

NAPLES  
BOTANICAL  
GARDEN

# Cultivate

SUMMER 2021



OUR MISSION

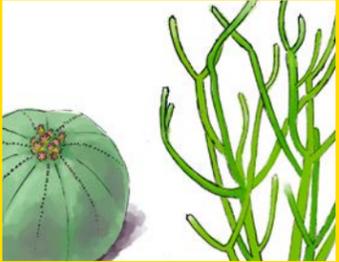
*Conserve & Discover. Engage & Inspire.*

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 well-being. And to engage and inspire everyone to care for the plants around them and become stewards of the environment.

ON THE COVER

*Curcuma* sp. Did you know that 1,600 species in the ginger family (Zingiberaceae) showcase an array of brilliant hues? While these rhizomes have dormant seasons when they disappear below the soil, when in bloom, you can spot the ones in our collections interspersed throughout the Lea Asian Garden.

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IN SEASON

Giant beauties

What do you get when you cross two of the largest waterlily species, *Victoria amazonica* and *Victoria cruziana*? Well, another enormous waterlily, with lily pads spanning 6 feet! This *Nymphaeaceae* hybrid was first developed 60 years ago by Patrick Nutt of Longwood Gardens, and is considered hardier than its other *Victoria* counterparts. Here in the Garden's tropical climate the aquatic rhizome can be grown year round. The pad's surface is smooth and strong enough to hold a young child, in large part because of its expansive network of veins on its underside. Handling

it requires caution, as the leaves and outer portions of the waterlily bud are covered in spiky barbs, an effective defense mechanism from hungry critters under the water's surface. If you notice wrinkled pads during your visit, these will smooth out with time, once the leaves have unfolded. And don't expect to see the *Victoria* Longwood's equally enormous bloom, up to a foot in diameter. These giant beauties are night bloomers and last a fleeting 2-3 evenings. Find all three of these species of giant water platters in the Water Garden and in the Kapnick Brazilian Garden.



Photos: Danny Cox, Paul Osborn

CULTIVATE SUMMER 2021

Contributors:

Erin Wolfe Bell, Mike Brewer, Kristen Camisa, Cameron Cole, Peggy Farren, Jenny Fuentes, Lauren Hardy, Darby Kordonowy, Paul Osborn, Jennifer Reed, and Brian Russo.



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*I can think of any number of "S" words to describe summer in Southwest Florida. Sunny. Sultry. Sizzling. Sleepy (in a good way). And how about this one:*

solitary.

With our seasonal friends back north and vacationers eyeing cooler climates, we Southwest Floridians have time and space to call our own. I love the Garden this time of year, especially early in the morning (Members, take note: We open an hour early for you, at 8am). My favorite spaces are the shady Lea Asian Garden and the Scott Florida Garden, our property's highest point, where you can catch a breeze off of the lakes.

Some of you are entertaining out-of-school children or grandchildren, and I hope you'll consider introducing them to the Garden. Our Garden educators—and some of our youngest guests—offer ideas on how to get the most



out of a family visit on page 19. And no matter your age, nothing beats a little A/C and refreshments after your outdoor explorations. Fogg Café will serve all sorts of seasonal specialties, and for when you're not at the Garden, you can try your hand at these recipes for an Aperol spritz and papaya salad (see page 23). In Kapnick Hall, you'll find the *Artists in Bloom* exhibition showcasing work from local artists (Members, that includes you!) from July 2–September 6. See page 6 for details.

Summer is also a great time to catch up on your home gardening and landscaping. Discover what our horticulturalists do during the rainy season to ensure a vibrant Garden all year long (page 13). Conversely, check out the great succulents you can grow in the driest, sunniest parts of your yard or use to adorn your windowsill, pool deck, or lanai (page 15).

It's summer. Unplug. Unwind. And enjoy your Garden at this most special time of year in Southwest Florida.



**Donna McGinnis**  
President & CEO  
Naples Botanical Garden

What's  
happening

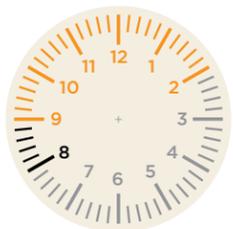


# SUMMER IN THE GARDEN



**JUNE 1 - SEPTEMBER 30**

We remain open the entire month of September, so you can spend even more time outdoors among the tropical collections you love so much.



## SUMMER HOURS

Open daily 9am-2pm  
(8am for Members!)

### WHAT WE'RE DOING THIS SUMMER

## for RESIDENTS

All summer long, from June 1 through September 30, residents from Collier, Lee AND Charlotte counties enjoy discounted admission to the Garden! (\$3 children ages 4-17, \$12 adults)

*Please have proof of residency, such as an ID or utility bill, available at Ticketing.*



## Dogs in the Garden

Those canine companions of yours walk free from 9-11am every Sunday and Tuesday! One dog permitted per adult. First-time dog walker? Check [naplesgarden.org](http://naplesgarden.org) for program policies and to complete our waiver.

## for MEMBERS

## Exclusive Early Access

Embrace those quiet moments in the Garden any morning of the week! Members-only admission from 8-9am daily.

### MORE SUMMER HIGHLIGHTS

## Cool off in the air-conditioned exhibition in Kapnick Hall—*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 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.



## Brunch it!

**FOGG CAFÉ** is open daily from 9am to 2pm with special summer offerings.

See [naplesgarden.org](http://naplesgarden.org) for our current menu.



### THE PERFECT

*Thank You*

The Garden's Community Appreciation Access Program has been extended through September 30, thanks to the incredible show of generosity from our supporters. That means thousands of essential workers and their families have even more opportunities to enjoy the relaxation and respite of this 170-acre tropical oasis.

Special thanks to the Garden's Sustaining Leadership Council, #HatsInOurGardens supporters, Mary Avellina, Kenneth and Linda Sumner, Auto Accident Attorney of Naples, and Waterside Shops for supporting this program.

We are all getting through this time together, and we'll continue to do so, partnering with organizations and companies throughout the Southwest Florida region.

If you are a health care provider or oversee an essential business and wish to enroll your company in the Community Appreciation Access Program, please contact [corporate@naplesgarden.org](mailto:corporate@naplesgarden.org).

LAST CHANCE!

# America's Everglades

THROUGH THE LENS OF CLYDE BUTCHER



ON VIEW IN KAPNICK HALL THROUGH JUNE 15

Behold delicate ecosystems, rare botanical specimens, and sweeping landscapes that bring the wonder of this mysterious part of our country to light. *America's Everglades: Through the Lens of Clyde Butcher* features 18 large-format photographs and highlights Butcher's artistic eye as well as his deep and long-standing commitment to conservation.

His work challenges us to explore the heritage we share in the natural world and to work together to protect it.

