

DIG

JANUARY—APRIL 2026

GROW

Course
Catalog

LOOK WHAT
WE'RE GETTING

A Gift from Madagascar

THE GARDEN
OF TOMORROW

Opens Spring 2026

SEE YOUR IMPACT

Connecting to Nature

norfolk
botanical
garden

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This is our defining moment, one that will shape the Garden for generations to come. A project that transforms the Garden's future. **The Garden of Tomorrow** not only redefines how people connect with nature through education, design and innovation but it places Norfolk Botanical Garden on the international stage amongst the world's most prestigious gardens.

More than 2,000 people have contributed to this project, helping us raise nearly all of the funds needed to bring it to life. It's inspiring to see how far we've come together. **The Garden of Tomorrow** will offer new experiences, expand our educational reach and strengthen global conservation efforts. Many of the rare and endangered plants we protect may one day play a vital role in fighting disease. Plants are deeply rooted in pharmacology and I've always believed that somewhere in a seed, root or leaf lies a cure we haven't yet discovered. We just need to give science time to find it. **The Garden of Tomorrow** will give these stories a broader platform, showcasing innovation, sustainability and the unique experiences that make Norfolk Botanical Garden unlike any other.

On behalf of our entire staff, board and myself, thank you for your incredible support. Your belief in our vision has brought us to this moment and we're deeply grateful for all you've made possible.

I also want to recognize our volunteers. We couldn't do what we do without them and I'm proud to share that Virginia Media recently recognized NBG with the Gold Award for Best Place to Volunteer. This Garden has always been a special place to give your time and it's heartwarming to know our volunteers feel the same.

Though we still have a few cold months ahead, I encourage you to visit during the winter. It's one of my favorite times in the Garden — crisp, peaceful and full of quiet beauty. Our international camellia collection is especially stunning. The largest display, the Hofheimer Collection, can be found near Renaissance Court and Friendship Pond, where vibrant reds, soft pinks and striking variegated blooms offer a vivid contrast to the stillness of the season.

Winter is also a wonderful time to slow down and invest in your own well-being. A quiet walk through the Garden offers space to rest, reflect and reconnect with nature. Something we can all use more of.

Lastly, we're excited to begin welcoming members for special preview days in April to experience all the wonders of **The Garden of Tomorrow** project, followed by a public grand opening celebration in May, perfectly timed with peak rose season.

As you read through this issue, I hope you'll take a moment to explore our Impact Report on page nine. Thanks to your support, you've made a remarkable difference—one we're honored to celebrate with you.

Together, we're building something extraordinary.

Warmly,

Peter Schmidt



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A Friendship Rooted in Nature:

How one volunteer helped grow a Lasting Connection

"Dea looks forward to volunteering in the new Perry Conservatory where her journey comes full circle. The plants she once nurtured in a private greenhouse will soon inspire thousands, thriving under the same attentive care—and continuing the legacy of connection she helped cultivate."

— Michelle Baudanza, Perry Conservatory Director

Sometimes, the most meaningful connections begin in the most unexpected ways. For treasured NBG volunteer Dea Schofield, that connection started nearly two decades ago—with her love of animals and an African Grey parrot named Peter.

At the time, Dea was working with a pet-sitting company in Washington D.C. when she was asked to take on a private client—a couple named Jerry and Carl Taylor—who needed care for their parrot while they traveled. "Having such a bird myself, I was a perfect candidate," she recalled.

What began as a pet-sitting arrangement soon blossomed into a friendship rooted in a shared love of plants. Jerry and Carl, avid collectors—Carl a botanist by profession—were curating an extraordinary collection of specimens for their personal greenhouse. Dea wasn't just the perfect candidate for caring for their beloved parrot, but for their plant collection as well. Dea's background as a horticulturist, floral display manager and landscape designer made her a valuable and trusted care person for their greenhouse while they went on plant expeditions.

Over time, she tended to their many ferns, gesneriads, succulents and carnivorous plants, developing a particular fondness for the quirky and unusual specimens. Carl and Jerry often traveled to collect rare botanical treasures, sometimes even from other countries. Among them were young Baobab trees, which she nurtured from seedlings that Carl and Jerry obtained from their retirement trip to Madagascar—plants that would have an unexpected new home.



Avenue of the baobabs in Madagascar.
Photo courtesy of Jerry Taylor.



NBG Volunteer Dea Schofield poses on the Batten Sky Meadow rooftop garden above the new Brock Entry Pavilion. The roof lines of the new Perry Conservatory can be seen in the background.

Years later, when Dea began volunteering at Norfolk Botanical Garden, she realized the connection she could make between her new home and her longtime friends. Some of the specimens in Carl and Jerry's collection were beginning to outgrow the greenhouse and they were seeking a new home for them at a botanical institution. Through her, Jerry and Carl generously donated a selection of rare and remarkable plants—including those very Baobabs—for the Garden's future Perry Conservatory, currently under construction.

These plants, lovingly cared for by Dea for years, will soon become part of the conservatory's permanent collection—continuing their story in a space dedicated to connecting people with the beauty and wonder of nature.

For Dea, this partnership between friends and the Garden feels like a natural continuation of her life's work. "I just have to be around uncommon plants and their caretakers," she said. After moving to Hampton Roads in early 2024, Dea sought out Norfolk Botanical Garden as a place to contribute her skills and experience. Having worked in respected gardens such as Greenspring Gardens Park in Annandale, Virginia, and Hillwood Gardens in Washington, D.C.,

Fruit of the Baobab tree.
Photo by T. K. Naliaka
CC BY-SA 4.0



she knew how vital volunteers are to a garden's success—and how fulfilling it can be to help plants and people thrive together.

Dea's passion for horticulture began early—at just 12 years old—when she bought her first plant, a *Gynura aurantiaca*, better known as the Purple Passion Plant. That spark grew into a lifelong pursuit. She became a Master Gardener, received specialized training through Virginia Tech and eventually found herself working alongside institutions such as the U.S. Botanic Garden and the Smithsonian. Her career, she said, has been "extremely varied and unusual"—a journey that has taken her across the world and allowed her to see countless plants both in collections and in their natural habitats.

