



The Bimonthly Journal of the

Friends of the Garden

VOL. 13, NO. 3

REACH US AT 417-891-1515

APRIL/MAY 2018

Signs say this is an extraordinary place to celebrate springtime



Members of the Springfield Area Herb Society led by Barbar Emge, organized a work day in the Demonstration Garden. Volunteers worked mostly in the Thyme beds. The Native Garden also received attention from Master Gardeners (see page 4).

Concert series in the new pavilion, a beautiful fountain, a new cookbook, new access road as the gardens come alive

You could say that's everything's coming up roses at the Springfield Botanical Gardens. Add swatches of colorful jonquils and tulips, redbuds and dogwoods in multiple hues and an over-abundance of Pokeman players wandering off the beaten path as 45 gardens awaken and the gardens are soon to be a popular destination.

Consider:

- A Capital Campaign is well underway to raise \$500,000 in support of our 45 gardens. Already half way to the goal means a recently mailed invitation challenges every member who can to join the growing list of garden underwriters to help us reach the goal in coming weeks.

- Two garden benefactors, Hearld and Marge Ambler have generously pledged \$211,000 to construct a fountain in the new Sensory Garden. An entrance is already in place as part of Phase One, and fund-raising continues.

- Mizumoto Japanese Stroll Garden pathways will be upgraded to stamped concrete, replacing rapidly deteriorating asphalt.

- By mid-summer, the northern access road to the stroll garden and Gray-Campbell Farmstead will be widened and paved to two lanes.

- Eleven outdoor concerts at the Peace Through People Pavilion will benefit the Kickapoo Edge Prairie and other gardens, with the first concert with Melinda Mullin at 6:30 p.m. on Friday, May 11, in the Summer Outdoor Concert Series

- Entry improvements are in the works at the entrance to the Bill Roston Native Butterfly House.

- New signage being installed to identify gardens and offer a virtual online tour at SGFBot.org. The first-ever Springfield Botanical Gardens Cookbook is newly printed and soon to be on sale in the Botanical Boutique Gift Shop. It's full of

special recipes, many of them from our own members, friends and gourmards, along with garden photos and information about our volunteer partners. It's a great gift benefiting Friends of the Gardens.

- Becky Day is newly installed as Horticultural Interpreter (replacing Peter Longley). From from a position as naturalist at Bennett Spring State Park, She's planning for a summer of activities, including a Sensory Garden Symposium and a 7 a.m. walk each Friday in the stroll garden for those who enjoy an early walk and photo opportunities. She joins Alexandra "Lexy" Saner as Associate Director and Bill Aldrich as our new Garden Volunteer Liaison.

- Teresa Allen has been elected to the new position of assistant board treasurer.

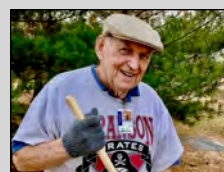
- Admission to the Mizumoto Japanese Stroll Garden is now \$4 after many years. The good news is admission is still free for members of Friends of the Garden.

**VISIT FOG
ONLINE
CLICK HERE**



Growth is everywhere

Page 3: Capital campaign continues; SGFBot.org expands to more gardens; spring is in the air at the Botanical Gardens.



Profile: Gus Norenberg

Page 2: His sunny disposition puts a smile on the faces of visitors, while he leaves no leaf unturned in helping keep the gardens looking their best.

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

AboutFOG

Vol. 13, No. 3

APRIL/MAY 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:

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

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: Gus Norenberg

His sunny disposition matches a passion to leave no errant leaf, pine needle, stick or stone unattended in the gardens



Lake Drummond, on the south side of Nathanael Greene/Close Memorial Park, is a great place for a walk. But if you pass Gus Norenberg on your stroll, hopefully you will reply to his friendly smile and greeting with one of your own.

"Ninety-nine percent of those I see out here have a smile on their face," Norenberg says of his near-daily walks in the park. "And those that don't, if I see them a second time around the lake, they almost always have a smile by then."

The effect of that trip around the lake may be laid to the ambiance of the park or possibly Norenberg's own sunny disposition.

Gus started his walking habit when he and his wife Anna moved to Springfield a few years ago to be near their children. Anna's health went into decline, but they continued going to the park. Gus pushed her in a wheelchair.

Anna died a year ago; she and Gus were married 59 years. Some time after, Gus hailed Parks Gardener David Middleton and asked if he could help in the gardens. "I told him I can't do a lot of bending," he recalls. Norenberg became a volunteer and a legend began. Over the summer, garden beds were expertly trimmed. In the fall, small mounds of leaves and sticks began appearing. Then more mounds.

