

Rotary Botanical Gardens offers fun in full bloom

Compiled from information found on Rotary Botanical Gardens' website

What's the best way to brighten your day in Janesville?

Visit Rotary Botanical Gardens, an awe-inspiring, 20-acre, non-profit botanic showcase conveniently located off Interstate I-39/90 in Janesville (1455 Palmer Drive).

Visitors to the Gardens can enjoy guided garden tours, shopping and a variety of educational classes and programs. The elegant Gardens facility is also available for special event rentals.

Rotary Botanical Gardens is home to 4,000 varieties of plants and 24 different garden styles — such as Scottish, French, Italian and English Cottage — and has one of the top twenty-five Japanese gardens in the U.S.

Less formally structured areas include one of very few fern gardens in the U.S. recognized by the Hardy Fern Foundation, as well as shade, prairie and woodland gardens.

Rotary Botanical Gardens also hosts an extensive collection of perennials, trees and shrubs and has become known for spectacular seasonal displays that blend annuals and perennials in exuberant beds and containers.

Many new features are added to the Gardens each year. Here are some

highlights for 2017:

- The Reception Garden will become a white garden, featuring hints of blue.

- More than 100 varieties of plants will be featured throughout the Gardens as part of the trialing arrangements with various companies and organizations.

- Plants along the larch wall raised bed will be extremely fragrant.

- More than 750 varieties of annuals will be planted (that's more than 125,000 plants).

- Three garden areas will be renovated. This will not impact visitors' experiences.

Many existing gardens and programs have been updated for the 2017 season as well:

- The Gardens' major color theme will feature dark maroon, black, and bright red. Hints of white and silver will be included in the entrance and terrace garden that serves as the "first impression" as visitors arrive.

- This year's garden art display will be composed of whimsical fish mounted on a garden post. Thirty fish will be on display throughout the Gardens beginning May 15. They will then be taken down in early September and sold at a live auction on Sept. 8. Now in its eighth year, the project was developed to promote community participation and artist collaboration at the Gardens, as well as raise



Expect stunning colors at Rotary Botanical Gardens in Janesville. (Photo by Marsha Mood Photography)

awareness and developmental support for the Gardens.

- The unique "Heirloom Garden" features more than 100 varieties of annuals, perennials, herbs, and vegetables that were grown before the year 1900. This space will also contain vining structures and containers from that time period and some of the planting arrangements will be a tribute to Victorian-era gardening.

- The colorful "Hummingbird Haven," located in the Nancy Yahr Memorial Children's Garden, features more than 100 varieties of nectar-filled plants that are known to attract hummingbirds. An array of feeders are also featured.

- The fun "Giant Aquarium" structure features blue sides and two access doors to allow visitors to enter a make-believe, underwater

display. It features live plants coming out of a sandy "sea floor" as well as hanging fish and other aquatic creatures. After strolling through the aquarium, enjoy the book "Commotion in the Ocean" by Giles Andreae. This program is in partnership with Hedberg Public Library's Children's Room.

Those who enjoy the beautiful Gardens should also enroll in the Friends Membership Program. Friends members are afforded many benefits including free garden admission (excluding special events), special rates on tours, programs, events, exclusive member previews and much more. They also receive reciprocity with nearly 300 gardens and arboreta across the U.S.

For more information, visit rotarybotanicalgardens.org.

Rotary Gardens events

Hours: From May through September, open daily, 8:30 a.m. to 8 p.m. Open daily in October, 8:30 a.m. to 6 p.m.

