

THE SANCTUARY

VOLUME 4, ISSUE 2 · JANUARY–APRIL 2024

NEXT LEVEL

WELCOME TO THE ALL-NEW SELBY GARDENS

MARIE SELBY
BOTANICAL
GARDENS



DOWNTOWN
SARASOTA



HISTORIC
SPANISH POINT



Patti Smith, poet, singer, songwriter, photographer, fine artist, and Selby Gardens' Artist in Residence, with President and CEO of Selby Gardens, Jennifer O. Rominiacki, before Smith's November 2023 performance.

"I want to offer a heartfelt thank you to everyone involved in this new chapter in Selby Gardens' history."

As we continue commemorating Marie Selby Botanical Gardens' 50th Anniversary Season, this is a special issue of *The Sanctuary* – one that conveys both our vibrant present and our dynamic future.

The edition is anchored by a detailed look at our Master Plan's newly completed Phase One. This transformation truly is a dream come true and we can't wait for you to experience it for yourself – if you haven't already.

- Inside this newsletter, you'll find highlights of Phase One's state-of-the-art enhancements, including:
- The Morganroth Family Living Energy Access Facility (LEAF), which will make Selby Gardens the first net positive energy botanical garden complex in the world;
 - The Steinwachs Family Plant Research Center, providing a first-class home for our world-class scientific work;
 - The Jean Goldstein Welcome Center, creating top notch orientation facilities;
 - The Green Orchid, serving as the world's first net-positive-energy restaurant;
 - And much more!

Meanwhile, you'll learn about our upcoming Jean and Alfred Goldstein Exhibition, "Yayoi Kusama: A Letter to Georgia O'Keeffe," inspired by the transformational correspondence between the two modern art icons and their deep connection to nature. You will also find a Q&A with legendary landscape photographer Clyde Butcher about his career and current exhibit at our Historic Spanish Point campus, *Clyde Butcher: Nature Through the Lens*. In addition, you will learn about numerous other aspects of Selby Gardens' far-reaching efforts.

And if a picture is worth a thousand words, then the one on this page with the legendary Patti Smith speaks volumes. Patti is now embedded in Selby Gardens as our "Artist in Residence," and you'll hear her narration of our new orientation video upon entering our new welcome facilities. In celebration of our upcoming exhibition, Patti's fourth performance at our Downtown Sarasota campus is dedicated to none other than Georgia O'Keeffe. We are grateful to Marianne and Bill McComb for making this residency possible.

I want to offer a heartfelt thank you to everyone involved in this new chapter in Selby Gardens' history – a shared effort made possible by more than 3,500 donors who contributed more than \$57 million of philanthropic support to achieve Phase One of our Master Plan.

And I want to express my deepest gratitude to our Trustees, Advisory Committee, donors, members, volunteers, and staff who were deeply committed to making our revitalized Selby Gardens a reality. None of this would be possible without you.

Cheers,

Jennifer O. Rominiacki
President & CEO

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

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

ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Marcy Klein, *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 • Bradley H. Goddard • Scott Greer
Mary Evelyn Guyton • Mark Hawkins • Stephen Hazeltine • Gary Heard • Rod Hollingsworth
Carolyn Johnson • Keith Johnson • Nora Johnson • Richard Johnson • Wilson M. Jones • Deb Kabinoff
Craig Kaplan • GeeDee Kerr • Beverly Koski • Ashley Kozel • Carol Lackey • 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 • Charles Stottlemeyer
Delores Stottlemeyer • Joseph A. Strosnik • Dr. Laurey T. Stryker • Steven R. Swartz • Dr. Kiat W. Tan
Marcia Jean Taub • William S. Villafranco • Martin M. Wasmer • Elisabeth Waters • Gwen Watson
Sharyn Weiner • Michael J. Wilson, Esq. • Art Wood • Judy Zuckerberg • Joel Morganroth, M.D., *Chair,
Board of Trustees* • Jennifer O. Rominiacki, *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.



CONNECT WITH US



DOWNTOWN SARASOTA CAMPUS



The Undulate Laelia - Orchidaceae

Laelia undulata

One of the giants in the orchid family is the immensely beautiful orchid *Laelia undulata*. This massive orchid can be found growing on trees as an epiphyte from Costa Rica to Trinidad. Its inflorescence showcases a cluster of maroon to deep purple very wavy flowers perched high on a long 6-foot (2 m) flower spike. Its large swollen pseudobulbs carry tough, rigid leaves that can withstand full sun and desiccation.

ABOUT

- The species epithet is Latin meaning wavy, referring to the plant's wavy flowers.
- Variations in flower color include a very desirable white or 'alba' form.
- It is found growing at elevations of 2000 to 4000 feet (600-1200 m).



WHAT'S IN BLOOM

HISTORIC SPANISH POINT CAMPUS

Scorpion-tail - Boraginaceae

Heliotropium angiospermum

This member of the Boraginaceae (forget-me-not) family can be found blooming along many of the walking paths at the Historic Spanish Point campus. Its name is inspired by the numerous flower spikes bearing a resemblance to a scorpion's tail. Scorpion-tail is a coastal species found in peninsular Florida from Pinellas (west coast) and Volusia (east coast) counties south to the Florida Keys.

Scorpion-tail blooms throughout the year, featuring numerous small, white and yellow flowers. This herbaceous ornamental grows fast – to as much as 3 feet in height and 3 to 4 feet in width. Butterflies and bees enjoy its nectar, while birds are attracted to its small seeds. Scorpion-tail is an example of an attractive native plant that is easily grown and adds year-round interest to a garden.

ABOUT

- In the Caribbean, the plant is used for a variety of medicinal purposes.
- Is adaptable to moist or dry areas and enjoys full sun or partial shade.
- Can be used as ground cover or a small shrub.