Norenberg likes a tidy landscape and brought that thinking to the park. He could be found many mornings with his trusty string trimmer, working along the stonework that marks the edge of so

many beds. "I really like looking out over a newly mown lawn," he said.

In the fall, he traded his trimmer for a leaf rake and took neatening to a whole new level. After creating a few hundred mounds of leaves, he was ready for a new challenge. Middleton mentioned the pine trees in the Mizumoto Japanese Stroll Garden shed quite a few needles each winter. Gus was off to a new venue and a new series of mounds.

If you run across Norenberg in the park, he will almost certainly be wearing a hat. It might be a sporty hat or maybe a military-themed cap. One of those is from his Air Force unit. "I wear it in case somebody from my old unit is here," he says. Norenberg served in France during the Korean War, training French pilots on surplus American warplanes. Then last year, he was treated to an Honor Flight trip to Washington, D.C.

"That was really special," he says, and so he sometimes wears the souvenir hat he received as part of the recognition.

On one chilly late winter day, Norenberg, who turns 85 in May, reported he went for his usual walk. "I picked up some sticks and laid them along the walkway. I guess somebody will come along and toss them in a cart." Even in winter, Norenberg was tidying the park. And yes, someone will be sure to get those sticks.

William Aldrich is FOG's Garden Volunteer Liaison. He profiles noteworthy volunteers as a regular feature. Reach him at Info@FriendsoftheGarden.org.

GardenNotes

from your friends



Potting Shed University continues through April

If this is springtime, and sometimes it is, it's time for plant sales in the Ozarks, often one of the best source for plants because of the care they receive from Master Gardeners. Plus, you're sure to get accurate advice on some of the best, often rare, varieties for Ozarks gardens.

We know of these four to tell you about:

April 7: 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., Native Plant Sale and Workshops at the **Springfield Conservation Nature Center**. In addition to featuring a number of regional vendors, there will be guest speakers discussing benefits of native plants into landscaping strategies. The event is free and open to all ages. No registration is necessary. Call the Springfield Conservation Nature Center to request a flyer of the day's activities. The Nature Center is located 4601 S. Nature Center Way in Springfield. More information is at

GrowNative.org, or at (417-888-4237).

April 28: 8 a.m.-2 p.m.; 21st Annual Plant Sale by Master Gardeners of Greene County, Springfield Botanical Center, 2400 South Scenic; a gathering of plants from members' gardens as well as the two public gardens that Master Gardeners maintain in the Springfield Botanical Gardens and at the Water Wise Garden (formerly the Xeriscape). Members grow popular and heirloom plants from seed for the sale and are glad to answer questions.

April 28: 8:30 a.m.-Noon; 13th annual Christian County Master Gardeners Plant Sale; Nixa Community Center, 701 N. Taylor Way; featuring annuals, perennials, trees, shrubs, native plants, vegetable starts, herbs and lawn decor. Master Gardeners will be on hand for questions.

May 5: 9 a.m.-2 p.m.; Native Plant Market & Social; on the Rooftop Plaza at the Springfield Botanical Center. Ozark Soul, Master Naturalist, Audubon Society, Missouri Native Plant Society, Hickory Hills School, Bees Alive Club, Smiling Suns Gardens the James River Basin Partnership and the Missouri Prairie Foundation will be on hand to share information, resources and a variety of native plants.

From the President:

Growth is everywhere, not just gardens

There's nothing like the exhilaration of a sunny warm day in early March to nudge spring blossoms and bulbs out of their winter home – and bring out those of us who have endured more Ozarks winter days than we might like.

The dogwood buds are getting plump, early spring flowers are popping up and the lawns are transitioning from its winter drab beige to a crisp and vibrant green.



Kim Chaffin

The invigorating new growth of springtime will soon be our back drop. It's exciting, awe-inspiring and helps us dream of the warm season ahead.

This spring we have even more evidence of growth sprouting in our gardens.

In pursuit of the goal to provide uniform signage and to recognize our new garden sponsors, visitors will now be meet with garden signs that provide information regarding the contents of the garden, name the hardworking garden adopters, as well as our gracious garden sponsors. If 21st Century

technology excites you, each new garden sign will include a "QR" code like the one at right.

Equipped a smart phone "app," you will be able to scan the code and arrive at our new **SGFBot.org** web site for a growing list of gardens and detailed information. What a great resource.



