

DIG in

SPRING 2023
NEWSLETTER



FRIENDS OF
THE GARDENS
ON SPRING CREEK



Upcoming CALENDAR

April

19 Exclusive Contributing, Sustaining and Leadership Member early access to Live at The Gardens Summer Concert Series tickets

20 Member early access to Live at The Gardens Summer Concert series ticket

- > Adult Education Classes
- > Read and Seed: English and Español

May

1 Exclusive Contributing, Sustaining and Leadership Member early access to Plant Sale tickets

2 Member early access to Plant Sale tickets

20 - 21 Spring Plant Sale

29 Memorial Day—Gardens open!

- > Adult Education Classes
- > Read and Seed: English and Español

June

9 Member Morning featuring Lauren Springer and the Cactus Garden

19 Juneteenth—Gardens open!

- > Yoga and Tai Chi in The Gardens
- > Summer Camps
- > Adult Education Classes
- > Read and Seed: English and Español

July

4 Independence Day—Gardens open!

11 Garden a'Fare tickets on sale

13 Member Morning featuring Kelly Kellow and greenhouse production

- > Yoga and Tai Chi in The Gardens
- > Summer Camps
- > Read and Seed: English and Español

August

10 Member Morning featuring Bryan Fischer and the Prairie Garden

25 Garden a'Fare

- > Garden to Fork cooking classes
- > Yoga and Tai Chi in The Gardens
- > Summer Camps
- > Read and Seed: English and Español

September

5 Labor Day—Gardens open!

7 Pumpkins on Parade tickets on sale

8 Member Morning featuring Mary Miller and the Garden of Eatin'

- > Garden to Fork cooking classes
- > Yoga and Tai Chi in The Gardens
- > Read and Seed: English and Español



Friends of The Gardens Board President

MARY ATCHISON

Life in a garden is all about change. From changes in season to physical changes in appearance, gardeners know that every day brings something new.



As we look ahead to spring, The Gardens and The Friends are in an immense cycle of change. By the time you read this, the Gardens on Spring Creek will have a new Executive Director—it's first in 15 years. This person will chart the course for a new era of growth and development at The Gardens and lead staff through big changes in the years to come.

I was thrilled to participate in the interview process and am excited to work with the new Director in support of our shared vision of cultivating a world-class botanic garden that is community-oriented, educational, experiential and sustainable.

Similarly, the Friends of the Gardens on Spring Creek recently changed up its entire leadership and committee structures, which had been in place for nearly three years. Kathy Miner is now in charge of fundraising, Bev Shaw of membership, Shannon Westcott is our new Treasurer, and Peter Boyle our new Secretary. We also welcomed two new members in the last year. Keep reading to learn more about our new additions to the Board.

Change can often seem incremental at ground level, even for big ticket items like hiring a new Executive Director or planting a new garden. But zoom out for a moment to consider that The Gardens didn't even exist 20 years ago and suddenly you are witness to a sea of change in less than a generation!

What will the next 20 years look like? Hard to say for certain, but as every gardener knows, change will be constant. We are grateful to have you with us as we move into a new growing season!



BOARD NEWS

WELCOME NEW BOARD MEMBER: DEANNE HITE!

Deanne is a Senior Premier Banker with Wells Fargo and brings a wealth of financial planning and portfolio management expertise to The Friends. She is currently on the Fundraising Committee and serving as the Board Liaison to Garden a'Fare.

TEMPORARY FAREWELLS

Both Tom Satterly and Paul Panico stepped away from The Friends on a temporary basis to focus on other matters. We wish them the best in their time away and look forward to welcoming them both back in 2024!

NEW MEMBERSHIP PORTAL

Some of you might have noticed already, but The Friends recently transitioned to a new membership payment system. More information can be found on page nine, but we want to thank each of our Members—all 3,000 of you!—for your patience as we navigate through any kinks associated with the new system.



Friends of The Gardens on Spring Creek is the nonprofit partner of The Gardens on Spring Creek, a City of Fort Collins cultural services facility.



MEMBERSHIP

certainly has its benefits!

