“Adopt the pace of nature: her secret is patience.”

Ralph Waldo Emerson

As I write this, it’s mid-February, and I’m feeling a little impatient for warmer temperatures to arrive. Spring feels like it’s eons away. Yet—when I look closely at the ground, and up into the trees I do see, feel and even smell the shift in seasons.

Walking towards the Cox Butterfly & Orchid Pavilion, you’ll spot the first buds of the Rosa banksiae, “Lady Banks’ rose”. Just as you arrive at the front door of Porter Hall, look down and you’ll discover the tender green shoots and small flower buds from the tulip bulbs that were planted in January.

If anything teaches patience—it’s gardening, and in my role at the Gardens, I need a lot of it!

For example, in 2017 I began discussing with Robert J. Wick about showing his monumental bronze sculptures here at the Gardens. It took nearly two years of planning, followed by the arrival of a freight truck, crane, a forklift along with the artistic eye of the Artist to ensure that each piece was placed in the perfect location and then planted with the right flora to complete Robert’s vision.

It was about that same time that we were first were approached by the New York Botanic Garden (NYBG) to host a traveling exhibit on 20th-century Brazilian modernist artist and landscape architect, Roberto Burle Marx. This week we received confirmation that the exhibition will arrive at TBG in January 2020. It’s going to take another entire year to plan and execute and interpret this multifaceted artist.

And it was over a year ago when we received an invitation to visit a historic ranch and garden in Oracle. The family of the Willow Spring Ranch spent decades lovingly restoring their 150-year-old home, as well as creating one of the most welcoming and lush home-designed gardens I’ve ever seen. We are so honored to be able to share this home, along with three other spectacular homes and gardens with those who attend our Ultimate Private Home & Garden Tour in April.

It seems like at TBG, patience is a job requirement: Our education department has a running wish list of teachers and programs that they are working on to bring to our members. Our horticulturalists have an even longer want list of replacement plants and tree pruning needs, along with at least 200 new plant tags that they would like created and installed. Our Board of Director is wrapping up a 25 year Master Plan and Facilities—you don’t even want to know what their wish list looks like!

There are two things that I know for sure: Being patient is hard, and it doesn’t come naturally—it’s like a muscle that needs to be exercised. But I also know that patience pays off, and we are ever grateful to you, our members, for your patience and support as we diligently strive to bring the best of public gardens to our community.

Michelle Conklin
Executive Director
Quilts in the Gardens Returns

May 5, 2019 – September 29, 2019

In partnership with Quilts for a Cause, the Gardens is pleased to exhibit nature themed quilts in the Education Classroom* and Friends House Gallery. Quilts will also be for sale in the Gardens’ Gift Shop.

*To view quilts in the Education Classroom, please call ahead to ensure the room is available for viewing.

Paintings and Decorative Arts from the Estate of Manabu Saito Sale

April 19 – September 1, 2019    Legacy and Porter Hall Galleries

The Tucson Botanical Gardens was fortunate to be the recipient of a collection of paintings from the estate of Manabu Saito. Mr. Saito’s wish was that his work would be used to further the mission of the Tucson Botanical Gardens. We are deeply grateful for this extraordinary legacy gift.

The collection is vast and varied, and includes sketches from his world-wide travels as well as from time spent in New York. Framed and unframed works for sale include watercolors of the New Jersey shoreline, paintings and illustrations executed during his time in Japan, as well as Mr. Saito’s beloved flora paintings created throughout his life.

9th Annual
ULTIMATE HOME & GARDEN TOUR

Saturday, April 6th, 2019    8:30am – 4:30pm
$160 non-member / $140 member

A light breakfast, lunch and snacks will be provided.

Throughout this full day of relaxing fun, you’ll travel in luxury private shuttles to visit several beautiful homes and gardens with stunning views.

Hosted by a multi-generation family, lunch will be served at their adobe-style home and gardens on a cattle ranch founded in 1880. This one-of-a-kind home and garden have never before been seen by the public.

The tour will conclude with guests and homeowners enjoying appetizers, socializing and a farewell toast.

