



Happenings

Calendar Events



April 13
8:30am-10:30am
Garden Angels

Letter from the President, Chris O'Grady

Hi Everyone,

Spring is here, and a new beginning is upon us. This is true more this year than ever before. With the increased availability of coronavirus vaccines, we will all soon be able to return to a more "normal" lifestyle. Everyone who wants the vaccine should be able to have it shortly, if not already. How great it will be to join family and friends for simple get togethers that we used to take for granted. May this season of renewal bring a special peace and joy to us all.

The grounds at the Club are looking fabulous. A special thank you to everyone who has turned out to help. The weather has been beautiful, perfect for trimming plants and pulling weeds. Working on our grounds is a great way to reconnect and socialize with other Club members. Come on out and be a "Garden Angel" the second Tuesday of every month. Cathy Willard, Grounds Director, is at the Club by 8:30am. Arrive and leave at whatever times fit your schedule. The fresh air and camaraderie will do you good.

A big shout out to Judy Boehm who has put important Club information from 2019-2020 on a flash drive for everyone's convenience. The flash drive is in a muted red box in the office near the computer. There is a list of contents inside the box.

Another thank you to Nurse Judy Boehm for updating the Club's First Aid kit. Should you need it, the kit is located in the supply closet next to the thermostat.

A Board meeting was held on March 3rd. The Board voted to reschedule the Dr. Seuss Flower Show, "Obsessed", for November, **2022**. Rita Mixer is chairing a new, small standard show this coming fall on November 12th and 13th. This show, "In The Rear View Mirror", is a light-hearted spoof on the coronavirus. Janice Hamlin wrote the schedule. Rita will need lots of help to put this show together. Please volunteer your time and talent to make this fun show another MRGC success. One does not need to be a floral designer to help. There are jobs to match everyone's capabilities. Watch your e-mail for meeting times which Rita will be announcing.

Rentals are increasing. A big thank you to our new rental agent, Lynn Bondanza. She is doing a great job.

It's that time again. Edie Anderson, Membership Director, is collecting dues for the coming season. ALL DUES MUST BE PAID IN MAY. Please do not be thoughtless, lazy and delinquent! Being late creates a hardship for Edie, which is unfair and unnecessary. Mail your check to Edie as soon as possible, thank you. For further details, refer to Edie's newsletter article. She will be happy to answer any questions you may have.

Wishing everyone a HAPPY SPRING!

Chris



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

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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



Happy Spring! Although we were not able to meet in 2020-21 because of the pandemic, we can all look forward to getting together again in September, 2021. This is the time of year that I need to ask all our members to send their dues to me for the upcoming year. The dues amount is still \$40 and needs to be received by May 15th. If a member is renewing, the form is not needed. The Membership Form is for new members to send with their check. This form can be gotten from the website.

It is my job to receive everyone's check so I can get the list of all members that have joined again to Bev Chapin, our treasurer. Since we will not be meeting until September, please mail your dues to me as soon as possible. The check should be made out to Manatee River Garden Club but addressed to Edie Anderson, 2411 13th Avenue W, Bradenton, FL 34205. I appreciate that everyone will do this in a timely fashion. It will be a big help to Bev and me. Any questions regarding dues or membership, please call me 941-447-5024. Thanks so much, ladies, and see you in September.

FFGC Design Calendars by Pat Danahy

The final issue of the FFGC Floral Design Calendars is available for sale. Currently, 2021 is the last year planned to print these works of art

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, the cost is \$2.89 per calendar OR if convenient, we could meet someplace and save the shipping.

Cash or check made out to FFGC is 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 34212.

It would be wonderful if we could sell them out, but there is a long way to go for that. Be a part of history and own one of the final copies in print of these masterpieces! Thank you.



Grants And Scholarships from Betsy Lieberman

We are in the process of setting up visits for the Eaton Grant recipients to receive their plaques of recognition. Watch for an email with the dates and times, and let Betsy Lieberman know if you will attend any of the visits.

