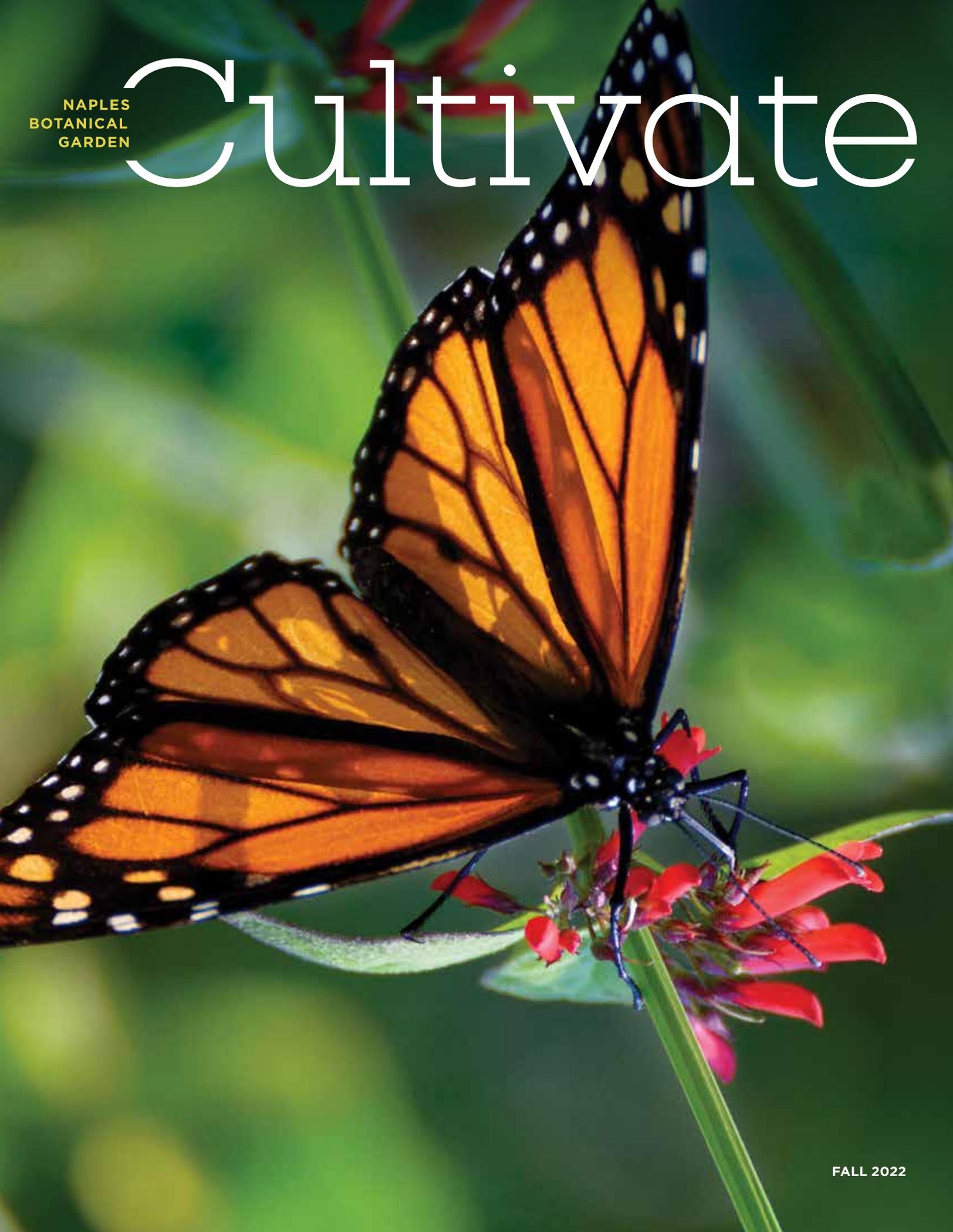


NAPLES
BOTANICAL
GARDEN

Cultivate



FALL 2022



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

A monarch butterfly (*Danaus plexippus*) perches upon a firespike (*Odontonema cuspidatum*). While many monarchs migrate south to Mexico each fall, a subset call South Florida home year-round. See page 5 for details on our companion exhibition in Fogg Café featuring monarchs.
Photo: Paul Osborn

TABLE OF CONTENTS

<p>5 What's Happening</p> <hr/> <p>11 Perspectives <i>Forging Connections</i></p> <hr/> <p>13 How-To <i>Your Winter Veggie Garden, Reimagined</i></p> <hr/> <p>27 From Fogg Café</p>	 <p>15 Why Mexico? <i>Contributions of This Country's Teeming Plant Life</i></p>	 <p>17 <i>La Calavera Catrina</i> <i>Icon of Día de los Muertos</i></p>	<p>26 Berger Shop Finds</p> <hr/> <p>29 Membership News</p> <hr/> <p>33 Garden Visionaries</p> <hr/> <p>35 Donor Profile</p> <hr/> <p>37 Sustaining Leadership Council</p> <hr/> <p>38 From the Garden Blog</p>	 <p>21 After the Storm <i>Science-Based Recovery</i></p>
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CULTIVATE FALL 2022

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“A change in the weather is enough to recreate the world and ourselves.”

—Marcel Proust

In the spirit of that quote, we are trying to find the good in something that hurt so badly.

On the eve of our most ambitious season opening yet, Mother Nature walloped us with Hurricane Ian, which struck just weeks after the fifth anniversary of Hurricane Irma. For the month of October, we directed all our attention to meeting the needs of staff, saving our collections, and supporting the community in any way that we could.

We are storm weary, as I'm sure you are. But we are determined to use these experiences to move us forward. We used Irma as a catalyst to redefine ourselves as we rebuilt. In fact, shortly after that storm, we began laying the groundwork for the Evenstad Horticulture Campus, which is now well underway. This project will propel us into our future, by allowing us to expand our collections, refine our horticultural and conservation practices, and enjoy the expansive nurseries and greenhouses needed to support our ever-changing Garden. Following Ian, we are focused on science. Together with colleagues from Florida Gulf Coast University, we are trying to learn more about the movement of water, so we better understand flood and storm



Muertos. We hope they invite your curiosity and compel you to join us for our Día de los Muertos Celebration on November 5 & 6, where you can learn more about this holiday and its beautiful tribute to family and spirituality.

The new year opens with *Frida and Her Garden* (January 14–September 10, 2023), arguably our most ambitious exhibition to date, as it required us to re-imagine, reconfigure, and replant a large section of the Garden. This exhibition honors famed Mexican painter Frida Kahlo and replicates *La Casa Azul* (Blue House), her Mexico City home and place of refuge and inspiration. We're also excited to feature local photographer Lisette Morales McCabe, who turns her lens and audio recorder on local women of Hispanic origin and how they keep traditions alive through plants. *Viva la Vida: Plants, Stories, and Cultural Heritage* will be on display April 7–September 4, 2023.

It's because of your support that we can make these things happen. I hope to see you in the Garden ... often!



Donna McGinnis
President & CEO

surge risk. We are studying fallen trees so we can make data-based recommendations on the kinds of trees and growing practices that best withstand wind. We'll share our findings with the community.

We know we play another important role: serving as a place of respite, and cultural and communal gatherings.

While this season's long-awaited opening may have been delayed, we are thrilled to present our first yearlong cultural exploration, *Mexico: A Celebration of Plants & Culture*.

Our programming includes new tours and daily programs, three major art exhibitions, and our first-ever Día de los Muertos Celebration. *La Calavera Catrina*, featuring the monumental figures by California-based, Mexican-born artist Ricardo Soltero, kicks off the season. These ornate female skeletons have become synonymous with *Día de los*

✉ Questions and letters to the editor may be sent to email@naplesgarden.org

What's Happening

Up & Autumn

Fall ushers in the return to a season brimming with Garden-inspired events and programs.

Included with Garden admission



La vendedora de frutas, Ricardo Soltero, 2017 © Scott Dressel-Martin, Courtesy Denver Botanic Gardens

On View Through March 5, 2023

This season, experience the colorful and distinct exhibition of *La Calavera Catrina*, which celebrates life through *La Catrina*, the most notable figure of *Día de los Muertos*, with captivating sculptures by Ricardo Soltero.

La Calavera Catrina is organized by Denver Botanic Gardens.

