

NOTES FROM THE GARDENS

Spring/Summer 2019



*Gearing up for
a great season*

Thanks to you, the Gardens will host
a great line-up of programs for 2019


Monk Botanical Gardens

LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Spring is nature's way of saying, "Let's party!" ~Robin Williams



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Bleu Heindl - Administrative Assistant
Elise Schuler - Education Coordinator
Wesley Ebert - Grounds Supervisor
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Whitaker, Hooshang Zeyghami

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Dear Fellow Garden Enthusiasts:

I am writing this at the end of a record breaking month of snowfall. It's hard to *Think Spring* when we are surrounded by snow, but I promise Spring is right around the corner.

In this issue of Notes from the Gardens, you will read about the impact your gifts will make in 2019. You will also learn about how our Green Saturday event has changed and what this strange winter may have in store for our plants this season. You will meet Hooshang Zeyghami, Doug Hosler and Kaomi Yang and learn about their dedication and growth through their volunteerism at the Gardens. You will also be introduced to our newest staff member, Bleu Heindl, and last but not least, get updated on the renovation of the Monk homestead.

Thanks to our members, donors and corporate sponsors, we are pleased to present a wonderful array of programs and events, sure to please everyone, for 2019! From the return of our Booze & Botany event to our new 8-week Summer Camp in the Gardens program, we have an educational and fun line-up of programs waiting for you. So, I invite you to "Party" with us this Season!

Meet you in the Gardens,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Darcie Howard".

Darcie E Howard



WHAT'S THIS WINTER LIKELY TO DO TO OUR PLANTS?

by Professor Paul Whitaker, UWSP-Wausau

It's easy to confuse weather with climate.

Weather is the current atmospheric conditions at a given place, whereas climate is the long-term average atmospheric conditions of a given place. Similarly, many people confuse climate change with global warming. Average annual temperatures in much of Wisconsin are already 2° F warmer than 50 years ago, and climate models predict that average temperatures are likely to continue increasing, both globally and in Wisconsin. This can entice gardeners to try plants adapted to warmer climates. This is risky, though, because a warmer climate doesn't mean that temperatures will always be higher than in the past. Wild oscillations in weather – like record high and low temperatures, droughts, torrential rains, and so on – can mask longer term changes in climate.

This winter has been a perfect example of why some people prefer the term “climate weirding” to “climate change.” In Wausau, October had twice the normal rainfall and was 3° F colder than average, including a plunge from 77° F on the 9th to a hard freeze on the 12th. November and December had near normal precipitation, but November was 6° F colder than average and December was 4.4° F warmer than average. As a result, we had more rain than snow in December, with never more than 3 inch-



es of snow on the ground. The near absence of snow cover continued through most of January, despite it being 2.3° F colder than average. Fortunately for our plants, several inches of snow had fallen before the late January polar vortex, when lows in Wausau dropped to -27° F for two nights in a row. Three days later, temperatures soared to 40° F and it rained hard, then froze again. As of mid-month, February has been about 2° F colder than average but we've already received three times the normal precipitation for the entire month.

So, how are our plants likely to ride out this winter? Our polar vortex temperatures were only 2° F colder than expected for USDA Plant Hardiness Zone 4b, like Wausau, and they came when plants should have been fully hardened off. However, the abrupt drop in temperatures in fall and the cold temperatures in December and January with limited snow cover may also have been hard on our plants. A cold-damaged plant may simply not leaf out when spring comes. Other times, parts of the plant or the entire plant will leaf out

normally, then quickly wilt and die. My plan is to simply wait and see. Any die-back that's evident by late-spring or early-summer can be pruned out then. Let's hope our plants are tougher than we are, and that they'll delight us with greenery and blossoms and fruit, just as they always have.



GARDENS' STAFF GROWS BY ONE

Meet Bleu Heindl

Because of your continued support, the Gardens was able to add an additional staff member to its team. Meet, Bleu Heindl, a Stevens Point native and recent graduate from UWSP. As administrative assistant, Bleu will help support our events, programs and marketing efforts while keeping our office in order.

Bleu received her degree in Arts Management and Fine Art this past June. While attending school, she supported the University's Carlsten Art Gallery, and fine art department's scholarship fundraising event - Arts Bash. She has worked with local non-profits, such as UWEX-Lakes, Schmeeckle Reserve, the United Way and more. Bleu's area of focus in school and in her internships was fundraising, special events, marketing and outreach. We are delighted to add her to our team!



