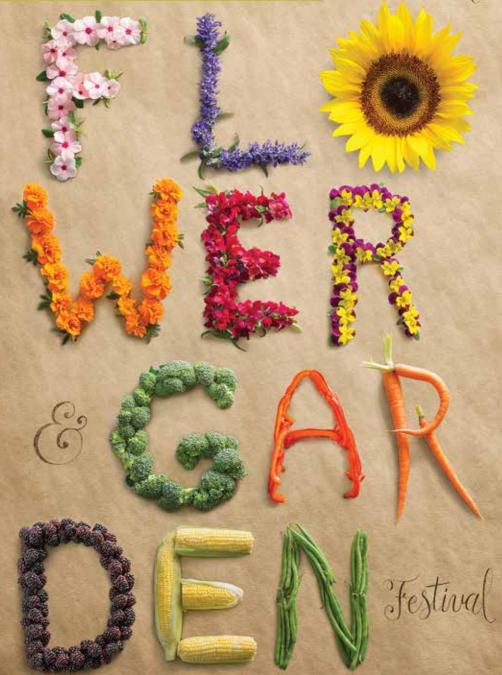


Epcol.
International





WALT DISNEP World.

#### IN THIS ISSUE

We, the Cast Members who put together each issue of *Mickey Monitor* for you, like to think we're a little like the chefs who create the delectable foods of the **Outdoor Kitchens** at the *Epcot®* International Flower & Garden Festival. We start with the freshest ingredients (news, features, fun ideas), then we carefully fold in the juiciest information we can provide. And since presentation is everything, every photo is selected for its maximum amazing-ness.

This issue is another feast, cooked up for your enjoyment. It's blooming with exclusive features about the festival; crisp news about *Star Wars™* fun (can't wait to taste a Royal Guard Burger!); a visit to the newest (and most colorful) *Epcot®* interactive experience; a meeting with the newest *Cirque du Soleil®* performers and, as we always like to say, lots more.

The issue is garnished with facts about the ways to make the most of your Passholder benefits. The more ways you use your pass, the more ways you can save and have fun at the same time.

Dig in while the news is hot and fresh Your Passholder Program Friends

Earth Day Weekend

Disney's Animal Kingdom® specialists are helping us celebrate at Epcot®—come discover special family activities and more!







The experts on pageantry & taste

Explore the *Epcot*<sub>0</sub> International Flower & Garden Festival March 2 through May 30, 2016.

International Flower & Garden Festival, we sat down with two of its most important Cast Members—Horticulture Manager Eric Darden and Executive Chef Gregg Hannon. Over the last 20 years, Eric has sculpted breathtaking topiaries; and nearly since the introduction of Outdoor Kitchens, Chef Gregg has crafted tantalizing cuisine. Enjoy a taste of the backstage happenings below.

#### What makes this festival so popular among families?

**GREGG**: For Passholder families, it's a real treat. *Epcot*® has so much to taste, see and experience. Due to the select number of festival fans, us chefs have more time to pour ourselves into the unique cuisine from planning to prep to plate.

ERIC: Our team really tries to push the envelope through our topiaries. This year, we were inspired by classic animation shorts, so much so that the Park entrance features Huey, Dewey and Louie working behind the scenes with Daisy. Over the last few years, we've tried to showcase new Characters.

#### What goes into planning the event?

ERIC: We started seriously thinking about this year's event in the middle of the 2015 festival. Topiaries take time, and we need to maintain Character integrity. It can take up to five weeks of welding, three weeks of planting and four months of grow time to make a single topiary.

GREGG: Six months before this festival began, Chef Michael Deardorff and I researched cuisine from product all the way to authenticity. We then tested the plates with the help of six additional sous chefs, and plan to upscale to 40 more culinarians throughout the event.

#### Would you tell us about one of your favorite features?

ERIC: Even with all of the amazing topiaries and cuisine, Tinker Bell's Butterfly House always draws a huge crowd. It's one of the most beautiful exhibits at the festival that just so happens to be alive.

