



INSIDE

THE GARDENS

SUMMER 2022 A QUARTERLY MAGAZINE FOR
MEMBERS OF DENVER BOTANIC GARDENS

When heroes leave us, legends endure. Earlier this year, two of the greatest champions of the Gardens passed, and we were both stricken with grief yet comforted by the remarkable legacy they left.

Janet Mordecai was strong, generous, down-to-earth and wise. After the untimely passing of her beloved husband, Daniel Mordecai, she determined to use their accumulated resources to make a difference in the community. One of her passions combined appreciation of nature and children. This led to the building of a new children's garden onsite. She helped attract additional funding and took a central role in the design and implementation of this three-acre wonderland. This was to be no ordinary playground for kids. Janet believed children, especially those raised in the city, needed more than bluegrass and jungle gyms. At **Mordecai Children's Garden**, young explorers can splash in a stream, dig in the dirt and plant vegetables. The education offerings there are combined with imaginative experiences that connect directly to Colorado ecosystems.

Thinking about the future, Janet then offered a matching challenge gift to create an endowment for the Children's Garden, which, when met, launched what is now the largest designated endowment fund within our portfolio.

Janet served the maximum time allowed on our board, was engaged with every aspect of our work, supported the building of the Freyer – Newman Center and took her interest in art to lead the Art and Exhibits Committee.

For those of us who shared our journey with Janet, we will always remember her with love and gratitude.

The first acre of Mordecai Children's Garden highlights the Colorado alpine, and visitors are immediately taken by a small forest of character pines. That brings us memories of Jerry Morris, a one-man force of nature. Jerry was a horticulturist by trade and was a celebrity in the world of dwarf conifers, character pines, bonsai and ancient evergreens.

He had an infectious passion and a generous spirit. The Gardens owes him a huge debt for his work with us to create tableaus in multiple sites. And we will always recall hearing Jerry's enthralling stories as he held court. Personally, I think of Jerry daily when I return home and see two dwarf conifers I purchased from him that now grace my front yard.

Janet and Jerry helped all of us see anew. They were joyful and intelligent. They have created moments of wonder for countless souls for generations to come.

May their legends endure forever.

Brian Vogt
Denver Botanic Gardens CEO



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INSIDE THE GARDENS

ISSUE 3, 2022

Denver Botanic Gardens

1007 York St., Denver, CO 80206

Pre-purchased tickets and advance member passes only.
Check the website for early closures.

Through Sept. 6, 9 a.m. – 9 p.m., last admission 8 p.m.

Sept. 7-25, 9 a.m. – 8 p.m., last admission 7 p.m.

Starting Sept. 26, 9 a.m. – 5 p.m., last admission 4 p.m.

Denver Botanic Gardens Chatfield Farms

8500 West Deer Creek Canyon Rd., Littleton, CO 80128

Pre-purchased tickets and advance member passes only.

9 a.m. – 5 p.m., last admission 4 p.m.

Contact Us:

General Information: 720-865-3500

Class Registration: 720-865-3580

Donations: 720-865-3528

Gift Shop: 720-865-3595

Membership Services: 720-865-3525

Private Events: 720-865-3551

Volunteering: 720-865-3609

Helen Fowler Library: 720-865-3570

Visit Our Website for More Information:

Gardening Help from Colorado Master Gardeners

Kathryn Kalmbach Herbarium

Sam Mitchel Herbarium of Fungi

Editor: Tiffany Coleman

Graphic Designer: Nick Elias

Photographer: Scott Dressel-Martin

The mission of Denver Botanic Gardens is to connect people with plants, especially plants from the Rocky Mountain region and similar regions around the world, providing delight and enlightenment to everyone.

DENVER BOTANIC
GARDENS

botanicgardens.org



The Gardens is grateful for funds from the Scientific & Cultural Facilities District (SCFD), which enable us to expand services and enhance the quality of our programs and exhibits.



