



# DIG & GROW

MAY—AUGUST 2024

norfolk  
botanical  
garden

# From the **PRESIDENT**



Norfolk Botanical Garden has always been a sanctuary for nature lovers and those who delight in its wonders. Whether you're seeking solace among the meandering paths and towering trees to rejuvenate your well-being, engaging in our enriching educational classes, embarking on a guided boat tour, or simply wishing to bring your furry companion along for a Sunday stroll, there's an immersive experience awaiting you here.

As someone who cherishes quality time outdoors, I extend a heartfelt invitation for you to join us this summer for an array of festivities both old and new. After a brief hiatus, the beloved Butterfly Festival and VA Honey Bee Festival are making their triumphant return. Plus, we've upgraded our butterfly house with pavers, providing improved

access for all. Additionally, we're thrilled to introduce the inaugural Mushroom Festival, perfectly complementing our summer exhibit - *Funky Fungi: Nature's Curious Creations* in the Enchanted Forest.

If you haven't had the chance to visit the Garden recently, I encourage you to experience the vibrant colors of spring, particularly in our renowned rose garden, one of the largest on the east coast. With over 3,000 rose plants representing more than 300 varieties and an impressive 250,000 blooms, it's a sight to behold, especially during its expected peak bloom during May.

As we reach the halfway point of *The Garden of Tomorrow* expansion, I'm thrilled to report that significant progress has been made. From structural beams to the conservatory's glass panels, our vision is steadily becoming reality. There is still much to explore throughout our 175 acres while we continue with the project. Completion of this ambitious project is set for the fall 2025, marking a new chapter in the Garden's legacy.

Thank you for standing with us as we strive to fulfill our mission of education, environmental stewardship and fostering connections with nature within our community. As a nonprofit organization, your ongoing support empowers us to continue our vital work, and we are deeply grateful for it. Together, we're cultivating a brighter, greener future for generations to come.

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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# CONSERVATION in Action



Photo by F. Delventhal CC BY 2.0 DEED

The travelers palm (*Ravenala madagascariensis*) is a palm in name only. In fact, it is more closely related to the common bird of paradise (*Strelitzia* species). The exotic flowers indeed look like those of a white bird of paradise, and the seeds are wrapped in unusually colored bright blue fibers. The architecture of the plant is its main attraction with a distinctive, fan-shaped, flat spray of stalks, each topped with a banana-like leaf. This unusual array has enticed gardeners to plant it far from its native Madagascar into tropical landscapes and conservatories around the world.

The species is essential to both the wildlife and people of Madagascar. The flowers are rich in nectar and this attracts several lemur species to the plant. In exchange for the nectar, the lemurs pollinate the plant. The people of the island know that at the base of each leaf they can find water, making this plant a welcome relief to thirsty travelers, hence the common name. The flat spray of foliage also generally aligns east to west, so the tree can also be used as a crude compass.



## The Garden of Tomorrow

The travelers palm fruit pod is a favorite of the ruffed lemur, a savvy pollinator found only in Madagascar. They use their long tongues to capture the nectar and transfer their collection of pollen to other plants. Capable of seeing shades of blue, the lemur is drawn to the edible blue material attached to the seed.

Learn more from our conservation partner  
New York Botanical Garden



Photo by Boby Fosbury  
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# CONSTRUCTION Update



The Perry Conservatory's glass and roofing panels are currently being installed, followed by interior walls for the Tropical and Desert Biomes. Continuing our commitment to provide a safe habitat for wildlife, the conservatory glass is bird-friendly, featuring ultraviolet technology to prevent bird collisions. The project is expected to be completed in 2025.



NBG President & CEO Peter Schmidt is updated on construction with Kelsey Sinichko of Dills Architects and staff of AR Chesson Construction Co. Inc.

Rendering of the future Tropical Biome by The Green Room Landscape Architecture firm located in Arizona.

## *The Garden of* Tomorrow

Scan the QR  
code for more  
construction  
updates.



# HORTICULTURE Highlights



**Shortly after the procession of blooms** from various ornamental cherries (*Prunus* species) has finished, comes another import from Asia, Japanese snowbell (*Styrax japonicus*). In late spring, this tree is covered with fragrant, bell-shaped, white flowers that hang down from the branches. The combination of fresh green foliage and clean white blooms reminds us that spring is more than just flashy azaleas and cherry trees. Japanese snowbell starts life with an upright habit. As the tree ages, its branches become wide-spreading and horizontal, and the whole tree takes on a more rounded shape. In character, they look similar to live oaks (*Quercus virginiana*), but not as large, only 20-30' tall and wide. If you would like to see a beautiful specimen, the Garden is fortunate to have the Virginia state champion growing in the Flowering Arboretum.

