

DIG



MEMBER MAGAZINE
MAY—AUGUST 2025

GROW

COURSE CATALOG INCLUDED

norfolk
botanical
garden

From the **PRESIDENT**



In March, I had the honor of attending our annual NBG Volunteer Celebration Brunch. This is my third year attending as the Garden's President & CEO, and it was no less magical. It was a chance to highlight some of the amazing people and work being done that make our Garden truly special. The positive impact of our volunteer program—both individuals and groups—can't be overstated. This includes the tireless efforts of each of our volunteer Board members.

With this event, we all had a moment to celebrate but also reflect on what's next for our amazing Garden. To that end, in the late fall, we will finally see the completion of the largest phase of **The Garden of Tomorrow** campaign. We will open the new Brock Parking Garden & Entry Pavilion, Perry Conservatory, and introduce our much-needed Brock Environmental Education Center.

We couldn't have reached this milestone without the incredible support of nearly 2,500 individuals, businesses and organizations who helped bring this vision to life. With less than 10% of our goal remaining, the journey has been nothing short of extraordinary—one that will leave a lasting legacy for everyone involved.

I'm thrilled to announce Norfolk Botanical Garden will soon be home to one of the largest permanent collections of Chihuly artwork on the East Coast. The Perry Collection, *Nature in Glass*, is a uniquely curated collection, featuring works designed specifically to be seamlessly integrated within our conservatory. This past fall, I had the privilege of visiting the Chihuly Studio in Seattle for a behind-the-scenes tour and a meeting with the internationally renowned artist, Dale Chihuly. Our collection will help solidify Hampton Roads as a national glass art destination.

For the second year in a row the Garden has been recognized as one of the top three Best Botanical Gardens in the U.S. by Newsweek! This recognition is, in large part, due to the dedication of our amazing staff, who tirelessly work to make our Garden extraordinary and the best part of someone's day. Perhaps it's no coincidence that we were also named one of the Best Places to Work in Virginia. I can personally attest to this—it's an honor to be a part of NBG and our vibrant community.

I want to take a moment to reflect on the profound impact our Garden has—both within our community and beyond. I'm thankful every day for our volunteers, patrons, members and dedicated staff—we have made, and will continue to make, an impact together.

Peter Schmidt

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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Stewards of the Turquoise Jade Vine

"A concerted, collaborative effort across the world's botanic gardens is now needed to conserve a genetically diverse range of plants, and to make them available for research and future reintroduction into the wild."

— Curator of Cambridge University Botanic Garden Professor Samuel Brockington who led work in major study. (January 2025)



For over 25 years, conservation has been a natural extension of the Garden's horticultural excellence. From establishing the VA Native Plant Garden and expanding the Longleaf Pine Forest to creating the immersive seasonal Butterfly House and forging partnerships to monitor the wildlife that call NBG home, the team have steadily advanced conservation through every facet of our work. With the new Perry Conservatory, staff are excited to advance these efforts. As part of a global shift to protect biodiversity, the Garden is proud to collaborate with botanical gardens worldwide to safeguard the world's most threatened plants. These growing partnerships will help shape a more sustainable future for our planet. The latest plant acquisition for the Perry Conservatory is *Strongyloдон macrobotrys*, commonly known as the turquoise jade vine. It is amongst the most uniquely colored flowers on the planet. It has a rare neon-blue green inflorescence due to a unique combination of two different pigments in the petal's cells: an anthocyanin named Malvin and a flavone called Saponarin. The ratio of each within the alkaline cellular environment turns the Malvin blue and the Saponarin yellow, resulting in the unique aquamarine hue.

These magnificent inflorescences can grow over a foot in length and the vine can reach up to 300 feet tall. The genus name, *Strongyloдон*, means "rounded tooth," and the species name, *macrobotrys*, translates to "long cluster of grapes" due to the shape of the flowers that are believed to have co-evolved with bats which are its main pollinator.

This stunning member of the pea family is endangered due to habitat destruction in the Philippines where it is native. The newly acquired turquoise jade vine will soon be showcased in the Tropical Biome of the Perry Conservatory when **The Garden of Tomorrow** opens this fall. Without the cave nectar bats to help, our horticulture team will do the work of pollinating these plants by hand using paintbrushes.

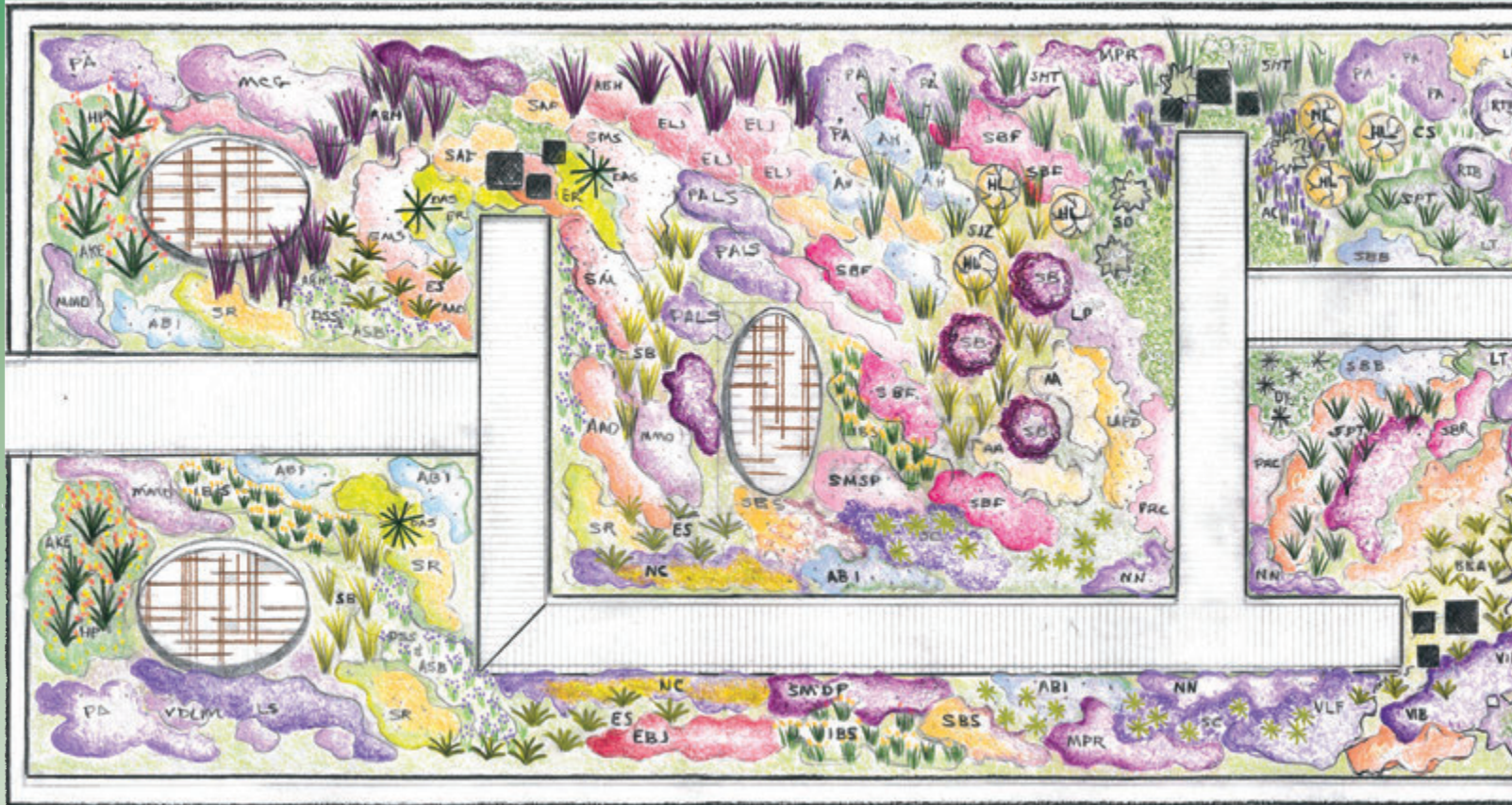
Thank You to Thomas Hubbard & Christy Hamlin for sponsoring this plant in the new Perry Conservatory

For more information about these sponsorship opportunities, please contact Cathy Fitzgerald, COO and EVP of Philanthropy at cathy.fitzgerald@nbg.org or (757) 441-5830 ext. 319.

Your investment supports the acquisition, ongoing care and unique habitat of our collection.



