

IN BLOOM

A PUBLICATION FROM WATERFRONT BOTANICAL GARDENS

FALL 2020



WATERFRONT
BOTANICAL
GARDENS



A LETTER FROM OUR PRESIDENT



Dear Friends,

As we approach our one-year anniversary, I reflect on all that has happened these past 12 months. October 4, 2019 was a day we only dreamed of in earlier years. That week was the busiest week our team has ever experienced, with over 1,000 visitors attending

our opening events. The flurry of activity continued through the end of the year and into 2020 with over 10,000 visitors and 70 events in the new Graeser Family Education Center. Then, the activity, events, and visitors stopped suddenly on March 14, 2020.

Since that day, we have all become more focused on our health, our safety, and on the well-being of our community. The developments of 2020 have helped us appreciate our families and loved ones, the safety of our homes, and the importance of outdoor spaces.

At WBG we are now able to have visitors who can enjoy all the new features of the Gardens while socially distancing and wearing masks. Please come and take a walk through the thousands of plants and flowers, and take a moment to appreciate all that nature can offer us during these uncertain and confusing times.

Nature spaces are important to our physical, spiritual, and mental health. WBG offers a new outdoor experience to our community, including gardens that change with the seasons, fountains, a waterfall, and now a pathway that connects us to Beargrass Creek.

Even though 2020 has been challenging for us as a business and as individuals, as it has others, we are working to move the development of WBG forward. We have recently completed two construction projects (the Rounsavall Family Foundation Plaza Fountain and the Beargrass Creek Pathway); both of which are significant additions to the Gardens. We will be starting next on construction of the Ellen T. Leslie Botanical Classrooms, an important facility that will help us continue to carry out our mission.

I hope you'll put on your mask and come see how we're growing! We'll save our hugs and handshakes for another year.

Warmly,
Kasey

Kasey Maier, President

OUR VISION

Planting seeds and growing minds
for more sustainable cities.

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Construction Update



Kasey Maier & Dan Cash helping to prepare the gardens

As promised, 2020 has been a busy year with construction. **The edible garden planters were installed in early spring.** They are built with formed concrete and topped with wood slats. The design of these garden beds allows for small people and tall people to enjoy the gardens, and has cut-out areas for wheelchair accessibility for someone to work in the gardens. The plants in these gardens change frequently as the vegetables mature.

In March, we started construction on the Beargrass Creek Pathway, and opened it to the public on Sept. 2. The pathway took much longer than anticipated, and was quite a complicated project, but well worth the wait.

Construction on the Rounsavall Family Foundation Plaza Fountain started in April, and was finished in July. This beautiful fountain is now the centerpiece of the south plaza, and includes gardens in the middle of the fountain that

will change with the seasons. Water is pumped over a small rivulet that provides the sound of running water.

Other work on the site continued as planned, to include pavers, irrigation, electrical work, and light fixtures. **The Helen Harrigan Garden was completed,** and includes hundreds of perennials and daylilies.

Onward to the next construction project: the Ellen T. Leslie Botanical Classrooms.



Keep an eye on our website and social media for more updates on construction: waterfrontgardens.org/about/construction-updates/

COVER FLORA

Front: Satsuki Azalea Bonsai by Valerie J. Smith
Back: Chinese Elm Bonsai by McKenna Christine Poe

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Ellen T. Leslie Botanical Classrooms

Set to Open in 2021

Ellen T. Leslie was a lover of gardens, water features, and dogs. Her large gift, left to us in 2019, allows us to continue construction on Phase 1. Therefore, in her name, we are building the Ellen T. Leslie Botanical Classrooms. This 6,000 square-foot facility was designed by local architecture firm, EOP, and includes a teaching greenhouse, learning lab, office and storage, courtyard, and horticulture workshop. The classroom complex will be located directly across the plaza from the Graeser Family Education Center in what is now the asphalt parking lot. **Construction will begin in early October and be completed in late summer next year.** Whittenberg

Construction will handle the construction of the building and T&C Contracting will handle the site work.

The layout and design of the building will allow students of all ages to get their hands in the dirt in the greenhouse, utilize the touchless sink and drying station, and head toward the smart classroom for virtual or in-person learning. These smaller teaching spaces allow us to continue programming with smaller groups of students. The classroom has two glass garage doors that open to the plaza, as well as two doors that lead into the courtyard for outdoor learning.



Elizabeth Chandler
Development Manager

YOU CAN HELP MOVE THE WATERFRONT BOTANICAL GARDENS PROJECT FORWARD!

