

The

DIG

& grow
COURSE CATALOG

norfolk
botanical
garden

JANUARY—APRIL 2022

From the President

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What do you think of when you hear the word “garden”? I think of a green space filled with trees and flowers, food and wildlife. A place that’s welcoming, calming and serene. A space that nurtures life in all it’s forms. A place that energizes, reinvigorates and connects me to the natural world that I’m a part of. Imagine if more spaces in our lives were like this. Imagine more “garden” everywhere: our homes, where we work, our neighborhoods, our communities. Imagine “garden” as not only a place but a feeling, a way of treating others that welcomes all, soothes and calms, energizes and connects. What an amazing space that would be, right? For 2022 let’s spread “garden” everywhere. Let’s plant and calm and reconnect. Let’s be nice! Let’s be outside. Let’s be together in the Garden.

Michael P. Desplaines



NBG Board of Directors Chair Clenise Platt joins NBG President and CEO Michael P. Desplaines for the groundbreaking of The Garden of Tomorrow.

THE MISSION OF NORFOLK BOTANICAL GARDEN:

IMMERSE VISITORS IN A WORLD OF BEAUTY

LEAD THROUGH ENVIRONMENTAL ACTION

INSPIRE THROUGH EDUCATION AND CONNECTION TO NATURE



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SAVE THE DATE: April 9, 2022
WPA Garden Heritage Celebration



Mirror Lake
WPA Memorial
Garden

contents

- 1 Daffodil Daze
- 2 Horticulture Highlights
- 3 Norfolk Master Gardeners
- 4 Green Scene
- 5 Community Connections
- 6 The Garden of Tomorrow
- 8 Eastern Bluebird Trail
- 9 Art in Baker Hall

Daffodil Daze

500,000+ daffodils will bloom this spring at NBG!



Did you know?



- Daffodils have been used in gardens since 300BC.
- They are extremely easy to grow, do not require supplemental water and multiply on their own.
- Daffodils come back year after year.
- Animals and insects will not eat your daffodils.
- Daffodils can provide color from January—May.
- There are 265+ cultivars of daffodils here at NBG.
- Our daffodil peak bloom occurs in March.



Horticulture Highlights

January – Daffodils in January? Yes, if you are talking about Rijnveld's Early Sensation (*Narcissus* 'Rijnveld's Early Sensation'), which reliably blooms here at NBG in our Border Garden each winter. This classic yellow daffodil is always the first bloom of the year, giving hope to those of us who struggle through winter. It was first bred sometime before 1943 in England by Mr. F. Herbert Chapman. Perhaps Mr. Chapman was slow to register his prize, because a Dutch company claimed it as theirs, putting their own name on it in 1956. Who knew the world of daffodils was full of such intrigue? If you want to learn more about the *Narcissus* collection at NBG, be sure to attend our garden walk and talks or classes held each March during Daffodil Daze.



Daffodils
Narcissus species

Jan.

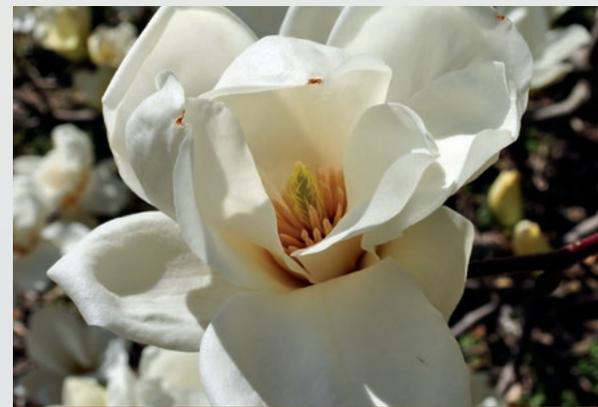
Feb. Witch Hazel *Hamamelis x intermedia*



February – Plants that bloom in the winter often have showy fragrant blooms. This is in order to attract whichever brave pollinators might be out at that time of year, and hybrid witch hazels (*Hamamelis x intermedia*) are no exception. Blooming in mid-winter, the tassel-like, fragrant flowers can be yellow, red, or orange depending on the variety. Witch hazel has an odd habit when faced with unusually cold weather, the flowers curl up tight to protect themselves, then open again when the temperatures warm up. Another wonderful feature of these large shrubs is their fall foliage color which can be spectacular. The best place to view blooming witch hazel at NBG is our Winter Garden.

