



CZBG

Garden Gazette

June 2019

Summer in the Gardens

Summer is such an exciting time in the Garden. It is the place where “work” and “play” meet. It’s a time to revel in the diversity of tasks that a healthy garden landscape requires. Summer brings a little bit of everything – planting, watering, mulching, weeding, starting plants for the next season, and, if all goes well, infinite opportunities to enjoy nature’s myriad of beautiful mysteries. As June unfolds and Summer begins, here is what we can expect from our own Zoo Gardens:



Annual Display and Container Planting – finish planting our annual display beds and decorative summer containers... we’re almost there!

Mulch Display Beds – apply a light covering of mulch to annual areas.

Potting Perennial Plugs – potting perennial plugs as they arrive in the nursery.

Weeding – weeding in our designated areas and beyond!

Pollinator Carnival – engage visitors with a Plants for Pollinators themed carnival.

As we dive into summer gardening, please remember the following garden practices:

- ◆ Stay hydrated and take breaks as you need to. The upcoming weeks are sure to become hot and humid, and we want everyone to stay safe out there!
- ◆ Don’t take on more than you can reasonably handle—example, if something is heavy, be sure to ask for help lifting it.
- ◆ When weeding, please use our handy dandy green weed buckets. They are a dream! If you have more weeds than the bucket can hold, you may empty the buckets onto a tarp or make a pile next to the buckets. **BE CAREFUL NOT TO LOAD THE BUCKETS OR TARPS TOO FULL!! Buckets should be able to be picked up and loaded onto a cart by 1 person.** Tarps should be able to be lifted *easily* by 2 people.
- ◆ Store your tools, tarps, and weeds in safe locations while you are working. Remember that the park is open while we are working, and even setting a broom, rake, or shovel across the path for a minute could cause a tripping hazard for a fellow volunteer or visitor.
- ◆ Store your tarp and weed buckets in an “out of the way” location when you are finished with your shift. Remember that the park will get very busy during the summer and we should strive to keep path space as clear as possible for guests to use during their visit.
- ◆ Be careful when pruning and removing plants from areas. Ask yourself, is this plant screening something, acting as a barrier to prevent the public from accessing or cutting through an area, or if removing the plant will create a hole in the landscape. If you are unsure, it is always a good idea to wait until a horticulture staff member arrives and ask them.
- ◆ At the end of your shift please let us know where your tools, buckets, tarps, and/or piles are located, so that we can pick them up in a timely manner. You may email Tosh the location if we are not nearby.

Welcome to this month’s

Horticulture Volunteer Newsletter!

◆ **Hotline**

513-559-8307

◆ **Email**

natasha.dobias@cincinnati-zoo.org

Save the Dates

Thursday, June 6 - 12:30-2:00

*Horticulture Education Session,
Gardens of England by Steve Foltz,
Safari Lodge*

Saturday, June 8 - 9:00-1:00

*Pollen Nation Celebration & Plant
Sale, Bowyer Wetland*

Saturday, June 22

Pollinator Carnival, CZBG

Twilight Tuesdays

Tuesdays in July, CZBG

Thursday, July 11 - 12:30-2:00

Horticulture Education Session, TBA

Saturday, July 13

*Bowyer Plant Sale, Bowyer Wet-
land*



Check Out Our New Sensory Spots!



Summer in the Garden brings a great deal to our sensory pallet – there are so many interesting plants to see, smell, hear, touch, and taste when experiencing the gardens. Who isn't awed by the sound of the wind rustling through the Bamboo Forest or the caramelly aroma of the Weeping Katsura that leaves every passerby wondering where all the kettle corn has gone? Who hasn't stopped to gaze into the eye of a giant hibiscus bloom or desperately wanted to run their fingers over the fuzzy plume of a Jade Princess Millet? Is there anything sweeter than a ruby red strawberry having cooked all day under the summer sun? Oh, the wonders that can be sensed within a garden!

As gardeners, we actively seek opportunities in the garden where our senses can be engaged. We run our fingers over the stalks of plants, we smell their blooms, and we eat their fruits. We promote plants that are interesting to our senses and edit those that are not. Our sensory interactions promote learning, which leads to respect and value for the living collections we construct.

ZOO ACCESS FOR ALL **SENSORY GARDEN**
Use your senses to discover the wonders of these plants.