Have a question about what you see during your visit? Simply look for details in the Garden on our text chat feature, send us a message, and a member of our Education & Visitor Experience team will respond with an answer.

SUPPORTED BY: MATTAMY HOMES

Take the audio tour:  
bycell.co/cyjuw



We look forward to another exciting year of new waterlily hybrids in 2021!



Look for the waterlily competition tubs this summer in the Garden.

Be among the first visitors in the world to see these striking new varieties of waterlilies—right here in the Garden's Grove.



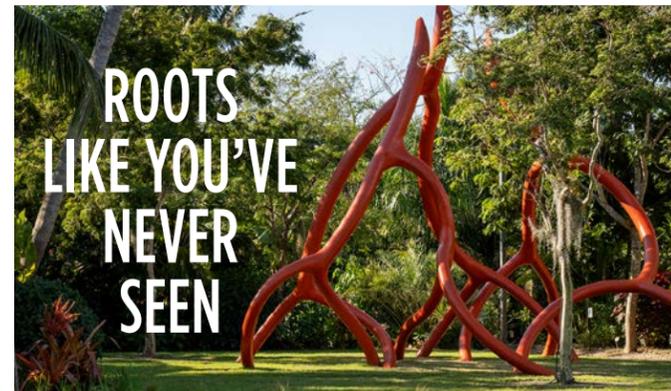
# GOPHER TORTOISE

FWC CERTIFICATION

When you have more than 130 burrows serving as home to 60 gopher tortoises, there's a chance some of those tortoises may, from time to time, need a helping hand. This is easier said than done when you're dealing with a threatened keystone species (more than 350 other species rely on those burrows they dig). Simply relocating the tortoises requires a permit as a Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation



Commission authorized agent. This spring, Cameron Cole, Plant Health Manager, underwent training and earned this certification to the benefit of the Garden and the gopher tortoises that call our grounds home.



Nature wends its way upward, as all that stays hidden below the Earth's surface is made visible in this exhibition, *Steve Tobin: Nature Underground*. These series of roots sculptures shaped from steel and cast bronze accent the Garden landscape now through September 6, 2021.

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## OUR DAILY BREAD FOOD PANTRY DISTRIBUTION DAYS

COVID-19 has affected many facets of our community, including a rise in food insecurity. To help offset this impact, the Garden has partnered with Our Daily Bread, Al's Pals, Alliance for Period Supplies of SWFL, and For the Love of Cats.

**What:** Distribution of free food, pet food, and sanitary products

**When:** 4th Thursday every month through December 2021 (excluding Thanksgiving). Check our social channels for distribution times.



**Where:** Naples Botanical Garden parking lot

**Who:** Distribution items are open to all and are first come, first served.

THE GARDEN IS YOUR CLASSROOM, AND NATURE YOUR PLAYGROUND.



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

Walk. Observe. Navigate. Draw. Explore. Read.

Pick up your W.O.N.D.E.R. packet at Ticketing, and prepare to experience a whole new world of possibilities during your visit.

**MAY:** Mother Earth, May I?

**JUNE:** Popular Pollinators

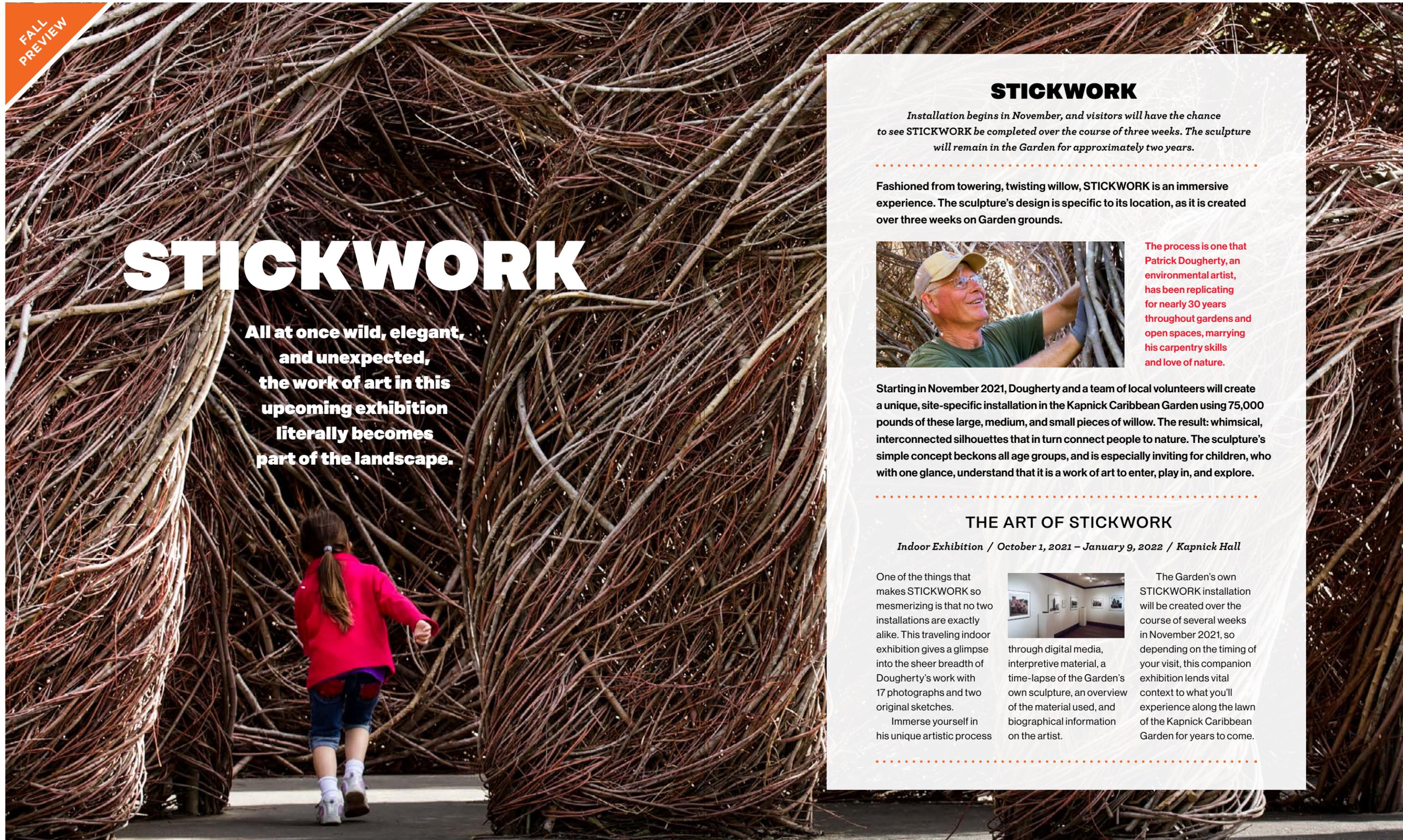
**JULY:** Floating Flora

**AUGUST:** Art Naturally

FALL  
PREVIEW

# STICKWORK

All at once wild, elegant,  
and unexpected,  
the work of art in this  
upcoming exhibition  
literally becomes  
part of the landscape.



