

DIX FOR YOU

Fall Greetings —

It's hard to believe we're already halfway through 2026—time is flying. I'm delighted that so many District IX clubs stayed active over the summer, keeping that wonderful sense of camaraderie going. I hope some of you joined our July educational ZOOM session. A big thank-you to **Debbie Hughes** for sharing her expertise on bulbs and roses suited to SW Florida. Free learning you can enjoy in your pajamas is always a win.



We're beginning to receive details about **FFGC's 2027 Convention**, which will mark our **100th Convention—a true Golden celebration**. This installation year will feature a photography show, workshops, silent auction, raffle baskets, vendors, and awards. The Early Arrivals dinner will have a **Golden Girls** theme followed by a dance party. Save the dates: **April 6–9, Embassy Suites, Kissimmee, FL**. You won't want to miss it.

You also won't want to miss our **Fall DIX Meeting on Tuesday, September 22**, hosted by the Periwinkle Garden Club at the **Sidney & Berne Davis Art Center** in Fort Myers. It will be a festive Fall gathering, complete with a **pumpkin/gourd decorating contest**—either decorated or carved. Prizes will be awarded, judged by attending FFGC officers. I can't wait to see your creativity on display.

Finally, please join me in welcoming the **Alva Garden Club** as the newest member of FFGC. Their members are now listed in the FFGC Directory, and we're thrilled to have them join our Fine District IX family.

Hugs, Susan

Cultivating Minds, Blossoming Potential

**Save the date for the 2027 Convention.
Our 100th Annual Convention—April 6–9, 2027.
We're planning special surprises you won't want to miss.**

INDEX

**NEW! Click this LINK.
DIX EVENTS MAGAZINE**

20 DIX Event Flyers

Share the link with friends to
help increase attendance at all
our events.

**LINK click. Increase event
turnout share [DIX FB link](#) with
members and friends.**

 Join group

 Invite

 Share

**List your public special events
on the FFGC Web Calendar**

[Link for Form](#)

FFGC MONTHLY CALENDAR

MONTH: FEBRUARY 2026 

WEEK	MONTH	YEAR	< PREVIOUS MONTH	TODAY	
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Feb 1	2 10:00 AM Floral Design Studi...	3	4	5 10:00 AM Getting Crafty wat...	6 Wekiva Volu...
8 Wekiva Volunteer ...	9 NGC Gardening School Course 4, ZOOM, District VI	10	11	12 9:00 AM Floral Design Stud ...	13
Gardenfest! Natur ...	10:00 AM Floral Design Studi...				
11:30 AM Wekiva Youth Cam...					
15	16 10:00 AM Floral Design Studi...	17	18 6:45 AM Bus Trip to Fairchil ...	19	20
22	23 10:00 AM Floral Design Studi...	24	25	26 9:00 AM Floral Design Stud ...	27
Mar 1	2 10:00 AM Floral Design Studi...	3	4	5 9:30 AM Florida Federation ...	6
8	9 10:00 AM Floral Design Studi...	10	11	12 9:00 AM Floral Design Stud ...	13 Luck of Y...
					10:00 AM Getting G...

INDEX

PG

WELCOME by Susan Lawson 1

INDEX 2

WHAT'S NEW

-Welcome Alva GC 3

-DIX IX Meeting Contest 3

-100th FFGC Annual State Conv. 4

-Precious Metal Certificates 5

-Happy Anniversary

CLUB REPORTS 6-28

SPEAKERS SPOTLIGHT 29-30

DIX RESOURCE LINKS Updated 31

NGC, FFGC, DS, DIX Events 32

CALENDAR 33-34

DIX CONTACTS 35

WHAT'S NEW?

Please Welcome the ALVA GARDEN CLUB Our Newest District IX FFGC Garden Club!

The Alva Garden Club was founded in 1957 to promote better participation in gardening practices, to learn to use flowers more effectively and to beautify our environment. The Alva GC is in east Lee County, has 57 members and meets at 21420 Pearl St., Alva.



District IX Meeting ~ Sept 22
Sidney & Berne Davis Art Center

Two contests: Carved or Decorated

Your Pumpkin or Gourd are Wanted

If you are bringing an entry for the contests, please email Susan Lawson
slawson921@gmail.com



Want
inspiration?
Video LINK



WHAT'S NEW?



OUR GOLDEN
100TH FFGC ANNUAL
STATE CONVENTION
APRIL 6 -9, 2027



EMBASSY SUITES BY HILTON
LAKE BUENA VISTA SOUTH
KISSIMMEE, FLORIDA

Precious Metal Certificates

FFGC honors Club Loyalty with a Precious Metal Certificate, marking the number of years a club has been federated. DIRECTIONS: Clubs with 30+ years of membership may apply. Send the Precious Metal Form to Susan Lawson six weeks ahead to receive the Certificate for presentation at a District or club meeting.

[Link
to
Form](#)

Happy Anniversary!



GC of Lakeland ~ 95 years

Camellia GC ~ 80 years

District IX FFGC Garden Club Anniversary Years

Year Federated taken from the FFGC Website.

