

MSU IN BLOOM

MSU HORTICULTURE GARDEN NEWS



IN THIS ISSUE

ANNUAL FALL HOUSEPLANT & SUCCULENT SALE |VIP SALE|SPRING PLANT SALE
RECAP |VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES |GARDEN MEMBERSHIP | AHS GARDEN
SPOTLIGHT

| BEHIND THE BRICK| ESPALIER FRUIT PLANTINGS| VENUE UPGRADES|THE
GARDEN HANGOUT SERIES| MGPT| THE GARDEN WORKSHOP | PRIDE PEAR|
MANGROVE 3D |WILBIR SPOTLIGHT| CAKE IN THE GARDEN|WINTER RENTALS

UPCOMING EVENTS & SAVE THE DATES

2026 VIP Fall Houseplant & Succulent Sale Party

November 5th 4-7 PM

Eleventh Annual Fall Houseplant & Succulent Sale

November, 6th 8am-4PM

2026 FALL HOUSEPLANT & SUCCULENT SALE



Eleventh Annual
HOUSEPLANT & SUCCULENT SALE

**NOVEMBER 6th,
2026 8AM-4PM**

Grow your collection and help support the gardens!

**Join us for our annual fall plant sale fundraiser,
featuring succulents, cacti, and lush foliage plants.**

Become a member to shop our early bird sale!

MSU HORTICULTURE GARDENS
1066 BOGUE STREET
PLANT & SOIL SCIENCES BLDG
EAST LANSING, MI, 48824

MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY | Horticulture Gardens

Support the gardens and grow your plant collection!

Join us for our Eleventh Annual Houseplant & Succulent Sale!

As the gardens begin to die down, it's the perfect time to bring home a new houseplant or a cute succulent to brighten and cozy up your space.

Whether you are an experienced collector or a new plant parent, we have a plant ready for you to adopt and add to your collection! Our knowledgeable staff and friendly volunteers will be available to assist as you explore and stroll through our sale.

Members of our gardens get to enjoy early shopping perks, being able to join our VIP sale on Thursday, November 5th from 4-7 pm or you can purchase a ticket to attend. The VIP sale is not only a sale, but a party with so many perks! Tickets will be live in the coming weeks.

We look forward to seeing you there! 😊🌿

VIP PLANT PARTY



Members can enjoy \$1 off a drink from Peculiar Coffee Co. & enjoy our VIP party!

- Get FIRST PICK of the plants
- Members save 10%
- Dance & shop with First Dance DJs
- Snap a pic at our plant-lover selfie station



- Explore our Plant Lovers Market
- Shop & connect with local businesses
- Meet some special animal friends from Preuss Pets, just for our VIP guests!



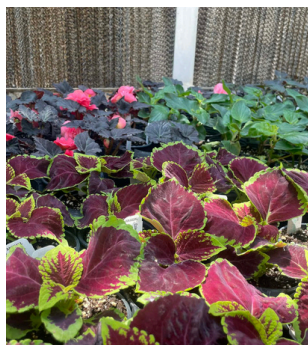
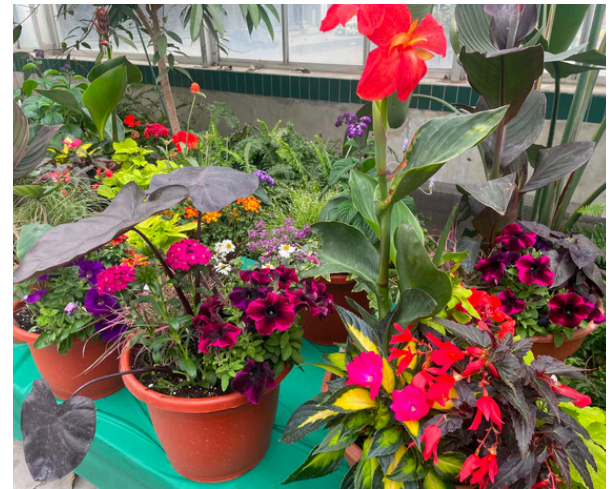
SPRING PLANT SALE RECAP



A Thriving Spring Plant Sale in 2026!

