ANDERSON JAPANESE GARDENS

THE PATH AHEAD

FALL 2024



John Gleason
Chief Operating Officer



Community Impact

Anderson Japanese Gardens delivers first-class programming in an effort to help make the Rockford area a more vibrant and culturally rich region. We believe the uplifting Garden setting inspires creativity, fosters community, and promotes well-being.

It is encouraging to see the remarkable number of local visitors and regional guests who visit the Garden and participate in our events. We are deeply grateful for our corporate sponsors, individual donors, docent volunteers and everyone who has experienced the Garden in support our mission.

> **Tuesday Evening in the Gardens:** *Our signature summertime music series featured 28 musical acts from across the country. Over 6,780 guests enjoyed live performances in the Garden despite the less than ideal weather conditions.*
>
> **Garden Explorers:** *This ten-week parent/toddler program features notable community personalities and activities led by local organizations. Thanks to the financial support from corporate sponsors, we are able to deliver Garden Explorers FREE to all participants. We averaged 150 participants each week.*
>
> **Salvation Army Tuesday Morning Service:** *Early morning in the Garden is a special time. The Salvation Army offers non-denomination services featuring guest pastors on Tuesday mornings throughout the summer. There were nearly 900 participants over the summer.*

These are a few examples of what happens at Anderson Japanese Gardens each week. We feel fortunate to be able to have this kind of positive impact for so many local residents and visitors from outside our community. As the leaves change, we invite you to immerse yourself in the tranquility of the Garden or the vibrant energy of our fall and winter events – there is so much more to experience!

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Choreo Advisors

John Anderson
Anderson Japanese Gardens
Founder

David Anderson
Anderson Japanese Gardens
Founding Family Member



Path of Pumpkins

A Collection of Festive Pumpkins On Display Submitted By Regional Schools

October 19-26

Spooktacular

October 26 | 2:00 to 5:00 PM

Children are encouraged to come dressed in costumes & explore the Garden in a fun and spooky way!

GET YOUR FAMILY PHOTO TAKEN WITH OWLS, VULTURES, RAVENS, AND MORE!
Provided by "Hoo" Haven Wildlife Rehabilitation & Education Center.

Participating Path of Pumpkins Schools

As of October 1, 2024

- *Auburn High School*
- *Belvidere High School*
- *Belvidere North*
- *Harlem High School*
- *Harlem Middle School*
- *Jefferson High School*
- *Keith Country Day School*
- *Marshall Middle School*
- *Meridian Jr. High School*
- *RESA Middle School*
- *Rockford Christian*
- *Rockford Lutheran*
- *Roosevelt High School*
- *West Middle School*

Contact John Gleason to learn how to become a participating school. JGleason@AndersonGardens.org

OCTOBER LECTURE

Thursday, October 17 | 7:00 PM
Cost: FREE for Members Online | $5 for Non-Members
Pre-Registration Required



Patricia Larkin Green

4 Nobles and 4 Treasures

"The Four Gentlemen" (四君子), or Four Noble Ones refer to: the plum (梅), the orchid (蘭), the bamboo (竹), and the chrysanthemum (菊). Filled with symbolism, they are common subjects in traditional ink and wash painting, belonging to the category of bird-and-flower painting in Chinese art.

"Four Treasures of the Study" 文房四宝 bunbō shihō: the brush 聿 (fude), ink 墨 Boku, ink stone 硯 (suzuri), and traditional paper 和紙 (Washi), are The Traditional Tools for Sumi-e and Shodo. Invented in China, thousands of years ago, the tools are fundamental to Asian art and culture, each recognized by UNESCO to be recognized and preserved as essential to the cultural heritage.

A lively discussion with examples of the tools and paintings will be presented by Patricia Larkin Green. www.patricialarkingreen.com

NOVEMBER LECTURE

Thursday, November 21 | 7:00 PM
Cost: FREE for Members Online | $5 for Non-Members
Pre-Registration Required



Tim Gruner
Garden Curator & Head of Horticulture

A Year in Review

Join Tim Gruner as he discusses the "insider's view" of Anderson Japanese Gardens. Gruner will look back at the many factors that influenced the Garden over the last twelve months. He will share the routine and not-so-routine, from winter to fall, weather patterns, and special projects – they all have an impact on the Garden.

