

2021 Olbrich Botanical Society

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Letter From OBS President Phil Bradbury

Greetings from Olbrich Botanical Gardens!

My name is Phil Bradbury, and I'm the President of the Olbrich Botanical Society - the non-profit organization that helps support the Gardens. For the past 15 years, members and supporters have opened the front page of their newsletter to read the latest from Roberta Sladky, our Director who retired in June after 15 years of service. The City of Madison recently announced that Olbrich's new Director will start on November 1; we'll share more information soon. But in the meantime I wanted to say hello and thank you for your support.

Fall is a special time of year at Olbrich. Our staff and volunteers know that the dog days of summer have passed – sad that the sun goes down a little earlier each night, happy for cooler temperatures and returning fall traditions, and eager for the demise of the mosquito.

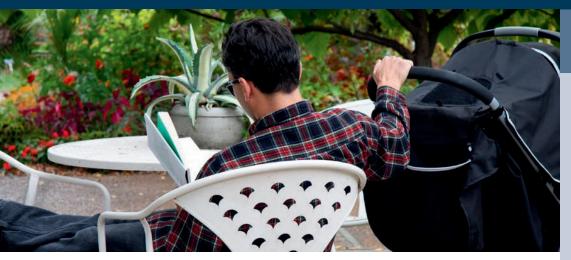
At Olbrich, returning traditions means a new year of GLEAM: Art in a New Light, a spectacular outdoor art exhibit featuring large scale light installations that will capture the imaginations of all ages. The exhibit runs evenings Wednesday through Saturday until the end of October, with timed tickets required, available at olbrichgleam.org. You can read more about GLEAM and all the good work of the Gardens throughout this newsletter.

And while we look forward to those traditions we hold dear, we also turn our attention to a new beginning for Olbrich - the Grand Opening of the Frautschi Family Learning Center and new greenhouses. I hope you can join us on Saturday, October 16 from 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. as we celebrate these important facilities and the difference it will make for the Gardens and the community. This historic \$12 million project wouldn't have been possible without the strong public-private partnership between the City of Madison Parks Division and the Olbrich Botanical Society, and the generosity of so many from our community who stepped forward to make it happen.

I hope you enjoy this edition of the newsletter, which showcases the important work that you help make possible. We are forever grateful to you, our members, and our supporters, for continuing to stick with us through the pandemic, helping to bring a world-class garden and wonderful programming for all to enjoy.

Take care.

PHIL BRADBURY President, Olbrich Botanical Society



Members Get More

Schumacher Library Benefits

Exciting things are happening with the re-opening of Schumacher Library. During member Appreciation Week, the following six members won prizes from Timber Press at the Schumacher Library Member Raffle:

Amy Basarich Bethany Domoto Nancy Ahlquist Melissa LeBlanc Amy Owen Brenda Lempp

Congratulations winners!

Also, the library launched a new online catalog which is accessible to everyone:

www.librarycat.org/lib/OlbrichGardens

In addition to allowing visitors to browse the entire library collection, it also offers a special benefit for Olbrich members. Now members can find and put books on hold from home. The process is quick and easy and allows members to ensure the books they want are waiting for them when they come to the gardens.

Using the online service is simple: Go to the URL above or to the Schumacher Library page on the Olbrich website to access the catalog. Search for the title or author you want, select the Hold button, and type in your patron ID/member number. Your Olbrich member number doubles as a patron ID number for the library, so there are no extra numbers or passwords to remember. If you don't know your member number, check your membership card or contact Olbrich's Membership & Development Associate Kaylee McDonald at (608) 246-4724.

Once you have put a book on hold, you have seven days to come to the gardens and pick it up. An email reminder will notify you that your hold is ready. Next time you plan to visit the gardens, have a book waiting for you.

THANK YOU FOR BEING A MEMBER

Membership donations account for a significant portion of our operating budget, and because of our members...

- The Gardens have remained free and accessible for all to enjoy,
- The plant collection is maintained for by our wonderful horticulturists and volunteers,
- Educational programming is offered at low-to-no cost for youth, families, and adults, and,
- New community programming was developed, like the Señorita Mariposa StoryWalk, and Pollinator Programming Scavenger Hunts.

Ongoing Member Benefits

FREE ADMISSION

into the Bolz Conservatory

20% OFF MOST CLASSES AND WORKSHOPS

register online at olbrich.org/education

DISCOUNTED TICKETS FOR GLEAM: ART IN A NEW LIGHT:

\$11 members / \$15 non-members

DAILY DISCOUNTS

in Olbrich's Gift Shop

CHECKOUT PRIVILEGES

in Olbrich's Schumacher Library

Welcome Kaylee McDonald!



Welcome to Kaylee McDonald, Olbrich's new Membership & Development Associate. Kaylee

comes to Olbrich with a Masters in Library Sciences and a background in customer service and office administration, including as a Public Services Lead at Memorial Library and Young Adult Librarian at North Lake Town Hall Library. Kaylee's experience and kindness will be a major asset to Olbrich's growing membership program, and we're excited to have them on board!

In their spare time, Kaylee enjoys thrift shopping and camping, reading, and needle arts.





The Indigenous Garden Project:

Growing Community Connections and Gigantic Vegetables!

Olbrich's Herb Garden is always a great place to experience culture through food, and this year we decided to go big! Over the winter, Olbrich staff collaborated with local chef and food sovereignty advocate Elena Terry (Ho-Chunk) and other Indigenous agriculture experts to select plants showcasing the beauty and diversity of crops important to Native Americans here in the Midwest. Sweet squashes and corn, bright sunflowers, and beans in a rainbow of colors are just a few crops traditionally grown by skilled Indigenous farmers.

The "Three Sisters Living Tunnel" forms the heart of the Indigenous Garden, with towering crops lining a red maple arbor constructed with traditional lodge-building techniques. A trip through the tunnel reveals scrambling beans and gigantic gourds, along with plant names translated into the Ho-Chunk language. Following true to Herb Garden design philosophy of, "People love to walk under a dangling vegetable," the tunnel has been a popular spot for selfies!