**One of the most common and easiest of perennials** to grow are daylilies (*Hemerocallis* hybrids and species). Other than being easy, they also come in many colors, combinations of colors and in different heights. Another nice thing about them is that each clump gets bigger and bigger every year giving you more and more blooms. At some point, they are large enough to divide. Introverted gardeners will be able to add more to their own garden, and extroverted gardeners will have plants they can share. The Garden has a large collection of daylilies with close to 2,000 plants and nearly 300 different selections. The best place to see daylilies is in the Sarah Lee Baker Perennial Garden. This diversity would not be possible without our close relationship with the Tidewater Daylily Society, whose annual show and sale is in early June.



**One of the southeast's most underappreciated trees** is gordonia (*Gordonia lasianthus*). a.k.a. loblolly bay. It is native to moist coastal areas from North Carolina to Mississippi, but it also grows well in Coastal Virginia. The main attraction is its white, camellia-like blooms, and in fact, it is a member of the Camellia family (*Theaceae*). These will bloom from July into October, giving crapemyrtles (*Lagerstroemia* species and hybrids) some competition for the longest flowering trees. Hummingbirds, bees and other insect pollinators are drawn to the flowers. The foliage is evergreen, but in colder weather, some of it will redden. The Garden is home to the Virginia state champion gordonia, and you can see it in the Flowering Arboretum across from the Butterfly Garden.

**There are several species of** *Eutrochium* that go by the common name of Joe-Pye weed. It is a widely distributed genus of plants throughout much of eastern North America, including Coastal Virginia. In late summer, these typically tall plants produce great clouds of mauve colored flowers that butterflies and other insect pollinators find irresistible. Later, flocks of goldfinches will weigh the plants to the ground trying to get at the seeds. The plant's common name comes from an indigenous man in the 1600s whose English name was Joe Pye. Legend has it that he treated Massachusetts colonists for typhus by brewing a tea made from this plant. True or not, you can enjoy these plants in several spots around the Garden, including the Sarah Lee Baker Perennial Garden.



IN THE GARDEN this summer - all events sponsored by:

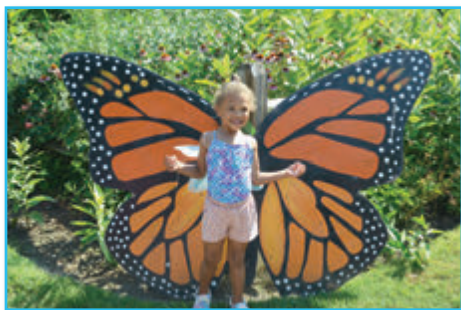


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# Funky Fungi

## Nature's Curious Creations

Norfolk Botanical Garden presents *Funky Fungi: Nature's Curious Creations*, an engaging exhibit exploring the world of mushrooms and their ecological importance. This June-September visitors are invited to explore the diverse forms, colors and functions of mushrooms, showcasing them as nature's small but mighty superheroes. Through larger-than-life sculptural displays and interpretive panels, visitors will gain insights into the symbiotic relationships between mushrooms and plants, the vital role of fungi in nutrient cycling and their impact on ecosystems. *Funky Fungi* aims to inspire a deeper appreciation for these often-overlooked organisms and their significance in preserving biodiversity. It encourages visitors of all ages to connect with the wonders of nature and recognize the intricate web of life in which mushrooms play a pivotal part.



Saturday, July 20  
10 AM – 4 PM

In partnership with the Butterfly Society of Virginia, this event incorporates fun educational programs, activities and Butterfly House tours.

Butterfly & VA Honey Bee Festivals  
Silver Level Sponsor:

**STIHL**



Saturday, August 17  
10 AM – 4 PM

In partnership with Beekeepers of Southeast Virginia, guests of all ages will learn about honey bees and their important role in our environment through hands-on activities and live demonstrations.



Sunday, September 8  
10 AM – 4 PM

This festival is sure to be a fun-filled day with activities centered around mushrooms including cooking demonstrations, walking tours, food trucks, craft vendors and so much more!