Club Name	Year Fed.	30th	40th	50th	60th	70th	75th	80th	85th	90th	95th	100th	125th
Winter Haven	1927	1957	1967	1977	1987	1997	2002	2007	2012	2017	2022	2027	2052
Lakeland	1931	1961	1971	1981	1991	2001	2006	2011	2016	2021	2026	2031	2056
Sebring	1935	1965	1975	1985	1995	2005	2010	2015	2020	2025	2030	2035	2060
Wauchula	1937	1967	1977	1987	1997	2007	2012	2017	2022	2027	2032	2037	2062
Gardenia	1938	1968	1978	1988	1998	2008	2013	2018	2023	2028	2033	2038	2063
Periwinkle	1938	1968	1978	1988	1998	2008	2013	2018	2023	2028	2033	2038	2063
Arcadia	1939	1969	1979	1989	1999	2009	2014	2019	2024	2029	2034	2039	2064
Camellia	1946	1976	1986	1996	2006	2016	2021	2026	2031	2036	2041	2046	2071
Bouquet	1947	1977	1987	1997	2007	2017	2022	2027	2032	2037	2042	2047	2072
Avon	1947	1977	1987	1997	2007	2017	2022	2027	2032	2037	2042	2047	2072
Bartow	1950	1980	1990	2000	2010	2020	2025	2030	2035	2040	2045	2050	2075
Punta Gorda	1950	1980	1990	2000	2010	2020	2025	2030	2035	2040	2045	2050	2075
Lake Placid	1953	1983	1993	2003	2013	2023	2028	2033	2038	2043	2048	2053	2078
Royal Palm	1957	1987	1997	2007	2017	2027	2032	2037	2042	2047	2052	2057	2082
Port Charlotte	1958	1988	1998	2008	2018	2028	2033	2038	2043	2048	2053	2058	2083
Poinciana	1964	1994	2004	2014	2024	2034	2039	2044	2049	2054	2059	2064	2089
Naples	1968	1998	2008	2018	2028	2038	2043	2048	2053	2058	2063	2068	2093
Calusa	1983	2013	2023	2033	2043	2053	2058	2063	2068	2073	2078	2083	2108
Cape Coral	1998	2028	2038	2048	2058	2068	2073	2078	2083	2088	2093	2098	2123
Gulf Coast	2004	2034	2044	2054	2064	2074	2079	2084	2089	2094	2099	2104	2129
Gardeners OE	2014	2044	2054	2064	2074	2084	2089	2094	2099	2104	2109	2114	2139
Hibiscus	?												



**THE Arcadia Garden Club
PRESENTS:**

THANKFUL
Fest IV

**PLANT SALE!!! NATIVE, RARE,
HOUSEPLANTS, SUCCULENTS &
VEGETABLE PLANTS!!!**

**SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 14TH, 2026
9AM - 1 PM**

FREE ENTRY - KID FRIENDLY ACTIVITIES



BOUNCY HOUSE BY SPLASH N BLAST!!!



GAMES! SPECIALTY VENDORS ! FOOD!

1005 W. MAGNOLIA STREET, ARCADIA, FL 34266

CONTACT: MARIA PACE 863-354-0808

OR

EMAIL: ARCADIAGARDENCLUB2022@GMAIL.COM

Avon Park Founders Garden Club (Feb. 1947) Sue Brisk, Pres. Andrea Albritton



Members of the Avon Park Founders Garden Club came together to craft ten patriotic floral arrangements adorned with a USA pick and flag. Using red carnations, white roses, blue plumbago, and baby's breath, they created cheerful displays that were delivered to Main Street merchants — and happily received.



Bartow Garden Club (Feb. 1950), Ginger Hansill, Pres.

FB

PH*

Robyn Tolle



From the south in France from Robyn Tolle.



Bonsai Society of Southwest Florida - Karen Cogswell, Pres.
FFGC Affiliate member

[FB](#)

[WEB](#)

[NL](#)

[Nov Bonsai
Show Flyer](#)

Angel Vega



The display submitted to the Bonsai Society of Florida Convention from the Bonsai Society of Southwest Florida.



Photos from the society meeting prepping for the Convention.



Bouquet Garden Club (Fed. 1947) - Kate Morris, Pres.

FB

Becky Reeves, Pub.



Members celebrating the end of another successful year.

Plant a Tree Award



Committee Planning for Next Year



Three Bouquet Award Winners



Bill Lawrence discussed his "Living Art" by showing how he



incorporates plants with his art projects throughout Winter Haven.

Calusa Garden Club of Marco Island (Feb. 1983) – L. Colombo, Pres.

FB

WEB

PH*

Sara Wolf



Calusa Garden Club of Marco Island members met informally for summer lunches on May 18 and June 12. In late May, members created floral designs for Little Pink Houses of Hope, decorating the homes of visiting cancer-survivor families enjoying a free weeklong vacation. They also provided arrangements for the closing luncheon, where Nanette Baumgardner's giant crepe-paper flowers welcomed guests. Pictured are Nanette Baumgardner and Marianne Foley with the oversized blooms.



June Luncheon at CJ's On The Bay



May Luncheon at Cafe Marquise



Claudia Bruni and Jen Ferrier with arrangement for Little Pink Houses of Hope



President Linda Colombo and Marianne Foley with arrangement for Little Pink Houses of Hope



Nanette Baumgardner and Marianne Foley with crepe paper flowers for Little Pink Houses of Hope luncheon

[FB](#)

[WEB](#)

[Calendar & Classes](#)

[Orchid Show Flyer](#)

Edison & Ford Winter Estates

DIX, FFGC & Garden Council Affiliate *

Celebrate OCTober Orchids Cacti Tillandsias

Saturday & Sunday

October 10 & 11, 2026, 9 AM – 4 PM



- Free Workshops
- Growers
- Vendors
- Food Trucks
- Free Parking

- Florida Federation of Garden Clubs District IX
Affiliate Member & Fort Myers-Lee County Garden
Council Affiliate Member

EDISON
and
FORD
winter
ESTATES

5th Annual Family Fun Day!

