

# IN BLOOM

A PUBLICATION FROM WATERFRONT BOTANICAL GARDENS

SPRING 2018

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)

## STAFF

**Kasey Maier**, Executive Director  
**Elizabeth Chandler**,  
Development Manager  
**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

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Kristen Augspurger  
Greg Braun  
Gordon Brown  
Greg Buccola  
Nancy Bush  
Karen Dahlem  
Katherine Halloran  
Bob Hill  
Katherine Johnson  
Richard Johnson  
Rhys Lam, MD  
Caroline Lussy  
John Moore  
Scott Neff  
Patrick Piuma  
John Shaw-Woo  
Valerie J. Smith  
Glenn Sullivan  
Brian Voelker  
Bill Wade

## COVER FLORA

Front: Black Locust (tree),  
*Robinia pseudoacacia*

Back: Eastern Tiger Swallowtail on  
Purple Coneflower, *Echinacea purpurea*  
Photo by Valerie J. Smith

## A LETTER FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dear Friends,

Five years ago, I could not have guessed when I would finally be able to say the phrase, “**Construction is underway!**” In this issue, and those to follow, we will tell you more about the construction progress of our first building and the development of the surrounding gardens.

I am proud to announce that **Whittenberg Construction** has been selected to build the **Graeser Family Education Center**. Construction will begin in the next few months. There will be a perfect view of construction on the drive along I-71.

Bob Hill and Tavia Cathcart Brown have been hard at work with the landscape architects at **Perkins+Will** to determine exactly what plants and trees can be planted in each of the areas of Phase 1, working with slopes, water features, and of course the landfill! The resulting gardens will be nothing short of magical.

Finally, the **Beargrass Creek Pathway** is under construction, and you can help support it! This pathway will be paved with bricks and will connect the Education Center with Beargrass Creek. Visitors will be able to wander to the creek on their visit to the gardens. For \$250, bricks in this pathway may be engraved with your name or the name of someone you would like to remember.

Join us and watch the transformation unfurl as we build Louisville’s urban botanical garden. **Estimated completion of the Graeser Family Education Center is Fall 2019.** That’s when the real celebrations will begin!

*Kasey*



## CONSTRUCTION UPDATE

BY CLINTON DECKARD, CONSTRUCTION MANAGER



It is very exciting to report that construction is underway on the Waterfront Botanical Gardens project. Despite poor weather conditions and recent Ohio River flooding making the location inaccessible, construction is progressing nicely.

The sitework is being performed by T+C Contracting. To date, they have cleared much of the site, have moved approximately 20,000 cubic yards of soil to shape the top of the landfill, and installed the majority of the underground utilities. The Frankfort Avenue hillside has been cut back to accommodate the new entrance and roadway.

Later this month, stone will be put down for the entrance and roadway leading back to the new 7,800 square foot Graeser Family Education Center. We are working with Whittenberg Construction Company on final costs and plan to start construction in the next few months.



# PLANTS OF THE PRAIRIE

BY TAVIA CATHCART BROWN

Imagine the sight of seven acres in colorful native wildflowers and grasses as a late summer breeze washes over them like waves. Butterflies, bees, and birds will rise and land again, in their busy pursuit of food.

As part of Phase 1, Waterfront Botanical Gardens will plant over 30 species of native wildflowers and grasses that will provide beauty, nesting sites, food and protection to pollinators. This meadow is sponsored by the Kentucky Department of Agriculture.

Historically, prairies covered almost 170 million acres of North America, and supported an enormous number of plants and animals. Now, prairies have been reduced to one percent of their original area. Reasons for this decline include their conversion to farmland and development of cities and neighborhoods.

At Waterfront Botanical Gardens, our goal is to plant what we call a “restored prairie,” which means we will use prairie species in our planting. The benefits are substantial – it will require less water, no fertilizer, will be attractive, and will create an ecosystem that supports many forms of wildlife.