Tim Gruner graduated from Kishwaukee College's Horticulture program in 1987. After graduation, he spent one year as a horticultural intern at Chicago Botanic Garden followed by a year as a grower for the All-American Selection trial at Kishwaukee College. He began working at Anderson Japanese Gardens in 1989 and eventually worked his way up to Garden Curator. He oversees all construction and horticulture activities within the Gardens. He currently serves on the Board of Directors of the North American Japanese Garden Association.



AJG Announces Extended Season

Garden & Restaurant Open Daily through Sunday, November 10

Anderson Japanese Gardens & Fresco at the Garden will remain open through Sunday, November 10. Thank you for another wonderful season. We look forward to opening the Garden & Fresco in the Spring!

Earlier Garden Closing Times Due to Reduced Daylight Hours

- The last 6:00 PM closing time will be Friday, October 18
- Starting Saturday, October 19, the Garden will close at 5:00 PM
- Starting Sunday, November 3, the Garden will close at 4:30 PM

ANDERSON JAPANESE GARDENS

ILLUMINATED

December 7 – January 5 | 5:00 – 8:30 PM
Last Admission at 7:45 PM | Check Website for Exact Dates

Experience the Gardens in a New Light

Illuminated is Anderson Gardens' wintertime lights experience, featuring dramatic up-lighting and thousands of white string lights woven throughout the landscape and canopy of the Garden. Made-to-order Woodfire Pizza and a rotating schedule of food trucks available nightly. Fireside dining and beverage service is available inside the Visitors Center.

Participating Choral Groups *(as of October 1, 2024)*

- Belvidere High School
- Voices of Harlem High School
- Kinnikinnick Bell Choir
- Belvidere North
- Harlem Middle School Harmonia
- RPS 205 Choir
- Whitehead Elementary School
- Guilford High School

Contact John Gleason to learn how to have your school or church caroling group be a part of Illuminated.
JGleason@AndersonGardens.org

Extended Coffee Shop & Fireside Music

Twelve Week Pop-Up begins Wednesday, December 11

This inspiration for the Coffee Shop & Fireside Music was to provide a warm, inviting environment where guests could gather for friendship and community during the cold, dark days of winter. The positive response was far greater than we had imagined, so we are opening the coffee shop early!