Saturday - October 31st, 2026 – Halloween!!

9:00 AM ~ 4:00 PM

Climb the Banyan! ~ Pumpkin Coloring Contest

Face Painting ~ Food Trucks ~ Music

Fort Myers-Lee County Garden Council - Sue Fero, Pres.

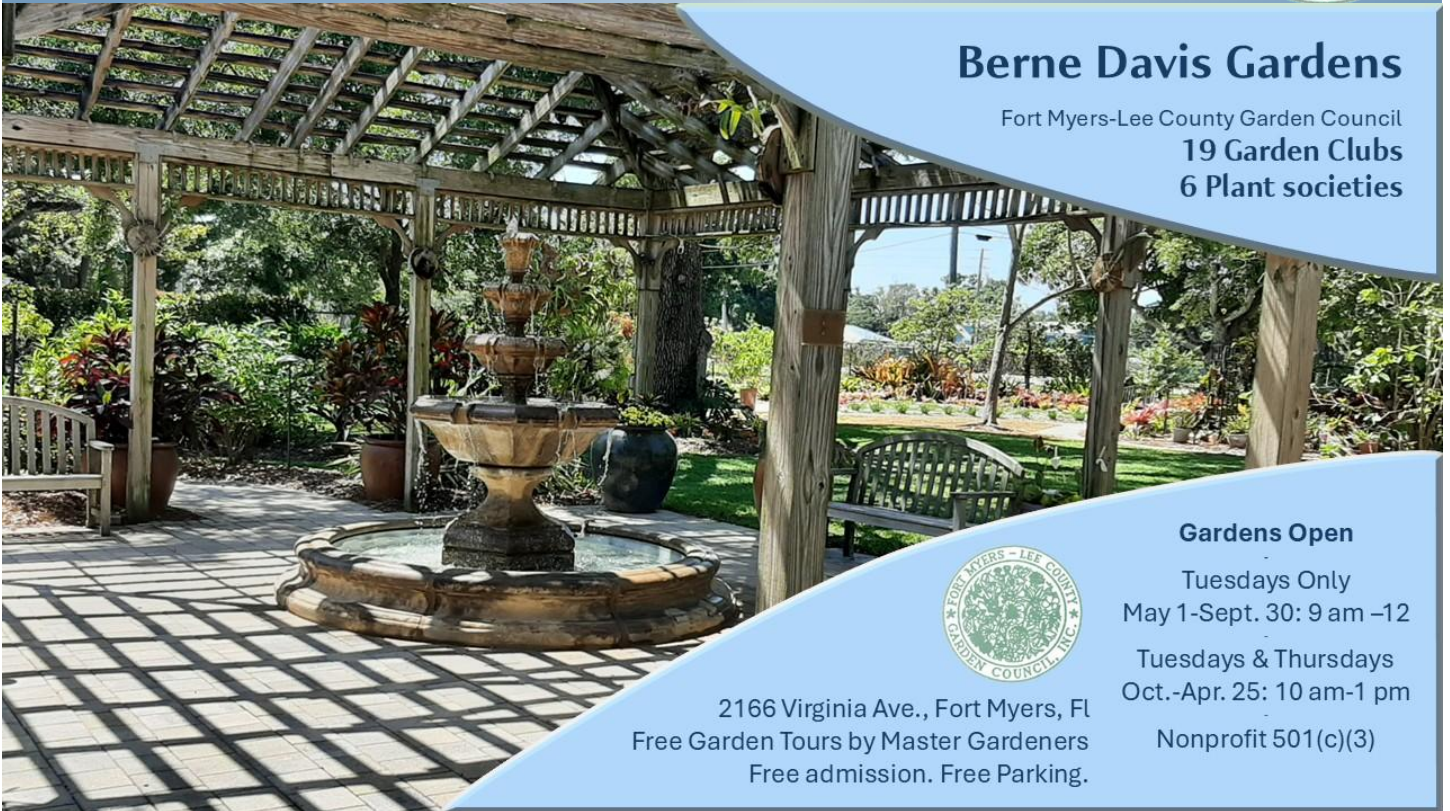
[FB](#)[WEB](#)[NL](#)

FFGC Affiliate



Berne Davis Gardens

Fort Myers-Lee County Garden Council
19 Garden Clubs
6 Plant societies



Gardens Open

Tuesdays Only
May 1-Sept. 30: 9 am -12

Tuesdays & Thursdays
Oct.-Apr. 25: 10 am-1 pm

Nonprofit 501(c)(3)



2166 Virginia Ave., Fort Myers, FL
Free Garden Tours by Master Gardeners
Free admission. Free Parking.

Patron Pathway Brick Fundraiser Berne Davis Gardens



Sally Jones
Thank You for Serving
Sandy Beach GC

John Rice
With Appreciation
Orchid Society

Harry O'Leary
In Loving Memory



QR code.
Click the green
brick order form.

Celebrate a loved one, garden club or plant society member with a personalized brick in our Patron Pathway. Create a lasting tribute and support our gardens. \$75 per brick. Up to 3 lines. No more than 21 characters and spaces per line.

Garden Club of Cape Coral (Fed. 1998) – Sylvia Swartz, Pres.

