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These plants are ready for their close-up. Container gardening basics made easy.

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#### **CULTIVATE FALL 2025**

#### **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**

A bevy of botanical cuttings showcases the Garden's exploration of color in its most natural forms in our upcoming exhibition, ChromaFlora.

Photo illustration: John Eder

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Top-rated Attraction









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s this issue of *Cultivate* lands in mailboxes, our friends, family, and seasonal Members up north are enjoying a certain kind of autumnal splendor. We at the Garden, however, have planned a very special season of color that will last well beyond the last fallen leaf.

It starts with the Día de los Muertos Celebration (November 1 & 2), when the Garden springs to life with Latin vibrancy. Originating in Mexico, the holiday honors departed family and friends with festivities abounding in color—from decorated altars commemorating loved ones to dancers twirling in celebration, to marigolds, believed to attract souls.

Weeks later, Johnsonville Night Lights in the Garden transforms our property into a dazzling, nighttime



wonderland. Watch for enhanced displays, an especially rich palette, and new touches throughout.

And in January, we launch ChromaFlora, a Garden-wide exploration of color. This special exhibition (January 24 - May 25, 2026), designed by our staff, will feature

thousands of plants, arranged in displays of brilliant color unlike any we've ever planted before. You may even get a special look at rarely seen plants from our collection, put on view for their stunning blooms and foliage.

Remember: Your support enables us to create these special moments, so spread the word and come see us often! Thank you for all you do to ensure the success of your botanical garden.



Donna McGinnis

President & CEO Naples Botanical Garden

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

## 2025 - 2026 **Events & Exhibitions**

Plan your season at the Garden





# HE WAY IT

**JANUARY 11, 2026** 

**NOW THROUGH** 

In Fogg Café



**SELECT SATURDAYS** OCTOBER 2025 - MAY 2026, 2 - 4PM • JUNE 2026, 12 - 2PM





#### **MEMBER TICKETS ON SALE OCTOBER 20**

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\*Excludes December 24, 25 & 31, 2025



JANUARY 24, 2026 • 10AM - 2PM

Presented in partnership with the Naples Art District



SELECT DATES • FEBRUARY - MAY 2026 • 5:30 - 7:30PM

Organized in partnership with FGCU Bower School of Music Jazz Area & supported in part by John & Dorothy Guigon



#### Annual Ikebana Exhibition

FEBRUARY 6 - 8. 2026 • 8AM - 5PM

Extended hours until 8pm February 6 for Friday After 5

Presented in partnership with the Naples Chapter of Ikebana International



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

FEBRUARY 20 - 22, 2026 • 8AM - 5PM

Extended hours until 8pm February 20 for Friday After 5

> Presented in partnership with the Naples Orchid Society



#### Naples Flower Show & Garden Market

MARCH 13 & 14, 2026 • 8AM - 5PM

Extended hours until 8pm March 13 for Friday After 5

Presented in partnership with the Naples Garden Club



#### **JANUARY 24 - MAY 25, 2026**

This exhibit highlights the botanical origins of pigments, the biology behind floral hues, and the use of color in design.



Hats in the Garden

MARCH 25, 2026 • 11AM - 3PM

CORPORATE PRESENTING SPONSOR

WILLIAM RAVEIS





Free for Members



Included with Garden admission



Special ticketed event

Find all the details at naplesgarden.org

## Tickled Pink

#### It's muhly grass season

By Sammy Meinders, Communications Associate

Throughout spring and summer, muhly grass sits back quietly, allowing other native plants to blossom in the spotlight. As fall approaches and rain subsides, the cotton-candy blooms burst onto the scene, decorating landscapes and natural areas. Muhlenbergia capillaris, commonly known as pink muhly grass, is an ornamental grass that grows in large, feathery, clumps. Its annual blooming marks the arrival of fall in Southwest Florida.

Not only visually attractive, mully grasses also provide refuge, food, and hunting grounds. Insects, including native butterflies, birds, and small mammals, all benefit. The dense grass protects small prey from predators, allowing them to rest and recharge. The ecosystem services don't stop there! Muhly grass aids in water filtration, doing its part to keep our waterways clean. When planted along the edges of ponds, in a littoral zone, these plants filter debris, prevent soil erosion, and absorb excess nutrients that could harm water quality. Plants are often more than meets the eye.



#### WHERE

Along the shoreline of Deep Lake and Lake Tupke in the Preserve



See Muhlenbergia capillaris in bloom this fall.

OTHER BLOOMS FOR FALL



Water chestnut or money tree Pachira aquatica Kapnick Brazilian Garden



Peregrina Jatropha integerrima Kapnick Caribbean Garden, year-round



Dwarf phaleria Phaleria octandra Chabraja Visitor Center







## What is that palm?

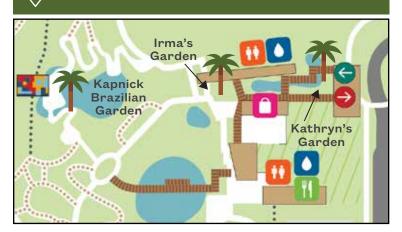
By Caitlyn Williams, Social Media Coordinator

Towering drama in the treetops! One of the most striking sights in the Garden is the majestic cohune palm, Attalea cohune—a tropical giant with sweeping fronds that can span an astonishing 20 feet, housing dense clusters of hard, woody seeds known as cohune nuts. This remarkable palm offers a wide array of practical benefits, from the edible palm heart found at the core of its wooded stem, to its versatile fruit traditionally used in cooking oil, lamp fuel, animal feed, and much more.

This plant is distinctive in more ways than one. Under the glow of evening light, it transforms—those towering fronds form a bold, sculptural silhouette. See it illuminated in a whole new way during Johnsonville Night Lights in the Garden. See page 13 for more on this year's event.



