



**SARASOTA
GARDEN CLUB**

Highlights

- + President's Message
- + Dates for the Diary
- + Event reviews
- + Featured Scholarship
- + NEWS
- + AND MORE

"The Blooming Chatter"

NEWSLETTER

VOLUME 33 – ISSUE 6
FEBRUARY – 2024



Contact Us

**1131 Boulevard of the Arts
Sarasota, FL 34236**

(Office open Fridays 9am - midday)

www.SarasotaGardenClub.org

Facebook.com/sarasotagardenclub

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Email: Office@SarasotaGardenClub.org

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President's Message

2024 is in full motion for our wonderful Sarasota Garden Club!

Our next General Members Monthly Meeting is **Wednesday February 21st** - **BRING A FRIEND.**



This month's program will be provided by "Butterflies and Blossoms".

We just had a very special Civic Beautification Awards luncheon with many award winners in attendance. It is so nice to see how companies really work so diligently to beautify Sarasota, and genuinely appreciate our recognition of their landscaping beautification.

Thank you to the **Civic Beautification** and **Hospitality Committees** for all the efforts to select, award and coordinate such a nice luncheon and ceremony.

A quick reminder, if you have not renewed your membership, please do so now online. We truly appreciate your membership and engagement with the club. [RENEW HERE NOW.](#) Please consider joining one of our committees to enjoy Spring Time at the Sarasota Garden Club.

We have a very full 2024 first quarter with the preparation for our "**Gardens in Paradise**". We have 5 spectacular homes selected for the tour and we believe the historical area and homes on this year's tour will make it a special one for everyone.

We really appreciate all who volunteer to create and participate in this wonderful tour. If anyone is interested in volunteering, please contact Gloria Thomas.

Looking forward to seeing everyone during February!

Fondly - Kelly L Goodwin, President - Tel: 941-718-3359

President@SarasotaGardenClub.org - klgkey@outlook.com

February 2024 Calendar

2 nd	8am – 11am	SGC - Friday Garden Volunteers – in the botanical gardens
3 rd	Midday	Wedding Rental
4 th	8.30am	Affiliate Meeting: Center for Spiritual Living
5 th	10am	SGC – Board of Directors Meeting
6 th	1 pm	SGC – Gardens in Paradise (GIP) Committee Meeting
7 th	9am	Affiliate Meeting: Floralia
	1:30 pm	SGC – Ad Hoc Leadership Meeting
8 th	9.30am	SGC – Membership Committee Meeting
	1 pm	SGC – Gardens in Paradise (GIP) Committee Meeting
9 th	8am – 11am	SGC – Friday Garden Volunteers – in the botanical gardens
11 th	8.30am	Affiliate Meeting: Center for Spiritual Living
	8am	Affiliate Meeting: Founders
13 th	1 pm	SGC – Gardens in Paradise (GIP) Committee Meeting
16 th	8am – 11am	SGC - Friday Garden Volunteers – in the botanical gardens
17 th	9am – 3pm	OFF SITE: Rob Branch Exotic Plant Sale and Succulent Society
18 th	8.30am	Affiliate Meeting: Center for Spiritual Living
20 th	1 pm	SGC – Gardens in Paradise (GIP) Committee Meeting
21 st	9.30am – midday	SGC – FEBRUARY GENERAL MEETING Tenille Dixon Pawlus “Plant Parenthood” - How to Care for Your Plants Butterflies and Blossoms FL https://www.butterfliesandblossomsfl.com/
	1.30pm	SGC – Ad Hoc Leadership Meeting
	6pm	Affiliate Meeting: Mangrove Coast Fly Fishers Club
23 rd	8am – 11am	SGC - Friday Garden Volunteers – in the botanical gardens
24 th	3.30pm	Wedding Reception
25 th	8.30pm	Affiliate Meeting: Center for Spiritual Living
26 th	9:30 am	Affiliate Meeting: Ikebana
28 th	1:30 pm	SGC – Ad Hoc Leadership Meeting
29 th	1.30pm	Affiliate Meeting: Butterfly Club



Meetings DO sometimes get cancelled or rescheduled so for the most up-to-date information, always visit our on-line CALENDAR [SarasotaGardenClub.org](https://www.SarasotaGardenClub.org)

March 2024 Calendar

1 st	8am – 11am	SGC - Friday Garden Volunteers – in the botanical gardens
2 nd	4pm	Wedding
3 rd	8.30am	Affiliate Meeting: Center for Spiritual Living
4 th	10am	SGC – Board of Directors Meeting
5 th	1 pm	SGC – Gardens in Paradise (GIP) Committee Meeting
6 th	9am	Affiliate Meeting: Floralia
	1:30 pm	SGC – Ad Hoc Leadership Meeting
8 th	8am – 11am	SGC - Friday Garden Volunteers – in the botanical gardens
	12.30pm	Wedding
10 th	8.30am	Affiliate Meeting: Center for Living
12 th	8am	Affiliate Meeting: Founders
	1 pm	SGC – Gardens in Paradise (GIP) Committee Meeting
13 th	9.30am	SGC - MARCH GENERAL MEETING Kate Brenner, Paradise Found Nursery Succulent and Cactus Growing with Native Florida Plant Conservation https://www.paradisefoundnursery.com/
	1:30pm	SGC – Ad Hoc Leadership Meeting
14 th	9.30am	SGC – Membership Committee Meeting
		SGC – Gardens in Paradise (GIP) Committee Meeting
15 th	8am – 11am	SGC - Friday Garden Volunteers – in the botanical gardens
16 th	12 noon	Wedding
17 th	8.30am	Affiliate Meeting: Center for Spiritual Living
	2pm	Wedding
Check Calendar as various meetings being held in the lead-up to the Gardens In Paradise Garden Tour.		
19 th	1 pm	SGC – Gardens in Paradise (GIP) Committee Meeting
20 th	1.30pm	SGC – Ad Hoc Leadership Meeting
22 nd	8am – 11am	SGC – Friday Garden Volunteers – in the botanical gardens
23 rd	9.30am – 4pm	GARDENS IN PARADISE GARDEN TOUR
24 th	8.30am	Affiliate Meeting: Center for Spiritual Living
25 th	9 am	Affiliate Meeting: Ikebana
26 th	1 pm	SGC – Gardens in Paradise (GIP) Committee Meeting
27 th	1.30pm	SGC – Ad Hoc Leadership Meeting
	6 pm	Affiliate Meeting: Mangrove Coast Fly Fishers Club
28 th	9am	Affiliate Meeting: Butterfly Club
	10am	SGC – Fundraising Committee Meeting
29 th	8am – 11am	SGC – Friday Garden Volunteers – in the botanical gardens
31 st	8.30am	Affiliate Meeting: Center for Living
		EASTER SUNDAY

