



INSIDE THE GARDENS

FALL 2021 A QUARTERLY MAGAZINE FOR
MEMBERS OF DENVER BOTANIC GARDENS

Every now and then, I talk with a friend or colleague who lives in an area I would describe as mono-seasonal. How's the weather? The same as it almost always is. Not so in Colorado. We can have all four seasons in a week! This is the place for big, bold shifts in conditions, which means of course that all living things, especially plants, must be tough.

When it comes to seasons, put me down as an enthusiastic fan of autumn. Cooler nights, the colors and sounds—I love it all. One of autumn's greatest gifts is the opportunity to showcase Chatfield Farms. The final vegetable crops are harvested, thousands of pumpkins dot the landscape and perfectly sane people pay for a ticket to get lost in a cornfield.

The team at Chatfield Farms works hard, really hard, to prepare for autumn. Everything is on a vast scale, and heavily curated areas are split and surrounded by carefully restored natural zones. Between Corn Maze and Pumpkin Festival, an eager crowd arrives in larger numbers every year to partake in the fun.

Each decade of Chatfield Farms' story – since the Gardens took over management of the land in 1973 – has brought new wonders and opportunities. This autumn marks the beginning of what will certainly be the most consequential chapter in its history. A team is working on a new Master Development Plan that will add substantial new opportunities for delight and enlightenment. Pairing regenerative agriculture and natural area restoration is an enticing mix for classes, events and experiences that feed every part of our souls.

To make it all happen, we will first focus on core infrastructure, that invisible element of every site that makes it viable. After that, dreams will come true. Still to be fully defined, you can expect a center for education, a new butterfly house, wildflower/pollinator meadows, a site for food and drink, new gathering spaces and a sacred walk amongst the riparian zone.

Chatfield Farms' future reminds us of the benefit of having seasons. They propel us to what's about to happen: A sense of excited anticipation.

Onward,
Brian Vogt



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INSIDE THE GARDENS

ISSUE 4, 2021

Denver Botanic Gardens

1007 York St., Denver, CO 80206

Pre-purchased tickets and advance member passes only.

Through November 17, 9 a.m. – 4 p.m.,
last entry 3 p.m.

November 18 – December 31, 9 a.m. – 3 p.m.,
last entry 2 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

[Gardening Help from Colorado Master Gardeners](#)

[Kathryn Kalmbach Herbarium](#)

[Sam Mitchel Herbarium of Fungi](#)

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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

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.



CHATFIELD FARMS

BEHIND THE SCENES

at Corn Maze & Pumpkin Festival

By Larry Vickerman, Director of Chatfield Farms

Fall is all about two things at Denver Botanic Gardens Chatfield Farms: corn and pumpkins. This vegetable and gourd pair are gloriously celebrated through our annual Corn Maze and Pumpkin Festival.

The first Corn Maze at Chatfield Farms was held in 2000 to help generate revenue, and 21 years later, it is one of our staple events, attracting as many as 50,000 people over its six-week run.

Preparation for the maze begins well before fall, as early as January, when staff formulate ideas for a design. Difficulty in navigating the maze is primary to the development of any design to give avid maze-navigators the most challenging route possible.

Planting is done in mid-May, but the corn is not planted in traditional rows like the usual corn field. Our corn is planted on a two-

way matrix to ensure a super-dense stand of corn. As the corn grows through the summer, the design is cut into it and pathways are maintained and trimmed until the maze opens. One essential aspect of growing the maze is to find the tallest variety of corn possible; we like to have corn-height around 12 feet tall to enhance the challenge of the maze.

Each year, the maze design is different to provide new twists and challenges for attendees. This year is an homage to honeybees that has everyone “buzzing” with excitement, searching for the queen bee in the maze.

If you think Corn Maze has been around for an impressive amount of time, Pumpkin Festival celebrates its 32nd anniversary this year! The festival has been around so long that we have attendees who brought their children and now their grandchildren to enjoy the activities.

The 10-acre pumpkin patch is a site to behold, with thousands of pumpkins for the perfect jack-o'-lantern and ornamental gourds that make stunning fall décor and are popular with kids.

Pumpkins are planted in early June. We grow our pumpkins differently than most growers. We pull up raised beds with a special machine that also lays a plastic mulch and the drip lines to irrigate the pumpkins in one pass. Volunteers plant the pumpkin seeds by poking through the mulch and depositing the seed in the soil below. The raised beds and mulch allow us to plant pumpkins densely to maximize production. We control weeds between the rows until the pumpkins vine out and smother weeds. The drip irrigation allows super-efficient use of water and allows us to inject fertilizer directly to the plants' roots. All this extra work pays off by producing a bumper crop of pumpkins.

