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THE SANCTUARY

The Orchid Show 2026

Christian Sampson

"Milestones are about far more than numbers. They reflect the extraordinary commitment and shared belief of our Board of Trustees, members, donors, volunteers, partners, and community; people who understand the importance of Selby Gardens and believe deeply in its future."

Dear Friends,

There is a palpable sense of momentum across Selby Gardens as we welcome a new season; one filled with discovery, innovation, and exciting opportunities for the future.

In this issue of *The Sanctuary*, we celebrate the people, ideas, and accomplishments that bring our mission to life across both campuses. We also explore what makes Selby Gardens distinctive, from exceptional horticulture and botanical research to art, education, conservation, and experiences that inspire new ways of seeing the natural world.

The much-anticipated annual Orchid Show returns to the Downtown Sarasota campus, showcasing the work of artist Christian Sampson, who is known for his playful installations of color and light, complemented by a spectacular greenhouse display of orchids and other tropical plants curated by our talented horticulture team.

At Selby Gardens' Historic Spanish Point campus, we will explore the poetry of Emily Dickinson through *New Feet Within My Garden Go*. Inspired by Dickinson's deep appreciation for plants, gardens and the changing seasons, the exhibition invites us to consider the garden as a place not only of beauty, but also of discovery, reflection, imagination and renewal.

You'll also find stories highlighting the important work happening throughout our organization, including the addition of four new board members, advances in botanical research and conservation, the 2026–2027 recipient of the Virginia B. Toulmin Leadership Scholarship Award, What's in Bloom, and much more. Together, these stories offer a glimpse into the extraordinary breadth of work taking place at Selby Gardens every day.

As we look ahead to an exciting new season, we are also quite literally building the future of Selby Gardens. Phase Two of our three-phase Master Plan is taking shape before our eyes. Following the groundbreaking in December 2025 and the successful $41.9 million bond sale this summer, vertical construction is now underway; an important milestone in the transformation of our Downtown Sarasota campus and the realization of our long-term vision. You'll read more about these remarkable milestones in this issue, along with a closer look at the progress taking place and what this next chapter will mean for Selby Gardens and our community.

Milestones are about far more than numbers. They reflect the extraordinary commitment and shared belief of our Board of Trustees, members, donors, volunteers, partners, and community; people who understand the importance of Selby Gardens and believe deeply in its future. Thank you for being part of Selby Gardens' story. Your support brings it all to life, and I look forward to sharing this remarkable season with you.

Cheers,

Jennifer O. Rominiecki
President & CEO

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BUILDING THE FUTURE:
MEET OUR NEW TRUSTEES

The Board of Trustees of Marie Selby Botanical Gardens has elected four new members to its governing body. Healthcare professional and educator Sondra Biller, radiologist Richard Mones, M.D., conservationist Elizabeth Moore, and academic physician Gail Morrison Morganroth, M.D., will each serve a three-year term on the Board of Trustees during which they will help guide the strategic vision for the future of the institution. Their terms began in July 2026.

SONDRA BILLER
TRUSTEE

Biller holds a B.A. and Master of Public Policy from the University of Texas at Austin. A Registered Nurse by training, she served as a Clinical Educator and Nurse Manager at the University of North Carolina Medical Center before continuing her healthcare career in the Chicago area. Now retired in Sarasota, Sondra is an active supporter of the region's arts and cultural community, serving on several non-profit boards. She and her husband, Gerald, enjoy traveling and spending summers in Chicago exploring its museums and theater scene.

RICHARD MONES, M.D.
TRUSTEE

Mones earned his B.S. from Franklin & Marshall College and his M.D. from Temple University, completing his radiology training and fellowship at Johns Hopkins Hospital. Following service in the U.S. Air Force, he built a distinguished career in diagnostic radiology. Since retiring to Sarasota in 2014 with his wife, Pamela, Dr. Mones has become an active member of the local arts community. A longtime art collector, he co-founded 502 Gallery in Burns Court to showcase the work of local artists. He and Pamela have two children and two grandchildren.

ELIZABETH MOORE
TRUSTEE

Moore earned her B.A. from Denison University and her M.A. from American University. A committed philanthropist, conservationist, and community leader, she serves on several boards and is especially passionate about our natural world, arts and culture, environmental stewardship, and expanding opportunities for others. Through her leadership and generosity, she has helped organizations pursue ambitious goals and create lasting impact. Elizabeth is also the owner of MooreBlissFarm, a regenerative urban farm, and Triangle Ranch, a working cattle ranch protected by a conservation easement safeguarding its watershed and wildlife habitat. An avid tennis enthusiast, she is the Title Sponsor and Co-Owner of the Sarasota Tennis Open Tournament.

GAIL MORRISON MORGANROTH, M.D.
TRUSTEE

Morganroth has had a 50-year career as an academic physician at the University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine, involved in clinical care, internal medicine, and nephrology. Her career was highlighted by serving for 23 years as the Senior Vice Dean for Medical Education at the Perelman School of Medicine at the University of Pennsylvania, training the next generation of students, graduates, healthcare professionals, faculty, and the community, about preventing and curing diseases. Gail has been actively involved philanthropically, targeting both medical and non-medical educational programs that lead to a healthier world, and currently serves as co-chair of Selby Gardens' Phase Two campaign.

