The Blooming Chatter

The Sarasota Garden Club Newsletter

VOLUME 31 ISSUE 08

APRIL 2022



"Preserving our gardens and historic landmarks while promoting the environment, conservation and civic beautification through education and programs."

The Botanical Gardens are open to the public for your exploration and enjoyment!

Garden Hours: Daylight - 7 days a week **Location:** 1131 Boulevard of the Arts

Office Hours: 9am to 1pm, Monday to Friday

Office Phone: (941) 955-0875

Email: ■ Office@SarasotaGardenClub.org

Highlights

- Preview and Gardens in Paradise reviews
- Civic Beautification Awards
- Annual Meeting
- General Meeting
- Horticulture Study
- 🖶 Floral Design Challenge

SPRINGTIME in FLORIDA

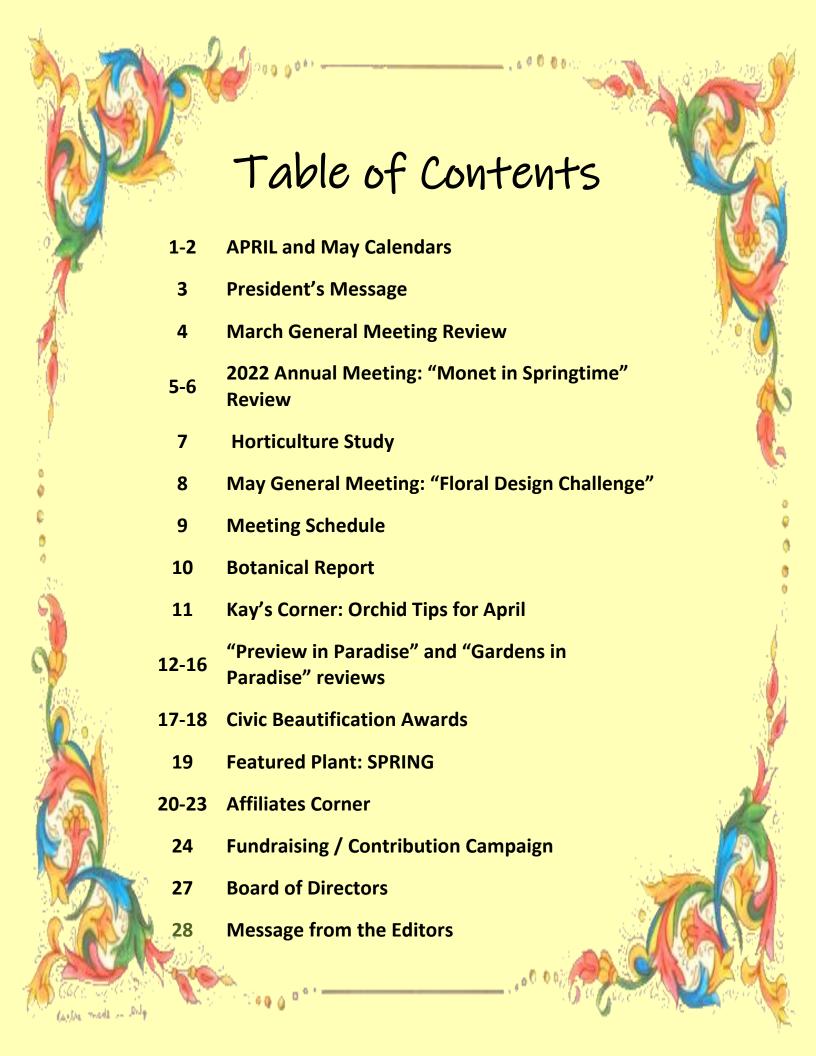


Social Media

Website: www.sarasotagardenclub.org

Facebook.com/sarasotagardenclub Instagram sarasotagardenclub | #sarasotagardenclub | #Weddings & events | #TheGardensSGC

