This year’s GardenFest explores COLOR: how the world’s kaleidoscope of colors speaks to us, impacts nature and influences culture. Enjoy a phenomenal light show, fascinating exhibits and fun-tastic events, all in Living Color!

Details pages 4–8 and bit.ly/GARDENFEST.
Brighten the Night

Right after lunch on the first Tuesday in August, the largest meeting space in the Robins Visitors Center was standing room only. Garden volunteers and staff had gathered to review the design and implementation of this year’s holiday light show, and those who arrived late were forced to pull chairs out of a closet and snug them against the back wall. To block out the brilliant summer sun, shades were drawn. Room lights were dimmed, a PowerPoint presentation was on the screen and at the front of the room a show-and-tell LED-light array was slowly changing colors. Senior Horticulturist Shannon Smith toggled through her presentation, alternating slides that showcased evocative color and material with detailed descriptions of how we would make Dominion GardenFest of Lights come alive by the end of November. On cue, one staff member after another rose and spoke about his or her particular responsibility—special events, interpretive signage, model railroads, New Year’s celebrations…and so on.

When his turn came, Operations Manager Justin Brown “toured” everyone through 40 acres of nighttime outdoor gardens, filled with lights and forms, themes and designs. Most everyone followed him easily through the landscape he described because they knew it as well as their home neighborhoods. Justin brought out the LED-light array as well as a newly designed and manufactured light form, and the tall piece of fabricated metal got a round of applause.

After the meeting, the room erupted in conversation as people broke into small groups to review some detail, make a plan for next steps or simply share a story.

I invite you to hang on to this scene. Difficult news of the world washes over us daily, and woes in our own lives can unmoor us. As the performer Nanci Griffith sings, “It’s a hard life, it’s a hard life, it’s a very hard life...” And yet, on a blistering summer afternoon, scores of people—colleagues who seem more like friends—gathered to share their best imagination and skill to brighten with vivid hues the upcoming long nights of winter. And they do it for you, our neighbors.

In a world where it is sometimes hard to know what to do, this is something we can do: brighten the night.

Shane Tippett
Executive Director
Garden Closed for Holiday
THURSDAY, 24 DECEMBER
Adults explore seasonal garden highlights with a knowledgeable Garden Guide. Pre-registration required at lewisginter.org. Free/member; $1/non-member.

Making Beauty Sustainable:
THE CHARLES F. GILLETTE FORUM ON LANDSCAPE DESIGN
THURSDAY, 3 .....................................5:30–8PM
FRIDAY, 4 .....................................9AM–4PM
Details page 11.

Cheers To Shopping
THURSDAY, 10 .....................................5–8PM
Local merchants & Garden Shop stay open late for holiday shopping. Details page 12.

Holly Jolly Christmas on Lakeside Avenue
FRIDAY, 11 .....................................5–9PM
Local merchants & Garden Shop stay open late for holiday shopping.

ShopFest
SATURDAY, 19 .....................................10AM–5PM
Garden Shop Details page 12.

Paradise Awaits
After the holidays, embark on a tropical getaway. The Conservatory will dazzle your senses with lush orchids, breathtaking gardens and fascinating cacti. A welcoming retreat to winter warmth!
Living Color


Why Explore Nature’s Colors?
Our world communicates through color. The shades of fruits and vegetables signal the height of ripeness for peak availability of color-coded nutrients. Pollinators find best-suited flowers and their pollen through color-based cues. Nature’s varied hues signal warnings and disguise wildlife from danger. Colors in minerals collect and form spectacular gemstones, while flowers and foliage release pigments for production of dyes that transform fabrics and papers. Even our moods and behaviors are influenced by the colors that adorn ourselves and our surroundings.

Ticketed event. $.