# FUNGI: FRIENDS OF THE FOREST

In the vast kingdom of Fungi, mushrooms reign supreme as strange yet fascinating organisms. Diving a little deeper, there are an estimated 1.5 to 5 million species of fungi with only about 5% formally classified. So, what exactly is a mushroom? It's the fruiting body or reproductive structure of a fungus, typically produced above ground. It's the part of the fungus that we commonly recognize and consume, consisting of a cap containing spores and a stalk or stem. Although this is the classic textbook image, there are a multitude of fascinating shapes and sizes. While the mushroom itself is the reproductive structure of the fungus, the bulk of the organism exists underground in the form of mycelium—a network of thread-like filaments that absorb nutrients and decompose organic matter.

Mushrooms undoubtedly steal the show above ground with a visually striking array of shapes, sizes and colors. Below the surface lies the real magic—the mycelium, weaving its web of wonder through the soil. This is where the humble mushroom proves an ecological powerhouse; playing vital roles as decomposers, nutrient recyclers and symbiotic partners to plants. The hidden mycelium form underground alliances with the roots of trees and other plants to exchange nutrients and keep the forest ecosystem in tip-top shape.

A remarkable superpower of some mushroom-producing fungi is the ability to degrade and neutralize a wide range of contaminants, including petroleum hydrocarbons, heavy metals, and even certain types of plastics. This process, known as mycoremediation, represents a promising and sustainable approach to environmental cleanup.

Let's not forget the mushroom's other starring roles. In the culinary world, they dazzle taste buds with their nutrient-dense, umami-rich flavors and culinary versatility. In the medical world, certain species of mushrooms contain bioactive compounds such as polysaccharides, beta-glucans and triterpenoids, which have been studied for their antioxidant, antibacterial, and neuroprotective properties. Select species even show significant promise in cancer therapies.

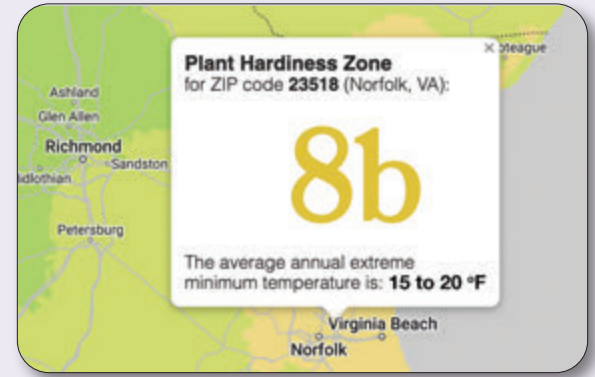
Next time you spot a mushroom peeking out from beneath a pile of leaves or nestled in the crook of a tree, take a moment to marvel at its quirky charm and reflect on the phenomenal benefits that mushrooms bring to our world.

**Interested in learning more? Be sure to check out Norfolk Botanical Garden's summer exhibit, *Funky Fungi*. It's a fun and educational exploration of nature's curious creations.**

# SCIENCE & Conservation

## USDA: In the Zone

Seasoned gardeners have come to rely on the USDA's Plant Hardiness Zone Map to see if a particular plant is hardy for our area. The map is divided into 13 different zones based upon the average low temperature over a given period of time. Each zone represents a 10-degree Fahrenheit range, and the zones are further divided into half zones, representing a 5-degree difference. Plants are given a range of zones in which they are hardy, so if you know your zone and a plant's zone, then you can make informed planting decisions.



In 2023, the USDA updated the map (see <https://planthardiness.ars.usda.gov>). About half the country is now in a new zone, and overall it indicates about a 2.5-degree increase in temperatures. This means that many gardeners might now be able to expand their plant palettes to grow things that were not previously considered hardy. However, it is also tangible evidence of a warming planet and climate change. While some might look forward to being able to grow new plants, we also need to watch for new plant pests and diseases that may have been previously held in check by colder weather. For the record, Norfolk Botanical Garden changed from Zone 8a to 8b, meaning our average low is now listed as between 15- and 20-degrees Fahrenheit. Ironically, we didn't even fall that low this past winter. Welcome to a brave new world of gardening!

## Invasive Plant Removal



Above: Norfolk Botanical Garden staff partnered with the Elizabeth River Trail and Chesapeake Bay Foundation volunteers to remove invasive species and plant new trees at Plum Point Park.

## Youth Conservation Team

A Youth Conservation Team from the Virginia Zoo volunteered recently at the Garden. NBG Director of Adult Education Alex Cantwell, Retired NBG Horticulturist Tom Houser, and Norfolk Master Gardeners Peter Hatchard, Steve Gunn and Jean Harris all conducted interpretive programming sessions with the teens seen here in the Virginia Native Plant Garden.



## STEAM Day

In March, Norfolk Botanical Garden partnered with Dills Architects for the inaugural STEAM Day (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art and Mathematics) at the Chrysler Museum. NBG Director of Youth Education Beverly Albright spoke to Norfolk Public School students about the world of STEAM and the Garden's partnership with Dills Architects.