Email: chatterblooming@gmail.com



SGC April 2022 Calendar

APRIL 2022				
1 st		Patterson Foundation		
2 nd	WEDDING & RECEPTION			
3 rd	8am	Center for Spiritual Living		
4 th	10am	Sarasota Garden Club		
		ANNUAL MEETING: "Monet in Springtime"		
		at Rosemary & Thyme		
5 th	7pm	Succulent Society Meeting		
6 th / 7 th		Ikebana Society Annual Exhibition		
8 th	PRE-WEDDING PARTY & RECEPTION			
10 th	8am	Center for Spiritual Living		
12 th	9am	Founders' Club meeting		
12 ^{th -} 14 th		FFGC Convention; ORLANDO		
14 th		The Bay		
15-17 th	OFFICE CLOSED – EASTER HOLIDAY			
17 th	8am	Center for Spiritual Living		
18 th	10am	Sarasota Garden Club		
10***		Horticulture Study		
		"Where have all the praying mantises gone?"		
20 th		at Michael's on East - Fund raising event by The		
		Conservation Fund		
25 th	9.30am	Ikebana Society Meeting		
26 th	10am	Monthly Executive Meeting		
27 th	6pm	Mangrove Coast Fly Fishers Meeting		
30 th	11am	Sarasota Alliance for Historic Preservation		

SGC May 2022 Calendar

MAY 2022				
2 nd	10am	Board of Directors Meeting		
3 rd	7pm	Succulent Society Meeting		
4 th	9am	Floralia 16		
12 th		The Bay		
14 th	WEDDING & RECEPTION			
16 th	10am	Sarasota Garden Club		
		GENERAL MEETING: "Floral Design Challenge"		
21 st - 29 th		Chelsea Flower Show: UK		
22 nd	1pm	Celebration of Life		
24 th	10am	Monthly Executive Meeting		
25 th	6pm	Mangrove Coast Fly Fishers		
26 th	10am	Butterfly Club Meeting		
29 th	9am	Celebration of Life		
30 th	OFFICE CLOSED – MEMORIAL DAY			





March General Meeting Review



Our guest speaker for the General Meeting on March 21st was Alex Barth, Design Manager and Landscape Consultant at Troy's Tropic. In fact we got TWO Alex's, as he brought along his assistant, also called Alex.

After an initial introduction from Kay Weber, Alex(1) described how badly some gardens had suffered from the recent cold weather, even from frost in some areas, which everybody related to. He then went on to answer question after question from an enthusiastic audience which covered a wide range of topics: how plants are treated differently in FL in comparison with other states; addressing fertilizing issues and watering, soil types and everything that determines whether a plant thrives (or not); what to plant (and what not to plant) in tricky garden areas, problems with *citrus* (who knew growing oranges in FL was so difficult?) and grass/sod (patch, don't seed!), even MOLES (simply take away their food source and they'll move on).

There was lots more, too much to capture here, but many SGC Members with experience of Troy's Tropics, were eager to compliment the garden centre as a place to visit (you know what THAT means: "buy a plant"!) and how impressed they are by the

knowledge of the staff, who are always on hand and give good advice.

It was a GREAT TALK and Alex's takeaway message was:

"<u>Don't underestimate drought</u>. During very dry months, don't think that your very mature, established specimen plants (even hedges) may not be affected."

***REMEMBER: SGC Members get 10% discount (best to take your garden club badge along!).



2022 Annual Meeting

Monet in Springtime (to be heard)

The Sarasota Garden Club Annual Meeting was held at the Rosemary & Thyme restaurant on April 4th – over a delicious lunch.



George Armstrong, the owner of R&T, has long supported the Garden Club – and George's mother accepted a SGC "Certificate of Appreciation", awarded to show our appreciation.

The Agenda was: President's and Treasurer's reports, Introduction and Committee Chairs' Reports, Lunch, Awards Presentation, Guest Speaker, and Installation of Officers.

Thank you to everyone that attended, and for those that provided the Club with beautiful flower arrangements for each table, which were bought by members for \$15+ each.

