

# DIG IN

SPRING 2019 NEWSLETTER



FRIENDS OF  
**THE GARDENS**  
ON SPRING CREEK

## FROM THE DIRECTOR MICHELLE PROVAZNIK



One construction project down, one to go—whew! While our doors are officially closed, our staff is busier than ever planning for all the things that go into a grand reopening of a facility that will have doubled in size. Some of the programs we are working on include:

- A new membership and admission model. Upon reopening this fall, visitors will be charged an entrance fee while Members will enjoy free admission. We are also expanding exciting membership benefits, so be on the lookout later this summer.
- New education programs. We are developing new educational experiences to utilize our new gardens and butterfly house.
- Rental policies and pricing. We are evaluating these to include the many new places for weddings and parties!
- A grand opening celebration for fall 2019 as well as new concerts on the Great Lawn for 2020.

And, of course, we can't forget horticulture! Thousands more plants will be added in the expansion gardens. Minor garden renovation work will occur in the Children's Garden and Garden of Eatin'. Planting plans and butterfly management plans are being developed for the conservatory. And that "loveable" event we call the Spring Plant Sale is in full swing.

It is such an exciting time at The Gardens. We are confident that all our hard work will make our grand reopening a huge success. And we can't wait to share it with all of you!

## FROM THE PRESIDENT NATHANIEL BUDD



Witnessing the change of seasons is a part of the splendor of living in northern Colorado. As we enter spring, I hope you will join me in watching The Gardens transform with the coming seasons. Our Great Lawn is starting to green up for just the second time, and the hours of digging and planting in the new gardens by staff and volunteers are beginning to show signs of life.

Buildings are also beginning to bud; thanks to your support we reached our capital goal and have begun renovation of the Visitor's Center while constructing the butterfly house, small cafe, and meeting room. Special thanks to the 150 people (and counting at press time) who have purchased bricks to be included in the Garden Friends Pathway—your support will forever be associated with our metamorphosis.

Our Friends Board is also changing. We are happy to welcome new Board Members Tom Satterly, Mary Atchison, Craig Russell, Linda Hadlow, and Kelsy Russell. Their passion for The Gardens and broad expertise are welcome voices at the table as we navigate these exciting times.



PHOTO COURTESY OF VIPASINEE KHOWATTANA

## WAYS TO GIVE

### ONLINE

The easiest way to support The Gardens in its expansion and its programming is by making an online gift at [fcgov.com/gardens](http://fcgov.com/gardens).

### GIFTS OF SECURITIES

Donating non-cash gifts is one of the simplest and quickest ways to support The Gardens.

### PLANNED GIVING

Planned gifts allow future generations to be enriched and educated at The Gardens.

### THE GARDENS ENDOWMENT FUND

Giving to The Gardens Endowment Fund at the Community Foundation of Northern Colorado supports the work of the Gardens today—and tomorrow.

### HONOR & MEMORIAL GIFTS

These gifts offer a meaningful way to recognize those who have valued The Gardens. Additional memorial opportunities are being developed. Naming opportunities are still available in the new gardens and Visitor's Center.

If you would like to set up a time to discuss giving to The Gardens please contact me at [nathaniel.budd@gmail.com](mailto:nathaniel.budd@gmail.com) or Michelle Provanik, Gardens Director.

# BOARD OF DIRECTORS

*Our mission is to cultivate a world-class botanic garden through fundraising and advocacy.*

## Retiring Members: In Their Own Words

### RANDY MORGAN

"Being on the Board of the Friends and helping to create the capital campaign was a very exciting and meaningful experience. Bringing the capital campaign near its conclusion and enabling The Gardens to blossom into the incredible facility that it is becoming will be something I am proud of for the rest of my life. I am very honored to have been a part of this journey."

### JEFFREY CULLERS

"I am a local attorney and had the honor to serve as a Board member from 2015 through 2018, including service as the Friends' secretary. I enjoyed learning about The Gardens and its relationship with the City of Fort Collins, meeting new people, and seeing the hard work of so many culminate in The Gardens' expansion. I am still a member of The Friends, and I am excited about the future."

## New Members: In Their Own Words

### LINDA HADLOW

"I have been a volunteer at The Gardens since before it was built. I have a master's degree in adult education, I am a retired Master Gardener, and I retired from the National Cancer Institute, freeing up a lot of my time. I am eager to serve The Gardens in our new size and capacity in a more involved way as a Board member, as we glide through the new growth and changes for the better. Very exciting!"

### MARY ATCHISON

"I am a long-time Fort Collins resident who has been involved in many local organizations and active on City Boards and Commissions. I was the first board president for the Poudre River Public Library District. I believe The Gardens is a key public institution in our community, and I want to support its growth by serving on its Board."

### KELSY RUSSELL

"I reside in Fort Collins with my husband Josh, our daughter Blaire, and soon to be baby arriving this March. I am a CSU alumni and currently work for Advanced Energy Industries on the Global Business Operations team. The Gardens is a place I have enjoyed with my family. The Gardens' commitment to community engagement and education for youth and adults are both components that I am passionate about."