#### ${}^{(\!\scriptscriptstyle O\!\scriptscriptstyle )}$ Where to find them in the Garden



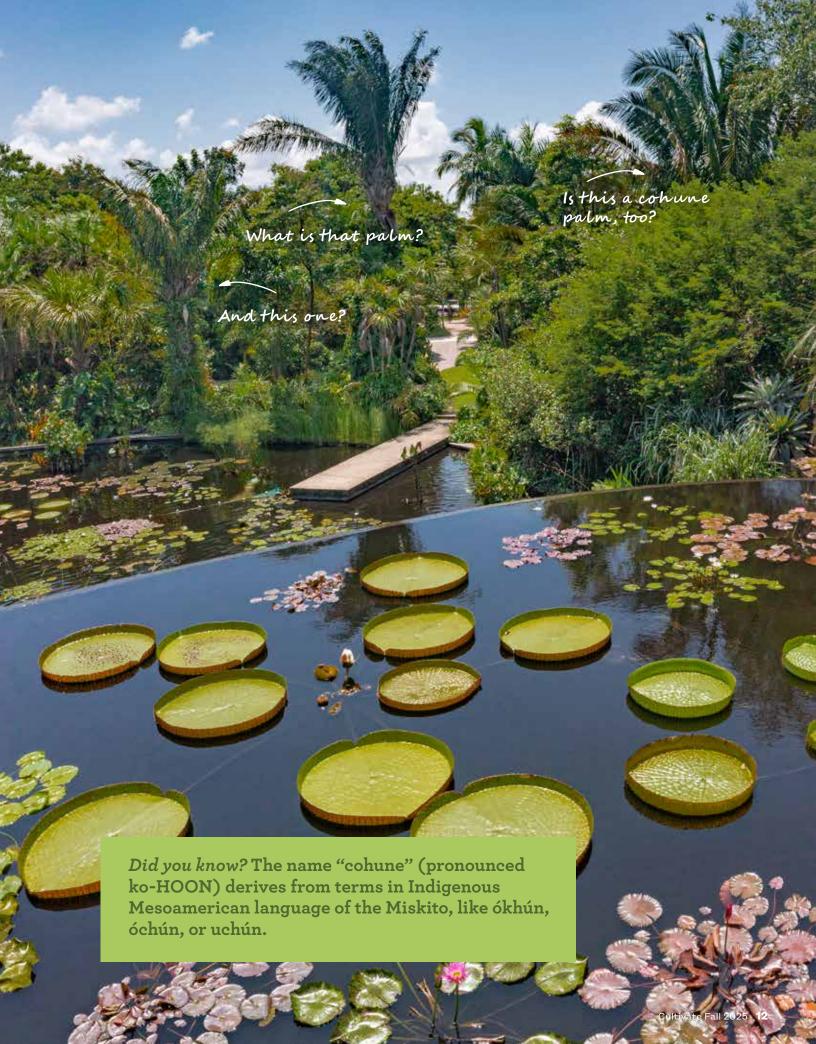








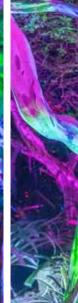
Experience the cohune palm in a whole new light during Johnsonville Night Lights in the Garden. See page 13 for details.













## What's Happening

#### **Johnsonville Night Lights in the Garden**



November 28, 2025 - January 4, 2026\*

See the Garden from a whole new vantage point this winter, as Johnsonville Night Lights in the Garden shines brighter than ever. A refreshed course on our walking paths sets the tone for this much-loved

seasonal stroll, with more illuminated displays than ever before. Let the kids romp at Palm Hop, activated in lights in the Kapnick Caribbean Garden. Toast to the magic with Fogg Café's signature cocktail—see the recipe on page 40. Dine to a backdrop of tropical plants aglow, or grab a Johnsonville brat or hot dog (see the calendar for grill station evenings). Whatever dates you choose to join us, make merry with live musical performances every night.

\*Excludes December 24, 25 & 31, 2025

SAVE—and enjoy first dibs on booking your desired evening—with our Member Presale starting October 20.



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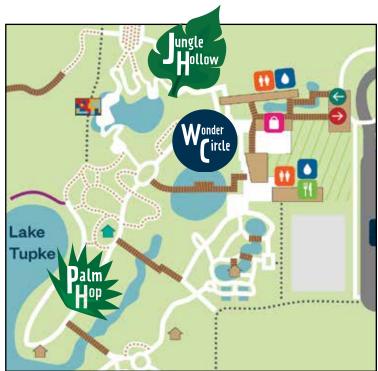


#### Fall in Love with Nature Play in the Garden

Let them test their balance at Palm Hop, hide away in the canopy at Jungle Hollow, and learn about a world of possibilities at Wonder Circle. A new favorite Garden activity is waiting for the children in your life.

For more on how Member families just like yours are experiencing Nature Play, the three nature-based installations added to the Garden in early 2025, and the first of their kind in Southwest Florida, turn to page 25.

Here's where to find these playscapes during your next visit.



#### **Plants Paint the Picture**

Celebrate color with ChromaFlora, a Gardencurated exhibition, January 24 - May 25, 2026. With plants in place of the artist's palette, explore the botanical origin of pigments, biological reasons for color, and how it's intentionally used in design. See page 37.



#### **Dive into the 2025 Conserve**

A playbook for urban tree selection. Research on how planting depth and size impact the success of beach dune restoration. And treks to the Preserve

while our fire crews conduct a prescribed burn. It's all in this issue of Conserve, the Garden's conservation magazine—bundled along with this issue of Cultivate, exclusively for you, our Members.



Scan to read a digital version.



#### Dig in this Season: Fall & Winter Workshops

Grow your Garden know-how with an array of workshops. Check the schedule to see workshop dates and times. Some staples return

on multiple occasions—think
Picture Perfect! Smartphone
Photography, Draw Together!
Creative Arts Workshops
for Families, and our Nature
Journaling series. Others, like

the Cocktail Scavenger Hunt and Colorful La Catrina Flower Crowns, are available one-time only in tandem with extended evening hours and festivals.



Members save on all workshops! Register today.





#### Savor the Season at Fogg Café

Dig into fresh menu offerings from Fogg Café, just in time for your fall season in the Garden.

**Plus!** Soak up the spirit of Johnsonville Night Lights with Fogg Café's signature drink recipe, page 42.





#### **Exclusive Garden Moments, Yours to Book**

Now offering private event rental spaces! With air-conditioned indoor locations and immersive outdoor spaces, the Garden adds a tropical touch as a private event venue. When you book your gathering with the Garden, you're helping to support our conservation mission.