#### Why do you think food pairs so well with the festival?

ERIC: Food really tells the whole story—a seed grows into a plant that then becomes a main plate, an accompaniment, a seasoning or even a garnish. The Outdoor Kitchens make sense during the festival because there's an entire life cycle that goes into each dish. It's kind of incredible.

#### How much of the event's produce is grown on premises?

GREGG: Throughout the festival, we partner with the Land Pavilion at *Epcot*®. Currently they provide us with just under 10 percent of all produce. Throughout the years, they've been an excellent source of winter melons, corn, tomatoes, cilantro and jalapeños—it's one of our more productive partnerships.

#### As far as complexity, which festival plate has the most going on?

GREGG: Year in and year out, Guests request the watermelon salad. I think it's because this dish's varied flavors combine in such a unique way. With a mix of watermelon, arugula, peppers and feta tossed in a balsamic syrup, the salad easily has the most going on.

ERIC: You'll find some of the herbs, vegetables and ingredients used in the dish at Urban Farm Eats. This year, we're featuring a fish pond and a chicken coop. All of the herbs and vegetables we showcase can be grown in your home garden, and in some cases even on your windowsill. We grow artichoke, kale, cucumber...you name it and we probably have it.

See and taste Horticulturist Eric Darden and Chef Gregg Hannon's creations all throughout the *Epcot*® International Flower & Garden Festival.

#### Green your thumb

Visit the Festival Center, Greenhouse and Fresh Epcot Stages for tips, open forums with master gardeners and live demonstrations all throughout the festival.



# OUR NEW CROP OF MERCHANDISE

Whether you're looking to collect some Passholder exclusives or just enjoy your 10% discount, check out the fresh merchandise at the *Epcot*® International Flower & Garden Festival!



The next time you're tilling in the garden, this Passholder exclusive will lend you some shade and some style. Pick up this straw hat to show off your status while keeping it cool.





## Keep your gift card handy

Activate with just \$15 to keep this small festival-themed gift card at your wrist. You'll be able to easily purchase the merchandise above and more!

(m)-tip



#### T-shirt & Pin

The most popular dragon at *Epcot*® has been plucked from the Imagination Institute and immortalized in flowery form! Claim the fantastical Figment as a T-shirt, pin or commemorative coin.

#### Yoda Rock

Balance your garden must have!
Sometimes sunshine isn't enough
—expose your plants to the light
side of the Force with this decorative
Yoda rock (which may have been
found on Dagobah).



#### COME FOR THE FRESH JAMS

Weekends this spring, dig the Garden Rocks™ Concert Series, Friday, March 4 through Monday, May 30.

o get excited about the musical performances of the *Epcot*<sub>®</sub> International Flower & Garden Festival, we sat down with Eric Troyer of The Orchestra. Check out this brief interview for a glimpse at the talent behind one of our many exciting spring performances.

#### Eric, how long have you been with The Orchestra?

ET: I was a founding member of ELO Part II in 1989. The Orchestra came about after the bandmates and I stopped using the name ELO Part II around 2000. The shift was relatively seamless.

#### What is your musical background?

ET: I began classical piano training at the age of four. I played the guitar in some bands, but I've really only picked up again over the last 20 years. With The Orchestra, I lend my vocals and play keyboard.

#### What is some of your proudest work outside of The Orchestra?

ET: When I lived in New York, I did a lot of singing. I worked with Billy Joel on "Uptown Girl," Bonnie Tyler on a few albums and John Lennon's final album. After growing up with The Beatles, it was a dream come true.

#### Do you bring your family members to the festival?

ET: We all live in colder climates, so we love visiting during the Flower & Garden Festival. My kids are grown but our guitarist, Parthenon Huxley, brings his whole family to adventure across the four Parks.



