

The Bimonthly Journal of the Friends of the Garden

VOL. 13, NO. 2

REACH US AT 417-891-1515

FEBRUARY/MARCH 2018

Growing the Gardens Sponsorship Campaign

The Springfield Botanical Gardens is fittingly blanketed by a January snowfall, postponing the 2018 annual meeting. A fund-raising torch has been lit to secure \$500,000 in pledges.

Photo by Aaron J. Scott

Friends of the Garden has embarked on the first capital campaign since the opening of the Springfield Botanical Center, with the mission to provide sound financial support for each of the approximately 40 gardens at the Springfield Botanical Gardens.

Led by board member Morey Mechlin, supported by every member of the board of directors, the campaign has so far received pledges of \$250,000 toward an overall goal of \$500,000 by early spring. Further details will be announced through various social media, after the 2018 annual meeting was canceled because of weather.

Pledges have been received from Springfield First Community Bank, Positronic Industries, Hogan Land Title, Central Bank/Central Trust, Commerce Bank, Marge and Hearld Ambler, the Musgrave Foundation, Dr. Dan and Susan Cardwell, Beth Raidel, Edwin and Phoebe Rice, Candy Trogolo, Tom Finnie, Dr. John and Kathy Steinberg, Gail Melgren, Rosalie Wooten Jodie Adams, Tom and Chandler Carlson, Bill and Debbie Hart, Dr. Robert and Barbara Kipfer, and one sponsorship dedicated to Dylan and Cyrus Pearson.

**VISIT FOG
ONLINE
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Parks Perspective

Page 7: Katie Keith explains SGFBot.org, the new online connection to the Botanical Gardens.



Profile: Kelly McGowan

Page 2: Our tireless MU Extension horticulture educator wears many hats. Now she has added a mortar board for her Master's Degree.

If you're reading this newsletter online, many items are hyperlinked for further information.

AboutFOG

Vol. 13, No. 2, FEBRUARY/MARCH 2018
2400 S. Scenic, Springfield, Mo. 65807

Friends of the Garden is a non-profit 501(c)(3) corporation founded in 1999 to develop the Close Memorial Gardens, located at 2400 South Scenic in Springfield, home of the Springfield/Greene County Botanical Center. We seek a dynamic relationship with other organizations working to benefit the park gardens. This newsletter is now published six times a year in print through Ozarks Living Magazine and delivered online as well to members. Past issues and other information can be found at

www.FriendsoftheGarden.org.

Officers:

President: Kim Chaffin
Vice-president: Becky Morgan
Secretary: Morey Mechlin
Treasurer: Christy Yoakum

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Terms Ending 2018: Maggie Black, Kim Chaffin, George Freeman, Louise Knauer, Gail Melgren, Becky Morgan, Betty Shook

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Advisory Board: Chris Barnhart, Carla Beezley, Bob Childress, Jeanne Duffey, Christie Eden, Bill Roston

Ex-Officio and Staff: Lisa Bakerink, FOG Executive Director; Alexandra Saner, FOG Associate Director Katie Keith, Botanical Center Coordinator.

Our Mission:

To inspire the discovery, understanding and appreciation of nature, by creating and maintaining the Springfield Botanical Gardens at Nathanael Greene/Close Memorial Park and by supporting the mission of the Springfield-Greene County Botanical Center and Park Board.

Profile: Kelly McGowan



Kelly McGowan in cap and gown to receive her masters degree from the University of Missouri on Dec. 15, 2017.

Although some might refer to Kelly McGowan as an academic, you won't often find her in a classroom.

Kelly McGowan, horticulture educator with MU Extension, received a Master of Science degree in Natural Resources with an emphasis in Agroforestry on Dec. 15, 2017, at the University of Missouri in Columbia. A native of Clinton, Ark., Kelly is also a graduate of Missouri State University.

Her master's thesis, *Flower Production and Effect of Flower Harvest in Six American Elderberry (Sambucus Canadensis) Genotypes*, continues the research of the University of Missouri for more than 20 years into the health benefits and evaluation of native elderberries.

Kelly is also coordinator of Master Gardeners of Greene County, helping with the premiere demonstration gardens.

