

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

October 2024 Edition



The October meeting will take place at the Epiphany Episcopal Church. We look forward to seeing you there on Tuesday, October 8th, starting at 5:45 p.m. (2507 Del Prado Boulevard S. – Cape Coral). There will be a PowerPoint presentation given by Sylvia Swartz, our Ways & Means Co-Chair – “This is your Garden Club.” The presentation will provide everything our members need to know about our club and how we fit in with the National Garden Clubs and our local frameworks. We will have a Q&A after the presentation. Cathy Dunn, a Master Gardener and our Horticulture Chair, will give a presentation on *Sansevieria* plants. Looking forward to seeing you at the meeting!

*Petals kiss the breeze,
Butterflies dance through green leaves,
Quiet blooms in peace.*

October 2024

Editor--Donna Schmidt

Board of Directors

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**

Table of Contents

Page 2

September 2024 Meeting

Page 3

September 2024 Meeting (cont.)

Rotary Park Tropical Plant Sale

Page 4

Sands Park Butterfly Garden Project

Monthly Special Events

Page 5

Fun with Flowers

Cups of Cheer

Page 6

Design Circle

Page 7

Save the Dates

Holiday Party

Page 8

Arts & Crafts Committee

Happy Birthday

Page 9

Pelican Elementary

Edison Ford Events

Page 10

Rotary Park Events

Page 11

Chores and Planting Guide

Sunflowers

Page 12

March in the Park Yard Signs

Message from the President

SEPTEMBER 2024 MEETING

The Garden Club had their first meeting of the 2024-2025 season on Tuesday, September 10th at our new meeting place – Epiphany Episcopal Church. As you can see from the pictures, we had quite a few members who were in attendance. Our members enjoyed the variety of food that everyone brought to share for the potluck. What a wonderful way to start the season!!



**WELCOME BACK |
GARDEN CLUB MEMBERS!!**

SEPTEMBER 2024 MEETING

(continued)



**ROTARY PARK TROPICAL PLANT SALE
SATURDAY, OCTOBER 19, 2024**

The Garden Club will be participating in the upcoming Rotary Park Tropical Plant Sale that is taking place on Saturday, October 19, 2024, from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. We will be selling plants along with arts and crafts and thrift items. Spread the word and let your friends, family and neighbors know about this event. Hope to see you there!!



SANDS PARK BUTTERFLY GARDEN PROJECT

The Sands Park Butterfly Garden team has been working in the heat and humidity of the summer for the past three months! They are a remarkable bunch of volunteers.

The team has **planted 136 plants** and **removed 24 plants**. The garden started with seven varieties of plants, three of which were Florida native. The team has **added 24 more varieties**, 23 of which are native. Biologists say, the greater the plant diversity, the greater the number and variety of pollinators. As these plants settle in and bloom, it will be fun to discover what pollinators might be enticed to visit. 🦋🌻

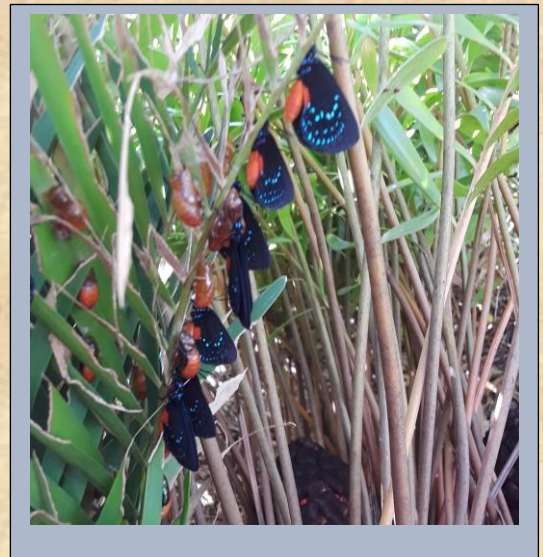
Speaking of pollinators, Debbie Spangler, a master gardener who volunteers at Rotary Park, gave Sherie Bleiler 50 Atala butterfly eggs in early September. Sherry raised them and released them where she could find new coontie leaves. Click this link for a good article about the Atalas butterfly and coontie plants.

