THE BOTANIC

UNITED LIN

2015 Winter

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Redman Visit

By Kim Toscano

Oklahoma State University
Horticulture Alumnus Paul
Redman shared his experience and knowledge during a two-day visit to The Botanic Garden and The Department of Horticulture and Landscape Architecture in October. Redman serves as Executive Director of Longwood Gardens in Pennsylvania, one of the country's premiere gardens.

During his visit, Paul met with garden staff and The Botanic Garden Advisory Committee to assess the strengths of our programs, gardens and management. His observations and advice are invaluable as we further development the gardens. The Botanic Garden Ambassadors also had a chance to visit with Paul about the importance and varied roles of volunteers.

At the department level, Public Horticulture and Landscape Architecture students enjoyed a unique opportunity to engage Mr. Redman in a three-hour charrette - a quick-paced, intense design workshop directed at producing many ideas rapidly. Students worked in teams to create conceptual designs for an event space at The Botanic Garden. Paul shared valuable insights into design needs including service access, consideration of sun angles and managing large crowds.

Paul's visit culminated in a public presentation on the magnificent gardens at Longwood. We greatly appreciate Paul giving his time to be with us and the opportunities for so many groups to benefit from his visit.



Mr. Redman met with several university administrators during his visit, including Mrs. Ann Hargis and Dr. Ronald Elliott.



REFLECTIONS



Students in the Wildlife Management Techniques class visited the garden for a field laboratory to learn sampling methods for studying birds. Natural Resource Ecology and Management professor Craig Davis led the class, which used mist nets in wooded areas of the garden to survey songbirds. Mist netting is an important tool for monitoring species diversity, relative abundance and population metrics, and is safe for captured birds. Students gained hands-on experience with censusing and surveying techniques applicable to wildlife research and management.



On October 3 approximately 100 Master Gardeners from around the state attended a Field Day where they received a wide variety of horticultural and related training at The Botanic Garden. The day consisted of tours and hands-on activities about Integrated Pest Management, Native Prairie Restoration, Pesticide and Fertilizer Calibration, Shade Gardening, Small Fruit Production, and Lawn Care vs. Pond Management. Instructors included Marley Beem, Becky Carroll, Dwayne Elmore, David Hillock, Kim Toscano, Charles Luper, and Kevin Shelton.



Holly Habekott's third grade class from Sunnybrook Christian School visited TBG in mid-October. After learning about what plants need to survive, they made a model of a perfect flower and learned about pollination, fertilization, and the seeds and fruit that result. They also spent about an hour exploring the gardens, learning about different plants such as papyrus, playing in the new children's area, and investigating the Sensory garden. Luckily the first frost held off until after their visit, so most of the plants were still growing strong.



Once again, The Botanic Garden at Oklahoma State University was chosen by Sallie McCorkle, Professor of Art at OSU and Founding Director of the Doel Reed Center for the Arts, as a place for her 3-Dimensional Design class to display their final art project for the semester. These budding artists installed twenty extremely creative whirligigs along the main path in the garden for our visitors to enjoy.

NEW GARDEN DIRECTOR

It is a great honor to announce The Botanic Garden has a new Director. Dr. Lou Anella, Professor of Horticulture, was announced Director at the Annual Awards Banquet in November. Dr. Anella is no stranger at the gardens. He has served as curator of ornamental plants for many years and can frequently be seen teaching students to identify plant material in the arboretum and display gardens. He designed and installed The Irrigation and Water Conservation Demonstration Site around the Education Building and has recently been active in updating the arboretum. Dr. Anella has long served as a member of the garden's Advisory Committee.



Dr. Anella received his Master of Science and Ph.D. in Ornamental Horticulture from Cornell University. He teaches plant materials classes, landscape irrigation and planning, and bidding and estimating. Lou directs the department's Public Horticulture Degree option, one of only a few undergraduate degrees in the country targeted to a career in public garden management. He brings his expertise in public garden administration, leadership, and management to The Botanic Garden.



