

IN BLOOM

A PUBLICATION FROM WATERFRONT BOTANICAL GARDENS

SPRING 2022



WATERFRONT
BOTANICAL
GARDENS



A LETTER FROM OUR PRESIDENT

What does a botanical garden have to do with the five senses? Everything!

When I walk into the Gardens, which I get to do every day, I am first struck by the sounds of the birds. This spring they have seemed especially happy and melodious. The resident mockingbird will make sure that you notice his song.

Next, I notice the colors in the gardens, which change from day to day throughout the year, from buds to flowers and then to seed (which makes the birds happy again).

The varying textures in the garden always catch my attention. The tall swaying grasses against round green leaves and various blooms are striking.

The sound of the water in the fountains can be heard in three different areas of the Gardens. My favorite is the sound of the water in the Beargrass Creek Pathway water fall. Interestingly enough, I appreciate the sound of the nearby highway, reminding me that this is an urban garden close to downtown and the historic neighborhood of Butchertown. Last but not least, I love the sound of kids in the garden. When I hear a child screech because they have just seen a yellow jacket or woolly caterpillar, I smile because I know they are experiencing something new and surprising.

The smell of the Star Magnolia, the texture of the Lamb's Ear, and the taste of the herbs in the teaching garden create an experience that you will not soon forget.

What is the purpose of a botanical garden? The purpose is to teach, not just through educational programs, but through experience. The Gardens intrigue all the senses, and sometimes all at once. You should be ready for the onslaught of sensory stimulation when you visit.

We are building the Gardens to teach our children (and visitors) the importance of this unique treasure, that inspires us to experience nature in all the ways it is presented to us daily. This experience reminds us to protect nature for our visit today, and our grandchildren's visit 40 years from now.

It is hard to commit to something if you're not inspired. Experience the garden and I promise inspiration through all five senses.

We look forward to seeing you soon.

Kasey



Kasey Maier, President

*“For a time I rest
in the grace of the
world, and am free.”*

*– Quoted from a poem
by Wendell Berry*



OUR VISION

Planting seeds and growing minds
for more sustainable cities.

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Davena Vowels
Director of Operations



Amber Halloran
Financial Consultant



Eulalie Fee
Director of
Human Resources



Hunter Dixon
Database Manager



Drew Combs
Grounds Specialist

ANOTHER SUCCESSFUL GARDENS AGLIMMER



Scan here for highlights from last year's Gardens Aglitter. Thank you to our sponsors; Falls City Beer, MCM CPAs & Advisors and Accredited Wealth Management. Dancing courtesy of Leigh Anne Albrechta and Emily O'Dell.



COVER FLORA

Front: Bearded Iris 'Harvest of memories' *Learning garden beds at Avish*
Back: Bumblebee on purple coneflower

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Development Update

Spring, 2022



Brett Shepherd
Director of Capital
Campaigns

Imagine a place where children can not only learn about other cultures but also how to respect and celebrate all types of people.

Imagine a peaceful and tranquil place where we can all escape from our fast-paced lives and take time to reflect and rejuvenate through nature. Imagine that this place will be located minutes from downtown Louisville...

The anticipation has been building and the wait is almost over as Waterfront Botanical Gardens will begin breaking ground on a world-class, two-acre Japanese Garden

later this year. A little patience will be required, as extensive support work must first be completed below the ground before iconic garden elements like the Tea House, Summer House, Arched Bridge, Waterfall, and Bonsai Garden can be constructed, and the beautiful plants finally placed in the ground. **Building an authentic Japanese Garden on a former landfill is truly an unprecedented endeavor** and we are excited to share every step of the journey along the way with our greater community.

The future Japanese Garden has already connected our organization with countless donors, corporations and cultural organizations who share our bold vision for what this project will mean for this city, our Commonwealth, the region, and beyond. WBG continues to seek more like-minded individuals and companies interested in partnering through philanthropy on a Japanese Garden that will impact generations to come.



Kikai 機会

KIKAI is Japanese for opportunity to help our Gardens grow!

