

# Discover the Heart of Gardening in Bradenton: Join the Manatee River Garden Club!

By **Melanie Halsey Koester**

Looking for a welcoming community where you can dig into your passion for plants, make lasting friendships, and enjoy Florida's beautiful outdoors? The Manatee River Garden Club (MRGC) is the perfect place to bloom—right here in NW Bradenton's historic Riverview neighborhood.

For nearly 100 years, this friendly group has connected gardeners of all experience levels who love horticulture, floral design, environmental stewardship, and the simple joy of growing things in our unique climate. Whether you're a seasoned expert with a yard full of hibiscus or a beginner dreaming of your first butterfly garden, you'll find encouragement, practical tips, and plenty of smiles.

## Come for the Learning, Stay for the Friendship

Meetings take place on the third Wednesday of each month (September through May) and feature inspiring programs and guest speakers. Recent topics have included butterfly gardens, bromeliads, Florida-Friendly landscaping, oyster gardening, and more—knowledge you can take home and use in your own yard right away. We have evening programs planned for this summer. Watch our website for more details!

Every meeting includes an educational program, light lunch,

and plenty of time to chat, laugh, and swap plant stories with like-minded neighbors. It's more than gardening—it's about building friendships and sharing the fun. Membership is open to anyone interested in gardening, floral arranging, and related endeavors. Our membership application is available on our website; there are no meeting attendance requirements.

## Hands-On Opportunities to Grow

Love getting your hands dirty? Join the Garden Angels, a dedicated group of volunteers who care for the beautiful grounds around the clubhouse. They meet on the second Tuesday of each month at 8 a.m. year-round. There's always something new to plant, friendly members to chat with, and the club's butterfly garden is a certified National Garden Club Pollinator Garden!

## Special Events This June

- **National Garden Week (June 7-13):** Celebrate the joy of gardening and help pass on traditions to new enthusiasts.
- **Summer Fair on Saturday, June 20, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.:** Shop for plants, crafts, coastal décor, floral arrangements, and unique gifts—perfect for treating yourself or finding something special for friends and family.

## A Beautiful Venue for Your Next Celebration

Looking for a charming, picturesque spot for a baby shower, birthday party, anniversary, family gathering, or other special event? The Manatee River Garden Club's historic clubhouse is available for rent and offers a lovely setting surrounded by lush, landscaped gardens.

The spacious main room (1,600 sq. ft.) features a cozy fireplace and French doors that open to a screened patio—ideal for seated dinners, buffets, cocktails, or dancing. The venue comfortably accommodates up to 170 guests and includes a conference room, full kitchen facilities, complimentary Wi-Fi, and ample off-street parking. The club hosts only one event per day, giving your celebration the attention it deserves. See our website for more details. The clubhouse is conveniently located between Manatee Avenue West and Riverview Boulevard, next to Lewis Park. (Note: Contact the City of Bradenton for any use of park grounds.)

## A Rich Legacy Rooted in Community

The Manatee River Garden Club traces its roots to the mid-1920s, when a small group of visionary women came together to beautify the Manatee River area of Bradenton with colorful



# Manatee River Garden Club Summer Fair

@3120 1st Ave. W., Bradenton

Plants, handmade crafts, homemade baked goods, coastal decor, gifts, floral arrangements.

Indoor setting with A/C. Support local. Cash only. Please stop by!

**SATURDAY,  
JUNE 20  
10AM-4PM**

hibiscus and oleanders. What began as a beautification committee soon blossomed into a full-fledged garden club. Early meetings were held in members' homes, and by 1930 the group had grown enough to organize into circles in Palmetto, Palma Sola, and Ellenton. The club was federated in 1934 and formally incorporated in 1945. Since our inception, club members have beautified Bradenton with plantings at local landmarks like the Palma Sola Causeway, Manatee Historical Village, and more. Today, as a 501(c)(3) nonprofit, MRGC continues to promote sustainable gardening, water conservation, native plants, and hands-on community projects.

## Ready to Grow with Us?

Whether you want to master new gardening skills, enjoy great company, or host your next event in a beautiful garden setting, the Manatee River Garden Club welcomes you with open arms (and probably a few extra plant cuttings!). Come visit a meeting, tour the gardens, and see the magic for yourself. You'll leave feeling inspired, connected, and ready to grow—maybe with new friends and fresh ideas for your own yard.

For meeting dates, membership information, upcoming programs, or to book the clubhouse, visit [manateerivergardenclub.com](https://manateerivergardenclub.com) or find us on Facebook. Your next gardening adventure—and your perfect celebration venue—starts here. We can't wait to grow with you!

<https://manateerivergardenclub.com>

<https://www.facebook.com/manateerivergardenclubinc1929>



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