Mission

To conduct research and provide educational programming and experiences that foster an understanding and appreciation for the flora, fauna, and environmental systems comprising the natural and man-made landscape of Oklahoma, thereby inspiring visitors to explore their relationship with the land

THE BOTANIC GARDEN STAFF

Lou Anella, Director Kim Toscano, Oklahoma Gardening, Host Laura Payne, Volunteer Coordinator Jane Carter, Garden Manager Stephanie Larimer, Office Assistant Donna Dollins, Newsletter Editor

ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Janet Cole, Ornamentals Research Bruce Dunn, Herbaceous Ornamentals David Hillock, Consumer Horticulturist Michael Holmes, Landscape Architecture Dennis Martin, Turf Research Michael Schnelle, Woody Ornamentals

CONTACT US

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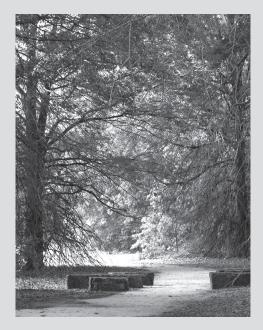
LEARN MORE ABOUT TBG

botanicgarden.okstate.edu

Design Interpreted: The Outcrop

by Kim Toscano

Visitors to The Botanic Garden are certainly familiar with the stone seating area crossing the pedestrian trail beneath the pin oak grove. Perhaps you have stopped there for a rest or to enjoy the shade and solitude. Landscape Architecture professor Michael Holmes designed the space as a shady retreat which he hopes will invite visitors to slow down and explore the captivating tree-rimmed clearing. A functional work of land art, The Outcrop's design responds to the heavy lines created by the unique layered branching habit of the pin oaks.



Strong lines create visual tension as the stone slabs cut into the pathway. This tension is further played out through the asymmetrical placement and offset angle of the stones. In contrast, the iron-tinged native sandstone is perfectly at home, echoing the red dirt at its base. And the weeping branches of the oaks are left untouched, decaying in place as they would in nature, resisting the human desire to create order. The Outcrop invites visitors to contemplate the juxtaposition of the tamed and the wild, of the deliberate and the unintentional. Such is man's precarious relationship to nature.

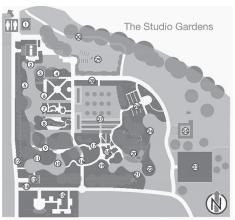
Hot Off the Press

By Kim Toscano

You have asked for it and we are ready to deliver! Perhaps the second most frequently asked question our staff hears, after "Where is the bathroom? is "Do you have a map of the gardens?" We are happy to announce the answer is now a clear and resounding "Yes!" Jimi Underwood, Horticulture Graduate Student, and Landscape Architecture student Ben Crosby have worked with staff to design a complete Visitor's Guide to The Botanic Garden containing descriptions of all display gardens and educational demonstrations throughout the grounds. An overview map orients visitors to the property, while a



detailed map can be used with the descriptions for a self-guided tour through the display gardens. Complete with a brief history of the gardens and useful information, we hope this publication helps visitors get the most out of their garden journey.



New garden map for The Botanic Garden.

IN THE STUDIO



By Kim Toscano

For several years now I have integrated sustainable gardening and landscape management techniques into annual programming. For the past few seasons the focus has been integrated pest management and before that, organic fruit and

vegetable production. As we begin a new season of programming, our focus will shift to water management and conservation.

While we have shared several water conservation projects here at The Botanic Garden with our viewers, we want to showcase solutions across the state. To accomplish this goal, we will present the first themed Regional Tour of Oklahoma, featuring water conservation, rainwater management, waterway protection and other water-related practices in place at residences, commercial sites and municipalities. We will highlight products and businesses that are addressing water quality and conservation issues head on.

We also plan to hold a sustainable landscape home garden contest,

building on the success of our first ever *Oklahoma Gardening* Home Garden Contest last summer.

Teaching how to manage water is only part of the solution. We believe seeing gardeners like you putting these techniques into practice will help inspire homeowners across the state to take action in their own backyards.

We look forward to showcasing the stewardship and innovation of Oklahomans as we kick off another season of TV you'll grow to love!

If you missed our student segments you can still find them on our You Tube channel: www.youtube/oklahomagardening.

Oklahoma Gardening airs on OETA stations Saturdays at 11:00 a.m. and Sundays at 3:30 p.m.

GARDEN TIPS

January

• Irrigate the landscape during dry winters and when temperatures are above freezing.

