



Fall
2018

THE NEWSLETTER FOR THE ATLANTA BOTANICAL GARDEN VOLUNTEERS



Congratulations
to these
Volunteers Of the Month

September
Anne Boyte

October
Marge Smith

November
Chuck Young

December
Tom Baydala

And to Gainesville's
Volunteer of the Quarter
Bill McMahon

Read their profiles on
pages that follow.

ATLANTA BOTANICAL GARDEN

GARDEN LIGHTS

HOLIDAY NIGHTS

NATURE'S WONDERS RETURNS!

This year's edition of Garden Lights Holiday Nights is off to a great start!

The 8th annual holiday favorite runs every night through Sunday, January 6 from 5 until 11 p.m.

Volunteers are needed to spread holiday cheer during this delightful Garden tradition. Sign up with Josh Todd to be part of the magic!

Meet the Volunteers of the Month

September: Anne Boyte

A native of Atlanta, Anne Boyte grew up climbing trees and making mud pies, she says, and had her first garden plot at age 5. To this day she is happiest when she's outside, whether gardening or hiking or kayaking. For over twenty years, the ABG has been a favorite retreat for her and was a special place to bring her mother for visits. Now a retired social worker, Anne joined the volunteer ranks at the Garden in April 2016, logging Centennial hours since then as a Docent, with Discovery Stations and with a variety of children's programs. "Volunteering at the Garden offers me a chance to help children explore the intriguing and beautiful world around them, and lets me give back to families and children through nature and learning." There's no better place to be, she says, except maybe in her own garden where she helps her grandson grow sugar snap peas, sunflowers and Gerber daisies in his own garden plot. The family tradition continues!

For her enthusiasm and overall sense of fun and joy, the Garden salutes Anne Boyte as Volunteer of the Month for September.



October: Marge Smith

A Garden volunteer for nearing twenty years, Marge Smith started as a docent about the time the Children's Garden was opened and is continually amazed at the changes she's seen since then. Along the way, she took a turn "digging in the dirt" as a GEM before finding her niche in the Gift Shop where she dons her apron every Tuesday, helping visitors pick a special memento of their Garden visit. "I love being in the Gift Shop because people share their excitement about their visit and what a beautiful Garden we have...and I couldn't agree more!" As she says, you can't help but be happy when working with the appreciative Garden staff and interesting volunteers in such a wonderful setting. When she's not sharing her smile with Garden visitors, you might find her visiting other public gardens (checking out the gift shops!) in her travels, out walking or reading.

A Centennial since 2001, Volunteer of the Month 15 years ago and a Root of the Garden in 2004, Marge has proven to be one of the Garden's most loyal volunteers. The Garden thanks Marge for her years of service by honoring her as October's Volunteer of the Month.



Meet the Volunteers of the Month

November: Chuck Young

Wednesday mornings usually find Chuck Young weeding, pruning and digging in the ABG's Perennial Garden. A GEM volunteer since 2004 and Centennial since 2007, he readily admits that learning more about horticulture is what led him to sign up in the first place. What better place to learn about gardening than at the Atlanta Botanical Garden? "The staff is so knowledgeable and wonderful. It's been a great opportunity for me to learn from them." He's come a long way since those first days as a novice, both as a gardener and as a volunteer, and now serves on the Board of the Georgia Perennial Plant Association, co-chairing the group's Silent Auction in 2019 at the Perennial Plant Association Symposium at the Botanical Garden on January 26.

A retired commercial photographer, Chuck and wife Pat moved to Atlanta in 1977, raising their two sons here. When he is not dabbling in his yard or in the perennials or the Southern Seasons Garden at the Botanical Garden, he enjoys cooking and, little surprise, photography. For his many years of digging in the dirt, through rain, heat and cold, the Garden gratefully recognizes Chuck as November Volunteer of the Month.

