

THE

VOLUME 3, ISSUE 1 · SEPTEMBER–DECEMBER 2022

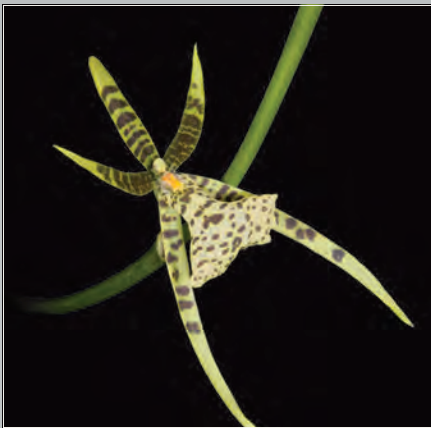
SANCTUARY



THE ORCHID SHOW 2022

CAPTURING
THE PERFECT
SHOT

DOWNTOWN SARASOTA CAMPUS
OCTOBER 15–DECEMBER 4, 2022



MARIE SELBY
BOTANICAL
GARDENS





“Keep in mind that while the photography we’re displaying was taken for research purposes, it begs the essential question: Is it not art too?”



What a wonderful journey we have shared thus far through “The Year of Photography”—a visual excursion on our Downtown Sarasota campus featuring numerous breathtaking images and diverse styles.

We started by showcasing the iconic flower photography of Robert Mapplethorpe, one of the most acclaimed photographers of the 20th century. Visitors saw and learned how Mapplethorpe’s genius helped raise photography to fine art. Following that theme, the works in our current summer exhibition, *Flora Imaginaria: The Flower in Contemporary Photography*, were created in the three decades following Mapplethorpe’s 1989 passing, continuing the evolution of floral photography in bold and beautiful directions.

Now, I can’t wait for the spectacular show coming next! *The Orchid Show 2022: Capturing the Perfect Shot*, which runs from October 15 through December 4, will feature the stunning work of passionate Selby Gardens volunteer photographers, whose images capture the glorious essence of rare orchids in our collection. Keep in mind that while the photography we’re displaying was taken for research purposes, it begs the essential question: Is it not art too? It most certainly is—as you see already on the cover and inside this issue of *The Sanctuary*. These photographs are truly amazing, and I can’t wait for you to enjoy them for yourself.

Speaking of research, this issue also casts a spotlight on a key element of our Master Plan, the Steinwachs Family Plant Research Center. This state-of-the-art facility will protect, preserve, and showcase our world-class research collections, including the fascinating Spirit Collection that you can read about in detail. In essence, *The Orchid Show* is highlighting the collections that are being stewarded by the Master Plan.

And just one more word on the Master Plan: Construction is blazing forward, and we appreciate everyone bearing with us as we grow. It’s exciting that we have a record number of members today—more than 17,000! I realize that parking is a challenge right now, but please know that we have solid options for you on site. And, the new construction is designed to welcome our larger and growing numbers over the long term. As we progress, we look forward to telling you about more great additions—including more green space and garden features—that will result from our exciting expansion.

I hope you also make time to visit our Historic Spanish Point campus this fall. We’re introducing a new Halloween-themed event that’s just perfect for the Old Florida feel of this beautiful bayfront preserve. You can read about it inside. And our cutting-edge *Seeing the Invisible* art exhibition continues for another year, merging new technology with our historic setting for an experience like no other.

Thank you so much for your continued support, and I hope you find this issue of *The Sanctuary* picture-perfect!

Cheers,

Jennifer O. Rominiecki
President & CEO

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Marianne D. McComb, <i>Chair</i>	Morgan Bentley Mary Braxton-Joseph	Teri A Hansen Marcy Klein	Audrey Robbins Jeannie Russell
Dr. Joel Morganroth, <i>Vice Chair</i>	Ariane Dart Norbert P. Donelly	Katherine A. Martucci Cornelia Matson	Pauline L. Wamsler Margaret Wise
Daniel “Pat” Ball	Renée James Gilmore	Keith Monda	Jennifer O. Rominiecki, <i>President & CEO</i>
Aaron Bellamy	Jean Weidner Goldstein	Michael Quillen	

ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Teri A Hansen, *Chair, Advisory Committee* • Peggy Allen • J. Allison Archbold, Esq. • Maryann Armour
Suzanne Atwell • Elaine Barber • Robert Bartner • Honorable Michael Bennett • Sondra Biller
Kathleen Brown • Mary Butler • David Citron • Kelvin Cooper, PhD • Olivia Craig • BJ Creighton
Eileen Curd • Andrew M. Economos, PhD • Betsy Elder • Douglas C. Elder • Leon Ellin
Geraldine Fabrikant • Martin W. Faust • William C. Fletcher • Liebe Gamble • Billy Gamble
Scott Greer • Mary Evelyn Guyton • Barbara Hansen • Mark Hawkins • Stephen Hazeltine • Gary Heard
Rod Hollingsworth • Carolyn Johnson • Keith Johnson • Nora Johnson • Wilson M. Jones • Deb Kabinoff
Craig Kaplan • GeeDee Kerr • Beverly Koski • Ashley Kozel • Richard Lawrence, Esq. • Thomas B. Luzier, Esq.
Flora Major • Beth Malden • Carol Miller • Virginia Miller • Jonathan Mitchell • Robert L. “Bob” Moore
Charlie Mueller • Charles Murphy • Vickie Oldham • Anand Pallegar • Laura Peters • Sandy Rederer
Britt Riner • Wayne Rollins • Michael Saunders • Nikki Sedacca • Ken Shelin • Dr. Rachel Shelley
Grace Smith, *STAR Youth Leader* • Susan Sofia • Bruce Sorensen • Charles Stottlemeyer • Delores Stottlemeyer
Joseph A. Strosnik • Dr. Laurey T. Stryker • Steven R. Swartz • Dr. Kiat W. Tan • Marcia Jean Taub
Martin M. Wasmer • Elisabeth Waters • Gwen Watson • Sharyn Weiner • Michael J. Wilson, Esq. • Art Wood
Judy Zuckerberg • Marianne D. McComb, *Chair, Board of Trustees* • Jennifer O. Rominiecki, *President & CEO*

MISSION

To provide bayfront sanctuaries connecting people with air plants of the world, native nature, and our regional history

PROGRAM SPONSORS

Selby Gardens’ programs are sponsored in part by the State of Florida, Department of State, Division of Cultural Affairs, the Florida Council on Arts and Culture, and the National Endowment for the Arts; and are paid for in part by Sarasota County Tourist Development Tax revenues.