PROPERTY UPDATES

Buildings on the North end of the Gardens

Last spring, we announced the acquisition of an additional 6+ acres, along with Mr. and Mrs. Monk's home and some outbuildings. An idea of turning the home into educational and office space was presented. A renovation design was developed and a cost estimate of \$500K to complete the renovation was received. After thorough examination, the Garden's leaders decided that we needed to take a step back and see how the new parcels of land and buildings fit in with the original Master Plan design. The original plan calls for a visitors' center, which would provide office space and educational space, so it was decided to take plans for the Monk home in a different direction. The revision of the Master Plan will be completed by the end of 2019.

The first floor of the Monk home will be renovated to provide short term rental space to be used with our week-end wedding and event rentals. The basement of the home will be cleaned and used for storage of our education and event supplies. It is estimated that the Gardens will receive revenue on the rental of the home to help support the Garden's core mission activities.

We hope to have the renovation completed and the space available to rent by summer 2019. In addition to the activity on the Monk home, this winter a dilapidated building on the property was torn down and a replacement building will be put on the saved concrete slab. This building will be used to store our larger equipment and will be completed by this spring.

GREEN SATURDAY HAS CHANGED TO A SEASON KICK-OFF EVENT IN JUNE

The Gardens has hosted the Green Saturday Plant Sale and Flea Market for nine years. This event attracted hundreds of people to purchase plants, flea market items and a variety of garden goodies from vendors. Originally offered to help raise funds and awareness for the Gardens, this event was a popular one, but one that has become stagnant in recent years. After a closer look at the return on investment, the Gardens Board decided not to offer this event again in 2019, with the commitment to develop another signature event for the Gardens that will raise funds and be mission focused for 2020. There will be a committee assembled to develop and implement this new event. If you are interested in helping, please contact Darcie Howard at dhoward@monkagrdens.org.

One of the roles this event played was a kick-off to our event season. In the spirit of that, we will be hosting a Season Kick-off Event on June 2nd from 10am-2pm. Garden tours will be offered free to the public throughout the day, as well as, a variety of adult workshops covering topics such as pruning, developing a pollination garden and plant invasive species

identification and control. We will also offer a hands-on workshop for kids and our first Garden Exploration Open House from 1-4pm, which will continue every Sunday through July. Finally, we will sell vegetable and herb plants and some flea market items. There is sure to be something for everyone at this event, so come and help us celebrate!



Morning Glory Gardens
Tomato
Amish Paste

- Plant in FULL SUN
- Spacing: 24 x 36 inches
- A multitalented heirloom paste tomato from Wisconsin well-suited for paste, or as a slicing tomato. Acorn-shaped, the very large 8"-12" fruits are deep red, thick-fleshed and nearly seedless. Indeterminate.

Morning Glory Gardens
Tomato
Sugary

- Plant in FULL SUN
- Spacing: 24 inches
- Sugary stands out as something really special in the world of cherry tomato competition. Super-sweet, juicy, 2 oz. fruits, with appealing, reddish-pink skins and light green shoulders. Huge yields of acorn-shaped, slightly pointed fruits set continuously in full sun. Semi-determinate.

CHANGED BY PASSING MOMENTS



Kaomi Yang has been volunteering for the Gardens for the past 6 months. She started by helping to create some of the Gardens print designs, but decided to give working with children a try. Kaomi volunteered for the Growing Great Minds program. This program provides environmental education to elementary school students, and Kaomi was assigned to a group of seven 3rd and 4th graders. Most of the children in this group were Hmong and Kaomi, being the oldest of six kids in a Hmong family, was excited to be a role model for them.

Kaomi spent the semester engaging the students in a variety of programs focused on predator/prey relationships. "I could see the students making everyday connections to the concepts we were teaching," Kaomi said. "By the end of the semester the kids understood the predator/prey relationship and loved trying to categorize omnivores, herbivores and carnivores."

During the last session of the semester, the group decided to have a drawing contest. They went around the table and each student suggested an object from nature to draw. They drew mice, sunflowers, birds and goldfish. One boy suggested a sword but was quickly told "that isn't an object from nature". He then suggested they draw something from their past. A boy who hadn't really been participating walked over and said he wanted to draw a picture of his aunt.

He went on to tell the class that her hair had fallen out and she had passed away. He then got very sad and went off into the corner. "I wanted to console the boy," Kaomi said, "I just didn't know what to say."

Feeling like she had failed as the role model she wanted to be, Kaomi went home and told her mother what had happened. The two talked about the traditions of Hmong funerals, and how emotional the entire process can be. "Hmong funerals last weeks and are meant to celebrate the person's life," said Kaomi. "I was taught that family members who die are sent off as good spirits that protect and look over us." Kaomi wanted to reach back out to the boy to let him know she understood how he felt so she wrote him a letter. "I hope I made a small difference," said Kaomi. "I know he made a difference for me."

