

Apply today's admission fee to an annual membership!

Membership offers you free admission year-round to the Gardens plus free admission to hundreds of reciprocal gardens in the US and Canada. Inquire at the Welcome Center or purchase online.

Garden facilities are available for weddings, luncheons, business meetings, and special events. Contact events@selby.org.

Visitor Tips

- Please exit through the Welcome Center where you entered.
- In case of lightning, please proceed to the nearest building.
- The outdoor gardens are watered with reclaimed water. Please do not drink.



Welcome Center

- 1 Admissions/Ticketing
- 2 Garden Shop

Rainforest

- 3 Tropical Conservatory
- 4 Bonsai Exhibit
- 5 Cycad Display
- 6 Fern Garden
- 7 Koi Pond
- 8 Bamboo Garden
- 9 Banyan Grove
- 10 Ann Goldstein Children's Rainforest Garden

Selby House

- 11 Kid's Corner
- 12 Café
- 13 Selby Memorial

Desert

- 14 Succulent Garden

Great Lawn

- 15 Gazebo
- 16 Schimmel Wedding Pavilion

Mangroves

- 17 Baywalk

Palms

- 18 Tropical
- 19 Coastal

Activity Center

- 20 Great Room by the Bay
- 21 Classroom

Native Florida

- 22 Tidal Lagoon
- 23 Hardwood Hammock

Display Gardens

- 24 Bromeliad Garden
- 25 Green Roof
- 26 Edible Garden
- 27 Fragrance Garden
- 28 Butterfly Garden

Payne Mansion

- 29 Museum of Botany & the Arts*
- 30 Carriage House

*closes at 4:30pm

Selby Gardens programs are sponsored in part by the State of Florida, Department of State, Division of Cultural Affairs, and paid for in part by Sarasota County Tourist Development Tax revenue.




MARIE SELBY BOTANICAL GARDENS

is an oasis of tranquility, offering a respite from the commotion of urban life. It is the perfect place to escape from the everyday and experience the beauty of nature.


Selby Gardens features a variety of gardens and habitats, displaying tropical and subtropical plants from around the world. The Gardens are a celebration of the institution’s world-class programs in horticulture, botany, conservation, and education.

HISTORY

 William and Marie Selby moved to Sarasota, Florida, in the early 1920s. They built a modest home on seven acres of land bordering Sarasota Bay and Hudson Bayou. Despite their wealth, derived from William’s partnership in the Selby Oil and Gas Company, they lived a quiet life away from the Sarasota social scene.


As a lover of nature, Marie had an interest in keeping Sarasota beautiful and green. Upon her death in 1971, she bequeathed her home and property to the community with the aim of forming a botanical garden “for the enjoyment of the general public.” Selby Gardens was founded two years later and opened to the public on July 7, 1975.

COLLECTIONS


 Selby Gardens features a diverse collection of plants from tropical and subtropical regions around the world. It also houses a herbarium, consisting of more than 110,000 dried and pressed specimens of tropical flora, and the world’s second largest spirit collection, comprising nearly 30,000 specimens preserved in fluids.

Supporting research on these collections is a library containing books on the subjects of botany, ecology, and horticulture, including a number of rare titles dating from the late 1700s. In addition to these are scientific journals, photographic slides, botanical prints, and other materials. The library is open by appointment.

EPIPHYTES

 Selby Gardens is a leader in the conservation and display of epiphytes, or plants that grow on other plants without harming them, such as orchids, bromeliads, and gesneriads. Unique in its emphasis among botanical gardens, Selby contains the most diverse living and preserved collections of epiphytes in the world. During your visit, the best place to see an abundance of epiphytes is within the Tropical Conservatory. As well, when walking the Gardens, remember to look up to see a variety of epiphytes growing upon tree trunks.

RESEARCH

 Selby botanists specialize in the inventory and classification of plants, particularly epiphytes. They carry out research in the laboratory, the greenhouse, and the field, which contributes to the understanding and conservation of the diversity of plants, which are essential to life on earth.

Since the founding of Selby Gardens, Selby botanists have undertaken hundreds of expeditions throughout the tropics and subtropics of the Americas to study plants in their natural environment and collect specimens to bring back to Sarasota. As a result, they have discovered or described more than 2,000 plant species previously unknown to science.

