

The

DIG

& grow
COURSE CATALOG

norfolk
botanical
garden

JANUARY—APRIL 2021

From the President

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Winter is a time for us to reflect and to rest, to hope for spring and to plan for the growing season to come. I look forward to the excitement of planting my vegetable garden with dreams of fresh arugula and the pesto we will make this summer from my little basil plants. I'm excited to see all of the bulbs I planted bloom, the trees I planted flower and leaf out and for all of us to emerge this spring in hopefully a post-COVID, vaccinated world.



All of these things bring me comfort in this, the strangest of years. Gardeners at our core are “hoppers”: We hope the seeds will sprout, we hope the rains will come (not too much please), we hope bad bugs stay away and good bugs visit; and we hope to share our harvest with our friends and neighbors. Someone wise once said, “You don’t plant a tree for yourself, you plant it for the next generation.” There is hope in that. Hope that we are leaving the world better than we found it, hope that our children will inherit a better Earth, hope that in the generations to come there will be many trees for playing in the shade. Hope alone won’t get us there, though. Seeds must be bought, trees planted, nature nourished. We must create the future we want now. So act. Buy the seeds, have the dreams, plant the garden. The future belongs to us – what we do now creates the future that will be. So create that better future: a greener, kinder, more beautiful one.

Be well my friends and plant a better world!

Michael P. Desplaines



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THE GARDENS OF ENGLAND September 6 – 17, 2021

Join Brian O'Neil
NBG Director of Living Landscapes

Some of the Gardens you will visit:

Highgrove Royal Gardens
Barnsley House
Stourhead House
Blenheim Palace & Garden
Kensington Palace & Gardens
Kew Gardens, and others!

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A Calendar of Blooms

If you are on a chilly winter walk through Norfolk Botanical Garden, and your nose catches the sweet breath of the spring to come, it is more than likely coming from a Japanese flowering apricot (*Prunus mume*). Native to China and grown extensively in Japan, it is revered in both countries for its winter blooms, a reminder that change is on its way. They come in shades of red, pink or white and usually reach up to 20' tall and wide depending on the variety. They prefer full sun and rich, well-drained soil. Although we have several throughout the Garden, one that we are particularly fond of here is 'Bridal Veil', a shorter weeping variety you can find on Blocker Terrace overlooking the Boat Basin.



January
Japanese Apricot
Prunus mume



February
Baby's Breath Spirea
Spiraea thunbergii

We often see some of our worst snows in February, but you would be forgiven for confusing that fluffy white stuff with the blooms of baby's breath spirea (*Spiraea thunbergii*). Its wispy bare branches are covered with numerous clusters of small white flowers typically later in the month. Reaching about 5' tall and wide, it prefers full sun to light shade in moist, well-drained soil. In the Sensory Garden at NBG grows the variety 'Fujino Pink' which, unlike other selections, has pink buds opening to blush flowers that age to white. We also like this one for its second show in December when the late fall foliage turns colorful shades of red, orange and yellow before dropping.

There may not be a more iconic flower for the month of March than that of a daffodil (*Narcissus* species). They are the very face



March

of spring, and here at NBG we celebrate their season with Daffodil Daze. During their peak bloom time, you will be able to tour the Garden with NBG horticulturists as well as participate in a variety of daffodil-themed art classes through our education department. You can see them all over the Garden and, while March is the best month to enjoy their blooms, remember that you need to plant their bulbs in the fall. They prefer sunny well-drained areas, and one of their best qualities is that they are virtually pest and disease proof.

While we love our flowering cherries (*Prunus* species) here at NBG, the beauty of these Asian imports might overshadow one of our showiest native trees, the eastern redbud (*Cercis canadensis*). This understory tree with its purplish-pink flowers can be seen across the state, blooming along roadsides and in woodlands, often in tandem with another wonderful native, flowering dogwood (*Cornus florida*). Redbuds typically reach about 20' tall and wide, prefer filtered sun in soil with good drainage and can be seen in many places at NBG. Many of the newer varieties not only have showy flowers, but also have colorful foliage, and you can even find some with an unusual weeping habit.



April
Eastern Redbud
Cercis canadensis



LanternAsia FantaSEA

Art by Day, Magic by Night

Spring 2021



Presented by

 TOWNE BANK


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weddings

It's always extra special when one of our staff gets married here at the Garden. Meredith Zadd, Visitor Services Manager, married her sweetheart Omari Robertson on November 28, 2020, on a perfect fall day, surrounded by her family and close friends. The Garden offers many locations for soon to be nuptials. From blooming roses, a formal Italian Renaissance setting, to a more intimate nature backdrop, there is something for every couple. To learn more about how we can help you, visit our weddings & events team - nbgweddings.org or email our weddings team at weddings@nbg.org or call 441-5830 ext. 320.



