

NAPLES  
BOTANICAL  
GARDEN

# Cultivate

FALL 2023





**IN SEASON**

**DOMINO EFFECT:** Members of the Garden's Horticulture Maintenance Team prepare palms for planting in June 2023, thanks to a generous donation from The Martin Foundation. After their long trip in from Miami, many of these palms are now settling into their new homes at the Evenstad Horticulture Campus. Read more about the Horticulture Maintenance Team's work on page 11.

Photo by John Eder







## OUR MISSION

### *Where Plants & People Thrive Together*

Naples Botanical Garden conserves the plants and habitats of the tropics, cultivates beauty, offers knowledge, and inspires the protection of nature.

## ON THE COVER

Palm trees tower overhead from this vantage point in the Catherine and Tim Ware Palm Garden. Find these palms and others in the Kapnick Caribbean Garden near Lake Tupke's shoreline.

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

5

### What's Happening

9

### Garden & Community

10

### Member Giving Impact

11

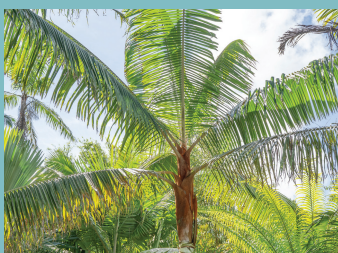
### Perspectives

*Behind-the-scenes projects, front & center*

13

### How-To

*Alluring aroids*



15

### Beacon of the Tropics

*The Garden is home to one of the country's largest outdoor palm collections.*



21

### Hidden Spaces

*Explore these staff-approved Garden escapes.*

27

### A Sketchbook Changes Everything

*Two Nature Journaling students share their stories*



33

### Berger Shop Finds

34

### From Fogg Café



35

### Member News & Events

37

### Evenstad Horticulture Campus

39

### Planned Giving

## CULTIVATE FALL 2023

### Editor

Jenny Fuentes

### Graphic Designer

Bethany DiLello

### Photographers

John Eder, Paul Osborn

### Contributors

Erin Wolfe Bell, Dominique Caruso, Katy Havlik, Lalo Hernandez, Kristin Hood, Stephen Jurek, Karen Pattison, Brian Russo, Erin White

### Editorial Director

Jennifer Reed

### Director, Communications & Marketing

Renée Waller

### Vice President, Development & Marketing

Andrea Nickrent



TripAdvisor  
Top-rated  
Attraction



Thank you to  
Edwards Asset Management  
for support of this publication.



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.



Cultivate is  
printed on 100%  
post-consumer  
recycled content.



Amid the bustle, we encourage you to slow down. Quiet your mind, put down your phone, and enjoy the *Here and Now*.

---

**F**all is when the Garden shifts into high gear.

Music in the Garden returns. And with this festive time of year comes one of our most celebrated traditions: Johnsonville Night Lights in the Garden. Daily offerings, including group tours, are in full swing as temperatures cool and visitors return.

Amid the bustle, we encourage you to slow down.

The Garden's 2023 - 24 theme is *Here and Now*, an invitation to contemplate the beauty that surrounds you. Have you ever really looked at palm trees, for example, and noticed their many distinct characteristics like the textures of their trunks or the shapes of their fronds? We examine this diverse plant family on page 15.



Have you stepped off the Garden's main pathways, discovered its secret nooks and the plants and wildlife within them? Our staff shares a few such spaces on page 21. We also delve into the ultimate art of observation, learning to sketch the Garden and its many details, a skill taught in our Nature Journaling: Botany Through Art program. Even if you

haven't taken the course, offered to older adults, we think the article on page 27 will inspire you to notice color, texture, light, and shape in a whole new way.

Southwest Florida has been through a lot these past few years, from COVID-19 to Hurricane Ian to its recent scare with Hurricane Idalia. We know nature's remarkable ability to heal itself — and to heal us. Quiet your mind, put down your phone, and enjoy the *Here and Now* of your Garden experience.



**Donna McGinnis**

*President & CEO  
Naples Botanical Garden*

---

✉ Questions and letters to the editor may be sent to [email@naplesgarden.org](mailto:email@naplesgarden.org).



# What's Happening



## SEASONAL HOURS

**October 1, 2023 – May 31, 2024**



We are open daily, 9am – 5pm



8am early entry every day for you, our Members

## DAILY TOURS

Join a staff-led tour and journey through the Garden while discovering the rich history and distinct highlights of its 170 acres.

- **Daily Tours:** Stop by the Smith Entry Prow and reserve your spot, departing multiple times daily.
- **Audio Tours:** Stroll throughout the Garden while listening to a self-guided smartphone tour, available in English, Spanish, and Haitian Creole.



**Scan the QR code to explore audio tour options plus our GPS map to guide your way through the Garden.**





---

## MUSIC IN THE GARDEN

---

**Through May: 2 – 4pm | June: 12 – 2pm**

Your favorite tropical destination + musical stylings of local talent = relaxation only your Garden can provide! Blankets and chairs encouraged.

### Upcoming Shows & Lineup

- **December 16:** Little Eddie and the Fat Fingers
- **January 20:** Kelly Neff Quartet
- **February 3:** Havy Rodriguez & the Miami Splash Band
- **March 16:** Patchouli & Terra Guitarra
- **April 27:** Moonstone Riders
- **May 18:** Briz & Lady
- **June 15:** Heat Latin Jazz Band



---

## FOSTER SUCCULENT GARDEN

---

Experience a piece of the desert nestled into the tropics during your next Garden visit. Traverse hills and boulders that now punctuate the Foster Succulent Garden. Cacti and succulents from last season's *Frida and Her Garden* exhibition are settling into their new homes, and a variety of flowering trees and shrubs anchor displays of hundreds of desert-dwelling plants. Expect to see Garden horticulturists adding *Sansevieria* to this space in the coming months.

*Special thanks to Edward and Judith Bergauer for their contributions to this project.*



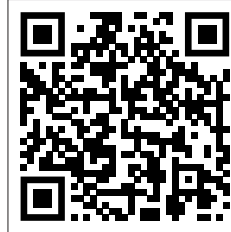
---

## DIG DEEPER

---

**Daily at 11am and 1pm through December 11:30am and 1:30pm beginning in January**

If you want to gain a deeper understanding of the botanical world, you're in luck! Stop by our Dig Deeper cart and learn a variety of topics, ranging from the botany of brewing coffee to all things succulents. We've got you covered.



Scan the QR code to learn more about our common Dig Deeper topics.

---

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

---

**Wednesdays – Sundays at 10:30am**

School's in session, and so is our natural classroom. Explore the Garden at your own pace by picking up a W.O.N.D.E.R. Activity Pack at Ticketing — available in English, Spanish, and Haitian Creole, or join us for an activity at our drop-in W.O.N.D.E.R. table.



- **November:** Little Green Thumbs
- **December:** Tree-mendous Trees
- **January:** Feathered Friends
- **February:** Super Plants





## JOHNSONVILLE NIGHT LIGHTS IN THE GARDEN

**November 24, 2023 – January 7, 2024**

*(No Johnsonville Night Lights December 24, 25, or 31)*

It's the Member perk we wait for year-round: Discounted tickets to Johnsonville Night Lights in the Garden! Buy your tickets now and join in on more festive evenings than ever. Stroll the Garden illuminated in thousands of lights and behold the magic of winter in the tropics. Enjoy this seasonal staple that is distinctly Southwest Florida with live music each night, photo ops, a living bromeliad tree, and festive treats and drinks for purchase.

### Member Pricing:

November 24 – December 15: \$17 adults / \$9 children

December 16 – January 7: \$20 adults / \$10 children

That's nearly 50% savings off the cost of select tickets.  
**Don't wait — this event will sell out!**

#### Title Sponsor



#### Supported By



Fifth Third Bank  
Florida Power & Light  
Naples Daily News  
Tech-Tronics  
Waterside Shops  
WAVE 101.1

## LOOK AHEAD: Your Season

*Included with Garden admission*



## PLEIN AIR FEST

**January 27, 2024 | 9am – 2pm**

What better way to celebrate art in the Garden than by surrounding yourself with local artists? Watch as they work in the tradition of painting en plein air ("in the open air"). Take part in art-themed activities and tours.

