

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF  
THE FORT MYERS - LEE COUNTY GARDEN COUNCIL, INC.  
2166 VIRGINIA AVENUE, FORT MYERS, FL 33901  
**FMLCGARDENCOUNCIL.COM**

## President's Message

WHAT A WONDERFUL WAY TO START THE YEAR WITH THE PROMISE OF A LARGER BUILDING... FABULOUS PROGRAMS... AND INTERESTING TIDBITS.

It is my pleasure to be your President and represent and lead such an extraordinary group such as you.

Your devotion to perfection astounds me.

What a treasure we have in Fort Myers-Lee County Garden Council.

Our Plans for the building will be moving forward with discussions with Billy Mitchell, Councilman Flanders, Don Paight and Siede. Hopefully meeting 3rd week in September with Building Committee which consists of Bernie Hamera - Chairman, Laura Jibbens, Sharron Thompson and Kay Holloway.

Contact has been made, we are awaiting a response from the City.

Many events are happening in October--- All Presidents of Clubs and Societies are invited to the President's Coffee being held on October 28th, 2015 at 10:00-12 pm.

We are looking forward to seeing you all at the Berne Davis Gardens on that day. Come and meet your Officers and share your ideas. We hope you all can attend. Open House in November is always a treat. Mark your calendars for November 21st, at the Berne Davis Gardens, shared with our neighbors and friends, the Edison Home. Time is 10:00 – 2:00pm. Come set up a table and share your wares. Check with Bernie Hamera. Please check the calendar inside and in your yearbook for other events and times such as the Jasmine GC Holiday Event, Bonsai Show at the City Pier, downtown Ft. Myers, and be sure to sign up for Strolling Flower Show.

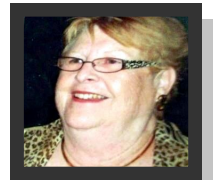
Wow! Such a plethora of activities.

Refreshments are such a nice touch, thank you clubs for your contributions.

- American Hibiscus Society for Council Meeting.
- Periwinkle Garden Club for President's Coffee.
- Garden Club of Cape Coral for Open House.

Without your support, we would be lost.

**Kay Holloway**  
President of  
Fort Myers-Lee County



For The Latest Info Check Our Website  
**Www. fmlcgardencouncil.com**

### F M L C G C General Meeting - Call to order 9:30 am—November 13, 2015

Inspirational Message - Monica Freed  
Pledge of Allegiance -  
Reading of the Minutes & motions - Rec Sec—Charlene Anderson  
Corresponding Secretary - Sharron Thompson  
Financial Report - Mae Jean Nothstine, Treasurer  
President's Report - Kay Holloway  
1st Vice President's Report - Bernadette Hamera

2nd Vice President's Report - Suzy Valentine  
Reports of Committee Chairs (as needed)  
Old Business/ New Business/Announcements  
PROGRAM: "The Buzz about Bees"  
By: Keith Councell, Florida's Beekeeper  
Adjournment  
Ways & Means - 50/50 drawing

Please join us at 9:00 am for refreshments provided by: **Greater Fort Myers Rose Society**

