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HERBS GALORE & MORE AT MAYMONT IS FILLED WITH GOOD VIBES FOR A GREAT THYME

The Carriage House Lawn at Maymont becomes a shopping destination for plant, craft and food lovers during everyone's favorite gardening extravaganza, Herbs Galore & More, on Saturday, April 28 from 8am to 4pm. Guests can peruse unique garden and herb-related goods from dozens of vendors, learn from specialists during Meet the Expert sessions, and enjoy local food trucks while relishing the start of spring.

"This event brings together thousands of people from the community and the region to celebrate plants and gardening, two things that Maymont's original owner, Sallie Dooley, clearly loved," said Parke Richeson, Maymont Executive Director. "The gardens and 100-acre arboretum were thoughtfully designed to inspire and delight visitors within Maymont's relaxing, picturesque setting. You get the same feelings during Herbs Galore & More. It has such a friendly, laid-back atmosphere and many plants for beautifying your own garden."

Whether looking for the prettiest native shrub, rare and common herbs, or a unique Mother's Day gift, attendees will find a vast array of plants, trees, vegetables, herbal products and crafts available at this one-of-a-kind event. Bargain hunters never miss the From One Garden to Another (FOGA) booth, which features a collection of "recycled" (i.e. second-hand) garden-related items and donated plants. Everyone's taste buds will be satisfied by the variety of delicious cuisine from crepes and donuts to barbeque and pizza. New this year, some of the food trucks with lunch fare will be located outside the ticketed event area to accommodate all Maymont guests, not just event-goers.

Meet the Expert sessions during the festival, included with event admission, offer ideas and tips for gardening and using plants and herbs. This year's topics will include the 2018 Herb of the Year – hops (*Humulus lupulus*), the basics of everyday herbs and essential oils, and using hops to add unique flavor to meals and cocktails.

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“It’s not every day that you find such a unique mix of wonderful plant and craft vendors from across the mid-Atlantic region in one spot, especially somewhere as beautiful and special as Maymont,” said Roseann Walling, Maymont Special Events Coordinator and Herbs Galore & More festival chairperson. “So many attendees, vendors, volunteers and staff look forward to this day each year. Shopping, gardening, food and whimsy – all to support Maymont. What more could you ask for?”

Herbs Galore & More admission is \$5 per person; free for Maymont members and children ages 16 and under. Maymont is located at 1700 Hampton Street in Richmond, Virginia. Most major credit and debit cards will be accepted, and an ATM machine will be available at the event. Parking is available at the Historic Estate Entrance parking lot (located at 1700 Hampton Street), the Robins Nature & Visitor Center (located at 2201 Shields Avenue), and the Spottswood Entrance (located at the corner of Spottswood Road and Shirley Lane). A loading zone will be available for temporary parking while guests load purchases. For more details, visit www.maymont.org/herbsgalore or call Maymont at 804-358-7166, ext. 310.

Since 1975, Maymont has been maintained and operated by the nonprofit Maymont Foundation. The Foundation must raise more than \$3 million each year through donations to keep the estate open to the public.

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