*Presented in partnership  
with the Naples Art District*

*Supported By*  
**WINTRUST**  
BANKING CENTER



## MUSICAL SWINGS

**January 27 – April 20, 2024**

*Kapnick Caribbean Garden*

Swing and make music during your Garden visit this season. Expect the unexpected with this collaborative music-making art installation. Create a musical composition of unique melodies through a responsive, interactive soundtrack that is sure to delight Members and guests of all ages.

*Created by Daily tous les jours | Supported By Fifth Third Bank*





## NAPLES ORCHID SOCIETY ANNUAL SHOW & SALE

**February 16 – 18, 2024 | 9am – 5pm**

### *An Orchid Jubilee*

Celebrate the beauty and elegance of orchids during this annual event. Discover eye-catching orchid displays, drop in on live demonstrations, and shop a wide selection of blooming plants and orchid care supplies.

*Presented in partnership with the Naples Orchid Society*



## ANNUAL IKEBANA EXHIBITION

**February 23 – 25, 2024 | 9am – 5pm**

### *FLORAL ART OF IKEBANA: An Inspirational Exhibition*

Step into this centuries-old meditative art during this year's exhibition. Rooted in traditional philosophy and ancient Japanese folklore, Ikebana's modern interpretation enhances our living spaces with a personal touch of nature.

*Presented in partnership with the Naples Chapter of Ikebana International*



## NAPLES FLOWER SHOW & GARDEN MARKET

**April 5 & 6, 2024 | 9am – 5pm**

### *A World of Wonders*

Transport yourself to a floral wonderland and discover a variety of spectacular floral designs on display at one of the largest juried flower shows in Florida. Continue the celebration with botanical arts, tropical plants, floral photo ops, and demonstrations.

*Presented in partnership with the Naples Garden Club*

**+ Visit the market to find botanically inspired items and plants to take home!**



All featured events are 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.





Photo by John Eder

# What can you accomplish in the Garden in 3 hours?

A lot, with a team of willing volunteers!

The Garden's Community Volunteer Program offers organizations and businesses a way to connect and build teamwork as they work among our collections.

A recent visit from 40 student volunteers with Champions for Learning illustrated the impact of even one morning spent in the Garden.

## How the Community Volunteer Program works:

Gather co-workers, organization members, and friends to discover how your team can join with our team. Outdoor and indoor activities are available in Horticulture, Conservation, and Education & Visitor Experience. Group volunteer options vary throughout the year according to plant collection needs and projects.

*If you are an employer or group leader interested in Community Volunteer Program opportunities, please contact Karen Pattison, Volunteer Services Manager, at [kpattison@naplesgarden.org](mailto:kpattison@naplesgarden.org).*

## Student volunteers:

Processed  
**2,800**  
coastal  
groundcherry

Organized  
**800**  
native swamp  
bay plants

Propagated  
**71**  
sections of  
railroad vine

Potted  
**300+**  
native fern  
species

**Thank you to the participants of our  
2023 Community Volunteer Program!**

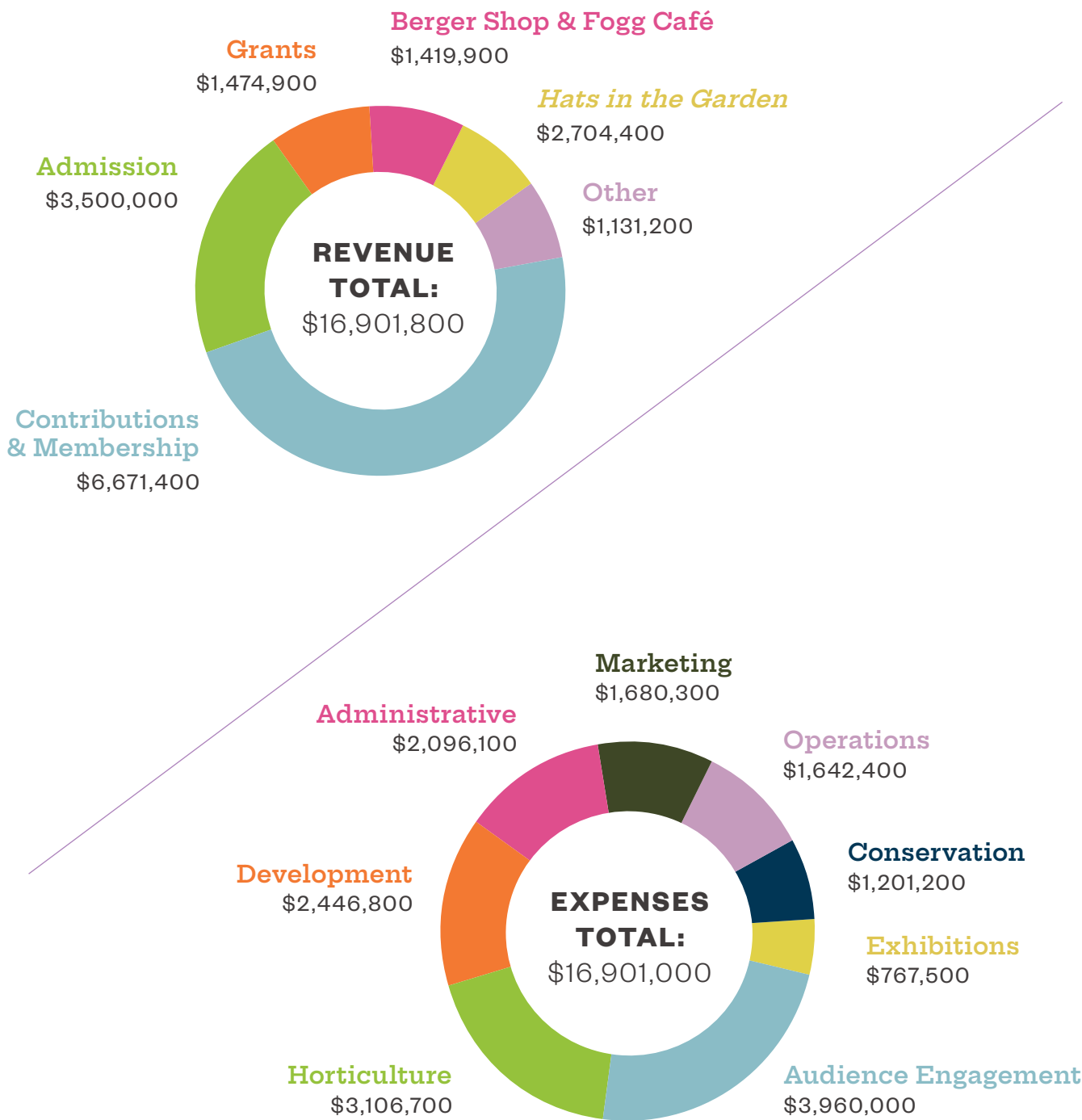
Greater Naples Leadership  
NCH Healthcare System  
The Village School of Naples



# Member Giving Impact

## Fiscal Year 2023 Revenue & Expenses

Members make a dramatic difference in what we can accomplish for the Garden, accounting for more contributions than any other funding source. Thanks to your dedication, plants and people thrive — together.



FY23 revenue and expenses are unaudited as of press time.





