



**SARASOTA**  
GARDEN CLUB

# *"The Blooming Chatter"* **NEWSLETTER**

**April – 2025**



**[www.SarasotaGardenClub.org](http://www.SarasotaGardenClub.org)**

## *Highlights*

- + President's Message
- + Dates for your Calendar
- + Annual Meeting & Luncheon
- + Event Reviews
- + ..... and lots more

**Proud members of:**  
District VIII, Florida Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc.,  
Deep South Garden Clubs, Inc., and  
National Garden Clubs, Inc.

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More information on the website: [SarasotaGardenClub.org](https://SarasotaGardenClub.org)

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# President's Message

## Dear Sarasota Garden Club Members

As my term as President comes to an end, I wanted to take a moment to express my heartfelt gratitude for the opportunity to serve and work alongside each and every one of you. It has been a remarkable journey, filled with countless memories, learning experiences, and the joy of contributing to the growth and success of our beloved club.

Over the past years, I have witnessed our community flourish through your dedication, passion, and love for all things green. Together, we've cultivated not only beautiful gardens but also friendships that have enriched our lives. I'm incredibly proud of all that we have achieved, from educational classes to fun-filled events and memorable collaborations.

As I step down from my role at our Annual Meeting, I am confident that our club will continue to thrive under the leadership of our newly elected officers. Your unwavering commitment and support have been the backbone of our success, and I know that you will extend the same enthusiasm to our incoming President and her team.

As I transition into a new chapter, I want to thank you for the trust, camaraderie, and encouragement you've offered me throughout my tenure. It has been a true honor to serve as your President, and I will forever cherish the moments we've shared, the laughs we've had, and the bonds we've forged.

While this is farewell in my official capacity, I look forward to remaining an active member of the Sarasota Garden Club, continuing to contribute to our shared vision and celebrating our love for gardening alongside you all.



With gratitude

Kelly L. Goodwin  
Tel: 941-718-3359

# Key April Calendar Dates

## At a Glance ....

APRIL 2025						
SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
		1	2	3	4 Friday Gardening Education Committee Meeting Manatee Flower Show "Color me Florida"	5 Historical Society Garden Tour
Show:	7 SGC Board of Directors Meeting	8	9	10	11 Friday Gardening	12
			FFGC 97 <sup>th</sup> Annual State Convention, Jacksonville			
13	14 Membership Committee Meeting	15 Scholarship Applications Due Date	16 Program Event: Annual Meeting & Luncheon @ Founders Club	17	18 Friday Gardening	19 Lakewood Ranch Garden Fest
20	21	22	23	24	25 Friday Gardening	26
27	28	29 Education Event: The Sarasota Honey Company (Club House)	30			

- Committee Meetings
- 98<sup>th</sup> Annual FFGC Convention in Jacksonville – being attended by SGC who will report on it next month
- Friday Gardening
- 16<sup>th</sup> – Annual Meeting & Luncheon
- Some external events
- 29<sup>th</sup> - EDUCATION event – The Sarasota Honey Company at the club house

[Always check the website calendar!](https://sarasotagardenclub.org/calendar/)

<https://sarasotagardenclub.org/calendar/>

# Annual Meeting & Luncheon

SARASOTA GARDEN CLUB PRESENTS  
2025 Annual Meeting - Celebrating

## ***"Garden Club Legacy"***

At the Founders Club

3001 Founders Club Drive, Sarasota, FL 34240

Wednesday April 16 2025 – doors open at 9 AM



*.... The long-lasting impact of particular events,  
actions, etc., that took place in the past,  
or of a person's life ...*



### OUR MISSION:

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

**We hope you are planning to join us at our Garden Club's Annual Meeting & Luncheon next week!**

*It's always a great opportunity for us all to get together in an informal environment, and enjoy a jolly good lunch and natter!*

**Wednesday April 16**

**@ The Founders Club**

- PLEASE BOOK **NOW** so we may manage numbers. Official deadline is April 10<sup>th</sup>

**Guests welcome**

- [BOOK ONLINE HERE](#)
- CALL / EMAIL Kelly Goodwin  
941 718 3359 / klgbg@me.com

