



Happenings

Calendar Events

May 11
8:30am-10:30am
Garden Angels

Letter from the President, Chris O'Grady

Hi Everyone,

This is the last newsletter I will be composing as your president. It has been an honor and a privilege to serve in this capacity. I want to thank everyone who has stood by me and supported me all along the way. Your guidance and loyalty have meant so much to me. I am most proud of two major accomplishments during my presidency. One of those accomplishments is the Club's new roof which was desperately needed. The other, and perhaps even more important accomplishment, is keeping the Club afloat through the dark and uncertain period of coronavirus isolation without going into debt. This required many difficult decisions and belt tightening. My heartfelt gratitude to all of you who generously donated money to the cause, who gave me excellent advice, and who continued to remain faithful members throughout the COVID crisis. I am extremely proud to be a part of such an outstanding organization. I am grateful for the opportunity to have served as your president the past two years.

Election time draws near. Once again, due to COVID precautions, May's annual election will be conducted electronically. Thank you to Barbara Crepeau, our award-winning webmaster, who devised our successful voting system. Members who do not use computers will be able to vote their choices by mail-in, paper ballot or by phone. Thank you to Judy Boehm and Brenda Burmeister for making this possible. Electronic voting will be conducted the week of May 3-7th. Watch for your e-mail ballot on May 3rd and please vote ASAP. Results will be announced soon after voting has been completed.

I will be holding an "in person" Board meeting at the Clubhouse on Wednesday, May 19th, at 10:00am. Coronavirus protocols will be followed. Committee reports will be given, new Board members will be welcomed, and a new president will be elected. Results will be announced to all members as soon as possible. Again, many thanks for allowing me the privilege of serving as your president.

Chris



Treasurer's Report from Bev Chapin

Bank Balances as of March 31, 2021

Operating Account:	\$ 872.50
Rental Account:	\$ 9,616.91
Money Market:	\$ 8,659.80

Sub.Total:	\$19,149.21
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Eaton Funds:	\$ 2,778.36
Memorial Funds:	\$ 1,579.86
Legacy Funds:	\$ 500.00

Website: manateerivergardenclub.com

Location: 3120 First Avenue West, Bradenton, FL 34205-3448

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 14662, Bradenton, FL 34280-4662

Members of: National Garden Clubs, Inc., Deep South Region and Florida Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc., District VIII

Find us on social media by typing the underlined in the search area: Facebook: [Manatee River Garden Club Inc.](https://www.facebook.com/ManateeRiverGardenClubInc/), Twitter: [Manatee Garden Club](https://twitter.com/ManateeGardenClub), and Instagram: [manateerivergardenclub](https://www.instagram.com/manateerivergardenclub).

Membership from Edie Anderson



I hope everyone is enjoying this beautiful spring weather. I just want to remind you again about sending me your 2021-2022 dues by May 15. The check for \$40 should be made out to MRGC. Send to my address at 2411 13th Avenue W, Bradenton, 34205. I have been receiving checks slowly and do appreciate the members that are on the ball getting their dues to me as quickly as possible. Please let us keep them coming.

I have seven name tags that were never picked up last year. I will bring them to the September meeting. Let us hope by the September meeting we will all have our vaccines and will be ready to meet and enjoy our club again. Looking forward to seeing you all again.



May

Betsy Parker	5/7
Janice Hamlin	5/9
Candie Clerkin	5/13
Caryl Ponder	5/16
Judy Zampello	5/19
Beverly Chapin	5/24
Patricia Danahy	5/26
Judy Boehm	5/30

FFGC Design Calendars by Pat Danahy

The final issue of the FFGC Floral Design Calendars are available for sale. Currently, 2021 is the last year planned to print these works of art. There is a new project in the works, but not a calendar and not printed - still learning about it.

I am the FFGC Calendar Distribution Chairperson and have a supply just waiting to find a home! Cost is \$8.52 which includes tax. If shipping is needed, each calendar costs \$2.89, OR if convenient, we could meet someplace and save the shipping.