The mission of the UHGT is to raise funds to support the Gardens’ community education programs, and create an intimate experience for a limited number of garden enthusiasts.
ROAD TRIP

Help Tucson Botanical Gardens’ Barrio Garden Travel to our Nation’s Capital

The Tucson Botanical Gardens has been invited to recreate their beloved Barrio Garden, Nuestro jardín, and the rich local heritage that it represents, at the front steps of the United States Botanic Garden in Washington, D.C. June – October, 2019.

Donate at MightyCause.com/story/TBGtoDC.
THE PROJECT

In late 2018, a call was sent out to over 800 botanical gardens throughout the country to create and install a garden at the U.S. Botanic Garden in Washington, DC with the theme: Gardens Grow Diversity. We were selected as one of only 14 public gardens, to share our Barrio culture with the millions of guests who enjoy Washington, DC over the summer.

Please help us celebrate Tucson’s traditional Mexican-American home gardens on a national stage – at the front door of the United States Botanic Garden, by giving a gift today.

LET’S GET PACKING

We need your help to purchase soil, plant material, flowers, herbs, succulents, pots, plywood, paint, signage, garden furnishings, and transportation.

The goal is to raise $32,000 by April 30, 2019 from the community through our online campaign on MightyCause.com/story/TBGtoDC.

Every gift, no matter the size, makes a difference.

Any gifts received over and above what is needed for the Road Trip and installation in Washington, D.C. will be used to support our home grown Barrio Garden, Nuestro Jardín.

THE DESIGN

Adobe walls and vibrant chile ristras will greet guests as they enter the garden through a doorway designed to look like the historic homes we know and love that reside in our Tucson Barrio neighborhoods.

Inside, corrugated metal and ocotillo fencing will surround the intimate space filled with brick paths, colorful metal chairs and raised flower beds. Talavera and terra cotta pots will display an abundant assortment of succulents, agave, annuals and fruit trees. The centerpiece will be a bare-branch tree decorated with lights, mementos, whimsical, and humorous keepsakes. Local families will be invited to contribute a few memorabilia to complement the installation.

Can you smell the cilantro?
Evening primroses are spreading and clumping groundcovers that add carpets of color to our desert gardens. They belong to the genus Oenothera which contains over 100 species of perennial and biennial plants native to North and South America.

Oenothera means “wine-scented” in Greek, referring to the historical use of the plant roots in wine making. This genus is in the family Onagraceae, the Evening Primrose Family, which also includes other desert favorites such as Calylophus (Sundrops), and Gaura species.

As the common name indicates, most evening primrose species open their flowers in the evening, usually closing them by early morning or midday. Other species flower in the day and close at night. Flowers do not re-open after they have closed.

Evening primroses are easily identified by their 4-petaled flower structure. Many species have large heart shaped petals and others are small cup-shaped. Most evening primroses have yellow, white, or pink flowers and a faint to strong fragrance at night.

Because most of the flowers open at night, evening primrose pollination is generally by sphinx and hawk moths. The resulting seed pods are knobby, elongated capsules. As the pods ripen they turn woody and split open, revealing and scattering many tiny seeds.

These plants attract nocturnal wild life and various mammals who like to eat the flowers and seed pods. They are also nectar food sources that attract butterflies and hummingbirds. The pods are a rich source of seeds for desert songbirds, especially finches.

Evening primroses are found throughout the Southwest in areas such as rocky prairies, woodlands, plains, meadows, deserts, and disturbed areas. They can succeed in poor garden situations and are popular ornamentals in our desert landscapes. Some of the more common and readily available, species include Oenothera caespitosa, O. speciosa, and O. stubbei.

The Mexican evening primrose (Oenothera speciosa) is a favorite for its showy masses of small, pinkish, cup-shaped blossoms. Contrary to its name, this evening primrose flowers during the day. The flowers release a slight fragrance in the evening.

This species blooms abundantly in the early spring and can continue to flower into the summer with adequate watering. When given more water however, the plants may become invasive due to

(continued on page 11, after the calendar insert)
Evening Primroses
(continued from page 6)

its spreading rhizomes (underground stems). The plants grow 12-18 inches high and 2-3 feet across but often go dormant in the heat of summer and cold of winter. Cutting back the foliage whenever it looks unsightly encourages new growth.

