



INSIDE:

**Conservation Efforts Converge
in the Florida Everglades**

Orchid Obsession of the Naming Variety

Ensuring the Rainforests' Survival

Festival to Celebrate the Art of Plants

A MESSAGE FROM THE CEO

People and their relationships with Selby Gardens are the heartbeat of this organization. We are always delighted to make new friends and reinforce our relationship with the people and groups who support the Gardens and the work we do. I find it remarkable how many ways people demonstrate their dedication and loyalty to Selby Gardens.



The life cycles of humans and plants are interdependent. We see this manifested over and over in the Gardens. It's a place where people come together to celebrate. It is tremendously gratifying to see generations of families who value their connections to our Gardens and visit often, no matter what the occasion.

In the future, Selby Gardens will increase its relevance as a botanical garden, finding more and better ways to serve individuals and families. So I am pleased to introduce you to an exciting new initiative: the Children's Rainforest Garden. Ushering in a new era for Selby Gardens, the Children's Rainforest Garden will be constructed this year and will be the first significant improvement of the Gardens in more than five years. It will also be the first step toward a master plan and eventually other enhancements to your Gardens.

The Children's Rainforest Garden has allowed us to communicate with many people. We have also been offering tours to community leaders and various elected officials. Universally, they have expressed keen interest in the project and their enthusiasm is contagious. More and more often we hear, "I didn't realize how much there is here" – OR – "I never knew how much you have going on." Many say "I need to spend more time here."

I get tremendous satisfaction coming to work each day. But what I find especially satisfying is being in the Gardens, talking and visiting with guests, volunteers and staff. These encounters are daily reminders to never take this treasured place for granted and to make time each day to notice the beauty of our surrounding environment.

I continue to be humbled by how much these Gardens mean to so many. If you ever wish to share your Selby Gardens experience with me, or express how we can make our visitor experience even better, my door is always open.

Cordially,

Thomas Buchter, CEO
Marie Selby Botanical Gardens

Hours & Admissions

Garden Hours The Gardens are open 10:00 AM – 5:00 PM every day except Christmas Day. Please check the website for special event and weather closings.

Admission Members Free, Adults \$17, Children 6-11 \$6, 5 & under free

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MARIE SELBY BOTANICAL GARDENS

TROPICAL DISPATCH • VOLUME 40 • ISSUE 1

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MISSION

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

VISION

To touch as many people as possible through our urban waterfront garden that is the world leader in conservation and display of epiphytes. Visitors and volunteers alike experience the Gardens beauty, gaining a better understanding and greater appreciation of the natural world.

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



ADDRESS CHANGES

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Cover: Striking image of a holly vine fern photographed by Carlton Ward, Jr. Taken during the Everglades expedition with Selby Gardens team members, this tiny specimen is only about 2 centimeters long! Botanists were heartened to see the rare plants propagated at Selby Gardens were taking to life in their new environment.



Changes to Member Benefits

The Selby Gardens Membership Program has been updated with some minor changes effective January 1. The changes are designed to aid Selby Gardens with ongoing maintenance and improvements without having to increase the cost of membership or gate admissions. By realigning some of the benefits, the Gardens will be in a stronger financial position.

In order to hold membership costs at 2007 levels, the guest pass program has been phased out. All outstanding guest passes will be honored until the expiration date stamped on the pass. Guests who are accompanied by current members will be admitted for a nominal \$5 per person for all daytime hours and events. Other member benefits will continue unchanged - free daytime admission for members year-round; reciprocal admission to over 300 other gardens and arboreta; 10% discount in The Garden Shop; discounted tickets to special events and classes; a free subscription to Tropical Dispatch; and free distribution plants on Member Appreciation Day.

In addition, the new Gardens Partners program has added exceptional value for Gardens members. By showing proof of membership, Selby Gardens members can enjoy discounts at area restaurants, and on products and services from select businesses.

Membership in the Gardens continues to be one of the best deals in town! Thank you for your support.



The Garden Shop

Who says outdoor entertaining can't be chic? Mariposa serveware is always stylish, fun and beautiful. Did we mention it's also durable, low maintenance AND eco-friendly? Find the latest styles, colors and patterns in The Garden Shop – open daily from 10:00am – 5:00pm. Members always receive a 10% discount and admission is not required to shop.



The Lara family L to R: Maida, Sam, Angel and Jack

Making Horticulture a Family Affair

Loving and lively, the Lara family has planted its roots at Selby Gardens. Angel began as the Gardens' orchid collection horticulturist in 2005 and is now the Greenhouse Manager. His wife Maida, started working with the Gardens two years later, only taking two short hiatuses when the couple welcomed their sons, Jack, 4 and Sam, 2. Upon her return she began as an Assistant Horticulturist, caring for the Gardens' living collections on weekends. Angel's position requires constant tending of the many endangered and botanically important plants within the greenhouses and Tropical Conservatory.

