

# GARDEN ELEMENTS

LEARN • PLAY • GROW

Volume 22 Summer 2014



## Firefly Fling: THE Festival for Families

**F**irefly Fling is Saturday, July 19 from 6:00 to 10:00 pm here at the Botanical Gardens. Since Marie Vukin took over the reins of directing the festival, it has grown and evolved into the highlight of summer for many area families and friends of the Garden.

This year promises to be the best yet with community partners like Amazeum, Crystal Bridges Museum of American Art, Hobbs State Park and Ozark Natural Science Center offering nature adventures for adults and children in many areas of the garden. Adventures will focus on water, wood, sand and other delightful features of nature.

Like any great tradition, some things change and some stay

the same. Our annual favorites Shaky Bugs and Fairy Willow will return to delight children, this year, Fairy Willow will have a new home just outside of the Children's Garden that will include an interactive wishing tree. Near the Reading Railroad, the children's play area will include SandScape and Stone Stack Challenge.

Another addition to Firefly this year will be family lawn games to play in the dark. The BGO Shoppe will be selling lots of glow-in-the-dark items that will be fun to wear or use for the games including wings, halos, wands, light up bracelets and necklaces. Before dark, families can enjoy up close experiences with local musicians and story-tellers throughout the garden.

Firefly's grand finale after dark is always a highly anticipated part of the festival. This year's Great Lawn performances will feature an aerialist performing on silks, a new fire spinning presentation, and an illuminated hooping show. Families may bring lawn chairs, blankets and picnics.

Admission to Firefly is \$8 for adults, \$4 for children ages 3 to 13 and free for children under 3. Admission is available at [www.bgozarks.org](http://www.bgozarks.org), by calling 479-750-2620 or at the door on July 19.

Our summer festival invites adults and children to discover and explore all that nature has to offer. The phrase of the day is to "unplug and get outside". Adults reconnect with their own nature memories and children fully engage themselves with new adventures, inspiring learning that lasts a lifetime.

# Learn @ BGO

## From the Director:

**I**t is a very exciting time for the Botanical Garden. The fully blooming Garden offers so much to visitors enjoying nature, attending an event or taking part in an educational activity. The Garden has a great staff of gardeners and volunteers who make things happen.

The Botanical Garden continues to grow. Recently, city staff and Arkansas State Parks approved our master plan to build structures and gardens over the next 15 years. The master plan is a multi-phase project, including 8 gardens, 3 parking lots and 5 buildings or structures.

### Buildings/Structures

- Visitor Center, Education Building & Conservatory—a 17,000 square foot building serving the three functions. The building also contains a gift shop, a coffee shop, an outdoor kitchen, and will handle admissions.

- Event Pavilion — 6,700 square feet. A multi-functional building to handle events and activities in support of the Garden.

- Way-station—A structure of 2,000 square feet providing rest-rooms for the western section of the Garden, a small office, and limited storage.

- Community Market—a building totaling 7,800 square feet with approximately 1,500 feet heated and cooled for restrooms and conference/meeting rooms. The remaining 6,300 feet would be covered but open-air for meeting space, flower shows, plant sales, etc.

- Outdoor classroom (amphitheater), a bowl shaped theater, seating up to 500, built into the hillside.

### Gardens

- Field to Fork Garden
- The People's Garden
- Horticulture Display Garden
- Woody Plant Garden
- Sustainability Garden
- Hilton Creek Garden
- Klingaman Arboretum
- Woodland Interpretive Garden

Soon, we will have more detailed information available about the plan and the time-line for the development of each part. The Fayetteville City Council will consider the plan for approval this summer.

Garden staff and volunteers continue to maintain and improve our demonstration gardens, adding new trails and plantings. Improvements and maintenance require a financial

commitment from the Garden. We recently mailed the annual appeal for support. I urge you to donate in support of your Botanical Garden.

If you have sent in a contribution, I thank you for your support.

