

NAPLES
BOTANICAL
GARDEN

Cultivate



FALL 2020



IN SEASON | Muhly Grass (*Muhlenbergia Capillaris*)

OUR MISSION

Conserve & Discover. Engage & Inspire.

To develop and conserve collections and habitats representative of the flora and cultures between the 26th latitudes. To discover, research, and share knowledge about these plants and their gifts to us of beauty, tranquility, sustenance, and wellbeing. And to engage and inspire everyone to care for the plants around them and become stewards of the environment.

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ON THE COVER

Fall in Southwest Florida: Think Pink

As the seasons change throughout the region, never mind orange and yellow. We've got clear, blue skies, and pink—lots of it. This time of year, long-stemmed native-growing muhly grass (Muhlenbergia capillaris) transforms entirely into "clouds of pink," as Britt Patterson-Weber, Vice President

of Education and Interpretation, puts it. We have muhly grass throughout the Garden, but the best place to see it is along the lakeshores. Then there's silk floss (Ceiba speciosa), in the Kapnick Brazilian Garden, blossoms of pink just beginning to emerge. The show-stopping trees promise to be awash in them at their peak.



CULTIVATE / FALL 2020

Contributors: Peggy Farren, Paul Osborn, Elizabeth Beans, Andrea Grace



TripAdvisor Top-rated Attraction

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IF YOU ARE A LONGTIME Garden Member, you're sure to notice some big differences in this issue of our magazine—starting with the new name in boldface on our front cover. We have a tremendously creative staff, and they decided it was time for something with more punch than "our member magazine."

Presenting Cultivate!

We felt the title encapsulated so much of what the Garden does. We cultivate plants, of course, but we're "growing" many other things, too. We cultivate relationships with our Members, visitors, donors, and the community at-large. We cultivate ideas that we believe can improve our planet's health. We cultivate collaborations with other botanical experts, such as our partners in Haiti, whom you'll read about on page 14.

OUR STAFF AND SUPPORTERS are using their creative gifts in many other ways. They understand the important role the Garden plays during these uncertain times and have found new ways to connect with visitors, even though we've suspended group gatherings to prevent the spread of COVID-19.

Our Education and Visitor Experience Department launched new self-guided tours using cellphone technology. The platform allows guests to discover fascinating facts and text questions to our staff as they tour the grounds. Plus, W.O.N.D.E.R. kits serve as a temporary substitute for our popular drop-in program. The materials allow families to explore nature together on our grounds or at home.

MEANWHILE, A GROUP of our most ardent supporters, the Sustaining Leadership Council, has reimagined their lavish annual Hats in the Garden benefit and will host a wonderfully imaginative virtual event in its place. See page 22 for details on how they and our staff pivoted to keep philanthropic donations flowing. We have never been more grateful for community support.

Finally, I'm thrilled to invite you to see artist Steve Tobin's monumental root sculptures in a special, 11-month exhibition, Steve Tobin: Nature Underground. The steel and bronze works celebrate the critical role roots play in sustaining all life on Earth.

WE ARE GRATEFUL to our Members and guests for putting their trust in us and continuing to visit, donate, renew their memberships, or join the Garden family. Please let us know if there is anything we can do to make your experience even better.



Donna McGinnis President & CEO, Naples Botanical Garden



"We cultivate plants, of course, but many other things, too ... we cultivate relationships, ideas, collaborations, and more ..."

What's happening



W.O.N.D.E.R.

on your own

Our daily drop-in programming has gone DIY, which means you and your family can go explore the Garden together in a whole new way!

Walk, Observe, Navigate, Draw, Explore, and Read at your own pace.

Virtual meetings, real benefits

For adults with memory impairments, and their caregivers, the Meet Me in the Garden therapeutic horticulture program provides an integral connection with plants and the natural world. In the midst of COVID-19 and social distancing protocols that prevented participants from coming to the Garden, Education staff reinvented this initiative, getting it into the hands of seniors in the community. Since taking this program virtual, more

than 130 kits have been distributed, with materials needed for gardening activities ranging from floral arranging and planting herbs to terrarium planting, and Kokedama.



Support for this program continues with a recent \$12,000 grant from the Community Foundation of Collier County.

Stop by Ticketing upon your arrival to pick up your activity packet, and enjoy a new theme every month! Included with Garden admission.



THERE'S A NEW PALM ON THE HORIZON

Look for a new addition to the Scott Florida Garden the next time you're here: a 35-foot, 12,500-pound rare Cuban palm, to be exact. We're aware of its weight because in early August, the Garden team helped relocate it from a private residence in Fort Myers, where it was partially uprooted in 2017 during Hurricane Irma. Garden staff helped facilitate its "rescue," as we do when we come across trees that are rare, unique, historically significant, or otherwise add value to our collections.



MARITZA IRIZARRY, PROGRAM COORDINATOR AT GOLDEN GATE SENIOR CENTER, WITH EDUCATION TEAM MEMBERS ABIGAIL SWISHER, KYLE POSSAI, AND KIVA TALTY ON SEPTEMBER 10.



This 11-month exhibition invites you to consider the 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. Discover these 12 installations throughout the Garden — simultaneously rising out of the landscape and blending into it with perfect harmony.

SUPPORTED BY:



FUNDED IN PART BY:



MEDIA SPONSOR:



NOVEMBER 20, 2020 - JANUARY 10, 2021

Carmelo Blandino: Convergence



Co-curated by Naples Botanical Garden and Method & Concept

Carmelo Blandino, known for his luscious, abstract floral paintings and an interactive painting process that encourages the viewer to become part of his work, will produce a new series for this exhibition. It will draw inspiration from the living collection here in the Garden.

