Luncheon Series Continues June 27

Our summer Luncheon Series will be Thursday, June 27th (rain date: June 28th) at Prairie Wind Gardens, the home of Irene Johnson. Daffodils are a major portion of Irene’s gardens. Look for details on our website, www.ksu.edu/gardens or www.facebook.com/kstate.gardens.

Cost is $30 per person. This includes lunch, a beverage and any educational materials. Net proceeds benefit the KSU Gardens. Make reservations with Anne Springer by email (spr@ksu.edu) or by phone (785-532-1442) from 8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday. Send payment to Friends of the KSU Gardens, c/o Anne Springer, 2021 Throckmorton Hall, Manhattan, KS 66506.

Foraging Expedition and Luncheon

On April 24th, the morning after it snowed three inches, 25 brave Friends were treated to lovely scones, muffins, fruit and coffee at the farm of Ann Carter. There, Tama Matsumoto Wong, co-author of “Foraged Flavor”, welcomed our group and led us on an expedition to harvest some very common weeds. Who knew that henbit and dock were a coveted delicacy of New York chefs? With Tama’s book in hand, we were guided through Ann’s farm and learned to appreciate and utilize the bounty of weeds we found.

Towing our weeds, we then proceeded to join other friends at the HyVee Club Room for a cooking demonstration by our three celebrity chefs and Tama. Our menu included cream of morsel soup with herbed pesto by Scott Benjamin of 4 Olives; fried squash blossoms with arugula by Noah Reagan of Della Voce; tenderloin with polenta, fresh chimichurri and fried cattails by Tommy Sol of the Holiday Inn at the Campus, and chicken dipped in special herbs by Tama. Focaccia and a raspberry, chocolate and mascarpone cheese in phyllo topped off our wonderful lunch. The presentation was stunning and the food superb. We want to thank Grace Hwang for introducing us to Tama and for helping arrange so many exciting events. The day ended with a reception at Tama at the Morning Star Bed & Breakfast, sponsored by the Hale Library.

Are you ready to kick up your heels and party?!!

9th Annual KSU Gardens Gala is June 7

Mark your calendars for June 7, 2013 and plan on attending the 9th Annual KSU Garden Gala! With a theme of “Music of the Night”, the Friends of the Kansas State University invite you to enjoy an evening of great food, great fun, and fabulous entertainment!!

The Garden Gala committee has planned a wonderful evening for you! After having your car valet parked by the K-State Equestrian team and being greeted by the Gala committee, enjoy a glass of champagne while strolling through the magnificent KSU Gardens. During the early part of the evening, please stop by and have a complimentary keepsake created by our photographer for you and your friends. As the night progresses, you will be invited to enjoy cocktails, heavy hors d’oeuvres and scrumptious desserts while visiting with friends.

Kansas City’s Dueling Piano Guys will be this year’s entertainment!!! Be ready to dance and sing along with these guys! Make sure you wear comfortable shoes, or better yet, kick them off! It promises to be a FUN night!!

A silent auction with many “must have” items will be held throughout the evening. Please make sure you place your bids, as a portion of the proceeds will go to help KSU hire student interns. What a wonderful way to support our students!

Hope to see you at the Gala!!

Tickets: call 785-532-7093 or buy online at www.found.ksu.edu/rsvp/gardens.
Would you like to sponsor a student intern this year?

Exciting things are happening in the KSU Gardens right now. There are opportunities for student interns to design and install new gardens as an assigned project. These types of projects will further the development of the KSU Gardens while providing a valuable experience for the students. It takes $4,000 to hire one student intern for the summer. If you would like to support the KSU Gardens and invest in a student’s future, please contact us today.

The 2012 student crew, standing, left to right: Bob Odle, Joe Hong, Corwin Draper, George Dille; seated, Kennedy Keating, Brooke Stamm, Lisa Angell.

From the Director of the KSU Gardens

Spring is a beautiful time in the KSU Gardens but we need your help make next spring a little brighter. (The lonely tulip pictured below needs friends!)

We are looking for sponsors to help us create the Visitor Center Garden spring bulb display. Donations in the amount of $750 will help us purchase bulbs to plant this fall for a 360 square foot spring flower display. Five sponsors can help us fill our display beds for a spectacular spring show in 2014. For more information, please contact Scott McElwain at 785-532-1397.

Red Rose Garden Bed update

R.M. Baril General Contractor Inc. has poured concrete footings for the limestone wall and edging that will outline the future red rose garden beds in the Conservatory Garden. If you would like to watch the construction of this project from home, visit the gardens web site and enter the live camera feed. Construction on this project should be completed by the end of June.

Scott McElwain, Director
A Very Chilly Bartlett and Dyck Arboretum Bus Tour

April was a very busy month for the Gardens Friends. On a very cold and rainy April 11th, 43 adventurous Friends boarded a bus for the Bartlett Arboretum in Belle Plaine. We were treated to a wonderful tour by Robin Macy that began with a video presentation of the history of the 100 year old arboretum, followed by a walking tour of the grounds. Although the 4000 tulips were not in full bloom, there were many, many plant specimens and massive cypress, oak and champion Japanese maples to see. Robin’s delightful presentation was enjoyed by all, even when we had to dodge melting icicles while strolling the gardens.