# Behind the Scenes, Yet Front & Center

Stephen Jurek explains the unique role he and his team play

Photos by John Eder

*When there's a big project in the Garden, you can bet that you'll find the four-member Horticulture Maintenance Team at the center of it. The job can be intense, requiring anything from moving dozens of 50-foot rare palms to installing expansive outdoor exhibitions. Stephen Jurek, Associate Director of Horticulture Maintenance, a lifelong Naples resident who has worked for the Garden going on 13 years, thrives in this setting. And it's a good thing. Between placing more than 15 large trees at the Evenstad Horticulture Campus, set to open soon, and finding homes for more than a dozen rare palms in the Garden, it's been a busy season.*

The most comfortable for me is when we're in the middle of 50 million things going on that all needed to happen yesterday. I like the chaos of a big project; it keeps pushing you. When we open our shop doors in the morning, we can look out and see all this hard work, this beautiful landscape that we planted ourselves.

We are the Horticulture Maintenance Team; we always have some sort of project going on, and we run machinery almost every day. Whether it's a

chain saw, telehandler forklift, a mower, a tractor; we're always using something. We shovel as well; there's a lot of shoveling. For tree moves, if we are able to use an excavator, it will take us an hour or two to get it out of the ground, three to four hours total to get it moved and planted. If not, it's a day per tree. That's the deciding factor.

Any major renovation beyond electrical and building and concrete, any install — the *Dinosaurs* exhibitions, (2015, 2018), both *Legos* installs (2014,



## There were guests all around watching us put in those giant boulders. We're front and center, but we're not front and center.

2016), *Origami in the Garden* (2016 – 2017); the Fräbel glass sculptures (*Reflections on Glass: Fräbel in the Garden*, 2018 – 2019) — we've had our hands in it. That's something that has helped me get better at my job is that not every install is the same; there's a different way to pick up a sculpture than there is a sabal palm. Every install that we've had in the Garden has been (managed by) us, Operations, and Exhibitions. We are lucky enough to be able to do it ourselves.

The Martin Foundation (palm donation) has been one of the standout fun projects we've gotten to do in a long time. It unwrapped a hidden love of palms that I didn't know I had.

The first half of the palms came in about a week or two before Hurricane Ian. We went over to the gentleman's house in Miami where the palms came from, to see the property a little bit, get a feel for the trees. You can see a palm tree in the ground and think, that's a huge palm tree, but when you see a single palm tree with a root ball that's eight feet wide, that puts it into perspective.

We are not just moving tiny palms from a nursery. This thing is 40 feet long with a 5-foot-long root ball. We got different species of palms the second time around this summer, and it just reinforced the fact that I love palm trees.

It's cliché, but every day is different for us, truly. It's instant gratification what we do. If we put in 10 rocks in a day and a palm tree, that area goes from nothing to instant landscape.

The *STICKWORK* install we did (2021 – 2023), the Tobin install we did (*Steve Tobin: Nature Underground*, 2020 – 2021), all of the Garden face-lifts are something guests get to experience. We block off an area, and the guests are there; they get to see it as it's happening. When we were expanding the Foster Succulent Garden, there were guests all around watching us put in those giant boulders. We're front and center, but we're not front and center.

There's a joke that our team has when we're moving a big tree or we're doing a large install: "Oh, it's just another day at the office." That's our viewpoint — it's just another day.



**"The team I have is just truly amazing at what they do, and I can tell that every single one of them loves their job. Anything that needs to get done, they do it with smiles on their faces. None of what we're able to pull off is even possible without them."**

**— Stephen Jurek**

*Below:*

Jurek, far right, and the Horticulture Maintenance Team place a dead royal poinciana into Lake Tupke in May, where it will serve as a vital roosting spot for birds and habitat for animals.





# Alluring Aroids

*How to grow these coveted houseplants*

By Kristin Hood

Photos by John Eder



*Aglaonema hybrid*



**N**ot long ago, I traveled to every plant nursery I know in pursuit of the *Monstera deliciosa* ‘Albo Borsigiana.’ At each stop, the staff practically laughed at me. That’s because these plants are typically sold before they ever hit the

shelves. Aroids (*Monstera* among them) are some of the most highly sought house plants. This is because of their beautiful heart- and arrow-shaped leaves, colors, variations, ease of care, and range of species and cultivars.

Naples Botanical Garden abounds with aroids of all types. The Garden is a great place to discover how this coveted indoor plant can also be a fantastic landscape accent.

## Where to find them in the Garden:

### Kathryn’s and Irma’s gardens

Look for vast groupings here, including *Anthurium* cultivars, a colorful tropical icon also known “flamingo flower,” and *Dieffenbachia*, a native of the Americas that comes in cool greens and blues.

### Near the end of the Smith Entry Prow

A Thai Constellation (*Monstera deliciosa*) with beautifully patterned leaves emerges from the base of a tree. Look for an array of aroids, including a pair of purple *Anthurium* ‘Water Dragon,’ under a screw pine, followed by giant *Monstera* growing outside Kapnick Hall.

### Lea Asian Garden

We are unique in our ability to grow some cold-sensitive aroids outdoors, including species in the *Amorphophallus* genus. Find *Amorphophallus paeoniifolius*, the elephant foot yam, along the path near the reflecting pools. Look for clusters of leaves and mottled trunk-like stems.



*Dieffenbachia*



## HOW TO GROW YOUR OWN AROIDS

Aroid species can be terrestrial, aquatic, epiphytic (grown on trees), lithophilic (grown on rock faces), or even hemi-epiphytic, spending part of their lives connected to a host.



Lighting depends on the species and its variegation. Variegated species are more sensitive due to their lack of pigment, preferring shade and indirect sunlight.



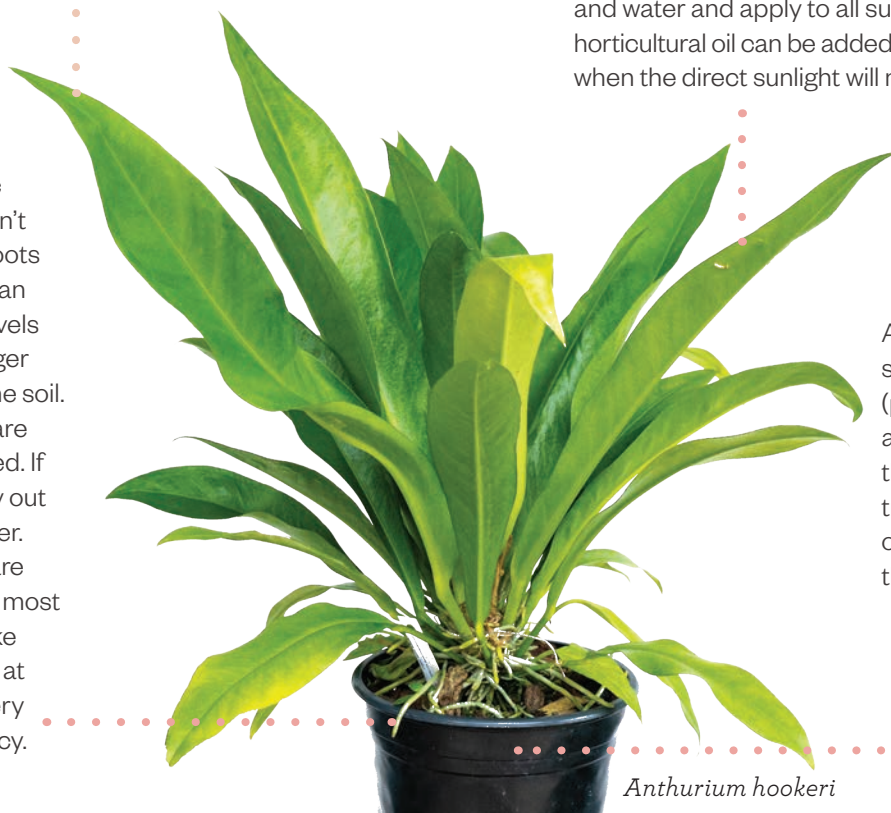
Pests are common, especially with plants in the *Alocasia*, *Caladium*, and *Colocasia* genera. Spider mites and mealy bugs are typical nuisances. For a quick fix, spray the plant with a hose; for a more thorough approach, mix a solution of dish soap and water and apply to all surfaces. Neem oil or horticultural oil can be added; apply in the evenings when the direct sunlight will not burn the plants.



