



"The Blooming Chatter" NEWSLETTER

VOLUME 33 – ISSUE 9
MAY – 2024



www.SarasotaGardenClub.org

Highlights

- ✚ President's Message
- ✚ Important Calendar Dates:
May, over the Summer,
September/December, and 2025!!!
- ✚ Meeting Reviews
- ✚ Scholarship
- ✚ EDUCATION Committee
- ✚ And more

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#sarasotagardenclub

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President's Message

Greetings SGC Members!

Wow, we have been very busy, and the 1st part of the 2024 season has gone by rapidly!

Sarasota Garden Club has had a full slate of Programs and Education through the Monthly General Meetings, our very active Membership Committee, Flower Show, Music and Holiday in the Gardens events, Civic Beautification, Gardens in Paradise, Annual Meeting, Scholarship Awards, offsite tours, and our weekly Friday Morning Gardeners (*who show up every week to keep the Gardens beautiful!*)



And our Hospitality Committee outdid themselves this year with wonderful food at each General Meeting and other key events, which everybody enjoys!

Thank you to everyone for your great commitment and participation during this season!!!!

The year is not over, as we will have our 2nd "Make & Take Floral Arranging" session with Sophie from Mindful Blooms on May 22nd. These should be very informative sessions with a beautiful floral arrangement to take home!



And for those of us who remain in Florida year around, we will have:



**"Music in the Gardens"
on Sunday June 9
PUT IT IN YOUR DIARY NOW!**

Other summer activity will be the SGC Construction for the new Sliding Glass Doors and Flooring replacement. The Great Room will be shut down and under construction **July 7, 2024 – September 6, 2024.** This upgrade will be a great addition to the SGC Great Room once work is completed. We will keep everyone updated on the progress as we learn updates from The Bay.

At our Annual Meeting we had a wonderful luncheon, awards and a tremendous speaker, Dr. Maria Passarelli VMD from Save Our Seabirds. **This year’s award winners were as follows:**

LEADERSHIP AWARD – Becci Bond

- Took over Chair of the Communications Committee, participates in everything SGC, engages others, and is always cheerful and encouraging others to participate by her actions and leading by example.

ROSE AWARDS

Flower Show “Above & Beyond”	Deborah Alves, Angela Bennink, Ann Durloo, and Ros Stafford
Civic Beautification Committee Had a Fabulous Return	Pat Bonarek, Tom Wentz, and Jim Whalen
Assistant Treasurer is a continuous “Silent Contributor”	Sharon Davisson
Hospitality Chair, Historian and Arbor Day	Olivia Haynes
Programming and Overall SGC Improvement	Carol Lackey
Excellent GIP Garden Selection	Emily Yaffe and Jean Ruff
Orchestrates Entire GIP Tour Day	Gloria Thomas
Ensures SGC Maintained Memorials Are Beautiful	Adrienne Wagner
Many seasons Quiet Contributor as Vice Chair of Botanic Gardens	Carolyn Michalsen

The Nominating Committee is happy to announce the following:

Vice President	Raji Patel immediately steps in to the Vice President Role. With Raji’s love of gardening and extensive background, she will be a great Vice President and Leader in our Sarasota Garden Club. Please welcome and congratulate Raji!
Education Committee	Angela Bennink and Pat Belote signed up as Co-Chairs of the Education Committee, beginning now. Please congratulate Angela and Pat.
Secretary	Shari Amato has signed up and already began as Secretary. Please thank and congratulate Shari.

Thank you to Raji, Angela, Pat and Shari for volunteering for these roles. We really appreciate having you take the Sarasota Garden Club forward. The Nominating Committee still has open roles to fill. Please consider volunteering for one of our open roles. Please contact Emily Yaffe.

Wishing everyone a wonderful May!

Fondly - Kelly L Goodwin, President

Tel: 941-718-3359

klgkey@outlook.com

May 2024 Calendar

1 st	9.30 am	SGC – MONTHLY GENERAL MEETING <i>“Make & Take” Floral Arranging</i>
	1.30 pm	SGC – Ad-hoc Leadership Meeting (in the library)
3 rd	8 am – 11 am	SGC - Friday Garden Volunteers (in the gardens)
6 th	10 am	SGC – BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING (in the library)
	Noon	<i>Scholarship Awards</i> Please join us Monday, May 6, at Noon to honor our 2024 scholarship recipients. This year, we have 14 talented scholars who will be or are majoring in a natural science at an accredited college.
8 th	1.30 pm	SGC – Ad-hoc Leadership Meeting (in the library)
9 th	District VIII Spring Meeting – North Port \$35 including lunch, with Mote Aquarium as speaker	
10 th	8 am – 11 am	SGC - Friday Garden Volunteers (in the gardens)
13 th	UF/IFAS	Master Gardeners “Make & Take” Carnivorous Plant Bog
15 th	1.30 pm	SGC – Ad-hoc Leadership Meeting (in the library)
17 th	8 am – 11 am	SGC - Friday Garden Volunteers (in the gardens)
22 nd	9.30 am	SGC - “Make & Take” Floral Arranging (2)
	1.30 pm	SGC – Ad-hoc Leadership Meeting (in the library)
24 th	8 am – 11 am	SGC - Friday Garden Volunteers (in the gardens)
29 th	1.30 pm	SGC – Ad-hoc Leadership Meeting (in the library)
30 th	9 am	The Butterfly Club Meeting
31 st	8 am – 11 am	SGC - Friday Garden Volunteers (in the gardens)

