

Dear GWA 2017 attendees,

Welcome to your Unexpected Buffalo Conference!

Unexpected... because you are about to find out that “snowy” Buffalo is actually one of the great garden destinations in the U.S.

Unexpected... because we have added a few twists and surprises this year.

We are the “City of Good Neighbors” after all, and we are thrilled at the opportunity to show you our beautiful city and how gardening played a huge role in its renaissance.

Here are some of this week’s highlights:

A fast-paced tour of quirky, intimate gardens:

GWA tours typically showcase the most elegant, well designed landscape gardens, with fine art and rare plant collections. In Buffalo you will see lots of art -- including funky, funny and original personal expression—as well as intensive plant collections. On Day One tour we’ll move quickly through 15 urban gardens in three hours, and you’ll get a whirlwind impression of what our famous Garden Walk Buffalo is all about. (Garden Walk Buffalo has grown to feature more than 400 gardens open to visitors each July!) We think you’ll be amazed to see what our clever, dedicated gardeners can do with small, city gardens. So, plan to be surprised!

History, architecture, the “greening” movement, authors’ gardens and a daylily farm:

You may know of the dominant Frederick Law Olmsted footprint and the prominence of Frank Lloyd Wright in Buffalo, but you will likely be surprised by the architecture of the grand old homes and tiny cottages you’ll visit. You’ll also see international authors’ Kathy and Mike Shadrack’s Smug Creek Gardens, a breathtaking daylily farm (shopping allowed), and innovative “greening” breakthroughs.

Stories from the Tours:

We’re making it easy for you to find the stories in the tours and sights. Visit Buffalo Niagara is providing this press kit with all the backstories, contact information and more you’ll need to develop interesting and informative articles, blogs and more, and on-board tour guides are prepped to fill in additional information and answer questions.

The rest of the story... is what you’ll discover as you walk the streets, visit the restaurants and see Canalside and Buffalo’s downtown nightlife. It’s simply a livable, affordable city filled with friendly, unpretentious people.

My hope, and that of my committee of friends, is that you have a relaxing, amazing and unexpected experience in Buffalo – and that you’ll share your findings in future writings.

Welcome to Buffalo Niagara!

Sally Cunningham

Local Arrangements Chair

STORY IDEAS

When it comes to Buffalo Niagara's blooming garden scene, there's no shortage of informative, interesting topics that would make great articles, blog posts and photo essays. Here are some ideas to get you started. Contact information is also provided where applicable.

Gardening's Role in Buffalo's Rebirth

Contact: Jim Charlier / jim@jcharlier.com / 716.884.3274

Buffalo has a reputation as a rust belt city that has seen better days, but the city has been experiencing an amazing resurgence over the last several years. And, believe it or not, gardening has played a role in this rebirth. Garden Walk Buffalo (GWB) has grown to include 400+ gardens that are available for public viewing every July, when it attracts tens of thousands of out-of-town visitors to our region. It's estimated GWB creates \$4.5 million in economic impact annually, including meals, hotels, shopping, etc. In turn, GWB has given nearly \$100,000 in grants to block clubs, community groups and nonprofits for more than 70 beautification projects through its Lunenfeld Beautification Grants. It has also spawned additional garden walks in many communities as well as the Garden Art Sale, Open Gardens tours and many special tours, seminars, talks and workshops. Not only does this help beautify our neighborhoods, it raises property values, creates neighborly goodwill, helps discourage crime and promotes local businesses.

Buffalo-style Gardens

Contact: Jim Charlier / jim@jcharlier.com / 716.884.3274

Torches made from old wine bottles. Mirrors that give gardens depth. Picture frames used to frame plants instead of pictures. Doors that go nowhere. Harry Potter gardens, with odd-looking plants with names from the books. A garage rooftop vegetable garden accessible by a repurposed sliding library ladder. Vines climbing up old, recycled grates. When it comes to creativity, the gardeners on Buffalo Garden Walk are full of unique ways to showcase their gardens and yards. In fact, this eclectic creativity has even been given a name: the Buffalo-style garden. From whimsical to unusual to extremely clever, Buffalo's gardeners are exploring the possibilities of gardening with a sense of adventure.

Making the Most of Small City Lots

Contact: Jim Charlier / jim@jcharlier.com / 716.884.3274

Think you can't have a walk-worthy garden because you only have a small city lot to work with? Not true! You can convert any sized yard into a spectacular, eye-catching vegetable, perennial and/or annual garden with a little imagination, a vision and some hard work. Dig up that small patch of grass between the sidewalk and the street and create a "hellstrip" garden, bursting with traffic-stopping color. Look up: add a rooftop garden on a flat garage roof (and keep the critters away from the vegetables!). Grow up: plant vines that grow up electrical poles, porch lattice or old clothes poles. Attach wooden pallets to the fence and grow herbs or annuals. Take your cue from the creative gardeners on Garden Walk Buffalo and make the most of city gardening!

Eco-friendly Parking Lots

Contact: Dave Majewski / SRGbuffalo@gmail.com

What happens when you need to install a parking lot, but have a precious, 125-year-old maple tree you want to protect? What started out as a nature-friendly parking lot project for Dave Majewski evolved into a labor of love. His small, eco-friendly landscaping business has evolved into Sustainable Resources Group (SRG of Buffalo), and Dave now refers to himself as "a green infrastructure consultant." He works with architects, developers, engineers and more to coordinate projects that are truly "green." A nature-friendly parking lot project includes preserving mature trees, native plantings around the lot, removal of any invasive species, a storm water runoff plan, and so much more.

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Community Gardens: A Positive Effect on Neighborhoods

Contact: Mary Vanvorst / maryvanvorst@gmail.com / 716.832.9545

Community gardens can have a major positive effect on neighborhoods, bringing together people of all backgrounds and socio-economic status and creating a sense of community ownership and stewardship. They also help raise property values, fight crime, provide opportunities to strengthen bonds with your neighbors, teach children where food comes from, math skills, sustainability, good health habits and so much more. In Buffalo, the community garden phenomenon has taken hold, thanks to the efforts of organizations such as PUSH (14th Street Gardens); the Massachusetts Avenue Project; None Like You/We Care; City Honors (Pelion Community Garden); the Broadway Market (rooftop gardens); Farmer Pirates and the Wilson Street Urban Farm.

Brownfield Remediation Through Creative Plantings

Contact: Mary Vanvorst / maryvanvorst@gmail.com / 716.832.9545

Brownfield remediation involves the removal of contaminants so that a site can be used again without health concerns. Once a major manufacturing hub, Buffalo was home to numerous industrial facilities situated along its waterfront and rail corridors. As they closed, they left behind land that was difficult and expensive to redevelop. The City of Buffalo and its public and private sector partners have been successful at remediating and redeveloping brownfields, and many sites now flourish with creative plantings that not only help the environment but are aesthetically pleasing. Examples include: Wilkeson Pointe on Buffalo's Outer Harbor, the Urban Habitat Project at the Central Terminal, Mutual Riverfront Park, River Fest Park, the Scajaquada Creek Project, the Bio-retention Cell at the Buffalo Niagara Medical Campus;

Urban Roots: USA's First Community-owned Cooperative

Contact: Patti Jablonski-Dopkin / patti@urbanroots.org / 716.362.8982

Tired of driving to the suburbs to buy plants, dirt and tools – and wanting to keep their dollars in the city – a group of neighbors on Buffalo's West Side recognized the need for a community garden center. In 2007, Urban Roots opened its doors and the country's first community cooperative – that sells plants, flowers, shrubs, trees and vegetables, as well as tools, soil, mulch and unique garden décor – was born.

Test Gardens at Erie Basin Marina

Contact: Stan Swisher / 716-825-1678 Work / 716-866-8475 Cell / 716-652-7638 Home

The Erie Basin Marina, located at 329 Erie Street in Buffalo, is where the Buffalo River meets Lake Erie. Besides providing docking privileges for hundreds of area boaters, the Marina has also become a favorite spot to relax, unwind and enjoy the breathtaking sunsets, spectacular views and colorful gardens. But the gardens at the Marina also serve an educational purpose: they are used as test gardens for floral and seed companies to determine whether their plants will grow well in the climate of the northeast. Here you will find colorful plantings from some of the world's best suppliers of plant varieties, including Ball and Proven Winners. Visitors enjoy a "sneak preview" of many of the new flowers and plants you'll see in stores and garden centers in coming years – and can even mark their favorites.