### CRAIG RUSSELL

"I am a principal and founding studio partner of Russell + Mills, a landscape architecture, urban design, and master planning firm, based out of Fort Collins and Denver. Having worked with The Gardens on their expansion project for the last several years and being a Fort Collins resident, I am truly honored to be part of the future of The Gardens as a member of the Board. So many exciting developments are in store, and I am looking forward to being part of it all."

### TOM SATTERLY

"As a lifelong learner, professional engineer, and facilities management specialist, I am interested in contributing my time and talents to The Garden's mission to improve the lives of people and foster environmental stewardship through horticulture. I enjoy public service opportunities and outreach through community-oriented teams, particularly with a focus on educational and experiential activities. My current role at CSU can add value and further strengthen the 'town and gown' relationship between the university and City of Fort Collins, leveraging similar programs, resources and networks."

## MEMBERS ONLY SPRING PLANT SALE

FRIDAY, MAY 10 FROM 3-7 P.M.

Be our guest on May 10 at our Members Only Plant Sale, hosted for the first time on our new Great Lawn. We've extended the sale one hour later for your enjoyment! Hors d'oeuvres and beverages, compliments of The Friends, will be on hand while you shop the best selection of plants before the sale opens to the public. Emails with instructions on how to reserve and

print tickets will be sent to current members at the beginning of April. **Don't miss out! Renew or upgrade your membership today.** If you don't have an email address on file with The Gardens, please call the front desk at 970-416-2486 to reserve your ticket(s). Student and Individual Members receive one ticket and Family Memberships (and higher) receive two tickets.





*Cymopterus* sp.



*Eriogonum ovalifolium*



*Bryan Fischer,  
Horticulturist*

*Michael Guidi,  
Photographer*

Last spring, I was honored to be invited by Mike Kintgen, Curator of Alpine Plant Collections for Denver Botanic Gardens (DBG), to accompany him, Michael Guidi, DBG's Children's Garden Horticulturist, and Vojtech Holubec, Head of the Czech Gene Bank, on a plant conservation and collection trip to the Middle Rockies of northern Wyoming. In mid-September, to our great satisfaction, our team was able to make 120 seed collections from more than 100 species of plants native to that region!

We accomplished our mission by driving and hiking more than 2,500 miles in one week from Denver to Cody, WY and back. We spent from 10 to 16 hours daily on the road or on the trail in order to access all of the sites and populations of plants

designated on our priority list. Our first days were spent in the Bighorn National Forest where we collected seed from a handful of sites, but the majority of time was spent collecting seed in the Shoshone National Forest of the Beartooth Range. Collection in both forests was made possible by permits held by the DBG staff on our trip with the Gardens on Spring Creek included as a potential seed recipient.

These seeds are currently being carefully propagated by our staff here at The Gardens. Once grown they will be planted in our new native gardens, the Foothills and Prairie Gardens, as well as in our Rock Garden, to bolster our plant collections and act as reservoirs of genetic diversity for their respective wild populations. Plant material collected in the wild undergoes meticulous documentation regarding every aspect of its origin and its destination on our grounds. Wild plants in a garden are only as valuable as their accompanying data, so we take no chances.

Two unfortunate botanical realities determined the need for our seed conservation and collection trip. Currently, wild plants from the Middle Rockies are not well preserved ex-situ ("offsite", in a garden or gene bank) in Front Range public gardens. And growing concerns about the effects of a warming climate on alpine plants—which could be affected disproportionately compared to plants from lower elevations—warrant their disproportionate protection in our gardens.

An estimated 40% of the world's endangered plants are housed now in botanic gardens around the globe. Plant preservation will become even more important in our changing world. While learning the processes of responsible seed collection for conservation purposes, I took copious notes and photographs to inform potential future work at The Gardens. At some point we may have the opportunity and interest to work with local land management agencies to spearhead wild plant conservation trips of our own.



*Astragalus kentrophyta*



*Ranunculus eschscholtzii*



*Kelseyia uniflora*



# OUR PLANT EXPLORER

## A PERSONAL ACCOUNT OF SEED COLLECTION AND CONSERVATION

*The author in the Beartooth Range*

Brian Clarke



## BEE SUSTAINABILITY PROJECT



*Ashley Young, Education Coordinator*

Bees are our bees-ness! And, they are not only fascinating and important to gardeners, farmers, orchardist, ecologists and entomologists, but also to the youth of Fort Collins.

In the spring of 2016, Shepardson STEM Elementary School reached out to The Gardens to host their first grade's Project-Based Learning question. Always excited for opportunities to inspire youth, we asked the students to help us attract more pollinators. The kids visited The Gardens to learn about pollination and pollinators, had experts visit their classroom, and set out to design answers to the challenge.

