



Happenings

Calendar Events



March 9
8:30am-10:30am
Garden Angels

Letter from the President, Chris O'Grady

Hi Everyone,

As you may have heard, I have a small fracture in my right arm near my shoulder and a slight tear in my rotator cuff. My condition isn't as bad as it sounds. I am actually doing very well. Fortunately, I will not require surgery. I will be starting physical therapy in March. The bad news is, my days of sky diving and bungee jumping are over. I want to assure you my condition will in no way compromise my duties as your President. As always, feel free to contact me with any concerns, suggestions or questions you may have. I hope all of you are doing well and remaining healthy.

If you have visited the Club lately, I am sure you noticed how wonderful our grounds are looking. We have new sod in the back and pavers leading to the gazebo. A big thank you to Betsy Lieberman who has been overseeing this project. These improvements are thanks to annual monies provided by the Eaton Fund. The money is specifically designated for beautification purposes only. No monthly Club expenses can be paid from this fund. A big thank you to Crowder Brothers for recently donating and delivering mulch to us. A special thank you to the wonderful ladies who spread all 50 bags in a short amount of time: Cathy Willard, Rita Mixer, Mary Patterson and Caryl Ponder. We still need a lot more mulch. If you know of any business that might donate mulch to us, that would be great. Please, please, please show up on March 9th to help with Garden Angels if you are able. We have been having good turn outs. Thank you so much to everyone who has joined in. It is fun to get out in the fresh air and reconnect with other MRGC members. Show your MRGC pride by working to make our grounds a real show place. Remember, impeccable grounds are necessary to entice rentals.

Florida Federation of Garden Clubs has set the annual convention date for April 11-13 in Daytona Beach. Most attendees will arrive on the 10th and depart on the 14th. The registration deadline is March 17th.

I look forward to seeing you in the MRGC gardens on March 9th.

Chris



Florida Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc. 94th Convention



Please Join Us
on
April 11-13, 2021

at the
Hilton Oceanfront Resort
100 North Atlantic Avenue
Daytona Beach

SPEAKERS
WORKSHOPS
ENTERTAINMENT
MEET & GREET
OPPORTUNITY DRAWING
VENDORS
RAFFLE BASKETS
SILENT AUCTION
50/25/25



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



Hi Ladies! Hope you are all well and finding things to keep you busy. I quite honestly have not had so much down time. My husband has been retired one year now and I thought we would be going on little trips. Out to breakfast and lunch occasionally. Wrong! I did start a new hobby of making greeting cards. I am old fashioned and still like to send cards to family and friends. It has been a lot of fun and I feel very creative. I am going to wait another month to get out in my garden and give it an update. I have lots of empty pots to fill and place around. Our 14-year-old rescue dog Buddy keeps us going. He loves to walk down by the river. Enough about me. Maybe some of you would like to share what you have been up to. Take care, my friends.



In Memoriam

MRGC member Patsy Bradbury passed away in January from complications of Alzheimer's disease. Her son, Daron Bradbury, let us know that they had a small family funeral in Kentucky, where she was from originally. Patsy brought so much sunshine to our club. She was an enthusiastic participant even when she was not feeling up to par. We certainly will miss her presence. If anyone would like to contact her son, Daron, his contact information is phone 303-960-2426 and email daronbradury@comcast.net.



Lynn Bondanza, new rental agent for MRGC

Just a quick note to let everyone know that MRGC has a new rental agent, Lynn Bondanza. Lynn has previously been a small business owner and worked in real estate. She has served as the rental agent at the Bradenton Women's Club for the past two years. She is a self-starter with a bubbly personality and lots of enthusiasm. Lynn is ready to book! As you may already know, the club relies on rentals for most of its income. Due to COVID the rentals have all but disappeared, but as vaccines are on the horizon, if not yet in arms, we are expecting and ready to resume renting the club as a venue. If you know of anyone planning a wedding, anniversary or other event, please refer them to Lynn Bondanza, Lynnbondanza67@gmail.com, (941) 704-2388. Also do not forget that as a member you are entitled to a discount for your own events. (For more information on member discounts please contact Barbara Beury.)