Members join the Friends of the Gardens on Spring Creek for many reasons, but this spring, you'll be glad that you did! Again this year, membership with The Gardens comes with exclusive early access to both our Annual Spring Plant Sale and our Live at The Gardens Summer Concert Series. **However, new for 2023, Members at the Contributing, Sustaining and Leadership levels will receive an additional day of access to ticketing.**

ANNUAL SPRING PLANT SALE

Saturday, May 20 - Sunday, May 21 | 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. Daily

The Gardens on Spring Creek horticulture team and our partners at Colorado State University are busy growing thousands of plants for our 2023 Spring Plant Sale!

The sale will be free to shop but will require timed, ticketed admission to manage capacity. On Saturday, there will be timed admission throughout the day, and on Sunday, tickets will be valid for admission all day. All adults will be required to have a Plant Sale ticket to enter the sale.

Members will have exclusive access to reserve their time ahead of the general public. Reservations for the

time slot of your choice will be available the week of May 1 according to the following schedule:

- Monday, May 1 at noon for Contributing, Sustaining and Leadership Members
- Tuesday, May 2 at noon for all Members
- Thursday, May 4 at noon for the general public

During the sale, normal daily Gardens admissions tickets, membership cards, reciprocal gardens membership and other passes will not be valid for entry into The Gardens or into the Plant Sale.

We're growing everything you need to grow a beautiful landscape, bountiful veggie garden and lively containers this spring! Keep reading for a preview of what we're most excited to grow!

LIVE AT THE GARDENS SUMMER CONCERT SERIES

Lineup Announcement Coming Mid-April!

Get ready for a summer filled with live music in the most beautiful setting in Fort Collins! The Gardens on Spring Creek and The Lincoln Center are delighted to partner for another year of exciting performances in our breathtakingly beautiful venue.

We will announce our lineup in April, with ticket

sales to follow later in the month. Members will have exclusive access to purchase tickets ahead of the general public, with a schedule similar to that of our Spring Plant Sale.

All tickets for the Live at the Gardens Concert Summer series are sold utilizing a dynamic pricing model—which means that for each performance, ticket prices will fluctuate depending on demand—with limited amounts of tickets available at varying price points. One of the benefits of being a Gardens Member and Lincoln Center Subscriber is receiving early access to tickets to the Live at the Gardens Summer Concert Series. Early access offers members and subscribers the opportunity to purchase tickets at the lowest prices. However, since ticket quantities and prices will vary based on demand, it is possible that the ticket prices will increase during the pre-sale period.

Make sure you're receiving our monthly email newsletter to stay connected to all the ways you can benefit from your Gardens membership this summer!

MEMBER MORNINGS RETURN FOR 2023

Member Mornings will return in 2023 with new programming enhancements—and snacks!

Member Mornings this year will feature a 30-minute presentation on a different garden each month by Gardens horticulture staff, with time remaining at the end for questions and answers.

In addition, Gardens Ambassadors will be on site to answer any other questions Members may have about the gardens or its history, and the Kaleidoscope Café will be open all season serving coffee, tea and snacks from local purveyors.

Each event will be held from 8 to 10 a.m. Mark your calendars for the following 2023 Member Morning dates:

- **Friday, June 9:** Lauren Springer with the Cactus Garden
- **Thursday, July 13:** Kelly Kellow with Greenhouse Propagation
- **Thursday, August 10:** Bryan Fischer with the Prairie Garden
- **Friday, September 8:** Mary Miller with the Garden of Eatin'

Thank you for being a Member, and we look forward to seeing you at Member Mornings starting in two short months!



COMMUNITY

SPRING

PLANT SALE



ANNUAL SPRING PLANT SALE PREVIEW

Don't miss the plants our horticulture team is most excited to be growing!

ANNUALS

A rising annual in the plants trade that made Greenhouse Horticulturist Kelly Kellow giddy inside when she saw it in a Proven Winners plant catalog, **Oenothera (Calylophus) 'Ladybird Lemonade'** is a native perennial to Texas that has been cultivated as annual for other parts of the United States. It's tough as nails being both drought and heat tolerant, blooming with two-inch flowers in a pale-yellow color that mature with peach-pink undertones. The foliage is fine and a bright green that adds texture against the disk-like flowers. It's mainly for combination planters and hanging baskets and may even make a great addition to pollinator gardens.

