

SUMMER 2019

The

DIG

& grow  
COURSE CATALOG

norfolk  
botanical  
garden

# From the President

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It is hard to believe that as I look forward to the fantastic season that is summer here in Coastal Virginia, I will also celebrate five years as the President & CEO of this amazing institution. Half a decade ago I was warmly welcomed into the family of NBG, and working together since then we have accomplished much. Here's a look back at some of our accomplishments:

Our visitation topped 400,000 for the first time in 2016, the year we brought the first-ever Asian lantern exhibition to the Eastern Seaboard. In fact, our show was only the second ever produced in the United States by our exhibit company,

Tianyu. Overall our annual attendance has increased by an additional 50,000 visitors, and our membership has surged to nearly 13,000 families, an increase of 25% since 2014.

Our revenues across the board have increased substantially and we have used these proceeds to fund much needed repairs to our aging infrastructure, much of which dates from the 1950s and '60s. A snapshot of our revenues over the last five years shows our total income has increased by nearly 45%, and our net income by a whopping 719%! Overall our operating budget has increased from \$4 million to over \$6 million and we are, and always have been, debt-free. Our Foundation stands at over \$15 million of endowment to support our programs.

A huge thank you to the staff, volunteers, members, donors, and visitors who helped to make all of this happen! As a result of this collective success, we've made the following investments in NBG:

- \$2 million renovation & restoration of the Administration Building including expanded gardens and new parking
- New building, garden and way-finding signage throughout the campus including new tram stops, seating and map system
- New gardens including the Grain & Hop Garden, Potager Garden, Canal Walk Garden and Administration Welcome Garden
- Solar panel installations and significant investments in IT and software for our not-for-profit business combining ticketing, membership and retail sales into one seamless, cloud-based system
- Re-alignment of staff and resources to complement the Board's Strategic Plan

We are in a position of great strength to continue the vital work of connecting people to nature through the world of plants. I call on each of you to join us in that mission so we can protect our world for many generations to come. Our work has only just begun!

## Board of Directors

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# WATER, WATER everywhere

## Great Plants for Coastal Virginia

Les Parks, Director of Horticulture

Get any two gardeners together and likely the first topic to come up is the weather, and last year's big story was the rain. The total here was 10" over the yearly average, which was great for many plants, but not so great for others. As wet as it has been, people who have gardened in Coastal Virginia for more than a few years know that we could just as easily be in a drought. This variable climate can make plant selection tricky, and knowing how much moisture each plant requires, or tolerates, is just as important as knowing how much light it needs, or how big it gets.

For our upcoming plant sale, we are focusing on the relationship between water and plants, and will have plants that can take a variety of moisture conditions. For gardeners with wet soil we will have the oh-so fragrant Vanilla Spice® summersweet (*Clethra alnifolia*), 'Little Joe' Joe Pye weed (*Eutrochium dubium*), Sugar Shack® buttonbush (*Cephalanthus occidentalis*), the unusual woodland native hearts-a-bustin (*Euonymus americanus*), and many others.

For drier sites, expect plenty of butterfly weed (*Asclepias tuberosa*), several varieties of false indigo (*Baptisia*), wild quinine (*Parthenium integrifolium*), rattlesnake master (*Eryngium yuccifolium*), and others. Since we are in Coastal Virginia, we will also have a few plants that don't mind a little extra salt in their diet like 'Brilliantissima' chokeberry (*Aronia arbutifolia*), seaside goldenrod (*Solidago sempervirens*), 'Snowbank' false aster (*Boltonia asteroides*), and 'Jersey Giant' asparagus (yes, the edible vegetable!).

Of course we will have many other types of plants for sale just as we always do. Our Horticulture Department staff can help you find just the right plant for your garden – no matter what type of water you have.



