Symbol of Friendship  INTRODUCING A NEW BRAND FOR THE FRIENDS
Fall Favorites
Be sure to watch for these seasonal standouts on your next visit.

By MOLLY HENDRY

1 What it is: Alabama Croton (Croton alabamensis)
What we love about it: This rare, semi-evergreen shrub forms thickets in our native landscape and is endemic to only two counties in Alabama. It is a standout in the fall when its lime green leaves turn a vibrant silvery undersides.
Where to find it: Kaul Wildflower Garden

2 What it is: Sasanqua Camellia (Camellia sasanqua)
What we love about it: The spectrum of colorful sasanqua blooms that herald the end of fall in the South
Where to find it: Hess Camellia Garden

3 What it is: American Beauty Berry (Callicarpa americana)
What we love about it: The lime green foliage fades into a vibrant yellow just as the berries ripen into a deep purple, lighting up our woodlands in the fall.
Where to find it: Barber Alabama Woodlands

4 What it is: Blue Star (Amsonia hubrichtii)
What we love about it: This long-season perennial packs a blue spring bloom with feathery green summer foliage and brilliant yellow fall color finale.
Where to find it: Kaul Wildflower Garden

5 What it is: Japanese Maple (Acer palmatum)
What we love about it: The array of fall colors and graceful forms of Japanese maples in the autumn garden
Where to find it: Japanese Garden, near the Tea House

6 What it is: Surprise Lily (Lycoris radiata)
What we love about it: The delight that surprise lilies bring when they appear almost overnight in our Gardens after a warm, heavy rain in September
Where to find it: Southern Living Garden
Dear Friends,

With summer vacations behind us and school-year routines back in swing, the promise of fall and cooler temps made for the garden lie just around the corner.

Each year we celebrate the arrival of the season with our annual Fall Plant Sale. The fundraiser, which will take place September 14–15 at the Gardens, features our Member Plant Giveaway—a special thank you to our Members, whose support each year makes a lasting impact throughout the Gardens. The sale also offers hundreds of plants specially selected for your home garden, as well as volunteers at the ready with invaluable gardening advice. Learn more about the sale, and why fall is an ideal time to plant, on page 2 of this issue.

Gain inspiration for home and garden by joining us the first weekend in October for the 14th annual Antiques at the Gardens! Presented by IBERIABANK and honoring longtime Gardens supporters Emily and Bill Bowron, the show is honored to serve as Birmingham’s premier event for fans of good design and good taste. Co-chairs Virginia Amason and Leigh Haver and their dedicated committee have assembled 11 nationally acclaimed speakers and 22 curated vendors specializing in antiques, furniture, fine art, vintage jewelry, home and garden decor, and more. Our headline Red Diamond Lecture Series will present two lectures you won’t want to miss: a morning event with decorator Markham Roberts and an afternoon event with gardening and lifestyle experts Renny Reynolds and Jack Staub. Learn more about the event on page 4.

We encourage you to take time during your next visit—and regularly throughout the year—to explore what’s currently in bloom in the Forman Garden just north of the Conservatory. The garden was created by the Forman family in memory of avid Birmingham gardener Jim Forman and, as you’ll see on page 12, continues to inspire visitors with ideas for eye-catching, year-round floral color.

Finally, during this season of change, we are excited to announce a new brand for the Friends of Birmingham Botanical Gardens. For about 15 years, we have operated beneath the Gardens’ ladybug logo, a symbol of the Gardens’ ongoing commitment to cultivation and conservation. As we look to the future and celebrate all that Friendship makes possible at the Gardens, we are delighted to introduce a new logo that represents the Friends’ desire to serve the Gardens and all who love and visit it. Read all about it on page 8. We hope you like our new look as much as we do.

At its core, the Friends’ new brand mark honors you and the many other people who come together, year after year, to ensure that these beautiful Gardens fulfill the promise of a world-class botanical garden for Birmingham.

We thank you for your Friendship and look forward to all that lies ahead.

Tom Underwood
Executive Director
Friends of Birmingham Botanical Gardens
Fall Is for Planting

As our volunteer teams gear up for our annual Fall Plant Sale (September 14-15 at the Gardens), discover why experts believe that fall is an ideal time to plant trees, shrubs, and more.

