

THE GARDEN

MCKEE BOTANICAL GARDEN | FALL 2022



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www.mckeegarden.org

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*"I'm looking forward
to the future and
feeling grateful for
the past."*

—Mike Rowe

EXCEEDING EXPECTATIONS AND WELCOMING NEW OPPORTUNITIES

A Message from Christine Hobart, Executive Director

As the fall season approaches and we gather the leaves of our accomplishments over the past year, we also welcome new opportunities and growth that the coming season will bring. Last year was so amazing! We surpassed all previous attendance records with over 136,000 visitors to the Garden. Our memberships have exceeded our expectations as well, as we now have 7,253 current members. We are so grateful to all of our members for their continued support during the past year and look forward to bringing new and exciting things for our members and visitors to enjoy in the coming months.



We are very excited and looking forward to our 2022-2023 season that includes our annual special events and exhibition.

In December, McKee Botanical Garden will once again transform into a magical winter wonderland...there's *gnome* better place to enjoy the holidays than McKee!



As usual, thousands of bright and colorful professionally installed LED lights will illuminate the Garden pathways. McKee's large-scale model train promises to be even more exciting as the "train guys" expand on this amazing nostalgic display in the Education Building. We also are delighted that the 1924 Wurlitzer band organ's festive music will return this year to entertain, as well as a

THE GARDEN

variety of local ensembles and individuals who will perform on various evenings throughout the event. Other crowd-pleasing activities include showings of outdoor holiday movie classics, intermittent snow flurries and festive treats from the Garden Café. Check our website for specific details regarding the schedules for the large-scale model train, Wurlitzer Band Organ, nightly entertainment, and daily holiday activities that will be held during normal Garden hours throughout this season. Why not give the gift of nature all year long? There is no better holiday gift than a McKee membership. For more details and to purchase a gift membership, visit our website www.mckee garden.org.

In January, we are delighted to host master glass artist *Jason Gamrath's* *Garden of Glass* exhibition. This stunning exhibit will feature 10 glass sculptures of orchids, waterlilies, and a variety of plants throughout the Garden that stand anywhere from 6 ft.-14 ft. tall. These one-of-a-kind sculptures will engage our guests in new ways of looking at nature through the fragility of glass. The exhibition will be on display from January 20 through April 30, 2023.

In February, our highly anticipated *Annual Motor Car Exhibition* will feature 40 "Car Collectors' Favorites" on display throughout the Garden. This exhibit of motorsports excellence will showcase a great variety of cars from antique to modern, as well as a display of motorcycles. Be sure to mark your calendars for Saturday, February 11 from 10 am-3 pm for this one-day-only event!

Our Education Coordinator has so many exciting new opportunities for children and adults planned for the coming year. We will be offering a wide variety of educational workshops, tours, lectures, health and wellness classes and artistic activities throughout the year to inspire you and connect you with nature.

The Garden Café has a new manager, Alison Owens. She has been part of our Café team since day one and was our most obvious choice when the manager position came open. Alison and the team have already made improvements to the menu that we know you will enjoy. Be sure to stop by and enjoy a delicious lunch at The Garden Café, which features a wide array of sandwiches, paninis, wraps, salads, soups, and a terrific children's menu.

I hope you will participate in the many offerings at the Garden and I look forward to seeing you this season. ■

Sincerely,



Christine Hobart
Executive Director



IN RECOGNITION OF OUR PAST BOARD MEMBERS

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THE GARDEN

MCKEE LEGACY SOCIETY

We thank the members of the McKee Legacy Society for their generosity, vision, and commitment to ensuring the Garden thrives for generations to come.

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*DECEASED

Thank you for your dedication and commitment to our mission.

To discuss making a planned gift to McKee that is aligned with your individual estate planning goals, please contact Christine Hobart, Executive Director at 772.794.0601 or hobart@mckee garden.org



GIVE THE GIFT OF MCKEE TO FUTURE GENERATIONS

Explore how you can make McKee Botanical Garden part of your legacy and, in doing so, help this historic Garden thrive for generations to come.

Becoming a member of the *McKee Legacy Society* is a special opportunity to consider your impact on the future, today. By including McKee in your will, living trust, retirement plan or as a beneficiary designation, you leave a lasting legacy and help shape ours.

A gift in your estate will help preserve the Garden's rich history and ensure that future generations experience all the beauty, wonder and magic McKee has to offer. Planned gifts include bequests, charitable trusts (remainder and lead), gifts of retirement plan assets, gifts of life insurance policies, and gifts of tangible personal property. We would be pleased to work with you and your advisors to structure a gift that best fulfills your charitable goals and invite you to join the *McKee Legacy Society*.