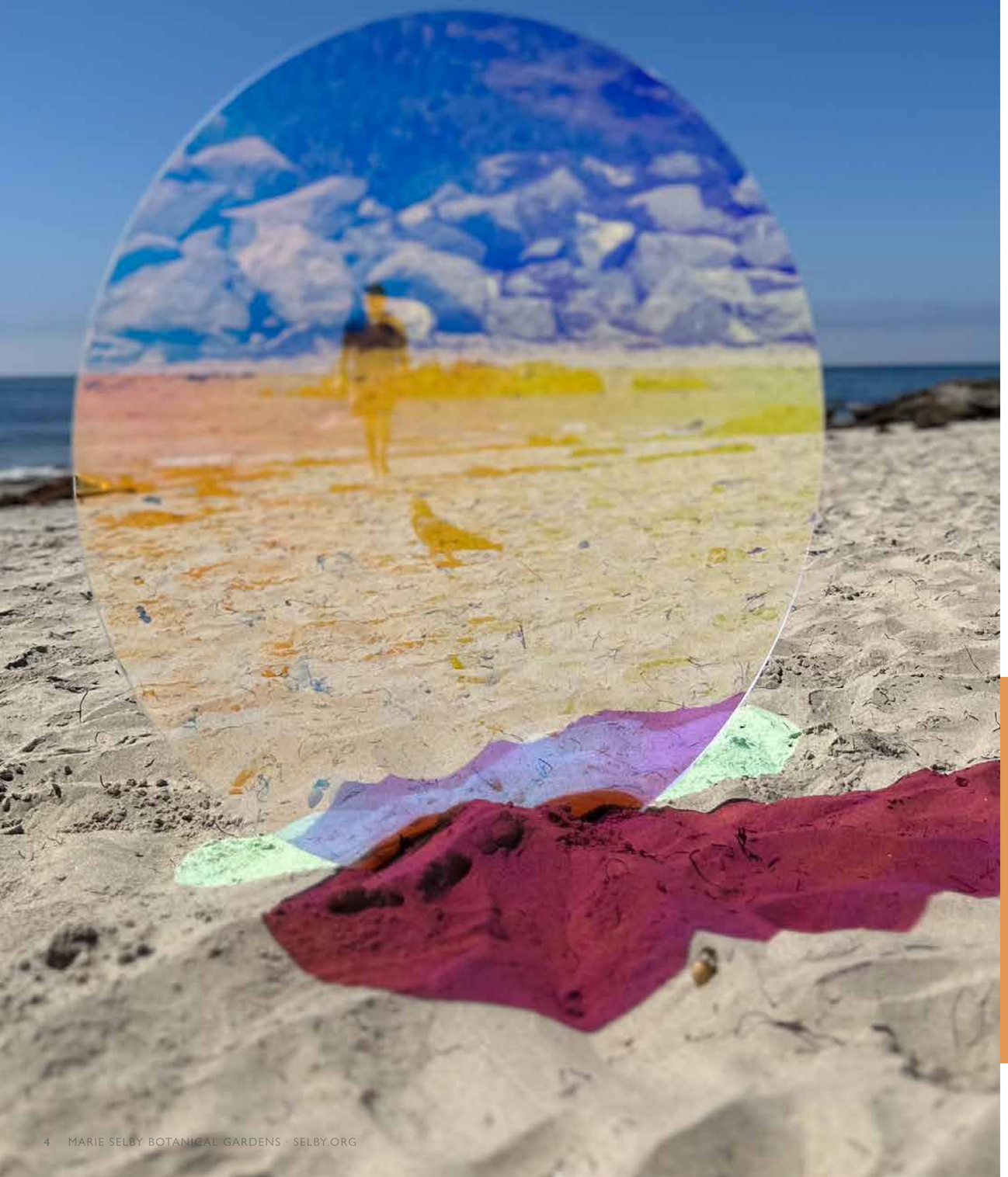
Katherine Martucci, Chair, and Jeannie Russell, Vice Chair, will continue their board service as officers. Also continuing their service as Selby Gardens' trustees: Ali Bahaj, Daniel "Pat" Ball, Aaron Bellamy, Morgan Bentley, Mary Braxton-Joseph, Hosana Fieber, Renée James Gilmore, Marcy Klein, Sherry Koski, Cornelia Matson, Marianne McComb, Keith Monda, Kevin O'Donohue, Michael Quillen, Audrey Robbins, Richard L. Sandor, (Ph.D., Dr. sc. h. c.), Nikki Sedacca, and Jennifer O. Rominiecki, President & CEO of Selby Gardens.

"We are pleased to welcome our new trustees at an exciting and transformative time for Selby Gardens. Their leadership will be invaluable as we continue to advance our Master Plan and strengthen our mission."

– KATHERINE MARTUCCI
Chair, Board of Trustees

EXHIBITION—DOWNTOWN SARASOTA CAMPUS

The Orchid Show 2026 | Christian Sampson



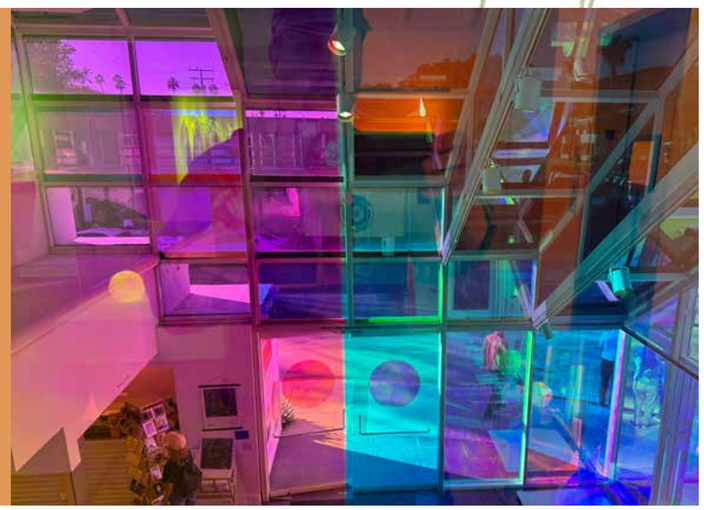
The Orchid Show at Selby Gardens' Downtown Sarasota campus is a much-anticipated annual event. This year's show will feature a creative collaboration between the team at Selby Gardens and artist Christian Sampson, known for creating playful installations of color, light, and form using glass, acrylic, and dichroic film.