Plan Your Private Garden Event





Wonder

Just in time for the cooler months, grow their curiosity outdoors

By Sammy Meinders, Communications Associate

O.N.D.E.R., our beloved children and families program, invites Members and guests back outdoors this fall to Walk, Observe, Navigate, Draw, Explore, and Read. With a rotation of activities our Garden educators create in-house, W.O.N.D.E.R. is a program you will come back to time and time again.

Designed in a come-and-go format, W.O.N.D.E.R. invites learners to dive right in and get curious about plants and the environment. The activities are geared toward children 4 - 11, but youth of all ages are welcome. From measuring your



wingspan to assembling part of a flower to donning some wings and becoming a pollentransferring butterfly, there is plenty to pique curiosity and foster learning.

You can find W.O.N.D.E.R. Friday - Monday at our newly designed Wonder Circle, one of three Nature Play spaces added to the Garden in early 2025. Situated in a shady corner of the Performance Lawn, the area features naturally made tables and stools, most of which were sourced from our own Preserve. There's ample room for drawing, reading, spreading a picnic blanket, or exploring the lawn. Be sure to stop by W.O.N.D.E.R. during your next Garden visit.





There's one distinct difference between a maze and a labyrinth: The goal of a maze is to find its center. The goal of a labyrinth is to find *your* center. There's one path in, one path out.

The labyrinth has become a recurring symbol in educator Julia Van Fleet's life. From her first unplanned labyrinth walk right here in the Garden more than a decade ago, to helping center life decisions and milestones, she's come full circle, literally.

Now, Van Fleet, a Certified Veriditas Labyrinth Facilitator with a master's degree in mindfulness and mental health studies, shares how the Garden helped spark her professional journey and how she stays grounded in her work each day. Plus, she gives us a sneak peek of what to expect in the Garden's newest Dig Deeper program in the works for fall.

was 14 when I first walked the labyrinth in the Garden with my mom in 2012. We saw it and my mom asked, "What is this?" and we both agreed, "This is so cool." There's no right or wrong way to walk a labyrinth; I actually ended up running it!

My dad passed away in 2011, and when my mom and I walked the labyrinth, we felt a lot of his presence. Once, when we walked the labyrinth at my church, there was an egret that landed on my grandma's car. As soon as we walked out, the egret flew away. That was an instance that really deepened my awareness of nature. On another occasion, as I walked, I noticed two eagles on top of the steeple at my church. All of these experiences are a part of my labyrinth story. When I started working here last October, I saw it as a full circle journey because this is where I first discovered the labyrinth. I'm excited to be creating a labyrinth program here at the Garden and to be able to share this meaningful practice with our visitors.

The pace of walking the labyrinth is completely up to the individual. As a facilitator, I try to be mindful of each person's unique journey. We don't know their expectations of how they want to experience the labyrinth, which is why it's important to leave it up to the person who is walking. The goal is to follow the path—it's a tool for centering and reflecting. In many ways, it's an active form of meditation that offers an alternative to sitting in silence, which can be challenging for many.

The benefits of this practice extend into daily life. When I do my opening or closing shifts, I take a walk around the Garden to make sure everything is in



order, including setting the Nature Play areas (the Garden's nature-based children's play spaces) while making it a grounding, walking mindfulness practice. I make sure I'm noticing all my surroundings. It's so important to check in and remind myself, "Am I where my feet are?"

Meet Julia in the Garden's labyrinth this fall! Select Dig Deeper sessions move to the Scott Florida Garden for this mindfulness practice. See the daily schedule at Ticketing for details. Look for Labyrinths: Pathways to Presence.

#### Where to find the Garden's labyrinth





Want to explore labyrinths beyond the Garden?

Visit labyrinthlocator.org to find labyrinths wherever you go.

## Container Gardening Made Easy: A Colorful Start for Beginners

Discover how simple potted plant combinations create stunning displays—all while learning gardening basics

By Andrea Grace, Assistant Director of Horticulture & Bash Avila, Lead Gardener





Here, two of our horticulturists share tips on creating your very own container garden. Artistry is encouraged—create a living portrait or use containers to adorn an entryway, front porch, lanai, or unembellished corner of a yard. Read on to see how this touch of tropical ambiance can be yours.

#### Containers

Terracotta pots are budget friendly. They are porous, and soil will dry out quickly. Daily watering may be in order.

Glazed pots capture and contain moisture. You can stretch watering every two to three days, depending on plant choices.

Select pots with good drainage so the plants don't drown.



Find your plant's perfect pot in the Berger Shop. See page 44.

#### Soil

Standard, nutrient-enriched potting mix works well for most container arrangements. Planting succulents? Add a handful of perlite or sand for swift drainage.

Fertilizing is important, as container plants can't draw nutrients from the ground. Granulated fertilizer lasts a few months; water-soluble ones about two weeks.





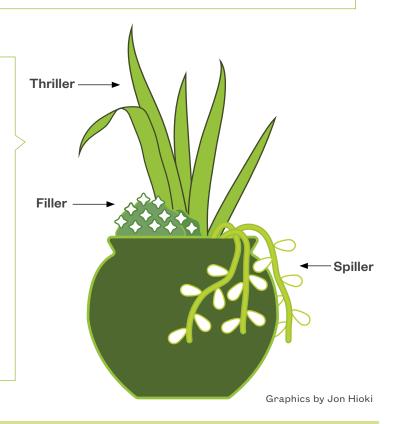
#### A cost-saving trick

We pack the bottoms of oversized containers with plastic starter pots—from nursery plants—to fill space and reduce pricey potting soil. This practice reduces the containers' weight, making transport easier. The soil in our large containers is about 18 inches deep.

#### **Plants**

Now for the fun part! At the nursery, sun-loving plants are grouped together, as are those requiring shade. Note how much water your plants need so that you can cluster your thirsty plants and your arid ones. It's OK to ask nursery growers for help!

We use the "thriller, spiller, and filler" philosophy. Thrillers are tall, showy plants; spillers are vines and vine-like plants that flow over the container's edge; fillers are mid-sized plants, often annuals, that add color and texture. If you intend to cluster a lot of containers, your "thriller" or "spiller" might be the only plant in a pot.



