

From the desk of Susan Lawson, District IX Director



Susan at Gulf Coast Garden Club*

Hello There-

Oh Gosh...it's hard to believe the Garden Club year is almost done. I know many clubs are wrapping up with their final meetings and installations in May. I look forward to meeting all the new Presidents and their Boards.

Convention in Jacksonville was great! There were 13 in attendance from DIX, with 4 firsttimers. The seminars offered were able to be used for tri-refresher credits, and the ones I attended were very informative! The last night of convention was especially meaningful, as I was installed as the District Director, and accepted the Nell Coe award on behalf of Lake Placid Garden Club. Near the close of the business meeting, all the incoming directors were tasked with creating "dolls" and we danced down the aisle to invite everyone to the 2026 Convention to be held in Kissimmee, April 12-17, 2026. There will be a state flower

show in 2026. I hope DIX will have a large turnout and I can promise you the cocktail party will be fun!

Are you ready to pay a visit to Paradise? Make sure to register for the DIX meeting in Ft. Myers at the Riverside Convention Center on May 21, 2025. The venue is right on the Caloosahatchee River, so will enjoy a wonderful view.

Plan to wear your best tropical attire to join in the fun. The James E. Hendry Hibiscus Society will provide a program about hibiscus. 2nd VP Letitia Gunn will be joining us, and we'll be presenting FFGC awards and a couple of Precious Medal awards. We've asked that silent auction items be interesting/unusual plants or plant-related items. And we'll find out who the winner is of the photo contest, as well as enjoy some of the petite designs from the 2025 Judges Council Flower Show.

I look forward to seeing you in May if not sooner.

Hugs, Susan

*Photo by Anina Bachrach

INDEX & NEWSLETTER INFO

Newest FFGC Affiliate!



A Warm Welcome to the JEH Chapter of the American Hibiscus Society!



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FFGC CONVENTION



L: Judy Francino, Susan Lawson, DIX Director, Donna Schmidt and Brenda Kvamme Luedeman. LL Sylvia Swartz



Sue Angle installing Susan Lawson as DIX Director. R: Christy Linke, new FFGC President





DISTRICT IX FFGC JUDGES COUNCIL

"It's a Small World" NGC Petite Standard Flower Show Feb 13, 2025 held at the Fort Myers-Lee County Garden Council



DISTRICT IX SPRING MEETING 2025

From Donna Schmidt, President of the Garden Club of Cape Coral.

We are in the process of planning the District IX Spring Meeting taking place on May 21, and we are very honored to be hosting this event.

Don't forget to register by May 7 and enter the photo contest by May 12.

Come dressed in your favorite tropical attire. We hope to see you there!



You are cordially invited to the FFGC DISTRICT IX SPRING 2025 MEETING

WELCOME TO PARADISE!

Wednesday, May 21, 2025 Riverside Community Center 3061 E. Riverside Drive Fort Myers, FL 33916

Cost: \$38 (includes continental breakfast and lunch) Doors open at 9:30 a.m. Contact information: Donna Schmidt Email: <u>ibeleafinyou@yahoo.com</u> – Cell: 443-690-2104 Please make checks payable to: Garden Club of Cape Coral Mailing address: Garden Club of Cape Coral, P.O. Box 152022, ATTN: District IX Coordinator, Cape Coral, FL 33915



Hosted by the Garden Club of Cape Coral

The Garden Club of Cape Coral is a registered non-profit under Section 501(c)(3) Find us on Facebook – Garden Club of Cape Coral Find us on Instagram - Capecoralgarden



DIX NEWS

Looking for Great Speakers for Your 2025-2026 Schedule?

18 Speakers Bureau List PDF Link

9 Speakers Video Link

DIX SPEAKERS BUREAU

2025 Fall District IX Meeting in Winter Haven



Save this Date October 21, 2025

Four FFGC Garden Clubs in Winter Haven are banding together to host the Fall District IX meeting.

Special thanks to Bouquet, Camellia, Gardenia, and The Garden Club of Winter Haven. Cissy Richardson from Camellia GC is the chairman. Speakers will include the FFGC President and VPs.

