The transition from one year to the next is often filled with celebrations and time for reflection. At the Gardens, we are all filled with gratitude and a keen determination to do everything we can to support the community, especially in light of the widespread stress and challenges that will likely continue in 2024.

We start by providing spaces that delight and enlighten. Walk in a celebration of nature, co-created with skilled horticulturists, and soon you will find yourself calmer, even revived. When we survey visitors the most common reason they give for coming to our locations is to find peace and connection. Each of our sites offers wonder and discovery at every turn.

Providing access is a high priority for us. Many people face barriers to engaging with the Gardens, and we work diligently to remove any obstacle. We begin by forging partnerships with diverse community organizations — 186 of them and counting. Only through listening can we create programs that address needs. We are fortunate to have support from countless donors, enabling us to provide everything from free admission to transportation and outreach.

Plants are essential to life. Among everything they provide, food is one of the essential gifts. Last year, through our Urban Food Initiatives, we donated 19,000 pounds of vegetables grown at Chatfield Farms. This food was grown by an incredibly devoted staff with the assistance of volunteers and our Veterans Farm Program, a season-long experience for vets who are paid a stipend to learn the intricacies of agriculture to determine if they want to pursue farming as a new career.

As water scarcity is on the rise, we are going back to basics. Through Sustainable Landscape Services, we are helping local communities rethink plant selection for public spaces like street medians and privately owned property including lawn replacement. Many plants thrive without irrigation and offer a more authentic Colorado aesthetic while also creating better habitats. Our Research and Conservation Department has active projects along the High Line Canal, CommonGround Golf Course and many others — all focused on regenerating nature.

Participation in classes, for both adults and children, set a record in 2023. Denver Botanic Films has released a second documentary, with a third on the way. Art and exhibition programs are engaging more people than ever. Public and private events are providing joy to an ever-growing audience.

You see, Denver Botanic Gardens has an all-hands-on deck attitude about the many roles we play in society. We respond to all the remarkable support we receive with resolve to use those gifts to make the world better. As you read this, contemplate how appreciated you are, how much you make possible.

Onward.

Brian Vogt
Denver Botanic Gardens CEO
Denver Botanic Gardens
1007 York St., Denver, CO 80206
Pre-purchased tickets and advance member passes only. Hours through March 31: 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. Hours: 9 a.m. – 5 p.m., last admission 4 p.m.

Check the website for early closures

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
Tours: 720-865-3539

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: Jessica Lammert
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.
With the recent addition of decorative metal arches and other vintage décor, the Orangery has taken on a decidedly Victorian flare. What better time than our annual orchid display to highlight the evolution of orchid exploration and cultivation during this eventful period in horticultural history?

During much of the 19th century, orchids and the elaborate solariums and conservatories they were grown in were symbols of wealth and worldliness. A whole industry was built around the collection of new and rare plant specimens from around the globe. Explore this year’s showcase, and as you enjoy the glorious orchid blooms, you can also learn about some of the consequences of this Victorian obsession – both good and bad.

On display in the Orangery during the showcase are reproductions of botanical prints from "Reichenbachia: Orchids Illustrated and Described" (1888-1894) – considered by many to be the pinnacle of orchid publications from Victorian times. Through February 11, you can visit the Freyer – Newman Center art galleries to view The Tropical Paintings of Manabu Saito, which features beautiful watercolor illustrations of orchids and other tropical plants.

The Orchid Showcase runs from January 12 through February 19 and is included with general admission. Check our website for hours and more details.
MAKING A MUSHROOM SPECIMEN

By Andrew W. Wilson, Ph.D., Associate Curator of Mycology
Mushrooms are experiencing a renaissance of sorts. Public interest in mushroom diversity and curiosity about fungi in the environment has exploded. The popularity of “Fantastic Fungi” on Netflix and the bestselling book “Entangled Life: How Fungi Make our World” help to illustrate this. Amateur contributions to mycology are now facilitated by groups like the Fungal Diversity Survey and the North American Mycological Association. This growth in public participation presents an awesome opportunity to support scientific curiosity while enhancing diversity documentation in fungi. However, this increased public involvement requires additional effort from mycologists to make participation accessible. One area that needs this attention is specimen documentation and accessioning in museums.

