



VOLUNTEER UNDER THE DOME

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EXPLOSION OF COLOR

By: Donna Ludwig

One day, in early September, I was wandering the grounds and became aware of an *explosion of color*. It was everywhere, along with pollinators. I saw bees, a monarch butterfly, a dragonfly and a hummingbird in the matter of minutes.

My camera skills didn't allow me to get pictures of the pollinators, but the flowers held still to have their pictures taken.

I hope you were able to catch a few of these for yourself.



Photos by:
Donna Ludwig

VOLUNTEER OF THE MONTH: SANDY VOSS

By: Karen Hammer

On a soggy day in late September, I had the pleasure to speak with Sandy Voss, which always brightens my day. Sandy has officially been with the Gardens for almost two years, tending to all walks of life as a horticulture

"Just being able to maintain this place for future generations makes it worth while." - Sandy Voss

volunteer. On most days you can find Sandy in the Peace Garden, she has become a pivotal part of the Growing Together: Adopt a Garden project. Taking on three separate areas of the Gardens, Sandy enjoys reading the signs nature leaves for her. She is an avid nature lover and really respects the healing power gardening has on everything. She was adamant in

letting the readers know how she has revived from volunteering here, and how profound her experiences here are. Sandy Believes that

helping here is more than knowing all the plants; it's a sense of community and

a better love of life. Sandy is grateful for all the friendly faces the volunteers wear here. It could be asking advice or for physical work, she has always had a great experience with all the volunteers here. Her favorite areas of the Gardens are houses 5-9. Smells in that house bring her back to a reminiscent memory. She also has a rich history here at the Gardens;



Photo by: Karen Hammer

one of Sandy's first memories here was when she was ten years old coming after church with her family. If she is not busy being an advocate for environmental welfare, practicing yoga or researching homoeopathic healing you can find her here on most Tuesdays!

PLANT OF THE MONTH: GINKGO: THE BEARER OF HOPE.

By: Donna Ludwig

Ginkgo biloba, to many this tree is well known with it's pretty fan shaped leaf. There are several across the ring road from the parking lot.

Revered for its beauty and its longevity, this living fossil, is unchanged for more than a million years and was thought to be extinct until 1691.

The ginkgo, primarily know as a street tree, has deep roots that don't buckle sidewalks and streets and offer shade for hot streets. They are also able to take the abuse from pollution. Ginkgo trees prefer full sun and are willing to grow in different soils, but need a site with good drainage. Ginkgos do best in climates with wet winters and hot summers.

What wasn't planned for was the foul-smelling fruits. There are male and female ginkgos. Females produce seeds with a yellow, fleshy exterior. Cherry-like in size, they drop in autumn and begin to ferment, giving off an odor similar to vomit or dog droppings. Thus many cities were removing trees once they began to produce fruit.

Another interesting fact...

At the end of World War II on August 6, 1945 an atomic bomb



was dropped on Hiroshima. The plants and trees in the area around

the epicentre were examined in September 1945. Among the survivors were six Ginkgo biloba trees. They were situated near the blast center and appeared to bud after the blast without major deformations and are still alive today.



Photos courtesy: Donna Ludwig

HORTICULTURE TIP - BRING IN THOSE BEGONIAS !

By Corrine Arcangel

Before you start dumping those begonias that have graced your yard and flowerboxes all summer, consider bringing them indoors. With minimal effort you will be rewarded with years of luscious growth and blooms and you won't have to purchase new begonias each season. The care needed will vary with the type of begonia.

Tuberous begonias require a winter dormancy period. Bring the potted plants in when the temperature starts dipping below 55 degrees. Allow the foliage to die back naturally. Keep in a cool, dry spot (I use my basement) until spring. If you prefer, you can remove the tubers from the soil, allow them to dry for two or three weeks, then gently brush away remaining soil and foliage. Put the bare tubers in a paper bag or sand-filled box.



