March 11, 2020

To the members of the BBG community:

The recent discovery of the COVID-19 virus and its spread in local communities worldwide has prompted governmental agencies at every level to formulate public health advisories and regulations to slow the spread of this virus.

I am writing to let you know that as a public gathering place, BBG is actively monitoring this rapidly evolving public health situation to help ensure the health and safety of our members, visitors, volunteers and staff. At the same time, BBG will continue to provide educational programming and remain open to the public, to the extent possible.

Until further notice, the following guidelines regarding BBG programs and events will be in place:

- All non-cooking educational programs scheduled to take place at BBG and open for registration by phone or on our website will continue to run. However, since individual instructors may cancel or postpone on short notice due to the virus threat, we recommend that you call our office at (413) 320-4794 and check berkshirebotanical.org for more information before traveling to BBG.
- At the present time, BBG will not offer any cooking classes, and already scheduled cooking classes are being canceled, with a full refund of any registration fees to those who have registered. If you have registered for such a class, we will contact you individually with more information.
- BBG will continue to host outside events in our Education and Center House buildings. If you have already scheduled an event or are planning one in the next month, please contact our office to confirm your group’s size and any plans for serving food and drinks as part of the event, as we may have to impose additional safeguards and restrictions.
- BBG staff is ensuring appropriate sanitary practices in all of our buildings. We have installed no-touch hand sanitizer dispensers and will provide signage reminding all visitors to wash and/or sanitize their hands.

We will provide further updates as we continue to address the situation based on up-to-date CDC and MA Department of Health instructions and guidelines. In the meantime, our grounds and greenhouses will remain open to visitors, and our visitor center and gift shop will re-open for the season as scheduled on May 1. We look forward to welcoming you back to our beautiful gardens this spring!

Sincerely,

Michael Beck
Executive Director

www berkshirebotanical.org