In the Sam Mitchel Herbarium of Fungi at Denver Botanic Gardens, we work to facilitate public contributions to mycology. When members of the public participate through the Telluride Mushroom Festival or Colorado Mycological Society forays, we want them to understand what makes a good mycological specimen. The answer is in knowing the who, when and where information for each collection. This is needed before it can become a scientific specimen. iNaturalist turns out to be a great tool for collecting this information. To fully demonstrate the process of collecting mushrooms for science, we co-produced an instructional video with Gabriella D’Elia, director of the Fungal Diversity Survey: “How to Collect Macrofungal Specimens for Scientific Research.”

After a member of the public collects a specimen, it must go through an elaborate process of accessioning into a fungarium (museum for fungi). Here is where we work to translate public efforts into meaningful specimens for science. First the specimen is dried for preservation. Then it is carefully packaged with its associated collection material into its own box (e.g. “coffin”), ultimately producing a “mushroom mummy.” Serious (sometimes herculean) effort is made to identify the mushroom to species. Once identified, all the important who, where and when data from iNaturalist is formatted for uploading to the Mycology Collections Portal database. The specimen is then frozen to remove any remaining pests. Afterwards, the specimens are labeled, re-imaged, and their records double-checked before filing them away in the fungarium. This process is done for hundreds of fungal specimens collected by the public every year, and all of this behind-the-scenes processing is performed by a small band of enthusiastic hero-volunteers in the Sam Mitchel Herbarium of Fungi.

We currently have developed protocols for this entire process. Our next goal is to share this resource with other fungaria to support national efforts to increase public participation in mycological research.

Photos: Andrew Wilson
When you think of winter, you may not think of blooming plants. But there are plants that can tolerate and even thrive in the dark growing conditions in which other plants would perish.

The garden in Boettcher Memorial Center’s Mitchell Lobby Court greets guests as they arrive in the midcentury modern building. It’s a focal point of the space, with a reflecting pool and serene waterfall. Despite small skylights, it is also an area that can be tricky to grow plants in due to the low natural light conditions.

Aroids, flowering plants in the family Araceae, have become one of my most relied upon plants for this garden. ZZ plant (Zamioculcas), Philodendron and Pothos are some of the best-known genera of this family. While these plants offer visual interest with various colors and textures from their foliage, they lack charismatic flowers.

*Anthurium andraeanum* (flamingo flower), an aroid native to Ecuador, is a reliable plant with continuous blooms throughout the year. You will typically see their blooms in red, but there are also cultivars for a pink or white bloom. They’re also an easy plant to maintain. They prefer to be in bright, indirect light but can tolerate darker locations, with the cost of fewer blooms. Since the spring display in Mitchell Lobby Court is installed when it is still winter, it can be challenging to find plants with flowers. *Anthurium andraeanum* allows the display to have colors from blooms, rather than solely relying on colors from foliage, and can be used in later displays as well due to no seasonal restriction to when it blooms. It is also readily available for the public. I recommend this plant for anyone looking for more color in their house.
ADULT PROGRAMS

**NEW** **Flourish with Parkinson’s**
2nd Thursday of the month, 1-2 p.m.
Free, registration required

In partnership with Parkinson Association of the Rockies, visitors with Parkinson’s disease and their care partners are invited to come together monthly to experience the wonderful world of plants. Each month we explore a different plant-related theme while we visit garden spaces, hear from experts and share hands-on activities. This highly social and interactive program will ignite your curiosity while providing a safe and calming experience at the Gardens.

**New Gardener Boot Camp**
Saturday, March 16, 9 a.m. – 4 p.m.
$80, $60 member

Brand new to gardening or need a refresher? This day-long workshop combines all of our favorite 101 classes to help you get ready to garden like a pro.

**Rocky Mountain Gardening Certificate Series**
January – May
$1,014, $869 member

This certificate program offers a comprehensive study of specific gardening practices for Front Range gardening. Learn to successfully choose and care for plants and trees best suited to the climate of our region.

