



SARASOTA
GARDEN CLUB

"The Blooming Chatter" **NEWSLETTER**

May – 2025



Frangipani

www.SarasotaGardenClub.org

Highlights

- + New President's Message
- + Dates for your Calendar
- + Report on Annual Meeting & Luncheon
- + Events & 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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Most up to date and more information on the website:

SarasotaGardenClub.org

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New President's Message

"From Little Seeds Grow Mighty Weeds as we Live our Lives in Full Bloom"

First, I would like to say how proud I am to be President of Sarasota Garden Club's in its 98th year.

I know I have very large shoes to fill from those of our most beloved past presidents. Those that are with us have sworn to aid and offer input to keep us on the best track with me and Shari, along with our new Board of Directors (BOD). Thank you, Kelly and BOD, for such a successful 3 years which moved us through some of our toughest times. **We all know, nothing gets done without the participation of our members, so I am counting on you all!**

I would like to say, our Annual Meeting was truly one to be remembered, with its outstanding attendance by many of you, the exciting Awards given out, and the informative program by Elaina and Pam from Mote Marine. That program created much excitement for us all to look forward to in the future!! Our venue at Founders Golf Club was beautiful as always, well organized and comfortable. **Thank you to all who played a part in bringing the whole day to fruition and making it memorable for those of us who were installed!**

I'm so enthusiastic about our new Board of Directors and their ideas for our upcoming Fall season. There will be lots to plan and work toward! As always, your ideas, help and execution of these ideas is imperative to our success! **So... here we go:**

- **On Monday May 5th – at NOON – the Scholarship Awards take place** (see page 15) – please come along and learn about these outstanding young adults.
- **Tuesday, May 13th, there is a District VIII meeting.** Anyone and everyone is invited and I urge SGC Members to attend. The Garden Club of St. Petersburg will be our host at the St. Petersburg Woman's Club at 40 Snell Isle Blvd. There is also a historical building from 1929 and quite a good size. It should be a wonderful afternoon, hearing and sharing ideas from the other 11 garden clubs in our District. If you would like to carpool to St. Pete, contact me for those willing to drive.
- **At our May General Members Monthly Meeting (GMMM) on Wednesday 14** we will be informed of upcoming events, have a catch-up with AG Lafley (Founding CEO from The Bay Park Conservancy, and a wonderful program from the Sarasota Audubon Society!!! (see page 8)

We'll need to discuss:

- Our upcoming **Spring Flower Show** with classes teaching our designs
- **Civic Beautification** has meeting dates on the calendar and
- New ideas for a committee serving **Veterans**.



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

**** Please Think Ahead and Bring Along Your ideas ****

- Also at the meeting, you will get to see how absolutely beautiful our garden is growing, and the completed water feature is working so well. **Simply gorgeous!!!** Just some fish and plants to go in.

- I'm sure there will be some sweet treats provided by Hospitality.

- **Remember to bring your bookbag -** Lynn Biega, Kathleen Strobel and Gloria Thomas have gone through ALL 4000 library books and there is a huge amount of gardening, floral design, crafting and environmental subjects to take home and bone up for the summer!!!



- We will have **“Music in the Garden”** events to look forward to: **Sunday, June 15th** - Elijah will be playing his magical violin for us, and we will do this again on **Sunday, August 17th**.

I hope those of you who live here year-round will come, bring friends to enjoy and be a part of these delightful soirees in our own beautiful gardens. Hopefully by then, we will have more gardens to enjoy! We usually have over 40 persons!

Before you know it, we will be into September again, and our busy-bee-ball will start rolling into the many planned events that will be on our SGC calendar by then, and in the Blooming Chatter. I look forward to sharing some of these with you at our meeting on Wednesday, May 14 - so we can begin to put these plans in action!

Please come and give us a hug if you are departing to destinations beyond us and we will wish you a safe and happy summer..... until we meet again this Fall!