"Kelly coordinates volunteers to provide educational tours of the butterfly house to many groups throughout the spring, summer, and fall, often offering her own expertise to these groups," writes Lisa Bakerink.

"She raises many butterflies and moths throughout the season to release into the native butterfly house and she led the monarch butterfly tagging event last fall."

Katie Keith credits Kelly's special talent for program development.

"From her weekly

appearances on KOLR 10 TV at Noon, to the annual Master Gardener training, Organic Gardening Academy and a possible Woodland Stewardship symposium, she understands the requests for more information and pulls together the resources.

"She's not just academic smart, she's street smart, too," adds Katie. "She has been a hands-on worker in the field at the Mt. Vernon experiment station and within our gardens and butterfly house."

"Kelly's knowledge and organization helps keep the Master Gardeners Hotline volunteers informed about what is going on throughout the various season," adds Catherine Banks, volunteer coordinator of Potting Shed University. "She keeps us posted about what people are calling about. That's really important."

You can also read Kelly's regular column, *Garden Organic*, in *Ozarks Living Magazine*.

She and husband Brent, an engineer, have two daughters, Anna and Lily, students at Kickapoo High School.



Kelly McGowan with a handful of elderberries at the MU Southwest Research Center near Mount Vernon, Mo.

GardenNotes

from your friends



Master Gardeners training begins with orientation dates

Training for the 2018 Master Gardener Core Training classes will begin on **Thursday, Feb. 6, 2017**, and run through early April, from 6-9 p.m. on Tuesday and Thursday evenings at the Springfield Botanical Center. Information on a separate program, Potting Shed University, is on page 4 of this newsletter.

The cost for the program will be \$160 for an individual or \$275 for couples sharing a manual.

The program fee covers a comprehensive training manual, class handouts, speaker fees and other expenses related to the class. For more information, you may email Kelly McGowan at McgowanK@Missouri.edu, or call her at the the Greene County Extension office at **(417) 874-2965**.

Orientation sessions will be Tuesday, Jan. 30, 2018 and Thursday, Feb. 1, 2018.

Attendance to one of these orientation sessions is mandatory in order to register.

Community service is at the core of the Master Gardener program in Springfield, and each year brings a new opportunity for area plant and garden enthusiasts to take our Master Gardener training and join our family of volunteers.

You don't have to be an expert gardener to become a member. Participants receive 30 hours of classroom training and pledge to contribute at least 30 hours of volunteer service during their first year. When achieved, you will have earned the title of Certified Master Gardener, and 20 hours annually are required to maintain member status.

As a benefit of continued service, Extension Master Gardeners may attend advanced horticultural training and most educational programs free of charge. Master Gardener Programs are offered through county extension centers throughout Missouri and the U.S.

From the President:

Why commit to our public gardens?

Other than the dreary cold days and the post-holiday letdown, I love the fresh start of a new year. It's a great time to evaluate where we are, where we've been and where we want to be.

I'm learning that a vital part of that evaluation is to step back and ask why. The answer to our typical annual reboots. Why eat better? Why exercise? We have pretty obvious answers. It's the deeper more intrinsic goals that can really benefit from an evaluation of why.

So, why commit to the Springfield Botanical Gardens? As our daily headlines remind us, we have no shortage of needs in our community. Our family does choose to donate to several very valid and real causes, local and beyond; however, it is our gardens that have grabbed my heart and led to a commitment of time, personal financial donations, and most recently a pledge by our company to be a garden sponsor.



Kim Chaffin

Here are the reasons I (and my willing family) have said yes to the Springfield Botanical Gardens.

1. **Our gardens are open to all.** Many botanical gardens have typical charges in the range of \$12 to \$20 per person. The money is often evident – grand entrances, impressive interactive displays, cafes – but they are also enclosed. With the exception of a minimal \$3 charge for non-members to the Mizumoto Japanese Stroll Garden (our largest), all of our gardens, including the Bill Roston Native Butterfly House, are free. The clear mandate from the Close family was to create a botanical garden that every person in our community can enjoy. You can feel this open attitude when you visit our gardens.

