



Gardens *in* Paradise

10th Annual Sarasota Garden Club *Premier Garden Tour of Private Gardens*

Saturday, March 23, 2024

9:30am to 4:00pm



The Sarasota Garden Club welcomes you to our 10th Annual Gardens in Paradise tour. We are excited to have you and your friends join us. This year we are happy to present to you 5 private homeowner gardens in the historic Indian Beach/Sapphire Shores area of Sarasota. The variety of landscape plans and designs are sure to entice all garden enthusiasts with ideas one can use in their own gardens or to simply enjoy the time spent in nature's beauty.

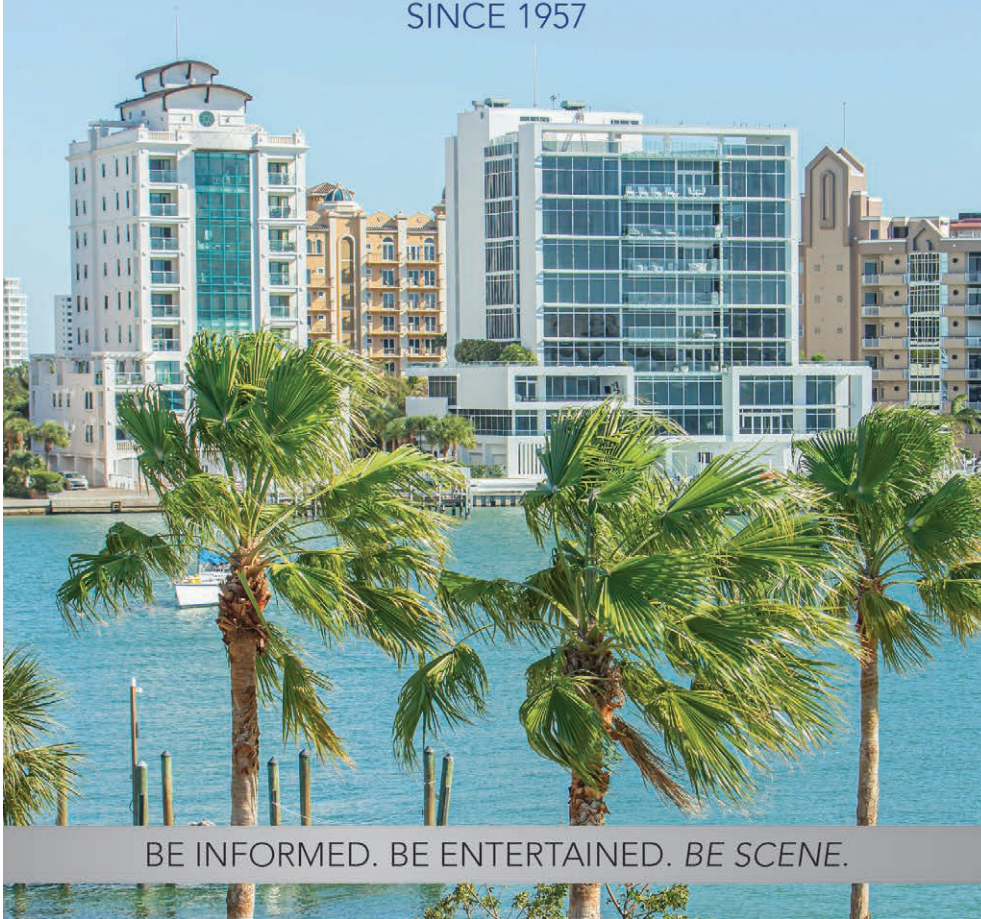
Thousands of years ago, Native American tribes came to these shores drawn by freshwater springs, bays teeming with fish and shellfish, and woods rich with game. By 1000 CE, their middens, ceremonial grounds, and a village plaza stood nearby. By the late 1880's after widespread land purchases, the area was named Indian Beach. In 1911 John Ringling (*most remembered as a circus showman, promoter and land developer, he is also remembered as the man who brought art and culture to Sarasota*) purchased 20 bayfront acres at what is now the westernmost terminus of University Parkway. Sapphire Shores was created in the 1920s around the horseshoe-shaped boat basin he built as a turn-around for his yacht when he constructed his home Ca' d'Zan (House of John). By 1925, Indian Beach/Sapphire Shores became part of the City of Sarasota.

We appreciate your support of the Sarasota Garden Club, a 501c3 not-for-profit organization founded in 1927, whose mission is "Preserving our gardens and historic landmarks while promoting the environment, conservation and civic beauty through education and programs." Your participation supports our many charitable endeavors in the community.

