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.

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.

Some Never-Before-Seen Poinsettias To Be Offered at K-State Sale

By Tim Lindemuth

Nearly 50 different varieties of holiday poinsettias—including some never-before-seen types—will be displayed and offered to the public as a fundraiser for the K-State Gardens.

The flowering plants will be on sale at the gardens’ Visitor Center, 1500 Denison Ave., from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 2, and 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 5. The cost is $10 for a 6.5-inch plant or six for $50, while 10-inch centerpieces are $15 each.

“Several cultivars have not yet been named or released by the breeding companies,” said Kim Williams, K-State professor of horticulture whose students in the Greenhouse Operations Management class grew the poinsettias as a hands-on lab project and to generate information for industry.

“Some plants aren’t even available in supermarkets. However, many of the same cultivars that are produced by regional growers are available in our selection,” she said.

Williams described the flowers, which are often used in holiday decorating, as everything from the favorite red, to peach, white, pink, speckled and biclored.

Three international poinsettia breeding companies provided the cultivar trials to the students to grow in the teaching space of the Throckmorton Plant Sciences Center greenhouses at K-State.

Related to the sale, Williams will deliver the public presentation, “Culture and Care of the Christmas Flower,” at 10 a.m. Dec. 5 in 2414 Throckmorton Hall. Williams offers these poinsettia pointers to help make the plants last through the holidays and the winter:

• “The biggest mistake is to overwater, which causes problems with root rot,” she said.
• Don’t let plants sit in water, such as a plastic sleeve or pot that doesn’t drain.
• Allow the plants to dry down evenly between waterings, but not so much that the leaves droop.
• Avoid displaying the plants in cold or drafty areas of the home, like right next to cold windows.

From the Gala Silent Auction Committee

By Lori Levin

Together with co-chair Stephanie Grynkiewicz, we have secured a few items for the 2010 Gala Silent Auction. Because of the popularity of the Gourmet Dinner for Six in the Levin garden hosted by Ralph Diaz and me, we will offer another dinner package this year. The theme will be a Sumptuous Southern Six Course Dinner for Six, featuring gourmet variations on southern specialties like fried green tomato napoleons with shrimp and crab.

Brent Bayer of U.S. Stone Industries has generously agreed to donate a custom limestone piece. The committee is still deciding what to commission, but a fountain stone has been suggested. If you have ideas, we would love to hear them—email Lori at levin@ksu.edu.
Message from the Director

By having collections of a particular plant type such as Echinacea, students and visitors can compare the different colors and heights of that plant growing side by side. Paul’s design is available for viewing in the KSU Gardens Visitor Center. The clearing out and transplanting process is done and about two-thirds of the planting is completed. With his December Graduation and frozen soil conditions approaching, Paul has been working very hard to get all the plants in the ground. We are very proud of Paul and what he has been able to accomplish while working on the Adaptive/Native Plant Garden project.

We hope you enjoy what you see while visiting the KSU Gardens during this next growing season especially the finished product of our student projects. The student projects have been made available through the Friends of KSU Gardens GALA. Thank you for supporting these valuable educational experiences.

—Scott McElwain, Director, KSU Gardens

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OUR FRIENDS HELP US GROW!
The KSU Gardens is a wonderful treasure on the Kansas State University campus, enjoyed by people of Kansas. Annually, thousands of visitors experience the beauty and serenity the Gardens provide, while students across the campus benefit from a learning environment second to none. All those who are impacted by our gardens are grateful to those who “call our friends”. Members of Friends of KSU Gardens generously assist with garden development, educational material, and ongoing maintenance of this historic Kansas State University project. As the “Friends” membership continues to grow, it is reflected in the continued improvement and development of Garden programs.

The Friends of the Gardens Board of Directors has set some exciting goals for next year, including the continued growth of our “Friends” membership. Please know how much your continued membership renewal sustains the Gardens, and invite your friends to consider membership. Together, our shared passion for the KSU Gardens impacts our quality of life and excellent education for future horticulture leaders.

Annual Memberships for 2009-2010 Friends of KSU Gardens are now due. Please join me in supporting this wonderful project by renewing your membership or becoming a new Friend of the Gardens. Friends giving levels are posted on the renewal form of this newsletter. If you have recently renewed your membership, I would like to thank you for your continued support.

—Jim Lindquist, Friends President

GROW WITH THE GARDENS

Become a Friend and/or Volunteer at the KSU Gardens!

Volunteers provide essential assistance that is greatly appreciated. If you are interested in volunteering in any of the following capacities, please return this form indicating your interests in serving.

Name ____________________________
Address ____________________________
City, State, Zip ____________________________
Phone ____________________________ E-mail ____________________________
Membership:
I would like to support the KSU Gardens at the following level:
☐ Patron ($25 to $49)
☐ Contributor ($50 to $99)
☐ Supporter ($100 to $249)
☐ Benefactor ($250 to $499)
☐ Builders Circle ($500 to $999)
☐ Distinguished Friend ($1,000 and up)
☐ Gift membership provided by:

Volunteer:
I would like to assist the KSU Gardens in the following ways:
☐ Gardening
☐ Tour Guide
☐ Information Center Volunteer
☐ Gift Shop Volunteer
☐ Educational Programs
☐ Special Events
☐ Publication Production
☐ Other:

Please return form to:
Friends of the KSU Gardens
Department of Horticulture, Forestry and Recreation Resources
2021 Throckmorton Hall
Manhattan, KS 66506-5506

FriendsoftheKSUGardensD25860

Online membership registration now available: www.ksu.edu/gardens

Taste of Tuscany

Scenes from the 2009 Gardens Gala: Taste of Tuscany

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