Smithsonian
Affiliate



Accredited by the American
Alliance of Museums



Accredited by the Center
for Plant Conservation

CONNECT WITH US



@selbygardens

NEW TRUSTEES

Selby Gardens welcomes three new members to its governing Board of Trustees. **Morgan Bentley**, **Mary Braxton-Joseph**, and **Audrey Robbins** joined the Board on July 1. Each will serve a three-year term. **Chair Marianne D. McComb** and **Vice Chair Dr. Joel Morganroth** were reelected as Board officers for the 2022-23 fiscal year. Former Chair **Michael J. Wilson** and former secretary and treasurer **J. Allison Archbold** completed nine years of service on the Board at the end of June and are continuing their service on the Advisory Committee. Thank you, Mike and Allison, for your leadership and dedication to Selby Gardens!



MORGAN BENTLEY

Morgan is managing partner of the law firm Bentley Goodrich Kison. A highly regarded trial attorney, he focuses the majority of his practice on complex business litigation matters, and his experience extends to real estate disputes, including land use and zoning. He is a former president of the Sarasota County Bar Association and a former member of the board of governors of The Florida Bar.



MARY BRAXTON-JOSEPH

Mary is an Emmy-award winning television journalist and media consultant. From 1990 through 1995, she was Senior Advisor for Media Relations and Public Affairs for the Council on Foundations. Prior to that, she served as Manager of

Community Affairs and Editorials for WJLA-TV 7, the ABC network affiliate in Washington, D.C.



AUDREY ROBBINS

Audrey is a retired educator and a community volunteer and philanthropist who is active in the arts as well as human services and education in our region. She also serves as a trustee of The Sarasota Ballet, and she chaired the Gala Committee for the 2022 Sarasota Opera Gala.

Also continuing their service as Selby Gardens Trustees this year are Daniel “Pat” Ball, Aaron Bellamy, Ariane Dart, Norbert P. Donelly, Renée James Gilmore, Jean Weidner Goldstein, Teri A Hansen, Marcy Klein, Katherine A. Martucci, Cornelia Matson, Keith Monda, Michael Quillen, Jeannie Russell, Pauline L. Wamsler, Margaret Wise, and President & CEO Jennifer O. Rominiecki.

GOVERNANCE

Governing the Gardens

Selby Gardens’ volunteer Board of Trustees is responsible for setting the strategic direction of the organization and adopting sound governance and fiscal-management policies to ensure a sustainable future. Our Trustees’ diverse individual expertise and clear-eyed decision-making as a group have put Selby Gardens on the leading edge of institutions guiding our region forward while preserving what makes it unique. From the 2020 adoption of the Historic Spanish Point campus to this year’s innovative sustainability bond issue to help finance our Master Plan, our Board balances visionary leadership with fiduciary prudence to advance Selby Gardens’ mission.



Silk Floss Tree

Ceiba speciosa

Ceiba speciosa is a showy member of the mallow family, Malvaceae. It puts on an impressive display of large pink flowers in the autumn, when the tree is deciduous. Found in regions with dry conditions for several months of the year, it stores water in its swollen trunk and protects that water from thirsty animals with a dense covering of large prickles protruding from its distinctive green bark. Two specimens grow on the Downtown Sarasota campus, by the Gazebo along the Great Lawn.

The common name of this *Ceiba* refers to the silky fibers attached to the seeds that catch the wind and aid in dispersal. These buoyant silky fibers were used to stuff pillows and life jackets before synthetic fibers were introduced.

ABOUT

- Native to southern South America
- Palmate leaves with five or seven leaflets on each leaf
- Grows to 75 feet or more; give it plenty of room when planting in the landscape



WHAT'S IN BLOOM

Giant Ironweed

Vernonia gigantea

Giant ironweed is a native herbaceous perennial, a non-woody plant that goes dormant but grows from the roots every year. This species is one of the tallest ironweeds, and in ideal conditions it can grow to eight feet. It is called ironweed because of its strong stems and rust-colored fading flowers and seeds.

Dormant in winter, it grows tall throughout the springtime, then delights with a striking display of purple flowers perched on the tips of the stems. Giant ironweed is an important nectar source for native bees and butterflies, and it grows best in sunny locations, with rich, moist soils. It can be found throughout the Historic Spanish Point campus, as well as along the bayfront by the Event Center on the Downtown Sarasota campus.

ABOUT

- Member of the sunflower family, Asteraceae, the largest plant family in the world
- Found throughout the eastern half of the U.S.
- Each “flower” is an inflorescence comprising multiple disc flowers with five petals each



BRINGING HISTORY ALIVE

Selby Gardens’ new public archaeologist wants to help present-day visitors get excited about the past



“I have long loved interpretation, education, and public archaeology,” says Sarah Bennett. In her new role as public archaeologist for Marie Selby Botanical Gardens, she’ll have ample opportunity to bring history to the forefront at the Gardens’ two campuses.

In fact, as she ticks off her wish list for the near future, the possibilities seem as broad as the sites’ rich histories.

On the Historic Spanish Point campus, where the past stretches back some 5,000 years, Bennett has begun monitoring site erosion along the shoreline and within the popular exhibit *A Window to the Past*, where visitors can observe a cross-section of a shell mound that First Floridians built beginning approximately 2,500 years ago. She also plans to continue analyzing, organizing, and digitizing the archaeological collection and to work with Selby Gardens’ education and curatorial staff to develop tours and other interpretive offerings.

At the Downtown Sarasota campus, Bennett plans to conduct fieldwork before construction begins for Phases Two and Three of the Master Plan. “There are opportunities for archaeology on that property too, and I think interpretive programs and educational activities could be offered there as well,” she says. “Much of what happens at the Historic Spanish Point campus should happen on the Downtown campus too.”

Bennett believes strongly in the power and importance of public archaeology and the value of making the past relevant to people today. “There are a lot of reasons why I love public archaeology,” she says. “Not only is there the science of it and sharing that science and telling those stories, but along with it you’re promoting these critical ideas of tolerance, inclusivity, and understanding of yourself as well as other people. It’s seeing that there are amazing trends of continuity in human behavior and culture, but at the same time celebrating the changes and recognizing how and why they occurred.”