#### Staff favorites

Our tried-and-true container plants include:

- Palms
- Chinese perfume tree (*Aglaia odorata*)
- Variegated dwarf triangle fig (Ficus triangularis)
- Cordyline
- Bougainvillea

- Creeping Jenny (*Lysimachia nummularia*)
- Wire vine (*Muehlenbeckia axillaris*)
- Silver falls (Dichondra argentea)
- Annual flowers: marigolds; Gaura, a genus known for its slender-stemmed flower stalks; and Euryops, a genus in the sunflower family



#### Pro tip

Don't be afraid to try new things and don't be too hard on yourself if you rip out plants and start over! Even here at the Garden, we're constantly experimenting until we find the perfect aesthetic combination and care regimen.











## Tree Trunk Forts, **Rock Mountains** & Teacup Flowers

New Nature Play spaces spark imagination and bring childhood back to its roots

By Jennifer Reed Photos by John Eder

hen you are busy and wise to the world (read: a grown-up), a fallen flower is just that. A fallen flower.

When you are wide-eyed and new to the world (read: a child), well, that fallen flower might be a teacup, a fairy's bed, a magic hat.

The same holds true for a climbing rock (Pirate ship? Mountain? Castle?) or a craggy tree trunk (Bridge? Fort? Truck?).

The Garden recently introduced Nature Play, three kid-friendly spaces that encourage outdoor

adventures filled with wonder and imagination. They feature elements such as stumps, trunks, and rocks, for climbing and balancing; "found objects," including blossoms, palm fronds, bamboo stalks, sticks, and leaves for tinkering; and kid-sized tables and stools hand-crafted by our staff from tree stumps.

The new features transport Vice President of Education Britt Patterson-Weber, who oversaw Nature Play's creation, back to her own childhood.



Above and page 23: Sisters Nisha and Avaani Patel explore the Garden's Nature Play spaces in late July 2025.

"I remember playing in a mangled maple tree root that was pulling up the sidewalk," she reminisces. "It happened to collect little puddles in the roots, and I would bring things like my LEGO mini figures and some flowers out there and would create a story."

Whether playing independently or with other neighborhood kids, Patterson-Weber remembers long hours spent outdoors with minimal

adult intervention.

But this kind of imaginative, independent play is no longer the norm. Researchers point to two

key moments that sparked a rescripting of childhood.

In the 1980s, the National Child Safety Council and dairy distributors began printing photos of missing children on milk cartons. The

campaign, though well intended, resulted in a loss of independence for young people. Parents replaced free-range, outdoor play with adultled activities, such as youth sports. While such experiences impart important lessons, they don't foster the same kinds of skills as unscripted play. Researchers warn that kids are lagging in their abilities to make decisions, solve problems, and manage peer-to-peer interactions.

Then, in 2007, the iPhone debuted. Childhood moved indoors and shrunk to the size of a

cellphone screen.

Heavy technology use has impacted everything from physical development to socialization to creative thinking to mood, researchers warn. Kids are less likely to clamber up rocks, hills, and stumps—limiting balance, muscle development, and risk-taking. They don't manipulate physical objects as often, affecting fine-motor skills. Researchers such as psychologist Jonathan Haidt, author of "The Anxious Generation," fault

technology for a surge in depression and anxiety among teens and young adults.

Children have also withdrawn from nature. Richard Louv, author of "Last Child in the Woods," coined the term "nature deficit disorder" to describe the human costs of this alienation from nature. He argues children need outside time just as much as they need proper nutrition and adequate sleep.

That's where Nature Play comes in.

Garden leaders plunged into child development research and toured nature play spaces throughout the country. These take many forms, but all encourage unstructured, child-directed play that takes place in nature and with nature. It's what generations past might have called, more simply, "playing in the woods."

"When you give kids that opportunity, they're all over it," says Patterson-Weber. She says they seem



to have an innate understanding of how to play on natural elements.

Since the Garden introduced Nature Play last winter, thousands of families have explored the areas. Among them are Members Maulik and Jess Patel and their daughters, Nisha, 5, and Avaani, 7.

"This allows them the opportunity to touch and explore and jump and move," says Jess Patel, who shares how the girls have interacted with the new features.

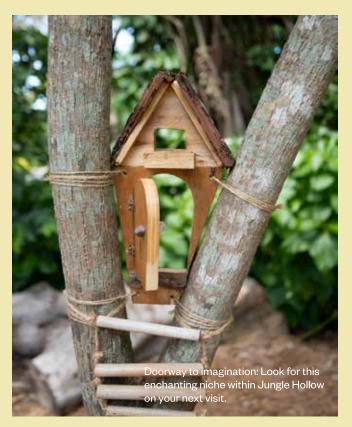
Her younger daughter, "obsessed" with anything kitchen-related, promptly transformed the treetrunk tables into a restaurant and the assemblage of flowers, leaves, sticks, and fronds into food during her first visit to Palm Hop, an expansive play area on the Kapnick Caribbean Garden lawn. "She's big into imaginative play," Patel says.

Those "loose parts" have proven to be the most utilized feature of Nature Play, Patterson-Weber says.

"Something like two-thirds of the groups that went through used them," she says.

Garden educators and trained volunteers routinely observe the play spaces to understand how kids interact with various features. The







ature Play is unstructured, child-directed play that takes place in nature and with nature. Although simple in appearance, these researched-backed

play areas counter today's technologyheavy, sedentary lifestyles and encourage tremendous physical, social, and emotional development in children.

#### Through nature play, children gain:

- Balance, coordination, and strength
- Fine motor skills
- A willingness to take risks
- Imagination and creative thinking
- Emotional well-being and reduced anxiety
- Social development and collaborative problem-solving
- Family bonding and memory making

educators witnessed tea parties and the making of floral arrangements (inspired by the Naples Flower Show & Garden Market). Once, they overheard a trio of children making a "fort" for their imaginary bunny friend. Educators have even seen teenagers weaving botanical items into flower crowns.

They've also noticed that children seem drawn to the "stair steppers" in Palm Hop, a set of lowlying but uneven stumps. Small children often work to cross them without adult assistance, developing balance, coordination, and healthy risk taking.

