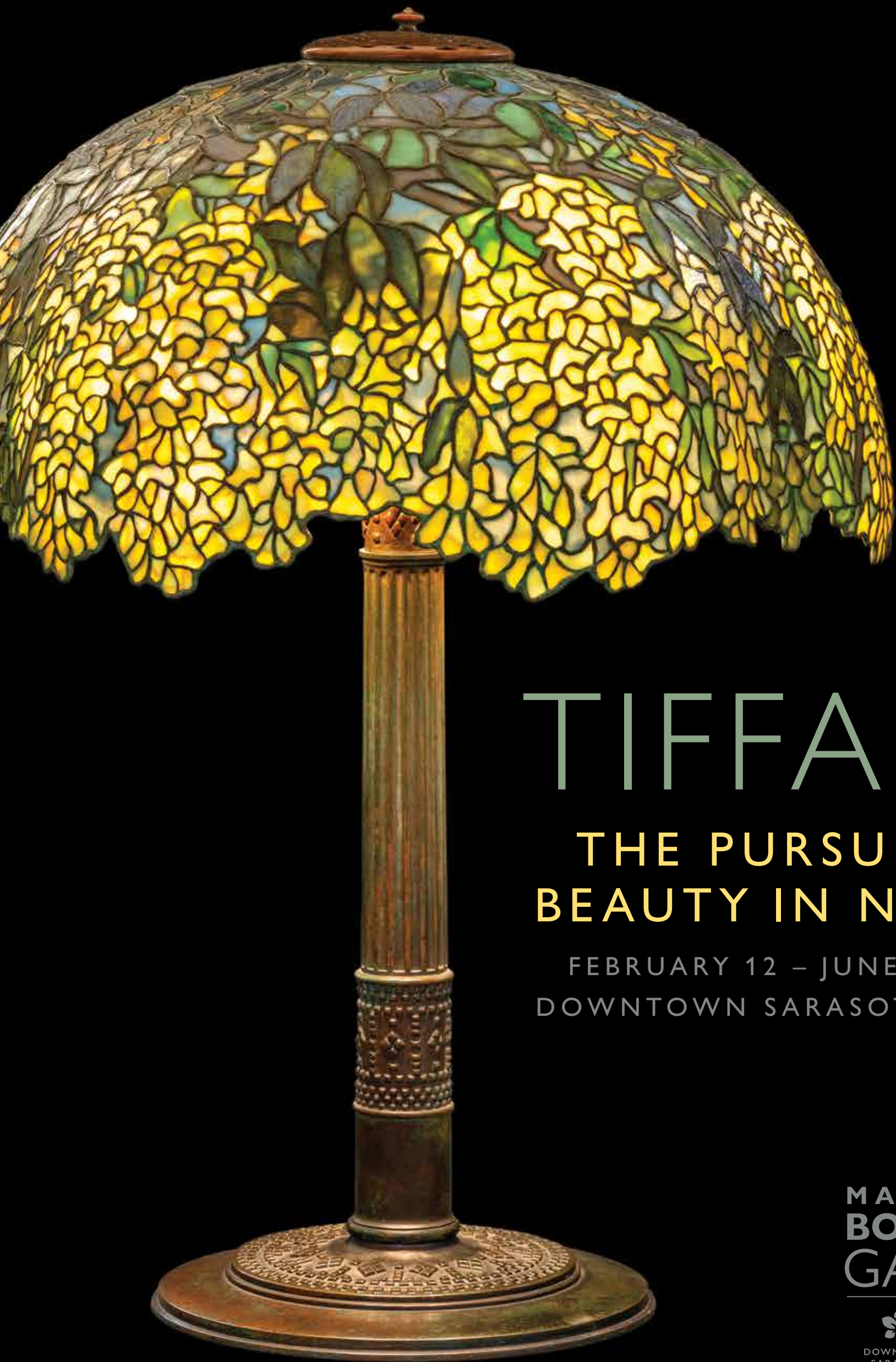


THE

VOLUME 3, ISSUE 2 · JANUARY–APRIL 2023

SANCTUARY



TIFFANY

THE PURSUIT OF BEAUTY IN NATURE

FEBRUARY 12 – JUNE 25, 2023
DOWNTOWN SARASOTA CAMPUS

MARIE SELBY
BOTANICAL
GARDENS



“From February through June, kaleidoscopic horticultural installations will transform our Downtown Sarasota campus.”



It's that wonderful time of year when we welcome so many familiar friends and new faces to our bayfront sanctuaries. Our loyal and supportive seasonal residents are back, social calendars are full, and some of Selby Gardens' biggest annual events are quickly approaching. The activity of the next few months will help sustain our mission-driven work for many more to come.

Welcomes and sustainability are themes running throughout this issue of *The Sanctuary*. An update on our Master Plan puts the new Jean Goldstein Welcome Center coming to our Downtown Sarasota campus front and center, while also peeling back the layers of ingenious design behind it. See why the talented architects we partnered with describe it as “a big hello” to the community.



