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# MICKEY Monitor

SPRING 2011

## Characters in Bloom

Epcot® International Flower & Garden Festival



# The Magic Is Growing!

The *Epcot*® International Flower & Garden Festival Returns  
March 2–May 15, 2011

Passholders visiting this year's gardening gala are likely to run into a number of characters they've never seen before as a huge variety of Disney Character topiaries will populate the Park. From butterflies to begonias, petunias to pixies, the Festival will be abuzz with fun new enhancements and returning favorites. As well as the sweet sounds of some of your favorite live music from the '60s and '70s. The magic is certainly in bloom!

## What's **INSIDE**

- 2 | **Epcot**® International Flower & Garden Festival
- 5 | **Expedition Everest**® Five-Year Anniversary Special Passholder Event
- 8 | Wild Africa Trek
- 9 | Disney Junior—Live on Stage!
- 10 | ESPN The Weekend
- 11 | The Magic, The Memories and You!
- 12 | Gowalla Challenge
- 13 | Offers
- 14 | Calendar

## REGISTER

to get more out of your Pass

Take time today to register at [disneyworld.com/passholder](http://disneyworld.com/passholder) and add your Pass to your profile to enjoy extra-special benefits. Like access to the Passholder website with exclusive news. Plus the latest information on Passholder discounts, offers and special events.



Learn secret facts and insider tips about our Parks and attractions.







## A Bumper Crop of Topiary Fun

This year, 75 Disney Character topiaries—the most ever—will populate the Festival. Among the newcomers are some favorite Disney•Pixar Characters in signature settings. At the front entrance, you'll see **Woody**, **Buzz Lightyear** and **Lotso** from Disney•Pixar's "**Toy Story 3**." And talk about a bumper crop! Showcase Plaza will feature delightful topiary re-creations of **Lightning McQueen** and **Mater** from the Disney•Pixar animated feature, "**Cars 2**."

So how did this tradition begin? Topiary gardening first became popular more than 2,000 years ago, and became all the rage in 17th century Europe.

Three hundred years later, Walt Disney himself first planted the seeds to create topiaries in Disney Parks and Resorts. Combining the talents of his film animators and set builders with those of Park gardeners, Disney helped grow the topiary techniques to fit the whimsical design of **Disneyland®** Park.

Today, green-thumbed artists at **Walt Disney World®** Resort have further refined the creation of these amazing feats of horticultural magic. Each figure begins with a three-dimensional miniature sculpture or "maquette" of the posed character. Artisans then weld together a heavy steel framework to create a frame for the character topiary. At last, the finished topiaries come to life with a mixture of sphagnum with creeping fig, as well as a colorful mixture of plant materials.

It's no easy feat. **Walt Disney World** horticulturalists work for months to get everything ready for the spring.



### How many characters can you find?

*With so many topiaries, they're bound to pop up wherever you look. Want to find all 75? Here's a partial list of 25 to help you get started.*

- |                   |                               |
|-------------------|-------------------------------|
| Aladdin           | Prince Charming               |
| Bambi             | Prince Phillip                |
| Cinderella        | Princess Aurora               |
| Cogsworth         | Rafiki                        |
| Daisy Duck        | Snow White                    |
| Goofy             | (The Seven Dwarfs are nearby) |
| Lady              | Stitch                        |
| Lightning McQueen | Tigger                        |
| Lumière           | Tinker Bell                   |
| Mickey Mouse      | (and her fairy friends)       |
| Minnie Mouse      | The Tramp                     |
| Peter Pan         | Woody                         |
| Piglet            | Young Simba                   |
| Pluto             |                               |



## New Festival Features

**Pixie Hollow Garden** includes a miniature garden complete with favorite fairies presented in topiary form. And at dusk, for the first time ever, Pixie Hollow will come to life with twinkling lights. Best yet, a couple of **Tinker Bell's** fairy friends will be visiting the garden during the day.

Guests can also discover the **Healthy Living Garden**, presented by **Goldsmith Seeds** and their parent company, **Syngenta**. Offering both a fitness area and meditation garden, it's a great showcase for healthy living tips and plantings that can promote both wellness and relaxation.

Returning by popular demand will be the **English Tea Garden**—presented by **Twinings Premium Tea**—and the **Guerlain Fragrance Garden** at the France Pavilion.



### FLOWER POWER CONCERT SERIES

Relax "under the stars" and enjoy live music from legendary artists of the '60s and '70s.