Very importantly, **the new Executive Committee was installed** by Barbara Rao, past District VIII Director, after a sincere thank you to the outgoing President, Nancy Lewis – who has been a wonderful President and will continue to provide her invaluable support to the club and help to the Board and Committee members. Thank you, Nancy.





Executive Officers, left to right:

Dianne Beaver – Treasurer

CJ Danna – 1st Vice President (interim)

Sharon Davisson – Recording Secretary

Kelly Goodwin – President

Tess Hershman – Rentals

Also, welldeserved awards were given out, and the Club continues to thank



its members and volunteers that make Sarasota Garden Club such an active and interesting club to belong to.

Congratulations to all the award winners:

- Anne Durloo, received the "Pillar of Pride" award: exemplifying all aspects of the garden club
- Sharon Davisson received the "Hall of Fame" award: a major award for special contribution
- Dianne Beaver received the "Leadership" award





"Rose Awards", rewarding the unsung heroes for what they have done, went to: Ann Stegall (Membership), CJ Danna (Marketing), Lynn Biega (Library), Becci Bond (Constant Contact), Emily Yaffee (Flower Show), Sara Bagley (Flower Show), Gloria Thomas (GIP Logistics), and Livvy Haynes (Hospitality).

Sarasota Garden Club Award Winners

Guest speaker(s) from The Conservation Foundation of the Gulf Coast

which protects the land and water in Southwest Florida for the benefit of humans and nature.



www.ConservationFoundation.com

The first guest speaker was Lee Ann Rodriquez, Director of Philanthropy, at the Conservation Foundation of the Gulf Coast. Lee Ann talked to the audience about "Why Land Conservation Matters", particularly "The Celery Fields 3 quad parcels", which is currently being 're-wilded'. With 1,000 people per day moving to Southwest Florida, a lot of construction is taking place, and the Conservation Foundation is working hard to save key natural and open spaces, which are essential to our quality of life.

Lee Ann was joined by philanthropist and SGC member, Mary Elizabeth Moore, from the Board of the Conservation Foundation. She owns and runs The Triangle Ranch in Manatee Country, a 1,143 acre ranch and conservation easement bordering Myakka River State Park, which is essential to the protection of the river, its water quality and biodiversity, and our region's flood protection.

The Conservation Foundation has invited Sarasota Garden Club Members to join them at a fundraising meeting at Michael's on East on April 20th for a talk on "Where Have All The Praying Mantises Gone?". For more information/tickets please visit their website:

https://www.conservationfoundation.com/events/detail/2022/04/20/where-have-all-the-praying-mantises-gone/



April General Meeting

"HORTICULTURE STUDY"

Succulents, Succulents AND MORE Succulents!

(Don't we just love them?)



Monday, April 18th - 10:00am at Sarasota Garden Club





www.redislandplants.com

- **∔Ray Lemieux**, owner of the Red Island Plants Nursery, will speak about succulents and other plants.
- ➡With over 25 years of professional nursery experience, Ray's focus has been working with succulents and bromeliads.
- → He is an expert in the field of uncommon and peculiar plants. Ray has refined his expertise through travel to various countries including Venezuela, Mexico, and Singapore.
- ♣ During his travels, he became especially enamored with plant species from Madagascar.

Ray will bring plants to sell and raffle. If you're a succulent fan, bring \$\$\$

MAY General Meeting

A really exciting "Floral Design Challenge"

Please join us for what will be our last general meeting until September – and why not bring a guest?



Monday, May 16th – 10:00am at Sarasota Garden Club

May's General Meeting will include an update on the Club's activities – THEN:

5 floral designers will all have been given the same materials in advance - and they will create their own design on the day, whilst we watch!

DESIGNERS: Dianne Beaver, Clare Milligan, Sharon Davisson, Angela Bennink, Ros Stafford, Ms Scarlett's Flowers, and Adrienne Wagner

- Their creations will be judged by the meeting attendees: YOU!
- Leach of the designs will be raffled off at the end of the meeting. What a lovely way to get a beautiful arrangement?



