



SARASOTA
GARDEN CLUB

The Blooming Chatter

The Sarasota Garden Club Magazine

VOLUME 32 - ISSUE 8

APRIL SPRING – 2023

www.sarasotagardenclub.org



Highlights

- ✦ President's Message
- ✦ Review of Gardens in Paradise
- ✦ Club Dates
- ✦ Event Reviews
- ✦ Botanical Gardens Report
- ✦ AND MORE

Flower of the month:
Calendula



Social Media

Website: www.sarasotagardenclub.org

Facebook.com/sarasotagardenclub

Instagram @sarasotagardenclub |
#sarasotagardenclub | #TheGardensSGC

Tel: 941-955-0875 **Email:**

BloomingChatter@SarasotaGardenClub.org

This Month's BC Contents

Pg #	Title
1-2	President's Message – Kelly Goodwin
3-4	April and May's Diary Dates
5-6	General Monthly Meeting Schedule - 2023
7-9	Review of last month's (March's) General Monthly Meeting
10-12	April's Annual General Monthly Meeting
13	Annual Meeting
14-15	Review of Gardens in Paradise
16-17	Botanical Gardens Report
18	MFRC Rare Fruit Tree Sale
19	UF/IFAS EXTENSION Spring Plant Sale
20	News from Ikebana
21	Scholarship Committee
22	News from Friends of Myakka River
23	FFGC Annual Convention
24	Sarasota Succulent Society
25	What's in the Library?
26	Keep In Touch with SGC
27	Thank you

President's Message

Greetings Garden Club Members!

Wow, March has been very busy and we just finished an incredibly successful "Gardens in Paradise"! **It is hard to believe we are welcoming in APRIL already.**



"Gardens in Paradise" (GIP) was a roaring success due to our incredible group of member volunteers. We received so many compliments from the attendees on the gardens, the vendors and the luncheon. Everyone truly worked as a team and put in such an incredible effort, and it really was evident on Saturday!

Thank you, thank you to everyone who made this one of our best "Gardens in Paradise" to date.

Thank you everyone for working as a team with such great teamwork! Everyone working together is the foundation for this successful tour!

The preparation for GIP takes many, many volunteers to enable such a large tour. It starts with the Garden Selection Committee searching throughout Sarasota and talking with homeowners about putting their gardens on the tour. It takes a lot of searching and discussion to sign up homeowners for this tour.

Next, we begin the advertising of the Early-Bird Ticket Purchase in October and running the advertising on social media, Facebook and Instagram. Then the website must be updated and prepared for both advertising and ticket purchases for the Early-Bird Ticket Purchases. While this is taking place, the Communications Committee begins the final drafts of the flyers, small cards and large posters for advertising around town. The Communications Committee also prepares print advertising and begins contacting several different publications seeking pricing and potential advertising donations. Advertising goes to print in February and March publications. Then the program must be developed, with the description of each garden, designed with sponsors and advertising, proofed, edited and then printed.

/cont...

In the background, ticket and lunch purchases are taking place on the website with both the Ticketing Committee and the Treasurers tracking the counts and dollars.

While all of the above are taking place, the Logistics Committee is seeking volunteers and readying for the GIP Tour Day. The Logistics Committee is the frontline to all the GIP attendees on the day of the tour. They begin months before the tour understanding the location of the gardens, understanding the check-process and who their Captains are for the houses on the tour they will work. Multiple shift coverage is planned, parking coordinators learn the area and routes for parking. We also have a Docent team that is comprised of our volunteers and volunteers from the Master Gardener's. Wow, and we are still not done...

The Garden Committee gets very busy preparing the Botanical Gardens for "Gardens in Paradise" in the Fall and they work continuously right up to the day of the tour, ensuring the gardens look beautiful.

We also have our Hospitality Committee know as our "Kitchen Angels", who plan all the food, the floor plan layout, coordinate all the day's setup activities, do all the food preparation, serve the lunch for over 100+ people. When this is all done, they begin the cleanup for the entire facility.

So, while participating and learning about how and what "Gardens in Paradise" is, I am amazed at all the planning, coordination and work that goes into this annual tour.

