

IN BLOOM

A PUBLICATION FROM BOTANICA & WATERFRONT BOTANICAL GARDENS

SPRING 2016



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.

www.waterfrontgardens.org

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COVER FLORA

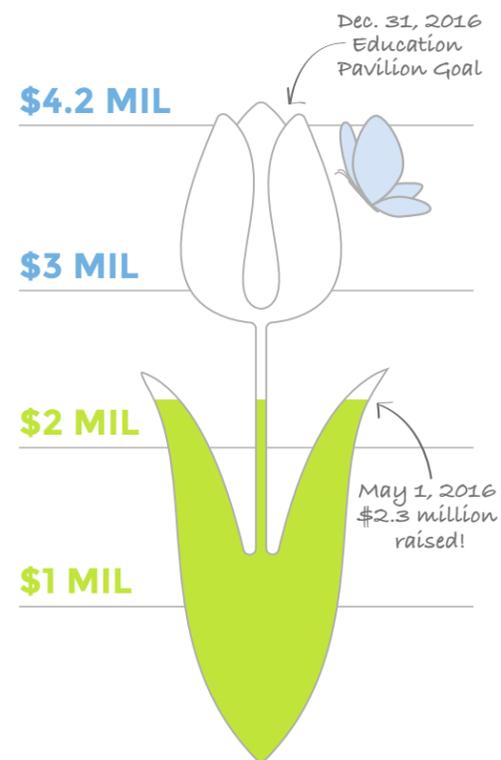
Bleeding Heart
(*Verbesina alternifolia*)
Photo by Valerie J. Smith

A NOTE FROM OUR PRESIDENT

Dear Friends,

I'm thrilled to announce our plans to build the Education Pavilion and Garden - the first phase of the Waterfront Botanical Gardens. In the pages that follow, you'll read about why we chose to focus on the pavilion, the types of activities it will support and the next steps in its development.

The generous support of our community has brought us closer than ever to breaking ground. During 2015, 799 donors provided over \$1.4 million in financial support to the garden effort. That's nearly double the number of supporters - and triple the amount of funding - than the previous year.



Since we began our effort, we've raised \$2.3 million, including a recent grant of \$100,000 from the Gheens Foundation. When you also consider our endowment funding and the 23-acre garden property, it adds up to a remarkable level of community support.

Our opening day is within reach. We are working hard to raise the remaining \$1.9 million needed to begin construction of our first phase. The pace of our fundraising will determine the timing of our progress. If we're able to meet our ultimate goal of \$4.2 million by the end of this year, we'll be on our way to breaking ground in early 2017.

I hope you'll help us meet that goal. If you haven't given recently, please consider making a donation to help us build the Education Pavilion.

Happy gardening,

Brian Voelker
President, Board of Directors

P.S. Supporting the Education Pavilion is easy: To become a member or make a donation, visit waterfrontgardens.org.

MAKING THE VISION REAL ONE STEP AT A TIME



PHASE 1A - EDUCATIONAL PAVILION



PHASE 1B - OVERLOOK



PHASE 1B - ENTRY GARDEN



PHASE 1C - VISITOR CENTER

In late 2014, we completed our Master Plan. It is a conceptual vision of what will be included in the future gardens. The plan was developed based on our assessment of the site, current trends in botanical gardens and input from the community.

Given the large scale of the project, we have divided it into three major phases. **Phase 1**, the first major phase, is also divided into three parts, which we call A, B and C.

PHASE 1A

The most prominent feature of Phase 1A is the garden's Education Pavilion - the first building on the site. It's designed to be the heart of our educational programming, and its early construction will enable us to host speakers, fundraisers and other events. Also included in Phase 1A are the educational gardens immediately surrounding the pavilion and essential infrastructure that will support the construction and operations of future phases, such as our service road and utilities.

PHASE 1B

The focus of Phase 1B is an expansion that will include the Beargrass Creek Overlook, the Woodland Garden along the creek, the Entry Garden along Frankfort Avenue and the promenade's Tree Allée and Trellis.

PHASE 1C

Phase 1C will feature the construction of the Visitor Center, the Edible Garden and the Water Filtration Garden.

Phases 2 and 3 in future years will complete the garden's construction. They will include the Children's Garden, the Palisades Garden, the Japanese Garden and the Tropical Conservatory.



