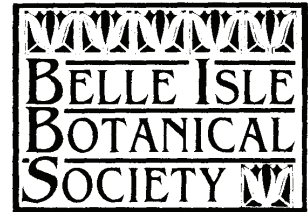




WINTER 2010-11
VOLUME XXII NO. 4



SUPPORTING
THE ANNA SCRIPPS WHITCOMB
CONSERVATORY AND GARDENS

Conservatory, Dossin Museum Land Energy Grant

In a red-letter island day, Detroit Mayor Dave Bing was on hand Oct. 20 to announce the Anna Scripps Whitcomb Conservatory and the Dossin Great Lakes Museum will be front-line recipients of an \$8.8 million U.S. Department of Energy grant.

“Belle Isle is one of our true gems. We need to bring this island back to what it was years ago,” said Bing told media and supporters in front of the Conservatory.

The grant money is allocated to numerous projects and is estimated to produce a 10-year savings of more than \$30 million. Phase One includes new heating systems for the Conservatory and the museum; new heating systems and lighting at the Southfield, Russell-Ferry and Davison yards; solar lighting for an as yet unnamed city building and Lafayette Park; heating and lighting upgrades at four city garages that repair municipal vehicles; and upgrades at the Coleman A. Young Municipal Center and the 36th District Court.

When the heating system failed at the Conservatory at the end of last year, quick action by Belle Isle Botanical Society President Jan Ellison and the General Services Department resulted in emergency heaters brought in to keep the plants alive.



Maggie Adlhoch, Sarah Ollison, Mayor Dave Bing,
Jan Ellison & Catherine McCuish

The new heating system is expected to be installed by early December. Ellison said, “It means the plants at the Conservatory and greenhouses are safe – hopefully for another 100 years.” BIBS itself is funding \$50,000 for additional energy fixes in the Fernery.

In addition, the Belle Isle Women’s Committee, headed by Sarah Earley, is underwriting the tile roof renovation on the old horse stable currently being used as a maintenance building.

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THE PRESIDENT'S REPORT

From Jan Ellison

From a multi-million dollar federal grant to the various Belle Isle groups funding projects to the very visible repairs of the garden steps to the 105 signs just installed in the Cactus House – it's an active time both at the Conservatory and on the island. Here are some details (*More information is available throughout this newsletter*):

Federal Infusion: Detroit Mayor Dave Bing chose the Conservatory gardens on Oct. 20 to announce an \$8.8 million grant from the U.S. Department of Energy to Detroit's General Services Department. The Conservatory, greenhouses and maintenance buildings and the Dossin Museum will share in the grant monies and receive energy upgrades. Stay tuned for progress reports.

Group Funding: Along with the federal monies, **BIBS** is donating \$50,000 for electrical upgrades and to expand the heating unit in the Fernery. The money comes from a bequest from BIBS charter member Sylvia Becherer. **The Belle Isle Women's Committee** is funding \$100,000 of repairs to the historic tile roof of the old horse stable. At the Bing press event, BIWC President Sarah Earley spoke of the unique history of Belle Isle and its importance as a Frederick Law Olmsted-designed green space.

Stepping Forward: The Grosse Pointe Garden Club-hosted fundraiser, *A Step Back in Time*, proved to be an unqualified success in our effort to renovate the garden staircases. The mid-September event brought in \$40,000 which, added to the \$12,000 we had from a previous fundraiser, raised our total to \$52,000. Special kudos to Co-Chairs Sarah Ollison and Maggie Adlhoch whose innovative ideas included wearing period clothing and hats. Club member Peggy Kross provided a bonanza

of pre-event donations and Catherine McCuish was superb in handling publicity. Mil Hurley did a program on her Grosse Pointe cable show, *Pointes of Horticulture*, touting the event that ran several times.

Getting the Job Done: BIBS has selected Backer Landscaping, Inc., to handle the garden stairways renovation. Kathleen Katkin spearheaded this process putting many hours into the project. The main patio has been reset in concrete and the footings and foundations replaced on the front steps and the two sets of steps on either side of the Marshall Fredericks fountain. New bluestone was installed on these stairways along with new caps on the side piers. Backer is repairing all landscaping around these stairways now and in the spring. In addition, Backer is grouting the fountain to ensure that water does not damage the base of this historic treasure.

What's What in Signage: Besides the 105 new signs in the Cactus House, Adrienne Gregory, Mary Nebel, Mike Devine and I installed 90 new botanical signs in the Tropical House. This included drilling holes in the soil to insert the signs. Plus, we had to go to retired staffer Donna Kuchapsky for some last-minute plant identification. Job done! Next: Signage in the Show House.