**Happy Gardening with
Lots of Blooms!!!**

Emily Yaffe - President

Tel: 941-780-7808

Eyaffe13@yahoo.com



Key MAY Calendar Dates At a Glance

MAY 2025						
SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
				1	2 Garden Committee in the Garden	3
4	5 Board of Directors Meeting Scholarship Award Ceremony	6 Education Committee Meeting	7	8	9 Garden Committee in the Garden	10 Rob Branch Tropical Gardens OPEN DAY
11	12	13 FFGC District VIII Spring meeting	14 General Members Monthly Meeting: Audubon Florida	15	16 Garden Committee in the Garden	17
18	19	20	21	22	23 Garden Committee in the Garden	24
25	26	27	28 Executive Committee Meeting	29	30 Garden Committee in the Garden	

- Friday Gardening
- SGC Committee Meetings
- 5th – Scholarship Awards Ceremony
- 13th – District Meeting, St Petersburg
- 14th – last General Members Monthly Meeting for the 1st half of the SGC Season

Always check the website calendar!

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

Executive Committee and Board of Directors

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>)	
Botanical Garden	Andrea Gibson & Jann Richardson
Community Projects	Jim Whalen
Education	Angela Bennink
Hospitality & History	Olivia Haynes
Membership	Sue Angle
Parliamentarian	Gloria Thomas
Programs	Lynda Wright & Linda Elliff
Website	Becci Bond & Kelly Goodwin

Please welcome
and support the
Executive
Committee and
Board of
Directors for
2025 – 2026 -
2027

Emily Yaffe is our
new President,
supported by
Shari Amato in
the role of Vice
President.

Kelly Goodwin
will serve both
for the
forthcoming
year, and remain
on several
committees.

2025 Annual General Meeting



Congratulations to those who planned and worked to have our Annual Meeting & Luncheon at the Founders Club on April 16.

The Annual meeting introduces the new slate of Officers and our members vote to approve their leadership positions for the next two years. All were approved and begin their role immediately. **Thank you for your service to Sarasota Garden Club !**

The annual meeting is also an opportunity to acknowledge members' dedication and commitment through their volunteerism to the Club's Mission with awards of recognition. **We thank all of our members for their continued efforts to enhance our Club and join in the fun and learning we promote.**

A lovely lunch was enjoyed by all, followed by a presentation of "Oceans for All" by Elaina Wheaton, Director of Education from Mote Marine Laboratory and a briefing by Pamela Siderski, Mote's Philanthropic Engagement Officer. A description of Mote's marine biomedical research was fascinating and informative and very educational. Opening update and news of the new aquarium was so appreciated and all are looking forward to this amazing addition to our community. **Summer/Fall Opening 2025 if all goes as planned.**



[CLICK HERE TO SEE ALL THE PHOTOS ON FACEBOOK – thank you Carol Lackey](#)



And the Award Goes to

There are 2 types of awards: (1) A series of GOLDEN ROSE AWARDS given by the Sarasota Garden Club and (2) Those applied for and awarded by the FFGC. For more information on FFGC Awards – ffgc.org/Award-Descriptions-&-Rules

Giving awards is a way to celebrate excellence and achievement among garden clubs and individual members.

<p>Sarasota Garden Club Awards</p> <p>GOLDEN ROSE CERTIFICATES,</p>  <p>The Year pin</p>  <p>and a celebratory rose ornament go to each recipient</p>	<p>"Mable Award" for an outstanding job this past year</p> <p>"Above & Beyond the Call of Duty"</p> <p>"Friday Morning Gardening Loyalist"</p> <p>"Secret Garden Angel"</p> <p>"Civic Beautification Advocate"</p> <p>"Keeping Busy with It All"</p> <p>"LEADERSHIP AWARD"</p>	<p>Olivia Haynes Becci Bond Lynn Biega Kay Weber</p> <p>Carol Lackey</p> <p>Carolyn Michielsen</p> <p>Joanie Lerner</p> <p>Pat Bonarek Jim Whalen</p> <p>Kathleen Strobel</p> <p>Gloria Thomas</p>
<p>FFGC Awards</p> <p>FFGC CERTIFICATES and award-specific pins were presented to each recipient</p>  	<p>"Hall of Fame" for making a special contribution to the club</p> <p>"Pillar of Pride" in special recognition of pride, purpose, and productivity in garden club work</p> <p>"Outstanding Service Award" in special recognition of continuously sustained and developed garden club work</p> <p>"Life Membership Honor" for outstanding services</p>	<p>Angela Bennink Ros Stafford</p> <p>Lynda Wright Linda Elliff</p> <p>Sharon Davisson</p> <p>Kelly Goodwin Dianne Beaver</p>