Monarchs Take Flight

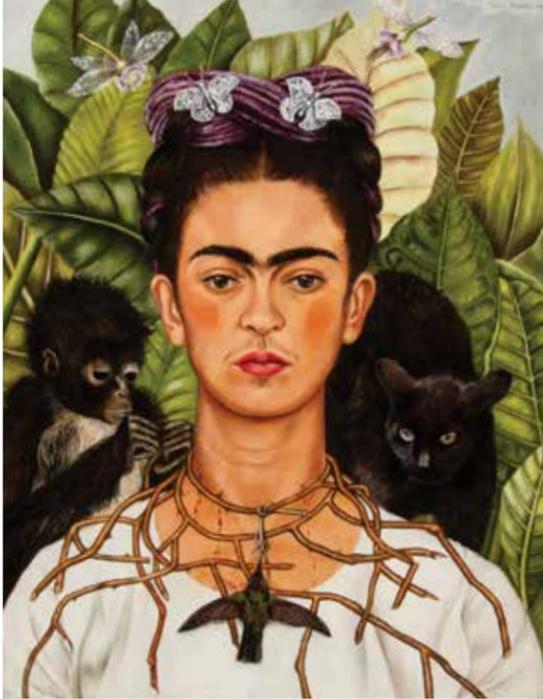
On View in Fogg Café Through January 29, 2023

Immerse yourself in this reflective piece of Mexican culture with the Garden's companion exhibition to *La Calavera Catrina*. Ricardo Soltero wistfully intertwines the vibrance of *Día de los Muertos* through these oversized monarch butterfly sculptures. Monarchs play an essential role in *Día de los Muertos*, as their migrations and arrival to Mexico are timed with the holiday, and therefore believed to carry the souls of the departed.



November 5 & 6, 2022

Let's celebrate *Día de los Muertos* (Day of the Dead) together in the Garden! Rooted in Mexico, this vibrant holiday is a time for family and friends to share memories of loved ones. Discover the holiday's significance and rich culture through special displays, guided tours, and arts and crafts stations. Dive into the energy of this cultural cornerstone by joining in on live music, dance performances, and delicious dishes. Take your whole family on an enriching adventure through the plants, colors, sounds, and flavors of *Día de los Muertos*. Extended hours on November 5 mean you can enjoy a sunset viewing of *La Calavera Catrina*, a specialty cocktail, and more live music in the Scott Florida Garden.



Frida Kahlo (Mexican, 1907–1954), *Untitled [Self-portrait with thorn necklace and hummingbird]*, 1940. Oil on canvas mounted to board. Nickolas Muray Collection of Mexican Art, 66.6 © 2022 Banco de México Diego Rivera Frida Kahlo Museums Trust, Mexico, D.F. / Artists Rights Society (ARS), New York.

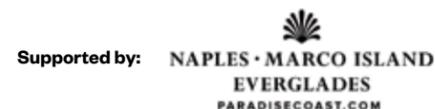


On View Starting January 14, 2023

Venture into the world of Frida Kahlo (1907–1954) as you explore a re-creation of *La Casa Azul*, the artist's iconic blue home in Coyoacán, Mexico City. A year in the making, this exhibition is a garden within the Garden, teeming with plants that inspired her paintings, those that embellished her home, and those that reflect Mexico's rich heritage. Throughout the Garden, you'll also encounter monumental animal sculptures adorned with folk art representing important influences on Kahlo's life and work.

Plus! Enjoy Frida After 5, first Fridays, February through May.

Your Garden stays open late so you can explore the exhibition after hours, enjoy a Frida-themed cocktail, and delight in festive music.



Sponsored in part by the State of Florida, Department of State, Division of Arts and Culture, the Florida Council on Arts and Culture, and the National Endowment for the Arts.



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Special thanks to Banco de México Diego Rivera and Frida Kahlo Museums Trust

GULFSHORE LIFE



Music in the Garden

Unwind pondside in the lush surroundings of the Garden as you listen to local musical acts, every second Saturday from 2–4pm November through May (12–2pm in June). Bring a blanket, a chair, and stretch out on the Performance Lawn for a relaxing afternoon.

2022:	2023:
November 12	January 14
December 10	February 11

Get the full season lineup:

Birding in the Garden

Tuesdays at 8am

The early bird(ers) get the worm! Revel in the avian species that call the Garden home as you join our birding volunteers on this weekly morning walk in our 90-acre Preserve. Plus, scope out breathtaking views of restored native Florida wetlands from your vantage point on the Jim and Linda White Birding Tower.

LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES AROUND IN THE GARDEN

FOR KIDS & FAMILIES



W.O.N.D.E.R

10:30am daily

There's something new to learn every time you step foot in the Garden with W.O.N.D.E.R., drop-in programming geared toward the young learners in your life. Join us in person, or pick up a W.O.N.D.E.R. Activity Pack at Ticketing, and learn at your own pace during your Garden adventure.

NOV – Super Seeds
DEC – Tree-mendous Trees
JAN – Feathered Friends

FOR ADULTS

Dig Deeper

Twice daily at 11:30am & 1pm

We spice up botanical know-how in the Garden with exciting new offerings inspired by the plants of Mexico. From edible pepper varieties for adventurous learners to the botany of brewing—mezcal and tequila, that is!—to exploring the myriad tropical fruits entwined in Frida Kahlo's paintings, there's something for everyone.

Daily Tours

Get your fill of Garden knowledge as you explore our grounds with a Garden Educator. These tours accommodate a maximum of 16 guests, so there's always an opportunity to ask questions and see our collections up close.



2022-2023 SEASON TOPICS:

- Highlights & History
- Natural Areas
- Water Features & Aquatic Plants
- Orchids & Epiphytes
- Pollinators & Plants **NEW!**
- Cacti & Succulents **NEW!**
- Plants Mexico Gave the World **NEW!**
- Comida y Cultura **NEW!**
Learn about the food plants of Mexico

Prefer to go it alone?

Venture through the Garden while listening to a self-guided smartphone tour, available in English and Spanish. Haitian Creole coming soon.



MEMBERSHIP PERKS: JOHNSONVILLE NIGHT LIGHTS IN THE GARDEN TICKET PRESALE



THE VIBRANCE OF WINTER IN THE TROPICS is on full display during this beloved annual event. Stroll the Garden illuminated in thousands of lights, delight in live musical performances, and soak up the spirit of the season that is distinctly Southwest Florida. Plus, behold the magic of multiple open-air garden exhibitions in lights, with *STICKWORK* and *La Calavera Catrina*.

Member presale:
October 24–November 6

November 25–December 15

Adult Member: \$15
 Child Member: \$7
 Adult Non-Member: \$30
 Child Non-Member: \$14

December 16–January 1

Adult Member: \$18
 Child Member: \$8
 Adult Non-Member: \$36
 Child Non-Member: \$16

TITLE SPONSOR:



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Need scheduling flexibility? See naplesgarden.org for our new flex ticket option.

WHAT'S NEW IN YOUR GARDEN



Photo: John Eder

Horticulture Campus Construction

Starting this fall, if your Garden stroll takes you to the Scott Florida Garden, adjacent to the paths alongside Deep Lake, expect to gaze upon a very different viewshed. Construction continues on the Garden's 66,000-square-foot Evenstad Horticulture Campus. Plumbing and electrical utilities went into the ground

in September, with concrete foundation pouring slated for October. By January, you may see metal fabrication and installation—the Propagation and Orchid houses taking shape. Upon completion in 2023, the campus will not only enhance our cultivated gardens, it will strengthen our capacity to provide storm-resilient plants throughout Southwest Florida, protect threatened plants, and grow relationships throughout the Caribbean.

Oaks in the Preserve

Garden conservationists trekked out to the Preserve one recent morning bearing two saplings, ready for planting.

They were Chapman's oak (*Quercus chapmanii*), a native species that the staff had grown from wild-collected seeds. The planting was significant: It contributed to a nationwide oak conservation effort.

An analysis of the nation's 91 native oak trees found that 28 species, including Chapman's oak, were considered of "conservation concern" because of habitat degradation, climate change and other stressors, or because they



Photo: Jennifer Reed

Jessica DeYoung, Conservation Horticulture Manager, waters a Chapman's oak recently planted in the Preserve.

lacked adequate protection in botanical collections. For now, Chapman's oak persists in the wild, although its arid

environments are quickly disappearing due to real estate development. The analysis, published in 2019, identified 17 trees in botanical collections.

We had a few Chapman's oak trees on site, but their populations were too small for reproductive viability. Adding additional trees will strengthen the Garden's population and boost our efforts to conserve it in its native habitat.

Read the full story:



The 2022 intern class, with, from front left, Britt Patterson-Weber, Vice President of Education & Interpretation; Judy Sproul, who has supported the internship program since its inception; Jennifer Sullivan, Naples Botanical Garden Board Member, and Elizabeth Beans, Associate Director of Horticulture.



Charting a Promising Career Path

The Garden's internship program is back and thriving after a two-year pause due to the pandemic. The program expanded this year, with twice the number of interns as previously hired in 2019. Approximately a dozen interns brought fresh perspectives and energy to the Horticulture,

Conservation, Education, and Marketing teams. In turn, interns gained invaluable experience in their respective fields and insight into the uniqueness and beauty of our Garden.



For more information on internship and employment opportunities in the Garden, visit naplesgarden.org/employment.



Garden in our Community

Our Daily Bread food distributions continue in the Garden parking lot for the 2022–2023 season. We are so glad to work with community partners Our Daily Bread Mobile Food Pantry, For the Love of Cats, and the Alliance for Period Supplies.

Distributions occur the fourth Thursday of every month, except Thanksgiving.