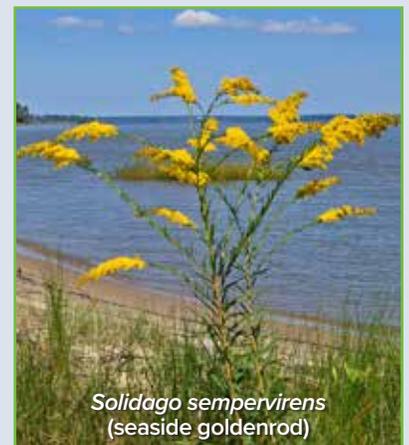
*Euonymus americanus*  
(hearts-a-bustin)



*Asclepias tuberosa*  
(butterfly weed)



*Aronia arbutifolia*  
(chokeberry)



*Solidago sempervirens*  
(seaside goldenrod)

**Plant Sale: May 3, 4 & 5, 10 am - 5 pm**  
**Early Bird Special: NBG Members only 9 am - 10 am**

# NBG, Where Love Blooms, Literally

“Being able to share such a special experience in a beautiful place that we pour our hearts into is something that I wouldn’t trade for anything.”

—Meredith Courtney,  
NBG Greenhouse Technician and bride

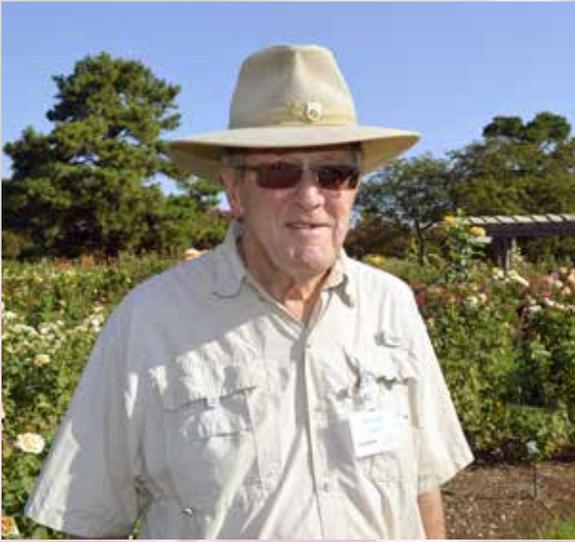


All great romance stories begin where two people meet and fall in love. When it’s two of the Garden’s own, it’s extra special. For one very special couple, that story began here, at Norfolk Botanical Garden. Horticulturist Carl Simmons met Greenhouse Technician Meredith Courtney a few years ago when she began working at the Garden as a gardening assistant. Meredith and Carl noticed one another right away and both secretly looked forward to seeing the other from across the canals that separated them while they were hard at work. One day Meredith finally found the courage to ask Carl for his phone number. “It was purely for work related topics of course,” she said. One week later they went to their first date.

Surrounded by the romantic beauty of the Garden, their friendship bloomed into something more and they fell in love. On November 3, 2018, Meredith and Carl celebrated that love with family, friends and NBG staff, exchanging vows at Renaissance Court followed by a reception in the Rose Garden Hall Ballroom. This was the perfect place to have the wedding of their dreams. “Deciding to get married at NBG was a very natural and fitting decision, it’s where our love grew,” she said. “Being surrounded by the people we love the most, in the place we love the most, felt so organic and magical. The weather was idyllic and the fall color showed up just for our wedding day!”

Meredith’s favorite moment from her wedding day was when she paused just before walking down the aisle. “Renaissance Court framed everyone who I cared about so perfectly” she said. “As I started walking down, I saw Carl walking towards me...and it felt like the world paused so we could share that moment, and some tears, together.”

***NBG is a magical venue for weddings and all sorts of special events. For more information, or to schedule a venue tour, please contact our events team, [events@nbgs.org](mailto:events@nbgs.org) or (757)441-5830 ext. 320.***



**A passion for roses grew the new Richard and Eleanor Evans Great Lawn at Norfolk Botanical Garden. Richard Evans is a donor and 25-year dedicated volunteer. This new inviting space is made possible because of his and his late wife's generous contribution.**

## The Great Lawn

Southern California is a landscape designer's inspirational paradise. It was there at two public gardens that we found the inspiration for the plant-supporting structures that have recently been installed in the Richard and Eleanor Evans Great Lawn in the Bicentennial Rose Garden. At the Getty Center in Los Angeles, artist Robert Irwin designed what he called "sculpture in the form of a garden." He installed three large metal tree-like structures made of rebar upon which bougainvillea are festooned. These "trees" created from industrial waste have taken on a rusted veneer while providing much-needed shade for visitors seated beneath. The new space will display one of these trees, slightly smaller in scale, upon which will grow a fragrant, repeat-blooming climbing rose named "Madame Alfred Carriere." We hope the space beneath it will prove alluring to visitors.