The Indigenous Garden has been a hub for fun activities as we have explored aspects of Native American food, language, and culture. With help from OBG staff member Rita Peters (Ho-Chunk) and a grant from the Starkweather-Atwood-Schenk-Yahara Neighborhood Association, Olbrich hosted two opportunities for visitors to taste milkweed soup early in the summer. Unopened flower buds of common milkweed (Asclepias syriaca) are a delectable foraged vegetable, cooked up into a broth-based soup with green beans and tiny dumplings.

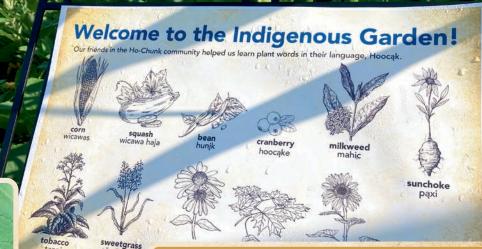
Over 300 people sampled the soup! Kids asked for seconds! Sounds of the Ho-Chunk language, Hoocak, wafted through the Herb Garden and we were especially happy to welcome representatives from UW Madison's Wunk Sheek student organization and the Indian Community School in Franklin, Wisconsin. There was even an occasional tear shed in remembrance of a loved one or a touching story.













To hear the Ho-Chunk pronunciations of plants in the Indigenous Garden, scan the QR code with your smartphone.



Summer heat allowed crops in the Indigenous Garden to reach amazing heights, with Ho-Chunk red corn and Tarumahara sunflowers growing to fifteen feet! In September, we hosted a drop-in sweetgrass braiding activity, using sweetgrass grown here at Olbrich. About 40 visitors made a braid to take home and checked out harvest displays.

We are already saving seeds for growing and swapping in anticipation for next year's Indigenous Garden. At Olbrich, it is a central value that plants are a natural bridge, connecting people so that "the joy, diversity, wonder, and beauty of plants can be shared by everyone." It just so happens that this natural bridge can also be a tunnel covered in beans!

ERIN PRESLEY, Olbrich Horticulturist









EXHIBIT VIEWINGS
September 1-October 30

Wednesdays, Thursdays, Fridays, & Saturdays

September Hours: 7:30-10:30 pm

October Hours: 6:30-10:30 pm

(Last admission issued at 10 pm)

\$15 General Public \$11 Members \$7 ages 6-12 Free-ages 5 & under

(Additional online processing fees apply to each reservation.)

Don't delay! Get your tickets today at olbrichgleam.org

Artists from around the country (and beyond!) illuminate the Gardens after dark with site-specific light installations that swing, fly, flutter, and float! While exploring this year's exhibit, you can step into the world of infinity and learn the secret to unlock the rainbow.

FOR YOUR SAFETY

To provide a safe and comfortable visitor experience for everyone, please note:

- Advanced timed tickets required (tickets are non-refundable & non-transferrable)
- Limited number of visitors are admitted every 30 minutes
- Touch-free tickets scanned upon entry
- One-way exhibit route (separate entrance and exit)
- Mobile-friendly exhibit map can be viewed from a smartphone
- Facemasks required indoors during check-in and while using the restrooms
- Facemasks optional outdoors
- Please stay home if you are experiencing COVID-19 symptoms (fever, dry cough, shortness of breath, temporary loss of taste or smell, flu-like respiratory symptoms, etc.)

SHINE BRIGHT-VOLUNTEER!

Looking for a fun, easy volunteer opportunity in the evening? Connect with Marty to learn more: mpetillo@cityofmadison.com

INSTALLATIONS

Kaleidoscope Aflutter

Skunk Control (Melbourne, Australia)

A Kaleidoscope (a group of butterflies) has taken over Olbrich, casting color shadows, light, and wonderment. Where did these butterflies come from? How did they arrive, and what magical vista will they create both day and night? Come and see—be part of a Kaleidoscope Aflutter.

Fun Fact: Each butterfly has a number of optical filters. Some of these filters have over 100 layers of specialized materials.

Night Birds

Michael Young (Chicago, IL)

Glowing birds swoop down from the sky, their metal wings rustle the leaves of the trees. Their neon feathers add a glimmer of light to the otherwise dark and quiet sky.

Fun Fact: The artist created his first neon light piece here at UW 36 years ago and has incorporated light ever since.

Tesseract

Brett Adams & Bo Raasch (Madison, WI)

Tesseract alters the perception of physical space using light, reflections, and music. While the exterior allows views to the endlessly reflected lights throughout the interior, views from the interior reflect infinitely outward.

Fun Fact: The perception of one-way transmission is achieved when one side of the mirror is brightly lit and the other side is dark. This allows viewing from the darkened side but not vice versa.

A Wild Life

Bruce Winkler (Madison, WI)

Experience a journey of natural evolution as you are immersed in a morass of living things, which transform before your eyes providing a perspective of nature that even Darwin would not have expected.

Fun Fact: This installation combines visuals of natural images, unique lighting effects, and rarely heard nature sounds to create an immersive experience for our visitors.

Hydra Reef

Entropic Industries, Jared Winchester & Cory Greenfield (Albuquerque, NM)

Hydra Reef is inspired by the manifold natures found within our biological, social and computational environments. Evoking a natural, yet alien dream world, Hydra Reef expresses a mysterious and emergent relationship to its 'habitat' in Olbrich Botanical Gardens' pond.

Fun Fact: This sculpture was inspired by the glass sponge, a living silicone oxide structure found at the bottom of the ocean whose origins date back to some of the earliest forms of life on this planet. The properties of this organism are extremely similar to the fiber optic cables used throughout our modern world.

Reflection

Jen Fuller (Portland, OR)

Bridging natural and technological realms into the reflective blackened waters of the Sunken Garden, artist Jen Fuller invites visitors into an ambient contemplation on the interconnectedness and vibrancy of life. From deep ocean wave to chaotic cityscape, this projection-mapped sculpture provokes the viewer to see oneself not as a stranger to the world, but to begin to feel oneself as something fundamental...

