



Happenings

Calendar Events



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

Letter from the President, Chris O'Grady

Hi Everyone,

As always, I hope this message finds you and yours doing well. I am encouraging everyone to get the coronavirus vaccine as soon as possible. Hopefully we will all be vaccinated by the end of summer. Necessary precautions will still be in place, but at least we can feel somewhat safer after inoculation.

The Nominating Committee is hard at work enlisting Board members for the upcoming season which begins in mid-May for Officers and Directors. Committee members will be calling and asking you to serve. Please step up and do your part. If you would like to volunteer for the Board, contact Vice President Rita Mixer. Serving on the Board is an honor and a privilege. We need YOU!

Linda Lawrence has resigned as MRGC rental agent. If you know someone who would be a good fit for this paid position, please contact Finance Director Barbara Beury. We are looking for someone who is an extrovert, bubbly, well-groomed and who would be an excellent Club representative. Good organizational and basic math skills are required.

Due to financial constraints, the Board regretfully voted not to award any scholarships this year. We have resumed Club rentals but are far below the volume we had pre-COVID. Rentals should increase as vaccination rates increase. I know we all look forward to a return to "normal".

HAPPY VALENTINE'S DAY!

Chris



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.



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).

Horticultural Study Group

Correction: Barbara Crepeau is not part of the study group

Barbara Crepeau, Linda Fountain, Sandy Brophy, Sharron Jones, and Susan Palmieri

Wishing everyone a "Happy & Healthy 2021".

We just wanted to let you know that we are complying with the Board's decision to delay activities until September.

Our team will meet over the summer to plan programs for 2021-2022. We would appreciate any suggestions that you may have for programs; just email us and we will consider all suggestions!

Treasurer's Report

From Bev Chapin

Bank Balances as of December 31, 2020

Operating Account:	\$ 1,295.01
Rental Account:	\$ 6,704.06
Money Market:	<u>\$10,871.13</u>
Sub.Total:	\$18,870.20
Eaton Funds:	\$ 2,778.36
Memorial Funds:	\$ 1,579.83
Legacy Funds:	\$ 500.00

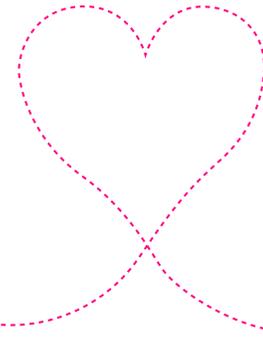
Garden Angels from Linda Lestock

Garden Angels will meet on Tuesday February 9, at 8:30am

lindatajer@yahoo.com



We always uncover interesting items when cleaning out the club's garden beds. Today (Tuesday, January 12) Olivia Morton and Mary Patterson presented Chris O'Grady with our newest "find"; a pair of men's red underwear!!!



February

Susan O'Donnell	2/3
Betsy Lieberman	2/14
Dee Pastorium	2/14
Linda Lestock	2/16
Melissa Brosnan	2/18
Rosemary Nichols	2/20
Barbara Ehren	2/23
Brenda Burmeister	2/28

Community Outreach from Pat Danahy

Community Outreach was a bit off this month. Only one design was delivered to Florida Highway Patrol on State Route 70.

Community Outreach usually works with Meals on Wheels Plus Adult Day Care, but COVID has stopped that. Instead, designs delivered to essential workers has taken its place.

It would be wonderful if more members of Manatee River Garden Club, especially the Board, would chip in to spread the happiness. This is a good way for the Club to continue to show its presence in the community during the pandemic so that we do not fade away in the public's minds.

The smile on the Highway Patrol Officer today was worth a million dollars! Something as simple as a daisy design cheered him up, and the fact that a Garden Club would even think of thanking them was amazing to them. As you can see, it was nothing elaborate - cost me about \$10 and was appreciated by multiple people. Worth every penny.



Please think about doing something to thank essential workers. Use some of your extra time for a worthwhile project. We all stay home safely where we live while they were dealing with the public, not knowing the health level of people with whom they are coming in contact. They are the true Heroes, and deserve to be recognized.