**Please Visit:**  
**National Garden Clubs**  
**@ [www.gardenclub.org](http://www.gardenclub.org)**

Username is: member  
Password is: flight

**Your National President:**  
**Sandra H. Robinson**  
[SandyR5342@gmail.com](mailto:SandyR5342@gmail.com)

**National Theme:**  
"Leap Into Action!"

**Please Visit:**  
**Florida Federation of GC**  
**@ [www.ffgc.org](http://www.ffgc.org)**

**Your State President:**  
**Arlene Rand**  
[Arlene.Rand23@gmail.com](mailto:Arlene.Rand23@gmail.com)

**State Theme:**  
The Garden of Inspiration

**Please Visit:**  
**District IX**  
**@ [www.ffgcdistrict9.org](http://www.ffgcdistrict9.org)**

**District Theme:**  
"Gentle Words, Strong Deeds"

## G a r d e n   C o u n c i l   M e e t i n g s   D a t e s

<u>UPCOMING BOARD MEETINGS</u>	<u>GENERAL COUNCIL MEETINGS</u>	<u>GENERAL MEETINGS</u>
(Officers, Directors, Committee Chairs)	All are Welcome	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• FRIDAY Oct. 2nd, 2015</li> <li>• FRIDAY Nov. 6th, 2015</li> </ul> <b>MEETINGS FROM 9:30 am TO 11:30 am</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• FRIDAY Sept 11, 2015</li> <li>• Hostess - JEH Chapter American Hibiscus Society</li> <li>• Program - "Horticulture Waste"</li> <li>• Next Meeting Nov. 13, 2015</li> <li>• Hostess: Fort Myers Rose Society</li> <li>• Program- "The Buzz about Bees"</li> </ul>	<b>MEETINGS ARE HELD THE 2ND FRIDAY OF THE MONTH EVERY OTHER MONTH SEPTEMBER TO MAY</b>
<b>Garden Council Headquarters</b> 2166 Virginia Ave. Fort Myers, FL		<b>RIVERSIDE COMMUNITY CENTER</b> 3061 E. Riverside Drive FM 33916 <b>HOSPITALITY: 9:00 am to 9:30 am</b> <b>MEETING: 9:30 am to 11:30 am</b>

## COUNCIL MEETING REPORT

The first General Meeting of FMLCGC, Inc. was fun, informative and productive! The Board hopes to increase attendance by providing Programs of interest to all our members, emphasizing *gardening*---and all it entails in this part of the world. Our plant society clubs ( i.e. Hibiscus, Tropical Fruit, Bonsai, Bromeliad, Native Plants, Herbs, Rose, Orchid) have over 600 members in total, and most never attend our Council General Meetings. Some do of course, and are also members of other garden clubs within our Council. But, in order to attract participation, we are offering educational, horticultural, serious and scientific information to our members. Yes—Designs are very important to many of us, but we hope to appeal to everyone with a meeting format which allows time for every member to partake of whichever part of the Agenda they choose. Refreshments and Socializing—YES! A bit of Business—YES! (We know it is required of any organization—please be patient). Programs which should appeal to most of us, as they are about the environment we live in here in SW Florida, have been planned. No politics, please! Just the facts, coming from recognized experts. Designs will have their time later in the morning, so anyone who is not interested may leave. But, we hope to make the idea of designing more appealing to everyone by showing examples and ideas that might be enjoyed or copied by all, in their own homes. This isn't just about Flower Shows and those very specific requirements for winning blue ribbons! This is to encourage and share ideas for just plain having fun with the stuff that grows all around us here in Florida! Yes, we do buy flowers sometimes, but we do encourage learning more about the art world's Elements & Principles of Design.

The September meeting featured Recycling. Our Program was presented by Denise Houghtaling of MW Horticulture Recycling. She showed us how all that yard waste produced constantly is turned into rich compost, and how we all benefit from a recycling/composting operation vs. Land Fills. Samples of compost and a special soil mix for growing in containers/raised beds were on each table. All are invited to visit their 2 facilities, and clubs encouraged to plan specific outings. Designs were on display, featuring the Recycling idea. Some were specific to NGC and Flower Show rules, and others were just fun approaches to whatever is growing or discarded or appreciated for it's own peculiar natural beauty. Thanks to our members who created these "works of art" from "whatever"! More fun ideas planned....

David Southall gave a 5 minute "Timely Tidbit" presentation on what we need to be doing or paying attention in our gardens at this time. Summer rains and high humidity encourage disease and nutrient deficiency. Tips on fertilizers, pruning, fungicides and general care of container plants and in ground plantings were given. Specific questions, preferably with photos, may be sent to him at [d.southall@att.net](mailto:d.southall@att.net). David is a true scientist, and member of Gulf Coast Garden Club. We appreciate his cooperation—and look forward to his Program in March on Mangroves.