February's General Monthly Meeting

Tenille Dixon Pawlus Butterflies and Blossoms FL "Plant Parenthood"



<https://www.butterfliesandblossomsfl.com/>

<https://www.facebook.com/butterfliesandblossomsfl>

Tenille Dixon Paulus, Owner, Butterflies and

Blossoms: A plant collector, butterfly chaser, lover of flora and fauna and passionate about helping others create their own green oasis. Tenille is a garden consultant, certified landscape designer from Emory University, container gardener, teacher and plant seller in Sarasota, FL with a registered FL nursery license, Florida-Friendly Landscaping Program Certified Professional, GI-BMP Certified and FNGLA Certified Horticulture Professional. She specializes in pollinator, shade, container, tropical and FL gardening plants and designs.

Wednesday February 21st

9.30am - 10am - Refreshments and Social Time -
come as early as you can

10am - 10.30am - Members Business Meeting

10.30am - 11.30am - Speakers Presentation and Q&A


Be sure to come along!

And bring a guest.



Slides from December's Meeting

**Interior
Plantscaping**

*Bringing Nature
Indoors*



Combine various plants, consider color, shape, size, formal vs. informal and style.



Planters & POTS AFFECT AESTHETICS

- PLANTERS & POTS AFFECT AESTHETICS.
- POTS CAN BLEND INTO THE ROOM OR BECOME A STUNNING CENTERPIECE, MAKING A BOLD STATEMENT.
- COLOR, SIZE SHAPE AND STYLE, FORMAL VS. INFORMAL

**Nancy Abramson,
from Sarasota Bromeliad Society,
presented “Design with Tropical Plants”
at our December meeting.**

**For those of you who were unable to
attend, or to refresh your memory, the
presentation is available on line.**

**[CLICK HERE TO VIEW THE FULL PRESENTATION :](https://sarasotagardenclub.org/wp-content/uploads/Interior-Plantscaping-Speaker-Presentation.pdf)
[Microsoft PowerPoint - Interior Plantscaping
Speaker Presentation \(sarasotagardenclub.org\)](https://sarasotagardenclub.org)**

**[https://sarasotagardenclub.org/wp-
content/uploads/Interior-
Plantscaping-Speaker-
Presentation.pdf](https://sarasotagardenclub.org/wp-content/uploads/Interior-Plantscaping-Speaker-Presentation.pdf)**

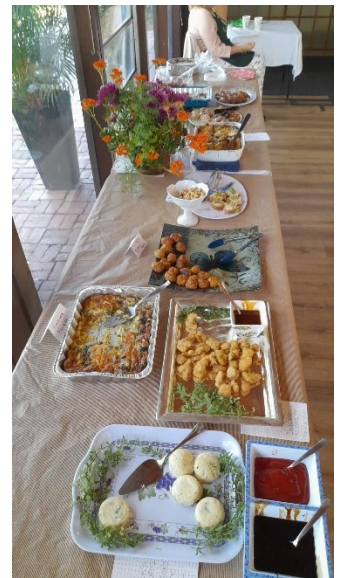
January's Meeting Review

Another terrific program at our monthly members general meeting last month.



January's Monthly General Meeting took place on Wednesday 17th January and was well attended by 40+ Members and Guests.

- THANK YOU as always to our terrific, behind-the-scene members of the **Hospitality Committee** for providing delicious refreshments, which are always greatly appreciated (right)>>>
- Thank you to Emily Yaffe for her inspirational poem
- Following the poem and Pledge of Allegiance, Livy, in her role as Florida Arbor Day Chairperson, showed everyone the proclamation from the County Commissioner's office acknowledging January 19th as Florida Arbor Day (*below right*).



USA's NATIONAL Arbor Day is in April, but that is not a good time for trees to be planted in Florida, hence the different date. SGC are one of 115 FFGC clubs planting a tree, and SGC planted ours at Oak Park School (*see review later in Newsletter*).

- Sue Angle, Chair of the Membership Committee, introduced new and returning members and guests (*see Membership Report*).
- Emily and Gloria gave an update on "Gardens In Paradise" (*see GIP Update*).
- Pat Bonarek, who was heard loud and clear without the aid of the microphone, gave an update on the Civic Beautification program which was culminating in the Award Luncheon being held on 29th January (*see Civic Beautification Update*).



GUEST SPEAKERS:

Jennifer Rominiecki, CEO, and Angel Lara, VP for Botanical Horticulture, from the Marie Selby Botanical Gardens, gave us an update on their **Master Plan** for Selby Downtown and Spanish Point, followed by an in-depth view of Selby's **Living Botanical Collection**.