Fun Fact: The amount of light it takes to make this visual display is seven thousand lumens or the equivalency of six household lightbulbs condensed into one beam of light.

Spectrum Swing

Lindsay Glatz (New Orleans, LA)

Spectrum Swing celebrates connection. The childlike simplicity of swinging brings up feelings of wonder and freedom that all people should have the experience to enjoy. Similarly, rainbows are symbols of inclusion, a literal coming together of individual colors to create magic in real life.

Fun Fact: The iconic moment in the *Wizard of Oz* when Dorothy steps from a Black and White world into a technicolor dreamland is represented in Spectrum Swing when participants sit on the swing to activate the color overhead.

MEDIA PARTNER WISCONSIN PUBLIC RADIO



FRAUTSCHI FAMILY LEARNING CENTER & GREENHOUSES

After a long wait because of the pandemic, celebrating the first major facilities expansion at Olbrich Botanical Gardens in nearly 30 years was long overdue. On Saturday, October 16, 2021, Olbrich held a Grand Opening for the Frautschi Family Learning Center and new production greenhouses. It was a special day as we introduced our friends to the new spaces and said "thank you" to so many who helped make this dream a reality.

City officials, Olbrich Botanical Society Board members, and Olbrich staff delivered remarks about the role the Frautschi Family Learning Center and new greenhouses will play in fulfilling Olbrich's mission of connecting people and plants. After the ribbon cutting, guests explored the spaces and participated in activities throughout the greenhouses, classrooms, and outdoor gardens.



FRAUTSCHI FAMILY LEARNING CENTER

The Frautschi Family Learning Center is Olbrich's first dedicated space for educational programming. With three flexible indoor classrooms and an outdoor classroom, Olbrich finally has the space to accommodate its rapidly growing education programs, which provide plant science curricula to more than 4,000 students in grades K-5 each year.

The second floor of the Learning Center houses Olbrich's professional education staff, with public access to a rooftop deck that has beautiful views of the Great Lawn and Lake Monona.

The building is LEED Platinum certified, with in-floor radiant heat, solar panels, reclaimed ash wood in the millwork, and a 60,000-gallon cistern underneath the facility that collects rainwater for re-use in the greenhouses and Bolz Conservatory.

NEW GREENHOUSES

The new production greenhouses are state-of-the-art, with 11,000 square feet to grow and care for plants for the Outdoor Gardens, Bolz Conservatory, plant sales, and seasonal flower shows. Although the new greenhouses are only slightly bigger in their footprint, flexible benching allows the Gardens to grow an additional 10,000 plants per year. Of particular note are the two orchid houses that accommodate Olbrich's expansive orchid collection in either an intermediate or a cool environment.

THANK YOU!

This project was possible because of two reasons: the strong public-private partnership between the City of Madison Parks Division and the non-profit Olbrich Botanical Society, and the generosity of our community.

THE PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIP

Much like the Gardens themselves, Olbrich's public-private partnership is organically grown. (See what we did there?) Since 1979, the Olbrich Botanical Society and the City of Madison Parks Division have developed Olbrich Botanical Gardens together, often operating on a handshake and mutual trust, and more recently codified under a Cooperation and Coordination Agreement. A blended staff of more than 40 FTEs work with more than 600 volunteers to operate the Gardens 361 days a year, welcoming more than 335,000 visitors annually.

THE GENEROSITY OF THE COMMUNITY

Because of the generosity of hundreds of donors, Olbrich Botanical Society was able to fulfill its \$6 million obligation to the project. A special thank you is given to the project's lead donors:

W. Jerome Frautschi and Pleasant Rowland
John J. Frautschi Family Foundation
Walter A. and Dorothy Jones Frautschi
Charitable Unitrust
Dorothea Haug
Dale and Lila Ann Mathwich
Tim and Jill Sherry
Toby and Peggy Sherry
Jeff Levy
Irving and Dorothy Levy Family Foundation
Vera Lee
Sue Dauberman
Beverly and Harold Schluenz

THE TIMELINE

In 2010, planning began for facilities expansion at the Gardens, with a Facilities Master Plan developed in 2013 and the Rooted & Growing Capital Campaign beginning in 2015. In 2018, construction began on the new facilities, with construction largely completing in late 2019. An open house was held in February 2020, weeks before the pandemic began. In-person classes and workshops have slowly returned to the classrooms, with school field trips potentially resuming this fall.



GLEAM, ART IN A NEW LIGHT

Through October 30 Dates & times vary

OLBRICH'S HOLIDAY EXPRESS

December 4-31 10 a.m.-4 p.m. daily

EVENTS AT THE GARDENS

5 — Event requires admission

SEPTEMBER

GLEAM: Art in a New Light \$

Wed., Thur., Fri., Sat Through October 30 October, 6:30-10:30 p.m.

GLEAM: Art in a New Light is back and brighter than ever, providing a fun and safe way for everyone to explore the Gardens at night. Designers from around the country and beyond transform the Gardens with art installations that swing, fly, flutter, and float! Don't delay – get your tickets today! Advanced timed tickets are required. Tickets are non-refundable; event occurs rain or shine. \$11 members / \$15 non-members. Child pricing available.

NOVEMBER

The Canopy Sessions \$

Friday, November 5 5-7 p.m.

Start your weekend with a live concert performed in one of Madison's most unique venues. Explore the tropical Conservatory as you enjoy a performance by Christo's Novelty Combo, an eclectic band which blends the styles of jazz legend Django Reinhardt and Hot Hawaiian steel guitar virtuoso Sol Ho'opi'i. \$6 Admission FREE for Children 5 & Under

Herb Faire

Saturday, November 6 9 a.m.-3 p.m.

Three speakers and two rooms of herbal vendors will provide informative and fun presentations and products encompassing the many varied uses of herbs. Presented by the Madison Herb Society. More info at madisonherbsociety.org/annual-herb-fair.

Olbrich Gardens Closed
Thursday, November 25

DECEMBER

Member Preview: Olbrich's Holiday Express

Friday, December 3, 3-6 p.m.

Olbrich members are invited to bring their families to this festive preview of Olbrich's Holiday Express.