## Prairie Plant Profile: Purple Coneflower

Many gardeners may be familiar with our native purple coneflower, *Echinacea purpurea*, also known as Snakeroot and Scurvy Root. This plant grows 2–4ft tall and prefers full sun to part shade and, once established, may tolerate dry conditions.

The genus name, *Echinacea*, derives from the Greek “*echino*,” which means hedgehog and refers to the spiny and rounded central disk; *purpurea* refers to the purplish color of the flowers.

Coneflowers are good candidates for a deer-resistant garden, as the prickly stems and rough leaves are not inviting to deer or insects. They attract butterflies and if you don’t deadhead (cut off the dead flowers), American Goldfinches are likely to perch atop the robust stems to gobble every nutrient-rich seed.

## Echinacea is a Powerful Medicine

Native Americans discovered that chewing or sucking on the root of the purple coneflower produced a numbing effect. It was used to soothe sore throats and coughs, and

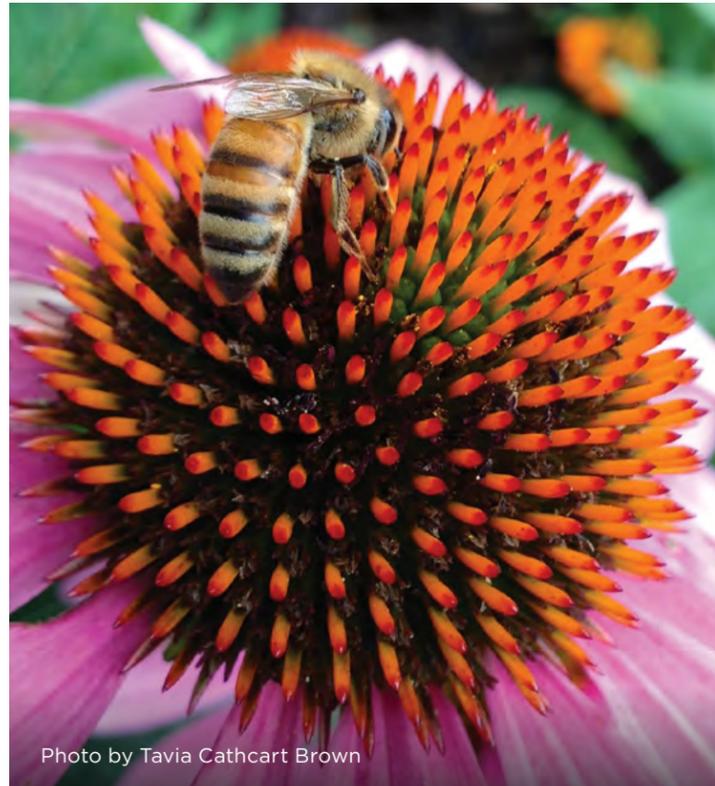


Photo by Tavia Cathcart Brown

as a painkiller for toothaches. This simple discovery led to *Echinacea purpurea* being recognized as an important medicinal plant.

Snakeroot was another name for the plant and, as expected, was used to treat snakebites. Purple coneflower (and other *Echinacea* species) was used by Native Americans to treat bronchitis and ward off colds and flu-like symptoms.

The roots and whole plant have been found to possess cortisone-like and antibacterial activity that aids in treating sores, wounds, and burns. As an antiviral and antifungal agent, it was considered to be a significant healing plant for Native Americans.

Early settlers adopted the plant’s medicinal benefits from Native Americans as a remedy for colds and influenza and brought it to Europe in the 17th century.



## ABOUT TAVIA

Tavia Cathcart Brown is Executive Director of Creasey Mahan Nature Preserve and a lead member of the WBG Horticulture Committee.

# MEET ELIZABETH CHANDLER



The Waterfront Botanical Gardens keeps growing!

Elizabeth Chandler, a Louisville native, joined the WBG team as Development Manager this January. Elizabeth is responsible for the areas of Fundraising, Event Planning, Donor Relations, and Sponsorships for Waterfront Botanical Gardens and the organization’s fundraising efforts.