A MASTERFUL PLAN

PHASE ONE OPENS



A bird's-eye view of the world's first net-positive energy botanical garden complex.

Like the stunning plants and flowers that burst forth at Marie Selby Botanical Gardens, the visual impact from Phase One of the organization's Master Plan is a sight to behold. Everywhere you look upon setting foot on the grounds offers a glimpse of a bold new era for one of the world's most renowned botanical gardens—timed perfectly to mark the Gardens' 50th anniversary.

"One of our staunch supporters, former commissioner Ken Shelin, called it the Miracle on Mound Street," says President and CEO Jennifer Rominiecki as she walks along adjacent Mound Street, perusing the breathtaking additions on a recent morning. "We always had the world-class collections. But now the facility is aligned with the top-tier level of what we're doing. And what better way to celebrate the last 50 years than by putting in the necessary infrastructure for the next 50?"

Phase One, which raised more than \$57 million through generous donor support, adds 188,030 square feet of new facilities and amenities to Selby Gardens' iconic campus on Sarasota Bay. Next up will be the second phase, which will include a hurricane-resilient greenhouse complex and a Learning Pavilion, which will offer expanded capacity for school programs and enhance indoor and outdoor classroom space for children and adults.

For now, there's plenty to enjoy in seeing this first phase of a long-held dream. Examples of cutting-edge additions abound. Employing the latest green technology, Phase One—powered by the Barancik Foundation—has resulted in a complex that will become net-positive energy, the first facility of its type in the world. In fact, going above and beyond LEED certification, Selby Gardens is seeking "Petal" certification through The Living Building Challenge of the International Living Future Institute, by generating more energy than it consumes.

A key component is the new restaurant, called The Green Orchid, which will be the world's first net positive energy restaurant entirely utilizing solar power. The restaurant will be operated by Michael's on East and will feature a rooftop edible garden that will provide fresh produce for the menu. The garden is being planned, planted, and maintained by Operation EcoVets, a nonprofit organization that provides personal, educational, and professional growth opportunities for veterans.

With initial construction now complete, we present—with insights from Rominiecki—five of the new, state-of-the-art highlights that will greet visitors upon arrival and set the tone for a memorable trip to a revamped and revitalized Selby Gardens.

how spectacular it has turned out," Rominiecki says. "Our team will plant epiphytes or air plants in the crooks of these—we'll always have plants up there." Cutouts in the metal roof (that mimics the appearance of wood) allow sunlight to pass through, creating captivating patterns of light.

Once at the Welcome Gallery, guests have the chance to stop in a permanent exhibit of Selby Gardens' behind-the-scenes, mission-driven work and research. Then guests can step into a theater for a short orientation film voiced by global icon Patti Smith, Selby Gardens' Artist in Residence.



The Marcy and Michael Klein Foundation & Stone Foundation Lily Pond Garden: Alongside the Palm Promenade, visitors can't miss this breathtaking new water feature, a huge rectangular basin filled with water lilies.

"It's spectacular and something we haven't been able to do before," says Rominiecki. "We're already growing water lilies behind the scenes to prepare for this. And we'll be growing the Grand Victoria Water Lily, a large variety that grows in the Amazon. They're like giant dishes, so big that frogs could sit on them!"

OTHER KEY ENHANCEMENTS:

- A major **stormwater management system** to divert and clean millions of gallons of water each year before it is returned to Sarasota Bay
- A publicly accessible **multiuse recreational trail** enabling multimodal transportation to the campus and the bayfront
- **Off-site roadway improvements**, which will also make access easier and safer
- A number of **new garden and water features** with more open space. In addition to the Lily Pond Garden, visitors can enjoy a beautiful Glades Garden



The Steinwachs Family Plant Research Center: The world's first net-positive research facility—secures irreplaceable scientific resources in a hurricane-resilient structure and provides a public window into what was once behind-the-scenes world-class research.

The facility contains the **Elaine Nicpon Marieb Herbarium and Laboratory**, housing preserved collections of more than 125,000 dried and pressed plant specimens and molecular scientific work; a research library with priceless volumes dating



The Morganroth Family Living Energy Access Facility (LEAF): The top of the building is one of the stars of the entire show—holding a solar array that is nearly 50,000 square feet, making Selby Gardens the world's first net-positive energy botanical garden complex.

It includes many other innovative flourishes as well, such as vertical cables running side by side in pairs of three—called the Jacob Wire System—with each cable gradually to be covered by plants. Next to the LEAF, a multi use recreational trail, and new vehicle entrance lanes into the structure were created from Selby Gardens' property. The LEAF is also home to a new gift shop, as well as the new restaurant.



The open-air **Jean Goldstein Welcome Center** consists of a ticketing pavilion, welcome gallery and welcome theater to properly accommodate and orient guests. Guests park in the LEAF, and when they exit the structure, they find themselves on a path straight to this inviting starting point for their visit.

On the approach to the Welcome Center, visitors will move through an expansive courtyard and pass by a cluster of "heritage trees"—original trees from the property. They serve as a focal point connecting past and present as guests enter the Gardens.

Part of the exterior overhead structure is held up by metal, branch-like beams—designed to look like trees. "You can see



The Morganroth Family Palm Promenade: Rominiecki calls this serene, guest-friendly addition—where no vehicles are permitted—"a complete game-changer." The cobblestone pedestrian walkway is built from preserved Augusta bricks.

"This is the *original* Augusta block," she says. "It's the way the road was paved when Marie Selby lived here. What we did was lift the blocks up so we could run utilities for the whole project under them, then restored the blocks and put them back in place. If you're in the Gardens and want to visit the restaurant, you can walk straight down the Promenade, past an array of beautiful Royal Palms—and you're there."



to the 1700s stored safely in a climate-controlled center; and a spirit laboratory with more than 35,000 specimens preserved in fluid. "This is the second largest collection of its kind in the world—second only to Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew," Rominiecki says.