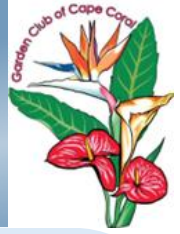
FB

WEB

PH*

Roberta Murphy

March in the Park 2027



The Garden Club of Cape Coral proudly presented the 2026 Marty Ward Merit Scholarship Awards at the April and May meetings.



Nancy Finnigan and Peggy Loyson created the wreath



On July 1, 2026, members placed a wreath and commemorative flags at the Blue Star Memorial, sponsored and maintained by the GCCC. The marker is located in the parking area of the Four Mile Cove Ecological Preserve

Garden Club of Lakeland (Fed. 1931) – Emily Fox, Pres.

FB

PH*

Marlene Haigh

Avon Park Plant Therapy Sale



With the help of Christy Linke, we celebrated the end of National Garden Week with a wonderful “Fun with Flowers” event.



VISTE gave the Garden Club of Lakeland, Inc. an award for their contribution of over 450 artistic holiday ornaments to be distributed to seniors in the area.

The Garden Club of Sebring Inc. (Fed. 1935) – Margaret Grassman

FB

Carol Gragilla

The Garden Club of Sebring closed out the 2025–2026 season on May 18 with a reception honoring our scholarship winner, Ms. Ryleigh Danzey, who received \$1,500 and will attend Santa Fe College to study Business with a minor in Agricultural Engineering, focusing on irrigation design and water supply. We wish her every success.

We also celebrated Pat Lefiles as she retires from full-time membership after more than 20 years of dedicated service. She will be greatly missed, and we hope she'll join us whenever she can.

Congratulations to Ryleigh and Pat!



Save The Date
October 28, 2026
11:30-2:00

Garden Club of Sebring PLANT SALE

Jack Stroup Civic Center
Behind the Sebring
Library
319 W Center Ave.

The Garden Club of Winter Haven (Fed. 1927)

Marianne Lehman & Kathy Skipper, Co-Pres.

WEB

Carol Janssen



The Garden Club
of Winter Haven
ESTABLISHED - 1927



[Link](#)
[Buy Tickets](#)

Invites you to our
Fundraising Event for our 100th Anniversary gift to the City of Winter Haven

Garden Glam

~A Purse Affair~



This fundraiser luncheon will include a fun raffle to win new and gently used handbags, scarves, wallets, wine and other fine goods!

🍊 Thursday, October 15, 2026

🍊 11:00 AM to 2:00 PM

🍊 Redeemer Winter Haven
1410 Dundee Road
Winter Haven, FL 33884



Tickets can be purchased
online at \$42.50 each
Tables of 8 are available.

Use the QR code to visit our
website- gcwh.org/event



The Garden Club of Winter Haven, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) Not-for-Profit Organization, EIN 51-0201768 www.gcwh.org



Upcoming Events – We welcome guests!

October 12, 2026,

Speaker: Cathy Dunn, Former President of the JEH chapter of the American Hibiscus Society. Topic: Why everyone loves Hibiscus and what is the best way to keep them looking beautiful.

November 9, 2026

Speaker: Beverly Zoller Burdette: Executive Director of Palma Sola Botanical Garden. Topic: A walk in the Palma Sola Gardens. The garden is a local gem with a very special microclimate that many of us drive by but have no idea of its importance to our area.

Gulf Coast Garden Club (Fed. 2004) – Laura Sullivan, Pres.

FB

WEB

Anina Bachrach



2026-2027 Programs

Location: St. Leo the great Catholic Church, Educational Center classrooms 13 &14,
28384 Beaumont Rd., Bonita Springs

2026

- Oct 19 Topic: How to Start a Backyard Revolution. Speaker: Sara Burke, Former President Wildflower Foundation & Master Gardener
- Nov 9 Topic: Designing with Gourds. Speaker: Paula Novander, NGC Flower Show Judge

2027

- Jan 11 Topic: Designing for Home and Show. Speaker: Connie Lowry, NGC Flower Show Judge
- Feb 8 A time for Tea. Topic: Tea Harvesting and Tea Cup of Cheer Workshop, Speaker: Dale DeFeo NGC Master Flower Show Judge and Nancy
- Mar 8 Topic: Longer Lasting Beauty, Conditioning Flowers & Foliage. Speaker: Dale De Feo NGC Master Flower Show Judge
- May 10 TBD

JEH Chapter of the American Hibiscus Society FFGC Affiliate - Denise Helfrich, Pres.



FB

WEB

PH*

During the annual AHS Convention, seedling of the year is announced and awarded. Hibiscus seedlings are new creations that are hybridized, seed harvested and grown to maturity. To qualify for the competition, the seedling must win *Best of Show Seedling* to move to a three-year AHS evaluation.

2026 Seedling of the Year placements were awarded to JEH Chapter members.



1st place - A Touch of Velvet
Hybridized and grown by
Madeline (Micki) Dougherty



3rd - Frank's Last Hurrah
Hybridized by Frank Heffernan
Grown by Valerie Costa



The James E. Hendry American Hibiscus Society held its 73rd Annual Hibiscus Show in Fort Myers on April 17, 2026.

Best of Show Winners

Show Photos

Show YouTube Video



Lake Placid Garden Club (Fed. 1953) – Danny Green, Pres

[FB](#)

[WEB](#)

[PH*](#)

Doris Rohner



Friendship, Joy, New Beginnings



Kokodama class held May 15 turned into a delightful mess: mud flying, moss everywhere, twine and fishing line tangles, but we successfully remembered the plants—mostly—and created living art.