## STICKWORK

Installation begins in November, and visitors will have the chance to see STICKWORK be completed over the course of three weeks. The sculpture will remain in the Garden for approximately two years.

Fashioned from towering, twisting willow, STICKWORK is an immersive experience. The sculpture's design is specific to its location, as it is created over three weeks on Garden grounds.



The process is one that Patrick Dougherty, an environmental artist, has been replicating for nearly 30 years throughout gardens and open spaces, marrying his carpentry skills and love of nature.

Starting in November 2021, Dougherty and a team of local volunteers will create a unique, site-specific installation in the Kapnick Caribbean Garden using 75,000 pounds of these large, medium, and small pieces of willow. The result: whimsical, interconnected silhouettes that in turn connect people to nature. The sculpture's simple concept beckons all age groups, and is especially inviting for children, who with one glance, understand that it is a work of art to enter, play in, and explore.

## THE ART OF STICKWORK

Indoor Exhibition / October 1, 2021 – January 9, 2022 / Kapnick Hall

One of the things that makes STICKWORK so mesmerizing is that no two installations are exactly alike. This traveling indoor exhibition gives a glimpse into the sheer breadth of Dougherty's work with 17 photographs and two original sketches.

Immerse yourself in his unique artistic process



through digital media, interpretive material, a time-lapse of the Garden's own sculpture, an overview of the material used, and biographical information on the artist.

The Garden's own STICKWORK installation will be created over the course of several weeks in November 2021, so depending on the timing of your visit, this companion exhibition lends vital context to what you'll experience along the lawn of the Kapnick Caribbean Garden for years to come.

## TENDING OUR PLANTS

### MINIMIZING OUR TOXICITY

PERSPECTIVE FROM CAMERON COLE, THE GARDEN'S PLANT HEALTH MANAGER



Check the irrigation water pH levels. Assess the plants for signs of adequate nutrition. Maintain the fertilizer injection system. Chart and plan for diseases before they strike. Identify pests and mitigate them. The tasks are numerous, to say the least.

Cameron Cole, the Garden's Plant Health Manager, spends his days helping our plants thrive. And he does so in as natural a way as possible—veering away from the path of traditional pesticides and leaning into often unexpected methods known as biocontrols, using other organisms to control disease and pests. (One eye-opening example: unleashing predatory insects on, well, other insects). While the Garden is not 100% organic in its horticulture and pest management, it strives to be innovative and holistic in its approach.

Here, Cameron shares with *Cultivate* his mindset on pest management and a peek at where the Garden is headed next.

These days it's not uncommon to see some insects that are completely immune to artificial pesticides. I would like to change the precedent to try to grow as organically as possible.

Staying organic is labor intensive: When using organic pesticides, you typically get adequate protection for a couple of weeks depending on how much rain you get, whereas when using something like a neonicotinoid, which is standard practice for many horticulture operations, you don't have to worry about that plant having pests for upward of six months. But it would also be detrimental to the Garden environment, as that plant would become toxic to any creature that interacts with it, such as bees and hummingbirds, as well as any beneficial insects that try to eat the pests on the plant.

I use stronger chemicals when absolutely necessary, as occasionally I'll run into pests that have no known predators, have some immunity to some organic pesticides, or are sheltered inside the plant, making them difficult to treat. Those cases are fairly rare, so treating with organics is usually fine.

We've already made strides by getting away from some dangerous pest control products (organophosphates) and moving more toward bacterial-based insecticides (Spinosad, Btk—*Bacillus thuringiensis kurstaki*—and beneficial insects).

I use a lot of what are called parasitoid wasps—super specialized species that use other insects for their reproductive processes. The pests that are the hardest to deal with—cactus moths, leaf miners, stem borers, and palm weevils—use the inside of plants for their life cycles.

On the flip side, there are instances where insects and microorganisms can be used to our advantage.

“I WOULD LIKE TO ...  
GROW AS  
ORGANICALLY  
AS POSSIBLE.”

Just as some bugs—think whiteflies, spider mites, thrips, mealy bugs—and fungi, *Ganoderma* (palm trunk rot) and *Rhizoctonia* large patch (affects Zoysiagrass)—can be enemies, it is easy to overlook the fact that most insects and fungi you find in the environment are beneficial to plants, rather than detrimental. Fungi actually are helpful to most plants' health, as they form beneficial relationships with many plant roots and allow them to pick up extra nutrients they wouldn't gain otherwise. With bugs, the more diversity you have in a garden setting, the less likely you are to develop a serious outbreak. On top of that, insects such as millipedes, for example, are essential for recycling plant nutrients back into the soil, lessening the need for additional fertilizer.

I foresee a future in which we release beneficial insects to control and perhaps even prevent a good chunk of outbreaks in the Garden, as well as focus more on nutrient cycling to promote soil microbes rather than bring in more fertilizer.



# Summer Gardening in Southwest Florida

Gardener Lauren Hardy shares best practices for your plants



Summer in Southwest Florida isn't for everyone, but if you are a plant person like all of us here at the Garden, the heat becomes a distant memory as you watch your plants thrive. Naples summers are ideal for a few reasons: warmth, sunlight, and RAIN! As plant people, we pray for rain, and over the summer months, we get a lot of it. Summer is the perfect time of year to plant your trees, prep your veggie beds, cut back shrubs, and watch everything in your garden flush out with new growth.

The conditions are ideal for your ever-growing plants, but Southwest Florida summers are notorious for climbing temperatures, which can easily lead to dehydration. So make sure you're drinking enough water, too, if you plan to be summer gardening.

## 1 Plant, plant, plant! (But check the forecast first.)

Whether you are a rookie or a veteran Southwest Florida gardener, there are a few tips and tricks you should know to navigate our slight change of seasons. Winter is not the ideal time for us at the Garden to undertake big plantings. We use the winter months as a time to develop plans and order new plants. The reason: Mother Nature's

all-natural sprinkler system—rain—is in full gear come summer, which acts as a supplement to irrigation to help the plants become established. One of the best times to get out and plant your trees is a summer day when it's overcast with a slight drizzle, or when you know a big rain is coming.

