

A Letter to the
Friends of the Garden

Volume 4 Spring 2009

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

To be held in the Community Room at the Chesterfield Family Center
2511 W. Republic Road Springfield, Missouri
on Thursday April 9, 2009 at 5 P.M.

We would like to invite anyone who would like to attend and join with our membership in recognizing the Close Family and all the efforts of the Friends of the Garden to bring Close Memorial Park to where it is now. This open meeting will give everyone in attendance a chance to catch up on all the progress that has been made concerning upcoming events in the park. We will also share the latest news about the construction of the Botanical Center.

The Friends of the Garden, Inc. was honored by the Missouri Park and Recreation Association with its 2009 Citation Award for a Non-Profit Organization. The award was given at the Association's annual conference March 11, at the Hyatt Regency Crown Center, Kansas City, Mo. and received by Major Close and his family who attended the event. This award recognizes FOG's loyal members accomplishments and service to the community but without Major Close, his family, and their vision and leadership this award would never have been possible.

FOG received the award because of its exceptional and tireless dedication to establish and facilitate a Botanical Center, gardens, and arboretum at Springfield's Close Memorial/Nathanael Greene Park which also include the Mizumoto Japanese Stroll Garden, Master Gardeners Demonstration Garden, Lake Drummond and South Creek Greenway.

Through private fundraising and support from its members, FOG has provided more than \$60,000 a year, since its inception in 2000, in cash, plants and volunteer hours. The group also played a key role in the overwhelming passage of both the 2001 and 2006 Springfield-Greene County ¼-cent sales tax for parks, open space and greenways, acting as an advocacy group in promoting the importance of the ballot issue. The balance remaining to be raised from private donors has been reduced to \$171,283. Contributions to the Botanical Center fund are tax-deductible and may be made by sending a check made payable and mailed to the Community Foundation of the Ozarks, 425 E. Trafficway, Springfield, MO 65806. Note "Botanical Center Fund" on the memo line. Private donations should be made prior to May 15th, 2009.

The Springfield City Council at their meeting Monday March 23rd, recognized the Friends of the Garden for their recent Missouri Parks and Recreation Association Citation Award. Jodie Adams made the presentation to Major Close with other FOG Members in attendance. This recognition also included what FOG has accomplished at Close Memorial Gardens and Park.

Following the meeting

Refreshments will be Served

FOG Board of Directors
George Deatz, President
Dr. Bob Kipfer, Vice President
Gail Stineburg, Secretary
Kauleen Volentine, Treasurer
Don Akers
Patrick Byers
George Freeman
Nancy Hopkins
Heather Parker-Reece
Cindy Willis
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

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 year and beyond!

Best of all it is Free

Interpreters Coalition of Springfield-Greene County

Friends of the Garden joined the Interpreters Coalition of Springfield-Greene County March 6th. The group's mission is best expressed in their Community Resource Guide.

"Children acquire fundamental concepts through active participation with their environment. As young children explore their surroundings, they begin to construct their own knowledge (Lind, 1998).

While the school classroom remains the primary instructional center, out-of-classroom experiences can bring a sense of wonderment and curiosity about the world to young learners. The Springfield area is rich with community resources that can provide educational experiences for students that might not otherwise be available to them.

In a truly collaborative effort, the Interpreters' Coalition utilizes the varied resources of our community toward field education and hands-on learning experiences. The Coalition was formed to help meet the educational needs of students and currently consists of partner members ranging from non-profit organizations to governmental agencies. This group of informal educators represents cross-curricular interests and expertise including science and the environment, history and social studies, communication and technology, and the arts. The Coalition sponsors an annual field trip for teachers, known as "Free-Wheelin' Friday". This event gives local educators an opportunity to find out about the various educational resources available throughout the city of Springfield."

Friends of the Garden will participate in "Free-Wheelin Friday" August 7, 2009 with a booth for educators for more information about how you may assist contact Bob Childress 417-838-9454.

We are pleased to be associated with the coalition and sharing the educational opportunities at the park.