A selection of Christian's site-specific works will be exhibited in the Richard and Ellen Sandor Museum of Botany & the Arts. A number of these works draw inspiration from Selby Gardens' outstanding orchid collection, which is the finest scientifically documented collection of its type in the world. Additional works by Christian will be sited in the gardens and in the Display Conservatory, where they will enrich a stunning display of living orchids and other epiphytes, or air plants.

"As an artist who has been experimenting with light and color site-specific installations for years, I'm honored to be collaborating with Selby Gardens and their living museum of orchids and plant life. I'm fascinated by orchids and their fantastic visual beauty, vivid color, forms, and patterns. Their elusiveness and playful nature help to remind humans that fragile living things are all around us. It just takes a shifting of perspective to visualize that beauty and have an awe-inspiring experience that connects us all to our shared life here together on this planet."

– CHRISTIAN SAMPSON

Photographer: Kyle Knodell



Christian Sampson images from *Ocean Ions* exhibition in conjunction with Laguna Art Museum, 2024. Media: acrylic, glass and dichroic films

THE ORCHID SHOW 2026: CHRISTIAN SAMPSON

Downtown Sarasota campus
October 10–December 6, 2026
On view 10 a.m.– 5 p.m. daily

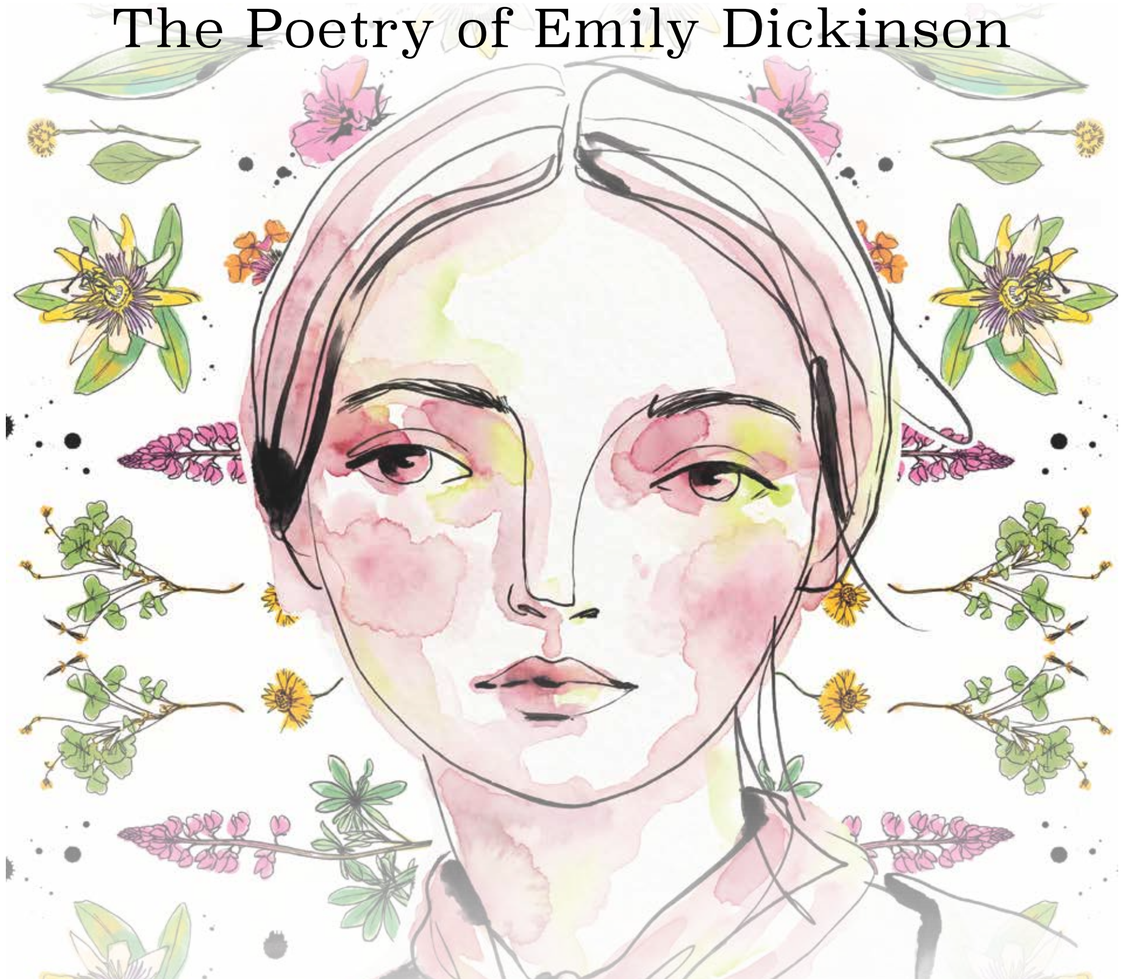
Presented by

BETTER-GRO®

EXHIBITION—HISTORIC SPANISH POINT CAMPUS

New Feet Within My Garden Go

The Poetry of Emily Dickinson



Following the success of the most recent exhibition at the Historic Spanish Point campus, featuring *A Child's Garden of Verses* by Robert Louis Stevenson, Selby Gardens will continue the literary theme by presenting a new exhibition featuring the poetry of Emily Dickinson.

A selection of Dickinson's best-known, nature-inspired poems will be sited throughout the Historic Spanish Point campus. Accompanying the poems will be illustrations by artist Abby Wright and photographs of pages from Dickinson's own herbarium, featuring her personal collection of pressed plants. The poems will also be narrated by Selby Gardens' Artist in Residence, Patti Smith, who provided the inspiration for this multi-sensory experience.

