VOLUME 6, ISSUE 3 · MAY–SEPTEMBER 2026

SANCTUARY

SHARED LIGHT
LYNN GOLDSMITH
JUNE 20 - SEPTEMBER 13, 2026

MARIE SELBY
BOTANICAL
GARDENS
DOWNTOWN SARASOTA
HISTORIC SPANISH POINT

A MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT & CEO

"The past few months have been abuzz with energy, creativity, and meaningful progress across Selby Gardens, and I am grateful to all of you who helped make it such a success."

Dear Friends,

It is hard to believe that we have just wrapped up a phenomenal season and are already stepping into summer. The past few months have been abuzz with energy, creativity, and meaningful progress across Selby Gardens, and I am grateful to all of you who helped make it such a success.

There is a bounty of excitement this summer, and we are delighted to welcome Lynn Goldsmith's extraordinary work to Selby Gardens with her exhibition, *Shared Light: Lynn Goldsmith*. This presentation beautifully bridges the worlds of fine art, music, and nature through Goldsmith's evocative floral imagery and her personal portraits of Patti Smith, our artist in residence. Together, these works create a powerful dialogue about creativity, connection, and inspiration that we believe will resonate with our visitors in the immersive setting of our Downtown Sarasota campus.

I am thrilled to share that Phase Two of our Master Plan is well underway. Since our groundbreaking in December, progress has moved forward at an impressive pace. Demolition has been completed, and foundational groundwork is actively supporting what will soon become an exciting new chapter for our campus in just two years.

Many of you will recall that from the very beginning of our three-phase Master Plan, we partnered with the International Living Future Institute with a bold vision: to create a regenerative model of resilience and sustainability. Today, that vision is becoming reality. Selby Gardens is not only transforming our own campus but also serving as an example of what is possible for institutions around the world.

Phase One of our Master Plan continues to earn well-deserved recognition. We are honored to have achieved the highest levels of certification from the International Living Future Institute, meeting the rigorous standards of both the Living Building Challenge® and the Community Challenge®. These are among the most ambitious sustainability benchmarks in the built environment, and they reflect years of thoughtful planning, innovation, and commitment.

In addition, Ecotone, the publishing arm of International Living Future Institute, has recently released a case study book about Selby Gardens titled *The Living Museum: Celebrating Nature and Modeling Resilience at Marie Selby Botanical Gardens*. The book captures the evolution of Selby Gardens as a leader in sustainability, science, and community engagement, while beautifully conveying the vision behind our mission.

We hope you enjoy this issue of *The Sanctuary*, where you will learn about the botanical discoveries by Selby Gardens' Research Botanist John Clark, PhD; a fascinating expedition recap with Bruce Holst, Vice President for Botany; education updates; and so much more!

Cheers,

Jennifer O. Rominiecki
President & CEO

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Katherine A. Martucci, *Chair*
Jeannie Russell *Vice Chair*
Ali Bahaj
Daniel "Pat" Ball
Aaron Bellamy
Morgan Bentley
Mary Braxton-Joseph
Hosana Fieber
Renée James Gilmore
Jean Weidner Goldstein
Marcy Klein
Sherry Koski
Cornelia Matson
Marianne McComb
Keith Monda
Joel Morganroth, M.D.
Kevin O'Donohue
Michael Quillen
Audrey Robbins
Richard L. Sandor (Ph.D., Dr. sc. h. c.)
Nikki Sedacca
Bruce E. Sorensen
Margaret Wise
Jennifer O. Rominiecki, *President & CEO*

ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Marcy Klein, *Chair, Advisory Committee* • Peggy Allen • J. Allison Archbold, Esq. • Maryann Armour Suzanne Atwell • Elaine Barber • Robert Bartner • Honorable Michael Bennett • Hugh Bettendorf • Sondra Biller • Kathleen Brown • Mary Butler • David Citron • Kelvin Cooper, PhD • Olivia Craig • BJ Creighton Eileen Curd • Ariane Dart • Todd DeGarmo • Norbert P. Donelly • Erin Duggan • Andrew M. Economos, PhD Betsy Elder • Douglas C. Elder • Leon Ellin • Patricia Estes • Catherine Farello • Martin W. Faust • William C. Fletcher • Liebe Gamble • Billy Gamble • Bradley H. Goddard • Patricia Golemme • Scott Greer • Mary Evelyn Guyton • Teri A Hansen • Mark Hawkins • Stephen Hazeltine • Gary Heard • Rod Hollingsworth • Carolyn Johnson • Keith Johnson • Nora Johnson • Richard Johnson • Wilson Jones • Deb Kabinoff • Carol Kalikow Craig Kaplan • GeeDee Kerr • Umbreen Khalidi-Majeed • Kevin Klein • Beverly Koski • Ashley Kozel Carol Lackey • Richard Lawrence, Esq. • Thomas Luzier, Esq. • Flora Major • Elizabeth Malden • Zuleima Martinez • Mary Ann Meyer • Carol Miller • Virginia Miller • Jonathan Mitchell • Robert L. "Bob" Moore Gail Morrison Morganroth, M.D. • Charlie Mueller • Charles Murphy • Gregory Mutz • Laura O'Donohue Vickie Oldham • Anand Pallegar • Roxanne Permesly • Laura Peters • John Pirman • Rita Radi • Sandy Rederer Britt Riner • Wayne Rollins • Michael Saunders • Dona Scott • Sam Scott • Ken Shelin • Dr. Rachel Shelley Grace Smith, *STAR Youth Leader* • Susan Sofia • Dr. Martin Stogniew • Delores Stottlemyer • Joseph A. Strosnik Dr. Laurey T. Stryker • Steven R. Swartz • Amelia Swiecki • Dr. Kiat W. Tan • Marcia Jean Taub • Zelia Trueb William S. Villafranco • Pauline L. Wamsler • Martin M. Wasmer • Elisabeth Waters • Gwen Watson • Sharyn Weiner • Michael J. Wilson, Esq. • Art Wood • Judy Zuckerberg • Katherine A. Martucci, *Chair, Board of Trustees* • Jennifer O. Rominiecki, *President & CEO*