Cash or check made to FFGC are acceptable. Order forms are on the FFGC website or just jot a note, include a check and mail to me, Pat Danahy, 7005 River Hammock Drive, Unit 103, Bradenton, FL 34212.

This newsletter will be the last one in which I will beg. Truly a collectors' item and a wonderful reference for designers.



WE ALL WANT TO LEAVE A LEGACY; LET MRGC BE PART OF YOURS.

For information, contact Betsy Lieberman, chair of the Legacy Fund Committee, or look on our website under SUPPORT

Nancy Benny, an elder in MRGC, plants a croton as a way of connecting today to tomorrow.

MRGC Grounds by Cathy Willard

Garden Angels was another success. I think a little more time was spent socializing than usual, due to the surprise arrival of KC Jeronimo, finally back from nine months in the Dominican Republic!! She is browner and sporting a new attractive hair style!! Also, Paula Wolfe arrived from the cold north to our nice warm climate. Good to have them back and working in the gardens along with Betsy Lieberman, Olivia Cox, Juanita Jensen, Jane Ellis and Rita Mixer. We all seem to work here, there and yonder on our Club gardens, except Olivia who kept up with the 32nd Street and big bromeliad gardens. Also, Jane kept pulling away at the fern and vines in the Hammock area. Juanita tended to her Meditation garden, too. Weeds were the main problem to deal with this month, even though KC did find some plants to trim back, and I cut some low limbs of the oak out front. Paula and Betsy pulled the newly sprouting heliconia from the new sod, then Paula moved to the Hammock and Meditation gardens where Rita had joined the gals. Betsy put together the new dehumidifier she bought for the back storage room. By noon most of the gals had left, so I decided to then move all the leftover dirt due to renovating the gazebo area from the parking lot to the back of the building, 15 wheel barrels full. It was a good work-out I can tell ya!!! Jane continued to work in the Hammock area! We were both more than ready to leave about 2:00. Another beautiful day in our gardens!!! Thank you all for your work. The Club wouldn't look so good without you!!!



KC Jeronimo telling more D.R. stories!!



Rita Mixer and Paula Wolfe weeding Hammock area

Garden Angels by Cathy Willard

Garden Angels will meet the second Tuesday of every month. I'll be there by 8:30am till at least noon, but you can arrive and leave at whatever times are convenient for you. Work at your own pace; even if you work an hour, that will be greatly appreciated. There are such a variety of jobs, I'm sure there is something for everyone! Bring your own garden gloves, tools and a drink. The fresh air and a little work will do wonders for you!! See ya May 11th!!





Grants And Scholarships from Betsy Lieberman

The Grants and Scholarship Committee visited six of the Eaton Grant recipients and presented each with their Eaton markers. The report of the Myakka Elementary School visit will be in our next newsletter; all others are described below.

The UF/IFAS Extension rose garden is beautiful. The fragrance of the roses was amazing! If you want to have a rose garden or need help with the one you have, plan a visit.



The Manatee County Agricultural Museum Sensory garden is thoughtfully planned and lovely. The area will be marked with sensory signs (they are patiently waiting for them), and the plants are growing well - some rough, some fragrant, some soft etc. The group toured the Agriculture Museum, which is very interesting and shows a great history of Manatee County's agricultural industry.



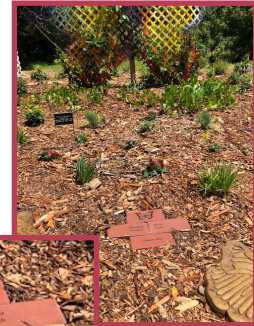
The growth and blooms in the Manatee Square Community Gardens were quite impressive. Baby veggies and all sizes of red tomatoes were everywhere. Several "gardeners" were working and thanked us for the grant help with the new beds and planting supplies.



Visiting the butterfly garden at the Florida Maritime Museum was delightful. It borders the beautiful mosaic "water flow" on the north side of the building (a must see). The tour of the schoolhouse that houses the museum and the history of the fishing industry were fascinating.



