

# The Quarterly Journal for Friends of the Garden

VOL. 4

INTERCONNECTED ONLINE AT FRIENDSOFTHEGARDEN.ORG

SUMMER 2009



A visitor to the Butterfly House has a close-up encounter with a caterpillar, thanks to Dr. Bill Roston, above. The new Butterfly House was an instant hit at Young Sprouts in the Garden on May 30, attracting 500 visitors. Next up: the FOG Butterfly Festival July 11-12.

## Summer Festivals take center stage at gardens

### Butterflies, Bluegrass, blossoms and bands will put some Bbbbb's in your bonnet

The first-ever Friends of the Garden Butterfly Festival on July 11-12 followed by the Fourth Annual Bluegrass & Blossoms Concert on July 18, should attract plenty of new visitors to the Close Gardens.

Although the focus of the Butterfly Festival will be on young people, there will be activities for all ages in the new privately funded Butterfly House. Seminars on the science of butterflies and how to attract them, along with free guided tours of the entire gardens, including the nearby Japanese Stroll Garden and demonstration gardens of the Master Gardeners, will be available throughout both festivals.



### A week later, July 18, Bluegrass and Blossoms takes center stage

The performance area will be located near Drummond Lake in the walnut grove, 2-5 p.m. Attendees are asked to bring their own lawn chairs or blankets.

Two different bluegrass bands will be featured during this free event: "Missouri Mountain Gang," with Larry Mayfield (traditional and contemporary bluegrass); and "Reel Greene" (traditional Irish and American music).

"The Bluegrass and Blossoms event is a fantastic opportunity to hear great bluegrass and traditional music and explore the gardens," said **Kenny Knauer** of Friends of the Garden. Guided tours of the beautiful gardens in



"Reel Greene," above, and "Missouri Mountain Gang," with Larry Mayfield, will perform at Bluegrass & Blossoms. At left: a red dog caterpillar in the Butterfly House.

the park will also be provided during the afternoon.

"We want people to come out and see these beautiful gardens," said Susan Boswell, a master gardener and chair of the Friends of the Garden Development Committee. "Maybe it's time to celebrate, but we still need to keep working."

**Please turn to FREE FESTIVALS, page 3**

VISIT FOG  
ONLINE  
CLICK HERE

### Such a deal:

**7:** Join FOG and get one free pass for two persons to the Japanese Stroll Gardens.



### Construction begins

**3:** Bids were opened June 18 on The New Botanical Center; with contracts due in late summer.



## Around & about the Gardens

### Gray-Campbell Farmstead needs funds to move school

Virtually every fifth grader in Springfield has visited the Gray/Campbell Farmstead. Through hands-on activities, students learn about being a child on the prairie during the 1860's. They make rope, cook on the hearth, plant a garden, wash clothes, hear music and stories.

On Saturday, June 27, the Gray/Campbell Farmstead Association reached out to the rest of us. The purpose: to raise about \$20,000 so another historic landmark, Liberty Schoolhouse, can be moved to Nathanael Greene Park. Learn more about the Gray-Campbell Farmstead at right. Donations can be sent to Liberty School @ Gray/Campbell Farmstead, Ann Mobley, treasurer., P.O. Box 127, Willard, MO 65781.

For Gray-Campbell Farmstead answers, please contact: Michelle Atkinson, phone 417-725-4921 or send comments and questions to [information@graycampbellfarmstead.org](mailto:information@graycampbellfarmstead.org)

### Sister Cities Association plans October trip to Japan

The Springfield Sister Cities Association is sponsoring a trip to Japan, with stops in Isesaki, historic Kyoto and Tokyo. Approximate cost: \$3,400 per person; \$100 in advance. Credit cards are accepted. Plan to enroll by mid-July. Translators will be available. Dates for the trip are October 21-29, 2009.

Springfield Sister Cities Association is a non-profit organization providing the people of this community opportunities to learn about new cultures.

Contact Cindy Jobe, Springfield Sister Cities Coordinator, 417-864-1341, or [CJobe@springfieldmo.go](mailto:CJobe@springfieldmo.go).

