

IN THE

Garden

Quarterly – Winter 2021-2022



Tulsa Garden Center
at Woodward Park

For Want of a Nail

By Laura Chalus, CEO, Tulsa Garden Center at Woodward Park

*For want of a nail the shoe was lost.
For want of a shoe the horse was
lost. For want of a horse the rider was
lost. For want of a rider the message
was lost. For want of a message the
battle was lost. For want of a battle
the kingdom was lost. And all for the
want of a horseshoe nail.*

This centuries-old proverb was repeating itself on a loop inside my too-tired brain as I was driving home after an art show reception we hosted at The Mansion last month. The evening had been truly remarkable. There was a positive vibe

which was palpable, the food and wine were copious and delicious, and the Tulsa-based Indigenous artists, who showcased their designs during the artist talks, just blew everyone away with their authenticity and creativity. My heart was full.

The art show, funded by the National Endowment for the Arts, was one which we were more than happy to host, as it had ties to Hellen Woodward, Woodward park's namesake, whose original Muskogee land allotment included the present-day boundaries of Woodward Park.

"In Dialogue: A Community-Centered Public Art Project Reflecting Tulsa's Inter-Tribal Identity in Mvskoke Territory," was comprised of four proposed public art projects chosen to memorialize indigenous history. This was accomplished by the artists expressing their contemporary Native peoples' experiences as a step in addressing prevailing attitudes and invisibility, while helping to reclaim the vital presence of Native peoples in the Tulsa region.

So why, after such a successful and heartfelt event, was my head



Lost shoe



Tulsa Garden Center
at Woodward Park

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swimming with an old adage which exemplified the observation that seemingly unimportant acts can have unforeseen consequences? Because there's always that one person who has to try and ruin it for everyone.

As part of the exhibits, there was a blank poster board set up on an easel where guests could leave their thoughts about the proposals by affixing their own hand-written sticky notes. The multi-colored feedback was almost more brilliant than the art show, with encouraging sentiments, kind words, and thoughtful observations - except for that one little hot pink Post-It note.

What was just incredible to me, after reading the innocent looking sticky note, was that the feedback was left after the author had just sat and listened to all four artist talks – women who spoke with passion and vulnerability about what it means to be a Native American artist in Tulsa.

“I am opposed to these [proposals] being located in the Woodward Park Arboretum or Linnaeus Garden. This is our City Park for everyone.” Wait.....what? Everyone? Really? Because it seems to me that this contributor of narrow-minded thoughts was actually not at all comfortable with the Park being



representative of everyone. Quite the contrary.

As a society, if we simply give lip service to the creation of inclusive and welcoming environments instead of taking the time to hammer home that extra horseshoe nail with historical accuracies in our public spaces, then what might be the consequences? From my perspective, it's liable to be a thrown shoe discarded amongst the rubble of a crumbling kingdom of homogeny...

Winter 2021-2022 Newsletter – December, January and February

Tulsa Garden Center at Woodward Park
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Winter Wonderland *in Woodward Park*



❄️ Carriage Rides through
Woodward Park

❄️ Photo Shoots inside
the Snedden Mansion

❄️ Warm up with hot
cocoa & tasty treats inside
the Carriage House

❄️ Tuesday December 21st

Wednesday December 22nd

& Thursday December 23rd



www.tulsagardencenter.org/events/winter-wonderland

Dormancy Dreams

By Andy Fusco, Director of Horticulture, Tulsa Garden Center at Woodward Park

My first fall in Woodward Park was a beautiful one. Honestly, it might have been one of the most magnificent autumn color displays in my 31 plus years in Tulsa. Maybe I'm biased. I really nerd out over fall and winter interest in plants and I took every opportunity to walk through the Arboretum to bask in the glow of the seasons' transitions. Either way, I think Mother Nature did an exceptional job this year.

The lack of an early frost allowed a slow transition in the shutdown process of this year's leaves. Shorter day length triggers this in deciduous trees and shrubs. The vibrant colors you see in fall are the result of the chloroplasts in the leaves shutting down and no longer making chlorophyll, the food producing chemical that makes leaves green during the growing season. Without this green dominance, other important compounds in the leaves show through. Anthocyanins cause red shades, Carotenoids cause oranges, and Xanthophylls cause yellows. All these compounds exist in the leaves throughout the spring and summer and serve specific purposes, but we don't see them because of the overabundance of chlorophyll.