By BROOKE MCMINN

FALL IS HANDS DOWN THE BEST TIME TO plant most things in the garden. Here’s why:

Cooler weather means fewer pests to injure new plantings. It also means less water lost to evaporation, so irrigation needs are lower, which, in addition to saving money on the water bill, also reduces stress to plants. Of course, gardening in cooler temps is also much more comfortable for the gardener!

So, what are some good things to plant in fall? The choices are vast. Fall annuals, spring-blooming bulbs, herbaceous perennials, cool-season vegetables, hardy herbs, vines, shrubs and trees, trees, and more trees! Just as important as what to plant is how and where to plant it.

Coming up with a plan prior to selecting plants is the best thing you can do to help ensure the long-term success of your garden. Investing time and money without first consulting reliable references for information about plants, culture, and insects is likely to result in a waste of both. The first step in developing your plan should be to test your soil. A great resource is Auburn University’s Soil Testing Laboratory, which tests for pH, phosphorus, potassium, magnesium, and calcium. Simply pick up soil sample boxes and forms at the Alabama Cooperative Extension System offices or the Library at Birmingham Botanical Gardens, and mail them to the laboratory. Cost is $7/sample. Be sure to carefully follow the recommendations and remember that more does not equal better. Soil test results are like a prescription for healthy soil, and healthy soil is the best thing you can give plants. A separate test should be done for each distinct garden area every few years. In addition to any fertilizers or other amendments suggested by a soil test, fall is a great time to add organic matter such as ripened manure, compost, or
rotted leaves. Adding organic matter to soil will help increase soil aeration, water retention, and microorganism activity—all stuff your plants will like. Your soil test may also help inform your plant selections.

Select plants that prefer existing environmental conditions to make sure they are well suited for each other. Consider factors such as soil pH level, soil moisture, and sun exposure of garden areas, and choose plants that are known to perform well under those conditions. Another major consideration should be plant size, especially for trees and shrubs: Be sure the space each is planted in can accommodate the expected mature size of the plant. If plants are too close to each other they may compete for water and nutrients. Being planted too close to existing structures can interfere with root development. Other considerations should be plant hardiness zones, resistance to pests and disease, ecological benefits, and seasonal interest.

Finally, once your plants are in the ground, be sure to mulch from within a few inches of the base of the plant all the way out to the drip line with 2 to 3 inches of natural wood or bark mulch. Proper mulching will keep weeds at bay and help to regulate soil moisture and temperature throughout the winter.

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**Friends of Birmingham Botanical Gardens**

**2019 FALL PLANT SALE**

**Saturday, September 14**
9 a.m.–4 p.m.

**Sunday, September 15**
11 a.m.–3 p.m.

**Blount Plaza at Birmingham Botanical Gardens**

Featuring our Member Plant Giveaway
Free and Open to the Public | Rain or Shine

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**Fall is the perfect time to plant trees and shrubs!**

Choose from: Trees & Shrubs • Herbs • Perennials • Camellias • Azaleas • Natives • Hydrangeas • Bonsai • Daylilies

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Fall Plant Sale proceeds benefit the ongoing stewardship and enhancement of Birmingham Botanical Gardens, educational programs, and outreach activities.

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bbgardens.org/fallplantsale

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10 REASONS TO PLANT A TREE

Trees clean the air.

Trees reduce noise pollution.

Trees shade and cool.

Trees lower stress levels.

Trees improve soil quality.

Trees provide healthy food.

Trees increase property values.

Trees improve the view.

Trees bring people together.

Trees support wildlife.
FRIENDS OF BIRMINGHAM BOTANICAL GARDENS IS PLEASED TO ANNOUNCE
the 14th annual Antiques at the Gardens October 3-6, 2019. Presented in 2019
by IBERIABANK, Birmingham’s premier antiques show will once again welcome a
prestigious lineup of acclaimed speakers, tastemakers, and dealers from across the
United States. Interior designers and landscape designers will curate themed areas with
goods selected from Birmingham and other regions of the country. The show will
include 22 dealers presenting antiques, furniture, porcelain, fine art, jewelry, silver,
Oriental rugs, rare books, home decor, and garden accessories.