Children’s GardenFest Adventures

Embark on a family-friendly adventure with color! Navigate the Rainbow Tunnel or climb to the color-changing CWDKids Tree House for a bird’s-eye view. Shop the Bling House for color-crazy, light-up souvenirs. Toast s’mores at the Warming Fire (weather permitting), or warm up with beverages from Espresso-A-Go-Go. Nearby, explore the Meadow Maze or head indoors to watch model trains make tracks in the Conservatory and Classroom 2.

† By purchase. Additional details pages 6–8.

Exhibits

CONSERVATORY

Colors of the Tropics
Dome House
Colorful bromeliads, adorned by a rainbow of ribbons, showcase vibrant foliage of the tropics.

Train Exhibit
North Wing
G-gauge trains trek along a magical, miniature landscape dotted with rainbow-hued houses and gardens. Nearby, a full spectrum of colors—provided by flowers, fruits and feathery friends—spirals up a majestic, 22-foot evergreen.

Pollinators & Plants
Cottage Wing
Plants and their pollinators, origami birds and a shimmering rainbow flaunt the realm of colors.

Up-Close Teleidoscope
East Wing
View plants’ colors and textures through the prismatic lens of the teleidoscope.

KELLY EDUCATION CENTER

Parade of Holiday Trees
Hallway
Snippets of colorful information dance down the hallway in super-sized images. Also, ornaments crafted by local schoolchildren, inspired by nature’s living colors. Collaboration with Henrico County Public Schools art educators.

Railroad Exhibit
Classroom 2
Model trains trek around and around quaint houses, handmade using stained glass.

Exhibits of Dollhouses & Dyes
Lora Robins Library
Charming houses in miniature, and an exhibit exploring dye plants, flowers and even bugs used for natural coloring of fabrics. Also trees adorned with dried botanicals, stained glass and refracting crystals.
Early Bird Group Tours

NOVEMBER 28–JANUARY 9 ............. 4PM, BY RESERVATION

Your guide will share a behind-the-scenes glimpse of how Garden staff created this season’s color-rich display. Your private group tour of 15 to 40 individuals will be on site as darkness falls to reveal the region’s favorite light show. Make this a holiday tradition for your group or family reunion!

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.

Gift Certificates & More

We’ve made these easy to give, awesome to receive.

• Garden Gift Certificate: Valid for admission, membership, programs, dining and in the Garden Shop. Purchase at Admissions.


• Gift Membership: Provides a full year of education and enjoyment. Purchase at Admissions or online at lewisginter.org/visit/membership.

• GardenFest Discounted Tickets by Bulk Purchase: Perfect as client gifts! $1 off per adult ticket for 25–99 tickets and $2 off per adult ticket for 100+ tickets purchased in advance in one transaction with single payment (cash or credit card). Available after November 2, at Admissions or by phone at 262-9887, ext. 300. Tickets are not tied to a specific date, and all do not have to be used the same night. Bulk discount applies to regular adult ticket price only, as all other tickets already considered discounted. No refunds.

Tips for Busy Nights

• Purchase tickets in advance.

• Visit on a weeknight.

• Carpool.

• Arrive during non-peak hours, typically between 4–4:30 p.m. or after 8:30 p.m.

Note: GardenFest admission begins at 4 p.m. and the Garden closes promptly at 10 p.m.

• Check back in 30 minutes if gates are closed.

• Have your membership card handy for applicable discounts.

More information on page 7 and at bit.ly/GardenFestTips.

Thank You, Volunteers

6,813

That’s the number of hours provided by nearly \textbf{300 volunteers} who help make Dominion GardenFest possible each year. They harvest spent flowers, craft decorations, check lights, assist in the Garden Shop, collect tickets, guide visitors...and the list goes on. We appreciate them! If you spot a volunteer nametag, be sure to let them know you appreciate them, too!

Tim Ahea demonstrates the foundation of GardenFest: spirited volunteers!

