

# Green Scene



## Reflecting on Earth Day

No matter your level of environmental activism everyone has a stake in creating and maintaining a sustainable future. As Earth Day approaches it's 50<sup>TH</sup> anniversary in April, there is a growing awareness that urgent action is required to make the environment a priority. The first Earth Day was intent on bringing environmental issues into the forefront of the national conversation. Rachel Carson's book, *Silent Spring*, is credited with laying the foundation for the modern environmental movement and inspiring the need to recognize that the Earth's natural environment is precious and in need of protecting.

Earth Day is more than just one day set aside as a reminder to recycle or pick up litter. It's a time to critically reflect on the current state of the environment on both a local and global scale and how everyone can readjust their daily actions to better influence the trajectory of long-term environmental changes.

Change never comes easy, but remember little changes will have a collective impact. In this uncertain time of climate change, we're approaching an apex where it's imperative to renew our commitment to protecting our environment. It's time to up the ecological merit of our gardens by adding native plants, investing in low carbon and renewable energy sources (think LED and solar power), and eliminating our over consumption of plastics by switching to reusable products. Norfolk Botanical Garden is committed to environmental activism and stewardship so we encourage you to join us on our journey to become the change we seek!

## Glyphosate Reduction Program Update

This fall, the Horticulture staff completed their study comparing the effectiveness of glyphosate, the active ingredient in Roundup®, to several alternative herbicides. Their findings show promise with two of the plant-based herbicides, d-limonene and pelargonic acid. Staff are now discussing ways to incorporate the use of these products into next season's maintenance regimen. We will keep you updated on our research.

# Community Connections

We always enjoy being a part of the excitement the fall season brings to the gardening community across Tidewater. From environmentally themed festivals to volunteer fairs and garden club meetings, we connected with folks from every corner of the seven cities.



NBG Youth Educator Kim Harmony answers questions from Children Festival attendees at Harbor Park in October 2019.



NBG Director of Environmental Engagement & Outreach Theresa Augustin had the opportunity to teach about mushrooms growing in the woods of Sleepy Hole Park in Suffolk.

