

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

C H I C A G O B O T A N I C G A R D E N

GROUNDSCOVER

Volunteer Newsletter

December 2014/January 2015

Volunteer Holiday Potluck Luncheon

Regenstein Center Burnstein Hall
Monday, December 1, 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.
Please plan to join us for this holiday tradition.
Please **R.S.V.P.** volunteer@chicagobotanic.org
or call (847) 835-8392.

Wonderland Express

Join us at Wonderland Express! Wonderland Express is open daily 10 a.m. – 6 p.m. starting Friday, November 28 through Sunday, January 4 with 3 p.m. closures for private events on December 4, 6 and 24, 1 p.m. closure on December 12, and an all-day closure on December 25 for Christmas. The Garden will be open on Christmas Day. Admission on Tuesdays will be half-price; half-price Tuesdays are sponsored by Grainger and tickets are required. Please consider visiting on half-price Tuesdays with your friends and family. Enjoy the wreath-covered walls of the Greenhouse Galleries, the topiary holiday trees in the Jourtras Gallery and the miniature trains as they wind through Chicago landmarks in Nichols Hall and the Krehbiel Gallery, which features English country train platform decor. Volunteers will guide families through the exhibit and assist with family activities in Burnstein Hall. Take a few hours out of your busy schedule to brighten the holidays of our visitors! Volunteers are needed daily; morning, afternoon and early evening shifts are available. Please sign up in the Volunteer Services Office, email volunteer@chicagobotanic.org or call (847) 835-8392.



Chicago Botanic Garden E-Newsletter

Keep up, catch up, read up: sign-up now for the Garden's e-newsletter. Read about five of your fellow volunteers in the December e-newsletter.

www.chicagobotanic.org/enews

A Message from Sophia Shaw President & CEO

I am very pleased to announce that our colleague **Kris Jarantoski**, Executive Vice President and Director of the Chicago Botanic Garden, has received the 2015 Arthur Hoyt Scott Medal and Award. The Scott Medal and Award, established in 1929 by Swarthmore College, recognizes an individual who has made an outstanding national contribution to the science and art of gardening. Long regarded as the most prestigious honor in horticulture, this award is a tribute to the many years of service **Kris** has provided to the Chicago Botanic Garden and to the world of horticulture in general. In nominating **Kris**, we wrote, "For 37 years, he has been the driving force in the Chicago Botanic Garden's evolution and can be credited with playing a leadership role in its success. **Kris** has helped the Garden develop 26 distinct gardens and four natural areas that captivate and inspire more than one million visitors annually from around the world." This is the third award **Kris** has received in three years: This past June, **Kris** was named an Honorary Life Member by the American Public Gardens Association (APGA). This award is conferred upon an individual who has provided meritorious service to the APGA over a long period of time. In 2011, the Garden Club of America presented **Kris** with the Distinguished Service Medal, again, for outstanding service in the field of horticulture. It was my privilege to nominate our colleague, on behalf of the Garden family, for his vision, and for his tireless efforts to make this Garden and our world a better place. His commitment and dedication to the many people he has trained in horticulture, plant conservation science, and education is renowned. How fitting that we named the new south campus, which will house new plant production greenhouses and display gardens, the **Kris Jarantoski Campus**. Please join me in thanking **Kris** for his service and in celebrating his 2015 Scott Medal and Award.

CAN YOU HELP?

SIGN UP OR CALL JUDY CASHEN (847) 835-6800 OR MEAGHAN FARRELL (847) 835-6803

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

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



**Volunteer Holiday
Potluck Luncheon**
R.S.V.P. Reminder
Monday, December 1
11 a.m. – 2 p.m.

Please R.S.V.P. as soon as possible for the Volunteer Holiday Potluck.



Wonderland Express
November 28 – January 4
Regenstein Center
9:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.
12 – 3:30 p.m.
3 – 6 p.m.

Volunteers are needed as greeters throughout the exhibition.



Wonderland Express
Family Drop-in Activities
November 28 – January 4
Each Tuesday, Saturday & Sunday
& other select days

Volunteers are needed to assist with keeping tables clean, restocking supplies & assisting with hands-on activities. Must enjoy working with visitors of all ages, be comfortable with messy projects & be able to stand for duration of shift.



Wonderland Express
Hanukkah Concert
Sunday, December 21
10 a.m. – 12:15 p.m. & 12 – 2:15 p.m.
Volunteers are needed to greet & direct visitors and for other general assistance.



Update Your Information
As we begin a new year, please update your e-mail address, phone number and emergency contact information.



