

MRGC BULLETIN BOARD

March
2026



What an exciting month March will be for our club! We have our gift to the community, our Flower Show to look forward to, and of course, astronomical spring officially begins March 20 so we will all soon stop worrying about the effects of cold fronts on our plants. Welcome Spring!

Melanie



March Luncheon: "Florida Palms"

Cost \$12

Hostesses: **Denise LeBlanc (chairperson)** and her committee, Nancy Albert, Sandy Brophy, Lorraine Grace, Monica Newcomer and Tamara Zelaya. They will be serving Quiche, Fruit salad, Salad and an assortment of Desserts.

Social hour: 9:30 to 10:30 and the meeting **begins at 10:30AM** with the luncheon to follow.

Please RSVP to mrgchospitality@gmail.com no later than **March 10th** to let us know if you can or cannot attend and if you're bringing a guest so that we can plan accordingly. We look forward to seeing you there!

Rita & Jay Obeid. Hospitality Chairpersons

March Program:

"Palms For You To Know About"

Speaker: Amy Stripe, Master Gardener from UF/IFAS Manatee County will have a presentation on Palms

Welcome to our new members: **Debbie Price, Marcia Geoghan and Elizabeth Pugliese**

March 2026

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1	2	3 BOD 10am Garden Angels 8-noon	4	5	6	7 Private event
8 Private event	9 Flower Show set-up	10 Special Election Club closed	11-12 Flower Show set-up		13 Luck of the Irish Flower Show	
15	16	17 St. Patrick's Day	18 MRGC MEETING 10:30	19	20	21
22-23 Judges Council Event		24 Field Trip to Stacy's	25 Membership Committee 10am	26	27	28



LUCK OF THE IRISH FLOWER SHOW

MARCH 13-14



Set-up is Monday, Wednesday and Thursday before the show. Any help is appreciated!

HORTICULTURE Make sure to submit your horticulture registration to Janice by Friday March 6th. You can enter up to 10 items. If you need help identifying your plants, let us know. We would like everyone to submit at least one. Registration form is on the last page here.

PHOTOGRAPHERS: Give your photos to Cathy by March 9th. She will be at the club on March 3rd for Garden Angels and Monday March 9th for set-up.

CLERKS & HOSTESSES: We still need one volunteer to clerk on Friday morning. We still need a few hostesses. Contact Barbara Beury.

HOSPITALITY: If you would like to help with the judges hospitality, contact Rita & Jay Obeid: mrgchospitality@gmail.com

Here is the schedule for the week:

Monday: Horticulture set up. 10 am - ?
(Should not take too long to arrange tables, put table cloths on tables etc)
We will only need a few people.

Tuesday: none - club closed for special election

Wednesday: Hort entries 9 am - 3 pm,
Set up main and conference rooms 9 am - ?
This is the main set-up day!

Thursday: Complete set-up 9 am - 6 pm,
Designs etc. entered 9 am - 6 pm
Hort - cuts accepted 9 - 10 am.

Friday: Cuts may be replaced if needed in Hort and flowers in Design 8 - 9 am.
Clerks meet at 9:00 am
Judging 10 am.
Show open: 2 - 4 pm

Saturday: Show open: 10 am - 3 pm.
All exhibits removed 3 - 6 pm
Celebration afterwards for all participants.
Join the fun!

Field Trip: Our very own **Stacy Brown** has invited us to come and tour her beautiful garden on **TUESDAY, MARCH 24, 2026.** The Manatee County Extension has asked to use her garden as a training day for their professions program, "Florida Friendly Landscape" the week before. Sign up to come at 10:00, 11:00 or 12:00 because parking is limited.

RSVP: Sandy Brophy - sandy@bookweevil.com
941-718-5488

2026

GIVING CHALLENGE

The Giving Challenge is an online giving event that provides nonprofits the opportunity to gain exposure to—and build relationships with—new donors, and for people in our region to come together to raise as much money as possible for local nonprofits. The Giving Challenge is sponsored by Sarasota Community Foundation and this will be third time **Manatee River Garden Club** has participated in the event.

The Patterson Foundation, a partner since the inception of the Giving Challenge, has contributed nearly \$37 million to the Giving Challenge since 2012. **The Patterson Foundation will continue to strengthen giving during the 2026 Giving Challenge by providing a 1:1 match for all unique donations, up to \$100 per donor, per organization, with no limit on the number of individual matches a nonprofit organization can receive.**

The Challenge will happen on April 15-16, 2026. In 2022 and 2024, our club was able to raise substantial funds through the event. Funds raised at the 2026 Giving Challenge will be used toward improvements to our patio and the purchase of new chairs for our clubhouse.

More information will come as we get closer to the date. We are thankful to The Patterson Foundation for matching dollar for dollar our donations, up to \$100 per donor.