- If you did not treat young pines for tip borers in November, do so before March.
- Make sure gardening tools and equipment are in good working order.
- Inspect your irrigation system and replace worn or broken parts.
- Use a dormant oil on fruit trees and ornamentals to control insect pests. Do not use "dormant" oils on evergreens.
- Continue garden cleanup
- Plan the vegetable garden. Order seeds.
- Check your lawn for winter weeds and spray as needed.
- Houseplant growth slows down; reduce watering.

February

- Base plant fertilization on a soil test.
- Fertilize trees, including fruit and nut trees and shrubs, annually.
- Spray peaches and nectarines with a fungicide for prevention of peach leaf curl before bud swell.
- Prune fruit trees, grapevines and blueberry plants.
- Prune shade trees, summer flowering shrubs, and hedges.
- Plant bare-rooted trees and shrubs in February or March.
- Deadhead and fertilize winter annuals on a mild day.
- Cut back and divide ornamental grasses.
- Begin planting the cool-season vegetable garden.
- Start seeds indoors for tomatoes, peppers, peppers and eggplants.
- Dormant oil can still be applied to control overwintering insect pests.

March

- Remove excessive thatch from warm-season lawns.
- Apply a pre-emergent herbicide.
- March is the second best time to seed cool-season turfgrass; however, fall is the best time.
- Apply first application of fertilizer to cool-season lawns.
- Broadleaf weeds can be controlled in cool-season lawns with postemergent broadleaf herbicides.
- Mow cool-season grasses at 1½ to 3½ inches high.
- Chemical and physical control of galls (swellings) on stems of trees should begin now.
- Begin pesticide applications in late March to control Nantucket Pine Tip Moth.

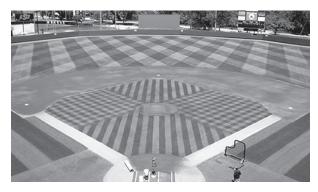
EVENTS and PROGRAMS

Visit our webpage <u>botanicgarden.okstate.edu</u> or call 405-744-5404 for more information about the following events and programs.

TURFGRASS MANAGEMENT SHORT COURSE JANUARY 13-14 8 AM TO 5 PM The Botanic Garden Educational Building

This is an intensive 2-day introductory level turfgrass management shortcourse. It is designed specifically to benefit turfgrass managers in lawn, grounds or athletic field care that have not had a formal turf management course. To register or for more information look under "Events" at: www.hortla.okstate.edu

Registration is \$135; register on-line today!



TUESDAY EVENING AT THE GARDEN TBG EDUCATIONAL BUILDING Tuesdays—January 13, February 10 & March 10 6:00PM TO 7:30PM

Join us at the garden the second Tuesday of each month, January through September for a variety of gardening programs. Each month we will feature a new topic related to gardening in Oklahoma. For more information contact Laura Payne, laura.payne@okstate.edu; 405-744-4531.



TBG SERVICE DAY APRIL 18 9 AM TO NOON Meet at the TBG Educational Building

This is a great opportunity to bring your family out and spend some quality time in the garden. We offer a handson experience for people of all ages. You will be engaged in planting, mulching and pruning plants here at The Botanic Garden with the assistance of staff and our Ambassadors. Contact Laura, laura.payne@okstate.edu or by phone.

Contact, Laura Payne 405-744-4531.





JANUARY

13th Tuesday Evening at the Garden 13-14th Turfgrass Management Short Course

FEBRUARY

10th Tuesday Evening at the Garden

MARCH

10th Tuesday Evening at the Garden

YOGA AT THE BOTANIC GARDEN THURSDAYS, APRIL & MAY 5:45PM TO 6:30PM

Keeping with the philosophy of OSU being American's Healthiest Campus, TBG will be partnering again this year with OSU Wellness to bring yoga into the garden. Yoga is a great way to connect the mind, body and spirit and what better place to so, than in the garden. This event is open to beginners and advanced yogis.





REGISTER FOR YOUTH PROGRAMS EDUCATIONAL BUILDING

Grandparent University—June 18-19 & 25-26On-line application opens March 1 through April 1. Go to

orangeconnection.org, click on "Legacy Program" at the bottom of page and find Grandparent University in the left menu bar for more information.

Camp T.U.R.F.—June 1-12, 2015

A two-week OSU residential academy for High School students entering freshman or sophomore year. Applications are available March 15. Contact Shelley, 405-744-5755!