The building also houses conference rooms and administrative offices. Much of the interior on both levels contains aesthetically pleasing examples of sustainability—courtesy of master local woodworker Ryan Tremblay, who has turned reclaimed trees from the property into extraordinary plank walls, desks, conference room furnishings and a remarkable atrium feature.

GARDEN TO PLATE



The new restaurant is a great fit for Selby Gardens, with a focus on sustainability and providing wonderful dishes with ingredients from local farms and our rooftop garden.

The Green
ORCHID
BY MICHAEL'S ON EAST

Selby Gardens is now the home of what will become the world's first fully solar-powered restaurant—The Green Orchid, which offers garden-to-table fare for Selby Gardens visitors and the public.

The Green Orchid, at Selby Gardens' Downtown Sarasota campus, has an all-electric and induction kitchen, a fitting part of Phase One of Selby Gardens' Master Plan. As part of the world's first net-positive energy botanical garden complex, the restaurant will generate more energy than it consumes.

The new restaurant is a great fit for Selby Gardens, with a focus on sustainability and providing wonderful dishes with ingredients from local farms and our rooftop garden.

The innovative restaurant is operated by Michael's on East, with the Drs. Andrew and Judith Economos Rooftop Edible Garden providing fresh produce for a seasonally inspired

menu. The garden was planned, planted, and is maintained by Operation EcoVets, a non-profit organization that provides personal, educational, and professional growth opportunities for military veterans.

The restaurant's hours will match Selby Gardens' hours. Admission to the Gardens is required in order to visit the restaurant and is free to members.

The Green Orchid's menu will change seasonally, incorporating vegetarian and vegan options, catering to a wide range of dietary preferences and showcasing the versatility of vegetables and grains. The kitchen was designed by world-renowned designer Jimi Yui, and will feature state-of-the-art electric and induction cooking facilities. No gas or flame will be used in any part of the kitchen.

Induction cooking uses electromagnetic fields to heat pots and pans directly, leading to extremely fast heating times and precise temperature control, which is essential for delicate cooking processes. Since induction doesn't provide visual cues like a gas flame, cooks need to rely more on timing and the specific settings of their induction cooktops.

And at the bar, The Green Orchid will feature botanical-inspired cocktails, with finishing touches straight from the herb garden. The wine list will feature many organic and biodynamic wines from around the world, and local craft beers will also be featured.



Ryan Tremblay never imagined he would make a living creating high-end, custom wood furniture and art from stunning slabs of rosewood, cedar, and mahogany—ultimately leading him to produce eye-catching works for Selby Gardens.

Tremblay's goal after college was to pursue a conventional career in building construction. After earning a degree in that field from the University of Florida in 2004, he embarked on a successful 13-year career with Willis Smith Construction of Sarasota.

But after moving to Sarasota in 2006, he couldn't find any furnishings that appealed to him for his new house. "I looked all over the county, and I didn't see anything I wanted to buy—it all seemed to be cheaply made," he recalls.

Tremblay decided to make his own furniture. Though he lacked the proper tools and had no shop to work in, Tremblay went about making a table and an entertainment console, drawing on his natural ability as the son of a millworker. The finished products impressed his family and friends so much that he set out to hone his skills on the side.

"I read college-level textbooks on wood science—everything you can imagine about woodworkers and types of finishes," he says. "And I went on a long search for what I felt like was the best way to finish wood."

Feeling burned out in his construction work, Tremblay picked up small projects on the side, working nights and weekends to improve his woodworking technique. Then, six years ago, inspired by his girlfriend and eventual wife Hannah's interior design company, he started his own custom woodworking business in Osprey and has never looked back.

Today, you can find examples of Tremblay Wood Art all over Sarasota—three large walnut tables and benches at the Sarasota Art Museum bistro; the picturesque donor wall in the Ringling College of Art and Design's visitor center; a new reception desk for New College and now, at Selby Gardens.

Guests visiting Selby Gardens' new Welcome Center will see examples of Tremblay's stellar handiwork, such as a 25-foot wood wall located by the main ticket counter comprised of vertical triangles made of Indian mahogany, and the stairwell in the Plant Research Center Atrium, which features stunning sculptural wood ceiling baffles and other wall accents.

Also, the new office area will include live edge conference tables, and a Welcome Center bench made by Tremblay and his team. All of it serves to enhance an aesthetic of sustainability throughout the grounds. All of the wood used for



Tremblay's work is being used in a variety of ways at the Gardens—from conference tables to wood walls.

Tremblay's work at Selby Gardens was reclaimed from trees such as Norfolk Pine, Laurel Oak, and Indian Mahogany, originally on Selby Gardens grounds.

Tremblay became involved with Selby Gardens about a year ago, though the organization's contractor, Willis Smith Construction. Creating pieces for Selby Gardens has been a rewarding experience for him, making things he's never done in the past. "In fact, almost every aspect of this project has been a very organic process," he said.

Producing distinctive works for Selby Gardens—and, in fact, every Tremblay project—has been enhanced by the fact that it's a family endeavor.

"My brother, Dylan, who has had his own flooring company for years, works here," he said. "My dad, Joe, milled logs and built his own home in Vermont. He and my mom, Laurie, have helped me with the oiling quite a bit. I've had to put them to work!"



EXHIBITION—DOWNTOWN SARASOTA CAMPUS

YAYOI KUSAMA

A LETTER TO GEORGIA O'KEEFFE

The story begins with a personal letter penned in the mid-1950s, connecting a young, aspiring artist from Japan with a legendary painter in the United States. From that correspondence between an up-and-coming Yayoi Kusama and the acclaimed Georgia O'Keeffe, the future of modern art history would be forever changed.

