FROM THE DIRECTOR

It is hard to believe I will be two years on the job coming up in January! I love to say “time flies whether you are having fun or not,” but I have to say it has been a great ride so far, and I have loved directing Reiman Gardens. So much has happened in those short two years and seemed to accelerate this past year, so I am excited to present to you our accomplishments since last year’s report.

In my first year, friends back in Wisconsin asked me the best part of the job, and I would tell them it is the great team I work with, and that remains true. We’ve had some changes in staff you will see inside, but every change has brought us new talent and staff continues to operate energized and passionate about what they do. Please take time to read about the accomplishments of all of our departments – I think you will be amazed at the increases in our programs, events, activities and opportunities! Our visitation continues to grow, and our members must love what we are doing. We used to count on 200-300 people at member previews; in 2016 we saw one with over 500 and another with over 550 registrants! We also made the Gardens more accessible to all by introducing a very popular one free admission day per month.

The Nature Connects®: Art with LEGO® Bricks exhibit drew families. The holiday Applied Imagination train is on its way to being an annual tradition. Increasing the bulb display from 28,000 to 47,000 was not to be missed. Adding 500 jack-o-lanterns to Spirits in the Gardens blew visitors away, and the renovation of the frog pump fountain delighted children. But these and other highly visible projects weren’t our only impact. Our education department is putting us on the national map as a Portal to the Public science provider, and our entomology department is making waves globally with industry-leading butterfly survey apps and conservation initiatives.

I expect you are going to be impressed with what we’ve accomplished in 2016. But just wait. This report also presents a preview of things to come, including the first new significant garden spaces since 2008! It also includes a preview of next year’s amazing exhibit, Washed Ashore™, which augments our theme of water.

Whether past accomplishments or future excitement, nothing we do is achieved without a tremendous support system. Our foundation is only as strong as our dedicated volunteer base, our loyal members and generous donors, as well as solid support from Iowa State University. Because of you, we continue to grow and improve as an asset to the University, community and region. And . . . we are headed to national recognition. With the submission of this annual report goes our sincere appreciation to our supporters.

Ed Lyon,
Director of Reiman Gardens
Reiman Gardens’ mission

“Educate, enchant, and inspire an appreciation of plants, butterflies, and the beauty of the natural world”

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20-Year Master Site Plan

A new master plan for further development and improvement of the Gardens over the next 20 years was completed and released in January of 2016. Master plans are critical to the growth and development of public gardens.

Every garden usually starts its evolution with one, and that was true for Reiman Gardens 21 years ago. Over time, gardens implement portions of such plans. Some projects come to fruition, some don’t, depending on resources, necessity and changes in vision, staff and other determinants over time. It is necessary to re-evaluate what worked well, what didn’t, and what new initiatives are needed after a span of significant time, generally 20-25 years.

2015 marked the 20th anniversary of Reiman Gardens, and it was determined that it was time to look at the next 20 years. A successful major grant of $95,000 through the Institute of Museum and Library Services provided the funding to hire Spurlock Poirier Associates, San Diego and Tres Fromme, Atlanta to create the next 20-year plan. A grand design was announced to the public in January. The plan and related perspective renderings of major new spaces now hang in the main hall and can be found on our website.

Stadium Garden Plaza

This is the proposed name for what has been called, and was mentioned in our 2015 annual report as the green space portion of the South End Zone Stadium Expansion project. This project has impacted the Gardens, but is not part of our 20-year master plan released in January 2016. The ultimate goal is to produce a “green space,” park-like area in what has been labeled as parking lot S3.
NEW PROJECTS

Phase 1 of this project has been completed and involved all of the necessary “infrastructure” that precedes construction. It might be more accurate to call it substructure because it included massive changes to water drainage under the entire parking area, which included the ditch just inside the Gardens’ northern fence line. Removing the water flow through this portion of the Gardens has created roughly 2.5 acres of more usable ground as a result. The work also produced a better entrance into stadium parking with a more visible, gently winding drive to the Gardens’ entrance.

As soon as ground can be worked in 2017, construction on the next phase, which is the actual green space, will start with the goal of completing beds, structures and features by football season and final finishes of landscape plantings by spring 2018. Reiman Gardens’ Director Ed Lyon and ISU First Lady Janet Leath directed the design of the space with the design firm RDG, based in Des Moines and Omaha. The design goal has been to create a usable space that transitions elements of the imposing scale of the stadium with the more natural elements of the Gardens.

The design for the green space should be ready for public viewing by the end of the year. Look for announcements from the university. Reiman Gardens will also share information with its membership. It will be an amazing public space with water features, an artistic pergola, winding paths through mass planted beds, a twelve-foot-high observation deck, restrooms and more. The Gardens’ staff is pleased to see 2016’s construction disturbances end and is looking forward to watching the space evolve into function in 2017.