#### 2016 FESTIVAL LINEUP

#### THE ORCHESTRA

featuring former members of Electric Light Orchestra

**VILLAGE PEOPLE** 

HERMAN'S HERMITS starring Peter Noone

**GIN BLOSSOMS** 

and more! —

See the rest of the lineup at

DisneyWorld.com/
flowerandgarden

Entertainment subject to change without notice.

#### Are you excited for the festival this year?

ET: We've been performing at Epcot® for about four years between the Flower & Garden Festival and Epcot® International Food & Wine Festival. Disney World is top-notch; we love the management, crew and we absolutely adore the audience. It's going to be another great year. We all can't wait to perform!



# STAR WARS LAUNCH BAY HAS ARRIVED!

Even more Star Wars™ excitement is now at Disney's Hollywood Studios®.

ust can't get your fill of the world of Star Wars? What are you waiting for? You need to jump in your X-wing fighter right now and zoom over to Disney's Hollywood Studios® to explore the new Star Wars Launch Bay!

Exhibits, interactive experiences, props, Character encounters, games, exclusive merchandise and so much more await as you launch yourself into the greatest swashbuckling intergalactic adventures ever put on film.



You not only get behind-the-scenes peeks of the newest film in the saga, Star Wars: The Force Awakens, there's also a 10-minute video featuring exclusive interviews and more at Launch Bay Theater that takes you into the creative minds that bring the Star Wars stories and Characters to life. Visit the dark side where you'll encounter replicas of iconic helmets and Lightsabers once wielded by the bad guys. Or, if you prefer, the light side will allow you to join the Resistance—once you find the hidden base.





Meet everyone's favorite Wookie, Chewbacca, or come face to face with Kylo Ren. Either way, a souvenir photo is an absolute must. Immerse yourself in the virtual worlds of *Star Wars*, playing the latest and greatest interactive games in the Game Center, including new Disney Infinity 3.0 content created just for *Star Wars* Launch Bay.

#### ONE-OF-A-KINDS AND SPOT-ON REPLICAS

Plus, catch an exclusive look at costumes, ship models, droids, artwork and more in both the Celebration Gallery and Preview Gallery. Before heading home, head to the Launch Bay Cargo where original artwork, collector's items, keepsakes and other exclusive products make for lasting mementos of your exhilarating day.

So don't miss this unique opportunity to share your passion and connect with the heroes, villains, colorful Characters, thrilling battles and exotic worlds of the Star Wars galaxy. Star Wars Launch Bay is located in Animation Courtyard at Disney's Hollywood Studios®.



# YOU AND THE FORCE TOGETHER SHALL BE

Experience Jedi Training: Trials of the Temple, now at Disney's Hollywood Studios®.

long time ago, younglings were trained by Jedi Masters, the guardians of peace and justice in the Old Republic. But that was before the dark times. Before the Empire. Now, the Jedi are in hiding, and training in the ways of the Force must occur in secret at ancient Jedi temples scattered across the galaxy.

Younglings ages 4 through 12 are invited to take on the Trials of the Temple to see if they have what it takes to be a true Jedi. From instruction in Lightsaber technique to

learning to face their greatest fears of the dark side of the Force, an apprentice's journey begins with this Jedi Training experience.

The path is not without danger; the dark side is ever-present. Aspiring Jedi must remain vigilant, as their fear of the dark side manifests itself in visions of powerful villains like Darth Vader and the Inquisitor known as the Seventh Sister. With the Force awakening on both the dark side and the light, these younglings could be the galaxy's only hope.

For sign-up information, go to DisneyWorld.com/starwars and visit the Jedi Training page.





