MRGC BULLETIN

December 2026

Dear Garden Club Friends,

This time of year reminds us that the finest things we cultivate aren't just the blooms in our beds, but the friendships we nurture along the way. Every time we gather—whether digging in the dirt side by side, swapping cuttings and gardening tips, or simply catching up over coffee—we strengthen the bonds that make this club feel like a second home. Your kindness, curiosity, and willingness to lend a hand are what truly keep our club vibrant and welcoming. Thank you for making our club such a welcoming, inspiring place to learn, grow, and give back. Wishing you and your loved ones a joyful, peaceful holiday season and a bright, blooming New Year.

Warmly, Melanie

December Luncheon: "Stars, Stripes and Santa"

HOLIDAY POT LUCK LUNCHEON

Bring your favorite dish to share…anything **BUT** dessert. Sandy Brophy and committee will provide them!

The meeting **begins at 10:30AM** with the luncheon to follow. Please RSVP by **December 7th** to **mrgchospitality@gmail.com** to let us know whether or not you can attend. It is very important to RSVP promptly so that the committees can provide the necessary refreshments and place settings.

We look forward to seeing you there! Rita & Jay Obeid. Hospitality Chairs

THIS MONTH'S PROGRAM

"The History of MRGC"
presented by Julie McClure
and

Our Potluck Luncheon features your themed place settings and the Annual Auction of our Designer's Centerpieces. The theme this year is "Stars, Stripes & Santa".

SEE BELOW

December 2026

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1	2	3	4	5 Happy Hanukkah
6	7	8 Garden Angels ?-noon	9	10 BOD MEETING 10:00	11	12
13	14	15 Set-up 1pm	16 MRGC MEETING 10:30 POTLUCK Theme: Stars, Stripes & Santa	17	18	19
20 PS Botanical Park… Nights Under the Lights	21	22	23	24	25 Merry Christmas	26
27	28	29	30	31		Happy New Year

Welcome to our newest members

Alyson Flower
Ramona Griffin
Carol Galib
Ilsa Grant-Taylor
Pat Temple
Lynn Markgraf
Lisa Brennan
Carol Puchir
Margie Mundy

Palma Sola Botanical Park…Nights Under the Lights
See below

CENTERPIECES

Our Annual Centerpiece Auction is at the December luncheon. The theme this year is "Stars, Stripes and Santa". If you would like to contribute a centerpiece, contact Carol Friedman 941-238-8561



PLACE SETTING CONTEST

Each member must bring their own place setting for this month's luncheon. Bring a bag to take your used pieces home. No cleaning at the club.

Prizes will be given to the best place settings in our theme:

"Stars, Stripes and Santa"

We will also be having a **Silent Auction** featuring **ORCHIDS** donated by a friend of our club.

A WORD ABOUT RESERVATIONS:

Each month, a committee is tasked with preparing for the luncheon. This involves not only food, but the seating allotted for those who RSVP. We are having issues with our preparation for these luncheons due to late RSVPs. It is difficult and frustrating to plan for these luncheons when the number changes overnight. Last month alone, we had an increase of 14 people, requiring two additional tables and centerpieces and a last minute dash to the grocery!

A deadline for reservations is set each month. Please be aware of it and respond in a timely fashion. When you reserve, make sure you get a reply from Hospitality.



Flower Show News

Our annual Flower Show, "Bloom on, Manatee" is March 12th and 13th. Each member is asked to enter at least one piece of horticulture that they are growing. Specimens, both cut and container-grown must be in your possession for at least 90 days (by **December 12th**). Combination plantings need to be growing together for 6 weeks (by January 29th). The schedule will be available soon. Classes in the other divisions will be posted then.

The show is our gift to the public. Lets make it special!

Help Melanie collect aluminum pop tabs from canned food and beverage cans for the Ronald McDonald House.

We are making another plea for any historical documents, photos, newspaper clippings etc as well as any members interested in historical research. Let Melanie know.

Necklace Raffle

Funds used to purchase new chairs!



Drawing at our Plant Auction 2/25/27.

Need not be present to win.

Only 200 tickets will be sold.

RAFFLE CONTEST

The member who sells the most necklace raffle tickets will receive a

$150.00

Gift Certificate to

EnRich

See Carol Friedman for tickets

Palma Sola Botanical Park's

Winter Nights Under the Lights

6-9 pm Thurs. ~ Sun.
Dec. 17, 18, 19, & 20, 2026

Acres of Lights, Santa & Mrs. Claus, Food Trucks,
Gift Market, Hot Cider, Live Holiday Music,
Decorated Trees, Crafts, Toys for Tots, & More

Free Admission

Donations Appreciated to Support Non-Profit Park

9800 17th Ave. Bradenton