**Rocky Mountain Gardening Short Certificate Course**
March – April
$389, $345 member

Regardless of your location, transportation or time constraints we can prepare you for your best growing season yet with this hybrid online/onsite version of the certificate program.

FEATURED PROGRAMS

**HERBALISM CERTIFICATES**

**Spring Herbal Certificate Program 101: Body Systems**
March – June
$845, $766 member

What is the relationship between our body systems and the use of herbs? This certificate series transforms students into confident, knowledgeable and resourceful stewards of plants with a focus on health and wellness.

**Summer Herbal Certificate Program 201: Herbal Applications**
June – September
$708, $642 member

With a hands-on teaching approach and seed-to-product goal, students learn to grow plants and use them to create herbal products for health and wellness.
Current and Upcoming Exhibitions

**The Tropical Paintings of Manabu Saito**
Through February 11
Experience Manabu Saito’s passion for botanical art in this exhibition of watercolors featuring tropical flora.

*The Tropical Paintings of Manabu Saito* is on loan from the Tucson Botanical Gardens.

**Golden Legacy: Original Art from 80 Years of Golden Books**
Through February 18
Explore whimsical children’s book illustrations highlighting animals and nature as sources of love, wonder and joy.

This exhibition was organized by the National Center for Children’s Illustrated Literature, Abilene, Texas.

**Tanya Marcuse: Laws of Nature**
Through March 31
Discover this exhibition of larger-than-life photographs investigating nature’s cycles of growth and decay.

**OPENING SOON**

**The Space Between Threads: Works by Tali Weinberg**
Opens March 3
Experience woven artworks drawing on scientific data to visualize vast changes taking place all around us.

**TAKE A CLASS WITH THE ARTIST!**

**Weaving Data Into Landscapes**
Sunday, May 5 or Monday, May 6, 10 a.m. – 3 p.m.
Learn basic loom weaving skills.

**Intersections Lectures: Conversations on Art & Science**

**$12, $10 member**

These talks by artists, scientists, community members and thought leaders explore a wide range of topics highlighting the junctions of art and science. Lectures are typically 45-60 minutes followed by discussion. Get full descriptions online.

- **Botanical Gardens Through Glass**
  - **ONLINE ONLY**
  - Wednesday, January 10, 6 p.m.

- **Golden Legacy: How Golden Books Changed Children’s Books Forever**
  - **ONSITE AND ONLINE**
  - Thursday, January 25, 6 p.m.

- **The Story of My Gardens**
  - **ONLINE ONLY**
  - Wednesday, February 14, 6 p.m.

- **Laws of Nature: Tanya Marcuse**
  - **ONSITE AND ONLINE**
  - Wednesday, March 13, 6 p.m.

- **Shark’s Ink: A Colorado Press**
  - **ONSITE AND ONLINE**
  - Wednesday, March 27, 6 p.m.
ARTIST INTERVIEW

HANDS ON WITH TALI WEINBERG

By Katie Foster, Curatorial Assistant

Tali Weinberg weaves at the intersection of art and science. In advance of her exhibition, *The Space Between Threads: Works by Tali Weinberg*, which opens March 3, we asked her to tell us about her unique artistic process combining data and textiles.

**Tell us a little bit about your art.**

I use textile processes like handweaving and coiling to transform data, petrochemical-derived materials (like medical tubing and fishing line), plant fibers and dyes into abstract landscapes that explore relationships to place in the context of climate crisis.

**What happens in between an idea and a finished artwork?**

My process isn’t linear. The work emerges from intersecting experiences: posing questions, playing with color and material, scrolling through datasets, coding data, spending time in a place to absorb the landscape, conversations with others, journaling and research on issues connected to climate crisis. The work in my studio is one piece of this wider process and includes dyeing yarns with plant and insect dyes, weaving and coiling.

**Is there a part of your process that’s invisible in the finished artwork?**

My personal experiences of a place and my in-depth research on issues connected to climate crisis aren’t necessarily fully legible to others. But they are hinted at in the finished work, inform the decisions I make in the studio and are often reflected in titles and materials lists.