We will begin construction on the Ellen T. Leslie Botanical Classrooms in October of this year and have several naming opportunities within the classroom complex. Donors have the option to pay for their sponsorship in one year, or split payments over multiple years. Please see some exciting new naming opportunities available:

LEARNING LAB **\$500,000**

The Learning Lab will be conveniently located off the plaza, adjacent to the Graeser Family Education Center. It will hold up to 40 students, and will include a smart TV and video camera for virtual classes. In addition, there will be a kitchen and storage attached to the classroom.



THE EXTERIOR OF THE BUILDING UTILIZES THREE DIFFERENT FINISHES:

Dark Gray Corrugated Metal Panel Cedar Wood Siding | Green Glazed Brick

The private courtyard can be used for small cocktail parties, or cooking demonstrations. Also, a bride might utilize the classroom and courtyard as a dressing room and preparation/celebration space with her bridesmaids. The options are endless. The classroom and courtyard can easily be closed off to the plaza via sliding “barn” doors.

The teaching greenhouse, which will be visible from I-71, includes automated screens along the roofline, misting systems, and automated exhaust fans. The custom design of this greenhouse classroom provides a flexible teaching environment for the horticulture and education team. Acid-etched ‘bird glass’ will be installed in the greenhouse to prevent bird strikes.

The north face of the building, adjacent to the plaza, will include a donor wall, yet to be designed. This will be an opportunity for donors to show their support of our mission, much like the columns on the Graeser Family Education Center.

Once construction starts on the Ellen T. Leslie Botanical Classrooms, all parking will be moved to the gravel lot, west of the water wall, with the exception of handicap parking, which will be located in the asphalt area, close to the bus turnaround.



If you want to follow the progress of the Ellen T. Leslie Botanical Classrooms check out the website at <https://waterfrontgardens.org/master-plan/phase-1c/>

TEACHING GREENHOUSE \$250,000

The Greenhouse will be connected to the Learning Lab, located directly off the plaza, and will be used for hands-on horticultural learning activities for youth and adults.

HORTICULTURE WORKSHOP \$150,000

The Workshop will be used for the Horticulture staff, interns, and volunteers. This area will be used for equipment and tool storage, volunteer training, and will include a break room.

COURTYARD \$100,000

The Courtyard will be adorned with plants, and will open to the plaza. This area will be used for small, private events and outdoor teaching.

INTERIOR EXHIBIT WALL \$50,000

The Interior Exhibit Wall will be in the entryway to the Ellen T. Leslie Botanical Classrooms. Students will see the WBG Master Plan, as well as historical images of the former landfill. The 72-foot wall will be used for rotating exhibits.

For Questions, please contact Elizabeth Chandler at echandler@waterfrontgardens.org

Creating Connections



Andrew Hagerty
Lead Horticulturist

This summer I watched as the pathway connecting the Gardens to the Beargrass Creek Greenway came to life with its cascading waterfall feature and the variety of trees lining its path that will provide a vibrant collage of color this fall. **The more time our team spent working on the pathway, the more we were able to interact with an array of life that utilizes the canopied Greenway.** It became apparent how important the corridor is to our city's residents and the potential its improvement will mean for our native habitats.

The completion of the Beargrass Creek Pathway gives access to the Gardens for pedestrians and cyclists who frequently pass by on their way to River Road, Waterfront Park, or Story Avenue.

What is less obvious is how the restoration of native plants we placed along the Greenway will play a role in benefiting the rest of the environment found throughout this corridor.

In conservation terms, corridors are strips of habitat that connect plants and animals in a fragmented landscape. Corridors are crucial in promoting stable populations and genetic exchange of the plants and animals utilizing them, as they provide safety for animals traveling across habitat patches and the resulting pollen and seed dispersal from their movement. **Waterfront Botanical Gardens is fortunate to be situated near the mouth of the Beargrass Creek watershed, which is the largest watershed in Louisville.** This means

WBG WELCOMES JEFF CUMMINS & DUNCAN CHERRY

WBG is excited to introduce Jeff Cummins as Director of Finance and Operations. Jeff, a Louisville native, is responsible for finance and accounting, as well as managing the operations staff and providing support for WBG president, Kasey Maier.

Jeff has extensive experience in finance and operations through his work with startups and fast-growth companies in Louisville.

He has served in senior leadership roles in financial, media, academic, non-profit,

and automotive industries. He also has an undergraduate degree in Biology from Transylvania University and an MBA from the University of Louisville.

