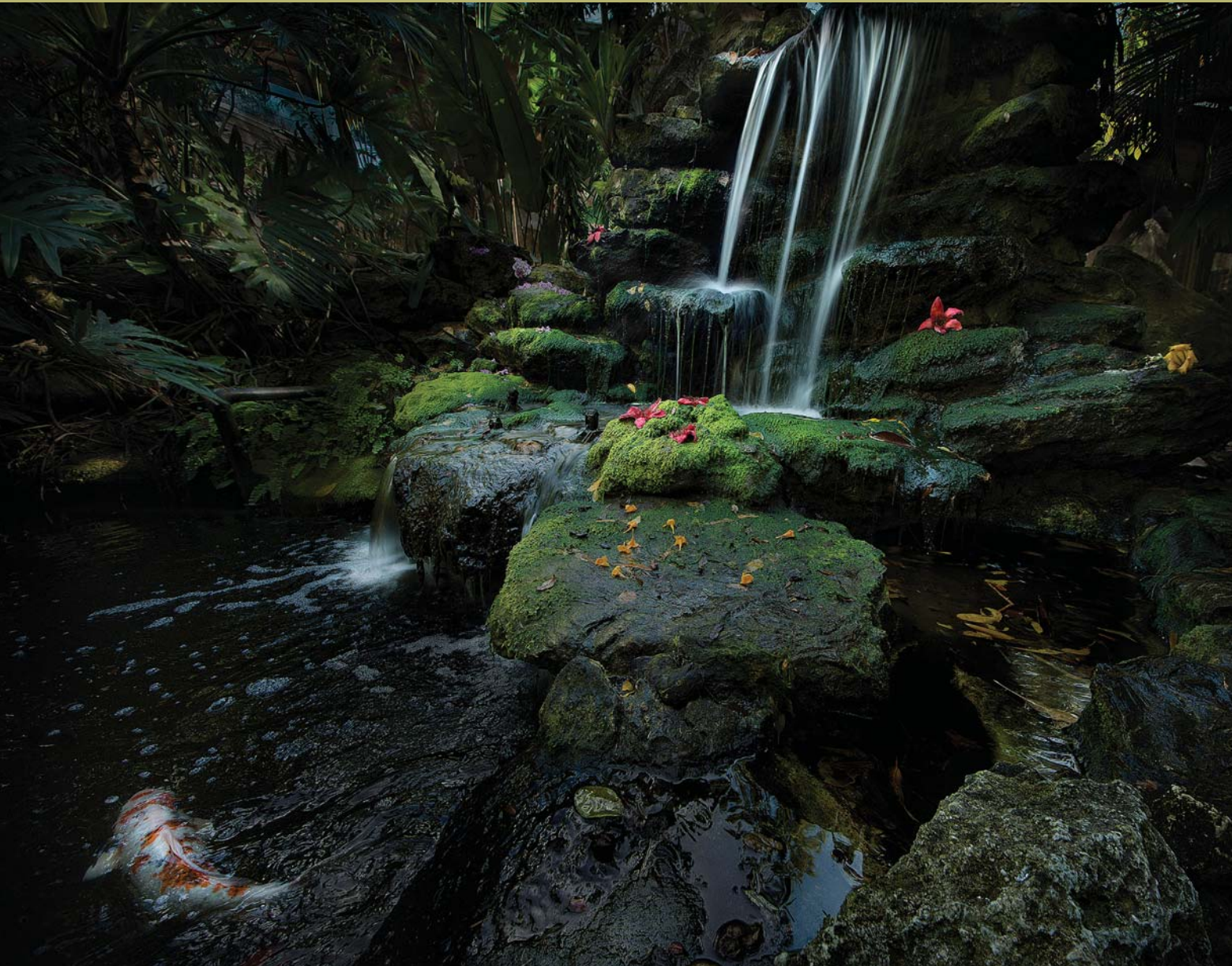


MARIE
SELBY
BOTANICAL
GARDENS®

TROPICAL dispatch

MAY-AUGUST 2017



Selby Waterfall by John Zeiss, "Best In Show", 36th Annual Juried Photo Exhibition

Marc Chagall, Flowers, and the French Riviera:
The Color of Dreams • 4

Return of The Orchid Show • 5

Selby Gardens 37th Annual Juried Photo Contest • 16

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Would you prefer to receive your *Tropical Dispatch* electronically?
If so, please email us at marketing@selby.org to be part of our conservation efforts.

ABOUT THE COVER

John Zeiss has been entering photo competitions in the Sarasota area since 2001. His first 35mm camera was a used Zeiss-Ikon, purchased in the early 1960s. He owes all his photographic successes to his wife and shooting partner, Beverly, and his long membership in the Sarasota Camera Club. He is a Past President of the SCC and also of the Florida Camera Club Council. For information about this year's contest, see page 16.

HOURS & ADMISSIONS

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

Admission Members: Free Adults: \$20
Children 4-17: \$10 3 & under: Free

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MISSION

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

PROGRAM SPONSORS

Selby Gardens programs are sponsored in part by the State of Florida, Department of State, Division of Cultural Affairs; the Florida Council on Arts and Culture; and are paid for in part by Sarasota County Tourist Development Tax Revenue



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“NO MATTER WHY PEOPLE COME, EVERYONE LEAVES INSPIRED AND HAS AN UNDERSTANDING OF THE IMPORTANCE OF THE NATURAL WORLD IN OUR EVERYDAY LIVES.”

Much like an artist begins a painting with a vision in mind, or a writer begins a tale with a general story, once you're in the creative process, the details can change a bit. Often for the better! Just such a thing is taking place at Selby Gardens thanks to our ongoing exhibition, *Marc Chagall, Flowers, and the French Riviera: The Color of Dreams*. With this integration of horticulture and arts we are attracting record numbers of guests. Some come for the plants. Some come for the master artwork. Some come for the special events. No matter why people come, everyone leaves inspired and has an understanding of the importance of the natural world in our everyday lives.

This exhibition continues through July and, like that painting still taking shape, or that novel being written, the details continue to evolve. The plant life changes daily. The special events draw out new dimensions of Chagall's life. The line between nature and arts blends more and more.

As you read this issue of *Tropical Dispatch*, I encourage you to find your own way of enjoying our living museum. There are many events taking place (pages 4 and 17), classes and programs for all ages to enjoy (page 22), and of course news about more exhibitions to come, including a fall Orchid Show (page 5) and the next artist to be featured in the Jean and Alfred Goldstein Exhibition Series - Andy Warhol (page 5). In both of these exhibitions our team will continue to push the envelope of what it means to create art-based nature from nature-based art.

The success of this exhibition and those to come allow for significant investments in our scientific endeavors and children's education programs, for both of which Selby Gardens is highly regarded. At the time I'm writing this, we are actively searching for a new doctoral-level research botanist who will add to the expertise of our team. We intend to enhance the connection our institution has with national and international conservation efforts. We will also expand efforts to share our knowledge and expertise with other botanical gardens, professionals, higher-education students and local schools to prepare the next generation of scientists.

Perhaps most exciting is the forthcoming opportunity to reimagine how we share the story of Selby Gardens' botanical research with our visitors. For several months our trustees, advisory board members and senior staff leaders have been discussing with the internationally recognized landscape design studio OLIN to reimagine how guests engage with our collections as part of a master planning phase. While the details are still being formed, I'm confident that the plan that will develop will be sure to showcase our research and highlight our mission, all the while upholding our promise to maintain Marie Selby's property as a place for everyone to enjoy and find sanctuary in the natural world.

Cheers,

Jennifer O. Rominiecki



Chagall continues








The groundbreaking exhibition, *Marc Chagall, Flowers, and the French Riviera: The Color of Dreams* has welcomed thousands of new visitors to Selby Gardens since its opening in mid-February, and the fun continues throughout most of the summer!

The next three months of the exhibition (May - July) include many more special events, classes and activities that celebrate the artist, his botanical-inspired paintings and stained glass, and of course the sun-kissed region of the French Riviera.