"You can't beat observing a plant's native habitat for gaining an understanding of its horticultural needs," she reflected. Dea's travels strengthened her skills even further as a horticulturist, which in turn benefited Carl and Jerry's collection.

Through her work and her connections, Dea embodies the heart of Norfolk Botanical Garden's mission—to IMMERSE visitors in a world of beauty, LEAD through environmental action and INSPIRE through education and connection to nature. The partnership she helped forge with the Taylors is more than a story about rare plants—it's a reminder of how relationships, rooted in shared curiosity and care, can grow into something that benefits generations to come.



Carl Taylor with a friendly lemur in Madagascar.

"The plants that NBG could not adopt have now gone to the Smithsonian greenhouses along with many other of Carl's plants and books. He would be so happy to know that his plants are being shared and cared for."

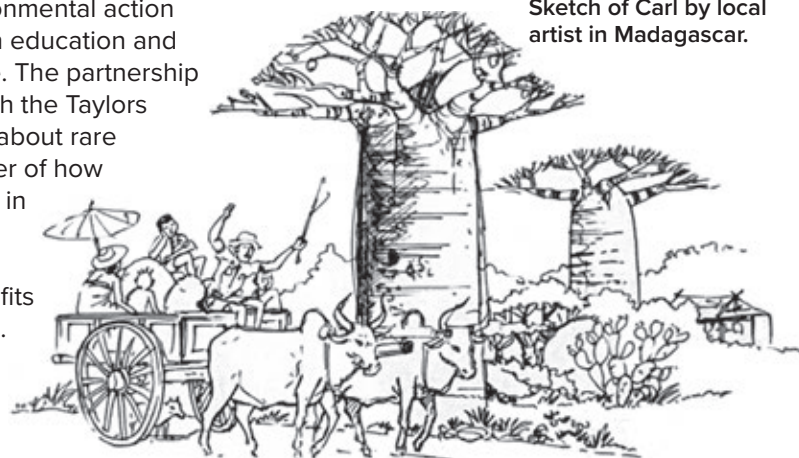
— Jerry Taylor

Carl Taylor received his BA from University of Missouri and his MA and PHD in Botany from Southern Illinois University (SIU). He met his future wife, Jerry, at the University of Missouri. She received her PHD in Microbiology from SIU. For nearly 30 years Carl was curator of Vascular Plants at the Milwaukee Public Museum. His research focused the systematics of a genus of spore-bearing plants called Isoetes, identifying several previously unrecognized hybrid species.

In 2006, Carl moved to Virginia and taught at Old Dominion University. He collaborated with Dr. Lytton Musselman on projects studying Isoetes of the Southeastern US. He then moved to Arlington, Virginia, working as a Program Officer at the National Science Foundation until his retirement in 2011.

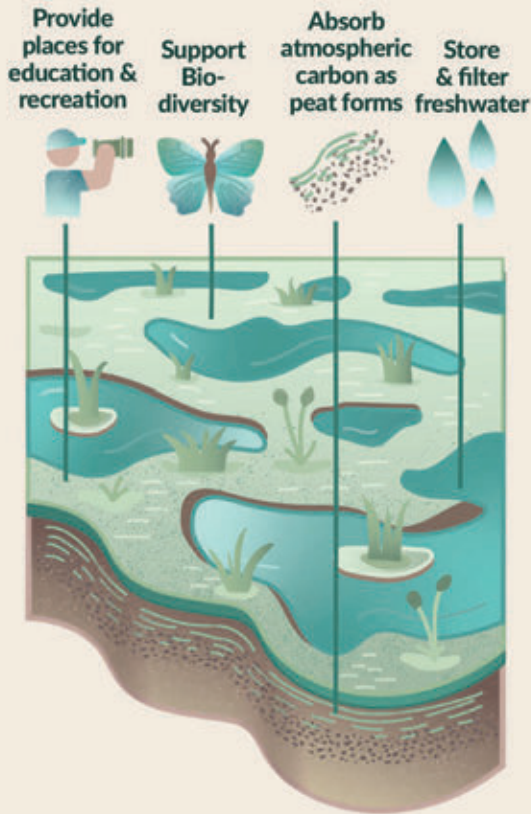
Carl passed away in March and is survived by his wife Jerry. The Garden is grateful for the photographs and artwork she provided for this feature article.

Sketch of Carl by local artist in Madagascar.



Peat-Free Challenge in the Perry Conservatory Groundwork for Greener Growth

Benefits of healthy peatlands

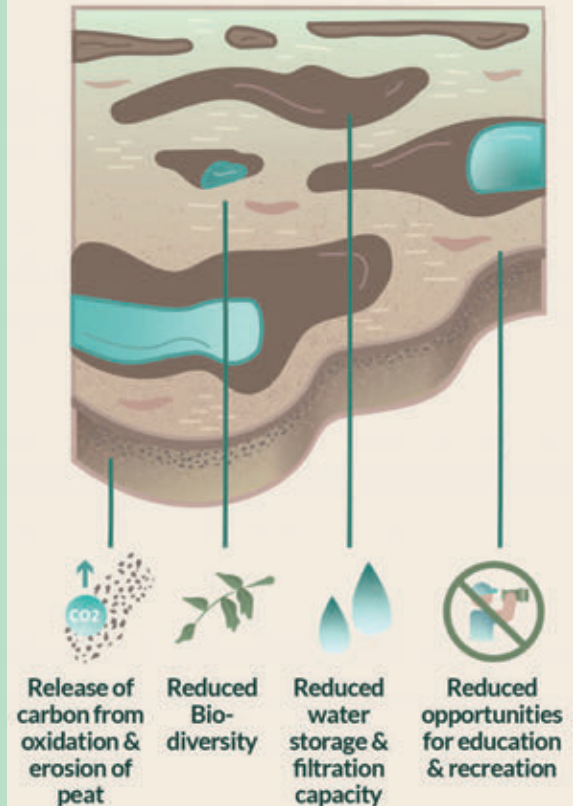


Benefits of healthy peatlands & Impacts of degraded peatlands graphics provided by The Pew Charitable Trusts.

