



# Happenings



## Letter from the President

Spring is in the air, the time of rebirth and renewal! That is what the season evokes for me, and March is always a beautiful month. We have had a busy season at the club, with more planned.

All You Need Is Love, MRGC's annual flower show, was superb, if I do say so myself. Hope you were able to come and see it. We had a great turn out, and it was a lot of fun. The azaleas were in bloom, and the grounds looked lovely. Working on projects and events is a wonderful way to connect with other members, so get involved. The Horticulture Study Group has been having great speakers and presentations, and Floral Design Study Group will be meeting again this month. The garden tour is fast approaching; join in and help. It is our biggest fundraiser, and this year we are celebrating our 90<sup>th</sup> anniversary with a pre Garden Tour Gala. There are many ways to become involved. You can help out, and you can attend; it's easy!

The new member orientation was well attended, and we have wonderful new members. If you are able, volunteer to be a new member mentor. You are helping a new member and making a new friend, so it's a win-win!

This month's luncheon theme was National Pie Month, and it was a tasty theme. Kudos to the lunch team! Yum! The caladium program was great too. I've been picking up so many plants at our programs that I may never need to go to another nursery again.

Hope to see you all at the Gala and the Tour.

Barbara Beury

## Calendar Events

**Mar. 6 1:00pm-3:00pm**  
Field Trip to Manatee Rare Fruit Council and Palma Sola Botanical Garden

**Mar. 7 10:00am-12:00pm**  
Floral Design Study Group

**Mar. 11 12:00pm-3:00pm**  
Grants and Scholarships meeting

**Mar. 12 9:00am-10:30am**  
Garden Angels

**Mar. 15 11:00am-2:00pm**  
Garden Tour General meeting

**Mar. 20**  
**10:00am** Board meeting  
**11:30am** Membership meeting and luncheon  
**1:00pm** Program

**Mar. 25 10:00am-11:00am**  
Garden Therapy

**Mar. 28-29 All Day**  
Garden tour set up

**Mar. 29 5:30pm-7:30pm**  
Gala in the Garden

**Mar. 30 10:00am-4:00pm**  
14th Annual Garden Tour

## Floral Design Study

by Rita Mixer and Barbara Buery



I hope you all take advantage of MRGC's free Floral Design Study Group. Our last meeting for this Garden Club year will be on March 7, 2019, at 10:00am at our clubhouse. This is a wonderful opportunity to learn about Floral Designs taught by our own NGC Accredited and Student Judges. We will also discuss next year's agenda and how to stimulate MORE interest in FDSG.

Brenda Johnson, an Accredited NGC Judge, will be conducting the group in March. We will be studying and discussing LINE-MASS DESIGN and the DESIGN PRINCIPLE OF CONTRAST. Please bring any size CASCADE DESIGN, which we studied in January.

## Treasurer's Report

From Caryl Ponder, Treasurer

### Bank Balances as of 2/16/2019

<b>Operating Account:</b>	<b>\$4,130.32</b>
<b>Rental Account:</b>	<b>\$32,647.59</b>
<b>Money Market:</b>	<b>\$18,393.83</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$55,171.74</b>
<b>Eaton Fund</b>	<b>\$11,294.50</b>
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>	<b>\$66,466.24</b>

Website: [manateerivergardenclub.com](http://manateerivergardenclub.com)

Location: 3120 First Avenue West, Bradenton, FL 34205-3448 Mailing Address: P.O. Box 14662, Bradenton, FL 34280-4662 Clubhouse Phone: 941-746-8473

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/ManateeRiverGardenClub) and [MRGC Garden Weddings.](https://www.facebook.com/MRGC-Garden-Weddings)

Twitter: [Manatee Garden Club](https://twitter.com/ManateeGardenClub), and Instagram: [manateerivergardenclub](https://www.instagram.com/manateerivergardenclub).



## Holiday Flower Show from Rita Mixer and Carol Friedman

Our club turns into a magical place for a flower show. 'LOVE' was in the air for this one! We were showered with compliments from the Judges and visitors alike. We hope you all came to the show even if you were not involved in the many volunteer aspects of it. If not, you missed a wonderful opportunity to see what we at MRGC can do.