We learned so much and it was terrific to know the plans have all come to fruition. Also excited to know that one of our partner organizations, Eco Vets, has installed, planted and maintains an all-organic vegetable and herb garden on the roof above the new Green Orchid Restaurant.

CLICK ON THE IMAGE BELOW OR FOLLOW THE LINK FOR ANGEL'S PRESENTATION on Selby's Living Plant Collection:



<https://sarasotagardenclub.org/wp-content/uploads/Selbys-Living-Plant-Collection.pdf>

Renew your Membership



If you have not already done so, we very much hope that you will renew your SGC membership NOW, Jan-Dec 2024.

- You can renew online at

<https://sarasotagardenclub.org/membership/membership-renewal/>

Or by mailing your check to "Sarasota Garden Club Renewal"
1131 Boulevard of the Arts, Sarasota, FL 34236

After February's monthly meeting, only paid-up members will appear in the new Members Directory and receive the Blooming Chatter. PLEASE BE SURE YOU'RE ON THE LIST.

Membership Committee Report!

We have lots of good news to share for beginning the New Year!

Most importantly, thank you for renewing your membership in Sarasota Garden Club. Dues were to be paid in December/January and we appreciated all the quick replies. For those we didn't hear from, our committee has made contact.

- **The Yearbook and the Members Directory has been updated and will appear on the website imminently.**

More good news is that our **January General Meeting** welcomed new member Andrea Gibson. Andrea has already been working in the garden and has brought food for our hospitality time. We're so glad to have Andrea in our Garden Club.

At the same meeting we also welcomed five guests and we were so happy to have them with us. One guest was Eileen George who was very interested in our club and in GIP. The following guests were brought by our members and we thank them so much for sharing their interest in our Garden Club with their friends and neighbors:

- Emily Yaffee brought her guest, Joy Norwood who came here from Miami after retiring from a career in international marketing for a luxury resort in Jamaica. Her own garden was on our GIP Tour several years ago and Joy brings knowledge about Florida landscaping.
- Guest Marge Beurskens was brought to our meeting by Becci Bond. Marge, along with Carol Hyde and Lynne MacAdam, who both joined in 2023, all live in the Baywood Colony area where Becci lives.
- Ros Stafford brought her guest, Debra Ashenofsky, who is a new friend of Ros, a "hand and foot" canasta player and eager to learn about plants and landscaping so she can build her own garden.
- Guest Judy Condon came with Nancy Lewis. She is from the Philippines and has been in Sarasota for forty years. She is very creative and enjoyed being at our meeting.

We always welcome guests and hope more members will bring friends, relatives and neighbors to our meetings.

Come on time at 9:30 am to enjoy refreshments and social time, with the meeting beginning at 10 am.

Also be sure to tell everyone you can about our "Gardens In Paradise" Tour on March 23. Maybe give someone a Valentine's Day Surprise. The tour is set to be very special this year!



Sue Angle – Membership Committee Chair, Sueangle000@gmail.com, 941-350-9784

FFGC – Florida’s Arbor Day Review

To observe Florida’s Arbor Day, along with the 100th Anniversary of FFGC, approximately 150 federated garden clubs throughout the state of Florida planted a tree at a location in their community all at the same time - which was 11:00 am EST on Friday, January 19, 2024.

We, SGC, held our tree planting ceremony at Oak Park School, 7285 Hand Rd, Sarasota, which is a school for special needs students from Pre-K to age 22.



[Oak Park School / Homepage \(sarasotacountyschools.net\)](http://sarasotacountyschools.net)

Olivia Haynes represented Sarasota Garden Club, and this is a part of her speech:

“Thank you to everyone for coming and sharing Florida Arbor Day with Oak Park School and Sarasota Garden Club.

I [Livy Haynes] am the Florida Arbor Day Chairperson for the Sarasota Garden Club. I want to welcome Oak Park students, faculty, staff and parents, as well as Sarasota Garden Club members and guests.

Today is Florida Arbor Day, which has been celebrated on the third Friday in January since the year 1886 by planting trees in our communities.

I’d like to tell you a little about the history of Florida / Arbor Day. We celebrate it in January because most trees are dormant or not growing, so less water evaporates from their leaves. It is easier to transplant trees without too much stress during this time. NATIONAL Arbor Day is celebrated around the rest of USA in April. In celebrating Florida Arbor Day citizens are encouraged to help reduce air pollution, conserve energy, and beautify the state of Florida, by planting native trees.

The tree we are planting today is a Gumbo Limbo tree, which is a Florida native tree which can live 100 years and grow to 30-40ft high. It is also known as the “Tourist Tree” because of its red peeling bark, which reminds us of tourists who stay on the beach too long and get a big sunburn, which then makes their skin red and peel. “



..... then she introduced Mr Daniel Beilman, the music teacher, and Oak Park students who sang for us. After the students had finished singing Mr Boesenberg (Mr B) and his students planted the Gumbo Limbo tree.

As well as Livy and Sue Angle, both of whom had made this happen, there was a good turnout from SGC club members – here are just some of them, others arrived later – and that’s the Gumbo Limbo Tree (*Bursera simaruba*). The kids LOVED the name of the tree!



And here’s a picture of some of the children, who entertained us so very well, and did a great job planting, mulching, stamping in and watering the tree – under the ever-watchful eye of Mr B!