TO VIEW THE COMPLETE
MASTER PLAN, VISIT:
WATERFRONTGARDENS.ORG

THE EDUCATION PAVILION LEADS THE WAY

BY BRIAN VOELKER



We've selected the Education Pavilion to be our first building on the garden site. This early phase will also include the educational gardens around the Pavilion, the Evergreen Tapestry and certain pieces of the garden's infrastructure. That approach will enable us to make smart, early investments and establish the first piece of the garden in a relatively short time.

The Education Pavilion will be the heart of our educational programming. The building will include a large, flexible space that can host a range of activities. It will support hands-on programs for schoolchildren and workshops and speakers for adults. It will welcome guests for events such as our annual meeting, fundraisers and flower shows hosted by local garden clubs.

We'll also make the space available to rent for weddings and other gatherings, helping generate revenue. In terms of size, we are currently planning on enough space for 250 people seated at round tables of 10 seats each.

The building will be designed to achieve the highest levels of environmentally friendly performance. We are working to find ways to minimize our energy and water footprints. They include designs to maximize use of natural light, solar panels to generate energy, geothermal heating and cooling and living systems that will process our wastewater. In fact, we are considering working to achieve the Living Building Challenge (LBC) - the highest level of environmental design. We expect to make that decision in fall.

**hands-on
programs for
schoolchildren**

Let's not forget about the gardens. Just outside the pavilion is a collection of educational gardens. They will include a wide range of plants and other features that directly support our program topics. Imagine attending a workshop about herbs or native plants or attracting pollinators, and just steps away, seeing the real specimens growing.

Just behind the pavilion, at the southern edge of the property, we will begin to establish our Evergreen Tapestry - a beautiful collection of evergreens of all sizes, shapes, colors and textures. Our Horticulture Committee is working now to select excellent species that will make up that portion of the



Perkins+Will team members (left to right) Leo Alvarez, Matthew Kuhl and Bryan Schabel discuss design concepts for the Education Pavilion and garden.

garden. Planting the trees early will give them plenty of time to grow and mature.

Phase 1A also includes some very important infrastructure. A Service Road will provide access from Frankfort Avenue for large vehicles, like school buses, and essential utilities will be put in place to support future phases of the project.

We are currently working with our team on the detailed designs. We've completed a topographical survey, mapping the elevation of the site at 1-foot increments. We are beginning a geotechnical study, where core samples are taken down to depths of 100 feet, so we can be sure the foundations we design will provide the stability we need.

We expect to be busy with design and engineering work during 2016. If we are able to meet our fundraising goals by the end of this year, we can begin construction in 2017, with a planned opening in spring of 2018.

 **You can help us make the Education Pavilion a reality.** Visit waterfrontgardens.org to become a member or make a donation of any amount to the botanical garden effort!



SPOTLIGHT

Education Committee

Our WBG Education Committee is in full swing, beginning to shape the educational programming that will take place in the Education Pavilion. The group is made up of current and retired teachers from pre-kindergarten through college.

The educators are playing an essential role in the Education Pavilion's design by helping us understand the size, shape and requirements needed to support successful school field trips. Some of the best advice comes from the teachers who use those spaces every day.

They are also working to develop programs that fit into the school curriculum, following Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Math (STEAM) standards through

hands-on activities. The programs will help us enrich the lives of members of our community through a focus on plants, nature and how we interact with our environment.

Our educational programs will be a great way to engage the community through hands-on learning, collaborations with partner organizations and sharing our expertise. The pavilion – and the programs it hosts – will “open the door” to our outdoor classroom.



Horticulture Committee



Now that spring is upon us, the WBG Horticulture Committee is hard at work selecting plant species for three essential gardens of the Waterfront Botanical Gardens' first building phase.

The Horticulture Committee formed in late February, bringing together talented and experienced horticulturists, landscapers, hobby gardeners, botanists and academics to discuss an intentional and forward-thinking tree and plant proposal for our gardens. The group is currently working on identifying a variety of native and non-native, ornamental and utilitarian trees for three areas. These include the southern-perimeter Evergreen Tapestry – which faces Interstate 71 – and the gardens surrounding the future Education Pavilion. We're also planning the Woodland Garden, which serves as the eastern perimeter of the site along Beargrass Creek and will feature large native trees and a beautiful understory of wildflowers and shrubs.



The Horticulture Committee will share its plant selections with the landscape architecture team at Perkins+Will. Our plant and design experts will work closely together to create an aesthetically spectacular and sustainably designed garden and landscape.

