



Grapevine

Feb 08 - Mar 08

The Newsletter of Volunteers and Friends of Rotary Botanical Gardens

Think Spring!



Janesville Area Herb Society

wisconsin public television
garden expo
February 8, 9, 10 2008
Friday 4-9, Saturday 8-6, Sunday 10-4
Alliant Energy Center, Madison, Wis.
presented by Wisconsin Public Television
and UW-Extension/Cooperative Extension Horticulture Team



GardenSMART



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Rotary Botanical Gardens is an internationally-themed botanic garden dedicated to International Peace and Friendship. Our mission is to promote education and appreciation of horticulture for all people. For more information about Rotary Botanical Gardens, contact us at 1455 Palmer Drive, Janesville, WI 53545; 608-752-3885; or check out our website: www.rotarygardens.org.

Grapevine is a bi-monthly publication of Rotary Botanical Gardens, published especially for the many Volunteers and Friends of the Gardens. For more information on volunteer opportunities, or with suggestions and submissions for this newsletter, please contact Rotary Botanical Gardens. If you are interested in becoming a Friend of the Gardens, contact Polly.



**Winged Wonders
Insect Extravaganza**

Expanded display cases of insects from around the world, brought to RBG by Dan Capps

Remodeled insect house and more live insects!

Educational displays of invasive insect pests

Open to the public
Noon to 4pm on Saturdays, Sundays
\$5 RBG member
\$6 General public
\$4 Children 13 and under
Free Children 2 and under

Group programs
Reserve your session:
9am to 11am / 12:30pm to 2:30pm on Tuesday through Friday
Group rates available
40 person maximum per session
(1 chaperone per 5 youth requested)

Groups can reserve a session by calling (608) 752-3885x20

Rotary Botanical Gardens
1455 Palmer Drive, Janesville, Wisconsin
www.ROTARYGARDENS.org

2008 already—another exciting year planned by Rotary Botanical Gardens!

It's hard to believe another year is under our belt. And with the winter we've seen this year, everyone is looking forward to the beauty of the Gardens in a new year! I thought about using a winter Gardens picture on the cover but after this winter, I thought you might appreciate the one I selected more! I don't know about any other gardeners, but this will be a challenging spring with the rabbit damage I've had in my yard. Deer, rabbits, voles and other rodents have had as hard a time with this winter as we have and their inability to forage through snow and ice will leave us all in dismay. Unfortunately that's part of the gardening process—it's a good thing we are hardy and plant driven; many of us will say, "well there's an opportunity for a new plant!" And if you are perusing your catalogs now, then you are excited about getting the newest and latest plants and your hands back in the soil! Mark has himself ensconced with his catalogs

ordering seeds like a mad man with all of the rest of us eagerly anticipating what awe-inspiring and jaw dropping displays he'll follow that impressive red design with. How's that for pressure Mark?!

Polly and her Friends committee are gearing up for an even bigger push for increasing membership. As you know as a dedicated Friends-member, much of the solidity of our financial basis comes from that support. This committee increased membership significantly in 2007—congratulations! - but we have a long way to go yet for the support the Gardens truly needs for sustainability and growth. You can help us by encouraging your friends and family members to join. And a Friends-membership is always an appreciated gift. **We appreciate your continued support!**

Join us for other upcoming events and activities, some still in planning stages and the most current listed within. Come see our booth at the WPT Garden Expo in February. It's a great way to start thinking spring! This event grows and gets better annually. Check out other activities in this issue and keep in mind, our web site at rotarygardens.org is always a source of information about YOUR garden! Check out the new look—Mike has been busy!

Think Spring! *Ed*

Polly Schluter - Business Development

It's hard to believe that 2008 is already in full swing. Winter is classically thought of as "downtime" for Botanic Gardens, but not so for fundraising!

We look forward to a challenging and exciting year! Our Friends program is already in full swing. It is our goal to reach out to the community and encourage participation and support of this beautiful community treasure. The committee was pleased to see the growth of the Friends program in 2007 from 392 to 500 members. We believe there is still great growth potential for this program. There is still misconception within the community that The Gardens is supported by The City. It is our goal this year to dispel these misconceptions and encourage wide-spread participation throughout the community for Friends, events and educational programs.

Thank You to Our Most Recent In-Kind Donors

- Richard Heshelman**
- L.P. Tree Service**
- Janice Peterson**
- Central Vending**
- Urban & Rose Miller**
- Dr. Steve Bartz**
- Rollie and Audrey McClellan**

Mike's Rambles and Brambles continued from page 6

Some insect pests of trees and shrubs are best controlled by spraying with dormant oil. This includes scale insects of pine, lilac, and euonymus and many of the gall-forming insects. These insects reside on stems or needles and are smothered by the oil. Galls are mostly a cosmetic problem but scales can weaken plants. Check weather forecasts to be sure temperatures will stay above freezing for 8 - 12 hours after spraying to avoid damaging stems and needles.

Prune out and burn or bury the brown, shriveled "witches-brooms" on honeysuckle. The leaf-folding aphid that causes these overwinters in these growths. They feed on new growth as soon as the buds break in the spring. This one is hard to control since untreated honeysuckles are everywhere. This may be a good time to consider replacing honeysuckles with less invasive plants with fewer pest problems.

Sow seed for parsley in pots on a bright window sill.

