

# IN BLOOM

A PUBLICATION FROM WATERFRONT BOTANICAL GARDENS

SPRING 2019



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**, President  
**Jamie Burghardt**, Director of Horticulture and Education  
**Elizabeth Chandler**, Development Manager  
**Tyree Hughes**, Manager of Finance and Operations  
**Allison Whitehouse**, Program and Development Coordinator

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**Valerie J. Smith**, Secretary  
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Bill Wade

## COVER FLORA

Front: Corkscrew Vine  
*Vigna caracalla*

Back: Hyacinth Bean  
*Lablab purpureus*

## A LETTER FROM OUR PRESIDENT

Dear Friends,

Many years ago, when the Board and staff took on this large project, we understood that it would take years to build. We also knew that every day of work we spent working toward the vision of a botanical garden near downtown Louisville would mean progress and forward movement. We have been blessed with many committed partners, from donors to dedicated volunteers, from community leaders to politicians and from small businesses to other non-profits, the list is long! These relationships have been crucial to our progress.

We knew the road would not be easy, and that there would be speed bumps along the way. However, there have been few. I truly believe this community understands the importance of this project for us, for our children, and for people visiting our city.

To top it all off, we are building on top of a former landfill that was an eyesore for the city of Louisville for decades. We have the vision. Our supporters have the vision. And now the community has the vision for what the re-greening of this landfill can be and what the Waterfront Botanical Gardens can mean for environmental education, neighborhood revitalization and the growth of Louisville into a world-class city.

Thank you all for your vision, your support, and your hard work to make this a reality. Our continued work is a gift that this community will never forget.

Warmly,

Kasey Maier, President

*“The soil under the grass is dreaming of a young forest, and under the pavement the soil is dreaming of grass.” -Wendell Berry, Given*



# American Beech Tree Allee

## AN INTERESTING BEGINNING

In early April, we planted 24 beech trees to create the Tree Allée adjacent to the Graeser Family Education Center. Eventually this allée terminates at the Beargrass Creek Overlook, which is not yet funded. To the west, the Allée will lead to the Trellis Garden and eventually the Visitors Center.

The lot of specimen trees were selected about a year ago at Goshen Gardens Nursery by Bob Hill and Tavia Cathcart Brown. Tommy Bachman of Goshen Gardens continued nurturing the trees for us since that time. Around April 1, Tommy transported the trees to our site, his crews carefully hand dug each hole, added gypsum to help decompact the soil, and planted the trees. He checks on them a few times every week.

Once the trees were planted, Tommy Bachman relayed the story to us that he and Tony Aulbach collected the seeds for these beech trees from Cave Hill Cemetery 20+ years ago. Tony germinated the seeds, nurtured the seedlings in a shade lathe house, then transported them to the field where Tommy has been growing them ever since.

According to Michael Higgs of Cave Hill, the American beech is a very common and well-established tree in Cave Hill Cemetery. For many years, the cemetery actually maintained two bicentennial trees, both of which were American beech. One was located adjacent to the Southern Baptist Seminary lot in Section P, and the other was located in Section 29, at the Grinstead entrance. Both of these trees have since been removed because of extensive storm damage.

## Tree Allée Concept



# Construction Update

BY CLINTON DECKARD, CONSTRUCTION MANAGER



Construction is on schedule for the **Graeser Family Education Center** and the surrounding plaza and gardens. Details of the building are being finalized, including the wood detail on the interior of the building to include the ceiling details, the drywall and the tile in the bathrooms.

- On the exterior, the roof is complete and the exterior wood detail is continuing.
- The glass glazing is complete.
- Power and water have been connected to the building.
- The sidewalks are being installed and the site grading continues.
- The gravel parking lot on-site is ready. Many truckloads of new dirt have been brought in to prepare for new plantings.
- Garden and tree plantings will begin around June 1.
- The Beargrass Creek hillside has been graded and seeded.
- The building and site are on schedule to be complete by September with an official opening of **October 4**.



## Hard Hat Tours



Since January, we've been offering hard hat tours to anyone interested. Every week we meet the group on the site and give them a talk about the history of the site, followed by a tour of the new building and surroundings. The tours are free. Check our website for upcoming dates.



To sign up for a hard hat tour : [waterfrontgardens.org/events](https://waterfrontgardens.org/events)

## Meet Jamie Burghardt



### DIRECTOR OF HORTICULTURE AND EDUCATION

James "Jamie" Burghardt joined WBG in mid-November as the Director of Horticulture and Education. His role is to advance the plant collections and displays in the botanical garden's infancy while developing and expanding adult and youth educational offerings. Plant buying, garden layout, signage, growing and maintaining the plantings are key projects on the horticultural side. Education-wise, expanding adult education offerings and developing the greenhouses and kitchen gardens at The Avish will support visits and plant-life appreciation by school-age children from across the region.

