

A Letter to the  
**Friends of the Garden**

Volume 4 Winter 2008

To all the Membership, Prospective Members, and Friends  
**You are Invited to The Friends of the Garden  
Annual Meeting**

To be held in the Community Room at the Chesterfield Family Center  
2511 W. Republic Road Springfield, Missouri  
on Thursday January 8, 2009 at 5 P.M.

The FOG holds an annual meeting for the purpose of introducing new officers and board members and to receive reports from the committees recapping the 2008 accomplishments and the goals for 2009 along with a short financial report.

The committee reports for 2008 will reveal a long list of accomplishments. The Development Committee has been very successful with fundraising and developing relationships throughout the community. The Garden Committee has succeeded in putting the finishing touches on gardens installed during previous years and started several new gardens. Thanks to a nice donation from the Botany Shop in Joplin, MO several new varieties of trees have been planted. The Membership Committee has a renewed vision and will be instituting new programs for the coming year.

Following the business meeting a presentation will be made on new developments concerning the New Botanical Center Building. Plans for the building have been finalized by the Springfield-Greene County Parks Department and funding for the project is getting very close to meeting requirements necessary for the start of construction.

The Botanical Center was included in the list of projects to be funded in part by the Parks Tax issue approved by voters in August of 2006. Because of the work of FOG at Close Park, the efforts of the FOG to keep the idea of a botanical center before the public, and the strong support of our organization in coordination with others made the inclusion of the center in the Parks Tax issue a reality.

The Board of Directors would like to thank the membership for all its financial contributions and efforts in supporting the organization, the hours of volunteer labor, the committee chairmen for their dedication to the task, and to all who helped in coordinating their efforts to make the Friends of the Garden a successful and ongoing organization. It is our firm belief that our investment in the educational and recreational opportunities at Close Memorial Park will be a great benefit to the citizens of Greene County and the many visitors to the area.

Following the meeting  
**Refreshments will be Served**

## New Officers & Board Members

The annual meeting gives the Friends of the Garden an opportunity to introduce the new officers and board members to the general membership. The nominating committee presented the candidates to the board of directors and were approved.

### New Officers

George Deatz, President  
Dr. Bob Kipfer, Vice President  
Gail Stineburg, Secretary  
Kauleen Volentine, Treasurer

### New Board Members

Don Akers  
Patrick Byers  
George Freeman  
Nancy Hopkins  
Heather Parker-Reece  
Cindy Willis

### Board Members

Susan Boswell  
Major Close  
Tom Dye  
Dr. Stan Horsch  
Kenny Knauer  
John McKinzie  
Paula Melton  
Dr. Bill Roston  
Peggy Sauer  
Mike Ward  
Gabrielle White

## E-MAIL LIST

The Friends of the Garden board in an effort to better inform the membership would like to invite the membership to submit an email address to [news@friendsofthegarden.org](mailto:news@friendsofthegarden.org). List members will receive current news and general information of interest from the organization. This will include the latest news releases, happenings at the gardens, updates on the new Botanical Center Building, and full color issues of the newsletter including bonus pictures. Developments are rapidly occurring concerning the new Botanical Center and projects in development for the gardens at Close Park. We would welcome the opportunity to share this information as fast as it happens. We are looking forward to an exciting new year and beyond!

## MEMORIAL BRICKS

You may purchase memorial bricks for the Memorial Walk in the English White Garden, memorial trees for the gardens or help finance a new garden as a memorial to someone you choose.

Requests for memorial bricks can be sent with \$50.00 and the desired inscription to Friends of the Garden, P.O. Box 8566, Springfield Mo 65801. Include your contact information.

The inscription can accommodate up to 15 characters per line with a maximum of three lines.

For any questions or information on memorials contact Bob Childress, Garden Committee Chairman 417-838-9454

## LOVE BLOSSOMS IN THE GARDEN

This past Summer a young man used the inscription on a memorial brick to propose to his girlfriend. She said, "YES" and a wedding is planned. We hope to include an interview of the couple in a future newsletter.

