

MARIE SELBY  
BOTANICAL  
GARDENS  
The Living Museum®

# TROPICAL dispatch

MAY-AUGUST 2020



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**ABOUT THE COVER**

The Koi Pond at Selby Gardens during *Salvador Dali: Gardens of the Mind*. Photo by Cliff Roles.

**HOURS & ADMISSIONS**

**Garden Hours** The Gardens are open 10 a.m. – 5 p.m. every day except Christmas Day. Please check [selby.org](http://selby.org) for special event and weather closings.

**Admission** Members: Free      Adults: \$20  
 Children 4-17: \$10      3 & under: Free  
*(Rates may vary for special exhibitions)*

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**MISSION**

*To provide an oasis of inspiration and tranquility, while furthering the understanding and appreciation of plants, especially epiphytes.*

**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 are paid for in part by Sarasota County Tourist Development Tax Revenue*



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**"I WANT TO THANK SO MANY OF YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY, SUPPORT, AND COMPASSION OVER THE PAST FEW WEEKS."**

**A**s I write this letter in late March, we are facing uncharted territory across the world in response to the COVID-19 health crisis, and I hope that you and your families are healthy and safe. This is a challenging period, and the Selby Gardens team is right there with you as all of our families and friends navigate this unprecedented moment together. I want to thank so many of you for your generosity, support, and compassion over the past few weeks.

Although Selby Gardens is temporarily closed, flowers bloom, caterpillars transform into butterflies, and our mission continues. To keep you connected virtually, we are bringing Selby Gardens to you via our social media channels. In fact, Selby Gardens was featured in the #1 spot in *Southern Living* and *Yahoo News!* articles on the best virtual tours of southern gardens. These daily doses of serenity are meant to offer peace during this turbulent time.

This edition of *Tropical Dispatch* contains highlights of our key research efforts, education programs, and Selby Gardens' history. We hope you find it provides you with an opportunity for respite.

We look forward to welcoming you and your guests to Selby Gardens as soon as we are able to reopen. In the meantime, stay healthy and safe.

Kind regards,

Jennifer O. Rominiecki



# BRINGING SELBY GARDENS

## EDUCATION



Break up your quarantine with our plant Scavenger Experience! This fun hunt is the perfect way to get outside in your backyard, and connect with nature just as you would if you were visiting Selby Gardens.

Visit [bit.ly/MSBGPlantHunt](https://bit.ly/MSBGPlantHunt) to download your scavenger hunt materials!



We invite you to tune in to our Facebook and Instagram channels daily at 2 p.m. where you will see relaxing views like this one of Sarasota Bay from the Steinwachs Family Foundation Mangrove Walkway.

# TO YOU!

## COLLECTIONS



This beauty, *Passiflora urbaniana*, which resides in our living plant collection, and is also called a Passion Flower. The plant was collected during botanical inventory work in Belize two years ago by Selby Gardens' staff. Learn more by going to our blog at [selby.org](http://selby.org)

## SELBY GARDENS IN BLOOM



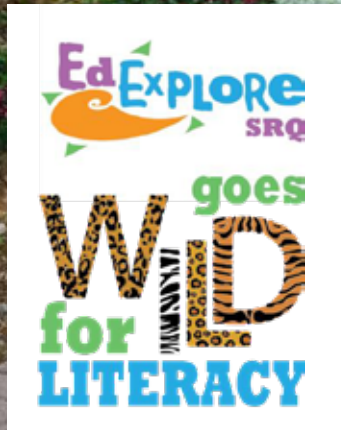
Take a look at this *Dendrobium secundum*, more commonly called the toothbrush orchid! Its common name refers to the fact that all its flowers are on the same side of the stem, like a toothbrush! Our horticulturists say that this large epiphytic plant, a plant that grows on other plants, is actually mounted on a large slab of cork in this picture.



*Psychotria poeppigiana* with its Marilyn Monroe-esque lip-shaped flowers is native to the tropical Americas. Hummingbirds are its common polinator.



*Clerodendrum quadriloculare* 'Brandon', commonly known as the starburst clerodendrum. A native of the Philippines, this plant blooms all winter in the Gardens.



# WILD

# for Literacy

Senior Manager, School & Family Programs Tracy Calla reading Eric Carle's book, *The Very Hungry Caterpillar* to visiting students from Alta Vista Elementary School.

## Selby Gardens' WILD for Literacy School Field Trip Brings Together Books and Butterflies

“This place is awesome!” said a kindergartener from Alta Vista Elementary School, as he first took in the Ann Goldstein Children’s Rainforest Garden and its setting among the banyan trees. He was visiting Selby Gardens on an EdExploreSRQ Goes WILD for Literacy field trip, where he and his classmates learned about the butterfly life cycle by actually seeing the insect in various stages of metamorphosis within the gardens.

Selby Gardens has long had a “Fluttering Butterflies and Crawling Caterpillars” exploration for kindergarteners and first graders among the field trip offerings listed on EdExploreSRQ, a web-based search platform that helps Sarasota County schools find experiential learning opportunities in the area. And it’s now part of the EdExploreSRQ Goes WILD for Literacy program launched in 2018.

Thanks to The Patterson Foundation, The WILD for Literacy explorations for kindergarten and first-grade classes at Sarasota County Title I

(underserved) schools include a focus on literacy designed to support the Suncoast Campaign for Grade-Level Reading. This four-county effort in Charlotte, DeSoto, Manatee, and Sarasota Counties works to help area students become proficient readers by the end of third grade, the point in time when students need to transition from learning to read to reading to learn. “It’s when kids start to get left behind if they’re not proficient readers,” says Tracy Calla, Senior Manager, School & Family Programs at Selby Gardens.