A Garden Love Connection

Charles and Florence Kronenburg are long-time members of the Garden who are very familiar with all that we have to offer. Would you like to know which foliage and flowers on campus put on the best show under a thin layer of snow? How about the best spot to relax and have a picnic with your kids or grandkids? Then ask them! They have decades of experience enjoying the landscape in all four seasons. Florence recently shared with us some of her many cherished memories.

Her connection to the Garden began when she was a child. Not only would her parents bring her regularly, her elementary school would hold its end-of-year picnic here as well. But Florence's connection to the Garden goes even deeper than childhood remembrances. In 1961, she and Charles, her husband of 58 years, came to the Garden for a Fourth of July picnic with friends; it was their first date and the start of a long and happy life together. "As we walked around the friendship pond, we did not realize that the famous saying that, if you walked around the pond with a friend, you would be friends for life" Florence said. After that first date, many others followed in which they strolled the paths and relaxed on one of the many benches throughout the Garden.

Florence and Charles continued to visit regularly in the ensuing decades and are so happy that they introduced their children and grandchildren to the Garden as well. Over the years, the children have loved climbing the berm to watch the airplanes take off from the airport while listening to Charles regale them with aviation stories from his time in the Navy. They have also enjoyed the special exhibits, particularly the Dominion Energy Garden of Lights and Nature Connects® Art with LEGO® Bricks exhibit.

Charles and Florence have a vast collection of pictures they have taken at the Garden over the years. Florence marvels at the endless opportunities to capture that perfect picture and is so happy to have images of their children and grandchildren enjoying nature's beauty. She encourages everyone to join the Garden and create their own stories to share.



Green Scene

A Win for Biodiversity

Our fall plant sale was a great success resulting in thousands of new plants, most native to Virginia, being added to gardens all across the Tidewater area. This success translates into a huge win for preserving and increasing biodiversity, a term that refers to the variety of all living things on Earth. Why should we care about biodiversity? Nature is a complex system providing our basic needs to survive. These needs are often referred to as ecosystem services. High levels of biodiversity allow for redundancy in nature, which, in turn, allows nature to be resilient. When one link in the web of life is weakened, there is another one ready to reform the connection. Home gardens are now on the forefront in the effort to restore our environment and build its resiliency. Folks often start gardening for personal pleasure by utilizing plants as decorations. Much like the gardens we tend, our thoughts and mindsets evolve over time; the time has come to think beyond the pretty.



What you plant matters! Be more mindful about the plants we add to our home landscape. The plants that comprise our home landscapes can provide the same ecological benefit that natural groups of plants provide in the wild. By incorporating native plants in your home landscape, you will enhance the beauty of your property as well as provide habitat for wildlife, especially pollinators. Remember, the land doesn't benefit us alone. Go easy on the chemicals and become aware of non-native ornamental plants labeled as invasive by the state. Thanks to all who supported our plant sale and boosted the ecological landscape! Join our mailing list to receive updates on future plant sales directly in your email inbox. Scroll to the bottom of the homepage on our website at IDigNBG.org.

EARTH DAY • APRIL 22, 2021

With 50 years of Earth Day celebrations to reflect upon, the need to protect our most valuable resource is imperative. It's well documented that our planet is in dire straits. Use this day to recommit yourself to improving the environment around you. Incorporating just one of these lifestyle changes is a step in the right direction.



Run your home on renewable energy from wind and solar farms. NBG switched to 100% renewable energy in 2019. Learn how you can switch too at NBGreen.org.



Ditch single-use plastics! Reusable alternatives include bamboo cutlery, stainless steel drinking straws, reusable drinking containers, reusable shopping bags, and silicon or fabric storage baggies. Switch to bar soap instead of bottled soap.



Join the meatless Monday movement. Meat isn't the only source of protein and its production is one of the greatest sources of greenhouse gasses.



Compost your kitchen scraps. Throwing your raw veggie scraps and peels in the trash is a waste of valuable building blocks for creating rich, organic soil. Keep a compost pail on your countertop for easy collection.

