



The Garden Gate

Lemon Bay Garden Club

480 Yale Street, Englewood, Florida May 2024

Our next membership meeting will be on Monday, May 6
Onboard the Marina Jack
2 Marina Plaza, Sarasota

Boarding begins at 11:30am.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

We've all been so busy this year it hardly seems that we've actually had a full year go by already. We've had a beach picnic, some great speakers, tree planting and planting, and more planting, plant sales, craft sales, cake and cookie sales, garden tours, rummage sales, root beer floats and hotdogs, fund raising, Christmas parties, "class" trips and boat rides. The last thing on our list for this year is the District VIII meeting to be held at Heron Creek Golf and Country Club next Thursday. Then everyone has off for the next 5 months. Whew!

Next year we're planning on garden club events like floral design snippets, floral arrangements, and other workshops and field trips along with our regular monthly program speakers and I can't wait.

Whether you're a snowbird or stay in Florida year round (unless you're a garden worker or crafter and I'll see you all summer) here's wishing you the best for your well deserved time off!

With sincere appreciation,
Sue Burke, President



DISTRICT VIII MEETING -- FINS AND TAILS

We are so pleased that 80 people (including 18 of LBGC Club members) are coming to the District Meeting that we are hosting on May 9, 2024. If you volunteered to be a helper, please arrive by 8:30am.

WHAT: DISTRICT VIII SPRING MEETING, District Director - Phyllis Weber

Speaker from Mote Marine Laboratory and Aquarium - "Fins and Tails"

Raffle Baskets - 50/50 Opportunity Drawing
Beautiful Handmade Greeting Cards
Floral Design Containers

WHERE: Heron Creek Golf & Country Club, 5301 Heron Creek Blvd., North Port, FL 34287

WHEN: Thursday, May 9, 2024

Registration and Coffee: 9:30am - 10:00am

Call to Order: 10:00am

Lunch: Noon

Speaker: 1:00pm

DIRECTIONS: From Englewood...

South on 41 towards North Port

Left onto Sumter Blvd.

Left onto Heron Creek Blvd. at Country Club entrance

Tell the guard that you are attending the garden club meeting

Follow the road to the end at the Clubhouse and parking lot



HORTICULTURE

The 2023-2024 year's budget tasked Horticulture with raising \$13,000 in income - representing just over one third of the Club's total budget of \$37,715. **As the budget year ends, we are approaching \$16,000. THAT'S RIGHT!!** Horticulture has **surpassed** the budgeted income amount for the 2023-24 budget year.

Thank you to all the club members who supported the effort, we couldn't have done this without your help. Hats off to the horticulture workers who show up faithfully every Friday morning and also to all the members who have donated plants, cuttings, supplies and have sold plants.

But.....here's a heads up.....next year's budget asks Horticulture to raise \$14,000!!!! We need every club member's continued support so that we CAN DO IT ALL OVER AGAIN!

THANK YOU, THANK YOU, THANK YOU!

....Joan Tyrer

HOUSE

Outside gable vents and siding will be repaired, followed by repairs to the Clubhouse floor. Smoke detectors will be changed as well. All work will be coordinated with the Club's needs.

Thanks to Ken, Leonard and Barbara Gordon for the vision you all had for our AV equipment. The unit housing the equipment was donated to us to sell at the Rummage Sale. Barbara labeled it "Not For Sale" so we could use it ourselves. Leonard fixed it so it would be strong enough to hold our equipment and Ken did the wiring and setting up. We now have a home for all of our AV equipment - made possible by working together!

...Linda Geoghegan

MEMBERSHIP

We are starting fiscal year 2024-2025 with 77 members. Welcome to our new members! When the new season starts on October 1 we hope everyone will volunteer for a committee. We have MANY committees and each one needs help. Contact Linda VanGuilder, Grace Malone or Linda Geoghegan to find out what each committee does and pick what you'd like to do. Enjoy the summer months and we look forward to seeing you in October.

...Linda VanGuilder, Grace Malone, Linda Geoghegan

HOSTESSES

Please sign up as Hostess for next season's meetings. This is a great way to meet other members - both new and ... seasoned. Contact Debbie Ott for info on what the job entails and to sign on. Each member should volunteer as a hostess at least once every 2 years.

...Debbie Ott

BOTTLES, BOTTLES, BOTTLES!!!

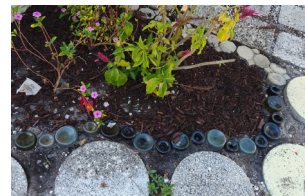
Have you seen what Barbara Gordon has done with all those bottles people dropped off?