This year's spring plant sale generated tremendous excitement, resulting in our most successful event to date!

A heartfelt thank you to everyone who came out to support our gardens, and a special shout-out to our incredible volunteers for making this year's sale a remarkable success!





WHAT HAPPENS TO ALL OF OUR VEGGIES AND HERBS AFTER THE SALE?



We make sure nothing goes to waste and are proud to support the Greater Lansing Food Bank through their incredible Garden Project program. The Garden Project supports nearly 90 community gardens and more than 6,000 home gardeners, helping feed over 10,000 people across mid-Michigan.

Their program provides:

- Access to community garden space
- Gardening education and resources
- Free seeds and plants
- Tool lending
- Connections and support for local gardeners



We're grateful that our leftover veggies and herbs can continue growing impact far beyond our sale by helping increase access to fresh, nutritious food throughout our community.



[Learn more about the amazing work they do here](#)



Eager to Garden with new friends?

Come volunteer with us!

The MSU Horticulture Gardens has 14 acres of beautiful garden space, located on the campus of MSU.

Our dedicated and passionate staff cherish the opportunity to work alongside our volunteers. Volunteers play a vital role in maintaining the beauty of our gardens for the community to Enjoy.

Volunteers assist us with a variety of tasks, including:

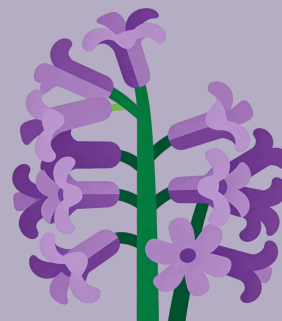
Garden maintenance

Organizing events

Conducting plant sales

Engage with visitors at our welcome booth

Join our volunteer team today and make a difference!



MICHIGAN STATE
UNIVERSITY

Horticulture
Gardens



2026 MEMBERSHIPS STILL BLOOMING

🌿 Become a Member of the MSU Horticulture Gardens 🌿

There's something special about having a place you can return to again and again. A place to wander, discover something new, watch the seasons change, and simply enjoy the beauty around you. ❤️

When you become a member of the MSU Horticulture Gardens, you're not only supporting our 14-acre living museum—you're helping us continue growing beautiful gardens, creating educational opportunities, supporting students, and keeping this special place thriving for our community.

🌱 Membership perks include:

🌟 Admission to more than 200 reciprocal gardens through our reciprocal membership program

🌿 Members-only access to our plant sales before they open to the public

🍷 10% off during our plant sales

❤️ The satisfaction of directly supporting the continued growth and care of the Gardens

Whether you visit every week or just a few times each season, your membership helps make the Gardens possible. Come grow with us. Become a member and make the Gardens part of your year. 🌿🌟

🌸 Learn more at https://www.canr.msu.edu/hrt/our_gardens/garden_memberships.

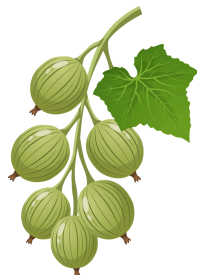
🌸 For other ways to give, visit https://www.canr.msu.edu/hrt/our_gardens/Donate-to-the-Gardens/.



**Thank you
for your
support!**

The Gardens Staff

AHS Garden Network Spotlight



Liberty Hyde Bailey Museum & Gardens



The Liberty Hyde Bailey Museum & Gardens is located in the birthplace and childhood home of Liberty Hyde Bailey, Jr., America's "Father of Modern Horticulture", and a founder of the "New Agrarian" philosophy. Located in South Haven, Michigan, it is a National Historic Site, garden, park, museum and educational outreach center.



Mission & Visiting the museum

The Mission of the Liberty Hyde Bailey Museum is to educate others about Dr. Liberty Hyde Bailey, and in doing so, celebrate his life, his work, his philosophy, and his legacy.



LIBERTY HYDE BAILEY AT THE MSU HORTICULTURE GARDENS



Did you know?