SPOTLIGHT

Becca Barhorst



We are happy to introduce the newest (and second!) member of the WBG staff.

Becca Barhorst joined the team in early February 2016 as program and development assistant, providing support and assistance to Director of Program Development Kasey Maier in fundraising activities, event and volunteer management and community partnerships. Becca comes to WBG with experience in nonprofit development from the Food Literacy Project at Oxmoor Farm, where she served as an AmeriCorps® VISTA resource development coordinator for two years. In addition, Becca has been a volunteer with Middlebury College's FoodWorks Fellowship Program and the Kentucky YMCA Youth Association, mentoring teens in environmental advocacy.

Becca is a Louisville native, a University of Louisville graduate, and is passionate about bringing the planned Waterfront Botanical Gardens to life. She views the gardens as “an essential and unique resource for our community, showcasing sustainability, natural beauty and environmental education opportunities for all of Kentuckiana.”

Welcome, Becca!

Remembering Libby Brown

BY KASEY MAIER

Elizabeth “Libby” Williams Brown was a member of our board of directors for almost a year when she passed away in January. She first heard about the project in late 2014 at an unveiling of the Master Plan at the River Valley Club. At the end of the presentation, she abruptly stood up and announced, “This is a project I want to work on!”

Libby saw the beauty in all things – people, animals and her natural surroundings. She loved the natural setting of her home, and the fact that it attracted all kinds of animals. It was her haven. She walked the property and swam in the pool with her favorite animal and best friend – a yellow Lab named Sonoma. The year-round beauty of her surroundings, including the waterfall and pond, did not go unnoticed or unappreciated by Libby, which is possibly the reason she was attracted to our project.

Libby's commitment to the Waterfront Botanical Gardens was inspirational. She dropped everything to attend board meetings and committee meetings, of which she was an important part. Her positive energy and hearty laugh lit up the room.



The board and staff of our organization will miss Libby's contagious enthusiasm for the project. She loved very deeply, and she wanted those around her to love what she loved. She helped us grow our community of support and interest, was a tireless ambassador and usually brought smiles for the quirky things she would say. Libby, we miss your smile, and this project will move forward because of your hard work.



CORNELIAN CHERRY

BY BOB HILL



INTRODUCING THE CULTIVATORS

We are thrilled introduce the Cultivators, a group of young earth-lovers committed to supporting the Waterfront Botanical Gardens as it grows. The Cultivators group was established when a handful of young professionals crossed paths and decided that a group for young supporters would be an essential and exciting addition to the organization's family.

The Cultivators hosted a kick-off event on Feb. 29 to attract members and spread the message of the Waterfront Botanical Gardens. Hosted at Louis's The Ton, a pub meetinghouse up Frankfort Avenue from the future garden site, the event drew nearly 150 people, registered 45 new memberships and **raised \$2,170 in membership fees and additional donations.**

Members have access to exclusive events and opportunities to volunteer and serve as ambassadors to greater Louisville, along with the same benefits as regular WBG members.

UPCOMING CULTIVATORS EVENTS

WEDNESDAY
MAY 25 | **Cultivate Conversation: Chris Chandler of The Nature Conservancy®**
6 to 8 p.m.

Sponsored by Butchertown Grocery/BSAPC.

Location: Butchertown Grocery, 1076 E. Washington St.

Ticket Info: Tickets are \$10 for Cultivators members and \$15 for nonmembers.

SATURDAY
JUNE 4 | **Yoga Garden**
Sponsored by Rainbow Blossom Natural Markets
9 to 11 a.m.

Location: Waterfront Botanical Gardens site, Frankfort Avenue at River Rd.

The gardener's eternal search for a tough, low-maintenance, interesting, colorful landscape tree that also bears edible fruit can begin and end with the *cornus mas* (cornelian cherry) tree, although you may get some argument on the edible part. The tree would also make a great addition to a botanical garden, although no decisions have yet been made on whether Louisville's forthcoming waterfront arboretum will include them.

The tree's attributes are obvious 365 days a year. In early spring, about the time you are totally fed up with winter, and hellebores and witch hazels are cranking up, the cornelian cherry will burst out in fuzzy yellow blossoms. A near cousin to the dogwood tree (hence the *cornus* in its name), it moves into spring and summer covered in thick, dark-green leaves.