Mexican evening primrose can be used in borders and walkways, in containers, under desert trees, or in rock gardens and is a great soil stabilizer on banks. Many varieties such as pink ‘Siskiyou’, white ‘Alba’, and light pink ‘Rosea’ are available.

The tufted evening primrose (Oenothera caespitosa) blooms heavily in spring and continues into early summer. The large, white 3-4 inch flowers are showy and fragrant. They bloom in the evening, fading to pink as they close the next morning.

Plants form compact clumps 8-12 inches high and 2 feet wide with many narrow, fuzzy gray-green leaves and a thick taproot. It is a fast grower with dozens of flowers rising above the plant.

This evening primrose is evergreen in most areas but the foliage does turn red and drop off in cold weather. If the plant looks untidy, cut it back and it will rejuvenate for spring flowering. It is a short-lived perennial but reseeds easily in the garden.

Because of its large white flowers the tufted evening primrose is especially attractive when planted where it can be seen during the evening or early morning hours. The plant is small enough to plant along walkways, near pools, or as a low border.

Saltillio, or trailing yellow evening primrose (Oenothera stubbei) is a groundcover that forms rosettes of dark green foliage. It mounds to at least 12 inches tall, and spreads by above-ground runners that root where they touch the soil. This fast-growing evergreen plant can spread to a 4-foot diameter in two growing seasons but is considered to be non-invasive.

The 3-inch bright yellow flowers stand out against the lush mounding foliage. It blooms most heavily in spring, and sporadically throughout the year. This species gives a beautiful oasis effect under tree canopies or out in full sun, but does require more supplemental water than other evening primroses. The foliage will turn a deep red color in the cold winter months.

Evening primroses can be used in a variety of desert landscape situations. They are attractive when used in groupings, and as a groundcover or color accent under desert trees. They look beautiful in the mini-oasis zone of a xeriscape when mixed with other desert perennials like calylophus, salvias, and penstemons, and are an important plant in pollinator gardens.

Evening primroses can be planted from containers all year round so start looking for these plants now and get them planted and established for a spectacular spring display.

TIPS for Growing Evening Primroses

1. These plants prefer loose, fast-draining soil such as amended garden soil, or rocky native soil. Invasive species spread less in dry, infertile soils.

2. Water two to three times a week for the first few weeks, then a good soak once a week. Once established they can go even longer between watering. Over-watering will impede the bloom during very hot weather and may rot the plant.

3. Prefers full sun, but will tolerate filtered light. Given too much shade the plants will not bloom well.

4. Clean off dead leaves and seed pods to improve appearance. Some may require cutting back when they go dormant in extreme cold or heat situations.

5. Plants can be grown from seeds, stem and root cuttings, or divisions which readily root in the spring.

6. Tiny flea beetles can quickly chew up plants in the spring and fall, but are easily controlled by treating with a contact insecticide. White flies may also become a problem.
I'm finding that writing about spring and gardening was much easier to do in the Midwest. The pros flow freely when you haven't felt sunshine on your skin in months and you’re asked to dream about the world turning from gray to green. Without a severe winter, spring doesn’t inspire the intense feeling of rebirth. I remember the first time I experienced winter and spring living away from Tucson; the Ohio winter broke me and the spring brought me an existential awakening.

Last year, at the Tucson Botanical Gardens, I developed a new appreciation for the Southern Arizona spring. Instead of that awakening; spring here has an urgency. As the days get longer, the winter rains dry up and the temperatures begin to climb; the Gardens (and I’m referring to all life in the Gardens) hasten preparations for summer. There is so much to do: leafing out, flowering, nesting, hatching, shedding, seeding, cutting, feeding, shaping, transplanting, irrigating, mulching, etc., to finish before triple digit temperatures.

We have so many areas being revitalized around the Gardens. Among the new planting this year; the Bird Garden will embrace greater native biodiversity and companion planting. A section of the xeriscape is getting a rethink as we continue to expand beds and grow our collection. Then there is the new Native Bee habitat sculpture bed and agave pup bed that are getting some finishing touches. Our Tohono O’odham Garden is also being revitalized.

