

The Bimonthly Journal of the Friends of the Garden

VOL. 13, NO. 6

REACH US AT 417-874-2952

NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2018



A pair of walkers enjoy the new concrete walkway in the Mizumoto Japanese Stroll Garden while another couple enjoys the Romance in the Garden event.

Photo by Frank Shipe (inset)
and George Freeman

Japanese Stroll Garden will re-open four weekends in December for nighttime viewing

For the first time ever, beginning Nov. 30 and for three following weekends, the Mizumoto Japanese Stroll Garden will be open for extended seasonal hours from 5:30-8:30 p.m. each Friday and Saturday.

This year, seasonal lighting has been added to create a new experience for visitors to enjoy along new concrete pathways.

Admission will be the same as for the regular season: \$4 for adults and children under 12 admitted free. Friends of the Garden (FOG) members may show their membership card to enjoy free admission, one of several benefits of membership. FOG volunteers will be on hand to greet visitors at the gate and to provide information.

If you would like to volunteer for this event, call FOG at 417-874-2952.

Note: The garden is normally closed from November through March and will not be open to the public except during the evening hours of this event.

The new pathways are the first phase of several planned improvements as part of the Springfield Botanical Garden's master plan. Future unfunded plans also include renovation of the three ponds in the garden to repair leaks.

The remaining pathways will be completed next year, thanks to the generosity of Conco Companies, which has donated 50 percent of the cost of concrete.

Carson-Mitchell Inc. is doing the site preparation and installation, as well as relocating the Azumaya from the Busch Municipal Building to a new location adjacent to the stroll garden. The relocation is being done at no cost to the Botanical Gardens.

The long-awaited widening and upgrade of the north access road (details are in the map on page 8) links the Japanese Stroll Garden to the Springfield Botanical Gardens entrance on Scenic Avenue

For more information about any of these events, please visit FriendsOfTheGarden.org or call 417-891-1515.

**VISIT FOG
ONLINE
CLICK HERE**



Profile: Carl Redmon

Page 2: One of the longest serving volunteers in Master Gardeners has been plowing new ground since 2000. Want to become a Master Gardener? See page



Behind the Scenes

Page 6: Katie Keith ponders the importance of volunteers and their talents. An advanced training class is planned for Jan. 21, 2019.

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

Friends of the Garden is a non-profit 501(c)(3) corporation founded in 1999 to develop the Spring Botanical Garden at Nathanael Greene/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

Kim Chaffin – President
Becky Morgan – Vice President
Morey Mechlin – Secretary
Christy Yoakum – Treasurer

Board of Directors

Terms Expiring in 2021

Dr. Chris Barnhart, Glenn Blake, Ryan Fletcher, George Freeman, June Huff, Louise Knauer, Gail Melgren, Becky Morgan.

Terms Expiring in 2020

Teresa Allen, Jessi Beauchamp, Mike Hoeman, Cindy Howell, Cindy Willis, Jan Wooten, Christy Yoakum.

Terms Expiring in 2019

Roseann Bentley, Kayla Chambers, Tom Finnie, Morey Mechlin, Jessica Pearson, Don Snyder.

Honorary Lifetime Member

Marthe Close

Advisory Board

Carla Beezley, Bob Childress, Jeanne Duffey, Christie Eden, Bill Roston.

Ex-Officio members: Katie Keith, Botanical Center Coordinator; Becky Day, Horticultural Interpreter

Staff: Lisa Bakerink, FOG Executive Director; Alexandra Saner, FOG Associate Director.

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.



Photo by
William
Aldrich

Carl Redmon:

No shrinking violet when it comes to volunteer leadership, Master Gardener Carl Redmon has stepped up time after time to share his knowledge and passion for gardening. This year more than 1,400 pounds of produce was harvested and donated to three food pantries.

If Carl Redmon were in a scouting organization, he would own every badge available and gone past the Eagle designation years ago.

Carl, however, is a Master Gardener. Has been since 2000. To list his accomplishments would take the entirety of this newsletter. Not only time, Carl uses his personal trailers behind his gleaming red pickup to transport plants, mulch and whatever else needs moving for the good of the annual plant sale, the Water Wise Garden or, especially this last season, the Master Gardener Demonstration Garden at the Springfield Botanical Gardens.