DATES GET CHANGED – [ALWAYS CHECK THE ONLINE CALENDAR](#)

Summer Months

As Florida SUMMER approaches, the activity of the Sarasota Garden Club lessens, as Snowbirds migrate, and Sarasota residents enjoy some travel.

- **MAY General Monthly Meeting – 1st May 2024 – TODAY: I hope you were there.** “Make & Take Floral Arranging”, with Sophie from Mindful Blooms – a real treat for members who left with their own personal vase and arrangement.

AS THIS WAS SO POPULAR, a 2nd session will take place on 22nd May. Please contact Carol Lackey / Programs@SarasotaGardenClub.org

- **Scholarship Awards – May 6th** - Please join us Monday, May 6, at Noon to honor our 2024 scholarship recipients. This year, we have 14 talented scholars who will be or are majoring in a natural science at an accredited college. Email: SRDSTL41@gmail.com to let Sharon know you're coming.
- Sarasota Garden Club **FRIDAY GARDEN VOLUNTEERS** continue working throughout the year – tending to the Botanical Gardens at the Club. They meet on a Friday morning, any time from 8am to ... sometimes as late as 12 o'clock. During the Summer months, it IS hot, and with the snowbirds away, and Floridians travelling, numbers do drop, so IF YOU ARE IN SARASOTA, with however long or short a time you may be able to spare, please drop by the Garden Club in your gardening gear, and help maintain the gardens. It's all VOLUNTEERS! Whatever you can manage, it's appreciated. Contact Kay Weber or Carol Fugate. Refreshments provided.

Message from Program Committee

*“Over the next month or two, while our gardens are looking especially nice, how about we **gather together at Members homes and have a tour?**”*

- You get to show off your hard work and beauty and we have a lovely morning followed by lunch at a local spot?
- Sounds like fun to me. Anyone willing to participate?

Also, Programs is planning **a tour of Marie Selby Botanical Gardens** with a focus on the Conservatory and Outdoor spaces, with lunch to follow at on-site The Green Orchid for the end of May. Tours of The Museum of Botanical Arts Yayoi Kusama Exhibition included with admission, tour on your own. Details to follow.

Carol Lackey - 215 518 8479 - Programs Committee -Sarasota Garden Club - programs@sarasotagardenclub.org

- Committees are busy over the Summer and spend June/July/August planning for the forthcoming activities, starting with the September General Monthly Meeting on **September Wednesday 17 (that's only 149 days to go)**.
- Hospitality Events – ‘Music in the Garden’ events designed for members, but open to their guests to celebrate the Club and its beautiful gardens, one of which will be scheduled during the Summer period.

September 2024 to May 2025 Program Dates

The new Yearbook will be distributed at the OCTOBER General Monthly Meeting, laying out the plan of action for the next season ... but here are some key dates for your diary

PUT THESE DATES IN YOUR DIARY RIGHT NOW!!

MONTHLY GENERAL MEETING DATES

(not ALL 3rd Wednesday of the month)

September **18** - October **16** - November **20** - December **18** -
January **15** - February **12** - March **12** - April **16** - May **14**

EDUCATION PROGRAM DATES

(Last Tuesday of each month) – a new additional monthly program, to share Floral Design and Horticultural information.

September **24** - October **29** - November **26** - December **(TBD)**
January **28** - February **25** - March **25** - April **29** - May **27**



December 7th DECORATING THE CHRISTMAS TREE SOCIAL EVENT

2025 FLOWER SHOW – February 22

Friday 21st for Judging & Saturday (for the public)

Just after Valentine's Day, so there'll be lots of flowers around

2025 11th "Gardens In Paradise - March 22

FFGC 97th Annual State Convention – Jacksonville

9-11 May 2025

Review of April's Annual Meeting

"Back to the Future"



43 members attended Sarasota Garden Club's Annual Meeting at The Founders Club on Tuesday 16 April 2024.

Thank you to our host, Sharon Davisson, and everyone for coming, and sorry that some members weren't able to attend. Next year!

AGENDA	
9:30 am	Registration, Coffee & Pastries, and all-important Social Time
10:00 am	President's Message and Awards
11:00 am	Presentation by our Guest Speaker Dr. Maria Passarelli, VMD Save our Seabirds Wild Bird Learning Center "Wildlife Rehabilitation" www.SaveOurSeabirds.org  Save Our Seabirds <small>Rescue • Rehabilitation • Recovery</small>
Midday	Luncheon

The purpose of the Annual Meeting is to update the Club's members with Committee activities and future goals, together with Financials, which Kelly Goodwin (President) and Sharon Davisson (Finance) gave.