Our spring starts in February (before the last frost date). Any large transplanting needs to get done early so the mature plants have time to root in before the summer heat. If you are putting in frost sensitive perennials you will want to wait until your last frost date (in the Gardens it is the beginning of March), but don’t wait much longer. By April all the plant reshuffling and new perennial planting should be done, all garden beds fed and mulched. Then you can start planning and planting summer annuals.

Spring in Tucson may not be as dramatic a contrast to a frozen white winter, but it is just as dynamic as anywhere else on earth.

*Cephalophyllum regale*
Red Spike
Aizoaceae
WAYS TO GIVE TO THE GARDENS

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CASH
Gifts by check or credit card are the most popular giving methods.

GIFTS OF STOCK
Gifts of appreciated securities may provide you with significant tax benefits. For information on how to transfer these assets to the Tucson Botanical Gardens, please contact development@tucsonbotanical.org.

RETIREMENT ASSETS
Giving from your retirement account can be an excellent way to support the Gardens, and it provides tax benefits for many donors. For those over the age of 70 1/2, direct transfers to the Gardens could reduce taxes on required annual distributions. For those planning their future estates, gifts of retirement funds to the Gardens can benefit heirs and leave a legacy for the future.

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Gifts may be made by mail, telephone or by donating online www.tucsonbotanical.org/donate/

LEAVE A LEGACY

Why a Will or Estate Plan? Essentials to help your family and community
This is the time of year for the Tucson Botanical Gardens to host complimentary workshops featuring local attorneys who speak about how proper planning can benefit your loved ones and make a lasting difference in our community. These free workshops are open to anyone interested in a hands-on session about estate planning.

Since the Gardens’ beginnings 40 years ago, bequests and other planned gifts have had an enduring impact and provided vital support for Tucson Botanical Gardens’ mission. These gifts touch every department and program, supporting horticultural therapy, providing Butterfly Magic to countless school children, teaching new generations about gardening in the desert, and so much more.

Donors who have notified us of their intent to include the Gardens in their wills or estate plans are recognized with membership in the Penstemon Society.

FREE WORKSHOPS

WILLS AND ESTATE PLANNING IN ARIZONA
Attorney Kay Richter will offer guidance for those just starting to plan, and for those who may need to make updates.

Tuesday, March 19th at 4:30 – 6:00 pm
RSVP by March 14th

ARE YOU RAISING CHILDREN?
Estate Planning Seminar for Parents and Grandparents
Whether you are a parent of young children or teens, or a grandparent caring for grandkids in your home, Kay Richter will present what you need to know to protect their futures.

Monday, March 25th, at 6:00 – 7:30 pm
RSVP by March 20th

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RSVP to 326-9686 ext. [STAR] *25 or email development@tucsonbotanical.org

The Gardens is proud to present Kay Richter, a nationally recognized attorney who for 30 years has focused solely on estate planning and elder law. She has previously spoken at the Gardens and received high ratings for her clear presentation style, focus on information relevant to the audience, and ability to explain the benefits of proper planning.
Thank You

...to all of our Annual Fund Donors and Supporters

The Board and Staff are very grateful for the support of the following Annual Fund donors, whose gifts have enabled the Gardens to flourish. It is our privilege to recognize these families, individuals, organizations and businesses for the contributions that were received between October 1 and December 31, 2018.

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Memorials & Tributes

Tucson Botanical Gardens has been nurtured by the encouragement and support of our members, their families and executors. In every case the inspiration for each gift and bequest is personal and yet one particular theme seems to be shared by all. The Gardens is an enchanting place that allows guests to take a deep breath and experience nature’s beauty.

Tell us what has touched your heart and live your life knowing that your legacy gift will provide enduring inspiration for future generations. development@tucsonbotanical.org (520) 326-9686 ext *25.

COMMEMORATIVE BRICK DONORS

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The Gardens and Gift Shop are open daily. Check website for details.

HOLIDAYS

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Portable looping system & wheelchairs available.