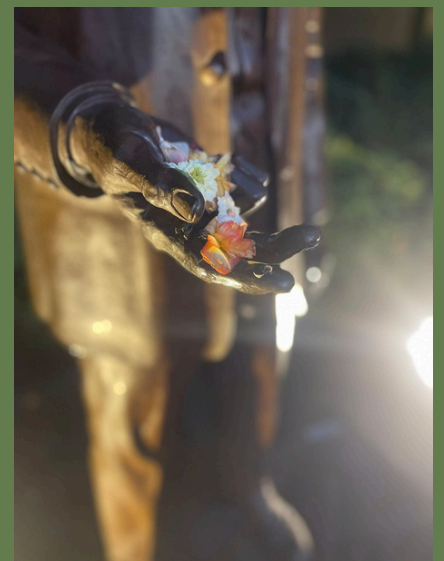
This life-size statue of Liberty Hyde Bailey is one of the largest and most recognizable features across our 14 acres of gardens.

Located in the Liberty Hyde Bailey Plaza within the Annual Trial Gardens, the statue honors the MSU alumnus and "Father of Modern Horticulture."

Over the years, it has become a beloved spot for visitors, many of whom leave a flower in his hands as a small tribute.



Have you ever left
a flower for Liberty
Hyde Bailey?



BEHIND THE BRICK

Every Brick Has a Story



WHAT INSPIRED YOU TO PLACE A BRICK IN THE GARDENS?

It was an anniversary gift for my husband! The day we got married, we took lots of photos in the gardens, and we had our reception there 1 year later on our anniversary.

**BRICK LOCATION:
THE PERENNIAL GARDEN WALKWAY**

Section: 22N Row: 6 Brick #: 6



What Does your brick honor or celebrate?

We had an outdoor pandemic wedding ceremony on campus in 2020, followed by our reception in the horticulture gardens in 2021.

What is your favorite part about visiting the gardens?

"They are so peaceful and beautiful!"



SHARE YOUR STORY

Through our Behind the Brick series, we honor stories in our community. Each brick is a reminder of the lives, legacies, celebrations, and memories amongst our gardens.

We're honored to hold these stories in our gardens and be a place of reflection.

If you have purchased a brick and would love to share your story, email us at hgardens@msu.edu

[Purchase your own commemorative brick here!](#)



**Mike & Terese Lawless
5/22/2020**



ESPALIER FRUIT PLANTINGS FOR NORTHERN GARDENS



Espalier Fruit Plantings for Northern Gardens

CREATING FRUIT TREES AS ART



3RD EDITION

RON PERRY, PHD & KRISTIN GETTER, PHD

**Looking for a new book and a way to support the gardens?
Check out this book!**

Espalier Fruit Plantings in Northern Gardens

Creating Fruit Trees as Art

3rd Edition

Dr. Ron Perry, Emeritus Professor, Department of Horticulture, Michigan State University

Dr. Kristin L. Getter, Michigan State University Horticulture Gardens Director Retired, Department of Horticulture, Michigan State University

Description:

Espalier is the practice of pruning and tying branches to a frame or trellis, in formal or informal patterns, flat against a structure such as a wall, fence, or trellis. It is an ancient art that allows the skilled gardener to train shoots in various designs and angular patterns often creating symmetry and artistic value while concurrently providing fruit for the table. In espalier, a design is developed which provides a roadmap for branch growth, development, and training. The gardener then actively directs growth to adhere to a selected or created design. Fruit production is not as important as the visual creation. The intrinsic value of espalier is that designs are an expression of artistic creativity and skill in gardening. Drs. Perry and Getter provide experienced gardeners with the information needed to successfully create an espalier planting. Learn about espalier and tree fruit terminology, species selection and fruiting requirements, site establishment and preparation, proper planting and care practices, training, management, and pruning. Appendix added to provide supportive and alternative images.

[Purchase the book on Amazon here!](#)



Royalties generated by book sales contributed by authors to MSU Horticulture Gardens.



ABOUT THE AUTHORS

Ron Perry, PhD,
Professor Emeritus
perryr@msu.edu

Kristin Getter, PhD



Dr. Perry earned his PhD in Horticulture at Texas A&M and went on to become a Professor in the Department of Horticulture at Michigan State University. He has more than 50 years' experience in fruit research and is recognized as a leading tree fruit pomologist due to his pioneering activities in support of the Michigan apple and cherry industries. He is now retired, but still maintains espalier plantings.

