

GULF COAST GARDEN CLUB (GCGC)

gulfcoastgardenclub.org

Kathy Erickson, President

*“Let’s Grow a **FLORIDA** Garden Together”*

PO Box 94, Bonita Springs, FL 34133

77 Members



*Appreciate and understand
our unique environment;
Work for SW Florida nature;
Share the love of plants and beauty;
Grow and learn through gardening and design.*

Affiliated with:

FT. MYERS/LEE COUNTY GARDEN COUNCIL, INC.

(FMLCGC) *FMLCGardencouncil.com*

Debbie Wyatt-Stotter, President

“In the Garden of Life...Consider What We Sow”

FLORIDA DISTRICT IX

ffgcdistrict9.org

Glenda Dawson, Director

“Together We Grow”

FLORIDA FEDERATION OF GARDEN CLUBS, INC.

(FFGC) *ffgc.org*

Sue Angle, President

“Through the Garden Gate”

DEEP SOUTH REGION

dsregion.org

Gloria Blake, Director

“Share the Beauty of Gardening”

NATIONAL GARDEN CLUBS, INC. (NGC)

gardenclub.org

Linda Nelson, President

“Making a World of Difference—Choices Matter”

GULF COAST GARDEN CLUB

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

President	Kathy Erickson	239-947-1986
1st Vice President	Denise Baier	239-433-0778
2nd Vice President (Programs)	Maureen Deegan	239-348-8025
3rd Vice President (Membership)	Mary Lou Magliocca	908-305-8217
Corresponding Secretary	Lynn Bird	508-981-6698
Recording Secretary	Pat Townsend	239-949-4309
Treasurer	LaVonne Brekke	612-205-6511
Member At-Large	June Rickard	239-948-9476
Past President/Director	Suzy Valentine	239-992-0113

COMMITTEES – BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Awards	Anina Bachrach
Blossoms Bulletin	Mary Lou Magliocca
By-Laws	Rose Ford
Community Outreach	Lynn Bird
- Bonita Springs Library	
- BSHS Historic Gardens	
- Newspaper	
Design Workshops	Louella McAloose
External Communications	Lynn Bird
Flower Show	Mary Lou Magliocca
Finance/Audit	LaVonne Brekke
Green Elephant	Rayne Novak
Green Thumb	Suzy Valentine
Historian	Anina Bachrach
Holiday Luncheon	Maureen Deegan
Horticulture Workshops	David Southall
Hospitality	Madeline Wallace
Inspirational Message	Diane Schmidt
Nominating	Rose Ford
Parliamentarian	Rose Ford
Photography	Anina Bachrach, Lynn Bird
Set Up/Breakdown	Rosemary Powell
Spring Luncheon	Denise Baier, LaVonne Brekke
Trips & Tours	Leslie Allen, June Rickard
Ways & Means/Raffle	Monika Barthel, Elsa Hernandez
Website	Claire Flynn, Ben Bachrach
Yearbook	Jenie Sandler, Mary Lou Magliocca
Youth Programs	Sue Masters

**OUR PRESIDENT –
Kathy Erickson**

*Welcome to the
Gulf Coast Garden Club!*

Ten years strong and
still growing!

Seasonal or full-time resident,
you are welcome here.

Originally from Minnesota,
I grew up with vegetable gardens
and my mother's roses. I taught
my three children to talk to the
plants and smell the tomatoes!
My vocational history involved
teaching in many different venues: University, High School, The-
atre, Corporation and my own Wellness business.



To further my garden club education, I have attended Flower
Show School; Gardening Study School; Council, District and
State programs; entered many Flower Shows; as well as partici-
pated in community service events.

Like many of you, as a new resident to Florida, my first question
was and still is “what is that plant ?” Names such as *Pittospor-
um*, *Coccoloba*, *Hamelia*, *Lantana* and *Cassia* danced through my
head. Overwhelmed, I took my tropical houseplant from “up
north” – a scraggly old Ficus – and planted it in the ground. The
roots quickly ran for the pool and the growth was 5 ft. a week
(or so it seemed). Tree removal service came, and I took up golf
instead, letting the lawn service take care of things.

Several years later, when we moved to a house, not in a gated
community with all the gardening restrictions, I discovered the
Gulf Coast Garden Club. That was over 8 years ago and the
adventure continues!

