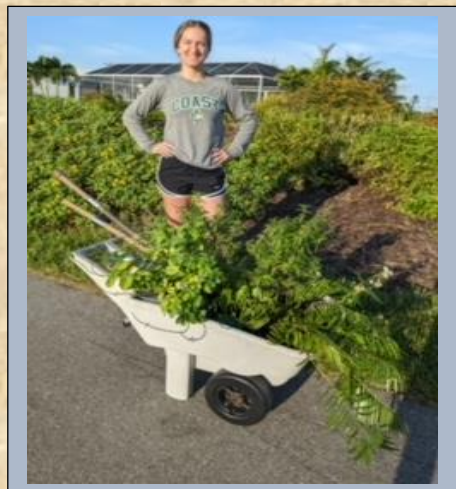


SANDS PARK BUTTERFLY GARDEN PROJECT

Do you like to dig in the dirt?

(continued)

The Sands Park Team gets together on the third Thursday of the month. The next session will be on September 19th. If you would like to participate in one of our monthly planting/weeding days, please contact Sherie Bleiler (refer to membership directory for her information). Sherie is usually there by 7:30 a.m. and stays until 10:00 a.m. You may come later - at 8:00 or 9:00 a.m. Any help is greatly appreciated! You will need to sign up with the City of Cape Coral before working on this project – Sherie can assist you with this process.



**Marty Ward Annual Merit Awards Committee
Support our youth – we need your help!!**

The Marty Ward Annual Merit Awards Committee is just now beginning its work for 2024-25. The committee needs more members to help with the scholarship process.

Unfortunately, they have lost two members of the committee – leaving only three members to decide who will receive the awards this year. The committee functions best with five to seven members and benefits from a more diverse set of ideas and evaluations of scholarship applicants. The committee is also uncomfortable with only three Garden Club members making the decisions about how to spend a large portion of our Garden Club's budget.

Therefore, they are seeking at least two new members and would welcome more. You do not have to be a Cape Coral or Florida resident, as they do most of their in-person work during two committee meetings in early November and late February/early March. Awards are presented at the April general membership meeting and the committee members all like to be present for that. They do a lot of their work using email, and documents are exchanged as attachments to emails. In addition, the committee has been awarding scholarships for over ten years now and their starting point will be based on last year's documents and supporting activities. This is a good time to join the team as they are at the beginning of a new year.

Please reach out to Committee Co-Chair, Cheryl Byrd, for additional information. We look forward to having some new members on the team. Cheryl's contact information can be found in the Garden Club's membership directory.

**SPECIAL REQUEST FROM OUR MEMBERSHIP CHAIR TERRY FISHER
Help with handing out Membership Directory**

If you are going to be attending the upcoming September 10th general membership meeting, Terry Fisher needs your help. We need a volunteer to help hand out our 2024-2025 Membership Directory at the meeting. Please contact Terry if you would like to assist her with this task. This will be a wonderful way to greet our members, both old and new. Terry's contact information can be found in the directory.

NEW MEMBER ORIENTATION

What a perfect way to meet our new members!!

Would you like to meet new members directly and help to welcome them to the Garden Club? We will add a personal greet and meet to people who join, in addition to our sign-up process, during regular monthly meetings. There are no extra committee meeting times involved if you volunteer!! You can become a friendly, familiar face, introduce them to others and offer some welcome seating. Please be willing to share your contact information for answering questions our new members may have outside meeting time. Thanks in advance for your willingness to offer a special "Hello" to new members! Please contact Sally Stevens if you have any questions. Sally's information is in the membership directory.

CUPS OF CHEER

Calling all volunteers to help bring cheer to others!!

Peggy Cruz and Linda Spadaccini are the new co-chairs for the Cups of Cheer garden therapy group. They have decided to hold our Cups of Cheer visits at the Atrium at Liberty Park. The Atrium is a supported independent living, and an assisted living facility located 1321 NE 24th Avenue in Cape Coral.

Our members will be able to participate in three scheduled visits with the residents to make flower arrangements: Christmas (early December), Valentines Day (early February) and Mother's Day (early May). They hope to have 10-15 residents sign up for each visit with 15 residents being the max.

They are planning on meeting with the Life Enrichment Coordinator at the Atrium, Cheryl Cooper. They will have more details after their meeting on exact dates and times.

Peggy and Linda are both new at this so if there is anyone who is available to join them or might have any suggestions your assistance would be greatly appreciated.

They will need help with gathering cups and/or containers and with information on where they might purchase or have flowers donated.

Thank you in advance for any help you may provide. Please contact Peggy or Linda if you have any questions. Their information is in the membership directory.