The Perry Conservatory is moving quickly toward the final phases of construction, with truckloads of soil required for the beds inside. Because of the size of the conservatory, all beds in total will require more than 1,000 cubic yards of soil! The soil will require excellent drainage, appropriate pH and fertility and ingredients that will break down very slowly. Guided by our mission statement, not only did we source our soil mixes locally in Virginia, but we decided to challenge ourselves not use peat moss as an ingredient.

Horticultural peat moss is harvested primarily from Canada, the world's largest producer and exporter. Peat moss is a popular ingredient in many potting mixes because it is sterile, holds and releases water well, is naturally acidic and breaks down very slowly. Peat moss is harvested from peat bogs and peatlands, ancient wetlands that accumulate a thick layer of partially decomposed

Impacts of degraded peatlands



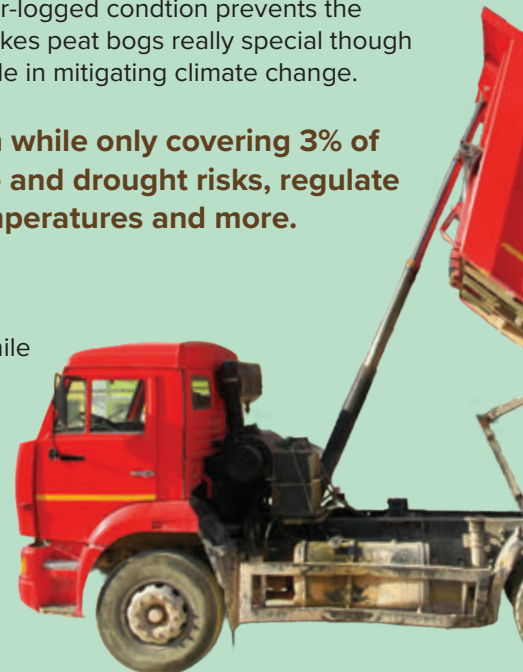
Source: Kathrynlynn Theuerkauf, The Pew Charitable Trusts, *Peatlands, Which Can Help Fight Against Climate Change, Face Many Threats*, June 2, 2022.

plant matter (peat) over thousands of years in waterlogged soils. The bog's acidity and water-logged condition prevents the vegetation from fully decaying, causing the buildup to sometimes be meters deep. What makes peat bogs really special though is not just that they are home to many unique, endemic and threatened species, but their role in mitigating climate change.

Peat bogs are huge carbon sinks, storing 30% of the world's soil carbon while only covering 3% of the world's land surface! Additionally, these wetlands also minimize fire and drought risks, regulate water flows, provide clean drinking water to wildlife, lower ambient temperatures and more.

(Statistics cited from the United Nations Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change)

While peat moss harvesting is a highly regulated industry with mandatory bog restoration requirements, there is still an inevitably a degree of habitat disturbance that takes place. While Canada limits the amount of harvesting that can take place each season and requires harvesters to re-flood and seed areas to establish new bogs, critics of the industry point out that harvesting still releases a significant amount of carbon dioxide into the atmosphere and repair is a very slow process. Challenging ourselves to exclude this ingredient also presented a wonderful opportunity to provide education about the importance and uniqueness of peat bogs. By rethinking a common horticultural practice, we've taken a small step toward a more sustainable future—one that honors not just the plants we grow but the ecosystems they call home.





Exclusive Member Days in April
Opening May 2026

The Garden of Tomorrow

Soil is so much more than "dirt"

It is a living system – a blend of minerals, organic matter and billions of microorganisms that forms a great foundation for plants and a healthy ecosystem.

How much soil has been delivered?

1,000+ CUBIC YARDS OF SOIL = **83 dump trucks**

These well-crafted soil mixes are tailored for the tropical and desert biomes of the Perry Conservatory as well as the Batten Sky Meadow.



Floating Futures

This winter, visitors to Norfolk Botanical Garden may notice something new and a little unusual, floating in NATO Pond.

These curious structures are part of **Floating Futures**, an innovative partnership between Norfolk Botanical Garden and the Virginia Beach Environmental Studies Program made possible through a generous grant from the Hampton Roads Community Foundation.

Floating Futures is a project where Virginia Beach high school seniors will work with NBG staff to design, install and monitor floating wetlands - living islands that combine ecology, engineering and education. The project not only beautifies NATO Pond but also serves as a powerful demonstration of how plants can heal our waterways.

The students have completed their Chesapeake Bay Landscape Professional certifications and will be putting their knowledge to the test as they collaborate to design three new floating wetlands. Each island will be filled with carefully selected native perennial plants whose roots extend into

the water, filtering pollutants, improving oxygen levels and creating new habitat for all of the wildlife that call NATO Pond home. Students are conducting ongoing water quality testing and biodiversity surveys to measure the wetlands' impact over time, learning firsthand how green infrastructure can make a difference in their own communities.

A Chronolog station overlooking the pond invites visitors to take photos that become part of a national citizen-science network, documenting the wetlands' growth and seasonal changes. Temporary interpretive signage will soon explain the project and its purpose, especially helpful this winter while visitors can see the young plants rest in dormancy behind protective goose fencing to help successful establishment. Students will also be creating permanent interpretive signage that explains what these wetlands are and why they are so important, so that visitors can learn and follow their progress. This information will also be incorporated into future educational programs, both adult and youth alike!

By spring, the islands will burst to life, transforming from curious floating frames into lush miniature ecosystems. Beyond improving the Garden's own water quality, **Floating Futures** is intended to serve as a model for sustainable design throughout Hampton Roads and the Chesapeake Bay watershed.