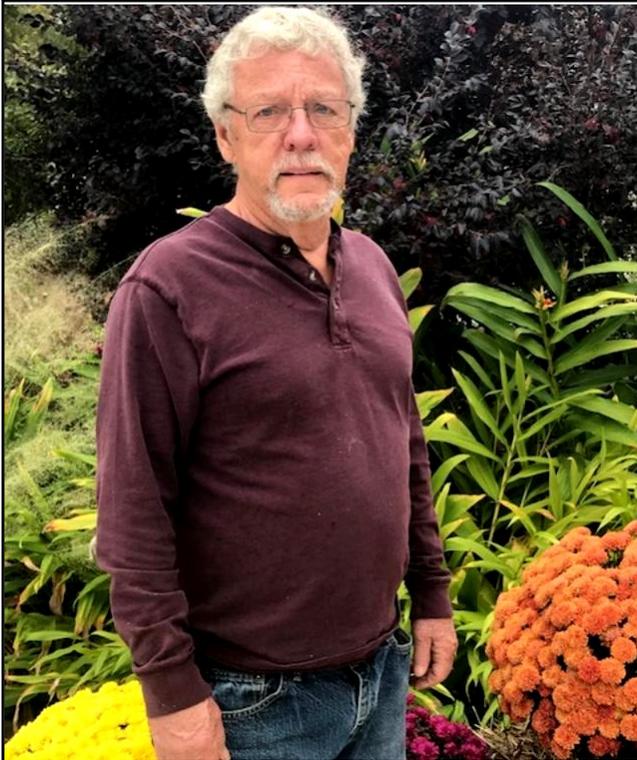


December: Tom Baydala

Tom Baydala admits to having a vegetable garden of one size or another since he was a teenager, so when he considered volunteering at the Botanical Garden in June of 2017, becoming a GEM in the Edible Garden was a perfect fit. In 2015, after more than 40 years in Birmingham, Alabama, Tom and his wife retired and moved to Atlanta to be closer to grandchildren. Soon thereafter, they discovered the Botanical Garden. Now Tuesdays find him pitching in with whatever the staff need him to do in the Edible Garden. "Tom is an excellent volunteer who shows up ready to work with a great attitude and work ethic," say hort staffers Brad and Raleigh. "He has a natural understanding of display gardening, and we can count on him to do what we ask of him...and then some! We are so lucky and grateful that he's part of our team!"

So Atlanta is now home. They hardly miss a grandchild's ballet performance or baseball or soccer game. Tom has run the Peachtree Road Race three times. They've discovered the fun of eating out on Buford Highway. The Botanical Garden is sure glad to be part of their new life here and salutes Tom's dedication by naming him Volunteer of the Month for December.





Saluting Gainesville's Volunteer of the Quarter

Bill McMahan

By Wanda Cannon, Gainesville Education and Volunteer Coordinator

Meet Gainesville volunteer Bill McMahan! Bill is one of our favorite volunteers with his willing attitude and gentle spirit. Everyone enjoys being around him.

Bill and his family moved to Georgia from Indiana in 1970. He and his wife Judy have two daughters and two grandchildren who all live in the Gainesville area. After retiring from Volvo 12 years ago, Bill began searching for places to volunteer. He started out with Zoo Atlanta one day a week, making food for the primates. Interesting! He continued volunteering there for eight years. In 2012, Bill completed the Hall County Master Gardener class and soon found his place volunteering at the Smithgall greenhouses regularly. When the Gainesville Garden opened in 2015, he continued working in the greenhouses every Tuesday and also became a Garden Maintenance volunteer every Thursday. Bill volunteers for concerts and other Garden events too and in Visitor Services when needed. His commitment, enthusiasm and overall willing-

ness make Bill a natural selection to receive this recognition. He is truly a part of the Smithgall Woodland legacy that is now a piece of the Gainesville Garden's history.

Congratulations to Bill McMahan! The Garden is honored to select you as Volunteer of the Quarter. The staff appreciates your time and commitment in making the Atlanta Botanical Garden Gainesville such a beautiful place to visit.

Scarecrows in the Garden: The Winners



And then there are the really unusual ones! (below)



The Garden's annual October event brought the customary creative, unique and outlandish scarecrows. Everyone had their personal favorite but judges bestowed top honors:

First Place, Professional Division:
The Candy Horns
by Peachtree Petals
(left)

First Place in the
Non-Professional Category:
The Huntress: Thrift Shop Style!
By the Assistance League
of Atlanta
(far left)

Second Place, Non-Professional:
Ghoulish Gershwin and His Rhapsody
in Boo
By Georgia Symphony Chorus

Third Place, Non-Professional:
Scare-ooo-saurus
By Wright Boylan



By Wanda Cannon,
Gainesville Education and Volunteer Coordinator



The Atlanta Botanical Garden Gainesville is beautiful right now! Fall colors are abundant through the Garden! Gold, reds and orange decorate the landscape as you walk out our back doors.