Programs Committee

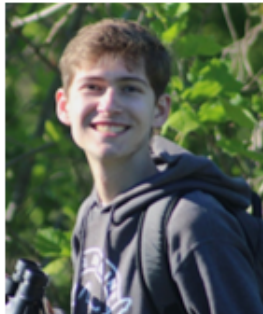
Be sure to come along AG from The Bay will be giving us an update on the gardens

Sarasota Garden Club General Members Monthly Meeting Wednesday May 14 2025



“The Imperiled Shorebirds of Florida”

- Talk by Evan Powers, Audubon Florida



About our SPEAKER:

Evan Powers is the Sarasota Stewardship Coordinator at Audubon Florida, where he works to monitor Sarasota's imperiled shorebird species and educate the public about coastal conservation. Evan's passion for wildlife conservation began with internships at Save Our Seabirds in 2022 and Mote Marine's Sea Turtle Conservation and Research Program in 2023. In 2024, he graduated from the University of Maryland, College Park, with a Bachelor of Science in Ecology and Evolution. With a deep love for birds, ecology, and conservation, Evan is excited to continue his work in protecting and preserving bird species in the Sarasota area.

[National Audubon Society](#)

Please join us for our May Meeting! *(the last until September)*

Join us to learn about Sarasota's imperiled shorebird species: how to identify them, where they are located, and how to protect them! We'll also discuss Audubon Florida's various programs that monitor these shorebird colonies and educate the public about avian conservation. Together, we will explore how you and your community can work to protect these birds and preserve our shared coastal environment.

9:30am start

- **9:30 - 10am** - Refreshments and Social Time
- **10 to 10:30am** – Members' Business Meeting
- **10:30 to 11:15am** – Speaker's Presentation and Q&A

**Thank you to our Hospitality
Committee for refreshments**

Education Committee Update

Terrific turnout at April's Education Event by Sarasota Honey Company.



We enjoyed a really interesting, lively and knowledgeable presentation by Alma Johnson, who has herself had a fair share of problems to overcome. She did so by creating a Victory Garden, and bringing bees in for pollination. She is now happy and feels that the bees helped her, and in turn she helps them.



- Who knew that bees' lives were so varied? I'm not sure any of us will be able to sleep after hearing what happens to the male bees after mating. Needless to say, they don't come out of it very well. The Queen Bee doesn't lead an ideal life either.

There was also a full-on honey-tasting part of the presentation. We all got to taste about 6 different honeys while Alma explained the different tastes and qualities they had

Everybody was keen to buy honey and

bee/honey-related items including soap, lip salves, and hand and body lotion.



Sarasota Honey Company

www.sarasotahoney.com

facebook.com/sarasotahoney

941-726-8755



JOIN THE EDUCATION COMMITTEE

- Over the Summer break the Education (and all) committees will be put the finishing touches to next year's program.
- Education events resume in September with lots of exciting things planned, including 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 6:00 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!

Membership Committee Update

Congratulations to those who planned and worked to have our Annual Meeting & Luncheon at the Founders Club on April 16.



members and guests enjoyed the business meeting, program by speakers from Mote Marine Laboratory and Aquarium, a delicious lunch, and installation of the Officers for the 2025-2027 Administration with Incoming President Emily Yaffe. Current President Kelly Goodwin led the meeting and reported on the year's activities and accomplishments.