Together, with students leading the way, we're cultivating the next generation of environmental stewards and proving that with creativity and care, even a small project can inspire change and can help a community float toward a cleaner, greener future.

Virginia Beach high school seniors in the Environmental Studies Program design the Floating Futures islands for NATO Pond.



IMPACT

Annual IMPACT Report 2024 — 2025

norfolk botanical garden



CONNECTING WITH NATURE

"Nature is a source of endless curiosity. The more you notice, the more you want to discover, and that's how the connection begins."

— Theresa Augustin, Vice President of Education & Conservation



A note from the President, Peter Schmidt

The Impact of Conservation and Education

Our connection to nature runs through every part of life. Plants sustain us in ways both simple and profound. They give us food, shelter, clean air and water and the roots of so many of the medicines that keep us healthy. They're essential to the balance of our ecosystems and to our own well-being.

Conservation and education have always been at the heart of our mission. When we teach people, especially young people, about the natural world, something powerful happens. Curiosity turns into care and care becomes action. Over time, those experiences grow into a personal commitment to protect the environment we all share and depend on. Helping them learn how to care for it is one of the most meaningful legacies we can leave. Each lesson, each discovery, each spark of curiosity helps ensure a healthier, more resilient world for tomorrow.

Here at Norfolk Botanical Garden, 175 acres of manicured gardens, waterways and wild spaces give people the chance to experience nature up close. Folks are free to explore, reflect and imagine. The Brock Environmental Education Center builds on that promise. It's an inviting space where learning about the environment becomes hands-on and inspiring, nurturing stewardship, critical thinking and a lifelong love of discovery.

That same vision continues to grow through ***The Garden of Tomorrow***, a bold new chapter that expands our mission of conservation and education and invites people of all ages to connect with nature in new and unforgettable ways. Together we're making an impact.

IMPACT

Visitors

Total Visitors:	426,321
Non-local Visitors:	34,796
International Visitors:	1823
Free/Discounted Admissions:	14,465
Dominion Energy Garden of Lights:	103,545



Membership

Average Member Households per Month:	15,244
Total Renewals:	12,220
Total New Members:	4,171



Staff

Full-Time, Part-Time & Seasonal:	126
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Volunteers

Total Volunteers:	740
Total Volunteer Hours:	12,705
Value of Volunteer Time:	\$437,306

Weddings & Event Rentals

Weddings:	90
Weddings Revenue:	\$423,640
Corporate/Social Events:	73
Corporate/Social Events Revenue:	\$67,995

All in support of NBG's mission



NBG Fiscal Year 2025 by the Numbers

Education Programs



Total WOW Children's Garden	
Activity Participants:	10,874
Youth Education Class Participants	1,731
Total K-12 Students Engaged via Outreach and On-site Programs:	6,668
Title I Schools	19
Grant-funded Scholarship Recipients:	372
Total Adult Classes:	528
Total Adult Class Participants:	8,795

Community Outreach



Adult Outreaches:	113
Community Members Engaged:	7,308
Total Plants Donated:	1,340
Value of Plants Donated:	\$11,823
Youth Education Outreaches:	14
Schools Visited:	16
Plant Plugs Donated:	700

Renewable Energy



Total Solar Panels:	592
Total Emissions Reduced:	1,138,214 lbs.
Equivalent of Planting:	8,597 Trees

Tidewater Composting Partner

Weight Collected & Diverted from Landfill: 459 lbs.

Living Plant Collection



Plant Families:	203
Taxa:	8,868
(2,466 species, 6,402 cultivars)	
Accessions:	14,562

New On-Site Plantings



Annuals Planted:	29,496
Spring Flowering Bulbs:	24,071
Herbaceous Plants:	1,517
Shrubs & Trees:	593

Plant Sales

New Plants & Plugs for Local Landscapes	
Total sold at NBG Plant & Plug Sales	12,877

Communications

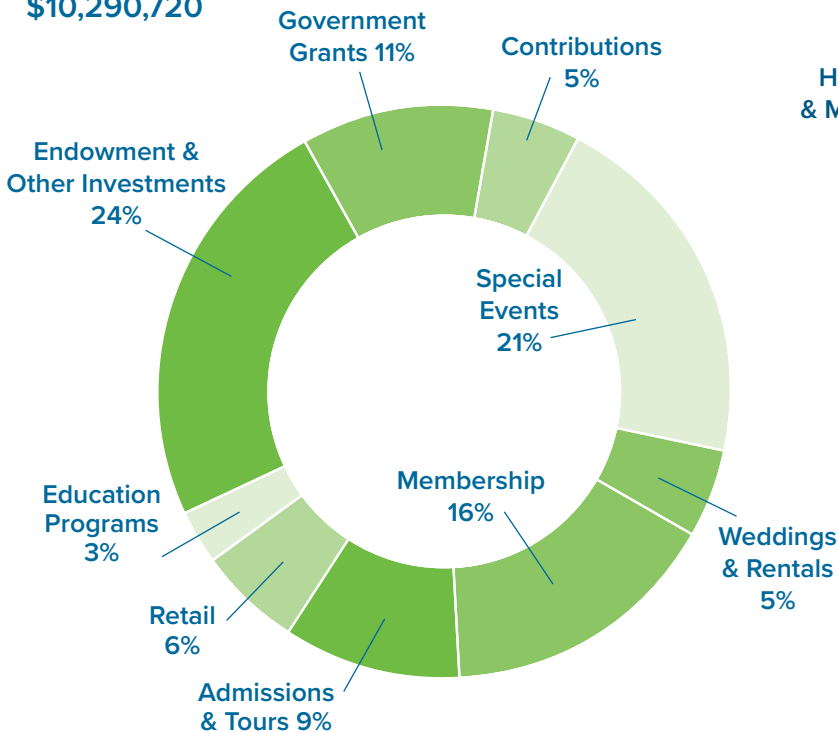
Total Email Newsletter Subscribers:	125K+
Facebook Followers:	77K+
Instagram Followers:	37K+



