

SPRING 2018 NEWSLETTER

Reflections

Take Root. Grow. Flourish.

Friends of the
GARDENS
on Spring Creek



PHOTO COURTESY OF APRIL WHICKER

FROM THE DIRECTOR

MICHELLE PROVAZNIK



Thank you to everyone who participated in Colorado Gives Day and our 2017 Annual Campaign. You helped us raise over \$30,000 towards completion of our Master Plan. Your support has been essential to our success!

Signs of spring are beginning to emerge in our gardens. But bulbs aren't the only thing emerging from the ground; so too are berms, walls, arbors and stone formations in our garden expansion project. Spring 2018 is certainly an exciting time at the Gardens on Spring Creek!

While garden construction is in full swing, the Visitor's Center design process is getting underway. A new design/build team will be selected by spring and updated designs will be created thereafter. Butterfly Pavilion staff has



PHOTO COURTESY OF VIPASINEE KHOWATTANA

been a part of this process as we prepare for the North American Butterfly House.

With so much going on, I invite you to visit our website for the latest construction updates at fcgov.com/gardens. In addition, we have enclosed our newest Capital Campaign Update in this newsletter with all the current construction and fundraising happenings—be sure to check out the Hard Hat Tour dates. We'd love to show you the progress. With your support we are "this close" to bringing our vision to reality. We are grateful and excited. Hope to see you in the garden soon.



FROM THE PRESIDENT

NATHANIEL BUDD

The Friends' Board of Directors would like to extend our greatest thanks to our loyal volunteers, Members, supporters, and Gardens staff. As the newly elected Board President, I would like to especially thank former Presidents, Randy Morgan and Dulcie Willis. After a combined 15+ years of service, they have retired from the Board. Randy will continue to serve as Capital Campaign Chairman.

Randy's and Dulcie's passion and dedication to The Gardens and Fort Collins are second to none. The time, talent and treasure they have committed to the advancement of The Gardens are a testament to their generosity. We are forever indebted to their leadership.

It is a great honor and pleasure to succeed Randy and Dulcie as President of the Board through this truly transformative time at The Gardens. In the next year, the organization will be expanding its role as a world-class botanic garden for Fort Collins as well as increasing volunteer and membership opportunities.

The Friends Board is also proud to welcome two new members Alex Stern and Paul Panico. Alex comes to us with a background in development and is eager to assist with The Gardens membership program. Paul is enthused about his appointment as Treasurer and is especially excited about the opportunity to work closely with others who are committed to making a positive difference in our northern Colorado community.

BOARD MEMBERS

Nathaniel Budd PRESIDENT

Roger Warren VICE PRESIDENT

Jeff Cullers SECRETARY

Paul Panico TREASURER

Randy Morgan
CAPITAL CAMPAIGN CHAIRMAN

Marcia Petrun

Jesse Eastman

Alex Stern

2017 BY THE NUMBERS

70,651

visitors a new record!



30,000+

visitors to the Garden of Lights

40,746

pounds donated to the Food Bank for Larimer County via Plant it Forward

20,000+

Spring Plant Sale plants cultivated

6,000+

students of all ages educated

9,326

volunteer hours

696

volunteers

160+

available Community Garden plots

58

corporate and foundation donors

45

new plant varieties onsite

40

community partnerships

33

new bulb varieties onsite

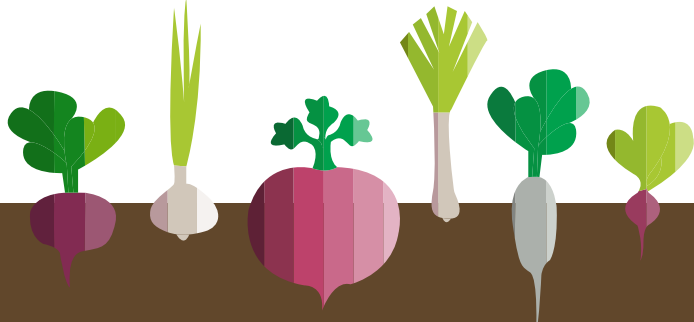


PHOTO COURTESY OF APRIL WHICKER



MEMBERS ONLY SPRING PLANT SALE!

FRIDAY, MAY 11 3-6 PM

Be our guest on Friday, May 11 for our annual Members Only Sale. Enjoy complimentary hors d'oeuvres and beverages while you shop the best selection of plants before the Sale opens to the public.

NEW THIS YEAR!

An email with instructions on how to reserve and print your tickets will be sent to current Members at the beginning of April. If you don't have an email address on file with The Gardens call the front desk at 416-2486 to reserve your ticket. Individual Memberships receive one ticket and Family Memberships and higher receive two tickets.



