One touch of nature makes the whole world kin

— William Shakespeare

Let’s for just one minute imagine that, when William Shakespeare wrote his famous speech for Ulysses, he was really foreshadowing the outcome of the Gardens’ Barrio to D.C. project, or last year’s blooming of Rosie the Corpse plant, or merely a moment when you may have gathered with friends in the Gardens’ café while watching a hummingbird flit around the Xeriscape patio. It’s a stretch I know, but Shakespeare’s declaration is as valid then, as it is today.

June through October, residents, and visitors to D.C. will have the opportunity to learn a little bit about Tucson and TBG through our Barrio Garden installation on the steps of the U.S. Botanic Garden. Yes, they’ll learn about desert plants, “Is that stick with the pickers (ocotillo) from the desert?” Our photo album on the next few pages will give you a glimpse of the process and the finished product. What isn’t revealed in pictures, is the interaction our staff had with D.C. residents and visitors. “This is my grandfather’s garden,” said one woman as she patted her heart. “He lived in Guatemala.” From our daily experience working on the grounds, conversations like that will take place between strangers, friends, and family every day as they sit on the colorfully painted lawn chairs, or inspect the latest memento left on the ofrenda.

I couldn’t agree more with my colleague, Maureen Heffernan, former Executive Director of the Coastal Maine Botanical Gardens who noted, “Gardens provide beauty on a scale that most people would never see or experience unless a public garden created it.” But, there’s a second layer to our purpose: Gardens naturally encourage conversation, storytelling, and a sense of community. This project, like so many others that we’ve undertaken, is an exercise in team and community building. Phone calls and emails arrived with a single question, “How can I help?” Help you did. Your expression of appreciation and support fueled our creativity and determination to do it right, and finish on time. Your enthusiasm was the final motivation needed on a hot, humid D.C. evening as our staff – Ashley, Rob, Christine, and Adam set the final potted Palo Verde in place.

The word “unity” is a common phrase in garden design. Designers work on unifying patterns, shapes, colors, themes, and hardscape. A unifying design creates a common thread which helps us makes sense of the design and, in the end, creates a space that is personal – reflecting an individual’s personality or the cultural essence of a community.

As we marvel at the outpouring of support we received and dream about the stories that will be shared in our Gardens near and far; the word “unity” takes on an entirely new meaning in Garden lingo.

Thank you, Mr. Shakespeare, and thank you, Garden Friends!

W. Michelle
Summer

Mission Statement:
The Tucson Botanical Gardens connects people with plants and nature through art, science, history and culture.

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Cover:
TBG staff in Washington, DC with our Barrio Garden Exhibit

This newsletter is published quarterly by Tucson Botanical Gardens and mailed as a benefit to members. All photos by Gardens staff and volunteers unless otherwise noted.
Directed by Rob Elias
Designed by Theresa Reindl Bingham

Duplicate Mailings?
If so, please contact Membership at (520) 326-9686, ext. *13.

Please visit TucsonBotanical.org to see our D.C. Barrio Garden photo album.
GARDENS ACROSS AMERICA

Tucson Botanical Gardens is one of 14 public gardens featured in a summer outdoor garden installation hosted by the U.S. Botanic Garden called Gardens Across America from May 24 - October 1, 2019. Each participating garden highlights the plant diversity, regional characteristics, styles, and mission of their home garden with an outdoor vignette on the grounds of the U.S. Capitol and surrounding the United States Botanic Garden Conservatory. This exhibit gives visitors a deeper understanding and appreciation of botanical gardens throughout the country. Additionally, hundreds of professionals attending the American Public Gardens Association’s annual conference in Washington, D.C. will celebrate and enjoy the exhibition this June.

When the U.S. Botanic Garden shared a call for proposals in summer 2018, Executive Director, Michelle Conklin, and TBG staff immediately decided that a version of our beloved Barrio Garden (or Nuestro Jardin) belonged in this exhibit. A barrio garden is intimately Tucson, reflecting the values and traditions of our Mexican American community and also expressing a personal and popular southwestern garden aesthetic. While each barrio garden in a Mexican neighborhood is as individual as the abuela (grandmother) who grew it, they are united by some common interests: children play here; families come together to celebrate special occasions like birthdays or anniversaries with piñatas, barbecues, and music; or one may simply sit here in quiet prayer and reflection.