# Botanical Center Site Dedication

## October 23, 2008



Jodie Adams, on behalf of the Springfield-Greene County Parks Department gathered all the groups working toward the financing and construction of the Botanical Center Building at Nathanael Greene/Close Memorial Park. This event gave all interested parties the latest information on the capital campaign and an opportunity to see the actual footprint of the 12,700 square foot building.

Susan Boswell, Friends of the Garden Board Member and Chairman of the Development Committee, stated that with just \$256,338 left to raise, the Botanical Center will soon be a reality. The Botanical Center Building cost is 4.3 million dollars. It will be paid for in part with a portion of the 2006 park tax that was supported by Greene County taxpayers, funds from the University of Missouri's Extension Center, grants, and donations from the public.

Tom Dye, long time weatherman for KY3 and Friends of the Garden Board Member, spoke of the educational and community outreach opportunities that would be enhanced by the Botanical Center along with the current and yet to be developed gardens. Tom stated that the park's unique environment provided lots of vistas for both amateur and professional photographers.

Jodie Adams also announced that Richard Louv, author of the book "Last Child in the Woods", would be using Springfield as a test site for children and nature studies. Louv visited Springfield earlier this month and made a presentation about the growing body of research indicating that direct exposure to nature is essential for healthy childhood development. Louv addressed how well the Park Board and other groups had worked together to further outdoor educational opportunities for the area's children.

Congratulations to Jodie Adams and the Park Board for their work in this area.







Friends of the Garden past President Bob Childress and current President Bob Kipfer were given the opportunity to drive a stake to designate a point in the footprint of the new building. Conversations overheard after the formal dedication were that most were amazed at the actual size of the footprint of the building. Park employees had dug a small trench corresponding to the size of the footprint and filled it with white gravel to allow everyone to visualize where the future building would sit.

If you have not been to the site feel free to visit Nathanael Greene/Close Memorial Park and look to the area at the top of the hill north of Lake Drummond and you will find the site for the Botanical Center Building. The Park is located at 2400 S. Scenic, Springfield, MO. and is open daylight hours seven days a week.

To contribute to the Botanical Center, tax deductible contributions can be made payable and mailed to the Community Foundation of the Ozarks, 425 E. Trafficway, Springfield, Mo., 65806; with "Botanical Center Fund" on the memo line.

A special thanks to Dr. Bill Roston whose vision has been put into action and has resulted in several new gardens at Close Park. The gardens are young but designed to be sustainable collections of plant material that are not only educational but pleasing to the eye as well. Visit often during the growing season to see the gardens develop. Just this Summer over 55 varieties of butterflies were spotted by Dr. Roston in the Butterfly Garden.



The Friends of the Garden would like to thank everyone who has labored to bring this project to a reality! The patient and diligent efforts of so many have kept this project on course. We would like to especially thank Major & Marthe Close and the Close Family for their undying support.



THIS PAST SEPTEMBER, ANNE DRUMMOND WOULD HAVE CELEBRATED HER 100TH BIRTHDAY.

People who knew Anne in her later years often wished they had known her sooner. But if you knew her at all, you knew a woman whose zest for living extended throughout her life. Her memory is honored by a sitting bronze statue overlooking Lake Drummond in the Close Gardens.

"It was really hard not to be enthusiastic about something mother was enthusiastic about," remembers Marthe Close, her daughter. "She brought out the best in a lot of people."

Ann was a member of the Springfield City Council, the first female insurance agent in Springfield, a mentor to women in business, and a community leader all her life who found ways to recognize others as well.

Gertrude McBride Elementary School was named for another pioneering woman because of Anne Drummond's persistence.

Losing her father as a teen-ager, Anne was raised by her mother and an aunt who traded cattle internationally from their farm near Concordia, Mo. Anne's career choice came after the death of her husband, Caldwell Drummond, in 1955. With no other means of support, she opted to follow her husband's shoes, attending the Connecticut Mutual Life Insurance School in Hartford at age 47. In 1983 she was Missouri "Life Underwriter of the Year." She helped create three local professional organizations to help other women succeed in the workplace.