**Dollar-for-Dollar Match
Now Through June 15, 2022**



Japanese Garden
WATERFRONT BOTANICAL GARDENS



As WBG puts the finishing touches on design plans with Nakane & Associates from Kyoto, Japan, we invite you to visit the Gardens to soak up not only what is to come, but to embrace what the Gardens have to offer right now. From Adult Education classes to cultural events with the Japan/America Society of Kentucky to children's activities, **we are committed to celebrating Japanese culture in an environment that embraces diversity and welcomes all members of our community.**

Once the work below the ground is complete, this community will

marvel as Japanese craftspeople meticulously build each element of the Japanese Garden.

There are still many unique opportunities to sponsor and permanently name key elements of the Japanese Garden. Entire families have even come together in inspiring ways to leave a legacy here at WBG. In addition to sponsorship opportunities, we recently announced our annual Cherry Blossom Society, which offers donors several exclusive benefits related to the Japanese Garden.

We've also launched the **"Kikai"** (Japanese for "opportunity") mini campaign which **allows donors to participate and support the project at several levels.** Now through June 15, any "Kikai" donations will be generously matched dollar for dollar by the family of Emil and Nancy Graeser.

WBG is grateful for this community's continued support as we strive every day to grow the Gardens. We invite you to join us on this journey.



Learn more about **Kikai** Sponsorship opportunities by following the QR code to the left



Keep an eye on our website and social media for more about sponsorships:
waterfrontgardens.org/support/



As youngsters, we learn early on about the five senses to gain information about the world around us. We tend to quickly master them by the first grade and never mention them again in our modern world. A keystone of the human experience on earth is first sensed through our eyes. Sighted people see color, light, movement and shape, allowing us to observe our surroundings to understand, gain inspiration and expand our imagination.

We may see things with our eyes, but are we exercising our sense of sight to take advantage of what the world gives us? Exercise your leg or heart muscles, exercise your brain too. It's time to truly investigate all that our Gardens present by exercising our sense of sight. Rekindle that excitement of visual discovery and simple observation every time you visit like you had when you were five years old.

Color provides the most visual delight at the Gardens and in your own yard. No one denies that flowers excite with a delicate look and an attractive color to capture the attention of people and pollinator alike. Fruits may also be colorful as well as the emerging leaves in spring and leaves in the chilly days of autumn. We all have a bias toward a personal favorite color, but we tend to overlook or simply dismiss the plants, insects, tree bark, sculpture and soil that possess ordinary earthen, drab or subtle hues. Some living things have survived by being hidden from the wanton human's, or predator's eyes.

Recently I was in the Helen Harrigan Garden looking at overly-green rosettes of leaves. Their vividness against the dark mulch revealed to me that

their identity was an early spring taproot-weed that I needed to "yank." But with the sun out and a mosaic of white clouds swirled against a delightfully blue sky, the movement of an Allegiant Air jet climbing east over the downtown skyline and the Ohio River caught my attention. The nature around me in the Gardens was contently oblivious to the hustling urban environment in which it is surrounded. What a tremendous paradox to see and be humbled. Absorb. Ponder. Realize.

While I was eagerly looking for colorful leaves or hints of flowers in the Gardens, I saw and took delight in the movement and color of that flying apparatus (the jet) itself. It also glistened as it traveled and tilted in the sunlight off onto some destination to the east. I saw color and I saw light - you cannot experience color without light. Here is the second aspect to see in the Gardens: how those plants, birds, insects or people look in different light across the day. The "golden" light just after sunrise and just before sunset paints the Gardens in warm tints. Once the sun is just below the horizon, there's a short time of "blue" light, when the warmth fades and turns to a soft blue or lavender. In the midday, the sunlight is intense and often with glare, but makes pigments in plants and hardscapes as intense as they can get. A nighttime visit to the Gardens when the walkway bollards and lamp posts are illuminated delivers a worthwhile experience to add to your portfolio.

Exercise your sense of sight in the Gardens by thinking or saying words. People who have taken any design-based class with me should recall I usually ask them to describe what they see.

Seeing the Gardens

Overcoming Sensory Bias



Jamie Burghardt
Director of Horticulture
& Education

Whether an adjective or an expletive, take a little time to simply describe what you like or don't like. Contrast or oddity in texture, color or form is what brings pleasure to the human eye: big rounded leaves next to dainty feathery ones, bright orange flowers next to cobalt blue ones, something spiky in form juxtaposing something swirling or curvaceous. Taking a little time to look, react and acknowledge your level of appreciation does a lot in helping you see beauty, diversity and wonder in the Gardens. See what it is and what is happening every second that is immune to our human busyness.