Community Connections

Norfolk Botanical Garden was honored to be chosen by the Association of Fundraising Professionals as *Outstanding Non-Profit in Fundraising for 2019*



Day of Nature

Thanks to our Day of Nature Scholarship Fund, we were able to bring second grade students to the Garden to complete self-guided activities relating to weather, seasonal changes, and plants as natural resources. We are proud we have been able to offer these opportunities to our community members, and with continued contributions to our Day of Nature Scholarship Fund, we will continue to have the chance to help more students and families grow together. Please visit our website at norfolkbotanicalgarden.org/support/give/a-day-of-nature-scholarship-fund if you would like to make a donation to this fund and help connect more children to nature.



Our long-running connection to Teens with a Purpose continued on a gorgeous fall day. The group walked around the Garden and enjoyed the pleasant weather and beautiful scenery.

Volunteering from a Distance

Doug Braidwood (left), who has served as a volunteer in our Finance Department since 2017, has been in lockdown at his residence in Westminster Canterbury since the pandemic hit last March – and thus no longer able to volunteer in-person at the Garden. Luckily, we had the perfect remote volunteer project for him: folding the Dominion Energy Garden of Lights newspapers. Doug was happy to take on the task and enlisted fellow resident Ms. Elizabeth “Anne” Keller (right), as his folding partner. As it turns out, Ms. Keller is a former member of the Camellia Society who volunteered on and off at the Garden for some 18 years!





Nature Quests: Mobile Garden Games

Our Nature Quests App continues to offer creative ways for visitors of all ages to explore the Garden through the winter! Our WOW ABCs Quest offers 28 locations for visitors with young children to interact with our WOW Children’s Garden through games, sensory activities and more. Additional Nature Quests continue to provide information about how the plants we enjoy on our dinner plates grow. Complete photo challenges and quizzes to collect recipes, craft ideas and tips on how to grow your own edible plants at home. New Nature Quests are added frequently, so make sure to update the app or your web browser before your next visit to plan your adventure!

The Nature Quests App was made possible through funding from the Julian Haden Gary and Margaret Savage Gary Fund of the Hampton Roads Community Foundation.



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ART in BAKER HALL

Included with Garden Admission

FEBRUARY—MARCH

The Secret Lives of Land and Seas



Acrylic Paintings by Chris Jeanguenat

APRIL—MAY

Yin and Yang



Art Paper/Mixed Media Collage Works by Caroline Garret Hardy



Photography by Trotter Hardy

Time to Chill Out

Journalist David Schleck Visits The Garden in Winter

Bundle up and rediscover Norfolk Botanical Garden during the heart of winter. A brisk walk in the crisp air will do you some good. Here are some of my favorite spots.

Go Native

Wander off the main path near the sand pile to find the Virginia Native Plant Garden. Here we get a taste of what this land looked like centuries before settlers arrived. Among the many trees are loblolly pine, water tupelo and Atlantic white cedar.

Curious Conifers

Bald cypress and pond cypress trees stand out from other conifers by letting go of their needles for the winter. You can find them at the edge of the Native Plant Garden and in a mysterious bog on the corner of Mirror Lake. Walking through this area makes me think of the fantasy world of J.R.R. Tolkien, where centuries-old trees walk and speak. It's not too hard to imagine. After all, these trees have knees! Stay quiet, and you may hear them creak out a few notes.

Branch Out

Norfolk's official tree, the crape myrtle, has always been a favorite of mine. The bone-like patterns on its branches play beautifully against the deep blue sky. These trees frame your walk after passing over the canal bridge closest to the Bicentennial Rose Garden. An interesting set of braided crape myrtles can also be found near the Conifer Garden not far from NATO Tower.



Go Green

The Holly Garden keeps its color throughout the grayest of seasons. You'll find several quaint, circular hideaways between Friendship Pond and the Renaissance Court. A fun activity for young and old alike is to search for local wildlife captured in bronze sculptures by William and David Turner. My favorites are the pelican plopped comfortably on its perch and the otter stretching toward its next act of mischief.

Crank It Up

Want to thaw that nip on your nose? Visit the Tropical Display House and soak in the heat and humidity. Take off your jacket and stay awhile. Listen to the gurgling fountains and study the colorful variances of tropical plants sprouting from every nook and cranny.



A Hampton Roads native, David Schleck has spent most of his life covering the community as a professional journalist, including serving 11 years as editor of the Beacon section of The Virginian-Pilot. David is a frequent visitor and member of Norfolk Botanical Garden.



