



BLOOM

GREATER DES MOINES BOTANICAL GARDEN



SPRING OUTSIDE

Everything's Coming Up Roses
Step into Something New
Welcome, Gather, Grow
Spring into Summer
Spring Garden Market

Spring | Summer 2025 Issue 43

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Your true nature awakens

When the weather starts to warm, it's only natural to want to get outside. But we know Mother Nature can be fickle and that's why every day is a greater day at the Greater Des Moines Botanical Garden. Whether you wander outside to see the Wells Fargo Rose Garden in bloom or meander through the tropical oasis of the conservatory when it's raining, we offer a respite from the world every day. Come join us at your favorite place to connect with plants *and* people. No matter the season, you'll **Find Your True Nature** in our always friendly climate. We thank you for supporting the Botanical Garden with your visits, event attendance, membership, and donations. Everything you do allows us to bring you all the things you love—from Earth Day activities, to Spring Garden Market, to Music in the Garden, and a variety of classes and programs in between, we've got something for you and everyone in your family. I look forward to seeing you soon, here, **at my happy place.**



Kim Pusey

President & CEO,
Greater Des Moines
Botanical Garden



find your true



Open yourself to new discoveries this spring at the Botanical Garden. From colorful plants and creative classes to our Spring Garden Market, you'll be surprised and delighted with all we offer this season. Plus, our always friendly climate means no matter the weather, we've got you covered.

Greater Des Moines Botanical Garden

BLOOM Spring | Summer 2025 Issue 43

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COVER: Tulip Dordogne
BACK: KMP Photography Music in the Garden
Thanks to Deb Wiley for her *Bloom* copy editing.

Learn about the Spring Garden Market



ROSA DISTANT DRUMS
BUCK ROSE



EVERYTHING'S COMING UP

ROSES

ROSES CAN SWEETEN YOUR IOWA GARDEN

“A rose by any other name would smell as sweet.” This line from Shakespeare means the essence of something isn’t changed by what you call it; however, roses may not seem sweet to you because from pests to foragers to blight to bad weather, they can present a challenge for Iowa gardeners. We spoke to Leslie Hunter, Botanical Garden horticulture manager and resident rose expert, for her suggestions:

GROW HARDY Choose cold-hardy, disease-resistant roses that thrive in this climate. Many tough roses developed in Iowa are featured in the Wells Fargo Rose Garden if you’d like some inspiration.

BE SOIL SAVVY My best tip? Take care of what’s under your roses. Add compost every year to promote growth of roots and beneficial microbes.

DEEP WATER Roses require regular, deep watering. But don’t get carried away. They don’t like overly wet soil so make sure you have good drainage.

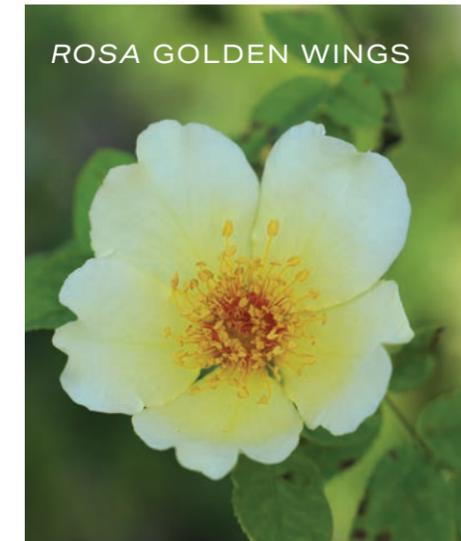
TIME TO PRUNE Cut back in April and look for *Dead, Diseased* or *Damaged* canes (the three Ds). Rose bushes should be open in the middle for circulation and pruned from the inside out.

BAD BUNNIES Rabbits are your nemesis. Use wire fencing to protect tender plants.