And now, that impactful relationship between two greats—along with how their work reflects on nature—is the subject of the latest Jean and Alfred Goldstein Exhibition at Selby Gardens, fittingly titled “A Letter to Georgia O'Keeffe.”

“What’s exciting is that we’re presenting two iconic female artists who are world-renowned,” says Selby Gardens President and CEO Jennifer Romini. “But nobody typically associates one with the other, and there is an element of surprise to learn that. Kusama was truly inspired by O'Keeffe, who in turn served as a mentor and helped her at a very challenging time, when she was deciding what her path forward as an artist would be.”

THE JEAN & ALFRED GOLDSTEIN EXHIBITION SERIES

YAYOI KUSAMA

A LETTER TO GEORGIA O'KEEFFE

FEBRUARY 11 – JUNE 30, 2024
DOWNTOWN SARASOTA CAMPUS

Kusama had found it difficult to make strides in Japan's male-dominated society. And when she mailed her letter, she didn't expect a response.

So she was overjoyed when she received a reply from the painter known as “The Mother of American Modernism.” O'Keeffe encouraged her to move to the hub of the art world, New York City. And the rest is modern art history.

This exhibit, the eighth in the series of Goldstein exhibits at Selby Gardens, has been two years in the making, said Vice President for Visitor Engagement and Chief Museum Curator David Berry. He believes it is special in two distinct ways.

“The story itself is very interesting—the unexpected connection between two major artists, and the impact it had on the lives of both and the career of Kusama,” he said. “The other element of the story we’re telling is the connection of both artists to nature. It’s obvious on one level, but it’s a bit of a different lens through which to view certain aspects of both artists’ work, particularly in the way we’re doing it.”

With Phase One of the Master Plan complete, Berry says the new configurations of the campus will enhance the impact of the exhibit.

“It activates more of the property in terms of the visitor experience,” he said. “I know that the horticultural team is integrating a vignette into the new Welcome Center area, trying to immerse people in this art and horticultural experience from the point of arrival. People will have a little bit more freedom and flexibility to go in different directions than they did before.”



November 15, 1956

Dear Miss O'Keeffe,

Will you please forgive me to interrupt you while you are very busy, and let me introduce myself to you? I am a Japanese female painter and have been working on painting for thirteen years since thirteen years old. As a painter who feels to live very closely with your in respect of the attitude toward art or should I say who feels keen of the attitude toward art, I have been looking for the way to make friends with you for long times. Somedays ago when I dropped in the exhibition of American Arts Books which was held at U.S.I.S., I saw a photograph of your work "Corn" there and then thought of finding out your address by asking the cooperation of U.S.I.S. Very fortunately I have got it a few days ago.

There are very few opportunities to see your work in Japan, as your work has not been introduced often. This is partly because I think Japanese painters in the present trend are not much interested in your work. Tell the truth I have seen only one of your original paintings at the Denman (?) Collection which took place in Tokyo. That was "Black Iris". It gave me a strong impression. I felt that I had in me something which seemed very related to what lay at the bottom of "Black Iris". I had seen only a few photographs of the reproduction in magazines before. Among these American contemporary painters not modern abstract painters as Graves, de Kooning, but symbolical painters as Stamos, Mark, Dove, I have the most sympathetic or common feeling in your paintings. Though I feel so I am very far away from where you are and only on the first step of long difficult life of painter. I should like to ask you would kindly show me the way to approach this life.

I am going to send you, under separate cover, my several water paintings to you. Would you please see those? My paintings were shown at the America France and Japan Painting Exhibition at Brooklyn and three of them were bought at there. This is the first and the last time up to today to have my paintings shown in America. Ever since I am intending to go to America, but it is not so easy way as sending my representatives, paintings, to America.

It would be great encouragement for me if you would see my paintings and give me your good advice on it.

I should be very happy if you would write me a letter and support my heartfelt desire to exchange a letter with you in future.

Yours faithfully,
Mrs. Yayoi Kusama

CLYDE BUTCHER

NATURE THROUGH THE LENS

Nature's Beauty in Black and White: A Master's Photos Come to Selby Gardens

The stunning images Clyde Butcher has captured for more than a half century transport viewers into hidden worlds they wouldn't otherwise have known. The legendary photographer conveys the unfettered beauty and mysteries of countless natural settings, from Florida's Everglades to breathtaking environmental scenes across the United States and beyond.

Now, one of America's most renowned creators of landscape artistry brings his magic to Selby Gardens in a special exhibit — *Clyde Butcher: Nature Through the Lens*.

Butcher's photos first came to life in color. But after a profound tragedy in 1986 — the death of his son, Ted, in an accident involving a drunk driver — a new, powerful form of expression emerged in black-and-white photography.

The stylistic change propelled Butcher's rise to prominence and acclaim. His evocative long-exposure landscape portraits in shades of black, white and gray have brought to the forefront a powerful message of conservation — particularly in preserving the Everglades — and have led to numerous accolades and honors.

Below are some highlights of a conversation with Clyde, his wife Niki Butcher and their daughter Jackie Obendorf about Clyde's life and the Selby Gardens exhibit. The exhibit, which runs until August at the Historic Spanish Point campus, features prints of his works displayed outdoors on large sheets of metal.



CLYDE BUTCHER: NATURE THROUGH THE LENS

Through August 31, 2024

Historic Spanish Point campus

Learn more about this exhibition at selby.org

What makes you excited about this exhibition?

CB: "I've never done anything like this. It's a whole new experience, probably for them, too. I mean, having these prints outdoors as you walk through the environment is something different and special. You might have the sun on you, maybe rain. It's a total open platform."

Is this your first connection with Selby Gardens?