America Gardens Theatre

Fridays, Saturdays & Sundays

5:15 p.m., 6:30 p.m. & 7:45 p.m.

**Jose Feliciano**  
March 4–6

**The Guess Who**  
March 11–13

**Chubby Checker & the Wildcats**  
March 18–20

**NEW! Melissa Manchester**  
March 25–27

**Starship starring Mickey Thomas**  
April 1–3

**NEW! Marilyn McCoo & Billy Davis Jr.**  
April 8–10

**Juice Newton**  
April 15–17

**Ricky Nelson Remembered featuring The Nelsons**  
April 22–24

**Paul Revere & the Raiders**  
April 29–May 1

**Davy Jones**  
May 6–8

**Herman's Hermits starring Peter Noone**  
May 13–15

Entertainment subject to change without notice.







# Celebrating Five Mountainous Years!

*Expedition Everest*® celebrates its five-year anniversary with a special evening event just for Passholders!

Can you believe it's been nearly five years since **Disney President** and **CEO, Bob Iger**, hosted the grand opening of **Expedition Everest** on April 7, 2006? Time sure flies when you're creating Yeti havoc. And if this seems like a great opportunity to celebrate, don't worry, we're planning a special evening for Passholders! (See inset at right.)

Towering at nearly 200 feet high and occupying a 6.2-acre site, the attraction has become the centerpiece of the Asia section of the Theme Park. And Passholders are sure to have spotted its peak even beyond

the borders of the Park.

In fact, it's become such a familiar part of our **Walt Disney World**® landscape, it's easy to forget what went into creating this mountainous marvel. **Walt Disney Imagineering** announced plans for the attraction back in 2003, to coincide (coincidentally) with the fifth anniversary of **Disney's Animal Kingdom**® Theme Park. In no time, WDI got busy bringing this enormous dream to life. Eighteen hundred tons of steel were used in the mountain structure. That's about six times the amount of steel that would be used in an office

building of this size. The mountain itself was crafted with more than 3,000 pre-fabricated "chips" created from 25,000 individual computer-molded pieces of steel. And to bring a little of the Himalayas to Florida, more than 900 bamboo plants, 10 species of trees and 110 species of shrubs were planted to re-create the lowlands surrounding Mount Everest.

Of course, this year marks the fifth birthday of the Yeti, too. He's certainly a familiar sight to those of us brave enough to keep our eyes open as we plummet backwards into the mountain.

Please join us in wishing the Yeti and his mountain a very happy birthday.



.....  
The harrowing twists, tight turns and drops of the **Expedition Everest** attraction are made up of nearly a mile of track.

## **Expedition Everest**® **Passholder Event**

Get your fill of Yeti thrills on a special night just for you.

**Saturday, March 5, 2011,**  
6 p.m. to 9 p.m.

Sign-ups begin on Friday, Feb. 18, 2011,  
at [disneyworld.com/passholder](http://disneyworld.com/passholder).

### IMPORTANT NOTE

Advance sign-up is required, and no sign-ups will be available the day of the event at the Park.

Make sure to visit the site and update your profile with your Passholder ID to gain access to this event and other exclusive Passholder offers. Not registered yet? Just visit [disneyworld.com/passholder](http://disneyworld.com/passholder) and follow the instructions there.



# New Adventures Await!

## Your Guide to Wild Africa Trek.

Ever been just a few feet away from a massive Nile crocodile? Or gazed down into the wide-open jaws of an enormous hippo? Passholders will do all of this and more on **Wild Africa Trek**, a brand-new must-do adventure at **Disney's Animal Kingdom®** Theme Park! Led by two experienced Guides, you and a group of 12 or fewer Guests will go trekking through unexplored areas of **Harambe Wildlife Reserve** on a private, three-hour expedition you'll never forget. Ready? Let's go!

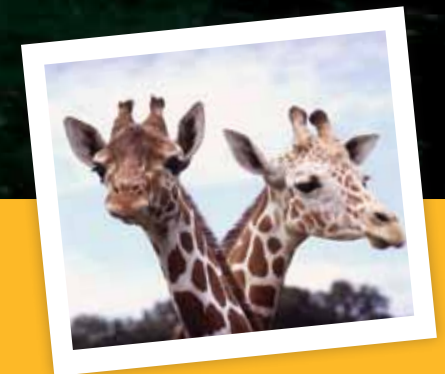
To make sure you're safe and secure on your trek, your Guides will fit you with an expedition harness that attaches to a cable system. After a brief hike through dense forest, your group approaches the edge of **Safi River**. You'll attach your harness, and then get closer than you ever dreamed possible to humongous hippos. If you're lucky, one of them might even open their jaws for you!

