

THE GARDEN

MCKEE BOTANICAL GARDEN | FALL 2023

A Tropical Flock of Avian Avatars

THE MYTH MAKERS

Donna Dodson &
Andy Moerlein

THRU APRIL 28, 2024

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BOTANICAL GARDEN
www.mckee garden.org

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NURTURING NATURE, GROWING COMMUNITY: PLANTING SEEDS OF CHANGE TOGETHER

A Message from Julia T. Keenan, Interim Executive Director

In a world where urbanization and technological advancements often take center stage, there exists an oasis that embodies the beauty of nature and the strength of community. This oasis is McKee Botanical Garden, a sanctuary where the community is at the heart of the Garden. The dedicated staff and volunteers who tend to the plants, organize events, and share their knowledge, create an environment where everyone can flourish. The transition of leadership marks not just a change in management, but also a celebration of the passionate community that breathes life into McKee Botanical Garden. Together, we nurture not only the plants, but also the spirit of unity and camaraderie.



Last year, the Garden welcomed almost 120,000 visitors and embraced more than 7,700 members, signifying a thriving community bound together by a love for nature. As the Garden blossoms into a new chapter, exciting events and programs await our members and visitors, promising a year filled with growth, education, and togetherness.

The upcoming year at McKee will feature an array of events designed to inspire, educate, and entertain. Among these events is the much-anticipated exhibit, *A Tropical Flock of Avian Avatars by the Myth Makers: Donna Dodson & Andy Moerlein*, which will grace the Garden from now through April 28, 2024. An artistic marvel, the exhibit fuses nature and imagination, inviting visitors to see the world through the eyes of mythical birds. These majestic birds, built with bamboo and mixed media, are thoughtfully placed throughout the Garden to enhance visitors' experience with each sculpture.

THE GARDEN



FESTIVAL OF LIGHTS

The Garden will light up for the annual *Festival of Lights*, spanning twelve magical nights in December. This enchanting display will not only illuminate the Garden, it will also illuminate the hearts of all who visit, fostering a sense of wonder and unity. Picture yourself strolling through illuminated pathways surrounded by new Florida-themed holiday lanterns that add a touch of local charm to the festivities. Amidst this enchanting ambiance stands a towering almost 20 ft. Bow Tree—a sight to behold and a perfect backdrop for cherished photographs. McKee's large-scale model train promises to be exciting as the "train guys" build upon this amazing nostalgic display in the Education Building. We are also delighted that the 1924 Wurlitzer Band organ's festive music and a variety of local ensembles and individuals will perform on various evenings throughout the event. Of course it wouldn't be the holidays without the showing 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.mckeegarden.org.

February at McKee Botanical Garden promises an exhilarating experience for car enthusiasts and creative minds alike. Buckle up for the ride of a lifetime as we proudly present our highly anticipated *15th Annual Motor Car Exhibition*, showcasing the extraordinary world of *"Rods & Customs."* This one-of-a-kind event will transform the Garden into a paradise for automobile aficionados, celebrating the artistry and craftsmanship of individual builders who have turned their dreams into reality. Prepare to be captivated by the imaginative body styling, breathtaking

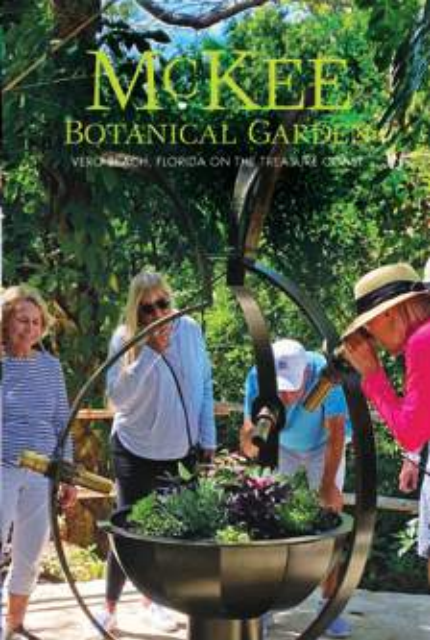
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THE GARDEN



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 340+ gardens throughout North America and the Cayman Islands through the American Horticultural Society Reciprocal Garden Network.

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

We appreciate your help in bringing new friends to McKee!

paint work, powerful engines, and luxurious interiors of these custom automobiles. Save the date—Saturday, February 10, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. for an unforgettable journey through the realm of automotive creativity.