Illustration of *Eonycteris spelaea*, a cave nectar bat, on a turquoise jade vine by Andrea Repetto, Natural Science Illustrator—andrearepetto.com



The Batten Sky Meadow

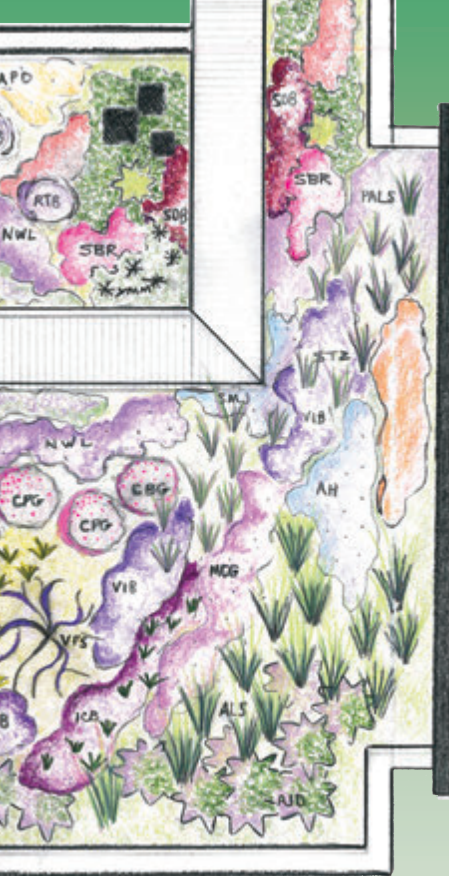
Planting plan Illustrated and designed by Senior Horticulturist Linda Saunders in collaboration with Conservatory Director Michelle Baudanza

The Batten Sky Meadow is a dynamic, ever-changing, living artwork, where flowering grasses and vibrant blooms shift and sway with the wind—creating a natural tapestry that evolves with the seasons. Located on the rooftop of the Brock Entry Pavilion and designed by the Garden's expert staff, it offers a visually stunning and environmentally beneficial sanctuary. This fall, Garden guests will have the opportunity to access the nearly 15,000 square-foot garden along the roof-top pathways shown in the planting plan illustration above and the architectural rendering below. The pathway leads to the Kay & Al Abiouness Skywalk overlooking the Margaret Moore Hall Rose Garden and ultimately into the Tropical Biome of the Perry Conservatory. This green roof will have a colorful mix of perennials, grasses, herbs, bulbs and shrubs. Approximately 450,000 pounds of soil, provided by ProSource Plus, were installed using a crane in March and more may need to be added after settling. Mulching and planting will occur at a later date. Stay tuned to our progress on TheGardenofTomorrow.org or scan the QR code on the opposite page.

"The Batten Sky Meadow is more than a beautiful and unique garden, this new green roof will mitigate storm water runoff, reducing our carbon footprint."

— Vice President of Horticulture Les Parks





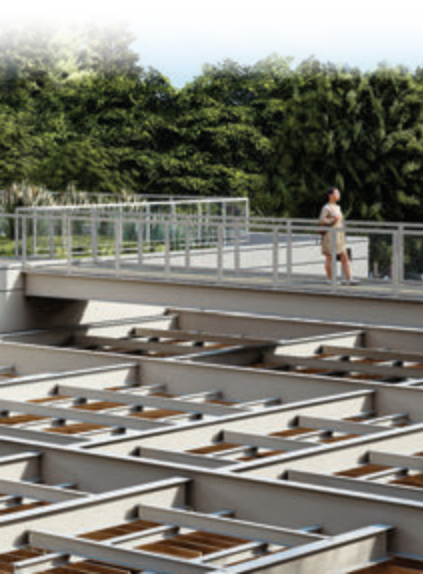
Greener Skylines: The Environmental Benefits of Green Roofs

So, what exactly is a green roof? A green roof is a reinforced roof with a waterproof membrane that can hold the weight of soil, vegetation, and most importantly, rainwater. The temporary capturing of rainwater is what makes a green roof so valuable in the urban environment. Large amounts of paved roads and other constructed surfaces prevent stormwater from being absorbed into the ground. Hard surfaces on the ground cause stormwater runoff into roadways and sewer systems, which can cause a number of issues beyond just flooding. The stormwater runoff picks up toxic chemicals like oil, gas, pesticides, fertilizers and pet waste, negatively impacting water quality via pollution, bacteria and algae blooms. Polluted runoff is one of the greatest threats to clean water.

Green roofs provide a myriad of other benefits as well. Due to the insulation of the green roof itself, they reduce energy bills by both reducing the temperature of the roof's surface and acting as a thermal mass. This absorbs and releases heat slowly, stabilizing the indoor temperature and greatly reducing the need for air conditioning during peak summer heat. This directly leads to a carbon footprint reduction by lowering energy consumption. Amazingly though, it's not just temperature regulation of the building itself that a green roof provides. Green roofs can help reduce the urban heat island effect—a phenomenon where cities experience higher temps due to high concentrations of heat absorbing surfaces like roads and buildings—by lowering the surrounding air temperature.

While green roofs are immensely beneficial, they do come with some challenges that explain why they are not often seen in communities. First, they can be very cost-prohibitive due to the reinforcement needed to support the weight of the soil and plants. Secondly, they require on-going plant maintenance to keep the roof thriving and functioning optimally. Finally, while a green roof provides a substantial savings on energy bills, it can take several years to see a return on investment due to the higher initial cost of installation.

As you explore the Batten Sky Meadow this fall, you will enjoy a beautiful new space and gain a deeper appreciation for the many benefits it provides as well as an understanding of the importance of storm water mitigation, especially in our vulnerable coastal community. In lieu of creating your own green roof you can better the environment with these actions: install a rain barrel if you are able, plant a tree, sweep driveways and sidewalks instead of using a hose, never dump anything into a storm drain, repair vehicle fluid leaks as quickly as possible and use fertilizers sparingly.



Help **BUILD** and **PLANT** The Future





CHIHULY
NATURE IN GLASS
The Perry Collection

Dale Chihuly
Chiffon and Sangria Azalea Chandelier (detail), 2024
9 x 6½ x 6'
© 2024 Chihuly Studio. All rights reserved.

Dale Chihuly: A Visionary Artist Transforming Spaces

Sponsored by Pat & Doug Perry

Norfolk Botanical Garden will soon be home to one of the most significant permanent collections of Chihuly glass on the eastern seaboard. This extraordinary addition will be interwoven with the rare and endangered plants protected within the Perry Conservatory, a key part of **The Garden of Tomorrow** project. Dale Chihuly is an internationally known American artist who transforms spaces with experiments in color, light, transparency and form. He is known for his exhibitions and large-scale architectural installations around the world and for revolutionizing the studio glass movement. His work is the Garden's latest addition to this transformative project.

Chihuly's use of molten glass to create works often inspired by nature is a true innovation. The Perry Conservatory will become an immersive space where Chihuly's stunning sculptures interact with the tropical and desert plants, creating a breathtaking environment for visitors. His ability to transform both indoor and outdoor spaces is evident in exhibitions worldwide, including his monumental projects like *Chihuly Over Venice* (1995–1996), as well as major exhibitions at the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, in London (2019), Gardens by the Bay in Singapore (2021) and the current exhibition in Adelaide, Australia (2024–2025).

One of the highlights from the Garden's new collection is the *Chiffon and Sangria Azalea Chandelier* (left). The Garden is dedicating this spectacular artwork as a tribute to the 220 African American Works Progress Administration workers who first planted the Garden's original azaleas. Their legacy is celebrated through this piece, with vibrant colors that nod to the rich heritage of those early gardeners.



Chandelier in process
The Hotshop, The Boathouse, Seattle, 2024
© 2024 Chihuly Studio. All rights reserved.



The inclusion of Chihuly's artwork at Norfolk Botanical Garden celebrates both the artist's enduring legacy and the Garden's ongoing dedication to preserving natural and cultural histories for future generations. This new collection invites visitors to experience the exceptional blend of art, nature and architectural beauty that Chihuly has perfected over the years. It stands as a tribute to his groundbreaking contributions to the studio glass movement and marks an exciting new chapter for the Garden, which will soon house one of the artist's most impressive permanent collections.

Dale Chihuly (center) with Norfolk Botanical Garden and Dills Architects team members
Chihuly Studio, Seattle, 2024
© 2024 Chihuly Studio. All rights reserved.

"Chihuly's organic forms and vibrant colors are reminders of the beauty, interconnectedness, and diversity of the natural world. His sculptures inspire contemplation and, I believe, serve as a catalyst for raising awareness and nurturing a deeper connection to nature. It is this connection that, we hope, will inspire others to protect our precious plants and waterways for the benefit of future generations. The addition of Chihuly's work will amplify our conservation and educational efforts, reaching a global audience."

— Peter Schmidt, President & CEO

Science & CONSERVATION

Citizen Science

Last January, Norfolk Botanical Garden hosted a Bird Blast Workshop designed to help participants better understand how they can conduct wildlife surveys at the Garden.