If you already have included McKee in your estate planning, please let us know so we may celebrate your commitment and legacy of environmental stewardship. ■

McKee Legacy Society members receive recognition on the McKee Legacy Donor Wall, McKee's website, The Garden bi-annual newsletter, and in our Annual Report.

LEGACY GIFTS MAY ALSO ALLOW YOU THE OPPORTUNITY TO

Generate income now and into the future

Reduce taxes

Avoid capital gains taxes

Preserve wealth for your family

Honor a family member or friend by making a tribute gift

THE GARDEN



TWENTY-ONE YEARS AFTER THE
RE-OPENING, AND ONE HUNDRED
YEARS AFTER THE ENVIRONMENTAL
OASIS WAS SPARED FROM DEVELOP-
MENT BY ITS FOUNDERS, MCKEE
BOTANICAL GARDEN HAS WELCOMED
OVER ONE MILLION VISITORS!



HELP OUR GARDEN GROW!

McKee Botanical Garden is a tropical paradise in the heart of our community that offers the peace and respite needed in this busy world. Strolling down the Garden's pathways, alongside majestic palms, past waterfalls and tranquil streams, provides an opportunity for all to experience the beauty of silence, inspiration and discovery.

From discovering the Garden's unique history, to exploring its wild and lush spaces, McKee connects people of all ages to the natural world and each other. *There is always something at McKee to spark the imagination and add magic to your visit.*

The Children's Garden is an added treasure for families, providing a whimsical world that piques curiosity, encourages outdoor play, and creates lasting memories for both the young and the young at heart.

For over twenty years, this enchanted Garden has been sustained by the generosity of our members. Your tax-deductible, year-end gift directly supports the Garden's living collections, operations, educational programming, special events, and world-class exhibitions.

Please donate today.

Your support makes it possible for McKee to enrich our community by providing a place of beauty and learning for all to enjoy.



To make your tax-deductible year-end gift today, visit mckeebotanicalgarden.org/donate or mail a check to McKee Botanical Garden, 350 US Highway 1, Vero Beach, Florida 32962.

THE GARDEN

We are deeply grateful for your dedication to ensuring the vitality and excellence of McKee. Thank you for helping the Garden grow.

IN RECOGNITION OF OUR GATEKEEPERS OF THE GARDEN DIRECTOR'S CIRCLE—\$10,000

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ANNUAL GATEKEEPER CELEBRATION DINNER KICKS OFF THE 2022-2023 SEASON

On November 2, one hundred and nineteen Gatekeepers shared a lovely evening reconnecting with one another while sharing the magic of McKee. Guests were entertained by the Vero Beach High School Jazz Ensemble as they mingled and greeted one another during the cocktail hour in the Spanish Garden. An exquisite dinner catered by Elizabeth Kennedy & Co. followed in the Hall of Giants. This was the first time in two years that guests could once again enjoy a sit-down dinner in the historic Hall of Giants. The mahogany table was beautifully appointed with a collection of cattleya orchids, lotus pods and Amazonian lily pads, while the walls displayed the new history of McKee exhibit.



BOARD PRESIDENT EARL MORGAN WITH
ELIZABETH MORGAN AND CHRISTINE HOBART

Board President Earl Morgan welcomed everyone and shared the success of the previous year along with updates about the exciting events the Garden has planned for the upcoming season. Christine Hobart then had the pleasure of introducing the evening's esteemed guest speaker, Xavier Cortada, a world renowned artist whose eco-inspired ceramic works have been commissioned as part of McKee's Revitalization Project. Xavier shared his vision behind his many works installed around the world, and discussed his inspiration for vibrant and intricate pieces he has created for McKee, which will be unveiled in the new year.

It was an honor to recognize and celebrate our most dedicated and visionary supporters—Gatekeepers of the Garden. Thanks to the demonstrated leadership and unwavering support of our Gatekeepers, McKee continues to uphold the storied legacy of educating, delighting and enriching the lives of all who step through our gates today and for generations to come. ■

THIS EVENT WAS MADE POSSIBLE IN PART BY THE
GENEROUS SUPPORT OF WILMINGTON TRUST.



ADAM ROBERTI, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF
JASON GAMRATH FOUNDATION AND GLASS
ARTIST XAVIER CORTADA

ESTATE PLANNING SEMINAR JANUARY 26, 2023

Join us on Thursday, January 26 from 10-11 am
for McKee's Estate Planning Seminar "Building a
Meaningful Legacy Through Planned Giving."

