



Happenings



Letter from the President

Spring is here and our Garden Tour is timed perfectly for the season's finest to be on display. We are all planning for a great day, but first, the Garden Gala soiree at KC Jeronimo's house, celebrating the club's 90th anniversary. It's going to be a true gala, so please make sure and come. It is from 5:30 to 7:30pm so we can all get home before dark and be refreshed for the tour. You can buy tickets at the door or online on our website. A thank you and a big shout out to ALL of our members for pitching in and helping out where you can at both the gala and the tour. The hostesses, kitchen ladies, ticket takers, sign girls, and of course the homeowners all contribute to the day's success. I hope you are able to come and have a wonderful time.

Our March meeting was a blast; we had chicken salad from Sweetberries and yummy desserts (that trifle was to die for). Our program speaker was one of our own, Manatee River Garden Club Member Nikki Mueller. She gave an entertaining talk on Vertical Gardening.

Don't forget to send any interesting photos, especially of any Random Acts of Gardening, to KC Jeronimo for the MRGC Facebook page.

As the weather warms up, some of you may be heading back up north or on vacation so travel safely, and enjoy the view.

Barbara Beury

President

Calendar Events

Apr. 9 12:00pm—3:00pm
Grants and Scholarships meeting

Apr. 9 8:30am—10:30am
Garden Angels

Apr. 17
10:00am Board meeting
11:00am Photo session
11:30am Membership meeting
and luncheon
1:00pm Program

Apr. 22 10:00am—11:00am
Garden Therapy

Apr. 25 9:30am—12:00pm
Horticulture Study Group



Membership by Edie Anderson



It's That Time of the Year

Dues are \$40 for single membership and are broken down by \$28.50 to MRGC, \$12 to FFGC and \$.50 to District VIII. If you are a life member your dues are \$28. Please mail your dues to MRGC, PO Box 14662, Bradenton, FL 34280-4662. I will also be collecting dues at our April meeting. Your dues are payable no later than May 1st. This will give me time to prepare membership records to send to the State and also to make sure you are included in our Membership Directory for 2019-2020. If you have any questions please contact me at captbigm93@gmail.com or 941-447-5024.

Treasurer's Report

From Caryl Ponder, Treasurer

Bank Balances as of 3/22/2019

| | |
|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Operating Account: | 5,446.29 |
| Rental Account: | \$30,087.63 |
| Money Market: | \$18,394.11 |
| Total | \$53,928.03 |
| Eaton Fund | <u>\$10,899.63</u> |
| GRAND TOTAL | \$64,827.66 |

Website: 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/ManateeRiverGardenClubInc) and [MRGC Garden Weddings.](https://www.facebook.com/MRGC.Garden.Weddings)

14th Annual Garden Tour "Bradenton In Bloom" and Gala in the Garden

by Sandy Plummer

Pictured are photos of the 5 gardens featured on this year's tour. Can you correctly identify them all?

Three of this year's gardens will feature Florida native plants! There is also a stunning tropical garden along Palma Sola Bay, and a "new" garden only 1½ years old. All homeowners will be present and will have some surprises for us along the way!



The Florida Native Plant Society, Serenoa Chapter, is providing support at the three Florida Native gardens. Their reps will be on hand to talk about the benefits of using native plants and to educate us on how easy this is to do in our own yards. Tom Heitzman, owner of Sweet Bay Nursery in Parrish, will be present as well as Serenoa Chapter President Erica Timmerman. Susan Griffith, Florida-Friendly Landscape Coordinator for the University of Florida IFAS Extension office, has volunteered her time as well. A special Thank You to these dedicated volunteers for supporting our Garden Tour!

Our annual Luncheon and Vendors' Fair will be fabulous as always! Candie Clerkin, Skeeter Smith and the many people who are working countless hours before, during and after the Garden Tour deserve a special round of applause for helping to make this one of the most successful Garden Tours ever! Cass Robertson has put together what could quite possibly be described as the largest and most exciting roster of vendors we have ever had! This event could not take place without these extraordinary volunteers.



Photos from the **Gala in the Garden** will be featured in May's newsletter. Thank you KC Jeronimo for opening up your stunning home and garden. Ginny Clark and Jo-Anne Schneider are working to make the event memorable and fun! Many others are working tirelessly behind the scenes to ensure this event goes smoothly. Thank you everyone for creating a beautiful evening for us!

Garden tour and Gala continued...

As Garden Tour Committee Chairman, it has been my pleasure to work with everyone on this fun event. I can't say enough about how well everyone has worked together and what a joy it is for me when, no matter the set-back, someone steps up to assist. Special thanks to Chris O'Grady (Club Decorations) and Mariel McRae (Raffles) for helping out when Dee Ferreira, this year's Fundraising Director, suffered a mishap while traveling and was unable to continue working on the tour. Special thanks to Barbara Crepeau, Judy Boehm, Caryl Ponder, and Barbara Beury for lending your expertise and providing much-needed guidance throughout. Your professionalism and extensive knowledge is much appreciated!