The Garden Café, now under the creative direction of Chef Dan Overstreet, invites you to savor the flavors of nature's bounty. Whether you're a solo diner, a family looking for an enjoyable lunch that caters to every palate, or gathering with friends for a special date, the Garden Café welcomes you with open arms and a delicious meal. The menu features a wide array of sandwiches, paninis, wraps, salads, soups, children's menu, and desserts. The Café is open Tuesday– Saturday from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. and Sundays from 12 p.m. to 3 p.m. Paid Garden admission is not required to enjoy lunch at the Garden Café.



Thank you for being a part of our Garden community. We eagerly anticipate your presence and look forward to sharing the beauty of this season with you. As you step into our Garden, may you find joy, inspiration, and a deep connection with nature. ■

Sincerely,

Julia T. Keenan

Interim Executive Director

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.

JESSICA P. ADAMS
SUSAN E. AITKEN*
ROSAMOND W. ALLEN
RICHARD AND MEGHAN CANDLER
KAREN CONNORS
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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, or to register for our Estate Planning Seminar, please contact Julia Keenan, Interim Executive Director, at 772.794.0601. or development@mckee garden.org

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.

JOIN US FOR AN Estate Planning Lunch & Learn

JOIN THE MCKEE LEGACY SOCIETY

Joining the McKee Legacy Society is not only an act of generosity; it's a profound commitment to preserving this historic Garden, fostering education, and sustaining a legacy of environmental stewardship. By including McKee in your will, living trust, retirement plan, or as a beneficiary designation, you leave a lasting legacy and help shape ours.

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. Each type of legacy gift offers unique advantages and considerations, and donors are encouraged to consult with financial and legal advisors to determine the best approach for their philanthropic goals. 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 estate planning is new to you, or you are curious to learn more, members of the Gould Cooksey Fennell Law Firm will be hosting an *Estate Planning Panel Seminar at McKee* on January 16, 2024, at 12:00 pm. *To register for this event, please call 772.794.0601, or email development@mckee garden.org.*

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. ■

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

NOW SHOWING

A TROPICAL FLOCK
OF AVIAN AVATARS BY
THE MYTH MAKERS:

DONNA DODSON
& ANDY MOERLEIN

ABOUT THE ARTISTS

The Myth Makers: Donna Dodson & Andy Moerlein are a two-artist team who make site-specific monumental works of art. The collaboration between Andy Moerlein and Donna Dodson is born from a mutual love of the wild. Moerlein takes inspiration from events in the natural world that leave visual marks, which strike a narrative chord in the artist. Dodson takes inspiration from the mysterious nature of animals that spark her imagination. Storytelling and community are important aspects of their design process. Their projects frequently incorporate workshops, public talks, or onsite building with volunteers. Together, this dynamic duo has compiled more than fifty projects internationally, and they have received multiple national awards and recognitions.



McKee Botanical Garden is pleased to host this innovative exhibit featuring ten monumental and environmentally friendly bird sculptures created from bamboo and other mixed media. Each unique Avian Avatar in the Tropical Flock has been made specifically for McKee. These majestic birds have been strategically placed in McKee's tropical landscape and will be on display through April 28, 2024. The sculptures are designed to attract, captivate, and inspire the imaginations of all who encounter them.

Made from natural materials including bamboo and wood, plus a variety of recycled, repurposed, and reused materials that evoke the feeling of feathers, these site-specific sculptures are interactive and accessible. Their monumental scale and site specificity invite visitors to experience them in a variety of ways—walking by them, resting in them, or walking or running playfully through them. The sculptures engage viewers with their impressive scale, unique fabrication techniques and compelling visual appeal.

The exhibit relates back to the historic gardens at McKee that include a bamboo glade from the 1930s on the Main Jungle Trail. Also along the Bamboo Trail are numerous recently planted varieties of bamboo including Guadua bamboo from South America. This timber grade bamboo was used to build the Bamboo Pavilion at McKee, the first hurricane engineered bamboo structure in the United States. ■

THE GARDEN



A Tropical Flock of Avian Avatars

THE MYTH MAKERS

Donna Dodson &
Andy Moerlein

THRU APRIL 28, 2024

THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS

BILL AND LAURA BUCK
THE STEWARD

LAURIE AND JIM CARNEY FOR NICOLÁS
HELEN AND EVERETT COOK
JIM AND JEAN UELTSCHI
CLATTER

TINA AND BOB DI SCIPIO
IN MEMORY OF CIS & BILL GLAVIN
AND JOANNE MCCLATCHY

MCKEE BOARD OF DIRECTORS IN
HONOR OF CHRISTINE HOBART
SANCTUARY

ELIZABETH FRAPPIER
BOB AND CONNIE WOOD
TENDERNESS

STEPHANIE HURT
SURPRISE!