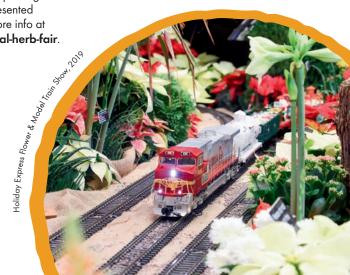
Olbrich's Holiday Express: Flower & Model Train Show \$

December 4-31, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. daily

Closes at 2 p.m. December 24 and closed all day December 25

All aboard for Olbrich's Holiday Express!
Olbrich's horticulture staff will showcase
miniature landscapes among hundreds of
colorful poinsettias. Members of the Wisconsin
Garden Railway Society come from all over the
state to show off their large-scale model trains.







Join Olbrich Botanical Garden horticulturist Jeff Epping September from 1-12, 2022 for a once-in-a-lifetime trip to the Floriade Expo!

Set in the Dutch community of Almere, this six-month International Horticultural Expo takes place just once every ten years. Enjoy the sights and smells of flowers, plants, vegetables and fruit. Floriade Expo 2022 celebrates the theme "Growing Green Cities" with 40 inspiring country presentations, a spectacular greenhouse complex, a cable car over the Floriade park, pavilions with sustainable innovations, and a vibrant arts and culture program.

But wait, there's more! We'll spend time in Germany, Holland, and Luxemburg, experiencing private and public gardens,

castles, and windmills. We'll walk through famous cities such as Amsterdam and Rotterdam and experience charming villages. A river cruise on the Rhine, delicious meals, friendly hosts, and more cap off this incredible journey.

Details will be available soon! To be placed on an "interested" list, contact our friends at Country Travel Discoveries at 855-744-8747. Let them know you're interested in Floriade 2022 with Jeff!

LEARN WITH US THIS FALL!

From gardening practices to using nature as inspiration for the arts and do-it-yourself projects, Olbrich offers a broad range of classes and programs for adults. Led by experts in their fields, our programs provide something for every interest and skill level. Join us for upcoming programs led by Olbrich's talented horticulture staff!

Seeds of Olbrich: Seed Saving Workshop



with Avery Pronschinske

Seed saving and seed sharing is a way to connect with others, and to pass on generations of history and traditions for future gardeners to enjoy. Join us as we wander

the garden, learn about each plant and its particular seed, and help harvest seed for future use in the gardens.

Friday, October 15, 1-2:30 p.m. Registration deadline: October 5

\$22 / \$17 Member

Preserve Fall Colors Walk



with Katey Pratt

If you find fall as fleeting as we do then this is the class for you! Join us to learn about plants with excellent fall interest and collect a handful of colorful leaves to add to a

portable plant press for preservation. All supplies included. Thursday, October 28, 1-2:30 p.m.

Registration deadline: October 18

\$28 / \$22 Member

Color, Texture, Shape & Form (Online)



with Katey Pratt

From Acer palmatum var. dissectum 'Atropurpureum' to Zizania palustris! If you're thinking, "Whaaat?" this is the class for you! Botanical or scientific names offer so

much information but can intimidate even the most experienced gardener. This class will help you learn ways to conquer this secret language of plants.

Tuesday, November 16, 6-7 p.m.

Registration deadline: November 11

\$15 / \$12 Member



People & Places (Online)



with Avery Pronschinske

Did you know Clematis jackmanii is named after the man who bred the plant, George Jackman!? What about canadensis, pensylvanica, virginiana? This class will discuss

the fascinating people and places written into the names of many plants and much more.

Tuesday, November 23, 6-7 p.m.

Registration deadline: November 18

\$15 / \$12 Member

Table Wreath Workshop



with Irene Padlin

Craft a candle ring that evokes the scents of the season, inspired by tropical plants growing in Olbrich's Bolz Conservatory. Learn how to wire a small wreath form

with materials that can last or dry inside, then decorate with cinnamon sticks, whole spices, and dried kumquats and calamondins from the Conservatory. All supplies provided.

Sunday, December 5, 1:30-4 p.m.

Registration deadline: November 25

\$68 / \$54 Member

Holiday Wreath Workshop



with Samara Eisner & Erin Presley

Evergreen holiday wreaths smell wonderful and add charm to your winter decorating scheme. Learn how to decorate your own unique wreath with natural materials from Olbrich's gardens. Fresh evergreen wreath, plant materials, and other supplies provided to make one holiday wreath. Tuesday, December 7, 6:30-8:30 p.m.

Registration deadline: November 28 \$75 / \$60 Member



\$75 / \$60 Member



LITTLE SPROUTS STORY & STROLL

Join us weekly for nature and literature-based early childhood programs! Classes begin with a story followed by child-led, hands-on, fun, and age-appropriate experiences that connect to the class theme. \$9/\$7 member per child, adult attends free. A few select classes this fall are:

Snakes

Tuesday, October 19, 10-11 a.m. Tuesday, October 19, 3-4 p.m. Friday, October 22, 10-11 a.m.

Because of an Acorn

Friday, November 5, 10-11 a.m. Tuesday, November 9, 10-11 a.m. Tuesday, November 9, 3-4 p.m.

Gingerbread

Friday, December 3, 10-11 a.m. Tuesday, December 7, 10-11 a.m.

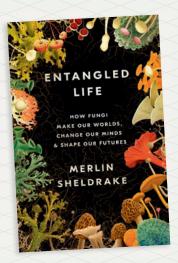


The Schumacher Library is open with a refreshed look!

Olbrich's Schumacher Library kept busy throughout the past 18 months answering your plant and gardening questions and hosting engaging virtual book clubs. While we are grateful to continue to provide these virtual engagement options, we are excited to welcome visitors back for in-person library services as well! For the health and safety of visitors and staff, the library currently has a capacity of five people at a time and open hours are Wednesday - Saturday from 10am to 2pm or by appointment. Visit the library to check out a gardening book, explore our family corner and outdoor adventure kits, or just take a quiet moment to relax while browsing the latest volumes of popular gardening magazines. Or, just pop in to meet Olbrich's new Horticulture Librarian, Eva, as soon as you can!

