



Gulf Coast Garden Club

2017-2018

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Cover Design by Jenie Sandler. Jenie is a Brookdale Basketeers basketry artist, creating beautiful objects from pine needles and other natural materials. She has also contributed her professional, technical talents to this club by creating our Yearbooks for several years. We are delighted to honor her as our featured cover artist this year. Her original drawing of Florida's native slash pine and several baskets which she made from their needles show how we blend nature's gifts with our own creativity to enhance understanding and appreciation of the world around us.

Gulf Coast Garden Club (GCGC)

gulfcoastgardenclub.org

Suzy Valentine, President

“Leaf Through Your Book of LIFE, and Add Some GREEN”

*Appreciate and share knowledge and love
of our SW Florida plants
through gardening and floral design.*

Fort Myers Lee County Garden Council, Inc. (FMLCGC)

FMLCGCGardencouncil.com

Bernadette Hamera, President

“Nurturing Nature”

Florida District IX

ffgcdistrict9.org

Laura Jibben, Director

“Inspiring Buds to Blossom”

Florida Federation of Garden Clubs (FFGC)

ffgc.wildapricot.org

Claudia Bates, President

“Plant. Bloom & Grow With Us”

Deep South Region

dsregion.org

Ann McCormick, Director

“Plant America, Southern Style”

National Garden Clubs, Inc. (NGC)

gardenclub.org

Nancy Hargroves

“Plant America”

GCGC Board of Directors

President	Suzy Valentine	239 992 0113
1 st Vice President	Diane Schmidt	239 213 0958
2 nd Vice President (Programs)	Rosemary DiLorenzo & Capp Morris	330 933 1600 617 875 0799
3 rd Vice President (Membership)	Mary Lou Magliocca	908 305 8217
Corresponding Secretary	Joanne Romano	610 3316428
Recording Secretary	Anne Duffy	239 992 6515
Treasurer	Pat Townsend	239 949 4309
Advisors	Rose Ford	239 514 0676
	Alice Jarvis	239 947 1181
	Gail Pica	239 774 3507
Past President	Kathy Erickson	239 947 1986

Committee Chairs

By-Laws	Robbie Baltzer
Decorum	Alice Jarvis
Design Workshops	Kathy Erickson
Flower Show	Suzy & Others
Finance	Jane Gregory
Green Thumb	Mary Schell
Historian	Loretta Granito
Hospitality	Madeline Wallace
Inspirational Message	Diane Schmidt
Nominating	The Advisors
Parliamentarian	Robbie Baltzer
Photography	Anina Bachrach & Lynn Bird
Properties	Suzy & Others
Sunshine	Eileen Lutz
Trips & Tours	Sally Streppa & Others
Ways & Means	Sally Streppa & Gail James
Yearbook	Suzy Valentine

President's Message -- from Suzy Valentine

"Leaf Through Your Book of LIFE—and Add Some GREEN"

I love plants of all kinds, and enjoy learning all I can about them. Some we choose to grow in our home garden for their usefulness in providing for wildlife, edible treats for our table, shade, privacy screening, rarity, fragrance-- and just pure beauty! Among my favorites are the many different tropical leaves available to us in SW Florida. Foliage can provide a vast variety of color, shapes and forms in the landscape, and in floral design. This year's emphasis will be on leaves, sharing favorites and encouraging you all to grow and utilize these amazing botanical works of art in your own way. Garden clubs have been a major part of my life, always. My goal for this year is to "get back to basics", and concentrate on growing, knowing, sharing and showing!!!



More *garden* and less *club*!

Our History and Mission

Gulf Coast Garden Club was formed in 2003 by a couple of 'snowbirds' and their local friends. We have grown in numbers, but remained faithful to our original mission. Anyone is welcome to join, and practical, hands-on experience and understanding of local plants and how to grow them successfully is our major focus. Gardeners new to tropical conditions, or gardening in general, are welcome! Experienced gardeners will soon learn that everything they know needs to be changed for Florida! Designers are encouraged to use our local horticultural treasures, rather than just buy commercial flowers. Landscaping with the abundance of beauty available to us here, and creating home gardens of all sizes—containers on a lanai, small condo spaces, or larger outdoor areas are all possible and not beyond our own abilities.

