VOLUME 5, ISSUE 1 · SEPTEMBER–DECEMBER 2024

THE SANCTUARY

PURPLE!

THE ORCHID SHOW 2024

OCTOBER 5-DECEMBER 1

Downtown Sarasota Campus

TIME WORLD'S GREATEST PLACES 2024

MARIE SELBY BOTANICAL GARDENS

DOWNTOWN SARASOTA | HISTORIC SPANISH POINT

"But I just want to underscore that it's because of you, our steadfast supporters, that we received this incredible validation for all we do at Selby Gardens. And I hope everyone feels the same enormous sense of pride that I do."

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We may have turned the page on summer, but I am still beaming over the recent inclusion of Marie Selby Botanical Gardens in the pages of *Time* magazine on its list of the "World's Greatest Places 2024 "– one of 100 extraordinary destinations around the globe!

It's difficult to put into words what it means to receive this recognition. Selby Gardens was one of only eight places in the United States to be included, the only location in Florida in its category, and the lone botanical garden included on the prestigious annual list.

But I just want to underscore that it's because of *you*, our steadfast supporters, that we received this incredible validation for all we do at Selby Gardens. And I hope everyone feels the same enormous sense of pride that I do.

The significant innovations achieved during Phase One of the Master Plan for our Downtown Sarasota campus – an enormous undertaking that you helped make possible through your generosity and commitment – unquestionably played a role in this recognition. I am so grateful for your efforts, and we can all look forward to more exciting growth on the horizon.

Phase Two of the Master Plan will focus on creating a hurricane-resilient greenhouse complex to house our world-renowned living collections and a learning pavilion, which will offer expanded capacity for school programs and enhance our indoor and outdoor classroom space for children and adults. And we will accomplish all of this in accordance with the new standards of innovation, resiliency, and sustainability that we have set.

Meanwhile, there is no shortage of exciting things happening at Selby Gardens, and you can read about them in this issue of The Sanctuary. First and foremost is *The Orchid Show 2024: Purple!*, a fascinating and fun exploration of the color in botany and in culture, from ancient royalty through the present. The show typifies how we are trying to immerse visitors in an experience, and the notion of color theory is a wonderful way to do it.

We are also thrilled about our upcoming exhibit featuring the captivating photography of legendary icon Patti Smith, in conjunction with her New York Times bestseller, *Book of Days*.

Patti has enriched Selby Gardens so much as our Artist in Residence, through her performances, poetry and photography. And we are delighted to showcase her engaging images connected to nature in an exhibition opening in November at our Historic Spanish Point campus, which will include another performance by Patti – stay tuned for details!

You'll also read about our partnership with Operation Eco Vets. This wonderful program, which supports local veterans, is growing rooftop produce that is served in our signature restaurant, The Green Orchid. In addition, you'll learn about our successful summer internship program, what's in bloom, and much more.

And remember, everything in this issue is made possible by your unwavering support – and for that I am deeply grateful.

Cheers,

Jennifer O. Rominiecki
President & CEO

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

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Selby Gardens' programs are paid for in part by Sarasota County Tourist Development Tax revenues.

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NEW TRUSTEES

The Board of Trustees of Marie Selby Botanical Gardens has elected three new members to the governing Board of Trustees. Businessman Ali Bahaj, executive Hosana Fieber, as well as entrepreneur and economist Richard Sandor, will each serve a three-year term on the Board during which they will help guide the strategic vision for the future of the institution.

ALI BAHAJ
TRUSTEE

Ali Bahaj retired as Chairman and CEO of Caterpillar Japan and Vice President of Caterpillar, Inc. after 32 years of service with the company. During his tenure with Caterpillar, Bahaj held several senior executive management positions within Caterpillar, including various assignments in Chile, Switzerland, Brazil and Japan. Bahaj served as Chair of the Van Wezel Foundation and is currently Vice Chair of Ringling College of Art & Design, and Board Trustee of Westcoast Black Theatre Troupe.

HOSANA FIEBER
TRUSTEE

Hosana Fieber is an executive who serves as the CEO of Tervis, a national drinkware company. Prior to being named CEO in 2023, Fieber held other positions within the company such as chief operating officer and chief financial officer. With a strong background in finance and accounting, before she began her career at Tervis, Hosana worked in public accounting, her latest experience at Dixon-Hughes in Charlotte, NC. Hosana currently serves as a board member for Charles and Margery Barancik Foundation.

Joel Morganroth, M.D. and Teri A Hansen were reelected as Chair and Vice Chair, respectively, for the current year of Board service as officers. Also continuing their service as Selby Gardens' trustees: Daniel "Pat" Ball, Aaron Bellamy, Morgan Bentley, Mary Braxton-Joseph, Ariane Dart, Renée James Gilmore, Jean Weidner Goldstein, Marcy Klein, Katherine A. Martucci, Cornelia Matson, Marianne McComb, Keith Monda, Michael Quillen, Audrey Robbins, Jeannie Russell, Bruce E. Sorensen, Margaret Wise, and Jennifer O. Rominiecki, President & CEO of Selby Gardens.