- Welcome to the latest 3 new members: Toby Plessner, Raji Patel, and Greg Wright were introduced and welcomed.

It was also an opportunity to thank Don Call who has provided IT/technical support, and so much more, to the Club for YEARS! He and his wife, Betty Call, were guests at the meeting, and Sharon presented Don with a very large bottle of Vodka, his preferred tippie we understand.

It was also an event to remember 3 members who had passed away: Shirley Cook whose daughter Carol was in the audience, Ginger Vance and Eleanor Yates, all of which are sadly missed.

ANNUAL AWARDS - The Rose Awards

are given to Members "for an outstanding job this past year" and all of their super volunteering talents in support of our Club this past season – Flower Show, Design, Gardening projects, Civic Beautification, Scholarships, Hospitality, Gardens in Paradise, and being an active part of the Club. They went to:



Ros Stafford - Angela Bennink - Deborah Alves - Ann Durluo - Jim Whalen - Tom Wentz - Pat Bonarek - Sharon Davisson - Olivia Haynes - Carol Lackey - Jean Ruff - Gloria Thomas - Adrienne Wagner - Carolyn Michielsen, and Emily Yaffe.

This year's **LEADERSHIP AWARD**: "in recognition of superior leadership and performance at Sarasota Garden Club" was awarded to Becci Bond, for her enthusiasm, hard work and dedication to our Club, not only as the lead of our Communication Committee, but for her rallying us all to any cause or task at hand and her positive encouragement to everyone she encounters. A true team leader!



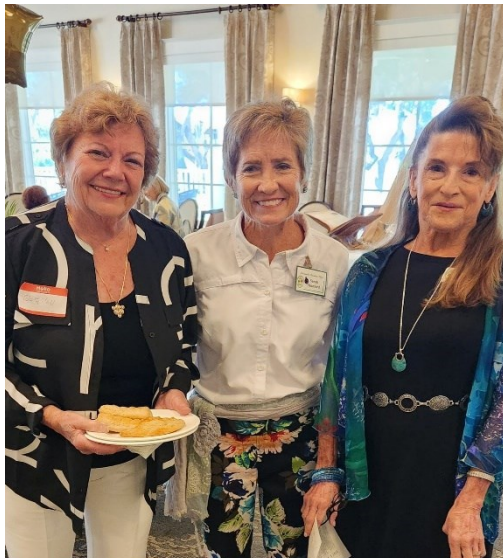
This page: Kelly Goodwin (President) and Kathleen Strobel - Angela Bennink & Ann Durloo - Pat Bonarek – Emily Yaffe - Olivia Haynes - Gloria Thomas – Dianne Beaver and Adrienne Wagner
Over the page: Marcie Rickenbacker and Carol Lackey, Dianne and Carolyn Michielsen, Betty Call, Sarah Munford and Anne Durloo again.