Barb Beury, Finance Director

Treasurer's Report from Bev Chapin

Bank Balances as of January 31, 2021	Monthly Activity
Operating Account: \$ 770.52 (written checks \$276; utilities \$549; deposit \$300)	
Rental Account: \$ 1,903.06 (written checks \$4,789; 2 rental returns due to Covid*)	
Money Market: <u>\$10,871.22</u>	
Total available funds: \$13,544.80	
Eaton Funds: \$ 2,778.36	
Memorial Funds: \$ 1,579.83	
Legacy Funds: \$ 500.00	

Monthly Activity Rental
 *There were 2 events from last year that requested their rental payment be returned: \$2002 and \$1952. Good news is that there are no more rental events to be returned. There are 2 events scheduled later this year; they have not paid for their event to date.

If you would like any further explanations, please email me with your questions.
bevtreasurer@gmail.com .



Going, going, gone! Unclaimed mirrors will be donated to Christ Church Thrift Shop in two weeks! Call me if you want to pick yours up.

Mary Patterson at 941-224-501



March

Dolores Ferreira	3/9
Gerri Klemm	3/12
Maryann Allen	3/16
Laurie Culp	3/18
Cathy Lamb	3/18
Ginny Clark	3/24
Mary Roby	3/25
Tonie Gruver	3/28

MRGC Grounds by Cathy Willard

I can't believe I'm saying this, but I'm actually quite excited about being the new Grounds Director. I guess ignorance is bliss LOL!

I first want to thank Linda Lestock for all the hard work she has put into the Club's grounds for the past 6+ years. She has opened up the landscape and improved the look of the Club 100%. There is still more major work to be done; it just takes time, money and muscle!! Of course, weeding is never ending and debris to be picked up, then pruning, mulching, raking and all those activities to keep the gardens looking nice. Which is where you, the Garden Angels come in - I cannot do all that alone and need your help to maintain the gardens.

Ten of us enjoyed a few hours in the gardens on Feb 9th. I want to thank Linda and Mel Lestock, Marsha Wikle, Jane Ellis, Betsy Lieberman, Olivia Cox, Mary Patterson, Caryl Ponder and Rita Mixer for helping to beautify the gardens. Also, Sandy Riley who brought treats and flowers in lieu of working.

January 30, 2021, I started working on, what I'm calling, the POTHOS PROJECT. The Pothos is taking over all the plants/trees in the back along the Park/Club property line and needs to be pulled up and out. I also want to complete the removal of all the fern in the Hammock area, east garden adjacent to the Park. Of course, there is always lighter work to be done. Come join in the fun of beautifying your Club's gardens each Garden Angels Day!!

Garden Angels

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 March 9th!!



February 2nd - Mulch Day!!

Caryl Ponder, Cathy Willard, Rita Mixer, not shown is Mary Patterson.

Rita somehow persuaded Crowder's to donate and deliver 50 bags of cypress mulch!!

Only took 1 1/2 hours to open, dump and spread the mulch with us four working.

Community Outreach from Pat Danahy

Being Community Outreach Director has not been as busy as I wanted to be this month. I was smack dab in the middle of a 2-week remodel of my condo. BUT now I have a beautiful floor on which to walk and make arrangements to provide to our essential workers in Manatee County. My personal goal is two arrangements/month and help from other members would add to the happiness spread around.

Community Outreach was working monthly with Adult Day Care for many, many years, but as we all know, any activity like that came to a screeching halt with COVID in our lives. This year, providing simple small flower arrangements to organizations of essential workers has been the project.

In February, I dropped off a design to the Bradenton Police Department on 10th Street in Bradenton. No one can just walk into a police station anymore, so it took a phone call in the entrance way to gain access. A polite officer named John Gallagher greeted me and was thrilled to get the flowers. All our essential workers seem to be always amazed the Manatee River Garden Club would take the time to thank them personally with flowers. It lifts their spirits and just reminds them how much we all appreciate the work done.

For just a few dollars, two bunches of flowers from Publix arranged in a simple plastic container brings so much joy and happiness to so many. Please think about doing this. If you need a container or oasis, I will gladly provide. The more members who do this can spread happiness and joy to more in our community that deserve thanking.