American
Alliance of
Museums



American
Public Gardens
Association



IDEA
CENTER FOR
Public Gardens™



BIG IDEAS

By Mae Lin Plummer, Director, The IDEA Center for Public Gardens

The IDEA (inclusion, diversity, equity and accessibility) Center for Public Gardens™ launched in January of this year as a partnership between Denver Botanic Gardens and the American Public Gardens Association, with a grant supported by the Institute for Museum and Library Services (MG-249862-OMS-21) through 2024. The initiative was created to teach and inspire IDEA initiatives among public gardens across North America and offer intensive peer-to-peer cohorts to develop best practices as all cultural institutions strive to be more inclusive and relevant. [The Center](#) is incubated and based here at Denver Botanic Gardens.

The inaugural cohort program launched in May. The aim of the program is to help gardens prioritize IDEA work, build greater fluency and competency in IDEA principles and create a community of shared experiences and stories. This community will help to support growth and change and spread the work beyond garden gates. Program participants include board members, executive leadership and staff from more than 20 public gardens, arboreta and parks across North America. We celebrate the leadership and diversity of gardens participating as we embark on this journey of learning, discovery and growth together.

Look for our website soon: ideacenterforpublicgardens.org

RESEARCH

Creating Connections with **DENVER ECOFLORA PROJECT**

By Jennifer Ackerfield, Head Curator of Natural History Collections and Associate Director of Biodiversity Research

The [Denver EcoFlora Project](#) is designed to engage Denver's diverse communities to observe and document biodiversity. Last summer, we organized events and led hikes for kids, families and adults all over metro Denver. These events took us to a variety of places – Garfield Park in Westwood, Staunton State Park, Bluff Lake and the High Line Canal to name a few. We documented the plants and fungi we saw with the [iNaturalist app](#) while fostering and building connections among community. We now have more than 175,000 observations of plants and fungi recorded in iNaturalist in the greater metro area, in part thanks to the EcoFlora Project.

Co-developing programming and spending time with our neighbors generated mutual trust and respect, opening the doors for meaningful collaborations. For example, after an outing with Outdoor Afro, both organizations wanted to further unpack the historical connections of Black people and plants in Colorado. Through this partnership, Denver Botanic Gardens hosted a symposium on Black homesteaders in Colorado, past and



present. We presented an array of voices on Black people's relationships with plants through farming, ranching and recreation in Colorado.

These connections often lead to additional opportunities. One of the farmers who participated in the Black homesteading event is co-leading a hike with us at Chatfield Farms this summer. Drawing on her personal story of finding healing with plants, we will explore native plants along the creek with a mindfulness walk.

This summer, we are also leading evening walks to engage members of the metro community with the biodiversity in their own backyards. We will work with neighborhood groups and children, creating connections through summer camps and other events to connect a diverse audience of people to plants. We can't wait to see how the seeds of engagement we plant continue to grow in the community!

The EcoFlora Project was made possible in part by a grant from the Institute of Museum and Library Services (MG-70-19-0057-19).



CSA

Is All About COMMUNITY

By Josie Hart, Manager of Farm Programs

The [Chatfield Farms CSA](#) has been a successful program at Denver Botanic Gardens for 12 years. Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) is a farm share. A consumer buys a membership offered by a farm and gets a share of products from that farm throughout the growing season. The first CSAs in the United States began in 1986 at two farms in Massachusetts, and the model has proven to be wildly successful. Today, thousands of CSA farms are operating in the U.S and throughout the world. CSAs are a vital piece of the local food economy because they allow small- and medium-scale farmers to compete against the traditional food system by guaranteeing a market for their crops. The model is good for consumers, too, because it is the best way to form a relationship with a local farm and get the freshest, healthiest, tastiest food into the kitchen.

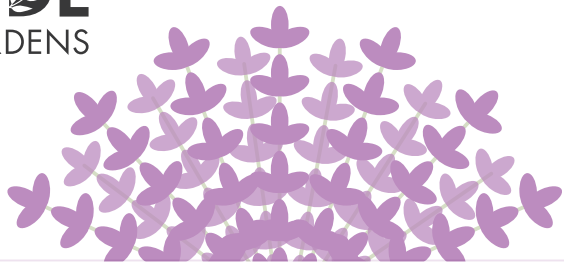
Whether you care about the viability of local farms, land use, environmental issues (like the long distance that food travels in the traditional food system) or you just want to eat well...you should be in a CSA program! Our CSA program does sell out fast and has a waitlist. But did you know that several farmers who started at Chatfield Farms have their own operations now? If you're not a member of a CSA farm already, learn more about these farmers, visit their farmers market locations this summer or sign up for their CSA: [Quizbee Farms](#) in Wheat

Ridge, [Common Name Farm](#) in Lakewood, [Wild Wick's Farm](#) also in Lakewood and [Meadowsweet Farm](#), located in Golden.