VIRGINIA AND WARREN SCHWERIN
THE PLATINUM PEAHEN PROMENADE

DACE AND KING STUBBS
LIFT OFF

THANK YOU HOST COMMITTEE

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CHILDREN'S FUN PACK BOOKLET SPONSOR

QUAIL VALLEY
GOLF CLUB - RIVER CLUB - THE PINES

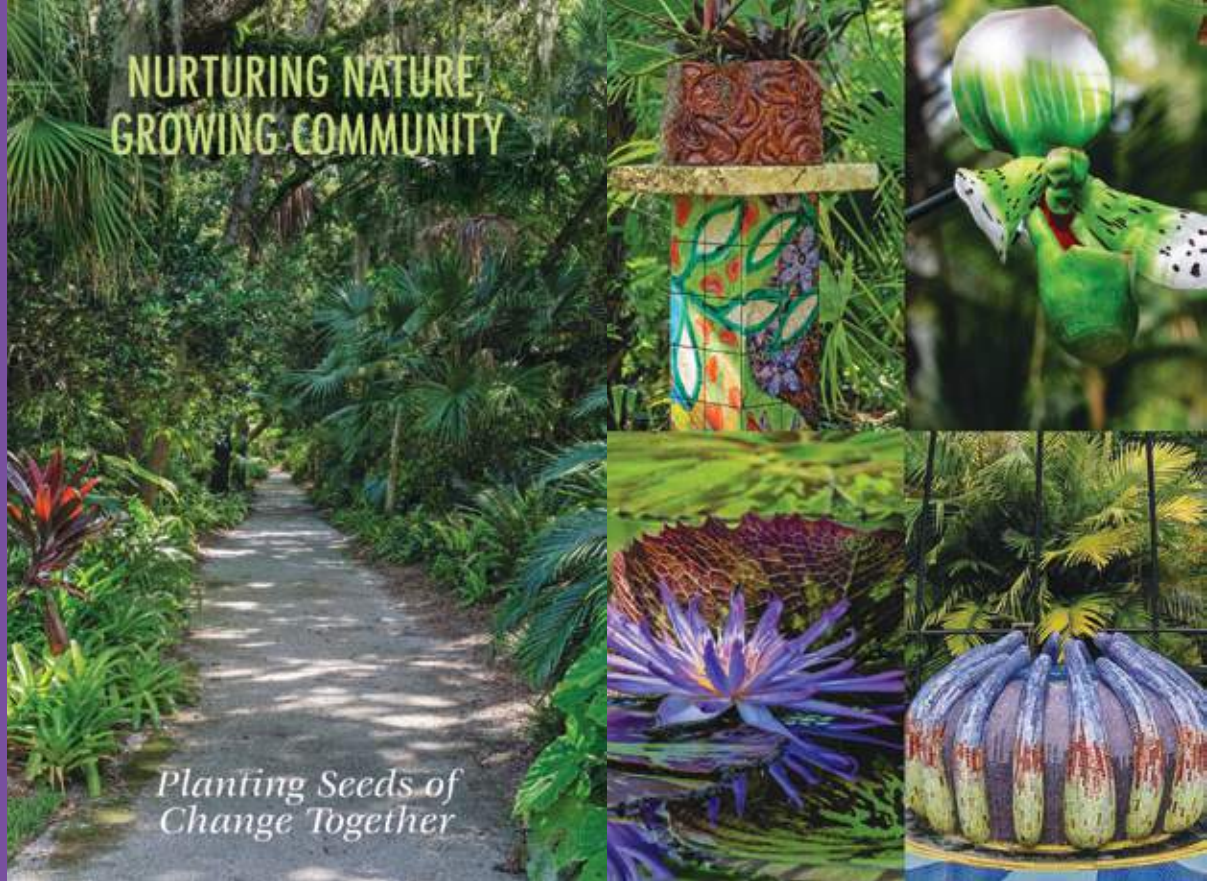


SPONSORED IN PART BY THE STATE OF FLORIDA,
DEPARTMENT OF STATE, DIVISION OF ARTS
AND CULTURE, THE FLORIDA COUNCIL ON
ARTS AND CULTURE, AND THE NATIONAL
ENDOWMENT FOR THE ARTS.