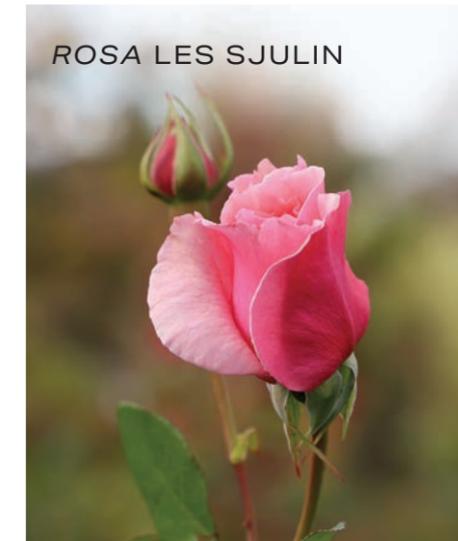
EMBRACE IMPERFECTION Learn to tolerate the roses in their natural state. Plants should bring you joy – sometimes a little frustration – but mostly joy.



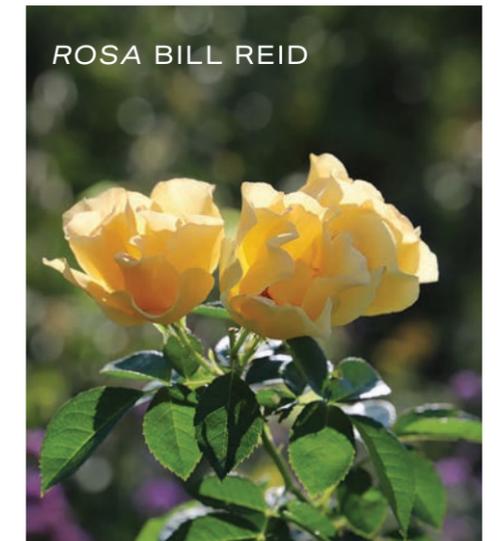
KEEP US PERENNIAL
SCAN TO GIVE



ROSA GOLDEN WINGS



ROSA LES SJULIN



ROSA BILL REID



ROSA OLIVIA ROSE

Join us for
ROSES & ROSÉ

Learn about the roses in the Wells Fargo Rose Garden from our rose expert, Leslie Hunter.

Go to dmbotanicalgarden.com/events/ to sign up.