Treasurer's Report from Bev Chapin	
Bank Balances as of February 28, 2021	
Operating Account:	\$ 1,802.00
Rental Account:	\$\$\$ 1,266.37
Money Market:	\$ 8,674.73
<u>Total available funds:\$ 11,743.10</u>	
Eaton Funds:	\$ 2,778.36
Memorial Funds:	\$\$\$ 1,579.83
Legacy Funds:	\$ 500.00



April

Juliet Deitz 4/2
 Judy Rissler 4/6
 Carol Friedman 4/24

The Movies Come to a Garden Near You by Marsha Wikle



If I were ever to appear in a film, I would want the breeze in my hair, a crisp white gauze top and a handkerchief skirt flowing around me. Makeup would be nice and oh yes, an attractive co-star. Frank DiCesare wants to film me in an old garden-worthy shirt with sweat running down my face. He is also filming Cathy Willard and two other local male subjects in their gardens. Why would anyone do this?



Frank DiCesare is a documentary film maker who also teaches filmmaking at the University of South Florida. In 2018 he produced "Blacksmith", a poetic documentary showing a traditional blacksmith at work on his forge in Beaumont, TX. Filmed with sound effects but with no speaking or voice over, "Blacksmith" has been shown around the world and won the Special Jury Remi Award at the 51st WorldFest – Houston International Film Festival. Faced with COVID-born obstacles preventing him from putting a full-length documentary together, Mr. DiCesare has launched another short documentary project – this time about gardening.

So, forget the breeze in the hair image and picture us instead laboring in our gardens with a camera watching every move. I will happily consider this my contribution to the arts on a local scale. Cathy and I will keep you updated on our involvement in the film – which so far has involved Cathy trimming her beautiful bougainvillea over and over again, and some still shots for a promotional poster. Frankly speaking, I am tickled to learn about the process and hope my patience lasts until the final credits.



MRGC Grounds by Cathy Willard

Seven of us enjoyed a few hours in our gardens on March 9th. I want to thank Susan O'Donnell, Juanita Jensen – a new member, Olivia Cox, Jane Ellis, Chris O'Grady and Rita Mixer for working their magic in the gardens! Mary Patterson came by and cleaned the French windows inside the Club.

Susan weeded around and in the ground cover surrounding the lamppost out front; what an improvement! The 32nd Street gardens are really looking good, thanks to Olivia and Jane. Olivia moved to the north side of the parking lot, cleaning up the bromeliads and other plants on that side. Chris and Rita worked in that area also, pulling dandelions and other weeds, raking and picking up debris. Jane started working in the Hammock area, pulling fern, vine and dead debris. It will take many workdays to finish; then it will look so good! Juanita has adopted the Meditation garden but could use help; the weeds are never ending. I blew off the roof, walkways and parking lot, put pine needles in the Meditation garden, and raked leaves out of the large bromeliad area and some grass area. The last of us left about 1:15pm, quite satisfied with a good morning's work.



Olivia Cox pulling out dead bromeliad leaves



Jane Ellis working in the 32nd Street garden



Juanita Jensen pulling leaves in the Meditation Garden

Garden Angels by Cathy Willard

We 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 April 13th!!



Community Outreach from Pat Danahy

As Director of Community Outreach, the project this year is providing floral designs to essential workers. The smiles that emerge from the recipient's faces often replace the scowls that were there a few seconds before. Amazing how flowers, no matter how simple the arrangement, cheer people up when they realize they are appreciated.

This month I have done two small designs. The first was to CVS Pharmacy Department on the corner of Lakewood Ranch and Rt 64. They have been there for me during this time and are always as cheery as an overworked department can be. Their faces lit up when I brought it in.