Our Botany team just welcomed an old friend to a new staff role where he can further raise the level of our world-class research. Dr. John L. Clark has been contributing to science at Selby Gardens for years as a research associate. Now that he's a full-time research botanist, his tireless work in the field and the lab and passion for biodiversity will benefit our research mission every day. Meanwhile, our Botany team is doing vital work to help save Florida's rare plants. As you learn about their efforts, I think you'll be as proud of their leadership and stewardship as I am.

Our Museum and Horticulture teams have reimagined the familiar for our stunning 2023 Jean & Alfred Goldstein Exhibition, *Tiffany: The Pursuit of Beauty in Nature*. This first-of-its-kind show celebrates the creativity and innovation of Louis Comfort Tiffany, who found inspiration in the natural world for his celebrated stained-glass masterpieces. From February through June, kaleidoscopic horticultural installations will transform our Downtown Sarasota campus. We can't wait to welcome you to The Living Museum® to reconnect with nature through art.

And none of this would be possible without the seeds of philanthropy planted by donors who see the possibilities for Selby Gardens long beyond their own lifetimes. One such visionary, Richard Matson, is profiled inside, and his example is inspiring and instructive.

Of course, it was Marie Selby and Bertha Palmer whose generous foresight first made our Downtown Sarasota and Historic Spanish Point campuses possible. This issue also includes a fun flashback to the year when Historic Spanish Point opened to the public. To see it then and now reminds us of the power of philanthropy and the responsibility of stewardship. As a member of Selby Gardens, you are part of this legacy too.

Cheers,

Jennifer O. Rominiecki
President & CEO

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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.

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Blushing Bride
Tillandsia ionantha

An epiphyte or lithophyte (grows on rock) from Central and South America, the blushing bride bromeliad has become one of the most popularly cultivated “air plants.” Individual plants are only two to three inches high, but will form a clustering colony over time. Vibrant purple flowers appear in winter, when the surrounding silvery leaves turn a showy red. You’ll see blushing bride inside the Tropical Conservatory at our Downtown Sarasota campus when it’s in bloom.

Easily grown outdoors in Florida mounted on a branch, it is also a versatile indoor plant since it doesn’t need soil to grow. Secure to a piece of driftwood with wire or glue and place in a humid location with bright light. Water or heavily mist two to three times a week and shake off any excess water.

ABOUT

- A member of the pineapple family (Bromeliaceae) and in the same genus as Spanish moss (*Tillandsia*)
- Individual plants will die after blooming, but will grow pups before they do to form colonies
- Can be grown outdoors or indoors in Florida



WHAT’S IN BLOOM

Jamaican Caper
Quadrella jamaicensis (formerly *Capparis cynophallophora*)

This member of the caper family (Capparaceae) is native to Florida and also found throughout the Caribbean and from Mexico to Panama. It lives in the understory of mangrove forests, hammocks, and on shell mounds, growing in partial shade and moist, well-drained soils. A large shrub growing to 15 feet tall, it has a dense canopy of glossy, dark-green leaves.

Each spring it produces numerous showy white flowers that fade to pink, emitting a sweet fragrance. Fruits are long, tan, bean-like pods that split open along one side to reveal seeds embedded in an orange-red pulp. Drought-resistant, salt-tolerant, and wind-resistant, Jamaican caper makes a good hedge plant or a handsome native landscape specimen. At the Historic Spanish Point campus, it can be seen growing along the path to the Packing House and on the path from White Cottage to Point Cottage.

ABOUT

- Can withstand full sun in cultivation
- Seeds are not edible; the edible caper is *Capparis spinosa*
- Larval host for the Florida white butterfly (*Appias drusilla*)



A BIG HELLO



Open and airy, the new Jean Goldstein Welcome Center will draw visitors in.

Bob Shemwell, FAIA, remembers the first time he visited Selby Gardens' Downtown Sarasota campus.

"It was really captivating," recalls Shemwell, a senior principal at Overland Partners, the architecture firm for the campus' Master Plan. "There are areas where you feel like you're on a movie set, with plants that just look out of this world. Selby Gardens has such a unique collection of plants, and you're right in the middle of town—but you don't *feel* that. It has this special feeling of a getaway and an oasis."



As Overland's principal in charge of the Master Plan project, Shemwell and his team have ambitious ideas for each piece of the plan. But they're also intended to work together holistically, systemically—like the ecosystems and plant communities that are so important to what Selby Gardens studies and displays. A key feature will be the new Jean Goldstein Welcome Center. And "welcome" is the operative word.

Physically, the Welcome Center will include a covered, open-air pavilion with two enclosed structures—a ticketing booth and a Welcome Gallery. But the *experience* is designed

to be a seamless, immersive entry sequence that extends the gardens out to meet visitors and draws visitors into the gardens. "It's as much an invitation as it is a place of reception," Shemwell says. "You can see through and past it to the gardens beyond. The thesis of what we're doing across the campus is encapsulated in the Welcome Center."

For example, the buttresses that will hold up the roof structure covering the pavilion are meant to reflect a giant tree canopy, reminiscent of the century-old banyan trees so iconic to the Downtown Sarasota campus. Dubbed "quadrapods" by Overland, the armatures resemble tree trunks from which four large branches extend. The roof itself has skylights cut into it, so that light passes through like dappled sunlight through leaves.

