Welcome to the first GROWing Together™ Newsletter

It just made sense. When the Fort Worth Botanic Garden and Botanical Research Institute of Texas (BRIT®) expanded the successful education and volunteer collaboration to include joint memberships March 9, a combined newsletter was a natural next step. Look for this newsletter the first Monday of each month. Thank you for your ongoing support.

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Building upon momentum from last year’s event, the second annual “Lunch in the Garden” May 10 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. will feature performers from Fort Worth Opera and Texas Ballet Theater.

“Lunch in the Garden raises awareness for one of Fort Worth’s most beautiful attractions and leads us into National Public Gardens Week starting May 13,” said Bob Byers, Botanic Garden director. “We were extremely fortunate this year to add opera and ballet volunteer performances, believing that folks will appreciate the beautiful gardens as backdrop while they take a break from work or bring their children to enjoy lunch outdoors.”

National Public Gardens Week draws attention to our nation’s public gardens, which include botanical gardens, arboreta, conservatories, educational gardens and historical landscapes. The Fort Worth Botanic Garden offers 110 acres that include the historic Rose Garden, Fuller Garden, Japanese Garden and more.

“Celebrating an even larger second annual ‘Lunch in the Garden’ event represents growing community interest in the ongoing, positive collaboration BRIT has with the Fort Worth Botanic Garden,” said Ed Schneider, BRIT president. “Both organizations, located on the same campus, continue to find ways to collaborate such as our recent joint membership, which exemplifies our GROWing together.”

JOIN TODAY

CHARTER MEMBERS GRAB YOUR GIFT!

All members qualify as original Charter members of GROW, entitling them to a GROW canvas tote. Members, stop by BRIT or the Botanic Garden with your new GROW membership card to grab your gift today!
Children’s StoryWalk® Exhibit Opens Mother’s Day Weekend

GROW educators invite children and parents to the first StoryWalk®, a concept combining the love of reading with the outdoors.

This free event May 11 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. will feature the book, “A Butterfly is Patient,” and will highlight the newly replanted Pollinator Pathway connecting the Fort Worth Botanic Garden to the Botanical Research Institute of Texas (BRIT®). Fort Worth Public Library Director Manya Shorr will offer opening remarks, and world-renowned children’s author Diana Aston will discuss her ideas for the featured book followed by a book signing.

“We are so honored to have Manya, Diana and other literacy advocates join us for this opening-day celebration,” said Kat Goldin, GROW School Program Manager. “Studies show that fostering outdoor exploration combined with an educational activity such as reading, ignite curiosity and prepare children for future success.” Children will follow the story of “A Butterfly is Patient” by reading pages mounted within wooden frameworks along the outdoor pathway. “The idea is to walk from page to page to finish the story, all while observing the surrounding plants, which enhance the story theme,” Goldin said.

Stories within the GROW StoryWalk will be replaced over time, to feature other nature experiential books for children. Funded by The Fort Worth Garden Club, this exhibit will be open for viewing from May to August 2019.

Sustainable Wine Growers Invited to New Texas Competition

BRIT has partnered with its neighbor, The Fort Worth Stock Show & Rodeo, to create a unique Texas-specific wine competition that honors both the winery and grape grower.

The purpose of our competition is to promote sustainable practices within the vineyard and in the winery while raising awareness of the Texas wine industry. Our wine competition is based on wine flavor and the conservation actions that Texas grape growers and wine producers employ. Until now, no other Texas wine competition has honored both the grower and producer.

Applicants compete for the competition’s overall Grand Champion and Grand Reserve awards. Gold, silver, and bronze medals will also be awarded to top-placing applicants. All winners will be given permission to use FWSSR/BRIT’s award logo artwork on their bottles and in their marketing efforts. For more information, contact Chris Chilton at cchilton@brit.org or 817.546.8691.