Artifacts awaiting analysis and curation

Shining a spotlight on those who came before us involves much more than unearthing really old pottery or tools. Archaeology tells stories that can link the past, present, and future. “By helping people understand and appreciate the Indigenous populations that lived at the Historic Spanish Point site and throughout Florida, there are exciting opportunities for people to see connections between the past and the present,” says Bennett. “The Seminole and Miccosukee tribes still live in Florida. Four other tribes are affiliated with this state. They’re still vibrant communities that practice some of the same cultural traditions that archaeologists are studying.”



Working in the field at the Historic Spanish Point campus

Bennett received her bachelor’s degree from Flagler College in 2010 and her master’s degree from the University of West Florida in 2015. She has worked as an archaeologist in public, private, and government contexts particularly at sites in eastern and central Florida. Most recently, she did a stint with the National Park Service in the interpretation division at Fort Frederica National Monument on St. Simons Island, Georgia.

“My time with the NPS sparked new ideas of how to talk about different things to different people,” she says. “So, I am going to really employ that experience to make sure people are walking away with an understanding that resonates with them.”

That understanding will hopefully include a better sense of this region’s history. “If people can use their imaginations after visiting the Historic Spanish Point campus, they can envision how this area looked hundreds or even thousands of years ago,” she says. “Middens, mounds, and other types of monumental architecture once dotted the Florida coast. I hope people are able to turn on their imaginations and see the landscape as it once was.”

CAPTURING THE PERF

This year's Orchid Show celebrates the fine art and meticulous science of flora photography.

There couldn't be a more fitting way to celebrate "The Year of Photography" at Selby Gardens than through our annual Orchid Show. Starring the plant for which we are best known, the yearly exhibition focuses attention on Selby Gardens' specialty—our living collections and research—always in imaginative new ways.

This fall, the event will showcase the breathtaking camerawork of a group of devoted Selby Gardens volunteers. Their images spanning 15-plus years convey the magic and majesty of orchids, while also contributing significantly to botanical science.



Documenting the Living Collection

As a scientific institution, Selby Gardens relies on keeping accurate records of our plant collections. Photography is ideal for capturing the characteristics and components that taxonomists need to identify plant species and describe new ones for science. Photos also can be more easily shared and widely disseminated than plants themselves, making our living collection more accessible. Selby Gardens currently holds well over 100,000 digital images of flora, and volunteers have been key to building this enormous body of work.

"The photographs become another form of botanical evidence—a permanent record of something ephemeral," says Dr. David Berry, vice president for visitor engagement and chief museum curator. "And particularly in the case of a flower, which has a limited lifespan, the photographs serve a very important purpose."

Through the lens of our talented volunteers, they also prove incredibly beautiful. Berry discovered that early on when helping to plan previous Orchid Shows. "We have used a handful of these photos before, but to illustrate other points," he says. "The images had a didactic and a decorative role."

This time, they are the marquee attraction. "There's been an increasing realization that we have these really wonderful assets produced by some extraordinary people," Berry says. "And it's now a subject in its own right."



ECT SHOT



Portraits of Plants

The Orchid Show 2022 will explore that subject by telling two primary stories. The first is the work of the photographers themselves—the purpose and the process of what they do so well. The women and men who shoot orchids from the living collection recognize that each plant is unique and requires an individualized approach. They describe their work as plant portraiture, the aim of which is to capture the distinguishing features of each orchid as faithfully as possible.

The photos can preserve a magnificent flowering process that might not happen with great frequency for certain species. “It can be a year or more between flowering, so it’s wonderful to document that,” Berry says. They also can zoom in on details and illustrate finer points, particularly with orchids that you simply can’t see with the naked eye. “The tiniest orchids are roughly the size of a pinhead, so photography is an ideal medium to examine them,” he adds.

The photographs have been created by a group of skilled photographers deeply connected to Selby Gardens’ mission. They include Dr. Wade Collier, Dr. Aaron Fink, Suzanne Havens, Sandra Robinson, and Dr. Phil Nelson—the first to begin digitally photographing the collection nearly two decades ago. They bring both a scientific understanding and an artistic sensibility to their work. And therein lies the second story. “Compositionally, the photographs are quite stunning,” Berry says. “These aren’t only pictures of pretty plants. They’re works of art.”



Artists at Work

Combing through thousands of potential photos for the show to choose about 30 visuals to feature was a delightfully difficult job. The diverse array selected will be displayed within the galleries of the Museum of Botany & the Arts as well as in the Tropical Conservatory—sharing space in the latter with choice specimens from the living collection, of course.

One special feature being discussed for the Orchid Show is a live studio that could be set up in one of the gallery spaces, allowing the volunteer photographers to perform their digital wizardry before visitors’ eyes. The photographers could interact with the public as they work, and guests would have a chance to see the process in action.

Berry and his colleagues are also working on a book project that will involve even more of this spectacular work. The goal there is to coordinate publication with the opening of Phase One of the Master Plan next fall—also coinciding with the 50th anniversary of Selby Gardens’ founding. “It seems like an auspicious and fitting time to highlight the orchid collection and celebrate all the people who care for, steward, and document it,” Berry says.

Meanwhile, this fall’s show will give orchid lovers a unique opportunity to enjoy rare flowerings and exquisite details typically seen by just a fortunate few. The photos will present a whole new way to experience orchids—aesthetically and educationally.

THE ORCHID SHOW 2022

Capturing the Perfect Shot

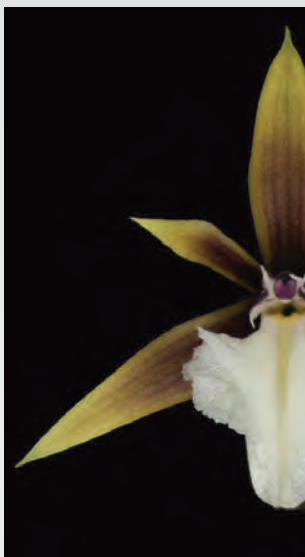
Downtown Sarasota Campus

October 15–December 4, 2022

Open 10 a.m.–5 p.m. daily

(Museum closes at 4:30 p.m.)

For special events related to the Orchid Show, go to selby.org/events.