OPEN HOUSE, May-November 1ST AND 3RD SATURDAYS 9AM TO 3PM

Looking for something different?

Why not grab your family and friends and head out to The Botanic Garden during Open House. You will be greeted by our friendly Ambassadors who are eager to help answer your gardening and plant questions.

We hope to see you at the gardens!



CONCERTS IN THE GARDENMay 1, 8 & 15

Back by popular demand! We encourage you to bring family, friends, a blanket and dinner and join TBG for an evening of live music. It's our pleasure to provide a venue for the community to come together, get acquainted with the garden and one another while appreciating music, a little dancing and laughter. Watch for upcoming information via E-News or the website.

We hope to see you at the gardens!



APRIL

Tuesdays: Yoga in the Garden, 5:45PM 14th Tuesday Evening in the Garden 18th Garden Service Day, 9AM - Noon 25th Family Day in the Garden, 9AM

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The Botanic Garden at Oklahoma
State University
Oklahoma Gardening
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Landscape Architecture

STAY CONNECTED

Send us your email address and receive monthly E-News botanicgarden@okstate.edu

Looking Forward to the Winter Blues

By Medhavi Ambardar and Jen Grindstaff

When the winter months come, the weather can turn cold and dreary, but eastern bluebirds still bring some color and joy even during the winter chill. Here in Oklahoma, we are lucky to be able to enjoy bluebirds year round, and one of the best places to see bluebirds during the winter is at The Botanic Garden and surrounding areas! We study eastern bluebirds, and as part of our research, we band the birds in our population with aluminum bands that have a unique combination of numbers as a way of keeping track of individuals. We know from our observations at The Botanic Garden and elsewhere, that some of the bluebirds in Payne County during the winter are residents that stay here all year, while other bluebirds have migrated from breeding areas farther north. Some of the bluebirds that breed here in the summer migrate south for the winter, at least as far as Texas.

Bluebirds are secondary cavity nesting birds, which means that they nest in existing cavities. They are a favorite of backyard birds because they readily nest in human-made nest boxes and are easy to view and enjoy. There are 13 nest boxes at The Botanic Garden, and we use them in our research on bluebird behavior. Most of the boxes at the garden were built and installed in October 2012 as part of an Eagle Scout project. Although the boxes were constructed with bluebirds in mind, they have also been used by other

native songbirds, including Carolina chickadees and tufted titmice.

We welcome the native songbirds that nest in the boxes, but we do evict non-native house sparrows. This may seem cruel, but we are dedicated to conservation of native birds, and house sparrows have been known to injure and even kill adult and nestling bluebirds. Bluebirds can and do fight back against the sparrows. In fact, part of our research looks at the aggressive behaviors of bluebirds when they are threatened by a house sparrow. House sparrow nests are fairly easy to identify. They fill the entire nest box with grasses and sometimes even plastic wrappers. When we find a nest matching this description, we remove it from the box to discourage sparrows from nesting there.

To avoid the problem of house sparrows usurping your bluebird box, we recommend that you set up your nest box in areas where you are



A male eastern bluebird sits on top of a nest box before delivering food to his young.

more likely to attract bluebirds than house sparrows. Bluebirds like open spaces with short, mowed grass, and a few trees on which they can perch. Try to keep boxes away from houses, barns, sheds, and other outbuildings – house sparrows often congregate around these areas.



What can you do to help bluebirds in the winter? If you have a bluebird nest box, you can postpone cleaning it out until early spring. On cold winter nights, bluebirds like to roost in the boxes, and boxes with nesting material are more insulated. You might also consider planting trees and shrubs with bluebirds in mind. In the winter, they switch from eating insects to eating winter berries such as hackberry, chokeberry, and holly.

If you have an active bluebird nest when spring arrives and you notice that your birds are banded, or you would like us to band your birds, please contact Dr. Jennifer Grindstaff (jen.grindstaff@okstate.edu) or Medhavi Ambardar (medhavi@okstate.edu). Until then, put on your hat and scarf, bring a thermos of hot chocolate and a pair of binoculars, and enjoy the winter blues at The Botanic Garden!

ACROSS THE STATE

STATEWIDE GARDEN CALENDAR

Through January 1: Honor Heights Park Garden of Lights, Muskogee, OK. This winter wonderland includes a drive-through display of over 1 million shimmering lights strung throughout the park to enhance the natural beauty of the park's gardens, waterfall and ponds. Hours 5:30 - 10:00 p.m. Call 918-684-6302 for more information.

