



VOLUNTEER UNDER THE DOME

Volume 1, Issues 2

February 15'

BOTANICAL HISTORY

By: Bob Snyder

History at the Botanical Gardens is happening all of the time. The events that occurred during the third week of November 2014 are truly memorable.

Starting on Monday evening through Tuesday, a double lake effect pre-winter snow storm buried the Botanical Gardens under 6 ft of snow. The Gardens were heavily damaged. Those of us who have a love affair with the Botanical Gardens were going into shock at the thought of what might be happening to our beloved house of glass. To the rescue came four heroic staff members.

Kristy Blakely, Education Director, using skis, was the first to reach the Gardens Wed Nov 19. She took photographs, looked for damage and made a preliminary assessment of the situation before returning home completely exhausted. The next day Kristy and Travis Schmitt, a facilities worker, returned to the Gardens. They took more photographs and shoveled snow from building entrances. That same day Jeff Thompson, Director of Horticulture, drove from Newfane to the Gardens. He



got as far as the Lackawanna city line. From there he traveled the rest of the way, over a mile, on snowshoes and carrying a backpack full of provisions. Once inside the building the three staff members surveyed the damage and started the recovery work. Jeff stayed all night and shoveled snow off of the greenhouse roofs.

It was Saturday before Gardens CEO Dave Swarts was able to drive to the Gardens.

He made it to Abbott Road where he parked his car. He walked the last mile before he had to climb over a thirty foot pile of snow to get into the Gardens.

Once inside he met up with Kristy and Jeff. The three of them cleaned up broken glass, removed damaged exhibits and began watering some very thirsty plants. The scope of the work was almost overwhelming.

By Sunday, the driving bans were lifted and other Gardens staff members began showing up to

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continue the rescue effort. The head of facilities, Todd Zintz, directed three highlifts as they cleared parking lots, driveways and the ring road.

On Monday, the 24th, the full staff returned to the Gardens to assist in the recovery. Also on Monday, Erie County declared the Gardens an emergency area which allowed for an outside construction company to come in and begin replacing 150 broken panes of glass.

Through storm, sleet, snow and hail four individuals risked their lives to save a Western New York cultural icon. They are our Botanical Gardens heroes. Thank you Dave, Jeff, Kristy and Travis for what you have done. Your efforts were of epic proportions and will long be remembered. Bravo!



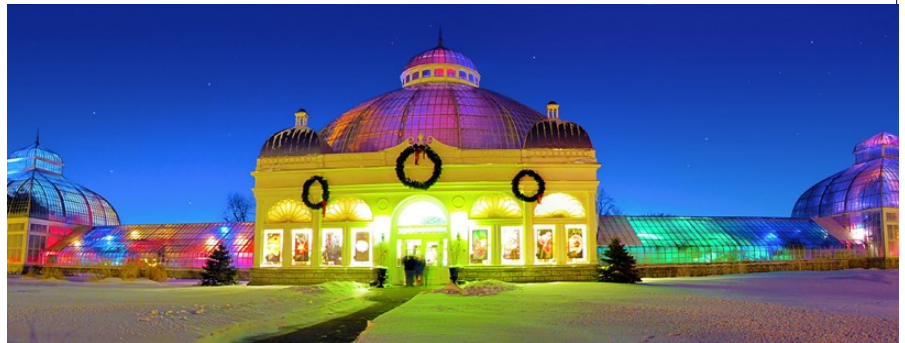
UPCOMING EVENTS

The Gift Shop Needs Your Help!

Not trained in the Gift Shop & Customer Service Department?

No problem!

Please just let me know if you are interested we can get you in contact with our Gift Shop Manager, Denise. (directory on the back)



We Need Your Help!

Lumagination!!!!

Nights of LIGHT @ the Botan!!

Wednesday– January 28th – 5:30pm to 9:30pm

Thursday– January 29th– 5:30pm to 9:30pm

Saturday – January 31st – 5:30pm to 9:30pm

Wednesday – February 4th – 5:30pm to 9:30pm

Thursday – February 5th – 5:30pm to 9:30pm

Wednesday– February 11th – 5:30pm to 9:30pm

Thursday – February 12th – 5:30pm to 9:30pm

Saturday – February 14th – 5:30pm to 9:30pm

Wednesday– February 18th – 5:30pm to 9:30pm

Thursday – February 19th – 5:30pm to 9:30pm

Friday – February 20th – 5:30pm to 9:30pm

Saturday – February 21st – 5:30pm to 9:30pm

Please email Karen Hammer if interested,

Do you have any administrative skills? If so and you're looking to volunteer please give Karen Hammer, our Program & Volunteer Coordinator a EMAIL OR CALL!