Family is important to the Lara clan and both Angel and Maida's careers were influenced by their families. Angel, born and raised in Havana, was inspired by his green-thumbed mother. Maida grew up surrounded by plants. Her grandfather started the family's greenhouse business in Tennessee in the early 1940's.

After earning his associate degree in Agriculture, Angel dove right into the life of a horticulturist. Maida, destined to work with plants, earned a Bachelor of Science degree with a concentration in botany. After graduation, both found their way to The New York Botanical Garden where they met on Angel's first day.

Since joining the Selby Gardens family, Angel developed an Integrated Pest Management program for Selby Gardens that has significantly reduced the use of high risk chemicals in the greenhouses and eliminated using these chemicals in the Tropical Conservatory. He has also developed and installed new designs in the conservatory that inspired significant donations to help further Selby Gardens' mission. For readers who'd like their plant collection to rival Selby's, Maida shared her secret weapon: "Talk to your plants! Have conversations with them. Observe them, respond appropriately. Be willing to tolerate a few pests and the occasional 'funky foliage'."

While the pair of plant lovers are happy living in the moment, Angel confessed he looks forward to watching their boys grow and says, "They keep me laughing and make my home life 'interesting' to say the least."

Donations Making a Difference

Selby's *Ficus altissima* finally received a much-needed trimming. This large, beautiful tree was providing a bit too much shade for the succulent garden (just south of the banyan grove). Succulents not only enjoy full sunshine, their survival depends on it! Upon learning of the garden's plight, former board chair Barbara Hansen, contacted the Golitz family from Barrington, IL, who generously came to the rescue by hiring a specialized arborist to prune the giant tree.

Because Ficus are known for durability and resilience, this giant tree will undoubtedly bounce back quickly. The Golitz family's generosity is an example of how a dedicated gift enables Selby Gardens to remain healthy and beautiful. For more information about donating please visit www.selby.org.



Calling all photographers!

Entries for Selby Gardens' 33rd Annual Juried Photographic Exhibition: Natural Florida can be delivered on Monday, April 15 to the Museum of Botany and the Arts from 1:00 to 6:00 pm (mailed entries must arrive by April 8). Rules, conditions, and entry forms are available in the Welcome Center or online at www.selby.org.

The exhibit will open on April 25 with a reception from 5:30 pm – 7:30 pm and will run April 26-June 2. The work of the area's most talented photographers will be on display and cash prizes will be awarded to Best of Show as well as First, Second and Third Place in five categories.

An Evening of Elegance: Wine Dine & Pine 2013



Elegance and gaiety were in attendance at the 3rd annual Wine Dine & Pine on November 29 hosted by The Marie Selby Gardens Associates. The event is the Associates' largest fundraiser and contributes significantly to the Gardens' mission and programming. The Great Room by the Bay was filled with several hundred exuberant guests enjoying assorted wines, cheeses, and hors d'oeuvres provided by The Fresh Market. Thanks to the planning committee, sponsors and those who donated trees and items for the silent auction for making the evening an enjoyable success for the Gardens.

New Board Adopts New Mission Statement

Selby Gardens welcomed new officers and newly-elected members to its board of trustees: Christopher N. Romine, chair; Cathy Layton, first vice chair; Emily Walsh, 2nd vice chair; Sandy Rederer, secretary; Stephen Van C. Wilberding, treasurer. Dr. Laurey Stryker, immediate past chair, Dr. Kelvin Cooper and Wayne Rollins have joined the board as new trustees.

In addition to adopting new officers and members, the Marie Selby Botanical Gardens Board of Trustees updated the Gardens mission and vision statements.

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

Vision: To touch as many people as possible through our urban waterfront garden that is the world leader in conservation and display of epiphytes. Visitors and volunteers alike experience the Gardens beauty, gaining a better understanding and greater appreciation of the natural world.

Family Festivities in a Tropical Holiday Wonderland

A tropical holiday tradition, Selby Gardens was transformed into a world of fantasy for the 2012 Lights in Bloom. Bob "Mr. Illuminator" McComb masterfully created a winter wonderland with a botanical twist. Visitors were amazed by the use of rainforest-themed lighting displays and fantastically configured illumination "decking the halls" of the Gardens' landscape. With Santa Claus,

garden-themed crafts, "Merry Meals", menorah lightings, live entertainment, and the American Society of Interior Designers' showhouse in the Payne Mansion, this family event offered winter celebrations for everyone!

Lights in Bloom was made possible by the The Jewish Federation of Sarasota-Manatee, The Mosaic Company and support from the Sarasota County Tourism Development Tax.



