



# Grapevine



February, March, April  
2010

Rotary Botanical Gardens. 1455 Palmer Drive. Janesville, WI 53545. 608.752.3885. [www.rotarygardens.org](http://www.rotarygardens.org)

## Get Your Tickets For Wisconsin Public Television Garden Expo



The 2010 Garden Expo will be held February 12, 13, and 14 in the Exhibition Hall at the Alliant Energy Center in Madison. This is the 17th annual Wisconsin Public Television

Garden Expo. (Last year's event attracted 19,946 attendees.)

Visitors may choose to attend more than 100 educational seminars and demonstrations on gardening, lawn, and landscaping topics and enjoy hundreds of different exhibitor booths in the exhibition area. Attend one of the many hands-on workshops and learn new skills while creating an art piece to take home.

Wisconsin Public Television, Friends of Wisconsin Public Television and UW-Extension/Cooperative Extension Horticulture Team are hosting the 3-day event. Our thanks to the The Wisconsin Landscape Contractors Association, proud

sponsor of the Garden Expo central garden display and event sponsor. And, Garden Expo thanks event sponsors Blain's Farm & Fleet and Green Power Tomorrow from MGE.

Walk through the custom garden display, attend demonstrations and seminars, register for hands-on workshops, and view the many different exhibitors.

Meet Shelley Ryan, master gardener and producer/host of *The Wisconsin Gardener* series, UW-Extension experts, and Master Gardeners.

All show proceeds, including admission fee, support Wisconsin Public Television programming. Garden Expo also meets WPT's educational and community outreach mission.

Rotary Botanical Gardens will again be present at the event. Mark Dwyer, Director of Horticulture, and Mike Maddox, Director of Education, will participate in various seminars during the course of the show.



Tickets are now on sale at Rotary Botanical Gardens through the end of the business day on Saturday, Feb. 13.

- One-day – \$6 in advance/\$7 at the door
- Two-day – \$10 in advance or at the door
- Three-day – \$15 in advance only online or at the door
- Children 12 and under are free

## What's New for 2010?

We're looking forward to another exciting year here at the Gardens. We are in full swing with ordering seeds, deciding upon collections and getting ready for the busy season.

Our entrance garden color scheme will be deep maroons and rich reds. We dabbled with this scheme a couple years ago but this will be darker.

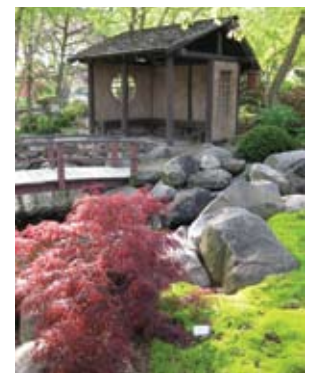
The demonstration beds near the arboretum which featured annual gloriosa daisies (*Rudbeckia hirta*) in 2009 will feature over 100 varieties of globe amaranth (*Gomphrena*) in 2010. This durable annual is quite showy and

is used often in both fresh and dried arrangements.

We will continue to feature selected varieties of award-winning plants from the All-America Selections and Fleuroselect programs as well as new introductions from Ball Seed and PanAmerican Seed. This will be the second year that we participate in the American Garden Award program which will feature a collection of annuals with the intent of encouraging visitors to vote on their favorites via cell phone technology. RBG is one of only 16 gardens in North America selected for

this program.

Look for major enhancements in the Fern & Moss Garden with the addition of over 100 fern varieties. We hope to really enhance all garden areas with new plantings and upgraded labeling.



## 2010 Perennial Plant Of The Year

The Perennial Plant Association has selected *Baptisia australis* as the 2010 Perennial Plant of the Year. Commonly called blue false indigo, this native perennial is an exceptional perennial that grows across a wide range of hardiness zones and is very adaptable. Easily grown in well-drained soils, this plant is drought tolerant once established. Preferring full sun, this slow-growing perennial will reach full size (3-4' tall and 3-4' wide) in 3-5 years and rarely needs division. Newly emerging shoots produce violet-blue, "lupine-like" flowers in spring.