### 'Gardens with Wings' offers help for butterfly fans

Gardens With Wings is a website dedicated to helping you attract butterflies. Just enter your Zip Code and they will show you where to buy the plants you need either online or from nurseries near you if we have their information. Visit them at <http://www.gardenwithwings.com/index.html> or [livepage.apple.com](http://livepage.apple.com)

## Gray-Campbell Farmstead friends saved historic buildings in parks

Two years ago, the Gray/Campbell Farmstead Association acquired Liberty School from Ron and Peggy Buchanan, the current owners. They are acquaintances of Vera Chandler, whose sister once taught at Liberty School.

Liberty first appeared on a county plat map in 1876, although many people feel it may be even older. The school taught grades 1 - 8 until 1951 when it consolidated with Fair Grove school district. The Liberty School Reunion on June 27th in conjunction with the Celebration of the One-Room Schools may provide new information, since former students are expected to attend.

Although the building is in decent condition for its age, it will take a lot of restoration once it is moved. The Buchanans have taken care of it for many years and hopefully it will be in it's new home by the end of 2010. Donations can be sent to: Liberty School @ Gray/Campbell Farmstead, Ann Mobley, treasurer., P. O. Box 127, Willard, MO 65781.

Gray/Campbell Farmstead has been in Nathanael Greene Park since 1981, open Sat. and Sun. 1:30 - 4:30 p.m. during the summer. The association's mission is educational. "Our Friends group has about 100 members, but only a few actual volunteers so help is always welcome," says Raelene Crotser.

Along with the house, circa 1856, there is a log kitchen, a two-crib barn and a log granary.

The home was built by James Price Gray and later sold to his brother-in law, John Polk Campbell, nephew and namesake of the founder of Springfield. It was occupied by the Campbell family from 1865 to the 1950's and was moved to the Nathanael Greene Park when the Kansas and James River Expressways were built.



**Liberty School, above in its original condition in 1854, would be relocated next to the Gray-Campbell Farmstead, above, adding another historic attraction to the gardens.**

### Peter Longley represents FOG at APGA conference in St. Louis

**Peter Longley**, acclaimed author, landscaper and creator of the English Cottage Garden, represented Friends of the Garden at the **The Global Garden: American Public Gardens Association**

meeting June 23-27, 2009 in St. Louis. Indubitably, Peter will bring us back a full report.

Many of the sessions focused on the Missouri Botanical Garden in St. Louis, celebrating its sesquicentennial in 2009.

St. Louis's other public garden jewel, Forest Park, was also front and center as one of the largest urban parks in the country with an expansive 1,300 acres (500 more than Central Park).

### North American Lily Society meets at Oasis Convention Center

For the first time since 1992, The North American Lily Society presented its 62nd Annual International Lily Show and Convention June 24-28th 2009 at the Ramada Oasis and Convention Center in Springfield.

The International Lily Show was June 26, followed by a tour of the Close gardens on June 27, attracting more than 100 competitors and thousands of visitors, many of them here for the entire four days. This is a great example of the kind of event that can be expected to visit Springfield when the new Botanical Center opens.

For more information about the Ozark Lily Society, please contact: Glenda Phelps at [glephel@sbcglobal.net](mailto:glephel@sbcglobal.net).





## Free festivals popular, but fund-raising must continue

### From Page One

"We also want people to bring their family and see the new building plans that we will have on display."

When the 12,700-square-foot Botanical Center is completed in 2010, it will provide space for educational classes and garden shows plus the Master Gardeners of Greene County. It will also include office space to be shared by the Springfield-Greene County Park Board, University of Missouri Extension Service staff and Friends of the Garden.

Fund-raising will not stop, however, says George Deatz, president of FOG. "We need to be thinking about funds to grow and sustain the gardens themselves."

**Tax deductible garden contributions should be made to the Friends of the Garden, P.O. Box 8566, Springfield, MO 65801**

## Bids look favorable for Botanical Center; construction begins in fall; opening in 2010



Miles Park and Jodie Adams review bids for The Botanical Center

Ten years after the idea was only a dream, 11 bids were opened June 18 for the new Springfield/Greene County Botanical Center. The bids produced results within the acceptable range. Details and a final awarding of a contract are still weeks away, but it is now clear that by late summer or early fall, construction should begin on the overall \$4.3 million project. Construction will take about one year.