JEAN AND ALFRED GOLDSTEIN EXHIBITION SERIES

PRESENTED BY  **The Jewish Federation**
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CHAGALL NIGHTS

Each evening performance will include full access to the Gardens, hors d'oeuvres and a complimentary craft cocktail, wine or beer.

MAY 17

Perlman Music Program/Suncoast

JUNE 14

Sarasota Music Festival, a teaching program of the Sarasota Orchestra.



Come enjoy art and nature as part of the Marc Chagall experience at Selby Gardens. **Chagall Family Saturdays** offers artistic children's activities in the great outdoors. Kids have the opportunity to create their own nature-inspired art with a variety of art materials.

MAY 20, JUNE 17, JULY 22 • 10AM-NOON

 **BMO Wealth Management**
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 **THE SCOUT GUIDE**

FREE with admission.

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THE ORCHID SHOW

EARTH • AIR • FIRE • WATER

October 13-November 26, 2017

THE ORCHID SHOW returns to Selby Gardens this fall!

From Friday, October 13, through Sunday, November 26, thousands of orchids and plants will be in bloom in a stunning display in the Tropical Conservatory. Making use of the four elements of nature, this display will feature the awe-inspiring diversity and beauty of the largest plant family on Earth.

Accompanying the Conservatory display, the Museum of Botany & the Arts in the Christy Payne Mansion will feature select pieces from our preserved collection of plants along with rare books and prints that illustrate the enormous scope of orchids around the world. There, we will share tales of travel, near and far, that Selby Gardens' botanists have undertaken in order to help understand, and conserve them.

JEAN & ALFRED GOLDSTEIN EXHIBITION SERIES presents for 2018:

WARHOL

flowers in the factory

"I always notice flowers."

-Andy Warhol

Andy Warhol was the ultimate pop artist, the man who made cultural icons of Campbell's Soup cans, entertained and immortalized the celebrities of his day and stated that everyone would be world-famous for 15 minutes. He is not always at first recognized as a champion of nature, yet he had an abiding passion for preserving the natural world.

"I think having land and not ruining it is the most beautiful art that anybody could ever want to own," he said.

Selby Gardens will examine Warhol's conservationist leanings in the exhibition, *Warhol: Flowers in the Factory*, opening in February 2018 as part of the Jean and Alfred Goldstein Exhibition Series. The



Flowers, 1970

Williams College Museum of Art, Williamstown, MA: Gift of the Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts (M.2014.1.2)

© 2017 The Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts, Inc. / Artists Rights Society (ARS), New York

exhibition will examine great art through the lens of flowers and nature, combining stunning horticultural interpretations of Warhol's work with an exhibition that includes four iconic Warhol flower silkscreens from the original series of 10 produced during the activist 1960s. Dr. Carol Ockman, curator at large for Selby Gardens, returns to curate this exhibition, which will be accompanied by performing arts programs by Sarasota's top cultural institutions. Additional details will be shared in the coming months.

Dr. Peter Raven RETURNS to SELBY GARDENS



Dr. Carl Luer, Dr. Peter Raven, Jennifer O. Rominiecki and Dr. Cal Dodson at Selby Gardens in January 2017.

Dr. Peter Raven, one of the world's leading botanists and advocates of conservation and biodiversity, recently spoke with leadership, staff, volunteers and advocates at Selby Gardens. This was Raven's fourth such visit to Sarasota, having spoken at the formal dedication of the Gardens on April 3, 1976, and again upon the 10th and 25th anniversaries of the institution.

"Selby Gardens has more than lived up to the hopes and dreams we had for the place in 1973," Raven said. "Anyone who supports this institution should feel very good."

While here, Raven also reunited with two of the founders of Selby Gardens, Dr. Carlyle Luer and Dr. Calaway Dodson, as well as today's president and CEO, Jennifer O. Rominiecki.

Raven is president emeritus of Missouri Botanical Garden, one of the world's leading botanic gardens, which he led for four decades. He also holds the post of chairman of the Center for Plant Conservation, a national environmental advocacy organization. Raven has been described by *Time* magazine as a "Hero for the Planet," and is the recipient of numerous prizes and awards, including the prestigious International Prize for Biology from the government of Japan and the U.S. National Medal of Science, the country's highest award for scientific accomplishment.

During his talk beneath the iconic banyan trees planted by Marie Selby nearly 80 years ago, Raven discussed the importance of the work conducted by botanical gardens, and how individuals can personally make changes to positively affect climate change.

"We depend on plants directly or indirectly for everything from food to medicine," Raven said. "There are still a lot of discoveries to be made from plants."

Citing expectations for worldwide population growth over the next 30 to 50 years, Raven detailed how human pressure on environments needs to change to continue to sustain life so that, in his view, our species can continue to enjoy the civilized pursuits we enjoy, such as gardens, arts, poetry, philosophy and religion.

"Nobody knows how many people the world can support on a sustainable basis," Raven said.

He encouraged the audience to research the effects of population growth and opportunities for scientific endeavors that create a sustainable future, in particular the Global Footprint Network, which allows people to calculate their individual impact on the environment. Raven encouraged reducing the consumption of limited resources by recycling, driving less, growing trees and gardening. He thanked the audience for their commitment to the world's future.

"Let's use Marie Selby Botanical Gardens as an inspiration. A botanical garden can be a model of sustainability and strengthen people's understanding of how close we actually are to the natural world," Raven said. "It's a place where people and plants come together where we can create a real understanding, inform the citizenry and bring them out to a place where they have time to think."

SELBY GARDENS HOSTS RARE PLANT MEETINGS



Selby Gardens hosted two consecutive meetings for the conservation of Florida's rare plant species this spring.

From April 5 - 7, the Gardens were host to the **Florida Bromeliad Conservation Working Group**, as well as the **2017 Florida Rare Plant Task Force** meeting.

The bromeliad meeting included representatives from botanical gardens, universities and local and state land managers to review the latest efforts to mitigate the devastating effects of the Mexican Weevil, *Metamasius callizona*, on native bromeliads of Florida, a project Selby Gardens' botanists have been working on since 2014.

The 2017 Florida Rare Plant Task Force is a statewide meeting led by Bok Tower Gardens, Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden and Marie Selby Botanical Gardens to bring together conservation professionals. This year's topic was Non-traditional Partnerships for Rare Plant Conservation. This annual meeting is made possible by grants from the State of Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, Division of Plant Industry.

NEW STAFF APPOINTMENTS

Recent staff changes at the Gardens are dispersing cross-department knowledge to improve our programming and research. Two former members of the Horticulture team have joined the Botany

and Education departments, allowing them to take their knowledge for caring for our living collection plants to new areas:

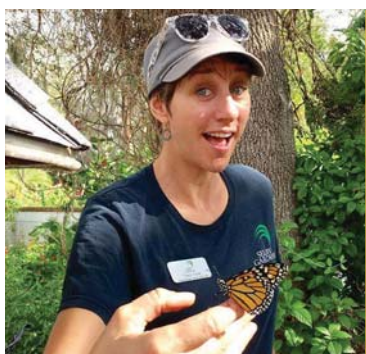


PLANT RECORDS KEEPER: SHAWN MCCOURT

Our Botany Department welcomes its newest team member, Plant Records Keeper Shawn McCourt. This position is responsible for the inventory and data management of our entire living collection. This includes handling requests of plant material from other botanical gardens and scientists, and working to help "back up" our rare plants at other institutions. In addition, McCourt assists with Florida native plant conservation and inventory projects as time permits.

McCourt has a Ph.D. in Botany/Ecology from Trinity College, University of Dublin, Ireland, and a history of working in plant ecology. He cut his plant teeth working in nurseries in New York and Florida.

In the near future the Botany department also expects to welcome a **post-doctoral botanist** to expand the Gardens' research efforts, which are guided by the department's director and staff member for 23 years, Bruce Holst.



SCHOOL & FAMILY PROGRAMS MANAGER: TRACY CALLA

The Education Department recently appointed Tracy Calla as its School & Family Programs Manager. This role oversees school tours (field trips), as well as youth programming in Kids Corner, summer camp and Little Sprouts Club, bringing nature-based experiences to some of our youngest visitors.