The Wrap-Up Meeting for the 14th Annual Garden Tour "Bradenton In Bloom" will be held **Monday, May 13th 11:00am** at the Clubhouse.

Garden Gala Reservations by KC Jeronimo

The Gala is being run by Jo-Anne Schneider and Ginny Clark. Many of you know of their fame with parties (for the newer members...the rumors are true.) There are still people needed to help. If you are so inclined, please call Jo-Anne Schneider at (941) 807-0601. PLEASE call Pat Danahy at (716) 622-1219 to make your plans to attend these events. You may also call me at (941) 348-9200 regarding the Gala and can mail or drop off a check at my house. It **really** helps to know how many will be attending so we can have enough wine. The cost for the Gala: \$15.00. The address for the Gala: 5206 24th Ave. Drive W, Bradenton 34219.

This is MRGC's 90th ANNIVERSARY!!! This event will not occur again in your lifetime. JOIN THE FUN... all are welcome.

Housekeeping notes from Mary Patterson

Well, Spring has sprung and with it come fresh ideas and the urge to clean up and clear out!



On the idea front, we now have a Decor Group to come up with ideas to update and refresh the club. We are starting with paint and window coverings and are in the process of getting bids. The hope is to get that work completed during our summer break.

Clean-Up isn't quite as much fun! I called a spontaneous "Silver Polishing Day" on March 21st to get ready for the Garden Tour. Many thanks to Caryl Ponder, Chris O'Grady, Louise Baar and Barb Beury. We got it done but it took all day. I'll plan ahead better next time!

Please, Ladies, don't use the club as a catch all for your unwanted vases and such. The store room is overflowing! We will schedule a work day after the Garden Tour.



April

| | |
|-------------------|------|
| Juliet Deitz | 4/2 |
| Judy Rissler | 4/6 |
| Steve Hogan | 4/15 |
| Patricia Hassner | 4/20 |
| Priscilla Seewald | 4/20 |
| Carole Friedman | 4/24 |



Sunshine

from Judy Zampello

A Flower cannot blossom
without sunshine,
and Man cannot live
without **LOVE**

Max Muller

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.

Floral Design Study will resume in September.

Hospitality from Harriatt (Skeeter) Smith

Hi Everyone,

It was a great luncheon on March 20th. We had 68 people there for it. I am glad to see more members and friends at the Club.

As always, I need you to RSVP to luncheons so we don't waste any food and so that there is sufficient food. So you must have your reservation in by April 13th for our April 17th meeting. I need the extra time to get prepared for the luncheon. So April 13th will be the last day for RSVP. The easiest way to respond is via the home page of our website – or call me – or email me.

I hope to see as many as we can hold on that day! Am looking forward to seeing many on March 30th, the day of the Garden Tour!



Grants and Scholarships

By Sandy Plummer and Cass Robertson

Field Trip to Manatee Rare Fruit Council and Palma Sola Botanical Park was huge success!



Caroline Powers holding a blossom from the kapok tree—waxy and beautiful

On March 6th 14 Manatee River Garden Club members and members of the public took a guided tour at Manatee Rare Fruit Council, one of our Eaton Fund projects. We were shown around by Pete Robertson—President, Joshua Starry—Horticulturist, Darryl McCullough—Treasurer and Nick Baden—founder and ambassador for Palma Sola Botanical Park.



Caryl Ponder, Cass Robertson, Su Pontius



It turned out to be a gorgeous day after a windy morning! Nick graciously offered golf cart rides for those challenged by the distance and rough terrain. We saw a beautiful arch that Eaton Fund had supplied funds for when the park first opened and the signage, benches, irrigation system and pergola that were purchased with Eaton funds granted in 2018.

Many of the 80 rare fruit trees were in bloom and some had ripe fruits, which we sampled. Pete brought up the website and showed us how, under the Palma Sola tab, you can quickly obtain complete information on all the plants. There are fruits, vegetables, and other edibles, including nuts, herbs, spices and edible flowers.



Darryl, Joshua and Pete

Joshua is a previous President and he oversees the tree display, including planting, pruning, fertilizing and more. Joshua showed us Biochar, an ancient Amazonian fertilizer and explained how he uses this method to fertilize.





The jackfruit tree's fruit is the largest tree-borne fruit, reaching as much as 120 lbs, 35" in length and 20" in diameter. (pictured left)

The amaryllis plants on display were fabulous and a favorite amongst the ladies. (pictured right)



The lychee tree and a close-up are pictured here.



Nick toured us around the PSBP and showed us many beautiful flowers and trees.

The MRFC display is one of few tropical rare fruit plantings in the USA; some 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. The Palma Sola Botanical Park is an unusually warm and protected micro-climate which allows rare palms, fruits, flowering trees and other subtropical plants to be safely grown.