Butterfly attendance at the Palma Sola Botanical Park was A-plus! From butterfly stepping stones, a lattice butterfly trellis and the many blooming plants, we sat and enjoyed the view on the new benches. Also placed in the garden is a brick engraved Thank You to MRGC, donated by one of their volunteers. MRGC member Julie McClure, we found out, was very helpful with setting up the garden! (Thanks, Julie!)



The north (back) entrance-way of the Manatee River Garden Club is re-invented. The space is so much more usable with the new sod, tree trimming, improved walkway, and the extended paver walkway, which now connects from the back door to the kitchen sidewalk. Stop by and check it out.



Cathy Willard and Betsy Lieberman placing Eaton Fund marker



Cathy Willard, Betsy Lieberman, Jane Ellis, Olivia Cox, Paula Wolfe & Rita

All of our recipients did wonderful and economical improvements to their areas. Please go by and visit all. Reservations are required at this time due to "social distancing" but easily made by calling each facility. The Committee members were delighted to view these treasures of Manatee County.

If you have any project questions, contact Betsy Lieberman, 941-713-4367.

E-Ballot Voting for Board Elections by Barbara Crepeau

Members **that receive Club information by email** will receive an electronic ballot on Monday, May 3rd. The deadline for you to submit your ballot is at the end of the day on Friday, May 7th. You will receive the email from me, bcrepea@gmail.com, and it will contain a (URL) link that will say: "[access electronic ballot](#)". You will click on that link to open up the ballot. Once on the ballot form, enter your email address (**please check that you entered it correctly**), then use your computer's mouse and click on the box next to each candidate you wish to vote for, and a "checkmark" will appear in that box. If you do not wish to vote for a particular candidate leave that box unchecked. If you want to undo a box you've checked, just click on that box again and the "checkmark" will disappear. Once you have completed your ballot, click the purple "submit" button at the very bottom of the form. You will receive a message that reads, "THANK YOU FOR VOTING. YOUR VOTE HAS BEEN RECEIVED". You will also receive a copy of the ballot you submitted via the email address you provided on the form.

A partially or totally unchecked ballot still counts as a vote. We need to receive and count all votes, so it is very important that you submit your ballot. Your vote will be automatically updated into a spreadsheet after your submission. The tabulated results will be forwarded to our President, Chris O'Grady, and the voting results will be announced by Chris through an email blast.






2021 VOTING BALLOT FOR BOARD ELECTIONS

* Required

Email address *

Your email

HRGC has 6 open positions to fill on the board. The following 5 members are running for election or re-election. FOLLOW THESE INSTRUCTIONS: Using your mouse, click on the box next to a candidate's name to vote FOR that person, and a checkmark will appear in that box. Leave the box unchecked if you're not voting for that candidate. If you've checked a box and want to uncheck it, click on that box again. If you want to nominate a member type their name on the line provided. Be sure to click the purple "submit" button at the very bottom of the ballot. ALL members need to vote!

	
<input type="checkbox"/> Julie Ackles	<input type="checkbox"/> Edie Anderson-RE-ELECTION
	
<input type="checkbox"/> Melissa Brosnan	<input type="checkbox"/> Janice Hamlin
	
<input type="checkbox"/> Betsy Lieberman-RE-ELECTION	

A copy of your response will be emailed to the address you provided.

Submit

reCAPTCHA
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Google Forms

Community Outreach from Pat Danahy

Almost the end of our year like no other, and we hope to never see another like it. I like to believe we have all learned that we NEED to have people around us, to laugh with, cry with, hug and share the small events. That is what Community Outreach is.

After so many years of MRGC sharing fun with seniors as part of our Community Outreach, it was not possible this year. Personally, I miss the seniors. The smiles on their faces after making their own floral design or painted rock or planted seed growing was worth every second spent planning the project and doing the project.

