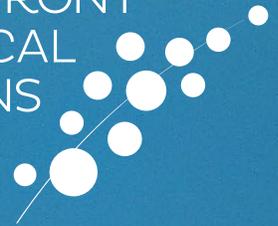


# IN BLOOM

A PUBLICATION FROM BOTANICA & WATERFRONT BOTANICAL GARDENS

FALL 2017

WATERFRONT  
BOTANICAL  
GARDENS



## OUR VISION

To create a botanical garden and conservatory of extraordinary beauty that engages, enlightens, and inspires people about plants and nature.

[waterfrontgardens.org](http://waterfrontgardens.org)

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## STAFF

**Kasey Maier**, Executive Director  
**Allison Whitehouse**, Program and Development Coordinator  
**Edie Wooton**, Manager of Finance and Operations

## OFFICERS OF THE BOARD

**Dominic Gratto**, President  
**Jon Salomon**, Vice President  
**Margaret (Peggy) Grant**, Secretary  
**Dean Dimitropoulos**, CPA, Treasurer

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Greg Braun  
Gordon Brown  
Greg Buccola  
Nancy Bush  
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Caroline Luskys  
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Scott Neff  
Patrick Piuma  
John Shaw-Woo  
Valerie J. Smith  
Glenn Sullivan  
Brian Voelker  
Bill Wade

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## COVER FLORA

Front: Male Monarch Butterfly on Lantana  
Photo by Kateryna Sellers

Back: Mimosa Tree Flower  
Photo by Valerie J. Smith

## A LETTER FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dear Friends,

As many of you know, this project started because Helen Harrigan had the wisdom and vision to support an effort to build a botanical garden for this region. Her vision is shared by many of our current donors, especially the Graeser and the Duthie families. Four generations of Graesers and Duthies witnessed the September 15th groundbreaking.

With the development of this botanical garden, we are not only building a beautiful, educational garden for our kids and grandkids, we are building an awareness and knowledge of how to address the environmental issues that plague our community and planet. These kids will grow up with the tools necessary to undo the damage done by former generations, and the passion and desire to live a healthier life.

Plants have a large impact on our health and the health of our planet. I invite you to help our vision grow for future generations. Let's work together to make this dream a reality, whether through a donation today, a gift through your estate, membership, or volunteer time... now and for those who come after us.

We have raised more than \$6.4 million thanks to the ongoing support of our donors. Phase 1A is underway and includes the Graeser Family Education Center, utilities, the access road, and parking. The remainder of Phase 1 will include the plaza, four education gardens, the Beargrass Creek overlook, the Tree Allee, a greenhouse, the classroom building, and a workshop.

We've only just begun - join us!

Kasey Maier  
Executive Director



# LETTER FROM THE NEW BOARD PRESIDENT

## DOMINIC GRATTO

**Proud and excited.** As of late, those are the two words that best describe my feelings as I reflect on the wonderful accomplishments of our organization. Only through the dedication of our board, the hard work of our volunteers, the generosity of our donors, and the support of our community have we arrived where we are today.

Since joining the board of directors for the Waterfront Botanical Gardens in 2010 (it was Botanica, Inc. at the time), we've reached a number of milestones. During those same years, I experienced many personal milestones: A new house, a new job, and, best of all, four little boys who call me "Dad."

In July of this year, I took over as president of the board of directors. I am honored to help lead this effort. It's not every day that you get an opportunity to work on a project of this significance. This is a project that will impact future generations for hundreds of years. It is at this garden that people from all walks of life will encounter the beauty of plants, learn about the wonder of nature, and understand



the importance of conservation and environmental stewardship. This project is an amazing opportunity to educate ourselves and, most importantly, the next generation about this wonderful place we call Earth.

Despite all the progress we've made, there is still a long way to go. This phase is just the first of several. Future phases will include the visitor center, the children's garden (Can you imagine the excitement of the children?), and the conservatory. Thank you for all you've done and will continue to do

to support this project.

I'm looking forward to the **Graeser Family Education Center** ribbon cutting in the Spring of 2019! I wouldn't miss it for the world - and I know four little boys who won't miss it either. See you there!

