Thank you for voting Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden as one of the Nation’s Best Botanical Gardens! The Garden placed #4 among some of the country’s most prestigious gardens (USA Today, 2016).
Unearthing Our Potential

Grab a shovel. Walk over to a bare spot in a planting bed or a flagged corner of the lawn. With the handle leaning on your shoulder, pull your gloves out of a hip pocket and tug them over your hands. Plant the blade with a quick, slitting thrust, as if it were a flag pole. Stop on the back of the blade with one foot, driving the shovel in the ground, then lever out a section of earth, revealing things long hidden from daylight. Repeat the process, and note how every action is informed by the one preceding it. Will this hole drain, or is it going to pool water like a low spot in an asphalt road? How much compost will it need, and how much water? Does the soil come up easily, or does the ground yield reluctantly, shivering the handle of the shovel and your hands? When your work is half done, you have a pile of soil in a low pyramid, and you have a neat cylinder of space imprinted on the surface of the earth, waiting to be filled.

Gardening metaphors are apt when reviewing the broader work of a botanical garden. They involve mind and muscle, plans and practicalities. Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden has been conducting two concurrent planning processes under board and staff leadership for many months. Strategic planning (what we want to do, who we want to be and why) has been intertwined with master site planning (how do we shape our garden space in order to make those first things happen). The 2016–2020 Strategic Plan, christened Unearthing Our Potential, was approved at the March 2016 meeting of the Board of Directors and is available on our website at http://bit.ly/GardenMission. The next steps of our site planning will be reviewed and adopted this summer.

As the programs and events described in this newsletter unfold, and tens of thousands of students and guests visit each month, plans are underway to create our future. I invite you to read about all the plans as they develop. Ask questions, and let us know what you think. Pull on your gloves. Grab a shovel.

Shane Tippett
Executive Director

editor’s box

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

Volume XXXI, Number 2

executive director
Shane Tippett
editor
Lynn Kirk, Kirk Communications
design
development

2016 marks the 31st year of the “Garden Times” newsletter.

Bright Spots

Fall PlantFest (formerly Fall Plant Sale)
FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 16 9AM–5PM
SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 17 9AM–3PM

PARKING LOT C
Fall is for planting, and the Fall PlantFest is for purchasing! Select from an enticing array of top-quality plants, shrubs and trees, ranging from the usual to the unusual. Discover butterfly attractors, unique decorative and ready-to-display container plantings. Enjoy live music as you mingle with knowledgeable vendors and helpful Garden volunteers. It’s one of Central Virginia’s largest, most anticipated plant sales, and it doesn’t disappoint! Open to the public (free).

Bright Spots

summer
Black-eyed Susan
Rudbeckia hirta

autumn
Camellia
Camellia sasanqua ‘Daydream’

conservatory
Ti Plant
Cordyline sp.

tree
Bald Cypress
Taxodium distichum

Horticulture

All Abuzz with Activity

Watch for an exciting addition to the Community Kitchen Garden: an apiary! The newly fenced area will be home to honeybee hives, which will be surrounded by containers of pollinator-supporting plants. The hives will represent the Langstroth model and the top-bar styles and will include an observation hive. These will be used for adults’ and children’s education programs. The apiary was made possible by the Kenneth & Shirley Walker Charitable Fund of The Community Foundation Serving Richmond and Central Virginia.

What to look for, once the apiary is completed:

• As bees fly back to their hive and stop at the entrance, look for brightly colored pollen carried in pollen baskets on their hind legs. Pollen varies in color, from shades of light yellow and orange to dark red. Think about the different flowers the bees have visited to gather this pollen.

• What flowers do you see bees visiting? Honeybees are attracted to white, blue and other light-colored flowers, but you might see them on bright flowers, too. They collect both pollen and nectar.