When Calla and garden volunteers lead school groups on these butterfly-focused explorations, they read *The Very Hungry Caterpillar* by Eric Carle and help students learn about real-life butterflies. But they also talk about the letters of the alphabet and teach students new words like epiphyte and philodendron (which means “I love trees,” says Calla). Students get a copy of the book to take home thanks to funding from The Patterson Foundation, which includes suggestions for additional learning opportunities.

“Part of this is an effort to get kids excited about and interested in reading,” says Calla. “*The Very Hungry Caterpillar* is a book that a lot of them already know. If they can begin to match up the words that they know from reciting it to the words they see in the book, that’s a great way to start reading.”

The field trip also hits on life sciences standards for kindergarten and first grade. “When we talk about life cycles, the students are learning about the differences between adult things and baby things,” says Calla. “They’re learning a little about how things in the book might be different from real life. Caterpillars don’t really eat cake and ice cream. And they’re learning about how living things have different needs and will grow in a way that helps them get what they need. We also talk about plants, which is a subject that lots of teachers may not be comfortable with.”

Selby Gardens is a place many of these students haven’t visited until now. “For our audience of underserved students, a lot of those students haven’t really experienced a place like this before,” says Calla. “So it’s sort of a magical fantasy place for the kids. A lot of the kids haven’t seen trees this big; a lot of them haven’t had the experience of being out in nature. Connection to nature is

something that we as a society are beginning to lose, because we’re so urban and are such indoor creatures. So this is a real treat for students to be able to come to our outdoor classroom and learn something while having fun.” “The experience is one of a kind,” says Jessica Mamros, a kindergarten teacher at Alta Vista. “These trips really bring our learning to life. The students make connections to what we’re learning in the classroom. We’re giving them lifelong memories and experiences to make learning fun.”

Funders like The Patterson Foundation as well as Selby Gardens’ members help make experiences like this possible for local students. “Membership goes a long way toward supporting educational programs in general,” says Calla. “We’re grateful to our members for that. Membership support helps to fund a lot of really awesome programs, this one included.”

SPONSOR



*Above: Tracy leads kids under the arched fig trees.*

*Right: Climbing over the roots of the ever-popular Moreton Bay fig tree.*



*Gazing at the butterflies in the Salvador Dalí: Gardens of the Mind exhibition Butterfly House.*





# African American History Abounds at Selby Gardens

by Vickie Oldham, Founder/Director, Newtown Alive

*From left to right: Freedom song leader Troy Nichols, the late Lymus Dixon Jr.'s sister Izetta Fields, Grover Yancy's niece Carolyn Major Harper, the late Lymus Jr.'s wife Mae Dixon, Jeannie Perales, Kenneth Waters, Evelyn Waters, and Vickie Oldham.*

It took a year to compile 16 chapters of the Newtown Alive research report that later became a book. Between the introduction and conclusion, topics about Sarasota's African American community cover 100 years of history, from early settlement, employment, education, and politics, to segregation, integration, churches, medical, military and sports history. The stories of grit, courage, and resilience opened my eyes to local black history I only knew in fragments.

That's because the black community's history in Sarasota was never comprehensively researched and documented. I was named the City of Sarasota's consultant for the Newtown Conservation Historic District Project in 2015. A team of scholars and volunteers worked with me to compile information about this little known and underreported history. I organized scholars and volunteers. Together we compiled primary and secondary source documents. Writing began with cultural anthropologist Dr. Rosalyn Howard leading the effort. After completing the research report I felt proud, empowered, exhausted and angry. A recurring question nagged. "Who helped us?" As far as I knew after conducting 40 oral history interviews, no one did.

A year later, during a chat with Lymus Dixon, Jr. I learned new information that broadened my perspective. A wealthy couple who moved to Sarasota from the midwest served as employers of Lymus Dixon, Sr. But his relationship with William and Marie Selby was much more.

African Americans in Overtown and Newtown navigated the horrors of segregation, integration and the humiliation of living in a "sun down town." Even so, Lymus Jr.'s stories revealed a close bond between two families.

"My dad wanted for nothing," Lymus laughed while describing summers working, but mostly playing on the Selby's bayside property where his dad was a groundskeeper. "Joyriding on a boat and throwing out a line to fish in Sarasota Bay with "Uncle Bill" Selby was a favorite pastime. Hours were spent with his childhood friend Ken Waters who resided next door in the Payne Mansion with his grandmother, the live-in. The antics of little black boys running through thickets, scaling a tree from a bedroom window to explore downtown, raft building, and getting into mischief lightened my load.

The Selbys purchased a single-family home for the Dixons in 1952 and moved them from public housing. Cars and trucks were purchased annually for Lymus Sr. "The Selbys and Dixons were like family," Lymus Jr. said. "They treated my dad like their son," he added.

Lymus Jr. and Ken Waters joined me to speak on Newtown Alive trolley tours and at panel discussions, including one held at the Marie Selby Botanical Gardens in October 2019. No one had ever heard first-hand accounts from Newtown families that confirmed the generosity of the Selbys. The quiet, unassuming philanthropists were humanized; and healing began with me first.



Photos courtesy of Daniel Perales Studios



Mr. James Brown

In the midst of the turbulent 50s, the Selbys seemingly provided an oasis in a parched desert to residents I actually knew.

Lymus and Ken talked about other Newtown families who worked on the property such as Mr. Grover Yancy, Mrs. Juanita Hamilton, Mr. Mose Carter and Mr. Melvin Roberts.

Through interviews with their descendants Carolyn and Sharon Yancy, Rachelle Roberts-Bethel, Beverly Carter-Remy and Dixon family friend Walter Gilbert I've learned much more.