Dominic Gratto

## THANK YOU BRIAN VOELKER



Seven years ago, when Brian Voelker moved to Louisville from Chicago he wondered which non-profit organization he should get involved with. An avid gardener, Brian selected Botanica, which is now known as the Waterfront Botanical Gardens. During his first year, the board elected Brian president.

Brian continued to serve as president for the next six and a half years, but he was so much more than his title. Before staff was hired, Brian was the staff, the leader, the secretary, the database manager, the negotiator, the presenter, the donor contact, the tour guide, the researcher, and the board president. This organization would not be where it is today without

Brian's leadership and many hours of volunteer work outside of his full-time job at Humana.

Thank you, Brian, for all that you've done to get us to this point. We welcome your input as a board member and knowing that you no longer have to take work home with you.

*Respectfully and with love,*  
The Staff and Board of the Waterfront Botanical Gardens

In the words of Bob Hill,  
**"No Brian, no Botanical Gardens."**

# GROUNDBREAKING CEREMONY

On September 15th, we hosted the Waterfront Botanical Gardens groundbreaking ceremony.

It was a spectacular event with political and religious leaders, the Central High School Drum Corps, Portland Elementary second grade students, a hot air balloon and the Kentucky Department of Agriculture Education trailer. Miss Kentucky, Molly Matney, was also there to show her support!

The morning started with a beautiful, heavy fog. By the end of the ceremony, the sun was shining bright on the crowd of 400 who came to be a part of the beginning of this amazing project that we are building for Kentucky and Southern Indiana.

Thank you to all who came out in support of this one-time opportunity to kick off the project.



## OUR BOARD IS PROUD TO WELCOME FIVE NEW MEMBERS



LEFT TO RIGHT

**GORDON BROWN**, Former President and CEO, Home of the Innocents

**GREG BUCCOLA**, Reporting Center Manager, KPFF Consulting Engineers

**PATRICK PIUMA**, Planning Director, Louisville Downtown Partnership

**JOHN SHAW-WOO**, Founder and CEO, West Louisville ecoHUB Arts Community, Inc. & GFoundation, Inc.

**GLENN SULLIVAN**, President and CEO, Sullivan University System

# DOT WADE VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR AWARD

The Dot Wade Volunteer of the Year Award is given each year to an outstanding volunteer in memory of Dorothy “Dot” Wade, a long time Botanica volunteer and board member. We lost Dot a few years ago, but her memory lives on through the work of our amazing volunteers and board members.



## AMANDA SCHMITT AND MARY AYERS

2017 Dot Wade Volunteer of the Year Award winners

This year's award goes to Dot's daughters, **Amanda Schmitt** and **Mary Ayers** for their tireless work for this organization. Amanda and Mary are the co-chairs of our volunteer committee, which guides all of our volunteer commitments. In addition to their committee work, they cook food for meetings and events, run errands, address envelopes, organize the storage unit, develop procedures for the committee, direct parking, set up and clean up for events, and more. Finally, they engage other members of their family, including board member Bill Wade, when more volunteers are needed.



## CHELSEA POWELL

Cultivator Volunteer of the Year Award winner

Another individual we would like to honor at this time comes from the Cultivators. The Cultivators are our group of young professionals who are also working to make the Botanical Gardens Project a reality. This motivated group has their own governing council, their own members, and put on their own events. They are dedicated volunteers. The 2017 Cultivator Volunteer of the Year is **Chelsea Powell**. Chelsea's commitment, reliability, punctuality, creative problem-solving, and willingness to take on any task and smile has earned her this award. We're so glad Chelsea is a part of our team!

**Thank you Amanda, Mary, and Chelsea for your commitment to the Waterfront Botanical Gardens!!**

# MILKWEED ISN'T A WEED AT ALL

ADDING THIS ONE PLANT TO YOUR GARDEN COULD HELP SAVE A SPECIES

BY CHRIS PADGETT



Milkweed isn't a weed. Contrary to what the name implies, "milkweed" is a common name for 140 species of plants not listed as noxious weeds by the government in any state.

