



VOLUNTEER UNDER THE DOME

Volume 1, Issue 11

November '15

HORTICULTURE TIPS

By Corrine Arcangel

This month's horticulture tips come from Laura Wiltse-Tibbetts an avid dahlia grower and passionate gardener. Laura's dahlia interest started twelve years ago with a handful of tubers that has now grown to nearly 90 varieties and 130 plants on her village plot in Hamburg. As a member of the Hamburg House and Garden Club, Laura created the succulent horse that was part of the HH&GC's "Happy Trails" outdoor garden at the 2015 Erie County Fair. The display garden won the People's Choice award by generating the most monetary votes. The monies were then donated to the Botanical Gardens. The succulent covered "horse



turned unicorn" was on display in the Dome as part of the succulent show. Laura has a little advice for caring your dahlias:

Pull out the pruners and that garden fork! The changing of the seasons is upon us. With the hard frost it's time to think about digging this year's dahlias. Most dahlia enthusiasts have their own method of digging and over-wintering the precious tubers that will bring next season's stunning blooms. With that said I thought I'd share the simple tips I swear by.

- Be sure that plants are well labeled. Nothing is worse than a misnamed or no name variety.
- Never dig your dahlias too soon! Wait until the plant has died back (two weeks after a killing frost is appropriate or around mid-November at the latest). This waiting period is allowing the "eye" (the spot on the tuber where next year's plant will grow from) to set.
- When cutting down the plant be sure to leave a 6-8" stalk to use as a handle when you begin lifting the dahlias from the ground.
- Lift the dahlia clump very gently using a garden fork as to avoid breaking the "necks" on the tubers. It's a slow process, be patient!
- Line up the clumps and wash them off

with a hose. Store in a cool dry place until you are ready to divide.

- Divide in fall or spring? The choice is yours! For further information about dividing visit the American Dahlia Society website at...www.dahlia.org.
- Regardless of your dividing decision be sure that you keep the tubers in a place that maintains a cool temperature (40-45 degrees is best) and a dry environment.
- Check them once a month during over-wintering and insure that any tubers that may have issues are removed to prevent contamination of healthy tubers.
- Around mid-April I remove the tubers from their cool environment and warm them slowly. This process will stimulate the growth of the new growth and within a couple weeks (or when the threat of frost has passed) they will be ready to plant in the garden.

Good luck!



VOLUNTEER OF THE MONTH: JOHN DEPPLER

By: Fran Deppler

John has volunteered in the horticulture department here at the Gardens for 11 mighty years. Idle hands – an avid plant lover, John joined our

volunteer family after he retired to keep himself busy! Having grown up on a farm, he had

plenty of experience. John and his fellow volunteers do many tasks for the horticulture department; planting weeding, and keeping the Gardens beautiful for the community. he is no stranger to moving plants for our exhibits and breaking them down afterwards – anything Jeff needs!

Some fun facts about John is that he lives in West Seneca with his

lovely wife Fran. He is an upstanding citizen and is a former assistant police chief. John also volunteers for meals on wheels.

"I'll go wherever Jeff needs me... - John Deppler

Speaking of food, he is not a fussy eater, making sure to finish all Frans meals. Last but not least John does not have a favorite plant – he likes them all!

John Helping Jeff Cut down a shrub



Photos Courtesy: Rich Myers

BUFFALO AND ERIE COUNTY

BOTANICAL

PLANT OF THE MONTH:

MORTY AND HIS SIBLINGS - AMORPHALLUS TITANIUM

By: Sharon Reader

Morty and his siblings have been in the news lately and that is good for the Gardens. They were part of a video done by our own Dave Swarts, and also written up in the Buffalo News and on the Buffalo-Niagara Gardening.com site. People are corpse flower crazy. All three corpse flowers are in the dome and they are all at different heights of growth.

Unfortunately none are getting ready to bloom. They are all healthy and Morticia is the most spectacular of all. She grew almost 13 feet in two months. It is hoped that one of the siblings will bloom in the upcoming future, but only time will tell.

We have had the tubers since last July. Currently they are all in their leaf growth. The speckled growth looks like a trunk, but it is a stem holding the leaf. This leaf grows and stores energy to produce the flower sometime in the future. These siblings will go dormant and then grow again either into another leaf or we can hope a flower. There is no way of knowing. If you want to know more be sure to ask Jeff Thompson, our head gardener, he is very corpse flower knowledgeable.



Photos courtesy: Buffalo News

EDUCATION UPDATES



THEY WEAR THEIR SUNGLASSES AT NIGHT

By : Jolene Baj

As part of Docent Training, these docents-in-training went on a wild scavenger hunt all over the Gardens! They had to find and collect various items that they would use to teach different lessons. As a reward for all of their hard work, they were each given a pair of "I Love My Gardens" Sunglasses.

