

# INBLOOM

Botanica Selects Perkins+Will to Create Master Plan

Louisville Natives Zan Stewart and Matthew Kuhl  
to Work on Master Plan

Plant Spotlight: Climbing Vines

New Life for an Old Landfill

Biodynamic Agriculture

Profile: Dot Wade



Pictured:  
VanDusen Botanical  
Garden Visitor Centre,  
designed by Perkins+Will

©Nic Lehoux Photography

# BOTANICA

## OUR VISION

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



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## PRESIDENT'S NOTE - SPRING 2014



Dear Friends,

Our work to create the Waterfront Botanical Gardens has recently taken a bold, beautiful step forward!

Botanica has selected design firm Perkins+Will to lead the master-planning process for the future botanical gardens. The firm's work will help set the tone for the landscape, gardens, architecture and other aspects of the future Waterfront Botanical Gardens' design.

If you look at the firm's previous work, you can get a clear sense of where Louisville's garden is headed. Its designs embody a bold, contemporary approach - the kind of environments you'd expect to see in many of the top cities throughout the world.

We expect the design process to begin this year, with the goal of having a completed master plan to share with the public by the end of the year.

We are tremendously excited about what the future has in store for the Waterfront Botanical Gardens. Our steady progress - including the selection of Perkins+Will for our design - has been made possible through your support!

I hope you'll consider supporting Botanica with a donation. Your gift will help us take the next step toward making the Waterfront Botanical Gardens a reality!

Happy gardening,

Brian Voelker  
President, Board of Directors

**P.S. Supporting Botanica is easy!** To join us as a member or make a donation, use the enclosed form on Page 9 or visit our web site at [WaterfrontGardens.org](http://WaterfrontGardens.org).

## NEW LIFE FOR AN OLD LANDFILL

We have great news to share about our effort to reclaim the Ohio Street Landfill and turn it into a beautiful garden! The site's rebirth is the foundation of our work on this environmentally sustainable project.

In late 2013, Botanica's environmental engineers completed an assessment of the environmental characterization of the site. Their work included a historical review of past studies of the site, as well as sampling and analysis of soil, groundwater and soil gas. They also completed a risk-management plan for how the site will be managed during development of the garden and beyond.

The Superfund Branch of the Kentucky Division of Waste Management reviewed our work. It agreed with the study's conclusion that there were no compounds detected beyond acceptable screening levels, and that the results of the analysis do not predict excessive risk on the site. It also agreed with our overall approach to the management plan for the site.

Our study – and independent confirmation by the state of Kentucky – confirms what we've long known: This old landfill site is the perfect spot for Louisville's future garden!



## PLANT SURVEY BEGINS ON FUTURE GARDEN SITE

Starting this spring, Botanica is conducting a plant survey to identify and document the plants that are growing on the future garden site. For over 40 years, the site has been largely undisturbed, except for periodic mowing and brush removal. The plant survey

will help us understand the various native plants that are growing on the site prior to the garden's development.

The effort is led by Patricia Haragan, botanist and author of numerous articles and field guides, including *Weeds of Kentucky and Adjacent States: A Field Guide* (1991) and *The Olmsted Parks of Louisville: A Botanical Field Guide* (2014). Pat is also the former assistant curator of the Davies Herbarium, now no longer in operation, at the University of Louisville. Joining her is Botanica board member and photographer Valerie Smith, who will provide visual documentation of the survey.

Every week, Pat and Valerie hike around the 23-acre site, identifying and collecting specimens of the plants they find. As part of the documentation, specimens will be collected and stored so we can remember the natural history of the site.



**Want to join us?** Future dates will be posted on our Facebook page (BotanicaKY) and included in our biweekly Event Garden e-mail newsletter.