## 2 Give that soil a refresh.

### Give that soil a refresh.

The Southwest Florida veggie schedule is just one of many ways we differ from northern climates. A general rule of thumb for us is to reverse the growing instructions for veggies on the back of the seed package. Over summer we will plant cover crops, such as sweet potatoes, which help stop soil erosion, suppress weeds, and protect

the soil from losing nutrients due to sun exposure. We also solarize our veggie beds. Solarizing is when you lay a thick plastic over the top of your soil. This will kill any nematodes—parasitic roundworms—that can wreak havoc on your root systems; plus, it helps eradicate weeds and any weed seeds that might lay dormant in the bed.

## 3 Break out the pruners. And loppers. And chainsaws.

### Break out the pruners. And loppers. And chainsaws.

Summer months are also when we perform our cutbacks, or as we call it, renewal pruning. We do this in the summer so that the plants will have enough time to regrow before we have any danger of frost, which can damage freshly wounded plants. Now would be the time to take a step back and see what worked well for you last year,

how you would like to keep certain shrubs maintained, and what didn't work. Some plants respond well to a hard cutback, others can only take a slight trim, and some you might only selectively prune a few branches to encourage new growth.

## 4 It's a simple matter of sunlight.

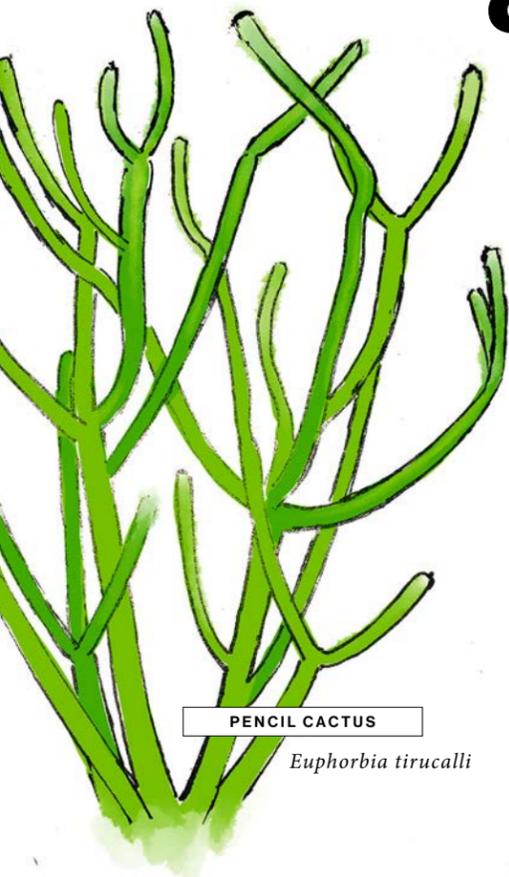
### It's a simple matter of sunlight.

Another reason to do some of your heavier gardening in the summer months is the change of sun exposure. This can impact your placement of certain plants or your placement of your container gardens. I find myself constantly shuffling my container gardens around to adjust for growth, sunlight, and aesthetics. If you plant

annuals in your containers, now is a good time to brainstorm what summer annuals you want to use and their ideal placement for summer sunlight!

# Is my cactus really a cactus?

(Quite possibly not!)



PENCIL CACTUS

*Euphorbia tirucalli*

Take the **pencil cactus**, for example. That plant, in fact, is *Euphorbia tirucalli*. Another misnomer is the **baseball cactus** (*Euphorbia obesa*).

The plants themselves don't make it easy, either. Visually, they can be deceiving, as members of both families include plants with spines, branching arms, and other similar characteristics.

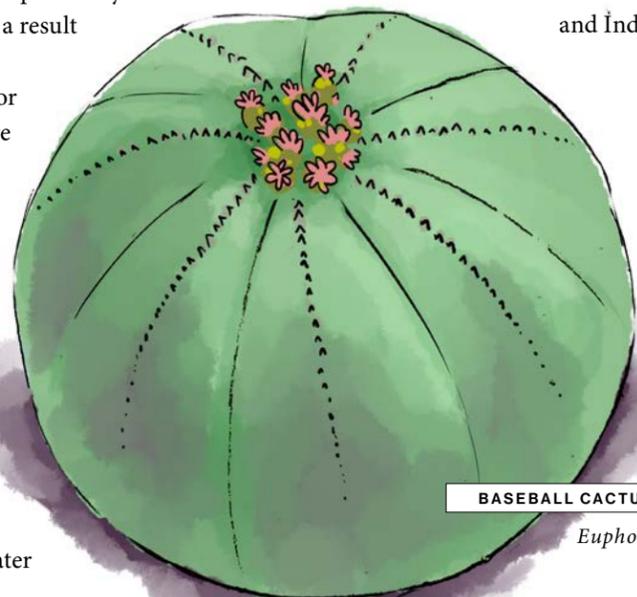
You probably assume cactus and euphorbia are closely related to each other. Not so. They are very distantly related and only look similar because of "convergent evolution," the process whereby organisms not closely related (not monophyletic), independently evolve similar traits as a result

of having to adapt to similar environments or ecological niches. There are many parts of the world that have long droughts, and the plants have evolved similar strategies to store water for long periods of time.

Further complicating things is the matter of succulents. Succulents are plants that store water

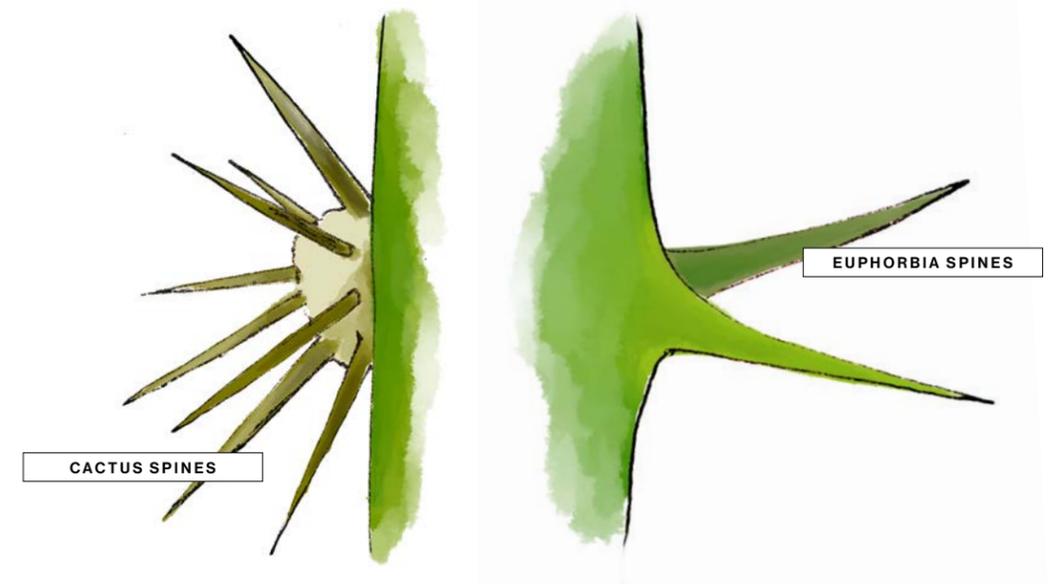
in leaves, stems or both. All cactus are succulents, but not all succulents are cactus. Euphorbia, however, also fall into the succulent category, along with plants such as agave, aloe, sedum, and hoyo.

