



Happenings

Letter from the President, Chris O'Grady

Welcome to a fresh, new season of activities, social interaction and fun. Our favorite annual events will continue but with a different twist. There will be new activities too.

I want to stress volunteerism. Please share your talents by volunteering. If your talent is a smile and a willingness to join in, that is all you need. Volunteering is the best way to meet and get to know fellow Club members.

One of my goals is to increase communication between the Board and the general membership. Transparency is a top priority.

Be an MRGC ambassador. Sing the praises of our Club at every opportunity. New members are the lifeblood of every club. Do your best to recruit new members.

Board members will be introduced at our kick-off meeting. It is important you know how they represent you. Some Board members need one or two assistants. This will be an opportunity for you to sign up. You can experience first-hand what a particular directorship involves.

I am honored to serve as your President. I am looking forward to working alongside you to continue the traditions and successes of our esteemed Club. Thank you for placing your confidence in me. I will do my best to serve you well.

Chris



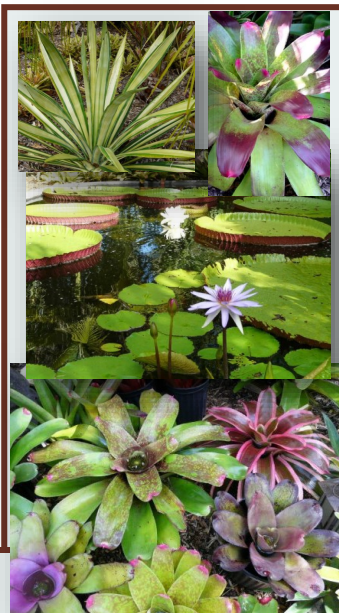
Calendar Events

Sept. 10
8:30am-10:30am
Garden Angels

Sept. 18
10:00am
Board meeting
11:30am
Potluck Luncheon

Sept. 23
10:00am
Garden Therapy

Sept. 24
10:30-12:30
Garden Tour Organizational Meeting



Branch Tropical Gardens Open

Rob Branch Tropical Gardens will be open Labor Day, Monday, September 2, 2019 from 9am – 3pm. Admission is free. Address: 1315 38th Street, Sarasota.

The Sarasota Succulent Gardens (across the street) will also be open so there will be less available parking. There are some areas on Myrtle and other side streets available, but please do not park on the sidewalk. Also take care not to block anyone's driveway.

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).

Hospitality from Carol Friedman

Welcome back to all our fellow flowers! I hope you had a wonderful summer and are ready for a fantastic new year at MRGC. I'm looking forward to serving as Hospitality Director and hope you are ready to help! Our first luncheon is fast approaching. September's Committee is working hard to kick off the new year with a bang. We need to know how many members to plan for, so please let me know if you're planning on being here on September 18th. This month's meeting is a Meet-and-Greet with Social Hour at 11:30am followed by a potluck lunch at noon. I can't wait to see what everyone brings - no sweets please as the Hospitality Committee will provide dessert! We are celebrating our 90th year so will have cake and ice cream!



Make your reservation by email: friedymom@gmail.com or phone 941 792 8446, or you can respond on the home page of our website for your RSVP. Can't wait to see you!



September

Peggy Simone	9/1
Sarah Labrecque	9/2
Linda Fountain	9/11
Linda Suereth	9/11
Mary Reichert	9/12
Julianna Ackles	9/17
Barbara Johnson	9/18
Su Pontius	9/20
Tamara Cornwell	9/23
Hilary Boyle	9/25
Sandie Smith	9/26

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.



Grants and Scholarships

By Sandy Plummer

The Manatee River Garden Club in Bradenton distributed grants and scholarships at their May meeting. Scholarships of \$1000 were given to **Meaghan McCarthy**, a student at Palmetto High School who will be attending the University of South Florida, majoring in Environmental Science; **Alexis Ludwig** who attends Manatee High School and will be attending Florida Gulf Coast University, majoring in Marine Science with a minor in Environmental Education; and **Annabel Henson** who is currently enrolled in Braden River High School and the State College of Florida. She plans to attend University of Florida or Santa Fe College. Annabel desires to be a voice for agriculture as an advocate for the agriculture industry, majoring in Agriculture Communications.

