



Coming In May

Imaginary Worlds: *Alice's Wonderland*

By Josh Todd

The *Once Upon a Time* theme from the 2018 exhibition turns the page this summer with the theme *Alice's Wonderland*. Many of the plant giants will return, some in new locations with new plantings and colors. The surprise addition for 2019 is a scene from Alice in Wonderland taking over the Skyline Garden and Aquatic Plant Pond. The white rabbit sits in the pond in an upside down umbrella, complete with top hat and pocket watch. A sleeping Alice naps nearby, with a chessboard and pieces, playing cards, and a witty Cheshire Cat.

On March 13, over fifty volunteers previewed the sculpture planting at Premier Growers Greenhouse in Buford. They observed horticulturists using the dibbers to plant from plug trays and got an overview from horticulturist Jim Smith. Also a treat, the greenhouse owner gave a tour of the glasshouses and discussed the company's origins and clients, including Disney!

Opening events begin Monday, May 6 and Tuesday, May 7 with Member Previews. Wednesday, May 8 is the Circle's Event, followed by Thursday, May 9, the first Cocktails in the Garden and final Member Event.

The Volunteer and Staff Opening Event will be on Friday, May 10, 6:00-9:00 pm. Bring a guest along and enjoy the exhibition with other volunteers and staff. Longleaf will be open for dinner and bars will offer a discounted drink menu for the evening.

The Public Opening Weekend for the exhibition is Saturday and Sunday, May 11 and 12. This is Mother's Day Weekend, which of course means the annual Connoisseurs Tour will be showcasing many private gardens around the city. It is going to be a busy weekend! Keep an eye out for information and emails about all the opening events and tour.

**Congratulations to
Charlotte Miller
2018
Volunteer of the Year**

Congratulations
to these
Volunteers Of the Month

January
Cyndy Franklin

February
Joe Alexander

March
Lynn Malone

April
Lynda Pollock

And to Gainesville's
Volunteer of the Quarter
Pat Baillie

Thanks for Giving

The February Thanks for Giving luncheons saluted the Garden's legion of dedicated volunteers who work tirelessly out of a love for the Garden and its mission.

Special recognitions were given to Centennial Volunteers, the 200-Hour Club, Volunteers of the Month, the Roots of the Garden and the 2018 Volunteer of the Year, **Charlotte Miller**.

A Lifetime Achievement Award was given this year to longtime Garden Gift Shop volunteer **Nancy Waterfill**.

Gainesville volunteer **Bill Jackson** was presented the Gainesville Garden's first Lifetime Achievement Award at their luncheon.



Nancy Waterfill



The Roots of the Garden



2017-18 Volunteers of the Month

Charlotte Miller Named 2018 Volunteer of the Year

Regular Thursday night Garden visits with her daughter led Charlotte Miller to start volunteering here in 2013, first in Discovery Stations, then also as a GEM, a Docent, in the greenhouse and with amphibian conservation, with tours and special events galore, even steaming tablecloths and addressing last-minute escort cards as needed. In a word, Charlotte volunteers *everywhere*, this year logging over 600 hours as Root of the Garden for the fourth time. A typical volunteer day for Charlotte starts with leading a morning tour, helping with amphibians and making turtle salad in the afternoon, then staying to assist with an evening class or event. “She is such an asset for the Garden,” says Heather Rice, Family Programs Coordinator. “She can be stationed anywhere and know exactly what to do. Her versatility along with her amazing attitude about working here and engaging guests and other volunteers is something we lean on to ensure programs run smoothly.” Other staff echo that praise with accolades like “She is an unforgettable force!” and “She is a joy and a treasure! We are so, so fortunate to have her here.” As one staff member puts it: “There are not enough positive words to describe her!” Little wonder that Charlotte Miller was a nearly unanimous choice as 2018 Volunteer of the Year.



Lifetime Achievement Award Presented to Nancy Waterfill

The Lifetime Achievement recognition is not an annual award. In fact, in the Garden’s 43 year history, there have been only seven members in this club. This award is reserved for volunteers who not only provide outstanding service to the Garden but continue that service for years without fail, and is only presented when a volunteer truly stands alone in his or her support, reliability and commitment to the Garden over the course of decades. This year, that special recognition was presented to long-time volunteer Nancy Waterfill.



