

# GARDEN ELEMENTS

LEARN • PLAY • GROW

Winter 2014



## Gardenland Express

It's only fall but the holidays are just around the corner. At the Botanical Garden, those holiday weekends mean Gardenland Express will be arriving to entertain children and adults. Gardenland Express, with trains displayed and operated by the Northwest Arkansas Model Train Club, will open on the Sunday of Thanksgiving weekend, November 30, from 1:00 to 4:00.

The event continues on December 5, from 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm so visitors can enjoy an evening of holiday lights and fun at the Garden. Other sessions are Saturdays, December 6 and 13 from 11:00 to 2:00 and Sundays, December 7 and 14 from 1:00 to 4:00.

Each holiday weekend session will include the great display of model trains in a fantastic win-

ter wonderland setting created by BGO gardeners and volunteers inside the Event Hall. Refreshments will be offered as well as visits with Santa. This year's new feature will be hayrides outdoors around the perimeter of the gardens.

Admission for any session is \$5 for adults; \$3 for children 5 through 12 and free for children under 5.

For more information, check the website beginning in November – [www.bgozarks.org](http://www.bgozarks.org) or call the office at 479-750-2620. Admission may be purchased at the door for each session or online or by phone in advance.

## Jingle Bell Jog

Join us at the Jingle Bell Jog 5K and Reindeer Relays! You can walk or run, enjoy a complimentary breakfast, door prizes, music, spe-

cial guests and more.

Sign up for the 5K individually or with friends, and form a team of 5 or more (top 5 results per team scored for awards). You can also sign up for the 2 person relay, and kids under 12 can join the fun in the Garden Fun Run.

Wear your Santa hats, elf ears, reindeer antlers...anything that sparkles and jingles...we will be giving out prizes for best costumes too! Proceeds support the Garden's mission to provide education, entertainment and recreation for the thousands of visitors and students who visit the Garden each year.

Register at the Botanical Garden of the Ozarks, Fleet Feet Sports or on line at [www.register-wizard.com](http://www.register-wizard.com). Register by December 7th to guarantee your shirt size.

Questions: Call 479-530-8084 or visit our website [www.bgozarks.org](http://www.bgozarks.org). Hope to see you there!

# Learn @ BGO

## Where Do We Go From Here?

In early September, the Fayetteville City Council voted to give the Garden a revised lease and approved the Garden's Master Plan 2028. The unanimous vote by the City Council demonstrates the high regard in which the Garden is held. Please make a point to say thank you and express your appreciation to Mayor Lionel Jordan, Chief of Staff Don Marr, City Attorney Kit Williams, and Parks Director Connie Edmonston for their leadership in making this vote happen.

Now the question arises...where do we go from here? But, before we talk about the future, let me make a few comments about where we are now.

Members, donors and leaders of the Botanical Garden Society of the Ozarks (BGSO) should be proud that:

- Its annual \$3.2 million economic impact continues and grows as the Garden attracts more visitors (targeting 100,000 in 2014: 84,000 in 2013) through education, entertainment and rentals.
- 10,881 area students visited the Garden in 2013, up from 7,500 in 2011. Another 2,813 adults attended classes and programs.
- In 2013 Garden volunteers contributed over 4,800 hours to maintain the grounds, to serve as education docents, and to support Garden operations.
- The Garden budget has grown to \$560,000 in 2014. That all comes from private gifts, events, rental, admissions, and fundraising. (Up 12% from 2013).
- In 2014, 485 attended Greening of the Garden and set a record of clearing \$54,000 to support Garden operations and maintenance.
- In September, a crowd of almost 400 were treated to specialty servings from thirteen area chefs at the Garden's annual Chefs in the Garden.
- A record crowd of 3,100 attended 2014 Firefly Fling (up from 2,700 in 2013).