How Buffalo Came Back From "Arboredgon" **(also known as the October 2006 Storm)**

Contact: Paul Maurer / Paul.maurer@entercom.com / 716.843.0133

In October 2006, an early lake effect snowstorm dropped two feet of snow on Buffalo, knocking down trees, bringing down power lines and causing substantial devastation. Close to 57,000 trees were lost in 18 communities across Western New York. In November 2006, Re-Tree WNY was established to re-forest every public area destroyed by the October storm. The organization created a five-year plan to replace the approximately 30,000 trees in WNY that were damaged or destroyed. Thanks to community and corporate donors, Re-Tree WNY has, to date, planted 28,995. Re-Tree continues to work toward its goal and to help re-tree our community and will be planting every spring and fall for the foreseeable future.

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A Short Growing Season and Snowy Winters: Challenge and Opportunity

Contact: Sally Cunningham, CNLP / SallyLacewing@aol.com / 716.998.1573

When you say you're a gardener from Buffalo, it's no surprise to hear, "Wow—with such a short growing season!" Actually it's not as short as some think: the first average frost is in mid-October and the last frost is typically around May 21st. The nearly five-month growing season and a snowy winter mean we can rest and get creative (many a fountain, succulent wall hanging, planting bench, hypertufa trough or shed are built by artistic gardeners in their basements in the winter). We can attend classes and read: the landscape industry, cooperative extensions, and garden centers have well-attended pruning classes, perennial days and container workshops while the February winds blow. By the way, snow makes for wonderful mulch; perennials and woody plants benefit by a long, stable, dormant period. So, for anyone feeling sorry for Buffalo's short-season gardeners, we're keeping the secret: we're the lucky ones.

Beautifying Buffalo Through Lunenfeld Grants

Contact: Jim Charlier / jim@jcharlier.com / 716.884.3274

Garden Walk Buffalo got its start in 1993, when Buffalonians Marvin Lunenfeld and his wife, Gail McCarthy, attended an urban garden tour in Chicago. They brought the idea back to Buffalo, and the first Garden Walk was held in 1995. It included 29 gardens. In 2005, Garden Walk Buffalo instituted the Marvin Lunenfeld Beautification Grants and, since then, has granted nearly \$100,000 to block clubs, nonprofits and community groups.

Award amounts are based on the overall project cost; eligible projects must include matching funds from government, private contributions or volunteer sweat equity. Qualifying projects must also be in the footprint of Garden Walk Buffalo and be visible from the street.

This is City Hall's front garden surrounding the historic McKinley Monument in downtown Buffalo. The large mixed perennial borders contain many native plants that thrive in the tough conditions at the Square and provide a succession of blooms throughout the season. Buffalo In Bloom volunteers design, plant and maintain this example of large public plantings.

Peace Garden Trail

www.peacegardentrail.com/Buffalo.html

The International Peace Garden Foundation was established to advance global friendship and international understanding through the creation of peace gardens and cultural programs worldwide. During the War of 1812, Buffalo was burned to the ground by British forces. The Peace Gardens here mark many areas of the original destruction, including the actual site of a U.S. Army encampment. Visitors and residents enjoy a network of beautiful parks, gardens and scenic waterways in Buffalo and the surrounding towns and villages.

THE BACK STORY: FREDERICK LAW OLMSTED IN BUFFALO

Frederick Law Olmsted is considered the father of American landscape architecture. He believed the purpose of green space was to “refresh and delight the eye through the eye, mind and spirit.” Renowned for his creativity in designing New York City’s Central Park and Brooklyn’s Prospect Park, the Buffalo Parks Commission asked Olmsted to design a parks system for the rapidly growing city.

The Buffalo Olmsted Park System is comprised of six parks, seven parkways, eight landscaped circles and several smaller spaces. Olmsted’s parkways link the six main parks and also integrate the park system with the rest of the city. Once called “Park Approaches,” some of his parkways were 200 feet wide and lined on both sides by lush elm trees that formed “canopies of green.” The parkways were designed to allow visitors to travel from one park to another without leaving the serenity of these green spaces. Olmsted wanted these areas to be “more park-like than town-like,” an effect he most certainly achieved.

Buffalo’s Olmsted Park System was added to the National Register of Historic Places in 1982. Olmsted designed parks in nearly every major city in the country. However, his work in Buffalo – the first park and parkway system designed and built in the U.S. – is considered his very best. In 1876, Olmsted proclaimed Buffalo to be “the best planned city ... in the United States, if not the world.” Today our city retains its remarkable urban fabric thanks to the vision of this extraordinary man.

Assisted by his partner, architect Calvert Vaux, Olmsted created a park system that was an incredible accomplishment and is a true historic gem.

Buffalo Olmsted Parks Conservancy

In the mid-20th century, like many American cities, Buffalo embraced the burgeoning car culture and made numerous planning decisions that impacted the quality and character of its parks. Portions of Olmsted’s parks were sacrificed to the creation of expressways and the parks began to suffer from a lack of care. In 1978, the Buffalo Friends of Olmsted Parks was formed to help save the parks. Over the years, the group evolved into what is now known as the Buffalo Olmsted Parks Conservancy, an independent, not-for-profit organization that strives to broaden awareness of, appreciation for and investment in the Buffalo Olmsted Park System so as to enhance, restore and maintain the historic cultural treasure for the benefit of current and future generations.

The Buffalo Olmsted Parks Conservancy is the first nonprofit organization in the nation to manage and operate an entire historic urban park system that consists of 850 acres of beautifully designed parks, parkways and circles, including the Japanese Garden on Mirror Lake on the grounds of the Buffalo History Museum and the Delaware Park Rose Garden.

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The Richardson Olmsted Campus

Olmsted and Vaux went on to design the pastoral landscape for the Buffalo State Asylum for the Insane (later named the Buffalo State Hospital), which included “pastured pleasure ground” in front and separate gardens for male and female patients on the north side. Half of the original 203 acres were dedicated to farmland. Olmsted and Vaux carefully planned the grounds to offer tranquility to patients and their visitors, with curving roads and specified plantings. The facility closed in the 1970s, the grounds deteriorated – replaced, in many instances, by parking lots. When the Richardson Center Corporation was established in 2006, there existed a vision for the reuse of this HH Richardson-designed building and its grounds. In 2013, the newly designed South Lawn reopened as a nine-acre public green space, showcasing Olmsted’s original vision and including recycled asphalt, stone and soil as well as plantings, benches and lighting. The Richardson Olmsted Campus is being transformed into a cultural amenity that includes Hotel Henry Urban Resort Conference Center and the Lipsey Buffalo Architecture Center. For more information, visit www.richardson-olmsted.com

Buffalo’s Parkside Community

In 1865, Sherman Jewett, William Dorscheimer, Pascal Pratt and others foresaw a need for a city plan to provide green space for residents in the rapidly growing industrial city. They brought renowned landscape architect Frederick Law Olmsted and his partner, Calvert Vaux, to Buffalo to plan a park and parkway system, which would ultimately feature the 350-acre Delaware Park as its crown jewel. In 1876, Olmsted laid out the Parkside neighborhood as a residential buffer or transition between the jewel of his park system and the City. He mapped out gently curving streets, none leading directly toward the city, to encourage leisurely travel. Maturing trees joining boughs over the streets would quiet the sylvan neighborhood. For more information, visit www.parksidebuffalo.org

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

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GARDENS ARE THE GLUE

By Sally Cunningham

GWA2017 Local Arrangements Chair



As garden tourism has emerged in Buffalo — with much publicized vigor — it has sparked intense interest in many sectors that have something to gain from incoming visitors and thousands of gardeners. Landscape and gardening businesses, hotels and restaurants, chambers of commerce, public gardens and parks, museums and garden clubs have raised their collective heads and asked: What's in this for us?