This plant blooms for a long period of time and the greyish blue foliage is interesting as well. The seed pods dry to black late in the season and were used as rattles in earlier times and are popular in flower arrangements. Native Americans used this *Baptisia* as a dye plant as well. This plant also has no serious insect or disease problems and is seldom bothered by deer.



Both of the pictures above, to the left, were taken at Mark's home garden although we have many *Baptisias* at Rotary Botanical Gardens. There are many exciting breeding efforts occurring right now and the merit of *Baptisia* in the full sun garden is very apparent. Dr. Jim Ault is doing lots of work



at the Chicago Botanic Garden as is Tony Avent at Plant Delights Nursery. There are plenty of exciting species and hybrids out on the market now. Look for yellows, whites, light blues and color combos. Account for the space these sturdy plants will eventually encompass but sit back and enjoy a low-maintenance, long-lived perennial once it is established.

The photo above is a selected variety of *Baptisia* hybrid called 'Purple Smoke' which is one of Mark's favorites (originally at the North Carolina Botanical Gardens).

### Thank You

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

- L.P. Tree Service
- Janice Peterson
- Bill Olmsted
- Richard Heshelman
- Central Vending
- Dick Peck
- Dick Wagner
- John Rockenfield
- Marv & Marianne Bue
- Doug Venable
- Vern Bassett
- Dr. Luis Owano

## 2010 Workdays Selected

We will continue to have Saturday workdays throughout the course of the year. All of these workdays will run from 8 am until noon with a nice donut break included. Activities will vary depending on the time of year but consider marking these down on your calendar so you don't allow any vacations to interfere with your participation! April 24, May 22, May 29, June 5, June 12, July 10, August 21, September 18 and October 9.

## Assigned Garden Volunteers

Any volunteers that have assigned areas out in the gardens (and would like to "re-commit") should touch base with Mark by March so we can go over details for 2010. Any interested volunteers that would like to maintain their own "piece of real estate" should also contact Mark at (608) 754-1779 or at [mark.dwyer@rotarygardens.org](mailto:mark.dwyer@rotarygardens.org) so they can set up a little tour and see potential areas of interest. Only 20% of the gardens are maintained by assigned garden volunteers so we would like to increase that percentage in the coming years.



Chuck Smith



Dr. Gerald Gredler, Bill Olsen, Jerry Wilson

## Volunteers with Special Talents Needed – Think Outside the Box!

Rotary Botanical Gardens is looking for individuals with specific skills, some that may not usually be associated with gardening. Here's a chance to let your special talents shine, become an integral part of the Gardens, add experience to your resume, and continue personal growth in your area of expertise. Got a skill you think would be useful? Let us know! Contact Angie at 752-3885 ext. 20.

The following have immediate openings:

- Web Site Maintenance – Maintain and improve current RBG website.
- Prairie Maintenance – Know your prairie plants? Weed and maintain the prairie at RBG.
- Rosarian Wanted – Is your specialty roses? Maintain our shrub rose collection.
- Water Features – Use your pond experience to help maintain water features at RBG.
- Garden Team Facilitator – Lead a service group (school groups, special needs groups and others) in executing a garden project. Garden skills required, job shadowing available.
- Tour Guide – give guided tours of the garden to visitors. Training provided.
- In-kind Donations Representative – seek out donations of goods and services from local businesses.
- Community Service Facilitator – work with individuals who need to satisfy community service requirements.
- Sunday Waterers – Work as part of a team to water containers throughout the garden on Sundays. You may select your Sundays. Training provided.
- Evening Weed Teams – Weed specific areas of the garden in the evening.

## Horticulture Wish List

The items below are those that will be difficult to purchase with our conservative grounds budget or donor assistance will help defray costs and allow for more plant purchases. All items are given a value and any donations towards these items should be "earmarked" as such. Thank you to all those that have helped with these wish list items over the past years. Please call Mark at (608) 754-1779 with any questions regarding the items below.