Bravo, GIP Committees, a great effort, great results and another successful event!

See you all soon!

Fondly, Kelly L Goodwin, President

941-718-3359

President@SarasotaGardenClub.org

Sarasota Garden Club Mission:

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



April 2023 Dates

Key events this month include:

- **7th - Deadline for Submissions for Scholarship Program**
- **18th - Annual General Meeting**

APRIL 2023		
1 st	Wedding Ceremony and Reception	
2 nd	8.30am	Center for Spiritual Living, also on 9 th , 16 th , 23 rd and 30 th
3 rd	10am	** SGC - Board of Directors Meeting
7 th	Deadline for submission of Scholarship Program Applications	
	8-11am	Friday Garden Volunteers, also on 14 th , 21 st and 28 th
11 th	9am	Founders Club meeting
18th	SARASOTA GARDEN CLUB ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING at SARA BAY COUNTRY CLUB	
18-20 th	FFGC Annual Convention, Kissimmee	
24 th	9.30AM	Ikebana Society Meeting
25 th	10am	** SGC – Executive Committee Meeting
26 th	6pm	Mangrove Coast Fly Fishers Club meeting
27 th	9.30am	SGC Member Rental
29 th	9am-1pm	UF/IFAS EXTENSION Spring Plant Sale
	10.30-4.30	Ikebana floral exhibition at Gulf Gate Library



For the most up-to-date information, visit our on-line CALENDAR


<https://sarasotagardenclub.org>

You will note that several events are booked out by The Bay – often only as a stand-by for their outside events, should bad weather occur

May 2023 Dates

Key events this month include:

- **1st – Scholarship Ceremony**
- **6th MFRC Tree Sale**
- **17th Monthly General Meeting**

MAY 2023		
1 st	10am	SGC Scholarship Ceremony
		** SGC - Board of Directors Meeting (Library)
5 th	8-11am	Friday Garden Volunteers, also on 12 th , 19 th , and 26 th
6 th	9am-3pm	 MRFC Rare Fruit Tree Sale
7 th	8.30am	Center for Spiritual Living, also on 14th, 21st and 28th
13 th	9am-1pm	Sarasota Succulent Annual Sale
17 th	10am	MONTHLY GENERAL MEETING “What is a Flower Show? Design, Horticulture, Photography, Education. How to enter, What to look for in your plants, Judging, Rules and all your questions answered” By Leading Flower Show Experts TBA
24 th	6pm	Mangrove Coast Fishers Club meeting
25 th	9am	Butterfly Club Meeting
30 th		** SGC – Executive Committee Meeting (Library)



For the most up-to-date information, visit our on-line CALENDAR
<https://sarasotagardenclub.org>
 You will note that several events are booked out by The Bay – often only as a stand-by for their outside events, should bad weather occur

General Members Monthly Meetings Schedule – 2023

The General Members Monthly Meetings are organized by the Programs Committee.

Carol Lackey is the Chair of the Programs Committee.

If you would like to join the Programs Committee, or would like to suggest a speaker, please email Programs@SarasotaGardenClub.org

NEXT MEETING Tuesday April 18th	Annual General Meeting at Sara Bay Country Club <i>“Springing in to History”</i> <u>BOOK YOUR TICKETS NOW \$40</u>
Wednesday May 17 th	“What is a Flower Show? Design, Horticulture, Photography, Education. How to enter, What to look for in your plants, Judging, Rules and all your questions answered” By Leading Flower Show Experts TBA

This season's program of Monthly General Meetings will come to a close after May, but September (20th), October(18th) and November (15th) dates are already in the diary. During the 3-month break we take time to plan for the next season.

Having said that:

- **FLOWER SHOW**

In May, Dianne Beaver will be calling a Planning Meeting for the Club's Flower Show. The Flower Show is a great opportunity for members to contribute to an important community outreach event. Flower shows are free and open to the public, and an important part of SGC's education mission. No experience with flower shows is necessary; we need proof readers, creative thinkers, and general helpers, and it is a chance to learn a bit about the flower show process. Note that May's Monthly General Meeting is on the topic of Flower Shows!