Nancy started at the Garden in 1989 in the Garden Gift Shop, at the time housed in a trailer. She has volunteered in the same place, for the same shift, the same day and same time, once a week for the entire 30 years. Amazingly consistent, she was a member of the 1991 Centennial Club class and has given over 100 hours of annual service nearly every year since. Described by staff as dependable, dedicated and enthusiastic, she is a two time Volunteer of the Month and has volunteered during the many new additions and changes through the years, always with a smile and a sly and funny wit. The Garden is grateful and proud to add Nancy’s name to its history books.

Centennial Club

The Centennial Club volunteer category was created to salute volunteers donating at least 100 hours of service during the volunteer year.

The first class in 1990 started with 15 people; in 2018 the number of volunteers giving at least 100 hours of service reached 190.

We welcome 40 new Centennial Club members this year! In recognition of their time and commitment, each new member receives a Centennial Club name badge, a Sheffield Botanical Garden library card, a 50% discount on an educational class, and Garden-sponsored parking at the Sage Facility.



New Centennial Club Members

Karen Ahrens
Joe Alexander
Carolyn Anderson
Tom Baydala
Betsy Chaitoff
Paul Cushing
Glen Cypher
Ivey Fidelibes
Eboni Ford
Diana Gibson
Megan Haley
Debbie Henderson
Bonnie Herron
Fariba Hollister
Linda Kenney
Michelle Li
Bill Linnell
Romy Marx
Barbara McRoberts
Mary Morgan

Tim Mullen
Allison Nicolle
Carlane Passman
Daisy Peterson
Deanna Pring
Veloy Reynders
Nancy Rizzo
Kay Roane
Patricia Robinson
Susan Rosenberg
Susan Schlather
Amelia Smith
David Smith
Sarah Spangler
Beth Syribey
Richard Thorne
Beth Vaughan
Alice Wertheim
Madlen Wilmes
Lindsay Wyatt

Volunteers of the Month 2017 and 2018

This recognition is unique from the other service awards because it is purely merit based, as these volunteers are nominated by their staff supervisors for showing exceptional devotion and enthusiasm in what they are doing. Volunteers of the Month have an article in the quarterly newsletter and have a book placed in the Garden's library in their honor.

2017

Marj Leinbaugh
Mary DeHaye
Anita Hinkle
Rick Fritz
Louise Horney
Janet Cantrelle
James Bemberg
Denise Siegel
Paula White
David Morgan
Vince Gallo
Kathy Gallo

2018

Joan Carson
Bob Nelson
Bob Lossie
Susan Slemenda
Charlotte Miller
Mel Berss
Margaret Turk
Christine Cotter
Anne Boyte
Marge Smith
Chuck Young
Tom Baydala



Perennial Centennials

Perennial Centennials recorded over 100 hours during the past volunteer year and in at least one previous year. In honor of this achievement, each receives a new library card and class coupon, as well as another year of Garden-sponsored parking.

This year we proudly recognize 150 as Perennial Centennials.