From 1977 to 1983, she served on the Springfield City Council, and was an early board member of the Community Foundation of the Ozarks. She also was a founding member of Friends of the Art Museum. Her love of history extended to Wilson's Creek National Battlefield, where her leadership was recognized by an award from the U.S. Department of the Interior. She was also influential in development of Jordan Valley Park in downtown Springfield.

Jan Horton, who would become president and CEO of the Community Foundation remembers Anne as having "a far-ranging intellect (who) cared about all causes. She influenced me greatly," Horton said. "Many of us serving in the community now were influenced by her, inspired by her and supported by her."

"She was one of the best mentors, not just to women, but to men as well," Busch said. "She gave people the courage to say, 'Yes, I can do it.' I don't think she knew a barrier she couldn't overcome."

Source credit: Springfield News-Leader, 2002



# Botanical Center Facts



The Center will be a 12,800-square-foot building set into a hillside in the 55-acre Close Memorial Park, which adjoins the 59-acre Nathanael Greene Park. The two parks, often referred to jointly as "Nathanael Greene/Close Memorial Park," share a common entrance at 2400 South Scenic in Springfield, MO.

The Center will contain classroom, meeting, and exhibit space, an elevated plaza entrance and roof garden, a library, a combination gift shop and bookstore, and offices for the Springfield-Greene County Park Board, University of Missouri Extension; the extension Master Gardeners; and Friends of the Garden and other citizen volunteer groups that support and promote the parks.

The Botanical Center cost of \$4,367,634.55 is being funded by \$3 million from a 2006 voter-approved quarter-cent sales tax; \$400,000 from the Greene County Commission and early donors; \$261,646 from the Springfield-Greene County Park Board; \$200,000 from a private donor; and approximately \$506,000 being raised by Friends of the Garden and University of Missouri-Greene County Extension.

As of November 13, 2008, the funds in hand totaled \$4,116,604.55 and pledges of \$51,400, leaving a total of \$251,030 to be raised.

Construction on the Center building will begin when funding is complete, hopefully by mid-2009. The contractor will be chosen through a public bidding process. Engineering firm names will be released when contracts are signed. Completion of the building is set for 2010.

A 20-year master plan for the Botanical Center approved by the Park Board in October 2006 calls for the building to be surrounded by 41 botanical gardens and an arboretum containing all of Missouri's native trees.

Twenty-one of the 41 planned botanical gardens already exist and are attracting visitors today. They are the Entrance Garden, the Butterfly Garden, the Daylily Garden, the English Garden, the Federated Garden Clubs Garden, the Mizumoto Japanese Stroll Garden, and many individual gardens devoted to dogwoods, flowering shrubs, hostas, iris, lilies, native plants, ornamental grasses, peonies, roses, redbuds, short prairie grasses, tall prairie grasses, turf grasses, and viburnums.



Additional attractions in Nathanael Greene/Close Memorial Park are Lake Drummond; the Gray-Campbell Farmstead; a children's playground; picnic areas equipped with grills; pavilions; statuary; scenic walkways; and the South Creek section of the Ozark Greenways Trail.

Color photos of the botanical gardens and additional information can be found online at [www.friendsofthegarden.org](http://www.friendsofthegarden.org) and [www.ozarksgardens.com](http://www.ozarksgardens.com).

The Friends of the Garden, a nonprofit group of volunteers, was formed in 1998 to create the botanical gardens and conduct the public drive for funds to build the Botanical Center.

MU Extension focuses on raising funds from Missouri University alumni and other extension partners, but may accept donations from other sources as well.

Funds donated to support the Botanical Center Building are held by the nonprofit Community Foundation of the Ozarks.

Tentatively named "The Springfield-Greene County Botanical Center," the facility may in time bear the name of a major contributor through what fundraisers call "a naming opportunity." Naming opportunities also exist for the Botanical Center's elevated plaza entrance and green space; multipurpose room; lower level outdoor plaza; two decks; a terrace; a dogwood motif; statues; benches; and planters. Details can be found online at <http://extension.missouri.edu/greene/botanicalcenter/general.shtml>.