MISSION

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

PROGRAM SPONSORS

Florida ARTS & CULTURE

Smithsonian Affiliate

American Alliance of Museums
Accredited by the American Alliance of Museums

Accredited by the Center for Plant Conservation

CONNECT WITH US

@selbygardens

The Sanctuary ©2026 Marie Selby Botanical Gardens

DOWNTOWN SARASOTA CAMPUS

Teabush, Wooly Pyramid Flower

Melochia tomentosa, Malvaceae

Teabush is a handsome, fast-growing subtropical shrub native to the Americas, including central and southern Florida. Growing to 4-6 feet tall and wide, it stands out in the landscape because of its silvery foliage supported by contrasting dark stems and is topped with an abundance of small pink flowers year-round, especially during the cooler months. These delicate flowers support a number of native pollinators such as bees, butterflies, and even hummingbirds. In nature, it grows in habitats that are sunny, hot, and dry, which makes it a resilient choice for open landscapes, roadways, and habitat restoration sites. It has adaptations such as velvety leaves and an extensive root system which help it thrive with little maintenance in these conditions, but know that it has only moderate salt tolerance. Because of its ease of culture and striking appearance, teabush should really be more commonly utilized in Florida landscapes.

ABOUT

- Teabush is in hibiscus family (Malvaceae).
- The name *Melochia tomentosa* means "a mallow-like plant covered in wooly hairs" and was described by Carl Linnaeus in 1753.
- Teabush can be found growing throughout the Downtown Sarasota campus, particularly in the Wildflower Garden near the South Point.

Teabush photos by Craig Kroeger

WHAT'S IN BLOOM

Sea Grape

Coccoloba uvifera, Polygonaceae

HISTORIC SPANISH POINT CAMPUS

Sea Grape is known for its large shiny round leaves and the clusters of fruit that inspired its common name. The tree is native to Florida, Mexico, Central and South America, the islands of the Caribbean, the Bahamas and Bermuda. It is very salt-tolerant and found mostly along coastal areas and beaches, where it is an important habitat plant. The plants produce clusters of white to light-green flowers on long spikes. Pollen produced by male plants must be transferred to the female flowers by insect pollinators, such as bees. Once pollinated, small green fruits develop which turn red and purple as they mature. The fruits can be processed into jellies and jams and can also be fermented into wine. Various parts of the plant have medicinal purposes, and in its native range, sea grape is used to treat dysentery and ulcers. The wood is red in color, very heavy and tough, with a contorted grain.

Sea grapes are an important native tree along Florida's coastline. Being salt-tolerant they help stabilize the shoreline, while also shading beaches from man-made light sources that adversely impact nesting sea turtles and their offspring. At the Historic Spanish Point campus, sea grape is found on the path to the Packing House and at both campuses it is found at various locations along the shoreline. Sea Grape is becoming a more popular landscape plant as it is attractive, drought-tolerant, and can be shaped into a hedge or a specimen tree. In the early months of the year, many of the leaves turn red, providing our region with some "fall" color.

ABOUT

- One of the most important trees of Florida's barrier islands.
- The trees help keep shorelines dark for nesting sea turtles.
- The fruit can be fermented into a tasty wine.

Sea Grape photos by Bruce Holst

EXHIBITION—DOWNTOWN SARASOTA CAMPUS

SHARED LIGHT
LYNN GOLDSMITH
JUNE 20 - SEPTEMBER 13, 2026

THIS SUMMER, SELBY GARDENS IS EXCITED TO PRESENT AN INDOOR AND OUTDOOR EXHIBITION FEATURING THE WORK OF LEGENDARY AMERICAN PHOTOGRAPHER, LYNN GOLDSMITH, WHO IS RENOWNED FOR BOTH HER CELEBRITY PORTRAITS AND FINE ART IMAGES.

Goldsmith's exhibition at the Downtown Sarasota campus will combine stunning images of flowers with intimate portraits of Selby Gardens' artist in residence – Patti Smith.

Over the past 50 years, Goldsmith's photography has appeared on or between the covers of magazines including *Life*, *Newsweek*, *Time*, *Vanity Fair*, *Rolling Stone*, *Sports Illustrated*, and many others. Her work is held in numerous private art collections and museums, including the Smithsonian National Portrait Gallery, the Museum of Modern Art, and the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame. Seventeen books have been produced of Goldsmith's images, including *Flower* by Rizzoli in 2000 and *Patti Smith: Before Easter After*, published as a Deluxe Limited Edition by Taschen in 2019 and as a trade edition by Rizzoli in 2024.

"Lynn was always game, with camera in hand. As her subject, I gave myself openly or was silently given permission to withdraw into another dimension. And wherever I chose to be, however present or distant, she got it. Moments, floating in water and emerging as photographs, never forgotten."