RICHARD L. SANDOR
TRUSTEE

Richard L. Sandor (Ph.D., Dr. sc. h. c.) is an entrepreneur and economist who invents markets. He is currently, Chairman and CEO of Environmental Financial Products (EFP). Among Dr. Sandor's academic roles, he is currently the Aaron Director Lecturer in Law and Economics at the University of Chicago Law School and an honorary Professor at the School of Economics at Fudan University and the University of Hong Kong. Dr. Sandor is a member of the Advisory Board of the Center for Financial Stability, a member of the Advisory Board of the Digital Dollar Project and a senior Fellow of the Milken Institute. His civic honors include recognition from the City of Chicago as the "Father of Financial Futures," and "Hero of the Planet" by TIME Magazine. In October 2013, Dr. Sandor was awarded the title of Chevalier dans la Legion d'Honneur (Knight of the Legion of Honor) in France, for his accomplishments in the field of environmental finance and carbon trading.

"We welcome our new trustees during a historic time of pivotal growth at Selby Gardens. We are fortunate to have their critical leadership as we continue to execute our transformative Master Plan and advance our mission."

– Joel Morganroth, M.D.
Chair of Selby Gardens' Board of Trustees

PURPLE!

THE ORCHID SHOW 2024

THE ORCHID SHOW 2024 PURPLE!

Downtown Sarasota campus
October 5–December 1, 2024
On view 10 a.m.– 5 p.m. daily

Presented by

BETTER-GRO

Tropical Conservatory rendering by Nathan Burnaman, Selby Gardens' Associate Vice President for Horticultural Exhibits.

Isochilus carnosiflorus

Lophiaris teaboanum

Life through a Purple Lens: The New Orchid Show Examines the Color in all its Glory

Purple has been alluring to the eyes for centuries. It was the color of royalty, originally connected to dye made from sea snail secretions – a prohibitively expensive commodity to acquire unless you happened to be a Roman emperor or Byzantine ruler.

As time passed, purple retained its eye-catching aesthetic, often associated with magical, mystical and spiritual qualities. It has also been associated with wisdom, creativity and luxury. It became embedded in pop culture as the shade of choice in the flashy stage attire of the late *Purple Rain* rocker Prince.

The long-admired, often exotic color has a starring role in Marie Selby Botanical Gardens' *The Orchid Show 2024: Purple!* – featuring a creative, multifaceted exploration of purple in the epiphyte world and its myriad meanings in our lives.

"We're exploring the color in all of its glory," said David Berry, PhD, Vice President for Visitor Engagement and Chief Museum Curator at Selby Gardens. "In the Tropical Conservatory, there will be purple orchid flowers and plants with purple foliage. It's a color that one finds in nature, attractive to pollinators and people alike."

A shared visual feature in both the conservatory and museum is a geometrical pattern of different purple hues inspired by Pantone color swatches. "A range of hues is used to give variety and dimensionality to elements such as window treatments and planter boxes. It should create a dynamic experience," Berry explained.

The theme will be explored in the museum through a selection of botanical prints and photographs of purple flowers, accompanied by interpretive text addressing the connotations of purple throughout history. "It's a color that has often captivated people," Berry said, "and it has different historical and cultural associations."

Interestingly, many purple names are rooted in botany, either because the color originates with a certain plant or closely resembles a plant. And in some instances, the color derives from plant material. "Our goal is to highlight purple's many botanical connections," Berry said. "You have lavender, lilac and eggplant, as well as grape and plum. Appropriately, orchid is also a purple hue."

Some of the earliest artificial dyes were purple, as people tried to replicate natural materials to color garments. "Purple has long intrigued and captivated people. It was one of the first colors chemically replicated," said Berry. "As with past orchid shows, we are starting with orchids as a subject and broadening out from there. This year's show is going to be fun – with many bright, bold and colorful elements."

ROOFTOP *to* TABLETOP:

OPERATION ECO VETS KEEPS THE PRODUCE GROWING FOR THE GREEN ORCHID BY MICHAEL'S ON EAST

When Camille Van Zant started teaching military veterans the ins and outs of gardening, she had no idea of the healing power it would hold for them. She was amazed to see the positive impact on those dealing with Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder.

Retired from the U.S. Navy, Van Zant realized how gardening helped bring veterans peace and comfort when she was the director of Green Path Veterans Farm in Sarasota. Located at an Easter Seals school for disabled students, the program benefited former combat vets and students alike. That led, in 2018, to her forming her own organization – Operation Eco Vets – and ultimately an uplifting partnership with Selby Gardens.

Veterans are among those who work with Operation Eco Vets to plant and harvest produce from the recently installed Drs. Andrew and Judith Economos Rooftop Edible Garden directly above The Green Orchid by Michael's On East restaurant.

"The program is a steppingstone to getting back on their feet," Van Zant said. "Selby Gardens is such a great support for us and a way to provide visibility for us."

"The program is a steppingstone to getting back on their feet. Selby Gardens is such a great support for us and a way to provide visibility for us."

– Camille Van Zant

Of course, the patrons of Selby Gardens' bustling onsite restaurant also benefit from the fresh and organically grown produce from the Rooftop Garden– tomatoes, basil, eggplant, micro greens and more. Once harvested, the fresh produce winds up in The Green Orchid's kitchen, which uses it in all types of menu offerings.