Events begin the morning of Thursday, October 3, with Tastebuds sponsored by
Flower magazine. Flower magazine Editor-in-Chief Margot Shaw will moderate a panel
discussion featuring David Baker, Ronda Carman, and Frances Schultz.

The evening of Thursday, October 3, marks the return of the black-tie Gala in the
Gardens, which will honor Emily and Bill Bowron of Red Diamond, Inc., who
have been longtime supporters of the Gardens. Red Diamond, Inc., has sponsored
the show’s headline lecture series since 2009. Emily is a past Co-Chair of the show and
a current Board member of Friends of Birmingham Botanical Gardens. On Friday,
October 4, our Red Diamond Lecture Series will feature Markham Roberts (morning
presenter) and Renny Reynolds and Jack Staub (afternoon presenters).

Taste in Spades, presented by LICOA and ADAC, returns on the afternoon on
Saturday, October 5, with a panel discussion, “Inside/Out,” featuring Gavin Duke,
Lee Ledbetter, and Ashley Whittaker and moderated by show ambassador Richard Keith
Langham. Cathy Graham and Alex Hitz will lead an “Entertaining Today” event.

The weekend concludes on Sunday, October 6, with Southern Sunday sponsored
by ADAC and Universal Furniture. Lisa Fine and Richard Keith Langham will host a
brunch. Our Tastemakers Panel, sponsored by ARC Realty and featuring Becky Boyle
Interiors, Blackjack Horticulture, Jared Hughes Designs, Parkes & Lamb Interiors,
and Virginia Cheek Designs, will follow. Please join us!
A native of Toronto, **David Baker** received his architectural degree from Auburn and was mentored for 20-plus years by Bobby McAlpine, eventually becoming his business partner. David’s projects have been published in *Architectural Digest*, *Traditional Home*, *Coastal Living*, and *Veranda*. He and previous McAlpine partners Chris Tippett and John Sease now comprise Tippett Sease Baker Architecture.

**Ronda Carman** (above, center) is the author of *Designers at Home: Personal Reflections on Stylish Living* and the forthcoming book *Entertaining at Home*. She is the founder of Ronda Carman Fine Fabrics, a contributing writer for *Huffington Post* and *New York Social Diary*, and a reviewer for the prestigious Mr. & Mrs. Smith Hotel Collections. She has been featured in numerous national and international publications.

Journalist, tastemaker, world traveler, hostess, Southerner, Sunday painter, and outdoors lover **Frances Schultz** is an enthusiast of decoration and design, cooking and entertaining, travel and style. She is author and co-author of several books, including the bestselling *The Bee Cottage Story—How I Made a Muddle of Things and Decorated My Way Back to Happiness*, and most recently *California Cooking & Southern Style*.

**Markham Roberts** has earned the reputation as one of the top decorators of his generation. He and his work have been featured in *Architectural Digest*, *Cabana*, *Domino*, *Elle Decor*, *Galerie Magazine*, *House Beautiful*, *House & Garden*, *Southern Accents*, *Town & Country*, *Veranda*, *Vogue*, and *The New York Times*. Since 2014, Markham has been named to *Architectural Digest*’s AD100. And he was included in the 2018 book *Inspired Design, the 100 Most Important Designers of the Past 100 Years*. Markham’s *Decorating: The Way I See It*, published by Vendome, showcases his thoughtful, tailored, and refreshing approach to decorating and is widely praised as an essential design resource.

**Renny Reynolds**, founder of Renny & Reed in NYC, is one of the nation’s most renowned entertaining, gardening, and lifestyle experts. His book, *The Art of the Party*, is known widely as the “party-planners bible.” His designs have been featured in *Architectural Digest*, *W*, *House & Garden*, *House Beautiful*, *New York Magazine*, *Horticulture Magazine*, *Town & Country*, and *Garden Design*. His clients have included four U.S. Presidents and luminaries of stage and screen. He has been awarded a prestigious “Great American Gardener” Award by the American Horticultural Society. His gardens at Hortulus Farm, his 100-acre farmstead in the Philadelphia area, are regarded as some of the most influential in the East.

