

# JOIN US IN A VISION

## SOME THOUGHTS FROM OUR DIRECTOR

*(The following thoughts are Tom's and do not necessarily represent the views of our board.)*

Dear Friends,

Something bigger than all of us is happening in Metro-Detroit. The way I see it, the true renaissance unfolding here is going to be a renaissance in the way we humans see each another and other living beings.

This renaissance will entail a shift from thinking we are simply these material human bodies to realizing we are all eternal souls, full of spiritual knowledge and bliss. I believe the healthy communities we want will be soul-nurturing communities, full of people motivated by a reverence for all life. Such a worldview can transform our lives and our world from being based on separation and fear, to one based on unity and love.

Detroit Abloom is developing programs to draw people's attention to the beauty and wonder of nature because we believe that a healthy relationship with the natural world is fundamental to obtaining proper health on every level of human existence. After all, doesn't our Creator provide for us, teach us and reveal Himself to us through nature? Thus, our gardens are places of sanctuary, where people of all ages can relax, reflect and restore their bodies, minds and souls. Essentially, we see gardening and ecological stewardship as activities that have profound healing potential for ourselves and Mother Earth.

I feel very blessed to work with like-minded people to combine gardening and an appreciation for nature with community revitalization. It has been an exciting journey for us as we grow and adapt, remaining always motivated and open to new ideas. Please consider joining with us in some way. With our combined knowledge, experience, wherewithal, vision and faith, I believe we can pave our way into a very bright future.

Blessings and Peace,



# WE ARE ALL IN THIS TOGETHER

**LOCATION:** We are based in the Jefferson Chalmers neighborhood of Detroit's lower east side, next to Grosse Pointe Park and the Detroit River. The address of the Detroit Abloom office, hoop house and root cellar is [305-313 Newport](#), and the Detroit Abloom site is just five blocks down the street at [248 Manistique](#).



**DONATIONS:** We gladly accept donations to help cover our operational expenses and support our outreach projects. All donations are tax exempt. We have safe online donations capabilities, or you can send a check or MO to our office address. We also welcome donations of gardening equipment such as plastic pots and hand tools.

**VOLUNTEERS:** We LOVE volunteers, which we accept from February to November. Keep track of our volunteer opportunities by getting our seasonal bi-weekly newsletter or simply contact us. Normally, volunteers work with us anytime from 10 – 6, every day except Sunday. Master Gardeners are welcome and anyone who needs community service hours. We always have a daily supply of fresh lemon water for everyone. You are also welcome to join us for a vegetarian (no meat, fish or eggs) lunch.

**VISIT US:** Please contact us beforehand to let us know when to expect you. Whether we are at the office or at the flower farm, we will be glad to give you a warm welcome and show you around. If you would like an organized tour, call us for details. Call either Tom or Nancy at (313) 434 5121 or (313) 587 2446.



**WEBSITE / E-MAIL:** [detroitabloom.com](http://detroitabloom.com) / [detroitabloom@gmail.com](mailto:detroitabloom@gmail.com)

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## DETROIT ABLOOM

### Community Revitalization from the Ground Up

**IN 2015**, Detroit Abloom formed as a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. After winning a Kresge Foundation grant in 2016, we began as a project to show how cut flower farming can be a practical way to repurpose vacant blighted land in Detroit, while creating enough revenue to pay for land taxes and property upkeep. Since accomplishing those goals, our mission has grown.

Besides developing our cut flower farm and Wellness Garden, we enjoy working with the larger community in any way we can to promote holistic health and wellness.



When people stroll through our gardens, we often hear them exclaim, “*This is like Heaven on Earth!*” That makes us happy because we want our green spaces to resonate with the souls’ attraction to beauty, biodiversity and peace. Overall, much of Detroit Abloom is about flowers: weekly mixed-flower bouquets during our 24-week bouquet share season, floral arrangements, decorative arches and bud vases for weddings and events, bouquet-making and cut flower garden workshops for all ages, floral jewelry, boutonnieres, cuff corsages, and more.



We grow over 150 kinds of plants, mostly from seed. Nancy carefully chooses plant varieties suitable for her floral work and spends a good deal of time researching and experimenting how to perfect her plant-care skills. She delights in growing a wide variety of gorgeous and fragrant flowers that bring wonder and joy to peoples’ lives.

Over the years, Detroit Abloom has evolved into a Wellness Garden, the first of its kind in Metro-Detroit. Working with other health-minded people who specialize in teaching different holistic health practices, we offer a variety of classes and workshops from May to November. These include our Food is Medicine and Nature is Medicine series, weekly yoga, meditation, Tai Chi, spiritual philosophy, dance, art, flower arranging workshops, and much more.



To foster the building of community and relationships, we will also have regular gatherings centered around our community table, picnics, and wood-fired bread oven.

Set in the context of our cut flower farm and sanctuary gardens, discover what the Detroit Abloom outdoor

Wellness Garden has to offer to restore and energize your soul, mind, and body – all under one sky.

## OUR VALUES

Detroit Abloom upholds the highest values in everything we do. We believe in *think globally, act locally*, by considering the health of the entire planet and taking action in our own communities. Our farming practices are environmentally friendly as we strive to abide by the natural laws of nature. We also use practical age-old farming methods to cultivate crops and save seeds the way our ancestors have for ages.

Our experience over the years shows us that we humans have much to learn from the natural world and that if we keep an open mind and heart, it has incomparable ways of bringing out the good in us. For this we are thankful and at the heart of our ethics is the principle of reverence for life, where we stress the importance of being compassionate to all living beings.

In sum, we believe that as more and more of us bloom inwardly – by living in accordance with the loving nature of our souls – the outer world will bloom with health, prosperity and peace. In a nutshell, our deepest wish is to help turn this world into the paradise it was meant to be.

## BUTTERFLY & POLLINATOR GARDENS

Worldwide, populations of pollinating insects are steadily declining due mainly to habitat loss. Thus, Detroit Abloom wants to work with the community to help compensate for that loss by building chemical-free butterfly gardens and pollinator habitat throughout the urban environment. These gardens will feature native plants that benefit pollinators and birds as well.

At Detroit Abloom we built a structure named *The Butterfly Nursery*, where we teach how to raise the eggs and caterpillars of Monarchs and other butterfly and moth species until they become adults and are set free. We also encourage raising butterflies and moths at home and in schools. All the needed rearing supplies are available on our website.



We are making a wide selection of native plants available for the growing number of people in Metro-Detroit who are helping to boost populations of pollinating insects.



Our nursery specializes in growing host plants for the caterpillars of different butterfly and moth species. For example, we grow five species of milkweed for Monarchs, Spicebushes for Spicebush Swallowtails, Prickly Ash and Hop trees for Giant Swallowtails, Paw Paw trees for Zebra Swallowtails and Snowberry Bushes for the Hummingbird moth.

We also grow over 60 kinds of nectar and pollen-rich perennial plants and shrubs for butterflies and bees. And to provide seeds and nesting materials for birds, we grow different kinds of native grasses.



By June 2022, the infrastructure of our children’s discovery garden will be complete so we can present a full season of activities and programs for children of all ages. We are planning weekly nature and gardening

classes, puppet shows, interactive music and dance events, art, and butterfly conservation projects.

Kids Abloom will provide opportunities for youth to develop respect and affection for the natural world. Research shows that children who have had a close relationship with nature will often become adults that support environmental preservation. Moreover, regular exposure to nature can also reduce anxiety and teach children invaluable life lessons.

We look forward to working with anyone who wants to make a meaningful impact on young people’s lives.