



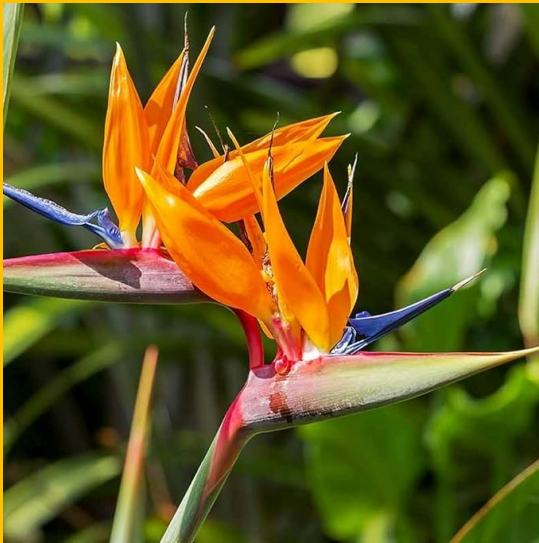
SARASOTA
GARDEN CLUB

Highlights

- President's Message
- Events & Event Reviews
- and lots more

"The Blooming Chatter" **NEWSLETTER**

June – 2025



Bird of Paradise

www.SarasotaGardenClub.org

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

Contact Us

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

Email:

Office@SarasotaGardenClub.org

[Facebook.com/sarasotagardenclub](https://www.facebook.com/sarasotagardenclub)

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Most up-to-date and more information on the website:

SarasotaGardenClub.org

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President's Message

"Little Seeds Grow Mighty Weeds Live Your Life in Full Bloom"

I have spent much time considering what plans I felt our Club could or would want to accomplish during my presidency. Two years seems like quite a while, but I know this time will fly by! I can help with Flower Shows, events, run meetings and offer ideas and encouragement. So, how best to use these talents?

As I thought about our Club and its members, I remember what I have heard squeaks about - for learning. Our thirst is high to gain more knowledge in many subjects, which the Education Committee works hard to deliver.



Emily Yaffe - President
Tel: 941-780-7808
Eyaffe13@yahoo.com

FLORAL DESIGN STUDY COURSE: BOOK NOW!

There has been much interest in **floral design** expressed by many members. So, the plan is to coordinate the **NGC Floral Design Study Course** between us and Manatee Garden Club:

- This fall we (SGC) will host NGC's Floral Design Study Classes 1-6.
- Manatee River Garden Club (MRGC) will host Classes 7-9 after January 1, 2026.

Having these classes at SGC and then MRGC will make it hugely convenient to the students in both clubs - so come, learn and enjoy. Seating will be limited and a fee will be charged.

ANNUAL FLOWER SHOW

After the holidays, in February, SGC will hold its **Annual Flower Show** on February 21, 2026. Our Co-chairs will be Shari Amato (Vice President) and Becci Bond - and 17 members have already signed up to help with the different committees needed for each show. We will definitely need more help from members, so please come and find out about this show and sign up to help. Flower Show Committee meeting dates will appear on the SGC calendar, which must be completed by June 15.

10th ANNUAL "GARDENS IN PARADISE" TOUR: G.I.P.

On **March 21, 2026**, SGC will host its **10th Annual "Gardens in Paradise" Tour**. This is our main fundraiser for the year and every member should find a way to assist in the planning and executing of this tour.

**It is an ALL-CLUB EVENT... and everyone can enjoy this -
as we are a Garden Club!!**

SGC 100th ANNIVERSARY

I am proposing a new, one-time-only committee – the **Once in a Lifetime Committee** – to help plan our **100th Anniversary**. Certainly, none of us will ever experience this again. Mable Ringling's inception of the Sarasota Garden Club with her friends and neighbors, many were Sarasota's most prominent figures and residents at that time in the 1920's. She would probably never have imagined what we have going on in this Club today. I know we will create an informative timeline of our Club's history and our major accomplishments along the way. What else we do will be up to this new committee!