The second was to Manatee Memorial Hospital. So hard to find the Emergency Department, so the Outpatient Check-in was the recipient. The "gatekeeper" was a bit miffed that I walked past her and gave the arrangement to a person checking in a customer.....but when I was done, smiles came to her face too!



CVS Pharmacy



Manatee Memorial Hospital

These simple arrangements cost me less than \$15, including the small dish that held them. Pay back is so much more. Please consider doing a simple design for an essential worker near you: fire departments, police departments, post offices, medical buildings, hardware stores, pharmacies that were open last year. There is a whole world of people that had to work during the pandemic while the rest of us stayed safely home. It will be worth the time, and you will be rewarded many times over knowing you made someone's day.

If you decide to do something, let me know. I have business cards to include so recipients know Manatee River Garden Club appreciates their efforts. Thank 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 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

I Need “Structure”

With so many garden club activities canceled this year, I think I have gotten a little “loose” with my flower arranging. I am still doing designs, but many times, I may just put some flowers and foliage from my garden in a pretty vase and call it a day. I realize I am missing the “structure” I am used to when doing designs for a flower show or flower arranging class. That is why I was so excited to see what Carol Friedman has been working on during this past year.

Carol was scheduled to present a program at the annual meeting of Creative Flower Arrangers of the Americas in February. The meeting was canceled, but Carol graciously shared her designs with a group of us at a recent Floralia meeting. Carol’s designs are “Structure Designs.” National Garden Clubs does not have a design type called “Structure Design”, but this type of design is recognized by many arrangers all over the world. The designer creates the structure, support, framework, container, or overall form which is vital to making all the different components a completed design.

I know you will enjoy these pictures of Carol’s designs, and I hope it will inspire you to try getting some “structure” back into your arranging.



This free standing structure is made of river cane. Water tubes are inserted to hold the flowers.



Another free standing design is shown here. The curving form is made from stems of areca palm shaped around hoops and dried into the round forms. Raffia is used to cover the forms. Cardboard palm and lilies are used to complete the design.



This is a very clever design. The parabolic forms are made from sticks and attached to a dowel. Dried Fatsia leaves were painted and attached to the forms. This is an excellent example of an Armature Design.

Carol is planning to present her program at CFAA in 2022. Thank you Carol for sharing your creativity with us.



The structural form for this design was made from limbs of a "Tapioca" tree which came down in a storm. Yarn is used to cover the forms, and beaded wire complements the colors of the flowers.

The Cat's Meow; A Purrfectly Good Way to Raise Funds for the Garden Club by Marsha Wikle



Stay tuned for more information about the Cat's Meow, a new vintage consignment shop located on 26th Street W, just north of Cortez and behind the Pet Supermarket. Opened by Theresa Muench prior to COVID and re-opening on April 1, the shop contains an eclectic collection of gently used merchandise, a man cave and a clothing boutique. The owner has offered a 5 x 10-foot booth free of charge to the Garden Club as a fundraiser. Profits from all merchandise sold in our booth go to the Club. Keep your eyes open at home for vintage clothing, home décor, furniture or homemade treasures that need re-homing. New member, Juanita Jensen, will be accepting donated items and helping to stage our booth.

Store hours are 10am-5pm Wednesday – Saturday. Once a month Theresa holds a tent sale in the parking lot with additional vendors. For questions or if you already have items to donate, please contact Juanita at juanitaj0202@gmail.com.

MRGC NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT - 2021-2022

By Rita Mixer

The Nominating Committee (Mary Patterson, Pat Danahy, Janice Hamlin, Sharron Jones and myself) met several times and communicated via emails and phone calls in order to procure six Board members for the upcoming year at MRGC. Unfortunately, we were only able to get five Board members. I am sure COVID did not help the situation since members did not meet together this whole year.

Signing up for another term are Edie Anderson and Betsy Lieberman. New members are Janice Hamlin, Melissa Brosnan and Julie Ackles. We are still looking for that sixth person to join the Board of Directors. The only requirement is that you be a member of our Garden Club for one full year. If you would like to be part of the Board, please contact me ASAP (rit@aol.com or 203 981-0247). Being a member of the BOD is not only a privilege, but also an honor!