A DESERVING HOME FOR A SPIRITED COLLECTION



Vice President Bruce Holst and Assistant Curator Elizabeth Gandy look forward to a new home for Selby Gardens' research collections

Bruce Holst, Selby Gardens' vice president for botany, remembers arriving as a herbarium assistant in 1994 and looking at a very unassuming spirit collection made up mostly of exotic orchids. The collection was housed in cardboard beer flats, with the orchids placed in mayonnaise jars, pickle jars, and pill bottles filled with alcohol (hence the name "spirit"). And all of them resided in cabinet drawers completely out of sight to the outside world.

Then came a National Science Foundation grant for which Holst co-wrote the application. That allowed the collection to be stored in all new glass bottles with Teflon liners rather than paper, which was prone to dissolving over time. New storage boxes were purchased to reduce evaporation, and the move was made from a spot on the other side of U.S. Highway 41 to a house along Palm Avenue on the Downtown Sarasota campus.

From these modest beginnings—and propelled along the way by game-changing orchid contributions from Selby Gardens co-founder Dr. Carlyle Luer—the fabled spirit collection now ranks as the second-largest in the world, with some 35,000 specimens. Only the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, in England has more.

And now, after all these years, Selby Gardens' spirit collection is about to get a new home mirroring its monumental stature in the orchid world.



Examining a herbarium specimen



Spirit preservation maintains a plant's three-dimensional structure

CTION

Protect, Preserve, Present



External rendering of the Plant Research Center

A key component of Phase One of the Master Plan for the Downtown Sarasota campus is the new Steinwachs Family Plant Research Center. This cutting-edge facility will protect, preserve, and provide the public with new windows into Selby Gardens' world-class research collections. That includes the Nathalie McCulloch Research Library (rare volumes and hand-colored illustrations dating to the 1700s), the Elaine Nicpon Marieb Herbarium and Laboratory (over 117,000 dried and pressed tropical plant specimens), and the Carlyle A. Luer Spirit Laboratory.

The spirit collection will reside in two rooms within the facility, both protected by firewalls. The larger one will house the bulk of the collection, with a mobile storage system for functional use. A smaller display room with specimens visible behind glass will be accessible for guided member tours. "The collection makes a statement," says Holst, "and it's really beautiful. More importantly, these spaces will be designed specifically for their purpose—we've never had that before."

It's a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity, and the design and construction teams are still hard at work on the details. But the result will offer big payoff: Though the spirit collection itself won't be open to the general public, it will become a focal point of special guided tours. "People will be able to walk through the spirit collection, library, herbarium, and DNA lab, all of which will be adjacent," Holst explains.

There's also a plan to dedicate interpretive space within the new Jean Goldstein Welcome Center—another part of Phase One—so a limited number of specimens bathed in their special solution (70% alcohol, 27% water, and 3% glycerin) can be brought to the public for viewing.

For Holst, who has seen all the phases of the spirit collection, as well as for Selby Gardens CEO Jennifer Rominiecki, the new era that awaits is truly momentous.

"This is something I had dreamed about for a long time," Holst says. "My goal was to get the library, the spirit collection, the lab, and the herbarium together in the same building, and protect them as much as possible," he says. "The institution just couldn't do that prior to this. But with Jennifer, we were able to envision, plan, and implement it. It's very exciting to see it all coming together."

And a long way from the spirit collection's days in pickle jars on beer flats.

GROWING THE COLLECTION

There's a good reason why Selby Gardens' spirit laboratory will bear the name of Gardens co-founder Dr. Carlyle Luer, who passed away in 2019. It was his monumental contribution that made our magnificent and varied assortment of orchid specimens the second-largest on the planet.

"I can tell you that he's responsible for the lion's share of the collection," says Bruce Holst, vice president for botany. "He was our intellectual founder, along with Cal Dodson, our founding executive director, and Kiat Tan, who went on to lead Gardens by the Bay in Singapore."



Dr. Carlyle "Carl" Luer

From the outset, these three orchid experts worked hard at preserving orchid specimens and knew the value of the liquid spirits that kept them from molding. "Most importantly, that allows the flowers to maintain their original, three-dimensional shape," Holst says. "The other preservation techniques involve drying and pressing the flowers, so you lose much of the information. Any institution that works a lot with orchid taxonomy has a spirit collection for that reason."

The many orchidologists who worked at Selby Gardens over the years often donated specimens to the collection, knowing they would be cared for properly. The fact is, even some large institutions don't have good spirit collections, Holst explains, but Selby Gardens rapidly developed one of the very best anywhere.

Another key step in the growth of the collection occurred with a major donation from orchidologist Leslie Garay of Harvard University. In another instance, one of Cal Dodson's graduate students brought in a box of specimens she had been storing under her bed, after reading an article Holst co-authored on the burgeoning Selby Gardens collection.



Carl and Jane Luer

In addition, the Gardens' original trio of orchid enthusiasts started an orchid identification center, encouraging growers and nursery owners to bring in their flowers to be identified for a small fee. "We probably added 6,000 specimens that way," Holst says.

But by far the biggest step in the process involved Luer. "When he worked here, he had left us roughly 9,000 specimens," Holst adds. "Eventually, he went out on his own, but in time he had to start thinking of where to put his flowers. So, he gave us a call one day and said, 'Come on over and get 'em, boys.'"

Holst and another Selby Gardens orchidologist who worked with Luer, Dr. Antonio Toscano de Brito, rented a freight container that they had to air-condition, hired a mover, and drove to a nearby location to retrieve another 13,000 specimens. And the rest is Selby Gardens spirit history.



Kiat Tan, Cal Dodson, and Carl Luer

RISING TO THE CHALLENGE

With phones out and cameras at the ready, many people could be seen scavenging the wilds and not-so-wilds of Sarasota and Manatee counties a few months ago. They hadn't lost something—they were carefully documenting our region's flora and fauna in response to an international challenge.



Logging an observation for the EcoFlora Project

Hundreds of local “citizen scientists” were among the many participants worldwide in this year’s City Nature Challenge, an annual, multi-day event to document biodiversity in urban areas. Activities in our region were coordinated by the Sarasota-Manatee EcoFlora Project, an initiative to document plant diversity and distribution in our two-county region. This local effort is led by Selby Gardens as part of a network of five EcoFloras around the country.

Both the EcoFlora Project and the City Nature Challenge utilize *iNaturalist*, a user-friendly digital platform that lets everyday nature lovers document and share observations of the natural world around them. In the process, they can learn about both native and invasive species and contribute meaningful data to help protect and preserve natural resources.