Hear those Bells?????

The Weddings and Special Events department is gearing up for wedding season! We have so many weddings booked already; it's going to be a busy summer! We have a core group of about 15 volunteers who regularly help out with the brides and grooms. Without these amazing volunteers, the department could not have such successful events. If you think you're up for the challenge of working with us, please let us know. You should be willing and able to help set up for the weddings, as well as talk to the clients and their guests. The most important thing we look for in our volunteers is your willingness to have fun while you work!



Christina Stannard

UPCOMING EVENTS

Education Volunteer Needs

Volunteer Needs- Kids Day
Thursday, February 19th

Kids Activities: (Docents or Edu Vols only)

Set up, clean up, help kids make simple crafts.

9:30am-1:00pm

Tissue Paper Flowers (Family Garden):

Toilet Paper Tube Trees (House 11):

Pipe Cleaner Finger Puppets (House 11):

1:00pm-4:00pm

Fork Dandelions (Family Garden):

Pom Pom Caterpillars (House 11):

Ribbon Clouds (House 11):

Volunteer Watchers (All Volunteers Welcome)

Walk around the Gardens and make sure crowds are flowing smoothly, answering people's questions about plants and other things.

2 Vols Needed 10:00 am-12:00pm

1 Vol Needed 12:00pm-2:00pm

Wegmans Family Day

Saturday, February 21st

'The Wonderful World of Fruit'

Volunteers needed between 9:30am-2:15pm

*Please email Karen Hammer if interested,
 Directory located on the back*



HAPPY BIRTHDAY

- Ronnie D—Feb 4th
- Julie P— Feb 12th
- Travis S—Feb 15th
- Christine S—Feb 15th
- Richard F—Feb 15th
- Louise R—Feb 17th
- Karen H—Feb 25th
- Bob S—Feb 26th
- Evie D—Feb 28th

Happy Birthday!!!

HORTICULTURE TIPS

By: Corrine Arcangel

Jeff Thompson, Director of Horticulture, offered a wealth of information on Integrated Pest Management and how it is implemented at the Gardens. Many facilities that are able to isolate a greenhouse by removing all plant material have a very effective means of sanitizing the space; heating and or fumigating the greenhouse. Lacking water and plant material, the pests are unable to survive in the heated environment. The challenge at the Gardens is that we cannot isolate many of the houses that contain the collection. Jeff supports the IPM approach of using more biological and beneficial pests and would like to see this implemented more at the Gardens. Beneficial pests can become self-sustaining, providing long term control of the spaces they populate. This minimizes the use of toxic chemicals in the environment where we work, school children come to learn, and visitors come to enjoy. Some of the pesticides we use now are chemicals friendly to beneficials but still able to control targeted pests. Biological methods are used exclusively in the Children's Garden, House 12 because of the bees, and during the Butterfly Exhibit, as butterflies are very susceptible to insecticides. In these areas you may notice more live release, IPM hanging tags, and egg sachets that contain eggs of predatory species such as beetles, mites and wasps.

Other means of IPM being used at the Gardens include pruning plants, high power jet washing and the always reliable mechanical removal which Jeff referred to as the "pick and squish" method. A recently purchased Arborjet tree injection system is used to administer systemic chemicals to woody plants. The plants will uptake the chemical for up to a year while soil contamination and residual chemicals in the environment are eliminated.

Jeff imparted his philosophy when he stated: "My whole life I have been an organic gardener in my home and business. I never recommended a chemical when there was a softer alternative that works. Softer control measures benefit everyone". Thank you Jeff for your dedication to the Gardens and to the environment we live in.

Jeff Thompson



PLANT OF THE MONTH: *This one doesn't eat peanuts* By: Donna Ludwig

While searching through the Gardens to find

something to investigate, I discovered the Elephant's foot. It hides in a corner in House 9 just before entering House 10 and usually looks like a chopped piece of wood. I just didn't get the appeal.