Exercising your sense of sight needs to also include times in which you **push pause on what you are seeing and then calling on your other senses to take over**. You see a flowering tall bearded iris, but it's what you smell in those delicate, ruffled petals that heightens the sensory experience. That colorful, texture-rich plate of food before you becomes more of a delight when your senses of smell and taste combine to dazzle and satiate. The urban buzz of traffic on Interstate 71 may sound like an orchestra in warm-ups. The semitrucks and cars sound like unruly brass instruments groaning a few

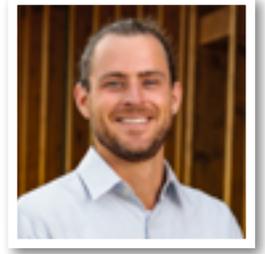
practice stanzas. Listen further in the Gardens to revel in the songs of redwing blackbirds, mockingbirds and sparrows or a visitor laughing and it's as if the piccolos and other woodwinds are doing scales. Feel (or wear) the humidity or Water Wall spray on your skin on an August morning visit; gently feel the stickiness of the tomato foliage or the sinful softness of a lamb's ear leaf. Laugh at the cumbersome, awkward but successful flight of a plump carpenter bee bouncing from flower to flower – see it and hear it.

Seeing the Gardens is more than using your eyes. Overcome your sensory bias for bold color and in-your-face, obvious visuals. Blind and low-vision people don't develop a heightened visual super-sense, they have learned to rely more heavily on the other four. Use and exercise your many senses in a visit to the Gardens. Slow down and connect with everything you hear, taste, feel or smell during a visit. Moderate your breathing and your pulse. Appreciate the beauty of the green world around you. Enjoy the Gardens, which continue to grow and expand across and atop the former Ohio Street dump.