Water-Wise Hillside Garden

The magnitude of the master plan will require major funding initiatives through donations, grants, foundation requests and raised revenue with heavy reliance on major donors. Before asking potential contributors to donate to the master plan, the Gardens felt it was important to show initiative by building the first new garden space to show its commitment to the new plan.

The ISU Class of 1955 had already contributed a significant amount to go toward the development of what was loosely called the Hillside Garden, a steep embankment between the Patty Jischke Children’s Garden and the Hunziker House. Reiman Gardens has increased that amount by another 80% to complete the necessary funding. The goal is to show donors our commitment to garden improvement before asking others for their patronage.

The master plan specifies that the ultimate design for this space utilize terraces with plantings that appear to cascade down the hill, all set off a grand, twelve-foot-wide staircase. The plantings will reflect a sustainability initiative of being beautiful but requiring little or no water once established. Five different styles of water-wise gardens will be represented. There will be an additional unique feature of this garden. The upper 4-6” of growing media will be gravel. This gravel-based form of gardening has been successfully used in Germany for close to 20 years as not only water-wise, but low maintenance. Watch for press releases and upcoming classes to find out how this works!

Construction started in the fall. The goal is to see the project completed with planting next May. Expect to see a grand opening in 2017! This will be the first major garden project since 2008!
NEW PROJECTS

Sycamore Falls
In December 2016, Roy and Bobbi Reiman committed $1.7 million toward the $3.4 million Sycamore Falls project. Sycamore Falls will feature several waterfalls cascading over native limestone walls, flanked by sculptural terraces with generous swaths of colorful ornamental plants, and ending in a large reflecting pool. The plan incorporates a number of sycamore trees that have been on the property for about 80 years. The falls will provide a unique location for events and promise to become a distinctive and recognizable image at Reiman Gardens.

Sycamore Falls is part of Reiman Gardens’ new 20-year master plan, which launched to coincide with the Gardens’ 20th anniversary. The plan has been strongly supported by Iowa State University President Steven and First Lady Janet Leath. The master plan complements their goal of campus beautification and aligns with the Jack Trice Stadium South End Zone green space project, as well as creates a grand entrance to campus. The ambitious project will be completed over a number of years and funded by Reiman Gardens’ revenue, grants and fundraising.

The Reimans’ gift is the first to help fund the new plan – and serves as a jumpstart that they hope will encourage other donors to support the Gardens.

The Alumni Bulb Meadow Garden
Roy Reiman is a great contributor of ideas, and he inspired one of the newest garden spaces. He used his Birds & Blooms magazine to announce plans to make his hometown of Greendale the “Daffodale Capital of the Country.” He started the process by donating 2,000 bulbs and asked readers to send him a few bulbs of their own so they could say that they had contributed to the mission. The daffodils were to be planted in 50 sun rays around a red tulip center representing every state. Readers exceeded his expectations, sending more than 54,000 bulbs when only 7,000 were needed! Those extras were distributed to residents with the stipulation they be planted in front yards for visibility, which they were, truly making Greendale a “daffodale” center.

Reiman Gardens decided to mimic this success story through a partnership with the ISU Alumni Center. An embankment adjoining the Hillside Water-wise Garden was selected to provide ample viewing of bulbs and demonstrate to a homeowner how to handle a difficult site. The Reiman Gardens’ Alumni Family Bulb Meadow Garden was promoted in the Summer 2016 issue of Visions magazine, and alumni were invited to donate to bulb packages or send bulbs from their own gardens.

Approximately 1,500 bulbs, representing actual bulbs and cash donations, were augmented with an additional 7,500 from Reiman Gardens and planted amongst 1,500 grasses and sedges to form a natural low-maintenance bulb meadow.

Many of the bulbs and plants dug from home gardens arrived with stories of their history and significance to the donor - portions of these stories will be part of an interpretive sign that will be installed next spring. The bulbs will multiply over time and Reiman Gardens will continue to add more annually.
NEW FACES

Taylor Woodcock, Volunteer Coordinator
Taylor Woodcock, Reiman Gardens’ new Volunteer Coordinator, moved here from Michigan in April with her husband when he accepted a position with the Iowa Department of Transportation. They have two large dogs. Taylor’s background is in the museum field and most recently she was the Museum & Gallery Manager for the Holland Museum in Holland, MI. She loves chocolate, her two nephews and one niece!

Jerry Lovig, Custodial Manager
Jerry Lovig, Reiman Gardens’ new Custodial Manager, has been at Iowa State University for nine years. For the past five years, Jerry has lived in Ames. He and his wife, who have been married for 28 years, have three daughters. Jerry’s hobbies include fishing, camping, and working outside in his yard.