A UNIQUE HERB
LEMON VERBENA
TO TRY THIS SEASON

Kelly Kellow



Make sure to add lemon verbena, *Aloysia citrodora*, to your must have herb list. This herb will not only add elegance to your garden, it will add a refreshing lemony scent that is hard to resist. Considered a frost tender woody shrub, it can grow up to four feet during the Colorado growing season. Make sure to plant it in an area with good drainage as extra water by the roots will create rot and damage the plant. During peak season make sure to fertilize for optimal performance. Plant near an outdoor living area where it gets brushed and the scent can be enjoyed, or consider planting in a container so you can easily move it indoors during the winter.

Harvest the leaves and dry in a cool dark place. When dried, crush the leaves and add to anything needing a lemony zest. Great in teas, salads, flavored sugars, cakes and much more. This herb will not disappoint!



ANNUAL
CANNAS

Ted Schaaf



One of my all-time favorite plants for the summer garden is the canna. Cannas bring a touch of the tropics with their exotic looking leaves. This year, we'll be offering a variety called 'Striped Beauty'. Silvery-white pinstriped leaves are accented by beautiful red buds. Their clear yellow flowers have an attractive white strip on each petal. Cannas can grow into an impressive three foot plant.

Grown in masses, they'll continue to send up flowers all summer long. Maintaining these beautiful plants is easy. Be sure to remove faded stalks for continuous blooming. My favorite place to plant cannas is in large glazed pots. Remember the color wheel? 'Striped Beauty' would look stunning in a purple pot. Cannas are classified as hydrophytes meaning they can grow in water. Fertilize plants that are submersed in water with water garden tablets.



VEGETABLES
ARTICHOKES & CARDOONS

Mary Miller



At first look, artichokes and cardoons appear the same. Each has silvery-green, deeply-lobed leaves rising from the center crown. Artichokes and cardoons are cousins, and distinguished by their botanic names, *Cynara scolymus* and *Cynara cardunculus*, respectively.

Both add architecture to the garden. Grown as annuals in our northern climate, both plants may reach a height of 4-5'. Strikingly ornamental and sun loving.

What is edible? With artichokes, it is the fleshy heart of the flower bract, harvested prior to bloom. With the cardoon, the stalks are eaten and their flowers allowed to bloom which are quite attractive to bees. The stalks benefit from blanching a full month prior to harvest to ensure tender stalks. Add these Mediterranean beauties to your garden!



PERENNIAL
GENTIAN

Sherry Fuller



The bright, cobalt blue of gentian flowers might be the Holy Grail of gardening here, and we've finally got two varieties for plant sale this year! One of the easiest to grow is summer gentian, *G. septemfida v. lagodechiana*.

Surprisingly, this is one tough plant, hardy to zone 3 and tolerates poor soil and some drought. Its stems are 6-8" tall but tend to sprawl, spreading up to 15" wide. Summer gentian is rabbit-resistant and prefers afternoon shade. Blue, trumpet-shaped flowers are spectacular in July and August. Gentians don't like pushy neighbors, so give it space to shine.

We also have what is probably a hybrid of *Gentiana paradoxa*, which needs a better drained soil, blooms a bit later, and has slightly lighter blue flowers with a more mounding habit. You might want to try both!



PERENNIALS
NUGGET HOPS & BUTTONBUSH

Dillon Hancock



Humulus lupulus 'Nugget'—Nugget Hops are a vigorous perennial vine reaching up to 25' tall, growing 3-4' wide and preferring nice warm sunny locations with moist, well-draining soil. The female flower cones have a "piney" scent and are a multipurpose hop, commonly used for bittering and aroma in stouts, IPAs and red ale styles of beer. These hops are grown for production as well as ornamentally to provide shade or privacy on pergolas and fences. Keep pets, especially dogs, away from the poisonous hop cones.

Cephalanthus occidentalis—Buttonbush is a deciduous shrub that grows 6-8' tall and wide, prefers moist soils and full sun to partial shade. Fragrant, white, spikey ball-shaped flowers bloom in early summer and attract bees and butterflies. Buttonbush is a low maintenance shrub, prune for shape, in late winter-early spring.



PERENNIAL
GOLDEN LACE

Jamie Burghardt



A long flowering season, good cut flower, pollinator-attracting and an airy and delicate texture make golden lace (*Patrinia scabiosifolia*) a dynamic choice. Best in a partial shade to partial sun, grow golden lace in moist, well-drained soil. This clump-forming plant needs irrigation once a week. The basal clump of deep green leaves matures 12-16" wide and from June to August, hundreds of tiny yellow flowers adorn delicately branched 3' tall stems.