We are thankful to volunteers who help us by cutting the grass, watering plants, helping the gardeners, assisting with school events, handling reception, preparing mailings, and work-

ing at events. The Garden would not be what it is or what it will be without volunteers. It's been cold; it's been rainy; it's been hot, yet you have been here. Thank you.



## New BGO Co-Workers

### Allison

**B**GO welcomes Allison Griffin, our new website and social media coordinator. She holds a BS in journalism (emphasis public relations) from Arkansas State University (back before they were the Red Wolves) and cut her teeth on the nonprofit industry during her five years at the Oregon Symphony in Portland, Oregon.

She moved to Fayetteville in 2008 in search of more sun and to be closer to family, and through her graphic and web design coursework at the New Design School, heard about, and subsequently landed, her job here at BGO.

You may have also seen her snapping photos for 3W Magazine at various nonprofit events or at First Thursdays at the Fayetteville Underground. She has two spoiled cats, Lion and Kitty Mao, and loves to cycle and walk the trails and kayak and hike and camp and anything else outdoorsy!



### Lee

**L**ee Porter arrived in Arkansas via the University of Arkansas where she studied Landscape Architecture. She stayed because she believes that the Ozarks is one of the most beautiful places to live in the United States. She has grown to love the culture and people and enjoys working at the Botanical Gardens of the Ozarks because she is able to continue to learn how to create beautiful and sustainable landscapes through further education of plant knowledge. She also enjoys her job because of the wise and lovely ladies she works with. When she's not at the BGO she enjoys biking, climbing, baking, wine and dreaming of where to travel next. She would love to own a green roof company one day.



### Nikki

**N**ikki George moved to West Fork in spring 2010 and began working at White River Nursery as a waterer. She was trained in propagation and soon became the propagation manager. She left WRN the fall of 2012 and began working for BGO early spring of 2013. When she is not working, she spends much of her time outdoors, canoeing, hiking, and of course gardening at home.



## Little Sprouts

**L**ittle Sprouts Preschool Garden Time is now in its seventh season! These fun 30-minute programs are geared toward preschoolers and feature a variety of botanically-themed stories, songs, puppetry, finger plays and activities. Whether we are learning about how bees are more helpful than harmful, or exploring the garden with handmade binoculars, the children leave the garden with a real appreciation for the world around them and a new desire to protect it.

Our participants range in age from newborn to five-year-olds who haven't yet started Kindergarten. Our program

serves not only the little one, but also the adults who bring them. Each week we try to offer a program to our families that will leave them inspired to take what they have learned and apply it in their homes.

We now offer two sessions to accommodate all of our little learners. We meet at 9:30 and 10:15 am on Wednesday mornings May through October. Participants do NOT need to register. Adults remain with

their preschoolers during the program. This program is free for the preschoolers and members adults. Non-member adults pay admission.



- July 16 Lively Ladybugs
- July 23 Compost Stew
- July 30 Terrific Turtles
- Aug 6 Busy Bees
- Aug 13 Brilliant Birds
- Aug 20 Fabulous Flowers
- Aug 27 The Sun
- Sept 3 Fantastic Fish
- Sept 10 Awesome Apples
- Sept 17 Beautiful Butterflies
- Sept 24 Fall is Here!
- Oct 1 Wonderful Weather
- Oct 8 Leaves and Trees
- Oct 15 Spooky Spiders
- Oct 22 The Great Pumpkin
- Oct 29 Costume Parade



## Chefs in The Garden



**N**orthwest Arkansas' favorite fall event is back! Tuesday, September 9th from 6 to 8:30pm will be an evening of cooking demonstrations, samplings, wines that complement each dish and a complimentary bar to complete the evening. The chefs were so creative last year, offering Blue Crab Stuffed Button Mushrooms,

This year's Honorary Chair is Chef Steven Brooks. He has been supportive of the Garden since it was built and has participated in Chefs in the Garden for several years. Chef Steven Brooks has a cooking show on KNWA and is the Executive Chef for Tankersley Foods. The beautiful setting, great food, drinks, music, pho-



Fayetteville Country Club, GC Catering, Greenhouse Grille, Rivergrille, The Hive at 21c Museum Hotel, Vetro 1925, Kruton's Catering, Early Bird Catering and Yarnell's. There are still openings for additional chefs to participate.