DOCENT GRADUATION!!

The Docent Class of 2015 will be celebrating their graduation from the training program on Thursday, November 12 at 6pm. If you would like to join in the celebration, please RSVP to Kristy by phone or email by Tuesday, November 10. Bring a dish to pass! Our newest docents are: Kylee A., Ann C., Bryan J., Susan M. and Janelle R.! Docent training is offered yearly, if you are interested in becoming a docent, leading school groups our tours of our wonderful gardens stay tuned for the next available opportunities. Our next Docent Meeting will be on Wednesday, January 6 at 10am in the Administration Building Garage area. Exciting news to follow about upcoming education meetings for 2016 in the next few issues!



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)



BOTANICAL RECIPES

Stilton & Watercress Spread

*From the Kitchen of:
Shirlein Schwartzott*

- 5 ounces stilton cheese, crumbled
- 4 ounces cream cheese, room temperature
- 5 tbsp butter, room temperature
- 1 bunch watercress, stems trimmed and leaves chopped
- 2 green onions, chopped
- ¼ cup finely chopped toasted walnuts (optional)

Directions

1. Mix ingredients until blended and season with salt and pepper.
2. Transfer to small bowl, cover and chill. Bring to room temperature before serving.

Serve with crackers.

Elephant Stew

*From the Kitchen of:
The Snyders*

- 1 elephant (medium)
- Salt
- Pepper
- Brown gravy
- 2 rabbits (optional)

**Directions**

1. Cut elephant into bite sized pieces. This should take about 2 months.
2. Add enough brown gravy to cover.
3. Cook over kerosene fire for about 4 weeks at 465°.

Makes 3800 servings. To extend it, add the rabbits, but do this only if necessary, as most people do not like to find hare in their stew.

Blueberry Lemon Trifle

*From the Kitchen of:
Shirlein Schwartzott*

- 3 cups fresh blueberries, divided
- 2 cans (15 ¾ ounces each) lemon pie filling
- 2 cartons (8 ounces each) lemon yogurt
- 1 prepared angel food cake, cut into 1 inch cubes
- 1 carton (8 ounces) frozen whipped topping, thawed
- Lemon slices
- Fresh mint

Directions

1. Set aside ¼ cup blueberries for garnish. In a bowl combine pie filling and yogurt.
2. In a 3 ½ quart serving bowl, layer a third of the cake cubes, then lemon mixture and blueberries. Repeat layers two more times.
3. Top with whipped topping. Cover and refrigerate at least 3 hours. Garnish with reserved blueberries, lemon slices, and mint.

Makes 12-14 Servings. Low fat or non-fat items can be substituted wherever possible.

**Amazing Chocolate Balls**

*From the Kitchen of:
Sandy Voss*

- 4 coconut date rolls
- 2 tbsp non-alkaline and sugar free cocoa powder
- ¾ cup organic peanut butter
- 1 to 3 tbsp milk
- Sunflower seeds (optional)

Directions

Blend in food processor, roll into balls and freeze. If using sunflower seeds, roll outside of balls in seeds before freezing.



Horticulture Volunteers Needed!

Poinsettia Exhibit Pre Set-up Bulb Planting

Monday 11/16 - 9am-11:30pm *Moving plants and setting up show items.*

Poinsettia Exhibit Set-Up

Monday 11/23 - 9am-11:30pm *Moving plants and setting up show items.*

*Please contact the Horticulture Department.
(Directory is on the back.)*

We need your help!

Wegmans Family Days

10:30am-2pm

November 21-

Healthy Harvest

December 12-

Santa's Workshop

January 6-

Let it Snow



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!



Wegmans family Garden

Crafting & Set up

Monday November 23rd

Igloo assembly and winter fun crafting

9:30am-11:30am - Admin Building

1:30pm-5pm - Admin Building

Tuesday November 24th

Hang chains, ribbon décor, wreaths, decorate tree and place igloo in the Children's Garden. Hang small white snowflake ornaments from chains and beams.

5pm-8pm - Conservatory



House 4 *Feliz Navidad* Set up w/Karen Hammer

November 16th

1:30pm-5pm - House 4

Setting up house 4 for the exhibit!

November 17th

1:30pm-5pm - House 4

Setting up house 4 for the exhibit!

BOTANICAL GARDENS HISTORY

By : Bob Snyder

Continued from last month.....