<https://www.floridatoday.com/story/life/2020/09/09/coontie-and-nectar-plants-attract-rare-atala-butterflies-your-yard/5757607002/>

Sherie and the team are at Sands Park every Thursday morning putting plants in the ground. Some of the members are there on Saturday as well. If you have the time and energy to work on this project, please contact Sherie Bleiler.

To volunteer for this project, you must use the link below. The City of Cape Coral sponsor this project. Please contact Sherie if you need assistance with this process.

<https://www.volgistics.com/victouch/511984/105620233>



Monthly Special Events

- ❖ **October 11 – Lakes Park Fragrance Garden – the group will leave Coralwood Shopping Center at 8:30 a.m. Lunch to follow at Bahama Breeze.**
- ❖ **November 16 – Christian’s Butterfly Farm Nursery & Garden – the group will leave Coralwood Shopping Center at 8:30 a.m. Brunch to follow at Blossom & Brie.**

Note: The list of our Garden Club’s Special Events can be found on Page 19 of the membership directory. Due to the devastation of Hurricane Helene, the Punta Gorda Holly Days Home Tour has been canceled for December 7th. Another event will be planned for December.

Fun with Flowers

Fun with Flowers will take place on Friday, October 18 at the Berne Davis Botanical Gardens building. If you would like to attend, you will need to register by Friday, October 11. The cost is \$25. The event will start at 10:00 a.m. Please contact Susan Lawson for additional information (Susan's contact information is in the membership directory). Forms will be available at the October monthly meeting. Please feel free to bring a friend.



CUPS OF CHEER

The Garden Club's Cups of Cheer Christmas theme will take place on Thursday December 5, 2024, from 11:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at the Atrium at Liberty Park, 1321 NE 24th Avenue in Cape Coral. Preparation work will be the day before, Wednesday December 4, 2024, beginning at 10 a.m. at the Northwest Regional Library, 519 Chiquita Boulevard N. in Cape Coral.

The other dates for Cups of Cheer taking place at the Atrium at Liberty Park are:

- Valentine's Day theme: Thursday February 6, 2025, 11:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.
- Mother's Day theme: Thursday May 8, 2025, 11:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Preparation work for Cups of Cheer will always be held the Wednesday before – February 5 for Valentine's Day and May 7 for Mother's Day. The group will always try to meet at the Northwest Library, but it is too early to book so far in advance to secure the February and May dates. Garden Club members wanting to participate in Cups of Cheer are encouraged to bring their own hand pruners and filler plants from their gardens to our prep gatherings on Wednesday. We will have enough cups, flowers and flower oasis for 10-12 residents, but Cheryl Cooper, the coordinator at the Atrium, anticipates only 8-10 residents will participate.

Thank you for helping us make this a successful program.