The Garden enjoyed a successful summer season exhibiting the Mosaiculture frogs, pandas and, of course, the Ogre. Visitors enjoyed the live sculptures and then were delighted by our many creative and fun scarecrows displayed throughout the Garden in October. The Woodland Ramble, plant sales and, of course, the Goblins Festival at the end of October kept us all busy. The Festival was a lot of fun with pumpkin decorating, jugglers, creepy crawlers, magicians and the runway shows.

All the while, our great volunteers have beautifully maintained the Garden and worked endlessly in the greenhouses. Our Visitor Service greeters have been committed to sharing information with our visitors and making the Garden experience a delight. Discovery, Story Time and Budding Artists volunteers help to share information about the natural world around us. And of course we could not do without our many Concert and Wine in the Woodland volunteers who supply much needed support with their pleasant attitude and helpful spirits during those events.

Look for recognition of our Volunteer of the Quarter in this issue. Congratulations to Bill McMahan!

As we look toward next year, the Garden will host winter adult and children's painting classes in January through April. Some horticulture classes will also be available. Check out our new website and register for some of these classes. New volunteer Lunch & Learns and docent training are planned for early spring.

It is exciting to look up to the right of our entrance and see the beginnings of our new Children's Garden, slated to open in mid-2019. What exciting opportunities to expand our family visitation and develop new events and programs for our young visitors!

Save the date for our annual Volunteer Luncheon planned for February 16 here at the Garden. It's always a fun time with good food to enjoy!

As I write this, I hope all will have a great Holiday Season and New Year. The Garden has a lot in store for 2019. It will be an exciting year here in Gainesville!

News from the Volunteers at

Atlanta Botanical Garden, Gainesville



By Diane Korzeniewski

Who shops for fall plants when the temperature is in the 90s? Well, a lot of people did. We had a very successful fall plant sale. Members' Day was especially busy. During the first few hours, plants practically flew off the tables! There was a line of customers before we even opened. It is always fun answering questions, teaching people about the plants, and sharing info with people who come. Learning is a two way street.

The Concert in the Garden in September was wonderful, even if it did feel like summer.

Our focus continues to be readying plants for the Children's Garden and revamping garden beds and pots for the winter. The first week of November we helped staff remove EVERYTHING from the bed by the pond. It was a jungle in there! I suspect I was not the only one having an Aleve with my lunch. Stumps will be dug out, soil level raised and irrigation improved. It is destined to be a showstopper after all the work is completed. We expect to be busy with the tropicals from Atlanta soon. Repotting them and taking them to their winter home in the greenhouse is always a big job but a satisfying one when you fill a greenhouse in a matter of hours.

Many of us ventured to Atlanta for a wonderful time at the Volunteer Night at the Garden Nights Holiday Lights. What a spectacle!

Happy holidays to all!

Docent Doings

By Cyndy Franklin
2018 Docent Chair

All About the Garden Docents



The Garden has an army of volunteers who support the staff by doing a wide variety of activities ranging from feeding the frogs and turtles, pulling weeds, greeting visitors, manning the library and Plant Hotline and many more. All volunteers are special, but docents are extra special!! I probably feel that way because I have been one for almost 10 years and it has been a wonderful experience.

The word *docent* is derived from the Latin word meaning *to teach or lecture*. ABG docents lead the adult and children's tour groups at the Garden. The training to be a ABG Docent is very informative and inclusive. The children's training class is seven weeks and the adult session is five weeks. You can do both trainings to lead any group, or you can choose only adult or children. There's no requirement on which one is first if you take both. I particularly enjoy leading the children's tours. They ask the best questions and are so excited to explore the Garden!

In addition to the basic training, there are continuing monthly educational updates for docents. These consist of "lunch & learn" sessions with programs presented by Garden staff members. Docents also go on monthly field trips to gardens, museums and places of interest in the greater Atlanta area.

Garden docents share a love of good food. At monthly luncheons we take turns bringing wonderful food to share. Our annual staff luncheon, provided for Garden employees at holiday time, always receives rave reviews from the staff.

Docents also share a love of gardening. At monthly meetings we bring plants from our gardens to share with other docents in exchange for a small donation. The money is donated to the Garden library to purchase books. Over the years ABG docents have helped to buy hundreds of dollars worth of books for the library.