Prior to joining the WBG team, Elizabeth spent several years in New York, where she worked in advertising sales at The Magazine Antiques, and in business development and art advising at Gurr Johns International. She received her Master of Arts at Sotheby’s Institute in New York and is a graduate of Centre College.

Elizabeth is passionate about cultural institutions and has embraced the vision and mission of Waterfront Botanical Gardens. “I’m beyond excited to be a part of this project. All of Kentuckiana will benefit from having a state-of-the-art botanical garden in such close proximity to downtown Louisville. It will be a destination, and not just for garden lovers. Waterfront Botanical Gardens will be an educational, environmental, and cultural hub for everyone to enjoy.”

You can reach Elizabeth at [echandler@waterfrontgardens.org](mailto:echandler@waterfrontgardens.org)

# DONOR ADVISED FUNDS

BY HEATHER CASH, COMMUNITY FOUNDATION OF LOUISVILLE

Under the new tax law beginning in 2018, individuals may want to consider using a donor advised fund (“DAF”) to combine 2-3 years’ worth of charitable giving in to a single gift in one year.

As several published articles suggest, depositing 2-3 years’ worth of gifts into a DAF in a single year could help a couple’s itemized deduction exceed the new \$24,000 standard deduction (\$12,000 single taxpayers) in the year they make the gift. In the subsequent 2-3 years, they can take the standard deduction but use the money in their DAF to recommend charitable contributions to their favorite nonprofits. This strategy can maximize a donor’s tax advantage and may make their total deduction over the 2-3 year period greater than it would have been otherwise.

The Community Foundation of Louisville offers two types of DAFs:

1. Requires a minimum gift of \$25,000, offers four investment options and has a minimal fee;
2. Requires no minimum gift amount, offers no opportunity for investment and has no fee.

If you are interested in learning more about donor advised funds at the Community Foundation of Louisville, please contact Heather Cash: (502) 855-6955 or [heatherc@cflouisville.org](mailto:heatherc@cflouisville.org)

\*The Community Foundation of Louisville does not provide, and this piece is not intended to be tax or legal advice. Before making or planning this or any charitable gift, it is important that you seek advice from a qualified tax professional.

# THE KENTUCKY COFFEE TREE

BY BOB HILL

As with all local legends, the Kentucky Coffee Tree comes with size, mystery, presence, and yeah, coffee beans—the latter category totally depends on your level of dietary desperation.

This is a tree that will end up in your Waterfront Botanical Gardens, but with a history that ostensibly goes back to the mastodons. They were able to chomp away at those bitter coffee-tree pods with enough success to free its seeds and keep the tree going long after the beasts had died out, either from climate change or humans with spears.

That somehow doesn't seem fair.

The Kentucky Coffee Tree has such fascinating characteristics, and its history is best explained in small bites.

First, it has a looming presence, with broad, arching limbs and scaly bark that display even more magnificently in winter. The tree grows from 60 to 80-feet tall and 40 to 50-feet wide.

Its Latin name is *Gymnocladus dioicus*, with *Gymnos* the Greek word for naked and *klados* Greek for branch. *Dioicus* means it comes in separate male and female trees.

The leaves are made up of very small leaflets that can grow to 3-feet long and 2-feet wide. They are easily managed in the fall as they quickly disintegrate, leaving the previously mentioned massive, naked limbs to dominate. These leaves are among the last to pop out in spring and first to fall in autumn, adding more charm to the landscape.

The male tree has flowers in 4-inch clusters; the females have 12-inch panicles, and are fragrant. If they mate, the female flowers give way to long, reddish seed pods which ripen in October and persist well into winter.

The tree is a native to the Midwest, primarily southern Michigan to Ohio, and into Iowa, Kansas, Oklahoma, and Arkansas, but its method of distribution has kept the overall area relatively small.