Lindsey Smith, Collections Curator
Lindsey Smith, Reiman Gardens’ new Collections Curator, is a horticulturist and plant collections enthusiast who has worked at Reiman Gardens (2012-13), the Morton Arboretum (2013-15), and Reiman Gardens (2015). She is a graduate of Iowa State University with a degree in Horticulture. Lindsey is a self-described super shy, book advocate/gamer/food junkie/succulent plant fangirl/and devoted list maker.

IN THE COMMUNITY

In 2016 Reiman Gardens’ staff participated in the United Way fund drive, Plant a Row for the Hungry, as well as a food drive to collect donations for Mid-Iowa Community Action.

Reiman Gardens’ Director Ed Lyon served as a judge for the Octagon Art Festival. Sara Merritt, Education Manager, is the President of the Ames Community Arts Council, of which Reiman Gardens is an organizational member. Sara was also a judge for the First LEGO® League state championship. Aaron Steil, Assistant Director, serves as co-host for Gardening Today on WHO Radio.

The Gardens also participated in Brunnier in Bloom, the City of Ames 4th of July parade and the Octagon Festival of Trees.
MEMBERSHIP

Not only does membership at Reiman Gardens carry tangible benefits such as unlimited admission for your household and 10% off all merchandise at the Gift Shop, it supports the Gardens’ mission and helps sustain the Gardens for generations to come. Thank you for your support!

The following information is based on FY16 (July 1, 2015 – June 30, 2016).

- FY16 Membership revenue totaled: $214,004
- New membership households: 539
- Total number of membership households: 3,137

Membership attendance at three Members Only Events

- 2016 Orchid Fest preview party – 259
- 2016 Nature Connects®: Art with LEGO® Bricks preview party – 510
- 2016 RG Express Holiday Train preview party – 549

Membership levels were adjusted last summer when the Director’s Circle giving society was implemented (see Funds Development report). The top two levels, Benefactor - $1,250 and Partner - $2,500 were removed.

Current membership levels

- Steward - $40 (new in 2016)
- Supporter - $55
- Contributor - $110
- Sustainer - $250
- Patron - $500

As of August 2016, current ISU employees (faculty, P&S, merit and contract) receive a 20% discount off any membership level upon verification of employment. Memberships may be purchased at the Gardens (with ISU ID card), over the phone, or via the mail with a membership form. Memberships purchased online will not reflect the discount.

For more membership information contact rgmembership@iastate.edu or 515-294-3755.

FUNDS DEVELOPMENT

Thank you to all who made a donation above and beyond membership this past fiscal year! Because of your generosity, the Gardens is able to fund:

- Year-round beautification of the Gardens
- Butterfly chrysalides (approximately 800 species are featured with new ones purchased every week)
- K-12 educational programming and learning opportunities for adults
- Research and instruction of sustainability while providing a living laboratory for Iowa State University students
- Community events
- One free admission day per month for the public (new in 2016)
- Top-notch annual exhibits such as Nature Connects®: Art with LEGO® Bricks and the RG Express Holiday Train exhibit
- Day-to-day operations
Since Reiman Gardens is a unit of Iowa State University, all private gifts are submitted through the Iowa State Foundation and are tax-deductible as allowable by law. The Gardens is grateful for every dollar received. Gifts of any amount help the Gardens remain a top attraction in Iowa.

Total private support raised last fiscal year, July 1, 2015 – June 30, 2016: $259,298

The following memorials were given by the donors listed below (FY16):

**In memory of Donna Fuller**
Krista Fuller
Janice Bohnsack

**In memory of Brice Charles Janvrin**
Bruce and Diane Janvrin

**In memory of Beverly Koehlmoos**
Stacy Cullison

**In memory of Beryl Loeffler**
Craig and Janet Beer

**In memory of Ron Prescott**
Various unknown gifts

**In memory of Marcia Rosenquist**
John and Jane Jacobson

**In memory of Annette Rowley**
Mona Smith

**In memory of Fred Scott**
Matt and Krista DeWitt
Mary Engstrom
Raymond and Marianne Lorenz
Donna Woody

**In memory of Fred Scott (continued)**
Truman Lewis
Delores Lewis

**In memory of Dennis Severson**
Story County Agricultural Extension District

**In memory of Charlene Shore**
Katie Honsey
Chuck Hoyt
Michael and Tammy Shore

**In memory of Shirley Shurson**
Mark and Rita Gilbertson

**In memory of Janet Sneiderman**
David and Laura Bernemann
Clark and Tracey Lane
James and Deborah Loux
Janice Bohnsack – in memory of Donna Fuller

**In memory of Jan and Ken Stone**
Jeri Prescott

**In memory of Marjorie Ullestad**
Mark and Rita Gilbertson

**Tribute Cards**
Complimentary tribute/sympathy cards are available at the Gardens for your convenience. Simply send the tribute card to the family of the loved one and your check/form to Reiman Gardens in the provided return envelope. Sympathy cards are available on the brochure rack in the Reiman Gardens’ front desk area and/or by contacting 515-294-3755 or rgmembership@iastate.edu.