Upcoming Program in November will be about BEES—The Buzz. Keith Councell is the speaker, and he does know his topic. Not all the bad news we hear about bees is true---and they really are out there doing their work efficiently. As one of their main jobs is to pollinate, we'll feature Fruits & Vegetables in the Design part of the meeting. Can't have fruits without flowers first—and something needs to pollinate in order to produce those viable fruits! Designs can be fun—and seasonal—with traditional harvest theme, or just using them for form and color. The taste comes later!

Please share this message and invitation to attend Council General Meetings with all your friends and fellow gardeners. We do want all of you/us to share and explore this wonderful world of plants and all they do for us.

*Suzy*

(Suzy Valentine— 2nd VP)

## ATTENTION ALL DESIGNERS

**The 2016 STROLLING FLOWER SHOW**, sponsored by the Periwinkle Garden Club and Bell Tower Shops, will be February 4th & 5th. It is a sanctioned event of the Edison Festival of Light. The Bell Tower Shops are very excited about this celebration and will donate gift bags and gift certificates to the top winners. Drawings for windows will be on Friday November 13th at the Garden Council meeting. Please send a representative from your Garden Club with names, phone numbers and emails for drawing participants. The theme of the show this year is:

**“Let Hope, Peace, and Joy Flourish as Flowers Bloom for Mr. Edison”**



Award's Luncheon at The Forest Country Club on Thursday Feb. 4th at 12:30 pm.

## Gulf Coast Garden Club Announcements

Gulf Coast Garden Club will resume regular monthly meetings on October 12th at Unity Church in Bonita Springs; the 2nd Monday of the month; 9am– 12noon. Each meeting begins with Hospitality followed by Wake Up and Learn and then Plant of the Month. Following is a short business meeting and then the main program. The program Oct 12th is “A New Look at Old Friends: Ferns, Sansevieria, Begonias.” Mike Gill from Driftwood Garden Center is presenting. **Guests are WELCOME!** Cost is \$5.00.

**November 9th Program:** “Thanksgiving Arrangements” with Lorna O’Hara and Kathy Spilka. Designs to delight your family and friends. Begin your holidays with flair!

**Our Fall Plant Sale** will be Saturday Nov 14th, 2015 from 9am-1pm at Unity Church. There will be plant for the lanai, yard and garden; demonstrations on how to plant in the SW Florida soil, potting, repotting and pruning; garden accessories also available. Please join the fun!

Have Questions?? Need Directions?? Please RSVP to Kathy Erickson, President [kathygcgc10@gmail.com](mailto:kathygcgc10@gmail.com)

## *Edison - Ford Winter Estates*

**Monthly Garden Talks on 2nd Saturday 10:00 am  
\$5.00 Members- \$10 Non-Members**

September 12th — “Edible Gardening”  
October 10th— “Pollinator Gardens” by Karen Harty  
November 14th— “Growing Orchids on Cork or Hypertufa”  
December 12th— “Container Gardening”  
January 9th— “Growing and Using Herbs”

March 12th— “Making a Home Cutting Garden”  
April 9th— “Growing and Caring for Palms”  
May 14th— “Orchids”  
June 11th— “Vines”  
July 9th— “Vertical Gardening”

\*\*\*February 13-14(No Talk) **Edison of Light Plant Festival** -9a-5pm Come and enjoy all our vendors!

**Web: [EdisonFordWinterEstates.org/events](http://EdisonFordWinterEstates.org/events)**

New to the area or just looking for good horticultural information?  
The County Extension Service has it!

Homepage for Lee County Extension <http://lee.ifas.ufl.edu/>

- Lawn, Garden and Landscape - Publications A-Z
- PowerPoint presentations
- You Tube videos
- News-Press Q&A articles
- Butterfly information, etc.
- Florida Friendly Landscaping

A wealth of information for *OUR* area.