NEW FEET WITHIN MY GARDEN GO: THE POETRY OF EMILY DICKINSON
November 21, 2026 – August 29, 2027

Historic Spanish Point campus
Learn more about this exhibition at selby.org

Audio narration by Selby Gardens' Artist in Residence Patti Smiith

Presenting Sponsor for the exhibition
GULF COAST COMMUNITY FOUNDATION
A. Hamilton and Edith T. Gardner Fund

Presenting Sponsor of the Patti Smith Residency
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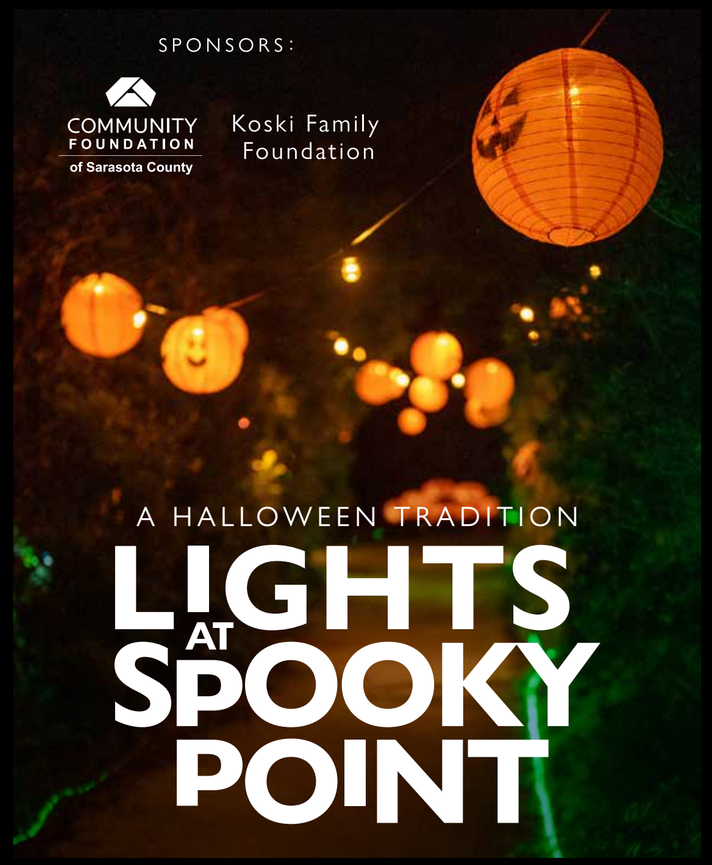
HISTORIC SPANISH POINT CAMPUS

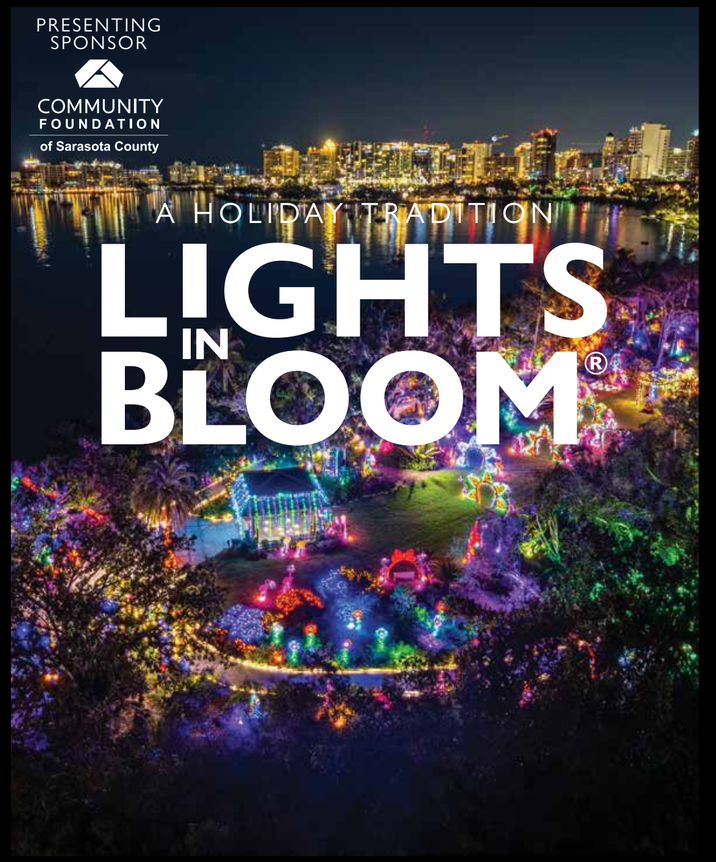
OCTOBER 1–31, 2026

Lights at Spooky Point, the Halloween-themed light show introduced to Selby Gardens' Historic Spanish Point campus, returns in October. This year's show kicks off on Thursday, October 1, and remains on view nightly (except October 13) through Saturday, October 31.

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.

"*Lights at Spooky Point* is meant to be a delightful, family-friendly experience—equal parts whimsical and fun," said Jennifer O. Rominiecki, President and CEO of Selby Gardens.





DOWNTOWN SARASOTA CAMPUS

DECEMBER 5, 2026–JANUARY 2, 2027

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 2. 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 12.

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

AERIAL VIEW OF MASTER PLAN

CONSERVATORY COMPLEX

MAJOR MILESTONES

SELBY GARDENS EXECUTES $41.9 MILLION BOND SALE AND BEGINS VERTICAL CONSTRUCTION FOR PHASE TWO OF ITS MASTER PLAN WITH 98% RAISED

Marie Selby Botanical Gardens announced three significant milestones in the continued advancement of Phase Two of its Master Plan: the successful execution of a $41.9 million bond sale, the beginning of vertical construction, and the achievement of 98% of the total funding goal raised for the transformative project.

EXHIBITION HOUSE

ABOUT THE BOND SALE

High demand from bond investors underscores the institution's solid financial position and confidence in the project's future impact. The bond offering attracted exceptional investor interest, with 15 unique investors submitting orders totaling approximately 10 times the bonds offered. The $41.9 million in proceeds from the bond sale, executed in July, enable Selby Gardens to maintain an aggressive construction schedule while multiyear philanthropic gifts are realized.