All memorial gifts, unless otherwise designated, will support the Gardens’ Fund for Excellence (plants, flowers and butterflies). Memorial donations of all sizes are appreciated and are a great way to pay tribute to someone special to you.
DIRECTOR’S CIRCLE

This past summer, the Gardens implemented a new giving society, the Director’s Circle, which recognizes donors who give $1,000 or more annually. A gift at this level automatically qualifies you to receive membership benefits at the Patron level, insider emails from Director Ed Lyon, and invitations to exclusive events including an annual donor recognition dinner. Founding members of the Director’s Circle will be listed in next year’s annual report noting gifts given July 1, 2016 – June 30, 2017. All gifts will be added to the Gardens’ Fund for Excellence unless otherwise designated, and will count toward annual and lifetime recognition through Iowa State University’s Order of the Knoll.

Please keep Reiman Gardens in mind when making your charitable contributions and consider joining the Director’s Circle. To make a tax-deductible gift to Reiman Gardens, please visit www.reimangardens.com or send a check to: Reiman Gardens, 1407 University Blvd., Ames, IA 50011.

RENTALS

Rentals at Reiman Gardens continued to grow in 2016, with an increase in both weddings and rentals. Weekday weddings have become increasingly popular. Also in 2016, Reiman Gardens was selected by Ames Tribune readers as the “Best of Story County Wedding Venue.” Increasing “off-season” rentals continues to be a goal, as “in-season” weekend days in 2016 were almost entirely booked with rentals. To schedule a private event at the Gardens, contact Renee Rule at 515-294-8994.

ADMISSIONS

We had a lot of visitors this year! The Nature Connects® exhibit generated significant buzz and a great deal of attendance for 2016. High quality exhibits along with amazing horticultural displays, fabulous events and informative programs all drove attendance numbers up again this year! Admission fees generate critical revenue for operating the Gardens. The goal is to maintain this trend of bringing more people to the Gardens. Next year, the Washed Ashore™ exhibit should help us continue to attract even more visitors to the Gardens!

** by end of October 2016

** by end of October 2016
2016 THEME - COLOR

In 2016, Reiman Gardens celebrated color as its theme. From garden-inspired Nature Connects®: Art with LEGO® bricks sculptures in classic bold colors, to a rainbow of tulips; from romantically lush landscapes designed with inspiration by landscape designer Gertrude Jekyll, to bright-colored plantings in the Children’s Garden, Reiman Gardens was alive with color and beauty. Visitors were taken on a journey to explore the amazing colors that surrounded us in the Gardens.

From April 23rd through October 31st, Reiman Gardens hosted the popular and very colorful Nature Connects®: Art with LEGO® Bricks exhibit and everyone took part in the excitement! Simulating how all living things are interconnected, the exhibit featured 13 larger than life, eye-popping displays made with 500,000 LEGO® brick pieces by artist Sean Kenney. When the Gardens first featured the Nature Connects exhibit in 2012, it was greeted with much enthusiasm. The 2016 exhibit featured brand new sculptures and plenty of opportunities to fascinate children (and adults) of all ages.

RG EXPRESS HOLIDAY TRAIN

Trains were featured at the Gardens from November 18th through January 8th! Visitors young and old were enchanted by the custom-built RG Express train. This unbelievably detailed “g-scale” (often called “garden scale”) display was created by Applied Imagination, an internationally recognized company whose train displays meld botanical design and architecture. Reiman Gardens is one of only 15 sites in North America to own one of these unique train displays. Visitors could walk past, around, and under miniature buildings and bridges historically significant to Iowa State University and local history, rendered with clever use of natural materials and accented with a spectacular waterfall.

This year the RG Express chugged through an even sweeter landscape! From gumdrops to candy canes to ribbon candy, the holidays were full of colorful candies and food. Our whimsical train display was as sweet as can be in the Hughes Conservatory with plantings inspired by colorful candy.
EVENTS

In 2016, Reiman Gardens provided the public with more than 30 events that ranged from family-focused activities, such as Spirits in the Gardens and Breakfast with Santa, to four After Hours events for adults, to special interest events such as Day of Insects, Orchid Fest, and the Rose Show.

2016 events started off with Silver Screen Saturdays. For all five Saturdays in January, two showings of popular children’s movies were offered: Mary Poppins, Inside Out, Toy Story, Ratatouille, and Wizard of Oz. The Spring Egg Hunt was co-sponsored with Reiman Gardens and the Ames Jaycees. A total of 1,698 guests, 902 adults and 796 kids joined the Easter bunny to hunt for eggs and make spring-related crafts.