| | | | |
|------------------|--------------------|----------------------|--------------------|
| Bev Adkins | Diana Farmer | Lynn Malone | Patricia Schiffman |
| Troy Alexander | Tatyana Fershtat | Sharon Marler | Brian Schuster |
| Yvonne Arrington | Chris File | Abbott Mason | Cheryl Schuster |
| Beth Baer | Mary Flynt | Roberta Matthews | Barbara Schwendler |
| Pat Baillie | Cyndy Franklin | Theresa McDugald | Mark Scofield |
| James Bemberg | Rick Fritz | Maggie McGarity | Linda Scott |
| Ann Bentsen | Jennifer Fuller | Bill McMahan | Tom Shillock |
| Mel Berss | Kathy Gallo | Angie Meadows | Denise Siegel |
| Jo Ann Bertrand | Vince Gallo | Burrelle S. Meeks | Lynn Sinclair |
| Diane Blaikie | Pat Gianelloni | Chris Michael | Ayesha Siraj |
| Beverly Blakely | Marianne Gilmore | Charlotte Miller | Susan Slemenda |
| Lua Blankenship | Talaat Giurgius | Agnes Miller-Landers | Geni Smith |
| Stan Bokoski | Eve Goldstein | Carol Morgan | Marge Smith |
| Wanda Bokoski | Steve Guinness | David Morgan | Alice Soder |
| Denise Bomberger | Elise Halpern | Jeanne Muhlberger | Raenell Soller |
| Ann Bonislawski | Mary Ann Hart | Neil Murray | Holly Sparrow |
| Anne Boyte | Deedi Henson | Patty Nathan | Michael Stanley |
| Pat Bras | Sally Hilton | Jack Nolen | Jeanne Starr |
| Joan Brown | Bob Holmes | Jane Olausen | Sa Su |
| Janet Cantrelle | Louise Horney | Sue Osier | Heather Tangren |
| Tom Carr | Lin Inlow | John Pardue | Wendy Tarson |
| Joan Carson | Sandy Kaiser | Alejandro Perez | Judie Taylor |
| Bettie Cheek | Gene Kalin | Sandy Perkowitz | Behnoosh Tehrani |
| Christine Cotter | Bobbie Kilgo | Carol Phillips | Pat Teplitz |
| Elizabeth Creagh | Steve Kilgo | Lisbet Phillips | Gale Thomas |
| Sally Crowe | Diane Korzeniewski | Roy Pinkston | Margaret Turk |
| Johnette Crum | Harry Larsen | Lynda Pollock | Brenda Volkmann |
| Pamela Crumbie | Anne Latimer | Bonnie Poulin | Nancy Waterfill |
| Marie Cypher | Kathryn LaTour | Bob Powell | Clark Weisner |
| Kay Darrington | Marj Leinbaugh | Alice Pugh | Paula White |
| Debbie Demoss | Danny Lentz | Rebecca Rahm | Mary Anne Winslow |
| Bill Dickey | Mark Lewis | Tom Reins | Susan Wood |
| Beatie Divine | Katie Lindquist | Vicki Remaley | Sally Wright |
| Clyde Draughon | Mikiko Lockwood | Kathy Ronay | Chuck Young |
| Vera Dunalewicz | Bob Lossie | Dave Rusk | Loretta Zusel |
| Jill Ellington | Claudia Macdonald | Polly Sanders | Marlene Zwier |
| Jack Evans | Ken MacLean | Bhavani Saravanan | |
| Mary Evatt | Jim Mallory | Fari Sarrafan | |

The 200 Hour Club

Since 2011, we've had 108 volunteers give over 200 hours of service at least once. For 2018, 34 volunteers donated at least 200 hours. Each of the following was awarded with a lapel pin in recognition of their achievement.

1st Year Recipients

Karen Ahrens
Anne Latimer

Joe Alexander
Bhavani Saravanan

Anne Boyte
Patricia Schiffman

2nd Year Recipients

Janet Cantrelle
Harry Larsen

Christine Cotter
Bob Lossie
Alice Soder

Chris File
Lynda Pollock

3rd Year Recipients

Rebecca Rahm

Margaret Turk

Clark Weisner

4th Year Recipients

Kathy Gallo
Lynn Malone

Diane Korzeniewski
Marlene Zwier

Jim Mallory

5th Year Recipients

Chris Michael

Charlotte Miller

Patty Nathan

6th year Recipients

Ann Bentsen

Bob Holmes

Roy Pinkston

7th Year Recipients

Sally Crowe

Burrelle S. Meeks

Paula White

8th Year Recipients

Johnette Crum

Jack Evans
Susan Slemenda

Gene Kalin



The Roots of the Garden: The Top Hours Award

By Josh Todd

Patty Nathan

With 330 hours, Patty Nathan started volunteering in October of 2013 after 40 years in education. She volunteers all across the Garden, with many staff and departments. You'll find her working on plant records in the morning, with the membership and development staff in the afternoon, and then staying in the evening to greet in the Visitor Center or lead a tour for an event. The May 2016 Volunteer of the Month, Patty recorded over 200 hours each of the past five years and has given nearly 2,000 hours to the Garden.

Gene Kalin

With 338 hours, Gene Kalin started volunteering in 2010 in both the lab and in the outdoor gardens. He's made the Centennial and 200 Hour club each of the past eight years and was also named a Root of the Garden in 2011, '12, '13, '14, '15 and '16, while donating 3000 hours to the Garden. Staff members describe him as dependable, sharp, witty, and multi-talented. He was the Garden's Volunteer of the Month for November 2011 and was presented with his seventh Roots award at this year's Thanks for Giving luncheon.

