

Bok Tower, Florida

Dad and I visited the Bok Tower and Gardens when in Florida in March 2021. We visited the site on Wednesday, March 24, 2021.

Read More

- **Bok Tower Gardens**—<https://boktowergardens.org>



This is the most iconic view of the tower in the Bok Tower Gardens.

The Name of the Tower

Today, the site is an expansive attraction with the tower and various gardens. Although decades ago, it was just the tower and you could nearly drive up to the tower. Sometime in the early 1980s, we went there for a visit.

According to their website, Edward William Bok “was born in Den Helder, Netherlands, on October 9, 1863. He came to the United States at the age of six. Educated in the Brooklyn Public Schools, he became an office boy with the Western Union Telegraph Company in 1876. Continuing his education at a night school, he began working for Henry Holt and Company, publishers, in 1882. Two years later he became associated with Charles Scribner’s Sons, publishers, eventually becoming advertising manager. He was the editor of *The Brooklyn Magazine* from 1884 to 1887. In 1886, he founded *The Bok Syndicate Press*, which led to the offer of the editorship of *The Ladies’ Home Journal* in 1889. Under his management, *The Ladies’ Home Journal* became one of the most successful and influential publications in America and the first magazine in the world to have one million subscribers. Bok also had a great influence on American architecture. He was a leader of the Arts and Crafts movement at the turn of the century and was the first to call Victorian parlors “living rooms.” Frank Lloyd Wright Jr. was one of the new architects Bok promoted by making his house plans available to the public in the *Journal*. After 30 years as editor he retired in 1919. On February 1, 1929, President Calvin Coolidge dedicated the Gardens in Lake Wales, Florida, that Bok had made as a gift for visitation by the American people in gratitude for the opportunity they had given him. Edward William Bok died in Lake Wales within sight of his beloved Singing Tower on January 9, 1930, and is now buried at the base of the Tower.”



*Edward William Bok
(1863-1930)*



*I didn't think to photograph it, but Bok's grave
is located near the base of the tower.*

The Gardens

You can see by the map just how extensive the gardens are! As you walk around, you can almost smell the oxygen by how clean the air is! We did not have enough time to explore even a fraction of the whole park, besides not being able to walk that much through it. (Well, for Dad to walk through it.)

Map of the grounds of Bok Tower Gardens





Did you know that Spanish moss has flowers?

**Watch out!
Just kidding!
It's made of bronze!**





Japanese Camellia (and lots of honey bees!)



Oxalis flowers with Chenille flowers



Spanish Moss on Live Oak tree



Papyrus reeds

YESTERDAY-TODAY-
AND-TOMORROW

Brunfelsia australis

Solanaceae

Brazil to Argentina

The Squirrels

I distinctly remember when I was last at Bok Tower in the early 1980s that I fed the squirrels by having food in my hand. They would come up to you and eat out of your hand. However, the squirrels were such that if they didn't like how you gave them the food—specifically how you held the food in your hand—they would bite your fingers and run away, as was the case with me!



*Not a squirrel,
but one of the
many lizards.
The red arrow
shows the
plant identified
by the sign.*



View showing the hills of central Florida

Lily pads on reflecting pond



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