"Last fall I was asked to take over this garden, then realized what we had to do," he said. "We've had lots of help and been able to bring it back to what it should be."

Carl had been in charge of the sprawling garden once before so he had intimate knowledge of the many styles of gardening the public can learn from in the second oldest garden in the park.

"With Nancy Chambers as co-chair of the garden, we wanted to bring it back to the purpose and mission as an outreach arm of the University of Missouri Extension," he said.

"Carl has done a phenomenal job with the garden, including taking care of projects that weren't necessarily glamorous but needed to be done," says Kelly McGowan, horticulture specialist with the MU Extension in Greene County.

An example: Redmon was involved in the installation of a turf test plot that was adorned with statues and surrounded by a boxwood hedge. In his second go-round

as coordinator, he brought together more than 30 master gardeners to learn from Katie Keith, Botanical Center Coordinator, how to prune the out-of-control boxwoods.

As a new pathway was to go through the test plot, some plants needed to be removed for access, an adventure that required a volunteer's heavy-duty pickup and a strong rope. Subsequent workdays were devoted to painting the statues, mulching pathways and preparing for a new entry at that north end of the garden.

The vegetable garden has undergone a similar transformation. New drip irrigation systems allow for demonstrating new techniques that have resulted in more than 1,400 pounds of produce being harvested and donated to three food pantries. Redmon also oversees a community garden at the Wesley United Methodist Church that he designed and built. At home, he raises vegetables, with all production going to the food pantries. "We've donated more than 4,000 pounds this year from the three gardens," he says.

Carl was persuaded to run for the Master Gardener chapter board last year, was elected and subsequently accepted the Demonstration Garden position. In his bio for that election he wrote, "I am retired. I think." After this prodigious accomplishment, he is again saying he'll step away. "I'll be around to advise, to mentor," he says. "I'm 82, you know."

The Master Gardener Demonstration Garden is sponsored by Great Southern Bank.

By William Aldrich, FOG's Garden Volunteer Liaison. Bill profiles noteworthy volunteers as a regular feature. You may reach him at Info@FriendsoftheGarden.org.

GardenNotes from your friends



Holiday train display goes round and round

For the eighth year, the Ozarks Garden Railway Society (OGRS.org) will assemble its holiday train display in the Atrium of the Botanical Center from Thanksgiving through the new year. The trains can be enjoyed from 8 a.m. to p.m. daily.

With the push of a button, youngsters (including the young of heart of all ages) can watch Thomas the Tank along with other miniature locomotives and their holiday cargo winding through tunnels towns and villages in a remarkable display of miniature ingenuity. Donations are appreciated.

Become a Master Gardener in 2019

Master Gardener classes for Greene County will begin on Feb. 12 and continue through April 11, meeting twice a week from 1-4 p.m. on Tuesdays and Thursdays at the Botanical Center.

The cost to enroll is \$160 per person, or \$275 per couple sharing a training manual. Contact Kelly McGowan at McGowanK@Missouri.edu, or call 874-2965 to enroll or for more information.

Master Gardeners is a volunteer organization promoting and raising public awareness of unbiased, research based gardening information. Master Gardeners of Greene County was organized in 1984 to continue that mission, contributing thousands of hours each year in the Springfield area and surrounding region.

Officers nominated, board elected

The following officers have been put forward by the nominating committee for final consideration in December by the board of Friends of the Garden for 2018.

President, **Becky Morgan**; Vice-president, **Jan Wooten**; Secretary, **Gail Melgren**; Treasurer; and **Teresa Allen**.

New board members elected at the October meeting include **Dr. Chris Barnhart**, **Glenn Blake**, **Ryan Fletcher** and **June Huff**. Re-elected board members include **George Freeman**, **Louis Knauer**, **Gail Melgren** and **Becky Morgan**.

From the President:

A good time to think how far we've come

As we approach the end of another season, it is good time to reflect on both where we are and where we want to be. It is a chance to reflect on how far we've come, and where our path may lead us. Even now, your board of directors is evaluating how we enhance and strengthen the gardens for years to come.

I am proud to be a part of an organization that has played a vital role in the growth of our Springfield Botanical Gardens. We now have an excellent team of paid staff who are instrumental in both managing the gardens and getting the word out about this extraordinary place.