In May we will be voting for our candidates by email, same as last year.

BIOS FOR 2021-2022 MRGC BOARD OF DIRECTORS CANDIDATES

Julie Ackles

I was born in Patuxent River, MD. I am the youngest of 3 children. We were a military family and moved around until I was 14 and my father retired. I have lived most of my life in Florida, since I was 11. I joined the Garden Club 11 years ago in January, 2010. A year later I took over someone's position on the Board of Directors and continued on my own term for a total of 5 years. I enjoy learning about the native plants and how to best garden in Florida. I find there are many interesting people in this Club to get to know and learn from.



Janice Hamlin

Janice has lived in Florida since early childhood and has always loved plants, flowers, birds, bees, and all things natural. In the early 1990's, the Club offered the FFGC Floral Design Study Series and invited the public to attend. Janice took the classes and joined the Club. She has been an active member of MRGC for over 25 years and has served as President (1999-2001), Recording Secretary, and Treasurer.

Janice served as District 8 Director (2013-15) and has served in several capacities for FFGC. Janice is active in flower show work and is a National Garden Clubs Flower Show Judge and Flower Show Design Instructor. She currently serves on the National Garden Clubs Board of Directors as Accrediting Chairman for the Flower Show Schools Committee. She is a member of Creative Floral Arrangers of the Americas and Florida State Florists Association.

Janice and husband, Curtis, have lived in Bradenton for over 40 years. They are very fortunate to have their son and family living here also. Janice shares her love of nature and flower arranging with her two young granddaughters.



Eddie Anderson

I retired in December, 2012, and I knew the one thing I wanted to do was join the Manatee River Garden Club. So in 2013 I joined and have enjoyed being a member. I have always had social anxiety and joining the Club has helped me in so many ways. As the years went on, I became more involved and have met many wonderful ladies who have the same interests as I do. I have been the Membership Director for two years and am now going into a third year being Director and serving on the Board. I am hoping this coming term will bring us some new members. After being off for a year, it will be so good to see our old members and welcome some new ones.



Betsy Lieberman

Since I was a child, I have enjoyed flowers and gardens. I was a member of Junior Garden Club as a teen in Ohio and always was amazed at everyone's talent. I enjoy the MRGC members and their many talents but consider myself more a "Worker Bee" than a talent asset of the club. I am currently the Director of Grants and Scholarships.



Melissa Brosnan

My name is Melissa Brosnan. I am from Sarasota, Fl. I moved around the country before returning back to my home state. I still feel a constant need to travel. My family and I live Out East. I have three beautiful daughters that very much keep me busy. My grandma is my hero. My biggest two loves in life are fishing and gardening. Watching new growth on plants or watching them bloom never ceases to amaze me. I have been a member of the MRGC for about 8 years now and love seeing what talents the members of this Club have.



Thank You, Sponsors!

Monica Newcomer, Coldwell Banker Realtor



Mary Widner Insurance Agency

Please thank our 2020-2021 individual and corporate sponsors by supporting them whenever possible



How Does Your Garden Grow?

Spring cleaning in your garden? Even in Florida, we can celebrate the arrival of spring. It may be early March, but new buds are forming on plants that have slept through our brief winter. Are you spring cleaning in your garden? Is there a task you don't enjoy but will do because it is spring? Tell us so we feel better about 1) continuing to procrastinate because it really is an awful task or 2) jumping in because we are in good company!



Cathy Willard:

All year I blow off my driveway circle; the oak leaves pile up around the Liriope. Twice a year, January and March, I rake and pick up at least a dozen barrels full, then throw them in my gardens for mulch. My circle is just a small portion of the property I have to rake up!!!



