

See ‘Gardens Through the Looking Glass’ this summer at L&C

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GODFREY – Lewis and Clark Community College’s Monticello Sculpture Gardens will pay homage to the Godfrey campus’ past, present and future with the 2016 themed summer garden show, **Gardens Through the Looking Glass**.

Following 2015’s **Garden of Eatin’**, 2014’s **Bee-Dazzled** and 2013’s **Menagerie in Bloom**, this year’s theme simultaneously celebrates the rich history of **Monticello College** (1838-1970) and **Lewis and Clark Community College’s** bright future in the presentation of two zones on campus – past and present.

It also coincides with the 150-year anniversary of **Lewis Carroll's "Alice's Adventures in Wonderland"** books. The story of Alice, a young girl who lived in Victorian England and was so bored by the rigid formality of the time that she dreamed up a fantastical world of impossible whimsy, will come to life through a contrasting collection of modern and historical gardens.

"This show gives us a chance to look back at the institution's position as a community hub over nearly two centuries as well as highlight the school's forward thinking approach to modern horticultural techniques, including a newly-cultivated hybrid varieties and sustainable irrigation methods," said **L&C Horticulture Manager Ethan Braasch**.

The "past" zone will showcase heirloom plants of the Victorian era and those that were found on the Monticello College campus in traditional gardening styles, such as a knot garden, giant water lily garden, eyebrow and island beds, rose gardens, herb gardens and a sun parlor.

The "present" or "Wonderland" zone will showcase new plants and recent hybridizations introduced in the ornamental horticulture industry. The colors, textures, variety and whimsy of the newest releases are showstoppers that will be arranged in novel fashions, illustrating the range of variety within a species and exploring exciting new styles of gardening, such as vertical green walls and exotic succulents/cacti displays.

"One highlight will be the Living Wall, which will feature vertical plantings, including new hybrid species, on the north side of Hatheway. This is an up and coming gardening method and a first for the Monticello Sculpture Gardens," Braasch said.

Other attractions will include the Carpet Bed, which will comprise bright flowers arranged in the shape of the Monticello College seal, and Old Fountain Court, where the newly-restored J.L. Mott fountain will be the centerpiece.

Gardens Through the Looking Glass will feature interpretive signage that identifies plants and includes a small narrative that compares and contrasts the present day life of a Lewis and Clark student with that of a Monti girl in the age of **Principal Harriet Haskell** (1867-1907), through campus culture, curriculum, transportation, food, technology, etc.

The show will kick off in May and run through August, but is expected to peak in July. Self-guided tours are welcome anytime campus is open.

The Monticello Sculpture Gardens were dedicated in the spring of 2012 as a Signature Garden site of the Missouri Botanical Garden and today are recognized as a full botanic

garden. The Monticello Sculpture Gardens also feature 14 large-scale, mostly bronze, sculptures.

“We’ve noticed more and more visitors to our campus gardens each year as we host these themed garden shows, and the donor support from the community also continues to increase,” L&C President Dale Chapman said. “Our shows not only provide beauty for our campus, but they are also an opportunity for Lewis and Clark to further its educational mission for the community.”

The gardens are supported by generous donations made by private donors and groups such as **Joan and Chuck Sheppard, The Godfrey Women’s Club, Alton Community Service League, Alton Godfrey Rotary Club** and **PRIDE Inc.**

To learn more about how to get involved or for more information on guided garden tours, contact Braasch at ebraasch@lc.edu or (618) 468-3140.

Learn more about Gardens through the Looking Glass, visit www.lc.edu/lookingglass.