[Link](#)

- Monthly a member's garden is selected.
- Volunteers help refresh that garden.
- Participation is completely optional.
- A member may nominate her own garden.

The June 10 Ice Cream Social at the Masonic Lodge brought members together for fellowship and fun — including Cecelia Chuplis enjoying her self-made sundae.



*PH = Promotional Handouts

Lakeland Camellia Society, FFGC Affiliate - Chuck Wood, Pres.

[FB](#)

[WEB](#)



Lakeland Camellia Society
PRESENTS THE
43rd ANNUAL
CAMELLIA SHOW
& PLANT SALE

Free
Admission
Parking

Saturday January 9. 2027
Open to the Public

First Presbyterian Church
175 Lake Hollingsworth Dr.
Lakeland Fl. 33801

Camellia Plant Sale: 9 am to 3 pm
Camellia Bloom Show: 1:00 pm



Meetings ~ Guests Welcome

September 2026 through April 2027

7 PM Second Tuesday of each month

2129 Sylvester Rd., Lakeland Fl

Cherie Shirah



Naples Garden Club (Fed. 1968) – Mercy Abrams Pres.



FB

WEB

Sue Mandry

[Click this link for video of member's photos of the 2026 Chelsea Flower Show](#)

2026 RHS Chelsea Flower Show

Star of the show was the Hosta RED NINJA,
RHS Chelsea Plant of the Year.

L to R: Kathy Reno & Husband, Sue Mandry
& Pensioners, Ellen Haffa & Husband, &
Lydee Hummel.



Naples GC Members
Take to the Road.

Deb Minnock explored breathtaking
tulip fields and world-class botanical
gardens during her visit to the
Netherlands.



The 2026 Newport Flower Show,
themed "*Pearls of Newport*" — floral
elegance inspired by Newport's Gilded
Age and coastal charm.

L-R: Myra Strom, Nancy Hughes, and
Michelle Thomas.



Peace River Botanical & Sculpture Garden
FFGC Affiliate Member, Tanna Horner, CEO

FB

WEB

Adrian Parris



PEACE RIVER
BOTANICAL
& SCULPTURE
GARDENS

From Wetlands to Wonderland

Learn how 27 acres of wetlands became a sanctuary

See sculptures in the gardens!

5827 Riverside Dr., Punta Gorda, FL 33982



Steel Palm

Jacob Kulin



Next Summer

Carole Feuerman



Bibi on the Ball

Carole Feuerman

Periwinkle Garden Club (Fed. 1938) - Norma Lyons, Pres.



**Save the Date
Sept 22, 2026**

**Please join us for the fall
fun.**

**Our members are prepping
to host the Fall District IX
meeting at the Sidney &
Berne Davis Art Center
2301 First St.
Fort Myers**

**Registration forms coming
soon.**



Norma working on ideas
for centerpieces.



Tues Aug 11, 10 am
**Japanese Flower Pounding
with Nancy Colgan**
RSVP 239-994-8147



Our New Board - May 2026 Induction



Dana
Cor Sec. Co.

Ragna & Ellen
Co. Treasurers

Sarah
Co-Pres.

Sandy
2nd VP
Programs Chair
Rec. Sec.

Karen
3rd VP
Co-Chair Mem.

Carol
Co-Pres.

Margot
3rd VP
Co-Chair Mem.

Bus Trip Marie Selby

We meet at: Berne Davis Gardens
2166 Virginia Ave, Fort Myers

Sept 8, 9:30 am Meeting & Games
On with Sarah, Kick Off the New
Season

Oct 13, 9:30 am Tips for Creating
Hypertufa & Cement Fabric Planters
with Sandy & Club Meeting

Oct 13, 12 pm Rock Painting with
Sylvia and Karen

Nov 10, 9:30 am Animal Neighbors
with Ashley Cook, Dir. Conservation
at Alligator Creek Preserve Charlotte
Harbor Environmental Center & Club
Meeting.

Nov 10, 12 pm, Nine Floral Design
Tips with Three Designers:
Cathy Dunn
Nancy Colgan
Connie Lowery



May 2026 Program
Charcutier Fun

[Link 2 min Video](#)



Port Charlotte Garden Club (Fed. 1958) - Jeanne Larson, Pres.

FB

WEB

PH*



PCGC Celebrates Americas 250th!

Members **Phyllis Crews** and **Sandi Witzke** visited the Douglas T. Jacobson State Veterans' Nursing Home in Port Charlotte, spending time with residents and delivering five natural creations made by PCGC members — a warm, decorative touch for the home's upcoming celebrations.



OUR Gold Star Marker
also put on its finest!

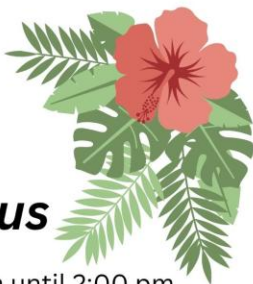
The red/white/blue
flowers,
flags and wreath showed
up great for the 4th!

Thank you, Gretchen C,
Kathy B, LeeAnn and
Bobby F for all your
contributions!



Florida Federation of Garden Clubs
Horticulture Program

Digging It: All About Hibiscus



Tuesday, February 2, 2027, 9:30 am until 2:00 pm
Berne Davis Botanical Gardens Center
2166 Virginia Avenue, Fort Myers, FL 33901

***Presented by Cathy Dunn, Past President,
James E. Hendry Chapter, American Hibiscus Society***

\$30 includes instructor fees, materials, and
handouts. Bring your own lunch and beverage.