• Lisa Bakerink, our passionate executive director along with her assistant Lexy Saner, have coupled their creative abilities along with their passion for the gardens to help engage our community. (Lexy divides her time between FOG and Sister Cities.)

• Bill Aldrich, our garden volunteer liaison, has been invaluable in assisting our 100-plus garden volunteers, who are so very valuable to the maintenance of our 40-plus gardens.



Kim Chaffin

The FOG board launched our first garden sponsorship program with great success. Under the very able leadership of Morey Mechlin we have brought in \$350,000 over three years. These donors are valued partners who are enhancing our gardens and increasing our endowment.

But enough about where we are. What's next? Our country is full of inspiring botanical gardens that can really get a person dreaming of what our garden could be.

How about a fully functioning greenhouse? Or a new welcoming entryway with artistic touches and clear signage? Or how about a children's garden where kids are encouraged to engage with nature and discover the magic of a garden?

But of course we are well into Phase I of the Sensory Garden and Kitchen Classroom, our largest endeavor yet in size and scope. Completion of the Peace through People Pavilion, our first joint project with Springfield Sister Cities Association, has added an entirely new dimension through outdoor music and culture.

Inspiration is easy to find, turning those dreams into reality is where the challenge lies. But what a great and worthy work that is. The board of Friends of the Garden is excited by these challenges and committed to keeping our positive momentum growing.

We look forward to engaging with our visitors, our members, our future members, our donors and community leaders. We need everyone's help to turn our present dreams into our future reality. We look forward to working with you.

Kim Chaffin is completing her second year as president of Friends of the Garden. You can 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).



J.J., a golden retriever, appreciates Shaun Munday's incredible musical talents, but he did sit patiently throughout the concert at the Peace Through People Pavilion on a perfect Sunday afternoon for the Sounds of Autumn concert series. Donations at the concerts will help fund an accessible path through the Kickapoo Edge Native Prairie Garden.

Photo by George Freeman

Membership has benefits

While Friends of the Garden is a volunteer organization, membership has valuable benefits in addition to the events and information our partners provide.

This time of year, don't forget the Botanical Boutique for holiday gifts. FOG members receive a 10 percent discount on any purchase. Soft drinks, snacks and other treats are available.

With your membership, admission is free for you and a guest to the Mizumoto Japanese Stroll Garden (except the the fall festival). Membership also provides access to more than 300 public gardens around the country through our membership in the American Horticulture Society. If you're planning a visit to other communities, we're pleased to help you locate public gardens in Missouri and other states.

At the Master Gardeners hotline number (417-881-8909), volunteers will address questions about plants and gardening. There's also an extensive reference library with nearly 400 volumes on gardening topics.



FOG will participate in online fund-raiser

Thanks to the Community Foundation of the Ozarks, FOG and other area non-profits will have an opportunity to raise awareness and funds beginning with Giving Tuesday on Nov. 27 through New Year's Eve on Dec. 31, 2018.

During this time, FOG will be accepting donations both online as well as by cash or check for our Sensory Garden project.

FOG's project on www.CauseMomentum.org will give donors ample time to #CauseMoCheer through end-of-year donations.

For more information, contact the FOG office at 417-874-2952 or email LBakerink@SpringfieldMo.gov. Donors can support FOG as well as other Ozarks-based nonprofits online.

Cause Momentum is the Community Foundation of the Ozarks' own crowd-funding website, developed by the Springfield-based firm, Mostly Serious.

The site is available exclusively for the CFO's non-profit agency partners.

"We're so glad we can help our non-profit partners make the most of Giving Tuesday," says Brian Fogle, President and CEO of the CFO.

FOG is one of more than 600 non-profit partners of the Community Foundation of the Ozarks, a regional public charitable foundation established in 1973 that provides asset and resource development, grant-making and public leadership through a network of donors, 49 affiliate foundations and nonprofit partners across central and southern Missouri.