Bob Lossie

With 384 hours, Bob Lossie started volunteering in October of 2016. He made Centennial status in those first three months, mostly as a Greeter in the Visitor Center a couple of times a week, plus staying late into the evening for Garden Lights. His friendly demeanor and ease of conversation with all guests, staff and volunteers alike make him a perfect fit for the Garden. He is the March 2018 Volunteer of the Month, a returning Root from last year, and donated nearly 1000 hours of his time in just over two years.

Joe Alexander

With 423 hours, Joe Alexander started in May last year, which means it only took him eight months to reach over 400 hours of service. To say he has been instrumental in the business office is an understatement. Coming in at least three days a week, he started by completely re-organizing, moving boxes, and filing mountains of paperwork. During Garden Lights, he was in just about every day to batch reports for daily counts. He reconciles reports, files paperwork, and performs data entry and logs. His supervisors state "he's helped with anything we've thrown at him, graciously."

Janet Cantrelle

With 502 hours, Janet Cantrelle began volunteering in April of 2016 after the spring Discovery and Garden Maintenance trainings. She signs up for Discovery Stations every week and spends more time than anyone in the Woodlands, tearing out weeds, mapping lost plants, and conversing with guests. Her favorite spot is in the woods, educating visitors about the natural world, but you'll often find her talking about the amphibians and plants in the Conservatory, too. A Centennial volunteer since 2016 and a Root in 2017, she has given over 1000 hours of service.

Charlotte Miller

With 650 hours last year, Charlotte Miller began her service in 2013 as a Discovery Volunteer. You'll find her in the Conservatory talking about plants and amphibians, or helping with kids' classes, or volunteering for Garden Lights or the Garden of Eden Ball. In June 2013 she began volunteering as a GEM in the Edible Garden and followed that up in 2014 with Docent Training. After that she added a spot with Amphibian Conservation. A two time Volunteer of the Month, Charlotte has donated 2700 hours of her time over the past six years, earned her fourth consecutive Roots Award, and was named the 2018 Volunteer of the Year.

Meet the Volunteers of the Month

January: Cyndy Franklin

A Garden docent for the last ten years, Cyndy Franklin has led hundreds, if not thousands, of adults and children on an eye-opening adventure through the grounds, but she will admit that children's tours are her favorite. "They ask the best – and toughest – questions!" she says with her trademark sly smile. A Perennial Centennial, Cyndy has served on many Docent committees through the years and last year stepped up to chair the Docent group. She doesn't really know the meaning of the word "no," it seems. She's always happy to sign up for special events like concerts, children's activities and camps and Garden Lights, plus every Wednesday finds her greeting in the Visitor Center. "I love meeting and helping people from all over the world and folks from Atlanta who have never been to the Garden before."

For a job well done as 2018 Docent Chair and for her ten years of dedication, the Garden salutes Cyndy as January Volunteer of the Month.



February: Joe Alexander

A native Atlantan, Joe Alexander traveled the world as an officer in the U.S. Navy before retiring and making Atlanta home again. Looking for ways to be involved in the community, Joe first started volunteering with theatres, museums and international relief organizations in the city before contacting Josh Todd about lending a hand at the Botanical Garden. A quick reply from Josh impressed Joe and led to a meeting, then...presto...Joe soon was a regular volunteer in the Garden's accounting office. That was last May. By the end of December, he had logged 423 hours, earning him Roots of the Garden distinction in record time. Described by the staff as "indispensable," Joe is at the Garden three days a week, responsible for the daily entering of financial information plus a host of other duties. "I really enjoy being part of the accounting team. Everyone makes me feel so appreciated."

The Garden can't thank Joe enough for bringing his skills to the aid of the business office and gratefully names him as February's Volunteer of the Month.



Meet the Volunteers of the Month

March: Lynn Malone

Growing up in a house “on the edge of the woods” in Connecticut, Lynn Malone spent many a day roaming the woods, discovering wildlife and plants including native lady slippers. A life-long interest in plants was born that led Lynn to a BA in Horticulture from UConn and a Masters in Plant Pathology from UGA. After moving to Atlanta where she and her husband raised their two children, Lynn diverted a bit and spent 25 years in medical research at Emory. In 2014, retirement and that love of plants led her to join the volunteers at the Botanical Garden, at first in the Plant Records office. Lynn tells that when ABG staffer Matt Richards learned of her years of tissue culture experience at Emory, she quickly got recruited for the orchid propagation/tissue culture lab too and is now propagating some of the same species she admired as a girl in the Connecticut woods. Life comes full circle!

