

Annual Report 2018

Thank you Barbara Pass

Estate planning is a wonderful way to leave a legacy and to help your favorite charity but it is a double-edged sword. This year we experienced the sharp edge of that sword when we lost committed volunteer and friend Barbara Pass. She passed away January 17, 2018 and we truly miss her.

She loved TBG and she left a sizable portion of her estate to the garden as an endowment that will provide operating funds in perpetuity. We are extremely grateful for her generosity and will keep her memory alive by using the funds wisely for student internships, programming, and infrastructure.

Please see an excerpt from Anna Miller's Cowboy Journal article, "Leaving a Blooming Legacy," about Barbara on the inside of this report. Thank you Barbara.



Ambassadors Rewarded for Service to TBG

We have a committed group of volunteers we call our Ambassadors and this year we recognized the following for their dedication:

The Award for the Most Hours went to Kathy Adkins who recorded 200 hours of service!

The Outstanding Service Award went to Pam Nelson who helps us every week but also uses her talents to paint pumpkins and faces during festivals.

We have 62 wonderful volunteers who clocked 3500 hours of service to the garden, a value of over \$77,000. We couldn't do it without you!

We are so grateful for all the support we receive. Thank you for your part.

Sincerely,
Lou Anella, Director

TBG STAFF

Lou Anella
Director

Jane Carter
Garden Manager

Laura Payne
Volunteer & Education
Coordinator



HIGHLIGHTS

2018



The West Path Is Now Paved

One of our long-term goals is to improve the infrastructure at TBG and we took a big step in that direction this winter by paving the path from the north parking lot to Laura's Bandstand. We thank the many hands that helped with construction and in particular those pictured, Tyler Troppman, Ryan Blake, and Jane Carter.



Importance of TBG Recognized

We appreciate how much TBG is valued by the community at large. This year we received first place in the Stillwater News Press Readers' Choice Award for Tourism Destination. The Stillwater Chamber of Commerce listed TBG as one of the "10 Most Instagram-able Spots in Stillwater" and even Trip Advisor® lists TBG as one of the "Top Things To Do" in Stillwater.



Bulbs Planted In Memory of Sidney A. Ewing

Family and friends of Dr. Sidney Ewing donated funds in his memory that were used to purchase daffodil bulbs. The Herbaceous Plants class planted the bulbs north of the labyrinth using the no dig method. Six thousand bulbs were "planted" in just one hour by spreading the bulbs on the ground and covering them with 6" of wood chip mulch. Pictured are Zeke Zimmer, Peyton Osborn, and Kimberly Hagan, students in the class.

LEAVING A BLOOMING LEGACY

Alumna endows estate to The Botanic Garden at OSU

By Anna Miller

Excerpts from *Cowboy Journal*

To the staff and volunteers of The Botanic Garden at Oklahoma State University, "The Sisters" were a well-known pair. Sisters Barbara Pass and Joyce Taylor volunteered together at the gardens. The two women were just as much best friends as they were sisters, Taylor said.

In January 2018, Barbara Pass died from Crohn's disease, but she left behind a gift to benefit The Botanic Garden for years to come.

"We are so pleased to have Barbara's donation," said Lou Anella, director of The Botanic Garden at OSU. "We are immensely sad to have lost her as a friend and volunteer, but we are honored to receive a majority of her estate and plan to keep her memory alive by utilizing the funds well."

Pass left behind an endowment to The Botanic Garden that is expected to generate about \$40,000 annually for the gardens, Anella said. This income will help fund internships and pay for general operating expenses and repairs.

Pass was an active ambassador when it came to the gardens, volunteering at least once a week, Anella said. Laura Payne, volunteer coordinator at the gardens, said Pass accumulated more than 130 volunteer hours annually at the gardens.

Pass and Taylor grew up in Stillwater, Oklahoma, and each knew they would attend OSU, Taylor said.

Pass started as a math major when she attended OSU, but soon switched to accounting. After receiving her bachelor's and master's degrees in accounting and becoming a certified public accountant, Pass worked at the Oklahoma State Department of Education. At this point in the 1970s, companies were beginning to use digital technology, Taylor said.

