Coming Fall 2018: Garden Walks and Tips

Take a short break in The Gardens at noon. Walk through The Gardens with a master gardener and join a gardening tips conversation – or just come and listen. Potential topics include: fall gardening, prepping roses for winter, putting your garden to bed, garden planning. Watch our website ksu.edu/gardens for more details!

Join Purple Thumbs to Volunteer!

The Purple Thumbs are volunteers who help keep the Gardens growing and looking great. In 2018 we helped with the spring cleanup, annual plantings, rose pruning and planting, digging and dividing daylilies and iris, deadheading and weeding. It is always a good time when the Purple Thumbs pull on their gardening gloves. You don’t even need a green thumb!

Learn and have fun as you garden. Director Scott McElwain is always willing to share his knowledge and expertise with volunteers. There are opportunities to work with local master gardeners in the rose and butterfly gardens, too. Contact Laura Hall at gardens.laura.hall@gmail.com for more information.

2018 Poinsettia Sale Dates Set

Kansas State horticulture students raise several varieties of poinsettias and amaryllis for sale at the Gardens during the holiday season. Dates for this year are Friday, November 16 and Wednesday, November 28 from noon to 5:30 p.m. in the Visitor Center.

Welcome to the New Members of The Quinlan Society

The Quinlan Society is comprised of donors with lifetime giving of $10,000 or more. Several new members are being welcomed this year: Lee Borck and Jackie Hartman Borck, Christy Linders, John and Betsy Young, Dr. Nancy Vogel, PhD, Leland and Janice Reitz, Marilyn and Nelson Galle and David Blanchard. Thanks to all Quinlan Society members who so generously support The Gardens.
From the Director of The Gardens

We are making progress in “lighting up The Gardens” and I am pleased to announce that the installation of the Conservatory Garden main walkway lights is complete. It is a wonderful improvement, made possible through the City/University Projects Fund, with installation by Torgeson Electric (pictured above). Notice the detail on the light fixture (below left)? It has the same shape as our wall and iron-gate columns.

Landscape lighting is an ongoing project that will be conducted by students taking K-State’s Landscape Construction class. This past spring, before our plants fully emerged, students worked with Tim McKay (Unique Lighting) to install landscape lights in the Butterfly Garden and throughout the north end of the Cottage Garden. The students that helped were amazed at the transformation in our night-time displays. This enhancement was made possible by the Friends of The Gardens matching a Deihl Community Grant award from the Greater Manhattan Community Foundation.

Next spring, a new class will continue the installation of lights in the north Cottage Garden highlighting the beautiful architecture of The Gardens Quinlan Visitor Center. This is a great example of one of the many benefits that the Gardens provide…an ongoing project where our students get practical hands-on experience and can take pride in what they helped create.

Be sure to take an evening stroll in The Gardens sometime. We hope you are as amazed at the transformation as our students were.

As always, thank you for your interest in and continued support of The Gardens.
Scott McElwain
Director of The Gardens
2018 Garden Party: Dirt(y) Dancing

The 14th annual Garden Party was held in the K-State Gardens on June 1. The Gardens were in full bloom and looked beautiful. The 125 people who braved the heat and attended were entertained with good food catered by Sudexo; good music provided by Complete music, and a silent auction. J & C Imaging was on hand to photograph the partygoers.

Auction items were donated by individuals and businesses throughout Manhattan. The auction offered a wide variety including a breakfast for dinner, an “in home” wine tasting, a Ralph Fontenot watercolor of Anderson Hall, several Stoneworx items featuring K-State images, gift cards to restaurants and Blueville Nursery, planters overflowing with beautiful flowers, and a number of home and garden items. In addition, tickets were sold for the chance to win a K-State pillow. The auction and raffle earned about $4,200. Thank you to all those who contributed by donating and bidding.

This event provided Gardens supporters a chance to spend some time in the Gardens, and meet the interns who help maintain this lovely space. The income from the 2018 Party will be about $17,000. The proceeds from the evening will be used to fund the internship program.

From the President of The Friends

As I start my tenure as president of the Friends of the Gardens Board, my thoughts drift to what meaning The Gardens have for me. The excitement of watching the gardens grow from the first hint of spring green to a lush summer paradise is exhilarating. Garden interns and volunteers eagerly creating and maintaining garden beds is inspiring. Students studying on garden benches take me back to college days. Children on field trips shouting out their excitement about the flowers, butterflies and the bonanza of colors and smells brings a smile.

Thanks to Director Scott McElwain who manages all the behind the scenes activity and works tirelessly day and night to improve and grow the Gardens. He shares his wealth of information with community members, volunteers and students who visit.

All of you who contribute to The Gardens are an amazing family of tireless people and I thank you. Those who are work in the soil or the office, offer guided tours, and lead or attend fundraising activities, are rewarded with a Garden to behold. You are an integral part of the Gardens. Come and enjoy the paradise that you have helped to create.

Barbara Pearson
2018-2019 Friends Board President

April Daylily Sale

Many daylily varieties in the Gardens’ collection were divided and relocated. A sale at K-State Open House in April generated a little over $2,000 which will be used for future expansion of the daylily collection.
Many thanks to volunteer master gardeners Linda Letterman, Lois Morrison, and Laura Hall who researched and selected 32 new varieties of roses for the formal Rose Garden. A crew of volunteers helped Director Scott McElwain plant them in May 2018. The new roses are a beautiful addition and greatly enhance the collection.
The first annual Daylily Daze on July 7th was a dazzling success! The daylilies cooperated with a rainbow of colors. Over 100 people joined the Flint Hills Daylily Society to view the daylily collection and vote for their favorite bloom. A raffle held every 1/2 hour for a free daylily generated lots of excitement. There were butterfly tattoos for both the kids and the young at heart. Master gardeners were available to answer questions and show off the newly renovated Rose Garden. Docents were on hand to answer questions about the Gardens and give mini tours. Keep your eyes open for the 2nd annual Daylily Daze next summer.

Annual Flint Hills Iris Society Sale

The Flint Hills Iris Society’s annual iris sale was held July 28th this year. Despite the cold spring and hot, dry summer, we had a successful event! About 60% of our collection of more than 370 different irises were available at the sale with plenty of beautiful varieties to choose from - including many award winners. Along with lots of locals, we had buyers from Lenexa, McPherson, Council Grove, Junction City, Wamego and Topeka, and from as far away as Nebraska and Missouri. We were lucky to have a beautiful cool morning and sold out before 11:00 am. The net sales of around $4500.00 will be donated back to the Kansas State University Gardens for future projects in the iris collection.

The Flint Hills Iris Society was founded by Delores (De) McGlashon in 1998. It consists of about 20 volunteers that spend lots of hours helping to maintain the iris collection at the Gardens and are responsible for planting new varieties and managing the sale each year. We have also established an iris endowment to insure the collection will continue.
The Kansas State University Gardens are designed as a lifelong learning laboratory to encourage environmental involvement with the university community and the public. An ever-changing display of plants provides an opportunity for education, research and conservation.

The Kansas State University Gardens are located on the campus of Kansas State University at 1500 Denison Avenue, north of Claflin Road. Quinlan Visitor’s Center is part of the historic Glenn H. Beck Dairy Barn.

www.k-state.edu/gardens

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