MAY

29 Free admission for veterans with military ID

JUNE

7 Story & Stroll, 10-11 a.m.

14 Community Appreciation Day: Free admission

20 Rhythm & Blooms Concert, 5:30-7:30 p.m.

25 Garden Hike, 1-3 p.m.

28 Evening Garden Seminar: Wisconsin Weather, 5:30-7:30 p.m.

JULY

4 Free admission for veterans with military ID

5 Story & Stroll, 10-11 a.m.

11 Community Appreciation Day: Free admission and activities

15 Home & Garden Tour, 9 a.m.-3 p.m.

18 Rhythm & Blooms Concert, 5:30-7:30 p.m.

20 Evening Garden Seminar: Perennials for Late Summer and Fall, 6:30-8 p.m.

24 Photography for Beginners (Details online)

31 Photography Class (Details online)

AUGUST

2 Story & Stroll, 10-11 a.m.

9 Horticulture Therapy Conference, 9 a.m.-3 p.m.

15 Rhythm & Blooms Concert, 5:30-7:30 p.m.

22 Community Appreciation Day: Free admission and activities

29 Evening Garden Seminar: Monarchs, 6:30-8 p.m.

SEPTEMBER

6 Story & Stroll, 10-11 a.m.

8 Fall Plant Sale, 9 a.m.-6 p.m.

8 Garden Art Auction, 5-7 p.m.

9 Fall Plant Sale, 9 a.m.-6 p.m.

10 Fall Plant Sale, 9 a.m.-6 p.m.

11 Community Appreciation Day: Free admission and activities

23 Harvest Moon Gala, details online

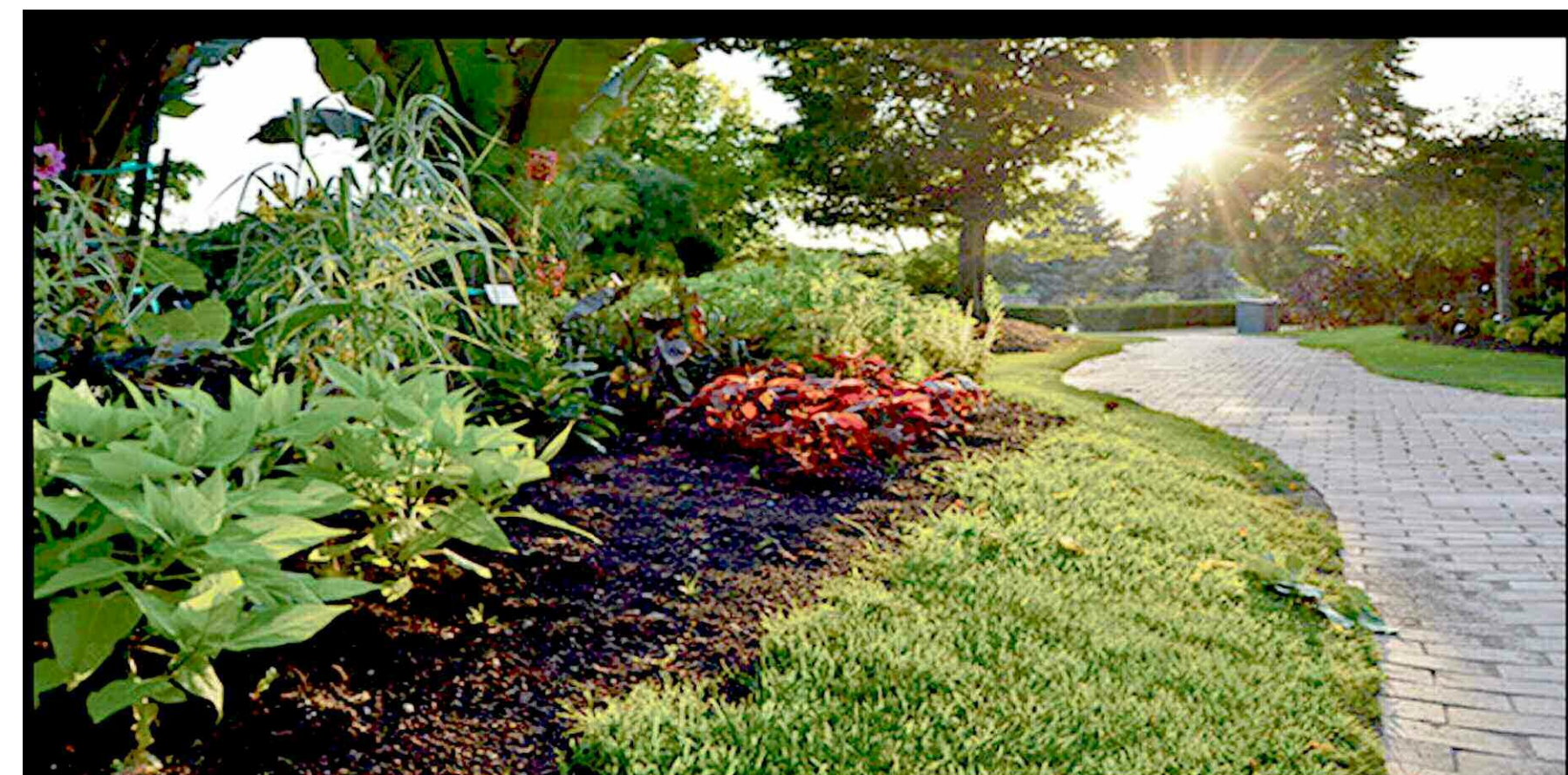
27 Evening Garden Seminar: Tropical Plants and Favorite Houseplants, 6:30-8 p.m.

OCTOBER

4 Story & Stroll, 10-11 a.m.

7 Cottage Garden Gallery Fall Open House

17 Evening Garden Seminar: Conifers, 6:30-8 p.m.



Explore

Guided Tours, Garden Art Exhibit, Children's Garden

Educate

Youth & Family Events, Adult Classes, Workshops

Experience

Private Event Rentals, Concerts in the Gardens, Shop the Gallery, Plant Sales

 **Rotary**
Botanical Gardens



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