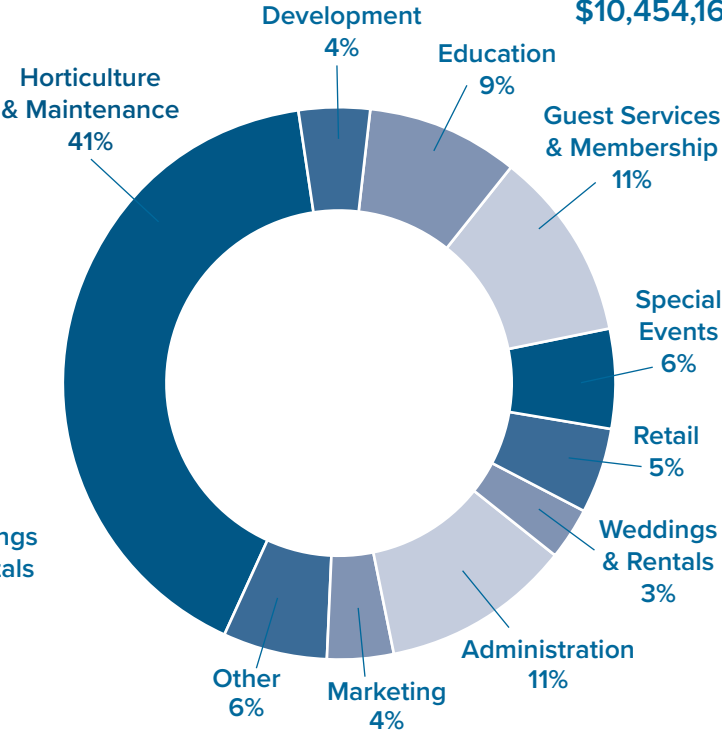
Fiscal 2025 Report: Operating Revenue and Expenses

Audit Pending

Revenue
\$10,290,720



Expenses
\$10,454,168



IMPACT in the Horticulture Department

This past year we focused on preparation for the opening of **The Garden of Tomorrow**. Soil recipes for the tropical and desert biomes were finalized and arrived late in the summer (2025). Several staff members attended the Tropical Plant International Expo in Florida where more plants and vendors were found. While in Florida, nurseries were toured and a very rare *Osa pulchra* plant donation was picked up from Fairchild Tropical Garden. Plans for the Batten Sky Meadow were finalized and after most of the planting took place, pollinators and birds began making it their home.

In the new Brock Parking Garden, permeable pavers have been added as well as new-to-the-area ArborSystem from GreenBlue Urban which enabled us to plant a variety of trees directly in the parking lot. Not only will these trees look good and offer shade, but their planting system will also help filter water runoff. The greenhouse is undergoing an upgrade in preparation of the opening of the new Perry Conservatory. In addition, NBG Conservatory Director, Michelle Baudanza interned at the U.S. Botanical Garden in Washington, D.C., where she gained invaluable training and perspective and was able to network with staff from the nation's oldest conservatory. Later, they donated something we are very excited about, our very own corpse flower (*Amorphophallus titanum*).

Closer to home, Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden in Richmond is also building a new conservatory. Because of limited storage, they made a generous donation of plants. We have also worked closely with the Virginia Zoo again this year to provide some of its animals with fresh foliage from NBG as part of their browse program. Here at the Garden, members of the Horticulture staff continued to support our mission by leading 20 walk and talks, 45 classes and participating in 37 community outreach programs. All indications point to an even busier year next year.

L to R: Nate Braddock, Gardener (Advanced) - Collections, of the United States Botanic Garden assists NBG Greenhouse Senior Manager Meredith Courtney with loading the corpse flower root ball for its transit from Washington, D.C., to Norfolk, Virginia.



GROWING the Next Generation

Revamped in 2023, Norfolk Botanical Garden's Summer Teen Volunteer Program offers high school students hands-on experience in early childhood education, horticulture and green careers. Teens ages 14–18 apply and interview to become official NBG volunteers, spending their summer assisting in the WOW Children's Garden with discovery tables, crafts, story times and educational classes.

In 2025, new training workshops introduced 21 teens to career development, team building and partnerships with local organizations like Virginia Tech Cooperative Extension, Chrysler Museum of Art and First Landing State Park. Exit interviews revealed powerful takeaways: increased confidence, greater appreciation for education and nature and awareness of local green career opportunities.

This program continues to cultivate leadership, curiosity and environmental stewardship in the next generation of changemakers.



Community CONNECTIONS



Approximately 400 guests attended the Garden's Works Progress Administration (WPA) Garden Heritage Celebration on Sunday, September 29. The event honored the legacy of 220 African American WPA workers who planted the Garden's first azaleas 87 years ago.

Four Groundbreakers were recognized for their impactful contributions to the community: Newport News Mayor Phillip Jones; Dr. Andrea F. Warren; Nate Cody; and Laila Jones, the inaugural recipient of the 2024 President's Council on Inclusion and Diversity Scholarship. The 2025 scholarship recipient, David Davenport, was also announced. He is currently continuing his education at North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University.

The keynote address was delivered by Ret. Capt. Janet Days, the first African American commanding officer of Naval Station Norfolk—the world's largest naval installation.



L to R: Peter Schmidt (NBG President & CEO), Ramona Farrow (PCID Scholarship committee, former NBG board member and former PCID chair), Clenise Platt (PCID Scholarship Chair, former NBG board chair and former PCID committee chair), Laila Jones (PCID 2024 Scholarship recipient and 2025 Groundbreaker), Mark Johnson (Senior VP, Community Development Manager, Commonwealth of Va. TRUIST).



L to R: WPA Garden Heritage Celebration MC Jessica Larche' with WTKR News 3 and Helen Ferguson, PCID Committee member and daughter of WPA Worker Mary Elizabeth Ferguson.



Center: NBG Vice President of Education & Conservation Theresa Augustin leading a beginner-friendly mushroom walk at Hoffer Creek Wildlife Preserve in Portsmouth.