- **FIELD TRIPS**

Carol Lackey, Program Chair, is working on several 'fieldtrips' and 'walkabout' tours for June and July. These would be meet-ups at a local nursery, venue or park of interest to Members, such as Sweet Bay.

- **MUSIC IN THE GARDENS**

And news from Kelly is that the Hospitality Committee is planning a "Music in the Gardens" - they are working on this with a few musicians.

- **BLOOMING CHATTER**

And I will be making a few visits to flower shows in England, including Chelsea and Hampton Court, and will be issuing a rogue Blooming Chatter with details of them. **If YOU have a flower show local to your summer residence, we'd love to hear about it.**

Review of Last Month's (March) General Meeting



The Great Room is such a terrific venue for our meetings.

@ 50 Members and guests enjoyed hospitality, friendship, and a presentation by Miri Hardy at the Sarasota Garden Club's monthly general meeting.

Club Business – another busy month!

- President, Kelly Goodwin, welcomed everybody to the meeting, especially as the weather was a little on the chilly side, saying how nice it was to see everybody back.
- Thanks again went to Livy Haynes for the Historical Marker Designation that took place on 16th.
- Kelly explained that the Club and The Bay are having twice-weekly meetings to continue the transition; that most of the bills have been handed over and being paid by The Bay; technology is a work-in-progress; cleaning is now taking place each Tuesday; and that Dianne is still the Go-To person. If you have anything to report concerning The Bay please email FinanceOffice@SarasotaGardenClub.org
- Bill and AG (from The Bay) may be speakers as the Sarasota Garden Club's AGM, April 18th, at Sara Bay Club – sign up now, \$40!
- It has been decided that the club will hold 12-14 rental events a year, and for all enquiries to be handled by Kathy Taylor, event coordinator, 941-504-9289 / kataylor1955@gmail.com. Preference will be given to non-profit organizations and members (who receive discount), and little or no advertizing will take place.

Sue Engle, in recognition of St Patrick's Day offered some Irish Blessings, before the Pledge of Allegiance:



Here's hoping your face
Is wearing a smile
As cheery and bright
As the old Emerald Isle
And may a full measure
Of Irish luck too
Make each day of the year
A grand one for you.

You've blessed me with friends
and laughter and fun
With rain that's as soft
as the light from the sun -
You've blessed me with stars
to brighten each night
You've given me help
to know wrong from right -
You've given me so much
please, Lord give me too,
A heart that is always
grateful to You.

An Irish Prayer

May you be poor
in misfortune,
Rich in blessing,
Slow to make enemies,
Quick to make friends.
But rich or poor,
quick or slow,
May you know nothing
But happiness
From this day forth.

St Patrick's Day: 17th March 2023

St Patrick's Day, or the Feast of St Patrick, is a celebration in honor of the patron saint of Ireland, St Patrick. The day of celebration, which marks the day of St Patrick's death, was originally a religious holiday meant to celebrate the arrival of Christianity in Ireland, and made official by the Catholic Church in the early 17th century.

Update from individual Committee Chairs as of 15th March

"Gardens in Paradise" (GIP) – Gloria Thomas – THANKED EVERYONE FOR THE TERRIFIC RESPONSE FOR CALLS FOR VOLUNTEERS:

- 52 volunteers (not the final number) in and around the garden tour: club members, spouses and friends
- & Livy's Hospitality Team in the kitchen, who will be producing the Buffet Lunch, between 11.30am and 1.30pm on the day (\$15)
- The gardens, found by Emily and Jean, are gorgeous and the homeowners are all excited about showing them off
- Tickets are selling like hot cakes

Membership – Anne Stegall wanted to bring some new members to the attention of the Club: Nitza Avnie and Glenn Axelrod, Mimi Hernandez, and Carol Hyde. Welcome and thank you for joining.

As always, it is important to grow the number of club members, so please introduce your friends, perhaps by bringing them to one of our General Monthly Meetings, and introduce them to the Club and, right now, "Gardens in Paradise"!

Botanical Garden – Kay Weber, Chair of Botanical Gardens – see separate report on page 16/17 but particular thanks went to Ann Durloo and Tom for working in the lagoon, removing copious amounts of rotting leaves, and trimming overhead limbs.



