

Major Events at the Sarasota Garden Club



1927	First official Sarasota Garden Club (SGC) meeting took place at the home of Mable (Burtling) Ringling at Ringling!
1928	1 year later, SGC reaches 700+ members, and re-organizes into multiple CIRCLES
1929	June 8 – just one year later, Mable Ringling, first President of the SGC, passes away (aged just 54)
1931	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • First FLOWER SHOW held by SGC, on the porch at Ellen Caples' home. The Caples were one of the first 'power people' in Sarasota. • SGC creates LUKE WOOD PARK for Sarasota citizens at 1851 Mound St, Sarasota
1933	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Federated Circles became a member of the Florida Federation of Garden Club (FFGC) • Proceeds from the FLOWER SHOW set aside for a BUILDING FUND • The JUNIOR Garden Club was formed – with 300 children
1937	SGC worked alongside Works Progress Administration to develop BAYFRONT PARK and the MUNICIPAL AUDITORIUM
1938	SGC held a VERY LARGE FLOWER SHOW (after missing 1936 show)
1939	The JAPANESE LANTERN was gifted by Ralph and Ellen Caples – later restored in 2014 – (right)
1941	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • First GARDEN SCHOOL was held • SGC hosted the STATE CONVENTION
1942	FLOWER SHOW: "The Show of the Allies"
1944	New Jersey Council of State Garden Clubs established the BLUE STAR MEMORIAL PROGRAM
1945	National Garden Club incorporated and adopted the Blue Star Memorial Program
1946	SGC had a RADIO SHOW discussing horticulture and gardening tips on Sunday afternoons
1947	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • "Federated Circles of Garden Club of Sarasota" became known as Sarasota Garden Club (SGC) • The Founders Circle donated the Honor Parkway Sign, in honor of the men and women who had heeded the call to arms and were overseas fighting for their country
1949	SGC received the PURPLE RIBBON from the National Council, the highest rated 'General Flower Show' in the State, titled "Vacation in Sarasota with Plant Life"
1950	SGC had 333 members, with 9 Circles
1953	SGC celebrated its SILVER JUBILEE – 25 years old!
1954	SGC moved the LION STATUES, donated by John Ringling, to JD Hamel Park
1955	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • City of Sarasota approved plans by architect John Crowell, for SGC to build on City-owned land between 10th Street and Boulevard of the Arts – our Club House • Reincorporation of SGC
1956	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SGC participated in beautifying the grounds of BROOKSIDE JHS, now the MIDDLE SCHOOL • SGC held the first FASHION SHOW at the Lido Beach Casino, to benefit the building fund
1958	Placement of BLUE STAR MEMORIAL MARKER on US Highway 41 by SGC President, Mrs. HE Jahns
1959	"Garden Therapy Program" conducted at Sarasota Welfare Home
1960	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • UA 41 re-routed through Luke Wood Park • SGC building at 1131 Blvd of the Arts - formally dedicated
1961	Completion of the Japanese Garden House (the current garden shed), donated by Marie Selby
1978	The 'SECRET GARDEN' at Rigling Museum was rediscovered, and refurbished by members of Driftwood Circle of SGC (awarded by the State with the General Telephone Company Grant)
1980	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SGC members protest the placement of the Senior Friendship Center in Luke Wood Park, but construction goes ahead
1982	SGC LOGO adopted, designed by Lois Staat featuring a SULPHUR BUTTERFLY
1984	The SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM was created by Catherine LaBrie
1993	LIBRARY added to the existing building, with donation from the Souders family
1995	Development of THE BUTTERFLY GARDEN by Catherine and Richard LaBrie



1998	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Opening of the new Selby Library. SGC members purchased and planted butterfly plants at the entrance and the opening ceremony included SGC releasing butterflies. \$8,500 grant received from Bernard and Mildred Doyle Charitable Trust for the installation of a sprinkler system in the gardens
1999	The first 'MUSIC IN THE GARDENS' event was held, conceived by Sue Angle, with the Florida West Coast Symphony presenting the Florida Brass Quintet
2001	Received grant to create MEMORIAL BRICK PATH for accessibility in the Butterfly Garden
2002	75 th Anniversary of SGC. Received City of Sarasota Proclamation, signed by Mayor Caroly Mason, in celebrating 75 years with "Sarasota Garden Club Day"
2003	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Awards by FFGC, Deep South, and National Garden Club for refurbishing the MABLE RINGLING SECRET GARDEN Birth of the THERAPY TEA by Camellia Circle
2006	Andrew Papineau became the first male President of SGC
2008	SGC changes from a group of Circles to one club with a system of Committees
2009	BUTTERFLY GARDEN named after Catherine and Richard LaBrie
2012	Property renamed SARASOTA BOTANICAL GARDENS to encourage increased use of the gardens by the public
2013	First "GARDENS IN PARADISE" tour of 5 private home gardens, chaired by Emily Yaffe and Jackie Cutrone – a very successful fundraiser
2014	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Japanese Lantern restored by John Chrzczonowski and Shaun Colson (local sculptor) and rededicated "MUSIC IN THE GARDENS" Hospitality program restarted
2015	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Private donations used to renovate the kitchens SGC participated in the dedication of the HISTORIC MARKER in Luke Wood Park next to the Mable Ringling Fountain
2016	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SGC received plaque and certification as CERTIFIED WILDLIFE HABITAT by the National Wildlife Federation Celebrated Civic beautification 50th year in recognizing the community for landscaping excellence. "Landscaping is good business"
2017	SGC celebrated its 90 th ANNIVERSARY on November 17 2017 – with "The Roar of the Twenties" theme
2018	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> September – the City Commission rubber-stamped a mega-million \$ redevelopment concept of THE BAY PROJECT, which SGC is in Phase II of SGC, with CJ Danna as President, started a campaign to raise funds for our HISTORIC MID-CENTURY buildings and grounds
2019	The Blue Star Marker was placed in Sarasota National Cemetery
2021	SGC ANNUAL FLOWER SHOW: "Garden to Table"
2022	The SGC building was awarded SARASOTA COUNTY HISTORICAL MARKER
2023	SGC ANNUAL FLOWER SHOW: "Ghostly Gala"
2013	SGC Building listed on City of Sarasota's Register of Historic Buildings
2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10th ANNUAL "GARDENS IN PARADISE" garden tour sold out! With 5 gardens in Indian Beach / Sapphire Shores area of Sarasota Record \$50,000 being awarded in Scholarships from the JUDITH WOODBRIDGE SCHNEIDER MEMORIAL LEGACY SCHOLARSHIP
2027	SGC 100th year Anniversary!