Experts from Wilmington Trust will present ways to
maximize your philanthropic impact while
minimizing your tax burden, and how to make
the most of your assets for you and your loved
ones. Space is limited. Please RSVP by
calling: 772.794.0601 or
emailing: development@mckeegarden.org

THE GARDEN



CORPORATE SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

Demonstrate your company's commitment to our community and the environment as you achieve high visibility with Vero Beach's most sought-after audience. As a corporate partner, your employees and clients also have an opportunity to experience the beauty of McKee. Corporate Membership includes year-round admission to the Garden and special events, guest passes, employee discounts, and more! Corporate sponsorship opportunities are available year-round, including McKee's two most popular events:

FESTIVAL OF LIGHTS

25,000 visitors in December 2021 from along the Treasure Coast and beyond!

ANNUAL MOTOR CAR EXHIBITION

McKee's single largest one-day event—Over 3,000 attendees!

For more information, please contact Triana Romero at development@mckee garden.org or call 772-794-0601.

THANK YOU TO OUR CORPORATE MEMBERS

\$1,000

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STRUNK FUNERAL HOMES & CREMATORY

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§ DENOTES NEW GATEKEEPER
REVISED OCTOBER 2023

THE GARDEN



MEMBERS ONLY NIGHTS: DECEMBER 9 & 10

**OPEN TO PUBLIC: DECEMBER 15–17;
DECEMBER 20–23; AND DECEMBER 28–30**

HOURS: 6 PM–8 PM
GARDEN WILL CLOSE AT 5 PM AND WILL
REOPEN FOR EVENING ACTIVITIES
LAST ADMISSION AT 7:30 PM

GENERAL ADMISSION RATES APPLY



Relive moments of holidays past as you marvel at McKee's nostalgic large-scale train display and listen to the sounds of the 1924 Wurlitzer Band Organ. Intermittent snow flurries create a traditional holiday spirit in the Garden along with Santa, outdoor holiday movies, performances by local entertainers and special holiday treats from the Garden Café. Thousands of bright, colorful professionally-installed lights illuminate the Garden pathways along with lighted displays and festive decorations.

In addition, the Garden will host holiday-themed crafts from 10 am–12 pm, Tuesday–Friday from December 6–23.

The large-scale model train will be on display in the Education Building beginning on Tuesday, December 20 through Friday, December 23 and from Wednesday, December 28 through Friday, December 30.

The 1924 Wurlitzer Band Organ will be on display in the Main Greeting Area from Tuesday, December 20 through Friday, December 23.

Check our website for a complete schedule of event dates and times, which are subject to change. ■



THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS

WINTER WONDERLAND
THE BENEDICT FAMILY

RUDOLPH
NEW LEAD

WONDERLAND EXPRESS
THE UELTSCHI FAMILY

CANDY CANES & SUGAR PLUMS



NORTH POLE
Rehmann

DON'T BE A GRINCH
VoiceLogix

Sponsored in part by the State of Florida, Department of State, Division of Arts and Culture and the Florida Council on Arts and Culture.



THE GARDEN

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

MARY & JOHN C. KURTZ

When did you first become involved with McKee?

Vista Properties of Vero Beach, Inc. acquired the Gardens and surrounding lands totaling over 200 acres. I was a member of the executive team. I arrived in Vero Beach in September 1978, and we closed on the purchase in October.

Fast forward 20 years, and I actively participated in the sale of the land to the IR Land Trust to save it from development.

What attracted you to the Garden?

When I arrived, the Garden had been closed since 1975. It was adjacent to our current development of Vista Royale. After the acquisition, I fell in love with its beauty and serenity. Even with US 1 and the FEC Railway adjacent to the property, it was like an oasis. I used to go there at lunch and just watch and listen.

What motivates you to stay involved?

As the community continues to grow, the magic of the Garden is amplified. It needs to stay financially and physically healthy because there will not be another McKee Garden. It is on the last frontier as screens and technology occupy so much space in people's lives.

In your opinion, what is the most important work that McKee Botanical Garden does?

Promoting the beauty and serenity of nature. A space for intergenerational gathering. Healing of the soul.

What do you hope McKee will achieve in the future?

Perpetuity.



Of what contribution or achievement are you most proud?

That I could actively participate in saving the Garden, but from the development side of the transaction.

Who in your life plays a role in supporting your involvement? In providing inspiration?

First and foremost, my lovely wife, Mary. We both share a love for the beauty and majesty of nature, children, grandchildren, and the community at large.

Do you have an anecdote about McKee that really moved you?

When the fundraising was underway for the acquisition of the Garden, a young girl from Boca Raton sent in a quarter (her allowance) with a note that read, "Please save the trees." That brought tears to my eyes.