2. **The Springfield Botanical Gardens make Springfield a better place to live.** I love our city, and appreciate the momentum created by those donating to downtown revitalization, the arts and tourism. I believe the Springfield Botanical Gardens are a vital part of our city's growth. A city that has a vibrant public garden like ours is one that cares for the quality of the life of its citizens. Our gardens provide a ready place to step outside the day-to-day grind. The gardens are appreciated and used regularly by families, couples, teachers, athletes and pet lovers of all ages and physical abilities.

3. **It is an honor to work with others who are dedicated to this extraordinary place.** Talented parks and Friends of the Garden staff, skilled volunteer gardeners and community donors – both with time and money – have come together to support the vision for our gardens, to inspire discovery, understanding and appreciation of nature by the creation and maintenance of our gardens. We have a vision of new programs, gardens and garden sponsorships for existing gardens that are all underway. It is a privilege to be a part of this talented team.

As you look ahead to this fresh new year, I hope you will consider your commitment to the Springfield Botanical Gardens. Invite a friend to join one of the many gardening groups who toil over the beautiful gardens, or consider a monetary sponsorship of one of our gardens still looking for a sponsorship boost. I am sure you will find an answer to why make this garden commitment. Now you just have to decide how.

Kim Chaffin is president of Friends of the Garden. Reach her by e-mail at Info@FriendsOfTheGarden.org, follow us on Facebook at Friends of the Garden, on [Instagram@SGFBot](#), or on [Twitter@SGFBot](#).



Pick and choose what interests you at Potting Shed University

Master Gardeners of Greene County are again hosting eight diverse classes this spring to help individuals improve their gardening skills.

Beginning Monday, Feb. 26, programs last for an hour, from 6-7 p.m. at the Springfield-Greene County Botanical Center, 2400 S. Scenic, Springfield. Registration begins at 5:30 p.m. Cost is \$5 per person at the door.

Kelly McGowan, horticulture educator with University of Missouri Extension and coordinator of the Master Gardener chapter, has released the list of upcoming classes and topics in this "Gardening Skills for Life" series.

Feb. 26: "Starting Your Own Kitchen Garden," taught by Pat DeWitt, Master Gardener of Greene County member. This program is for new gardeners or gardeners who are starting over and want to learn the

basic foundations for a successful garden. All participants will receive a handy booklet that contains all the basic information on starting a vegetable garden, a planting calendar, and useful information on challenges and benefits to growing your food. We will discuss ways to store and use the bounty of your harvest.

March 5: "English Gardens," taught by Nora Cox, Master Gardener of Greene County trainee. "Have you ever wanted to enjoy an English Garden of your very own? In this class, participants will learn about varieties and placing of plants that will provide you with the relaxing enjoyment of an English Garden," said Cox.

March 12: "Growing Strawberries," taught by Patrick Byers, MU Extension horticulture specialist. "Strawberries are a versatile and easy-to-grow berry for the Ozarks. We will discuss the best strawberry cultivars for southwest Missouri, preparing a garden spot for strawberries, planting and growing these interesting plants, harvesting a bountiful crop and managing pests, diseases, insects and weeds," said Byers.

March 19: "Companion Planting," taught by Cathy Wolven, Master Gardener of the Ozarks, emeritus member. Find out who likes who in this companion planting class.

March 26: "Using Foliage for Color in the Garden." Taught by Kathryn Kufahl, Master Gardener of the Ozarks, emeritus member. "Plants with colorful foliage can provide interest through the entire season with fairly low maintenance. This session will offer suggestions for both annuals and perennials that provide colorful foliage for your space," said Kufahl.

April 2: "Tried and True Plants of the Ozarks," taught by Melissa Jenkins, Cedarbrook Garden Center, Branson West. "Planting and maintaining a garden in the Ozarks can be a challenge but you don't have to sacrifice beauty for durability. Learn about some of my favorite plants that add true beauty to your gardens year after year without a lot of maintenance and care," said Jenkins.

April 9: "Plants for a Japanese Garden in the Ozarks," taught by Katie Keith, coordinator of the Springfield Botanical Center. "We will discuss the design concepts of the Mizumoto Japanese Stroll Garden, plants for structure in all seasons and extending the bloom season," said Keith.

April 16: "Indoor Gardening: Our Favorite Houseplants and More," taught by Kelly McGowan, MU Extension horticultural educator. "We will learn about houseplant history, common insect pests, durable varieties and all aspects of care and propagation during this class," said McGowan.