Calla holds degrees in both horticulture (Palm Beach State College) and theater (Ohio State University), and is a lifelong outdoor enthusiast and self-described "plant nerd."

INAUGURAL NEW COLLEGE RECIPIENTS OF THE CALUSA PRIZE

Last fall, Selby Gardens announced a collaboration between the Gardens and New College of Florida. The opportunity for college students to work with Selby Gardens staff on plant science, conservation and public outreach also included the establishment of the \$25,000 annual Calusa Prize, which is to be awarded by Selby Gardens via an

anonymous donor to students in degree programs at New College in the areas of horticulture or botany, public garden management, research, collection management, preservation education, conservation or documentation, including art and photography.

As the partnership quickly took off, five students began Independent Study Projects or internships in January 2017 and later this spring were awarded the prize for their work. The students and their projects were:

Emily Bleske: Botanical illustration of a plant species being described for science.

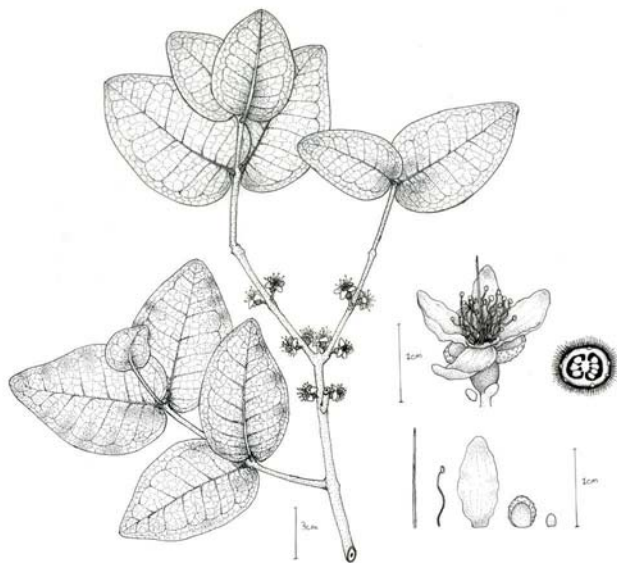
Cassandra Detrio-Darby: Contributions to a field guide on the ferns of Belize

Iliana Moore: Evaluation of a pathogenic fungus in the control of the Mexican bromeliad weevil.

Kaylynn Low: Evaluation of the potential of spread of exotic fruit trees into Florida ecosystems.

Julia Pope: Exhibit curation in the Museum of Botany and the Arts.

The Calusa Prize will be awarded annually to multiple New College students who complete an internship with Selby Gardens. Projects will help further the mission of the Gardens.



Pen and ink botanical illustration by Emily Bleske



Belize Field Research Adds 250 New Records

Selby Gardens' work to date in the rainforest of Belize has documented 250 new epiphytic plant records for that country, four of which are being newly described for science by the Gardens' botanists and colleagues.

The project of surveying the epiphytes of Belize in collaboration with Caves Branch Botanical Garden and the University of Belize began in 2014, and is being extended through 2018.

Project leader and director of botany, Bruce Holst, says he plans another return to the remote reaches of the mountains of Belize in hopes of finding even more undiscovered plant species.

"As before, we plan to get as far off the road as possible by all means - helicopter, boats, hiking," Holst said.

The Central American country has a focus on environmental preservation, with a number of professionals in the fields of ecology and animal sciences. However, relatively few Belizeans have been trained in the botanical sciences. With the involvement of Selby Gardens' team, our institution is helping to build capacity for national plant preservation efforts.



CORPSE PLANT

What do you get when you cross one of the world's most foul-smelling plants with another purely putrid-scented plant?

The world will soon find out. Audrey and Seymour – Selby Gardens' two corpse plants – are having babies. Lots and lots of babies.

In summer 2016 when Selby Gardens played host to the rare double blooming of the two corpse plants, scientifically known as *Amorphophallus titanum*, the horticulture team was presented the unique opportunity to cross pollinate the plants.

Each individual plant has an inflorescence that carries both male and female flowers. In nature, insects assist with pollinating one plant with another, but a sharing of the pollen under cultivation is far less common.



Angel Lara, assistant director of horticulture, applies pollen from one corpse plant to another.

When the first plant – Seymour – opened its spathe in late July, pollen was collected from the male flowers and refrigerated. At the start of August with the six-foot-tall Audrey in bloom, a window was cut into the plant's outer sheath to view the internal flowers. The horticulture team took Seymour's pollen out of the fridge and applied it using a paintbrush to the female flowers. The next day the plant's spadix appeared floppy at the



The successful pollination resulted in fruits which were harvested, cleaned and sowed.

top, which was thought to indicate a successful pollination. We just had to wait six months and see.

“The process created fruit on the plant, known as an infructescence, which have now matured, and we are in the process of harvesting, cleaning and sowing the seeds that came from the fruit,” said Angel Lara, Assistant Director of Horticulture at Selby Gardens.

Lara said it will still take at least five months to germinate and a few years to see if any of the seeds deliver yet another titan. The rare plants from Sumatra are infamous for their putrid scent, which has been described as similar to rotting fish or sweaty socks. While this plant usually only blooms every seven to ten years, Seymour and Audrey have bloomed every two years for the past six years, and almost always at the same time. Lara's team has suggested a plant love story to explain their synchronized blooms.

As for a name of the progeny, we will have to wait and see what the little ones smell, or, look like. Stay tuned!



HOW-TO with HORT FRAMING EPIPHYTES

Flowers and other plants inspire beautiful paintings, as Selby's current show *Marc Chagall, Flowers and the French Riviera: The Color of Dreams* so vividly demonstrates. But Selby's horticulturalists have taken the idea a step further, literally framing epiphytic plants to make living works of art. Several were on display during last year's *Secret Garden* exhibition.

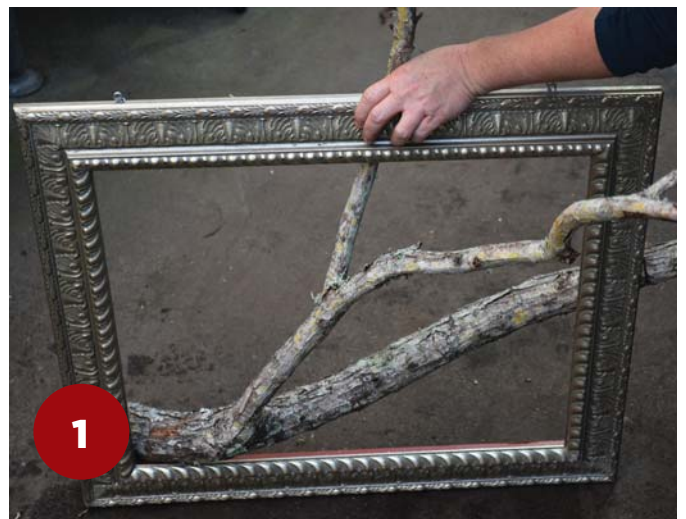
While the Selby Conservatory provides an ideal environment for these masterworks, anyone with outdoor space for hanging plants can, in a very short time, create one for their garden. It just takes a few easily obtained tools and supplies (see *What*

You'll Need), and, most importantly, a selection of epiphytic plants of varying sizes and shapes, which could include bromeliads, orchids and ferns. Epiphytes are perfect for this purpose because they don't require soil, and the plant roots adhere directly to the branch. In selecting plants, look for a variety of colors and textures, including plants with colored foliage and variegated leaves to add color when the flowering plants are not in bloom.

Addie Worth, a Selby Greenhouse Horticulturist who teaches classes at Selby on framing epiphytes, showed us the steps involved.