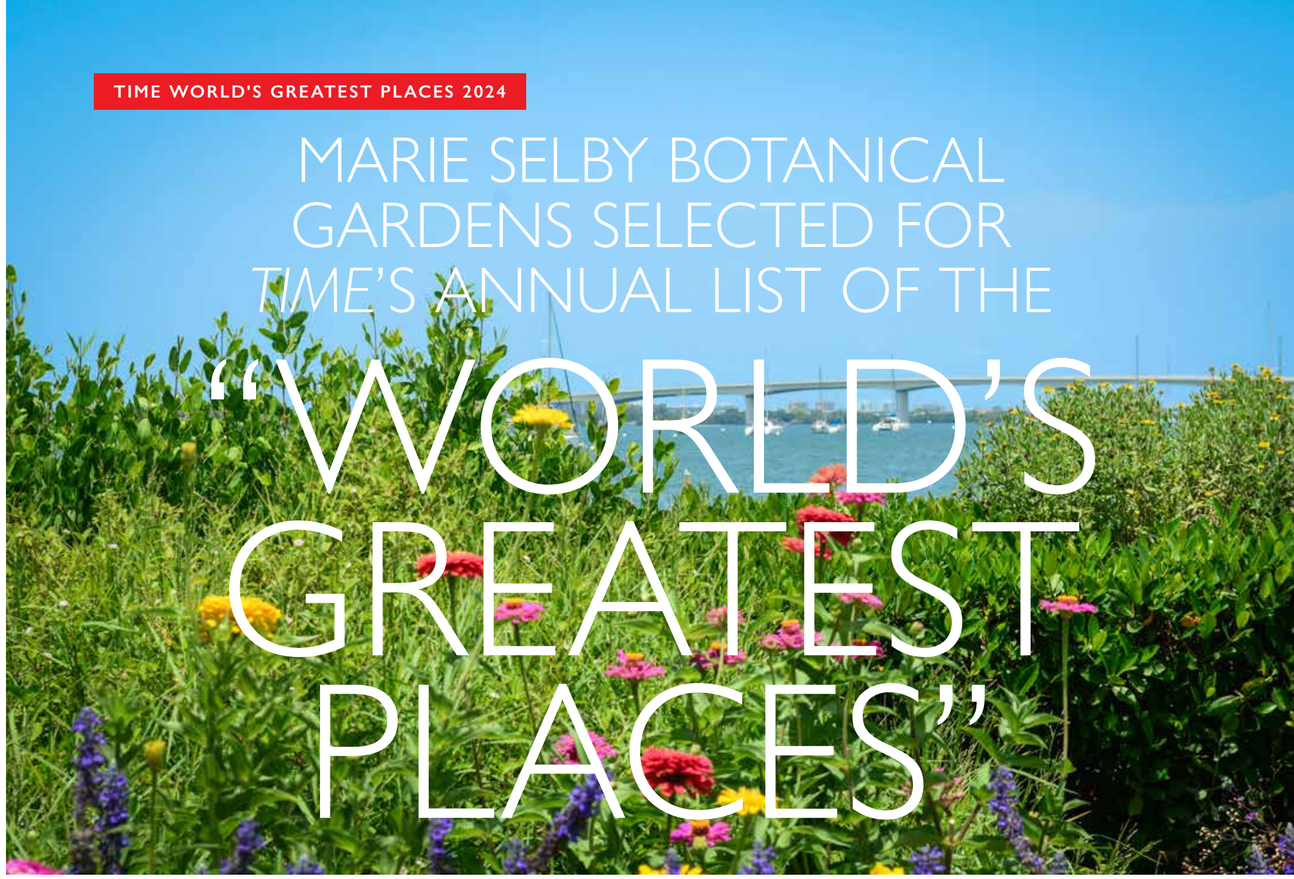
Van Zant designed the 1,000-square-foot rooftop garden space with beds that are three feet deep, four feet wide and 24 feet long.

"The size of the beds helps keep the soil from heating up too much, that's why we've been able to grow produce so well during the summer," she said. "When you grow plants in close proximity like this, they cool each other down through transpiration (the way plants give off water vapor)."

The planter beds were installed by Willis Smith Construction last November, and Van Zant and her team were harvesting in time for the restaurant's grand opening this past February.

Van Sant went to college to study horticulture prior to joining the Navy, where she worked on helicopter simulators in San Diego. After leaving the service, she worked in the MRI business and then real estate before re-discovering her passion in gardening.

In time, she became director of Green Path Veterans Farm, which caught the attention of Selby Gardens' leadership some five years ago. That led to an invitation to install a children's garden on the Downtown Sarasota campus. Now, with the help of Operation Eco Vets president and U.S. Army veteran Dan Zimmerman – The Green Orchid is making patrons happy with unique rooftop-to-tabletop produce.



MARIE SELBY BOTANICAL GARDENS SELECTED FOR *TIME*'S ANNUAL LIST OF THE "WORLD'S GREATEST PLACES"

TIME magazine revealed the annual list of the "World's Greatest Places 2024", which highlights 100 extraordinary destinations around the globe. Marie Selby Botanical Gardens was one of only eight places to visit in the United States that made the list; the only Florida location in its category; and the only botanical garden included from around the world.