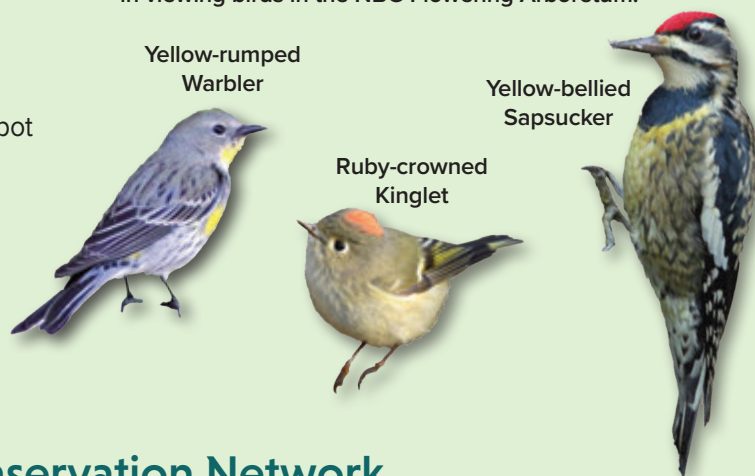
The workshop was introduced by our Plant Recorder Ray Volkin, who informed participants about essential birding resources, including the Merlin mobile app and the eBird online bird database. Dr. Nick Flanders from Old Dominion University, who also serves as the preserve manager at Blackwater Ecological Preserve, shared insights into his research and conservation work. He covered the basics of birding, including how to record survey data, tips for spotting birds and how data from this type of citizen science contributes to larger conservation efforts.

Following the introduction, a group of about 25 volunteers and staff, equipped with binoculars and data sheets, set off into the Garden on a cold but sunny day. As they explored, Dr. Flanders pointed out notable bird species and behaviors while offering practical bird-watching tips. Participants were lucky enough to spot two Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers, two Ruby-crowned Kinglets and three Yellow-rumped Warblers!

This workshop inspired participants to continue bird surveying around the Garden, helping to document the many important species that call our grounds home.



Dr. Nick Flanders from ODU (far left) led workshop participants in viewing birds in the NBG Flowering Arboretum.



Proud Member of International Conservation Network

Botanic Gardens Conservation International (BGCI) is dedicated to preserving and promoting plant diversity to support global food security, environmental sustainability, and the health of ecosystems. Their vision centers on a world where plant diversity is protected, valued and integral to the resilience of both nature and human societies, ensuring a sustainable future for generations to come.



BOTANIC GARDENS
CONSERVATION INTERNATIONAL



Self-guided Research Passes

Do you know a college student in the sciences or the arts? Norfolk Botanical Garden is excited to announce our Self-Guided Research Pass program. This program allows students access to our expansive 175-acre garden for class projects and independent research. As a wildlife habitat, community space and accredited museum with over 65 gardens, students can utilize NBG as a living lab, full of inspiration and discovery. Whether you're a science student looking to study patterns of our native flora and fauna in one of our natural areas, or an art student looking for inspiration in one of our six primary plant collections for your next big project, staff are eager to assist in your studies. Self-guided research passes are available at no cost to students and allow fee-free access to the Garden for your research during normal operating hours. Students interested in participating in this program should submit an application for consideration. Scan code to learn more and apply.



GROW

Course Calendar & Catalog | MAY—AUGUST 2025

norfolk
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CONTACT

Adult Programs
 Phone: 757-441-5830 ext. 338
 Email: registrar@nbgs.org

Family & Youth Programs
 Phone: 757-441-5830 ext. 463
 Email: youthed@nbgs.org

COURSE COLOR KEY

- GARDEN
- EXPLORE
- CREATE
- LIVE WELL
- DIG DEEPER
- SPROUTS/FAMILY FUN
- SPECIAL EVENT

may

REGISTRATION INFORMATION

Preregistration is required for all classes and programs unless otherwise indicated. Register online, in person, or by phone. Become a member and receive a discount on classes & much more! Membership fees can be included with your registration. All class prices include Garden admission.

MEMBER DISCOUNT POLICY

Members with an individual membership receive a discount on 1 ticket per class. Members with a family membership receive a discount on up to 2 tickets per class for adult classes and up to 6 tickets per program for youth and family programs.

CLASS REFUND POLICY

Cancellations five or more business days prior to the program start date, refunds less 20% processing fee (min. \$5). No refunds for cancellations one to four business days prior to program start date. Courses canceled by the Garden due to low enrollment or hazardous weather conditions are fully refunded.

SUSTAINABILITY

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- 05/3 Storybook Tea Party
- 05/6 Sumi-e: Japanese Ink Painting (5-Week Class)
Rose Garden Walk & Talk
- 05/8 Mother's Day Floral Arrangement
Garden Stars
- 05/9 Family Twilight Trek
- 05/10 Jr. Garden Artists: Mother's Day Mugs
- 05/13 Tidewater Mushroom Company Field Trip
Butterfly Container Workshop
Homeschool Garden Stewards: Wild Wetlands
- 05/14 Intro to Edible Weeds
- 05/15 Intro to Granny Squares
Owl Prowl
- 05/16 Great Dismal Swamp National
Wildlife Refuge Field Trip
- 05/17 Virginia Bonsai Society Show & Sale - Day 1
- 05/18 Virginia Bonsai Society Show & Sale - Day 2
- 05/20 Transform Your Lawn
Dried Flower Wreath Workshop
Sustainable & Resilient Landscapes – Zoom
- 05/21 Late Spring Walk & Talk
- 05/22 10TH Annual Rotary Club of Norfolk Suds & Buds
- 05/23 Cadette Night Owl Party!
- 05/27 Buds and Blooms Walk & Talk
- 05/28 Wednesday Yoga (4-Week Class)
Wednesday Oil Painting (8-Week Class)
- 05/29 Thursday Oil Painting (8-Week Class)
Statuary Vista Walk & Talk
Superb Summer Container Workshop
- 05/30 Friday Yoga (4-Week Class)
Hardy Ferns of Virginia

Creative Currents: A Members-Only Arts Experience

Performance Art on Wednesday Evenings in
 Renaissance Court
 June 11, July 9 & August 13
 6 – 8 PM



Plant Society Shows & Sales:

Virginia Bonsai Society
 May 17TH & 18TH

june

- 06/3 **Art in Statuary Vista Walk & Talk**
Sunset Kayaking
- 06/4 **Hummingbird Container Workshop**
- 06/5 **Cut Flowers Around the Garden**
Evening Yoga (4-Week Class)
Sunset Kayaking
- 06/7 **Storybook Tea Party**
- 06/8 **Tidewater Daylily Society Show & Sale**
- 06/10 **Sunset Kayaking**
Garden Stars
- 06/11 **Creative Currents: Member-Only Event**
- 06/12 **Mirror Lake Walk & Talk**
Hydrangeas – the Big Leaf and the Beautiful
Pressed Flower Coaster Workshop
Fairy & Gnome Summer Homes
Sunset Kayaking
- 06/13 **Herb Container Workshop**
Family Twilight Trek
- 06/14 **Jr. Garden Artists: Father's Day Mugs**
- 06/15 **Summer Butterfly House Opens**
- 06/17 **Beginner Stained Glass Workshop**
Bread Making Workshop
Sunset Kayaking
- 06/19 **Beginner T'ai Chi (8-Week Class)**
Intermediate T'ai Chi (8-Week Class)
Woody Plant Pruning – Summer Edition
Dinosaurs in the Garden
Artful Walking
Owl Prowl
Sunset Kayaking
- 06/24 **Agriculture Research and Extension Center**
Field Trip
Basket Floral Arrangement
Crochet 101
Sunset Kayaking
- 06/25 **Wednesday Yoga (4-Week Class)**
- 06/26 **The Fundamentals of Pizza Making**
Sunset Kayaking
- 06/27 **Friday Yoga (4-Week Class)**

GARDEN WALK & TALKS

These casual informative walks allow plenty of time for questions and photos.

Walking required.

Space is limited, pre-registration is required!

Free with Garden admission.

Rose Garden Walk & Talk

With Horticulturist III Tensaie Fesshaye
Tuesday, May 6 • 11 AM–12 PM

Late Spring Walk & Talk

With Vice President of Horticulture Les Parks
Wednesday, May 21 • 10–11:30 AM

Buds and Blooms Walk & Talk

With Conservatory Director Michelle Baudanza
Tuesday, May 27 • 10–11:30 AM

Statuary Vista Walk & Talk

With Horticulturist III Dakayla Calhoun
Thursday, May 29 • 9–11 AM
This tour will provide in-depth knowledge of Statuary Vista including maintenance, favorite plants, and history of the statues all while the hydrangeas are in bloom!

Art in Statuary Vista Walk & Talk

With Director of Development & Grants Leslie Van Horn
Tuesday, June 3 • 10–11:30 AM
Wednesday, August 13 • 10–11:30 AM

Mirror Lake Walk & Talk

With Horticulturist III Shelby Correia
Thursday, June 12 • 10–11:30 AM
Join me for a casual walking tour of Mirror Lake! Trails may have roots, uneven terrain, or mulch, so please wear appropriate footwear. Walking required.

Le Jardin Walk & Talk

With Horticulturist III Steve Saunders
Wednesday, July 16 • 10–11:30 AM
This walk & talk will focus on summer color coordinated through herbaceous annuals and perennials as well as woody plants.

Crape Myrtle Walk & Talk

With Horticulturist II Izabelle Armistead
Thursday, July 24 • 10–11:30 AM

Native Tree Walk & Talk

With Horticulturist IV Dan Fulford
Thursday, July 31 • 10–11:30 AM

Salvia Walk & Talk

With Horticulturist III Dakayla Calhoun
Thursday, August 7 • 10–11:30 AM



Statue of Michelangelo by Moses Ezekiel is one of eleven life-size marble sculptures on display in Statuary Vista.