STEP INTO SOMETHING NEW

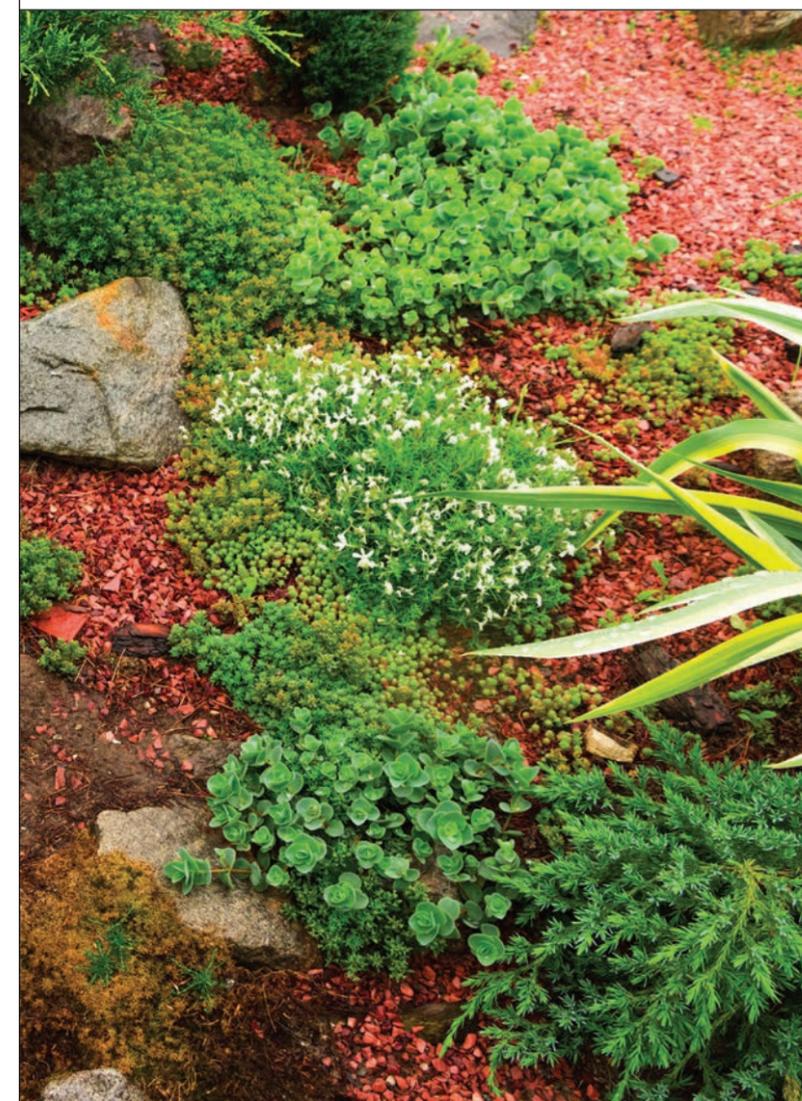


The Greater Des Moines Botanical Garden encompasses 12 acres and features 18 different gardens both inside and out to explore. Have you ever wondered just how many steps that is? We did, and that's why we set out to give you some guidance on what you accomplish if you want to go big, small, or somewhere in between.

FULL CIRCLE Want to stay inside where the weather is warm and inviting no matter the season? Take a right as soon you enter the conservatory. Do the full outside loop before you head upstairs to the balcony and then back down the stairs to the upstairs lookout. Go back downstairs to the North Gallery Art Wall before you walk through the middle of the dome toward the Gardeners Show House. This walk is just under .5 miles, about 1000 steps in total and can be repeated if you want to make it longer. We like to go to Flora when done with the walk to have little 'wine-down' after. But you do you. Total time? Around 15-20 minutes.

DO IT ALL If you start at the Robert D. Ray Asian Garden and walk through the Wells Fargo Rose Garden, then enter the Conservatory, go to the Gardeners Show House, walk the North Gallery Art Wall, go out into the Dorothy & Max Rutledge Conifer Garden, climb up to the Hillside Garden, loop the Koehn Lawn, wander through the Hiller Family Rain Garden to the Founders Garden, go past the Nature play space and head toward the Ruan Reflection Garden, you can take a quick breather at the Principal Belvedere to look out to the river and skyline. Then, head through the Ruan Allee and down the Lauridsen Savanna before heading over the water garden at which point you've covered 3,500 steps, roughly 1.5 miles, in around 30 minutes within a beautiful botanical setting.

QUICK FIX The Robert D. Ray Asian Garden or the Koehn Garden offer about 200 steps and it's easy to keep looping if you want more steps or a fast nature walk in the middle of your workday.



▶ [WATCH 'MULCH MUST-KNOWS' WITH BHG ON YOUTUBE](#)

The dirt on mulch

Mulch comes in all shapes, styles, and colors. How do you know which one is right for your garden? Mulch is any material spread on top of soil to improve the growing environment for plants. It can be made from natural or synthetic materials. **Here are benefits of using it:**

- CONSERVE WATER**
Mulch helps water reach the soil and can prevent evaporation.
- CONTROL WEEDS**
Mulch can suppress weeds and reduce competition.
- PROTECT SOIL**
Mulch can prevent erosion and protect soil from lawn equipment damage.
- MODERATE TEMPERATURE**
Mulch can keep soil temperatures constant.
- ADD NUTRIENTS**
Organic mulches can add nutrients to the soil.
- ATTRACT WILDLIFE**
Mulch can attract beneficial insects and birds that pollinate gardens.

TYPES OF MULCH
Mulch can be organic or inorganic. Organic mulches include bark, shredded leaves, and pine needles. Inorganic mulches include rocks and plastic sheeting.

HOW TO USE
A 1- to 2-inch layer of fine mulch is usually enough, while coarser materials should be 3 to 4 inches deep. Too much mulch can suffocate plants.