Except for aquatic species, aroids don't like to have their roots submerged. You can check moisture levels by poking your finger about 1 inch into the soil. If dry, your plants are ready to be watered. If moist, let them dry out before adding water. Moisture readers are also easy to find in most garden stores. Take moisture readings at the same spot every time for consistency.



Aroids prefer a loose, airy soil mixture of bark, perlite (puffed white stone), and soil. Equal parts of these with an occasional treatment of low-strength organic fertilizer keeps them happy.



*Anthurium hookeri*

## GARDENERS, BEWARE!

Our climate is well suited for aroids — so much so that some species prove invasive if planted outside. If you landscape with aroids, please avoid the following species, especially if you live near a preserve:

**'Five Fingers' Syngonium** (*Syngonium podophyllum*) is common in potted arrangements. Outdoors it spreads and outcompetes native plants.

**Golden pothos** (*Epipremnum aureum*) is a favored houseplant yet takes over native habitats when planted in the ground.

Find houseplants for your home in the [Berger Shop in the Garden](#), page 33.



*Red aglaonema*





Coconut palms (*Cocos nucifera*) in the Lea Asian Garden





# Beacon of the Tropics

## EXPLORING THE VASTLY DIVERSE WORLD OF PALMS

By Jennifer Reed | Photos by John Eder

**G**lance at a postcard from Florida, and you might be tempted to think that all palms are straight, coconut-bearing, with long, arching fronds. But palms exist throughout the tropical and subtropical world, and their appearances are as varied as their native regions.

There are palms with massive, fan-shaped fronds. Palms that climb like vines. Palms that bear fruits. Palms that are bushy like shrubs and species that tower over forest canopies. They exist in a variety of habitats, “from the tropical forest to the blazing-hot desert,” says Director of Collections Nick Ewy. The trunks can be as varied as the fronds: smooth, ringed, spiky, singular, clustered, lattice-like, shaggy like a beard.

Palms serve as important natural resources. They produce oil, sugar, wax, fruit, and material for thatching, basket-making, furniture (rattan is a type of palm), and textiles.

Naples Botanical Garden’s palm collection — one of its largest — includes 223 species and some 1,500

trees on display. “We’re one of the few gardens in the United States that can have an outdoor palm collection. That really sets us apart,” Ewy says.

Many of ours are showpieces, designed to give guests a taste of the palm family’s vast diversity. We tend others to conserve them, such as *Attalea crassipatha* (located in the Kapnick Caribbean Garden) and *Dypsis leptocheiros* (located on the Performance Lawn and near the Grove). These are among the 23 species listed as “endangered” or “critically endangered” by the International Union for Conservation of Nature’s Red List, a global information source on extinction risk. We also safeguard a collection of Florida thatch palms (*Thrinax radiata*), critical because they occur on the northernmost end of their range, making them genetically distinct, and because their coastal habitat is imperiled.

Read on to discover our wide-ranging species, and during your next visit, slow down and experience for yourself what makes palms so unique.





## *Allagoptera arenaria*

Native to Brazil, the seashore palm's fruits are reminiscent of corn on the cob. Oblong and nugget-like, they are eaten raw, pressed into juice, or cooked into jam. The genus name, *Allagoptera*, comes from the ancient Greek words meaning "change" and "wing," referencing the swirling, changing pattern of the leaves, and the species' name, *arenaria*, is derived from the Latin word for "sandy," its preferred soil type. Based on fossil records, the seaside palm is regarded as among the most ancient of palms.

**Where to see it:** *In the Kapnick Brazilian Garden, as you make your way down from the Roberto Burle Marx mosaic.*



## *Attalea cohune*

Towering as high as 80 feet, South America's cohune palm is both aesthetically impressive and highly useful. Native people used it as a food and a wine, extracting the palm hearts and sap, respectively. Cohune oil serves as a lubricant, cooking oil, lamp oil, and soap ingredient. Its long fronds are used as a thatching material for roofs, and its fruits can be turned into a sweet delicacy or serve as livestock feed.

**Where to see it:** *Along the winding pathway in the Kapnick Brazilian Garden.*



## *Nypa fruticans*

The trunks of the nipa or mangrove palm grow underground with long, leafy fronds emerging from the surface. These Southeast Asian trees thrive in estuaries, where fresh water meets the sea. Its fronds have been used for roofs, baskets, and tobacco rolls. Its sugar-rich sap can be converted into ethanol or butanol. The fruits are eaten as a dessert, flower petals have been used in teas, and the base of its stems often harbor mussels that are roasted and eaten.

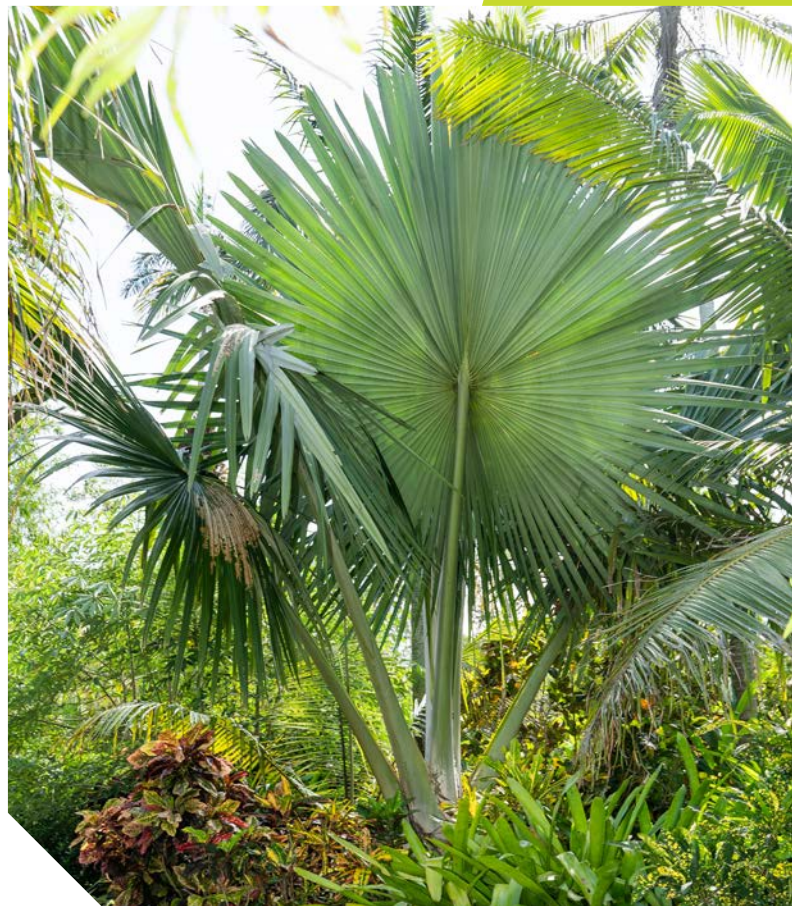
**Where to see it:** *In the Lea Asian Garden pool next to the Thai Pavilion.*



## *Tahina spectabilis*

The *Tahina* palm was discovered in 2006 when a cashew farmer in Madagascar stumbled upon it. The International Institute for Species Exploration dubbed it one of the top 10 species discoveries in 2008 once the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, confirmed it was a unique new genus. There is only one known wild-growing population of this towering palm. Conservationists are working to increase its numbers by sharing seeds with botanical gardens, including ours.

**Where to see it:** *Along the pathway between the Lea Asian Garden and the Grove.*







## *Copernicia macroglossa*

This Cuban native is dubbed “petticoat palm.” The large, circular, erect fronds have almost no leafstalk (the stemlike structure that attaches fronds to branches), and fan out in a spiral shape from the trunk. The tree doesn’t shed the leaves as they die, and they droop into a dress-like shape beneath the new growth if not removed.