Everyone likes to be thanked for their service and appreciated. If you think for less than a minute, an organization or business that has continued to function during this trying time will come to mind. Reach out and thank them! Take a picture, send to me with a brief description, and I will be sure it is in the next newsletter. Thank you.



Officer John Gallagher

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.



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

Challenge Design Results – Part 2

I have two more wonderful Challenge designs to share with you this month. The designers are MRGC President Chris O’Grady and NGC Accredited Judge Rita Mixer. Do you remember what the ladies were given?

- Three wooden tray containers
- Two blocks of black Oasis floral foam
- One roll of “bark” ribbon
- One roll of light blue bind wire
- Six wood Callas

The rules of the challenge were:

- Use at least one of the wood containers in the design.
- Use at least two of the other supplied components.
- Supply your plant material.

Rita got very creative with her design materials. As you can see, she painted her container and wood callas. I was intrigued by the orange spirals at the base of the design. Rita peeled an orange and kept the peel in one piece which she then wrapped with the blue bind wire. Way to go Rita – you used all the components in your grab bag!



Rita’s design



Chris’s design

MRGC President Chris O’Grady features some of her beautiful orchids in her design. She made a structure from the wood callas and blue bind wire which makes a strong framework for the design.

Thank you to all our Challenge Designers: Pat Danahy, Crystal Herold, Rita Mixer, and Chris O’Grady. We have enjoyed your creative talents and are so happy you shared with us.



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.

Problem Solving in the Garden from Marsha Wikle

In these days when problems are so big in the world that we cannot wrap our arms around them, it helps to narrow the world down to my garden and deal with problems I CAN wrap my arms around. My least favorite problems – RATS. There I have said it! I have been building my garden for five years, and we have been feeding birds about that same amount of time, but it was only about two years ago that we saw the first rats. I so desperately wanted to believe I was seeing a tail-less squirrel (which I did see this morning on our walk) or a rabbit. I first saw a pair of rats running from beneath one of the bird feeders to a thick patch of sword fern under the bathroom window. Easily solved – I ripped out the sword fern the next day. Then I saw them running from the pagoda feeder to that dark space under the shed. Also easily solved - I have stapled hardware cloth around the base of the shed. Then I saw them running around the yard on top of the fence! WHAT NOW?? It was somewhat comforting and a little funny when I heard the neighbor squealing about them running out from under HIS shed! The obvious solution would be to stop feeding the birds, removing the irresistible food source. But we absolutely love watching the birds from our dining room window, and each year we seem to see something unusual. Two weeks ago we had both a black-throated warbler and a yellow-rumped warbler. Last year it was a small flock of rose-breasted grosbeaks. The more difficult solution is to convince my partner to put less food in the feeders and hence reduce the amount that ends up on the ground. We are still working to solve that problem.



Other solutions have come about more gradually. The pathways in the garden were once St Augustine grass, but since I refuse to water grass and the height of the garden is blocking much of the sunlight, most of the grass has died. This leaves sand and I am so tired of washing my shoes a dozen times a day before coming in the house. My latest solution is to cast all the garden debris onto the walkways and mow it with my mulching mower, creating (eventually) a mulch walkway. This may take years, mind you, but I am not going anywhere.

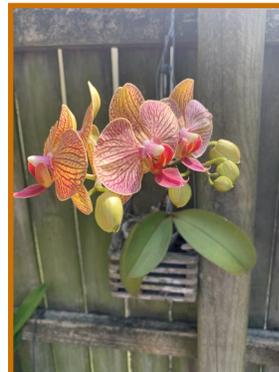
So I am happy to have a small enough universe that I can solve the problems and, if my solutions fail, I am happy enough with the iterative process of trying a different solution. As a follow-up note to my stories about raising monarchs, I have doubled down on bleaching all cuttings used to feed the caterpillars. I have successfully released 41 healthy butterflies since the first of the year. Problem solved.

How Does Your Garden Grow?

Is there something happening in your garden that you can't wait to tell someone? Tell ALL in this new column in *Happenings*.