"I am excited to be part of the state-of-the-art urban botanical garden in my community. It is an incredible addition to be enjoyed by all — not just gardeners. Waterfront Botanical Gardens will be an incredible destination to bring us all together with its enriching education and atmosphere."



Jeff Cummins
Director of Finance and Operations



Duncan Cherry
Office Manager

Meet Duncan Cherry, WBG's new Office Manager. If you call with a question, chances are you'll hear back from Duncan. He can be reached at info@waterfrontgardens.org or dcherry@waterfrontgardens.org.



we are connected to the many corridors found amongst the 61-square-mile area via a network of creeks, streams, and culverts that weave their way throughout our city. The water from Douglass Hills to Germantown, and from Buechel to Indian Hills, finds its way into Beargrass Creek, passes by the Gardens, and empties into the Ohio River.

Since it's such a large urban watershed, Beargrass Creek is vulnerable to numerous sources of pollution, such as urban storm run-off, sewer overflows, and erosion. Despite the pollution, however, it remains a hotspot of biodiversity. Along the creek's banks and in surrounding pockets of greenspace are **beavers, herons, songbirds, frogs, turtles, massive cottonwoods, and pockets of wildflowers**, to name a few.

While the Waterfront Botanical Gardens is developing a relatively small section of the immense network of waterways and corridors that crisscross Louisville's urban area, it has the potential to play a big role in the health of its environment. Our Gardens are already home to tree frogs found hiding in the plantings, a food source for flocks of goldfinches carrying black-eyed Susan seed to their next location, a haven for a shy red-eared slider turtle living in our pond, and a source of genetic diversity, as pollen is carried to new locations on the backs of busy bees. **By continuing the development of the Beargrass Creek Pathway, and nurturing its surrounding habitat, we hope to always be a part of restoring and supporting Louisville's natural environment for those who benefit from it now and future generations to come.**

CONNECTING VIRTUALLY

This year, the Development team has had to adjust how we stay connected to our supporters. We started the year out with a full schedule of events. As things changed, we quickly had to adjust to a virtual format to keep everyone engaged... from their homes.

During the summer, we hosted two virtual cocktail parties, with Denny Crum and Bob Hill respectively - over 140 people tuned in. In addition, we have hosted multiple virtual and small group garden tours and project update presentations.

In October, we have two more virtual cocktail parties scheduled: Tom Owen on Oct. 1, and Lee Squires on October 28. In addition, on Oct. 4, our Gala will be a "hybrid" event featuring up-and-coming Nashville star, Stephanie Quayle.

We will continue to reinvent our events so that they are inclusive, and keep everyone up to date on what's going on at the Gardens. If you would like to participate in one of these events, or are interested in a personal, virtual, or in-person tour, feel free to contact me at jkings@waterfrontgardens.org or 502-836-9407.



John King
Director of Development



Learn more about events on our website:
waterfrontgardens.org/events

Connecting with Our Plants

Virtually at Your Fingertips

JAMIE BURGHARDT



Jamie Burghardt
Director of Horticulture
& Education

There is no certification or licensing process for any property to label itself a botanical garden. Bona-fide botanical gardens curate a documented collection of living plants or dried herbarium specimens through a managed plant records system. Plant records improve the experience for visitors, students, educators, researchers, and scientists and ultimately protect the plant collection. Within this recording system, staff can better analyze the plant collection as well as develop inventories, labels, maps, and maintain a library of photographic images. Just as an art museum documents its artifacts, or a zoo keeps medical records on its animals, the botanical garden maintains vital information on its plants.

Waterfront Botanical Gardens' plant collections are being managed with a fully digital database.

While paper records are initially received from plant nurseries or collection donors, the information on those newly acquired plants is entered into a computer database that is uploaded to the virtual cloud. The term "accessioned" refers to plants that have been included in the permanent collections of the Gardens, such as a tree, shrub, perennial, or bulb. In contrast, "seasonal" plants refer to annuals, vegetables, and other plants used in temporary displays. Such plants may be labeled for visitor information, but they are not added to our permanent collection.

In mid-2019, just months prior to our grand opening, WBG began the use of the IrisBG software that would allow us to efficiently manage our plant records. IrisBG was first released in the mid-1990s into the Scandinavian market and then worldwide in 2007. It is among the most comprehensive botanical collection management tools today. Most recently, WBG added an additional module called GardensExplorer that allows anyone around the world with internet connectivity to access and peruse our plant collection. Welcome to the realm of modern plant recordkeeping and data sharing.