Grants were awarded for a total of approximately \$10,500 from the Elizabeth Eaton Charitable Trust Fund to the following:

Electa Lee Middle Magnet School for materials to build Earthboxes for herbs, flowers, and vegetables, including tools, fertilizer, a camera and hose.

Palma Sola Botanical Park Foundation, Inc. for annual and perennial entrance-way plants.

Manatee County Friends of Extension for Rose Garden ongoing expenditures and plant replacement.

WD Sugg Middle School for ABC garden box planters.

The Manatee Rare Fruit Council Inc. for improvements and enhancements, including shell walkways, posts for dragon fruit, biochar, a trellis and educational signage.

Manatee County Friends of Extension for seed trays and pots, soil and soil amendment, plants, raised bed kits, pavers and bulletin boards.

Manatee River Garden Club for landscape improvements.

The MRGC sponsored the following campers at Wekiva Youth Camp this summer and two additional students of the camp's choosing. Wekiva, sponsored by the Florida Federation of Garden Clubs, is a residential nature camp for 3rd through 8th grade youngsters located in Apopka, FL.

Sean Laureano
River Rhodes
Stone Rhodes

Attached find a few photos, but you can view all of them on our Facebook page.



Barb Beury, Sandy Plummer and
Alexis Ludwig



Sandy Plummer, Nathan Sims and
Tamara Cornwell
Electa Lee Middle School

Yearbook from Betsy Edwards, Assistant Secretary

Welcome Back to A New Club Year and to A New Club Yearbook!

Our new 2019-2020 MRGC Yearbook will be available for all members to pick up at our first luncheon of the club year, on Wednesday, September 18th. The Yearbook contains information about our Club activities, programs, events, history, bylaws and affiliations, along with contact information for all current members. Our website, www.manateerivergardenclub.com, will always provide the most current information for all things MRGC. There will be a supply of Yearbooks available for those who are unable to attend the September luncheon but want to pick it up in October. All members who currently receive their newsletters via USPS, and those who have notified us that they will be out of town until later in the year, will receive their Yearbooks via USPS to the address provided. We hope that the Yearbook will continue to be a useful resource, along with our website, for all members!



Membership from Edie Anderson

Hope everyone had a great summer and are now looking forward to all the club activities that are lined up for 2019-2020. Our new membership brochure will be available at the September meeting. Also if there is anyone that would like a name badge, please see me at the meeting. Cost is \$10 but doesn't need to be paid till you receive your badge. Ladies, we are hoping to see our club grow this year so please spread the word to your friends and neighbors about the benefits of joining. Inviting someone to our monthly meeting might inspire them to join. Let's get involved ladies, we can make this year the best ever!



Horticultural Study Group from Sharron Jones, Sandy Brophy, Linda Fountain, Barb Johnson, and Susan Palmieri

Welcome to our 2nd year!

We have 6 very informative programs planned. Our programs will take place on the following dates, so please mark your calendars. We will have coffee and snacks at 9:30am; the program begins at 10:00am. You may pay the \$10 fee at each program or save by paying \$40 for all 5 programs. Details to follow prior to each program.

Thurs, Oct 24 th	Palmer Orchids (open to the public at 10:00am)	FEE \$10
Thurs, Nov 21 st	Plantcraft Designs (members only/limit 30) Make & Take "MOSS ART". Sign up and \$20 kit fee will be due Nov 6 th .	FEE \$10
Thurs, Jan 23 rd	Hypertufa Demo (open to the public at 10:00am)	FEE \$10
Thurs, Feb 27 th	Field trip: Muller/McFarland garden (members only/limit 20)	
Thurs, Mar 26 th	Container Gardening (open to the public at 10:00am)	FEE \$10
Thurs, Apr 23 rd	Micro Irrigation (open to the public at 10:00am)	FEE \$10

House Reno Wrap-Up by Mary Patterson



I hope you are all pleased with the results of our club renovations! It was a major undertaking requiring lots of coordination, but so worth it. Jan Locke, our contractor, deserves so much credit for the final result. She did all the work herself and took a real interest in our club-house. She did many "extras" at no cost and finished on time.

