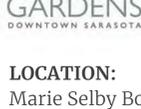


## Sea Tours

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 27



**LOCATION:**  
Marie Selby Botanical Gardens  
1534 Mound Street  
Sarasota, FL 34236

**Private, behind-the-scenes tour of the gardens and research center.**

**TIME:** 9:00 a.m. - 10:45 a.m.

Marie Selby Botanical Gardens provides 45 acres of bayfront sanctuaries connecting people with air plants of the world, native nature, and our regional history. Established by forward-thinking women of their time, Selby Gardens is composed of the 15-acre Downtown Sarasota campus and the 30-acre Historic Spanish Point campus in the Osprey area of Sarasota County, Florida.

The Downtown Sarasota campus on Sarasota Bay is the only botanical garden in the world dedicated to the display and study of epiphytic orchids, bromeliads, gesneriads and ferns, and other tropical plants. There is a significant focus on botany, horticulture, education, historical preservation, and the environment. Selby Gardens' Downtown Sarasota campus features the world's first net positive energy botanical garden complex, generating more energy than it consumes. The Historic Spanish Point campus is located less than 10 miles south along Little Sarasota Bay. One of the largest preserves showcasing native Florida plants and active archaeology that is interpreted for and open to the public, it celebrates an archaeological record that encompasses approximately 5,000 years of Florida history.

Marie Selby Botanical Gardens is a Smithsonian Affiliate and is also accredited by the American Alliance of Museums. Selby Gardens was named one of *Time* magazine's "World's Greatest Places 2024," recognized in *The Wall Street Journal* as "Best of Architecture of 2024," selected as USA Today "2025 Top 10 Botanical Gardens in the U.S.," featured in *Vogue Magazine* 2025 "Best Botanical Gardens in the US," and honored with a 2025 Global Vision Award by *Travel + Leisure*.

## John McCarthy, Marie Selby Botanical Gardens

### SPEAKER BIOGRAPHY

John McCarthy is the Vice President for Regional History for Marie Selby Botanical Gardens. Mr. McCarthy is passionate about Florida ecology and history and is well known for his encyclopedic knowledge of the Sarasota region, which he shares through presentations, tours and publications.

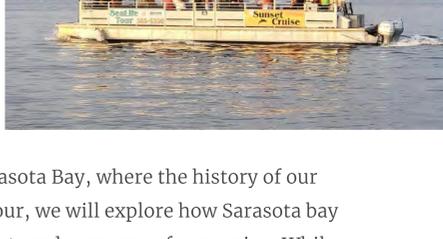


John is a native Floridian, and worked with Sarasota County Government for 32 years as an Environmental Specialist, County Historian, and Director of Parks and Recreation. John joined the Marie Selby Botanical Gardens team in 2020. John's work in the community has been recognized in several awards including *Hero of History* (Historical Society of Sarasota County), *Partner of the Year* (Junior League of Sarasota), *Citizen of the Year* (Council of Neighborhood Associations), and *Champion of Architecture* (Gulf Coast Chapter AIA). John was nominated to join LAI in 2024.

## Sarasota Bay History Cruise

### SARASOTA BAY EXPLORERS

**LOCATION: Boat Dock**  
Marie Selby Botanical Gardens  
1534 Mound Street  
Sarasota, FL 34236



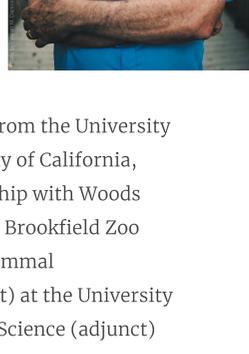
**TIME:** 11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Our second day of tours focuses on Sarasota Bay, where the history of our community began. On this waterway tour, we will explore how Sarasota bay has influenced the history, development, and economy of our region. While enjoying the beauty of Sarasota Bay on an intimate level, we will hear from experts on local history, marine ecology, and wildlife, including the principal scientist of the longest-running bottlenose dolphin study in the world. We will also learn how our local bayfront is being transformed to enhance the ecology and economy of the region. Don't miss this trip back in time - and into the future!