The coffee tree's seeds are highly toxic, one of Mother Nature's methods of self-preservation. As smaller animals would not eat them, the seeds would eventually work their way into the soil where a few would germinate.

One theory of wider distribution offered by the Kentucky Department of Horticulture is that the seed pods were a food item for mastodons, who died out about 12,000 years ago. They would chew away at the tough pods, often swallowing them whole. As the seeds passed through the animals, and as mastodons wandered various parts of what is now the Midwest, the trees were dispersed. Gravity and geography at work.

More research indicates that Native Americans learned by bitter experience that the seeds first had to be roasted to kill off any toxicity before consumption.

Early Kentucky settlers, being a long way in time and place from their local Starbucks, learned to roast the beans and make really bad coffee.

The trees—especially the males which do not pose the seed problem—are very comfortable in parks or larger landscapes, such as a 23-acre Waterfront Botanical Garden.

Like everything else in the garden, they will take some time to mature.



# RECENT EVENTS



Clock-wise from top left:

**Janice Staugas** Wood talk and Cave Hill Tree Tour, Sept. 26 and Oct. 21, 2017

**Chris Padgett** Monarch Waystations 101, Feb. 24, 2018

**Jon Carloftis** Lexington Garden Tours, June 14, 2017

**Rodney Clemons** An Evening of Bonsai, Nov. 2, 2017



## ABOUT BOB

Bob Hill is the owner of Hidden Hill Nursery and Sculpture Garden, a WBG Board member, and a leader of the WBG Horticulture Committee.

# UPCOMING EVENTS

## Vince Dooley: The Horticultural Journey of a Football Coach

Tuesday, May 22 | 12-3pm

Lincliffe, 6100 Longview Lane, Louisville KY 40222  
\$75 | Tickets available at [waterfrontgardens.org/events](http://waterfrontgardens.org/events)

Please join us for our lunch, talk, and self-guided Garden Tour featuring Vince Dooley, former University of Georgia football coach, speaking on his horticultural journey. Introduction and Q&A led by emcees Bob Hill and Terry Meiners. Lunch served under a tent. 200 seats available.

## The Prelude: Urban Garden Party

Presented by Brown-Forman

Sunday, June 10 | 6-9pm

1400 Frankfort Avenue, access via River Road only  
\$200 | Tickets available at [waterfrontgardens.org/events](http://waterfrontgardens.org/events)

Please join us for our 4th annual fundraiser, Prelude 2018: Urban Garden Party, and enjoy libations and supper set directly on Frankfort Avenue - where city meets garden. Featuring performances by artists of the Louisville Ballet and Ben Sollee & friends. 200 seats available. Ticket sales and live auction to benefit the Graeser Family Education Center. Valet parking. City summer attire.



## Gardens of the Bluegrass Bus Tour with Jon Carloffis

Friday, September 7 | 7am-6pm

\$TBD | Check for updates at [waterfrontgardens.org](http://waterfrontgardens.org)

Join the Waterfront Botanical Gardens for a tour of Lexington gardens led by award-winning landscape designer, Jon Carloffis. This day-long trip will feature several stunning homes and gardens in and around Lexington. Lunch included. Ticket prices and further details TBD.



## reGeneration Fair

Sunday, September 16 | 2-5pm

Butchertown Greenway  
FREE | Check for updates at [waterfrontgardens.org](http://waterfrontgardens.org)

Come out and enjoy an environmental fair featuring food trucks, live music and sustainable fun for the whole family. Free Admission, \$10 suggested donation. Further details TBD.

## Annual Meeting

Thursday, November 1 | 6-8pm

FREE for members, \$TBD for guests

Featuring Keynote speaker, Spencer Crews, who served as Executive Director of Lauritzen Gardens for over two decades in Omaha, Nebraska.