Next up, you'll cross a wild and wobbly rope bridge. You don't have to look down. But if you do, you'll get a preview of the amazing animals you're going to meet next—crocodiles! Gazing down at the riverbed lair of these prehistoric-looking creatures is a thrill that will leave you utterly breathless.

A hike through the forest will give you a few moments to recount your adventures so far. But there's more to come! You'll reach a clearing with a stunning view of the grasslands, and get your first look at the majestic creatures that call the savanna home. Then you and your fellow trekkers will climb aboard a VIP safari vehicle and venture to places others can't go. Along the way, you'll spot giraffes nibbling at morsels high up in the trees and animals, great and small, grazing on the plains.

Soon you'll arrive at a private safari camp for a real treat—African-inspired delicacies such as chicken curry salad, marinated Tandoori shrimp, brie cheese with apricot and more. All the while, you'll have a gorgeous, unobstructed view of the savanna teeming with wildlife. This is where you'll want to take plenty of pictures, but make sure you save a few shots on that memory stick. You're going to get back on board the safari vehicle and check out cheetahs, rhinos, scimitar-horned oryx and more!

Just think of everything you can check off your bucket list on **Wild Africa Trek**: crossing a rope bridge, going on a safari, getting up close and personal with the mightiest of creatures and more. This is a jaw-dropping journey only a few Guests will get to experience. Be one of them! We hope to see you soon, at **Wild Africa Trek!**



### How to book your expedition.

Reservations can be made via  
**407-WDW-TOUR (407-939-8687).**

Call for pricing details.

Guests under age 18 must have parent or guardian permission to call. Wild Africa Trek is not included with standard admission to **Disney's Animal Kingdom** Theme Park. Guests age 8 and older.





## Disney Junior—Live on Stage! to debut

Jake and the Never Land Pirates will add a new chapter to the newly renamed stage show at **Disney's Hollywood Studios®**.

Passholders visiting **Playhouse Disney—Live on Stage!** are in for a couple of surprises in March. First, it will have a new name to marry with **Disney Junior**, the newly rebranded Disney Channel programming block for kids 2 to 7 and their families. Second, there'll be a new cast of characters joining the show. Based on **Disney Junior's** new animated interactive series, **Jake and the Never Land Pirates**, a new segment will follow the adventures of **Jake, Cubby** and **Izzy**, a crew of kid pirates who must work together to outwit two infamous characters, the one and only **Captain Hook** and **Mr. Smee**, from Disney's classic "**Peter Pan**."

"They were still creating the TV show when we were putting our show together," said **Daniel Fields, Creative Director** for the stage show. "So we got one of the TV writers to write our show too. He created those signature moments that match the rhythm of the TV show."

This new chapter will feature more music and puppets than ever before. Plus a lot of theatrical magic to keep Guests wowed. "We always get help from the kids in the audience," added **John Addis, Senior Show Director**. "We want kids to laugh, dance and sing—just like when they're watching the series at home."



The last incarnation of **Playhouse Disney—Live on Stage!** saw more than 8,500 performances since its debut in 2008.



## ESPN The Weekend swings into Disney's Hollywood Studios® March 4–6

Passholders, here's your one-of-a-kind opportunity to interact with an all-star lineup of sports stars and ESPN personalities! Imagine having the chance to size up athletes like **Chad Ochocinco**, **Anquan Boldin** and **Brandon Jacobs**, live and in person, and taking a baseball clinic with **Curt Schilling**. Or being caught on TV as you attend broadcasts of favorite ESPN shows including "**ESPN First Take**," "**NFL Live**" and "**Baseball Tonight**," plus much more. ESPN will be telecasting from the **Sorcerer's Hat Stage** all weekend.

Plus, you can prove yourself with the swing of a bat, a jump shot or a perfect spiral, as the **ESPN Interactive sports zone** offers fun for the whole family. Choose interactive areas themed to the **MLB, NBA, NFL** and more. This is the weekend that makes sports dreams come true!