Kenneth Waters

The framed photos of Ms. Hamilton, Mr. Yancy, and Mr. Dixon displayed in the historic Selby House are special. They're small gestures to memorialize Lymus, his father and Newtown families employed at the botanical gardens that boasts 230,000 visitors annually.

It's an important first step that opens the way toward the documentation of black presence on the Selby property that will spark more conversation, healing and bridge building.

Look for another Newtown Alive program at Selby Gardens this September.



Mr. Grover Yancy was the Selby's gardener for more than fifty years, during which time the banyan trees and bayside bamboo were planted. After Mrs. Selby's death in 1971, Mr. Yancy continued his work and became Selby Gardens' first employee. Upon his retirement 1992, the banyan grove was named in his honor.



Photo courtesy of Dixon Family Collection

Mr. Lymus Dixon worked for the Selbys for more than forty years. The Selbys moved the Dixon family out of public housing into a new home on Goodrich Avenue in Newtown. It is still occupied by members of Mr. Dixon's family today. The Selbys purchased new cars and trucks each year for the family. In appreciation for the Selby's generosity and friendship, Mr. and Mrs. Dixon named two of their children after William and Marie.



Photo courtesy of James B. McCourtney

For twenty years, Juanita Hamilton and Mrs. Selby lived in quiet harmony in the Selby home. A private person by nature, Mrs. Hamilton knew Mrs. Selby better than most, especially since her time with Marie was largely after Bill passed away. In this picture, the cook, constant companion, and close friend of the Sarasota philanthropist stands proudly beside a chair, a gift from her employer, in the backyard of the home Mrs. Selby helped her purchase.

Courtesy of Daniel Perales Studios



*Pond to Ponder. A piano floating atop the koi pond at Salvador Dalí: Gardens of the Mind.*

## ***London Financial Times reviews Dalí's Gardens of the Mind***

*Robin Lane Fox, an English classicist, ancient historian and gardening writer, featured **Salvador Dalí: Gardens of the Mind** in his Financial Times column on February 21. Below is his article. (Reprinted courtesy of the Financial Times)*

I have just seen a piano stuffed with begonias and a moustache made of clipped greenery. Both are suspended in mid-air. They look surreal, and so they should. They are part of a fine exhibition linking the artist Salvador Dalí to plants, landscape and nature, at the Marie Selby Botanical Gardens in Sarasota, Florida, where it will run until June 28. I now understand how the natural world was a springboard for the artist, one who is widely considered to represent the unnatural. Dalí insisted that his roots lay in his local Spanish landscape. He was born in Catalonia in 1904 and spent his summers as a child in the village of Cadaqués on the Costa Brava. In 1930, after a quarrel with his father, he and his wife-to-be Gala bought a fisherman's hut in nearby Port Lligat, which became his home for most of the next 60 years. Cadaqués' coastline is a landscape of what Dalí called "geological delirium". It is edged with patterned cliffs and stark

rocks, worn into fantastic shapes. Dalí identified with it, describing it as the mainspring of his art. Surreal shapes in his paintings refer repeatedly to this natural database, what he called his kingdom and the jewels in his crown. It is the inspiration for many spiky shapes and formations in his art. The Selby show draws on three Floridian resources. One is the superb collection of Dalí's work in the Dalí Museum in Florida's St Petersburg, the second biggest anywhere. The museum is about an hour's drive from the Selby garden, a fascinating pair to its show. It has lent a whole series of surreal flower paintings, not usually seen, which Dalí created in 1968 at the height of flower power. He called them the Flordalí.

Another is a collection of black-and-white landscape photographs. Three years ago, the Dalí Museum sent Clyde Butcher, an admired Floridian landscape photographer, on a tour of Dalí's Catalan home setting. The subject was perfect for him. Photographs by Butcher in the Selby show present patterned and eroded Catalan rock-scapes that relate directly to the "delirious" geology of Dalí's art. The third component is the Selby garden itself. Its team, headed by Mike McLaughlin and the orchid-

maestro Angel Lara, have punctuated their tropical collections with Dalí-esque features: evocations of the beaches of his Catalan surroundings, a transparent cube in shades of blue faced with trailing epiphytic plants, a wall of more than 600 pale-leaved tillandsias, a Fibonacci spiral of trailing tillandsias. Their star turn is a dysfunctional piano bought on the internet, gutted and filled with corkscrew anthuriums, orchids and begonias with names such as Phoe's Butterscotch. It hangs on hidden wires among subtropical greenery, evoking the pianos that appear so teasingly in several of Dalí's paintings. Above a beach of white marble pebbles, a line of green-leaved *Pilea libanensis* has been hung in woven birch wood and clipped to simulate Dalí's signature moustache. Ingenious mini landscapes of little prickly pears, agaves and spiky dyckias have been planted in hollowed-out lengths of dried cypress wood, suspended on wires. They would make excellent mini gardens for an apartment. Indoors and out, red plastic sofas shaped like hot lips recall Dalí's sofa modelled on Mae West's pouting smile. In the garden's outdoor pond, another piano, crammed with plants, seems to float surreally on the surface beneath a waterfall. Many of these features pick up symbols in Dalí's own work. He used crutches as symbols of frailty: crutches are placed to support long branches of the garden's specimen trees. Eggs were another of his motifs, representing fertility and new life. He never had children with his wife Gala but she had a circular Egg Room in their Catalan house. Big fibreglass white eggs have been cracked open at their tops and placed in the garden near tree trunks, as if tall palm trees have just broken out of them. An orange-yellow orchid called Egg Yolk welcomes visitors to the main conservatory. It had to be kept without water for six weeks, Lara explained to me, and watered again suddenly to jolt it into flower for the show's opening.