A special thank you to all the Decor Committee members for the creative concept and the club financial brains who arranged the financing. Well done, Ladies!



My favorite part of the Reno is the blinds over the silver cabinets. Now we can enjoy seeing our beautiful silver awards during our meetings, and the brides can cover it up for their photos. A win win for sure!

We haven't had a wedding rental since the "makeover", and I can't wait to hear what the brides think. I'm sure they will be thrilled! There are still a few loose ends to tie up, window cleaning and cabinet locks for example. If you notice anything that needs attention, please let me know. We don't have all the final figures together just yet, but I will have that report for you at our September meeting.

I hope everyone had a wonderful summer!

Garden Therapy from Pat Danahy



Garden Therapy is a Community Outreach project MRGC has been involved in for about 15 years. It is working with the Meals on Wheel Plus of Manatee County Adult Day Care.

On the 4th Monday of each month MRGC members go to the location at 10920 State Route 70 E in Lakewood Ranch to work with the senior clients doing a gardening/flower/environment project. There are usually between 30-35 clients comprised of both men and women. Years ago the men would not take part in the projects, but now they love doing the floral designs and painting, being creative just as much as the ladies.

It is a wonderful and easy way to give back to the community. It usually is an hour or less starting at 10am. The smiles on the faces tell how much they enjoy the various projects and the change of pace from a regular day. Each and every one of the clients look forward to us coming every month.

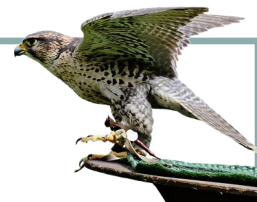
The date for September is Monday the 23rd. Every member who has ever taken part in this activity has enjoyed it and agrees the giving of pleasure and enjoyment is minor compared to the feeling we get for giving back to our seniors in need. Please put it on your calendar; you will be surprised how much fun it is!

If you have any questions, please contact me at danahy2010@gmail.com or 716-622-1219.

Programs by Barb Beury

Hope everyone has come back from our summer break refreshed and renewed! This year we are planning some very interesting and informative programs. September is our potluck, so starting in October we will welcome Kevin Cavanaugh, director of the McGonough Nature Preserve, to show us and speak about "Raptors: Birds of Prey". There will be more info in the October newsletter.

Can't wait to see everyone at the September potluck.



Garden Angels

From Paula Wolfe (with back-up from Linda Lestock)



Garden Angels will meet again on the second Tuesday, September 10, at 8:30am. Bring your favorite tools, a bucket and water for hydration. We look forward to having you join this garden-glove group to maintain the club property.

Volunteer Hours

From Betsy Edwards



Please report your hours for time in meetings, Garden Angel time and volunteering at MRGC events. I will be passing around a log book at the meeting each month, or contact me at betsy.edwards@outlook.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.



Upcoming Activities Right Here in Our Back Yard

from Judy Boehm



SARASOTA GARDEN CLUB PRESENTS BASIC SIX FLORAL DESIGN PROGRAMS

This year we are going back to basics. Our class schedule will cover the FFGC FLORAL DESIGN STUDY UNITS 1-6. These units are designed to develop a unified understanding of the Art of Flower Arranging. Each unit is held one day with lecture/ demonstration in the morning, a lunch break, and creating workshop in the afternoon for a take-home of your design. Hand out for all units will be provided upon registration and payment. A Certificate of Achievement will be presented at the end. The first three classes will have flowers provided. The next three will focus on creativity and expression of design.

The classes will be from 9:30am-1:30pm the second Tuesday of the month. **Fee is \$150 for all 6 classes.** Student brings lunch, and the committee provides morning refreshments.

This is an exciting opportunity to get firsthand instruction from Top Designing Judges in District VIII. The classes will be full of extra information to make your designs outstanding. The techniques and the secrets you will learn from these judges will benefit you for your home designs as well as being prepared and willing to enter a Flower Show.

Do not be left out, the classes have a student limit for more individualized teaching.

You will be so happy that you are exercising your creative skills! Looking forward to your joining us!