Contributions to the Center fund are tax-deductible and may be made by sending a check with "Botanical Center Fund" on the memo line to the Community Foundation of the Ozarks, 425 E. Trafficway, Springfield, Missouri 65806

Designed by H Design Group of Springfield, the Botanical Center will be an energy-efficient "green" building and will seek LEED certification. The Center will be owned, operated, and maintained by the Springfield-Greene County Park Board.



## Background on the Parks

Nathanael Greene Park was received as surplus property from the U.S. Department of Interior and Bureau of Prisons in 1975.

Close Memorial Park was established in cooperation with the Springfield-Greene County Park Board in 1998, its purchase made possible through a donation from the C.M. Close Family. The same year, Friends of the Garden was formed to support the park. Work on the first garden in Close Park began in 1999. In 2000 Friends of the Garden began planting trees, Drummond Lake was stabilized, and a rose garden created.

A Missouri Department of Conservation grant in 2003 helped expand the park and clear it to create open space. Each year since, thanks to funds from the Close Family and the work of volunteers, additional gardens have been added and existing gardens expanded.

## Friends of the Garden

The Friends of the Garden mission statement is to "establish and facilitate a Botanical Center, gardens, and arboretum at Close Memorial Park and Lake Drummond to inspire the discovery, understanding, and appreciation of nature."

The group is made up of a large, diverse group of individuals from throughout the area who support the parks and the Botanical Center project. Friends of the Garden members are available to talk with individuals or groups about the Botanical Center. To volunteer to work in the gardens for 2009 please contact Bob Childress, garden chairman at 838-9454. For more information, call any of the numbers below.

Botanical Center Facts were compiled by Frank Shippe



### Friends of the Garden Contacts

George Deatz, president (417) 840-5472  
Bob Kipfer, vice president (417) 883-9382  
Susan Boswell, (417) 882-7439  
Bob Childress, (417) 838-9454



**Question:** What do I receive with my membership to Friends of the Garden?

**Answer:** That is a great question. A member receives tangible benefits include a free season pass to the Muzumoto Japanese Stroll Garden for two people for the season and our informative newsletters. However the real benefit is intangible. You become part of the growing Springfield-Greene County Botanical Center movement to assist with the development and enjoyment of Nathaneal Greene/Close Memorial Gardens and Park including the new Botanical Center Building, the arboretum and numerous surrounding gardens. We are a current member of the American Horticultural Society and are listed with over 200 additional gardens throughout the country. This list is online and available at <http://www.ahs.org/>. Your investment with your membership dues and donations, plus any volunteer time you might contribute, will continue to expand the center and help maintain the gardens. Finally, as a member you can walk the paths for exercise while enjoying the serene beauty of the gardens, attend our annual events, increase your natural knowledge and know that you helped make all of this possible.

Check out our website

[WWW.FRIENDSOFTHEGARDEN.ORG](http://WWW.FRIENDSOFTHEGARDEN.ORG)

More friendly garden info at

[WWW.OZARKSGARDENS.COM](http://WWW.OZARKSGARDENS.COM)

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## IMPORTANT

Please Renew your Membership or Become a  
New Member of the Friends of the Garden Today

- |  |                         |
|--|-------------------------|
| • <input type="checkbox"/> \$500 Corporate             | Name: _____             |
| • <input type="checkbox"/> \$500 Benefactor            | Address: _____          |
| • <input type="checkbox"/> \$250 Patron                | City: _____             |
| • <input type="checkbox"/> \$100 Sponsor               | State: _____ Zip: _____ |
| • <input type="checkbox"/> \$50 Contributor            | Phone: _____            |
| • <input type="checkbox"/> \$25 Friend                 | E-Mail: _____           |
| • <input type="checkbox"/> \$_____ Additional Donation | Membership Type _____   |

You will receive a receipt for your tax deductible  
membership and donation

New ☐ Renewal ☐ Gift ☐

Enclose a check payable to:  
Friends of the Garden Inc.  
P.O. Box 8566 Springfield, MO. 65801

Friends of the Garden  
P.O. Box 8566  
Springfield Mo 65801

## FUTURE BOTANICAL CENTER

# *Artist Renderings*