Three new members were introduced. We are so happy to welcome these new members to our Club as well as two other new members since our March General Meeting.

1. **Jane Rockwell** - lives in the Indian Beach area during our Garden Club year and goes to her home in New Hampshire in the summer. There she belongs to a Garden Club and works in their beautiful rock garden on the NH shore.
2. **Judy Ware** - we are so glad Judy is here in Sarasota from September through May and spends her summers in Michigan. She has a son who has recently moved to Utah.
3. **Annarita Scott** – has lived in Sarasota for 27 years, is a gardener and an artist.

We also welcomed visitors

- Becci Bond's sister, **Veronica Weatherhead**, was with us again – all the way from England
- Carol Dornbush had guest **Charmaine Downie**
- Christy May's guest was **Karen Eckert**
- Marcie Rickenbacker brought guest **Anne Rasmussen**

Guests are always welcome at our regular General Members Monthly Meetings where a nominal donation of just \$10 is requested from them to support the Sarasota Garden Club's mission of environmental conservation and community beautification.

This is with a maximum of two guest visits, and their \$10 is refunded when they become a Garden Club member.

Some of our members have already left Sarasota for the summer, and we know more will be journeying north or abroad in the near future. We wish everyone safe travels, a wonderful summertime, and will look forward to their return in the Fall.

Sue Angle - Membership Committee Chairman - (941) 350-9784 – SueAngle000@

Botanical Garden Committee



Kay Weber was awarded the **Golden Rose “Mable Award”** at this year’s Annual Meeting – in recognition for an outstanding job this past year (and many before).

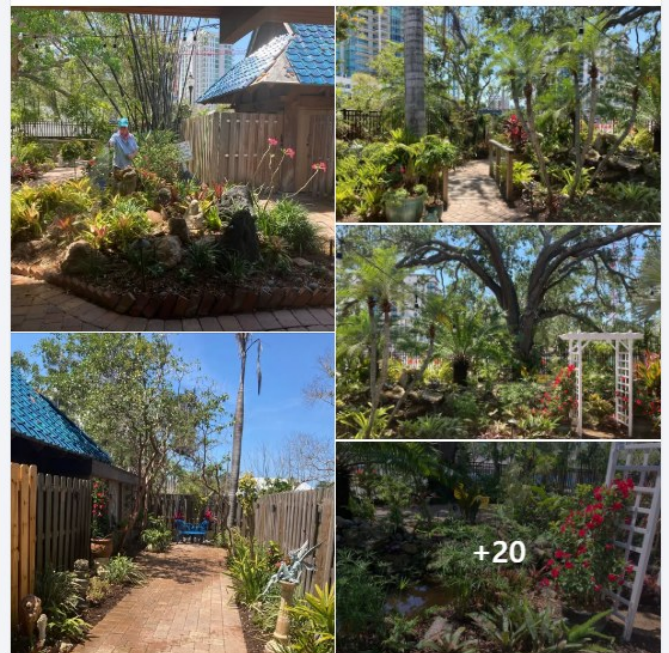
She was also presented with a beautiful bouquet of orchids on behalf of the Friday Garden Volunteer Group – gorgeously created and donated by member Sarah Munford.

After many years of heading up the Botanical Garden Committee, Kay will be handing over the reigns to two members – **Andrea Gibson and Jann Richardson**, both of whom have been very active Friday Garden Volunteers.

Kay will still be at the garden on Fridays, thanks to Carol Fugate for her Ubering, so we will still benefit from her knowledge and experience.



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



[Click here to see photos on Facebook](#)



**Friday April 25th's volunteers (above),
the refurbished waterfall (below)**



Scholarship Awards Ceremony

Monday, May 5 – NOON - @ the club

Sarasota Garden Club will be awarding \$50,000 from the Judith Schneider Foundation scholarships

You are invited to attend the ceremony and it would mean a lot to the applicants to see your support – please come.

Message from the President:

On Monday May 5, at Noon - after the Executive Board Meeting - there will be a Meet, Greet & Award ceremony to each of our lucky scholarship applicants.