– PATTI SMITH
Selby Gardens' Artist in Residence

Presenting Sponsor of the Patti Smith Residency
Marianne and William McComb

SHARED LIGHT
LYNN GOLDSMITH
June 20-September 13, 2026
Downtown Sarasota campus
Learn more at selby.org

MASTER PLAN

PHASE ONE OF MASTER PLAN RECEIVES DISTINGUISHED CERTIFICATION FROM *LIVING FUTURE*

Marie Selby Botanical Gardens is pleased to announce that Phase One of its transformational three-phase Master Plan has achieved **Living Building Challenge**® Petal certification from Living Future, a leading environmental non-profit organization operating the world's most rigorous green building standards, focused on creating a "living future" through regenerative design and ecological restoration.

Projects pursuing certification must meet one of the most rigorous performance standards in the built environment and demonstrate excellence across multi-performance areas, known as "Petals". Rather than relying on design intent alone, certification is awarded only after a full year of verified operational performance. This outcome-based approach sets the **Living Building Challenge**® apart as a global benchmark for regenerative design, pushing project teams to create spaces that are not just sustainable, but truly restorative for both people and the environment. Examples of Phase One Petals include:

Energy Petal: Phase One is powered by solar energy, providing a resilient, year-round source of renewable power with no pollution. Selby Gardens is the world's first net-positive energy botanical garden complex, producing more energy than it uses.

Health + Happiness Petal: Phase One buildings are restorative spaces that actively improve occupant well-being. Abundant natural daylight and biophilic design, ensures indoor environments are free of toxins and connected to nature and creates "living" structures that nourish both physical and psychological health.

Beauty Petal: Phase One draws on biomimicry, echoing patterns found in nature to shape an inspired design that respects its setting and intent. Natural materials, balanced forms, and seamless integration with the surrounding landscape come together to create spaces that are visually compelling and grounded in the richness of the coastal botanical environment.

The January 2024 completion of Phase One added 188,033 sq. ft of new amenities to Selby Gardens' Downtown Sarasota campus and features:

- The cutting-edge **Morganroth Family Living Energy Access Facility (LEAF)**, which houses parking, a garden-to-plate restaurant—The Green Orchid by Michael's On East, a new gift shop, vertical gardens, and a nearly 50,000 square-foot solar array that makes Selby Gardens a net-positive energy botanical garden complex;
- The state-of-the-art **Steinwachs Family Plant Research Center**, which secures irreplaceable scientific resources in a hurricane-resilient structure and provides a window into once behind-the-scenes world-class research;
- The facility contains the **Elaine Nicpon Marieb Herbarium and Laboratory** (housing preserved collections of more than 125,000 dried and pressed plant specimens and molecular scientific work), as well as a research library (with priceless volumes dating to the 1500s), spirit laboratory (with more than 40,000 specimens preserved in fluid—the second largest collection of its kind in the world), conference rooms, administrative offices, as well as a rooftop garden and solar array;
- The open-air **Jean Goldstein Welcome Center** consisting of a ticketing pavilion, welcome gallery, and welcome theater to properly accommodate and orient guests;
- a major **stormwater management system** to divert and clean millions of gallons of water each year before it is returned to Sarasota Bay;
- a publicly accessible **multiuse recreational trail** enabling multimodal transportation to the campus and the bayfront;
- **off-site roadway improvements**, which also make access easier and safer;
- and a number of **new garden and water features** with more open space, including a Lily Pond Garden, Glades Garden, and the restoration of historic Palm Avenue as a pedestrian-only promenade.

PHASE TWO OF SELBY GARDENS' MASTER PLAN

Phase Two consists of a new Conservatory Complex, a Learning Pavilion, and key landscape features. The new Conservatory Complex will be the crown jewel of the Downtown Sarasota campus – a state-of-the-art structure filled with more than 20,000 plants from Selby Gardens' living research collections (including the best scientifically documented collections of orchids and bromeliads in the world). 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 invaluable collections. This commitment positions Selby Gardens as a model for cultural and botanical institutions, embracing a forward-thinking approach to resilience and resource efficiency. Phase Two will open in 2028.

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

EXHIBITION—HISTORIC SPANISH POINT CAMPUS

ROBERT LOUIS STEVENSON
A CHILD'S GARDEN OF VERSES

ON VIEW THROUGH AUGUST 30.

This exhibition at Selby Gardens' Historic Spanish Point campus celebrates childhood and the imagination of youth through the words and images of *A Child's Garden of Verses*, the beloved book of poetry for children by the celebrated Scottish writer, Robert Louis Stevenson. Audio recordings enable visitors to hear the poems read by Selby Gardens' Artist in Residence, Patti Smith.

ROBERT LOUIS STEVENSON:
A CHILD'S GARDEN OF VERSES
On view through August 30, 2026
Historic Spanish Point campus
Learn more about this exhibition at selby.org
Audio narration by Selby Gardens'
Artist in Residence Patti Smith

Presenting Sponsor of the
Patti Smith Residency
Marianne and William McComb

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

Illustrations by Alexander Dobkin from an edition of Robert Louis Stevenson's *A Child's Garden of Verses*, published by The World Publishing Company in 1946.

COLLECTION

DYNAMIC DUO

TWO NEW ADDITIONS TO THE NATHALIE McCULLOCH RESEARCH LIBRARY AT SELBY GARDENS EXTEND THE HISTORY OF OUR BIBLIOGRAPHIC COLLECTION BACK TO THE MIDDLE OF THE SIXTEENTH CENTURY.