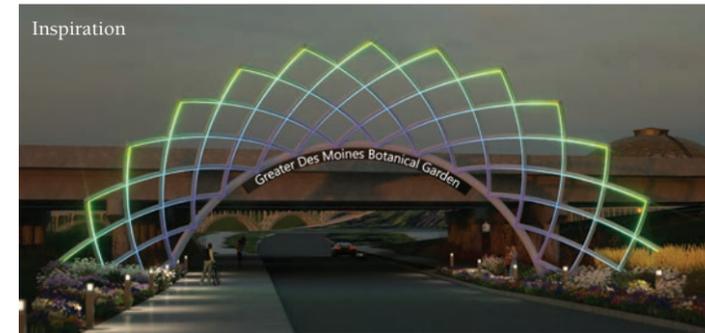
STORING MULCH
Unused bagged mulch should be stored properly to prevent mold, insects, and souring.

Welcome, Gather, Grow

CHANGE IS IN OUR NATURE: CAMPAIGN FOR THE BOTANICAL GARDEN

The Welcome, Gather, Grow campaign is comprised of projects and updates designed to make our beloved destination a place where everyone can be encouraged to Find Your True Nature while serving as a vital connection point for so many within our community.

To keep pace with the significant growth of the region and increased visitor demand, the Botanical Garden must update its facilities and grounds to support additional visitors, ensure the proper care of our plant collections, and cultivate positive experiences for the diversity of reasons people choose to spend time at the Botanical Garden. Less than 10% of our \$9+ million goal is left to raise and gifts of any size will help us achieve our vision.



THANK YOU, DONORS!

\$1 MILLION

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The Graham Group, Inc.
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UP TO \$4,999

Many

Welcome

Ensure inclusivity, accessibility, and safety within the Garden's indoor and outdoor spaces.

Gather

Support innovative garden experiences and expansion of community engagement activities.

Grow

Improve the guest experience and create a facility that better supports larger crowds.

Includes administrative costs plus endowment for ongoing operations and maintenance.



PLEASE GIVE
TO COMPLETE
THESE PROJECTS

DESTINATION WEDDINGS

happen at the Garden



From micro-weddings to outdoor waterfall ceremonies, we have something to fit every bride's or groom's desire.



SCAN FOR MORE INFO
BOOK A TOUR TO SEE
WHAT WE CAN DO FOR YOU.

Spring into Summer

WHAT'S YOUR SPRING THING?

Spring at the Greater Des Moines Botanical Garden is the perfect time to dust off the last the snow and move toward a bright and wonderful summer. Gear up, get out, and get inspired to explore, explain, and celebrate the world of plants at one of these unique classes offered as part of our **seasonal education programs**.

SPRING EPHEMERAL HIKE - APRIL

Join Botanical Garden staff on a leisurely stroll through Brown's Woods in search of spring ephemerals and mushrooms. Participants of all ages are welcome to enjoy this mile-long hike to search for and learn more about these short-lived treasures, such as trout lily, spring beauty, and dutchman's breeches.

BOUQUET BAR - MAY

In the spirit of Mother's Day, create a personalized petite bouquet for—or with—a mom or mother-figure in your life. Pre-registration required for self-guided activity.

SIP & STROLL - MAY

Celebrate the season with a glass of wine and a guided walk through the Botanical Garden. Learn about what is in bloom, what is coming soon, and timely updates from our horticulture team. All participants must be at least 21 years of age.

BOTANICAL DYES - JUNE

Learn the basics of how to make your own natural dyes from common plants as well as folding techniques to create fun and unique designs. Then dye your own beautiful textiles in a palette of natural colors.



SCAN FOR DETAILS
AND SIGN UP

Registration required for class programs.

UPCOMING EVENTS



EARTH DAY Saturday, April 19, 9 AM - 4 PM FREE for all

Enjoy the beauty of the Botanical Garden along with a variety of family-friendly activities for guests of all ages. Because so many community partners provide take-home items, please bring your own bag to hold them all. #LoveDMBotanicalGarden Thank you to our sponsors!

MARY OOTHOUT

RICHARD & CYNDE SCHREIBER



PROM PICS 2025 Saturday April 19, 4-6 PM, \$12/ticket

The Botanical Garden, including the indoor conservatory, will be exclusively available for a special Prom Pic Event for you to capture the most stunning prom pics ever! Walk-in only, with tickets available starting at 4 pm. When you post on social with #MyTrueNature we might repost your pics on our page. Check our website for the possibility of additional dates.