March – In NBG's Flowering Arboretum are many trees, but one species in particular has been appreciated for thousands of years. The Yulan magnolia (*Magnolia denudata*) of China

was first cultivated around 600 A.D. in Buddhists temple gardens. Its creamy white, sweetly scented, cup-shaped blooms came to be seen as symbols of purity and candor. This was also the first Asian magnolia to be grown in European gardens and was one of the parents in many other magnolia hybrids. All early blooming magnolias run the risk of petal damage if they open too soon, or when we have late freezes, so their beauty can be fleeting, but worth the risk just to see an otherwise bare tree fully cloaked in flowers.



Yulan Magnolia
Magnolia denudata

Mar.

Apr. Snowball Viburnum *Viburnum macrocephallum*



April – We often get many inquiries from guests and members who want to know which variety of hydrangeas are blooming in the Border Garden in April, so much earlier than other hydrangeas. These are not hydrangeas at all, rather they are Chinese snowball viburnums (*Viburnum macrocephallum*) and the confusion is understandable. Their large flowers look very much like hydrangea blossoms. The buds and early flowers are a fresh spring green, almost the same color as a Granny Smith apple. As they mature they become pure white and can get up to 8" across. The shrub itself is large as well, reaching up to 15', almost tree-like. In full bloom they are hard to miss, and can be seen at a distance from many spots in the Garden.

Thank You Norfolk Master Gardeners

The *Potager* Kitchen Garden has been a vital component of the Norfolk Botanical Garden for several years. It remains a great avenue for the public to learn about growing their own vegetables, herbs and other food sources in their own back yard. This area of the Garden wouldn't be as lively and fresh without the help of the Norfolk Master Gardeners! They not only help grow and maintain a beautiful kitchen garden, but provide an excellent interpretive service to the public about which foods they have growing at the moment and how the public can grow them at home. We were able to catch up with two of the Master Gardener volunteers, Jean Frances Harris & Steve Gunn, while they were finishing up the fall plantings to talk about their time in the *Potager* Kitchen Garden.

What year did you begin as a Norfolk Master Gardener?

Jean: 2017

Steve: 2018

What got you interested in joining the Kitchen Garden?

Jean: "I picked it up after retiring. I always loved gardening and started out in urban agriculture in school gardens such as P.B. Young Elementary School."

Steve: "I've been around plants my whole life and the Kitchen Garden provides a way to do a lot of meaningful things with plants."

What do you enjoy most about the Kitchen Garden?

Jean: "I love the capacity we have to donate the food we grow to those who may need it. I also love working with fellow Master Gardener Peter Hatchard and NBG Senior Horticulturist Linda Saunders!"

Steve: "I love talking with the public and telling stories while also interpreting the things we are currently growing."

What's your favorite thing to grow?

Jean: "Artichokes & Purple Pod Beans"

Steve: "Any high production veggies that can be given away"

Any advice for upcoming NBG volunteers?

Jean & Steve: "Find what you love and do it."

Interested in Volunteering at NBG?

Contact our Community Outreach Manager Taylor Lyons by email at Taylor.Lyons@nbg.org or by phone (757) 441-5830 ext. 364. Scan this code to learn more about volunteering at the Garden.



Norfolk Master Gardener
Jean Frances Harris.



Norfolk Master Gardener Steve Gunn.



Potager is a french-style garden incorporating edibles, flowers and ornamentals.

Lessons from Washed Ashore Exhibit



Jane Batten visits Rosa the Eagle for the first time and was delighted with the community contributions and the artist's detail in creating this beautiful sculpture. Washed Ashore was made possible by The Batten Family Educational Achievement Fund of the Hampton Roads Community Foundation.

Everyone is sure to agree that Washed Ashore: Art to Save the Sea has been one of the most compelling exhibits ever featured at Norfolk Botanical Garden. Art is one of the best ways to start a conversation and raise awareness. With the perfect mix of creativity and environmental messaging, visitors of all ages and backgrounds were stirred by the harsh reality of plastic pollution, yet awed by the magnificent artistic ability.

