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bloom

NEWSLETTER

Garden Progress!

The Garden is bursting with late summer blooms. From the meadows with tall goldenrod (*Solidago* spp.), Queen Anne's lace (*Daucus carota*) and grasses, to water lilies on the Lotus Pond and new plantings around the Bayer Welcome Center and Peirce Celebration Garden, you can see lots of color and busy pollinators! Volunteers and staff have been working all spring and summer, planting and planning for the future. The stories that follow provide a glimpse of their accomplishments.



Photo courtesy of Jerry Andres

Acid Drainage in Kentucky Hollow to be Addressed



More than 50 FedEx Ground team members volunteered their time on May 20 to work in Kentucky Hollow. The day was sponsored by FedEx and NFWF to address environmental challenges nationwide. The Garden was one of 20 non-profit organizations selected from around the U.S. by FedEx and NFWF to receive support through the Five Star and Urban Waters Program.

Acid mine drainage flows into Kentucky Hollow from the third hilltop ridge. At one time the area was a natural wetland, but in the 1920s the mining company working on the land drained the wetland and turned it into a miners' camp.

Today, Kentucky Hollow is the third area of the Garden that will be remediated for acid mine drainage. Through a grant from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF), Hedin Environmental is working on a design to remediate the polluted water in this area that will be similar to the treatment system at the Lotus Pond.

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Save the Dates!

September 19: Pioneer Day from 10 am to 1 pm, activities all day including the log cabin open house and Paw Paw educational opportunities

November 1: From Garden to Table with Justin Severino of Cure Restaurant

Hey Garden Clubs!

Bring your group for a guided tour of the Garden. Cost is \$10 per person. A tour guide is provided for every 25 people. Advance registration is requested. Contact Guest Services at 412-444-4464 ext. 210.

WHAT'S HAPPENING:

Gala Honoring Alice Waters to Feature Fresh, Seasonal Foods



According to Chef Bill Fuller, "Alice Waters moved the American food scene in a new direction that we all really love: cooking in the season informally and deliciously. We would not be where we are and who we are without the movement she started. It's really an honor to cook for her."

Guests at the September 12 event, From Garden to Table, A Gala Tribute to Alice Waters will enjoy a harvest celebration featuring fresh local food prepared by some of the region's best chefs. Set amid the late-summer splendor of the Pittsburgh Botanic Garden, Chef Bill Fuller says, "It will be a relaxed and comfortable evening where people can break bread, pass dishes made with seasonal ingredients from area farms, talk and enjoy wonderful food."

After cocktails, guests will dine on small bites featuring charcuterie prepared by Chefs Trevett Hooper and Justin Severino. The first course will include a cold soup and a salad of finely diced ripe melon and ham surrounded by a flavorful puree made by Derek Stevens from peak-of-summer tomatoes.

The main course will be slow-barbecued southwestern Pennsylvania lamb. "Local farms like Elysian Fields Farm and Jamison Farm produce premiere, high-end lamb," proclaims Chef Fuller. "Our topography, succulent delicious grasses and abundant rainfall make this region one of the best places to raise lamb. It's become a big thing in our profession." The chefs will collaborate on the barbecue sauce for the meat.

In addition to the barbecue, guests will enjoy side dishes made from lots of seasonal ingredients procured from local growers. "We'll have a big old tomato salad, ratatouille, corn, a salad made from fresh, flavorful cucumbers picked locally; just a whole bunch of dishes to pass and share, to celebrate seasonal foods and honor Alice Waters," says Fuller.

This won't be the first time Chef Fuller has had the privilege of cooking for Ms. Waters. He recounts serving her at ELEVEN the last time she was in Pittsburgh. "We were offering a salad that night made with fresh mesclun and greens that were grown and blended by Darrell Frey, owner of Three Sisters Farm in Sandy Lake, Pennsylvania. After we served her, she carefully placed the different greens of the salad around the rim of the plate so she could marvel at each one. She said it was one of the best green salads she ever had."

"One of the beautiful things about Alice Waters and what she brought to worldwide dining," he says, "is it's all about, let's get some delicious food that's in season. We know who grew it and produced it. Let's prepare it simply, without pretense, so it tastes like it's supposed to taste, and share it with people we enjoy."

