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

Volunteer Newsletter   April/May 2020

Update for Volunteers from Jennifer Franczyk Garden President and Chief Executive Officer

Stay tuned!

Following the guidance of federal, state, and county officials, we have temporarily closed the entire Garden through April 30. We weighed this matter carefully and based our decision on recommendations from authorities to help slow the spread of COVID-19.

This closure includes all gardens and grounds, and all buildings, including the Visitor Center. All programs, classes, and events scheduled through April 30 are canceled. We are continuing to closely monitor updates on the coronavirus spread and if we are able to safely open the Garden before April 30, we will.

Your continued support of the Garden is so essential! As a dedicated volunteer and valued member of the Garden family, you will soon be notified via email of Garden President and Chief Executive Officer Jean Franczyk’s Garden update.

Please watch your email and when you have received our notice kindly take a moment to view this important message, which will be offered to Garden volunteers via email for the first time. Thank you for your friendship and volunteer service.

A Different Springtime at the Garden

Helen and Richard Thomas English Walled Garden volunteer Marnee Kenny is one of so many horticulture volunteers who eagerly look forward returning to “playing in the dirt” when the winter snow has finally melted away. The snow has gone, however our beloved volunteers have not yet returned.

This spring season has presented us with new challenges, as we have never seen before in the history of the Chicago Botanic Garden. Our primary objective now is to keep visitors, staff and volunteers safe during this worldwide health crisis. The Garden is currently closed until April 30, however this date may change as the crisis evolves. All volunteer services will remain on hold until the Garden has re-opened and it has been deemed safe for you to return.

We ask that you stay home to reduce the spread of the new coronavirus, and to keep in touch with the Garden by visiting the website: www.chicagobotanic.org. We miss you, and thank all volunteer teams for their friendship, hard work and dedicated service to the Garden.

Photo by Judy Cashen
CAN YOU HELP?
Contact Judy Cashen, Director of Volunteer Administration and Engagement
E-mail jcashen@chicagobotanic.org

PLEASE NOTE: All volunteer opportunities listed below are tentative pending the Garden’s re-opening date.

Outdoor Horticulture
Weekdays
Dates TBD
9 a.m. – 12 p.m.
Help maintain the horticulture collections in display gardens.
Must be able to bend, kneel, stoop, lift. Weeding, planting, pruning required.

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Dates TBD
9 a.m. – 12 p.m.
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Must be able to bend, kneel, stoop, lift. Weeding, planting, pruning required.

Model Railroad Garden
Engineer Assistant
Dates TBD
Daily
Multiple Shifts Available
Volunteers are needed to help as Assistant Engineers, cleaning railroad tracks, placing trains on tracks, and removing trains and cleaning wheels. Must be able to bend, kneel, and carry up to 20 pounds. Training will be provided.

Prepare Luminaria for Annual Summer Dinner Dance
Dates TBD
9 a.m. – 12 p.m. or 1 – 4 p.m.
Assist with prepping the candles and supplies for luminaria for the Summer Dinner Dance.

Malott Japanese Garden
Spring Festival
McGinley Pavilion
CANCELLED

Interpretive Programs
Japanese, English Walled and Fruit & Vegetable Garden teams
Wednesday-Sunday, 11 a.m.-4 p.m.
Dates TBD
Regenstein Center
Information Desk
9 a.m. – 1 p.m. or 1 – 5 p.m.
Sunday, Monday, Tuesday, Thursday
Dates TBD
Welcome Garden visitors, provide 5-star customer service, assist with directions, confirm scheduled programs, and share information from the Garden’s daily event schedule.

Learning Center Information Desk
Wednesday-Sunday 1 – 5 p.m.
Dates TBD
Welcome Learning Center visitors, provide 5-star customer service, assist with directions and inquiries, confirm scheduled programs, and share information from the Garden’s daily event schedule.

Summer Concerts
Dates TBD
Carillon Concert
Each Monday, 5 – 8 p.m.
Tuesday Morning Music
Each Tuesday, 9:30 – 11 a.m.
Music on the Esplanade
Each Tuesday, 5:30 – 8 p.m.
Dancin’ Sprouts
Each Wednesday, 5 – 7:30 p.m.
Hot Summer Nights
Each Thursday, 5:30 – 8 p.m.
Welcome and direct event attendees.

Butterflies & Blooms
Learning Campus
Dates TBD
Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays
9:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. or 1-5 p.m.
Welcome guests and answer questions about the Butterflies & Blooms exhibition.
Training is required.