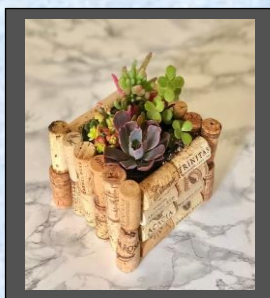
Garden Club of Cape Coral

ARTS & CRAFTS COMMITTEE

The new Arts & Crafts Committee is off to a great start. The committee had a few meetings over the summer, and our Garden Club certainly has quite a few members who are very talented artists and crafters. The next meeting will be on Monday, September 30th starting at 10:00 a.m. in the conference room at the Cape Coral Library located at 921 SW 39th Terrace. The group is in the process of making items to sell at the upcoming October Plant Sale at Rotary Park taking place on October 19th.

Some of our committee members will have the items they are currently making on display at our upcoming membership meeting. If you have any wine corks that you have been holding on to for a while, please bring them to the meeting on September 10th or contact Patty Lyon. We could really use them for the special cork planters we are making (see picture below).

If you are interested in additional information, please contact Donna Schmidt or Patty Lyon.



GARDEN CLUB WEBSITE

At the Garden Club's last board meeting, it was decided that we need to hire a company to update and maintain the Garden Club's website. Ann Block and

Donna Schmidt will be meeting with a representative from Papyrus on Monday, September 9th to go over the details. We will share the outcome of this meeting with our members. I wanted to thank Ann for taking on the task of updating the website. She has been working with Lillian Peterson, the original creator of the website, for the past two years without having any type of previous web design experience. Thank you Lillian for all your dedication to this project as well. We are asking for your patience as we work with Papyrus to make all the necessary changes.

UNDER CONSTRUCTION

SAVE THE DATES

Below is a list of dates to add to your calendar for Garden Club events and meetings through December

- *Garden Council Meeting - Friday, September 13**
- *Monthly Meeting - Tuesday, September 10**
- *Design Circle Meeting - Monday September 16**
- *Arts & Crafts Committee Meeting - Monday, September 30**
- *Ways & Means Committee Meeting - Monday, October 7**
- *Monthly Meeting - Tuesday, October 8**
- *Trip to Lakes Park Fragrance Garden - Friday, October 11**
- *Design Circle Meeting - Monday, October 14**
- *District IX Fall Meeting in Lakeland - Tuesday, October 15**
- *Fun with Flowers - Friday, October 18**
- *Rotary Park Plant Sale - Saturday, October 19**
- *Ways & Means Committee Meeting - Monday, November 4**
- *Garden Council Meeting - Friday, November 8**
- *Trip to Christian's Butterfly Farm Nursery & Garden Brunch at Blossom & Brie - Saturday, November 16**
- *Monthly Meeting - Tuesday, November 12**
- *Fun with Flowers - Friday, November 22**
- *Ways & Means Committee Meeting - Monday, December 2**
- *Trip to Punta Gorda Holly Days Tour - Saturday, December 7**
- *Holiday Party - Tuesday, December 10**

HOLIDAY PARTY – TUESDAY, DECEMBER 10

This year, the Holiday Party will take place during the normal time of our monthly meeting on Tuesday, December 10. We are looking for members to volunteer to be on the planning committee. If you are interested in helping with this event, please contact Patty Lyon, Terry Fisher, or Sylvia Swartz.



Garden Club of Cape Coral

Story Time at the Northwest Regional Library

On Thursday, June 20th, Sherie Bleiler, Bonnie Klockner and Donna Schmidt joined the preschool children and the parents at the Northwest Regional Library in Cape Coral for story time. As you can see from the pictures, there were quite a few families in attendance. Everyone sang songs together and then Bonnie read *The Very Hungry Caterpillar* to the very curious children. Sherie brought an amazing display of caterpillars and chrysalis along with their host plants. Many of the parents had quite a few questions and Sherie was happy to answer them. The staff at the library mentioned the Garden Club members are always welcome to come back for story time. If anyone is interested in participating with this activity, please contact Donna Schmidt.



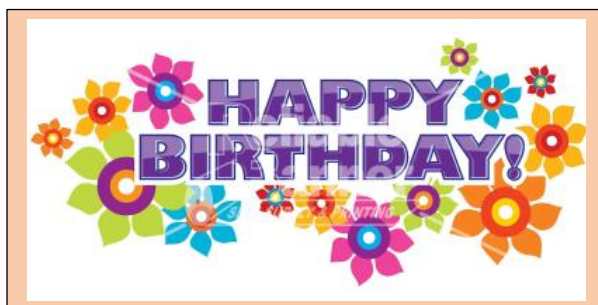
The Breeze Articles

Writers needed!! No experience required!!

The Garden Club needs a few more writers for *The Breeze* articles. If you have a passion for writing or would like to broaden your horizons, please contact Ann Block. Ann's information is in the membership directory. No experience is required, and this is a great way to learn something new about gardening in SW Florida.