Every year, guests come to the Gardens to watch the Independence Day fireworks display. This year, admission was free due to a grant from the Ames Convention and Visitors Bureau. Guests enjoyed music from the High Society Band and were welcome to bring a picnic and enjoy the beauty of a garden at sunset. Spirits in the Gardens was a fall festival for families. Children were admitted free and enjoyed crafts, owls and raptors from the ISU Wildlife Clinic, trick or treating, storytelling by Jeri Heid and games. This year 1,114 children enjoyed the festivities. Total admission for the event was 2,538.

Breakfast with Santa provided a hearty buffet breakfast with a visit from Santa. Children also enjoyed holiday-related crafts. Butterfly Blizzard was also a big hit. Two Saturday mornings in December, the entomology staff prepared butterflies that families then released in the Christina Reiman Butterfly Wing.

The Gardens also hosted numerous shows for special interest plant enthusiasts: the 6th annual Orchid Fest, 8th annual Rose Fest, 2nd annual Lily Show and 9th annual Bonsai Show. The displays of orchids, award-winning roses, lilies and bonsai were awe inspiring.

In July, the Gardens hosted the 12th annual Garden Art Fair. More than 1,123 visitors browsed 60 eclectic booths and bought garden-inspired art pieces including jewelry, watercolor, pottery, woodwork, glass, photography, sculpture, and fabric arts. Reiman Gardens’ 7th annual Quilt Show displayed more than 90 garden-inspired quilts. During the three day event, guests marveled over intricate and beautiful quilts on display, voted for their favorites and browsed the goods of fabric art vendors.

After Hours is an event hosted four times each year. It is an opportunity to enjoy the Gardens with good food and live music in the early evening. This event is growing as more visitors realize how beautiful the Gardens are this time of night.

Reiman Gardens’ public events appeal to a wide variety of audiences from youth to the young at heart.
A Jack-O-Lantern Walk was a new feature of Reiman Gardens’ events in 2016. We challenged ourselves and our volunteers to design and carve 500 pumpkins to display during our annual Spirits in the Gardens event. Carving pumpkins proved to be a popular volunteer activity; we had over 350 volunteers working 575 hours.

A father and high-school-aged daughter carved Woody from Toy Story; it was the first pumpkin either of them had ever carved. Students came on dates, to fulfill a volunteer requirement or as a group project for their dorm floor, sorority/fraternity, or learning community. During working hours we had a dedicated group of volunteers who returned multiple times, working as many as 20 hours to help make this event the success it was. Students asked us to take pictures of the groups with their pumpkins and then shared those photos on social media. The enthusiasm of the volunteers was contagious.

Spirits in the Gardens/Jack-O-Lantern Walk guests viewed jack-o-lanterns of many social/cultural icons including Harry Potter, Star Wars, Ghostbusters, Disney princesses and characters, movie monsters, super heroes, American Gothic and traditional Halloween patterns of witches, bats and ghouls. Families came together to view the display. Reiman Gardens’ staff had the opportunity to hear comments such as “Look at all the details in this!” “There are so many with so many details!” “Wow, I can’t believe how much work went into this,” and “I wonder if they will do this again next year?”

Attendance at Spirits in the Gardens went from 942 in 2015 to 2,538 in 2016, a 178% increase. We displayed the jack-o-lanterns on hay bales around Lake Helen, in the South Field and on the benches in the Bald Cypress Allee. People driving along University Boulevard could see them from the road, drawing a curious crowd. Iowa State University students made up a large portion of our volunteers and many returned to see the jack-o-lanterns lit. Our Iowa State University student guest admission grew from 136 in 2015 to 313 in 2016.

Guests of all ages enjoyed the event, from designing to carving to creating the displays to experiencing 500 lit jack-o-lanterns.
A SNEAK PEEK INTO 2017

Water is life! In 2017 Reiman Gardens celebrates water as its theme and the plant, insect and human lives it sustains. The Gardens are alive with colorful displays inspired by all things water-related – from umbrellas and fountains to sea monsters and surfing. The significance of water will be on display with the Washed Ashore™ exhibit, whose trash to art sculptures highlight the importance of clean water. Join us at the Gardens as we show you the importance and beauty of water in the Gardens!

2017 will feature the sculpture exhibit Washed Ashore™ throughout the Gardens from April 29th through October 31st.

Reiman Gardens will display 10, larger-than-life sea creature sculptures made from trash collected from beaches to graphically illustrate the tragedy of the pollution in our oceans and waterways. The awe-inspiring sculptures are up to 12 feet tall and 15 feet long, and emphasize how important clean water is to all life.