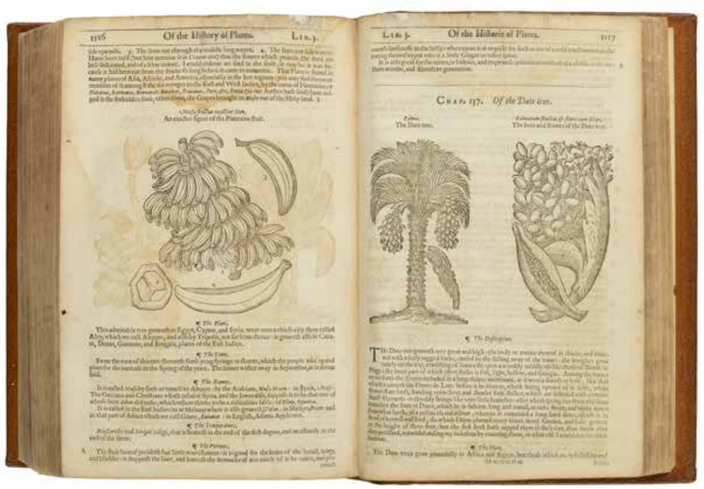
These two historical publications were recently donated to Selby Gardens by Dr. Richard Mones, and his wife, Pamela. Both volumes are examples of a type of botanical book known as an herbal, which served as a record of information on the medicinal properties of plants, as understood at the time.

Kreüter Buch, 1546

The older of the two books is the *Kreüter Buch* (Herb Book) of the German priest and physician Hieronymus Bock. He was one of the earliest botanical figures to write detailed descriptions of plants based on direct observation from nature. He was also one of the first to recognize the need for a system of plant classification, and he organized the plants he recorded based on their structural similarities. When it was first published in 1539, Bock's book did not include illustrations, most likely on account of excessive cost. Selby Gardens' copy is the 1546 edition, which includes some 500 woodcuts by artist David Kandel, who was a pioneer of botanical illustration.

Herball, 1633

The second book is the 1633 edition of the popular *Herball* of English gardener and herbalist John Gerard, first published in 1597. The 1633 edition in Selby Gardens' collection was edited by the English apothecary, Thomas Johnson. In addition to correcting many errors in the original text, Johnson added descriptions of some 800 new plants, including many species recently introduced to England from the Americas. The 1633 edition also includes a famous title page, engraved by artist John Payne, featuring a bust of Gerard and standing depictions of two of the founding fathers of botany, the ancient Greek philosopher Theophrastus and physician Dioscorides.



SCHOLARSHIP

CULTIVATING THE FUTURE OF LEADERSHIP

VIRGINIA B. TOULMIN LEADERSHIP SCHOLARSHIP

Virginia B. Toulmin

Selby Gardens is honored to announce the continuation of the Virginia B. Toulmin Leadership Scholarship for the 2026-2027 academic year.

The Virginia B. Toulmin Foundation envisions a world in which all individuals have an opportunity to reach their full potential and achieve success. It carries forward the legacy of its namesake, the late Sarasota-area philanthropist whose generosity made a lasting impact on countless organizations and charitable initiatives.

The scholarship creates a pathway to effective leadership in both the business and nonprofit sectors by offering mentorship, opportunities to observe leadership in action, and financial support. It is awarded to high-achieving juniors or seniors in the greater Sarasota region who are pursuing bachelor's degrees and maintain a minimum GPA of 3.5.

Additionally, the scholarship will be awarded in honor of and in partnership with a distinguished leader from the Sarasota community. That recognition 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 has continued in that role for the 2025 and now 2026 cycles.

The recipient of the 2025 Virginia B. Toulmin Leadership Scholarship was Amelia Swiecki of Sarasota, who is currently pursuing a Bachelor of Science in Environmental Studies with minors in biology, film, and Spanish, at Eckerd College in St. Petersburg, Florida.

"Investing time in mentoring emerging leaders is incredibly important," said Jennifer O. Rominiecki, President and CEO of Selby Gardens. "I'm honored to be part of the Virginia B. Toulmin Leadership Scholarship and look forward to helping guide and inspire students as they pursue meaningful paths in both business and the nonprofit world."

The scholarship will be managed by Selby Gardens with an award amount of $15,000. The application, developed by Selby Gardens, includes an opportunity for applicants to share their connection with the mission of the Virginia B. Toulmin Foundation.

"Virginia's legacy continues to guide our giving, grounding it in the causes she, and we, believe in and trust most," said lead Toulmin Trustee William S. Villafranco. "Selby Gardens stands firmly among them." He added, "Virginia impressed upon me four fundamental pillars of trust—competency, consistency, integrity, and compassion—values that matter both individually and collectively. Jennifer exemplifies each of these qualities through her leadership, making her an outstanding role model."

The recipient of the 2026-27 scholarship will have the opportunity to engage in four mentoring sessions with Selby Gardens President & CEO, Jennifer Rominiecki, and other members of the leadership team. They will also be appointed to Selby Gardens' Advisory Committee to observe Rominiecki in action, participate with local community, scientific, and business leaders, and receive a one-year membership to Selby Gardens.

Jennifer O. Rominiecki, President and CEO of Selby Gardens

Amelia Swiecki, 2025 recipient Virginia B. Toulmin Leadership Scholarship

"Virginia's legacy continues to guide our giving, grounding it in the causes she, and we, believe in and trust most."