A Behind-the-Scenes Look at the Orchid Research Center

Editor's Note: Tropical Dispatch visited with Toscano de Brito, Selby Gardens Curator of Orchid Research, for the behind-the-scenes insight into Selby's revitalized Orchid Research Center and the important international work being conducted there. Photos are courtesy of Bruce K. Holst

Please tell us a little about the Orchid Research Center at Selby Gardens. When and why was it created?

The Orchid Research Center (ORC) was established in 1975 as the "Orchid Identification Center" to conduct scientific studies of living and preserved, wild or cultivated species of orchids. The ORC collections contain more than 20,000 taxonomic references, a vast library of books on orchid science and horticulture as well as photographic slides and digital images. The ORC also holds the world's second-largest collection of liquid-preserved specimens – more than 28,000! – and 30,000 pressed and dried orchid specimens. This wealth of materials provides the basis for a variety of research studies.

What are some of the current projects you're working on?

We are currently investigating two groups of epiphytic orchids. One, the Brazilian Pleurothallidiinae, also known as the Pleurothallid orchids, has about 600 species mostly endemic to the endangered Atlantic Coastal forests of southeast Brazil. The other, Ornithocephalus group of subtribe Oncidiinae, also known as the bird's head orchids, has about 100 species of small epiphytes distributed in the Tropical Americas and several genera also restricted to the endangered Brazilian Atlantic forests.

Why is this research important?

We cannot conserve what we do not know. Our work contributes to better conservation of biological diversity. Using taxonomy (the science of naming, describing, and classifying organisms) and molecular analysis to determine a species' evolution, we can provide basic knowledge that can be used in conservation efforts worldwide.

Field work is crucial to our success. About 20-30% of our research has to be done in the field. The rest of the time is spent with visits to private and public orchid collections, searching for literature, working in the lab, and researching in the herbaria where many different specimens are stored.

The knowledge we gain is archived either manually or electronically and shared through scientific and popular publications, and lectures.



What successes have you experienced in Selby's Orchid Research Center?

We have successfully concluded the first part of our molecular project on the Pleurothallid orchids. Together with our Brazilian colleagues at Universidade Federal do Paraná, we have extracted DNA from about 500



samples of about 200 hundred species distributed in 30 genera. Their DNA has been sequenced and we are currently working on interpreting the results. We are also doing well with the taxonomic portion of the project. A large number of species have already been illustrated and we are currently filling gaps.

What does the future hold for the Orchid Research Center at Selby Gardens?

Starting this year, we will collaborate with Dr. Carl Luer on a book about the Brazilian Pleurothallid orchids, intended not only for biologists, but also the general public. We are expecting the book to be published in mid-2015.

For molecular research, we will continue to host interns from Latin America and work with volunteers to keep reference files up-to-date and enhance our orchid library and collections. We also plan to strengthen our collaboration with colleagues and partners overseas, especially the Universidade Federal do Paraná, in south Brazil, not only in the study of the orchids from the Atlantic forests, but also in the exchange of collections and scientific information.



Good News for Plant Conservation in the Everglades

With its limestone-studded landscapes, tall sawgrass marshes and dense hardwood hammocks, the Everglades is home to some of the rarest plants in Florida. To Bruce Holst, Selby Gardens Director of Botany, the Everglades is familiar territory. More than a year ago, Bruce and his colleagues, along with several hard-working volunteers, reintroduced a rare orchid and two species of nearly extinct ferns to the park. This past October, Bruce returned to the Everglades to check on the status of the plants (see additional background information on the project in the May-August 2012 Tropical Dispatch).

From Poached to Protected

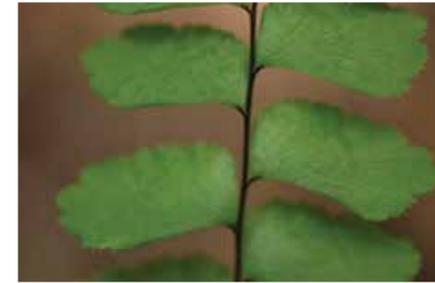
Bearing a delicate yellow flower with bright splashes of red and purple, the mule ear orchid (*Trichocentrum undulatum*) is found in the deepest heart of the Everglades. Perhaps its vibrancy is the reason poachers decimated its population down to just 500 plants in the United States. Back in 2005, Selby Gardens, in partnership with the Institute of Regional Conservation in Miami and Everglades National Park, set out to augment those populations by reintroducing the species back into its natural range. In a collective effort, Selby Gardens' botanists, horticulturists, and assiduous volunteers, propagated mule ear orchids for outplanting in the Everglades. In July 2011, the team strategically placed approximately 200 orchids in hidden areas of the park, off the beaten path, where poachers are unlikely to wander. They also placed a few in visible areas for visitors to enjoy.



To his pleasant surprise, the October field trip produced guarded optimism for the orchids' future. "We are pleased to see that the mule ear orchids are forming new roots, and there appears to be new growth," said Holst.