University of Florida - Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences





Garden Club of Cape Coral  
Enters Exhibit In  
Lakes Park Fall & Halloween Festival  
entitled

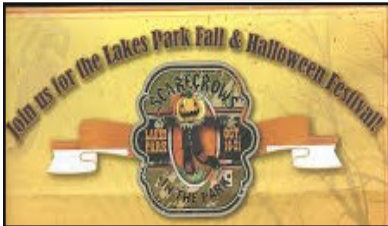
← “Moon Garden Bride”

Come and see what grows in a moon garden!  
Come early and often to vote for this original entry!!

- ◆ Blouse and veil made from fabric found at thrift stores (cost—\$4.00).
- ◆ Body form is made from tomato cages.
- ◆ Skirt is made from white trash bags.
- ◆ Original design by Pat Foote.

The Festival will have family friendly activities and displays such as: Pumpkin Patch, Hayrides and the Halloween Express Train. It is open to the public from Oct 17-Oct 31st.

The public can vote for their favorite “Scarecrows in the Park” from Oct 17-26th; and winners will be recognized on Oct 27th. *Please come and vote for “Moon Garden Bride”*



*Congratulations* to Theo Kavouras a member of Gardens of the World for being recognized for his floral design talents! Theo received a letter from the editor of the Florida Flower Arrangement Calendar inviting him to do a design to be photographed for the 2017 edition calendar. *Kudos to you!*



### Local Farmer's Markets - [buylocallee.com](http://buylocallee.com)

Lakes Park Market Fri. 9 - 1 pm Free Parking at 7330 Gladiolus Drive, Fort Myers Oct 2-Apr 29th, 2016

Bonita Springs Sat. 8 - 12pm Promenade at Bonita Bay, 26811 S. Bay Drive 691-9249 Oct 3- Apr 30, 2016

Cape Coral Sat. 8 - 1 pm Downtown, SE 47th Terr. and SE 10th Place, over 100 vendors Oct 17-

Coconut Point Farmers Market- Thurs. 9am -1pm Coconut Point Mall- October 1, 2015 - April 28, 2016  
Parking is plentiful and FREE anywhere in the Coconut Point Mall. We're Pet Friendly!

Fenway South F.M. Wed. 9am-1pm. 11500 Fenway South Dr., Nov 4th-Mar 30th Parking Free in JetBlue Park.  
Fort Myers F.M. at FSW Sat. 9am-1pm 8099 College Pkwy., Oct 3rd-Apr 30th, Parking available on campus.

Green Market Sat. 9 - 1 pm Alliance of the Arts, 10091 McGregor Blvd. - Fort Myers 939-2787

Sanibel Island Sun. 8 - 1pm Sanibel City Hall, 800 Dunlop Road - more than 45 vendors - Oct 4-Apr 24, 2016  
Parking is located in the lots at Sanibel City Hall, Sanibel Library, BIG Arts, Schoolhouse Theater. Bicycles can be parked at the designated area at City Hall. Handicap parking is located at City Hall. We're Pet Friendly!