Lots of prizes at this month's raffle: imitation flowers, complete with containers, and live plants. Just about everybody won something. \$5 for strip of 6 raffle tickets – sold at the monthly general meetings to raise funds.

ALWAYS BRING YOUR \$\$\$\$\$s

Guest Speaker @ Feb's meeting

"Exploring, Capturing and Sharing Sarasota Beyond the Pavement"

Carol Lackey, Programs Chair, thanked everybody for coming, reiterated what a good season of programs we'd all enjoyed, and introduced this month's general meeting's speaker: Miri Hardy, Ph.D., Wildlife Photographer and Environmental Educator (who Carol met through a number of channels including: pottery, photography, Save our Seabirds, Mayaka Park (of which Miri is the Executive Director) - to name a few).



Miri is a natural communicator and her presentation, which was so interesting, and packed full of useful information, was structured to cover:

- Miri in the Wild
- Introduction to Friends of Myakka River
- Post-Hurricane Ian Airplant Rescue
- Floodplain Marsh Habitat Restoration

THANK YOU TO MIRI FOR PROVIDING US WITH A COPY OF THE PRESENTATION, WHICH IS POSTED ON OUR WEBSITE (ONLY FOR MEMBERS) [CLICK HERE TO VIEW](#)

EXPLORING, CAPTURING AND SHARING SARASOTA BEYOND THE PAVEMENT



[Friends of Myakka River: https://www.friendsofmyakkariver.org/](https://www.friendsofmyakkariver.org/) 2023 Priority Missions: Environmental Education
| Habitat Restoration | Historic Weir Development | Bike Myakka for Good

13208 State Road 72, Sarasota, FL 34241

941-373-7839

Info@FriendsofMyakkaRiver.org





Above is a brilliant photograph by Miri, and one that has become synonymous with ‘gators here in Florida. It regularly pops up on many a Google search

TOP TIP - Visit DEEP HOLE – part of Myakka Park

Myakka River State Park has an off the beaten path hike where alligators like to congregate. This is so special that the park only allows 30 people per day to visit the area.

About 2 miles down a dirt road and without the help of any signs, you'll be confronted with a lush hammock of trees and a dramatic opening to what is known as "Deep Hole" in the 7,500-acre wilderness preserve part of Myakka River State Park. The spectacular view takes effort, but it's well worth it.



My (Becci) recommendation is to get to Myakka Park main gate early, explain to the Park Ranger that you wish to visit Deep Hole. Provided no more than 30 people have already gone, they'll issue you with a NUMBER, which is the entry code to a car park just a short distance from Myakka's main entrance (ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE ROAD). So, once you've paid your dues, they've recorded the number of visitors in your party, given you the car park code, you're good to go. TAKE WATER, dress sensibly, with good walking shoes, and enjoy your once-in-a-lifetime wild trip! There are NO WARDENS so take care.

Just some of the slides that were used to illustrate Miri's presentation



Environmental Education:



Develop impactful nature connection programs for at-risk youth.

Financially support field trip costs for schools that cannot afford busing.

THANK YOU TO MIRI FOR PROVIDING US WITH A COPY OF THE PRESENTATION, WHICH IS POSTED ON OUR WEBSITE (ONLY FOR MEMBERS) [CLICK HERE TO VIEW](#)

Historic Weir Site: March, 2022



Historic Weir Development:



Financially support the planning of an interpretive wildlife observation platform near the site of the historic Weir on the Upper Myakka Lake.



April's general meeting is replaced by the
ANNUAL MEETING
"Springing into History"



Sarasota Garden Club presents the 2023
Annual Meeting - Tuesday 18th April - 10am / 2pm

Members are encouraged to attend the Annual General Meeting to meet other members, celebrate the Club's activities over the year, hear from guest speakers, and get involved in next year's opportunities.

SPRINGING INTO HISTORY

This year celebrates the Club's recognition of being awarded the Sarasota County Historic Marker and the National Historic Designation Plaque for National Registry of Historic Buildings.



