

IN THE GARDEN

What's Growing On...

The whirlwind of the year is settling in around us, it seems sweet November is custom tailored for reflection and that one last push to celebrate the year with holiday cheer. The weather challenged us, the flowers flattered us, and the harvest gave us aspirations for springtime that we might do it all over again! In the following pages you will learn about our new Sun Garden plantings, our December and January events, the changing faces of our organization, and the progress we have made moving our children's garden expansion forward. We visited five distinctly unique and successful gardens across the

country, and spent three days in Lansing, Michigan learning about Youth and Children's Gardening and education. We welcomed 8,000 school aged children through our doors, and visited with 2,000 students off campus, in their classrooms and at various events throughout the Quad Cities. We played all summer long on the G-scale Railway and nurtured the butterflies in our new habitat. We picnicked with pirates, and took tea with pixies, we added a huge variety of daylilies, and a multitude of new plant labels for your enjoyment.

We taught, we listened, we learned and we served, and we thank you for the opportunity to do so.

Additionally, we evaluated the results of a community wide survey, conducted by Leisure Vision/ETC Institute, KS. We asked over 2000 residents of Rock Island and Scott County what they value, want, and need from our organization. The goal was to obtain a total of at least 400 completed surveys—415 were returned. The random sample of households has a 95% level of confidence with a precision of at least +/- 4.8%. The information we gathered was wonderful and telling, providing us with great insight about our patrons, their expectations and our future. A selection of slides are pictured in the right column—the entire survey is available to you, along with commentary at www.qcgardens.com.

Annual Giving

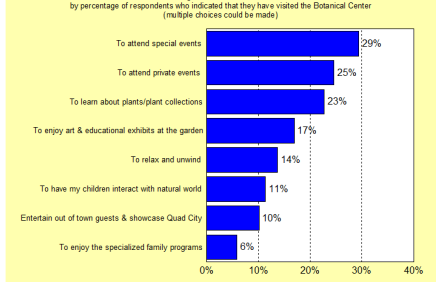
On behalf of the development committee I would like to thank each and every one of our members, our schools, our donors, our business partners, our volunteers, our grant funding sources, and our leisure visitors. We are a public garden, a service facility, a plant wonderland. Funded entirely by donations, grants, and earned revenue, we continue to serve the Quad City

community because you recognize our relevance, value our services, and invest in our future. It is with respect and honor that we recognize those who have given over the past calendar year, and appreciate that season after season the community has given generously of their time, their talent, their wisdom, and their earnings in order to support our past, our present, and our future.

Please take a moment to read over the insert with a list of names we have captured. Then, include your own name also because if you are reading this publication, you too, have chosen to be involved in this amazing growing adventure.

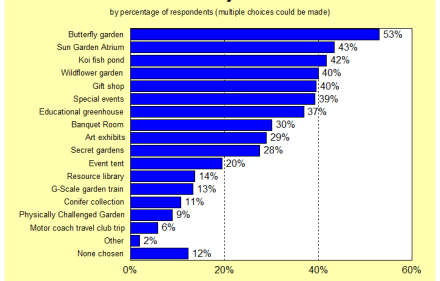
**HOLIDAY
OPEN HOUSE
DECEMBER 4
1-4PM**

Q3. TWO Major Reasons Respondent Households Visit the Quad City Botanical Center



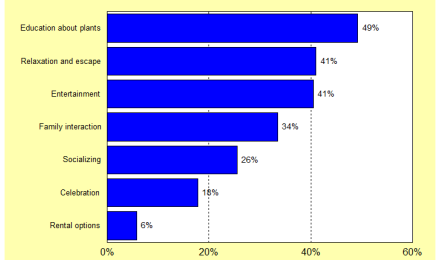
Source: Leisure Vision/ETC Institute (August 2011)

Q4. ALL Facilities & Programs Respondent Households Have Used at the Quad City Botanical Center



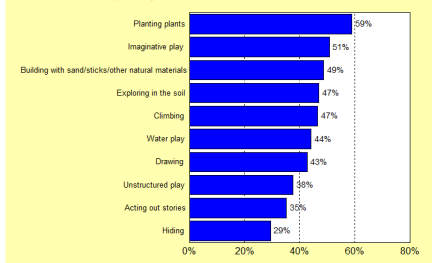
Source: Leisure Vision/ETC Institute (August 2011)

Q6. THREE Most Important Experiences Respondent Households Gain From Visiting the Quad City Botanical Center



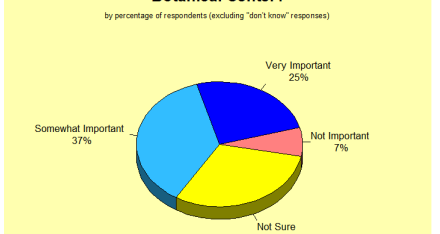
Source: Leisure Vision/ETC Institute (August 2011)

Q12. ALL The Experiences Respondents Would Like Added to Their Child's Life



Source: Leisure Vision/ETC Institute (August 2011)

Q16. How Important Do You Think It Is to Expand the Botanical Center?