Special thanks to: Method & Concept

Water bottles: reduce, reuse, recycle

Since the Garden's two new touchless water bottle-filling stations were added this summer, the equivalent of 1,147 disposable plastic water bottles has been saved. Find stations along the Smith Entry Prow and near Fogg Café.



Water Garden View, River of Grass, 2020

FOR MEMBERS ONLY

Limited-edition giclées

Proudly display your favorite Garden view in your home or office while supporting the Garden's mission. For a limited time, Members have the opportunity to purchase beautiful gallery-wrapped giclée prints of Paul Arsenault's 10 new Naples Botanical Garden murals created specifically for our current exhibition, *The Impressionist's Garden: Plein Air Paintings by Paul Arsenault*. These signed and numbered 6-foot x 4-foot prints are \$1,800, and 36-inch x 24-inch versions are \$775, with 30% of proceeds benefitting Naples Botanical Garden. A discount is available if purchasing multiple prints. These prints will be on view at the Garden through November 8.

For questions or to purchase, please contact the Arsenault Studio & Banyan Arts Gallery at 239.263.1214.

A force for good

When the Garden and the Community Foundation of Collier County ironed out details for a partnership to grow and distribute 3,500 trees to residents, we were still months away from the unexpected effects our community and nation would face due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Little did we know how much joy this initiative would bring to so many.

Since late July when tree distributions began, we've been fortunate to positively impact families, neighborhood associations, and fellow nonprofit organizations by sharing a piece of natural Southwest Florida that will thrive for years to come.

Tree distributions continued throughout late summer into early fall,

from events in Everglades City in late August to daily giveaways in the Garden in September. For more on the unique process involved in growing these trees, see page 10.



We are excited to expand our visitor engagement opportunities! The next time you visit the Garden, try one of our new self-guided audio tours. Using just your smartphone—no app download necessary—you can explore Garden highlights and more. Each tour features photos, videos, and other resources in English and Spanish to help you get even more out of your Garden experience. You can access tour offerings during your Garden visit, or follow this link to listen at home: Bycell.co/bsgit.

Sponsorship support provided by Marilyn And Brit Bartter

November 27 – January 3 (No Night Lights December 24, 25, or 31)

Sundays–Thursdays
6–9pm
Last ticket at 8pm

Fridays and Saturdays
6–10pm
Last ticket at 8:30pm

Extended Hours
(beginning December 18–January 3)

December 18–30, January 1–3
6–10pm
Last ticket at 8:30pm

SUPPORTED BY:



FUNDED IN PART BY:



Rediscover the natural beauty of plants from the tropics and subtropics as thousands of lights illuminate the Garden. In keeping with safety measures, stroll lighted pathways, enjoy special holiday items at Fogg Café, and hum along to

festive music. Sculptures from *Steve Tobin: Nature Underground* promise to add an element of surprise and delight, along with longtime favorite features. For more details and to purchase tickets, go to naplesgarden.org.



Night Lights in the Garden



A PRIMER ON HOUSEPLANTS
FROM HORTICULTURE MANAGER
ELIZABETH BEANS

It's all about the lighting

Houseplants are a fun, rewarding way to get some green into your life if you rent, have a strict HOA, have a small outdoor space, or just love being around plants 24/7. They are relatively easy to maintain if you stick to a few basics.



YOUR VERY FIRST STEP is to identify your window directions. For “directionally challenged” individuals such as myself, a Google Maps search of your property will allow you to double check your home’s compass points. That information is so important because the rule of windows is this:

South-facing windows

receive the most light and are the hottest.

North-facing windows

receive the least light and are the weakest and coolest.

East-facing windows

receive light in the morning and are weak and cool.

West-facing windows

receive light in the afternoon and are strong and hot.

Now, what does that all mean? At the Garden, we have a motto, “right plant, right place,” when determining where to grow our plants. This rule rings true to indoor plants as well.

SOUTH



Take a trip in your mind’s eye to the Foster Succulent Garden, and look around. Lots of, you guessed it, cactus and succulents! Just as we selected a bright, sunny spot for them in the Garden, you’ll want to place them in your brightest, hottest windows: your south-facing ones. Generally, plants that are heavy bloomers also like high light—think of all those annuals planted just outside of Fogg Café. They are all in full sun. Anything that demands high light will perform the best in a south-facing window.

NORTH



Now, move your mind back to the entry of the Garden, to Kathryn’s Garden, Irma’s Garden, and the Kapnick Brazilian Garden. You can even go to the darker, shadier parts of the Lea Asian Garden. Think about the herbaceous level of plants in all these gardens. You’ll notice a lot of foliage plants. Things such as begonias, cast-iron plants, dumb canes, calatheas, ferns, aroids of all shapes and sizes, and the list goes on. These plants will do best in low-light situations because that’s where they naturally occur! So, anything that demands low light will perform best in a north-facing window.

EAST



I urge you to stay where you are, but move to a slightly higher level in the canopy. The same plants that do well in north windows will do well in east windows. You can push the envelope a little bit, and put something that demands a little more light in an east-facing window, but generally, lower-light plants perform best in east windows.

WEST



Just as east- and north-window plants are compatible, so too are the west- and south-window ones. Plants that like full sun and the south-facing windows will generally do well in west-facing windows. But I would encourage you to experiment a little with these, too! Plants that like midlight will perform best in west-facing windows.

Find your new favorite houseplant in the Jane and Chuck Berger Shop in the Garden during your next visit.

MEMBERS SAVE 10%!