Called “a master of timeless American style” by *Vogue*, **Markham Roberts** has earned the reputation as one of the top decorators of his generation. He and his work have been featured in *Architectural Digest*, *Cabana*, *Domino*, *Elle Decor*, *Galerie Magazine*, *House Beautiful*, *House & Garden*, *Southern Accents*, *Town & Country*, *Veranda*, *Vogue*, and *The New York Times*. Since 2014, Markham has been named to *Architectural Digest*’s AD100. And he was included in the 2018 book *Inspired Design, the 100 Most Important Designers of the Past 100 Years*. Markham’s *Decorating: The Way I See It*, published by Vendome, showcases his thoughtful, tailored, and refreshing approach to decorating and is widely praised as an essential design resource.

**Jack Staub**, garden writer, lecturer, playwright, and avid gardener, is one of the country’s leading experts on edible gardening. He shares Hortulus Farms with his partner, garden designer Renny Reynolds. His edible trilogy, *75 Exciting Vegetables for Your Garden*, *75 Remarkable Fruits for Your Garden*, and *75 Exceptional Herbs for Your Garden*, were identified as “wittily entertaining” by *Horticulture Magazine*. His other titles are *Private Edens*, a lavish peek at 21 superb Mid-Atlantic and Northeast Gardens, and *Private Gardens of South Florida*. His latest book is *The Illustrated Book for Edible Plants*. 
**Gavin Duke**
Award-winning landscape architect
Gavin Duke, principal landscape architect at PAGE | DUKE
Landscape Architects in Nashville, combines landscape architecture with other arts to design gardens and living environments for people, plants, and animals. With over 30 years of experience and hundreds of installations, Gavin designs creative solutions that seamlessly integrate the built environment with its surroundings.

**Lee Ledbetter**
Louisiana native and architect Lee Ledbetter established his practice, Lee Ledbetter & Associates, in New Orleans in 1996. His award-winning projects include retail, art galleries, site-specific residences, civic, and restorations of mid-century modern masterpieces. He recently released his first book, *The Art of Place: Lee Ledbetter Architecture and Interiors*. He has also been featured in numerous national publications.

**Ashley Whittaker**
A “neo-traditionalist,” New York City decorator Ashley Whittaker reveals a fresh perspective on traditional design in all of her work. Her signature style is characterized by tailored rooms that incorporate charming detail and engaging play on color and pattern. She has been recognized on *Elle Decor’s A-List* and featured in national publications. She credits her design training to Markham Roberts, for whom she worked before starting out on her own.

**Cathy Graham**
Cathy Barancik Graham is an award-winning artist, fashion illustrator, author, and product designer. She has been commissioned by Bergdorf Goodman, Estée Lauder, CBS Records, Harry Winston, and HBO. She is the author of *Second Bloom: Cathy Graham’s Art of the Table*. Cathy has also designed a line of paper products, signature candles with NEST Fragrances, and home accents with Scott Potter. Her first collection for One Kings Lane recently launched.

**Alex Hitz**
Award-winning chef, author, TV personality, and event designer Alex Hitz is renowned for his refinement in the art of preparing and serving food. He is the author of *My Beverly Hills Kitchen: Classic Southern Cooking with a French Twist* and the newly published *The Art of the Host*. Christened “the very best host in the world” by *The Wall Street Journal*, Alex has a reputation as “The Ralph Lauren of food and wine,” backed by a lifetime of entertaining and cooking.

A NOTE FROM OUR CO-CHAIRS
Thanks so much to our corporate sponsors—including our presenting sponsor, IBERIABANK—benefactors, and patrons! Your support makes such an impact on these exceptional Gardens.