"Sarasota stands out on Florida's culture circuit, with the John and Mable Ringling Museum of Art, the contemporary Sarasota Art Museum, and the remarkable Marie Selby Botanical Gardens on Sarasota Bay. A recent expansion of the latter has all eyes on this thriving oasis of banyan trees and mangroves, now set to become the world's first net-positive-energy botanical complex thanks to the installation of a 57,000-square-foot solar array. (It exceeds the facility's energy demands by more than 10%). The visitor experience is equally impressive. A new welcome center beckons arrivals into an open-air structure draped with spectacular air plants that introduce the gardens' many wonders, including a world-renowned collection of epiphytic orchids, bromeliads, gesneriads, and ferns. The expanded facilities include concept restaurant The Green Orchid, which uses no onsite combustion and sources produce from rooftop gardens cared for by a group of military veterans. The botanical gardens' stormwater management system diverts and cleans millions of gallons of water each year before returning it to Sarasota Bay and future projects include a restoration of the landmark 1920s Payne Mansion, located onsite. For now, there's more than enough to admire across this 45-acre green lung housing some of the world's most noteworthy plantlife."

TIME
WORLD'S GREATEST PLACES
2024

Jennifer O. Rominiecki, President and CEO of Selby Gardens stated, "On behalf of the Board of Trustees and all of us at Selby Gardens, we are deeply grateful to everyone who believed in our transformational Master Plan. The completion of Phase One has allowed our organization to be recognized as a global leader for sustainability, as well as an international innovator for botanical gardens, museums, cultural organizations, scientific institutions, and restaurants worldwide."

To compile this list, TIME solicited nominations of places—including hotels, cruises, restaurants, attractions, museums, parks, and more—from its international network of correspondents and contributors, as well as via an application process, with an eye toward those offering new and exciting experiences.

To read the full article, visit **www.time.com**

EXHIBITION—HISTORIC SPANISH POINT CAMPUS

PATTI SMITH *A BOOK OF DAYS*

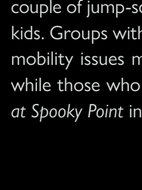
New Selby Gardens Exhibition Shows a New Side of Rock Legend Patti Smith

Patti Smith has been affiliated with Selby Gardens for the past three years through her special musical performances as artist-in-residence. And for the past few months, she has also greeted visitors as the narrator of Selby Gardens' new orientation video.

Now comes a new showcase for the Rock 'n' Roll Hall of Famer. The photography exhibition *Patti Smith: A Book of Days* on view from November 9, 2024, through August 31, 2025, at Selby Gardens' Historic Spanish Point campus, will feature images Smith has taken over the years and recently published in her *New York Times* bestseller, *A Book of Days*.

"Patti has frequently carried a camera with her as she has gone about her travels," said David Berry, Vice President for Visitor Engagement and Chief Museum Curator at Selby Gardens. "There is a photograph in the book for each day of the year. She has offered us the full range of photos and we're selecting from that."

The exhibition will feature a photo or two for each month of the calendar. "You'll move through the gardens spatially, but you'll also progress loosely through time, based on the structure of the book," Berry explained. "And we're presenting images that have some connection to nature. They reflect Patti's unique aesthetic and beautifully illustrate her extraordinary life."



PATTI SMITH:
A BOOK OF DAYS
November 9, 2024 – August 31, 2025
Historic Spanish Point campus
Learn more about this exhibition at selby.org

Presenting Sponsor of the Patti Smith Residency
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Patti Smith, Selby Gardens' Artist in Residence, performs at the Downtown Sarasota campus in 2022.