To be held at the legendary Sara Bay Country Club

<https://www.sarabaycc.org/>

at 7011 Willow Street, Sarasota 34243

\$40 per person

**LUNCH: choose from Chicken Marsala,
Salmon, and Vegetarian**

CASH BAR FOR LIBATIONS AVAILABLE



Review of



The 9th annual “Gardens in Paradise” event took place on Saturday 25th March – with temperatures in the mid to high-80’s bringing everyone out in droves.

- WE AWAIT FULL STATISTICS to be announced at the Annual Meeting: number of tickets and lunches, money raised
- Right now, surveys have been sent to all Ticket Holders, Volunteers, and Vendors to gain their feedback. Please help us by sharing your thoughts.

[CLICK HERE IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO COMPLETE A SURVEY](#)



THANK YOU TO EVERYONE THAT HELPED – here are some:

- Emily Yaffe and Jean Ruff for locating the gardens, without which, there would be no garden tour!
- Randi Broida for writing up the garden descriptions and creating a compelling Program
- Gloria Thomas for mustering the volunteers and coordinating the endless logistics
- Shari Amato for coordinating the vendors (following on from the success at the Fashion Show)
- CJ, Becci, Carol and Don for executing the marketing program to generate, and manage, ticket sales: advertising, Facebook, email blasts, website, PayPal – they have hidden skills! Rick and Carol for capturing the day on ‘film’.
- Livy Haynes and the entire Hospitality Team for providing lunches for over 150 people. True ‘behind the scenes’ heroes.
- Kay Weber and the garden volunteers for ensuring the Botanical Gardens were looking their very best, and coordinating the Master Gardeners as Docents



Photographs of GIP

— RICK BENITEZ —
PHOTOGRAPHY

242 S Washington Blvd. Unit 380
Sarasota, FL 34236
941-306-7485 - rick@rbphotos.com
www.rbphotos.com

Rick Benitez, the Club's regular official photographer, was there to capture the moments.

RICK'S CATALOG OF PHOTOS OF "Gardens In Paradise" CAN BE SEEN ONLINE AT:

<https://rbphotos.zenfolio.com/p329655823> - Sign in with your name & email to see, download, print



and big THANK YOU to Carol Lackey who also captured some precious moments before and during the tour.

Carol is producing a hard-back photo-book - to be given as thank you presents to homeowners.

If YOU would like a copy as a keepsake of the GIP, speak to her directly or email

Programs@SarasotaGardenClub.org for prices etc.

Botanical Gardens Report – Kay Weber



We Friday Morning Workers have been busy as usual as there's always lots of work being done in all of our 9 gardens, but of course we've been working extra hard to get it ready for hundreds of visitors on "Gardens in Paradise" day.

- One Friday we were able to distribute a whole **pallet** of mulch on one Friday. I think Ros laid the most mulch that day! Two pallets were distributed leading up to GIP, which took significant effort.

- Another Friday we were able to clean out the Falling Waters and the Lagoon, and trim back all the plants hanging over it.

Many thanks to Ann Durloo and Tom.

As fast as they cleaned out huge tubs of rotted leaves and tree limbs, other volunteers were handing them empty tubs to fill up again. We always work as a team.



- Last Friday, it seemed as if the garden fairies had been in – the Silent Garden had been weeded, thinned out to highlight the best plants and mulched to make it look beautiful. Ann and Tom's work again!

Special Thanks, to Carol Fugate (below), who laid some memory bricks in the Butterfly Garden as well as help Robert fill his truck with all of our yard waste.

We don't often catch CF in a photo!



GARDENING MAKES US EVEN IN THIS WORLD



FRIDAY MORNING VOLUNTEER GARDEN WORKERS:

Carolyn and I open up at 8am and work until about 11am, but come when you can as there is always a job waiting for you.

- As always, thank you to everyone who volunteers on a Friday; more always welcome.
- Thank you also to Morning Workers who signed as Docents in the Gardens In Paradise tour.





