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## Mark Dwyer Awarded Chanticleer Scholarship

Mark Dwyer has been awarded a Chanticleer Scholarship in Professional Development.

The Scholarship will be used to build Mark's knowledge of youth education and horticultural therapy. He will pursue a Healthcare Garden Design Certificate of Merit from the Chicago Botanic Garden and attend several national conferences, allowing him to meet with other professionals and visit gardens across North America.



The Chanticleer Scholarship provides professional development opportunities for public garden staff. The Scholarship began in 2008 and promotes creativity and leadership. It has two core components - support of an academic experience to improve leadership skills and support of travel to meet with leaders to build on that academic experience.

Dr. Edward Hasselkus, Professor Emeritus, University of Wisconsin-Madison and Curator of the Longenecker Horticultural Gardens at the University of Wisconsin Arboretum, enthusiastically supported Mark Dwyer's application. Hasselkus wrote "Mark has provided continuity as well as exceptional garden design and positive interaction with the public at Rotary Gardens. Each year, he has developed new gardens, themes, and plant and color displays. The Chanticleer Scholarship will broaden his professional horizons and enhance his career in public horticulture."

Mr. Dwyer joins four current Chanticleer Scholars. Brian Houck, Garfield Park Conservatory, Chicago, IL, is pursuing a Master of Science in Nonprofit Management. Brian Sullivan, Descanso Gardens, La Canada, CA, is pursuing a Landscape Architecture Certificate at UCLA. Adrienne Roethling, Paul J. Ciener Botanical Garden, Kernersville, NC, is developing her skills as a writer. Ian Simpkins, Vizcaya Museum and Gardens, Miami, FL, is studying the history of Italian gardens.

## Electronic or Paper Newsletter?

Help us lower the production costs of the Grapevine. You can elect to have your newsletter e-mailed rather than receive a mailed copy. If you wish to receive the next issue electronically send Angie Haber an e-mail at [angie.haber@rotarygardens.org](mailto:angie.haber@rotarygardens.org). Thanks for your consideration.

## Colchicums – August Planting, Create September Magic

By Mark Dwyer

In September and early October at Rotary Gardens, a subtle transition occurs throughout the gardens that make visitors wonder if it's spring. At this time, thousands of colchicums (*Colchicum autumnale*) emerge from the soil, creating a haze of pinks and lavenders on clustered blooms that resemble giant crocuses. These blooms "magically" appear with no leaves and offer wonderful color during September.

Colchicums can be a wonderful asset in the late summer garden and with proper care will establish themselves and return year after year.

Colchicums, which belong to the lily family, are frequently called "autumn crocuses". However, they are not true crocuses. Crocuses belong to the iris family and there are true autumn crocuses that bloom in late September and October, including the saffron crocus (*Crocus sativus*).

While crocuses bloom with their leaves, colchicums have blooms in late summer and foliage in the spring. There are many other botanical differences between crocuses and colchicums but it is important to note that all parts of colchicums are poisonous.

Colchicums have a native range from Southern England, Spain and Portugal all the way to the Mediterranean coast, West and Central Asia and Russia. The name colchicum comes from "Colchis" which is the "Land of Golden Fleece" at the eastern end of the Black Sea. This area is now called the Republic of Georgia. In the 17th century, German peasants wore colchicums as a charm against the plague. The colchicum has long been cultivated in the garden and its toxicity has been known since ancient Greek times. Historically used to treat arthritis, rheumatism, gout and cancer, colchicums have an extensive medicinal past that continues to this day. However, the contribution of colchicums to the garden is the primary asset.

Colchicums are not true bulbs but rather corms. These large, fleshy corms are planted in August while the plant is dormant. For our climate, this is the narrow window for planting these treasures. Availability is limited although it is worth asking locally first then exploring mail order options. Each corm



will produce multiple flowers and should be planted 5-6" deep and at least 3" apart from other corms. Colchicums prefer light soil enriched with manure or other organic material. The soil should be well drained and should not have supplemental summer irrigation or the colchicums may rot. Sloped areas tend to be successful spots for establishing colchicums due to natural drainage. Full sun is tolerable although they thrive in part shade and will bloom a bit longer.