Jamie has always had a personal and professional connection to plants. A native of southern Minnesota, he has been gardening since he was little. Also, he enjoyed the prairie and woodland ecosystems in the beeyards his dad managed. Jamie gained knowledge and supported botanical gardens in both intern and staff positions since the mid-1990s. From New York and Philadelphia to Denver, Charlotte, Savannah and West Palm Beach, he has been involved in educating people about plants as well as growing the most rewarding of native and exotic plants for display. He's been

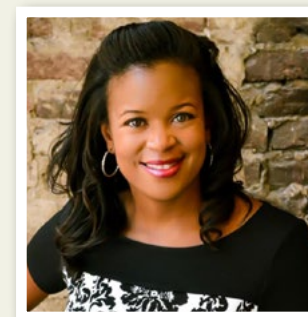
involved in established historic estates and botanical gardens, and those that are fledgling at various points in development and expansion.

"Louisville is yet another great American community and botanical gardens that are fledgling. While it may take decades to attain what other cities such as New York, Chicago, St. Louis, Pittsburgh and Atlanta have with their gardens and glasshouses, we are in great company as we join Houston, Tulsa and Naples in contemporary cities building their non-profit botanical gardens, now in various stages. Not only do botanical gardens connect people with plants, they are sites where people connect with each other through the common bonds we all share with plants: natural beauty, cultural symbolism, food nourishment, positive psychology, biodiversity, fresh air and cleaner water. A botanical garden is about quality of life. **It's a great life lesson — and a rewarding one — to nurture a little seed or sapling all the way to seeing its first flower or harvesting and tasting its first fruit.**"

## WELCOME NEW BOARD MEMBERS



**Will Greene**  
Owner, Vanguard Cleaning Solutions of Louisville & Lexington



**Nejma Piagentini**  
Environmental Scientist



**Matthew Gardiner**  
Owner, Boone Gardiner Landscape and Farm

# Summer Entwinery

## Entwinery Vinery

BY JAMIE BURGHARDT

With all due respect to morning glory and moonflower, several other annual flowering vines are worth considering for our Kentuckiana gardens. Even if you refuse to discard your blue-flowering morning glories, you will agree there is an advantage to having a fast-growing flowering vine that ends its outrageous growth once the fall frost arrives. Specialty nurseries may have small starter plants of annual vines for you to purchase, but most likely they will have seed packets. As the soil warms across May (and it's past Derby), you can direct-sow the seeds where the plants are to grow in the landscape. Let the vines cover a fence, climb up a downspout, an old A-frame ladder, or create a simple wood/bamboo arbor or teepee on which they can grow.

Here are seven of the most rewarding summer flowering annual vines that are relatively easy to grow from seed. Warm soil — with some organic matter added — that is neither too wet nor too dry and at least six hours of uninterrupted sunlight each day will make your annual vines satisfy your appetite for beauty. Patience is the virtue required with these vines, as summer's warmth and strong sun rays are what makes these plants produce their flowers.



Cup-and-Saucer Vine



Cardinal Climber



Corkscrew Vine

**Cup-and-Saucer Vine** (*Cobaea scandens*). Also called Cathedral Bells and Monastery Vine, this fast-growing plant from Mexico will catch everyone's attention when in bloom. Each flower is a five-petaled cup that begins pale green but then matures to either white or a rich red-violet. The stamens inside the floral cups twist and curl, adding to the ornamentation. Be patient with this exotic plant. It will produce a lot of vines and leaves until mid to late summer when the flowers finally come and then continue until frost.

**Cardinal Climber** (*Ipomoea x sloteri*) Lovers of frilly leaves and hummingbirds should seek out the cardinal climber vine. This hybrid vine was actually developed by an Ohioan about 120 years ago when he crossed morning glory with cypress vine. The cardinal climber boasts numerous slender trumpet-shaped red flowers that are rich in nectar and close up at night. Each blossom comprises five petals that flare out from the floral tube, creating a pentagon-like face. Not only will ruby-throated hummingbirds frequent this vine, but some bees and butterflies will make you want to play air-traffic controller.