The blossoms attract gray hairstreak butterflies and pollinating flies, bees and benign wasps. The flower stems are airy in texture, complimenting bold-texture and large-flower perennials. Even after golden lace finishes blooming, its golden sepals remain, giving the effect of flowering further into September. Sometimes golden lace will self-sow, but young plants are easy to remove.

GROWING GARDENERS



Ashley Young

The Gardens is a beautiful location to support the rooting and blooming of our littlest gardeners. During the first few years of life, children's brains are a flurry of activity, building the connections that will shape their thinking for the rest of their lives. The Gardens on Spring Creek's Children's Garden is full of opportunities to connect with nature and new friends. Here, children can take safe risks through developmentally appropriate exploration which builds confidence and curiosity. They can play in a rich natural environment full of plants, animals and wonder, and both parents and children can enjoy social interactions with other peers who enjoy being out in green spaces. Endless possibilities exist for fun, whether you are creating magical worlds in the secret garden, counting goldfish in the pond, or burying seeds in our Friendship Growing Garden.

PHOTO COURTESY OF APRIL WHICKER



For a special treat, join other children ages 0-4 and their caregivers on Monday and Tuesday mornings at 10 a.m. or 11 a.m. for a garden story and fun themed activity that connects them to the garden and fosters school readiness skills. Following the class, most kids head out to The Gardens to play and explore. Classes are drop in and \$3 per student. More information and class themes can be found on our website fcgov.com/gardens.



PHOTO COURTESY OF PAT CAREY

HIGH PLAINS LANDSCAPE

WORKSHOP RECAP

High Plains Landscape Workshop was hosted on March 10 with a capacity crowd of enthusiastic gardeners ready to plant with a purpose led by keynotes, Dave Leatherman, Micaela Truslove, Rob Proctor, and Brian Vogt. The event is a fundraiser for The Gardens and this year, we netted over \$20,000 for our education and horticulture programs. Thank you to all of our members who joined us and supported this inspiring and educational event.



PHOTO COURTESY OF APRIL WHICKER

EVENTS

YOU'LL LOVE THIS SPRING

BLOSSOMS & BUTTERFLIES

APRIL 4-7

Help us get our wings! A celebration of the new blossoms and butterflies coming to The Gardens, this new event brings together art and gardens. Over 50 Colorado artists will exhibit their butterfly and/or garden inspired works at the Carnegie Center for Creativity, 200 Mathews Street. You are invited to visit, view, and bid on one-of-a-kind art to support the construction of our new Visitor's Center at The Gardens, which will include a North American Butterfly House. Admission is free. Online auction is live at fcgov.com/gardens.

April 4, 5, and 6: exhibit is open - noon-6 p.m.

April 6: First Friday Art Walk, 6-9 p.m.

April 7: exhibit is open - noon-4 p.m.

SPRING PLANT SALE

MAY 11-13

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 FRCC have been getting thousands of annuals, herbs, perennials, and veggie starts ready 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.

Members-Only: Friday, May 11, 3-6 p.m.

Public Hours:

Saturday, May 12, 9 a.m.-4 p.m.

Sunday, May 13, noon-5 p.m.

UP & COMING...

- JUNE Yoga in the Garden returns
- JULY 21 NoCo Urban Homestead Tour
- AUG 4 Garden a'Fare Wine Tour
- AUG 24 Garden a'Fare Beer Tour
- AUG-OCT Garden to Fork Cooking Classes return

ADULT EDUCATION CLASSES

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

APRIL

- APRIL 7 Just Drip It!
- APRIL 7 Growing Tomatoes & Peppers with Ease
- APRIL 14 Uncommon & Underused Perennials
- APRIL 14 Beekeeping in Spring
- APRIL 21 New Technologies in Irrigation
- APRIL 21 Rain Barrels 101
- APRIL 28 Growing a Cut Flower Garden
- APRIL 28 Wild Wines

MAY

- MAY 5 Macro (Close-Up) Photography in the Garden
- MAY 5 Vintage Garden Tea
- MAY 19 Growing Food 101: Grow a Thriving Food Garden

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. (May 6–Sept. 30)

Friends of *the*
GARDENS
on Spring Creek

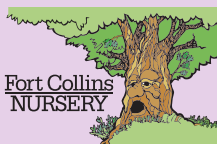
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Zebulon

THANK YOU TO OUR SUPPORTING, SUSTAINING, AND DIRECTOR'S CIRCLE MEMBERS

(SEPT. 1–FEB. 21)

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Carolyn Taylor and Chuck Riblett
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