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

Doug Hosler



Doug Hosler considers himself a nerd. He has been an Associate Professor of Philosophy at the UWMC for over 47 years, yet he continues to want to learn more about the world around him. Last year, his colleague Paul Whitaker started talking about the volunteer work he was doing for the Monk Gardens and Doug thought, "I could do some digging and I could learn more about the plants and animals in our area."

Doug signed up to be a volunteer and works in groundskeeping. He is responsible for mowing the lawn in the summer and for snow blowing trails throughout the winter. His favorite experience at the Gardens came while mowing the lawn. "I spotted a very large snake." Doug said. "It was yellow with beautiful brown spots and I stopped the mower to watch it for several minutes.

When I started the mower back up the snake sensed the vibrations and went on its way." Doug then went home to research what kind of snake it was and discovered it was a foxsnake, sometimes called a pine snake. "I love learning about plants and animals." said Doug, "And giving back to the community is also very important to me so volunteering for the Gardens has been a perfect fit."

BOARD SPOTLIGHT

Hooshang Zeyghami



Mr. Zeyghami, or Shang as he goes by, is a founding board member of the Monk Gardens. He has played an integral role in the development of the Gardens from its inception through today.

Back in the year 2000, Shang was a civil engineer and President of his own engineering firm in Weston. One day Mr. Monk came to Shang's office and told him that he was considering donating 20 acres of his land for a botanical garden. He asked Shang if he would help design it.

Shang's grandmother was an avid gardener and Shang grew up working and playing in the garden. He also traveled extensively and had visited many botanical gardens. He thought the creation of a garden in Wausau would be a wonderful addition to the community. He told Mr. Monk he was on board and soon they were touring the grounds on Mr. Monk's golf cart. A template was developed, a Board of Directors assembled and a Master Plan created.

Since then, Mr Zeyghami has been instrumental the development of the Gardens. He helped developed the walking paths, the memorial garden, the extensive tree house and the beautiful new kitchen potager area. Shang would like to see a visitor center be the next area of development. He believes it could be a real showcase and key to increasing the number of visitors and members at the Gardens.

Thank you Mr. Zeyghami for your dedication and continued service.

THERE'S A WHOLE LOT GOIN' ON AT THE GARDENS

Walk, knit, do yoga, sip cocktails, sample pizza, look for birds, take in Shakespeare, plant, learn, camp, or just chill out.

These are just some of the activities planned for you this spring and summer at the Monk Botanical Gardens.

This urban sanctuary offers an intriguing list of programs for you and your family. Events start in April and run through the autumn months. Members and non-members, young and old, residents and visitors, families, couples, singles, groups and classes are all welcome.

"This is the most ambitious schedule we have ever had", says executive director Darcie Howard. "We can't wait to welcome participants."



HERE'S THE LINEUP:

APRIL

Luminary Garden Walk, Friday, April 12, 8-9:30 p.m. Bring your family and friends (dogs are also welcome) for a luminary-lit walk through the Gardens. We end at the Kitchen Garden, where you can enjoy a bonfire, hot chocolate, apple cider, and roasted marshmallows.

MAY

Bird Walk in the Gardens, Sat., May 18, 6:30 a.m. In celebration of International Migratory Bird Day, join the Wausau Bird Club in an early morning guided walk through the Gardens. In the quiet of the morning we will stroll through the Gardens in search of spring migrants. Listen, watch, and maybe catch a few photos of the amazing array of birds within this 30-acre environment. Bring binoculars.

JUNE

Monk Botanical Gardens Season Kick-Off Event, Sunday, June 2, 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Come help us kick-off our season with a variety of activities for all ages and interests, including workshops and classes for adults and children, free garden tours throughout the day, and garden flea market items, vegetable and herb plants for sale.

Tots in the Gardens, every Tues., June-August, 10 a.m. Your 3-5 year old tot can join us for an adventure with nature. Each session includes hands-on nature activities combined with a snack and craft. Off season, 2nd & 4th Tues. of the month.





Summer Camp in the Gardens, Mondays through Fridays June 10 - August 2, 8 a.m.-12 p.m. Our summer camp offers children a unique outdoor experience. Activities are developmentally appropriate, educationally relevant and most importantly fun! At the Gardens, campers will be able to learn about the environment through hands-on activities, work together with their peers, and spend time outdoors. *Summer Camp in the Gardens is sponsored, in part, by Cellcom.*

Garden Exploration Open House, Sundays in June-July, 1-4 p.m. Use the Gardens' supplies to create your own nature adventure in the Gardens. Borrow books, magnifying glasses, nets, and other supplies to explore what interests you and your family.