- Doors open for the Annual Meeting at 9am, with coffee/pastries – giving you the chance to mingle with other members and catch up on news
- After a Welcome/Introduction from Kelly Goodwin, the business issues will be addressed, followed by the **Awards Presentation** to acknowledge outstanding contributions by members
- Our guest speakers are from the **Mote**, who will present “Oceans for All”, quite different from topics covered in a recent visit
- After Lunch – **Induction of New Officers** will take place – including our new President and other key positions.
- **DON'T MISS IT!**

<b>AGENDA</b>	
9:00 AM	<b>Doors open – Registration</b> Coffee & Pastries
9:50 AM	<b>Welcome &amp; Invocation</b> Introduce New Members
10:00 AM	<b>President’s Report</b> Approval of Minutes Treasurer’s Report President’s Message
10:30 AM	<b>Awards Presentation</b>
11:00 AM	<p><b><i>“Oceans for All”</i></b></p> <p>With Guest Speakers from <b>Mote Marine Laboratory and Aquarium:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Jason Robertshaw, <i>Director of Adult Education Programming and Digital Learning</i></li> <li>○ Pamela Siderski, <i>Philanthropic Engagement Officer</i></li> </ul>
<b>12:00 PM - Lunch</b>	
1:00 PM	<b>Induction of New Officers</b>

- The Annual Meeting & Luncheon replaces the General Members Monthly Meeting for April.
- May’s General Members Monthly Meeting will take place on Wednesday 14 at the Club – Kara Cook from Audubon Florida presents “The Imperilled Shorebirds of Florida” – more info soon



# Review of March's General Members Monthly Meeting: Journey of the Highwaymen



Members and guests attending our Garden Club's March General Meeting enjoyed delicious and beautifully presented refreshments thanks to Livy Haynes and her wonderful Hospitality Committee. After a short club meeting, we listened to, learned from and loved the most interesting talk by John McCarthy of Selby Gardens. He told the history of the Florida Highwaymen Artists who sold their artwork in the 1950's and '60's and had some of their paintings with him.

Congratulations to our Linda and Lynda, Program Chairmen,  
who bring us fabulous programs each and every month!!! Thank you!

- One of our new members who attended and was welcomed at this meeting was Yonghua He who was very excited about joining Sarasota Garden Club and is interested in getting involved. Yonghua was introduced and given a gift of a plant, a Yearbook and New Member Folder.

Since our General Meeting we have had 5 new members join our club and look forward to greeting them at our next meetings.

[CLICK ON THE IMAGE OR VISIT OUR FACEBOOK PAGE TO SEE ALL THE PHOTOGRAPHS](#)

# Review of off-site visit to Mote's Aquaculture Research Park

Our March 25 tour of **Mote's Aquaculture Research Park** was an amazing and incredible experience. We were toured behinds the scenes and heard from leading scientists and biologists in their fields about their specific research projects: learning about the use of Caribbean King Crabs to clean up the ocean floor; various studies of algae and sea grass growing; coral reef restoration along with their coral reef gene bank; Red Tide mitigation using Mote's newly developed and patented equipment; and aquaculture farming. **Our appreciation goes to the Mote staff who treated us to such a unique experience!**



Their speaker, Pamela Siderski, Philanthropic Engagement Officer, kindly gave us links for you to read more about their research:

- To learn more about Mote's groundbreaking Red Tide Mitigation go [here](#).
- You can read about Mote's exciting Seagrass Restoration Initiative [here](#).
- Finally here is the link to Mote's 'just published' [Annual Report](#).

**Pamela is one of the speakers at our Annual Meeting & Luncheon – but the topic is quite different, they will be giving us the inside track on the NEW MOTE LABORATORY (which we all look forward to visiting when it opens).**



# Education Committee Update

**March's** Education Meeting was off-site at **Palmer Orchids** ..... thank you to everyone that came along ....

What a treat our members and friends experienced with a private tour organized by our Education Committee. The extensive grow houses and number of orchids at Palmer is overwhelming and amazing. All that propagation and growing right here in the Bradenton/Sarasota area for all to enjoy.

We learned all about this local family-owned business and their operations and then got a first-hand tutorial on many species of orchids and their care.