There's still time to join us for [Corn Maze](#) (now through Oct. 31) and [Pumpkin Festival](#) (Oct. 8-10). Tickets must be purchased in advance.



VOLUNTEERS

We are gearing up for our delightful event season! The Gardens' events are successful thanks to a great deal of volunteer support. Over the next several months, the Gardens will host a wide variety of special events at both York Street and Chatfield Farms, and we need volunteers to come out and join us for one or more shifts. These events are a perfect way to get involved and meet others while helping us make the event fun and enjoyable for all visitors.

Find more information on our volunteer opportunities and to sign up as a volunteer on [our website](#), or contact Volunteer Services at vol@botanicgardens.org or 720-865-3609.

Corn Maze at Chatfield Farms

Fridays – Sundays through Oct. 31,
9 a.m. – 5 p.m., \$10-\$15

The 7-acre Corn Maze continues through October! This year features a new design, plus the mini maze and barrel train rides for kids. Enjoy funnel cakes, corndogs, kettle corn and freshly squeezed lemonade.

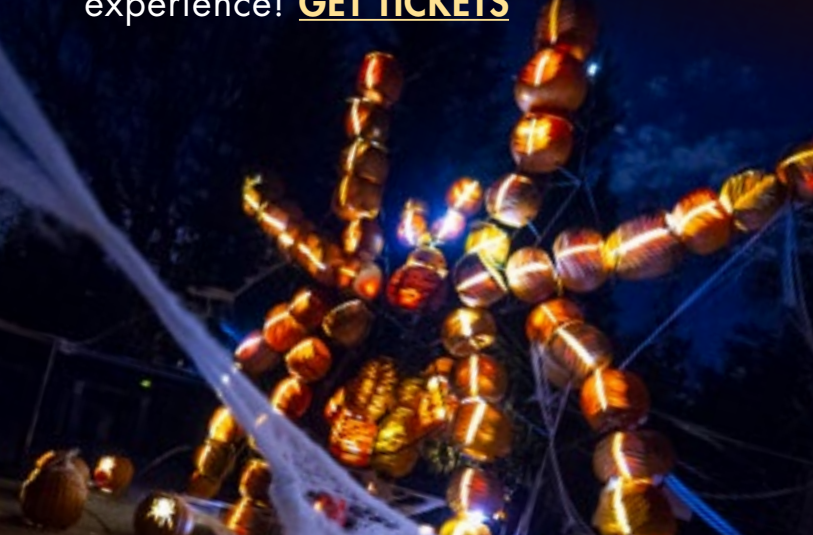
NEW! You've navigated the maze, now see if you can make it out of the Escape Room! The clock is ticking down—can you solve the puzzle and get out? Tickets to Corn Maze must be purchased in advance. On Oct. 8, 9 and 10, Pumpkin Festival ticket is required to access Corn Maze. [GET TICKETS](#)



Glow at the Gardens™

October 19-24, \$17-\$23

Larger-than-life pumpkin sculptures return this year as the Gardens dresses up for Halloween. Using all real pumpkins harvested from local farms, pumpkin artists at Glow at the Gardens™ push the boundaries of traditional pumpkin carving to create one-of-a-kind displays. Performing artists, festive vignettes and grimacing jack-o'-lanterns add to the macabre mood throughout the spooky, illuminated landscape. Tickets sell out quickly each year – get yours early so you don't miss this enchanted evening experience! [GET TICKETS](#)



Pumpkin Festival at Chatfield Farms

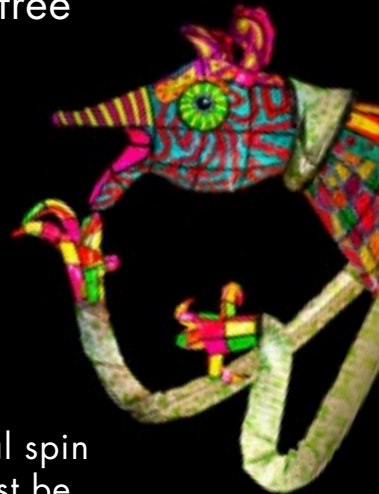
Friday – Sunday, October 8-10,
9 a.m. – 4 p.m., \$7-\$12