It would follow that these entities would compete for the largest share of media attention and financial gain from the garden tourism phenomenon. Instead, the Buffalo experience — now producing the country's largest garden tourism event called Garden Walk Buffalo — has proven otherwise. Garden tourism has fostered a surprising and rewarding level of collaboration among the interested entities. Garden tourism serves the greater good, and a collaborative approach apparently reaps the largest benefits.

The 2017 GWA Conference in Buffalo is a prime example of the power of this collaborative mind-set.

Commercial, private, not-for-profit organizations and institutions heard that hundreds of garden writers and influencers would be coming, and they asked, "How can we help?" Visit Buffalo Niagara (VBN), clearly a believer in the power of garden tourism, provided funding and people to help organize and market the event. A committee of volunteers stepped up from Garden Walk Buffalo, Gardens Buffalo Niagara, plant societies, Master Gardeners, the Buffalo Marina demo garden, and our Olmsted/Wright institutional links. PlantWNY (the nursery/landscape association) and Plantasia (the landscape show) helped with funds for a reception and logistics (plant moving)—even though our tour gardens are private gardens and not landscape customers. The Buffalo and Erie County Botanical Garden opened its doors for an evening reception (renewal of wedding vows included), and Wright's Darwin Martin House, Olmsted Parks and Japanese Garden, and the Buffalo History Museum waived their fees and provided docents to guide the guests. This openness and lack of institutional competitiveness meant that any time this "Chair" asked for help, capable people said Sure!

Is this something special about Buffalo, or about gardening, or both? Indeed the Buffalo region is often described as having unusually friendly people and a strong cultural of hospitality — especially demonstrated every end-of-July weekend when 400 gardens open their private back yards to thousands of strangers. But we're not the only friendly place. Maybe what is special is our subject matter or medium: gardening. Maybe garden industry people, gardeners, and plant-related organizations are warmer and less competitive because they work with all things green. The result may be that garden tourism is different from other kinds of tourism, fostering openness, a spirit of collaboration, less competitiveness, and more smiles? At least it worked in the organization of a GWA conference in Buffalo, and we hope it proves true for all who welcome garden tourism.

THE BACK STORY: FOREST LAWN CEMETERY

When Buffalo was made the western terminus of the Erie Canal in 1825, the city became the western outpost of the East and the gateway to the West. In 1842, Joseph Dart invented the steam-powered grain elevator, which mechanized the unloading and loading of wheat and other grains, thereby introducing incredible productivity to the previously laborious process of transferring grains to and from shallow-bottomed canal barges and large lake ships. Buffalo's economy surged forward and by 1849, it was the busiest grain-transfer port in the world, surpassing London, Odessa, and Rotterdam.

A Buffalo lawyer, Charles E. Clarke, recognized the need for a cemetery of substantial size to serve the growing city. What he had in mind was more than a burial ground. In 1849, he purchased land in the country – two and a half miles from downtown Buffalo, following the vision created by Père-Lachais, the world's most famous cemetery, established in Paris in 1804.

Originally located on a rural estate overlooking the city, Père-Lachais balanced nature and art, allowing civilization to be present without disturbing the grandeur of the romantic setting.

The land Clarke purchased perfectly suited his vision for a picturesque rural cemetery with its rolling hills and charming valleys, spring-fed lakes, and a meandering creek. He designed roadways that curved and intertwined as freely as the landscape itself. His roads were wide, taking up more potential burial space than was truly necessary, but providing interesting vistas and parking for carriages. He thinned out the oak groves on the hilltops to make room for graves, and he planted other trees in the meadows to shade the graves there. In just a year's time, he had put a lawn under the forest and the beginning of a forest on the lawn. Clarke had created Forest Lawn, which the Buffalo Commercial Advertiser called "one of the most lovely resting places of the dead in the country."

From the beginning, Forest Lawn was designed to serve both the dead and the living. Clarke started a policy of providing interesting and appropriate sculpture to the natural setting of Forest Lawn – a continuing policy that has made the cemetery a significant outdoor sculpture museum today, comprised of 269 acres within the city of Buffalo.

Forest Lawn was the first deliberately landscaped green space in Western New York, and one of the first in New York State. Today, its nationally significant historic landscape is cherished by both residents and visitors to Buffalo. The 269-acres of curving drives, reflective lakes, and alternating areas of scenic creek, open knolls, and wooded glades serve as the final resting place for tens of thousands of residents, from a U.S. President to American innovators. Once home to more than 6,000 trees, including oaks, elms, maples, beeches, American walnut, bald Cypress and more, the Forest Lawn arboretum has lost many of its trees over the years to disease and weather events. As part of an aggressive phased Landscape Renewal Plan based on the cemetery's original landscape plan, Forest Lawn is working to plant approximately 4,000 trees over a 12-year period to restore its historic overarching tree canopy.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Visit: www.forest-lawn.com

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THE BACK STORY: BUFFALO AND ERIE COUNTY BOTANICAL GARDENS

Frederick Law Olmsted's design for Buffalo's South Park included a conservatory and surrounding formal gardens. In 1894, Professor John F. Cowell was appointed as the first Director of the conservatory. He gathered plants, trees and flowers from every corner of the world and his expertise and guidance allowed for many successful years for the conservatory.

While South Park was being constructed, Lord & Burnham Co. was busy designing the South Park Conservatory. The tri-domed Victorian design was modeled after the beautiful Crystal Palace in England and was built by a Buffalo construction company, George P. Wurtz & Son, of wood, glass, iron and steel for a total cost of \$130,000. Upon opening in 1900, the conservatory was the third largest public greenhouse in the United States and was ranked the ninth largest in the world. The South Park Conservatory continued to grow throughout the early 1900s and six greenhouses were added in 1907.

In 1929, the City of Buffalo considered demolishing the conservatory due to poor management, low attendance and structural disrepair. Fortunately in 1930, federal funding became available to help repair the conservatory, which allowed Lord & Burnham Co. to completely renovate the deteriorating building. The structure was rebuilt to withstand the blustery Buffalo winters and heavy pollution from the steel mills close by.

Over the years, interest in the Gardens waxed and waned, but saw a considerable uptick in the 1950s. In 1977, the conservatory was damaged during Buffalo's infamous blizzard; however a passionate group of citizens and volunteers helped save it, resulting in the creation of the Buffalo and Erie County Botanical Gardens Society, Inc., which sparked public interest with school tours and by showcasing the horticultural treasures to the community.

Erie County purchased the conservatory and 11.4 surrounding acres within South Park from the City of Buffalo for \$1. The name was changed to the Buffalo and Erie County Botanical Gardens. In 1982, the Botanical Gardens was listed on the New York State Register of Historic Places.

Over the years, extensive renovations and upgrades have been made, including restoration of many of the gardens, replacement of the outdated heating system, renovation of the main palm dome and greenhouses and more.

Today, the Buffalo and Erie County Botanical Gardens attracts more than 100,000 annually to enjoy the amazing architecture and the indoor and outdoor garden sanctuary. It is a gathering place where visitors can find peace and harmony and enjoy the simple power of the natural world.

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Lord & Burnham Co.

In 1849, Frederick A. Lord began building greenhouses for his neighbors in Syracuse. They were so impressed with his wood and glass structures that Lord decided to make this a full-time business. He moved to Eastern New York State and began building greenhouses for many of the large estates along the Hudson River. In 1872, his son in law, William A. Burnham, joined the firm and throughout the 1870s and 1880s, Lord & Burnham Co. built conservatories throughout the country, becoming the premier conservatory designers of the time. The Buffalo and Erie County Botanical Gardens is still considered one of Lord & Burnham Co.'s greatest accomplishments.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

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THE BACK STORY: TWO BLOOMING NEIGHBORHOODS

Throughout the city of Buffalo there are a number of distinct, inviting neighborhoods being revitalized. They feature houses that range from Arts and Crafts bungalows to grand Victorians to repurposed industrial buildings. They include new businesses that are popping up to create walkable shopping areas. Two of these neighborhoods -- the Cottage District and the Elmwood Village -- are at the heart of Buffalo's burgeoning garden culture.