Memberships, memorials, tributes and garden donations*

Memberships

Adams, Sherry*
Anbari, Allison
Anderson, Joanne*
Antrikin, Lucy*
Archer, John*
Baird, Kate
Bakerink, Lisa*
Bakerink, Randy*
Beckner, Dan*
Beckner, Zoe*
Bender, Harold*
Bender, Lee Ann*
Black, Maggie*
Blair, Pat*
Blair, Robert C.*
Brandt, Candace
Buckley, Lois*
Buffington, Vicki*
Burton, David*
Carson, George*
Carson, Sherry*
Chittenden, Kevin*
Christiano, David*
Christiano, Mary*
Chriswell, Arlene*
Clark, Charles*
Cooper, Nancy*
Corbett, Patsy D.*
Cornett, Tom*
Coverdell, Elizabeth*
Coverdell, Ron*
Crain, Elise M.*
Dillinger, Allison*
Doyle, Michele*
Eden, Jacob
Elzey, Annie
Fort, Patricia*
Foss, Holly*
Garcia, Josefina
Gintz, Anna*
Greenfield, Alice*
Grimes, Janice
Hand, Alice*
Harrell, Angie
Herfkens, Ken*
Herfkens, Mary Ann*
Higgins, JoLynn
Hillbilly Garden Club*
Hilton, Dottie*
Hogan, Crista
Holman, Ralph*
Hopkins, Diana*
Horner, John*
Hutchens, Esther
Hutchens, Taylor
Hutchison, Kathy*
Iler, Anne*
Iler, Steve*
Johnson, Barry B.*
Johnson, Richard*
Johnson, Shae*
Johnston, Debra*
Karanikas, Marianthe*
Kauffman, Kathleen
Kauffman, Richard
Keagy, Buck
Keagy, Pat
Kittleson, Kristi*
Kohler, Giselle*
Kohr, Michael*
Kufahl, Kathryn*
Kynion, Ann
Ledger, Greg
Ledger, Molly
Lee, Peggy Day*
Lemons, Stephanie
Lindeberg, Jack
Lindeberg, Leslie
Lloyd-Smith, Rosemary

Mallamo, Nancy*
Marrs, Brigitte
McCain, Janice*
McCall, Abram
McHaffie, James G.*
McQueary, Mark L.*
McQueary, Terri W.*
Mechlin, Morey*
Mechlin, Norman*
Mee, Virginia*
Melgren, Nadine*
Michelletti, Tom
Miller, Debra*
Missouri Prairie
Foundation*
Mizer, N. Victoria Garcia
Moore, Garry
Moore, Marty
Moran, Edward*
Morriset, Marcia*
Moyer, Roberta H.*
Nasby, Andie*
Nelson, Dellene*
Nelson, Larry*
Nelson, Lori
Nelson, Mark
Nicholson, Donald*
Nowack, Donald
Nowack, Malissa
O'Dell, Kathleen
Oliver, Judy*
Peacock, Linda*
Pearl, Peggy*
Peele, John*
Pope, Teresa*
Porterfield, Coy*
Quebbeman, Sandra*
Rani, Divya
Ratten, Kay*
Rosenkoetter, Marcie*
Rutherford, Clara*
Sachs, Bill*
Saner, Alexandra
Schirmer, Carolyn*
Schmitt, Jake
Shaeffer, James T.*
Shook, Betty*
Simpkins, George*
Simpkins, Wanda*
Skibiski, Jeanie*
Smith, Becky
Smith, Mike
Spore, Dan*
Spore, Mary*
Springer, Carla*
Squires, Patricia*
Stainbrook, Don*
Stainbrook, Judith*
Stevens, Mike
Strawn, Carmen
Stuckey, Ross*
Thomas, Andrew*
Thomas, Jacob*
Throckmorton, John*
Tyndall, Constance*
Van Weelden, Patty*
Vijay, Vikrant
Vowels, Cheryl*
White, Marilyn*
White, Tuell*
Wilson, Kenneth*
Wilson, Sunni Rae*
Wimberley, Kathy*
Wortham, Kelly

Garden Friends

Anderson, Janet*
Anderson, Jim*
Applegate, Clara*
Brown, Barbara M.*

Carter, Elaine*
Close, Joe*
Close, Julie*
Daugherty, Susan*
Edwards, Becky*
Edwards, Gale*
Everett, Judy*
Freeman, George*
Freeman, Nancy*
H'Doubler, Kurt*
H'Doubler, Maryanne*
Myron Royce Gardens*
Kelly, Margaret*
McQueary, Ramona*
Milne, Jay*
Milne, Susan*
Morris, Wade*
Pimm, Alex*
Pimm, Cathy*
Pyle, Susan*
Tilley, Josette*
Tilley, Mike*
Wilbers, Chris*
Wilbers, Colette*
Willis, Cynthia*
Willis, Jeffery*