SPRING
GARDEN
MARKET
 THUR MAY 8 TO SUN MAY 11

Come to the Greater Des Moines Botanical Garden for a boutique shopping experience featuring hundreds of plants that will flourish in central Iowa, all selected by our own horticulturists. You'll find items you won't see in local garden centers, including new and unique varieties as well as tried-and-true favorites along with art and other garden-related merchandise.

FIND OUT MORE AT
DMBOTANICALGARDEN.COM/SPRING-GARDEN-MARKET

PRESENTED BY  **COUNTRY**
 LANDSCAPES, INC.
Distinctive Landscapes Since 1981




BLOOM

GREATER DES MOINES BOTANICAL GARDEN

SUMMER TIME FUN TIME

Best View in Town
 Flora Opens Up
 Read All About It
 Shop with a Purpose
 How your Garden Grows

Best view in town

Every summer, Music in the Garden returns with a lineup that's a wonderful combination of beloved and new performers. While you can take in an outdoor concert many places in Des Moines, there's nothing quite like the view on the Koehn Lawn at the Botanical Garden.

It's a backdrop that includes flowers, trees, the Des Moines downtown skyline and river. Bring your lawn chairs, family, friends, coworkers, kids and, as the sun sets on the day, lose yourself in the moment and music.

This year, tickets can be pre-purchased and ticket packages will also be available.



FIND OUT WHO'S ON THE LINEUP FOR MUSIC IN THE GARDEN

SUMMER HOURS

The Botanical Garden is open for you to enjoy with schedule-friendly times to visit when the weather is warmer.

JUN 1- SEPT 30

Tuesday 10 am to 7 pm

Wednesday to Friday 10 am to 5 pm

Saturday and Sunday 9 am to 4 pm



DRONE master

If you've ever oohed or ahed over incredible drone imagery of Iowa, then chances are you were looking at something created by Drew Dau.

The Botanical Garden is lucky enough to work with this Iowa native on many of our momentous occasions, including the Dome Glow Up in July 2024 and our inaugural Dome for the Holidays light display. Drew works on events and projects throughout our state, and his work can be viewed at drewdau.com. Follow him on [Instagram](#) and [Facebook](#) and [Youtube](#).



▶ [WATCH THE DOME HYPERLAPSE ON YOUTUBE](#)

