



I'm FLORIDA TODAY's community content specialist Luann Manderville. Got an idea for date night in Brevard? Send me details of your event at least 2 weeks in advance. Call 321-242-3613 or email lmanderville@floridatoday.com. Follow me on Twitter: @lumanderville



North Brevard

How about Italian food, jazz and wood-fired oven appetizers this weekend? Scopa Ristorante, 8801 Astronaut Blvd., Cape Canaveral, features traditional Italian food and pizza. Word has it the veal or eggplant parmigiana are a must. Hours are 11 a.m. to 10 p.m. Sunday through Thursday, 11 a.m. to 11 p.m. Friday and Saturday. Call 321-784-4449 or visit scopafloida.com.



Central Brevard

If you don't know it already, Cedar's Cafe is high on the list for Mediterranean food. The menu features shish taouk, kafta, lamb skewer, gyro, grape leaves, and much more. Cedar's Cafe is at 4100 N. Wickham Road, Melbourne. If you call ahead, you may find that the chef has prepared something unique or may even accept your special request. Hours are 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Tuesday through Friday; noon to 3 p.m. and 5 to 9 p.m. Saturdays. Call 321-751-0000 or visit cedarscafe.com.



South Brevard

Siggy's American Bar has everything you are looking for on your date night out. Nonstop live entertainment, full bar and a menu featuring wings, burgers, salads and more. Siggy's is at 1153 Malabar Road NE, Suite 1, Palm Bay. Mayhem will perform at 9 p.m. Friday. Wicked Garden Gnomes perform at 9:30 p.m. Saturday. Hours are 11 a.m. to 2 a.m. daily. Call 321-952-0104 or visit siggysamericanbar.com.

COVER STORY

HAVE A FAIRY GOOD TIME!

Fairy Garden Festival showcases the beauty and whimsy of fairies

By Jennifer Sangalang
FLORIDA TODAY

There's a little fairy magic happening at Rockledge Gardens this weekend. The picture-perfect gardening venue presents its inaugural Fairy Gardens Festival.

The family-friendly event on Saturday caters to fairy fans, photographers and gardeners, showcasing Rockledge Gardens' miniature fairy gardens. "We're doing

something that we're really excited about. Our staff has been working on these semi-permanent displays at the garden center," said Liz Lark-Riley, events and marketing director.

For those unsure, a fairy garden is a miniature garden complete with furniture, living plants and, of course, fairy accents. Some of them have rocks, pebbles, moss, twigs, and ceramics.

Rockledge Gardens will host two workshops — one for kids and one for adults — on how to create a fairy garden. Both sessions, however, are sold out.

But not to worry, there's still plenty to see and do.

"Kids are going to be making little adventure gardens," Lark-Riley said. Even though the

event focuses on fairies, "for anybody that's interested, we'll also have dinosaur accessories."

"We don't want to exclude the boys or the girly-girls," she said. "We'll have little butterflies and different things that make it a fairy garden and toy dinosaurs if they want to create what we call an adventure garden."

A visit from Tinkerbell is in order, too. Maggie Merritt of Merritt Island, who owns Crowned Princess for a Day, will don a Tinkerbell costume, wings and a blonde wig to entertain children. She'll do face-painting as well from 1 to 4 p.m. Fairy costumes are welcome.

The signature piece of the Fairy Gardens Festival is interactive — a scavenger hunt.

On Saturday, Rockledge Gardens will host its first-ever Fairy Garden Festival for grown-ups and children. If you have a fairy costume, feel free to wear it at the Fairy Garden Festival!



PHOTOS BY MALCOLM DENEMARK / FLORIDA TODAY

ONLINE EXTRA!

- Veteran FLORIDA TODAY photographers Malcolm Denmark and Craig Bailey recently hosted an "In the Garden" Insider photo seminar at Rockledge Gardens. Check out reader photos online at floridatoday.com/insider.

"When you arrive, you'll be given a map. The map will have fairy icons with a little key where you can fill out the name of the fairy garden," Lark-Riley explained. "If you've been to all the fairy gardens, bring the map back for a free 4-inch annual as your prize for

completing it." Ready-made fairy gardens will be available for purchase, in case you want one, "but you're not interested in making one yourself," Lark-Riley said, adding the staff will have lots of supplies available and its gift shop will be dedicated to fairy garden supplies.

According to Lark-Riley, what makes a great fairy garden is the "story."

"I like to see a fairy garden that has a pathway," she said. "I love seeing fairy gardens that look like the fairies were sitting and having tea. This idea that fairies live here, but you don't

necessarily see them."

Each of the display gardens that are being created around the garden center has its own story.

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MORE FAIRY FUN

Brevard Zoo, 8225 N. Wickham Road, Melbourne, recently started its new summertime attraction Butterfly Kingdom. Featuring dragons and butterflies, fairies and knights, the exhibit features hundreds of butterflies in flight and 10 different species — with a little taste of dragon lore. Butterfly Kingdom is included with zoo admission. You can meet a dragon, too. The zoo has a pair of Komodo dragons sharing space with the butterflies. There's a daily animal encounter — 11:30 a.m. and 3:30 p.m. — that gives guests a chance to feed a bearded dragon. The zoo is home to a bearded dragon named Elliott, who has a special harness with wings. Butterfly Kingdom also has a play-space area for kids to don outfits and role-play as a butterfly, fairy, dragon or knight. Hours are 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. daily through Aug 2. Admission is \$16 for adults; \$15 for seniors; \$12 for children ages 2-12 and free for children under age 2. Call 321-254-WILD (9453) or visit brevardzoo.org.

THE DETAILS

What: Fairy Garden Festival

When: 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Saturday with a "Tinkerbell" visit from 1 to 4 p.m.

Where: Rockledge Gardens, 2153 S. U.S. 1

Cost: Admission is free

Info: Call 321-636-7662 or visit rockledgegardens.com