**Garden Council & Berne Davis Botanical Garden Open House Hours are on Tuesdays 10 - 1 pm**

**Each Club and Society takes a turn Hosting.**

**Hostess Schedule**

Oct. 6, 13, 20, 27-Council Board Members

Nov. 3rd, 2015 Alva Garden Club

Nov. 10th, 2015 American Hibiscus Society

Nov. 17th, 2015 Bonita Springs Tropical Fruit Club

Nov. 24th, 2015 Bonsai Society of SW Florida

Dec. 1st, 2015 Caloosa Rare Fruit Exchange

Dec. 8th, 2015 Caloosahatchee Bromeliad Society

Dec. 15th, 2015 Carissa Garden Club

Dec. 22nd, 2015 Eclectic Floral Designers

Dec. 29th, 2015 Estero Island Garden Club

Jan. 5th, 2016 Fiddlesticks Garden Club

Jan. 12th, 2016 Florida Navite Plant Society

Jan. 19th, 2016 Fort Myers Herb Enthusiasts

Jan. 26th, 2016 Garden Club of Cape Coral

Feb. 2nd, 2016 Garden Club of Lehigh Acres

Please contact Carolee Drotos-Swales with any questions: 561-1846 or [cdrotosswales@yahoo.com](mailto:cdrotosswales@yahoo.com).

**EACH CLUB IS RESPONSIBLE TO FIND MEMBERS TO REPORT or WORK WITH ANOTHER CLUB TO "TRADE" DATES.**

Hostesses are required to open the gate and be available for visitors to answer questions.

## Calendar of Events

**Oct 11, 2015 Sunday- Flower Show School III**-Hosted by Royal Palm GC & Gardens of the World 4-6pm Legacy Harbor Hotel 2018 West First St, Fort Myers, FL

**Oct 12-13, 2015** Monday & Tuesday- Horticulture-Dale DeFeo & Design-Penny Decker 8:30am—5:30pm Legacy Harbor

**Oct 14, 2015** Wednesday- Standard Flower Show 3-5pm Exams 9:30-12:30 pm Council Headquarters

**Theme : "What Was I Thinking!"**

**Oct 17-18, 2015-Saturday & Sunday-Bonsai Society of SW Florida Annual Show & Sale** 9am-5pm City Pier, 1300 Hendry St  
Come and shop with our many vendors for bonsai related items. Enjoy free demonstrations & workshops!

**Oct 28th, 2015- Wednesday-President's Coffee**-Hosted by Periwinkle GC 10am-12noon at Council Headquarters

**Nov 10, 2015 Tuesday-SW Florida Orchid Society Annual Auction** 6:30pm until sold! Faith United Methodist Church- at 1569- McGregor Blvd.

**Nov 10, 2015 Tuesday-Annual Holiday Fundraiser** Hosted by Jasmine GC 9:30 am Preview & Refreshment 10am Festivities Covenant Presbyterian at 2439 McGregor Blvd. RSVP to Mitzi Marckesano, President at [couponqwn@hotmail.com](mailto:couponqwn@hotmail.com)

**Nov 21, 2015 Saturday-Open House** 10a-12noon at Council Headquarters & Edison/Ford Garden Market 9am-5pm

## Meet Your Board Members

**President-**

Kay Holloway 332-0294

Email: [HollowayKayH@aol.com](mailto:HollowayKayH@aol.com)

**First Vice-President-**

Bernadette Hamera 233-1166

Email: [bhamera@outlook.com](mailto:bhamera@outlook.com)

**Second Vice-President-**

Suzy Valentine 992-0113

Email: [suzy.valentine@att.net](mailto:suzy.valentine@att.net)

### OFFICERS 2015 - 2017

**Recording Secretary-**

Charlene Anderson 978-828-6696

Email: [beadiel@gmail.com](mailto:beadiel@gmail.com)

**Corresponding Secretary-**

Sharron Thompson 731-1430

Email: [sharronkt@aol.com](mailto:sharronkt@aol.com)

**Treasurer-**

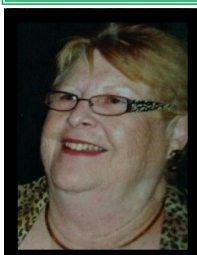
Mae Jean Nothstine 590-0217

Email: [Maejeanoth@aol.com](mailto:Maejeanoth@aol.com)

**Assistant Treasurer-**

Darlene Tompkins 275-6234

Email: [darlenetompkins16@gmail.com](mailto:darlenetompkins16@gmail.com)



Kay



Bernie



Suzy



Charlene



Sharron



Mae Jean



Darlene