Source: Leisure Vision/ETC Institute (August 2011)

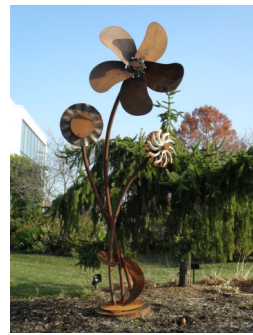
December & January Events & Exhibits



Gallery exhibit: Mississippi Valley Quilters Guild. Quilts tell our stories stitch by stitch; they are a record of marriages, anniversaries, birth, memory and even loss. Take the time this holiday season to

view the unique collection of antique, vintage, and contemporary quilts fashioned for children, babies, and baby dolls.

Garden exhibit: Artist **John Vandewalle** has displayed several pieces of unique steel and scrap metal sculptures throughout the outdoor gardens. Garden sculpture adds life to the winter landscape, and subtle interest throughout the growing season, as they take camouflage within the thriving plants.



Education Center exhibit: Photographer **Louis Granato** has captured the experience of being a perfect, unassuming blossom. Seven beautiful canvas wrap prints fill the Doris & Victor Day

Education Center with the beauty of the gardens that exist just beyond the doorways. These images were all captured on our grounds, on the same July morning, exhibiting the glory of our gardens.

Window Box Gift Shop

Don't forget to check out the many local artists exhibiting items for consignment sale in our gift shop—buy local this holiday season for truly unique gifts that also support our local economy!

Events, Programs, & Fun Days

December 4th, 1-4pm

Join us for a **Holiday Open House!** Admission is free to everyone, our holiday gift to the community. Visit with the staff, stroll the gardens and holiday and art exhibits and meet the Quilter's Guild. Free crafts for the kids, a surprise visit from Santa (2:30—3:30) and cider is on the house. Special discounts on membership purchases, and a great chance to snap a holiday picture for your greeting cards! Join us, won't you?

December 18th, 12-4pm

Hola America, the local Spanish/English newspaper proudly presents **Posada Navidena**. This traditional Hispanic Holiday Celebration includes customary food, hot chocolate, music and the breaking of piñatas. Free admission; come one, come all!

January 2012—Gallery

Artists Unlimited, a regional group of talented artists will have a mixed media exhibit on view through February (free with general admission.)

January Sunday Fun Days!

Sunday January 1, 2012—

Happy New Year! The Botanical Center is **closed** for business to ring in 2012.

Sunday January 8, 2012—

Blissalicious! Join us at 1pm for **Botanical Bliss** a presentation on horticultural therapy, aromatherapy, and information on the many benefits of bringing people and plants together. Guests will make their own set of bath salts to take home (free with general admission)

Sunday January 15th, 2012—

One lump, or two? Join us at 1pm for a presentation on the illustrious history of **coffee and tea**, sample varieties of coffee, and blend your own herbal tea for sipping (free with general admission.)

Sunday January 22nd, 2012—

All the world's a Garden! Join us at 1pm for a **tropical garden walk** through our conservatory. Learn about products grown and harvested in the Tropics. Sample fruits and foods made with spices from exotic climates, and see them growing here in the Quad Cities (free with general admission.)

Sunday January 29, 2012

Join us from 11am—4pm for the **Chocolate Festival!**

Did you say
C-H-O-C-O-L-A-T-E
chocolate?

This hugely popular event includes free samples from area chocolatiers, presentations, demonstrations, kids crafts, Willy Wonka and more!

This FUNDRAISING endeavor is \$10 for adults, \$5 for children 12—3 yrs of age, and toddlers 2 and under are free!

Proceeds from this event off-set the costs associated with bringing quality educational programs to the community.



