letter from the director

One year has passed since I became director of The Botanic Garden at OSU and I want to express how grateful I am to work with Jane Carter, Laura Payne, our student employees, and Ambassadors.

The Botanic Garden at OSU (TBG) grows each year as those involved add their talents and inspiration. On page four of this report see, “TBG by the Numbers,” where one can get a sense of just how many people, groups, classes, and extension educators use TBG for its facilities and beautiful grounds. What are not captured in those numbers are the people who visit with their families to walk the grounds, take photographs, or propose marriage. It is amazing to me how the gardens take on a life of their own.

Friends of the Botanic Garden at OSU was formed in 2015 and I thank the board members for getting us off to a great start. Please see the list of board members on page four. They all have a passion for horticulture and some have been involved with TBG for many years. We also appreciate all of you that have donated to Friends of TBG!

Infrastructure projects accomplished in 2015 (or ongoing) include: making the restrooms available seven days a week (sounds insignificant but believe me it is very important!); purchasing a golf cart to help make the gardens more accessible; adding landscape lighting to make the Educational Center more accessible and safe at night; adding electricity to other parts of the garden for expansion of programming; and extending irrigation to Highway 51 improving our visibility to the public.

A longer term infrastructure goal is to construct a paved road from the Highway 51 entrance up to the gardens with paved parking and green parking. Long-Range Planning and the Field and Research Service Unit have been helpful with the planning process and hopefully this dream can someday be a reality.

Thank you for a very successful 2015! We are looking forward to a great new year and to collaborating with Casey Hentges, the new host of Oklahoma Gardening.

Sincerely,

Lou Anella
We are very excited that Casey Hentges has been hired as the new host of *Oklahoma Gardening*. Before earning her M.S. degree from the Longwood Graduate Program in 2007 she received her B.S. degree in Public Horticulture from OSU in 2002. We are happy to have her back!

**Largest Gift Ever Pledged**

The OSU Foundation announced in the fall of 2015 that an anonymous donor has pledged an estate gift that has the potential, when realized, to be the largest gift ever made to TBG! Thank you Anonymous Donor, and thank you to the OSU Foundation.

**Mesonet Weather Site Honors Dr. Ron Elliott**

A demonstration Mesonet Weather station was installed at TBG to honor Dr. Ron Elliott. Dr. Elliott is one of the founding leaders of Mesonet and this site will be used to educate visitors about Oklahoma’s weather network.

**Ambassadors Honored for Service**

At the 2015 Ambassador Appreciation Banquet Linda Blum received the Outstanding Service Award and sisters Barbara Pass and Joyce Taylor shared the Outstanding Ambassador in the Garden Award. We thank these and all our Ambassadors for sharing their talents with TBG!

**New Herb Garden Installed**

Garden manager Jane Carter and student intern Matthew Southall worked through the summer heat to install a beautiful new herb garden. Thanks to Jane, Matthew, Ambassadors and other student employees who lent a hand. Come see it!

**Mum Sale to Become Annual Event**

The Friends of The Botanic Garden mum sale was a great success and we plan to make it an annual event. Next year plan to purchase your mums from us. We hope to have a large variety of colors and perhaps even different sizes.
We would like to thank the following for their support!
January 1, 2015 - December 31, 2015

Concert Series Sponsors
Arts and Humanities Council of Stillwater
Daddy O’s Music Company
Flourishes
The Hideaway
OSU Office of the President
Stillwater Designs – Kicker

We also thank the Division of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources at OSU for salary and financial support.
To make a donation visit: osugiving.com | Friends of the Botanic Garden | Fund # 2178500
2015 by the Numbers

3,003 Volunteer Service Hours Contributed by TBG Ambassadors

$47,456 Income from Donations, Sponsorships, & Mum Sale

7,515 Number of People who Attended Workshops, Meetings, Events, Camps, & Tours

162 Number of Workshops, Meetings, Events, Camps, & Tours

21 OSU Classes that Utilize TBG