Just weeks after planting, the multiple blooms from each corm will emerge from the ground. Colorful bloom clusters of white, pink and lavender cup-shaped blooms appear on whitish stems. These blooms are frequently less than 12" tall

so their positioning in the landscape should be carefully considered. Interplant colchicums amongst shorter perennials and groundcovers or in areas where their appearance will not be obscured. Colchicums will frequently bloom for three weeks and then disappear again. In April, colchicum foliage will emerge and grow to a height of 18" or so. The foliage can be disguised with pansies or early emerging perennials. This glossy green foliage should be left until it turns brown in July. This ripening of the foliage is essential as it nourishes the corm and helps prepare for the formation of next years flowers.

Once the colchicum foliage is dry and is removed, the plant is essentially dormant until it "awakens" in September. This cycle is followed annually as colchicums are hardy in our climate if given the proper site and added attention. A light fertilizer application in spring when the foliage emerges is recommended. After the colchicums are done blooming and the colder weeks of November

approach, mulch over the top of these corms with evergreen boughs, shredded leaves or woodchips. This will help regulate the freezing and thawing of the early spring soil, thereby minimizing damage to the colchicum corms. The perennial potential of colchicums is dependent on a little extra "gardening love and care."

Rotary Gardens has over 8,000 colchicums that have been planted in previous summers. The best varieties have included 'The Giant', 'Lilac Wonder', and 'Waterlily'. These have been planted in small drifts throughout the gardens. Come see how a little gardening work in August can create spring in September/early October for many years to come.

## Your Support is Appreciated Dinner Dance 2009

Celebrating 20 Years of Community Service

Rotary Botanical Gardens would like to thank the community and all of our fine sponsors for supporting the 15th annual dinner dance held on Saturday, July 18, 2009. A record amount was raised to support and maintain YOUR community gardens.



## Thank You

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

- Central Vending
- L.P. Tree Service
- Bob Kimball
- Blain's Farm & Fleet
- Terri Newton
- Dennis Ryan
- Carol Dulen
- Sullivan Signs
- Judy Latka
- Lab Safety Supply
- Carol Cartwright
- Dave Wanninger
- Yahara Nursery
- Jenka Blossoms
- Stonefield Plant Farm
- The Flower Factory
- Plahn Canvas Products
- John Paul

## Horticulture Wish List

The items below are those that we currently would not be able to purchase with our 2009 or 2010 budget. They are ranked in order of donation value but any contribution of funds or relevant items is most appreciated. Monetary donations towards fall bulb planting will go to good use as well but are needed ASAP!

- New Grasshopper riding mower (\$14,000)
- Jacobsen Hauler utility cart (\$6,000)
- Used golf cart, foldable back seat (\$4,000)
- Spring fertilizers (\$2,000)
- Historical Slide Scanning (\$500-\$1000)
- Silky Japanese Pole Saw (\$400)
- Gas Cards of any denomination (\$50-\$100 suggested)
- Reference Library Donations (\$100)

## New Admissions Seating A Great Comfort

Thank you to Bob and Shirley Tews and The Comfort Shop for their donation of the padded stools being used for admissions.

## Upcoming Events and Opportunities at the Gardens

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

- Oct. 15-17 **Halloween Walk**  
7:00 pm to 8:30 pm
- Oct. 17, **Volunteer Workday**  
8:00 am to 12:00 pm
- Nov. 21, **Volunteer Workday**  
8:00 am to 12:00 pm
- Nov. 26, **Visitors Center Closed**
- Dec. 4, **Taste of Chocolate Dinner**-5:30 am to 8:30 pm
- Dec. 11-13, 18-23, 26-31 and Jan. 1-3  
**Holiday Light Show**  
5:00 pm to 8:30 pm
- Dec. 24 & 25,  
**Visitors Center Closed**

## Saturday Work Days

There are Saturday work days scheduled for

October 17 and November 21. These work days

run from 8 am until noon with a 10 am donut break. Meet at the Horticulture Center and we'll go from there. October activities will include removing annuals, raking leaves and possibly planting bulbs. November activities include decorating for our Holiday Lights Show.