- What colors, shapes and patterns do you see?
- How do the flowers and leaves smell?
- Touch gently with light fingers. Is it rough, smooth, fuzzy, or waxy?
- What sounds do they make when the wind blows?

In an effort to bring the sensory experience of the garden to all visitors under the **Zoo Access for All Program**, we have created sensory containers in quiet areas throughout the park. These containers are filled with a variety of visually striking, tactilely intriguing, audibly stimulating, and/or fragrant plants for visitors to touch, smell, listen to, and look at. The objective of these containers is to bring the garden to visitors of all ability levels and offer subtle learning opportunities for those seeking quiet interactive experiences. Each container will contain sensory

signage indicating what sense the plants within the container were chosen to engage. Our hope is that these containers will educate visitors, spark curiosity, and inspire interest and respect for plants and our living garden collection.

For more information about the *Zoo Access for All Program* visit: <http://cincinnatizoo.org/plan-your-visit/zoo-access-for-all/>

Fidelity in Summer

Many of you have asked what happens at the Fidelity Greenhouse when we are not growing annuals. You may know that during the colder months, we overwinter the tropical plants that are used for display beds and containers. Not many know, however, that we also utilize the greenhouse



during the summer to grow cuttings for use in the Garden. Currently, we are growing elderberry cuttings selected for their giant flower heads and plentiful berry sets to use for ornamental and educational purposes as part of our on-going efforts to promote pollinators and inform visitors of the various uses of this exceptional plant. These cuttings are watered through a misting system and maintained by our horticulturists until they are ready to be potted in the nursery onsite.

New Faces in Horticulture



Now that summer has arrived, you will begin to see a few new faces in the gardens. Our 2019 Summer Interns, Seasonals, Volunteer Gardeners, and Buzz Troopers have just started their gardening seasons with us. Please be sure to give them a warm welcome if you find yourself working alongside one of our new people. Thanks!

Don't forget to register your garden in the Plant for Pollinator Challenge!
<http://cincinnatizoo.org/horticulture/plant-for-pollinators/>

CZBG Connect

Check out the CZBG Connect Website for the CZBG Volunteer Newsletter (all Zoo departments) and other exciting zoo happenings. The link for the CZBG Connect website can be found on the MVP homepage.

www.myvolunteerpager.com

Don't Forget to Smile and Enjoy the Gardens!

Pollinator Carnival is Coming!



Mark your calendars – **June 22 is Pollinator Carnival!**

Pollinator Carnival is a family-friendly event where young visitors and their families work their way through a series of pollinator themed stations. After completing each station, participants receive a stamp in their *Pollinator Passport*. Once they complete all the stations and have gained a vast amount of knowledge about pollinators and plants that support them, participants are able to choose a plant to take home that will support pollinators in their own backyard.

We have been hosting this event for nearly five years and each year seems to draw more interest than the next. We would love your help in making this year's carnival another great success!

We are looking for people to greet visitors, hand out passports, engage visitors at our interactive pollinator learning stations, and hand out plants to participants who complete the stations of the carnival.

If you are interested in helping with this event, please email Deb Zureick at deb.zureick@cincinnati-zoo.org



Plant Sales at Bowyer Wetland

A special thanks to everyone who helped with and/or attended our last Native Plant Sale at Bowyer Wetland. We made over \$9,000 in plant sales in a single day! Wow – what a success! Our next plant sale at Bowyer will be combined with the *Pollen Nation Celebration* and is scheduled for Saturday, June 8th. This will not only be a great opportunity to pick up some great, often difficult to find, plants, but also a chance to learn the ins and outs of pollinator life from our Pollen Nation experts. Tours of the wetland and apiary will be offered at 10 am and noon respectively, provided that the weather cooperates.



For more information, visit: http://cincinnati-zoo.org/horticulture/horticulture_events/



Notice for Early Start Time

In the coming month, we will begin transitioning to our 8am – 11am gardening schedule to avoid working during the hottest part of the day. Tosh will send out an email when this change occurs. We understand that not everyone can make it in that early (which is fine). Come and meet the group wherever we are working. We will make our best effort to leave the message the evening before each volunteer day. It is still a good idea to check in the morning for changes or cancellations. We will also try to make sure that you know where we will be between 8 and 9, so that you can find us if you arrive after 8am. If the weather is predicted to be poor, you may want to wait until after 7:30am to head toward the zoo—any changes/cancellations to the hotline message will be made by 7:30am.