Meeting Schedule

We hope to see as many of you as possible at the meetings, and encourage you to invite guests to GENERAL ones - to introduce them to the Sarasota Garden Club and perhaps gain further members and more support.

Light refreshments are served, and a raffle is run at each meeting to generate funds to support our club.

Thank YOU for YOUR continued support

Here is our schedule for the rest of the season.

↓ 18th **April –** "Horticulture Study": Succulents

416th May - General Meeting:

"Floral Design Challenge"

More to be announced

If you have any ideas for a program please submit them to CJ Danna: cj.sarasotagardenclub@gmail.com



Botanical Report

"Gardening makes us even in this world"

We are all still waiting for rainy days to come again. Hopefully this happens soon, as this drought has been too many months long. We "Friday Morning Workers" always have to do so much sweeping or blowing of leaves everywhere, as well as having to do extra watering of our many potted plant.

We continue to work on maintaining and UPDATING all our 9 gardens and we are still working on cleaning out many plants along the Lagoon. We believe the water feature is a big attraction to people wanting to rent SGC for events.

Friday Mornings Volunteers

We open up about 8am and work until around 11am each Friday. Come later if that works out for you, and if you can only work once or twice a month that is okay with us. You don't need to know all about gardening - there's plenty of help and education on the spot! And lots of jobs to do.

"Glad we have such faithful volunteers that come to work when they can. Carolyn and I appreciate everything that they do each and every Friday."

Recently, home-schooled children came to tour our gardens and planted Zinnia seeds to take home with them.

They brought a bag lunch each to have under the large Oak tree in our grassy area. About 40 students and 15 parents had a fun time in our gardens. This was a Community Project that was completed in about 90 minutes.

We do enjoy working with children.

SGC Botanical Garden Chair







Kay's Corner

Orchid Tips for April

April is the kindest month to South Florida orchid growers.

The clean bright days and low humidity creates the high drying potential that orchids love.

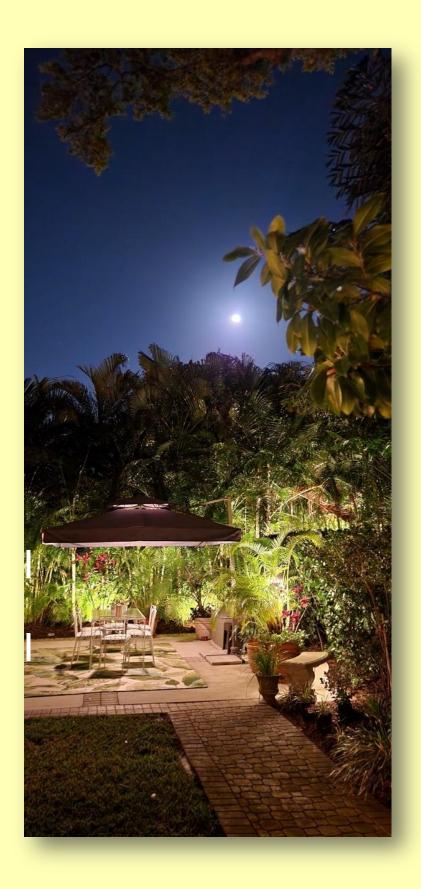
- Water heavily in the early morning as it will help dry your plants "hard" in the Spring, which will produce benefits all season long.
- If you have not started re-potting yet, full speed ahead!
 Don't forget to fertilize, I prefer time-release pellets myself as that way you only need to do it twice a year.
- Check your orchids for mites and thrips* that hide under the leaves. I prefer to use liquid dishwashing soap, 2oz. per gallon of water. About 7 to 10 days later do it again.

Kay Weber Member of Sarasota Garden Club and Sarasota Orchid Society

^{*} **Thrips** are very small sucking insects that feed on the tenderest parts of your orchids: flowers, flower buds, new leaves on thin leaved orchids, root tips, etc. The photograph is of a two-spotted spider mite. YIKES!



"Preview in Paradise" Review



A big thank you to Carol Lackey – a self confessed party animal, for organising such a "Swell Do" as a "Preview in Paradise" fundraising party AND for opening her beautiful garden to visitors on the "Gardens in Paradise" day.

