Celebrate Spring!

A Million Blooms!  
Starts March 26

Details inside and at lewisginter.org.

BUTTERFLIES LIVE!  
Starts April 15

Nature Connects®: Art with LEGO® Bricks  
Starts May 27
We may be thankful for many things in a garden, but not everything. Under the “thankful for” heading: the blazing color of spring bloom, the annual return of flirt butterfly and the shift of seasons from gentle spring to sultry summer. “Not thankful for”: boxwood blight and periodic drought. Benedictine monk and author David Steindl-Rast reminds us that while we might not be thankful for everything we are given, we can be thankful in every moment and the opportunities each moment presents. It has been a privilege to work at a garden where so many volunteers, staff, members and patrons exhibit the quality of living thankfully.

Some images come readily to mind:

A volunteer cheerfully pulls weed after weed, freeing up a bed of brilliant daffodils while his joints gently pop like little hands applauding every time he rises from his kneeling pad. A colleague with a huge smile on her face welcomes a guest to the butterfly exhibit, asks a quick question, provides a helpful response, and then does that again and again, scores of times on a steamy afternoon. A member with a cane beams with joy about a newly encountered conifer on a hot summer day, taking the time to thank gardeners and volunteers and the young cashier in the Garden Cafe for the discovery, when even walking is a challenge for him.

It has been my experience that the generosity of patrons is often rooted in an attitude of thankfulness. Many embrace the experiences and gifts of life with a grateful air, eager to share their commitment and their passion. The Louise B. Cochrane Rose Garden was supported by and named for an engaging woman who passionately loved roses. She saw, and in her art frequently conveyed, their delicate shape and tantalizing color. This May, as the bloom returns to her garden at Lewis Ginter, we can be thankful for her life, even as we sorrowed at her passing this past December. In that hard moment, we were reminded how much lives spent in celebration mean to us. In that moment we were grateful for such lives.

Shane Tippett
Executive Director
**Nature Connects®: Art with LEGO® Bricks**

**SPECIAL EXHIBIT**
MAY 27–SEPTEMBER 18
Artistic wonder. Award winner. Record breaker. The upcoming Nature Connects exhibition, set outdoors in the gardens, is all this and more! See 14 displays of playful, larger-than-life sculptures crafted from nearly half-a-million colorful LEGO bricks. Discover how the imaginative artworks illustrate nature’s connections. And hear fun facts about LEGO®s, which families have enjoyed since 1932.

**LEGO USERS TRAIN SHOW**
MAY 27–29 (ONLY)
KELLY EDUCATION CENTER, CLASSROOM 2 & LIBRARY
To kick off the summer-long Nature Connects exhibit, the Garden will host visiting LEGO User Groups (LUGs) from Washington, D.C., Virginia and Pennsylvania. See their amazing exhibit of electric trains chugging past buildings, farms, gardens and other remarkable scenes—all made with LEGO® bricks!

**VirginiaFIRST ROBOT DEMO DAY**
MAY 28 (ONLY) Updates at lewisginter.org.


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**Butterflies LIVE!**
OPEN APRIL 15
Exotic and native butterflies entertain with stunning colors, amazing antics and fun facts. This year, monarchs and luna moths also join the show! Meet the Butterflies at http://bit.ly/MeetBflies.


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**Les Papillons dans le Jardin**
Friday, April 15, 6:30PM
Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden’s Annual Fundraising Gala, hosted by the Board of Directors.

Splendor is a special invitation-only event for Patrons who give at the Sponsor Level and above. For more information, contact Susan Leighton at (804) 262-9887, ext. 334 or susanl@lewisginter.org.

Proceeds benefit the Garden’s mission of education and our passion to connect people and plants to improve our community.