"They love to go back and forth and back and forth," Patterson-Weber says. "Especially if you're little, it's challenging."



The educators' observations will guide future additions to the Nature Play spaces.

Nature Play attracts multigenerational crowds. Many family groups visiting the spaces include grandparents, who seem to relate to the unfettered play style, the norm when they were kids.

Patel, likewise, notes that both children and adults might learn to see everyday natural objects in a new light.

"(Nature Play)," she says, "is making them see the world in a different way—or showing us how to see the world in a different way by watching what they do."



#### Palm Hop

A felled ficus, craggy rocks, and stair-like stumps beckon young adventurers to test their physical prowess in the Kapnick Caribbean Garden. Baskets filled with nature's equivalent of a craft closet—bark, blooms, sticks, palm fronds, and fallen leaves ready to be transformed into playthings.



#### Jungle Hollow

Entering this thicket in the Kapnick Brazilian Garden is like stepping into a magical world. Children will discover a curio cabinet filled with botanical treasures, a fairy door, and plenty of nooks and crannies. Kids and parents can contribute to a tapestry of woven fronds, leaves, and flowers using our staff-made nature looms.



#### **Wonder Circle**

The Garden's popular W.O.N.D.E.R. (Walk, Observe, Navigate, Draw, Explore, Read) program has moved to this shady spot on the Performance Lawn where families can participate in educator-led botanical crafts, games, and enrichment activities. See page 17.





Garden's "naturalistic" design principles replicate ecosystemswith an eye for aesthetics

By Jennifer Reed

he next time you visit, stop just about anywhere in the designed gardens and ask yourself:

Is there any symmetry within the space? Do the trees and shrubs line up?

Were any plants obviously pruned and shaped?

Is there repetition of form or pattern?

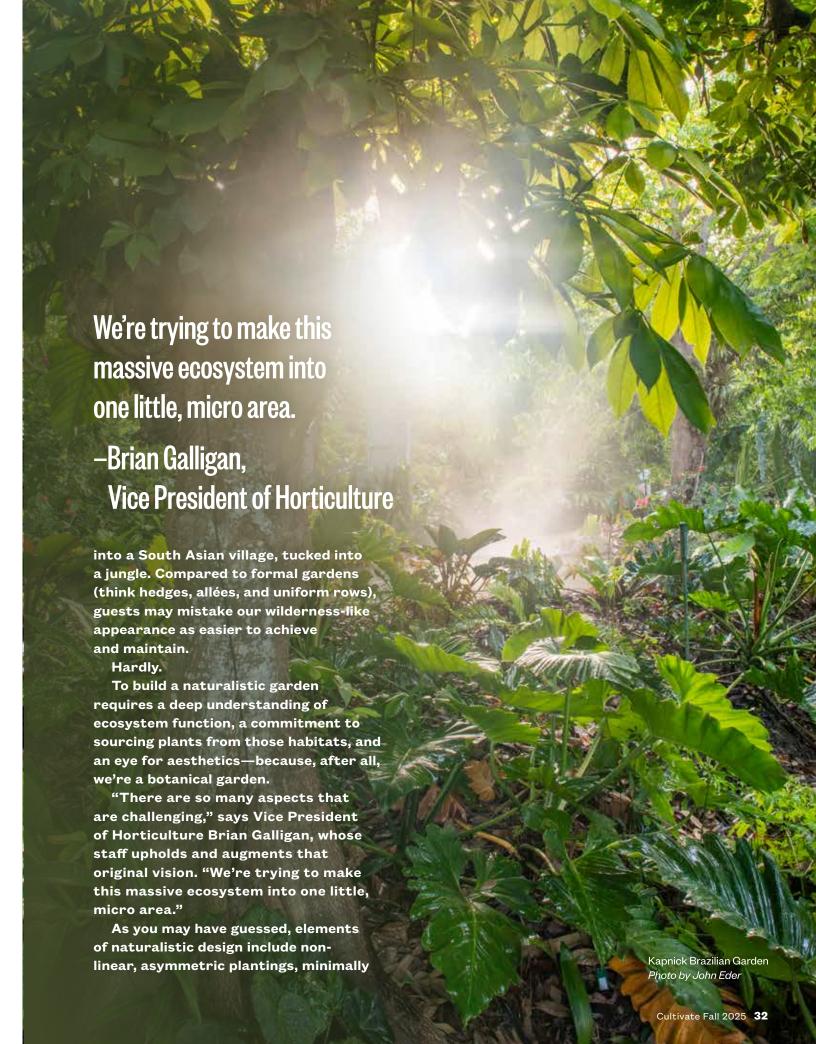
Are the plantings linear?

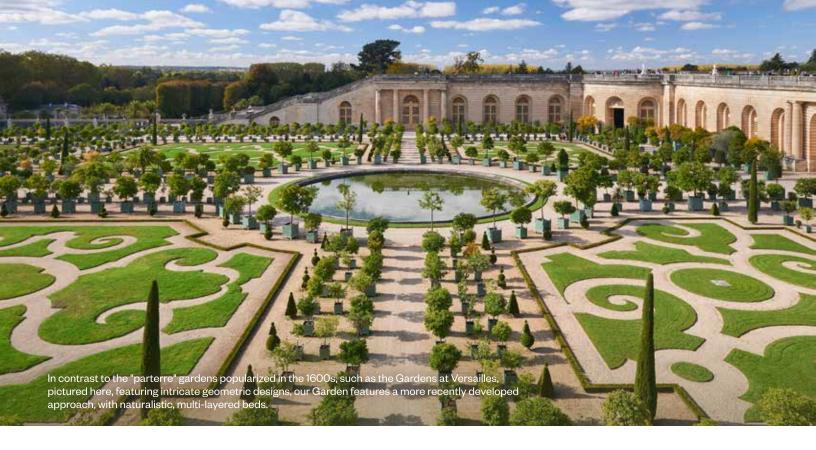
You'll find that you answer: No. No. No. And No.

The Garden's inaugural leaders and landscape designers decided on a "naturalistic" look for our campus when they developed it in the 1990s. This design theory draws on the science of ecology to replicate habitats and the beauty of art to accentuate nature's wonders.