BRIT Joins the Global Genome Biodiversity Network (GGBN)

GGBN is a worldwide partnership representing institutions that are committed to long-term preservation of genome-quality samples from across the tree of life. BRIT will become the 87th member to join GGBN and will contribute to this global genome collection effort through the new BRIT Biorepository – part of the George C. and Sue W. Sumner Molecular and Structural Laboratory.
The Biorepository has a capacity of 10,000 plant genomic samples and will be a regional hub for genomics research and genome preservation. The Global Genome Initiative for Gardens (GGI-Gardens), a Smithsonian-led partnership that moved its headquarters to BRIT in 2018, will coordinate with activities at the BRIT Biorepository and the GGBN. For more information, contact Morgan Gostel at mgostel@brit.org or 817.463.4199.

Stop, Look and Listen: Why We're Wild About Wildflowers

BRIT Herbarium Collections Manager Tiana Rehman recently spoke about the abundance of wildflowers growing around Texas this spring season and encouraged us all to take some time for viewing.

"Have a look at some of the parks in your area, see what's available and be prepared to see wildflower season in a slightly different way than 60 miles an hour down the highway," she told KERA Reporter Justin Martin. To listen to the full interview, visit the website.

Perfect Springtime Reading: The Brother Gardeners by Andrea Wulf

We get it. It's spring and the garden and great outdoors are calling. Who has time to read? But, if you are in the market for a new book, tuck "The Brother Gardeners" in your bag next time you head to the park, patio, or garden, and take some time to lose yourself in this "fascinating story of a small group of eighteenth-century naturalists who made Britain a nation of gardeners and the epicenter of horticultural and botanical expertise."

Whether you love it, hate it, or didn't get the time to finish it, please join the BRIT Reads Book Club Monday, May 20, from noon to 1 p.m. to discuss this book that Britain's The Sunday Telegraph called "absorbing and delightful."

For more information please email Laura Venhaus at lvenhaus@brit.org or visit our website.
** Vine to Table **

A heartfelt thanks to our sponsors and supporters.

Many thanks to our sponsors and donors. For more information contact Sara Richardson at 817.332.2748.

BAC Invites All to "Art in Bloom" Summer Exhibit

BRIT is pleased once again to play host to the summer exhibit of the Botanical Art Collective of North Central Texas, Art in Bloom. This curated exhibit will hang in the Madeline R. Samples Exhibit Hall at BRIT from May 10 – June 20 with an opening reception and refreshments on Friday, May 10, from 5:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.

Art in Bloom is a celebration of the world of botany and will feature 2D work depicting flowers, fruits, seeds, vegetables, fungi, seeds, trees, plants, and grasses. At least 32 artists will be represented with art in watercolors, oils, acrylics, photographs, pyrography wood inlay, silver point, graphite and other mixed media. For more information please visit the website.

[Top: Soon Warren Right: Denis Benjamin]

BRIT, Botanic Garden Host Spring Sip and Shop

Join us May 25 for a Saturday Spring Sip and Shop at the Fort Worth Botanic Garden. Browse through goods made by local artisans, including handmade soaps and candles, botanical jewelry, delicious teas, and much more.

Coffee, iced tea, food trucks, music and more will make this event a great addition to your Memorial Day weekend! Parking will be at the Weekend Parking Lot located off the I-30 access road-3408 West Fwy, Fort Worth, TX 76107. For more information, Kimberly Whitlock at kwhitlock@brit.org, or 817.332.7750.
Calendar of Events

May 6 through June 3

May 4, 11, 18, 25 Family Exploration Saturdays
May 7 Bella’s Book and Nature Club
May 8 Seedlings
May 9-12 Lanterns in the Garden
May 11 StoryWalk with Children’s Author, Dianna Aston
May 14 Docent Tours of the Garden
May 18 Greening the Inside: The care and choosing of houseplants
May 18 Japanese Tea Ceremony
May 18 Herbal Oils, Vinegars, and Salad Dressings
May 21 Little Sprouts
May 25 Sip and Shop
June 1 Flower Pounding: Printing Fabric with Natural Elements
June 1 Organic Pests & Diseases: Identification and Eradication