Take part in our upcoming book discussion!

Join other garden enthusiasts and book lovers to discuss non-fiction and fiction books about gardening, plants, nature, and the environment. The Garden & Nature Community Reading Group is a book discussion group for readers to come together, explore a book, and share in the reading experience. Books are not supplied but a copy may be available in the Schumacher Library for check-out. Olbrich members and volunteers enjoy library-lending privileges.



Title:

Entangled Life: How Fungi Make Our Worlds, Change our Minds and Shape Our Futures by Merlin Sheldrake

Date:

Thursday, October 21, 6:30-8 p.m.

Location:

This book discussion will take place at the UW-Arboretum following a fungifocused guided nature walk. The fungi walk is optional, but is only available to participants who read the book.

If interested, please sign-up for Book Club discussion groups by emailing olbrichplantinfo@cityofmadison.com or call 608-245-3644.







HAPPY 30TH BIRTHDAY

Iconic facility celebrates milestone November 1, 2021, seeks community support to make critical upgrades

Visit Olbrich's lobby any day of the week and you're bound to hear a child yell to their caregiver, "Let's go to the jungle!" Bursting through the entrance doors, they experiences something unique: a tropical paradise with exotic plants, bright flowers, a rushing waterfall, fragrant orchids, and free-flying birds. It's another day in the Bolz Conservatory, where beautiful displays and friendly docents inspire generations of visitors.

The Bolz Conservatory at Olbrich Botanical Gardens opened on November 1, 1991. The 10,000-square-foot glass pyramid is named for Adolf C. and Eugenie Mayer Bolz, whose family provided the initial \$1 million gift to launch the \$5 million project. With a mission to conserve and interpret plants native to the world's tropical forests for study, enjoyment, and public benefit, the Bolz Conservatory is home to nearly 700 plants that represent 80 plant families and 500 species and cultivars.

This November, the Bolz Conservatory celebrates its 30th birthday, and Olbrich is so proud of what this paramount pyramid means to the community. For the past three decades, the Bolz Conservatory has served millions of visitors from all over the world. As the Conservatory enters its next decade of service, it needs your support to make initial critical upgrades.

We're seeking to raise \$35,000+ that will immediately improve the visitor experience and expand access to the Bolz.

Would you consider a gift to the Bolz Conservatory's 30th Anniversary fund?

You can make a gift using the envelope included in this newsletter, give online at www.olbrich.org, or call Development Director Joe Vande Slunt at 608-246-4583. Named opportunities are available; details are in the wish list on the following page.

Your donation will support improvements to the lighting grid, education patio, Musician's Terrace, and Orchid Aerie. Donations will also expand access and outreach efforts, including increased scholarship passes, transportation reimbursement, program development, and multilingual educational materials.

Beginning in November, and throughout 2022, Olbrich will host various programs highlighting the Bolz Conservatory and celebrating its significance in the community. We will share more information on our website, social media channels, and emails as planning continues.









BOLZ CONSERVATORY!

Bolz Conservatory 30th Anniversary

Olbrich Botanical Gardens Fundraising Campaign

Olbrich Botanical Gardens seeks to raise \$35,000 + to make much needed improvements throughout the Bolz Conservatory. Three \$10,000 naming opportunities, as well as one \$5,000 naming opportunity are available. All gifts are welcome and appreciated in support of this wonderful community resource.

Naming Opportunities Available:

Musician's Terrace and Orchid Aerie (\$10,000)

This popular second floor space is home to many live performances and plant displays, and is the backdrop of many family photos. Help us spruce things up with new furniture and planters, and improve the area for flower displays, including Olbrich's prized orchid collection.

A Musician's Terrace and Orchid Aerie Sponsor will be recognized for 10 years with an engraved bronze plaque displayed in the Bolz Conservatory and will be featured in Olbrich's marketing materials.

Lighting Sponsor (\$10,000)

The 30-year-old light fixtures and electrical infrastructure do not support the needs of evening programs and exhibits in the Bolz Conservatory. Help us replace old wiring, upgrade the lighting panel, and light up the night with energy efficient LED lighting fixtures.

A Lighting Sponsor will be recognized for 10 years with an engraved bronze plaque displayed in the Bolz Conservatory and will be featured in Olbrich's marketing materials.

Education Patio (\$10,000)

The first floor education station that hosts programming in the Conservatory is tucked away, not well lit, and very outdated. Help us do a full renovation on this area as we remove the existing structure, lay down new pavers, and add furniture to serve classes and groups using the space.

An Education Patio Sponsor will be recognized for 10 years with an engraved bronze plaque displayed in the Bolz Conservatory and will be featured in Olbrich's marketing materials.

Accessibility Sponsor

(\$5,000) Olbrich welcomes all visitors regardless of their ability to afford the admission fee into the Bolz Conservatory. Be a **Bolz Conservatory Accessibility** Sponsor to provide free passes to those who request them, and support free community mornings on Wednesdays and Saturdays. The funds from this gift will also help staff reach out to community partners to spread the word about the Conservatory's programs and fund scholarship passes to schools and groups in need.

An Accessibility Sponsor will be recognized through December 31, 2023 with signage displayed in the Bolz Conservatory and in the Olbrich lobby and will be featured in Olbrich's marketing materials.



Welcome New Staff



Alex Chin
Gift Shop Associate

Alex loves her household of two dogs, a chinchilla, a rabbit, and a dove. She recently received her degree in teaching and is a volunteer in the deaf community. She loves watching movies, going to concerts, listening to podcasts, and reading a wide variety of genres.



David Lowes

Facility Maintenance Worker

After previously working at Fabick Cat and 17 years at Subzero/Wolf appliance, David joined Olbrich as a Facility Maintenance Worker. David is originally from the Michigan's Upper Peninsula (Marquette to be exact) but has resided in Madison for 25 years. In his spare time, he plays drums for a band that focuses on original music in the indie electronic pop genre.