THE GARDEN

OUR VISION FOR THE FUTURE:

- Establish McKee as an environmental, cultural, and educational leader in the community.
- Attract, educate and delight visitors of all ages to become stewards of our environment.
- Offer new interactive exhibits and educational programming to foster a deep connection between visitors and nature.



YEAR END APPEAL

Nurturing Nature, Growing Community: Planting Seeds of Change Together

McKee Botanical Garden holds a special place in the hearts of many. For over twenty-three years, it has served as a sanctuary of beauty, inspiration, and environmental stewardship. Our mission is to nurture and enhance a historic garden in a unique tropical setting for the education, enjoyment, and enrichment of all. This mission remains relevant and vital as ever, and I am committed to building upon this rich heritage to ensure that McKee continues to thrive and fulfill its mission.

These initiatives can only be achieved with your support. **Your contributions to our Year End Appeal make an immediate and profound impact.**

As we embark on this exciting chapter together, **I invite you to join us in creating a brighter future for McKee Botanical Garden. Your support is not only an investment to our Garden, but also in the well-being of our community and the environment we cherish.**

We are profoundly grateful for your dedication to McKee Botanical Garden, and we look forward to working hand-in-hand with each of you to achieve our goals for 2024 and beyond. ■

THE GARDEN



Corporate Partner Program

2023



THANK YOU TO OUR CORPORATE MEMBERS

\$1,000

AIELLO LANDSCAPE OF VERO BEACH

DALE SORENSEN REAL ESTATE

JOHN'S ISLAND REAL ESTATE COMPANY

MEGHAN CANDLER GALLERY

STRUNK FUNERAL HOME

\$500

CROOM CONSTRUCTION

CW WILLIS FAMILY FARMS

DISTINCTIVE LANDSCAPE MANAGEMENT

FLORIDA POWER & LIGHT COMPANY

GARDEN CLUB OF INDIAN RIVER COUNTY

JM WEALTH MANAGEMENT

SPECTRUM INTERIOR DESIGN

\$250

CASANO ELECTRIC

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REHMANN

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VERO CHEMICAL DISTRIBUTORS, INC.

WILMINGTON TRUST



McKEE
BOTANICAL GARDEN



CORPORATE SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

Each year, McKee Botanical Garden offers a wide variety of corporate sponsorship opportunities, including our *Annual Art Exhibition, Festival of Lights* held in December, and the *Annual Motor Car Exhibition* in February, which is the Garden's single largest one-day event. For more information on becoming a corporate sponsor, please call 772.794.0601 or email development@mckee garden.org.

THE GARDEN

IN RECOGNITION OF OUR GATEKEEPERS OF THE GARDEN

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ANNUAL GATEKEEPERS OF THE GARDEN CELEBRATION

On Wednesday, November 1, McKee Botanical Garden hosted its *Annual Gatekeeper Celebration* to recognize and honor its most dedicated and visionary supporters—**Gatekeepers of the Garden.** Gatekeepers are a distinguished group of individuals who demonstrate leadership within the community by playing a critical role in ensuring the vitality, excellence, and sustainability of McKee.



This year's event coincided with the opening of our newest exhibition: *A Tropical Flock of Avian Avatars by The Myth Makers Donna Dodson and Andy Moerlein.* More than one hundred and forty Gatekeepers attended along with the artists and sponsors of the exhibit. Guests enjoyed a sip and stroll through the Garden this year that provided an opportunity to admire the ten larger-than-life bird sculptures created from bamboo and other mixed media. They also had an opportunity to visit with the artists who shared their vision of this exhibit—the largest exhibit of their career.

THE GARDEN



Elizabeth D. Kennedy & Co. catered the event, which included four cocktail and hors d'oeuvres stations featuring passed hors d'oeuvres, a giant sushi boat, and an assortment of scrumptious desserts. McKee's horticulture team created beautiful centerpieces for each station using bamboo, plants and other floral and fauna collected from the Garden. Guests were also entertained throughout the Garden by local student musicians including a string quartet, flutist, violinist, and marimba player.

We appreciate all of our Gatekeepers and thank them for their continued support! ■



GATEKEEPERS—\$1,500 (CONT.)