REGISTER ONLINE AT PGGC.ORG
OR USE THE QR CODE BELOW
OR SEND A CHECK TO P.O.BOX 511167,
PUNTA GORDA, FL. 33951-1167
PLEASE INCLUDE YOUR EMAIL ADDRESS.



Punta Gorda Garden
Club is a
501(c)3 nonprofit
organization.



Come as a Guest!

Steph, You could list dates &
times, and programs topics of
upcoming meetings
with address

*Punta Gorda Garden Club
Presents*

2026 Holly Days Tour

"Christmas Memories"

December 4 & 5, 2026
10 AM to 4 PM



\$25 Donation
www.PGGC.org



Punta Gorda Garden Club
presents

THE ROARING 20's

AN NGC Standard Flower Show
At
Isles Yacht Club
1780 West Marion
Punta Gorda, FL 33950

FREE ADMISSION **OPEN TO THE PUBLIC**
1:00 ~ 3:00 PM

Tuesday April 20, 2027



SPEAKERS SPOTLIGHT

[LINK: Speakers Bureau](#)



Introducing Sara Burke

Sara Burke is a communications advisor to community leaders, with a master's degree in digital media and over two decades of international experience. She is an expert in communicating complex information to the public in ways that result in measurable real-world change. She serves as Director of Communications for the Florida Wildflower Foundation and former President.

Burke first visited Florida in 2008 and fell in love with the state's unique ecology. She now uses her skills in lifestyle and technical publishing to help the public learn about Florida's biodiversity and what we can all do to protect and conserve it.

Topic: How to Start a Backyard Revolution

Contact: 352-870-6569, saraburkeFL@gmail.com

[Link FI Wildflower Foundation](#)



Sara Burke has volunteered to be on District IX FFGC Speakers List. We appreciate Sara's willingness to speak in Lee and Collier counties.



INTRODUCING PAMELA CALLENDER

Pamela Callender has roots to Sarasota, Florida since 1972. Her art and teaching career has evolved from Dance, Painting, Environmental Art to now Eco Art with Florida Native Plants as her medium. Pamela designs home landscapes, micro forests and living walls with Florida Native Plants. Callender works and studies at Sweetbay Native Plant Nursery in Parrish and offers monthly tours of her studio/property in North Sarasota.

Pamela graduated Eckerd College in St. Petersburg with a BA in Visual Arts and a minor in Human Development and Goddard College, Plainfield Vermont with a MFAIA, Master of Fine Art in Interdisciplinary Art.

Pamela Callendar MFAIA has volunteered to be on District IX FFGC Speakers List. Pamela enjoys speaking about native plant landscaping and environmental art. She is the Founder of Lifelines, Connecting Nature's Habitat. Pamela's activities: Art Curator, Educator, Native Plant Landscape Designer and Advocate PBS WEDU Pamela Callender, Planted in Art. Contact info: 941-932-2993 callenderpamela@gmail.com

SPEAKERS SPOTLIGHT

[LINK: Speakers Bureau](#)

INTRODUCING WARREN ERICKSON

Owner of Tropical Dragon Nursery. Call for appointment & group tours.

Born in WI, I've lived in various states throughout my life including CA, OK, MS and now most recently FL. Growing conditions are drastically different in my new home than anything I've previously experienced. Over the past 3 years I have learned a lot from research and interactions with other gardeners in my area.

The food forest I am building at Tropical Dragon Nursery has started to produce enough food and medicinals that I'm starting to realize a reduction in my grocery bill. While I'm a long way from being an expert, I have had some success and more importantly, have learned from my failures to improve the gardens.

Topics: Food forests, Agroforestry, Gardening Sustainably

Contact email: tropicaldragonpermaculture@gmail.com

Call for appointment or group tours. Phone: 262-308-5168 (cell and text)



[Link
YouTube](#)

[Link
email](#)



Warren volunteered to be in the District IX Florida Federation of Garden Club Speakers Bureau.



INTRODUCING JOHN FINER

John Finan is an Emeritus Professor in the Department of Horticulture and Crop Science at The Ohio State University and Courtesy Faculty in the Ecology & Environmental Studies Department at Florida Gulf Coast University. He is a fellow with the Society for In Vitro Biology and the American Association for the Advancement of Science and has been an editor for several different plant science journals. He currently serves on the Education Committee and Research Committee of the American Orchid Society and is an Education Director with the Gulf Coast Orchid Alliance in Naples.

After spending his academic career performing research and teaching in the area of plant biotechnology, John has since focused on propagating and reintroducing native orchids into local Florida communities and making novel new orchid hybrids, some of which are available from select orchid growers in Florida. John grows award-winning orchids at his small house in Naples and has registered 44 different orchid hybrids (so far). He also has a YouTube channel where he is "The Plant Propagator" and a business called "The Orchid Propagator".

Topics

- Growing Orchids from Seed/Where do Orchids Come From?
- Orchid Physiology
- General Plant Propagation
- General Plant Propagation Workshop (hands on)
- Plant Biotechnology



[Link:
YouTube](#)

Contact email: TheOrchidPropagator@gmail.com

John volunteered to be in the District IX Speakers Bureau and is willing to speak in Collier and Lee Counties.