The students worked hard to design research-based, do-able and exciting solutions, becoming passionate pollinator stewards. In the process, some students educated their families about the challenges bees face! When the children presented their brilliant and creative ideas to a panel of judges including Gardens staff, one idea was the perfect fit—a model invented by two students of a solitary bee home shaped like a bee! (Cavity-nesting native solitary bees, known as mason bees, comprise more than 90% of bee species, unlike more commonly known but non-native social honeybees that live in colonies and hives.)

Hoping to make this idea a reality, we partnered with local teenager, Brian Clarke, (photo above) a Life

Scout with the Boys Scouts of America. As part of his badge work, he constructed, painted and welded three beautiful solitary bee homes inspired by the student's design. These bee homes will be on display and open for bees in our Sustainable Backyard when we reopen in the fall.

## CITY NATURE CHALLENGE



Residents of Fort Collins, click and compete! Help us document and identify our local plants and wildlife in the City Nature Challenge, an international BioBlitz that takes place April 26-May 5. Cities from all over the world compete to see who can document the most types of flora and fauna within this short window of time. All you need to compete is curiosity and a smartphone.

During this window of time, residents are encouraged to get out in their gardens, natural areas, and Larimer County open space to take photos of plant and animal species and identify them. This will be Fort Collins' first year to accept the challenge. Join us and local conservation organizations to identify as many species as possible and help us beat Boulder! It is easy to participate.

- Download the iNaturalist app on your smartphone
- Capture photos of wildlife and plants, April 26-29
- Identify what you found and confirm other's findings, April 30-May 5

Learn more about the project and see the map of the searching area at [fcgov.com/nature-challenge](http://fcgov.com/nature-challenge).



PHOTO COURTESY OF APRIL WHICKER

# EVENTS FOR SPRING

## EXPLORE OUR NEW GARDENS BEGINNING APRIL 1

Explore five new acres of gardens by way of a self-guided tour. Come peek at the new Undaunted Garden, Great Lawn, Theme Gardens, Foothills & Prairie Gardens, in addition to our Weather Station and Wetlands area. The Rock Garden will be a spring delight! Due to our ongoing construction, the remaining areas of The Gardens and the Visitor's Center remain closed. Please note there are no restrooms. For more info, including open hours, please check [fcgov.com/gardens](http://fcgov.com/gardens) before you visit.

## SPRING PLANT SALE MAY 10-12

The sale of the year is back! Hosted for the first time on our new Great Lawn, we'll have just what you need to grow a beautiful landscape, bountiful veggie garden, and lively containers. Our staff, volunteers, and students from CSU and FRCC have grown thousands of annuals, herbs, perennials, and veggie starts for you. Proceeds benefit all three horticulture programs. Remember to bring your own box or cart for carrying your favorite plants home! Watch our website for a complete list of plants available at the sale.

### NEW HOURS!

*Members-Only: Friday, May 10, 3-7 p.m.*

*Public: Saturday & Sunday, May 11-12, 10 a.m.-5 p.m.*

## BLOSSOMS AND BUTTERFLIES JUNE 5-8

Join us in a celebration of art and gardens at Blossoms and Butterflies! Enjoy a lively evening full of beautiful art, delicious food and drinks, and learning more about the exciting features coming to our garden. Proceeds from the cocktail party and auction will be used to purchase plants and butterflies for the Butterfly House opening this fall. Online auction will open June 1 at [fcgov.com/gardens](http://fcgov.com/gardens).

*Location: Carnegie Center for Creativity, 200 Mathews Street*

*June 5-8: Exhibit is open for viewing & bidding, noon-6 p.m.*

*June 7: First Friday Art Walk, 6-9 p.m.*

*June 8: Cocktail Party & Auction, 6-9 p.m. \$100 per person; tickets at [fcgov.com/gardens](http://fcgov.com/gardens) or 970-416-2486*

*Save the date!*

## NOCO URBAN HOMESTEAD TOUR SATURDAY, JULY 20

### ADULT EDUCATION

## APRIL CLASSES

*Pre-registration is required. Members receive a discount on classes. All classes take place at Carnegie Center for Creativity, 200 Mathews Street.*

- April 13 How Well Do You Know Your Sprinkler System?
- April 13 Uncommon & Underused Perennials
- April 20 Waterwise Irrigation Basics
- April 20 Weekend Watering Projects
- April 27 Just Drip It!
- April 27 Growing Fruit Trees on the Front Range

## 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](mailto:gardens@fcgov.com)

Website: [fcgov.com/gardens](http://fcgov.com/gardens)

Facebook: [TheGardensOnSpringCreek](https://www.facebook.com/TheGardensOnSpringCreek)

Instagram: [gardensonspringcreek](https://www.instagram.com/gardensonspringcreek)



2145 Centre Ave. Fort Collins CO 80526

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# 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

Final touches on Visitor Center & Butterfly House Conservatory

### September/October

Grand Opening Community Celebration

### October

Halloween Enchanted Garden

### December

Garden of Lights



Blossoms  
Butterflies

## SUMMER



## WINTER