What other organizations or causes do your support?

I have held volunteer leadership positions and financially supported United Way, Indian River Memorial Hospital (now Cleveland Clinic), Dollars for Scholars, and Scouting (both Cub and Boy).

Do you have a message to share?

Keep moving forward. Continue to search for new ways to engage our members/guests to keep them returning to experience and support the Garden. Do not forget what an asset the staff are to the Garden. They help make the magic happen. ■

THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS

ANONYMOUS
ALOE PLANT

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GARDEN OF GLASS

By Jason Gamrath

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THE GARDEN

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Photography © Jason Gamrath

GARDEN OF GLASS

By Jason Gamrath

JANUARY 20–APRIL 30, 2023

About the Artist

Jason Gamrath is a renowned glass artist, living and working out of Seattle, WA. His fascination with glass began when he was 15 and by age 16 he started working in glass and pursuing his career in art. After building his skills at Pratt Fine Arts as a high school student and graduating at 18, Jason continued to study at the Pilchuck Glass School where he would meet and study with the world's leading



This colorful and thought-provoking exhibit celebrates the beauty, wonderment and power in the natural world through the medium of glass. The exhibition features 10 stunning glass orchids, waterlilies and plants standing anywhere from six to fourteen feet tall on display throughout the Garden. Master glass artist Jason Gamrath is pleased to present his first outdoor garden exhibit in Florida.

Each bright and colorful glass sculpture is intended to accurately represent its living counterpart on a macro scale, bringing to light the beauty that exists within the micro scale of nature. Both delicate and monumental, these one-of-a-kind sculptures convey the complexity of their living counterparts, engaging the viewers in new ways of looking at nature through the fragility of glass art. Small plants, although minuscule in comparison to our human-sized way of existing, are overwhelmingly perplexing when held inches away from one's face. Most people will seldom grasp this seemingly secret perception of existence. Jason explains, "When I scale life forms up to be larger than a person, they can be observed with this perspective from across a room due to the overwhelming physical presence they command. It is my hope that when people admire my large-scale renderings, they become curious and captivated by the hints of realism I incorporate into my designs. I encourage people to attempt to observe with the same eyes through which I humbly and graciously experience our natural world." ■

glass artists and continue to build his skills while further developing his style of working. By the time Jason was 22, he began receiving recognition around the world for his original groundbreaking work. Now 34, Jason's work has been exhibited and collected in all parts of the world. He currently continues to expand the limitations of glass art in scale and detail. Jason's passion for large installations continues to draw record crowds and public attention. Jason continues to passionately create and exhibit his remarkable one-of-a-kind works in public settings where they can be seen and admired by all. ■

THE GARDEN



PETER O'MALLEY DONATES HISTORIC 35' MAHOGANY TABLE TO MCKEE BOTANICAL GARDEN

Peter O'Malley, President, Los Angeles Dodgers, 1970-1998, has donated the world's largest one-piece mahogany table to McKee

Botanical Garden. In 1976, O'Malley purchased the 35-foot long, 5-foot wide, 4-inch-thick table, with a vision to use it at Dodgertown. He maintained the table at Dodgertown until

it was loaned back to McKee in 2003 for display in the original Hall of Giants. Now O'Malley is happy to make it a permanent gift.



World's Biggest Board Is In Florida



Top of the world's largest dining table and also the largest 6-man board in the world, set up at McKee Gardens, Vero Beach. The board is 3 inches thick, 4 feet wide and 35 feet long. It weighs

"McKee Botanical Garden will always be a special place for our family, as well as for the city of Vero Beach and Indian River County," said O'Malley. "I've been very impressed with the McKee management, Board of Directors, and volunteers since McKee reopened in 2001, and its future is very bright. For many years, the table will be enjoyed and appreciated by residents and tourists in the Hall of Giants, which was originally built to accommodate it.

"In 1952, the first Dodger St. Patrick's Day party in Vero Beach was hosted by my mother (Kay) and father (Walter) at that table, beginning a grand Dodger tradition of St. Patrick's Day celebrations, which continued for six decades and are now



legendary. In the mid to late 1950s, campers from the summer Dodgertown Camp for Boys frequently visited when it was called McKee Jungle Gardens and they were amazed by the table's size. In 1961 during spring training, I led the Tokyo Yomiuri Giants from the Japan professional baseball league on a tour of McKee, and the impressive table intrigued them. In 2015, my sister Terry and I hosted our large extended family for Thanksgiving dinner around the special table."



