gardentimes

NEWSLETTER OF LEWIS GINTER BOTANICAL GARDEN



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DON WILLIAMSON



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Message from the Director







editor's box

The *Garden Times* newsletter is mailed three times a year to Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden members.

Volume XXX, Number 3

executive director Shane Tippett

president emeritus Frank Robinson

newsletter editor Lynn Kirk, Kirk Communications

design Elevation

special thanks

LGBG staff for editorial assistance

"H2Whoa!"

Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden's mission is education; our passion is connecting plants and people to measurably improve our community. When planning Dominion GardenFest of Lights, we remind ourselves of this mission and set about using a favorite winter tradition as a vessel in which to convey important ideas. The exercise is rich with metaphor, because on the surface it is not a straight line from our relationship with the natural world to dried botanical material and LED strands of light, no matter how artfully the latter are arranged. Fortunately, the indirect path can frequently be the most satisfying, particularly with this year's thematic use of water.

Water is evocative in contrast. Wells and oases in the desert. Cool water from a hose on a blistering summer day, lashing rain after a dry spell. Water is evocative in torrents. Oceans and seas, floods and storms. Water is evocative for life. "It's the briny broth of our origins, the pounding circulatory system of the world, a precarious molecular edge on which we survive" (Barbara Kingsolver, *National Geographic*).

It is to our benefit that we can not only survive because of water, we can thrive: "...he shall be like a tree, planted by the rivers of water, bringing forth his fruit in his season. His fruit shall not wither, and whatsoever he does will prosper." When such rich imagery arises out of biological need, it is as if the roundabout path we have taken has vistas we could not have imagined. From these unexpected vistas, and with overflowing buckets of imagination, creativity and artistry, the staff and volunteers create the exhibit. Then, naturally, we make it fun. We want to irrigate the crops, then we want to celebrate the meal. We want to capture the rain when needed; we want to dance in it as much as possible. We want to tell you why water is so vital; we want you to feel full of life. We knew last year that we would use a water-based theme for this year's holiday light show. Then we had a staff contest to name it: "H2Whoa!"

Come have some fun, and happy holidays!

Shane Tippett Executive Director

Garden Calendar

See pages 6–8 for GardenFest Calendar and page 11 for Education Calendar. * Free for member and included with Garden admission.

november

Ginter In The Morning TUESDAY, 3.......10-11AM

Adults explore seasonal garden highlights with a knowledgeable Garden Guide.

Pre-registration required at lewisginter.org.

Free/member; \$/non-member.



Museum Stores of Richmond Holiday Shoppers Fair

HOST SITE:

Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden

Garden admission not required. Open to the public.

MEMBER PREVIEW:**

THURSDAY, 55–8PM **10% discount with member ID

on Thursday (only) at all museum booths.

SHOPPERS FAIR:

FRIDAY, 6-SATURDAY, 79:30AM-5PM

Holly Jolly Christmas on Lakeside Avenue

FRIDAY, 135-9PM

Local merchants & Garden Shop extend holiday shopping hours with **FREE** trolley transport.

GardenFest Calendar



Super Saturday
SATURDAY, 21......10AM-5PM
Garden Shop

Super merchandise, super savings! 20% discount on purchases with member ID.

Garden Closed for Holiday THURSDAY, 26

december



Ginter In The Morning
TUESDAY, 1......10-11A

See November listing.

february

Winter Symposium & CVNLA Short Course WEDNESDAY-FRIDAY, 10–12 8AM–4PM Details page 11.

march

March Madness DAILY 1-31

15% member discount on purchases in the Garden Shop & Garden Cafe (with member ID).



Richmond Horticultural Association 1ST MONDAY OF NOVEMBER, FEBRUARY, MARCH & APRIL

Information: Norie Burnet, 272-2663.

Botanical Book Club

NOVEMBER 13, JANUARY 8 & 2ND FRIDAY EVERY OTHER MONTH 11AM-NOON Kelly Education Center,

Library Reading Room

Reading enthusiasts discuss group-selected books. Details via email: library@lewisginter.org.

Conservatory: Warm and welcoming, year-round! As outdoor temperatures start to cool, explore the Conservatory, where glorious orchids, lush tropicals and seasonal plantings greet you all year long. A delightful way to beat any winter blues!







"H2Whoa!"