Take a look at the photos on-line at:

https://carollackey.smugmug .com/Sarasota-Garden-Club-Events-and-Photos/SGC-2022-Preview-Party-in-Paradise

"Gardens in Paradise" Review



As many of you will know, because you were there, the "Gardens in Paradise" tour took place on Saturday 25th March. It was a huge success and every garden looked like a picture – and the weather was ideal. The Club received a LOT of compliments on the event and its organization. We are in the process of distributing a Survey to gain visitors' feedback to help us plan for **next year**.

This event is the biggest fund raiser for the club, and is much needed to ensure the Sarasota Garden Club's mission. More than 800 tickets were purchased and 125 lunches sold; combined with the "Preview in Paradise" party. The next Treasurer's Report will announce the income raised.

Club's Mission: "Preserving our gardens and historic landmarks while promoting the environment, conservation and civic beautification through education and programs."

Mable Ringling even took time out to visit the SGC where she greeted people with a smile and an umbrella - to set the scene and answer historic questions.

Thank you for your support and **EXTRA SPECIAL THANKS TO THE**:

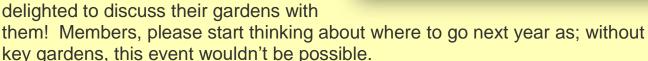
♣ GARDEN OWNERS - who were kind enough to prepare and open their gardens to 100s of visitors, all delighted to discuss their gardens with

♣ GARDEN OWNERS - who were kind

enough to prepare and open their gardens with

CARDEN OWNERS - who were kind

#



♣ SPONSORS: The Bay, Sarasota Scene, Rosemary & Thyme (who provided the lunch boxes), The May Group, Ms Scarlett's Flowers (who provided the "Basket of Sunshine" for each garden), Carol Lackey (who raised additional funds with her "Preview in Paradise" event, as well as opening her own garden on the day), and Rick Benitez Photography (for, guess what? taking photographs).



- ♣ GIP COMMITTEE for organising the event: Kelly Goodwin (Chair), Emily Jaffe (Garden Selection), Gloria Thomas (Logistics), and of course their respective hard-working teams.
- ♣ VOLUNTEERS team leaders and volunteers who managed visitors at each
 of the gardens no easy task when you're checking people in, answering
 questions about the garden and the Club, selling more tickets, getting contact
 details from future interested parties etc etc.
- ♣ MASTER GARDENERS Karen Pariser (Adventure Committee Chairwoman at UF/IFAS Extension of University of Florida and Docent Liaison to SGC) and her 30+ Docents, who were at all the gardens throughout the day to answer botanical questions.

The garden addresses were:

3559 Tangier Terrace, 1708 Shoreland Drive, 2121 McClellan Parkway, and 1623 and 1705 Floyd Street



NEXT YEAR'S "GARDENS IN PARADISE" TOUR

Saturday 25th March 2023

If you'd like to help at 2023 GIP, please join the organizing committee for this event.

Photographs of "Gardens in Paradise"

Rick Benitez was busy capturing "Gardens in Paradise" on the day.