There is also a rich community of thinkers, creators, scientists and makers connected with our farm. The CSA program recently had the benefit of collaborating with Paonia Soil Company to enhance and balance the nutrient and elemental composition of our soils. With their help, we amended large swaths of soil, ensuring we can feed our crops from the bottom up in a natural and sustainable way. Thanks to Bart and his team for being a part of the educational community we foster here.

We also have a strong network of Denver-based individuals and foundations that believe in the practices and mission of community-supported agriculture and have generously donated to ensure that we not only grow food but also grow farmers, ideas, soil health and an entire ecosystem. One specific example comes to my mind: Chris and Jerry Ross are CSA members who selflessly give of their time and resources to make our network stronger and more resilient to the challenges that we face as farmers.

I hope these living examples of what a CSA truly means have illuminated those three letters beyond what they simply stand for, and how a CSA makes a community whole.



DENVER BOTANIC GARDENS
CHATFIELD FARMS

LAVENDER FESTIVAL

Lavender Festival at Chatfield Farms

Saturday – Sunday, July 16-17,
9 a.m. – 4 p.m. \$7 – \$13

Experience **Lavender Festival**, with more than 2,000 lavender plants in bloom as the backdrop for this fun, two-day event. During this family-friendly celebration guests can expect to enjoy products made by local growers and artisans, free demonstrations, live music, kids' activities, farm and garden tours, food and drink vendors and more.

This event sells out, so get tickets early. Tickets must be purchased in advance.



FINISH THE SUMMER WITH THE

Fête des Fleurs

Fête des Fleurs

Friday, August 26, 5:30-11 p.m.

The *Fête des Fleurs* is a late summer tradition in Denver. For 38 years, Gardens' patrons and their guests have gathered for a black-tie dinner and dancing at the lovely gardens of York Street. Join us on Friday, August 26.

Becky Schaub and Lindsay Morton Gaiser, co-chairs of this year's *Fête*, along with the *Fête* committee are creating a once-in-a-lifetime experience. There are still limited tables and tickets available. For more information [visit our website](#) or call 720-865-3527.

Many thanks to presenting sponsor GH Phipps and supporting sponsor Andrisen Morton as well as media sponsor Colorado Homes & Lifestyles magazine.



DENVER BOTANIC GARDENS
CHATFIELD FARMS

CORN MAZE

Corn Maze at Chatfield Farms

Fridays – Sundays, Sept. 16 – Oct. 30,
9 a.m. – 5 p.m. \$9 – \$15

Travel back to a prehistoric time as you navigate the 7-acre dinosaur-themed **Corn Maze**. Outside the maze be sure to snap a photo with Chatfield Farms' stegosaurus and try your hand at digging for fossils. Enjoy the mini-maze and barrel train rides for kids. Grab a snack from our festival food vendors. For an additional onsite fee, you can see if you have what it takes to solve the puzzle and get out of one of our escape rooms! Tickets for Corn Maze must be purchased in advance.



FALL PLANT & BULB SALE

Fall Plant & Bulb Sale at York Street

Friday & Saturday, Sept. 30 & Oct. 1,
9 a.m. – 5 p.m. Free admission,
reservations required.

Preview Party

Thursday, Sept. 29. Tickets required.

The best spring gardens start in the fall! At this year's **Fall Plant & Bulb Sale**, enjoy a wide variety of standard and specialty bulbs, seeds and plants grown at the Gardens. Our knowledgeable horticulturists will be onsite to answer your questions and help you get inspiration for gardens both big and small. Admission is free, but reservations are required; tickets will be available in early September. Want access to the best selection? Make sure to arrive early in the day or purchase a ticket to the early access Preview Party. Enjoy fabulous treats, wine and beer as you shop the sale first.