# COMMUNITY Connections

## Celebrating Black History Month

Norfolk Botanical Garden co-hosted a private screening of *Rhythms of the Land* on Saturday, February 24, 2024 along with our community partner—Chesapeake-Virginia Beach Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. According to Director Dr. Gail Myers, this documentary is a valentine to generations of black farming families in the United States, from the enslavement period to the present. More than 300 guests attended the private screening.

The Garden's inaugural Diversity Gallery featured more than 80 pieces of art created by 26 local diverse artists from the Hampton Roads community. The exhibit ran from January through the end of February.

More than 2,200 guests enjoyed Free February Thursdays and nearly 100 canine family members enjoyed February Fido Fridays.



L-R: NBG President & CEO Peter Schmidt, *Rhythms of the Land* Director Dr. Gail P. Myers and Sheri D. Briggs from Bank of America.

Sponsored by:

**BANK OF AMERICA** 



L-R: Director of Youth Education Beverly Albright and Director of Adult Education Alex Cantwell at MOCA's opening reception for the special environmental exhibit.

## ArtLab Collaboration

The Museum of Modern and Contemporary Art (MOCA) has a new exhibit *Mark Dion and Alexis Rockman: Journey to Nature's Underworld* that unites over 30 sculptures and paintings by two renowned artists who have explored humanity's strained relationship with the environment for over 30 years. In preparation for this exhibit, staff at MOCA reached out to the Garden to collaborate on their interactive, community-focused portion of the exhibit known as ArtLab. We provided educational content and materials on the longleaf pine, as we felt it's history in the region—from deforestation to the point of near extinction to current recovery efforts—complemented the theme of the exhibit. You can see our contribution to this exhibit at MOCA, now through June 9, 2024.

## Engage Norfolk

Engage Norfolk is a free annual event hosted by Councilwoman Andria McClellan. It provides amazing resources and direct help from hundreds of different organizations, citizens and government officials to promote the growth and wellness of the City of Norfolk. Norfolk Botanical Garden was proud to participate as a vendor, providing excellent information about our conservation initiatives and green career opportunities.

L-R: Community Engagement Manager Taylor Lyons and Visitor Services & Tour Operations Manager Ande Holbrook at the Engage Norfolk event held at the Norfolk Scope Arena.