In Woody Allen's film *Midnight in Paris*, Dalí baffles the time-travelling American hero by gesturing and exclaiming that he sees a rhinoceros. There are no rhinos in the Selby show but there are masses of butterflies, another of Dalí's favourite symbols. In the temporary Butterfly House, I watched Gulf fritillaries and orange-barred sulphur butterflies enjoying nectar against a photo background of Dalí's Catalan coastline. For other artists, butterflies have symbolised freedom or the human soul. Dalí saw them as symbols of transitioning and metamorphosis. In 1920s Paris he became a surrealist, a movement pioneered by the French poet André Breton, whom he befriended. He worked in this style for the next decade and then left war-torn Spain for America, where he worked on film sets for Alfred Hitchcock. He had only briefly been a struggling artist. In the 1960s, he

struck up another friendship with Andy Warhol, but was by then considered by critics to have become too commercial. "The most surrealist of all his creations," one even said, "is himself". So far from selling out and becoming careless, his Flordalí works in the Selby show attest to the opposite: his continuing care, precision and imaginative wit. In 1968, he designed these images of imaginary types of flower, a *Dahlia unicornis* from whose flowers sprout unicorns' horns, or a *Lilium musicum* whose flowers give off vinyl records and musical notation. These little-known works are precise and meticulously crafted. Just as he intended, they provoke new ideas. In their wake I have been



*Glass Fibonacci Spiral. Divine geometry at Salvador Dalí: Gardens of the Mind.*

mentally designing new hybrids, a *Hydrangea johnsonii* with blonde-yellow mophead flowers and a scarlet fire bush, *Embothrium meghaniae*, whose flowers throw off ashtrays marked with the Sussex brand. "Every morning when I awake," Dalí wrote, "I experience again a supreme pleasure: that of being Salvador Dalí." I love the self-assurance: how many of us dare to say that about ourselves? A French colleague once described him as "chronically apolitical and chronically self-serving". I now look on him as painstaking, imaginative and always pushing boundaries. He was fascinated by patterns that modern scientists detected as structures in nature. At his best, the great surrealist was not at all unstructured in his approach to art.

**PLEASE NOTE:** Until we are able to reopen, visit Bringing Selby Gardens to you on our website to engage with the *Salvador Dalí: Gardens of the Mind* exhibition.

# FLORA PHOTOGRAPHY at Selby Gardens

**Shawn McCourt, Ph.D.,**  
Plant Records Keeper  
**and Bruce Holst,**  
Vice President for Botany



Figure 1

**A**s The Living Museum®, Marie Selby Botanical Gardens relies on the keeping of accurate records of its plant collections in order to achieve its core mission. Part of the documentation process involves capturing events at various stages throughout the life of each plant through photography. Along with leaf and stem characteristics, spores, flowers, and fruits are the key components by which taxonomists can accurately identify plant species or describe new ones, and photography is ideal in capturing this information. Selby Gardens currently holds well over 100,000 digital images, either taken by digital cameras or scanned from photographic slides.

Volunteers have been the key to building this enormous collection. Currently, three volunteers work closely with research and horticulture staff year-round to photograph plants that may be blooming each week in the living collection, either behind the scenes in one of Selby Gardens' greenhouses, or out on public display. Dr. Wade Collier, Dr. Aaron Fink, and Sandra Robinson each volunteer their time and technical expertise on a weekly basis, and together they have produced more than 15,000 high-resolution images of the living collection at Selby Gardens.

Since starting volunteer work in 2011, Wade Collier has put in more than 7,600 hours, earning him a Lifetime Achievement Award in 2016. In that time, he produced nearly 10,000 high-quality images of the living collection as well as countless more photographs during field excursions with Selby Gardens researchers, both within Florida and in Brazil. He began taking pictures while in high school, photographing medical specimens for his

father's lectures. He took to photographing wildlife in college and eventually had his own dark room. Since then he and his wife, Carol, who has been a Selby Gardens volunteer since 2002, have traveled widely exploring and photographing nature. Wade introduced the Gardens to focus-stack photography, which combines multiple images into one, providing great depth of field and clarity, and he has taught photography classes both at Selby Gardens and in Belize. In his own words:

"I volunteer at Selby because I get far more from Selby than I give. I've had the privilege of seeing and photographing rare plants and going behind the scenes. Each staff member that I have worked with has been unfailingly kind, appreciative, and informative. While initially I came to Selby for the chance to photograph plants, I've stayed for the wonderful people who work and volunteer there."

Aaron Fink, retired Professor Emeritus of Surgery from Emory University in Atlanta, Georgia joined the research volunteer photography team in January 2019 to pursue his passion for photography from a different (and drier) angle, since he usually photographs underwater sea life. His photographic zeal began at an early age when he would accompany his cousin Jerry Wachter, a famous sports photographer, to photograph sporting events. In 1986, his passion for the ocean led him to obtain an advanced open water scuba certification and, later that same year, he purchased his first underwater camera. The sea provided a new arena in which to apply his photographic skills, and he has worked with a number of experts in the field of underwater photography, produced numerous publications, won several photographic awards,

and showcased his work in several gallery exhibits. He has also served as a judge at Selby Gardens' photography competition. Volunteering with our research photography team has enabled him to learn more about plants and the techniques used to capture their key identifying features. In the short time he has been at Selby Gardens, Aaron has produced nearly 1,500 high-quality studio images of collection plants. About volunteering at the Gardens, Aaron says:

"Having always enjoyed nature photography, when another volunteer suggested that I should offer to help Selby with photography, I jumped at the opportunity. My volunteering role has allowed me to document some of the amazing plants in Selby's collection while applying my photographic skills to some uniquely specialized situations. I have now done so for about two years and enjoyed every moment."