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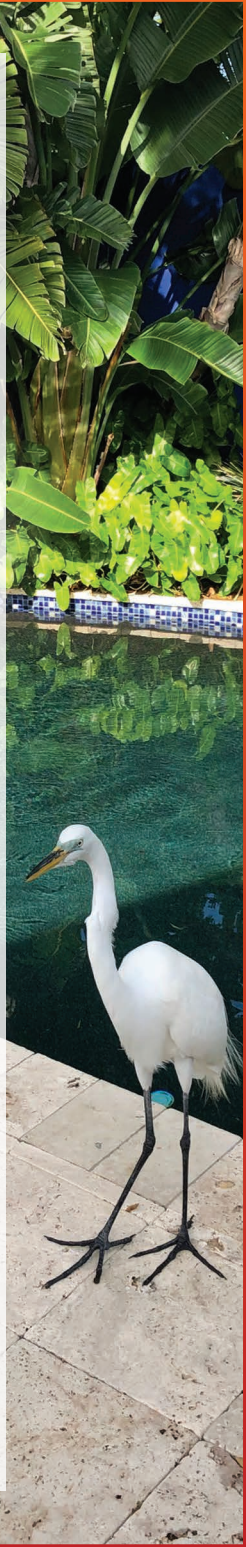
Sarasota, FL 34234


Four years ago our homeowner was out for a leisurely drive when she spotted a "For Sale" sign at this awe-inspiring bayfront estate. She immediately called the listing agent and purchased the home without ever seeing the inside. Possessing a Master's degree in the International History of Art and Architecture, she has dedicated many years to renovating hotels throughout the world, as well as preserving historic landmarks here in Florida. As a historian, how fortunate she was to learn that this home, built in 1924, was formerly lived in by John Ringling's (yes, our own circus impresario) advertising manager. The guest house, which is now two apartments, was the art studio where the famous circus posters were created. You might be greeted today by Mable Ringling who occasionally makes an appearance relishing her outings with John across the bay on his business trips. But, onto the grounds, as after all, this is a garden tour.

Behind the Liriope-lined stucco wall and metal entry gate sits this grand home with over 30 palms framing the property, creating total privacy. Many enormous ancient Southern Live Oaks provide canopies of shade. One oak, the homeowner told us, is believed to be many centuries old. Instead of a formal garden, the owner has chosen to naturalize beds throughout. Plants of interest include a weeping yellow Tabebuia, a mass of old Dracaena, a gigantic Norfolk Island Pine, Firecracker Crotons and Turks Caps.

The majority of the landscape is original although our homeowner said it was too plain and she needed to dress it up. Now the front is enhanced with a magnificent antique fountain and bordered with Cedar Cypress carpeted with white Lantana, white Vinca and Sunpatiens. Two stately Italian Greyhounds guard the arched front door. No worries, they are stone and harmless!

Oh, wait until you get to the back yard! A brick walking path leads to a vast L-shaped pool overlooking 200 feet of bayfront along a sandy beach. Sea Grapes hold the shoreline, sporting a spectacular view of Sarasota Bay. Our homeowner tells of spotting dolphins teaching their babies how to swim in sand circles. Stands of Oaks with Indian Middens* (shell mounds) are dotted through the back





beds. Vintage statues (including a rare double sided bench) add character to the setting. From the home's loggia, our plein air landscape artist/owner draws inspiration as nature bathes light through the arches and the trees, especially at sunset. And, as a big supporter of the arts, this is her true paradise for hosting parties and fundraisers. Who knows... perhaps you'll receive an invitation!

* Middens are cultural spaces located on the mainland and island coasts, and were created by indigenous people during thousands of years of coastal occupation. Middens are composed of shells (oyster, clam, mussel) and faunal remains (mammal, fish, bird, and reptile bones and teeth). Botanical remains, primarily seeds, are also preserved in middens.

3838 Bay Shore Road Sarasota, FL 34234

This renovated large Craftsman cottage style home is barely visible between two pillars and is camouflaged in a natural woodland setting. A gigantic Cardboard Palm cannot be missed. In winter pink blooming Plumerias grace the front porch with their lovely scent and coordinate with the home's welcoming pink front door. Many winding walking paths abound, surrounding this property brimming with lush delights of texture and color.

When relocating from the Coconut Grove area of Florida 14 years ago, this homeowner packed 3-gallon Alexander Palms along with her furniture! These now mature slender picturesque trees keep company with many other palms including Royal, Montgomery, Palmetto, Foxtail, Canary, Chinese Fan, Coconut and Fishtails. Staghorn Ferns, Monstera Vines, Bromeliads, and Swiss Cheese Philodendron adorn their trunks and peep out between the branches.