FLOORA

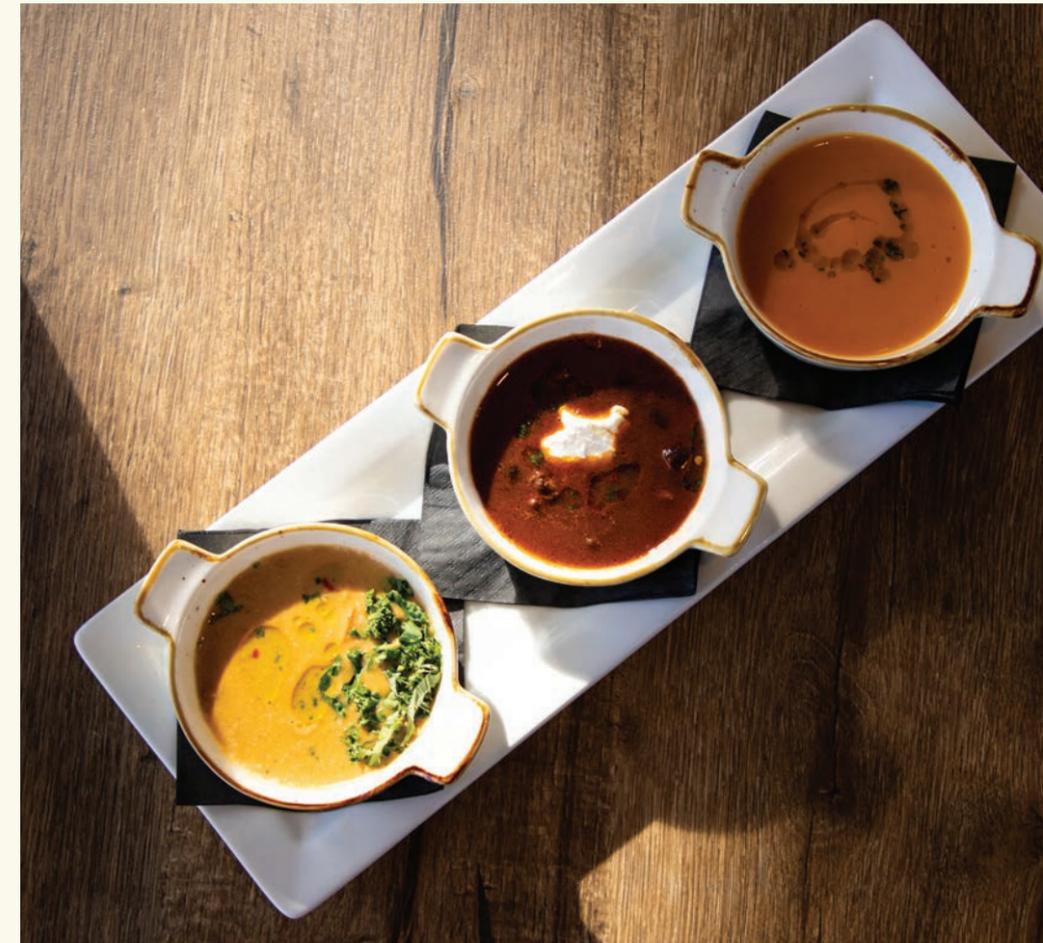
opens up



EAT ALFRESCO

If you haven't had the chance to stop by the newly opened Flora Café, make plans to do so this spring or summer. Beyond the delicious meals and delightful drinks served, Flora's patio will open as the weather warms for you to enjoy the best view in town (according to DSM Magazine).

We took some time to talk with Chef Suman about his plans for the spring menu and here's what he shared: "Warmer weather calls for lighter food and chilled treats. We are excited about including spring vegetables." He recommends the Flora Board with HoQ hummus, naan and those spring veggies. You can add tinned fish or cheese for additional yum. Another option is the soup trio that becomes a chilled version befitting the season. During Music in the Garden, Flora will offer canned wines, pizza, salad, and a meat and cheese board.



Get out and have some fun

When the weather warms up, eating outdoors is especially wonderful at the Botanical Garden.

Outdoor seating opens, weather permitting, in May. Taking reservations for parties of 6 or more at **515.323.6288** or **flora@dmbotanicalgarden.com**.

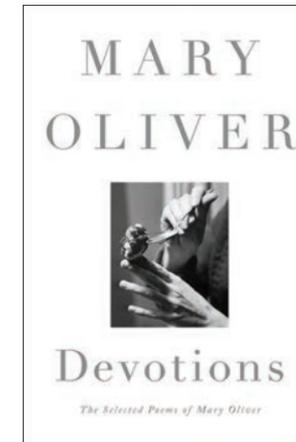
Chef Suman's GIN & JAM RECIPE

- 1.5 oz Glendalough Rose Gin
- 1 heaping teaspoon or bar spoon of jam (Flora uses Chef Suman homemade plum jam)
- ½ oz fresh squeezed lemon juice
- ½ oz simple syrup

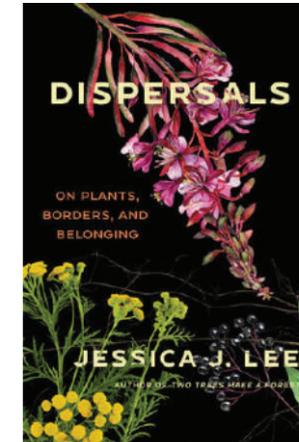
Shake over ice and double strain into a coupe or martini glass.
Add lemon wheel for garnish.
Makes 1 cocktail.



