

**Board of Park Commissioners
Olbrich Botanical Gardens Quarterly Report
December 2022**

Holiday Train Show



Figure 1 Plant carnival signs and Figure 2 a topiary elephant and holiday tree featuring baskets of peanuts.

The beloved holiday tradition returned to Olbrich Botanical Gardens in November. This year's theme is a holiday carnival featuring many favorites from local fairs and circuses. Where else can you see topiary elephants, acrobatic snowmen, a ferris wheel of poinsettias, and more! The member preview event welcomed over 800 members! Everyday members of the Wisconsin Garden Railway Society come from all over the state to show off their large-scale model trains. Depending on the day, you might see a bullet train, steam train, Santa train, circus train, or freight train. This year's sponsors include: Baker Tilly and The Jenni & Kyle Foundation.

- NBC 15 - <https://www.nbc15.com/2022/12/02/all-aboard-olbrichs-holiday-express/>
- Channel 3000 - <https://www.channel3000.com/model-trains-take-over-at-olbrich-gardens-for-the-holidays/>

Thai Consulate



Figure 3 Staff from the Thai Consulate & Olbrich Gardens tour Chicago Botanic Gardens



Figure 4 Thai Consulate staff met with Olbrich Gardens' staff at the Thai Consulate in Chicago, IL.

On November 3, 2022, staff from Olbrich Gardens visited the Thai Consulate in Chicago, IL. Consulate staff gave them a tour of the Thai Consulate and they discussed ways to further connect Thailand and Madison with the Royal Thai Pavilion. They also enjoyed a guided tour of the Chicago Botanic Gardens.

Wisconsin Executive Residence Decked Out for the Holidays



Figure 5 & 6 The entrance of the Wisconsin Executive Residence decorated by Olbrich Botanic Garden staff.

Each year the Wisconsin Executive Residence is decorated for the holidays. Organizations from around the state contribute their time, talents, and decorations to decorate the home. This year, Olbrich Botanical Gardens was invited to participate. Orchid Horticulturist, Irene Padlin, took on the challenge to decorate Wisconsin's most famous residence. She created a wreath for the front door made out of dried native plants and she also decorated the porch pots outside the front door. To learn more read this press release

(<https://content.govdelivery.com/accounts/WIGOV/bulletins/33ddad4>) or watch the video tour (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WOMsob5EWbU>).

Marty Petillo, Volunteer Services Manager, Announced her Retirement

Longtime Volunteer Services Manager, Marty Petillo, announced she's retiring in 2023. Marty will celebrate 22 years of service to the City of Madison Parks Division in March 2023. Her last day in the office is January 19, 2023. A retirement open house is planned for January 18, 2023 from 10am-noon to celebrate Marty's dedication to Olbrich Gardens and the volunteers. Thanks to her service, Olbrich Gardens has one of the most successful volunteer programs in Madison. In 2022, volunteers contributed over 20,000 hours of service. She will be dearly missed by both staff and volunteers. Please join me in congratulating Marty on a successful career with Olbrich Gardens.