Tidewater Daylily Society
June 8TH



Cultivate your creativity in the Garden this Summer



july

This summer, bring the whole family to explore the beauty of art in nature! Our summer theme celebrates the stunning one-of-a-kind artwork throughout the Garden while inspiring guests to discover the artistic wonders found in the natural world. From vibrant floral patterns to sculptural tree formations, nature is an artist in its own right! Come see the garden through an artist's eyes and create unforgettable memories together!



Andante (Dancing Girls) bronze sculpture by Josef Mario Korbel is located between the Perennial Garden and Renaissance Court.

Artful Walking

With Writer and Landscape Designer Kelly Morse

Thursday, June 19 • 10 –11:30 AM

Friday, July 18 • 10 –11:30 AM

Thursday, August 21 • 10 –11:30 AM

\$18 (\$23 for not-yet-members)

Artist Paul Klee described drawing as "simply a line going for a walk". In this spirit of playful possibility come learn and practice simple mindfulness exercises while visiting various artworks in the garden. Includes a handout with additional resources and prompts. Walking required.

Anton Bakker (b. 1962, Dutch)
Koos Knoopje, 2018
 Sculpture



- 07/1 **Sunset Kayaking**
Garden Stars
- 07/2 **Plastic-Free July Vendors**
- 07/5 **Storybook Tea Party**
- 07/8 **Diversity of Plants on Earth**
Mindful Mobility (4-Week Class)
Bread Making Workshop
Sunset Kayaking
- 07/9 **Plastic-Free July Vendors**
Pave Floral Arrangement
Creative Currents: Member-Only Event
- 07/10 **Crochet 102**
Worm Composting
Fairy & Gnome Summer Homes
Sunset Kayaking
- 07/11 **Family Twilight Trek**
- 07/12 **Jr. Garden Artists: Picnic Plates**
- 07/15 **Tropical Flair for Our Tidewater Climate**
Watercolor Open Studio (2-Day Class)
Sunset Kayaking
Moth Night
- 07/16 **Plastic-Free July Vendors**
Le Jardin Walk & Talk
- 07/17 **Pruning A to Z – Zoom**
Dinosaurs in the Garden
Sunset Kayaking
- 07/18 **Artful Walking**
- 07/19 **Watercolors: Lotus Blossom from Japanese Garden**
Branch Loom Workshop
- 07/22 **Mosaic Workshop**
Sunset Kayaking
- 07/23 **Plastic-Free July Vendors**
Holy Botany II – Spectacular Flowers of the Bible
- 07/24 **Crape Myrtle Walk & Talk**
Jam, Jelly, and Canning 101
Sunset Kayaking
Owl Prowl
- 07/29 **LED and Birds Class**
Sunset Kayaking
- 07/30 **Plastic-Free July Vendors**
- 07/31 **Native Tree Walk & Talk**
Store Bought Bouquet Design
Sunset Kayaking

august

- 08/2 Storybook Tea Party
- 08/5 Watercolor Workshop (2-Day Class)
Sunset Kayaking
- 08/6 Wednesday Yoga (4-Week Class)
Wednesday Oil Painting (8-Week Class)
- 08/7 Thursday Oil Painting (8-Week Class)
Salvia Walk & Talk
Evening Yoga (4-Week Class)
Sunset Kayaking
- 08/8 Friday Yoga (4-Week Class)
Family Twilight Trek
- 08/9 Watercolors: Little House with Living
Roof Landscape
Knit 101
Dog Days of Summer
Jr. Garden Artists: Picnic Plates
- 08/12 Plant Adaptations Walk & Talk
Beyond the Desert: Thriving Succulents for Our
Tidewater Climate
Sunset Kayaking
- 08/13 Art in Statuary Vista Walk & Talk
Creative Currents: Member-Only Event
- 08/14 Jam, Jelly, and Canning 101
Fairy & Gnome Summer Homes
Sunset Kayaking
- 08/19 Floating Tea Cup Arrangement
Sunset Kayaking
- 08/21 Dinosaurs in the Garden
Artful Walking
Sunset Kayaking
Owl Prowl
- 08/26 Sunset Kayaking
- 08/28 Sunset Kayaking
Garden Stars
- 08/29 WOW End of Summer Celebration



Plant Adaptations Walk & Talk

With ODU Graduate student
Devani Jolman

Tuesday, August 12 • 10 AM–12 PM

\$18 (\$23 for not-yet-members)

Ecosystems offer a peak into the amazing evolutionary history of our planet. Over time, plants have developed traits that allow them to survive and thrive in different types of ecosystems! Come and walk with me through different ecosystems within NBG and learn about the unique adaptations that plants have for each system!

Sunset Kayaking is Back!

Tuesdays & Thursdays this Summer
See the EXPLORE catalog page for details



garden

Grow your green thumb and learn how to keep your garden thriving.

Butterfly Container Workshop

With Senior Event Designer & Horticulturist Linda Saunders

Tuesday, May 13 • 1–3 PM

\$40 (\$55 for not–yet–members)

Create a colorful and lush planter that will attract butterflies and wow all your neighbors. All supplies included.

Intro to Edible Weeds

With Curator of Herbaceous Plants Mary Toth

Wednesday, May 14 • 9:30–11:30 AM

\$18 (\$23 for not–yet–members)

Learn how to identify, prepare and get familiar with the nutritional wonders of the wild weeds that are growing in our backyard. Indoor presentation followed by an outdoor tour.

Superb Summer Container Workshop

With Curator of Herbaceous Plants Mary Toth

Thursday, May 29 • 1–3 PM

\$40 (\$55 for not–yet–members)

Create a colorful and lush planter with summer annuals that will wow all your neighbors. All supplies included.

Hardy Ferns of Virginia

With Horticulturist II Annika Kohler

Friday, May 30 • 10 AM–12 PM

\$18 (\$23 for not–yet–members)

Learn about the best ferns to use in your home landscape—including design elements and plant care. Indoor presentation followed by an outdoor walking tour.

Hummingbird Container Workshop

With Horticulturist II Sarah Huseman

Wednesday, June 4 • 9:30–11:30 AM

\$40 (\$55 for not–yet–members)

Create a colorful and lush planter that will invite new friends to your yard. All materials included.

Cut Flowers Around the Garden

With Curator of Herbaceous Plants Mary Toth

Thursday, June 5 • 9:30–11:30 AM

\$18 (\$23 for not–yet–members)

Take a look through the garden to find flowers and shrubs that are great options for us in floral arrangements. Walking required.

Hydrangeas—the Big Leaf and the Beautiful

With Horticulturist IV Scott Blair

Thursday, June 12 • 1–3 PM

\$18 (\$23 for not–yet–members)

In this class we will discuss the different species and their role in the garden. After a slideshow and a walk through our Hydrangea Collection you will be familiar with multiple species of Hydrangea as well as some care practices that can help you get your plants in shape for the season.



Herb Container Workshop

With Horticulturist II Annika Kohler

Friday, June 13 • 9:30–11:30 AM

\$40 (\$55 for not–yet–members)

Make and take! Learn all about various herbs and their uses, including those we'll be planting. Then take home herbs for the summer too! All materials included.

Woody Plant Pruning—Summer Edition

With Horticulturist IV Scott Blair

Thursday, June 19 • 1–3 PM

\$18 (\$23 for not–yet–members)

This class will focus on when and how to prune woody plants. We will discuss general pruning practices and then focus in on a few types of plants and common species seen in our landscapes. The class will include hands-on training (weather permitting) and discuss choosing the right tools for the job. Walking required.

Worm Composting

With Master Gardener Kandy Keith

Thursday, July 10 • 6:30–8:30 PM

\$40 (\$55 for not–yet–members)

Turn your kitchen waste into a dark rich soil conditioner. Each participant will make a worm compost bin, complete with starter worms! All supplies included.

Tropical Flair for Our Tidewater Climate

With Senior Event Designer & Horticulturist Linda Saunders

Tuesday, July 15 • 1–2:30 PM

\$18 (\$23 for not–yet–members)

This class will show you how to transform your landscape with hardy tropical plants that thrive in unexpected climates! We'll cover the best cold-hardy palms, bananas, gingers, and other resilient exotics, plus expert tips on microclimates, overwintering, and design tricks to make your garden feel like an island escape—no matter where you live. Get ready to turn your backyard into a tropical retreat!

Dog Days of Summer

With Vice President of Horticulture Les Parks

Saturday, August 9 • 9:30–11:30 AM

\$18 (\$23 for not–yet–members)

With our long hot summers, it might seem difficult to find flower color that lasts through the summer. However, there are a number of plants that not only put on a good show then, but actually thrive in the heat and humidity. This class will introduce participants to some of these perennials, shrubs, and trees that look their best in the heat.