So instead, small floral designs were given to multiple essential workers who were out there dealing with the public when we were all safely quarantined at home. And I have to say, the smiles on the faces, the looks of gratitude for being acknowledged, were every bit as satisfying as the smiles on our seniors. And Rita Mixer knows what I mean; she also shared some designs with the West County Fire Department.

As many of you know, I work part-time at Ace/Crowders on Lakewood Ranch Blvd. That store was open every day when so many businesses were closed. The employees at the store remained as helpful and cheerful as always regardless of the danger with being exposed to so many people. For that reason, this month I gave a design to that store. The manager who accepted it could not believe that anyone would take the time to put together a floral design as a thank you. And everyone at that store is familiar with MRGC because they sell tickets to our garden tour annually.



Adam Johnson at Ace Hardware

Because our year is winding down, a design also went to the Walgreens on the corner of Route 64 and Upper Manatee River Road. They too were open every day providing necessary, often lifesaving drugs, to their customers.

FYI, not a single penny of club funds were spent sharing this joy. We all know how difficult this year has been financially but know that next year will be better!

Chris, I want to thank you for supporting this idea. (I probably would have gone ahead and done it even if you were not in agreement.)



Floral at Walgreens

Sunshine from Judy Zampello



Have you heard about a member who has had a recent illness, hospitalization or loss of a family member? Maybe this person could use a dose of sunshine. Contact Judy Zampello at 792-3333 or judyzampello@hotmail.com to have a card sent.

Volunteer Hours

From Paula Wolfe



Please report your hours worked on club projects at home, time with Garden Angels, and any volunteer hours at MRGC events. Contact Paula Wolfe at silverlady3@gmail.com in order to record your hours. You don't have to specify how the hours were spent - just write the total hours. This is a "Must-Do" for our 501(c)(3) status. Thank you.

How Does Your Garden Grow?

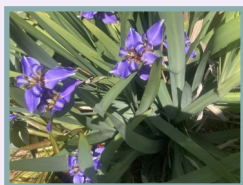
Have you ever made a serious mistake in your garden? Perhaps something less than serious, but you still had to rectify it? I have attempted to move some larger shrubs and despite all the work, I failed. Dead. I have one spot in the garden that is on its 4th plant. Tell us about your garden mistake.



Caryl Ponder:

My biggest mistake in my garden was planting bamboo. It's 60 feet tall, bends ferociously in a storm so that it looks like it will crack off and send sharp spears thru the air. It makes a terrible mess when it sheds leaves and boots. It's the non-invasive clumping type, but the clump has grown wider than any tree so it will be very expensive to cut down. Never plant bamboo on a residential lot!

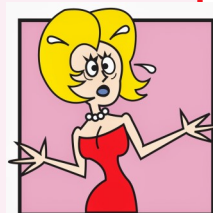
Blooming in my yard right now - lovely phalaenopsis orchid and Blue Flag iris.



Barbara Crepeau:

"Barbara's Blunder"

At the garden center I saw Star Jasmine vine plants with lovely variegated leaves and thought how spectacular they would be as a ground cover in my yard. I handed over my credit card and came home with 10 very healthy plants that I couldn't wait to get in the ground. Two days after planting they had all disappeared without a trace. I soon discovered that my bed of Jasmine was a vegetable garden for the adorable (ahem!) little bunnies that we have around our neighborhood. My muff for not researching the plant ahead of the purchase!

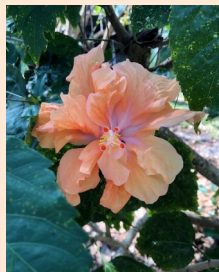


Chris O'Grady:

"Sweet Pea Saga"

I planted sweet pea seeds inside a willow, pyramid-shaped trellis. I have fond memories of fragrant sweet peas in my mom's garden. The seeds came up as planned, but something ate a lot of the tender and tasty leaves from the delicate stems. Something dug a huge hole in my garden near my new seedlings. I thought it was an armadillo. The pest control tech thought it was a large turtle. Could one of these creatures have been the culprit? I am not sure what ate my sweet peas. I put out moth balls hoping to deter squirrels and other creatures. I filled plastic containers with beer to trap slugs and snails. I also spread red pepper flakes around the pyramid's perimeter along with a large bottle of hot, red pepper sauce. Unfortunately, some of the sauce splashed onto remaining sweet pea leaves and killed them. My beer traps caught nothing. I have very few sweet peas left to climb the trellis. It is too hot now to plant additional seeds. As a fix, I have purchased 3 red mandevillas to climb my trellis. Wish me luck!