Some 359 people, many of them volunteers or staff of Selby Gardens, participated in local activities tied to the April 29–May 8 City Nature Challenge—with great success. Together, they logged 5,934 total observations of 1,494 different species,

an increase of more than 1,000 observations and 300 species over last year! As for state bragging rights, our region made the second-most observations among eight Florida cities and regions that took part, outperforming larger metro areas.

The most observed species here were brown anoles, followed by American alligators and cabbage palms. One of the rarest plant observations for our area was a yellow-eyed grass, *Xyris stenotera*, seen by just one spotter. The Challenge also brought awareness to threatened plants and animals, with 284 observations of 58 threatened species. The giant airplant, a bromeliad species in decline around the state and being studied by Selby Gardens botanists, was spotted 19 times. For a round-up of this year’s results, visit the Sarasota-Manatee EcoFlora Project on the *iNaturalist* app or website.

Thank you to all of the volunteer observers and species identifiers who contributed to this year’s City Nature Challenge! To learn more about the EcoFlora Project and get involved, email ecoflora@selby.org or go online to selby.org and search for “EcoFlora.”



Asimina bethanyensis



Xyris stenotera

THE WORLD COMES TO SELBY GARDENS

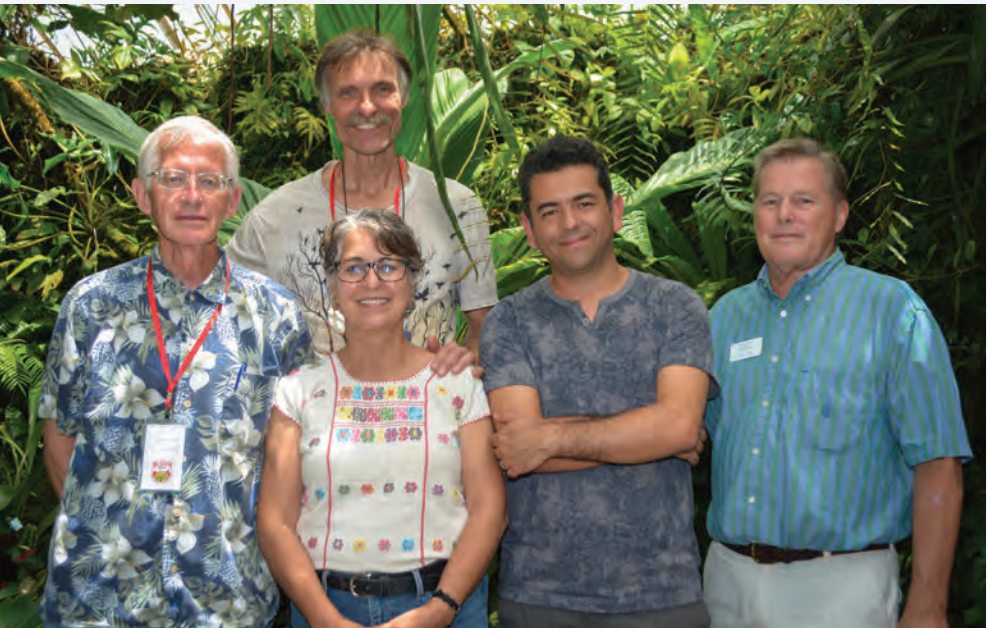
Attendees of the 2022 World Bromeliad Conference got a bonus with this June’s event: access to the best scientifically documented collection of bromeliads in the world, right here at Selby Gardens!

The biannual show, put on by the Bromeliad Society International, was hosted for the first time ever in Sarasota,

June 8–12. Conference goers had to wait two years for the opportunity. Originally scheduled for 2020, the Sarasota show was postponed by the pandemic. But the wait was worth it, according to Selby Gardens Vice President for Botany Bruce Holst.

“We got to share our collection with 120 bromeliad fanatics, and they loved it,” he said. The program included a morning-long visit to the Downtown Sarasota campus, where our President & CEO Jennifer Rominiecki welcomed attendees before they broke into small groups for a behind-the-scenes tour of our world-renowned living plant collection. Conference registrants also could visit the Gardens on their own throughout the week.

Four of the world’s leading bromeliad researchers spent several days on site working with the collection alongside Holst and his team. “Having experts visit our living and preserved collections to update names, identify previously unidentified plants in their specialties, and discover species not yet described for science helps us to improve the accuracy of the names we use,” said Holst. “Hosting Greg, Eric, Ivón, and Julian—two of whom were interns here during the early stages of their careers—was especially gratifying for me, as I have known them all for decades.”



International bromeliad experts (left to right) Greg Brown (U.S.), Eric Gouda (Netherlands), Ivón Ramírez (Mexico), and Julian Aguirre-Santoro (Colombia) with Selby Gardens’ Bruce Holst in the Tropical Conservatory

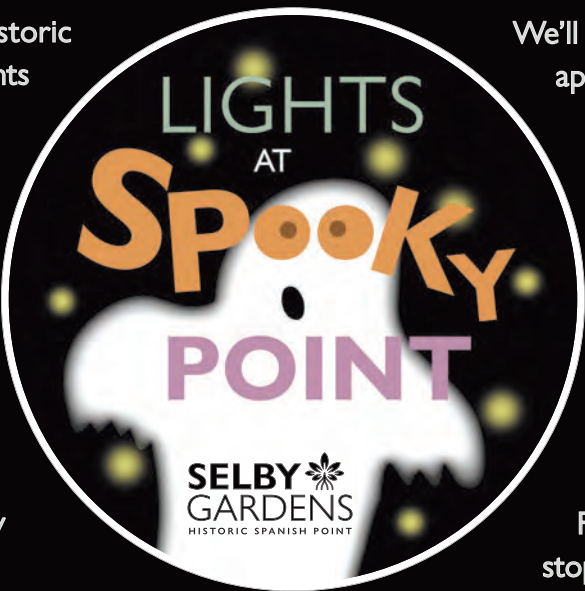
HISTORIC SPANISH POINT CAMPUS

LIGHTS AT SPOOKY POINT

October 14–31, 2022

Something sensational is coming to our Historic Spanish Point campus this Halloween season: Lights at Spooky Point! Visitors to “Spooky Point” will follow a path through the mysterious woods of our Historic Spanish Point campus, encountering fantastical creations at every turn and seeing familiar sites (think pioneer graveyard, Sunken Garden) in an eerie, new light.