- Check our Facebook page to see more photos: [\(20+\) Facebook](#) (thank you Carol Lackey for sharing photos and news on line). 😊
- **April's** Education Meeting will be held at the SGC Clubhouse on **Tuesday April 29**, and the speaker is from **Sarasota Honey Company**. Come along ..... more information coming soon.
- Contact [angelabennink@yahoo.com](mailto:angelabennink@yahoo.com) / 908-902-0266



# Botanical Garden Committee



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

**Kay Weber, Botanical Garden Committee Chair**, continues to lead the team of volunteers that work in the Sarasota Gardens each and every Friday. **THANK YOU, KAY – you are a constant source of garden knowledge and we love working with you.**

Thank you also to the volunteers for coming when they can on a Friday morning.

While we wait for The Bay to commence the first phase of renovating the areas of the garden lost to the hurricane, we focus on the Botanical Area of our garden, which includes the Quiet Garden and the Waterfall.

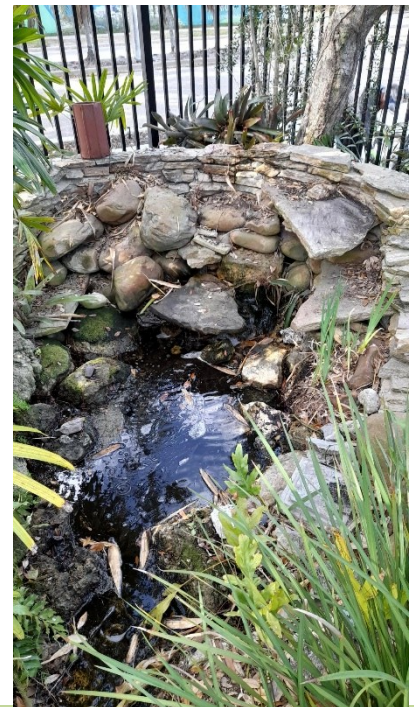
**Great news on the Waterfall** – the first phase has been completed by [Stocking Savvy](#) Environmental Consulting (who also maintain the Fountain and the Swails for The Bay). They removed A LOT of silt that had accumulated in our water feature, which had to be done by hand so as not to damage the lining.

1. Whilst carrying out the first phase, the pumps were investigated and cleaned – which resulted in ONE pump re-starting (which is where we are now).
2. Phase 2 is to replace the larger pump (which arrived on 8<sup>th</sup>). That drives the flow down from the middle of the water feature, and then the water will flow smoothly.

*The pump is to remain on 24 hours in the future to ensure a consistent flow.*

3. Phase 3, is to put some plants AND FISH in the water (*little tiny fish that the birds don't see, which control mosquito invasion*).

Here's a few 'before & after' photos and I'm sure you'll see an improvement already – but more to come:



# Scholarship Update

## \$60,000 Scholarship

FOR MORE INFORMATION AND APPLICATION FORMS VISIT OUR WEBSITE:

[Sarasota Garden Club Scholarships](#)

(under Community Projects).



Nancy Lewis writes:

“For more than two decades our club has awarded varying monetary scholarships to seniors in Sarasota High Schools who plan to study Natural Sciences as a career.”

### LATEST UPDATE:

- We are receiving applications for review by the Scholarship Committee
- The deadline for receiving applications is April 15/16
- Scholarships will be awarded at an event at the club, which is to take place on May 5th.

## JUDITH WOODBRIDGE SCHNEIDER MEMORIAL LEGACY SCHOLARSHIP

Judith Woodbridge Schneider, our member, left our club a large bequest which is invested with the large Sarasota consortium of not-for-profits active in the greater Sarasota area. Each year our club is able to use our investment as scholarships awarded to Sarasota County seniors who have been accepted at accredited universities to study Natural Sciences. Our committee takes the amount the Garden Club Board of Directors feels is appropriate and remaining funds carry over for the next academic year to fund new scholarships to be awarded to graduating seniors from Sarasota County.