– WILLIAM S. VILLAFRANCO
Trustee of the Virginia B. Toulmin Foundation

Glossoloma jostii honors Lou Jost, botanist, conservationist, co-founder of Fundación EcoMinga, and recently hired Research Botanist at Selby Gardens. His work has helped establish reserves and bring international attention to the Río Pastaza Valley as a biodiversity hotspot, demonstrating how scientific insight and persistence can translate into lasting protection.

Glossoloma puroanum honors Puro Coffee, founded by Andy Orchard, whose support through the World Land Trust helped establish and sustain Fundación EcoMinga's Cerro Candelaria Reserve. Conservation depends not only on research but also on reliable financial support for land protection, management, and the people safeguarding these forests.

Glossoloma recaldeorum honors the Recalde family of El Placer, long-time park guards and local stewards. Their daily presence, including monitoring trails, observing wildlife, and protecting the reserve, illustrates how conservation ultimately relies on committed local guardianship.

NEW SPECIES DISCOVERED

SELBY GARDENS RESEARCH BOTANIST JOHN L. CLARK, PHD, RECENTLY PUBLISHED THREE NEW SPECIES OF TROPICAL WOODY VINES IN THE GENUS *GLOSSOLOMA* (GESNERIACEAE) FROM ECUADOR'S CERRO CANDELARIA RESERVE IN THE EASTERN ANDES

This discovery highlights the importance of exploratory fieldwork and demonstrates how taxonomy drives conservation in practice—through visionary leadership, local stewardship, and sustained collaboration.

John L. Clark, Ph.D. on Ecuador expedition with guide Darwin Recalde.

During an exploratory research expedition by Clark in the Río Pastaza Valley on the eastern slopes of the Ecuadorian Andes, three new species were discovered along a single trail in one day, standing as living proof that collaborative conservation and local stewardship work.

The three species are named in honor of three stakeholders from diverse backgrounds who collaborated to conserve one of the last remnants of Andean forests in the Río Pastaza Valley. The new species names commemorate their contributions to protecting these rapidly disappearing forests. The new species are *Glossoloma jostii*, *G. puroanum*, and *G. recaldeorum*. Scientific names can honor the people and partnerships that make discovery and conservation possible. Each of the three new species recognizes a different kind of contribution.

John Clark, commented, "This discovery is a testament to what I think of as a conservation trifecta—where leadership, funding, and local stewardship come together to protect biodiversity. The Cerro Candelaria Reserve exists because of that alignment, and these three new *Glossoloma* species are evidence of what such collaboration can safeguard. It's a reminder that conservation works best when it is shared—and sustained—across scientists, communities, donors, and organizations."

The species were recently published in the peer-reviewed journal PhytoKeys. The article documents their discovery and taxonomic treatment in the publication titled "Commemorating a conservation trifecta: Three new species of *Glossoloma* (Gesneriaceae) honoring a donor, a family of forest stewards, and a conservation visionary."

Plant science made possible by
the Steinwachs Family Foundation

SPREADING THE WORD

SELBY GARDENS' BOTANISTS HAVE BEEN TRAVELING THE GLOBE TO SHARE STORIES ABOUT THEIR WORK AND PROMOTE OUR MISSION. FOLLOWING ARE A FEW OF THEIR RECENT TRIPS…

"Aussie Broms," November 4-7, 2025. Brisbane, Australia.

Bruce Holst, Vice President for Botany, presented two lectures on work he has done on bromeliads in Central and South America. The Conference is the second largest in the world after the Bromeliad Society International's biennial conference. While bromeliads are not native to Australia, hobbyists and breeders have worked to create spectacular new hybrids. We thank the Queensland Bromeliad Society and its partners for the opportunity to participate.

World Bromeliad Conference, April 15-18, 2026. Costa Mesa, CA.

Selby Gardens' Senior Research Associate, Dr. David Benzing, presented a talk on bromeliads to provide some insights on how plants evolve. Bruce Holst, Vice President for Botany at Selby Gardens, and Chair of the Luther-Padilla Research and Conservation Fund of the Bromeliad Society International, also attended to help represent Selby Gardens.

Caribbean and Central American Botanical Gardens (CCABG) biennial conference, April 20-26, 2026. Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic.

Dr. Yuley Encarnación, Curator of the Herbarium at Selby Gardens, left, played a key role in organizing the biennial CCABG conference. Yuley, a native Dominican, helped to organize the conference held in April, 2026 with over 242 people from 81 institutions and 32 countries from around the world. The "Botanical Bridges 2026" conference was aimed at increasing collaboration between botanical gardens in the Caribbean and South and Central America. Also pictured, Bruce Holst (center) and Dr. John L. Clark. Selby Gardens was one of seven major sponsors. Thanks to Botanic Gardens Conservation International for funding and coordination, and to our partners at Naples Botanical Garden for their valuable coordination.

EDUCATION

MEANINGFUL **ACTION**

EMPOWERING THE NEXT GENERATION OF ENVIRONMENTAL LEADERS

COMMUNITY FOUNDATION of Sarasota County

EnvironMentors is an innovative new program at Marie Selby Botanical Gardens designed to empower the next generation of environmental leaders to take meaningful action on climate resilience and sustainability. Made possible through a three-year grant from the Community Foundation of Sarasota County, this inaugural initiative brought together a cohort of highly motivated high school juniors from Sarasota and Manatee counties who share a passion for protecting the environment and creating positive change in their communities.