Bathed in the glow of oranges, purples, and reds, guests will see giant “bat orchids,” flying “ghost orchids,” and vine-twisted skeletons that bring just enough thrill for all ages without truly scaring even the youngest pumpkins.



We'll also have autumn-appropriate treats like candy apples and cider among the food and beverages available for purchase at the Cottage. The experience will finish with a small hay maze to test your wits after you've just wound your way through gardens at night.

Lights at Spooky Point will run nightly from October 14 to 31. (Don't worry, we're still hosting our Selby Spooktacular afternoon trick-or-treating event at our Downtown Sarasota campus on Sunday, October 30, too!) For tickets and more details, visit our website or stop by the Welcome Center at either campus.

FOLLOW THE



DOWNTOWN SARASOTA CAMPUS

LIGHTS IN BLOOM®

December 10, 2022–January 5, 2023

Selby Gardens' beloved open-air holiday light show returns for another year-end season, with old favorites and new surprises!

Last year, Lights in Bloom® earned 8th place in a national contest for Best Botanical Gardens Holiday Lights sponsored by USA TODAY. Once again, more than 2 million lights will illuminate the Gardens and transform walkways into enchanting light tunnels throughout our 15-acre Downtown Sarasota campus. You'll marvel at beautifully lit flowers, radiant butterflies, and our whimsical “Florida reindeer” (giant pink flamingos sporting lighted antlers).



The event also features oversized games, children's favorites like balloon art and face painting, and a special holiday photo opportunity. Food and drinks will be available from the Michael's on East Grill and Selby House Café, along with other treats for purchase.

Once again we will offer “early entry” tickets for each night, and a special “all inclusive” experience is available on December 17. Make your reservations early so you don't miss this Sarasota holiday tradition! Tickets for Lights in Bloom® will go on sale in early November at selby.org and in the Welcome Center.



SUMMER INTERNS

SHINE



Summer interns (left to right) Musa Hussain, Diego Fernandez, Abigail Steinwachs, Bethany Burns, and Sandra Sherrod

Summer interns play a key role in the operation of Selby Gardens, and internships offer a vital opportunity for learning and career development for our participants. Everyone benefits through this annual relationship: the students, the institution, and, ultimately, our members and visitors. Here’s a look at this year’s crop of dedicated and talented interns who spent time with us this summer.

SMITHSONIAN DIGITAL LEARNING AND ENGAGEMENT INTERNSHIP

As a Smithsonian Affiliate, Selby Gardens was delighted to partner again this year in a collaborative internship program that benefits students in numerous ways. Now in its second year, the Smithsonian Digital Learning and Engagement Internship provides participants with a hybrid internship experience—part remote, part on site—designed to strengthen their understanding and commitment to social justice, community development, and leadership.

This year, the program matched just 50 undergraduates from across the country with 25 Smithsonian Affiliate institutions, including two at Selby Gardens. Our interns—Musa Hussain and Diego Fernandez—worked together to create an original Smithsonian Learning Lab collection of educational materials to engage people in *Seeing the Invisible*, the augmented-reality contemporary-art exhibition on view at our Historic Spanish Point campus. Diego and Musa approached the exhibition through the lens of conservation and climate change.

Our 2022 Smithsonian interns are:



MOHAMMED “MUSA” HUSSAIN
University of Connecticut, pursuing a degree in political science. Scheduled to graduate in May 2023



DIEGO ARREOLA FERNANDEZ
University of Toronto, pursuing a degree in international relations with a minor in environmental ethics. Scheduled to graduate in April 2025



“IT’S OUR HOPE THAT THE TIME OUR INTERNS SPEND AT SELBY GARDENS WILL INSPIRE THEM TO PURSUE CAREERS IN HORTICULTURE, BOTANY, OR MUSEUM STUDIES.”

– MIKE MCLAUGHLIN
Senior Vice President for Horticulture

BOTANY INTERNS

Two interns from regional colleges worked with our botany team and Dr. Tatiana Arias this summer as research assistants. Through a Cross College Alliance internship, USF Sarasota-Manatee rising senior Sandra Sherrod performed analysis of orchids in our living collection. She also used digital photos to study their phenology, or the effects of climatic events on the orchids’ life cycles.

Bethany Burns, of the University of Tampa, supported Dr. Arias’ research by using herbarium data to study *Oeceoclades maculata* (the monk orchid), a non-native orchid in Florida originally from Africa but that now can be found throughout the Neotropics. Bethany analyzed the distribution and phenological changes of this species over time and based on location.



SANDRA SHERROD
University of South Florida, Sarasota-Manatee, pursuing degrees in environmental science and social work



BETHANY BURNS
University of Tampa, pursuing a degree in molecular biology with an environmental science minor

HORTICULTURE INTERN AND VOLUNTEER

The summer heat didn’t stop two energetic plant lovers from joining our horticulture team in the hard work of tending to our living collections at the Downtown Sarasota campus. Abigail Steinwachs assisted both the greenhouse and gardens horticulture teams in an internship that found her doing everything from propagating plants and caring for plant health to beautifying the gardens as she learned about professional horticulture at a public garden. Abby was inspired to pursue her internship after a trip to Costa Rica and lots of rainforest hiking.

Volunteer Matthew Gries, meanwhile, got in touch with his own family’s botanical legacy while helping our horticulture team once a week this summer. Matthew is the 14-year-old great-grandson of Selby Gardens co-founder Dr. Carlyle Luer (see story on page 8). He lent his support tending the Ann Goldstein Children’s Rainforest Garden as well as doing plant propagation in the nursery.