Tree Ferns, Cordylines, unusual Crotons, and Gingers dot the walkway towards the home's rear, leading to a large patio which is delightful for entertaining. The trickling of the water fountain is incredibly soothing and a covered back porch says "Relax and enjoy the view of all the tucked in plantings", there are many of them! Along the garage/art studio, Lady Palms soften the hard edges and a pergola is covered with Jasmine, Creeping Fig and Bougainvillea.

It's possible that you might spot a peacock or two basking in the shade. They will eat an enormous number of ticks, termites, spiders, locusts, and other insect pests. They also eat snakes and mice, or at least discourage them from hanging around.

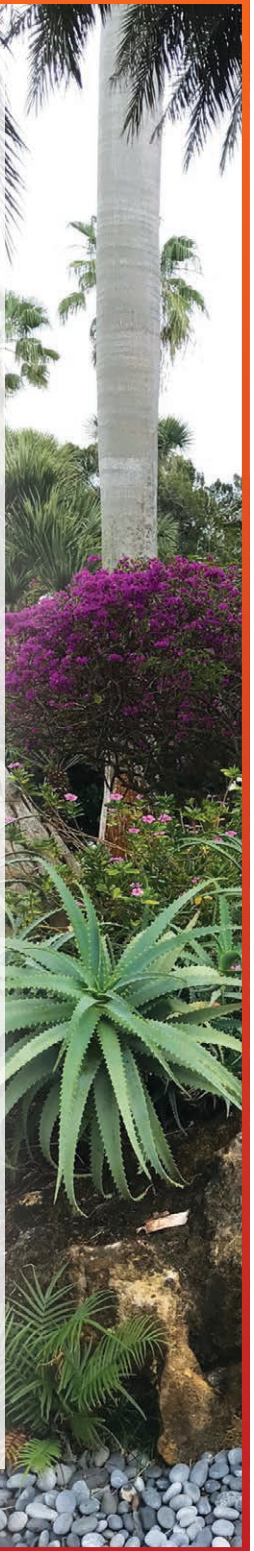
Way in the back hidden behind a mass of variegated Sanchezia (shining their variegated foliage in the shade), our homeowner, has her happy place – a very cozy potting area. Complete with a large L-shaped work bench and compost bins, she continues to amend the soil and pot up more treasures for her paradise.


900 Alameda Lane Sarasota, FL 34234

When you approach this magnificent waterfront estate, you will find it hard to believe that it was purchased in 1987 for just \$150,000 by an architect and interior designer who put 40 years of their incredible talent into renovating their property along with legendary Landscape Architect John Wheeler. It was a difficult decision to sell their home, (they even named it "Ventana" which means window to peace and happiness). The new owner (as of this past August) plans to continue its splendor. He says he feels "spiritually whole" being surrounded by nature in this "Selby Garden" style landscape.

There is the main house, a guest cottage, and a carriage house above one of two garages which are visible when arriving at the property. So where to explore first... it's wonderfully overwhelming! Note the deer grazing by the entryway. Walk past the rose garden where a fountain sits bordered with Surinam Cherry topiaries, Mexican Petunias, and Cocoplums. Bromeliads, Asparagus Ferns and Alocasias join in the show. Beyond stands the largest Floss Silk Tree (known for its medieval spiky thorned trunk) that this writer has ever seen. You must see the very fat mature Ponytail Palm near a False Aralia and an Avocado Tree. Nearby is a greenhouse that will soon be used again by Emma Peterman, Landscape Architect, who is now maintaining the property, rehabilitating a few things from days past, and adding some additions. I hear orchids are coming!

Along the home's north side is a natural woodland. Walk the park-like path brimming with Banana Plants, Agaves,





Fishtail Palms, Lady Palms, Areca Palms, Birds of Paradise, Cordylines, a stunning Orchid Tree and so many vines, more Bromeliads, and Ferns. Every ounce of this almost two acre property has been curated to perfection.

One of the homeowner's favorite places... looking west over 210 feet of Indian Beach is where you see the colors and the contours of the land way out across the Bay to Longboat Key. A Banyan Tree's roots span from the beach up through the Indian Midden* whose archeological samples date the midden back a several thousand years. *Research finds this sloping hill as the highest elevation on the Bay in all of Sarasota!*

A resort style pool with a showpiece of a sundial named "Tosca" puts this majestic property over the top. Our homeowner says he feels like he's in another world that was created just for him. Without a doubt, this is paradise.