It's never too early to start as we all know how time flies.

NGC GOLD STAR MARKER = [Blue and Gold Star Memorials](#) | [National Garden Clubs, Inc.](#)



Also, in the early part of 2027 in our 100th year, this President wishes to have installed an **NGC Gold Star Marker** at our Sarasota National Cemetery. It would be a memorable tribute to the fallen soldiers from our past and their families. This will require some funding as well, but oh so worth it!

Please join me and all us members to nurture these events and our comradery. We always have fun working together and we accomplish great things to be proud of.

Do ... live your life in full bloom!!

Have a safe and enjoyable summer.

Happy Gardening and see you next September or at "Music in the Gardens" in June and/or August.

Happy Gardening with Lots of Blooms!!!

Emily Yaffe - President

Tel: 941-780-7808

Eyaffe13@yahoo.com



Book your Tickets NOW for "Music in the Gardens": June 15

Bring friends and neighbors – everybody welcome!





Each summer, Sarasota Garden Club opens its historic building and botanical gardens **at 1131 Blvd. of the Arts**, for a delightful afternoon of

"Music in the Gardens"

A great opportunity to enjoy the surroundings, inside and out, with refreshments provided by the Club, accompanied by this amazing violinist.

Sunday June 15, 6:30 – 8:30 PM
join us for:

- **"Music" by Elijah The Violinist**
- **"Gardens"** maintained by Sarasota Garden Club
- **Hors d'oeuvres, champagne & wine** by the Hospitality Committee

Elijah Luzginov started playing violin at the age of four and specializes in a broad range of musical genres. His young, vibrant performances are sure to enchant you.

ON-LINE RESERVATIONS

www.SarasotaGardenClub.org
(or click on Music in the Gardens banner below)

Members - \$30
Non-members - \$35

Call Kelly on 941-718-3359 if you need help

CLICK HERE TO GO TO OUR WEBSITE AND MAKE YOUR RESERVATION

MUSIC in the GARDENS

[CLICK HERE TO GO TO WEBSITE TO BOOK TICKETS](#)

[Also taking place on August 17](#)

Executive Committee & Board of Directors 2025 - 2027

F Y I!

For Contact
Details refer
to your
Yearbook /
Member
Directory

Sarasota Garden Club 2025 – 2026 – 2027	
The EXECUTIVE Committee	
President	Emily Yaffe
Vice President	Shari Amato
Past President	Kelly Goodwin
Treasurer	Dorinda Wilkinson
Assistant Treasurer	Jim Whalen
Communications Director	Becci Bond
Corresponding Secretary	Tom Wentz
Parliamentarian	Gloria Thomas
Recording Secretary	Jann Richardson
The Bay Partnership	Kelly Goodwin & Dianne Beaver
The Board of DIRECTORS (BOD)	
is made up of the Executive Committee (<i>above</i>) & all Committee Chairs (<i>below</i>). <i>It meets on the first Monday of each month – everyone is invited to attend.</i>	
Botanical Garden	Andrea Gibson & Jann Richardson
Community Projects	Jim Whalen
Education	Angela Bennink
Gardens In Paradise	Kelly Goodwin
Hospitality & History	Olivia Haynes
Membership	Sue Angle
Programs	Lynda Wright
Website	Becci Bond & Kelly Goodwin

Some new committees:

- “Once in a Lifetime” Committee for 100th Anniversary
- Award Committee
- Flower Show Committee

*Please consider joining a Committee –
our club relies upon everybody’s help.
Contact the committee chair for more
information.*

Introducing Members of the Executive Committee and Board of Directors

Over the next few Newsletters, we will be introducing the members of the Executive Committee and Board of Directors in order for you to get to know them better.

Starting with:

YOUR PRESIDENT: Emily Yaffe

Emily Yaffe - President - member since 1989.