UPCOMING DATES:

- (NO DISTRIBUTION NOVEMBER 24)
- DECEMBER 22
- JANUARY 26
- FEBRUARY 23



Photo: Darby Kordonowy

The Joy of Giving Back

Kara Laufer, Director of Community Relations

Meet Kara Laufer, the Garden's Director of Community Relations. After a decade on the job and more than two working in the nonprofit sector, she shares more on her role connecting the Garden with our community. The daughter of a florist and plant lover herself, there's nothing she enjoys more than sharing the benefits of nature with those who live and work in this special corner of the world.

One of my favorite aspects of my job is hearing from people about their special time they've spent in the Garden. Visitors are taking their experiences home to places around the globe, and the Garden is a part of our community's collective memory.

After being here 10 years, I'm still excited about the mission and to see where the Garden will go next. I'm motivated by the way that we're growing. It's exciting being part of a young organization, because we can be nimble, and say "yes" more often. The sheer diversity of people I work with—from tourism specialists to social service providers to businesses—keeps things fresh and engaging. It makes you realize how everything is connected.

We are a community anchor, and we have the ability to serve as a hub, to bring together people to impact issues such as conservation, education, and wellness. Bringing a variety of perspectives to the Garden is important.

Connecting people to the Garden is at the core of our community programs. There are a lot of connecting points to the Garden, and the thought of a whole segment of our population not having access to that is mind-blowing. And you think, "Who have we missed? Who is not able to visit the Garden?"

I keep a kit of Garden collateral and passes in my car, so I am always able to share the Garden at meetings and events and even while running errands. Introducing the Garden to new audiences is extremely rewarding.

When I consider our community, though, I think about how much Naples has changed and diversified. If we want families to build memories with us, we need to make sure we are cultivating a welcoming, inclusive space. Language is an effort that we are taking genuine strides in, with programming and signage. It will be a continuous effort, and we continue to get better.

We're reaching even more people to offer ongoing admission as a result of the 2022 *Hats in the Garden* Fund-a-Need, which expanded



Kara Laufer, left, during a July 2020 community tree giveaway

our Garden for All Community Access program. With this year's record-breaking support, we are now seeing educators and others from essential employment roles in Collier, Lee, and Charlotte counties enjoying the Garden, many for the first time.

We also partner with human services agencies to introduce more of our community to the Garden and to ensure that those who need it most can enjoy the healing power of nature. It's a lot, and it's growing: United Way, Grace Place, Salvation Army, and Catholic Charities along with the Shelter for Abused Women & Children, Habitat for Humanity, veterans' organizations, NAMI Collier County (National Alliance on Mental Illness), David Lawrence Center, Naples Pride, STARability, AVOW Hospice, Naples Senior Center, and Alzheimer's Support Network are some of the amazing partner organizations that we work with regularly. We've recently shared access with Valerie's House, which serves children who have lost a

"Who are we missing? Who is not visiting the Garden? Our plants are diverse—our audience should be just as diverse."

parent; it is our hope that time spent in the Garden can provide respite for the children they serve. It's all about bringing the Garden to those who can benefit from its magic and removing something as simple as the financial barrier for access.

We partner with human service providers in other ways, too. For example, every month, we turn over a section of our parking lot to Our Daily Bread for one of its many food distributions. Last year, 1,500 families came through our site with about 30% from the Garden's zip code, and in 2022

the pantry is breaking records. Approximately 50% of recipients are the Garden's neighbors. The Alliance for Period Supplies and For the Love of Cats share other essentials. Each bag of dry goods includes vouchers for Garden admission, and families are offered our W.O.N.D.E.R. Activity Packs. The synergy is powerful to witness each month.

While we're delighted to see more new faces than ever before, we continue to ask ourselves: Who are we missing? Who is not visiting the Garden? Our plants are diverse—our audience should be just as diverse.

The Garden is very much behind these efforts, from the board, staff, and volunteers; it is part of our ethos. We are a force for good, and the pandemic crystallized this intention. It highlighted the essential role we fill in the community, and I cherish the role I am filling to help make the Garden one everyone can experience.



Your Winter Veggie Garden, Reimagined

Pro Tips from Lilli Ganstrom, Garden Educator

While much of the country is shivering, Floridians are getting ready for growing season and the bountiful winter harvest to come. Florida, in fact, supplies much of the nation's wintertime produce with tomatoes as one of our biggest exports.

Here, Lilli Ganstrom, a Garden Educator and Vice President of Florida Gulf Coast University's Food Forest club, lays the groundwork for a successful winter harvest and offers inventive ways to mix species and design your garden space.

In keeping with this year's theme, *Mexico: A Celebration of Plants & Culture*, we look to our southern neighbor for gardening inspiration. In Aztec and Mayan civilizations, it was common practice to plant crops in groups where each species could benefit the others. Corn, beans, and squash were commonly grown together in a guild or grouping known as the "Three Sisters." Farmers today still utilize this system. Grouping plants together in this method mimics successful symbiotic relationships in nature.

The corn acts as a trellis for vining legumes. The beans replace the nitrogen that the corn saps from the soil. Squash acts as a groundcover, protecting the crops from weeds. (For more on the connections between the Garden's collections and the plants of Mexico, see page 15.)

Consider Companion Planting

You can use a similar strategy in your garden, by clustering plants and strategically placing various species among each other.

"Avoid rows," Ganstrom advises. "Rows of the same plant make them more susceptible to insect damage, reduce water efficiency, and deplete your soil of nutrients. Imagine you're standing in the middle of a field, and there's a storm coming. You're going to want a house, you're going to want people around you. Establishing two or more plant species together results in a higher yield and improves the overall health of your garden."

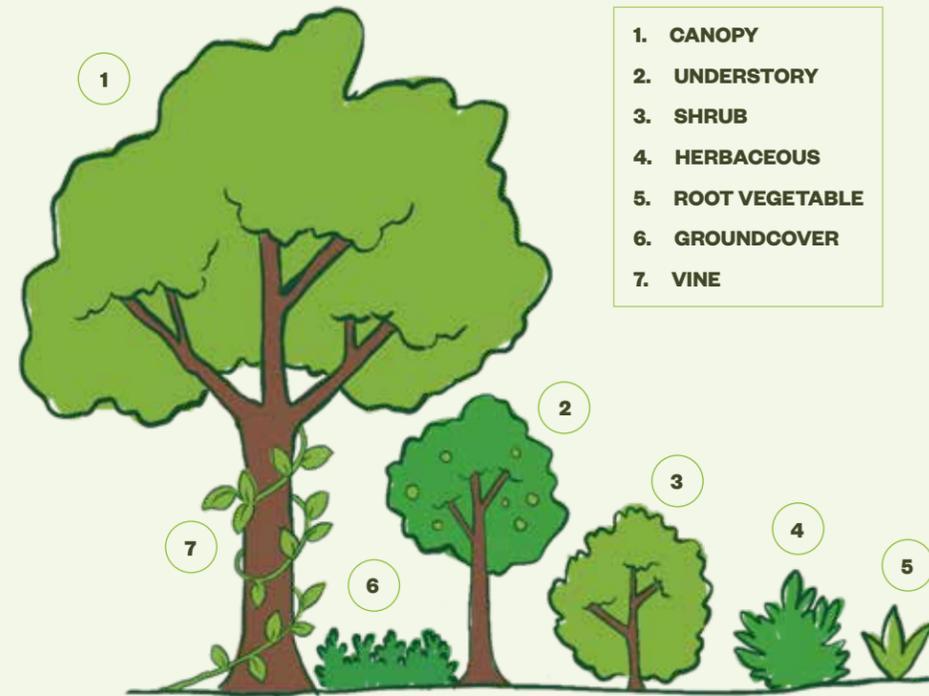
This concept of companion planting means opting for plants that benefit each other, Ganstrom explains.



Photo: Sarah McKeown

"Lavender acts as a natural antifungal, and lemongrass acts as a natural insect repellent. So if you're planting a veggie garden, don't just plant veggies. Look up companion plants for carrots. Look up companion plants for peas. If you want to plant lettuce and carrots and mint, they can all work together. Get creative with your plantings."

Food Forest



1. CANOPY
2. UNDERSTORY
3. SHRUB
4. HERBACEOUS
5. ROOT VEGETABLE
6. GROUNDCOVER
7. VINE

Container Gardens vs. In-ground Food Forests

Southwest Florida soil tends toward the alkaline side of the pH scale. While some veggies, such as cabbage and spinach, fare well in that soil type, others such as tomatoes and sweet potatoes favor more acidic conditions. Using containers will allow you to match the right soils with the right plants. The University of Florida Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences provides some great resources on soil pH in Florida, plus maintaining it.

In-ground gardens give you more creativity. For in-ground, make sure that it's suitable for what you want to

grow. Tear out grass, groundcover, or rocks. You can make a little food forest. Maybe you want to put your vegetables in a spiral shape, or maybe you want to create a square. In a food forest, you wouldn't just have your crops. They are a piece of a puzzle. You would have a canopy plant and nitrogen fixers surrounding your crops to increase the success of their growth within the system. The food forest benefits the crops. It can be more of a micro-environment as compared to a container garden.