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The Urban
Garden Festival
+ PLANT SALE

MARCH 24, 2019 • 10:00 AM - 2:00 PM

Enjoy cooking demonstrations, grab a bite from one of our many food vendors, and enjoy live music in the beautiful springtime setting of the Tucson Botanical Gardens!

with support from
Zócalo MAGAZINE
GREEN THINGS
TUCSON LOCAL MEDIA
Gardens to the Grand Canyon: Orrino Botanical place in settings ranging from the Lake states forests, during their 21st program activities this week. "Big Sister" and McInnis organizers have joined forces from the Boys & Girls Clubs. Big brothers display photos by local youth. Ages 10 to 14. Photos on photography and outdoor learning. Photo on underrepresented communities with nature through Foundation committed to engaging youth from Parks in Focus. is a program of the National Park very Popular. 2019

Calendar of Upcoming Garden Events | March/April/May 2019

Education at the Gardens
COMMUNITY CLASSES & PROGRAMS
March/April/May 2019

WELLNESS

MINDFUL YOGA
4 Tuesdays or Thursdays, 8–9 am, $40/$32
5 Tuesdays or Thursdays, 8–9 am, $50/$40
Vivianne Uyeda

TAI CHI
4 Fridays, 10:30–11:30 am, $40/$32
5 Fridays, 10:30–11:30 am, $50/$40
Harold Crim

GARDEN MEDITATION
4 Tuesdays, 11–11:45 am, $40/$32
5 Tuesdays, 11–11:45 am, $50/$40
The Yoga Connection

LANGUAGE OF FLOWERS
Saturday, 3/2, 10:30 am–12 pm, $40/$32
Tamara Read, Chantilly Tea

ESSENTIAL OILS FOR GREEN CLEANING
Saturday, 3/23, 10 am–12 pm, $35/$28
Kerry Blank, Catalina Aromatherapy

SCONES & SCRUBS
Saturday, 3/30, 10 am–12 pm, $55/$44
Tamara Read and Kerry Blank

AROMATHERAPY FOR BETTER SLEEP
Saturday, 4/13, 10 am–12 pm, $35/$28
Kerry Blank, Catalina Aromatherapy

FROM COCOA BEAN TO CHOCOLATE BAR: ORIGINS & PROCESSES OF CHOCOLATE
Sunday, 4/28, 12:30–3:30 pm, $85/$68
Michelle Renee Baldwin and Eric Gilbert

ART

DRAWING BIRDS
Saturday, 3/2, 1–4 pm, $65/$52
Saraiya Kanning, The Drawing Studio

PEWTER HUMMINGBIRD & FLOWER
Wednesday, 3/6, 1–4 pm, $60/$48
Don Norris

WATERCOLOR DESERT PLANTS
Friday, 3/8, 9 am–12 pm, $65/$52
Devon Meyer

FLOWER PORTraits IN PASTEL
Friday, 3/15, 9 am–2 pm, $100/$80
Susan T. Fisher

BIRDS OF THE DESERT
Wednesday, 3/20, 10 am–4 pm, $140/$112
Mosaic Guys

CACTUS PORTRAITs
Saturday, 3/23, 1–4 pm, $65/$52
Saraiya Kanning, The Drawing Studio

HERBS IN INk
Tuesday, 4/2, 9 am–12 pm, $60/$48
Pauline Savage

PINE NEEDLE CASTING
Wednesday, 4/3, 1–4 pm, $70/$56
Don Norris

MOSAIC PLANter CLASS
Friday, 4/5, 10 am–4 pm, $140/$112
Mosaic Guys

NATURE & ECOLOGY

HUMMINGBIRDS: FLYING JEWELS
Friday, 3/8, 10 am–12 pm, $20/$16
Jeff Babson, Sky Island Tours

MAMMALS OF ARIZONA
Friday, 4/12, 10 am–12 pm, $20/$16
Jeff Babson, Sky Island Tours

LIZARDS OF SOUTHERN ARIZONA
Friday, 5/10, 10 am–12 pm, $20/$16
Jeff Babson, Sky Island Tours

