



notes

FROM THE GARDENS



Harvest is Always More Than the Seed Sown

The fruits of our labor are coming to life in the Gardens

A publication of
Monk Botanical Gardens



From the Board of Directors

Dear Gardens Friends,

As the summer days have turned cooler and fall is quickly upon us, we have **much to be thankful for** as we celebrate this season of harvest at the Gardens. The contribution of time and talents that so many offered throughout the year - from our dedicated volunteers and staff to the many contractors and experts who helped us accomplish major improvements in the Gardens the past few months, to our generous donors, program attendees and even some behind-the-scenes contributors to our work - all have enabled and energized us to remain focused on the mission we strive to achieve for our members and guests.

One of the cornerstones of our success has been private and public support to help steward the Gardens into the next phase of growth. This summer, our team focused on vital enhancement projects that will help ensure continued enjoyment of the Gardens for years to come. First, we are completing the final stages of *Sara's Storybook Garden* - a place where children can explore, learn and discover - but more importantly a place for remembrance of **Sara Quirt Sann**. So many who knew and loved her have given generously to help establish this unique and heartwarming memorial. Mother Nature offered a gentle spring, enabling the project to happen in expedited fashion. Then, in late summer, we broke ground on the establishment of a brand-new *English-style Garden*. We are so grateful to the family of **Thomas and Marilyn Kraemer** for entrusting us to create this new venue in their loved ones' names. We envision blushing brides and wedding attendants strolling through the brick entrance and trimmed hedges, plus rose bushes that will undeniably fill the air with a lingering fragrance all day long. Not to mention, many more improvements that have begun throughout the Gardens - you'll learn more in the pages ahead. The list of donors is impressive and we're more excited than ever to see the finishing touches in place!

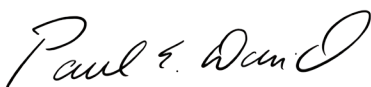
Another important aspect of our work is inspiring a passion for the environment across all age groups - and 2024 has been a record year for young ones! We offered **10 WEEKS of Summer Camp in the Gardens!** In total, **388 children**, ages 3-15, experienced learning opportunities from one of the best environmental education teams in the state! One grateful mom shared, *"We love the summer camp for our kids! I love that they get to spend their days outdoors! At the end of every day, the kids say they had fun and can't wait to go back again!"* In addition, our 4th school year of *Sprouts Garden Preschool* began earlier this month. Enrollment is now up to **40 students...** the growth has been phenomenal!

And to top things off, one of the most anticipated events of the year is right around the corner - we invite you to join us **Sept 18 - Oct 26** for our 3rd Annual **Blossom of Lights**. Experience *Nature. Illuminated.* Visit www.blossomoflights.org for all event details.

In this season of thanksgiving, please know we are grateful for your support and involvement. We thank you for your Gardens Friendship and look forward to all that lies ahead.

Thank you,

Paul David



Board President



Paul David, Board President

Gardens Staff

- Patrick Murphy** - Facility & Grounds Director
- Elise Schuler** - Program Manager/
Sprouts & Adult Education
- Kaytie Ruesch** - Program Manager/
Youth & Families
- Linda Schill** - Development Manager
- Megan Johnson** - Volunteer Coordinator/
Administrative Assistant
- Pat Witt** - Garden Supervisor & Horticulturist
- Kari Buck** - Bookkeeper
- Rebecka Hellweg** - Sprouts Lead Teacher/
Full Day
- Amanda Valencia** - Sprouts Lead Teacher/
Half Day
- Sadie Xiong** - Sprouts Assistant Teacher
- Sarah Loth** - Sprouts Assistant Teacher
- Beth Grefe** - Sprouts Assistant Teacher
- Lauryn Rammer** - Sprouts Assistant Teacher

Officers

- Paul David**, President
- Mark Munson**, Vice-President
- Paul Whitaker**, Secretary
- Jon Plisch**, Treasurer
- Susan Lang**, Past President

Directors

- Julie Bohr, Tabitha Erlandson,**
- Vickie Richmond Hawkins,**
- Sheila Rossmiller, Tammy Stezenski**

Mailing Address

518 S 7th Ave, Wausau, WI 54401

Gardens Address



Main entrance moving soon!

1901 N 4th Ave, Wausau, WI 54401

715-261-6309

info@monkgardens.org

www.monkgardens.org

Follow us:  



BLOSSOM OF LIGHTS

Nature. Illuminated.