Volunteer Safety Reminder!
Tips for Safe Winter Walking

- Plan ahead, give yourself sufficient time and plan your route.
- Wear shoes or boots that provide traction on snow or ice.
- Use special care when entering or exiting vehicles, use the vehicle for support.
- Walk in designated walkways.
- Snow or ice accumulates on stairways. Always use hand railings, look where you are stepping and place feet firmly on each step.
- When entering buildings, remove snow and water from footwear to prevent wet slippery conditions indoors.



Removing & Wrapping
Holiday Lights
Weekdays
January 5 – 30
(excluding January 19)

Volunteers are needed to detangle and wrap holiday lights; count and inventory and stack lights into crates. Should be comfortable using a ladder and standing when removing lights from trees. Hand dexterity helpful when wrapping lights.



The Orchid Show 2015
Tuesday & Thursday
Morning Music Concert Series
Regenstein Center Nichols Hall
Tuesday & Thursday Mornings
February 17 – March 12
9:30 – 11 a.m.
Greet and direct visitors to free concerts.



Winter Break Camp
December 22, 23, 26, 29 & 30
January 2

9 a.m. – noon or noon – 3 p.m.
Assist with camp program for ages 5 – 8. Must enjoy working with children. Walking and daily outdoor activities are required.



School Day Off Camp
January 19
9 a.m. – 12 p.m. or 12 – 3 p.m.
Assist with camp program for ages 5 – 8. Must enjoy working with children. Walking and daily outdoor activities are required.



Spring Break Camp
March 30 – April 3
9 a.m. – 12 p.m. or 12 – 3 p.m.
Assist with camp program for ages 5 – 8. Must enjoy working with children. Walking and daily outdoor activities are required.



The Orchid Show 2015
Daily February 14 – March 15
9:45 a.m. – 1 p.m. or 12:45 – 4 p.m.
Welcome and direct visitors.
Please note: Attendance at an event orientation is required:
Sunday, January 25, 1 p.m.
Monday, January 26, 1 p.m.
Tuesday, January 27, 1 p.m.



Butterflies & Blooms
May 23 – September 7, 2015
9:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m. Wednesdays
1 – 5 p.m. Daily
Volunteers are needed to assist at the Butterflies & Blooms Exhibition. Training will be provided.



Horticulturist and Designer Extraordinaire Brian Barker

Spotlight on Wonderland Express Design

What do you get when you mix together 497 conifers, 1,185 poinsettias, 2,454 kalanchoes, 1,428 foliage plants such as wire vine, ivy, and club moss, 10 G-scale trains, and more than 1,200 feet of track? The design for Wonderland Express, of course!

Add in 460 miscellaneous flowers and foliage in the East Greenhouse, 110 flowers for the Kreihbel Gallery, 4,126 plants for Joutras Gallery, and you begin to understand what a challenge it is to conceive and set up the annual winter spectacle in the Regenstein Center. This immense undertaking falls under the direction of **Brian Barker**, horticulturist, who designs not only the Wonderland Express exhibit, but other amazing year-round displays in the Regenstein Center and for The Orchid Show. “His design drawings and horticultural displays are beautiful works of art,” said **Judy Cashen**, director of volunteer administration and engagement.

“**Brian** has a special talent for creative work and adds his flair to all the projects he is involved with,” said **Tim Johnson**, director of horticulture. “He comes up with new approaches and blends his knowledge of plants from tending gardens for many years with a high level of design ability. He tracks down plants and props to fulfill design objectives and is good at figuring things out.”

Work on each Wonderland Express exhibit needs to be finished before Thanksgiving. **Brian** begins one year ahead to find plants and order them so that they are ready at the right time. He likes to make a mix of favorite, low-maintenance plants and new and unusual ones. Then it takes about two and a half weeks for Model Railroad Garden engineers and the new construction group Big City Sets to set up the tracks. When this is done, Chicago Botanic Garden horticulturists choose an area to stage with plants.

During the Wonderland Express season, the

horticulturists take time out from their normal garden duties to come in to water the plants as needed. “This is a real team effort,” said **Brian**. “Not only horticulturists and greenhouse staff members, but the Regenstein Center maintenance staff, Garden construction staff, and electricians all contribute to putting this together.”