- #5 gallon buckets, clean with a sturdy handle. We need 100+ (drop at Horticulture Center)
- "Replace a sprinkler program" (\$25) each
- 16 GB flash drives for digital photo/presentation storage (\$30 each, need 10)
- Gas gift cards (\$50 suggested, any accepted!)
- Reference library donations (\$100+)
- 10 Japanese hand hoes (\$150)
- 20 Dandelion diggers (\$150)
- Relevant subscription renewals (\$200)
- 10 Felco #5 hand pruners (\$200)
- 10 Corona hand saws (\$200)
- 5 Heavy-duty shovels (\$250)
- Commercial, 8 cu. ft. wheelbarrow (\$300)
- HP Laser printer for Horticulture Center (\$400)
- Silky fiberglass pole saw (\$400)
- Preen (pre-emergent weed control) purchase (\$500)
- Spring fertilizing program (\$1,000)
- LCD Projector for in-house and travelling programs (\$1500)
- Used, four-seat golf cart with folding seat (\$3500)
- Jacobsen Hauler utility cart with dump (\$6500)

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

## 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.

- Feb. 12-14, **WPT Garden Expo**
- Feb. 27, **Horticulture Education Program**  
8:00 am to 4:00 pm
- Mar. 4, **Community Garden Workshop**  
7:00 pm to 8:00 pm
- Mar. 10, **Scoopie Night at Culvers on Milton Avenue, Janesville**  
4:00 pm to 8:00 pm
- Mar. 27, **7th Annual Garden Symposium**  
8:00 am to 4:00 pm
- April 1, **Thursday Evening Horticulture Program**  
7:00 pm to 8:00 pm
- April 24, **Volunteer Workday**  
8:00 am to 12:00 pm

## Thursday Evening Programs Announced for 2010

All programs start promptly at 7pm at Rotary Botanical Gardens' Parker Education Center. \$5 general public, payable at door, or FREE to RBG Friend Members. Please call (608) 752-3885x17 with questions. No RSVP necessary.

**Thursday, March 4 - Mushrooms**  
Delicious, Delirious, and Deadly- Master Gardener, Luis Owano, MD, will share information on the hazards of ingesting wild mushrooms and the possible consequences. The presentation includes a general introduction to mushroom hunting and identification, and has been used by Dr. Owano for educating his medical colleagues.



**Thursday, April 1 - Outhouse Gardening**  
MGVs Earlene Hanson and Jennifer Ehle have refurbished outhouses from the 1930's Works Project Administration (WPA) era, and have made them key focal points in their respective gardens depicting historical architecture and cottage garden design. One must wonder what they use for fertilizer.

**Thursday, May 6 - Making a Splash in the Garden** – Master Gardener, Glenn Erickson has worked professionally in horticulture most of his life. As one of the

volunteers who has helped at RBG's koi pond, Glenn will share tips and tricks on keeping the water clean, the fish healthy, and your pond enjoyable all year long.

**Thursday, June 3 - Tree Care Basics**  
MGV Mary Kay Thompson, is a volunteer answering questions on the Horticulture Helpline and an active member of the Janesville Shade Tree Advisory Committee (JSTAC). In these roles, she has seen a tree problem or two and will outline the basics of keeping homeowners' trees healthy and long-lived.

**Thursday, July 1 - Daylilies** - RPMGA and Janesville Area Herb Society (JAHS) member, Kay Roschi, combines the botanical, culinary and historical aspects of one of summer's best bloomers, the daylily.

**Thursday, August 5 - Parsley, Sage, Rosemary & Thyme** - [insert witty Simon and Garfunkel comment here.] Janesville Area Herb Society members will address the harvesting and use of some of the more popular herbs from the garden.



## Rotary Botanical Gardens 7th Annual Garden Symposium March 27, 2010

Garden enthusiasts and tree lovers are invited to Rotary Botanical Gardens' 7th Annual Garden Symposium. This year's emphasis on trees takes an atypical look at trees' roles in our landscapes- no presentation on "the best to plant" this year!