THE TRAILER

THE TRIPS

HOW TO GROW
**3,500
 TREES.**
From home.
**During a
 pandemic.**
 PERSPECTIVE FROM
 NURSERY MANAGER
ANDREA GRACE

THE TEAM

THE TIME

THE TRAYS

As part of a partnership with the Community Foundation of Collier County in celebration of its 35th anniversary, the Garden received funds to grow trees to give away to our community. Just as Andrea Grace and Horticulture Team members and volunteers finished planting the seeds, the Garden closed, and operations as we knew them came to a screeching halt. But the 3,500 plants still needed to be transitioned out of their starter cells and into their containers. Andrea tells *Cultivate* how she managed to tend these seedlings and see the project—their team’s largest yet—to fruition.



We were given the green light for the tree project in mid-October 2019, and we became like squirrels collecting seeds on campus wherever we could find them. Nick Ewy, Director of Collections, was the main seed collector and spent days harvesting seeds from the Garden and our parking lots. He would hand off the seeds to me, and my amazing nursery volunteers cleaned the seeds by removing the seed coat and pulp. After cleaning was complete, we would rinse and soak them overnight to enhance germination.

The seed collecting lasted until late December. At that time, we realized that we wouldn’t be able to collect the quantity of seeds needed for the project on campus, so we purchased some from an outside vendor. We selected the *Cassia* species seeds, which require clipping and overnight soaking. After seed preparation, we sowed the seeds in seed trays in the North Nursery. We were finished sowing seeds by the end of February.

It became obvious that I needed to bring a portion of the project home after COVID restricted hours at the Garden and when the work on campus became unmanageable without our volunteers. I was juggling virtual school with my first- and eighth-grader, which meant I needed more time at home to supervise. Bringing the seedlings to my home to repot into their final size was imperative to completing the project on time and to producing the healthiest plants. My Garden teammates were very supportive and gave me the go-ahead.



ANDREA GRACE, NURSERY MANAGER, WITH ONE OF THE YOUNG TREES IN SPRING 2020

“I cannot wait to see my baby trees around town!”

The seedlings were in cell trays—good for transport—when I moved them to my home. I would only take enough plants that I could finish potting up in a week, so around 500–700 at a time. They made their return trip to the Garden in a one-gallon tree pot container.

Transporting the seedlings to and from my home was no easy task and involved many people. Whenever I was at the Garden, I would load my car with soil bags, plant containers, fertilizer, and anything I needed to repot plants. Bill Pattison, Special Projects Technician, was a huge help. I would fill a trailer with seedling trays and other supplies, and he would drop the trailer at my home. I would then spend the week repotting

plants from the cell trays to their final size. My family members were very supportive and my biggest cheerleaders; they chipped in to help fill containers with soil, lug supplies, let me take over our lanai with plant material, and entertained me while working.

The plants were watered daily with a sprinkler system once back at the Garden; at my home I would hand water them twice a day. They were also fertilized by hand every week.

This was the largest project that we have ever worked on, so it stretched our ability to produce thousands of healthy plants that would be ready at the same time. The plants took up 30-square-feet of space in my yard and were growing on a tarp. They would also at times stretch onto the driveway the Friday before the weekend delivery. We live out in Golden Gate Estates and have a large property, so space wasn’t an issue.

On the weekends, my boyfriend and I would make multiple trips back and forth from our house delivering hundreds of plants to the North Nursery. We had this routine from March through June, when

all the trees were relocated to the Garden. After school was complete, I was able to be back at the Garden full time and complete the project there.

The most satisfying part of this experience has been the distribution days. The families are so happy to have a new tree, and to see their joy is priceless. I cannot wait to see my baby trees around town!

We learned SO much as a team. This has been a very collaborative experience involving many departments at the Garden. We have grown and stretched in our efforts. Now we know we can manage a project of this scale again. If we can do this during COVID, we can do this anytime!

TEST KITCHEN

BEHIND THE SCENES

Aptly dubbed the “star cherry,” this Brazilian delight is among the tropical fruits the Garden is trialing in a newly planted fruit grove.



While there is no short supply of mangos, guava, and fruiting trees to be found in the Garden, this new grove, not accessible to the public, will offer the Garden team the opportunity to experiment with little-known tropical fruit cultivars.

VICE PRESIDENT OF HORTICULTURE BRIAN GALLIGAN (ABOVE) SPOTS A BLIP OF YELLOW AMID A ROW OF KNEE-HIGH TREES. HE PICKS IT UP. “ISN’T IT PRETTY?” HE ASKS. THE YELLOW, STAR-SHAPED FRUIT IS EUGENIA SELLOI, ALSO KNOWN AS “STAR CHERRY” OR PITANGATUBA. THE PLANT ORIGINATES IN BRAZIL AND HAS CAPTURED THE ATTENTION OF GALLIGAN AND GARDEN STAFF.

Over the summer, the Horticulture Department planted a small tropical fruit grove featuring the star cherries, along with Barbados cherries, avocados, and several varieties of guavas and mangos. Think of it as a test kitchen; the gardeners will evaluate the trees for attributes such as pest resistance, growth rates, taste, fruit size, and yields to find the best-of-the-best cultivars.

The trial plantings have a bigger purpose, too: They may contribute to the hunt for an alternative to Florida citrus, the once-mighty cash crop

stricken with citrus greening, a disease that wreaked havoc on fruit and killed countless trees since it was first identified in Miami in 2005. A psyllid, or plant louse, native to Asia, carries the disease. Roughly 80% of orange trees are infected, and Florida citrus production has fallen by about 75%, according to state and federal reports.

Researchers are looking for viable replacements, such as the fruits the Garden planted.

“The Barbados cherry is just a fantastic fruit of the Caribbean that has higher vitamin C content than

oranges, grows extremely well, can be grown from cuttings, and it fruits year-round,” Galligan offers as one example. Mangos, he adds, prosper in Southwest Florida with little need for water or fertilizer.