Garden Contributor

Prater, Kim*
Prater, Tom*
Quinn, Jerry C.*
Selby, Clark*
Selby, Karen*

Tribute Shrubs/Trees

Casey, Tim and Debbie
Faaborg, Rana
Ronald, Teresa

Tribute Bricks

Allison, Caitlin
Brentwood Garden Club
Castleberry, Lynn and
Manuel
Drelling, Marcia
Farrah, Elizabeth
Grassa, Patricia
Hampton, Kathryn
Lieberwitz, Donald
Mallamo, Nancy
Miller, Janice
Nelson, Dellene and Larry
Payne, Kristi
Stevens, Jennifer
Tarrasch-Scholz, Rachal
Wurst, Roberta

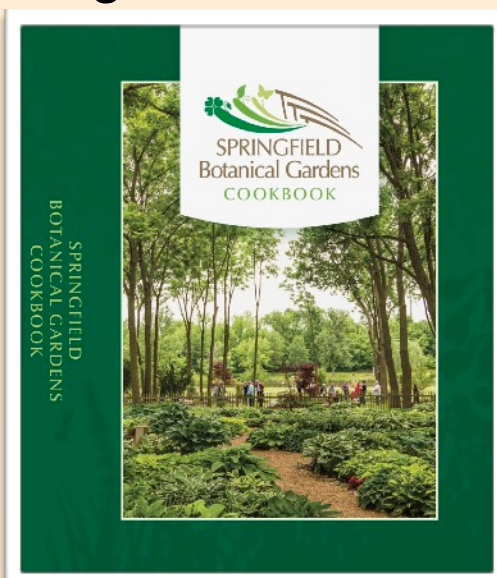
Gift Membership Donors

Beezley, Carla
Carter, Elaine
Castleberry, Lynn
Chaffin, Kim
Everett, Judy
Farrah, Elizabeth
Freeman, George
H'Doubler, Maryanne
Hoeman, Michael
Kelly, Margaret
Miller, Janice
Nelson, Dellene
Pink Dogwood Garden Club
Saner, Alexandra
Tarrasch-Scholz, Rachal

Gift Membership

Recipients

Barnes, Christine
Bentley, John*
Bentley, Roseann*
Blair, Melanie
Blair, Sam
Brentwood Garden Club



Here's a holiday gift suggestion: Friends of the Garden's own limited edition cookbook features favorite recipes from our very own members, including Earl Whitman's own personal favorite, Elephant Stew, along with a history of the botanical gardens and fabulous photographs by Aaron J. Scott. The cookbook is priceless, it's available for only \$20.

Bresee, Tanya*
Brooks, Patty
Cardwell, Dan*
Cardwell, Susan*
Carlberg, Melissa
Carlberg, Zach
Casey, Debbie*
Casey, Tim*
Castleberry, Lynn
Castleberry, Manuel
Chaffin, Anabelle
Chaffin, Sam
Cox, Lillian Sharon
Drelling, Marcia
Farquhar, Margaret
Finnie, Tom*
Gideon, Julie
Gideon, Matt
Grassa, Patricia
Hampton, Kathryn
Heet, Katie
Hoeman, Chris
Hoeman, Stephanie
Hogan Land Title
Company*
Holmes, Mary Lynn*
Ingemi, Jenn*
Kelly, John
Kelly, Rhonda
Lieberwitz, Donald
Mercer, Brenda
Montgomery, Stephanie
Moore, Clarissa*
Mushrush, Margaret
Oliver, Craig
Owens, Anna*
Payne, Kristi
Pearson, Jessica*
Pearson, Joel*
Placzek, Ellen*
Raidel, Beth
Raidel, John
Risdal-Barnes, Michele

Ronald, Teresa
Saner, Mark
Saner, Sandra
Stevens, Jennifer
Toth, Lou
Trotter, Janet*
Trotter, Yates*
Walker, Mary*
Wilson, Janice
Wooten, Jan
Wooten, Michael
Wurst, Roberta K*