The Master Gardener program is a popular statewide volunteer community-service organization administered through University of Missouri Extension. The organization's goal is to train gardeners who are willing to share their knowledge with others. Master Gardeners become volunteers of University of Missouri Extension and donate hours for community educational projects in horticulture. Learn more about the Master Gardeners of Greene County online at MGGreene.org or contact the MU Extension Center in Greene County at 417-881-8909.



Crystal Bridges Museum Horticulturalist keynote speaker for MG state conference

Missouri's Master Gardeners State Conference is returning to the Ozarks Sept. 28-30, meeting in luxury at Chatueau the Lake Conference Center



& Resort near Branson. Online registration is available at MoMG18.org.

The conference is open to all, including the

public. Among the conference activities is a field trip luncheon to the Springfield Botanical Gardens. Information is available at 417-357-6812, or at Mrriksmail@gmail.com.

Cody George, Crystal Bridges Museum Horticulturalist, will be the keynote

speaker for the 2018 Missouri Master Gardener State Conference.

Although George quips that the plant species he most identifies with is "spicebush...we both enjoy being in the shade, but do fine in the sun. And we both emit a pleasant, spicy fragrance," he's introduced 60-plus taxa of native plants to the museum's living collection and is responsible for the creation of Crystal Bridges Museum's monthly series, *Discover the Grounds*.

George joined the Crystal Bridges Trails and Grounds team as horticulturist in the winter of 2011.

After completing the initial landscape installation of 320 species of plants to the museum grounds, George has introduced more than 60 varieties of native plants to

the museum's living collection, with a focus on the genus *Trillium* (12 species) and *Magnolia* (six species). He has discovered and resurrected several of Dr. Neil Compton's original test beds for native plants and installed the certified Monarch Way Station featuring 250 individual plant specimens of *Asclepias* (milkweed).

George grew up on 40 acres in Northeast Arkansas, graduating with a bachelor's degree in horticulture from the University of Arkansas in 2006.

After working in the nursery industry for nearly seven years, he was named head gardener for Compton Gardens in Bentonville before joining Crystal Bridges. He and his family live and garden in Bella Vista, Ark.

New and renewing* members, memorials, tributes, garden donations

Membership

Action Tent Service*
Allen, Teresa*
Anderson, Tom & Nancy
Antonopoulos, Tammy*
Arnoldy, Becky*
Aye, Lorraine*
Baird, Rob & Sally
Bakerink, Sarah*
Barnhart, Chris & Debra*
Bigbee, Dan & Kelly*
Bollinger, Roxie*
Brand, Genevieve
Brehmer, Marilyn*
Brill, Wilbur & Lorene*
Brown, Roy & Linda*
Brunskill, Richard & Dorothy*
Budd, Dennis & Sandra*
Burgess, JoAnne*
Burling, Deb
Carrier, Ron & Leslie*
Coleman, Kristin*
Corine, Susan*
Counts, Alice
Cunniff, Michael*
Deal, Dixie*
Denouden, Tom & Beth*
Drewry, Dan & Donna*
Enderson, Dayle*
Faflik, Dan*
Faulkner, Sharon*
Finnie, Allyson*
Forgy, Martha*
Fowler, Tommy*
Fuller, Sue*
Garrett, Patty*
Gerhart, Carol & Gerry*
Giedd, Ronald & Joanne*
Halford, Linda & Davison, Gene*
Hamilton, Mary
Harris, Carolyn*
Harris, Marjorie*
Helm, Theresa*
Herman, Mary*
Himes, Joe & Marcia*
Holt, Patricia*
Horn, Harry & Susan*