All these pictures are on our Facebook page

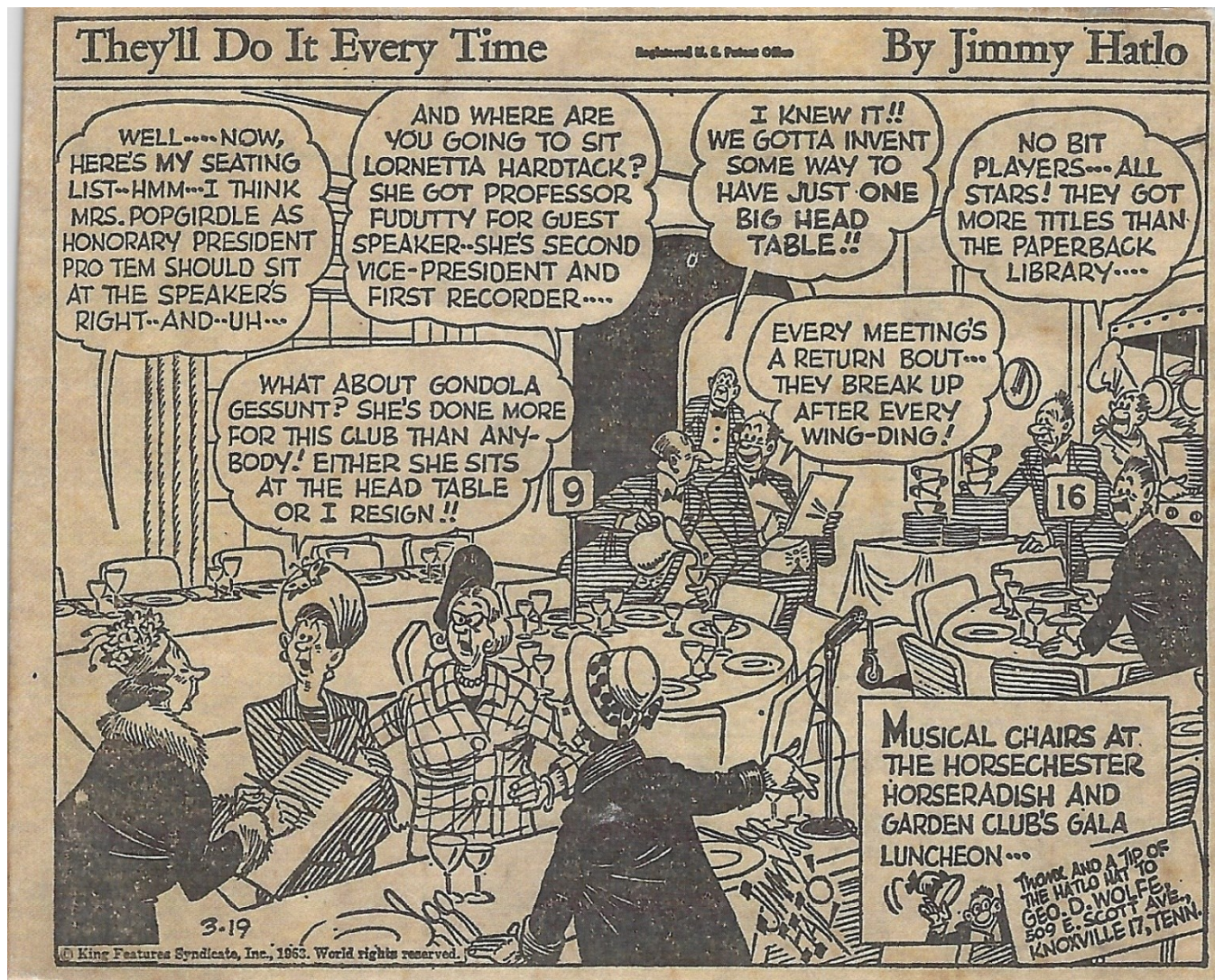
THANK YOU TO Carol Lackey who took the photographs, and posted them on Facebook.

SHE ALSO made sure the tables were beautifully decorated, with corporate colors AND PINK, with Favors she produced and donated.



1927 – 2027 = 100 years!

Part of the message relayed at the Annual Meeting was about the Club's 100th Birthday Celebration, which takes place in a little over 2 years' time – 2027 - hence, the 'Back to the Future' title, and this was complimented by a History Table showing some of the older artifacts of the club (a lot of silver cleaning went in to that), along with the scrap book, with a VERY ENGAGING cartoon which was so relevant to the day:



A new version of the Club's History was also handed out – which is interesting reading, and [available online HERE](#)



**Thank you, again to Carol Lackey
for the table décor and delightful
Favors.**

Another huge thank you goes to
Emily Yaffe – for producing a
Flower DESIGN (I've been told
off for calling them flower
arrangements) reflecting the
SGC Logo and colors, with some
clever 'leaf manipulation',
something that the Education
Committee will be planning a
program around (starting
September).



May's General Meeting "Make & Take" Floral Arranging"

with Sophie from Mindful Blooms



The mission of Mindful Blooms Farm is to bring mindfulness and joy to peoples' lives through nature and flowers. Members were provided instruction and floral materials with design guidance by Sophie. Here's just a few photos - more on Facebook!

If you couldn't make the first session - email Programs@SarasotaGardenClub.org to book a place at the 2nd one, 22nd May.



Scholarships offered by Sarasota Garden Club

<p>JOIN US Noon May 6 At the club</p>	<p><i>Scholarship Awards</i></p> <p>Please join us Monday, May 6, at Noon to honor our 2024 scholarship recipients.</p> <p>This year, we have 14 talented scholars who are or will be majoring in a natural science at an accredited college.</p>
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JUDITH WOODBRIDGE SCHNEIDER MEMORIAL LEGACY SCHOLARSHIP

<https://sarasotagardenclub.org/community/sarasota-garden-club-scholarships/>

Scholarships are funded by the Sarasota Garden Club and the Judith Schneider Endowed Scholarship Fund. Funding comes from fund-raising activities, member gifts and memorials along with monies from the Endowed Scholarship Fund.

Since 1985, the Sarasota Garden Club has offered and awarded Natural Science Scholarships to Sarasota County High School Seniors and to College Sophomores who have completed their sophomore year; and/or show evidence of completion of six (6) credit hours of Natural Science course work.

These awards are used in advanced study in areas that advance our objectives in the Natural Science fields such as horticulture, geology, botany, conservation, environment science, forestry, agronomy, plant pathology, land management, or allied subjects.