So how do we know if we have a euphorbia or a cactus? First, cactus are native to the Americas only. You won't find cactus in Africa, India, Europe, or Asia ... except for a single species of mistletoe cactus (*Rhipsalis baccifera*), which is found in parts of Central America, the Caribbean and northern regions of South America, Africa, and Asia. Most euphorbia that resemble cactus come from Africa and India.



BASEBALL CACTUS

*Euphorbia obesa*



CACTUS SPINES

EUPHORBIA SPINES

Cactus usually have a clear, watery sap, and euphorbia have a milky, sticky sap (latex) that is often toxic. **Cactus spines**, which are modified leaves, occur in clusters of more than two on an areole.

**Euphorbia spines** are modified stems that occur in pairs and have no areoles.

Cactus and euphorbias flower but in very different ways. **Cactus flowers** are often large and showy; **euphorbia flowers**

are often a pale greenish-yellow color and understated. However, there are some euphorbias with brilliant flowers, like crown of thorns (*Euphorbia milli*), which are very common here in Southwest Florida.

Now when someone says, "Look at the cactus I bought!" You can take a closer look and perhaps respond ... "No, that's a euphorbia."

*Note: This article originally appeared in the Notes from the Garden blog, and is written by Mike Brewer, Horticulture Business Manager, who also tends the Foster Succulent Garden.*



EUPHORBIA FLOWERS



CACTUS FLOWERS

**Explore the Garden's collection of cactus and euphorbia** throughout our 80 acres of cultivated gardens. The possibilities of these dry-climate dwellers are concentrated in the Foster Succulent Garden with myriad potted varieties accenting vibrant plantings—inspiration for your own tropical oasis at home!

# Succulent, cactus & euphorbia care tips

When possible, it is always good to know what plant you have and where it came from, as it may have special care requirements. Here are some tips for 99% of your plants.

*(But remember, there are exceptions to every rule!)*

## water

- Only water when the soil is completely dry.
- Water the soil not the plant (no spray bottles).
- Not enough water = limp wrinkled leaves or plant.
- Overwatered = mushy leaves or loss of roots.
- Water in the morning and not the evening. It helps your plant not sit in water overnight.
- Water more frequently in summer.
- Reduce water in winter.

## light

- Most like full to partial sun.
- Morning sun and afternoon shade is preferable.
- Summer in Florida can be brutal ... so the shade in the afternoon is a good thing.
- If they have too little light, you will see stretching, fading, or their color will start to change.
- Indoor plants need a bright, sunny spot in a window. Another option: Consider using a grow light.

## soil

- Use well-draining sandy soil. Use a mix that has perlite, pumice, sand, or stalite.
- Stay away from soils with peat moss; it can attract fungus and hold water.
- Only fertilize in the growing season (typically spring and summer).
- Less is more when fertilizing. Do not overdo it, and use a fertilizer made for succulents or cactus.

## zone

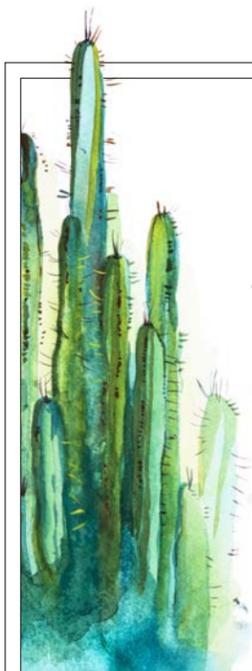
- Hardy succulents (zone 4–6) will survive the cold and grow well outdoors.
- Soft succulents (zone 8–10) need protection from frost. Great indoor plants.
- Here in Southwest Florida we can grow most plants outdoors year-round ... keeping in mind a few cold nights and a few long stretches of rain may damage your plants.

## pots

- Terracotta pots are best. They allow the plant to dry quicker and offer better airflow for the roots.
- Potted plants make it easy to control amount of light.
- Potted plants are also easy to move in and out during heavy rain seasons.
- Choose a pot that has good drainage.
- Many store-bought plants come in a decorative pot. Beware: They often do not have any drainage holes. Immediately put these into a new pot with drainage.

## pests

- Watch out for mealybugs, scale, and other pests crawling around your plants.
- If one plant is infested, remove it from the area where your other plants are, but treat them all.
- Treat plants with a mild soapy water or neem oil, or use a 50–70% isopropyl alcohol mix, and spray them daily until pests are gone. Do this in the early morning or late evening—spraying them in the midday heat may hurt your plants. Sometimes just a gentle spraying of water will remove your pests.



## Cacti under attack

We often think of cactus as tough, hardy, virtually indestructible. Unfortunately, the prickly defenses of the 16 species native to Puerto Rico are no match for two burgeoning pests—a species of mealybug and a parasitic cactus moth. Many of these cacti species are already considered to be endangered or imperiled.

To mitigate this threat, Naples Botanical Garden is collaborating with the US Department of Agriculture to ensure these species survive into the future. Starting this spring, the Garden began receiving cacti fruits and pads, which we'll propagate in preparation for their long-awaited return to the island.



Young visitors  
teach us how  
to experience this  
space in a whole  
new way.

# SECRETS OF THE GARDEN

We asked a few  
families how they  
experience the  
Garden together.  
Here's what they  
had to say:

ONCE, VICE PRESIDENT OF EDUCATION & INTERPRETATION Britt Patterson-Weber remembers strolling through the Garden with a young field trip participant. They were on their way to the Kapnick Caribbean Garden, and the boy reached out to touch a costus growing along the path.

"He just stopped, and his eyes grew big, and he said, 'We should call this kitten belly!'" The leaves were velvety in texture.

"You pet that costus, and that's exactly what it felt like—kitten belly," Patterson-Weber says. "I didn't know that leaf had a fuzzy underside. I know it as, 'costus, a member of the spiral ginger family.'"

That experience, she concludes, tells you a lot about how children interact with the outdoors, not to mention how much we grown-ups can learn from children.

It's summer vacation, and we know parents, grandparents, and caregivers of all sorts are looking for activities. We also know that some grownups may hesitate in selecting a botanical garden, unsure of what you should do with your kids once you get there.

Our advice: Let the kids be your guide. They're going to discover "kitten-belly" leaves and a million other natural wonders.

