

Rotary Gardens: fun in full bloom

Compiled from information found on Rotary Botanical Gardens' website

You may run out of superlatives to describe this Janesville hot spot that presents a gorgeous feast for the eyes and other senses.

Rotary Botanical Gardens is an awe-inspiring, 20-acre, non-profit botanic showcase conveniently located off Interstate I-39/90 at 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 is 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.



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

Many new features are added to the Gardens each year. Here are some highlights for 2018:

•A "Pastel Extravaganza" in the 5,000 square feet of space that serves as the "first impression" as you arrive at the Gardens. This color combination will feature salmon, pink, powder blue and white.

•A "Giant Aquarium" structure with 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. This feature ties into the 2018 "StoryWalk" program's featured book, *The Frightened Frog: An Environmental Tale*.

•The Reception Gar-

den will become a white garden, featuring hints of blue.

•The Garden Art Project Exhibit will feature 30 large frog silhouettes mounted on garden posts. The exhibit is open mid-May through early September. The pieces will be sold at a live auction Sept. 13. Now in its ninth year, the project was developed to promote community participation and artist collaboration at the Gardens, as well as raise awareness and developmental support for the Gardens.

•Thirteen parallel beds will be home to plants from around the world. Each bed will display flowers, vegetables and herbs from a specific country.

•The colorful and lively

"A-Z Pollinator Garden" will feature more than 100 varieties of plants for pollinators.

•Three demonstration beds will display a wide range of seed-grown New Guinea impatiens.

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 more than 300 gardens and arboreta across the U.S.

For more information, call 608-752-3885 or visit www.rotarybotanicalgardens.org.

Rotary Gardens events

Hours: From mid-May through mid-September, open daily, 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. Open daily mid-September through October, 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.

JUNE

- 6 Story & Stroll, youth program, 10-11 a.m.
- 13 Community Appreciation Day: Donation-based admission and activities, 9 a.m. to 8 p.m.
- 19 Rhythm & Blooms Concert: Groove Hotel, 5:30-7:30 p.m.
- 26 Botanic Talk: "Square Foot Gardening and Raised Beds," with Lisa Johnson, 6:30-8 p.m.

JULY

- 11 Story & Stroll, youth program, 10-11 a.m.
- 17 Rhythm & Blooms Concert: Gary the Band, 5:30-7:30 p.m.
- 18 Community Appreciation Day: Donation-based admissions and activities, 9 a.m. to 8 p.m.
- 19 Botanic Talk: "The Monarch Kingdom," with Shelly Culea, 6:30-8 p.m.
- 21 Home Garden Tour, 9 a.m.-3 p.m.

AUGUST

- 1 Story & Stroll, youth program, 10-11 a.m.
- 8 Summer Symposium: "Horticultural Therapy," 8 a.m.-4 p.m.
- 14 Community Appreciation Day: Donation-based admissions and activities, 9 a.m. to 8 p.m.
- 21 Rhythm & Blooms Concert: The Brothers Quinn, 5:30-7:30 p.m.
- 22 Botanic Talk: "Gardening and Pollinators," with Larry and Emily Scheunemann, 6:30-8 p.m.