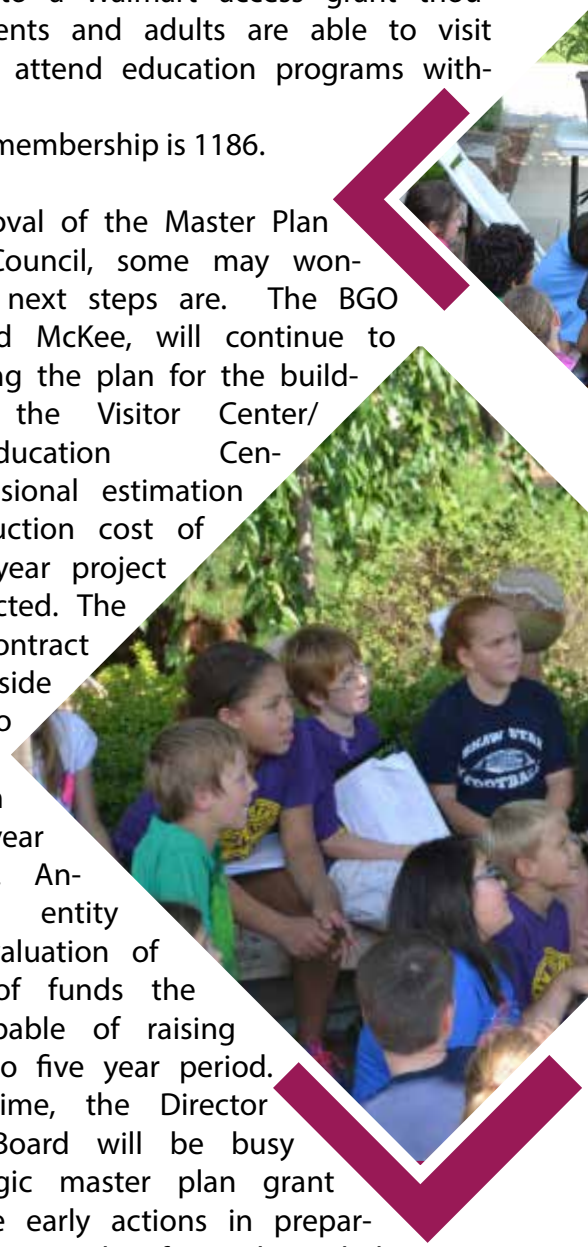
- Three new features this year are the new garden pathway around outer perimeter, the Community Creative Center Art display, and the Bardwell Insectarium to support the Butterfly House.

- Over 200 trees have been planted in the last two years to form the Klingaman Arboretum.

- Thanks to a Walmart access grant thousands of students and adults are able to visit the Garden or attend education programs without charge.

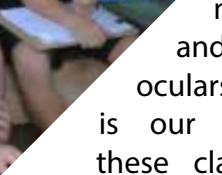
- Garden membership is 1186.

With the approval of the Master Plan by the City Council, some may wonder what the next steps are. The BGO architect, David McKee, will continue to work on refining the plan for the building housing the Visitor Center/Conservatory/Education Center. A professional estimation of the construction cost of the first five year project will be conducted. The Garden will contract with an outside entity to do a strategic evaluation and a five year business plan. Another outside entity will do an evaluation of the amount of funds the Garden is capable of raising over a three to five year period. During this time, the Director and Garden Board will be busy seeking strategic master plan grant requests. These early actions in preparing to move the Garden forward need the input and support of the BGSO membership and donors. With your help the Garden will enhance its focus and message—Learn.Play.Grow



Education events are blooming at the Garden. Like perennials, many of our events come back year after year, larger and better than ever.

In 2014, we have hosted over 20 fifth grade classes from Springdale elementary schools for full day ecology field trips that include



microscope labs and field hikes with binoculars and dip nets. This is our fourth year to have these classes at the Botanical Garden and the success of the program is due largely to the volunteer involvement. About 8 volunteers regularly assist with the labs and hikes.

In May we had the largest Earth Day ever. Shaw Elementary teacher Abby Farrell organized the event with stations for grades K – 5. Shaw

## Learning in 2014

teachers, students and community partners offered earth-friendly activities and games that focused on the environment and our part in being stewards. Classes came from around NWA to participate in the morning or afternoon session.

For the fourth summer, BGO held Explore@BGO day camp for elementary age students. Each Tuesday morning of camp focused on a different theme – butterflies, birds, plants, art, and healthy foods. BGO volunteers and community partners led the activities that engaged our campers each week.

Firefly Fling: THE Summer Festival for Families was a huge success this year, both in attendance and in community partnerships. People of all ages attended the evening event, enjoying the activity stations, food court, Firefly Shoppe, and a dynamic after-dark show. Partners this year included Amazeum, Crystal Bridges Museum of American Art, Hobbs State Park, Ozark Natural Science Center and Shaky Bugs. Director Marie Vukin created daylight and dark games that drew in many participants. Small gardens featured a story teller and a music group that alternately entertained visitors. As it got dark, families gathered on the lawn for glowing hula hoops,

fire spinners, and the grand lantern launch. One of the major goals of Firefly is to get parents and children outside enjoying nature together and this year's festival definitely achieved that goal. Many of the activities are ones that families can recreate in their own back yards with simple materials.

