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 Claffin Road. Quinlan Visitor Center is part of the historic Glenn H. Beck Dairy Barn.

www.ksu.edu/gardens

Tuesday Talks in the Gardens

The weather was perfect for the first series of Tuesday Talks in the Gardens. Attendees were able to gather in the Gardens, take a respite from their day and enjoy a variety of interesting topics presented by generous individuals who took time out of their busy days to share knowledge and support the Gardens. Master Gardener and Friend Barbara Green collected numerous specimens representing the Monarch butterfly lifecycle (photo at upper left). Participants were treated to approximately 30 days of observations in a 30 minute presentation of the Monarch of the Butterflies. Lannie Zweimiller, avid photographer and Director of Lafene Health Center, simplified macro photography in Garden Shots (photo at lower left). Nancy Moore, from Blueville Nursery displayed locally grown squash varieties and discussed selecting, storing and preparing them in her presentation of Eating Your Garden. The Director Speaks with Scott McElwain took us through the past, present and future of the Gardens.

Contact Tuesday Talks at kstate.gardenfriends@gmail.com for a complete listing and description of upcoming talks in 2012. Topics will include Rain Gardens, Your Back When You’re Back in the Garden, Roses, and Honey Bees. Take time to visit the Gardens, it’s good for your health!

Check out the Gardens Facebook for a complete series of photos showing a Monarch caterpillar pupating (molting or shedding its skin) and an adult eclosing (emerging).

KSU Gardens Fundraising News

The fundraising committee has three more amazing luncheon programs set for the 2011-2012 season. First, we will enjoy a fabulous lunch buffet at Colbert Hills followed by a presentation by Ralph Diaz of Gaia Salon and Spa, and Rob Dudley of Gatherings on the Prairie called “Re-think, Re-design, Re-invent for the Holidays.” They will share timely ideas for holiday decorating that transition through the season.

Next, we will feature country music artist and original member of the Dixie Chicks, Robin Macy on March 28, 2012. Robin is steward of the Bartlett Arboretum in Belle Plaine, Kansas, and she has an amazing life story to share along with a performance.

Finally, I am excited to announce that Deb Spencer of Water’s Edge, an amazing water gardening retail store in Lawrence, Kansas, will present water gardening basics at our third luncheon for the year. The luncheon will be at my house where participants can see firsthand how Water’s Edge has helped us create and maintain several small and large water features and ponds.

Specific details about each event will be included in invitations, and each event will leave attendees yearning to travel to Gatherings on the Prairie in Junction City, the Bartlett Arboretum in Belle Plaine, and Water’s Edge in Lawrence.

In addition, the committee has been busy planning the annual Poinsettia Sale at the KSU Gardens on November 18 and December 2 from 11-5:30 and December 7 from 11-3.

—Lori Levin, Fundraising Chair
A Board member’s personal story

In the late 1980s I was serving as the Riley County Extension Director and had horticulture education as one of my responsibilities. I wrote a weekly column and had a weekly radio show that focused on all things horticultural. Paul Jennings, late Head of the Department of Horticulture, approached me to organize a support group for the KSU Gardens, which was just getting off the ground. I remembered the impact the original KSU Gardens had on me as a student at KSU. It was a beautiful place to go and enjoy the joy of a beautifully landscaped garden. That original garden was replaced with a new campus building leaving a real void for the campus and the community. The opportunity to support and assist in the development of the new KSU Gardens was an opportunity I couldn’t pass up.

A few years ago, I was asked to get involved once more in Friends of the KSU Gardens. The Gardens had developed into a beautiful and valued resource for the campus and Manhattan. There is a wonderful plan for growth of the Gardens that can be viewed in the Garden Visitors Center, and I am very interested in doing all I can to support the continued development as a Friend of the KSU Gardens.

—Jim Lindquist

A Taste of the Garden: Moroccan-Style Spaghetti Squash

1 spaghetti squash, 3/4 to 4 lbs.
1/2 stick (4 T) unsalted butter
2 garlic cloves, minced
1 ground cumin
1/2 ground coriander
1/8 cayenne
3/4 salt
2 T chopped fresh cilantro or flat-leaf parsley

Cut squash in half lengthwise, scooping out seeds and roast halves face-down in an oiled baking pan for about 40 minutes in a 375 degree oven. Meanwhile, melt the butter in a small saucepan over medium heat. Add garlic and cook, stirring until it is barely golden. Stir in spices and salt and remove from heat.

Working over a bowl, scrape squash flesh with a fork, loosening and separating strands as you remove the skin. Toss with spiced butter and cilantro. Serve over drained and rinsed canned chickpeas, couscous or sautéed greens. Enjoy!

From the President of the Friends

Hello, Friends!
Thank you! Thank you! Thank you for being a Friend of the KSU Gardens! Our Friends membership continues to grow and we sincerely appreciate your continued support as it is vital to the operation and growth of the KSU Gardens.

If you are reading this newsletter and are not yet a Friends member, you are invited to become a Friend today! You can become a Friends member online on the Kansas State University Gardens website at www.k-state.edu/gardens or you can email the Kansas State University Friends of the Gardens at kstate.gardenfriends@gmail.com and ask for Friends membership information.

Have you seen our new fountain in the K-State Gardens? It’s beautiful! We are so excited about the new addition to the North Gardens. Pictures are posted on Facebook at Kansas State University Gardens. Check it out. You can also go to the K-State Gardens website to see a “Live Construction Watch”. The fountain project is in phase two of the four-phase Gardens Expansion Project. You can view the Master Plan for the project on the Gardens website.

Mark your calendars! Make plans to attend the dedication of the fountain at the KSU Open House on April 21. Watch for more details as we will keep you informed of events and activities happening with the Gardens.

—Cheryl Yank, President
Friends of the KSU Gardens

UPCOMING GARDENS EVENTS

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Pages 21, 22, 12/11/12. Please remember the date because we would like for you to join us as we celebrate the addition of this wonderful new feature to the KSU Gardens.

Garden Gala Chairs: Polly Stoecklein, Sharon Snyder
Amanda Rider, Bridget Baker
Tim Lindemuth, Jim Lindquist
Bridget Baker, Joseph Hong
Amanda Rider

Bridget Baker
Joseph Hong
Amanda Rider

2011-2012 Board of Directors:
Cheryl Vunk, President
Doloris Berland
Marcia Cooper
Elizabeth English
Nancy Farrar
Janice Flanary
Marilyn Galle
Karen Hibbard
Lori Levin
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Jim Lindquist
Jo Lyle
Marti Meek
Mitzi Richards
Jim Roush
Ann Scott
Sharon Snyder
Polly Stockeclin
Steve Thien
Judy Unruth
Nathan Tinsley, KSU Student Member
Ruth Ann Wefald, Honorary Member

Garden Gala Chairs:
Eileen Hinkin
Liz Ramsey

K-State Gardens? It’s beautiful! We are so glad you came to see the poinsettia sale or the Rain Gardens, Lee Skabelund Show. Thanksgiving! And we sincerely appreciate your continued support as it is vital to the operation and growth of the K-State Gardens.

If you have questions. We will strive to keep you informed of events and activities happening with the Gardens.

—Cheryl Yank, President
Friends of the KSU Gardens