

Hart County Botanical Garden Accomplishments

2017

WALKING TRAIL

In 2016 work began to pave an ADA accessible trail through the Garden. This was paid for through a DNR POGO Grant obtained by Hart County Board of Commissioner with assistance from ARCHWAY. The paving was completed in 2016. In 2017, the work was completed including handrails, directional signage, nine large informational signs, retaining walls, trashcans, doggie stations and benches. This trail goes through the entire Garden creating an East Entrance that has been developed. The trail connects to a walking trail around the entire recreational area creating a mile and a half ADA trail.

ASIAN GARDEN AND MOON HOUSE

In 2016 the decision was made to begin development of an Asian Garden. The area was decided and plans were made. Connections were made with the University of Georgia Horticulture Department. Garden members met with Dr. David Knauft and Dr Donglin Zhang who donated plants. Some plants were brought from China by Dr Zhang. These plants are not grown in Georgia and are experimental in our Garden. An Asian red bridge was donated to span the creek dissecting the Asian Garden. A Moon House was constructed during 2016 and completed in 2017. This structure is a place of beauty and a focal point. More than a hundred trees and plants have been planted in the Asian Garden.

A YEAR IN THE GARDEN

In August 2017 the Garden collaborated with the Hart County Art Center for a month long exhibit "A Year in the Garden." An art exhibit by local artists was on display all month. A reception was hosted with a slide show of pictures from the Garden running. The Garden held two succulent dish garden workshops in the Garden.

NEW SIGN

A new entrance sign was designed and installed which includes our logo and our mission statement on the back. Funds for the sign were donated by one family.

HERITAGE GARDEN AND BIRD SANCTUARY

A new garden was created in 2017. The Heritage Garden contains plants that everyone remembers from their childhood in this area. Some plants are actually transplants from homeplaces or were handed down for generations. The Kesler family donated funds to build Mamaw's house. It is a replica of an old unpainted house with a front and back porch and metal roof. The wood was obtained from a house that was over 100 years old. An outhouse of the same materials holds the bird seed for the sanctuary. A bird feeder and plants birds love brings in a wide variety of birds. Rockers on Mamaw's back porch overlook the garden and bird feeders.

In October 2017 the Garden hosted a Ribbon Cutting Celebration to dedicate the Walking Trail, Moon House and Mamaw's House. It was attended by approximately 75 Friends of the Garden.

Hurricane Irma did major damage in September 2017. Volunteers did an amazing job cleaning up and in 2018 professionals were hired to finish the clean up that we could not do. Replanting was done where needed.

2018

So many projects were done in 2017 that 2018 was a year of adding finishing touches, taking a breather and keeping everything going. The curators worked in their areas and the Garden continued to flourish.

Behr donated 400 gallons of stain to the Garden. The entrance pergolas were repaired and stained.

2019

In 2019 Purina donated two work days to the Garden with 35-40 employees working each day. They stained all the wooden structures in the Garden with the stain Behr had donated. They also helped install steps from the Pavilion down to the trail beginning at Mamaw's House.