

Reflections

Take Root. Grow. Flourish.

SPRING 2017 NEWSLETTER

Iris pumila

Friends of the
GARDENS
on Spring Creek



BUTTERFLIES ARE COMING!



FROM THE DIRECTOR **MICHELLE PROVAZNIK**

After two years of negotiations, officials from the Butterfly Pavilion and City of Fort Collins dignitaries, City Manager Darin Atteberry and Mayor Wade Troxell, signed a newly-formed partnership agreement between The Butterfly Pavilion and the Gardens on Spring Creek to build a permanent North American butterfly house at The Gardens. This historic partnership is the first of its kind between Denver metro and northern Colorado science and culture institutions.

The permanent butterfly house will be part of the Visitor's Center completion. The house will be operated jointly by Butterfly Pavilion and The Gardens. The 1,700 square foot conservatory will house up to 400 free-flying North American butterflies with thousands of blooming flowers. The butterfly house plans to open to the public in 2019.

The Visitor's Center completion project will receive \$2 million from the Community Capital Improvement Program, which voters resoundingly passed in 2015. The total project cost is \$3 million—\$1 million remains to be raised. The Friends Board and I are excited to get started!

We are thrilled to partner with the Butterfly Pavilion team—true experts of their craft. And, we are honored to bring a fabulous new amenity to Fort Collins to serve all of northern Colorado.



FROM THE PRESIDENT **DULCIE WILLIS**

In preparation for the final phase of the capital campaign, the board held a half day retreat to re-energize, re-train and re-focus to finish the campaign strong.

We had two guest speakers from Colorado State University's College of Natural Resources development staff. These fundraising professionals provided keen insights and suggested new ideas on ways to engage community members and increase advocacy for The Gardens.

As we get ready to launch the public phase of the capital campaign, the Friends Board is now finalizing goals and objectives for 2017 and beyond as we transform the Gardens on Spring Creek with five acres of additional gardens and completed Visitor Center.



BOARD MEMBERS

- Dulcie Willis PRESIDENT
- Jesse Eastman VICE PRESIDENT
- Jeff Cullers SECRETARY
- Randy Morgan TREASURER
- Roger Warren
- Marcia Petrun
- Nathaniel Budd

MEMBER MORNINGS

AT THE GARDENS

Members are invited to visit The Gardens the second Friday of the month June through September from 7:30-9 am. Wander through The Gardens before we are open to the public while enjoying complimentary breakfast snacks and coffee. Artists, you are invited to bring your camera or sketch pads. Summer dates include June 9, July 14, August 11, and September 8.

HIGH PLAINS LANDSCAPE

WORKSHOP RECAP

On March 4, we hosted High Plains Landscape Workshop with a capacity crowd of enthusiastic gardeners ready to learn from some of the best of the best, Michael Bone and Panayoti Kelaidis of Denver Botanic Garden and Lauren Springer-Ogden. The event is a fundraiser for The Gardens, and this year we netted \$20,000 for our education and horticulture programs. Thank you to all of our members who joined us and supported this inspiring education event!

MEMBERS ONLY SHOPPING!

MAY 12, 3-6 PM

Don't miss this once-a-year opportunity and beat the crowds! Before the Plant Sale opens to the public, members are invited to shop our best plant selection and meet other members. The Friends of the Gardens hosts and provides delicious appetizers with beer and wine. NEW this year – be sure to check your newsletter for your ticket(s) to the member sale. If you receive your newsletter via email, we will mail your ticket(s) to you. Individual and Student Members receive one admission ticket, Family Members and higher receive two tickets. See you at the sale!



COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

THANK YOU

OTERO CORPORATION!

This awesome group (pictured above) was here weekly in the fall of 2016 to help us wash pots to reuse in the greenhouse. Their hard work and dedication helped us clean thousands of pots while saving us money and recycling energy. Otero's mission is to empower and advocate for individuals with developmental and/or intellectual disabilities in an environment of compassion, dignity, and respect. Otero promotes and maximizes individual potential by fostering a caring, learning and loving environment and connecting these individuals to community resources and support.