"I think sometimes we fall into this trap of thinking we have to provide something for kids to spur their imaginations," Patterson-Weber says. But the best experiences, she says, are the ones kids design using nature's "toybox." She remembers her own childhood and the hours she spent playing in the gnarled tree roots at her grandmother's house, a fantasyland for toy figurines. At the Garden, she's watched families marvel over stumbled-upon coconuts and young girls delight in tossing felled flower blooms into the air.

Please do not pick the flowers, but please do feel free to tinker with found objects!

"All of that play and interaction with the stuff that's out in the Garden is welcome, and I think it's effective because it's not contrived. We're not providing you with a pile of leaves or anything," Patterson-Weber says.

Besides, adds Education Programs Manager Kaitlyn Dillard, "Kids definitely don't use a space in a way we've designed it for." You may learn a lot about the way the kids see the world as you trail along on their Garden adventure.

## THE JACINTHE FAMILY

For the Jacinthe family, a trip to the Garden was a way to reconnect with their Haitian heritage. Nadege and Vladimir, who live in Tampa, took their children, Alexander, 6, and Hannah, 4, to the Garden for the first time.

We caught up with them in the Kapnick Caribbean Garden, near an *Attalea crassipatha* palm, a critically endangered species found only in southern Haiti. It had been planted just the month before, in February 2021, in

honor of a partnership with Jardin Botanique des Cayes in Haiti.

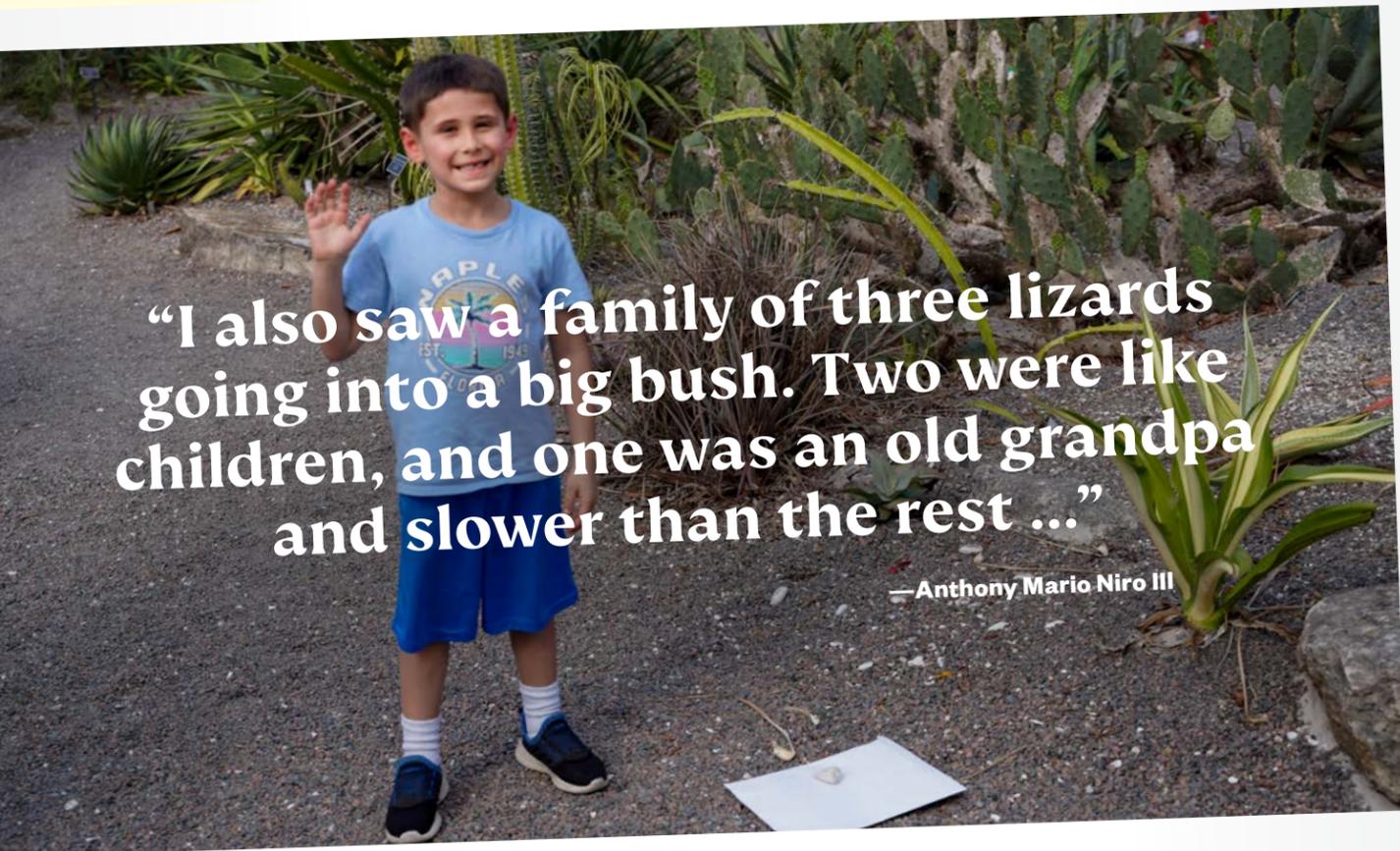
"The plants here definitely remind me of where I grew up in Haiti," says Vladimir.

Nadege says the family enjoyed the orchids, took photos by the pergola in the Caribbean Garden, and played around the *Circle of Friends* sculpture along the Performance Lawn. The children darted around their parents, with Alexander pausing long enough to answer a question about his favorite spots and where he might take a friend if they visited the Garden together.

"I like running and jumping in the Garden! I like flowers! I would show him the blue flower and the waterfall in the Brazilian Garden."

For the parents, the visit offered a chance to unwind and reflect.

"We just tell them about nature, about God's creation, just to appreciate and just something to clear their minds and relax as a family unit," Vladimir says.



**“I also saw a family of three lizards going into a big bush. Two were like children, and one was an old grandpa and slower than the rest ...”**

—Anthony Mario Niro III

**THE NIRO FAMILY**

**Y**ou don’t see lizards in Connecticut. That could explain the fascination 7-year-old Anthony Mario Niro III had with the tiny reptiles during a visit to the Garden with his mom, Samantha Niro.

“I also saw a family of three lizards going into a big bush. Two were like children, and one was an old grandpa and slower than the rest,” says Anthony. (To Patterson-Weber’s earlier point, you never know what creative descriptions kids will invent.)

Samantha Niro used the Garden’s audio tour feature and signage to learn more about the various plants and their characteristics—information she shared with her curious son.

“It is awesome because he’s learning not just about the plants, but he is learning to read by reading all the little name tags,” she says. “He is learning a lot, and it is great because we don’t have these tropical plants where we are. We have never seen these types of plants before.”