Thank you for joining me as we learn, explore and discover the
mysteries of gardening and designing in SW Florida.

OUR HISTORY AND MISSION

The Gulf Coast Garden Club (GCGC) planted its roots when Carole Mack, Betty Mazzarella and Linda Edsall decided to form a new garden club in Bonita Springs that ANYONE could join. They recruited 25 enthusiastic gardeners, and held the first meeting in December of 2003 with a holiday program. Everyone made a design to take home from that meeting. Hands-on experience became a core part of the Mission.

GCGC was accepted into the Florida Federation of Garden Clubs in April 2004. Meetings were held in various locations until Unity Church of Bonita Springs became the regular meeting place.

GCGC is a non-profit organization comprised of both experienced and novice gardeners and designers who share their ideas, designs and information with all who are interested. Our primary Mission, as expressed by current president Kathy Erickson and past presidents Carole Mack and Suzy Valentine, is “to understand and appreciate our unique Southwest Florida environment and to share the love of plants and beauty.”

Florida Growing Zones



GENERAL INFORMATION FOR MEETINGS

Meetings are held on the Second Monday of the Month,
October through May, from 9:00 am – 11:30 am at
Unity Church of Bonita Springs
28285 Imperial Parkway,
Bonita Springs, Florida 34135

Summer meetings, June through September,
are held at GCGC Members' Homes.

MEETING SCHEDULE

- 9:00 – HOSPITALITY – Coffee and Conversation
(Conserve – bring your own cup!)
Enter Green Thumb*. Buy fundraising tickets. Check out
the Green Elephant table**.
- 9:30 - WAKE UP AND LEARN and PLANT OF THE MONTH
Fun facts and demonstrations in Horticulture and Design
- 10:00 - GENERAL MEETING
Pledge of Allegiance
Inspirational Message
Club Business
- 10:30 - FUNDRAISER DRAWING. SET UP FOR PROGRAM.
- 10:40 - PROGRAM: Maureen Deegan, 2nd Vice President, has
enlisted the talents and expertise of our own GCGC
members to feature in some of the programs this year.
It is hoped that this will encourage new *and* seasoned
members to share their specialties with our growing club!
- 11:30 - BREAKDOWN/CLEAN-UP – All members.

***GREEN THUMB**

This is a chance to show what you grow! Green Thumb entries
are only home-grown plant material from our own gardens/
containers.

****GREEN ELEPHANT**

A sales table of donated plants, books and garden-related items.

GCGC DESIGN CLASSES & HORTICULTURE WORKSHOPS FOR 2014-2015

DESIGN CLASSES:

LOCATION: BONITA BAY, ESTERO PAVILLION

GCGC offers hands-on Workshops in Floral Design, open to members and guests. Cost for members is \$10.00 and for guests, \$15.00 (to adequately cover cost of supplies and reimbursement to instructors for their expenses).

SCHEDULE/INSTRUCTOR:

Nov 18, 9:00-12:00 - Line Design, Rose Ford

Dec 9, 9:00-12:00 - Creative Design, Designer's Choice,
Suzy Valentine

Jan 6, 1:00-4:00 - Table Design, Kathy Spilka

Feb 11, 9:00-12:00 - Petite Design, Sue Synnott - NGC

HORTICULTURE WORKSHOPS:

with David Southall*

Soil

Weed and Pest Control

Container Gardening

Do you have questions about plants, soils or pests in Florida?

Email David at d.southall@att.net for all the answers!

*Schedule and location to be announced.

GCGC MEETING - OCTOBER 13, 2014

GREEN THUMB FOR THIS MEETING:

One leaf.

9:00 - HOSPITALITY...Coffee and Conversation

✿ **HOSTESS - Suzy Valentine** ✿

RAFFLE DONOR - Ena McGrattan

9:30 - WAKE UP AND LEARN

Combination Plantings

✿ **PLANT OF THE MONTH:** ✿
Coccolobus uvifera - Sea Grape

10:40 - PROGRAM - Floral Designing

(Fee for Guests - \$5, Free for Members)

Ena McGrattan, prominent Floral Designer, will conduct a Workshop on mechanics of floral design, working on two or three designs. One of her designs will be raffled off at the end of the presentation.

BLOSSOM'S NOTES

GCGC MEETING - NOVEMBER 10, 2014

GREEN THUMB FOR THIS MEETING:

Design in a basket.