What's more, you don't even have to be at the garden to revisit the site if you're researching a plant you've seen. Now the gardens can be visited and thoroughly enjoyed "virtually" anywhere.

These new signs not only serve to provide a more cohesive look to our 114-plus acres, but also help show the growth and development that is underway.

Sponsorship dollars are helping create excitement and inspiration this spring. Garden adopters are eagerly planning for their garden improvements, our new signs made possible by sponsorship gifts stand ready to meet our flux of spring visitors, and our Friends of the Garden endowment has enjoyed a much-needed boost over the course of our campaign to raise \$500,000, including a \$20,000 boost through the Community Foundation.

Thanks to donors, our new Peace Through People pavilion will host an entire series of musical events this season. Growth is everywhere you turn, it seems. We hope you enjoy all that is blooming at the Springfield Botanical Gardens.

If you have taken part in this development – thank you! If not, please consider joining us. We have several gardens awaiting sponsors, and we would love for you to be part of our growth!

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](https://www.instagram.com/SGFBot), or on [Twitter @SGFBot](https://twitter.com/SGFBot).





Vinita Williams and Todd Robitsch are both enrolled in 2018 Master Gardener classes. On a recent warm Saturday, they tackled a healthy stand of weeds in the hoop house at the Demonstration Garden.

Master Gardeners offer 'Learn to Grow in the Garden' classes

It's just not like Master Gardeners of Greene County to let any grass grow under their feet (pun intended). But just like the rest of us, volunteers battle those pesky weeds constantly, as you can see from the bumper crop that takes over the hoop house gardens over

the winter months. Various contingencies of volunteers take responsibility for each of the gardens. Potting Shed University is



even now only finishing up an impressive presentation of programs. The new monthly series runs from June through October to help individuals improve their gardening skills. The instructors are either professionals or advanced presenters with best practices to share.

All of the sessions will run from 6-7 p.m. on Mondays in the Springfield-Greene County Botanical Center, 2400 S Scenic, Springfield. More information is at 417-891-1515. Cost is \$5 per person per class, payable at the door. Registration starts at 5:30 p.m., 30 minutes before each class.

Here's the itinerary:

June 11: Roses take center stage with Master Gardener Bill Aldrich,

Curator of the Springfield Botanical Gardens' Rose Garden, to start the series. The rose holds a unique place in horticulture – cherished for its beautiful blooms, feared for its thorns, scorned by many homeowners for its daunting demands. Bill will discuss how to succeed with garden roses – from those that care for themselves to those that take more than a little nurturing. Weather permitting, participants stroll through the Rose Garden for an olfactory treat to meet our newest “treasure,” Elizabeth of Glamis (easy there, this is a rose bush).

July 9: Container Water Gardening with Linda Siler, water garden specialist at Wickman's Garden Center. Linda will present a program about water gardening container style. Participants will come away with new ideas on container types, plants, and fish for smaller water gardens. Linda's programs are always very creative and full of new ideas.

Aug. 13: Learn about Crepe Myrtles with Becky Nicholas, Garden Center and Landscape Designer from Wickman's Garden Village. Becky will share information about the types and care of these lovely hot-weather bloomers.

Sept. 10: Twilight Gardens with Katie Keith, Botanical Center

coordinator. If you like outdoor living and entertaining, but work during the day or want to avoid the hottest part of the day, twilight gardens are for you. Learn about the most fragrant and vibrant plants at sunrise and sunset. Learn about garden accessories and building materials that will help you maximize the use of your great outdoor room.

Oct. 8: Creating A Garden Sanctuary with Master Gardener Tom Lakowske, president of the Great Ozarks Hosta Society. Tom will share ideas and inspirations for your garden, building better paths, rooms, beds, and borders. Also, tricks to make your garden appear larger, six gazebo tips, and adding WOW factor finishing touches.

The Master Gardener program is a popular statewide volunteer community-service organization administered through MU Extension.

The goal of their members is to train gardeners to share their knowledge with others.

Master Gardeners 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.