Pumpkins and gourds galore! Enjoy a day of fall activities for all with a 10-acre pumpkin patch, family & children's activities, carnival games, hayrides, local artisan & craft vendors, entertainment, live music, food trucks and food vendors, plus beer. It's three days of autumnal excitement. See website for live entertainment schedule. Tickets must be purchased in advance. [GET TICKETS](#) or [VOLUNTEER WITH US](#)

Noches Iluminadas

October 27 – November 7, see website,
\$13-\$15, ages 15 and under free

NEW! Elaborate Mexican alebrije costume-sculptures are showcased during the day, then, on evenings from November 1-5, they illuminate and come to life. Join us during this festive week for entertainment, vendors, a chance to meet the artists, interact with the alebrijes and take photos – and learn more about these dream-characters that put a fantastical spin on the zoology of Mexico. Tickets must be purchased in advance and are limited. See website for full details. [GET TICKETS](#)



Día de los Muertos

November 6, 9 a.m. – 4 p.m., Included with
General Admission, ages 15 and under free

Celebrate 10 years of Día de los Muertos at the Gardens! This colorful Mexican holiday is a celebration of life among family, friends and community. Come in costume, enjoy live entertainment and shop vendors with Day of the Dead-inspired items for purchase. (Sorry, no face painting this year as we work to keep everyone as safe as possible due to COVID-19.) General admission tickets must be purchased in advance. [GET TICKETS](#)



Blossoms of Light™

November 19 – January 8
(closed Nov. 25 & Dec. 25), \$16-\$21

Ranked in 2020 as one of the best holiday light displays in the world, Blossoms of Light™ illuminates the chilly winter nights at our York Street location in a dazzling display of light and color. This twinkling winter wonderland changes every year, so there's always something new to see for even long-time visitors. This year features a spectacular 200-foot-long, 17-foot-high tunnel of animated lights, right at the start of the path! Most nights sell out, so get your tickets early. [GET TICKETS](#)



SPECIAL EVENTS

Trail of Lights at Chatfield Farms

November 26 – January 2,
select evenings, 5-8:30 p.m., \$10-\$15

Follow a winding path glistening with lights that illuminate the Colorado countryside. Enjoy synchronized music in the children's play area, singing trees, two light tunnels and illuminated antique and model tractors on display. Warm up with hot beverages, nuts and kettle corn for purchase. It's the perfect wintry evening in the foothills! Tickets sell out fast; get yours early.

[GET TICKETS](#)



Sustainable Coffee Production in PUERTO RICO

By Sarada Krishnan, Ph.D., Director of Horticulture and Center for Global Initiatives

Coffee was introduced to Puerto Rico in 1755, and the industry grew from there, reaching peak production in the 19th century. However, this island U.S. territory has faced many challenges in coffee production and export due to hurricanes. The 2017 hurricanes Irma and Maria devastated the coffee farms there, causing significant losses (80-85 percent) to farmers. Many still struggle with access to reliable energy sources.

Denver Botanic Gardens has joined the **InSPIRE** (Innovative Site Preparation and Impact Reductions on the Environment) project, in partnership with the U.S. Department of Energy's National Renewable Energy Laboratory, Twende Solar and local nonprofit El Laboratorio to study the use of solar panels as shade for coffee in Puerto Rico. This project seeks to develop a model for co-locating systems of solar power for coffee cultivation and to advance climate resiliency and food and energy security in coffee-farming communities in Puerto Rico. Other partners in this project include Puerto Rico State Energy Program, University of Puerto Rico, Mayaguez

and Utuado, TechnoServe, Hyperion Systems, Colorado State University and The Solar Foundation, PR.

Through a voluntary application process, 10 farmers expressed interest in participating in the project. Based on research criteria, five finalists were selected. In May 2021, I had the opportunity to visit these five farms (thanks to flight sponsorship by United Airlines) from which one farm was selected to conduct the experiment.

The farm chosen has had challenges with consistent electricity since Hurricane Maria and was without electricity for 16 months following the hurricane—even now the power periodically goes off for one to three days at a time. Having an uninterrupted source of electricity will enable the farmer to operate his hydroponic hoop house, bringing in extra income. Solar panels were installed in September and data collection will take place over the next two years.

Look for periodic updates about this project as we make progress.