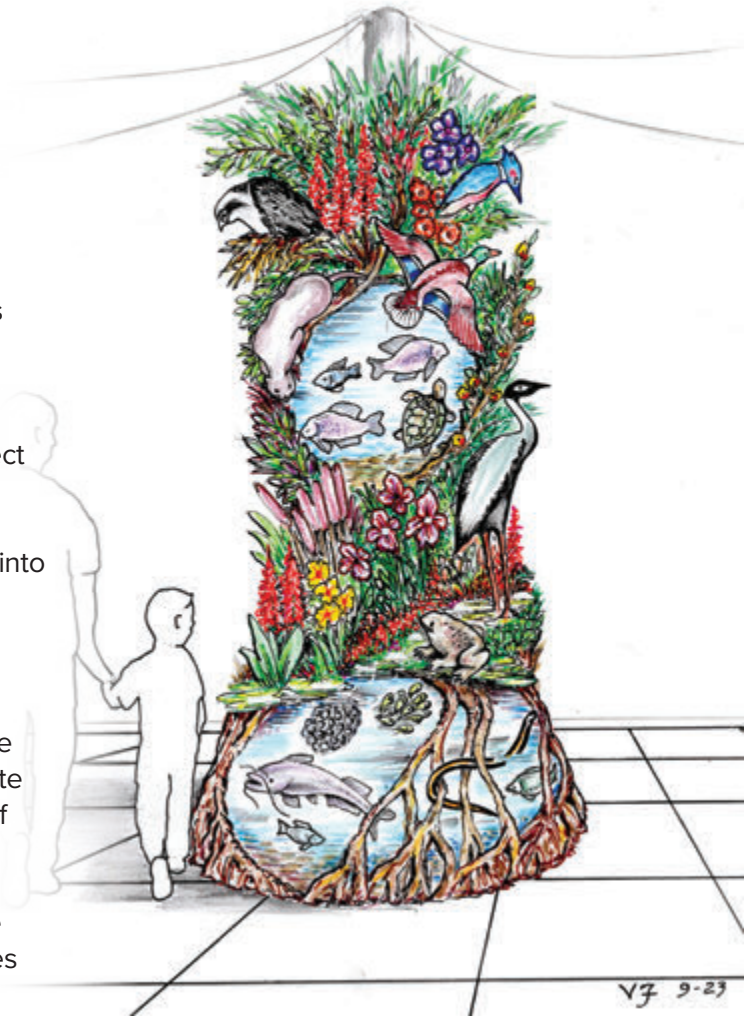


# NEW SCULPTURE FOR WOW CHILDREN'S GARDEN

Funded by The Blocker Foundation

Designed and constructed by artist Angela Haseltine Pozzi, and graciously funded by The Blocker Foundation, the Garden's new Re-Up-It sculpture will feature some of the flora and fauna found in a Coastal Virginia freshwater ecosystem. Inspired by the *Washed Ashore: Art to Save the Sea* exhibit, this custom-made sculpture will be constructed entirely from collected plastics and other discarded materials. It will feature larger-than-life representations of life above and below the surface of the water to provide guests with the opportunity to see and experience nature up-close, while prompting guests to reflect on the objects used to create the sculpture. Garden staff assisted in the collection and cleaning of the materials (see photo below) and sent the items to the artist to incorporate into the sculpture.

The work of art will be a permanent installation in the WOW Children's Garden, serving as both a dynamic learning tool and a source of enjoyment for all visitors. The addition of the freshwater sculpture will allow Youth Education staff to create new educational programs and tours for students. As part of the grant funding provided by The Blocker Foundation, the Youth Education Department is developing a new biology program that will allow high school students to take the role of field scientists to complete investigations and lab activities relating to biodiversity in aquatic systems.



Left: Last summer, VP of Education Theresa Augustin cleaned trash collected from a local beach cleanup that was then shipped to the artist's studio in Oregon.

Thank you to community partners: City of Norfolk's Conservation Park Rangers and Keep Norfolk Beautiful volunteers who helped clean up the beaches at Norfolk's 13th View Beach Access last summer.



## This Summer in WOW

In summer 2024, guests of the WOW Children's Garden are invited *Into the Woods* to complete scavenger hunts, crafts, tours, and field activities to learn about the growth, anatomy, and diversity of trees, the role of trees in their ecosystems, and to emphasize the responsibility of people to protect and restore forests. As part of this summer theme (supported by a grant from the Julian Haden Gary and Margaret Savage Gary Fund of the Hampton Roads Community Foundation), Youth Educators will give away redbud tree seedlings in late spring to encourage the community to help support and grow the Norfolk tree canopy.

# Butterflies in the Family

The Norfolk Botanical Garden Butterfly House has been a summer staple for the past 16 years, featuring a variety of different species of butterflies throughout their lifecycles complemented by passionate volunteers who are experts on these creatures. However, the Butterfly House we know today would not be possible without the dedication of Lauren Tafoya who has been a part of the Garden for the past 15 years as primary butterfly educator, Butterfly House operator and all-around butterfly authority.

Though Lauren is an expert now, her journey didn't start with a love of butterflies, but rather a love for her nieces and grandchildren who one summer took a sudden interest in these fluttering friends. When they approached her asking to raise butterflies, she didn't hesitate. "I knew very little about butterflies, but it was what they wanted to do, and by all means, I was going to do it," said Lauren. This started her whirlwind adventure of learning all things butterflies. Through much trial and error, Lauren quickly learned that raising butterflies was a true labor of love. "We originally started with the butterflies you would purchase from the Discovery stores, but one day Melanie, my niece, said she wanted to raise Monarch butterflies because they were 'in danger,'" she expressed. This started the transition to raising butterflies that are native to Coastal Virginia.

Lauren's knowledge continued to grow, especially after she started working with the Butterfly Society of Virginia, becoming their primary festival planner for their annual Butterfly Festival. Lauren soon met Linda Saunders, NBG event designer and senior horticulturist who introduced Lauren to the Garden's Education Department staff. Through her many ideas and hard work, Lauren helped elevate the Butterfly House from a mere summer display into an educational oasis filled with native butterflies.

Managing the Butterfly House is a true joy for Lauren; however, it's also a lot of work. With the house open seven days a week, Lauren knew she needed help and she proposed hiring her niece Melanie who has become quite the butterfly expert over the years. "Melanie has always been my bug girl. She has this special interest in them, and her knowledge is immense," said Lauren. She knew that Melanie would be an excellent resource and valuable help for the volunteers on the days Lauren was unable to be at the Garden. "Some of my biggest joys while running the butterfly house has been watching Melanie spread her wings. I have loved watching her knowledge grow and how she chooses to share that knowledge with others," she said.



