Dear Valued Member,

Your satisfaction as a Botanica member is of the utmost importance to us here at Botanica. It is because of you that we are able to grow and remain a top-notch community attraction. Due to our temporary COVID-19 closure, we extended all current memberships by two months and compensated any new memberships purchased during that time. Please stop by the front desk once we reopen for your new expiration date sticker.

Thank you for your support and please stay healthy!

Honey Happy Packets

During the COVID-19 quarantine, Botanica sold over 350 Honey Happy Packets online. The packets included Botanica honey, organic tea and an artificial tulip to brighten your day. Local honey has antibacterial, antiviral and antifungal properties, and promotes digestive health.

Tulip Bulb Sale

Our 63,000 tulips were beautiful this spring! Since we couldn’t have you visit the gardens, we had a livestream of the tulips on our website and an online tulip bulb sale.

VOLUNTEERS

Botanica has greatly missed our amazing volunteers during the closure and we are looking forward to seeing them all again in the gardens soon! If you or someone you know is interested in volunteering, please contact Kristi Conkle at kconklee@botanica.org or (316) 264-0448 ext. 103.
I hope this letter finds you safe and healthy. Botanica is still working hard on our new project, the Koch Carousel Gardens. Many of you wanted to participate in this project and below are several ways you can help support Botanica, which we need now more than ever, and to have your family’s name or a memorial for a loved one be in this unique new garden space at Botanica. Contact me, Jamee Ross, at jross@botanica.org to discuss reserving a bench, luminary or a paver. Thank you for your consideration and your support of Botanica.

**Decorative Luminaries** | $7,500
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37 lights will adorn the Koch Carousel Gardens. These lights will provide lighting, music/sound and hanging baskets to make the gardens even more beautiful and interesting. Have a plaque with your family or business name on the luminary decorative pole. Gift of $7,500 for this important and unique gift.

**Bricks & Pavers** | $10,000, $7,500, $5,000, $3,000 and $400
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There are bricks and pavers in the Koch Carousel Gardens by the Sleeping Troll Hill area. This will be a memorial and tribute area for people to celebrate their families or remember a loved one. Each paver and brick will be engraved with wording selected by the donor.

| Tier 1 – Large Stone Slab, approx. 15 sf (granite, limestone, etc.) | Tier 4 – Large Stone Paver 8”x18” (granite, limestone, etc.) | 3 Total | 64 Total |
| Tier 2 – Medium Stone Slab, approx. 5 sf (granite, limestone, etc.) | Tier 5 – Standard 4”x8” Paver Brick | 4 Total | 730 Total |
| Tier 3 – Small Stone Slab, approx. 2 sf (granite, limestone, etc.) | 8 Total |

**Bench** | $5,000
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There are 10 remaining benches to sell in the Koch Carousel Gardens. Each bench is a stainless steel 4 foot bench with a silver powder coated finish. Each bench will have a 3 x 5 metal plaque that the donor may select wording for. Gift of $5,000 for this special gift.

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**SUMMER EDUCATION**

**SUMMER IN THE DOWNING CHILDREN’S GARDEN**

Summer fun inside the DCG will be phased in as we slowly increase attendance following safety and health recommendations. While some high-contact areas will be closed to begin the month of June, there will be family-friendly (and contact free) points of interest throughout the gardens. Bring a blanket and picnic meal, buy food for the koi at the front counter and download a scavenger hunt to complete your fun day inside the gardens!

**Story Time ... Out in the Gardens!**

Bring your picnic blanket and your little ones out for Story Time in the gardens! Beginning June 4, each Thursday at 10:30am we will gather outside for our favorite stories, rhymes and movements in the fresh air and sunshine! Bring snacks or a picnic lunch to make a full morning of garden fun. Included with membership or admission.

**BOOK WALK**

Get ready to move! Each week beginning June 1, we will feature a family-friendly story on signs throughout the garden. Walk, dance, fly or skip along as you discover page after page of favorite stories along with movements and illustrations!

**I SPY TREE**

Fans of our Illuminations “Funky Tree” will love this summer’s I SPY TREE. Use the I Spy board to help your family locate all of the crazy things we have hidden within the branches of our favorite tree!

Visit Botanica.org or our Facebook page to watch Miss Laurel’s Online Storytime!
FROM THE DIRECTOR

Marty Miller giving a virtual tour of the gardens. Visit botanica.org to watch a “Bringing the Blooms to You” video.

Who would have ever guessed spring of 2020, the world as we knew it would be turned upside down. However, nature never blinked. More than 100,000 daffodils rose from the ground and bloomed, totally unaware of what was happening. Over 63,000 beautiful tulip bulbs, planted by staff and Botanica volunteers in the fall, transformed into one of the most colorful displays ever seen. However, spring of 2020 Botanica members and guests viewed the magnificent display online instead of being able to be in nature’s beauty, touching and experiencing the glory of spring.

Summer is approaching right on schedule. All of the tulips have been pulled by not only gardeners but administrative staff pitched in. WE MISS OUR VOLUNTEERS. The unmeasurable value of volunteers was personally felt by every single staff member who worked in the garden pulling tulips and planting thousands of annuals. Botanica will continue to be what it is – the most beautiful garden in our city.

All of us at Botanica – the Board of Trustees, members, volunteers and staff – say “THANK YOU!” to everyone who supported Botanica in 2019. Because 2019 was financially the most profitable year Botanica has ever experienced, we have been able to survive almost zero revenue during the 2020 spring pandemic. Commerce Bank guided us through the SBA PPP Loan Program that has provided payroll and utility funding, keeping Botanica beautiful and ready for summer. The costs for plants, normal maintenance repairs and making changes to accommodate pandemic requirements has come from our 2019 savings.

Our community has been Botanica’s strength. In the past volunteers and staff have created special spring events that earned revenue, supporting the gardens. Things are different now, limiting attendance and social distancing. Because of the pandemic large group events have been eliminated. Now more than ever before financial support is needed for operations to continue throughout 2020. We have used all the stopgap measures available but sustaining operations through summer of 2021 will be a challenge. Fortunately, the federal government, through the National Stimulus Relief Act gives donors a special ability to deduct up to $300 in cash contribution to charities during 2020. This also includes purchasing or extending Botanica memberships.

My sincere gratitude goes out to you, our volunteers, members, sponsors, donors and friends who have supported Botanica and continue to provide the needed support that will get us through these trying times. May God bless us all and we come through this pandemic stronger than ever before.

Thank you,

Marty Miller
Executive Director
SPECIAL EVENTS

All of the special events at Botanica are so crucial to us because they help us raise funds for our gardens and give our community a safe and memorial experience they can’t get anywhere else. Our main goal is to help you create memories that will last a lifetime. The safety and health of our guests has been and remains a priority for us as we make plans for our upcoming events.

We are still planning on hosting Breakfast & Butterfly Release (starting on June 10), Tuesdays on the Terrace (starting in July), Fairy Tea Party (July 25) and some new summer events.

Stay connected with us through our social media and www.botanica.org for information about upcoming events.

During the COVID-19 stay-at-home quarantine Botanica got creative and stayed connected with our community. We hosted a 30 Day Challenge on social media where we posted an educational activity that we could relate back to the gardens. We had a new winner every day and gave away 30 family memberships. There were 1,428 participants who completed the challenges, which reached 159,004 people on Facebook.