



## VOLUNTEER NEWSLETTER INSIDE DIRT



### An E-Newsletter for Selby Gardens Volunteers NOVEMBER 2015

Volunteers are encouraged to provide “news tips” and stories for The Inside Dirt. If you have something to share, please contact Vera Neuman-Wood at (941) 366-5731 x 227 or email [volunteer@selby.org](mailto:volunteer@selby.org). or contact Diana Schultz at [terra06@embarqmail.com](mailto:terra06@embarqmail.com). (please specify subject as “Selby.”)

#### MEET VERA NEUMANN-WOOD



Hello Volunteers,  
I'd like to take a minute of your time to introduce myself. My name is Vera Neumann-Wood and I'm the new Volunteer Coordinator of your favorite Botanical Gardens. My first day was November 2nd.

I'm absolutely delighted to be part of this great team of professionals and volunteers. As a matter of fact I couldn't think of a better place to be in our county. Being able to work in such a gorgeous setting with so many hundreds of great individuals... it's almost not work....

As I have started walking the gardens – as part of my daily routine to meet you all and to learn about the Gardens, I hear only praises about Phyllis Kirtley, who has been your volunteer coordinator for several years and is now the Membership Coordinator. I feel very welcomed by Phyllis and the rest of the staff and I'll shadow Phyllis for a while and learn from her. A big thank you to Phyllis in advance for her patience and guidance.

John McAlister (my boss) and I have great plans and expectations for my position. We want to continue to make sure that you are having a great experience at the Gardens, that you are enjoying your time here and contributing towards the Gardens' mission, learning new skills to enrich your life, breathing the marvelous fresh air outdoors and providing excellent customer service.

More than ever, we want the public to feel welcomed by the volunteers. You are the faces that the public sees, your smile is the one that is remembered by the visitors, your kind words and attitude are the ones that will be bringing people back to the gardens.

Before I took this position I worked for 13 years for Sarasota County as the Special Collections Librarian at Selby Public Library. Over there I planned and organized all the adult-oriented events and managed dozens of volunteers. I've made and left great friends at the library, many of them the volunteers I had the privilege to recruit, train and reward (by reward I mean the parties we've planned... by the way, I'm a big party person – nothing that cannot be resolved over a pint of beer – after work of course...).

I'm originally from Brazil but have been calling the USA home for the last 20 something years... so if you see me at the Gardens and speak to me in Portuguese I'll be able to answer. Gardening is a hobby and a passion of mine. I have a small backyard where I grow bananas and starfruit and lemons and yuccas and tangerines and often passionfruit.

I'm really looking forward to meeting all of you (thank you so much for wearing your name tags!!) and you'll be hearing from me often, in the next issues of this newsletter and also via email here and there. I have an open door policy and if I can help you in any way to better your volunteer experience, please send me an email – [vneumann@selby.org](mailto:vneumann@selby.org). Thank you for volunteering your time, enthusiasm and energy to Marie Selby Botanical Gardens.

MARIE SELBY BOTANICAL GARDENS

THE MARIE SELBY BOTANICAL GARDENS ASSOCIATES  
PRESENT

*6th Annual*  
**Wine, Dine & Pine**

DECEMBER 3, 2015  
6PM - 8PM

FEATURING A SELECTION OF WINE, SUMPTUOUS  
HORS D'OEUVRES AND FABULOUS DESSERTS

LUXURY ITEM SILENT AUCTION  
MYSTERY GIFT BOX TREE  
"DINE ON US" RESTAURANT CHANCE DRAWING

**\$60 PER PERSON**

PATRON LEVEL OPTIONS

<b>\$500</b> Golden Orchid Patron includes admission for four and four tickets for drawings	<b>\$250</b> Silver Palm Patron includes admission for two and two tickets for drawings	<b>\$125</b> Emerald Holly Patron includes admission for one and one ticket for drawings
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Reservations available online November 1, 2015 at [www.selby.org](http://www.selby.org) or visit Selby Gardens Welcome Center,  
900 S. Palm Avenue, Sarasota, FL 34236

# LIGHTS IN BLOOM AT SELBY GARDENS

## VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Selby Gardens' holiday extravaganza, *Lights in Bloom*, takes place **December 18-23 and December 26-30 from 6:00 pm - 9:00 pm. Volunteers arrive at 5:00 pm.** We have almost 50 volunteer spots to fill every night. Vera will be looking for an assistant to help her with check-in every night.

**The evenings on which we always have the greatest need for volunteers are December 26- 30.** We want to give first preference to anyone who volunteered last year. Pick your date and email if you are returning to help this year. We'll try to honor any requests for specific jobs.

Every night we have some specialized positions that we always fill from inside Selby. The most obvious are volunteers to work the registers in the Welcome Center and the Plant Shop.