• Honeybees have a caste system, so look for three different types of organisms. The large female queen lays eggs and leaves the hive only during mating and swarming. Female worker bees gather pollen and nectar, care for young bees and the queen, and produce wax. Drones are male bees, which are larger than female worker bees, and their main purpose is to mate with queens.
**Nature Connects: Art with LEGO Bricks**

What would you do with half-a-million LEGO bricks? New York artist Sean Kenney—a self-claimed “professional kid”—and his staff devoted two-and-a-half years to crafting them into giant flowers, birds, insects and other intriguing sculptures. See a big bumblebee weighing 60 pounds (16,383 LEGO bricks); a soaring seven-foot-tall red rose (41,242 LEGO bricks); and more! Together, they illustrate ways that living things are interconnected. Guaranteed to increase your family’s fascination with LEGO, as well as nature’s connections!

**Related: Walk and Talks, page 6; exhibit, page 7; movie, page 7; LEGO, as well as nature's connections!**

**Photo Contests**

Enter to win a prize package by uploading your favorite photos to Instagram:

- **LEGO Outside** | http://bit.ly/LEGOutside

Inspired by Nature Connects: Art with LEGO Bricks

You also can enter by emailing photos to Jonahh@lewisginter.org. Winners will be announced on the Garden’s Facebook page.

**Flower Contests**

Enter to win a prize package by uploading your favorite photos to Instagram:

- **Photo Contests**
- **Photo Contests**
- **Photo Contests**
- **Photo Contests**

**Fidos After 5**

**SELECT THURSDAYS, 5–9PM**

**JUNE 6 & 23**

**JULY 14 & 28**

**AUGUST 11 & 25**

**SEPTEMBER 8**

All the fun of Flowers After 5, plus the opportunity to bring your dog (these dates only). If you don’t have a pet, come anyway: they’re leashed at all times, and they tend to add to the evening’s entertainment!

*Regular visitor admission. $2 pet admission benefits Richmond SPCA.*

**Late-Summer Lawn Party at Historic Bloemendaal**

**SATURDAY, AUGUST 27, 11AM–3PM**

**SUNDAY, AUGUST 28, 10AM–4PM**

Enjoy a lazy, late-summer afternoon on the lawn at Historic Bloemendaal, original home of the Lakeside Wheel Club (c. 1896). Partake in an old-fashioned ice cream social ($), and enjoy picnic fare under the tent ($). Hear ragtime music, visit with costumed interpreters and see historical bicycle displays and demonstrations. Relax while the barbershop quartet serenades, play a lawn game and step inside the Bloemendaal House for informal tours recalling the late 19th-century bicycling craze. A fun-filled, family-friendly event!

**Butterflies LIVE!**

**DAILY—OCTOBER 9, 9AM–5PM**

**CONSERVATORY, NORTH WING**

Every butterfly is different, as is every visit to Butterflies LIVE! Whether you find them feeding, flutttering or flying, you’ll always find them fascinating. Visit time and again, and bring a friend!

**Flowers After 5**

**THURSDAYS, JUNE 9—AUGUST 25, 5–8PM**

**BLOOMENDAL LAWN & TERRACE**

**ONE NIGHT ONLY. MOVES TO AUDITORIUM IF INCLEMENT WEATHER.**

Enjoy a relaxing evening in the heart of the Garden. Bring back memories of your evening with a photo in the Garden, or relive your favorite memories from the Garden by uploading a photo to Instagram with #FlowersAfter5. Enjoy free admission on all flowers related programs and activities at lewisginter.org.

**Friday Family Fun Night with LEGO® Bricks**

**THURSDAY, JUNE 16, 5–8PM**

**CONSERVATORY, NORTH WING**

Share the Garden with your friends and family at a discounted rate, and introduce them to all the Garden has to offer! Special activities for children and incentives on new memberships purchased that evening.

**Members:** FREE

**Discounted admission for non-members:**

- **Adults:** $10
- **Children (under age 12):** FREE

Presented by the Board of Associates.