With the help of landscape architect, Maria Voris, who created the necessary planting and concept design, we put together a proposal for a 375 square foot garden. The U.S. Botanic Garden accepted our proposal and selected our garden to be one of two featured gardens on either side of the entrance to the Conservatory. With the help of dozens of organizations and individuals over many months, we began to gather the resources and build the garden.

Facilities Specialist, Rob Egan, used lessons learned from our 2017 exhibit “Frida Kahlo: Art, Garden, Life” to build lightweight faux adobe walls that could stand on their own because we could not anchor anything into the...
existing hardscape at U. S. Botanic Garden. Rob designed frameworks to stand corrugated metal on edge and engineered all the built components of the garden for safety, longevity, and to look realistic. Horticulture Manager, Adam Farrell-Wortman, refined our plant list for the D.C. climate and collected, cared for and potted up plants. Civano Growers, Mesquite Valley Growers, and Jesus Garcia generously donated plants, especially those that are unique to our desert region to the project. Volunteers, garden staff and friends of the garden collected furnishings and items to upcycle for the project including an antique wheelbarrow, a wire birdcage, and many well-loved terra cotta pots.

Our friends at Civano Growers shipped all the plants and materials that we assembled and collected locally in a refrigerated semi-truck called a “reefer.” An installation team of six people consisted of four TBG staff members including Rob Egan, Christine Flores, Adam Farrell-Wortman, and Ashley Pedersen and joined by Maria Voris and Thomas Staudt who flew to Washington D.C. on May 15. The team met the truck at 6 a.m. on May 16, unloaded more than 15 pallets and racks of plants and materials and set to work. The team installed the infrastructure of the garden on the first day including a doorway designed to look like an adobe home painted in a brilliant “Frida Kahlo” blue. Another faux adobe wall and corrugated metal and ocotillo fencing completed the impression of a courtyard garden. Shorter corrugated metal borders created two large garden beds on either side of the entrance. Crushed gravel designed to mimic desert soil finished the interior floor.

On the second day, the team installed more than 75 distinct species of plants which included roses, fruit trees, succulents, herbs, and annuals to fill the garden beds, talavera and terra cotta pots and upcycled times including an old tire and mailbox. The east garden bed features edible plants including rosemary, cilantro, and Indian fig prickly pear. The west garden bed features more ornamental plants such as purple heart, a variety of roses, but also contains useful plants such as aloe vera, a mission fig, and loquat.

Hand-painted by Stella Lopez, a shrine to our Lady of Guadalupe sits atop a platform of adobe blocks (donated by George Montgomery) created out of sand from the Santa Cruz River. Dozens of reused household items decorate the space and give it a sense that a family has lived in and loved the garden. Considering every tiny detail, even the plant stakes used to support some of the larger trees were made of dry cholla stems and saguaro ribs. The team finished installing the garden sooner than expected, so the final morning was spent mulching, watering, and general priming.

Visitors, including several Tucsonans, leaned over the ocotillo fencing to ask us questions about this distinct garden, to congratulate us, and take selfies with the striking blue walls even before we were finished with the installation. Tucson Botanical Gardens is thrilled to show off a taste of our garden and participate in this wonderful exhibition at the U. S. Botanic Gardens. We are grateful for the opportunity and for everyone who contributed to our MightyCause campaign to make the project possible. Some other very special contributors that were not mentioned above include Eric Johnson, Dave at Mikey Block, Colonial Frontiers, Wesley Fawcett Creigh, Jennifer Casados and Borderlands Trading Company, Elyse Benson, Barbara Kuelbs, Shiela Zeuch, Lucy Netsch, Kathy McDaniel, and many other volunteers and friends of Tucson Botanical Gardens.
Rose Trials begin at TBG

Adam Farrell-Wortman,
Tucson Botanical Gardens, Horticulture Manager

For the next two years, TBG will be participating in the American Rose Trials for Sustainability (ARTS). Our scientific trial beds are not in our public space, but we have an example trial bed on the Alvernon side of our West Wall. We are proud to support this research to develop a more ecologically friendly sustainable rose.