THE TREE FOUND AN EARLY HOME IN AMERICA IN THOMAS JEFFERSON'S GARDEN AT MONTICELLO

Come fall, it produces hundreds of, yes, cherry-red drupes that for thousands of years have been used as food – sauce, jam, liqueur, vodka and even medicine – albeit with a taste a bit on the sour side. Even if you just leave them on the tree, the bright drupes are a stunning sight in the wide range of autumnal colors.

In winter, its leaves have gone, and the berries have been eaten by birds or have dropped to the ground, where they will produce a thicket of seedlings. The exfoliating bark turns a rich brown, holding that color until the yellow flowers return.

A native of Southern Europe, the tree found an early home in America in Thomas Jefferson's garden at Monticello. Its dense wood is so hard that it's been used for tool handles, spears, javelins and bows as far back as the third and fourth centuries B.C. It can be grown as a bush or a small tree reaching 20 to 25 feet tall. It prefers the obvious benefits of rich, well-drained soil in sun to partial shade, but is very adaptable to most landscapes.

Cultivars include: Dripping Cherries, which has striking, 1-inch red fruit; Golden Glory, a more upright form; and Redstone, a Ukrainian native with very heavy fruit production.

We have two 20-foot *cornus mas* cultivars flanking our driveway at Hidden Hill as "welcome home" sights in early spring, and we have an even earlier-blooming *cornus officinalis* about 50 feet closer to the house, extending the welcome.

As the saying goes, *don't leave home without one.*

SUPPORTING THE GARDENS

You can play a leading role in helping build the Education Pavilion. Donations of any amount will help us continue our work on the future gardens. Your support will help us break ground next year. To make a donation or become a member, use the enclosed envelope, or visit waterfrontgardens.org.



MEMORIAL GIFTS MAKE A LASTING TRIBUTE

A donation given in honor of a loved one is a lasting tribute to someone important to you. Memorial gifts are a wonderful way to establish a link with the past and promote a vision for the future. Contact Kasey Maier by e-mail or phone to discuss how to make a memorial gift.

kmaier505@gmail.com
(502) 276-5404



PLANNED GIVING: A Commitment to the Future

Have you considered including the gardens in your estate plans? While there are several approaches, one of the simplest is to make a bequest by including a gift to the Waterfront Botanical Gardens in your will. If you have questions about planned giving, please contact Kasey Maier.

kmaier505@gmail.com
(502) 276-5404

 TO MAKE A DONATION, USE THE ENCLOSED ENVELOPE, CALL (502) 276-5404 OR VISIT: WATERFRONTGARDENS.ORG

WATERFRONT BOTANICAL GARDENS



THE PRELUDE

Presented by Brown-Forman



Join us for an evening of performance with artists from the Louisville Ballet, Teddy Abrams and Ben Sollee at the home of the future botanical gardens.

Festive libations and farm-to-table hors d'oeuvres by Atria Hospitality

Sunday, June 5, 2016
5:00-8:00 p.m.
1410 North Frankfort Avenue (at River Rd.)
\$175 per person

Purchase tickets at waterfrontgardens.org

Proceeds from this event will help to build the future botanical gardens.

UPCOMING EVENTS

SATURDAY | **Botanica Canoe Tour on Beargrass Creek with David Wicks**
MAY 28 | 1 to 4 p.m.

Join us on this three-hour canoe trip along Beargrass Creek, learning the history and current cleanup efforts of Louisville waterways, with guide David Wicks.

Ticket Info: \$10 per person for members and \$15 for nonmembers. Space is limited.

Location: Louisville Community Boat House, 1401 River Road

SATURDAY | **Yoga Garden, Sponsored by Rainbow Blossom Natural Food Markets**
JUNE 4 | 9 to 11 a.m.

Ticket Info: FREE. Reserve your spot online at waterfrontgardens.org, and bring your own mat. Yoga for all levels.

Location: Waterfront Botanical Gardens site, Frankfort Avenue at River Road

SUNDAY | **Prelude 2016, presented by Brown-Forman**
JUNE 5 | 5 to 8 p.m.

Join us for our annual fundraiser, featuring Teddy Abrams, Ben Sollee and artists from Louisville Ballet as they perform in a grove of trees. Festive libations and farm-to-table hors d'oeuvres will be provided by Atria Hospitality.

Ticket Info: \$175, available at waterfrontgardens.org or by calling (502) 276-5404.

Location: Waterfront Botanical Gardens site, Frankfort Avenue at River Road. Valet parking and golf cart access available. Garden attire and field-friendly footwear are suggested.