This symposium takes a practical look at trees in regards to safety, longevity, pest issues, and landscape design. A great selection of renowned speakers are again joining us for the day. We hope you do, too!

*Garden Symposium will feature:*

- Mark Dwyer, Director of Horticulture at Rotary Botanical Gardens:  
*Landscaping for energy efficiency*
- Dr. R. Bruce Allison, certified arborist and author, Allison Tree Care, Inc:  
*New tools for tree decay detection*
- Guy Sternberg, certified arborist and author, Starhill Arboretum:  
*Trees in a changing climate*
- Phill Pellitteri, insect diagnostician, UW-Madison Entomology:

*Insect Pests of Trees: A Retrospective*

### Registration:

- Before March 1, 2010:  
\$45 RBG Friend members  
\$50 general public
- After March 1, 2010:  
\$55 RBG Friend members  
\$60 general public

**Registration materials available online at [www.rotarygardens.org](http://www.rotarygardens.org)**

## Year of the Iris (and Peony)!

Visitors to the garden over the past year will have noticed the vast iris collection in two locations out in the garden. For two years, we have been growing over 500 varieties of iris (mostly bearded iris) for display as part of the American Iris Society national meeting ([www.irises.org/2010convention.htm](http://www.irises.org/2010convention.htm)) which will be



held in Madison from May 31 thru June 5. Attendees of this meeting, many of which are the introducers of these varieties, will come down to the Gardens to view these irises over three days. However, the

public is invited to enjoy the peak of these irises and we are planning to sell select varieties of this collection at a special



plant sale on August 28 (put it on the calendar). Come see the exquisite beauty of these popular perennials at the end of May and into early June.

While you're here, you may run into the American Peony Society national meeting which will be held at the Gardens from June 4 thru June 6. An exciting component of this meeting is cut flower



judging on Saturday (June 5) which will be open to the public after judging is complete. What a great weekend to enjoy the iris/peony combo and we're so excited to have these two national organizations coming to the Gardens.

**Hope to See You  
Saturday,  
April 24th  
for a  
Volunteer  
Workday  
8 am - 12 pm**

**(Meet at Parker Education Center)**

## Cool as a Cucumber

Vegetable collections over at the Horticulture Center this year will include 20 varieties of heirloom cucumbers and 20 varieties of gourds. We will be taking a year off from growing tomatoes on site but will still offer them at the spring plant sale (see article on page 6 for details).



The cucumbers will be grown on custom trellises and the gourds will be grown up the original climbing towers that supported heirloom runner and pole beans in 2009.

Cucumber varieties, which include names like 'Boothby's Blonde,' 'Parisian Pickling' and 'Ruby Wallace's Old Time White,' will be offered in seed packets at the plant sale as will the gourds (including 'Birdhouse,' 'Cave Man's Club,' 'Penguin' and 'Speckled Swan').

All vegetable varieties for the plant sale will be on our website ([www.rotarygardens.org](http://www.rotarygardens.org)) by April.

RBG intends to again donate produce from this collection to area food banks.

## Home Garden Tour & Luncheon

Although this annual event is still six months away, we'd like you to keep your July 24th open to enjoy the popular Home Garden Tour & Luncheon.

This event will feature eight wonderful home gardens in Janesville and will also feature a catered box luncheon held out in the Rotary Botanical Gardens terrace garden. Additional information and details regarding this event will be in forthcoming issues of the Grapevine and will also be on our website ([www.rotarygardens.org](http://www.rotarygardens.org)).

We are also looking for individuals and businesses to sponsor this event. Please call Mark at (608) 754-1779 with any questions or sponsorship enquiries.

## Join us for Scoopie Night

Show your support and enjoy great food on **Wednesday, March 10** 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!