A canine member of the Buddy Brigade gets a hug from NBG Adult Outreach Manager Nicole Moore at the CHKD Renew You employee wellness event.



NBG Education Specialist Brittany Gernheuser crafting insects out of fall leaves with children at the Virginia Beach Master Gardeners Fall Festival.

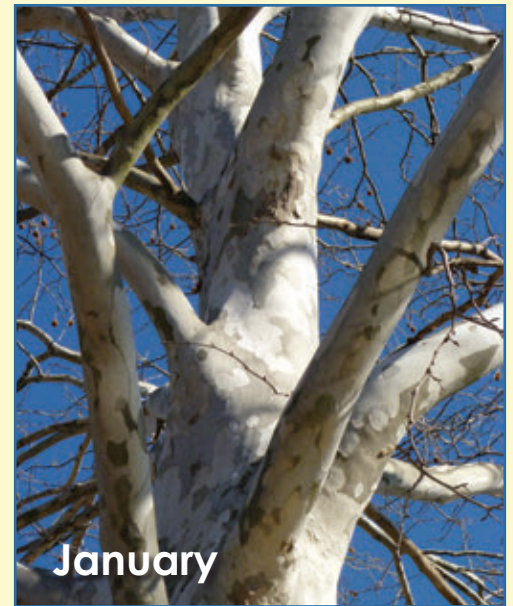


Guests of the annual Virginia Children's Festival were invited to the NBG table to create a community recycled art project inspired by the new Freshwater Towering of Learning in the WOW Children's Garden.

HORTICULTURE Highlights

Les Parks, Vice President of Horticulture

Without the aid of leaves or flowers, tree identification can be a challenge in winter. Not so with the American sycamore (*Platanus occidentalis*) – you could call it a camouflage tree as its distinctive flaking bark can be shades of brown, green, ivory and white, usually with all colors present at the same time. On some specimens, the bark can be very white and given the large girth of its trunks and branches and with a little imagination, they can resemble bleached whale bones. Common throughout much of eastern North America, they typically grow in bottomlands or anywhere the soil stays moist, but they are tolerant of many differing conditions. There are better trees for fall foliage, but the birds don't care. The fruit balls are densely packed with seeds that many species will eat. If you would like to see one for yourself, there is a very distinct, multi-trunked specimen in our Fern Glade and two are easily seen along the canal across from the Rose Garden.



Mountain climbers have Everest, runners have the Boston Marathon, mushers have the Iditarod and gardeners have winter daphne (*Daphne odora*). Notoriously difficult to grow, this plant does not want too much sun, nor too much shade. It needs to be moist, not dry and never ever soggy. Even given perfect conditions, it will can suddenly die for no apparent reason. Horticulturists with a dark sense of humor call this SDDS for sudden daphne death syndrome. So why bother? One whiff of its flowers on a cool February day will make you realize that it's worth any effort to grow. A sweet combination of lemon and vanilla, one plant is strong enough to perfume your entire garden and one flower brought in to the house – well, it is almost too overwhelming. You can find this plant growing in The Glade here at NBG, just follow your nose.

The genus *Corylopsis* includes about 30 different species native to East Asia. The common name is winter hazel as the foliage does resemble hazel foliage, though they are grown more for their late winter flowers. Although we grow several species at NBG, the most common and one of the showiest, is the spiked winter hazel (*Corylopsis spicata*). In winter you can appreciate the zigzag branches and before the leaves come out, the soft yellow, lightly fragrant flowers bloom hanging down on the bare branches in clusters, like some sort of woodland tinsel. You can see this plant blooming in several places around the Garden, including the Flowering Arboretum, the Winter Garden and The Glade. Come back in the fall to enjoy this plant's golden yellow foliage.



In families with multiple siblings, there is often one who is quiet and reserved, and maybe one a little louder who seeks a bit of attention. Such is the case in the world of ornamental flowering cherries. The Yoshino cherry (*Prunus x yedoensis*) is the most common of the ornamental cherries and it is the most famous, as it is the one that graces the tidal pool in Washington D.C. Its flowers are a very pale pink, almost white and when they drop it is almost like snowfall. Blooming a week or two later and the last of the ornamental cherries to bloom, is the Kwanzan cherry (*Prunus* 'Kanzan'). Nothing subtle or pale about it, this selection has big pink pompoms for blossoms and when they drop, the ground underneath looks like Barbie picked out the carpet. The Flowering Arboretum is the best place to see both of these cherries, where you can sit on a bench under a cherry and decide which sibling you prefer, though it is possible to love both.

CHIHULY

Works of Art on Loan from the Barry Art Museum

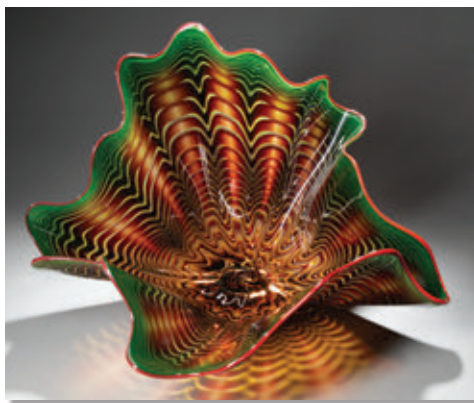


"Our partnership with Norfolk Botanical Garden celebrates the growth currently happening at cultural institutions across Norfolk – including the renovated Perry Glass Studio at the Chrysler Museum of Art and the expansion at the Barry Art Museum—all highlighting the significance of glass art to this region."