The intent is to make visitors feel they are exploring a South American rain forest, wandering a tropical island, and stumbling

Forest in Brazil





manipulated plants, and a sense of randomness like windblown seeds sprouting on a forest floor. Plantings are multilayered, deep, and tiered—from towering trees that anchor the space to creeping groundcovers that add texture. Biodiversity abounds. Study just about any patch of our display gardens, and you'll easily see a half dozen or more plant types growing within it.

You can see these principles at play throughout the Garden. One example is at the edge of the Performance Lawn where Galligan points out silvery bromeliads, Alcantarea odorata, growing amid palms, cordylines, and other bromeliad types. Although the plant is eye-catching, the staff placed just two in this bed. If they were to add more, they might create inadvertent groupings, Galligan explains. Nature doesn't grow in such patterns.

"It's intentionally random," he says. "And that is really, really challenging to do."

To achieve other elements, such as depth, layering, and species variety, Galligan and his team practice successional planting. They anticipate removing certain trees and shrubs over the years, so they plant young specimens that will have reached maturity when that time comes, avoiding gaps in the landscape.

"We don't want an abrupt change," Galligan explains. "Even if we have to remove a tree, the one behind it will capture the show some day."











Another tricky component is color. Ecosystems aren't exactly rainbow-hued, but garden visitors expect to see brilliant blooms. Our team responds by sprinkling flowering trees throughout the property and tucking delights like bird of paradise (Strelitzia reginae) or Heliconia into the shrubbery.

The team also relies on foliage for year-round color, texture, and interest. "We mix linear leaves with orbicular leaves and fine leaves with larger leaves," Galligan says. That gives the grounds visual appeal even when flowering plants are dormant.

In the Western world, this type of naturalistic gardening is a relatively recent concept. For centuries, garden design was all about taming and manipulating nature. The French, for example, popularized "parterre" gardens in the 1600s, formal gardens featuring intricate geometric designs. Gardeners outlined shapes with carefully pruned hedges and added flowers, grass, or hardscape to fill in the centers. The English followed suit, designing "knot gardens" with interlocking geometric shapes and labyrinths. Knot and parterre gardens were meant to be viewed from the upper floors of manors and palaces.

Early botanical gardens took a similar approach, grouping plants by family, genus, and species in displays meant for scientific study. (We do cluster some plant types together, such as Mangifera in









Top: Canopy in a forest of Brazil. Far left: Yellow poinciana (Peltophorum pterocarpum) shows off its bright blossoms over the Performance Lawn. Above: Yellow jacobinia (Justicia aurea) bursts with color in the Kapnick Brazilian Garden. Left: Learn more about the cohune palm (Attalea cohune) on page 11.

the Lea Asian Garden, but we do so subtly, blending these related species among other plants.)

With his 1870 book "The Wild Garden," Irish horticulturist William Robinson helped relax garden formality and spur the cottage garden movement densely planted, largely unstructured landscapes. Design continued to evolve, with greater emphasis on native plants and ecosystem function.

One of our key influences was the revolutionary Brazilian landscape architect Roberto Burle Marx. His designs weren't strictly "naturalistic," as he loved to embed winding, concrete pathways and use uniform plantings to create blocks of color. But he also advocated for the use of native plants from his homeland, offering a new template for tropical garden design.

The Kapnick Brazilian Garden, designed by Burle Marx protégé Raymond Jungles, captures his style. The late Made Wijaya, who designed the Asian Garden, and Robert Truskowski, the landscape architect behind the Kapnick Caribbean Garden, also embraced naturalistic design concepts.

This winter, the Garden will launch a new, staffdesigned exhibition, ChromaFlora, that infuses the Garden with color in ways that complement our naturalistic design. Expect to see swaths of flowering plants in some portions of the Garden. You'll also learn more about how we incorporate color in our collections, in ways that honor tropical ecosystems and give Naples Botanical Garden its signature look.

ChromαFlora runs January 24 - May 25, 2026, and is included with Garden admission, free for Members. See more on page 37.

#### Naples Botanical Garden or wild, natural landscape? Can you guess which is which?



Garden 5. Naples Botanical Garden 6. Naples Botanical Garden 1. Naples Botanical Garden 2. Brazil 3. Brazil 4. Naples Botanical Кеу

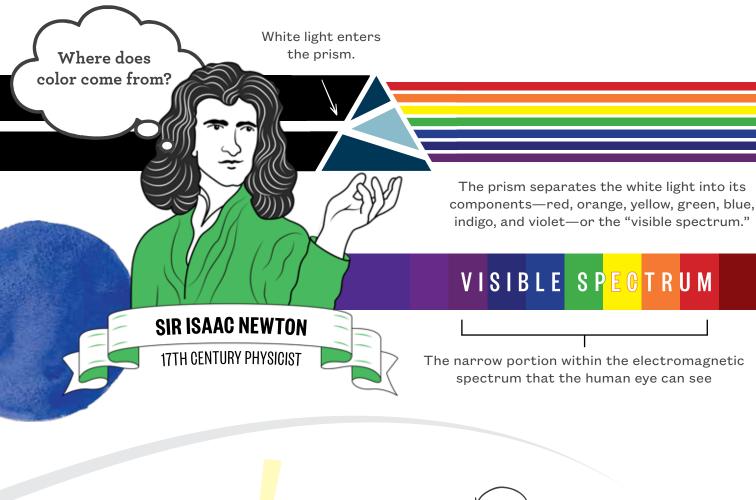


#### Softening the Hardscape

Walk the Garden with Brian Galligan, Vice President of Horticulture, and he'll readily point out a unique observation: The architecture within these 170 acres is meant to complement the naturalistic landscape. Lush foliage softens the linear, geometric outlines of features like the Burle Marx mosaic and the Chabraja Visitor Center. Conversely, historic European gardens often featured arches and domes—soft, circular shapes that contrasted the right angles and straight rows of their planted beds.

# WHAT IS COLOR?

Color is in the eye—and mind—of the beholder. It is a function of how the brain interprets light that bounces off an object.





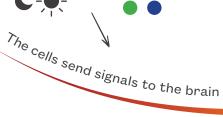
Ray of light hits the hibiscus



Pigments in the hibiscus absorb certain wavelengths in the visible spectrum and reflect others. The reflected wavelengths give the hibiscus its color.

