

Bus Trip to Madison Area Gardens

Saturday, July 13, 2019

Join the Winnebago County Master Gardeners for a one day motorcoach trip to Allen Centennial Gardens, Olbrich Botanical Gardens and the Epic Systems Center in Verona. Cost is \$50 which includes motorcoach travel, admissions, tour costs and tips. Cost is non-refundable, but if you cannot attend, you can find someone else to take your place.

The visit begins at Allen Centennial Gardens with an hour-long tour hosted by Garden Interns. Allen Centennial Garden is the artful living laboratory and public botanical garden of the Horticulture Department at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. The Garden serves as an outdoor classroom for UW-Madison students and the surrounding communities, providing meaningful learning opportunities for visitors of all ages.

Next is Olbrich Botanical Gardens to spend some free time touring these beautiful gardens. Olbrich Botanical Gardens features 16 acres of outdoor display gardens showcasing the beauty of Midwest hardy plants in a setting of prairie style architecture. Olbrich's Thai Pavilion and Garden, the only one in the continental United States, features an innovative tropical garden in the Midwest. In June, 2005, a new Rose Garden opened to the public with mixed borders of Midwest hardy shrub roses and perennials. The Bolz Conservatory, a sunny 50-foot-high glass pyramid, houses a diverse collection of tropical plants, a rushing waterfall, free-flying birds, and blooming orchids year-round. The Botanical Center is complete with a gift shop, horticultural library, and meeting rooms. Educational classes, programs, and events for adults and children are offered year round. Lunch is on picnic tables outside Olbrich and then back on the bus to travel to Epic Center. Refill water bottles before getting on the bus, there is no water access at Epic.

Jeff Epping, Director of Olbrich, will be leading the tour of the gardens on the Epic Campus. The Epic Campus is truly unique with areas designed to resemble Hogwarts from Harry Potter, Willy Wonka, The Farm, Treehouses and so many other unusual and varied themes. Check Epic Campus – Verona websites for information to see some of the creativity of this business campus. Unfortunately, there is no access to the buildings; the tour only includes the gardens. No bathrooms at Epic, but the bus has facilities.

Because we are trying to get to see as much as possible in one day, you are asked to bring your own lunch and snacks as well as a refillable bottle of water. Because we will be doing a lot of walking please wear comfortable shoes. We will **leave the Coughlin Center at 6:45 AM, Oshkosh Penney's parking lot at 7:00AM** and the old **Home Depot in Fond du Lac at 7:20AM**. We will return at approximately 6:00PM. Please indicate where you want to be picked up. Register early as this trip will fill fast! Any questions please call Marge at 920-420-8472. Send registration to **Marge Menacher at 4105 Westview Lane, Oshkosh, WI 54904. Make the check to WCMA for \$50.00.**



Name _____ Cellphone _____

Address _____ Email _____

Pick Up: _____ Coughlin Center; _____ Oshkosh Penny's Parking lot; _____ Home Depot lot in FDL