The design for The Richard and Eleanor Evans Great Lawn takes inspiration from that most perfect of geometric forms—the circle. Circles also have much in common with wedding motifs such as wedding rings and the endless nature of the circle with no beginning or end.

The circular area is bordered by granite cobblestones that were taken from the former overlook structure. The rebar tree is also circular in outline and centrally sited with another circle of cut bluestone paving.

Within a planted area bordering half of The Great Lawn circle sits six pergolas with bench seating beneath. Climbing roses, also rescued from the former overlook, will provide shade. The pergolas take inspiration from a structure seen in yet another California garden, Lotusland in Santa Barbara. At Lotusland, trunk-like steel tubing originates at ground level and soon divides into branch-like arms which interweave to create a tunneled passageway connecting one garden area with another. Our custom-made metal pergolas arch overhead with wood-textured "branches" covering the sides and top providing support for the climbing roses that staff and volunteers will train over them.

We are thankful for friends like Richard Evans and his late wife Eleanor who helped us create such beautiful space for our guests to enjoy for years to come.

# Community Connections

## Nature's Symphony

Hundreds of folks stopped by the Virginia Beach Convention Center for the annual Virginia Flower and Garden Expo this past January. Norfolk Botanical Garden's theme was *Nature's Symphony*. This educational display included a water feature and showcased songbirds and nature sounds for a realistic experience. Big thanks to our Horticulture team!



## NBG at USBG

If you're traveling through Washington, D.C. this summer, stop by the United States Botanic Garden. NBG is one of 20 gardens selected to create a signature display to showcase the beauty and diversity of public gardens across the country. Through plants and photographs, our display will tell the story of the Garden's history beginning with the Works Progress Administration heritage. From the 1930s to today—highlighting our progression to a garden that is an integral part of the community and is diverse in both plants and visitors. The exhibit opens May 25 and runs until October 1.

## Gardens Across America



# Green Scene

## Bringing Bees Front and Center



One of nature's busiest little creatures is the honeybee. It's also one of the most productive as it pollinates the plants that we rely on for food. Remember: one in three bites of food are the result of a pollinator!

For nearly 15 years, one of the best kept secrets at the Garden was the location of our honeybee hives. With the passage of time, the location of the hives had become too inaccessible and shady. The declining site conditions provided the perfect opportunity to move the hives out from behind the scenes and into the public eye where we can use them as a tool for teaching about pollination and modern food production. Two hives will make their debut early this summer in the open, sunny field next to the O'Conner Grain and Hop Garden near tram stop 6.

Visitors will now have the opportunity to see these pollinator powerhouses in action from a safe viewing distance. If you're lucky, you might see Assistant Horticulturist Stephen Biela caring for the hives. Stephen has been at the Garden for more than six years and jumped at the opportunity to become the staff apiarist. His interest in beekeeping developed long before he came to the Garden, but having the space to indulge in this pursuit has been a challenge up until now.

"Having my own honey is what initially attracted me to beekeeping," he said. "The more I learned, the more fascinated I became with all the intricate details that go into growing the hive and caring for the brood. The hive is a living colony, a biological unit, that can't survive without the support of each other."

Stephen has been learning all there is to know about beginning beekeeping from the Colonial Beekeepers Association and apprenticing under honeybee gurus Pam and Rick Fisher, both of whom are longtime members of the Beekeepers Guild of Southeast Virginia and our volunteer beekeepers. With their expert guidance, Stephen is learning how to establish and care for a healthy and productive hive. In time, our hives have the potential to produce nearly 60 lbs. of honey a year!