What You'll Need:

1. A sturdy frame with the glass, backing and hangar removed. Thrift shops and garage sales are a good source for these. Screw eye-hooks into the top of the frame so they can hang without tipping forward.
2. A piece of wood with branches, either the remains of tree trimming or driftwood from the beach
3. Plastic coated telephone wire or strong plain wire
4. Stretchy plastic tape
5. Strong woven strapping cut into pieces
6. Staple gun
7. Hammer
8. Pliers, preferably with attached wire cutters
9. Scissors
10. A variety of epiphytic plants



Once you've selected your frame and an appropriately trimmed tree branch for mounting, experiment with moving the branch around within the frame to achieve the desired effect. Allowing a branch to extend beyond or protrude through the frame can add depth and interest to the design.



Attach the branch to the frame using strapping tape pulled tight and secured with a staple gun. Worth recommends three points of attachment to assure the branch won't come loose. And she uses a hammer to pound in the staples. "Make sure it is structurally sound," she says. "You don't want it to wiggle. You want it to be long-term, not something that will fall apart once it is subjected to wind and rain."



Mount the heaviest plant on the bottom of the wood, in the crook of the branch. To anchor this design, Worth selects a *Guzmania* hybrid, a showy bromeliad with a bright red blossom. This tank bromeliad collects water inside its leaves, making it heavier and prone to tipping over when watered. Therefore it is trickier to mount than some other plants.



To secure the plant to the branch, Worth uses wire looped around the branch once, twisted tight with pliers and then trimmed with the attached wire cutters. "You have to get it on there tight, but if you do one twist too many it snaps and you have to start over," she notes. She then starts layering on other plants, starting with a *Tillandsia cyanea*, another flowering bromeliad with a hot pink spike. When adding plants, aim to hide all the attachment hardware.

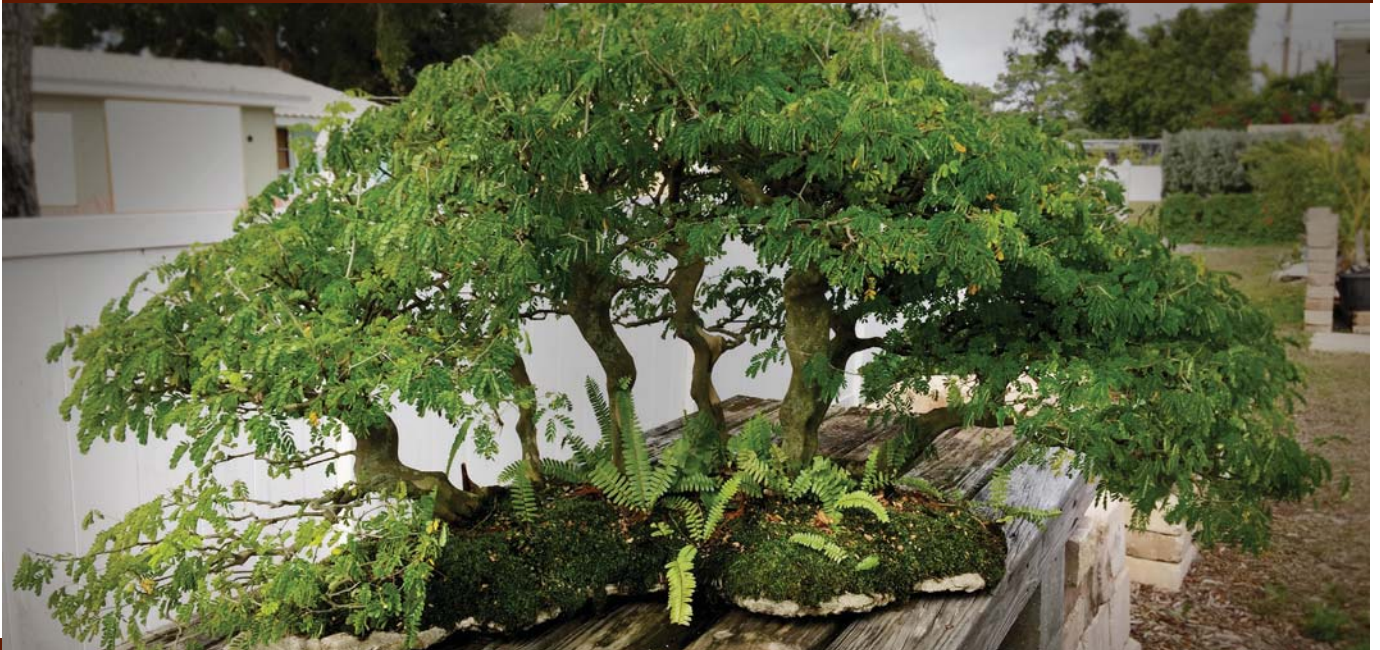


Lighter plants such as staghorn ferns can be affixed to the branch with stretchy tape. By teasing the roots, a surface can be created that lies flat against the branch. Sphagnum moss, moistened in water, wrapped around the roots can help some delicate plants like aroids get started.

The finished frame with foliage enhanced with orchids can be hung from S-hooks or sturdy wire on a pergola or other structure where it can hang without lying flat against a wall. Choose a spot with medium light, close to a hose, as the plants will need an occasional spray along the roots and leaves. Then step back and enjoy your masterwork!



Look for more classes at selby.org/programs/classes/



BONSAI BEAUTY

Miniature Brazilian Rain Tree Forest Vies for National Recognition

A Brazilian Rain Tree Forest that has made its home among other Bonsai at Selby Gardens since 2009 is being groomed by the Sho Fu Bonsai Society of Sarasota for national stardom.

Sho Fu (literally “wind in the pines”) displays its collection in a permanent exhibit just outside the glass house Conservatory. Richard Dietrich serves as volunteer curator of the exhibit and maintains the trees, while Selby Gardens provides daily watering.

Just before the exhibit opened in 2009, the late Vito Morrongiello donated the Brazilian Rain Tree Forest, which he had won in a raffle at a Sho Fu meeting in 2004.

In 2014 it was named “Best Large Tree” at the annual convention of the Bonsai Society of Florida in Orlando. But even bigger things may be on the way. The forest has been removed from the Gardens to the Venice home of Lunetta and Michael Knowlton, president of Bonsai Societies of Florida, so it can receive intense attention from Sho Fu members. Next year they will submit photographs and information for consideration to be admitted to the 6th U.S. National Bonsai Exhibition, scheduled for September 2018 in Rochester, New York. The show will exhibit Bonsai considered the best in

various species, and Sho Fu members think their forest certainly qualifies for that honor.

“Of course we are biased, but we think it is probably the most impressive Brazilian Rain Tree Forest in the world of Bonsai in this country,” Michael Knowlton says. “We have been to national exhibitions, we have been to Japan, and we have never seen a forest in that particular species that is that impressive.”



The Brazilian Rain Tree Forest in its defoliated state. The absence of leaves reveals the tree's structure and allows for much easier styling.

During a February visit to the Knowltons' home, the forest was in its "naked" form. Sho Fu members had defoliated it in a tedious process that extended over three afternoons, using sharp bonsai scissors to remove all the leaves and concave cutters to remove all the thorns.



Richard Dietrich (left) and Michael Knowlton (right) carefully wire the defoliated Brazilian Rain Tree Forest.

"We defoliate for several reasons," says Michael Knowlton. "This time it was to see the structure and what to cut. We also defoliate when we re-pot."

The Knowltons and Dietrich then transported the forest to Wigert's Nursery in North Fort Myers, where Erik Wigert, a highly respected Bonsai artist, gave advice on the health of the trees, their placement and overall styling. All of the branches were then wired to train them into the proper position, and guy wire was attached to locate branches in the desired place.

The wire was scheduled to be removed after a second defoliation in April, when the trees would be repotted and rewired. "We cut the wire off and

then rewire it because if we didn't, the branches would grow into the wire, which would scar them," Knowlton explains. Another defoliation will occur in the summer.

Brazilian Rain Tree branches grow quickly in tropical climates, particularly in the hot summer months, creating a challenge for its caretakers.

"We are constantly cutting it back, trying to keep the energy of the tree from going out to the end of the branches. They are always trying to reach out to the sun, which is what genetically the tree is set up to do," says Michael Knowlton. "To keep it under control we cut off the tips of the branches to push the energy back in. In the summertime it can need to be trimmed back every day."