Discover nature in a whole new light at Blossom of Lights. Step into a world of enchantment and immerse yourself in the beauty. **New features this year** include a longer trail, interactive elements, and improved parking. Private events may be scheduled in advance. Tickets can be purchased both online or in person at the event, no time slot required.

September 18 - October 26

Wednesdays through Saturdays, 6:30-8:30pm

Wausau, WI 54401



For more information and to purchase tickets go to blossomoflights.org



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Deepening Our Roots in the Community

Sprouting Growth that's Accessible for All

Thanks to the generosity, vision, and financial support of many in our community, the seeds were planted and construction has sprouted on Gardens and facility enhancements! Completion is expected by the end of this year, and we're happy to report that projects are progressing as planned and budgeted!

Our facility updates reflect the vision that Mr. Monk shared years ago. Resurfaced trails will allow for better accessibility year-round, and enable us to welcome many new visitors to share in the magic that is Monk Botanical Gardens.

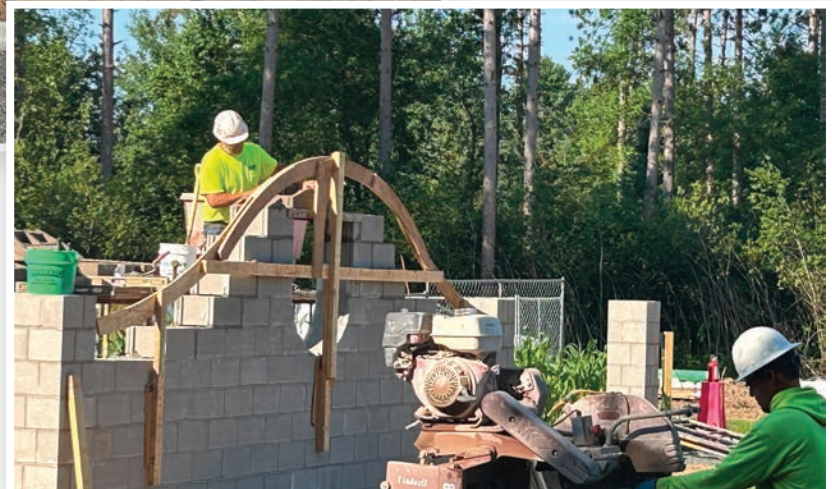
If you plan to attend Blossom of Lights, you'll be able to access the Gardens through our new entrance located at 1901 North 4th Avenue in Wausau.



Our new Welcome Center will offer visitor information and help us accommodate more guests as they experience the Gardens!



(Left) With a larger, paved, and well-lit parking lot, we'll host events that will accommodate more guests, spreading the magic of the Gardens far and wide.



(Right) It's petal to the metal for the English Garden! Construction crews lay the foundation for what will be the backdrop of a beautiful water fountain.

Season Recap

My Oh My, How We've Grown

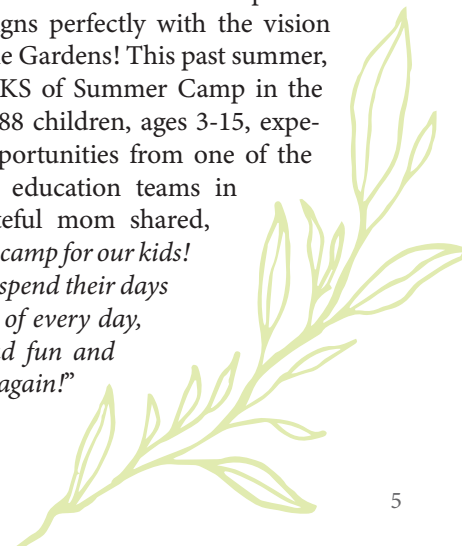
Thanks to the generosity of our sponsors, vendors and event attendees, Booze & Botany was a great success in July. The highlights included a Silent Auction and a new Fund A Need drive. More than \$17,000 was raised in support of scholarships for Sprouts Garden Preschool students and families in financial need of tuition assistance. An entertaining, tasty and meaningful evening was had by all!



Two new seating arrangements have been placed in the Gardens this year (memorials for Lois Joswick and Larry "LB" Baumann). Stop out to take a peek and have a seat! In addition, we now have proper signage for our Sprouts Garden Preschool, new memorial plantings near the yurts and in the shade garden, new engraved pavers near the potager, and one extremely unique and sentimental new structure to be placed near the pond's edge in the coming months. Stay tuned.