EXPLORING COLLECTIONS

Works from the 2021 Land Line Artist Residency

Denver Botanic Gardens' [2021 Land Line artists in residence](#) explored our landscapes and collections to create artworks that reflect their individual connections to the natural world. Below are three works created as part of the residencies that are now part of the Gardens' permanent art collections.

Joelle Cicak

Digger, Listener, Runner (Prairie Iris and Smoky Hills), ceramic, 2021.

Joelle Cicak draws on mythological themes to explore how culture can bind us to and separate us from the natural world.

Her work *Digger, Listener, Runner (Prairie Iris and Smoky Hills)* considers the cyclical and inextricable entanglements between flora and fauna. It was partially inspired by the plants and creatures living within the Steppe Garden.



Paula Castillo

Corn is People, dried corncob and polyurethane resin, 2021.

Latina artist Paula Castillo investigates the complex and malleable intersections between the physical and cultural landscapes of the Southwest. The artwork *Corn is People* is a product of Castillo's research into the history of corn and maize. The tooth-like kernels embody the key role of corn within human movement, conflict and survival.





Eloisa Guanlao

South Platte River Cottonwood from *Hearth Series*, gelatin silver print, 2021.

Eloisa Guanlao created this landscape view using infrared photography—a technique that captures light outside of the spectrum visible to humans. This photograph documents a hidden world at Chatfield Farms, a place that contains resources for survival and represents home to the organisms that inhabit (or once inhabited) the area.

URSULA VON RYDINGSVARD

The Contour of Feeling

Through Sept. 11

Ursula von Rydingsvard: The Contour of Feeling is an ambitious exhibition featuring one of the most influential sculptors working today. This exhibition provides a unique, indoor opportunity to experience a large collection of cedar sculptures and works on paper.

Ursula von Rydingsvard: The Contour of Feeling is organized by The Fabric Workshop and Museum, Philadelphia, and guest curator Mark Rosenthal.

EXHIBITION CURRENTLY ON VIEW

RBC Wealth Management is the presenting sponsor of Denver Botanic Gardens' 2022 indoor art exhibitions.



Wealth
Management



Installation view of *Ursula von Rydingsvard: The Contour of Feeling* at Denver Botanic Gardens.
Artwork © Ursula von Rydingsvard

SCHOOL OF BOTANICAL ART & ILLUSTRATION

ON A ROLL

Meet Our New Printing Press

*By LoriAnn Levy-Holm, Adjunct Teaching Artist,
School of Botanical Art & Illustration, and Kathryn
Fay, Ph.D., Program Coordinator, School of
Botanical Art & Illustration*

The School of Botanical Art & Illustration

recently acquired a printing press to further the goal of expanding the variety of Art Exploration Program class offerings. Even students new to the medium of printmaking can create successful artworks while learning. This particular etching press can accommodate many different plate surfaces, ranging from cardboard or linoleum to wood or metal. With slight adjustments of the pressure on the roller, one can print on fabric, paper and other surfaces. The top roller of the etching press is raised up to accommodate blocks and plates of various thicknesses, which allows for linocuts, woodcuts or other forms of relief printing with speed of printing as well as good, even pressure ensuring the best image lift from the surface.

The School of Botanical Art and Illustration is excited to bring this historical yet accessible process and medium to students. The **Introduction to Printmaking** classes expose artists to this art form, including the basics of carving and inking a plate, operating the press and creating final art pieces. Future class offerings will include different media and printed surfaces.





VOLUNTEER

Opportunities

Now is a perfect time to join us as a volunteer! Volunteers support special events throughout the fall, horticulture, education programming, the visitor experience and so much more. Get more information on [the Gardens' volunteer program](#) and specific details on both ongoing and special event volunteer opportunities at both York Street and Chatfield Farms, or email us at vol@botanicgardens.org.

CLASSES

Soak up the warm weather and move your body in nature! All summer long, we have a variety of classes to help you connect with your mind, body and breath. Join us for **Sunset Yoga & Silent Disco** or wake up with **Sunrise Vinyasa**. Bring a friend and a picnic for **Vinyasa, Vino and Violins**. Balance your Qi with **Chi Kung for High-Level Wellness**. Visit [the calendar](#) for class dates and times, and to search all of our offerings.