Inside the retina are millions of light-sensitive cells called:





Design by Amy McQueen Copy by Jennifer Reed

#### Do other species see color differently?

The number of color receptors varies between—and even among—species.

Here, the numbers reflect the amount of receptors commonly associated with each species.







1

#### Some marine

animals have one color receptor and see the world in black and white. Others can see ultraviolet light.



\*People may see color differently if their cones are impaired, missing, or interpret color atypically.

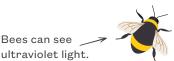




Some animals, such as pit vipers, can see infrared light.



Leaves appear green because chlorophyll is the dominant pigment. Chlorophyll absorbs red, orange, blue, and violent light. It reflects green and yellow.



Flavonoids are a
family of compounds
that produce a spectrum
of colors. The most common
types are anthocyanin,
responsible for blues, violets,
and reds and anthoxanthins,

which create yellows.



Carotenoids give us yellows, oranges, and reds—750 shades!

#### Why do plants change color?

Cold temperatures break down chlorophyll, allowing other pigments to become prominent.

Soil acidity can change the color of Hydrangea blossoms (pictured left).

Yesterday-today-tomorrow (Brunfelsia pauciflora) blossoms begin as deep purple and fade to white as pigment degrades.

Acidic soil = blue Alkaline soil = pink

along the optic nerve.

lossoms ade to Cone signals combine to form millions of hues.

This winter, the Garden will burst into color with a new, staff-designed exhibition, ChromaFlora. Explore the botanical origin of pigments and purpose of floral hues, the use of color in landscape design, and much more. See ChromaFlora January 24 – May 25, 2026.







#### **November 1**

FREE GIFT for the first 75 Members to check into the Garden: Louis C. Tiffany Dragonfly Vase!

- Expandable, stable, reusable
- Just add water and flowers or an electric candle.
- One gift per Member household, while supplies last.

Plus, Members receive an extra 10% off at Fogg Café.

#### November 2 & 6

Bring a friend for free + gain an extra month when you join or renew on-site.

- Active Members may bring a friend for free.
- Those who become a Member or renew an active or lapsed membership on-site on this day will receive a one-month extension on their expiration date.

#### November 3 - 5

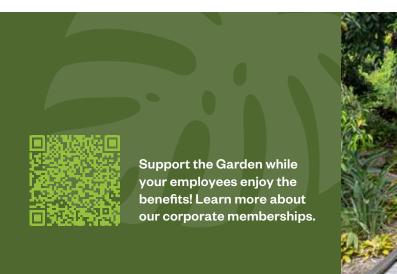
#### Extra 10% off at the Berger Shop

• Active Members receive an extra 10% off regularly priced merchandise at the Berger Shop (for a total of 20% off).

#### **November 7**

#### Chance to win an extra year—FREE!

- Active Members who check in at Ticketing on this day will have a chance to win a free one-year extension
  of their membership!
- · Will be awarded to three lucky winners





#### More Gardens, More to Love

Enjoy these reciprocal discounts at botanical gardens throughout the Sunshine State.

#### **FREE ADMISSION**

Florida Botanical Gardens,\* Largo (plus: 10% store discount) Harry P. Leu Gardens,\* Orlando Port St. Lucie Botanical Gardens\*

#### **50% OFF ADMISSION**

Bok Tower Gardens,\* Lake Wales Bonnet House Museum & Gardens. Ft. Lauderdale Edison & Ford Winter Estates, Ft. Myers Flamingo Gardens,\* Davie Heathcote Botanical Gardens, Ft. Pierce Imagine Museum,\* St. Petersburg Kanapaha Botanical Gardens, Gainesville McKee Botanical Garden, Vero Beach Mounts Botanical Garden.\* West Palm Beach Sunken Gardens,\* St. Petersburg The Albin Polasek Museum & Sculpture Gardens,\* Winter Park



Plus: save with local retail partners!

\* These organizations may require proof of your active membership with a confirmation of your expiration date.



#### Start your Garden Visit with VIP Care

A new addition this season, the Membership Team will be available at Ticketing to help you renew your support, answer questions, share upcoming Members-Only activities, and much more. Look for our Membership Concierge sign during your visits, October - May each weekday, and on many of our festival weekends. We appreciate your loyal support for the Garden!



#### Members Exclusive: ChromaFlora Exhibition Night

Mark your calendars for January 28, 2026. Join us to explore this latest exhibition, created by your very own Garden staff. For more on ChromaFlora, see page 37.





## Spiked Apple Cider

#### Small batch (8 drinks, 10.5 ounces each)

- ½ gallon fresh apple cider
- 1.25 cups Captain Morgan Original Spiced Rum
- 1.25 cups Fireball Cinnamon Whiskey
- · Cinnamon sticks and apple slices, to garnish

#### Individual serving

- 8 ounces fresh apple cider
- 1.25 ounces Captain Morgan Original Spiced Rum
- 1.25 ounces Fireball Cinnamon Whiskey
- · Cinnamon stick and apple slice, to garnish

#### Want a mocktail version?

Serve up the cider with the cinnamon stick and apple garnish for instant fall panache.



#### Cheers to evenings in the Garden!

Members save 10% on regularly priced menu items every day—and many nights in Fogg Café! Open with a full menu for Johnsonville Night Lights in the Garden, there's even more opportunity to savor your favorite Garden dishes.



Learn about our **Premium Patio Package** for Johnsonville Night Lights in the Garden!



# Containers that Wow: Planters with a Twist

By Dominique Caruso, Content Associate Photos by John Eder

t the Berger Shop in the Garden, we go beyond traditional planters—we think outside the container box. From beautifully crafted baskets to unique gardening materials, find everything you need to pot up your favorite plant. Prefer a classic look? Select from among traditional planters that are stylish yet practical. For a ready-to-go option, explore our best-selling pre-assembled plant baskets. Whether you're looking to build your own or grab something gorgeous on the spot, there's something for every plant lover. Plus, learn how to customize your very own container garden on page 21.