BOTANICAL ARTS

IKEBANA FOR EVERYONE
Thursdays, 3/7, 3/21, 4/4 and 4/18, 9:30–11:30 am, $125/$100
Ohara School of Ikebana

THE FUNDAMENTALS OF LOW CENTERPIECE FLORAL DESIGN
Tuesday, 4/9, 9–11:30 am, $110/$88
Tanya Kratz, In Full Bloom Floral Studio

TABLETOP SPRing PLANter
Saturday, 5/8, 10 am–12 pm, $75/$60
Garden Docents, Donna Osborn and Jennifer Walker

GARDENING
SUMMER CAMPS

Budding Botanist Camp (Ages 6-8)

Under the Soil (Ages 9-11)

Youth Camp Session 1:

YOUTH CAMPS SESSION 2:

Can History Predict the Future?

Climate Change and Forests

From Russia with Heat: An Arctic River

And its Tree-Ring Tracks

MONSOON STORIES FROM THE SKY ISLANDS

The Wisdom of Trees: Rooted in Science
MAKING HERBAL BODY BUTTERS
Friday, 5/3, 10am–12 pm, $50/$40
Linda Sherwood, Desert Offerings

MOTHER’S DAY SPRING TEA
Saturday, 5/11, 11:30am–1 pm, $65/$52
Tamara Read, Chantilly Tea

AROMATHERAPY DIFFUSER BLENDS
Saturday, 5/18, 10am–12 pm, $35/$28
Kerry Blank, Catalina Aromatherapy

DESSERT FLOWERS IN COLORED PENCILS
Friday, 4/12, 9 am–12 pm, $60/$48
Devon Meyer

GESTURE AND CONTOUR: DRAWING AS A PROCESS OF DISCOVERY
Sunday, 4/14, 9 am–12 pm, $65/$52
Nancy Chilton, The Drawing Studio

SKETCHING SUCCULENTS
Thursday, 4/18, 1–4 pm, $65/$52
Saraiya Kanning, The Drawing Studio

SIMPLE SILVERMAKING
Wednesday, 5/1, 1–4 pm, $60/$48
Don Norris

BEAUTIFUL DESERT BIRDS
Friday, 5/10, 9 am–12 pm, $65/$52
Devon Meyer

PLANTING YOUR SPRING GARDEN
Saturday, 3/9, 10 am–12 pm, $15/$12
Michael Ismail, Thrive and Grow Garden

TIPS & TOOLS FOR SEASONAL TREE PRUNING
Wednesday, 3/13, 10 am–12 pm, $15/$12
Jason Isenberg, REALM

HYPERTUFA POT WORKSHOP
Fridays, 3/29–4/5, 9–11 am, $30/$24
Jennifer Walker, Garden Docent

Thursday, 4/4, 2–4 pm, $15/$12
Michael Ismail, Thrive and Grow Garden

SUSTAINABILITY MADE SIMPLE
Wednesday, 4/17, 10 am–12 pm, $15/$12
Jason Isenberg, REALM

BOUNTFUL HOT WEATHER GARDENING
Tuesday, 5/7, 10 am–12 pm, $15/$12
Michael Ismail, Thrive and Grow Garden

REGISTRATION AND CANCELLATION

MEMBER DISCOUNTS
Tucson Botanical Gardens members receive a 20% discount on most education programs (some restrictions may apply). Please visit https://www.tucsonbotanical.org/membership/ to become a member today!

PREREEGISTRATION
Preregistration is required for all classes. Payment must be made in advance to reserve a spot. Registration is available online at www.tucsonbotanical.org or by phone (520) 326-9686 ext. *18. You will receive an email confirmation with your online purchase.

CLASS CANCELLATIONS
Tucson Botanical Gardens reserves the right to cancel classes due to insufficient registration, Garden closure, or inclement weather. Participants will be notified by email or phone and receive a full refund.

REFUNDS
No refunds will be issued for missed classes or cancellations less than seven business days before the date of the class.

SPECIAL NEEDS
People with disabilities should request accommodations as early as possible to allow time to make appropriate arrangements.

QUESTIONS?
For additional questions about classes and programs, please email education1@tucsonbotanical.org or call (520) 326-9686 ext. *39.