Roses have been in cultivation for over 5,000 years. Through the millennia breeders have focused on making them prettier, bigger, smaller, perfume, more colorful, more prolific, etc. All this breeding has made roses one of the neediest plants in the garden. Roses tend to be highly susceptible to pest and disease. In order to get a decent show they require a lot of additional input, both in labor and fertilizer.

For Gardeners who love roses, babying them is a joy. For everyone else, they are a prickly pricy pain, but they’re pretty (sometimes). The ARTS program has issued a challenge to breeders: give us a good performing rose that doesn’t require lots of resources. There are thirteen varieties that are being tested against the current industry standard for landscaping roses. The trial roses range in color from whites, yellows, oranges, reds and a few in between.

ARTS recognizes that sustainability is directly tied to place, so we are one of nine regions conducting trials. A sustainable rose in Tucson is resistant to pests and disease and it continues to flower without constant deadheading and fertilization. It will still require additional water, but it needs to be able to grow in low water/drought and high heat conditions.

The ARTS programs strive for the highest of scientific methodological standards. Each site host plants three blocks of roses. Placement within each block is randomized. Each rose is anonymously graded twice a month by a standardized rubric. If participating roses outperform the industry standard they receive the Local Artist Award. If a rose receives a Local Artist Award in four separate regions it is given the ARTS Master Rose title.

A rose by any other name may smell as sweet. However, a rose with the title ARTS Master Rose smells a lot sweeter when you know it’s better for the planet.
continued on book

Aromatherapy for Mind & Mood

Blends of essential oils can create a sense of relaxation and well-being. Each blend is designed to enhance specific qualities of mind, body, and soul. Join us as we explore the benefits of aromatherapy.

Saturday, 9/7, 10 am-12 pm $35/228

Essential Oils for Aches & Pains

Learn about the therapeutic properties of essential oils and how to use them to relieve pain and discomfort.

Tuesday, 8/10, 10 am-12 pm $35/228

Mindful Yoga

Practice mindful yoga to connect with your body, mind, and spirit. This class is gentle and accessible for all levels.

Tuesday, 8/10, 5 pm-7 pm $40/32

Garden Meditation

Experience the peacefulness of nature and the power of meditation. This class is suitable for all levels.

Thursday, 8/12, 11 am-12 pm $40/32

Wellness Calendar of Upcoming Garden Events | June / July / August / September 2019

Tucson Botanical Gardens
COMMUNITY CLASSES & PROGRAMS

All materials are included unless otherwise indicated. June / July / August / September 2019

ART

DRAWING AS MEDITATION
Sunday, 8/18, 1–4 pm, $65/$52
Drawing increases our powers of observation, opening our eyes to the nuances of our visual world. In this class presented by The Drawing Studio, we will put aside our busy schedules and daily concerns to spend quiet moments drawing in the garden. We will notice lines, shadows, and textures that our eyes might otherwise gloss over. Drawing will become a tool for clearing the mind and bringing our fullest attention to the present moment. No prior experience necessary. Graphite and ink. All materials included.

DRAWING AND PAINTING DESERT ANIMALS
Sunday, 8/25, 1–4 pm, $65/$52
The Sonoran Desert is home to a menagerie of heat-adapted critters! From javelinas to jackrabbits, learn about desert wildlife while exploring foundational drawing skills in this class presented by The Drawing Studio. We will add vibrancy to our illustrations with a splash of watercolor. No prior experience necessary. Graphite and watercolor. All materials included.

DRAWING AND PAINTING LEAVES
Saturday, 9/7, 9 am–12 pm, $65/$52
Discover the diversity of leaf shapes in our local ecosystems through art! In this class presented by The Drawing Studio, learn about a few common southeast Arizona plants while drawing their leaves. We’ll bring our sketches to life with watercolor. Graphite and watercolor. All materials included.

