

## **Olbrich Botanical Gardens Quarterly Report July 2020**

### **Attendance:**

- Olbrich Botanical Gardens re-opened on Wednesday June 17, after being closed for three months due to the pandemic. Staff are happy to welcome visitors back to the outdoor gardens only. The Growing Gifts Shop, Bolz Conservatory and Schumacher Library remain closed because of problems maintaining physical distancing in those locations.

### **Construction Project Update:**

- **Opening:** Olbrich Staff will not host a grand opening for the new buildings due to cautions about the pandemic. Individual small receptions may be planned for the major donor families once the recognition signage is completed.

### **Bolz Conservatory:**

- The Bolz Conservatory remains closed due to the pandemic, Conservatory staff are working on projects that they would have difficulty completing when open to the public.

### **Volunteers:**

- Customer service volunteers who work in the Schumacher Library, Growing Gifts Shop, Lobby Greeter Desk, Education Programs, Bolz Conservatory are on hold. Volunteer Services Manager, Marty Petillo, stays in touch with all volunteers utilizing bi-weekly newsletters and phone calls. A very limited number of outdoor garden and greenhouse volunteers have returned to their shifts.

### **Education:**

- Education classes will return in mid-July with limited numbers of participants and the ability to provide physical distancing requirements in the classroom and for outdoor walks. Some classes will be offered online only. The Olbrich Book Club was offered online through ZOOM and was very well received – particularly from participants who live outside the Madison area. Some of these programs will be adapted to online learning even when restrictions are removed.

### **Public Relations and Marketing:**

- This department has been working hard to keep in touch with members and users. The comments from social media have been favorable as various horticulturists and education staff have conducted virtual tours, virtual story times and other innovative programming that is available through the internet.

### **Programs and Exhibitions:**

- Staff have cancelled Olbrich's Blooming Butterflies and the Home Garden Tour. Programming that celebrates pollinators – especially butterflies – will be available in a more limited way on site. Home gardens will also be celebrated in new and unique ways. Stay tuned for more information on these program offerings.
- Concerts will return in mid-July with limited reservations available and there will be fewer than usual. Watch for more information on outdoor concerts.
- GLEAM: Art in a New Light will return with changes due to the need to limit attendance and physical distance. There will be a great slate of artists available and the major change