CONNECTING WITH NATURE
Annual Report 2022-2023
This past year has ushered in an incredible wave of transformation, growth, and excitement for our future. January marks one year since we began construction of The Garden of Tomorrow, slated to open in 2025. The largest expansion in the Garden’s history is becoming a reality with your help. With support from nearly 2,000 generous donors in our vibrant community, we will have space and capabilities to protect the most threatened and endangered plants from across the globe, while allowing us to expand our educational engagement with future generations.

It’s worth reflecting on the profound impact plants have on our daily lives, from food on our tables to their pivotal role in the field of pharmacology, plants are the unsung heroes. Imagine, a single plant preserved through conservation holding the elixir to better health or the key to curing a life-threatening disease. Your continued support makes all the difference.

Beyond the meticulous care of our living plant collection, we hosted over 420,000 visitors and engaged more than 16,000 K–12 students and adults in our unique classes. Additionally, we introduced over 15,000 new plants into our community through donations and our fundraising sales. We were also honored to be chosen as the new home of the Blue Star Memorial Marker, to honor members of the armed services past, present and future. It has been an incredible year connecting our community to nature and inspiring future environmental stewards.

On behalf of the Board of Directors, amazing staff and myself, thank you for supporting Norfolk Botanical Garden. Your contributions, whether financial or through volunteering, directly support our non-profit mission to immerse visitors in a world of beauty, lead through environmental action and inspire through education and connection to nature. If you haven’t been out to the Garden lately, come back and see us! Take a moment to connect with nature, see all of the current blooms, enroll in a class and check out our construction progress. We are building something that will have a lasting impact on our community and environmental efforts overall. Together, we are making a difference.
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**Visitors**
- Total Visitors: 423,070
- Non-local Visitors: 24,639
- International Visitors: 165
- Free/Discounted Admissions: 10,397
- Dominion Energy Garden of Lights: 100,476

**Membership**
- Total Member Households: 14,493
- Renewals: 8,121
- New Members: 4,390

**Staff**
- Full-Time, Part-Time & Seasonal: 117

**Volunteers**
- Total Volunteers: 1,143
- Total Volunteer Hours: 13,516
- Value of Volunteer Time: $440,491

**Weddings & Event Rentals**
- Weddings: 103
- Weddings Revenue: $420,345
- Corporate/Social Events: 123
- Corporate/Social Events Revenue: $128,764

**Education Programs**
- Total K-12 Students Engaged via Outreach and Onsite Programs: 8,100
- Total WOW Children’s Garden Activity Participants: 3,000
- Grant-funded Scholarship Recipients: 1,100
- Total Adult Classes: 603
- Total Adult Class Participants: 8,064
- Garden Walk & Talk Attendees: 450

**Renewable Energy**
- Total Solar Panels: 592
- Total Emissions Reduced: 363,311 lbs.
- Equivalent of Planting: 2,745 Trees

**Composting On-site**
- Average Per Month: 168 lbs.

**Living Plant Collection**
- Plant Families: 204
- Species: 2,445
- Accessions: 14,249

**New On-Site Plantings**
- Bulbs Planted - Seasonal Display: 13,925+
- Bulbs Planted - Permanent Display: 6,500+
- Annuals Planted - Seasonal Display: 32,351+
- Herbaceous Plants: 2,210+
- Shrubs: 548+
- Trees: 58+

**Plant Sales**
- Total Bulbs Sold: 9,900
- Total Plugs Sold: 5,380
- Total Trees & Shrubs Sold: 6,383
- Total Plant Sale Revenue: $102,317

**Community Outreach**
- Community Presentations: 48
- Community Events Attended: 15
- Number of Schools Visited: 26
- Total Number of Plants Donated: 1,710

**Communications**
- Total Email Newsletter Subscribers: 85K+
- Facebook Followers: 74K+
- Instagram Followers: 27K+

Youth Education Field Trip
New Solar Panels Installed on the roof of Baker Hall & Education Center
**2023 Fiscal Report**

Operating Revenue and Expenses
Audit Pending

Revenue $8,889,106

- Education Fees 3%
- Endowment & Investments 12%
- Retail 8%
- Admissions 11%
- Special Events 19%
- Membership 22%
- Government Grants 13%
- Contributions 5%

Expenses $8,338,466

- Horticulture 47%
- Development & Membership 8%
- Education 9%
- Administration 11%
- Visitor Services 9%
- Special Events 4%
- Weddings & Rentals 6%