# TASTES THAT ARE OUT OF THIS GALAXY!

Feed your need to snack, *Star Wars*™ style.

or a limited time, you can enjoy yummy new *Star Wars*-inspired creations—and that includes old favorites as well as some brand-new offerings. This year, the *Walt Disney World*® Food & Beverage team went above and beyond the call of their intergalactic duty to theme each dish and drink to the event while offering something for everyone. Let's shine our laser lights on just a few of them:

- Dark Side Chicken and Waffles: Chicken and Vader waffles with BBQ sauce & maple syrup (available at Backlot Express)
- Royal Guard Burger: Angus beef burger, BBQ pulled-beef brisket topped with Monterey Jack cheese, lettuce, tomato, pickle & horseradish sauce (available at Backlot Express)
- Droid (lemon cake topped with buttercream) Cupcake, Darth Vader (chocolate and peanut butter)

- Cupcake, Chocolate Coconut Kashyyyk (German Chocolate Cake) Cupcake (available at various locations)
- Rebel Red: Grey Goose® vodka, Chambord®, sweet & sour, grenadine (available at Backlot Express and seasonal bars)
- Nonalcoholic Padawan Limeade Punch (available at Backlot Express and seasonal bars)
- Han Solo Souvenir Kid's Meal: Turkey sandwich, Pepperidge Farm® Goldfish® crackers & beverage served in a Han Solo bucket (available at Min & Bill's Dockside Diner)

Nifty novelty items like Chewbacca steins, Droid sipper cups, Darth Vader popcorn buckets and souvenir glass sets are also available for purchase. May the Force—and your appetite—be with you at *Disney's Hollywood Studios*®!

#### SYMPHONY IN THE STARS: A GALACTIC SPECTACULAR DESSERT PARTY

Enjoy a selection of sweets as the night sky erupts with an arsenal of impressive fireworks, set to the most dramatic and memorable *Star Wars* themes of all time. 8 p.m.

# monitor CALENDAR

#### VISIT NOW

Symphony in the Stars: A Galactic Spectacular Nightly Fireworks

Disney's Hollywood Studios®

#### MAR 2 thru MAY 30

EPCOT® INTERNATIONAL FLOWER & GARDEN FESTIVAL

Epcot®

#### MAR 1 thru APR 2

ATLANTA BRAVES SPRING TRAINING

ESPN Wide World of Sports Complex Tickets on sale now!



Passholder Registration Starts at noon EST 7 days before the general public

#### SPRING 2016

RIVERS OF LIGHT

Disney's Animal Kingdom®

Theme Park

### SUMMER 2016

FROZEN CHARACTER GREETING AND FROZEN EVER AFTER ATTRACTION Epcot®

To get more Passholder Calendar dates and info, visit

PassholderCalendar.com

And don't forget to like us on Facebook!



#### FIND US ON TWITTER AND INSTAGRAM!

Follow 

Walt Disney World Resort, for the latest news and updates and to engage with Cast Members during your visit.

Then head to Instagram and follow 

Observe Springs to discover all the dining, shopping and entertainment opportunities waiting for you!



# PAINT WITH ALL THE COLORS OF THE WORLD

Colortopia presented by Glidden® now open at Epcot®.

Jisit Innoventions® East to check out the newest interactive exhibit at Epcot®, Colortopia presented by Glidden®. You'll start the experience by downloading the Colortopia™ app on your mobile device, which adds a layer of play both during and after the exhibit. With mobile game options and more, the app's most exciting function is its ability to collect colors from all over World Showcase—you'll be capturing the desert browns of Morocco and the pale creams of Norway all for your own personal palette. The exhibit itself begins