Struggling to Adapt

Unfortunately, the trip was not as encouraging for the rare fragrant maidenhair fern (*Adiantum melano-leucum*). Only two of 20 plants reintroduced to the Everglades a year ago are still surviving, and just barely. The fragrant maidenhair is on Florida's endangered species list, with only two plants known to exist in the Everglades prior to Selby's efforts at reintroduction. Selby's botany team and colleagues collected spores of this fern from Miami-Dade County in order to propagate the slow-growing plant. "The fragrant maidenhair has spent its early life in a pot with a very watchful eye over it," explains Bruce. "Some plants take longer than others to adapt to their environment."



Fern Flourishes

The second variety of threatened fern the team is determined to restore is the holly vine fern (*Lomariopsis kunzeana*). Extremely rare, this fern grows only on the sides of deep solution holes. Prior to its reintroduction, only eight plants were known to exist in the park. Selby's botany team and colleagues outplanted the holly vine fern in July 2012, and after only three months in the Everglades, five out of the six reintroduced plants are doing well. The sixth plant simply disappeared, perhaps washed away in a heavy storm or snatched up by a deer.



The team will continue to monitor the plants twice a year with the help of volunteers until they are satisfied the babies have sufficiently adapted to their new home. During this transition while the plants are most vulnerable, Holst keeps in regular contact with park officials providing advice on special care.

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Conservation Efforts Unite

Selby Gardens was pleased to host the premier photography exhibit, *Exploring the Florida Wildlife Corridor*, this fall. Photojournalist Carlton Ward, Jr. and a team of scientists embarked on a 100-day, 1000-mile journey from the Everglades to Okefenokee National Wildlife Refuge to raise awareness for the conservation of a protected wildlife corridor through the state. The exhibit's wildlife conservation mission complemented Selby Gardens' work on rare plants. With a shared passion for connecting people with the natural world, both teams were interested in what each group could learn from the other. So with camera in hand, Ward traveled with Holst and Selby Gardens Education Director Jeannie Perales on the field trip to monitor the orchid and ferns. WUSF's Steve Newborn accompanied them.

"The work that Selby Gardens is doing in the Everglades is not only important for the ecosystems of this area," said Perales. "Many people don't realize that ecosystems are all connected in some way. Destruction or extinction of species in the Everglades ultimately has an impact on wildlife in other parts of the state, the country - even the world."

Photo Credits

Lead photo, p. 6: Everglades scene, Bruce K. Holst

Lead photo inset, p. 6: Cultivated mule ear orchid, Carlton Ward, Jr.

Mule ear orchid close up, p. 6: Bruce K. Holst

All images on p. 7 from top to bottom: Fragrant maidenhair fern, holly vine fern, expedition team, Carlton Ward, Jr.



“Mr. Bromeliad” Harry E. Luther (1952-2012)

Harry Luther, Selby Gardens former Director of the Bromeliad Identification Center and Curator of Living Collections, passed away October 17th in Singapore where he was working with Dr. Kiat Tan at the Gardens by the Bay. We mourn the loss of his encyclopedic knowledge and world-renowned expertise on bromeliads. His vast contributions to the collections at Selby Gardens and his generous nature of sharing his knowledge with others were beyond compare.



Photo credits:
Harry Luther, Bruce K. Holst
Bromeliads, Dr. Phil Nelson



ANNOUNCING

The Harry E. Luther BSI Scholar Program

During his tenure at Selby Gardens as Director of the Bromeliad Identification Center and Curator of Living Collections, Harry Luther had a profound influence on the world’s understanding and knowledge of bromeliads. In fact, Harry was an Honorary Trustee of the Bromeliad Society International and recipient of the Society’s highest award, the Wally Berg Award of Excellence.

Harry played a significant role in fostering the longstanding history of partnership and collaboration between Marie Selby Botanical Gardens (MSBG) and the Bromeliad Society International (BSI). In honor of Harry’s memory and scientific contributions, BSI and MSBG will launch a new research initiative in July, the Harry E. Luther BSI Scholar Program. Professional and higher-level student scientists will conduct bromeliad research to advance the mutual goals of BSI and MSBG. The program is expected to bolster the education and research dimensions of both BSI and MSBG, help maintain the high quality of the living collection, and further the conservation of bromeliads. The Mulford B. Foster Bromeliad Research

Center (BRC) at Selby Gardens will become the home base for the program.

Upon the announcement, Selby Gardens CEO Tom Buchter commented, “We are pleased to have this opportunity to collaborate once again with our colleagues at the Bromeliad Society International in support of bromeliad research. The discoveries and scientific advances that will result from the Harry E. Luther BSI Scholar Program will undoubtedly lead to greater understanding and appreciation of these important plants.”

In addition to research and conservation efforts, the program will document bromeliad diversity in nature, conserve rare bromeliad species in cultivation, publish articles about bromeliads for scientific and lay periodicals, provide public lectures and complete the conversion of BRC files to digital format before the end of 2015.

