Devastating wildfires in the American West, record heat, unprecedented drought threatening our own agriculture and food supply here in the U.S., massive European and Asian floods, record ice melts and now what looks like the potential collapse of an entire ocean current in the Atlantic that regulates much of the world’s weather. Is this the beginning of the end? I won’t let it be and I hope you won’t either. What do we do? It’s simple. This:

1. **Call, email, visit, or write elected leaders and the staffs of our local, state and national governments and let them know that the Earth crisis must be a top priority.** We, collectively as society and the government system we created, have passed the buck on this problem for decades. We’re witnessing the results of that inaction now. Our governing system has tremendous power that we the people vested with to make change. Demand that change now.

2. **Eat less meat.** Super simple, saves money and is healthier for you. Meat production, particularly beef, is a huge emitter of carbon and methane—the worst gas that contributes to climate pollution.

3. **Choose electric over gas every time.** When replacing any motor whether it be a yard tool or your next car, electrics are the way to go. Prices have dropped dramatically and charging infrastructure is everywhere.

4. **Switch to 100% renewable energy.** It’s easy, and anyone who pays an electric bill in Virginia can do it. Check out Dominion Energy’s renewable energy credit program or Arcadia Power. Both offer 100% renewable options.

5. **Talk about it.** Make it a topic of discussion with friends, family and neighbors. If it’s a priority for you, explain why. Use your knowledge and passion to help and inspire others. Collectively we will fix this; individually it will be hard.

6. **Plant.** Reforest the Earth in any way you can. Plant a tree, plant shrubs, perennials, bulbs. Grow some of your own food. Compost—send nutrients back into the Earth rather than to the landfill which is just a sealed tomb for trash. Visit our composting demo area to learn how and order plants from our Fall Plant and Bulb Sales!

Beginning of the end? No—we won’t let it be!

Michael P. Desplaines

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Making History

Norfolk Botanical Garden and Clenise Platt are making history. Clenise is a long-time supporter of the Garden and joined our Board of Directors in 2014. She previously served as the Board’s Treasurer and now has the distinction of being elected its Chair—the first African-American to hold this position in the Board’s history. “It is amazing to me that I am the Chair of the Board of the Garden I grew up playing in as a little girl,” said Clenise Platt. “Then add to that, the significance of me being the first African-American Chair of the Garden, and that makes this a very special moment for me,” she said.

Clenise’s connection to the Garden goes back to her youth when she visited as a young child with her brother and mother. While creating fond memories with her family, she was also building a life-long connection with the Garden. In the late 1930s, 220 African Americans—mostly women—were hired as part of the Works Progress Administration (WPA) to clear swampland and plant the first azaleas. Clenise’s leadership has helped the Garden continue to share their compelling story.

As chair of NBG’s President’s Council on Inclusion and Diversity, Clenise works closely with the Board, staff, and stakeholders to bring much-needed awareness to the Garden’s history, diversity, equity and inclusion. She spearheaded efforts to add Garden Club-WPA, the life-size painting by renowned artist Maizelle, to the Garden’s permanent art collection. The painting is now proudly displayed in the Baker Hall Visitor Center. Each year the Garden hosts a WPA Garden Heritage Celebration to honor the individuals who toiled to create such a beautiful garden for the community. Additionally, she proposed the addition of the Groundbreaker Awards to the annual WPA Heritage Celebration to honor ‘groundbreaking’ individuals.

Not only does Clenise lead the Garden’s Board and two of its committees, she is also a member of the NBG Foundation Board. But she doesn’t stop there! She is heavily involved in the community as an active Rotarian, author, speaker, adjunct professor at Tidewater Community College and founder of The Plattinum Group. Her list of accolades is long and distinguished; the Garden is fortunate to have her at the helm.

The future is looking bright as we launch The Garden of Tomorrow campaign and Clenise is the perfect person to lead us through this next phase. “The Garden has evolved over the years into an award-winning beautiful space for people of all ages, shades, backgrounds and interests,” Clenise said. “We’re not done yet! We are dreaming BIG at NBG and the primary focus during this term is sharing our vision for the Garden’s future with others and inviting them to join me, the NBG Board members and other generous donors in contributing to The Garden of Tomorrow Campaign,” she said. Join Norfolk Botanical Garden in welcoming Clenise Platt as the new NBG Board Chair!
Horticulture Highlights

One of our showiest native shrubs is beautyberry (*Callicarpa americana*), and September is its month to shine. However, the show is not provided by its pale pink summer flowers. Rather, its bright crayon-box-purple fruits are what gather all the attention. These colorful fruits are not just showy, they are relished by various songbirds and mammals. Another benefit of this plant is that its foliage has natural mosquito-repelling properties, much less dangerous than burning citronella torches all summer. Beautyberries get about 6’ tall and wide, and prefer full to partial sun in moist soil. You can see them in many spots throughout NBG, but there is a nice group of them at the entrance to the Virginia Native Plant Garden.

