

SUMMER 2019 NEWSLETTER

DIG IN

PHOTO COURTESY OF APRIL WHICKER



FRIENDS OF
THE GARDENS
ON SPRING CREEK

FROM THE DIRECTOR **MICHELLE PROVAZNIK**



We hope you have found The Gardens to be a place of wonder, peace, and learning in the many years since we began. Since then, our gardens have grown and evolved to serve our community. In addition to the beautiful space, we've integrated educational opportunities for youth and adults, developed our community garden program and hosted community events like Spring Plant Sale, Garden a'Fare and Garden of Lights.

Our gardens are transforming, and we are nearing a new beginning. With the opening of the expanded garden space this year, the forthcoming expansion of the Visitor's Center, and the creation of the Butterfly House, The Gardens will now be bigger and better than ever.

This transformation allows us to expand and enhance the programs and opportunities central to our mission. We'll be able to provide more positive, engaging, and creative opportunities for people to connect with plants and with each other.



FROM THE PRESIDENT **NATHANIEL BUDD**

Great communities are built by people who plant trees—the shade of which they will never sit beneath. With the heat of summer upon us across Fort Collins, we are all benefiting from the shade of those trees. But who planted them? A visionary? A leader, founder, or perhaps a friend? A neighbor or parent? At the Gardens on Spring Creek, the answer is all of the above.

Bob and Joyce Everitt have been longtime champions of The Gardens, and one of the landmark areas in The Gardens will forever be a testament to their legacy. Thanks to the support of their family and the community they inspired, Bob and Joyce will perpetually share their names with The Gardens' new stage, now named in their honor, the Everitt Pavilion. In addition, their likeness and presence with The Gardens via a masterfully crafted bronze sculpture by George Lundeen of Lundeen Studios, will be positioned to face the Pavilion into perpetuity.

In order to sustain this new, enhanced form of The Gardens you know and love, we had to rethink our admission system. Starting at Grand Opening, we'll be charging admission for entrance to The Gardens and events like Garden of Lights. We know The Gardens has been valued for its accessibility, and we continue to strive to set affordable admission prices. While we understand this change may be difficult, we must make this change to ensure this important community resource has a solid foundation for years to come.

We hope you'll explore becoming a Member of The Gardens. Membership is the simplest and most affordable way to experience all The Gardens will have to offer this fall while contributing to its sustained longevity and mission.



The large wooden beams framing the Pavilion harken back to Bob's first business in Fort Collins, Everitt Lumber Co.; and the artists and education the space will foster bring to life his and Joyce's legacy of philanthropy. Much has already been said about these two truly generous people and their impact on our community, but the words we can never say enough are Thank You!



Members enjoy time together at Garden a'Fare Wine Tour last summer.



MEMBERS MATTER

YOU CULTIVATE US.

Michael Coleman, Development Officer



Our transformation is almost complete! This past year, we finalized our \$6 million capital campaign and are nearing construction completion. This finish line will have us doubling in size with five acres of new gardens, the FIRST and ONLY Butterfly House in Fort Collins, and a 1,500

person Great Lawn ready for summer concerts. With so much excitement, we are ready to EMERGE this fall!

As mentioned, we're transitioning from being donation-based to having a fee-based admission system. This change makes your membership to The Gardens that much more important and cost effective for you and your family. And because our Members matter to us, we're presenting you with two incredible offers starting September 1, 2019.

For all **current Members**, we're offering the opportunity to extend your membership by one full year from its current

end-date at our current rates. Your extended membership will include two tickets to Garden of Lights in 2019, early ticketing access to Summer Concerts in 2020, and unlimited access to The Gardens, including the Butterfly House. For **lapsed Members** whose membership expired no earlier than 2015, we're also offering you the chance to **come back to us and renew your membership at our current rates**. These offers end September 30. (See insert for complete details.)

We are so excited about what the future holds. Yet as we look forward, we celebrate and remember our past. Our Members—all of you—helped us grow into what we are today. Members matter. We're not just The Gardens, we're YOUR Gardens, and these offers are here for you.

RENEW AT MEMBER MORNING

Join us for our last Member Morning on September 13! Be our guest before our gates open to the public. All members are invited from 8-10 a.m. Coffee and refreshments are provided courtesy of our Friends Board. It will be a great time to renew your membership with us!



OTHER DONOR NEWS

UHealth is a true community partner. Their generous \$100,000 gift to name the Potager and Herb Gardens was a final lynchpin to The Gardens' expansion and bolsters our shared vision for a healthy community through learning, healing and discovery. We are truly grateful for their leadership and care for our community.

HOW DOES A **BUTTERFLY HOUSE** TAKE FLIGHT?

Take a ride with me through design, construction, and the effort to welcome life into the first Butterfly House in NoCo. You may not look at our butterflies the same way! An insider perspective of the upcoming new world begins with design...