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**Special Evening Event for Garden Week**
APRIL 27 (ONLY), 5–9PM
Enjoy extended hours and entertainment on Wed., April 27 (only):
- Historic Bloemendaal House tours*, 5–8PM
- Casual fare, wine & beer ($) at Bloemendaal House, 5–8PM
- Live music* by The Triple Crossing Jazz Project Trio, 6–8PM
- Garden Shop, 10AM–7PM with 15% discount for members (only)
- Non-members save $1 on (1) Garden admission with 2016 Garden Week ticket. Butterflies LIVE! closes 5PM daily due to butterflies’ reduced activity.
With the newly introduced Garden Explorer website, you can explore the Garden in depth—on-site or virtually from anywhere in the world! Using a web browser on a PC, tablet computer or smartphone, a virtual visitor can access:

- Satellite maps of the property
- A database of detailed information about our plants and collections
- Searches for plants via common and scientific name

Visitors can pinpoint their location on the map, making it easier to navigate the Garden. In the future, users will be able to search for Garden features, such as memorial benches and trees. They also will be able to participate in self-guided Garden tours (even virtually) that highlight plants of seasonal and thematic interest.

Try it yourself! Log on to http://bit.ly/GardenExplorer and please share this news so others can enjoy Garden Explorer, too!

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

In Process: Marion Morton Native Plant Garden

If you noticed a bit of unusual activity on the west side of the Kelly Education Center this past fall and winter, you weren’t alone. What you were witnessing was the birth of an exciting new garden at Lewis Ginter.

Once planting is completed this spring and fall, the Marion Morton Native Plant Garden will showcase the beauty and utility of native trees, understory shrubs and perennials. The Garden is perhaps best appreciated from the inside of the Lora M. Robins Library, where it will offer a picturesque view of sustainable residential-scale horticulture. It also is accessible on a limited basis to visitors via the Auditorium for facility rentals and as part of education classes.

The project allows for the removal of 5,300 sq. ft. of traditional turf and features a number of replicable best practices, including drip irrigation, rooftop rainwater capture and drought-tolerant native plantings. The plantings also provide valuable habitat and food for insects and birds, encouraging a more robust local ecosystem. The design incorporates a new event terrace, creating a highly desirable rental space. Even the hardscape showcases Virginia native materials and sustainability, from bluestone and granite pavers to a black locust bridge made from reclaimed lumber.

The Marion Morton Native Plant Garden is made possible through a bequest from the estate of Marion N.W. Morton, a grant from the Windsor Foundation and a gift from a private donor.

Why Native Plants?

- Eliminate or greatly reduce the need for irrigation, excess fertilization and pesticides
- Improve water quality by absorbing and filtering stormwater before it carries sediment and pollutants to streams and rivers
- Support the local ecosystem as both food and habitat for insect/animal populations
- Come in a variety of appealing colors, sizes and textures
SPRING PLANTFEST
(formerly Spring Plant Sale)

FRIDAY, MAY 6 ........................................9AM–5PM
SATURDAY, MAY 7 ..................................9AM–3PM
PARKING LOT C

Our annual salute to gardening is just in time for Mother's Day! Nowhere else will you find such an abundance of plants, creative container plantings and distinctive decoratives for outdoor settings.

At the Bloemendaal’s Best tent, check out the native milkweed varieties, as well as the butterfly kits with nectar and host plants. Browse the collections and gather tips from knowledgeable growers. Also bring your garden tools, kitchen knives and scissors for honing by Mr. Leonard’s Sharpening Service. $.

- Live music by local artists and food and beverage offerings. $.
- Meet and greet your Virginia Cooperative Extension Agent.
- Open free to the public. Bring a friend and make it a spring outing!

Regular Garden admission to enter the Garden. Presented by Garden volunteers.

Serving Our Community

During 2015, the Community Kitchen Garden delivered 7,009 pounds of fresh and nourishing vegetables to FeedMore, equating to 28,036 meals! Many thanks to the 361 volunteers who donated more than 1,500 hours to help with the planting, nurturing and harvesting.

A $10 donation can provide one free class for a low-to-moderate-income student.
March Madness
DAILY THROUGH THURSDAY, 31
Garden members (only) enjoy 15% discount on purchases in Garden Shop & Cafe all month. Also in Tea House when it reopens March 16.

Peek-a-Bloom with Peter Rabbit
SATURDAY, 26 & SUNDAY, 27

A Million Blooms*
DAILY–JUNE 1 .................9AM–5PM
Details in March.