Arcadia Garden Club, Maria Pace (Fed. 1939)

Click for: Arcadia FB



The Goat & Garden Connection **Tuesday, AFTER SCHOOL** APRIL 22, 2025 4:00 - 5:00 PM Come meet Haley the friendly goat from Laid **Back Ranch! Feed her** favorite garden vegetables and learn how she can help your garden grow. FREE! At the DeSoto County Library Community Garden Arcadia Garden Club diagardenclub2022@gmail.com (863) 354-0808 PATTERSON GradeLevelReadingSuncoast.net PEACE BEGINS WITHIN YOU FREE ALL AGES RELAXING ABILITIES Herbal MEDITA TEAL Welcomel



Arcadia Garden Club, Maria Pace (Fed. 1939)

DeSoto County Historical Society's 21st Annual Pioneer Day on March 29. We sold plants and strawberry shortcake. Our biggest fundraiser of the year!







EVENTS

Bartow Garden Club, Robyn Tolle (Fed. 1950)

Click for: Bartow FB

Congratulations!

Ginger Hansill is the new President of the Bartow Garden Club.

Ginger is also a member of our District IX Speakers Bureau.

To recruit new members, the Bartow Garden Club places a plant or arrangement at the Bartow Public Library every month.





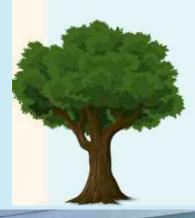


Bartow Garden Club, Robyn Tolle (Fed. 1950)



Tree Planting in Honor of Mother Nature -- Audrey Swindal

FEBRUARY 1, 2025







Bartow Garden Club Field Trip to Classic Caladiums!



Bartow Garden Club, Robyn Tolle (Fed. 1950)

Main Street Bartow





Members of the Bartow Garden Club planted caladiums in front of the Main Street Bartow office where they sell Classic Caladiums at the Bloomin Arts Festival!



MEMBERS OF THE BARTOW GARDEN CLUB ATTENDED



The Bartow Garden Club sold caladiums at

THE 54TH ANNUAL BLOOMIN' ARTS FESTIVAL

This is the club's annual fundraiser. We are very thankful for Classic Caladium's continued support



EVENTS

Bouquet Garden Club (Winter Haven), Bridget Fetter (Feb. 1947)

Bouquet Garden Club hosted their third annual Tea on March 13th Members prepared food, decorated the tables, and created multiple baskets to be raffled. 120 attendees wore a favorite hat to help welcome spring & raise money for several local charities.





EVENTS

Web

Calusa Garden Club of Marco Island, Sara Wolf (Fed. 1983)

Click for: Calusa FB

Congratulations!

Linda Colombo is the new President 2025-2027 of the Calusa Garden Club of Marco Island.













Fort Myers-Lee County Garden Council by Sylvia Swartz

Click for: Garden Council FB

Web

Fort Myer-Lee Council Garden Council Natural Decorations Committee 10 am to 12 pm JOIN US

Next meetings: 8/5, 9/2, 12/2, 2/3, 3/3

Location: Berne Davis Gardens FMLCGC 2166 Virginia Ave Fort Myers

across from Edison Ford Free parking in the Larchmont Ave. Lot.



Mother's Day Tea

Saturday, May 10th 1-3 PM FMLCGC Garden 2166 Virginia Ave Fort Myers, FL 33901 For Garden Council Members and Guests S25.00 Per Person RSVP by May 1st to Alexandra Bremner 239.691.1866 or alexbremner3838≣gmail.com

On Feb 17 visitors to the Berne Davis Gardens were treated to a free concert by the SW Fiddlers group, led by Diane Stevens. The gardens are open Tuesdays and Thursdays, 10 to 1 PM until June 1, and then on Tuesdays only, June to November, 9 to noon. There is always something in bloom, something different to see in this serene oasis in the heart of Fort Myers. Come take a tour with a Master Gardener!



Fort Myers-Lee County Garden Council by Sylvia Swartz









The Horticulture section was very well supported with lots of beautiful entries. Following judging, the Committee entertained the judges and President Sylvia with a delightful al fresco luncheon in the Berne Davis Gardens Gazebo.