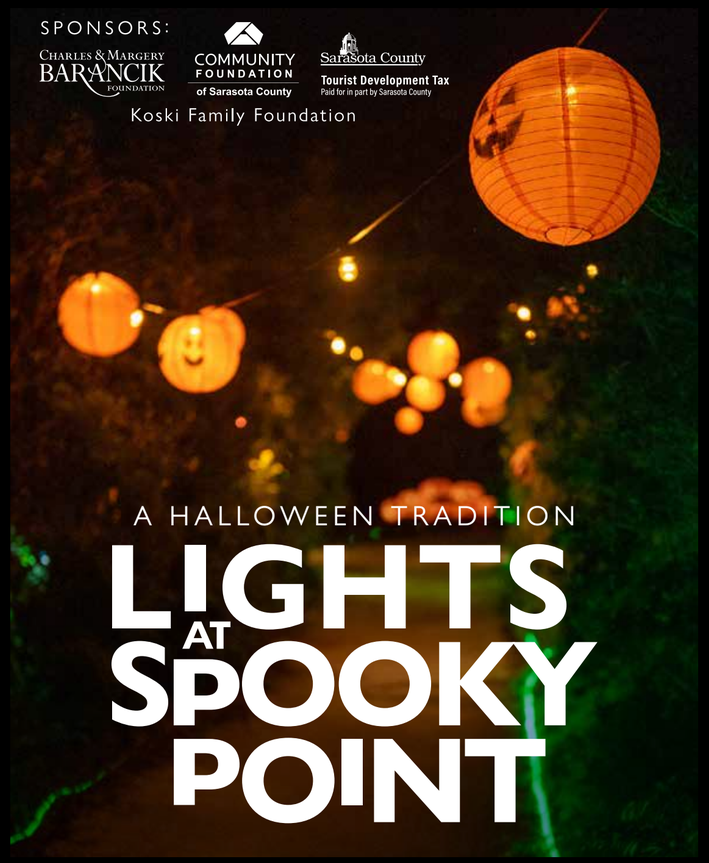
HISTORIC SPANISH POINT CAMPUS

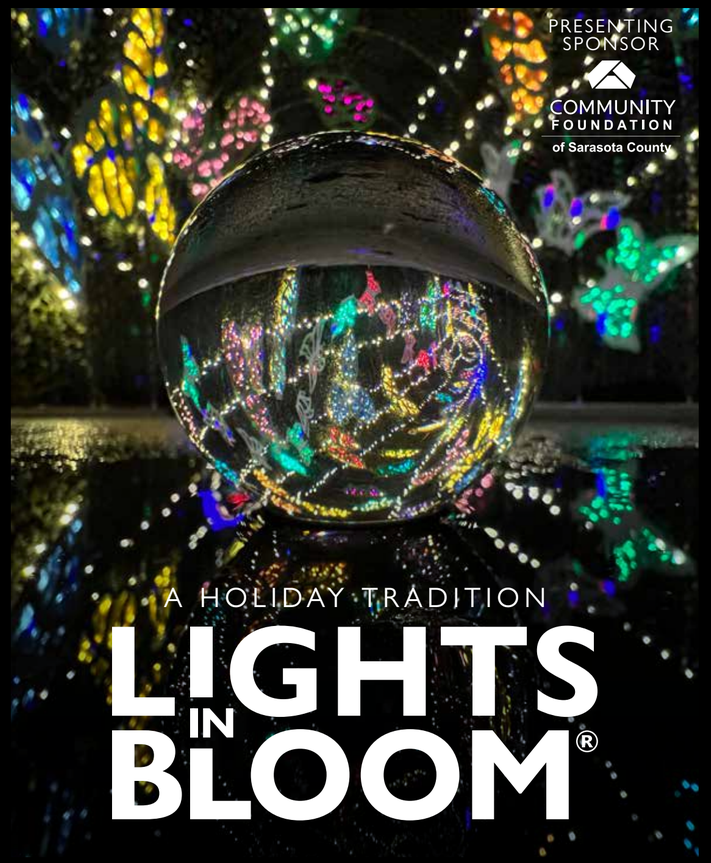
OCTOBER 9–31, 2024

Our *boo*tanically-themed Halloween light show returns in October!

This family-friendly experience reanimates on October 10, when thousands of colored lights and other decorations will line the walking paths at our Historic Spanish Point campus, transforming it into *Lights at Spooky Point* each evening. Curious creatures like Ghost Orchids, Spider Orchids, and Dracula Orchids—brought to life by our incredible lighting partners at Affairs in the Air—put a Selby Gardens spin on the show.

Lights at Spooky Point is fun for all ages, with just a couple of jump-scare opportunities to thrill bigger kids. Groups with young pumpkins or guests with mobility issues might prefer the 6:30 p.m. entry, while those who opt for 7:45 p.m. will see *Lights at Spooky Point* in all its eerily glowing glory.





DOWNTOWN SARASOTA CAMPUS

DECEMBER 5, 2024 – JANUARY 1, 2025

Our award-winning year-end holiday light show has become a must-do tradition in the Sarasota region. It also has earned accolades nationally, with *Lights in Bloom*® ranked sixth-best botanical garden holiday lights in the country in *USA Today's* "10Best Readers' Choice" competition.

This year's show will be on view select nights from December 5 through January 1. The light displays will include many annual favorites along with new surprises dreamed up by the team at Affairs in the Air. In addition to millions of twinkling lights throughout the Gardens, guests can enjoy games and activities and a range of food and drinks for purchase. Options include early admission each night and a special "all inclusive" package on December 23.

Tickets go on sale in early November to members first, so start planning now!

For schedules, tickets, and special events, go to selby.org

BOTANY BRIEF

MIRACLE DISCOVERY

A TINY NEW PLANT SPECIES REAFFIRMS THE "MIRACULOUS" SURVIVAL OF WESTERN ECUADOR'S RAVISHED BIODIVERSITY

Selby Gardens research botanist, John L. Clark, PhD, is the lead author describing a new plant species, *Amalophyllon miraculum*, in the peer-reviewed, open-access journal PhytoKeys. The name *Amalophyllon miraculum* reflects the 'miracle' of its discovery in remnant forest fragments once thought to be destroyed.

The new 2-inch-high plant species growing on vertical wet rocks was discovered in the legendary biodiversity hotspot in western Ecuador named Centinela, a region popularized by a reported mass extinction of unique plant species.

While the new species' iridescent foliage and ephemeral flowers are remarkable, the finding's primary importance lies in the forest's existence and its resiliency. The discovery represents an inspiration for biodiversity conservation in an area the scientific community thought to be a barren agricultural landscape.

Selby Gardens Research Botanist, John L. Clark, Lead Author of Newly Discovered Plant Species

The tiny plant was found in a farmer's backyard during collaborative research expeditions in western Ecuador led by teams of Ecuadorian and international researchers.

The forest fragments are less than 20 miles from Santo Domingo, a major city with a population of more than 300,000 people. Each forest fragment of Centinela is an isolated island of biodiversity surrounded by large swaths of agricultural landscape.