Oak leaves blown up against Liriope



Raked out leaves from Liriope



Picked up leaves. Still lots to do!

Marsha Wikle:

As my garden developed, I realized that even native plants need supplemental water. Un-mulched sand gets searing hot, so I probably cooked some plants before I learned the value of mulch and water applied as needed. I knew my property had a well and was lucky to find an experienced young well driller to locate the well and extract the pump. If your old pump gets stuck in the well, you have to well... drill another well. Fortunately we avoided that and with a working well and pressure tank, in 2017 I installed a micro-irrigation system for about 700 feet of linear landscaping. I am a big believer in micro-irrigation. All of our precious water goes directly to the plant and is not broadcast over a wider area, encouraging weeds. I have four watering zones, each of which has its own filter and pressure control valve.

Some maintenance is urgent, as when an animal chews through the half-inch feeder line and creates a gusher. I create most maintenance problems when I cut through the 1/2" feeder line while digging holes for planting or, back in the old days when grass still grew into the beds, when I used a mattock for weeding. Since laying down cardboard before mulching reduced the weed problem to almost nothing, the biggest problem now is finding the irrigation tubing – both the 1/2' feeder line and the 1/4' tubing that serves individual plants. Why oh why did I think I needed to bury the 1/2" line 6" deep in sand? In four years, roots have grown over the line so if I do need a repair, I can't get to it.

So, the task I have been putting off for nearly two years is finding all the line and checking the emitter at each plant and replacing as needed. Since you can't tell if it is working unless it is working, you do all the work with the system on. I'm wet and covered with sand the whole time. I am scratched from rubbing elbows with the underside of my bigger plants, and I have a bump on my head from trying to stand up under one of the 15-foot tall sea grapes. At this writing I have about 100' left to check. I feel really good about this. I have only made one trip to Ace Hardware for more supplies. And now I can contemplate which plants need fertilizer...



Caryl Ponder

Amaryllis blooming in my yard right now. There are 6 more stalks coming up so they should last a while.

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



UF/IFAS Sarasota County Extension Service

Register at uf Sarasota ext.eventbrite.com
No fees; all classes online

Micro-irrigation Webinar

Friday, April 2 from 12:00 – 1:00pm

Edible Gardening Series Webinars

Monday, April 5: *Spider Mites*

Monday, April 12: *Tools for Gardening*

Monday, April 19: *Insects and Colors*

12 – 12:30pm

Invasive Plants Near You, Part 1

Thursday, April 8 from 10:00am – 12:00pm

Cool Plants to Attract Butterflies and Pollinators

Thursday, April 15 from 10:00am – 12:00pm

Florida-Friendly Landscaping

Monday, April 19 from 2:00 – 4:00pm

UF/IFAS Manatee County Extension Service

Irrigation with Water Conservation in Mind Webinar

Tuesday, April 27 from 10:00am – 12:00pm

Instructor: Don Adkins, Irrigation Program Assistant

Free

This class satisfies the irrigation educational requirement for the Manatee County Outdoor Water Conservation Rebate Program.

Information: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/irrigation-with-water-conservation-in-mind-tickets-142558529399?aff=ebdssbonlinesearch>

Drought-Tolerant Plants 101 Webinar

Thursday, April 29 from 10:00am – 12:00pm

Free

Information: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/online-drought-tolerant-plants-101-tickets-142285490733?aff=ebdssbonlinesearch>

Marie Selby Botanical Gardens

Potting and Mounting Epiphytes like a Pro, Part II

Thursday, April 15 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. Participants can bring an epiphyte to pot or mount for an additional fee.

Ringling Museum

Bayfront Gardens Tour

Available Saturdays, Sundays, and Mondays

through April 26

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>

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

Windows 10 Basics

Monday, April 19 at 2pm

Learn the basics of using your Windows 10 computer or laptop such as how to use the Start menu, add icons to the toolbar, and find your files and folders.

Taught by Microsoft employees.



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.