With less sunlight and colder temperatures, leaves become more burden than asset. By dropping them, trees can put their energy elsewhere, such as making anti-freeze compounds in the vascular tissue and growing more extensive



root systems. In horticulture, we call this a tree's dormancy period because the above ground portion of the tree is not actively growing. The roots, however, continue to grow year-round as long as the ground is not frozen.

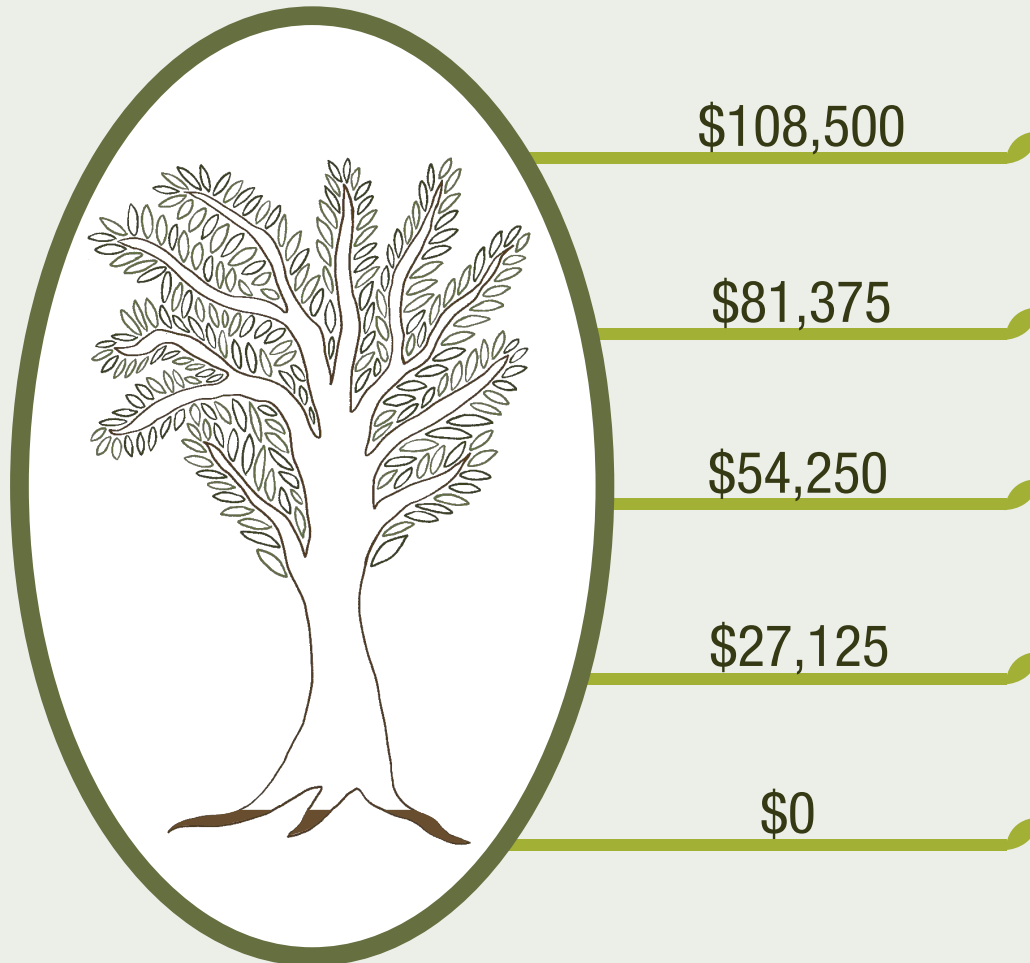
This is precisely the reason that fall and early winter are the best times to plant a new tree in the landscape. The risk of drought stress is incredibly low and the tree will spend much of the winter establishing roots, reducing the chance you will be out there with a hose every day in July praying the poor thing makes it through its first Oklahoma summer.

I've been thinking about this

dormancy period a lot in my strolls through the Arboretum. In past winters I've wished I could take a long nap through winter. I really despise the short days and dark skies before dinner. I'm not sure if it's the lack of Vitamin D or cold temperatures, but I think most gardeners will understand what I mean when I say, 'winter funk.'

I'm taking a new approach to it this year though, opening my eyes to the lessons our gardens can teach us in their dormancy. Much like a newly planted tree, I'm utilizing my personal dormancy to put down roots and establish myself in my new role within Woodward Park. Part of this work is thinking through all of the projects

Help us meet our goal to care for the Tulsa Arboretum!



The initial phase of restoring the Tulsa Arboretum involves a partnership with Up With Trees and a proposal to take care of the deferred maintenance, with an additional 3 years of regular care.