The seminal publication from 1991 entitled "Biological extinction in western Ecuador" brought attention to the rapid loss of rainforest in western Ecuador. It was authored by the late botanists Calaway Dodson, Selby Gardens' first Executive Director, and Alwyn Gentry of the Missouri Botanical Garden. Their research inspired names such as *Gasteranthus extinctus* in recognition of the significant loss of biodiversity from the western Ecuadorian lowlands. The late biologist E.O. Wilson named the phenomenon of species nearly instantly going extinct when their habitat is destroyed as a "Centinelan extinction."

The recent discovery of the new *Amalaphyllon* species and other new and known endangered plant species surviving in the Centinela region refutes the idea that multitudes of life in the region had vanished entirely. The good news is that the scientific community has successfully inspired local and international partners to support efforts in conserving the remaining tracts of forest. Through Selby Gardens and our international partner institutions, we are turning the tide on plant extinction.

Ongoing conservation initiatives are also crucial to protecting the areas by institutions such as the Ecuadorian conservation NGO Fundación de Conservación Jocotoco and the Jardín Botánico Padre Julio Marrero (JBJM) of the Pontificia Universidad Católica del Ecuador.

"The efforts of local landowners who maintained small patches of forests – usually surrounding waterfalls – were instrumental in conserving these remnant forest fragments."

– JOHN L. CLARK, PhD
Selby Gardens Research Botanist

DOWNTOWN SARASOTA CAMPUS

Medusa Orchid

Bulbophyllum medusae, Orchidaceae

Bulbophyllum medusae is an epiphytic orchid with a distinctive graceful inflorescence. This *Bulbophyllum* species is named after the Greek mythological character Medusa with her trademark long hair of snakes that would turn people to stone if they looked at her. The medusa name refers to the plants long and thin lateral sepals which are arranged in a circle. What is scary about this orchid is the odor that it emits to attract its desired pollinators.

ABOUT

- The flower clusters of the Medusa orchid are described in botany as "umbellate." The botanical term umbel refers to the individual flower being arranged in a spherical cluster resembling an umbrella.
- The Medusa orchid is pollinated by flies; its flower's scent is often described as unpleasant and reminiscent of mold and mildew.

WHAT'S IN BLOOM

HISTORIC SPANISH POINT CAMPUS

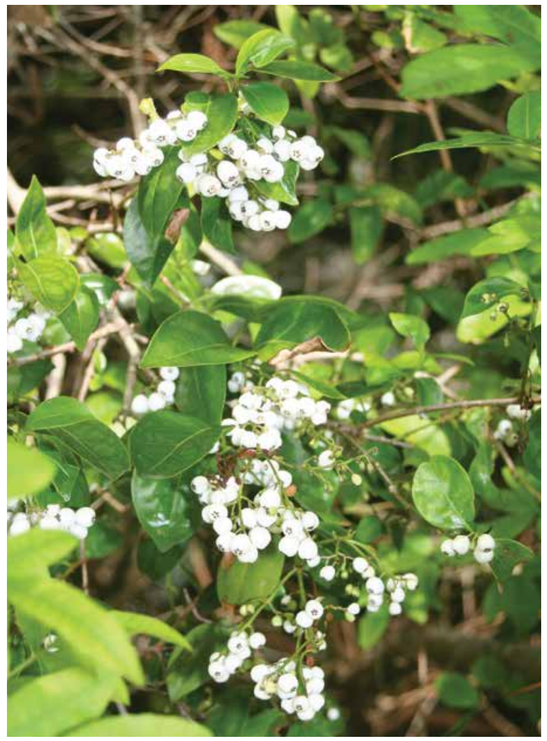
Snowberry

Chiococca alba, Rubiaceae

Snowberry is a small vine-like shrub noteworthy for its clusters of brilliant white fruits that are more dramatic than the flowers. Its growth structure benefits from support of other plants, thus it often takes the form of a rambling vine. This native species occurs throughout coastal areas of the Florida peninsula and is widely distributed in tropical America. At the Historic Spanish Point campus, it is found growing on the Native American shell mounds, where the dense foliage of other plants provides the partial shade and structural support it requires. Snowberry is drought resistant, but not salt tolerant, although it can endure occasional salt spray and can be found blooming from spring through summer, with the greatest abundance of the snow-white berries observed in the fall.

ABOUT

- A common shrub on coastal shell mounds, such as at the Historic Spanish Point campus.
- Very showy due to the clusters of bright white fruits.
- In the same family as coffee (Rubiaceae).



EDUCATION

LITTLE SPROUTS

LITTLE SPROUTS CLUB is part of the Ann Winslow Donelly and Norbert P. Donelly Family and Community Engagement Series and sponsored by Koski Family Foundation

A POPULAR YOUNG CHILDREN'S PROGRAM TAKES ROOT ANEW

The *Little Sprouts Club* has once again taken root at Selby Gardens' Downtown Sarasota Campus after a pause during the pandemic, and nobody is more excited about that than the person responsible for its return – Tracy Calla, Selby Gardens' Director of Education.

The club is a drop-in interactive program designed for preschoolers and their caregivers to stimulate curiosity and build a lifelong love of nature. Calla, then Selby Gardens' former youth program manager, had run the popular program before the pause that began in 2020.

