



# Kansas State University GARDENS

*Constructed and maintained by the  
Department of Horticulture  
and Natural Resources*

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## 2023-2024 Board of Directors

Jenne Streeter, *President*

Greta Berg, *student*

Rosemary Boggs

Karen Brokenicky

Dan Brown

Mike Butler

Nance Cole

Val Converse

Marcia Cooper

Libby Cyr

Ricci Dillon

Nancy Farrar

Don Glaser

Leslie Jager

Tim Lindemuth

Jo Lyle

Marie Martin

Susan Martin

Terry Olson

Barbara Pearson

Jan Stewart

Frank Tracz

Beth Unger

Dale Watson

Cheryl Yunk

## Student Gardeners

Selah Hageman

Andrew Littlefield

Kyle Skelton

## Supporting The GARDENS

Please email us at  
[ksugardens@k-state.edu](mailto:ksugardens@k-state.edu)  
or call 785-532-3271.



# From the Director of the Gardens

## Plants of interest when visiting the Gardens this fall

While the Gardens at Kansas State University are full of wonderful plants to talk about, I've decided to highlight a few that visitors are drawn to this time of year.

The K-State Gardens are registered as an All-America Selections, or AAS, Display Garden. AAS is the oldest independent testing organization of flower and edible varieties in North America and select varieties that perform the best in the field. An AAS Display Garden gives the public an opportunity to view the newest AAS Winners in an attractive, well-maintained setting. Visitors to our garden are delighted to discover a variety of AAS ornamental peppers like 'Black Pearl' (*Capsicum annuum*) in the Lindquist family annual flower display beds located in the Debora Morrison Cottage Garden.

While there are several wonderful perennial plants performing well throughout the Gardens during the late summer and fall, the Japanese anemone, also known as windflower (*Anemone x hybrida*), is adding a pop of colorful blooms to a little shady patch. Look for them in the John Johnson Butterfly Garden.

Another plant in the butterfly garden that falls under the shady protection of our American elm (*Ulmus americana*) is a woody shrub called Oakleaf Hydrangea (*Hydrangea quercifolia*). The large white pyramidal panicles of flowers from the spring are turning a creamy purplish pink color, the large green oak-like leaves will eventually turn shades of burgundy, and when the leaves drop, the exfoliating bark creates another interesting feature of this great woody shrub. During your next visit to the Gardens, we hope you find these plants of interest and discover many others that make it a unique and enjoyable experience.

**Scott McElwain**

*K-State Gardens Director*

# From the President of the Friends

It is with sincere pleasure that we welcome the following new members to the 2023-2024 K-State Friends of the Gardens board of directors. Their great talents, skills and experiences impress us, and we are very happy to have them as a part of our board. The board of directors will be meeting in September for a strategic planning session. We encourage you to visit and experience the exciting things happening in the Gardens. Thanks to all our supporters and many volunteers.

## New 2023-2024 board members:

Karen Brokenicky  
Dan Brown

Ricci Dillon  
Leslie Jager

Marie Martin  
Jan Stewart

Frank Tracz  
Dale Watson

**Jenne Streeter, President**

*Friends of the Gardens Board of Directors*



## Garden Party

The Friends of the Kansas State University Gardens welcomed close to 150 guests to an evening of REFLECTIONS on Friday, June 2, 2023. Guests enjoyed a beautiful evening strolling the Gardens, witnessing the butterfly garden in full bloom as well as roses and many other seasonal favorites while sipping their signature welcome drink, listening to the music of the Robert Rodriguez Trio and bidding on many spectacular garden-themed silent auction items. One Egg Catering provided exceptional food and bar service, and they have already been secured to come back for our 2024 Garden Party scheduled for Friday, June 7. Mark your calendar — you don't want to miss this much-loved event.

The annual Friends of the Gardens Garden Party raises money to provide funds for our student interns. As you may be aware, the Gardens depend heavily on our student interns to sustain operations. The ability to provide paid internships to these students comes solely from the generosity of our donors. Approximately \$29,000 was raised from this 2023 event through sponsorships, donations, ticket sales, and auction and raffle tickets. Thank you to all who participated and for the efforts of our volunteer committee.

**Jenne Streeter**  
*Garden Party Chair*



## Bus tour

Friends of the Gardens board member Tim Lindemuth organized a May 16 bus trip to visit three Kansas City area public gardens with tour guides, plus a visit to the Family Tree Nursery. Fifty garden enthusiasts filled the bus and had a great day. This was the first day trip since before the pandemic, and there will be more to come in the future. What a treat!