9:00 - HOSPITALITY...Coffee and Conversation

✿ **HOSTESS - Barbara Ricci** ✿

RAFFLE DONOR - Cheryl Foote

9:30 - WAKE UP AND LEARN

Planting seeds for a salad bowl.

✿ **PLANT OF THE MONTH:** ✿

Lonicera sempervirens - Coral Honeysuckle

10:40 - PROGRAM - Where have all the Monarchs gone?

Janice Miller, GCGC Member, will share what is happening to the Monarch butterflies and what we can do to help this small, gentle species.

BLOSSOM'S NOTES

GCGC MEETING - DECEMBER 8, 2014

GREEN THUMB FOR THIS MEETING

Decorated package - Wrapped package not larger than 12" x 12", decorated with fresh and/or dried plant material - and anything else. Dried plant material may be treated. Must be able to open, so just wrap box top separately.

HOLIDAY MEETING AND LUNCH AT THE VINEYARDS

400 Vineyards Blvd.
Naples, Florida 34119

9:00 - TEA AND COFFEE

🌸 *HOSTESS - Maureen Deegan* 🌸

RAFFLE DONOR - Maureen Deegan

9:30 - MEETING AND PROGRAM - Crèches and Christmas Decor

Rose Ford, GCGC Member, will display and explain the origins of some of her 350-item Crèche collection.

Maureen Deegan, GCGC Member, will provide four pre-made, permanent Christmas designs to be raffled off.

11:30 - LUNCH (OPTIONAL) - \$30

BLOSSOM'S NOTES

GCGC MEETING - JANUARY 12, 2015

GREEN THUMB FOR THIS MEETING:

Potted plant.

9:00 - HOSPITALITY...Coffee and Conversation

✿ **HOSTESS - Mary Pulick** ✿

RAFFLE DONOR - Carolyn Coulombre

9:30 - WAKE UP AND LEARN

Petite Designs

✿ **PLANT OF THE MONTH:** ✿

Sabal palmetto - Cabbage Palm

10:40 - PROGRAM - Flower Photography and Jewelry Making

Lynn Bird, GCGC Member, will provide a short “How To” talk about photography, sharing her knowledge and experience with photographing flowers.

Audrey Secrest, GCGC Member, will share her knowledge and experience, demonstrating how to make jewelry from dried plant material.

BLOSSOM’S NOTES

GCGC MEETING - FEBRUARY 9, 2015

GREEN THUMB FOR THIS MEETING:

Petite Design.

9:00 - HOSPITALITY...Coffee and Conversation

🌸 HOSTESS - *Diane McMillen* 🌸

RAFFLE DONOR - *Kathleen Hawryluk*

9:30 - WAKE UP AND LEARN

Planting trees, shrubs, etc. in the Florida Ground.

🌿 PLANT OF THE MONTH: 🌿
Nephrolepis exaltata - Sword fern

10:40 - PROGRAM - Designing for Flower Shows

Kathleen Hawryluk, GCGC Member, will present designs appropriate for entry into a Flower Show. Get rid of those Flower Show Jitters. Classes to be discussed will include Petite, Tables, Tri-Color and more. The finished designs will be raffled off.

BLOSSOM'S NOTES

GCGC MEETING - MARCH 9, 2015

GREEN THUMB FOR THIS MEETING:

"Salad Bowl" grown from seed

9:00 - HOSPITALITY...Coffee and Conversation

☀ *HOSTESS - Joan Crowther* ☀

RAFFLE DONOR - Leslie Allen

9:30 - WAKE UP AND LEARN

Underwater Designs

☘ *PLANT OF THE MONTH:* ☘
Tillandsia sp. - Bromeliads, air plants

10:00 - ELECTIONS

1st Vice President

Treasurer

Recording Secretary

10:40 - PROGRAM - Secrets of Growing Herbs and Spices

Adrienne Diaz, a Master Gardener in SW Florida, is an avid grower of edible fruit, veggies and herbs.

BLOSSOM'S NOTES

GCGC MEETING - APRIL 13, 2015

GREEN THUMB FOR THIS MEETING:

Spring Design for Your Place Setting: A Miniature design not to exceed 5 inches H,W,D for your individual place setting. Fresh and/or dried plant material of designer's choice may be used.