Hunter, Kathy*
Irby, Sara*
Jackson, Jane & Charles*
Jenkins, Ann*
Jobe, Cindy*
Jones, Ray & Pam*
Jones, Vreni & Martin*
Larrabee, Iline & Robert
Lula, James
Lumpe, Vivian*
Malott, Carrie & Jon*
Mauldin, Jim*
McConnaughey, Erica
McCune, Judy & Paul*
McKeever, Greg*
Moran, Sonia*
Nelson, Charles & Anne*
Nelson, Edith & Ronnie*
Nibert, David & Connie*
Nichols, Connie*
Niewald, Earl & Nancy
Obert, Sue*
Ownby, Steve & Arnie*
Parrish, Darcy & Kristen*
Pfister, Faye
Quessenberry, Rick
Redmon, Carl*
Rice, Linda*
Riggs, David & Peggy
Ringey, Donna*
Schilling, Michael
Schuble, Sue*
Schwab, Jane*
Scott, Aaron J.*
Scott, Ruby*
Shaffer, Sandra*
Sheridan, Linda
Shiple, Jeanne*
Sims-Giddens, Susan*
Smith, David
Soholt, Sylvia*
Sommer, Josh & Clarissa*
Stephenson, Carol*
Sturdevant, Mary*
Swackhamer, Patty*
Sweet, Liz*
Tarrasch-Scholz, Rachal*

Taylor, Elizabeth*
Trotter, Janet & Yates*
Trout, Marlin*
Updike, Jodie*
Vick, Jane E.*
West, Charlotte*
Wojciechowski, Sarah
Wood, Norma*
Woodward, Jim & Jewell*
Yoakum, Christy*

Garden Friends

Arrowood, Max & Cindy*
Belote, Bob & Deana*
Bledsoe, Teresa
Carlie, Mike*
Curtis, Pam*
Hogan, Rebecca*
Jones, Kathy*
Nelson, Tom & Marcia*
Powell, Dot
Redfern, Spencer & Jerry*
Tarrasch, David & Jeanne*

Garden Contributor

Milne, Dr. Jay & Susan*
Quinn, Jerry*

Garden Ambassador

Abrams, Norman*
Lipscomb, Gary & Betty*

Tribute Brick Pavers

Anno, Rosemary
Beezley, Carly & Robert
Brand, Genevieve
Burling, Deb
Close, Marthe & Major
McConnaughey, Erica
Obert, Sue
Rosenkoetter, Marcie/Hillbilly Gardeners
Springfield Watergarden Society
Wojciechowski, Sarah

Tribute Shrubs/Trees

Garrison, Carol

Tribute Benches

Garrison, Carol

Melgren, Gail
SW District of the FGCM

Gift Membership Donors

Beezley, Carla & Robert
Finnie, Tom
Mauldin, Jim
Parrish, Stan & Susan
Swackhamer, Pat
Vick, Jane E.
Woodward, Jim & Jewell
Yoakum, Christy

Gift Membership Recipients

Anderson, Tom & Nancy
Coleman, Kristin*
Finnie, Allyson*
Hoehn, Terry*
Jackson, Jane & Charles*
Parrish, Darcy & Kristen*
Quessenberry, Rick
Soholt, Sylvia*
Sommer, Josh & Clarissa*
Tarrasch-Scholz, Rachal*
Trotter, Janet & Yates*
Woodward, Jon*

General Donations/Gifts

Musgrave Foundation
Zerrer, Paula

Restricted Donations/Gifts

Carlson, Thomas & Chandler
Central Bank / Central Trust
Finnie, Bill & Glenda
Finnie, John & Lyn
Finnie, Steve & Sarita
Finnie, Tom
Finnie, Tom & Aimee
Kipfer, Bob & Barbara
Mauldin, Jim
Mayer, Ric & Jeanie
Musgrave Foundation
Ozark Regional Lily Society
Rice, Edwin & Phoebe
Skinner, Mary & Michael
Stephens, Gayle & Marge
Wilson Essman Fund
Wooten, Rosalie

Volunteers bring urgently needed talents

You can become a part of an amazing network of volunteers who develop and maintain the gardens.

Not a gardener? Tell us what you like to do and it's likely we can find an opportunity for you to share your talents – maybe even at home. Communication with our members and record-keeping are top priorities.

We also need volunteers for special events, such as the Lawn & Garden Show, Kite Festival, Butterfly Festival and Young Sprouts in the Garden. Volunteer committee members plan and organize nearly all our activities.

Volunteering is a great way to connect with friends and make new ones while you learn about plants, nature and our parks.



Bill Aldrich has been named Garden Volunteer Liaison by Friends of the Garden. An avid volunteer he has maintained the rose garden for the past three years.