VIRGINIA  
*Honey Bee*  
Festival @NBG

Saturday, August 17  
10:00 am - 4:00 pm





# HIP HABITATS AND Happening Homes



This summer in the WOW Children’s Garden, explore the habitats of plants, animals and people. See plants from around the world that are uniquely adapted to live in their environments. From the driest deserts to the wettest rainforests, living things have unique ways to find food, water and shelter. Travel through diverse biomes in our Passport Gardens to see examples of flora and fauna that simply could not live without each other.

In our Discovery Peak garden, see plants that impact our daily lives. We will encourage children to consider the idea of their “home” as a habitat, and the roles that plants play within it. From fashion to food to furniture, plants help to keep us healthy and happy.

SPONSORED BY



Hampton Roads Community Foundation

Julian Haden Gary and Margaret Savage Gary Fund

By recognizing how plants, animals and people are connected with their habitats, families will consider more of the ways that living things rely on the balance of resources to survive. The programs and activities will encourage everyone to take action for conservation and adopt practices that promote healthy habitats and homes for all living things.

NBG Youth Educators and our teen volunteers will provide learning stations throughout WOW, with activities set to change often. Children can collect stamps with a habitat game, earn beads as they learn at education stations, and create eco-friendly art. Families will climb into our “treehouse” and join a storytime that will take them into the tiniest and the tallest of places. The possibilities for learning, exploring and imagining are endless with Hip Habitats & Happening Homes!

Butterfly House Opens June 15

Butterfly Festival  
@NBG

Saturday, July 13  
10:00 am - 4:00 pm



# Day of Nature

The Day of Nature Scholarship Fund was established in the fall of 2009 by generous donations from philanthropic Garden Members. They aspired to provide underserved members of our community with the opportunity to participate in educational programs offered at Norfolk Botanical Garden.

One of the more recent recipients awarded scholarship funding were the students and teachers of James Monroe Elementary School. Over 200 Pre-K through Grade 5 students visited the Garden in late November. In the application short essay, Ms. Morris, a James Monroe teacher, conveyed that James Monroe Elementary is a Title I school for at-risk students. "We are committed to exposing our students to hands-on, real-life experiences that they may never experience," she said. "Many of the students never get the chance to leave the neighborhood and see the awesome lessons offered by attending field trips to the Botanical Garden. As part of the Monroe family, I am committed to utilizing any support I can find to improve our student achievement."



Day of Nature funds in action connecting children with nature.

Although the weather during their visit was cold and dreary, the students from James Monroe Elementary were able to participate in memorable experiences in our WOW Children's Garden. Over a two-day period, Pre-K and Kindergarten students completed a sensory tour of Discovery Peak, and learned about a variety of plants that could be found in the kitchen. Grade 1-2 students learned about frog, butterfly, and deer lifecycles, while Grade 3-5 students created food webs and explored plant and animal adaptations. Brandi Jones, a James Monroe teacher who attended the field trip, described a very positive experience in her post-trip evaluation. "The hands-on learning is a great resource for the students, as well as all of the plant inventory in the Garden," she said. With continued donations in support of the Day of Nature Scholarship Fund, Norfolk Botanical Garden will continue to offer supplemental financial support to families, school groups, and daycare centers who meet the criteria of the scholarship.

For as little as \$10, you can inspire a child's creativity and respect for nature and the living world. Or you can make a larger impact and sponsor an entire classroom! For more information, please contact Cathy Fitzgerald at 757-441-5830 ext. 319 or [cathy.fitzgerald@nbg.org](mailto:cathy.fitzgerald@nbg.org).

## ART in BAKER HALL

FREE with Garden Admission

*Color and Light*  
MAY 1 — JUNE 30

Photography  
by Bob Petersen



Ceramics and Watercolors  
by Sidra Kaluszka



*Earthy Delights*  
JULY 1 — AUGUST 30

Oil and Acrylic Nature Paintings  
by Carrie Jacobson



# Farewell Board Members



**Bee McLeod**

Bee has been an active volunteer and supporter of the Garden for many years. She has served in leadership roles on the Board of Directors and provided valuable expertise in organizational management and fundraising. She was 2nd Vice President before transitioning to Secretary of the Board, and is an active member of the Executive and Governance Committees. She has also strengthened the Garden's connection with area running clubs who now see our campus as a wonderful venue for races and fun runs.