In the interim, she moved to North Carolina to work as an environmental educator, but in March she returned to Selby Gardens in her current role – overseeing educational programs for children and adults alike.

"We wanted to start offering family-focused programming again to serve the community in as many ways as we can," says Calla. "We started off with summer camp, which is a big undertaking, and once that wrapped, we were able to start some new family programming at the Downtown Sarasota campus and Historic Spanish Point campus."

Created for children ages 2 through 5 and their grown-up companions, *Little Sprouts Club* sessions feature hands-on activities and experiences to engage the youngsters in a fun, relaxed atmosphere. This year's theme is the colors of nature, and each month features colorful plants and animals in nature-inspired crafts, such as pink flamingo puppets, and big blue whales, story time, and a snack.

"It's a family-guided exploration of the Ann Goldstein Children's Rainforest Garden," Calla says. "We'll have the usual free-play activities, but we also set up arts and crafts, some sensory stations and various science activities."

Calla is a native of Ohio but grew up in Florida and remembers many visits to Selby Gardens as a child. She went on to earn a degree in theater from Ohio State University, then returned to Florida and earned a horticulture degree from Palm Beach State College. She has been on a botany path ever since, combining her love and knowledge of nature with a passion for teaching and engaging with people of all ages.

Little Sprouts Club sessions are included with admission. Activities begin at 10:30 a.m. The snack and story time begins at 11 a.m. and free play activities remain open until 11:30 a.m. The club sessions will typically take place on the last Thursday and Friday of every month from now through the end of May. (Dates are available on the Selby Gardens website at www.selby.org.)

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 lisiting of events, go to *selby.org/events*.

SCAN QR CODE TO LEARN MORE

INTERNSHIPS

Smithsonian Affiliate

LEADERSHIP FOR CHANGE

Amarion Williams (left)
John McCarthy (center)
Davion "V" Anderson (right)

Two 2024 Smithsonian Leadership Interns Make Their Mark at Selby Gardens

The Smithsonian Affiliates *Leadership for Change* internship program offers talented collegians a chance to gain hands-on experience each summer. This year, out of 600 applicants nationwide, 52 students were selected for the prestigious honor – and two made their mark as Marie Selby Botanical Gardens interns.

Amarion Williams, a senior at Alabama State University, and Davion "V" Anderson, a sophomore at Ringling College of Art and Design, worked with Selby Gardens Vice President for Regional History John McCarthy following their selection in April.

This marked the fourth year Selby Gardens has hosted Smithsonian interns. The goal: to introduce the interns to all aspects of the operation by scheduling activities in everything from museum exhibitions, horticulture, botany, to events and development.

Williams and Anderson also engaged with leaders creating positive change in the community for underserved groups, such as the Sarasota African American Cultural Coalition (Vickie Oldham), Amaryllis Park Neighborhood Association (Mary Butler), and the City of Sarasota Redevelopment Office (Wayne Appleby).

And they gained insight into how to gather community data to create positive change, such as the techniques of Asset Based Community Development (ABCD Institute) and Public Innovation (Harwood Institute). They also explored museum projects related to Native American groups (NAGPRA), local African American history, and local African American art.

The month of June was an extensive orientation with daily Zoom calls focused on leadership and Selby Gardens, along with daily homework.

Then, the month of July was onsite, with the interns spending time with vice presidents and other leaders learning about their roles and responsibilities.

"We took a number of field trips, visiting local change-makers and cultural assets of Sarasota," McCarthy said. "The interns also participated in a day-long boating adventure with children from the Boys and Girls Club, and on their final day they served lunch to a group of young students at a local subsidized housing project."

One special field trip was to the Seminole Tribe's "Ah Tah Thi Ki" museum in the Big Cypress Swamp. Another took them to Myakka River State Park to achieve the goal of "seeing an alligator." During the final week, the interns offered presentations for the staff at the Gardens, and McCarthy presented a slide show of photos taken with the interns.

"We were thrilled to have Marie Selby Botanical Gardens host two talented *Leadership for Change* interns this summer," said Tricia Edwards, Interim Director of SITES and Smithsonian Affiliations. "As a participant in this program since it began four years ago, Selby Gardens has consistently provided a supportive and enriching environment for interns, empowering them to grow both personally and professionally."

"I thoroughly enjoyed the experience working with them. They were attentive, brilliant and forward-thinking – and two of the nicest young people to work with."

– JOHN McCARTHY
Selby Gardens Vice President for Regional History

ONWARD & UPWARD

SELBY GARDENS' PRESIDENT AND CEO, JENNIFER ROMINIECKI, NAMED KEY CHORALE'S 2024 "PERFECT PITCH" HONOREE

Key Chorale, the Suncoast's premier symphonic chorus, recently announced that it will bestow its 2024 "Perfect Pitch Award" to Selby Gardens' visionary President & CEO, Jennifer O. Rominiecki, for her outstanding leadership at the organization's annual luncheon on November 4.

Key Chorale is dedicated to transforming lives through innovative programming, artistic excellence, educational outreach and service to the community. Led by Joseph Caulkins, Key Chorale produces high quality collaborative musical events that engage and enrich our community. Through dynamic collaborations with Westcoast Black Theatre Troupe, The Sarasota Ballet, The Venice Symphony, The Circus Arts Conservatory, and more, Key Chorale is able to create unforgettable programs that continue to push the boundaries of choral music.