Winding paths



Aerial view



*Korrie Johnston
Sr. Communications
Specialist*

Principal Architect, Steve Steinbicker, at Architecture West L.L.C. provided insight on the building blocks of design. “Planning and designing the Butterfly House began in 2017 with an integrative collaboration with the Butterfly Pavilion and noting ‘lessons learned’ from the operations of the original building. We also had to consider USDA regulations, along with the entire team’s input. Targeting LEED Gold, we are committed to sustainable design and utilizing renewable energy. We trust the design will offer a “world-class” cultural facility and immersive educational experience for citizens and visitors alike.”

Following design, construction began in January 2019. Project Manager, Sean Windsor at Elder Construction, reports that safety, quality, budget, and schedule were his main considerations. “From a construction standpoint, the weather had been the biggest challenge. The wet spring caused some delays, but we had a great team of subcontractors that have helped us get back on schedule.”

“Selecting a building provider for the Butterfly House was also really challenging in the beginning. Budgets/options from vendors

ran the gamut. Arcadia GlassHouse was referred to us, and they have been fantastic. This project has had its complexities, but everyone has worked in collaboration to maintain a quality product, sensible budget, and timeframe.”

After these conversations about design and construction, I started to consider the multi-faceted attraction butterflies will bring to Fort Collins. Mary Ann Colley, Vice President of Science, Conservation & Operations at Butterfly Pavilion (BP), agreed.

“Butterflies have been tied to many cultures and bring joy to young and old alike—they are a “gateway bug!” Having started partnership discussions in 2015, BP knew it would be an amazing collaboration, bringing the expertise of The Gardens and BP together to offer a special experience in Fort Collins.”

To get the house “off the ground” with butterflies, it is required to be permitted/regulated by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA). The permit will allow The Gardens to bring in butterflies bred outside of Colorado. It will offer up-close views of butterflies such as Monarchs, Painted Ladies, Red Admirals, Pipevine, Black & Tiger Swallowtails, Red Spotted Purples to name just a few. “We are so excited

this will be the FIRST and ONLY Butterfly House in Fort Collins!” said Colley. “Butterflies are important bio-indicators, helping to identify the health of an ecosystem, and they are also forgotten pollinators. Bringing butterflies allows for a unique way to provide pollinator education.”

The final missing piece of the ‘glass house build’ is potentially the most critical to its success. The plants! Kelly Kellow, Greenhouse & Conservatory Manager at The Gardens, will be providing ample nectar sources for the butterflies while providing a unique tropical plant palette for visitors. “Bloom time, scent, and height of plants are important horticultural considerations. Tiered heights of plants allow visitors to get an eye level experience of butterflies, and yet still feel enveloped by the lush feel of plants. Lower level features will include water pockets, shelters, and resting spots for butterflies. These low areas will offer an “up-close” view too,” stated Kellow.

“Sourcing tropical plants was surprisingly difficult. Also, we needed a source that could ensure no neonicotinoids had been sprayed. I found a great plant source in Florida, helping us offer 100 different varieties of tropical plants in the house.”

Sharing this new world with our community—Members like you—will make it one of the most meaningful and memorable endeavors in Gardens’ history. Mark your calendars for later this fall to explore the Butterfly House on your own and realize there were many hands and hearts involved in seeing it take flight.



Greenroof shelter before its August renovation.

CHILDREN'S GARDEN RENOVATION UPDATE



Josh Cornell, Horticulturist

As the summer season gets into full swing, 2019 presents a unique opportunity for The Gardens. With the closure of the Children's Garden due to the construction of the Butterfly House, it gives us the chance to do some restoration and rethinking of some areas while our young friends are away. The Garden Railroad is getting a much-needed restoration. The raised bed has been rebuilt, irrigation upgraded, and the Northern Colorado Garden Railroaders are rebuilding the track and restoring the buildings. It will then be replanted and waiting patiently for the energy of its budding engineers to come and make it come to life once again.

The Greenroof shelter will be getting a makeover as well. We are putting in a new soil retention system as well as substrate in order to curtail soil erosion. The plant palette will include native grasses as well as flowers and sedums, a look that will complement and tie into the surrounding gardens.

We will also be refreshing the pathways throughout the Children's Garden. New stone fines will be put down on existing paths, while a new more defined path and access to the 'crabapple hill' will be designed and installed. Ideally this will make it easier for kids to access, play and explore behind the Secret Garden. As for the Secret Garden, it has been receiving an overhaul

as well! The existing Junipers were suffering from crown dieback and will be replaced with the more appropriate Blue Arrow that were called for in the original plan.

The beds that are usually planted with annuals as well as the production beds in the Friendship Garden are growing cover crop during the downtime in order to improve the soil. Included in this will be a rebuilding of the scarecrow friends that greeted gardeners entering the Friendship Garden. Over the years of readjustments, they have become shorter and shorter. This was quickly becoming an obstacle and safety concern for some of our taller horticulturists (hint, hint!).