Learn more about the Garden's Let's Grow! school, community, and home garden resources.

Know What to Plant

"Basically, your leafy greens and your root crops do well here," Ganstrom says. "Plant potatoes and sweet potatoes. My favorites are turnips and brussels sprouts. Pulling them out of the ground, it's so satisfying!"

Plants that do well in Southwest Florida winters:

1. Leafy Vegetables:

- | | |
|----------|----------------|
| ARUGULA | LETTUCE |
| BOK CHOY | MUSTARD GREENS |
| CABBAGE | SPINACH |
| KALE | |

2. Roots:

- BEETS
- CARROTS
- RADISHES
- SWEET POTATOES
- TURNIPS



3. Other:

- BROCCOLI
- CAULIFLOWER
- EVERGLADES TOMATOES





Prickly pear (*Opuntia*)

Biodiversity

Mexico is home to one of the richest floras on Earth, making a disproportionate contribution to global biodiversity. Over 20,000 plants are from Mexico—more than 10% of all plants. Marigolds, dahlias, even poinsettias are from Mexico, along with the highest diversity of cacti in the world with over 800 species. Cacti are so important that the coat of arms on the Mexican national flag depicts an eagle perched on a prickly pear cactus, devouring a rattlesnake.



Habitat

Diversity of plants means that Mexico also has a diversity of habitats, and Mexico even has one eco-region like that of Southwest Florida. Mexico is not all dry desert and high sierras. The tropical wet forest eco-region, for example, includes the Yucatán peninsula, the southern Gulf coast, and much of the Pacific state of Jalisco, as well as peninsular Florida's southern tip. As the crow flies, Naples is closer to Cancún than some Florida panhandle cities. Although there's a literal Gulf between Florida and Mexico, we have geological and biological similarities. Together, our tropical wet forests contain four times the diversity of tree species than what is found in northern temperate forests.

WHY MEXICO?

From food to habitat to ornamental plants, Southwest Florida has much in common with its neighbor

By Britt Patterson-Weber

Each year, the Garden selects a theme for our exhibits and programs—a new, but focused lens through which to view our living collections and work. As our 2022–23 season exhibition plan took shape, one thread united our selections: these exhibits, including *La Calavera Catrina* and *Frida and Her Garden*, are a vibrant celebration of Mexico's plants and cultural connections. Plants offer a window into culture, lifestyles, faith, and tradition, and an opportunity to consider connections between communities. Why are the plants of Mexico so celebration-worthy?



Food

Along with plants familiar to the home gardener, Mexico is also the birthplace of foods known to any eater. Mesoamericans first domesticated some of the present day's most important agricultural crops. The southern Gulf state of Tabasco holds some of the earliest archaeological evidence of corn cultivation, followed not long after by the domestication of the other "sister" crops, squash and beans. Chili peppers, tomatoes, cacao, and vanilla are additional culinary staples with roots in Mexico. Learn more about these botanical gifts of Mexico during new tours and Dig Deeper programming this season.

Plants!

Given our similar habitats and physical proximity, it should come as no surprise to learn that Mexico is well represented in our cultivated gardens. We don't have a designated Mexican garden, but you can find some of the nearly 550 taxa of Mexican origin in our collection. Visit the Foster Succulent Garden, for example, to see some of our agave collection (and raise a metaphorical glass to the Mexican plant that produces tequila and mezcal). Stroll through the Kapnick Caribbean Garden, and look for *Sabal mexicana*, or Rio Grande palmetto, one of the most common and widespread palms in Mexico. Or search in the shady oolite entrance to the Scott

Florida Garden for the giant heart-shaped leaves of *Anthurium faustomirandae*, a relatively new entry to this aroid genus, which just goes to show how much there is to learn about Mexican flora.

This season's theme, *Mexico: A Celebration of Plants & Culture*, allows us to shine a light on this part of our collection and underscores the Garden's commitment to plant conservation throughout South Florida, Latin America, and the Caribbean.

Britt Patterson-Weber is the Garden's Vice President of Education & Interpretation.



Agave lophantha

DÍA DE LOS MUERTOS

The traditions behind the holiday

By Jennifer Reed

Día de los Muertos is one of the most important holidays in the Latin world. It originated in Mexico as a fusion of Aztec and Catholic traditions and focuses on honoring the dead and commemorating loved ones passed.

“We believe that there are three deaths,” explains Ricardo Soltero, the Mexican artist behind the *La Calavera Catrina* exhibition, on view in the Garden through March 5, 2023. The first is when the soul leaves the body; the second when the body is interred in the earth; and the final

“is when nobody remembers you.” *Día de los Muertos*, Soltero says, “is a way of celebrating the person, the memories of that person, and keeping them alive.”

Día de los Muertos coincides with Halloween (and retailers market them as one and the same), but the holidays are quite distinct. *Día de los Muertos* is not ghoulish; the dead are not frightening; the idea of death is not sorrowful or dark. It is believed the veil between the land of the living and that of the dead lifts on November 1 and 2, and souls return home for an annual visit. The two-day affair starts at midnight on November 1 with the arrival of children’s souls (*Día de los Angelitos*); adult souls visit at midnight on November 2 (*Día de los Difuntos*); and all souls are celebrated during the day (*Día de los Muertos*).



Here are some of the holiday’s hallmarks:

Ofrendas

An ofrenda is a memorial for departed loved ones. The word translates as “offering,” and families create altar-like tributes laid out with foods, photos, flowers, candles, and cherished mementos. When honoring both children and adults, families redecorate the ofrendas between November 1 and 2, shifting from keepsakes such as toys to more mature displays.

“Ofrenda for Frida Kahlo” by rainy city is licensed under CC BY-ND 2.0.

Flowers

Bright orange and yellow cempasúchil flowers, or Mexican marigolds, abound during the holiday. The vibrant colors are said to rouse souls and illuminate their pathways home. Other important flowers include white gladiolas, white carnations, and calla lilies.

Monarch Butterflies

Monarchs are believed to hold the souls of the departed. These butterflies migrate to warm climates during the winter, and their return to Mexico coincides with *Día de los Muertos*. Be sure to see the four oversized monarch sculptures on display in Fogg Café.

Papel Picado

Homes and public spaces across Mexico and other Latin countries are festooned with papel picado, colorful tissue paper with elaborate designs cut into them (think of paper snowflakes as a comparison).



Pan de Muerto

“Bread of the Dead” is perhaps the most iconic of *Día de los Muertos* foods, baked and laid out on ofrendas as a treat for visiting souls. Traditional recipes include orange blossom water, and many also call for anise and canela, a Mexican cinnamon. A nub of dough in the loaf’s center represents a skull and four oblong forms crisscrossing it denote bones.



Sugar Skulls

The Aztecs incorporated skulls (calaveras) into rituals, and these traditional decorations are a nod to that heritage. The skulls are made from molded sugar and adorned with colored frosting and other decorations. In many cases, families will inscribe them with the names of deceased loved ones.

La Calavera Catrina

The elaborate, ornately dressed female figures associated with *Día de los Muertos* originated as a political cartoon. Beginning in the 1870s, editorial illustrator José Guadalupe Posada used cartoon skeletons, humor, and satire to comment on Mexican society, inequity, and a growing class schism. He inked a cartoon dubbed “La Calavera Garbancera,” or “the chickpea lady.” It depicted a female skull with an oversized, ornate Victorian hat. The sketch mocked Mexicans who were trying to impersonate European aristocrats while they could afford nothing better than chickpeas. Posada used skulls to depict characters from all walks of life, symbolic for our human commonality and the fact that, in death, our skeletal forms are all the same.

The chickpea lady appeared again decades later in muralist



José Guadalupe Posada, *La Calavera Garbancera*, 1910-1913

Diego Rivera’s *Sueño de una Tarde Dominical en la Alameda Central* (*Dream of a Sunday Afternoon in the Alameda Central Park*), a massive work that told Mexico’s turbulent history and the classism that emerged under its first president, Porfirio Diaz.

In Rivera’s hands, Posada’s skeletal figure developed from a skull to a full body (replete with fancy dress). He named her, “*La Calavera Catrina*,” which has been translated as “the elegant skull” and “the dapper skeleton.” In the mural, she appears next to the image of Posada.

She holds the hand of Rivera, who depicted himself as a child, while Rivera’s wife, Frida Kahlo, looms behind them. *La Catrina* wears a feathered serpent around her neck, representative of Aztec mythology.

Over time, *La Calavera Catrina* came to represent *Día de los Muertos*. Authors Mariana Nuño Ruiz and Ian McEnroe in their book *Dining with the Dead* offer this explanation: “She is a caricature who pokes fun at death and beckons us to embrace the absurdity of life’s posturing and ambition. She is Death in cartoon form, and unlike the European Grim Reaper’s dark, threatening embodiment of final doom, she reflects instead the Mexican outlook: Take death and your Earthly struggles with a dose of levity. Eternity is your fate, no matter what you think or do.”