CB: "No, we did a project with them about orchids, and I've been to Selby Gardens many times. It's an amazing place and it's going to be very interesting to see it when the Master Plan construction is completed."

What works of yours will visitors see?

CB: "Some of my best photographs will be there. It's a really interesting variety — from the Everglades to Fakahatchee (Strand Preserve State Park) to northern Florida, and my new home in Myakka, where I have a

gallery in our back yard, Casey Key and St. Vincent's National Wildlife Refuge in the Panhandle. And there's also a self-portrait of me in the swamp with my camera. There's a lot in the show, but there's so much more to Florida than you can show in one exhibit."

Tell us about the retrospective book of photos you all have been working on?

JO: "It's something we've been working on for six months, called *Clyde Butcher's Life Works and Photography*. I went through all his work and thought, 'How are we going to create a book that shows his life and photography from the very beginning in the 1960s. So I arranged his photos in order of copyright dates and it told the story of his life — his complete story. It's a huge, self-produced project with 120 pictures and we're in the final stages. It talks about how he became Clyde Butcher and how his work represented a pivotal moment of change for the environment."

Can you talk a little bit about Clyde's shift from color to black and white?

JO: "People know the story of how Ted was killed by a drunk driver, so Dad decided to start working in black and white. But what people don't know is that after my brother died, my parents started exhibiting the black-and-white work at art festivals — and they were making no money. Times were tough, but Dad didn't care about making money at that point. He just wanted to shoot black and white and wanted people to save the Everglades through his work — by showing the beauty of it. That was the whole purpose."

CB: "Then what happened was in 1988, a man from the Water Management District for the Everglades came to my booth at an art show. And he looked at my work and said, 'You know, we need to have this in a new building we're constructing, so people can see what the Everglades are all about.' The only problem was he didn't have any money. This happened at a time nobody really knew me. As my daughter says, I was just a starving artist at an art festival. But I gave it to him because I felt it was the right thing to do, in order to create a connection between science and art."

NB: "I just want to add one thing. Clyde always wanted to do black and white, but he knew he couldn't make any money at it. Then, when Ted died, he said, 'I'm going to do this because I want to do it.' The fact that he began doing black and white took a great deal of strength because it meant we might lose half of our income. The pivot point was his desire to give his life a new purpose, and help save the Everglades."



INDIAN KEY PASS 6, 1997
Everglades National Park



ST. VINCENT ISLAND DRIFTWOOD, 2005
Florida Panhandle



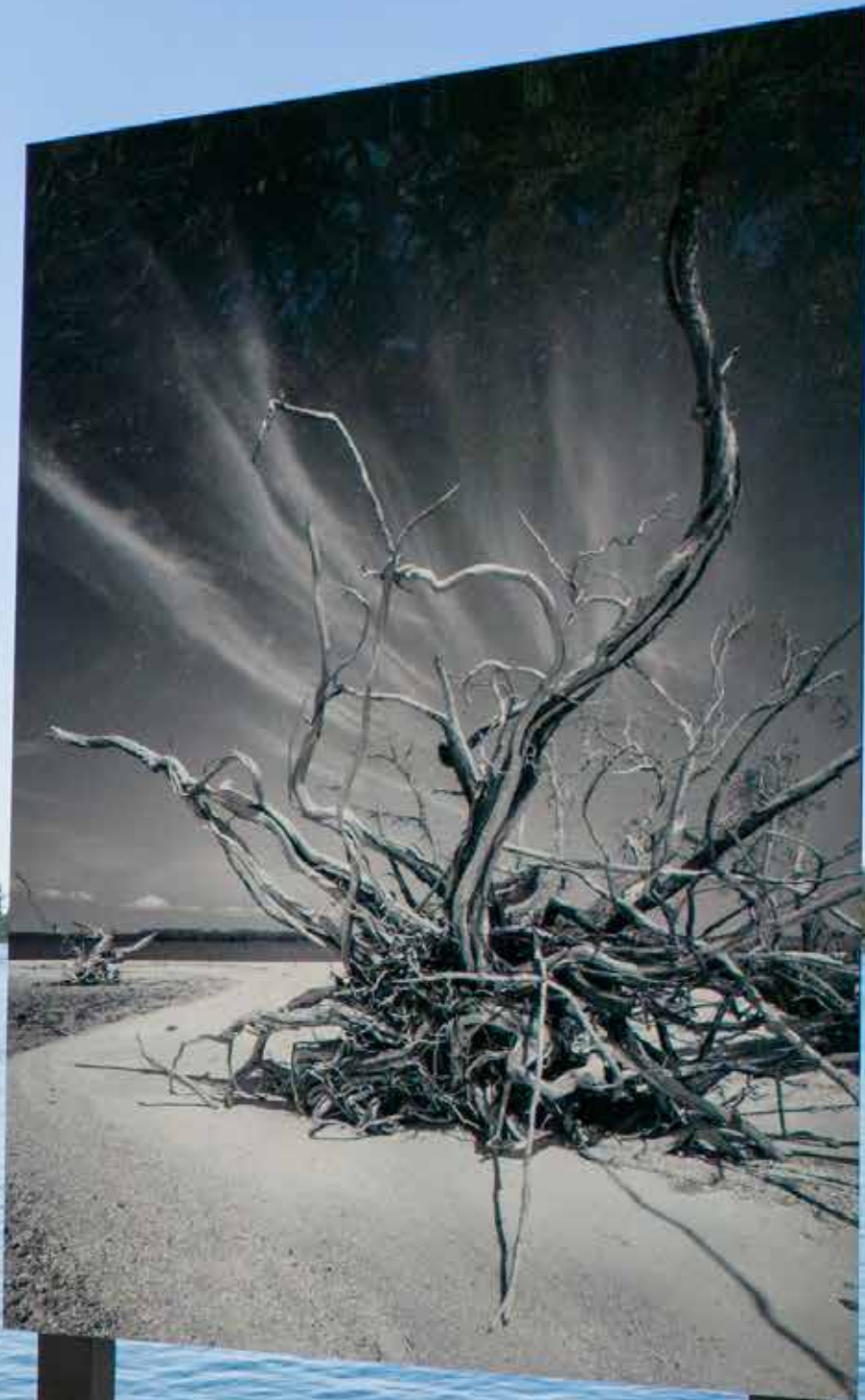
LOOESCREW GATOR, 1996
Big Cypress Gallery