2016 BY THE NUMBERS

AT THE GARDENS

- 679 Volunteers donated 8,991 hours of time
- 13% increase in education program attendance
- 127 community garden plots across Fort Collins
- 53,532 pounds of fresh produce donated to the Food Bank for Larimer County
- 64,718 visitors
- 30+ community partners

Bear's Breeches



FOR "MUST HAVE" PLANTS SPRING 2017



KELLY KELLOW RECOMMENDS



Lemon Beebalm

Lemon beebalm (*Monarda citridora*) is an annual herb with attractive whorls of pink to lavender flowers that are loved by many pollinators, including native bees and butterflies. It has a mild lemony scent in the midst of summer that changes to an oregano taste later in fall. The leaves can be crushed and used in teas or fruit jellies.

Lemon beebalm grows up to two feet tall and is a great addition to any herb or scented garden. It is an easy to grow native wildflower that tolerates drought heat and full sun. The blooms color last all summer long and into the fall when everything else has faded. This plant will re-seed where it is happy and can be enjoyed year after year.



MARY MILLER RECOMMENDS



Chimayo Chile Pepper

Chimayo is a well-known and coveted chile. Named for the northern New Mexico town at the base of the Sangre de Cristo Mountains, it has been grown for generations. Medium hot with a rich and complex flavor, plants bear an abundance of 2-4 inch blunt-tipped chiles that ripen green to red. The chiles are used extensively in dried garlands known as ristras as they dry easily for use all winter in one's favorite dishes.

Italian Heirloom Tomatoes

Winner of numerous taste tests, these large beefsteak-type tomatoes are ideal for slicing and eating fresh as well as canning. This reliable producer rewards the grower with deep-red, full-flavored summer wonderfulness!



TED SCHAAF RECOMMENDS



Red Wine Lofos

A new plant to our sale is lofos, (*Lophospermum*) a climbing vine native to the mountainous regions of Mexico. Its large trumpet shape red flowers will bloom throughout summer and is an excellent plant for use in hanging baskets, window boxes or climbing up a trellis. No need to deadhead as plants are self-cleaning and reach up to 6 feet tall with a 24" spread.

Zinnia Zahara-Double

A truly fantastic new zinnia. The new colors, Cherry and Fire, were both selected as All American Selections due to their flower power and excellent outdoor performance. Highly basil-branching plants are consistently double with long lasting blooms. From our observations, they are highly disease resistant and show no signs of powdery mildew late in the season.



DILLON HANCOCK RECOMMENDS



Cascade Hops

Cascade hops (*Humulus lupulus* 'Cascade') is a vigorous perennial vine that may grow to 25 feet tall, 3-4 feet wide, and prefers full sun. Cascade is one of the most popular hops among brewers and needs constant pruning of extra vines at the base to produce the maximum yield of hop cones for harvest. These plants can be grown for production as well as ornamentally to provide shade or privacy on pergolas and fences. Keep pets, especially dogs, away from hop cones as they are poisonous to our furry family members.

Fernbush

Fernbush is a shrub that grows 6-8' tall by 6-8' wide and prefers full sun. Fernbush blooms in summer with spikes of fragrant white flowers and has small green fern-like foliage on woody stems. This western native (*Chamaebatiaria millefolium*) does well in dry areas with poor soil conditions. A brand new addition to our sale!



SHERRY FULLER RECOMMENDS



Penstemon

We have a choice groundcover 'Microphyllus' (*Penstemon davidsonii* v. *menziesii*) this year. This mouthful of Latin is actually a charming rock garden plant that doesn't need a rock garden to thrive. Growing only a couple of inches tall and spreading up to a foot or more, it has large, pink-purple, tubular flowers in early summer.

Common Rue

Ruta graveolens grows into a mound 12-30" tall and wide with beautiful blue, ferny foliage. It has clusters of yellow flowers above the foliage in early summer. Easy to grow in any sunny, moderate to dry location, rue serves as a food source for swallowtail caterpillars.



Bear's Breeches

If you've got a part-shade location that isn't too dry, try *Acanthus balcanicus* (pictured to the far left). It grows up to 3-4 feet tall and almost as wide with large, lobed leaves. Its white flowers are enclosed in showy red-purple bracts arranged on tall spikes. It can be slow to establish, but long-lived once it gets going.

→ ALL PLANTS AVAILABLE AT OUR SPRING PLANT SALE!



PLAY AND DISCOVERY IN THE GARDEN!

Spring is just around the corner, and with this nice weather there is no better time to shake off winter and take kids outdoors! The Gardens on Spring Creek is a great location to explore, play and observe nature awakening! The birds are busy collecting materials for their nests. There are four new nesting boxes for our local birds in the Children's Garden. Come see if the birds have found them yet.

