

October 11, 2011

News Release

*For Immediate Release*

### **Details of Botanical Center Anniversary Weekend Released**

The Springfield-Greene County Park Board celebrates the one-year anniversary of its Springfield-Greene County Botanical Center with a weekend of events beginning Friday, Oct. 14 – Sunday, Oct. 16. Activities include free tours of the Park and gardens, seminars and hands-on activities for children and adults. The highlight of the celebration will be a Saturday afternoon "First Anniversary Garden Party and Concert," featuring local, regional and international guest musicians.

#### **Weekend Activities**

Activities begin on Friday morning with free videos about Monarch butterfly migration, art exhibits by Studio 55, solar tram tours and a family-friendly 'Walk-About' that begins at 10:00 a.m. That evening, register for Horticultural Interpreter, Peter Longley's, "Formal Feasts" Tablescapes demonstration. Peter will share his ideas for festive entertaining based on his extensive experience as the Estate Manager for Tullamaine Castle in Ireland and as Cruise Director of the Queen Elizabeth 2 where he orchestrated gourmet dining events and social gatherings.

Saturday, the Park will be filled with music, food and activities. Join the 'Edible Garden Design Workshop' presented by Rob Corliss and Tres Fromme at 8:00 a.m.. Rob, the founder of All Things Epicurean (ATE) and Tres, a leader in public garden collaborations will share their vast knowledge of planning and design of an edible garden (pre-registration is required). The Master Gardeners will host garden tours throughout the day and a bulb sale. The free musical entertainment will begin at noon continuing throughout the afternoon until 7:00 p.m.

For a full schedule, visit [www.botanicalcenter.org](http://www.botanicalcenter.org) or call 417-891-1515.

The performance schedule is as follows:

- Noon – 12:45 p.m.: Queen City Cats
- 1 – 1:45 p.m.: Kellswater
- 2 – 2:45 p.m.: Amber Norgaard
- 3 – 3:45 p.m.: Luna Sureste (Mexico)
- 4 – 5 p.m.: M-Dock
- 5:15 – 7 p.m.: Paco Padilla with special guest Sheila Rios (Mexico)

The Mexican performers are from our sister city, Tlaquepaque, Mexico.

Parking for the afternoon concerts will be organized throughout Nathanael Greene/Close Memorial Park with overflow parking at James Ewing Sports Complex, located at the corner of Scenic and Bennett. The Park Board will provide free shuttle service to and from the facilities. Patrons are also encouraged to use the Greenway Trails to access the Park. A wide selection of food options will be available for purchase throughout the day.

The week-end celebration highlights the relationship with our Sister Cities as well as the continued functionality of the building and surrounding grounds. Throughout the weekend, we encourage visitors to explore all of the Parks' amenities including the Gray-Campbell Farmstead, Mizumoto Japanese Stroll Garden, Dr. Roston Native Butterfly House, The Play Trail and NatureGrounds® Play Equipment, Master Gardeners Demonstration Garden and many more gardens! On Sunday, register for the Bonsai Workshop, when members of the Botanical Society will demonstrate the fine art of training and pruning this delicate Japanese tree and don't miss another concert with world renowned flautist Bettine Clemen. Program registrations and advanced ticket sales are available through the Botanical Boutique and Marketplace by calling 417-891-1515.

The first concerted effort to raise private funds for the Botanical Center began in 2003 following the initial architectural design and estimate. On Oct. 20, 2006, the Springfield-Greene County Park Board approved a master plan for the Complex. That master plan includes 45 distinct gardens to be developed over several years, including the Mizumoto Japanese Stroll Garden.

### The Building

The 12,700-square foot Botanical Center facility, within Nathanael Greene/Close Memorial Park, 2400 S. Scenic, is owned and operated by the Springfield-Greene County Park Board and features classroom space for outreach programs and a soil & research lab. Additional public services are provided by the MU Extension and Master Gardeners of Greene County in the Plant Diagnostics Hotline. The building also has a large two-story atrium, adjacent gift shop and restrooms. The facility houses a number of offices for University of Missouri Extension, Friends of the Garden and Park Board Botanical staff. In addition to serving as the welcome and education center to the dozens of outdoor gardens, The Botanical Center is a beautiful venue available to the community for hosting social and business gatherings.

For more information about scheduled activities, call 417-891-1515 or visit [www.parkboard.org](http://www.parkboard.org) (directly <http://bit.ly/rtTn44>).

**MEDIA:** For more information, media contact: Anne-Mary McGrath, Special Events Administrator, 417-863-1338 or 417-353-1514 or Katie Steinhoff, Botanical Center Coordinator, 417-891-1515 or 417-353-3098.