SW Florida gardening is VERY different from any northern gardening. Our growing season is just beginning when "up north" gardens are finishing their summer/fall abundance. GCGC provides education, resources and opportunities for its' members to share the love of gardening, floral design, civic and environmental responsibility. As part of National Garden Clubs, through Florida Federation of Garden Clubs and our affiliation with Fort Myers Lee County Garden Council, we offer a great many learning possibilities. Whatever your specific interests may be, if growing plants, artistic design and having fun with good people are involved---this is the club for you!

Meeting Information

General Meetings are held the second Monday of the month
October through May 9:00 am – 11:45 am

Unity Church of Bonita Springs

28285 Imperial Parkway

Bonita Springs, FL 34135

Summer Meetings, June – September
at GCGC members' homes.

General Meeting Schedule

- 9:00 -- **Hospitality** (coffee, drinks, delicacies, and conversation)
Place your Green Thumb exhibit, buy raffle tickets, etc.
Green Thumb is YOUR chance to show what you grow.
Bring a flower, leaf, container plant, or anything you
grow. Create a design with your homegrown things! Or,
a photograph of your garden or one of its special aspects.
- 9:30 -- **Wake Up & Learn** A unique feature of GCGC,
usually led by David Southall & Suzy Valentine. Timely
topics teach about our SW Florida plants and growing,
using and designing with our abundant botanical delights.
Plant of the Month This season we will focus on leaves.
The many different and decorative leaves which grow so
easily in SW Florida will be presented, including their use
in designs.
- 10:00 -- **General Meeting**
- 10:30 -- **Official Adjournment/Break for Fundraiser Drawing &
Program Set-Up**
- 10:40 -- **Program**
- 11:30 -- **Announcements** (please have print outs for info table)
Previous advisement to President/Chair to announce
anything is required.
- 11:45 -- **Closing** Final Words from President/Chair

October 9, 2017

Hostess: *Yvonne Michel*

Wake Up & Learn “Fool Proof Plants for Containers in Florida”

Plant of the Month Caladium (*Caladium bicolor*) &
Croton (*Codiaeum variegatum*)

Two colorful choices for any space. Designs using both.

Program *“Creative Challenge Designs”*

Four members of our club will be given identical materials, including container, mechanics, foliage, flowers and other components. Each designer will create her own interpretation, using some or all of the materials provided, on a pedestal provided by GCGC. Elements & Principles of Design should be explained and defended by the designers. They may talk and explain as they work, or wait until finished. 30 minutes to create and 20 minutes to explain. All present will vote for their favorite!

October Notes

District IX Meeting Tuesday, October 3. 9 am – 2 pm
Embassy Suites, Estero. Meet FFGC Officers, network, learn
what other clubs around our district and state are doing,
and enjoy the Silent Auction.

November 13, 2017

Hostess: Carol Conant

Wake Up & Learn “New Designs from the Handbook for Flower Shows – 2017”

Plant of the Month Calathea (*Calathea species*) &
Maranta (*Maranta species*)

Program “ Everglades Wonder Gardens” Thomas Hecker,
Executive Director

At this meeting, members may bring plants to sell, keeping all profits for themselves. Plants should be potted in clean containers, labeled and priced. This is 3 months before our Flower Show, so anything you buy may qualify for exhibiting. Tables on the outside back lanai will be used for this. Please bring your plants around to the rear entrance.

November Notes

GCGC will be Hostess Club for FMLCG Council General Meeting Friday, November 10. Please plan to attend this meeting in Fort Myers, and bring/send a plate of goodies.

December 11, 2017

Holiday Luncheon at The Vineyards

(Cost TBD)

Come for the meeting even if you do not choose to sign up for the lunch. A basic container with greens in oasis will be on each table, and members will draw a number to be assigned a random place.

Please bring something festive to add to your table's centerpiece--
a ball, bell, bow, box, bloom, berry, bough.....

Get to know new friends, have fun creating a holiday design, and perhaps YOU will be the lucky one to take it home!

Plant of the Month Cordyline (*Cordyline species*) &
 Dracaena (*Dracaena species*)

These fascinating leaves can be manipulated into bows,
just right for the holidays! We'll show you how.

Program Blue Star Memorials GCGC and City of Bonita Springs

December Notes

January 8, 2018

Hostess: Jane Gregory

Wake Up & Learn “Turn of the Century Florida Garden Favorites
– Before Big Box” (That’s the 19th Century!)