Environmental education is such a vital part of our work and it aligns perfectly with the vision Mr. Monk had for the Gardens! This past summer, we offered 10 WEEKS of Summer Camp in the Gardens! In total, 388 children, ages 3-15, experienced outdoor opportunities from one of the best environmental education teams in the state! One grateful mom shared, *"We love the summer camp for our kids! I love that they get to spend their days outdoors! At the end of every day, the kids say they had fun and can't wait to go back again!"*



Fall & Winter Events

Babes in the Gardens 🍷 🌸

Tuesdays at 8:30 am

Tots in the Gardens 🍷 🌸

Tuesdays at 10 am

Grownups in the Gardens 🌸

Monthly on one Sunday at 1 pm
and one Monday at 10 am

Weekend Wonders 🎧

Third Saturday of the month at 10 am

Members Only Harvest Nights 🍷

**dependent on weather and availability*
Select Tuesdays July-October

Welcoming Week Events 🍷

September 17
Alebrijes Painting 3:30-6:30 pm
Harvest Night 4-6 pm

Day of the Dead 🍷

November 1 at 5:30 pm

Handmade for the Holidays 🎧

November 16, 23, and Dec 7 at 9 am

Night Hike 🍷 🌸

December 13 at 5 pm

Winter Solstice 🎧

December 19 at 5:30 pm

**More events and educational programs
are added throughout the season!
Visit monkgardens.org for all program
& event details.**

Blossom of Lights 🍷

Wed, Thur, Fri, and Sat

September 18-October 26 6:30-8:30 pm

Tickets sold online and at the door

September 21 - Sip & Stroll (21+ and special ticket required; plan accordingly)

Stops along the trail for drink samples curated by The Milk Merchant, Granite View Market, Pinery Coffee Co., and Forward Beverage Co. Each guest will receive a Purple Basil charcuterie box.

September 27 & 28 - Music Nights

27th: Ukulele Group
28th: Parker Quinn Siems

October 2 -Pet Night

Bring your friendly, leashed pet to enjoy the lights with you!

October 9 - Sensory-Friendly Night

Come experience the lights in whatever way works for you and your family/group. Feel free to wear headphones, sunglasses, take breaks along the way. Moving lights will be slowed or stopped for this evening, and music will be quieter or calmer.

October 11 - Kids' Night Out

Kids can enjoy hands-on activities along the trail led by Children's Imaginarium, Center for the Visual Arts, and The Woodson Art Museum!

October 16 - S'more Fun





S'mores supplies and campfires provided!


October 25 - Trick or Treating

Come in costume and trick or treat!

***Blossom of Lights special event evening details
may change as the dates approach.
Check BlossomOfLights.org for the most
up-to-date information.***



-  **Drop-in**
(No need to register)
-  **Free for Members**
-  **Member Discount**
-  **Free for Everyone**



For event times, locations, prices, and to register visit us online at monkgardens.org

Thanks to our sponsors, the Gardens is growing like never before!

Media



Title



Partner



Patron

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- Wisconsin Public Service Foundation

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- Northwestern Wisconsin Associates
- Reimer Construction
- Reyes Coca-Cola Bottling
- Surgical Associates of Wausau, SC
- Wausau Awards & Engraving
- Whitewater Music Hall & Brew Works

Capital Campaign Donors

- | | | |
|--|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Judd S Alexander Foundation Walter Alexander Foundation Bell Family Charitable Foundation Community Arts Grant Program,
with funds provided by the WI Arts Board,
the Community Foundation, and the
BA & Esther Greenheck Foundation* Dwight and Linda Davis Foundation Edward and Lois Drott Legacy Fund* Dudley Foundation Tom and Janet Felch Family Fund* | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Paul Gassner Raymond & Marie Goldbach
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Community Foundation</p> |
|--|--|--|



Mailing address: 518 S 7th Ave, Wausau, WI 54401
NEW Gardens address (as of 9/18/24): 1901 N 4th Ave, Wausau, WI 54401

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WAUSAU'S HAPPY PLACE

*Plant yourself where you
want to BLOOM!*

Open now for a first look at our
fall/winter programs lineup, and photos
of Gardens enhancement projects!



BLOSSOM OF LIGHTS

Nature. Illuminated.

RETURNING FOR A 3RD YEAR...

- Resurfaced trailways with greater accessibility
- New interactive illuminary elements
 - Theme nights for all ages
 - See ad on page 3

Join us every
Wednesday through Saturday night
September 18 until October 26

Visit blossomoflights.org for all event updates!

Sign up today to participate in our Scarecrows on
Parade contest and to volunteer at the event.