The bid-opening is the culmination of a decade of fund-raising commitments from hundreds of donors, including \$3 million approved by Greene County voters in 2006. Greene County commissioners have committed \$400,000 to move the Greene County offices of the MU Extension Service to the 12,700 square foot LEED-certified building. The building will include wet classrooms, office space for a director, conference and large exhibition spaces, both indoors and outdoors. There will also be an office for Friends of the Garden, along with a gift shop and library.

"It's not hard to imagine quite a celebration when the center finally opens," says FOG President George Deatz. FOG is already at work developing a line of logo clothing and other items that will be one of the special benefits of membership. You can keep up with construction details and developments by e-mail at [www.FriendsOftheGarden.org](mailto:www.FriendsOftheGarden.org). Just click on the FOG Blog.

## Plants put the cellulose in artful designs

Let me introduce myself as a new member of FOG: **Shirah Miriam Aumann**, but you can just call me **Mimi**. I am a paper maker using plant fibers and have been creating paper and other objects for about 20 years. I have been privileged to have worked with native flora and fauna in several different locations on the globe. I work mainly in a sculptural way, but I also cannot resist a beautiful sheet of tissue-thin, translucent paper without a single flaw – very tricky, but the mark of a true paper maker.

Every plant is made up of cellulose – raw fiber – and some plants have more than others. Paper is made from the fiber or cellulose of plants. Even papers created from trees are made up of the cellulose of those trees. The more cellulose, the stronger the paper. The more cellulose, the more processing to capture all that fiber.

That is why a paper mill town has its own fragrance; it takes a whole lot of process in order to break down the trees to obtain that fiber. And more process means more caustic chemicals and more water and waste water, all of which are detrimental to our environment.

Did you know that the first paper was created from plant fiber? You don't actually have to slay forests in order to make the most beautiful papers and other useful items. Right in your own garden, you have an abundance of plants that hold varying levels of cellulose and can be made into beautiful papers. And different parts of the same plant can produce different types of papers. The season the fiber are harvested can also affect the outcome – the strength and appearance of the paper produced.

Please turn to ARTFUL DESIGNS, Page 5



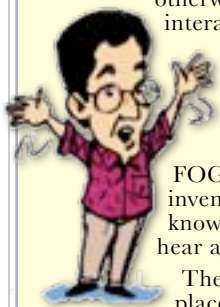
**A vase and flower arrangement made by Shirah Miriam Aumann involves the science of as well as the art of paper making.**





## You deserve a blog today, your source for views

If you use the Internet and visit us at [FriendsOfTheGarden.org](http://FriendsOfTheGarden.org), you may already have noticed The FOG Blog, otherwise known as our interactive newsletter. We're hoping it becomes habit-forming, and that you pass along our address to friends.



Your friendly fellow FOG Bloggers may not have invented the Internet, but we know a good thing when we hear about it.

The FOG Blog is great place to find out what's going on at the Close Gardens, and to sound off on issues such as recent vandalism at the beautiful Master Gardeners' Xeriscape Gardens.

FOG has not been immune from vandalism, but steps have been taken to guard against the stealing of plants, sculpture and even the large sign at the entrance to Nathanael Greene/Close Memorial Parks.

FOG believes it's time to fight back. After donating \$200 to our friends the Master Gardeners to defray the cost of replacing stolen and damaged plants, the board is considering a reward fund if vandalism continues.

## Jess Rash heads to Japan after very 'Clever' 4-H raffle

Friends of the Garden has a new member, **Darrell Albers**, winner of the Jot'em Down 4-H Missouri Club Delegate Raffle on April 11th.