Nearly 140,000 visitors are expected to view this exhibit. Not only will they be impacted by the sheer size, color, uniqueness and detail of the pieces, but also by the underlying message to be a good steward of the planet. Educational signage and K-12/adult programming will accompany the sculptures to encourage reducing, refusing, reusing, re-purposing and recycling. Reiman Gardens will be the first public garden in the entire country to host this colorful exhibit, joining the ranks of the Smithsonian National Zoo, Denver Zoo, SeaWorld Parks, the San Francisco Zoo and more!
EDUCATION

In 2016, the Gardens offered a total of 250 distinct youth and adult education programs, representing an increase of 70% over 2015, serving 2,890 unique attendees, marking a rise in participation of 38% from the previous year. Education staff and dedicated volunteer guides provided 182 tours for 5,814 individuals – from adults of all ages, backgrounds, and interests; to Iowa State University classes; to pre-K through high school students all across Iowa.

Continuing our successful implementation of the Portal to the Public program, coordinating staff trained an additional 10 ISU graduate students in various departments through our yearly Science Communication Fellowship. We provided NSF-supported professional development to science professionals in the areas of informal education and hands-on activity development, training them to communicate their work to a general public audience through programs and events at Reiman Gardens.

New this year, Reiman Gardens also served as a venue for classes and workshops intended to promote personal wellness through interaction with nature and natural materials. We began working with Board-Certified Movement Therapist Camilla Kottman to offer various programs with a therapeutic horticulture designation, and invited Nan Bonfils of the Iowa Arboretum to teach family yoga classes.

In addition to seeing a resurgence in registrations for our monthly Floral Design Series, adult programming has further expanded this year, with increased attendance in herb classes, photography, wreath-making, crafty cocktail nights, and gardening-themed programs taught by Director Ed Lyon.

Our most highly attended programs for a youth audience included drop-in programs and regular favorites like recurring storytelling, butterfly experiences, and the gardening series, Plant Pals. This year, we also partnered with the College of Engineering as a sponsor for some wonderful youth STEAM classes featuring LEGO® bricks as design materials, which allowed us to bring in 126 more kids for 11 unique programs taught by ISU Faculty in the Architecture, Engineering, Industrial Design and English departments! A BIG THANK YOU goes out to the College of Engineering for their generous support!
HORTICULTURE

The growing season started off with a lavish display of over 47,000 spring bulbs. The effect was simply breathtaking and one of the best tulip displays at the Gardens . . . ever. The impact of the display attracted visitors from across the Midwest, and this quantity of bulbs will be the new norm for the spring display. It also prompted changes to spring 2017 visitor hours so more people have the opportunity to visit and see such an amazing sight. The Gardens also added a Bag-O-Bulbs sale where the tulips that were dug after blooms faded were offered to the public, allowing them to add the same tulips they enjoyed at the Gardens to their own home landscapes. The sale also allowed Reiman Gardens to recoup some of the costs of the display. Members lined up early to snag a bargain, and $2,650 was raised in just under two hours!

The horticulture staff and volunteers planted more than 15,000 annuals, representing over 450 unique cultivars or species, for the outside summer displays. Some of these annuals were vegetable plants from which harvested produce was donated to Story County’s Plant-A-Row for the Hungry chapter. Started as a Reiman Gardens intern project in 2004 and run completely by volunteers, the Story County Plant-A-Row program is truly amazing and one the Gardens is very proud to support. Reiman Gardens’ donation of nearly 1,100 pounds of fresh produce fulfilled nearly 14% of Plant-A-Row’s 2016 goal of collecting and distributing 8,000 pounds of garden produce to local agencies.

The popularity and profitability of the second annual Plant Sale Extravaganza grew “tree-mendously” despite the challenges of Commencement being held next door at Jack Trice Stadium. Total sales (for all plant sale partners) grew by 25%, and Reiman Gardens’ NET profit increased by over $1,500!

The Hughes Conservatory had four spectacular displays championing our year of Color; “The Orangery” featured hundreds of orchids and a Victorian orangery, “In Living Color” with boldly-colored flowering plants and the Nature Connects® peacock sculpture, “Cardinal and Gold” honored our
beloved Cyclones with red and gold mums and several repetitions of a cyclonic theme, and “Sugar and Spice” brought back the über popular garden railroad, re-imagined with accents of incense and peppermints (and lots of glitter). The railroad display was also recreated with the help and support of the Central Iowa Garden Railroad Society.

