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SITE-SPECIFIC ART INSTALLATION AT CHATFIELD FARMS
STICKWORK: SCULPTURE BY PATRICK DOUGHERTY
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(Image is representative of the work that will be at Chatfield Farms)

Denver Botanic Gardens announces a feature art installation at its Chatfield Farms location in Littleton, Colorado. **Stickwork: Sculpture by Patrick Dougherty**, a large-scale structure made of natural materials, will be unveiled on April 27, 2019. Dougherty's immersive sculptures are created by weaving flexible saplings into complex and whimsical architectural forms and remain on view until they naturally fall apart. Some installations have lasted for years.

The site-specific sculpture is created over the course of three weeks with the help of staff and volunteers. Saplings used in the installation are sustainably harvested and include local chokecherry, some gathered from Chatfield Farms. Visitors may view and move through the work in a grassy clearing near the Earl J. Sinnamon Visitor Center and the Deer Creek Stables. The installation is included with Chatfield Farms admission (\$5 per vehicle or free for Gardens members). Chatfield Farms is a 700-acre native plant refuge, historical homestead and working farm.

Dougherty has created installations throughout the United States and world, with works exhibited at the Smithsonian's Renwick Gallery, Washington, D.C.; the Mint Museum, North Carolina; the Castle of the Dukes of Brittany, France and the American Embassy in Belgrade, Serbia.

He earned a bachelor's degree in English from the University of North Carolina and a master's in hospital and health administration from the University of Iowa. Later, he returned to the University of North Carolina to study art history and sculpture. Combining carpentry skills with a love of nature, Dougherty began to learn more about primitive techniques of building and experimented with tree saplings as construction

material. In 1982 his first work, *Maple Body Wrap*, was included in the North Carolina Biennial Artists' Exhibition, sponsored by the North Carolina Museum of Art. In the following year, he had his first solo exhibition at the Southeastern Center for Contemporary Art in Winston-Salem, North Carolina. His work quickly evolved from single pieces on conventional pedestals to monumental scale environmental works. Over the last 30 years, he has built more than 250 works.

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Image credit: Patrick Dougherty, *Close Ties*, 2006. Scottish Basketmakers Circle, Dingwall, Scotland. Photo: Fin Macrae

About Denver Botanic Gardens: Green inside and out, Denver Botanic Gardens was founded in 1951 and is considered one of the top botanical gardens in the United States and a pioneer in water conservation. Accredited by the American Alliance of Museums, the Gardens' living collections encompass specimens from the tropics to the tundra, showcasing a plant palette chosen to thrive in Colorado's semi-arid climate. The Gardens is a dynamic, 24-acre urban oasis in the heart of the city, offering unforgettable opportunities to flourish with unique garden experiences for the whole family – as well as world-class education and plant conservation research programs. Additional sites extend this experience throughout the Front Range: Denver Botanic Gardens at Chatfield is a 700-acre native plant refuge with an active farm in Jefferson County; Mount Goliath is a high-altitude trail and interpretive site on the Mount Evans Scenic Byway. The Gardens also manages programming at Plains Conservation Center in Aurora. For more information, visit us online at www.botanicgardens.org.