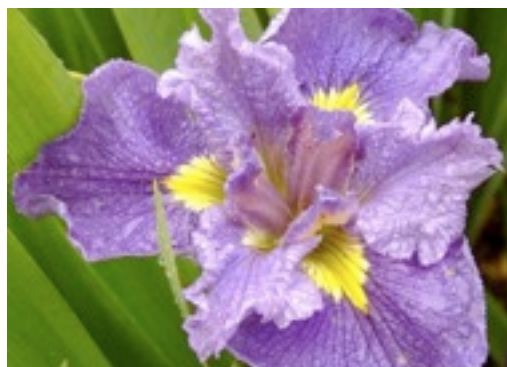
**Jess Rash**

**Jess Rash** of Clever was selected to represent Missouri 4-H Clubs as a delegate to Japan this summer. She held the raffle to raise money for the trip. Very clever.

Jess will live with a host family for a month to experience life in Japan.

"This encourages kids from different cultures to make friends with each other, and then as adults they should understand people from different countries better," she writes.

FOG is hoping to hear from Jess by e-mail while she is visiting Japan from July 8 through Aug. 6, and that upon her return, she will join us in FOG.



**Almost any day in the gardens, you're likely to find a photographer searching for the perfect portrait of one of nature's perfect blooms. "My husband and I enjoy our visits to the Gardens and I always have my camera in hand," says Susan Wilson, who took the two bottom photos of an iris and white rose. Hiltrude "Sam" Webber photographed the Iris blooms at top.**

## Sam McGowan, by any other name, would still love the Rose Gardens

Sam McGowan might tell you he has never met a rose he didn't like. The Vietnam veteran volunteers three days in each week tending the 75 or so plant cultivars he first put in the ground in 2001.

It's a family passion. Daughter Ashley majored in horticulture at MSU, and now tends the gardens full time at Twin Oaks. Sons Brent and Brad, and his wife, Katie, whom he met in Scotland, all have put in their time. These days, she now cares for the 200 plants at home. Sam prefers the Close Gardens.

"It's just more fun growing them in a public garden than it is at home," says Sam. "On a hot summer day, you can see the roses smiling back at you."

After the Navy, Sam spent three decades building nuclear reactors and working on highly technical projects for City Utilities. He was post commander at the Vietnam Veteran's American Legion Post, where he also installed a rose garden, when Major Close came around to meet the neighbors of the new park.

Credit Theta Steinert of Steinert Greenhouses, a FOG member, who



**Sam McGowan in the Rose Gardens he and his family created the garden in 2001. He has tended them ever since.**

donated every plant in the rose gardens. Two dump trucks of native Ozark stone for the raised beds came from Sam's friend, Louie in Battlefield. Mark Randall of Columbia has donated Bayer's line of garden products to ward away pests, which may account to the relative absence of aphids, Japanese beetles and a variety of other pests.

"There's some strange, strange bugs out there, and they all seem to like to eat roses," says Sam. There's also the occasional dog to clean up after, most annoying.

"I'm a believer in early prevention," he offers as advice. "You've got to spot a problem early and take care of it."

# Welcome to these new and renewing members\*

Dan & Susan Cardwell  
Robert & Marilyn Bell  
Philip Gilmore  
Gaye Lee  
Edwina Cook  
Sara Herndon  
Stan & Susan Parrish  
Donnie & Susan Wilson  
Kevin & Susan Vandegriff  
Lois Buckley  
Gina Ballenger  
Linda Passeri  
Nadine & OJ Taylor  
Stephanie Smallwood  
Susan Boswell  
Tri-Lakes Petroleum Co.  
Ernest & Mary Braswell  
Ruth Auner  
Danny & Shirley Kiser  
Bruce & Patti Moore  
Frieda Alexander  
Michael & Katie Meek  
Peter Longley  
Mike Carlie  
Paul & Dyanne Kirk  
Jewell Schweitzer  
Joe & Julie Close  
Donna R. Allyn  
Yuriko Mizumoto Scott  
Mario & Emily Canlas  
Roxie Bollinger  
Tim & Sandy Thompson

