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the

GARDEN PATH

In 1512, Ponce de Leon discovered Florida, initially naming it La Florida, from the Spanish concept of flowery, abundant with flowers, or covered with flowers.

The "Land of Flowers", an official State nickname for the wildflowers that are so abundant from border to border, has become a botanic sanctuary for those wanting to "stop and smell the roses" during their getaways.

Gainesville>> **Kanapaha Botanical Gardens**

Kanapaha Botanical Gardens is comprised of 24 major collections visually accessible from a one-and-a-half-mile paved walkway. These include the state's largest public display of bamboos and the largest herb garden in the Southeast. Some of Kanapaha's gardens are organized taxonomically; others demonstrate principles of ecology or natural selection. Kanapaha's signature plants include a premier stand of Chinese royal bamboo (Wong Chuk), and during the warm months the garden's famous giant Victoria water lilies and Asian snake arums. The months offering the most color are

June through September. www.kanapaha.org

Lake Wales>> **Bok Tower Gardens**

Bok Tower Gardens, voted Florida's "Best Garden", is centrally located between Tampa and Orlando among rolling hills of citrus. Dedicated in 1929, the National Historic Landmark was a gift from Dutch immigrant Edward Bok, Pulitzer-prize winning author and world peace advocate. Nearly 700 acres of groves, historic Olmsted gardens, conservation lands and endangered plants surround the pink marble art deco and neo-Gothic 205-foot Singing Tower carillon with 60-bells that ring every half hour. Tours available for Pinewood Estate, a 20-room, 1930s winter retreat. Open daily 8 a.m. - 6 p.m. Includes Visitor Center, Cafe, Gift Shop, free parking.

863-676-1408 | www.boktowergardens.org

KANAPAHA BOTANICAL GARDENS




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on 62 acres
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bamboo garden & the largest herb garden
in the Southeast

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www.kanapaha.org

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Orlando>> Harry P. Leu Botanical Gardens

In 1932, the most eligible bachelor in Orlando, Harry P. Leu, married Mary Jane Schmidli. The people called it a May-December romance. She was his secretary and even though she was 20 years younger, he fell in love with her and pursued her to her hometown of Bethlehem, PA until she said yes. The Leus purchased Leu House and 40 acres for \$40,000, in 1936. They completely renovated the house, putting in central electricity and plumbing and making it the lovely home visitors can enjoy today.

The Leus traveled the world and brought back many exotic plants and many varieties (240) of camellias for their gardens. Because the grounds were so beautiful, they invited the public to drive through and see the camellias and azaleas. Mr. Leu had a great interest in flowers and trees and beautifying Orlando.

In 1961, the Leus decided to deed the house and their beautiful gardens to the city. Mr. Leu wanted to give something to the city that he loved and where he had earned his fortune. They deeded the property with the stipulation that it would always remain a botanical garden, non-profit and used for the sole purpose of the enjoyment and education of the people. The Leus hoped that people would come from all over the world to enjoy the house and gardens.

407-246-2620 | www.leugardens.org

Sarasota>> Marie Selby Botanical Gardens

Voted "One of America's Top Ten Botanical Gardens!" by Country Living Gardener Magazine, The Marie Selby Botanical Gardens, a 9.5-acre bayfront property is an open-air and under-glass museum of more than 20,000 colorful plants, many collected in the wild on over 150 scientific expeditions to tropical rain forests by Selby Gardens research staff. Seven greenhouses are the heart of botanical research and plant identification, for which Selby Gardens is internationally recognized.

Throughout the grounds of the historic Selby estate are many distinct garden areas, including the Tropical Display House with its lush rain forest atmosphere, the towering Bamboo Pavilion, Banyan Grove, Cactus and Succulent Garden and Cycad Collection. Also on the grounds is the former Christy Payne Mansion, a unique example of eclectic Southern Colonial architecture. The Mansion, on the National Register of Historic Places, is the home to ever-changing botanical art and photography exhibits.

www.selby.org *

Voted Florida's Best Garden!



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