To purchase tickets to our 2019 events, contact the Friends at 205.414.3950 or visit bbgardens.org/antiques. We look forward to seeing you October 3–6 at the Gardens!
—Virginia Amason and Leigh Haver, 2019 Co-Chairs

**ANTIQUES DEALERS**
Antique Cupboard • Beth Poindexter Luxe • Black Sheep Antiques • Blackwell Botanicals • Dana Kelly Oriental Rugs • Danes Road Antiques • Edwin C. Skinner • George Getlik Fine Art • Gillian Bryce Fine Art • Grissom Collection • Estate & Fine Jewelry • Gum Tree Farm Designs • Hedgerow Antiques • Linda Ketterling Fine Majolica • Madison James • McDonough Fine Art • Pennoyer Newman Distinctive Garden Pots • Smith Van Osdel Antiques • Thomas M. Fortner Antiques • Very Vintage Villa • Vieuxtemps Porcelain • Whitehall Antiques
Mississippi-born textile guru Lisa Fine is the founder of Lisa Fine Textiles, which specializes in hand-printed linens. Over 20 years ago in Jaisalmer, Lisa fell in love with India, which became her original inspiration. Her travels have continue to influence her collection, where exotic and traditional prints work in harmony. Her book, Near & Far: Interiors I Love, will be published this fall. In Near & Far, Lisa invites readers into her homes in Dallas, New York, and Paris and then visits the places and people who have been her greatest sources of inspiration. Lisa’s work has appeared in Elle Decor, House Beautiful, Vogue, and more.

Brewton, Alabama-born, Manhattan-based Richard Keith Langham has been a force in the decorating world for nearly 30 years. His keen eye and ebullient talent serve well in creating signature rooms—that speak to the past in a fresh way and are brimming with luscious color, pattern, and couture detailing. He worked with some of NYC’s most legendary ladies—Mrs. William F. Buckley, Jr. and Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis, who once proclaimed him to have “a sorcerer’s eye.” His book About Decorating—the Remarkable Rooms of Richard Keith Langham was published by Rizzoli in October of 2017 and is in its third printing.

Blackjack Horticulture, Inc. specializes in landscape management, installation, floriculture, and masonry/hardscapes. While primarily focused in the Birmingham area, Blackjack has worked throughout the Southeast and serves residential and commercial clients. With over 20 years of experience, Blackjack strives to achieve complete client satisfaction by building relationships and performing with excellence, integrity, and reliability. Blackjack maintains a reputation for quality landscapes and exceptional service.

Becky Boyle Interiors is a full-service interior design firm with offices in Los Angeles and Charlotte, NC. Prior to forming her firm, Becky worked in New York City as a designer until moving to Los Angeles, where she held the senior position at Mark D. Sikes Interiors for many years. Becky gravitates toward creating spaces that feel detailed and approachable—big in design but wrapped in warmth. She specializes in incorporating classic inherited pieces with new and youthful style.

Virginia Cheek Designs is an interior designer based in Atlanta. Originally from Birmingham, she worked under designers on the East and West Coasts before founding her own design firm in January 2015. After graduating from Vanderbilt University with degrees in Psychology and Studio Art, she studied interior design at Savannah College of Art and Design. Thrilled to be back in Atlanta, Virginia now lives in North Buckhead with her husband, Andrew, and rescue pup, Georgia.

Jared Hughes Designs is a globally inspired Atlanta designer with deep roots in the South. His penchant for antiques and architecture are at the heart of his work, and his fascination with fabrics is the starting point for nearly all his design projects. His obsession with color allows him to rethink the past and create livable, layered spaces. With 10 years of experience in residential, event, and floral design, Hughes’ breadth of experience allows him to produce projects that feel timeless and classic yet with an unexpected twist.

Parkes & Lamb Interiors is a boutique interior design firm founded by friends Blair Parkes and Susan Lamb based in Nashville. PLI’s distinct aesthetic creates interiors that are polished and refined yet effortlessly personal. Through their unique design approach, PLI develops a comprehensive plan suited to each individual project, resulting in beautiful, comfortable interiors that reflect their clients’ tastes, interests, and lifestyles. PLI works on projects across the Southeast, ranging from decorating and renovations to new construction jobs, and frequently teams up with builders and contractors.
INTRODUCING A NEW BRAND FOR THE FRIENDS

CREATED IN 1964 TO EXTEND THE REACH and impact of Birmingham Botanical Gardens, the nonprofit Friends of Birmingham Botanical Gardens has for 55 years worked side by side with the City of Birmingham Park & Recreation Board to fulfill the promise of a botanical garden by providing impactful educational programs and outreach, promoting the ongoing stewardship and enhancement of the Gardens, marketing and communicating about them, and raising funds to support these efforts.