The original plan for the Welcome Center called for an enclosed building through which guests would enter. But reconsideration amid the experience of the pandemic led to a more open design. "The team came up with the notion that maybe we don't have to enclose this building," says Shemwell. The result, in his opinion, actually improves upon the original plan. "Visually, atmospherically, the sense of openness and invitation and possibility that the building conveys is even better than it was before," he says. "I think, in the end, we have the best iteration."

That feeling will come as much from what's removed as what's there. Bordering the ticketing building will be a stunning water lily pond that integrates nature while funneling guests toward the ticket window without a gate or a wall. "They won't see a fence; they won't have that sense of restraint," says Allison Lerma, AIA, NCARB, a senior architect at Overland Partners. "All of those security measures are completely transparent to the visitor. I think that's one of the best parts of the design."



REACHING FULL POTENTIAL

The new Welcome Center is on track to welcome guests to the Downtown Sarasota campus this fall. Expected to be complete in October, the Welcome Center as well as the LEAF, Plant Research Center, and other components of Phase One of this three-phase project will be operational before year-end. While these new structures embody fascinating creativity and innovation, they also solve some very basic problems in service of the bigger project.

“The buildings are really a piece of a larger agenda and idea of the *total potential* of Selby Gardens,” says Bob Shemwell of Overland Partners. “Phase One had some very important jobs to do by getting cars out of the middle of the garden. You’re landlocked; you’ve got a limited number of acres. One of the most important things we’ve done is consolidate that car footprint into the corner so we could open the rest of the site. With the first phase, we’re solving some endemic problems that in turn offer countless possibilities—both for the buildings and the Gardens.”

Also missing from the Welcome Center: the gift shop. While that usually sits at the center of an attraction’s reception area, Shemwell notes, Selby Gardens’ new gift and plant shop will be part of the Living Energy Access Facility, or LEAF, which also houses parking and a garden-to-plate restaurant. “It’s visually present, but it’s not omnipresent,” he says. “The signal we’re trying to send is that entering the Gardens is about education and the natural world; it’s about guest experience that engages the senses.”

The other structure that makes up the Welcome Center is a new Welcome Gallery, which will present a curated selection of interpretive information and collection specimens. “On the front side, it’s an all-glass building that gives a taste of



“IT’S AS MUCH AN INVITATION AS IT IS A PLACE OF RECEPTION. YOU CAN SEE THROUGH AND PAST IT.”

– BOB SHEM WELL, FAIA, *Senior Principal, Overland Partners*

what you’re going to see in the gardens,” says Shemwell. “It’s an opportunity to preview what the gardens are all about.”

“Extroverting the visibility of the Welcome Center to the public is essentially a big hello,” adds Lerma. “It’s designed as a gesture to welcome visitors in.”

Education won’t be limited to what’s inside the Gallery and other buildings, either. It’s also what’s on them. “Part of our idea was to take the gardens and use every vertical surface that we could to expand the footprint,” says Shemwell. With plants growing on the Welcome Center’s surfaces as well as the LEAF and the new Plant Research Center, all those vertical faces literally become part of the gardens, growing

the total area. “The buildings are just the supporting cast,” says Shemwell.

When visitors see plants growing on building armatures, mimicking what epiphytes do in the natural world, the hope is that they will begin to wonder, to ask questions. “Selby Gardens is trying to build and protect its plant collection, but you’re also trying to change people’s minds and hearts about nature,” Shemwell says. “We want to create an atmosphere where information is part of the visual experience, the emotional experience, and often it becomes part of the dialogue.

“We’re bringing nature to the forefront,” he continues, “and that’s what Selby Gardens’ Living Museum® is all about.”

INVESTING

IN THE POTENTIAL OF SELBY GARDENS

Richard Matson knows a thing or two about investing. A Harvard and Columbia-educated lawyer who had a long and successful career on Wall Street, Dick continues to manage his family's finances in what he wryly calls his "retirement days sitting at home." But truth be told, he's anything but retiring when it comes to his community involvement.



Dick and his wife Cornelia—a Selby Gardens Trustee—actively support numerous institutions in Sarasota and beyond, something they've been doing for decades. Up in Cleveland, Dick is a long-time benefactor of the University School, which he attended before college, funding an endowed faculty chair and major gifts to several building projects. Here in Sarasota, where the Matsons have lived since the early 1980s, the couple loyally contribute time and treasure to several arts and culture, human services, and educational organizations. "I'm very interested in our community," Dick says, "and I want to support the things here that I think are good for the whole community."

One of those things is Selby Gardens' Master Plan for the Downtown Sarasota campus, a project that has captured both of the Matsons' imaginations. Cornelia is co-chair of the fundraising campaign for the Master Plan, and the couple are already leadership donors to the project. As it continues to progress, Dick has chosen to increase his investment in Selby Gardens' future by making an additional \$1-million bequest in his estate plan, a legacy gift being recognized now toward Phase One.

"The Master Plan just floored me," Dick says, recalling when President & CEO Jennifer Rominiecki first presented it to him. "Jennifer really opened my eyes to the potential—the research, the library, the location. It was just perfect."

Rominiecki says, "I remember that meeting and sharing the plan, and Dick just understood it right away—why we needed it, why the time was right. I enjoyed that meeting so much because he understood it so well. It was exhilarating for me."