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**Installations by LEGO User Groups (LUGs)**

**Special Exhibits | Throughout the Garden**

**SEAN KENNEY**

See a big bumblebee weighing 60 pounds (16,383 LEGO bricks); a soaring seven-foot-tall red rose (41,242 LEGO bricks); and more! Together, they illustrate ways that living things are interconnected. Guaranteed to increase your family’s fascination with LEGO, as well as nature’s connections!

**Check out a gnomic tiger swallowtail butterfly, crafted with 37,481 LEGO bricks, at the upcoming exhibit!**

**“The LEGO Movie”**

**SEASON | TECHNOLOGY | ENGINEERING | ARTS | MATH**

**MAY 27–SEPT. 13, 10AM–4PM**

**INTERACTIVE BUILDING ACTIVITY | LORA M. ROBIN S LIBRARY**

Stop by the building station and create a mosaic for display on the Library wall. Fun for all ages!

**Related: Walk and Talks, page 6; exhibit, page 7; movie, page 7; LEGO, as well as nature’s connections!**

**“Making Mosaics with LEGO Pieces”**

**SEASON | TECHNOLOGY | ENGINEERING | ARTS | MATH**

**MAY 27–SEPT. 13, 10AM–4PM**

**INTERACTIVE BUILDING ACTIVITY | LORA M. ROBIN S LIBRARY**

Build your own home-crafted LEGO brick sculpture, based on a STEAM theme, and submit it for display during the Nature Connects exhibition. You’ll be entered to win great prizes! These display periods, each limited to 250 entries. Details at http://bit.ly/LEGOSteambuild.

**VirginiaFIRST Demo Days**

**MAY 25, 10AM–4:30PM**

**ROBOT DEMONSTRATION DAY | CHILDREN’S GARDEN**

**JUNE 2, 10AM–4:30PM**

**ROBOTS COMPETITION TEAMS | CLASSROOM 2**

**JULY 7, 10AM–4:30PM**

**ROBOTS COMPETITION TEAMS | AUDITORIUM**

Watch fascinating challenge demonstrations across obstacle courses with eco-friendly themes. Provided by FIRST (For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology), which engages tomorrow’s leaders through mentor-based programs that build science, engineering and technology skills.

**Related: Walk and Talks, page 6; exhibit, page 7; movie, page 7; group tour, page 11.**

**“Butterflies LIVE!”**

**SEASON | TECHNOLOGY | ENGINEERING | ARTS | MATH**

**MAY 27–SEPT. 13, 8–11PM**

**OUTDOOR MUSEUM | ROSE GARDEN LAWN & TERRACE**

Flowers After 5 rolls into a showing of “The LEGO Movie.” Snacks available for purchase until 9 p.m. ($) Bring a Blanket and enjoy!

One night only. Moves to Auditorium if inclement weather.

**Related: Walk and Talks, page 6; exhibit, page 7; movie, page 7; group tour, page 11.**

**“LEGO Movie”**

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One night only. Moves to Auditorium if inclement weather.
june
Themed Garden Walk
Visiting Special Trees

married has. Non-member $17.
Pre-registration required at 262-9887, ext. 320.
Block Party: Nature
Connects® Preview

Wednesday, 1
10:00AM

Thursday, 2
10:00AM

Friday, 3
10:00AM

Flowers After 5*

SATURDAY, 13
10AM–3PM

Details in June listing.

Fidos After 5*

SATURDAY, 14 & 20
10AM–3PM

Details in June listing.

Flumes After 5*

SATURDAY, 21
10AM–3PM

Details in June listing.

July
Themed Garden Walk
Visiting Special Trees

Non-member $17.
Pre-registration required at 262-9887, ext. 320.
Block Party: Nature
Connects® Preview

Wednesday, 1
10:00AM

Thursday, 2
10:00AM

Friday, 3
10:00AM

Flowers After 5*

SATURDAY, 13
10AM–3PM

Details in June listing.

Fidos After 5*

SATURDAY, 14 & 20
10AM–3PM

Details in June listing.

Flumes After 5*

SATURDAY, 21
10AM–3PM

Details in June listing.