Virginia Daffodil Society Show*
SATURDAY, 2 .....................2–5PM
SUNDAY, 3 ......................10AM–3:45PM
KELLY EDUCATION CENTER
Delightful prize-worthy daffodils & expert growers.

Ginter in the Morning
TUESDAY, 5 .......................10–11AM
Fantastic Flowering Bulbs

Richmond African Violet Society Show* & Sale
SALE: FRIDAY, 8 ......................1–5PM
SATURDAY, 9 ......................9AM–5PM
SUNDAY, 10 ......................9AM–4PM
SHOW: SATURDAY, 9 .............1–5PM
SUNDAY, 10 ......................9AM–4PM
VISITORS CENTER ATRIUM
& ROBINS ROOM

Butterflies LIVE!*
DAILY, APRIL 15–OCTOBER 9 ....9AM–5PM
CONSERVATORY NORTH WING
Native & tropical butterflies delight, educate & entertain.

Butterflies LIVE!*
DAILY THROUGH OCTOBER 9 ....9AM–5PM
CONSERVATORY NORTH WING
Details in April.

Ginter in the Morning
TUESDAY, 3 .......................10–11AM
Richmond in the Morning
Details in April.

Mother’s Day Weekend Celebration
FRIDAY, 6–SUNDAY, 8
Three-day extended celebration honors mothers & important caregivers.

Nature Connects®: Art with LEGO® Bricks
FRIDAY, 27–SEPTEMBER 18
THROUGHOUT THE GARDEN
Details page 3.
EXHIBITS

Watercolors from the Highgrove Florilegium*
APRIL 1–30
KELLY EDUCATION CENTER,
LORA M. ROBINS LIBRARY
Botanical paintings from the garden of HRH The Prince of Wales.

Pinwheels for Prevention Garden*
APRIL 2–30
TERRACED LAWN NEAR ROSE GARDEN
3,000+ pinwheels for children served this past year by Prevent Child Abuse Virginia’s Healthy Families program. Recognizing Child Abuse Prevention Month.

GINTER GALLERY II*
Reichenbachia: 19th Century Botanical Illustrations of Orchids
MARCH 20–APRIL 13
Deborah Davis: Moths Up Close
APRIL 20–MAY 22
Brian Korte: Botanical Mosaics with LEGO® Bricks
MAY 27–SEPTEMBER 18
Piece by piece, artist Brian Korte of Brickworkz LLC creates elaborate worlds with his mosaics made from LEGO pieces.
In the Lora M. Robins Library: Interactive mosaic-building station, where visitors create their own mosaics. Fun for all!

Adult Education

The seasonal schedule is posted at lewisginter.org/learn/adult-classes, mailed to members and published in the “Style Weekly” April 6 insert. A few highlights follow with details, fees & registration for each at lewisginter.org.

Tree Care Symposium
Getting to Big Trees: Practices for Life Stages
TUESDAY, MARCH 29 .................................................................8:30AM–4PM
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 30 .........................................................8:30AM–12:30PM
Two-day symposium looks at practices that ensure trees reach a healthy maturity and a long life span. From soils to maintenance, Tuesday introduces new strategies, evaluates current practices and provides information to share with developers and homeowners. Wednesday, hear additional lectures or participate in demonstrations like stationary rope climbing. $. Adult workshop.

Plants for Spring
SATURDAY, APRIL 23 .............................................................9–11AM
Garden horticulturist Dean Dietrich discusses reliable, interesting plants that provide ongoing interest as the seasons change. Also tips for selecting, placing, planting and caring for these plants, plus ‘the dark side’—problems common to them. Includes tour to see mature examples in place. $.

Spring Hours

Garden
Daily: 9AM–5PM
April 27 of Historic Garden Week: 9AM–9PM

Garden Shop
Monday–Saturday: 10AM–5PM
Sunday: NOON–5PM
April 27 of Historic Garden Week: 10AM–7PM

Dining

Garden Cafe
Daily: 10AM–4PM
Lora Robins Tea House
Reopens March 16
Wednesday–Sunday:
11:30AM–2:30PM
Reservations,
(804) 262-9887, ext. 399

Garden Admission FREE for Garden members. Membership info and visitor prices at lewisginter.org.