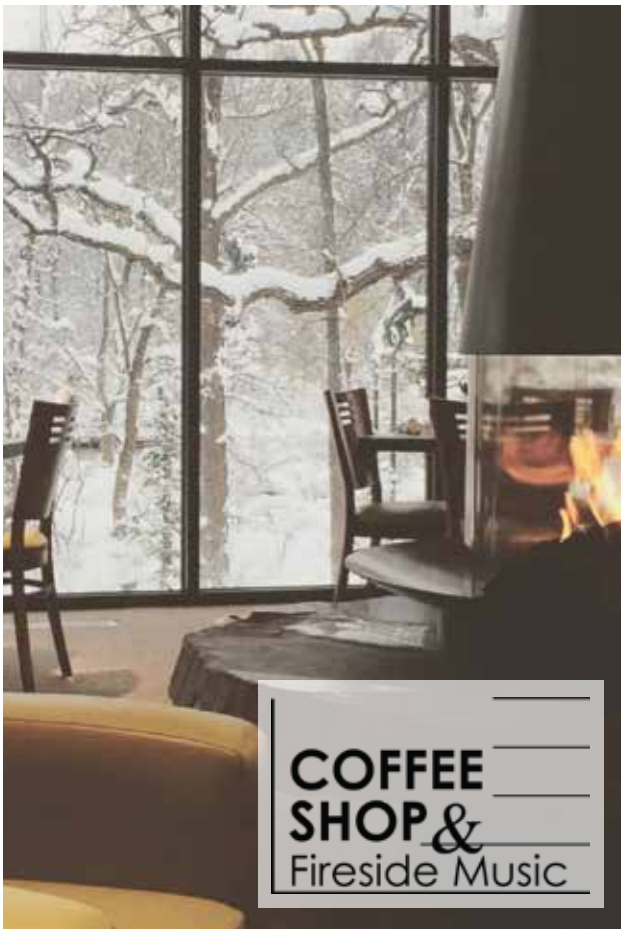
Coffee Shop & Fireside Music

Featuring Meg's Daily Grind & Live Music Daily
Specialty Coffee Drinks | Pastries | Assorted Sandwiches

Wednesday, Thursday, Friday & Saturday
11:00 AM – 3:00 PM | December 11 – March 1
Closed Christmas Day & New Year's Day

Impress Clients & Friends
Make Your Next Coffee Meeting & Gift Exchange at the Pop-Up
Stunning Garden Views Always Included

Even in the middle of winter, the Garden continues to provide a place of warmth and community where guests find comfort and joy.



Welcome Nick Esthus

Introducing Tim Gruner's Successor

After 35 years at Anderson Japanese Gardens, including the past 25 years as Head of Horticulture and Garden Curator, Tim Gruner will retire in Spring 2026. To ensure a smooth transition, AJG hired Nick Esthus as the new Garden Grounds & Facilities Manager well before Tim's retirement.

Nick is an experienced horticulturist specializing in Japanese gardens. Prior to accepting the position at AJG, he served as the Japanese Garden Horticultural Manager at the Fort Worth Botanic Garden in Texas since 2016. Prior to that, he was the Asian & Japanese Garden Curator at the Memphis Botanic Garden in Tennessee.

Over the next 18 months, Esthus will work alongside Gruner to uphold the high maintenance standards that have led to Anderson Japanese Gardens' reputation as one of the premier public Japanese gardens in North America.



Nick Esthus
Garden Grounds & Facilities Manager

Giboshi Bridge Improvement Complete

The five-post Giboshi Bridge railings guests see today replace the original three-post design installed when the bridge was built in 2003. We anticipate the new railings will last at least fifty years based on material selection and thoughtful design.

This multi-year restoration began in 2018 when wood for the post and beams was purchased and allowed to air-dry for more than two years. The materials were then fabricated in the shop of master craftsman, David Sipos, in Ojai, CA and shipped across the country to Anderson Japanese Gardens in mid-May of this year. The final fitting and installation process was complete and the Giboshi Bridge re-opened on June 11, 2024.

The Giboshi Bridge Railing Restoration is 100% donor-funded. The generosity of Garden enthusiasts like you has played a vital role in the restoration of this architecturally and structurally significant Garden element. Thank you for supporting our mission.



Nancy Hand and her two granddaughters, all from Rockford, were our first guests to walk across the newly restored Giboshi Bridge after reopening

Enclosed is my gift of: ☐ **$50** ☐ **$100** ☐ **$250** ☐ **$500** ☐ **$1,000** **Other $**_____

Name _____ In honor/memory of _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Email _____ Telephone _____

☐ Check ☐ Credit Card _____ Exp. _____ CVV _____

Signature _____

☐ Recognize my gift as anonymous

☐ I have notified my employer's matching gift program of my donation

Donate Online

Mail your tax deductible gift payable to:
Anderson Japanese Gardens
318 Spring Creek Rd.
Rockford, IL 61107

Thank You!

Contributions Are Tax Deductible: Anderson Japanese Gardens is an independent 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. We rely on contributions from individuals, corporations and foundations to cover approximately one-third of our annual operating costs. Contributions are tax deductible to the extent of the law.

Thank You to Our 2024 Event Sponsors

Anderson Japanese Gardens delivers a wide variety of first class programming in an effort to make the Rockford area a more vibrant and culturally rich region. We would not be able to do this without the financial commitment from our corporate sponsors.