We stopped in Mulvane for lunch at Luciano’s Italian Restaurant and then on to the Dyck Arboretum in Hesston. Here Scott Vogt guided us through a different kind of arboretum with many native grasses, trees and plants that you will find in Kansas. We ended up touring their greenhouse, which housed hundreds of plants for sale at their upcoming fundraiser. After this very full day of eating a host of food on the bus and sharing good company, we returned to Manhattan with plans for another field trip next year. (We have included the recipe many of you requested for the cookies that were served on the bus!)

Dish Pan Cookies

2 cups brown sugar
2 cups sugar
2 cups vegetable oil
1 teaspoon vanilla
4 eggs slightly beaten
4 cups flour
1 teaspoon salt
2 teaspoons baking soda
2 teaspoons baking powder
1 ½ cups oats
6 oz. chocolate chips
Heath bar bits (optional)
2 cups flaked coconut
4 cups corn flakes
1 cup chopped nuts (optional)

Combine sugars and oil. Stir in eggs and vanilla. Stir in flour and spices. Add rest of ingredients and mix. Drop teaspoonsfuls on an ungreased cookie sheet. Bake @ 350 for 10 minutes.

From the President of the Friends

Irish playwright Richard Brinsley Sheridan said, “Won’t you come into the garden? I want my roses to see you.” This is one of my favorite garden quotes and it’s appropriate for my last newsletter article as President of the Friends of KSU Gardens Board. I’ll once again invite you to come and see the gardens as they not only go through the seasons but as they grow and expand with Phase II.

It has been my pleasure serving as President of the KSU Gardens Friends Board. It has been an eventful tenure with many good memories of both the Gardens and the people dedicated to them.

One of the Board’s goals was to spend some time with the new Dean of Agriculture, John Floros. Although he has only been in Manhattan a short time, he enthusiastically welcomed meeting with the Board. In this meeting the Board was able to share our vision of where we have been, where we are today and where we want to go. Having the Dean’s support will be of tremendous importance in years to come.

Dean Floros says of the Gardens, “The KSU Gardens is a beautiful, peaceful and versatile place with a long history and a bright future. It’s a place where our faculty and staff test new ideas, our students learn, and our citizens gather to relax, reconnect with nature, and enjoy the finer things in life. It’s an institution that makes the College of Agriculture better, the Kansas State University more colorful, and our town a friendlier place to live.”

The Board allocated $32,810 to the gardens this year with the largest sum going toward a limestone wall and staircase at the Conservatory Garden Fountain Plaza Project. This project allows the Gardens to continue developing Phase II of the gardens. The remainder was allocated to the Gardens maintenance building site improvement campaign, educational signage and promotional materials. You’ll learn more about the maintenance building and how it benefits the students, in future newsletters.

In addition to the development projects, we funded three student interns in 2012 and raised an additional $18,000 to support three interns for the 2013 growing season. This was all made possible through the success of the Friends’ annual Garden Gala.

I have been supported by a very active, self-motivated, marvelous Board and my role as President has been a pure joy filled with enormous satisfaction. We accomplished a great deal, but I want you to know we had a great deal of fun at the same time.

A special thanks to Scott McElwain for his leadership and dedication because without him the KSU Gardens would not be where it is today.

Warmest wishes,
Polly Stoebkelein

Garden Talks & Walks

Have you heard any good tips for “capturing the moment” in the Garden?

Have you met a neighborhood bat?

Have you seen any great thrillers, spillers and fillers?

If you made it to any of the Garden Talks & Walks, you did! Watch for more Garden Talks & Walks on bulbs, native plants and medicinal plants.
UPCOMING EVENTS

June 2013

S M T W T F S

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8
9 10 11 12 13 14 15
16 17 18 19 20 21 22
23 24 25 26 27 28 29
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May 2013

S M T W T F S

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8
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23 24 25 26 27 28 29
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6th Annual KSU Garden Gala,
"Music of the Night"

- Friday, June 7, 6:30 pm. Featuring
Kansas City's Dueling Piano Guys.
For tickets call 785-532-7903 or
www.found.ksu.edu/rsvp/gardens

Luncheon Seminar Series

- Thursday, June 27, 11:45 am –
1 pm, Prairie Wind Gardens, home
of Irene Johnson

Annual Iris Sale

- Saturday, July 27, 8 am to noon,
KSU Gardens, 1500 Denison Ave.

Maintenance Building update

The KSU Gardens maintenance building grounds have been
dramatically improved. R.M. Barry General Contractor Inc. has
finished the last concrete pour for the new curb and drive. A student
project for this summer and fall will be to install a brick paver walk-
way, retaining wall and woody landscape plants. A turfgrass class
will also help establish new turf plots on this site in the fall.

Pouring concrete for the new drive (top); at left, new
blocks for materials storage have been installed.