**Corkscrew Vine** (*Vigna caracalla*) For no other reason, covet this vine because Thomas Jefferson grew it at Monticello and the flowers look like snail shells. Prepare yourself for the price of a seed packet (and the skimpy numbers of seeds found within) and the success in germination. I paid \$5 for a package of 5 seeds to use in the kitchen gardens at The Avish, and only one survived into a strong, healthy plant. If not to see the curly keeled flowers that gradate from cream to rosy pink to red-violet, you have to smell them — they are a blend of Easter lily with a hint of Dutch hyacinth. This plant becomes quite big and heavy across the summer, so make sure to provide a large, sturdy support system on which it may grow.



Scarlet Runner Bean



Malabar Spinach



Hyacinth Bean

**Malabar Spinach** (*Basella alba 'Rubra'*) Although not even closely related to the cool-season leafy vegetable, Malabar spinach's leaves do taste like common spinach with a hint of peppery citrus. I first encountered Malabar spinach in South Florida, where finding vegetable crops that could survive oppressive heat and humidity from June to October was rare. A cultivar called 'Rubra' is especially ornamental, as the succulent stems are deep red in color, while the leaves are green with pink veins. Malabar spinach looks great spiraling up on a colorful trellis and even does well on a teepee in a large container on the patio. Snip off leaves and stems to keep it in bounds, tossing those leaves in a fresh salad.

**Scarlet Runner Bean** (*Phaseolus coccineus*) For nearly 400 years the scarlet runner bean has been grown in American and European gardens. This vine is native to the highlands of Mexico, so it enjoys slightly cooler temperatures to perform its best. At first glance, you may mistake this plant for a pole bean. The scarlet red flowers are a distinguishing feature. These blossoms are not only edible, but will attract hummingbirds and bumblebees. You can sow scarlet runner beans when soil temps are cooler in late April. If we have a cooler summer, scarlet runner bean will shine. Otherwise, expect it to look its finest in early summer and again in early fall. Scarlet runner bean makes an effective fast-growing groundcover, too.

**Hyacinth Bean** (*Lablab purpureus*) This vine, native to Africa, boasts attractive three-lobed leaves that have a purplish green color. The prettiest attribute remains the upright clusters of pea-shaped flowers that are a rose-violet. Some gardeners will grow the vine for both the flowers and the small, soft immature bean pods that are edible. Don't eat the mature seeds though, as they are poisonous. This vine presents a double-edged sword: it flowers continually across summer, that yield clusters of flat purple pods (that may be unsightly) and Japanese beetles love to eat the leaves. However, hyacinth bean grows quite well in drier garden soils.

**Spanish Flag** (*Ipomoea lobata*) Three-lobed leaves adorn this very fast-growing vine that makes you wait til late summer (even into early October) to really relish in the fiery floral display. Also called firecracker vine, it is a close cousin to the blue morning glory even though their flowers' shapes are dissimilar. Spanish flag flowers are held on upright stems. The youngest buds at the tip of the stems are red, those slightly lower and older are yellow and the oldest open flowers are creamy pale yellow. As is the case with any red flower, you can definitely anticipate the hummingbirds' visits, as well as some butterflies and bees. The only drawback to Spanish flag is if you sow the seeds late in summer. A cool summer or cool garden soil can delay the flowering so late into the fall that the frost could kill the plant too soon.



Spanish Flag

# WBG Needs You

VOLUNTEERING WITH THE GARDENS

You've seen the stickers, you may even have the t-shirt, but those words are truer now than they've ever been. With the grand opening of Phase I and the Graeser Family Education Center fast approaching, we need all hands on deck, volunteers!

Before we had gardens of our own, our volunteer opportunities were a bit more limited, but as everything continues to evolve, the bulk of our forthcoming needs will focus on gardening/outdoor work, awareness and outreach, education, and events.

### Sounds great. So how do I become a volunteer?

The first stop is [www.waterfrontgardens.org/support/volunteer](http://www.waterfrontgardens.org/support/volunteer) where you can fill out a volunteer interest form. This will get you moved into our volunteer list. From there, we use SignUp Genius to manage our lists for different tasks. You will have to create your own SignUp Genius account in order to accept task requests. We ask that all volunteers maintain a current phone number and email so that we have more than one way to get in touch with you. If it turns out you can't work at something you've signed up for, please let us know so we can find a replacement or adjust accordingly.

This project is a major undertaking, and a great asset to our community. It will require a host of dedicated individuals to make sure it flourishes (literally and metaphorically). We're counting on you to reaffirm or embark on your roles as ambassadors, caretakers, and friends of the project, and to help ensure that the Gardens are a beautiful place for everyone to visit.