September
Flowers After 5*

THURSDAY, 14 & 20
10AM–3PM

Details in June listing.

The LEGO® Movie™

ROSE GARDEN LAWNS & TERRACE
THURSDAY, 1
10AM–5PM

Details page 4.

Fidos After 5*

THURSDAY, 8
10AM–3PM

Details in June listing.

Botanical Book Club
FRI, 9
10AM–11AM

Details in July listing.

Fall PlantFest
FRIDAY, 10
10AM–5PM

Details in July listing.

GardenFest Dinner
FRIDAY, 10
7–8PM

Details in July listing.

The Charles F. Gillette
Forum on Landscape
Design: Making
Beauty Sustainable
THURSDAY–FRIDAY, 3–4
Details in the August Education & Events Catalog.

Ikeneba of Richmond
Ellen Gordon Allen
Lecture/Demonstration
THURSDAY, 10
10AM–11AM

Ikeneba Master Demonstration & lectures by Ikeneba Nagai, executive member of the Ikeneba School.

Details in the August Education & Events Catalog.

October
Santa GardenFest
Brunch Reservations
Begin Saturday, 24
10AM–3PM

Details in Adult Education section.

A Day of (Digital)
Photography in the Garden
SATURDAY, 24
10AM–3PM

Details in Adult Education section.

October Oddities*

FRIDAY, 8, 15, 22
9AM–3PM

Details in Adult Education section.

GardenFest Meals
& Dining with Santa

Santa invites you and yours to a Garden tradition and family favorite! Seatings fill quickly, so don’t delay. Call 262-9887 and the appropriate extension, as listed below.

November
GardenFest Dinner
FRIDAY, 10
10AM–11AM

Details in July listing.

Themed Garden Walk
Visiting Special Trees

Non-member $17.
Pre-registration required at 262-9887, ext. 320.
Block Party: Nature
Connects® Preview

Wednesday, 1
10:00AM

Thursday, 2
10:00AM

Friday, 3
10:00AM

Flowers After 5*

SATURDAY, 13
10AM–3PM

Details in June listing.

Fidos After 5*

SATURDAY, 14 & 20
10AM–3PM

Details in June listing.

Flumes After 5*

SATURDAY, 21
10AM–3PM

Details in June listing.

Flowers After 5*

SATURDAY, 4
10AM–3PM

Details in June listing.

Nature Connects:
Art with LEGO Bricks

Saturday, 18
10AM–3PM

Limited availability; first call, first reserved.
Details page 7.

October Oddities*

FRIDAY, 8, 15, 22
9AM–3PM

Details in Adult Education section.

GardenFest Dinner
FRIDAY, 10
10AM–11AM

Details in July listing.

The Charles F. Gillette
Forum on Landscape
Design: Making
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THURSDAY–FRIDAY, 3–4
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Ikeneba of Richmond
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FRIDAY, 8, 15, 22
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Details in Adult Education section.

GardenFest Dinner
FRIDAY, 10
10AM–11AM

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Ellen Gordon Allen
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THURSDAY, 10
10AM–11AM

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Details in the August Education & Events Catalog.
**Children’s Garden**

Visit the Garden Cart on arrival. Also see the Garden Calendar pages 6–7.

*Fee for members and included with Garden admission. $ = Fee.

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**Green Adventure Summer Camps**

**JUNE–AUGUST**

**SELECT MONDAYS–FRIDAYS, 9AM–NOON**


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**Stickman Returns!***

CAN YOU FIND HIM???

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**Brownie, Daisy and Girl Scout Programs**

**SELECT DATES, SEPTEMBER–OCTOBER**

Troops earn garden-related badges during fun-filled activities. Pre-registration required by Troop leader. $.

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**Happening Now!***

Unstructured play opens windows to learning, creativity and development. So drop by and introduce your children to these Drop-In Activities. More information at http://bit.ly/HappeningNOW.