General Donations/Gifts

Carnahan, Frank and Susan
Majik, Sharon
Milne, Jay and Susan
Morgan, Dayna
Nelson, Lori and Mark
Pink Dogwood Garden Club

Restricted Donations/Gifts

Cox, Lillian Sharon
Finnie, Tom
Overbey, Janice
Parrish, Stan and Susan
Risdal-Barnes, Michele
Wilson Essman Fund

Garden Sponsorships

Montgomery, Stephanie
Raidel, John and Beth
Wooten, Jan and Michael



Jim Mauldin, whose vision led to the Ethnic Life Stories Trail of Trees along the north perimeter of the park, presented a gift of \$60,000 in stock certificates to endow the garden permanently. The personal stories of immigrants to the Ozarks, is preserved to review in the reference library as well as The Library Center.



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!**



**SPRINGFIELD
Botanical Gardens**
at NATHANAEAL GREENE/CLOSE MEMORIAL PARK

BECOME A MEMBER TODAY!

Membership Benefits

- Subscription to either Better Homes & Gardens or Martha Stewart Living magazines
- 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 membership)
- ☐ \$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:

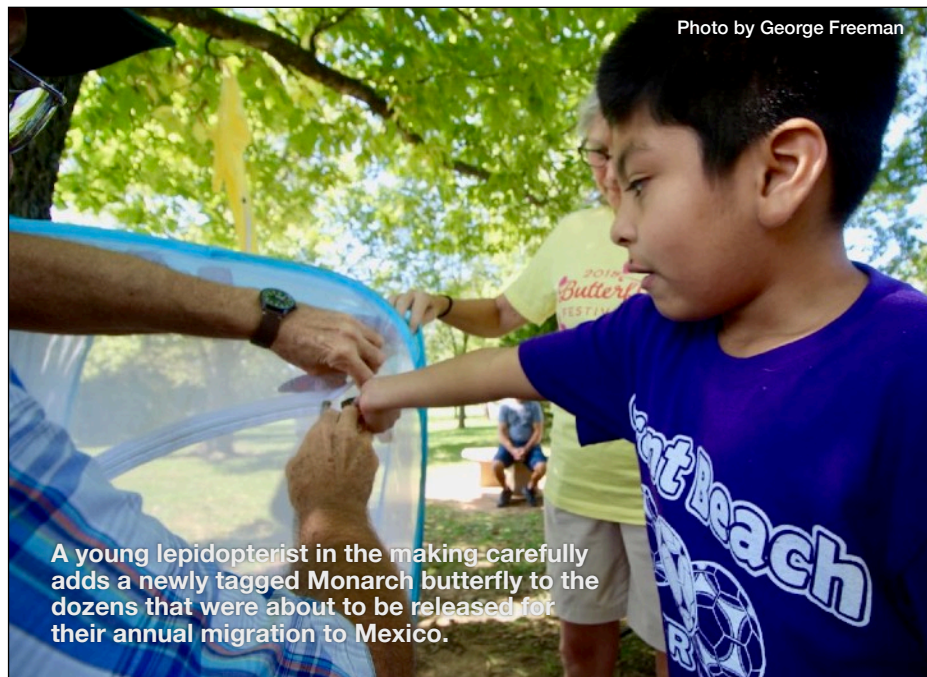
Please send form and mail check payable to: Friends of the Garden
2400 S. Scenic Ave., Springfield, MO 65807
Questions? Call (417) 874-2952, email info@friendsofthegarden.org,
or go to friendsofthegarden.org

Corporate Sponsorships

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

Gardening behind the scenes:

Gardens are purposeful places of awe, repositories for rare and endangered plants and butterflies. Our strength comes from a wealth of volunteers to educate and empower our partners



A young lepidopterist in the making carefully adds a newly tagged Monarch butterfly to the dozens that were about to be released for their annual migration to Mexico.



A Parks Perspective:

Katie Keith

Being surrounded by the reflecting pool in the Great Hall at Crystal Bridges in Bentonville, Ark., on the Springfield-Greene County Botanical Center's eighth birthday was emotional for me as I interacted with peer institutions participating in the American Public Garden Association symposium theme, "From the Ground Up."

Each of us shared experiences of managing living landscapes and the impacts of visitors and of the environment and discussed strategies for continued growth.

