



# EARTHWAYS CENTER

a division of the  MISSOURI BOTANICAL GARDEN

*We promote sustainability through environmental education and improving the built environment.*

## DOCENT UPDATES JULY - AUGUST 2007

*Hello Everyone! Welcome to the EarthWays Docent Update List! We send these out periodically in hopes of keeping you up to date without filling your email boxes. Hope you all are well!*

### EWC CALENDAR NEEDS

- EWC Public Tour Weekends! We still need people to sign up for the **July 21-22<sup>nd</sup> & August 18-19<sup>th</sup>** open house public tour weekends! Please let Katy Mike know of your availability.
- Please note there is no volunteer meeting in July, but the monthly docent meetings will continue in August. The August date is set for **August 8<sup>th</sup>** at 5:30pm.
- EarthWays is considering participating in the "Race for the Rivers" event, hosted by the Greenway Network and held **August 25-26<sup>th</sup>**. If you might be available to table at the event or otherwise help out, please contact us.
- EarthWays may also be partnering with the St. Louis Clean Air Project to make "Detox Your Domicile" presentations. These will primarily be weekday presentations, and we will be contacting individuals about exact dates and training opportunities as we learn more information from CAP.
- Please block off **September 29-30<sup>th</sup>** on your calendars for the annual EarthWays festival. More details to come on the new festival format!

### SITE NEWS – EarthWays Home is a model of energy and resource efficiency

- The outdoor stairs on the back of the house have been made a little safer: A new non-slip surface was applied to the first two steps that received the most impact from the water running off the roof. The other steps will still be very slick on rainy days, so be sure to remind visitors to watch their step out there.
- The garden is growing strong, and the beds are full with tomato and pepper plants. The raised beds make a great talking point on tours about the environmental impact of eating local!
- The new energy bikes have arrived! One will be stored in the basement as a traveling display, and the other will serve as a permanent display in the dining room.
- The kitchen counter display of various green cleaners is scheduled to be redone by the July public tour weekend. Please let Katy Mike know if there's a particular product on the shelf you refer to frequently, or if there's one missing that you think we should have to display.

**SAFETY UPDATE** – Did you know Glenda Abney was the EarthWays' Fire Marshall? In the event of a fire, head to western staircase (the carpeted one) to exit the building, and then gather across the street on the grassy plain in front of the Grandel Theater.

## PROGRAM NEWS – EarthWays Center promotes sustainability through environmental education and improving the built environment

### ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION

- A new line-up of adult education classes has gone to presses for the Fall MBG brochure. This fall, EarthWays will be hosting a number of exciting new workshops, including sessions geared toward greening existing & new homes and a “Buy-O-Diversity” series focused on green consumerism.
- You are all invited to attend the first of the EarthWays’ Sustainable Living Discussion Forum, which will also be included in the Fall MBG Adult & Family Program brochure. The first discussion night will be held **Thursday, October 25**, 7pm to 9pm, and will be titled “Beginning the Discussion: Sustainability 101.”

### IMPROVING THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

- **SAVE THE DATE – SEPTEMBER 29-30<sup>th</sup>!** Planning for the EarthWays Green Homes Festival & House Tour is well underway, and we are all looking forward to as much volunteer help as we can get!

## GREATER GARDEN NEWS

- The Whitaker Music Festival has begun! The festival is comprised of ten free concerts on Wednesdays at 7:30 p.m. (The Garden offers free admission after 5 p.m.)
- Henry Shaw’s Birthday Celebration will be **Tuesday, July 24**, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. In honor of Garden founder Henry Shaw’s 207th birthday, admission to the Garden is free all day.
- Be sure to check it out the 2007 Chapungu art exhibit.
- The Henry Shaw Cactus Society Show & Sale will take place in Ridgway **July 21–29<sup>th</sup>**.

## EVENTS OF INTEREST

- Monthly Green Drinks, 6:30 –9:00pm. The July event will be held on **July 18<sup>th</sup>** at Alandale’s in Kirkwood, and the topic is “Greening the Organization.” The August event will be held on **August 21<sup>st</sup>** and will be held at Alberici, with no formal topic.
- USGBC July Event. The St. Louis Chapter presents “The Intersection of Renewable Energy and Green Building” on **Tuesday, July 17<sup>th</sup>**. Networking begins at 5:30pm, and the program will last from 6:15 – 7:30 pm. This event will be held at the Monsanto Center at 4500 Shaw Blvd.
- 30% Off Sale at the Garden Gate Shop and the Little Shop Around the Corner. **July 23-29<sup>th</sup>**, This is an exclusive opportunity for staff & volunteers (so be sure to have your badge with you!)
- Missouri Botanical Garden Research Division Presentations. On **July 12<sup>th</sup>**, James Collins, Assistant Director of Biological Sciences for the National Science Foundation, will present “Plant Biology in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century: Where To from Here?” at 4pm in the Monsanto Lecture Room. On **July 13<sup>th</sup>**, Torbjörn Lindell will present “Carl Linnaeus – The Life of the Prince of Botany” at 3pm in the Monsanto Center.

*If you have questions about any of these EarthWays docent updates, please don’t hesitate to contact Katy Mike at [katymike.smaistr@mobot.org](mailto:katymike.smaistr@mobot.org).*