Memberships, memorials, tributes and garden donations*

Membership

Ackley, Jean
Ahart, Tony & Carolyn
Ailor, Jennifer
Averett, J.J.
Back, Becky
Baltz, Jon
Barham, Tara
Bayless, Jean
Beard, Jaretta
Beezley, Carla
Belshoff, Gail
Bennett, Eleanor
Bjorge, Ardith
Black, Karla and Daniel
Blackard, Debbie
Blake, Beverly
Boatman, Joan
Bowen, Joan
Braswell, Cheryl
Brazel, Dakota
Brinkman, Brandi
Brockman, Richard and Kelley
Brown, Joi Standcliff
Brown, Marsha
Brown, Max and Julia
Burgess, Angie
Canlas, Mario and Emily
Caplinger, Nancy
Carter, Sandra
Cates, Sharon
Chiles, Mary and Mike
Christiansen, Stephen and Carol
Clausen, Hannah
Collins, Stephen and Debra
Copeland, Maxine
Covelli, Donna
Crabb, Jack
Crites, Tyler
Crockett, Deann
Crouch, Liz
Davis, Gretchen
Davis, Lin
Davis, Ruth
Davis, Shari
Day, Annelise
Day, Becky
DeGeere, Tom and Jean
Densham, William
DeRubis, Sharon
Dockery, David and Nena
Downs, Cheri
Duncan, Laurie
Eldridge, Susan
Ellis, Linda
Faherty, Marline
Farber, Susan
Folk, Janet
Gallagher, Mary
Garrison, Corol

Gerdes, John and Carolyn
Gilkey, Jackie
Goodman, Renee
Grayless, Jeff and Linda
Green, Stephanie
Gross, Sam
Guinn, Belinda
Gulick, Ryan and Maranda
Gunion, Ann
Hahn, Rosemary
Hall, Cheryl
Hanson, Debra
Harrison, Julie
Hatch, Jerry and Hing Wah
Heatherly, Teresa
Henshaw, Shannon
Hodges, Terri
Holand, Gail
Holmes, Sue
Hooper, Madeleine
Horny, Karen
Houseknecht, Elisabeth
Hutchison, James
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Jones, Gary
Joplin, Sue
Josey, Linda
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King, Tom and Jackie
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Konstanzer, Janine
Lam, Michelle and Harry
Lanham, Linda
Long, Walt and Bev
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Marsh, Tina
Mason, Desiree
Mayer, Jeanie
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Miller, Kelsey
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Moore, Suzanne
Murphy, Mike and Jackie
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Newcomb, Francie
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Odom, Minuen
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Owens, James
Papazian, Antoinette
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Perry, Mark and Brenda
Peterson, Judy

Pittman, Arlene
Redmon, Conchita
Reed, Rose
Reuterfors, Mary
Ricard, Troye
Rich, Stephanie
Riley, Thomas
Robitsch, George
Robitsch, Todd
Ruggles, Rebekah
Ruzicka, Judith
Sammon, Elizabeth
Schweke, Alexa
Scott, Susan
Shackter, Bonnie
Shalloup, Tony and Linda
Shaw, Mary
Shoemaker, Phyllis
Siano, Carol
Sisco, Mike
Skaggs, Vaughn
Smart, Andrea
Smith, Connie
Spradling, Rebecca
Sterling, Lisa
Stiles, Jim and Gee
Strothkamp, Pat and Donna
Sullivan, Dan
Sweet, Liz
Thurman, Kathy
Tombridge, Barbara
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Trippe, Vicky
VanHouden, Betty
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Wagoner, Nancy
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Wegmann, Larry and Linda
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Whaley, Jean
Whaley, Michael
White, Maureen
Whitman, Earl
Whittington, Karen
Whitworth, Monica
Williams, Vinita
Willis, Cheryl
Wilson, Donnie and Susan
Wilson, Patricia
Woods, Kenneth and Virginia
Zimmerman, Larry

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Chaffin, Keith and Kim
Chiles, Mike and Mary
Fry, Mary Quinn

Hollander, Cynthia
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O'Reilly, Charlie and Mary Beth
Parker, A. Sara
Shaffer, Sandra
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Welde, David and Glenda
Wittmer, Dr. Marc and Mary Lou
Wolverton, Joel and Carol
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Pink Dogwood Garden Club

Tribute Brick Pavers

Armstrong, Deanna
Barham, Tara
Downs, Cheri
Rouse, Donna
Smart, Andrea
Smith, Kathleen
Standcliff Brown, Joi

Tribute Shrubs/Trees

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Marsh, Christopher
Smart, Andrea

Tribute Benches

FGCM - Southwest District
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Melgren, Gail

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Morgan, Becky
Positronic Industries, Inc.

Cookbook combines best recipes with history, photographic tour of gardens

If you've ever wondered what gardeners do with all those home-grown ingredients, you might get some insights from a new cookbook that should be available in time for the annual Master Gardeners of Greene County Plant Sale on Saturday, April 28.

A limited number of cookbooks will be available at the Botanical Boutique inside the botanical center. FOG members typically receive a 10 percent discount in the gift shop.