DIX RESOURCE LINKS

[DIX Club Membership Growth Strategies](#)

GROWING MEMBERSHIP
STRATEGIES DISTRICT IX



Punta Gorda Garden Club
JEH American Hibiscus Society, FFGC Affiliate Member
Gardeners Out East
Fort Myers Lee County Garden Council, FFGC Affiliate Member
Calusa Garden Club
Poinciana Garden Club
Bartow Garden Club



[DIX Events Magazine](#)

[Speakers Bureau Link](#)

[DIX Fundraising Initiatives](#)

[Plant Sale Tips](#)

[Digitizing Documents](#)

[Field Trip Recommendations](#)

[Member Survey Examples](#)

BENEFITS OF MEMBER SURVEYS?

Retention
Encourage Engagement
Guide Decisions
Build Trust
Identify Gaps
Spark New Ideas
Attract New Members



[Member Recognition](#)

[Club Carpool Tool](#)

[Map – Garden Clubs & FFGC Aff Members in District IX](#)

[Nurseries 7 Counties Map](#)

[Tips for Newsletter Contributors](#)

[District IX Facebook Site](#)

NGC, FFGC, DS, DIX DATES

LINK FFGC 2027 ANNUAL CONVENTION

April 6-9
Embassy Suites
Lake Buena Vista, FL



LINK FFGC Travel
Canadian Rails
July 19-27, 2026

~
Princess Cruise
New Zealand
Tasmania
Finale at the
World's Flower
Show
Mar 17-23, 2027

LINK ANNUAL NGC CONVENTION May 13-17, 2027 Wisconsin



LINK Deep South Convention March 14-16, 2027 Alabama



2026
FALL
DISTRICT IX FFGC
MEETING
Sept 22
Fort Myers
Host: Periwinkle GC



2027
SPRING DISTRICT IX
MEETING
Pending

[Link: Facebook DIX](#)

CALENDAR 2026-2027

August 2026

Aug 11, 10-12, Tatakizome Japanese Flower Craft. FMLCGC, Members free. Guests \$10. RSVP: 239-994-8147, BRING a hammer & wood board. The Poinciana GC. GC: 2166 Virginia Ave, Fort Myers.

SEPTEMBER 2026

Sept. 11 FMLCGC Program, 2166 Virginia Ave, Fort Myers

Sept 26,9-2, Plant Sale, Avon Park Correctional Facility 8100 Highway 64 East Avon Park. GC of Lakeland staffs the sale.

Sept 22, Fall District IX Meeting, Fort Myers, Hosted by Periwinkle GC, Sydney & Beme Davis Art Center, 2301 First Street, Fort Myers

OCTOBER 2026

Oct 13,12 to 2, Rock Painting, The Poinciana Garden Club, Beme Davis Gardens, 2166 Virginia Ave. Fort Myers. RSVP 239-994-8147

Oct 28,11:30-2, Plant Sale
Garden Club of Sebring, Jack Stroup Civic Center, Behind the Sebring Library

Oct 11-12,9-4 Celebrate OCTober Edison & Ford Winter Estates Free Workshops, Vendors, Food Trucks, Growers.

Oct 31,9-4, Family Fun Day! Edison & Ford Winter Estates Climb the Banyon, Pumpking Coloring, Face Painting, Music, Food Trucks

Increase event turnout. Click & share this DIX FB LINK with members and friends.

 **Join group**

+ Invite

 **Share**

NOVEMBER 2026

Nov 5, 9-3, Horticulture 101, Punta Gorda GC, Visual Arts Center, 210 Maud St. Punta Gorda.

Nov 6, 9-3 Floral Mechanics Course & Demonstration, Punta Gorda GC, Visual Arts Center, 210 Maud St. Punta Gorda.

Nov 10, Animal Neighbors with Ashley Cook, Dir. Of Conservation at Alligator Creek Preserve, The Poinciana GC, Berne Davis Gardens, 2166 Virginia Ave. Fort Myers. RSVP 239-994-8147

Nov 10, noon to 2, Nine Floral Design Tips with Three Designers. Cathy Dunn, Nancy Colgan, Connie Lowery, The Poinciana GC, Berne Davis Gardens, 2166 Virginia Ave. Fort Myers. RSVP 239-994-8147

Nov 13, 9:30 am, FMLCGC, Sky McDonnald Adopt a Mangrove. Berne Davis Gardens, 2166 Virginia Ave, Fort Myers.

Nov 14, 9-1, Plant Sale Thankful Fest IV. Arcadia Garden Club, 1005 W. Magnolia St. Arcadia. Games, Vendors, Food.

Nov 21-22 Sat 9-5, Sun 9-3.

Annual Bonsai Show & Sale. Exhibits, Demonstrations, Sales, Workshops. Free admission, free lunch, free parking. Bring your bonsai for the advice table.
2166 Virginia Ave. Fort Myers.

DECEMBER 2026

Dec 4 & 5, 10-4, 2026 Holly Days Tour \$25 donation. Historic District Punta Gorda. See Punta Gorda GC website.

Dec 5, 11 am to 3 pm, Holiday Home & Garden Tour Tickets \$20 donation. See flyer on Lake Placid GC website link.