FIND OUT
WHAT'S ON
THE MENU



APRIL 28



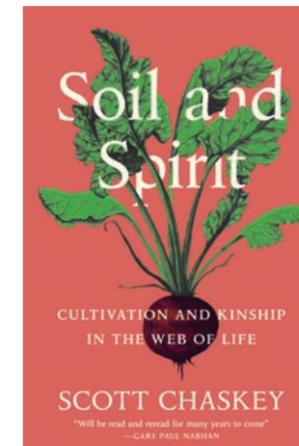
MAY 19



JUNE 30



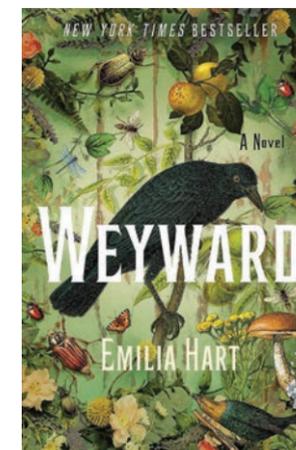
JULY 28



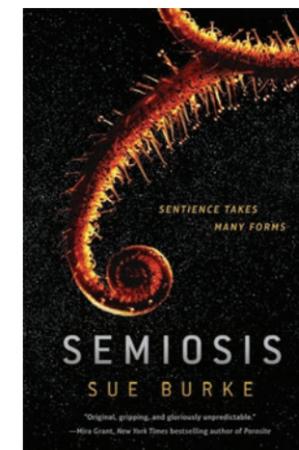
AUG 25



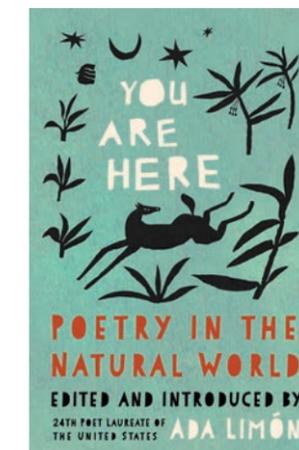
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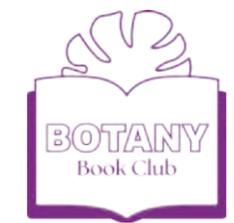
OCT 27



NOV 17



DEC 29



READ ALL ABOUT IT

Merge your love of books and plants in the 2025 Botany Book Club. Each month during the program, read a book with us about or involving plants. Start your year off right by joining other botanical book lovers for discussions and refreshments while immersed in the beauty of the Botanical Garden. Registration includes onsite book club meetings in the lush conservatory and refreshments. Registration does not include books.



5:30-7 P.M.
LAST MONDAY
OF THE MONTH.
SCAN TO REGISTER



VERY MINDFUL, VERY DEMURE. MEET

The Duke of Coy

Koi is an informal name for the colored variants of carp kept for ornamental purposes. There are many varieties of ornamental koi, originating from breeding that began in Japan in the early 19th century. They are beautiful, graceful creatures, a symbol of luck, prosperity, good fortune, plus perseverance, that we are happy to house inside our tropical oasis. Take the time to enjoy the koi the next time you visit. They like to see you too.

Here are some fun facts about them:

- We have four koi that have called the Botanical Garden home for over 10 years. We are not 100 percent sure what variety they are, and they stay inside year round.
- There is no institutional record of when the fish were introduced to the garden, but they were already here when we established non-profit status in 2013.
- Three koi live in the lower pool. They are nicknamed: The Duke of Coy (pictured), Big Ed, and Lil Debbi. The fourth koi, (Nacho) lives in the pool under the waterfall.
- The Duke is our largest fish, at roughly 26 inches and Nacho is the smallest, coming in at around 20 inches.
- The other fish in the pools are Shubunkin (Harlequin Goldfish) and black and orange goldfish. We have not had koi offspring, but the goldfish and Shubunkin are definitely multiplying.

SHOP WITH A PURPOSE



Inside **FOR THE HOME**

Peking Handicraft Hummingbird and Goldfinch Hook Pillows

Bring a touch of spring into your home with our stunning collection of pillows from Peking Handicraft. These pillows are created in collaboration with renowned designers. They are crafted with 100 percent wool hooked accents with a soft velvet backing. They make the perfect gift for any nature lover or a bright addition to your own home.