I have so enjoyed my time as an ABG docent. I have made wonderful friends, visited their gardens, shared meals, enjoyed fabulous field trips and learned so much about our Garden and many others in our area. Like many of the docents, I also volunteer for other opportunities at the Garden. We are a very active group. There are around 400 volunteers at the Garden and about 100 of them are docents. Come join us! The next children's tour training is coming up January 23 through March 6. Contact Josh Todd (jtodd@atlantabg.org) if you are interested in becoming an ABG Docent.

Thanks, Volunteers!

Forty volunteers came out on a cool, drizzly November morning to plant over 10,000 bulbs for the Garden's annual springtime spectacular, Atlanta Blooms.

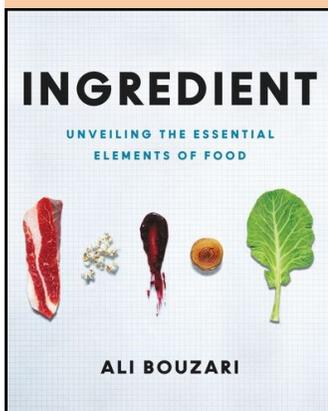


Photos by Christine Cotter

Check It Out:

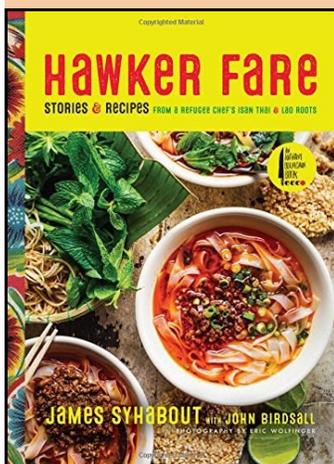
What's New in the Garden's Library

The Garden's Sheffield Botanical Library and the Orchid Reference Library together have over 8000 books and 125 journals that are available for volunteers to check out. In this occasional new feature, Library Volunteer Michelle Li details some of the library's newest acquisitions.



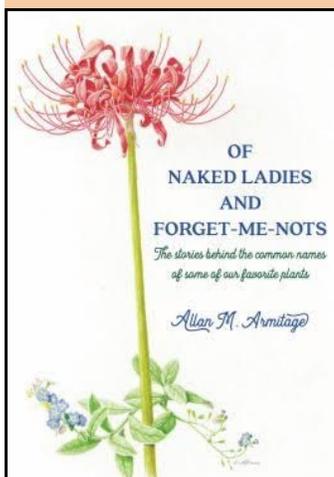
INGREDIENT: Unveiling the Essential Elements of Food
by Ali Bouzari

If you're fascinated by molecular gastronomy but don't feel like reading a chemistry book, look no further. Ali Bouzari breaks down the eight fundamental ingredients of cooking — water, proteins, carbohydrates, minerals, gases, sugars, lipids, and heat — into their forms, their functions, their uses, and their combinations. He pulls the curtain back on each one, exposing their personality traits, and helps the reader gain a deep understanding of what's happening in the kitchen. No matter your level of cooking skill, **Ingredient** will help you make whatever you're making better.



HAWKER FARE: Stories and Recipes from a Refugee Chef's Isan Thai and Lao Roots
by James Syhabout

There isn't enough written about Southeast Asian cuisine, and there especially isn't enough written about Southeast Asian cuisine by Southeast Asian authors. James Syhabout, owner and executive chef of Commis, CDP, and Hawker Fare, writes a book that is half memoir and half family recipe. Like many immigrants to the United States, he explores what it means to be American and Lao Isan, to embrace culture and identity in a country that has forgotten the hundreds of thousands of bombs it dropped in a land far, far away. His recipes are Thai and Lao and uniquely his, crafted with experience, some nostalgia, and a lot of soul. Preface written by Anthony Bourdain.



OF NAKED LADIES AND FORGET-ME-NOTS: The Stories Behind the Common Names of Some of Our Favorite Plants
by Allan M. Armitage

Why is toadflax named toadflax when it's also called butter and eggs? What about kiss-me-over-the-garden-gate? Heartsease? Allan Armitage gives a brief history and description of 95 plants in this charming book, along with instructions on where and how to plant - although you may not want some of the notorious ones.

Meet the Staff:

Jason Morris

Guest Experience Senior Manager

By Josh Todd

Jason Morris started at the Garden in November 2015 as a Visitor Experience Lead during Garden Lights. In January of the following year, after showcasing exceptional guest relations during the busy holiday event, he was promoted to the Visitor Experience Associate Manager. In August of 2016, he was once again promoted to the Visitor Experience Manager. Over the past two years, Jason has elevated the Garden's customer relations, and with changes in the department, he was most recently named the Guest Experience Senior Manager. His new role has him continuing to oversee the admissions staff and now includes management of the Gift Shop as well.