Friends of the Garden recognize Dr. Paul Redfearn



The Friends of the Garden thought that this special bench would display well in this location just south of the Wildflower Garden. Also, it will be just across the walk from the new Butterfly House. This bench pays tribute to Dr. Redfearn for being a community leader, educator, and for his rock solid commitment to the gardens at Close Memorial Park. Paul, we cannot express in words what you have come to symbolize to our organization. For years, you contributed to the success and growth of the Friends of the Garden serving as a board member, treasurer, and president, for that we thank you very much.

Signs Planted in the Garden



PURCHASE TRIBUTE/MEMORIAL BRICKS.

\$50.00 EACH

SEND:

Your check,

Inscription of up to three lines with up to 15 characters per line

Your name, address and phone number

to

Friends of the Garden, P.O. Box 8566, Springfield, MO 65801

New signs have been planted in the garden. One sign is placed beside the brick paver walkway pictured above. Each brick can be inscribed as a memorial to someone or to commemorate an event. Several bricks are already marked and are in place. If you are in the garden the memorial brick walk extends from the paved walkway to the hosta garden through the white garden.

Good News

Emily Baucum KOLRIO/KSFX did a news report about Close Memorial Gardens and Park along with information on the new Botanical Center. You can see the video and her complete report at www.ozarksfirst.com

Spring comes to the Park



With the last few days of warmer weather the promise of Spring is in the air. What a wonderful time to take a stroll and enjoy the wonders of nature. Soon the Spring ephemerals will be in bloom, the trees bring forth new foliage and blossom. The birds sing their song of love and daylight lengthens bringing warmer temperatures.

Garden Maintenance & Exercise Sessions

Friends of the Garden has begun a regular program of garden maintenance and you are invited. The initial session has been completed but there will be a short orientation for those of you who are not familiar with the gardens at any future work session. Wear comfortable clothes appropriate for the garden and bring rakes, hoes and gloves. Be prepared to meet fellow gardeners.

There will be work sessions on each third Thursday of the month from 4:00 to 6:30 pm and on the following Saturday 9:00 to 12:00 through the growing season. Please feel free to come to one or both work sessions each month so put these dates on your calendar. If you have any questions or would like to request a different time slot please contact our Garden Chairman, Bob Childress 417-838-9454, email: ulmusfan@mowisp.net

Your assistance with the gardens maintenance during the growing season will assist our regular volunteers and staff keep the gardens looking beautiful throughout the growing season. Of course these sessions provide you a source of regular exercise combined with a community volunteer activity. We hope to see you the third Thursday, Saturday following or both!

Bluegrass & Blossoms Concert Coming in July!

Kenny Knauer has again assumed the job of organizing our Fourth Annual "Bluegrass & Blossoms" Concert. This has been a very successful and well received event in years past. Come join with Kenny, the Friends of the Garden, the Springfield-Greene County Parks Department and enjoy the music, gardens, and a wonderful day in the park. The Concert will utilize the area near Drummond Lake in Close Memorial Park from 2-5 p.m. Two musical groups, "Reel Greene" traditional Irish & American music and "Missouri Mountain Gang", traditional bluegrass music, will perform. Traditionally, attendees are asked to bring their own lawn chairs. Water and soda will be available. Plan a picnic in the park if you like and stay awhile. Mark your calendar and of course bring your family and friends. The concert is free but donations will be gladly accepted. Last years concert raised over a thousand dollars in donations. Volunteers are needed for this event. Let it be known and we will match a job to your unique abilities!



Our Special New Project

Dr. Bill Roston designed and is leading the construction of the fantastic new butterfly enclosure across the sidewalk, just west of the Butterfly Garden. It is affectionately called the "Butterfly House". Constructed out of mesh, covering a 24x36 foot frame, it will house the butterflies and host plants that allow the butterflies to undergo their complete life cycle so the public can observe the process. Stop by the gardens often and check the construction progress.