“This is just the beginning of our fruit area,” Galligan says. He intends to plant a larger grove as part of the Evenstad Horticulture Campus. The timetable for that project has not yet been announced; in the meantime, Galligan and the Garden team will watch these tiny trees to see if they have the potential for big impact.

Before it's too late

SCIENTISTS IN HAITI AND AT THE GARDEN TEAM UP

to document the plant life of Haiti—the first broad study in a century and a first step to protecting imperiled species

HOW DO YOU MANAGE LAND IF YOU DON'T KNOW WHAT'S GROWING ON IT? The question vexes botanist William Cinea, founder of Jardin Botanique des Cayes in Haiti and one of Naples Botanical Garden's key partners in regional conservation.

In recent months, Cinea has taken on an ambitious study of his nation's plants with support from the Garden's Conservation Team. The island's rich biodiversity is at stake, Cinea says, simply from lack of knowledge and, subsequently, a lack of a conservation plan.

"(Communities) are destroying plants because they don't know the importance of them," Cinea says.

Plant life lost in Haiti reverberates well beyond the nation's borders.

"The Caribbean region is a plant diversity hotspot, and that diversity supports entire ecosystems," says Chad Washburn, the Garden's Vice President of Conservation. "Many of the plants are endemic to one or a few islands and are facing significant threat of extinction. Once they are lost, they are gone forever, taking away potentially important parts of the ecosystem."

The plant life of Haiti has gone a century without serious review. Swedish botanist Erik Leonard Ekman surveyed its flora from 1924 to 1928. American researchers have done some follow-up work since, but Cinea says there's little up-to-date information about native and endemic plants, which comprise about 40% of the plants in Haiti and the Dominican Republic. He aims to change that. Experts at our Garden will help—from afar, as COVID-19 remains a serious risk.

Together with their staffs, Washburn and Cinea meet remotely; the team in Haiti does the field work and sends

seeds to the team in Naples, which in turn conducts research on how to grow them, shares the results with Cinea, and adds the contributed plants to our collections for display and to safeguard their genetics.

"We'll collect the seeds, and (Naples) will help write the protocols," Cinea says. He's referring to propagation protocols, or detailed instructions on how to grow plants from seed, and how we can best conserve them for the long term in the Garden's seedbank. (See page 16.)

"We're partnering together to unlock how to grow these plants," Washburn says. "We'll share that information and work together to save these plants in their habitat."

His latter point is an important one. The Global Strategy for Plant Conservation, the world's guidelines for saving plants, favors protecting plants in their places of origin to exporting them for safekeeping. Naples Botanical Garden partners with scientists throughout Latin America and the Caribbean to work toward achieving the strategy's goals.

"The idea of restoration is not a common one in Haiti," Cinea says. Native plants are hard to find in nurseries because growers don't know how to find, produce, and maintain them. One challenge is that well-intentioned nongovernment organizations supply nonnative trees for use in the landscape. The donated

species tend to grow quickly but don't hold up to the island's climate and storms.

"When they are fast-growing, they are also fast-falling," Cinea quips. He intends to share what he learns with nursery growers and encourage them to increase their stock of native plants. The entire Caribbean region—Florida included—stands to benefit.



William Cinea documenting the flora of Haiti.

As temperatures rise, the Garden and its partners are actively researching Caribbean plants to identify species that landscapers may wish to introduce to urban environments because of their ability to withstand hotter temperatures and the intense storms that come with them.

THE PARTNERSHIP has several other tentacles. Garden educators are advising Cinea on how to set up citizen-led plant surveys using the iNaturalist app, following the success of last spring's "Project Stay Planted" citizen-science project, which challenged participants to chronicle plants in their backyards and neighborhoods.

"We want to build a database for Haiti," Cinea says, referring to the plant information he and, eventually, residents collect. In Naples, Garden scientists will run the data Cinea provides through mapping software to identify areas of concern—places where threatened plants are found, for example—so that Cinea can provide that vital data to policymakers.

Cinea advises our Garden, as well. Washburn has asked for his guidance on plant selection and display in the Kapnick Caribbean Garden, helping us provide an authentic experience for guests and ensure we're collecting and conserving significant species.

"We want it to truly reflect the Caribbean," Washburn says. "We want that for all of our gardens—to accurately and authentically reflect their cultures. For us to do that, we need to involve experts from those regions to make sure they really do so."

The two leaders say protecting our part of the world is a shared responsibility—particularly in light of the United Nation's declaration proclaiming 2021-2030 the "Decade on Ecosystem Restoration."

"It's not just about Haiti. It's not just the Dominican Republic," Cinea says. "We have common problems, and we need to have common solutions."

Washburn agrees.

"We are all facing similar problems. We have to work together to overcome them."

“The Caribbean region is a plant diversity hotspot, and that diversity supports entire ecosystems.”