KEY INFORMATION

Most people would be content with simply knowing the common name of a plant they see. When curating and documenting a botanical gardens collection, much more information is captured in the database. Current/accepted botanical names are verified and assigned to each permanent plant in the collection. Then, an accession number is assigned to new plants being registered or entering the records system. Numbers allow for faster cross-referencing when compared to letters or words.

Beyond that, initial data entered for a new plant accession includes the source of the plant (i.e. purchased from Nursery X or grown from seed collected by Person A), genetic parentage of a hybrid, the size/condition of the plant material at acquisition, date of planting in the ground, and the physical bed location within the Gardens. As time passes, horticulturists or volunteers can update the records annually, such as documenting plant size, overall health (or plant death), relocation to a new garden bed, or other maintenance and observational/performance comments. A process called ground truthing should be undertaken at least once a year to verify that accessioned plants recorded by the database actually are alive and remain in their designated physical garden location.

A picture is worth a thousand words and that is especially true in the digital world. A photo of a plant provides priceless information when it comes to identification as well as inspiring someone to use a plant for any particular ornamental aspect in the landscape. **We aim to have at least four photos of each plant in our collection in our database, so that leaf, flower, bark, or seedhead is viewable from at least two different seasons.** Overall form and habit of a plant is also valuable to capture in an image.

UTILIZING THE DIGITAL RECORDS

Over the past decade, global positioning system (GPS) software has become increasingly easy to obtain – particularly on personal smartphones. Our plant records include GPS coordinates that capture individual plants and display them on a wide array of public internet-based maps (i.e. Google Maps, OpenStreetMap, etc.). **Through our GardensExplorer interface, you may find locations of plants through a satellite map or by generating lists by garden beds or plant families within WBG.** Our collections management software also allows us to record locations of non-living items of importance, such as outdoor art features, sponsored benches or engraved memorial bricks.

From a management perspective, the digital system allows for quick reporting on numbers of plants, species and plant families. When new gardens are added, or one particular plant dies and must be replaced, a query in the records will inform decisions on what new plant species, cultivars, or overall plant families warrant greater representation in our collection. Or, we may make a decision to avoid certain plants because of a negative characteristic (such as potential invasiveness, toxicity, or lack of winter hardiness).



“A picture is worth a thousand words”

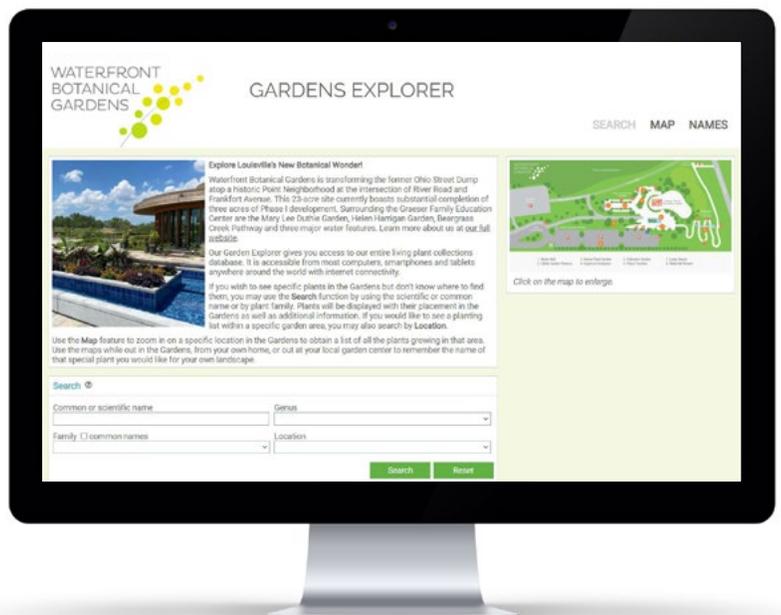


WORK TO DO

Ideally, curating plants and working on the plant records is a feat done year-round. Until the Gardens has a full-time curator, current staff will focus time on updating records when it's raining outdoors, too hot in the middle of a July afternoon, or in the tacet season of winter. Several layers of data are to be fleshed out on each plant accession, including descriptors of native range and habitat, potential ornamental uses in a landscape, and high-quality seasonal images. We've been ramping up efforts since late spring.