The thousands of plants grown for Wonderland Express come from both the Garden Plant Production greenhouses and outside vendors. They are replaced by fresh plants halfway through the exhibit season. Flowers and foliage used in the exhibits are all live, and it is difficult to tell, but the lighted trees in the Regenstein Center are artificial

Brian has been at the Chicago Botanic Garden since 1982, first working as a horticulturist in the Graham Bullb Garden. A gradual increase in requests to do designs led him to leave the display gardens and move to full-time design work. “**Brian** has a quiet, creative presence,” said **Tim Johnson**. “He has made many artistic contributions in a wide variety of ways over the years, ranging from completing detailed designs with material lists based on conceptual sketches from the overall show designer for the Antiques & Garden Fair to the planting scheme for Wonderland Express, and to designing small garden renovations in the Regenstein Fruit & Vegetable Garden, plant displays for the Garden’s information booth at the Chicago Flower & Garden Show, a planted sofa for a display in the city, and the décor for a Garden trolley in the Chicago Gay Pride Parade. He collaborates very well with internal staff and external partners.”

“**Brian** is a horticultural artist. His mastery of unique plants and his creative use of ordinary plants in extraordinary ways are remarkable,” said **Tom Soulsby**, senior horticulturist. This winter, the Wonderland Express exhibit runs from November 28 to January 4, from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. daily (with exceptions).

*Barbara Sirovatka
Photo courtesy of Judy Cashen*

The Orchid Show

Join us for The Orchid Show, open daily 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. beginning Saturday, February 14 through Sunday, March 15. The exhibit will feature over 10,000 orchids throughout Nichols Hall, Joutras Gallery, the Greenhouse Galleries and Greenhouses. Free concerts are scheduled in Nichols Hall on Tuesday and Thursday mornings from 10 – 11 a.m.

Tickets for The Orchid Show are available for purchase online; please note that weekend and President’s Day tickets are timed.



Many Thanks For All You Do!



Bob and Betsy Sharp
Tallgrass Prairie Seed Bank Volunteers



Bill McKay, Ed Schuenemann and Marilyn Buban
Krasberg Rose Garden Volunteers



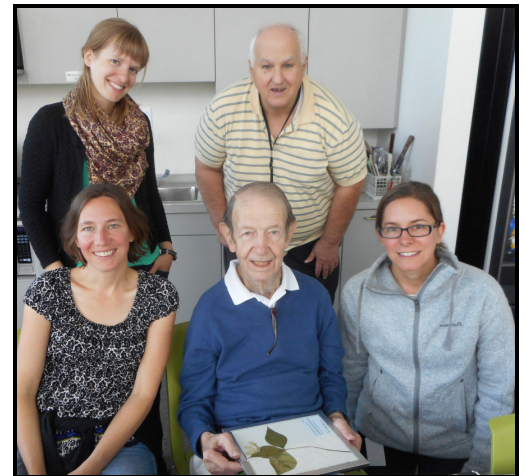
Brian Liang
Butterflies & Blooms Volunteer



Anne Horn, Jamie Berlin, Judy Kleiman
Heather Sherwood and Mary Demcak
English Walled Garden Staff and Volunteers



Karen Walsh
Buehler Enabling Garden Volunteer
NorthShore University HealthSystems
Sharing Spirit Award Recipient



Rachel Goad, John Adams
Nyree Zerega, Fran Heller and Andrea Kramer
Conservation Science Staff and Volunteers



Marnee Kenny, Phyllis Levin and Elaine Juhl
Volunteer Services Office Volunteers



Fruit & Vegetable Garden Interns and
David Baek and Maxime Soens, Volunteers



All Year Round You Make A Difference!



Sandy Linke
Garden Greeter



Eileen Michal and Chris Baker
Volunteer and Curator of Bonsai



Bill Bishoff
Volunteer Garden Photographer



Burt Mixer, Liz Feldner Rex and Carol Mallquist
Volunteers and Staff Enjoying Horticulture Team Potluck



Lionel Goldblatt, Roger Hand and Barry Wawrzyn
Model Railroad Garden Volunteers and Staff



Allen Wagner, Sarina McBride and Colleen Graudins
Plant Production Volunteers



Bob Hertel
Elizabeth Hubert Malott
Japanese Garden Volunteer



Sue Gieske, Dorothy Matsumoto
and Barbara Wessel
Tallgrass Prairie Seed Bank Volunteers



Happy Holidays!



Who's Who in the Garden A Profile of Someone You Should Know



Anne Boynton
**Director of Membership
and Annual Giving**

I looked forward to interviewing **Anne**, who was described as “delightful with a wonderful sense of humor.” As she slid into the chair across from me in the café, I noted her fanciful jewelry, two mismatched 3 inch dangling earrings (one silver skulls) worn with quite the unusual necklace. Ah yes, it was October 31, Halloween! First impression: definitely a sense of fun!