Consider doing something as part of Community Outreach. We are a community Garden Club, and we owe our safety to so many. Thanks for reading my preach, but it takes so little to make so many happy.



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.



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

Challenge Design Results – Part 1

I have two beautiful designs to share with you this month. The designers are Pat Danahy and Crystal Herold. As a reminder of the Design Challenge, both 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.

Both ladies rose to the challenge and abided by the rules. Here are their completed designs:



Pat Danahy's design



Crystal Herold's design

Pat Danahy chose to use all three containers. She used the wood callas to hold the yellow roses. She used the “bark” ribbon on the containers. Her plant materials include cecropia leaves which play off the color of the callas and add a great texture in the bottom container. She uses green reindeer moss in the two upright containers.

Crystal Herold used the smallest of the containers and sprayed it silver. She covered the black Oasis floral foam with silver honeycomb ribbon and sprayed the callas silver. She used a bouquet of pink and green carnations and mums and added aspidistra.

It is interesting that both ladies used the callas to “encase” their flowers, but the designs are so different! Thank you Pat and Crystal for rising to the challenge!

Next month, I will share two more of the Design Challenge entries.



Grants And Scholarships from Betsy Lieberman

The Elizabeth Eaton Grant recipients will soon be ready for MRGC members to visit their projects (masks will be required). All will be receiving their Eaton Medallions to display in their projects upon completion.

*The Florida Agricultural Museum's (in Palmetto) sensory garden area is set up and planted and looking wonderful. They are hoping to re-open in the near future.

*The Florida Maritime Museum in Cortez has completed the raised beds and planted the butterfly garden near the mosaic pond. An Open House is planned for late February (hopefully).

*Healthy Start Coalition Community Gardens are feeding their gardeners. Tomatoes, kale, collards and herbs are very popular and new crops are growing.

*Palma Sola Botanical Gardens are making great progress with their butterfly garden. They are currently open to walk through the entire park.

*The education rose garden extension at University of Florida Extension IFAS gardens are near completion (or by now complete). They too will let us know when visits are available.

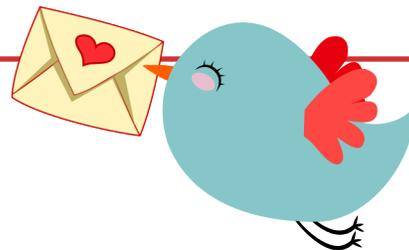
*Manatee River Garden Club north entrance is making progress. Clean up is progressing, and fill dirt and beautification is on the way. The sprinkler system is also going to be checked and repaired as needed.

*Myakka City Elementary School sadly has made no progress. A staffing change and COVID have interrupted the Garden Club there. The Principal will be deciding if they will continue with their Club.

The committee is looking forward to seeing the final creations!



Fountain in Maritime Museum's mosaic pool butterfly garden



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.

Winter in the Garden from Marsha Wikle

With the sun so low in the sky, less sunshine reaches the backyard. The earth boxes and pots full of strawberries, tomatoes and milkweed get moved based on where the sun reaches the ground, also creating a maze to mow around. We have been harvesting bok choy for soup and butter lettuce for salad. The strawberries from the three earth boxes are on a first-come, first-serve basis! As expected, the tomatoes have been attacked by tomato worms and blossom end rot, but two new plants are looking strong. The finger-sized beets are wonderful, so a new batch is planted.

What transformation has occurred in the garden due to being home and in the garden so much? I have "fountain up." There are focal points in both the front and back gardens that begged for fountains. Thanks to stimulus payments and Facebook marketplace, beautiful fountains are now in both spots. Getting power to each will be a project in itself. I have also pulled out two clumps of fountain grass – I have not seen that this grass has any value to wildlife. It will be replaced by a native shrub, yet undetermined.



A girlfriend from Ohio visits in January and since she is a crafter, I usually have projects in mind for her. This year the project was to paint a 4x4' post that was purchased to hold a painted bird house. Diane proposed a series of triangles, painted with the colors of the birdhouse. Now mounted in the garden, it is bold but "growing on me", pun intended!



Have I mentioned how thankful I am to have my own private "preserve" within the confines of my fence? I watch birds and butterflies and do minor maintenance. It is my little heaven on earth.