Jennifer Reed is the Garden’s Editorial Director.



Photo Courtesy Ricardo Soltero

Creating Catrina

The artist behind this vibrant exhibition shares how he discovered his life's passion

By Jennifer Reed

Artist Ricardo Soltero created his first *Catrina* figures in 2011 for Hollywood Forever Cemetery in Los Angeles, the site of the largest *Día de los Muertos* celebration outside of Mexico. Standing 8 feet tall, the figures would become Soltero's artistic hallmark and help familiarize global audiences with *La Calavera Catrina* and the holiday she represents.

Soltero, the set designer for that annual affair, also influenced a movie.

Coco, the award-winning film by Pixar Animation Studio and Walt Disney Pictures, told the story of a young boy who visits the Land of the Dead during the

Día de los Muertos holiday.

"I was at the movie theater, and I was a little bit upset with all the elements that they put together in the movie," Soltero recalls of the day he went to see *Coco*. That's because, he says, the filmmakers used elements unique to his *Día de los Muertos* designs at Hollywood Forever, such as the Tree of Life, an emblem distinct to Soltero's sets, not to the holiday itself. "Every year, I add to the event something that is part of our culture or things that are popular in Mexico, but are not related to Day of the Dead." (This year's theme includes an homage to the Aztec fertility goddess Mayahuel.)

He sat through the credits and felt immediately better as a "thank you" to Hollywood Forever flashed across the screen.

"It was a good gesture from the Pixar creators to write that in the credits," he says.

Soltero discovered the arts as a teenager growing up in his native Mexico.

"I was a super hyper kid," he says. His stepfather, unhappy with his academic performance, enrolled him in an arts school. Soltero tried numerous disciplines—tap dancing, oil painting, singing. None resonated. But his quest ended when he ventured into the theater department and fell in love with

"I love that people from other cultures come and celebrate with us and embrace our culture."

costume and set design. He liked working backstage, creating costumes that personified the on-stage characters. He enjoyed collaborating with directors to invent sets. The work felt natural.

"When I was a kid, my grandma was a very talented woman, very crafty. She would make these garlands out of crepe paper. All the grandchildren used to help her," he says.

Soltero moved to the United States when he was 19 and sought work in Latino theaters. He ventured to Oregon in 2003, briefly ran a restaurant there, and moved back to Los Angeles in 2008.

"I didn't know what I was going to do," he says. "I ended up working at Hollywood Forever as assistant to the director. And my life changed there ... I started doing events again and got involved again with the theater community. And I got back on track."

Hollywood Forever is a historic cemetery, the resting place of celebrities ranging from actors Judy Garland and Burt Reynolds to musicians Johnny Ramone and Dee Dee Ramone, to directors John Huston and Cecil B. DeMille. It also has a thriving cultural arts center and hosts the famed *Día de los Muertos* celebration.

Soltero named his first *Catrinas* after five female friends. Over the years, his sculptures have ranged in size from 6 feet to the tallest at 26 feet.

"It was crazy to put together," he says with a laugh. "It was too much." The sculptures are crafted from papier-mâché and reinforced with metal frames. He works out of his backyard, assisted by volunteers and a few paid staff whom he refers to as "collaborators." He likes living on the site of his workshop—his day starts around 3am, fitting for a "super hyper" kid who is equally energetic as an adult.

"I love what I do," he says.

And it appears audiences do, too. Soltero has lost track of how many *Catrinas* he has created, but says he has 43 in storage and is making 20 more. He believes *Coco* helped catapult *La Calavera Catrina* into the popular culture.

"People stopped being scared of them," Soltero says.

Our Garden will showcase eight of Soltero's *Catrinas*, as well as an "ofrenda," created under his guidance. The ofrenda, on exhibit November 5 and 6, serves as a memorial to one's ancestors, the heart of *Día de los Muertos*.

The artist is grateful to share his culture with others.

"I love that people from other cultures come and celebrate with us and embrace our culture," he says.

Jennifer Reed is the Garden's Editorial Director.

Experience eight of Ricardo Soltero's creations with our *La Calavera Catrina* exhibition, on view in the Scott Florida Garden through March 5, 2023.

La Calavera Catrina is organized by Denver Botanic Gardens.

Plus! See the companion exhibition featuring monarch butterfly sculptures, on view through January 29 in Fogg Café.



THE SCIENCE BEHIND THE STORM

Garden staff collects data on Ian's impacts to guide future planning and planting decisions

By Jennifer Reed
Photos by John Eder

Staff returned to work on October 3, still reeling from Hurricane Ian's impact on our community. The Garden was a mess of downed limbs, leaning trees, and salt- and sunburned leaves. But it was not as devastating as Hurricane Irma, and the team took comfort in that as they assessed the damaged and began the cleanup.



*This aerial view of the Performance Lawn show the impact of wind and salt spray on this copper pod tree (*Peltophorum pterocarpum*), left, now devoid of most of its leaves.*

Irma had destroyed more than 340 trees and created a horticultural debris pile the equivalent of 2 acres long, 6 feet deep. Ian made less of a mess. At press time, staff had tallied 34 lost trees, but this storm posed new challenges with salt spray and flooding in parts of the Garden that knocked our irrigation system offline and scattered nursery plants. There was a pronounced human toll, as well, with several staff members losing homes and cars to floodwater. Administrative staff mobilized to care for them and their families.

Ian hit, ironically, just after Irma's fifth anniversary. This issue of *Cultivate*, in fact, was to include an article about Irma and how it served as a catalyst for our advancement. We'd noted a 60-person staff increase; the groundbreaking of the Evenstad Horticulture Campus (which was not damaged during Ian); a new emphasis on community involvement, of both the environmental and human service sort; Lipman Family Farm's gift of a 5-acre greenhouse to further our horticultural production; and growing partnerships with

Caribbean conservationists and our shared commitment to protecting subtropical and tropical plants.

Just as they did with Irma, the staff looked at how they could reap good from the awful. They scrutinized Ian through scientific eyes, seeking to understand the storm's movement and how it affected plants. The information, coupled with what they had learned from Irma, will shed new insight into the tree species most resilient to storms, growing practices that yield stronger root systems, and plants' tolerance of salt water—an increasing worry as the Gulf rises.



The Garden's 90-acre Preserve offers space to walk and explore restored Florida landscape, but this pristine viewshed serves a greater purpose: It can hold millions of gallons of floodwater. It's estimated that during Hurricane Ian, the natural areas took on 200 million gallons; that's the equivalent of more than 300 Olympic-size swimming pools.

Vice President of Conservation Chad Washburn touts a plastic bag filled with bottles of water samples. He had 80 in all, drawn from lakes, pools, and the remnants of the floodwater that had infiltrated the Garden. Our staff is collaborating with Florida Gulf Coast University on the samples' analysis, hoping to glean information about the water's origins and composition. FGCU operates the Harvey Kapnick Education and Research Center on our campus.

We are ever cognizant of sea-level rise, and Hurricane Ian may have offered an unwelcome glimpse of what may come.

Under the best scenario, the Gulf waters surrounding Collier County will rise about 0.4 feet by 2030. Under the worst, we can expect a 1.15-foot difference.

That's according to a specialized software program called ACUNE (Adaptation of Coastal Urban and Natural Ecosystems). Researchers from the University of Florida and Florida Gulf Coast University developed it for Collier County,



Chad Washburn, Vice President of Conservation, points to the toll the wind and salt spray have taken on this Jamaican rain tree (*Brya ebenus*).

using a National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration grant. We use the program in our long-term decision-making, and we'll share whatever flood-related data we collect with ACUNE researchers. The more data fed into ACUNE, the more accurate its models, Washburn explains.

"We're trying to paint a picture of what happened," Washburn says. "Did the flooding come in from land? Did it come in from the coast? Where did it go?"

Horticulturists who were first on site are studying the same.

"I've been trying to follow how it came in," says Elizabeth Beans, Associate Director of Horticulture. Water appeared to rush past the labyrinth, near the Scott Florida Garden through the Grove, and into to Lea Asian Garden. It also flooded the nursery, dislodging, overturning, and scattering plants.

Such information helps our experts determine if freshwater flooding impacted plants or whether excess salt may have doomed them. It will drive future decisions on where to locate species based on their salt tolerance and ability to handle excess water. It may also shed light on the role natural areas play in flood protection. Even just a foot of floodwater sitting on our 90 acres of natural lands equals a staggering 30 million gallons of water, Washburn says. He and his team estimate that the natural areas took on some 200 million gallons of stormwater.

"Water has to go somewhere," Washburn says. "There's no substitute for natural areas and natural wetlands."

No one wants to lose trees, yet tree damage and loss may help us create a stronger Garden and healthier community.

Since Irma, our organization has embraced urban forestry as a core part of our mission. We advise local governments on how to improve environmental health and resilience by the planting of trees, shrubs, and groundcovers best suited to Southwest Florida's climate, weather patterns, and soil conditions. Understanding how the storm affected plants will help refine our species recommendations.

