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.

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April 16th marked the third annual bus trip for the Friends of the KSU Gardens. Botanica Gardens in Wichita was the destination this year. Pat McKernan, gardens landscape supervisor, took the group on a private tour. Botanica is known for its magnificent tulip displays, which did not disappoint. More photos from the bus trip on page 3.

The theme for the 11th Annual KSU Gardens Gala is based on the 1994 nonfiction book, Midnight in the Garden of Good and Evil. Following its publication, the movie version was released in 1997 and starred Kevin Spacey and John Cusack. This is a murder mystery based in Savannah, Georgia laced with class and sass. You don’t want to miss it!

The gala will feature low country food and Chatham Artillery Punch. Dueling Pianos Plus returns by popular demand as the evening’s entertainment.

Mark your calendar for Friday, June 5th.

For tickets, call 785-532-7093. Tickets may also be purchased online at www.found.ksu.edu/rsvp/gardens.
From the Director of the KSU Gardens

I hope you have had a chance to visit the KSU Gardens this spring. We have had wonderful weather for all our spring blooming plants. They were the preferred pre-prom photo backdrop for hundreds of students and their proud parents just a few days ago. While writing that sentence, I heard quite a lot of noise out in the gardens. There are about 40 sorority sisters taking a group photo on the oval lawn. It’s rewarding when the kids appreciate the beauty of the KSU Gardens.

This spring, the students and I have been working on irrigation and paver walkway installations for Phase II, The Conservatory Garden. (The two photos on this page show students working on the Gardens Iris Collection. We have a set back this spring with a water main valve breaking. (A photo of the repairs in process is on page 3.) As I write this, we are just about to have water in the gardens again. With limited rainfall this spring, the turf and newly planted plants will appreciate a little irrigation. In addition to plants not having irrigation, we had to delay the spring start up of the gardens fountains. We hope to have everything up and running before K-State graduation and Mother’s Day weekend.

As construction in Phase II continues to take place, we will also continue to add plant material. Hundreds of spring flowering bulbs were planted in February and they have been a nice surprise for visitors coming in along the drive and new walkways.

If you’d like to learn more about Phase II or how you can help us continue to develop the KSU Gardens, I’d be happy to visit with you.

Thanks for your continued support.

Scott McElwain, Director

From the President of the Friends of the KSU Gardens

K-State Gardens Friends,

With the mailing of the last Friends’ newsletter, the anticipation of spring was in the air. Now that spring has arrived, that anticipation has quickly shifted to the anxiety of completing everything that spring cleanup and planting demands—and it seems that all of it needs to be done within a very short period of time! The beautiful colors of spring are well worth the many hours of work, however! The K-State Gardens will soon be looking spectacular, so please make an effort to enjoy their beauty this spring or summer. A perfect time to do that would be on June 5 at the Gardens Gala. As our major fundraiser, this event is not only a fun evening, but also an easy way to show your support for the Gardens. I still remember the first Gala when the guests were dressed in their evening attire, rain poured down, we took off our shoes (and the men also removed their socks), we stood on whatever was available to get out of the water, we laughed, we talked, we laughed some more, and had the most enjoyable party imaginable. Hopefully, it won’t be raining on June 5, but the party is fun regardless of what Mother Nature chooses for us.

The Friends Board is pleased to report that discussions about the north campus corridor are continuing and the Gardens are now a part of the conversation. Dr. Candice Shoemaker (Department Head) and Dr. Tom Warner (Projects Development Director) have been invited to take part in the initial discussions about the development of the corridor. Since this is still in the planning phase, it’s unclear how the Gardens will be impacted. It’s likely that some of the current plans for the expansion of the Gardens will be changed, but we’re confident that the Gardens will continue to grow and prosper. Although the footprint of the Gardens will be altered, we’re hoping to remain as an integral component of the corridor development. We’ll keep you posted on progress.

May 19 will be the final meeting of the 2014-2015 Friends Board. The months have flown by quickly. I’m impressed with the unwavering support this board has given to the Gardens this year. I have truly enjoyed serving as the board president and working with our dedicated board members. I want to thank Marilyn Galle, Matti Meek, Frank Schmeidler, Tom Warner, and Matthew McKernan who will be leaving the board at the end of May. They have each contributed immensely to the board goals and have provided support to the Gardens in many different ways. Matthew will graduate in May and Tom will retire from K-State. A retirement reception for Tom is planned for May 15 from 4:30 to 6:00 in the Gardens. Please join us in wishing Tom a happy, relaxing retirement.

Thank you for the many ways you support the K-State Gardens! Have an enjoyable summer.

Deloris Berland, President
Friends of the Gardens Board

Gardens

constructed and maintained by the Department of Horticulture, Forestry and Recreation Resources

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More from Botanica Gardens...

A worker repairs the water main valve to restore water supply to the KSU Gardens. More information in the Director’s column on page 2.