1976—ARTHUR MCKEE SERMON (LEFT) WITH PETER O'MALLEY WHEN O'MALLEY PURCHASED THE UNIQUE MAHOGANY TABLE.
PROVIDED BY PETER O'MALLEY

The table has had quite the journey over the past 118 years, traveling from the Philippines to St. Louis, New York and finally Florida. This magnificent piece of wood was brought to this country at the turn of the century for display at the 1904 St. Louis World's Fair. The table weighs more than two tons and is made of kalantas mahogany. At the close of the fair, it was purchased by the

continued next page

THE GARDEN

This unique treasure will now be held at McKee permanently on display in the Hall of Giants.



American Museum of Natural History in New York City, where for 30 years, it was displayed as California redwood, for uncertain reasons. A curator discovered the table was actually mahogany, whereupon it was transferred to the museum basement and stored, as only native materials were permitted to be exhibited.

In 1936, the table was acquired first by the New York lumber firm Balfour and Koch and was later purchased by a furniture company in New York, Schmieg and Kotzian. Two years after purchasing the table, while traveling to Florida on vacation, Mr. Schmieg met Vero Beach pioneer and entrepreneur Waldo

Sexton, co-founder of McKee Jungle Gardens. Sexton was very familiar with the table as he had spotted and admired it while meandering through the basement of the museum in New York. In 1940, Sexton purchased the table from Schmieg and Kotzian and had it transported to Vero Beach via the Bull Line steamship Cornelia, arriving in nearby Ft. Pierce, Florida from New York. It took a crew of nearly 30 to unload it and get it on a truck to McKee Jungle Gardens. In 1941, Sexton built the historical Hall of Giants to preserve the magnificent table.

In 1976, McKee Jungle Gardens was forced to close when significant traffic diminished because of the opening of I-95 and Florida Turnpike. Today, McKee is more relevant than ever with well-planned enhancements and exhibits. ■



THE GARDEN



CREIGHTON BIOLOGISTS VISIT MCKEE BOTANICAL GARDEN

In June, McKee welcomed Dr. Mackenzie Taylor, Associate Professor of Biology, along with undergraduate biology student Jennifer Omann, from Creighton University in Omaha, Nebraska. The biologists spent two days taking pictures, collecting and measuring waterlily flowers as part of a study of the evolution of flower size across the waterlily family. Flower size within families ranges from that of a dinner plate in the Victoria species, to only 3 or 4 cm in Euryale species and then varies considerably in Nymphaea species, the group that was the focus of their work at McKee. The goal of the Creighton project is to understand how the size and shape of internal reproductive structures within the flower vary with overall flower size.



The Creighton biologists collected flowers from the pond (which is absolutely as fun as it looks), then they took a variety of measurements, including overall flower diameter and petal length. The sampled flowers were preserved to be observed later under a microscope in order to document their internal structures. Once the measurements are complete, the data will be analyzed using statistical methods to determine if the size of some flower parts is more variable than others, and to see if the function of the flower in reproduction limits the size of any of the internal structures. This work will contribute to a general understanding of flower evolution, both in waterlilies and across all flowering plants. No matter what their ultimate findings, Jenni says, “No one can convince me that the waterlilies aren’t one of the most beautiful things in the Garden.” ■



JENNIFER OMANN, TAKING MEASUREMENTS AND COLLECTING FLOWERS IN THE MAIN POND.

INTERNAL FLOWER STRUCTURE. IN THIS IMAGE YOU CAN SEE THE SURFACE OF THE FLOWER WHERE POLLEN LANDS (THE STIGMA), THE OVARY WHERE SEEDS DEVELOP AND CARPELLARY APPENDAGES (RED).

CLOSE UP OF A NYMPHAEA ‘WOODS’ ‘BLUE GODDESS’ FLOWER.



HORTICULTURE STAFF ATTEND THE INTERNATIONAL WATERLILY AND WATER GARDEN SOCIETY SYMPOSIUM

McKee's horticulture staff has been on the road visiting waterlily collections and attending the International Waterlily and Water Garden Society (IWGS) Symposium.

First, staff member Nikki Stolze paid a visit to the International Waterlily Collection in San Angelo, TX. This garden is an impressive collection of many varied waterlilies—they grow so many that they can only showcase about 1% of the aquatic beauties at a time! Nikki was offered the unique opportunity to join their current curator Larry Jolley, to learn and participate in maintenance.



