



February Newsletter

[Engage](#) | [Research](#) | [Garden](#) | [Plant](#) | [Learn](#)



Boogie Woogie (2014) Hermann Park, Houston, TX. Photo by Frank Konhouse

ENGAGE: WITH THE FWBG | BRIT COMMUNITY

Watch Artist Patrick Dougherty Weave, Twist and Shape a One-of-a-Kind Installation at FWBG | BRIT

It began with a pile of sticks and an idea.

The sticks arrived by the truckload to the Garden on February 1, and the idea was in the mind of acclaimed artist Patrick Dougherty.

By now, Dougherty has taken the sticks and, aided by a team of volunteers, begun to weave, wind and twist them into—what? Who knows! A hut, a nest, a cocoon, a tower, a maze—whatever Dougherty wants it to be.

[Learn more about Dougherty's process and how you can see the magic of Stickwork unfold.](#)

Special Opportunity: Members-Only Meet and Greet with Artist Patrick Dougherty

Sustainer-level member benefit only. Sustainer-level members are invited to attend a Meet and Greet with internationally acclaimed artist Patrick Dougherty on Feb. 18 between 4:30 and 6:30 p.m.. This is a rare chance to celebrate the artist and an original Stickwork creation in the Botanic Garden. [Make your reservation today!](#)



Above left: Tonguefern (*Elaphoglossum*.) Above right: Lowbush Blueberry (*Vaccinium angustifolium*.)

RESEARCH: FROM PLANT TO PLANET

FWBG | BRIT Announces Award of Grants Totalling \$1.9 Million from the National Science Foundation for Plant Exploration at Home and Abroad

The National Science Foundation (NSF) recently awarded two grants totalling \$1.9 million to FWBG | BRIT botanists and their research teams to study plant diversity in the United States and Colombia.

A team led by Research Botanist Alejandra Vasco will receive \$1.1 million to study the diversity of ferns in Colombia. A second team, led by Vice President of Research and the Director of the Herbarium Peter Fritsch, will receive about \$780,000 over three years to study North American blueberries.

[Learn more the research plans of these scientists and what they hope to contribute to our store of knowledge about the natural world.](#)



GARDEN: WHAT'S IN BLOOM

Berries Provide Shot of Welcome Color to the Winter Landscape

The grounds of the Botanic Garden are muted these days, full of the dull greens and browns of a north Texas winter. But sometimes a shot of color peaks through the foliage: the brilliance of berries.

“Many shrubs and trees produce fruit in the fall that lasts all winter long and brings wonderful color to our landscape,” said former Sr. Horticulturist Steve Huddleston. [Learn more about some of the best berry-bearing plants for our landscape.](#)



PLANT: THE SEEDS OF AN ENVIRONMENTAL STEM EDUCATION

Prescribed Burn Brings Renewal to FWBG | BRIT Prairie

A remarkable sight greeted drivers down University Drive on January 13: fire on the prairie behind the FWBG | BRIT headquarters.

But this was no uncontrolled blaze, and no one was in danger. In fact, the fire was carefully planned to renew the grassland.

[Read more about the prescribed burn at the FWBG | BRIT prairie and what this unprecedented event can teach you and your family about prairie ecosystems.](#)



LEARN: STAY CURIOUS

Discover the Power of Breath and Art to Find Balance in an Unstable World

The new year was supposed to herald a new dawn, but many people are finding it difficult to spot the light they were promised. Between political turmoil, economic hardship and pandemic suffering, it can be difficult to cope.

To help those who sometimes feel they are stumbling in darkness, [artist Lesli Robertson and her friend and colleague Tiffany Reves will be teaching a session titled “Self-Care Workshop: The Winter Sun.”](#) Their goal is to help community members discover new ways to take care of themselves as they await spring’s arrival.



JOIN TODAY!

fwGROW.org

Why Give a Bouquet When You Can Give a Whole Garden?



This Valentine's Day, give a gift your loved one will enjoy year-round with a membership to FWBG | BRIT.

Annual members enjoy Garden admission and reciprocal entry to more than [330 public gardens](#), including [members-only events](#)! Gaze at the beauty of spring-blooming

tulips, or watch the autumn leaves fall in the Japanese Garden. No matter the season, find respite and peace in the Garden year-round.

Plus, members can enjoy special events such as the [Stickwork Member-Exclusive Meet and Greet with artist Patrick Daugherty](#) or a [four-course romantic Valentine's Dinner in the Garden](#). Available February 13 and 14 only—space is limited, so call 817-366-1100 for your reservation today!

Stay in Touch Online!

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Botanical Research Institute of Texas:



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