# BOTANICA SELECTS PERKINS+WILL TO CREATE MASTER PLAN FOR GARDENS

BY DOMINIC GRATTO

## In September 2013,

Botanica sent a “request for qualifications” to more than 30 design firms, both locally and internationally, inviting those firms to show Botanica why their firm is uniquely qualified to design the master plan for the Waterfront Botanical Gardens Project. That step was, in many ways, very similar to job applicants submitting their resume to a potential employer – each submission showed a sample of each firm’s body of work and highlighted the experience of key team members. Numerous responses were received, and Botanica’s board of directors diligently reviewed each submission to determine which firms they believed were best suited to work on this project.

Botanica’s board of directors selected four of the firms to complete the next step in the process, which is called the “request for proposals,” or RFP process. In that step, each firm outlined how it intended to approach this project, collaborating with Botanica, community leaders, etc. The firms detailed their proposed fee structure and the anticipated timeline associated with creating the master plan. During this phase, the firms had the option to meet on-site with

members of Botanica’s board to better understand the organization’s goals and tour the site.

Two firms were selected as finalists, and each firm presented its final proposal in person to the entire board of directors. In the end, the board made a unanimous decision to proceed with Perkins+Will for the design of the master plan. Once work begins, Botanica expects that it will take approximately five months to create the master plan for the Waterfront Botanical Gardens. The master plan will shape the overall design of the gardens and buildings – how they will be laid out, what will be featured in the gardens and design of any buildings that will be constructed on the site.

Landscape designer Leonardo Alvarez and architect Ralph Johnson will lead the Perkins+Will design team for the project. The team will also include two Louisville natives, Alexander “Zan” Stewart and Matthew Kuhl, as key members. The design process includes design analysis of the existing conditions of the site, community and stakeholder input, developing several design concept alternatives and development of the final design to create the master plan.

## PERKINS+WILL



**LEONARDO ALVAREZ**  
FASLA, LEED AP®  
Design Principal, Urban Design  
and Landscape Architecture



**RALPH JOHNSON**  
FAIA, LEED AP®  
Global Design Director,  
Architecture



**ALEXANDER STEWART**  
ASLA, LEED AP BD+C®  
Senior Landscape Architect



**MATTHEW KUHL**  
AIA, NCARB, LEED AP®  
Senior Project Architect

A sample of past work by Perkins+Will.  
See more examples at [perkinswill.com](http://perkinswill.com).

Rush University  
Medical Center



Atlanta Botanical Garden



Steve Hall ©Hedrich Blessing Photographers



Shanghai Natural  
History Museum



VanDusen Botanical  
Garden Visitor Centre  
©Nic Lehoux Photography

## LOUISVILLE NATIVES ZAN STEWART AND MATTHEW KUHL TO WORK ON MASTER PLAN

The design team at Perkins+Will, which will create the master plan for the Waterfront Botanical Gardens, will be led in part by two Louisville natives, Zan Stewart (ZS) and Matthew Kuhl (MK). Botanica recently asked them about their approach to design, and how growing up in the area has shaped them.

**BOTANICA:** Having grown up in Louisville, what are some of the experiences or places here that have impacted you as a designer?

**ZS:** Some of the many things that I appreciated while growing up in the Highlands were the culture, history and character of the neighborhood. In general, the neighborhoods in Louisville are rich with stories and values that I continue to weave into project designs. There is a simple beauty to them that is unmatched.

**MK:** Born and raised on Edgeland Avenue in the Highlands, my childhood boundaries were defined by Cherokee and Tyler parks. It was those landscapes where my brothers, friends and I spent most of our time playing, exploring, riding our bikes, growing up and staying (mostly) out of trouble.

As an architect, people ask me which designer most influenced me. I say without hesitation it was Frederick Law Olmsted. It was his work that taught me to appreciate scale and the importance of planning and designing with people and the environment in mind.

**BOTANICA:** What are some projects of which you are most proud to have been involved?

**ZS:** Two projects that come to mind are Camp Southern Ground and the University of Virginia South Lawn. Camp Southern Ground, the vision of musician Zac Brown, has an incredible focus on spaces that creatively help teach children to learn to trust one another while providing opportunities that foster growth for each individual child. The UVA South Lawn is another project I worked on that has a series

of spaces that build upon the rich history of Thomas Jefferson's original design at UVA. Woven into the core design are sustainable and cultural layers, including one space that celebrates the first freed slave community in Charlottesville.