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Tim Ahea demonstrates the foundation of GardenFest: spirited volunteers!
**Dominion GardenFest Calendar**

### November

**Dominion GardenFest Grand Illumination**

**Friday, 25**
- Doors Open: 4PM
- LED-Hula-Hoop Demonstrations by Circular Expressions 5–5:30PM
- Illumination: 5:30PM

GardenKeeper & an NBC12 representative flip the giant light switch to illuminate the Garden at 5:30 p.m. Artists paint 'en plein air' at various times & locations. GardenFest admission required.

Presenting Sponsor: Dominion.

**Bling House**

**Friday-Saturday, 25-26**: 5–9:30PM
**Monday-Wednesday, 28-30**: 5–9:30PM

Children’s Garden Greenhouse
- Colorful LED light-up necklaces, flashing gloves, ornaments & souvenirs galore (by purchase).
- Weather permitting.

**Merry Mondays**

**Monday, 28**: 5–8PM

Library Reading Room
- Storybooks read fireside by the GardenKeeper, 5:30, 6:30 & 7:30 p.m.
- Santa sightings in the Conservatory on Mondays through Dec. 20, 6–8 p.m.
- Some sold in the Garden Shop.

Presented by M&T Bank.

**FREE Member & Volunteer Nights**

**Monday-Wednesday, 28-30**: 5–10PM

Exclusive benefit for members & volunteers
- Historic Bloemendaal House Tours: 5–8:30 p.m.
- Live Music: 6–7:30 p.m.
- Nov. 28: VCU Vocal Ensemble
- Nov. 29: VCU Flute Ensemble
- Nov. 30: Harp Psalms

Free admission for members & volunteers only. For member (only) guests, 4 extra tickets may be purchased at member pricing (applicable these nights only).

**Carol Singing Tuesdays**

**Tuesday, 29**: 6:30–8PM

Various Garden Locations
- Four in the Morning quartet strolls the Garden with musical medleys.

**Crafty Wednesdays**

**Wednesday, 30**: 5–8PM

Classroom 1 (across from trains)
- Families make crafts with staff & volunteers.

Presented by M&T Bank.

### December

**Dominion GardenFest of Lights**

**Nightly through Jan. 9**: 5–10PM

Details pages 4–5.

**Children’s GardenFest Adventures**

**Nightly through Jan. 9**: 5–10PM

Details page 4.

**Musical Thursdays**

**Thursday, 1, 8, 15, 22, 29**: 6–7PM & 7:30–8:30PM

Kelly Education Center, Lora Robins Library
- Instrumental entertainment to celebrate the season.

**Dominion GardenFest for Fidos**

**Thursday, 1**: 5–10PM

Bring fido & friends for holiday strolls.
- Leashed pets only.
- GardenFest admission required. $2 suggested pet admission benefit Richmond SPCA.

**Bling House**

**Nights of 2–3, 9–10, 16–31**: 5–9:30PM

Children’s Garden Greenhouse
- Details in Nov. listing. Weather permitting.
Post this schedule for quick reference or visit lewissginter.org.
* Free for member and included with Garden admission.

Merry Mondays
MONDAYS, 5, 12, 19, 26 ............... 5–8PM
Library Reading Room
Details in Nov. listing.

M&T Bank Lights Up For Reading Night
MONDAY, 5 .................................. 5–7PM
Details in sidebar.

Caroling Tuesdays
TUESDAYS, 6, 13, 20, 27 ............... 6:30–8PM
Various Garden Locations
Details in Nov. listing.

Crafty Wednesdays
WEDNESDAYS, 7, 14, 21, 28 ............. 5–8PM
Classroom 1 (across from trains)
Details in Nov. listing.

Garden Closed for Holiday
SATURDAY–SUNDAY, 24–25

New Year’s Eve Family Frolic
SATURDAY, 31 ................................... 2–5PM
Auditorium
“Ululating Mummies,” family activities & annual hillside roll, weather permitting.
Free with Garden admission. Attendees may stay for GardenFest, 5–10 p.m., at no charge.