The Gardens' non-living features may also be inventoried and displayed in our GardensExplorer interface. The database allows us to inventory and display benches, sponsored trees, Education 100 columns, and engraved bricks. **With GPS coordinates and digital images, anyone around the world can have a look at these community-funded attributes on our property.** Adding features into the database is nearly as large a project as documenting and adding all the plants in our collection, and is just getting underway.

In a long-range perspective, **building a comprehensive plant records database today will make potential research and conservation efforts in the future that much easier.** Our future could mean collaborations on restoration efforts and a need for tracking plant genetics or legal agreements and permits. Our software can handle many layers of data to support the needs of a growing modern public horticulture institution today and in the future.



Learn more at:
wbg.gardenexplorer.org

Bonsai

The horticultural art hobby

BY LEE SQUIRES



Lee Squires has been a bonsai grower for 48 years and is the retired President & CEO of Cave Hill Cemetery in Louisville, Ky.

Bonsai, the art of creating trees in miniature form to resemble mature trees growing in nature, started in China over 1300 years ago. Around 800 years later, the Japanese started cultivating bonsai and refined the process from what the Chinese had developed during the preceding 500 years. Both the Chinese and Japanese horticulturists saw natural dwarf and stunted trees growing in the mountains and transplanted them into containers after they were brought down from the mountains. **These trees were called “yamadori” (trees collected from nature)** and they became very popular for the aristocratic class in both countries. Collecting trees from dangerous, precarious cliff areas was expensive and

the commoners could not afford them. Soon, the general population of skilled horticulturists started creating their own bonsai from cultivated landscape material to resemble the yamadori trees. Bonsai was born.

Bone-sigh is the correct pronunciation, not banzai, the traditional Japanese battle cry. Bonsai is translated to mean, tree in a tray or planted in a tray and is not a particular type of tree. Many types of plants can be used for bonsai. **Outdoor trees used are: Pine, Juniper, Hinoki Cypress, Boxwood, Azalea, Japanese Maples, Spruce, Bald Cypress, and others with a natural dwarf leaf.**

Indoor trees used are: Ficus varieties,

Portulacaria, Brazilian Rain Tree, and several other genera. The classic bonsai, a gnarly pine tree, is what most folks think of when they hear the word bonsai. They may buy one from a vendor and, without proper instruction from the seller, the tree ends up on their coffee table. In a short period of time, the tree is dead and they wonder why. Why? Because the pine is an outdoor tree, not an indoor tropical. It needs full sun, wind, rain, and cold temperatures to go dormant in winter and experience root protection during cold winter months. The big box stores also sell hardy, mass-produced junipers (an outdoor tree) with glued down gravel on the soil surface and they display them inside the stores. The novice purchaser buys one, takes it home and sets it on their coffee table. Soon, it is dead too and the purchasers think that they cannot grow bonsai. If they had bought a tropical bonsai, the tree would still be alive.

In 2019 the Waterfront Botanical Gardens (WBG) became the fortunate recipient of the bonsai collection of forty-year bonsai grower, Tom McCurry.

Tom and I have been friends for over 40 years and we have developed a lot of bonsai together. Tom's collection of 24 trees includes Satsuki Azaleas, Chinese Elms, Japanese Black Pines, Scot's Pines, Boxwood, Oriental Spruce, Trident Maple, and Japanese Maple. These trees were the best of his collection of over 50 trees.

They currently reside in WBG's nursery area and are destined to be displayed in the bonsai pavilion that will be built in the future Japanese Garden. Tom's collection was one of the impetuses for starting plans on developing the future Japanese garden at WBG. Members of The Greater Louisville Bonsai Society have done some repotting and pruning work on the trees and is helping to train WBG staff to maintain the trees in the future.

Botanical gardens that have a Japanese garden on the grounds have a great following and the garden anchors the institution to the community. There is much to learn and admire in Japanese gardens and, in many cases, they are the highlight of a visitor's experience. Highly manicured trees and shrubs, water features, artistic rocks and boulders, vistas and borrowed views from other parts of the garden, detailed building construction, and intricate pathway designs help to soothe the soul.

pot length should be about 2/3 of the tree height. The pot depth should equal the trunk diameter. The ratio of trunk diameter to tree height is 1:6. Of course, there are exceptions to all of these rules to maintain the proper scale.