In a continuing effort to increase McKee's educational exposure to water-based plants, Nikki along with horticulture staffers Natalia Inyakina and Gloria Teague also attended the IWGS Symposium at the Naples Botanical Garden. This 4-day gathering included intensive learning and knowledge sharing with plant hybridizers, collectors and landscape architects. McKee's attendees even brought a bucket of unidentified lilies in hopes of gaining some insights from the experts. The symposium concluded with visits to Fairchild Botanical Garden and The Kampong National Tropical Botanical Garden, both in Miami. Gloria summarized the impact of the trip, "This was such an amazing opportunity to learn and gather new ideas for McKee, while surrounded by botanical garden specialists and enthusiasts." ■



CLEAN UP ON AISLE 7!

THANKFULLY THE GARDEN IS SPARED FROM HURRICANE IAN'S DESTRUCTIVE PATH

McKee Botanical Garden and Vero Beach are so fortunate to have been spared from Hurricane Ian's destructive path. On September 28, the storm came ashore on the western coast of Florida, forever changing many beachside communities and causing extensive flooding inland as far as Arcadia and Orlando. Those affected by this catastrophic storm remain in our thoughts and prayers as they struggle through these difficult times.



Even still, the Garden was strewn with debris, and we lost three trees, however, flooding was minimal and confined to two small areas. Garden volunteers and staff worked tirelessly on Friday following the storm clearing the pathways and planting areas of dead palm fronds, broken branches and fallen leaves. Team McKee always comes to the rescue whenever they are called upon to get the job done. It was all hands-on-deck and because of great teamwork by everyone, we were able to reopen the Garden on Saturday. ■

THANK YOU TEAM MCKEE!

THE GARDEN



VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES ARE PLENTIFUL

By Anne McCormick, Volunteer Coordinator

I've heard this said many times and it's true! Welcome and thank you to all our new and longtime volunteers. McKee volunteers have been an integral part of the Garden's history and contribute to every aspect of our operations. Volunteers make a positive impact in the community and advance our mission through their hands-on support of our programs.



Camp McKee is one of those programs and it was a huge success this summer! Over the four weeks of camp, *our volunteers contributed 700 hours* assisting our campers with crafts, science projects, music time, nature activities, pizza making and much more. It's safe to say everyone learned a lot and had a great time!!

Guided tours were also very popular this summer, especially children's tours, as many summer camps and school groups joined us. Our trained volunteer Tour Guides worked their magic and made the Garden come alive in a very special way. As each tour ends, our Guides lead the groups to the Children's Garden, which features a grand discovery tree with a pirate shipwreck, a monkey bridge, a waterlily fountain and splash garden, a reading circle, fairy forest and much more!

There's always something new happening at McKee, which keeps our volunteers happy and busy. We're so excited that along with group tours McKee will now offer a tour that is open to the public called the *Magic of McKee Weekly Guided Tours History & Highlights*. As guests tour the Garden with a knowledgeable volunteer guide, they will learn the history of McKee and why this 18-acre paradise is so magical. Also new this year for our volunteers are two helpful technology tools, SignUP.com—an easy way to sign up for all volunteer events and activities—and Track It Forward, an app to log volunteer hours.

As we move into the fall season our volunteers have already been busy preparing for the holiday season making preparations for the *12 Days of Holidays Crafts* and also working with our Maintenance and Horticulture Departments creating special displays for the *Magic of McKee Festival of Lights* in December!

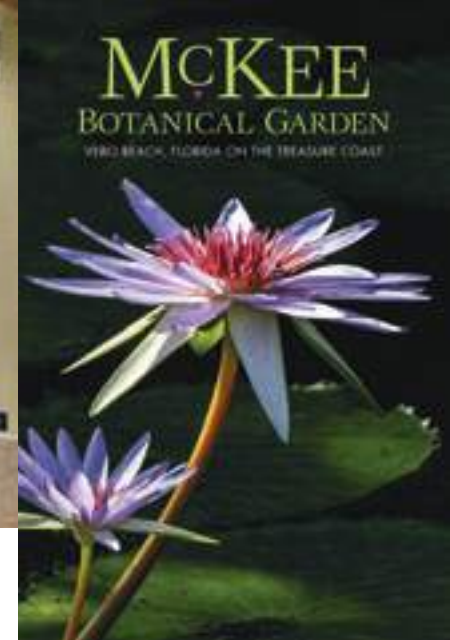
What is so great about McKee is whether you like getting your hands in the soil, like the excitement of working special events or prefer office work, there are volunteer opportunities for every interest. Thank you to all our talented, friendly and dedicated volunteers! We are so grateful for all you do to make McKee so magical for all our members and guests! ■

"The volunteers at McKee have so much fun and are so welcoming, I just had to become one!"