Check out **The Observer**: [Garden Club, Oak Park School plant 'tourist tree' on Florida Arbor Day | Your Observer](#) for Ian Swaby’s great report of the day:



Here are the great photos tak... - Sarasota Garden Club facebook.com

Review of Field Trip to Audubon and Celery Fields



On Wednesday January 25th members of the Sarasota Garden Club met at the Audubon Society and the Celery Fields at [999 Center Rd](#) for a personal guided tour around the building and gardens, featuring Florida-friendly plantings, by Kim Sullivan and Pam Callender.



As soon as we arrived, we were greeted by a rowdy bunch of green parakeets (which are generally considered to be the naughty teenagers of the bird-world in Florida), flying by in flocks, squawking away. They are closely related to budgerigars, which remind me of my grandmother, who kept 'Percy' in her sitting room at home.



Right outside the Visitor Center there is an impressive bird nesting construction, (left) made out of gourds (like the Indians used to make them) for the Purple Martins, who are annual visitors (right). They were very active, flying through the air with their mouths open to catch insects.



USE THIS WEBSITE TO IDENTIFY BIRDS: [Cornell Lab of Ornithology—Home | Birds, Cornell Lab of Ornithology](#)



During the tour, several of us checked out the Bird Feeder area, where there was a plethora of both photographers and iridescent Red Winged Black Birds (left) and then we were lucky enough to see a brightly colored Bunting (right).



After the tour, we crossed over the road and on to the boardwalk that extends into a large lagoon, from where you can see the wildlife close-up, and we saw: a large black snake, various ducks, moorhens, coots, and a vividly colored bird called a Purple Gallinule which, according to the ornithologist on duty, walks atop the lily pads as *'it doesn't like to get its bottom wet'*. The guide was pleased to point out the less visible birds, lend out his binoculars to get a better view, and was full of useful and interesting wildlife facts.

THE BUILDING, FLORIDA-FRIEND GARDENS, BIRD FEEDING STATION, THE BIG HILL (apparently NOT made up of garbage, but soil that came out of dredging the lagoons), LAGOONS, THE WALKWAY, THE PEOPLE, AND NATURE – all make a really enjoyable visit.

Take a visit – it does have a gift shop but not refreshments – and ***“Take a walk on the wild side”*** – you can even hear the roar of the animals from the Big Cat Habitat close by [Big Cat Habitat – & Gulf Coast Sanctuary](#) so there's lots to make the trip a day out to remember.



Thank you to Carol Lackey, Programs Committee Chair, for arranging another super Off-Site visit. The next one's in the pipeline! There's more coming ... see over

Forthcoming Programs

SARASOTA GARDEN CLUB Monthly General Meetings

Wednesday	February 21, 2024	Tenille Dixon Pawlus "Plant Parenthood" How to Care for Your Plants Butterflies and Blossoms FL https://www.butterfliesandblossomsfl.com/
Wednesday	March 13, 2024	Kate Brenner, Paradise Found Nursery Succulent and Cactus Growing with Native Florida Plant Conservation https://www.paradisefoundnursery.com/
Tuesday	April 16, 2024	Annual Meeting at The Founders Golf Club with Speaker, Luncheon and Awards Dr. Maria Passarelli Save Our Seabirds https://www.saveourseabirds.org/ RSVP to:
	May 2024	Creative Floral Designs Make and Take Workshop Members will be provided instruction and floral materials with design guidance by a local professional florist <i>Pre-Registration Required.</i>

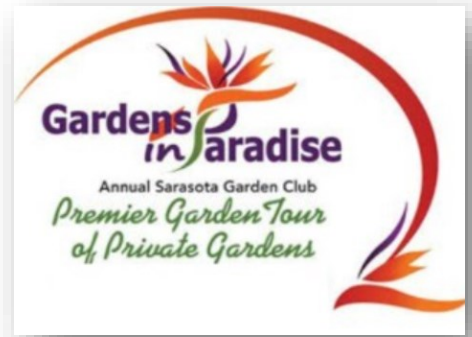
If you would like to join the Programs Committee, please email Carol Lackey at programs@sarasotagardenclub.org All Members welcome!!

SARASOTA GARDEN CLUB Site Visits and Tours

Wednesday	February 2024 Date TBD	Marietta Museum of Art & Whimsy Sarasota
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The Programs Committee schedules and plans monthly presentations, workshops and off-site field trips that cover topics relevant to the Mission of SGC. These programs are open to all members, and, as appropriate, the general public (for a small fee). Outside speakers and SGC may be used as presenters. Email your ideas or join our committee!

GIP Committee Update



Following the last GIP meeting, held on 23rd January, the GIP Committee are pleased to announce:

- All five gardens have been secured, in the Indian Beach / Sapphire Shore neighborhood - and are VERY IMPRESSIVE! Thank you Emily Yaffe and Jean Rudd.
- A record number of Early Bird tickets were sold between September and December 31st 2023. We continue to promote the event so GET YOUR FRIENDS AND FAMILY TO BUY THEIR TICKETS NOW. ["Gardens In Paradise" ADVANCE Tickets – Until March 22 \(sarasotagardenclub.org\)](https://sarasotagardenclub.org).
- We are asking members to seek out donations and/or sponsors for the event.
- Many members have volunteered – but there is always room for more to accommodate for last-minute issues. PLEASE HELP – Contact Gloria, who is in charge of logistics.

Here is a high-level overview of the gardens:

Sarasota Garden Club's Gardens in Paradise Tour has an exciting array of gardens selected for 2024.