PLANT PORTRAIT

AGASTACHE (HYSSOP)

By Mike Bone, Associate Director of Horticulture & Curator of Steppe Collections

Hyssops (genus *Agastache*) are a wonderful group of plants for extending the flowering season and late-season interest in gardens. These mint family (*Lamiaceae*) plants add late-summer color and are a fantastic source of nectar for many types of pollinators. The nectar is highly prized by hummingbirds and you may even catch them fighting over your plant. A majority of hyssop species originated in the southwestern United States and Mexico; three species are native to Colorado while others are found as far north as Canada. There are even a couple of species from eastern Asia. The foliage is often fragrant, smelling like anything from black licorice to bubble gum, and the flowers range from pink and orange to yellow. Some species,

like *Agastache aurantiaca* and its cultivars and selections, only survive for a year or two, while species like *A. rupestris* live for several years.

As native species, they are wonderful to encounter on hikes or in natural places. Programs like **Plant Select**® have been introducing hybrids and cultivated varieties for many years. Their adaptability to Colorado's dry steppe climate makes them wonderful garden plants for the Front Range. Maintenance is easy: Late in winter or very early spring before they break dormancy cut back the plants to the ground.

Add some *Agastache* to your garden and enjoy fall flowers for beauty and birds.



HORTICULTURE INTERNSHIPS at Denver Botanic Gardens

By Kevin Philip Williams, Horticulture Specialist

I have a digital sticky note on my computer's desktop with the title "THE INTERNS ARE OUR FUTURE." It's a bit corny, but a good reminder that as one of the Horticulture Intern Program coordinators, it's my responsibility to provide our interns with an innovative and inspiring experience.

Each year, the Horticulture Department offers several internships to college-level students enrolled in horticulture or horticulture-related programs across the country. The internships are project-based, meaning that throughout their tenure with us, interns work with a horticulturist-mentor to complete, continue or lay the framework for meaningful work for our department, institution and the larger field of public horticulture. Interns also take on the vital role of working with almost every horticulturist, supporting our daily efforts and gaining exposure to the diversity of the Gardens.

The interns are only with us for 10 weeks, so we strive to provide a broad yet immersive program in a relatively short amount of time. Through classes and field trips, interns are exposed to the flora and

ecology of Colorado and the Rocky Mountains. Additionally, interns attend lectures, workshops and conferences that focus on the many facets of public horticulture and provide networking opportunities with the regional horticultural community. Since the knowledge and trends in the world of horticulture are always changing, we're constantly evolving our curriculum to ensure that every intern cohort gets a new experience.

Horticulture as a discipline – and public horticulture as a field, career and lifestyle – are immersive and all-consuming pursuits. Captivating the talented minds and incredible imaginations of our interns, in hopes that they become the next leaders of public gardens, is an incredible privilege.

Open horticulture internship positions for the following year are posted every December on the [Gardens' website](#).

Training the Next Generation of SCIENTISTS

By Jennifer Ackerfield, Ph.D., Head Curator of Natural History Collections, Associate Director of Biodiversity

One by one they began to arrive – eight interns in all. Our summer high school internship program was about to begin! There was Aysha (ever eager to learn and engage), Annabelle and Solana (quiet and contemplative), Cree (meticulous and hard-working), Duilio (studious and thorough), Emma (inquisitive and energetic), Kaliya (outgoing and engaging) and Salvador (future marine biologist). They came to the Research & Conservation Department from a variety of programs, backgrounds and communities in Denver. Each ready to learn and experience the life of a scientist.

When it all came together, we found ourselves mentoring and providing immersive research opportunities for a cohort of interns. They worked on a variety of projects – curating identifications for the [Denver EcoFlora Project](#), collecting plant specimens at [Axton Mountain Ranch](#), processing plant specimens and mushroom collections, identifying mushrooms and georeferencing collections.

In addition to providing hands-on learning experiences, we also provided mentorship lessons on topics such as the importance of networking, the rewarding and challenging aspects of our careers and each of our journeys to our current careers. We had in-depth discussions about biodiversity, the connection between biodiversity and genetics, and the importance of data standards for collections. Interns even performed DNA extractions from fungi as well as their own cheek cells. These discussions and activities helped to connect the work they were doing to broader

concepts such as the importance of documenting biodiversity through natural history collections.