November 27-January 11 (Closed Dec. 24-25)

Discover the wonders of water during this year's Dominion GardenFest of Lights! 'Dive' into deep, blue pools surrounded by glowing ocean life. Stroll through twinkling rainstorms as crystal raindrops and fluffy storm clouds float overhead. Take part in an interactive thunderstorm. As the rains clear, walk through a 75-foot rainbow of lights to the Cochrane Rose Garden, where a 50-foot peacock preens its brilliantly colored feathers in the yellow glow of the sun.

Indoors, track fish moving along a riverway to explore water conservation and water-wise ways. See stunning botanical exhibits inspired by bog gardens and marine life. Investigate the ocean floor and water-themed holiday trees that rise through the ocean to new heights. Nearby, enjoy multiple train displays and wander a tropical rainforest.

Round out your holiday outing with a hearty meal or snack in the Garden Cafe. For a more upscale experience, dine in the Robins Tea House (reservations recommended) amid a snow-covered landscape dripping with ice. And be sure to stop by the Garden Shop—where members always enjoy a discount—to browse the decorations, accessories and gifts inspired by "H2Whoa!". Ticketed event. \$.

Children's Adventures

Youngsters, get ready for non-stop fun: sky-high views from the CWDKids Tree House, an expanded twist-and-turn maze of lights and a chance to spot Santa and the GardenKeeper on select nights. Explore the world of water through crafts and activities on Crafty Wednesdays. Toast s'mores* at the Warming Pit (weather permitting), or warm up with beverages* from Espresso-A-Go-Go. Check out the kid-friendly Bling House, chock-full of light-up souvenirs.* And don't miss the G-gauge trains chugging 'round the tracks in the Conservatory and Classroom 2.

* By purchase. Additional details pages 6-8.



Exhibits

Railroad Exhibit

Conservatory, North Wing

G-gauge trains whiz by snow-laced streetscapes of historic Richmond landmarks, loop across James River train trestles and venture around the Lakeside watershed.

Holiday Tree

Conservatory, North Wing

A majestic, 20-foot evergreen adorned with glistening snow and frosty icicles reflects the beauty of water's wintry states. An ideal backdrop for family photos!

Rain and Rainbow

Conservatory, Cottage Wing

See the storm clouds, hear the thunder, follow the rain and discover the aftermath: a rainbow of colors!

Rainforest

Conservatory, East Wing

A world lush with multi-colored orchids, towering tropical trees and intriguing (glass) creatures reveals the importance of rainforest preservation.

Holiday Trees

Kelly Education Center, Hallway

Ornaments crafted by local students demonstrate water's many forms and impacts on our lives and environment.

Collaboration with Henrico County Public Schools art educators.

Railroad Exhibit

Kelly Education Center, Classroom 2

Push-button, interactive model trains 'make tracks' around town, lakes and streams. See if you can find the burning building-another reminder of our reliance on water. Special thanks to the Virginia Train Collectors.

Contact: John Exley, 746-1946, vatraincollectors.com.

"Lifeforms: Land and Water"

Kelly Education Center, Lora M. Robins Library

See natural ocean artifacts, three plants' evolution from aquatic to terrestrial lifeforms, and a holiday tree reflecting the ocean's treasures: whales, jellyfish, giant octopi, starfish and more! And don't miss the Reading Room's bog garden of dried botanicals.



Instagram Contest: Share Your Favs!



Year after year, your photos capture the essence of GardenFest, so why not share

them? Tag your favorites #GardenFest (starting Nov. 27), and you'll automatically be entered to win a prize package.
Winning entries are based on composition,

Winning entries are based on composition, creativity and fun.

Details and contest rules at http://bit.ly/ InstaGardenFEST. Even if you're not a camera buff, follow the Garden's photo stream at http://bit.ly/Gardenstagram.

Early Bird Group Tours

NOVEMBER 30-JANUARY 114PM, BY RESERVATION

An expert Guide will give your private group of 15 to 40 individuals an inside look at this season's holiday display. Then as darkness falls, your early bird access allows you to experience the magical unfolding of the region's favorite light show. Perfect for a family reunion or a new holiday tradition!

For tour only, call 262-9887, ext. 320. For tour with group dining on Sunday-Tuesday only, beginning 4:30

p.m., contact Facility Events at ext. 345 or 224. Tours start at the Robins Visitors Center. \$.



Give an Experience

Looking for the perfect gift?

- Present gifts of nature, education and entertainment! Garden Gift Certificates can be used for
 purchasing just about anything at the Garden: admission tickets, memberships, classes, programs and
 dining in the Robins Tea House or Garden Cafe.
- Give a Garden Shop shopping spree! A Garden Shop Gift Card is designed exclusively for Garden Shop purchases: unique home and garden items, accessories, seasonal decor, tools, books and more.
- Give a Membership! Whether for an individual or the whole family, a Gift Membership lasts all year.