HATS OFF TO OUR DEDICATED VOLUNTEERS

Volunteers are vital to the ongoing success of McKee Botanical Garden and their support to McKee is unparalleled! We are very thankful and appreciative for this team that gives so freely of their time, talents and energy!

THE GARDEN



HOLIDAY GIFT SHOPPING IN THE GARDEN

The Gift Shop has new registers. We want to thank all our members for your willingness to let us update your cards with a barcode that allows for an easier check-in process with our new system. We can now make your membership cards when you purchase or renew them. During our busy season from November-May, we will do our very best to offer a second check-in station. Please stop by the Gift Shop if you do not have an updated membership card with a barcode on the front of it so we can update it before the busy season.

We have many updates to our Gift Shop—you may have noticed our beautiful new carpet. We are featuring glass items in our Gift Shop to complement our exhibit that starts in January. We are pleased to offer many hostess gifts including placemats, napkins, soaps, and towels by Michel Design Works, which get softer with every washing. The hostess sets work nicely as thank you gifts or for the holiday gifting season.

Because of high demand, we have expanded our Inis fragrance line from Ireland. This brand is recognized and sought after all over the world. We have travel sets, as well as some travel sizes for individual sales, and lovely gift sets—pick them up early before they run out. Since you requested it, we also now carry all sizes of cologne!

Check out our new nightlights depicting popular scenes of McKee Botanical Garden, such as the Stump, Historic Bridge, Hall of Giants, Pergola, a lovely waterlily, and a mushroom coming soon. These are locally made right here in Vero Beach by Imagineers 27/7.

The Hot Air Balloon spinners continue to do well so we have increased our quantity and selection of spinners this year! ■



GIVE THE GIFT OF A GARDEN MEMBERSHIP

A McKee membership makes a wonderful and unique gift for any occasion—Holidays, Birthday, Anniversary, or even a special thank you.

MEMBERS OF ALL LEVELS RECEIVE:

FREE daily admission to the Garden and Children's Garden

FREE access to ongoing attractions, including our exhibits and popular special events

Discounts and priority registrations to our dynamic roster of classes and seminars

10% off at the Garden Café and Garden Gift & Book Shop

FREE admission and/or additional benefits at 300+ gardens throughout North America and the Cayman Islands through the American Horticultural Society Reciprocal Admissions Program.

To purchase a gift membership, visit mckee garden.org/membership or call 772.794.0601.

We appreciate your help in bringing new friends to McKee!

THE GARDEN

PICTURED BELOW:

PROJECT SUPERINTENDENT JOSE ZURITA WORKS ON THE LAYOUT OF THE PALM GROVE PATIO.

COMPOSITE PHOTOS OF XAVIER CORTADA'S TILE "MURALS" FOR THE PIECES LOVE AND REVERENCE.



ABOVE: NATIVE CHAPMAN'S CASSIA (FOREGROUND) AND A PHILODENDRON 'MCDOWELL' (IN POT) ALONG THE OUTER BANKS TRAIL. BELOW RIGHT: A TYRANOSAURUS STALKS THE PEACEFUL GLADE BY THE MORSE MEMORIAL FOUNTAIN

REVITALIZATION PROJECT UPDATE

By David Sacks, Landscape Architect

As many of you have probably seen, initial upgrades along the Outer Banks Trail and Banyan Trail were completed in late 2021. Native species and carefully selected exotic plants always mingle at McKee, aiming to provide variety, surprise and delight throughout the Garden.

As part of this project, the Banyan Trail was re-routed and combined with another nearby loop—the location of the Morse memorial fountain—to create a new, simplified alignment, with the fountain now sitting at the end of a small spur trail. (If you saw the Dinosaurs Around the World installation, this little clearing was the temporary home to a Tyrannosaurus rex.) The new layout and selective site clearing helped reveal and highlight previously obscured features including the fountain itself, some massive specimens of *Ixora* 'Franki Hipp,' and one of the best surviving Powderpuff trees (*Calliandra*) propagated from the old McKee plantings. A grove of new Sand Live Oaks (*Quercus geminata*) also lines this section of the trail.

A major feature of the new trail is a series of five columnar artworks created specifically for McKee by Miami artist Xavier Cortada (www.cortada.com). Each 1-foot-square by 5-foot tall column will be wrapped in a floristic glazed tile "mural," and capped with a sculptural ceramic planter that will hold seasonally

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THE GARDEN

changing displays. These works celebrate our experiences of connection to Florida's botanical and natural world. Cortada's titles for these pieces include Reverence, Joy, Love, Strength, and Resilience.