Scoopie Night, October 26, 2009 at Culver's Milton Avenue, Janesville location. Pictured, left to right: Dawn Thorn, Gary Smith, Sue Melton, Rod Jones and Barb Holcer. Not pictured: Delores Dilley, Art Hilker and Jim Haseman

## Spring Plant Sale

The spring plant sale will be held from May 14th thru May 16th from 9 am to 5 pm daily at the Horticulture Center. In the past, this sale has included divisions from the gardens (daylilies, hostas, etc.). It will not include any divisions this spring as we will offer iris divisions later in the summer (August 28). However, we're featuring



the "Fabulous 200" varieties of vegetables and herbs at this sale.

Aside from cucumber and gourd seeds as mentioned earlier, the sale will include plants of heirloom tomatoes, hybrid tomatoes, bell peppers, hot peppers, eggplants, tomatillos, etc.

We will also be offering many basil varieties and a very wide range of herbs. Again, all varieties should be on our website by April. Bagged compost will also be offered at this sale.

All RBG Friends members receive 10% off their purchases during the sale. Mark your calendars and the calendars of your friends and neighbors. This is a vital fundraiser!

## Bagged Compost Sale

Back by popular demand, we will again be selling bagged, blended mushroom compost this spring. The compost sale will run every Saturday in April and May from 9 am until noon at the Horticulture Center.

This organic amendment will come in 1.5 cubic foot bags (40 lbs. or so) and will be \$5.50 + tax per bag. Rotary Botanical Gardens Friends Members will receive

10% off. In 2009, we sold over 2,000 bags of this material which is the same compost that we use in the gardens as a soil amendment and "top dressing" mulch.

The compost is aged horse manure, peat moss and bark fines that have been heat sterilized and shredded. Good stuff. Call Mark at (608) 754-1779 if you need to make other pick-up arrangements or if you have any questions.

## Dinner Dance 2010

It is only January but already Rotary Botanical Gardens is planning for summer events. The Dinner Dance, which as many of you know is an important fundraiser for the Gardens will be held this year on July 17. This year's Dinner Dance Committee will meet for the first time in January and then begin meeting regularly after that.

We would love to have your help! The event requires a great team and we would love you to be a part of it! Please call the Gardens and ask for extension 16 to find out more about the event or the committee.

## New Signs!

Rotary Botanical Gardens just received a generous grant from the Caxambas Foundation that will allow for the creation and installation of additional permanent signage out in the Gardens.

New professional signage will be a timely and appropriate upgrade. This will consist of garden area signage and the grant will also help us begin a 2-3 year transition of creating and installing new plant labeling throughout the Gardens.

We are looking for matching funds to help accommodate these signage initiatives. Call Mark if you are interested in details.

## Volunteer Spotlight

**Name:** Laurie Matelli

**Family:** Husband: Angelo  
Daughter: Asia

**Work:** City Glass Company

**Degree:** Bachelor of Fine Arts  
UW Madison & UW-Extension  
Master Gardener

**Volunteer since:** 2006

**Volunteer areas:** Holiday Light Show, Plant Sales, Art & Wine Festivals, Gardens, Garden Festival, Iris Photography Project, Greeting Cards for sale in the Gift Shop & July photograph in the 2009 RBG Calendar, past president of Master Gardeners Assoc.

**Hobbies:** Photography, Gardening

Painting, Drawing, Running

**Favorite Book:** We Chose the Country: An Impractical Guide to Farm Life by Herbert Jacobs

**#1 on "Bucket List:":** Skydiving

**Greatest Gift:** Energy & love of meeting new people & the adventure of trying new things.



**Laurie Matelli** is memorable for a number of things, but you'll not forget her energy, enthusiasm and positive attitude. No matter how she's helping or where you find her in the Gardens, she's committed and works graciously with all.

Laurie's first love is art; painting, drawing and photography. Her flower photographs are for sale in the Gift Shop as greeting cards and you may recognize her photo as "July" in the 2009 RBG calendar. "I love the intimacy of photographing plant life close-up, the color and beauty are inspiring."