ANNUAL SPRING LUNCHEON AT BONITA BAY

Bonita Bay Club, Fireside Room
26660 Country Club Dr.
Bonita Springs, FL 34134

🌸 HOSTESSES 🌸

Denise Baier, LaVonne Brekke and Lorna O'Hara

9:00 - COFFEE AND TEA

50/50 RAFFLE

9:30 - INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS

10:00 - PROGRAM - The Meaning of Flowers

Janice Miller, GCGC Member, will conduct a mini program sharing what a bouquet means when given as a gift to someone. What are the flowers saying?

11:30 - LUNCHEON (OPTIONAL) – \$TBA

BLOSSOM'S NOTES

GCGC MEETING - MAY 11, 2015

GREEN THUMB FOR THIS MEETING:

"Drinking Alone" - a tray for one, to include a decorative unit, napkin and beverage container. Other components allowed.

9:00 - HOSPITALITY...Coffee and Conversation

🌸 *HOSTESS - Louella McAloose* 🌸

RAFFLE DONOR - Judy Dinan

9:30 - WAKE UP AND LEARN

Pruning (including container plants)

🌸 *PLANT OF THE MONTH:* 🌸
Helianthus debilis - Beach Sunflower

10:40 - PROGRAM - Turtle Season

Eva Haverfield, the Turtle Lady, will talk on the care and protection of our turtle populations.

BLOSSOM'S NOTES

TOURS, TRIPS & SPECIAL EVENTS:

Coordinator: Leslie Allen

Carpooling from Unity Church for all trips will leave 1 hour before tour, unless otherwise noted. Please park on the south side of the building.

Thursday, October 30

10:00 am

ECHO Global Demonstration Farm

*Guided Tour (Golf cart available)
We will tour the farm and see how ECHO provides unique solutions to world hunger. They grow a variety of rare and nutritious food plants that thrive under difficult growing conditions.
17391 Durrance Road
North Fort Myers, FL 33917
Minimum 10 people
COST: \$8*

Wednesday, November 12

10:00 am

Lakes Park Botanic Garden

*We will meet with Dr. Wesley Higgins who will give us a tour of this garden whose mission is to celebrate and broadcast the importance of plants and honor their existence on earth.
(Golf cart available).
Lakes Regional Park
7330 Gladiolus Drive
Fort Myers, FL
COST: \$5; Parking: \$1/hr or \$5 all day*

Tuesday, January 20

10:00 am

Sanibel Moorings Botanical Gardens

We will meet with Anita Marshall, director of the garden, for a tour of this resort garden

on Sanibel Island.

845 East Gulf Drive

Sanibel FL 33957

COST: \$5

Meet at Unity Church at 8:45am to carpool to site.

February – Time & Date TBA

Betty's Butterfly Gardens

*Corkscrew Woodlands
21600 Corkscrew Wdlns. Blvd.
Estero, FL 33928
COST: Donation Suggested*

Friday, March 27 &

Saturday, March 28

9:00 am – 5:00 pm

Naples Garden Club

Flower Show

*Tour the Naples Botanical Garden on your own after the Naples Garden Club Flower Show.
Admission to Garden included in the price of the flower show ticket. (Wheel chairs available in gardens.)
Naples Botanical Garden
4820 Bayshore Dr
Naples, FL 34112
COST: TBA*

April – Time & Date TBA

Bonita Nature Place

*Guided Tour
27601 Kent Rd.
Bonita Springs, FL 34135
COST: TBA*

May – Surprise Trip TBA

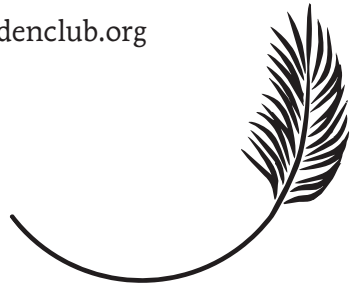


COMMUNITY OUTREACH:

- December – Bonita Springs Library:
Display Case Design
-and-
Program: Using Plant Materials in Holiday Designs
- Partnering with Bonita Springs Historical Society (BSHS):
Maintenance of Historic Gardens - McSwain House, 27451 Old 41 Road
Yard clean-up - Historic Riverside House, 27142 S. Riverside Dr.