Petunia Crazytunia 'Golden Eye Purple' is a new series of petunia with corn genes bred into them to create shocking colors. 'Golden Eye Purple' features a deep vibrant purple flower with a dark yellow eye creating an appealing look, perfect for hanging baskets or combination planters.

This new **ipomea** is going to be your next favorite foliage plant to add to your collection of annuals—**Proven Accents 'Sweet® Caroline Medusa Green', Sweet Potato Vine** is among those showcased at Colorado State University's Annual Trial Gardens. It features a unique, crown-shaped, many-fingered foliage that is bright green, unlike any other sweet potato vine in the trade. They are more mounded than trailing with overlapping leaves that leans toward a fun, unique look.

Another Trial Garden favorite, **Dahlia Happy Days™ 'Fuchsia Halo' Dahlia** has dark, almost black, foliage and bright pink flowers beloved by pollinators. It is well branched, making it great for cutting gardens, combination containers and landscapes.

PERENNIALS

Curator of Plant Collections Bryan Fischer indicates that The Gardens continues to offer a spread of tasty perennial morsels, ranging from icy-blue flowered **Amsonia** to crisp, citrusy lemon thyme. Hard-to-find and best-of offerings include the tough and unique **'Blaukappe' Eryngium (blue cap sea holly)**, with vase-shaped sprays of prickly, metallic bracted flowers, **Campanula cochlearifolia**, a delightful

European alpine with innumerable, dainty, dancing bell shaped flowers—and a name that refers to its uniquely ear-shaped leaves—and the striking, if prickly **'Snow Leopard' cholla (Cylindropuntia whippleyi 'Snow Leopard')**, which adds sparkling, tessellated textures and a unique shape thanks to dense, clean white spines and tubelike cactus pads.

Offerings that have been of particular interest to visitors in recent years include the **Plant Select® Liatris ligulistylis (Rocky Mountain blazing star)**, a spectacular five-foot-tall native liatris suitable for medium to medium-dry sites that is also one of the most asked-about plants on our grounds and a monarch favorite. Not sold anywhere else that we are aware of, we will also be offering a very unusual running form of **Oenothera cespitosa ssp. marginata**, or tufted evening primrose, collected by our former curator, Sherry Fuller in Southwest Colorado two decades ago. The perfect filler between flagstones or living mulch for sunny beds, plants smother themselves in a veil of large, clean white, four petaled satiny flowers each evening to the delight of hummingbird moths across the Front Range.

HERBS

Cilantro 'Cruiser' has a tidy, upright habit with excellent bolt resistance. It has a delicious cilantro flavor for salads, salsas, dressings, and much more. Large leaves and sturdy stems make it an ideal bunching variety meaning you can harvest a lot of stems at once or use them as needed. When the weather warms, its flowers are loved by the native blue swallowtail butterfly. Let it re-seed, die back mid-summer and come back when the

weather cools to continue the delicious taste.

A true beauty in any herb garden or container, **lemon verbena** is a unique herb to add to your garden this year. Young, tender leaves can be finely sliced and used raw in pesto, salsa and vinaigrettes or tossed into salads and soups. Larger, more mature leaves can be used in cooked preparations and removed before consumption. The flowers are white and inconspicuous but if you let it flower, the pollinators will appreciate you.

Salvia elegans, pineapple sage is a fun herb to grow with leaves that truly taste and smell like pineapple! In late summer, showy scarlet red flowers bloom on tall, spiked racemes. Not only are they pretty and attract pollinators but they are great for cut flowers and used in fresh bouquets. Like many salvias, its bright red tubular flowers attract ruby-throated hummingbirds just before they venture back to South America for the winter. Both the leaves and the flowers are edible on this plant. Add the leaves to teas, marinades, jams, and jellies.

An underutilized annual herb that deserves more attention in gardens, **Monarda citridora, lemon bee balm**, has a distinct lemon flavor that is wonderful in teas, cooked foods, and salads. The flowers are whorls of light pink petals that fully circle around the stem of the plant, coming through light green foliage. Flowers last for weeks on end making it perfect for pollinators. Plants grow in large clumps making it perfect for herb gardens or perennial borders. Lemon bee balm is an annual but will re-seed freely and will come back year after year.