### Interested in sponsoring one of our events?

Please contact Elizabeth Chandler at [echandler@waterfrontgardens.org](mailto:ehandler@waterfrontgardens.org)

# VINCE DOOLEY

FORMER UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA HEAD FOOTBALL COACH, ATHLETIC DIRECTOR, MASTER GARDENER

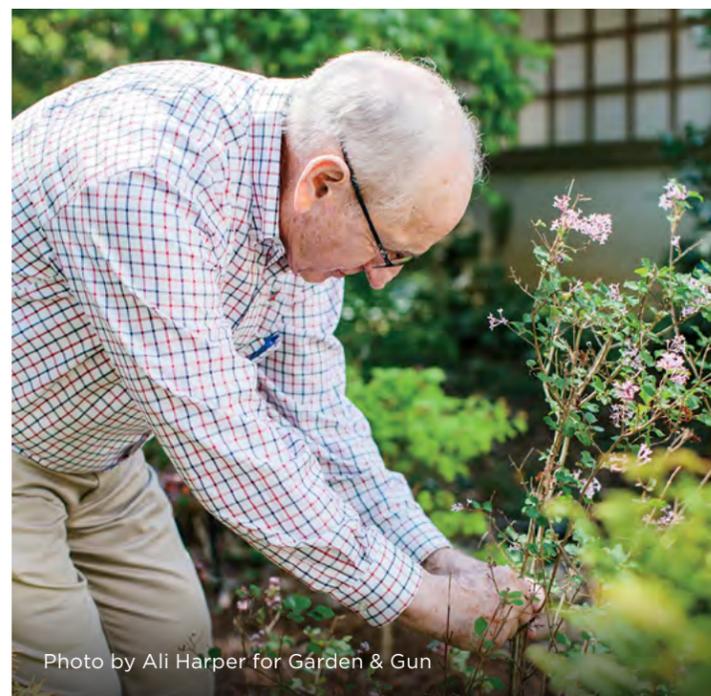


Photo by Ali Harper for Garden & Gun

For over 50 years, Vince Dooley has had an enduring impact on the University of Georgia and collegiate athletics across the country.

He was elected into the College Football Hall of Fame in 1994. His contributions to the University of Georgia were recognized in 2008 with the dedication of the Vince Dooley Athletic Complex. A special statue and garden commemorate his accomplishments, along with the naming of all the south campus athletic facilities in his honor.

For the last 20 years, Vince has devoted his life to gardening. His home in Athens, Georgia boasts a 3-acre botanical garden; his favorites are Japanese Maples, Hydrangeas, Camellias, and Asian Magnolias. He now travels the world visiting gardens and speaking about them. In addition, he became a Master Gardener through the UGA Cooperative Extension office.

Vince and his wife, Barbara, live in Athens. They have 4 children and 11 grandchildren. He has written a book, *Vince Dooley's Garden*, and has a camellia and a hydrangea named after him.

The Prelude:

## URBAN GARDEN PARTY

Presented by Brown-Forman

Please join us for libations and supper on Frankfort Avenue at the Heigold Facade where city meets garden.