**Does the meaning of an artwork ever change during the process of creating it?**

I start with an initial idea or question, but the fuller meaning always emerges through process. All my decisions—conscious and unconscious—about materials, colors, patterns and scale contribute to meaning. It’s not so much that intention changes, but rather that I learn how to articulate meaning from the process of working with my hands.
Textural Printing on Ceramic Tile
Sunday, February 18 & 25, 1-4 p.m.
$135, $115 member
Create ceramic tiles inspired by botanical imagery. Carve a linoleum block to be pressed into a clay tile, fire it and then add colored wax and inks.

Exploring Monotype Printmaking
Sunday, March 3, 9:30 a.m. – 3 p.m.
$215, $180 member
This workshop guides participants through a printmaking process called monotype that produces one-of-a-kind images.

Introduction to Linoleum Printmaking
Saturday, March 16, 9:30 a.m. – 3 p.m.
$135, $115 member
Discover linoleum printmaking, a fast, easy and satisfying introduction to the world of printmaking.

Printmaking with Recycled Materials
Friday, March 29, 9:30 a.m. – 3 p.m.
$135, $115 member
You are only limited by your imagination in this one-day nontraditional printmaking class inspired by a low-tech, accessible material: the humble, shelf-stable Tetra Pak® carton.
The Janice Ford Memorial Dye Garden

CELEBRATES 10 YEARS

By Cassie Doolittle, Assistant Manager of Horticulture at Chatfield Farms

This year marks the 10th anniversary of the Janice Ford Memorial Dye Garden at Chatfield Farms. Located among the gardens surrounding the historical Hildebrand Ranch house, the dye garden features 15 varieties of dye plants including zinnia, marigolds, hollyhocks, coreopsis, madder and indigo. The garden is a joint project between Denver Botanic Gardens and the Rocky Mountain Weavers Guild (RMWG).

Janice Ford was a dyer, seamstress and weaver who passed away in 2011. Her family helped establish the dye garden in her honor. Donna Brown, a friend of Janice’s and long-time RMWG member, was instrumental in the garden’s creation and has helped care for the garden from the start. For more than 30 years, Donna has studied and worked with natural
dyes. Through her guidance and with help from RMWG members the perfect spot for the garden was chosen, and the first planting installed on May 28, 2014.

RMWG provides financial support to the dye garden project through donations and fundraisers using products made from the plants grown in the garden. On any given Wednesday morning from May to October, you can see the guild’s members at Chatfield Farms dying textiles. Currently, RMWG has 33 members and hosts 15 outreach programs annually, providing programming for our Farm Camps, the Teen Volunteer Program, the Herb Guild and staff members of the Gardens. They are also available to guests who visit on SCFD Free Days and during Lavender Festival in July.

To celebrate the 10th anniversary of the Janice Ford Memorial Dye Garden, RMWG is planning an August celebration in which they will display and talk about their work and the garden and show products created over the last decade. This will include work from the exhibition *Indigo*, which ran from July through November 2023 in the Fryer – Newman Center at York Street.

We hope to see you at the Janice Ford Memorial Dye Garden this year!
TRIPS AND TRAVEL

Travel with the Gardens for guided excursions that will delight and inspire with botanical highlights, geographical wonders, culture, food and history. See the itineraries and register.

The North Remembered: An Adventure in Northern England and Scotland – Gardens, Castles and the Wilds
April 10-21
Join Denver Botanic Gardens’ CEO Brian Vogt on this exploration of the history and natural beauty of Northern England and Scotland. The trip begins in Manchester, spending the first night in beautiful Baslow. Then on to York, the most haunted place in Europe, or so they say. On the way, a stop at Chatsworth House and the Yorkshire Sculpture Park. Four nights in the magical Lake District of England – visiting gardens, walking in the hills and taking a cruise on Lake Windermere – is followed by three nights in Edinburgh. Visits in and around Scotland’s capital include Rosslyn Chapel, the Palace of Holyroodhouse and, of course, the Royal Botanic Garden.

