

# Naples Botanical GARDEN

For Immediate Release

## Naples Botanical Garden 2020 – 21 Season Exhibits & Events Preview

**NAPLES, FL – July 14, 2020** – Naples Botanical Garden is built upon roots. These underground foundations are the lifeblood of our plants, their energy source, their connection to the earth. But even we, at times, fail to appreciate their magnitude.

We're dedicating our 2020-21 season, **Roots: Power of the Unseen**, to the exploration of these structures, seeking greater understanding of how they function and underpin our ecosystem. The season includes a yearlong installation of Steve Tobin's massive steel and bronze root sculptures and Clyde Butcher's photography, celebrating Florida's "roots" in the primordial, untouched landscapes he captures. Throughout the year, educational programs and other offerings will allow guests to contemplate roots, both physical and conceptual, in meaningful ways.

In between, we celebrate the fusion of nature and art in Carmelo Blandino's bold floral depictions, and host annual favorites, including Night Lights, reimagined this year with new concepts and designs.

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### ***Steve Tobin: Nature Underground***

October 1, 2020 – September 6, 2021

This ambitious 11-month exhibition will invite visitors to consider the wonderfully complex world that lies beneath the soil and the critical role it plays in supporting all life on Earth. Tobin's steel and bronze sculptures seem to dance in their spaces, spiraling upward to create elegant forms as well as ever-changing shadows. Guests will discover them throughout the Garden — simultaneously rising out of the landscape and blending into it with perfect harmony. Tobin says the pieces are experiential; they are meant to be walked through, interacted with, and explored from all angles.

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***The Impressionist's Garden: Plein Air Paintings by Paul Arsenault***

Through November 8

Naples-based contemporary impressionist Paul Arsenault captures the Garden with a depth and intimacy possible only for someone who has known the place since its inception. Arsenault created an impressive new series exclusively for this exhibit, capturing the Garden's iconic vistas and quiet corners on oversized panels that surround viewers and pull them into the artist's world. The exhibit goes beyond celebrating the heritage and maturation of the Garden; it traces the development of the artist himself. *The Impressionist's Garden* includes never-before-exhibited samples of Arsenault's earliest works, allowing viewers to see his evolution through paintbrush and canvas.

*The Impressionist's Garden: Plein Air Paintings by Paul Arsenault* presented by:



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***Carmelo Blandino: Convergence***

Co-curated by Naples Botanical Garden and Method & Concept  
November 20, 2020 – January 10, 2021

Known for his luscious, abstract floral paintings combining the subtleties of classicism with the crackling energy of contemporary expressionism, Carmelo Blandino explores the human connection to nature through large-scale works of art. Blandino — whose interactive painting process encourages the viewer to become part of his work — will produce a new series for this exhibition, drawing inspiration from the living collection at Naples Botanical Garden. Community members will be invited to virtually collaborate with the artist, offering participants a personal stake in the art and message within it — an urgent call to cherish and preserve nature.

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**Night Lights in the Garden**

November 27 – January 3; no Night Lights December 24, 25, or 31

The holiday affair at the “root” of many family traditions returns. Stroll pathways illuminated with millions of lights, enjoy special holiday cocktails and menu items at Fogg Café, and hum along to favorite tunes performed by live musicians. New designs this year promise to add an element of surprise and delight, along with longtime favorite features.



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### **Sunset Wednesdays**

February 3 – April 28, 2021

Midweek gets a little sweeter starting February 3, as the Garden stays open late so you can stroll and savor the magic of a Naples sunset overlooking the Preserve. Monumental sculptures from *Steve Tobin: Nature Underground* will be illuminated, and admission is discounted for Collier and Lee county residents. It's the perfect occasion for happy hours and afterschool playdates with the kids.