The Gala will be held at the Garden on Saturday, September 12 from 5:30 to 10 pm. The event's culinary committee leaders include Bill Fuller, corporate chef, big Burrito Restaurant Group; Trevett Hooper, chef and co-owner, Legume Bistro and Butterjoint; Sonja Finn, chef and owner, Dinette; Kate Romane, chef and owner, e2; Justin Severino, chef and owner, CURE and Morcilla; and Derek Stevens, Executive Chef ELEVEN. For more details and to purchase tickets, call 412-444-4464 or visit pittsburghbotanicgarden.org.



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Call Megan at 412-444-4464 ext. 222

A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

A Culture of Planning



The last couple years have been gratifying and exciting at the Pittsburgh Botanic Garden, with so many accomplishments and the Garden's permanent opening. To grow the Garden further, it is critically important at this stage for our staff and board to foster a culture of planning. To that end, we hired Bonner Consulting to help us develop a strategic plan to guide our efforts for the next three years. This planning process helped us identify major themes for directing our energies.

One theme is the physical garden development, including revisions to the master plan, Japanese-style garden and children's garden of the five senses (articles about these latter two gardens are featured on page 4). We engaged the architectural firm Overland Partners to design our next building, the visitor's center/orangery. I am anxious to show you their work, but we are still in the early conceptual stages. I can say with certainty that you will be impressed with their vision.

Another theme is audience development, which ties in with our identity and branding. Our slogan, "Inspiring people to grow" serves as our compass and our newly hired Education Manager, Amanda Joy, is planning programs that reach a wider audience of adults and children with unique and interesting offerings.

Our planning also pointed out the need to offer exciting exhibits that will draw new audiences and repeat visitors. I'm thrilled to announce that next year the Garden will host the exhibit "Nature Connects: A LEGO® Brick Experience." This award-winning, record-breaking exhibit is touring North America. It will feature a dozen larger-than-life sculptures, each built with tens of thousands of LEGO bricks by New York artist Sean Kenney. The exhibit is planned for April 22 to July 15, 2016 at the Pittsburgh Botanic Garden.

Keep in touch for details about this exhibit, as well as world class exhibits that will be part of our continued programming. We are committed to being a fresh, unique and vibrant player in Pittsburgh's constellation of destinations and events.


GREG NACE

Adult Education Programs Offered

All classes are held on Thursday evenings from 6:30 to 8 pm. Cost is \$5 per class for members, \$20 for non-members (garden admission included). No pre-registration is required.

August 20: Bonsai, taught by Jamie Holmes

September 3: Fall Garden Prep, taught by Colleen McInerney

September 17: Trees and Shrubs, taught by Ben Hartanft

October 1: Native Plants, taught by Colleen McInerney



Discovery Cart Gets Around

The Discovery Cart is a “rolling classroom” with supplies for environmental crafts and learning. It’s a big hit with kids! A grant from the Child Health Association of Sewickley funded the cart and initial supplies. Another grant from The Earl Knudsen Foundation will provide additional materials and staff training.

Children’s Garden of the Five Senses Underway

The Family Moments Station, “Let’s Get to the Root of the Matter,” is being transformed into a children’s garden of the five senses. The new, enlarged garden will invite exploration and delight all children and be a special healing place for children with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD). Once completed, it will be the largest garden in the region designed to aid children with ASD.

The garden will feature several distinct areas, each designed to engage one or more of the senses. Later this year, a star-shaped pavilion will be installed to serve as the gathering point for this area. The structure was designed, engineered and built by students at the Keystone+Mountain+Lakes Regional Council of Carpenters.

Installation of the pavilion and the rest of the garden will begin once funding is secured. If you are interested in supporting this one-of-a-kind project that will benefit children for generations, please contact Kitty Vagley at 412-444-4464 x-223.



A new flagstone walkway below the Margaret Lawrence Simon Dogwood Meadow is in place that will lead to the future children’s garden of the five senses.

Numerous naming opportunities are available as the Pittsburgh Botanic Garden grows.

Some of the latest include the Ada and George Davidson Event and Culinary Center and Peirce Celebration Garden. Please contact Kitty Vagley at 412-444-4464 x-223 to discuss options.