A mission-driven membership organization, we are made up of Board members, community and City leaders, individual and family members, volunteers, donors, corporate donors, foundations, Friends and Park and Recreation staff, and allied organizations, all bound together by our dedication to the Gardens’ success.

Our Friendship is rooted in a passion to nurture and share the wonders of the Gardens with others.

For about 15 years, we have operated beneath the Gardens’ ladybug logo—a symbol of the Gardens’ commitment to cultivation and conservation—but as we look to the future and celebrate all that Friendship makes possible at the Gardens, we are delighted to introduce a new logo that represents the Friends’ desire to serve the Gardens and all who love and visit it.

The four leaves of our new logo, which was conceived and designed by Birmingham-based Cayenne Creative, symbolize our ongoing commitment to serving the Gardens, serving the community, serving our visitors, and inspiring a passion for plants, gardens, and the environment.

The three parts of each leaf represent our purpose: to protect this special place, to nurture the many relationships that benefit from the Gardens, and to grow the Gardens’ impact and value.

You’ll continue to see the ladybug as the symbol of Birmingham Botanical Gardens, the place. Watch for our new logo to represent Friends educational programs, membership, and fundraising. In certain instances, you’ll see the two logos together, a reminder that the Friends and the Gardens go hand in hand.

We hope you like the new look. Thank you for being a Friend of these extraordinary Gardens.

FREE MEMBER GIFT
Stop by our membership table at our Fall Plant Sale (September 14–15 at the Gardens) to pick up a complimentary shopping bag with our new logo. For new and current Members. We are grateful for your Friendship!
LEARN MORE ABOUT NATIVE PLANTS

Each year, the Friends of Birmingham Botanical Gardens offers a wide variety of introductory and in-depth classes about native Southeastern plants and their importance to the environment. Designed for novice and seasoned gardeners alike, the ever-expanding curriculum combines core courses, electives, field trips, and volunteer service for a well-rounded experience for homeowners as well as professionals and volunteers working in the fields of conservation, horticulture, landscape design, land management, and environmental education. Classes may be taken throughout the year (members of the Friends receive a discount!), with an optional certificate available. To learn more about the program, contact Director of Education and Visitor Experience Brooke McMinn at bcmcinn@bbgardens.org or Education Activities Specialist Dawn Coleman Lee at dcoleman@bbgardens.org. Watch for upcoming class offerings in the Friends’ biweekly e-Newsletter.

bbgardens.org/nativeplantstudies

APOLLO MOON TREES AND MOON ROCKS

Join Jason Kirby, Library Assistant and Archivist for the Library at the Gardens, and Judith Wright, Teen Librarian at Homewood Public Library, as they team up to celebrate the 50th anniversary of Apollo 11. Jason will share fun facts about the 1971 Apollo 14 NASA mission that explored the effects of weightlessness on seeds, and the trees—including the Gardens’ own Moon sycamore—that grew from them. Judith will show off Moon Rocks on loan through the NASA@ My Library project.

Friday, September 27
Noon–1 p.m.
Birmingham Botanical Gardens
Free and open to the public

LITTLE SEEDS: PUMPKIN GARDENS

Join us as our Little Seeds program celebrates the season by introducing children to members of the Cucurbita (gourd) family. We will explore the Gardens through garden walks, stories, nature-themed painting and crafts, and special snacks. For children age 4 and above. (3-year-olds may attend with an adult present.) Class size is limited, so please pre-register.

Instructor: Amanda Clark, Horticulturist

Sunday, October 20
2:30–4 p.m.
Birmingham Botanical Gardens
Friends: $16 | Non-Members: $20

bbgardens.org/classes
ESSENTIALLY SEASONAL DESIGN WORKSHOP

Embrace the spirit of autumn by joining us for this seasonally focused floral arranging workshop led by the Friends of Birmingham Botanical Gardens and Holly Carlisle of ROSEGOLDEN in the spirit of local floristry legend Beth McReynolds and her iconic “Birmingham Style.” You’ll create an arrangement celebrating the transition of fall using materials sourced from the Gardens.

