

The

# DIG

FALL 2018



norfolk  
botanical  
garden



# From the President



Pardon the dirt. We've been busy.

Not unusual here at a garden, but the dirt we've been moving around has been more of the infrastructure kind as of late.

In June, we held a celebratory party for the reopening of the 1963 Administration Building after a \$1.9 million renovation and restoration. Addressing major structural issues to the building's

slab and the completely failed HVAC system, the renovation added much-needed meeting space in the restored Auditorium, and gave staff updated offices and flexible work spaces to adapt to the next 50 years of life in this iconic building. Currently new upper and lower parking lots are being built, with the upper lot fabricated from eco-friendly permeable pavers allowing rain water to drain through. Updated walkways, sidewalks and gardens will add beauty and functionality to the building (the original parking lot was on land ceded to the Airport Authority in the 1970s to allow for the airport's expansion.) The Admin. Building is open during normal business hours and we encourage you to visit to see this restored mid-century modern gem.



We've added new garden identification signs to over 40 of our themed gardens, and installed new wayfinding signs to help guide guests around our 175-acre campus. Nine new tram stops with concrete benches have also been installed and are featured on a new tram route through the Garden. Designed in Richmond and fabricated in Manassas, they are truly a Virginia product. With these new features we debuted a new visitor map as well.



One of the dirt and dust inducing projects I'm most proud of is the installation of 120 solar panels. Each panel will generate 330 kWh on the building that houses our Dominion Energy Garden of Lights display. They will completely power our greenhouse operations and send any excess electricity back into the grid. Renewable and affordable, they will pay for themselves in ten years.

Thanks to your support these improvements are possible. We simply could not do the work of conservation and education here without you. Thank you! Look for more improvements in the months ahead, and please "pardon our dirt."

Michael Desplaines, President & CEO

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Cover Photo by Addie Roark

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# Fall Blooms: Momijigari at NBG



*Acer palmatum* (Japanese Maple)



*Acer rubrum* (Red Maple)



*Cornus kousa* (Kousa Dogwood)



*Gingko biloba* (Ginkgo, Maidenhair Tree)



*Liquidambar styraciflua* (Sweet Gum)



*Nyssa sylvatica* (Black Gum, Tupelo)



*Pistacia chinensis* (Chinese Pistache)



*Taxodium distichum* (Bald Cypress)

## 紅葉狩り

Japan is famous for its spring cherry blossoms, and there are many celebrations that are centered around those ephemeral pink blooms. The Japanese also celebrate another fleeting period, the time when leaves fall from the trees in gentle showers of red, yellow, orange, and gold. This celebration is called *momijigari* which literally translates as “red leaf hunting.” While the Japanese appreciate many trees in the fall, Japanese maples are their favorite. During this time people venture outside to find the best spot to view the changing leaves, maybe have a picnic and share some sake, compose an impromptu *haiku*, or try to take that perfect photograph.

Here at Norfolk Botanical Garden we will celebrate our own *momijigari* in the first two weeks of November. This is one of the best times of the year to visit, as it is when we typically reach peak fall color. Between the 6th and 15th of November we will have a variety of classes, tours, and workshops that celebrate this special season in Japan, and at Norfolk Botanical Garden. Please visit our website for details. Also, our Gift Shop will have a small selection of Japanese Maples for sale, so that you can celebrate *momijigari* in your own garden.



# Timeless Treasure

## A Gift of Art to the Garden

Brian O'Neil, Director of Living Landscapes



*Koos Knoopje*

Anton Bakker's sculpture *Koos Knoopje* is the latest installment of artwork that now rests in perfect harmony with a natural garden setting. This 11.5 feet creation is Anton's generous gift to the Garden. Visitors of all ages can enjoy it, ask questions, and ponder its beauty and scientific nature.



Left to right: Anton Bakker's mother Coby de Rooij, artist Anton Bakker, Michael P. Desplaines, NBG President & CEO

In the early years of my elementary education, I was a wiz at math, basic math I should say. Addition, subtraction, multiplication, even fractions. But when I was introduced to the abstract subjects of calculus and trigonometry, my confidence and my grades fell. These days, I'm much more comfortable with tangible subjects like the sciences, nature, biology, and of course, horticulture. Some folks get those abstract principles, I guess like Anton Bakker, an international artist and resident of Norfolk who creates amazing sculptures combining science, technology, engineering and math, or STEM for short.

Anton's early years were influenced by a 30-year journey with his mentor Koos Verhoeff, a Dutchman and mathematical artist like himself who created mathematical artwork through connecting the world of geometric puzzles with nature. Anton is intrigued by the importance of perspective in mathematical sculptures as well as in life.