Plant of the Month Ferns (many different) &
Asparagus (many ornamental species)

Program “Historic Preservation in Landscape Design”
Sharon Richardson of Longwood Gardens

At this January meeting, members may bring design related items to sell. Name your own price—keep all the money! Containers, dry material, mechanics, backgrounds.....whatever you would like to pass along. Encourage someone else’s creativity! Table/s will be on the lanai. Bring items with prices clearly marked, and do your own selling.

January Notes

Monday, Jan. 29, 9:30--noon Design Workshop at the Church

All levels of experience welcome! Basic Elements & Principles will be demonstrated, everyone creates what they want to, and kind, constructive critiques will come from the Instructors. Try some of the new design types, or just ‘do your own thing’. Bring one or more containers, plant material and mechanics. Additional materials will be provided by GCGC. Cost: \$10

February 12, 2018

De-Mystifying a Flower Show

“A New Leaf”

A Small Standard Flower Show

This will be a busy day! The Flower Show Committee will have tables and other properties set up and ready for us to begin placing Designs and Horticulture at 8:30 am. Everything should be in place by 10:30, and judging will begin at 10:45. Two panels of three Accredited NGC Judges will judge, and two clerks (our members) will assist each of them. All members are allowed to be in the room/s, but must remain quiet and discreet. Judges will be making comments, which the clerks will help to write on cards for each design, and on a general sheet for Horticulture. This is a learning opportunity for ALL!!!

When judging is finished, we will have lunch (sandwiches and drinks coordinated by GCGC). Please invite friends and neighbors to come see our show from 1 to 3 pm, and share the fun. A flower show is like a graduation party, or a music/dance recital, where we get to show off some of our talents and efforts. At 3 pm, we will pack up, clean up and go home to continue celebrating!

See Center Pages for More Details

February Notes

Monday, Feb. 5, 1—4 pm Horticulture Workshop at the Church
with David Southall (various topics-you ask!)

Wednesday, Feb. 21 Trip to Clewiston & Sugar Industry-all day

Monday, Feb. 26, 9:30--noon Design Workshop at the Church
with two or more of our own experienced teachers. See January Notes for details.

March 12, 2018

Hostess: Barbara Ricci

Wake Up & Learn “Succulents- California vs. Florida. Good Luck!”

Plant of the Month Philodendron (*Philodendron species*) &
Monstera (*Monstera species*)

Program “Tropicals” Debbie Hughes, Senior Horticulturist at
Edison-Ford Winter Estates

March Notes

Monday, March 5, 1—4 pm Horticulture Workshop

at the Church with David Southall --various topics TBA

Monday, March 19, 9:30 – noon Design Workshop at the Church

Monday, March 26, 9:30 – noon Design Workshop at the Church

Both of these will be with two or more of our own experienced teachers. New ideas and techniques will be demonstrated, but “anything goes”! Learn, experiment, and have fun creating. (see Jan. notes)

April 9, 2018
Spring Luncheon at Bonita Bay

“Hats ~~Off~~ On”

Installation of Newly Elected Officers

Please plan to join us at this traditional luncheon in the Fireside Room of Bonita Bay Club. The locale is superb, the food fantastic, and friends make it fun.

“Hats Off” indeed to our outgoing and incoming Officers!

The only requirement (besides signing up and paying the luncheon fee-TBD), is to wear a HAT decorated with plant material. Other components allowed, but we’ll be looking for creative use of anything that grows, on any kind of hat you choose. We’ll go around the room, asking each to tell what and why you are wearing what you wear. Remember, just a few years ago, ladies in garden clubs ***always*** wore hats and gloves to meetings. We don’t require the gloves, they are optional!

April Notes

Monday, April 16, 9:30 - noon Design Workshop at the Church

Bring whatever you want to ‘play’ with, and our several teachers/instructors will help, guide, demonstrate and encourage everyone in all levels of design experience.

April 22 – 24 FFGC State Convention and Flower Show

World Golf Village Renaissance Resort, St. Augustine
Great place-- educational—and spouses may play golf!!!

May 14, 2018

Hostess: Mary Schell

Wake Up & Learn Photography Taking Pictures of nature and gardens—everywhere you go.