Through the Denver EcoFlora Project, we also provided a series of lessons and activities titled "Graffiti Gardens – Imagining Anthropocene Ecologies" for Gardens' teen volunteers. This series was designed to build community for the EcoFlora project and educate on the impacts of human activity to local biodiversity. Each week, these teens were engaged in an activity and discussion pertaining to a different aspect of ecology in the Anthropocene (our current geological age), exploring the intertwined relationships of humans and the natural world in this new age.

It was a busy, but rewarding, summer for us in the Research & Conservation Department! Interns learned about the career path of a scientist, gained valuable work experience, built their own professional skills and made new friends. As one intern said, "I will never forget this once-in-a-lifetime experience...I can now see myself doing this in the future." We look forward to continuing this internship program next summer, mentoring and training the next generation of scientists.

To learn more about internships with the Research & Conservation Department, email R@botanicgardens.org.



Land Line: New Artist Residency Program

The Gardens launched a new artist-in-residence program to support artists and writers of diverse and/or underrepresented backgrounds who explore the natural world and the human connection to it. An inaugural cohort of 11 artists working across different platforms, media and styles will have access to staff expertise, collections and gardens to pursue a variety of projects. Learn of opportunities to hear from these artists in the coming months by signing up for the [Art & Exhibitions e-newsletter](#).

Representing states from California to New York, selected artists are:

Laura Ahola-Young (ID)
Lauren Camp (NM)
Paula Castillo (NM)
Joelle Cicak (CO)
Christopher Coleman (CO)
Kyle Cornish (NY)
Laura Fantini (NY)
Eloisa Guanlao (CA)
Nathan Hall (CO)
Sarojini Johnson (IN)
Laleh Mehran (CO)

This project is supported in part by the National Endowment for the Arts.

**NATIONAL
ENDOWMENT** for the **ARTS**
arts.gov

From the Fever Dreams: Alebrijes

October 2 – November 7

By Megan Farlow, Curatorial Coordinator

In partnership with the Mexican Cultural Center, the Gardens hosts the monumental sculpture *Xólotl: dios perro* by contemporary Mexican artist Óscar Becerra. Born in Mexico City, Becerra is a self-taught artist known for his *alebrijes* and works celebrating Día de los Muertos. He specializes in *cartonería*, a papier-mâché and cardboard technique with deep roots in Mexican folk art.

Standing nearly 15 feet tall, the sculpture is an *alebrije*—a fantastical hybrid creature featuring the tail, wings, horns and claws from a variety of animals. While many *alebrijes* are unrelated to specific narratives, *Xólotl: dios perro* depicts a character from Aztec mythology—*Xólotl* is a dog deity charged with guarding the sun as it passes through the underworld.

Alebrijes emerged from the imagination of Mexico City artist Pedro Linares (1906-1992). In the 1930s, while Linares was

sick with a high fever, he dreamed about fantastic creatures who shouted the word “alebrijes!” Once recovered, Linares began making the creatures from cardboard and papier-mâché. His work caught the attention of Mexican artists Diego Rivera and Frida Kahlo, who commissioned him to create more. *Alebrijes* are now a well-known form of Mexican folk art, beloved across Mexico and the United States.



Óscar Becerra, *Xólotl: dios perro* (dog deity), papier-mâché and cardboard, 2013.



Yoshitomo Saito, *millionyearseeds* (detail), bronze, 2011-2021.

REGISTER NOW

ARTIST TALK:

**Óscar Becerra and
Rubén Mica**

October 30, 1:30 p.m.,
\$10, \$7 member

Join artists Óscar Becerra and Rubén Mica as they discuss their creative projects including *Xólotl* and the *alebrijes* featured in *Noches Iluminadas*.

Of Sky and Ground: Yoshitomo Saito

Through November 28

[Yoshitomo Saito's cast bronze works](#) capture and celebrate the elegant lines and subtle details of nature, reinterpreting organic forms and encouraging contemplation.

Organized in collaboration with William Havu Gallery, Denver.



REGISTER NOW

**FILM SCREENING:
"Ana María Hernando:
Undomesticated"**

November 7, 2 p.m. – with artist Q/A
\$15, \$5 member

TOUR: *Fervor*

September 30; October 8, 21, 29;
November 12, 18; 9:15 a.m.
\$16, \$12 member,
\$10 student

Join a docent on a tour of the exhibition.

Fervor: Ana María Hernando

Through January 2, 2022

Ana María Hernando's love of plants, birds and the earth permeate the works in this exhibition. From embroidered birdsongs to mountain deities rendered in tulle, her works give shape to the exuberant spirit of nature through sound, color and texture.

