A Message from the Garden and BRIT

We are living through a remarkable period of history, one that has placed unprecedented demands on all of us. We at the Botanic Garden and BRIT wish that we could offer you the solace of the Garden during this time and regret that we have had to keep our gates shut to ensure the health of our staff and guests.

However, we are in constant conversation with public health officials and experts at the City of Fort Worth. Based on their advice, we are optimistic that we will be able to reopen on June 1.

We are planning for this date with the full understanding that if infection rates rise, we will have to reconsider. Exact plans for educational programs and limits on admission are still being worked out. We encourage you to monitor FWBG.org and BRIT.org for more information.

We hope to see you next month. In the meantime, stay safe and well.
GARDEN: WHAT’S IN BLOOM

Celebrate National Public Gardens Week and Your Fort Worth Botanic Garden

The Fort Worth Botanic Garden and BRIT invite you to join us in a virtual celebration of U.S. public gardens and the important role they play in our communities during National Public Gardens Week, May 8 through 17.

We had planned to celebrate with you in person, but perhaps a virtual tour reminding you of our pathways and ponds may be the next best thing. Learn more about National Public Gardens Week and let us know the first place you plan to visit when the Garden again opens its gates.

LEARN: STAY CURIOUS

Preserve Nature’s Beauty with Flower Pounding

Flowers are fleeting—they bloom for a few days and then are gone. Tarrant County Master Gardener Nancy Curl always regretted this fact—until she discovered she could save nature’s beauty with flower pounding. “It’s a way to preserve nature and keep it forever,” said Curl. “It’s a wonderful craft because anyone can do it.”

Learn more about the art and craft of flower pounding at a May 16 online course.
Learning about How Native People Used the Plants of Texas

Did you know that this plant, *Echinacea purpurea* or purple coneflower, was used by Native Americans to treat everything from toothaches to sore throats? You can probably find it growing right now in your neighborhood, if not in your own yard.

If you're looking for a great nature activity to do with your kids, the GROW Children and Family Education program is sharing fascinating information this month about ethnobotany, the study of the traditional knowledge and customs of a people concerning plants and their uses. Start learning today about purple coneflower and many other plants.

And remember to check out all of BRIT's online educational resources. New videos and activities are posted every week.
Herbaria and botanical libraries have a long and fruitful relationship—they are two parallel collections that preserve and communicate the value of plant research. To explore this relationship, the BRIT Library is starting a new blog series that is international in scope called Collections Lens.

In this first installment, BRIT Librarian Brandy Watts interviews BRIT Herbarium's Tiana F. Rehman, who tells us about the many collections that comprise the Herbarium. This is the first interview in a series that will highlight collection managers from around the world across botanical libraries and herbaria as collections move into the future.

We appreciate our members and are forever thankful for their support. All current members may receive an extension on their memberships upon reopening by simply reaching out to the membership office. Those who join, renew, or purchase a gift membership during this time will receive a membership that extends for 12 months beyond the closure period. While our campus is closed, we are working daily to bring you online benefits and preparing for the time when we can welcome you back in person. Until then, please consider becoming a member today or sharing this with a friend to help us continue what we do best: bringing the community outstanding outdoor experiences, educational courses, special events and for members, exclusive benefits.

Thank you.
Katherine Campbell, membership director