Betsy Lieberman shared some beauties from her yard.

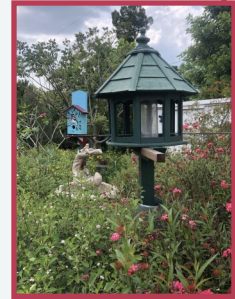


Mother's Day

Marsha Wikle:

"A Lifestyle Choice...or a Mistake?"

I had spent 5 years trying to find the perfect place to retire, based on my personal criteria. I finally decided there was no perfect place, so bought a home in Bradenton where I could bike from my driveway and paddle in every direction. I looked at villas in developments with lots of rules and minimal yards, but I have too many toys and at the time, a 50-lb dog. The previous owners had removed a live oak, laid sod, and were irrigating with city water. After about a year, I dug up a 100-foot long patch of St Augustine grass to plant some wax myrtle – I was a retired forester missing the woods. At that point I had to decide if I was going to be a gardener or stop there. Was I going to spend all my spare time re-arranging the sand, or playing with my friends? My decision was to garden! I created planting beds, walkways, bird feeding stations, and eventually installed fountains. I love the result, but was it a mistake to run some formerly useful parts of my body into the ground? For a year during COVID, I have never lacked for another project or something necessary to do with my spare time. My dogs have all the playground they want, and fortunately I've not had a serious digger. I miss my thumbs, both of which wore out removing all that grass. I like to think that, from the air, my property is a refuge for birds. Some of the other wildlife, i.e. the rats, I could do without. I guess you'll just have to see it and lend your opinion whether it was a mistake or not. Meanwhile, I'll be the one with my hand in a cast for the next 10 weeks...



Clubhouse News From Barb Crepeau

Recognize this Symbol?



I'm certain that you have seen images similar to the black square above at various places of business and have probably wondered what it is. You're not alone! It is a Quick Response (QR) two-dimensional bar code readable image that contains information directed to a specific location. The code can be read by an imaging device such as a smartphone camera. More often I've seen them on restaurant tables and when scanned with your mobile device, a menu document is retrieved. They are popping up just about everywhere.

I am telling you this because...

The club has replaced the property sign on our front lawn. The new sign has a smaller sign beneath with the words "Rental Info:" and a 3" x 3" QR vinyl sticker after that with our website address beneath. When the QR vinyl sticker is scanned it is directed to our website. QR codes are a tech-driven marketing tool used to drive quick access to a predetermined destination. Our motive is to increase traffic to our website with an ultimate increase in rentals.

Thanks to Mary Patterson and Bev Chapin for their foreknowledge of this technology and for contacting me to get the QR code designed and sent to the sign maker.



MRGC Business Cards

If you have use for MRGC business cards you can access a business card formatted document from the MEMBERS page on our website <https://www.manateerivergardenclub.com/members> at any time. The cards are in color but you can print them in black and white by selecting that option on your printer. The cards have our new QR Code (as described in a corresponding article) that when scanned by an imaging device will go directly to our website's HOME page. **Reminder:** to access the MEMBERS page the password is Mrgc1929.

This is what the button looks like on our MEMBERS page.

YOU PRINT - MRGC BUSINESS CARDS >

[Go here](#) and you can access the document now.

“Stem Benders”—Floral Design Study Group from Janice Hamlin

No Flowers? – No Problem!