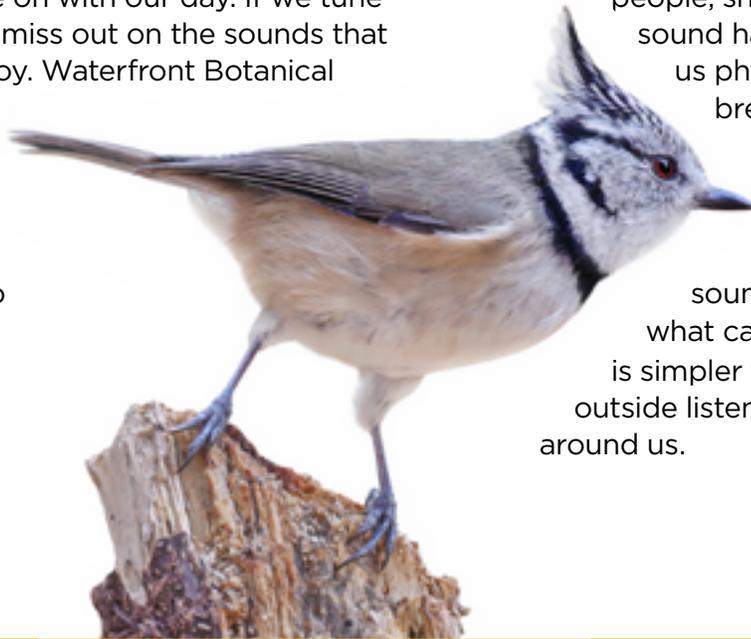
Nature is Calling

Connecting with the sounds of Nature



Andrew Hagerty
Lead Horticulturist

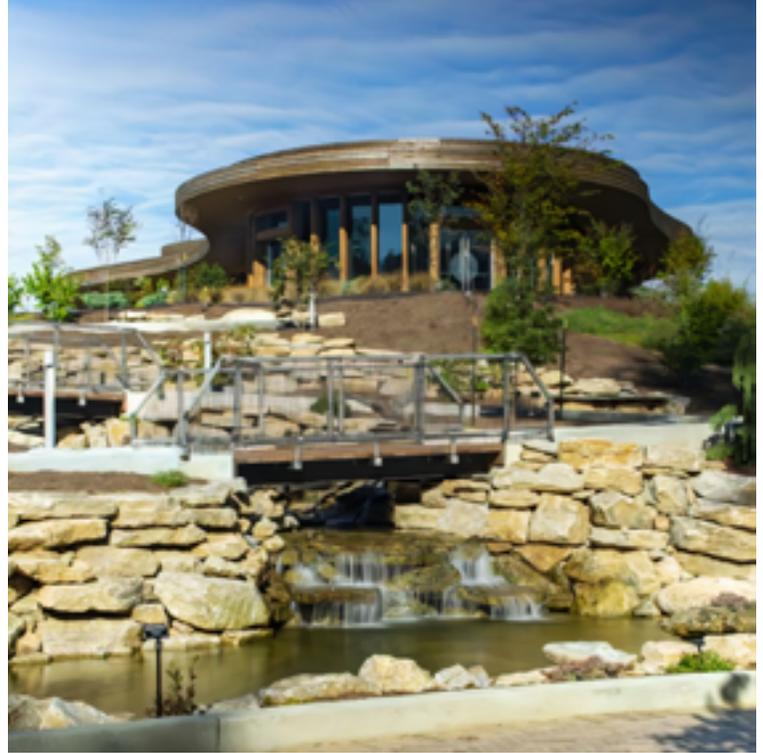
Listening to sounds of nature in an urban setting is not the easiest of tasks. As we make our way from one place to the next, we are immersed into the noise of the city. Vehicles passing by, planes roaring above, trains on the tracks, and the commotion of people going about their lives. It is understandable why we tune out the unpleasanties of the city soundscape and move on with our day. If we tune out too much, we can miss out on the sounds that relax us and bring us joy. Waterfront Botanical Gardens gives people a place to listen to nature and begin to reconnect with the pleasant sounds we so often miss.



It grows ever more **important to have places in urban areas where people can reconnect with nature as city populations continue to grow.** We often do not consider the toll it takes on us when we spend our days engulfed in the noise pollution of a metropolis. Research done by Sound Agency, a company which studies how sound affects people, shows how large an impact sound has on people. Noises affect us physiologically by altering our breathing, heart rates, and cortisol levels. They play a role in how we behave, our moods, and our ability to focus. How then can we make sure the impacts sound has on us are positive and what can we do about it? The answer is simpler than we think — spend time outside listening to the natural world around us.



Tall grasses grow above the heads of our youngest visitors at the entrance to the Gardens' plaza. Tiny fingers reach out to graze against the billowing blades, but before they make contact, a stern adult voice reminds them to "look but don't touch." We appreciate the concern. It's true that we prefer our flowerbeds not to be picked, plucked, or haphazardly pruned. But what if in lieu of preventing children from touching the plant life in the gardens, instead we encouraged them to do so in a gentle way? In the same manner as we teach a child not to pull a cat's tail or ruffle a dog's fur, let's show young learners that this sensory experience is possible if done with care.



At Waterfront Botanical Gardens, we are creating a place to harmonize with the sounds of nature. We welcome visitors to sit and steady their breathing by the babbling water along the Beargrass Creek Pathway. To listen to the water as it flows from the four waterfalls and finds its way amongst the rocks and driftwood on its journey downstream. We invite songbirds into the Gardens with large swaths of native plants for them to forage and trees for them to nest. Their charming songs help relax the soul as they signal we are somewhere safe and tell of the oncoming bounties of spring. When one takes a

moment to listen, they can hear the way the wind moves through the plants. A slight breeze is enough to awaken their voices by rattling the seed pods of a wild indigo or stirring the blades of the little bluestem grass.

We live in a world filled with the noise of everyday life. Much of which have ill effects that go unnoticed until it's too late. **It is important to allow for time to enjoy the sounds which bring us delight and contribute to our health.** I encourage everyone to come to the Gardens to sit in a quiet spot and listen to the help nature provides.

LEARNING BY TOUCH

In our youth programs at WBG **we frequently encourage touch because we know that children learn by feeling different objects.** Kids are encouraged to feel the waxy leaves of a rainforest plant, pick prickly cucumbers for pickle making, or burrow their fingers into the soil to make room for a seed. Thought to be the first sense that humans develop, touch stimulates sensors within muscles and joints, sending messages back and forth from the skin to the brain. Each time a child touches

something, the brain receives a message then makes a decision. How can children truly come to form their own opinions of nature without such tactile interactions? **The next time your junior companions go to grab a green leaf, guide their hands to do so delicately.** Tangible experiences will help to touch the heart to teach the mind.