FRIDAY | **Bus Tour to Cheekwood Botanical Garden + Art Museum in Nashville, Tennessee**
JUNE 10

Led by Bob Hill and Tavia Cathcart Brown
7:30 a.m. to 6:30 p.m.

Ticket Info: \$125, available at waterfrontgardens.org or by calling (502) 276-5404. Covers all transportation, lunch, snacks and activities for the day.

This event is open to both members and nonmembers. Space is limited so register today!



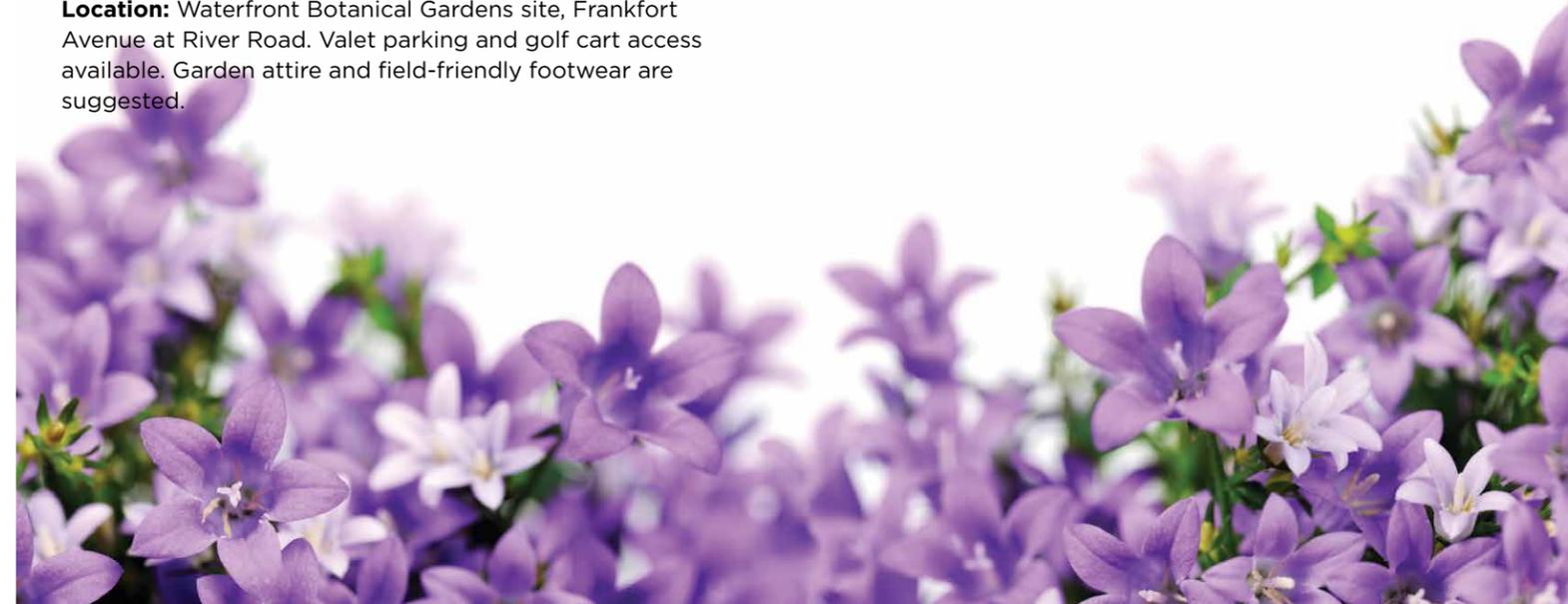
- OTHER NEIGHBORHOOD GARDEN TOURS -

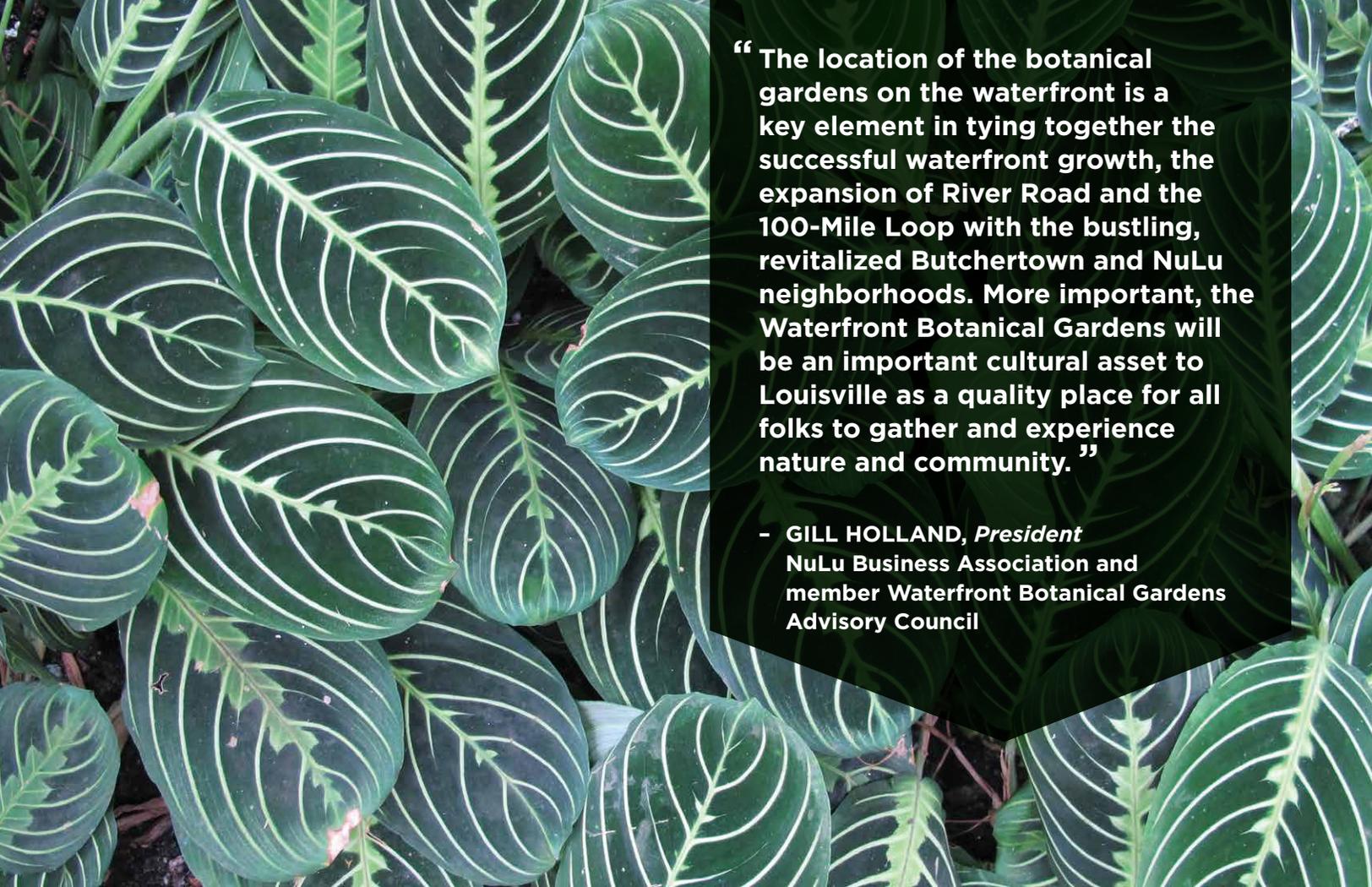
SAT. & SUN. | **Kilgore Garden Tour**
MAY 21-22 | 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., rain or shine.

Tickets for the tour are \$30. Tickets for a special event with Jon Carloftis on Friday, May 20 are \$100. Both are available online at kilgoregardentour.org.

The six-garden tour will feature a "no-grass" garden on Lexington Road; a small cottage surrounded by wildflowers on the Palmer-Ball Estate off Westport Road; an English garden with statuary and fountains; two gardens in Anchorage, including the 1865 home once owned by Isaac Bernheim; a garden designed by the Olmstead firm; and much more.

The Waterfront Botanical Gardens is an in-kind sponsor of the event.





“ The location of the botanical gardens on the waterfront is a key element in tying together the successful waterfront growth, the expansion of River Road and the 100-Mile Loop with the bustling, revitalized Butchertown and NuLu neighborhoods. More important, the Waterfront Botanical Gardens will be an important cultural asset to Louisville as a quality place for all folks to gather and experience nature and community. ”

**- GILL HOLLAND, *President*
NuLu Business Association and
member Waterfront Botanical Gardens
Advisory Council**