A Centennial since she came to the Garden in 2014, with over 200 hours each year since 2015, Lynn is a valuable volunteer in the lab and with plant records and is saluted as March’s Volunteer of the Month.



April: Lynda Pollock

Lynda Pollock has found she loves to dig in the dirt. In March 2015, shortly after retiring from Gwinnett County Schools where she was a life science and biology teacher, she signed on as a GEM in the Perennial Garden and, like so many Garden volunteers, couldn't stay away. Since then Lynda has also logged hours with Garden Lights, the Flower Show, Discovery Stations, Curious Garden installation and even found her way to the greenhouse to help David Ruland with projects, making Centennial Club every year and totaling over 200 hours the past two years. “I have made some wonderful friends here and have even talked two other retired teacher friends into joining me as a GEM. Brad Holt has been wonderful to work with!” Lynda has also completed Master Gardener training since retiring and is active in the Gwinnett County Master Gardener Association, chairing this year’s plant sale for the second time. And just recently she joined the Georgia Native Plant Society and volunteers with their plant propagation team.

For her hard work and fun attitude, the Garden honors Lynda Pollock as April Volunteer of the Month.





**By Wanda Cannon,
Gainesville Education and Volunteer Coordinator**

The year 2019 started off with a lot of rain up in the Northeast Georgia area, but hopefully spring is right around the corner. The Garden is ready for some sunshine and warmer temperatures. Volunteers are eagerly waiting for good weather in anticipation of great happenings and events lined up for this year.

Our Children's Garden is currently under construction, and we await its debut later this year with all of the many fun interactive features it will have for children to enjoy. Family programming will ramp up too as we begin to explore new possibilities in Discovery and education programming.

All that to say, the Gainesville Garden will be actively recruiting and adding more volunteers to our already great roster of people. Volunteer orientations are planned throughout the year and some great Lunch 'n Learn programs will be offered for our volunteers through the year.

In February, we hosted our annual Thanks for Giving volunteer luncheon with some great food, entertainment and lots of raffle prizes. Plant giveaways and dazzling orchids are always a hit to receive! We recognized four fantastic Volunteers of the Quarter for 2018: **Diane Korzeniewski, Sharon Marler, Dave Rusk** and **Bill McMahan**. The Garden recognized two 200-plus hours volunteers: **Diane Korzeniewski** and **Chris Michael**. The Garden also presented a Lifetime Achievement Award to volunteer **Bill Jackson**. Look for an article in the newsletter about Bill. Sixteen volunteers were named as Centennials with over 100-plus hours in total volunteer time.

For the total year 2018, the Gainesville Garden volunteers gave over 4000 hours in time through volunteering in the Garden, Greenhouses, Visitor Service, Discovery, Concerts, Wine in the Woodland and other annual festivals and events. The Garden is fortunate to have so many committed and talented volunteers.

Look for new 2019 Volunteers of the Quarter throughout the year in this newsletter.

As I write this, the tulips are peeking out and the daffodils are blooming. The Garden is awaking out of its slumber. Soon the Garden will be full of visitors and activities. Imaginary Worlds will be returning this summer with the Ogre, Frogs, Pandas and our new addition Rip Van Winkle. Check out the website and look for new children and adult classes to be offered. The Garden will host plant sales and two Woodland Ramble Arts and Crafts events to attend, and there will be other events to plug into during the year as well.

The Garden values our volunteers! With all of the heart and commitment the volunteers bring to its mission, 2019 will be a fabulous and successful year! Thanks for Giving!



News from the Volunteers at

**Atlanta
Botanical
Garden,
Gainesville**



By **Diane Korzeniewski**

Spring is just beginning to pop here, with magnolias and daffodils starting to bloom. Hopefully the cold snap did not do too much damage.

Although no volunteers have been up to the Children's Garden site, we see a structure going up. Rumor has it that it is a pavilion. Given the weather, I think it is the ARK!

Last fall we helped plant tulips and winter annuals above them. Lots of digging. The addition of padded exercise gloves to the gardening gloves helped ward off the blisters! Pretty ingenious.