Sandra Robinson, an avid gardener and native of Sanford, Florida is also a mom, artist, and photographer. She painted for many years, and fell in love with photography after taking a class

at the Penland School of Craft in the Blue Ridge Mountains near Asheville, North Carolina. She began as a horticulture volunteer at the Gardens, then joined the photography team in June 2017 to supplement her volunteer work on the grounds. She first worked with Wade Collier, learning from his experience with focus-stack photography. Since then she has produced more than 3,200 high-quality photos of collection plants. Of her volunteer work at the Gardens, Sandra says:

"Volunteering at Selby as a gardener with the Horticulture Department and then as a photographer with Botany has allowed me opportunities that wouldn't have otherwise been available. All while working with the wonderful Gardens staff and talking with people from all over the world. What could possibly be better?"

If you are passionate about photography, have your own high-quality equipment, and would like to learn more about plants, there may be room for you to join the volunteer photography team. For more information, please send a message to [volunteer@selby.org](mailto:volunteer@selby.org).



Figure 2



Figure 3



Figure 4

**Figure 1.** *Tillandsia* hybrid (*T. ixiooides* x *T. recurvifolia*; Bromeliaceae). Photograph by Aaron Fink. This man-made hybrid between two South American epiphytic species is known by the cultivar name 'White Star.' It is located in the Research Greenhouses and often brought out for display when in flower.

**Figure 2.** *Pinguicula lutea* (Lentibulariaceae). Photograph by Wade Collier. This terrestrial, carnivorous plant was photographed at Big Slough Preserve (formerly the Carlton Ranch) in eastern Sarasota County, FL, during a botanical inventory carried out by Selby Gardens in 2015. It uses its sticky leaves to trap and digest small insects.

**Figure 3.** *Spathicarpa hastifolia* (Araceae). Photograph by Sandra Robinson. This aroid from southern South America has the flowers fused to the normally free bract (spathe). The female flowers are the low spike-like projections and the male flowers the Seuss-like white, gray, and yellow columns. It is located in the Research Greenhouses and brought out for display when in flower.

**Figure 4.** *Strongylodon macrobotrys* (Fabaceae). Photograph by Wade Collier. The jade vine always turns heads in the Tropical Conservatory, with its odd-shaped and -colored flowers. Our plant is from horticultural sources but the species is from the Philippines.



# The BRILLIANT BROMELIAD Family

**Bruce Holst,**  
Vice President for Botany

**Figure 1.** *Pitcairnia bergii*, described by Selby Gardens' botanist Harry Luther and named in honor of Wally Berg, former greenhouse volunteer. Photograph by Phil Nelson.

**B**romeliads, (Bromeliaceae family), are nearly everywhere we look. With the exception of a single African species, they are found growing wild almost exclusively in the tropical and subtropical Americas (southern USA to Argentina). There are approximately 3,600 species with new ones being described every year. Selby Gardens' botanists have identified and described as new for science more than 200, including some beautiful ones such as *Pitcairnia bergii* (Figure 1). Florida is relatively rich for its temperate to subtropical climate with 17 native species, while Brazil has well over 1,300. Modern lineages of bromeliads appear to have originated some 20 million years ago in the region of the Guayana Shield in northern South America and radiated outwards. Presently, the family reaches peaks of diversity in Mexico, the Andes, and southeastern Brazil.

In horticulture, bromeliads are a global, multi-million dollar business. Horticulturists, gardeners, landscapers, and hobbyists love them for their diversity of colors and textures. They come in many sizes, from the minute, but colorful *Tillandsia ionantha* individuals (Figure 2) which are mere inches long, to giants of the forest such as *Brocchinia micrantha* which can reach 25 feet tall in flower (Figure 3). And most of all, they are generally easy to grow! In nature, they are important in sustaining diverse canopy ecosystems and play a large role in nutrient cycling. As many bromeliads in the canopy capture rainwater, along with organic material falling into their tanks, they develop a unique and diverse suite of organisms that serves to support a multitude of life.

The most famous bromeliad, the pineapple (*Ananas comosus*), is the third most important fruit crop after bananas and citrus and is grown in 82 countries. Other important uses of bromeliads are in the pharmaceutical industry as anti-inflammatories, in fiber production, and as symbols in religious ceremonies. The most conspicuous bromeliad in the southeastern USA is Spanish moss (*Tillandsia usneoides*). If you pay close attention to Spanish moss in the spring, you will be delighted to discover its tiny, incredibly fragrant emerald-green flowers (Figure 4).



**Figure 2.** *Tillandsia ionantha*, tremendously popular in horticulture. Each plant is just a few inches long. Photograph by Aaron Fink.

Selby Gardens holds the world's most diverse collection of bromeliads at a botanical garden, with nearly 1,300 species, representing a third of the species in the family. The collection is impressive and botanically valuable with 67 percent of it from wild origin. In addition to the living collection, Selby Gardens houses an impressive amount of literature on the family with nearly all known information ever published, and more than 35,000 digital images.

Selby Gardens works to conserve bromeliads beyond its extensive living collections. One example is an on-going project to save Florida's largest bromeliad, *Tillandsia utriculata* (Figure 5), commonly known as the giant airplant. This species and several others are threatened by the Mexican bromeliad weevil (*Metamasius callizona*) which was accidentally introduced into Florida in the late

1980s. Lacking natural diseases and predators, the weevil has spread widely and decimated large, adult plants, having reduced some bromeliad populations by up to 90%. In addition to possibly losing this iconic plant in Florida, the multitude of organisms that live in their tanks are also at risk. Efforts at Selby Gardens to protect bromeliads include helping to map the weevil's spread, directly intervening and removing plants for safekeeping in some areas hit hard by the weevil (Figure 6), testing seed storage techniques, analyzing rates of germination, and examining seedling growth. Recent funding, secured through a private donation, will also allow us to seek potential resistant populations and evaluate the genetic diversity of the population in Florida, and elsewhere in its range. Resistant varieties could then potentially be bred and released into the wild.