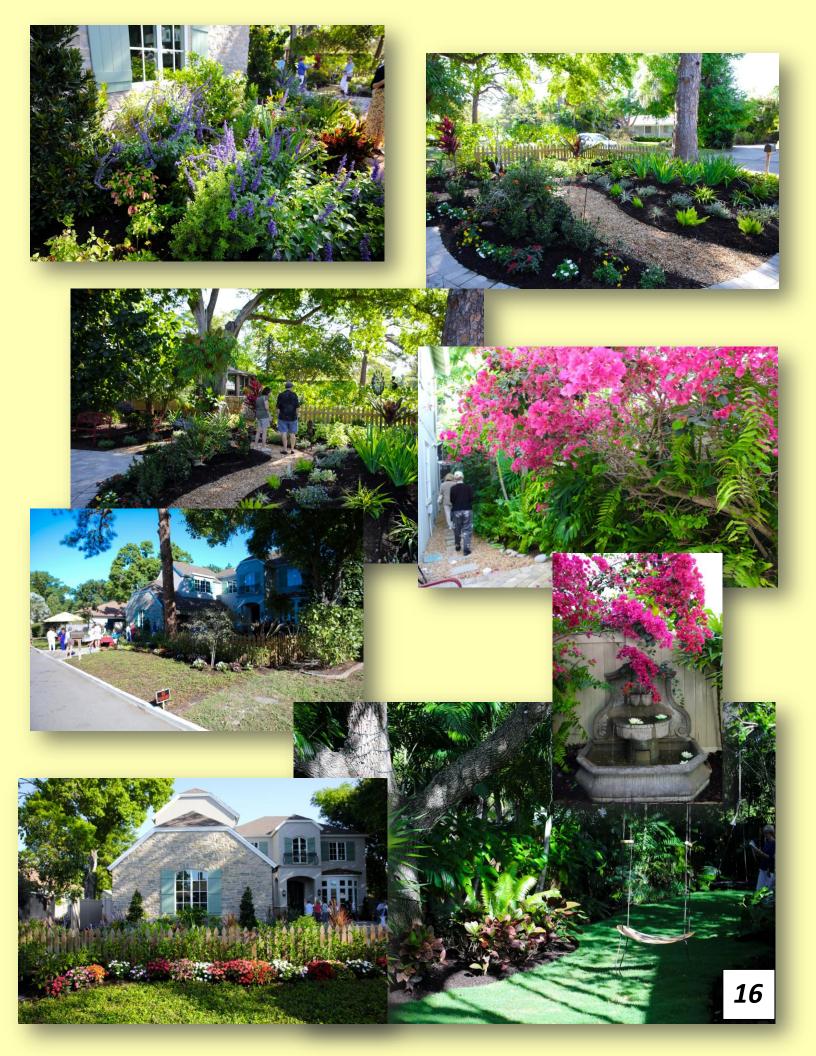
His photographs are available to see online <u>and</u> to download free - just go to this website and enter your name and email address:

https://rbphotos.zenfolio.com/p329655823









Promoting Civic Beautification

The Sarasota Garden Club continues to encourage the beautification of our community by recognizing outstanding landscaping, resulting in annual awards being presented to those properties which met the criterion of attractive curb appeal.

Members of the SGC **Civic Beautification Committee** canvas the Sarasota county zip codes looking for the outstanding landscaping continually maintained and developed to enhance the environment. Businesses, public buildings, churches and places of worship, home owners associations, parks and recreational areas are all eligible. Photographs are taken and reviewed by all committee members to determine the winners, who are then invited to an Awards Ceremony Luncheon, held at the Club.

On 31st March 2022, the 55th + Civic Beautification Award Ceremony Luncheon took place at the Sarasota Garden Club, attended by Kyle Battie, the Vice Mayor, City of Sarasota, and local businesses and communities.





Bill Waddill, the Chief Operating Officer of The Bay Conservancy, who has a passion and expertise for creating unparalleled community parks, was the guest speaker, giving everyone an update on The Bay and taking and answering questions.

The awards were presented by the following: Pat Bonarek (Chair), Adrienne Wagner, Anita Laesser, Andy and Mary Fran Papineau, Andrea Clarkson, CJ Danna, Carolyn Michielsen, Angela Bennink, Kay Weber, Susan Dudley, Jim Whalen, and Thomas Wentz.

21 certificates went to:

BellaSol Apartments, Buy Design Studio,
Sandhill Preserve on Palmer Ranch, The
Glenridge on Palmer Ranch, Silver Oak on
Palmer Ranch, Woodlands at Rivendell, Laurel

Oak Estates & Country Club, Waterside at Lakewood Ranch, William Raveis Realty, Whispering Sands Condo. Assoc., 1250 Medical Plaza, Yoder's Amish Village Gift Shop, The Perfect Dress Bridal Boutique, Brookdale Sarasota Midtown, South State Bank, Berlin Patten Ebling Law firm, Bay Plaza Condominium, Amanda Vincent Hair Studio, Ballantrae Condos on Palmer Ranch, The Isles on Palmer Ranch, and Oakleaf Sarasota.