BSI will manage the scholarship program as well as gifts in honor of Harry’s memory. Email contributions@bsi.org for details.

What’s in a Name? A Taxonomic Tale of Pleurothallid Orchids in Brazil

“I’m not obsessed with orchids,” says Dr. Antonio Toscano de Brito. “I’m obsessed with giving orchids a name.”

Toscano is an orchid taxonomist, whose job description includes naming, describing and classifying orchids. Because there are more than 25,000 orchid species known worldwide, taxonomists usually specialize in a group of species or genera and sometimes in only one genus. Toscano focuses his research on Pleurothallid orchids, or “Jewels of the Jungle.” The subtribe Pleurothallidinae contains approximately 4,000 species of miniature, epiphytic orchids of which about 600 are mostly found in the depths of Brazilian Atlantic coastal forests and the Amazon.

In June 2012, Toscano traveled to Brazil on a grant funded by the National Geographic Society to collect samples and information. He will use his findings to prepare a series of monographs of Pleurothallid species indigenous to that area. While some of his monographs are nearly complete, Toscano worked to fill the gaps of missing information and, more importantly, missing species. “The National Geographic Society wanted to help unravel this great biological riddle played out on a stage of the diverse habitats of Latin America,” says Peter H. Raven, Chair of the National Geographic Society Committee for Research Exploration.

What’s A Monograph?

A monograph is a work of research or literature written about a single, specific subject. It is primarily written by experts in a particular field of study for others in that same field of study.

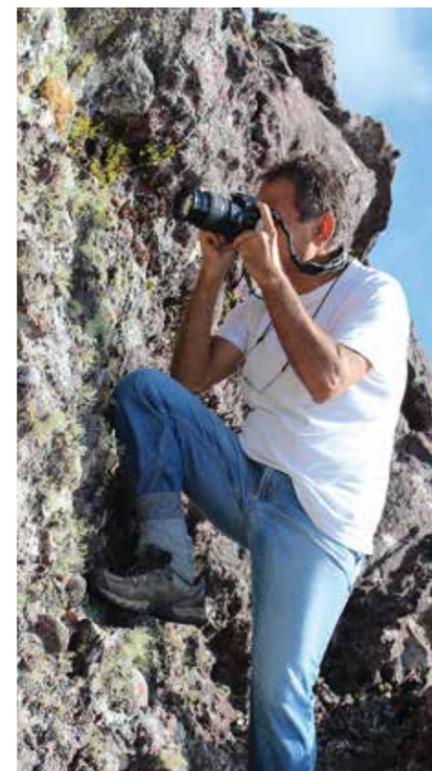


Photo courtesy of A. Toscano de Brito

Upon arrival at his field base in Rio de Contas, a charming town that sits atop Chapada Diamantina mountain chain, Toscano hiked the Pico das Almas, the second highest peak in northeast Brazil. His mission was to recollect the Pleurothallid orchid *Octomeria fusiformis*, a new species he and Dr. Carl Luer, Emeritus Trustee and one of the founders of Selby Gardens, published a few years ago. Since Toscano missed the flowering season of this orchid during his first trip in 2011, he was determined to find and study the species this time around. His persistence was rewarded. He uncovered a missing piece to the *Octomeria fusiformis* puzzle: the species was represented in all shapes and sizes. By studying plant variation and population, botanists are truly able to understand a species. From Rio de Contas, Toscano traveled north to Belém, the capital of the state of Pará, in the Amazon where Toscano jokingly

says there are only two seasons: the rainy season and the very rainy season. Toscano explored the flooded forest known as Igapó forest, avoiding a few close encounters with some slithering, but not venomous, locals, and found several Pleurothallid orchid species including one that has not yet been identified.

Toscano went on to explore the Brazilian Atlantic forest of the southeast, the most endangered forest in the world. Although only approximately 5% of the forest remains, it is incredibly rich with more than 2,000 species of orchids.



Unidentified *Lepanthes sp.* found in the Igapó forest. Photo courtesy of A. Toscano de Brito

As part of his field work, Toscano also visited herbaria, several private collections and Universidade Federal do Paraná in Curitiba, where students are carrying out molecular studies of Pleurothallid orchids. During his stay, he presented a lecture and supervised graduate students, the next generation of orchid taxonomists.

“We applaud Toscano’s work and appreciate the ability to assist him in his tireless quest,” says Raven.

“This work is important because we provide basic knowledge that scientists, the general public and decision makers can use for conservation efforts,” explains Toscano. “It’s hard work, but I love it. I really do.”

The Marie Selby Legacy Society

Gifts of Every Shape and Size Help Keep Your Garden Growing!

