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**P O W E L L
G A R D E N S**

Kansas City's botanical garden

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New Docent Program and Family-Centric Summer Fun Gives Powell Gardens an Educational Edge

Kansas City, Mo. June 20, 2017—Powell Gardens is ramping up educational offerings in the Gardens with a new intensive docent program and additional programming designed to immerse adults and youth in the many facets of a botanical garden. The education department is currently seeking garden enthusiasts to join the new volunteer docent group, *Garden Guides*, a committed group of tour guides who will engage with Powell Gardens K-12 student and adult tour groups and help them discover the many aspects of the Gardens, while discussing unique plant collections and landscapes.

Volunteers selected for this special role will participate in an intensive once-a week, three-hour training course at Powell Gardens beginning in October 2017. This program will grow under the direction of Powell Gardens new Director of Education, Outreach and Interpretation, Kristy Peterson.



"The Powell Gardens docent program is a great opportunity to learn about Powell Gardens and our collections," Peterson said. "To discover and share your passion for plants

and their significance in the world around us. The *Garden Guides* initiative is a first for Powell Gardens and will significantly enhance the educational role of our volunteer program."

Garden Guides are part of the Powell Gardens volunteer program and will be enfolded in the garden-wide volunteer community as a whole. Although helpful, prior knowledge of aspects of botany, horticulture or gardening is not required. A passion for learning, engaging others in discourse and discovery, and sharing information about Powell Gardens' history, landscape and collections with audiences of all ages is mandatory. Interested parties can apply online at <https://powellgardens.org/join-give/volunteer-opportunities/volunteer-application/>.

Frolicking with the Family

Further expansion of educational initiatives at Powell Gardens includes the addition of *Family Frolic* events to supplement current programming. A *Family Frolic* includes educational program offerings centered on a designated subject included with the purchase of admission. The first *Family Frolic* is from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Saturday, June 24, and features engaging activities focused on the current exhibition, *Gardens of Myth*. Visitors will enjoy costumed characters, special performances from the Stonelion Puppet Theater, garden parades and much more, all offering opportunities to become immersed in the legends and myths surrounding the sculptures currently installed in the Gardens. Additional *Family Frolic* dates include “Learn About Lepidoptera” a full day of extra programming during Powell Gardens’ annual Festival of Butterflies in August.

Upcoming Events and Programs

Booms & Blooms

Powell Gardens’ annual celebration of Indolence Day, Booms & Blooms, features fireworks, flowers and fun. Prior to the performance of the Lee’s Summit Symphony at 7:30 p.m. and fireworks at 9 p.m. on Saturday, July 1, there will be a number of activities offered throughout the day at the Gardens. Tour the new exhibition, *Gardens of Myth*, during the day, cool off in the fountain, enjoy hands-on activities and family-friendly games, enjoy the musical stylings of Ernest James Zydeco, and in the early evening spread your blanket in your favorite viewing spot and wait for the show. The wares of various food and drinks vendors, as well as picnic packs, will be available throughout the day.

Powell Gardens members get into the festival for no charge and receive free parking. Festival admission is \$12 for adults, \$10 for ages 60 or better; \$5 for ages 5 to 12; and free for ages 4 and younger. children Parking is \$5. For membership information, visit powellgardens.org/membership

A Midsummer’s Night Cocktail Party

From 5:30 to 7 p.m. Thursday, July 13, enjoy an enchanted evening discovering the myths behind legendary creatures such as Bigfoot, dragons, trolls and fairies featured in the *Gardens of Myth* exhibit. Learn about these fantasy figures and their connections to plants and produce. The guided portion of the evening, exploring a portion of our nature trail, ends in the vineyard with a cash bar, fantastic snacks and mingling with special costumed guests amidst our summer garden displays. Participants are encouraged to wear comfortable walking shoes — fantasy costumes are optional. The cost is \$30.

Dragonfly Day,

Kids can learn about, catch and handle live wild dragonflies from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Sunday, July 30. Betsy Betros, author of a *Photographic Field Guide to Butterflies in the Kansas City Region*, will share information about dragonfly species, habitat and behavior. Participants will receive special training to capture wild dragonflies around the pond near the education building. The specimens collected will be featured guests flying in the Dragonfly Den at Powell Gardens’ annual *Festival of Butterflies* from Aug. 4 to Aug. 20.

Family Frolic: Learn About Lepidoptera

Butterflies, moths and caterpillars are some of the insects that make up the order of Lepidoptera. *Family Frolic: Learn about Lepidoptera* is family event from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 12, and will provide many opportunities to learn more about our flying (and crawling) friends, their lifecycles, and their important relationship to plants and us.

Several hands-on activities, free with festival admission, include plant an eco-pot with seeds to take home, making a butterfly puppet, and creating a butterfly lifecycle journal. Children and adults alike can make their own butterfly wings to wear (\$5 a person) or build an insect hotel to take home (\$5 a person). Special performances are scheduled throughout the day. All are encouraged to take part in the butterfly parades, scheduled at 10:30 a.m. and 2p.m. Festival admission and parking fees apply. Members receive free festival admission and parking.

Powell Gardens

Powell Gardens, Kansas City's botanical garden, resides on 970 acres of lush, rolling hills just east of Kansas City. Known for its world-class architecture and stunning display gardens, Powell Gardens offers classes, performances and festivals year-round. In 2009, the Heartland Harvest Garden, a 12-acre expansion that encompasses the nation's largest edible landscapes, was opened to the public.

Thirty miles east of Kansas City on U.S. Hwy. 50, Powell Gardens is open seven days a week year-round (except Thanksgiving Day, Christmas Day and New Year's Days). For more information about admission, seasonal hours, special events, classes, rentals and memberships call 816-697-2600 or visit powellgardens.org.