Chad Washburn,
Vice President of Conservation,
Naples Botanical Garden

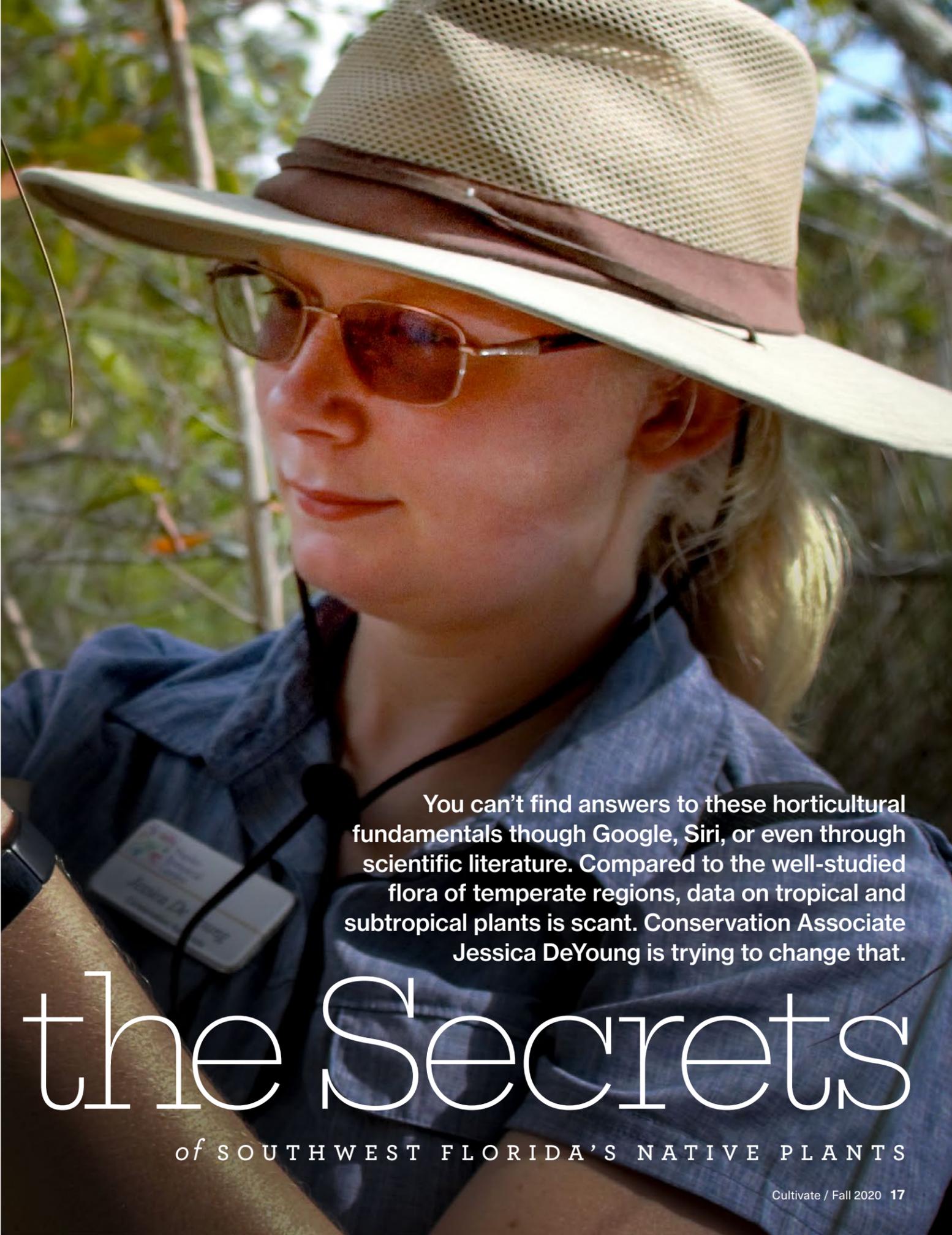




How long can the seed of nodding pinweed remain in a seed bank?

What does it take to prompt a Florida paintbrush seed to sprout? What about that of the pigeonplum?

Under what conditions do lignum vitae trees grow best?



You can't find answers to these horticultural fundamentals though Google, Siri, or even through scientific literature. Compared to the well-studied flora of temperate regions, data on tropical and subtropical plants is scant. Conservation Associate Jessica DeYoung is trying to change that.

Unlocking the Secrets

of SOUTHWEST FLORIDA'S NATIVE PLANTS

IF THERE IS SUCH A THING AS A PANDEMIC-PERFECT JOB, Jessica DeYoung's may be it. The conservation associate, under the supervision of Vice President of Conservation Chad Washburn, spends her days in the field or in plant nurseries, conducting extensive research into the plants found in our natural areas and in portions of Rookery Bay, where we partner with Rookery Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve scientists. Some, like the pigeonplum tree (*Coccoloba diversifolia*), have tremendous potential as a landscape plant—if better understood. Others, such as the giant airplant (*Tillandsia utriculata*), are disappearing in the wild. All of them—even the abundant ones—face threats such as habitat loss, climate-related stress, and disease.

DeYoung's research, which eventually will be shared publicly, will arm conservationists, nursery managers, plant enthusiasts, and others with the knowledge of how to grow and preserve these plants, helping ensure their long-term survival.

"It's not just about rare species," Washburn notes. "Everything is under threat right now."

While that may imply we need answers fast, the act of discovery is methodical, multi-pronged, and years in the making. "The in-depth research is what we're really missing," DeYoung says. Here's a glimpse into seven steps the Garden team takes to understand and conserve the region's plants.

1 Find the plants

For about a year, DeYoung combed our natural areas to discover the plants we have growing on site and target those she wished to study. She focused on the



scrub habitat, high and dry land that developers favor. DeYoung and Washburn want to ensure the Garden conserves plants of the scrub before they're lost to housing developments and commercial centers.

2 Observe the targeted species

Before she could even start conducting seed research, DeYoung had to learn more about plants, their habitats, when they flower, when their seed is ready to collect, how much seed she can expect to harvest from various plants (conservation norms dictate taking 20% or less of a plant's seed). Watching the plants in nature would inform the experiments she would conduct and determine the growing conditions the plants would need in the nursery.