Legacy gifts are as unique and distinctive as each giver. Attendees for the 2nd annual Selby Gardens Legacy Luncheon met three inspirational ladies who shared their passion for Selby Gardens and the unique ways each of them is providing for the Gardens' future.

Allison Archbold has assigned a portion of her life insurance to the Gardens while Beverly Koski has given a bequest that will be used for endowing the Children's Rainforest Garden. A more immediate approach, Joan Lipsky's donation is in the form of a charitable trust to the Botany Department. Joan and the Gardens will enjoy portions of the gift during her lifetime and Selby Gardens will become the beneficiary of the trust after she passes away.

"What makes legacy gifts so special," explained Ann Logan, Selby's chief development officer, "is that they reflect the personality and values of the individual donor. It's a living tribute that not only memorializes the donor but provides a lasting gift for future generations to be able to enjoy and benefit from Selby Gardens." For information about the Legacy program at Selby Gardens, call or email 941.366.5731, ext. 266 or alogan@selby.org.



The Giving Partner

The intersection of community and philanthropy.

March 5-6, 2013

The 36-hour philanthropic whirlwind extravaganza returns!

If you're in, we all win.



Spring Music Series

Every Sunday April 7-May 12 from 1 to 3 pm some of Sarasota's most popular entertainers perform in the Banyan Grove. From classic soul to contemporary dance, the series has broad appeal. Gather with friends and family and grab a relaxing spot under the shade of the beautiful banyan canopy. Refreshments will be available for sale. Bring a lawn chair, but no coolers please, and sit back to enjoy a musical afternoon. For a full schedule of performances and information on other events please visit www.selby.org.

Scheduled Performers

- April 7
The Missing Links
- April 14
soulRcoaster
- April 21
Moving Ethos Dance company
- April 28
Hip Pockets
- May 5
Latin Rendezvous
- May 12
Jennifer Leigh and Her New Digs

Children's Rainforest Garden Construction Begins in 2013

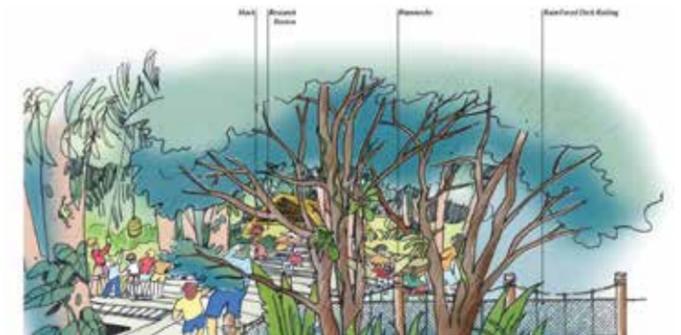
During his remarks at the last Member Appreciation Day, Selby Gardens CEO Tom Buchter announced that the Children's Rainforest Garden (CRG) will begin construction in 2013. This distinctive educational feature will serve as a prominent and tangible example of Selby's depth and breadth of conservation and research in some of the world's most diverse rainforests. In addition, the project will serve as a tool to promote sustainable use, rather than destruction, of our planet's natural assets – an important mission for Selby Gardens and its reputation as a world-renowned scientific institution.



The Children's Rainforest Garden will take advantage of Selby Gardens' banyan grove and Sarasota's plant-friendly climate to create an elevated garden. The CRG will provide guests with a unique perspective from within the trees, a way to experience the power and magic of the rainforest without having to travel there. The interactive and interpretative activities contained in the garden will help educate children and adults alike about rainforest habitats and the importance of conserving them.



In addition to its simulation of one of the wildest places on earth – the tropical rainforest (which is home to half the world's known plant and animal species) – the exhibit will provide families the opportunity to hike through the canopy, experience a waterfall and learn more about the plants and animals that make their homes in rainforests.



Education programming will focus on three key concepts of rainforest studies: biodiversity, physical elements, and the importance of plants to humans. Each program will contain at least one of these elements, showing children the various life forms within the vast rainforest ecosystem, the four layers which each contain diversity within themselves, and the many ways humans rely on the plants within the rainforest.



When it is completed the CRG will serve to inspire, empower and impassion current and future leaders to become stewards of our magnificent and imperiled rainforests. While the campaign is currently in a strategic, major gifts phase, Selby Gardens friends and members will receive invitations very soon to participate in the development of this unique educational opportunity.



Plant & Garden Festival Expands with Enhanced Programs

The 38th Annual Plant & Garden Festival will take on new dimensions this year thanks to an arts grant from the Woman's Exchange. This year the two-day festival, February 23 – 24 from 10:00am – 5:00pm (members-only entry available at 9 am on Saturday), features an array of activities, information, and, yes, plants for enthusiasts from neophytes to master gardeners. Selby Gardens will be decorated with colorful displays from more than 40 vendors including rare collections, exotic species, herbs, houseplants, gardening supplies, and more. Selby

horticulturists, master gardeners from Sarasota County Extension Service, and various plant society representatives will offer gardening advice and demonstrations over the weekend. Kids can also take part in the gardening fun with activities and games in the Kids' Corner.