Sarasota Garden Club is proud to award scholarships to worthy applicants and is pleased to support young people in their careers. For more information please contact:

- Nancy Lewis, Community Projects Committee Chair – nancy-lewis@comcast.net
- Sharon Davisson, Community Projects Committee – SRDSTL41@gmail.com / 941-270-3418

JD Hamel Memorial Park and Blue Star Marker

Sarasota Garden Club, specifically Adrienne and John Wager, maintain the landscaping around the bases of the Blue Star Marker and the Doughboy Statue in the JD Hamel Memorial Park, highlighting Memorial Day and Veterans Day.

Thank you to Adrienne and John Wagner who have been looking after both of the above for quite a long time now. Recently, when extra help was needed, Anne Durloo and members, helped with re-planting and watering.

These are the two items – both located on US 41 East, on the Bayfront opposite Marina Jack, just South of Main Street.



Doughboy Statue

In Rev. J. D. Hamel Park near the South corner of Main Street and South Gulfstream Ave., across the street from the large Gulfstream Towers apartment complex (a sidewalk path leads from the South corner directly to the statue).

Our soldiers in that war were popularly called "Doughboys," and the statue's proper name is "Spirit of The American Doughboy."



The Blue Star was adopted because it had become an icon in World War II and was seen on flags and banners in homes for sons and daughters away at war as well as in churches and businesses.

Botanical Garden Report



Kay Weber is the Chair of the Botanical Gardens Committee and Carol Fugate is the new Co-Chair. Between them they manage the FRIDAY MORNING WORKERS who maintain the garden every week!

Email: kayw33@comcast.net



“Friday Morning Workers”

is a dedicated crew with a shared interest in gardening, that work hard each and every Friday to maintain the nine botanical gardens at Sarasota Garden Club.

NEW VOLUNTEERS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME.

Come along any time between 8am – 11am on a Friday – whenever and however long you can.

No experience needed, there’s always a list of things to do for everyone. Refreshments provided.

Carol and I both appreciate when you Friday Morning Workers show up to volunteer each and every Friday.



Kay says: “SPECIAL thank you to Carolyn Michielsen (LEFT) for being the Co-Chair of the Botanical Garden Committee over the years. She has been dedicated and wholly reliable in her role, filling in for me whenever I’ve been away, keeping the Friday Volunteers happy in their work – even through the hot and steamy summer months. Always with a smile on her face. THANK YOU, CAROLYN, and you deserved your Rose Award at the Annual Meeting.

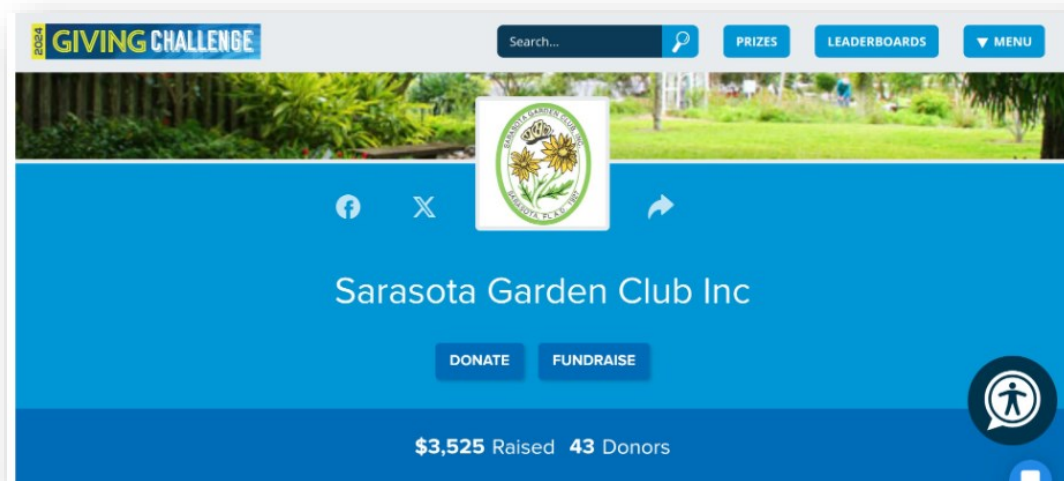
Carolyn passes the baton to Carol Fugate, a long-time Friday volunteer in the garden, thank you for picking it up Carol.”

From: Kay Weber, Botanical Gardens Chair the Friday Morning Workers.

&

Report on GIVING CHALLENGE

The GIVING CHALLENGE took place on 9/10 April
Donations between \$25 and \$100 were matched – double-bubble!



\$3,525 donated

BIG THANK YOU to all 43 donors

Kelly Goodwin, Emily and Ron Yaffe, Vera Furtick, Linda Elliff, David & Stephanie Glosser, Sara Mallard, Rosemary Stafford, Barbara Dingman, Wilda Meier, Dianne Beaver, Mayra Schmidt, Julie Planck, Barb Jacobson, Barbara and Dale Jensen, Darryl J McCullough, Randi Broida, Sue Angle, Carol & Gary Dornbush, Sharon Davisson, Belenda MacFarland, Anne Stegall, Barbara D. Wetzel, Ruth Mendius, Bruce Jensen, Patricia Rowe, Carolyn Foree, Andrew Papineau, Karen Wolters, Carol Lackey, Amanda Cattaneo, Angela Mindlin, Myrna Otis, Debra and Daniel Frank, Kathleen Scholl Giving Fund, H. Gladstone and Betty Pritchard McKeon Foundation, Franklin G. Berlin Foundation

Donations will be used to support [our Mission](#).