Accredited Flower Show Judge | Member of Floralia VI & Floralia XVI
| Flower Show Chair & Co-chair | Floral Designer at Ringling's Ca'd
Zan | Fundraising Chair | Creator of "Gardens in Paradise" Garden
Tour | Civic Beautification committee | Program Chair | Friday
morning garden worker

Personal: *I enjoy gardening, floral designing, cooking and socializing.
I love salads of all types, and a great hamburger!*

- *Stella is my little 12 yr old Yorkie girl!!*



YOUR VICE PRESIDENT: Shari Amato

Shari Amato – Vice President – member since 2022.

Fundraising Chair | Friday morning garden worker |
Fashion Show Chair | Artist Event Organizer

Personal: *I live 15 miles East on Fruitville with a large garden which my
husband, Amiel, and I love working in. I am an ardent Poker Player and
enjoy all sorts of hobbies including cards, painting, cooking, flower arranging, Lego, Harry Potter and
Christmas!*

- *Dante is my Golden-doodle puppy*



May General Members Monthly Meeting Review – Audubon and The Bay

The final General Members Monthly Meeting of our 2024-2025 Garden Club Year was held on Wednesday, May 14.

This time everyone entered through the Library Entrance Door so they could take advantage of choosing books they would like to take home from those no longer being housed in our Library.

Library Chairman Lynn Biega, Kathleen Strobel and Gloria Thomas toiled endless hours, after removing the books into

storage while the repairs from Hurricane damage was done, to determine which books should be retained for our Library and which ones could be offered to our members. **We thank them for their hard work and know those who went home with books will enjoy them with thanks to SGC.**

Refreshments were also offered in the library prior to the meeting beginning at 10am.

President Emily Yaffe greeted members and shared her goals for her administration's 2025 to 2027 term of office.

An interesting program from Audubon followed and we learned how to identify birds with wonderful photographs, to locate them, and protect them!



**Evan Powers – Sarasota Stewardship Coordinator at Audubon Florida –
“The Imperiled Shorebirds of Florida”**

AG Lafley, founding CEO of The Bay, gave the audience an update on the future plans around the Sarasota Garden Club.



- Even though there are no General Meetings in June, July or August, there will be “Music in the Gardens” on June 15 and August 17 so plan to join those fun events over the summer.
- Also watch your emails and the SGC website <https://sarasotagardenclub.org> for other special events.
- Mark your calendar for our next General Members Monthly Meeting on Wednesday, September 17 entitled “Let’s Do It – in the Garden” – Tales of Bug Love and Bloomer Boogie by John Lampkin – see next page.

The Membership Committee wishes you a Happy, Healthy and Safe Summer!!

Sue Angle - Membership Committee Chair
sueangle000@gmail.com | 941-350-9784

Programs Committee News

Sarasota Garden Club

General Members Monthly Meeting

Wednesday, September 17, 2025



“Let’s Do It - in the Garden”

- Tales of Bug Love and Bloomer Boogie -
by John Lampkin



About our SPEAKER:

John Lampkin is an avid naturalist and Nature photographer with credits in many field guides, books, journals, websites and blogs, and he won the 2020 “American Butterflies” magazine photo contest. As a professional composer, his woodwind quintet, “Insects: A Musical Entomology in Six Legs” won the Grand Prize in a Composers Guild international competition. John also constructs crossword puzzles for the New York Times, Wall Street Journal, the LA Times and other venues, with many of his puzzles having Nature themes. Except for his fascination with bugs and plants he is totally harmless.

Please join us for our Spicy SEPTEMBER Meeting!

1st in the new Season.

Sex is a driving force that shapes the lives of all living things, so our garden bloomers and their pollinators have more in common than you might think.

- *What is this force that unifies us all?*
 - *How does it function?*
- *What are some of the astonishing, outrageous, and wildly bizarre ways that Nature gets the job done?*

Armed with his camera and thinking cap, John Lampkin has been photo-documenting some answers over the past 25 years in gardens far and wide.

“Let’s Do It!” will amaze, entertain and educate,
all at once!