Members save 10% in the Berger Shop and Fogg Café every  $d\alpha y!$ 

Choose a pre-assembled plant basket, or find all the materials you need to create your own!



Orchid Plus orchid food - \$8



4-inch dragonfly orchid pot - \$22



6- or 8-inch orchid baskets – \$10 – 15

Not pictured
Wire hangers, pack of 4 – \$6
6 x 8 inch-pot with saucer – \$28







# Your VIP Pass to Garden Plants

Now you can purchase plants grown by Garden experts-from the Berger Shop!



Our horticulturists are sharing an abundance of small plants from routine collection updates, annual rotations, and filler plantings—now available for purchase in the Berger Shop. Take home a piece of the Garden, grown and cared for by your Garden family.



### **Tradition in Bloom**

With Johnsonville as title sponsor, Night Lights in the Garden shines brighter each year

By Jennifer Reed

Tn 2021, Johnsonville became ■the title sponsor of our biggest annual tradition, Johnsonville Night Lights in the Garden. As the Garden gets ready to put on another spectacular show, we look at how America's leading sausage brand became an



Shelly Stayer

integral part of our organization and how these two seemingly dissimilar entities have a lot more in common than you might think.

Quite simply, the Garden has the good fortune of counting Ralph and Shelly Stayer, Johnsonville's owners, among its neighbors. The couple, Wisconsin natives, purchased a home in Naples about 17 years ago and quickly immersed themselves in the community. Among their many philanthropic endeavors, Shelly chaired a wildly successful Hats in the Garden in 2023 and gave the leading gift toward the Shelly Stayer Shelter in Immokalee, an expansion of Naples' Shelter for Abused Women & Children.

"The Garden has always been a special place for Ralph and me," says Shelly, one of the Garden's earliest supporters and a member of its Sustaining Leadership Council. "Life can be so busy, and we often feel like we're rushing from one thing to another. Having a place to unwind, reflect, and truly connect with nature is critical to our well-being."

Ralph and Shelly rose to national prominence as Johnsonville grew from the family-run butcher shop founded by Ralph's father into a global brand. Today, it offers more than 80 varieties sold across 40-plus countries. Shelly took over as board chair from her husband in 2019.

The company lately has unleashed some delightfully unconventional marketing campaigns





Photos above and right by John Eder

that encourage people to put down their phones and reconnect—in real life. With its creative agency, the Milwaukee-based Hold Fast, Johnsonville ran a "National Temperature Check" poll. It revealed that Americans are exhausted by the nation's anger and negativity. Johnsonville responded with its "Keep It Juicy" campaign, calling on people to turn down the temperature, correct our "fun deficit," and find ways to come back together—in real life, over a shared meal (follow @Johnsonville on Instagram, using the hashtag #KeepItJuicy to see the campaign.)

The Garden, of course, promotes just such things, serving as a community gathering spot and a place for family memory-making.

"We've thought for a while, and our 'National Temperature Check' poll has proven, that people are hanging out less these days," Shelly says. "We believe those connections are critical. Being among family and friends is such an important way to support each other and share joy in each other's lives. Our products, just like the Garden, are synonymous with bringing people together—something we're proud to support!"

Johnsonville Night Lights this year features more lights, more food, and a new, enlivened walking route through the Garden. The Johnsonville Grill station will be available each Friday and Saturday night, and Johnsonville brats will be on the menu nightly in Fogg Café.

"The energy of the Garden during this event is incredible, while at the same time, offering a peaceful setting to reflect and take in the beauty of the season," Shelly says. "I encourage people to gather their loved ones and take time to connect while enjoying the sights, sounds, and tastes of this special tradition."



MEMBER TICKETS
ON SALE OCTOBER 20



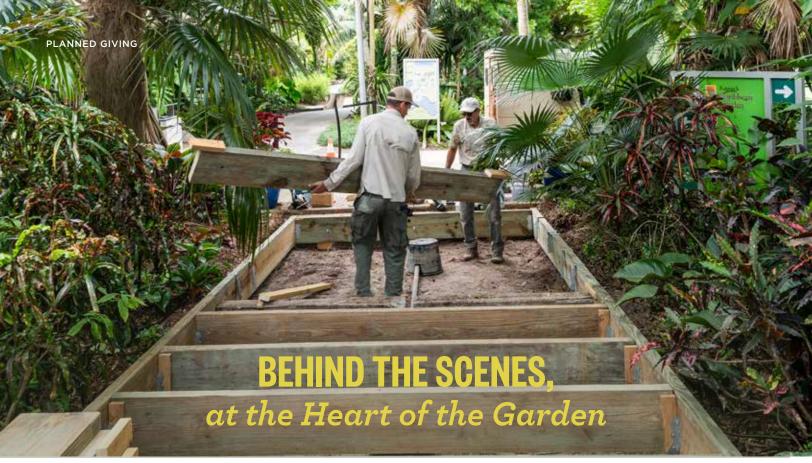
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#### Annual giving with impact

From fabricating exhibition materials in-house to refinishing wooden benches, from repainting doors to coordinating installation of a 1,000-foot fence surrounding the Evenstad Horticulture Campus, the Facility Operations team ensures every corner of your Garden is maintained with care.

Daily upkeep, safety drills, and compliance checks protect Members, guests, staff, and volunteers. Small touches and major projects alike keep the Garden vibrant year-round. Your contribution

makes this behind-the-scenes work possible. Thank you for helping us care for the Garden's buildings, pathways, and spaces.



To learn more about how you can give to the Garden, talk to your financial advisor, and then contact Rhea Merrill, Director of Development, at rmerrill@naplesgarden.org.

## Naples Botanical Garden and The Sustaining Leadership Council announce

The 22nd Annual

# Mats in the Garden La Discothèque du Jardin

Privately Funded In Part By Wilson & Johnson Private Foundation

Corporate Presenting Sponsor William Raveis

Wednesday, March 25, 2026

Hats in the Garden Chair | Ann Scott

Guests will enjoy a luncheon and afternoon in the Garden

**FEATURING** 

An exclusive showcase of Balmain

Presented by
Saks Fifth Avenue

Table and Patron ticket sales begin mid-November 2025. For more information, please visit naplesgarden.org/hats







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# We're growing like the Garden



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