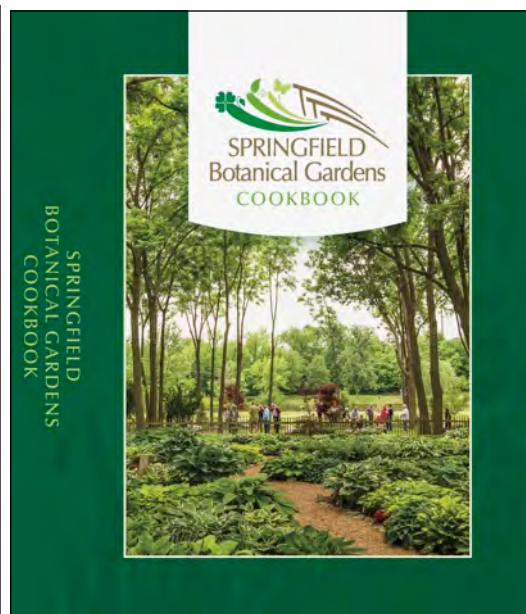
More than 300 recipes are included in the publication, along with photos of the gardens. Categories include appetizers and beverages, soups and salads, vegetables and side dishes, main dishes, breads and rolls, desserts, cookies and candy, this and that. MaryFran Digirolamo has even prepared a list wines to go with certain dishes.

Aaron J. Scott stunningly photographed the Hosta Garden tree canopy for the cover and several photographers contributed the images inside., which includes a history of the gardens. Price for the cookbook is \$19.99, with proceeds going to the Friends of the Garden. A limited press run of 500 has been ordered from Morris Cookbook Publish Co. Shipping is available.

"We're blessed with members and friends who have many talents, and that includes cooking," says Lisa Bakerink, executive director. "Anyone who comes to any of our events knows gardeners take their food seriously."

"Collecting and formatting more than 300 recipes is a tremendous amount of work by these volunteers."

Members of the committee, all of them



A facsimile of the cover shows Aaron J. Scott's photograph of the nationally recognized Hosta Gardens.

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!



BECOME A MEMBER TODAY!

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

Native vineyard will honor Missouri's role in saving French vines

It was the best of fake news; it was the worst of fake news. As soon as news had been released that special provisions were in place to allow alcohol in certain parks, the staff at the botanical center started screening all kinds of calls and requests for special libation type events.

Despite leading headlines and popular gossip, the truth is, the rule still stands that the botanical garden is an alcohol-free park. I would like to share some thoughts about Missouri's past in the world of prohibition and the future for the gardens as it relates to permitting for alcohol at special events in the garden.

In the earliest days of the settlement of Missouri, all kinds of prospectors were here seeking their fortune. Some sought land; some gold, but for one Swiss immigrant, Hermann Jaeger, his interest was the local grape growing in the area of Neosho, Mo.

Back in the mid-1800s, the horticulture trade was hot. Ornamental plants, edible plants, anything and everything from the new world might draw interest. Just as settlers were bringing their favorite plants west, they were also shipping specimens back to Europe.

The wine industry in France was almost completely lost when a New World species of grape, carrying a root louse insect (*Phylloxera*), infected their fields. Because the native Missouri grape was immune to this bug that infected the root of the plant, grape cultivars grafted to the resistant rootstock to the bottom. It was Herman Jaeger who sent nearly 20 boxcar loads of grape cuttings abroad, saving the industry that ultimately honored him with France's Legion of Honor medal in 1889

Additional cross-breeding has led to better grape varieties that are more pest resistant and today the genetics of many wine cultivars carry the gene of the grape stock from Missouri.

Sadly, Mr. Jaeger never really saw the fruits of his labor and at the end of his life, he considered himself a failure. While he was a hero in Europe and wine growers from every region know his name, he is almost unknown in here in Missouri.

The timing of his breeding work of the wine grape coincided with local acts of prohibition that predated the national law. Mr. Jaeger was fined and arrested for his work with wine. Only within the past quarter century has the Missouri wine industry recovered. By happy coincidence, just as our park system was opening the doors for special-permitted alcohol events, Dr. Laszlo Kovacs at Missouri State University shared in a National Science Foundation grant to help interpret this story of Herman Yeager and Missouri's place in the development of



A portrait of Hermann Jaeger hangs in the Newton County Courthouse at Neosho. Below is a photo of Jaeger as a young man (both courtesy of Kay Hively).

the world wide wine industry.

