Volunteer Opportunities

For more info about any opportunity you may call Liz Firestine at 427-6446 or email liz.firestine@cityoffortwayne.org. Thanks!

Once Upon a Tale Event, Sat., February 17, 9:30 am-3:00 pm
Needed: volunteers who enjoy helping with games, crafts, and refreshments morning (9:30am-12:30pm) or afternoon (12:00pm-3:00pm). Call Missy, 427-6445, to sign up.

Gift Shop Cashiers, Tuesday-Sunday openings
We've had some recent openings in the gift shop, so if you would like to provide customer service and learn how to work the cash register, we'd love to train you. General shifts are 10 am-1 pm and 1-5 pm; Sundays 12-4 pm. Contact Rebecca for more information, 427-6442.

GCU: Winter Bloomers, Sat., February 24, 11:00 am-1:00 pm
Help with a flower craft as you share info about winter blooming plants like cyclamen, kalanchoe, and primroses. Call Missy to help.

Butterfly Attendant/Docent, April 14-July 8, varied shifts
Be part of our very popular live butterfly exhibit! Volunteers are needed to staff the butterfly tent entrance and exit. This year we also want to provide a knowledgeable person inside the tent to assist and educate students and other visitors. Required training sessions will be held in March, details to follow. Contact Rebecca.

Bug Docent, April 14-May 31, Tues-Fri as scheduled
We'd like to train a few volunteers to help students explore our Bugs! hallway exhibit during their spring field trips this year. Contact Missy or Rebecca to learn more.

DNI: All About Seeds, Thurs., March 1, 6:00-7:00 pm
Help visitors take a closer look at what's inside a seed and lead them in a seed craft. We'll also serve a healthy seed treat. Call Liz, 427-6446, to sign up.

SCHEDULING:
Please contact Liz Firestine to schedule days or changes at Front Desk or Gift Shop, (260) 427-6446.

FOELLINGER FREIMANN BOTANICAL CONSERVATORY

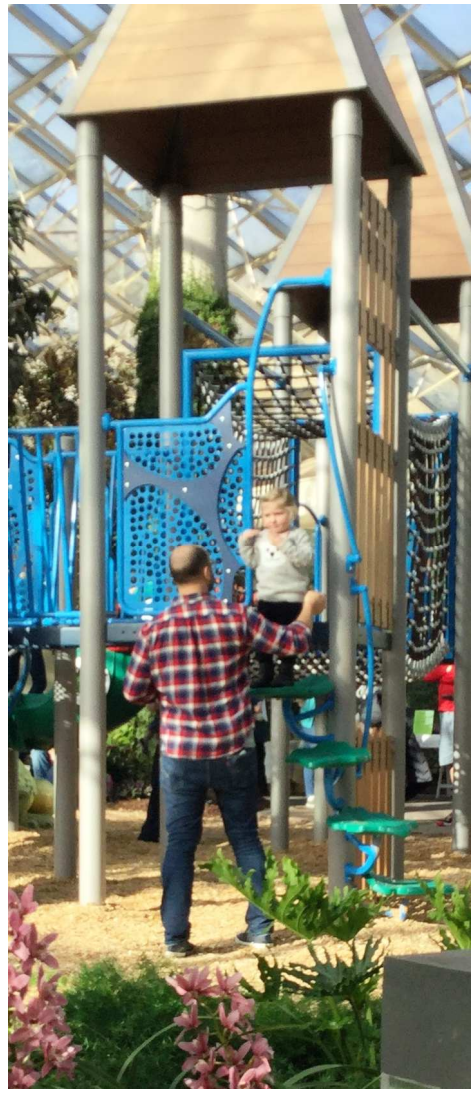
1100 S. Calhoun St.
Fort Wayne, IN 46802

The Botanical Buzz

Monthly Volunteer News

February 2018 - Volume 14, Issue 2

Lots of Kiddos



Wow. For a winter's day, it sure is busy. That's what we keep saying to ourselves as we unlock the Conservatory doors at 10 am and greet streams of children and their adults on their way to play in the Showcase Garden. The new Fairy Tales theme has proven to be popular with the younger set, to the extent that parents are complaining that they can't get their youngsters to leave without some reluctance or tears.

The large playground is, of course, the main feature for fun. Although designed for ages 5-12 and intended for its future home in Johnny Appleseed Park, preschoolers are rising to the occasion. We find children of all ages testing their strength and skills on the multi-entry, multi-platform play piece. Older

Continued on page 3

"The one thing we can never get enough of is love.
And the one thing we can never give enough is love."