3 Conduct propagation experiments

This is the heart of DeYoung's work. She aims to figure out what compels a seed to germinate. Some sprout more readily after a period in storage, likely because they're genetically programmed to stay dormant during Florida's dry season and activate during the wet. Some wetland seeds germinate best after soaking. Other types need their tough seed coats to erode before they can sprout, a process that occurs as wind scrapes them against surfaces, water washes them over rock, or animals eat and expel them. DeYoung must figure out what natural process, if any, she must replicate to achieve germination.



A flower spike will emerge from this Florida paintbrush, turning the low-lying native plant into a lovely, highly visible wildflower in late summer. The species is among the 55 DeYoung is researching.

Then, she drills into specifics: Store the seed for how long? At what temperature? In a moist environment or a dry one? For how long must they soak? What's the best way to mimic digestion? These are just a sampling of the many questions DeYoung investigates.



The pigeonplum tree, found growing in the Garden's parking lot, could be a great plant for streetscapes—if more information about how to propagate and grow it were available. Conservation Associate Jessica DeYoung's research will fill the gaps.

4 Analyze the findings

Some of DeYoung's findings beg for more experimentation. Why, for example, did she observe nearly identical germination rates for pineland purple (*Carphephorus odoratissimus* var. *subtropicanus*) seeds that were stored at room temperature as those stored at moist, cold temperatures for the same period of time? Could she potentially double the lignum vitae's (*Guaiacum sanctum*) germination rate if she combined two seed treatments each about 40 percent effective on their own? When it comes to botanical research, one round of data is rarely enough.

5 Monitor growth

DeYoung's work doesn't end when seeds sprout. She regularly visits our nurseries to monitor how they fare in various growing media, light intensities, watering frequencies, and the like. The information she gleans will be documented and shared, along with the results of the propagation experiments in Step 3.



In the nursery, DeYoung monitors dozens of lignum vitae trees like this one.

6 Maintain the seed bank

The Garden last year started a seed bank to conserve plants such as the natives that DeYoung collects. Seed



storage opens another line of investigation. DeYoung removes seeds from the freezer at three-month intervals to see how well they germinate. Because she's already figured out the protocols for growing the seeds, she can focus on a narrow question—for how long do the preserved seeds remain viable?

7 Publish the data

Ultimately, DeYoung will produce detailed "propagation protocols" describing how to successfully produce plants from seed. Her instructions will include everything from her research-based propagation methods to creating ideal growing conditions to storing seeds for the long term.

DeYoung is working with 55 species, all of which are in different stages of research and discovery. She's not ready to share her findings publicly yet, but when she does, researchers and plant enthusiasts will be able to "Google" native species and find answers—thanks to the ongoing research at the Garden.

There's so much more to the story:

Saving native plants, seed by seed

In 2002, a beetle from Asia snuck into a Georgia port via a shipping crate, found its way to a redbay tree, infected it with a fungus, and started a chain reaction that has killed millions of trees across the Southeastern United States.

Another rogue traveler, the Mexican bromeliad weevil, has ravaged Florida's giant air plants.

The last century saw the near extinction of the American chestnut, 4 billion trees lost to a foreign fungus.

And, of course, most Floridians know the sad tale of the state's signature citrus crop, stricken with citrus greening and a shadow of its former self.

In summary: Plant life is tenuous at best.

If you're wondering why Conservation Associate Jessica DeYoung conducts endless experiments on native plants or Vice President of Conservation Chad Washburn insists on conserving even seemingly run-of-the-mill species, the examples above provide reason enough. Now add a slate of other stressors caused by warming temperatures and altered weather, sea-level rise and saltwater intrusion, endless development, and habitat loss.

"It's not just about collecting seeds," Washburn says. "There's so much more to the story."

PLANTS ADDED TO THE CONSERVATION COLLECTION AND THE REASONS THEY'RE SIGNIFICANT TO OUR MISSION

Florida bitterbush

(Picramnia pentandra)

The Garden is actively working to influence the kinds of plants landscapers use in developments, streetscapes, and throughout public lands.



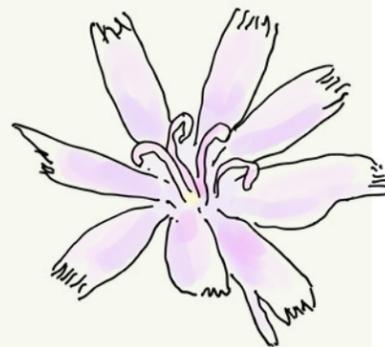
We're encouraging plants such as the bitterbush—drought tolerant, well-suited to Southwest Florida's sandy soils, acclimated to our temperatures. This one, like many other species we favor, has aesthetic value, too. It produces bright red berries to accent a designed space—and double as food for wildlife.



Coastal plain goldenaster

(Chrysopsis scabrella)

This plant isn't rare, but its habitat is under siege by developers who like to use scrub habitat because it's high, dry, and easy to build on. Conserving the seeds of this plant, and others from the scrub, means they'll be protected, even as their available habitat shrinks.



Rose-rush

(Lygodesmia aphylla)

This little flower is lovely—and vulnerable. It's one of eight species DeYoung is studying that appears in no other botanical garden's collection. Why does that matter? Just as museum staff safeguard their artifacts, botanical garden experts actively protect the plants in their collections by managing the land in which they grow and preserving their seeds.



Thinleaf October flower

(Polygonella polygama var. brachystachya)

This wildflower is endemic to the Florida peninsula. We take special care to protect plants that are unique to our region.

Illustrations: Paul Buesmann

#Hats

#Virtually Presented
Wednesday, November 11, 2020
 To learn more, please visit: naplesgarden.org/hatsinthegarden.