Four SPECIAL LANDSCAPING awards were given out:

- Sun Coast Award (for the most outstanding landscaping continually maintained) went to the Myrtle Street Revision.
- **Community Award** (for a group that has joined together in community beautification) went to **Bent Tree**.
- ← Commercial Award (for an attractive commercial property suitable to its environment) to Caithness Construction.
- Re-development award (for a community area that has been redesigned) to The Bay Conservancy.







Tip from Troy's Tropics: Alex Barth recommends this plant for its beautiful blooms in spring.



"Miami supreme gardenias and azaleas are wonderful spring bloomers provided they are planted in proper locations."

Gardenia jasminoides "Miami Supreme" (Cape Jasmine)

Select a site with **full sun to light shade**. Although a Gardenia plant prefers full sun, some shade is appreciated during the warmer months of the year or its leaves may scorch and its buds may fall off if they get too much sunlight. In hot climates, Gardenias grow best with morning sun and afternoon shade.



Affiliates Corner



95th FFGC Convention April 2022

"Florida Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc. promotes the love of gardening, floral and landscape design, and civic and environmental responsibility by providing education, resources and networking opportunities for our members, youth and the community."





Register NOW for the 95th Annual Convention in Kissimmee!!

Embassy Suites Orlando, Lake Buena Vista South

April 12-14, 2022

www.ffgc.org/convention-2022

Convention Co-Chairpersons - Mary Whisler & Carol Wood. Mary Whisler at (352) 212-6661 - mary.whisler66@gmail.com Carol Wood at (813) 235-3917 - carolwood@outlook.com



Affiliates Corner

Ikebana International www.iisarasota.com

54th Annual Exhibition – BLOSSOMS on the BAYFRONT – at SGC



"Ikebana (ee-kay-bah-nah), which means "Living Flowers", the art of Japanese flower arranging. At the beginning of the sixth century, Buddhism was brought to Japan from China and it was the custom of offering flowers to Buddha which developed over the centuries into ikebana."

♣ The "Blossoms on the Bayfront" Annual Exhibition took place on 6/7th April

♣ It was a special exhibition with some of the most beautiful arrangements

↓ Here are some photos from the exhibition





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Affiliates Corner Sarasota County Butterfly Club

Sarasota County Butterfly Club's garden is part of OUR Sarasota Garden Club and we all work on the gardens on a Friday.



"Founded in 1995 to study and research the population of butterflies found in our area, educate ourselves and the community through shared education, create butterfly gardens and habitats, conduct field trips, participate in the annual butterfly count, and have fun."

Learn more about our club's happenings, about local butterflies and butterfly gardening on our website

www.sarasotabutterfly.com

Happy butterflying!

For more information, contact Karen Rosenbeck Email: karen.rosenbeck@gmail.com



Affiliates Corner

The Patterson Foundation and Operation Eco Vet supports SGC and we support them.



"The mission of Operation Eco Vets is to enable personal, educational, and professional growth opportunities to our veteran community through a focus on self-reliance, sustainable skills development, and social connections in a scenic natural environment that fosters overall healing and wellness."

- Check out their website for several forthcoming fund-raising events, the proceeds of which the Patterson Donation Fund is matching.
- **The Patterson Donation Fund is a great supporter of SGC.**

www.operationecovet.com



"The Patterson Foundation strengthens the efforts of people, organizations, and communities by focusing on issues that address mutual aspirations, foster wide participation, and encourage learning and sharing."

www.thepattersonfoundation.org

Fundraising



We have been busy developing our Fundraising Agenda for the Sarasota Garden Club 2021-2022 year.

All our events raise funds for our mission, which include:
Scholarships
Children's Programs
Education in Horticulture / Floral Design
Outreach Programs and
Infrastructure of our history mid-century modern building
Along with our many gardens.