"We want to know: Was the tree impacted by salt spray? Did it break apart? Tip over? How do these trees respond?" says Washburn, who is surveying damage in the Garden and in Collier and Lee counties. He points to an allspice tree (*Pimenta dioica*) in the Kapnick Caribbean Garden. "You see how this side is burned and the other side is green?" The discoloration denotes where the salt spray hit.

In addition to on-the-ground observations, Garden and FGCU experts will collect aerial images and data at regular intervals, looking for ecosystem changes including plant loss, species shifts, leaf cover changes, plant health,



Jessica DeYoung, Conservation Horticulture Manager, leads team members to two destroyed endangered trees to gather plant material for propagation.

and the long-term behavior of trees, such as shedding old leaves and producing new ones.

Staff members also note the condition of a fallen tree's roots. If they are twisted in a tight ball, the problem may be the growing standard—not the species itself. Rootbound trees are a common flaw in mass-produced horticultural products. Garden staff have begun growing our own trees from seed whenever feasible, using deep nursery pots that encourage better root formation. Beans says

the Horticulture Team intends to replace fallen or damaged plants with those grown in our nurseries to the greatest extent possible.

"And no more red kapok trees," Beans says, voicing a consensus among the staff horticulturists. The species has shown it cannot withstand hurricane-force winds.



Patterns of yellow and brown on the fronds of this *Copernicia ekmanii*, a threatened species on the International Union for Conservation of Nature's Red List, reveal storm impact.

The Hurricane Ian experience will guide future storm preparation.

“It was like a river in the North Nursery,” says Director of Collections Nick Ewy, who says the staff will pay closer attention to potential flooding in making hurricane preparation plans. The Garden had stashed orchids and conservation collections such as its Puerto Rican cacti in the administrative building, which fortunately did not flood. But Ewy says the staff will consider elevation more carefully when deciding where to safeguard plants in future storms.

The irrigation system needs to be addressed, Beans says. The pump by the irrigation lake flooded, knocking the system offline for several days and forcing staff to water plants by hand and by sprinkler.

“We need to raise our pump and our pedestals because those cannot get flooded again,” she says.

But by delving into science following the storm, Garden staff say they will be more prepared and more resilient in the future, and we’ll share our lessons learned with the community at large.

“We’re going to make it, and we’ll keep making the Garden better,” Beans promises.

Jennifer Reed is the Garden’s Editorial Director.



Top: Donna McGinnis, the Garden’s President & CEO, talks with staff on the morning of October 3, the first day of cleanup efforts.

Center: Sandra Rigotti-Santos, Curator of Records, and Vanessa Allen, Horticulture Volunteer Coordinator, transport orchids out of the Garden and into the administrative building on September 26, in preparation for Hurricane Ian.

Left: Dozens of Puerto Rican cacti take refuge in the Garden’s Windstar Room, part of the administrative building, which was spared flooding.

BERGER SHOP FINDS



Fall into Zen

By Darby Kordonowy
Photos by Sarah McKeown

Escape from busy, modern-day life to a restful, healing sanctuary by incorporating these calming plants into your home or office space

The Japanese term “Bon-sai” means “planted in a container.”

This ancient Chinese horticultural practice of growing dwarf trees in small pots to create a representation of nature dates back to the sixth century. The trees are bent and shaped to create a tiny forest landscape.

To care for a bonsai, you’ll want to note that these species require high humidity and direct sunlight. Place in front of a window, and allow your plant to receive a few hours of sunlight each day. Be sure to water your bonsai frequently if it looks dry, and mist daily to quench its thirst for humidity. Fertilize every two weeks, and prune regularly to maintain the shape of your bonsai.

Kokedama

Kokedama is the Japanese art of growing an ornamental, potless plant with its roots encased in a ball of well-drained soil, covered in moss and tied with string. Translated, ‘koke’ means moss, and ‘dama’ means ball. To care for this plant, soak it biweekly for about ten minutes in a container to allow the water to reach its roots. Drain for 20 minutes. Place in an area of your home where the kokedama can receive indirect sunlight, such as indoors near a window or outdoors in the shade.

Darby Kordonowy is the Garden’s Content Coordinator.

Bonsai trees \$40-\$65



Tiger bark ficus



‘Nana’ dwarf Japanese juniper (Juniperus procumbens)

Kokedama plants \$38-\$125



Scindapsus



Jade

Give them tranquility

Add bonsai and kokedama to your holiday shopping list to give family and friends a unique, memorable gift that offers both beauty and peace.

Members save 10% every day!

A Flavorful Fiesta

One Mexican street food that is a favorite among both locals and tourists is *elote*, which translates to “corn” in English.

By Darby Kordonowy



Photos: Sarah McKeown

Mexican street corn started in Mexico City with antojitos—“little cravings,” aka small snacks or appetizers—served at food trucks and local mercados (markets). Corn in Mexico dates back to the Aztec civilization and is a staple in Mexican cuisine used in tortillas, tamales, stews, and many other coveted dishes.

While elote can be messy because the corn is slathered in a creamy mayonnaise sauce, it is a rewarding, tangy treat and street food staple. Its lime crema absorbs the spices and adds citrus, creating a savory yet sweet flavor profile.

This easy-to-make recipe is a perfect appetizer or side dish for a backyard BBQ feast and can be served off the cob, too.

Special thanks to Fogg Café’s Chef Andrew Foyt for crafting the elote and marigold margarita recipes for this issue. Look for seasonal specials in the Café during your next Garden visit!

Ingredients

2 corn cobs

For the Lime Crema Mixture

1 cup mayonnaise

½ cup sour cream

2 limes, zested and squeezed

For the Seasoning

1 tablespoon dark chili powder

1 tablespoon Tajín

Salt to taste

¼ cup cilantro, leaves picked and sliced thin

¼ cup cotija or queso fresco

Note: Cotija is aged and has a saltier flavor than queso fresco.

How to Make Elote

1. Soak the corn cobs in water for 30 minutes, and then place on a high heat grill.
2. Char the corn husk until blackened. Let cool slightly to handle.
3. While the corn cools, create the lime crema mixture and seasoning blend.
4. Remove the corn husk and fibrous strings.
5. Brush with the lime crema mixture, and season with salt.
6. Grill again until corn is hot and charred in a few spots.
7. Brush again with lime crema mixture until well coated.
8. Sprinkle an even layer of seasoning on the corn, followed by cilantro and then the cotija cheese.

Marigold Margarita

Raise a toast to your ancestors with this floral cocktail!

For the annual *Día de los Muertos* (Day of the Dead) celebrating life and the souls that have passed, families and friends create ofrendas (offerings) of thousands of golden and orange marigolds (*Tagetes erecta*) native to Mexico, also known as *cempasúchil* in Aztec language. Marigolds are the prime symbol of the coming and going of souls on this special day.

Marigolds are edible flowers featuring flavors of citrus and earthiness with a hint of spice. Similarly, their stems and leaves give off a musky scent.

This cocktail commemorating *Día de los Muertos* features these distinctive flowers as well as tequila, which is a popular spirit of choice for public and private gatherings during this sacred holiday.

Darby Kordonowy is the Garden’s Content Coordinator.



Ingredients

2 ounces tequila blanco

1 ounce triple sec

1 ounce lime juice

1 tablespoon agave nectar

½ cup cantaloupe, diced

⅛ teaspoon chili de árbol

½ cup marigold flowers

How to Make a Marigold Margarita

1. Muddle cantaloupe, agave nectar, and triple sec in the bottom of a glass.
2. Add remaining ingredients, excluding flowers.
3. Add ice, and shake vigorously for 10 seconds.
4. Strain into a chilled cocktail glass, and garnish with one or more marigold flowers.

★ Member Spotlight

We hit a milestone a few months ago—our 15,000th Member household!

The couple that purchased the membership, Julie and Thomas Graber, had experienced a milestone of their own not too long ago. After visiting Southwest Florida for some three decades, the Ohio couple bought a condo in Naples as a seasonal home. This was about a year and a half ago, and they continue getting to know their new wintertime community.

One key stop: Naples Botanical Garden.

“I came with my best friend in February while the guys were



Cathy Morrison, Visitor Services Associate, Julie and Thomas Graber, and Donna McGinnis, President & CEO

playing golf,” Julie says. “We spent a lot of time here. We had to really hoof it to get back in time to get them!”

Their Ohio home is set on 5 acres in an agricultural region, and Julie

enjoys gardening—mostly flowers and herbs. With portions of their property left uncultivated for wildlife’s sake, the Garden’s focus on conservation is not lost on them.

“That’s part of why I really love it here,” she says.

Thomas mostly enjoys the outdoors by way of the golf course, but says he, too, looks forward to getting to know the Garden.

The Grabers are a long way from Ohio, but they feel at home in the tropics, too.

“Our travels often take us to tropical areas,” Julie says. “Tropical just feels good. And I love that you have so many different displays and types of gardens. My best friend and I, we were just in awe.”