Carl & Janet Haworth  
Michael Stout  
Margaret & Clark Kelly  
Barbara Lucks  
Paula Ross  
James Shaeffer  
Anonymous member  
Crystal Schwalie  
Dr. Elaine Carter  
Harold & Sandy Robinson  
Darrell Albers  
Gerald Getty  
Larry Henry  
Ann Webster  
Beverly B. Brown  
Bill Sachs  
Nancy Shumate  
Melissa Marie Wittmer  
Mirowski Inspections, LLC (Steve and Dana Mirowski)  
Mr. & Mrs. Edward Deck  
Patricia White Walker  
Nathaniel & Barbara Clark  
Ryan Patterson  
Dana Havens  
Jean Munson  
Arlene Pittman  
Wallace & Joyce Munden  
Dr. H. L. Stanton  
Janet & Yates Trotter  
Dick & Mary Kay Carson  
Carl & Joyce Redmon

Bobbie Moyer  
Jodell Manley  
Michael Anderson  
Jane Schwab  
Cynthia Arrowood  
Roseann Bentley  
Danny Carver  
Patricia Lewis  
Mary Henry  
Tom & Marcia Nelson  
Tom & Kristi Kittleston  
George & Mary Connor  
Sue & Andy Dalton  
Lois Zerre  
Paul & Melissa Gillian  
Carolynn Chittim  
John & Rosemary Anno  
Dr. Michael Clarke  
Paula Hood  
Steve & Jean Thomas  
Jesse Holt

**Important Note: If you have not yet sent your new membership application or renewal for 2009, please do so using the form on page 7. Friends of the Gardens strives to serve you and expand and maintain our gardens. Please address any member questions to [news@friendsofthegarden.org](mailto:news@friendsofthegarden.org).**

\*Since the last newsletter

## Artful designs: a 'water sport' from backyard fibers

### Continued from Page 3

Some of the plants that you might be most familiar with would be iris, hosta, daylily, ornamental grasses - and many wildflowers and native grasses as well...

Fibers for paper making are usually broken up into 3 different categories: grass, leaf and bast. You would use the leaf or foliage of the iris, hosta and daylily in the leaf category and the foliage of the ornamental grasses in the grass category.



**Mimi Aumann**

The bast category is much broader and covers some of the wildflower stalks, as well as small shrubs such as the althea - and even your okra and tomato stalks hold bast fibers. And, some of the most beautiful Oriental papers in the world use

the bast of the Japanese Paper Mulberry tree, producing the silken kozo papers. I have my very own kozo grove here in the Missouri Ozarks and harvest each winter to capture the beautiful fibers - very labor-intensive, but certainly worth the effort for these special papers. In the case of using a tree bast for papers, the tree does not have to give its life for the paper - only the branches are pruned and stripped to capture the fibers inside the bark.

If you are interested in how you might make papers from the plants in your garden, there are many websites where you can find instructions for beginners. (The most complete site for beginners: <http://www.handpapermaking.org/beginner/index.htm>) There are also demonstrations of the process on YouTube. Even though working with plant fibers will require some practice to produce your best papers, a good way to get that practice is to start simply with shredded office papers - or

stationery with more cotton content - and add your plant fiber inclusions. These can make very beautiful and exotic papers and impress your friends and family.

Our new botanical centre will allow us to have an educational outreach to the community in sharing many aspects of plant life. It will be a great opportunity to teach conservation and environmentalism and the importance of water, the source of life for all humankind and plant and animal life. The harvesting of our plants for paper making would be one of the ways to show a proper use of our natural fibers without abusing our forests by clear cutting and chip mills - which endanger the environment and the inhabitants of the forests and streams as well. It is also a fun way to teach these values to both children and adults - I call it my favorite "water sport!"

**- Written for Friends of the Garden, Spring 2009, Mimi Aumann**



# Garden Notes & other good stuff

## You're invited to FOG board meetings

You're invited to the monthly board meetings of Friends of the Garden on the second Thursday of each month at the Chesterfield Family Center, 2511 W. Republic Road, Springfield. Meetings start promptly at 5 p.m. Members and guests are welcome to come as you are.

For more information, please call:  
**George Deatz, President**  
(840-5472); **Bob Kipfer,**  
**Vice President (883-9382)**

E-mail [news@friendsofthegarden.org](mailto:news@friendsofthegarden.org)

## Works sessions at gardens continue through season

### From Bob Childress, garden chairman:

The third Thursday of the month and on the following Saturday are our scheduled work days will be from 4- 6:30 p.m. on **Thursday, and on Saturday, from 9 a.m. to Noon.** If you prefer to work other hours, please contact me at 838-9454 or by e-mail at [ulmusfan@mowisp.net](mailto:ulmusfan@mowisp.net).