Milkweed is the exclusive host plant for monarch caterpillars. Baby caterpillars only eat the leaves of the milkweed plant. The widespread loss of milkweed, due largely to agricultural application of glyphosate, is posing an existential threat

to the survival of the monarch. Each year, four generations of this delicate creature travel 4,830 miles. It's one of the largest migration patterns of any species on the planet.

The USDA is considering the monarch for inclusion on the endangered species list and more gardeners are adding milkweed to their gardens. If you haven't added milkweed to your garden, it deserves consideration for its beauty and functionality.

For the past eight years, we've tested nine different milkweed species in our home garden. We've found two native milkweed plants work well in local soil:

*Asclepias incarnata* (rose milkweed) grows between three feet and five feet. It produces delicate, complex pink and white blooms.

*Asclepias tuberosa* (orange milkweed) grows between one to two feet. This is a low maintenance, showy plant that produces complex orange blooms.

Both of these perennials are drought tolerant, require dry, well-drained soil, and perform best in full sun. They both tend to overwinter well in the Ohio Valley climate.

Asclepias, like many plants, can be toxic and, as a rule, you should always wear a good pair of gloves when coming into contact with plants. Be sure to always wash your hands after working in your garden.

Two other milkweed plants, *asclepias syriaca* (common milkweed) and *asclepias curassavica* (tropical milkweed), deserve mention as plants to avoid. We found common milkweed will spread aggressively by underground rhizomes. While tropical milkweed will attract monarchs, it isn't native to this area and many scientists are concerned it may carry the OE spore that can infect the monarch.

**Bonus Tip:** If you really want to attract monarch butterflies to your garden, you should also grow nectar sources like Mexican sunflower (*tithonia rotundifolia*) in borders. These drought-tolerant annuals can grow four to six feet tall and are like magnets for the adult monarch butterfly and



hummingbirds. A very showy and long blooming flower, Mexican sunflower roots improve soil quality and add a wow factor.

The monarch butterfly is a symbol of rebirth and transformation. It's in perilous decline and it needs many gardeners to help prevent its unthinkable demise. If more of us add milkweed to our gardens, we can save this species for future generations. Will you join us?

**ABOUT**

*Chris Padgett is a member of the Waterfront Botanical Gardens and Monarch Watch certified his garden as one of the first local Monarch Waystations. He is presenting a monarch workshop. See below:*

**Monarch Waystations 101: Creating Your Garden Oasis for Monarch Butterflies**

**Saturday, February 24 at 10am**

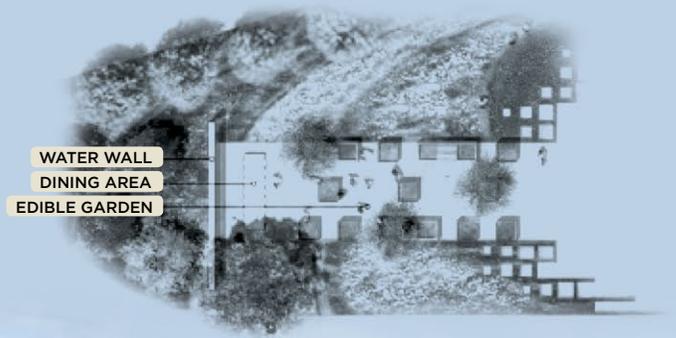
Atria Senior Living, 300 E. Market St., Suite 100

\$ | Tickets will be available on the website soon.

# THE EDIBLE GARDENS & WATER WALL

Phase 1 of this project includes the development of an Edible Garden. This is a teaching garden accessible to individuals of all sizes and abilities. The garden will be maintained by both staff and volunteers and will be an educational feature for visiting school students.

The Edible Garden will sit just outside the Graeser Family Education Center and feature a water wall at its far end, an ideal location for photographs.





# PRELUDE 2017

SPONSORED BY BROWN-FORMAN

2017 was the third year of our annual fundraiser, The Prelude. The culinary experience gets more interesting every year.

Chad Welch and Atria Hospitality created an event like no other. The tent was transformed into something resembling a rain forest with draping plants and water misters, which helped because it was a very hot day! Visitors were invited to experience their food in four different gardens (mimicking the four gardens of Phase 1): The pollinator garden, the edible garden, the native garden, and the water filtration garden. This event was designed to illustrate the experience of a party in the future botanical garden.