Of course, we had LOTS of help in putting this Show on...especially the week of the show. Carol and I would 'LOVE' to thank each and every one of you for taking part in this FS. Many thanks to the ladies behind the scene who magically make things happen with cooking, serving, cleaning, painting, pasting, etc. The Horticulture Committee did a fantastic job in helping identify the specimens and staging them beautifully.

The visitors commented on how beautiful the designs were and again how strategically they were spaced with lots of elbow room. The Botanical Arts section was also a big draw with visitors for the Artistic Crafts, Photography and Educational Exhibits which everyone so enjoyed.

Thanks also to our Committee Members who worked so hard in helping to plan and execute the Show. See photos of the winners below. Next year plan on being a part of this wonderful experience!

Thank You All



Caryl Ponder, Design Top Award  
Growers Choice Award



Barb Beury, Horticulture Top Award



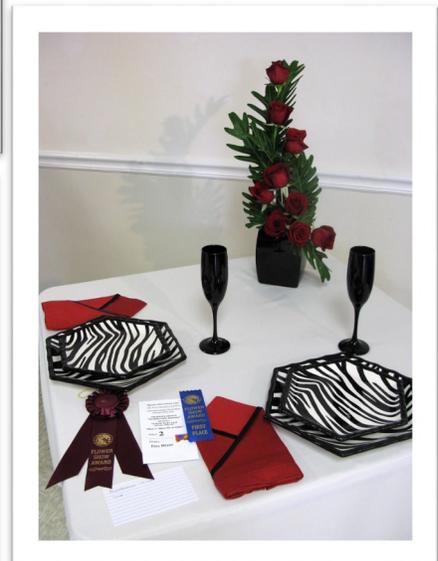
Julie McClure, Growers Choice Award



Niki Muller, Education Award



Carol Friedman, Growers Choice Award



Rita Mixer, Table Artistry Award



Claire Milligan, Tri-Color Award



Carol Friedman, Photography Award



Linda Fountain, Award of Merit



KC Jeronimo, Petite Award



All You Need is Love  
2019 Flower Show



Pat Danahy, Growers Choice Award



Susan Palmieri, Artistic Crafts Award



Barb Beury, Growers Choice Award

**Garden Tour News** from Sandy Plummer

**Get Your Tickets for the Annual Garden Tour,  
the Luncheon and the Garden Gala!**



**The evening before the Garden Tour** we are Celebrating 90 Years with a **Gala in the Garden**. This *Cocktail Party in a Beautiful Garden* will be held Friday, March 29<sup>th</sup> from 5:30-7:30pm. This event is open to all members, their families and friends, the garden tour homeowners, and our sponsors. The cost is \$15 per person and tickets will be sold at the March luncheon, on our website though PayPal or see Sandy Plummer or Caryl Ponder.

**The following day, Saturday, March 30<sup>th</sup>**, is the **Garden Tour** and the **Annual Luncheon** at the clubhouse. We will have **vendors, a raffle, and a special surprise** to go with your lunch! The cost of the tour is \$15 for advance purchase and \$20 the day of the tour. Tour tickets are available at Crowder's Gifts & Gadgets in Bradenton and Lakewood Ranch and at the new Cortez Ace Hardware. The cost of the luncheon is \$12. Tour and luncheon tickets are also available using PayPal on the MRGC website.

On day of tour: People who wish to purchase a ticket should first arrive at MRGC. Those who have tickets in hand may proceed to any house to begin the tour. Ticketholders receive a booklet describing the gardens with directions to the properties, and a paper bracelet to wear which shows they have paid for a ticket.

This is our **largest fundraiser of the year** and all our members have been asked to participate in some way. In February you received 3 tickets to sell or purchase for your use. Please return the money to Caryl Ponder, Treasurer. If you have unsold tickets, please return those also so that we can sell them.

At our March Luncheon **yard signs** will be distributed. We ask that you place this sign in your yard or at a local business (with their permission). After the Garden Tour be sure to collect your sign and return to MRGC as we re-use these each year.

New to our advertising this year - If you'd like to purchase an 8.5X11" **magnetic sign** for your vehicle to advertise the Garden Tour, please contact Crystal Herold 941-795-1224 / [clherold@gmail.com](mailto:clherold@gmail.com) . The cost will be \$10 or less and the sign can be used yearly.