CIGAR ORCHID POND, 2009
Big Cypress National Preserve



GHOST ORCHID TWIN 2, 2007
Fakahatchee Strand



INDIAN KEY 5, 1997
Everglades National Park

SPONSOR
**GULF COAST
COMMUNITY
FOUNDATION**
William L. and Beverly M. Gerry
Charitable Fund

PASSION FOR PLANTS— GLOBAL CONNECTIONS

For the past two years, Selby Gardens has benefited immensely from the expertise and experience of research botanist Dr. Tatiana Arias, whose journey began in her native Colombia as a child walking barefoot in the jungle on visits with her father.

She fell in love with Colombia's exotic environment, and went on to study, research and teach biology and biodiversity, developing a special interest in Neotropical orchids and becoming a top-tier researcher in the process.

Talented Students

Arias has been joined this year by two talented graduate students, Talita Bellonzi and Natalia Ruiz, who have come to the Gardens to study living and preserved collections. Their passion and collective knowledge represent an asset to Selby Gardens in a particularly exciting period of growth and expansion.

Talita comes from Brazil and has been studying palynology (the study of pollen) since 2012 at São Paulo State University. As an undergraduate student, she worked on several plant families from the Brazilian Cerrado, a tropical region in eastern Brazil. Since then, she has specialized in the palynotaxonomy of the Gesneriaceae (pollen grains of a family of flowering plants found in the tropics and sub-tropics) throughout neotropical forests and is working to obtain her doctorate at the University of São Paulo. In her words, "I have a huge passion for working in this field of science!"

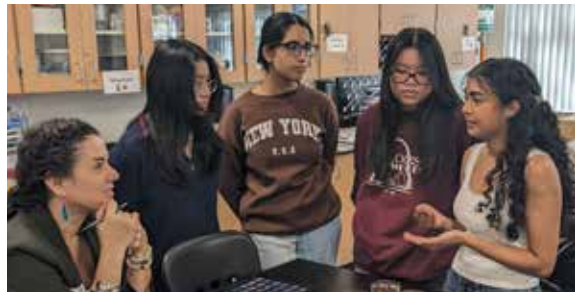
Natalia hails from the Dominican Republic. She is a recipient of the Bromeliad Society International's Harry E. Luther/Victoria Padilla research and conservation scholarship. While at Selby Gardens, Natalia will continue her studies of the genus *Pitcairnia* (a genus of plants named for William Pitcairn, Scottish physician and gardener) in the Caribbean Basin.



Talita Bellonzi



Natalia Ruiz



Dr. Tatiana Arias (left) discusses project with Pine View students.

"I feel incredibly grateful to be a part of the Selby Botanical Gardens family. My experience here has been transformative. The Botany team at Selby Gardens is not only incredibly supportive but also collaborative, and I am given the independence and resources I need to excel in my research."

- Dr. Tatiana Arias

BIG IDEAS & SOLUTIONS

The recent Eco Summit hosted by the Science and Environment Council of Southwest Florida in Sarasota, billed as two days of "Big Ideas and Solutions," explored ways to preserve quality of life through finding a balance with nature. Specifically, the conference focused on ways to counter the increasing impacts of development, population growth and climate change with the need to recharge the environment.

The special gathering at Van Wezel Hall in early December included a talk by best-selling author Carl Hiaasen, along with a presentation by Selby Gardens President and

CEO Jennifer Rominiacki about the exciting new sustainability features of the Master Plan.

Also, the Selby Gardens education, botany and volunteer teams collaborated on a booth for the Green Living Expo, part of the Eco Summit. Among the highlights: Director of Public Archeology Uzi Baram's presentation on ancient landscapes during a storytelling session on land conservation, and Vice President for Regional History John McCarthy's presentation "Stories from the Estuary" focused on early coastal life.



Selby Gardens CEO Jennifer Rominiacki presents Phase One.



Selby Gardens VP for Regional History John McCarthy tells "Stories from the Estuary".

Bruce Holst, VP for Botany at Selby Gardens, greets Eco Summit speaker Sabrina Cummings.



my GARDEN



My Garden boat tours give children the opportunity to learn and enjoy new experiences.

Meet Walter Gilbert

I have a pretty unique history with Selby Gardens. I'm the only person working here who ever actually met Marie Selby. When I was a little kid, my mother didn't want to leave me at home in the summers. A man who lived down the street from us, Mr. Yancy, took care of the yard for Mr. and Mrs. Selby, prior to there being a Selby Gardens. My mom asked him if he would take me to work with him. And that's how I got to meet the Selbys – as an 8-year-old pulling weeds in their back yard.