"The world around you is not what it seems," he said. His sculpted pieces, twisting and turning either fluidly or at sharp geometric angles, do have a different appearance depending on the angle or side from which they are viewed. This is one of Anton's signature elements.

Anton owns Outsight Networks, a company that creates and operates consumer loyalty programs for convenience stores. Art is a hobby that keeps him sane, he says. There are now two of Anton's donated works of art at Norfolk Botanical Garden. A fractal sculpture, *Cubic Lattice* stands beside Baker Overlook near the Conifer Garden and this piece entitled *Koos Knoopje* (Koos named after his mentor, and Knoopje meaning little twist). It stands proudly in the new Canal Walk Garden near the Rose Garden.



# SHIFTING LANDSCAPES

*Tradition & Trends*

A One-Day Symposium  
Celebrating 80 Years  
of Horticulture

Saturday, November 3,  
8am-5:30pm



Join us to celebrate 80 years of Horticulture with a one-day symposium in our newly renovated Administration Auditorium. Topics include a look at NBG's past, present and future, climate change and its impact on local plants, great garden plants for our region and natural landscape design.

Registration: \$80/person until Oct. 14 | \$100/person after Oct. 14 | Registration includes lunch

## SYMPOSIUM SCHEDULE

- 9:15 AM NBG CELEBRATES 80 YEARS!** Noted local historians Dr. Martha Williams, author of *WPA Original Gardeners* and Amy Waters Yarsinske, author of *A Natural Treasure* will discuss the Garden's unique heritage. President & CEO Michael Desplaines will present the Garden of Tomorrow, a look into the promising future of Norfolk Botanical Garden.
- 10:30 AM MARK WEATHINGTON**, Director of the JC Raulston Arboretum at North Carolina State University, former NBG Director of Horticulture, and author of *Gardening in the South: The Complete Homeowner's Guide*  
**PRESENTATION: BEYOND TIRE PLANTERS - CREATING THE NEW SOUTHERN GARDEN.**  
The south has a tremendous culture of gardening but as priorities and times change, how and why we garden evolves as well. We garden for more than beauty – for food, to support wildlife, to solve environmental problems. Knowing why we do what we do allows the cultivated landscape to work for us and not the other way around.
- 1:00 PM DR. MICHAEL ALLEN**, Old Dominion University Assistant Professor Political Science & Geography  
**PRESENTATION: THE SCIENCE OF CLIMATE CHANGE: LOCAL IMPACTS FOR VIRGINIA.**  
Curious about this hot topic? Let Dr. Allen introduce you to the latest studies about Climate Change and how Virginia fits into the picture.
- 2:00 PM DR. TATYANA LOBOVA**, Old Dominion University, Senior Lecturer, Department of Biological Science  
**PRESENTATION: EFFECT OF CLIMATE CHANGE ON NATIVE PLANTS.** Did you know Norfolk Botanical Garden is helping to tell the story of Climate Change. For nearly a decade, Old Dominion University has observed the seasonal changes of the Garden's native plants as part of a national data base. See what the plants are telling us.
- 3:15 PM KEYNOTE SPEAKER, LARRY WEANER**, nationally renowned speaker, principal and founder of Larry Weaner Landscape Associates, and author of *Garden Revolution: How Our Landscapes Can Be A Source Of Environment Change.*  
**PRESENTATION: LIVING IN THE LIBERATED LANDSCAPE.** Larry's Natural landscapes are the unique blend of environmental science and fine garden design. He will share how this give-and-take approach can result in compelling, low-maintenance landscapes that free plants to perform according to their natural abilities and liberate people from having to cater to their landscapes' every need.

Book signing and cocktail reception to follow.



# The Green Scene: Solar Panels

Every day the sun's radiant energy lights our sky and heats our air. It now also powers our greenhouse! We recently installed a system consisting of 120 solar panels on the roof of our largest storage building situated across the road from the greenhouse. The panels will generate around 53,651 kWh of energy with some fluctuation on overcast days. The greenhouse is linked to the system and consumes 64,220 kWh. On a sunny day, the energy generated by the solar panels will cover 84% of the greenhouse's energy needs. We will have a public dashboard where visitors can see the energy generated in real time. In ten years, the system is expected to pay for itself. Solar power is one of the cleanest forms of energy because the conversion of the sun's rays to electricity doesn't contribute to global warming by producing carbon dioxide.



Left to right: Jeremy Little, Michael P. Desplaines, NBG President & CEO, and installers from Convert Solar. Jeremy Little is part of our Facilities team and had the idea to take NBG off the the grid.