SUNDAY, JUNE 10 6-9 PM

1400 Frankfort Avenue  
Access via River Road only

Performances by artists of the Louisville Ballet and Ben Sollee & Friends

Live auction to benefit the Graeser Family Education Center

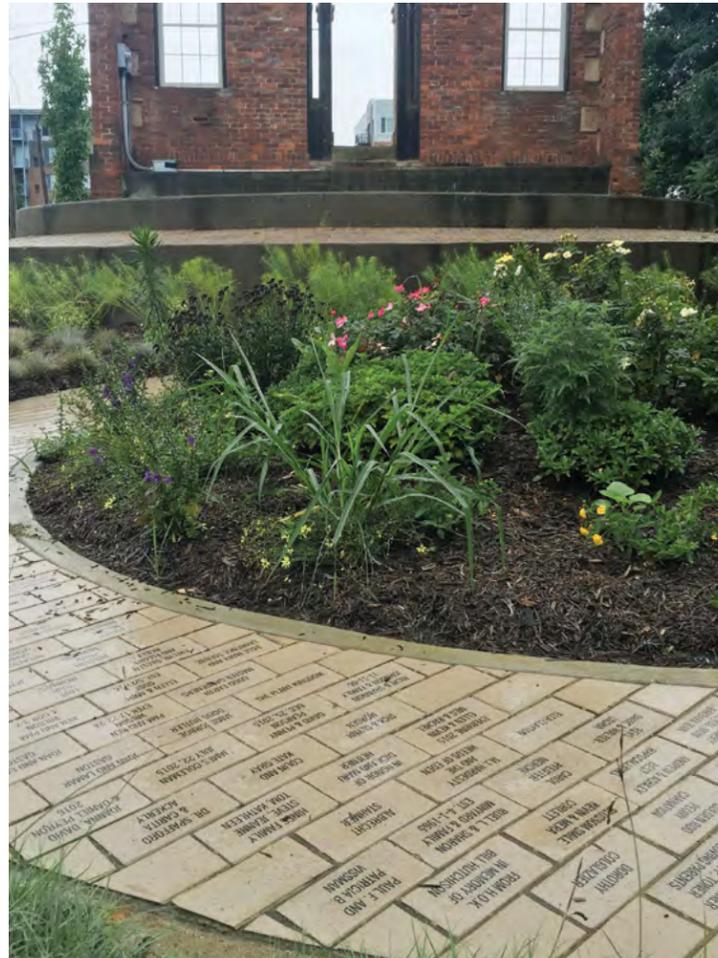
\$200/person • Valet parking • City summer attire



### SPONSORS

Brown-Forman • John and Patti Moore • Butchertown Grocery/B.S.A.P.C. • Commonwealth Bank & Trust • Suzanne and Robert Whyne Clifton Foundation • Sallie and John Cunningham • Woo Speed and Colin McNaughton • Kosair Charities • The Glenview Trust Company Stites & Harbison, PLLC • Kentucky Select Properties • Toyota of Louisville • Dr. Shiao Woo and John H. Shaw-Woo

# ORDER A BRICK TODAY!



Show your support for the future gardens by making a donation to our **Buy A Brick Campaign**. We now have bricks available in two locations: the Founders' Garden at the Heigold Façade and the Beargrass Creek Pathway.

**Founders' Garden brick, \$100**  
3 lines of text, 18 characters each  
(including spaces and punctuation)

**Beargrass Creek Pathway bricks, \$250**  
2 lines of engraving, 18 characters each



# NEW WBG BILLBOARD!

Thank you to Outfront Media for printing our new billboard!

Now on view along the I-71 overpass at Frankfort Ave.



## 2017 ANNUAL REPORT

We're excited to publish our first annual report. Read the full report on our website: [www.waterfrontgardens.org](http://www.waterfrontgardens.org)



“ I have always found that gardening is good for the mind, body, and soul. Botanical gardens provide a sanctuary for reflection, meditation, and a peaceful co-existence with nature.”

Vince Dooley

The Dooley camellia | Photo by Ali Harper for Garden & Gun

Clip and mail this form if you'd like to sponsor a brick in the gardens!

I would like to order a Founders' Garden Brick. Please enter your inscription, 3 lines of text, 18 characters per line:

-----  
-----  
-----

I would like to order a Beargrass Creek Pathway Brick. Please enter your inscription, 2 lines of text, 18 characters per line:

-----  
-----

Please include your payment in the inserted donation envelope.

WATERFRONT  
BOTANICAL  
GARDENS



P.O. BOX 5056  
LOUISVILLE, KY 40255-0056

NON-PROFIT ORG  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
LOUISVILLE KY  
PERMIT #879

“ The Waterfront Botanical Gardens will provide educational and calming experiences with nature for Louisville’s locals and visitors alike. ”

**John Shaw-Woo**  
*Executive Director*  
of GFoundation