Beyond the Desert: Thriving Succulents for Our Tidewater Climate

With Senior Event Designer & Horticulturist Linda Saunders

Tuesday, August 12 • 1–2:30 PM

\$18 (\$23 for not–yet–members)

This class will teach you how to use hardy sedums, sempervivums, agaves, and other tough-as-nails succulents that can handle our local conditions. We'll cover planting techniques, soil secrets, creative design ideas, and how to keep your succulents thriving through every season. Whether you're creating a rock garden, a modern xeriscape, or just adding unique textures to your landscape, this class will give you everything you need to succeed!



create

Cultivate your creativity with these garden-inspired workshops. All supplies included.

Wednesday Oil Painting (8-Week Class)

With Artist Adele Loomans

Wednesdays, May 28-July 23 (no class on July 2), August 6-September 24 • 9:45–11:45 AM
\$175 (\$200 for not-yet-members)

Thursday Oil Painting (8-Week Class)

With Artist Adele Loomans

Thursdays, May 29-July 24 (no class on July 3), August 7-September 25 • 9:45–11:45 AM
\$175 (\$200 for not-yet-members)

Watercolors

With Artist Diana Davis

Saturdays • 9 AM–12 PM

Lotus Blossom from Japanese Garden • July 19

Little House with Living Roof Landscape • August 9

\$60 (\$75 for not-yet-members)

Floral Design Workshops

With Curator of Herbaceous Plants & Certified Floral Designer Mary Toth

Mother's Day Floral Arrangement • May 8 • 1–2:30 PM

Basket Floral Arrangement • June 24 • 1–2:30 PM

Pave Floral Arrangement • July 9 • 1–2:30 PM

Store Bought Bouquet Design • July 31 • 1–2 PM

Floating Tea Cup Arrangement • August 19 • 1–2:30 PM

\$60/Workshop (\$75 for not-yet-members)

Sumi-e: Japanese Ink Painting (5-Week Class)

With Artist Norene Spencer

Tuesdays • May 6-June 3 • 11 AM–1 PM

\$85 (\$110 for not-yet-members)

Dried Flower Wreath Workshop

With Briana from So Many Flowers

Tuesday, May 20 • 6 –8 PM

\$60 (\$70 for not-yet-members)

Join us to make a spring wreath to brighten up your space! You will use a grapevine base, colorful dried flowers, eucalyptus, and hand dyed ribbon to make a beautiful decoration for your door or wall. The instructor dried many of her own flowers and will offer tips on growing and drying your own flowers!

Pressed Flower Coaster Workshop

With Briana from So Many Flowers

Thursday, June 12 • 6 –8 PM

\$55 (\$65 for not-yet-members)

In this class you will make two beautiful coasters using beveled glass and pressed flowers that are sure to brighten up your space. The instructor presses all her own flowers and will offer tips for pressing and working with pressed flowers.



Beginner Stained Glass Workshop

With Instructor Sue Hill, Shill Creations Studio, LLC

Tuesday, June 17 • 9:30 AM–1 PM

\$115 (\$125 for not-yet-members)

In this workshop, learn the basics of cutting glass, assembling, soldering, and finishing under the guidance of an experienced instructor. This eco-friendly class will use vintage glass to create a minimal waste environment. Learn all of the basics of stained glass from an experienced local artist!

Crochet/Knit

With Level 1 Certified Knit and Crochet Instructor Mandie Burns, Owner of Yarn Party

Intro to Granny Squares • Thursday, May 15 • 6 –8 PM

\$35 (\$45 for not-yet-members)

Crochet 101 • Tuesday, June 24 • 6 –8 PM

\$35 (\$45 for not-yet-members)

Crochet 102 • Thursday, July 10 • 6 –8 PM

\$35 (\$45 for not-yet-members)

Knit 101 • Saturday, August 9 • 9:30 –11:30 AM

\$35 (\$45 for not-yet-members)

Intermediate Watercolor Workshop (2-Day Class)

With Artist Lynne Frailing

Tuesdays and Thursdays, July 15, 17 • 9:30 AM–12:30 PM

\$100 (\$125 for not-yet-members)

This watercolor class is an exploration of color mixing and paint properties. Watercolor is a great medium for color exploration and is easily used to create a myriad of colors. Students are encouraged to bring a simple photo or drawing from which they will create several color studies on watercolor paper in this class.

Branch Loom Workshop

With Instructor Marilyn Estrada

Saturday, July 19 • 9:30 AM–12:30 PM

\$35 (\$45 for not-yet-members)

Branch out and create a beautiful, one of a kind nature-inspired woven art piece. In this workshop we'll be taking Mother Natures' bounty of abundant natural elements such as Y-shaped branches, twigs, colorful yarns and strings, various lichens, mosses, feathers, and shells to customize and make your art piece flourish. Supplies are included but feel free to bring any items of your own to add to your branch loom.

Mosaic Workshop

With Instructor Sue Hill, Shill Creations Studio, LLC

Tuesday, July 22 • 9:30 AM–1 PM

\$115 (\$125 for not-yet-members)

In this workshop, make an 8x10 framed glass on glass mosaic art piece while learning the basic techniques of cutting, assembling, attaching, and grouting under the guidance of an experienced instructor. Dive into the mosaic art process while exploring the many possibilities of found and reclaimed glass.

Watercolor Workshop (2-Day Class)

With Artist Lynne Frailing

Tuesdays and Thursdays, August 5, 7 • 3–6 PM

\$100 (\$125 for not-yet-members)

Drawing and painting helps us remember what we have seen or what we have done. Students will be instructed to use a loose quick watercolor style to paint from sight and or from memory with consideration of mood, season or time of day in the palette of colors they select. Photos, objects or imagination are all sources for this style of painting.

dig deeper

Go beyond the basics for a deeper understanding.

Tidewater Mushroom Company Field Trip

With Tidewater Mushroom Company Owner Jason Hess

Tuesday, May 13 • 10 AM–12 PM

\$18 (\$23 for not–yet–members)

In this class you will learn about the day-to-day cultivation of mushrooms and how we operate as an urban farm.

Great Dismal Swamp National Wildlife Refuge Field Trip

With Volunteer Allen Carter

Friday, May 16 • 10 AM–2 PM

\$45 (\$55 for not–yet–members)

Hike along Washington Ditch where you will learn about the unique cultural and natural history of the Great Dismal Swamp. We'll begin in the Suffolk Escarpment and transition into wetter habitats with bald cypress and black gum trees. Hike is approximately 1 ½ hours. Please meet at Norfolk Botanical Garden. Transportation included.

Transform Your Lawn

With ODU Graduate student Devani Jolman

Tuesday, May 20 • 10 AM–12 PM

\$18 (\$23 for not–yet–members)

There are many alternatives for a lawn that are both beautiful and ecologically beneficial. These lawn alternatives save water, money, and time, while encouraging visits by pollinators and birds. This class will explain why you should transform your lawn and how to begin!

Sustainable & Resilient Landscapes-Zoom

With Horticulture Associate of Virginia Tech Dr. Laurie Fox

Tuesday, May 20 • 6–7 PM

\$5 (\$10 for not–yet–members)

Who doesn't want a landscape that takes care of itself and bounces back when problems occur? Join Dr. Laurie Fox for tips and practices that will make your landscape more sustainable and resilient and save you time, effort and money.

Agriculture Research and Extension Center Field Trip

With Horticulture Associate of Virginia Tech Dr. Laurie Fox

Tuesday, June 24 • 10 AM–12 PM

\$18 (\$23 for not–yet–members)

The demonstration gardens at the Virginia Tech Hampton Roads Agricultural Research & Extension Center (AREC) in Virginia Beach have been welcoming visitors for 51 years. There are now 31 gardens including two arboretums and two trails. Join Dr. Laurie Fox for a little history and a lot of beautiful flowers on a walk and talk through the gardens. This tour involves a moderate amount of walking. Please dress for the weather and wear sturdy shoes. Participants will receive information on where to meet after registration.

Artful Walking

With Writer and Landscape Designer Kelly Morse

Thursday, June 19 • 10 –11:30 AM

Friday, July 18 • 10 –11:30 AM

Thursday, August 21 • 10 –11:30 AM

\$18 (\$23 for not–yet–members)

Artist Paul Klee described drawing as "simply a line going for a walk". In this spirit of playful possibility come learn and practice simple mindfulness exercises while visiting various artworks in the garden. Includes a handout with additional resources and prompts. Walking required.

Diversity of Plants on Earth

With ODU Graduate student Devani Jolman

Tuesday, July 8 • 10 AM–12 PM

\$18 (\$23 for not–yet–members)

The diversity of plants not only makes our planet work but also provides beauty and wonder. Come and learn about the major groups of plants, how plants sustain our planet, and some wonderfully wacky plants!

Moth Night

With Maurice A. Cullen, Local Naturalist and Moth Aficionado

Tuesday, July 15 • 8:30–10:30 PM

\$20 (\$30 for not–yet–members)

Come learn about moths beginning with an indoor presentation of many local moths and how to attract them. There will also be mounted specimen displays as well as live moth caterpillars. Participants will then move outside to see what species of moths are attracted to sheets using both UV and mercury vapor lights. A bait station will also be set up for moths that are not particularly attracted to lights and the use of a blacklight flashlight will be shown as a way to locate caterpillars.