Dick has long recognized the potential not just of Selby Gardens, but of Sarasota as a whole. He and Cornelia moved here in 1983, but their connection goes back earlier, to when Dick's mother and aunt moved to the city. The Matsons enjoyed visiting Sarasota, and the couple even got involved with Selby Gardens before they were full-time residents. "The community has grown, and the quality of a number of



Richard Matson and his wife, Selby Gardens Trustee and campaign co-chair Cornelia Matson

organizations has grown with it—very much Selby Gardens," Dick says. "I find it quite thrilling."

He credits contributions over the decades from the growing number of people who fell in love with Sarasota for ensuring its world-class amenities. "So many people have come here—different kinds of people—and added to it," he says. "And what Jennifer and her team did with Selby Gardens and the Master Plan—the timing was perfect."

While his new gift in support of Phase One is big news, Dick characteristically prefers to turn attention to Cornelia and her hard work as a board member and campaign co-chair. "I'm thrilled with what she's done," he says. For her part, Cornelia jokes about twisting his arm just a bit so he could enjoy more of the impact of his giving now.

While Dick has always seen the value of investing in future potential, his growing family seems to have enriched that sense of legacy. With 10 grandchildren already and his first great-grandchild born in September, Dick has newfound appreciation for being surrounded by children whenever they visit. "I think it's wonderful to have them around, I really do," he says. Those younger generations, both of his family and of Sarasota residents and visitors, will have much to enjoy at Selby Gardens thanks to visionary philanthropy like his.

Plan a Gift Now That Will Bloom Later

Did you know that a designated planned gift to Selby Gardens can be celebrated now as part of Phase One of our Master Plan? A pledge bequest written into your will or trust can be recognized today, including for Phase One naming opportunities, while being realized in the future. To discuss options, contact Marlo Turner at 941.366.5731 ext. 253.

SEEING THE INVISIBLE— AGAIN!

Your favorite streaming show isn't the only thing that's been extended to a second season. *Seeing the Invisible*, the augmented-reality (AR) contemporary-art exhibition on view at Selby Gardens' Historic Spanish Point campus, is enjoying a "Season 2"—and so are visitors who experience this one-of-a-kind show.

Extended through September 2023, the immersive exhibition of contemporary artworks created with AR technology features virtual installations—many of them large scale—by 13 international artists, including luminaries such as Ai Weiwei and Isaac Julien. The show is presented simultaneously at 10 botanical gardens and museums in eight countries around the world during Season 2. Selby Gardens is one of just two U.S. gardens to feature the show for a second year.

If you haven't experienced the exhibition yet, start by downloading the *Seeing the Invisible* app onto your smartphone or tablet *before* you visit the Historic Spanish Point campus. Fully charge your device and put on some comfy shoes to seek out and enjoy the art that's virtually displayed throughout our 30-acre campus.



So, how does it work? Using the app and the power of AR, visitors can see and even interact with the contemporary artworks that appear through their screen within the landscape of the Historic Spanish Point campus. Viewers can dance with a digital figure, enter a cave to a parallel landscape, and enjoy fluttering birds triggering beautiful notes on a virtual player piano. The same works are on view in different settings at the other participating gardens around the world, highlighting the power of art to connect people across the globe.



If you've already experienced the exhibition, consider a return visit to engage more deeply with the artworks in conjunction with their natural setting. This year our Exhibitions and Education teams are promoting a series of "calls to action" that encourage visitors to take a closer look at their own relationship with nature and the role that art and culture can play in addressing environmental concerns. To help, an activity table inside White Cottage offers prompts for family-friendly activities and takeaways to extend the show's themes and ideas beyond our gardens. One month might feature brown-bag seed-planting kits to take home, while another could offer a bird-watching bingo sheet or lessons on the life cycle of butterflies.

Seeing the Invisible continues through September 2023 at the Historic Spanish Point campus. This global exhibition was initiated by the Jerusalem Botanical Gardens and Outset Contemporary Art Fund with support from the Jerusalem Foundation.

Gulf Coast Community Foundation is the lead sponsor of Selby Gardens' participation in the exhibition.

A WINDOW TO NATURE'S

Selby Gardens' 2023 Goldstein Exhibition celebrates the nature-inspired art of Louis Comfort Tiffany

Marie Selby Botanical Gardens is excited to present *Tiffany: The Pursuit of Beauty in Nature* as the 2023 installment of the Jean & Alfred Goldstein Exhibition Series.

Running from February 12 through June 25 at the Downtown Sarasota campus, the exhibition showcases the creativity and innovation of the American artist and designer Louis Comfort Tiffany (1848-1933). Tiffany founded Tiffany Studios and served as the first design director of Tiffany & Co., the renowned jewelry and silver firm established by his father, Charles Lewis Tiffany (1812-1902). The spring 2023 show is the seventh in the Goldstein Exhibition Series, which examines major artists and their connection to nature in the context of our botanical garden setting.

Louis Comfort Tiffany was one of the most influential American artists and designers of the late 19th and early 20th centuries. He was closely associated with Art Nouveau, an international style of art and design characterized by organic line and natural form. Tiffany began his career as a painter, but later turned his attention to decorative arts, particularly stained glass, for which he became best known. His work as an artist and designer was part of his lifelong goal, which he described as “the pursuit of beauty.”

