We cultivate the power of plants to sustain and enrich life.

Chicago Botanic Garden Marks Record 1.275 Million Visitors in 2019
Attendance Increased by 22 Percent over 2018

The 2019 attendance at the Chicago Botanic Garden was the highest ever, with 1.275 million visitors, representing an increase of 22 percent over 2018. Attendance exceeded one million visitors for the seventh year in a row, revealing that our Garden continues to be an ideal year-round destination for people who enjoy being immersed in nature.

“We were thrilled to welcome more people than ever before to the Chicago Botanic Garden,” said Jean Franczyk, president and CEO of the Chicago Botanic Garden. “Our attendance growth affirms that people want to spend more time in gardens and green spaces, where they can feel a connection to nature.”

Event programming at the Garden in 2019 included the new holiday show Lightscape, which sold out in its first year; Night of 1,000 Jack-o’-Lanterns, a Halloween event featuring hand-carved pumpkins that sold out its extended run; Bees & Beyond, a Garden-wide exhibition revealing the vital role of pollinators; and In the Tropics: The Orchid Show, a tropical-themed display of 10,000 orchids.

In its U.S. debut, Lightscape provided attendees with an enchanting, after-dark illuminated trail inspired by and created just for the Garden. It was an unseasonably warm November and December, and Lightscape became the holiday season’s hottest ticket. The event far exceeded expectations, selling out 33 evenings with more than 175,000 attendees. In its fourth year, Night of 1,000 Jack-o’-Lanterns, an October display of more than 1,000 expertly hand-carved and lit pumpkins, sold out 10 evenings with more than 51,000 attendees.

Save the Date - Tuesday, April 7
Regenstein Center Alsdorf Auditorium
1 p.m. Volunteer State of the Garden Address featuring Jean Franczyk
Garden President & Chief Executive Officer
As a valued member of the Garden family, volunteers are invited to attend. Please join us at this important annual meeting held exclusively for Garden volunteers.

2 p.m. Volunteer Safety and Security Meeting featuring Roger Caldwell, Manager of Security and Tim Johnson, Senior Director Horticulture
We will review important Garden safety and security procedures, including accident and injury notification, where to report in emergency situations, and how you can help when emergencies occur. We will also review how to avoid injuries when volunteering at the Garden, including proper lifting procedures, tool safety, and more.

Please R.S.V.P. for both meetings to the Volunteer Services Office: volunteer@chicagobotanic.org or (847) 835-8392.

Record 1.275 Million Visitors cont’d page 3
**CAN YOU HELP?**

SIGN UP OR CALL JUDY CASHEN (847) 835-6800 or DEBORAH HERNANDEZ (847) 835-6803

E-mail jcashen@chicagobotanic.org or dhernandez@chicagobotanic.org

We’ll try to match your interests and availability for assignments.

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**Regenstein Learning Campus**

**Information Desk**

Monday and Wednesday - Sunday 1 – 5 p.m.

Welcome Garden visitors, provide 5-star customer service, assist with directions and inquiries, confirm scheduled programs, and share information from the daily calendar, brochures & Garden website.

Must be comfortable working with groups of children and adults.

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**Regenstein Center**

**Information Desk**

January - November

Sunday 1 – 5 p.m.

Friday 9 a.m. – 1 p.m.

Welcome Garden visitors, provide 5-star customer service, assist with directions and inquiries, confirm scheduled programs, and share information from the daily calendar, brochures & Garden website.

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**Family Drop-in Activities**

June 6-August 23

Morning and afternoon shifts

Assist with fun outdoor activities at the Regenstein Learning Center.

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**Spring Break Camp**

Weekdays

March 23-27

9 a.m. – 12 p.m. or 12 – 4 p.m.

Assist with all aspects of youth camp. Must enjoy working with kids and standing is required.

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**Post-Orchid Show Plant Sale**

**Newspaper Prep**

Regenstein Center

Tuesday, March 17

9:30 a.m. – 12 p.m.