**Figure 3.** *Brocchinia micrantha*, a giant bromeliad found in eastern Venezuela and neighboring Guyana. Photograph by Yuribia Vivas.



**Figure 4.** *Tillandsia usneoides*, or Spanish moss, is neither from Spain, nor is it a moss. Photograph by Wade Collier.



**Figure 5.** *Tillandsia utriculata*, or giant air plant at Oscar Scherer State Park. Photograph by Bruce Holst.



**Figure 6.** Plants killed by the Mexican bromeliad weevil are often found on the ground in pieces. Photograph by Bruce Holst.

NOTE: All events and programs subject to change as we monitor developments related to COVID-19.

# Celebrate **SELBY GARDENS!**

## 40TH ANNUAL JURIED PHOTOGRAPHIC EXHIBITION

SEPTEMBER 5-29

OPENING RECEPTION & AWARDS PRESENTATION FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 4



2019 Best In Show winner, "Grand Opening" by Susan Piper.

### SUBMISSIONS DEADLINES:

By mail: August 26, 2020

Hand-delivered: August 27 & 28, 11 A.M. - 6 P.M.

**T**his year we celebrate 40 years of the annual juried photographic exhibition and sale! Each year the quality of the images gets better and better. Entry is open to amateur photographers, but photos must have been taken at Selby Gardens. There are five categories in which to enter your most creative, fun and inspired photographs that depict the scenery of Selby Gardens. Cash prizes will be awarded in each category, plus an overall "Best of Show" winner will be named.

Entry forms and rules are available at [www.selby.org](http://www.selby.org). Contact Laura Avery, Manager of Classes & Exhibits, for questions at 941-366-5731, ext. 239 or [education@selby.org](mailto:education@selby.org).

### CATEGORIES:

- Favorite Selby Gardens Scene
- Plant Life at Selby Gardens
- Selby Gardens' Geometry
- Selby Gardens' Birds, Bugs & Critters
- Selby Gardens in Black & White

## SAVE THE DATE:

### Orchid Show 2020

October 10 to November 29



Orchids are revered for many reasons. Their colors. Their taste (hello, vanilla). Their staggering variety. Even their once-believed health benefits. But mainly, it is the many forms that compose this most diverse plant family that first captured imaginations and continues to do so today.

Join us this fall as we celebrate orchids during the 2020 Orchid Show. Opening October 10 and running through November 29, this year's Orchid Show will once again amaze visitors with never-

before-seen displays of orchids that celebrate the plant family's diversity.

An accompanying exhibition in the Payne Mansion's Museum of Botany & the Arts will tell the tale of this family whose beauty and intrigue has instigated passionate hunts through remote terrains in search of another exotic bloom. Related classes, lectures and events will be posted at [www.selby.org](http://www.selby.org).



# In Dialogue with Nature: GLASS IN THE GARDENS

**JULY 11 - AUGUST 30**

**OPENING RECEPTION  
FRIDAY, JULY 10**

Selby Gardens and the Duncan McClellan Gallery (DMG) in St. Petersburg present the third annual glass show in the Museum of Botany & the Arts and Gardens. This year we will be featuring the nature-inspired glass work created exclusively by Duncan McClellan and his studio artists and interns. The beautiful botanically-themed glassworks will be on display and for sale in the Museum, Gardens, and in the Conservatory with a portion of the proceeds benefiting Selby Gardens' mission.

The show will open with a reception on July 10, 5:30-7:30 p.m. Be sure to register at [selby.org](http://selby.org) as space is limited. The display runs through August 30. Lectures and tours will also be offered in conjunction with the show.



**DUNCAN & McCLELLAN**

NOTE: All events and programs subject to change as we monitor developments related to COVID-19.



EVENT CO-CHAIRS: Nikki Sedacca and Montana Taplinger

SERIES CHAIRS: Jean Weidner Goldstein, Teri A Hansen, and Margaret Wise

SERIES SPONSOR



## LUNCH in the Gardens

WEDNESDAY,  
MAY 20  
11 A.M.

with **Eddie Zaratsian,**  
Founder, Eddie Zaratsian  
Lifestyle and Design

When Hollywood stars and international clientele hire Eddie Zaratsian, they know this renowned botanical artist and event designer.

Eddie is one of the most internationally sought-after event and floral designers working today. He was one of the youngest inductees into the American Institute of Floral Designers, in addition to being selected as one of the youngest judges for the Tournament of Roses Parade. Named one of the top five international florists by the *London Financial Times*, Zaratsian has built a reputation as a visionary artist.

*Individual Tickets \$150, Sponsorships starting at \$1,000*

*For tables, sponsorship opportunities, and tickets, visit [selby.org](http://selby.org) / 941-248-3585 or [special\\_events@selby.org](mailto:special_events@selby.org).*



SATURDAY, JULY 4  
6-9 P.M.

Celebrate the 4th of July at beautiful Selby Gardens. Savor All-American favorites from the grill, take part in a variety of family and children's activities, and enjoy the City of Sarasota fireworks!

General Admission: General Public: \$35 / Members: \$25  
5-12 years: \$10  
Under 5: NO CHARGE

SELBY EXPERIENCE passes include valet parking, open bar, all inclusive buffet, and prime viewing for the fireworks including indoor, air-conditioned seating!

\$150  
3-12 years: \$40  
Under 3: NO CHARGE

Visit [selby.org](http://selby.org) for tickets.