Wanda Peck
Youth Education Manager



Save the date
reGeneration Fair
September 17, 2022



Registrations for all camp opportunities are available on our website:
waterfrontgardens.org

THE SENSE OF TASTE IN THE GARDENS



Kat Rivers
Adult Education
Coordinator



Salty, sweet, sour, bitter, and umami all culminate to be what we know as “taste.” Taste can bring about happy feelings, remind you of a forgotten memory, and even bring a community together when experiencing a new food or dish.

At Waterfront Botanical Gardens, we love experiencing this with our visitors and adult learners, and encourage it through our Garden to Fork: Culinary Series. Once a month, a local chef

brings new recipes to encourage our adult students to learn by expanding palettes and exploring the sense of taste.

On your tongue, there are about 2,000 - 4,000 taste buds. In every class, we try to hit a different set each time by focusing on different cuisines, herbs, and cooking methods. Recently, we held a class that was all about the herb thyme. Grown and harvested here at WBG, students

tasted and experienced earthy notes, mixed with sour accents attributed to the use of lemon. It was a wonderful mixture as winter evolves into spring. In the future, we’re hosting Bento Box Demonstrations, and an Economic Botany class. We also plan to teach the ins and outs of mixology, allowing our students to gain confidence in how to properly cook using their herb garden.



To learn more about our Adult Education program, visit the learn tab at waterfrontgardens.org

ABRA LEE “LIFT EV’RY VOICE”

Our understanding of garden history evolved after our first Friday Night Speaker Series with Abra Lee. As a horticulturist, historian, and storyteller, **she had no problem energizing the room and inspiring the audience** to appreciate the past. In her lecture “Lift Ev’ry Voice”, Lee took a deep dive into the artists, florists, and writers that had been growing our Kentuckiana gardens

long ago. The audience reacted with enthusiasm and applause to really set us on the path of educational success for the following programs. Our future instructors will fill every room with just as much botanical brilliance.



Students from W.E.B. DuBois Academy



SMELL THE GARDEN



Chelsea Hicks
Horticulturist - Avish

As the new season approaches, we will once again be welcomed to the fragrances of budding life offering a beautiful way to enjoy the garden.

The sense of smell provides a uniquely powerful connection to elicit strong emotions and trigger memories.

With a direct connection to the memory center of the brain, each smell is able to transport us back to fond times of the past.

For example, **the aroma of fresh cut lilacs may remind us of a relaxing spring breeze** entering the house with the bouquet assembled on the dinner table.

In a garden there are more dominant smells that simply appear as we enter that space, but others are faint and require human interaction to arouse their scents. The rubbing and crushing of lemon balm, oregano, or other herbs will bring out the oils of the plant and activate their aromas.

The scents of plants are not only for our benefit, but serve a biological function as well as to attract pollinators or repel unwanted pests. **So, next time you are in the garden go ahead and follow the insects to the sweetest flower**, making sure to always stop and smell the roses.

WE WELCOME A NEW ADDITION



We are grateful to be the first-ever recipient of the Louisville Metro Air Pollution Control District: Lawn Care for Cleaner Air Community Equipment Grant for professional-powered, electric lawn equipment. Electric-powered lawn equipment reduces emissions that contribute to climate change and improves air quality. The equipment is especially beneficial for the operators and anyone in proximity, as they are not directly inhaling the pollution created by gas-powered equipment.

- Rachel Hamilton, Director, Louisville Metro Air Pollution Control District.

2022 ANNUAL GALA

Waterfront Botanical Gardens celebrated our 3rd Annual Gala on March 18th with over 140 guests in attendance. This year's silent auction included pieces of glass art designed by Brook Forrest White with Flame Run Gallery that were displayed as centerpieces throughout the room. The entertainment was provided by critically-acclaimed jazz and soul singer from Nashville, Kandace Springs. **Everyone enjoyed an evening of beautiful art and wonderful music.**

Plans are underway for a second Gala in the fall that will be Japanese Garden themed. Save the date for October 2nd.



VOLUNTEER IMPACT & MEMBERSHIP UPDATE



Molly Young
Membership and
Volunteer Manager



As extensions of the Waterfront Botanical Gardens themselves, **our volunteers are having a positive impact on our community by promoting and improving our city's sustainability efforts.** Whether they are assisting with education, horticulture or community outreach, their work is helping us to foster a healthy environment for all to enjoy. Their dedication to our vision and unwavering willingness to assist our staff is a daily reminder of how special this project is to so many.