Right: Lauren and her niece Melanie prepare the Butterfly House for another busy summer season of Garden guests - both butterflies and humans. Lauren is also a board member and secretary for the International Butterfly Breeders Association.

## ***ADOPT a BUTTERFLY!***

Join us in fostering conservation awareness through our seasonal Butterfly House featuring locally raised native butterflies. With a donation of \$200, you can support the thriving butterfly habitat in the Butterfly House and the complementing educational programming. Visit the Garden's website for more information.



# Living with Less Lawn



Pictured is the author's backyard, where two years ago there was nothing but turf. Now, it's a better balance between lawn and a thriving ecosystem that benefits pollinators and other wildlife. As a bonus, the author's dog Luna seems to enjoy the upgraded design too!

As a gardener I never complain about the rain and neither does the turf. Consistent moisture is the number one thing it needs to be happy. From my experience, there are two types of people when it comes to maintaining a lawn. The first type only mows when they happen to remember or to keep code enforcement at bay. The second type wakes up in the morning fueled with a burning passion to achieve an absolutely perfect lawn. My hope is that both of these types can find common ground when it comes to reducing turf in the landscape.

The idea of lawn reduction is no longer a foreign concept to most gardeners. There has been a lot of discussion and much written about the American obsession with lawn and the amount of precious water used to irrigate it, the amount of fertilizers and pesticides applied to it, and the amount of pollution created to keep it neat and tidy. My biggest problem with a large lawn is that it is actually a biological desert, with only a few species growing within it, and those provide little benefit to wildlife. While some gardeners might want to replace their entire lawn with a wildflower meadow, this is not the answer for everyone. Turf has its place in the landscape, but it should not be a landscape on its own. Areas of turf allow you to enter your garden and experience it and live in it. It's a place for your children to play and your pets to run. Turf as one element of design can enhance your planted beds and balance them. In these planted beds you can turn your garden into a thriving ecosystem full of plant diversity that attracts pollinators and feeds the birds, creating an oasis for wildlife among the sprawl.

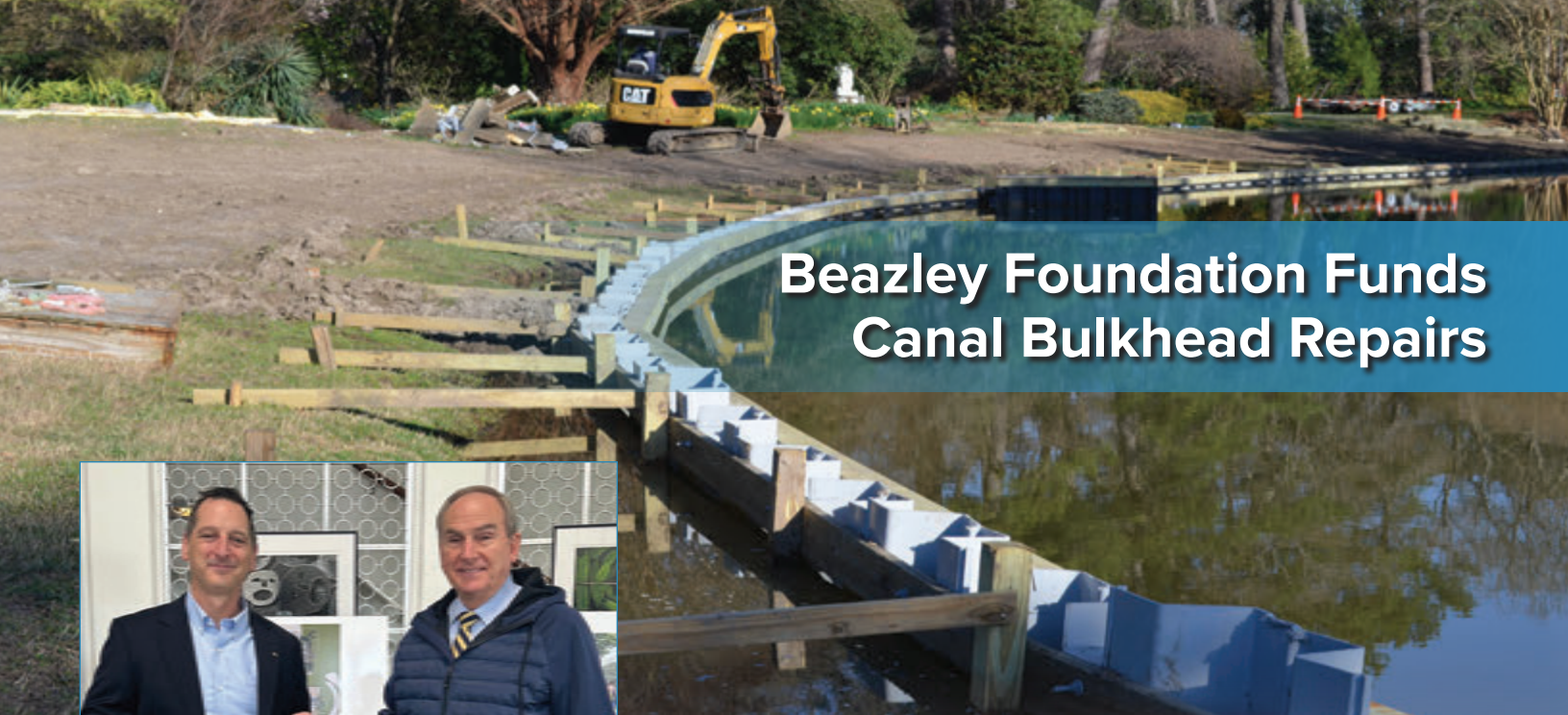
So where do you start your journey of lawn reduction? Start small by converting an area of turf into a garden bed, not biting off more than you can chew. If your landscape still functions well and you have success, select another area for conversion. Even a small bed converted from turf to native and other functional plants is a benefit. Keep in mind, you will need to physically remove the turf, or kill it outright with a safe herbicide, otherwise, your new bed could be a weedy mess. Make sure you apply a thick layer of mulch to keep weeds down and to hold moisture, then get ready to plant. The plants you pick for your new beds are the most important decision in the process. Where possible select native plants, as these typically benefit pollinators and other wildlife the most. Landscaping is about finding balance, and hopefully by reducing your lawn to a size that works for you and your family, you will help create more balance between the natural and human worlds.