[The Indian Beach/Sapphire Shore neighborhood](#) (also known as The Museum District) is the chosen venue, where our patrons will enjoy seeing private and well-tended gardens behind their walls, some along Sarasota Bay and a couple tucked into lovely mature tree-lined streets. Approximately two miles of Bay Shore Road running north and south along Sarasota Bay will be the back drop for this Tour. This neighborhood began its development in the early 1900's. As you drive through these adjoining historical neighborhoods of Indian Beach and Sapphire Shores on the north end, you will see it is filled with homes of all styles, large and smaller, with no cookie cutter looks. All plantings will be of mature sizes and select yards/gardens will have unique tree or shrub specimens.

The Tour Committee has found two historical homes/gardens with connections to the Ringling families. These homes and properties would have been developed during the 1920 and 30's. We will be explaining about these homes and their previous owners' connections when you come into their gardens. Understandably, their locations are relevant to the Ringling Museum and Ca' d'Zan.

CONTACT: Emily Yaffe / Jean Ruff, Garden Selection Coordinators, on 941.780.7807 - eyaffe13@yahoo.com and/or Gloria Thomas, Logistics, on gtsarasota@comcast.net.

LOOKING FOR MORE SPONSORS & DONATIONS FOR GIP

We rely on sponsorship and donations to cover the COST of the “Gardens In Paradise” tour, so that money raised from ticket sales can be used for meeting our Community Outreach missions (see below).

We currently have 4 high-level SPONSORS:

- **Ms Scarlett’s Flowers** – who also provides beautiful flowers for the luncheon on the day
- **The Sarasota Scene and The Observer** – which also advertize our event to its wide audience
- **The May Group** – who also provides Press and Marketing support to the event

Sponsors pay between \$500 and \$1,500 and we are looking for MORE SPONSORS so if you know of any, please let us know. After an initial introduction from you, we would handle the logistics.

Understandably, sponsorship at this level is not feasible for everyone, so DONATIONS are another way to contribute (less than \$500). If you would like to donate to our “Gardens In Paradise” tour, or if you know any businesses that you think will donate (*in return for their name on our website and in the brochure*), please contact Christy May on 781-258-6022. *Think favorite restaurant, hairdresser, boutique, garden center ...*

Gardens in Paradise
13th Annual Sarasota Garden Club
Premier Garden Tour
of Private Gardens
Saturday, March 23, 2024
9:30am to 4:00pm
Advanced Reservations: \$45/person • Day of Tour: \$50/person
Rain or Shine

Sponsorships

- Rose Garden - \$1,500**
 - 6 VIP admissions to Gardens in Paradise Tour (\$270 value)
 - Recognition on event invitation, program and news releases
- Patio Garden - \$1,000**
 - 3 VIP admissions to Gardens in Paradise Tour (\$135 value)
 - Recognition on event invitation, program and news releases
- Bromeliad Garden - \$500**
 - 2 VIP admissions to Gardens in Paradise Tour (\$90 value)
 - Recognition on event invitation, program and news releases

SARASOTA GARDEN CLUB • www.SarasotaGardenClub.org • (941) 955-0875

PLEASE COMPLETE THE FORM BELOW

Yes, I want to be a Gardens in Paradise Tour Sponsor!

Rose Garden - \$1,500 _____ Patio Garden - \$1,000 _____ Bromeliad Garden - \$500 _____
Sponsorship/Donation: _____ Value: \$ _____

Corporate or Individual Name: _____ Contact Name: _____
Mailing Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
Email Address: _____ Phone: _____ Fax: _____

Form of Payment: Check # _____ Credit card — **Visa or MasterCard accepted**

To pay by **VISA or MC**, please complete the appropriate information below:
Name as it appears on card: _____ Card Number: _____
Exp Date: _____ Signature: _____

Secure your sponsorship/donation on-line at: www.SarasotaGardenClub.org

Or please complete this form and mail to:
Sarasota Garden Club - Gardens in Paradise Tour
1131 Blvd. of the Arts, Sarasota, FL 34236
For more information: (941) 718-3359, Mon-Fri 9am-1pm,
or algbg@me.com

Thank you!

SGC is a 501 (c) 3 registered Educational Organization and a member of Florida Division of Agriculture, registration Number CH40324

Gardens in Paradise
10th Annual Sarasota Garden Club
Premier Garden Tour
Saturday, March 23, 2024
9:30am to 4:00pm

Advanced Tickets: \$45/person • Day of Tour: \$50/person • Rain or Shine

Touring Paradise
“Gardens in Paradise” is a unique opportunity to visit private extraordinary gardens tended by passionate gardeners. Gather ideas and inspiration as you visit Paradise! Homeowners and knowledgeable experts will be on-hand at each location to share their visions and gardening tips. View a variety of garden styles that showcase Florida-friendly gardening. Visit the Sarasota Garden Clubhouse and tour 15 manicured Botanical Gardens and learn how to cultivate your own personal Paradise.

About Sarasota Garden Club (SGC)
Founded in 1927, Sarasota Garden Club's historic richness has continued to grow for 95 years. Mable Ringling was the first club president and thanks to the many volunteers efforts and passion for gardening, activities and community spirit continue to endure. Enhancing Sarasota's horticulture through education, SGC strives to promote sound ecological and conservation practices that will last in perpetuity. Sarasota Garden Club is located on 1.5 Botanical Acres in the heart of downtown Sarasota, its grounds remain open daily to the public, free of charge.

Community Outreach
“Gardens in Paradise” is a fundraising effort to support SGC's ongoing mission in the Sarasota community, such as:
• Student Scholarships at High School and Graduate Levels
• Educational, Environmental, Horticultural & Floral Design Programs
• Sarasota Children's Garden
• Scholarships for students to Nature Camp Wekiva in Apopka, FL
• Maintaining Blue Star Marker & WWII Doughboy Statue since 1946
• Maintaining the Secret Garden on The Ringling grounds
• Civic Beautification Awards for local commercial properties
• Supporting the Conservation
• Coral Reef Restoration
• The Bay Park Conservancy

Special Event Opportunities
SGC is a magical location for special events, weddings and receptions. The Historic Clubhouse and 9 Botanical Gardens are available for rent, and have been the backdrop for many photo shoots over the years. Call to schedule your next event with SGC.