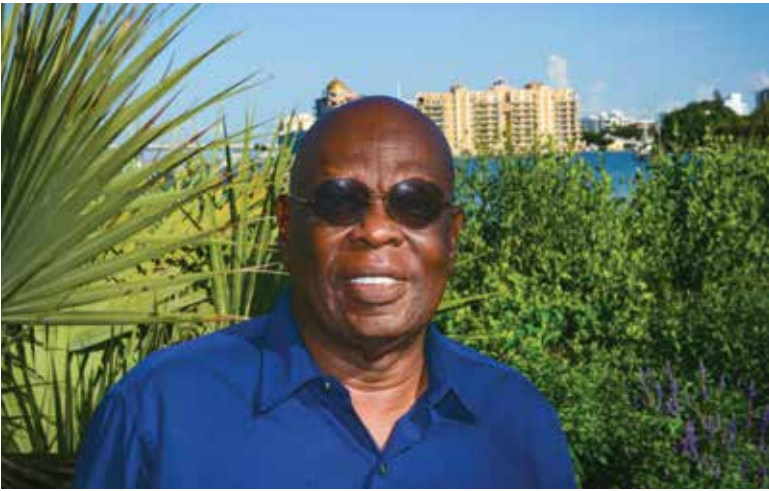
When I met Selby Gardens' President & CEO Jennifer Rominiacki, and had our first conversation, she told me the direction she wanted to take Selby Gardens as a part of the community. And I saw the sincerity in what she wanted. The first thing she asked me to do was outreach. And then when she was ready to take it to the next level, she asked me to oversee diversity and inclusion as a pillar of their efforts.

My Garden

The My Garden initiative is geared to underserved children, and the sister program – My Golden Garden – focuses on an older population. We offer children and family members the chance to come here with the help of different non-profit agencies. It's been very successful. We have children who've never seen anything like Selby Gardens, and who love to come back with their families.

One of my favorite stories resulting from My Garden involves a young boy who visited here. He asked his counselor, who had been all over the world, what his favorite place was and he said something like the Pyramids. Then the counselor asked the boy what his favorite place was, and he said, 'Selby Gardens.' That encourages us to make this program more available, and get as many underserved families and kids involved as possible."

My Garden is part of the Ann Winslow Donnelly and Norbert P. Donnelly Family and Community Engagement Series with support from Gulf Coast Community Foundation and Koski Family Foundation.



Walter Gilbert, Selby Gardens' Vice President for Diversity and Inclusion

What's Next

As we build out the Gardens, we're hoping to attract diverse candidates for employment. We also want to have more activities that attract a diverse community, because we are a diverse community and we need programs here to reflect that. And it's not simply black and white – diversity is across the board. You want to make sure you're open to all different types of people.

We just did a test-pilot program called ReadAloud, and used that on the south campus at Historic Spanish Point. It's a reading program where we bring in diverse groups of kids – of all races and family make-ups. We have a diversity of books available and also have someone who reads the book to them.

At the end, every kid in the session gets to pick a book for free. We also have after-hours programs where we bring in visually impaired people, and we let them experience the gardens through the senses they have. These are just a few examples of things we are doing to grow and be diverse and inclusive.



Virginia B. Toulmin
Businesswoman & Philanthropist

FIERCE FEMALES



Jennifer O. Rominiecki
President and CEO of Selby Gardens

SHAPING FUTURE LEADERS

VIRGINIA B. TOULMIN LEADERSHIP SCHOLARSHIP

The Virginia B. Toulmin Foundation envisions a world in which all people have equal opportunity to fulfill their potential and succeed in life. The Foundation reflects the legacy of its namesake, the late Sarasota-area philanthropist who made a lasting impact on such varied entities as Georgetown University, the Sarasota Orchestra, and numerous other charitable endeavors.

Now Selby Gardens is a prominent part of that long list thanks to the creation of the Virginia B. Toulmin Leadership Scholarship. The scholarship will provide a pathway for successful female leadership in the business and nonprofit world by providing mentorship, opportunities to observe leadership in action, and financial support to high-achieving juniors or seniors pursuing bachelor's degrees in Sarasota, Manatee or Charlotte counties and holding a minimum GPA of 3.5.

In addition, the scholarship will be awarded in honor and partnership with a local female leader in the Sarasota community – and that inaugural distinction has been bestowed on Selby Gardens President and CEO Jennifer Rominiecki, who will serve as the scholarship's first mentor:

"Through Virginia's legacy, we invest in causes that she – and we – believe in and most importantly trust in," said lead Toulmin Trustee William S. Villafranco at the Selby Gardens Legacy Society Breakfast. "Selby Gardens is one of those causes."

During that gathering, Villafranco painted a vivid picture of Toulmin. "Virginia was a strong woman of few words but what she did speak of was honesty and integrity," he said. "During one of our initial meetings, I will never forget something she shared with me – four elements of trust that are important both individually and collectively: competency, consistency, integrity and compassion. We see those four elements exemplified by Jennifer and her work, and could not imagine a better inaugural honoree."

William S. Villafranco
Virginia B. Toulmin Foundation Trustee

The scholarship will be managed by Selby Gardens with an initial gift of \$25,000. The application, developed by Selby Gardens, includes an opportunity for applicants to share their connection with the mission of the Virginia B. Toulmin Foundation.

The application deadline is March 24, with three finalists selected in April and the scholarship awarded in May (applied to the 2024-25 academic year).

The 2024-25 scholarship recipient will have a chance to be appointed to Selby Gardens' Advisory Committee to observe Rominiecki in action, participate with local community, scientific and business leaders, and receive a one-year membership to Selby Gardens.

To apply to the Virginia B. Toulmin Leadership Scholarship visit selby.org

ONWARD & UPWARD

MASTER PLAN PHASE TWO – COMING SOON!



SAFEGUARDING OUR COLLECTIONS

**SELBY
GARDENS**
DOWNTOWN SARASOTA

The Master Plan for Selby Gardens' Downtown Sarasota campus is vital to preserving our history, safeguarding our collections, and ensuring our future through environmental sustainability. At the heart of Phase Two of the Master Plan is a new, hurricane-resilient greenhouse complex. This set of signature structures will enable the growth and ensure the safety of Selby Gardens' world-renowned living plant collection, while also making more of the collection publicly accessible. Another feature of Phase Two is a new learning pavilion. This dynamic, indoor-outdoor classroom space will offer expanded capacity for a wide range of educational programs. The addition of these exciting facilities will enable Selby Gardens to better achieve its mission to provide bayfront sanctuaries connecting people with air plants of the world, native nature, and our regional history.