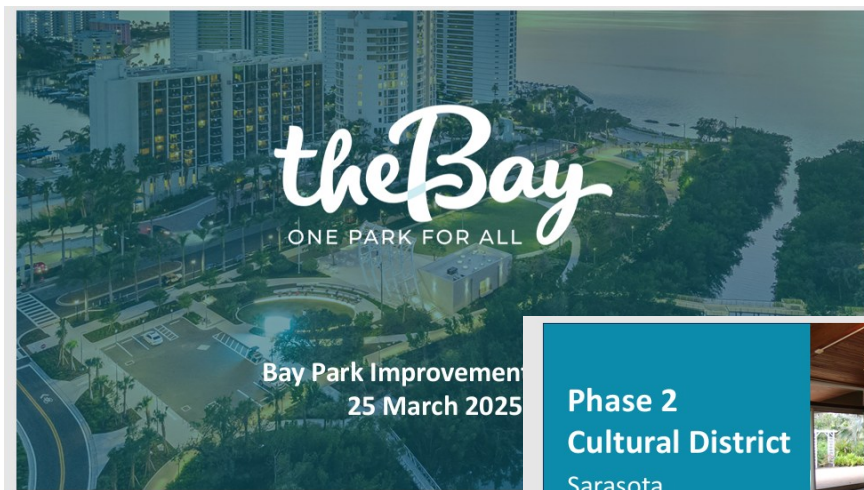
**This year \$60,000 has been approved for the Scholarship Program – imagine what a difference that makes to our young students in pursuing such worthwhile careers?**

For more information, please contact:

- Nancy Lewis, Community Projects Committee Chair – [nancy-lewis@comcast.net](mailto:nancy-lewis@comcast.net)
- Sharon Davisson, Community Projects Committee – [SRDSTL41@gmail.com](mailto:SRDSTL41@gmail.com) / 941-270-3418
- Other committee members include: Lynn Biega, Kathleen Strobel, and Mary Fran



# News about The Bay



[CLICK HERE TO READ LATEST UPDATE FROM THE BAY - 20250325-BPIB-The-Bay-Update.pdf](#)

**Phase 2**  
**Cultural District**  
Sarasota  
Garden Club

Windows & Floor Replacement

- ✓ Post Milton:
  - Library & Roof Repair
  - Gardens (incl Butterfly) & Lawn Replacement
- ✓ Completion: Spring '25



We are continuously thankful for the work The Bay has done, and continues to do, to and around the Sarasota Garden Club building and gardens. A few updates:

- We're all well aware that the building windows and floors have been replaced. They have also redecorated throughout, providing us with a fully refurbished office area, updated plumbing, better internet access ..... so much
- Just last week the building was closed for a few days while The Bay's contractors finished the work on the building roof, and fixing our shed roof is in the plan
- Friday Garden Volunteers were delighted to see that the wooden fence between the Quiet Garden and the shed (*damaged during the hurricane*) has been replaced, making it secure and looking much better >>>>>>>
- Our waterfall restoration is being wonderfully managed by The Bay's Project Manager, Ina, who is always on hand to oversee work being carried out by Stocking Savvy on behalf of SGC
- The SGC Friday Garden Volunteers focus our work on the area directly around the building, while the bigger garden plan is finalized by the Bay and their contractors. Work will start as soon as salt levels are better





# News from Ikebana

**Always a great event**

**April 19 at Gulf Gate Library**



**IKEBANA SARASOTA  
CHAPTER 115**



**PRESENTS**

**Ikebana Exhibition**

**“IKEBANA IS ART”**

**A unique floral  
Exhibition from the schools  
of  
Ikenobo, Ohara, Wafu,  
Sogetsu, & Ichiyo**

**Saturday, April 19th  
10:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.**

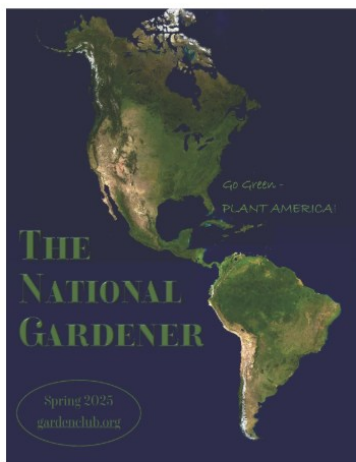
**Gulf Gate Library  
7112 Curtiss Ave., Sarasota, Fl., 34231**

Contact Dorinda Wilkinson for more information  
[dorindawillkinson@gmail.com](mailto:dorindawillkinson@gmail.com)

# News from NGC



National Garden Clubs  
OFFICIAL WEBSITE



[View Latest Issue of The National Gardener](#)



## The National Gardener

Spring 2025, Volume 95, Number 2  
GO GREEN - PLANT AMERICA



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Click on the images above to display the Spring 2025 issue of the National Gardener, quarterly newsletter from National Garden Clubs – brought to you as part of your annual subscription to the SGC.

## 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](mailto: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](http://WWW.SARASOTAGARDENCLUB.ORG)**