MRFC Rare Fruit Tree Sale

Saturday May 6th

Fruit Trees and More

Huge Outdoor Multi-Vendor Tree and Plant Sale

Saturday, May 6, 9:00 am - 3:00 pm

Premier Sports Campus

5895 Post Blvd, Lakewood Ranch, FL 34211

Exit 217 (Route 70) off I-75, go east 4.65 miles and left on Post Blvd

Ample Free Parking

Restrooms

Expert Advice



Mangos, Avocado, and Citrus – many varieties from top-quality vendors

Other Popular Fruits – bananas, papayas, pineapples, starfruit, mulberries, loquats, longans, papayas, Florida peaches, Florida plums

Hard-to-find Rare Fruits – atemoya, Barbados cherry, black sapote, canistel, cherry of the Rio Grande, dragonfruit, guava, passionfruit, macadamia, persimmon, pomegranate, sapodilla, sugar apple, Surinam cherry, and more

Herbs – Many varieties of popular herbs such as basil, thyme, oregano, and mints, wide selection of common and unusual culinary and medicinal herbs

Tropical Vegetable Plants – edible cactus, cassava, chaya, chayote, katuk, yam, Florida sweet potatoes, tropical greens, and more

Ornamental Plants – depending on vendors

Sponsored by the Manatee Rare Fruit Council, a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization

Most vendors accept credit cards, but bringing cash is a good idea (no ATM on site).

Bring a wagon or cart, if you can, for transporting purchased plants.

More information at mrfc.org . Inventory is subject to availability.

This year's MRFC (Manatee Rare Fruit Control) Rare Fruit Tree Sale will be held on Saturday, May 6 from 9:00 to 3:00.

At the Premier Sports Campus, which is about 5 miles east of I-75 on State Route 70 (exit mile 217), with restrooms and ample convenient parking.

FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT mrfc.org/p/fruit-tree-sale.html

UF/IFAS EXTENSION



Spring PLANT SALE

SATURDAY
**April
29**

9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.

Barbara Davis
Educational Gardens
1303 17th St W
Palmetto, FL 34221



Native plants, pollinator plants, wildflowers, & more! All proceeds from this event go to the operation and maintenance of the Master Gardeners' Educational Gardens and Greenhouse, and to support Master Gardener educational and outreach programs.

Register for a free ticket on Eventbrite below.



<http://bit.ly/3Rzlymx>

An Equal Opportunity Institution.



**IKEBANA INTERNATIONAL
CHAPTER 115 SARASOTA**

2023 ANNUAL IKEBANA (JAPANESE) FLORAL ARRANGEMENT EXHIBITION

Various Designs of Flower Arrangements presented
by Members and Associate Members of the
Ikebana International Chapter of Sarasota

Date: SATURDAY APRIL 29, 2023

**Location: GULF GATE LIBRARY
7112 Curtiss Ave. Sarasota, FL 34231**

Time: 10:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

**For more information visit:
www.iisarasota.com**

**SPECIAL
ATTRACTION:
ARRANGEMENTS BY
CHILDREN OF THE
GULF GATE LIBRARY**

Scholarship Committee

The Scholarship Committee are looking for a few good people. The Committee currently comprises - maybe consider joining! Call The Chair.

SGC SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE	
Chair	Nancy Lewis Email nancy-lewis@comcast.net or call 941-358-7000 (home) and 440-343-8997 (cell)
Members of the Committee	Lynn Biega (SGC Librarian) Sharon Davisson - SRDSTL41@gmail.com 314-496-8108 or 941-270-3418 Mary Fran and Andy Panineau

- The Scholarship Committee is looking for a few good people to review scholarship applications and decide on scholarship awards to worthy students
- We meet **twice** in March (or early April) to review applications and decide on monetary awards, depending on our budget which has been approved by the **Board (see below announcement from The Board)**
- On May 1st at noon, we have an award ceremony, lasting one hour – it's a lovely event

BOARD ANNOUNCEMENT: At the Board Meeting held on 22nd February, it was voted that the Club would award \$25,000 from the Community Foundation (which is specifically for scholarships) as well as an additional \$5,000 from the Sarasota Garden Club, for Scholarships.

If you, as a member of the Sarasota Garden Club, know of a suitable applicant, please bring this opportunity to their attention.