Born in Fort Walton Beach, Florida, Jason moved to Henry County at an early age and later attended UGA for college. He now lives in Brookhaven. The once aspiring art teacher found a job at Stone Mountain Park, overseeing two of the Park's gift shops, and has remained in customer service ever since. As the Merchandise Area Manager, he worked on and off at the Park for 10 years, with brief stints at the World of Coca Cola and Sea World in-between.

His responsibilities in the newly created Guest Experience Senior Manager role include directing all aspects of the guest experience, including the Guest Experience Department and Garden Gift Shop. His staff of 50 is responsible for ticketing and the admission of Garden guests and members, maintaining the aesthetics for the visitor experience, assisting visitors throughout the grounds and shop sales. Key staff include: Titania Collins, Concierge; Kiara Leach, Guest Experience Associate Manager; and Kathryn Rusk, Gift Shop Manager. "We have volunteers in all three of these areas," Jason explains. "Greeters help the guest experience team welcome visitors, answer questions and hand out maps. They are really the face of the Garden for our guests when they enter the Visitor Center to begin their visit. We have volunteers in the Gift Shop who help the staff on the sales floor. And our Concierge has volunteers assist at the information window with emails, phone calls, appointments and answering questions about the Garden and surrounding area. Partly due to their great interactions with visitors, our department has exceeded a record-breaking \$1 million in on-site membership sales this year!"

"Thanks to our volunteers for serving our visitors! We couldn't welcome and assist guests with this level of service without you. Not only our usual volunteers, but as we get into Garden Lights, so many volunteers from other areas sign up to help our team. We have more greeters in Woodland Court and the Visitor Center, volunteers helping at decision points, tending the fires, and taking pictures for guests. As you all know, we hit our 1,000,000th visitor for the show last year. We are expecting nearly 200,000 visitors during our 8th Garden Lights season. Nature's Wonders was immensely popular last year, and now with the addition of the Skyline Lounge and a few Imaginary World pieces, it's going to be even busier! To help accommodate this, we are staying open until 11 pm every night."

Outside of the Garden, you may run into Jason at the theater – he's a frequent movie-goer – or at a theme park riding roller coasters. "The new Twisted Cyclone is my favorite ride right now, but I really enjoy all of the attractions around Fright Fest over Halloween." Feel free to ask him about tips for visiting Stone Mountain too. "Everyone knows about the Laser Show and hiking around or up the mountain, but there are so many fun things to do around Crossroads that people don't know about – feel free to ask me or go check it out!"

The Botanical Garden in Cuba: An Interesting Collaboration to Preserve Orchid Species

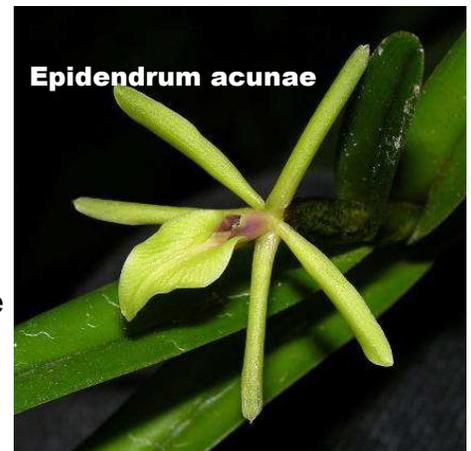
By Matt Richards,
Senior Horticulturist



Brassia caudata

The Garden has had the privilege of working with partners in Cuba since 2016. The goals of our collaborative project are to locate four orchid species (*Brassia caudata*, *Bulbophyllum pachyrachis*, *Epidendrum acunae*, and *Macradenia lutescens*), document their natural communities, and collect seed for export back into the U.S. for propagation. These four orchid species were once known in Florida's two southernmost counties. Decades of over-collecting, habitat destruction, and stochastic events are the main reasons these species are now considered by most to be extirpated in Florida. The *Bulbophyllum* and *Epidendrum* were previously documented in the Fakahatchee Strand Preserve State Park, where the Garden has been active in the conservation and restoration of *Cyrtopodium punctatum* since 2007.