When it comes to gardening, she enjoys working in her yard planting a variety of annuals each year. When asked if her husband enjoys gardening as well, she indicated "he really enjoys looking at the yard when it's all finished."

Laurie's activities are laced with a keen sense of humor, as demonstrated by her reign as the self-designated royalty of the Solanaceous family, aka the "Pepper Princess" (Garden Festival royalty, no less). At another time you may see her donning a Rastafarian wig and singing with a band (as she did at this year's HLS Sponsor Recognition Night).

Another side of Laurie is her love of adventure. (You may have noticed skydiving as #1 on her "Bucket List.") This year, she's madly training for the Mad City Marathon on May 30th. The next time you see Laurie – ask her what new, exciting adventure she has planned.

## 2009 Holiday Light Show

### Thank You

The entire Rotary Botanical Gardens staff would like to give a big THANK YOU to the following:



M&I Bank, LP Tree Service, Damrow Chiropractic Office, Blackhawk Community Credit Union, E&D

Waterworks, Bower City Garden Club, Janesville Herb Society, Rock Prairie Master Gardener Association, Sauk County Master Gardeners Association, Culligan Water Conditioning, Evergreen State Bank, Duke & Sandy Kelly, MacFarlane Pheasants, Inc., Parker Community Credit Union, Ralph & Designers Ltd., Simmons Fence & Specialty Products LLC, Throndsen Lettering, Inc., Tri-Cor Mechanical, LLC, Van Galder Bus Company, Bjoin Limestone Inc., Janesville Convention & Visitors Bureau, Culver's of Janesville & Newville, Holiday Light Show Committee, Bob & Shirley Tews, Lamar Outdoor Advertising and all of our fantastic volunteers!

This year's Holiday Light Show was attended by 4,822 people, (3,817 adults and 1,005 children). Better weather this year helped to nearly double the attendance from 2008.



## Cottage Garden Gift Shop Artist Focus

*The Gift Shop is pleased to be working with regional artists to bring you moderately priced, unique, original gifts for your home, family and friends. Each issue of the Grapevine will introduce you to one of our current artists. Please remember us when you need a gift for someone or are just treating yourself.*



### Mary Jane Allen Armstrong *Metal Me Studio*

I didn't start metal working until I was 39 years old, but in two days I knew it was my life. I do many kinds of metal work including hollowware, jewelry and sculpture by

methods of raising, fabrication, forging, casting, chasing & repousse and enamel. Most of my current work is aluminum, but I also work in other metals including gold, silver, titanium, pewter, brass and bronze.

Some of the work is abstract and some pictorial. Often the work is about family—mine or the buyers. Often it is about conflict of chaos and order, physics and the heart, math and the mind, real versus imagined, sharp playing on soft, man and machine. When metals meet hammer, tool, metal, anvil, something magical happens.

Something new happens. Pain and glory become one. The special thing about jewelry is that you can have it with you all the time. It not only adorns, it caresses and it heals. If it touches you, it can change you. The metal changes me.

One of metals most exceptional properties is its ability to be recycled. Much of my work is created from reused and recycled metal. Most of the world's gold is recycled, even if it is new to you. As I work in aluminum, much of the metal is reused. I often use scrap metal, refinish it and rework it. It is an important part of keeping the world green and beautiful. All my work is originally designed and hand-crafted by me.

**"Metal Moves Me.**

**At My Best**

**I Move Metal."**



Recycled Aluminum Earrings



Sterling Bracelet



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February, March, April 2010

## **Scoopie Night**

**Wednesday, March 10**

**4:00 – 8:00 pm**

**Culver's on Milton  
Avenue in Janesville**

**10% of proceeds benefit the Gardens**

See details inside this issue



Register Now for:

**Rotary Botanical Gardens'**

## **7th Annual Garden Symposium**

**March 27th, 8:00 am - 4:00 pm**

Registration materials available online at [www.rotarygardens.org](http://www.rotarygardens.org)

See event details inside this issue