“Your senses play a huge role in the learning process,” Samantha notes.

“He has got a lot of sensory going on with touching things and smelling things and checking out the different colors,” she says. One tidbit gleaned through the audio tour: that crows use serrated edges of certain plants as tools (yes, tools!).

Upon grabbing a leaf off the ground, Anthony exclaims, “Mommy, look what I found! This fell off the plant.”

“As that rots, it becomes dirt to feed all the other plants,” his mom replies.

“Like the great circle of life!” exclaims Anthony.

**THE MARINO FAMILY**

**B**y the time we caught up with the Marino family of Naples—parents Lauren and Jorge, 8-year-old André and 10-year-old Aiyanna—in the LaGrippe Orchid Garden, they had already explored nearly every corner of our 170-acre property, including the 90-acre Preserve, which features an array of Southwest Florida

habitats, a lakeside trail, and the James and Linda White Birding Tower. The birds had generated quite a bit of excitement.

“The osprey nest in the Garden, my brother thought was like a fire tower! We saw a bird in it—not a small one, a big one!” says Aiyanna.

Since they had explored so much, we decided to ask the kids a couple of questions. (Hint: Caregivers, this is a fun way to keep the kiddos engaged.)

**If you could take your friend anywhere in the Garden, where would you go?**

**AIYANNA:** “I would like to show my friend the alligator overlook!”

**ANDRÉ:** “The ghost orchid bridge!”

**If you could have a house in the Garden, where would you build it?**

**AIYANNA:** “I think I would pick the orchid garden to have a house in because I like the flowers and stuff.”

**ANDRÉ:** “If I could build my house anywhere in the Garden, I would build my house in the field aka the Preserve or the Birding Tower.”



**“I would like to show my friend the alligator overlook.”**

—Aiyanna Marino

## Spice – and spritz – your palate with these recipes!

Perfect for an evening patio party or a weekend summer brunch, these recipes from Chef Jack Raben of Fogg Café offer ample opportunities to spring into summer!

The passion fruit Aperol spritz tastes super sweet mixed with the orange juice and offers a perfect balance with the bubbles of the champagne and the bitterness of the Aperol. The green papaya salad is light and crisp with a blend of refreshing flavors and spice followed by a peppery finish of the edible nasturtium flower.



### Passion Fruit and Aperol Spritzer

#### Passion fruit pulp

Cut the fresh passion fruit in half, scoop the pulp and seeds, and discard the rind.

Pulse in a food processor or blender to break the seeds out of the pulp, but not puree them.

Push through a fine- to-medium strainer (excess juice may be frozen for later use).

#### Spritzer

Tip: Cut the passion fruit with fresh squeezed orange juice to smooth out the flavor profile.

3 ounces sparkling wine

2 ounces passion fruit and orange juice mixture

(2:1 orange to passion fruit juice)

1 ounce Aperol

Serve over ice and your choice of garnish.

*Want to turn your spritzer into a mocktail? Sub the sparkling wine and Aperol with sparkling water, and a dash of grenadine.*

### Green Papaya Salad

1 large green papaya, peeled and seeded, shaved on a mandolin with medium teeth into strips, or peeled into ribbons and then cut into strips

*Note: If the papaya is too crunchy, salt first, and then strain for 10 minutes; if it is too soft, soak in ice water for 10 minutes.*

2-3 Chinese celery stalks, thinly sliced at an angle (*substitute option: regular celery*)

½ English cucumber, seeds removed and thinly sliced or spiraled into ribbons

½ cup pickled carrots (*recipe at right*)

½ cup pickled and torn mint and cilantro leaves (*basil may be added*)

½ cup roasted and salted peanuts (*optional for allergens*)

¾ cup fish sauce vinaigrette (*recipe at right*)

#### *Want to create a vegan version?*

Use ½ cup light soy in place of fish sauce or ¼ tamari for vegan and gluten-free.

*Note: Tamari has a much higher sodium level than soy.*

#### Pickled Carrots (*Yields one cup*)

½ cup rice vinegar

½ cup sugar

½ teaspoon kosher salt

1 cup julienned carrots

3-4 mint stems and leaves

*Bring water, sugar, and salt to a boil and simmer until salt and sugar dissolve. Remove from heat, add mint and carrots, and let stand 20 minutes. May be refrigerated up to five days.*

#### Fish Sauce Vinaigrette (*Yields 1½ cups*)

½ cup fish sauce

¼ cup sugar

¼ cup white or rice vinegar

1 lime, juiced

1 clove garlic, minced

1 inch peeled ginger, minced

2 Thai chilis, stemmed, seeded, and minced

*Note: Gloves are recommended when handling the Thai chilis. Even though the sugar helps temper the spice level, you may opt to substitute with a less spicy chili.*

*Mix all until sugar is dissolved; serve or refrigerate one week.*

Thanks to Chef Jack Raben for this recipe.

To see a full menu of what the Fogg Café team is serving up this summer, visit [naplesgarden.org](http://naplesgarden.org).

**Members save 10% on purchases in Fogg Café and the Berger Shop in the Garden.**



**A**  
Dendrobium orchid  
\$54

**B**  
African violet  
\$6

**C**  
Phalaenopsis orchid  
\$35

**D**  
Kokedama, money tree  
\$84

**E**  
Kokedama, bromeliad  
\$54

## Backyard bliss

Dress up your outdoor space, whether it is your backyard, lanai, porch, or deck, and turn this area into your own creative greenhouse. Plants add zen to every space, especially an outdoor area where you can soak up the sun and enjoy the peaceful ambiance.

Invite the art of Kokedama into your exterior space. These potless plants covered in a ball of moss can last up to three years! It is best to keep Kokedamas in the shade while outside.

Phalaenopsis and dendrobium orchids and African violets, on the other hand, prefer indirect light, so they can be a bit out of the shade, but not in direct sun.

# Frequently Asked Questions

## How can I contact the Membership Office?

The Garden's Membership Office is staffed 9am–4pm, Monday–Friday. You can contact us via email at [membership@naplesgarden.org](mailto:membership@naplesgarden.org), or call 239.315.7293.

## How can I locate my membership ID?

Your membership ID is located on your membership card and at the top of your monthly Member-Only email. If you need your membership ID, you can contact the Membership Office at [membership@naplesgarden.org](mailto:membership@naplesgarden.org), or call 239.315.7293.

## I have been a Member in the past. If I renew, am I considered a new Member or a renewal?

If you have been a Member with us in the past, you are still in our system and are considered a renewal. If you are not sure and would like us to check, please contact us at [membership@naplesgarden.org](mailto:membership@naplesgarden.org) or by calling Visitor Services at 239.325.1354.