Wear comfortable clothes appropriate for the garden and bring gloves and equipment to work with mulch, etc.

Please keep a record of your volunteer hours. I will ask for a list at the end of the year. We report the total to the Parks Department and receive a dollar credit for

them. I want to thank those who worked last month and I hope to see you all on Thursday or Saturday – or both.

## Walmart grants recognize efforts of two FOG members

For the second time in 2009, the Friends of the Garden was the recipient of two Volunteerism Always Pays (VAP) Grants of \$250.00 each from Walmart. Both times this year the grants recognized the volunteer labor that two of our members, Cliff Garland and Frieda Alexander, invested working in the Daylily Gardens at Close Memorial Gardens and Park.

Both are also members of the Ozark Daylily Society, Frieda as President with Cliff as Garden Coordinator. Our special thanks goes to both and to Walmart for recognizing their efforts in an exemplary way that volunteerism benefits the community.

## \$1 million Lottery Prize will jump-start landscaper

A Rogersville man, Roger Owens, 49, who won a very cool \$1 million scratch-off prize in the Missouri Lottery, says he will use his winnings to expand a landscaping business with his sons.

Already a landscaper, Owens plans to buy new vehicles for his sons, a truck for himself and expand the family business.



Amy Tuggle and daughter, Ella, 2, enjoy the efforts of Master Gardeners at Young Sprouts on May 30. Amy chaired the event, which attracted an estimated 500-1,000 visitors to the parks, including 500 to the newly opened Butterfly House.

## Membership in FOG has its own rewards:

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

Great question. Tangible benefits include a free season pass for two to the Mizumoto Japanese Stroll Gardens for two people for the season. You also receive this informative newsletter, by e-mail or traditional mail.

The real benefit, however, is intangible. You become part of the growing movement to assist with the development and enjoyment of Nathanael Greene/Close Memorial Gardens and Park, including the new Botanical Center Building, numerous surrounding gardens and the arboretum.

Your membership is an investment. Your dues and donations, plus any time and talent you might contribute, will continue to expand the center and help maintain the gardens.

Of course, as a member you can walk the paths for exercise while enjoying the serene beauty of the gardens, knowing you helped make all of this possible.

## Question: As a member, am I required to do anything to keep my membership active other than pay my dues?

The short answer is no. Many of our members do volunteer to work in some of our gardens. We call the work sessions an opportunity for exercise while at the same time enjoying the plants and nature around you. Other s volunteer to write articles, attend meetings in the community telling our story or serve on our Board of Directors. But if you do no more than tell a friend about our organization to help us expand our membership, that's enough. The main thing that is important is that you enjoy your experience as a member of the Friends of the Garden.

Let us answer your questions. Send them to [news@friendsofthegarden.org](mailto:news@friendsofthegarden.org). You can also join FOG using the form on Page 7.

## Bee parasite genome isolated



Most of us have heard about the birds and the bees, the flowers and the trees, and a thing called love.

Bees need some love. Scientists from the U.S.

Department of Agriculture have sequenced the genome parasite suspected of contributing to [colony collapse disorder](#), the mysterious disease that has been killing large numbers of honeybees since 2006. [The study](#) is in the journal in PLoS Pathogens. If you're reading this

online, you're just a click on the blue hyperlinks to learn more.

The parasite, *Nosema ceranae*, causes a fungal disease, infecting honeybees through their digestive tract. It then spreads to other tissue and organs.

Understanding the genetic makeup of the parasite could allow researchers to trace its lineage, understand how it infects and causes disease in honeybees. Ultimately, they may be able to discover its role in colony collapse disorder.

"The whole group of parasites it belongs to has mysterious effects on insects, and we don't know much about their biology," says Jay Evans, an entomologist with the Agricultural Research Service.



## Support Friends of the Garden: Become a member

Your interest in being a member of a Friends of the Garden is the first step to make a lasting difference in developing The Botanical Center and Gardens at Nathanael Greene/Close Memorial Park in Springfield, Mo.

