



## Almost Summer at Reflections of Manatee

Hope to see you soon.

Isn't it true that time flies? We took part in the Giving Challenge last month, in which the Patterson Foundation matched donations for 24 hours. On Saturday, April 23rd, we had a fantastic group of volunteers assist us in cleaning up the yards and planting new trees for our Earth Day event. Let's take a look at what we've done since our last newsletter.

Also, read the message about volunteer opportunities below.

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### Native Plant Garden Check-In

Our medicinal and herbal plant gardens are adjusting well to their new surroundings. Check out the amazing photos taken by our team below. If you want to see these lovely additions in person, stop by Reflections or learn more about our volunteer opportunities below. Thank you again to the Florida Native Plant Society- Serenoa Chapter for our planting grant, and Elizabeth Baylis, our resident plant expert.

Plant varieties include: Stokes Aster, Starry Rosin, Cutleaf Cone Flower, Dune Sunflower, and others. Stop by to see our beautiful blooms.





## The Giving Challenge

We are grateful to all those who participated in The Giving Challenge from noon on April 26 to noon on April 27. This 24-hour online event provided an opportunity for our community to raise much-needed funds with any donation between \$25 and \$100 matched by the Community Foundation of Sarasota County. Fourteen individuals donated a total of over \$1300 to Reflections. Your contributions will help us to conserve our historic buildings, create new inclusive interpretations of our shared history, and continue protecting the tree canopy and environment in this historic district. If you missed The Giving Challenge but would still like to donate [click here](#).



# Earth Day at Reflections

This year for Earth Day, Reflections of Manatee partnered with Keep Manatee Beautiful for a neighborhood cleanup. Volunteers including Mayor Gene Brown, Councilman Bill Sanders, Girl Scout Troop 4, and many others helped remove invasive species from the Reflections property, install new vegetable and herb gardens, and removed **12,400** pounds of trash around the area. We dedicated a Florida Slash Pine and planted new fruit trees. In addition, Keep Manatee Beautiful purchased two Mobimats (ADA walkways to assist with our efforts to increase accessibility to the museums) and ordered wheelchair accessible raised garden beds. We would like to extend a special thank you to Jennifer Hoffman, Executive Director of Keep Manatee Beautiful, for coordinating this amazing event.











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## Upcoming Events

Nothing scheduled in the next month, but watch this space for the fun fall lineup we are working on.

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## Amazon Wishlist



We have recently created an Amazon Wishlist as an easy and convenient method to support reflections through the purchase of museum-specific donation items. Examples of requested items include:

- Tents for lecture and outdoor events
- Gardening supplies
- Conservation materials for archaeological collections
- Interpretive materials for signage and educational programming.

The list can be accessed via the link below, Museum Supplies, or by searching Amazon's charity lists under Accounts and Lists search for Reflections of Manatee. Please consider supporting us through Amazon smile through your normal Amazon purchasing as well. We appreciate your support (and gifts).

View our full list here:

[https://smile.amazon.com/hz/charitylist/ls/19CI8L303LH5/ref=smi\\_cl\\_wl\\_rd\\_cl?ref=smi\\_se\\_cl\\_rd\\_cl](https://smile.amazon.com/hz/charitylist/ls/19CI8L303LH5/ref=smi_cl_wl_rd_cl?ref=smi_se_cl_rd_cl)



## Volunteer With Reflections

Do you want to help out at Reflections? You may be interested in upcoming volunteer opportunities such as vegetable and fruit planting and maintenance, landscape maintenance, learning to be a docent, and event day

volunteering for things such as the annual Angola Festival, a girls in science project, or Halloween weekend.

Email us: [reflectionsofmanatee@msn.com](mailto:reflectionsofmanatee@msn.com) for more information.

## **Please Join Now**

### **A \$15 membership supports Reflections' mission**

Memberships are accepted at any time and renew on January 1st.

If you aren't a member of Reflections, please join now to support our mission, museums, and programming. Memberships also make great gifts for family, friends, or students.

Benefits of membership include:

- Discount for attending special events
- Invitation to participate in our General Meeting and Board Elections (January)
- Volunteer to be nominated for the Board of Directors

Dues are currently \$15 a year. There are three ways to pay:

1. MAIL a check to the address at the bottom of this newsletter.
2. ONLINE - Use a credit card to pay by PayPal on our website (scroll all the way to the bottom of the home page). [www.reflectionsofmanatee.org](http://www.reflectionsofmanatee.org)
3. IN PERSON - Bring your payment to one of our events.

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**Reflections of Manatee**  
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[www.reflectionsofmanatee.org](http://www.reflectionsofmanatee.org)

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