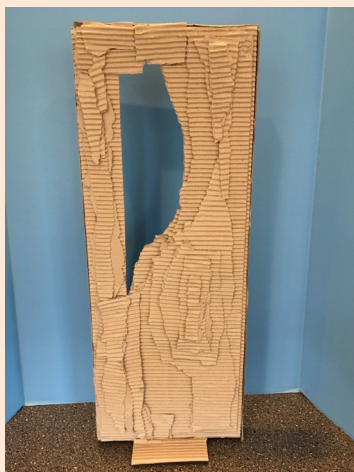
When I have lots of beautiful flowers and tons of interesting plant materials with which to work, it seems like designing a pleasing flower arrangement is easy. After all, don't we all love to look at pretty flowers and unusual green plants or interesting dried materials?

However, in the real world, sometimes we have to get creative with our floral design materials and come up with substitutes for flowers. Floral designers look for everything and anything which might have potential to become part of a flower arrangement. I think we become our most creative when we have to make 20 arrangements for an event and have almost no money! This happened to me a few years ago when the District 8 Judges Council was asked to make table arrangements for a Convention. Parke Finold and I had attended a workshop where the presenter had used corrugated cardboard as the “containers” for table designs. The cardboard was cut into strips which were then glued together into interesting shapes with small tubes inserted to hold a few cut flowers. The result was very interesting, clever, and different.

Since then, cardboard has been used a lot in floral designs. I have seen many examples of its use on Pinterest and recently presented a short program for a local design group about using corrugated cardboard to make panels, “containers”, and interesting forms for designs.

If you would like to try some of these ideas, you will need single sided corrugated cardboard which comes on a roll and can be found at office supply stores or from Amazon. You will also need lots of hot glue for gluing you pieces of cardboard together. I am including a few pictures of designs made using this material and hope it will inspire you to try using something different in our designs.

The table design shown to the right was made using strips of corrugated cardboard glued together in layers and shaped into the form. Orchids and fern are used to complete the design. This was used as table designs for a National Garden Clubs Board of Directors meeting hosted by FFGC.



In this photo, the cardboard has been “torn” before being attached to a wood frame.



Forms and panels made from corrugated cardboard



Dried seed heads from agapanthus and manipulated pandanus foliage are added to complete the design.

Upcoming Activities for May Right Here in our Own Backyard

from Judy Boehm



UF/IFAS Sarasota County Extension Service

Register at ufsarasotaext.eventbrite.com

No fees; all classes online

Native Plants to Attract Birds

Tuesday, May 4 from 2:00 – 4:00pm

Edible Gardening Series Webinars

Monday, May 3: *Trellises*

Monday, May 10: *Companion and Trap Plants*

12 – 12:30pm

Invasive Species Series

Part II: Invasive Plants Near You

Thursday, May 13 from 10:00am – 12:00pm

Rain Barrell Workshop

Saturday, May 15 from 10:00 – 11:00am

Florida-Friendly Landscaping 101

Monday, May 17 at 2:00pm

UF/IFAS Manatee County Extension Service

Design Your Landscape to Your Site Conditions

Thursday, May 27 from 10:00am – 12:00pm

Information: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/design-your-landscape-to-your-site-conditions-tickets-80347251793?aff=ebdsoporgprofile>

Ringling Museum

Bayfront Gardens Tour

Available Saturdays, Sundays, and Mondays through May 31

Price: \$15/\$10 members; tickets available 30 days prior to each tour

Book online at <https://www.ringling.org/events/bayfront-gardens-tour-4>

Masks are required, as well as social distancing. This walking tour led by volunteer guides will introduce you to interesting botanical specimens on the estate while providing a historic overview of the development of the estate. The Ringling Arboretum has been accredited at Level II through ArbNet and there are over 2350 trees within the arboretum representing native, exotic historical, and culturally significant trees.

Manatee County Library

Instagram for Personal and Business

May 7 from 2:00 – 3:00pm

Email Stephanie.Katz@mymanatee.org to register.

Excel Basics

May 11 from 1:00 – 2:00pm

Email Stephanie.Katz@mymanatee.org to register.

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