All of these projects along with the rethinking and rejuvenating of the existing gardens has made for a very productive season in the Children's Garden. While the garden has been missing the laughter and cheers of its young friends, the void has been replaced by the sounds of drills, saws and the grunts of labor. It will be ready and eagerly waiting for their return.



Garden Railroad caught in mid-renovation this July

NEW FACES



PHOTO COURTESY OF APRIL WHICKER

LAUREN DEWEY

I have the pleasure of coordinating volunteers for The Gardens, and my job allows me to spend time in every garden and get involved in different projects—which I really love. I have been in Fort Collins for almost a decade. Mostly recently, I served as the Development Manager at Larimer Humane Society.



I hosted my wedding rehearsal dinner in the Children's Garden, so it is a special place to me. I also love walking through the Foothills and witnessing all the work the volunteers are helping staff accomplish. Some other facts about me—I love lemon trees as my backyard was full of them when I was kid. I listen to Country music and am a huge Broncos fan. I love when my backyard is full of family and friends.

I am excited about the opportunity to transition away from fundraising and into volunteer management. I love meeting and developing meaningful relationships with people. I have been blown away by the passion and dedication of our volunteers!

SELENA KUNZE

I am a Horticulture technician splitting my time between The Gardens, where I maintain the borders along Centre Ave and parking lot, and Twin Silo Park, where I work with the hops, hydroponics, orchard, and community gardens. Favorite parts of my new job include the hydroponics system at Twin Silo, and I really love working with food crops. Previously, I worked at Gulley Greenhouse for 16 years.



I'm originally from Ohio, but I'm too drawn to the mountains to go back...so I have been here for 19 years. I enjoy camping, fishing, hiking, cross country skiing, and gardening. I love bluegrass music, have so many favorite foods, and love any kind of daisy flower. Apple trees are also my favorite. My dream is to have an orchard of heirloom apple varieties someday.

To unwind, you can find me on my or a friend's patio, hanging out, BBQing, drinking a beer, and watching my kiddo play. I'm excited to be here and to get to know all the people that help make The Gardens grow.

MICHAEL COLEMAN

I am the Development Officer at The Gardens. Simply, my job is to raise money to secure the long-term financial health of our organization. Originally from St. Louis, I became a new resident of Fort Collins this February. I absolutely love this city, and every time I meet with a donor, I get to learn something new about its history and the people who live here. Oh, and I get to work in a garden!



Food is my favorite thing, so my fav area is our Garden of Eatin'. Some of my hobbies include guitar, hiking and vegetable gardening. Other favorites are Widespread Panic (seen them play live 76 times), St. Louis Cardinals, and running along the trails.

Fun Fact: I met my wife, Jayme, in Las Vegas on July 4, 2014 and proposed to her shortly after. We got married, moved three times, embarked on an 18-month trip around the globe and the US, and finally decided to settle in Fort Collins. We couldn't be happier here and truly look forward to becoming active members of this community for years to come!

RITA JOKERST

I am a full-time Horticulturist at The Gardens—taking care of plants, irrigation, and landscape in the new Theme Gardens. I also maintain areas around the Everitt Pavilion and the northwest tree grove.



Originally from Missouri, I've been in Fort Collins for seven years. I worked at several veggie/flower/herb farms before coming to the City of Fort Collins. I started with Parks for the enhanced medians program before coming to The Gardens. My favorite part of the job here is enjoying the calm of the gardens in the mornings.

My hobbies include cooking, biking, gardening, snowboarding, rafting, traveling, and reading. My favorite food changes regularly as I make my way through the seasonal bounty of my garden. Currently, I'm on a taco kick—all the tacos, all the time—with homemade tortillas courtesy of my husband. I'm really into podcasts, puns, and stand-up comedy. You can catch me in Fort Collins at the alley patio at Town Pump or cruising the Spring Creek and Poudre bike trails.

CONTACT US

We are currently closed for construction, but are accessible via phone, email, or social media.

HOW TO FIND US

2145 Centre Ave.
Fort Collins, CO 80526

Phone: 970-416-2486
(Monday-Friday, 9 a.m.-3 p.m.)

Email: gardens@fcgov.com

Website: fcgov.com/gardens

Facebook:
facebook.com/TheGardensOnSpringCreek

Instagram:
instagram.com/gardensonspringcreek



2145 Centre Ave. Fort Collins CO 80526

NON-PROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
Fort Collins, CO
Permit No. 2

2019 MILESTONE TIMELINE

We look forward to our future for The Gardens to fully achieve its mission and vision, to meet the demands of our growing community, and to become a leading cultural destination that Fort Collins deserves. Watch this timeline for exciting developments!

SPRING



April 1
New gardens open, Visitor's Center & original gardens remain closed

May 10-12
Spring Plant Sale on Great Lawn

AUTUMN



August-September
Final touches on Visitor Center & Butterfly House

October
Soft Opening Events

November
Grand Opening

December
Garden of Lights



SUMMER



WINTER