Outside **FOR PLANT LOVERS**

We the Wild Gardening Apron and Potting Mat

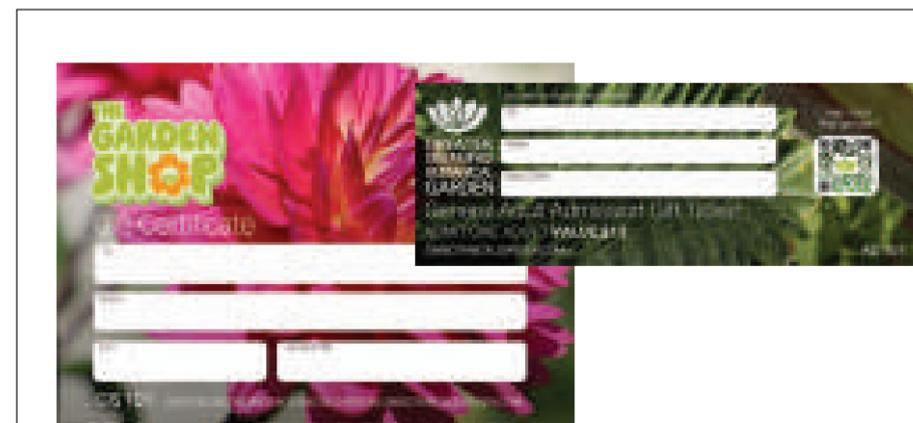
Get ready for spring with our plant care products from We the Wild. Their recycled canvas gardening apron is perfect for getting outside and planting. This apron is not only stylish but also adjustable, suitable for all body types, and functional with its unique brass detailing and pockets for tools. Another gardening essential is the durable and long-lasting repotting mat for keeping the mess minimal.



Your Little Explorers **FOR THE KIDS**

Wood Butterfly Net and Binoculars

Encourage little ones to explore the amazing natural world with a butterfly net or binoculars from the Garden Shop. The net is lightweight, making it perfect for little explorers. The features include a mesh net and removable wood handle made from FSC certified wood. For the animal lovers, engage in seeing nature up close with these 4x30 binoculars.



GIFT CERTIFICATES

Let your loved ones buy what they want with a gift certificate to the Garden Shop. You can't go wrong with our wide range of items for plant-loving people of all ages. Or encourage friends and family to find their true nature by giving them the gift of admission to the Botanical Garden.



Greater Des Moines Botanical Garden

How your Garden grows



DIG DEEPER WITH MEMBERSHIP

Get even more enjoyment out of the Botanical Garden. Support this beautiful botanical urban oasis, enriching the quality of life in our region and state through the vital connections between plants, people and the natural world. Our members enjoy:

- Complimentary daily general admission
- Invitations to member-only special events
- Discounts on select special events
- Early access tickets on select events
- Discounted pricing on select educational programs
- Monthly discount on select Garden Shop merchandise
- Member e-newsletter
- Bloom digital magazine edition and Unveiling Evenings
- Environmentally friendly digital membership cards
- Reciprocal benefits to over 350 gardens nationwide



CULTIVATE MORE WITH THE GARDEN GIVING CLUB

Garden Giving Club donors are passionate, philanthropic supporters making important investments in the Greater Des Moines Botanical Garden's work in education, environmental stewardship, sustainable practices, wellness, and accessibility. Opportunities to attend exclusive events, receptions, and interact with staff provide these donors a deeper and personalized understanding of the Botanical Garden's mission. We invite you to join our Garden Giving Club and help us continue to connect people to thriving and vibrant plants and programming each year. For more information please contact: Susan Cory at 515.402.4283.



ROOTED IN VOLUNTEERISM

Since our founding, volunteers have been a vital part of our operations. From welcoming guests to nurturing garden beds, we have positions available for anyone looking to give back, connect with like-minded individuals, or stay active. To learn more contact us at volunteer@dmbotanicalgarden.com or scan the QR.

COMMUNITY SUPPORT MAKES A DIFFERENCE

Thank you for your generosity.



We're also grateful for all the individuals who support the Greater Des Moines Botanical Garden!



GREATER DES MOINES BOTANICAL GARDEN

MUSIC

IN THE

GARDEN

THURSDAYS IN JUNE, JULY & AUGUST

[Explore the lineup and get tickets at dmbotanicalgarden.com/music-in-the-garden-details](http://dmbotanicalgarden.com/music-in-the-garden-details)

SOUND THANKS TO RIPPLE PRODUCTIONS / SUMMER CONCERT SERIES PRESENTED BY