Rex Begonia River Nile

Photo by: Corrine Arcangel

Non-tuberous begonias, such as your typical wax begonias and showy rex begonias, do not require a dormancy period. You can continue to enjoy their beautiful foliage indoors and will be rewarded with indoor blooms during the winter. Dig your plants up and repot in a loose well drained soil that is rich in humus. Fit the pot to the plant. Adequate room is needed for root growth but overpotting can lead to more water in the soil than the plant can absorb. This will smother the roots and kill the begonia. Place potted begonias in a bright, filtered light.

An east or west facing window that receives several hours of sunlight daily will work well. Water when the top inch of soil feels dry, but be careful not to let the roots sit in water. Use a houseplant fertilizer at half strength and you should be rewarded with luxurious foliage and blooms.

In the springtime, repot the tubers and gradually acclimate the potted tubers when they break dormancy and start to sprout. Begin watering and gradually move them into brighter light. When the outdoor temperatures are consistently above 60 degrees, you can relocate all of your potted begonias to the outdoors. Applying a time-released fertilizer after the plants begin to show new growth will give them a boost and maintain them during the next season.

Doing some fall cleaning?

We need a few things in the volunteer lounge. If you can help please drop supplies off in office 101 or the volunteer lounge!

- Utensil organizer
- Magnets for the fridge
- Folder organizers
- Paper reinforcements
- Tupperware to house food (in case of critters)



Photos by:
Todd Zintz



Thank You for all of your help with the
Botanical Garden's 8th Annual Gala Event!
We would not have been able
to do it without you!
This year was the most successful yet!

BOTANICAL GARDENS HISTORY

By : *Bob Snyder*

Continued from last month.....

Life in the United States was forever changed after World War II. It was a time of growth and development in our nation's history and it was no different at the Botanical Gardens. From 1945 to 1965 several notable events happened at the Gardens that are still affecting us to this very day.

Change began happening in 1946 with the newly appointed superintendent Louis H. Nubeck and carried on into the 50s when for the first time ever a chemical laboratory was put in place at the Gardens. Then in 1952, a phytopathology (the study and management of plant diseases) center was started to combat Dutch elm disease, which was at that time killing many of Buffalo's elm trees. The Buffalo Botanical Gardens became the only municipal facility in the country with such a program.

After a short stretch here, in 1954, Elmer M. Ahern retired as superintendent. He was succeeded by Dr. Leo F. Cullen in 1958 who had been supervising plantings in South Park since 1950. Dr. Cullen was the Gardens first director to have a doctorate in horticulture and he was named Botanist-in-charge. Dr. Cullen was known for his orchid collection.



In 1963 Raymond Fuerst (pronounced First) became the last superintendent appointed by the city of Buffalo. Mr. Fuerst was in charge in 1965 when the garage building was built behind the conservatory. At a cost of \$300,000, the new addition provided a large potting area, two propagating houses and a basement with a connecting tunnel to the conservatory.

The Buffalo Botanical Gardens was making great progress in many areas but it could not win the pollution battle with the steel industry. Photographs from the 50s and 60s show the main dome blackened by soot and smoke. There was no need to whitewash the conservatory in those days. The pollution was keeping the sun light to a minimum for us.

To be continued...



Like to take photos or have a story to tell?

This newsletter is run by you, let us know what you want to see! We need articles and pictures for the next newsletter and newsletters to come! Please let contact Karen Hammer if you are interested in contributing to the Volunteer Under the Dome!

We need your help!
Wegmans Family Days
 10:30am-2pm
 October 17-
Hispanic Heritage Day
 November 21-
Healthy Harvest
 December 12-
Santa's Workshop
 January 6-
Snow



We need your **Help** collecting supplies for our Poinsettia Exhibit



KNOW ANY INTERNS?

The Buffalo Botanical Gardens is looking for Administrative and facility interns.

If you know of anyone who has a background in computer networking, data input or community garden organization that needs a boost on their resume, please let them know we are looking for them!

Contact Karen Hammer for further details!