"The EnvironMentors program is a great example of how nonprofits can multiply their impact when they come together and collaborate. By connecting students with partner organizations around topics like biodiversity, pollution, water quality, and human health, EnvironMentors shows that all of us, no matter our age, can make a much more significant impact when we team up with others rather than stay in our silos."

– KIRSTEN RUSSELL
Community Foundation of Sarasota County

Spanning six months, from November through April, the program provided students with a structured yet exploratory learning experience that blended fieldwork, mentorship, and project development. Five students were selected for the first cohort and introduced to two primary focus tracks: Education and Engagement, which emphasizes communication, outreach, and public awareness, and Stewardship and Solutions, which focuses on hands-on environmental action and technical approaches to sustainability challenges. Through guided experiences and exposure to professionals in the field, students were encouraged to identify an environmental issue that resonated with them personally and to design a project aimed at addressing that issue in a practical and impactful way.

Students began with immersive tours of Selby Gardens' Downtown Sarasota campus, exploring the Display Conservatory, Richard and Ellen Sandor Museum of Botany and the Arts, and the Steinwachs Family Plant Research Center. They gained insight into regional environmental challenges and ongoing scientific work in botany and conservation.

The program then shifted to hands-on learning through field experiences and virtual expert sessions. In January, students volunteered at Red Bug Slough Preserve with Sarasota County Parks, Recreation and Natural Resources removing invasive species, learning the importance of land management and ecosystem balance. In February, they partnered with Minorities in Shark Sciences (MISS) to conduct netting in Sarasota Bay, studying marine biodiversity as an indicator of ecosystem health. In March, a visit to Sweet Sparkman Architecture & Interiors, one of the firms involved in Selby Gardens' Master Plan, introduced sustainable design and environmentally conscious building practices. In April, students completed a conservation project at the Historic Spanish Point campus with Oyster Boys Conservation, building oyster gardens to improve water quality and marine habitat. Throughout the program, virtual sessions with environmental professionals complemented these experiences, connecting students to real-world career pathways and interdisciplinary approaches to sustainability.

The program culminated in a Youth Environmental Summit held at Selby Gardens' Event Center on the Downtown Sarasota campus. During this capstone event, each participant presented their proposed project, drawing on the knowledge and experiences they gained throughout the program. Their presentations reflected a range of interests, from community education initiatives to hands-on conservation strategies, demonstrating both creativity and a strong commitment to environmental stewardship.

EnvironMentors participant Jun Petrov said "The program introduced me to real-world organizations and opportunities. It broadened my view of the various ways environmental action is represented in the real world and is a great start to my career."

Looking ahead, the impact of EnvironMentors extends beyond its initial cohort. Program graduates will return in the following year as to advance their proposed project along with becoming peer mentors as they help to guide and inspire the next group of students. By fostering leadership, collaboration, and real-world problem-solving skills, EnvironMentors is building a growing network of young advocates equipped to address environmental challenges and contribute to a more sustainable and resilient future for their communities.

THE GREEN ORCHID RESTAURANT — DOWNTOWN SARASOTA CAMPUS

THE HIVE IS ALIVE

The Green ORCHID
BY MICHAEL'S ON EAST

Judah DeForrest of Operation Eco-vets by newly installed beehive

SAY HELLO TO "OPERATION BEEHIVE," THE LATEST ADDITION TO THE SUSTAINABLE DRS. ANDREW AND JUDITH ECONOMOS ROOFTOP EDIBLE GARDEN, LOCATED ON TOP OF SELBY GARDENS' SOLAR-POWERED GARDEN-TO-PLATE RESTAURANT, THE GREEN ORCHID BY MICHAEL'S ON EAST.

Installed in May, this vertically modular Langstroth beehive aligns with Selby Gardens' emphasis on growing, harvesting, and consuming food as close to possible to where it is consumed. Through a meaningful partnership with Operation Eco-Vets, Selby Gardens not only supports sustainable growing practices that support local food production, but also provides therapeutic experiences for veterans.

The benefits of the beehive are two-fold: bees are superior pollinators that enhance garden health by transferring pollen while creating a balanced ecosystem. Not only will it assist with more complete and optimal pollination of flowers, fruits and vegetables grown in the garden, increasing the yield, but also it will produce anywhere from thirty to sixty pounds of pure honey on an annual basis once the colony is fully established.

Judah DeForrest, Rooftop Garden Manager of Operation Eco-Vets installed the beehive and expects to see the hive bearing honey next April, as it takes a full year to establish the colony before it becomes self-sustaining. The honey harvested from the beehive will be a delicious addition to the offerings at The Green Orchid by Michael's On East.

"I am excited to bring an additional food source to the kitchen and establish the hive so it becomes self-sustainable."

– JUDAH DeFORREST
Operation Eco-Vets

Judah says the beehive is in an ideal area, located approximately 130 yards from Sarasota Bay and 40 yards from the Marcy and Michael Klein Foundation & Stone Foundation Lily Pond Garden where our Koi are temporarily residing, allowing for the proximity and abundance of water to establish and sustain the bee colony. Bringing the beehive to the garden rather than relying on wild pollinators is helpful as the bees might not otherwise travel to such a high area atop the roof in downtown Sarasota.