Tiffany's unique aesthetic was based on his belief that inspiration for art and design should be found in nature. The rich hues that distinguished his stained glass and other decorative arts were drawn from the colors of plants, especially flowers and fruits.

To realize his creative vision, Tiffany employed a team of skilled designers and craftspeople who translated his ideas into beautiful objects of almost every artistic and decorative medium. The team included several talented women, who contributed to every aspect of glasswork, from initial design to final product. Tiffany encouraged his team to look to nature—from dragonflies to daffodils—and to interpret it imaginatively.

1.



2.



3.



1. Clematis Vine Window. Tiffany Studios, New York, c. 1906
2. Floriform Vase. Designed by Louis Comfort Tiffany (1848–1933). Tiffany Studios, New York, early 1900s
3. Lotus, Pagoda Lamp. Tiffany Studios, New York, early 1900s
4. Daffodil Lamp. Tiffany Studios, New York, early 1900s
5. Fish and Irises Mosaic. Tiffany Studios, New York, c. 1906
6. Dragonfly Lamp. Designed by Clara Driscoll (1861–1944). Tiffany Studios, New York, early 1900s

BEAUTY



4.



COMING SOON!

THE JEAN & ALFRED GOLDSTEIN EXHIBITION SERIES

TIFFANY

THE PURSUIT OF BEAUTY IN NATURE

FEBRUARY 12 – JUNE 25, 2023
DOWNTOWN SARASOTA CAMPUS

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Drs. Joel Morganroth and Gail Morrison Morganroth

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For the full list of sponsors and a schedule of special programs, go to selby.org.



5.

Tiffany: The Pursuit of Beauty in Nature is the first exhibition of its type to be presented in a botanical garden, a particularly appropriate setting in which to highlight the connection between Tiffany's work and the natural world. Tiffany's celebrated stained-glass windows and lamps have inspired Selby Gardens' horticulturists to design stunning displays for the Tropical Conservatory and the outdoor Gardens. These kaleidoscopic vignettes of flowers and foliage play with light, color, and different materials to create a truly immersive experience, blurring the line between art and nature.

Accompanying the elaborate horticultural installations are outstanding examples of Tiffany's work, in various media, to be seen inside the Museum of Botany & the Arts. Generously lent from a private collection, this remarkable group of lamps, vases, and other objects help tell the story of Tiffany and his firm, which revolutionized glassmaking and elevated the status of American decorative arts at home and abroad. The objects also illustrate the studio's innovative methods of manufacture and emphasize the significant role of the designers and craftspeople who helped Tiffany to achieve his objective of furnishing complete and coordinated interiors filled with objects of the highest quality, all reflecting nature's beauty.

Following last year's punk-flavored Goldstein Exhibition featuring counterculture innovators Robert Mapplethorpe and Patti Smith, the Gilded Age art of Louis Comfort Tiffany might seem like a sharp right turn. And that's really the point of the series. "When it comes to the artists we feature, we jump back and forth in time and across genres," says Selby Gardens President & CEO Jennifer Rominiecki. "This keeps the series fresh, and it illustrates the universal connection between art and nature."

With Patti Smith last year, Selby Gardens both featured a living artist and incorporated music into the horticultural displays for the very first time in the series. Now, Tiffany's vibrant hues take center stage. As Tiffany himself famously said, "Color is to the eye what music is to the ear."



6.

TAKING IT TO THE SEED BANK

Florida supports one of the highest levels of plant diversity in the country, with about 3,200 native species. However, according to the nonprofit Center for Plant Conservation (CPC), hundreds are at high risk of extinction. Selby Gardens is a partner in a new regional collaboration to save Florida's rare plants before it's too late.



Collecting seeds of longbristle beaksedge (*Rhynchospora megaplumosa*). Photo by Wade Collier.

The Florida Plant Rescue project is a statewide seed-collectors effort to secure and safeguard Florida rare plant species in conservation collections at botanical gardens. CPC puts the number of plant species in the state that are considered globally rare but not currently secured in such collections at 168. The initiative is led by and funded through the CPC, with seven participating institutions and more likely to join.

The partner institutions leverage their local, hands-on expertise to identify endemic species that aren't yet formally listed as endangered but nonetheless need protection. Then they go on collecting expeditions to wild areas throughout the state to find and secure seeds from the plants, as well as monitor additional occurrences. Selby Gardens' work so far has targeted three species: Manasota pawpaw (*Asimina manasota*) and longbristle beaksedge (*Rhynchospora megaplumosa*), both from populations at Lake Manatee State Park; and the rare, epiphytic Florida star orchid (*Epidendrum floridense*), which occurs in Fakahatchee Strand Preserve State Park.

"Saving rare plant seeds in conservation collections like this can safeguard a species against extinction," says Bruce Holst, Selby Gardens' vice president for botany. "Conservation and protecting plant biodiversity have been important activities since Selby Gardens was founded. This strategic initiative can safely secure rare plants long into the future."

"SAVING RARE PLANT SEEDS IN CONSERVATION COLLECTIONS LIKE THIS CAN SAFEGUARD A SPECIES AGAINST EXTINCTION."