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**Butterflies Live!**

See page 5 for exhibit information. Related family opportunities:

Kaleidoscope Pointe*

Daily–October 9

Bird and Butterfly Meadow

Children’s Garden

Watch butterflies in their natural habitat and visit the Certified Monarch Butterfly Waystation.

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**October Oddities Displays***

**OCTOBER 1–31, DAILY**

Refresh your “garden spirit” as seasonal displays of nature’s underappreciated oddities and found objects cultivate curiosity and wonder.

**Scarecrow Quest***

**OCTOBER 1–31, DAILY**

Explore the TreeTrail to discover six unique scarecrows designed by the GardenKeeper and her friends. Scarecrow Quest available at Admissions.

**Goblins & Gourds Event***

**SUNDAY, OCTOBER 23, 1–4PM**

Celebrate the harvest season with wacky music by the "Richmond Indigenous Gourd Orchestra." Pick a pumpkin from our patch for decorating, and enjoy good green fun!

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**Educator Workshops**

**BUILDING WITH THE BRICK: FEATURING LEGO® EDUCATION PRODUCTS**

Thursday, July 14: Grades K–5
Friday, July 15: Grades 3–5
Saturday, July 16: Grades 4–8
FIRST® LEGO League

Pre-registration required. $40 per day includes lunch.

---

“This is the best and most fun day in my life.”

— First Grade Student from Maude Trevett Elementary School

---

*See page 5 for exhibit information. Related family opportunities:

National Pollinators Week*

June 20–26, 10AM–4PM

Children’s Garden

Participate in the Who’s Pollinating the Garden? activity, learn the bee dance and celebrate the importance of pollinators to agriculture and ecosystem health. Major initiative of the national Pollinator Partnership.

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Tours, Rentals & Volunteer Opportunities

2015 Lifetime Volunteer Achievement Award

Sept. 8, 1993, was the first time Betsy Slade volunteered at the Garden. Now, 23 years later, she has logged more than 5,800 hours of volunteer service in recognition of her dedication and devotion. Betsy received the 2015 Lifetime Volunteer Achievement Award. Excerpts from Betsy’s nomination describe why she was so highly honored.

Betsy is a volunteer that plants and people can rely on! Betsy has applied her expertise and knowledge to many aspects of horticulture—from managing plant records to carrying out all manner of greenhouse tasks—big and small, clean and dirty. She demonstrates amazing initiative—often finding additional tasks that she can work on at home… She is a fierce pillar in the Volunteer PlantFest effort… [and] She seamlessly combines high expectations, exemplary work ethic, and genuine interpersonal skills—so that working on her team is an absolute pleasure… Working with Betsy is a treat and a privilege; her work in the Garden has been—and continues to be—invaluable.

@LewisGinterWeddings

Want to see how the Garden can create the perfect backdrop for your wedding? Check out our new Lewis Ginter Weddings Instagram, featuring photos of the latest weddings held at the Garden. Follow us on Instagram @LewisGinterWeddings to see how brides are utilizing our lovely Garden space and to learn more about how the Garden can be a part of your special day!

For wedding packages and event information, contact our facility rental experts at 262-9887, ext. 224 or 345, about how the Garden can be a part of your special day!

Garden Weddings

Enjoy magical wedding moments from Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden. Photos courtesy of Faithly Events staff Sarah Henry, Arial Weddings

Guided Group Tours

Nature Connects®: Art with LEGO® Bricks

Join an 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 giant swallowtail butterfly and six-foot-long bison both illustrate stories of relationships in nature. Interesting behind-the-scenes information will make your tour complete!

To reserve a tour for your group of 15+, call 262-9887, ext. 320.

Membership Update

You spoke. We listened.

This summer we are rolling out new membership benefits tailored just for you!

We surveyed similar botanical gardens. We looked at other Richmond-area organizations. Most importantly, we spoke to you, our members, to create a program with options and benefits that meet your needs.

The details are almost finished, so be on the lookout for updated membership materials on the Garden’s website and in your mailbox!