"The strong support we've received from both our philanthropic community, and the investment market reflects the confidence people have in Selby Gardens and our vision for the future," said Jennifer O. Rominiecki, President & CEO of Marie Selby Botanical Gardens. "With this financing in place, we are well positioned to maintain our ambitious construction schedule while continuing to create a campus that serves our community, advances our mission, and inspires future generations."

R.W. Baird served as the underwriter for the bond sale, while Capital Trust Agency issued the tax-exempt bonds.

To make a gift to this effort or request naming opportunities, please contact Ashley Jimenez
ajimenez@selby.org
941.248.3583

ABOUT THE CAMPAIGN

The capital goal for Phase Two stands at $60.9 million. To date, $59.7 million has been raised, which is 98% of the campaign goal. The cumulative total of funds raised for both Phases One and Phase Two has reached over the $127 million mark, including nearly $10 million for endowment with 99% percent of all funds coming from private philanthropy.

The Co-Chairs of the Phase Two Campaign effort are Gail Morrison Morganroth, MD, and Audrey Robbins.

After Phase Two is completed in November 2028, the Master Plan project will move on to Phase Three which will complete the project with restoration of the campus' two major historical buildings, unification of all walking paths throughout the Gardens, and bolstering of the property's seawalls.

Attracting over 330,000 visitors a year, Selby Gardens is looking toward the future with this ambitious expansion for its Downtown Sarasota campus, which is one of the most biodiverse botanical gardens in the world. The Phase Two project team has been guided by the international landscape architecture studio OLIN with architecture by Sweet Sparkman Architecture & Interiors, civil engineer Kimley-Horn and Associates, MEP by Engineering Matrix, structural engineering by TY Lin Silman and conservatory advisory by Ron Determann and Jeffrey Woolsey and renderings by L Design. Willis Smith Construction serves as the construction manager.

VERTICAL CONSTRUCTION NOW UNDERWAY

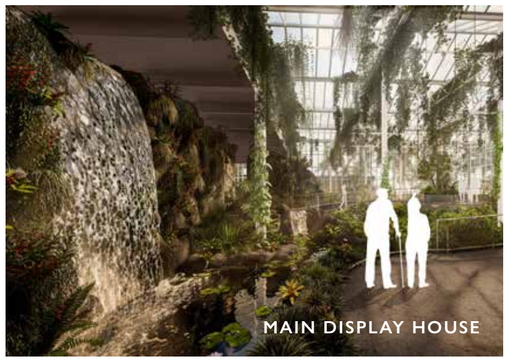
With permitting complete, Phase Two has entered the vertical construction phase following its groundbreaking in December 2025. Phase Two consists of a new Conservatory Complex, Learning Pavilion, and key landscape features. The state-of-the-art, first-of-its-kind hurricane-resilient Conservatory Complex will serve as the crown jewel of the Downtown Sarasota campus, showcasing more than 20,000 plants from Selby Gardens' living research collections, including the world's best scientifically documented collections of orchids and bromeliads.

The new Conservatory Complex will feature the Selby System, an innovative, hurricane-resilient greenhouse design developed through a multi-year collaboration between Selby Gardens and its partners, for which Selby Gardens is pursuing trademark protection. Engineered to exceed traditional greenhouse standards and meet the 2023 Florida Building Code for publicly occupied buildings, the system uses lightweight, high-performance polycarbonate glazing to reduce structural weight, material use, construction costs and environmental impact while providing exceptional storm resilience. The design was successfully validated through full-scale testing under simulated extreme hurricane conditions in 2026.

Building on the innovative sustainability leadership established in Phase One, Marie Selby Botanical Gardens is committed to advancing this legacy with 100% renewable energy, sustainable water harvesting, and resilient design to inspire future generations and protect its collections. These initiatives ensure a resilient infrastructure that supports Selby Gardens' environmental stewardship, designed not only to serve generations of visitors but also to safeguard the organization's invaluable botanical collections. This commitment positions Selby Gardens as a model for cultural and botanical institutions, embracing a forward-thinking approach to resilience and resource efficiency.

Today, the public can see less than 5% of Selby Gardens' living research collections; the new Conservatory Complex will make nearly 100% of Selby Gardens' world-renowned collected plants visible to the public. In addition, a new Learning Pavillion will feature enhanced facilities for all of Selby Gardens' education programs, as well as enhanced gardens and landscape features that will expand the beauty and resilience of our bayfront sanctuary. Phase Two will open in November 2028.

Selby Gardens' Trustees Ali Bahaj, Cornelia Matson, Richard Mones, M.D., Morgan Bentley, and Selby Gardens' President & CEO, Jennifer Rominiecki.



MAIN DISPLAY HOUSE

LEARNING PAVILION

BOTANY BRIEF

SEDGE FUND

ACTIVE CONSERVATION: SEED BANKING

ONE OF OUR SIGNATURE PROJECTS AT SELBY GARDENS IS COLLECTING SEED FROM ENDANGERED PLANTS IN FLORIDA FOR BANKING. IN THIS CASE, *RHYNCHOSPORA MEGAPLUMOSA*.

Selby Gardens' intern Claire Glavin, a landscape architect student at the University of Pennsylvania, assisting with the Florida Rare Plant Rescue Project.

Florida is known for being a hotspot of plant diversity, with over 3,300 native species. Of these, 255 and 13 of 81 ecological communities are considered endemic, that is, occurring nowhere else in the world. However, habitat destruction and climate change have put many species and habitats in danger of loss. There are currently 448 endangered plant species and 118 threatened plant species in Florida, and these numbers continue to rise. Many experts agree that seed collecting and conservation banking are the first line of defense against rare plant extinction.

In partnership with the Florida Plant Rescue project, a statewide seed collection initiative funded by the Center for Plant Conservation that aims to secure and safeguard Florida's rare plant species, Selby Garden's staff, interns, and volunteers collect seeds of these plants. Seeds are processed and stored in seed banks to prevent the species from going extinct.

