

# 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

## *December 2024* *Special Holiday Edition*



The Garden Club hosted our annual Holiday Party on Tuesday, December 10th. A wonderful time was had by all!! In this special edition of our monthly newsletter, you will find information about events that have taken place over the last few weeks as well as details about our upcoming events.

Wishing you a very Merry Christmas and a  
Happy New Year!!

*Until further notice -  
CELEBRATE EVERYTHING!!  
- David Wolfe -*

**December 2024**

*Editor--Donna Schmidt*

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Sylvia Swartz and  
Cathy Dunn

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*Holiday Party – December 10th*

*The Garden Club's annual Holiday Party took place on Tuesday, December 10th. Everyone had a wonderful time!! Here are a few pictures that were taken during the party ... more to come in the January 2025 edition of the newsletter. Many thanks to the Holiday Party Planning Committee – Patty Lyon, Sylvia Swartz, Terry Fisher, Deb Leh, Debbie Cooper, Deb Long (the MC for the evening), Midge Breckenridge, Marti Howard, and Nancy Finnegan. The oyster shell trees are beautiful!!*





***CUPS OF CHEER***

The Garden Club's Cups of Cheer Christmas-themed visit took place at the Atrium at Liberty Park in Cape Coral on Thursday, December 5th. The team met at Chandra Girdhari's home on Wednesday December 4th to prepare for this special day. Thank you to all our team members ... it was awesome!! Cheryl, the life enrichment coordinator, and the residents couldn't have been happier with our program. They can't wait to do it again in February for Valentine's Day!!!

Thank you to the Cups of Cheer Committee Members: Peggy Cruz, Linda Spadaccini, Donna Hurford, Chandra Girdhari, Nancy Finnegan, Bonnie Klockner, Peggy Loyson, Tanya Rowland, Sharon Horton, Jane Anderson, and Maggie Crouthamel.





**CUPS OF CHEER**

*(continued)*



**\*\*CHANGE TO JANUARY 2025 SPECIAL EVENT\*\***

The Garden Club had originally planned to go to the Sarasota Cactus Gardens on Saturday, January 18th. Due to Hurricanes Helene and Milton, the gardens were impacted and are currently closed. This trip is now canceled. Terry Fisher has made arrangements for the Garden Club to take a tour of the FGCU Food Forest on Friday, January 10, 2025. This is a community garden located at the Florida Gulf Coast University in Ft. Myers. We will meet at the Coralwood Shopping Center parking lot located on Del Prado Boulevard. Park in the area along SE 16th Place near the Esporta Fitness gym. We will carpool and depart at 8:00 a.m. Please be there no later than 7:50 a.m. There is a maximum amount of 40 members/guests allowed for this tour. You will need to register by calling Terry Fisher - first come, first serve. Terry's information is in our membership directory. Lunch will take place after the tour - the location will be determined.

**SAVE THE DATES**

*Below is a list of dates to add to your calendar for Garden Club events and meetings now through March 2025*

- \*Ways & Means Committee Meeting – Monday, January 6**
- \*Garden Council Meeting – Friday, January 10**
- \*Trip to FGCU Food Forest – January 10**
- \*Cape Coral Art Festival – January 11 and 12**
- \*Monthly GCCC Meeting – January 14**
- \*Design Group – January 20**
- \*Ways & Means Committee Meeting – Monday, February 3**
- \*Cups of Cheer – February 6**
- \*Monthly GCCC Meeting – February 11**
- \*Design Group – February 17**
- \*GCCC Picnic at Berne Davis Botanical Gardens – February 21**
- \*Ways & Means Committee Meeting – Monday, March 3**
- \*March in the Park – March 8**
- \*Monthly GCCC Meeting – March 11**
- \*Garden Council Meeting – March 14**
- \*Garden Walk and New Members Tea – March 15**
- \*Design Group – March 17**
- \*Fun with Flowers – March 21 (evening session)**





**CAPE CORAL ART FESTIVAL – JANUARY 11-12, 2025**

The Garden Club will be participating in the upcoming Cape Coral Art Festival that will be taking place on Saturday, January 11th and Sunday, January 12th. Thank you to the members who have volunteered to help man the tent for this event. We will be sharing information about our Garden Club as well as selling opportunity tickets for March in the Park. A huge thank you to Christine Prestella for her time and energy to paint the rain barrel this year. We can't wait to see it!! The rain barrel will be on display at the Art Festival. For over 39 years, the Rotary Club of Cape Coral has sponsored this event. The festival will have a diverse array of artwork, live entertainment, delicious food and so much more. Hope to see you there!!!

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO OUR MEMBERS CELEBRATING  
IN DECEMBER**



- |                                |                                  |
|--------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Debbie Cooper – December 6     | Ann Fowler – December 20         |
| Bonnie Klockner – December 6   | Ria Benton – December 22         |
| Cheryl Shaw – December 11      | Maggie Crouthamel – December 22  |
| Deborah Clements – December 17 | Sandra Lee Martino – December 22 |
| Valorie Breen – December 20    | Susan Gornall – December 30      |

**BERNE DAVIS BOTANICAL GARDENS – HOLIDAY DECORATIONS**

Do you like to admire the holiday decorations in our area? If so, you might want to take a ride over to the Berne Davis Botanical Gardens located at 2166 Virginia Avenue in Fort Myers. The gardens have been decorated with items members of the Fort Myers-Lee County Garden Council have made using all natural materials. The holiday decorations will be on display until January 9th. Hours are Tuesdays and Thursdays from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Admission is free ... donations are welcomed.



**FUN WITH FLOWERS – NOVEMBER**

**The second session of this year season's Fun with Flowers took place on Friday, November 22nd at the Fort Myers-Lee County Garden Council building. As you can see from the pictures, the holiday centerpieces are so incredibly beautiful. This event is extremely popular with our Garden Club members and others in the community. A huge thank you to Susan Lawson and the other members who volunteer to help organize this event. The next session will take place on Friday, March 21st in the evening.**





**Message from the President**

*Christmas is only nine days away!! It's hard to believe the holidays are upon us and soon we will be welcoming in 2025!!*

*I hope you enjoy this holiday edition of the monthly newsletter. Our Garden Club has been terribly busy this season. And we have so many more activities and events planned for after the new year. If you would like more information, please feel free to reach out to the Committee Chairs that are listed in the Membership Directory.*

*For the members who attended the Holiday Party, I hope you had a wonderful time, and I am sorry I could not be there. In the January 2025 edition of the newsletter, I will be sharing additional pictures of the party along with information regarding the winners of the contests and the recipient of our Service Award for 2024.*

*There are a few events from November and December that I did not capture in this edition of the newsletter. I will share all this information with you in the January 2025 newsletter.*

*Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions or suggestions. Also feel free to send me an email, including pictures, with any events or activities you have attended with other Garden Club members or on behalf of the Garden Club.*

*Thinking of you this holiday season and wishing you all the best. I hope your holidays are full of love and laughter, peace and joy.*

**HAVE A VERY MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR!!**

**Donna Schmidt**