We are so proud of SGC and the Judith Schneider Foundation to be able to offer these scholarships.

Please come, one and all, to be a proud Sarasota Garden Clubber and learn about these outstanding young adults and their accomplishments.



Members of the Sarasota Press and Carol Lackey will be there to capture the moment. It is bound to generate some good press coverage.

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
- Other committee members include: Lynn Biega, Kathleen Strobel, and Mary Fran

FFGC EXCITING NEWS!!



The 98th Annual Convention of Florida Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc. was held in Jacksonville April 8-10, 2025

As members of Sarasota Garden Club, we are all members of this 10,840-member state organization, and Dianne Beaver, Deborah Alves and I (Sue Angle) attended the convention.

PLEASE CONSIDER COMING NEXT YEAR WHICH IS IN ORLANDO!

We enjoyed good food and fellowship with garden club members from the 150 federated garden clubs from around the state, and programs on:

Florida Springs - Fun with Flowers - Digging It (Horticulture) - Wildlife Forensics - Landscape Design - Youth Programs - Floral Design - and Speakers from University of North Florida Botanical Gardens and Wekiva Youth Camp.

Vendors at the convention site gave us plenty of shopping possibilities, and we enjoyed a trip to the Jacksonville Zoo and Botanical Gardens.

On the final banquet night, I was honored to install our own District VIII member (Plant City Garden Club) Christy Linke as President of FFGC for 2025-2027 along with 7 Officers and 12 District Directors.

Sarasota Garden Club can be very proud of our own Deborah Alves who created the logo for our new State President which was so special because another member of our SGC created the logo for me when I became State President 12 years ago. Thank you, Deborah AND Congratulations to President Christy Linke!

“Sharing our Knowledge Plants the Seeds of Tomorrow”



FFGC 99th Annual Convention



Embassy Suites by Hilton Orlando
NGC Major Flower Show - “Once Upon a Time”
April 14-17, 2026

Next year’s Annual Convention will be at the Embassy Suites, Lake Buena Vista, FL April 12/14-17, 2026. A State Flower Show will be held in conjunction with the convention.

Put this in your calendar and plan to come!

Sue Angle, Membership Chairman
FFGC President 2013-2015

GO TO Rob Branch Tropical Gardens

Saturday May 10

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!



Rob Branch says:

"Greetings Garden Friends,

The Garden will be open on MOTHER'S DAY
WEEKEND SATURDAY, MAY 10th, from 9AM – 3PM
at 1315 38th Street, Sarasota.

Garden gates will be closed until 9 am - opening time.

- **FAITH** will be selling her rare Palms and other exotic plants,
- **BETSY** will have many Heliconias and other flowering & edible plants,
- **JAMES** is bringing some variegated bananas, and will have different alocasias along with other assorted plants,
- **BRIAN** Ottoson is bringing his cool metal garden art, along with rare nepenthes (pitcher plants) and more,
- **AARON APSLEY Botanical Watercolors** has created beautiful unique items from his watercolor flowers, leaves and plants. Bags, stickers, cards, taxonomy prints – including new designs!
- **IT TAKES YOU THEIR VEGAN TREATS** featuring hand crafted delicious sweet & savory baked goods. Focusing on high quality ingredients with organic flours and sugars. Gluten free options available.
- **& EVE's** botanical inspired ceramics.
- I will have bromeliads – many adapted to full sun, aroids will be plentiful, along with orchids, begonias, crotons, ferns and many other exotic plants and trees that I grow.

Parking is always limited – so please consider coming together with friends instead of driving alone.

BE CAREFUL NOT TO BLOCK DRIVEWAYS when parking your car.

Overflow parking on Myrtle Ave.

Cash, check VENMO or PAYPAL only please.
We are not able to accept credit cards.
REMEMBER - Pay each vendor separately.

Thank you in advance for being conscientious and courteous.
See you there!

Club Member's Garden – VIRGINIA



Dogwood blossoms at Linda Elliff's garden in Virginia

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