

# Green Scene

## Lessons from Washed Ashore Exhibit



Jane Batten visits Rosa the Eagle for the first time and was delighted with the community contributions and the artist's detail in creating this beautiful sculpture. Washed Ashore was made possible by The Batten Family Educational Achievement Fund of the Hampton Roads Community Foundation.

Everyone is sure to agree that Washed Ashore: Art to Save the Sea has been one of the most compelling exhibits ever featured at Norfolk Botanical Garden. Art is one of the best ways to start a conversation and raise awareness. With the perfect mix of creativity and environmental messaging, visitors of all ages and backgrounds were stirred by the harsh reality of plastic pollution, yet awed by the magnificent artistic ability.

For us, we are most proud of being presented with the opportunity to participate in the creation of Rosa the Bald Eagle. Bald eagles, our country's noble icon, has come to symbolize resiliency. But this resiliency will not last without diligent advocacy for protecting and conserving our natural areas. As home gardeners and nature enthusiasts, we have the collective power to improve and support our local environment, thus keeping the bald eagle soaring above our skies and paving the way for similar success stories.



The eagle sculpture reminds us how everything is connected. The world's waterways connect all life together—humans, plants and wildlife—and when one part suffers the other parts will feel it too. The message behind Washed Ashore reminds us that we can all be the ultimate environmental stewards if we remember that we are a part of nature and not at the center of it.

**EARTH DAY • APRIL 22, 2022** 

Earth Day is recognized nationally on April 22 each year but we hope you will make EVERY day Earth Day. Look in the *GROW* course catalog for inspiring events and classes that will inform and motivate you.