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*.



Christmas cactus that started blooming end of December and is still going strong. It gives such a jolt of color especially since it is the only plant blooming in my lanai right now.

Caryl Ponder



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



UF/IFAS Sarasota County Extension Service

Webinar registration: ufsarasotaext.eventbrite.com
- no charge

Edible Gardening Series

Time: 12:00 – 12:30pm

Instructor: Sarah Bostick

Monday, February 1: *Growing plants in your lanai*

Monday, February 8: *Tomatoes 101*

Monday, February 22: *Insect of the week: Silver-leaf whitefly*

Weeds! Why They Won't Go Away

Wednesday, February 3 from 2:00 – 4:00pm

Instructor: Sarah Bostick

Cool Plants to Attract Butterflies and Pollinators

Monday, February 8 from 1:00 – 3:00pm

Instructor: Wilma Holley, Florida-Friendly Landscaping Program Specialist

Seed Starting

Wednesday, February 10 from 10:00 – 11:00am

Instructor: Arnie Barish

Invasive Species Series

Part II: Invasive Plants in Natural Areas

Thursday, February 18 from 1:30 – 3:00pm

UF/IFAS Manatee County Extension Service

For information: [Events - UF/IFAS Extension \(ufl.edu\)](https://ufl.edu/events-uf-ifas-extension)

Fruit Tree series

Wednesday, February 10 – *Selection and Planting*

Wednesday, February 17 – *Care and Maintenance:*

Wednesday, February 24 – *Varieties for Central Florida*

Time: 11:00am

Florida-Friendly Landscaping for Newcomers

Friday, February 12 at 10:00am

Tree Care Series

Friday February 12 at 12:00pm – *Selection and Planting*

Friday, February 19 at 12:00pm – *Establishment and Maintenance*

Friday, February 26 at 12:00pm – *Pruning*

Fruit Tree Series

Wednesday, February 10 at 11:00am – *Selection and Planting*

Wednesday February 17 at 11:00am – *Care and Maintenance*

Wednesday, February 24 at 11:00am – *Varieties for Central Florida*

Taking the Mystery out of Micro-Irrigation

Tuesday, February 23 from 10:00am – 12:00pm

Instructor: Don Adkins

Landscape Tips for Water Conservation

Thursday, February 25 from 10:00am – 12:00pm

Instructor: Valrie Massey

Marie Selby Botanical Gardens

20 Tips to Improve Your Photography

Thursday, February 18 from 10:00am – 1:00pm

Instructor: Perry Johnson

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

Information: <https://selby.org/events/new-20-tips-to-improve-your-photography-historic-spanish-point-campus/>

Tripod Tuesdays

February 23 from 9:00am – 10:00am

Fee per session: \$20 (Members \$15)

Information: <https://selby.org/events/tripod-tuesdays-downtown-sarasota-campus/>

All Aboard The Carefree Learner: Explore Coastal Mangroves and Seagrass Beds in Sarasota Bay

Session I: February 3 from 12:30pm – 3:00pm

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

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

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 8...

Upcoming Activities for February Right Here in our Back Yard

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)

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.

Rob Branch Tropical Gardens Open House

February 13 from 9am – 3:00pm

1315 38th Street, Sarasota

Cash or check only please; not able to accept credit
cards. Pay each vendor separately.

Faith will be selling her rare palms and other exotic
plants. Betsy will have many heliconia and other
flowering & edible plants. David Ugucoini will have a
rare collection of mounted bromeliads and other
epiphytic plants. Gary Lute will be replacing Kathryn
who sold staghorns; he will have a variety of rhip-
salis and other succulent plants. Rob will have brom-
eliads – many adapted to full sun; aroids will be
plentiful, along with orchids and many other exotic
plants and trees that he grows.

PlantSnap.com

A new web portal focused mainly on plants.
There are over 650,000 pages of content – im-
ages, articles, information. You can pair it with
the app PlantSnap on your cell phone to use for
plant identification when you are out and
about.

Thank You, Sponsors!

Monica Newcomer, [Coldwell](#) Banker Realtor



Mary Widner [Insurance](#) Agency



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