Plant of the Month *Aralia (Aralia species) & Polyscias (Polyscias species)*

Program “Crazy About Caladiums” Nancy Palmer, of Lake Placid
The Caladium Capital of the World.

May Notes

Wednesday, May 2 District IX Spring Meeting Punta Gorda
Punta Gorda Isles Yacht Club 1780 W. Marion Ave. Punta Gorda

Our GCGC Flower Show 2017

“A New Leaf”

An NGC Flower Show

“The Purpose of a National Garden Club Flower Show is--

To educate club members and the general public.

To stimulate interest in Horticulture and Floral Design.

To provide an outlet for creative expression.

To communicate NGC goals and objectives to the community.”

***This is a small, standard flower show which follows
all the NGC requirements for such a show.***

The new Handbook for Flower Shows 2017 will be used as our guide.

Committee:

Schedule: Suzy Valentine & Kathleen Hawryluk

Horticulture: Rosemary DiLorenzo

Design/Entries: Gail Pica

Judges: Lorna O’Hara

Clerks: Jane Gregory

Final schedule will be available in November.

This is just to make you aware of the possibilities.

Get growing!! And think creatively about designing!!

Division I Horticulture

Section 1 Cut Flowers

Section 2 Cut Ornamental Foliage

Section 3 Cut flowering shrub or tree

Section 4 Cut foliage shrub or tree

Section 5. Edible Offerings

Section 6. Container Grown Plants-Foliage (except Bromeliads)

Section 7. Container Grown Plants-Flowering (Except Bromeliads)

Section 8. Bromeliads

Section 9. Combination Plantings (container with 3 or more compatible plants)

Division II Design

“A Legacy of Leaves”

Plant material may be fresh and/or dried.

Class 1. **“Little, Lovely & Leafy”** A petite design staged on GCGC blue stand, against light colored wall. Max. dimension 6”.

Class 2. **“Take a Leaf from a Book”** A petite design staged on a book, against light colored wall. Max. dimension 12”.

Class 3. **“Bright, Fresh Start”** A design of any style, staged in a colored trifold, 36” high, open to 24” and 29” deep.

Class 4. **“Leave Me Out of This, said the Flower!”** A design using only foliage, no flowers, buds or berries. Staged freestanding on black pedestals 40” high, with square tops 24” x 24”.

Horticulture

Workshops

GCGC will offer two Horticulture Workshops this season, covering various topics such as soil mixes for containers, planting in the ground and/or containers, propagation, pruning, pest control, plant identification via internet, and others as requested. Both will be at Unity Church, Monday afternoons. February 5 and March 5, beginning at 1 pm, also open to the public for a small fee.

David Southall will share his extensive knowledge of botany, biology and Florida gardening with us.

Horticulture Mentors

Several of our members are qualified to mentor/advise others by being credentialed/trained consultants in gardening related areas.

Florida Master Gardener: Rose Ford; Suzy Valentine

NGC Gardening Consultant: Anina Bachrach; Kathy Erickson; Janice Miller; Suzy Valentine

NGC Landscape Design Consultant: Anina Bachrach; Robbie Baltzer; Alice Jarvis; Janice Miller; Jane Waugh

Others are willing and able to give specific advice and answer questions, and we encourage you to let the Board know if you want to mentor-- or to be mentored.

Ask us about absolutely anything you want to know about Florida gardening, garden clubs and related subjects. We will find an answer for you!

Email Suzy. suzy.valentine@att.net

Design Workshops

Five Design Workshops will be offered this season, all at Unity Church. Two or more Instructors will be at each workshop, ready to demonstrate, explain, critique, and encourage. Any and all levels of experience, interests and abilities are welcome! Cost for each Workshop is \$10, which includes oasis and some plant material. Bring your own container/s, mechanics, plant material (with or without flowers) and anything else you want to use in this class/workshop. It will be FUN as well as very educational!

(See January Notes on page 9 for more details.)

Monday, January 29 9:30 – noon

Monday, February 26 9:30 – noon

Monday, March 19 9:30 – noon

Monday, March 26 9:30 – noon

Monday, April 16 9:30 – noon

“The Shop”

Kenzans (pin/needle holders, or ‘frogs’) of various sizes, plus other design materials, will be available for sale at Workshops. Costs vary, but are all ‘wholesale’ to GCGC members. Handbook for Flower Shows 2017 is available upon request for \$15.