**Fall: Transition | Sunday, November 3**
2–5 p.m.
Birmingham Botanical Gardens

**Friends:** $185 | **Non-Members:** $200

bbgardens.org/essentiallyseasonal

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FAMILY BIRD-WATCHING IN THE GARDENS

Bird-watching is a hobby your entire family can enjoy, and there is no better time than fall to learn about backyard birds and how to attract them to your yard. Join Greg Harber, an active member of the Birmingham Audubon Society and current chairman of the society’s Field Trips Committee, on this special exploration of the Gardens, where you can practice identifying chickadees, titmice, finches, kinglets, sapsuckers, and other newly arrived winter birds. This family-favorite class will consist of a 30-minute classroom session to discuss bird-feeding tips and bird identification pointers, followed by a walk through the Gardens, where we’ll teach participants to identify birds by their field marks.

**Winter Birds and Bird-Feeding Tips**

**Saturday, November 9**
9–11 a.m.
Birmingham Botanical Gardens

**Friends:** $12 (child + 1 adult) | **Non-Members:** $15 (child + 1 adult)

$5 for an additional family member (per class)

bbgardens.org/classes

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FALL PLANT SALE

MEMBER PLANT GIVEAWAY

SPONSORED BY VAN DER GIESSEN NURSERY

Members of the Friends of Birmingham Botanical Gardens are invited to stop by our 2019 Fall Plant Sale to choose one of four complimentary plants as part of our annual Member Plant Giveaway! Our 2019 offerings will be provided by Van Der Giessen Nursery in Wilmer, AL. Stop by our member table to claim your gift plant. Not a member? Join today at bbgardens.org/membership.

**Saturday, September 14 | 9 a.m.–4 p.m.**
**Sunday, September 15 | 11 a.m.–3 p.m.**
Birmingham Botanical Gardens

Free and open to the public

bbgardens.org/fallplantsale
It was a cold, blustery January day when I first discovered the Forman Garden tucked on the northern side of the Conservatory. I was walking briskly toward the warmth of the glasshouses when a burst of translucent, blush pink blooms just beyond caught my eye. The profusion of flowers seemed odd in the depths of January. I quickly detoured toward the soft pink haze to learn more about this intriguing winter-flowering tree. Hanging on the branch was a sign that read:

**JAPANESE APRICOT**

*Prunus mume 'Josephine'*

Rosaceae

Rose Family

I made a mental note that we need more of these trees around Birmingham since it seemed to be thriving in its location. It was a perfectly timed bloom, at a moment when you feel as if winter will never end, and its flowers gave a glimmer of hope that spring would indeed come. I learned something unexpected that chilly morning, something I wanted to apply in my own way.

Unbeknownst to me, in that instant, I was fulfilling the vision of the Forman family. The intent of the garden is both to teach local...
gardeners and to delight visitors from afar with an ever-changing display of color, creating interest in the garden throughout the year. Each day brings new opportunity and promise in the Forman Garden.

The name Forman honors the late James (Jim) Ross Forman Jr., who was an avid Birmingham gardener. Jim and his wife, Mary, downsized to a townhouse just up Lane Park Road from the Gardens, and with a smaller home came a smaller garden. The couple, though, didn’t let tighter space constrain their passion for gardening, and it didn’t take long for the front garden to become a community favorite. New brick terraces were installed on the slope next to the front drive. Often passersby would spot the couple out in the garden and pull off the road to ask the names of plants so they could re-create the plant combinations at their own home. When Jim passed away in 2002, his family chose to establish a garden in his memory across the street at the Gardens to continue the legacy of teaching others how to create a brilliant display in their own gardens.