The soil mixture is of prime importance. It is recommended to use small lava rock, volcanic pumice, and akadama (Japanese clay) as a basic 1:1:1 mix. This formula can be amended depending on what type of tree you are potting - more lava or pumice for conifers and more akadama

Pruning is necessary as the trees grow. In most cases you will be trimming your bonsai a couple of times during the summer. This, along with root pruning, helps in the dwarfing process. In the iconic movie, *Karate Kid* in 1984, Mr. Miyagi presented his young apprentice with a juniper and told him to trim it for bonsai. He did not know what to do. Mr. Miyagi said, "Daniel-san, cut off everything that is not tree." **In other words, cut off all young, upright foliage and branches and leave all of the old drooping branches that resemble mature tree growth.** Good advice, Mr. Miyagi.

Periodic pesticide applications need to be made for various insects, mites, and fungus issues. Only use a pesticide when you see a problem and do not over spray your trees.

Winter protection is tantamount for outdoor trees. The roots must be protected from freezing. Small cold frames with trees set on the ground and mulched with pine needles and covered with white plastic works perfectly; the plastic prevents winter winds, ice, and frigid temperatures from killing the trees. Or, digging a small depression and setting the trees pot-to-pot up against your house foundation in morning sun only, and mulched with four inches of cypress mulch, works well too. Watch the rabbits. Never over winter your trees in the garage. Desiccation is always a problem and your tree is dead before you realize it is having difficulty.

“Bonsai is translated to mean, tree in a tray or planted in a tray and is not a particular type of tree.”

If you want to start your own bonsai, I recommend using a containerized landscape plant from one gallon on up to five or ten gallon. Trying to start seeds or cuttings and create a bonsai takes years, and the hobbyist will be bored and lose interest before the tree is large enough to train. In-ground landscape plants can also be salvaged from your home landscape, "urban yamadori," and they can be used as bonsai subjects. **Bonsai success requires a combination of horticultural and artistic skills.** If one of these skills is lacking, a beautiful and natural looking, healthy bonsai cannot be created. Bonsai growing techniques help to teach the hobbyist patience as he or she yearns to have their initial bonsai creation evolve into a miniaturized mature tree.

There are a few things to consider before creating a bonsai. There are five basic styles of bonsai: Formal Upright; Informal Upright; Cascade; Literati (free-form, vertical); and, Forest or Group Plantings. Unglazed pots in brown or gray should be used for conifers and masculine trees. Glazed and colorful pots can be used for deciduous, indoor, or feminine trees. The

for deciduous species. This mixture has perfect drainage and eliminates (in most cases) overwatering and root rot. Only water when the soil is dry is my recommendation.

Repotting and root pruning is done every two to five years when the bonsai is pot bound. This is the key and the unwritten secret to bonsai longevity. If a 50 year old bonsai is repotted every three years, and a new feeder root system starts to grow, the bonsai is invigorated. So you have a 50-year-old tree with a one-year-old root system. You can equate this with a 50-year-old man getting a new heart. His longevity will be increased.

The bonsai need to be fertilized to stay healthy. Organic and inorganic granules or powders can be used along with liquid fertilizers. The akadama clay component is needed to hold the fertilizer so it can be utilized by the roots. Generally, fertilize after the spring growth spurt and the leaves or needles harden off. This prevents too much growth and large leaves or long needles.

 *If you want to learn more about the fascinating hobby of bonsai you can join the Greater Louisville Bonsai Society. Check out the website at www.louisvillebonsai.org for programming and membership information.



WBG Volunteers

ALWAYS UP TO THE TASK



Allison Whitehouse
Adult Engagement Manager

Barring the momentary shutdown for a couple of months in the spring, WBG volunteers have remained quite busy in 2020. Most of our volunteer tasks now take place outdoors where everyone can safely social distance. Many mornings out of the week are devoted to ongoing garden maintenance at the main site, as well as out at our satellite space at the Avish Estate. The Garden Guides are another essential cohort within our daily operations who have been quite busy, especially once we reopened to the public in June.



For further information on any and all upcoming volunteer tasks, activities, and news, visit waterfrontgardens.org/support/volunteer/

Adventures at the Avish

In late May, the education staff at Waterfront Botanical Gardens had to make important decisions regarding our summer programming. The difficult question stood: Do we continue to only offer virtual content, despite hearing that parents in our community were tired of their kids being cooped-up and in-front of screens? Or do we return to traditional, in-person events despite the uncertainty of the COVID-19 pandemic? Neither option seemed favorable. How could we continue to serve Louisville while still meeting our mission to “educate, inspire, and enhance” the appreciation of our environment during this tumultuous time? Our solution came in the form of private, 90-minute, guided programs that we dubbed **Family Adventures at the Avish**.