OCTOBER 1, 2019 - Learn basic tools, mechanics and components of a design; how to choose good containers; correct types of plant material. Demonstration of Vertical, Asymmetrical, and Crescent.

NOVEMBER 5, 2019 - Care, Cutting and Grooming; Elements and Principals of Design; Diagonal and Symmetrical design.

DECEMBER 3, 2019 - Curved Line design, Crescent and Hogarth, using fruits and vegetable. Compatibility of Plant Material with containers.

JANUARY 7, 2020 - Table settings, buffet, tray and coordination of floral design with table components.

FEBRUARY 4, 2020 - Bases and Accessories, how to make your design stand out.

MARCH 4, 2020 - Expressive design conditioning and transporting, types of designs. Exciting use of color.

Make check payable to Sarasota Garden Club Floral Design Class. Mail to 1131 Boulevard of the Arts, Sarasota, FL 34236. Registration due by September 1, 2019. Questions: 941- 955-0875.

NAME _____	Garden Club Member (name of club) _____
Address _____	Visitor (from where) _____
Email _____	Phone # _____



MRGC Legacy Fund by Sandy Plummer

As Manatee River Garden Club (MRGC) celebrates its 90th Anniversary, the Board of Directors, with support from members, has formed the **MRGC Legacy Fund** as a Standing Committee (LFC) under the Directorship of Grants & Scholarships. The purpose of the Legacy Fund is to encourage and manage monetary gifts to the MRGC and to ensure that funds are used for substantial and sustainable projects as well as for memorials where appropriate.

What is the Upcoming Workshop About? The workshop entitled **"Estate Planning in Florida"** will be held on **Thursday, October 10, 2019 @ 2pm**. This special program will be presented to MRGC members and the public by Jeffery S. Goethe, Esq., an estate planning attorney in Bradenton. This program will include a talk about the importance of having a will, simple estate planning, and how the giving of gifts allows donors to follow their own interests, express their values and advance their own aspirations.

MRGC Legacy Fund Wishes Survey: In May the LFC circulated an *MRGC Legacy Fund Wishes Survey* to get input from the Board and members as to how funds should be spent. College scholarships, club improvements and MRGC grounds were popular choices. The Committee will make recommendations on how monies should be spent and seek Board approval for their recommendations.

How Can I Participate in Leaving a Legacy?

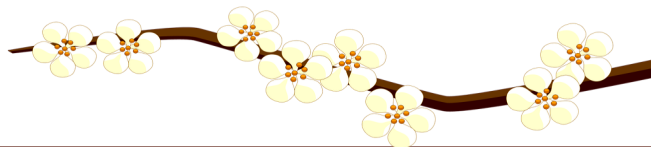
At this time there are several ways to participate:

- Set up a % or set amount in members' estate planning.
- Submit a charitable gift for tax purposes.
- Family & friends can give in memory of a club member or other person.
- Purchase a commemorative brick.



What are Commemorative Bricks? These bricks are used to honor or memorialize MRGC members, family and friends or to commemorate a special event. They are custom-engraved and placed as edging along the sidewalks of our garden. For more information see any Committee or Board member or visit our website.

Planned gifts can be game-changing, because even relatively small planned gifts can be used to sustain certain programs, while larger gifts can sustain our facility and launch new initiatives. A planned gift is a powerful expression of your dreams, ideals, and principles. It reaches beyond your lifetime to touch the lives of future gardeners.



Changes in Communication from Judy Boehm

Just wanted to let you know about a few changes in communication at MRGC. With social media we now have all bases covered. KC Jeronimo continues to send us beautiful and inspiring posts on our Facebook page. Barb Beury has now taken over our Twitter feeds, and Judy Boehm will post photos on Instagram. Most recently on Instagram you will see photos from our garden tour and Garden Gala. You can find information on how to access these social media sites at the bottom of page one of our newsletters, or just click on the icons at the top of the home page on our website.

The Board has decided to no longer publish the telephone number at the clubhouse since usually nobody is around to answer inquiry calls. The number will remain available to you in our Directory in case family/friends need to reach you emergently when they know you are present at the clubhouse.