Co-Chairs,

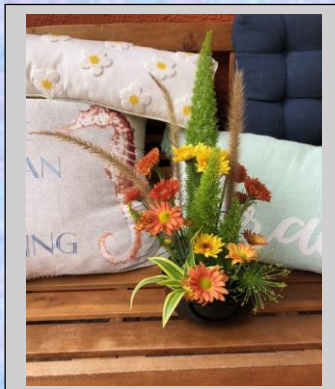
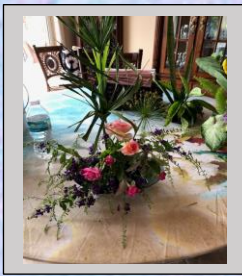
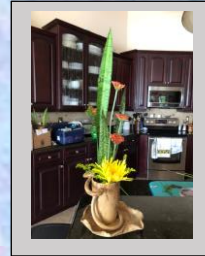
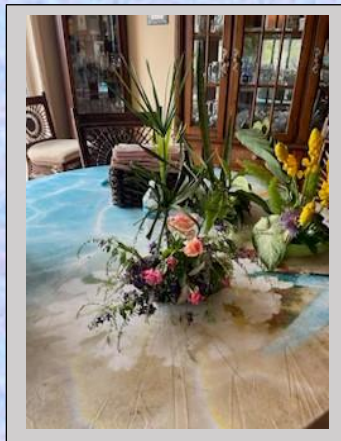
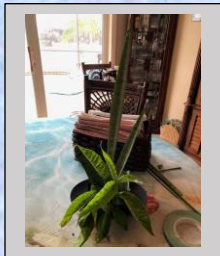
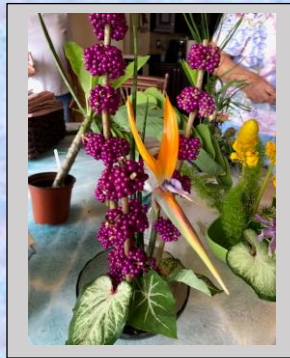
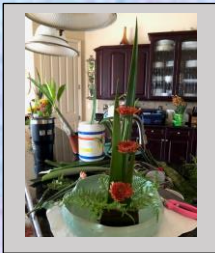
Linda Spadaccini and Peggy Cruz



DESIGN CIRCLE – SEPTEMBER 16, 2024

The first Design Circle session of the season took place at Kathy Woodlock's house on Monday, September 16. Those in attendance were Sue Lawson, Nancy Finnegan, Jeannine DeLaat, Sylvia Swartz, Cathy Dunn, Peggy Cruz, and Kathy Woodlock. The group worked 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.

Please contact Kathy Woodlock if you would like to be informed of future meetings. Kathy's information is in the membership directory.



SAVE THE DATES

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

- *Monthly Meeting – Tuesday, October 8**
- *Trip to Lakes Park Fragrance Garden – Friday, October 11**
- *District IX Fall Meeting in Lakeland – Tuesday, October 15**
- *Fun with Flowers – Friday, October 18**
- *Rotary Park Plant Sale – Saturday, October 19**
- *Design Circle Meeting – Monday, October 21**
- *Arts & Crafts Committee – Monday, October 28**
- *Ways & Means Committee Meeting – Monday, November 4**
- *Garden Council Meeting – Friday, November 8**
- *Monthly Meeting – Tuesday, November 12**
- *Trip to Christian’s Butterfly Farm Nursery & Garden Brunch at Blossom & Brie – Saturday, November 16**
- *Design Circle Meeting – Monday, November 18**
- *Fun with Flowers – Friday, November 22**
- *Ways & Means Committee Meeting – Monday, December 2**
- *Holiday Party – Tuesday, December 10**

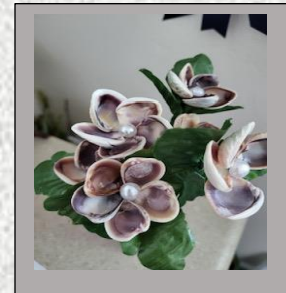
HOLIDAY PARTY – TUESDAY, DECEMBER 10

This year, the Holiday Party will take place from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. on Tuesday, December 10 at the Epiphany Episcopal Church. The Holiday Party Committee has been meeting to finalize the plans for this year’s party. A special announcement will be made once all the details are in place. Many thanks to the Holiday Party Committee – Patty Lyon, Sylvia Swartz, Terry Fisher, Deb Leh, Debbie Cooper, Deb Long, Midge Breckenridge, Marti Howard and Nancy Finnegan.