Hosted at our satellite learning garden, the Avish Estate* in Harrod’s Creek, **Family Adventures at the Avish** offered participants living in the same household a chance to get outside and explore the gardens together while safely social distancing. Precautions were taken in order to safeguard the health

of our guests. These included multiple handwashing stations, temperature checks upon arrival, and mask wearing. In intimate groups of less than ten, families toured the estate’s greenhouses and bonsai collection. Together, parents and children created stepping stones to take home, explored the main garden with a sensory scavenger hunt, picked early summer vegetables, and learned about pollinators through a fast-paced relay game. Before leaving, families cut their own fresh herbs and were given a recipe for pizza sauce, a pizza crust, and fresh mozzarella cheese—courtesy of our sponsor, Paul’s Fruit Market.

WBG knows that children and their grown-ups need time together outdoors to move, relax, and connect. Need to escape from the over stimulation of working and learning from home? Check out our fall family offerings at waterfrontgardens.org/learn.

*The Avish Estate is only accessible through programs and classes offered by WBG.



Wanda Peck
Youth Education Specialist

Cultivators

CONNECTING THE COMMUNITY

The young professionals group of WBG got off to an ambitious start early in the year; however, 2020 had other schemes. But with a name like The Cultivators, the group pivoted in spectacular fashion to get creative and make the most of the times.

Instead of having their annual Sips & Seeds event (which in 2019 was wildly popular, with over 300 participants), the group linked up with several local restaurants and bars to find homes in patrons’ carry-out orders for the plant starts that were intended for the event.

Another new offering was the Mutual of Omaha-sponsored “Last Summer Saturdays.” On the final Saturdays of the month in June, July, and August,

participants got a sneak peek and quick tour of the gardens ahead of public visiting hours, along with a fun, interactive garden scavenger hunt, and a swag bag from the sponsors.

The Cultivators got their hands dirty with a large mulching project on the front hillside of the main WBG site in July and again in the Beargrass Creek Pathway in September. In late spring, the group also began connecting with community garden initiatives in the west end, organizing cardboard drop-offs to assist with garden bed prep. Additionally, they began running extra vegetables from the Avish garden beds to community drop sites to help bring fresh produce to people in need.



If you’re interested in getting involved with the Cultivators, message Allison at awhitehouse@waterfrontgardens.org and follow them on Facebook and Instagram.

WBG OFFERS ELOPEMENT OPTIONS



**Cayce Crowder
Abellard**
Special Events Manager

Wedding season looked a little different than we anticipated at the Gardens this year. When it became clear events would not be able to proceed as planned, WBG began evaluating alternatives to offer our space and invite couples to celebrate their love in a safe environment. We were excited to launch a safe, intimate option for Louisville couples.

This spring and summer, we introduced the Elopement Package for couples who had to cancel or postpone weddings around the city. We have been able to offer the Gardens as a place of love and celebration during this unique time. These events are so special to our team; we have

enjoyed hearing the stories of our couples and providing them with fond memories at the Gardens. Whether couples come with a handful of close relatives or just their officiant and witness, it has been a delight to share our space and help couples begin their journey, even if it wasn't the way they originally had planned.

Elopement ceremonies at Waterfront Botanical Gardens have quickly become a huge attraction for couples wanting to celebrate their love safely, in an intimate setting, while enjoying the beauty and sights that our Gardens has to offer. We hope you enjoy a glimpse into some of these precious moments at the Gardens.



BEARGRASS CREEK AWARD

WBG is honored to be this year's recipient of the "Steering the Future Course of The Beargrass Creek Award."

This award is presented annually to an individual and/or group that provides the vision, time, and work to ensure that Beargrass Creek becomes a destination for recreation, relaxation, and reflection. Recipients are chosen based on activities that help restore the creek's natural systems and improve the aquatic and terrestrial habitat.

The award itself was made by Craig Kaviar and includes the steering wheel and turning signal switch mounted on the steering column of a Volkswagen Beetle removed from Beargrass Creek, where it was dumped, after 40 years.

Dr. David Wicks presented this award to WBG in recognition of the Beargrass Creek Pathway, which now serves as a connection point between Butchertown Greenway and the Gardens, and for protecting Beargrass Creek.