Starting Memorial Day weekend through Labor Day, we will have interactive Discovery Zone stations set up in the Children's Garden on Saturday, Monday and Tuesday from 10 a.m. to noon. These stations will provide opportunities to explore The Garden in new and exciting ways.

Do you have young children in your life or know friends that do? We have two wonderful ways to get your 1-5 year olds out moving, socializing and practicing early school readiness skills this spring.

READ AND SEED

Offered year round, this program introduces young children and their caregiver to The Gardens through stories and simple creative projects. This spring we will be planting, learning about butterflies, creating our own bunnies and much more. See all the themes on our website. Cost is \$3 per child. This is a drop-in offering – registration is not required. MONDAY AND TUESDAY, 10-10:45 A.M. AND 11-11:45 A.M.

NEW CLASS!

StorySprouts Dance with Earth Beat Dance Beginning this April, our new StorySprouts Dance class invites you and your child to explore dance in and with the garden! You will support your child's healthy growth and learning through whole body movement, while encouraging creativity and curiosity through storytelling about the natural world. Cost is \$10 per dancing child. Registration is required. THURSDAY, 10-11 A.M. APRIL 27, MAY 4, MAY 18, AND MAY 25

SUMMER CAMP

Our camps are full of garden-centric activities, science, art, music and cooking. Full descriptions and registration is now open online. We offer half day or full day options; scholarships available. Our camps are geared towards children in grades 1-5.

June 5-9	Gardeners and Chefs: Allergy Aware
June 12-16	Honey, we Shrunk the Campers!
June 26-30	Garden Arts Camp
July 10-14	Garden Animals
July 24-28	Garden STEM Camp
August 7-11	Gardeners & Chefs Conventional Cooking



EVENTS YOU'LL LOVE THIS SPRING

SPRING PLANT SALE

MAY 12-14

The sale of the year is back! Don't miss our Spring Plant Sale this year – 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 Front Range Community College have been growing thousands of annuals, herbs, perennials and vegetable starts for you. Proceeds benefit all three horticulture programs at each organization. Remember to bring your own box for carrying your favorite plants home! Watch our website for a complete list of plants available at the sale.

PLANT SALE HOURS

Members-Only Shopping: Friday, May 12, 3-6pm

Public Hours: Saturday, May 13, 9am-4pm

Sunday, May 14, noon-5pm

YOGA IN THE GARDEN

We are excited to offer this special series again this summer for our yogi friends. Partnering with Miramont Lifestyle Fitness, The Gardens will offer Yoga in the Gardens (for those 12 yrs. +) on June 10, July 8, August 19, and NEW this year, we are offering Yoga in the Gardens – Family Style for ages 4+ on June 22 and July 15. Watch our website for more details!

CLASS CALENDAR

Pre-registration is required. Members receive a discount on all classes.

- April 15 Habitat Hero: Wildscaping 101 and Plant Walk
- April 15 Gentle Movement for Gardeners with EarthBeat Dance
- April 29 Not the Usual Suspects: Underused Perennials
- April 29 Beekeeping Through the Four Seasons: Spring
- May 5 Gardening for Insects – or Not!
- May 6 Intro to Urban Homesteading
- May 20 Just Drip It!
- May 20 Tree Pruning Secrets Revealed
- June 14, 21, 28, and July 12 NoCo Urban Homestead Class Series – Loom knitting, Pesto Quintet, Summer Beekeeping and more!

UP AND COMING

THIS SUMMER

- July 22 NoCo Urban Homestead Tour
- August 5 Garden a 'Fare Wine Tour with Lost Prairie Winery
- August 26 Garden a'Fare Beer Tour with Odell Brewing
- Aug.-Oct. Garden to Fork Cooking Classes return

ADMISSION

is a suggested donation of \$5 per adult and \$2 per child, aged two and over. As always, members enjoy free admission.

HOW TO FIND US

2145 Centre Ave.
Fort Collins, CO 80526
970-416-2486
fcgov.com/gardens



OUR HOURS

9 a.m.–5 p.m., Mon.–Fri.
9 a.m.–4 p.m., Sat.
Noon–5 p.m., Sun.*

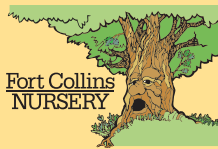
*(Sunday hours begin May 3 - Sept. 24)

Friends of *the*
GARDENS
on Spring Creek

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