The Cottage District

Located in the shadow of Kleinhans Music Hall, the Cottage District wasn't always as popular and in demand as it is today. Thanks to a grassroots effort to revitalize Buffalo's West Side, however, the little district that could ... did!

The neighborhood -- once called Coxtown -- consists of brick houses that are often identical; the houses on one side of the street mirror those on the other. In the 1990s, homebuyers and investors started taking interest in these charming properties -- smaller homes that would be less expensive to rehab and maintain. They began buying them up, making improvements, building additions, planting gardens and creating a lovely, well-maintained neighborhood.

Today, the Cottage District is one of the most popular destinations on Garden Walk Buffalo. The small city lots are bursting with beautiful blooms in gardens, window boxes, pots and other unique vessels, whimsical artwork, sculptures and water features -- and very proud homeowners. Many have painted their homes in vibrant colors to match the flowers that grow throughout the neighborhood.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Contact Ellie Dorritie, Ellied1@roadrunner.com or 716.883.2534

The Elmwood Village

Buffalo's Elmwood Village was originally a rural area outside Buffalo's city limits, and known as "Shingletown." Comprised largely of apple orchards, pastureland and forest, Shingletown grew rapidly once Frederick Law Olmsted's extensive park system and parkways were developed and Olmsted placed Delaware Park -- the centerpiece of the park system -- right in its midst. Elmwood Avenue was extended in the 1890s, a streetcar line was established, side streets were laid out and homes were built everywhere. A neighborhood was taking shape!

Then came the Pan-American Exposition, which took place in Buffalo in 1901 in and around Delaware Park. More than eight million people visited the Exposition during the seven months it took place, attracting development to the area.

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Today, the Elmwood Village has been designated one of America's 10 Best Neighborhoods by the American Planning Association. It is home to some of Buffalo's most vibrant shopping, with dozens of unique boutiques, numerous restaurants and cafes and some of the region's most spectacular gardens. But beyond that, the Elmwood Village has a unique identity bolstered by the many cultural attractions within its boundaries and surrounding the Village, including the Albright-Knox Art Gallery, Delaware Park and the Burchfield Penney Art Center.

One of Buffalo's oldest and most intact residential areas, the Elmwood Village features tree-lined streets, slate sidewalks and even stone carriage steps. It's a rich tapestry of Queen Anne, Second Empire, Italianate, Victorian Gothic and French Second Empire residential building styles.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Contact the Elmwood Village Association, www.elmwoodvillage.org or 716.881.0707

THE BACK STORY: ERIE BASIN MARINA

The Erie Basin was once just a breakwater and commercial slip at the mouth of the Buffalo River at Lake Erie. Situated on the northeast end of Lake Erie within the Buffalo Harbor, the Basin was originally designed to prevent the build up of sand within the gateway to the Erie Canal and to lessen the impact of storm surges.

In the 1970s, after industrial usage waned and the terminus of the Canal had been relocated, it was rebuilt in an effort to revitalize Buffalo's waterfront.

Today, tens of thousands visit the Erie Basin Marina during Buffalo's beautiful summers. Whether they come down for a quick meal or an ice cream cone, enjoy time on the water, see public art displays and gardens or take a leisurely stroll and enjoy a breathtaking sunset, locals and visitors take full advantage of this popular waterfront destination.

Guests can visit the Buffalo and Erie County Naval & Military Park, located adjacent to the Marina, which serves as a memorial museum to those who served and features a cruiser, destroyer, a submarine, plane, helicopter and more.

Erie Basin Marina Gardens

As you stroll the half-mile waterfront walkway, your eyes will take in explosions of color from the many perennials blooming throughout the growing season in the Erie Basin Marina gardens. But the gardens at the Marina also serve an educational purpose: they are used as test gardens for floral and seed companies to determine whether their plants will grow well in the climate of the Northeast. Here you will find colorful plantings from some of the world's best suppliers of plant varieties, including Ball and Proven Winners. Visitors enjoy a "sneak preview" of many of the new flowers and plants you'll see in stores and garden centers in coming years – and can even mark their favorites.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

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THE BACK STORY: BUFFALO IN BLOOM

In 1995, a grassroots group of volunteers organized Buffalo in Bloom with a goal of making the city of Buffalo “the world’s largest flower arrangement.” They would do this by recognizing and celebrating those efforts of city residents, including businesses and institutions that worked to beautify their streetscape with creative gardening.

The original program was a garden judging contest that involved a group of volunteers going out and judging gardens that were submitted for review and awarding prizes to the winning gardens. The program was modeled on a similar program in London, England.

In 2014, the mission of Buffalo in Bloom was changed to focus more on encouraging gardening. Volunteer scouts were sent to all the neighborhoods, searching for gardeners who took the time to plant and maintain front yard/street scape gardens. That year, volunteers found and “Bloomed” more than 700 gardens, which was more than double the number of any previous years.

In the succeeding years, Buffalo in Bloom really took off. The number of “Bloomed” gardens grew every year, with nearly 4,000 gardens recognized in 2014. The program became so popular with gardeners that volunteers were overwhelmed. The success of the program left it unsustainable. Gardeners and volunteers made suggestions to simplify the program and, after a brief hiatus, Buffalo in Bloom has returned in 2017.

Buffalo in Bloom volunteers also maintain the extensive gardens at Niagara Square in front of City Hall in downtown Buffalo and offer horticultural guidance and education to promote and expand individuals’ gardening knowledge and skills.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

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THE BACK STORY: PLANT WNY (WESTERN NEW YORK)

How many gardeners, garden writers and horticulture educators think and speak poorly of “typical landscapers”—those guys with trucks and shovels? This is the stereotype: those “landscape guys” plant the same-old “bushes” and leave the wire and burlap on the trees they stick in the ground; they mound mulch up the tree trunks and walk on your perennials. Not only do they not know and use flowering plants, they don’t really care. And furthermore, they don’t want to hear about eco-systems, native plants, and organic methods... Sound familiar?

It doesn’t have to be that way. In the Buffalo region, PLANT WNY is actively changing the image and the reality of the professional green industry.

PLANT WNY is the name for the region’s nursery and landscape association (the acronym: Professional Landscape And Nursery Trades of Western New York), a not-for-profit corporation founded in the early 1940s. The members are leaders in New York State for raising and maintaining educational standards for the industry. The CNLP program educates would-be landscapers who earn the title of “Certified Nursery and Landscape Professionals,” and all must continue their education and re-certify every three years throughout their careers. The training is based on Cornell University’s Department of Horticulture. Applicants study and are tested on woody plant identification, planting and maintenance, soils and drainage, perennials and annuals, research-based lawn care practices, as well as IPM and eco-friendly landscaping. Two education days in February bring in arborist and horticulture expert speakers, and the PLANT WNY industry pros encourage and include horticulture students from nearby community colleges. These members don’t mound mulch up the tree trunks and they certainly value the flowers.

PLANT WNY also produces Plantasia (www.plantasiany.com), the garden and landscape show known as “the official start to spring” and, in recent years, the only one remaining in New York State. The four-day show, held annually in March at the Fairgrounds Event Center and Artisan Hall in Hamburg, includes landscape displays, garden center vendors, demos, and continuous classes by the best in the region—free with admission. While the show is no Philadelphia Flower Show (with its hundred years of Pennsylvania Horticulture Society backing), this is no small accomplishment. The show includes 180 booths and displays, and brings in more than 14,000 visitors eager to experience spring. It is produced and supported by professional landscape and nursery business people—those men and many women with trucks, shovels, and really good attitudes.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Visit: www.plantwny.com

Contact: *Joyce Janson*
716.741.8047
membership@plantwny.com

THE BACK STORY: GARDENS BUFFALO NIAGARA

Gardens Buffalo Niagara is a 501(c)(3) non-profit group overseen by some of the area's most dedicated gardening enthusiasts. Every summer, Gardens Buffalo Niagara presents a full scope of gardening events that make our region a leading destination for garden lovers.