**If you are interested in volunteering for any of these nights, please contact Vera Neumann-Wood at [volunteer@selby.org](mailto:volunteer@selby.org) or 366-5731 x 227 with your preferred date.**

## Pre-Lights in Bloom Fabrication Team Needs YOU!

Our 12th annual holiday light extravaganza needs your help! This year we will feature more than a half million lights that will surround visitors with a spectacle of unique installations.

Volunteers are needed for stringing lights, building metal forms, changing light bulbs, installing art vignettes, and de-installation. We are looking for **electricians, creative artists, carpenters, and fabricators.** Interested? Please contact Bob McComb at [robmccomb@live.com](mailto:robmccomb@live.com) or (941) 228-1971.

## MANGROVE WALKWAY COMPLETED AHEAD OF SCHEDULE

It's done!

Thanks to the wonderful generosity of some 250 donors, we have rebuilt the Mangrove Walkway! The Steinwachs Family Foundation stepped up with a generous grant over the summer, which along with a capping grant from Bank of America Client Foundation allowed us to begin work on this important feature sooner than expected. We held a ribbon-cutting on Member Appreciation Day (November 7), and the expansive new walkway is now open and drawing rave reviews.



Steinwachs Family Foundation representative Jeff Steinwachs (center) cuts the ribbon for the new Steinwachs Family Foundation Mangrove Walkway. He is flanked by Selby Board Chair Emily Walsh, Trustee Allison Archbold, Trustee Kelvin Cooper, and President and CEO Jennifer O. Rominiacki.



The new Mangrove Walkway includes a broader walkway and gathering spaces for field trips and tour groups.

Special thanks to all our supporters for the project, including the Linnie E. Dalbeck and Rita B. Lamere Foundations, who provided matching funds for our spring campaign, and Sarasota Bay Estuary Project, which contributed a grant to underwrite the new signage.

## OTHER VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

**Membership Desk:** We are going to staff a special register in the Welcome Center to process our members. We now need 7-10 new volunteers to train for Welcome Center reception. If you have

always wanted to work there when there were no openings, now is your chance.

**Survey Volunteers:** Fun, easy, flexible! We seek volunteers who are willing to commit to at least two shifts per month conducting surveys in the Gardens. This is an easy job and offers wonderful flexibility. Call Emily at (941) 366-5731 ext. 267 or email [grants@selby.org](mailto:grants@selby.org).

**Administration:** If you have an open schedule, we are looking for someone who can be a last-minute substitute for our reception volunteers.

**Horticulture:** Gardening positions are still open on Tuesday and Thursday mornings. Tracy Calla is looking for someone with expertise in bromeliads and orchids for the greenhouse.

**Marketing:** There is a position available to help with submitting online forms and updating web calendars. This is a great opportunity to gain job experience while helping the Gardens.

## MEETINGS AND TRAININGS FOR EDUCATION DEPARTMENT VOLUNTEERS

As you know, Volunteer training is a combination of shadowing veteran volunteers, attending designated training sessions and completing a handful of "assignments." We

want all of our guides - new & veteran to feel completely comfortable to greet and orient Gardens guest as you are our “front line!”

Mark your calendar for the Guide Trainings in the Great Room on the Bay, on the dates and times listed below. Please RSVP for these three trainings to Judi Cox at [jcox@selby.org](mailto:jcox@selby.org).

**Tuesday, Nov 10, from 9:00 am – 12:00 pm** – discuss the checklist and exercises that you received and learn more specifics about the volunteer positions.

**Wednesday, Nov 11** – Come for Bruce Holst’s lecture at 12:00 pm <http://selby.org/events/event/lecture-blazing-bladens-blue-river-in-search-of-epiphytes/>, then stay with your brown bag lunch for a training session from 1:00 – 3:00 pm.

**Friday, Nov 13, from 10:00 – 2:00 pm** – Sample tour, followed by a brown bag lunch and training session.

### **Museum Docents**

Current Exhibit Docents Meeting, Nov 19 at 4:00 pm: Meet artist, MF Cardamone, and get up-dated on her latest exhibit in the Mansion/Museum on Thursday, Nov 19. Plan to stay if you can for the opening reception (which begins at 5:30 pm.) Docents please RSVP to Marilynn Shelley for the “Meet the Artist” meeting at [mshelley@selby.org](mailto:mshelley@selby.org). See RSVP for the opening reception listed above in the Exhibits info.

#### **Education Volunteer Positions available:**

- Family Programs Volunteers
- School Tour Guides
- Walk & Talk Guides
- Tropical Conservatory Guides
- “Ask Me” Cart Volunteers
- Museum Docent

\*If you are currently a Walk n Talk or Conservatory guide and would like to guide gardens-wide tours for either adult or school groups, please plan to attend the Nov. 10, 11 and 13 trainings.