Read more about the Arboretum's history, hopeful future, and how to donate at:

www.tulsagardencenter.org/tulsa-arboretum



Dormancy Dreams continued

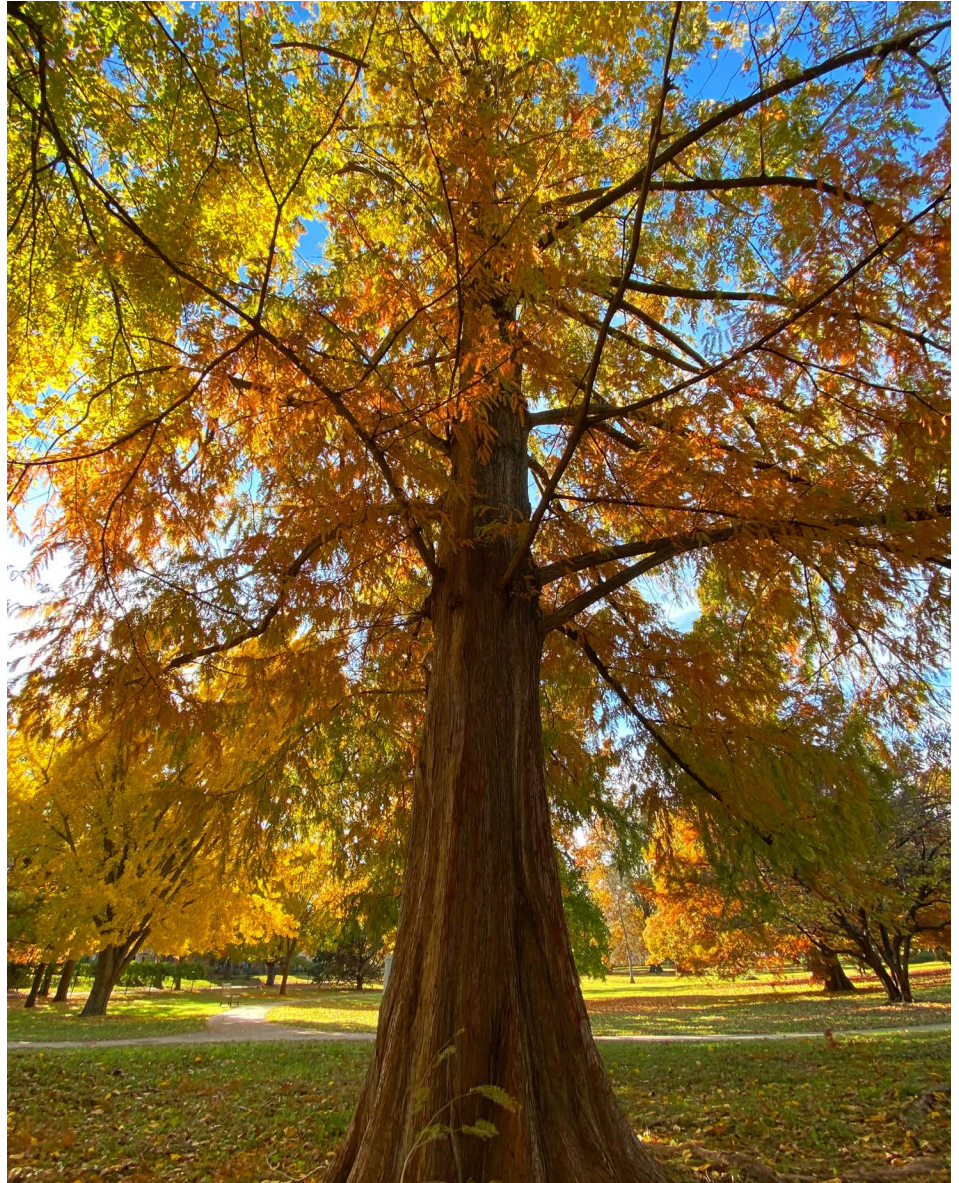
I have ahead of me—officially relaunching volunteer recruitment and education at Linnaeus Teaching Garden, resuming our Native Plant Certificate program, along with new educational offerings and other transformations to strengthen our reputation as a nationally renowned park and garden. 2022 is looking bright (if not a little busy)!

To be successful, I feel I must put a considerable amount of *thought* in before any big actions are taken. I wouldn't plant a tree before first considering soil health, sun exposure, and access to irrigation. I'm taking the same approach to my role here.