**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 Ashley Jimenez at ajimenez@selby.org.



THE HEARST FOUNDATIONS

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. Toulmin
FOUNDATION



KOSKI FAMILY
FOUNDATION



SWART FAMILY
FOUNDATION



JAMES AND MARYANN
ARMOUR FOUNDATION



COWLES
CHARITABLE
TRUST



LIVE FOR A LIVING
FOUNDATION



TRIAD FOUNDATION



THE CHRISMAN FAMILY
FOUNDATION

THE LINNIE E. DALBECK
FOUNDATION

LONGBOAT KEY
GARDEN CLUB



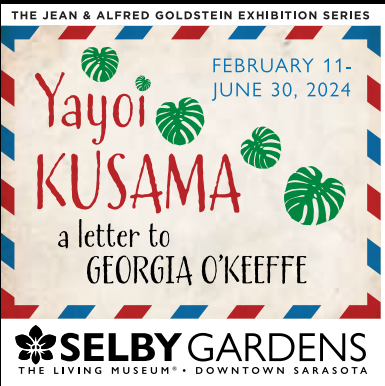
SHUMAKER

SWEETSPARKMAN
ARCHITECTURE & INTERIORS



MEDIA & IN-KIND PARTNERS





- 2 MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT & CEO
Taking Selby Gardens to the next level
- 3 WHAT'S IN BLOOM
The Undulate Ladia, Scorpion-tail
- 4 MASTER PLAN
Phase One now open to public
- 6 THE GREEN ORCHID
Selby Gardens' new restaurant

- 7 SUSTAINABILITY
Reclaimed wood art
- 8 GOLDSTEIN EXHIBITION
Yayoi Kusama: A Letter to Georgia O'Keeffe
- 10 CLYDE BUTCHER
Native nature photo exhibition
- 12 BOTANY BRIEF
Global connections with Dr. Tatiana Arias

- 12 CONSERVATION
Selby Gardens at Eco Summit
- 13 DIVERSITY & INCLUSION
My Garden
- 14 LEADERSHIP
New scholarship program
- 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	\$11
Adults	\$26
Ages 5–17	\$11
Age 4 and under	FREE



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	\$11
Adults	\$18
Ages 5–17	\$11
Age 4 and under	FREE

MARIE SELBY
BOTANICAL
GARDENS



1534 Mound St., Sarasota, FL 34236

DOWNTOWN SARASOTA CAMPUS — FEATURED EVENTS



The Orchid Ball: INFINITY
Saturday, February 10, 2024 • 6–11 p.m.

Sarasota’s premier annual gala celebrates the 2024 Jean & Alfred Goldstein Exhibition, *Yayoi Kusama: A Letter to Georgia O’Keeffe*, throughout the grounds of our Downtown Sarasota campus. Chairs: Liebe Gamble & Ashley Kozel

Sponsorships start at \$2,500 and individual tickets are \$750



Garden Music Series
Sundays, February 18 & April 21 • 1–3 p.m.

Enjoy a variety of local and international music in the bayfront setting of our Downtown Sarasota campus.

FREE for members and with regular admission



Lunch in the Gardens
Wednesday, April 17 • 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: Nikki Sedacca and Montana Taplinger Series Chairs: Jean Weidner Goldstein, Teri A Hansen, and Margaret Wise. Series Sponsor: Charles & Margery Barancik Foundation.

Sponsorships starting at \$1,000, individual tickets \$175



Gospel Jubilee
Sunday, May 11 • 1–3 p.m.

Selby Gardens presents the Annual Gospel Jubilee Showcase, featuring top gospel talent from the west coast of Florida. Join us under the banyan trees on our beautiful Great Lawn.

FREE for members and with regular admission

HISTORIC SPANISH POINT CAMPUS — FEATURED EVENTS



Performances at the Point
Wednesdays, March 20 & May 8
6:30-7:30 p.m.

Music by local artists after-hours at our Historic Spanish Point campus. Food and beverages available for purchase.

\$25 for members/\$35 for non-members



Enchanted Garden Family Festival
Saturday, March 16 & Sunday, March 17
10 a.m.–4 p.m.

A magical weekend of unicorn rides, storytelling, secret gardens, and more at this two-day family-friendly event at our Historic Spanish Point campus.

FREE for members and with regular admission



Garden Music Series
Sundays, March 24 & May 5 • 1–3 p.m.

Enjoy a variety of local and international music in the bayfront setting of our Historic Spanish Point campus.

Visit selby.org for pricing and tickets

MARIE SELBY
BOTANICAL
GARDENS



THANK YOU TO OUR
50TH ANNIVERSARY
SEASON SPONSORS

Drs. Andrew and Judith Economos • Jean Weidner Goldstein
Marcy and Michael Klein • Cornelia and J. Richard Matson • Marianne and Bill McComb
Keith Monda and Veronica Brady • Drs. Joel Morganroth and Gail Morrison Morganroth
Jeannie and Tom Russell • Hobart and Janis Swan • Marcia Jean Taub and Peter Swain
in loving memory of Ethel and Ron Taub • Pauline L. Wansler and David J. Sales

EDUCATION & PROGRAMS CALENDAR

Selby Gardens offers education and enrichment programs throughout the year for people of all ages and backgrounds. Visit our website for up-to-date details and join the fun!

For a complete listing of events, go to selby.org/events.

SCAN QR CODE
TO LEARN MORE



ADDITIONAL SUPPORT HAS BEEN RECEIVED FROM:
Eileen and Howard Curd • Katherine and Frank Martucci