Dr. Getter earned her PhD in Horticulture at Michigan State University (MSU). She then went on to become faculty at MSU where she held multiple roles. She served the floriculture (ornamental) industry in Michigan, taught the next generation of horticulture professionals, and was the Director of the MSU Horticulture Gardens. Now in retirement, Kristin enjoys time in her own gardens.

VENUE UPDATES

CREATING DREAMY AMBIANCE

This summer, we collaborated with Tucker Event Agency to host a Whimsical Venue Open House. The event was designed to invite our current rental guests, as well as those dreaming of hosting an event at the gardens, to explore our beautifully decorated venue and connect with local vendors. It was a delightful experience, as we welcomed over 50 guests, featuring some of our favorite vendors like The Vintage Dish, Peculiar Coffee, and many others!



NEW LIGHTS IN THE CONSERVATORY

This past spring, we elevated the charm of our lovely conservatory by installing warm café lights that gracefully drape across the ceiling, creating a delightful ambiance for our events. This simple enhancement has brought joy to our rental guests, and we are eager to implement more improvements.



A SEASON OF VINTAGE WHIMSY

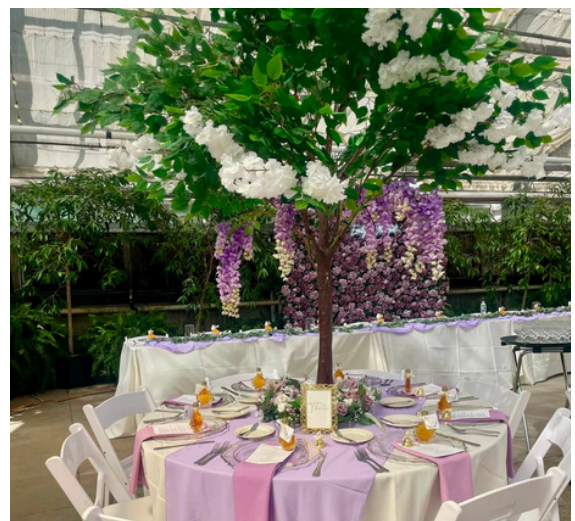


Vintage swans, brass candlesticks, hanging amaranthus, an abundance of florals, stone fruits, and whimsical wisteria filled the gardens with old-world charm this wedding season!

CUSTOMIZING OUR BLANK CANVAS VENUE

One of the delightful aspects of having a blank canvas garden venue is witnessing the various ways our couples personalize the space to reflect their vision. We hosted numerous events in both our conservatory and arboretum.

While wedding trends may come and go, certain styles remain timeless, such as garden party weddings and enchanting aesthetics.



NOW BOOKING 2027 & 2028



Meet Kai!

Creator of the Garden Hangout Series

My name is Kai LaForge. I'm a senior here at MSU majoring in horticulture science. This summer, I have had the pleasure of creating the Garden Hangout Series as my internship project. The goal of this series has been to promote the garden as a third space/place for teens and young adults. For anyone who doesn't know, a third space is a place for the community to gather and hang out at, most of the time for free or reasonably priced. In recent times, many third spaces are disappearing or becoming less accessible for teens. I want the garden to be able to fill those gaps. Each of the events has been open to be a drop-in-style event, aside from our first one, which did have a scheduled tour.



Community Focus at the gardens

I have made sure to keep it as accessible to people as possible. That way, no one feels rushed or late no matter the time they come. I have also had and will continue to have a picnic station set up at each event to further drive home the idea that the gardens are a place you can stay at for as long as you want; you don't have to just look at the flowers and leave. Community is something that is really important to me. In an era of hyper-independence, it's become so much more important to do community events. I hope with this series I can share the beauty and wonder of nature with my community.



Michigan Garden Plant Tour



What is MGPT?

The Michigan Garden Plant Tour is a coordinated open house of leading young plant producers and Michigan State University. The Tour educates professional growers and industry professionals about plant selections and their garden performance.