Lay out newspaper in neat stacks in preparation for the Post-Orchid Show Plant Sale.

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**Post-Orchid Show Plant Sale**

**Set Up**

Nichols Hall

Monday – Wednesday

March 23 – 25

9 a.m. – 12 p.m. or 1 – 3:30 p.m.

Assist with setting up orchids from The Orchid Show to be sold at the Sale.

Take down March 27, 9-12:30 p.m.

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**Post-Orchid Show Plant Sale**

Regenstein Center

Thursday, March 26

9:30 a.m. – 1 p.m. or 1 – 4:15 p.m.

Assist with welcoming and directing visitors, wrapping the orchids for transport, or with shuttling deliveries.

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**Spring Clean-up in the**

**Fruit & Vegetable Garden**

Wednesday, March 18

9 a.m. – noon

Help with spring clean-up in the Regenstein Fruit & Vegetable Garden.

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**Display Gardens**

Weekday mornings

April-November, 9 a.m. – noon

Outdoor horticulture projects. Must bend, kneel, stoop and lift 10 lbs.

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**Easter Egg Brunch**

Sunday, April 12

8:30 a.m. – noon or 11 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.

Assist with putting wristbands on children and monitoring and hiding Easter Eggs for the Easter Egg Dash.

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**Pollination and Demography**

**Seed Project**

Science Center Lab

Weekdays

Volunteers are needed to assist with seed dissection, viability detection and data entry. Curiosity, desire to learn more about the ecology of plants and good eyesight required.

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**Interpretive Programs**

**Fruit & Vegetable Garden**

**English Walled Garden**

**Japanese Garden**

May 13 – October 4

Wednesdays, Thursdays & Fridays

11 a.m. – 3 p.m.

Saturdays & Sundays

11 a.m. – 4 p.m.

Offer visitors a personal contact and welcome; spark visitors’ curiosity and increase their knowledge of the Garden. Training will be provided.

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**Butterflies & Blooms**

May 23 – September 7

Tuesdays

9:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m.

Wednesdays, Fridays and Sundays

Saturdays

9:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. or 1 – 5 p.m.

Volunteers are needed to assist at the Butterflies & Blooms exhibition. Training is required.

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During the summer months, Bees & Beyond inspired a genuine appreciation for the role pollinators play in our everyday lives and in a healthy, diverse planet with pollinator-themed display gardens, rusty-patched bumblebee topiaries, an interactive exhibition and more throughout the Garden. In its sixth year, the Orchid Show, themed In the Tropics, captured the spirit of places like the South Pacific and Amazon and provided nearly 44,000 attendees a lush oasis, with the luminous feel of an endless summer, during an unusually cold February and March.

Erin Benassi

Fred Spicer Garden Update

Garden Update shares important information from Fred Spicer, Executive Vice President and Director of the Garden.

Lightscape exceeded all of the Garden’s expectations. The goal was to double the attendance for our holiday show. The month of highest attendance in 2019 was December with more than 150,000 visitors, the third best month in the Garden’s history. The show was sold-out nearly every night and additional tickets were added to select evenings. We hope that everyone was able to experience the sights and sounds of this exceptional event. If you did not attend, the great news is that it will be returning next year!

Replacement of the north stairs of the Regenstein Center will begin in the spring. The steps will be replaced with a different kind of limestone that is denser and harder. The upper and lower brick terrace will be replaced with bricks that match the bricks on the Esplanade to unify the appearance, and the lower band of limestone at the bottom terrace will be replaced. The doors will be replaced with automatic sliding doors and a new glass facade.