— Henry Valentine Miller
(American Writer)

CONSERVATORY TELEPHONE NUMBERS

Conservatory/Front Desk	427-6440
Mitch Sheppard, Deputy Director	427-6441
Chad Shaw, Manager & Horticulture	427-6443
Rebecca Canales, Programs & Vols	427-6442
Linda Miller, Business & Sponsors	427-6454
Tom Hegge, Building & Safety	427-6455
OPEN, Rentals & Admin	427-6444
Jane Ford, Gift Shop	427-6456
Missy A'Hearn, Youth Programs	427-6445
Liz Firestine, Adult Programs	427-6446
Supervisor Cell Phone	740-1208

Empyrean Café

Located in the Conservatory Gift Shop

Open Tues-Sat: 10am-5pm; open the 1st Th of the month til 8pm
Closed Sundays and Mondays.

Newsletter Editor: Rebecca Canales (260) 427-6442
rebecca.canales@cityoffortwayne.org

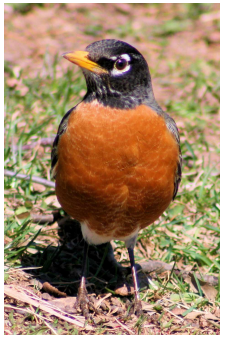
NOTE: To email a staff member, use first.last@cityoffortwayne.org

Notes from the Gift Shop

The Conservatory Gift Shop has good reason to celebrate 2017 as our gross revenue topped $92,600 for the year!! This reflects a 13.6% increase over 2016, with 4 months topping $10,000. It was a challenge keep up, resupplying inventory as it flew off the shelves and deciding how far to overstep our spending plan in order to do it. While this is a great problem to have, we recognize that it has also required more effort on the part of shop staff and volunteers. Our sincere thanks go to all involved — whether you are a cashier, plant groomer, committee member, butterfly kit packer, or paid staff – it took all of us working together to accomplish this level of success.

We have been thanking you for your patience with the RecTrac system for quite some time. After 10 years, the software has reached the end of its lifespan! So a new RecTrac service with a very different look was installed the week of January 8th which resulted in the shop being closed thru Friday the 12th. The bugs are still in the process of being 'debugged' and this is going to take some time. So again, we ask for your patience as we all become acquainted with it and learn to navigate the system. Thanks to all of you who attended training or who have been willing to learn on the job. Issues with server connections and struggles with passwords have complicated the learning curve, but we are confident that in the long term it will be a big improvement over what we were experiencing throughout the end of 2017.

Again, I sincerely thank you all for your contributions and congratulate you on the great results of 2017 shop sales. Proceeds from the gift shop go to support the Botanical Conservatory, so this is a win-win situation for our facility and staff.



If you are like me, you are already tired of the cold and snow and definitely counting the days until spring – 61 as of January 18th!

See you in the Shop,

Jane Ford, Gift Shop Coordinator

New Volunteer Orientation

Wednesday, February 21, 4-6 pm
The Botanical Conservatory is inviting new volunteers to join the support team. We look for help at the Front Desk, in the Gift Shop, with special events and to assist with our upcoming live butterfly exhibit. Meet new people, build your skills, and support a community treasure. This orientation to the Conservatory and its volunteer program will help you discover how you can fit in and contribute. Volunteer benefits include free garden admission, discounts on classes and purchases, and annual recognition. For more information, contact Liz at (260) 427-6446 or liz.firestine@cityoffortwayne.org.

Looking Ahead to Bugs & Butterflies

If you enjoyed the butterflies last year, consider joining us in Butterfly Attendant training in March (dates will be announced in the next newsletter). And if you have a love for the creepy crawlies, you might like to sign up as a Bug Docent as well! We'd like to provide knowledgeable volunteer staff during our prime school field trip period of April and May to assist teachers and students in making the most of their visit to the Conservatory. Since we'll have live spiders, cockroaches, and beetles this year in addition to the beautiful butterflies, students will have a unique opportunity to explore life cycles and ecological relationships they might not have been exposed to before. Let Rebecca know if you'd like to help share your knowledge with visitors!

Tai Chi in the Garden I & II

Beginners: Tuesdays, January 9 – February 27, 5-6 pm
Continuing: Tuesdays, January 9 – February 27, 6-7 pm
Even though Tai Chi classes have begun for the winter months, you are always welcome to drop-in and relieve some of that unwanted stress this time of year. Call ahead to make sure the class has not reached its maximum capacity. **Drop-ins:** $10/class.