BOTANICAL ARTS

IKEBANA FOR EVERYONE
Thursdays, 9/19, 10/3, 10/17 and 10/31, 9:30–11:30 am, $125/$100
Create beauty and reduce stress through Ikebana, the ancient Japanese art of arranging flowers in the style most pleasing to the eye. Learn from the Ohara School of Ikebana whose instruction is the result of 600 years of evolving artistic development in Japan. Develop your practice incrementally over four sessions. Price includes a container and kenzan to take home and flowers for each session.

GARDENING

DIY IRRIGATION
Friday, 6/21, 2p-4p, $15/$12
The importance of proper watering techniques cannot be overemphasized! It is very common to have plant problems caused by poor watering practices, which include underwatering, overwatering and inconsistent watering. In this class, expert gardener Michael Ismail teaches you about the best equipment and irrigation methods which you can use to help eliminate these problems and will show you tips on how to get a pro-grade irrigation system on a DIY budget!
NATURE & ECOLOGY

CAUGHT IN A WEB: AMAZING ARACHNIDS
Friday, 6/14, 10am–12 pm, $20/$16
Arachnids include such eight-legged creatures as spiders, scorpions, and daddy long legs. Many fear these remarkable animals, however this class with Jeff Babson of Sky Island Tours seeks to dispel any such apprehensions while introducing participants to the curious world of arachnids.

AGAVES 101
Friday, 6/28, 10–11:30 am, $15/$12
Greg Starr, owner of Starr Nursery, pairs pretty pictures with informative comparisons to help the plant lovers better understand this vast and ever-changing genus. The presentation begins with the basics of Agave taxonomy, nomenclature, and classification. Then, using pictures of plants in habitat, Greg compares the two subgenera, Littaea and Agave. He shows how the plants differ and how some characteristics such as flower stalks and offsetting vs. solitary are similar among species.

BOUNTEOUS BEETLES
Friday, 7/12, 10am–12 pm, $20/$16
As the single largest group of animals on the planet, beetles are something of a contradiction: they may be beneficial predators or pests, brightly colored or dull. They can range in size from a pinhead to a closed fist. Led by Jeff Babson, this course introduces participants to the amazing diversity of beetles, with emphasis on local species.

DRAGONS & DAMSELS
Friday, 8/9, 10am–12 pm, $20/$16
With a color palette to rival the most flamboyant of birds and butterflies, Dragonflies and Damselflies have gained certain popularity among amateur naturalists. This presentation with Jeff Babson of Sky Island Tours introduces participants to these wonderful bugs, delving into classification, identification, and diversity of species in Southern Arizona.

MONSOON SEASON VEGETABLE GARDENING
Wednesday, 7/17, 10am–12 pm, $15/$12
Nothing makes a plant grow better than rain! This fresh, nitrogen rich water along with slightly cooler temperatures are the main reasons why native people in this region traditionally planted their crops to coincide with the start of the monsoon rains. Come learn how to take advantage of this great planting opportunity with expert gardener Michael Ismail!

RAISED BED GARDENING
Tuesday, 8/6, 10am–12 pm, $15/$12
Get a jump on the fall planting season by learning the ins and outs of vegetable gardening in raised beds. You will learn about designing a raised bed, which materials to use, construction tips, plant protection methods, soil building, and more!

AGAVES: LIVING SCULPTURES FOR LANDSCAPES AND CONTAINERS
Friday, 8/23, 10–11:30 am, $15/$12
Why are agaves "living sculptures for landscapes and containers?" While some people might say agaves all look the same, Greg Starr, owner of Starr Nursery, shows how the individual characteristics that make each agave species contribute to the modern Southwestern landscape. Starr will share over 20-years of passion for agaves and describe how they can serve as a focal point in modern desert landscape design.