Why the Arboretum for all this reflection? Well, to me, it perfectly encapsulates my two biggest responsibilities as Director of Horticulture—care for our plant collections and curating our educational initiatives. Arboreta, by their definition, are not just green spaces to walk around, but where trees and other plants are cultivated for scientific and educational purposes. I know this firsthand. In one of TCC's last woody plant ID courses, I learned how to identify many of Oklahoma's common trees right here in the Arboretum. In that same course I learned that the Dawn Redwood (*Metasequoia glyptostroboides*) at the eastern tip of the Arboretum is the biggest one of its species in the entire state. From that day, it has remained my favorite tree in all of Tulsa.

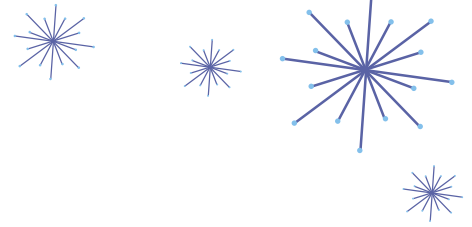
The Arboretum clearly inspires me to dream. I dream of the people who planted that tree in 1964 and wonder if they knew what it would become. I dream of the students that will come after me. What can I do to ensure the Arboretum inspires them and continues to inspire for generations to come? Is it merely enough to

replace a few fallen trees? I think true stewardship would mean we have to do more, think bigger, with more imagination and forward-facing ideas. This takes a great deal of time, work, and money (oh yes, that), but think of what it could become. This winter, dream with me.



Dawn Redwood

The Tulsa Herb Society
would like you to join us for our annual



Carols & Crumpets

Herbal Craft Fair



Featuring:
The Tulsa Herb Society Booth
& 28 Artisan Vendors!

Saturday, December 4th 2021
8:00am-3:00pm

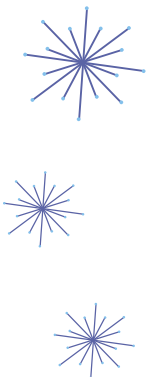
Tulsa Garden Center
2435 South Peoria Ave



Admission is FREE, and a portion of the proceeds benefits
the Tulsa Garden Center & Linnaeus Teaching Garden

Snowflake Cafe

will be open for lunch from
11:00am-2:00pm



CLASSES AND EVENTS

▶ WEEKLY RECURRING EVENTS

Every Tuesday – Tulsa Herb Society member activities. 9:00 am–11:30 am (all weeks except 2nd week of month.)

Every Tuesday – Let's Talk Gardening! 12:00–1:30 pm.

▶ THURSDAY, DECEMBER 2

Tulsa Area Daylily Society Holiday Meeting, offsite. www.tulsadaylily.org, 6:00 pm.

▶ SATURDAY, DECEMBER 4

Carols & Crumpets! Tulsa Herb Society Craft Fair, See page 8 for details. Snowflake Cafe Lunch hours are from 11:00 am–2:00 pm. Admission is free. A portion on the proceeds benefit The Tulsa Garden Center & Linnaeus Teaching Garden. 8:00 am–3:00 pm



▶ MONDAY, DECEMBER 6

Tulsa Garden Club Members-only Meeting, offsite. www.tulsagardenclub.org, 11:00 am.

Green Country Bonsai Society monthly meeting. 7:00 pm.

Oklahoma Native Plant Society Quarterly meeting. 6:30 pm.

▶ SUNDAY, DECEMBER 12

Tulsa Orchid Society meeting. 1:30 pm.

Tulsa Rose Society meeting. 2:00 pm.

▶ MONDAY, DECEMBER 13

African Violet Society meeting. 7:00 pm.

▶ TUESDAY, DECEMBER 14

Tulsa Herb Society Members-only Meeting. 10:00 am.

Green Country Water Garden Society, meeting. 6:30 pm.

▶ THURSDAY, DECEMBER 16

Tulsa Area Iris Society Holiday Dinner, offsite. www.tulsairis.org, 6:00 pm.

▶ TUESDAY, DECEMBER 21 – THURSDAY, DECEMBER 23

Woodward Park Winter Wonderland Activities. See page 4 for more details.

www.tulsagardencenter.org/Winter-Wonderland.



▶ TUESDAY, DECEMBER 21

Tulsa Audubon Society meeting. 7:00 pm.

▶ SUNDAY, JANUARY 9

Tulsa Orchid Society meeting. 1:30 pm.
Holiday Party.

Tulsa Rose Society meeting. 2:00 pm.
Holiday Party.