EDUCATION Committee: Flower Design & Horticulture

*“The purpose of the **Education Committee** is to further enhance the knowledge of our members, and the general public, by providing programs and activities on gardening, horticulture, floral design, landscape studies and environmental issues.”*

As we did not have an Education Committee this/last year, Carol Lackey incorporated several of the above into the General Monthly Meeting program of events – Thank you Carol.

We now have 3 new committee members and a burst of enthusiasm

We are very pleased to announce that, after a call for more volunteers at the last monthly general meeting, the Education Committee has 3 new members, who are eagerly working together to create an Education Program of events, to start in September.

All three are currently focused on the Floral Design side of Education, and we are now looking for another member with an interest in Horticulture.

1st Education Program **Tuesday 24 September 2024**

The EDUCATION PROGRAMS will take place the last Tuesday of each month – starting 24 September - and ideally will alternate between Floral Design and Horticulture.

HAVE YOU GOT SOME SUGGESTIONS?

- We have already had an offer from a member to bring in local florist(s) she knows to **demonstrate flower design techniques**
- **Leaf Manipulation** is another special area, and a great skill to really bring designs and arrangements to another level!

If you have any other suggestions, please don't hesitate to contact these members:

Angela Bennink angelabennink@yahoo.com	Ros Stafford rosstafford1@gmail.com	Pat Belote pbelote11@gmail.com
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News from Master Gardeners

Monday May 13

"Make & Take Carnivorous Plant Bog"

Advance registration is required for this workshop.

Join us for a unique and educational experience with the "Take and Make Bog" workshop! Learn about carnivorous plants and create your very own carnivorous garden in a pot. Our guest speaker, Kenny Coogan, will talk about his "Florida's Carnivorous Plants" book, and share his knowledge and tips for growing these fascinating plants. Not only will you leave with a beautiful and unique creation, but you'll also have the opportunity to get your book signed by Kenny. This is an event you won't want to miss. Register now to secure your spot. (Additional plants available for sale after the presentation.)

Brought to you by the Master Gardener Volunteers of Sarasota County

Guest presenter Kenny Coogan has a master's degree in global sustainability and is passionate about Florida's wildlife and plants. Coogan is an active member with the International Carnivorous Plant Society, serving as the education director. He currently runs a successful carnivorous plant nursery in Tampa.

If you require special accommodations to attend one of our events, please contact us in advance at 941-861-5000 or sarasota@ifas.ufl.edu.

NOTE: Classes and events may be canceled at any time due to low registration or other circumstances, with refunds issued for paid events. Similar classes or events often are offered on future dates

Type: Take a Class

Topic: Nature

Organization name: UF/IFAS Extension Sarasota County

[Make and Take Carnivorous Plant Bog, with author Kenny Coogan Tickets, Mon, May 13, 2024 at 10:00 AM | Eventbrite](#)

News from the Butterfly Club

The Sarasota County Butterfly Club will take a short break during the summer months, although volunteers are always welcome to join in maintaining the garden every Friday morning – 9-12.

We look forward to seeing you in September when our programs resume.

"Always Keep Butterflies in your Field of Vision".



Visit to Naples Garden Club's Flower Show

On Saturday April 6, Becci Bond, Ros Stafford and Angela Bennink took a day's road trip to Naples to visit the Naples Garden Club flower show, which was being held in the

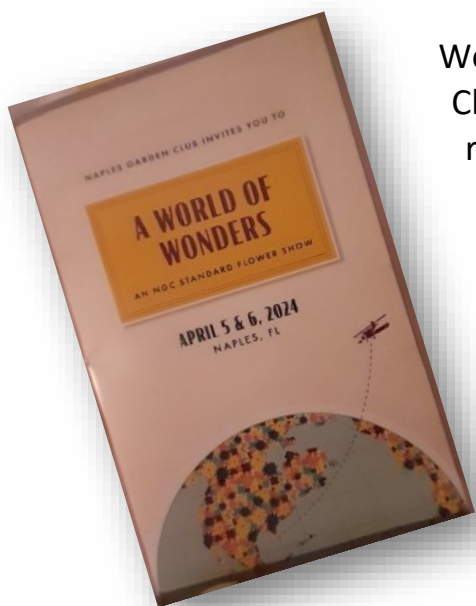
**Naples Botanical Gardens
4820 Bayshore Drive,
Naples FL 34112
naplesgarden.org**

>>>>>>> (\$25 entrance fee to the gardens, free flower show)



Their flower show was entitled **"A World of Wonders"** which provided plenty of scope for

various focal points, interesting classes, decoration, flowers etc. e.g. "Taking the Train to RHS Garden Wisley", "Flying to Singapore Botanic Garden", "Going Upstate to Kanapaha", "Hanging Gardens of Babylon", "Marveling at Nong Nooch" Etc.