9:30am start

- 9:30 - Refreshments & Social Time
 - Members’ Business Meeting
 - Speaker’s Presentation and Q&A
- Raffle & more Social Time – don’t rush away!

Be ready for
SEPTEMBER’s Meeting

Join the Programs Committee

**Your Program Committee: Lynda Wright, Linda Eliff,
and Joanie Lerner**



The Program Committee would love to have you join us.

We are an energetic group that enjoys getting to know each other while we work toward our common goals for the garden club.

If you have some fresh ideas and would be willing to share them for 2026, our pre-Centennial year, please contact us at:

- **lynda7948@gmail.com or**
- **call/text: 612-759-3311**

Love to hear from you!

Education Committee

The next Education Event takes place on
October 28 – “Leaf Manipulation”



Add an extra element of interest and design using leaf manipulation: the deliberate alteration of a leaf's natural form to create new textures, shapes or patterns.

Join the Education Committee

- Over the Summer break the Education (and all) committees will be putting the finishing touches to next year's program.
- Education events resume in October with lots of exciting things planned, including Floral Design Workshops, a particular focus of our President.

If you would like to help plan these events, consider joining the Education Committee: contact Angela Bennink
angelabennink@yahoo.com 908-902-0266

Hospitality Committee Events



Our Hospitality Committee organizes the “Music in the Garden” social events that take place over the Summer.

- [SGC – Music in the Gardens](#) - June 15, 2025 6:30 pm
- [SGC – Music in the Gardens](#) - August 17, 2025 6:30 pm

Put these dates in your Calendar – and please come, and bring your friends.

Another **Holiday Music in the Gardens** will take place in December, with a special ‘holiday’ theme!

[**Book your tickets here**](#)

Communications Committee News



**Do you have a
Facebook
account?**



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

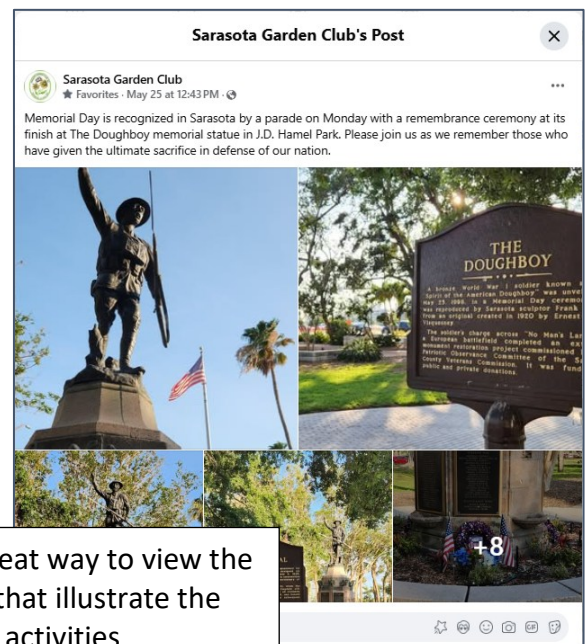
- *Do you check/visit the Sarasota Garden Club page and posts?*
- *If so, please "like" and share our posts to increase our viewership and enhance our presence in the community and the gardening world beyond.*
- *We have gained "Followers" by leaps and bounds and now number over 1,800 Followers since I started in 2015!!!*
- *Please add us to your **Follow** list. It helps so much.*

We will continue to post regularly throughout the summer and encourage you to share your garden tips and photos so that we can view on our page. Text or email your pics to the contact info below any time!



Thank you!!

Carol Lackey, Publicity and Social Media
Communications Committee
pr@sarasotagardenclub.org
215-518-8479



Facebook is a great way to view the
photographs that illustrate the
club's activities

NGC Floral Design Study Classes

October & November 2025

Sarasota Garden Club presents: **NGC'S Floral Design Study Classes**

WHEN?

Sarasota Garden Club will host
**Classes 1-6 (10 am – 2 pm -
Mondays October 6, 13, 20, 27
November 3, 10)** in Great Room
of 1131 Blvd of Arts, Sarasota.