Pictured from Left to Right: Mike Kimmel, Botanica Board Vice President, Zan Stewart and Leo Alvarez of Perkins+Will and Brian Voelker, Botanica Board President.

**MK:** The one project I consider my greatest accomplishment at Perkins+Will is the work for Universidade Aghostinho Neto in Luanda, Angola. We are master-planning and designing a sustainable, 40,000 student university for a country that just ended a horrific, 20-year civil war. When our team first visited the site, they were warned not to stray off the roads due to the prevalent danger of landmines. To help a nation and a people come out of a conflict by contributing to a world-class educational facility and model of sustainability is an exciting opportunity that I may not have had with any other design firm.

**BOTANICA:** It is obvious that Perkins+Will focused a great deal of time and attention on its proposal to design a botanical garden in Louisville. Does your team envision the design of the Waterfront Botanical Gardens as a significant national project?

**ZS:** Absolutely. We believe that in order to make this project a success, it has to work on multiple scales:

local, national and global. We will design something that stands out nationally and is distinctly Louisville. By transforming a former landfill site into a beautiful public space, the Waterfront Botanical Gardens can be an influential model that's studied around the world.

**MK:** Perkins+Will looks forward to creating a world-class and iconic garden on the Waterfront Botanical Garden site. The challenges of breathing new life into a degraded landscape will, in many ways, help the WBG become a national and international model of sustainability through design. The potential of showing how landscape architecture and architecture can remediate brown and gray fields from being a polluting detriment for a community to a model and standard for others is an exciting possibility.

**BOTANICA:** One of the reasons that Perkins+Will was chosen to design the master plan was your excitement to provide a spectrum of experiences in earlier projects with which you have been involved. What opportunities do you envision for Louisville's garden that will create the same variety of experiences?

**ZS:** Each space needs to be designed to engage people from a variety of backgrounds and interests throughout the garden, and not just in certain locations. Every space needs to engage the visitors. For example, while there likely will be a children's garden at WBG, we see an opportunity for children to be engaged, excited and educated throughout the entire space through many different layers of activities.

**MK:** On a personal level, I'm intrigued by the potential of taking advantage of Louisville's very strong farm-to-table community. There are endless possibilities to interweave that community asset into the master

plan – possibly a kitchen garden tied to a café, then tied into education through a regional “edible schoolyard” program, urban livestock and vegetable gardening, composting, etc. Any number of these elements will affect and appeal to a broad range of visitors and could become one of the main draws for the gardens.

**BOTANICA:** The pursuit of sustainability often brings with it a hefty price tag. In your practice, how have you been able to keep those costs in check?

**ZS:** One thing that we strive to accomplish is educating the public that the long-term benefits and costs for sustainability far outweigh any initial price tag. As leaders of sustainability in the architecture industry, we work hard to find the most efficient ways of designing from a cost standpoint while promoting longevity and durability. Over the past couple of years, the economy has also driven us to become much more efficient with our designs, especially with clients' concerns that construction cost be lowered.

**MK:** From an architectural perspective, basic sustainability is the starting point for all of our designs. Contractors and builders are quickly adopting the same baseline so that costs are often negligible. It's going above and beyond basic sustainability (i.e., Living Building Challenge, LEED Platinum) that may incur more up-front costs. As a nonprofit with long-term goals for the site, sustainable solutions can work in Botanica's favor. Creating a building and landscape in which heating and cooling costs are minimized, collecting and managing all the rainwater that falls within the property and promoting natural ventilation in the building are all realistic goals that should factor into all of your design decisions.

## DOUBLE THE IMPACT OF YOUR GIFT

Last year, Emil and Nancy Graeser generously offered Botanica a matching grant, and we've had a wonderful response from the community! As of early this year, we've already raised \$87,000 in donations. Because the grant matches donations dollar for dollar, the total impact of those gifts is \$174,000!