EDUCATION

Honoring Our Ancestors & Rich Culture: Día de los Muertos at Denver Botanic Gardens

By Esperanza Rodriguez, Bilingual Program Coordinator

Even though we're in the midst of summer, the Education Department is busy preparing for fall. Last year, the school programs team presented a new roster of school programming for the Gardens' observation of Día De Los Muertos, the Mexican holiday dedicated to the celebration of life. Día Discovery Programs were the culmination of a two-year planning process, and the result was a rewarding week of cultural exposure and learning at its best.

Upon arrival at the Gardens, our guests—consisting of teachers, students and adult chaperones—experienced a vibrant celebration with *papel picado* (traditional Mexican party banners) and three gigantic *alebrijes iluminados*, colorful Mexican folk art depicting mythical creatures, sculpted by Mexican artists Oscar Becerra Mora and Ruben Mica. Latinx students and their adult chaperones expressed a sense of belonging and gratitude, commenting, “I feel like I am back home” and “I am so thankful my child can experience my cultural roots.” Some became visibly emotional.

Groups participated in six learning stations, which exposed them to new information and

hands-on activities. Students were fascinated by the information they were introduced to, such as the monarch butterfly's life cycle—the fourth generation of monarch butterflies mystically arrives in central Mexico City only a few days before or after Día de los Muertos. Adding to their understanding of the significance of this day were the volunteer-led chats about the all-important *ofrendas*, altars that honor loved ones who have died. *Ofrendas* often include pictures, candles, marigold flowers, *papel picado* and *pan de muerto*, traditional Mexican sweet bread. One activity station provided attendees the opportunity to plant marigold seeds in pots, which they could take home with them. Students contributed to the celebration in the greatest way by taking home a piece of the experience.

We are truly grateful for the hours of dedication and expertise from our amazing volunteers. It is through their hard work that my vision for Día Discovery Programs came to life. Positive feedback was abundant and connected back to their enthusiasm.

Our Día de los Muertos celebration returns this year on November 5.

TRIPS & TRAVEL

Día de los Muertos in Oaxaca

October 28 – November 3

A national holiday in Mexico, Día de los Muertos, or Day of the Dead, is considered one of the most important cultural celebrations in Latin America. With ancient roots in Mesoamerica, the celebration as we know it today is largely a combination of indigenous and European cultural practices that demonstrate the culture's strong sense of love and respect for one's ancestors, while celebrating the continuance of life. On this day in Mexico, the streets near the cemeteries are filled with *papel picado* (tissue paper decorations), flowers, candy *calaveras* (skeletons and skulls) and parades. It is believed that the spirits of the dead visit their families on October 31 and leave on November 2.

Join Dan Johnson, curator of native plant collections and associate director of horticulture at the Gardens, for this unforgettable experience that acquaints people with the culture, art and food, and what makes Mexico such a unique destination. [Learn more about the trip.](#)



Superb Gardens of the Côte d'Azur and Provence, France

Summer 2023

Our tour starts in Nice on the Côte d'Azur visiting beautiful gardens along the coast. Then on to Provence, where a selection of private gardens has been chosen by leading local landscape designers. Cypress trees, country roads lined with majestic plane trees, olive trees and vines, massive lavender fields in bloom near Sault and Valensole – all seen against a backdrop of craggy limestone hills or forested mountains – are just part of the superb Provençal landscape. The climate is challenging: Hot summers with the fierce Mistral blowing down the Rhône valley, a lack of water and even cold winters. Yet the gardens are stunning. Your host is Larry Vickerman, director of Denver Botanic Gardens Chatfield Farms, and a local French guide. [Learn more about this trip.](#)



Photo by Thomas Despeyroux, Unsplash.com

GROWING ROSES

in Colorado

By Julia Pearson, Horticulturist

Summer is the season for roses and growing them isn't as difficult as it may seem. Roses are tough plants and thrive with good, basic horticultural practices. Here are a few tips specific to growing roses in Colorado that may differ from other regions, which will set you up for success.

The Basics

Start with good soil. The Denver Rose Society recommends amending with high quality plant-based organic compost. Good drainage is a must. If you have no idea what your soil is like you can order a home soil test from CSU Extension. They will tell you the composition of your soil and recommend specific amendments, if necessary.