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 SANDY AND MIKE MCMANUS
 MR. AND MRS. EDWARD A. MICHAEL
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*DECEASED
 AS OF OCTOBER 2023

THE GARDEN

FESTIVAL OF LIGHTS

THOUSANDS OF LED LIGHTS | HOLIDAY DISPLAYS | FESTIVE DECORATIONS
INTERMITTENT SNOW FLURRIES | LARGE-SCALE MODEL TRAIN DISPLAY | ORGAN MUSIC
LOCAL ENTERTAINMENT | OUTDOOR HOLIDAY MOVIES | TASTY HOLIDAY TREATS

MEMBERS ONLY NIGHTS: DECEMBER 13 & 14
OPEN TO THE PUBLIC: DECEMBER 15–17, 19–22, 28–30
HOURS: 6 PM–8 PM, LAST ADMISSION 7:30 PM

Large-scale Model Train On Display December 19–22 and December 28–30

GENERAL ADMISSION RATES APPLY: \$15 ADULTS | \$13 SENIORS (65+)/YOUTH (13-17) | \$10 CHILDREN (2-12)

MCKEE MEMBERS AND CHILDREN UNDER 2 FREE

OFF-SITE PARKING: MCKEE'S OFF-SITE PARKING LOT WITH SHUTTLE BUSES IS LOCATED LESS THAN A MILE SOUTH OF THE GARDEN OFF OF U.S. 1
AT 146 VISTA ROYALE BOULEVARD, VERO BEACH, FL 32962.

THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS

PRESENTING SPONSOR



CANDY CANES & SUGAR PLUMS



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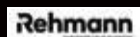
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DON'T BE A GRINCH



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TOY SOLDIER



GARDEN ELF



SPONSORED IN PART BY THE STATE OF FLORIDA, DEPARTMENT OF STATE, DIVISION OF ARTS AND CULTURE, THE FLORIDA COUNCIL ON ARTS AND CULTURE, AND THE NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE ARTS.





FINDING THE PERFECT GIFT

By Michele Carvell, Gift Shop Manager

The McKee Gift Shop staff has worked hard to select new brands and merchandise for our shop. Now you will find “*Items for a Cause*” such as **Savannah Bee Company**, which supports beekeepers worldwide and works to raise awareness. Other charitable product lines include **One Tree Mission**: each bracelet purchased results in one tree being planted; **Clear Seas**: each necklace or bracelet purchased equals one pound of trash removed from the sea; and **Marine Rescue Project**. These brands and others are found on display throughout the Gift Shop.



Another focus is “*Proudly made in the United States of America*” brands such as **White Mountain Puzzles**, **Metal Birds**, **Lefthanded Studios** (earrings), **Whistle Creed** (walking sticks and canes), **Rowley's Sand Sculptures**, **McKee Soaps**, **butterflies**, **Leanin' Tree** (greeting cards), and **Tervis**.

With the holiday season just around the corner, we encourage you to visit the Gift Shop often as we know you will find unique gifts that friends and loved ones will cherish while also supporting a worthy cause with your purchases! ■

THE GARDEN

About the Artist

Xavier Cortada is a Cuban American artist working across disciplines to engage communities. His work intends to generate awareness and action around climate change, sea level rise, and biodiversity loss. Based in Miami, he has created art at the North and South poles to address environmental concerns at every point in between, as well as across 6 continents, including more than 150 public artworks, installations, collaborative murals and socially engaged projects.



XAVIER CORTADA COMPLETES ART INSTALLATION AS PART OF MCKEE'S 20TH ANNIVERSARY REVITALIZATION PROJECT

As part of McKee's 20th Anniversary Revitalization project, internationally renowned Miami artist and educator Xavier Cortada recently completed five site-specific, permanent artworks created specifically for McKee. As you stroll the pathways of the Garden, you will discover five colorful columns. Each five-foot tall column is wrapped in a floristic glazed tile "mural," and capped with a sculptural ceramic planter.

This installation comprises a series of colorful ceramic tile murals and sculptures that aim to evoke feelings of love, joy, and reverence by celebrating the local flora that flourishes within the garden.