Round Up: BIBS is supporting Detroit's effort to preserve the Livingstone Lighthouse on Belle Isle – the only marble lighthouse in the nation. I continue to serve on the Golightly Career and Tech Center Agriscience advisory board. Check out the Golightly Open House on Wed., Dec. 8 from 3:30-6:15 p.m. at 9400 Dickerson and East Jefferson in Detroit. Christmas cacti and holiday centerpieces will be on sale.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS: Janice Ellison, PRESIDENT; Diane Tumidajewicz, VICE PRESIDENT; Patricia Meldrum, SECRETARY; Michael Devine, TREASURER; MEMBERS-AT-LARGE – Ross Fazio, Adrienne Gregory, Kathleen Katkin, Ed Krappmann, Grady Merritt, Lee Ann Morgan, Ken Muha, Arthur Mullen, Mary Nebel, Clint Soldan. *Newsletter: Editor-Anne Marie Sylvester, Contributors-Janice Ellison, Adrienne Gregory, Ed Krappmann.*

VOLUNTEER CORNER

UPDATES FROM BIBS MEMBERS ED KRAPPMANN AND ADRIENNE GREGORY

Wilkomen!

Swedish Group Highlights

Fall Tour Season

Head Adult Docent Ed Krappmann dusted off a few Swedish phrases this fall as he welcomed, among other tour groups, representatives from the Swedish-American Council of Minnesota.

“When tourists such as these come from outside the Detroit area and they have our Conservatory as one of their ‘go-to’ places, we are growing our reputation as nationally recognized Conservatory,” says Jan Ellison, BIBS president.

To arrange a group tour, contact Krappmann at bibsociety@att.net or 313-331-7760.

Volunteers Focus on Lily Pond, Holiday Décor

from Adrienne Gregory

The Lily Pond never looked better this summer with visitors complimenting the gardens and the BIBS volunteers who work so hard to make it idyllic.

Numerous volunteers were on hand when we cleaned up the Lily Pond in late October. We had help too from the Friends of Belle Isle which arranged for a group of University of Michigan students to lend a hand.

It is almost time to dress the Conservatory in its holiday attire. Come join in the decorating fun on Sat., Dec. 4 at 11 a.m.

Volunteerism is catching once you get started; spread it to your friends. For more information, contact me at amgregory@wowway.com or call BIBS, 313-331-7760.

Step Back in Time Marches to Success

Over 400 Belle Isle enthusiasts gathered on a picture-perfect evening in mid-September to raise funds for the restoration of the historic bluestone steps at the Anna Scripps Whitcomb Conservatory.

BIBS President Jan Ellison praises the efforts of the Grosse Pointe Garden Club in executing the event into a successful reality – with input generously exceeding the funds needed for the renovations. Catherine McCuish, GPCG chair of publicity, says many guests contributed more than the ticket price in this charity effort. Adds Carol Peabody, GPCG president, “We exceeded not only revenue but also attendance from previous years.”



Grosse Pointe Garden Club co-chairs Sarah Ollison and Maggie Adlhoch flank BIBS President Jan Ellison

The Conservatory, opined many of the guests, had never looked better with its new signage, spiffed up areas and tasteful décor. Renovations are in process on the steps and should be completed before winter totally sets in.

Honorary chairman for *Step Back in Time* was Barrie Fitzsimons. Co-chairs were Maggie Adlhoch and Sarah Ollison. Other participating garden clubs included: Deeplands Garden Club, Detroit Garden Center, Grand Marais Garden Club, Grosse Pointe Farm and Garden Club, Grosse Pointe Garden Center, Grosse Pointe Park Garden Club, Grosse Pointe Shores Garden Club, Grosse Pointe Woods Garden Club, Herb Society of America-Grosse Pointe, Junior League Gardeners, La Societe des Jardinieres, Men’s Garden Club of Grosse Pointe, St. Clair Shores Garden Club, The Garden Club of Michigan, The Garden Society, The Pointe Garden Club, the Village Garden Club and the Windmill Pointe Garden Club.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

YOUR GUIDE TO HOLIDAY/WINTER HAPPENINGS & VOLUNTEERING

Holiday Lighting Jumpstart

Fri., Dec. 3

1 p.m. at the Conservatory

Volunteers can help jumpstart the next day's annual tree trimming by installing lights this afternoon. All help truly appreciated.

Annual Tree Trimming

Sat., Dec. 4

11 a.m. at the Conservatory

Join the BIBS team for this annual work/funathon. See old friends; make new ones.