Like many non-profits, WBG relies greatly on our volunteers to help manage many of our day-to-day operations. The importance of that reality was ever present in 2021. More than **323 active volunteers** came together to work an impressive **1,845 shifts** totaling **4,825 hours**. With the national value of an hour of a volunteer's time equaling \$28.54, WBG volunteers invested \$137,705.50 in sweat equity to our project. Their investment in the garden is significant, as is our admiration for every one of them. As we move into the growing season of 2022, our volunteer program is flourishing and we look forward to the

countless new connections we will make within our community as we continue to develop and expand our volunteer program.

MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

The Waterfront Botanical Gardens kicked off 2022 with an updated membership program which included some exciting new benefits and offerings for our members.

NEW & IMPROVED MEMBERSHIP LEVELS

With our first rate increase since memberships were introduced over 10 years ago, WBG members now have

2021 WBG ANNUAL MEETING



Every year we host the Annual Meeting to allow members to gather and hear updates on our project and the vital impact that they have on helping us meet our goal. **It's a great opportunity for members to come together**, interact with one another, spend time with our staff and hear from others in the industry about topics and trend that are relevant to our project. This year our guest speaker was Panayoti Kelaidis, Director of Outreach and Senior Curator at Denver Botanic Gardens. Our guests were inspired about the potential of our project after hearing the story of the growth of the Denver Botanic Gardens and similarities with Waterfront Botanical Gardens.



access to a new Dual membership option for pairs residing in the same household. Additionally, our Business & Organization membership was updated to allow for individual and group benefits.

LAUGH & LEARN MEMBER SERIES

We are excited to introduce a new series for members-only designed to bring our supporters together for a fun and interactive experience intended to enrich the member experience. The Laugh & Learn Members Series will take place quarterly at the Gardens and will feature food, drink and fun activities. We kicked things off on Valentine's



Day with a wine and chocolate tasting featuring Old 502 Winery and locally sourced chocolates. The evening wrapped up with a fun and interactive flower container creation guided by our Avish horticulturist, Chelsea Hicks.

MEMBER MORNINGS & SUNSET SIPS

Beginning in May, WBG will kick off the 2022 Sunset Sips & Member Mornings series. Dates for these monthly events will be announced soon and we're pleased to share that we will be increasing the number of tickets available for this year's Sunset Sips. Whether you'd like to start your day

or end your day with us in the garden, we've got you covered!

Waterfront Botanical Gardens members continue to champion our mission and vision in wonderful ways. We are excited to see our members continue to grow into a community as we continue to provide opportunities for their fellowship.



Learn more about volunteer opportunities at our website: waterfrontgardens.org/volunteer/

EVENTS



Gardens Aglitter



Origami Class



Youth Ed Hands-on Learning



Middle School Home Learners Field Trip



Japanese Tea Ceremony



Louisville Free Public Library Potato Storytime



Japanese Cooking Class



Annual Meeting



Gardens Aglitter



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

W A T E R F R O N T B O T A N I C A L G A R D E N S

MUSIC IN THE GARDENS

2022

Sponsored by:

CULTURED CHEESE AND CHARCUTERIE BAR

DOLT, THOMPSON, SHEPHERD & CONWAY, PSC

ST. MATTHEWS FEED & SEED

TASTE. FINE WINES AND BOURBONS

Gates open 6 pm

Concert 7-8 pm

Tickets \$40 Members / \$45 Non-Members

Includes food by Pizza Lupo and refreshments

Reservations at waterfrontgardens.org/events

Limited number available.

ALL ARTISTS AND SCHEDULED DATES

Thur May 12	Asly Toro
Thur June 9	Bridge 19
Thur July 14	Da Mudcats
Thur Aug 11	Routine Caffeine
Thur Sept 8	J. A. Caberet
Thur Oct 13	Unusual Heat

WATERFRONT
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A close-up photograph of a vibrant pink daisy flower. The center of the flower is a bright orange-yellow, and a small bee is perched on it, facing left. The petals are numerous and layered, creating a full, rounded appearance. The background is softly blurred, showing other similar flowers and green foliage.

“Immerse yourself in
nature’s symphony and let
your senses burst with joy.”

Tom Brown