Plant in full sun in a location that receives at least six hours of sunlight per day and water regularly. Cultivated modern roses prefer regular moderate watering, rather than deep infrequent soaks. Mulching and fertilizing will help keep your roses happy, too.

Tips for Colorado

- Choose plants that are rated to USDA zone 5 or lower. This is the cold tolerance of the plant.
- Make sure to plant grafted roses with the bud union four inches below soil level. This will insulate the joint from extreme temperature swings that can stress a plant out.
- Prune in late April through early May when chances of hard frost have passed.
- Fertilize after you prune in spring, once again mid-summer and lastly in August.
- Pick off Japanese beetles into a cup of soapy water.
- Water in the winter. If your garden has been snow-free for a while and the temperature will be above 40° F, you can give your roses a good soak.



CALLING ALL HERB LOVERS:

The Guild's New Cookbook Is Here

By Cathy Begej, Guild Member and Cookbook Committee Co-Chair

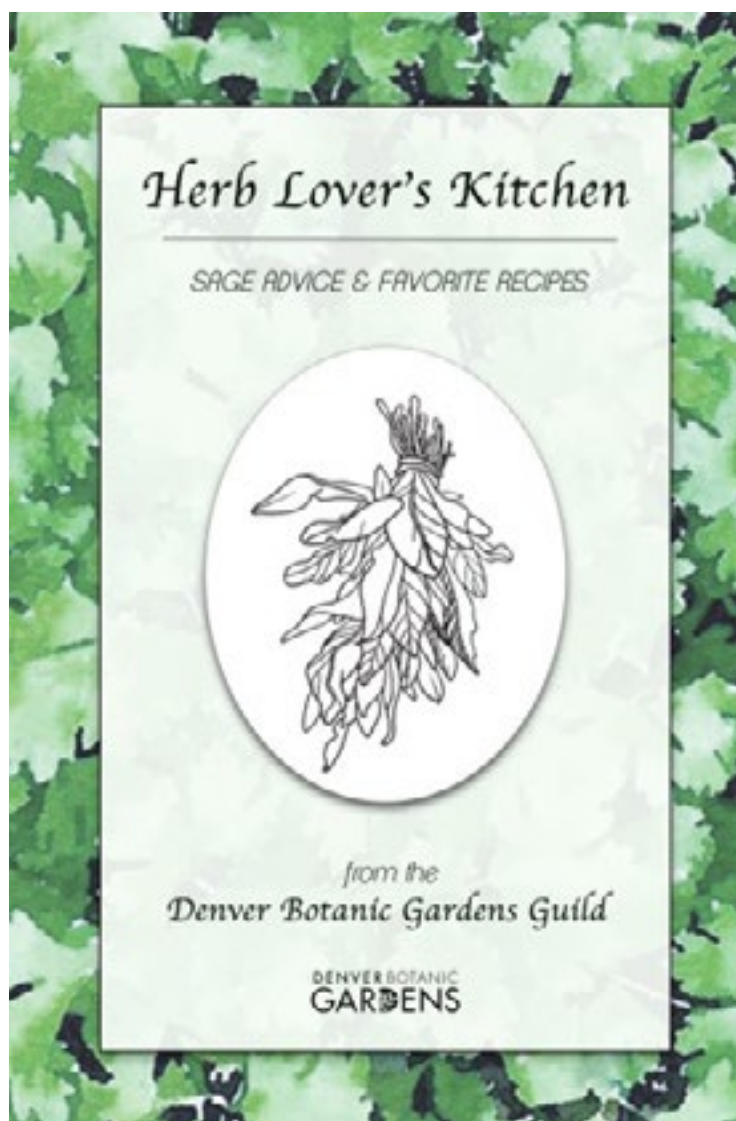
Denver Botanic Gardens Guild is a volunteer group dedicated to education about herbs and herb cultivation. The Guild harvests herbs grown at Chatfield Farms and York Street to make herb blends, vinegars, sugars, cat toys and dog treats, which are available for purchase in the Shop at the Gardens. Revenue from the sales is donated back to Denver Botanic Gardens.

