



CHRIS ABELE, MILWAUKEE COUNTY EXECUTIVE
JOHN DARGLE, JR., DIRECTOR OF PARKS, RECREATION AND CULTURE

Contact: Shirley Walczak, Director, Boerner Botanical Gardens
(414) 525-5603
Shirley.Walczak@milwaukeecountywi.gov

For immediate release

Fairy Garden Display, Events, Contest at Boerner Botanical Gardens

Hales Corners, WI (July 12, 2016) — Back by popular demand, a miniature village for fairy folk has sprung up in the Herb Garden at Boerner Botanical Gardens. It will be the focus for a variety of fairy-themed events, including the free Enchanted Evening Family Event, July 17. The Botanical Gardens, “Milwaukee’s Living Museum,” is located at 9400 Boerner Drive in Whitnall Park.

Nestled in the Herb Garden, three fairy home sites surround Gnome Hill and are connected with tiny paths and a lazy river. A white clapboard farmhouse has an even tinier herb garden for its wee residents. Rustic homes in the village are made of stone and birch, and one of them has a micro vegetable garden. Miniature conifers, herbs, and perennials make up the landscape in this Lilliputian world. Fairy Garden Village will be on display through the end of the garden season. The Herb Garden is supported by the Wisconsin Unit of the Herb Society of America.

“Again this year, we owe special thanks to Horticulturist Peggy Zautke for bringing this imaginary world to life!” Boerner Botanical Gardens Director Shirley Walczak said. “She’s even considered the need for the fairies to visit with neighbors and has provided them with connecting paths and a gathering spot along the ‘river.’ This display really draws you in.”

Adding to the fantasy created by the Parks horticulturist, Friends of Boerner Botanical Gardens will present Enchanted Evening at the Gardens. The Friends encourage children to dress as flower fairies and garden gnomes. Program participants will catch and release fireflies and enjoy craft activities. Admission to the gardens after 6 p.m. is free. The Enchanted Evening event runs from 6:30-8:30 p.m. For more information, visit <http://boernerbotanicalgardens.org/event/enchanted-evening-family-event/>

-more-

ADDRESS
9480 Watertown Plank Road
Wauwatosa, WI 53226-3560

PHONE/FAX
ph: **414 / 257 PARK** (7275)
fax: 414 / 257 6466



EMAIL
parks@milwaukeecountywi.gov

WEBSITE
countyparks.com

In honor of the Enchanted Evening event, Kopp's Frozen Custard has created a special flavor-of-the-day for July 17. Sugar Plum Fairy blends blackberry/strawberry custard with marshmallow and sparkles for a fitting treat before or after the Enchanted Evening. The Kopp's location closest to the Botanical Gardens is at South 76th Street and West Layton Avenue.

Families wishing for their own fairy or gnome garden can create one at the DIY family workshop, July 23, from 10 a.m.–noon. The Friends will provide containers and basic supplies, but families will transform them into magical and whimsical worlds for fairies and gnomes to reside. Participants are encouraged to bring their own miniature items to make their gardens come alive.

<http://boernerbotanicalgardens.org/event/family-workshop-diy-fairy-gnome-gardens-2/>

All makers of fairy gardens—whether the garden is made at the workshop or at home—are invited to display their work in the Fairy Garden Contest, Aug. 7, from 10 a.m.-2 p.m.

Walczak said, “We had some great pieces last year. It was fun for all the fairy-garden enthusiasts in the area to show their creations to the public and have a chance to win prizes.”

Makers who will be displaying their fairy gardens should drop them off Aug. 7 from 9-9:45 a.m. Staff will accept entries at the Annual Garden, just beyond the Garden House. Size of a fairy garden is limited to what its maker can carry. Makers are encouraged to call (414) 525-5601 by July 29 so that table display space will be available. Makers displaying their work will receive one free admission band for the day.

Voting for “People’s Choice” winners will take place from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. All visitors to the Botanical Gardens will be allowed to vote for their favorite garden in each category: Children age 12 and under; Youth age 13-17, and Adults age 18 and up.

At 2:15 p.m., winners will be announced. Prizes will range from miniature plants and fairy items to Botanical Gardens admission passes. Winners need not be present during the awards presentation. After the award of prizes, makers must pick up their gardens from about 2:30-3:30 p.m.

Admission to the Botanical Gardens is \$5.50 for adults age 18 and up; \$4.50 for students of any age with IDs, Milwaukee County seniors age 60 and up with IDs, and people with disabilities; and \$3.50 for youths age 6-17. Admission to the gardens requires wearing the official daily wristband.

For more information, call the Boerner Botanical Gardens at (414) 525-5601.

###