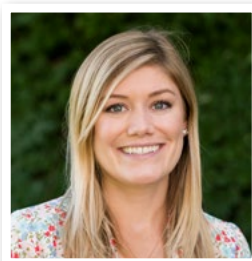
# LET'S GET DIRTY.



**Allison Whitehouse**  
Program and Development Coordinator

## Help Us Plant the Gardens

### LOUISVILLE AREA DAYLILY SOCIETY MATCHING CHALLENGE



**Elizabeth Chandler**  
Development Manager

One of our long-time supporters, the Louisville Area Daylily Society (LADS), has pledged a gift to help us raise funds for the gardens in Phase 1. LADS established this matching challenge in memory of Helen Harrigan, who was an avid gardener and left a \$1.5 million dollar trust to "build a botanical garden and conservatory" in Louisville. Helen's donation was an inciting factor in the progress of the Waterfront Botanical Gardens. Members of the Louisville Area Daylily Society share in Helen's vision and in recognition of their support, we will name the Daylily Garden the "Helen Harrigan Memorial Daylily Garden."

LADS recognizes our need for all plant materials, and the money raised as part of the matching challenge will go toward the purchase of materials including, but not limited to, trees, shrubs, ornamental grasses and flowering perennials for the gardens in Phase 1.

If you have ever considered making a gift to Waterfront Botanical Gardens, now is the perfect time to double your impact. All straight donations, excluding sponsored items, will be doubled dollar for dollar up to the matching total of \$50,000. Your gift is an investment in the future of Waterfront Botanical Gardens as well as the future of our community.



To make a donation, please use the enclosed envelope, call Elizabeth Chandler at 502-276-5404, or visit: [waterfrontgardens.org/support](http://waterfrontgardens.org/support)



The Waterfront Botanical Gardens invites you to our 5th Annual Prelude

## Cirque du Jardin

Invitation art by Richard Shu

artwork by Richard Shu

## Join Us for Prelude

Join us for a sneak peek of the Graeser Family Education Center **Sunday, June 9 from 6-9 pm**, with food from James Beard Award-winning chef, Jessica Largey and entertainment by the Louisville Ballet and CirqueLouis, curated by guest producer Ben Sollee.



LIMITED SEATS AVAILABLE!  
RESERVE YOUR SPOT(S) HERE:  
[waterfrontgardens.org/events](http://waterfrontgardens.org/events)

## Thank You.

An anonymous donor made a donation to Brightside last November, and requested that over 200,000 daffodil bulbs be planted along I-71 near our site. Thank You donor and Thank You Brightside!!





**Graeser Family Education Center**

# Graeser Family Education Center

AVAILABLE TO RENT THIS OCTOBER!

Conveniently located close to downtown, Waterfront Botanical Gardens offers distinctively stunning and functional spaces, making it an ideal space for your next event. The building is situated above Beargrass Creek offering beautiful views day or night.

Whether you are looking for a venue for an elegant wedding, a large corporate event, musical performances or a small meeting, the Gardens offer striking settings for both indoor and outdoor events.

Our beautifully-designed Graeser Family Education Center can hold up to 250 guests at round tables and features a conference room for meetings that doubles as a Green Room for brides or performers. Both rooms are equipped with audio-visual

screens and speakers throughout. Finally, a catering prep kitchen is adjacent to the large room. The plaza surrounding the Education Center can accommodate up to 500 guests.



For pricing, questions, and additional information, please contact Elizabeth Chandler at 502-276-5404, or visit: [waterfrontgardens.org/rentals](http://waterfrontgardens.org/rentals)

# THIS IS WHERE WE *grow*

WATERFRONT BOTANICAL GARDENS

The Waterfront Botanical Gardens Staff and Board have partnered with Bisig Impact Group to develop an exciting campaign, which you will be seeing in various forms over the coming months.

This campaign will be an intentional combination of words and images that will inspire, motivate, and connect a variety of audiences to the Gardens on an intellectual and emotional level. This campaign will be our “true north” and will establish how we frame the Gardens’ impact on and value to the community. Through consistent activation over time, this campaign will deliver long-term value and equity within the organization, volunteers, partners, and guests.

