

# floral expressions itinerary

## **Carnivorous Plant Hunt**

Carnivorous plants often live in wet environments such as wetlands or swamps. Their natural habitats lack some of the essential nutrients that they need to live. Over time, some plants living in those nutrient-poor soils evolved to get their nutrients from insects.

**Visit the Children's Garden Soggy Bog and the Native Bog Garden to find the following carnivorous plants native to the southeastern United States. Please note that the outdoor carnivorous plant collections are dormant during the cold winter months. If you are interested in native carnivores, visit the Garden May through October:**

- **Pitcher plants (*Sarracenia*)** – Pitcher plants are aptly named because their leaves are shaped like tall, cone-shaped pitchers and hold fluid. Gently peek inside one and look for bug victims.
- **Venus fly traps (*Dionaea muscipula*)** – These tricky plants move to trap and digest their prey, which are usually small insects like beetles, ants and flies. Notice how some of them are reddish in color to attract insects and if you look closely enough, you may even see the small trigger hairs inside the traps that signal the traps to close around an insect.
- **Sundews (*Drosera*)** – Look closely at these sparkling beauties. Notice how their leaves are covered with hairs. On the end of each hair is sticky glue like liquid that looks like sweet drops of nectar. Can you find small insects trapped in the sticky liquid?

**Visit the Fuqua Orchid Center High Elevation House to find the following tropical carnivorous plants:**

- ***Nepenthes*** – This gigantic carnivore eats many insects and has even been known to eat small mammals like rats. Notice how the *Nepenthes* pitcher is shaped like a cup.
- ***Heliamphora*** – Native to the tepuis, *Heliamphora* are sometimes referred to as sun pitchers. These carnivores use nectar to attract insects to a spoon like structure on the upper portion of the leaf.
- ***Brocchinia*** – In the Bromeliad family, these carnivores create a cup in the axle of their leaves that holds acidic water. This cup is the part of the plant that traps and digests insects. To find them, look in the tepuis area in the High Elevation House. Note: not all plants in the *Brocchinia* family are carnivorous.



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## A Day for Gardeners

Visiting the Garden throughout the year can provide inspiration and information for home gardeners. Below is a list of techniques and plants to see during each beautiful season in the Garden. To learn more about certain topics, check the Garden website class listing for upcoming educational opportunities.

### Spring

- Explore the fabulous pansy and tulip displays
- Discover the **Anne Cox Chambers Southern Seasons Garden** coming to life with early blooming flowers.
- Observe how to stake perennials.
- Learn how to prepare soil as Garden horticulturists prepare beds and plant summer annuals and perennials.
- Learn how to re-pot aquatic plants as Garden horticulturists divide and re-pot water lilies.

### Summer

- Get ideas for stunning annual combinations for containers.
- Find new varieties of summer vegetables and edible flowers suitable for the Southeast in the **Edible Garden**.
- Find some new summer bulbs to add to perennial borders.
- Explore more than 120 cultivars of hydrangeas through the **Anne Cox Chambers Southern Seasons Garden**.
- Find a new plant to add to a butterfly garden by watching the many butterflies.

### Fall

- Get ideas for late season perennials to add to a garden **Perennial Border**.
- Find a new shrub with fabulous fruits to attract wildlife.
- See what vegetables can be planted in fall in the **Edible Garden**.
- Watch the horticulture staff “put the garden to bed for the winter” and observe how they clean up perennial borders.

### Winter

- Enjoy the **Levy Parterre** filled with colorful winter annuals.
- Observe the horticulturists topdressing the Garden, which organically improves soil quality.
- Look for how deciduous shrubs and trees are pruned during the cooler winter months.
- Observe the “bare bones” of the Garden and get landscape design ideas for pathway flow, directing views and evergreens to provide structure in a garden.



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## Power Hour

With over 30 acres to explore it may be hard to see the entire Garden in an hour. Choose one of the options below for a thrilling power hour.

### Outdoor Oasis

- Zip over the **Kendeda Canopy Walk** to enjoy the beautiful tree canopy in Storza Woods
- Visit the **Cascades Garden** bursting with brilliant flowers and flowing water features.
- See the **Levy Parterre** filled with color.
- Take a look at the soothing **Japanese Garden**.
- Stop and smell the colorful **Rose Garden** and the lovely **Perennial Garden**.
- Get a taste of the **Edible Garden** which boasts colorful fruits and vegetables.

### Indoor Collections

- Find colorful amphibians on display in the **Conservatory Lobby** and then listen for the trilling coqui in the **Tropical Rotunda**.
- Discover the amazing plants in the **Orangerie**, such as coffee, cinnamon, quinine and turmeric.
- Discover the beautiful African succulents in the **Desert House**.
- Walk back through the **Tropical Rotunda** and into the **Fuqua Orchid Center**, which features beautiful orchids from around the world. Fragrance, color and unusual flower forms are the order of the day.
- Discover beautiful orchids and carnivorous plants growing in the **Tropical High Elevation House**.