Make St. Patrick's Day a floral holiday with shamrocks and other assorted foliage plants. Kids get a kick out of making their own "Irish" carnations by using white carnations and a vase

of green food coloring and water. At the same time they learn that plants suck water up and move it through the whole plant.

Seeds of the following annual flowers can be started indoors in late March: ageratum, wax begonia, browallia, dianthus and carnation, dusty miller, impatiens, larkspur, lobelia, dwarf marigold, nierembergia, pansy, petunia, moss rose, snapdragons, and stocks. Be sure to use a sterile seed starting medium, supplemental lighting, and bottom heat for best results. Different species also have different requirements for light or darkness during germination. Look up the varieties you have on the seed packet, in a seed catalog or a good reference book.

Tops of onions seeded last month should be clipped to keep them at about 4 inches. This diverts energy to bulb growth.

At the end of March, sow seeds indoors for the following vegetables: broccoli, cabbage, cauliflower, celery, eggplant, and head lettuce.

Sow seeds indoors for the following flowers: alyssum, verbena, calendula, celosia, coleus, dahlia, phlox, and salvia.

Be mindful of warm days when the sun can cause heat to build-up under rose cones, cold

frames, and in other plant protection systems. However, avoid removing mulches prematurely from plants with tender new tissue forming.

Examine lawn areas where water may have pooled or snow cover lingered. Snow mold fungus may develop in these areas. Also look for meadow mouse tunnels in the browned grass. Both can be improved by roughing up the affected area with a rake to encourage the adjacent healthy grass plants to fill in.

Take your lawnmower in for servicing to avoid the rush at the repair shop on that first nice week-end of April. Get it tuned up, the oil changed, and tighten all bolts. At the very least, get the blade sharpened.

On nice days, go outside and turn the compost pile. This will get it "cooking" again. Hopefully, it will also help you resist the urge to start working the soil too soon.

During inclement weather, clean-up and sharpen garden tools and prepare other gardening equipment for the busy months ahead. Inventory pesticides, fertilizers, bags of potting soil and amendments. Finish up last years records. And there is still time to do a little dreaming and planning.

GO GREEN

Rotary Botanical Gardens has always made efforts to be ecologically friendly; by composting, recycling, using fluorescent light bulbs, keeping the office thermostat down and more. The Grumpies for instance, were asked to bring in their favorite coffee mug from home rather than use the Styrofoam disposable ones that just end up in the landfill. We have been reviewing even more ways we can conserve lately and will be sharing these with you in the Grapevine. Speaking of which, one way you can be more ecofriendly is by viewing the Grapevine on our website instead of receiving a paper copy in the mail. Not only would we be saving paper, postage, etc. you would be able to view it in full color! You can sign up for this nifty feature by going to our website at rotarygardens.org and click on the "sign up for the rock-hort list" icon that is on the bottom of the page. You will then receive a notice when the latest newsletter will be available, plus you may view previous issues. As a subscriber of the rock-hort list you will also get notices of events, special offers and educational programs. **GO GREEN** yourself—help the environment AND help Rotary Botanical Gardens save the money of printing and mailing the Grapevine by viewing it on line. Send this back to us, we'll take you off the mailing list and will email you notification of when the Grapevine will appear on the website. You **MUST** go to the website and set up subscribing to the list serve there, instructions are available on-line—**It's easy!** You will be able to manage that service yourself, taking the onus off RBG for keeping up with changes in email addresses. You can also unsubscribe at any time. This will not eliminate you from any other RBG mailings. Thanks for your assistance!

YES, I am environmentally conscious and want to help RBG with cost efficiencies. Take my name off the Grapevine (only) mailing list and I will view upcoming Grapevines on the web site at rotarygardens.org!

Name _____ Email address _____

Address _____

Mail to Rotary Botanical Gardens, 1455 Palmer Drive, Janesville, WI 53545

NOTE: This is for our information, it will not get you on the list serve, you must go to rotarygardens.org and set that up yourself.



1455 Palmer Drive

Janesville, WI 53545

(608) 752-3885

Rotarygardens.org

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ROTARY BOTANICAL GARDENS

BOARD MEMBERS

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Gary Smith, *V. Chair*

Maury Frey, *Secretary*

Chris Goepfert, *Treasurer*

John Anderson

Rich Gruber

Kenneth Lein

Jim Liebetrau

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Larry Olsen~ Landscape Manager

Marv Bue~ Grounds Supervisor

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SAVE THE DATE!

**Public Viewing of Rotary Botanical Gardens
Garden Smart Show**

Thursday, March 6; 5:30 pm

GardenSMART is an exciting, informative, unique gardening TV program broadcast across the country on Public Television Stations to 130 million viewers. GardenSMART travels the country visiting beautiful public, private and resort gardens. Rotary Botanical Gardens was featured in 2007. If you missed it, come join us!

IN THE NEWS

Congratulate these RBG associated members for their recent honors!

Ruth Ann Potts

The prestigious Geraldine Hedberg Tocqueville Award awarded by United Way of North Rock County

Deb Grams

50 Who Matter, Janesville Gazette

Marla Hallmark

50 Who Matter, Janesville Gazette

Thanks to departing board members **Dr. Gerald Gredler and Iza Goroff** for years of dedicated service—we welcome new members **Tina Lorenz and Jim Liebetrau**