## Diagnostic Clinic in the Sholl Education Room

Imagine a room where you can sit and gaze out at the Rotary Botanical Gardens as you read about what you should do with your raspberry canes, now that you've harvested the crop.

Where helpful books and DVDs abound, where displays of weeds and pests help you solve your most pesky problems, and where staff is on hand to answer your questions.

Where first-grade children from the Boys & Girls Club of Janesville enjoy ample space for their spring and summer programs.

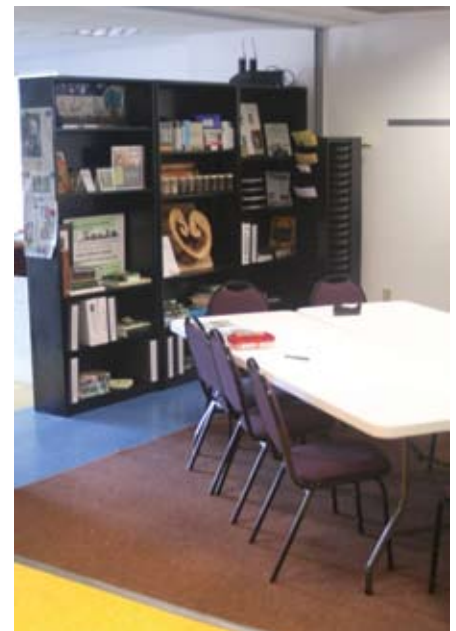
Where people of all kinds—tour guides and educators and RBG volunteers—meet and plan and store their materials.

All this can be found at the new Sholl Education Room at Rotary Botanical Gardens, thanks to generous donations from Mary and Craig Boswell and the Southeast Wisconsin Master Gardeners Association. The room, which is located just off the RBG's visitor's center, was recently made over to serve as a resource room to visitors to the gardens.

In past years, use of the space for educational programs competed with the RBG's need for storage. Visitors and volunteers were often limited to a space upstairs in the administrative offices, where folks had to navigate steep stairs, and work often conflicted with staff's own working needs.

## Help Rotary Botanical Gardens Save Money!

Are you a Friends member who has a seasonal address? Do you submit a change of address form or temporarily away notice with the Post Office? Rotary Gardens can save on postage and fees if you let us know about your address change in advance. Mail that is returned to us with an undeliverable address costs us money that we would rather spend on items that would enhance your experience here at the gardens!



Now, visitors can easily find the Sholl Education Room, which also serves as the new office of the RBG's director of education, Mike Maddox. To keep Mike company, Master Gardener Volunteers staff the room from Memorial Day to Labor Day in order to answer gardening questions from visitors.

While a portion of the space will still be utilized for public events, most of the space will be dedicated to furthering the educational mission of the Rotary Botanical Gardens and enhancing its value as a community resource.

We invite you to visit and enjoy the new Sholl Education Room.

If you'll be at a different address for part of the year, please either call or e-mail us with your new (or temporary) address and give us the dates you will be at each address. Call Angie at 608-752-3885, extension 20 or e-mail [angie.haber@rotarygardens.org](mailto:angie.haber@rotarygardens.org). Thanks for helping us conserve our resources!

## Join us for Scoopie Night

Show your support and enjoy great food on Monday, October 26 when Rotary Botanical Gardens hosts Scoopie Night at Culver's on Milton Avenue in Janesville. From 4-8 p.m., 10% of all proceeds benefit the gardens. RBG volunteers and staff will be delivering trays of food to hungry customers and each tray will feature a Friends of the Gardens membership brochure. So, bring your appetite and support your community garden!