Hi Ladies! Walking around my garden puts a smile on my face when I find plants in bloom. There is beauty out there!

Eddie Anderson





Grants And Scholarships from Betsy Lieberman

Elizabeth M Eaton Grant Projects Follow-up

The Grants and Scholarship Committee hopes you enjoy the following updates and photos related to the Eaton grants from 2020. The good news is all projects are either complete or very near to it! We hope to visit in March to award the Eaton Award Markers.

1. The UF/IFAS Extension Rose Garden education expansion is complete and open for viewing and learning. Whether you are experienced in growing roses or a beginner, you will learn something from the garden and master gardeners. Hours are Monday-Friday 8am-5pm.



2. Myakka City Elementary School has been able to restart their Garden Club and begin growing vegetables again. Their storage and transporting of garden supplies has been solved by their grant. The wagon will also help them with the harvest of the crops. Visiting is by appointment only to view their garden, and it is very limited.



3. Manatee Square Community Gardens is on a roll with their crops, thanks to their new beds and garden supplies. As one crop finishes, a replant of something new begins. Supervised by Master Gardeners, residents learn all aspects of garden care and enjoy the "fruits" of their labor. They reported the recent strawberries were delicious. Visiting is by appointment only, distancing and masks enforced.



Okra



4. Palma Sola Botanical Park Butterfly garden is complete, and blooming has begun. They have even had a turtle from the nearby lake enjoy the area and make her nest – they are keeping an eye out for babies. Hours are 8:30am-5:30pm, seven days a week.



5. The Florida Maritime Museum Butterfly garden, as reported last month, is complete and is being enjoyed by visitors making appointments, Tuesday-Saturday 9-10:30am and 1:30-3pm; no more than 10 people to a group (masks are required). The entire museum has been expanded and redesigned – a very interesting place to visit.



Fountain in Maritime Museum's mosaic pool butterfly garden

6. Manatee County Agricultural Museum Sensory garden in Palmetto is open. It is behind the Carnegie Library (515 10th Avenue) and makes a nice picnic spot for lunch or dinner. Plants are in place, but the identification markers have not yet arrived. It is handicapped accessible and lovely, as you see in the pictures.



7. Manatee River Garden Club's north entry (from Lewis Park) is in the final improvement stages. It looks beautiful following clean out, tree trimming, fill dirt, fertilizer, grass, pavers, power wash and completion of the red paver path (expected February 23). A change from pavers and stone to grass will make maintenance **much** easier and the area will be even more useful for weddings and other events. (The grass may be a bit tall for a few weeks, but it has to take hold.) Thank you to Cindy Keene for her donation of 16x16" pavers and Sunny Day Design & Landscape for their extremely reasonable fee for this project. Check it out next time you are near the club.



Fireman Todd Depatie working on the pavers



It was a challenging year for all to get their projects to completion, but they got them done! Congratulations to all and enjoy as you visit in the future. If there is a particular project you would like to visit with the Committee as we make our "rounds", please contact Betsy Lieberman (941-713-4367).

Upcoming Activities for March Right Here in our Own Backyard from Judy Boehm



UF/IFAS Sarasota County Extension Service

Register at <https://www.eventbrite.com/o/ufifas-extension-sarasota-county-422952084>
No fees

Basics of Vegetable Gardening
Tuesday, March 2 at 2pm

It's a Buggy World: Identifying Insects in the Landscape Webinar
Thursday, March 4 from 12-1:30pm

Pruning Solutions Webinar
Wednesday, March 3 at 10am – 12pm

Edible Gardening Series Webinars
Monday, March 1: *Growing in Pots and Other Containers*
Monday, March 8: *Insect of the Week: Aphids*
Monday, March 15: *Herbs for Florida*
Monday, March 22: *Insect of the Week: Caterpillars*
Monday, March 29: *Hot Season Veggies*
12 – 12:30pm

