Pumpkin Festival
Celebrated for 20 years, this fall event features pumpkin picking, autumn activities, and more. The event concludes with the Pumpkin Festival Parade on October 29, 2016. Friday and Saturday, October 14 and 15, 2016. Details can be found here.

Summer Reflections from Childhood’s Gate Children’s Garden: Seeds, Plants and Nature
Many children’s garden activities were rearranged this summer due to our participation in the Plastic and Nature Gate Children’s Garden project. Interventions added to the Arboretum’s air-pods uncovered the plants’ stories for curious young visitors. We began collecting photos with tools of our own and created profiles for the plants. The photos became part of a contest rules.

Summer 2018 1st Place

Summer 2018 2nd Place

Summer 2018 3rd Place

Phytolacca americana

Photograph by Gabriella DiDomizio

Plant Spotlight: Balloon Plant
One of the plants that we heard about most this summer is the balloon plant (Gomphocarpus physocarpus). It is an unusual and interesting plant. It is usually noted for its large, inflated seed pods, but it also has small flowers. The flowers are white and very attractive, but are easily overlooked. When the seed pods are mature, they are round, inflated, and have a pleasant odor. The pods are woody and can remain on the plant for many years. The seeds inside the pods are quite small and are usually dispersed by birds or other animals. The seeds are not viable when fresh, but they are viable if they are left outside for a few days. The seeds are small and can be dispersed by birds, animals, or the wind. They are also quite attractive, particularly when they are ripe and have burst open to reveal their contents.

Focus on Research
Many flowering plants depend upon frugivory (consumption of plant seeds by birds) for their dispersal to animals, chiefly birds. The specific pollination of flowers can be a key to understanding how plants reproduce. The plants are displayed by species such as those from the center of the world, or those from a few, which locate the fruit mostly in the tree. Most plants have seeds that are toxic to food, especially seeds and trees. These are an important part of the world and are known as edible plants and animals. The seeds are small and can be dispersed by birds, animals, or the wind. They are also quite attractive, particularly when they are ripe and have burst open to reveal their contents.

Visitors Capture the Arboretum in Photos
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