In addition, the Dick Sisto Quartet provided jazz music with a special performance by Leigh Anne Albrechta and Benjamin Wetzel of the Louisville Ballet in front of a landscaped waterfall designed by Dallas Foster of Vincennes, Indiana. This year, the event raised more than \$150,000.

**Thank you to this year's event sponsors:**

Brown-Forman, Atria Senior Living, Woo Speed and Colin McNaughton, Sallie and John Cunningham, Kentucky Select Properties, States & Harrison PLLC, Toyota of Louisville, and Commonwealth Bank & Trust.

*See you at next year's event!*



# MEET EDIE WOOTON



## The Waterfront Botanical Gardens is growing!

This summer our team welcomed Edie Wooton as manager of finance and operations. Edie has worked for non-profits throughout most of her career in a variety of roles including finance, development, and operations. Prior to joining the Waterfront Botanical Gardens, Edie was the finance assistant to the executive director at River Fields, Inc. and previously served as the office manager for the Center for Interfaith Relations. For more than 10 years, Edie worked on federal and state grant projects at the Kent School of Social Work at the University of Louisville.

Edie is inspired by the work she does and is focused on supporting the mission of the Waterfront Botanical Gardens. She is excited to help lay the foundation upon which the Gardens will continue to grow and become a wonderful asset to our great city. Her interests include gardening, crocheting, crafting, and spending time with her family. Her two children, Sydnie and Isaac, keep her pretty busy outside of office hours.

She holds a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree from the University of Illinois at Chicago and has continued her graduate studies in business at the University of Louisville.

“ If your life’s work can be accomplished in your lifetime, you’re not thinking big enough. ”

**Wes Jackson**  
*Founder and President Emeritus*  
**The Land Institute**



The cultivators is a group of young earth-lovers who support the creation of the Waterfront Botanical Gardens project through fun events, community service, and by serving as ambassadors of the project to the community.

To learn more or to become a cultivator, visit: [facebook.com/wbgcultivators](https://facebook.com/wbgcultivators)  
[waterfrontgardens.org/cultivators](https://waterfrontgardens.org/cultivators)



# UPCOMING EVENTS



**February 24, 2018**  
**Planting a Monarch**  
**Waystation**

Chris Padgett

**April 2018**  
**Sips and Seeds**

Brought to you by  
the Cultivators

**May 22, 2018**

**Gardening**  
Coach Vince Dooley

**June 2018**  
**Prelude Fundraiser**

**Monthly**  
**Yoga at the Gardens**

Brought to you by the cultivators

**September 2018**  
**reGeneration Fair**

**Homebrew Fair and**  
**5k "Beer" Run**

Brought to you by  
the Cultivators

**Lexington Garden Tour**  
Jon Carolftis

**October 2018**  
**Volunteer Appreciation**  
**Dinner**

**November 2018**  
**Annual Meeting**



For updated information, visit:  
[waterfrontgardens.org/events](http://waterfrontgardens.org/events)