Garden Greeters
Dates TBD
Weekdays and weekends
9 a.m. – 1 p.m. or 1 – 4 p.m.
Greet and provide assistance to visitors while providing 5 star customer service.

Plant Container Recycling
Plant Production
Mondays
TENTATIVE
June 1, 8, 15, 22, 29
July 13, 20, 27
August 3, 10, 17, 24
8 a.m. – 12 p.m.
Assist with washing and scrubbing plastic plant containers to be recycled. Parking will be on the greenhouse road or at the Grainger Horticulture Center.

Camp CBG
Outdoors on Garden Grounds
TENTATIVE June – August
Monday – Friday, half or full days
Volunteers are needed to assist Camp CBG staff with campers as they explore the Garden. This is an outdoor summer science camp program for children ages 2 – 12 years old.
Training is required.
Fred Spicer Garden Update
Garden Update shares important information from Fred Spicer, Executive Vice President and Director of the Garden.

On the above map, the red lower line with a star on either end indicates the portion of the East Service Road that is closed in front of the entire Plant Production Campus. The yellow upper line with an arrow on either end indicates the Greenhouse Road adjacent to the golf course that all traffic, including vehicular, walking, biking and tram tours will use. When the Garden re-opens, we ask that you please be careful and DRIVE SLOWLY when using the Greenhouse Road.

Working under a shelter-in-place directive, we have reduced Garden staff to a bare minimum while following CDC recommendations of regular cleaning of work areas, hand-washing, and social distancing.

In both the public and plant production greenhouses, the focus is on keeping our valuable collections plants alive and thriving. We’re doing the same in the above-ground nursery, too. With warming weather, we will start to “skin the Quonsets” (remove the milky plastic covering the hut-like houses where plants are over-wintered) and start spacing out plants to allow ample room for growth. Spring annuals have been shelved. Looking ahead, staff are trying to produce a limited summer annual display.

Initial work in the Mitsuzo and Kyoko Shida Evaluation Garden is underway. ComEd has relocated the power main that feeds the Plant Conservation Science Center to avoid damage as we build out the garden. An irrigation main has been similarly moved. The invasive poplars along the adjacent shoreline were removed as the site demolition continues. Next steps include installing the additional construction fencing in the Dixon Prairie, and installing sheet piling for the coffer dams. These will enable us to de-water the portion of the lake where shoreline restoration will be done.

On the west side of the Helen and Richard Thomas English Walled Garden, work to convert the crushed stone path to brick has begun. The section of path that extends to the McGinley Pavilion is also included, and bluestone accents will be installed at entrances to the adjacent garden.

Soon, we will begin a major road sweeping project to remove all the sand from winter snow treatments. Striping of all roads and parking lots will follow. We’ll also start the project to re-surface the asphalt roadways behind the Maintenance and Construction Buildings.

Weekend Horticulture Team Appreciation
Members of the Weekend Horticulture Volunteer Team met in early February to celebrate another great year together. Bonsai Curator Chris Baker provided an instructional overview of bonsai plant care in the spacious and well-lit new bonsai studio. Attendees were also treated to a special behind the scenes tour of some of the very beautiful bonsai specimens in the bonsai collection.

Summer Evenings at the Garden
Dates TBD
Summer evening visitors are invited to enjoy the free concerts held Monday through Thursday featuring live performances that are fun for the whole family. Food and beverages may be purchased from the Garden View Café, the Garden Grille or the Rose Terrace Beer Garden during each concert, and picnicking is allowed in locations near the concert site. Picnics may be set up after 4 p.m. Attendees are strongly encouraged to bring their own chairs due to the popularity of these free concerts as the Garden has a limited supply of chairs. Summer evenings at the Garden are generously sponsored by NorthShore University HealthSystem.

On Monday evenings, the Garden hosts Carillon Concerts at 7 p.m., preceded by tours and demonstrations of the carillon bells every 15 minutes from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m.
Summer Evenings cont'd.
Meet carillon performers from around the world when you take a complimentary carillon tower tour prior to the concert. On Tuesday evenings, Music on the Esplanade will take place from 6 to 8 p.m., and on Wednesday evenings there will be entertainment for the Garden’s youngest visitors with Dancin’ Sprouts from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. The week concludes with lively music on Thursdays with Hot Summer Nights from 6 to 8 p.m. Visit http://www.chicagobotanic.org/evenings for additional details and for a schedule of performers.
To express interest in volunteering with concerts, contact Judy Cashen via email jcashen@chicagobotanic.org.