Each special event, such as Gardens in Paradise Tour and GIP Preview in Paradise Party, have their own brand of rewards, and act as a vehicle for communicating our mission to the community.

Revenue is generated from our Fundraising Events, Sponsors and In-Kind-Gifts. SGC is a non-profit 501©3 and an IRS designated educational organization.

If you wish to be a part of this committee, please contact: Kelly Goodwin
(941) 718-3359

Contribution Campaign



Sarasota Garden Club
1131 Blvd. of the Arts
Sarasota, FL 34236
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(941) 955-0875



CELEBRATING 60 PLUS YEARS

Sarasota Garden Club's HISTORIC MID-CENTURY MODERN BUILDING 1959-2022

Over 60 years ago members of the Sarasota Garden Club took a leap of faith after much planning and fundraising and built our Mid-Century Modern building designed in the Sarasota School of Architecture in 1959 by John Crowell. It was beautiful and soon the gardens became a show place for our community.

After these many years our beloved building desperately needs some major restoration to return to her previous beauty and glory. Our goal to accomplish this is \$215,000 by December 2022.

How can you help? By participating in one of two programs:

- (1) Buy a Brick for our Historic Mid-Century Modern building by either buying a brick or bricks for each \$250 donation. Bricks are customized with your name, a family member's name, a family name, or business name and will be placed in our garden along with acknowledgement on our Donor's Board, or
- (2) Become a Patron by donating \$1,000 to \$10,000 and joining other Patrons (both individuals, families, and/or companies). You will be memorialized on a Bronze Garden Plaque to be located in our garden, a brick, and acknowledged on our Donor's Board.

You can make your donation online at www.sarasotagardenclub.org/contributions or mail a check to Sarasota Garden Club, Attention: Kelly Goodwin, 1131 Blvd. of the Arts, Sarasota, FL 34236.

Thank you for your love for our historic building and your continued support!

Sincerely,

Kelly Goodwin

Kelly Goodwin

SGC Fundraising

P.S. We are planning to have a Success Celebration in January 2022 or when we reach our goal. More later....

Over the past ninety plus years we have been providing the community of Sarasota with educational, environmental, horticultural & floral design workshops, and a place for our surrounding community to come and garden in our beautiful 9 botanical gardens. Open 7 days a week. FREE TO THE PUBLIC. We are the 2nd largest green space in downtown Sarasota.





Sarasota Garden Club
1131 Blvd. of the Arts
Sarasota, FL 34236
SarasotaGardenClub.org
Office@SarasotaGardenClub.org
(941) 955-0875



Yes, I would like to contribute to the Sarasota Garden Club.
NAME(S):
Address:
Amount:
I will pay by Check Visa
Charge my Visa Card #
Exp. Date:CVC Code:
Signature
Please print the name(s) you want on the brick(s) and/or plaque:
My contribution will go toward the renovations of our Historic Mid-Century Modern building and grounds at 1131 Blvd. of the Arts, Sarasota, FL 34236. I will receive a tax deductible form from the Sarasota Garden Club and will receive updates as the project develops.
Signature:
Please return this form and check to: Sarasota Garden Club, Attn: Kelly Goodwin, 1131 Blvd. of the Arts, Sarasota, FL 34236.

Board of Directors

Very importantly, the new Executive Committee was installed at the Annual Meeting by Barbara Rao.

"All hands on deck!"

Some positions are still OPEN!



Board of Directors at Sarasota Garden Club				
"We thank you for all that you do for the club"				
Kelly Goodwin	President			
CJ Danna	1st Vice President			
Dianne Beaver	Treasurer			
Sharon Davisson	Recording Secretary			
Tess Hershman	Rentals			
	Parliamentarian			
Anita Leasser	Community Projects			
Kay Webber	Botanical Gardens			
Carolyn Michielsen				
	Fundraising			
Carol Lackey	Programs			
Olivia Haynes	Hospitality			
	Membership			
	Education			
	Marketing/Publicity			