Tickets \$50: Fine Dining & Complimentary Bar, Reserve your tickets online at [bgozarks.org](http://bgozarks.org) or call 479-750-2620

The Garden thanks presenting sponsor Filippo Berio and sponsors, Coca-Cola, Glazers, Intents Party Rentals, Cole Fennel Photography and Jules Design.

Another thank you to the Presenting Media Sponsors: Citiscapes, 3W, Celebrate, Warm 94.9, US 94, 1030 KFAY-AM and Power 105.7. Sponsorships are still available.



Garden Primavera: Tri-Colored Penne Tossed with Extra Virgin Olive Oil, Grilled Chicken, Medley of Garden Vegetables and Shrimp & Grits Italiano.

tobooth and enjoyable company make this event one to mark on your calendar now. So far, chefs participating are Bordino's, Café Rue Orleans,

## Real Gardens

By Gerald Klingaman



A few years ago a copy of a somewhat nasty email made the rounds in the BGO office. In the message we were being denigrated for not being a “real garden” because – instead of bronzes as you would find in a “real garden” – we had ferrocement (concrete over steel armatures) sculptures for artwork! No doubt the sender had visited many “real gardens” all over the world and recognized that ours lacked the amenities associated with old, deep-pocket institutions with large endowments.

Our reaction to the letter was primarily to guffaw the remarks because we all recognized the absurdity of the observation. You build any garden with the resources you have available, not with what you wish you had. If we had sat around waiting on the millions of dollars specified in the initial master plan to be raised, we might well still be waiting. Instead the garden staff and volunteers dug in and started, knowing that ours was a boot-strap organization with



more time than money.

Now a decade after construction began our garden critic may not consider us a “real garden” but our

members and the thousands who visit each year seem to disagree. Sure there are things that need improving, weeds that need pulling and a thousand other projects needing attention, but the trajectory is in the right direction and we are making steady progress at becoming the kind of garden we can all be proud of. And, thanks to the generosity of the Barton Family we’ve added a Hank Kaminsky bronze in the Sensory garden and the Jean Tyson estate donated a number of bronzes scattered throughout our collections. Now maybe even our critic might grudgingly consider us a real garden.



Left: "The Other Tree" is a 2012 ferro-cement work with sandstone appliqué by Wesley, AR artist Jeff Grube. Its name was suggested by his wife for all the hours he spent completing the project.



This summer the BGO is partnering with Community Creative Center to host a juried art exhibition at the garden. Area artists will be creating garden art for display around the garden. Any medium that will withstand the rigors of the outdoors is acceptable but, based on the modest prizes being offered this first year, there probably won't be any bronzes. I look forward to seeing what the artists come up with and seeing visitor reaction to the pieces. The winning piece will become a permanent part of the garden collection and take its place proudly amongst the various ferro-cement works.

In an effort to make our "real garden" even grander we have completed, over the last two spring planting seasons, the initial phase of the arboretum planting. Viewed from above the planting is in the form of a figure-8 with one end of the eight still open. Additional shade and flowering tree plantings will strengthen this initial phase of development and flesh out the collections. The first shrub plantings, at the edges of the figure-8, will go in this fall. This planting is spaced so that the tree canopy won't close for 20 to 25 years, but when it

does we'll have the infrastructure in place to provide a shady walkway to visit the yet-to-be-envisioned gardens that will fill in the center of the figure-8.

The arboretum has been supported by many members over the years but two deserve special mention. Philip Thompson has supported the arboretum collection by funding the Philip Alan Thompson Magnolia Collection. Friends and family of the late Janna Britton have pooled their contributions to fund the Janna Britton White Oak Collection. It is through contributions such as these – and others that will come in the future – that we will continue to grow and expand. As we move forward we will surely become the kind of "real garden" that even the most cynical critic would enjoy.



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479-750-2620



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