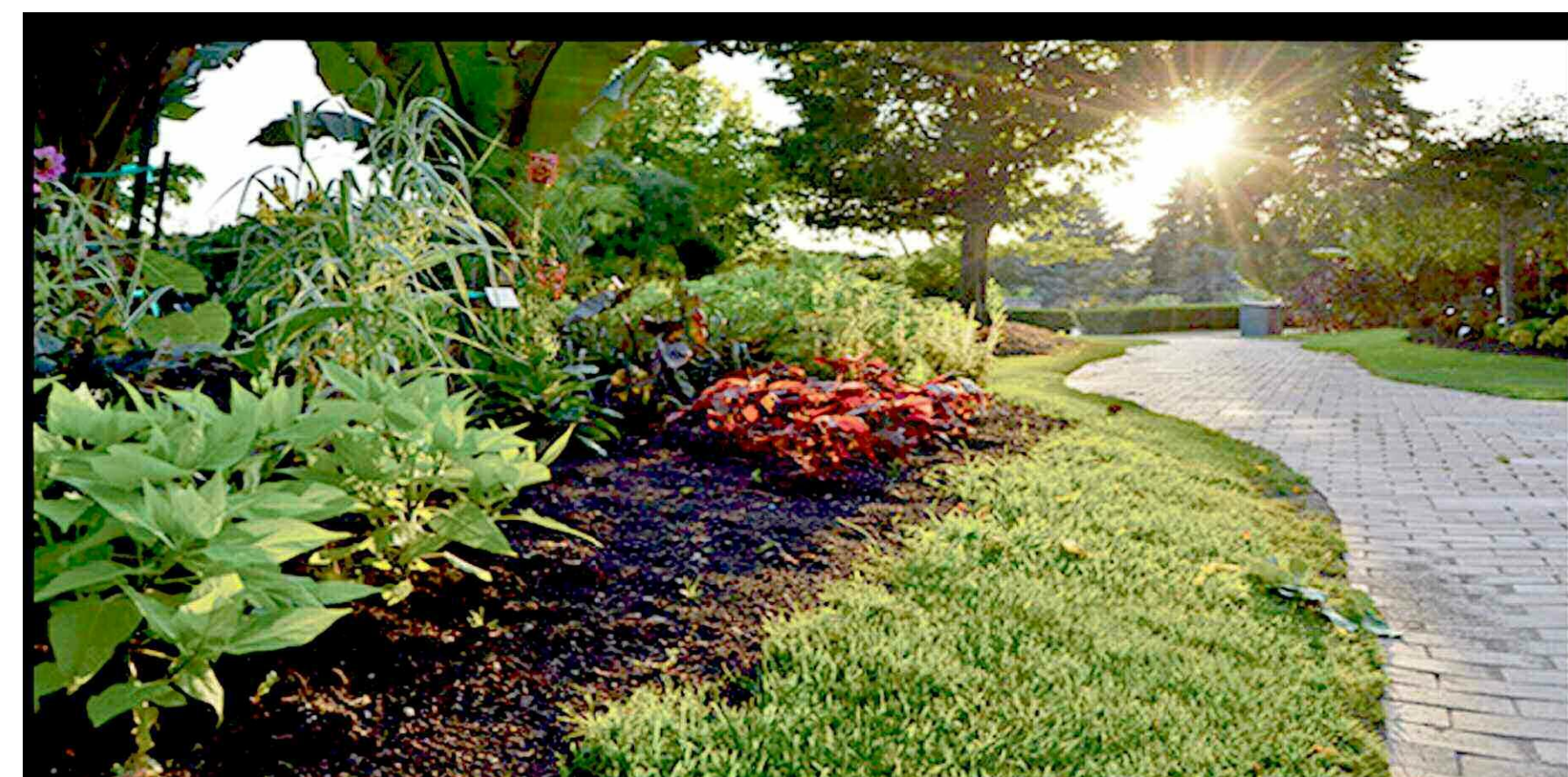
SEPTEMBER

- 5 Story & Stroll, youth program, 10-11 a.m.
- 7 Fall Plant Sale, 9 a.m.-6 p.m.
- 8 Fall Plant Sale, 8 a.m.-5 p.m.
- 9 Fall Plant Sale, 10 a.m.-4 p.m.
- 13 Garden Art Auction, 5:30-7:30 p.m.
- 27 Botanic Talk: "The Basics of Canning," with Joey and Holly Baird, 6:30-8 p.m.

OCTOBER

- 3 Story & Stroll, youth program, 10-11 a.m.
- 7 Garden Gallery Open House, meet artists, enjoy discounts, giveaways and more, 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.
- 23 Botanic Talk: "The Other Witches' Brooms - Gems of the Conifer World," with Josef Braeu, 6:30-8 p.m.
- 31 Halloween Walk, trick-or-treat in the gardens, family activities, 4-7 p.m.

For more information on these and other events, visit www.rotarybotanicalgardens.org



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



1455 Palmer Drive, Janesville, WI 53545
608.752.3885 rotarybotanicalgardens.org