**Where to see it:** *In the arid habitat at the tip of the Kapnick Caribbean Garden. From Nina’s Pavilion, follow the paved pathway along Lake Tupke and look to your right.*



## *Chambeyronia macrocarpa*

Just as its common name implies, the flame-thrower palm periodically produces a bright red new leaf, which juts from its crown and fades to green after about 10 days. This ancient palm (records date it back to the age of dinosaurs) originates in New Caledonia in the South Pacific where it is the national tree.

**Where to see it:** *There are several at the Chabraja Visitor Center.*

Source: *Palmpedia.net*



# Can you match these palm trunks with their names?



Match these mystery trunks to their palms! Find the answers at the bottom, and then test your newfound knowledge during your next Garden visit.



- 1. Teddy bear palm 2. Cuban belly palm 3. Phoenix palm
- 4. Chinese fan palm 5. Footstool palm
- 6. Bucaneer palm 7. Palmyra palm
- 8. Root spine palm 9. Lipstick palm
- 10. Old man palm 11. Mule palm
- 12. *Coccothrinax macrogloussa* 'azul'





# Hidden Spaces

*Staff share how they get away from it all —  
without ever leaving the Garden*

By Jennifer Reed | Photos by John Eder

Stop. Look. Listen. Feel. Breathe.

This season, the Garden focuses on the *Here and Now*, inviting guests to slow down, unwind, reflect, and take in the natural beauty around them. We've asked five staff members to share their favorite, out-of-the-way spots where they find quiet moments of contemplation. These are places easily accessible but often overlooked. We encourage you to step off the paved pathways in our cultivated gardens and find hidden nooks. Or venture onto our lakeside trail, the Sönne Family Ghost Orchid Boardwalk, and the sandy trails beyond it. Enjoy our staff's favorite places. And then discover your own.



“

I found this spot by walking the trail before I even started working here. Now, I pass by it all the time as a mechanic doing test rides on golf carts and things like that. It was just always attractive to me as a relatively secluded spot in the Garden.

It's always been a good place to come out here with a book, or even just to reflect and meditate. If you sit on this bench long enough, even after five or 10 minutes without moving, you'll see quite a bit of wildlife. I've seen half a dozen different butterfly species flying by here and lots of birds. Basically, anything that you can find in this area is likely to pass over this spot at any given time.

I do really like the one little clump of mangroves out here. I think that's pretty cool. And maybe, more broadly, just how much (plant) variety is packed into this small area right here on the shoreline.

You have the pollinators that are attracted to these flowering plants. You have the birds roosting in the trees across there. It's just a heavy abundance of life in this small cross section.

**When I think about this spot, I just think of solitude and serenity and reflective peace.**

### 📍 Swing along the lakeside trail

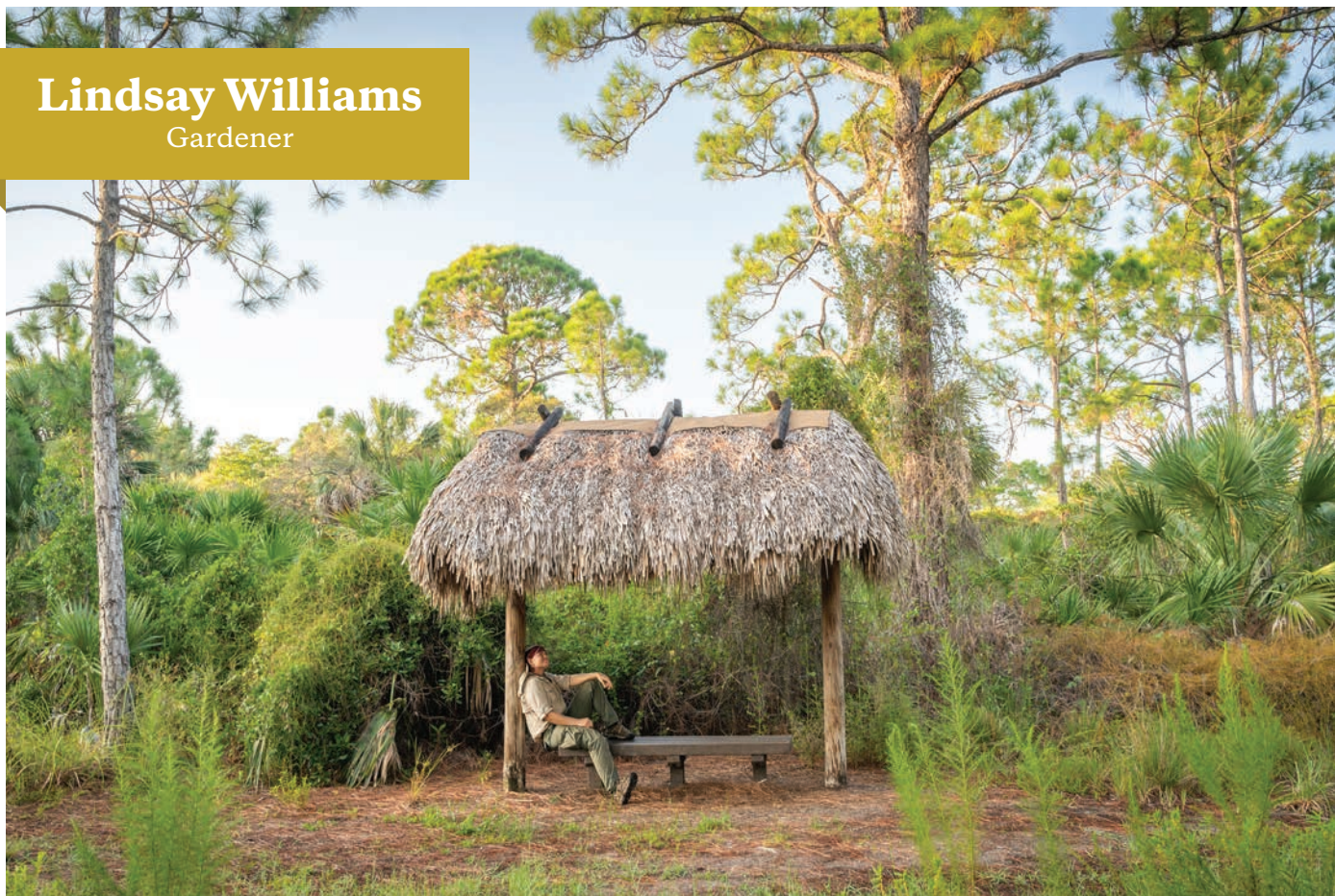
**Scott Dorris**  
Mechanic





## Lindsay Williams

Gardener



### 📍 Chickee just beyond the Sönne Family Ghost Orchid Boardwalk

*Lindsay stumbled upon her favorite hidden spot during her very first visit to the Garden, prior to employment, when she was unaccustomed to Florida's heat and humidity.*

It's really hard to enjoy the splendor of a garden if you are dehydrated and fatigued. Being able to rest for a bit helped me appreciate the area more. Sitting down, I could hear the birds. I could hear, I think, what might have been cicadas, and I could just see the pines swaying in the breeze.

Stop and listen and try to open your minds to the fact that there's different tropical biomes. I think we imagine tropical areas as the same thing, copy and paste, you know, the white beaches, the palms ... I feel like when you're in natural areas, you discover things. Just like seeing a parrot in the

wild would be different from seeing a parrot in the zoo. I think it's the same when you're seeing plants, the way they grow and interact naturally is a little different from seeing them in the ornamental gardens. The ornamental gardens are cool; they represent the best that humanity is able to collect and cultivate ...

**... but there's just something magical about being able to be in a native area and experience that seclusion and the quiet and the discovery of things.**



“

I wander the Garden whenever I can and try to find the hidden spots. And the pier is one of my favorites. Sometimes I come here just to reset if I'm having a really crazy day and have been in front of the computer. Sometimes, it's just a nice place to have a cup of coffee in the morning. Close your eyes — or keep your eyes open. And just take it in and be part of it and let everything else go.