If you are interested in any of these positions, please contact us so that we can set you up with a training packet. We are offering a comprehensive guide training program this season.



*Selby Gardens Volunteers and Staff*  
*Join us for a Special*  
**Pre-Holiday Happy Hour**

*at*

**EVIE'S on MAIN ST.**

**WEDNESDAY • DECEMBER 9th • 4:30PM**



Separate checks available

Free parking at the new garage on Lemon

Next to Hyde Park Steakhouse

RSVP by December 6 to [volunteer@selby.org](mailto:volunteer@selby.org)



**MARIE SELBY GARDENS ASSOCIATES**

The October cocktail party in the Children's Rainforest Garden was a delicious and fun event! Over 130 Associates, their guests, volunteers and staff enjoyed a beautiful evening in the Gardens seeing old friends and making new ones. Thank you to Dave Muolo and his committee who made it all happen.

"The Vision for the Future of Marie Selby Gardens" is the topic of our November





luncheon program on November 16th. Looking forward, our new President and CEO, Jennifer O. Rominiecki, will share the ongoing plans and ideas to take the Gardens to the next level. This has already been a most exciting year in the Gardens. I for one can't wait to hear what the future holds.

This year, we will host our 6th Annual Wine, Dine & Pine to support Marie Selby Botanical Gardens on the Garden's 40th Anniversary. Put Thursday evening, December 3, from 6:00 pm – 8:00 pm on your calendar and plan to participate in the Associates'

premier fund raiser of the year!

WDP 2015 will be an elegant, fun event. This year you can enjoy our Silent Auction and Mystery Gift Tree and Dine on Us chance drawing, along with wonderful food and wines. Plan to come and bring your friends. The auction focus is on "experiences". Bid on Sophia Loren tickets at the Van Wezel, Disney passes, golf at top clubs, opera, ballet and theater tickets, plus a package of VIP admissions to Selby's special events, along with some gift baskets, to name a few! Tickets are on sale at the Welcome Center and online.

Associates we need your help to make this event a success. We are seeking Mystery Tree gifts (value \$25 or more), restaurant gift cards. \$1 or \$2 scratch-off lottery tickets, or bottles of wine. Or donate and we'll do the shopping for you! Bring your items to the November 16 luncheon or drop them off with Phyllis Kirtley at the Administration Building.

## **LITTLE SPROUTS**

The "Garden Treasure" series began in October and continues through May, 2016 in the Children's Rainforest Garden from 10:30 am-11:30 am on the first Thursday of each month, and the subsequent Friday and Saturday that follow. Bring your little sprout and join us for family fun! <http://selby.org/events/event/little-sprouts-club-2/>

Little Sprouts is sponsored by First Watch and the Community Foundation of Sarasota County.

## **FREE LECTURES**

**Nov 11: *Blazing Bladen's Blue River in Search of Epiphytes*  
Great Room by the Bay, 12:00 – 1:00 p.m.**

In May 2015, another Selby Gardens team returned to Belize as part of an ongoing collaboration with Belize's Caves Branch Botanical Garden. The purpose was to conduct a botanical inventory focused on epiphytes in a remote area that was last

inhabited some 1,500 years ago by the Mayan civilization. The crew hiked more than 100 miles through rugged terrain saddled with the gear, equipment, food and water they would need for the two week expedition. <http://selby.org/events/event/lecture-blazing-bladens-blue-river-in-search-of-epiphytes/>

**Friday, Nov 13, 12 – 1 in the Activities Center Classroom**

**Understanding What Makes Bromeliads Tick** presented by Jamie Males, Harry Luther-Bromeliad Society International Scholar and Ph.D. student at Cambridge University

Males' research focuses on the evolution and physiology of the bromeliad family, with the aim of understanding how variation at the molecular and anatomical level determines species' physiological limits. The real-world importance of these physiological limits can be tested by examining how well they explain the known distributions of different species. He also seeks to use evolutionary models to establish whether the impressive rates of diversification observed in certain bromeliad lineages are associated with evolutionary changes in specific traits. His work therefore spans the full circle of biology: from the bench, to the field, to the computer desk

**Dec 2, The Botanic Gardens of Leiden and Oxford with Dr. David Berry in the Great Room by the Bay, 12:00 – 1:00 p.m.**

The university cities of Leiden, the Netherlands, and Oxford, England, are home to two of the oldest botanic gardens in the world. The gardens still occupy their original sites, dating from the late sixteenth and early seventeenth centuries respectively. This illustrated talk will feature interesting anecdotes on the history of the gardens and the people and plants associated with them.

Dr. Berry is the Assistant Director of Academic Affairs at the John and Mable Ringling Museum of Art. He has been working as a consultant with Selby Gardens since 2014.

