



Tizer Botanic Gardens & Arboretum Mission & Stats., Jan.2013

History

Tizer Botanic Gardens & Arboretum (TBGA) was started by Belva Lotzer and Richard Krott in 1998 on a piece of property about twenty miles from Montana's capital city of Helena. About 20,000 visitors now tour TBGA annually.

Their extensive plant collection and their whimsical presentations is what made TBGA a popular attraction. They have over 1,500 varieties of perennials, shrubs and trees totaling many thousands of plants. Part of their tree and woody plant collection includes more than 225 varieties of conifers and 450 varieties of deciduous trees and shrubs, which include about 100 types of roses. The collection also includes more than 100 varieties of clematis.

TBGA encompasses almost 7 acres and contains about three-quarters of a mile of trails, 90% of which are handicapped accessible.

Plant Testing Affiliations:

Test and Demonstration Garden for Colorado State University and the Denver Botanic Gardens "Plant Select"® Program since 2003.

All American Selections Demonstration & Test Garden.

Testing plants for various wholesale growers in Montana, Idaho, Nebraska, Oregon, Washington, Minnesota and Alberta since 2003.

Other Affiliations:

In December 2012, Tizer Botanic Garden & Arboretum was awarded an International Level I Accreditation from the Morton Arboretum 'ArbNet' program.

Member of the American Public Gardens Association

Member of Montana Nursery & Landscape Association

Member of Helena Garden Club

Member of Montana Federation of Garden Clubs

Member of Plant Select® program

Member of Montana Native Plant Society

Member of Southwest Montana Tourism Region

Awards:

TBGA has won several business development awards throughout their years in business.

Tizer Botanic Gardens & Arboretum

P.O. Box 129 Jefferson City, MT 59638 Ph. 406-933-8789

info@tizergardens.com

www.tizergardens.com

TBGA Mission:

To preserve and expand the native and non-native plant collection of Tizer Botanic Gardens & Arboretum for the benefit of future generations, to provide education, and to foster a greater understanding and appreciation of woody plants and their importance to people and wildlife.

Basic Actions for implementing Mission

- a. Focus on high altitude, cold-hardy plants that can survive our harsh Zones rated 2, 3 & 4.
- b. Provide education through classes, field trips, interactive workshops and interpretive trails.
- c. Conduct practical and scientific research in partnerships with other horticulture-related organizations.
- d. Foster greater understanding of the therapeutic value and health and healing aspects of a botanical garden and arboretum.

TBGA and the physical property is still privately owned and privately funded by the founders, primarily by nursery plant and gift shop sales and admission fees. In 2010 a non-profit corporation, Tizer Nature Connection (TNC), was formed for the potential for transitioning the operations of TBGA to TNC.

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