"Barbara enjoyed studying accounting, but it wasn't her true passion," Taylor said. Pass decided to go back to school at OSU and graduated with a second master's

degree in computer science. She then received an offer to work for Sandia National Laboratories in automating the company's benefit processing, Taylor said.

Pass then moved into software engineering for Sandia, where her main project was working as a contractor for the U.S. Air Force.

Pass was also in the National Guard and U.S. Army Reserves. She served in the finance corps for 20 years before she retired as a lieutenant colonel.

After moving back to Stillwater, Pass wanted to become an ambassador at The Botanic Garden and convinced Taylor to go through the ambassador classes with her, Taylor said.

Pass was familiar with succulent gardening after living in New Mexico and helped to develop the succulent garden at The Botanic Garden.

"Barbara had a huge impact on the succulent garden and was fond of working with succulents," Anella said. "We were able to grow the garden to a higher level with her help."

Pass and Taylor also contributed to resurrecting the garden's rock garden. "We spent weeks and hours liberating the garden from overgrown weeds," Taylor said. "The rock garden was always our special project that we worked on together."

In addition to being active ambassadors at the gardens, Pass and Taylor were avid OSU sports fans and attended as many games as they could with their mother, who had season tickets to basketball games since the 1940s and football tickets since the 1950s.

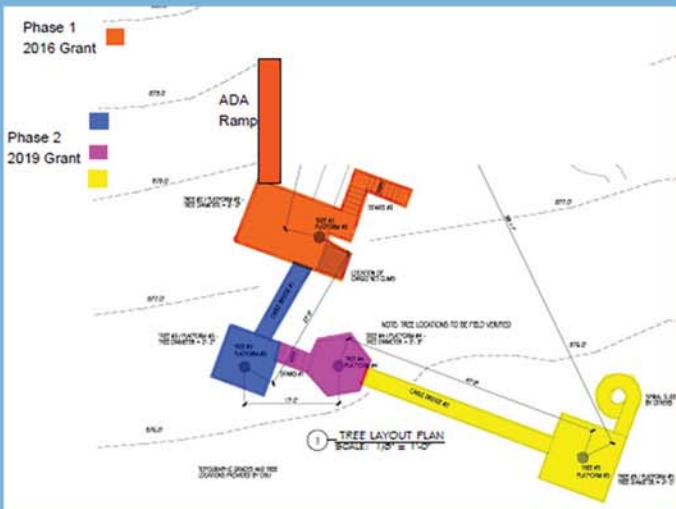
"The gift Barbara left to the gardens was more than we could have expected and is genuinely appreciated," Payne said. "She is deeply missed."

HIGHLIGHTS 2018



Pistol Pete Comes Alive!

TBG and the Herbaceous Plants class collaborated on a parade float this year called Pistol Pete Comes Alive! The face of Pistol Pete was created with live plants and the float won third place for a community entry in the 2018 OSU Homecoming Parade! Pictured are parade participants Jane Carter, Marvie Rotter, Joyce Taylor, Peyton Osborn, Pam Sharp, Jake Sickels, Kimberly Hagan, and Blake Kruse.



Treewalk Village Coming Soon

TBG has received a Recreational Trails Grant from the Oklahoma Tourism and Recreation Department to install a series of platforms in the pin oak trees just south of the labyrinth. The platforms will be connected by rope bridges and will have a slide and a cargo net climbing wall creating a fun and educational experience for all ages. Look for construction to start this summer.



Kickin' Hunger

A few TBG Ambassadors and friends of TBG got together at the Kickin' Hunger fundraiser and purchased an electric golf cart for the garden. The golf cart is decked out in orange and black, resembles a Hummer, and has a Kicker stereo. It is great for giving tours of the garden, for playing music during events, and for helping make the garden accessible to all. Pictured are donors Russ Rhinehart, Ann Mitchell, Donna Rhinehart, Shelley Anella, and Linda Blum. Missing is donor Anne McMurtry.

We thank the following for their support!

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WE THANK THE FOLLOWING FOR THEIR SUPPORT:



We also thank the nearly 10,000 guests who attended workshops, lectures, tours, and festivals as well as the approximately 40,000 annual visitors and 23 different OSU classes that enjoy and utilize the garden every day.

To make a donation visit: osugiving.com | Friends of the Botanic Garden | Fund # 2178500