The plans and specifications have been completed for the Shida Evaluation Garden and shoreline project on the Kris Jarantoski Campus. This garden will extend from the south weir opposite the Grainger Center entrance nearly up to the Science Center on both sides of the East Road, and includes the shoreline restoration adjacent to that road and Marsh Island. This will be a two-year project, beginning this spring. A large portion of the East Road will be closed to all traffic during the construction. All pedestrian, bicycle and auto traffic will share the Greenhouse Road next to the golf course. Extreme caution and patience is encouraged for everyone as this will be a very busy and congested thoroughfare.

The Orchid Show will take place February 8 – March 22 in the Regenstein Center Greenhouses and Galleries. Check the Garden website for specific details and special times for photographers and evening events. The theme this year is “Brilliance” and there will be abundant colorful displays.

The Garden operates for twelve months and there is no down time. The budget for 2020 is complete and priorities are being determined for maintenance as well as programming for the Garden. Future updates will shared in upcoming newsletters. Happy New Year to all and a thank you to all of the wonderful Garden volunteers.

Ken Krebs

Brilliance:
The Orchid Show
Members’ Preview
Friday, February 7, 5 – 8 p.m.
Exhibition Open Daily
Saturday, February 8 – Sunday, March 22
10 a.m. – 4 p.m.
Early close at 2 p.m. March 7
Orchids After Hours every Thursday and Valentine’s Day 4-8 p.m.

Brilliance: The Orchid Show 2020, will be open Saturday, February 8 through Sunday March 22, from 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. daily, with special evening hours on Thursdays and Valentine’s Day when the show will be open until 8 p.m. Picture a modern world of brilliant living color, with sweeps pf orchids featured in artistic installations designed to highlight their hues. A special Member’s Preview will be held on Friday, February 7 from 5 – 8 p.m. (separate ticket fee applies). The exhibition will feature more than 10,000 orchids throughout Nichols Hall, Joutras Gallery, the Greenhouse Galleries, and the East and South Greenhouses. On Thursday evenings and on Valentine’s Day, Orchids After Hours guests will enjoy orchids in the...
evening where food and beverage will be available for purchase in Nichols Hall. Tripods, monopods and photography screens are not permitted in the show during regular hours, however on Thursday mornings 8:15-9:45 a.m., tickets are available for purchase for photographers with tripods and monopods. Free concerts are scheduled in Nichols Hall on Tuesday and Thursday mornings from 10 – 11 a.m. The Orchid Marketplace will be held each weekend in Nichols Hall. Additional events include an Evening with Orchids on Wednesday, March 11 from 6 – 8 p.m. (separate ticket fee applies), and the Illinois Orchid Society Show & Sale on March 14 and 15 from 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. (free admission). Brilliance: The Orchid Show 2020 tickets are available for purchase online, $14 for adults and $11 for seniors and children ages 3 – 12. Members receive $2 off each ticket.

Visit http://www.chicagobotanic.org/orchid for more information and to purchase tickets. Please note that weekend and President’s Day tickets are timed, weekday tickets are not timed. The Post Orchid Show Plant Sale will take place on Thursday, March 26. Garden Plus Members, Director's Circle and President’s Circle members are invited to shop from 10 a.m. – noon. All Garden members are welcome to shop from noon – 2 p.m. The general public is invited to shop from 2 p.m. – 4 p.m. Volunteers will be needed to assist daily at the show, morning music concerts, and the Post Orchid Show Plant Sale. To express an interest in volunteering, contact the Volunteer Services Office at volunteer@chicagobotanic.org or (847) 835-8392.

Spring Volunteer Opportunity Fair
Sunday & Monday
March 1 & 2 from 1 – 3 p.m.
Regenstein Center Linnaeus Room
The Volunteer Opportunity Fair is held each year to provide information to current and prospective volunteers regarding upcoming needs for support. The event focus on Sunday will be on weekend volunteer opportunities, and the focus on Monday will be on weekday opportunities. This event provides an informal setting for both prospective and current volunteers to meet our dedicated staff and to learn more about the important work of the Chicago Botanic Garden.