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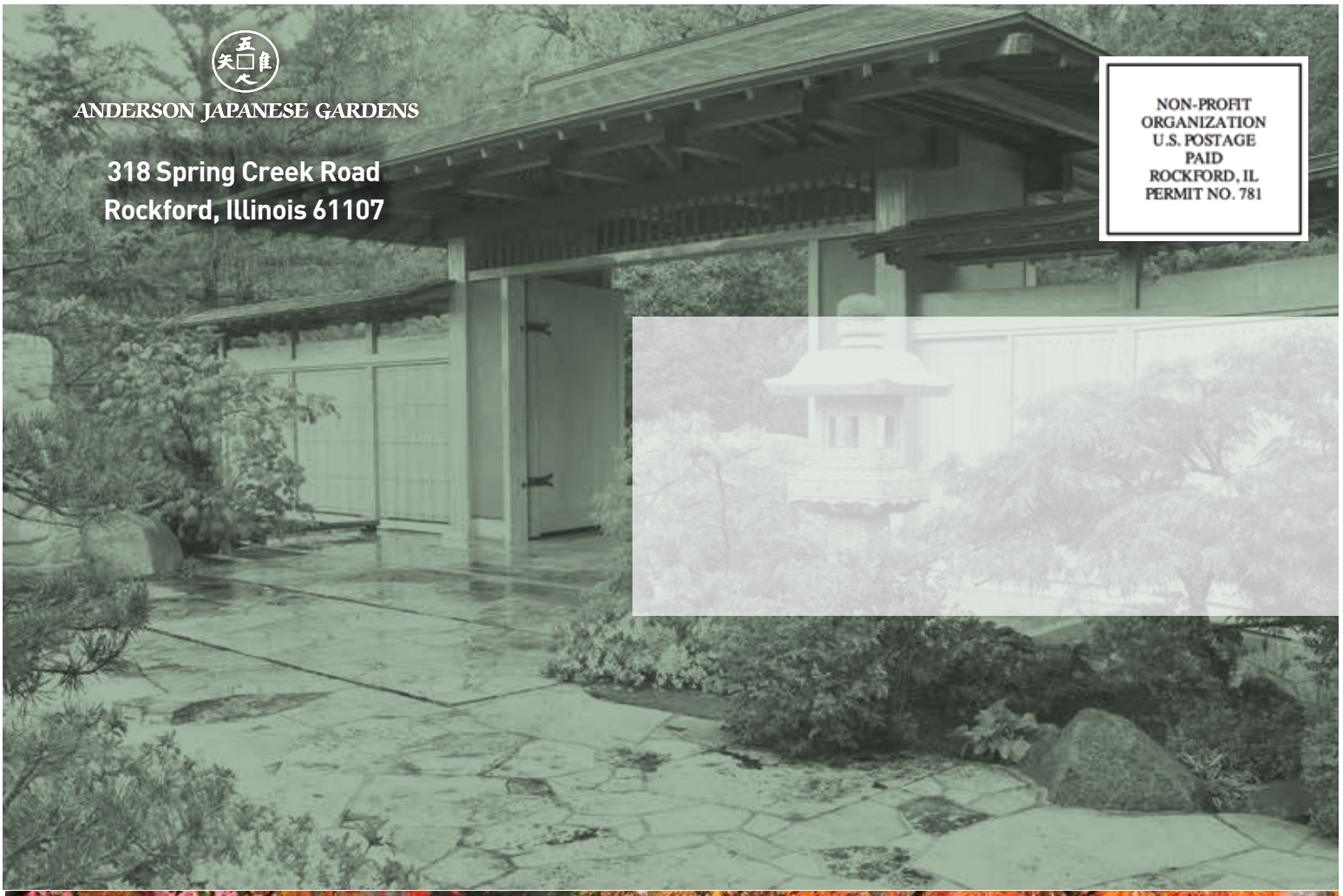



Garden & Fresco Season Closing:
Sunday, November 10

Inside this issue:

- Illuminated Opens December 7
- Coffee Shop + Fireside Music Begins December 11
- Introducing Nick Esthus
- And Much, Much More!

HIGHLIGHT REEL