We were warmly welcomed by several members of the Naples Garden Club as they spotted our Sarasota Garden Club badges – they were really pleased that we had made the journey down to see the show. Particular thanks to Pat McNamara (President Elect) and Polly Galliker (Flower Show Chair). Polly had spoken so much she had almost lost her voice. Pat made sure we went away with the Program of the show (left).

It was interesting to be a VISITOR at somebody else's flower show. We witnessed how the PUBLIC were a little confused by the sections, groups etc., and we were delighted to explain them while we were viewing. Ros was able to impart some insight in to how and why awards were given.

One Class that I particularly liked, is where there is a PAINTING and the entrants have to create a Flower Design that reflects the elements of the painting. The theme was "The Grand Tour" – there was the Eifel Tower, Egyptian Pyramids, and Venetian Canals – so you can imagine the shapes, structure, and colors that were involved. A LOT OF FUN TO DO I IMAGINE, and I'd like to see that included in SGC's Flower Show next year.

I (Becci) have experienced 2 SGC Flower Shows now, and actually entered a 'Table for Four' last year – I won 2nd prize, and was absolutely THRILLED. You need to GO to a Flower Show to understand what's involved. I'll enter again next year you shouldn't be AFRAID!

The Naples Flower Show is held in quite a large venue (part of the Botanic Gardens setup) and were able to hold live presentations, which were very well attended.

We were in time to see one demonstration of floral design - where each attendee was given a raffle ticket (free), and Ros was the lucky winner of a prize, taking home this wonderful piece of what, I am reliably informed, is known as

LEAF MANIPULATION.

Look out for the new Education Committee organizing a demonstration on this very topic.



EDUCATION PROGRAM DATES

(Last Tuesday of each month) – a new additional monthly program, to share Floral Design and Horticultural information.

**September 24 - October 29 - November 26 - December (TBD)
January 28 - February 25 - March 25 - April 29 - May 27**

What's in the Library?

This month's book is

"Garden Guide

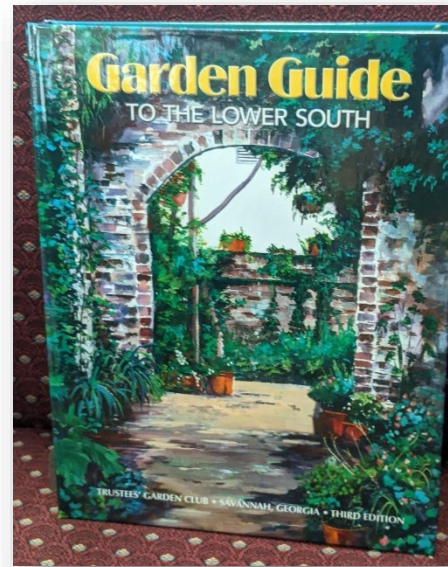
TO THE LOWER SOUTH "

by Trustees Garden Club, Savannah,
Georgia

Library Reference: Horticulture Section /
635.95175 Tru

What's it about?

"Garden Guide offers a bounty of practical advice Garden Guide doesn't answer every gardening question, but it does answer the two most important ones: 'What will grow here?' and 'How do I grow it?'" – Southern Living



This monthly article is 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.

Review of FFGC 97th Annual State Convention

You've been brought up to date on District and Deep South news in previous Blooming Chatters, so this month let me (Sue Angle) tell you about the 97th Annual State Convention that was held in Jacksonville April 11 – 12.

It started with the Early Arrivals Pre-Convention dinner, that always has entertainment, and this year it was hilarious and fun!

Because this Convention was celebrating the **100th Anniversary of FFGC**, each of the 12 Districts had 3 of their members dress in the fashion of the decade assigned to them.

Each District group paraded, danced and whatever they could do around the dining room to the music of their era. Our District VIII was assigned the '80's and were a hit.

*This is one of District VIII's models and if you can guess who it is, you'll get a prize (ha, ha).
No one else recognized her!*



One of the Speakers during the convention was **Laura Dowling**, who served as Chief Floral Designer at the White House from 2009 until 2015. *Check out this write up on Laura, her career, design styles, and books at <https://www.theflowerpodcast.com/laura-dowling>.*

Another was **Xavier Cortada** a Cuban-American artist who is based in Miami and, among many other things, pioneered eco-art in Miami with his "Reclamation Project", a participatory mangrove reforestation effort, and was recently appointed by Mayor Daniella Levine Cava to serve as the inaugural Artist-in-Residence for Miami Dade County.