While the arduous care of the Rain Tree Forest is aimed at obtaining national recognition, another important goal of the project is providing hands-on education for Sho Fu members. Several members at a time on an ongoing basis help care for the forest and prepare it for the exhibition.

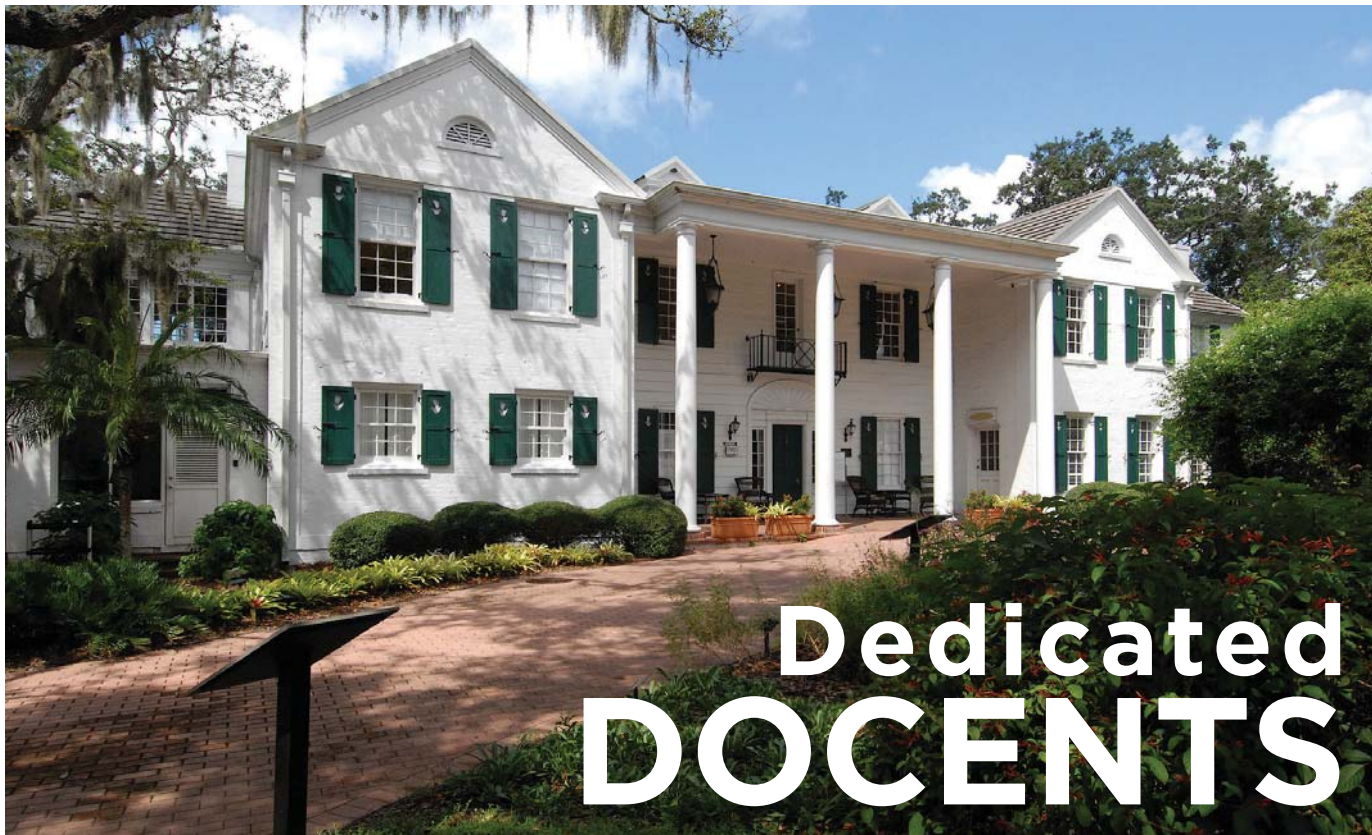
"The whole project is meant to be a learning experience for our membership," says Loretta Knowlton, who has potted 24 branches cut from the Rain Tree Forest to give to members as a remembrance of the experience. "We have people brand new to Bonsai who know nothing about caring for Bonsai, so this is a great learning opportunity for everybody."

The Sho Fu Bonsai Society of Sarasota invites those interested in learning more about Bonsai to attend one of the society's meetings, held the second Wednesday of the month at 6:30 p.m. in Michael's on the Bay at Selby Gardens. For more information, visit shofubonsai.org, or contact President Janet Lovesky by email, ShoFuBonsai@gmail.com.



BONSAI Basics

Bonsai is a Japanese word meaning "tree in a tray." Many different types of plants are used to create them — they are not a species. Bonsai is considered an art form and experts are known as artists. The basic goal of the Bonsai artist is to create something that looks like a very old tree in miniature. This involves trimming and removing branches and temporarily wiring branches to form new shapes. Because they are grown in small containers, expertise is needed not only to create a proportionately aesthetic tree but also to keep it alive. They do best when grown outdoors.



Dedicated DOCENTS

Volunteers enhance the experience of Payne Mansion visitors

Editor's Note: Our Museum of Botany & the Arts, housed in the historic Christy Payne Mansion, has been the center of much activity during the opening months of the Marc Chagall exhibition. This story features the history of the museum, and a few of the 80+ docents who have welcomed a record number of guests as part of this groundbreaking exhibition.

For many guests, a visit to the Museum of Botany and the Arts at the Christy Payne Mansion is the delightful culmination of a stroll through the tropical gardens and walkways of Selby Gardens. Once they walk through the Southern Colonial portico entrance and into the house with its arched doorways and curved double stairway, they are greeted by a volunteer docent, ready to share the mansion's history, highlight its architectural details and discuss the exhibit that is gracing the walls, whether it be the paintings of Chagall, botanical treasures from the Gardens' library and spirit collection or rainforest masks from Costa Rica.

While many visitors are drawn to the mansion by an exhibit, the house, listed on the National Register of Historic Places, is an attraction in its own right. The docents aim to maximize the value of their visit, regardless of their particular interests.

"Each and every volunteer is a front line ambassador to the public," says docent Sharon Rivera. "We fulfill our ambassadorship by enhancing the visitor's experience, and we each play a role in what memories people take away."



Christy and Anne Payne in front of the mansion.

About 85 volunteers currently serve as museum docents. For first time visitors, they offer a brief background on Christy Payne, who had spent years sketching architectural details that appealed to him in colonial houses from Williamsburg, Va., to Salem, Mass., in preparation for building his retirement home in Sarasota. After buying the property in 1934, Payne hired architect A.C. Price to incorporate his ideas into a house, built at a cost of \$50,000—a steep price at the height of the Depression. The vice president and treasurer of Standard Oil of New Jersey, Payne made a fortune in the oil business, just like his Sarasota



Elizabeth Holman



Sharon Rivera



De Emerick

neighbor, William Selby.

Christy's wife, Anne, and Marie Selby shared an enthusiasm for horticulture and the preservation of natural vegetation on their adjoining properties on Sarasota Bay. So it seems appropriate that their land was eventually combined in 1973 when the Selby Foundation purchased the Paynes' former home and preserved both properties in the world-class botanical garden that opened two years later.

Like other docents at the Payne Mansion, De Emerick knows how to engage visitors with interesting details about the house. For example, she will have them stand at the foot of the stairway and look up at the ceiling, which reveals a trap door. "It's the first hidden staircase in Sarasota, something Christy Payne had seen in his travels," she says.

Docent Elizabeth Holman points out to visitors that the stairway is placed "on the wrong side of the house, in the front instead of the rear, so it wouldn't ruin Mr. Payne's view of the Bay." She adds, "He liked outside light - you can tell by all the windows.



Payne Mansion during construction, 1930s.

The window in the living room is one of the most beautiful sights you'll ever see."