## SAVE THE DATE

### 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Garden Heritage Celebration & the Garden's 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

**Saturday, October 20<sup>th</sup>, 2018  
at 11am**

Join us for a ceremony in Baker Hall Visitor Center to honor the 220 African-American women and men who first planted the Garden 80 years ago through the Works Progress Administration.

Tram tour and reception to follow.

Free admission until noon.

## OUR SOLAR PANELS:

- help save 781,339 pounds of coal from being burned and released into our atmosphere.
- prevent 1,692 barrels of oil from being burned
- help take the equivalent of 153 cars off the road each year
- solar production is worth planting 18,652 new trees

information provided by panel installer: Convert Solar

# Community Connections



## Fuse Fest

It was a true community event at Teens with a Purpose's 2018 FUSE Fest held in their Safe Creative Community Space off Church Street in Norfolk. This event celebrates the beauty, spirit and culture of the community through art, music, dance and interactive activities. This year's theme was *Living my Best Life* and NBG staff were on hand to chat with the public about the health benefits of cooking with fresh herbs and gave advice on how to grow them. Nearly 200 potted plants featuring NBG grown herbs and vegetables were given away to folks eager to start their own garden. The inner artist in kids and adults alike shined as they decorated their pots before taking them home.



# Intensive Mulch Rejuvenation

by Perry-lee West, NBG Horticulturist

On the outskirts of our well-tended gardens are invasive plant strongholds. Once prosperous native border forests, these areas have become overrun through the years with an index of invasive plant species. A perfect example of an “invasive plant stronghold” is the large lawn area adjacent to Azalea Garden Road. This area is used as parking for regattas that are hosted at the Garden every year. The forested edge around the open parking lot/ lawn is home to many invasive plants. Our Horticulture Department is working on a new method of reclaiming the natural areas that have been overrun with weedy invasive plants. Our strategy is what we like to call intensive mulch rejuvenation. It’s a simple process, one that could be done at any home or in any garden. First, we remove the invasive plants, starting with the trees, then the shrubs, then finally treating the groundcovers and other noxious annuals that pop up with herbicide. Then we smother the entire area in hardwood mulch up to 8- to 10-inches thick. The mulch has 3 main benefits, it smothers any new plants trying to come back, it prevents the huge underground seed bank from germinating, and it acts as a slow release fertilizer that will eventually feed the soil. We wait about 2-3 years for the seed bank to be depleted, sometimes adding new mulch wherever it’s needed, all the while checking to make sure no invasive plants pop through the mulch barrier. Then we dig holes through the mulch and plant native trees and shrubs. We have had great success with this intensive mulch rejuvenation. This area has had half of its border forest reclaimed, and we hope to continue taking back the natural woodlands and restoring them to beautiful biodiverse habitats.





# THE HOLIDAYS COME ALIVE AT THE



## GARDEN *of* LIGHTS



### **WALK**

#### **MILLION BULB WALK**

Nov. 9-Dec. 15  
4-9pm Nightly



### **DRIVE**

#### **DOMINION ENERGY GARDEN OF LIGHTS**

Dec. 16-31  
5:30-10pm Nightly



### **RUN**

#### **GARDEN 2.019 FUN RUN**

Jan. 1, 2019  
4-7pm



### **RIDE**

#### **TINSEL TRAM RIDE**

Dec. 16-20  
Sun.-Thur.

MORE INFORMATION AT  
**NBG**holidays.org

## NEW THIS SEASON! **BARKS & BULBS**

EXPERIENCE A WALK THROUGH THE LIGHTS WITH  
YOUR FURRY CANINE COMPANION THIS WINTER.