January 2017

Dominion GardenFest of Lights
NIGHTLY THROUGH JAN. 9 .......... 5–10PM
Details pages 4–5.

Children’s GardenFest Adventures
NIGHTLY THROUGH JAN. 9 .......... 5–10PM
Details page 4.

Merry Mondays
MONDAYS, 2, 9 ............................... 5–8PM
Library Reading Room
Details in Nov. listing.

Caroling Tuesdays
TUESDAY, 3 .................................. 6:30–8PM
Various Garden Locations
Details in Nov. listing.

Crafty Wednesdays
WEDNESDAY, 4 .............................. 5–8PM
Classroom 1 (across from trains)
Details in Nov. listing.

Musical Thursdays
THURSDAY, 5 .............................. 6:30–8PM
Details in Nov. listing.

FREE Member & Volunteer Night
MONDAY, 9 .................................. 5–10PM
Exclusive benefit for members & volunteers
Live music, 6–7:30 p.m.: Harp Psalms.
Details in Nov. listing.

M&T Bank LIGHTS UP FOR READING NIGHT
DEC. 5 ........................................... 5–7PM
Kelly Education Center,
Lora Robins Auditorium
Join the GardenKeeper, Nutzy & other holiday character-friends for storytelling & crafts. Bring a book to donate to the RVA Book Buggy.
In partnership with M&T Bank, Children’s Museum of Richmond & Flying Squirrels’ Go Nuts for Reading! Program.

“Rain or Shine” event, closed only for extreme inclement weather and December 24–25.
Holiday Dining
Casual or upscale, light menu or full fare, wines or craft beers. Abundant options, and always delicious! Details at bit.ly/HolidayDine.

GARDEN CAFE
Home-style soups and sandwiches, full salad bar and tasty desserts.
REGULAR HOURS: DAILY 10AM–4PM
GARDENFEST OF LIGHTS: DAILY, 10AM–8:30PM, INCLUDING NEW YEAR’S EVE

ROBINS TEA HOUSE
Culinary creations with stunning views of the lights.
REGULAR HOURS: WEDNESDAYS–SUNDAYS, 11:30AM–2:30PM
Closed for lunch Mondays–Tuesdays and during Santa Brunch dates.
GARDENFEST OF LIGHTS: NIGHTLY, 5–9PM, INCLUDING NEW YEAR’S EVE
Reservations encouraged at 262-9887, ext. 399.

GARDENFEST DINNER FOR GROUPS
SUNDAYS–TUESDAYS, NOVEMBER 27–JANUARY 9
Seatings at 5:30 & 7:30PM
Robins Room (semi-private)
Festive dining for groups with 15+ guests.
Limited seating; reservations required at 262-9887, ext. 345 or 224.
GardenFest admission included.

Holiday Shopping Hours
THROUGH NOVEMBER 23
MONDAY–SATURDAY, 10AM–5PM & SUNDAY, NOON–5PM
NOVEMBER 25–JANUARY 9
MONDAY–SATURDAY, 10AM–10PM & SUNDAY, NOON–10PM
Gift Cards page 5. More information & special events page 12.

Tickets and Admission
Exceptional fun, exceptional value!
Purchase GardenFest tickets at Admissions or online at lewisginter.org.
Tickets ordered online incur a nominal service charge. Membership information required for member pricing. No ticket sales by phone.

ADULT .........................................$13
SENIOR (AGE 55+) .........................$11
CHILD (AGES 3–12) .....................$8
CHILD (UNDER AGE 3) ...............FREE
GARDEN MEMBER ....................$7
CHILD ON MEMBERSHIP ..........$5
MEMBER ON MEMBER NIGHT ....FREE

Top 5 Reasons to Celebrate at the Garden

REASON # 5
Easy access, central location, free parking

REASON # 4
Spectacular light display—at no extra charge—during your event

REASON # 3
One-stop shopping for food and beverage, decorations, room rental

REASON # 2
One-of-a-kind experience, unavailable elsewhere in Richmond

REASON # 1
You get the credit for planning such an entertaining event!