Other notable features of the mansion include the first poured terrazzo floor in Sarasota, crystal sconces and the wheat leaf motif on the dining room mantle.

Holman loves such architectural details. "Many call them unnecessary, but look at the ceiling and the fancy woodwork," she says.

While Payne was intrigued by structural motifs, he wanted a home that would withstand Florida hurricanes. The foundation is set on sturdy steel railroad ties and the downstairs floors are flood resistant cement under the terrazzo.

For the volunteer docents, a key benefit of working in the mansion is the learning opportunity as they attend lectures and are briefed by staff on the ever-changing exhibits. "It's continuing education for all of us," Rivera says.

But even more important is the opportunity to engage with visitors from around the world. Asked why he chose to volunteer as a docent, and what has kept him coming back for seven years, Jim Ferri says simply, "I like talking to people."

Emerick keeps track of the nationalities of those she meets at the mansion. In 2015, she talked to guests from 37 countries, and in 2016 she met people from 32 nations.

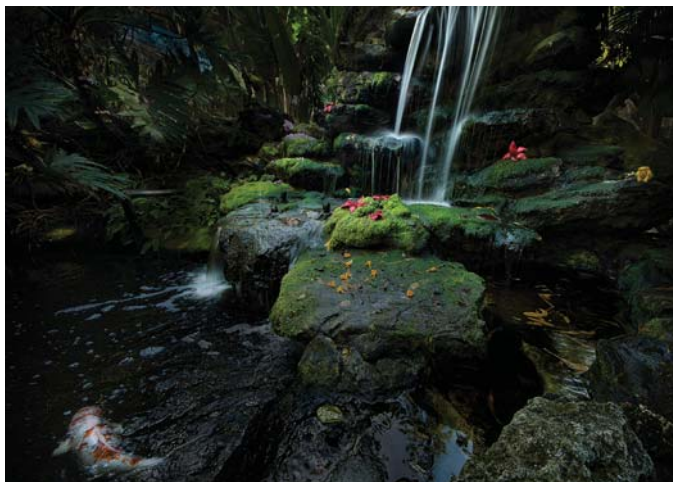
"The people you meet along the path are what makes the journey interesting," she says. "Every day there is at least one interesting person. It never gets old."

Celebrate **SELBY!**

37TH ANNUAL JURIED PHOTOGRAPHIC EXHIBITION

AUGUST 12 - SEPTEMBER 10, 2017

OPENING RECEPTION AND AWARDS PRESENTATION- 5:30 - 7:30 P.M., FRIDAY, AUGUST 11



entry by John Zeiss is featured on the cover of this issue of *Tropical Dispatch*.

Entry forms and full rules are available at www.selby.org. Contact Laura Avery, Manager of Classes & Exhibits, for questions at 941-366-5731 ext. 239 or education@selby.org.

CATEGORIES:

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

DEADLINES FOR ENTRY & RULES

Thursday, August 3 Due date for mailed entries.

Thursday, August 3 Receiving for hand-delivered photographs in the Mansion/Museum, 1:00pm - 6:00pm.

Show us what Selby Gardens means to you by sharing your photography during our 37th annual juried photo exhibition. There are five categories to present your most thoughtful, fun and inspired photographs that depict the scenery of Selby Gardens. Cash prizes will be awarded in each of the five categories, plus an overall "Best in Show" winner will be named. Last year's winning

WEDDINGS, CORPORATE & PRIVATE EVENTS

An urban oasis on the beautiful Sarasota Bayfront, the Gardens offer a stress-free environment conveniently located near hotels and resorts, and close to downtown shopping, dining and business facilities.

MICHAEL'S ON THE BAY

offers a variety of beautiful indoor and outdoor spaces that can accommodate a full range of events, from intimate gatherings to corporate meetings. Michael's on the Bay at Selby Gardens is Sarasota's premiere indoor event facility.

- 4,800 sq/ft
- Panoramic sunset and bay views
- 250 seated/350 theater-style
- Equipped with full multimedia and A/V options.

Onsite catering at all facilities is provided by Michael's On East, the most respected event vendor in the region.

For more information, please contact Michael's On East Catering Department at 941-366-0007 or email reservations@bestfood.com.

MICHAEL'S
ON EAST

EVENTS CALENDAR

MAY 14



With sweeping views of Sarasota Bay and an exquisite buffet provided by Michael's On East, mothers are sure to have a delightful day.

MAY 10, JUNE 7, JULY 7



Enjoy cocktails and hors d'oeuvres and learn to design flowers in amazing arrangements.

MAY 21, JUNE 18, JULY 23



5/21: Perlman Music Program/Suncoast

6/18: Kafkasso

7/23: SoulRcoaster

JULY 4



Celebrate the 4th of July at beautiful Selby Gardens. Listen to live music, savor the All-American favorites and enjoy the fireworks!
Selby Experience tickets available.

FRIDAY, JULY 14 • 6PM



BASTILLE DAY GALA AND CHAGALL SEASON GRAND FINALE

Michael's on the Bay at Selby Gardens

Presented by: Alliance Française de Sarasota

Guest Artist: Tangi Colombel, French cabaret Bal Musette

\$75 per person, \$125 event Patron.

Dinner festivities and a performance by Tangi Colombel, a native of France who started his acting and performing training in Paris at the renowned Cours Simon. In 2004 he began performing in Palm Beach, FL, for the musical *Jacques Brel is Alive and Well* and *Living in Paris*, which earned him numerous awards. He has been touring America and Asia to reveal what French singing is really about in his own show, *Pardon My French*.

For tickets or information call Michelle at : 941-955-0700

www.afsarasota.org

CLASSES

COMMUNITY CLASSES

MAY - AUGUST 2017

ART CLASSES



Beginners Only Watercolor

Session I: May 1, 8, 15
Session II: Jul 10, 17, 24
Session III: Aug 7, 14, 21
10:30 am - 2:30 pm

Three classes each session are designed to take the beginning watercolor student from inexperienced to comfortable with the basic tools and techniques of this fabulous medium. Learn color mixing, creating a basic palette, brush techniques, working with reference material and more in this structured small group workshop.

Instructor: Carolyn Merenda
Class Fee per Session: \$140 (Members \$125)

Intermediate Watercolor

Session I: May 2, 9, 16
Session II: May 23, 30 & June 6
Session III: Jul 11, 18, 25
Session IV: Aug 8, 15, 22
10:00 am - 2:00 pm

Each 3-class session focuses on demonstrations and a variety of watercolor techniques. Students with some previous experience will feel free to experiment, create their own compositions, or paint along with the instructor.

Instructor: Carolyn Merenda
Class Fee per Session: \$140 (Members \$125)



Zen Watercolor Workshops

One-Day Workshops: May 3, 4 or 5
10:00 am - 1:00 pm

Using Deborah Ross' fun and loose Zen-like painting techniques, capture some of the "gems" of Selby Gardens, including beautiful orchids, birds, butterflies and more. Register individually for one or more of her one-day workshops.

Instructor: Deborah Ross
Class Fee per Session: \$65 (Members \$50)



NEW! The Pleasures of Sumi-e

May 10, 17 & 24, 10:00 am - 2:00 pm

Capture the Spirit of the Garden! Put brush to paper and become immersed in the natural beauty of Selby Gardens. Learn to express yourself using the simple, basic brushstrokes of Japanese ink painting. Capture the spirit of a variety of garden subjects: elegant orchids, serene bamboo and the dynamic movement of koi. All levels welcome.

Instructor: Marcy Chapman
Class Fee: \$140 (Members \$125) each
Materials Fee: \$15 (pay instructor)

CLASS REGISTRATION POLICIES

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

Hand Printed Botanical Journal

May 18, 10:00 am-2:00 pm & May 25, 10:00 am-4:00 pm

Explore direct and indirect methods in this 2-part class of printing botanicals and play with color washes to create a beautiful, unique journal. Learn the simple parts of a book as you collage the fronts and back covers, use your hand painted papers to make signatures with wraps, and bind them together to the spine. Fill the pages with your thoughts, sketches, or make for great gift giving. For all skill levels. Just bring an apron or work shirt.