Maya Cole

Conservatory Greenhouse Assistant

Besides her love of tropical plants, Maya also enjoys making and decorating chocolate. Maya enjoys sewing in her free time and makes anything from dog coats to quilts. She also enjoys indoor rowing. Over the course of her career, she was a zookeeper at Zoo Atlanta and grew up working at her parent's tropical plant nursery in Florida. Some of her favorite plants include Gardenias and Enterlobium cyclocarpum (Earpod Tree).



Eva Stefanski Horticulture Librarian

Eva has an extensive background working in a variety of special, academic, public, and corporate libraries and archives. Olbrich's very own Schumacher Library is what prompted Eva's interest in horticulture librarianship years ago when she was a Horticulture Intern at Olbrich. Eva lives in Milwaukee and Madison, and when she is not reading, she enjoys cycling,

traveling, attending film festivals, and spending time with her husband and two rescue cats.



Syh Kitts
Gift Shop Associate

Syh is passionate about all things plant and fungi. She enjoys reading, gardening, hiking, foraging, and going to the renaissance faire. She has lived in Madison her whole life and currently lives on the Eastside with her partner, two cats, and leopard gecko. Syh is excited to be joining the team at Olbrich and sharing her love of the natural world through her work.



Sarah Wilcox Gift Shop Manager

Sarah comes to Olbrich with a background in local retail management experience, most recently at Serry International's store on State Street. Sarah is a chocolate loving, Madison Eastsider with an affinity for YA science fiction, knitting, and her dog Matilda. Sarah and her husband enjoy hiking, biking, and eating donuts!



This summer in the Garden, everything thrived. Just as the plants burst with color and texture while reaching for the sun, visitors also multiplied, excited to explore their public garden.

Interest in volunteering at Olbrich also "came alive" this spring and summer.

After more than a year of patient quarantine, people are ready to re-engage and make up for hibernating last year. If you contacted Olbrich to get information about volunteering, thank you so much for reaching out and choosing Olbrich as a cause for investing your precious



Camille Davis Assistant Gift Shop Manager

Camille Davis is a local artist and spends most of her time painting, printmaking, and hanging out with her cat Julio. Camille loves birdwatching and exploring Wisconsin's beautiful natural areas, like the shores of Lake Michigan. You can find her most days riding her bike to her newly favorite neighborhood restaurant, Ahan. She is currently pursuing her Graphic Design degree at MATC, and is so excited to join the Olbrich team!



Lillian Laverdure Conservatory Cashier

Lillian grew up in East Tennessee at the foot of the Smoky Mountains and was especially active in theater and scientific photo-journalism. Relocating to the Rocky Mountains for a year re-sparked her love for all things nature and brought out the avid gardener in her. She loves photographing her plants and taking care of her always busy and musical household of six, including her beloved pet box turtle, Rosie and bearded dragon, Lenny!



Laura Batson Gift Shop Associate

Laura Batson is a mother of two adult children and has been married for 30 years. She has a degree in fashion merchandising and has worked in customer service and retail most of her career. She enjoys gardening, birdwatching, thrift shopping, and chocolate!



Jon Sutherland Facility Maintenance Worker

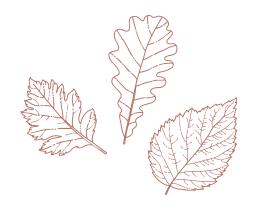
Jon was born and raised in Madison and fondly recalls spending many hours of his youth skating at the hockey rink next to Olbrich. As empty nesters, Jon and his wife have turned their focus to their love of travel to warm sunny destinations like Hawaii and San Diego. His other interests include hiking, biking, and cheering on the Packers, Brewers, and especially the Badgers. Jon previously worked with the City of Madison Streets Department for 13 years and has a wide variety of experience with residential construction, repair, and remodeling.



Maria Fairchild

Plant Recorder

Maria grew up in Bellingham, Washington - the northernmost city in the contiguous United States. She graduated in 2020 from Carleton College just south of Minneapolis, with a degree in Biology and minor in Art History. Before coming to Olbrich, she spent summers interning for a school garden nonprofit and conducting prairie restoration ecology research. She also recently completed an AmeriCorps VISTA year of service focused on food equity in Asheville, NC. Outside of work, she can be found running, biking, baking (or watching the Great British Bake Off), and learning the ukulele!



time. And... apologies for the delay in scheduling new volunteer orientations and placements.

What's causing the delay? Olbrich isn't yet ready to host full volunteer crews. Staff are adjusting volunteer duties, schedules, and locations to accommodate our public health protocol. The gradual return for onsite volunteers reflects an important staff perspective: volunteers are Olbrich family. Providing everyone with both a satisfying experience and a safe working environment is our goal.

What volunteer jobs have returned? Outdoor Gardener Crews and Conservatory Maintenance Volunteers are back in full swing; Lobby Greeters and Counters began returning on a limited schedule as well. Education Volunteers-Outdoor Garden Greeters & Docents. some outdoor Youth & Family Program Volunteers, and Conservatory Greeters & Docents—began their transition back in May; Zoom Program Hosts were introduced last January. Outdoor special event volunteers for Concerts, Summer

Breeze, Pollinator Plant Sale, and Home Garden Tour made these events possible over the summer.

This fall, you will see more volunteers, including Library Volunteers, at work onsite. Olbrich staff are looking forward to the full return of our current dedicated volunteers, as well as welcoming new volunteers over the next few months.

MARTY PETILLO, Volunteer Services Manager



Olbrich Botanical Gardens consists of 16 acres largely planted with trees, shrubs, perennials, and annuals with relatively little space devoted to turf grass or paved areas. The thousands of plants that call Olbrich home inevitably yield tons of garden debris every year. We remove the debris from some areas of the garden - turf, walkways, patios, etc. - and pile it in our back work area where it slowly breaks down into organic matter. This plant material coupled with the debris removed from the tropical plantings in the Bolz Conservatory (where plants don't stop growing - even in winter!) means we have a significant amount of garden debris. Much like the saying, "One person's trash is another person's treasure," this "trash" is actually a very desirable "treasure" for the garden.

Olbrich is primed to begin making our own compost from this surplus plant material and debris, with the ultimate goal of providing a renewable potting mix for on-site uses.