Concrete substructures for the Cortada columns and for the new Royal Palm Grove Patio were poured in the second week of October. Although construction drawings were completed last December, the contracting process proved challenging, due to the intensely busy state of the construction industry throughout the Treasure Coast region. EBL Partners, the firm that served as General Contractor for the Children's Garden, signed on in spring 2022 and initiated the permitting process with Indian River County. Although this is a very small project for a firm like EBL, Managing Partner Michael Hawkins and Project Superintendent Jose Zurita were delighted to step up and return to McKee to help with it. "The whole region around Vero is the busiest hub for construction activity in the entire state," Michael observed. Nevertheless, through challenges of material sourcing and subcontractor availability, the crews are forging ahead. Please be sure to check out these new features this winter! ■



SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 11, 2023
HOURS: 10 AM–3 PM
GENERAL ADMISSION RATES APPLY

14TH ANNUAL MOTOR CAR EXHIBITION

Car Collectors' Favorites

ONE DAY ONLY! Car enthusiasts will not want to miss this distinguished and highly-anticipated exhibition! A family-oriented, fun presentation of motorsport excellence will be on display throughout the Garden featuring 40 of *Car Collectors' Favorites*—a wide variety of automobiles in their private collections from antique to modern, as well as a display of motorcycles. Visitors will have the opportunity to admire spectacular vehicles and speak with the collectors themselves. ■

THE GARDEN

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THERE'S SO MUCH FUN IN THE GARDEN!

By Amy Shoemaker, Education Coordinator

I'm happy to report the past Winter/Spring season was truly an exceptional one for the Education Department. We held 45 workshops/lectures from January to April with a total attendance of 584 participants.

Our Children's Weekly Programming continued until the end of May encouraging young visitors to interact with nature and music.



In the month of April, many guests attended our Pirate and Fairy Celebration Saturdays. Visitors enjoyed crafts, live music, fairy hair applications, temporary tattoos, games, and so much more. I truly enjoyed seeing the Garden filled with young pirates and fairies.

THE GARDEN



At the end of the school year Music Day at McKee was held on May 28 and was celebrated with a performance by the Imagine South Vero School Tangerines. This group of students played tunes for family members and guests. The Garden was honored to host the talented Tangerines for their last performance of the school year.

The month of June was filled with weeks of Summer Camp. Eighty children, ranging in ages from 6 to 12, attended Camp McKee. Campers enjoyed visits from professional art teachers, Tim Brown from Treasure Coast Wildlife Sanctuary, Fred Mazza from Paleo Discoveries and the interns from Coastal Connections, Inc. McKee's volunteers played a giant role in making sure our campers enjoyed their time at McKee. Camp could not happen without the help of our fantastic volunteers.

Our current education schedule is posted on our website. We have workshops scheduled until the end of November. When visiting the website, please click on Classes and Programs for more information. Plans for 2023 workshops are well underway and I have created all new Children's Garden programming for the year so we are all excitedly looking forward to 2023! ■



See you around the Garden...Amy

THE GARDEN

18TH ANNUAL WATERLILY CELEBRATION

SATURDAY, JUNE 17
8:30 AM — 2:00 PM

GENERAL ADMISSION RATES APPLY

WATERLILY REPOTTING
DEMONSTRATIONS

PLANT SALES

PLEIN AIR ARTISTS

ANNUAL WATERLILY
PHOTO CONTEST



SAVE THE DATE FOR THIS ANNUAL FAVORITE EVENT!

A regal display of one of the state's largest collections of waterlilies will be featured in the Garden's ponds and waterways. Known for capturing the imaginations of painters, photographers and horticulture enthusiasts, these stunning flowers are not only beautiful, but they also play a vital role in our aquatic ecosystem. Learn more from our garden experts about these important plants, including variety of species, colors, growing periods and blooming frequencies. Enjoy observing plein air artists, plant repotting demonstrations and plant sales. The Garden opens early for this event only, to allow visitors the opportunity to enjoy both night-blooming and day-blooming varieties. Waterlily photo contest submissions will be on display in the Hall of Giants. ■

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McKEE BOTANICAL GARDEN

350 US HIGHWAY 1 | VERO BEACH, FLORIDA 32962 | 772-794-0601

ADMISSION: \$15 ADULTS | \$13 SENIORS (65+)/YOUTH (13-17) | \$10 CHILDREN (2-12) | MCKEE MEMBERS AND CHILDREN UNDER 2 FREE

HOURS: TUE-SAT 10 AM-5 PM | SUN NOON-5 PM | LAST ADMISSION TICKET SOLD AT 4 PM

CHILDREN'S GARDEN CLOSES 4:30 PM | CLOSED MONDAYS AND MAJOR HOLIDAYS

www.mckee garden.org

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