Instructor: Sandy Frick

Class Fee: \$120 (Members \$105) each

Materials Fee: \$20 (pay instructor)



NEW! Orchids for Everyone in Watercolor

May 22, 10:30 am – 2:30 pm

Inspired by the beautiful orchids of Selby Gardens, learn to paint them in watercolor. Reference material provided by the instructor or feel free to experiment and create your own compositions. Open to all levels.

Instructor: Carolyn Merenda

Class Fee per Session: \$65 (Members \$50)

NEW! Learn to Draw and Paint with a Brush

June 5, 10:30 am – 2:30 pm

Improve your watercolor technique or learn new tricks as you work along with the instructor. Open to all levels.

Instructor: Carolyn Merenda

Class Fee per Session: \$65 (Members \$50)



Botanical Whimsy in Ink and Watercolor

Jul 12, 13 & 14, 12:00 pm – 5:00 pm

Stretch your imagination in this 3-day workshop! Create an original drawing that demonstrates a delightful and charming use of plant or garden life. Incorporate colored paper, colored inks, colored pencil, ink wash and/or watercolor in your design. Browse children's books, comic books, cartoons and/or greeting cards to help inspire your imagination for original and whimsical garden characters. Then, bring your inspiration to this fun workshop!

Instructor: Olivia Braid

Class Fee: \$395 (Members \$350)

Materials Fee: \$35 (pay instructor)



Papilio glaucus
nv Eastern Tiger Swallowtail

Beautiful Butterflies & Friends

Jul 19, 10:00 am to 5:00 pm

All ages will enjoy this special workshop with Academy of Botanical Art Founder, Olivia Braid. Explore the complexities of nature's beautiful butterflies and other insect "friends." Select your subject from provided materials and work with colored pencil to complete your drawing. If you prefer to use watercolor, bring your paints and brushes.

Instructor: Olivia Braid

Class Fee: \$120 (Members \$95)

Materials Fee: \$40 (pay instructor)

Print the Chagall-Inspired Gardens

July 27 & 28

10:00 am – 3:00 pm

Draw on the incredible diversity of Selby Gardens' plants as your inspiration to design one of a kind nature prints in this two-day class. Learn exciting techniques to transfer leaf and flower images onto both paper and fabric. Create natural art on clothing and linens the first day, followed by note cards and small botanical prints the next. In recognition of the Marc Chagall exhibit, special emphasis will be placed on printing flowers. No previous experience is necessary.

Instructor: JoAnn Migliore Campisi

Class Fee: \$90 (Members \$70)

Materials Fee: \$30 (pay instructor)

Gelli Plate Printing

Aug 16, 10:00 am - 3:00 pm

Experience the joy of monoprinting without a press thanks to the gelli plate, a product that looks and feels like gelatin and can be used again and again. You will create one of a kind prints using leaves, textures, stencils, household items and acrylic paint. Once you start you won't want to stop!

Instructor: JoAnn Migliore Campisi

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

Materials Fee: \$5 (pay instructor)



NEW! Watercolor Mountains, Lakes & Waterfalls

Aug 28, 10:30 am – 2:30 pm

Leave the summer heat and be transported to cooler regions as you learn techniques to create mountains, lakes and waterfalls in watercolor. Open to all levels.

Instructor: Carolyn Merenda

Class Fee per Session: \$65 (Members \$50)

HEALTH & DISCOVERY



Summer Yoga Pass

Valid May 1 through Aug 28, 2017

This is an 8 session registration option for students who want the freedom to come for 8 sessions, but may not be able to attend them all in 2 consecutive months. The Summer Yoga Pass offers students flexibility to choose any eight of the scheduled yoga classes offered from May through August. Purchase pass before May 1 online; after May 1, purchase in the Welcome Center.

Instructor: Michelle Roy
Pass Fee: \$150 (Members \$110)

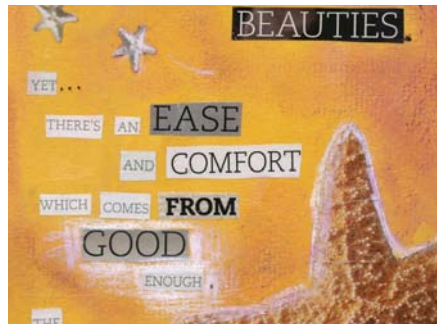


Yoga in the Gardens

Session I: May 1, 8, 15, 22
Session II: Jun 5, 12, 19, 26
Session III: Jul 10, 17, 24, 31
Session IV: Aug 7, 14, 21, 28
9:00 – 10:00 am

Start your Mondays off right by treating yourself to a peaceful mind/body Yoga experience in a beautiful Garden or indoor setting. This 4-week course focuses on alignment, breathing techniques and relaxation. For beginners as well as advanced students.

Instructor: Michelle Roy
Class Fee per Session: \$75 (Members \$55)



The Color of Dreams – Chagall Inspired Writing Retreat

May 11
10:00 am - 3:00 pm

This writing retreat is inspired by the botanical imagery of the Marc Chagall exhibition and the beautiful Gardens. Learn to add “color” to your poetry, journaling, short stories and blogs with creative writing exercises. View the works of Chagall and tour horticultural exhibitions inspired by the French Riviera. No prior writing experience is necessary. Bring a journal and a pen.

Instructor: Gail Condrick
Class Fee: \$65 (Members \$55)



Release Your Inner Chagall – Writing and Collage Retreat

July 20
10:00 am - 3:00 pm

Release your Inner Chagall through the inspiration of the Gardens, the exhibition, creative writing and collage. Tour the exhibition and learn to “see” the art symbolically, turning your reflections into a collage. Let your own dreamscape emerge through your writing and art. No prior writing experience is necessary. Bring a journal and a pen. Materials provided to create collages.

Instructor: Gail Condrick
Class Fee: \$65 (Members \$55)
Materials fee \$5 (pay instructor)

HORTICULTURE



Growing Orchids in SW Florida

June 2, 10:00 am – 12:00 pm

Orchid enthusiasts with some experience will get more detailed information on growing many of Florida’s remarkable native orchids and those orchids best suited for our area. Enjoy a tour of the many orchids found growing in the Tropical Conservatory.

Instructor: Monroe Kokin
Class Fee: \$50 (Members \$35)



Potting & Mounting Orchids

Session I: May 31, 11:00 am – 1:00 pm
Session II: July 26, 11:00 am – 1:00 pm

Selby’s knowledgeable orchid expert will help you give your treasured plants a new lease on life! Bring an orchid to re-pot for an additional fee; \$10 average potting fee, depending on size of plant.

Instructor: Angel Lara
Class Fee per session: \$50 (Members \$35)
Potting Fee: \$10 average depending on size of plant.



Orchids 101

Aug 5, 10:00 am – 12:00 pm

A class for orchid novices - you'll be surprised at how easy orchid growing can be! Get insightful instruction, enjoy a power-point presentation and tour the orchids found growing in the Tropical Conservatory.

Instructor: Monroe Kokin
Class Fee: \$50 (Members \$35)



NEW! Landscaping with Garden Friendly Bamboo

Aug 10, 12:00-1:00 pm

Are you looking for a fast-growing, attractive, low-maintenance, pest-resistant, Florida-friendly landscape? Look no farther than the beauty and versatility of bamboo! Join our horticulturist and bamboo-ophile in an exploration of non-invasive, garden-friendly tropical bamboos.

Instructor: Tracy Calla
Class Fee: \$20 (Members \$15)

PHOTOGRAPHY



NEW! 20 Quick Tips to Improve Your Photography

May 12, 10am - 1pm

Get your summer and travels off to a good start with this fast paced and fun workshop. We will sequentially cover 20 of the most useful tips to improve your photography, no matter what your particular subject interest or level of photography experience. This list was compiled by your instructor Perry Johnson, a veteran commercial photographer with over 25 years shooting and teaching experience. We will then use the backdrop of Selby Gardens to practice your favorite new tip at one of our work stations outside the classroom.