Important Volunteer Safety Reminders
If a volunteer is injured in the course of the volunteer’s service at the Garden, it is important that they advise their supervisor, or any staff person, and seek medical care if needed. An incident form will need to be completed by the volunteer with their supervisor or volunteer director.

The Garden purchases Volunteer Accident Insurance (coverage is excess over any other Medical Insurance available to the volunteer) and General Liability for volunteers when they are serving on behalf of the Garden.

Volunteers are required to submit an emergency contact name and phone number as part of their volunteer service record in case an emergency situation should arise. Please send your emergency contact name and phone number to Judy Cashen at jcashen@chicagobotanic.org, and remember to update this information as needed. Thank you for your cooperation.

Three Cheers for Volunteers and Engineers
The Model Railroad Garden
Opening Date TBD
Our dedicated railroad team is committed to helping, learning and making this exhibition the very best it could be. Our volunteers work side by side with staff to create a memorable experience for our guests. Horticulturist Julia Zoltowski and her volunteer team maintain the beautiful plantings throughout the garden. This is no small job, but is a job that requires small plants. The collection must fit appropriately side by side with the Garden Gauge size trains.

The 2020 exhibit will be a true delight featuring the unique and beloved buildings created by designer Paul Busse and his team at Applied Imagination. The railroad team commits to providing 5 star customer service and keeping to a tight schedule. It is important to open the exhibition on time so as not to disappoint guests waiting eagerly at the entry gate. With their striped engineer hats and colorful pins, red suspenders and formal navy blue engineer dress suits on occasion, the railroad engineer attire is always paired with a warm smile.

This summer, plan to visit the Model Railroad Garden and share your appreciation with this wonderful crew of dedicated staff and volunteers who have made it possible year after year for us to enjoy this special exhibition. It is due to their hard work, dedicated service and love of the Garden that the trains keep running for all to enjoy.

For more information regarding how volunteers assist at the Model Railroad Garden, please contact Judy Cashen, jcashen@chicagobotanic.org.

Photo by Judy Cashen
A heartfelt Thank You from Ketaurah James, VeggieRx Coordinator and the grateful team from Chicago Botanic Garden’s Farm on Ogden!

A message from Ketaurah James, VeggieRx coordinator: Thank you so much for your support with giving so many great cookbooks to our new Cookbook Library at the Farm on Ogden! We are sharing a “before” photo featuring us with some of the great books that were donated. We are also sharing a picture of the “after” finished product-our new library! We send our sincerest thanks to all Garden staff and volunteers that donated and helped to make this beautiful library happen. Thank you!

Happy members of the Farm on Ogden Team! Donated items were dropped off in the Garden’s Volunteer Services Office, and then picked up by Garden staff Luanne Janikowski and Marina Garcia. Cookbooks delivered!

The finished product- a beautiful new library!

University of Illinois Master Gardeners Education Update Courses Tentative

The Chicago Botanic Garden will offer the following educational update opportunities for University of Illinois Extension Master Gardeners dependent on the Garden’s re-opening. Please register by phone (847) 835-6801. The number italicized in parentheses denotes the number of hours applicable toward your required 10 hours of education credit.

Effects of Climate Change and Invasive Species on Plants, Pollinators, and their Interactions Dr. Iler's talk will focus on her research, on how climate change affects the timing of flowering and how these shifts in flowering dates affect the plants and their interactions with pollinators. She will also talk about some of her past and future research on invasive plants. Amy Iler, Conservation Scientist, Chicago Botanic Garden Tentative Wednesday, May 20, 10:30 a.m. - noon Classroom 4, Learning Center Fee: $12 (1.5 hrs)

DID YOU KNOW...

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Thank you to the hundreds of volunteers who assisted with Brilliance: The Orchid Show!

National Volunteer Week is April 19-25, 2020. Thank you for your tremendous support and we look forward to seeing you at the Garden soon!

To nominate an extraordinary volunteer for the 5-Star Customer Service Award, Barbara Whitney Carr Excellence in Leadership Award, Kris Jarantoski Excellence in Horticulture Service Award, or for Volunteer of the Year, please contact Judy Cashen at jcashen@chicagobotanic.org.

View the latest issue of Grounds Cover in PDF format and in color on the Garden’s website, http://www.chicagobotanic.org/volunteer/newsletter.