Garden Club of Cape Coral

*Happy Birthday to our members celebrating in June,
July, August, and September!!*



JUNE

Sharon Horton – June 12th
Jeannine DeLaat – June 18th
Cheryl Byrd – June 21st
Dennis Leopold – June 21st

AUGUST

Babu Mathew – August 2nd
Gayla Moore – August 3rd
Susan Ramonette – August 12th
Max Breckenridge – August 20th
Gail Miller – August 23rd
Kathy Woodlock – August 27th
Debbie Gawanda – August 30th

JULY

Sue Dues – July 8th
Janetta Fox – July 19th
Valda Gowing Schreiber – July 19th
Richard Sheriff – July 19th
Midge Breckenridge – July 20th
Nancy Finnegan – July 21st
Carol Arnholt – July 23rd
Carmen Sprague – July 26th
Donna Schneider – July 31st

SEPTEMBER

Rachele Epp – September 2nd
Penny Salvesen – September 6th
Sherie Bleiler – September 10th
Francesca McIntyre – September 13th
Lois Luber – September 18th
Donna Hurford – September 21st
Susan Lawson – September 21st
Paula Plum – September 23rd
Donna Schmidt – September 27th
Peggy Loyson – September 30th

DISTRICT IX FALL MEETING – TUESDAY – OCTOBER 15th – LAKELAND, FLORIDA

The District IX Fall meeting will be taking place in Lakeland, Florida on Tuesday, October 15th. The cost is \$38 which includes a continental breakfast and lunch. The cutoff date to register is September 23rd. If you are interested in this event, registration forms will be available at the September meeting. There will also be a club competition – Functional Table for 2. If you have any questions, please reach out to Susan Lawson, Donna Schmidt, Sylvia Swartz, or Charlene Anderson.

Design Circle Meeting

The first Design Circle meeting of the 2024-2025 season will be taking place on Monday, September 16th starting at 1:00 p.m. at Kathy Woodlock's house (Kathy's information is in the membership directory). The group will be working on a traditional line design (regular size or petite). FFGC has decided to focus on several designs for their "What's Your Type" publication this year and traditional designs is one of them.

You will need line material such as mothers-in-law tongue or papyrus along with filler material and greens. Kathy will have oasis, and she also has some papyrus.

Please contact Kathy Woodlock if you would like to attend this event or be informed of future meetings.

CHORES AND PLANTING GUIDE – ZONE 10

- If summer beds need refreshing, try scarlet sage, nasturtium, celosia, and wax begonia for color into fall.
- Plant gladiolus corms every 2 weeks to stagger blooming. Stake each plant.
- Plant herbs that tolerate the warm temperatures of early fall, such as Mexican tarragon, mint, rosemary, and basil.
- Numerous cool-season (as well as warm-season) vegetable crops can be planted.
- Consider placing native shrubs, like beautyberry, firebush, and dahoon holly, where you can view the birds that enjoy them.
- Numerous municipalities prohibit the application of fertilizer to lawns and/or landscape plants during the summer rainy season (June–September). See if such an ordinance exists in your area.
- Prepare the fall vegetable garden if not done in August. Using transplants from your local garden center will get the garden off to a fast start, but seeds provide a wider variety from which to choose.
- Divide and replant perennials and bulbs that have grown too large or need rejuvenation. Add organic matter to planting beds and monitor water needs during establishment.
- Check that irrigation systems are providing good coverage and operating properly before summer rains taper off.
- Fertilize citrus with a balanced fertilizer either this month or in October. Use controlled-release nitrogen because rain will not leach it from the soil too quickly.

(Source: *Sow True Seed*)

Message from the President

Welcome back!! I hope everyone had a wonderful summer!! Now it is time to get back into the swing of things with the Garden Club. As you will see from reading the newsletter, we have a lot of activities and events planned for the upcoming 2024-2025 season. We have some new events that we will share at the meeting on September 10th. I am looking forward to seeing our members at the meetings and other events we will be participating in throughout this year. We also have quite a few new members that joined over the summer. The Garden Club continues to grow in so many ways!!

I want to thank all the members who have signed up to be the chair or co-chair of our many committees. We have quite a few opportunities for those who still want to become involved. We are very grateful for your willingness to give your time and energy. We don't get paid for what we do but we make a life by what we give. Your contributions to the Garden Club really makes a big difference!! This organization is truly amazing, and we all benefit from the abundant talents of our members. I encourage you to share your ideas and unique expertise through a simple phone call, at our meetings, or at any other time we are together. Your support of the Garden Club allows us to continue to fulfill our objectives and give back to the community in so many ways!! One of the main goals this year will be to become more involved with the youth in our community as they are the hope for our future!!

Thank you for the opportunity to serve in such a valuable role as your President. I have met so many wonderful people over the last year. 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.

Donna Schmidt