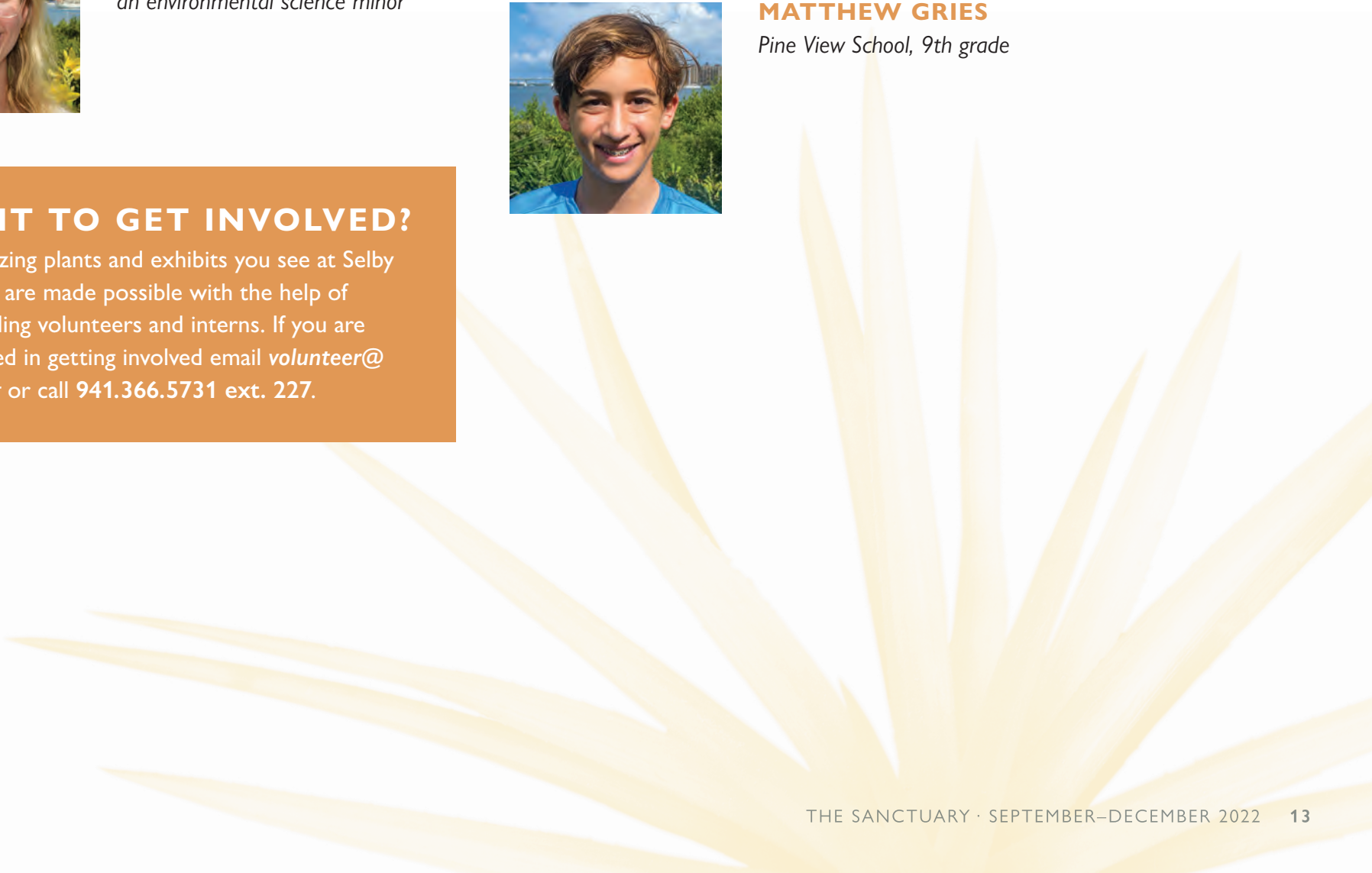
ABIGAIL STEINWACHS
Bowdoin College, likely biology major. Expects to graduate in May 2025



MATTHEW GRIES
Pine View School, 9th grade

WANT TO GET INVOLVED?

The amazing plants and exhibits you see at Selby Gardens are made possible with the help of outstanding volunteers and interns. If you are interested in getting involved email volunteer@selby.org or call 941.366.5731 ext. 227.



MY GARDEN PROGRAM SETS SAIL

Two great Selby Gardens programs came together this summer for a boatful of fun and philanthropy. Actually, five boats full!

Our Set Sail with Selby Gardens campus-to-campus boat tour—featured in previous issues of *The Sanctuary*—has been a hit since debuting last January. Much credit goes to Tevatan Corporation, the family-owned company that operates several popular area fishing and boating businesses, including the historic Hart’s Landing bait shop and the Miss Clara, which provides our tour boat service.



This summer, Captain Sherman Baldwin and his daughter, Sarah, generously donated five full-day Set Sail trips aboard Miss Clara for local youth through Selby Gardens! The excursions were offered to children served by several organizations that partner with Selby Gardens on our My Garden program, which provides complimentary Gardens memberships to underserved families who might not otherwise be likely to visit. My Garden is sponsored by Gulf Coast Community Foundation.

Over five weeks in July and August, the Miss Clara welcomed up to 30 youngsters a week for a fun, educational roundtrip cruise from our Downtown Sarasota campus to our Historic Spanish Point campus and back. They also spent time at each



campus exploring the flora, fauna, and our current exhibitions. The children came from Boys & Girls Clubs of Sarasota County, Girls Inc. of Sarasota County, SOAR Learning Center, Tidewell Foundation’s Blue Butterfly grief-counseling program, and UnidosNow.

“The Miss Clara and Hart’s Landing are a locally owned family business, and it’s heartwarming to give back to the community that has been so good to us,” said Capt. Sherman. “To be able to share this stunning environment with people who don’t often have the opportunity to experience Sarasota from the water is an honor.”

Thank you, Capt. Sherman, Sarah, and Miss Clara!

MEMBER BENEFITS

THANK YOU!

Your membership to Selby Gardens supports the world-class research, diverse programming, and beautiful living collections you’ve read about in these pages. At 17,000 strong (and growing!), our members are vital to the Selby Gardens family and a force for the Gardens’ future.

Membership also gives you many benefits, and we don’t want you to forget them. Access to 45 acres of bayfront sanctuaries, 364 days a year. Reciprocal admission to hundreds of botanical gardens in the U.S. and Canada. Members-only exhibition previews, performances, and special events. And more.



CURRENT RECIPROCAL ACCESS

Fall can be a great time to check out other scientific and cultural attractions in our region too, courtesy of your membership. Don’t miss these special monthly opportunities for reciprocal admission with your member card! (Please call the partner institutions prior to your visit, as special exhibitions or other events may incur a charge.)

September: ZooTampa at Lowry Park (Tampa)

October: Edison & Ford Winter Estates (Fort Myers)
Museum of Science and Industry (Tampa)

November: The Florida Aquarium (Tampa)

HAVE YOU CREATED YOUR WEB PORTAL ACCOUNT?