ONLINE RESOURCES:

- FFGC.org – FFGC website – Where Gardeners Gather to Share, Learn, Create and Enjoy.
- FFGCListens@gmail.com – Ask any questions about anything at all related to garden club.
- FFGCdistrict9.org – District IX website
- FMLCGardencouncil.com
- GCGC Website – gulfcoastgardenclub.org



SAVE THE DATE!

UPCOMING EVENTS OF INTEREST:

- Oct 22 District IX Fall Meeting, Embassy Suites, Estero, FL - 9:00 am
- Oct 23 District IX Flower Show - *Celebrating Holidays*, Embassy Suites, Estero, FL - 1:00 - 4:00 pm
- Oct 30 District IX Judges Council Meeting - 9:00 am
- Nov 20 District IX Judges Council Meeting - 11:00 am
- Jan 22 District IX Judges Council Meeting - 9:00 am
- Jan 28-29 Tropical Short Course, West Palm Beach, FL
- Feb 5-6 Periwinkle GC Strolling Flower Show, Bell Tower Shops, Ft. Myers, FL
- Feb 20-22 Wekiva Leadership Training, Wekiva State Park, Apopka, FL
- Feb 27-28 GCGC Flower Show - *Destination...Paradise*, Unity Church, Bonita Springs, FL
- March 14 Garden Club of Cape Coral Flower Show - *March in the Park*, Jaycee Park, Cape Coral, FL - 9:00 am
- March 15 Flower Show School, Course II, Ft. Myers, FL
- March 19 District IX Judges Council Meeting - 11:00 am
- March 26-27 Deep South Region Convention, Birmingham, AL
- March 27-28 Naples Garden Club Flower Show - *On the 26th Latitude...Naturally Naples*, Naples Botanical Garden, Naples, FL - 9:00 am
- April 18-19 FFGC Convention, Boca Raton, FL
- May (TBA) District IX Spring Meeting, Winter Haven, FL
- May 12-14 National Garden Club Convention, Louisville, KY

FORT MYERS/LEE COUNTY GARDEN COUNCIL, INC.

The Fort Myers-Lee County Garden Council (FMLCGC) offers its member clubs and societies a range of resources to assist in their missions. The Council was created in 1957 as the *Fort Myers Garden Council* by nine local clubs and societies joining together. In 1967 it was renamed the *Fort Myers-Lee County Garden Council* as its membership had far outgrown the city limits. The Council now consists of over 20 garden clubs, eight plant societies and two affiliates totaling over 1,800 members. It is the home of the *Berne Davis Botanical Garden* and *Mina Edison Botanical Reference Library*.

A wonderful part of Fort Myers public art history lives on. The graceful 5' tall marble sculpture known as Lorelei is now located at the Berne Davis Garden at the Fort Myers-Lee County Garden Council property, located at 2166 Virginia Avenue.



Lorelei

A founding member of the Periwinkle Garden Club along with Mina Edison and Berne Davis, Evelyn Rhea had a love and respect for the beauty in gardens. During a trip to Italy in 1930, she found the perfect addition to her own riverfront estate garden on East First Street: the finely-sculpted Italian marble sculpture of Lorelei. Upon her death in 1959, Lorelei was donated to the Public Library of Fort Myers.

Lorelei graced the front entry for decades. She stood relatively untouched until 1997, when vandals broke off her head, part of an arm, and several toes. When the library moved to its new quarters, Lorelei was left behind, leaving her future unknown.

Having a strong link to Fort Myers history and Mrs. Rhea, the Fort Myers-Lee County Garden Council proposed a partnership with the Fort Myers Public Art Committee to protect Lorelei. The statue would be relocated to the Garden Council property, and in return, the Council agreed to fund the maintenance and stabilization. After several months of work by volunteers, Lorelei now graces the entrance to the gardens, where she will continue to share her beauty to all that visit.

FMLCGC General Meetings are held the 2nd Friday of the month, every other month, September to May, at Riverside Community Center, 3061 E. Riverside Drive, Fort Myers, FL 33916.