Donor support enabled 7,118 people to attend CarMax Free Fourth of July 2015.
Volunteer!
Children’s Garden opportunities page 10.

WaterPlay*
OPENS APRIL 16 (Weather Permitting)
Schedule and tips at lewisginter.org.

Drop-in Activities*
DAILY, APRIL–OCTOBER
GARDEN DISCOVERY BREEZEWAY
Discover nature’s mysteries through Kid Quest and other self-directed activities.

Girl Scout Programs
Scouts can complete requirements for these garden-related badges:
• Daisy Blue Bucket Award
• Brownie Bugs Badge
• Junior Flowers Badge
• Junior Gardener Badge
$. Pre-registration required. Leaders, complete online form or call Children’s Education Assistant at (804) 262-9887, ext. 322 for date availability.

Green Adventure Summer Camps
JUNE–AUGUST, WEEK-LONG SESSIONS, 9AM–NOON
School’s out, outdoor fun’s in! Campers learn about the plant kingdom and their connections to it through field studies, garden games, keepsake crafts, botanical snacks and loads of outdoor fun!
$. Pre-registration required. Limited space.

Party Time?
Ever-popular birthday party package is available select Saturdays, April–October, for children ages 5–12. Contact the Children’s Education Assistant at (804) 262-9887, ext. 322.

Green Adventure Spring Break Workshops:
Stop-Motion Animation
FOUR ONE-DAY WORKSHOPS, 9AM–3:30PM
Lights, camera, action! Using the Garden as a backdrop, develop a storyline, create scenes and props using natural materials, and snap images to produce a nature-based stop-motion animation film, including digital access to the finished product.
$. Pre-registration required.

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LEGO® Brick Stop-Motion Animation
Lights, camera, action! Using the Garden as a backdrop, children develop a storyline, create scenes and props using natural materials, and snap images of the LEGO mini-figures as they complete an outdoor adventure. Participants also have digital access to their stop-motion animation film to share with friends and family.
$. Pre-registration required.

WEEK-LONG CAMPS
MONDAY–FRIDAY, 9AM–NOON
Ages 6–8 | June 20–24 or August 1–5
Ages 9–12 | June 27–July 1 or August 15–19

ONE-DAY WORKSHOPS
9AM–3:30PM
Adult/child session | July 23 or August 13
Ages 13–17 | August 11

LEGO Mosaics: Art in Nature
Using the summer garden as inspiration, campers design and build nature-themed mosaics, including one group piece for display at the Garden. $. Pre-registration required.

WEEK-LONG CAMPS
MONDAY–FRIDAY, 9AM–NOON
Ages 7–9 | July 18–22
Ages 10–12 | August 8–12

Butterflies LIVE!*
OPENS APRIL 15
CONSERVATORY NORTH WING
Details page 3.

Additional butterfly sightings in the Butterfly Meadow, as well as the Certified Monarch Waystation in the Children’s Garden.

“Lewis Ginter + LEGOs?!?! Yet another reason to love LG.”
— HANNAH WHISENANT, MOTHER OF THREE YOUNG CHILDREN
Help Grow the Garden

New Membership Program

Exciting new membership benefits will be unveiled this spring! The new membership program will enable you to choose your desired level of engagement, while enjoying one-of-a-kind opportunities, special invitations and unique access to the Garden.

New benefit choices include:

• Customized membership with updates on your selected interest track
• Invitations to private dinners with Garden guest speakers
• Invitation to an exclusive off-site party
• Invitations to opening-night receptions for Garden special exhibits or events

Details will follow by mail and will be posted at http://bit.ly/MEMBERship.

Thank You, Annual Fund Donors

As a nonprofit, we rely heavily on Annual Fund donations to carry out our educational mission. Your donation helps connect people and plants to improve the community. Your Annual Fund gift also enables us to:

• Maintain the Garden’s renowned botanical displays, including new additions, such as the Edible Display Garden and the Ornamental Grass Garden in front of the Conservatory.
• Sustain education programs for thousands of children and adults each year.
• Support outreach programs like the Community Kitchen Garden, which provides thousands of pounds of fresh vegetables to FeedMore’s Meals on Wheels and Kids Cafe programs each year.