**September**

Our native dogwood (*Cornus florida*) has a somewhat well-deserved reputation for being finicky, likely due to people planting it in the wrong locations. However, the kousa dogwood (*Cornus kousa*) is much easier to grow. Kousas flower about a month later than our native dogwood, after their foliage has emerged. In early fall the branches are adorned with red raspberry-like fruits. Later the foliage turns gorgeous shades of gold and orange before falling to reveal handsome mottled bark. It is truly a four season tree. Kousas reach a similar size as our native dogwood, about 20-25’ tall and wide, and like them, they also prefer partial shade. A great place to see these is in our Rhododendron Garden.

**October**

For flower arrangers, there are few foliage plants as reliable as poet’s laurel (*Danae racemosa*), as the cut branches have an incredibly long vase life. This evergreen has long sprays of arching, lush, green foliage. The flowers are inconspicuous, but in the fall, showy bright orange fruits light up even the shadiest of gardens. Poet’s laurel is very well adapted to the type of dry shade that occurs underneath large trees where it will grow up to 3’ tall by 4’ wide. The Glade at NBG is just one of a few places where you can see this Southern favorite growing.

**November**

Most gardeners know hollies as reliable evergreens, occasionally with stickers and a few with red berries. However, winterberry holly (*Ilex verticillata*), one of the most spectacular hollies, is not at all evergreen, but that just makes it easier to see the bare branches dripping with bright red fruit. This native is a must-have for brightening the winter landscape. In full to partial sun and consistently moist soil, they can reach 10-12’ tall and wide, but dwarf forms are available. Winterberries only bear fruit on female plants, with one male plant needed to pollinate up to 6 or 7 female plants. The best place to see winterberries at NBG is in Discovery Grove and the adjacent edge of WOW.

**December**

See Page 4 of the GROW Course Catalog for details.
Julie Finn Shares Seeds

NBG Greenhouse Manager and Horticulturalist Julie Finn has always had a passion for plants, and in particular growing plants from seeds. Julie has been participating in seed exchanges since she was a pre-teen. She even remembers asking her parents to buy her memberships to horticultural societies as birthday gifts!

Today, Julie shares her love and knowledge of some of the tiny specimens of NBG flora by carefully collecting and preserving seeds. She is keenly aware that seeds are the key to conservation for both logistical and financial reasons; seeds are easy to transport, propagation is relatively inexpensive, and seeds are virus-free. Why are seeds so important? They are the result of sexual propagation (pollination and fertilization) and they produce new genotypes, which greatly enhances genetic diversity. Genetic diversity maintains genetic traits that allow plants to adapt to changing variables such as environmental stressors. This diversity is critical to helping us combat the climate change crisis and securing the world’s food crops.

Julie’s expertise helps Norfolk Botanical Garden conserve plant DNA and display rare plants for the public to view. We provide seeds to volunteer community groups to help restore crucial wetland areas and to scientists for vital research purposes. We also help other botanical gardens increase their collections, which in turn helps important conservation efforts for us all.

Monitoring for Invasive Insects

Have you noticed strange-looking funnels hanging from a few trees recently? These are insect traps set up as part of the yearly USDA Agricultural Pest Survey that NBG participates in for the American Public Gardens Association (APGA). Each trap is unique in that we arm it with specific lures for our target invasive insects. For example, one of our traps aims for the infamous emerald ash borer. This species has decimated the ash tree population in the U.S.—killing more than 100 million trees. By attaching a lure to the funnel, we entice any local emerald ash borers down into the trap. Bi-weekly, we check to see if any of our suspects are present. If they are, we report to the APGA that we do indeed have a presence of this target species.

Because we are a port city (and considering our proximity to our airport neighbors), the Garden is an excellent candidate to monitor for these destructive invasive insects. The information we collect can provide the USDA with valuable details which can be used to extrapolate how far-reaching and established these populations are likely to become. When you take into account global climate change and complicated trade/shipping practices, it makes for a good line of defense when gardens across the country are able to participate in this survey.
Green Scene

Washed Ashore Eagle Kit Assembly Day

As part of the Washed Ashore: Art to Save the Sea exhibit, we had the unique opportunity to participate in the creation of a sculpture representing the east coast—a bald eagle with a fish in its talons. This new sculpture will debut at the Garden in August.

Plastic trash collected from our local coastline was sent to the artist, Angela Haseltine Pozzi, in Oregon who then shaped and prepped the pieces into components to create the eagle’s body. In conjunction with Washed Ashore’s community program called “Come Soar with Us,” we invited staff and volunteers to join us in creating this special sculpture. Community involvement is a powerful way to make an impact with any environmental cause and we were thrilled to take part.

Be sure to check out the Washed Ashore scavenger hunt and other fun family programming on our Nature Quests App.

Eastern Bluebird Trail in Norfolk

One of our greatest strengths as a 175-acre garden is that we’re a thriving habitat for all types of creatures great and small. Girl Scout Sydney Sheffield recognized this quality and suggested an eastern bluebird trail as part of her Gold Award project. Eastern bluebirds naturally call NBG home, so it seemed like the perfect place to establish the Virginia Bluebird Society’s first recognized Eastern Bluebird Trail in Norfolk. Sydney constructed ten new houses and installed them throughout our grounds. As part of the nest monitoring requirements for the trail, staff conduct weekly observations throughout the nesting season.

