



Orton Botanical Garden Newsletter

January 2021

OBG and its Board certainly are glad that you joined the Garden. Now we have 39 paid memberships, with more welcomed each week.

This member newsletter will report quarterly about recent OBG developments and alert you about coming events. Other interim emails will inform you about special short-notice activities, programs or member opportunities.

The OBG 2020 “Christmas in the Garden” lights display was a widely attended and much enjoyed success. Approximately 13,000 visitors came during the 36 evenings open from 6-10 pm between Thanksgiving through New Year's. Too-wet weather required cancellation only one night. Admission fees and many generous donations received will help to make improvements to the Garden and its programs. Contributing sponsors were Title Fact, Jeremy Orton Real Estate Group, Blip Printers (providing several high-quality directional signs) and Guild Mortgage. All OBG Christmas lights were removed and stored by the end of January, with assistance by many appreciated volunteers.

Grant Award: First Federal Foundation of Twin Falls awarded OBG \$2859 to prepare and print a self-guided Garden tour booklet, produce related signage, and build a weatherproof container. The Board's education team hopes to ready this tour guide for visitor use by autumn 2021.

Volunteer Opportunities! OBG has no paid staff, so much work depends on volunteers: Garden maintenance from April-October, hanging and removing Christmas lights from October-January, greeting and guiding visitors during June-October open days, and events like the late May plant sale. If OBG volunteering may interest you, please see the OBG website's Volunteer Application form. OBG has a lovely, quiet work environment, surrounded by wonderful plants and delightful birds. During 2020, OBG volunteer hours totaled 394, all two-way rewarding!

Volunteer Coordinator Needed! Having a volunteer willing to review other potential volunteer applications, schedule their Garden visit to interview with LaMar &/or Rosalie Orton, and create a weekly schedule of volunteer assignments would be incredibly helpful for the Ortons. If this might appeal to YOU, please contact LaMar, lorton1@msn.com or 208-734-7959.

Donations of Garden Tools and Equipment: If you or any acquaintances have surplus garden items that OBG may find useful, please contact LaMar about possible donations. OBG might need a new golf cart soon, unless the current one can be repaired. The Ortons rely on the cart to collect debris barrels and move other bulky items around the Garden.

Coming Events:

OBG's 2021 Plant Sale and Open House will be held Thursday-Saturday, May 20-22 and May 27-29, 2021.

Butterfly Release, Saturday June 26, 2021. Hospice Visions, Inc. of Twin Falls will repeat the inspiring annual memorial ceremony and release of butterflies held in 2020 for the first time at the Garden.

If you have questions, please email or call LaMar Orton, lorton1@msn.com or 208-734-7959.

Thanks for being part of OBG! In warmer weather, visit the Garden.