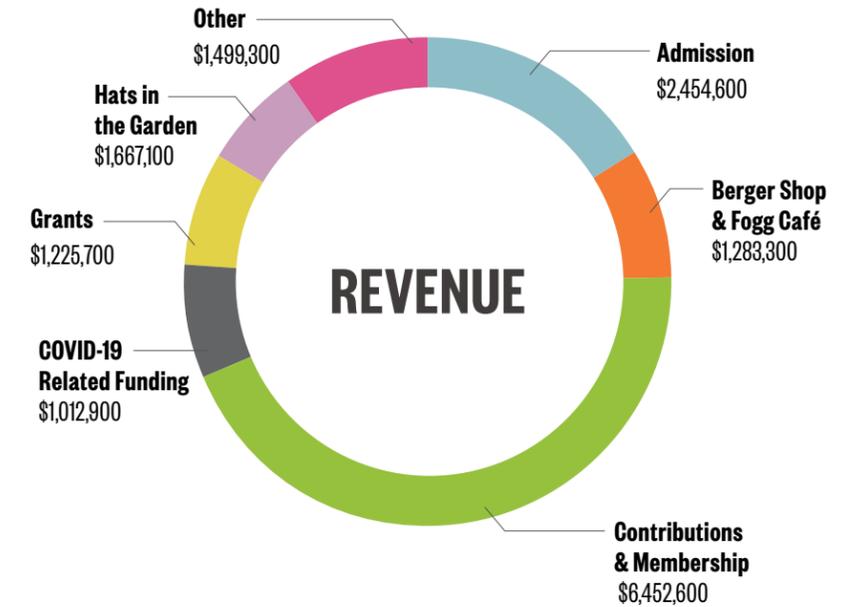
Thank you for what you, our Members, make possible for the Garden. You keep the Garden growing and thriving in all circumstances, especially in light of the recovery and cleanup efforts following Hurricane Ian this fall.

Our fiscal year closed June 30, 2022. As a result of your support, we welcomed more than 260,000 visitors. Among those are more than 8,000 essential workers, educators, health care workers, and their families through our Garden for All: Community Access program. Within the Garden, we broke ground on the Evenstad Horticulture Campus in spring 2022, with completion scheduled for 2023.

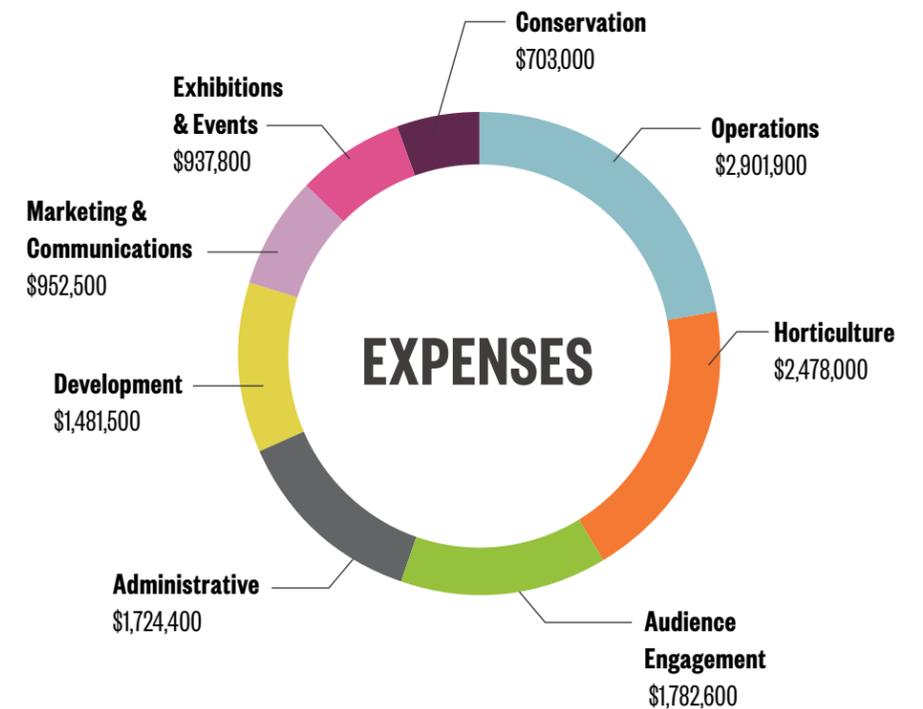
Beyond these 170 acres, the Garden strengthened partnerships in the community to provide environmental solutions for landscaping throughout Southwest Florida, committed to serving in an advisory capacity for nearby Marco Island’s 10,000 Trees initiative, and much, much more. Thank you for joining us on this journey, year after year, as we enable plants and people to thrive together.

Fiscal Year 2022 Operating Revenue

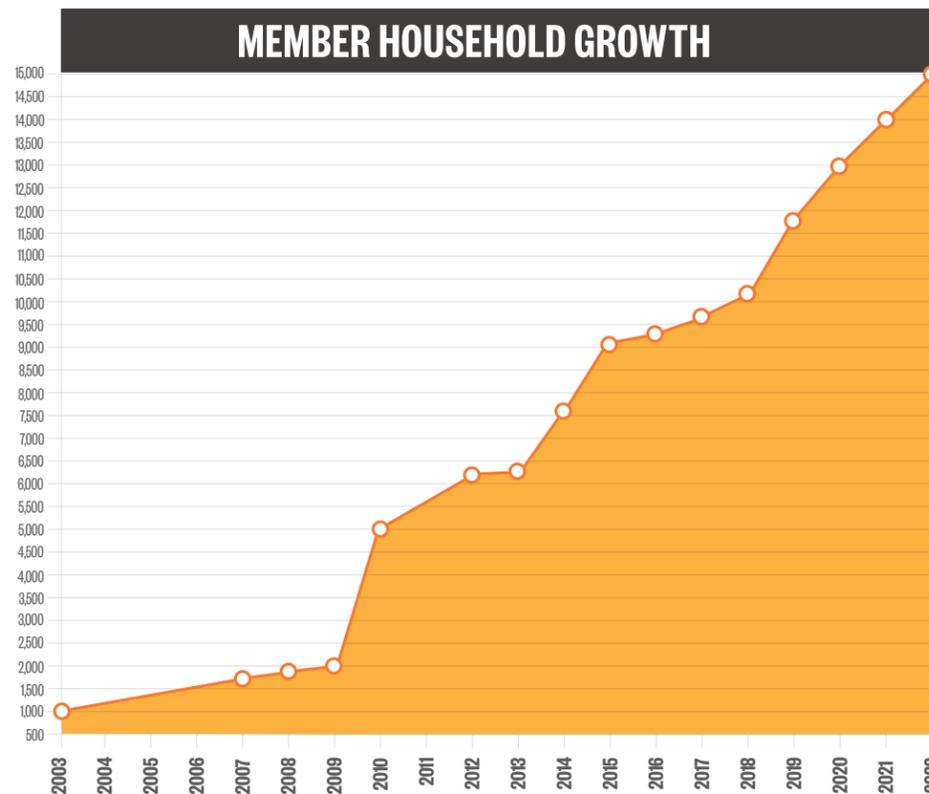
July 1, 2021–June 30, 2022



Total Revenue
\$15,595,500



Total Expenses
\$12,961,700



NEW MILESTONE!

Member Households Between 2003–2022

Years before the Garden opened in 2009, Members supported our mission, and continue to today, in ever-increasing numbers. Thank you for all you make possible for the Garden’s work throughout Southwest Florida and the Caribbean.



Photo: Paul Osborn

UPCOMING
Member Events

November-December 2022



Johnsonville Night Lights in the Garden Patron Party

Members of the Royal Palm Society and the *Sustaining and Garden Fellows* levels of the Garden Circle will be invited to a festive patron party with complimentary beverages and light bites on a select evening of Johnsonville Night Lights in the Garden.



November 28 5-6pm
Heliconia, Bromeliad, and Orchid levels of the Royal Palm Society

November 29 or November 30 5-6pm
Bougainvillea and Ginger levels of the Royal Palm Society

December 6 or December 7 5-6pm
Sustaining and Garden Fellows levels of the Garden Circle

January 2023



Frida Kahlo (Mexican, 1907-1954), *Untitled* [Self-portrait with thorn necklace and hummingbird], 1940. Oil on canvas mounted to board. Nickolas Muray Collection of Mexican Art, 66.6 © 2022 Banco de México Diego Rivera Frida Kahlo Museums Trust, Mexico, D.F. / Artists Rights Society (ARS), New York.



Frida and Her Garden Premiere Party in Frida's Garden

January 12, 2023
Preview this immersive exhibition, and enter the world of Mexican artist Frida Kahlo as you enjoy complimentary beverages and light bites.

By invitation only. RSVP required; this is a ticketed event.