(The waterfall sound) is very relaxing. I love any form of water. The waterfall

is a good place to just, you know, get that fix. The waterlilies and the lotus are among my favorite plants. Along the shoreline, I love looking at the water chestnut tree, especially when it flowers, and the bromeliads along the shoreline. They change color depending on the season.

**I mean, there's just so much to look at and take in. And it looks different every time I come out here.**

📍 **Connie and John Vandenberg and Family Pier, Kapnick Brazilian Garden**

**Beth Thomas**  
Festival Coordinator





**Ian Talty**  
Natural Resources Manager



### 📍 A pine tree along the Preserve lakeside trail

*The Garden conducted a prescribed burn in July at the site Ian describes. In Florida, nature regulates itself with fire, but until recently the Garden's natural areas had not been burned for decades. Garden conservationists wanted to reduce excess pine, clear accumulated plant debris, and prompt fresh, new growth. They shielded this tree because of its age and character.*

“ This spot is centered around a very old slash pine. I don't know how old; they're not easy to estimate and age. I think (this tree) is significant because it's telling a story of the absence of fire in the landscape. Typically, slash pines that have had fire around them have branches that are very high. This guy has branches you can hit your head on ... I think it just looks gnarly. He's got a pretty nontypical branch structure for a pine, especially in Southwest Florida. Very pagoda-like.

It has air plants on it. You can see the old, broken branches are made from the hardest material, that “lighter pine” that is just impossible to break. It's a shady

spot in a relatively unshaded area. So, it's a unique tree in that way. And then, you know, right behind us, we have a significant development going on with the Hamilton Avenue bioswale and the new plants growing there. (*The swale was designed to capture and purify stormwater runoff generated by a nearby Collier County project.*)

**This guy has stood the test of time like this, and some things are just better left untouched, and we'll see what happens. Luckily, he's shown great signs of making it through.**



“

You know, I started working here going on five years now. When I started, I was working in (Fogg) Café. After work, you know, everyone's gone, so I liked to walk the Garden while there was still light out. And this has always been my favorite spot. I still come here. I love hearing the wind. It is very, very peaceful.

You don't hear too much back here. Further out in the Garden, you sometimes hear some traffic or other noises, but here is like you're in a different place. And I love that.

I like the diversity of plants back here. *(They include mangos, Barbados cherry, and Neobuchia trees with their spiked trunks.)*

**It's a great spot for guests to discover. It's definitely tucked away. It's a great place if you're coming to the Garden to try to get away from everything.**

📍 **Seating area behind the Pastore Family Caribbean House**

**Avelina Cruz Lopez**  
Community Relations Manager







# A Sketchbook Changes Everything

How two Nature Journaling students learned to see the world — and themselves — in a different perspective

By Jennifer Reed | Photos by John Eder







If you want to see nature — really see nature — in all its color, texture, and nuance, grab a sketch pad and a pencil.

The Garden's Nature Journaling: Botany Through Art offers adults ages 55 and older an entry-level art course that teaches them how to study and sketch the natural world.

"The main focus throughout the whole class is teaching people how to stop, look, listen, smell, feel, and then write about it, and draw about it," says Donnamarie Richmond, a Garden educator and artist who leads the class.

In 2020, amid the COVID-19 pandemic, the class switched from a live format to a virtual one, and Garden educators decided to keep it that way because they could reach more people. Then, a little over a year ago, the Garden introduced a Spanish version (Richmond is bilingual), recognizing the scarcity of native-language adult programming for the Hispanic population. News of it spread from Spanish-speaking communities in Southwest Florida to places outside of the United States, drawing attendees from as far away as Colombia, Panama, and Peru.



Richmond monitors the course's impact, asking participants to rate their closeness to nature using a numeric scale at the eight-week course's beginning and the end. Invariably, it shifts. Even people who consider themselves outdoorsy tell Richmond their connection to nature grew stronger.

"Every single class, I see two or three people at least who experienced a life-altering shift," Richmond says. "It's like they open their eyes for the first time. And it's an incredible feeling to be part of that."

Meet two Nature Journaling participants and hear what they have to say about their journeys.



***Are you 55+ and want to experience nature in a whole new way? English and Spanish nature journaling courses are offered three times a year. Sign up today! Class sizes are limited to 15 students each to foster connections and relationships.***

***Scan the QR code to register for the winter session by December 23.***





# Barbara Kacos

Longtime Garden Member Barbara Kacos of Naples signed up for Nature Journaling, well, because she thought it was journaling. “I like to sit in nature and write,” she says. But she balked when she got the supply kit, consisting of a sketch pad and watercolor pencils. “I was a little intimidated,” she admits. “But I said, ‘You know what, I’m gonna do it.’ And I have to say, Donnamarie made everybody super comfortable.” Barbara loves being in nature. The class, she says, made her see it differently.

Assignments at first seemed quite challenging, but Barbara focused on a small section of a slash pine, the bark,



and homed in on the texture, color, and shape. “That assignment made me look at that tree and just think, ‘That bark is so cool.’”

Similarly, she decided to examine a *Philodendron* leaf from a new perspective, flipping it over on its backside. “The back was so different from the front. When you look at it, it had all that pronounced veining.”

“I had never really looked at the patterns,” Barbara says. But as she tried to capture an orchid on paper, she looked at the coloration. Then she looked at other orchids of the same type and started to see differences. “Here’s the same flower, and its pattern is different. It makes you start to wonder, ‘Why is it so different and yet it’s the same flower?’” She found herself asking more questions and contemplating familiar plants in new ways.





66

I had never really looked at the patterns [on an orchid]. Why is it so different, and yet it's the same flower?

"I propagate all my own plants, and I share them with the community, so my plants are everywhere now in the neighborhood," Barbara says. Among them are powderpuff trees and the hummingbirds they attract. Barbara says she took some artistic liberties with this painting as she celebrated the colorful little birds and fuchsia blooms.

"I was very sad the class was over. I really could have done 10 more weeks," Barbara says. But she continues to practice, packing sketchbooks and watercolor pencils when she travels.



Back of large leaf



SLASH PINE





# Gisela Sanchez

Gisela Sanchez of Cape Coral had always wanted to take an art class, though she had never drawn before. Retired, she at last had the time to pursue her interest. “It was a wonderful experience,” she says through her son Samir Sayago, who translates. Although the class was online, Donnamarie encouraged conversation and relationships among the students. “It was a wonderful way to share with each other, even if we were in our own homes.”

When she was unable to go to a park to sketch, Gisela walked out her front door and experienced her yard in a whole new way. “Typically, we don’t notice these details like the

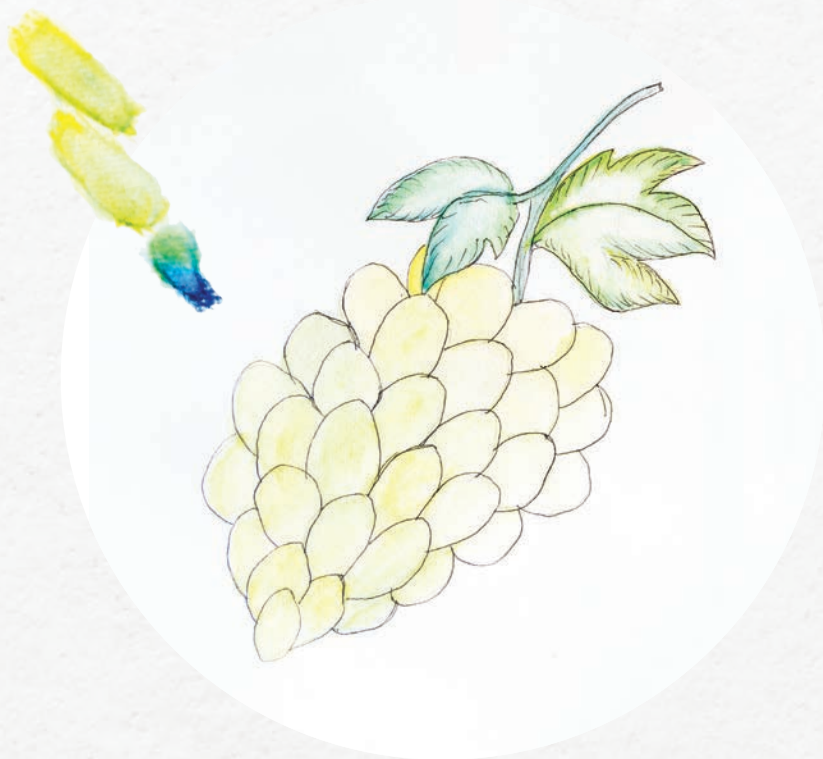


textures,” she says. She concentrated on the bark, the rocks, the movement of the palm fronds. “I always liked nature, but I didn’t see the details. It was more like glossing over things — this is pretty, that is pretty ... Now I see things more profoundly.”