## Randy Wells, Sarasota Dolphin Research Program

### SPEAKER BIOGRAPHY

Randall Wells directs the Sarasota Dolphin Research Program, the world's longest-running dolphin conservation research program. He began studying bottlenose dolphins in Sarasota Bay, Florida, as a high school volunteer at Mote Marine Laboratory in 1970, engaging in behavioral studies of shark-dolphin behavioral interactions as well as dolphin tagging. Wells received his Bachelor's degree in Zoology from the University of South Florida in 1975, his Masters in Zoology from the University of Florida in 1978, and his PhD in Biology from the University of California, Santa Cruz in 1986. He was awarded a post-doctoral fellowship with Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution in 1987. He has worked with Brookfield Zoo Chicago since 1989, where he is Vice President of Marine Mammal Conservation. Wells is a Professor of Ocean Sciences (adjunct) at the University of California, Santa Cruz, and Professor of Marine Mammal Science (adjunct) at the University of Florida's College of Veterinary Medicine.



Wells' current research program uses a collaborative approach to examine the behavior, social structure, life history, ecology, health, and population biology of bottlenose dolphins along the central west coast of Florida, with studies focusing on up to five concurrent generations of a locally resident ~170-member dolphin community.

**Anecdotal Speakers:** Jon Thaxton, Sandy Gilbert, Elliott Falcione.

**TIME: 1:15p.m.** | Walk from 10th Street Docks to The Bay

## Bayfront Community Center

### LUNCH & PRESENTATIONS

**LOCATION:**  
803 N Tamiami Trl,  
Sarasota, FL 34236

**TIME:** 1:30 p.m. - 2:45 p.m.



**Caterer:** Chef Kelley Hawks and Tiki Go Go

## Bill Waddill, Kimley-Horn

### SPEAKER BIOGRAPHY

Bill Waddill is a certified planner and landscape architect with Kimley-Horn and Associates and has over 36 years of experience managing the design, public engagement, and implementation process for both public and private projects, including the Bradenton Riverwalk, Siesta Beach Park, and Baker Park in Naples. Additionally, Bill spent 6 years (2018-2023) as the Chief Implementation Officer at the Bay Park Conservancy, leading the design and implementation of the Bay Park. Bill is also very active in local projects that improve the quality of life in downtown Sarasota and the Rosemary District, advocating for public/private partnerships and public consensus building to enable successful implementation of historic preservation, cultural, and urban mobility initiatives.



## Diana Shaheen, Bay Park Conservancy

### SPEAKER BIOGRAPHY

Diana puts her two-plus-decade career at Procter & Gamble to work at The Bay as she and rest of The Bay team curate 800+ free events in the park every year, ensure the park is well-maintained and looks like new every day, create engaging marketing and communications that bring The Bay brand to life, and bring people of all ages and backgrounds to the park again and again.



Since opening in October 2022, more than one million people have visited The Bay - consistently enjoying surprisingly delightful experiences such as practicing yoga and fitness to watching movies and dancing under the stars... and more... with everything being open and accessible, free and welcoming to all. Diana is the Chief Operating Officer for the Bay Park Conservancy.

## The Bay Park

### WALKING TOUR

**LOCATION:**  
1055 Boulevard of the Arts,  
Sarasota, FL 34236

**TIME:** 3:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.

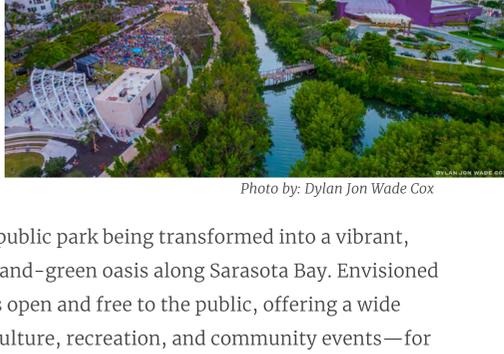


Photo by: Dylan Jon Wade Cox

The Bay Sarasota is a signature public park being transformed into a vibrant, inclusive, and sustainable blue-and-green oasis along Sarasota Bay. Envisioned as "One Park for All," The Bay is open and free to the public, offering a wide range of experiences—nature, culture, recreation, and community events—for people of all ages and backgrounds.

## Tours Closing Happy Hour

### SAGE RESTAURANT, ROOFTOP LOUNGE



**LOCATION:**  
Sage Restaurant Rooftop Lounge  
1216 1st St, Sarasota, FL 34236

**TIME:** 6:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.

# Thank You For Your Support

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MARIE SELBY  
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