Thank You

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THE SUSTAINING LEADERSHIP COUNCIL

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IN OUR GARDENS



Just what do you do when an annual invitation-only fundraiser that draws a crowd of more than 600 guests is met with a global pandemic and strict social distancing protocols?

Make it bigger than ever before. Here's how.

#HatsInOurGardens



2020

may be the Year of COVID, but there's another descriptor—a far more positive one—that can just as aptly define it. How about the Year of Creativity?

That is, no doubt, what members of the Garden's Sustaining Leadership Council (SLC) would choose to call it, as they spent their summer conjuring an alternative to Hats in the Garden, the annual fundraising event members host to benefit the Garden (and, unofficially, the kickoff to the social season in Southwest Florida). In true 2020 spirit, the Council's 44 women are introducing something virtual: #HatsInOurGardens, a multilayered affair providing opportunities to don magnificent millinery, win fabulous prizes, and contribute to a Garden campaign to support the region's essential workers. It'll take place November 11, the day the 17th Annual Hats in the Garden had been scheduled.

"We first said, 'Let's just skip it this year,' and then Jane—of course it was Jane—saw on Instagram a campaign that they did around the Royal Ascot where people posted pictures of themselves in their hats," says SLC member Kathleen Kapnick, referring to the ever-innovative Jane Berger, the originator of Hats in the Garden and a founder of the SLC. Photos of fans virtually celebrating the famed British horse racing event got the SLC to the starting gate, and then the ideas took off.

"The wheels are always turning in people's heads. And someone will say something, and it will spark something in someone else, and they'll say, 'Hey, I have a great idea,' and that gets the ball rolling into unknown territory. And it just goes from there," says Karen Scott, another longtime SLC member.

Case in point: Early in the process, Berger, Kapnick, and fellow SLC member Cortney Beebe met for lunch, and Berger noticed the rings on Beebe's finger.

"You see the wheels turning, and she says, 'Those would make a beautiful raffle gift,'" Kapnick recalls.

The floral rings were designed by New York-based designer Guita Mortinger

(Guita M Fine Jewels), who happens to be a dear friend of Beebe.

"I called her and said, 'I'm not sure what we're doing, but I want to give away your rings,'" Beebe says. Mortinger, in conjunction with Marissa Collections, her Naples retailer, and a #HatsInOurGardens sponsor, agreed to donate a set of three rings for the raffle. They can be worn together or apart. "That's just the kind of person she is," Beebe says of her friend, "a giving, sweet person."

another event sponsor. During the online event, participants also will learn more about the Garden's special fundraising push to increase community access.

"We just make things happen with what we have," says Scott, calling to mind the SLC's formation during the Great Recession when the fledgling Garden desperately needed a financial boost. "We make things work with our little group of people."

Granted, nothing can compete with a 600-person garden extravaganza, but

worked hand in hand with the SLC to create the event.

Merrill and SLC members agree: Elements of this year's virtual event, such as the online raffle sales, are surely here to stay.

"It's not very often that you have a fundraiser that has this much appeal that can go for 17 years," Merrill says. "I think the Council's ability to adapt every year and embrace change and look around and say how can we do it differently every year has been the key to its success, and it will be the key this year, too."



THE SUSTAINING LEADERSHIP COUNCIL, HATS IN THE GARDEN, NOVEMBER 6, 2019

Recasting the event has required much technological juggling, logistical considerations, and a robust marketing plan. But SLC members, who enthusiastically renewed their memberships last spring during the Garden's closure, feel it's critical to support the Garden—for the organization's health as well as the community's.

"It's just so important to have such a beautiful place to go—as an individual or as a family. It's how I grew up," says Beebe, who

was raised in the Georgia foothills by a garden-loving mother.

Kapnick agrees. "We all need a place to relax and breathe right now," she says.

A special giving drive will support a community appreciation campaign the Garden launched over the summer, offering free admission to essential workers and their families through the end of the year. It will also help pay to produce activity kits that families can enjoy during their visits while in-person group programming remains suspended.

"The one gift we can give back to our community, which is always giving to us, is sharing the Garden," Merrill says.

For more information on #HatsInOurGardens, visit naplesgarden.org/hatsinthegarden.

Raffle tickets are available for sale through the Garden's website Monday, October 26–Sunday, November 8. They are \$100 each or \$500 for six. You need not buy an event ticket to enter.

The raffle is just one element.

With a \$250 virtual event ticket purchase, participants will receive a link through which they can access: a style shoot by Marissa Collections; a photo montage of attendees in their Hats attire; a chance to view the winners of the Most Creative, Most Chic, and Best Virtual Adaptation contest; and, for any attendees in town, a gift bag filled with treats to help celebrate the event from home. It will be delivered by the Naples Transportation & Tours Marissa Collection's Trolley, decked out in flowers from Kaleidoscope Floral,

#HatsInOurGardens brings unique opportunities to reach a different—and potentially much larger—crowd. The in-person event has sold out for the past several years; there's no limit on capacity for the virtual affair.

The SLC and Garden staff plan heavy social media promotions to spread the word, generate excitement, and introduce the Garden to people in Southwest Florida and beyond who are unfamiliar with it. The online raffle sales—a first this year—and reduced ticket price may lure an entirely new crop of Garden supporters.

"This is the year we can make more Garden friends and get the message out to a much bigger group. I think this year we'll have a much bigger reach," says Rhea Merrill, the Garden's Philanthropy and Corporate Relations Officer, who has

**All plantains are bananas,
but not all bananas are plantains.**

Plantains are a subgroup of bananas that have a starchier flesh, larger fruits, and are often referred to as “cooking bananas.” While growing on the plant, they look very similar to the untrained eye, but plantains will usually develop brown spotting on the skins, are generally larger and longer, and develop more defined, boxier edges than bananas.