Plants of Concern
Plants of Concern is a rare plant monitoring program offered by the Chicago Botanic Garden. Volunteer citizen scientists track plants throughout the Chicagoland area using standardized protocols to gather invaluable data. New volunteers are required to attend a Plants of Concern workshop in March. For workshop dates and registration, please go to www.plantsofconcern.org or contact Gretel Kiefer, manager of Plants of Concern: gkiefer@chicagobotanic.org or (847) 835-6927.

Fun Family Drop-in Activities
Daily June 6 – August 23
Morning and Afternoon Shifts
This summer, free family drop-in activities will be held at the Regenstein Learning Campus. The activities will provide fun, hands-on activities for families and children. In the Nature Play Garden, children can roll down the hills, splash in the runnel, and hide in the log tunnels. Volunteers will facilitate multi-sensory activities and exploration. Children and caregivers can build forts, engage in creative play with natural materials, and construct cork boats to float down the runnel. Activities vary week to week. If you enjoy volunteering outside with children and families, then this is the program for you! For more information or to express interest, please contact the Volunteer Services Office at volunteer@chicagobotanic.org or (847) 835-8392.
etiquette, answer questions from visitors, and assist with visitor entry and exit protocol (such as watching for “hitchhiking” butterflies as visitors exit) per USDA regulations.

Volunteer help is needed daily, and especially on weekends. Training is required. High school students 16 and older and college students are also encouraged to volunteer. Volunteers must be able stand outdoors in various weather conditions.

If you are interested in joining this great team, please contact Judy Cashen, director, volunteer administration and engagement at jcashen@chicagobotanic.org or (847) 835-6800 for details.

Volunteers please remember to lock up any personal belongings while volunteering at the Garden. Lockers are available for volunteer use in designated areas, including the Volunteer Services Office located in the Regenstein Center lower level. It is important that all volunteers sign in upon arrival, and not at the end of the shift. Please take special care when walking through the Garden during the winter months. Allow sufficient time to arrive safely at your volunteer service area, and wear shoes or boots that provide traction on snow or ice. In case of onsite emergencies or injuries at the Garden, call (847) 835-8321 or contact security on radio channel 2. Kindly notify your supervisor and complete an incident report if you are injured during your volunteer shift. Contact the Volunteer Services Office at (847) 835-8392 or volunteer@chicagobotanic.org to update your information.

Opportunity to serve at the Regenstein Center and Learning Center Information Desks

Information Desk volunteers provide an outstanding first impression to our Garden visitors by sharing a warm greeting, assisting with directions and inquiries, confirming scheduled programs, and by providing accurate information from the daily calendar and the Garden’s website.

Information Desk volunteers must attend required team trainings, including relevant walking tours, to learn critical program information and 2-way radio etiquette. They are also trained proper communication procedures for medical and other emergencies. Volunteers serve as scheduled each week for a four hour shift. If you are interested in learning more about the available volunteer opportunities at the Information Desk, please contact Judy Cashen at jcashen@chicagobotanic.org or (847) 835-6800.

Nature, Science and Outdoor Fun with Camp CBG

Monday – Friday, June 15 – August 14

Camp CBG is an outdoor summer day camp program for children ages 2 to 12 years old. Volunteers assist in a wide array of activities including planting; nature, foods & cooking, science, and art based activities; and group games. Volunteers help set up materials for the day, help facilitate the hands-on activities, help clean the program area after each camp session, and help with daily drop off and pick up of campers. This is an outdoor camp; most activities take place outside, weather permitting. Volunteer must be comfortable being outdoors and standing for extended periods of time. Volunteer shifts are full or half days, Monday through Friday from June 15 to August 14. Training is required for Camp CBG volunteers.

If you are interested in volunteering please contact Judy Cashen at jcashen@chicagobotanic.org or (847) 835-6800.