Progress in the Japanese-Style Garden

You may notice a number of tall, translucent green tubes above the Lotus Pond; these shelter bare-root trees that were planted this spring, many of which have an Asian provenance.

“One of the trees we’re excited about is a Japanese maple variety called ‘Koto no ito,’ which is an especially beautiful tree,” says Horticulture and Facilities Manager Benjamin Carroll. When mature, the tree possesses a delicate beauty in its graceful branching structure and finely cut leaves. Translated, the name ‘Koto no ito’ means ‘harp strings,’ in reference to the leaves.

Other trees planted in the vicinity to increase biodiversity include *Sorbus alnifolia* (Korean mountain ash), *Larix* (larch), *Metasequoia glyptostroboides* (dawn redwood), *Styrax japonicus* (Japanese snowbell), *Davidia involucrata* (dove or handkerchief tree) and *Sciadopitys verticillata* (Japanese umbrella pine). Hess Nursery kindly donated several of the trees.

A new pier provides visitors with an additional opportunity to enjoy the wildlife at the Lotus Pond. The project is funded with the remainder of a grant provided by The EQT Foundation, which was used for other projects associated with the Lotus Pond.

Thanks to the now-clean waters, the Lotus Pond is teeming with wildlife, including fish, frogs, many species of dragonflies and blooming lilies and lotus. Two new species of water-loving birds spotted at the pond have been added to our bird list—blue heron and hooded merganser—bringing the total to 105 species recorded.



The stepping stones across the upper end of the pond were re-set, allowing visitors to cross the pond.



A new Family Moments station, “The Rocky Trail,” is underway above the Lotus Pond, thanks to a grant from Babcock Charitable Trust. This feature will allow children to splash and play safely in a shallow rocky stream.



Bayer Materials Science volunteers near the orchard.

Cove Forest Planted

Volunteers from ThyssenKrupp AG and Bayer Materials Science planted more than 1,000 native trees, shrubs and perennials in the Cove Forest in June. Plants selected for this area provide food and shelter for wildlife and broaden the biodiversity in this area. Farm Design LLC graciously donated design expertise to show how the plants could be combined in different vignettes that were used during planting.



Log Cabin Restoration Complete

The log cabin in the Heritage Homestead has been fully restored for use as a classroom, and will be part of the September 19th Pioneer West Historical Society log cabin day open house. Restorations included a new roof, interior and exterior chinking, stone steps into the cabin, windows, door, electric and HVAC systems. Volunteers sanded and stained the floor. Grants from Laurel Foundation, The Grable Foundation and Allegheny Foundation made the restoration possible!



Pollinators love various thymes along the walkway to the Peirce Celebration Garden.

Herb Society Lends Expertise to Plantings

Members of The Western PA Unit of the Herb Society of America planted herbs in two areas of the Garden earlier this summer. They added pollinator-friendly herbs along the walkway to the Peirce Celebration Garden, including an assortment of thymes (*Thymus*) to create a “thyme walk” The volunteers also planted various herbs in the Pioneer Garden near the log cabin. All the herbs were donated by the members of the club. The Garden greatly appreciates the knowledge and hard work of these volunteers!



Signs Identify Plants

We have installed hundreds of new signs to help you identify plants at the Garden. We are also using new “ephemeral signs” in seasonal plantings that can be erased and re-used.



Hermit Hut Takes Shape

A fanciful hermit hut in the English Woodlands is delighting visitors who come upon it in the upper area of the Woodlands. Stone mason George Appel and his crew constructed the artistic stone structure, which will be topped with a thatched roof.



Arbor Supports Vines of Good Cheer

The new arbor near the wildflower meadow has been planted with vines that bear fruits used to make beer and wine. Common hops (*Humulus lupulus* ‘Aureus’) and several varieties of grape (*Vitis*) are being trained to clamber up the structure to provide a shady respite for visitors.

AEO Volunteers Spruce up Heritage Homestead

Nearly 40 volunteers from American Eagle Outfitters (AEO) completed a number of projects in the Heritage Homestead on May 28. The group was part of AEO's Better World Day organized with Pittsburgh Cares. They stained and sealed the sheep shed, chicken coop and orchard arbor gates. They purchased a tiller and used it to prepare the soil in the Pioneer Garden for planting, then kindly donated the tiller to the Garden. We are very grateful for this group's time and generosity!