Organized in collaboration with Robischon Gallery, Denver.

Seeing the Invisible

Through August 2022

Experience an exhibition of contemporary artworks existing only in augmented reality via a mobile phone app. Co-curated by Hadas Maor and Tal Michael Haring, **Seeing the Invisible** features virtual works by more than a dozen international artists throughout the Gardens.

The exhibition is organized by the Jerusalem Botanical Gardens and Outset Contemporary Art Fund and opens simultaneously at 12 botanical gardens across six countries. The project has been made possible in partnership with The Jerusalem Foundation.



Taiko Chandler, *Nightfall #5*, monoprint with stencils, 2019.

The Indelible Garden: Prints by Taiko Chandler

Dec. 11, 2021 – April 3, 2022

Memories of nature suffuse **Taiko Chandler's** artwork, finding form in the organic, layered shapes of her prints and installations. Chandler's undulating plant-like forms are not intended as literal representations of nature, but instead interpret its foundational influence on family and memory.

GUIDED TOURS AT YORK STREET

Exploring Exhibitions

Thursday and Friday mornings

Enjoy the current gallery exhibitions with a docent as your guide. Exhibitions change regularly.

Learn about current and upcoming art exhibitions
\$16, \$12 member (includes admission)

Seasonal Discoveries

October 3 and 16, 2 p.m.

No matter the time of year, botanical treasures await your discovery. Explore the October gardens with a guided stroll and see leaves changing as the plant world prepares for winter.

\$16, \$12 member (includes admission)

Tropical Trails

November 13 and 20, 2 p.m.

December 4 and 18, 2 p.m.

Denver may be blanketed by snow but the plants in the Boettcher Memorial Tropical Conservatory enjoy a warm climate year-round—that you can, too—during this docent-led tour that highlights the Gardens' tropical plants.

\$16, \$12 member (includes admission)

For more information or to register, visit the **tours web page**.

PRIVATE TOURS AT YORK STREET OR CHATFIELD FARMS (Virtual options available too!)

Looking for a special experience for your group of 8 or more? Schedule a private guided tour at York Street or at Chatfield Farms or an online tour of the Boettcher Memorial Tropical Conservatory at least three weeks in advance.

Docent-led: \$14, \$6 student (includes admission)

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

Online tours: Prices vary

For more information, contact **tours@botanicgardens.org**.

Freyer – Newman Center exhibitions are presented by



Wealth Management

gardens NAVIGATOR

Gaining New Perspectives Through VIRTUAL TOURS

By Cindy Newlander, Associate Director of Horticulture

Have you ever wondered where you can find a certain plant in the Gardens or wanted to see a garden inventory? The **Gardens Navigator** has been a staple of the Gardens' means of communicating our living collections with the public, researchers and staff for nearly a decade. Since its implementation in 2012, it has averaged about 200,000 page views a year. Gardens Navigator offers a portal into a depth of inventory information for thousands of plants, from those in the tropical collections to the many growing in the outdoor gardens at York Street, Chatfield Farms and Mount Goliath. Photos and phenology data join descriptive data and map locations to guide visitors to our botanical gems.

Gardens Navigator also provides curated tours of select facets of the Gardens. To take a self-guided tour, click on **Take a Virtual Expedition** and select from a list that includes

bloom tours of the outdoor gardens or Boettcher Memorial Tropical Conservatory, Plant Select's® offerings, the bonsai collection or our Champion Trees. Recently two tours that highlight the plants collected and described in Colorado during the Stephen H. Long expedition of 1820 were added. These tours introduce visitors to native species throughout the Gardens while also providing anecdotal information gleaned from the expedition's field notes as found in "Retracing Major Stephen H. Long's 1820 Expedition: The Itinerary and Botany" (Goodman & Lawson, 1995). These two tours are also available in Spanish.

Next time you visit, take a tour through Gardens Navigator, and see our gardens and collections from a new perspective.



EDUCATION

RECENT LESSONS, Upcoming Experiences

Many aspects of educational programming were interrupted in 2020 and, as a result, audience interest and programs at the Gardens have changed and adapted throughout the course of the pandemic.

Some of these changes had been incubating for years, with cross-team development making new options possible. Through funding from the Sydney Frank Foundation, the **Helen Fowler Library** and children's education teams put together a collection of themed Adventure Packs. Members can check-out these fun family backpacks and use them to explore at home or at the Gardens. Each includes books and tools to help a budding explorer make and record discoveries. Packs are available in both English and Spanish.