## Kids Garden club

## News bites

- ✿ Improvements in the Quinlan Visitor Center — new windows and paint have made everything look great, and the new heating and air conditioning system is thrilling for those working inside. Thanks to the Kansas Board of Regents for allocating funds for these needed improvements.
- ✿ This past spring, girdled roots were removed from three Columnar apple trees in an attempt to improve growth and lead to longer, healthier lives.
- ✿ The poinsettia sale will be announced on the Gardens' website.
- ✿ Daylily Daze, a celebration of daylilies in the Gardens, was hosted by the Flint Hills Daylily Society. Frances Joiner was voted as the favorite daylily by fans, with Fooled Me in second place.
- ✿ Fans at Iris Day, a celebration of Irises, selected Crackling Caldera as the K-State Gardens 2023 Iris of the Year. Second place went to Davy Jones.



## Spring tea party

An early spring afternoon tea party in the Gardens was organized by Caitlin McCourt, program coordinator for the Union Program Council, working with the Gardens' director. While a string quartet played, more than 300 students strolled the tulip-filled Gardens and participated in several tea party activities, including make-your own live or felt flower bouquet, loose-leaf tea making and croquet. The students also enjoyed tea, of course, with small sandwiches and desserts, including tea cakes. Several lucky participants left with tea gloves, fascinators or teacups. It was lovely, as a tea party in the Gardens should be.



## Conservatory update

The abatement, demo and site clearing has been completed. The original trusses and many of the original mechanical components have been salvaged and stored until they can be incorporated into a new conservatory. Arbor trellises were installed where the old north and south entry vestibules were located. The footprint will be planted with herbaceous plant material to provide seasonal interest until funds are raised and a new conservatory is built.



## Reflecting pool update

After a long delay, reflecting pool construction has begun! The delay came when one of the subcontractors had to withdraw. A new subcontractor was found, but they needed to change a few pieces of the original plan before beginning the project.

## Partnering with K-State Research and Extension-Riley County

Eight Riley County master gardeners are now trained docents for the Gardens, and several are Purple Thumb volunteers. They are a great addition to our working volunteer group.



## Saying goodbye

We are sorry to announce that Cindi Morris, who was the Gardens' main office volunteer and mover and shaker, moved with her husband to be closer to family. Cindi started volunteering in 2015. She whipped the office into shape, served as a board member, assumed several chair positions and was instrumental in many gardens activities. She got things done! Cindi is a friend whom we definitely miss. Thank you, Cindi, for all that you've done for the Gardens!