Dahlia Happy Days™
'Fuchsia Halo'



Eryngium 'Blaukappe'
Blue Cap Sea Holly



Campanula
cochlearifolia



Salvia elegans,
Pineapple Sage



PROJECT HORT: A TEEN VOLUNTEERING EXPERIENCE

Project Hort, short for horticulture, is a full summer stewardship and volunteer program for teens entering sixth through 12th grades who are passionate about gardening, plants, animals and / or the environment.

Generously supported by OtterCares, this program provides participants opportunities to make new friends, practice professional skills while volunteering and learn all about philanthropy while designing, writing grants and implementing a community impact project.

Last summer, 15 local teens from 11 different schools volunteered more than 2,500 hours collectively, impacting more than 300 community members. Teens saw an increase in how much they believed they can make a difference and their openness to listening to other's point of views.

Community impact projects included growing native plants and distributing them to members of the community, creating garden goody bags that featured no-waste recipes, trash-to-art bracelets and medicinal teas and a program that looks at the LGBTQIA+ community through nature's lens.

In addition to their conservation projects, teens worked in the gardens helping with horticulture, interpretation and customer service. They volunteered a minimum of 18 hours a week under the supervision of a teen mentor who acted as coach and mentor. This program directly inspires and empowers teens to talk about and act for plants and conservation.

"Project Hort provided the opportunity for our teen to serve and work on projects as a team member and a leader. He learned time management skills and the value of service learning in a fun, nurturing yet professional environment." - Project Hort parent



PLANT AN EXTRA ROW THIS SEASON

Did you know? The Gardens has grown more than 60,000 pounds of food over the last 10 years in support of the Food Bank for Larimer County. In addition to supporting The Gardens, you can use your own backyard to help fight hunger in our community this growing season.

Plant It Forward, a joint effort between the Gardens on Spring Creek and the Food Bank for Larimer County urges all home gardeners to fight hunger from the ground up and plant extra fruits, vegetables and herbs to support members of our community.

As you peruse seed catalogs or shop our Annual Spring Plant Sale, consider putting in an extra row this season to help local children, families and seniors in need of food assistance.

Drop off your garden produce at any of the following locations during the growing season.

- **FOOD BANK BUSINESS OFFICE & WAREHOUSE**
5706 Wright Drive, Loveland
Monday - Friday | 8:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.
- **FORT COLLINS PANTRY**
1301 Blue Spruce Drive, Fort Collins
Tuesday - Saturday | 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.
- **LOVELAND FOOD PANTRY**
2600 N. Lincoln Avenue, Loveland
Tuesday - Saturday | 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.
- **GARDENS ON SPRING CREEK**
2145 Centre Avenue, Fort Collins
Daily | 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.

GARDENS LAUNCHES NEW PAYMENT PORTAL

On February 1, The Gardens began using a new software to process payments for memberships, donations, event tickets, classes, camps and daily admission. This new platform features a dynamic shopping cart that allows for multiple purchases at once. Plus, it means no more PayPal or up to three-day delays in activating your Member benefits! Hooray!

For the new system to apply your membership discounts during online transactions, all Members must create new log in credentials. Each Member only needs to do this one time and must use the same email currently associated with your Member account. If you need assistance, please contact our Guest Services team at gardens@fcgov.com or 970.416.2486.

Thank you for being a Member! We value your support and ask for your patience as we navigate through any issues relating to this major transition.





A MESSAGE FROM OUR PROPAGATION PARTNER

NUTRIEN'S COMMITMENT TO THE COMMUNITY

Nutrien prioritizes giving back both globally and locally where we operate. Each year we collaborate with community partners who share our values and are aligned with our three focus areas: Sustainable Agriculture, Environmental Footprint and Diversity and Inclusion. Through these partnerships, Nutrien can better understand community issues, concerns and needs while making a positive impact in the areas where we live and work. Support is provided in a variety of forms including financial, community outreach, joint programming with stakeholders and employee volunteer time or donations. We look for ways to continue moving forward our sustainability strategy and commitment to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals in alignment with our purpose of Feeding the Future.