One of the best ways to understand and appreciate plantains: cooking with them. To that end, try your hand at this delicious plantain-inspired dish.

Do
you know the
difference
between
bananas and
plantains?

Mofongo

This dish appears in various Caribbean cuisines under different names, but it originates in Puerto Rico. Mofongo consists of unripe (green) plantains that are fried and then mashed with olive oil, garlic, lemon juice, and sometimes pork rinds.

Ingredients

- 3 cups canola or vegetable oil for frying
- 4 green- to-yellow plantains peeled and cut into 1” chunks
- 6 cloves garlic, minced
- 1 teaspoon kosher salt
- 2-3 tablespoons lime juice
- 1 tablespoons olive oil
- 1 cup pork rinds

Instructions

STEP 1.

Heat oil in a medium or large pan. Working in batches, gently place the plantains in the pan, taking care not to splash the oil. Fry the plantain chunks until golden and cooked through. Remove from oil, and place on a paper towel to absorb excess oils.

STEP 2.

Mash the plantains with the garlic, olive oil, lime juice, salt, and pork rinds together in a large bowl. This process is very similar to making mashed potatoes, so if it looks like that, you’re on the right track.

STEP 3.

Serve immediately as a mash, add it into a stew, or sauté in oil to crisp and add color.



Discover more delicious plantain dishes from Chef Jack on our Notes from the Garden blog, at naplesgarden.org/blog.



4" agave plants
\$14.99 each

the amazing agave

Be Kind, Be Nice, Be Calm and Be Joyful

succulent mugs

\$14.99 each

While we might be quite familiar

with the image of the towering blue agave, or Agave tequilana, notably smaller relatives of this succulent do exist and effortlessly make a statement in your living room or patio.

Take, for instance, a wide sampling of diminutive agave plants, found right here in the Jane and Chuck Berger Shop in the Garden. Stock up on these low-maintenance monocots, and all you need to care for them, the next time you're here in the Garden.

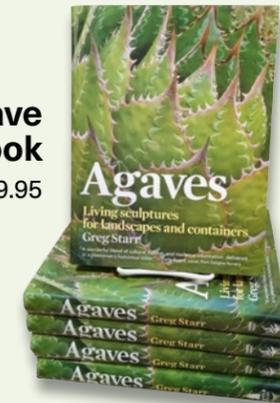


wooden tiles
\$49.99 each

terra cotta hanging planter
\$19.99



agave book
\$39.95



large black planter
\$125

black & white pots
\$20 each (with plant)



November 27 – January 3 (No Night Lights December 24, 25, or 31)



TICKET PRICES

November 27–December 17

Adults: \$12 Members / \$25 Non-Members
 Children (4-14): \$6 Members / \$12 Non-Members
 Children (3 and under): Free, ticket required

December 18–January 3

Adults: \$15 Members / \$30 Non-Members
 Children (4-14): \$7 / \$15 Non-Members
 Children (3 and under): Free, ticket required

See page 7 for more details on
 Night Lights days and hours.

Purchase Your Member Presale Tickets **Beginning October 26!**

As you explore the Garden this season, you'll find an overarching theme. *Roots: Power of the Unseen*, an emphasis this year, celebrates the complex world beneath our feet and seeks to inspire a new appreciation for the unnoticed, yet vital parts of our ecosystem.

A Look Ahead

To view a Clyde Butcher photo is to be transported out of the Florida we know and into its wild and wonderful origins.



*AMERICA'S EVERGLADES:
 Through the Lens of Clyde Butcher*

Exhibition runs
April 15–June 15

ROOTS
 POWER OF THE
 UNSEEN

Family & Friends is Growing.



Be inspired.

A great membership option to enjoy the outdoors with friends and family during this time when we are looking for natural escapes.

INTRODUCED ON OCTOBER 1, 2019	Free admission for two named adults and Member's children/grandchildren under 18	Best Value
\$200/year	PLUS Free admission for two additional adults on each visit	<i>Perfect way to introduce the Garden to your closest friends and visiting family!</i>
2nd largest membership level		

Visit naplesgarden.org/membership to renew or upgrade at the Family & Friends level today!



**PERENNIAL
LEGACY SOCIETY**



In times of uncertainty, nature is where we find solace, strength for our footing, and connection to the world around us. You can play a vital part in ensuring this important role of the Garden to connect

people with the plant world, both now, and for generations to come.

Making a gift to the Garden in your estate plans isn't merely a future event. The Perennial Legacy Society offers the opportunity to learn and grow through informative lectures and exclusive Garden experiences. Explore firsthand the impact of the Garden's community and conservation programs through behind-the-scenes presentations as you get to know fellow Society members.

Now, more than ever, see how your support and commitment shapes the future of the Garden, today.

If you have already included the Garden in your estate plans, simply let us know, so that we may invite you to Society events. To inform us of your future gift intention, or for a free "how to" legacy brochure, contact Cindy Learned at 239.325.1927 or clearned@naplesgarden.org.

“Plants have history and create a sense of place that draws you in to love them, appreciate them, conserve them, and tell their stories. By conserving them, the stories will keep evolving forever.”

— Brian Galligan,
Vice President of Horticulture,
on the Garden's new *lignum vitae*, pictured below,
a gift from Big Cypress National Preserve



Read more about the storied life of this remarkable *lignum vitae* in the Notes from the Garden blog: naplesgarden.org/lignum-vitae.

Naples Botanical GARDEN

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MISSING OUT ON THE GARDEN'S E-COMMUNICATIONS?
Send your name and email address to membership@naplesgarden.org
to keep up to date with what's "growing on" in the Garden.



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