THE GARDEN

LOVE, JOY AND REVERENCE

One of three sculptures depicting local flora at the entrance of a trail in McKee Botanical Garden, "Love" (in red) exudes warmth, encouraging visitors to embrace the power of love, find solace in the beauty of their surroundings, and reflect on their deep appreciation for nature. "Joy" radiates vibrant yellow hues, inviting visitors to revel in the exuberance that nature bestows. It serves as a reminder to lean into joy and find inspiration amidst the serenity of the garden. "Reverence" (in blue) aims to instill a sense of awe and respect for the interconnectedness of all living things. It prompts reflection on the beauty of nature and inspires a deep reverence for the natural world.

STRENGTH AND RESILIENCE

At the end of one of McKee Botanical Garden's trails, one finds two vibrant, ceramic-tile clad sculptures inviting visitors to embrace the transformative power of nature, connect with its inherent resilience, and reflect on the strength we each possess to foster a more sustainable society. "Strength" (in orange) emanates a sense of determination and fortitude. This artwork inspires visitors to tap into their inner strength, find solace in nature's nurturing embrace, and emerge stronger than before. "Resilience" (in green) stands as a testament to the unwavering spirit found in nature and within us, urging visitors to embrace their ability to overcome challenges, adapt, and thrive.

We extend gratitude to landscape architect David Sacks who collaborated with Cortada in developing this project for McKee Botanical Garden. ■



15TH ANNUAL MOTOR CAR EXHIBITION RODS AND CUSTOMS ONE DAY ONLY! SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 2024



The **RODS AND CUSTOMS** motor car exhibition features vehicles that showcase the creative work of individual builders who have rebuilt their automobiles into dream cars. Discover the imaginative body styling, paint work, engines and interiors of these custom automobiles. Talk to owners about the hows and whys of their one-of-a-kind rods and customs. An eye-catching display of pristine motorcycles will also be on display.

HOURS: 10 AM–3 PM | GENERAL ADMISSION RATES APPLY
(MCKEE MEMBERS AND CHILDREN UNDER 2 FREE)

Historic Fact

The Druid chair is not the only nature-based furniture in the Garden. Relics from the past are the historic stone chair and table from McKee Jungle Gardens that still remain in the middle of the jungle.



The Old Druid Chair

THE HISTORY OF THE DRUID CHAIR

By Andreas Daehnick, Director of Horticulture

Do you remember the giant wooden chair that was nestled in the foliage of the Royal Palm Grove? Do you wonder what happened to it and are you also curious about its history?

The Druid chair was an inspiration of a different sort. I have to reveal an unknown truth, I'm a Druid, dragon fan and I love the magical combination of magic, imagination, and nature. When McKee began the Fairy Festival I thought there should be a nature based mystical component to the event—something to encourage and awe children of any age. I realized that handing out old wood walking canes, bows, and arrows would not have the

consequences I intended (ha ha). So instead, I came up with another idea. My inspiration was inspired from watching reruns of *The Carol Burnett Show* (really). Remember the “little girl” character that sat on a huge, oversized rocking chair? Well, I thought, “What if we made a huge wooden throne so children felt like they were sitting on an actual throne, but in the woods, perhaps like a Druid would have?” With the help of volunteers, along with hearts of pine logs collected during the rehabilitation of the Garden, the Druid chair was created. Ten years later, the original Druid chair returned to the earth where it was born. However, last month, the Druid chair once again was reborn, and now currently rests in the same location on the east side of the Royal Palm Grove.



Thank you to volunteer Jim Laporte for making my vision of the Druid chair a reality. While the new Druid chair was being visualized, I came to find

out that many patrons made use of the chair over years for family photos and even to document “yard stick” annual photos of their children to measure their growth.

The Druid chair is intended to be an inspiration for small children and adults alike. The chair has a wooden banner over it that reads, *“Come sit upon the ancient throne, if wisdom would be yours to own. Bravery, goodness, strength so true, will also be its gifts to you. For here lies the dragon flame. Now the world is yours to claim.”* ■

THE GARDEN



PERSPECTIVE

By Nikki Wojtowicz, Horticulture Team

I am so grateful to have represented McKee Botanical Garden at the 2023 International Waterlily and Water Gardening Society Symposium held this past August in Vancouver, British Columbia. Members gathered this year, as they have for the past three decades, with one common pursuit, to learn more about aquatic gardening.



Speakers included horticulturists, nursery owners, architects, engineers, and enthusiasts. Discussions addressed the environmental limits we all are challenged by no matter where we choose to grow our waterlilies, but being in a northern climate, I was repeatedly reminded of how fortunate I am to have subtropical McKee as my classroom/playground. I discovered the hurdles others face growing the tropical lilies that bloom for our guests year-round. This introduced me to new propagation and storage methods. The stories of success these same gardeners experienced growing hardy waterlilies, a challenge in Florida, have taught me new ways to better care for these cold tolerant plants.