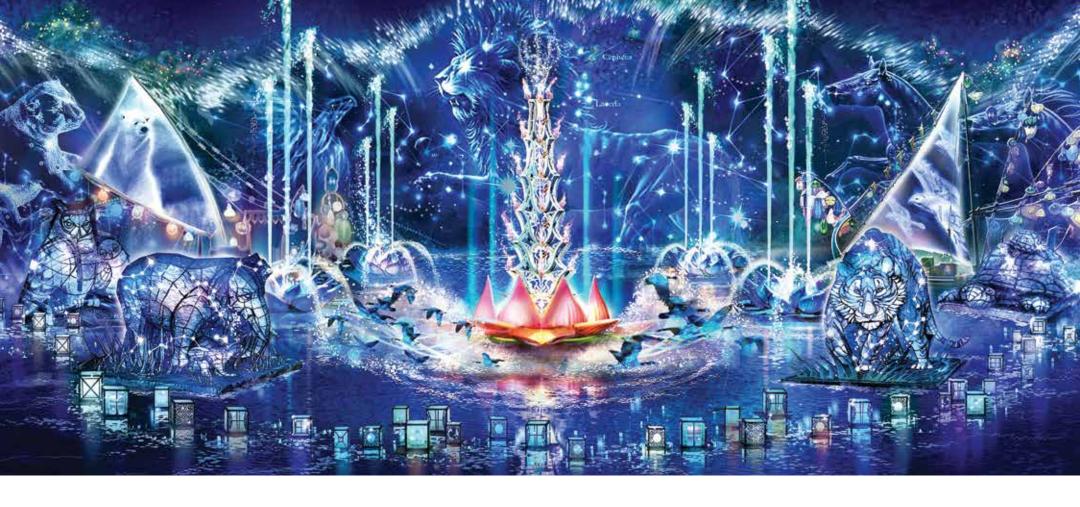


at the Power of Color Theater. You'll start by delving into the psychology of color, learning how certain shades and tones can change the way you feel. After, you'll explore The Color Lab. This interactive game station allows you to create bold new colors to discover how different paints react in countless ways—some expected and some unimaginable. After playing with digital colors and maybe learning a thing or two, you're off to Color Our World. There you'll find a studio where the surroundings create a canvas waiting to be brought to life. Fitted with a paintbrush and a touch of digital magic, you'll be coloring the space around you in no time at all. Come discover the most colorful exhibit at *Epcot*, and make sure to take pictures. Your friends will go green with envy.

#### Experience color from home

Visit **experiencecolortopia.com** to learn more about the exhibit and enjoy fun games that match personalities to colors.





# THE MAGIC OF NATURE, THE WONDER OF ANIMALS.

Rivers of Light will bring new light to the night.

o say that Rivers of Light will transform Disney's Animal Kingdom® Theme Park would be an understatement. The new must-see—part of the Park's first-ever nighttime entertainment offerings—will interlace technical innovation with epic storytelling, brilliant visuals and a moving musical accompaniment.

"Rivers of Light pays homage to traditional Asian lantern festivals and this beautiful myth about the aurora borealis," Michael Jung, Creative Portfolio Executive, Walt Disney Imagineering, told us. "There's an

ancient belief that when animals passed from one world to another they danced in the sky and became these beautiful rivers of light."



#### TELLING A TRADITIONAL STORY WITH CUTTING-EDGE TECHNOLOGY

Taking place on Discovery River, the show employs state-of-the-art projection effects, water screens, magical floating lanterns, live performance, music and shadow puppetry. It begins with two pairs of mystical hosts making their way to the river offering the gift of light.

Lotus lanterns open to transform into beautiful fountains. Four huge, amazing animal figures—an owl, tiger, turtle and elephant—appear and morph as their animal spirits awaken and come to life on the water screens. The hosts, the embodiment of fire and water, return and the dramatic finish includes the animals flying out and literally painting the aurora all around you in an almost dreamlike panorama.

#### ANIMAL CARE ALWAYS COMES FIRST

Of course, the welfare of the animals and the integrity of the Park itself were always top of mind, including not allowing any light projections or special effects to impact the animals or their environments and not installing technical infrastructure into the lagoon area.

Michael promises that this spectacle will be like no other experienced at *Walt Disney World*. Resort. "And what's so exciting is that our Guests have never seen this Park at night."

Check the Disney Parks Blog for further details related to the opening of Rivers of Light, debuting this spring.