Hospitality 9:00 am - 9:30 am

Meetings 9:30 am - 11:30 am

- | | |
|---------------------------|--|
| September 12, 2014 | Program - <i>Butterflies and Castles</i>
Mary Jane, Butterfly Estates |
| November 14, 2014 | Program - <i>Designing with Humor</i>
with designer Janice Hamlin
North Ft. Myers Community Center.
2021 N. Tamiami Tr., N. Ft. Myers |
| January 9, 2015 | Program - <i>Magic with Flowers</i> –
Designing with Betty Call |
| March 13, 2015 | Program - <i>Bugs-</i>
with David Southall |
| May 8, 2015 | Program - <i>Let's Go Native</i>
with John Sibley, Native Plants |

Special Events:

Blue Star Memorial Installation

October 10, 10:00 am
Page Field, Fort Myers

Annual Open House at Garden Council Headquarters

November 22, 9:00 am - 1:00 pm

Council Flower Show – *Flowers in Art & Music...*

the Keys to Happiness

March 6, 2015, 6:00 pm - 10:00 pm

Part of the Fort Myers Art Walk

Sidney & Berne Davis Art Center, 2301 1st St.

Berne Davis Botanical Gardens (at Garden Council

Headquarters) are open for tours on Tuesdays,

10:00 am - 1:00 pm, October through May.

2166 Virginia Avenue (off McGregor Blvd.) Fort Myers

Botanic Garden Tours - free

Monthly on the second Saturday, 9:00 am - 11:00 am

Lakes Regional Park, 7330 Gladiolus Drive, Fort Myers

GCGC DELEGATES TO FMLGC

Primary: Denise Baier, LaVonne Brekke and Mary Lou Magliocca

Alternates: Lynn Bird, Lorna O'Hara and Diane Schmidt

DID YOU KNOW...MEMBERS' CREDENTIALS

ANINA BACHRACH

NGC Gardening Consultant-Master
NGC Landscape Design Consultant-Master
NGC Environmental Studies Consultant
Master Gardener-Michigan

ROBBIE BALTZER

NGC Flower Show Judge-Master
NGC Landscape Design Consultant-Master

CAROL CONANT

NGC Flower Show Judge-Master

JOAN CROWTHER

NGC Flower Show Judge-Master
Master Gardener

KATHY ERICKSON

NGC Gardening Consultant



ROSE FORD

Master Gardener

LOIS GRESSMAN

NGC Flower Show Judge-Master

KATHLEEN HAWRYLUK

NGC Flower Show Judge-Master
NGC Judges Flower Show Design Instructor

ALICE JARVIS

NGC Landscape Design Consultant-Master
NGC Life Member

ANNE LEVI KNOX

NGC Flower Show Judge-Master

CAROLE MACK

NGC Flower Show Judge-Master

LOUELLA MCALOOSE

NGC Student Judge
Master Gardener-North Carolina

DIANE MCMILLEN

NGC Flower Show Judge-Master
NGC Life Member

JANICE MILLER

NGC Flower Show Judge-Master
NGC Gardening Consultant
NGC Life Member

LORNA O'HARA

NGC Flower Show Judge-Master

GAIL PICA

NGC Flower Show Judge-Master

MARY PULIK

NGC Flower Show Judge-Master
NGC Landscape Design Consultant-Master
NGC Gardening Consultant
NGC Environmental Studies Consultant

BARBARA RICCI

NGC Flower Show Judge-Master

KATHY SPILKA

NGC Flower Show Judge-Master

JANE WAUGH

NGC Landscape Design Consultant-Master
1st VP, The Federated Garden Clubs of CT, Inc. (President 2015)

CAROL WHITE

Master Gardener

SUZY VALENTINE

NGC Flower Show Judge-Master
NGC Gardening Consultant
Master Gardener-Florida (Collier County)



**THANK YOU TO OUR BONITA
COMMUNITY FRIENDS**

BONITA STORAGE INN

8841 West Terry Street
948-0700

CECIL'S COPY EXPRESS

25091 Bernwood Drive #9
947-2030

FORESTRY RESOURCES, INC.*

25211 Old 41 Road
444-3284

HEAVEN SCENT FLOWERS*

27515 Old US 41 Rd
992-5683

UNITY CHURCH

28285 Imperial Parkway
947-3100

**Offers a discount for GCGC Members*

“Destination...



A Standard Flower Show

Presented by

Gulf Coast Garden Club

Friday, February 27, 2015, 3 PM to 6 PM

Saturday, February 28, 2015, 10 AM to 4 PM

Location:

Unity Church of Bonita Springs

28285 Imperial Parkway • Bonita Springs, Florida 34135

Open and Free to Public • Donations Welcome

BLOSSOM'S NOTES