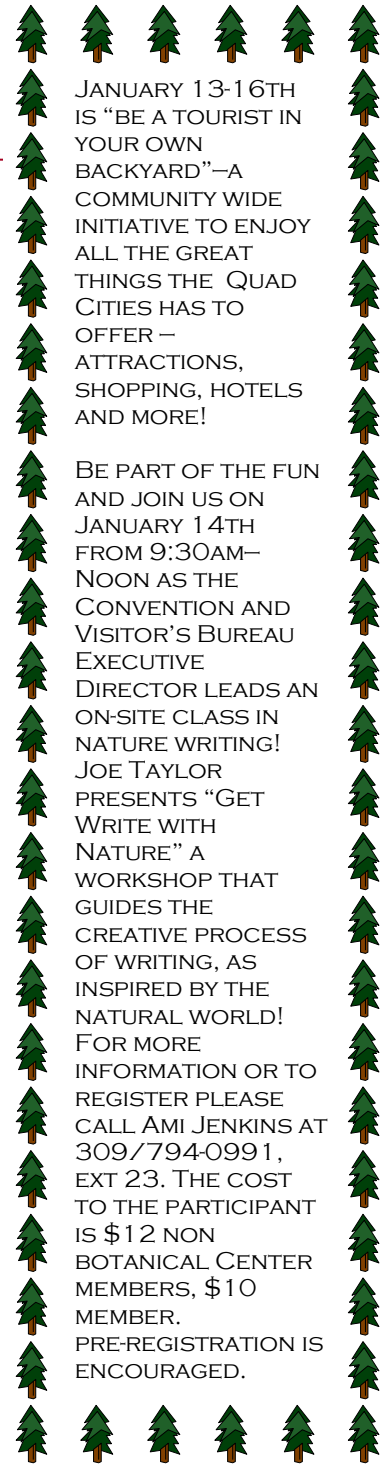


Children's Garden Update

Some of you may remember the Botanical Center was recently awarded \$250,000 from the Illinois Public Museums Grants Award. This grant was specific to the children's garden expansion, and reignited a long time strategic goal for our organization. We celebrated the award, and then stepped back to make informed decisions on how to move the project forward. We agreed that the original plan, published in 2005 needed to be revisited; we agreed that the new design must be supple, that we must be able to build in phases, and that the overall financial health of the Botanical Center must not be compromised. So, we issued a request for proposal, and after considering many quality firms, we hired Hitchcock Design Group, a Chicago firm who worked closely with Herb Schaal, our children's garden designer, in building the Children's Garden at Morton

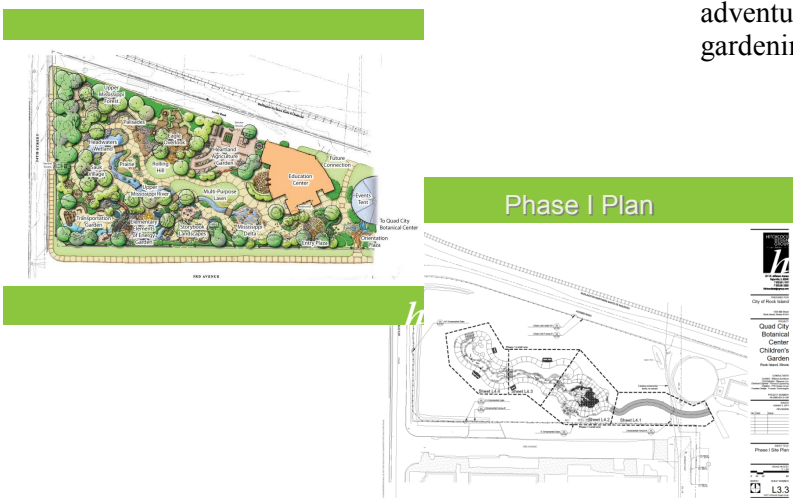
Arboretum, Lisle, IL. Next we spent several months updating and improving the original design. Some areas of the design were not altered, some were redeveloped entirely. Each can stand alone, and/or phase seamlessly into the next. With the redesign in place, a phasing study began; the choice to start with the river and delta was driven by grant award criteria, as well as the garden's logistics—once the central feature is built, all phases can radiate from the core. \$1,200,000 in funds are held in account to support phase one expansion. The Center will not increase debt by building phase one of the children's garden. We are thankful for the Scenic Byways Grant, the Illinois Museum Grant, the City of Rock Island, the Harris Trust, Modern Woodmen, Al & Judy Dieter, the Moline Foundation, Bank Orion, and the friends of Jean Walgren for making

phase one possible. The construction phase of the project is scheduled for groundbreaking in March of 2012 and work will continue throughout the spring, summer and fall season—public grand opening is expected Spring of 2013. Fundraising for phase two is underway, with a \$1,200,000 goal, and will be followed by subsequent fund drives until the garden is completed. Funds will be sought from national, regional and local grantors, corporations, and individuals. **If you are interested in more information about this project**, if you would like our team to make a presentation to a community group or business, or if you are interested in making a contribution toward development **please call Ami Jenkins, 309/794-0991, ext. 23**, I love to share this information! We are only scratching the surface of what's to come on this magnificent adventure in children's gardening!