GARDENER'S CORNER

These Posies Please Pollinators

Visit the Garden soon to see our meadows bursting with blooms and buzzing with pollinators. Many of the plants found in the meadows make great garden plants and cut flowers. Here are a few to consider trying:

Coneflower

Plant breeders are developing many new varieties of *Echinacea* or coneflower. Available in a boggling array of colors and forms, you can't go wrong with the old-fashioned purple variety too. Plants can be seedy if you leave them stand through winter (birds love the seeds) but are not hard to pull. Flowers begin forming in mid-summer on 2- to 3-foot stems and the show continues for weeks. Grows in full sun in average garden soil.

Goldenrod

The Margaret Lawrence Simon Dogwood Meadow is awash in *Solidago* or goldenrod. This denizen of the plains turns fields and meadows bright golden yellow from late summer into fall. It is incorrectly blamed for causing hayfever. Plants expand in size but pull out easily where not wanted. Tolerates poor soil and likes full sun.



Pollinators flock to coneflowers but deer tend to leave them alone.

Coreopsis

There are many varieties of *Coreopsis* or tickseed, most blooming in late spring to early summer so you won't see them flowering now. Lanceleaf tickseed (*C. lanceolata*) and plains tickseed (*C. tinctoria*) grow in the low meadow around the entrance sign on Pinkerton Run Road. Lanceleaf tickseed grows to about 2-1/2 feet tall and is topped by cheery yellow flowers. It is not reliably hardy here but self-sows freely. The bright yellow flowers of plains tickseed are have deep red centers and grow on wiry two-foot stems. Best treated as an annual in our climate but occasionally re-seeds. Tickseed grows in full sun in average garden soil.

Bee balm

Monarda or bee balm is a popular 'pass along' garden plant because it spreads easily. The shallow roots are easy to pull to keep the plant in check, but let it romp if you have space—the pollinators love it! In early summer, the 2-foot stems are topped with red, pink or lavender flowers (depending on variety) that last a long time. The flowers give the distinctive taste found in Earl Gray tea. They can be used fresh or dried for later use. Grow bee balm in rich soil in full sun to part shade. In the wild, they are found along lowlands and stream banks, so they appreciate some moisture. Hardy and deer resistant.

Butterfly weed /milkweed

Do the monarch butterflies a favor and plant some *Asclepias*. There are several species but we recommend *A. tuberosa* (butterfly weed) or *A. incarnata* (swamp milkweed). Butterfly weed is about 18 inches tall and bears flat-topped, bright orange flowers in mid-summer. Swamp milkweed is 3-4 feet tall and has large, coarse leaves and big, pinkish ball-shaped flowers. Both thrive in full sun and average soil.



The square stems of bee balm indicate that it is in the mint family.



Butterfly weed is a pollinator magnet.

Honorariums & Memorials

Honorariums and memorials made to the Garden are a thoughtful way to recognize a special occasion or remember a loved one. The following gifts were received from early spring through June 2015.

IN MEMORY OF

Philip Alfonsi

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IN HONOR OF

Frank Pizzi

Dorothy and John Boyer

IN HONOR OF

Elaine Bellin and Phyllis Coontz

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The Pittsburgh Botanic Garden's mission is to inspire people to grow through immersion in a world of natural outdoor wonder to nourish mind, body and spirit.

HELPING US BLOSSOM!

Volunteer Spotlight

The Garden is fortunate to receive volunteer support from so many individuals as well as groups. Volunteers from BNY Mellon have been especially dedicated—they have held work days at the Garden for the past four years, each time involving at least 100 individuals!

BNY Mellon kindly funds some of the supplies and tools needed for their work days then donates these items to the Garden so they can be used by other volunteers. In addition, BNY Mellon matches their employees' volunteer time with funding to the Garden.

We salute BNY Mellon and their wonderful employees for their generosity and friendship.

If your group or organization would like to schedule an outdoor work day at the Garden, please contact Sue Myers, 412-444-4464 x236, email smyers@pittsburghbotanicgarden.org.



BNY Mellon Volunteers