The "Art of Plants" will include plant-themed "pop up" contemporary dance performances by Moving Ethos dance troupe as well as an eco-themed art installation. In partnership with Ikebana International Sarasota and the Sho Fu Bonsai Society, Selby Gardens will display Ikebana and Bonsai exhibits in the Great Room by the Bay, and the Sumi-e Society exhibit in the Selby House. The 2013 Plant & Garden Festival will also feature live jazz music by Project SRQ and South County Jazz Society and barbecue provided by Local Coffee + Tea. For more information, visit www.selby.org.



A Tribal Collection Rainforest Masks of Costa Rica March 8-April 19

Fantastic, wild and impressively detailed, Rainforest Masks of Costa Rica, one of Selby Gardens' most beloved exhibits, will return March 8-April 19 to the Museum of Botany and the Arts. The opening reception will be held on Thursday, March 7, 5:30pm – 7:30 pm. This will be the first opportunity to purchase one of these authentic masks!

Each year, visitors are captivated by the incredible imagination and brilliant colors contained in the meticulously hand carved and painted masks that are inspired by stunning Costa Rican wildlife. The walls of the Christy Payne Mansion will be lined with more than 200 of the fanciful creations fashioned from 100% sustainable native wood.

The Borucan people take pride in this tradition which has been passed down from generation to generation for centuries. Originally designed to intimidate the invading Spanish Conquistadors by representing the Devil, the traditional masks are referred to as "Diablitos" or "Little Devils." The masks have now evolved into highly collectible ecological artwork, renowned not only for their impressive craftsmanship but also for their unique ability to symbolically capture the Borucans' affinity for and interdependence with their surrounding environment. Their concern for the endangered plants and animals of the rainforests where they live is clearly evident in the extraordinarily ornate masks. The artwork's popularity is growing – come marvel at this spectacular exhibit to see why!

For more on these fascinating people, their culture and region, Selby Gardens offers additional programming:

March 9, 10, 16, 17 1 PM - 3 PM

"Meet the Artists"

A unique opportunity to meet talented Borucan artists and witness their abilities first-hand. A Spanish translator will be present to help with questions and answers.

March 13 12:00 PM - 1:00 PM

"The Road to Boruca and Beyond"

Learn more about Boruca, Costa Rica, its connection to Selby Gardens, and further details about the impressive native art in this free lecture.

March 15 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM
Create Your Own Rainforest Mask

Led by one of the Borucan artists, this class celebrates the rainforest art form. Registration is required. For more information and to register visit www.selby.org

A SPECIAL THANK YOU TO VOLUNTEERS

We want to say, "Thank you!" to our dedicated volunteers! Marie Selby Botanical Gardens will host the annual volunteer appreciation dinner under the Gardens' idyllic Banyans on Wednesday, April 17. All volunteers who have given 25 hours or more of their time are invited to attend. Volunteer spouses and new volunteers are welcome to attend the recognition dinner for \$20 per person.

Mother's Day Brunch

Treat mom to a spectacular Mother's Day Brunch in a delightful tropical setting provided by Mother Nature herself. Catered by Michael's On East, the 8th Annual Mother's Day Brunch will feature three seatings on May 12: 10:00am, 11:30am, and 1:00pm. This delectable brunch will also feature the contemporary and Brazilian jazz sounds of 2Saxy. After brunch, take mom on a stroll through the Gardens to enjoy the last concert of the Spring Music Series featuring Jennifer Leigh and The New Digs. Tickets for Mother's Day Brunch, which includes Gardens admission, go on sale Tuesday, April 16 online and in the Welcome Center.





Plants with a Purpose

In the circle of life, plants and humans are naturally interdependent. In addition to providing humans with necessities such as oxygen and food, plants also offer economic and medicinal benefits. Manufacturers use plants to produce clothing, furniture, tools, cosmetics, and more. People grow and buy plants and herbs to enhance or prepare meals. Every Floridian can attest to the soothing sensation of aloe on a painful sunburn. Many plants offer

antibiotic, antioxidant, and anti-inflammatory properties. Selby Gardens features many of these plants within its collections. Volunteer Hart Richardson, pharmacist and long-time Selby Gardens member, will conduct Sunday afternoon tours called the "Economic and Medicinal Uses of Tropical Trees" January 6, 20 and February 3 and 17 at 1:30pm. Richardson will share the special uses for plants such as angel trumpet, saw palmetto, pandanus, neem, gumbo limbo, Indian willow, and eucalyptus.

These fun and informative tours last from 45 minutes to an hour and are included in admission to the Gardens.