A LONGTIME PARTNER: GARDENS ON SPRING CREEK

Nutrien has partnered with the Gardens on Spring Creek for 12 years in support of its mission to "enrich the lives of people and foster environmental stewardship through horticulture." There are several gardens across these beautifully landscaped acres, one in particular, the Garden of Eatin' harvests for the Food Bank for Larimer County. Additionally, the garden features an outdoor kitchen, which Nutrien recently donated \$100,000 to support. The kitchen offers culinary classes for children and adults wanting to learn more about cooking and nutrition.

Nutrien also proudly supports local Fort Collins gardens, food banks and greenhouses each year.

EDUCATING THE NEXT GENERATION

Nutrien works with community partners across North America and beyond to support youth agriculture and environmental education programs. Through Nutrien's programs and the additional education programs we support, we reach over more than million students each year. Nutrien's unique science- and inquiry-based curriculum is offered for free and developed in collaboration with teachers, program partners and industry experts. Today's youth will play an important role in ensuring we have a healthy planet and sustainable agriculture industry.

Journey 2050 challenges students in grades seventh through 12th to explore the complex question of how we will feed a growing population sustainably by 2050. This gamified program includes up to seven hours of flexible learning on key sustainability topics through teacher lesson plans and a virtual guest speaker opportunity.

Seed Survivor teaches elementary students (with a focus on third and fourth grades) how to grow healthy plants and the importance of agriculture. Nearly 100,000 students are reached with this program annually through our hands-on displays and resources and complementary online activities.

Caring for Our Watersheds is an environmental contest where students in ninth through 12th grades research their local watershed, identify an environmental concern and develop a realistic solution. In addition to cash prizes, community partners help turn the students' ideas into reality with funding from Nutrien. This contest is open to students in the Cache la Poudre River and Big Thompson watersheds in Colorado and has implemented nearly 600 student-led projects around the world since 2009.

Learn more at www.nutrien.com



WHY WE GIVE to The Gardens

Toby Clary of Soukup, Bush & Associates, his wife, Jill, and their children first became involved with the Gardens on Spring Creek through the Read and Seed program. "Our children both enjoyed the program immensely and it really opened our eyes up to the Gardens," said Toby.

They became inspired to give when during The Gardens' expansion campaign when they learned about the opportunity to purchase a brick.

"We knew how much our kids enjoyed their experience with the Read and Seed program so we wanted to purchase a brick in their names so that every time they went, they could see how they were a part of growth and transformation of the Gardens."

Their commitment to The Gardens deepened with the introduction of the Live at The Gardens Summer Concert Series. "It combined two of our passions, the Gardens and live music, so it just seemed like a natural fit," said Toby.

The Clary children really enjoy Garden of Lights and the summer camps, while Toby and his wife are big fans of the concert series. "It is such a great setting to see live music, surrounded by the gardens and listening to the amazing artists that have been brought in. It

has been really fun to hear some of our favorite artists and also be exposed to some incredible artists who were new to us. Marty Stuart was amazing!" he said.

The Clarys have had a number of special memories at The Gardens, but especially remembers the first time their family attended Garden of Lights. "All of us were blown away by the incredible display.

"Also, seeing the Wood Brothers this past summer was really fun. Observing the crowd, seeing elementary age kids up to people in their seventies and eighties all having a great time, reinforced what a gem The Gardens are and how fortunate we are to have a place like this in our community.

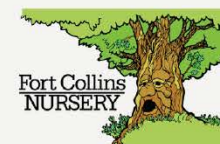
Looking to the year ahead, "our daughter has already picked out the summer camps she wants to attend this year," said Toby. Additionally, the family is looking forward to the announcement of the Live at The Gardens Summer Concert Series in April and selecting their garden plants at the Annual Spring Plant sale.

We are incredibly grateful for the support of the thousands of Members, donors and corporate sponsors who help make The Gardens such a beloved community treasure. To learn more about corporate sponsorship opportunities, please contact Michahel Coleman at mcolem@fcgov.com.



Maggie and Miles Clary at Garden of Lights in 2022. "All of us were blown away by the incredible display" the first time the Clary family attended the annual holiday light show.

THANK YOU TO OUR PROPAGATION PARTNERS



SAVE THE DATE!