## September Stroll 2023

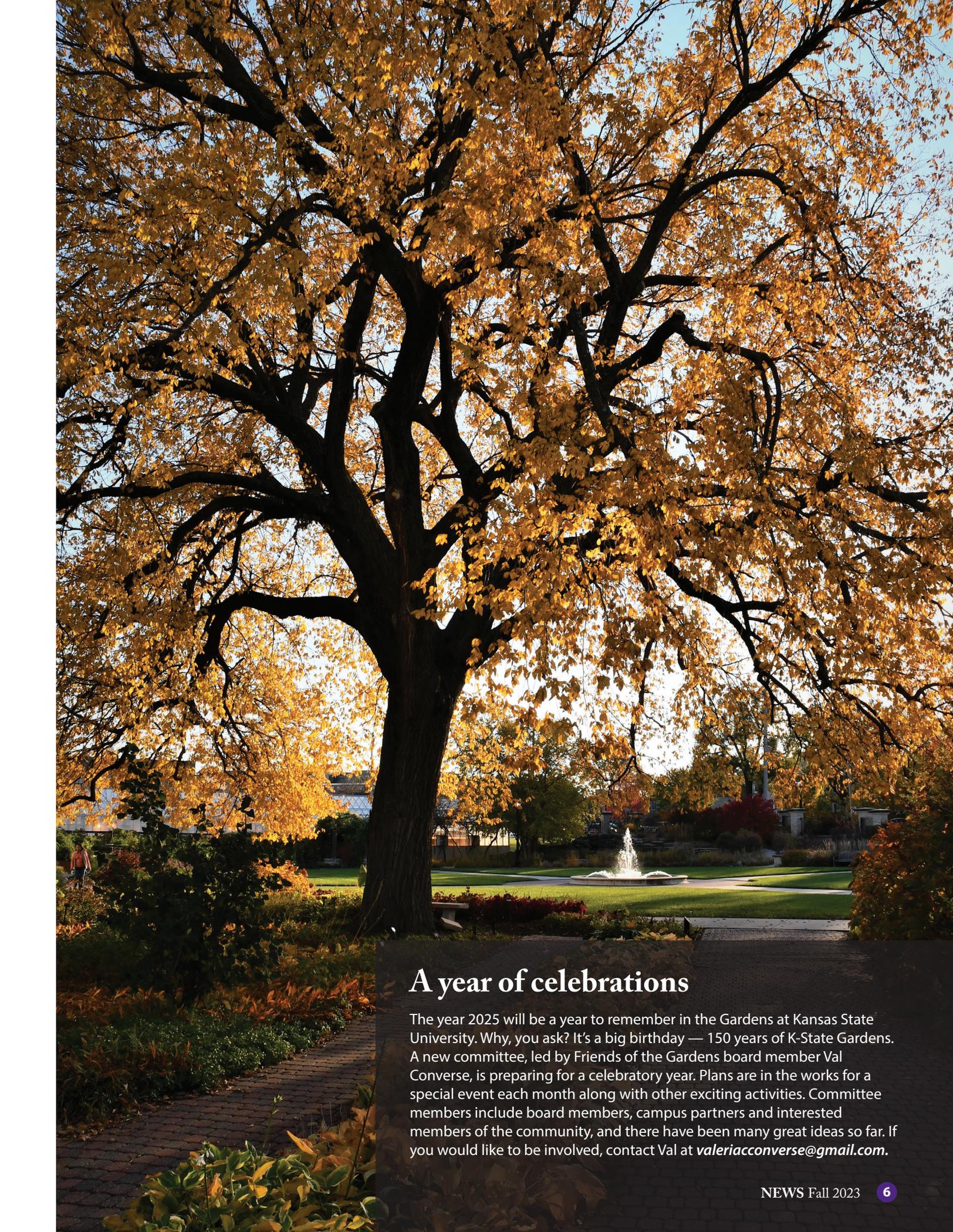


The Friends of the Gardens will host the September Stroll in the Gardens from 5:30-7:30 p.m. on Friday, Sept. 8. This is a come-and-go event with light refreshments. Also, the horticulture club will host its annual mum sale. Relax and enjoy the lovely display Gardens and check out some big changes.



## Tulips

The tulips planted in the fall were fabulous and brought many visitors to the Gardens. The cottage garden tulip bulbs were removed and sold in early May to make way for annual plantings. The tulips in other areas of the Gardens remain to bloom again.



## A year of celebrations

The year 2025 will be a year to remember in the Gardens at Kansas State University. Why, you ask? It's a big birthday — 150 years of K-State Gardens. A new committee, led by Friends of the Gardens board member Val Converse, is preparing for a celebratory year. Plans are in the works for a special event each month along with other exciting activities. Committee members include board members, campus partners and interested members of the community, and there have been many great ideas so far. If you would like to be involved, contact Val at [valeriacconverse@gmail.com](mailto:valeriacconverse@gmail.com).

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**UPCOMING EVENTS**

**September 2023**

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	30

**October 2023**

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	30	31				

**November 2023**

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	30		

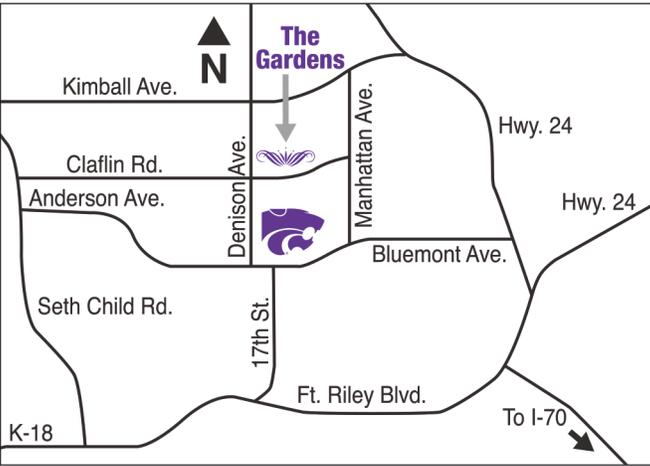
**September Stroll**  
 Friday, Sept. 8  
 5:30-7:30 p.m.

**Poinsettia sale**  
 November — Check  
 the Gardens' website  
 for dates and times.

**December 2023**

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	30

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

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