PREPARING YOUR ROSES FOR THE FALL BLOOM
Wednesday, 9/18, 10–11 am, $15/$12
Join Terry Swartz, President of the Rose Society of Tucson and Consulting Rosarian, to learn how to prepare you roses to bloom this November. This hands-on demonstration will illustrate how to prune, feed, and keep pests at bay.
QUESTIONS

Allow time to make appropriate arrangements.
People with disabilities should request accommodations as early as possible to

SPECIAL NEEDS

Date of the class. A $5 cancellation fee will be applied to all refunds.
No refunds will be issued for missed classes or cancellations less than seven business days before the

REFUNDS

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

CLASS CANCELLATIONS

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

PRE-REGISTRATION

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

MEMBER DISCOUNTS
Daily 7:30 am to 4:30 pm
Thursdays and Fridays
open until 8:00 pm

Now through September 30th, your 4-legged friends will be allowed to enjoy the Gardens just as much as you. Admission for your dog will be $3 per dog for a daily pass or if you’re a member, your pet can enjoy unlimited access to the Gardens through September with a dog membership for $20.

Each dog membership comes with a custom canine membership card and must be added to your existing TBG membership. Additional dog memberships may be purchased at $10 each. Purchase yours online now or visit us in person in the gift shop.

DOGGIE TREATS

Bring your pooch to dine all summer long! Take a look at the Café Botánica special Dog Days menu, available now through September 30th.

Doggie Biscuit  $2.50
Our hand-made dog biscuit with sweet potato, coconut, house-rendered lard & fresh parsley

The Double Check Hamburger  $7.00
Just as delicious as we would make it for you! Top it with raw (or cooked) organic free-range egg for an additional $2.

Chicken & Rice  $7.00
Jasmine rice plus all the juiciest parts of the chicken... liver, gizzard & kidneys. Top it with a raw (or cooked) organic free-range egg for an additional $2.

DOG PORTRAITS

Wednesday, June 19th from 7:30 am to 9:30 am
Wednesday, September 4th from 7:30 am to 9:30 am
Mark your calendars and primp your pup for Dog Portraits in the Gardens. Renowned Tucson photographer Vicky Stromee will be holding pet portrait sessions with our lush campus as her backdrop. No pre-registration required.

- $10.00 portrait of one dog, two images emailed
- $15.00 portrait of one dog, two images emailed and two 4×6 photo prints mailed
- Multiple furry friends?
Receive $5.00 off above rates for each additional dog

Pet Communicator/Medium

Friday, June 21st from 5:00 pm to 8:00 pm
Friday, September 6th from 5:00 pm to 8:00 pm
Just because animals do not speak English does not mean they fail to communicate. Pet Communicator and Medium, Ann Marie Hoff, gets messages from animals in a variety of ways. Whether it be an animal from the other side, a pet at home, or the pup you brought along for Dog Days in the Gardens, Ann uses her experience and insight to bridge the communication gap between you and your beloved pet.

This is a special ticketed event for all members and guests.
Members participating with their pet: $10 but their pet is free. Non-Members: pay general admission
TICKETS WILL GO ON SALE THE DAY OF THE EVENT AND WILL BE LIMITED TO 40 TICKETS.
Edible figs are native to the hot, dry regions of the Mediterranean. This makes them an excellent fruit and ornamental tree for desert landscapes in Arizona. Having a fig tree growing in your own backyard can be a real summer treat. Not only can you pick your own fresh figs, but you also have the added benefit of a lovely canopy of cooling shade.

The common name “fig” comes from its genus name Ficus, a large group of plants that bears small to large figs, most of which are inedible. Common edible figs are one of the oldest, most attractive, and valuable of all fruit trees worldwide. They were first brought to the Western Hemisphere by the Spaniards in the early 16th century. Spanish missionaries later planted many fig trees while establishing their missions in California.

Fig trees are deciduous, dropping their leaves in late fall and leafing out again in early spring. The large, deeply lobed leaves are tropical in appearance. They can be a large shrub or small tree, usually growing to a height of 20-30 feet, but can be kept pruned to under 10 feet. Their branches are bulky and twisting, spreading wider than they are tall, forming a large rounded canopy. Robust gray trunks are gnarled in really old trees and can be very picturesque. When mature, a dormant fig tree can survive winter temperatures of 12-15°F, but plants in active growth can be damaged at 30°F.