Gift Certificates and Gift Cards are available in a variety of price points, plus they're easy to purchase on site. Gift Memberships may be purchased on site or online at lewisginter.org.

Tips for *Busy **Nights

- Carpool whenever possible
- Arrive before 4:30 p.m. or after 8:30 p.m. to avoid peak times.
- Closed gates indicate parking lots are temporarily full, so
 check back in 30 minutes.
- Purchase tickets in advance.
 Details page 8.
- Make reservations for Tea House dining. Details page 8.
- Have your membership card handy for Garden Shop discounts.
- Return on a weeknight.

More information at http://bit.ly/GardenFestTips







Dominion GardenFest Calendar



november



Dominion GardenFest Grand Illumination

FRIDAY, 27

Doors Open......5PM Preview, Rose Garden.....5-5:30PM Main Performance, Auditorium 6PM Jeff Boyer presents "Bubble Trouble," a

fun-filled, energetic & interactive bubble extravaganza! GardenFest admission required.

Presenting Sponsor: Dominion.

Children's GardenFest **Adventures**

NIGHTLY, NOV. 27-JAN. 11 5-10PM Details page 4.





Merry Mondays

MONDAY, 30 5-8PM Kelly Education Center,

Library Reading Room

Storybook Water Dance by Thomas Locker read fireside by the GardenKeeper on Mondays, 5:30, 6:30 & 7:30 p.m.

"Santa sightings" in the Conservatory on Mondays, 6-8 p.m. through Dec. 21.

FREE Member & Volunteer Night

MONDAY, 30.....5-10PM Exclusive benefit for members & volunteers Free admission & access to the historic Bloemendaal House, festooned with handcrafted Victorian-style decorations & showcasing antiques & memorabilia. Live music Nov. 30, 6-7:30 p.m.: VCU Flute Ensemble. Free admission for members & volunteers only. For their guests, 4 extra tickets may be purchased at member pricing (applicable this

NOTE: Free admission for volunteers on this

Bling House

FRIDAY-SATURDAY, 27-28.....5-9:30PM

Children's Garden Greenhouse

"Bling" in the holidays with LED light-up necklaces, flashing gloves, rings, ornaments, wands & souvenirs galore (by purchase). Weather permitting.

december

Dominion GardenFest of Lights

NIGHTLY THROUGH JAN. 11......5-10PM

Details pages 4-5.

Presenting Sponsor: Dominion.

Children's GardenFest **Adventures**

NIGHTLY THROUGH JAN. 11......5-10PM Details page 4.

FREE Member Night

TUESDAY-WEDNESDAY, 1-2.....5-10PM Exclusive benefit for members only

Live music, Dec. 1-2, 6-7:30 p.m.: Harp Psalms.

Members may buy up to 4 extra tickets at member pricing (valid that Member Night only). NOTE: Free admission for members only. Details in Nov. listing.



Bling House 1-2; 4-5; 11-23; 26-315-9:30PM

Children's Garden Greenhouse

Details in Nov. listing. Weather permitting.

Caroling Tuesdays

TUESDAYS, 1, 8, 15, 22, 29,..... 6:30-8PM Various Garden Locations

Holiday caroling throughout the Garden!

Crafty Wednesdays

WEDNESDAYS, 2, 9, 16, 23, 30 5-8PM Kelly Education Center.

Classroom 1 (across from trains)

Families make crafts with staff & volunteers.

Musical Thursdays

THURSDAYS, 3, 10, 17, 316-7PM & 7:30-8:30PM

Kelly Education Center,

Lora M. Robins Library

Acoustic musicians perform festive entertainment.

Closed Dec. 24.





"Rain or Shine"

event, closed only for extreme inclement weather and December 24–25.

gardenfest of lights

"H2Whoa!"

NIGHTLY, NOV. 27, 2015-JAN. 11, 2016 5-10PM, CLOSED DEC. 24-25

Dominion

"H2Whoa!" showcases extraordinary holiday lights, fascinating trains, family activities, festive meals, Santa with friends & more!

GardenFest for Fidos



Merry Mondays
MONDAYS, 7, 14, 21, 28 5–8PM
Kelly Education Center,
Library Reading Room
Details in Nov. listing.