Frida and Her Garden Members-Only Preview

January 13, 2023 | 5:30-7pm
Join us for a special Members-Only Evening preview of this re-creation of *La Casa Azul*, the iconic blue home of Mexican artist Frida Kahlo (1907-1954) in Coyoacán, Mexico City. Immerse yourself in Kahlo's creative refuge and celebrate the plants that played an important role in her life and paintings. As you stroll the Garden, enjoy monumental Mexican arte popular sculptures representing animals that influenced Kahlo's life.

All active Members are invited; registration is requested.

Ongoing Events



Member Appreciation Days

December 14, 2022
February 2, 2023
8am-5pm

Our Members impact our mission, and we want to say thank you for all that you do! Join us for a day to celebrate YOU—our Members—with special perks during Member Appreciation Day.

BRING-A-FRIEND

Have you been eagerly wanting to share Naples Botanical Garden with a friend? On Member Appreciation Day, you can share the Garden with a friend for FREE. Treat a friend to a day in the Garden, and open their eyes to the beautiful tropical plants and restored Florida landscape. One additional guest per membership, please. As a reminder, Royal Palm Society Members can always bring their guests FREE of charge.

DOUBLE THE DISCOUNT

Enjoy an additional 10% off in the Berger Shop in the Garden for a total of 20% off your purchase that day!

No registration is required. We look forward to seeing you. Thank you for all you do for the Garden!

The impact of our philanthropic supporters has helped forge the Garden into what it is today.

Our new and highest level of recognition, Garden Visionaries, honors this crucial component of our growth. Because of these individuals, we can embrace our role as a world-class showcase for tropical horticulture, as a cornerstone of Caribbean plant conservation, and as a place where plants and people thrive together.

Garden Visionaries

\$500,000 & Above

Mr.* and Mrs. Kenneth L. Evenstad
Tanya and Denny Glass
Kathleen and Scott Kapnick

Mr. and Mrs. David Byron Smith
Mrs. Mary Stephenson

\$250,000-\$499,999

The Blair Foundation
Mr. and Mrs. Nicholas D. Chabraja
Collier Community Foundation
Nina* and Stephen Iser
Family Foundation

Karen and Robert Scott
Shelly and Ralph Stayer
Jenny and Kermit Sutton
Linda and James White

\$100,000-\$249,999

Patricia and Don Altorfer
Collier County Tourist
Development Council
Gulfshore Life
Kendel Kennedy
Ann and Shahid Khan
Linda and Tom Koehn
Marcia* and L. Bates Lea*
Peggy and Dan LeKander
Irma and Thomas Leonard
Lipman Farms

The Martin Foundation
Chuck and Monica McQuaid
Family Foundation
M.G. and Donna Nelson
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Mr. Michael Kwitt*
Juliet C. Sproul
The Sidney A. Swensrud Foundation
John and Connie Vandenberg
Catherine Kidder Ware

\$50,000-\$99,999

Anonymous (2)
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Mrs. Joanne D. Brown and
Mr. Harmon Brown
Mr. and Mrs. Miles C. Collier
Thomas B. Dunkel and Diane A. Dahl
Marjorie W. Drackett

John R.* and Donna S. Hall
Barbara and Paul Hills
Roy and Manisha Kapani
James and Clara LaGrippe
Joan Loos
Mr. Bruce H. McEver
Mr. and Mrs. Robert J. Messey
The Honorable Tim and Mrs. Nance

Naples Garden Club
Mrs. Patrice H. Schoonmaker
Mr. and Mrs. Stephen Byron Smith
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Shirley and Peter Welsh
Ms. Christine Williamson
Kathy and Rodney Woods

\$25,000-\$49,999

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Mrs. Kathleen Rooney

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Linda and Ken Sumner
Anne Drackett Thomas
Mr. and Mrs. John R. Walter
Mrs. Nancy G. White
Kathy and Joe Willard
William Raveis Real Estate

Note: This list reflects contributions from January 2021-September 2022.

*deceased



Thank you to this inaugural group of Garden Visionaries.



Seeding the Future of Conservation

Tanya & Denny Glass



In a quiet, behind-the-scenes sort of way, a pair of Naples philanthropists made a gift to the Garden that will propel us to a highly visible role in plant conservation and ecosystem restoration.

Tanya and Denny Glass advanced our seed bank from a startup to a regional hub for the protection of native plant seeds of Southwest Florida and the Caribbean—the only one of its kind in those regions.

Their significant donation has allowed for the purchase of several key pieces of equipment, including: an electronic seed counter that assures accuracy in the counting, processing, and preparation of seeds for long-term storage or experimentation; a specialized freezer that maintains a constant temperature of negative 20 degrees Celsius to ensure the seeds remain viable for years to come; and a plant growth chamber that allows our conservationists to investigate different growing strategies and determine the best way to nurture a seed into a thriving plant.

Tanya's deep interest in gardening and the natural world piqued her interest in the Garden, its development, and its role in plant conservation and in connecting people to nature. She introduced her husband to the organization, and together, they decided to meet with Garden leadership and explore ways in which they could make an impact. The Garden's need for equipment matched the couple's interest in funding nonprofit needs that generally don't attract philanthropic attention.

"We thought, 'This is perfect,'" Denny says. "We like to make an impact on something that somebody else might not want to do, but is really important to the organization."

"The Glass' generous gift allowed us to develop the Garden's seed bank, a vital part of our integrated efforts to conserve the plant species of South Florida and the Caribbean," says Chad Washburn, Vice President of Conservation. "A seed bank is a powerful tool in plant conservation, allowing us to conserve many more plant species and genetically unique individual plants in one small area for a long period of time. It also allows us to work more closely with other gardens around the world to share plant material to ensure that it is conserved in as many collections as possible."

At this writing, the seed bank preserves more than 200,000 seeds representing nearly 50 species.

Tanya, the daughter of a biologist, feels personally connected to scientists and their tools.

"Growing up, I watched my father working on microscopes and all sorts of other gadgets," she says. "I love tools."

She also loves gardens. Her grandfather had a sizable vegetable farm in Connecticut and inspired Tanya's interest in gardening. With her father's help, she started her own garden plot.

"I sold some of my vegetables to my next-door neighbor, who would pay 10 cents for a head of lettuce. You know, for a little kid, that was pretty good!" Her mother nurtured the flower beds on their property and grew Tanya's appreciation for ornamental plants. Today, at their Naples home, Tanya focuses on cultivating flowers, palms, and trees, including some Caribbean species Washburn provided. She's tracking how they fare and sharing her observations with the Garden, which will incorporate her feedback into our urban landscape research.

Tanya's involvement with the Garden traces back to its earliest days.

"I never imagined that there would be all this," she says, reflecting on our beginnings as a demonstration garden on a one-acre plot. As Denny became involved more recently, he says he was drawn to the Garden's emerging work in our community partnerships with Caribbean conservationists.

"It's really impressive," he says.

The couple cares deeply about the natural world and its conservation and encourages others to form connections with it. They gave the lead gift toward a new animal hospital at the Naples Zoo at Caribbean Gardens, where Denny is the Board Chair, ensuring the well-being of the zoo's animals and its ability to care for injured wildlife in collaboration with state and federal agencies. It guaranteed accreditation with the Association of Zoos & Aquariums, keeping the zoo and its botanical garden thriving. They say their involvement in the Garden and Zoo—along with their own self-education on conservation matters—compels them to protect nature.

"I believe that nature is really important for children and families," says Tanya. "I go for a walk every morning ... that connection to nature is one of the best things I do every day."

They also are concerned with children's education, wellness, and access to cultural and outdoor experiences. Denny, Immediate Past President of The Naples Players, continues

to serve on the board, and the couple is helping to fund the construction of a new children's rehearsal hall and performance space at Sugden Community Theater. They have also donated to a science lab at Northfield Mount Hermon School's new Gilder Center, Tanya's alma mater high school in Massachusetts, and to the new science lab and equipment at the Regents School of Oxford, Mississippi, where their grandchildren attend.

"We like to make an impact on something that somebody else might not want to do, but is really important to the organization."

—Denny Glass

Garden Visionaries

If you're interested in making an impact that will benefit the Garden's work for years to come, see page 33 to learn more about Garden Visionaries, our new and highest level of recognition for philanthropic supporters. To speak with our team regarding a gift, contact Rhea Merrill, Director of Development, at 239.571.3806 or rmerrill@naplesgarden.org.

SAVE THE DATE

Hats in the Garden

PRESENTED BY WILLIAM RAVEIS REAL ESTATE

Wednesday, March 29, 2023

HATS IN THE GARDEN CHAIR | SHELLY STAYER

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Photo: John Eder

“This summer, the trees will really take off. It’ll take 10 years to fully complete it, but within five years, you’ll see the concept. I think it’s going to be an amazing interactive experience.”

— Brian Galligan, Vice President of Horticulture, on how the five Krishna’s buttercup trees (*Ficus benghalensis* var. *krishnae*) will set the stage for the Candi Sukuh temple ruin replica in the Lea Asian Garden

Read more about these incredible *Ficus* trees at naplesgarden.org/ficus.



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