The Design categories reflected outgoing President Sylvia Swartz's nationality - London Museums, British Food and English Writers.





Susan Fero, 1st VP and President Elect of the Fort Myers-Lee County Garden Council, along with her talented committee, staged a very successful Strolling Flower Show at the Sidney and Berne Davis Art Center in Downtown Fort Myers on March 18.

The designers were complementing the art of Marvin Rouse, a Naples artist, and certainly achieved stunning displays.

Pictured are just a selection of the many beautiful designs. Designers from several member clubs of the Garden Council participated.





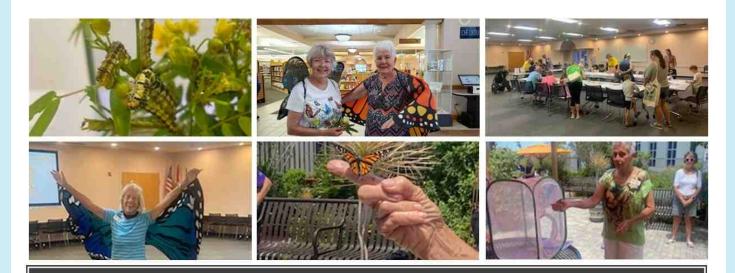


EVENTS



Garden Club of Cape Coral – New Members Tea

We had a wonderful turnout for the New Members Tea that took place on Saturday, March 22. The picture on the left is our club's new members. We had fun trying to get everyone in the picture on the left. It was a beautiful day!!



Garden Club of Cape Coral – Butterfly Garden Open House and Tours

On Saturday, April 5, the Garden Club hosted an open house and garden tours to visitors of the Cape Coral Library. The Butterfly Garden Team has been maintaining the garden at the library since 2003. We had a fun filled day meeting others in the community, entertaining the children with crafts, and sharing information about butterflies and native plants.

Garden Club of Cape Coral, Donna Schmidt (Fed. 1998)



Garden Club of Cape Coral – March in the Park

On Saturday, March 8, the Garden Club hosted their annual fundraising event – March in the Park – that was held at Rotary Park for the very first time. The weather was perfect for the day. We had over 30 vendors and 11 sponsors. We had an abundance of plants for sale as well as opportunity drawings, one of which was a hand painted rain barrel decorated by one of our members Christine. It was a tremendous success thanks to the many members who volunteered for this event.



Garden Club of Cape Coral - Garden Tours

On Saturday, March 22, the Garden Club had a beautiful day touring the amazing gardens at the homes of four of our members – Debbie, Colleen, Joanne and Bev.

the Garden E

EVENTS

Garden Club of Lakeland, Marlene Haigh (Fed. 1931)

Click for: Lakeland FB



Gloriosa Circle, Garden Club of Lakeland, Inc., showing off its flower arranging skills at April Fool's Day meeting.



Garden Club of Lakeland, Marlene Haigh (Fed. 1931)





AVPCI'S Spring Plant Sale

Saturday, May 3rd 9:00 AM - 3:00 PM

AVPCI Nursery 8100 Highway 64 E Avon Park, FL

Cash or check only

ALL PROCEEDS GO BACK TO THE NURSERY PROGRAM "Therapy through Plants"







LUNCH AVAILABLE: Hamburger or hotdogs , chips and drink \$5 per Meal

EVENTS

Gardeners Out East, Nancy Schneider (Fed. 2014)

Click for: Gardeners OE FB

Frances Kane teaching us about Ikebana as simplistically beautiful flower arrangements.

Gardeners Out East has had some great programs this year.

Our last one was an outing to Celery Fields where we had a docent lead walk. On April 14th, Orion Morton presents *The Fragile Ecology of Sarasota Bay and what we

all can do to help it." Mr. Morton is on the board of the Suncoast Water Keepers. On May 12th, we celebrate our new members and a successful year with our season finale "Blooms and Brunch."