Design Mentors

We are fortunate to have many excellent designers among our members. NGC Judges are trained in all aspects of design, and others, although not officially judges, are able to offer guidance to new designers.

NGC Judges: Robbie Baltzer; Carol Conant; Joan Crowther;

Kathleen Hawryluk; Janice Miller; Jane Muchmore;

Lorna O’Hara; Gail Pica; Barbara Ricci; Kathy Spilka; Suzy Valentine

NGC Design Instructor: Kathleen Hawryluk

Ikebana Instructors: Kathleen Hawryluk; June Rickard

Fort Myers Lee County Garden Council, Inc. (FMLCGC)

2166 Virginia Ave, Fort Myers, FL 33901

GCGC is a member of FMLCGC, commonly called 'Council', headquartered in Fort Myers. The Berne Davis Botanical Garden and Mina Edison Botanical Reference Library are there, the Library being inside the newly renovated building surrounded by the Garden. The facilities are available to member organizations for meetings, flower shows and similar events. All member clubs and plant societies are welcome to attend the 5 General Meetings and enjoy Hospitality, Networking, and excellent Programs, held on the 2nd Friday of the month, every other month, September to May beginning at 9 am.

September 8, 2017

November 10, 2017 (GCGC Hostess!)

January 12, 2018

March 9, 2018

May 11, 2018

Program details will be shared in our GCGC communications.

The Berne David Botanical Gardens are open to the public on Tuesdays from 10 am to 1 pm, October through May. Garden guides/hostesses lead tours and answer the many questions from visitors. Each member club is responsible for hosting these guides once every several years. Great time to learn and share!

Trips & Tours

GCGC organizes several trips or tours each season. There are so many places to go and things to see in this part of the world!

Rather than having to organize all the details months before this Yearbook is printed, we will be more flexible this season.

Sally Streppa will be Chair, but all members are welcome to offer suggestions and help make things happen. One car or several—or even a bus—may take us to events or locales which will appeal to some or all of us.

An all day bus trip to Fairchild Gardens in Miami/Coral Gables is being planned for a time when most of us are in Florida.

Another trip already scheduled is the February 21 visit to Clewiston, near Lake Okeechobee, hosted by the Sugar Industry. This will be all day, including lunch, plus snacks on the bus. The bus will meet us at the Home Depot parking lot on Bonita Beach Rd. Watch for the sign-up sheet!

Blue Star Memorials

The Blue Star Memorial Marker Program of National Garden Clubs, Inc. was conceived by Garden Club of New Jersey in 1945 to honor the men and women serving in the Armed Forces during World War II. The name came from the blue stars depicted in the Congressionally approved Service Flag displayed in the front window of homes where a family member was serving in the Armed Forces. A ribbon of living memorial plantings traversing highways across the country was envisioned. New Jersey was the first state to designate and plant a Blue Star Memorial on Route 22, the road heading West from New York City. Thousands of dogwood trees, NJ's State Tree, were planted in the median along many miles.

I grew up very near there,
and remember my parents
telling me as we drove past,
what the big sign meant, and
how important it was to
remember and honor those
who fought for our country.

Many years and many wars
later, the Blue Star program
is thriving! There are over 3,000 around the country. Only NGC
clubs may sponsor these markers, in cooperation with local
communities. GCGC hopes to sponsor a Highway marker on 41, in
cooperation with the City of Bonita Springs.



Online Resources

GCGC website: gulfcoastgardenclub.org

*Everything you want to know about us! Photos, Bylaws,
Standing Rules, Agendas, links and more.*

GCGC Facebook Page: www.facebook.com/GCGCSWFL

FFGC website: FFGC.org

District IX website: FFGCdistrict9.org

**Fort Myers/Lee County Garden Council website:
FMLCGardencouncil.com**

Thank You
to our Community Friends

Bonita Storage Inn
8841 West Terry St.
948 0700

Cecil's Copy Express
1040 Collier Center Way #12
947 2030

Forestry Resources, Inc. *
25211 Old 41 Rd.
444 3284

Heaven Scent Flowers *
27515 Old 41 Rd.
992 5683

Unity Church
28286 Imperial Parkway
947 3100

***Offers a discount for GCGC Members**