January 13-14: Oklahoma and Arkansas Turfgrass Management Shortcourse at The Botanic Garden. Intensive 2-day introductory level course designed to specifically benefit turfgrass managers in lawn, grounds or athletic field care who have not had a formal turf management course. For more information call 405-744-5404.

January 16-17: Horticulture Industries Show and Conference, Holiday Inn City Center, Fort Smith, Arkansas. "Modern Tools and Technology for Growers and Marketers" is the 2015 theme. Emily Oakley, Michael Appel and Merritt Taylor are the keynote speakers. Visit the website: http://www.hortla.okstate.edu/events/HIS.

January 16-18: Oklahoma City Home and Garden Show, State Fair Park of Oklahoma. Stroll through the florious feature gardens and see the latest outdoor features from the area's top landscapers. The gardens will inspire and help one get started on their outdoor living plans. For more information visit: www.oklahomacityhomeshow. com.

January 17, 24, 31: A Garden Boot Camp, Will Rogers Garden Center, Oklahoma City. Whether a novice or a garden veteran, the Garden Boot Camp will prepare you to start the growing season right. Learn topics from soil fertility to choosing great annuals and perennials that will thrive in Oklahoma's tough climate. Sponsored by the Oklahoma County Master Gardeners the event's registration is \$40. Deadline is January 9. for more information call 405-713-1125.

January 20: Winter Explorers, 11 am - Noon at Water Plaza Room & Myriad Garden Grounds, OKC. You'll learn about how plants and animals survive Oklahoma's harsh winters, explore evergreen trees, watch for winter birds and more. Ages: 3-6 and registrations is due January 16. Call 405-445-7080 for more information.

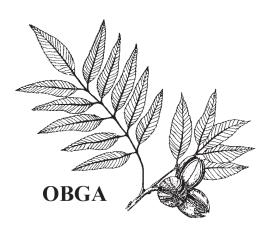
February 12- April 2: Oklahoma Market Gardening School, Otoe-Missouria Tribal Complex, Red Rock, OK. Visit the website: http://www.hortla.okstate.edu/pdfs/Ok_Market_School.pdf for more information.

March 12–15: Home and Garden Show, River Spirit Expo at Expo Square, Tulsa, OK.

June 6: The Herb Festival, Cann Memorial Gardens, Ponca City, OK. The day offers seminars on herbs, wildflowers, garden recipes, landscaping as well as entertainment, children's activities and over 100 vendors. Open from 8 am - 4 pm and is FREE to the public.

Oklahoma Botanical Garden & Arboretum System

OBGA is a statewide network of public gardens who's mission is to coordinate and develop educational and scientific activities in areas such as horticulture, landscape design and construction, plant evaluation and preservation, and ecological conservation.



AFFILIATE GARDENS

The Botanic Garden at Oklahoma State University, Stillwater Cann Memorial Gardens, Ponca City

Central Gardens of University of Central Oklahoma, Edmond

Honor Heights Park, Muskogee

Joe Allyn Lowe, Bartlesville

Lendonwood Gardens, Grove

McAlester Arboretum, McAlester

Morrison Arboretum, Morrison

Myriad Botanical Gardens, Oklahoma City (OKC)

Northern Oklahoma College, Tonkawa

Oklahoma City Zoological Park & Botanical Garden, OKC

Omniplex Gardens & Greenhouse, Oklahoma City

Tulsa Zoo & Living Museum, Tulsa

University of Tulsa, Tulsa

Washington Irving Memorial Park & Arboretum, Bixby Will Rogers Horticultural Gardens & Arboretum, Oklahoma City

Woodward Park, Tulsa

botanicgarden.okstate.edu

HELP US GROW

We would like to thank the following for their support. December 1, 2013 - November 30, 2014

Founding Partner \$10,000 and above

Oklahoma Forestry Services Southwood Landscape & Nursery TLC Garden Centers

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Lester & Debbie Skinner

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Society
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Pond Pro Shop
Shades of Green
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Memorial

John N. Veenstra

Garden Explorer \$500 - \$999

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Flourishes Harold & Brenda Holmes Town of Morrison Williams Landscape Garden Contributor \$125 - \$249

Botanical Interests
Tabitha Doescher
Jan McSwain
Plow & Hearth
Sprout People
Terra Nova Nurseries, Inc.
Wind & Weather

The Gift of Membership

Membership to The Botanic Garden makes a wonderful gift for the garden enthusiasts in your life. Your gift will be enjoyed throughout the year!

