



SPRING 2023 VOLUNTEER NEWS

The **Friends of Boerner Botanical Gardens (FBBG)** is a self-funded, year-round nonprofit organization founded in 1984 for the sole purpose of sustaining and preserving the historic Boerner Botanical Gardens. We live our mission by offering educational programming/interactive learning for all ages and populations, special events & classes, outreach partnerships and fundraising. Of particular focus is our decades-long commitment to outcomes driven student science and environmental initiatives...teaching pre k-12 children in our natural world.

FBBG Volunteer program

In 2010, the **Friends of Boerner Botanical Gardens (FBBG)** instituted the first ever volunteer initiative for support of Boerner's significantly reduced horticulture staff. Each year from March - October, FBBG recruits community members & corporate teams to come help out in the Gardens. It's fun! It's Outdoors! And you are helping sustain Boerner - a vital community asset for engagement, renewal, healthy and fun learning.

FBBG Donor-driven Children's Garden ~ Margie's Garden



Margie's Garden was built and named in memory of Margaret "Margie" Kezman, a local teacher who passed away May 25, 2019. The Garden, which opened in July 2022, was built by Margie's family, honoring her memory. Milwaukee-based New Eden Landscape Architecture, LLC designed the child-friendly space.

FBBG is proud of our role in bringing this long dreamed project to Boerner.



We are honored to have numerous corporate groups volunteer over the years. Reserve your group day today!



To volunteer or for more information, contact Rhonda Pelk, 414-525-5653 or rpelk@fbbg.org

Updates from Boerner Horticulturalists

From the Rose Garden By Marian French

We'll start the gardening year off right with two workdays in the Rose Garden. Volunteers are needed **Wednesday, April 12** and **Saturday, April 15 from 9:30am- noon**. All skill levels are welcome, as we will start each workday with a quick pruning tutorial led by consulting rosarians from the Greater Milwaukee Rose Society. Come learn more about roses, get a good spring workout and breathe some fresh air!

Please bring your own bypass pruners and gloves. Please RSVP by April 3 to Marian.French@milwaukeecountywi.gov

As spring warms into summer, we'll continue to follow the needs of the roses. Once pruning is complete, weeding is usually not far behind, followed by deadheading and more weeding. Here's hoping for moderate temperatures and adequate rain.



WHAT'S BREWING IN THE HERB GARDEN THIS YEAR? HERE'S A "TEA-ser"

By Lorrie Burrows



- This year's herbal theme garden will be titled "**Tea in the Garden**" and feature history, mystery and lore about tea and "tisanes," (herb teas). I'm excited to see the Camerllia sinensis (source plant for all true tea). We'll highlight many plants in our Herb Garden that are popular in combination with tea as well as soothing/refreshing on their own. The quirky props for this display will include teacup towers, thrift-store china "pyramids," larger-than-life teacup planters and a charming bistro table and chairs with a teatime place setting.
- The Herb Society is already busy creating a new binder featuring Native American herbs and their use. The HSA has done "Culinary" and "Fragrant" herb binders in prior years which we hope to display again this year.
- Elsewhere in the Herb Garden, the pattern beds will draw from traditional knot garden designs in a flatter plain than we've done recently. Key plants will include tricolor sage, dianthus, 'Little Ruby' alternanthera and 'Lemon Coral' sedum in a swirling carpet pattern.

Things to watch for in the Trial Gardens in 2023

From Jessica Cloninger



- The theme for the large bed as you enter the Trial Garden (All-American Selections Display Bed) is **Whimsy**. The Goal is to create small vignettes throughout the bed that create the allure of whimsy in the Garden. This will be done with various props and planting.
- The National Garden Bureau (NGB) announced Celosia as the 2023 Annual of the Year. While Celosia is often used in the Trial Garden, this year will showcase 12 different varieties.
- NGB slected Broccoli as the 2023 Vegetable of the Year. While it's been a few years, I'm excited to see the return of Broccoli "Artwork" in the Trial Garden.

Shrub Mall and Rock Garden Updates

Fom Marla Peterson

This year's annuals for the shrub mall are inspired by one of my favorites, ornamental oregano. With shades of magenta, purple and light green it will be featured in the shrub mall terrace beds and containers, along with other annuals of the same palette. For the rock garden, there should be a mix of sedums, white gladiolos, portulaca and purple fountain grass. I'd also like to try small dedum topiaries. I've ordered several new shurbs and perennials for projects in the rock garden, shrub mall and rainwater harvest. I look forward to seeing you all again, as we couldn't do this without your support. Here's to warmer weather!

**Thank you for attending and helping support
FBBG's mission.**