A team from Selby Gardens went out to collect the Florida-endangered longbristle beaksedge (*Rhynchospora megaplumosa*) at the Lemur Conservation Foundation near Myakka City in Manatee County. This unique sedge lives in a scrubby, sandy habitat, and features flowering heads that are a beautiful copper ending in a distinctive long point.

Claire Glavin, a 2026 Selby Gardens' summer intern, shadowed the Botany staff and aided in the sedge seed collection. Claire is currently a Master of Landscape Architecture candidate at the University of Pennsylvania. During her time at Selby Gardens, she incorporated visual storytelling to record fieldwork and highlight rare species with an aim of engaging a wider audience in conservation efforts. Through in-field sketches, botanical studies, and watercolor illustrations, Claire highlights the ongoing conservation work being done by Marie Selby Botanical Gardens and Florida Plant Rescue.

"Thanks to the Lemur Conservation Foundation and the Center for Plant Conservation for their efforts in advancing the preservation of endangered native Florida plants through seed banking."

– BRUCE HOLST
Selby Gardens Vice President for Botany

Volunteers collect seed for banking from *Rhynchospora megaplumosa*.

Plant science made possible by the Steinwachs Family Foundation

LEMUR CONSERVATION FOUNDATION

CENTER FOR PLANT CONSERVATION

STAFF HIGHLIGHT

DISTINGUISHED BOTANIST AND CONSERVATIONIST LOU JOST JOINS SELBY GARDENS

Marie Selby Botanical Gardens welcomes renowned botanist and conservationist Lou Jost, whose decades of scientific discovery and work to protect some of Ecuador's most biodiverse forests have earned international recognition. "I'm thrilled to be at Selby, after working informally with their scientists for more than 25 years," Jost said.

Jost, whom originally is from Wisconsin, initially studied mathematics and physics before his interests led him to orchids, tropical forests and the extraordinary biodiversity of Ecuador. During his tenure as an orchid taxonomist and wildlife artist, he has discovered numerous species of orchids and other plants and has made important discoveries in conservation biology. Jost is also co-founder of the EcoMinga Foundation, an Ecuadorian conservation organization dedicated to protecting threatened forests and their biodiversity.

A NEW SPECIES HONORS JOST

Jost was recently celebrated by Selby Gardens Research Botanist John L. Clark, Ph.D., who named a newly discovered species of gesneriad, *Glossoloma jostii*, in his honor. Clark recognizes Jost as a botanist and conservationist and highlights his instrumental role in protecting Ecuador's montane forests, particularly in the Pastaza Valley, along with his extensive contributions to discovering and describing plant species, especially orchids. Clark notes that Jost's vision and leadership have been pivotal in conserving biodiversity hotspots in the region. Naming the species *Glossoloma jostii* commemorates Jost's dedication to science, conservation and protecting remnant Andean forests.

RECOGNIZED FOR ORCHID CONSERVATION

The American Orchid Society (AOS) also recognized Jost's contributions and presented to him its Conservation Recognition Award for his considerable contributions to orchid conservation. The honor also includes a $1,000 cash award. For Jost, however, protecting these extraordinary landscapes remains the most meaningful recognition.

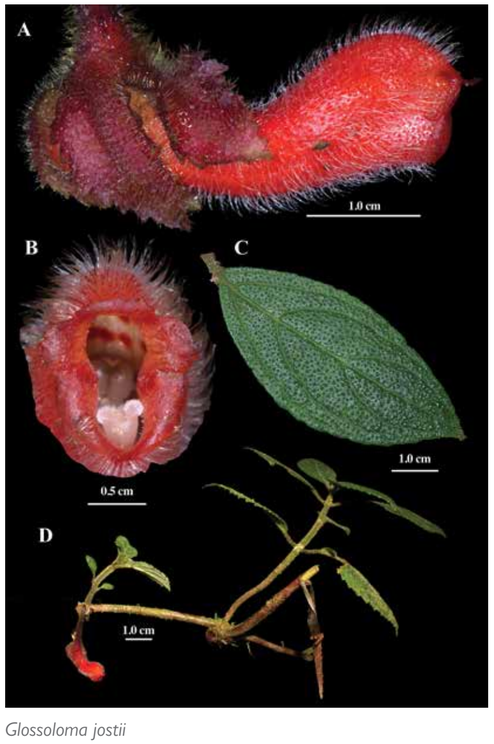
"I am delighted that I was able to save these forests, and that is the real reward," Jost said. "I am very pleased that the people who gave me this award share my appreciation of these forests. Botanically these montane forests are among the most unusual and most biodiverse in the world, and I am very proud that I could discover their unique species and protect them."

A NATURAL HOME AT SELBY GARDENS

After more than 25 years of collaboration with Selby Gardens scientists, Jost now brings his remarkable combination of botanical expertise, field experience, mathematical insight and passion for conservation as a full-time botanist to Selby Gardens.

His career illustrates the powerful connection between botanical discovery and conservation. Finding and documenting species helps scientists better understand what makes an ecosystem extraordinary, and why protecting it matters.

His arrival comes at a key moment: as the American Orchid Society recognizes his contributions to orchid conservation, a Selby Gardens scientist has ensured that his legacy lives on in the botanical record through *Glossoloma jostii*. Together, these honors celebrate Jost's lifelong commitment to discovering, understanding and protecting some of the world's most remarkable forests.



Glossoloma jostii

EDUCATION

DREAM CHASER

MARIE SELBY BOTANICAL GARDENS ANNOUNCES VIRGINIA B. TOULMIN LEADERSHIP SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT

Melody Hardin
Virginia B. Toulmin Leadership Scholarship Award Recipient

Marie Selby Botanical Gardens is excited to announce Melody Hardin of Parrish, Florida, as the recipient of the 2026 Virginia B. Toulmin Leadership Scholarship. Ms. Hardin is a junior at the University of South Florida in Tampa, Florida, where she is pursuing a Bachelor of Arts degree in Communications. She is also a student at Judy Genshaft Honors College.