# CHOCOLATE: A DELICIOUS INDULGENCE

The Ganachery at *Disney Springs*<sup>™</sup> gives chocolate lovers reason to rejoice.

hocolate is one of life's timeless indulgences. And at The Landing at *Disney Springs*, you're now able to experience not only the taste of the finest chocolates available, but have an enjoyable learning experience while indulging in them as well.

The Ganachery specializes in the production of its own proprietary mixture of luscious chocolate and cream known as "ganache." But don't be expecting an ordinary 'sweet shop'. "This has nothing to do with 'candy'," Disney Pastry Chef Stefan Riemer explains. "Rather, truly superior chocolate must be experienced much like a connoisseur would appreciate a fine wine."

#### NO NEED TO FEEL INTIMIDATED BY ALL THE GRANDEUR!

Carefully trained chocolatiers are always available to answer your questions about this sophisticated chocolate boutique. And you'll thrill at the sight of one of these experts handcrafting each succulent bite, encouraging all to try one of 16 different custom-made ganaches.

The Ganachery has something to enchant every palate. The shop features both milk and dark chocolate, and all flavors fall into four categories: Spices, such as chipotle; Classic, like caramel; Trendy, such as matcha yuzu chocolate; and Fruit, including passion fruit and orange blossom.

#### THE MAGIC IS IN THE MIX

The dark chocolate is a 65 percent mixture that adds a touch of vanilla. On the more exotic side, the dark chocolate with shaved Egyptian salt is sensational, as is the milk

chocolate with a dash of dark chocolate and a pinch of Sri Lankan cinnamon. Any item can be gift-wrapped in lovely decorative boxes that are themselves a work of art.

There are also custom-made chocolate bars (not made in house) celebrating beloved Disney Characters and iconic Disney destinations. You'll imagine yourself on the sands of O'ahu after savoring the pineapple and coconut of the Aulani Bar! Come on in and have a bite of heaven at The Ganachery.



#### **Frontera Fresco**

Award-winning chef Rick Bayless, well-known for his PBS series "Mexico: One Plate at a Time," will be bringing his singular style of gourmet fresh Mexican cuisine to Central Florida

Homecoming: Florida Kitchen and Southern Shine Celebrity chef and Florida native son Art Smith, will be opening his new restaurant that will pay homage to Florida's culinary bygone era.















#### HIT THE LINKS & MAK

hhh, it's good to be a Passholder. Why? You can enjoy NEW discounts of up to 30% off on world-class golf for you and three Guests. Plus, save on junior golf rates as well. This offer is available at Disney's Palm, Disney's Magnolia and Disney's Lake Buena Vista Golf Courses. Advance reservations are recommended; call 407-WDW-GOLF (939-4653).

#### MAKE A SPLASH

ime for waves and waves of fun!
As a Passholder, you also save at
Disney's Typhoon Lagoon and
Disney's Blizzard Beach Water Parks.
Enjoy \$4 off the admission price for
Guests ages 10+ and \$3 off for little
ones ages 3 to 9. And this is a Passholder
discount you can share—so bring three
friends along with you!

# FEATURED PERKS { Reward yourself!

NOW THOSE

PHOTOPASS

OPPORTUNITIES

WON'T PASS

YOU BY...

f you're a Disney Platinum Plus, Disney Platinum or Disney Gold Passholder, have we got great news for you: now ALL of your *Disney PhotoPass®* photos captured while your pass is valid for admission are included! Photos captured from Character Experiences and select dining and attraction locations are available to download as many times as you like up to 365 days after the photo is taken! Just link your eligible photos to your *My Disney Experience* account.

# USING YOUR PASSHOLDER DISCOUNTS

Passholder, you're eligible to receive some terrific discounts on dining, merchandise, Resort stays, recreation, entertainment and more throughout Walt Disney World® Resort. To make the process of enjoying your Passholder benefits as seamless as possible, make sure you have your valid pass and a valid photo ID ready whenever purchasing, booking or redeeming an offer. Discounts may vary depending on location, so it's always a good idea to ask if your discount applies.