We also have posters and post cards available for distribution, which you will receive via email so that you can print from home or share via social media. You can find information about the Garden Tour on our website. On the home page, just click on the banner below the clubhouse photo, and you will be taken to all the necessary information including how to make your Tour and Gala ticket purchases.

**Thank you to everyone for making this one of our best Garden Tours ever!**

*Gala in the Garden  
March Twentieth  
5:30—7:30pm*



*5206 24<sup>th</sup> Avenue  
Drive West  
Bradenton*

*Please join your club members in Celebration of our 90<sup>th</sup> Anniversary.  
This is a great event to bring friends and family.  
A beautiful setting - A glass of wine - A bit to eat  
Tickets on sale now at a monthly meeting or on our website.*



**March**

- Nancy Benny 3/4
- Dolores Ferreira 3/9
- Gerri Klemm 3/12
- Maryann Allen 3/16
- Kathy Lamb 3/18
- Roz Vidakovic 3/20
- Ginny Clark 3/24



**Grants and Scholarships**

from Sandy Plummer and Su Pontius

**Rose Garden**

An Elizabeth M Eaton Grant was awarded to the Friends of Extension for the Manatee Extension Rose Garden Beautification Project. The grant supplied funds for new rose bushes, mulch, compost, fertilizer, pesticide, and identifying signs.

It's worth it to make a special trip to see the rose garden – the pictures do not lie! The garden may be viewed during working hours at the Extension Building – 1303 17th Street West in Palmetto (across from Palmetto High School). Pay special attention to the arbor and mural – beautiful!



If you know of a 501(c)(3) that could benefit from some beautification, please have them apply before the April 1<sup>st</sup> deadline. The application is on our website.



**Manatee Rare Fruit Council**



**Upcoming Field Trip to Manatee Rare Fruit Council Exhibit at Palma Sola Botanical Park**

*By Sandy Plummer & Cass Robertson*

**Wednesday, March 6<sup>th</sup> at 1:00pm-** The Grants & Scholarships Committee invites you to take a guided tour of one of our Eaton Fund projects – the **Manatee Rare Fruit Council Exhibit!** Bring a Friend! There is no cost to attend this field trip.

Meet up at 9800 17th Ave NW, Bradenton (the Palma Sola Botanical Park) or get together with others and car-pool from the clubhouse. RSVP to Cass Robertson 941-779-0425 or 941-524-1356 / [cass731@gmail.com](mailto:cass731@gmail.com) .

This two-acre property has over 80 rare fruit trees, including jackfruit. It is one of only three botanical rare fruit plantings in the country; the others are in Miami and Hawaii. This premier rare fruit tree exhibit demonstrates the many interesting and subtropical and tropical fruits that can be grown in our region. It is a frequent stop for local visitors and tourists and a site for educational tours throughout the year.

While we are there we will have the opportunity to also tour the Palma Sola Botanical Park. This site is an unusually warm and protected micro-climate which allows rare palms, fruits, flowering trees and other subtropical plants to be safely grown.

For more information, please see Sandy Plummer, Cass Robertson or any member of the Grants & Scholarships Committee.

## Garden Therapy from Pat Danahy

Garden Therapy for January saw 25 clients have fun with paint, stickers and flowers. Champagne flutes were sponge painted shades of pink, red and white. When dry, Valentine stickers were used as extra decorations and carnations, baby's breath and greens completed the project. Melissa Brosnan and myself, along with the wonderful employees of Meals on Wheels Plus of Manatee County, worked along with the clients.

Garden Therapy is a program held at the Adult Day Care location in Lakewood Ranch at 10920 E. State Road 70. It is held on the 4th Monday of each month at 10am, and usually lasts an hour.

February 25th and March 25 are the dates of our next event. The project will have a St. Patrick's Day theme. We supply all of the necessary supplies, so just come join in the fun. The self-enjoyment of seeing the smiles on the seniors' faces is well worth the hour of your time.



## Membership by Edie Anderson

Our February has been full of fun and love. I hope everyone had the chance to attend our Flower Show. I am amazed at the creativity and talent that our members have. We had a chance this month to have a new member orientation. It was a great opportunity for Barbara Beury and I to welcome our newest members and for everyone to get to know each other better. Ladies, if anyone would like to add their name to our Mentor list, please call or email me. By getting involved we can learn more about our club and make new friends.