In home gardens, compost is a valuable resource for adding nutrients and improving the soil; after decades of attention and nurturing, Olbrich's planting beds generally have sufficient amounts of nutrients and organic matter in the soil so adding compost to these beds is usually unnecessary. Making our own potting mix, however, would have immediate benefits for both us and the environment.

Currently, Olbrich overwinters three hoop houses of hardy and tropical plants every year. In 2020, Olbrich's greenhouse production crew grew 14,000 annuals for the Outdoor Gardens. Production for flower shows and annual displays, along with potting up plants for overwintering every fall consume upwards of 350 bags of potting soil annually. This potting soil is purchased from outside suppliers, is a large expense, and is not sustainable.

Another unfavorable aspect of commercial potting mix is that roughly half of it (by volume) is sphagnum peat moss, mostly harvested in Michigan and Canada. It

takes hundreds or thousands of years for these peat deposits to grow and form, year after year of old plant growth sinking below the new growth and compressing into peat that is then mined from these unique bog ecosystems.

This year, the City of Madison Streets Department built us two bays from concrete blocks so we can turn our plant "trash" into compost "treasure" right here. (Thanks Margie and Andy!). We installed perforated pipes below grade to force air through the piles of plant material. The garden debris will heat up as it decomposes, killing any weed seeds that may be present. With attention to temperature and aeration, we should be able to produce a batch of compost in about 90 days, which we can then use to make renewable, sustainable potting mix on-site. Stay tuned for progress updates on this new adventure!

DAN SCHUKNECHT, Olbrich Horticulturist







OUTDOOR GARDENS FEATURED PLANT

Eryngium yuccifolium Rattlesnake Master

Rattlesnake Master, Eryngium yuccifolium. Its name might sway you to think of gun-slinging cowboys, tumbleweeds, and the wild West. However, it is a true Midwestern native within its roots deeply planted in Wisconsin soil.

Eryngium has many prairie-loving features including a tall stature and a deep taproot, plus the need for full sun and dry to poor soil quality. But, what sets this plant apart from other native prairie plants is its unique flower structure, a bristly light green "cone." Flowering with light pink stamens only the most observant garden visitors notice in early summer, by midsummer the blooms mature to light green and attract an abundance of pollinators. These pollinators go on to enjoy the tall hollow stems that act as homes, if left to stand through the fall and winter months. The stems are sturdy and add picturesque winter interest, holding little caps of snow atop each of its bristly blooms.

Come springtime, the pollinators in the Eryngium stems emerge from their slumber, and a light green rosette of strappy green foliage pokes its way out of the ground. If the conditions are just right, spring might also bring with it a surprise of additional seedlings, as the rattlesnake master seeds happily in ideal conditions. The more the merrier for the tall, slender Rattlesnake Master.

AVERY PRONSCHINSKE, Olbrich Horticulturist



Autumn Meadow, Moonlight Meadow, and Herb Gravel Garden

Common Name:

Rattlesnake Master

USDA Hardiness Zones: 4 to 9

Size: 2 to 5' tall and 2' wide

Botanical Name:

Eryngium yuccifolium

Conditions: Full sun, dry to poor soil quality

Olbrich's Garden Growers

Olbrich's "Garden Growers" provide generous monthly donations and monthly membership dues contributions for the gardens. Monthly support allows Olbrich Botanical Society to breathe easier, knowing future donations are committed from loyal members and supporters within Olbrich's community.

GARDEN GROWERS

Anonymous, Target Corporation Employee Giving April Collins, matched by American Family Insurance Jay and Lori Dreke*

Jessica Butler*, matched by American Family Insurance Liz Dannenbaum and Donna Winter Mary K Stull Paula Bloodsaw*

Renee Rizzo and James Peltier Richard Paulson and Frances Barman-Paulson* Susan Sundquist Tom Duter

*Indicates monthly dues-paying members.

Are you interested in joining Olbrich's "Garden Growers?" Contact Donor Engagement Manager, **Jake Immel** at **608-243-0153** or **Jimmel@CityOfMadison** with questions or to sign up today!







ES & MEMOF

Tribute Trellis, tribute, and memorial gifts to the Olbrich Botanical Society keep the gardens growing for everyone in our community. Thank you for these tribute trellis, tribute, and memorial gifts received January 1 - June 30, 2021.

TRIBUTE TRELLIS

ASHLEY "CAM" - TAYLOR 83-21 Joanne Schadek

BARB & WALLY - 50 YEARS! Sandy Phillips

C&L HOWTING - 50 YRS 12 17 70 Mary and Charles Howting

CAROL - KEMPFERT Tammy Kempfert and Ronald Jetty

DALE & LILA ANN - MATHWICH APRIL 19, 1958 - "TRUE LOVE" 3 SONS BRUCE, - SCOTT & DEAN Dale and Lila Ann Mathwich

DIANN ALLSEN - GARDEN LOVER Mike Allsen

DONNIE (TONI) - MISS YOU Tamara Entsminger

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Matching gift from Apple, Inc Kathy L and Lawrence A Thome Rebecca and Mark Paulson

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LINDY BARDEN - OUR TEACHER Cynthia Chin

LOVE YA NANC - ER DA DANCER Judy Adrian

MELISSA 7 16 89 - RISLEY 7 20 19 Therese Risley

N&D: LOVE!! - GMA AND GPA Stacy Smulka

N&D: WONDER - GMA AND GPA Stacy Smulka

NATURE HEALS - JEAN M. WHITE Sarah White

NINA FULTON - OUR BELOVED June E Fulton

OUR FRIEND - SUE VAN KAMPEN Beulah Poulter and Charlie Knipp

PATTI CLIKEM - SWEETY & DLY Dale and Julia Schroeder

ROXANE J. BHAN - WE MISS YOU Star and Raymond Olderman

SOLOMON TOPP - BROTHER & SON Tanya Larson and Ben Topp

THANKS FROM - WI GOURD SOC Wisconsin Gourd Society

TRIBUTES

In honor of Alice J Gibson's 75th birthday and Larry D Busser's 80th birthday

Alice and David Gibson

In honor of Efrat Livny and Threshold Joseph and Molly Vande Slunt

In honor of Karen Godshall

Joseph and Laura Heinecke

In honor of Les and Susan Hoffman Karen and Larry Beach

In honor Libby Howting Cathi and Wayne Mundsinger

In honor of Roberta Sladky's 15 years

of service as Garden Director

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In memory of Paul Boyer Ann Boyer

Jacob Immel

In memory of Phillip Levy Barbara and Stephen Napier Blake M Griffin Chuck and Denise Steinhauer Gary and Vivian Steinhauer

Continued on next page

Tributes & Memorial Gifts continued...