ARTS & CRAFTS COMMITTEE

The Arts & Crafts Committee have been busy making crafts to sell at the upcoming Tropical Plant Sale. The crafts and art will also be sold at our monthly membership meetings. The proceeds from the sale of the artwork and crafts will go towards the scholarship awards. Here's a sample of what some of our members have been making. If you are interested in joining this committee, please contact Donna Schmidt or Sharon Horton (their information is in the membership directory).



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



Cathy Dunn – October 2
Linda Bauschek – October 10
Lillian Peterson – October 11
Ginny Huffer – October 16

Deb Leh – October 16
Marilou Lucas – October 22
Susan Noble – October 22
Dale Manuel – October 23

October is Native Plant Month. Walk through a native preserve and enjoy what you see. Add a native plant to your plant collection.



Garden Club of Cape Coral

Pelican Elementary – Peggy Stamper

Peggy Stamper attended the Garden Club's September 10th meeting. Peggy is a S.T.E.M. Educator and the School Garden Leader at Pelican Elementary. If you were at our October meeting last year, Peggy gave a brief presentation about what she and the students and volunteers at the school planned to get involved with. The program has come a long way over this past year. If you are interested in volunteering with the children and helping with their gardens, please contact Donna Schmidt. There is a form that needs to be filled out if you would like to volunteer. Peggy is looking for guidance from our members to maintain and start other gardens. Currently, she is looking for volunteers on Wednesday mornings from 6:30 a.m. to 7:15 a.m. Below is a link to Peggy's presentation from our Garden Club meeting on September 10th. We will work with Peggy and her staff on future projects and events.

[2023-24 Pelican Live Garden Album - Sharable - Google Slides](#)

Peggy will also be planning an open house for our garden members soon that will take place on a Saturday. An email will be sent to our members with this information.



*Garden Club of Cape Coral Objective:
To promote civic beautification and work with local youth in
environmental awareness.*

Edison Ford Winter Estates – Orchid Symposium and Fall Festival

Website: edisonfordwinterestates.org

Orchid Symposium – Saturday, October 12, 2024, and Sunday, October 13, 2024. Come discover all the fabulous things you can do with orchids during this fun two-day event dedicated to these marvelous wonders! Presentations are free (does not include tours or admission to the museum, lab, or riverside). The Lee County Master Gardeners will have an advice table, and several vendors will have orchids available for sale.



Fall Festival – Saturday, October 26, 2024 - Although summer is still here, fall is quickly approaching, which means pumpkins galore, festive activities will be held, seasonal delights will abound, and a palette of warm colors can be seen! Enjoy some fall things with us as you stroll along and shop craft vendor booths, get something to eat and drink and listen to music. Plus, there will be fun activities!

ROTARY PARK EVENTS

Butterfly Garden Design

Friday – October 18, 2024 – 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm

Flutterby Rotary Park for our "Butterfly Garden Design" class! Discover the secret world of local butterflies and the top-notch plants that lure them in. Don't forget to bring pics of your yard for a one-on-one with our design expert, crafting your very own butterfly paradise. Plus, get an exclusive tour of the butterfly house and gardens during the session. \$15 per household. Pre-registration is required. Call 239-549-4606.



Free Microirrigation Class

Thursday – October 24, 2024 – 1:00 p.m.

Do you want to water plants where they need it, when they need it, and have an adaptable irrigation system? This class will help inform homeowners about the benefits of microirrigation and how to start from scratch or convert their home watering systems to microirrigation.

David Outerbridge is the instructor for this class.

This class is free but please RSVP at 239-549-4606.

Gardening for Bees – How to attract bees and other pollinators

Friday, October 25, 2024 – 10:00 a.m.

Bees are essential to our ecosystem, playing a crucial role in pollinating plants, which in turn produce a sizable portion of the food we consume. Both native bees and honeybees contribute to this process, and understanding how to support them can make a significant difference. Learn how to attract and support bees in your yard, consider planting a variety of flowers that bloom at various times of the year. Remember, every small effort counts in making a significant impact on the health of our planet's pollinators. This is a free class but please RSVP by calling 239-549-4606 or emailing Rotaryparkinfo@capecoral.gov.