Also discussed was the growing popularity and benefits of natural swim ponds—how they are engineered and maintained without chemicals, planted to clean themselves, and how they can work with, not stand apart, from the surrounding landscape. This is exactly what McKee's system has been doing since 2001.

Another topic was how to build a bog garden. Many don't realize that within our integrated garden at McKee, there are seven functioning bogs that filter 800,000 gallons of winding waterways, turning leaf matter into the rich silt that aquatic plants love.

Attendees garnered this education against the beautiful backdrops of the University of British Columbia Botanical Garden, VanDusen Botanical Garden, and Butchart Gardens. I am thankful for the new perspective I gained at this symposium that highlighted how truly unique McKee is and always has been. ■



THE GARDEN



VISIT OUR NEW VOLUNTEER CENTER

By Anne McCormick, Volunteer Coordinator

What a fun and busy summer our Volunteers experienced as they joined in the excitement of *Pirate & Fairy Saturdays* in May, assisted with the *18th Annual Waterlily Celebration* in June, and were key to a successful four weeks of *Camp McKee* in June and July where they guided, mentored, and assisted with a wide variety of educational projects.

This season's upcoming events, programs, and exhibit promise to be outstanding with many opportunities for our Volunteers to participate.

Adding to our excitement this year is the opening of our new Volunteer Center! Thanks to our generous donors, Paul and Jill Kaneb, the former Garden library has been converted into a beautiful, welcoming, all-purpose Volunteer Center. McKee Volunteers now have their own space to put up their feet and visit with fellow volunteers, make themselves a cup of tea or coffee, grab a bottle of water, or just stop in to say hello and relax. We recently held our first official volunteer project in the new center. Twenty volunteers assembled hundreds of holiday tree decorations. There are many fun and interesting activities planned for the coming months including *Guided Tours*, *Minkee's Super Saturdays*, the *Festival of Lights*, the *15th Annual Motor Car Exhibition "Rods & Customs"*, and much, much, more. These activities and events are not possible without our wonderful, dedicated, and enthusiastic Volunteers who assure that our visitors have a meaningful and enjoyable experience! ■



THE GARDEN

EDUCATION DEPARTMENT HAS GROWN

By Amy Shoemaker, Education Coordinator

Our Education Department has grown. Caroline “Cazz” Castle joined the McKee family in September as our new Education Associate. Cazz will be assisting with our current and future programming as well as helping to expand our community outreach.



McKee's education department enjoyed another successful winter-spring season. We held forty-eight workshops/lectures from January to May, with a total attendance of 732 participants. Many families took part in our Children's Garden programming throughout the season—our weekly *Garden Sprouts Nature Playgroup* seems to be the talk of the town!

Pirate and Fairy Celebration Saturdays in May were well attended and enjoyed by all. Participants enjoyed live music, crafts, face painting, balloon twisting, bubbles, fairy house building and so much more. Let's do it again next year!

Summer programs were also very well attended. *Indoor Matinees at McKee*, and our *Coffee and Crafting* series were very popular for those who enjoyed spending time at McKee while escaping the summer heat. Every other week, participants enjoyed lunch and a movie or making a new craft project while sipping coffee.

McKee received wonderful comments and reviews from the families of our *Camp McKee* participants. Thank you! As a result, we are expanding next year's summer camp opportunities to include six weeks of summer camp. Dates and themes are posted on our website under "Camp McKee" and registration will open on March 1, 2024.



None of our education programs would be possible without the help of McKee's fantastic volunteers whose commitment to McKee Botanical Garden is unwavering. Thank you to all who have helped to make this year a huge success.

Next season's schedule is already set, and a new Education Booklet should arrive in your mailbox by the second week of December. See you around the Garden! ■



THE GARDEN

19TH ANNUAL

WATERLILY CELEBRATION

ONE DAY ONLY! SATURDAY, JUNE 15, 2024



PLANT SALES

REPOTTING DEMONSTRATIONS

PLEIN AIR ARTISTS

WATERLILY PHOTO CONTEST

HOURS: 8:30 AM-2 PM

GENERAL ADMISSION RATES APPLY
(MCKEE MEMBERS AND CHILDREN UNDER 2 FREE)

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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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