Kiddos, cont'd from page 1

children scale the highest heights; the youngest are often hand-in-hand with their moms or dads as they approach this big playground. The small cottage nearby has attracted a lot of attention, too, and sees plenty of pretend play with or without any little Red Riding Hoods nearby. We were surprised at the popularity of even the giant nest—which we are re-using from our "Twelve Days of Christmas" theme two holiday seasons ago. Our gardener Evan overheard tense negotiations between sisters about whose turn it was to "be the chicken." We're also relieved to discover that our Troll was perfect for inspiring other trolls, but not the stuff of nightmares for littler ones. Everyone seems to be taking him and those gruff billy goats in stride.

Meanwhile, photographers and flower lovers are flocking to our winter show to enjoy the cheerful colors of cyclamen and kalanchoe and the restful greens of our tropical plants. The smell of moist earth is certainly therapeutic while the snow comes down outside. So, you don't have to bring grandkids or borrow the neighbor children in order to feel welcome this winter. Come on down!

February 2018 Calendar

Thru April 8	"Fairy Tales" winter garden exhibit
February	Discovery Corner: Fairy Tales
Thru Feb	Carolyn Stachera: Oil & Pastel
February 1	$1 Night, 5-8 pm
February 1	DNI: Bean Magic, 6-7 pm
Feb 6-25	Sweetheart Orchid Display, public hours
February 6 & 13	Garden Preschool: Winter Fun
February 7	Conservatory Staff Meeting, 2:45 pm
February 8	Winter Forest Bathing walk, 6-7:30 pm
February 14	Gift Shop Committee meeting, 9:30 am
February 17	Once Upon a Tale event, 10 am—3 pm
February 21	Conservatory Staff Meeting, 2:45 pm
February 21	New Volunteer Orientation, 4-6 pm
February 23	Education Council meeting, 9:30 am
February 23	Discovery Corner meeting, 11 am
February 24	Plant Propagation wkshop, 10 am-12 pm
February 24	GCU: Winter Bloomers, 11 a –1 pm

Plant Propagation Basics

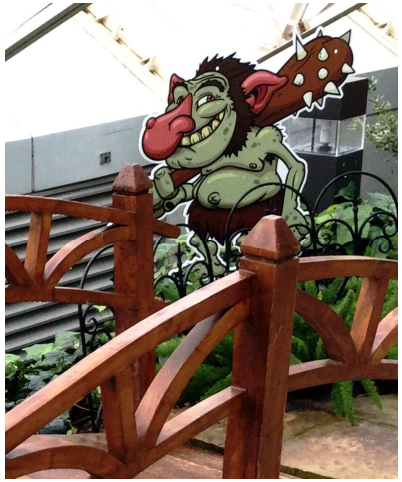
Saturday, February 24 10:00 am-12:00 pm

This winter, fill your windowsill or table with new plants as you learn about plant propagation. Advanced Master Gardener Pam Snyder will guide you in a variety of vegetative (non-seed) propagation methods. Learn about leaf and stem cuttings, division, and layering. Pam will share her knowledge and demonstrate proper technique, then you can practice what you've just learned and take home plant babies of your own! Ages 15+. **Register by February 17.** $14/public; $12/volunteer. To register, call (260) 427-6000 and refer to code 127058-A1.

"Fairy Tales" Winter Garden Exhibit

Through April 8

A child's imagination is fueled by stories. In classic fairy tales, we discover giants, wolves, and witches are no match for the valiant but ordinary people to whom unusual circumstances fall. When the Conservatory converts its Showcase Garden to a winter play space, visitors can pretend to be Jack on a bean stalk, look for Rapunzel in the castle tower, trip-trap over the troll's bridge, or take goodies to Grandma's house. This participatory garden exhibit encourages active pretend play and a gentle exploration of moral virtues for children and adults alike. Sponsored by WAJI Majic 95.1, Fun 101.7 and the Howard P. Arnold Foundation.



Discovery Corner: Fairy Tales

Daily at the Conservatory during February

Our young visitors are encouraged to visit the Discovery Corner to find stories and activities relating to a monthly theme. As we begin to move our Discovery Corner out into the Gallery hallway, our February theme is Fairy Tales. Along with reading story books, you can share pretend play and maze pages. Our materials are safe and suitable for kids in pre-K through 1st grade. Adults are encouraged to read aloud to their young learners and explore ideas together. Free with admission; no reservations required.