For 95 years SGC has been funding it's many outstanding and rewarding local and regional outreach projects. These projects help create a positive impact on the Sarasota Community with our services, environmental education, horticulture, conservation, and artistry. **Become a sponsor and/or join today! We need your help!**

To learn more about Gardens in Paradise Tour, call (941) 718-3359 or visit www.SarasotaGardenClub.org

SARASOTA GARDEN CLUB • 1131 Boulevard of the Arts, Sarasota, FL 34236 • (941) 955-0875

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

Civic Beautification Award

The SGC Civic Beautification Committee is Co-Chaired by Pat Bonarek and Jim Whalen jwhalenpa@aol.com. The CBC Award Luncheon took place on Monday 29th January – take a look:



Sarasota Garden Club continues to encourage the beautification of the community by recognizing outstanding landscaping at businesses, public buildings, churches / places of worship, homeowner’s associations, and parks and recreational areas. FFGC and SGC are committed to the belief that:

“Good Landscaping is Good Business”



The process: Civic Beautification Committee members canvas local area public and commercial business properties that meet our criteria, both large and small, in an assigned Sarasota country zip code. They take photographs, which are then submitted for judging. The Committee selects those which have attained outstanding and continually maintained landscaping. The Beautification Awards were presented at a celebration ceremony lunch held on January 29th 2024. **List of awards, and winners receiving plaques:**



1. **SUN COAST AWARD** – for most outstanding landscaping continually maintained awarded to 34234 – [Marrietta Museum of Art & Whimsey](#)
2. **COMMUNITY AWARD** – for a group that has joined together in community beautification awarded to 34201 - [University Place](#)
3. **COMMERCIAL AWARD** – for an attractive commercial property suitable to its environment awarded to 34240 - [Good Liquid Brewing Company](#)
4. **RE-DEVELOPMENT AWARD** – for a community that has been redesigned awarded to 34242 - Siesta Key Beach
5. **PRESERVATION AWARD** – for maintaining the natural preserve area of their community awarded to 34236 - The Mangrove Preserve at [The Bay Park Conservancy](#)

Certificates were awarded to:

- 34201--University Park
- 24241--Skye Ranch
- 34242--Tortuga Condos, Turtle Beach
- 34240--Parks at Waterside
- 34240--Shoreview
- 34240--Botanic Apartments Waterside
- 34236--Church of the Redeemer
- 34236—Realm Restaurant
- 34236--The Reserve Retreat
- 34234--Mote Ranch
- 34236--Artisan Cheese Company
- 34243--Pamaro Furniture
- 34235--Beekman Place
- 34231--The National Cemetery
- 34236--Salon 41 on Main Street
- 34240--The Founders Club
- 34201-- University Town Center
- 34201--University Place

Chef Olivia Haynes and her magnificent Hospitality Committee did a wonderful job in providing a delicious home-made mango gazpacho soup and chicken salad for the guests, followed by a fine selection of brownies from members. Thanks to them all – and Bob, Chef Olivia’s assistant, for grilling the chicken to perfection.



After a welcome from SGC President Kelly Goodwin, Pat Boneta, Civic Beautification Committee Co-Chair, hosted the Award Ceremony, ably assisted by Adrienne Wagner and Christy May. *So sorry that Jim Whalen, CBC Co-Chair, was unable to attend, as he has been admitted to hospital for an operation on his foot. Thank you to Tom for helping on the day.*

Thank you to Claire Mulligan for providing a beautiful flower arrangement

Thank you, Carol, for capturing the day on ‘film’ for everybody to enjoy: **CLICK ON THE LINKS BELOW.**



<https://www.facebook.com/share/p/cSC93mbnZYPYsJd/?mibextid=ZbWKwL>

Featured Scholarship Recipient

From Sharon Davisson, for the Committee - SRDSTL41@Gmail.com

Spring is almost upon us and with it the Scholarship Committee “springs” into action. (Pun **in**tended.)

- We will have an organizational meeting in February, decide who does what, and visit the various schools in Sarasota to let them know we will be awarding scholarships this spring.
- In the spirit of introducing you to more of our scholarship winners from May 2023, we introduce Maya Lander.



“Hello!

My name is Maya Lander and I'm a second-year student at the University of Florida.

*I am currently studying **Natural Resource Conservation** with a focus in Ecotourism.*

This past semester I completed my minor in Landscape Architecture.

*One of my favorite courses this past fall semester was **Plant Identification and Use**, where we learned about over 100 different plants that grow in Florida. This class was an eye-opening experience and sparked a passion for me to grow more plants at my home!*

*This upcoming Spring semester I am participating in the **Disney College Program** in Orlando, Florida. Through this program I will be living, learning, and earning at Walt Disney World! I am so excited to be working in Animal Kingdom and further my knowledge in ecotourism!*

I will also be taking a writing course online this semester while I'm at Disney.

Thank you again!

Maya Lander

**CONGRATULATIONS! WE WISH YOU WELL.
PLEASE KEEP IN TOUCH.**

Botanical Garden Report

Kay Weber is the Chair of the Botanical Gardens Committee and Carolynn Michielsen is her very active and dedicated Co-chair.