**EXHIBITS IN THE MUSEUM OF BOTANY AND THE ARTS**

***Gardens of the Mind - Dr. Joel Elkes at 102: A Retrospective*** features the artist's career-spanning works, including some created just this year. At nearly 102 years of age, Dr. Elkes was not ready to "throw in the brushes." His paintings reflect a love affair with nature and a curiosity about the relation of light to objects that began during his childhood in Lithuania and endures today.

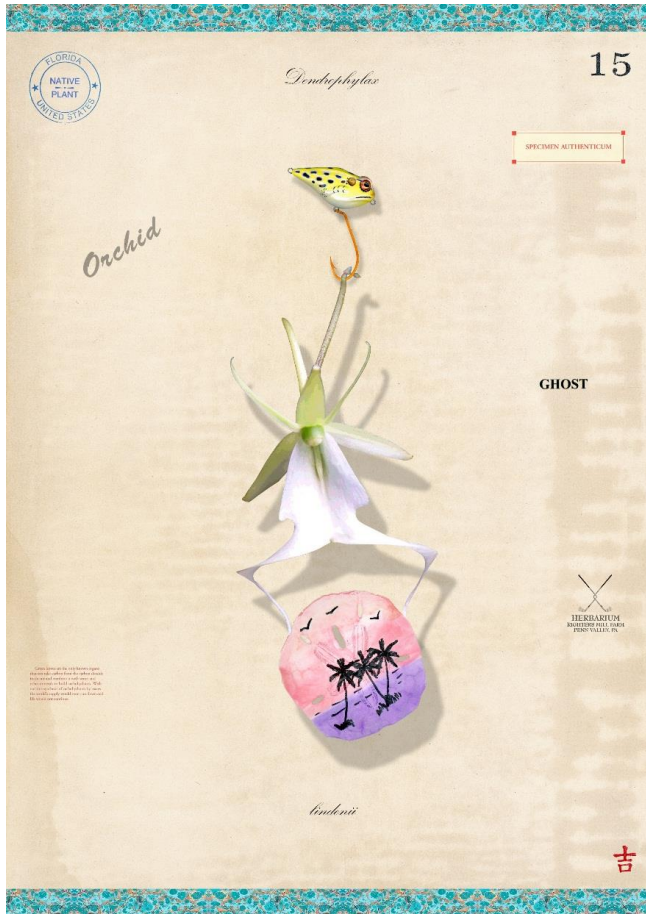
He continued to be inspired by "conversations" with nature and was even more focused and





determined to create his unique brand of art. This exhibit runs in the Museum of Botany and the Arts from September 18 to November 15, 10:00 am - 4:30 pm daily.

<http://selby.org/events/event/gardens-of-the-mind/>



### ***New American Botanicals: The Art of MF Cardamone***

runs from November 20, 2015 to March 3, 2016. The artist's colorful, modern and fanciful mixed media botanical illustrations combine hints of traditional herbarium specimens embellished with digital imagery, inks, and hand drawn touches, resulting in completely inventive and wholly unique works of art.

<http://selby.org/events/event/new-american-botanicals/> **RSVP for the opening reception on Thursday, November 19:**

<http://selby.org/events/event/new-american-botanicals-2/>

### **FREE AND DISCOUNTED CLASSES**

Please note: To secure the special prices listed below; active volunteers must register and pay in advance of class at the Welcome Center or on our website.

<http://www.selby.org/learning/classes>

#### **Bromeliads for Beginners**

Saturday, November 14<sup>th</sup>, 10:00 am – 12:00 pm

Instructor: Maureen McCracken

Member, \$35; Non-member, \$50

Special Volunteer Price: \$30

#### **Growing Orchids in SW Florida**

Friday, November 20<sup>th</sup>, 10:00 am – 12:00 pm

Instructor: Monroe Kokin

Member, \$35; Non-member, \$50

Special Volunteer Price: \$30

## WHAT'S IN BLOOM – by Terri Tumlin

The wonderful weather continues and the Garden is beautiful. This month I toured the area around the Mansion.



1. Just south of the Mansion in the bromeliad garden, *Hohenbergia stellata* is displaying a lovely pink bloom.



2 In front of the Mansion, along the walk on the east side, the porterweed (*Stachytarpheta mutabilis*) has small clear red flowers blooming in sequence up the green spikes.



3. Along the same path, near the arbor, the cat's whiskers (*Orthosiphon sp.*) is in spectacular display with its white blossoms.

4. On the west side of the path, just south of the arbor *Holmskioldia tettensis* has lovely purple flowers with of lavender bracts..

5. Along the southern end of the path just in front of the Mansion, the bright red blooms of autumn sage (*Salvia greggii*) will catch your eye.

*Enjoy - Terri*