**JANUARY 3, 4 & 5 ONLY**

VISIT **NBGLIGHTS.ORG**  
FOR MORE INFORMATION  
ABOUT ALL OF OUR HOLIDAY EVENTS





# The Power of Philanthropy

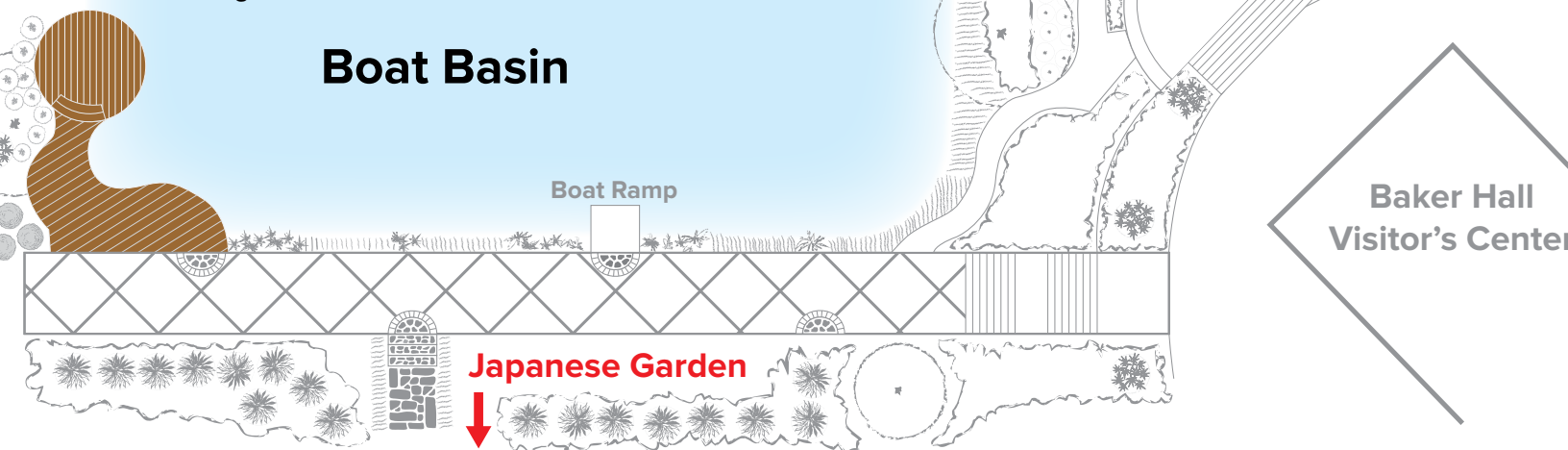


Judge Richard S. Bray, President  
Beazley Foundation Inc.

As many of you know, the Garden is bisected by canals leading out into Lake Whitehurst. The canals are an integral part of the landscape and provide a unique opportunity to connect visitors to the Garden. Maintaining the integrity of the banks of the canals is of primary importance for the safety and enjoyment of visitors. The bulkheads which support the banks along the canals date back over 50 years and need repair in several places. Since 2007, the Garden has been honored to have the support of The Beazley Foundation in the effort to revitalize the canal banks. Since its founding in 1948, The Beazley Foundation has been helping organizations and programs in southeastern Virginia improve the quality of life for the community. Judge Richard S. Bray, The Beazley Foundation's President and Chief Operating Officer, is well acquainted with the Garden and visited in 2007 to see firsthand the deterioration in areas of the canals. In the ensuing decade The Beazley Foundation has provided a total of \$300,000 to help defray the costs of rebuilding over 1,200 linear feet of bulkheads. Spence Marine has performed the repairs and worked closely with the Garden to reduce the impact on daily operations. The sections of the canal banks that have been improved due to the generosity of The Beazley Foundation include areas around Cobblestone Bridge, the Conifer Garden, the Healing Garden, and the Boat Basin. The Boat Basin project was particularly extensive and helped stabilize the area for boat launches. These repairs have allowed the Garden to continue to offer boat tours out into Lake Whitehurst and led to the creation of a new canal walk garden and the revitalization of the Japanese Garden.

Many thanks to Judge Bray and The Beazley Foundation for their decade-long commitment to the Garden.

## Boat Basin







Left to right: Alex Cantwell, new Adult Education Manager; Diana Kellam new Education Program Coordinator; Al Hood, volunteer; Meredith Zadd new Guest Services Manager; and NBG Volunteer Coordinator Phong Luu.

# Volunteer Spotlight

## Al Hood

Here at Norfolk Botanical Garden, volunteers are the backbone of our organization. Whether they are volunteering out in the Garden with our horticulture staff, educating guests in the Butterfly House or working with our office staff indoors, every department relies on the dedication of our volunteers. One volunteer in particular helps to keep our Adult Education Department running smoothly.

Adult Education Volunteer Al Hood came to the Garden nearly 6 years ago after he and his wife Patty retired and moved to Virginia Beach. He had many volunteer experiences in their former city of Charlottesville, and was looking to continue that here in Norfolk.

Not having any prior experience with things “botanical” (Patty being the one in the family with the green thumb), he suggested he might be more suited for office work. He was then connected to the Adult Education Department where he became an essential part of the team.

Al comes in one day a week to assist with student class evaluation data entry, monthly and quarterly report updates, organizing instructor contracts, and various other duties. Al enjoys helping with some of the more routine tasks thus freeing up staff to promote learning opportunities at Norfolk Botanical Garden, thereby enticing more visitors to keep coming back and hopefully join the Garden as full-fledged members. Al and Patty are proud to be long-time members of the Garden.

