

**Pittsburgh Botanic Garden Wins
2014 Governor's Award for Environmental Excellence**



Pittsburgh, PA – April 17, 2014 – The Pittsburgh Botanic Garden is proud to be selected by the Pennsylvania Environmental Council to receive the 2014 Governor's Award for Environmental Excellence.

The award is the highest statewide honor for environmental innovation and expertise. Recognition was given specifically for the installation of a passive water treatment system. The system transforms poor water quality with acidity similar to vinegar into uncontaminated water. The affected pond is the future site of the Pittsburgh Botanic Garden's Asian Pond. A drainable limestone bed set in the ground next to the pond was filled with 450 tons of limestone, donated by Carmeuse Lime and Stone Co. Mine water flows over the limestone, neutralizing the acid. The system was designed by Hedin Environmental, Inc. and Melissa Marshall of Marshall Tyler Rausch, Landscape Architects, Inc., and purifies 11,500 gallons day. A walking trail was built on top of the system and it is nearly invisible to Garden visitors, which gives staff and volunteers and opportunity to highlight the system and explain its value to guests.

"When we open the first phase of the Pittsburgh Botanic Garden later this summer, we will be able to show visitors this innovative reclamation effort and a thriving aquatic ecosystem able to support plants and wildlife in our Asian Pond," said Greg Nace, President of the Pittsburgh Botanic Garden.

Funding for the project came from the Allegheny County Conservation District, Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection Growing Greener Program, Foundation for Pennsylvania Watersheds, Allegheny County Conservation District, Trout Unlimited and the Colcom Foundation.

The Pennsylvania Environmental Council will present the Governor's Award for Environmental Excellence in Harrisburg on April 22.

Background:

The Pittsburgh Botanic Garden is a non-profit organization creating a world-class botanic garden, including 18 distinct gardens, five diverse woodland experiences, a visitor's center, an amphitheater for outdoor concerts and performances, a celebration center to accommodate weddings and events, and a center for botanic research. The total land area is 460 acres. The first 60 acres will open in August of 2014 and is comprised of the Woodlands of the World, the Bayer Welcome Center, a historic farmstead and over three miles of trails. For more information about the Pittsburgh Botanic Garden, visit: www.pittsburghbotanicgarden.org

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The walking path winds right up to the treatment bed alongside the renewed woodland pond. The beginnings of a zen stone garden are visible atop the scientific system.

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