Garden Closed for Holiday THURSDAY-FRIDAY, 24-25



GardenFest, 5-10 p.m., at no charge.

january 2016

Dominion GardenFest of Lights

NIGHTLY THROUGH JAN. 11....... 5–10PM Details pages 4–5. Presenting Sponsor: Dominion.

Children's GardenFest Adventures

NIGHTLY THROUGH JAN. 11......5–10PM Details page 4.

Merry Mondays

Caroling Tuesdays

Crafty Wednesdays

WEDNESDAY, 6...... 5–8PM Details in Dec. listing.

Musical Thursdays THURSDAY, 7

Details in Dec. listing.



GardenFest for Fidos*
THURSDAY, 7 5–10PM
Details in Dec. listing.

FREE Member Night

2016 Dominion GardenFest will feature **COLOR!**

GardenFest Calendar continues next page.



Dominion GardenFest Calendar (continued)

Holiday Dining

Diverse menus and settings, sure to please everyone in your family or dining party. Details at http://bit.ly/HolidayDine.

GARDEN CAFE

Casual dining, featuring salad bar, home-style soups, sandwiches and more! REGULAR HOURS: DAILY, 10AM-4PM

GARDENFEST OF LIGHTS: DAILY, 10AM-8:30PM, INCLUDING NEW YEAR'S EVE Closed Nov. 26, Dec. 24–25, & Jan. 12–17.



ROBINS TEA HOUSE

REGULAR HOURS: WEDNESDAYS-SUNDAYS, 11:30AM-2:30PM

Closed for lunch Mondays-Tuesdays.

GARDENFEST OF LIGHTS: NIGHTLY, 5-9PM, INCLUDING NEW YEAR'S EVE

Closed Nov. 26, Dec. 24–25 & Jan. 1–Mar. 16.

Reservations encouraged at 262-9887, ext. 399.

GARDENFEST DINNER FOR GROUPS OF 15+

SUNDAYS-TUESDAYS, NOVEMBER 29-JANUARY 11

Robins Room (semi-private)

Seatings at 5:30 & 7:30PM

Awesome group meal includes a holiday outing!

Menu & package pricing at http://bit.ly/HolidayDine. Limited seating; reservations required at 262-9887, ext. 345 or 224.

GardenFest admission included.

DINNER WITH SANTA

SUNDAY-WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 13-16

Kelly Education Center, Auditorium

5:30-7:30PM

Family-friendly dining for groups of any size, featuring Santa's visit! Menu & package pricing at http://bit.ly/HolidayDine.

Limited seating; reservations required at 262-9887, ext. 345 or 224 (started Aug. 1). GardenFest admission included.

SATURDAY BRUNCH WITH SANTA

SATURDAYS, DECEMBER 5, 13 & T9

Kelly Education Center, Auditorium

Seatings at 10AM & 1PM

A family favorite!

Limited seating; reservations required at 262-9887, ext. 329 (started Oct. 1). GardenFest admission included.



Celebrate at the Garden

Looking for a unique experience for your next holiday gathering? The Garden's **Holiday Luncheon Package**, available Monday–Friday during the holiday season, is the perfect way to celebrate with family members, neighbors and social groups. The all-inclusive package includes daytime admission into the Garden, room rental, food and beverages. Find out more at http://bit.ly/holidaylunchpackage, and then confirm your date by contacting our Facility Rental experts at 262-9887, ext. 224 or 345 or by emailing facilityevents@lewisginter.org.

Garden Shop

Your one-stop shopping boutique for distinctive holiday decorations and gifts, unique accessories, exclusive jewelry and children's favorites!

THROUGH NOVEMBER 25: MON.-SAT., 10AM-5PM & SUN., NOON-5PM NOVEMBER 27-JANUARY 11: MON.-SAT., 10AM-10PM & SUN., NOON-10PM

Closed Nov. 26, Dec. 24–25 for holidays & Jan. 12–29 for annual inventory. See page 5 for Gift Card information.

Browse new merchandise inspired by GardenFest's "H2Whoa!" theme, including this hand-blown glass vase that mimics the movement of a jellyfish. A distinctive accent piece for your home or gift giving.



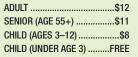
Tickets and Admission

A one-of-a-kind holiday experience at an exceptional value!