Participating Gardens

- DGI Propagators
- Proven Winners Carleton
- Mast Young Plants
- MSU Trial Gardens
- Pell Greenhouses, Inc.
- Rakers-Roberta's Young Plants
- Walter's Gardens

[Michigan Garden Plant Tour Website](#)



MGPT

The Michigan Garden Plant Tour is a great opportunity to show the Gardens as a place where people come to evaluate, discover, and learn about plants, not just admire them.

The MSU Horticulture Gardens was one of the participating locations for the 2026 tour, which ran July 27-August 7. ([MSU Extension](#))



Michigan Garden Plant Tour



Growing What's Next: The Michigan Garden Plant Tour

This summer, the MSU Horticulture Gardens had the pleasure of participating in the Michigan Garden Plant Tour, bringing horticulture professionals and plant enthusiasts together to explore new and exciting plants growing throughout Michigan. The Michigan Garden Plant Tour is an opportunity to see plants growing in real garden conditions and discover new varieties, established favorites, and plants being evaluated for their performance. Rather than simply seeing a plant in a greenhouse or catalog, visitors can walk through trial gardens, observe plants throughout the growing season, and see how they perform in Michigan's unique growing conditions.

More Than Just a Garden Visit

For the horticulture industry, plant trials are an important part of discovering which plants have the potential to thrive in our landscapes. The Gardens provide a living laboratory where plants can be observed, compared, and appreciated throughout the season.

For gardeners, the experience is a chance to discover something new and perhaps find the next plant to add to their own garden.

The Michigan Garden Plant Tour brings together trial gardens and horticulture professionals across the state, creating opportunities to share knowledge, compare plant performance, and highlight some of the exciting plants making their way into gardens and landscapes.



Two Weeks Full of Discovery

Throughout the tour, visitors explored the MSU Horticulture Gardens and experienced the incredible variety of plants growing across our 14-acre living museum.

From colorful annuals and flowering perennials to plants being evaluated for their landscape performance, the Gardens offered plenty of inspiration and opportunities to look a little closer at what is growing around us.

One of the best parts of horticulture is that there is always something new to discover—and the Plant Tour is a wonderful reminder of just how much experimentation, observation, and collaboration goes into the plants we eventually bring home to our own gardens.



Thank You for Growing With Us

We are grateful to everyone who visited the MSU Horticulture Gardens during this year's Michigan Garden Plant Tour and to the horticulture professionals, growers, researchers, and partners who make opportunities like this possible.

Events like the Michigan Garden Plant Tour showcase the Gardens' role not only as a beautiful place to visit, but as a space for education, horticultural discovery, and collaboration.

And, of course, the best part is knowing that there will always be something new growing here for us to discover each season!

Learn more about the Michigan Garden Plant Tour: [Michigan Garden Plant Tour](#)



THE GARDEN WORKSHOP

A corner focused on sharing sustainability and garden focused inspiration.
From crafts, gardening tips, to recipes!



Pressed Flower Clay Imprints



Take a little piece of your garden inside!

What you'll need:

- Flowers or greenery
- Air-dry clay
- Modge Podge
- A rolling pin
- Optionally:
- Something to make a hole and a leather cord or something to tie in it
- Paint or paint markers

Roll out and shape your clay however you desire, then wet your fingertips to smooth out the rough edges. Now arrange your flowers onto the clay however you would like. Once done, press them into the clay by rolling the rolling pin over them. Then, remove your flowers. You can stop here, or you can color in the imprint with paint and seal it after it dries with a coat of Modge Podge! You can also add a hole and a cord to turn it into a hanging ornament!

Floral Printed Tote Bags

What you'll need:



- Flowers or greenery
- A mallet
- Masking tape
- Paper towel
- A tote bag or other fabric item

Pick out the flowers you like and remove the greenery; try different types on scrap fabric before continuing to get the best results. Soak your canvas, whether it's a tote, hat, or plain fabric piece, in hot water mixed with alum (3 tbsp per liter of water) until the water cools. Let the fabric dry, then arrange your flowers. Tape down your flowers to the fabric, then cover with a paper towel. After removing the paper towel and flowers, let the fabric lie flat to dry. Once dry, you're all done!