You can help us make the gardens a reality, and if you give now, you can double the impact of your gift! **If you'd like to make a donation, just use the form on Page 9 of this newsletter.**

## PROFILE: DOT WADE, BOTANICA BOARD MEMBER BY VALERIE J. SMITH

Valerie J. Smith (VS), Botanica board member, recently sat down with fellow Botanica board member Dot Wade (DW) to ask her about her longtime involvement with Botanica, her passion for gardening and flower arranging and her vision for Botanica's future.

was in use only a few times a month. We would need a steady stream of visitors. That was a lot for us to consider at the time.

**VS:** Where did you envision the garden being in the early days?

**DW:** About 15 years ago, we began thinking about where to locate the gardens. A location across from the zoo seemed ideal in terms of attracting tourists. We also considered the Collins Estate, which seemed perfect for exhibits and flower shows that were so popular at that time. Jim Walters, a board member, suggested River Road as a perfect place for both tourists and locals. Mike Kimmel, another board member, suggested we consider the 23-acre landfill on River Road at the foot of Frankfort Avenue. Mike understood the potential of that location before the rest of us caught the vision. As we looked deeper into that possibility, we learned that many botanical gardens have been built on landfills over the years. It sounded perfect to us! We finally found our home there.

**VS:** What does having a botanical garden in Louisville mean to you?

**DW:** It means everything to me. I've worked on this project for so many years because I don't think we can have an excellent city unless you have places to learn. We don't just need natural-history museums – we need places where children can learn about nature and interact with it. If we don't take care of our land, our plants, our air and water, our future will be grim. We need to learn and change our ways

and pass that knowledge onto our children. There is so much we can teach the community about conservation and stewardship of natural resources through hands-on experiences. The Waterfront Botanical Gardens is going to be the place where this happens for us.

**VS:** Are you pleased with where Botanica is today?

**DW:** Oh, yes. I'm very pleased. We have made so much progress in just the last few years in terms of raising awareness and funds. I'm excited about formally leasing



Dot Wade,  
Botànica Board Member

**VS:** When did you first get involved with creating a botanical garden in Louisville?

**DW:** Thirty-plus years ago, we started to work on building a botanical garden in Louisville. We were part of a local plant society at first, and didn't have any money. We were constantly worried about finding space for our lectures, workshops and flower shows. As we thought about finding a more permanent home, an architect we were working with at the time pointed out that we wouldn't be able to afford to a facility if it

the property and the progress we're making on turning that lease into a purchase. And, of course, the big news as of late is our having selected Perkins+Will as the firm we'll be working with on the master plan; 2014 is going to be a big year!

**VS:** Tell us a little bit about your garden in Old Louisville. What is your favorite plant?

**DW:** It changes! I've really enjoyed hollyhocks the last two years. My caladium and coleus have been a lot of fun, too. A lot of new hybrids have come out in the last few years that are just awesome. It doesn't bloom, but it has gorgeous leaves and shapes that create a lot of excitement in my garden.

**VS:** Any favorite garden tips?

**DW:** Water! If you don't have enough water, forget it because you have to have water.

**VS:** Where do you see Botanica in three to five years?

**DW:** I hope to see the gardens open, and I know we will get there. We have strong leadership in Brian - our president - and a very active and motivated Board of Directors. I'm really impressed with Perkins+Will, the firm we recently selected to lead the master-planning process. We'll see what they come up with. Their involvement in the project is a feather in our cap. We are dedicated to creating a botanical garden on the waterfront in Louisville, for our children, our citizens and the visitors to our wonderful city to enjoy for many, many years to come. I look forward to seeing it happen!

# Help us meet our matching grant - support us today!

By making a donation, you'll be playing a critical role in helping to make the gardens a reality. All donations will be matched - dollar for dollar - up to our matching grant total of \$225,000.