Yoga in the Gardens, Sundays, June 9 - August 25, 6 - 7 p.m. Breathe in fresh air as you practice yoga in the Gardens with the Wausau Area Yoga Association. Suggested \$10 donation goes to support the Monk Botanical Gardens.

Knitting in the Gardens, Saturday June 8, 10 a.m.-1 p.m.

In celebration of World Wide Knitting in Public Day, join Beth Paustian from Black Purl LLC to explore the world of knitting. This event is free and for all levels of knitters. Explore what beautiful projects you can make, try your hand at knitting for the first time and talk about all things knitting. Limited supplies will be available to new knitters only for demonstration purposes. Garden tours will be offered for all knitting participants throughout the event.

Gardens Gab-A Lecture Series, Tuesdays, June 4 - August 13, 6 p.m.

This new summer lecture series will bring in experts to speak about all things plant related. Including growing backyard berries, the science of maple syrup, and learning about the art of paper-making, there will be a topic for all interests.

LINEUP CONTINUES ►►

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JULY

Booze & Botany, Thursday, July 18, 6 - 10 p.m. Offering a curated selection of fresh and unique ingredients, local cocktail connoisseurs and the Monk Botanical Gardens will take guests through a palette of fruit, herbs and accouterments for craft cocktail creations and how to grow them from your own garden or patio. Featuring bartending experts from Timekeeper Distillery and Great Northern Distillery, you're sure to get a craft cocktail experience to remember!

Craft cocktail demonstrations will occur throughout the event. Stick around and sip your cocktails while local acoustic duo Open Tab Acoustic gets the good times rolling. Also featuring brick oven pizzas baked on-site. *Sponsored by AC & Sons Party Tent Rentals, Great Northern Distilling and WI Valley Improvement Company.*

Family Pizza Night in the Gardens, Sunday, July 28, 2 p.m. Make pizza as a family from ingredients in the kitchen garden. Make the sauce, choose the toppings, and bake your pizza in the brick oven.

AUGUST

Weekend Wonders Family Program, Second Sunday each month, August 2019 through May 2020, 2 p.m.

Play, learn, and explore as a family in the Gardens. Explore a new topic including gardening, wildlife, bugs, birds, native plants, and more. Meet at the kitchen pavilion.

Dirt to Pot Cooking Series, Mondays, August 5-September 9, 8 p.m.

This 5-week cooking series highlights the best of local chefs and connects their cooking classes with our kitchen garden. Participants will learn how to grow, maintain, harvest, prepare and cook a variety of meals. For 2019, we will be highlighting international dishes to match our internationally themed planted garden. *Sponsored by Ruder Ware, Thrivent, Major Industries and Throm Health & Wellness.*

Shakespeare in the Gardens, Thursday through Saturday, August 1-3, 5:30-8:30 p.m. & August 3, 12:30-3 p.m.

Like the children's matinee, this performance of Shakespeare's "A Midsummer Night's Dream" will be performed by Wausau's Out of the Woods theatre group. Though more than 400 years old, its comedy and themes of love are timeless. The play centers around four couples and small troupe of actors who become entangled in a fairy dream world in the woods. Meddling fairies, spurned lovers and play within a play show us "the course of true love never did run smooth." Food and beverages will be available for sale. The children's matinee will have a variety of magical themed children activities before and after the showing. *Sponsored by Albert R. Olson Charitable Trust & EO Johnson.*

ALL SUMMER LONG

Birthday Parties in the Gardens. From May-August we offer themed birthday parties. Each 2-hour party includes a one-hour program and one hour for birthday festivities for up to 15 children.

Our children education programs are supported, in part, by Mid WI Foundation Legacy Fund and Murco Foundation Fund, funds of Community Foundation of North Central WI.

For reservations, tickets & pricing for all programs go to www.monkgardens.org.



DID YOU KNOW...

Monk Botanical Gardens rents its facilities?



Perfect for weddings, birthday parties, corporate outings and family gatherings. Go to monkgardens.org for more information.

PASSIONATE PEOPLE WANTED

Are you committed to the Monk Botanical Gardens' mission of being a premier botanical garden, providing opportunities to experience plants and understand their significance? We are seeking highly motivated people who are passionate about our mission and want to help the Gardens grow by providing time and talent to our Board of Directors. Interested in learning more? Contact Bob Reinertson at rreinertson@ruderware.com.

CONTACT US

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