The Virginia B. Toulmin Scholarship is awarded in honor of and in partnership with a local leader in the Sarasota community – and that distinction has been bestowed upon Selby Gardens' President and CEO, Jennifer O. Rominiecki, who served as the scholarship's inaugural mentor during the 2024 award cycle and again in 2025 and 2026.

The scholarship includes a $15,000 award provided by the Virginia B. Toulmin Foundation. Through this program, the Virginia B. Toulmin Foundation and Marie Selby Botanical Gardens seek to contribute to the development of future leaders and professionals who will make meaningful contributions to the non-profit sector and our community. The scholarship will provide a pathway to successful leadership in the business and non-profit worlds by offering mentorship, opportunities to observe leadership in action, and financial support to high-achieving juniors or seniors pursuing bachelor's degrees with a minimum GPA of 3.5.

"The Virginia B. Toulmin Foundation envisions a world where every individual has the opportunity to reach their full potential and thrive," said William S. Villafranco, Trustee of the Virginia B. Toulmin Foundation. "Through Virginia's enduring legacy, we are proud to support the aspirations of today's young scholars by helping provide the resources, opportunities, and mentorship they need to succeed. The Toulmin Leadership Scholarship reflects our steadfast commitment to expanding access to education and investing in exceptional students who demonstrate academic excellence, leadership, and determination. We congratulate Ms. Hardin on this well-deserved honor and look forward to seeing all she will accomplish in the years ahead."

Ms. Hardin was identified by a scholarship selection committee comprised of Selby Gardens' Board of Trustees and Advisory Committee members, as well as 2025 Toulmin Leadership Scholarship recipient, Amelia Swiecki. She emerged as the leading choice of three finalists selected from a pool of 20 highly qualified applicants. The criteria were based on outstanding academic records, leadership, and demonstrated commitment to positive community impact. The candidates represented Eckerd College, the University of Florida, Ringling College of Art and Design, the University of South Florida, Florida International University, New College of Florida, Florida Gulf Coast University, Florida State University, State College of Florida, Northeastern University, Florida Atlantic University, and Florida A&M University.

Holding a 3.89 GPA, Melody also works part-time as a social media and outreach head for *Enneagram and Marriage (E+M)*, where she has led book launches, coordinated podcast guests and speaking engagements, collaborated with public figures, and managed the company's social media presence, contributing to a podcast with millions of downloads. In addition to her communications work, Melody is a certified *Pure Barre* instructor, where she trains women multiple times a week in a 50-minute choreographed Pilates/Barre routine. Through teaching, she has learned to perform for an audience, learn choreography quickly, and connect with clients. With a background in dance, music, and theater, Melody brings the technique and artistry she honed over years of experience into her professional life. Melody is also an active volunteer with *Bridge a Life*, serving foster and adoptive youth. She hopes to pursue a master's degree in communication and build a career that combines marketing, communications, and non-profit donor relations. She is excited to bring her skills and enthusiasm to the Selby team.

Ms. Hardin remarked, "This scholarship represents far more than financial support—it is a source of encouragement to keep moving forward and pursuing my goals. I am deeply honored to receive this recognition and to follow in the footsteps of Virginia B. Toulmin and CEO Jennifer Rominiecki, two inspiring leaders whose purpose-driven leadership continues to create meaningful impact. I look forward to expanding my knowledge of nonprofit leadership and building a career where communications and marketing are powerful tools for advancing mission-driven organizations and creating positive change."

"Melody is an exceptional young scholar whose curiosity, determination, and leadership potential embody the spirit of the Virginia B. Toulmin Leadership Scholarship," said Jennifer Rominiecki, President and CEO of Selby Gardens. "This scholarship was created to empower the next generation of leaders by providing meaningful mentorship and immersive professional experiences that help them grow with confidence and purpose. At Selby Gardens, we believe mentorship has the power to transform lives, opening doors to new perspectives, opportunities, and lasting connections. We are delighted to welcome Melody to Selby Gardens and look forward to supporting her journey while learning alongside her. We are confident her experience here will be both meaningful and inspiring—for Melody and for our organization as we continue to cultivate leadership, innovation, and excellence through mentorship."

In addition to participating in mentoring sessions with Rominiecki and other members of Selby Gardens' leadership team, Ms. Hardin will be appointed to Selby Gardens' Advisory Committee, where she will observe Rominiecki's leadership firsthand while engaging with community, scientific, and business leaders. She will also receive a one-year membership to Selby Gardens.

"The Virginia B. Toulmin Foundation envisions a world where every individual has the opportunity to reach their full potential and thrive."

– WILLIAM S. VILLAFRANCO
Virginia B. Toulmin Foundation Trustee

DOWNTOWN SARASOTA CAMPUS

Garlic Vine
Mansoa alliacea, Bignoniaceae

Garlic vine is a flamboyant tropical liana (woody vine) native to Central and South America. In the same family as familiar flowering trees such as jacaranda and trumpet trees, garlic vine puts on an impressive show of purple trumpet-shaped flowers that fade to white in the fall, and also again in the springtime. Don't be put off by the common name, it only smells like garlic when the leaves or stems are crushed. *Mansoa alliacea* thrives in warm, humid climates with well-drained, fertile soil and prefers full sunlight. It is a vigorous and heavy vine, but if planted on a sturdy fence, it can be a showy screen plant in your landscape.

ABOUT

- The leaves and flowers of garlic vine can be used raw or cooked to impart a garlicky flavor.
- This plant is used by indigenous people in the Amazon for medicinal treatments.
- You can see garlic vine growing at the Downtown Sarasota campus along the Morganroth Family Palm Promenade.

Photos by Dr. David Berry

WHAT'S IN BLOOM

HISTORIC SPANISH POINT CAMPUS

Rouge Plant
Rivina humilis, Petiveriaceae

Native to Florida, tropical and subtropical regions of the Americas, the rouge plant prefers partially shaded, warm and humid conditions. A small evergreen perennial herb growing between 2-4 feet tall, *Rivina humilis* belongs to the family Petiveriaceae. The blooms are small white or pale pink flowers that appear on elongated clusters during the warm months, followed by bright red berries that give the species plant its common names. The attractive berries make it popular as an ornamental plant, although they should not be eaten as they may be toxic to mammals. The berries are an important food source for native birds, which distribute the seeds.