As we bloom into our grand opening season, it is exciting to unify our voice under one rallying cry:

WE ARE THE WATERFRONT BOTANICAL GARDENS. AND THIS IS WHERE WE GROW. **Stay Tuned.**

## Join us for our Opening Week Events

Friday, Oct. 4, 9 am  
**Ribbon Cutting**  
Friday, Oct. 4, 7 pm  
**Beer and Music in the Garden**

Sat. Oct. 5, 6 pm  
**Black Tie Gala**  
Mon – Friday, Oct. 7-11, 12pm  
**Lunch and Learns**

Sat. Oct. 12, 2-5 pm  
**reGeneration Fair**  
Sat. Oct. 12, 5 pm  
**Bug Ball**

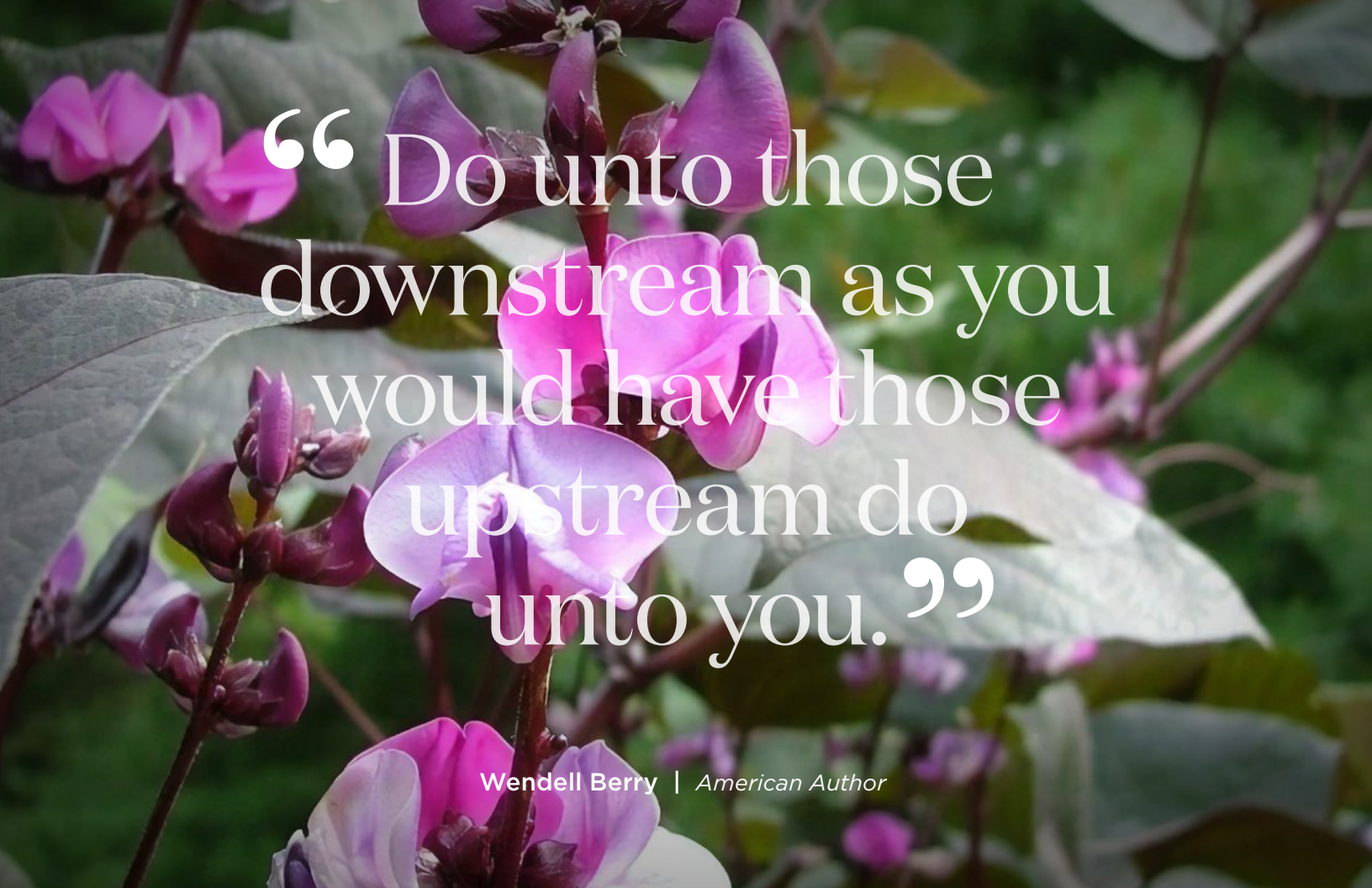


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A close-up photograph of several purple flowers, likely from a legume family, with green foliage in the background. The flowers are in various stages of bloom, with some fully open and others as buds. The lighting is soft, highlighting the delicate petals and the vibrant purple color.

“ Do unto those  
downstream as you  
would have those  
upstream do  
unto you. ”

Wendell Berry | *American Author*