Anne grew up in Northern California on a dairy farm near the redwoods and the beach with the sound of the ocean in the background. Her “unusual necklace” was actually made by her father from cattle teeth. **Anne** often travels to visit her family in California and a brother with his family in Colorado. After attending California State in Sacramento, where she majored in communications with an English minor, **Anne** worked in membership at the Sacramento Zoo.

Following a friend to Chicago 23 years ago, **Anne** worked in insurance before answering an ad for a membership position at the Morton Arboretum in Lisle. In her seven years there, membership grew from 14,000 to 25,000 members.

As a member of the Chicago Culture Coop, whose members represent 23 Chicago cultural institutions, **Anne** met Jennifer Black, the Chicago Botanic Garden’s Director of Membership and Annual Giving at the time. **Jennifer** asked **Anne** to join the Garden as Manager of On-Site Sales. When **Jennifer** left in 2008, **Anne** took on the Directorship. In her department of 19 employees, she has seven direct reports. Her team is responsible for all aspects of Member and Donor Services including membership processing and fulfillment, all data services,

front-line membership sales, visitor experience, member and donor acquisition and retention mailings, and the Tribute Gift Program. Her team is responsible for approximately one-fifth of the Garden’s Operating Budget. As we say at the Garden, “Oh, WOW!”

Anne has high praise for the Membership and Annual Giving staff and volunteers. She says, “As the Garden’s 2020 Strategic Plan states, our goal is ‘five-star customer service.’ One example is our combining Membership and Visitor Information so that staff in either area can provide full service to customers.”

In describing the department’s various responsibilities, **Anne** shared information about the Tribute Program, which is of particular interest at this giving time of year. She says, “Tributes can be in memory, honor or celebration of someone. Donations can be made at all levels, including for benches, bricks and even a modest and affordable bulb dedication for \$18 to be planted in the Garden. We have had couples celebrate their engagements in the Garden with tree tags. A lovely note card is also available to send when a Garden donation of any amount is made in someone’s name. Our two wonderful Tribute Program staff members can assist at what can be an emotional time.”

Anne enjoys her home garden in the northern Illinois’ Chain of Lakes area. She says, “My mom was an excellent gardener. She created flower arrangements for the Fair and for weddings. My garden has lots of native plants, which attract a variety of wildlife including hummingbirds.” **Anne’s** other favorite pastimes include cooking, running and traveling.

About her Chicago Botanic Garden experience, **Anne** says, “The visitors, staff and volunteers are great. We couldn’t provide the customer service we do without our wonderful volunteers. The visitors can leave their troubles behind. I like to go out into the Garden and see what the visitors are seeing. It makes you realize why you’re here. It would be hard to find a better place to work.”

Joan Walters Brown
Photo courtesy of Robin Carlson

Volunteer Special on Garden Memberships

Active Garden volunteers can take \$10 off any gift membership purchase. Please note that this offer cannot be combined with other offers. Stop by the Visitor Center Membership Desk or call (847) 835-8215 to buy a gift membership or for additional information.

Volunteers should show their volunteer badge or photo ID when purchasing discounted gift memberships at the Membership Desk.



Herbarium voucher volunteers and staff (clockwise from right) Becky Snider, Lou Becker, Mike Sackheim, Donna Argentin, Phyllis Baer, Dr. Nyree Zerega, Herbarium director, and Tim Jarosch. An example of a voucher is in the center.

What is a Herbarium Voucher Specimen?

A herbarium voucher specimen is a dried, pressed plant sample illustrating the plant's defining characteristics. The Nancy Poole Rich Herbarium currently has approximately 20,000 specimens. The voucher supports research and may be used to verify the identity of specific plants. The Chicago Botanic Garden maintains vouchers of the tall grass prairie species as well as specimens from research areas such as the Colorado Plateau, Southeast Asia, Russia, China and the Republic of Georgia as well as the Garden's collections. The maintenance of these vouchers are collaboratively supported by volunteers in both Living Plant Documentation and the Herbarium.

Dr. Nyree Zerega, director of the graduate program in plant biology and conservation, director of the Nancy Poole Rich Herbarium and senior lecturer of the program in Biological Sciences at Northwestern University, has directed the Herbarium since 2007 and has worked at the Garden and Northwestern University since 2005. **Phyllis Baer** has volunteered with the Herbarium focused on the voucher program for 25 years, and has mentored many volunteers in the mounting techniques necessary to prepare a voucher.