Events



Regeneration Fair Bug Parade



Music in the Gardens with the Whiskey Bent Valley Boys



Lee Squires teaches a class on bonsai



New Fountain



Beargrass Pathway Ribbon Cutting



Music in the Gardens with the Derby City Dandies



YouthBuild helps in the gardens



Sprouts Camp



Regeneration Fair Ladybug Release



UPCOMING EVENTS:

Annual Gala

OCTOBER 4

Annual Meeting

SARA BRADLEY - NOV 5

Gardens Aglimmer

DEC 4, 5, 11, 12, 18 & 19



Learn more about events
on our website:

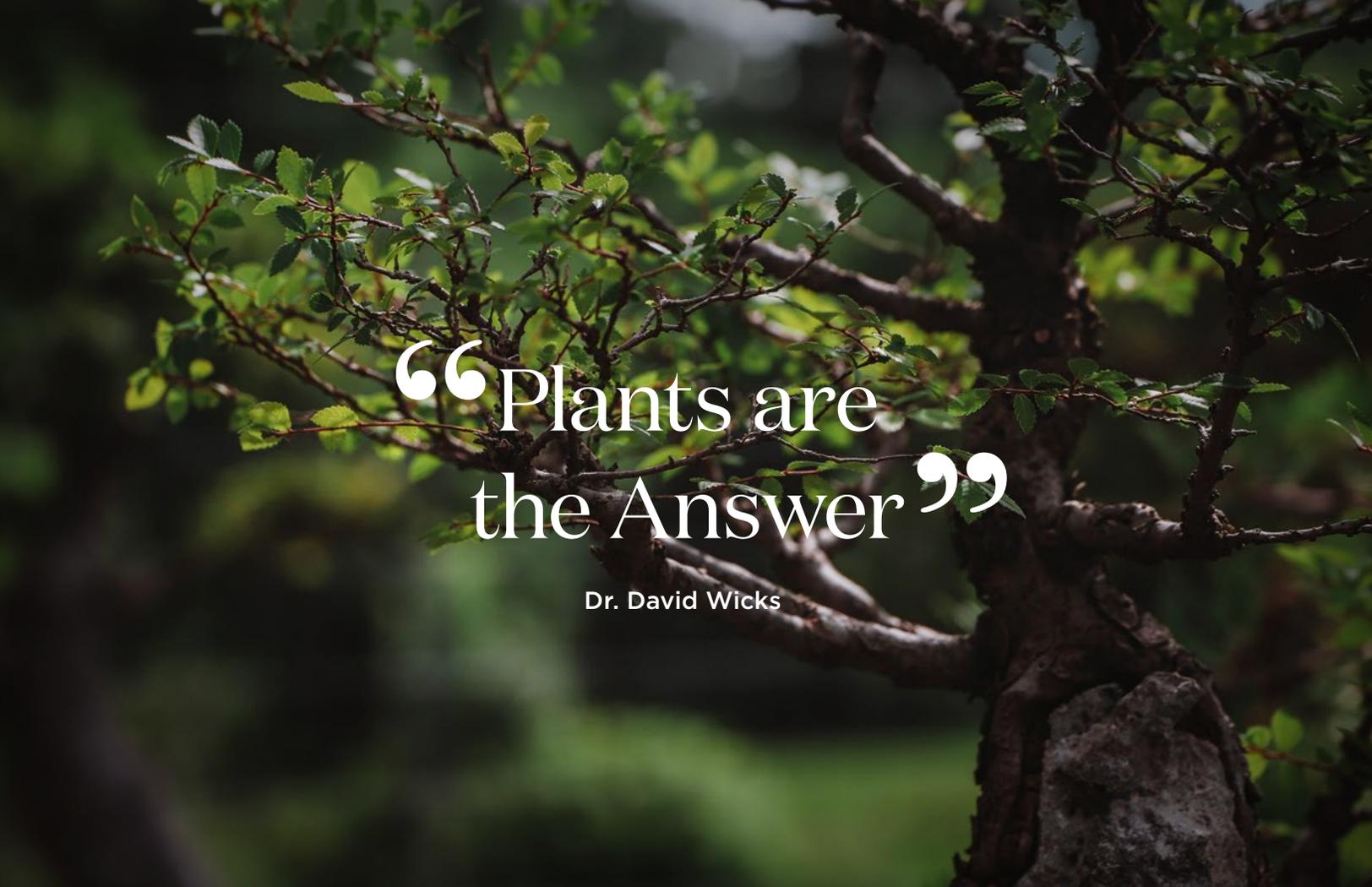
waterfrontgardens.org/events

WATERFRONT
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A close-up photograph of a tree branch with green leaves and a thick, gnarled trunk. The background is a soft, out-of-focus green. The text is overlaid on the image.

“Plants are
the Answer”

Dr. David Wicks