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# May Newsletter

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ENGAGE: WITH THE FWBG | BRIT COMMUNITY

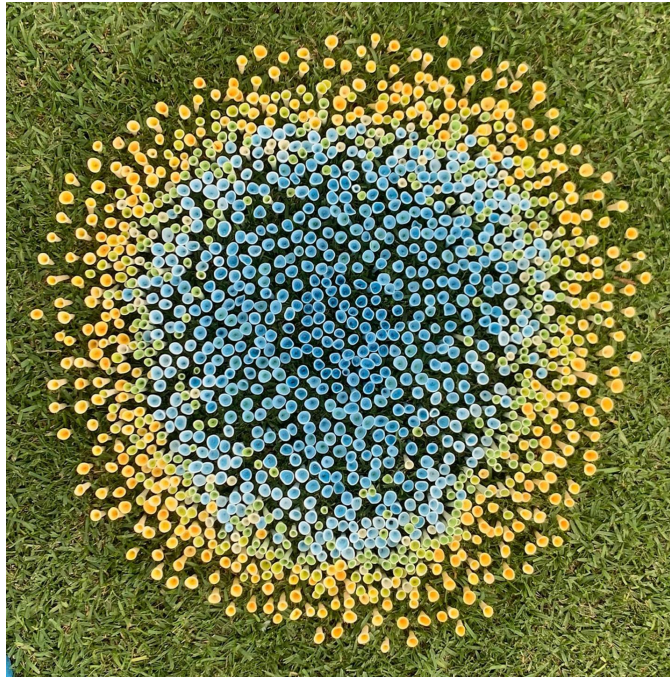
## New Toy Block Exhibit Encourages Connection with Nature

[Sean Kenney's Nature Connects Made with LEGO® Bricks](#), an award-winning and record-breaking exhibition, arrived on May 6. Kenney's sculptures explore animal endangerment, the balance of ecosystems and humanity's relationship with nature through beautiful works of art made from simple toy blocks.

Produced by [Imagine Exhibitions](#), *Nature Connects* depicts important topics that the New York artist Sean Kenney holds dear, from protecting an animals' habitat to planting a garden or showcasing a beautiful orchid—subject matter with particular appeal to gardens.

*Sean Kenney's Nature Connects Made with LEGO® Bricks* is open daily to the public from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. for a limited engagement through Aug. 1. Exhibit viewing is included with the price of garden admission or free with an annual membership.

[Learn more about this event!](#)



LEARN: STAY CURIOUS

## Celebrate the Power of Pollinators at the Texas Bee Oasis Art Installation

Artist and educator Jen Rose had in mind a project that would not only be beautiful but also improve the health of plants and the planet. But first she had to answer an important question: Do bees have toes?

“It turns out, yes, bees do have toes,” said Rose, who teaches at Dallas College.

Rose used her knowledge of bee toes, as well as other important facts about bee anatomy, to shape her bee cups, small cone-shaped sculptures made from porcelain. On May 27, some 3000 bee cups will be installed in Fuller Garden in colorful clusters and swirls in a work Rose calls the Texas Bee Oasis.

[Learn more about the Oasis and why bees are so important to our planet.](#)



RESEARCH: FROM PLANT TO PLANET

## Microscopic Biological Jewels May Be Living on Your Urban Trees

Some large and older trees in urban environments wear bark that is the perfect habitat for life forms not easily visible to the naked eye. For example, the photo above depicts a microscopic mushroom unknown to science until FWBG | BRIT researchers found it growing on one of the Garden's trees.

The [Fungi, Myxomycetes, and Trees Research Program](#) has been busy collecting bark from various tree species in Tarrant County to study these life forms under a microscope.

Join Ashley Bordelon and Harold Keller for a [Lunchtime Lecture on June 1](#) as they present discoveries of new and rare fungi and myxomycete species on urban trees on the FWBG | BRIT campus, residential areas and nature parks. They will demonstrate the use of simple moist chamber techniques of live tree bark that enabled the observations of these life forms and other microscopic oddities previously unknown.



GARDEN: WHAT'S IN BLOOM

## Lawns, Grasses, and Xeriscaping, Oh My!

Here at the Botanic Garden, the great swath of green of the Great Lawn is a center of activity this time of year. Families rest in the shade along the edges while children run and play in the wide open, grass-carpeted space.

It's also the time of year that many homeowners turn their attention to their home lawns. "Many people come to us with questions this time of year about how to keep their lawns green and healthy," said Sr. Horticulturist Steve Huddleston.

[Learn about the best grasses for north Texas and how to keep them healthy—as well as get an introduction to water-smart alternatives to traditional lawns.](#)





PLANT: THE SEEDS OF AN ENVIRONMENTAL STEM EDUCATION

## Putting the Pieces Together with Bricks and Imagination

The first reaction of both children and adults when viewing the sculptures in [Sean Kenney's Nature Connects Made with LEGO® Bricks](#) is usually the same: They want to get out their own LEGO® bricks and build something amazing.

Inspired by the exhibit, the FWBG | BRIT children and families education team decided to incorporate LEGO® bricks into [the Adventure Days in the Garden](#) summer program. This is a new program offered in lieu of traditional summer camp in which families can pick up kits designed to engage children of all ages in nature activities while exploring unique garden spaces.

[Learn more about Adventure Days in the Garden, the custom LEGO® sets included in each kit and activities you can enjoy right now with your family.](#)

FORT WORTH  
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BOTANICAL  
RESEARCH INSTITUTE  
OF TEXAS

# JOIN TODAY!

[fwbg.org/membership](https://fwbg.org/membership)

Spring in the Garden is a magical time—especially for members!

Members can visit [Sean Kenney's Nature Connects Made with LEGO® Bricks](#) for free with Garden admission, along with other special displays including Stickwork and Topiaries in the Garden.

An exciting new benefit for members at the Supporter, Patron, Affiliate and Sustainer levels is a \$15 discount on photography passes. [Learn more and plan your visit to capture wedding, graduation, prom, quinceañera or other special-occasion photos.](#)

One last thing: due to overwhelming popularity, [After Hours in the](#)



[Garden](#) has been extended through June and July. Member tickets are only \$18! We look forward to seeing you there!

## Stay in Touch Online!

### Fort Worth Botanic Garden:



### Botanical Research Institute of Texas:



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