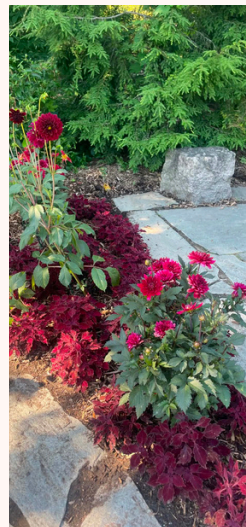


The Pride Pear



Gardens flourish because of their diversity and differences, and we believe the same is true of the people who visit them. This space, cultivated by our arboretum manager, Brian, and our student workers, highlights that everyone deserves to feel welcome here every day, not just during Pride month. We are calling this space our Pride Pear Garden. This will stand as a lasting symbol of belonging, growth, and community.

We are grateful our staff work brought this meaningful garden to life, and we look forward to seeing our community enjoy this beautiful creation!



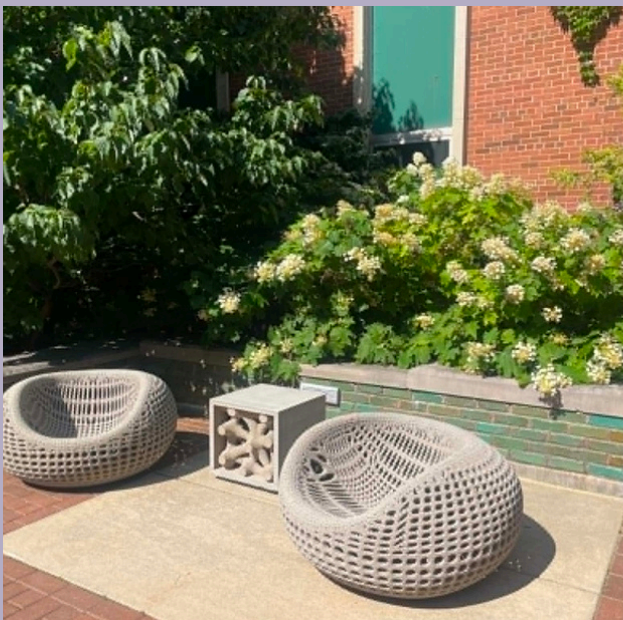
Mangrove 3D Installation

Check out these incredible 3D-printed pieces from [Mangrove 3D](#)!

Thanks to their generous donation, garden visitors and event guests can now relax and enjoy this beautiful lounge set in the MPS Courtyard, nestled within our Annual Gardens.

We're excited to see these unique pieces become a favorite gathering spot for guests and students throughout the season. They'll also make their debut at the Perennial Plant Association Dinner later this month!

A heartfelt thank you to Mangrove 3D for your generosity and support.



PROJECT FEATURE

MSU HORTICULTURE GARDENS

MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY

CURATOR: MASON MCNAIR, ASSISTANT PROFESSOR OF HORTICULTURE





MANGROVE PRODUCTS FEATURED IN THIS INSTALLATION



DESIGN

Mangrove and MSU Horticulture Gardens brought two printing processes into one landscape. The Gardens' outdoor atrium by the Molecular Plant Sciences building has a modern aesthetic rooted in flowing, natural forms. Chair No One, the Oberhauser Balloon, and the Root Collection were chosen to fit that language without overtaking it. The material and color ground the pieces in the same palette as the surrounding plantings.



TWO SCALES, ONE PROCESS

MSU's horticulture lab has used 3D printing since graduate school, starting with a broken lab centrifuge and a magnetic tube rack. It has since grown into educational models, plant science robotics, and outreach tools. Mangrove builds concrete layer by layer. MSU builds parts point by point. Different scale, same logic: form a hypothesis, print, test, revise. A wilted flower and a failed print both just refine the next iteration.



A FIXED POINT IN CHANGING LAND

Gardens are built to change. Plants grow, decline, and get replaced every season. Permanent installations hold steady through those cycles. The Water Garden bridge has stood for 35 years, and visitors remember it long after the plantings around it have turned over many times. Mangrove's pieces now serve the same role: a fixed point that helps people navigate and remember a space that never stops changing.