The programming began at the Tulsa Botanic Garden where a record-setting monarch butterfly count was observed and our hearts were going out to the gulf coast as hurricane Michael was no doubt hitting unique landscape systems for our country.

Gardens are purposeful places of awe and wonderment as well as repositories for rare and endangered plants and butterflies that become more obvious when disasters hit.

Public gardens are indispensable, yet we are challenged to give our gardens' struggle a voice. We serve an overwhelming audience! In fact, annual visitation at public gardens trumps the combined attendance at all professional sports including baseball, football, basketball, hockey, races and golf. It is not easy to meet the needs and expectations of all of our visitors or the green industry. I would like to share some of the inspiring themes that motivate me as we enter a next chapter in our gardens' history.

It is striking to reflect on how fortunate we are to have volunteers to maintain and curate a majority of the gardens and plantings within the park. Even younger botanical gardens that are much smaller in acreage, with fewer visitors than our gardens have exponentially larger staffs with clear roles. While we clearly have a

treasure in our volunteers, we are missing the consistency of a professional staff that would measure, record and understand our plant communities and the health of water, soils and wildlife in the gardens.

The western landscape of the Botanical Center is a poignant example where traditional horticultural practices employed to decorate with ornamental plants in a vacuum where the soil was not prepared and plants were never allowed to thrive, create an impactful eyesore as a guest's first impression.

I enjoyed listening to the Chicago Botanic Garden discuss their efforts in soil renovation and feeding the soil microbes to set plants up for success. I took solace in knowing that most gardens struggle to find sufficient desirable plant material and must grow their own in their on site nurseries and greenhouses. However, most of these gardens had basic infrastructure tools to overcome those challenges.

While you won't see the staff or facilities behind the scenes at the Springfield Botanical Gardens to monitor and manage pests and disease, or even to simply harvest a seed and help it grow; we have the volunteers to educate and empower all of our partners.

To summarize our basic goals, we should be stunning every day, a resource for educational purposes of all kinds and accepting and serving the most diverse audiences. This will take training from the ground up, and I hope to harness Springfield's wealth of knowledge from community experts. It is my goal in the coming year to provide more opportunities for people to volunteer in ways not seen before. Watch for a botanical garden ambassador certificate program as a next level of volunteer training to begin on Martin Luther King Jr. Day of Service, Jan. 21, 2019.

Katie Keith is coordinator of the Springfield Botanical Center at the Springfield Botanical Gardens, 2400 S. Scenic, Springfield, 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*

- **Nov. 30-Dec. 22:** 5:30 p.m.-8:30 p.m., Friday and Saturday Evening Strolls in the Mizumoto Japanese Stroll Garden.
- **Nov. 27-Dec 31:** #CauseMoCheer online fund-raising campaign. (See story on page 4).
- **Dec. 1-31:** 8:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. Mondays-Saturdays; 11:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. Sundays: Holiday Train Garden Display.
- **Dec. 1:** 1:00 p.m.-3:00 p.m.: Christmas at the Gray-Campbell Farmstead.
- **Dec. 6:** 5:00 p.m. FOG monthly board meeting.
- **Dec. 12:** 9:00 a.m.-9:45 a.m.: Garden Story Time. 19
- **Dec. 15:** 10:00 a.m.-Noon: Handmade Wreath Workshop.
- **Jan 10:** 5:00 p.m. Annual meeting of Friends of the Garden.
- **Feb. 12-April 11:** 1:00-4:00 p.m.; Master Gardeners of Greene County classes.

*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.

Using maps and guides:

Even those of us who visit and work in the Springfield Botanical Gardens appreciate the complexity and potential for getting bewildered along the way.

Springfield-Greene County Parks, Friends of the Garden and our many partners are constantly striving to make it easy to make your way around the 114 acres. On the map at left (also on display in the Atrium), you can plan your visit, locate various gardens in advance and locate public restrooms and other facilities.

As well, we regard the gardens as a "library of plants," an outdoor classroom where you can learn about the plants as well as enjoy them. Every specimen varietal is identified with its common and botanical name.

Many of our gardens are now sponsored by businesses and individuals who agreed to provide financial support. They are identified on special plaques at each garden.

If you have a smart phone or other computer with access to the Internet, you can even take an online tour of every garden at SgfBot.org from wherever you may be.