Dates fill quickly, so don’t delay. Contact our facility rental experts at 262-9887, ext. 224 or 345, or email facilityevents@lewisginter.org.

Dining with Santa
Some dining events may be sold out when newsletter is received.

SANTA BRUNCH
SATURDAYS & SUNDAYS, DEC. 3–SOLD OUT & SEATINGS AT 9:30AM & 11:30AM
ROBINS TEA HOUSE
Always a holiday favorite!
Limited seating; Santa visit & GardenFest admission included.

SANTA DINNER
SUNDAY–WEDNESDAY, DEC. 18–21
5:30–7:30PM
AUDITORIUM
Limited seating; reservations required at 262-9887, ext. 345 or 224
(started Aug. 1). Santa visit & GardenFest admission included.
Beautiful RVA

Beautiful RVA is a collaborative social movement, nurtured by the Garden and other like-minded organizations, to create a healthier and more vibrant community through urban greening and beautification. In early 2017, the Garden will host the first training series for Ginter Urban Gardeners, a volunteer program to create skilled project leaders who build community through gardening initiatives. For more information on how to apply to become a Ginter Urban Gardener, visit beautifulrva.org, or contact Duron Chavis, the Garden’s community engagement coordinator, at duronc@lewisginter.org. The application deadline is November 30.

‘Time Capsule’ of The James River Park System Now Online

From 1968 to 1971, noted environmentalist Newton Ancarrow documented and photographed more than 400 species of wildflowers along the banks of the James River in Richmond. After Ancarrow’s death in 1991, his family gave his photography collection of 35,000 slides to Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden.

VCU Libraries, in conjunction with Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden and the VCU Rice Rivers Center, has digitized and posted Ancarrow’s wildflower photography online at labs.library.vcu.edu/ancarrow/.

The Garden is grateful to the VCU Community Digitization Program for helping bring to light the story of Newton Ancarrow’s advocacy for a cleaner James River.
Membership Update

CONNECT. EXPLORE. ENGAGE.

Create Your Own Garden Experience with Our New Membership Program

There are a million ways to engage with the Garden. Our new membership program lets you explore them all. Program enhancements include:

- Flexible admissions benefits
- Updated membership levels and names
- New Friends-level membership for four adults and eight children
- New Garden Keeper and Conservatory Circle Memberships that provide in-depth learning opportunities, exclusive event invitations, customized focus-area communication and more

Explore the Garden your way. Every day. Explore which membership is right for you at lewisingter.org/visit/membership.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Membership Benefits</th>
<th>General</th>
<th>Garden Keeper</th>
<th>Conservatory Circle</th>
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<tr>
<td>Daily admission for one adult</td>
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<tr>
<td>Admission to Dominion GardenFest of Lights Member Nights (plus ticket discounts on regular nights)</td>
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<td>10% discount in the Garden Shop</td>
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<td>Discounts on classes, camps, commemorative bricks and pavers</td>
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<td>Free admission at American Horticultural Society affiliate gardens</td>
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<td>Borrowing privileges in the Lora Robins Library</td>
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<td>Subscription to the Garden Times newsletter</td>
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<td>Two free guest passes*</td>
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<td>Daily admission for two adults**</td>
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<td>Daily admission for two adults and six children under 18**</td>
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<td>Daily admission for four adults and eight children under 18**</td>
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<td>Daily admission for six adults and ten children under 18**</td>
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<td>In-depth learning opportunities in your Garden Focus area</td>
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<td>Special recognition in the Garden’s Annual Report</td>
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<tr>
<td>Four free guest passes*</td>
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<td>Invitation to an exclusive winter holiday event</td>
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<td>Invitation to the annual Splendor gala</td>
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<td>Invitation to an exclusive summer family event</td>
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<td>Invitation to receptions for special exhibits and events</td>
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<td>Invitation to the annual Conservatory Circle Fête</td>
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<td>Invitation to a private dinner with Garden Symposium speakers</td>
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* Guest passes, good for a one-time visit, reduce tax-deductibility of your membership and may be declined by the individual.