Little Sprouts' Club: Tree Huggers

Little Sprouts' Club meets on the first Tuesday of every month from 10:30am - 11:30am. Enjoy a morning in the Gardens with your Little Sprout exploring nature through free play and hands-on activities designed for children 5 and under.

2013 Little Sprouts' Schedule

- 1/8 - Welcome, New Year!
- 2/5 - The Very Hungry Caterpillar
- 3/5 - Green Spring
- 4/2 - Rainforest Friends
- 5/7 - Mud Pies!

Summer Camp Lookout 2013

Calling all defenders of the planet! Join us during the month of June for great, green adventures at Selby Gardens. Look for dates and details online in the spring. Selby Gardens' summer camps are designed for tree huggers ages 6 - 11.



Sumela Monastery by Carolyn Merenda

Don't miss Selby's **10th Annual Watercolor Class Exhibition** now through January 30th. Serene paintings are on display and for sale from 10:00 am to 4:00 pm daily in the historic Selby House. Artwork by Carolyn Merenda and her talented students display your favorite gardens among many delightful images.



Bamboo by Marilyn Offer

Following the watercolor show, the **Sarasota Sumi-e Society exhibit** will be on display in the Selby House February 23 to March 28 10:00 am - 4:00 pm. Having mastered the skill of Oriental Brush Painting, the artists capture the essence of their natural surroundings using a few conscious and confident strokes.



Botanical Illustration with a Touch of Whimsy: The Clever Creations of MF Cardamone January 9-March 3

When Philadelphia native MF Cardamone brings her original mixed media exhibit, *Florida Fantastica*, to Selby Gardens January 9 - March 3, local plant lovers, history buffs and alternative medicine aficionados will meet a kindred spirit. She describes her work as "stylized natural history specimens that are part quirky botanical illustration and part social commentary - the historical tradition meets contemporary culture."

Selby Gardens Education Director Jeannie Perales was beguiled by Cardamone's unique art form after learning her work helped raise funds for the Santa Fe Botanical Gardens. "Her perspective, detail and fascination with botanical accuracy and herbarium collections convinced me she was destined to become a Selby Gardens favorite," Perales explained.



Cardamone, who studied art at the Tyler School of Art and botany at the Barnes Foundation Arboretum School, is inspired by

pressed botanical specimens found in academic labs and natural history museums. Her mixed media work on paper is partially hand drawn using gouache, colored pencil, inks and digital imagery.

After art school and an apprenticeship with contemporary painter Tom Palmore, she began studying horticulture and botany. Coupled with her affinity for Chinese medicine, a love affair with the natural world began to blossom. She says, "I like to create visual puzzles with my work and try to evoke a sense of mystery and wonder in the viewer because that's the way I feel about the natural world. I'm in awe of its power to sustain and heal us - and its beauty!!"

A collaboration with Selby intrigued Cardamone in several ways. Not only do they share an interest in education and preservation, but like Selby, Cardamone strives to express the connections between plants and people. She developed a list of plants with Perales, Botany Director Bruce Holst and Horticulture Director Mike McLaughlin representing both Selby Gardens and Florida. Last January she traveled to Selby Gardens to collect

specimens then returned to her studio to delve further into each plant's life history, ecology, folklore, wildlife value and medicinal uses : both historical and contemporary.

The exhibit will officially open to the public during a reception January 10 at 5:30 pm in the Museum of Botany and the Arts. Original artwork, exhibit posters featuring the signature piece "Florida's Tree of Life" and a comprehensive catalogue of images from the exhibit will all be available for purchase.

Related Events

January 21 11:30 am
Florida Fantastica Luncheon Lecture
*At Mattison's Forty-One

February 23 & 24
"The Art of Plants" at 38th Annual Plant and Garden Festival

February 26 12:00 pm
Lecture: "Of Plants and People"
by Dr. Matthew McLendon

March 2, 1:00-5:00 pm
Nature Inspired Writing Retreat
For further details, visit www.selby.org



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The background of the central section is a dark blue to purple gradient. It features silhouettes of palm trees on the right and a city skyline with domes and minarets at the bottom. A white circle representing the moon is positioned to the left of the main title.

Save the Date
Midnight at the Oasis
Orchid Ball
April 6, 2013

The Orchid Ball, April 6, 2013, is an anchor in Sarasota's social scene, chaired this year by Wayne and Mindy Rollins. The evening's theme, Midnight at the Oasis, is a natural fit with the Gardens' lush tropical atmosphere and Florida's sultry temperatures. As if in a mirage, the Gardens' Great Lawn will transform into a night's retreat featuring a delicious banquet and flowing refreshments provided by Michael's On East. Tickets for the event are \$300 per person on a first-come first-served basis. To purchase tickets, go to www.selby.org beginning February 1st, or call Cynthia Dwyer at (941) 366-5731, ext. 229. Table sponsorships are also available.