– BRUCE HOLST
Vice President for Botany



Epidendrum floridense plant growing in a deep water slough. Photo: Tatiana Arias.

FLORIDA PLANT RESCUE

The seven participating institutions in Center for Plant Conservation's Florida Plant Rescue initiative are:

- Marie Selby Botanical Gardens
- Bok Tower Gardens
- Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden
- Atlanta Botanical Garden
- Montgomery Botanical Center
- Florida Native Plant Society
- Naples Botanical Garden

OLD FRIEND NAMED NEW RESEARCH BOTANIST

John L. Clark, PhD, officially joined the Selby Gardens staff this January. But the field botanist with expertise in gesneriads has been contributing significantly to science here for more than two decades.

Since 2009, Clark has been affiliated with Selby Gardens as a research associate, collaborating with our staff scientists, adding to our collections, and helping to expand our publication base. He actually made his first donation of a specimen back in the mid-1990s. Now a full-time member of the Botany team, Clark concentrates his work on the family Gesneriaceae, flowering plants distributed throughout the world’s tropical forests. About a third of gesneriads are epiphytic, and thus a major focus of Selby Gardens’ research mission. In fact, the Gardens’ original seal, created by cofounder Dr. Carlyle Luer, includes illustrations of a bromeliad, an orchid, and a gesneriad.

Gesneriads are commonly grown horticulturally (think African violets, gloxinia, lipstick plants), and they are important scientifically as a model for understanding broad-scale patterns in the evolution, pollination, and diversification of plants. That’s where Clark comes in. An evolutionary biologist as well as a botanist, he is interested in systematics and biodiversity. He studies the evolution of plants, focusing on their identification, classification, phylogeny, and taxonomy.



This 18th-century lithograph by Maria Sibylla Merian features *Drymonia serrulata* (Gesneriaceae), a genus Clark studied with a National Science Foundation grant.



ABOUT DR. CLARK

BS: Forest Biology (cum laude), University of Vermont, 1993
PhD: Biology, George Washington University, 2005
Research Interests: Systematics and biodiversity; plant family Gesneriaceae
Personal: Father of three; married high-school sweetheart; pizza gourmand

Clark publishes his research and collects wild specimens prolifically, trekking to the Caribbean, the Andes, and elsewhere for field research. (You can follow him on Instagram at [@phinaea](#) for fun video dispatches from the misty depths of the rainforest.) The body of photography and additional plant specimens he brings with him to Selby Gardens is varied and exceptional. “Once we tally it up, I’m pretty sure that John will have made one of the most significant donations of specimens to our collection in the history of the institution,” says Vice President for Botany Bruce Holst.



Clark (left) with local guides and students from the Lawrenceville School and Universidad Católica del Ecuador on a 2022 research expedition to the Centinela Ridge in western Ecuador

Clark remains a research associate with the Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh and the Smithsonian National Museum of Natural History. His previous appointments include curator of The University of Alabama’s herbarium and professor in the Department of Biological Sciences. Most recently, Clark served as the Aldo Leopold Distinguished Teaching Chair at the Lawrenceville School in New Jersey. Leopold was one of the foremost American wildlife conservationists of the 20th century and a 1905 graduate of the Lawrenceville School, and Clark has centered his own career on teaching and promoting a passion for biodiversity. His ability to connect with and inspire future scientists surely will boost Selby Gardens’ environmental education efforts too, both on our campuses and beyond.

GARDEN PARTY

What a place to gather!

Our Historic Spanish Point campus recently marked four decades of access and education for the community. But the human history of this special bayfront location goes back much farther—some 5,000 years at least, as evidenced by archaeological discoveries made on the site.

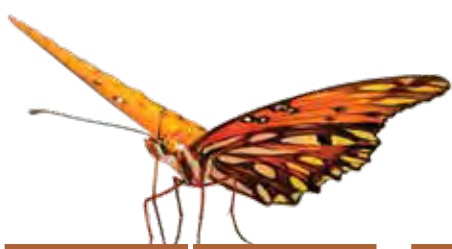
In 1982, a “dedication day” with a number of special events (and a \$3 lunch!) formally opened the site to the public. Then called The Oaks at Spanish Point, it operated under the auspices of Gulf Coast Heritage Association, Inc. The archival photo here shows attendees gathered throughout the Sunken Garden favored for entertaining by one-time owner and winter resident Bertha Palmer.

Understanding the importance of her property’s rich history, Palmer preserved the Native American shell mounds and Florida pioneer-era buildings on the site. Her descendants ensured the entire 30-acre property that is today’s Historic Spanish Point campus would be protected for the public.

Since Selby Gardens adopted Historic Spanish Point as a companion campus in 2020, we have rejuvenated and activated the site for community enjoyment while carefully stewarding its unique historical and natural assets. The breathtaking views of Little Sarasota Bay and nearby islands from the White Cottage Lawn and the Sunken Garden and Pergola make this spot ideal for concerts, receptions, and more.

The next time you visit, stop for a spell in the area framed by one of these pictures. Slowly look around in all directions. You’ll understand right away why this special place on the water has attracted humans for at least five millennia.





BUTTERFLIES ARE BACK!