### "The best weekend of the year" for Mike & Mike



"**Mike & Mike in the Morning**" is one of the most popular sports talk shows anywhere, and one of the biggest reasons why **ESPN The Weekend** is so popular. "We love taking our show on the road, especially to **Walt Disney World®**," says show co-host, **Mike Golic**. "Being live in front of the fans is great. We make them part of the show."

**Mike Greenberg** even tells us that ESPN The Weekend is simply "the best weekend of the year for us." Golic explains why this is such a great event for families: "It's fan friendly. You're up close and personal with some of the greatest athletes of our time." Greenberg acknowledges being a huge sports fan, and a huge Disney fan. "We rode **Rock 'n' Roller Coaster®** Starring Aerosmith. Plus my kids got pictures with all the athletes. For a sports family, you couldn't put a better weekend together."



# Memory magic transforms Cinderella Castle

Have you ever seen a castle dance? You will. Each evening, **Cinderella Castle** is magically animated in ways that have to be seen to be believed as **The Magic, The Memories and You!** nighttime spectacular turns it into a magical new canvas for Guest memories.

“The whole idea is celebrating the memories that our Guests make every day,” said **Senior Show Director, Alan Bruun**. “So we’re using their actual photographs to help illustrate that idea.”

The production relies on a collection of high-powered, state-of-the-art projectors and some very clever computer image mapping. “We took a photograph of Cinderella Castle, then projected that photograph on the castle,” said Alan. “So we can make it appear like the actual castle is changing color. Turrets seem to spin. And ultimately **Cinderella Castle** will appear to transform into a huge curtain that unveils a magical collage of Guest photos.”

The show is inspired, of course, by the popular “Let the Memories Begin” campaign and includes hundreds of photographs taken that day of our Guests. “We’re constantly working with the folks at **Disney’s PhotoPass**® Service to get these photos,” said Alan. “So the show will be continually changing.”

Passholders are sure to appreciate this aspect of the show. “The thing that’s great about our Passholders is they have the sense of what makes the Park special on any given day,” said Alan. “I think it’ll be fun for them to see how Guests can enhance the feel of the show.”



## Download Gowalla for a special Passholder challenge



What’s **Gowalla**? It’s a location-based social network that inspires people to keep up with friends and share the places they go.

And now Disney Parks has teamed up with Gowalla to create a customized experience that lets people connect with other Disney fans while exploring **Walt Disney World**® Resort like never before. Using the **Gowalla** app, Guests can check in to locations throughout **Walt Disney World** Resort to collect digital stamps (shown above.) And custom trips will encourage Guests to explore the Parks in new ways and pick up virtual items as they go. Believe us, once you give it a try, you’ll be hooked.

Want to get in on the fun? Join for free at **Gowalla.com** or download the free application on your smart phone and start sharing your own **Walt Disney World** adventures.

### Earn an exclusive Passholder virtual pin!

Once you have the Gowalla app, check in at each of the following spots on your smart phone.

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <b>Epcot</b> ®<br>Pixie Hollow Garden                           | <b>Disney’s Hollywood Studios</b> ®<br>Disney Junior—Live on Stage!   |
| <b>Magic Kingdom</b> ® Park<br>The Magic, The Memories and You! | <b>Disney’s Animal Kingdom</b> ®<br>Theme Park<br>Expedition Everest® |

## European cruise video unveils new magic for families



Ships’ Registry: Bahamas

Now Passholders can discover the magic of **Disney Cruise Line**® European itineraries through a new online video. This enchanting new video offers a glimpse into all the experiences you’ll enjoy when you take in the legendary sights of Europe with **Disney Cruise Line**.

On these amazing 7-, 10- and 11-Night European Cruises aboard **Disney Magic**®, Guests sail from Barcelona, Spain, to visit renowned villages along the French Riviera and dream destinations on the Italian Coast. It’s an extraordinary opportunity to take in some of the world’s most famous landmarks—like the **Roman Colosseum**, the **Leaning Tower of Pisa**, **Trevi Fountain** and more.

Best of all, back on the ship, you’ll discover a rich cargo of onboard entertainment that offers something magical for every member of the family.

Visit **disneycruise.com/europe** to enjoy the video today.





