

**Olbrich Botanical Gardens**  
**Report for the Superintendent's Report to Madison's Board of Park Commissioners**  
**April 2014**

Walking the garden looking for blossoms is a pastime these days as we wait for a full thaw. I spotted a snowdrop fully open – only one – at the back of the Meadow Garden near Atwood Avenue on March 20. Plenty more were emerged, but the flowers weren't open. All of Olbrich's thousands of spring bulbs will emerge in succession as the weather warms – snowdrops in the forefront.

Activities in the greenhouse and headhouse are intense at this time of year. 1600 cuttings are being rooted for the outdoor gardens; 6372 spring annuals are in production ready to go outdoors in the next month. The spring annuals, adapted to cooler weather, remain in the outdoor displays until the end of June when they are replaced by the summer annuals. Summer annuals are better adapted for summer heat. They remain until mid – late September when they are replaced by fall annuals. This spring, watch for an assortment of coles or *brassicas*. Ornamental cabbages, kales, and their relatives are well-adapted to the cooler temperatures of spring and make a bold statement in the Gardens.

**Visitor comment from the past month:**

3-7-14 *"This place is excellent, very impressed. Good job to ALL who is (sic) responsible. Very proud to have this as a part of Madison."*

Mike C. (Madison, WI)

**October Numbers**

<b>OBG Attendance</b> (counted from 9 – 4 only + event participants)	<b>2014</b>	<b>2013</b>	<b>Previous 5 yrs average</b>
February 1 - 28	13,868	11,358	11,166
YTD February 28	24,199	20,377	
<b>Total Member Households (individuals*) Feb 28</b>	6,286 (10,060)	6,450 (9,887)	

*\*based on the number of membership cards issued*

<b>OBG City of Madison Major Revenue Categories</b> (unaudited)	<b>YTD 2/28/2014</b>	<b>YTD 2/28/2013</b>
Bolz Conservatory Admission YTD	\$11,093	\$10,124
Room Rentals YTD*	\$12,856	\$15,462
Catering Percentage Revenue YTD**	\$3,592	\$3,313
<b>TOTAL YTD</b>	<b>\$27,541</b>	<b>\$28,899</b>

*\*accrued at time of booking – up to 21 months before the rental date, \*\* accrued on a monthly basis following each catered rental*

**April 2014 Public Events at Olbrich Botanical Gardens** call **608-246-4550** for more info

**HOURS CHANGE APRIL 1:** Outdoor Gardens 8 am – 8 pm; Bolz conservatory 10 am – 4 pm

**Spring Pansy Sale**, Saturday, April 5, 10 am – while supplies last

**Orchid Sale**, by the Orchid Growers Guild, 10 am – while supplies last

**Full-Service Leaf Mulch Sales**, bagged and bulk

Thu, Apr 10, 2 – 5 pm

Fri, Apr 11, 2 – 5 pm

Sat, Apr 12, 9 am – noon

**Load-Your-Own Leaf Mulch Sales** – bagged only, starting April 13, 10 am – 4 pm, while supplies last

**Bulk Leaf Mulch Sales**, Thursdays, Apr 17 & 24, 1 – 5 pm; Saturdays, April 19 & 26, 9 am – 1 pm

**Wisconsin Gourd Festival**, Saturday, April 12, 9 am – 4 pm

**Education – April 2014** classes and programs 608/246-4550 for info/registration or visit [www.olbrich.org](http://www.olbrich.org)

**Wellness at the Gardens**

Yoga, Mondays 5:30 pm – 6:45 pm and Thursdays 7:30 – 8:45 am (drop in OK)

Tai Chi Meditation, Mondays, Mondays, Mar 24 – May 19, 6 – 7 pm

**Garden Walk**

Spring Into Gardening Walk, Thu, Apr 10, 5:30 – 7 pm

**Book Discussion Group**

*Wormwood* by Susan Wittig Albert, Sun, Apr 27, 1:30 – 3:30 pm

**Classes & Workshops for Adults**

Permaculture & Water, Thu, Apr 3, 6:30 – 8:30 pm

Vegetable Garden Design Workshop: Create a Garden that Feeds Your Body & Soul, Sat, Apr 5, 10 am – 4 pm

Plant Identification 101, Tues, Apr 8, 6:30 – 8 pm

Wet-Felted Laminate (Nuno) Scarf, Sun, Apr 13, 9:30 – 2 pm

From the Ground Up: Herb Gardening 101, Sat, Apr 19, 1:30 – 3:30 pm

Herb Gardening: Beyond the Basics, Sat, Apr 26, 1:30 – 4 pm

Spring Herbal Series: Roots, Seeds, Berries, and More, Tuesdays -- April 29, May 6, 13, 20, 6 – 8:30 pm all four days

**Learn & Play Together**

**I Wonder...? Series** (grades K – 3 with adult)

**Where Does Chocolate Come From?** Fri, Apr 4, 6:30 – 7:30 pm

**Toddler Story and Stroll: Celebrate Spring Series** (ages 2 – 4 with adult)

**Sensational Seeds**, Thu, Apr 3, 10 – 11 am

**Fantastic Flowers**, Thu, Apr 10, 10 – 11 am

**Marvelous Mushrooms**, Thu, Apr 17, 10 – 11 am

*Roberta Sladky*  
*Mar 31, 2014*