This fall, BGO education efforts were focused on Butterfly Days for area schools. Fayetteville sent all of its third grade classes over a two day period and other districts attended on another two days. This year classes from Bentonville, Rogers, Springdale and Booneville participated in 8 learning stations around the gardens. St. Joseph's and The New School sent classes as well. BGO volunteers created and led stations about monarchs, caterpillars, the butterfly life cycle, the different varieties of native butterflies, and the difference between butterflies and moths. Our community partner for Butterfly Days is the Fayetteville Public Library that allows its children's librarians to offer a station to Fayetteville third graders.

Fall also brought another round of ecology field trips for fifth grade classes. So the cycle continues as BGO partners with local schools and families to offer quality education events that bring many people to the Botanical Garden each year.



## Garden Tour Supports BGO

By Joyce Mendenhall

The Northwest Arkansas Flower, Garden and Nature Society (FGNS) has been donating half of the proceeds from its annual "Through the Garden Gate" garden tour since 1998 to the Botanical Gardens. With this year's donation of \$2000, given to Ron Cox at the annual BGO membership meeting on Sept. 28, this amounts to \$32,700. These undesignated funds may be used for anything from plants to toilet paper in order to cover needed operating expenses at the gardens.

Each year FGNS selects six to eight private gardens throughout Northwest Arkansas to feature on their tour which usually occurs on the first or second Saturday of June. These gardens give visitors unlimited ideas for their own gardens and offer a unique "behind the scenes" look at gardens they might not get to visit otherwise. Gardens range from whimsical to formal, from vegetables to tropical, from fruits to floral designs, from water features to desert plants and from trees and shrubs to manicured lawns. There is always something to interest every gardener's tastes.

To support the tour for the past two years, BGO has been added as a "bonus destination" by allowing ticket holders to visit the gardens free once on the day of the tour or by the first of August.

The 2015 tour will be held on June 13 and tickets will be available at BGO by May 1. Watch for further details on the selected gardens and reserve the date for a great tour of unique private gardens.

## Down the Garden Path

Over the last few months, Garden visitors have enjoyed the beauty of local art installed in various gardens. DOWN THE GARDEN PATH is a collaboration between the NWA Community Creative Center and the Botanical Garden of the Ozarks. The outdoor art exhibit provided community artists the opportunity to highlight the beauty and appeal of the garden that could be enjoyed by artists, gardeners, and community visitors.

Artists created outdoor artworks inspired by one of the 12 themed BGO gardens. Artists were allowed to submit up to three pieces that would withstand the elements after they were installed in the gardens. The pieces were juried in two categories by a panel of local art and garden specialists. Best in Show, with a prize of \$500, and Most Inspired, with a prize of \$100, were the juried categories. The third category, People's Choice, with a prize of \$100, was chosen by votes from garden visitors.

The Best in Show piece became the property of the Botanical Garden and all entries will remain on display through October 31. Artists were allowed to place a sale price on their work and sales will be final on November 1. Artists have agreed to donate a 10% commission to BGO when pieces sell.

The Botanical Garden is pleased to announce the winners in each category:

**BEST IN SHOW** – Garden King by Annie Edmondson

**MOST INSPIRED** – Earth Pots by Red Star

**PEOPLE'S CHOICE** - A TIE: Garden King by Annie Edmondson and Earth Pots by Red Star



## Fall Flowers and Feast



Photos by Cole Fennel Photography

Mingling of guests, laughter, smiles on faces and soft music filled the air as the smell of flowers and gourmet food pleased the senses at Chefs in the Garden.

The annual fall event has grown from eight chefs in Northwest Arkansas to thirteen this year. Attendees strolled from tent to tent trying samples of such food as Mediterranean Atlantic salmon from River Grille Steak House; pistachio, almond and Godiva cup cake bites from the Fayetteville Country Club and pork tenderloin with orzo and mandarin oranges from Vetro 1925.

This year's Chefs were Café Rue Orleans, Early Bird Catering, Fayetteville Country Club, Fresco Café & Pub, GC Catering, Greenhouse Grille, Houlihan's, Kennedy Coffee Roasting Company, Kruton's Catering, River Grille Steak House, The Hive@21c Hotel, Vetro 1925 and Yarnell's Ice

Cream. The colorful cocktail tables topped with beautiful flower arrangements placed across the middle of the lawn allowed guests to enjoy their food in a relaxed atmosphere.