Daffodil Daze

Enjoy 400,000+ Daffodils in March!
Check out daffodil-themed Walk & Talks in *GROW*

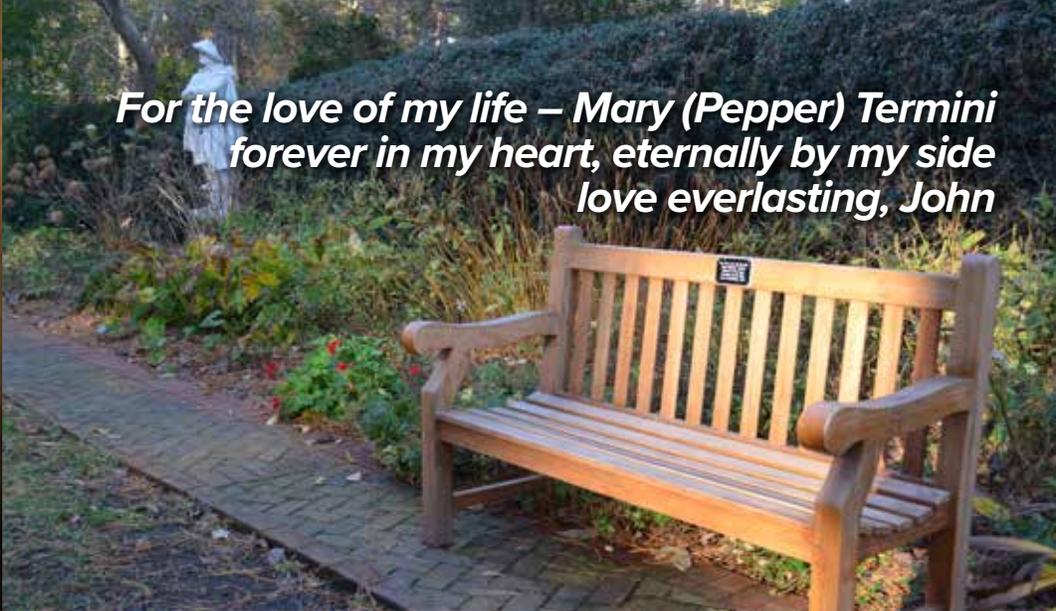
DID YOU KNOW?

According to the World Economic Forum & the Ellen MacArthur Foundation, by 2050 there will be more plastic in the oceans by weight than there are fish. The educational nonprofit Washed Ashore uses the tagline “Art to Save the Sea” and, in partnership with organizations and passionate individuals, has collected 26 tons of debris off beaches. As part of NBG’s mission to lead through environmental action, the Garden is hosting this exhibit in June with 15 larger-than-life sculptures.

Summer 2021

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ART TO SAVE THE SEA

Made possible by
The Batten Family Educational
Achievement Fund of the Hampton Roads
Community Foundation



*For the love of my life – Mary (Pepper) Termini
forever in my heart, eternally by my side
love everlasting, John*

Love everlasting. John and Pepper’s love story crossed oceans and lasted decades. Fondly nicknamed Pepper by her father, she lived in Spain where she met the love of her life, John Termini, who was serving in the United States Navy. They later both moved to Norfolk and married in 1971. Their family grew over the years to include two children and, now, three grandchildren. For their 40th anniversary, John surprised her with a trip to renew their vows. He chose a place he knew she loved to visit—Ireland. “She knew not how to be anything but kind; it’s just the way she was,” John said. “Pepper never met a person that wasn’t a friend.”

Several years ago, Pepper was diagnosed with PCA, Posterior Cortical Atrophy, a rare degenerative condition and variant of Alzheimer’s disease. The disease first affected her vision and progressed over the years. She died from the condition on February 1, 2020. The disease is not well known and not well researched. That is something John is on a quest to change.

John dedicated a bench in her honor that now sits in Statuary Vista overlooking the beautiful lawn, with blooming plants and glimpses of tranquil water. “The Garden was her favorite place and that was why I purchased a bench in her name, because I wanted her to forever be there,” John said. “I know that she is there with me in heart, in soul and spirit.”

He is also honoring her memory through many of her favorite organizations and charities, through the Mary Josephine Termini Memorial Charitable Fund and an art scholarship in her name. Pepper was a talented illustrator, as shown in her pencil drawing of a seagull (right). Both funds can be found on the Hampton Roads Community Foundation website. There are also two plaques in her memory placed at St. Jude Children’s Hospital and Research Center.



Please call Cathy Fitzgerald at 757-441-5830 ext. 319 or email her at cathy.fitzgerald@nbgs.org to make an appointment or discuss all Garden 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.

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