## Thank You

**Maria Stenanis**

Maria's years in the financial sector proved to be an asset for the Garden. As Treasurer of the Board of Directors, she chaired the Finance Committee and helped evaluate and fine-tune the annual budget and financial assets the Garden holds in the public trust. She skillfully assessed the Garden's revenue and expenses and provided valuable analysis to the Board so that they could better fulfill their fiduciary role. Working closely with the new CEO in 2014 as treasurer, Maria laid the foundation for the Garden's success today.



**Mac Houfek**

As a Board member, Mac has been an invaluable combination of gardening expert and friend-raiser for the Garden. As co-chair of the 75th Anniversary Gala Committee, she helped bring awareness of the Garden and its rich history to a wider audience. She has dedicated the proceeds from her book, *Reflections on a Coastal Garden*, to the Garden and has supported multiple fundraising efforts by making more potential donors aware of the impact we have in the community.

## JULY - OCTOBER 2019



### DESIGNER DOG HOUSE COMPETITION

Embark on a journey through the Enchanted Forest to view custom doghouses worthy of the most pampered pooch.

PRESENTED BY



July 7,  
August 4,  
September 8,  
October 13



O'CONNOR  
BREWING CO.  
NORFOLK, VIRGINIA



# 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 Cathy Fitzgerald at 757-441-5830 ext. 319 or email her at [cathy.fitzgerald@nbgs.org](mailto: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, Blanche C. Chappell, Robert & Janie Creecy, Cindy Cutler & Craig Haines, Sandra L. Dashney, William W. Eley, Richard & Eleanor Evans, Cathy Fitzgerald, Joe Foreman, Jane Frazier, Robert M. Gostel, Randy Harrison, June Hoye, Kit E. Johnson, Karen S. Gershman, 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, Ann Rathbone, 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.



# Leaving a Legacy

## Lily, created by Georgia Mason



Artist Georgia Mason visiting her mermaid creation Lily, located near the Wildflower Meadow and the Frog Bog.

You may have heard that Norfolk's Mermaid mascot is 20 years old this year. The concept started as a fun way to bring awareness to the City. Over the years it became a marketing brand and symbol for Norfolk. You probably didn't know that our mermaid, Lily, has a big birthday this year too – she turns 10! Artist and Creator Georgia Mason has created 35 mermaids, but says Lily is one of her favorites. "She goes so well with the Garden, like she was always meant to be," she said. "I wanted her to have this botanical feel of a growing flowering piece as well as a mermaid." Lily is made of fiberglass, hand-cut mosaic pieces of glass for her body, and mirrored glass for her sparkling tail. The botanical leaves and azaleas, the signature flower for the Garden, are made from an epoxy clay. The detail is quite inspiring, with a few little insects to make her botanical look complete. She has been admired by visitors from all over the world and is certainly a familiar sight on social media. "I think she is the most photographed mermaid, at least that is what I have been told," she said. She seems right at home with a view of Lake Whitehurst and the Frog Bog in our Children's Garden. After all, what mermaid doesn't need to be surrounded by water?





**norfolk botanical garden**

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# GARDENS OF LAKE COMO SEPTEMBER 2019

**Only 4 Spots Left!**

Join NBG on our second international trip as we visit the Gardens and Palazzos of Italy, September 2019. For questions, contact Jennifer Round at Slaydon's Travel, 757-484-4015

# THREE GREAT CAUSES.

**FRIDAY, MAY 17, 5:30 - 9:30**



# ONE GREAT PARTY.

**@ NORFOLK BOTANICAL GARDEN**

Enjoy a garden party with incredible edibles, craft beer, wine & live music by Lewis McGehee.

Tickets \$49.<sup>99</sup> - Proceeds to benefit:



**norfolk  
botanical  
garden**

[Sudsandbuds.org](http://Sudsandbuds.org)



**LEE'S FRIENDS**  
.....  
Helping People Live With Cancer