**Friends Members  
Receive a  
10% Discount  
in the Gift Shop  
and on  
Plant Sales**

## Holiday Gifts From Rotary Botanical Gardens

With the holiday season fast approaching, you're probably already thinking of gift ideas. Rotary Gardens has great gift ideas:

- Gift memberships
- Cottage Garden Gift Shop Gift Certificates
- One day passes
- Memorial bricks

These and other great gifts can be found in our Cottage Garden Gift Shop. The gift shop is open during regular hours that the gardens are open.

## Halloween Walk Returns For 2009 All Fun No Fright!

SpotLight On Kids (SOK) and Rotary Botanical Gardens are pleased to announce the return of their annual Halloween Walk.

Since its premier performance in 1993, SOK and Rotary Botanical Gardens had co-produced the annual Walk for fifteen years. The walk will be held on Thursday, Friday and Saturday, October 15, 16 and 17 from 7:00 – 8:30 p.m. each night. Tickets are \$5 per person, 5 and under are free.



The goal of the walk is to entertain and educate, not be frightening. This is NOT a haunted house, but a guided tour through the gardens down jack-o-lantern lit paths with stops to hear stories of the strange, and skits and songs of the season. A great program for school age children and adults.

In addition to the walk, refreshments will be available and there will be seasonal crafts to create and other fun activities.

## Rotary Botanical Gardens Holiday Light Show A Holiday Tradition

Have you visited Holiday Light Show? If not, 2009 is the year to begin a family tradition that will build lifelong memories of the holiday season and of joyous time spent with family and friends.

For 2009, Holiday Light show will include an enhanced route filled with enchanting holiday brilliance. The route, winding through the wintery gardens, will be decorated with about 250,000 dazzling, brilliant lights, numerous brightly lit displays of various shapes and sizes, countless radiant luminaries, and glistening lights hanging from tops of the tallest, lighted holiday trees, sparkling in the cool crisp night.

Visitors to the light show will find the Gardens Visitor Center bursting with fun activities and scrumptious sweet treats. Local performers will entertain nightly and Santa will stop by from time to time to wish Happy

Holidays to all. Wisconsin Garden Railway Society will display a unique variety of specialty model trains. Rock Valley Quilter's Guild will display beautiful quilts

made by members of the Society. Visitors can indulge their sweet tooth with festive refreshments and yummy treats including steamy, sweet hot chocolate and yummy cookies.

The entertainment schedule will be available at the Rotary Botanical Garden's Web site, [www.rotarygardens.org](http://www.rotarygardens.org), in

early December. Admission to the Holiday Light Show is \$5 for adults (12 and up), \$3 youth (2 to 11) at the door, early bird purchases \$1 off, Friends members receive concession coupon for early bird purchases. Early bird discounts available in the gift shop beginning in November and each day during regular business hours at the Gardens.



## Welcome New Members

The entire staff and the volunteers wish to thank each and every member who supports Rotary Botanical Gardens through a yearly Friends membership contribution. The following new members joined the Friends program during the period of May 1 – July 31, 2009. Please welcome them to the Gardens.