Holiday Potluck

Sun., Dec. 5

2-4 p.m. at the Conservatory

The Detroit Garden Center and the Master Gardeners of Detroit are jointly hosting an afternoon of conviviality in the beautifully decorated Showroom. It's \$5 a person if you bring a dish to share; \$10 if you come empty-handed. For more info, call 313-259-6363.

BIBS Annual Meeting

Wed., Dec. 8

6-7:30 p.m. at the Flynn Pavilion

Come join us for dinner and review of the year. Please RSVP to bibsociety@att.net or 313-331-7760.

Breakfast with Santa

Sat., Dec. 11

9-11:30 a.m. at the Casino

Sponsored by the City of Detroit Recreation Department. For details, call 313-628-2081.

Stroll Through the Conservatory

Fri., Dec. 17

5-8 p.m. at the Conservatory

Go for a holiday immersion at this annual event that features holiday décor, music by the Deep River Gospel Choir from the Boll Family YMCA and complimentary cider and donuts. Admission is free. No reservations required. Feel festive? Want to get festive? Come and get a rare nighttime look at the Conservatory.

Fri., Dec. 31 – New Year's Eve

41st Annual Family Fun Run/Walk

3:30 p.m. at the Casino

Fifth Third is sponsoring the 1 mile-5k event which starts in front of the Belle Isle Casino. For more info and to register, go to

www.belleislefunrun.com/Default.aspx

or call Jeanne Bocci, race director, 313-886-5660.

New Year's Toast at the Boat Club

Sat., Jan. 1, 2011

2-5 p.m. at the Detroit Boat Club

An old Boat Club tradition from the Friends of Detroit Rowing Club. \$10 donation to FODR.

RSVP to Denne Osgood, hidem1178@gmail.com or 810-512-4313.

Shiver on the River

Sat., Feb. 5, 2011

10 a.m.-3 p.m. at the Casino

Fun and games, exhibits, arts and crafts. Also open: The Conservatory, the Aquarium, Dossin Museum and Nature Center.

FOBI Stewardship Workshop

Sat., Feb. 10, 2011

9 a.m.-Noon, at the Nature Zoo

Three hours of fighting (pulling out) invasive species. RSVP to Mebby Pearson, 248-647-7841 or Melvadean.Pearson@gmail.com

Detroit Garden Center Presents

Post-Holiday Instructional Seminars

Historic Trinity Lutheran Church

1325 Gratiot near Eastern Market

Jan. 22-Gardening in Small Spaces

Janet Macunovich, instructor

Jan. 29-Climate Change and Your Garden

Suzan Campbell, instructor

Feb. 29-All in the Best Sense in a Garden

Janet Macunovich, instructor

DGC members: \$25 per class, \$65 for all three.

Non-Members: \$30-\$75. **To register,** 313-259-6363 or www.detroitgardenctr@yahoo.com.



The hunt begins

Friends of the Belle Isle Aquarium transferring the Koi inside for the winter



Getting out the nets



Moving the pond plants



Capturing the fish



Transporting the Koi



Volunteers come in all ages



Moving back inside

The Koi are housed in the Conservatory/Aquarium basement and cared for by FOBIA volunteers until spring sunshine warms up the pond again.



More than 400 guests enjoyed a great evening



BIBS Board member Grady Merritt & Maggie and Jim Adlloch

*A Step Back in Time:
An Evening of Fun and Friendship
Helping to Renovate the Garden Staircases*



Lisa & Chris Fildes, Ann Ryan



Mr. & Mrs. Robert Peabody



Mil & Matt Hurley



BIBS Docents Jim Turnbull & Ed Krappmann



Perennial garden steps



Perennial garden steps demolition

Garden Staircases Renovation

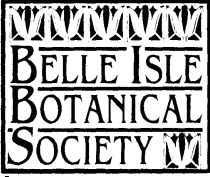
Thanks to the fundraising efforts
of
The Grosse Pointe Farm
& Garden Club and
The Grosse Pointe
Garden Club



Mortaring in the new bluestone steps



Patio on new cement base with new bluestone steps



8109 East Jefferson
Detroit, MI 48214

The Belle Isle Botanical Society is a 501 (c) (3) non-profit volunteer organization assisting the City of Detroit in restoring, supporting and promoting Belle Isle's Anna Scripps Whitcomb Conservatory and gardens.

WINTER 2010-11 BIBSOCIETY.ORG

**The Anna
Scripps Whitcomb
Conservatory
Wednesday
through Sunday
10 to 5
Free admission**

**Conservatory
313-821-5428
Greenhouses
313-822-2867**

**Park
Administration
313-628-2081**

**BIBS
313-331-7760
Fax: 313-331-1500
bibsociety@att.net**