Purchase GardenFest tickets at Admissions, online at lewisginter.org or call

1-800-594-TIXX. Membership information required for member pricing. Tickets ordered online and by phone incur a nominal

service charge with pick up at "Will Call" in the Visitors Center.





aardenfest

IGHTLY 5-10PM of liahts

Horticulture

Bright Spots



autumn

Aster Symphyotrichum oblongifolium 'Raydon's Blue'



winter

Winterberry Holly *llex verticillata* 'Winter Red'



late winter/early spring

Snowdrop Galanthus elwesii



conservatory

Begonia Begonia 'Gryphon'

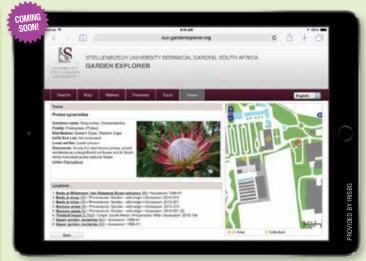


Award-winning exhibit of nearly half-a-million LEGO® bricks creating forms of larger-than-life flowers, birds, insects and more, May 27–Sept. 18, 2016, at Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden.



"Nature Connects": Art with LEGO® Bricks"

This special exhibit in our landscape will feature fascinating, larger-than-life sculptures made with LEGO bricks by New York-based artist Sean Kenney. Follow updates on Facebook and lewisginter.org.



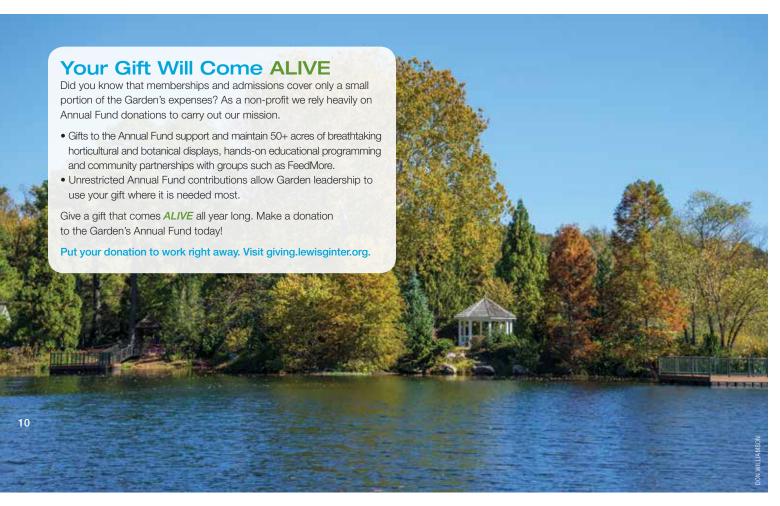
Going High Tech

New Resources and Virtual Garden Tours

This fall, the Garden will start managing its plant collections using IrisBG software. With this powerful tool, the horticulture staff will more efficiently manage records of the living plant collections, displays and designed landscapes—as well as more accurately share this information with the public. Also, over the next year, interactive maps of the Garden will be developed and made available through the system's user-friendly, webbased Garden Explorer module. Accessible from PCs, tablet computers and mobile devices, Garden Explorer will enable guests to virtually visit the Garden and participate in custom Garden tours, while having full access to names, locations and planting history. We invite you to start exploring at lewisginter.gardenexplorer.org.

This software enhancement is made possible through a grant from the Stanley Smith Horticultural Trust.

Annual Fund and Recognition



Staff Recognition

Hearty congratulations to Garden staff who celebrated service milestones during 2015:

20 YEARS

Martha Anne Ellis

10 YEARS

Kim Dove

5 YEARS

Peggy Hudert

Donna Reynolds

Kristin Thoroman

Victoria Wilson

Janet Woody



Volunteer Recognition

Congratulations to Sharon Francisco, recipient of the Garden's 2015 Lifetime Achievement Award. Sharon's volunteer service has encompassed advocacy, plant sales, archives and special events, as well as leadership roles with the Bloemendaal Council and currently the Volunteer Support Committee. Thank you, Sharon, for epitomizing the spirit of volunteerism!

Dear Volunteers,
I would like to thank each of you for all
your support and dedication. Lewis Ginker Botanical
Granders wouldn't be what it is today without the
help from an Volunteers. I appreciate every thing
you do; the hours of service you
provide and the love for the
Garden that we share. I also
want to thank you for the inspiration
or couragement and warm welcome
that I received as your new
manager of Volunteers. you are an
amazing group of individuals that
I enjoy working with and getting
to know, so Thank You!!
Truly, Karen Chwers, Mgr. of Volunteer







Education

The Garden's Adult Education Course Catalog for January–April 2016 will be mailed to member households and published as a "Style Weekly" insert on December 2. Programs subject to change. Details, fees and registration at http://bit.ly/LGBGeducation, 262-9887, ext. 320 or registrar@lewisginter.org.