For us, we are most proud of being presented with the opportunity to participate in the creation of Rosa the Bald Eagle. Bald eagles, our country's noble icon, has come to symbolize resiliency. But this resiliency will not last without diligent advocacy for protecting and conserving our natural areas. As home gardeners and nature enthusiasts, we have the collective power to improve and support our local environment, thus keeping the bald eagle soaring above our skies and paving the way for similar success stories.



The eagle sculpture reminds us how everything is connected. The world's waterways connect all life together—humans, plants and wildlife—and when one part suffers the other parts will feel it too. The message behind Washed Ashore reminds us that we can all be the ultimate environmental stewards if we remember that we are a part of nature and not at the center of it.

EARTH DAY • APRIL 22, 2022 

Earth Day is recognized nationally on April 22 each year but we hope you will make EVERY day Earth Day. Look in the *GROW* course catalog for inspiring events and classes that will inform and motivate you.

Community Connections

Teens with a Purpose Gala



Photo credit Tammy Scott

To celebrate the amazing work by teens in the Hampton Roads community, a gala event was held at the Chrysler Museum last November. “Move Makers” were honored for the work accomplished during the 2021 season. Attendees enjoyed a festive night that showcased projects and talents they developed throughout the year.



NBG Community Outreach Manager Taylor Lyons and NBG Adult Education Manager Alex Cantwell were honored to attend the gala.

Annual Garden Heritage Day



In October the Annual Garden Heritage Celebration honored the 220 African-American women and men who first planted the Garden more than 80 years ago through the Works Progress Administration (WPA). On the left, is Helen Ferguson-Williams, daughter of Mary E. Ferguson, an original WPA worker. Next to Helen is Martha McClenny Williams, author of *WPA Original Gardeners: Norfolk Botanical Garden*. Purchase your copy in the NBG gift shop.

Master Gardener Fall Festival



NBG Director of Horticulture Les Parks engaged with the public at the Virginia Beach Master Gardener Fall Festival held at the Hampton Roads Agricultural Research and Extension Center off Diamond Springs Road. It was a beautiful but warm early fall day that brought over 1,200 attendees.

A
Dream
Becomes
a Reality



Left to right: Theresa Augustin, NBG VP of Education, Ande Holbrook, Guest Services, Joan Brock, major gift donor, Clenise Platt, NBG Board Chair and Norfolk Vice Mayor Martin A. Thomas.

The Garden of Tomorrow





NBG President & CEO Michael P. Desplaines on the future site of The Garden of Tomorrow.

“While our building footprint expands significantly, so will planted green space. We will have a much greener footprint – we’ll be even greener than before.

— NBG President & CEO Michael P. Desplaines



Norfolk Commissioner of Revenue Blythe Scott and Vice Mayor Martin A. Thomas attended the event.



On September 1, 2021, Norfolk Botanical Garden held the groundbreaking ceremony on the future site of The Garden of Tomorrow. With major donors, Norfolk City dignitaries and NBG staff in attendance, it was a day to be remembered.

The Garden of Tomorrow will include the Brock Parking Garden, Brock Entry Pavilion, Perry Conservatory and the Hall Water Education & Rowing Center. This is the largest project in the Garden’s history! Soon guests will no longer sit in long lines at the tollbooth, instead they will be immersed in the Garden the second they step out of their vehicles. Spectacular from every aspect, there will be nothing like The Garden of Tomorrow in Coastal Virginia. Designed by Virginia Beach-based Dills Architects, the environment is at the forefront of the design.

Construction Begins March 2022!

Please scan the QR code for construction updates.