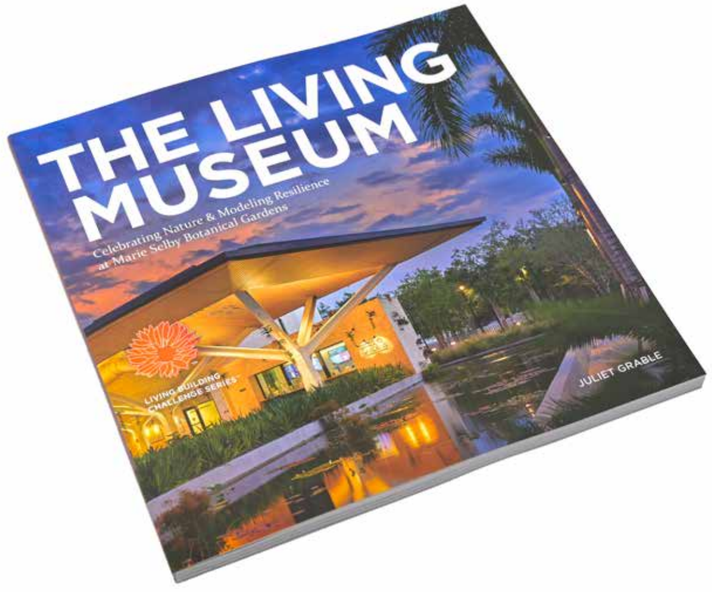
Beehives are crucial for food production and Judah said that at Selby, tomatoes will likely benefit the most from enhanced pollination. It is also wonderful for other fruits such as papayas, and herbs – like basil, chive, parsley, dill, and cilantro, along with all the flowers – nasturtiums, spider wort, cosmos, and impatiens found in the garden. Bees are essential in maintaining the balance of our ecosystem as they bring a greater biodiversity, attracting beneficial insects that can keep the pest population down and prevent aphids from ruining the crops. Protecting the overall health of the bee population is also important, as they are suffering from an increase in harmful pesticides and other environmental issues. Thus, keeping the hive alive is a win-win for all.

ONWARD & UPWARD

LIVING FUTURE

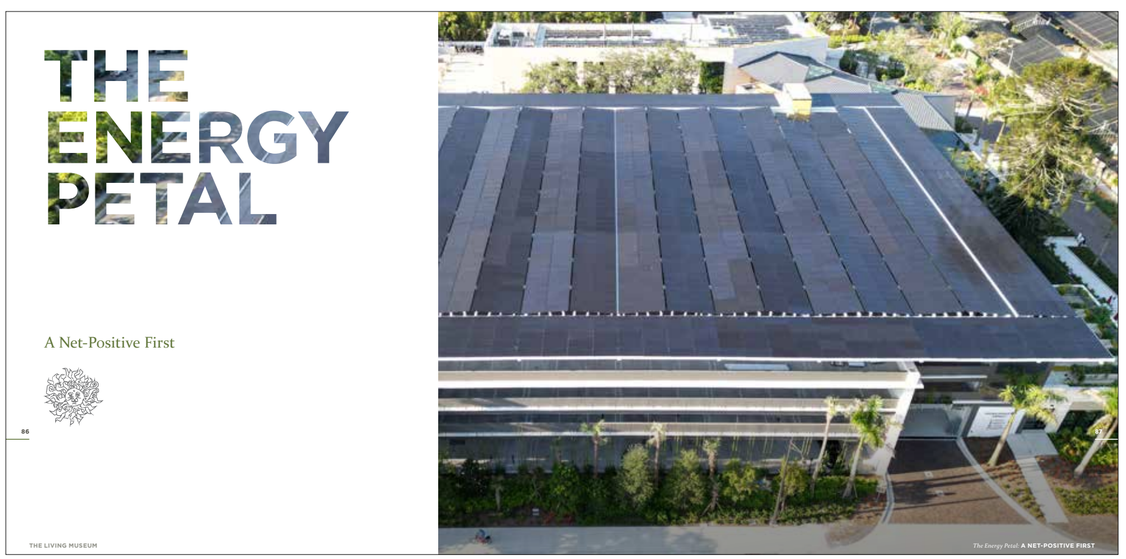
"When our project team was in the early stages of developing the Master Plan, I had one simple directive: make the plan as "green" and sustainable as possible. Through our partnership with Living Future, our team was able to guide the design plan with metrics capable of translating our values into measurable performance with the Living Building Challenge®. We are thrilled to have achieved this significant milestone, making Selby Gardens a model of regenerative design and operations for botanical gardens worldwide."

– JENNIFER ROMINIECKI
Selby Gardens' President & CEO



PHASE ONE SUBJECT OF NEWLY PUBLISHED CASE STUDY BOOK

A newly published case study book by Ecotone, the publishing arm of Living Future, ***The Living Museum: Celebrating Nature & Modeling Resilience at Marie Selby Botanical Gardens***, tells the story of Selby Gardens as both a place and an idea: a living institution where science, art, community, and regenerative design converge on an ecologically fragile strip of bayfront land in Sarasota, Florida. The book chronicles how a beloved cultural and scientific institution, founded on a simple act of generosity, has transformed into a global model for resilience, sustainability, and biophilic design. The narrative unfolds across time scales. It moves between deep history and contemporary urgency, weaving together the ecological, cultural, architectural, and human forces that shaped Selby Gardens—and that now shape its future. The book can be purchased at Selby Gardens' Downtown Sarasota campus 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.