Florida-Friendly Landscaping
Tuesday, March 16 from 9:30 – 11:30am
Citrus Pests and Diseases in the Home Garden
Thursday, March 18 from 6:00 – 7:00pm
Perfect Flowers for Cutting
Monday, March 22 from 1:00 – 2:15pm
Edible Landscapes
Saturday, March 27 from 10am – 12pm
Butterfly Gardening
Tuesday, March 30 from 10:00 – 11:00am

UF/IFAS Manatee County Extension Service

2021 Master Gardener Spring Plant Sale
Saturday, March 20 from 8am-4pm
Location: 1303 17th Street W, Palmetto
Sign up through Eventbrite for a one-hour time slot:
<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/2021-master-gardener-volunteer-spring-plant-sale-saturday-march-20-tickets-111851605162>

Masks and social distancing required
No charge

A variety of plants, including native plants, orchids, herbs, vegetables, shrubs, and much more grown by Manatee County Master Gardner volunteers will be available for sale.

Ground Covers – Plants that Work Webinar
Thursday, May 25 from 10am-12pm
No fee

Information: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/webinar-ground-covers-plants-that-work-tickets-142166157805?aff=ebdsoporgprofile>

Marie Selby Botanical Gardens

Exploring Light

Wednesday, March 3 from 10am – 1pm

Instructor: Perry Johnson

Class Fee: \$75 (Members \$55)

Information: <https://selby.org/events/new-exploring-light-downtown-sarasota-campus/>

Photography literally means “painting with light.” Photographers often struggle with light, trying to control or modify it in lieu of accentuating it. This workshop will explore some key concepts of photography and more specifically using it to create truly compelling images including “High and Low Key Photography.” Appropriate for all levels and equipment including phones.

Potting and Mounting Epiphytes like a Pro, Part I

Thursday, March 25 from 10am – 1pm

Instructor: Addie Worth

Class Fee per session: \$50 (Members \$35)

Mounting Fee: \$25 average depending on size of plant and materials needed

Information: <https://selby.org/events/potting-and-mounting-epiphytes-like-a-pro-session-i/>

Expert epiphyte horticulturist Addie Worth will demonstrate how to care for and how to mount and pot epiphytes such as bromeliads, ferns, and cacti. Choose one session or take both. Participants can bring an epiphyte to pot or mount for an additional fee.

Explore Coastal Mangroves and Seagrass Beds in Sarasota Bay, Session II

Tuesday, March 30 from 12:30-3pm

Instructors: Dr. Megan Ehlers, Captain Randall Patterson and a Selby Gardens staff

Class Fee: \$35 (Members \$25)

Information: <https://selby.org/events/explore-coastal-mangroves-and-seagrass-beds-in-sarasota-bay-session-i-downtown-sarasota-campus-2/>

Explore the coastal mangroves and seagrass of Sarasota Bay aboard Sarasota High School Marine Biology Department’s popular floating classroom and on Selby Gardens’ mangrove boardwalk. Learn how mangroves and seagrass protect and nurture our local marine environment. Explore animal and plant life treasures hidden under the water as they are carefully brought aboard. Wear comfortable shoes and sunscreen, and bring water to drink. Limited to 10.

Continued on page 11...

Upcoming Activities for March Right Here in our Own Backyard

Continued. . .

Ringling Museum

Bayfront Gardens Tour

Available Saturdays, Sundays, and Mondays
Takes place outdoors, 90 minutes in length,
covers 1 mile

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

Book online at [https://www.ringling.org/
events/bayfront-gardens-tour-4](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 speci-
mens on the estate while providing a historic
overview of the development of the estate. The
Ringling Arboretum has been accredited at Lev-
el II through ArbNet and there are over 2350
trees within the arboretum representing native,
exotic historical, and culturally significant
trees.

Manatee County Library

Android Photography

Friday, March 19 at 2pm

Learn how to take and organize photos and videos
on your Android phone or tablet. This class will be
taught by Angela.

iPhone Photography

Monday, March 22 at 2pm

Learn how to take and organize photos and videos
on your iPhone or iPad. This class will be taught by
Stephanie.

Happy St Patrick's Day!

Thank You, Sponsors!

Monica Newcomer, [Coldwell](#) Banker Realtor



Mary Widner [Insurance](#) Agency



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