NGC President Brenda Moore and Deep South Garden Clubs Director Debby Cooper both attended and brought us up to date on NGC and DS projects. **Workshops included "Fun with Flowers", "The Future of Our Coasts", Creating Fascinators, Photograph, Native Plants, Gardens & Birds**, and others.

The State Flower Show was another added attraction, held at the Jacksonville Garden Club, one of the four founding clubs of the Florida Federation of Garden Clubs on April 24, 1924. Their club house is a beautiful large columned building located on the St. Johns River, built at the same time as our SGC building. The designs and horticulture were a sight to behold!

There are always vendors at the convention – plants, fashions, floral design items, a variety of others including Fairy Hair! **Next year the FFGC Convention will be April 9-11, 2025, in Jacksonville.**

Plan to attend and join the fun. Contact **Sue Angle** sueangle000@gmail.com (941) 350-9784

District VIII: Spring Meeting

May 9 – Speaker from Mote Aquarium

\$35 including lunch

Mote Marine is all geared up to make a big splash at the District VIII “Fins and Tails” District Meeting.

SARASOTA GARDEN CLUB MEMBERS ARE INVITED!



“Fins and Tails”
FFGC District VIII
Spring Meeting
Thursday, May 9, 2024

Heron Creek Golf & Country Club
5301 Heron Creek Blvd.
North Port, FL 34287
(I-75 Exit 182 - Sumter Blvd.)

MOTE
MARINE LABORATORY
& AQUARIUM

Dive in for a Day of Fun
Speaker from Mote Marine Aquarium
Registration and Coffee 9:30 a.m.
Meeting 10:00 a.m.
Cost \$35.00

Hosted By Lemon Bay Garden Club

[Florida Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc. District VIII \(floridadistrictviii.com\)](http://floridadistrictviii.com)

Message from District VIII



CALL
FLORIDA FEDERATION OF
GARDEN CLUBS
DISTRICT VIII SPRING MEETING
Thursday, May 9, 2024

FROM: Phyllis Weber, Director, District VIII

TO: District VIII Club and Circle Presidents and Officers
Garden Club and Circle Members
District VIII Officers and Committee Chairmen
FFGC Officers and FFGC Chairmen living in District VIII
Former FFGC Presidents and Former District VIII Directors living in District VIII

HOST: Lemon Bay Garden Club, Inc.

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

DIRECTIONS: 1-75 Exit 182 onto Sumter Blvd (toward North Port)
Turn right in about 2 miles onto Heron Creek Blvd.
Tell the guard at the gatehouse you are attending the garden club meeting
Follow the road to the clubhouse

SPEAKER: MOTE MARINE LABORATORY AND AQUARIUM
RAFFLE BASKETS - 50/50 OPPORTUNITY – BEAUTIFUL GREETING CARDS – FLORAL DESIGN CONTAINERS

COST: \$35.00 includes registration, continental breakfast, and lunch.

REGISTRATION AND COFFEE: 9:30 -10:00 AM Call to Order 10:00am

REPORTS:

We look forward to reports from Committee Chairmen and Club Presidents. Those wishing to report must notify the District Director by email (pcweber@tampabay.rr.com) by Friday, April 3, 2024. Committee Chairmen will have 3 minutes to report. Club Presidents will have 2 minutes to report. Please give two copies of your report to the Recording Secretary at the time of your report.

REGISTRATION HAS BEEN EXTENDED TO Wednesday, April 24, 2024:

Please use the attached form to register.

Email Barb Jacobson to let her know you are coming and provide your menu choice. (Chuck7503@aol.com)

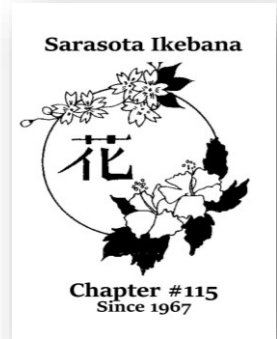
Phyllis Weber - District VIII Director - pcweber@tampabay.rr.com - 941-773-1018
A Sarasota Garden Club Member

News from Ikebana

INTER CLUB Liaison: Dorinda Wilkinson at 941-284-4443
or email: dorindawilkinson@gmail.com

Everyone from the Sarasota Garden Club who wants to visit an Ikebana Meeting is very welcome.

- Meetings are held on the **last Monday of the month** and contain a short business meeting followed by refreshments and a program (which is either a demonstration or demonstration and workshop.)
 - Just walk in and pay the guest fee of \$10
- Guests can visit **TWICE** at the cost of \$10 each, but have to become a Member after the 2 visits.



A new program is underway for the period **September 2024 – April 2025** and will be shared with the members of the Sarasota Garden Club.

The final event for the Ikebana Chapter 115 Sarasota for 2023-2024 was the Annual Floral Exhibition, held at the Gulf Gate Library on April 27, 2024.



www.iisarasota.com – Facebook: Ikebana International
Sarasota FL Chapter 115
Email: ikebanasarasota@gmail.com



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