Early lessons teach students about the color wheel and mixing colors. Of the grapes, she says, “This whole drawing is only two colors.” She finds her new pastime to be “meditative.” “It allows us to relax and be in a moment of bliss with nature and with ourselves.”

Gisela created the sketch of the hillside palms (at right) by combining memory and imagination. She was riding in her son’s car, noticed a line of palms along the water, and re-created





66

I always liked nature, but I didn't see the details. Now I see things more profoundly.

the scene later. "I learned I could do things I did not think I could do," she says. "I learned to be less critical of myself."

Gisela's culminating project honors her artistic journey and her late mother, who loved yellow flowers. In creating it, she says, "I did my best trying to connect everything I learned, to connect with nature and the beauty of it all, and to my mother."





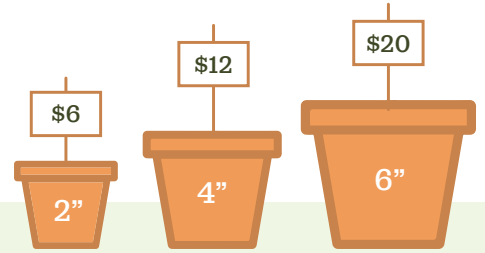
# Planted Living

This fall, move gardening indoors and reap the restorative benefits of the botanical world

By Dominique Caruso

Whether you live in sunny Southwest Florida year-round or spend most of your time in cooler climes, it's always houseplant season. With a careful eye on your plants' specific watering and sunlight needs, you'll sow a bevy of benefits in return — instant accents to any living space, improved indoor air quality, and enhanced sense of well-being — to name a few.

During your next visit to the Jane and Chuck Berger Shop in the Garden, pick up some of these must-have houseplant finds for your home. Want to learn more about an essential part of a thriving houseplant collection? Check out our Gardening How-To on aroids, page 13.



- 1 Bird's nest fern (*Asplenium antiquum*)
- 2 Moon valley *Pilea* 'Crinkle'
- 3 *Peperomia caperata*
- 4 Friendship plant (*Pilea involucrata*)
- 5 *Goeppertia* 'Rosy'
- 6 Monarch fern
- 7 Lemon button fern

Members save  
10% in Fogg  
Café and the  
Berger Shop in  
the Garden!



Photos by John Eder



# A Bountiful Harvest, Florida Style

New Menu  
Offering!

Garden Veggie  
Wrap

FROM FOGG CAFÉ

Even in fall, we can still appreciate the refreshing zing of a wrap brimming with grilled bell pepper, caramelized onion, roasted tomato, and cucumber. Most of these delights, we might add, are in season — ripe for the picking — right here in Southwest Florida.

Enjoy the Garden veggie wrap after a leisurely stroll during your next visit (Fogg Café is open daily 9am – 5pm). Luckily, when you're out of town or can't visit, now you can make this newest menu item at home. Compliments to the Fogg Café team for this flavor-packed recipe!



**New!**

Learn about some of the hundreds of edible plants found right here in the Garden, with our new Plant to Plate tour, Sundays at 10:30am and 12:30pm.

## Ingredients

**Spinach wrap** (*Any kind of wrap is fine when making at home. Same goes for the veggies and hummus. That's a good thing about this recipe — it's versatile.*)

$\frac{1}{2}$  cucumber, deseeded and cut into sticks

$\frac{1}{4}$  cup roasted Roma tomato

$\frac{1}{4}$  cup roasted red and yellow pepper\*

$\frac{1}{4}$  cup sautéed red onion

1 cup mixed greens

1 spoonful of hummus

1 lemon, juiced

Olive oil, salt, and pepper, to taste

*\*Don't have time to roast your veggies? Roll your wrap with raw ingredients for a satisfying crunch.*

## For the Build

1. Lay out your wrap and spread hummus on one side.
2. Take your veggies and combine them in a bowl. Squeeze the lemon into it. Add salt, pepper, and olive oil to your liking.
3. Give it a good mix, and then spread onto your wrap and roll it up.

**Tip:** The reason for mixing all your veggies is so that when you take a bite you will have a little of everything in it, compared to just having all lettuce or all peppers.

*Special thanks to Lalo Hernandez, Sous-Chef, for ingredient and build tips.*

*Photo by John Eder*



# Member News & Events

## Members Only - Save the Dates!

Members-Only events and activities are offered as a special “thank you” to our Members. We are so grateful for your support — we could not fulfill the Garden’s mission without YOU!



### Member Appreciation Days

**January 17 • March 14, 2024, 9am – 5pm**

Bring a friend for free and enjoy double the discount at the Berger Shop.

### Annual Members’ Meeting

**February 27, 2024, 5:30 – 7pm**

Networking and demonstrations with our Horticulture, Conservation, and Education teams. Complimentary light bites, cash bar, and updates from senior management. RSVP will be requested.



### Members-Only Sunset Saturday

**March 30, 2024, 5 – 8pm**



**Sunset: 7:42pm**

Live entertainment and special Members-Only treats — don’t forget your lawn chair or blanket! RSVP will be requested.



## Giving Update

Naples Botanical Garden strives to be a good steward of your support. One of the ways we do this is by periodic review of our membership program benefits. Following our most recent review, we want to inform you of changes to the fair market value (FMV) for some of our membership levels.



As of October 1, 2023, our *Individual, Family, Family & Friends*, and *Contributing* membership levels remain fully tax deductible.



Our *Sustaining* level and higher will now include a fair market value (FMV) of benefits.

The Garden welcomes contributions from all types of funding sources, including donor-advised funds (DAFs), individual retirement accounts (IRAs), and securities in addition to personal checks and credit cards. IRS rules limit the use of DAF distributions and IRA qualified charitable distributions. We encourage our supporters to consult with their tax advisor regarding questions about these specific gift options and membership.

## Garden Circle Insiders Only



Join, Renew, or UPGRADE at one of the Garden Circle levels — *Contributing, Sustaining, or Garden Fellows* — to enjoy extra privileges and invitations to exclusive events, including Garden Circle Insider Experiences. These gatherings are offered ONLY to active members at the *Contributing, Sustaining, or Garden Fellows* levels.

### 2024 Garden Circle Insider Experiences

**February 7, 4 – 5pm**

Orchids

**February 28, 8:30 – 9:30am**

Botanical Breakfast, Coffee, Tea, and Chocolate

**March 15, 6 – 7pm**

Botanical Cocktail Quest

*Registration is limited to (1) 2024 Experience at (2) persons per membership. Availability limited to (12) total participants per Experience.*

## Give Them the Gift of the Garden!

Surprise that special person in your life with the beauty of the tropics all year long. Personalize your purchase with a Gift of Membership certificate. Available Monday – Friday, 8am – 5pm, at the Chabreja Visitor Center.