During the pandemic, the Guild added to its bounty of products by creating a cookbook. After 15 months of collaborative problem solving and testing of recipes, a cookbook committee narrowed the collection to slightly over 100 exceptional recipes. "The Herb Lover's Kitchen, Sage Advice and Favorite Recipes" was published in fall 2021. The wire-bound cookbook, which lies flat on the counter for convenience, includes recipes containing fresh and dried herbs.

The cookbook has two indexes, one by category and main ingredients, and the other organized by herbs. Nine recipes contain beloved Guild herb blends, while 13 recipes contain favorite Guild vinegars. Recipes using Guild products include recommended substitutions if you don't have the Guild herb products in your pantry. There are even three recipes for making your own herb blends. Best of all, there are 14 pages of tips, from the basics of starting an herb and spice cupboard, to gardening, harvesting, drying and freezing.

"The Herb Lover's Kitchen, Sage Advice and Favorite Recipes" is available for \$20 at the Shop at the Gardens. Pick one up for yourself—and a couple for friends and family members. This is an essential cookbook for every kitchen!

Gardens Members receive a 10% discount.



LIVING NEAR A MOUNTAIN TOP

Visit the Alpine Wildflowers at Mount Goliath

By L. Karina Nabors, Ph.D., Associate Director of Learning Engagement & Interpretation

Discover our high-altitude rock garden (the highest in the U.S.), visit the Dos Chappell Nature Center or hike the [M. Walter Pesman Trail](#).

Despite the long winter of wind and snow, plant life still emerges during the brief summer of this rocky terrain above 11,000 feet. Visiting Mount Goliath lets you enjoy the splendid alpine flora and ancient bristlecone pines while experiencing breathtaking views of Rocky Mountain peaks.

Most of the plants you see are pretty small, but their lovely, intricate flowers will delight you if you take a closer look.

Guided Garden Explorations (June 17 – August 6, weather dependent)

Denver Botanic Gardens' docents are present near the Nature Center on Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays from 10 a.m. – 1 p.m. to share stories about their favorite wildflowers, the ancient bristlecone pines and surprising features of the landscape. [Plan your visit.](#)

Reserve Ahead of Time:

To visit Mount Goliath, you will need to obtain a timed entry reservation through the U.S. Forest Service. [Book here.](#)



TOURS

For more information or to register, visit the [tours page](#) on our website.

STAFF-LED TOURS AT YORK STREET
\$19, \$15 member (includes admission)

Curator Conversations: The Contour of Feeling

July 28 and August 18, 9:30 a.m.

Explore *Ursula von Rydingsvard: The Contour of Feeling* with a curator to discover the work of one of the most influential sculptors working today.

Garden Guru

Sept. 15, 2 p.m.

Learn how to prepare your garden for fall with Mike Bone, associate director of horticulture and curator of steppe collection.

PRIVATE TOURS AT YORK STREET
OR CHATFIELD FARMS

(Online options available, too!)

Docent-led: \$15, \$6 student (includes admission);

Staff-led: \$17, \$6 student (includes admission).

Looking for a special experience for your group of eight or more? Schedule a private guided tour at York Street or at Chatfield Farms. For more information, contact tours@botanicgardens.org.

DOCENT-LED TOURS AT YORK STREET
\$16, \$12 member (includes admission)

A Walk Through Thyme

July 25, August 19 & September 5, 6 p.m.

Step back in time with plant stories that take you on a voyage from early American life on the plains all the way through today.

Midsummer Nights

July 2 and 4, 6 p.m.

Enjoy a Shakespeare-inspired summer stroll infused with poetry and plants.

Nature-Inspired Design

July 17 and August 13, 6 p.m.

Marvel at the influence that plants and other living things have on our human-created world.

Ursula von Rydingsvard: The Contour of Feeling

Select dates, 9:30 and 11 a.m.

Enjoy large-scale cedar sculptures and other works by Ursula von Rydingsvard with a docent as your guide.