A TEACHING MOMENT

Most people picture 3D printing as fidget toys and desk trinkets. These pieces argue otherwise. They give students and visitors a reason to think past the hobbyist use case and into materials science, design, and manufacturing at scale. Mason and his students saw that potential the moment they stood in front of the Mangrove booth at a trade show. The layer lines were the draw. The collaboration followed almost immediately.



THE RESULT

Before installation, the atrium functioned as a pass-through. After, it became a destination. Visitors now work on laptops, meet for coffee, and take breaks in the space. The pieces signal that the area is meant to be inhabited, not just crossed. What was once an underused patch of landscape is now proof that plants, people, and technology can share the same story.

CONTACT

INFO@MANGROVE3D.COM
MANGROVE3D.COM
5265 68TH SE, CALEDONIA MI

SCAN TO
LEARN MORE



Building Wilbir the Peacock

Our beloved floral peacock has officially come to life, and we couldn't be more excited to welcome him back to the gardens this season!

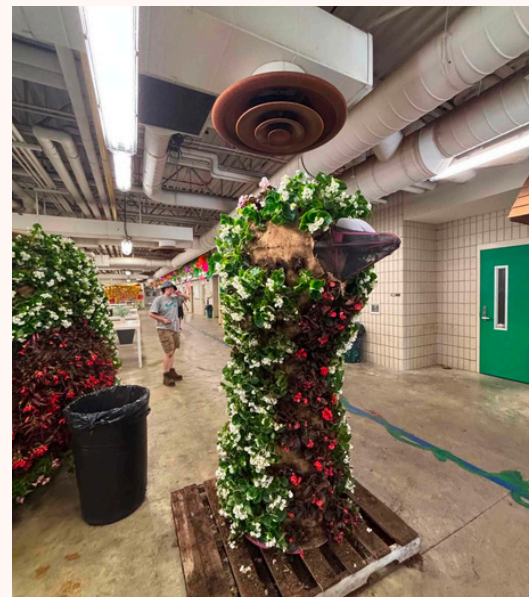
Before Wilbir could show off his vibrant feathers, there was plenty of work happening behind the scenes.

Our incredible student team rolled up their sleeves, carefully filling his frame with soil and planting him with hundreds of beautiful begonias. A huge thank you to our gardens team for helping bring Wilbir to life.

Now, Wilbir is flourishing and ready to greet visitors all season long.

Be sure to stop by, say hello, and snap a photo with one of the gardens most colorful residents.

From a pink metal frame to a flourishing garden showstopper sure to make you smile, don't miss out on seeing him before the season ends.



Building Wilbir the Peacock



Introducing

CAKE IN THE GARDEN

For the first time ever we had the honor of hosting Cake in the Garden in partnership with Not So Bland Cakes! This event welcomed community bakers and the community for an afternoon of cake sampling and mingling. Tickets were sold to support our gardens for bakers and cake tasters alike.

We couldn't be happier with how this event turned out and how many members of the community got to visit the gardens for the first time. Every ticket purchased directly supported our gardens, making this sweet day even more meaningful to us.

A huge thank you to Jess from Not So Bland Cakes for bringing her love, creativity, and passion for Cake in the Garden.

We're so grateful to our incredible baker community who joined in on the fun and shared their delicious and beautiful works of art.