Just in time for “season,” the popular Butterfly House at the Historic Spanish Point campus is open to visitors again—and welcoming delicate new denizens every week.

Our Butterfly House first opened in fall 2020 and became an instant hit with guests. It remains the most popular attraction on the site, according to Guest Relations Associate and lead butterfly caretaker Antonio Gasparoni. As the only immersive butterfly experience in the region, it gives visitors a chance to see numerous species of Florida butterflies—and the flowers they love—up close and personal. Among the species that flutter about the completely screened structure are Zebra longwing, Malachite, and Julia butterflies.



In advance of the storm, the house’s screening was removed and all of the butterflies were released. While the metal frame and interior plantings fared well through the storm, significant tree and plant damage across the rest of the 30-acre campus became the clean-up and safety priority in the weeks following Ian. Finally, in November, the Butterfly House was rescreened with brand-new netting, and the first shipment of live butterflies and chrysalides arrived. The new residents were introduced and the house reopened to visitors on November 15.

Weekly shipments of about 100 live butterflies and 40 pupae arrive on Tuesdays, and they are carefully set in the house by Antonio and other staff and volunteers. Several plants that were leaning after the storm have righted themselves and filled out with help from our horticulture team, ensuring a comfy, “tasteful” home for their winged neighbors. And visitors are back in force, delighting in the experience and even doing video calls from inside the Butterfly House to share the magic with friends far away.

The Butterfly House at the Historic Spanish Point campus is sponsored by The Charles T. Bauer Charitable Foundation.

Last August, the two-year-old Butterfly House and adjacent outdoor Native Butterfly Garden got a horticultural refresh with the help of incoming freshmen from Ringling College of Art and Design. As part of their community service experience, 35 college students and staff assisted a team from Selby Gardens in trimming and weeding the garden and removing all plants and soil from inside the house. That allowed horticultural consultant Nancy Paul—who designed the original interior of the house—to select a diverse group of native plants for the next flight of butterflies and emerging chrysalides. She and Selby Gardens staff then replanted the house, reinstalled drip irrigation, and mulched the freshly planted beds.

And then Hurricane Ian approached.

CULTIVATING NATURE LOVERS

Selby Gardens welcomed dozens of DeSoto County youth to our Downtown Sarasota campus last fall for an immersive day of environmental education. About 50 children and teens visited from the Louis and Gloria Flanzer Boys & Girls Club in Arcadia for two of our signature explorations. The younger set learned about biodiversity by investigating bromeliad tanks, while the middle- and high-schoolers took our mangroves and estuaries tour.



Staff from our environmental education and horticulture teams then returned the favor by visiting the youth at their club, where they helped the older club members plan and design a pollinator garden. The new garden will be installed at the Flanzer Club this spring.

These educational visits are part of Project Nature Bridge, an initiative to increase envi-

ronmental literacy and the appreciation and use of nature by area youth. It is a collaboration led by educators from several local environmental organizations and generously funded by Charles & Margery Barancik Foundation. Other site-specific projects include a sensory garden we're helping youngsters build at Laurel Civic. Stay tuned for updates and photos as these new gardens take root!

MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

DIGITAL MEMBERSHIP CARDS

Digital membership cards have arrived at Selby Gardens!

Want the convenience of pulling up your Selby Gardens credentials with just a few taps on your smartphone? You now can download your membership card and save it in your digital wallet. This electronic ID can be especially handy when you travel and want to use reciprocal admission benefits at over 300 participating gardens in the U.S. and Canada. It also works for our regional partner attractions and businesses with reciprocal admission or discounts, as well as discounts on food and merchandise at our two campuses. (Go to selby.org/membership for a refresher on your member benefits.)

Prefer your traditional paper card? Don't worry, we still have those too! The new digital membership simply adds convenience and flexibility when you're on the go. Look for an email from Selby Gardens soon with instructions on how to download your digital ID.



MASTER PLAN

BLAZING A TRAIL

The first piece of the Master Plan for our Downtown Sarasota campus officially opened to the public in December. A new Multiuse Recreational Trail, or MURT, now runs 800 linear feet along the eastern and northern borders of Selby Gardens' property.

The paved trail, which significantly widens the previous sidewalks along South Orange Avenue and Mound Street, meets the requirements of a multimodal trail. That means it can be used for walking, jogging, cycling, in-line skating, and more. The MURT provides safe, convenient access to our campus—and the bayfront beyond—from neighborhoods and other points south and east of the Gardens.

Eventually, the MURT will be buffered by beautiful landscape plantings maintained by our horticulture team. The trail also will provide users with wonderful, sweeping views of new garden features and restored historical elements of our campus—whether they're coming to visit or just passing by. "Our new, open design will allow the Gardens to be appreciated from both sides of our property line," said President & CEO Jennifer Rominiecki.



The new MURT, now open while construction continues, is made possible by the generous support of Selby Gardens Board Chair Marianne McComb and her husband, Bill.

The MURT is just one of several upgrades to the surrounding area that Selby Gardens is contributing to the community as part of the Master Plan. "We are also making off-site road improvements along the perimeter of our campus, adding a new parklet next to Palm Avenue, and will maintain a small park with bay access for the City of Sarasota," said Rominiecki. "We are fully invested in enhancing our neighborhood as well as our own Gardens."