## MAKE A DONATION

- Online at [WaterfrontGardens.org](http://WaterfrontGardens.org)
- Mail completed form to:  
Botanica  
P.O. Box 5056  
Louisville, KY 40255-0056

Botanica Inc. is a 501(c)(3) Not-for-Profit organization. Your donation is tax-deductible to the extent allowed by law.

### Donations

- \$1,000    \$750    \$500    \$250    \$150    \$100  
 Other \_\_\_\_\_

### Memberships

- \$25 Individual    \$35 Family    \$35 Business/Organization

**Total: \$** \_\_\_\_\_

**Brick Inscription:** For donations of \$100 and above, receive your name on a brick in the Founders' Garden. Maximum three lines of 13 characters each, including spacing and punctuation:




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# PLANT SPOTLIGHT: CLIMBING VINES

BY BOB HILL

The first thought many gardeners have about deliberately inserting vines into their home landscape is: “Sure, right after I’m finished planting the crabgrass and dandelions.”

Vines can be intrusive, obnoxious and somewhat invasive, but many gardeners have the same problem with relatives. The trick is that, unlike relatives, with vines, you can select what you want and where you want them, and even keep them under control. Here is just a brief sampling of some vines that will do very well around your home.

## CLEMATIS

There are about 300 species of clematis, but we’ll begin with just one to get you started. The easily grown and ever-popular Jackmanii is a species that has been around for almost 200 years and has lovely 4-inch bluish-purple flowers. Typically, it restrains itself to a height of 7 to 10 feet, takes full sun to partial shade and blooms from late spring through summer, with interesting seed pods that last into fall.

Once established, all that is needed to maintain Jackmanii is to cut it back to a few strong leaf buds about 2 feet off the ground every spring. Here at Hidden Hill, we grow Jackmanii on a trellis against an old gray wooden barn to accent the bluish purple color. It prefers morning sun, mulched feet and admiration.

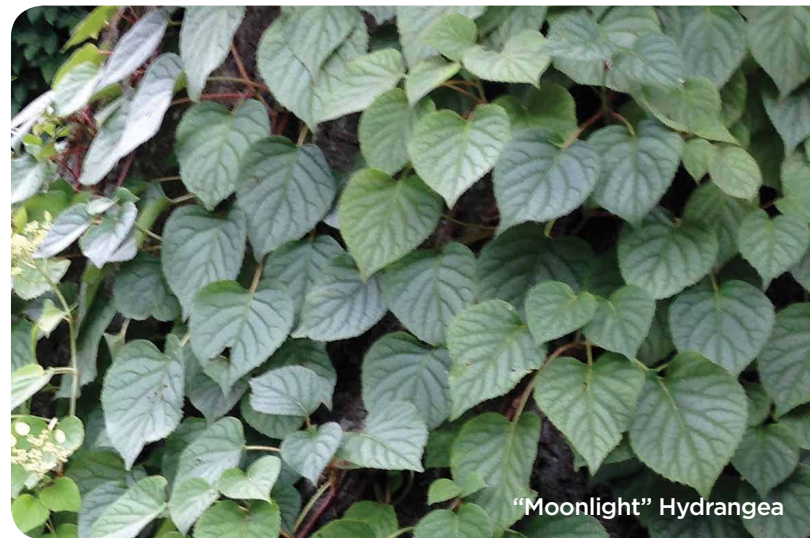


Clematis

## CLIMBING HYDRANGEA

Basically, there are two kinds of climbing hydrangea. If you have a big trellis, structure or rock pile that you would like to see covered in a billowing, bushy, upright cloud of vines with white flowers, be sure to seek out the hydrangea anomala subsp. petiolaris. We grow ours at Hidden Hill climbing up an old utility pole. It is self-clinging and tough. Climbing hydrangea does well in part to full shade with fragrant flowers. It is drought-tolerant and has great bark in winter. In time, it would also work as a great ground cover.