451 Woodland Drive

Sarasota, FL 34234

This lush Mediterranean Revival home, built in 1926, calmly blends in among oodles of palms, shrubs, and flowers! It's history is vast, and it is designated as a historic structure by the City of Sarasota. Dr. George Day once owned the home and was personal physician to Mable Ringling. *For more information on the history of this home, go to our history table on site.*

Stroll down the marble brick drive past an impressive Bismarck Palm and a park of Southern Oaks creating a peaceful tranquility. Our homeowner is proud to show off her new Calabash Tree, which she discovered while traveling through Costa Rica. Its dried fruit is used to make coffee cups and maracas. Artisans sell the painted gourds and fisherman use them to carry their haul.

Then the magic begins. Through the gates, two huge Mango Trees consume one side of the yard and the other where our homeowner has turned a blank wall into a living sanctuary of miscellaneous potted plants. Morsels of plants are strewn throughout the property in beautiful vessels as she loves to propagate her babies and watch them grow! Fun metal sculptures dot the landscape. Vignettes of cozy

seating areas surround the rear of the house – no grass, easy care stone.

Eventually, you'll reach the resort-inspired courtyard terrace. A Spanish tiled deck and Mexican blue walls surround the curvy pool with an outdoor kitchen, fountain, loggias and a guest house cleverly hidden behind arches and more plants. Look up – succulents cover the roof of the dining room styled porch.

There's more... keep going until you find the pet cemetery and impressive koi pond. A very large Felt Plant, an eccentric succulent stands tall. Turn around and retrace your steps back to the front of the property which is covered in Creeping Fig outlining the home's address. Garden beds are glistening under the watch of a funky flamingo with butterfly loving annuals of Lantana, Pentas and Crossandra.

Attracting wildlife with colorful and eclectic specimens gives this homeowner happiness as she sits under her veranda and enjoys the view. You will too!



4962 Brywill Circle*

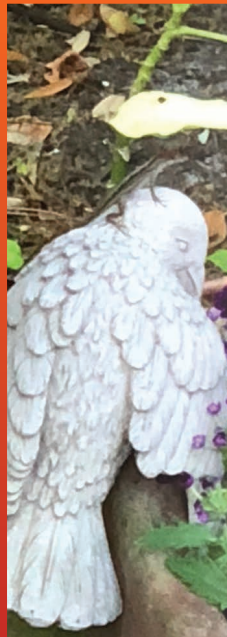
Sarasota, FL 34234

Our Florida-Friendly IFAS Silver Certified property lies behind a glossy Pitch Apple hedge fronted with towering Royal Palms. This gem of a property is nicknamed the "secret garden" by the owner's friends. Walk past the mailbox adorned with Tillandsia hair with a Teabush (great butterfly and pollinator attractor) at its base, and follow the brick driveway/path for your journey to begin.

A stone-mulched border is lined with native Florida plants, as well as rosy pink Figi Island Hibiscus trees, Oleander, Podocarpus, Durantha, and Foxtail Ferns, all mingling with texture and color and leading to a semi-variegated Starburst Clerodendron. Large pots with Bougainvillea, Ti plants, Milkweed (to attract the butterflies) and Vinca soften the foundation of the guest house/office.

Living within the City, stormwater runoff was a major issue. Our clever homeowner created a type of xeriscape by hauling in yards of limestone and large rocks to allow the rainwater to filter into the ground rather than polluting the





Bay. Visually, this area has the appearance of a rock garden. A Jacuzzi blends in with Green and Variegated Arboricola, Fishtail and Areca Palms, Crinum and Flax Lilies, Green Island Ficus, Ixoras and Liriope. This view from the pool is a tropical delight!

Keep walking... so many uncommon plants of interest working together... a native Tree Fern, Kiwi Ti, Silver Vase Aechmea, Flamingo Lily Anthurium, and Cretan Brake Fern just to name a few. The winter blooming Chain of Glory Clerodendron puts on a spectacular cascade of white flowers.

Alas, you have arrived to the home's south corner where a patio with firepit under a magnificent Shady Lady Black Olive tree is our homeowners favorite place to entertain. It will be so hard to leave this property brimming with beauty. On your exit (unless you chose to walk around a second time, maybe three times) note a familiar tree. Usually seen as a popular South Florida shrub, Tibouchina is also known as Purple Glory Tree. It performs an incredible show of royal

purple blossoms on and off throughout the year... quite a show stopper!

Says our homeowner, "A garden should be filled with all your favorite things!", this writer agrees.