** Note: Membership benefits do not apply to business groups of any kind.

Frequently Asked Questions

Q: When did these membership changes go into effect?
A: August 2016

Q: How do the flexible admissions benefits work?
A: Named members can now bring friends and family to the Garden—even if they aren’t named on the membership.

Dual = admission for two adults total (one must be named)

Family = admission for two adults + six kids (one must be named)

Friends = admission for four adults + eight kids (one must be named)

Garden Keeper = admission for six adults + 10 kids (one must be named)

Q: Will my cards still be valid if my membership level has been discontinued?
A: Absolutely! Your current cards are valid through their listed expiration date.

Q: What if I’m already a member?
A: You may upgrade your membership at any time.

Q: Can I still receive my discount?
A: Yes, seniors (55+), full-time teachers, active or retired military and out-of-town residents (50+ miles away from the Garden) still receive discounts on their membership.
Education

The Garden’s Adult Education Course Catalog for January–April 2017 will be mailed to member households and published as a Style Weekly insert on November 30. Programs subject to change. Details, fees and registration at bit.ly/LGBGeducation, (804) 262-9887, ext. 320 or registrar@lewisginter.org.

Upcoming Highlights

**Holiday Design Series**
Four demonstrations and workshops themed around festive floral designs for the holidays. $

**Fairy House Workshops**
DECEMBER 3 & 10, 8:30–11:30AM OR 1:30–3:30PM EACH DAY
Beginner and intermediate sessions each day. Intermediate features houses with sturdier materials, such as balsa and plywood. $

Save the Dates

**Making Beauty Sustainable:**
The Charles F. Gillette Forum On Landscape Design
NOVEMBER 3–4
Speakers Julia Czerniak, Mary Lydecker, Thomas Rainer and Margie Ruddick examine how landscape design connects communities, and innovative planting design creates beautiful and durable plant communities.

**Winter Symposium and CVNLA Short Course**
FEBRUARY 15–17 ................................................................................... 8AM–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**
MARCH 23
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 bit.ly/educatorwkshops.
Pre-registration required.

**AT YOUR SCHOOL**
We come to you with three 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)

**AT LEWIS GINTER BOTANICAL GARDEN**
NATURAL CONNECTIONS EDUCATORS’ CONFERENCE
MARCH 15–17
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. Presented by Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden and Virginia Department of Education.

A Good Book Is Winter’s Friend

More than 7,000 titles await at the Lora Robins Library, with subjects ranging from botanical illustration to garden design. Best of all, members have check-out privileges!

Log on to lewisginter.org and access the searchable database to plan your winter-reading pleasure. And don’t forget the videos, journals and a delightful children’s section.
What’s in store at your gardening store?

- Exclusive home & holiday decor
- Distinctive gifts & Garden Shop Gift Cards
- Gardening gadgets & outdoor decoratives
- Handcrafted jewelry & striking accessories
- Horticulture books, resources & CDs
- Children’s toys & educational fun

**HOLIDAY SHOPPING EVENTS**

**CHEERS TO SHOPPING**

**NEW!**

**THURSDAY, NOV. 10** ................. 5–8PM
Spirited shopping event featuring Virginia wine and beer tasting, mystery prizes, discounts, take-home gift and much more!

**SHOPFEST**

**SATURDAY, NOV. 19** ............... 10AM–5PM
Best sale of the year! 20% discount on purchases for members with ID.

Holiday Hours page 8.

For holiday gift giving, select a lovely pashmina from among 16 luxurious colors ($13.95).

“Colors are the smiles of nature.”

—Leigh Hunt, 18th-c. poet