“I have found these past years working with the Adult Education staff to be very rewarding,” he said. “We have formed a great friendship and camaraderie that is just icing on the cake. So much so that I devoted a blog post to it. Here is the link if anyone is interested in reading about some of the fun we have had during this endeavor.” <https://thecvillean.org/retirement-it-aint-what-it-used-to-be/>

As we head into a new season, some changes are taking place. New but familiar faces have joined the Adult Education Department. Former Education Program Coordinator Meredith Zadd has received a promotion to Guest Services Manager. Diana Kellam from our Visitor Services Department will be taking over the Education Program Coordinator position. Alexandra Cantwell, who was formerly a Horticulturist has received a promotion to Adult Education Manager.

It is thanks to the hard work of volunteers like Al that allows us to offer high quality programming. Volunteers also make a huge difference in other areas like horticulture, special events, and as educational docents. Areas like the Butterfly House rely almost entirely on volunteers. In its 2018 season and 10th year of operation, we had more than 100 new and returning volunteers who helped our Butterfly House to flourish and connect with visitors.

Learn more about volunteering at [nbgvolunteers.org](http://nbgvolunteers.org). We are currently recruiting volunteers for Million Bulb Walk and horticulture.





# Tribute Opportunities

The beauty, wonder and serenity of the Garden combine to create a perfect setting to honor a loved one, pay tribute to a friend, or mark a special anniversary or milestone. Select from a number of sites in the Garden to place our teakwood bench, complete with commemorative plaque. Please call or email Cathy Fitzgerald at 757-441-5830 ext. 319/cathy.fitzgerald@nbgs.org to make an appointment or discuss all tribute opportunities.



## Evergreen Society Members

*The Evergreen Society recognizes and celebrates an outstanding group of friends who generously support the Garden beyond their lifetimes. If you are interested in learning more about the Evergreen Society, methods for making a planned gift, or alerting the Garden to a gift in your estate plan, please contact us.*

Annette Averitt, I.M. & Sarah Lee Baker, Ty & Martha Brown, Elizabeth Bruce, Cindy Cutler & Craig Haines, Robert & Janie Creecy, Sandra L. Dashney, William W. Eley, Richard & Eleanor Evans, Cathy Fitzgerald, Joe Foreman, Jane Frazier, Robert M. Gostel, Randy Harrison, June Hoyer, Kit E. Johnson, Edward C. & Betty Lou Johnston, Sr., Patricia A. Kiefer, Patty L. Landrum, Eleanor Marshall, Bee McLeod & Goody Tyler, Rick Morsink, Nancy Nelson, Edward & Gayle Nichols, Susan L. Oldridge, Brian O'Neil, Dana Parker, Stephanie Pope, Mildred Amsinger Powers, Judy Pravecsek, Pamela Read, Alan Rohanna, Kurt & Debbie Schroeder, Sam Strickland, George & Nancy Sutcliffe, Sylvia E. Simons Trembelas, Jim & Christian Valone, Richard & Ann Weber, Pearl Windle, 3 anonymous.

Be part of the Garden's Evergreen Society and help ensure a vibrant future for the Garden.



# Thank You Bank of America

Thanks to support from Bank of America for our Day of Nature Fund, hundreds of children from low-income households will have the opportunity to learn about nature, wildlife and the environment by visiting our spectacular 175-acre garden. THANKS BANK OF AMERICA!

Photo: (L to R) Anita Poston, NBG Board Member & Chair of Governance Committee; NBG President & CEO Michael Desplaines; Hans VonKruger, Bank of America, SVP, HR Market Manager, Enterprise Business & Community Engagement



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# Million Bulb Walk

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**Dominion  
Energy®**

**MORE NIGHTS TO WALK!**

**NOVEMBER 9 – DECEMBER 15, 2018 | 4 – 9PM NIGHTLY**

**TICKETS GO ON SALE OCTOBER 1**

**NORFOLKBOTANICALGARDEN.ORG/HOLIDAYS**

### SAVE THE DATE

**10<sup>th</sup> Annual Garden  
Heritage Celebration  
& the Garden's 80<sup>th</sup>  
Anniversary**

**Saturday, October 20<sup>th</sup>,  
2018 at 11am**

Join us for a ceremony in Baker Hall Visitor Center to honor the 220 African-American women and men who first planted the Garden 80 years ago through the Works Progress Administration.

Tram tour and reception to follow.

Free admission until noon.



## **12 DAYS OF CHRISTMAS** A MEMBERS ONLY EVENT!

Purchase a unique gift for someone special this holiday season.

### **December 1-12**

Members receive a **20% DISCOUNT** on all regular price merchandise for a **ONE TIME** shopping spree during these twelve days.