Several more projects were completed this year as part of our strategic goal to address and improve aging hardscape features. The CoHort Pattern Garden stucco wall cap stone was resealed and the wall’s water damage repaired and repainted. The Jones Rose Garden’s water feature was resealed, and the loose river rock in the runnel replaced with beautifully laid and mortared canyon cobblestone. This change will dramatically improve the efficiency of maintaining the water feature. The most dramatic hardscape renovation was the conversion of the spitting frog water feature. With a generous donation from Country Landscapes, the 20-year old feature was completely overhauled. The inadequate hand pumps were replaced with top-of-the-line Bison Playground Pumps, a 700-gallon underground reservoir was built to capture waste water for irrigation use, and modern splash-pad jets were added for greater interaction and fun. Reiman Gardens has been a key stakeholder in ISU’s Jack Trice Stadium green space project (see New Projects). Despite six months of detours, disruptions and debris, the utility and circulation improvements will be the foundation for the future growth and development of Reiman Gardens’ entrance corridor and northern gardens.

Reiman Gardens’ plant collections program had a successful year. Volunteers continued the important work of updating maps and records and started gathering phenological data that will enrich the plant collection as a resource. At long last, the Gardens hired a Plant Collections Curator, Lindsey Smith. Lindsey started in November and has the ambitious task of sifting through years of compiled plant records, managing the collection maps and database, and ultimately creating the program by which the Gardens will start to disseminate the valuable information that is part of our plant collection. As the Gardens continue to grow, the Plant Collections Curator’s primary focus will be on making sure the plant collection we hold grows strategically and plants of significant importance are acquired, maintained, protected and preserved.
ENTOMOLOGY

In June, the iOS version of the Unified Butterfly Recorder app, UBR, became available on the App Store for download. The app was developed by Reiman Gardens’ entomology staff and Iowa State University College of Engineering’s Electrical and Computer Engineering Department, Senior Design program. An Android version of the UBR application has been available since May of 2014 and is currently being utilized in the field by researchers, professionals and amateurs to track their butterfly observations. Another project involving a mobile/web application is the rebuild of the RG Butterfly App. The RG Butterfly app is an application used to dispense information and photos of the butterflies in the Christina Reiman Butterfly Wing. Another group of Senior Design students has been rebuilding this application to increase its functionality, ease of use and appearance. This application can be accessed from the Reiman Gardens’ webpage or on the digital kiosk found in the Butterfly Wing.

The Gardens’ entomology staff is always looking to enhance knowledge of insects through research, whether it is conducted by the Gardens’ entomology staff or by assisting others with their research through resources available at the Gardens. Research on a new vertical butterfly feeder developed at Reiman Gardens was completed this year and the data presented at a national conference. The new feeder is now being used at several butterfly flight houses around the world. Another project ongoing in the Butterfly Lab involves *Parnassius clodius*, Clodius Parnassian, which is a butterfly native to alpine habitats of the western United States. It is being reared in the Entomology Lab in order to learn currently unknown general life history information. Finally, research is also being conducted in the entomology greenhouse to develop a method and protocol for rearing captive skipper butterflies utilizing an automated rearing system with the hopes this system, being developed at Reiman Gardens, will be used for conservation programs involving skipper butterflies.

Reiman Gardens’ entomologists have been working with a group called the Monarch Research Project, located in Cedar Rapids, since February, 2015. The mission of the MRP is to restore pollinator habitat and help re-establish the monarch butterfly population. The project plans to restore 1,000 acres around the Cedar Rapids community back to sustainable habitat. Nathan Brockman and Anita Westphal have worked to provide assistance with information about rearing methods, protocols and technical guidance as the project continues to develop.

The Iowa Butterfly Survey Network, a citizen science program for annually tracking butterfly populations, is a state-wide program managed by Reiman Gardens’ entomology staff. IBSN has expanded to 34 sites being surveyed in 2016. A Field Day was held in June in conjunction with Story County Conservation to introduce the program to new individuals and to help current participants improve their field identification knowledge.
ENTOMOLOGY

Education is a significant part of the mission of Reiman Gardens, and to that end the entomology staff has developed classroom activities for K-12 that meet the Iowa Common Core Standards including the Next Generation Science Standards. These activities use Iowa native butterflies, insect behaviors and conservation practices to teach concepts in all subjects for teachers across the state to use in their classrooms. Several other projects completed this year include Reiman Gardens’ entomologists partnering with area teachers from Indian Hills Junior High School and Ames High School to assist guiding students through research-based learning projects to establish pollinator gardens that will provide habitat for native insects. Education through formal workshops and outreach presentations has become an ever growing part of the entomology staff. In 2016, Nathan and Anita conducted 36 programs involving over 1,751 individuals.

Reiman Gardens hosted its 8th annual Day of Insects in April. This year we welcomed Dr. Larry Gilbert, professor of integrative biology and director of the Brackenridge Field Laboratory at The University of Texas at Austin as our keynote speaker for the Friday night reception. Larry entertained and informed everyone with his extensive knowledge and adventures in researching Heliconius butterflies. Our successful day-long symposium, the following Saturday, drew a record 126 participants to listen to the 15 presenters from across the Midwest.