The Butterfly House is expected to be open for tours, by appointment, May 15th to October 1st. The season will be crowned in the middle with the first Greater Ozarks Butterfly Festival, July 11-12, with more details to follow later.

This project is one of many Dr. Roston has designed and developed over the years. Past completed projects include the Hosta Garden with waterfall feature, Butterfly Garden, Ornamental Grass Garden with over 125 species and varieties, Lily Garden, Iris Garden, Daylily Garden, Peony Garden, Virburnum Garden and Flowering Shrub Garden. Still under construction in addition to the Butterfly House are the Redbud and Dogwood Gardens.

Friends of the Garden want to publicly thank Dr. Roston and his wife Judy for all of their tireless hours designing and working on all of the beautiful gardens that are now the heart of Close Memorial Gardens and Park.

More Butterfly Notes

George Freeman, FOG grant writer and board member, expresses it well. "In science, butterflies and moths are lepidoptera. To children and poets, however, they are flying flowers, worthy of much chasing, catching and observation. And that's the reason Friends of the Garden is creating a Butterfly House in 2009 to compliment the Close Gardens in Nathanael Greene/Close Memorial Park. In July, we will invite the public to the first-ever Greater Ozarks Butterfly Festival. Along with that, we hope to attract thousands of butterflies so children can learn the science along with the thrill and poetry of the native butterflies of Missouri.

Butterflies touch people's lives in a way that only a very few creatures can. The lightning bug does, but only at night. Bees do, but they're busy pollinating, and can sting. And what better tune on a summer's evening than the throbbing drone of several thousand cicadas. Butterflies verge on the magical. In Russia they're called "babochka," or "little soul." In French, they are called "papillon." Some societies worship them, and believe that the afterlife begins as a butterfly. Their name in English derives from "lickers of milk." They transcend literature, fashion, science and even medicine."

"I only ask to be free. The butterflies are free." ~Charles Dickens

Thanks Wal-Mart and Employees

Friends of the Garden was the recent recipient of two Volunteerism Always Pays (VAP) Grants of \$250.00 each. The grants were for the labor that two of our members, Cliff Garland and Frieda Alexander invested working in the Daylily Gardens. Both are also members of the Ozark Daylily Society, Frieda as President with Cliff as Vice-President. Our special thanks to you both and to Wal-Mart for recognizing their efforts.