Volunteers have not been too busy lately due to rain. We have helped to undress some Mosaiculture frogs for the Children's Garden, removed leaves from witchhazels in the rain, and cut carex in the cold. Looking forward to SPRING!



Saluting the Gainesville Garden's Volunteer of the Quarter: **Pat Baillie**

By Wanda Cannon

With a warm smile on her face, Pat volunteers every week, (sometimes twice a week) in our Visitor Service area. An engaging greeter and enthusiastic Garden lover, Pat shares upcoming Garden events and other happenings going on in and around the Garden with visitors as they arrive. Pat also volunteers for festivals and other events such as our annual Goblins Festival during the year. During warmer months, Pat is always a part of the concert volunteer group. She arrives early and helps set up and man the merchandise tents, usher or do any other task that is asked of her. Pat's warmth and genuine qualities shine through in everything she does.



Pat was born in Ohio to a sports loving family that moved to south Florida when she was 12. As a young adult Pat moved to the Atlanta area and began her career in the insurance field. Retiring after 32 years, Pat joined the volunteer group here at the Atlanta Botanical Garden Gainesville shortly after it opened in 2015.

Pat shares: "I enjoy the many opportunities to greet and interact with the visitors, participate in the many events and assist whenever a need presents itself. I enjoy the time spent with the staff and other volunteers. I find them to be an exceptional group of individuals that I am proud to be associated with. I am looking forward to the continued growth of the Garden in 2019!"

Congratulations Pat! The Garden staff feel the same about you.

Gainesville's First Lifetime Achievement Award Presented to **Bill Jackson**

By Wanda Cannon

At Gainesville's 2019 Thanks for Giving Volunteer Luncheon, the Garden honored volunteer Bill Jackson with a Lifetime Achievement Award for his longstanding commitment to the Garden and the Hall County community at large.



Bill has been volunteering at the Gainesville greenhouses since it was named Smithgall long before construction began and the Garden was built that opened in May 2015. A retired physician, Bill is an infinite source of plant knowledge who prizes his beautiful camellias. Bill is generous to always bring a vase full of cuttings from his own garden for us to showcase in our Visitor Center. Always full of information, he often shares locations of plants in Georgia to the horticulture staff here for cuttings and seeds. Bill and his lovely wife Helen help almost every week volunteering in the greenhouses, propagating and doing whatever task needs to be done there.

He is a very patient seed cleaner!

Consummate plant lover, great gardener and all around wonderful guy and volunteer, Bill Jackson cannot be duplicated. His gentle and kind spirit radiates throughout the greenhouses every week, and we all enjoy being around him. The Garden is blessed to have you!

Docent Doings

By Sally Finklestein
2019 Docent Chair



Frederick Law Olmstead and his legacy in Atlanta

Atlanta is one of the greenest cities in the United States. Our city owes much of that title to Frederick Law Olmstead (1822-1903). He is the acknowledged founder of American landscape architecture and is best known for his work on New York's Central Park. He also designed the grounds of the United States Capitol, the Biltmore Estate in North Carolina, and the 1893 World's Columbian Exposition in Chicago.

As an artist, Olmsted was interested in creating effects and vistas that would screen out distractions. He wanted to create a place where people could go to enjoy the beauty and serenity of nature. His theory of park design included the lush use of vegetation, a series of vistas and planned access to bring visitors into the experience. It was also very important to him to preserve this land for future generations.

In 1892, Frederick Law Olmsted was hired to design Druid Hills, one of Atlanta's first planned suburbs. He envisioned a central street, Ponce de Leon Avenue, surrounded by pockets of green. His plan consisted of six separate parks spread out along both sides of the street. Each park had its own style and name. The simpler designs were on the north end of Ponce de Leon and the more forested landscapes were on the south. Deepdene was the largest park encompassing 22 acres of trails, trees and a creek that wound through the steep, rocky terrain. The Olmsted Linear Park became a "model for future green spaces." This was the only Atlanta project that he personally designed before his retirement. His son, Frederick Jr., and his stepson, John, finished his Atlanta endeavors after his death in 1903.