GARDEN A'FARE RETURNS
AUGUST 25

Mark your calendars for Garden a'Fare! Everyone's favorite summer garden party returns Friday, August 25 with local beverages, wonderful food, all your best friends and so much more! More information including ticket prices and a full list of event activities coming soon.



CONTACT US

Phone: 970.416.2486
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FRIENDS OF
THE GARDENS
ON SPRING CREEK

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JUST LANDED: NEW BUTTERFLY SPECIES

Two Butterfly House suppliers ceased operation last year, resulting in a brief shortage of butterflies. However, the situation allowed The Gardens and the Butterfly Pavilion to expand its permits. We are now receiving shipments from a Costa Rican supplier, resulting in these new North American species to the House!

- *Anartia fatima* (banded peacock)
- *Appias drusilla* (Florida white)
- *Biblis hyperia* (red rim)
- *Dryadula phaetusa* (banded orange Heliconian)
- *Eueides isabella* (Isabella longwing)
- *Hamadryas februa* (gray cracker)
- *Hamadryas guatemalena* (Guatemalan cracker)
- *Heliconius erato* (red postman)—pictured
- *Papilio anchisiades* (ruby spotted swallowtail)
- *Rotschildia* sp. (Rothschild's silk moth)

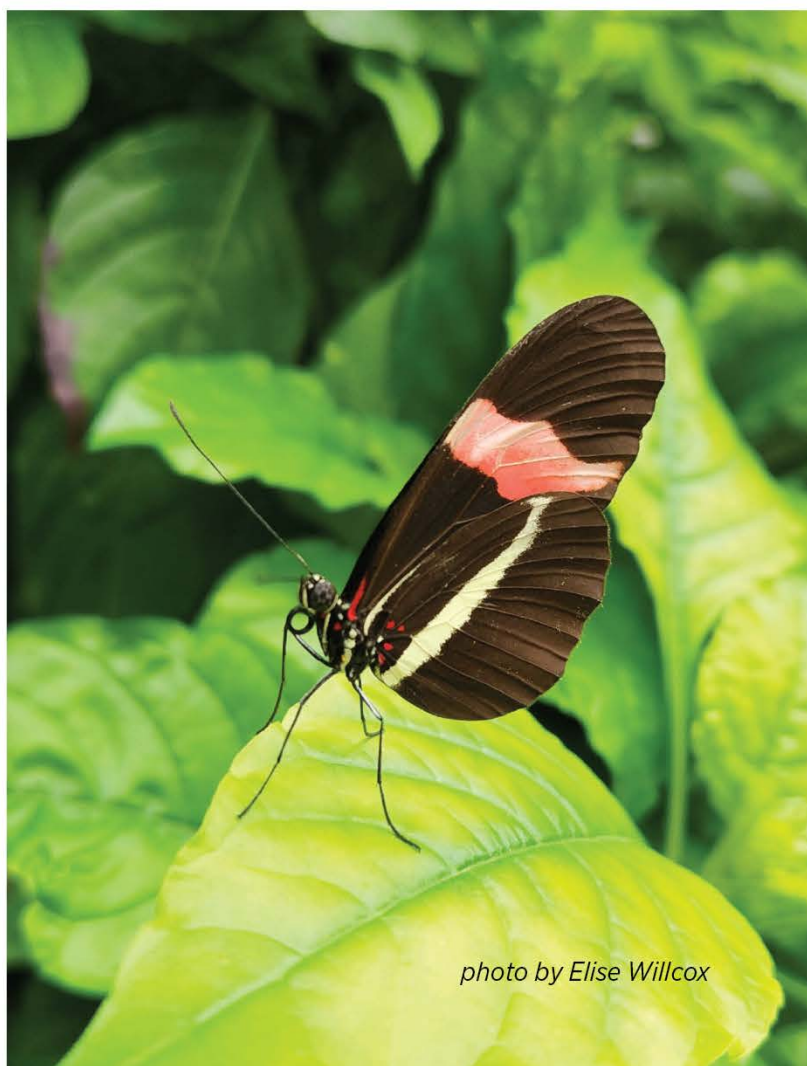


photo by Elise Willcox