The much more user-friendly climbing hydrangea is the Japanese hydrangea vine Moonlight, which goes by the Latin *Schizophragma hydrangeoides*. It has lighter, thinner vines that can get rambunctious over time – think 20 feet long in 10 years – but its “spreading” joy includes variegated silver-green leaves and beautiful



“Moonlight” Hydrangea

white fragrant flowers that smell like a cross between apples and lilies. This climbing hydrangea is a great plant for semi-shade where you want to cover a fence or wall. Its self-adhesive stickers make easy work of climbing, and it is very easily pruned. Even in winter when the leaves are off, the clinging vines provide great color and texture.

Finally, there is a cultivar named Roseum, which provides all the other attributes plus soft-pink flowers. All of these hydrangeas are fun and useful plants to show off to friends and neighbors.

## BIODYNAMIC AGRICULTURE BY MAGGIE KEITH



As a fourth-generation owner of Foxhollow Farm, it is important to me that Foxhollow follows biodynamic principles. Biodynamics is similar to organic farming in that we do not use chemical fertilizers or pesticides. Biodynamics goes a step further and uses sprays, which we call preparations, which are made from natural materials found at

Foxhollow Farm. A tiny dose is made from ingredients such as stinging nettle, chamomile, horsetail, dandelion and cow manure, and is mixed with spring water. Each ingredient imparts an important element to the growth of the plant.

We see evidence that the spray of the preparations adds strength and vitality to the soil, plants and

animals. Using these methods allows our farm to establish an array of botanical species naturally. We create a micro-ecological system on 1,300 acres, nourishing the pastures, woodlands, wildlife habitats and ultimately the health of our entire farm.

Louisville's strong local food economy is not only strengthening our bond with our environment, but it is also bringing diverse varieties of new and heirloom fruits, vegetables, herbs and flowers into our city and onto our plates.

Springtime in Louisville is filled with bulbs, blossoms and berries, painting our city in electrifying hues of pinks, purples, yellows and blues. We are rich with patches of green and food gardens in and around the city to enjoy nature's bounty. I hope you'll join me in reveling in the excitement of nature this spring, and consider using biodynamic agriculture in your plantings.

See more about biodynamics at [foxhollow.com/learn/what-is-biodynamics/](http://foxhollow.com/learn/what-is-biodynamics/).

## SPRING CLEANING AT THE GARDEN SITE

We'd like to extend a big "Thank You!" to over 30 volunteers who helped us get the garden site and Founders' Garden ready for spring. Volunteers trimmed back last year's growth and added some new plants

around the Heigold House Façade. And over two weekends, another crew helped us collect the litter that has accumulated on the future garden site over the past few decades!



**Volunteers make a difference!** We'd love to have you join our team of volunteers. To hear about upcoming events, just e-mail us at [info@waterfrontgardens.org](mailto:info@waterfrontgardens.org).

SPRING 2014

NEWS FOR THE FRIENDS OF BOTANICA

# INBLOOM

## BOTANICA

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## JOIN US AT UPCOMING BOTANICA EVENTS

### May 6

#### Give Local Louisville

We are participating in Give Local Louisville, and need your help to raise as much money as possible for Botanica. Help us take advantage of national and local stretch dollars to make your gift go further. Visit [givelocallouisville.org](http://givelocallouisville.org).

### May 9-11

#### Locust Grove Gardener's Fair

Visit the Botanica booth at the 2014 Locust Grove Gardener's Fair, Locust Grove, Ky.

### June 7-8

#### Butchertown Art Fair

Visit the Botanica booth at the Butchertown Art Fair, 800-900 blocks of East Washington Street.

BOTANICA'S FALL FUNDRAISER

## ART & GARDEN

Saturday, Sept. 6, 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.

The Woman's Club of Louisville  
1320 S. Fourth St., Louisville, Ky.

In collaboration with the the Woman's Club of Louisville and Waldorf School of Louisville, this event will exhibit garden, flower and plant art for sale, focusing on photography and paintings. In addition, garden, plant and botany speakers will be scheduled each hour in the Woman's Club auditorium beginning at 10 a.m.

One ticket price allows entry to the event.  
This event is open to the public.

Watch [WaterfrontGardens.org](http://WaterfrontGardens.org) for more information.