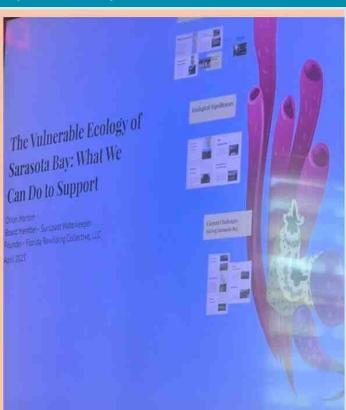




Gardeners Out East, Nancy Schneider (Fed. 2014)

On April 14, we listened to a talk about the Fragility of Sarasota Bay by Orion Morton, Secretary of Suncoast Waterkeeper.







The Club of Hinker

Haven

EVENTS

The Garden Club of Winter Haven by Jane West











The Garden Club of linter Haven

The weather was perfect for a beautiful Central Park Art Festival weekend!

It was a fantastic opportunity for our Garden Club to come together and share our love of plants, creativity, and community.

Gulf Coast Garden Club, Anina Bachrach (Fed. 2004)

Click for: Gulf Coast FB



Web

Link: March Flower Show Photos



EVENTS

Web

JEH Chapter of the American Hibiscus Society

Click for FB: Hibiscus Society

Congratulation!

Cathy Dunn, President of the JEH American Chapter of the American Hibiscus Society.

Cathy is also a member of the Garden Club of Cape Coral

The Hibiscus Society is the newest plant society to become an FFGC Affiliate Member in District IX.

Our newest DIX Affiliate FFGC Member, The JEH Chapter of the American Hibiscus Society, took home the "Most Awesome Blooms" prize from the Strolling Flower Show, held at the Sidney & Berne Davis Art Center on March 18th.

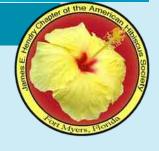
> Past President PROPAGATING & HYBRIDIZING

As part of the Chapter's mission to educate and promote the beautiful hybrid tropical hibiscus, a colorful display with abundant hibiscus blooms was featured at the FMLCGC Strolling Flower Show on April 4th and 5th.









Placid Garden

EVENTS

Lake Placid Garden Club, Ernie Bell (Fed. 1953)

Click for: Lake Placid FB

Congratulations!

A big thank you to Robin Shear and all members who submitted entries for the Nell Coe Award!!!

LPGC won the Nell Coe Award in the FFGC 100th Celebration Year of Garden Clubs, announced at the FFGC Convention in Jacksonville.



Member appreciation Picnic March 29th. FFGC President citation given by Susan Lawson and Maria Wolfe to Mary and Jerry Meisenheimer for their work at Camp Wekiva, Critter Camp.



EVENTS

Web

Naples Garden Club, Peggy Collins (Fed. 1968)

Click for: Naples FB

Congratulations ! Abbie Sladick the new president of The Naples Garden Club

Lights, Camera, Action Flower Show

Naples Garden Club, March 14 – 15, 2025







EVENTS

Web

The Poinciana Garden Club, Sandy Troy (Fed. 1964)

Click for: Poinciana FB

Poinciana Socials



Oct 29 Create flowers from Cardboard Palm leaves with Nancy Colgan. RSVP Sandy 239-994-8147

Two social restaurant events for members and their guests June 26, 11:30 am Rum Bucket July 23, 3 pm & Coopers Hawk RSPV Sarah F. 601-604-5046



Berne Davis Awards Luncheon April 15, 2025













CHARI

EVENTS

Port Charlotte Garden Club by Jeanne Larson (1958)

Click for: Port Charlotte FB A Garden Extravaganza All proceeds will go toward scholarships and community projects. March 22, 2025 OA GARDI Punta Gorda Garden Club, Mary Yeomans (Fed. 1950) Web **Click for: Punta Gorda FB** Flower Show Theme: Celebrate Americal Punta Gorda Garden Club celebrated our nation by presenting homegrown horticulture specimens, floral designs, and botanical crafts in a variety of classes. Classes were titled for natural and manmade sites in the United DERATED 1 States and the type of floral design was related to the site, such as Nagara Falls - Cascade, Golden Gate Bridge - Angular, Kennedy Space Center -Parallel, and the Monterey Bay Aquarium - Underwater. Horticulture classes were named for botanical gardens found across the country too. The show was well attended and the children involved in the Youth Division received. Three designs entered by PGGC members ribbons according to the populate vote of our attendees for fresh arrangements and bookmarks they created with help from PGGC members. Winning floral arrangement and bookmark in the Youth Division. VOTE HERE 28







Punta Gorda Garden Club, Mary Yeomans (Fed. 1950)



Our third annual *Getting Crafty with Nature* event was a success with participants learning to create five different items from natural materials. Oyster shells were decoupaged, tissue paper globes were made with pressed flowers, bark or twig covered cans were constructed,

embroidery hoops were decorated, and flowers were created from burlap. It was a great day with lots of smiles and laughs and we raised money for our scholarship fund!



