

21 Signs of Spring at the Arboretum

Written by

Thursday, 19 May 2011 15:14

Spring has taken hold at the Minnesota Landscape Arboretum despite a dusting of snow this past weekend and cooler temps. From Earth Day and Arbor Day activities to National Public Garden Day to how to get your garden growing to brilliant blooms in May (32,000 tulip, 10,000 daffodil & 6,000 pansy bulbs) and yoga in the gardens...it's time to visit the Arboretum and celebrate what's in store for spring!

1. Spring bloom alerts: crocus in full bloom, hepatica blooms, wood thrushes; frog chorus; call 612-625-9791 or www.arboretum.umn.edu/blooms.aspx ;
2. Storytime at the Library, Thursdays, 10:30 a.m. free with Arb admission
3. Weekend Family Fun: Blooming Baskets, weekends in May, noon-4 p.m., Learning Center, free with Arboretum admission.
4. Spring Trunk Show III: Tree Trunk Treasures, meet artist Virgil Leih and informal tours, weekends of exhibit through May 8, 1-3 p.m., Great Hall.
5. Steelroots: Touching Earth & Sky guided walking tour of 16 sculptures, Saturdays April 23-Oct. 8, 10:30 a.m., Departs from Visitor Center. Free with Arboretum admission.
6. Arbor Day: Friday, April 29: Walks for the Curious, 10:30 a.m. (\$7.50 member/\$15 non-member); or Who Needs Trees program explores art, science, planting, etc., 10 a.m., free with Arboretum admission.
7. Arboretum Gardening School, Saturday, April 30, spring planting for summer color, register at www.arboretum.umn.edu/learn.aspx
8. Celebrating Our Roots hosta and ornamental grass plant sale, Gift Store, Saturday, May 1, 8 a.m.– 6 p.m. and Sunday, May 2, 10 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.
9. From Vine to Wine: Appreciating the Bounty of the Grape, Thursday, May 5, 6:30-8:30 p.m., \$80/\$90 for three class sessions, also May 12 & 19)
10. National Public Garden Day, Friday, May 6, 10-11 a.m., public art mural on what gardens mean to you, Visitor Center, free with admission. (Better Homes & Gardens offer readers free admission coupon for 2 for May 6 visit to Arb).
11. Ask a Master Gardener/Yard & Garden Desk, weekends, 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.
12. Celebrate with Mom at the Arb: Mother's Day Brunches, Saturday, May 7 and Sunday, May 8, 10:30 a.m. and 1 p.m., \$20/\$22/\$9 age 4-7; reserve at 612-626-3951, or www.umnarboretum.catertrax.com ;
Springtime Tea, Wednesday, May 11, 2:30-4 p.m. & Mothers & Daughters Tea, Saturday, May 14, 2:30 p.m. Tea Room, \$23/\$26; Gift of Arboretum Membership (starting at \$45, gift subscription to Better Homes & Gardens),
www.arboretum.umn.edu/join.aspx

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; cooking classes: Dinner with a Chef or Saturdays in the Kitchen,
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13. SummerHouse opens Friday, May 13, fruits, shrubs, grasses, perennials, gardening tools, containers and outdoor décor; west of Arboretum on Hwy.5

14. Auxiliary Spring Plant Sale, Saturday May 14 & Sunday, May 15, 9 a.m. – 4 p.m., Margo Picnic Shelter area, shop for hard-to-find plants, shrubs, trees.

15. What's the Buzz? Honey!, Saturday, May 14, 9-11 a.m., \$30/\$40 class.

16. Bog Bash, Sunday, May 15, noon- 4 p.m., Ordway Picnic Shelter and bog area celebrating grand re-opening of Wurtele Bog Walk on Green Heron Trail, with interpretive stations and Bog Passport children's activity and book-signing for "Big Belching Bog", music. Free with Arboretum admission.

17. An Evening with Author Richard Louv, Monday, May 16, 7-9 p.m., guided walk, conversation and book-signing of "The Nature Principle" AND Symposium keynote address, Tuesday, May 17; reserve for either at www.arboretum.umn.edu/learn.aspx or call 952-443-1422.

18. Spring Plein-Air Watercolor Workshop: Green Heron Pond, 9:45 a.m – 1 p.m., \$40/\$50, create plant and animal images, register at www.arboretum.umn.edu/learn.aspx or call 952-443-1422

19. Yoga in the Gardens with Gorilla Yogis, Saturday, May 21, 10:30 a.m., free yoga event, meet at Snyder Building to proceed to gardens.

20. Here Comes the Sun, Reedy Gallery, meet the artist and informal tours Saturday, May 21, 1-3 p.m., exhibit May 20-Aug. 14 features 17 painters.

21. Children's Summer Fun: weekly day camps, weekly children's garden, guided adventures, Pea Pods for Pre-schoolers, register at www.arboretum.umn.edu/learn.aspx or call 952-443-1422