Plant Information Service is available via email to help you with your gardening questions. Please send your inquiries to plantinfo@chicagobotanic.org.

Treat yourself and invite your friends! Delicious food and refreshing beverages in one of the most beautiful settings on the planet—all available right here every day at the Garden! The Garden View Café at the Visitor Center is open daily 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Pending the Garden’s re-opening and weather permitting—the Garden Grille will be open 11 a.m.-3 p.m. on select weekends tentatively in May. The Rose Terrace Beer Garden will open tentatively Memorial Day weekend, 11 a.m.-5 p.m. and TrueJuice at the Fruit & Vegetable Garden will be open weekends from 9 a.m.-5 p.m.
Who’s Who in the Garden?
A profile of someone you should know

Hope Lepley
Garden Greeter

Hope Lepley is a Chicago Botanic Garden volunteer who has a special distinction. She agreed to serve as the very first Garden Greeter when the program was launched in the spring of 1998 on Mother’s Day.

Lynn McKay, Manager of Membership Sales and Visitor Experience who is responsible for the employees and volunteers who work as Garden Greeters, explains “The Garden Greeters are very lucky to have someone as dedicated as Hope as part of the team. On Sundays, Hope welcomes many visitors with her warm smile and she easily shares her knowledge of the Garden with many visitors as they enter the Visitor Center.”

“She is an absolute delight and has worked with many new Garden Greeter volunteers in her twenty plus years with us,” according to Judy Cashen, Director, Volunteer Administration and Engagement. Over the years, Hope served more than 2,000 hours as a volunteer, and was the recipient of the Garden’s Super Senior a number of years ago. Her technique is to smile, greet visitors with a “good afternoon,” offer maps, and ask if some specific information is needed.

Hope looks forward to her time every Sunday at the Garden. “We should enjoy life as long as we’re here and should make the best of it,” she offers as her philosophy. She also volunteers for many special events, including the Orchid Show and Lightscape.

When Hope recounts her life, she lists a few places as home, starting in Wisconsin and now claims Covenant Living in Northbrook as her current residence. She lived in Naples, Florida, for a time where she was an avid bike rider and golfer. She recently gave up golf—“I wasn’t getting any better,” Hope says, and her bike riding came to an end recently after an accident put her in the hospital. Hope wryly explains, “It wasn’t my fault. A car ran into me, but I decided it was time to give the bike away.”

Hope still enjoys travel and visits her nieces in Nevada and Florida as well as closer to home in St. Charles, Illinois.

After completing high school in Wisconsin, Hope moved to Chicago in 1941 and enrolled in secretarial school where she studied office procedures, typing and shorthand. Early employers included a railroad, an insurance company and the Loyal Order of Moose. When her parents purchased a resort near Eau Claire, Wisconsin, she left the Chicago area and worked in the family business. When she married, Hope and her husband moved to Chicago to find work and settled in the Northbrook area. Hope spent almost all of her adult life following a secretarial career, retiring from an area general contractor firm in 1981. After her first husband passed, Hope and a beau from early days in Eau Claire rekindled their love and he became her second husband. They enjoyed life together in Northbrook where Hope, now a widow, continues to live.

Ginger Burns

Volunteer Awards & Recognition Reception

Our annual Volunteer Awards Reception has been a long-standing tradition held to honor and celebrate your exceptional volunteer service. We do our best to express this appreciation each time we see you throughout the year! Volunteers will be notified as soon as possible of when and how our 2020 celebration will occur, but for now please know that we are truly grateful for all you do!
## Calendar of Garden Events and Volunteer Activities

### April 2020

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<tr>
<th>TBD</th>
<th>Volunteer State of the Garden Address with Jean Franczyk, Garden President and CEO</th>
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<tr>
<td>Thurs. 30</td>
<td>Nominations for Volunteer of the Year, 5-Star Customer Service, Barbara Whitney Carr Excellence in Leadership, and Kris Jarantoski Excellence in Horticulture Service are due.</td>
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### May 2020

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<tr>
<th>TBD</th>
<th>Model Railroad Garden opens, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. daily, fee applies.</th>
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<tr>
<td>TBD</td>
<td>Butterflies &amp; Blooms, Regenstein Learning Campus</td>
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### Coming June 2020

| TBD   | Volunteer Awards and Recognition Event                           |

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One of the treasures of the Forest Preserve of Cook County