Coastal Carolinas’ Savage Gardens and Botanical Hotspots
May 25-29
People have long been drawn to the unique and bizarre nature of carnivorous plants. The coastal Carolinas are the only place where Venus flytraps can be found in the wild. This is one of the country’s best regions to observe a diversity of carnivorous plants in their natural habitat. Join us in May along with a local botanist and horticulturists for an unforgettable trip to the coastal Carolinas to delve into the unique world of carnivorous plants and explore the stunningly beautiful ecology of coastal saltmarshes, ancient bald cypress swamps and culturally rich Charleston, South Carolina.

Magical Mexico – When Wine Meets Art
August 10-16
In the Mexican cities of Querétaro and San Miguel de Allende, wine and art converge in August – the time when the annual harvest in one of Mexico’s most exciting wine regions coincides with San Miguel de Allende’s Arts Festival. Join Denver Botanic Gardens and host Yvonne Garcia Bardwell for a sensory experience that combines the flavors of fine wine with the visual beauty of art in a region rich in history and culture.
BLOSSOMING COMMUNITY:
The Artistry Behind Fête des Fleurs’ Fabulous Florals

By Tia Hynes, Assistant Manager of Corporate Partnerships and Events

Centerpieces at an event held at a botanic garden have stiff competition. However, a dedicated group works together behind the scenes starting more than a year in advance to ensure the Gardens’ largest fundraiser can steal the spotlight for one night.

August 2023. Amongst buckets of elegant shimmer roses, vibrant purple irises and lush geranium foliage, they eagerly gather in Mitchell Hall – volunteers, committee members and members of the Garden Club of Denver – ready to weave their collective artistry into the very essence of the Fête des Fleurs: the floral arrangements.

Cora Wheeler, lead of the Fête Floral Committee and a member of the Garden Club, helms the group, some of whom have been creating arrangements since the inception of the Fête in 1983. She begins by explaining the fundamentals of how to create a more voluminous bloom. “Start by selecting a rose stem,” Cora says, demonstrating. “Turn the stem upside down and, as if you were starting a campfire, twist the stem back and forth between your hands to release the joints of the bloom.” With the combined efforts of the Fête committee, volunteers and the Garden Club members, 114 centerpieces are completed.

Fête co-chairs Lindsay Morton Gaiser and Mareill Kiernan collaborated with Cora and other Garden Club of Denver members on theme and color palette, while generous underwriting from Robert and Judi Newman expanded the possibilities. Over the course of the evening, more than 750 guests enjoy the centerpieces. At the end of the night guests are invited to take the arrangements home with them.

With the event’s resounding success, having raised more than $510,000 for the Gardens’ core outreach programs, the celebration becomes not just a floral spectacle but a powerful force nurturing the growth of community initiatives and the flourishing beauty of shared purpose. Even now, deep in winter, planning is already underway for this August’s Fête des Fleurs’ fabulous florals.
HANDS-ON ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION

By Katelin Gaeth, Manager of School and Camp Programs
For the school and camp programs team at Denver Botanic Gardens, the phrases “hands-on” and “environmental education” are paramount to everything that we do. When designing new curricula or revising a favorite program activity, we ask ourselves two things:

1. **How can we best engage students in their own learning journey through active exploration and inquiry?**

2. **How is our program helping students to see themselves as empowered environmental stewards and scientists?**

In our week-long day camp programs, children enjoy many opportunities to literally dig into their own education. For the past several summers, Garden Camp children have helped Horticulturist Elena Shtern plant veggies in the Home Harvest Garden beds at Mordecai Children’s Garden and learn firsthand about the work that goes into planning, caring for and harvesting vegetables. Many kiddos are so proud of their work in the garden that they bring their families back throughout the season to see how the plants they’ve tended are getting along. At Farm Camp, children help farm staff in the fields and parents have let us know that, to their surprise, their kids are now excited to eat new veggies that they got to harvest and taste test at Chatfield Farms.