A dynamic duo! Regenstein Center Information Desk team volunteers Natalie Riegel and Sue Simler

Photo courtesy of Judy Cashen
Who’s Who in the Garden?
A profile of someone you should know

Rachel Rosenberg
Director of Corporate Relations

Rachel Rosenberg is a Chicago Botanic Garden employee who will soon mark her 7-year anniversary as Director of Corporate Relations. She is responsible for leading the fundraising initiatives for corporate sponsors and the Corporate Partnership Program with her team.

Rachel promotes the group volunteer activities that are available for companies that are partnered with the Garden that provide opportunities for groups that range anywhere from 20 to 200 volunteers. She coordinates the service days with Judy Cashen, director, volunteer administration and engagement, who says she has enjoyed working together with Rachel on planning corporate volunteer support. Engagement with the community is one of the highlights of her job, according to Rachel. She manages the Corporate Roundtable on Sustainability that meets twice a year and features speakers on important sustainability issues and provides networking opportunities to the members. The Roundtable provides an informal, collaborative forum for companies committed to bringing sustainability to their operations, employees and senior leadership.

Representative corporations include Abbott, Allstate, AbbVie, Baxter, ComEd, Discover Financial, Honeywell, HSBC, ITW, UL, Walgreens, and Grainger, among others. Members of the Roundtable work in diverse areas such as corporate citizenship, facilities management, community affairs, and health and safety. This program offers a connection to the Garden’s mission on a professional, personal, and spiritual level.

Rachel directs much of her attention to securing sponsorships for the many events at the Garden including the new Lightscape event. Rachel says she is looking forward to working with corporations interested in the Garden’s 2020 programs and events, including the signature event for the summer, Evenings.

She works to obtain unrestricted gifts of support and well as gifts in kind, such as plant materials from Ball Horticulture in West Chicago, Illinois and vouchers from American Airlines that provides key resources for staff to travel to important conferences around the world. “I love working with horticulture and plants and the Roundtable on sustainability issues.” Discussing the missions and goals of the Garden and finding a good match is one of the best aspects of her responsibilities. “In one sense, it’s an easy connection,” she says, as the Garden is very much aligned with many company’s corporate sustainability goals.

Rachel reports to Nina Antonetti, Ph.D., Associate Vice President, Foundation, Government and Corporate Relations, who says that Rachel is a veteran corporate relations professional, leading a very successful team and generating important revenues for the Garden. “She’s also a renaissance woman who speaks many languages, loves to travel, appreciates great food, knows music, and is a gifted gardener. These passions, and more, enable her to relate to, connect with, and ultimately, cultivate myriad donors and sponsors.”

Before joining the Garden staff, Rachel worked as the Executive Director for the Midwest Pesticide Action Center. She studied horticulture at the College of DuPage and earned a degree in art history from the University of Michigan and a Masters from New York University in nonprofit administration. She has two children who are 24 and 20 and her husband Stuart is a musician in the Chicago area.

Rachel describes herself as an avid gardener, but quickly corrects this description to say she is “an obsessive gardener” at her home in Skokie. “I’m happy to live in a home that has the good fortune to have a yard that is large enough for me to create and design with plants and I get a lot of inspiration from the Garden every day,” says Rachel.

Ginger Burn
Master Gardener Update

Please Save the Date!
Master Gardener Recognition Event
Tuesday, March 24, Noon – 2:30 p.m.
Burnstein Hall
An e-invitation will follow soon!

Education Opportunities
Introduction to Plant Families
Join Sharon Yiesla and learn about some basic botany and terminology needed for plant identification. We will then work on an in-class exercise to practice using ID skills.

Please Note: This class is designed for Master Gardeners who have not taken any of Sharon’s plant families classes. If you have, this class info will be a repeat; however, would be a good review!

Sharon Yiesla, horticulturist, owner, Sharon Yiesla Horticultural Services
Saturday, March 7, 9 – 10:30 a.m.
Classroom 1, Learning Center. Fee: $12 (1.5 hrs)

Tree Secrets and Why We Want to Know Them
Learn some interesting facts about trees that you might not really know…. like mycorrhizae, root development, trunk taper and what affects it, included bark, excurrent and decurrent tree forms, wound healing and more.