Conceived by noted gardener and native plant advocate Weesie Smith, who collaborated with Nimrod Long for the architectural design and installation, the Garden serves as a stage for a rousing, year-long show of floral color. From those first heralding blooms of the Japanese apricot in January, the cast evolves into Lenten roses and sweet-scented paperbush, which give way in spring to the bright faces of Iceland poppies, envious peony blooms, and delicate Carolina silverbells, followed by a summer chorus of baptisia, phlox, lantana, zinnias, black-eyed Susans, coneflowers, and daisies and finally an epilogue featuring serviceberry’s vibrant fall leaves. It is because of the continuing generosity of the Forman family that curious gardeners do not need to wait to catch a fellow gardener on the side of the road to answer their questions, but instead can stroll through this beloved Garden, which is always in bloom. And maybe on your next visit something might just capture your attention out of the corner of your eye as it did mine and divert your gardening path to a newfound joy.
Thank You

THE STORY OF BIRMINGHAM BOTANICAL GARDENS AND ITS successes is not told in its numbers—it is told in each person who plants a seed. The Gardens has 67.5 acres filled with 30 lush thematic gardens composed of over 3,000 taxa of plants. Our library, the only public horticultural library in the U.S., shelves over 9,000 items and loans over 10,000 items annually. Our education programs host more than 10,000 schoolchildren for free each year.

While we could continue to share more staggering numbers of the things we do for our community and people we serve, the real story of Birmingham Botanical Gardens is you.

The people listed here, those who each give their time, their donations, and their social media space to the Gardens, are the real mosaic of what keeps this place special, fruitful, and growing.

Each individual’s contribution is vital to ensuring that this amazing green space continues to serve as a respite for people of all abilities and backgrounds, and that impactful education programs, revitalization projects, community outreach, tree plantings, endemic plant preservation, food donations, conferences, archival history, and internships enrich our community daily.

We thank those below who are making the difference, and you, for taking that next step to enrich the Gardens by supporting the Friends of Birmingham Botanical Gardens through your generous member and donor support.

GARDEN SUSTAINERS
As of July 31, 2019

Orchid
Mr. & Mrs. John Lyon
Mr. Gregory R. Schumann

Camellia
The Dunn-French Foundation
The Forman Foundation
Mr. & Mrs. Carl E. Jones, Jr.
Mr. & Mrs. D. Paul Jones, Jr.
Mr. & Mrs. Gordon G. Martin

Azalea
The Ann & Angelo Bruno Foundation
Mrs. Camille H. Butrus
Lyndra & Bill Daniel
Mr. & Mrs. Jim Dixon
Dr. & Mrs. John A. Floyd, Jr.
Lyndonwood Foundation
Mr. & Mrs. Wilmer S. Poynor III
Southern Progress Corporation
Mrs. Margaret F. Wendorf
Anonymous

Azalea
The Ann & Angelo Bruno Foundation
Mrs. Camille H. Butrus
Lyndra & Bill Daniel
Mr. & Mrs. Jim Dixon
Dr. & Mrs. John A. Floyd, Jr.
Lyndonwood Foundation
Mr. & Mrs. Wilmer S. Poynor III
Southern Progress Corporation
Mrs. Margaret F. Wendorf
Anonymous

Dogwood
Mr. & Mrs. Brian Barr
Maggie & Will Brooke
C. Eugene Ireland Foundation
C.S. Beatty Construction, Inc.
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Extend the season with fall lettuces.
Meet Mindy Black

Friends of Birmingham Botanical Gardens is happy to welcome Mindy Keys Black, who joined our small but passionate team earlier this year as Director of Communications and Marketing.

A graduate of the Medill School of Journalism at Northwestern University, Mindy has worked in the fields of communications and publications for 30 years. After managing communications at Thomas Jefferson's Monticello in the mid-nineties, she and her husband, Dylan, moved to Birmingham, where she has served as senior copy editor at Southern Living and publications for 30 years. After managing communications at Indian Springs School, Research Center, and, most recently, director of communications at the UAB employees in memory of Philip "Jack" Mann, Sr., Henry A. Long, Jr, Thomas C. Clark, Jr., Elizabeth Rost Copeland, Edgar G. Aldridge, John A. Williamson, Jr., Charley Jack Fisher. Southern Garden History Society in honor of Jason Kirby, Carolyn Wynn in memory of Henry A. Long, Jr.

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Drifts of black-eyed Susans provide fall color along the edges of the Bog Garden.
Experience the Japanese Garden in a new way by joining us in the Moore Cultural Pavilion for our Ashtanga Yoga series led by certified yoga instructor Jason Kirby. Explore and register for our newly expanded yoga offerings at bbgardens.org/yoga.