Friends of the Garden Members

Jodie Adams	Cliff Garland	Jean Munson
Don & Betty Akers	John & Carolyn Gerdes	L.A. Nickels
John & Patricia Ames	George Grice Jr	Ellen & Dennis Nolte
Shirah "Mimi" Aumann	Greg Grooms	Carolyn & Robert Nunn
Judy Averett	Dr. & Mrs. Peter B. H'Doubler	Dr. Barbara Oberlander
Lori Baker-Dorey	Fritz Hall	Steve & Arnola Ownby
Nancy Bell	Phil & Barbara Hall	Kim Paulson
Teresa Bell	Marjorie Harris	Carlos & Susie Perez
Ruth & Jason Bisby	James Hawkins	Pink Dogwood Garden Club
Maxine & Lyndle G. Bossing	Christie Heaton	Dot A Powell
Susan Boswell	Dan Hedgpeth	Marie Prater
Martha Brabson	Bob & Sara Herndon	Art & Josie Raborar
Ernest & Mary Lou Braswell	Karolyn Holdren	Mike & Tammy Rash
Barbara M Brown	Avis & Wallace Holloway	Paul & Alice Redfearn
Bill Buckner	Jesse Holt	Heather Parker-Reece
Dr. Jordan Burkey	Home Pride, Inc.	Marjorie & Nova Mrad Reese
Noelle Christine Callaway	Nancy Hopkins	Sandy Reese
Nancy Caplinger	Jan Horton	Harold & Sandy Robinson
Michael K. Carlie	Herschel Hubbard	Bill & Judy Roston
Dr. Elaine Carter	Edward G Janosik	Peggy & James Sauer
Mary & Corey Craven	David & Kay Jones	Jewell T Schweitzer Trust
Kim & Keith Chaffin	Ronald & Mary Jane Jones	Keri Sees
Robert & Jan Childress	Diane Keeter	Clark & Karen Selby
Jane Chrisman	Ruth Kelley	Bob Shaw
Barbara & Nathaniel Clark	Clejo King	Doris F Sheets
James & Nancy Claxton	Barbara & Robert Kipfer	Kathy Newsom
Major & Marthe Close	Susan Klepac	Shepherd of the Hills Garden Club
Lee & Peggy Coates	Patricia Klos	Susan & Michael Shikany
Elise Crain	Kenny & Martha Knauer	Michael & Mary Skinner
J Scott Cunningham	Sylvia Lankard	Dan & Mary Spore
George & Linda Deatz	Dr Richard & Faye Loeb	Erman J Stahl
Edward Deck	Sandra Jo Lowther	Ann and Craig Steketee
Mary Ellen Deck	Jerry & Vivian Lumpe	Michael & Autumn Stewart
William Densham	Guy Mace	Gail Stineburg
Douglas & Linda Duncan	Pauline Marsh	Susan & Dan Sullivan
Tom & Joy Dye	Paula M McBurnett	Steve & Jean Thomas
Ralph & Constance Eichholz	Cathy McCoy	Barbara Tombridge
Earl & Barb Eilts	Brent & Kelly McGowan	Lenna Tubbs
John Emmons	Martha Dean McLean	Vincent & Constance Tyndall
Ever Green Garden Club	Meredith & Tim McVey	Margie VonDerHeide
Judith & Larry Farmer	Michael & Kathleen Meek	Mike & JoAnn Ward
Lee & Pam Ferber	Joan Menchetti	Webster County Master Gardeners
Patricia Fort	Bruce Menzies	Gabrielle White
Carroll Fox	Duane & Marilyn Meyer	Tuell & Marilyn White
George & Nancy Freeman	Spencer Meyer	Dow & Linda Whiting
Mary Quinn Fry	Gaylord & Beverly Moore	Chris & Colette Wilbers
Eric C Fuller	Patti & Bruce Moore	Leslie Wilde
Mary Gallagher	David & Sharon Morris	Gee Williams
Kenneth & Karon Garbarino	N. Eugene & Cindy Morrow	John & Cynthia Willis
Sam & Jon Gardner	Jason & Jennifer Mortimer	Shelly Willoughby

Bonnie Wilson
 Cathy Winston
 Marc & Mary Lou Wittmer
 Virginia Woods
 Jim & Jewell Woodward
 Joel Woodward
 Jon & Marci Woodward
 Michael & Jan Wooten
 Ilene & Lester Wooten
 Robert & Patty Workman
 John & Beverly Young
 Xiang M Yu
 Robert & Marilyn Bell, Jr.
 Susan & Dan Cardwell
 Philip Gilmore
 Gayle H. Lee
 Hiltrud M. Webber

**Thanks to you,
 Our membership numbers are growing.**

Please check the list above for your name, if it does not appear the chances are your 2009 membership renewal has not yet been received. Membership is the life blood of any volunteer organization. Your current membership is very important for the Friends of the Garden to be able to maintain and expand the beautiful gardens that are currently open for the public to enjoy.

If you feel an error has been made in our list please let us know at news@friendsofthegarden.org. New members are always welcome, please assist us and tell a friend about the Friends of the Garden. With additional loyal members we will continue to grow throughout 2009 and for years to come.

Check out our website

WWW.FRIENDSOFTHEGARDEN.ORG

More friendly garden info at

WWW.OZARKSGARDENS.COM

IMPORTANT

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

- \$500 Corporate Name: _____
- \$500 Benefactor Address: _____
- \$250 Patron City: _____
- \$100 Sponsor State: _____ Zip: _____
- \$50 Contributor Phone: _____
- \$25 Friend E-Mail: _____
- \$_____ 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