WHAT? 9 Units in total:

- **Unit 1:** Containers, Basic Tools and Vertical Designs
- **Unit 2:** Conditioning Plant Materials & Triangular Designs
- **Unit 3:** Elements and Design Principles of Design and Curved Designs
- **Unit 4:** Table Settings and Horizontal Designs
- **Unit 5:** Accessories, Features and Bases
- **Unit 6:** Transporting Materials and Expressive Designs

Manatee River Garden Club
(MRGC) will be offering the
**Advanced Classes 7-9 in January
2026**. Sign-up for these will happen
during the first 6 classes and there will be
additional costs.

- **Unit 7:** Dried Materials and Decorative Wood
- **Unit 8:** Advanced Creative Designs
- **Unit 9:** Creative Containers and Designers Choice Award

This is a terrific opportunity for all garden club members in this district who have an interest in improving their designing skills, to gain creative insight to a whole new world of floral design.

**Cost: \$120 per student – payment
due with reservation (Units 1-6)**

**Registration is open from June 16 until
August 16 (cut off date)**

*If SGC reaches the **capacity of 25 students**, the cut-off will be
announced and a waiting list will be formed.*

- **PAYMENT:** Mail your check and the registration form to Dorinda Wilkinson, Registrar, 400 E Mac Ewen Drive, Osprey, FL 34229

Each Student will receive a manual with full explanations of all six classes, what materials/tools will be needed and which designs will be created.

SGC will provide a designer starter kit with some mechanics, a container, and plant material needed for the first class. SGC will also provide plant materials for Classes 2 & 3.

***We look forward to hosting you and
helping you learn about this truly
fun and creative art form!***

If you have questions about these classes, contact:

Emily Yaffe, President

emily.sarasotagardenclub@gmail.com / 941 780 7808

Sarasota Garden Club

NGC's Floral Design Study Course

In Great Room @ Sarasota Garden Club, 1131 Blvd of Arts, Sarasota.

Classes 1-6: \$120 per person - October 6, 13, 20, 27, November 3, 10

REGISTRATION FORM: Send check to Dorinda Wilkinson (see flyer).

Name	
Address	
Cell #	
Email address	
Your Garden Club	

FFGC District VIII Spring Meeting hosted by Garden Club of St Petersburg



We in Sarasota Garden Club are proud to be members of District VIII known as “Great 8” of the Florida Federation of Garden Clubs. We are the largest district of the 12 in the state, with almost 1,700 members.

[CHECK OUT SOME MORE PHOTOS ON THEIR FACEBOOK POST](#)

The Bi-Annual District Meeting was held on May 13, 2025 and hosted by the Garden Club of St. Petersburg. The meeting was held in the beautiful St.

Petersburg Woman's Club which is on the U.S. National Register of Historic Places. Its location provided a beautiful waterfront setting and oak-filled grounds on that lovely Florida Spring Day. *(It would normally have been at their club house however their building was severely damaged by Hurricane Milton and is far from being able to be used at this point. Last month the SGC made a \$500 donation to their renovation fund, which was much appreciated).*

The meeting began at 10am following morning refreshments and a social time giving members the opportunity to meet and talk with, learn and get ideas from members of the five counties. The meeting included information from the Asst Director of St. Pete Parks and Recreation, various district information, presentation of awards, and reports of clubs including our President Emily reporting on the activities of Sarasota Garden Club. It is a learning experience to hear what is going on in the other clubs in our area.

Following a delicious lunch, a very interesting program was presented by Dean Hay, Certified Master Arborist and Sr. Urban Forestry Specialist from St. Pete's Office of Sustainability & Resilience, followed by questions and answers which were particularly relevant since the three recent damaging hurricanes last fall.

The meeting concluded with Raffle Basket winners being announced, one member took home \$192 from the 50/50 drawing, and all the like-minded new and long-time friends said “Goodbye” and “See you at the Fall District Meeting” to be hosted by Temple Terrace Garden Club on October 22, 2025. Add that date to your calendar and hope to see you there!