Because of their pliable branches, most fig trees are easily trained to grow against a wall or fence. East and south facing walls are preferred giving them enough sun and heat to grow well without the problem of sun-scall on their trunks and branches.

Figs are not a tree for small places so choose a planting location carefully. These trees can become enormous, and will shade out other plants that you try to grow beneath them. Their roots are invasive and will spread way beyond the tree canopy. Also, keep in mind that figs can be quite messy. Besides the fall leaf pick up, dropping fruit can stain walkways and patios and also attract bees and other insects.

Fig trees are resistant to most insects and diseases, making them very easy to grow. A common summer pest however is an overabundance of Fig Beetles, (Cotinus
TIPS for growing fig trees:

1. Fig trees require regular deep watering. During hot and dry conditions they need to be watered every 3 to 5 days. In the winter months water deeply once every two weeks.

2. Set out new trees in spring, planting them 2-4 inches deeper than its root ball. Plant trees at least 20 feet from buildings and other trees.

3. Most figs need full sun all day and prolonged high temperatures to bear good fruit.

4. Fig trees don’t usually need regular fertilization unless they are grown in containers. Excess nitrogen promotes excessive growth at the expense of fruit production.

5. Fig trees prefer good drainage but are tolerant of poorly drained soils and grow well in relatively infertile soils.

6. Most fig tree varieties are productive with or without heavy pruning. Shape trees lightly during the dormant season and remove dead, diseased, broken or crossing branches. Do not prune heavily in late spring or summer as this will expose the bark to strong sunlight and result in sunburn injury to the trunk and main branches.

In the Arizona desert are the ‘Brown Turkey’ and ‘Black Mission’ figs. ‘Brown Turkey’ figs are a medium-sized, flavorful fruit with brownish-purple skin. The fruit is best eaten fresh and is not good for canning or drying. ‘Black Mission’ figs produce sweet, dark purple figs with a pink interior that can be eaten fresh, dried, or canned. Many other varieties, such as ‘Janice Seedless Kadota,’ ‘Desert King,’ ‘Conadria,’ ‘Black Jack,’ and ‘White Genoa’ are also readily available in local nurseries.

Many people enjoy figs because of their unique taste and texture. They can be eaten fresh (peeled or unpeeled), dried, stewed, or cooked in various ways as in pies, bread, or other bakery products. Some people like to preserve the whole fruit in sugar syrup or process them as jam, marmalade, or paste. Once picked the ripe fruit does not keep or transport well, so most commercial production of figs is mainly in dried, or other processed forms for use in products such as fig bars.

Figs have been an important food crop for thousands of years and are highly beneficial in the diet. They are noted to be a natural tonic for energy and vitality because they have a high sugar content and are a good source of vitamins A, B2, and B6. Figs are also one of the highest plant sources of calcium and fiber.

Latex that is extracted from fig trees has many medicinal and culinary uses. Fig seeds produce an edible oil that can also be used as a lubricant... In some cultures the leaves of the fig are eaten regularly because they have been shown to have antidiabetic properties and are used in the treatment of jaundice.

People love to grow figs for their fruit and their tropical-looking foliage. The attractive trunk and branching structure make it an eye-catching ornamental tree. If you have a large open space you may want to consider planting a fig tree and show it off with some semi-tropical shrubs to create a beautiful mini-oasis in your home garden.
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 January 1 and April 30, 2019.

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...to our new and renewing Saguaro, Octillo, Agave and Cholla members from January 1 to April 30, 2019

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Elizabeth & C. Gilbert Storms

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Audey & John Finley
Davidson-Perry Miller

OCOTILLO

Mary & Bret Batchelor
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Davidson-Perry Miller

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Served family-style on a long shared farm table; join friends—new and old—for great food and conversation. Tour the Gardens and dance to the music. Get to know your neighbors and talk with the farmers that have dedicated their lives to making a difference in our community and the quality of our local food.

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