Living Plant Documentation volunteers **Becky Snider** and **Tim Jarosch** have been volunteering with the herbarium project since June collecting specimens for each plant and helping prepare specimens for mounting. Currently they are collecting samples from *Quercus* (oaks) and *Salix* (willows) and fruits, nuts and berries from plants in the Garden. Leaves, stems, flowers and fruit are collected to prepare three vouchers: one for the Garden's collection, one for research, and one for loan to other gardens. The collected specimens for the vouchers are put in a press, consisting of alternating layers of newspaper, felt blotters, cardboard, and specimens. The press is then put into a drier for roughly one week. From the drier they are put into a freezer for at least three days to kill any organisms that might exist. After pressing, drying and freezing, the samples are filed until Herbarium

volunteer **Donna Argentin** enters the collection data into the database and prints labels. **Donna** has volunteered for 9 years in the herbarium voucher department and for special events. After **Donna** enters the collection data, **Lou Becker**, Living Plant Documentation volunteer team leader for the Herbarium and Living Plant Documentation volunteer **Michael Sackheim** very carefully arrange and glue the specimens onto acid free herbarium voucher sheets. **Mike** and **Lou** have been mounting vouchers for six years. **Mike** has been a volunteer for 17 years and has also volunteered in the plant label production area. **Lou** has volunteered for 21 years and previously volunteered in the entry and specialty gardens.

The vouchers are stored for future use in a movable shelving unit referred to as a compactor. The three vouchers of the same plant are placed in a large manila folder filed by family, genus and species name. A voucher has to be prepared for every plant accession in the collection. The Herbarium has approximately 900 specimens that were acquired from the Moscow Botanical Institute, and **Lou** has been translating the labels from Russian into English. The Garden mounted 300 of these specimens and found an additional 600 previously mounted. Other volunteers contributing to the herbarium voucher program include **Mary Borecki**, **Susie Mahon**, **John Adams**, **Ulrika Brissman**, **Frances Heller**, and **Judi Mueller**. Stop by the Daniel F. and Ada L. Rice Plant Conservation Science Center to view the volunteers at work.

Ken Krebs, photo courtesy of Ken Krebs

DID YOU KNOW...



The Auxiliary of NorthShore University Health System will be hosting their American Craft Exposition at the Garden September 24 – 27, 2015. Please visit the website <http://americancraftexpo.org/> for more information. The show will benefit breast and ovarian cancer research and care.



Please create a new volunteer service hours card for 2015! Remember to fill in the new year and correct service area on each card. Separate service cards need to be completed for each service area in which you volunteer.



On behalf of the Chicago Botanic Garden Volunteer Services department, please accept our thanks for your truly dedicated volunteer service. We send our best wishes for a joyous holiday season and a very happy New Year! Thank you for all you do to help the Garden grow! **Judy Cashen**, **Meaghan Farrell**, **Donna Lebovitz**, **Elaine Juhl**, **Phyllis Levin**, **Marnee Kenny** and **Cissy Segal**.

Calendar of Garden Events and Volunteer Activities

December 2014		
Mon.	1	Volunteer Holiday Potluck Luncheon, 11 a.m. – 2 p.m., Regenstein Center. Stop by the Volunteer Services Office to RSVP or call (847) 835-8392
Wed.	10	Wonderland Express, Holiday Cheers!, 6 – 8 p.m.
Sat. & Sun.	13 & 14	Wonderland Express, Breakfast with Santa 8:30 a.m., 9:30 a.m. or 10:30 a.m.
Tues.	16	Hanukkah begins at sunset
Wed.	17	Wonderland Express, Member's Night, 5 – 7:30 p.m., Regenstein Center
Sat.	20	Wonderland Express, Christmas Concert, seatings at 2 p.m. or 4 p.m.
Sun.	21	Wonderland Express, Hanukkah Concert, seatings at 11 a.m. or 1 p.m.
Mon.	22	Wonderland Express, Hot Chocolate with Mrs. Claus, 11 a.m. or 1 p.m.
Thurs.	25	Christmas Day, Garden open, Wonderland Express closed
January 2015		
Thurs.	1	Remember to create a new hours card for 2015!
Sun.	4	Last day to enjoy Wonderland Express, 10 a.m. – 6 p.m., Regenstein Center
Wed.	14	Master Gardener training begins, Wednesdays through March 18
Coming February 2015		
Sat.	14	The Orchid Show opens, 10 a.m. – 4 p.m., daily through March 15

☞ The Grounds Cover Committee ☞

Judy Cashen, Meaghan Farrell, Ken Krebs, Carolyn Kuechler,
Donna Lebovitz, Barbara Sirovatka, Joan Walters Brown

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