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Melissa Nyhus
Michael and Mary Greenhalgh
Ms Elizabeth Ogren Erickson and
Dr Robert Erickson
Nicole Borland
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Michael Landgraf
Richard T and Shirley F Vivian
Rick E and Renee M Wedderspoon
Ronald H Epping
Stephen Wedderspoon
Theodore Richards

A ROSE BY ANY OTHER NAME...

Things are always changing in Olbrich's outdoor gardens – new plants continuously pop up all over the place. The most recent changes, however, are just semantics. Look closely and you may notice a few fresh names on our garden map – the Woodland Garden, Dry Garden, and most notably, the Tower Garden.

TOWER GARDEN (formerly named the Rose Garden)

Thank you to the many members, staff, and volunteers who submitted very creative renaming suggestions earlier this year! We thought that the 'Tower Garden' was the most logical and helpful for visitors navigating through our beautiful 16 acres of gardens.

Why did we change the name? We strive to create a sanctuary for people, wildlife, and insects by reducing our use of chemicals. Growing roses in a truly environmentally friendly way is challenging. The "Rose Garden" often confused visitors because this space is so different from the traditional rose mall-style displays found in many botanical gardens.

Our main gardening philosophy at Olbrich is to create beautiful and sustainable gardens - both for the gardener and the environment. This belief is of the utmost importance to us, woven into our culture and ingrained in our entire Olbrich staff. We lead by example and inspire others to garden in a similar way by:

- Inspiring and educating current and future generations to garden sustainably
- Creating a sanctuary for a diversity of people and pollinators
- Providing an abundance of food and habitat for wildlife and beneficial insects
- Minimizing pesticide and chemical use throughout the gardens

Gardens are continually evolving; these name changes give us a fresh start to expand on Olbrich's overall mission. Besides the name change mentioned above, the traditionally named 'Rock Garden' will change to the 'Dry Garden.'

All of these formal name changes will better reflect the plants, concepts, and individual microclimates of the gardens that they represent. Please enjoy wandering through these new spaces with a renewed appreciation.

KATEY PRATT, Olbrich Horticulturist









OLBRICH'S GIFT SHOP REOPENS

Olbrich Botanical Gardens Gift Shop reopened in August with a new look and products that focus on the concept of 'Bringing the Garden Inside.'

You'll find quality garden-related products on the shelves that reflect our values of community and sustainability, and we're committed to growing our selection of fair trade and ethical products. New items include handmade baskets from Uganda, soy candles from a women's group in Chicago, and handmade cards from the Philippines.

Each week we will have a selection of plants for sale, grown by our conservatory and horticulture team-members. Stay tuned to our social media pages to find out what is being featured!

We are also using the Gift Shop to highlight local artists and provide a space for their work to grow. This month we will be featuring prints and cards from artist Sarah McRae. Sarah is a member of the Red Lake Band of Ojibwe and holds an MFA in graphics from UW-Madison. When talking about her inspiration, Sarah says, "While much of my work appears to only be about water and land, most of the inspirations behind the work are about the people in my life. My parents, siblings, friends, and my birth family all make appearances in my artwork. They, and the stories I carry with me, are my inspiration. They may appear as birds, bears, turtles or butterflies, but they are ever present. I create art to lift the spirit, to gain strength, to bring peace and balance of mind."

We look forward to your visit!

Olbrich Garden News is published 4 times a year by the Olbrich Botanical Society as a benefit to members.

Olbrich Botanical Gardens is operated as a public-private partnership between the City of Madison Parks Division and the non-profit Olbrich Botanical Society.

MISSION

Olbrich Botanical Gardens enriches life by nourishing and sharing the beauty of the gardens, the joy of gardening, the knowledge of plants, and the diversity of our world.

Olbrich Botanical Gardens is dedicated to the creation, conservation, and interpretation of gardens and plant collections hardy to the American Midwest or native to the world's tropical forests for study, enjoyment, and public benefit.

VISION

Olbrich Botanical Gardens will be a locally treasured and globally renowned source of beauty and education celebrating the importance of plants in a sustainable world.

INCLUSION

Olbrich Botanical Gardens aspires to be a destination where all visitors, volunteers, and staff are valued and feel they belong. With conscious intent and continuous learning, OBG staff, volunteers, and board will address barriers to inclusion through education, operational changes, and partnerships with the community.

ORIGINAL DESIGN Huston Design

DESIGN, LAYOUT AND PRINTING

American Printing Company

 General Information
 608-246-4550

 Growing Gifts Shop
 608-246-4710

 Schumacher Library
 608-246-5805

 Membership
 608-246-4724

If you need an interpreter, materials in alternative formats, or other accommodations to access Olbrich Gardens' services, activities, or programs, please contact 608-246-4550 or TDD 608-267-4980. Please do so at least two weeks in advance of the scheduled program so that appropriate arrangements can be made in a timely fashion.

OUTDOOR GARDENS

November - March 10 a.m. - 4 p.m..

BOLZ CONSERVATORY

10 a.m. - 4 p.m. daily

GROWING GIFTS SHOP

10 a.m. - 4 p.m. daily

SCHUMACHER LIBRARY

Wednesday - Saturday 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.

VISITOR CENTER LOBBY

November - March 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.



visit www.olbrich.org

3330 ATWOOD AVE • MADISON, WI 53704 Phone 608.246.4550 • Events 608.246.4718





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