NGC & FFGC LINKS

| Link | NGC Annual Convention May 18 to 22 |
|------|---|
| Link | Apply & Registered for a NGC Certified Wildlife Habitat |
| Link | Apply & Register for a NGC Certified Pollinator Garden |
| Link | NGC Grants |
| Link | NGC Membership Zoom Meetings, First Monday of Each Month |
| Link | NGC Schools: Environ., Flower Show, Gardening, Landscape Design |
| Link | NGC Free Videos: Video Cafe |
| Link | NGC Youth Awards (posters, essays, poems, etc.) |



LINKS TO SCHOOLS



NGC GARDENING SCHOOL Course 3 Series 11

> Sept 29-Oct 1 , 2025 8:15 AM-12:00 PM EST

Zoom Tech & Course Review Meeting (Required) Fri. Sept 26. 2025 Mark your Calendars .

> 10 -11AM EST Presented via ZOOM

NGC Gardening School Flyer

& Registration Form

National Garden Clubs, Inc. Environmental, Gardening and Landscape Design Schools CONSULTANT APPLICATION FOR ACCREDITATION

To complete form, download and save to your device, add your information, then save again.



National Garden Clubs, Inc. Environmental, Gardening and Landscape Design Schools CONSULTANT APPLICATION FOR ACCREDITATION Student Record/ Consultant Application Form 6-2022

Check appropriate School: Environmental School 🗌 Gardening School 🗌 Landscape Design School 📃

National Garden Clubs, Inc. Environmental, Gardening and Landscape Design Schools CONSULTANT REFRESHER ACCREDITATION APPLICATION

To complete form, download and save to your device, add your information, then save again.



National Garden Clubs, Inc. Environmental, Gardening and Landscape Design Schools CONSULTANT REFRESHER ACCREDITATION APPLICATION

Refresher Accreditation Application Form 7-2021

Check appropriate School: Environmental School 🛄 Gardening School 🛄 Landscape Design School 🛄

NGC, FFGC, DS, DIX DATES

DISTRICT IX EVENTS

2025 SPRING DISTRICT IX FFGC MEETING

Wed May 21

See p 4 for Links to Forms

Riverside Community Center 3061 East Riverside Dr. Fort Myers 96th annual NGC Convention Registration is open May 18-22, 2025

Lots of fun activities (as well as some business) are planned to give you a taste of Charleston.

Details are on the NGC website Charleston, SC

Link to Reg Form

We look forward to seeing the outgoing and incoming board members.

We would love to see garden club members from all over. Come see if your club wins an award.

Lots of tours and workshops will be available.

NGC conventions are educational and fun.

See you in May!!



DISTRICT IX EVENTS

2025 FALL DISTRICT IX FFGC MEETING

October 21

Winter Haven

CALENDAR MAY TO OCT

MAY

May 3, 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Fall Plant Sale at the Avon Park Correctional Nursery. 8100 Highway 64 E. Avon Park. Plants by the Garden Club of Lakeland and the Correctional Facility. LUNCH Hamburgers Baked Beans Potato Chips Water or tea Dessert \$5.00

May 9, 9 AM, Garden Council Program on Mushrooms by David Outerbridge, IFAS.

Meeting. Induction of New Officers. 2166 Virginia Ave, Fort Myers.