Receiving and caring for the butterflies is such a routine part of the entomology staff’s normal routine that the magnitude of the task is often overlooked. The Butterfly Wing is on track, by the end of 2016, to bring in 18,273 butterfly pupae for the year from around the world. Even though the Wing has been open for 15 years, we continue to receive new species we have never received before, and this year those new species were the Black-patched Cracker (*Hamadryas atlantis*) and Blomfield’s Beauty (*Smyrna blomfildia*).

GIFT SHOP

In 2016 Reiman Gardens’ Gift Shop continued to experience an increase in sales. From January 2016 to October 23rd, Gift Shop revenue was $230,611.23, with 14,617 transactions.

In the past 15 straight months; eight were the best EVER and seven were 2nd highest in the history of the Gift Shop.
The Gardens has hired more than 120 interns over the last twenty years. These college students gain relevant experience and knowledge as they work alongside full-time staff over the summer months.

This year we had a diverse group of students from Iowa State University and DMACC representing majors that ranged from elementary education and horticulture to events management, agricultural business, and apparel merchandising and design. These students got to participate in various projects, field trips and educational sessions with staff and other professionals to experience and understand what it means to work at a public garden. Additionally, this group that represented various backgrounds and worked in many different areas of the Gardens teamed together on a project that shared their experiences with the public.

Their blog is on the Reiman Gardens website. Check it out at http://www.reimangardens.com/intern-blog/ to see the great things these students accomplished!

### 2016 Reiman Gardens Interns

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Area</th>
<th>Major</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bailey Bolke</td>
<td>Retail Management</td>
<td>Apparel Merchandising</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nathan Braun</td>
<td>Turfgrass &amp; Irrigation Maintenance</td>
<td>Agricultural Business</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Anna Broderick</td>
<td>Entomology</td>
<td>Biology, Psychology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kelsey Griffith</td>
<td>Plant Collections &amp; Records</td>
<td>Genetics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Meeso Kim</td>
<td>Glasshouse Display &amp; Greenhouse Production</td>
<td>Horticulture</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Joi Latson</td>
<td>Education</td>
<td>Global Resource Systems</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Debra Regennitter</td>
<td>Landscape &amp; Garden Maintenance</td>
<td>Horticulture, Landscape Design</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Morgan Stewart</td>
<td>Events</td>
<td>Event Management, Business Management, International Business</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Taylor Swearingen</td>
<td>Education</td>
<td>Biology, Speech Communication</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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VOLUNTEERS

Our lifeblood. The circulatory system of the Gardens. The force the Gardens could not operate without. So defines our volunteers. Hundreds of people donated their time, expertise and skills in 2016 to enhance the quality of the Gardens, programs, visitor experience, events, tours, Butterfly Wing, exhibits . . . in short, pretty much everything we offer. From regulars like the “pot washers,” to a hundred students who dropped in to carve jack-o-lanterns, there are volunteer opportunities and experiences for practically every interest, age and ability. 150 volunteers who recorded hours donated 6,474 hours, valued at $131,088.

The Gardens attempts to show our gratitude in a number of ways including a volunteer recognition event in December and a volunteer breakfast in April which are great fun for everyone. We also know that these folks give so freely because they are as passionate as we are about the site and organization. We encourage all of you to take time when you are visiting to thank any volunteers you see working and let them know how appreciated they are!

We head into 2017 with additional excitement as Taylor Woodcock joins us as our new Volunteer Coordinator (see “New Faces” for her background). We believe she brings fresh ideas and energy to the volunteer program and expect the program to expand as the Gardens grow. If you think volunteerism at public gardens is only for those interested in gardening, take a look at the areas where volunteers contribute. Gardening is an important part of the volunteer program, but so are many other areas!

### Volunteer Opportunities

- Butterfly Docent
- CoHort Group
- Conservatory Monitor- Train Display
- Educational Assistant Volunteer
- Entomology Volunteer
- Events Volunteer
- Facilities Project Volunteer
- Gift Shop Volunteer
- Holiday Music Volunteer
- Hospitality Volunteer
- Indoor Horticulture Volunteer
- Iowa Butterfly Survey Network
- Outdoor Horticulture Volunteer
- Phone Callers - Membership
- Plant Collections Volunteer
- Plant Sales Volunteer
- Special Projects Volunteer
- Tour Guide: Adult
- Tour Guide: Youth
- Training
- Universal Butterfly Recorder (UBR) Application
- Worker Protection Standard (required to work - greenhouse and headhouse)
- Miscellaneous Uncategorized Jobs