Applications should be returned by April 7, 2023, to:

Sarasota Garden Club, Inc.
Attention: Scholarship Committee
111 Blvd. of the Arts
Sarasota, FL 34236

More information is available on
our website at:

www.sarasotagardenclub.org/community/sarasota-garden-club-scholarships/



News from Friends of Myakka River



Friends of Myakka River is a 501(C)(3) non-profit organization that exists to support Myakka River State Park, and the Wild & Scenic Myakka River

**TOGETHER, WE'RE PROTECTING AND SHARING MYAKKA'S MAGIC,
TO THE BENEFIT OF FUTURE GENERATIONS,
AND OUR OWN.**



Nine miles east of I-75, on S.R. 72, you'll find Myakka River State Park, one of Florida's oldest and largest state parks. With over 37,000 acres of stunning protected Wild Florida landscapes, waterscapes, flora and fauna, Myakka is a beloved local gem and also serves as critical habitat to many state-threatened plant and wildlife species.

As a Citizen Support Organization (CSO), Friends of Myakka River partners with park management and staff to help protect and share Myakka's Magic by funding critical initiatives at the park needed to protect Myakka's delicate ecosystems and the park infrastructure.

By sharing Myakka's Magic through programming, social media and press, we're also augmenting the park's environmental education and community outreach, allowing many more individuals to personally experience Myakka.

Together, we're helping protect this special and environmentally critical place, to the benefit of future generations, and our own. Thank YOU for protecting and sharing Myakka's Magic:

- Follow us on [Instagram](#) or [Facebook](#)
- Read our [Wild Florida](#) feature in The Observer
- Become a [Member](#) or [Donate](#)
- For more information, contact [Miri Hardy](#)

Sir David Attenborough noted that *"No one will protect what they don't care about; and no one will care about what they have never experienced"*.

Florida Federation of Garden Clubs (FFGC) 96th Annual Convention



Sue Angle encourages members to attend this convention as it's a great learning experience and so interesting to talk to members from other clubs around the state. **Contact Sue for more information on anything FFGC related on sueangle000@gmail.com**

96th Annual
Conference
"Worlds of
Wonder"



April 18-20, 2023,

Embassy Suites by Hilton, Lake Buena Vista South, Kissimmee Florida

You can also support the FFGC locally by purchasing Raffle Tickets and/or 50/50 tickets at our March General Meeting.

- **\$2 Raffle tickets and \$5 - 50/50 raffle**

Prizes include: 2 nights stay at Embassy Suites Lake Buena Vista South, a collection of 5 plants from the Philodendron Family, 23" Treble Clef Aluminium Sculpture, a collection of 5 plants from the Gesneriaceae family, 2 strand pearl and ruby bracelet, 53" tall yard art from PVC pipe, 95th Anniversary edition Harley Davidson signed print by Scott Jacobs.

For full details visit: ffgc.org/Convention-2023

Register online by clicking here: <https://bit.ly/3wxWLGd>

Sarasota Succulent Society Annual Sale



Our next big annual sale will be held on **Saturday, May 13, 2023**, (the Saturday of Mothers Day weekend) **from 9:00 am to 1:00 pm.**

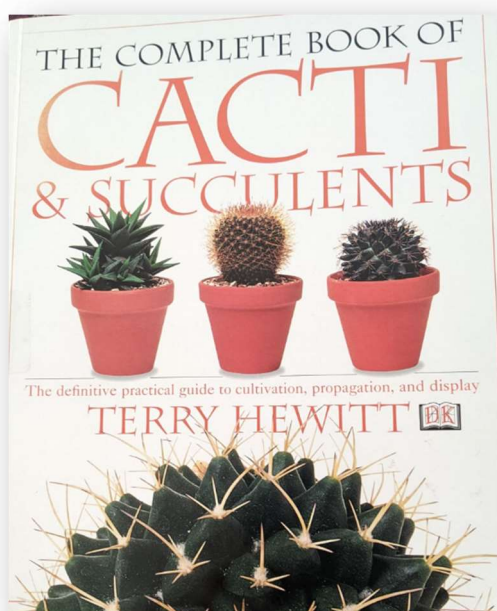
As always, you are invited to join us. **Admission is free.**

[Sarasota Succulent Society - Home Page](#)

What's in The Library?