Amicus Foundation Inc.
Charles & Margery Barancik Foundation
Better-Gro
Community Foundation of Sarasota County
The Andrew and Judith Economos Foundation
Florida Arts & Culture
The Gardener Foundation
Gulf Coast Community Foundation — A. Hamilton and Edith T. Gardner Fund
The Hearst Foundations
Floyd C. Johnson and Flo Singer Johnson Foundation
Marcia S. and Michael H. Klein Foundation
Koski Family Foundation
Kretzmer Family Charitable Foundation
McComb Family Foundation
Mitchell Family Foundation
Elaine Nicpon Marieb Charitable Foundation
Sarasota County Tourist Development Tax — Paid for in part by Sarasota County
Sea Grape Foundation
William G. & Marie Selby Foundation — Est. 1955
Steinwachs Family Foundation
The Stone Foundation
Roberta Leventhal Sudakoff Foundation
Virginia B. Toulmin Foundation
BMO
Frank E. Duckwall Foundation
Institute of Museum and Library Services
Michael's On East
PNC Private Bank
Williams Parker — Attorneys at Law — Established 1925
American Public Gardens Association
James and Maryann Armour Foundation
Bank of America
DWB
Flowers by Fudgie
Amy P. Goldman Foundation
Live for a Living Foundation
National Fish and Wildlife Foundation — NFWF
Eluned & Edward Russell Charitable Foundation
Triad Foundation
United States Botanic Garden
Willis Smith Construction
SourceBank
JL Bainbridge — Family Wealth Advisors — It's your future
BC Construction, Inc.
Burns Gallery on Central — Art | Jewels | Interiors | Lifestyle
The Chrisman Family Foundation
Cowles Charitable Trust
The Linnie E. Dalbeck Foundation
Founders Garden Club of Sarasota
Longboat Key Garden Club
Platkin Family Foundation
Publix Super Markets Charities
Sarasota Memorial Healthcare System
Sarasota Memorial Healthcare Foundation
Shumaker
Harry Sudakoff Foundation
Sweet Sparkman Architects
The Crew
Thrive
Van Sloun Foundation

MEDIA & IN-KIND PARTNERS

BBJ Linen
Friendship Centers — People Helping People
Gold Coast Eagle
Stella Artois
Observer — You. Your Neighbors. Your Neighborhood.
Palm Printing
Sarasota Magazine
Sarasota Scene
So Staged — Event Design + Rentals
Suncoast Environmental Group, Inc.
Total Wine & More
Troy's Tropics
Classical WSMR 89.1
WUSF 89.7 npr

IN THIS ISSUE

2 **MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT & CEO**
Energy, creativity, and meaningful progress

3 **WHAT'S IN BLOOM**
Blooming this summer

4 **SUMMER EXHIBITION**
Shared Light: Lynn Goldsmith

6 **MASTER PLAN**
Phase One receives Petal Certification

7 **ROBERT LOUIS STEVENSON**
A Child's Garden of Verses final months

8 **COLLECTION**
Two new rare books are added

9 **SCHOLARSHIP**
The Virginia B. Toulmin Leadership Scholarship continues

10 **BOTANY BRIEF**
Three new species discovered

12 **AROUND THE WORLD**
Selby Gardens spreading our mission

12 **EDUCATION**
Environmentors program for next generation of environmental leaders

13 **THE GREEN ORCHID**
Beehive installed in rooftop garden

14 **ONWARD & UPWARD**
Selby Gardens subject of new book

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

Fourth of July All-American Cookout
Saturday, July 4 • 5:30–9:30 p.m.

Savor All-American favorites from the Michael's on East Grill, enjoy a variety of family-friendly activities, and watch the fireworks show over Sarasota Bay. All-inclusive option is available.

Information and tickets online at *selby.org*.

Bubbles Under the Banyans
Saturdays, July 11, July 18, July 25, and August 1
10 a.m.–12 p.m.

Bubble artist Blaise Ryndes will blow guests away with his immersive Spheres Bubble Show under the banyans.

Free for members and included with admission. Learn more at *selby.org*.

HISTORIC SPANISH POINT CAMPUS — FEATURED EVENTS

Robert Louis Stevenson: *A Child's Garden of Verses*
Through August 30

Celebrate childhood and the imagination of youth through the words and images of *A Child's Garden of Verses*, the beloved book of poetry for children by the celebrated Scottish writer, Robert Louis Stevenson.

Lights at Spooky Point
October 1 – October 31

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

Tickets go on sale in late August at *selby.org*.

46th Annual Juried Photo Exhibition
August 27 – September 30

Enter your best shots from our bayfront sanctuaries in our popular virtual photography show.

Information and registration dates online at *selby.org*.

2025 Best in Show, "Peter Pan Into the Light" by Debbie Durham

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

AMICUS FOUNDATION INC. · CHARLES & MARGERY BARANCIK FOUNDATION · COMMUNITY FOUNDATION of Sarasota County · GULF COAST COMMUNITY FOUNDATION A. Hamilton and Edith T. Gardner Fund · Virginia B. Toulmin FOUNDATION · Sarasota County Tourist Development Tax Paid for in part by Sarasota County

LEAD SEASON SPONSORS

Ali and Gloria Bahaj • Betsy and Ed Cohen / Areté Foundation • The Gilkey Family and Michael A. Gilkey, Inc. • Jean Weidner Goldstein • Marcy and Michael Klein
Katherine and Frank Martucci • Cornelia and J. Richard Matson • Drs. Joel Morganroth and Gail Morrison Morganroth • Audrey Robbins and Harry Leopold
Steinwachs Family Foundation • Hobart and Janis Swan • Marcia Jean Taub & Peter Swain in loving memory of Ethel & Ron Taub • Pauline L. Wamsler and David J. Sales