Gardens Buffalo Niagara could not flourish without the support of its sponsors, donors, volunteers and, most especially, the gardeners who graciously open their gardens each year for garden tours. They are what make Buffalo Niagara a great garden destination.

The mission of Gardens Buffalo Niagara is supported by like-minded organizations throughout the region, including PLANT WNY, Cornell Cooperative Extension Erie County Master Gardeners, the Buffalo and Erie County Botanical Gardens, Visit Buffalo Niagara and others.

Gardens Buffalo Niagara hosts and promotes a variety of gardening events throughout the summer including:

Garden Walk Buffalo

In 1993, Buffalonians Marvin Lunenfeld and Gail McCarthy attended an urban garden tour in Chicago. Impressed, the couple realized the concept could work in Buffalo, and presented the idea to the Norwood/West Utica Neighborhood Association.

The first Buffalo Garden Walk was held in July 1995, and included 29 gardens. Today, Garden Walk Buffalo features more than 400 public and private gardens, making it the largest free, self-guided garden tour in the United States. Each summer – always the last full weekend in July – thousands of visitors revel in whimsical and creative ideas, learn more about flowers, water gardens, rock gardens, native plants and more. The Walk covers nearly three square miles, from The Buffalo History Museum to Canalside and from the Peace Bridge to Main Street. The gardens on GWB include everything from outdoor kitchens to koi ponds to waterfalls to murals and sculptures, hellstrips and espaliers – even one urban putting green. Participating gardens are clearly marked with a Garden Walk sign out front.

The goals of the Walk have remained the same: to encourage neighborhood beautification and promote community pride. The Walk is still organized and managed by volunteers and remains free of charge. Financial support comes primarily from donations and corporate sponsorships.

Garden Walk Buffalo continues to impact and enhance our city by making grants to local groups and organizations to help beautify neighborhoods and raise community spirits. The results make a lasting impression on the 60,000 visitors who stop to smell the flowers every year.

During the last several decades, other towns, villages and communities in the region have begun their own garden walks and tours. There are now eighteen distinct garden walks during the summer, featuring nearly 1,000 public and private gardens. Each tour is different – there are night tours, some have market places, music, historic homes, artists, plant sales, children's activities and more. Nearly all walks and tours are free.

– MORE –

Tours of Open Gardens

Inspired by the British tradition of leaving the latch off the garden gate on a specific day and time during the summer months, the Buffalo Niagara region started its own Open Gardens event seven years ago. Today, more than 75 private and public gardens located throughout Erie and Niagara counties are open on Thursdays and Fridays in July.

Buffalo-Style Garden Art Sale

The Buffalo-style Garden Art Sale is held on the grounds of the Buffalo and Erie County Botanical Gardens. Vendors sell handcrafted items that can be displayed in a garden setting, in many mediums: sculpture, metalwork, paintings, woodwork, architectural remnants, found art, jewelry, ceramics, planters– anything that looks good in a garden! Representatives from the area's diverse area plant societies are also on hand to answer questions about their specialty plants.

Additional Tours and Events Gardens Buffalo Niagara has offered:

- ☼ Garden-themed Bus Tours
- ☼ Garden Tours by Bicycle (with GoBike Buffalo)
- ☼ Art Exhibitions
- ☼ Garden Walk Folk Festival
- ☼ Garden Walk 20th anniversary concert with the Buffalo Philharmonic Orchestra
- ☼ Front Yard Garden Contests
- ☼ Marvin Lunenfeld Grants
- ☼ Charitable Donations to area organizations such as ReTree WNY and the Darwin Martin House

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Visit: gardensbuffaloniagara.com

Contact: *Jim Charlier*
jim@jcharlier.com
716.884.3274

BUFFALO NIAGARA GARDEN WALKS AND TOURS

Virtually every weekend all summer long, there's a garden walk or tour going on somewhere in Erie and/or Niagara Counties (the Buffalo Niagara Region) featuring more than 1,000 gorgeous gardens. There are night tours, tours with music, tours of gardens in historic homes, on-site artists, plant sales and more.

AMHERST

Town of Amherst Garden Walk

www.facebook.com/BloomingAmherst/

The Town of Amherst Garden Walk, founded in 2013 and hosted by the town of Amherst, NY is a free event featuring 25+ residential gardens open for public viewing. Amherst gardeners are eager to share their knowledge about working with Western New York's distinctive soil and weather conditions. You'll see a variety of garden types, including perennial, shade, English, vegetable, container and organic, many with ponds and other water features. Gardens are clustered across the largest town outside the City of Buffalo, so you can easily drive from one neighborhood to the next.

BUFFALO

Black Rock & Riverside Tour of Gardens

www.brrtourofgardens.com

More than 60 day and 25 night gardens comprise this tour. The creative use of lighting lends a magical quality to the evening tour. You'll find clusters of gardens in a neighborhood filled with charm and hidden treasures – including Riverside Park, which was designed by Frederick Law Olmsted.

Garden Walk Buffalo

www.GardenWalkBuffalo.com

An estimated 60,000+ visitors come from across the U.S., Canada and around the globe each summer to visit the more than 400 creative urban private and public gardens that make up America's largest free garden tour. Guests enjoy perennials, unusual shrubs and trees, water features, garden art, whimsical sculptures, outdoor living spaces and much more.

Parkside Garden & Architecture Tour

parksidebuffalo.org/index.php

Mirroring the graceful curves of adjacent Delaware Park, Parkside is the only Frederick Law Olmsted-designed residential neighborhood in the country that was actually built. In 1987, the entire neighborhood became an Architectural Landscape District on the National Register of Historic Places. This annual tour features 50+ urban gardens and outdoor living spaces, all within half a dozen tree-lined city blocks. It begins right in front of one of Buffalo's architectural treasures: the Darwin D. Martin House Complex, designed by Frank Lloyd Wright.

– MORE –

Samuel P. Capen Garden Walk

www.ourheights.org/gardenwalk

Named for the first chancellor of the University at Buffalo, this annual walk comprises more than 70 public and private spaces in the University Heights, Eggertsville and Amherst neighborhoods. The sidewalks and avenues bloom with planters, street dividers and hanging pots, thanks to the hard work of dedicated volunteers.

South Buffalo Alive

www.facebook.com (Search: South Buffalo Alive)

Frederick Law Olmsted designed Cazenovia Park and South Park, which are connected by Red Jacket and McKinley Parkways. Other area features include: McKinley and McClellan circles (2013 LEAF A Legacy project), Buffalo & Erie County Botanical Gardens and Our Lady of Victory Basilica. More than 60 intriguing gardens vary from beautiful pool-side settings to decks with blooms, from ponds and waterfalls to veggie plots, train gardens, and fairy gardens.

GRAND ISLAND

Grand Island Garden Walk

www.grandislandgardenwalk.com

Grand Island was called “La Grande Isle” by its French discoverers and it still retains much of its rural character. Visit beautiful gardens of all sizes and styles on this tour, where – from East River to West River – you will find Hosta and Heuchera, annuals and perennials, ponds and containers and so much more from creative and diverse gardeners. Visit two state parks, stroll the boardwalk at Beaver Island State Park or walk the trails at Buckhorn Island State Park for views of the mighty Niagara River that surrounds Grand Island.

HAMBURG

Buzz Around Hamburg Garden Walk

hamburggardenwalk.com

Enjoy more than 25 gardens, from formal to whimsical, including sunny poolside gardens, shady waterfalls, rainbows of perennials, organic vegetables, lush containers and more. The avid gardeners on the tour welcome the opportunity share their efforts, talents advice... and secrets! As you travel through the business district, be sure to notice the roundabouts and bump-outs; their lush plantings reflect the hard work of the Hamburg Beautification Committee.

KENMORE/TONAWANDA

Ken-Ton Garden Tour

www.kentongardentour.com

Come visit Buffalo’s first suburb, a cozy community that’s been designated “one of the top 10 great neighborhoods” by the American Planning Association. Over the years, this tour has blossomed to 60+ gardens, from petite secret oases to expansive, manicured works of dedication.