TOURS AT PLAINS
CONSERVATION CENTER
\$10 public



The Darlene Radichel PLANT SELECT® GARDEN

By Sonya Anderson, Assistant Curator – Pollinator Gardens & Plant Select

The Darlene Radichel Plant Select® Garden at York Street was created in 2010. At that time, the Plant Select program was 14 years old and consisted of 95 different trees, shrubs, perennials, annuals and groundcovers found to thrive in the Rocky Mountain Region. The new garden featured program favorites such as Alleghany viburnum (*Viburnum x rhytidophylloides* 'Alleghany'), Sunset hyssop (*Agastache rupestris*) and Red Rocks® penstemon (*Penstemon x mexicali* 'P008S'). All exhibited traits central to Plant Select's mission: low-water, tolerant of alkaline soils and resistant to intense sun rays and freeze-thaw cycles.

Twelve years later, Plant Select is celebrating its 25th anniversary. The garden and the program have not only flourished, but they have also become increasingly relevant. We are in a megadrought. Cash-for-turf programs (which offer money to homeowners as incentive to replace lawns with water-efficient landscaping) have become necessary to reduce water use. Excess fertilizer, herbicides and insecticides are damaging our world.

From the beginning, Plant Select has recognized and advocated for the need to **garden within our means**, providing us with plants to do just that. We can be responsible stewards of our world and still surround ourselves with beautiful and comforting gardens. With the introduction of its 2022 offerings, Plant Select now promotes more than 170 different plants, many on display in this garden, that need few to no inputs such as water, fertilizer, soil amendments, and pest and disease treatments. Two of these new introductions are Half Pint® pineleaf penstemon (*Penstemon pinifolius* 'Compactum'), a compact form of the Southwest native hummingbird magnet, and Olympus™ gold leaf sage (*Salvia chrysophylla*), a bright, low-water salvia from Turkey.

Think about replacing some of your unused turf with Plant Select plants and turn down the dial on your irrigation system.

Photos by Mike Bone



*Penstemon
pinifolius*



*Salvia
chrysophylla*

ENJOYMENT, ENGAGEMENT, ENDOWMENT!

By Johanna Kelly, Director of Development

Dawn Wood says that Denver Botanic Gardens is her favorite place in the city; there is something magical about it that makes her happy. She wants to be sure that it remains a vibrant asset – now and in the future for her adult children and grandchildren. “Environment affects each person’s psyche. Beauty is important!”

As a member and friend of the Gardens for more than 25 years, Dawn’s support and involvement has come in many roles, from volunteer and eager architect of Spring Plant Sale Preview Parties to attendee at the *Fête des Fleurs* and other events throughout the year. In 2010 and 2011, Dawn was chair of the Denver Debutante Ball Committee and chaired the task force that designated Denver Botanic Gardens as the beneficiary of the Denver Debutante Ball proceeds starting in 2011. She also served a term as a member of the Denver Botanic Gardens Board of Trustees.

Like many during the pandemic, Dawn reviewed and revised her estate plans. In early 2021, she let the Gardens know that she has made a provision in her will for a major gift to the Denver Botanic Gardens Endowment to go into the unrestricted funds. New gifts designated to the general, unrestricted portion of the endowment recognize that current needs do not necessarily reflect future ones. Today, the Gardens cannot name what issues and opportunities may emerge in the future. It is important that the Endowment grows to position the Gardens to embrace new opportunities and manage new challenges. Dawn’s generous bequest intention is meant to help to do just that.

In discussing her love for the Gardens, Dawn calls out specifically her trust in the current leadership as one of her motivations in planning for this gift through her estate. She also cited the Gardens’ reputation regionally, nationally and globally as an institution that supports the communities in which it operates: through stunning gardens; work with underserved communities, like veterans re-entering civilian life; and outreach such as the Urban Food Initiatives.

As our metro area’s population grows, our access to green spaces becomes more threatened. The Gardens offers unique experiences with plants and nature across our four locations. Dawn herself admits to not having a favorite spot to which she gravitates, but to loving everything – and the wide diversity it represents. Denver Botanic Gardens is most grateful to Dawn and hopes that we can give her many more years of engagement and enjoyment!

For information on including Denver Botanic Gardens in your estate plans, please [visit our website](#) or call 720-865-3517. Individuals who inform Denver Botanic Gardens about their bequest intentions are enrolled in the legacy society, *The Perennial Friends*.

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