Upcoming Highlights

Artificial Wreath Workshop DECEMBER 4 SOLD OUT 10AM-NOON DECEMBER 5.......10AM-NOON

Fun and creative workshop helps you design and make your own holiday wreath: a one-of-a-kind masterpiece for your front door! Silks and all materials, instruction and hands-on helpers provided. Receive a discount coupon in class for use in the Garden Shop that day. Some hot glue gun use. \$. More: Entire holiday floral design series online at http://bit.ly/FLORALDesign.



Making Fairy Houses with Dried Natural Materials Craft a whimsical fairy house.

SATURDAY, DEC. 5......8:30-11:30AM

BEGINNER ADULT/CHILD WORKSHOP. Some hot glue gun use. \$.

SATURDAY, DEC. 5......12:30-3:30PM

INTERMEDIATE ADULT/CHILD WORKSHOP. Some hot glue gun use. \$.

SATURDAY, DEC. 12......8:30-11:30AM

INTERMEDIATE ADULT/CHILD WORKSHOP. Some hot glue gun use. \$.

SATURDAY, DEC. 12......12:30-3:30PM

BEGINNER ADULT/CHILD WORKSHOP. Some hot glue gun use. \$.

Save the Date

Winter Symposium and CVNLA Short Course

FEBRUARY 10-128AM-4PM

Three days of horticultural excellence for green-industry professionals and seasoned gardeners.

Registration begins Dec. 1 and includes continental breakfast, lunch and sessions. Net proceeds help build CVNLA's scholarship fund for students pursuing horticultural careers. Presented by Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden, Central Virginia Nursery and Landscape Association and Virginia Cooperative Extension. \$.

Tree Care Symposium "Getting to Big Trees: Practices for Life Stages"

MARCH 10-11

Best practices for planning, selecting, planting and caring for trees for green industry professionals and seasoned gardeners. \$.



Especially For Educators Professional Development Workshops

Details and registration at http://bit.ly/educatorwkshops.

AT YOUR SCHOOL

Let us come to you with these enlightening programs:

- "Outdoors in All Seasons" (Pre-K-Grade 2)
- "Inquiry-based Educations in the Schoolyard" (Grades 3–7)
- "Using the School Grounds as a Classroom" (All grades) Pre-registration required.

AT LEWIS GINTER BOTANICAL GARDEN

"SPROUTING SUCCESS" (Pre-K-5 Educators)

JANUARY 15.....9AM-1PM

Join Agriculture in the Classroom (AITC) for a highly interactive professional development workshop to help you sprout successful learners. Featuring cross-curricular, standards-aligned lessons and resources that use Virginia agriculture and natural resources to engage learners in science, mathematics, language arts and social studies. Workshop participants enjoy AITC's hands-on, minds-on activities and make-and-takes while exploring the farm and surrounding environment. Participants also receive resource kits full of curriculum, books, posters and a class-set of laminated Virginia maps. Free. Pre-registration required. Presented by Agriculture in the Classroom.



NATURAL CONNECTIONS EDUCATORS' CONFERENCE MARCH 16–18

Three-day collaborative conference provides valuable professional development opportunities for Pre-K-Grade 6 educators, administrators and pre-service teachers. Join your colleagues for inspiring opportunities to focus on the powerful ways nature-based education can connect and support all areas of the curriculum.

\$. Pre-registration required. Presented by Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden and Virginia Department of Education.



New Exhibit Loan Available January 2016

"The Lakeside Wheel Club: From Bicycle Club to Botanical Garden"

The story of the Garden's origins as the Lakeside Wheel Club and its evolution into one of the country's finest botanical gardens is now available as an indoor gallery loan exhibit, beginning January 2016. Suitable for libraries, community centers, retirement facilities, convention centers, hotels and educational facilities, the free-standing exhibit will be loaned to a limited number of appropriate venues within central Virginia for a modest fee. For details and loan agreement terms, contact Janet Woody, Garden librarian, at 262-9887, ext. 332 or janetw@lewisginter.org.





1800 LAKESIDE AVENUE RICHMOND, VA 23228-4700 (804) 262-9887 lewisginter.org



"No water, no life. No blue, no green."

–Dr. Sylvia Earle, TIME magazine's first "Hero for the Planet"