– MORE –

LANCASTER

Lancaster Garden Walk

www.facebook.com (search: Lancaster Garden Walk) / www.lancastervillage.org

Come see the secret landscapes of Lancaster as you visit volunteer backyard gardens that promise to unearth a secret or two as gardeners of all ages showcase their wonderful creations. Some gardens are eclectic, many are enchanting and all are enjoyable!

LEWISTON

Lewiston GardenFest

www.lewistongardenfest.com / www.niagarariverregion.com / www.historiclewiston.com

Stroll through lovely gardens as this charming historic village presents this favorite annual event. Totally destroyed during the War of 1812, Lewiston played a significant role in the Underground Railroad. Today, the restored village delights with intriguing shops and eating establishments. Take special note of Center Street's fountains, benches, trees, landscaping and flowerbeds – the work of the Lewiston Garden Club.

LOCKPORT

Lockport In Bloom

www.lockportinbloom.com

Lockport rose from the banks of the Erie Canal, which is a marvel of engineering, and rich, fertile soil makes it an ideal place to garden. This tour includes more than 40 gardens, from small city plots to large park-like spaces. Includes the Twilight in the Garden evening tour and Garden Vendor Fair, beautiful public garden and free admission to the art gallery at the Kenan Center.

NIAGARA FALLS

Black Squirrel Home and Garden Walk

www.facebook.com (search Black Squirrel Home and Garden Walk)

The Memorial Park Neighborhood has a large population of squirrels - particularly a significant black variety of gray squirrel species, hence the name of the Home and Garden Walk. In essence, the Home and Garden Walk wants to show that older neighborhoods in Niagara Falls matter and are worth saving. Old doors salvaged from demolished properties are repurposed as markers/signs for interpretation of each individual site and will provide detailed information about why each site is interesting and special.

Garden Walk of Niagara Falls

www.facebook.com (search: Garden Walk Niagara Falls, USA)

The Garden Walk of Niagara Falls, USA promotes the beautification of the city of Niagara Falls. Guests can enjoy landscaping and design demonstrations, children's activities, presentations, music and more.

NIAGARA-ON-THE-LAKE, ON, CANADA

Niagara-on-the-Lake Horticultural Society Old-town Garden Tour

www.notlhortsociety.com/gardentour.html

Be inspired as you spend a lovely day exploring private gardens of quaint, historic Niagara-on-the-Lake. This is an ideal tour for walkers or bicycle enthusiasts.

– MORE –

PENDLETON

Pendleton Petal-Pushers Open Gardens

www.gardensbuffaloniagara.com/events/events-calendar/event:07-15-2017-11-00am-pendleton-petal-pushers-open-gardens/

A new addition to the garden walk scene in Western New York, this event included three private open gardens its first year, in 2017. Guests could see “flea market gardening at its finest,” as well as a Japanese-inspired landscape with Zen garden, an Asian-influenced Craftsman-style pergola and catalpa trees, as well as a variety of shrubs, trees, perennials and annuals. Organizers are planning a full-fledged garden tour for 2018.

SNYDER

Snyder-CleveHill Garden View

www.facebook.com/SCHGardenView

This tour includes about 30 private gardens and carefully tended public spaces in the neighborhoods of Snyder and Cleveland Hill. Against a backdrop of architecture from the 1910s to the 1950s, gardens range from new to well-established, small to large and vegetable to perennial. Many garden styles and plant types are represented, as are water features and garden structures.

SPRINGVILLE

Springville Garden Walk

www.communityalliance.org/current-programming

This walk begins at the Fiddler’s Green Park Gazebo and leads to dozens of homeowner gardens and public spaces to explore.

TONAWANDA

City of Tonawanda Garden Walk

www.cityoftonawandaartsboard.com/garden-walk/

More than 30 beautiful gardens open for your viewing pleasure. The City of Tonawanda Garden Walk features water gardens, rock gardens, koi ponds, and breathtaking arrangements in meditation gardens. Friday Night Lights offers an extraordinary lighting festival.

WEST SENECA

West Seneca Garden and Home Tour

www.gardensbuffaloniagara.com/events/events-calendar/event:07-22-2017-10-00am-west-seneca-garden-and-home-tour/

This free, self-guided two-day tour begins at the Charles E. Burchfield Nature & Art Center and features beautiful suburban gardens with a variety of perennials and unique features.

WILLIAMSVILLE

Village of Williamsville Garden Walk

www.facebook.com/gardenwalkwilliamsville / www.willville.com
www.village.williamsville.ny.us

An eclectic mix of 25 to 30 formal English, cottage, urban and organic fruit and vegetable gardens, many with water features and garden art. Visit the Garden of 1812, where the site’s role as an army garrison during the War of 1812 is re-imagined with a water feature, native grasses and other perennials that populated the landscape 200+ years ago.

10 GREAT GARDEN DESTINATIONS

Considering that Buffalo Niagara is one of the top garden destinations in the country, it's tough to narrow down the list of "must see" gardens to just 10. But here, in alphabetical order, is a list of the most popular, often-visited public gardens in our area.

NOTE An asterisk indicates there is also a separate background sheet in this media kit for that location.

The Buffalo & Erie County Botanical Gardens*

www.buffalogardens.com

Nearly 100,000 people annually visit the Buffalo and Erie County Botanical Gardens to enjoy amazing architecture and the indoor and outdoor garden sanctuaries. The Gardens represent a gathering place where visitors find peace and harmony as they enjoy the simple power of our natural world. Some even see it as a place for spiritual healing, meditation and reflection. A national historic site, this Victorian conservatory opened in 1900 and was, at the time, the third largest public greenhouse in the country, and the ninth largest in the world. Today it holds exotic treasures from around the world and features an aquatic garden, Asian rainforest, medicinal garden and family garden, as well as one of just two remaining Lord & Burnham tri-dome conservatories.

Darwin Martin House Gardens*

www.darwinmartinhouse.org

The Darwin Martin House, located in the Frederick Law Olmsted-designed Parkside neighborhood of Buffalo, is considered one of the finest examples of Frank Lloyd Wright's Prairie-style design, and features a visitor welcome center designed by acclaimed architect Toshiko Mori. Rehabilitation and restoration of the 1.5 acre campus landscape, designed by Frank Lloyd Wright and landscape architect Walter Burley Griffin, is underway, and visitors can view the many built-in planters and urns, kitchen garden, conservatory plantings and the cottage built specifically for the Martin's gardener.

Delaware Park Japanese Garden

www.bfloparks.org

japanesegardenofbuffalo.blogspot.com

Located behind the Buffalo History Museum in the Olmsted's Delaware Park, the Japanese Garden was a gift in 1974 from Buffalo's sister city, Kanazawa, Japan and is maintained by the Buffalo Olmsted Parks Conservancy. Lined with trees, shrubs, paths and unique stone lanterns, the lush gardens and serene lake provide a contemplative refuge for all of Buffalo to enjoy.

Delaware Park Rose Garden

www.blfoparks.org

The Rose Garden is one of the main focal points of Delaware Park, featuring varieties from the All-America Rose Selections. There are 33 beds, allowing for several combinations and arrangements of spectacular rose bushes in bright purples, pinks, reds, yellows and whites. At the eastern end of the garden is a prominent pergola, dating to 1912. The Rose Garden sits beside the historic Marcy Casino and is maintained by the Buffalo Olmsted Parks Conservancy.

– MORE –

Erie Basin Marina Trial Gardens*

www.eriebasinmarina.org

The gardens start at the entrance and continue throughout the Marina. These gardens are unusual because they are specialty annual trial gardens. Visitors can view specialty cultivars that are grown and evaluated for the coming years. There are new annual varieties – more than 3,000 plants! – from all over the world. Cultivar providers include Ball (Kieft seeds) and Proven Winners from the USA; Danziger from Israel; Dummen from Germany, and Fides from The Netherlands. All plants are clearly labeled. There are areas of paved walkways, as well as some grassy areas around the gardens.