*Brywill Circle was originally platted, and construction began in the 1920's. Several homes were designed by the same architect who created Ca'd'Zan for the circus magnate, John Ringling. The corner of Mecca and Brywill (5050 Brywill Circle) was originally the residence of Walter Bryson, the developer and partner of John Ringling in creating the Sapphire Shores neighborhood. The street name "Brywill" is a combination of his name and that of the realtor for the project, Wilson.



11th Annual Sarasota Garden Club
*Premier Garden Tour
of Private Gardens*

Next Year's Gardens in Paradise Tour • Mark Your Calendars!

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Thank you to all the SGC volunteers who worked to make this tour possible and an especially huge thank you to the property owners who have shared their extraordinary gardens with us in support of the Sarasota Garden Club.

Very special thanks and appreciation to the Sarasota

County Master Gardener Volunteers who have partnered with the Sarasota Garden Club since their first tour in 2014. The Florida Master Gardener Program is a volunteer driven program that benefits UF/IFAS Extension and the citizens of Florida. The program relies on dedicated volunteers who have an interest in gardening and in giving back to their communities. Without their knowledge and guidance as docents in the gardens, this tour would not be possible. If the Master Gardener docent is engaged with attendees please be patient. We urge you to download a plant app on your mobile device to help with plant ID. We recommend Google Lens, Plant Snap or Picture This.



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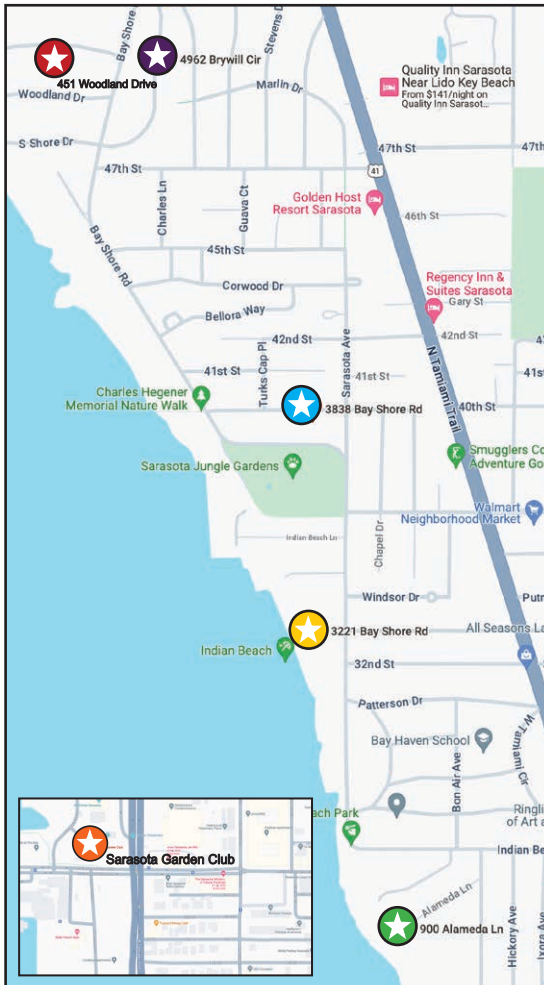
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Gardens in Paradise Tours — Locator Map



The **5 Private Gardens** are self-guided and can be seen in any order from 9:30am to 4:00pm. Your admission in to the gardens is a wristband which you will receive when you check in to **ANY** garden location.

Please observe parking directions at each location.



**3221 Bay Shore Road
Sarasota, FL 34234**
Park on Highland Street
or 32nd Street



**3838 Bay Shore Road
Sarasota, FL 34234**
Convenient parking at
Light of the World Church at
3809 Chapel Drive (at the corner
of Bay Shore Road and Myrtle
Street) or Sarasota Avenue



**900 Alameda Lane
Sarasota, FL 34234**
Park on Alameda Avenue,
22nd Street or Hickory Avenue.
The City of Sarasota prohibits,
by Ordinance, parking on
Alameda Lane



**451 Woodland Drive
Sarasota, FL 34234**
Park on Woodland Drive or
Sun Circle



**4962 Brywill Circle
Sarasota, FL 34234**
Park on Brywill Circle

NOTE: We recommend you to use Google Maps for easy directions. Be advised that some gardens, or parts thereof, may not be accessible to all. Take note of uneven paths.

REMINDER: Only service animals allowed on the tour and at the luncheon.



If you have purchased a reservation for lunch at the Sarasota Garden Club, parking will be available in the Van Wezel and in the Sarasota Municipal Auditorium parking lot.