Other changes have come with the gradual opening of the **Freyer – Newman Center**. The Edward P. Connors Rare Books Reading Room in the library has display cabinets, an environmentally controlled space and secure environment that enables programs to share the collection with visitors and teach about the history of botany, horticulture, botanical illustration and more. New classrooms provide space for classes, trainings and other

gatherings while the Sturm Family Auditorium shows free films to members and visitors.

Adaptation of class formats such as online and virtual continue to be offered alongside traditional in-person classes. Make-and-take cooking classes that supply key ingredients and a recorded lesson have let participants cook on their own schedule. Hybrids of pre-recorded and live material add flexibility in learning. Hands-on botany and nature kits mailed to families extend the outdoor exploration to yards and neighborhoods.

Of course, being a botanic garden, outside learning continues to be popular for all, from early childhood Seedling programs to adults in yoga classes to school groups arriving at the gate. Programs at the **Plains Conservation Center** accelerated in growth, leading to a refined program schedule with more offerings and choices for members.

And what about the next year? Drawing on the library's collection of fascinating cookbooks, a cookbook club could explore farm-to-table, Indigenous traditions, vegan soul food and Nordic baking. Transplants new to Denver's climate appreciate opportunities to understand gardening here; online efforts will share that knowledge across a wider region.

While there may be interruptions or inconveniences yet to come, the Gardens' team isn't running out of ideas and ways to succeed at them.

AUTUMN CONFETTI

By Melissa Gula, Family and Children's Program Manager

Fall is a great time to get out as a family and explore nature together, as it provides a rich backdrop of colorful leaves to admire. The green pigment we typically see in the leaves of a tree is called chlorophyll. Along with chlorophyll, leaves also include other hidden pigments such as orange (carotene), red (anthocyanin) and yellow (xanthophyll). As the seasons change and the days get shorter and cooler, the chlorophyll begins to break down, revealing the other hidden pigments. Use the beautiful colors of autumn to create eco-friendly confetti to use for your favorite autumn crafts.

MATERIALS:

- Freshly fallen leaves of different colors
- Hole punch (standard circle punch or punches with different shapes)
- An envelope or old plastic container to store your confetti
- Blank paper and glue (optional)

DIRECTIONS:

1

Gather a variety of different colored autumn leaves.

2

Use a hole punch to create small confetti pieces. Place the confetti pieces in an envelope or old plastic container for safe keeping.

3

Use your confetti in your favorite arts and crafts projects.

PROJECT IDEAS AND EXTENSIONS:

Use your confetti to make mosaic works of art. Separate your confetti into different colors and then glue the different colored confetti on a plain piece of paper to create patterns and pictures. Need a more diverse color palette? Try adding to your collection of natural confetti colors by using your hole punch on paper scraps or junk mail you plan to recycle.

LOOKING FOR A NEW WAY TO GIVE?

Use your IRA to help the Gardens grow!

Although taking required minimum distributions into income was waived for 2020 as a result of the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act, the charitably minded IRA owner can still make a qualified charitable distribution (QCD) from an IRA. QCDs provide additional benefits since the distribution is not included in adjustable gross income (AGI). As a result:

- QCDs avoid possible income tax increases on Social Security benefits
- QCDs may avoid Medicare insurance premium increases
- QCDs may avoid potential limitations on charitable deductions since AGI is not increased
- Gifts from IRAs for 2021 should be initiated by December 1 to insure that they are completed before year end.
- QCDs may avoid other deduction limitations created by a higher AGI

Learn about requirements and how to make a QCD from your IRA. Contact Director of Development Johanna Kelly at 720-865-3517.



Donors of Distinction

Gifts Received 05/01/2021–07/31/2021

Citizens of the Scientific & Cultural Facilities District
8z Real Estate
Weldon Abbott
Dr. Barbara A. Allen
American Online Giving Foundation
Eliza Buyers and David Pinkert Foundation
John Angelo and Lucy Strong Anonymous
Robert Applegate and Michelle Moorman Applegate
Applewood Seed Company
Dr. V. Karen Augustitus and Mr. George L. Sfirri, Jr.
Eugene H. Baber II and Gale Johnson
Ball Corporation
Louis P. Bansbach IV
Mrs. Laura Barton and Mr. William Matthews
Steve and Kathy Beabout
Luke and Susan Beatty
Don and Cara Bechter
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