Forest Lawn Cemetery*

www.forest-lawn.com

Established in 1849, Forest Lawn, the region's premier cemetery, is Buffalo Niagara's largest arboretum. Its 269 acres are filled with undulated landscape, abundant wildlife and beautiful art and architecture. The original landscape was designed by noted cemetery landscape architects Adolph Strauch and Joseph Earnshaw. There are many gardens to view, including the Gratitude Garden in front of the Rosewood Mausoleum, a meditation garden in front of the historic chapel and, of course, the many individual gardens that families maintain.

Graycliff Estate*

www.graycliffestate.org

Designed by Frank Lloyd Wright as a summer home for Darwin and Isabelle Martin, Graycliff is set on a steep cliff with sweeping views of Lake Erie. The landscape is partially restored to its 1930s appearance – the only landscape drawings known to be in Wright's own hand – with design additions by one of the preeminent American landscape architects, Ellen Biddle Shipman.

Larkinville Gardens

www.larkinsquare.com

Larkin Square and the surrounding Larkinville neighborhood is home to many beautiful gardens. Within Larkin Square you'll find a wide variety of perennials and annuals in hanging baskets, pots and gardens dotted throughout the Square that lend themselves to an urban environment – and provide beauty throughout all four seasons. At Exchange and Van Rensselaer Streets, Larkin Development Group created park space with plantings, tables and umbrellas for the enjoyment of those who work or live in the area.

Niagara Square Garden

This is City Hall's front garden surrounding the historic McKinley Monument in downtown Buffalo. The large mixed perennial borders contain many native plants that thrive in the tough conditions at the Square and provide a succession of blooms throughout the season. Buffalo In Bloom volunteers design, plant and maintain this example of large public plantings.

Peace Garden Trail

www.peacegardentrail.com/Buffalo.html

The International Peace Garden Foundation was established to advance global friendship and international understanding through the creation of peace gardens and cultural programs worldwide. During the War of 1812, Buffalo was burned to the ground by British forces. The Peace Gardens here mark many areas of the original destruction, including the actual site of a U.S. Army encampment. Visitors and residents enjoy a network of beautiful parks, gardens and scenic waterways in Buffalo and the surrounding towns and villages.

THE BACK STORY: FRANK LLOYD WRIGHT'S MARTIN HOUSE

At an early age, Darwin D. Martin moved to New York City to take a job selling soap, eventually moving to Buffalo to work as an office worker in the Larkin Soap Company. Martin worked hard – putting in long hours – and his efforts paid off when he helped the company grow to the point it soon rivaled Sears and Roebuck. Martin is credited with creating an efficient card catalog system to replace the cumbersome ledgers that housed the company's customer records, a pioneering advance in business record-keeping at the time. Martin rose to corporate secretary of the company, eventually becoming one of Buffalo's richest residents. When he was tasked with finding an architect to build the new administrative offices for the Larkin Company, Martin found a young, innovative architect by the name of Frank Lloyd Wright. The two, who shared similar outlooks on family and a fascination with technology and innovation, would form a lifelong friendship. As Wright was designing the Larkin Administration Building, Martin – now a millionaire – hired Wright to design a house for him.

Wright designed a unique residential complex for Martin between 1903-1905, on 1.5 acres in Buffalo's Parkside Community (designed by Frederick Law Olmsted), at the eastern edge of the Olmsted-designed Delaware Park. The most substantial and highly developed of Frank Lloyd Wright's Prairie houses in the Eastern United States, The Darwin D. Martin House received National Historic Landmark status in 1986. The house is considered by leading Frank Lloyd Wright scholars as one of Wright's finest achievements of the Prairie period and, indeed, of his entire career.

The complex consists of six interconnected buildings designed as a unified composition and including the main Martin House and a pergola that connects it to a conservatory and carriage house with chauffeur's quarters and stables, the Barton House, a smaller residence for Martin's sister and brother-in-law, and a gardener's cottage, added in 1909. The landscape design for the grounds of the complex is highly integrated with the overall composition of buildings.

Over the decades, the Martin House Complex suffered considerable damage and three of the original five buildings were demolished. In 1992, the Martin House Restoration Corporation (MHRC) was formed to raise funds for and oversee a complete restoration of the complex. Extensive reconstruction and restoration efforts began in 1997 and are ongoing today. In 2009, the MHRC opened the Eleanor and Wilson Greatbatch Pavilion, a visitor welcome and interpretive center designed by Toshiko Mori Architect.

As part of the restoration, plans call for the rehabilitation of the extensive floricycle on the grounds of the Martin House Complex. Darwin and Isabelle Martin shared a fondness for gardens, nurturing an abundance of annuals and perennials, which they displayed throughout their house with sentimentality toward their idyllic country childhoods. The historic designed landscape of the Darwin D. Martin House is a significant example of the intertwined design relationship between architecture and landscape expressed in the work of celebrated master architect Frank Lloyd Wright.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Visit: www.darwinmartinhouse.org

Contact: *Caitlin Deibel, Marketing Manager*
cdeibel@darwinmartinhouse.org
716.856.3858 Ext. 221

– MORE –

THE BACK STORY: FRANK LLOYD WRIGHT'S GRAYCLIFF

Graycliff was designed by Frank Lloyd Wright between 1926 and 1931 for Isabelle R. Martin, wife of industrialist Darwin Martin, and served as the Martin summer home from 1927 to the mid-1940s. Set high on a cliff in Derby, (30 minutes south of Buffalo) with sweeping views of Lake Erie, Graycliff represents yet another of Buffalo Niagara's architectural jewels.

It is a complex of three buildings that includes the small Heat Hut, the 3,100 square-foot Foster House and the 5,800 square-foot Isabelle R. Martin House, all set amidst eight and a half acres of rolling lawns and gardens, also designed by Wright. Broadly cantilevered balconies open the buildings to the soft lake air. The second floor of the Isabelle R. Martin house floats over a terrace and garden below. Another balcony soars, suspended above a sunken garden. Yet a third balcony overlooks the lake itself and affords views of Canada to the north and the city of Buffalo to the east. Ribbons of glass windows and doors admit the lake breezes. They also frame views of the lake seen – ingeniously – directly through the house itself.

The family owned the property until after the deaths of Isabelle and Darwin Martin, when their descendants sold the property (c. 1951) to the Piarist Fathers, an order of Roman Catholic Priests from Hungary, who used Graycliff as their motherhouse. The Fathers altered the property substantially for their own uses, adding additional buildings and structures that obscured Wright's vision for nearly 50 years.

In 1997, with only a handful of elderly priests remaining, the Fathers put Graycliff up for sale. Although many people considered purchasing Graycliff, the only offer they received was from a developer, who wished to tear down the buildings to build condominiums on the prime lake front location. Carol Bronnenkant and her family were among those who looked at the property. Fearing its demise, Bronnenkant called several public meetings to ask the public to save Graycliff. From those meetings, the Graycliff Conservancy was born. Incorporated as a non-profit shortly thereafter, the Conservancy was founded specifically to acquire, preserve, restore and make accessible to the public the structures and grounds of Graycliff.

Over the past 20 years, preservation at Graycliff has proceeded in stages, progressing through the removal of non-historic structures, the restoration of all building exteriors, and the re-establishment of fundamental landscape features. Designed by Wright, with additional designs by Ellen Biddle Shipman, one of the originators of the Arts & Crafts-style garden, Graycliff's historic landscape is 8.5 acres, including a pond, stair tower, sunken gardens, and a dramatic drive.

This year, Graycliff has commenced the final elements of its restoration, thanks to a commitment of \$3.7 million from the State of New York, which will bring the property back to its form in 1931. While crews begin the restoration of the interiors of the houses, this summer season is also inviting additional work on the restoration of the landscape, including the re-creation of the picking border flower garden, a small vegetable garden, and a fruit orchard and grapevine.

Graycliff welcomes thousands of visitors annually.

For More Information

Visit: www.graycliffestate.org

Contact: *Robert Wooler, Executive Director*
Graycliff Conservancy
716.544.7320
director@graycliffestate.org

NEED MORE INFORMATION?