**Environmental Initiatives**

We endeavor to put the environment first and inspire our visitors to do the same. Expanding our investment in green energy is one of our most significant achievements to date. Installation of 472 solar panels on the roof of the Baker Hall Visitor Center and Education Building completed in fall 2022, along with 120 solar panels powering our propagation greenhouse since 2018, brings our solar panel total to 592. We are already seeing the benefits! The power needs for both buildings are covered 100% by solar power. This newest solar array is saving us over $2,500.00 a month in power expenses. It’s also helping us reduce our carbon footprint by saving annually over 250,000 lbs. of CO2 from polluting the environment—the equivalent of planting nearly 2,000 trees.

To further our commitment to conservation, we have strengthened our partnerships with local conservation groups. NBG is delighted to announce its membership in the Longleaf Cooperators Group of Virginia. Additionally, our Garden staff played an active role in planting 1,000 Atlantic white cedar (Chamaecyparis thyoides) plugs in The Great Dismal Swamp and collaborated with the Virginia Herpetological Society to catalog the diverse array of reptiles and amphibians present on our property. In a significant milestone, we have also obtained certification through the U.S. Department of Interior to responsibly collect endangered species for protection in The Garden of Tomorrow’s Perry Conservatory.

**Community Outreach**

Personally connecting with members of the community is one of the most rewarding aspects of public horticulture. Plants are a great common denominator; it’s what brings us all together. Whether it’s sharing our collection for student research or sharing plants and staff expertise at community fairs and festivals, our staff engaged with nearly 3,000 people and gave away hundreds of plants and seeds. Offsite educational outreach with garden clubs and various professional organizations provided the opportunity to engage with a little over 1,000 participants—a significant increase over last year. Virtual and hybrid presentations continue to be a viable way for us to connect with groups across the greater Hampton Roads Region.

**Teens With a Purpose**
Community Garden in Norfolk
The Garden of Tomorrow Campaign Donors

Click HERE to view The Garden of Tomorrow Campaign Donors online at TheGardenOfTomorrow.org

(updated weekly)

Gifts to NBG Foundation

T. Winston Gouldin

Isaac M. Baker, Jr. & Sarah Lee Baker Memorial Fund of the Hampton Roads Community Foundation

Rose Mary and Jay Reist

Florence Short
Garden Supporters
July 1, 2022 – June 30, 2023

NBG Annual Fund

$50,000 - $200,000
Richard Evans
Dominion Energy
Christine Williamson

$10,000 - $25,000
Bank of America
Capital Group Companies
Jack and Anne Glenn Charitable Foundation
STIHL
Julian Haden Gray and Margaret Savage Gary Fund of the Hampton Roads Community Foundation
Norfolk Southern Hampton Roads Community Fund
Hampton Roads Community Foundation
Planet Fitness Hampton Roads

$5,000 - $9,999
Helen G. Gifford Foundation
Shearwater Foundation, Inc.
Tidewater Children’s Foundation
Wild Birds Unlimited
NBG Annual Fund (continued)

$1,000 - $4,999

Target

Mary Rawls Cooke Horticultural Fund of the Hampton Roads Community Foundation

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$500 - $999

Tidewater Daylily Society

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NBG Annual Fund (continued)

$250 - $499

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KPMG

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Barbara Geraghty

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NBG Annual Fund (continued)

$100 - $249

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$99 - $1

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   City of Suffolk
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Wedding Photo by Dustin Lewis
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Fritz and Laura Zeisberg
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Tribute Benches
Michael and Alexandra Proaps

Eagle Tribute Bricks
Linda Doxey
Robert Barnett
William Reinhart
Jessica Joisten

WOW Children’s Garden Tribute Bricks
Douglas W. Flagg
Ken Flagg

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Gregory Szoka

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Ute Oubari

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Nansemond River Garden Club
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Gifts In Memory of (continued)

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Timothy and Patricia Starling
Jillian and Scott Swenson
Andrea and Raymund Tembreull
Virginia Department of Forestry
Susan Vreeland
Elizabeth and John Waitekus
Ann Weber
Linda and Paul Weiss
Pamela Wilson
Women’s Work
Thank You!

You have made a remarkable difference in helping the Garden flourish. You help us connect with local communities, provide educational programs for children & adults and inspire environmental stewardship.

Path along canal bank opposite Le Jardin and the Colonial Garden