



1455 Palmer Drive
Janesville, WI 53545
(608) 752-3885
ROTARYGARDENS.ORG

NON-PROFIT
ORGANIZATION
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
JANESVILLE, WI
PERMIT NO.
1055

Grapevine

Summer 2008



1455 Palmer Drive
Janesville, WI 53545
(608) 752-3885
www.rotarygardens.org



In-Kind Donations Sought

Donors needed to overcome electrical struggles and space issues.

Power Struggles: Rotary Gardens has limited electrical power on the east end of the Gardens. This is in the vicinity of the Gazebo and the Arboretum. At Christmas time during Winter Wonderland Walk, it is necessary to rent Electrical Generators for electricity to run the lights. When weddings are held in the Gazebo, we have to tell the people that there is no power for their sound system or other devices that require electrical power.

We would like to install 200 Amp electrical service in this area to eliminate this condition. To do this we need our power company, Alliant Energy, to install service to the area along with a new electric meter. An electrical contractor would have to provide the 200 amp distribution equipment that would feed the Gazebo and Arboretum

area. It would also provide power for automating the East Gate that is presently is being planned. Estimated cost from the Electrical Contractor and Alliant Energy is \$5000. We are looking for a donor that might want to step forward and help us with this needed project. Contact Mark Dwyer for any information if you have an interest

Cramped Quarters: Rotary Gardens lacks space for the storage of tables, chairs and other items when they are not being used. We store chairs in the Coat Room but have received complaints that there is no room to hang coats. We store items in the classrooms but they are constantly in the way of classes. We are constantly shuffling tables and chairs around which is very time consuming. We desire to construct a 12 foot by 20 foot storage

building just west of the Parker Education Center. The construction will be handled by our "grumpy" carpenters to keep the cost down but we need money for materials. \$3000 would cover the cost of the required materials. Contact Polly at 752-3885 if you can help with a donation for this needed storage building



Spring rain flooded and closed the lower portion of the Japanese garden early on in the year. The water has now receded and the area is now open to visitors.

Message from Executive Director

Ed Lyon bids farewell to Rotary Botanical Gardens

By now I expect most everyone reading this will know that it is my farewell letter. I write it with such a mix of emotions. I am excited about the opportunity that has been offered to me managing Allen Centennial Gardens on campus. I started my public garden career there while working on my graduate degree. In fact my new supervisor was my graduate advisor at the time! So for me it is coming full circle and back to both a garden and campus that are close to my heart. I have enjoyed my tenure at RBG and the people I have worked with. However, some of my responsibilities have taken me away from a few of the "hands-on" horticulture and education

that is my passion. I have felt a disconnect from public and industry I didn't realize I would miss as much as I did. This new role will put me back in that position. Everyone who knows me well has commented that the position is a perfect fit for my background, interests and abilities so one cannot dismiss those opportunities when they arise.

Every change can also be viewed as an opportunity. This will be a chance for the board to hire someone with a new set of skills to take the Gardens to the next necessary level of advancement. Every director brings a new set of skills and vision that "grow" the Gardens.

I will remain a strong supporter of Rotary Botanical Gardens. I loved these gardens even before taking the position and will continue to utilize them myself as well as direct others to use them. I think many people in the community think that we call this a world class garden simply because we take ownership of it and love it. However, I have visited gardens all over the country and I can tell you that it is true. Visitors from around the country will also tell you this. On a square foot by square foot basis, few gardens rival what is done here and you can all take very sincere and real pride in your association with it. I have and will always be proud to say I was a small part of it.

Any of the successes I might have

(Continued on page 3)



Ed Lyon, Executive Director

Welcome, New Staff

New Director of Funds
Development now on board

Recent changeovers in staffing has brought a new face to RBG. Rod Jones began early April as the Funds Development Director. Here, he takes a moment to introduce himself:

Although I was born in Janesville, I grew up in the country about fifteen miles east, between Johnstown Center and Richmond. After graduating from Milton High



Rod Jones, RBG's new Funds Development Director

School, I majored in Art with an emphasis in Graphic Design and minored in Public Relations at UW-Whitewater. I worked as a graphic designer before becoming the Marketing Representative with The Janesville Gazette for seven years. Unfortunately, my position was eliminated due to economic cutbacks in March of 2006. After working in Middleton and in Burlington, I decided to find a position closer to my home here in Janesville when the Funds Development Director opening became available. I've met a lot of wonderful people in my first three weeks here at the Gardens who have made me feel right at home. ~Rod Jones

Rod will be responsible for the Friends-Member program and related duties. Please help make Rod feel at home!



Upcoming Events and Opportunities at Rotary Botanical Gardens

For more information pertaining to any of these events, please call (608) 752-3885 or visit www.rotarygardens.org. All events subject to change or cancellation.

- ⊗ June 5, **Pest Predictions**, lecture 7pm, \$5 donation general public
- ⊗ June 7, **Bus Buying Trip** 7am to 6pm
- ⊗ June 20-22, **Minneapolis Bus Trip**, 7:00 am Friday to 6:00 pm Sunday, registration required
- ⊗ July 12, **Home Garden Tour**, tickets on sale now!
- ⊗ July 19, **Dinner Dance**, 5:30pm to 12:00pm, tickets on sale now!
- ⊗ July 24, **Twilight Tour**: See the Garden at its Peak; Free Tours; 5:30pm to 8:00 pm
- ⊗ August 14, **Herbal Teas** hosted by the Janesville Area Herb Society, 7pm, \$5 donation general public
- ⊗ September 5, **Friends-only Fall Plant Sale Preview** 9:00am to 5:00 pm, Horticulture Center
- ⊗ September 6-14, **Fall Plant Sale** featuring shrubs, perennials, huge mums, asters, compost and more; 9:00am to 5:00pm, Horticulture Center
- ⊗ September 6, **Garden Festival** 1pm to 5pm, Free family event, rain or shine.
- ⊗ September 9, **Potions and Lotions**-garden based massage oils, beauty products and creams with Shelley Ryan, 1pm, \$75 per person, less \$10 RBG friend-members (Includes all materials)

Home Garden Tour features the best of the area

July 12, 10:00am to 4:00pm (rain or shine)

RBG's summer tradition continues on July 12, 2008, with its Home Garden Tour. Take a glimpse at the personal landscapes of 7 area gardeners as they open their homes, rain or shine, for this fundraiser.