Please welcome two new members:

Peggy Tuten	1318 18th Street W.	Bradenton 34205	941-650-3069	tompegtuten@msn.com
Rosemary Nichols	1419 52nd Ct. E.	Parrish 34219	856-362-1771	rosemarynichols20@gmail.com

## Volunteer Hours

From Betsy Lieberman

Just a reminder to keep track of your volunteer hours each month. Time in meetings, Garden Angel time and volunteering at MRGC events qualify. I will be passing around a log book at the meeting each month, or contact me at [BLPOOOH@aol.com](mailto:BLPOOOH@aol.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.

## Garden Angels

From Linda Lestock

Garden Angels will meet again on the second Tuesday, March 12 at 9:00am. 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.



## Programs by Chris O'Grady

### Vertical Gardening by Dr. Niki Muller Wednesday, March 20th at 1:00pm

Have you recently down-sized your home? Do you live in an apartment or condominium? Do you have limited gardening space? Want to make your garden more appealing? Would you like to try something new? If you answered "yes" to any of these questions, the March program is for you.

Fellow MRGC member and Master Gardener, Dr. Niki Muller, will share her vast knowledge on vertical gardening. She will teach us how to use vertical gardening to make our gardens more appealing and exciting. Vertical gardens can be used to divide a ho-hum garden into dramatic and cozy "rooms". When your garden is on the small side, living vertical gardens increase your green space by reaching upward instead of sideways.

Vertical gardens are currently trendy all over the globe. Many modern, high-rise apartments have entire outside walls of living, green plants. Although you most likely won't be covering an entire apartment building, you can use this technique on a small scale to amp-up the "wow" factor in your garden.



### Horticultural Study Group

from Sharron Jones, Sandy Brophy,  
Linda Fountain, Barb Johnson

Mark your calendars for Thursday, February 28<sup>th</sup> for our third of four Horticulture programs. We will meet at our clubhouse at 9:30am for coffee; the program will be from 10:00am until 12 noon. The program will be "Succulents & Cacti" led by speaker, David Uguccioni, from the Sarasota Succulent Society.

The fee for each program is \$10. Some members have prepaid for all programs. If you haven't prepaid, you may pay the day of the program. Just a reminder: The Horticulture Study Group this year is only for members.

We are looking forward to learning and growing with you!



### 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](mailto:judyzampello@hotmail.com) to have a card sent.



## Hospitality from Harriatt (Skeeter) Smith

This is the newsletter for March; can you believe how this year has flown by? I hope you enjoyed the February lunch. It was "Pie month".

The March lunch will be on Wednesday the 20th, and I hope you will enjoy it. We will be serving chicken salad sandwiches, chips, dessert and tea, coffee and lemonade. The cost is \$7.00. Please make sure you RSVP for the March lunch on our website or email me at [sjsfsu@hotmail.com](mailto:sjsfsu@hotmail.com).

Also, in March we have the Garden Tour. Set up is on March 28th and 29<sup>th</sup>, and then the tour and luncheon are on Saturday, March 30th. If you are not already involved, we could use your help. There will be a meeting of the Hospitality Committee on March 5th at 11am. We could use anyone else who would be willing to help us. Saturday is a long hard busy day. Contact Candi Clerkin at 941 758-1251 to volunteer.

I have enjoyed two years of being Hospitality Chairman, but my time must come to an end in May. If you are interested in taking over this job, please let the Board know. Thanks in advance.

## Upcoming Activities for March Right Here in Our Back Yard

from Judy Boehm

### UF/IFAS Extension, Manatee County (all classes held here)

1303 17<sup>th</sup> Street W, Palmetto

941.722.4524

Register online: <https://www.eventbrite.com/o/ufifas-extension-manatee-county-8304772301>

#### *Orchid Care & Repotting*

Wednesday, March 20 from 10:00am – 11:30am

\$15 fee due by March 8

Description: Do you have an orchid bursting from its pot and wonder what to do now? Learn the proper way to care for and propagate several varieties of orchids. Bring your overgrown orchid and pruners for a hands-on exercise of dividing the orchid. We will provide you with an orchid pot, potting media, & other materials.

