

Sarasota Jungle Gardens Mourns the Passing of President Dorothy Allyn-Lavick

Sarasota, Florida - March 26, 2024 - It is with heavy hearts that Sarasota Jungle Gardens announces the passing of Dorothy Allyn-Lavick, President of Sarasota Jungle Gardens, at the age of 85. Dorothy passed away peacefully on February 22 surrounded by her family.

Established in 1939, Sarasota Jungle Gardens has been a beacon of natural wonder, captivating residents and visitors alike for over eight decades. In 1971, Arthur C. Allyn acquired Sarasota Jungle Gardens, and with a passion for entomology shared by his daughter Dorothy, they created a place where people could experience the beauty of nature up close while fostering a deeper understanding and appreciation for wildlife. Under Dorothy's watch, the attraction introduced birds, reptiles, and other members of the wild kingdom to the park, a decision that proved to be immensely popular.



Dorothy remained actively involved in operating Sarasota Jungle Gardens for many years, ensuring that her family's legacy continued to thrive. Her son, Chris Lavick, and daughter-in-law, Nancy, took over day-to-day operations of the Jungle Gardens several years ago, while her daughters, Nicole Lavick-Kruzcek and Cheryl Lavick-Mandas, serve on the board. Dorothy was also on the board of Cheyenne Mountain Zoo, a zoo on a mountainside overlooking Colorado Springs. The family will continue to honor her memory by upholding the park's nostalgic Florida charm and commitment to providing educational and interactive experiences with animals and nature.

Dorothy Allyn-Lavick's legacy will forever be intertwined with the vibrant tapestry of Sarasota Jungle Gardens. Her passion, dedication, and love for wildlife will continue to inspire generations to come.

For more information about Sarasota Jungle Gardens and its history, please visit www.sarasotajunglegardens.com.