Bee-ting the Heat

Our beehives continue to thrive. This summer, our staff apiarist acquired two mated queens and split two colonies.

Have you ever wondered what honey bees do when it gets really hot? They cluster around the opening of the hive to cool down. They beat their wings to fan in cooler air so the internal temperature of the hive doesn’t become dangerously hot. This natural behavior is referred to as bee bearding because the congregating bees often resemble a beard around the entrance of the hive. The bees will go back into their box when temperatures cool.
Fuse Fest 2021 & Camp IMPACT

Teens with a Purpose hosted their 8th annual FUSE Fest at Purpose Park, celebrating community, culture and art. It was great to be back out in the community after such a long break! Healing was the overarching theme and plants were a natural fit. We gave away nearly 200 herb and vegetable plants to festival participants. By the way, Purpose Park is Teens with a Purpose’s community garden located at 801 Church Street in Norfolk.

Youth Education Coordinator Jennifer Kodolitsch teaches middle schoolers from the Urban Renewal Center’s Camp IMPACT how to plant seeds. This summer camp program focuses on career development and community service.

Garden Club of Virginia Field Day

We were delighted to host the Garden Club of Virginia for their Horticulture Field Day. Using our beautiful grounds to teach and demonstrate renewable gardening practices, staff led tours of our Potage Kitchen Garden, Flowering Arboretum, Cut Flower Garden/Edible Garden, Pollinator Garden, Compost Demo Area and our beehives. Big thanks to the Norfolk Master Gardeners for helping with the program!
The Garden of Tomorrow

The Garden of Tomorrow will take us to the next level — connecting even more people to nature and expanding our conservation efforts. Tomorrow begins today!
Help Us Build & Plant

Contact Cathy Fitzgerald at 757-441-5830 ext. 319
Cathy.Fitzgerald@nbgs.org or
Leslie Van Horn at 757-441-5830 ext. 341
Leslie.VanHorn@nbgs.org

Scan Code

to Learn More

GardenofTomorrow.org
Congratulations!

NBG Youth Educator Jen Erving
Winner of The Garden Club of America’s Elizabeth Abernathy Hull Award & Conservation Educator Award

The Garden Club of America’s Elizabeth Abernathy Hull Award annually recognizes the outstanding achievements of individuals furthering the early environmental education of children. The chosen recipients honor Miss Hull’s common sense approach to environmental awareness by inspiring children under 16 to appreciate the beauty and fragility of our planet.

In addition to the Hull award, Jen has been awarded the Garden Club of Virginia’s Conservation Educator Award. This award recognizes individuals or organizations whose work in an educational environment empowers the Garden Club of Virginia’s conservation ideals: “... to celebrate the beauty of the land, to conserve the gifts of nature and to challenge future generations to build on this heritage.”

Jen was instrumental in the opening of the WOW Children’s Garden in 2006. The photo above shows her teaching on opening day.

Art in Baker Hall
Included with Garden Admission

SEPTEMBER
Dreaming in Earth and Air

Oil Paintings by Janice Gay Maker

When Magic Happens

Photographic Art by Susan Werby

OCTOBER—NOVEMBER
Natural Colors

Acrylics on Canvas by Brenda M. Sylvia

NOW thru OCTOBER 31

Nature Photography by Laura Bryant

Art to Save the Sea
Washed Ashore.org
Le Jardin

Though hundreds of visitors have already enjoyed the new Le Jardin, the formal ribbon cutting took place on July 18, 2021. This beautiful garden, designed to span all seasons, is stunning with new additions of unique perennials, grasses and bright colorful blooms. Attractive hardscapes, charming stone pillars and a grass staircase leading to the water’s edge are featured in this garden. Along with the re-designed Conifer Canal Garden, both areas have perfect views over the water from either side and showcase plants that attract birds, insect pollinators and other wildlife and have winter interest as well. Le Jardin is located near the Colonial Garden and NATO Tower and is a must see on your next visit! Funding for Le Jardin and the Conifer Canal Garden was provided by the Galliford-Mulard Foundation. Additional support for canal bank stabilization provided by the Beazley Foundation, Inc.

Evergreen Society Members

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.


Leaving a Legacy

The Evergreen Society recognizes and celebrates an outstanding group of friends who generously support the Garden beyond their lifetimes.
NBG Online Plants Sales

GARDEN TO-GO KITS
September 11—13
(Members Only Access Sept. 10)
Pre-fabricated Kits with
Native Perennials
- Sun
- Partial Shade
- Shade
- Pollinator Powerhouse
- Banquet for Birds
- Hummingbird Haven

BULBS
October 9—11
(Members-Only Access Oct. 8)

EDIBLES, NATIVES & MORE!
October 23—25
(Members-Only Access Oct. 22)

Tweet, tweet!
Members will receive exclusive member-only access links and discount codes for each online plant sale.

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Sponsored by Dominion Energy
BEGINS NOVEMBER 12
NEW Route with EVEN MORE LIGHTS! Purchase Tickets at NBGLights.org