Instructor: Perry Johnson
Class Fee: \$75 (Members \$55)



Tripod Tuesdays

**May 23, June 27, July 11 & 25
9:00 – 10:00 am**

Selby is offering special access to our Tropical Conservatory before hours on four Tuesdays this summer during the Marc Chagall exhibition. Photographers who register in advance for this special opportunity will be allowed to use tripods to capture images of thousands of orchid and other lush tropical plants. Register early as space is limited.

Fee per Session: \$20 (Members \$15)

Adobe Lightroom

May 26, 1:30 – 4:30 pm

This photography course is perfect for both the passionate photographer and those new to photography. Discover how Adobe Lightroom can improve your image quality, presentation and professionalism. Come with your laptop, preloaded with a 30-day free trial version of Adobe Lightroom, available from their website. Be prepared to learn techniques for cropping and editing photos, adding effects, showcasing your work in slideshows, creating beautiful prints and much more.

Instructor: Daniel R. Perales
Class Fee: \$75 (Members \$55)

Visual Poetry

Aug 4, 10:00 am – 1:00 pm

Follow a simple path to creating compelling photographs! Your images will have more variety and you may see some of your subjects in a different way. Practice some of these principles at three stations in Selby Gardens, rain or shine, and finish with a brief group discussion. Bring your camera, an open mind and a big smile! This workshop is appropriate for any level of photographic experience. Handout with workshop outline will be available.

Instructor: Perry Johnson
Class Fee: \$75 (Members \$55)

Exposed: Behind the Scenes Photography

Aug 17, 2:30 – 6:00 pm

In this one-day session you and your camera will be provided unprecedented access to Selby's nonpublic greenhouses. With your lens, explore row upon row of world class live plant specimens. This limited access class is scheduled to capitalize on the changing light of sunset. Participants will refresh their skills and learn new ones while exploring the greenhouse collection of plants, spaces and tools of the trade.

Instructor: Daniel R. Perales
Class Fee: \$85 (Members \$65)

CAMP LOOKOUT

discover yourself



Selby's Summer Camp Lookout! is a full-day camp, designed for campers ages 6-11. Expanded curriculum and new activities integrate both science and the arts.

With a different theme each week, mornings are packed with time in the great outdoors, wading in our waters, climbing the trees and catching lizards. After lunch, camp moves indoors, and becomes Camp Look!Art!, created to complement our exhibition *Marc Chagall, Flowers, and the French Riviera: The Color of Dreams*. Afternoons

are dedicated to artistic exploration of Chagall's colorful, dreamlike works: flowers, people and places, and the circus!

Register for just one week, two or all three weeks. Registration for each week is limited to 35 campers. 9 AM to 3 PM. **Questions?** Contact us at 941-366-5731 x273 or email schools@selby.org.

Weekly Camp Tuition:

\$200 Gardens members, \$220 non-members

WEEKLY THEMES

WEEK 1: JUNE 12-16

MORNINGS: "Adventure Bay"

Campers will get their feet wet as they discover what lives in the estuary and learn to identify the fish, crustaceans and other creatures that make the coastal grass flats their home. Using creative and critical thinking skills, campers will enjoy activities such as fish printing, daily dip-net discoveries, crab inquiry and storytelling games.

AFTERNOONS: "Flowers and the French Riviera"

Complementing our current exhibition featuring Marc Chagall's flowers and botanical imagery, campers will create floral and nature-inspired art.

WEEK 2: JUNE 19-23

MORNINGS: "Growing Gardeners"

Campers will get their hands dirty by digging into gardening activities, including designing their own butterfly garden and creating recycled wildflower paper. Daily activities surrounding native plants, epiphytes, edibles and flowers are designed to teach children gardening secrets so they'll go home with a green thumb.

AFTERNOONS: "I and the Village"

Throughout Marc Chagall's life, many of his works featured self portraits, landscapes, scenes of village life and the people he loved. This week, campers will explore self-portraiture, and create their own masterpieces featuring the places they live and the people they know.

WEEK 3: JUNE 26-30

MORNINGS: "Rainforest Friends"

Campers will unlock the mysteries of the deep, dark rainforest, exploring the people, plants and animals that call this place home. Make rainforest inspired objects, press & pickle plants and take field notes like a botanist. Learn about weird and wonderful creatures, great and small.

AFTERNOONS: "Cirque du Sarasota"

Inspired by Marc Chagall's wild and whimsical circus imagery, and celebrating Sarasota's own heritage as a circus city, campers this week will make fantastic and colorful circus-themed creations.

little sprouts club

Included with admission, FREE for members.



The Rainforest From A-Z

MAY 4, 5, 6
10:30-11:30 am



A PASSION FOR ORCHIDS

Leads to a Major Bequest

Donna Valley Russell had a passion for orchids. She filled a large greenhouse in her Maryland home with more than 500 orchid plants, and she was an active member of the Catocin, Md., Orchid Society.

“She was infatuated with orchids,” says her son, James Stuart. So it was natural that during visits to Sarasota she was drawn to Selby Gardens, with its world-renowned collection of and research on orchids and other epiphytes.

“Selby Gardens was one of her treasures to go see,” Stuart says. “She loved Selby because of all the work they do. She was awed by the whole thing.”

Mrs. Russell, who died in March 2015 at age 87, never lived in Sarasota, but came to visit her friends, Erwin and Allis Edelman, longtime Sarasota residents and Gardens members, who introduced her to Selby Gardens. She developed such a strong attachment that she left the Gardens a major gift in her estate.

“Mrs. Russell and those like her who are passionate about the Gardens are the torchbearers for our future,” said Ann Logan, Chief Development Officer at Selby Gardens. “The generosity of a legacy gift ensures that generations to come will be able to enjoy the natural world.”

A native of Detroit, Mrs. Russell graduated from Wheaton College in Massachusetts and received a master’s degree in education from the University of Michigan. She had a lifelong love of the outdoors

and of gardening, and was certified as a master gardener in Michigan before moving to Maryland when she married George Russell. Horseback riding, canoeing, sailing and swimming were among her other pursuits.

George and Donna were both avid genealogists and fellows in the American Society of Genealogists, and together and individually published many books of genealogy. One of Mrs. Russell’s books, published in 1990, is titled *The Selby Families of Colonial America*. It traces the male lines of all Selby families living in colonial times into the 1800s. While Stuart does not know his mother’s motivation for writing the book, he believes her interest in Selby Gardens may have spurred her to pursue the Selby genealogy.

In fact, the book tied together three main drivers in her life—writing, orchids and genealogy.

“Knowing the way she thought, I wouldn’t be surprised if Selby Gardens sparked her interest

in writing a book about Selby family genealogy,” Stuart says. “Once she got onto something, she was like a tiger and she wouldn’t let it go.”

Members of the Marie Selby Legacy Society have expressed their commitment to Marie Selby Botanical Gardens through a very special and important form of financial support. These donors have named Selby Gardens as the beneficiary of a planned gift. To learn more about the Legacy Society, call 941-366-5731 ext. 266 or email tributes@selby.org



MARIE SELBY
LEGACY
Society

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(As of December 2016)

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to our inaugural corporate partners.



SUMMER AT **SELBY GARDENS**

SELBY'S
Splashin'
Saturdays!

RETURNS!

6 WEEKS • 10 AM - NOON
JUNE 10-JULY 15



Cool off with water activities, slides and games in the shade of the iconic Selby Gardens banyan trees.

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

**CAMP
LOOKOUT**
discover yourself

JUNE 12-30

Selby's Summer Camp Lookout! is a full-day camp, designed for campers ages 6-11. Expanded curriculum and new activities integrate both science and the arts.

★ ALL ★
AMERICAN
**COOK
OUT**
JULY 4 • 6-10 PM

Celebrate the 4th of July at beautiful Selby Gardens. Listen to live music, savor the All-American favorites and enjoy the fireworks!
Selby Experience tickets available.

Bastille Day
Juillet 14

JULY 14
Dinner festivities and a performance by Tangi Colombel.

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