“Volunteering at the Heritage Museum and Gardens just makes me smile! Whether I’m greeting visitors from all over the world, spreading mulch or washing pots, pulling weeds, planting new gardens, or stringing lights for Gardens Aglow, the time spent on these 100 acres makes me happy! All of these opportunities give me a feeling of well-being, productivity and sense of community with other volunteers and staff members. This was before COVID-19 quarantine.

Mid-February, I volunteered to help with making bottle flowers to be on display during the wonderful Gardens Aglow event. One afternoon, I got together with Iris and two other volunteers (Joe and Candee) at Heritage and started cutting plastic bottles and egg cartons into flower shapes. I’m so grateful for that one gathering. At home, I have been able to continue making flowers with bottles collected from friends and Heritage. To date I have cut over 100 flowers, painted a couple of dozen, and tested the effects of moisture and freezing temperatures on the bottle flowers. The project has happily kept my hands and mind engaged during the quarantine. So looking forward to seeing the end result when the bottle flowers are electrified later this year.” - Horticulture volunteer, Cindy Marvin

Please contribute to this project by collecting used water bottles for us– 16 oz, liter soda bottles (clear or green), and translucent gallon milk jugs– and bring donations to Heritage on our opening day! If you would like to make bottle flowers to donate, check out the directions below.

**Materials**

- 16 oz plastic bottles
- Scissors
- Candle

**Preparation**

1. To trim the plastic bottle, cut along the ridge that is right below the water label. Use the ridge as a guiding line. Save the bottom half and donate it to Heritage for other garden projects.
2. To create the petals, cut 5 equally spaced vertical lines. The vertical cuts should be approximately 3-4 inches in length, to ensure the bulb is covered.
3. Give the petal shape and form! Make curved edges between the vertical cuts you made in the previous step.
4. Hold the petals near a candle to warm and bend. We recommend wearing gloves.
5. Once you are finished, please donate your flowers to Heritage on our opening day!