Between 1963 and 1971, Superintendent Raymond Fuerst was in charge of the Botanical Gardens when the garage behind the Gardens was built. That was a great accomplishment but so too was his touch and smell garden for the blind. With the cooperation of the 8th District Federated Garden Clubs, Superintendent Fuerst established a garden area for sightless persons. For the first time ever the Buffalo Botanical Gardens had a designated area in the conservatory where the blind could come to imagine the beauty of flowers and plants by touching and smelling them. Buffalo's Association for the blind provided braille identification labels for the plants in house five.

The next person put in charge of the Gardens was O. Burke Glaser. Mr. Glaser was named South Park's head grower in 1964 and later he was named specialist of Horticulture Management for the park. Then in 1971 he was named director of the Botanical Gardens. Mr. Glaser was well known for designing elaborate mum shows that filled several of the conservatories green houses to overflowing. He was also instrumental in establishing the use of the Gardens for weddings and special events.

One of the most remarkable parts of Mr. Glaser's tenure at the Gardens happened during the Blizzard of 1977. The story is legendary and it to establish O. Burke Glaser as one of the Gardens leading historic the Gardens on January 28th of 1977 when one of the worst storms Western New York area. The 69 mile per hour winds had already vent windows of cactus house 4 destroying \$30,000 worth of cacti. Mr. Glaser then discovered that the fuel oil used to heat the Conservatory would soon run out. In blizzard conditions, Mr. Glaser drove a snowplow through the snow covered streets of Buffalo to rescue a six thousand gallon fuel oil delivery truck that was stuck on William Street. When he got there it was discovered that the brakes on the oil truck were damaged due to the storm. Undaunted, he managed to pull the tanker free and then drove in front of it plowing all of the way back to the Gardens. He arrived in time to refill the storage tanks just minutes before the fuel oil ran out thus saving one of Buffalo's greatest treasures.

To be continued.....



Photos by:
Google image

helps figures. Burke was at on record hit the blown away the



Photo by: Rich Myers



November

*"November comes
And November goes,
With the last red berries
And the first white snows.*

*With night coming early,
And dawn coming late,
And ice in the bucket
And frost by the gate.*

*The fires burn
And the kettles sing,
And earth sinks to rest
Until next spring."*

- Elizabeth Coatsworth
(Submitted by Bob Snyder)

GETTING TO KNOW TODD ZINTZ

By: Ruth Kaman



Todd is the Director of Facilities here at the Gardens, a position he has held for ten years. His duties include the maintenance of the buildings and grounds and assuring the buildings are clean for our visitors. He also is The Gardens liaison to the County for capital improvements and utility issues.

He lives in Orchard Park with his wife and two dogs. He likes to golf, travel and ride his motorcycle. Todd likes photography and takes many pictures for and of the



Photos by: Todd Zintz

Todd has a degree in turf management from the University of Massachusetts and spent 24 years in the golf course industry, seventeen of those years as a golf course superintendent. He gained extra building skills working for Verizon and Total Tan before coming aboard at the Gardens in 2005.

Gardens. His favorite place to take photos is in the woods outside his home. The seasonal employee montage photos in the volunteer break room are his work. He also makes notecards and x-mas cards and is happy to share them.

LONGWOOD'S GARDENS: *BUSMAN'S HOLIDAY*

By: Bob Snyder



A holiday or vacation during which one does something similar to what one does as work.

So what does one do that spends a great deal of time at the Buffalo and Erie County Botanical Gardens when on vacation? Why he visits a botanical gardens of course. On October 13th while on vacation with my wife and youngest daughter I went to the Longwood Gardens in Kennett Square, Pennsylvania. Wow! It's everything everybody says about it and then some.

We got there in the morning just after it opened and spent a good six hours wandering through the buildings, the mansion and the grounds. It's easy to understand how you could spend the whole day there. We bought lunch at their cafeteria and dined outside on the patio. The food was excellent.



And now some facts about Longwood's.: To walk the entire 20-room Conservatory at a leisurely pace takes about 1 1/2 - 2 hours and covers 1/2 mile. The 20 outdoor gardens take an additional two to three hours and cover 2 1/4 - 3 1/4 miles of walking. The Heritage Exhibit in the Peirce-du Pont House takes 1/2 to one hour. A cafeteria and full-service dining room are both available at Longwood.

My wife talked with a couple of the volunteers who were trimming ivy when we were in the conservatory. They were from Lackawanna, NY and had moved to the Kennette Square, PA six years ago. They told us that the average temperature in that area is ten degrees warmer than in Buffalo. They also said there are 800 volunteers at Longwood's and 350 employees.

We were lucky the day we visited. There are several fountains on the grounds at the gardens and we were told that they would be shut off for the season the next day. The water effects are not to be missed, they put on quite a show. We were also fortunate to see the garden railroad in action. It is outside next to the cafeteria and from all appearances only the trains get put away, not the tracks or the scenery.





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