



BERKSHIRE BOTANICAL GARDEN

To our garden community:

It gives me great pleasure to share some good news with you! Based on Governor Baker's recently issued guidelines on reopening MA businesses, the board of trustees and staff of Berkshire Botanical Garden are moving ahead with **plans to reopen our beautiful grounds to the public beginning Monday, June 8**. We feel confident that as an open-air botanical garden comprising more than 24 acres, we will be able to safely welcome visitors and share the beauty of our natural landscape once again this summer. Governor Baker's administration included botanical gardens in the category of businesses that can reopen immediately. However, we are required to adhere to certain health and safety guidelines that will make this summer's visits to BBG somewhat different. We will be posting detailed information on our website in the coming days, and I encourage you to check back often to find out more before you visit. Most importantly, **all visitors to BBG must register online** and pick a specific date and time for their visit. This will allow us to control the number of people on property at any given time and provide a safe experience to all. Also, for the time being we cannot allow access to any BBG buildings or greenhouses. This means that visitors will check in for their visit at an outdoor kiosk in our main parking lot. Also, **our public restrooms and gift shop will remain closed** for the time being. I want to thank you in advance for your patience as we all adjust to these new guidelines. Admission tickets will be available online beginning June 4, or by calling 413 298-3926.

Because we understand that the pandemic has adversely impacted so many individuals and businesses economically, we want to make sure anyone is able to visit BBG this summer. Thanks to a generous grant from the The Dorothea L. Leonhardt Foundation, Inc., we are offering **free admission to all visitors every Sunday and Monday** for the 2020 season. In addition, on all other days, admission will be reduced to \$7.50 per adult, or half off our normal admission prices. Children under 12 and BBG members of course always enjoy free admission but still need to register in advance.

Just the other day I took a stroll through the Garden and took note of the bluebells in our Procter Garden, emerging perennials in the de Gersdorff and Frelinghuysen borders, and a sea of newly planted annuals in the Tatkon Entry garden. Roses are setting buds, and the daylilies are getting ready for their July show. I can't wait to share all of this beauty with you this summer!

With my best wishes,

Mike Beck