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.



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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	\$21
Ages 5–17	\$11
Age 4 and under	FREE

* Special pricing for Spring exhibition begins Feb. 12



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	\$8
Adults	\$16
Ages 5–17	\$11
Age 4 and under	FREE

SPECIAL EVENTS

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

 The Orchid Ball 2023: The Gilded Age
Saturday, February 11 • 6–11 p.m.

Sarasota’s premier annual gala celebrates the 2023 Jean & Alfred Goldstein Exhibition, *Tiffany: The Pursuit of Beauty in Nature*, throughout the grounds of our Downtown Sarasota campus. Orchid Ball Chairs: Liebe Gamble, Ashley Kozel, Retta Wagner

Sponsorships start at \$2,500; for individual tickets, call 941.366.5731 ext. 253

 Keynote Lecture: Tiffany: The Pursuit of Beauty in Nature
Tuesday, February 14 • 5:30 p.m.

Nadia Watts, great-great granddaughter of Louis Comfort Tiffany, will discuss how her family’s legacy has inspired her own interior design practice and collection of fabrics.

For ticket information, visit selby.org

 Exhibition Evenings
Wednesdays, February 15, March 7, April 5, and May 17 • 6–8 p.m.

Enjoy an evening exploring *Tiffany: The Pursuit of Beauty in Nature*, with a cocktail reception and a performance by a leading Sarasota arts organization.

\$60 for members / \$65 for non-members

Major Sponsor: **BMO**  **Wealth Management**

 Garden Music Series
Sunday, February 26 • 1 p.m.

Singer/songwriter Rae Radick will perform her blend of pop and country on the Great Lawn.

FREE for members and with regular admission

Sponsor: **SWEETSPARKMAN**
ARCHITECTURE & INTERIORS

- 2 MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT & CEO**
Sustaining a legacy of stewardship
- 3 WHAT’S IN BLOOM**
Blushing bride and Jamaican caper
- 4 MASTER PLAN**
“A big hello” to the community
- 6 PHILANTHROPY PROFILE**
Investing in Selby Gardens’ potential

- 7 SEEING THE INVISIBLE**
Show extended for Season 2
- 8 GOLDSTEIN EXHIBITION**
Tiffany: The Pursuit of Beauty in Nature
- 10 FLORIDA PLANT RESCUE**
Saving the state’s rare plants
- 11 NEW RESEARCH BOTANIST**
Dr. John L. Clark joins Botany team

- 12 HISTORY HIGHLIGHT**
40 years of education and access
- 13 BUTTERFLY HOUSE**
Butterflies are back in rehabbed home
- 14 NEWS BRIEFS**
Eco education; digital membership
- 15 PARTNERSHIPS**
Recognizing our many supporters

MARIE SELBY
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1534 Mound St., Sarasota, FL 34236

EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS

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

 “Hearts on Fire!” Valentine’s Glassblowing Demo
Saturday, February 4
10:30 a.m.–3 p.m. (in 45-min. sessions)

Get ready for Valentine’s Day with a live demonstration by glassblowing artists from Duncan McClellan Gallery. Blown-glass hearts and other festive designs will be featured and available for purchase.

For class fees and reservations, go to selby.org

 Noshing in Nature: Orange You Glad to Learn about Vodka?
Friday, March 31 • 6–8 p.m.

Learn about the botanical, cultural, and culinary history of Florida oranges, then discover how these citrus fruits are utilized by distilleries as you sample a unique variety of vodka made from oranges.

\$64 for members / \$69 for non-members

 Tiffany Glass Flameworking Workshop
Fridays and Saturdays, March 17 and 18, April 14 and 15 • 10:30 a.m.–4:45 p.m. (in 45-min. sessions)

In this hands-on program, learn the process of melting and molding glass into your own one-of-a-kind flower pendant.

\$89 for members / \$99 for non-members



Garden to Plate Wine Dinner
Friday, March 3 • 6–9 p.m.

A casually elegant, multi-course dining experience on the Great Lawn of our Downtown Sarasota campus.

Garden to Plate Chairs: Eileen and Howard Curd, Patricia and Peter Estes, Nora and Billy Johnson.

For sponsorship and ticket information, call 941.366.5731 ext. 253

Sponsor:  **PNC BANK**



Performances at the Point
Wednesday, March 22 • 6:30 p.m.

Enjoy music by Jade Strings after-hours at our Historic Spanish Point campus. Food and beverages available for purchase.

\$30 for members / \$35 for non-members



Enchanted Garden Family Festival
Saturday and Sunday, March 25 and 26
10 a.m.–5 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

Sponsor:  **COMMUNITY FOUNDATION**
of Sarasota County



Spring Lunch in the Gardens
Wednesday, April 26 • 11 a.m.–1 p.m.

This series features engaging, internationally renowned speakers over a delightful lunch in an unforgettable bayfront setting. Event Chairs: Nikki Sedacca and Montana Taplinger. Series Chairs: Jean Weidner Goldstein, Teri A Hansen, and Margaret Wise.

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

Series Sponsor:  **CHARLES & MARGERY BARANCIK FOUNDATION**