Soon, we will be installing a grape collection within the orchard at the Gray Campbell Farmstead footprint to help tell this story. The fact that there are now permissions to host certain events serving alcohol seems to also open the door to even have a discussion or display on forbidden fruits.

Across the park system, especially within the special facilities, we are working toward a permit system for some occasions of private events or ticketed events for a bar set up. This permit is separate from a rental agreement. Most likely, we will be working with a preferred caterer who will have a certain menu and bar minimum for set up.

The revenue generated from this new service will go towards capital improvement projects across Springfield-Greene County Parks, Repair of damaged wood floors in gymnasiums, updating bath houses, and maintaining pathways are a few of the fruits we are hoping to see with the new ordinance.

Meanwhile, a vineyard celebrating the importance and history of the Missouri native grapes seems an idea long overdue. We are pleased to be the host public garden for Dr. Kovacs' vineyard.

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.



A Parks Perspective:
Katie Keith

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



Save these Dates: Happenings for Ozarks gardeners*

- **March 31:** 10 a.m.; Mizumoto Japanese Stroll Garden opens for the season.
- **April 7:** 11 a.m.-3 p.m.; Cherry Blossom Kite & Piñata Festival, sponsored by Springfield Sister Cities Association; with music and cultural performances, story-telling and kite building and free admission to Mizumoto Japanese Stroll Garden.
- **April 7:** 9-2; Native Plant Sale at Conservation Nature Center, 4200 Nature Trail Way.
- **April 12,** 5 p.m., Friends of the Garden Board meets.
- **April 18:** 5:30 p.m.; and **April 21:** 9 a.m.; docent training for volunteers the Roston Native Butterfly House.
- **April 27:** 11:30-12:30; Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon and Arbor Day festivities.
- **April 28:** 8 a.m.-2 p.m.; Master Gardeners of Greene County Plant Sale.
- **April 28:** 8:30 a.m.-Noon; Christian County Master Gardeners Plant Sale; Nixa Community Center, 701 N. Taylor Way.
- **May 5:** Native Plant Sale, 9 a.m.-2 p.m., Botanical Center Rooftop Plaza, featuring native plant organizations (see details on page 3).
- **May 6:** 1-3 p.m. Great Ozarks Hosta Society presentation and sale, with Tom Micheletti, founder of the Northern Illinois Hosta Society, past president of the American Hosta Society.
- **May 10:** 5 p.m., Friends of the Garden Board meets.
- **May 11:** 6:30 p.m., Summer Outdoor Concert Series with Melinda Mullin; (first of 11 concerts, see box below) at the Peace Through People Pavilion.
- **May 11:** Celebration of National Public Gardens Day; 10-6; Roston Butterfly House;
- **May 11-12:** 7:30-9:30 p.m., Romance in the Garden, Mizumoto Japanese Stroll Garden.
- **June 10:** 2 p.m., Summer Outdoor Concert Series with Liz Moriondo, PTP Pavilion.
- **June 23:** 9 a.m.-3 p.m.; Butterfly Festival and Young Sprouts.

* 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.

2018 Summer Concert schedule:

The Kickapoo Edge Prairie, located just south of the Gray Campbell Farmstead, preserves a sampling of the tall-grass prairies that are rapidly disappearing because of development.

The garden is a project of Friends of the Garden and the Missouri Prairie Foundation and whose members work to protect and re-establish native prairies, funded in part by Central Bank/Central Trust's sponsorship of the Dogwood Garden as well as donations from the audience, suggested at a minimum of \$10 per person.

The fourth annual concert series is an annual fund-raising event established by Ric and Jeanie Mayer, to raise funds for an all-weather path through the native prairie garden to accommodate visitors who may have limited mobility.

- **Friday, May 11,** 6:30 p.m. : Melinda Mullins.
- **Sunday, May 20,** 2 p.m. : Community Jazz Ensemble.
- **Sunday, June 3,** 2 p.m. : Auntie Em & the Tornados.
- **Sunday, June 10,** 2 p.m. : Liz Moriondo.
- **Sunday, June 17,** 2 p.m. : CRS.
- **Saturday, June 23,** 7:30 p.m. : Izabel Crane.
- **Sunday, June 24,** 2 p.m. : Bill Haymes.
- **Sunday, Oct. 7,** 2 p.m. : Molly Healey.
- **Sunday, Oct. 14,** 2 p.m. : Casey Freeland & Attaboys.
- **Sunday, Oct. 21,** 2 p.m. : Shaun Munday.
- **Sunday, Oct. 28,** 2 p.m. : Dallas Jones.