Johnette Cappadona, Director of Community Engagement for Key Chorale, stated, "Annually, Key Chorale is pleased to honor a person who brings culture and beauty to our great city. This year's honoree, Jennifer O. Rominiecki, is the perfect choice. Although Jennifer is our first non-performing arts honoree, she certainly is responsible for bringing culture and beauty to Sarasota. Her vision and tenacity are inspirational and warrant this honor."

Tickets to the *Perfect Pitch: Annual Luncheon Supporting Education & Community Outreach* can be purchased at www.keychorale.org.

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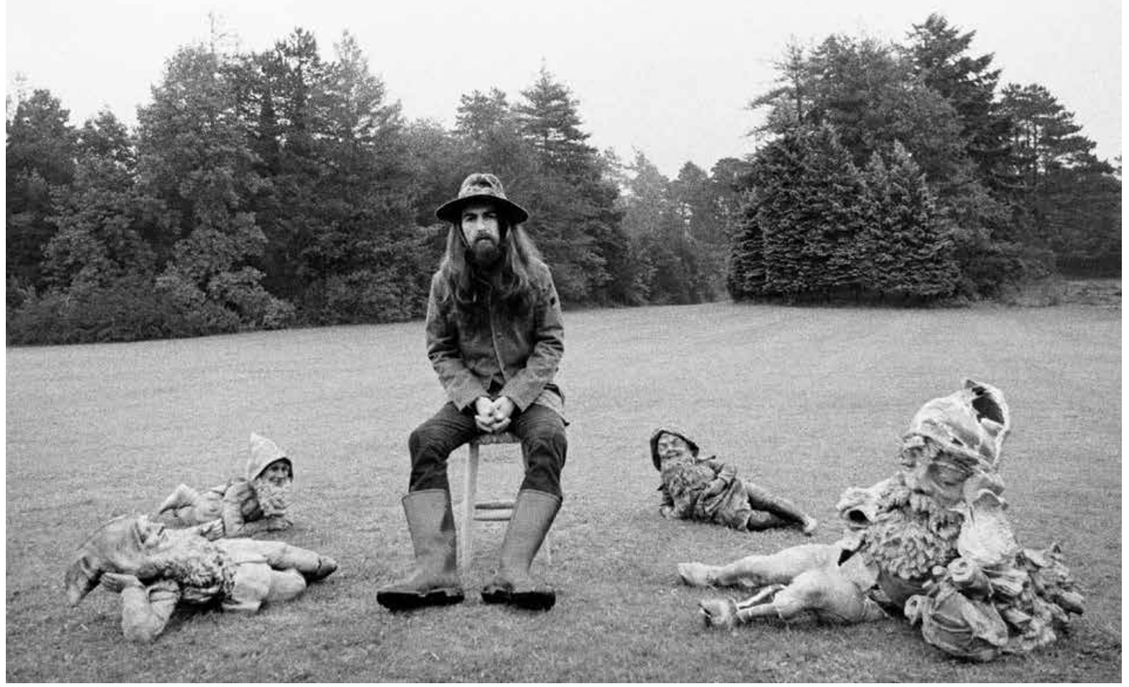

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MARIE SELBY BOTANICAL GARDENS

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.

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MARIE SELBY BOTANICAL GARDENS
1534 Mound St., Sarasota, FL 34236

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	$12
Adults	$28
Ages 5–17	$12
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	$12
Adults	$20
Ages 5–17	$12
Age 4 and under	FREE

DOWNTOWN SARASOTA CAMPUS — FEATURED EVENTS

Lunch in the Gardens
Wednesday, October 23 • 11 a.m.–1 p.m.

This series features engaging speakers with interactive elements during a delightful lunch in the bayfront setting of our Downtown Sarasota Campus. Chairs: Ariane Dart and Katie Hollingsworth. 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
Visit *selby.org* for pricing and tickets

Spooktacular
Sunday, October 27 • 10 a.m.–1 p.m.

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

FREE for members and with regular admission

Lights In Bloom®
December 6, 2024 – January 1, 2025
6–9 p.m. (early entry 5–6 p.m.)

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

Visit *selby.org* for pricing and tickets

HISTORIC SPANISH POINT CAMPUS — FEATURED EVENTS

Lights at Spooky Point
October 9–October 31, 2024

Our Halloween-inspired light show returns to the Historic Spanish Point campus, with *BOO*tanical-themed surprises around every bend!

Visit *selby.org* for pricing and tickets

Cocktails at the Cottage
Wednesday, November 6 • 5–8 p.m.

Join us for a fun, casual evening of cocktails, hors d'oeuvres, and a fabulous sunset overlooking Little Sarasota Bay from the iconic White Cottage lawn, Sunken Garden, and Pergola. Chairs: Renée James Gilmore, Mary Evelyn Guyton, Cornelia Matson, Jeannie Russell

Visit *selby.org* for pricing and tickets

An Evening with Patti Smith and her Book of Days
Thursday, November 14

Selby Gardens' Artist in Residence performs for the first time at our native nature bayfront preserve Historic Spanish Point campus.

Visit *selby.org* for pricing and tickets

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