Photos by Chris O'Grady and Sandy Plummer

Garden Therapy from Pat Danahy

Garden Therapy is a program MRGC has done for years. It is working with the clients at the Meals on Wheels Plus of Manatee County day care located at 10920 E. State Road 70 in Lakewood Ranch on the 4th Monday of the month, 10 till 11am. There are between 30 and 50 attendees who spend the day there. Our goal is to have a project that takes about an hour, and everyone can take it home with them.



Melissa Brosnan prepared most of the items needed with the help of her daughter, Grace, who also lent a hand with the folks. Sandy Brophy and I also helped.

This month's project on March 25th will be another floral creation to celebrate Easter and Spring. The April date is the 22nd.

If anyone has any questions about this program, do not hesitate to contact me at danahy2010@gmail.com or 716-622-1219.

Our project for February was a St. Patrick themed floral design. The 30 clients used painted containers, applied stickers as a decoration and added spring colored flowers to finish the project. As many times as we plan on floral designs as the activity, the clients never tire of them. They love to take them home and show off their talents.



HAPPY



EASTER



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 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, April 9, 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.



Programs by Chris O'Grady

This month's program on Wednesday, April 17th at 1pm will be presented by Manatee River Garden Club's own Lori Richie. As most of you know, Lori is one of our top floral designers. She is also an accredited National Garden Club flower show judge. To become a judge is no easy task. One must complete a lengthy series of courses to learn the intricate principles of various floral design styles. There are also numerous classes in horticultural, discussions on how to judge the work of others, and multiple exams to be passed.

Lori has organized a panel of five expert floral designers who will present different types of beautiful designs. Each will explain the principles of the particular design she has created for us. Questions are welcomed and encouraged.

Join in the fun and gain knowledge in floral design. Next year's flower show is right around the corner! This is a program you do not want to miss.



Horticultural Study Group

Mark your calendars for Thursday, April 25th for our last Horticulture Program of the year. 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 a "Make it and Take it" led by speaker, Lori Walker, from the Manatee County Extension Service. Lori will guide us in attaching tillandsias to a grapevine wreath for a stunning addition to your garden. Lori will also have plants for sale.

The fee for each program is \$10. Some members have prepaid for all programs. This program is limited to 30 members; the \$10 must be paid by Friday, March 29th in order to purchase supplies.

We are looking forward to learning and growing with you!



The program for March was "Succulents & Cacti" led by speaker, David Ugucioni, from the Sarasota Succulent Society.

Photo Sessions Coming to an End By Barbara Crepeau

Our last member photo session will be at our April 17th general meeting. If you've not had your picture taken yet and would like to have it taken and posted on our club's website Members page, please come to the April meeting. The photos are taken out on the porch, and we start at 11am so that we can be done by the start of the general meeting at 12 noon. Look for me, Barbara Crepeau, Cathy Willard, or Sandy Brophy. Barbara Crepeau will send out a notification 2 weeks before the meeting to those that have an email address on file and haven't had their photos taken yet. Members not having an email address on file can call Barbara at 941-747-1213 and ask to be put on the April list.

Upcoming Activities for April Right Here in Our Back Yard



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

1303 17th Street W, Palmetto

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

Or call 941.722.4524

Grafting Fruit Trees

Saturday, April 20 from 9am – noon

Administrative fee: \$15 due by April 15

Description: This hands-on propagation workshop shows you the basic techniques needed to graft fruit trees, shrubs, house plants, and most any other plant capable of being grafted. Participants will practice grafting with mango trees.

Seed-Saving Strategies

Friday, April 19 from 5:30 – 7:30pm

Administrative fee: \$5

Description: Have you ever considered saving your own vegetable seeds? This 2-hour workshop is designed to help you learn the basics of this age-old practice. Topics include basic plant biology & mating systems, isolation techniques & varietal maintenance, & seed-saving strategies for some of the most commonly cultivated vegetable & herb crops in central Florida.

Landscaping for Pollinators

Saturday, April 27 from 11:00am – 12:30pm

Fees: \$5 in advance; \$8 day of workshop

Description: If you plant it, they will come! Pollinators are losing habitat & face many other challenges in our urbanizing environment. Learn how to identify local pollinators like bees, butterflies, & hummingbirds & what their needs are to provide them with the elements they require to thrive.

Classes held at Selby Gardens

The Wisdom of Trees

Thursday, April 4 from 10am – 2:30pm

Class fee: \$65, \$55 for members

Instructor: Beverly Gordon

Description: More and more the scientific community is discovering how profoundly important trees and plants are to us. In this class you will explore trees from many perspectives: informational; personal; and through interaction with actual trees on the Selby grounds using cameras or cell phones, sketching and writing exercises. Learn about tree heartbeats, the wood wide web and how to listen to trees and plants to enrich your understanding and increase your attunement to the natural environment and your place within it.

Sign up: <https://selby.org/events/event/the-wisdom-of-trees/>

Potting & Mounting Orchids

Session II: Thursday, April 18 from 11am – 1pm

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/>



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Monica Newcomer, Coldwell Banker Realtor

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