ABOUT

- It has a few common nicknames including "rouge plant" due to the vivid red mature berries.
- Historically, "Bloodberry" became another nickname for the rogue plant as the red juices from the berries are used for making dye.
- You can find this plant throughout the Historic Spanish Point campus, particularly around Point Cottage.

Photos by Dr. Wade Collier

A PRESTIGIOUS HONOR FOR SELBY GARDENS

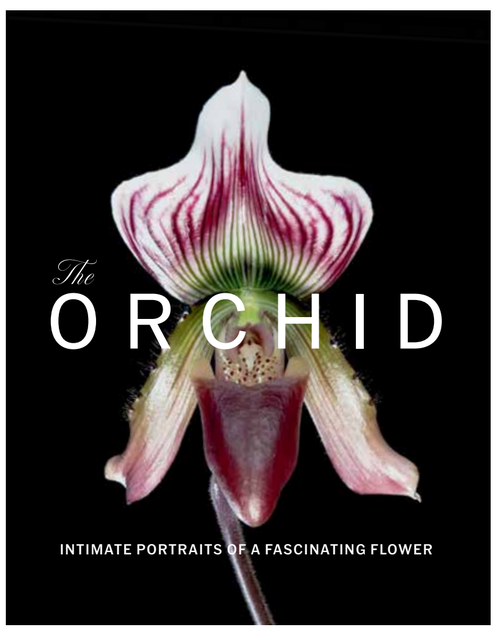
WE ARE DELIGHTED TO ANNOUNCE THAT PHASE ONE OF SELBY GARDENS' THREE-PHASE MASTER PLAN HAS BEEN NAMED A 2026 COTE TOP TEN AWARD WINNER BY THE AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS (AIA).

Widely recognized as one of the architecture profession's most distinguished honors for sustainable design, the AIA Committee on the Environment (COTE) Top Ten Awards celebrate 10 projects each year that demonstrate design excellence while advancing environmental performance, human health, and the well-being of communities and the planet.

This recognition is a testament to the vision, innovation, and collaboration behind Phase One—and to the exceptional team that brought that vision to life: The project team included architecture firm, Overland Partners, landscape architect, OLIN; solar power engineer and contractor, One80 Solar; structural, mechanical, electrical engineer, Arup; structural engineer, Kimley-Horn; lighting designer Lam Partners; and general scontractor, Willis Smith Construction.

We are proud to share this honor with the many talented professionals whose expertise and dedication made Phase One possible. Together, we are creating a model for how thoughtful design, sustainability, and horticultural excellence can shape the future of botanical gardens.

THE ORCHID COMPACT EDITION



Originally published in celebration of our 50th Anniversary in 2023, Selby Gardens' orchid book is now also available in a compact edition, making it easier than ever to take a little piece of the Gardens home with you.

As a global leader in the study and conservation of orchids and other epiphytes, or air plants, Selby Gardens is home to the best scientifically documented collection of living orchids in the world. This gorgeous volume offers readers an intimate look at the remarkable beauty and diversity of one of the largest and most admired families of flowering plants. Accompanying text from Selby Gardens' botany and horticulture experts are stunning photographs that highlight the vibrant colors and elegant forms of orchids, from the wonderful to the other worldly.

BEAUTIFULLY SIZED FOR GIFTING—AND TRAVELING

The smaller-format hardcover is designed for convenience. It's compact enough to slip into a suitcase, yet substantial enough to make a memorable gift for the orchid lover in your life. Whether you're already captivated by orchids or simply curious about their unique and complex splendor, this enchanting book offers a stunning way to discover—or rediscover—the extraordinary world of orchids at Selby Gardens.

Available in the gift shop and online at selby.org

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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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

MARIE SELBY BOTANICAL GARDENS

1534 Mound St., Sarasota, FL 34236

DOWNTOWN SARASOTA CAMPUS — FEATURED EVENTS

Lunch in the Gardens
Thursday, October 29 • 11 a.m.–1 p.m.

Enjoy a delicious lunch in our world-class bayfront setting and a fascinating discussion with contemporary artist Christian Sampson. 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

Lights In Bloom®
December 5, 2026 – January 2, 2027
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

New Year's Eve Gala
December 31, 2026 • 7 p.m. – 1 a.m.

Selby Gardens presents Sarasota's most sophisticated black-tie New Year's Eve experience. Enjoy private access to Lights in Bloom® holiday light show, passed hors d'oeuvres, a seated four-course dinner, a performance by The Margaret Barbieri Conservatory of the Sarasota Ballet, and a view of fireworks overlooking Sarasota Bay.

Visit *selby.org* for pricing and tickets

HISTORIC SPANISH POINT CAMPUS — FEATURED EVENTS

Lights at Spooky Point
October 1–31, 2026

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

An Evening with Patti Smith Dedicated to Emily Dickinson
Tuesday, October 13, 2026

Selby Gardens' Artist in Residence performs at Historic Spanish Point campus in celebration of the upcoming Emily Dickinson exhibition. Presenting Sponsor of the Patti Smith Residency: Marianne and William McComb.

Visit *selby.org* for pricing and tickets

Cocktails at the Cottage
Thursday, November 19, 2026 • 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, featuring a preview of the Emily Dickinson exhibition. Co-Chairs: Nora Johnson and Pauline Wamsler.

Visit *selby.org* for pricing and tickets

PRESENTING SEASON SPONSORS

Andrew M. Economos, PhD • Marianne and Bill McComb • Keith Monda and Veronica Brady
Jeannie Russell • Martin and Zelia Trueb • The Judith Zuckerberg Family in loving memory of George Kole

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