### Can't make it to the Garden in person?

Simply email us at [membership@naplesgarden.org](mailto:membership@naplesgarden.org).







Evenstad Horticulture Campus

# Seeding the Future of Southwest Florida's Tropical Plants

The Evenstad Horticulture Campus will begin operations this winter. Here's more on how this facility will impact Southwest Florida's tropical plants. And how you can help.

**Photos by John Eder**

**T**he Evenstad Horticulture Campus is among a handful of tropical growing operations in the United States. Custom-designed for Naples Botanical Garden, this new facility will drive our mission for decades to come.

With more than 60,000 square feet of growing space, the campus features specialized environmental controls that allow our staff to replicate natural conditions and care for even the most sensitive of plants.

## Projects & Priorities

- Protecting rare, threatened, and endangered plants
- Ecosystem restoration
- Seed banking
- Redefining the landscape
- Expanding collections





“The greenhouses will elevate our operations, optimizing the growing conditions for our plants and efficiencies in seed production. I think the doors are opening for the future of our Garden's conservation legacy.

— Jessica DeYoung,  
*Conservation Horticulture Manager*



“Creating world-class botanical experiences and conserving nature here and afar can only be achieved with a great staff, a caring audience, and the right plants. The linchpin that will make this perpetual is the Evenstad Horticulture Campus.

— Brian Galligan,  
*Vice President of Horticulture*



“The Evenstad Horticulture Campus provides a secure haven for growing at-risk plant species, shielded from hurricanes, while also offering the opportunity to discover methods for cultivating challenging species.

— Chad Washburn,  
*Vice President of Conservation*



“The new Horticulture Campus will be a high end, professional facility that significantly increases our ability to expand, grow, and protect our collections.

— Nick Ewy,  
*Director of Collections*



Scan the QR code to learn more about contributing to the Evenstad Horticulture Campus and the Garden's work throughout Southwest Florida and the Caribbean. To discuss recognition opportunities for significant gifts, contact Rhea Merrill, Director of Development, at 239.571.3806 or [rmerrill@naplesgarden.org](mailto:rmerrill@naplesgarden.org).





Photos by John Eder

# Making the Most of Your Charitable Gift

*Board Member and wealth advisor Carlos Batlle shares 3 gift-giving strategies*

When Carlos Batlle and his family visit the Garden, they embark on a familiar routine. His granddaughters, now 8 and 9, must make a necessary stop: Fogg Café. “They love it and have many great memories at the Garden. Lauren — my wife — and I love to walk around, with the Caribbean Garden being one of our favorite spots. And my two daughters also enjoy visiting the Garden when they fly in from LA.”

Through his role as Managing Director and Senior Wealth Advisor at J.P. Morgan Private Bank in Miami, Carlos has covered the Naples market for more than a decade and resides here part time. It allows him and Lauren to be close to their son’s family — with

Garden-going granddaughters — who live in Naples. A former attorney practicing trust and estate law for more than two decades, Carlos now advises clients on estate planning, taxes, and philanthropy.

After getting involved in the Garden’s Professional Advisors Group in 2019, Carlos joined the Planned Giving Committee at the urging of Donna McGinnis, Naples Botanical Garden President & CEO, and the late Lisa Merritt, a J.P. Morgan Private Bank colleague with longstanding Garden ties.

Now a member of the Garden’s Board of Directors, Carlos leverages his expertise and provides guidance to our leadership on giving and philanthropy.



## Here's his advice on how to make the most of your gift giving.

### 1. Stock gifts

Many folks don't realize they can donate stock to charity. By doing so, you would receive a charitable deduction — and, critically, ensure the charity gets the full value of that stock. Any shares donated ideally would be held more than one year and have a low basis.

### 2. Charitable remainder trust

As its name suggests, a charitable remainder trust is an irrevocable trust from which you or another beneficiary receive monthly payments, and a charity(ies) of your choice receives the remaining assets at the end of the time period (usually a beneficiary's death). Some benefits include planning donations to the charities you support, providing predictable cash flow over a specific time period, and allowing capital gains taxes on the sale of assets transferred to the trust to be deferred.

### 3. IRA required minimum distributions (RMDs)

Particularly as the year comes to a close, if you don't need all of the funds in your IRA, you can, if you are over 70½ direct up to \$100,000 of the required minimum distribution to charity without that amount being included in your income (you couldn't claim an income tax charitable deduction on that amount, however).



“

**My wife and I love to walk around, with the Caribbean Garden being one of our favorite spots.**

Speak with your tax advisor about which actions may be right for you and to help identify tax planning actions that are best suited to your personal circumstances and long-term financial goals.

**To discuss how you can impact the Garden and Evenstad Horticulture Campus through giving options and more, contact Rhea Merrill, Director of Development, at 239.571.3806 or [rmerrill@naplesgarden.org](mailto:rmerrill@naplesgarden.org).**



# NAPLES BOTANICAL GARDEN


INVITES YOU TO JOIN US IN CELEBRATION OF

## *Hats in the Garden*

PRESENTED BY  
**WILLIAM RAVEIS**

Top Brokerage

The #1 Real Estate Company in the U.S.

 inman 2023

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 20, 2024

11AM

NAPLES BOTANICAL GARDEN

4820 Bayshore Drive, Naples

HATS IN THE GARDEN CHAIR | BARBARA HILLS

RUNWAY SHOW PARTNER

**Carolina Herrera**

JEWELRY PARTNER

**Chopard**

RETAIL PARTNER

**Saks Fifth Avenue**

MAGAZINE SPONSOR

**Gulfshore Life**

SUPPORTING SPONSORS

**Dr. Kiran Gill – Naples Aesthetic Institute**

**Salon Lusso**

**Mrs. William C. Stone**

**Van Cleef & Arpels**

**The Village Shops on Venetian Bay**

**WW Hospitality Marketing**

**Waterside Shops**

**Wilfredo Emanuel and Erin Biggers**

UNDERWRITERS

**Fiddler Films**

**Flexjet**

**Naples Trust Company**

**Nothing Bundt Cakes**

**Sea Salt**

**Bayview Dental Arts**

**Bentley Naples**

**Edwards Group**



For more information on sponsorships, table or ticket purchases:

[naplesgarden.org](http://naplesgarden.org) | [hats@naplesgarden.org](mailto:hats@naplesgarden.org)





Punta Gorda spider lily (*Hymenocallis puntagordensis*). Photos by Jaycie Newton, Natural Resources Associate.

**“Finding the seed of a critically imperiled plant  
can feel like finding the needle in the haystack.”**

— Conservation Associate Sam Amodeo,  
*on finding the fingernail-sized seed of the Punta Gorda spider lily before  
laying eyes on the plant itself. The range of this curious flowering perennial  
is extremely limited, found only in Charlotte County, Florida.*

***Read more at [naplesgarden.org/punta-gorda-spider-lily](https://naplesgarden.org/punta-gorda-spider-lily)***





4820 Bayshore Drive  
Naples, FL 34112  
239.643.7275  
naplesgarden.org

STAY IN TOUCH WITH ALL THAT'S HAPPENING IN THE GARDEN!  
Send your name and email address to [membership@naplesgarden.org](mailto:membership@naplesgarden.org).

Bring a copy of this issue  
with you on the go  
or share with a friend!



# STRIVING FOR CONSISTENCY IN AN INCONSISTENT WORLD

PERFORMANCE MATTERS • FEES MATTER • PEOPLE MATTER • PLANTS MATTER

**EDWARDS**  
ASSET MANAGEMENT

239.264.1000 | [edwardsasset.com](http://edwardsasset.com) | 5811 Pelican Bay Boulevard, Suite 600 | Naples, Florida 34108  
110 SE 6th St. Suite 3000 | Fort Lauderdale, FL 33301

Investment products and services are offered through Wells Fargo Advisors Financial Network, LLC (WFAFN). Edwards Asset Management is a separate entity from WFAFN. CAR-0523-00293