▶ MONDAY, JANUARY 10

Green Country Bonsai Society meeting. 7:00 pm.

▶ TUESDAY, JANUARY 11

Tulsa Herb Society meeting. 10:00 am.
Green Country Water Garden Society meeting. 6:30 pm.

▶ MONDAY, JANUARY 17

African Violet Society meeting. 7:00 pm.

▶ TUESDAY, JANUARY 18

Tulsa Audubon Society meeting. 7:00 pm.

▶ THURSDAY, JANUARY 20

Tulsa Perennial Club meeting. 7:00 pm.

▶ THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 3

Tulsa Cacti & Succulent Society meeting. 7:00 pm.

▶ MONDAY, FEBRUARY 7

Tulsa Garden Club Meeting. 11:00 am.
Green Country Bonsai Society meeting. 7:00 pm.

▶ TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 8

Tulsa Herb Society meeting. 10:00 am.
Green Country Water Garden Society, meeting. 6:30 pm.

▶ SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 13

Tulsa Orchid Society meeting. 1:30 pm.
Tulsa Rose Society meeting. 2:00 pm.

▶ TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 15

Tulsa Audubon Society meeting. 7:00 pm.

▶ THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 17

Tulsa Perennial Club meeting. 7:00 pm.

▶ MONDAY, FEBRUARY 21

Oklahoma Mycological Society meeting. 6:00 pm.

African Violet Society meeting. 7:00 pm.

▶ SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 26

African Violet Society Show and Sale. 9:00 am–3:00 pm.





Tulsa Garden Club
gardening • community • education

TulsaGardenClub.org



11 am * Monday * February 7, 2022

Tulsa Garden Center at Woodward Park Auditorium
2435 South Peoria Avenue * Tulsa, Oklahoma 74114

Growing for the Future



***Steve Owens** is a gardener, horticulturist and plant hunter with a passion to search the world and find the best plants to offer for our Oklahoma weather through Bustani Plant Farm. In 2007, Steve released his first book, “Best Garden Plants for Oklahoma”, coauthored with Laura Peters.*

Hostesses

Judy Grotts, Member since 1996

Linda Smith, Member since 2017

Pledge of Allegiance

Jenni Rowe, Member since 2021

Garden Devotional

Amy Riddle, Member since 2017

Program

Steve Owens

Membership Meeting

President Rose Schultz, Member since 2016

Nominating Committee Report

Laura Chalus, Member since 2017

Pedestal Design: Underwater

Judy Grotts, Member since 2018

Prep for March 19, 2022 Standard Flower Show *Friends from Sea to Sea*

**Advance Tickets available for 71st Annual
Garden Tour *Gardeners and Their Secrets!***



Lil' Sprout is ready for SpringFest!

SpringFest at Woodward Park, a nonprofit educational event, will be held on Friday, April 8th from 9am-4pm, and Saturday, April 9th, from 9am-3pm. Celebrating its 67th year, it will take place in front of the Linnaeus Teaching Garden and adjacent to the Arboretum in Woodward Park, highlighting two of Woodward Park's treasured spaces.

Since 1955, SpringFest has hosted thousands of guests in search of exceptional pollinator plants, native plants, cacti and succulents, vegetable plants, trees, garden art, and expert horticultural advice.

Don't miss the wide variety of plant vendor booths. Come out to shop old favorites, including a return of the Linnaeus Teaching Garden Tent, and find new selections as well.

But wait, there's more! When you get home and realize you forgot to ask that all-important gardening question, no worries! Come on back and visit us next week, next month, and even next year. The Tulsa Garden Center has been located in the Snedden Mansion since 1954, fulfilling our mission to serve as horticultural headquarters with diverse educational opportunities for our community and to provide exceptional and unique guest experiences.

Attendance for SpringFest is free and fun for the whole family. Event proceeds benefit in-depth gardening education as well as ongoing maintenance and beautification of Woodward Park - a historic City of Tulsa community park.

Andy Zanovich, 2021 Board President
Laura Chalus, CEO
Stephani Freeman, Donor Services Administrator

Sponsorships available.
tulsagardencenter.org/SpringFest



Lil' Sprout wants you to remember...

**Don't miss
SpringFest
2022!**



Tulsa Garden Center
at Woodward Park

2435 S. Peoria
Tulsa, OK 74114-1350

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Tulsa, OK

Our mission is to serve as horticultural headquarters with diverse educational opportunities for our community, and to provide exceptional and unique guest experiences.



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celebrations

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