## MAKING AN IMPACT

FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS



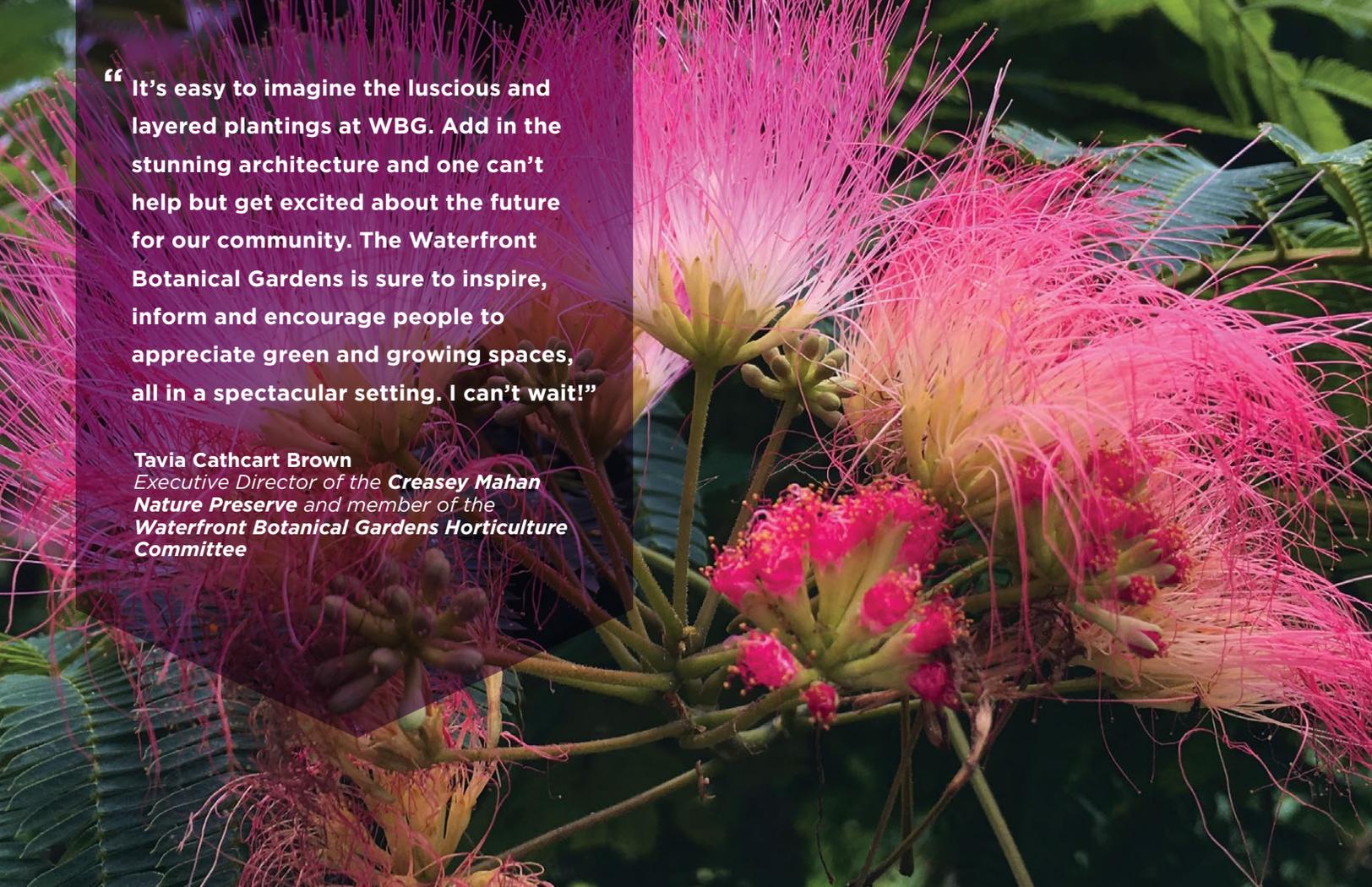
Your support makes it possible for us to build a world-class botanical garden for all of us to enjoy and for our children and grandchildren to thrive. These gardens will allow kids to reconnect with the natural world and to flourish in it as they learn and work to solve the important problems of our time.

There are many ways to make a tax-deductible gift to the Waterfront Botanical Gardens. You can make your contribution with a check, cash, credit card, stock donation, IRA rollover, and matching corporate gifts.

For a lasting gift, you can name the Waterfront Botanical Gardens in your estate. To donate today, please contact **Kasey Maier** at 502-276-5404



TO LEARN MORE: [WATERFRONTGARDENS.ORG](http://WATERFRONTGARDENS.ORG) OR CALL **502.276.5404**



“ It’s easy to imagine the luscious and layered plantings at WBG. Add in the stunning architecture and one can’t help but get excited about the future for our community. The Waterfront Botanical Gardens is sure to inspire, inform and encourage people to appreciate green and growing spaces, all in a spectacular setting. I can’t wait!”

**Tavia Cathcart Brown**  
*Executive Director of the **Creasey Mahan Nature Preserve** and member of the **Waterfront Botanical Gardens Horticulture Committee***