Then while touring during the Chelsea Flower Show, I saw one with some educational information. This plant is quite the hidden treasure.

It is actually a woody tuber of the yam, that is native in southern Africa. The tuber can reach up to 3 feet in diameter, and specimens weighing several hundred pounds have been reported.

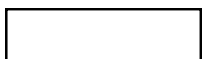
During the summer months the plant is leafless, conserving energy in the summer heat. I guess this is how I usually found it. However, every year thin climbing stems with small leaves emerge from the tuber. Like almost all yams (*Dioscorea*), *D. elephantipes* is dioecious; it has separate male and female plants. The male flowers are yellowish-green and are borne on an

inflorescence up to 8 cm long, which is present from November to February.

The elephant's foot or tortoise shell has been used as a food for local people during times of famine leading to another name "Hottentot bread"

What really got my attention is that other members in the genus *Dioscorea* are used to extract steroidal saponins which are used to produce cortisone.

Many of the South African species have been over-harvested for horticultural and testing purposes.



NEW EDUCATION PROGRAM: WEGMANS FAMILY DAYS

By : Kristy Blakely & Amanda Oldham

New for 2015, the Education Department is expanding the food and nutrition themed Saturday Wegmans Family Garden program with new Wegmans Family Days. Wegmans Family Days will be taking place regularly most third Saturdays of the month, with the exception of July and August. The upcoming programs list is below. If you are interested in volunteering for these fun kids' activities, please email Amanda Oldham, the Education Assistant. When you sign up, Amanda will send you a lesson plan via email.

We'll be kicking off the newly expanded Wegmans Family Days program on Saturday, January 17th with a 'Winter Wonderland' theme. Activities include creating rice snowflakes, winter bird feeders, a

marshmallow snowman picture and a hibernating bear in various locations throughout the Gardens. Volunteers are needed between 9:30am-2:15pm. Volunteers should arrive at 9:30am to help with the set up for the various stations before the Gardens opens. The event runs from 10am until 2pm. When you arrive, please check in with Amanda and she will go over your role with you. She'll be posted in the Wegmans Family Garden. Don't forget your nametag!

Upcoming Wegmans Family Days:
February 21 – The Wonderful World of Fruit

- Visitors can come learn about different types of fruit, how they grow, and why they are so good for us! See some fruity highlights from our collection and enjoy

some fresh fruit juice at our fabulous fruit squeeze. Then, create some fun fruit crafts, including paper plate apple cores, tissue paper strawberries, and painted fruit stamps.

Wegmans



UPCOMING EVENTS IN THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT

By Kristy Blakely

The next Kids Day will be taking place on Thursday, February 19. Kids are admitted to the Gardens free that day and fun activities will be taking place throughout the Gardens. We'll need at least 10 volunteers to help that day between 10 & 2pm. Look for an email from Karen for sign-ups!

The Victorian Tea is coming up on Sunday, March 8th. This year's theme is the 'Silk Road'. Participants in the tea will be creating their own loose-leaf tea blends as they learn about the history of tea. Volunteers will be needed the week before to help with centerpiece creation, cleaning and sorting of china, menu assembly and other tasks. We will also need helpers the day of for the basket auction, photo booth, check-in and ticketing

and set-up/clean-up. Look for a future volunteer email from Karen to sign-up.

The next docent meeting will be taking place on Wednesday, February 4th at 10am in the garage area (upstairs) of the Administration Building. The topic is the National Docent Symposium!

Both current docents and general education volunteers are welcome to attend the meeting. At every docent meeting, docents are able to sign up to teach lessons on the docent schedule, be briefed on departmental updates and participate in 'docent professional development' with information

relevant to the Gardens or to supplement their teaching practices.

If you are interested in becoming a docent, planning is underway for the training program for the Docent Class of 2015, hopefully starting in September of this year. If this is something you are interested in, please email Kristy and Karen so they can add you to a list of



Docents Louise R. and Eileen O. listen to a mini-tour presentation (photo by Dorothy W.)

interested volunteers and send you updates!

VOLUNTEER OF THE MONTH

By : Sharon Reader

Meet Betsy Scheidemann, she has been a volunteer for about three years at the Gardens. Betsy is a Horticulture Volunteer and mainly works on Tuesdays. She does whatever is needed and is glad to help. Her favorite location at the Gardens is the Dome; she likes it for its beauty. She is on the Holiday Luncheon Committee and worked on the Decorating Committee for Expect the Unexpected.