Intro to Florida Friendly Landscaping

Saturday, November 16, 2024 – 10:00 a.m.

Join us for a Florida Friendly Landscaping (FFL) class to learn the nine principles that guide Florida-friendly landscaping in Lee County. Each principle is covered in class so you can apply what you learn to your own garden. Plant selection and placement, efficient irrigation, and proper mulching will be discussed. Learn how reducing your use of fertilizers and insecticides will help minimize the amount of chemicals that reach and pollute our waters. In these unusual times, we can still get outside and garden, so join us to discover landscape management practices that will lead to a Florida-friendly yard while helping to protect our waters! For more information or to RSVP call Rotary Park at 239-549-4606.



CHORES AND PLANTING GUIDE – ZONE 10

- Even though temperatures are still warm, begin planting for the cooler months ahead. Impatiens, alyssum, and dianthus are good plants for the fall/winter garden.
- Plant bulbs of agapanthus, rain lily, and Clivia lily now for blooms next spring or summer. Add organic matter to the planting bed for best results.
- A wide range of herbs can be planted from seed or transplants this month. Some to try include dill, fennel, parsley, and cilantro.
- Easy vegetable crops that can be grown now include beans, broccoli, carrots, collards, lettuce, green onions, peppers, radishes, spinach, and tomatoes.
- Fertilize plants that are not performing as desired. This is the last month of the year to fertilize shrubs and trees.
- Prepare beds and set strawberry plants this month. Strawberries also make a colorful and tasty container planting. Either way, water daily until plants are established.

(Source: *Sow True Seed*)

Sunflowers are such a beautiful flower

Quick sunflower facts:

- The entirety of a sunflower is edible. Their leaves, stalks, and roots can all be used as food, and were grown in North America before other crops like corn became common. They were milled to create flour, and their seeds roasted and eaten.
- Young sunflowers follow the sun all day, and then reset their position at night to be ready for sunrise. Once fully grown, they stay facing east to attract bees and other pollinators.
- On average, sunflowers grow to be between 6 to 10 feet, but they can grow much taller. The tallest sunflower ever recorded was 30 feet.
- Sunflowers can absorb toxins, including toxic metals and radiation. Following the nuclear disasters of Chernobyl and Fukushima, scientists planted millions of sunflowers to help those areas recover.

They are remarkable plants!

Credit: Walking Nature



MARCH IN THE PARK YARD SIGNS

If you have a March in the Park yard sign from last year, please contact Elsa Schutzman. Elsa's information is in the membership directory.

Thank you!

Message from the President

What can I say ... the attendance at our September meeting was amazing!! It was so nice to see everyone together again. The food tables were overflowing ... thank you to everyone for bringing something to share. We had some leftovers which were donated to the local fire station.

I want to acknowledge Terry Fisher for all her hard work over the summer contacting our members to fill open committee chair positions and to schedule all the special events we will have the opportunity to attend together throughout the year. Thank you Terry!!

I want to thank everyone who has continued to be chair of one of our many committees and to the members who have taken on a new role. We are grateful for your willingness to give your time, energy, and talents. Your cheerful outlook and unwavering dedication to the Garden Club makes all the difference. I am genuinely grateful!! We cannot do this without you!!

We have quite a few new members who have joined over the summer and at our September meeting. They are already getting involved with the many activities our Garden Club is involved with. Please introduce yourself and give them a warm welcome.

One of the Garden Club's objectives is to work with local youth in environmental awareness. We will continue to collaborate with Pelican Elementary School along with adding a few other projects with the children in our community.

I encourage all of you to take pictures when you are working in one of our gardens, at a committee meeting, or on a special trip. Please send them to me for the newsletter along with a brief description.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions or suggestions.

Happy gardening!

Donna Schmidt