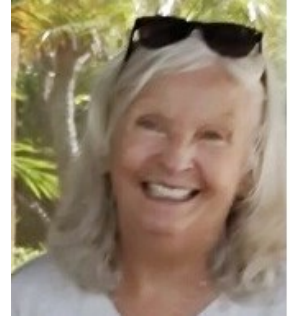
Emails: kayw33@comcast.net chmichielsen@yahoo.com



Friday Morning Workers is a dedicated crew with a shared interest in gardening, that works hard each and every Friday.

NEW VOLUNTEERS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME.

Come along any time between 8am – 11am on a Friday whenever you can. No experience needed, there's always a list of things to do for everyone. Refreshments provided.



Kay says: *January was a very busy month, as so many of the Friday Morning Workers and some other members, designed the stage for the Sarasota Orchid Society for the "Orchids in Paradise" for the 6th time. A big thank you to Emily Yaffe, who was a great helper in getting volunteers to be at the show to answer questions about SGC, and we received so many compliments about the Floral Designs which took center stage. We also received a nice thank you from Sarasota Orchid Society for our efforts, as we also provided ten raffle prizes of tickets for GIP tour in March.*

We have been doing extra work in the Fern, Bromeliad, and the Circle Gardens. Getting a lot of plants being donated. Some more Snowbirds are still showing up. Welcome back Ros, Lynn, Michael, Sam and Don, and even some Friday visitors to the garden want to work with us.

As you know, Sarasota Garden Club's Botanical Gardens are managed organically, so no insecticides etc.

HELP YOUR STAG HORN FERN thrive, by chopping up BANANA SKINS and putting them in and around the fern's base. It provides MAGNESIUM (not Potassium, that's in the banana itself).



We've received a new rain gauge although we're not seeing too much water in it right now 😊

PLEASE COME ALONG TO HELP MAINTAIN THE BOTANICAL GARDENS
Gardening makes us even in this world, Kay Weber, Botanical Gardens Chair



**You know you're a serious gardener when...
Your neighbors don't recognize your face
because that's usually not the end they see.**



**Snaps of the Friday
Morning Garden Gang**



Jason Mellica, Kay Weber, Sam I Am
focused on the bromeliads today

We had a few extra special visitors at SGC on Friday 26th – Jason Mellica (past President of Sarasota Bromeliad Society) used his expertise and tools to thin our huge bed of *Quesnelia* bromeliads (below), with the promise of returning with some different, rarer examples of these fine plants to put in our garden.

“Sam I AM” returned to help after a long break, having moved back to Sarasota. He helped Jason with the thinning, assisted by our leader, Kay, Chair of the Sarasota Garden Club Botanical Garden Committee.

PLANT ID APP?

FYI: Plant ID Apps include:

- [PictureThis](#): Plant Identification.
“Essential Partner for Gardening and Outdoors”
- [Merlin](#): Bird Identification.
“Identify the birds you see and hear”
- [iNaturalist](#): Community for Nature Observation.
“Connect with Nature. Explore and share your observations from the natural world.”
- [Google Lens](#): Visual Search Tool.
“Search what you see. Not sure how to describe it in words? Use your camera or image to search.”
- [Florida-Friendly Landscaping](#)
UF | IFAS Extension University of Florida, Florida Friendly Landscaping (FFL) apps: Plant Guide, FFL Butterfly Gardens, FFL Bee Gardens, Florida Fertilizer Ordinances, Florida Toxic Plants



First-hand advice from Ann Madden:

“The bottom line is that if an app says a plant is XYZ, it may be, but I like to cross reference by looking up that name on a search and verify if it is the same. If it is not, try again.”

Good advice indeed!

Annual Orchid Show Review



Sarasota Garden Club participated in the Orchid Society's annual show at the Municipal Auditorium on the weekend 6/7th January.

Members of the Sarasota Garden Club created the magnificent stage **focal area** - which follows the theme for the whole show "Orchids in Paradise!" which was **MAGNIFICENT!**

We also had a table promoting our club, kindly manned by club members - here's Tom and Jim.



What's in the Library?

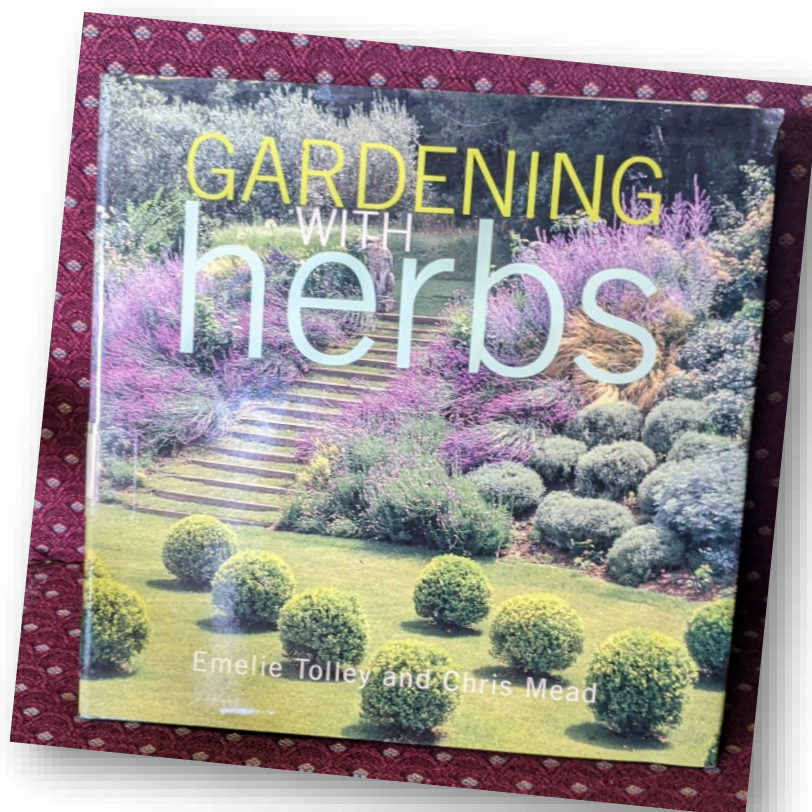
This month's book is

"Gardening with Herbs" by Emily Tolley and Chris Mead

Library Reference: Horticulture Section / 712.61 / Tol

What's it about?

