From the Director of the Gardens

Friends, I want to start by thanking you for supporting The Gardens at Kansas State University.

The photos selected for this newsletter are proof of how beautiful our gardens truly are. They wouldn’t be as beautiful without your support and the hard work and dedication of everyone who volunteers at The Gardens.

I can’t express how much it means to The Gardens and me to have so much support. Now is a perfect opportunity to recognize the efforts of the Purple Thumbs garden volunteers. With volunteer Laura Hall’s guidance, they have grown into an invaluable resource. Whether helping maintain a special area in The Gardens or assisting with special events, they are always willing to help wherever needed. Their passion for making The Gardens look the best they possibly can is incredible and all their efforts are greatly appreciated by me and the many visitors who reach out to let us know how much they love The Gardens.

Thank you, Purple Thumb volunteers. The Gardens have never looked so good!

Scott McElwain
K-State Gardens Director
From the President of the Friends

The Kansas State University Gardens are a place I love to visit! The Gardens are so serene and beautiful. We all need a place in our lives where we can go to get away from the hustle and bustle of life. The Gardens provide this type of atmosphere. Come and visit the K-State Gardens.

Cheryl Yunk
President
Friends of the Gardens Board of Directors

Supporting The GARDENS

Please email us at ksugardens@k-state.edu or call 785-532-3271
The Rose Garden flourishes anew

After rose bush death by rose rosette disease in 2019, the rose garden is now rejuvenated and the surrounding trellis repaired and refreshed. The Gardens won a $10,000 grant from Evergy, the utility company, that provided funds to purchase 181 roses. Purple Thumb volunteers and student workers performed back-breaking work over several days to prepare the soil for the plants. On April 22, a group of Evergy volunteers joined the Purple Thumbs for a day of planting and trellis repair. Other volunteers arrived the next day to add final touches.

Thanks to Evergy and many volunteers, the new roses are now blooming and thrilling us all. Next year they will be even better. Board member Terry Olson spearheaded this project and deserves a very special thanks!

Bidwell Fountain flows again

After 18 months of downtime for repairs, repainting and waiting for parts to arrive, we are all enjoying the Bidwell Fountain in action again. Not only is it beautiful, but the sound also is refreshing — it’s all delightful.

Joan Wasser, a Purple Thumb, is our photographer extraordinaire! She and her husband, Wally, (another Purple Thumb and Kids K-State Garden Club presenter), moved to Manhattan in 2019 after retiring from their “real” jobs (Joan, nursing, and Wally, education) and living in Hawaii for a couple of years. Joan is frequently in The Gardens, snapping excellent photos. If you see her, say hi!
Poinsettia sale

The 2022 poinsettia sale will be a hybrid event with online and in-person sales. This format has been highly successful for the past two years. The plants are grown by horticulture students and organized for the sale by Friends of the Gardens and, of course, Purple Thumbs. Planned sale dates are Thursday and Friday, Nov. 17 and 18. Check our website for more information.

Exciting news

The Gardens has hired a Landscape Tech II to assist the director with all things related to The Gardens. Emily Hall started on Aug. 25. Please welcome her to our team.

September Stroll

The Friends of the Gardens will host the September Stroll in the Gardens from 5:30-7:30 p.m. Sep. 16. This come-and-go event will have impromptu tours, a raffle, live music and tropical plant sale. Please join us for a lovely evening.
Run for the Roses

The sun didn’t shine, but the dreary weather didn’t dampen the enthusiasm for the first-ever Run for the Roses. The many, many hours of the race committee’s hard work paid off as there were 126 runners from ages 7 to 71 who participated in the USAFT-certified 5K race through campus.

Approximately 40 walkers took guided tours in the gardens. Kids and other guests enjoyed the party atmosphere of the day. The Gardens’ neighbor, the Insect Zoo, set up roach races and free tours. It was a wonderfully successful event!

This new fundraiser resulted in approximately $30,000 for projects at The Gardens. Many thanks go to the committee members Terry Olson, Val Converse, Cheryl Yunk, Nancy Cole, Nancy Farrar, Mike Butler and Tim Lindemuth, who are now making plans for the second Run for the Roses scheduled for April 29, 2023.

Garden Party

On the first Friday in June, the annual Friends Garden Party hosted many happy people. The weather was delightful, the gardens were beautiful, decorations were charming, the food and drinks were delicious, and the silent auction was highly successful. What more could you want from this important fundraiser that brought in approximately $27,000 for the student internship program? Thanks to the Friends of The Gardens committee for organizing this outstanding event. And, thanks to the generous sponsors and participants.

In memoriam

We are deeply saddened to announce the death of Deloris Berland, who passed away May 9 in Manhattan, Kansas. Deloris was a great friend to many and served on the K-State Friends of the Gardens Board of Directors since 2006. We are thankful for her years of leadership. As a child, she began a lifetime passion for flower gardens and service. She was a woman of great character, had a strong commitment to the mission of The Gardens, and gave us the gifts of her time, treasure and talents to advance our organization’s mission. She will be greatly missed by all who knew her.
Kids K-State Garden Club 2022

The 2022 Kids Garden Club was well attended with 18 smiling, engaged kids asking questions of our interesting, knowledgeable and fun presenters. The kids enjoyed five sessions: 1. What plants need and a bean germination project; 2. Worms, compost and salad ingredients planting; 3. Pollinators focusing on bees; 4. Ecosystems and a terrarium building project; 5. Review via The Gardens tour and veggie planting. Committee members were David Wasser, Carol Kuhlman, Deb Lippoldt, Barb Pearson and Sue White.

Annual Iris Sale

Iris lovers started lining up early for the July 30 Gardens’ Iris Sale, which brought in approximately $6,500 for The Gardens’ iris collection. Putting this sale together took tons of hard work over a couple of weeks. Many thanks go to the Flint Hills Iris Society and Purple Thumb volunteers who dug, bagged and hosted the sale.

June 25 — Busy day in The Gardens

Daylily Daze, sponsored by the Flint Hills Daylily Society, is a celebration of the great diversity in the daylily world. This year’s event was June 25 at The Gardens.

That same day, The Gardens were a site for the annual Riley County Master Gardeners 2022 Garden Tour, which also included five private gardens.
UPCOMING EVENTS

**September 2022**

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| **September Stroll**
Friday, Sept. 16
5:30-7:30 p.m.

**Poinsettia sale**
Thursday, Nov. 17
Friday, Nov. 18

**October 2022**

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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. Quinlan Visitor’s Center is part of the historic Glenn H. Beck Dairy Barn.

**k-state.edu/gardens**

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facebook.com/kstate.gardens