Please support the Garden’s Annual Fund today at giving.lewisginter.org.

Volunteer: Fun with Purpose

Our mission is education and our passion is connecting people and plants to improve the community. We’d love your help! Whether you volunteer indoors or out, you will learn something new, meet interesting people and make a difference in your community.

ADULTS: Various opportunities
Various hours/days of the week | year-round

TEENS (13–18): Two summer opportunities in the Children’s Garden

Youth Volunteer Program
Tuesday–Thursday | June 21–August 25, 9AM–NOON

Summer Camp Volunteer
Monday–Friday, Select Weeks | June–August, 8:45AM–NOON

FAMILIES: Various opportunities in the Children’s Garden
Select Sunday mornings | April–October
Pre-registration required.
Details and applications at http://bit.ly/VOLUNT33R.

The Garden appreciates the valuable gift offered by all of our volunteers: the gift of time.
More Ways to Enjoy

Facility Rental = Free Access to Garden + Exhibits

Enjoy Nature Connects® and Butterflies LIVE! during your next special event! By hosting your social or professional gathering at the Garden during the hours of 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., you and your guests will receive free Garden admission, including the special events and exhibits occurring during your event. What a value!

Details at http://bit.ly/FacilityRental. Facility Rental experts at (804) 262-9887, ext. 224 or 345 or facilityevents@lewisginter.org.

Making Connections: Sculptures from LEGO® Bricks, Group Tour

AVAILABLE MAY 27–SEPTEMBER 18

Join your expert Guide for a tour of discovery, and experience the 14 displays of playful sculptures crafted from nearly half-a-million colorful LEGO bricks. Hear fun facts about the toy shared across generations as you enjoy making connections in the growing garden. Find out how the 60-pound bumblebee and 6-foot bison both illustrate stories of relationships in nature. Get some behind-the-scenes information to make your tour complete. To register your group call (804) 262-9887, ext. 320.

$. Available during regular Garden hours for groups of 15 or more adults. Two-week advance registration requested. Related information page 3.

Shoppers’ Alert

A new season means new merchandise for yard and home! Browse the Garden Shop’s ever-changing inventory to discover just what you need (and want!).

Reminder:
March Madness offers a 15% discount on member purchases in the Garden Shop now through March 31 (must show member ID).

Add a ‘WOW’ factor to your landscape with Beadworx handcrafted décor: brightly colored glass beads wired into imaginative creations.

Admissions cover only a small portion of our expenses. Members and donors, thank you for your support!
Thanks for Our Awesome Awning!

Until recently, a drizzly day in the Children’s Garden equaled wet kids, soggy chaperones and hastily reconfigured lesson plans.

“If the weather was bad enough, sometimes we even had to cancel classes,” says Kelly Riley, Children’s Education Manager. “Now we shouldn’t have to worry as much.”

Kelly’s savior is a new permanent awning for the Carriage House in the Children’s Garden, which will provide students and families with welcome relief from spring rains and summer heat. The awning was provided by a donor, who wishes to remain anonymous, with a special connection to the Children’s Garden.

“She’s a teacher. In fact, she’s a teacher who had actually taken her own classes to the Garden,” Kelly explains. The donor had an amount in mind and then met with Garden staff who told her what they needed most. At the top of the list was an awning large enough to facilitate year-round outdoor instruction that also included fans for relief from summer heat and lighting for evening events.

“The awning is amazing!” says Kelly. “It’s going to make a world of difference in the comfort of our guests. It will make an underutilized space more active, with more opportunity for free play and self-guided activities.”

In the donor’s own words: “It was important for me to meet with the staff, to make that personal connection and to hear first-hand their thoughts on the Children's Garden, its programs and how it was meeting the needs of the children in the Richmond community. I was very pleased, as a donor, with the entire process.”

Kelly adds: “Now I can’t wait for it to rain!”