During our **Sustainability 101** school programs at Chatfield Farms, students learn not only about healthy foods, but also about how regenerative agriculture sustains a healthy ecosystem that can provide for us and all the incredible life in our soil. In a custom program for a high school group, teens helped our staff complete a worm survey to study soil health. Students who were apprehensive of getting dirty at first were soon enthusiastically searching for worms. At the **Plains Conservation Center**, students take wagon rides out onto the prairie to make close observations of ecosystem interactions and see phenomena for the first time, like bald eagles nesting or pronghorn running. The school programs team has also used Budburst, a project of the Chicago Botanic Garden, to engage students in data collection to better understand how climate change is affecting plant phenology and pollinators. Through our programs we give students the chance to engage with and love nature and provide them with tools to feel empowered in the face of environmental issues.

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**FARM AND GARDEN CAMPS**

**Camp Registration 2024**

Denver Botanic Gardens’ camp team is excited to welcome families back for another year of fabulous, fun and educational spring and summer programming. Registration opens for members on January 19 and for the public on January 22. We welcome spring at Chatfield Farms with a week of Sensational Seasons camp during spring break and a week of En-compass-ing Nature camp at York Street. **Check our website for more information about 2024 camps.**
Is your family looking for a fun way to engage with nature even when it is cold outside? Games are a wonderful hands-on way to bring a little bit of the outdoors in and enjoy family fun together! The Helen Fowler Library has a variety of games and activity books that will make even the coldest of days feel like a summer breeze.

**Bug Bingo**
For young bug enthusiasts, this game provides tons of fun as they search for a variety of insects on bingo cards. It includes everything from a monarch butterfly to a glow worm. Maybe the prize for bingo could be gummy worms! Ages 6+.

**Herbaceous**
Gather herbs and containers and plant! That’s the objective of this fun card game that is reminiscent of Rummy. Things get tricky when certain herbs can only be planted in specific containers. Play solo, with up to four players or as teams. Ages 8+.

**Escape from the Lost Gardens**
Enjoy a garden-themed escape room in this puzzle-solving game. In each area of the Lost Gardens, solve the puzzles to escape. There’s a Roman Courtyard, Forgotten Greenhouse, a Hedge Maze and Climbing Rose. One to four players. Ages 12+.

**Mariposas**
Experienced gamers will enjoy following the migration of monarch butterflies in this complex game that involves multiple seasons and stages of the butterfly life. The game board and pieces were created with beautiful artwork. Ages 14+.

**Magic Gardens: Your Guide to Fun in Nature with Kid’s Favorite Toys & Games**
by Nancy Guildberg and Lisa George

What can you do with all those small pieces left over from games and toys? Use them to create miniature gardens! Whether you create a jungle for King Kong or a pickle ball court for Smurfs, you’ll have fun with the ideas in this activity book.

This season, embrace those days better spent inside. Come to the Gardens and explore all the wonderful games and activity books that the Helen Fowler Library has to offer.
TOURS

Tours led by staff and volunteers are available anytime by request for groups of 4 or more. Please contact tours@botanicgardens.org to schedule a tour on topics such as water-smart gardening, native plants, biophilia, houseplants, natural history collections, art exhibitions or a specific garden.

Love Potions from the Vine

Take our fabled Love Potions from the Vine tour this Valentine’s season. Roses aren’t the only plants associated with love and romance – the steamy jungle has no shortage of plants thought to have powers to inspire, enamor or seduce. Escape the winter chill in the Boettcher Memorial Tropical Conservatory with this tour of purported aphrodisiacs and learn about the secret romantic lives of tropical plants.

VOLUNTEER WITH THE GARDENS

Spring will be here before we know it, so now is a perfect time to consider joining us as an ongoing volunteer. Volunteers support horticulture, educational programming, the visitor experience and so much more. Get more information online about the Gardens’ volunteer program as well as specific details for both ongoing and special event volunteer opportunities at York Street, Chatfield Farms and Plains Conservation Center. Email us at vol@botanicgardens.org. New volunteer onboarding begins in February.
Donors of Distinction

Gifts Received August 1, 2023 – October 31, 2023

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Rebecca Adams
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