JANUARY 13-16TH IS "BE A TOURIST IN YOUR OWN BACKYARD"—A COMMUNITY WIDE INITIATIVE TO ENJOY ALL THE GREAT THINGS THE QUAD CITIES HAS TO OFFER — ATTRACTIONS, SHOPPING, HOTELS AND MORE!

BE PART OF THE FUN AND JOIN US ON JANUARY 14TH FROM 9:30AM—NOON AS THE CONVENTION AND VISITOR'S BUREAU EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR LEADS AN ON-SITE CLASS IN NATURE WRITING! JOE TAYLOR PRESENTS "GET WRITE WITH NATURE" A WORKSHOP THAT GUIDES THE CREATIVE PROCESS OF WRITING, AS INSPIRED BY THE NATURAL WORLD! FOR MORE INFORMATION OR TO REGISTER PLEASE CALL AMI JENKINS AT 309/794-0991, EXT 23. THE COST TO THE PARTICIPANT IS \$12 NON BOTANICAL CENTER MEMBERS, \$10 MEMBER. PRE-REGISTRATION IS ENCOURAGED.



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VOLUNTEER—HELP WANTED!

WRITER/DESIGNER. Many of you have noticed it has been too long since a newsletter hit the presses. Are you a talented graphic design person with a desire to write and produce a quarterly newsletter? Please contact Ami Jenkins, 309/794-0991 to inquire.

COMMUNITY RELATIONS. May 11, 2012 is National Public Garden Awareness Day. We need a dedicated volunteer or two to help us plan a community wide collaboration with other public gardens—we want to spread the word about the history and relevance of public gardens. If you have great organizational skills and are interested in helping please call Ami Jenkins, 309/794-0991, ext 23.

VOLUNTEER COORDINATOR. We are looking for an individual interested in developing a meaningful program that will organize, mobilize, motivate, and reward our dedicated volunteers. If you are creative and enjoy working with others this is the volunteer post for you. Please contact Ami Jenkins, 309/794-0991, ext 23 to get involved.

Gardner's Corner, Chicago Style—by Dave Searl

It's that time of year again, when Jack Frost is visiting and we are saying a sad goodbye to our summer flowering friends. As the outdoor gardens begin their long winter rest, the Holiday season is fast approaching. It's a time spent with family, friends, good food and exchanging gifts. Speaking of gifts, the Quad City Botanical Center and our tropical Sun Garden received a very generous gift from the Garfield Conservatory in Chicago. Late this past summer a

volunteer of ours, Jake Wells, was visiting Lincoln Park Conservatory. While there, he learned that Garfield experienced a major hail storm in June, destroying much of their glass roofs. With so much damage done to their growing greenhouses and with the fall season right around the corner, they made the painful decision to reduce their plant inventory. Hearing about this, Jake told us and we contacted Garfield and before I knew it, I was driving a 20 foot U-haul truck in Chicago

traffic. Jake, Kate DePauw, and I made the trip. When we arrived their horticulturalist, Steven Meyer, greeted us and led us to where the plants were being stored. Steven pointed out what color of ribbons to look for on the plants and off we went, like kids in a candy store. By the end of the afternoon we had a truck full of new and exciting plants. Here is a short list of some of the plants we scored! A Cinnamon Tree, Autograph Tree, African Tulip Tree, several varieties of palms, a

Guiana Chestnut, a Morinda Tree with its smelly fruit, a Powder-puff Tree and more! What a wonderful gift from the Chicago Park District. I do hope you come and visit the Sun Garden with all our new additions.



Team Players

We have offered a fond farewell to our accountant and CPA Carrie Beckwith, who left our organization in September. Her journey opened the door for



our newest team member, Gretchen Hampsey. Equipped with all the best experience she has joined us in

our work, filling the part time role of accounting manager. Wait, the changes don't stop there! Rose Meyrer, our veteran Banquet Sales Manager will be leaving our ranks in December to join the team of professionals in contracting on Arsenal Island. We wish Rose joy in her new appointment. Please watch the local listings for future job opportunities at the Botanical Center.

Rose's departure will create an open sales position, and our Children's Garden project is driving team growth also, as we search for a development coordinator.

Check our website in early January if you, or someone you know is interested in joining our team of professionals.

www.qcgardens.com

We also welcomed four new members to our Board of Directors:

- Mike O'Day, Hometown Plumbing
- Tar Macias, Hola America,
- Jennifer Prinz, St. Ambrose, and
- Kevin Koski, retired, Missman Stanley

We will miss business leaders Phyllis Schwindt, and John Bauersfeld who served us so well over the past 3 years and more, and Tammy Becker, whose dedication to her own organization, Living Lands and Waters calls for her full attention and passion!