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### **Naples Ikebana International #160 Show**

February 5 – 6, 2021

Take in the beauty of Ikebana, the Japanese art of flower arranging, during this two-day exhibit presented in partnership with the local Naples Ikebana International #160 chapter. Guests are invited to spend the day in the Garden, beholding intricate floral arrangements, attending demonstrations, and shopping for Ikebana materials at a Ginza-style marketplace.

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### **Orchid Takeover!**

February 15 – 26, 2021

The Garden explodes with these magnificent flowers, found in a rainbow of hues. Learn about their fascinating interdependence with fungi, the characteristics that make them so coveted, and their special aerial roots that allow them to drape from trees and create curtains of color. Demonstrations will range from orchid care to floral art.

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### **Naples Orchid Society Show & Sale**

February 20 – 21, 2021

Precision and beauty can be found in every inch of the orchids on display at the 48<sup>th</sup> Annual Naples Orchid Society Show & Sale. These prizewinning epiphytes, grown with expert care, will enchant visitors. After viewing the exhibit, visit a variety of orchid vendors to start or grow your own collection.

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### **Naples Flower Show & Garden Market**

March 19 – 20, 2021

This springtime favorite returns with spectacular floral designs, botanical arts, exotic plants, educational displays, presentations, and demonstrations. Presented in partnership with the Naples Garden Club, the Naples Flower Show & Garden Market has blossomed into the largest juried flower show in Southwest Florida. In addition to the exhibit displays, guests can stroll the beautiful Garden and peruse merchandise from numerous vendors to remember the day.

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***America's Everglades: Through the Lens of Clyde Butcher***

April 15 – June 15, 2021

To view a Clyde Butcher photo is to be transported out of the Florida we know and into its wild and wonderful origins. With his century-old camera, Butcher has been exploring and documenting the Everglades for more than three decades. The result is a stunning collection of large-format black-and-white photographs that capture untouched parts of the nation's largest subtropical wilderness. Butcher is renowned not only for the pristine quality of his images but also for bringing environmental issues to the forefront of public consciousness. His work challenges us to explore the heritage we share in the natural world and to work together to protect it.

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***Artists in Bloom***

July 2 – September 6, 2021

Discover the beauty and splendor of the Garden as seen through the eyes of our community's most beloved artists. Organized in partnership with the United Arts Council of Collier County, *Artists in Bloom* takes an intimate peek into the relationship between the artist and the Garden as its muse, featuring an exciting selection of works that reflect the essence and spirit of Naples Botanical Garden.

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**NOTE:** The Garden and its partners are committed to maintaining a safe visitor experience. All events are subject to modification due to COVID-19's unpredictability. Please check [naplesgarden.org](https://www.naplesgarden.org) and our social media channels for updates as events dates approach. Guests should also familiarize themselves with the safety protocols in place at the time of their visit. These will be continually updated based on the course of the virus and government health advisories.

Stay connected with the Garden through our new interactive resource, [naplesgarden.org/stayplanted](https://www.naplesgarden.org/stayplanted). Spend time with our education staff through DIY videos, craft locally inspired cuisine in the kitchen with the team at Fogg Café, discover the flora surrounding you through our citizen-science initiatives, and more.

**For more details, contact Renée Waller, Director of Communications & Marketing, at [rwaller@naplesgarden.org](mailto:rwaller@naplesgarden.org).**

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About Naples Botanical Garden

Naples Botanical Garden is a 170-acre, world-class garden paradise that features plants from around the world. The Garden provides arts, culture, youth and adult education, conservation, wellness, and volunteer programs that contribute to the quality of life in Southwest Florida onsite and online at [naplesgarden.org](https://www.naplesgarden.org). The Garden's living collections are always growing and evolving, leaving our audiences with a deeper engagement with our curated gardens and Preserve. Hours of operation are 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. with timed tickets required, final tickets at 12 p.m. every day, with Fogg Café opening at 9 a.m. Timed entry tickets must be purchased in advance at [naplesgarden.org](https://www.naplesgarden.org). Regular admission is \$20 for adults, \$10 for children (4–14); Members and children 3 and under get in free.