Pruning A to Z-Zoom

With Horticulture Associate of Virginia Tech Dr. Laurie Fox

Thursday, July 17 • 6–7 PM

\$5 (\$10 for not–yet–members)

Proper pruning is both art and skill. Because each plant is different, each pruning activity will be different. Join Dr. Laurie Fox to learn about plant assessment, pruning techniques, tools and timing so you too can prune in a way that is healthy for the plant and achieves your desired effect.

Holy Botany II-Spectacular Flowers of the Bible

With Mary Payne Hogan Professor Botany, emeritus Lytton John Musselman

Wednesday, July 23 • 1–3 PM

\$18 (\$23 for not–yet–members)

Bible readers are well acquainted with the King James translations of the wildflowers lily-of-the-field, lily-of-the-valley, rose-of-Sharon. But these are not lilies nor roses. See these beautiful plants in their natural settings as well as flowering shrubs and trees and their role in Bible imagery. Lytton John Musselman is a leading authority on plants of the Bible and has studied them in many Middle Eastern countries.

LED and Birds Class

With Liz Paiste with Citizens for Responsible Lighting and Pat Scanlon with Cape Henry Audubon Society

Tuesday, July 29 • 6–8 PM

Members-free (\$10 for not–yet–members)

Bird Safe/Lights Out Hampton Roads is an initiative that encourages high rise building managers and home owners to turn off or dim their lights during migration spring and fall. Light pollution draws birds into the city wherein they collide with buildings and windows. Solutions to mitigate bird strikes at home and at the office will be discussed. Citizens for Responsible Lighting will review the impact of outdoor artificial lights, specifically high-intensity LED lights, on our health and ecosystem. We will also review lighting solutions for a healthier and safer environment.

Plant Adaptations Walk & Talk

With ODU Graduate student Devani Jolman

Tuesday, August 12 • 10 AM–12 PM

\$18 (\$23 for not–yet–members)

Over time, plants have developed traits that allow them to survive and thrive in different types of ecosystems. Walk with Devani through different ecosystems within NBG.

live well

Sow the seeds for your healthy lifestyle.
All supplies included.

Yoga (4–Week Class)

Wednesdays, May 28–June 18,

June 25–July 23 (no class on July 2),

August 6–August 27

9:30–10:30 AM

With Certified Instructor Carly Joelle

Fridays, May 30–June 20,

June 27–July 25 (no class on July 4),

August 8–August 29

9:30–10:30 AM

With Certified Instructor Brier King

\$40 (\$55 for not–yet–members)

Beginner T'ai Chi (8–Week Class)

In partnership with the Tidewater T'ai Chi Center

Thursdays, June 19–August 14

(no class on July 3)

9:30–10:30 AM

\$100 (\$120 for not–yet–members)

Intermediate T'ai Chi (8–Week Class)

In partnership with the Tidewater T'ai Chi Center

Thursdays, June 19–August 14

(no class on July 3)

10:30–11:30 AM

\$100 (\$120 for not–yet–members)

Evening Yoga (4–Week Class)

With Certified Instructor Karen Babcock

Thursdays, June 5–June 26,

August 7–August 28

6–7 PM

\$40 (\$55 for not–yet–members)

Mindful Mobility (4–Week Class)

With Certified Instructor Brier King

Tuesdays, July 8–July 29 • 6–7 PM

\$40 (\$55 for not–yet–members)

Bread Making Workshop

With Tylor Alexander from Pilgrim Bread

Tuesday, June 17 • 6–8 PM

Tuesday, July 8 • 6–8 PM

\$85 (\$95 for not–yet–members)

Join Pilgrim Bread's owner and head baker Tylor Alexander in a class on naturally leavened bread using fresh milled flour. In this workshop we will explore fermentation, mix flour with water, fold, and shape dough that you will take home and bake the next day. Students will also take home their own bread making kits which include: fresh milled flour, starter, proof basket, dough scraper, lame (scoring tool), and instruction manual.

The Fundamentals of Pizza Making

With Chef David Hannah

Thursday, June 26 • 6–8 PM

\$45 (\$55 for not–yet–members)

In this class attendees will learn the basics of making Neapolitan style pizza. You will learn various techniques in making dough, making the ideal pizza sauce, and make your own pizza for your personal enjoyment.

Jam, Jelly, and Canning 101

With Chef David Hannah

Thursday, July 24 • 6–8 PM

Thursday, August 14 • 6–8 PM

\$40 (\$50 for not–yet–members)

Learn the basic fundamentals of canning as you make and take home your own jars of pepper jelly. You'll learn various skills and techniques to take your jelly from basic to the high end bistro sandwich. We will be sampling foods that compliment pepper jelly recipe so save room for snacks.



explore

Let curiosity take root with our nature and wildlife programs.

Garden Stars

In partnership with the Back Bay Amateur Astronomers

Thursday, May 8 • 8:30–10 PM

Tuesday, June 10 • 8:30–10 PM

Tuesday, July 1 • 8:30–10 PM

Thursday, August 28 • 8:30–10 PM

\$10 (\$20 for not-yet-members)

Come out for an evening under the stars with the Back Bay Astronomers and their powerful telescopes. Walking required.

Owl Prowl

With Nature's Nanny Wildlife Rehab

Thursday, May 15 • 7–9 PM

Thursday, June 19 • 7–9 PM

Thursday, July 24 • 7–9 PM

Thursday, August 21 • 7–9 PM

\$25 (\$35 for not-yet-members)

Join us for a guided tour of the Garden in search of these magnificent night hunters—after meeting them in person! Walking required.

Sunset Kayaking

In partnership with Tula Paddle Sports

June 3, 5, 10, 12, 17, 19, 24, 26 • 6:30 PM–Sunset

July 1, 8, 10, 15, 17, 22, 24, 29, 31 • 6:30 PM–Sunset

August 5, 7, 12, 14, 19, 21, 26, 28 • 6 PM–Sunset

\$50 (\$65 for not-yet-members)

Enjoy a relaxing paddle on Lake Whitehurst with experienced guides. No experience necessary.



GARDEN TO-GO KITS Online Sale • September 11–14

Exclusive Member-Only Access Sept. 11 and 10% DISCOUNT



Pre-fabricated kits of native perennials for Sun Loving, Shade Loving, Hummingbird Haven, Banquet for Birds, and Pollinator Powerhouse, as well as a selection of individual species.

sprouts

Programs and events for the whole family.



PROGRAM REGISTRATION

All youth and family programs require pre-registration. Unless otherwise noted, NBG Member adults may register a free chaperone ticket with a registered child participant. Not-yet-member tickets must be purchased for children and adults for all programs. For additional information on all of our offered programs or to register for a class, visit the NBG website or email us at youthed@nbg.org.

SERIES DESCRIPTIONS

Critter Club

Tuesday Mornings

Go into the woods to learn about some of the different critters who call the Garden home! Recommended for ages 5-12.

Garden Artists

Friday Mornings

Cultivate your child's creativity as we use craft supplies and natural materials to create garden-inspired works of art. Recommended for ages 6-10.

Jr. Master Gardeners

Saturday Mornings

Join us as we Learn, Grow, Eat & Go with the Early Childhood Jr Master Gardener program. Recommended for ages 3-6.



Storybook Tea Party

Meet us in the WOW Children's Garden for a storybook-themed tea party! Recommended for ages 3+. Light refreshments included for registered children.

Saturday, May 3 · 10-11AM

Saturday, June 7 · 10-11AM

Saturday, July 5 · 10-11AM

Saturday, August 2 · 10-11AM

\$12/child for NBG Members.

(\$20/child and \$18/adult for not-yet-members.)

Family Twilight Trek

Join us each month this summer for exclusive after-hours tours while learning about some of our featured Garden creatures. Recommended for ages 5+ with caregiver participation. Moderate walking required. All child and adult participants must have a registered ticket. *Not-yet-members are encouraged to arrive early to enjoy the Garden before the program start time!*

Friday, May 9 · 7-8:30PM · Frogs

Friday, June 13 · 7:30-9PM · Fireflies

Friday, July 11 · 7:30-9PM · Cicadas

Friday, August 8 · 7:30-9PM · Owls

\$12/child and \$5/adult for NBG members.

(\$20/child and \$16/adult for not-yet-members.)

Jr. Garden Artists: Mother's Day Mugs

Paint the perfect set of mugs as a gift for someone special in your life. Recommended for ages 4+.

Saturday, May 10 · 10-11AM

\$12/child for NBG Members.

(\$20/child and \$18/adult for not-yet-members.)

Homeschool Garden Stewards: Wild Wetlands

Explore above and below the surfaces of our lake and ponds to investigate freshwater ecosystems. Recommended for ages 9-14..

Tuesday, May 13 · 1-2:30PM

\$16/child for NBG Members.

(\$24/child and \$18/adult for not-yet-members.)

Cadette Night Owl Party!

Bring your Cadette Girl Scouts to the Garden to enjoy an evening of walking tours, an owl pellet dissection, and more to earn their Night Owl badge! Don't forget to pack a picnic-style dinner to enjoy at sunset.