#### NEW ONLINE BENEFITS GUIDE

Don't miss a single perk. Be sure to access your new, updated online benefits guide created especially for Passholder family members. It's convenient and easy to navigate and it's your portal to all your available benefits. Plus, you can now download an e-version to your mobile device!

Visit DisneyWorld.com/passholderperks for information on how to download your 2016 Benefits Guide and for a complete list of all participating locations.





#### NEW YEAR, NEW ACTS AT LA NOUBA!

Come and live it up with spectacular new acts seen only at La Nouba<sup> $\mathsf{TM}$ </sup> by Cirque du Soleil<sup> $\mathsf{B}$ </sup>!

or nearly two decades, La Nouba by Cirque du Soleil at Disney Springs™ has welcomed more than 10 million Guests into that place where the extraordinary transforms and overcomes the ordinary.

This year, the creative team at *La Nouba* took a leap into the whimsical by adding hip-hop to the musical mix and accompanying dance performances by world-famous B-boys (breakdancers, for those of us unfamiliar with the lingo).

Mind you, this contemporary, forward-looking approach should come as no surprise. Indeed, as Matthew Sparks, head coach and dance captain for this new act states, "Hip-hop, along with African music, was an early inspiration of the Cirque show."

The B-boys—Bebo, Incredible Josh and Dima Flying-buddha—known individually for their work in dance crews such as Skill

Methodz and films like Step Up 4, execute their craft with such agility, power and poise that you're left wondering why it took so long to make it part of the show!

To complement the exuberant excitement of the B-boys, the graceful performance of Aerial Bamboo calls to mind a more traditional circus feat. It brings a fresh, elegant charm to *La Nouba* that is yet another reason to see it happen before your eyes. Possessing both artistic capability and physical beauty, this stunning duo executes their dance and aerial feats to the haunting melody and words of Lara Fabian's "Immortelle."

Whether you've seen La Nouba a hundred times or you've never experienced the thrill, these two new acts are bound to delight your senses!

For tickets, visit **DisneyWorld.com/ lanouba** or call **407-WDW-SEAT**.





# WHAT'S INSIDE

- All that's cropping up at the Epcot® International Flower & Passholder exclusives
- NEW Star Wars" excitement ike Star Wars Launch Bay,
- *Disney's Animal Kingdom*。 Theme Park







The Walt Disney World Passholder Newsletter

Lake Buena Vista, FL 32830-0045 Disney Destinations, LLC PO Box 10045

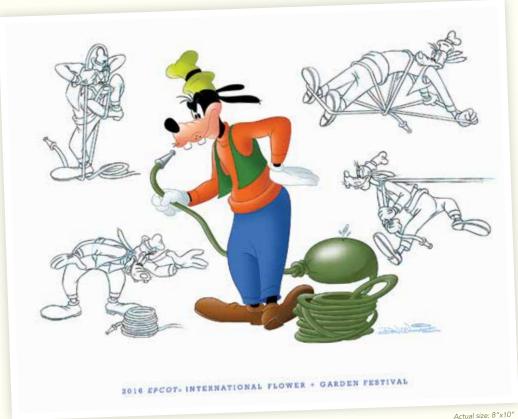
#### YOUR EXCLUSIVE PASSHOLDER GIFT











Each month during the 2016 Epcot® International Flower & Garden Festival, collect one of three special edition prints drawn by legendary Disney artist Don "Ducky" Williams. Find Donald Duck 3/2-3/31/16, Goofy 4/1-4/30/16 and Mickey Mouse 5/1-5/30/16.

Pick up the relevant print per month at Innoventions® West, just behind Club Cool during the festival.

April Edition: Goofy

#### DON'T FORGET TO **BRING YOUR**

Photo ID **Annual Pass**