In 1997, the Olmsted Linear Park Alliance was formed to rehabilitate the park and provide for its ongoing maintenance. We now have six newly restored parks that stretch across Ponce de Leon Avenue. They are used for jogging, walking, or as a place to relax and enjoy the wonders of nature. What an amazing influence Frederick Law Olmsted had on our city!

GROWING THE GARDEN:

INSIDE THE
GARDEN
ASSOCIATES



By Sandy Kellam
Tour Volunteer Chair

THE 2019
GARDENS FOR
CONNOISSEURS TOUR
IS COMING UP

It's hard to believe that spring is here and it's almost time for the **Garden for Connoisseurs Tour**, held Mother's Day weekend, May 11th and 12th.

The Garden Associates would love to have you volunteer in one of the nine beautiful gardens that weekend for shifts on Saturday or Sunday, 9:30-1:30 or 1:30-5:30.

Volunteers receive a complimentary ticket to the Tour. Please email Sandy Kellam, Volunteer Chair, at sbkellam@gmail.com if you are interested.

Tickets to the Tour are now on sale and are \$22 for members and \$28 for non-members in advance, and \$35 the weekend of the Tour. Tickets will also be available for purchase at each garden during Tour weekend. We hope to see each of you at one of the lovely gardens!



Notes From Mary Pat

Insights from Mary Pat Matheson
The Ann and Hays Mershon President & CEO

Round two of *Imaginary Worlds* opens in early May, and we have a wonderful new scene from Alice in Wonderland to add a creative spark to what is already an outstanding exhibition. Our horticulture staff is busy in Buford planting a 30 foot white rabbit sitting in a massive umbrella; he will no doubt be the star of the show and give our dragon a run for the money. Adjacent to the rabbit and on view from the Robinson Gazebo is the chess scene from Alice with the Queen of Hearts, playing cards, rose trees and Cheshire cat. Our horticulture team will work some magic using lawn paint and mowers to keep the lawn chess scene looking perfect throughout the season. Since this new scene is the highlight of the exhibition, the title will be Alice's Wonderland which will provide many opportunities for our visitors to interact with the exhibit by dressing the part or bringing Alice props to events like Cocktails in the Garden. It promises to be another blockbuster year as the *Imaginary Worlds* exhibition is a huge attraction to members and visitors alike. And the Atlanta Botanical Garden is the only place in the United States to collaborate with Mosaicultures, International and present their wonderful plant-based sculptures. Prepare for a great season ahead, one filled with wonder and delights.

As you all know, we have been on a building spree in the last five years with the addition of the Skyline Garden, Longleaf Restaurant, Gardenhouse Expansion and Children's Garden renovation. The last project in Atlanta will open this June as we present the new building that will house our Southeastern Center for Plant Conservation. This 12,000 square foot building looks remarkably small from the Edible Garden but provides a fantastic new space for our talented conservation, horticulture and education staff. The new building will house an expanded Ron Determann Tissue Culture Lab on view with a full glass wall for our guests to learn more about the plant conservation work that the Garden does. There will also be a new learning lab for our growing internship program that will support the important plant conservation work that the Center does throughout the Southeast. While this new Center is not a visitor amenity, it is crucial to the work of our staff as we continue to grow our plant collections and important work saving imperiled plants. Stay tuned for some tours and quiet opening events later this summer.

And lastly, I am excited about this year's concert line-up with opening act in Atlanta Old Crow Medicine Show kicking off the season with a bang. This is the first year we announced a show early – the Mighty O.A.R. wanted to announce as soon as we booked them and as of early April we have already sold over 1,200 tickets. The music is diverse with truly great artists appealing to a wide range of artists. Get ready to kick up your heels and enjoy the music in Atlanta's finest venue.

Cheers!
Mary Pat



Concerts in the Garden 2019

Atlanta

Friday, May 24
Old Crow Medicine Show

Sunday, June 2
**I'm with Her
and
Ricky Skaggs**

Friday, June 14
**The Mighty O.A.R.
with
American Authors**

Wednesday, July 10
Wood Brothers

Friday, July 26
John Butler Trio Package

Friday, August 16
**Toad the Wet Sprocket
and
Big Head Todd**

Member tickets go on sale
April 12. Tickets will be available
for sale to the public on April 19.

Check the Garden website for
additions or updates.



Volunteer positions include
front line greeters,
ticket scanners
and lawn ushers.

Contact Josh Todd or sign up in his office
to volunteer.



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

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