Contact Stephanie Larimer 405-744-5404 for membership information.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROUS CONTRIBUTIONS!

MEMBERSHIP & GIFT FORM

| TRIBUTE GIFTS The Botanic Garden invites you to donate to the garden and remember a loved one or friend through a commemorative brick, dedication tree, garden bench or portion of a walking trail. | MEMBERSHIP New Gif | t Renewal |
|---|---|--|
| Commemorative Brick \$100 Commemorate a special person of life event with a 4"X8" engraved brick. Orders are taken throughout the year and are placed in the garden pathway in one of the annual additions. You may include on the brick up to three lines of fourteen characters per line. Use the space below to compose your tribute. | NAME (please print) ADDRESS | |
| | CITY, STATE, ZIP | |
| | EMAIL | |
| Choose from a list of trees that the Arboretum has available for dedication. Print wording as it should appear on the engraved plaque for the tribute tree. In Memory of In Honor of | TELEPHONE (include area code) Membership Level The portion of your gift that is in excess (| of \$40 is tax deductible. |
| Garden Bench \$5,000 Creates an opportunity for visitors to sit and enjoy the surrounding beauty. An engraved name plate is dedicated for ten years and can be renewed for another ten years thereafter. Print wording as it should appear on the plaque for the garden bench. In Memory of | \$20 Student Membership \$40 Individual/Family Membership Please make checks payable to The Botanic Garden at OSU. | Complete and return this form along with your contribution to: The Botanic Garden at OSU 358 Agricultural Hall Stillware, OK 74078-6027 |
| In Honor of | | Phone: 405.744.5404 Email: botanicgarden@okstate.edu |
| Walking Trail Section \$10,000 A section of the walking trail in the garden can be named in honor or memory of an individual or event. Please call 405.744.5415 for more information. | If you wish to make a tax deductible gift please write a separate check to: OSU Foundation | Tax Deductible Gift |

VOLUNTEER NEWS

TBG Service Award

By Laura Payne

Last year The Botanic Garden began recognizing an Ambassador for going above and beyond the call of duty by honoring them with The Botanic Garden Service Award. This year's recipient was Lynn Miler! During the installation of the new Children's Garden Lynn mentioned he would like to learn how to mortar stone.

Not only did Lynn learn how to mortar stone, but he also learned more about laying stone. He helped to lay most of the largest ones, some weighing nearly 1,000 pounds in the children's garden. Lynn logged over 100 hours of volunteer service last year. He was seen working throughout the garden and greenhouse. Even when called upon at the spur-of-the-moment to assist in the garden and it's activities he was there with a smile. Congratulations Lynn!



UPCOMING VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

- Garden Cleanup
- Thinning Perennials
- Potting in Greenhouse
- Update Tour Guide Books

JOIN OUR TEAM

The Botanic Garden invites you to join our team of dedicated Ambassadors in helping maintain the beauty of our gardens and serving our community through educational outreach programs.

For more information contact: Laura Payne 358 Agricultural Hall Stillwater, OK 74078-6027 405.744.4531 laura.payne@okstate.edu

TBG Volunteers

At this year's banquet several Ambassadors were recognized for their many years of service to The Botanic Garden. We celebrated from 20 plus years to one year of service. This year we decided to award lapel pins to recognize years of service. A different pin is awarded for each five years of service provided to the garden. Throughout the year, Ambassadors log their hours of service they put into the garden and this year over 2,800 hours were logged. Kathy Adkins logged in the most at 216 hours.

The Botanic Garden also logged over 600 hours of service by outside groups such as Jack Wilkerson with Water 4, Service Learning Volunteer Center through OSU, and Upward Bound.





Office: 358 Agricultural Hall Stillwater, OK 74078 - 6027

Visit our website

botanicgarden.okstate.edu

Gardening continues throughout the winter months for the TBG Ambassadors. Working in the greenhouse are Joyce Taylor, Barbara Pass and Lynn Miler removing blooms to help keep insect issues at bay.