Barbara has made a butterfly sanctuary where they "hang out" in the shade, safe from the elements and predators. Insects and butterflies seek shelter in bark crevices, hollow logs, and abandoned twig piles. They are attracted by color and reflected sunlight. This insect respite is fashioned to resemble these natural areas. The inner core is a hollowed wood box; the outer core is constructed of wine bottles.



Barbara cut the tops off some bottles and placed them inside one another, creating a Gordon Rain Chain.

Then, (waste not, want not) Barbara took the bottoms and buried them in the dirt creating a glass edging for the mulch.



Barbara's next idea is thousands of years old, thought to have originated in China. It's called **olla**. She will bury clay pots filled with water around plants. The capillary action will slowly irrigate the surrounding area. Great for those areas that aren't reached by your irrigation system!

Barbara is a snowbird and we can't wait to know what ideas she'll come back with in the fall.

RUMMAGE SALE

As this season comes to a close we would like to give a pat on the shoulder to all club members whose generosity, work and club commitment resulted in a generous monetary contribution toward club goals and scholarships. We ask you to keep the 2024 rummage sale in mind as you clean your drawers, cupboards, and closets.

Keep in mind that the time between accepting donations and presenting a shopping extravaganza will be shortened in 2024 and will require all hands on deck working as a fine tuned team effort. We hope your schedule will permit you to help. Have a nice summer season and we look forward to working with you when we meet again.

...Barbara Gordon and Sue Burke

CONSERVATION AND ENVIRONMENT

The Mockingbird is found in most Florida back yards. You hear this bird singing throughout your day or witness this bird's uncanny ability to imitate other birds. Some can imitate cats, dogs, and mechanical sounds like cars. You might see an American Crow called by what sounds like another crow. The crow leaps toward the call only to find it's a Mockingbird-dive-bomber. The crow is immediately chased across the sky far into the distance. The Mockingbird soon returns proudly perching high above the yard where some are allowed to stay and some are not.

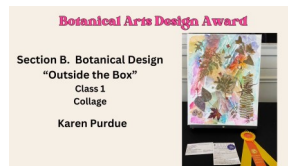
The Mockingbird is considered a friend of the environment eating both insects and fruits, serving as both a natural pest controller and seed spreader. Mockingbirds are robins sized, reaching nine to 11 inches long. This bold bird appears common with gray feathers on top and white underneath. When puffed out the feathers reveal white wing patches and white edged long tail feathers. A monogamous pair for life as dedicated parents Mockingbirds often build more than one nest at a time, using double or triple-roosting. Their nests filled with bluish green speckled eggs are sometimes not well hidden from the determined predator. Perhaps this explains why their large defended area must be limited to approved members only.

Music and literature have given the Mockingbird international fame. We certainly all know the song, "Hush little Baby," where the mom is going to buy a diamond ring for the baby who has been given the unlikely Mockingbird who will not sing. Of the many Mockingbird praises in literature comes this from Florida Writer, Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings in her 1896 autobiography, "Cross Creek," about Florida life: she wrote on page 282, "Edward Bok imported English nightingales for the bird sanctuary at Bok Tower. The caretaker told me . . . The mocking-birds had learned their song. It was even lovelier, he said, than that of the nightingales." The Mockingbird is the State Bird of Florida, designated on April 23, 1927.

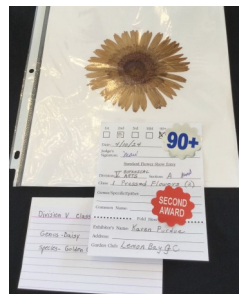
...Wanda Milik

FFGC 100th ANNIVERSARY STATE CONVENTION AND FLOWER SHOW

Our Club members are truly talented!!



Sue Killion



Karen Purdue



Kathy Myers



Look What's New!

Third Monday of each month: "Grow it to Show it!"

9:30 am October – March

All members, new and old, plan to join us at the Lemon Bay Garden Clubhouse for a series of get-togethers designed to help you know all you need to know to enter your best horticulture in our next flower show. No worries if you can't attend all – we'll be happy to catch you up. Can you spare 45 minutes to an hour depending on questions? We'll have fun learning together.

Project goal: a members-only horticulture display and critique in March. Final day open to the public during our Garden Tour.

Questions, suggestions, and to sign up:
Contact Elaine Schweitzer
941-408-5912

Should we?

Are you interested in learning how to make floral designs? For your home? For another flower show? It's been a long time since we gathered to create together. I'd be happy to see Designing Women make a come-back, would you?

The third Monday of each month beginning in October?
Text or email Elaine Schweitzer with your ideas, suggestions, questions.
941-408-5912