Working closely with partners at Fakahatchee Strand Preserve State Park, Florida International University, and Friends of the Fakahatchee Strand, a strategy emerged to form collaborations with colleagues working in the closest habitat where these orchids are still found in the wild. Thanks to Cuban partners at CITMA (Ministerio de Ciencia, Tecnología y Medio Ambiente), SNAP (Sistema Nacional de Áreas Protegidas de Cuba), and Orquideario Soroa, populations of these orchids were located in the Provinces of Matanzas and Pinar del Rio. In June of 2018 Garden staff were able to obtain research and collaboration visas to access regions of Ciénaga de Zapata Parque de Nacional (a UNESCO World Heritage tentative listing) becoming one of the first U.S. institutions granted access to this large and diverse biosphere reserve. In addition, the Garden was able to obtain the permits necessary to collect seed from these orchids for export to the U.S.



Epidendrum acunae

After many months of waiting, we finally received our research visas from the Cuban Embassy in Washington D.C. - just 45 minutes prior to our scheduled departure. Once in Cuba, our work was dramatically altered when the Ciénaga de Zapata received record flooding, making most areas inaccessible. Thanks to our partners at CITMA and Soroa, seed from three of the four target species were successfully collected and stored prior to the flooding rains and our arrival. Despite the rains, our team was able to conduct monitoring and exploratory field work within the orchid's natural habitat. Today, the seed from these three species have been sown in the Garden's Tissue Culture Laboratory.

In December of 2018, the Garden staff will again join our Cuban colleagues as well as partners from Jacksonville Zoo and Gardens and Naples Zoo at Caribbean Gardens to conduct the remaining field research and locate the final species, (*Epidendrum acunae*), for seed collection. This collection work has come with many trials, challenges, and communication barriers, and we will continue to face them in planning our future work. There is a saying "nothing in Cuba is guaranteed, but anything is possible." We are so proud to be partnering with these Cuban agencies, so passionately dedicated to their work in conservation and education.

NOTES FROM MARY PAT

INSIGHTS FROM MARY PAT MATHESON
THE ANN AND HAYS MERSHON PRESIDENT & CEO



The New Year 2019 Is Coming: A Big Year For The Garden

Thinking forward, 2019 looks to be a banner year for the Garden with some exciting new additions and a return of a beloved exhibition. You may recall that the Nourish & Flourish Campaign had a rather eclectic but essential list of projects to fund over a period of years. The first splendid garden project was the new woodland garden in Storza Woods including the elegant John Imlay Bridge and Arthur Blank Water Mirror. Since 2015 when that garden opened, we have opened the new Lou Glenn Children's Garden, Longleaf Restaurant, Skyline Garden and expanded the administrative headquarters.

We've been fortunate in this campaign as projects could be built as funds were committed over the course of a number of years. We are now at the end of that campaign, and the next two projects will take the Garden to a new level of programming and mission delivery. The Southeastern Conservation Center will be both an academic and research center and the facility in which much of our behind-the-scenes conservation and training work takes place. Laboratories for students and research staff will provide much needed space to conduct DNA assessments as well as other critical lab work. There will be a new tissue culture laboratory, classroom, conference rooms and open studio offices for staff and students. This will be the center of our conservation work, a critical facility to assure our success in saving rare plants and training future scientists. The Center will also be the home of our talented horticulture team with new open studio offices and room for them to interact and plan their activities.

In Gainesville, a new Children's Garden will open providing learning opportunities as well as nature based encounters for our young visitors. There will be a treehouse to climb on, a labyrinth to explore and many playful experiences with water and fanciful gardens. We know from 22 years of experience how a children's garden can positively impact generations of children, and I am excited to bring that knowledge and this new project to the Gainesville Garden.

With respect to the return of the beloved exhibition, Imaginary Worlds, that is a bit of a misnomer. We do plan to bring back some of the most loved pieces – Dragons, Camels, Pegasus and Phoenix – but we will be adding a new twist this year. We have an amazing scene from Alice in Wonderland that will be created for the Skyline Garden... think a 20 foot white rabbit and the playing cards and chess scene. Does that peak your imagination? I hope so as it promises to be perhaps our best Imaginary World exhibition ever!

Of course, we will need your help to succeed with all of these grand plans. Everything we do is supported by our volunteers, and you've heard me call you the life blood of the Garden. That's a beautiful fact, so I thank you for a grand 2018 and for your good work yet to come in 2019.

Happy New Year!

"Digging In" is published for the volunteers of the Atlanta Botanical Garden.

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