To go to the Fall meeting on October 22, hosted by [Temple Terrace Garden Club](#) at their Woodmont Clubhouse.

We can car-pool.

Thank you for your report: Sue Angle

Eighty-seven members from the 19 garden clubs in District VIII attended **including the following SGC members:** President Emily Yaffe, Vice President Shari Amato, former Treasurer Dianne Beaver, Clare Milligan, Barbara Rao, Deborah Alves, and Sue Angle.

Botanical Garden Committee

Over the last few months, we have been working with The Bay and [Stocking Savvy Environmental Consulting](http://www.stockingsavvy.com) to renovate our garden's "Falling Water" area. The pumps were failing and the ponds had begun to silt up and professional help was needed.

Prof. Sean Patton - Stocking Savvy Environmental Consulting

"Native Plants, Native Fish, Native Florida"

www.stockingsavvy.com



Here's some detail of the operation provided by Sean Patton:

- Two emergent semi-aquatic pots with cardinal flower, horsetail, Florida Violets, aquatic milkweed, and bacopa. *My mother donated the pots which have an ancient Greek design.*
- River Oats, Cardinal Flower, Ohio Spiderwort, and Cinnamon Fern background planting along back areas and the river portions.
- Aquatic pots which will rise to the surface to flower. Ludwigia, Water Clover, Bacopa, Dwarf Duck Potato.
- Maiden Hair Fern for the Waterfalls. *This is a fern found only in Florida Limestone Sinkholes that has the ability to grow on moist stone and will look amazing!*
- Any gaps or for interesting color/groundcover I have additional Florida Horsetails and Florida Violets.
- Fish include 4 donated Koi 8" long from the NCF Marine Lab, Flagfish, Sailfin Mollies, and Mosquitofish. All but the koi will reproduce in the pond so permanent algae control and mosquito control.

FRIDAY GARDEN VOLUNTEERS
meet each Friday morning –
come any time between 8am –
11.30am for as long or as short
as you like.

Scholarship Awards Ceremony Review

On Monday May 5, which was a beautiful day, the Sarasota Garden Club held an award ceremony in its botanical gardens to present \$50,000 from the Judith Woodbridge Schneider Foundation Memorial Legacy Scholarships.



Pictured L to R: Scholarship Committee Member Kathleen Strobel, Wesley Wehlage, Scholarship Committee Member Sharon Davisson, Maya Lander, Tori Guarino, Carter Oleckna, Nicole Norwine, Noelle Prouty, Sarasota Garden Club's Joanie Lerner and President Emily Yaffe.

To date, SGC has awarded over \$230,000 in scholarships.

The Sarasota Garden Club Scholarship Committee awarded nine deserving local college students at its Annual Scholarship Award Ceremony at our historic clubhouse in early May. **We are happy to announce that our Club and its Members were able to grant \$50,000 in scholarship funds!**

Several recipients were able to take time from their studies to join us, along with some of their family members. SGC was also able to award five past recipients an additional year of scholarship funds.

Students awarded this year are pursuing careers in ocean conservation, implementing renewable energy legislation, marine science education, climate change and its effect on marine ecosystems, landscape architecture, chemical engineering focused on environmental solutions, zoology and the environment, and environmental engineering.

Club members, the committee, scholarship recipients and their families enjoyed refreshments after the ceremony in the beautiful patio garden at Sarasota Garden Club. We thank all who attended and thank the committee for all of their hard work in reviewing the application submissions.

Club Member's Garden



**‘The Punch Bowl’ in Windsor Great Park (years ago) – from
Nancy Lewis**

Send me photos of your garden for inclusion in
Blooming Chatter – I’ll send some from England!

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



Singing "Proud to be an American"
along with our favorite violinist,
Elijah.

I am proud to say that America
has welcomed me as a Citizen!

Thanks to Shari and Amiel for
putting on such a wonderful party,
and for dressing up!