May 10, 1 to 3 PM Mother's Day Tea, \$25 per person. FMLCGC Garden, 2166 Virginia Ave, For Garden Council Members and Guests, RSVP by May 1st to Alexandra Bremner 239.691.1866 or alexbremner3838@gmail.com

May 12, 11:30 Blooms and Brunch by Gardeners Out East Garden Club of Lakewood Ranch Season Finale. Contact Nancy Schneider for more information. Guests are welcome. Email nancy3645@gmail.com

May 18-22, NGC Convention see website. Link: https:// calendar.gardenclub.org/ event/2025-convention/

May 21, District IX Meeting,

Sponsored by the Garden Club of Cape Coral. Riverside Community Center 3061 East Riverside Dr. Fort Myers. See page 4 for links to forms.

JUNE

June 10, Decoupage with Karen Sumners. Bring any item painted white. The Poinciana Garden Club. Garden Council 2166 Virginia Ave, Fort Myers. **RSPV** required 239-994-8147.

June 26, 11:30 am Rum Bucket Club Lunch Social, 5150 Buckingham Rd, Fort Myers. The Poinciana Garden Club. RSPV required Sarah 601-604-5046

JULY

July 23, 3 pm at Coopers Hawk Winery and Restaurant, Club Social. 1367 Olympic Court, Fort Myers. The Poinciana Garden Club. RSPV required Sarah 601-604-5046

July 25 to 27. Caladium Floral Arrangement Contest hosted by the Lake Placid Garden Club held at the Lake Placid Caladium Festival. Home | The Caladium Festival, Lake Placid, FL For more information check Websites or Facebook.

SEPTEMBER

Sept 23 10 am, Create a Cloth Pumpkin. Bring 12 grocery bags, rubber bands. Optional: Dry floral materials. The Poinciana Garden Club. Garden Council 2166 Virginia Ave, Fort Myers. RSPV required 239-994-8147

OCTOBER

Oct 18 Climb the Banyan Tree Family Fall Festival. Edison Ford Winter Estates 2350 McGregor Blvd, Fort Myers.

Oct 21, Fall District IX Meeting will be in Winter Haven, Fl.

Oct 29 10:30 am Create Flowers from Cardboard Palm Leaves with Nancy Colgan. Please bring hot glue gun and glue sticks The Poinciana Garden Club. Garden Council 2166 Virginia Ave, Fort Myers. RSPV required 239-994-8147.

DIX CONTACTS

Director: Susan Lawson 941-979-0615 slawson921@gmail.com Assist. Dir.: Mercy Lagmay Abrams 973-255-0134 mercy313@me.com beadie1@gmail.com **Treasurer:** Charlene Anderson **Recording Secretary:** Mary Yeomans mymrsphysics@aol.com Corresponding Secretary: Paula Novander pnovander@yahoo.com Parliamentarian: Carolyn Lowry-Nation 05ceesea@gmail.com Advisors: Leslie Montwid ronmontwid@yahoo.com CHRWinterHaven@gmail.com **Cissy Richardson** Dale DeFeo dwdefeo1@aol.com Awards Chair: Syliva Swartz 239-339-3778 tamargal2@aol.com bkluedeman@gmail.com Facebook Admin: Brenda Kvamme Luedman District IX & Idea Exchange Newsletters, FB: Sandy Troy 239-994-8147 stroy_penn@msn.com Aquatic Ecosystems: vacant Awards: Sylvia Swartz, Pres. Fort Myers-Lee County Garden Council tamargal2@aol.com dshira@tampabay.rr.com Avon Park - Garden Therapy: Pat Shira trudieandhal@gmail.com Birds, Bees, Butterflies: Trudie Kirkland Blue Star/Gold Star Markers: Laura Sullivan moonbeamsgardener@aol.com Coral Reef Restoration: Sharon Ann Ashton saakm@3rivers.net Facebook: Brenda Luedeman bkluedeman@gmail.com Floral Design: Mercy Abrams mercy313@me.com Judges Council: Paula Novander pnovander@yahoo.com Legislative Positions: Sara Wolf sarawolf617@gmail.com slawson921@gmail.com Membership Chairman: Susan Lawson Plant a Tree: Sharon Ann Ashton saakrn@3rivers.net Ways & Means: Trudie Kirkland trudieandhal@aol.com

Keep Up with District IX News

Link DIX Facebook

DIX CONTACTS

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> Flower: Red Hibiscus Wildflower: Sambucus Simpsonii Butterfly: Monarch