— Sara Woodbury, PhD., Curator of Art, Barry Art Museum | The ODU Museum Foundation



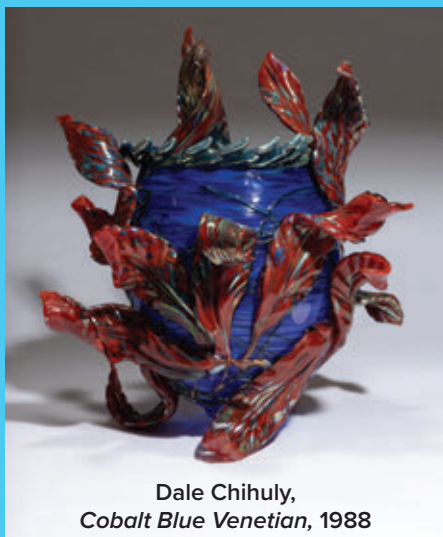
Dale Chihuly, *Untitled (from the Soft Cylinder Series)*, 1984



Dale Chihuly, *Sepia Persian Single*, 1990



Dale Chihuly, *Confetti Persian Set*, 1992



Dale Chihuly,
Cobalt Blue Venetian, 1988



Dale Chihuly, *Grand Venetian*, 1991

The Barry Art Museum, established in 2016 by art collectors and lifelong Tidewater Virginia residents Richard and Carolyn Barry, is dedicated to celebrating art in its many diverse expressions. The collections emphasize modern and contemporary studio glass, American abstract painting, historical maritime art and dolls. Since opening its doors to the public in November 2018, the Museum's collections, exhibitions and programs have expanded significantly. To support this growth, it launched a major expansion project that will double the building's size, with plans to reopen in 2027.

While the Museum is temporarily closed for construction, we're thrilled to collaborate with organizations such as Norfolk Botanical Garden to stay engaged with the community. As part of this collaboration, several iconic glassworks by renowned artist Dale Chihuly will be on view to the public. These pieces, on loan from the Museum's collection, were created in the 1980s and 1990s and represent key moments in the evolution of Chihuly's studio practice.

The exhibition aims to provide visitors with historical context for the Garden's newly installed glass artworks, allowing them to explore how Chihuly's distinctive style has developed over the decades. While his approach has evolved, the pieces continue to reflect the studio's enduring fascination with the interplay of light, vibrant color and the inherent visual magic of glass.

This partnership underscores a shared commitment to celebrating glass art.

Photography (all images) by Patrick Cagney.

Watershed Tower

Beverly Albright
Director of Youth Education

Designed and constructed by ReUPit artist Angela Haseltine Pozzi and funded by The Blocker Foundation, NBG's new Tower of Learning sculpture features some of the flora and fauna found in a Coastal Virginia freshwater ecosystem. Located in the Plant Safari area of the WOW Children's Garden, the sculpture is constructed entirely from collected plastics and other discarded materials and features larger than life representations of plants and animals living above and below the surface of a freshwater lake. The addition of the sculpture encourages guests to see and experience nature upclose, while using repurposed objects to tell an introspective story of human impact on our waterways. Individual items creating the sculpture include beach toys, shoes, dinosaur figurines and automotive parts. Guests are guaranteed to see something new each time they take a closer look at the finer details of this one-of-a-kind piece of art.

Immediately after its unveiling, the Youth Education Department staff incorporated the use of the sculpture as a central feature for on-site field trip programs. Students from Horizons Hamptons Roads and the Community Outreach Coalition organizations were among the first to see and engage with the completed sculpture (pictured). By incorporating the art into their tour, the students were able to visualize animal lifecycles and identify food chains in a freshwater ecosystem, while exploring best practices in sustainability and environmental stewardship. During the 2025-2026 school year, Youth Education staff will continue to include the sculpture in new and existing SOL-aligned programs for K-12 students, with the opportunity to develop and implement additional homeschool programs, art classes and other public programs to encourage guests to experience NBG in a new and thought-provoking way.



Above: Vice President of Education & Conservation Theresa Augustin washes trash from local beaches to be used in the Watershed Tower sculpture.

Right: Artist Angela Haseltine Pozzi completed the installation of the sculpture last summer.



THE MISSION OF NORFOLK BOTANICAL GARDEN:
IMMERSE VISITORS IN A WORLD OF BEAUTY
LEAD THROUGH ENVIRONMENTAL ACTION
INSPIRE THROUGH EDUCATION AND CONNECTION TO NATURE



Make an **IMPACT** in 2026!
 Help us fulfill our mission
 and connect more
 people to nature.



Students from Horizons Hampton Roads and the Community Outreach Coalition explore the Watershed Tower sculpture.



Penelope the Opossum: She is crafted from old hair curlers, a welcome mat and white Christmas lights.



Kirby the Northern Water Snake: His body is a Kirby vacuum hose, his head a slotted spoon and his stripes are made from old placemats and crab netting.



THANK YOU to The Blocker Foundation for funding the Watershed Tower and the shade covering.