Friday, May 23 · 7-9PM

\$15/Scout and \$10/adult chaperones.

(Adult NBG members may chaperone this evening Scout program for free.)

Please no sibling tag-alongs.



Jr. Garden Artists: Father's Day Mugs

Paint the perfect set of mugs as a gift for someone special in your life. Recommended for ages 4+.

Saturday, June 14 · 10-11AM

\$12/child for NBG Members.

(\$20/child and \$18/adult for not-yet-members.)

NBG MEMBER EXCLUSIVE PROGRAMS

Join us in the Garden for free Member programs on Wednesday and Thursday mornings this summer! Activities recommended for ages 3+.

Pre-registration required. **Space is limited to the first 15 registered children.** Adult chaperone attendance and supervision is required.

Flower Fun

June · 10AM

Meet at the WOW Children's Garden to create flower-inspired works of art.

Pollinator Patterns

July · 9:30AM

Meet at the Butterfly House to examine the patterns and symmetry of pollinators.

Cultivating Creativity

August · 10AM

Meet at the Picnic Shelter to create nature-inspired art.



Other activities such as scavenger hunts, story times, crafts, walking tours, and discovery carts are offered daily in the WOW Children's Garden!



Fairy & Gnome Summer Homes

Make a miniature summer home for the fairies and gnomes in your garden. Each fairy garden includes an air plant! Recommended for ages 5+ with some chaperone assistance.

Thursday, June 12 · 10-11AM

Thursday, July 10 · 10-11AM

Thursday, August 14 · 10-11AM

\$16/child for NBG Members.

(\$24/child and \$18/adult for not-yet-members.)

Dinosaurs in the Garden

Learn about the dinosaur plants and animals who live in the Garden, and then make your own dinosaur terrarium to take home. Each dinosaur terrarium includes an air plant!

Recommended for ages 8+.

Thursday, June 19 · 10-11:30AM

Thursday, July 17 · 10-11:30AM

Thursday, August 21 · 10-11:30AM

\$16/child for NBG Members.

(\$24/child and \$18/adult for not-yet-members.)

Jr. Garden Artists: Picnic Plates

Paint a set of plates to take on your summer picnics.

Recommended for ages 4+.

Saturday, July 12 · 10-11AM

Saturday, August 9 · 10-11AM

\$12/child for NBG Members.

(\$20/child and \$18/adult for not-yet-members.)

WOW End of Summer Celebration

Join us in the WOW Children's Garden after hours to complete crafts, games, and other fun activities! Make sure to come out early to play in the fountains! Recommended for ages 3+ with some chaperone assistance.

Friday, August 29 · 7-8:30PM

\$12/child and \$5/adult for NBG members.

(\$20/child and \$16/adult for not-yet-members.)

2025 WOW THEME: CULTIVATING CREATIVITY



Join us in the WOW Children's Garden for our summer theme, *Cultivating Creativity: Nature Inspired Art*, to explore the connections between art and nature by completing scavenger hunts, crafts, tours, and other nature-inspired art activities.

Make sure to stop by in late spring to participate in a perennial plant plug giveaway!

GIRL SCOUT PROGRAMS

Bring your Girl Scout Troop to the Garden this summer for a guided or self-guided program! Each of our offered programs allow the participating Scouts to complete the necessary requirements to earn the corresponding badge or patch.

Girl Scout Programs:
GSCCC Explore NBG Patch
Daisy Animal Observer Badge
Brownie Bug Badge
Junior Flower Badge
Cadette Tree Badge
Cadette Night Owl Badge
Outdoor Art Badges
Math in Nature Badges

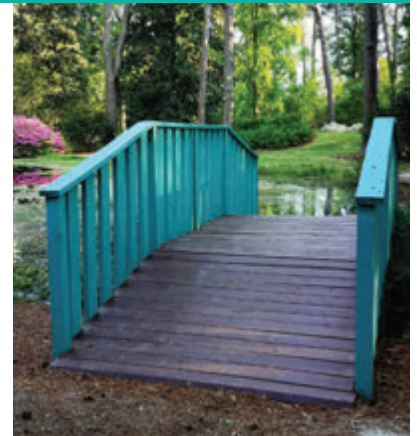
GIRL SCOUT BRIDGING CEREMONIES

Book one of our self-guided or guided Girl Scout programs, then visit one of our scenic bridges in the Garden to complete your Girl Scout bridging ceremony!

DELUXE CEREMONY OPTION:

Add a one-hour WOW classroom rental to your bridging ceremony to celebrate with your Troop!

Pricing starts at \$300.



CHILDREN'S BIRTHDAY PARTIES

Book a birthday party in the WOW Children's Garden! Rental pricing starts at \$300 for NBG Members and includes a WOW classroom rental, themed table decorations, Garden admission for party guests, and paperware for the party. Once the party is complete, party hosts and guests can explore the Garden, play in the WOW Splash Fountains, visit the seasonal Butterfly House, and more!

ADD-ON ACTIVITY: Interested in an add-on activity to include with your rental package? Activity pricing begins at \$5/Child and can include crafts, walking tours, goodies bags, and more! For the full list of pricing and options, email youthed@nbg.org.

Community CONNECTIONS



Tidewater Community College horticulture students were given a behind-the-scenes tour of our greenhouse operations with Greenhouse Manager Meredith Simmons.



Director of Adult Education and Conservation Alex Cantwell discusses UV pollination at the Glow Party hosted by the Elizabeth River Trail.



Garden Guide Nichole Clark represented the Garden at the MOCA Boardwalk Art Show with family-friendly crafts.

Sharing Our History Across the Region



Norfolk Botanical Garden's Historian Martha M. Williams and Digital Content and Marketing Project Manager Nate Cody recently hosted a virtual program entitled *Breaking Ground: The WPA Original Gardeners* for the Greenbelt Museum in Maryland. The program celebrated the original 220 African American gardeners who built the beautiful garden that we cherish today. Learn more about the Garden's history at IDigNBG.org.

2ND Annual Diversity Gallery Award Winners

Celebrating creativity and diversity, Norfolk Botanical Garden's second annual Diversity Gallery showcased over 120 pieces from 39 artists. Hosted in partnership with the d'Art Center, this gallery highlights the talents of underrepresented minority groups in Hampton Roads. The gallery, open from January 10 through March 23, also honored Ka-SON, the first-place winner, who will have the chance to display his work at the d'Art Center in 2025.



First Place winner Ka-SON with his acrylic on canvas painting titled *I Got You*.



Second Place winner Briana Ariel with her embroidery and applique textile on muslin titled *Bloom Within 1*.



Third Place winner Earl with his photograph titled *Brownstone Traditions*.

HORTICULTURE Highlights

MAY



MAY There are many species of *Hydrangea*, with most being shrubs. However, there are several that are vines and one of the best is Japanese hydrangea vine (*Hydrangea hydrangeoides*). In mid to late spring, they are covered with large, white, lacecap flowers, though there are some pink-flowered selections, as well a popular cultivar, 'Moonshine', that has mottled silvery green foliage. This deciduous vine uses adhesive discs to cling to stone, brick or wood, where they can grow 30' tall or more. They will flower best in a partially shaded location, but they are also quite tolerant of deep shade. We have several growing beneath loblolly pines (*Pinus taeda*) in our Hofheimer Camellia Garden as well as in the Kaufman Hydrangea Garden.

JUNE *Dicliptera squarrosa* is probably best known as Uruguayan firecracker plant, which accurately describes its flower and its natural home. It also goes by the name of hummingbird plant, and indeed it does attract a great number of these tiny fliers, as well as butterflies. All summer long, and into early fall, it is covered with bright orange, tubular flowers. The hot blooms contrast nicely with the cool silver foliage. Despite its exotic South American origin, this plant thrives in our high humidity, and once established it is quite drought tolerant, as are many plants with silver or gray foliage. Our Hummingbird Garden and Canal Walk are the best places to see this plant, just don't get in the hummingbirds' way, they have a lot of work to do to keep their energy levels up.



JUNE

JULY



JULY Once extremely popular, rose of Sharon or althea (*Hibiscus syriacus*) is now regarded as more of an old-fashioned plant. Native to East Asia and cultivated since at least the 8th century, it is the national flower of South Korea, where it appears on emblems and is mentioned in their national anthem. It is quite adaptable and easy to grow, including in areas with high heat and humidity, like the southern U.S. Late in the season, the shrub is covered with showy flowers that come in a wide range of colors, many with a contrasting red eye. Bumblebees adore it! Perhaps one reason it has fallen out of favor is due to its tendency to seed around freely. However, there are many newer cultivars, like 'Diana' (which can be seen in the Border Garden) that have sterile seeds, making them better choices for today's landscape.

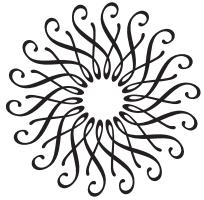
AUGUST Observant gardeners have been aware of many name changes going on in the plant world over the last few decades. Typically, these changes involve the botanical name only as botanists discover more about a plant's familial relations by studying its DNA. Rarely do you see a concerted effort to change a plant's common name, however, one plant in our collection has had its common name changed. What was once known as weeping butterfly bush, or weeping buddleja, now is known as a weeping rostrinucula (*Rostrinucula dependens*). This was done for two reasons: it is actually a member of the mint family (not a Buddleja), and some distance was wanted between it and the invasive butterfly bush. Regardless, this garden-worthy shrub has very unusual, pendant clusters of pale pink flowers that bloom in late summer. By any name, you can see it in the Border Garden.