More than 400 people attended this year's event. Guest and volunteers are saying "The food this year was the best we've ever had at Chefs in the Garden." The food was excellent and each Chef had such a different menu from the others. Guests also enjoyed a great selection of wines, champagne, Cosmos, beer, specialty coffees and non-alcoholic beverages.

Chef Steven Brooks, of KNWA's Cooking It Up was the honorary chair of the event. He has been involved with Chefs in the Garden ever since the event began 5 years ago. Since he is such a great supporter of the Garden and a fabulous Chef, it wasn't hard to pick Chef Brooks as the Honorary Chairperson.

Chefs also enjoyed competing in the 'Best Chef' contest, a competition where attendees place money in a jar at the station of each chef they think has the best food. Each \$1 is one vote. The chef with the most money wins. This year's winner was Chef Jennifer Keaton-Madewell of Kruton's Catering. Second place went to Owner/Chef Maudie Schmitt of Café Rue Orleans, with Chef Justus Moll of River Grille Steak House taking third place.

At the end of the night guests didn't just leave with a full stomach and a smile on their faces. They carried out a strip of silly photos from a photo-booth and small bottles of olive oil from Filippo Berio.

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## Moving Forward By Gerald Klingaman

developed off of the walkways that will snake through the trees as they grow and develop.

The development of the Arboretum continues to move forward with new plantings and financial support. Dr. Al Einert and his family have recently stepped forward to support the Einert Family Maple Collection, the fourth of the eight major plant groups to be featured in the overall Arboretum



The revised lease agreement with the City of Fayetteville is now finalized and the BGO can move forward with a degree of certainty as we plan for the next phase of sustainable development. It is being called the 2028 plan which includes a number of new garden features and structures to support them. I'm biased. I think of the gardens as the most important component of the BGO plan with the buildings – even though they will cost the most and are no doubt important – as supporting the mission of showcasing the plants and flowers.

Like the buildings, the gardens will be phased in as the overall master plan unfolds. There are eight main garden areas designated on the master plan but the inner workings and details of most of these is yet to be finalized. The Arboretum, though it keeps getting listed as a garden, will never be a stand-alone garden. Instead it is an overstory of trees and flowering shrubs connecting all the gardens and supporting the more intimate gardens that will be

collection. Over the past two years I have begun to propagate and assemble a collection of deciduous flowering shrubs for the arboretum collection and will begin planting them out in the spring. Though still a couple years from actually planting the Azalea and Rhododendron Garden, I am buying in and beginning to assemble plants for inclusion in that important springtime garden. Japanese maples, hostas and other shade loving perennials will be prom-



inent features of the Azalea and Rhododendron Garden.

The Field to Fork Garden, a 2 acre garden devoted to vegetables, fruits and other edible plants will be the first garden to be built on the south side of Hilton Creek. It will go in simultaneously with the construction of the Education wing of the Visitors Center. The garden will be a year-round working garden devoted to teaching area youth about food and nutrition. In the next few months we hope to begin

ture problems. Most importantly we learned that everything always costs more than you think it will and takes longer than planned. The majority of the cost associated with building gardens has nothing to do with horticultural issues such as soil and plants but instead the built structures that give the garden definition and permanence. As we move forward we are going to try hard to do these hardscape features right and build the kind of garden spaces that will continue the tradition we have worked so hard over the last decade to achieve.



So I invite you, our faithful and dedicated members, to be a part of the BGO's future expansion. Your help – everything from providing moral support and volunteering to sponsoring a garden – will see that the garden becomes the gem of the Ozarks it has the potential to become.

#### BGSO Priorities in Order

- A. Education/Visitor Center 17,000sf
- B. Parking
- C. Event pavilion 6,700sf
- D. Parking
- E. Office/Restroom 2,000sf
- F. Community Market 7.800sf
- G. Amphitheatre
- H. Future Entrance

#### Future Gardens

1. Field to Fork Garden
2. The Peoples' Garden
3. Horticultural Display Gardens
4. Woody Plant Gardens
5. 21st Century Sustainability Garden
6. Hilton Creek Garden
7. Klingaman Arboretum
8. Woodland Interpretive Garden
9. No Fee Area

the process of building the garden by planting deep rooted legumes to open up and enrich the soil. Detailed planning for the garden will begin during the winter months.

Defining what features will go into each of the future gardens is still an open issue. We learned some things from the first gardens we developed that we perhaps should have known so hopefully this knowledge will stave off fu-



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479-750-2620

The Botanical Garden of the Ozarks would like to thank our major sponsors for everything they have done to support us as we grow. We look forward to working with them, and all of our wonderful sponsors for many years to come.