DIVERSITY GALLERY

January 17 through March 22
Baker Hall Visitor Center

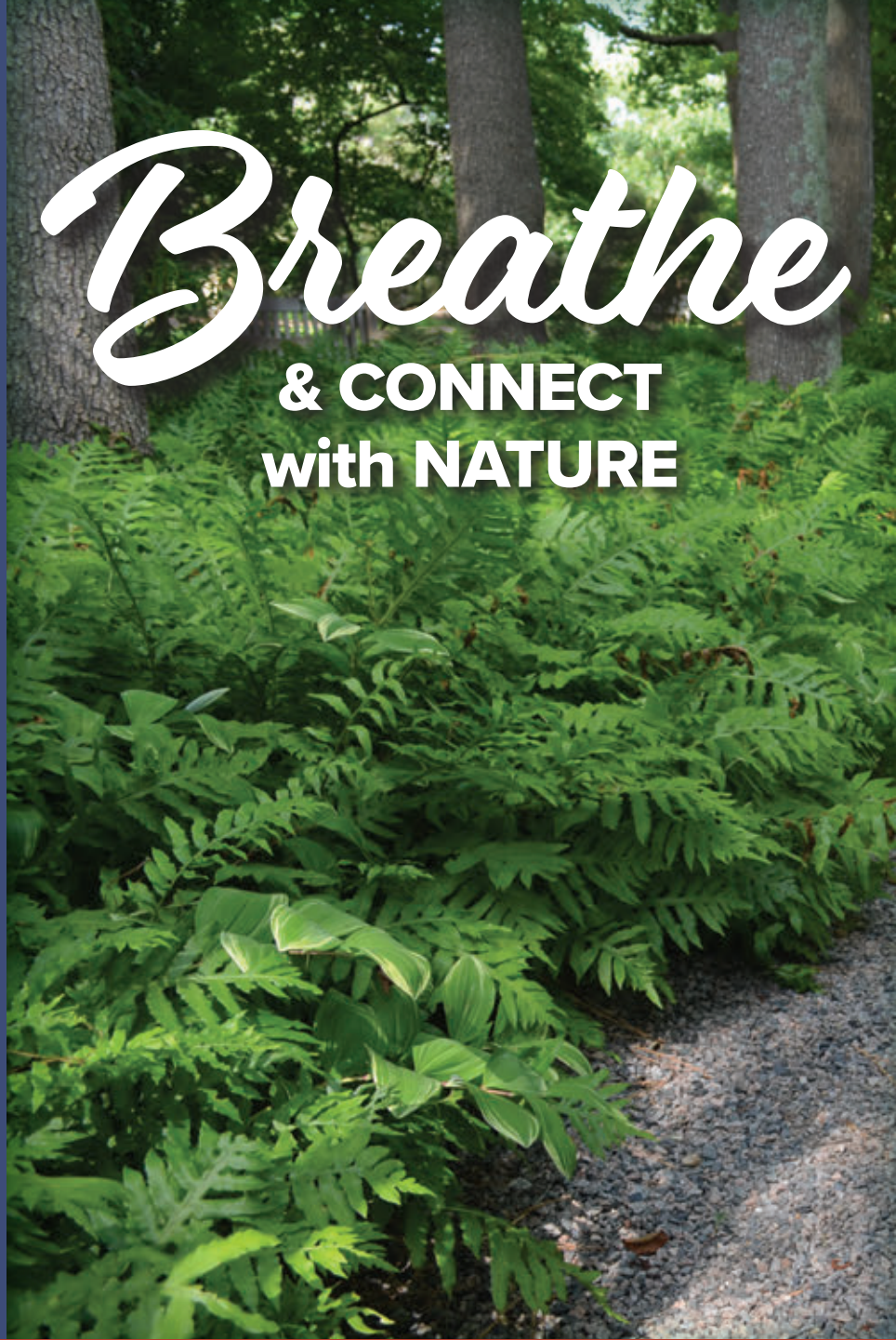


Hopeful Journey Takes Flight
painting by Ellen Sinclair

The Diversity Gallery
reception will be held on
Saturday, January 31
from 11AM—2PM

Meet the artists and enjoy
light refreshments.

Breathe & CONNECT with NATURE



ART in BAKER HALL

April thru May
Fables and Fauna
by Chris Jeanguenat

All art on display in
Baker Hall is included with
Garden Admission



The Mountains are Calling and I Must Go

A photograph of a garden path lined with ferns and trees, serving as the background for the top half of the page.

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 people and wildlife. For more information please contact CMO Kelly Welsh, 757-441-5830 ext. 346 or email development@nbgs.org

Thank You for joining the Evergreen Society

Dan Allison, Annette Averitt, I.M. & Sarah Lee Baker, Ty & Martha Brown, Elizabeth Bruce, Blanche C. Chappell, Robert & Janie Creecy, Cindy Cutler & Craig Haines, Sandra L. Dashney, Michael Desplaines & Jason Robinson, William W. Eley, Richard & Eleanor Evans, Cathy Fitzgerald, Joe Foreman, Charles & Karin Fleischman, R. Michael & Patricia Fuller, Ernie & Robin Franklin, Jane Frazier, Robert M. Gostel, Craig & Sue Grube, Randy Harrison, June Hoye, Kit E. Johnson, Karen S. Gershman, Karen L. Hines, Edward C. & Betty Lou Johnston, Sr., Patricia A. Kiefer, Patty L. Landrum, Virginia T. Lawrence, Eleanor Marshall, Bee McLeod & Goody Tyler, Rick Morsink, Susan Elise Morton, Andrea and Andrew Nelson, Nancy Nelson, Edward & Gayle Nichols, Susan L. Oldridge, Dana Parker, Stephanie Pope, Mildred Amsinger Powers, Judy Pravecek, Kathleen Keogh Rahman, Ann Rathbone, Pamela Read, Alan Rohanna, Peter & Sasha Schmidt, Kurt & Debbie Schroeder, Sam Strickland, George & Nancy Sutcliffe, Sylvia E. Simons Trembelas, Jim & Christian Valone, Henry & Eleanor Watts, Richard & Ann Weber, Christine Williamson, Pearl Windle, 3 anonymous.

A photograph of a wooden bench in a garden, surrounded by pink flowers and greenery, serving as the background for the bottom left section.

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 contact CMO Kelly Welsh, 757-441-5830 ext. 346 or email development@nbgs.org to make an appointment to discuss this \$25,000 – \$100,000 tribute opportunity.

February Fun♥

Community \$5 Fridays

Every Friday in February, enjoy Community Days with discounted admission of \$5/person!

Waggin' Wednesdays

Every Wednesday during the month of February, explore the Garden with your canine best friend. Members & their dogs are FREE.

Not-Yet-Members' Dogs
\$5 (Human Admission applies).



norfolk botanical garden

6700 Azalea Garden Road • Norfolk, VA 23518

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NORFOLK, VA
PERMIT NO. 568

coming in
April

2026 Spring Plant Sale

Exclusive NBG Members-Only Day
Friday, April 24 • 10 AM—7 PM

Open to the Public
Saturday & Sunday, April 25 & 26
10 AM—4 PM



Our Horticulture staff will be on-site to help you find plants that thrive in Coastal Virginia.



Tram Tours, Bike Nights and WOW Splash Pads Return in April