Adler, Den & Judy	Gunness, Joan	Meister, Richard & Patricia	Severance, Nancy
Allen, Diane	Hafeman, John & Cheryl	Melvin, Ronald & Paulette	Shaw, Mary
Anderson, Amy	Hagen, David & Diana	Merrick, Marcia	Shebiel, Kathryn
Anema, Jim & Sue	Hansen, Darlene	Merrifield, Jim	Siker, David & Thelma
Augenstein, Augie	Hartwig, Jim & Rhonda	Miller, Carole	Skelly, Cheryl & Tom
Bae, Ruth	Hayden, Kelly & Richard	Miller, Robert	Smyth, Susan
Bascom, Kelly	Haye, Dr. John	Mitchell, Evon	Soderberg, Joan
Blenker, Julie	Heather Rae Photography	Moore, David & Karen	Stenavich, Cindy & Wally
Bliesner, Kent & Lisa	Henschler, Sue	Morning, Paulette	Steril, Joan & Whelan, Dick
Bliss, Pat	Hesselbacher, Kristin	Morse, William	Stine, Claudia
Bloomberg, Diana	Hollister, Janet	Mortensen, Charles	Stover, Deb
Bobzien, Mark & Patti	Holznect, Ann	Munns, Meridyth	Sullivan, Heather
Bortles, Al & Carol	Hoover, Stephanie	Nelson, Sue & Gordy	Sullivan, Lassity
Brown, Don & Barb	Hotchkiss, Sarah & Mike	Nettesheim, Cynthia	Sutherland, Mary
Buckman, Julie	Hotter, Mike	Niedermeier, Janice	Terry, Mark & Mary
Buelow, Mary	Ipsen, Susan	O'Brien, Kathleen	Thomas, Cathy
Callahan, Barbara	Jabs, Julie	Olson, Carla	Thomas, Jayne
Chandler, Ann	Jansen, Darlene	Opitz, Harold & Ethel	Thomas-Speaks, Nadine
Clumpner, Kathy	Jenson, Bob	Ortiz, Cora	Tobin, Patricia
Connell, Phyllis	Johnson, Jere	Ousterhout, Joy	Towne, Nathan
Cryor-Burgweger, Cathy	Kane, David & Kris	Paul, John	Varga, Charles
Cunningham, Tom	Kath, Eloise	Peterson, David & Cheryl	Villa, Donna
DeJongh, Marjorie	Kevern, Walter & Esther	Peterson, David	Wagner, David & Caroline
Demmon, Ruth	Kiskunas, Nicole	Petranek, David & Penny	Warmke, Karen
DeRibeis, Paula	Klinzing, Jane	Poad, Beth	Warner, Ann
Douglas, Nancy	Klobucar, James & Barbara	Polglaze, Margaret	Welles, Sandra
Duda, Amanda	Knibbs-Gonzalez, Dina	Porter, Barb	Wells III, Eric
Dwyer, John & Carolyn	Knutson, Sidley	Radtke, Wendy	Whalen, Judy and Hofmeister, Greg
Ejercito, Michael	Kolste, Rex & Deb	Ramirez, Nancy	Winn, Karen
Eschborn, Lissy & Helmut	Koniecki, Arlene	Rankin, Denise	Yeomans, Robert
Ezdon, Jeff	Krisco, Greg & Mary	Raymer, Fran	Zauner, Gertrude
Frederick, Mary	Lee, Kittie	Reynolds, Doug & Lynn	Zweizig, Karen & Doug
Freedlund, Pam & Lowell	Lewis, Carol & Lewis, Barb	Riesen, Ernest	
Froehlich, Amybeth	Lornson, Clarence	Riffel, James	
Gage, June	Lynch, Gordon	Robinson, Don & Ruth	
Galassi, Madeline	Madison, Linda	Rockstad, Dean	
Gall, Elizabeth	Manon, DeWayne	Rogers, Keith	
George, Katherine	Martin, Joe	Rouse, Rosalie	
Gibson, Lori	Mattison-Buhl, Sarah	Russell, Mary	
Goder, Janis	Maurer, Michelle	Ryan, Lisa & David	
Goldstein, Carol	Maxson, Pam & Larry	Ryan, Susannah & Bolster, Michael	
Grosz, Linda	McCartney, Jean	Schroeder, Sue	
Groth, Philip	McCulloch, Betty	Schulte, Karen	
Grunzel, Judith	McGray, Barbara	Seierstad, Don & Carolyn	

## Rotary Botanical Gardens Endowment Fund

As the Gardens celebrate its 20th anniversary this year, the underlying question raised by the Endowment Committee is this: How can we insure that the most popular tourist attraction in the area will be here twenty years from now?

The Rotary Botanical Gardens Endowment Fund is a method in which individuals and businesses can make a long-term commitment to the Gardens.