Carl is currently the curator of woody plants and an ISA (TRAQ) certified arborist. He began his Garden journey serving for five years as a volunteer and has been employed with the Garden for the past nine years. The Garden is where Carl met his wife Meredith, who is currently the greenhouse manager. They were married at the Garden in 2018. The couple enjoys long walks with their dog Luna around Mirror Lake looking at birds on Sunday Dog Days.

Read all about it! Catch articles like this in the *Virginian-Pilot* once a month. Look for the Wild Green Yonder green logo.





## Beazley Foundation Funds Canal Bulkhead Repairs



L-R: NBG President & CEO Peter Schmidt accepts a donation from Beazley Foundation President & CEO Steve Best to help with the current section of bulkhead repairs by Spence Marine.

**The Beazley Foundation** has been an important part of the Hampton Roads community since 1948. In that time, they have supported many worthy organizations, and the Garden is honored to be among them. Their support of the Garden began all the way back in 1994 with a one-time grant to our first capital campaign, but it wasn't until 2007 that the Beazley Foundation and the Garden joined forces to tackle a critical ongoing project: the deteriorating canal

banks that bisect the Garden's campus. Thanks to the generosity of the Beazley Foundation, the Garden has been able to repair several sections of the failing bulkheads in multiple areas, reducing erosion along the shoreline and improving safety for staff and visitors while enhancing the overall aesthetics of our world class landscape.

Their grant funding has allowed the Garden to embark on this project and make great strides toward its completion. With more than 12,000 linear feet of bulkhead needing repairs, approximately 3,100 linear feet of repairs remain and is expected to be completed by spring of 2028. The Garden is immensely grateful to the Beazley Foundation for their support and commitment to make the Hampton Roads community a great place to live, work and play.

## Thank You! Capital Group Funds New Laser Engraver



Capital Group has been a supporter of Norfolk Botanical Garden for many years. In 1996, they purchased the Garden's first plant identification label maker. The small black signs you see throughout the Garden were produced using this label maker. With new technological advances over the years and constant usage, the label maker became obsolete and unrepairable. In late 2023, the Garden purchased a new laser engraver with the generous support from Capital Group. The new device is capable of engraving on a variety of different materials, creating color images and elevating plant identification to better support the Garden's needs. Thanks to Capital Group for the many years of support!

Plant Recorder Ray Volkin creates plant signage with the new laser engraver.





The NBG Floral Guild strives to make sure visitors are immersed in the Garden's beauty even when they are indoors. One talented volunteer, Rie Russo, has been a dedicated member of the Floral Guild for over 10 years, generously devoting her time and expertise to create numerous arrangements for display in various indoor spaces throughout the Garden. Rie enjoys the outdoors, searching the Garden for inspiration. "I think it is important to observe flowers in their natural habitat," Rie said. "If we do so, we will be able to create flower arrangements that are even more vibrant and beautiful than when they are blooming in the wild," she said.