Sharon Yiesla, horticulturist, owner, Sharon Yiesla Horticultural Services
Saturday, March 7, 11:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.
Classroom 1, Learning Center. Fee: $16 (2 hrs)

DID YOU KNOW...

Please contact the Volunteer Services Office at volunteer@chicagobotanic.org or (847) 835-8392 to request a copy of your 2019 volunteer hour card(s) for documentation.

A new year means starting a new volunteer hour card. Remember to fill in your first and last name, the year (2020) and service area on each card. If you are unsure of the correct name of your service area, please ask your staff supervisor. Remember that separate cards need to be filled out for each service area that you volunteer in. Please use a pencil and print your information and hours clearly and legibly on the cards.

To nominate an extraordinary volunteer for Volunteer of the Year and other awards, please contact Judy Cashen at jcashen@chicagobotanic.org or (847) 835-6800.

Volunteer Benefits Reminder: Garden volunteers with 30 or more service hours receive a ten percent discount at the Garden Shop and 20 percent discount at the Garden View Café. Volunteers may enjoy complimentary admission for four guests to the seasonal exhibits including the Model Railroad Garden, Butterflies & Blooms, and tram tours. Please show your volunteer photo ID to receive these benefits.

Missed an issue of the Grounds Cover newsletter? You can view the latest issue of Grounds Cover in color! Check out the newsletter featured in PDF format on the Garden website at www.chicagobotanic.org/volunteer/newsletter.

It is time for winter pruning and for planning your garden in the spring! Contact the highly trained University of Illinois Master Gardeners in the Plant Information Services department. The Regenstein Center walk up window has special winter hours November through March: Wednesday-Friday 12-2 p.m. Spring and summer hours, April 1 through October 31: Wednesday-Sunday 12-4 p.m., Plant Information Hotline hours are March 1 – 31, 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. weekdays, and April 1 – October 31, 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. weekdays noon – 4 p.m. weekends. Lenhardt Library hours are Wednesday-Sunday, noon-4 p.m. Plant Information Services and the Lenhardt Library are both closed on holidays.

We thank you Lightscape volunteers!

A heartfelt message from Jodi Zombolo, associate vice president of visitor events and programs: Thank you to the hundreds of volunteers who contributed nearly one thousand hours of dedicated service to Lightscape! Your volunteer service and support made all the difference! Thank you!
# Calendar of Garden Events and Volunteer Activities

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>February 2020</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fri. 7</td>
<td>The Orchid Show Members’ Night, 5 – 8 p.m., admission fee applies</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sat. 8</td>
<td>The Orchid Show, open daily from 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. through March 22, admission fee applies</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tues. 11</td>
<td>Morning Music with Orchids, Tuesday &amp; Thursday, Nichols Hall, 10 – 11 a.m. through March 22</td>
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<td>Wed. 11</td>
<td>Evening with Orchids, 6 – 8 p.m., admission fee applies</td>
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<td>Thurs. 26</td>
<td>The Post-Orchid Show Plant Sale, 10 a.m. – noon for Garden Plus, Director’s Circle, and President’s Circle members only; noon – 2 p.m. for all Garden members; 2 – 4 p.m. open to the public</td>
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<td>Tues. 7</td>
<td>Volunteer State of the Garden Address with Jean Franczyk, Garden President &amp; CEO Regenstein Center Alsdorf Auditorium, 1 p.m. Safety and Security Meeting at 2 p.m.</td>
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<td>Sun. 12</td>
<td>Easter Brunch, fee applies</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wed. 17</td>
<td>Annual Volunteer Awards Recognition &amp; Reception, McGinley Pavilion, 1:30 p.m.</td>
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One of the treasures of the Forest Preserves of Cook County