Best of all, you can invite friends to join you and double the reward for all of you.

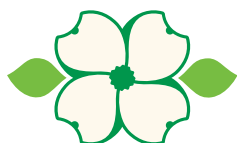
Some upcoming opportunities:

- **Tuesday, Feb. 6: 10 a.m.;** join us for "All About Gardens," an overview of the volunteer activities, events and gardens.
- **Wednesday, March 14: 10 a.m.** learn about being a docent in the Mizumoto Japanese Stroll Gardens, one of the premiere garden destinations in the Midwest.

• **Wednesday, April 18: 5:30 p.m.,** and again **Saturday, April 21: 9 a.m.;** we'll be training docents to serve in the Bill Roston Butterfly House.

Now that the stroll garden and butterfly house are open longer hours, docents are urgently needed. Being a docent provides opportunities for all ages to learn and share knowledge about the native butterflies and moths. Young people are welcome to work in the house in the company of parents.

Newsletter produced by FOG board member George Freeman, Editor of Ozarks Living Magazine and OzarksLiving.com.



Friends OF THE GARDEN

Bringing People, Nature & Gardens Together

We are individuals, families and businesses who support Springfield Botanical Gardens in its mission to provide outstanding botanical, horticultural, environmental and educational opportunities for people of all ages. Anyone with an interest in nature who wishes to support the progress of the gardens is encouraged to join. **As a member, you're a partner in the future of the gardens.** As a volunteer nonprofit organization, we rely on membership and donations to make the gardens and FOG activities possible.

Join online at
friendsofthegarden.org!



Membership Benefits

- Subscription to Ozarks Living Magazine, which includes the FOG Newsletter
- Complimentary admission to the Mizumoto Japanese Stroll Garden (excluding the Fall Festival)
- Discounts at the Botanical Center gift shop and select local businesses
- Free or reduced admission to American Horticultural Society member gardens across the country
- Invitations to special gardening events
- Volunteering and education opportunities
- Donations are fully tax deductible

I would like to volunteer:

- ☐ in the gardens at the park
- ☐ in the FOG office
- ☐ in the Botanical Center
- ☐ at events: FOG booth
- ☐ at events: activities
- ☐ at children's activities
- ☐ as a Butterfly House docent
- ☐ in marketing/development
- ☐ in hardscaping/construction
- ☐ tell me what you need!
- ☐ I have a special talent:

Membership Levels

- ☐ \$35—Individual
- ☐ \$45—Individual Plus
(Individual plus guest)
- ☐ \$50—Family
(Three or more)
- ☐ \$100—Garden Friend
(Includes the option to give one additional gift membership)
- ☐ \$250—Garden Contributor
(Includes the option to give three additional gift memberships)
- ☐ \$500—Garden Ambassador
(Includes the option to give six additional gift memberships)

Member Information

YOUR NAME:
ADDRESS:
CITY:
STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL:
PHONE:

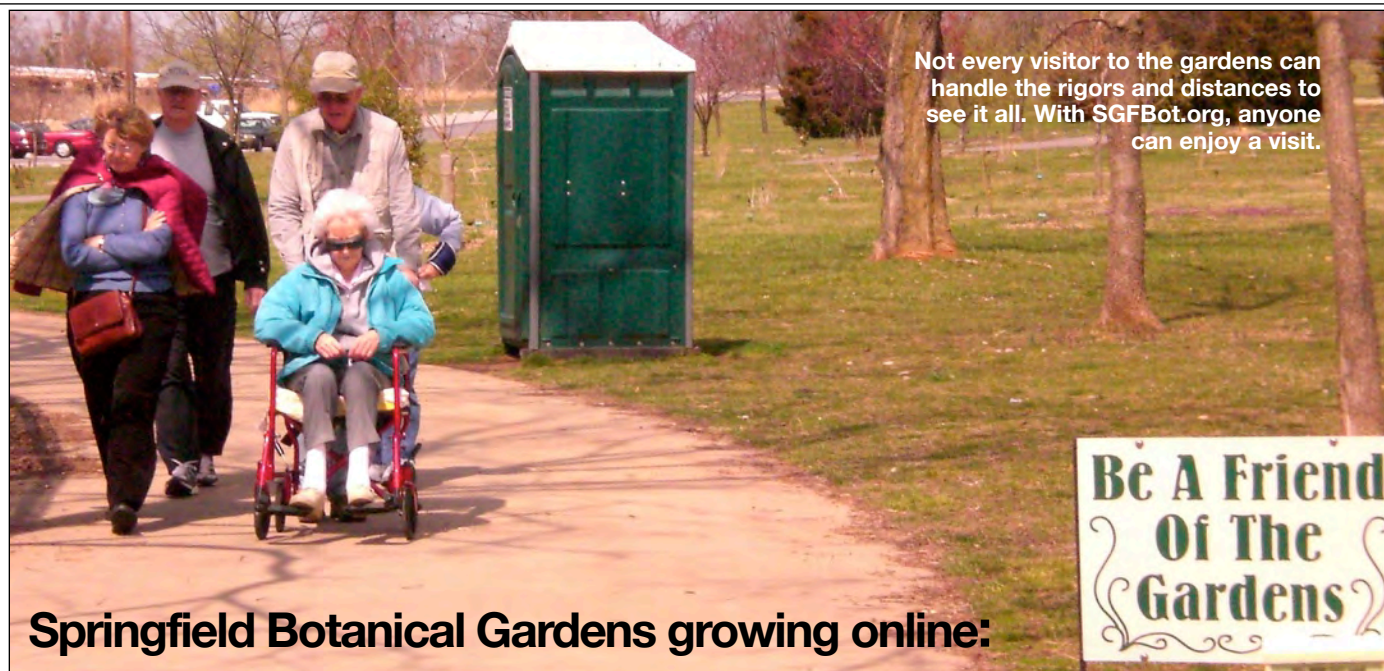
☐ This membership is a gift: ☐ Wedding ☐ Birthday ☐ Holiday ☐ Gift Renewal
☐ In honor of: ☐ Other:

RECIPIENT'S NAME:
RECIPIENT'S ADDRESS:
CITY:
STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL:
PHONE:

Please send form and mail check payable to: Friends of the Garden
2400 S. Scenic Ave., Springfield, MO 65807
Questions? Call (417) 874-2952, email info@friendsofthegarden.org, or go to friendsofthegarden.org

Corporate Sponsorships

Individual gardens, features and attractions are available for corporate sponsorship. Please inquire at info@friendsofthegarden.org for more information.



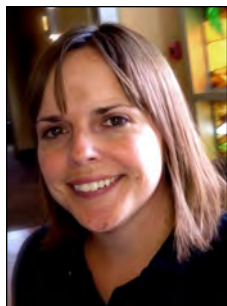
Springfield Botanical Gardens growing online:

Now you can explore your favorite garden at SGFBot.org. Just follow the blue dot on your smart phone for a virtual tour

I love maps! I could stare at maps for hours, plotting trips, following river cuts and geological patterns, lining up points of interest and creating best routes for even something as simple as the daily errand run.

I also love a good story! Some of my favorite books and movies are about following a map to a buried treasure or finding the key to unlock secret information.

For me, the 'map and story' visitor experience is what compels me to visit different botanical gardens. I enjoy connecting the dots and finding out where the trail will lead. This month, I will share the Springfield Botanical Gardens journey of transformation for our maps and interpretive information, especially over the past year.



A Parks Perspective:
Katie Keith

Eight years ago, when the Botanical Center was nearing opening day, park leadership knew that the two full-time positions initially hired for this facility would not be able to serve the demand for information and services of the already existing botanical gardens within a public park that was open daily from sunrise to sunset.

The Guide by Cell program was purchased to help visitors self-guide through the gardens scattered about the park and connect with the volunteers or plant societies that maintained those spaces by dialing a phone number.

We developed nearly a hundred recorded stories about the different features of each garden area. Printed maps were adjusted to

follow the prompt number. Visitors could call one central phone

number and hear a story about the different features of the park when they matched up the correct prompt.

As the Friends of the Garden sponsorship program was first aimed on updating the garden entry signs that posted the phone number and prompt at each garden, we re-evaluated the usefulness of the Guide by Cell program.