Dec 15, 10-12, Free SWFL Fiddlers Concert, Berne Davis Gardens, 2166 Virginia Ave. Fort Myers

JANUARY 2027

Jan 9, Annual Camellia Show and Plant Sale, Plant Sale: 9:00 AM, Bloom Show: 1:00 PM, Lakeland Camellia Society, First Presbyterian Church, 175 Lake Hollingsworth Dr., Lakeland

CALENDAR 2026-2027

January 2027

Jan 12, 9:30 Leaf Manipulation, The Poinciana GC, Berne Davis Gardens, 2166 Virginia Ave. Fort Myers. RSVP 239-994-8147

Jan 12, noon to 2, Decoupage with Karen, The Poinciana GC, Berne Davis Gardens, 2166 Virginia Ave. Fort Myers. RSVP 239-994-8147

Jan 12, 22, 28, Series 1, 2, 3 FFGC Floral Design Series 2027, Visual Arts Center, 210 Maud St. Punta Gorda.

Jan 19, 10-12, Free SWFL Fiddlers Concert, Berne Davis Gardens, 2166 Virginia Ave. Fort Myers

Jan 28, 9 am, Big Cypress Bend Boardwalk Field Trip. 27020 Tamiami Trail E, Naples, The Poinciana GC. Guests Welcome.

FEBRUARY 2027

Feb 2, 9:30 am – 2, Digging It “All About Hibiscus” Berne Davis Botanical Gardens, 2166 Virginia Ave. Fort Myers.

Feb 16, 10-12, Free SWFL Fiddlers Concert, Berne Davis Gardens, 2166 Virginia Ave. Fort Myers

Feb 25, Bus Trip to Marie Selby Gardens, Guests Welcome. RSVP to Martha, 207-331-4664. Register now & pay by Dec 9th. Limited Seating 40. Park at Garden Council at 7:45 am. Board bus 7:45 am.

MARCH 2027

Mar 5, 12, 19 , Series 4, 5, 6 FFGC Floral Design Series 2027, Visual Arts Center, 210 Maud St. Punta Gorda.

Mar 6, 9-3, March in the Park, GC Cape Coral, Rotary Park, Cape Coral.

Mar 9, 9:30 am, Flowers from Shells with Joanne Kishfy, The Poinciana GC, Berne Davis Gardens, 2166 Virginia Ave. Fort Myers. RSVP 239-994-8147. Guests Welcome

Mar 9, noon to 2, Stained Glass Butterfly for Beginners, \$55. RSVP Syliva Ford, Poinciana GC, Berne Davis Gardens, 2166 Virginia Ave. Fort Myers. RSVP 239-994-8147

Mar 14-16, Deep South Convention, Tuscaloosa, Alabama - Embassy Suites Hotel

Mar 16, 10-12, Free SWFL Fiddlers Concert, Berne Davis Gardens, 2166 Virginia Ave. Fort Myers

Mar 25, 8:30 am TropicStar Boat Trip from Pine Island, Bokeelia. \$30. Guests Welcome. RSVP Marilyn 339-936-6540.

APRIL 2027

Apr 6-9, Florida Federation of Garden Clubs Convention, Embassy Suites by Hilton Orlando Lake Buena Vista South

Apr 6, 10 to 12:30, Create a Flower From Shells with Joanne Kishfy. Hands on. Bring Glue Gun, Only 10 seats available. \$20. RSVP 239-994-8147. The Poinciana GC, Berne Davis Gardens, 2166 Virginia Ave. Fort Myers. RSVP 239-994-8147

Apr 13, noon to 2, Sharpening Pruners, Loppers, with Margot & Sandy. Bring cleaned pruners! No Fee. No RSVP. The Poinciana GC, Berne Davis Gardens, 2166 Virginia Ave. Fort Myers.

Apr 20, 1 – 3, 2027 Flower Show Roaring 20's. Punta Gorda GC. Isles Yacht Club, 1780 West Marion Ave. Punta Gorda.



DIX CONTACTS



Director: Susan Lawson 941-979-0615

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Treasurer: Charlene Anderson

Recording Secretary: Mary Yeomans

Corresponding Secretary: Paula Novander

Parliamentarian: Carolyn Lowry-Nation

Advisors: Leslie Montwid

Cissy Richardson

Dale DeFeo

Awards Chair: Syliva Swartz 239-339-3778

Facebook Admin: Brenda Kvamme Luedeman

District IX & Idea Exchange Newsletters, FB: Sandy Troy 239-994-8147

Aquatic Ecosystems: *vacant*

Awards: Sylvia Swartz

Avon Park - Garden Therapy: Pat Shira &
Janette Baggett

Birds, Bees, Butterflies: Trudie Kirkland

Blue Star/Gold Star Markers: Laura Sullivan

Coral Reef Restoration: Sharon Ann Ashton

DIX Fall Meeting (Winter Haven) Chair: Cissy Richardson, Chair

DIX Spring Meeting (Port Charlotte)

Facebook Admins.: Brenda Kvamme Luedeman, Sue Rood, Sandy Troy, Susan Lawson

Floral Design: Mercy Abrams

Judges Council: Paula Novander

Legislative Positions: Sara Wolf

Membership Chairman: Mercy Abrams

Plant a Tree: Sharon Ann Ashton

Ways & Means: Trudie Kirkland

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DIX For You newsletter segments are published publicly on the FFGC Website (Idea Exchange and Florida Gardener). The full newsletter is available to the public on our DIX Facebook site File tab.

Flower: Red Hibiscus

Wildflower: *Sambucus Simpsonii*

Butterfly: Monarch

5/01/2026 Sandy Troy, editor, PowerPoint

[Link: Facebook DIX](#)

[LINK: Speakers Bureau speakers](#)