SATURDAYS,  
JULY 11, 18, 25 AND  
AUGUST 1  
10 A.M. - NOON

Cool off with water activities, slides and games geared for toddlers on up to children 10 years old! Enjoy the cool shade and bay breezes under Selby Gardens' iconic banyan trees.

*FREE to members. Included with regular admission. Under 3 free.*



**GARDEN MUSIC SERIES**

AT SELBY GARDENS

From classical pianists to folk, country, Latin and world music, jazz, and standards to rock and roll, pop, and soul. Enjoy outdoor concerts along with beautiful views and relaxing walks through the Gardens. **FREE** to members and with admission.

**MAY 24 • 1-3 P.M.**  
**Ari and the Alibis**



Local favorite, Ari and the Alibis returns to the Garden Music Series again this spring. Infusing Funk, Jazz and Samba with Blues, Soul and Rock, Ari and the Alibis take the audience on a musical journey where anything is possible.

**JUNE 14 • 1-3 P.M.**  
**Renesito From Cuba and Friends**



Virtuoso Cuban tres guitar player Renesito Avich will join with musician friends as they perform at the Garden Music Series with elegance, passion and precision.

SPONSORS



In presenting the artistic world of Salvador Dalí at Selby Gardens, there is an intention for visitors to experience the grounds and exhibit using all of their five senses. Each evening performance will include full access to the Gardens, light bites, and wine and beer. The Conservatory and Mansion close at 7 p.m.



**MAY 20 • 6 P.M.**  
**West Coast Black Theatre**

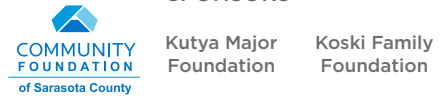
\$55 for members, \$60 for guests

**Visit SELBY.ORG**  
**to purchase tickets**

SPONSORS



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Calling all kids (and kids at heart)! Enjoy art and nature as part of the Salvador Dalí experience at Selby Gardens. Held monthly through June, **Dalí Family Saturdays** will offer artistic children's activities in the great outdoors. During the morning hours from 10 a.m. to noon, kids will have the opportunity to create their own Dalí inspired art with tempera paint, crayons, colored pencils, markers, colored paper, and other materials.

**FREE to members. Included with regular admission. Under 3 free.**

**Join us for the following activities:**

**MAY 23**  
**Water Colors**

**JUNE 13**  
**Painting Nature (rocks, palm boots, leaves, and more)**

**NOTE: All events and classes subject to change as we monitor developments related to COVID-19.**

# COMMUNITY CLASSES

Marie Selby Botanical Gardens offers a wide variety of classes taught by experts in their field. Whether you want to brush up on your watercolor skills or create a scrapbook, get your hands dirty planting orchids or improve your photography, or even if you just want to start your day with relaxing yoga, there's a class for you.