Highlights on this year's tour includes a garden with a wildlife emphasis, casual English garden, a "secret garden" featured on television, garden demonstrating diverse space and eclectic mixes of design, as well as a "perennial" favorite returning to the tour this year.



The 2008 HGT offers an inspiring look at the personal oasis of local gardeners.

Tickets are currently available at RBG's gift shop and K&W Greenery—\$9 in advance or \$12 the day of the event.

Volunteer today! Volunteers are needed to check and sell tickets at each location the day of the event. MGVDocent are needed, as well. The MGVDocent orientation potluck will be on June 23, 6pm to 8pm. RSVP to Julie for potluck attendance.

Twilight Tour highlights Garden at its peak

July 24, 5:30pm to 8:00pm (rain or shine)

June 23, 2006, marked an infamous day on the RBG calendar as grounds crew arrived to find over \$20,000 worth of vandalism throughout the Gardens.

The outcry of community support was overwhelming. Donations came in to support the replacement of damaged items. Individuals, families and organizations came forward to volunteer in the reconstruction process. An anonymous donor sponsored the installation of video surveillance system that now monitors the grounds. Within no time the gardens were repaired!! Shortly afterwards, RBG hosted the first "Twilight Tour" to demonstrate our appreciation to the community.

The celebration of the Gardens and its community support has become an annual event at the Gardens. RBG Staff invites all volunteers, Friend-

Members and the general public to visit the Gardens at near-peak bloom on July 24, from 5:30pm to 8:00pm. Free tours of the gardens will be given. Staff and volunteers will also be available to answer questions about the Gardens.

Please mark your calendars and spread the word as RBG again thanks the community for its support.

Volunteer today! Tour guides, garden docents, and general greeters will be needed for this event. Contact staff if interested and available this day.



Children's Garden Programs for Summer 2008

10-week program continues; new day camp for 2008.

Several programs catering to young gardeners will be offered for the summer of 2008.

Since 2003, a 10-week gardening program has been in place serving the Boys and Girls Club of Janesville. In 2005, the program began accommodating the general public and RBG Friend-Members' children—few have taken advantage of this program. We will continue to offer both programs and encourage your participation! Our Summer 2008 program will be hosted on Thursday afternoons and is open to youth 8 to 12. There is a nominal fee for participants.

In partnership with Rock County UW-Extension 4-H program, RBG will introduce a new offering of a Gardening Day Camp, August 19 and 20. This program will be offered to Friend-members and the general

public, with a nominal participation fee. Garden-themed crafts, plant-sciences, stories and nutrition/fitness will be emphasized.



The Janesville Boys and Girls Club has participated in a summer program since 2004.

Details are still being developed for both of these program at the time of this writing, so please inquire with Mike Maddox or Julie Gibes if you wish to learn more about either of these youth programs.

Programs will take place utilizing the Sholl Education room and the new Nancy Yahr Memorial Garden.

Volunteer today! Tour guides, garden educators may be needed for these programs. Contact staff if interested and available for these events.

Message from Executive Director

Continued

(Continued from page 1)

achieved could only have happened with the help of others. First, you need to appreciate the small, over-worked staff that loves this place so much they go above and beyond any expectations a supervisor could realistically expect. There is true dedication in the team that runs this place. And they are supported by an outstanding volunteer force, equally dedicated and committed. My hats off to you folks, you achieve so much for which to be proud. I have had the privilege of working with one of the least recognized and appreciated groups, a supportive Executive Committee and Board of Directors. I think these roles are often taken for granted. These people are also volunteering their time and talents and the Gardens would suffer without them. There are board members I see as often as staff. That's dedication. They have allowed me to man-

age without micromanaging and have been valuable support. Thank you board members. And let's not forget the people and businesses who contribute the dollars and/or in-kind gifts. RBG receives no outside support and must raise every dollar it spends. It is a world class garden only because of these generous people. Bravo, you humble me every time.

Rotary Botanical Gardens is a community and regional treasure because of supporters such as you. I encourage you to continue your association and support for the advancement of the Gardens. I can assure you that you will be proud of that association and you will receive the appreciation of all those who visit and utilize the facilities, events, programs, etc. I thank each and every one of you for supporting me as director. I couldn't ask for a better family.

THANK YOU

Please help us show our appreciation to the following in-kind sponsors who have recently contributed to RBG.

Gerald Gredler
Rep. Mike Sheridan
Glenn Erickson
LeeAnne Dukes
Janesville Rental
Central Vending
L.P. Tree Service
Geesje Leusink
Johnson Nursery
Starbucks
Jack & Dicks
K&W Greenery
Carol Haggas
Mandy Fischer
Joann Lueck
Stonefield Plant Farm
Earthspirit Nursery
The Flower Factory



4-H clubs of Rock County paint the new information mailboxes that will be placed in the Gardens this year.