## Catch Atlanta Braves Spring Training in Style

Here's a chance for Passholders to live the suite life in climate-controlled comfort. This year, our Passholder Suite is available for two great **Atlanta Braves Spring Training games**:

**Saturday, March 12 versus the New York Mets  
or Sunday, March 20 versus the Houston Astros.**

Both games are set to begin at 1:05 p.m. at **ESPN Wide World of Sports Complex**. Admission includes a commemorative game program and an assorted ballpark buffet (served noon to 1:30 p.m.).

Space is limited, so call **407-938-3223** to reserve your ticket package today.

For the complete Braves spring training schedule, go to [espnwwos.com/atlantabraves](http://espnwwos.com/atlantabraves).

*Suites open at 11:30 a.m. Valid Passholder ID required. Tickets are limited. Game date, time and opponent are subject to change without notice.*

**\$85**  
Guests 10+  
(tax included)

**\$75**  
Guests 3-9  
(tax included)

## You're invited to a *meet & greet*

experience with some of your favorite Disney Characters.

Become a **Disney Rewards® Visa® Cardmember** and be treated to a **Character Meet 'N' Greet** at our private Cardmember location.<sup>1,2</sup> Plus, get a **\$100 statement credit** after first use of the card.<sup>3</sup>

APPLY NOW at [DisneyWorld100Gift.com](http://DisneyWorld100Gift.com) or call 1-800-577-0870 and mention key code 65RG01



Your Every Day Magic<sup>SM</sup>

1. Offers subject to change without notice. Use a valid *Disney Rewards Visa®* Credit Card, *Disney Rewards Visa®* Debit Card and/or *Disney Rewards Redemption Card* for special offers. Must mention the offer to receive the merchandise discount. For entry into the Character Meet 'N' Greet Photo Opportunity, must present your valid *Disney Rewards Visa®* Credit Card or *Disney Rewards Visa®* Debit Card. Not valid in combination with other offers, discounts, promotions or with any previous purchase. Minimum purchase and/or separate Theme Park admission may be required. Offer elements, including but not limited to participating locations, are subject to availability and additional restrictions, and may change or be canceled without notice. Please visit: [www.DisneyRewardsParkBenefits.com](http://www.DisneyRewardsParkBenefits.com) for full terms and conditions.

2. The Character Meet 'N' Greet Photo Opportunity is offered at selected times at *Epcot®*. Separate Theme Park admission required. Must present a valid *Disney Rewards Visa®* Credit Card or *Disney Rewards Visa®* Debit Card for entry for up to 6 people per card (only one card may be used per visit). Operating times, days of the week, locations and appearance of Characters may vary and are subject to change without notice. Subject to availability and location capacity. Offer includes one keepsake 5 x 7 photo per valid cardmember account. Offer is subject to change without notice.

3. This offer is limited to a one-time award of a statement credit for new cardmembers after approval of your application for a *Disney Rewards Visa®* Card and first purchase/first use of the card. First purchase/first use includes purchases, balance transfers, any checks that are used to access your account, and excludes cash advances. First-time cardmembers only. You must use the phone number, website or application (if provided) contained herein to be eligible for this offer. New cardmembers responding to this offer may not be eligible for other new cardmember premiums. Please allow 6 to 8 weeks for statement credit to post to your account after first purchase/first use of the card.

*Disney Rewards Visa®* Card available to U.S. residents only, 18 and older (except in Alabama and Nebraska-age 19 and older), and subject to credit approval. Restrictions and limitations apply. *Disney Rewards® Visa®* Card is issued by Chase Bank USA, N.A.

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# Calendar

**EPCOT® INTERNATIONAL FLOWER & GARDEN FESTIVAL**  
Epcot®

March 2–May 15

**ESPN THE WEEKEND**  
Disney's Hollywood Studios®

March 4–6

**ATLANTA BRAVES SPRING TRAINING**  
ESPN Wide World of Sports Complex

February 27–March 28

**EXPEDITION EVEREST® FIFTH ANNIVERSARY EVENT\***  
Disney's Animal Kingdom® Theme Park

Sign-ups begin February 18

\*Passholders must register online to attend. Space is limited.

## View your benefits online

Visit [disneyworld.com/passholder](http://disneyworld.com/passholder) for access to our special Passholder pages. We've posted some great new offers here as well as updated 2011 Passholder benefits and other useful information.

**SEASONAL BLOCK-OUT DATES:** April 16–April 28, 2011; June 11–August 18, 2011; December 18, 2011–January 2, 2012

The *Mickey Monitor* is mailed 4 times a year: **February, May, August and November.**