House 5—Drop off to Office 106

- SNOWGLOBES!! - Please save your glass jars of any size and shape. Jars must have matching tops. The jars should be sparkling clean and free of stickers and labels.
- We also need ribbons, glitter, small figurines, other items we might put inside the snow globes, glycerin and distilled water.



House 12—Drop off to Office 106

- 4 Large Bells
- Thick Silver Ribbon
- Small Silver Bows (to tie on the trees)



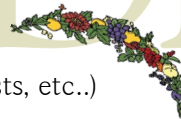
House 4—Drop off to Office 101

- Sombreros
- Green, Gold, Red, White, Silver, Spray Paint
- Cellophane or Water Resistant Paper



House 9—Drop off to Office 110

- Natural décor (anything natural, pine cones, bird nests, etc..)



House 11—Drop off to Office 103 or 104

- Plastic Candy Canes
- Toys & Hammers
- Plastic Gingerbread Men
- Snowflakes

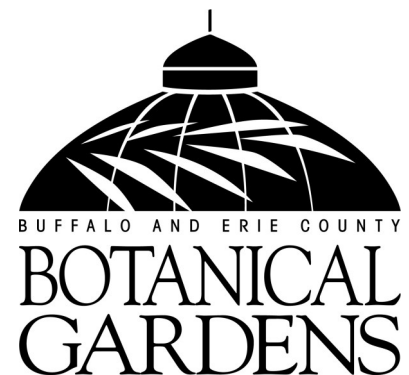


Family Garden—Drop off to Office 102

- Half Gallon Milk Jugs

House 6—Drop off to Office 102

- Scrap & tissue paper
- CDs
- Ribbon





2655 South Park Avenue
Buffalo, NY 14218

Check us out on the
web!
www.buffalogardens.com

Gardens Volunteers contribute their exceptional abilities and expertise to benefit our ever-growing community and recognize and share our mission of advancing appreciation for and knowledge of plant life and its connection to people and cultures through its documented living plant collection, historic conservatory, education, research and exhibits.

STAFF DIRECTORY

CALL 716.827.1584 IF YOU HAVE QUESTIONS

Administration

David J. Swarts
President/CEO
ext. 202 - dswarts@buffalogardens.com

Erin Grajek
Associate Vice President of Marketing
& Visitor Experience
ext. 204 - egrajak@buffalogardens.com

Julie DeCarolis
Senior Director of Operations
ext. 200 - jdecarolis@buffalogardens.com

Development

Brittany Finnegan-Zandi
Director of Development
ext. 203 - bzandi@buffalogardens.com

Education

Kristy Blakely
Director of Education
ext. 291 - kblakely@buffalogardens.com

Jolene Baj
Education Coordinator
ext. 292 - jbojar@buffalogardens.com

Amanda Oldham
Education Assistant
aoldham@buffalogardens.com

Facilities

Todd Zintz
Director of Facilities
ext. 214 - tzintz@buffalogardens.com

Guest Services & Gift Shop

Denise Nichols
Guest Services & Gift Shop Manager
ext. 209 - dnichols@buffalogardens.com

Mary Jane Stefano
Guest Services & Gift Shop Associate
Gift Shop - ext. 212

Holly Bloom
Guest Services & Gift Shop Associate
Gift Shop - ext. 212

Horticulture

Jeff Thompson
Director of Horticulture
ext. 205 - jthompson@buffalogardens.com

Kristin Lotz
Horticulturist
ext. 228 - klotz@buffalogardens.com

Darla Mohrlock
Gardener
dmohrlock@buffalogardens.com

Weddings and Private Events

Christina Stannard
Director of Weddings and Special Events
ext. 219 - cstannard@buffalogardens.com

Julie Mogavero
Weddings and Special Events Coordinator
ext. 220 - jmogavero@buffalogardens.com

Volunteer & Programs

Karen Hammer
Program & Volunteer Coordinator
ext. 207 - khammer@buffalogardens.com