**NOTE:** Admission to the Gardens is included on the days of your class.

## ART CLASSES

### Watercolor for Everyone

**Session I: May 4, 11 & 18**

**Session II: June 1, 8 & 15**

**Session III: July 6, 13 & 20**

**Session IV: August 3, 9 & 17**

**Monday, 10:30 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.**

*Instructor: Carolyn Merenda*

*Class Fee per series: \$140 (Members \$125)*



### Advanced/Intermediate Watercolor

**Session I: May 5, 12 & 19**

**Session II: June 2, 9 & 16**

**Session III: July 14, 21 & 28**

**Session IV: August 4, 11 & 18**

**Tuesday, 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.**

*Instructor: Carolyn Merenda*

*Class Fee per series: \$140 (Members \$125)*

### Print the Dalí-Inspired Gardens

**May 13 & 14**

**10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.**

*Instructor: JoAnn Migliore Campisi*

*Class Fee: \$90 (Members \$75)*

*Materials Fee: \$15 (pay instructor)*



### Art of the Quick Sketch in Watercolor, Oil or Acrylic

**Thursday, July 23**

**10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.**

*Instructor: Joyce Ely Walker*

*Class Fee: \$65 (Members \$50)*

### Spritzing, Spattering, Sponging, French Rule & More Advanced Watercolor Techniques

**Friday, July 24**

**10:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.**

*Instructor: Olivia Braid*

*Class Fee: \$165 (Members \$135)*

*Materials fee: \$35 (pay instructor)*

### Thousands of Flowers in Watercolor

**Monday, July 27**

**10:30 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.**

*Instructor: Carolyn Merenda*

*Class Fee: \$70 (Members \$55)*

### Japanese Flower Arranging

**Thursday, July 30**

**10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.**

*Instructor: Marcy Chapman*

*Class Fee: \$70 (Members \$55)*

*Materials fee: \$35 (pay to instructor)*

*Instructor: Marcy Chapman*

### Asian Brush Painting

**Friday, July 31**

**10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.**

*Instructor: Marcy Chapman*

*Class Fee: \$70 (Members \$55)*

*Materials Fee: \$15 (Pay instructor)*

### Watercolor Painting: Fruits & Flower Paintings in the French Court Tradition

**Wednesday, August 5**

**10:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.**

*Instructor: Olivia Braid*

*Class Fee: \$165 (Members \$135)*

### NEW! Silk Scarf Painting

**Friday, August 25**

**10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.**

*Instructor: JoAnn Mancuso*

*Class Fee: \$50 (Members \$35)*

*Material fee: \$15 (pay instructor)*

### Create a Journal with Gelli Plate Prints

**Thursday, August 13**

**10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.**

*Instructor: JoAnn Migliore Campisi*

*Class Fee: \$70 (Members \$55)*

*Materials Fee: \$10 (pay instructor)*

### Beautiful Butterflies

**Friday, August 14**

**10:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.**

*Instructor: Olivia Braid*

*Class Fee: \$165 (Members \$135)*

*Materials fee: \$35 (pay instructor)*

### Alla Prima Painting in Oil or Acrylic

**Thursday, August 20**

**10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.**

*Instructor: Joyce Ely Walker*

*Class Fee: \$65 (Members \$50)*

## CLASS REGISTRATION POLICIES

- **REGISTRATION PROCEDURES (1)** Register online at [www.selby.org](http://www.selby.org) or **(2)** in person at our Welcome Center.
- In the event that a class is cancelled by Selby Gardens, students will receive a full refund. Student cancellations made less than 72 hours prior to class time are not entitled to a refund nor class credit.
- Material lists are available online and can be emailed or mailed upon request.
- Please visit our website for updates and additional information.
- Class sizes are limited - please register early.
- **Pre-Registration is required.** Tuition is due with registration. Pay online or use charge, check or cash in our Welcome Center.
- Registration fees are not prorated. If you do not attend any portion of class, your registration fee is forfeited.
- There are no make-up classes for students who miss a regular class session.
- Proceeds from classes support the Gardens.

## Candle Making

**Friday, August 21**

**10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.**

*Instructor: JoAnn Mancuso*

*Class Fee: \$50 (Members \$35)*

*Material fee: \$15 (pay instructor)*

## Watercolor Workshop for Beginners

**Monday, August 24**

**10:30 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.**

*Instructor: Carolyn Merenda*

*Class Fee: \$70 (Members \$55)*

## HEALTH & DISCOVERY



## Yoga in the Gardens on Mondays

**Session I: May 4, 11, 18 & June 1**

**Session II: June 8, 15, 22, & 29**

**Session III: July 6, 13, 20 & 27**

**Session IV: Aug 3, 10, 17 & 24**

**10:00 – 11:00 a.m.**

*Instructor: Michelle Roy*

*Class Fee per series: \$75 (Members \$55)*

## Yoga in the Gardens on Wednesdays

**Session I: May 6, 13, 20 & 27**

**Session II: June 3, 10, 17 & 24**

**Session III: July 8, 15, 22 & 29**

**Session IV: Aug 5, 12, 19 & 26**

**9:00 – 10:00 a.m.**

*Instructor: Michelle Roy*

*Class Fee per series: \$75 (Members \$55)*

## Summer Yoga Pass

**Valid May 4 through August 19, 2020**

*Instructor: Michelle Roy*

*Pass Fee: \$150 (Members \$110)*

## **NEW!** Sync Into Sound – An Introduction to Sound Meditation

**Tuesday, May 5**

**9:00 – 10:00 a.m.**

*Instructors: Lucy Tight*

*Class Fee: \$15 (Members & Non-members)*



## Release Your Inner Salvador Dalí Writing and Collage Retreat

**Thursday, May 21**

**10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.**

*Instructor: Gail Condrick*

*Class fee: \$70 (Members \$55)*

*Materials fee: \$5 (pay instructor)*

## Writing about Nature- A Meditative Practice

**Thursday, July 16**

**10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.**

*Instructor: Gail Condrick*

*Class fee: \$70 (Members \$55)*

## HORTICULTURE



## Aromatherapy Defined – How to Use Safely and Create at Home

**Wednesday, May 20**

**10:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.**

*Instructor: Patricia Ann Star*

*Class Fee: \$65 (Members \$50)*

*Materials fee: \$5 (pay instructor)*

## Experience the Freedom of Scent – For Emotional and Mental support

**Wednesday, July 15**

**10:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.**

*Instructor: Patricia Ann Star*

*Class Fee: \$65 (Members \$50)*

*Materials fee: \$5 (pay instructor)*

## Ah! Middle Summer – How to Handle the Heat with Essential Oils

**Wednesday, August 19**

**10:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.**

*Instructor: Patricia Ann Star*

*Class Fee: \$65 (Members \$50)*

*Materials fee: \$5 (pay instructor)*

## **NEW!** Orchid Basics: Dendrobium Alliance

**Wednesday, May 27**

**10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.**

*Instructor: Larry Desiano*

*Class Fee: \$50 (Members \$35)*

## Orchids 101

**Wednesday, July 29**

**10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.**

*Instructor: Larry Desiano*

*Class Fee: \$50 (Members \$35)*

## **NEW!** Orchid Basics: Bulbophyllum, Castestum and other Lesser-Known Orchids of Note

**Wednesday, Aug. 26**

**10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.**

*Instructor: Larry Desiano*

*Class Fee: \$50 (Members \$35)*

## **NEW!** Make Your Own Kombucha

**Friday, May 15**

**10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.**

*Instructor: JoAnn Mancuso*

*Class Fee: \$50 (Members \$35)*

*Materials Fee: \$20 (pay instructor)*

## PHOTOGRAPHY

### Tripod Tuesdays

**May 12, June 9**

**9:00 – 10:00 a.m.**

*Fee per day: \$20 (Members \$15)*

### Better Photography Starts with your Phone!

**Wednesday, July 22**

**10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.**

*Instructor: Perry Johnson*

*Class Fee: \$75 (Members \$55)*



### **NEW!** Captivating Sunsets Start to Finish

**Wednesday, August 12**

**10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.**

*Instructor: Perry Johnson*

*Class Fee: \$75 (Members \$55)*

# THANK YOU

to the  
Virginia B. Toulmin Foundation,  
Steinwachs Family Foundation, and each of you who  
made a gift toward Selby Gardens' COVID-19 Crisis  
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If you would like to support this effort, please visit [selby.org](https://selby.org) and click **DONATE** at the top of the page.

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(As of January 2020)

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