The goal is to raise \$6 million over the next six years to be placed in a restricted fund to insure the sustainability of the Gardens. Options for contributing to this campaign include:

- **Bequests:** A gift to the Gardens through your will
- **Securities:** A gift of appreciated stock to the Sustaining Fund, from which you receive an immediate tax reduction
- **Charitable Gift Annuities and Unitrusts:** A more substantial method of giving in which you receive an immediate federal tax deduction
- **Life Insurance:** Allowing donors to make sizeable contributions at a relatively low cost

- **Cash:** The most convenient way of contributing to the fund

Why invest in the Endowment Fund? Beyond its traditional beauty, the Gardens also have a human side as well. In conjunction with the community gardens program, Rotary Botanical Gardens has helped to grow and donate over 20,000 pounds of locally-grown produce to area food pantries. Each year, over 1,000 school children are served in on-site educational garden programs.

The Gardens continues to face challenges without city, county, state and federal funding. A commitment on the part of volunteers, staff and patrons is needed.

As an Endowment Fund member, you are investing in the future of Janesville. To learn more about the fund, please call 752-3885.

## Gardens Beauty



**Auditions for:**  
**HALLOWEEN Walk 2009**

WHO:  
SpotLight On Kids &  
Rotary Botanical Gardens

WHAT:  
Halloween Walk auditions for adults and  
youth ages 10 and older

WHEN:  
Sunday, September 13th 3-6 pm.  
Monday, September 14th 6-8 pm.

WHERE:  
SpotLight On Kids studio, downtown  
Janesville, in the Old Towne Mall

PERFORMANCES:  
Outdoors at Rotary Gardens in Janesville;  
Thursday-Saturday, October 15-17

Please prepare a memorized poem, &  
story and if you would like a singing role,  
a song. Auditions are first come first  
serve and you may leave after your  
audition.

SpotLight On Kids & footlights productions  
20 S. Main Street #22 • Downtown Janesville, WI  
608-758-1451 • www.spotlightonkids.org

SpotLight On Kids & footlights productions and Rotary Gardens present

**HALLOWEEN Walk**

**at Rotary Botanical Gardens**

**Thursday, Friday & Saturday**  
**October 15, 16, 17**  
**7:00—8:30 p.m.**  
Tickets will be sold beginning at 6:45

**TICKETS Available at the entrance—just off Sharon Road  
near the Horticultural Center**  
**All tickets \$5**

While being guided through the jack-o-lantern lit Rotary Botanical Gardens,  
audiences will be entertained with tales of fun, fright, and fall. Refreshments,  
crafts, & fun fall activities as well. Groups leave the entrance area approxi-  
mately every 15 minutes

SpotLight On Kids & footlights productions

80K: 20 S. Main St. #22 | Janesville, WI | 608-758-1451  
www.spotlightonkids.org | spot-  
light@spotlightonkids.org

Rotary Botanical Gardens  
Rotary Gardens: 1455 Palmer Drive | Janesville, WI

**Be Sure to Visit  
Mark's Daily Rotary  
Botanical Gardens Blog**  
[www.rotarygardens.blogspot.com](http://www.rotarygardens.blogspot.com)



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Fall 2009

**Halloween Walk**  
 October 15, 16 and 17  
 7:00 – 8:30 p.m.  
 Tickets/\$5 per person  
 5 and under are free

Rotary Botanical Gardens  
**HOLIDAY LIGHT SHOW**  
 December 11-13, 18-23, 26-31 & January 1-3

- Over 200,000 lights
- Garden Railway Trains in Visitors Center
- Rock Valley Quilters Guild display
- Nightly entertainment
- Refreshments
- Tickets available at door
- EARLY BIRD SPECIALS**
- Hours: 5:00 PM-8:30 PM**
- Closed Christmas Eve and Day*

[www.rotarygardens.org](http://www.rotarygardens.org)  
 1455 Palmer Dr. • Janesville • 608-752-3885