Next time you're in the Club, make sure you visit The Library (above).



Author Terry Hewitt has more than 30 years' experience growing cacti and succulents. He is the owner of Holly Gate Cactus Nursery, a world-famous collection of more than 50,000 plants, including rare specimens from deserts and jungles around the world.

This gorgeous guide features the history, cultivation, and imaginative use of more than 300 succulent and cacti plants in comprehensive, easy-to-follow illustrated stages. The Complete Book of Cacti & Succulents is a feast of in-depth information and over 600 eye-catching photographs. This book has everything you need to make your plant arrangements healthy and spectacular no matter what kinds of succulents you use. Using this guide, you will quickly discover

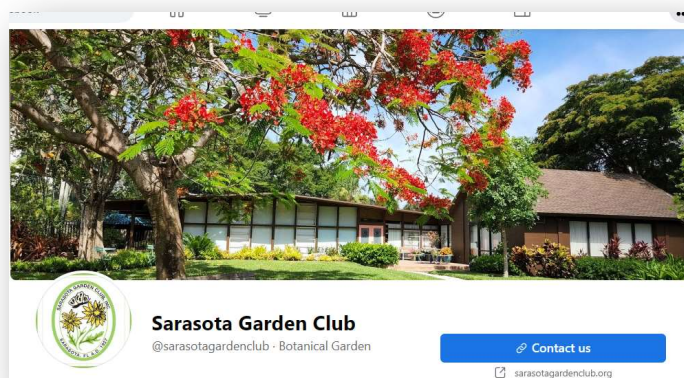
just how bold and creative you can be with these arrangements, and understand why so many decorators can recommend succulents for almost every occasion.

***This month's book was recommended by Lynn Biega
Chair of the Sarasota Garden Club's Library Interest Group***

**SECTION - HORTICULTURE
LOCATION - Hort
583
.56
Hew**

SGC Online: Keep in Touch

- **FOLLOW SARASOTA GARDEN CLUB on FACEBOOK and INSTAGRAM** for news and photos – add YOUR photos and comments



- **VISIT the SARASOTA GARDEN CLUB WEBSITE** for information and event registration: www.sarasotagardenclub.org
- View club and member details in the 2022/23 YEARBOOK AND MEMBER DIRECTORY, which is available on the website in [THE MEMBERS AREA](#)
Forgotten your password? Email Membership@SarasotaGardenClub.org

We want to hear from you – please USE THESE NEW EMAIL ADDRESSES to contact your club

- President@SarasotaGardenClub.org - to contact Kelly Goodwin, President of the Club
- Office@SarasotaGardenClub.org for **any** GENERAL queries. Your email will be forwarded to the appropriate person to deal with your enquiry
- BloomingChatter@SarasotaGardenClub.org to contact CJ and Becci Bond with issues relating to the monthly newsletter. You are all welcome to submit content to appear in the newsletter
- FinanceOffice@SarasotaGardenClub.org to contact Dianne Beaver with FINANCE-related issues
- Membership@SarasotaGardenClub.org for MEMBERSHIP-related issues
- Communications@SarasotaGardenClub.org to contact CJ as Chair of the Communications Committee – to facilitate emails and messages from the Club to Members
- Fundraising@SarasotaGardenClub.org to contact Shari Amato with FUNDRAISING-related issues
- Programs@SarasotaGardenClub.org to contact Carol Lackey who welcomes input to the Club's program calendar

Comment from The SGC Blooming Chatter Editor: Becci Bond (the Brit)

FIRST AND FOREMOST – A HUGE Thank you
to everyone that contributes to the Blooming
Chatter with content, photographs, insight and
information (historical and current), comments etc.
The more the merrier – send your comments, input,
announcement, 'whatever', to:

BloomingChatter@SarasotaGardenClub.org

It is my personal goal to inform the Club Members of the
activities of the Sarasota Garden Club so that they may join
in, get the most out of the club's activities, enjoy
themselves, meet like-minded folk and make friends, make
suggestions on how to improve the club, entice you to get
more involved, introduce new members

Becci Bond

BecciBond@hotmail.com

Cell: 941-284-6770