The Friends of the Gardens' Communication Committee was sure we could offer more and maybe even save money. We considered smart phone apps, but realized that taking people directly to a web page would be the best bet on financial and staff time output.

Newly hired Parks Web Designer Pam Montanez took on the challenge of creating and storing the existing Guide by Cell sound files into a web format. She created a story page for each garden that includes photographs, written descriptions, the sound file and information about the garden sponsor.

To make accessing this information as easy as possible, a QR code and a short URL web address were created, so people could either scan the code or type the short address, SGFBot.org into their smart phone. Either way, your phone will display the pictures, stories and sounds accompanying that garden as well as a Google Map to show the gardens' location and your proximity to that garden. Following the blue dot on your phone screen, you can more easily find your way to the next attraction of your choice.

While we will continue to print paper maps and offer guided tram and walking tours, I hope you will find the fun and convenience of having more information about the gardens you love at your fingertips.

Ultimately, the goal is for all people to find meaning and connections in their life and see the value in the Springfield Botanical Gardens.

"In the end we will conserve only what we love; we will love only what we understand; and we will understand only what we are taught." (**Baba Dioum**, 1968.) But while you are learning, please don't forget to look up and enjoy the gardens.

Katie Keith is coordinator of the Springfield Botanical Center at the Springfield Botanical Gardens, 2400 S. Scenic, Springfield, Mo., and an ex-officio board member of Friends of the Garden. Contact her at KKeith@SpringfieldMo.gov or 417-891-1515, Ext. 3.

Take the right turn to get to enjoy the Springfield Botanical Gardens



Save these Dates: Happenings for Ozarks gardeners*

- **Feb. 6:** 10 a.m., Join us for "All About Gardens."
- **Feb. 8:** 5 p.m., FOG Board of Directors meet.
- **Feb. 20:** 6 p.m.; Springfield Area Herb Society; open to guests to learn about edible, medicinal, or any useful plant – learn more about herbs in the Ozarks.
- **Feb. 21-25:** Lawn & Garden Show; 9-6 Friday and Saturday; 11-5 Sunday, E*Plex at Ozark Empire Fairgrounds.
- **Feb. 26-April 16:** Potting Shed University: 5:30 p.m. registration; 6-7 p.m. programs for eight weeks; \$5 per session; presented by Master Gardeners of Greene County and MU Extension.
- **March 8:** 5 p.m., FOG Board of Directors meet.
- **March 14:** 10 a.m., Learn about being a docent in the Japanese Gardens.
- **March 23:** 10-2, Sensory Garden Symposium & Luncheon (\$18).
- **March 31:** 10 a.m.; Mizumoto Japanese Stroll Garden opens for the season.
- **April 7:** 11-3; Cherry Blossom Kite & Pinata Festival; free admission to stroll garden.
- **April 7:** 9-2; Native Plant Sale at Conservation Nature Center, 4200 Nature Trail Way.
- **April 18:** 5:30 p.m.; and April 21: 9 a.m.; docent training to serve in the Bill Roston Butterfly House.
- **April 27:** 11:30-12:30; Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon.
- **April 28:** 8:30-2; Master Gardeners Plant Sale.
- **May 11:** 10-6; Roston Butterfly House; National Public Gardens Day.
- **May 11-12:** 7:30-9:30 p.m., Romance in the Garden, Mizumoto Japanese Stroll Garden.

* Unless otherwise noted, all events are at the Springfield Botanical Center. Send garden-related events to News@FriendsOftheGarden.org, or find us on Facebook and Twitter, or at www.fogcalendar.com. Friends of the Garden's "News FOG Blog" is at www.friendsofthegarden.org. To receive the latest news, send your e-mail address to Info@FriendsOftheGarden.org.

Arboretum 79	English Garden 37	Native Shrub Garden 52
Asiatic Lily Garden 44	Ethnic Life Stories Trail of Trees 81	Ornamental Grasses Garden 39
Audubon Trail & Bubbler 82	Federated Garden Clubs Perennial Garden 72	Peace Garden 71
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Botanical Center Gardens 1	Founders' Garden 60	Redbud Garden 55
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Butterfly House 46	Hosta Garden 35	Rose Garden 33
Butterfly Windrider Garden 47	Iris Garden 41	Succulent Garden 40
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