Here is a list of some of the key people involved in Buffalo Niagara's flourishing garden scene who can be of assistance as you come up with (or need inspiration for) ideas, articles, blog posts or photos, or if you need quotes or sources.



Jim Charlier

jim@jcharlier.com / 716.884.3274

Jim is the former president of Garden Walk Buffalo and the current vice president of Gardens Buffalo Niagara. He serves on the board of directors of the Graycliff Conservancy, is chair of the marketing committee for Frank Lloyd Wright's Graycliff Estate and serves on the marketing advisory committees for Visit Buffalo Niagara and Urban Roots

Community Garden Center. He also authors a blog, the Art of Gardening. Jim owns his own advertising design business, JCharlier Communication Design.

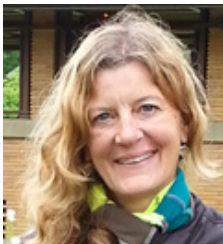


Sally Cunningham, CNLP

SallyLacewing@aol.com / 716.998.1573

Sally Cunningham became the Local Arrangements Chair for the Buffalo 2017 GWA conference because she is a connecting link between the gardening, landscaping and garden tourism organizations in the Western New York region. She is well known in Buffalo after 24 years on WIVB-TV giving gardening advice, as a *Buffalo Spree* magazine writer and

Buffalo News columnist. Sally is formerly a Master Gardener and Cooperative Extension Agent, popular speaker, author of *Great Garden Companions* (Rodale books) and co-author of many other books. She is a CNLP (nursery/landscape professional), honored as an educator within the industry, and continues in plant retail and landscaping work. Sally also leads Great Garden Travel for AAA around the U.S. and Europe. She is proud to have helped to make this event happen and is grateful to the gardeners and volunteers who all said Yes!



Nellie Gardner

ngardner@darwinmartinhouse.org / 716-830-7555

With no formal high school education, Nellie earned a degree in Agriculture from Nova Scotia Agricultural College and Cornell University. Her experience working for The Integrated Pest Management Program at Cornell and Cornell Cooperative Extension, plus operating her own private consulting business, has given Nellie a wide range of experience

she applies to her approach to horticulture. Today, she grows cut flowers and provides horticultural and gardening consultation through her business, Flower Fields. Nellie began volunteering at the Frank Lloyd Wright-designed Martin House Complex in Buffalo because of Isabelle Martin's passion for gardening and cut flowers. Today, Nellie is the on-site horticulturist at the Martin House – where she is involved in the restoration and interpretation of the landscape – and for Graycliff, the Martins' former summer home on Lake Erie, also designed by Wright.

– MORE –

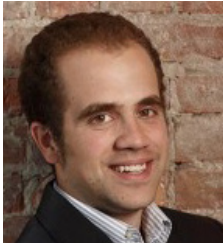


Erin Grajek

egrajek@buffalogardens.com / 716.827.1584, Ext. 204

Erin is Associate Vice President of Marketing and Visitor Experience for the Buffalo and Erie County Botanical Gardens. A native of East Aurora, Erin was a founding partner of the National Garden Festival, now a part of Gardens Buffalo Niagara. She has been at the Botanical Gardens for 11 years and has been part of the WNY cultural community for 20 years.

Erin is very active in the American Public Gardens Association and currently holds the role of Marketing Section Chair for the international organization. Erin is also on the board of directors for Gardens Buffalo Niagara.



Brian Hayden

hayden@visitbuffaloniagara.com / 716.218.2922

As communications manager for Visit Buffalo Niagara (VBN), Brian is responsible for promoting Buffalo Niagara tourism by serving as VBN's point person for media relations, writing for VBN's website and visitor guide and assisting with advertising copy and sales collateral.

Brian received Destination Marketing Association International's

"30 Under 30" award in 2015. He graduated from Syracuse University in 2010 with a degree in journalism.



Ed Healy

healy@visitbuffaloniagara.com / 716.218.2930

Ed Healy is Vice President of Marketing for Visit Buffalo Niagara (VBN) where he is responsible for VBN's destination marketing strategy.

His responsibilities include overseeing all sales and marketing communications, including the production of an annual visitors guide, websites, e-newsletters, social media, videos, podcasts and consumer advertising,

as well as media and public relations. During Ed's tenure at VBN, Buffalo has been named one of the National Trust's Dozen Distinctive Destinations; the No. 1 Mid-size Arts Destination in the United States by *American Style Magazine*; one of 44 Places to Go by *The New York Times* and, most recently, one of CNN's 16 Intriguing Things to See and Do in the U.S. in 2016; and America's Favorite City by the readers of *Travel & Leisure* magazine in 2016. He was the executive producer of "Buffalo: America's Best Designed City" and has produced and scripted numerous promotional videos that have been viewed more than 1.5 million times on YouTube. He serves on the board of Gardens Buffalo Niagara and the marketing committee of the Darwin Martin House.



Elizabeth Licata

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An avid gardener, Elizabeth shares her opinions about gardening and gardening culture as one of five bloggers at Garden Rant. She was a longtime committee member of Garden Walk Buffalo, and wrote the text for a book about the event. In the real world, she is the editor of *Buffalo Spree*

magazine, a freelance writer and art curator, and has written articles for gardening magazines as well as written/edited several art-related books.

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Kathy Guest Shadrack

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Kathy Guest Shadrack wrote *The Book of Little Hostas*, published in November 2010, which introduces gardeners to the joys of growing the small, very small and miniature hostas and includes details of more than 200 beautiful little hostas, together with ideas for planting them in the landscape and in various containers and troughs. Kathy has been gardening intensively for more than 35 years and claims her favorite plant is “whatever is in bloom.” She belongs to many plant organizations and helped to establish the Buffalo Area Daylily Society. She formerly served on the Board of the Buffalo Botanical Gardens and the Board of The American Hosta Society and is currently on the board of the Western New York Hosta Society. Kathy has also been published in *Fine Gardening Magazine* and *Upstate Gardeners’ Journal* as well as many smaller newsletters and publications. Kathy and her husband, Mike, are the proud owners of Smug Creek Gardens in Hamburg.



Mike Shadrack

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Mike Shadrack is president of the Western New York Hosta Society, has been a member of The American Hosta Society since 1992 and has served in several Board positions. He has also been a member of the British Hosta and Hemerocallis Society for 22 years, is former chairman and currently executive bulletin editor. Mike is a Board member of the Buffalo and Erie County Botanical Gardens and is chair of their Plant Collection Committee. He is a board member of Gardens Buffalo Niagara and chair of their Events Committee. Mike has been growing hostas since 1986 and has been trying to hybridize almost as long. He and his wife, Kathy, maintain a large collection of modern cultivars at their Smug Creek Gardens in Hamburg. Mike is also a qualified London Tourist Board Guide and organizes garden tours both in England and specialized hosta tours in the U.S. He is also an accomplished photographer; his photos of hosta varieties and gardens have been published in UK and US catalogs and magazines. In addition, he supplied the illustrations for the Royal Horticultural Society, Wisley handbook, *Hostas*. He is co-author and photographer of the book, *The Color Encyclopedia of Hostas*, released in April, 2004. The book was named the “2005 Reference Book of the Year” by The British Garden Writers Guild. The sequel – *Timber Press Pocket Guide to Hostas* - was released in September, 2007. In addition, a French hosta book, *Les Hostas* was published in early 2007 with Mike as photographer and co-author. In February 2010 Timber Press published a new edition of *The New Encyclopedia of Hostas* with updated descriptions and photographs of new cultivars. Mike is now the ‘Hosta expert at large’ for Bowden Hostas in Devon, England, the UK’s largest hosta suppliers. Through their website at Bowdenhostas.com Mike is available to answer your Hosta questions.



Connie Oswald Stofko

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Connie Oswald Stofko publishes Buffalo-NiagaraGardening.com, the online gardening magazine for Western New York. When it comes to gardening, she is a hobbyist. She is a writer by profession, and interviews local gardeners and gardening experts to provide fun and educational articles for her readers. Her background is in journalism and she has won state and national awards for her writing and editing work.