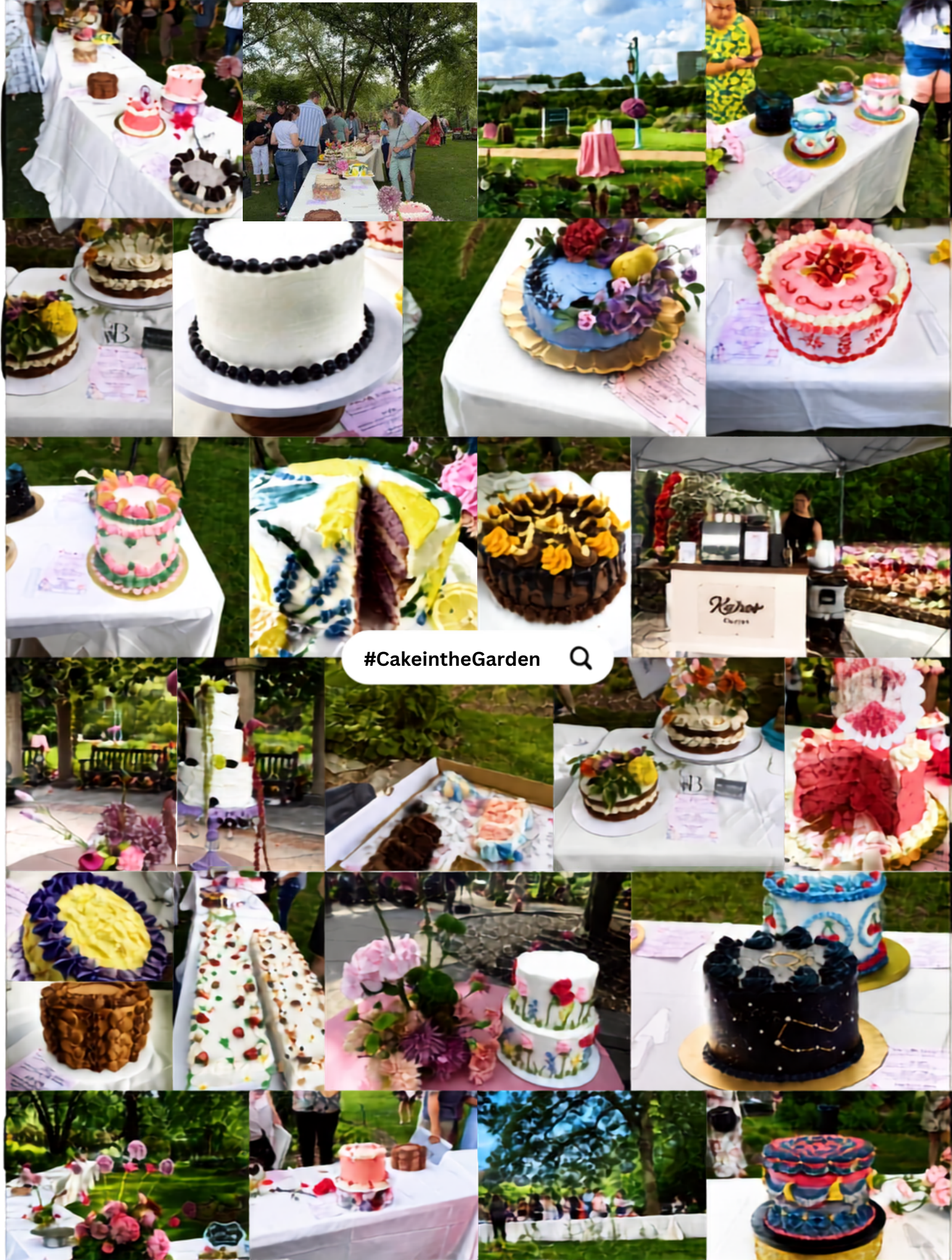
We're simply blown away to be a part of such a little snippet of joy.

We also want to give a huge shoutout to our amazing volunteers who jumped in, helped behind the scenes, and made the day run smoothly. We couldn't do events like this without you! And finally, a big thank you to our wonderful coffee cart vendor, Kairos Coffee.

We loved having you at the Gardens and hope to see you at many more events in the future. Last but not least, we want to thank Vormittag Floral for donating their used flowers to us to use at our event and share with guests. These gorgeous arrangements really elevated our event and made our guests smile

We hope to try hosting this event again in the future and hope to see you there!





#CakeintheGarden





Booking WINTER RENTALS

Book your holiday party at the horticulture Gardens!

Celebrate this festive season amidst lush greenery by hosting your gathering in our cozy, heated conservatory. By choosing to celebrate your holiday party or winter event with us, you'll be directly supporting the gardens!

- Choose your own vendors
- Tables, chairs, and linens included
- Beautiful poinsettia tree & twinkle lights in conservatory



Holiday Parties



Winter Celebrations

Thank you for your support!