AUGUST

Staff SPOTLIGHT

We're honored to announce that the Garden's Digital Content and Marketing Project Manager Nate Cody has been accepted into the 2025 Longwood Gardens Fellows Program. Established in 1967, the Longwood Gardens Fellows Program is a prestigious, fully-funded 13-month residential program designed to develop leaders in public horticulture. Fellows participate in leadership training, case-based discussions and hands-on experiences, including field placements and collaborative projects with global horticulture experts. Nate was the only American selected out of hundreds of international submissions and is the first African American male ever chosen for this honor.



LONGWOOD GARDENS

Nate's work has been a key part of our mission to connect more people to nature and expand our reach to a diverse community. Please join us in congratulating Nate on this outstanding achievement as he embarks on this exciting next chapter in his leadership journey!



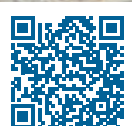
Congratulations to Digital Content and Marketing Project Manager Nate Cody on his acceptance into the Longwood Gardens Fellow Program.

NBG named Best Place to Work 2025 By Virginia Business Magazine

Norfolk Botanical Garden is honored to be included among the areas' most prestigious organizations listed in Virginia Business Best Places to Work 2025. Our staff agrees! We LOVE connecting people to nature. Learn about employment opportunities at the QR code below.



Left to right back row: Ron Brodsky, Bobby Baker, Rachel Elder, Chrissie Harney, Ande Holbrook and Steve Saunders.
Left to right front row: Emily Wilson, Mia Quiroz, Giada Peters, Andramada Sanchez and Carmen Booker.



"It was only natural for me when I retired to give back to the place where so many fond memories were had throughout my life." – Mark Airaghi

Meet volunteer Mark Airaghi who joined the Garden's volunteer corps in July 2023. Since then, he has contributed over 275 hours of his time supporting the Garden with a variety of jobs around campus—helping the horticulture department, the Dominion Energy Garden of Lights design crew, the special events team and guest services. Mark has an upbeat energy and great sense of humor that makes him a pleasure to work with and a wonderful ambassador for the Garden. Whether he is providing guests or school groups with water on hot days, helping lost visitors from the airport find their way around, or assisting the horticulturists with hands-on tasks, his skills and enthusiasm are an asset to the Garden.

A lifelong Hampton Roads resident, Mark's first memories of the Garden are from his childhood visits with his parents and grandparents. He recalls fishing and exploring the Garden and later visiting with his wife and children. Married for almost 40 years, he and his wife Lynne are long-time Garden members. He also volunteers at the Norfolk Animal Care Center and transports blood products for the American Red Cross.



Pruning shrubs is just one of the many ways Mark Airaghi helps support the Garden in his retirement.

Mark holds a Civil Engineering degree from the Virginia Military Institute and worked for the Naval Facilities Engineering Systems Command for nearly 40 years. He enjoys outdoor activities, golf, puzzles, podcasts and spending time with family, friends and his grand-dog. "In retirement one needs to have a sense of purpose and community and the Garden provides that for me," Mark said. "I've seen the Garden transform over the last 30+ years and all the great things occurring. The staff always makes you feel welcome and appreciated. There is a great synergy around the Gardens that I like being a part of," he added.

Thank you Mark for your enthusiasm and dedication to the Garden and the Hampton Roads community!



Meet the Team

Left to Right: Volunteer Services Assistant Paron Gonzales and Volunteer Services Manager Jennifer Wong

"Every day, I'm inspired by NBG volunteers! Every one of them come in with their own skills, an incredible amount of generosity and dedication and their presence and hard work make our Garden a truly special place."

– NBG Volunteer Services Manager Jennifer Wong

Interested in Volunteering at NBG?

Contact us by email at volunteer@nbg.org or by phone at (757) 441-5838 ext. 364.

Cultivate your creativity in the Garden this Summer



This summer, bring the whole family to explore the beauty of art in nature!

Our summer theme celebrates the stunning one-of-a-kind artwork throughout the Garden while inspiring guests to discover the artistic wonders found in the natural world. From vibrant floral patterns to sculptural tree formations, nature is an artist all on its own! Come see the Garden through an artist's eyes and create unforgettable memories together.

Top Left: *Raffaello Sanzio da Urbino (Raphael)* sculpture in marble by Moses Ezekiel located in Statuary Vista.

Bottom Left: *Ancient Witness* concrete faux bois sculpture by Diane Husson located in the Tropical Display House.

Right: *Awaken the Perennial Queen* acrylic on canvas by Daniel Kathalynas on display in Baker Hall Visitor Center this summer.

Creative Currents: A Members-Only Arts Experience

Wednesday Evenings • June 11, July 9 & August 13
6 — 8 PM • Renaissance Court

From June through August, join Norfolk Botanical Garden every second Wednesday from 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm at Renaissance Court for an unforgettable evening of live entertainment beneath the open sky. Each performance will showcase a dynamic mix of talent, providing a space where creativity can flourish and NBG Members can connect with the beauty of nature.

To ensure you have the best experience, bring your own chair or blanket to sit comfortably as you enjoy the show. Refreshments will be available from a selection of on-site food trucks, offering delicious bites to enjoy throughout the evening.

We can't wait to celebrate the summer with you—see you there!



The Tidewater African Cultural Alliance is one of the performing groups participating in this exclusive members-only evening event in Renaissance Court this summer.

PLANT THE FUTURE

The Brock Parking Garden will transform your garden experience the minute you step out of your vehicle! Combining parking with a garden environment sets the standard for sustainability through innovative new features. Your donation of \$10,000 provides one of the 75 trees to be planted in this location. Your name will be displayed on a specially designed sign at the entry of the parking garden.



- For every 5% of tree cover, stormwater runoff is reduced by 2%
- A single mature tree absorbs carbon at a rate of 47.5 lbs. per year.
- Few things can compare with the visual impact and seasonal interest that trees bring to an urban environment.



For more information, please contact Cathy Fitzgerald at (757) 441-5830 ext. 319 or email cathy.fitzgerald@nbgs.org

LEAVE YOUR LEGACY

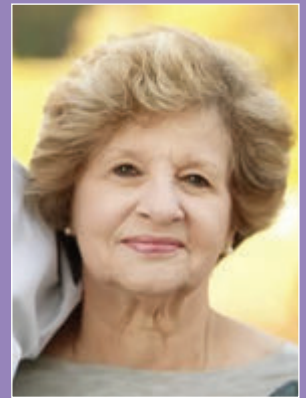
By including a gift to Norfolk Botanical Garden in your will or estate planning, you help preserve the natural beauty and biodiversity of our landscapes for future generations. Your support will contribute to vital conservation efforts, ensuring that the Garden remains a sanctuary for both people and wildlife. For more information, please contact Cathy Fitzgerald at (757) 441-5830 ext. 319 or email cathy.fitzgerald@nbgs.org

In Remembrance: Syble Stone

Syble Stone Cox, a former member of the Norfolk Botanical Garden Board of Directors, passed away on November 8, 2024, leaving behind a lasting legacy of dedication to her family, education, and community. Syble served on the Board from 2001 to 2010 and was honored to return for a later term. A North Carolina native, she earned degrees from East Carolina University and Old Dominion University, retiring from Norfolk Public Schools after a distinguished career.

Syble played a vital role at NBG, chairing both the Education and the Plant Collections Committees. She also contributed to the Governance, Landscape and Strategic Planning Committees. Her civic involvement included the Community Services Board, Civic Facilities Commission, and the Planning Commission, among others. Syble was also a passionate advocate for strengthening the relationship between the Garden and the City of Norfolk.

Syble's passion for the Garden was evident in her instrumental role in fundraising for the Works Progress Administration (WPA) Memorial Garden. Her years of service, leadership, and friendship will always be remembered with gratitude.



**Save the Date • WPA Garden Heritage Celebration
Sunday, September 28TH**



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 on-site locations 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 to make an appointment to discuss this \$25,000 tribute opportunity.

CONGRATULATIONS!

NBG was voted #3 Best Botanical Garden in the U.S.



Summer Butterfly House Opens Sunday, June 15TH

norfolk botanical garden

6700 Azalea Garden Road • Norfolk, VA 23518

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ADOPT a BUTTERFLY!

Your donation helps support the Garden's conservation efforts, sustain the Summer Butterfly House and fund educational programs



TowneBank 10TH Annual Rotary Club of Norfolk's Suds & Buds



Three Great Causes



One Great Party

Thursday, May 22 • 5:30–8:30 pm @ Norfolk Botanical Garden

Enjoy a garden party with incredible edibles, craft beer, wine & live music by Lewis McGehee

PROCEEDS BENEFIT:



For Tickets Visit:
SudsAndBuds.org