Rie has professional certifications for floral arranging, studied Ikebana (Japanese Traditional Flower Arrangement) while living in Japan, and was introduced to Western Flower Arrangements through a class offered at NBG. Ikebana is a centuries old Japanese art of flower arranging that is meant to elicit an emotional

response from the viewer. Rie utilizes the Ikebana style while selecting her materials, and keeps respect for the subject matter and the viewer in mind when designing each piece. She wants viewers to connect on a deeper level with what they see on display. Rie also finds that her favorite part of volunteering at NBG is meeting and talking with visitors and getting to share with them the beauty of nature and all it has to offer. The next time you are at NBG, take time to look at the floral arrangements on display and marvel at their beauty and artistry. Rie and the other members of the Floral Guild worked hard to bring it to you!

## ART in BAKER HALL

Included with Garden Admission

MAY — JUNE

*Do You Dream in Color?*

Cyanotypes and Gelli  
Prints by Sidra Kaluszka

&

Mixed Media Collage,  
Oils, and Pastels  
by Fiona Twose



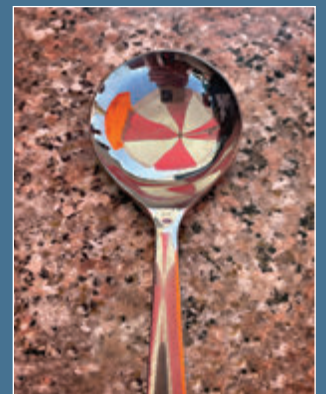
JULY — AUGUST

Photography by  
Trotter Hardy

&

*Grown. Built, Seen  
- The Perfect Garden*

Mixed Media/Collage  
by  
Caroline Garrett Hardy



# 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, or letting us know about a gift in your estate plan including IRA's, please contact [cathy.fitzgerald@nbgs.org](mailto:cathy.fitzgerald@nbgs.org).*

Dan Allison, Annette Averitt, I.M. & Sarah Lee Baker, Shasha Best & Peter Schmidt, Ty & Martha Brown, Elizabeth Bruce, Blanche C. Chappell, Robert & Janie Creecy, Cindy Cutler & Craig Haines, Sandra L. Dashney, Michael Desplaines, William W. Eley, Richard & Eleanor Evans, Cathy Fitzgerald, Joe Foreman, R. Michael & Patricia Fuller, Jane Frazier, Robert M. Gostel, Craig & Sue Grube, Randy Harrison, June Hoyer, 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, Dana Parker, Stephanie Pope, Mildred Amsinger Powers, Judy Pravecsek, Kathleen Keogh Rahman, Ann Rathbone, Pamela Read, Alan Rohanna, Kurt & Debbie Schroeder, Sam Strickland, George & Nancy Sutcliffe, Sylvia E. Simons Trembelas, Jim & Christiane Valone, Henry & Eleanor Watts, Richard & Ann Weber, Pearl Windle, 3 anonymous.

## 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 to discuss this \$25,000 tribute opportunity.

## A legacy that continues to **GROW**

Norfolk Botanical Garden recently received its first-ever electric public tram this winter, a gift from Richard Evans. He and his wife Eleanor were amazing friends to the Garden prior to their passing, financially supporting a variety of projects including the creation of "The Richard and Eleanor Evans Great Lawn" which features a towering metal tree structure containing six arches adorned with climbing roses and a bench seating area that will inspire guests to connect with nature for years to come.

Originally from England, Richard demonstrated his love and passion for roses by sharing his lifetime of knowledge with guests and staff. He was a beloved volunteer for 26 years. The electric tram will debut this spring, demonstrating environmental action and promoting the Garden's work to create a greener and more sustainable future as we debut **The Garden of Tomorrow** in 2025. The Evans' legacy continues to grow with the thousands of blooming roses that Richard appreciated so very much.



L-R: President & CEO Peter Schmidt, Vistor Services staff (inside tram) with COO & EVP of Philanthropy Cathy Fitzgerald unveil the first-ever electric tram gifted by Richard and Eleanor Evans.

# THANK YOU NBG MEMBERS

**norfolk botanical garden**

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Thank you for being a part of our Garden family. You are helping us as a nonprofit organization fulfill our educational and environmental mission. Together we are building and planting the Garden's future. Your support is greatly appreciated!



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