#### *Bugs, Bugs, Bugs!!!*

Friday, March 22 from 5:30pm – 7:30pm

\$5 administrative fee

Description: This workshop is focused on providing information to help homeowners with pest and beneficial insects. We will be covering identification, symptoms of damage, and how to manage these common garden pests. Also, you will be learning how to correctly identify & attract beneficial insects to your landscape. This workshop will incorporate IPM principles to effectively manage pests which include cultural, biological, mechanical, & chemical methods.

For more information: Contact Mack Lessig at 941-722-4524, ext 1821 or [mlessig@ufl.edu](mailto:mlessig@ufl.edu)

#### *Florida-Friendly Landscaping for Coastal Environments*

Saturday, March 23 from 11:00am – 12:30pm

\$5 administrative fee

Description: From the Bay to the aquifer, what we do in our yards can end up as water pollution. Learn how to prevent your landscaping practices from having an environmental impact on nearby water bodies by following some basic guidelines & implementing a few Florida-Friendly strategies.

#### *Irrigation & Water Conservation in Mind*

Tuesday, March 26 from 5:30pm – 7:30pm

Instructor: Don Adkins, Irrigation Program Assistant

Description: This class will focus on how to adjust your in-ground sprinkler system to conserve water, how you can repair parts, & the benefits of installing smart irrigation devices. This class satisfies the irrigation educational requirement for the Manatee County Outdoor Water Conservation Rebate Program.

For more information: Erik at 941-722-4524 or [erik.flanagan@mymanatee.org](mailto:erik.flanagan@mymanatee.org)



## Upcoming Activities for March continued...

### *Common Vegetable Diseases*

Friday, March 29 from 5:30pm – 7:30pm

\$5 administrative fee

Description: This workshop is designed to educate the casual gardener about some of the most common vegetable diseases in Florida & in Manatee County. Participants will learn the basic biology of pathogenic organisms, how to identify common disease symptoms, & acquire some basic disease management skills

### *Landscape Tips for Water Conservation*

Thursday, March 28 from 5:30pm– 7:30pm

Instructor: Valrie Massey, Horticulture Program Assistant

Description: This class will focus on Florida-Friendly Landscape tips such as right plant vs. right place, watering efficiently, & mulch benefits. We will have a brief discussion on your in-ground sprinkler system & the benefits of installing smart irrigation devices. If you have a problem plant, bring a sample branch including leaf & flower to class. This class satisfies the landscape educational requirement for the Manatee County Outdoor Water Conservation Rebate Program. For more information: Erik at 941-722-4524 or [erikflanagan@ufl.edu](mailto:erikflanagan@ufl.edu)

### *Common Vegetable Diseases*

Friday, March 29 from 5:30pm – 7:30pm

\$5 administrative fee

Description: This workshop is designed to educate the casual gardener about some of the most common vegetable diseases in Florida & in Manatee County. Participants will learn the basic biology of pathogenic organisms, how to identify common disease symptoms, & acquire some basic disease management skills.

### *Palms for Manatee County*

Saturday, March 30 from 10:00am – 12:00pm

\$5 administrative fee

Description: Learn the best palm selections for Manatee County's climate conditions. When choosing a palm for your property, consider the palm's mature size, soil conditions, the disease issues, & more.

### **Selby Gardens**

#### *Care & Mounting of Bromeliads*

Thursday, March 21 from 1:00pm – 3:00pm

Class fee: \$50, \$35 for members

Mounting fee: \$10 average depending on size of plant

Instructor: Addie Worth

Description: Our expert horticulturist will focus on the care and mounting of bromeliads. Students can bring a bromeliad to mount for an additional fee. You will need to bring your own wood or plaque for mounting.

Sign up: <https://selby.org/events/event/care-mounting-of-bromeliads/>

#### *Potting & Mounting Orchids*

Session I: Thursday, March 14

Session II: Thursday, April 18

Both sessions 11:00am – 1:00pm

Class fee per session: \$50, \$35 for members

Potting fee: \$10 average depending on size of plant

Instructor: Angel Lara

Description: Selby's knowledgeable Orchid Grower will help you give your treasured plants a new lease on life! Bring an orchid to re-pot for an additional fee.

Sign up: <https://selby.org/events/event/potting-mounting-orchids/>

Thank You, Sponsors!



Monica Newcomer, Coldwell Banker Realtor

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