### Purpose of Membership

Friends of the Garden Inc., is a non-profit organization, that supports the development, construction and maintenance of The Botanical Gardens at Close Memorial Park.

### Membership Benefits

Friends of the Garden believes that gardens enrich our lives and those of future generations by giving some back. Members receive the following:

- **Newsletters** about gardening programs, events and other other educational opportunities.
- **Free Seasonal Admission** to the Mizumoto Japanese Stroll Garden for you and one other person.
- **Special events**, including the Friends of the Garden Butterfly Festival and exhibitions, Bluegrass & Blossoms concert, educational and other benefits.
- **New friends** who share your gardening interest and make Springfield a more beautiful city to visit and call home.
- **Opportunities to volunteer** on projects from gardening to fund raising.

#### Membership levels:

- ☐ \$ 500 - Benefactor
- ☐ \$ 250 - Patron
- ☐ \$ 100 - Sponsor
- ☐ \$ 50 - Contributor
- ☐ \$ 25 - Friend
- ☐ \$ 25 - Gift Membership
- ☐ Other

#### Corporate Memberships

- ☐ \$ 150 - Bronze
- ☐ \$ 250 - Silver
- ☐ \$ 500 - Gold
- ☐ \$1,000 - Platinum

#### Please tell us about you:

NAME \_\_\_\_\_  
ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_  
CITY \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP CODE \_\_\_\_\_  
STATE \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE \_\_\_\_\_  
E-MAIL \_\_\_\_\_

Thank you!

#### Please indicate Annual Membership Type:

New ☐      Renewal ☐      Gift ☐

Please send your tax-deductible annual membership dues to:

Membership, c/o Friends of the Garden, Inc. P.O. Box 8566, Springfield, MO 65801

You or someone you know may wish to consider purchase memorial bricks for the Memorial Walk in the English White Garden, memorial trees for the garden or help finance a new garden as a memorial to someone you choose. (For more information, please contact our garden chairman, Bob Childress (417-838-9454).

June 23/2009

# Gift of Time Award recognizes Major Close for volunteer work

The flowering of an idea often requires imagination, persistence and discipline perspiration, a gift of time.

Now Major Close, the primary visionary, benefactor, cheerleader and self-described “unskilled laborer” at the Close Memorial Gardens, has been honored with a Gift of Time Award for sharing his time and resources at the gardens since their inception a decade ago. The 10 recipients were chosen from 70 nominations to the Springfield Area Council of Churches from 57 organizations.

It is no small irony that Major’s well-deserved award came only a few hours before bids were opened for the \$4.3 million Botanical Center, 12,700 square-foot botanical center that he envisioned.

During the past decade, funds given by Major and Marthe Close and many others have honored family members even as they remind all of us that a garden requires an investment of time as well as resources.

The dividend: Future generations will enjoy the world-class public gardens and Botanical Center in Springfield that Major Close and others envisioned. But the Close family’s financial generosity was only the beginning.

Gardens must be nurtured (and weeded often); Major has given many thousands of solitary hours, often on his knees. His leadership has been by his example and stewardship.

Without even knowing him, visitors often observe Major Close as they wind through the 21 spectacular gardens. They might not realize that he nurtured not only plants and trees but the talented team of gardeners recruited one by one. Many of his recruits continue to be involved in developing the gardens, joined by hundreds more members of Friends of the Garden Inc. as momentum for the garden has grown.

Marthe Drummond Close, who met her husband on a blind date, would tell you that this Harvard graduate, former adjunct professor and Drury fund-raiser is a frugal man in most ways who detests yard work at home.

Ann Webster, the first president of FOG, whose father was a business partner with Major’s father, Cephus Close, is unequivocal: “Major is the one who made it happen. He just stayed with it.”

Except for yard work, he still does.



At top, Major Close with the 2009 Citation Award presented by Missouri Parks and Recreation Association. Below, Parks Director Jodie Adams gets kudos from Major Close after the Gift of Time luncheon. Jodie recently received her own recognition, the Franklin Kenworthy Award, Leadership Springfield’s top award.



P.O. 8566  
Springfield, MO 65801