February Birthdays

February 5	Carol Frank
February 5	Samantha Yoquelet
February 7	Sue Butts
February 9	Max Halberstadt
February 11	Jared Oxley
February 13	Rayni Rister
February 13	Kathy Lee
February 13	Noreen Walker
February 14	Sharon Thum
February 17	Mitch Sheppard
February 19	Janet Heffley
February 20	Mark Critchfield
February 21	Kathleen Meyer
February 22	Aaron Stewart
February 22	Kali Fridholm
February 22	Patsy Hinkle
February 25	Patricia Bolenbaugh
February 25	Holly Chaille
February 25	Natiera Espinosa
February 26	Rachel Coffman

Winter Forest Bathing

Thursday, February 8, 6-7:30 pm

Join instructor Christy Thomson at the Conservatory and immerse yourself in nature through the sensory invitations of Forest Bathing, or shinrin-yoku, where you may experience a boost in immune function, lower stress hormones, and boosts in serotonin levels. **Note:** Drop-ins and all ages welcome, but call ahead and children under 12 must be accompanied by an adult. **Registration deadline:** February 1. Code #127055-A2. $15/public; $12/volunteer. Call (260) 427-6000.

Sweetheart Orchid Display

February 6 – 25; Tues-Sat 10 am-5 pm, Sun 12-4 pm, Thurs 'til 8 pm

Make a date for the Botanical Conservatory and bring your sweetie down in February to enjoy our lovely indoor gardens and a special display of orchids. Take a moment with camera or cell phone to capture your darling under a heart-shaped arbor planted with a cascade of fragrant and colorful orchids or against a backdrop of lush Tropical Garden plants. Treat your special friend to a lunch or snack at the Empyrean Café and have fun browsing the Conservatory gift shop for an orchid or other sweet gift. Admission $5/ages 18+, $3/ages 3-17; free for members and children ages 2 and under.

Once Upon A Tale Event

Saturday, February 17, 10:00am-3:00pm

Come celebrate the magical world of fairy tales at the Botanical Conservatory during our winter "Once Upon a Tale" family event where you can take part in activities, win games, and make crafts inspired by popular fairy tales. Create a knight's sword or decorate your own crown. Race the clock as you take part in the fairy tale obstacle course or test your fairy tale character knowledge in the scavenger hunt! Morning and afternoon princess sightings expected. You can also expend some energy in our Fairy Tales play yard climbing to Rapunzel's tower, meeting the Frog Prince, acting out the story of Three Billy Goats Gruff, or imagining your own tale. Regular Conservatory admission applies. Sponsored by WAJI Majic 95.1 and Fun 101.7. For more information, call (260) 427-6440.

$1 Night on February 1: Bean Magic

First Thursday of the month, 5:00-8:00 pm

Enjoy discounted admission of $1 per person on the first Thursday night of the month — this will be the first dollar night to experience our Fairy Tales exhibit. Experience our style of bean magic. Remember when Jack traded the family cow for magic beans? He was overcome by the possibilities that beans can hold. Assemble a custom soup blend or enjoy a bean-art craft. Recipes to go. Included in your $1 Night admission. No reservations.

Garden Close-Up: Winter Blooming Plants

Saturday, February 24, 11:00am-1:00pm

Tired of the "winter blahs," then come and visit the Botanical Conservatory to brighten your day in the middle of the winter season! As you explore the enchanted garden of our Fairy Tales exhibit, stop by this special learning station to discover colorful winter blooming plants such as cyclamen and kalanchoe. You can even make your own flower to take home! When you visit the Botanical Conservatory on the fourth Saturday, you get a closer look at our gardens with an exploratory walk, hands-on activity or demonstration. We highlight a different garden each month so you can make new discoveries through fun, educational activities. Included in your regular Conservatory admission, so drop in!

Garden Preschool: Winter Fun

Tuesdays, February 6 & 13, 10:00-11:00am

Children will discover winter through hands-on, garden-related activities side by side with their parent or other adult. This two-session class helps every age explore nature with fresh eyes. Each week will be a new adventure! Master Gardener Kay Musgrave has years of experience working with children in natural settings. Ages 3-5. An adult must participate (no registration required) for the duration of the class with their child. Child's registration deadline: January 30. Min. 5. Max. 10. $12/person; $10/Conservatory member or volunteer. To register, call (260) 427-6000 and refer to code 127100-T1.

Once Upon a Clock Workshop

Saturday, February 10, 12:30-3:00pm

This unusual clock workshop lets you leave our Fairy Tales garden exhibit with your own "once upon a time." You start this DIY project with an unfinished clock prepared from recycled wood pallets – the rest is up to your imagination! You install the clock mechanism, number and decorate the face, then take it home for your friends and family to admire for all *time*. Recycled pallet square, paint, stencils, and hardware are provided, but don't be shy about bringing other small decorative pieces you want to incorporate. Finished size is approximately 12" x 12". Ages 15+. Registration deadline: February 1. $26/public; $22/volunteer. To register, call (260) 427-6000 and refer to code 127057-A1.