When not at the Gardens, Betsy calls Amherst home, and keeps herself busy making beautiful handmade note cards from all-natural elements. She likes to hike, camp, kayak, and cross-country ski. Betsy also volunteers as an usher at Shea's. She is a great addition to the volunteers at the Gardens and always is willing to help.

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 impute, 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!

BOTANICAL RECIPES

Crockpot chicken

From the Kitchen of: Shirlein Schwartzott

Serves: 2-3 Prep Time: 4-5hrs

1 whole chicken (about 5 -6 LBS)

Olive oil cooking spray

aluminum foil

Rub Seasoning

4 tsp salt

2 tsp. paprika

1 tsp cayenne pepper

1 tsp onion powder

1 tsp thyme

1 tsp white pepper

1/2 tsp garlic powder

1/2 tsp black pepper



Clean chicken inside and out. Spray with olive oil spray

Sprinkle inside and out with seasonings

Spray inside of crock with cooking spray.

Note: **do not** put any water in the crockpot.

Roll some wads of aluminum foil into balls and put them in the bottom of the crock . At least 3 balls will work.

The chicken is going to sit on these.

Put chicken back side down in crock on top of aluminum balls.

Cook on High (will not come out the same on low). Cook 4 to 6 hours.

BUFFALO & ERIE COUNTY BOTANICAL GARDENS' BEGONIA SOCIETY

By Karen Hammer

On a bright and brisk Wednesday morning in January I had the pleasure of talking with two lovely green-thumbed ladies: Corrine Arcangel & Shirley Hines. In 2007, these wonderful women initiated and founded the first Buffalo and Erie County Botanical Gardens Begonia Society. They diligently work on leaf and rhizome propagation, weeding, plant dividing, watering, pruning, as well as getting plants ready for display in House 6 and Prop House 2. There are branches of the American Begonia Society all over the US, but the closest one to us is in New York City so these ladies are the only people in western New York to work with and understand the complex diversity of these plants.

Begonias are a genus of perennial flowering plants in the family *Begoniaceae*. The genus contains about 1,400 different plant species. The begonias are native to moist subtropical and tropical climates. Some species are commonly grown indoors as ornamental houseplants in cooler climates. In cooler climates some species are cultivated outside in summertime for their bright colorful flowers, which have sepals but no petals. One of the fun facts I learned from the Society is that begonias have both male and female flowers on one plant.

Corrine and Shirley both have personal favorites, Corrine's is called 'Paul Hernandez'. It's currently on display in House 6, definitely look for it- it's a beauty! It definitely isn't a windowsill plant though. Under



Corrine and Shirley hard at work in Prop House 2



the right conditions, it can grow to be twelve feet high! Shirley has so many she can't decide on just one. One thing they both knew for sure is that they want everyone to know that begonias are not just an outside annual you plant and forget, they all have amazing textures, sizes, shapes, and colors. If you ever want to learn more come see the begonia ladies Wednesday mornings around 9am in House 6 or Prop House 2.



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
extension 202 -
dswarts@buffalogardens.com

Erin Grajek, Associate Vice President of
Marketing &
Visitor Experience
extension 204 -
egrajek@buffalogardens.com

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

Development

Betsy Webster, Director of Development
extension 203 -
bwebster@buffalogardens.com

Education

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

Jolene Bojar, Education Program
Coordinator
extension 292 -
jbojar@buffalogardens.com

Amanda Oldham, Education Program
Assistant
aoldham@buffalogardens.com

Facilities

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

Guest Services & Gift Shop

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

Mary Jane Stefano, Guest Services & Gift
Shop Associate

Gift Shop - extension 212

Horticulture

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

Julie McDonald, Horticulturist
extension 208 -
jhughes@buffalogardens.com

Kristin Lotz, Horticulturist
extension 228 - klotz@buffalogardens.com

Darla Mohrlock, Gardener
dmohrlock@buffalogardens.com

Weddings and Private Events

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

Alexis Schmitz, Weddings and Special
Events Coordinator
extension 220 -
aschmitz@buffalogardens.com

Volunteers

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