

Cincinnati Zoo & Botanical Garden's

Garden Gazette

Welcome to this month's Horticulture Volunteer Newsletter!



Welcome Back Horticulture Volunteers!

Spring greetings and welcome back to the gardens! Mother Nature's wintery nap is coming to a close, snuffing our **witch hazel blooms**—the botanical pilot lights of winter—out for the season. As Spring awakens, we are greeted with the subtle hues of **Lenten Roses**, **Snow Drops**, and **Netted Iris** as they lean toward the warm sunlight and soft rains of Spring. **Magnolia**, **Redbud**, and **Cherry buds** swell, increasing our anticipation of the color-burst to come. Soon, **Tulips**, **Hyacinths**, and **golden Forsythia blooms** will dance across the garden and, as they do, here are some of the tasks we can look forward to in horticulture:

- Removing netting & mulching tulips
- Potting Spring Containers
- Unpacking Nursery Quonsets
- Spring Plantings
- Perennial Garden Cleanup
- Selective Pruning
- Symposium folder prep

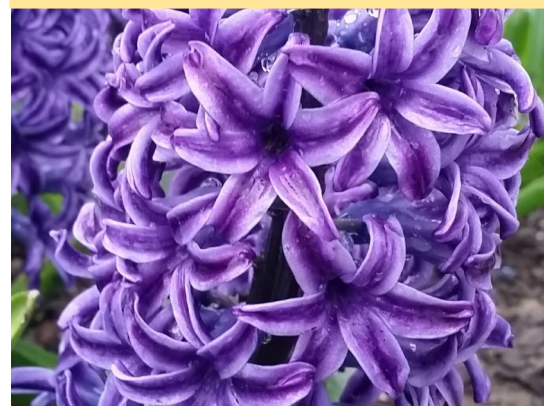
Save the Dates

Saturday, March 7 - 10:30am-noon
Horticulture Volunteer Brunch & Awards Ceremony, Safari Lodge

Thursday, March 12 - 9am-5pm
Sustainable Urban Landscapes Symposium, Frisch's Theater

Thursday, April 2 - 12:30pm - 2pm
Horticulture Education Session, Tree Tops Classroom

Wednesday, April 15 - 6pm -9pm
Zootanical—with a hint of tulips, CZBG





Going Green-er at CZBG

In our continued efforts to be a greener more sustainable organization, you may notice our team striving even harder to reduce waste and minimize our ecological footprint. Many of our CZBG departments are adopting new strategies to remain at the cutting edge of sustainability practices as we work toward our goal to become a net zero energy, water, and waste organization. Here are some things that you can do to help us as we strive toward a brighter future.

- **Bring a reusable water bottle.** This is a great way to reduce one-time use plastics... and you can get it filled with water FOR FREE at any of the zoo concession stands.
- **Help us recycle.** We are now striving to repurpose and recycle more items than ever (nursery plastics, latex gloves, etc.) Before throwing something away when working with, ask us if we can recycle it onsite.
- **Participate in the *Bring Your Own Dish Challenge!*** Details on this will be shared later in the season.
- **Share suggestions and insights with staff.** Do you know where an item that we use regularly can be recycled? Let us know!



Volunteer Brunch & Awards Ceremony

Help us kick off the 2020 season with our annual Horticulture Volunteer Brunch & Award Ceremony on **Saturday, March 7th—10:30am to noon at Safari Lodge**. This is an opportunity for us to thank you for your service during 2019 and look ahead to the exciting possibilities of 2020. Please RSVP on MVP if you are planning to join us for this rousing occasion.



Construction Update & Pathway Closures

Roo Valley Construction

Just a reminder as we begin our Spring season that there may be areas within the park that are closed for construction. Some of the areas where access may be limited are: **Safari Grove, old Sea Lion, Children's Zoo, and Roo Valley.**

Safari Grove will see changes this season as the 4-D theater is converted into an additional eating area for visitors. Until construction is finished, restrooms in this area and the main pathway in front of the building may be closed periodically. Keep in mind that if you are working in the lower nursery while construction is underway, the nearest restroom may be located at the Safari Lodge or LaRosa's.



Construction is currently underway for the new **African Penguin Exhibit** which will be located where the Sea Lion exhibit used to be (near the entrance of Wolf Woods.) This new exhibit will be three times larger than their current living space with habitat enhancements designed to encourage breeding. During this time, access to Wolf Woods and Children's Zoo from the Train Station may be limited.

Alterations to the landscape and old little penguin exhibit at **Children's Zoo Entrance** may cause periodic closures of the path into Children's Zoo. Visitors will still be able to access the Children's Zoo and Wolf Woods by using the pathway that runs uphill from the Manatee Building to Children's Zoo.

Construction continues at the **Roo Valley** exhibit. This area remains closed to the public and non-construction traffic. During this phase of the building process, our horticulture staff have been involved with preserving existing exhibit trees and creating a stone wall that will run along the exit of the exhibit. This Australian themed exhibit will be the future home to kangaroos and our little blue penguins. It will feature a kangaroo walkabout, two-level ropes course, and our recently opened multi-tiered beer garden, "Hops."

For more information about projects at the Cincinnati Zoo & Botanical Garden visit: <http://morehometoam.org/projects.html>



Symposium Tickets On Sale!

Tickets are on sale for our upcoming **Sustainable Urban Landscapes Symposium!** This year's symposium is loosely themed "success stories" and features a variety of dynamite in-house speakers as well as local and regional industry partners. This program is scheduled for **Thursday, March 12 from 9am to 5pm at Frisch's Theater.** Don't forget to use the volunteer code to purchase tickets at a discounted rate of **\$40.**



Speakers Include:

- Peter MacDonagh, Director of Science & Design, Kestrel Design Group
- Joe Boggs, Hamilton County OSU Extension
- Steve Foltz, Director of Horticulture, CZBG
- Scott Beuerlein, Manager of Botanical Garden Outreach, CZBG
- Mark Fisher, Vice President of Facilities and Sustainability, CZBG!

Horticulture is Seeking the Following Items:

- Paper Grocery Bags*
- Kitty Litter Buckets*

Please drop any items off at the Horticulture Shop between 8 am and 3 pm.
Thank you!



CZBG Connect

Check out the CZBG Connect website for additional volunteer opportunities and information about things happening throughout the zoo. You can access the CZBG Connect website by logging in on MVP at www.myvolunteerpage.com

New Horticulture Volunteer Orientation

Considering the limited number of new volunteers that have been accepted into our 2020 gardening program, we will be making a few adjustments to this year's Horticulture Volunteer Orientation. Stay tuned for more information!