To purchase member-priced tickets online to the various Selby Gardens events and classes detailed in this issue, including our upcoming holiday light shows, you will need to use your member account on our ticketing portal. Many of you created accounts last fall when we introduced the portal. But if you have yet to establish your online account or you need some help accessing it, visit selby.org/membership and click on the link to watch a “how to” video or read the brief set-up guide. If you need additional help, please email membership@selby.org.

MARIE SELBY
BOTANICAL
GARDENS

CORPORATE, FOUNDATION, AND PUBLIC

PARTNERSHIPS

Investments made in Selby Gardens by community partners help us accomplish our mission to provide bayfront sanctuaries connecting people with air plants of the world, native nature, and our regional history.

To become involved, or for more information, contact Marlo Turner at mturner@selby.org.



THE CHARLES T. BAUER
CHARITABLE FOUNDATION



THE ANDREW AND
JUDITH ECONOMOS
FOUNDATION



THE GARDENER
FOUNDATION



FLOYD C. JOHNSON AND
FLO SINGER JOHNSON
FOUNDATION

MARCIA S. AND MICHAEL H.
KLEIN FOUNDATION

KRETZMER FAMILY
CHARITABLE FOUNDATION

MCCOMB FAMILY
FOUNDATION

MITCHELL FAMILY
FOUNDATION

ELAINE NICPON
MARIEB CHARITABLE
FOUNDATION



THE STONE
FOUNDATION



Virginia B. Foulmin
FOUNDATION



KOSKI FAMILY
FOUNDATION



SWART FAMILY
FOUNDATION



JAMES AND MARYANN
ARMOUR FOUNDATION



HIGGINS AG



THE CHRISMAN FAMILY
FOUNDATION



SWEETSPARKMAN
ARCHITECTURE & INTERIORS

MEDIA & IN-KIND PARTNERS



IN THIS ISSUE



- 2

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT & CEO

A picture-perfect year continues
- 3

NEW TRUSTEES

Three join Selby Gardens Board
- 4

WHAT’S IN BLOOM

Silk Floss Tree, Giant Ironweed
- 5

HISTORY HIGHLIGHT

Public archaeologist Sarah Bennett

- 6

THE ORCHID SHOW

Capturing the Perfect Shot
- 8

MASTER PLAN

New home for a spirited collection
- 10

BOTANY BRIEFS

From citizen scientists to global experts
- 11

HOLIDAY LIGHT SHOWS

Bright lights, big fun

- 12

SUMMER INTERNS

Meet our talented interns
- 14

YOUTH BOAT TOURS

Giving back on the water
- 15

PARTNERSHIPS

Recognizing our many supporters



DOWNTOWN SARASOTA
1534 Mound Street, Sarasota, FL 34236
TEL 941.366.5731

HOURS AND ADMISSION
10 a.m. to 5 p.m. *(Closed Christmas Day)*

Members	FREE
Member Guests	\$10
Adults	\$20
Ages 5–17	\$10
Age 4 and under	FREE

** Special pricing for Spring exhibition*



HISTORIC SPANISH POINT
401 N. Tamiami Trail, Osprey, FL 34229
TEL 941.366.5731

HOURS AND ADMISSION
10 a.m. to 5 p.m. *(Closed Christmas Day)*

Members	FREE
Member Guests	\$7
Adults	\$15
Ages 5–17	\$10
Age 4 and under	FREE

SPECIAL EVENTS


For up-to-date information and to purchase tickets, go to selby.org.



**The Orchid Show—
Lunch in the Gardens**
Wednesday, October 19 • 11 a.m.–1 p.m.

This series features engaging speakers with interactive elements during a delightful lunch in the bayfront setting of our Downtown Sarasota Campus. Chairs: Ariane Dart and Pauline L. Wamsler. Series Chairs: Jean Weidner Goldstein, Teri A Hansen, and Margaret Wise

Sponsorships starting at \$1,000, individual tickets \$150



Lights at Spooky Point
October 14–31 • 6:30–8:45 p.m.
(entry times at 6:30 and 7:45)

Our inaugural Halloween-inspired light show at the Historic Spanish Point campus.

\$20 for members/\$25 for non-members/\$15 for children (5–17)/FREE for 4 and under

EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS

Visit selby.org for pricing and tickets for these and other workshops and classes.



Noshing in Nature: The Botany of Bourbon and BBQ
Friday, September 30 • 6–8 p.m.


Botany has never tasted so good! Join a Selby Gardens horticulturalist, a certified barbecue expert, and a master mixologist for an evening of science, barbecue, and bourbon.



Selby Spooktacular
Sunday, October 30 • 10 a.m.–2 p.m.

There’s Halloween-themed fun for all ages and, of course, trick-or-treating at this annual event on our Downtown Sarasota campus. Costumes encouraged!


FREE for members and with regular admission



Cocktails at the Cottage
Wednesday, November 16 • 6–11 p.m.

Join us at our Historic Spanish Point campus for a fun, casual evening of cocktails, hors d’oeuvres, and a fabulous sunset overlooking Little Sarasota Bay. Chairs: Renée James Gilmore, Mary Evelyn Guyton, Cornelia Matson, and Jeannie Russell


Individual tickets \$150



Wintergreen Weekend
December 3–4 • 10 a.m.–5 p.m.

Enjoy this new tradition at our Historic Spanish Point campus, with holiday-themed entertainment and activities throughout the 30-acre preserve.

FREE for members and with regular admission



Lights in Bloom®
December 10–23 • December 26–January 5 • 6–9 p.m. *(early entry 5–6 p.m.)*

Immerse yourself in the glow of more than two million lights at this award-winning, open-air holiday light show on our Downtown Sarasota campus.


Visit selby.org for pricing and tickets



New Year’s Eve Gala
Saturday, December 31 • 7 p.m.–1 a.m.


Sarasota’s most sophisticated black-tie New Year’s Eve experience includes access to our holiday light show, a four-course dinner, entertainment and dancing, and a champagne toast with a perfect view of the fireworks over Sarasota Bay.

Individual tickets \$300



Introduction to Beekeeping
Friday, October 14 • Saturday, December 17 • 11 a.m.–1 p.m.

Learn what it takes to become a backyard beekeeper and build a bee-friendly garden with the experts from BeesMake LLC.



Jack-o’-Lantern Glassblowing Demonstration
Saturday, October 8, 10 a.m.–3 p.m.

Join the glassblowing artists from the world-famous Duncan McClellan Gallery for a live demonstration featuring blown glass jack-o’-lanterns, a glass pumpkin patch, and other festive designs.