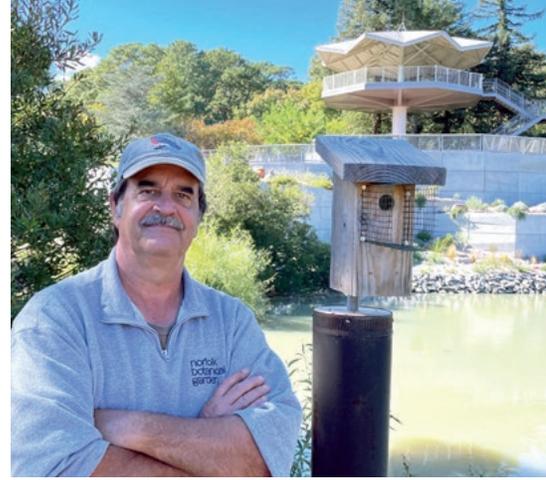
Expected completion in late 2023.



Eastern Bluebird Trail



NBG Senior Horticulturist
Tom Houser



I had a lot of fun monitoring NBG's 16-box Bluebird Trail this spring and summer and recently forwarded the results to the Virginia Bluebird Society for inclusion in their 2021 statewide report. In an earlier edition of *DIG* we highlighted that we now have the only certified Bluebird Trail in the City of Norfolk, thanks in large part to the installation of 10 boxes as part of a Girl Scout Gold Award project this past spring. We recently added interpretive signage with information on Eastern Bluebirds in front of Box #5 near the Wildflower Meadow entrance. We are happy to do our part to support this beautiful and ecologically significant bird, which has suffered greatly from habitat loss and nest cavity competition from an invasive bird – the European Starling.



Of our 16 boxes, four were utilized by Eastern Bluebirds – one box was used to raise three different broods this year which is actually quite normal for them. I can tell you from what I've seen here at NBG, as well as the one box I have in my back yard, that bluebirds are incredibly hard working and diligent parents. They will often build a new nest while they are still taking care of a brood that has recently fledged out! Our bluebird moms laid a total of 33 eggs, of which 30 successfully hatched out. Due to the excellent care given to the babies by their moms and dads alike, I believe all 30 fledged out successfully. In addition, eight chickadees and three house wrens were raised and fledged out of other boxes.



The most successful boxes were #2 (located near NATO Pond) and #7 (located in the Wildflower Meadow). Both boxes produced 11 fledglings – and Box #2 did it in just two broods! When I started working here in 2004, seeing one was, as someone on our staff said – “like spotting a unicorn.” Thanks to our boxes this is no longer true; we have a robust and rapidly growing population in the Garden! The best areas to spot them are the Wildflower Meadow, Flowering Arboretum, NATO Vista, the Virginia Native Plant Garden and in the vicinity of the greenhouse. I'm already excited about the prospects for next year - I expect that with the bluebirds having had more time to familiarize themselves with the boxes, we will be in for quite a few more beautiful bluebird babies in 2022!

ART in BAKER HALL

Included with Garden Admission

DECEMBER—JANUARY



Nature Photography by
Laura Bryant

FEBRUARY—MARCH

Art in Bloom



Paintings by Various Artists/
Chesapeake Bay Art Association

MARCH—APRIL

Positive Flow



Acrylic and Mixed Media
Paintings by Daniel Kathalynas



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@nbg.org to make an appointment or discuss all tribute opportunities.

Leaving a Legacy

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

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.

Dan Allison, 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, Karen L. Hines, Edward C. & Betty Lou Johnston, Sr., Patricia A. Kiefer, Patty L. Landrum, Virginia T. Lawrence, Eleanor Marshall, Bee McLeod & Goody Tyler, Rick Morsink, Susan Elise Morton, Nancy Nelson, Edward & Gayle Nichols, Susan L. Oldridge, Brian O'Neil, Dana Parker, Stephanie Pope, Mildred Amsinger Powers, Judy Pravecek, Ann Rathbone, Pamela Read, Alan Rohanna, Kurt & Debbie Schroeder, Sam Strickland, George & Nancy Sutcliffe, Sylvia E. Simons Trembelas, Jim & Christiane Valone, Richard & Ann Weber, Pearl Windle, 3 anonymous.



**Saturday
April 9**

**WPA
Garden
Heritage
Celebration**



norfolk botanical garden

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NORFOLK, VA
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Tram Tours and Bike Nights Return in April



WOW Splash Pads Open April 9TH

COMING THIS SUMMER!



Photo courtesy of the Chrysler Museum of Art

**FRAMES
& GAMES**