Gardeners have long recognized that the uses of herbs go far beyond the kitchen. These fragrant plants have been used for centuries to add color, variety, and texture to gardens both formal and modest. Now these authors bring together twenty-five of the world's most beautiful gardens and dozens of decorative and innovative ideas for introducing herbs into the garden landscape.



This article was submitted by Lynn Biega – Chair of the Sarasota Garden Club's Library Interest Group.

The Library Interest Group is responsible for all Sarasota Garden Club's books (located in our Library) relating to gardening and horticulture.

This is a priceless collection of information for Florida gardeners – pay it a visit.

News from FFGC



APRIL 10-12, 2024
97th Convention & Centennial Celebration
Southbank Hotel Jacksonville Riverwalk



REGISTER BY 3/11



WWW.FFGC.ORG/CONVENTION



OR CALL ANTONIO HALE TODAY
904/ 396-5100 FOR THE FFGC RATE

FFGC Convention 2024

Registration is now open!

Bring all your friends and sign up for “Early Arrivals” on April 10th! Hop on the bus and tour the Cummer Museum and Gardens in the morning (Ninah Cummer featured in the Gardens at the Museum), enjoy a boxed lunch then visit the Flower Show in the afternoon with a punch and cookies reception. Or sign up for the Tri-Council optional box lunch with speaker Teresa Watkins 'ten new and exciting plants for the next Century'.

Attend an Early Arrivals Dinner which includes a fun program, Flower Show Awards, Art Exhibit Awards and a Fashion Show, “Across the Decades.”

\$50 for Cummer Museum with lunch; \$32 for Tri-Council Luncheon.



Ninah Cummer in the Cummer Garden

Don't miss the fun!

<https://ffgc.org/Convention>

News from Ikebana



**IKEBANA INTERNATIONAL
CHAPTER 115, SARASOTA**

SAVE THE DATE:

**Ikebana General Meeting
MONDAY FEBRUARY 26, 2024
Sarasota Garden Club, 10:00 a.m.**

**"FLOWER SYMBOLISM, EAST AND WEST"
Speakers: Patsy Bonarek and Nancy Kalieta**

Flowers have always had a symbolic place in mythology, religion, and culture for centuries. However, the tradition of *Hanakotoba* started in Japan at about the same time the Victorian Language of Flowers started in the western world, the mid 1800s. Both systems were designed to use flowers to convey emotions and feelings.

Come join us on Monday, February 26th at 10:00 a.m. as we compare the meanings of 10 flowers using the two systems, with fellow flower-lover Nancy Kalieta as our guide.

At this program, "Flower Symbolism, East and West", the 10 flowers we will emphasize are:

**camellia, cherry blossom, chrysanthemum, iris,
lily, lotus, peony, rose, tulip and wisteria.**

Bring some of these for your arrangement.

**IF YOU ARE INTERESTED
CONTACT: Dorinda Wilkinson
941-284-4443**

17th February: Plant Sale

PRESIDENTS DAY (Open the Saturday before)
MOTHERS DAY (Open the Saturday before)
LABOR DAY (Open Monday)

Exotic Plant Sale! **Explore the Gardens!**

OPEN 9 am - 3 pm
NO ENTRY BEFORE 9am

Admission is free.
Bring your camera and your friends.
Explore a variety of world-class plant collections.
Stroll the gardens at your own pace.

Garden sale.
The owners and their favorite growers
will be here to answer questions and offer
landscape advice. A wide variety of
unusual plants, driftwood and ceramics
will be available for purchase.

BRANCH TROPICAL GARDEN

Next to Sarasota Succulent Garden
1315 38th Street, Sarasota, Florida
(941) 358-4953

Visit Rob Branch on Facebook

Rainforest Trail
Koi Pond & Waterfall
Cactus & Succulent Garden
Rare Palm Collection (over 280 varieties)
Thousands of colorful bromeliads,
orchids, aroids, heliconias, gingers,
bamboo & much more!



This is a fantastic plant sale to go to, but go early as there's often a queue outside to get in at 9am. GREAT VALUE plants, and super vendors to buy stuff from.

Check out Rob Branch on Facebook

<https://www.facebook.com/rob.branch.1>

17th February: Next door to Rob Plant's plant sale



Sarasota Succulent Society

Annual Presidents Day Sale
Saturday, February 17, 2024

Featured Speaker

Mitch Kessler
Kessler's Cacti & Things

Join us to learn how you can keep
your plants healthy and thriving
during the Florida Winter

Kessler's Cacti & Things will also be presenting
a large selection of plants for you to shop in
addition to our inventory of beautiful
succulents and airplants.

Garden Hours 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.
Presentation at 10:00 a.m.

Sarasota Succulent Society
1310 38th Street
Sarasota, FL 34234

Visit Sarasota Succulent Society
the same day as Rob Plant's sale

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: BecciBond@hotmail.com

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

Cell: 941-284-6770 (between October and May)

ALWAYS CHECK FOR INFORMATION ON THE WEBSITE

WWW.SARASOTAGARDENCLUB.ORG