## I lost my membership card. What should I do?

A replacement card can be requested by emailing [membership@naplesgarden.org](mailto:membership@naplesgarden.org). Your membership ID will remain the same. The new card will be mailed within 1–2 weeks once we receive your request.

## I'm not receiving email updates from the Garden. Can you add my email address to my membership account?

Certainly. The Garden's email updates provide announcements on upcoming events and Member benefits, so we don't want you to miss out on anything! Please send an email to [membership@naplesgarden.org](mailto:membership@naplesgarden.org) with the full name, address, and email address(es) you would like added. To ensure that you receive our email communications, please add the following email addresses to your email contact list: [membership@naplesgarden.org](mailto:membership@naplesgarden.org), [tickets@naplesgarden.org](mailto:tickets@naplesgarden.org), and [email@naplesgarden.org](mailto:email@naplesgarden.org).

## Can I upgrade my membership?

Yes! Membership can be upgraded simply by paying the difference between levels. However, if the expiration date is four months away or less, we ask that you renew your membership at the new level. The month of expiration will remain the same allowing you extra time with your new benefits. Please call us at 239.325.1354, and we will be happy to assist you.

## Where can I find information on reciprocal Garden partners, claim my bonus magazine offer, and find the most recent issue of *Cultivate*, the Garden magazine?

Members can visit [naplesgarden.org/membership](http://naplesgarden.org/membership) to find information on benefits at each membership level, plus much more. From this page, you can also view a list of reciprocal garden partners across the state, claim your complimentary subscription to *Better Homes & Gardens* or *Martha Stewart Living*, and download the most recent issue of *Cultivate*, the Garden magazine.

## We live here seasonally and would like to update our mailing preferences. How can I do that?

Great question! Our membership database can hold multiple addresses, allowing us to send mail depending on where you are during a specific time of the year. Send us an email at [membership@naplesgarden.org](mailto:membership@naplesgarden.org) with your mailing address(es) and the specific months you are there, and we will be happy to update your account. Please note that once you make these updates, you only need to contact us should something change.

## Why am I receiving a renewal reminder before my expiration date?

The Garden sends a series of renewal reminders roughly three months ahead of your expiration date. You never lose any time by renewing early; we simply add 12 months to your current expiration date.

## Why did I receive a renewal reminder after making a membership contribution?

On occasion, you may receive an additional reminder after renewing. Our mailing lists are created a few weeks prior to the mailing. If your membership contribution was processed after the list was created, you may receive an additional reminder.

You can always view your current membership information by visiting [naplesgarden.org/membership](http://naplesgarden.org/membership) and clicking on Members Login to access your membership record. If you need documentation of your most recent membership gift, please email [membership@naplesgarden.org](mailto:membership@naplesgarden.org).

## Digital membership cards are now available!

The Garden has partnered with Cuseum to deliver a green alternative to our plastic cards. No more misplacing your card or not having your Membership ID or expiration date handy. Over the month of May, active Members with an email address in our system will receive an email with download instructions. We hope you will take advantage of this convenient way to carry your Garden membership with you anytime and anywhere. Visit [naplesgarden.org/membership](http://naplesgarden.org/membership) for details.

## Visit [naplesgarden.org](http://naplesgarden.org) to plan your next visit! Get programming details, plus vital health and safety updates.

## Royal Palm Society

## Why I Give

Mary Avellina, Royal Palm Society member, pictured with the Javanese temple ruins in the Lea Asian Garden



Like most regulars, Mary Avellina has her standard route through the Garden. Hers typically starts in the Kapnick Brazilian Garden and ends in the Lea Asian Garden.

But on her long-awaited first walk back following the Garden's three-month closure due to COVID-19, she noticed something that would stand to change that time-tested routine. Tucked into a corner of the Lea Asian Garden, the replica of 15th century Javanese temple ruins grabbed her attention. Looking upon the feature after so many months gave her a new perspective on it—and its needs.

"For some reason, the ruins looked like they needed a little tender, loving care," Mary says. Weather, moisture, and the months away had taken a toll on the statues, first created in Bali in 2010 before being transported and assembled in the Garden.

"I thought if I talked to someone, something could happen," she adds.

She went a step further, offering to sponsor the area's refresh, including a cutback of the canopy.

It's just another way Mary contributes to the Garden, where she's volunteered since 2004, before the grounds were built. In those days, our sole public showcase was the Mosaic Garden, flanking the Administration building. It is there Mary has gone for the past 17 years—excluding the pandemic—to assist with everything from mailings to giveaway bag preparation leading up to the annual Hats in the Garden fundraiser.

This longtime Garden supporter gives also to our mission through contributions as a Royal Palm Society Member and even has included the Garden in her estate planning via the Perennial Legacy Society. Here, she shares more on what the Garden means to her, as well as her new walking route these days.

"I personally get pleasure being in the Garden. I enjoy sharing and showing it — just that little bit of brightness."

— MARY AVELLINA

### Favorite place in the Garden

*"The Javanese ruins. And the Lea Asian Garden is the coolest spot in the Garden—literally—there is so much shade. Now I'm walking the other way and walking through the Asian Garden and coming around."*

### What the Garden means to you

*"It's a place to share with my friends and family over the years to show how it has changed. When I joined, it was just a little garden. The vision grew as the Garden grew."*

### Advice on giving

*"Give within your own range, on your own level. As a Member, when I bring someone into the Garden, I'm always so proud of everything. If you can do something to make it nicer, you should."*

**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.**

## PERENNIAL LEGACY SOCIETY

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](mailto:clearned@naplesgarden.org).

To learn more about becoming a Royal Palm Society member, visit [naplesgarden.org/membership](http://naplesgarden.org/membership).



ANNOUNCING A SEASON OF

# Hats in the Garden

## Cherry Pink & Apple Blossom White

Hats in the Garden Chair | Linda Koehn

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Hats in the Garden VIP Patron Party  
A KICKOFF OF NAPLES' SOCIAL SEASON  
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~ BY INVITATION ~

18th Annual Hats in the Garden  
LUNCHEON AND FASHION PROGRAM  
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 30, 2022

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Naples Botanical GARDEN

For VIP Updates on Instagram: follow @hatsinthegarden  
Questions and Sponsorship: hatsinthegarden@naplesgarden.org



'Sloppy painter' (*Codiaeum variegatum*)

**“Foliage plants are a great solution for year-round color in a variety of shapes and sizes.”**

— Liz Chehayl, Brian Holley Curator of Collections, on seven plants to keep your space vibrant for all Southwest Florida seasons (however subtle those changes in season may be!).

[naplesgarden.org/allyearcolor](https://naplesgarden.org/allyearcolor)

# Naples Botanical GARDEN

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