Grant Awarded
On behalf of the Friends of the Gardens, board members Bill Pallett and Barbara Pearson applied for a Deihl Community Grant through the Greater Manhattan Community Foundation in late 2017. This marked the first time that the Friends’ board inserted itself into the grant application process to accomplish a 2017 goal for more funding.

The grant was awarded to the Gardens for use in 2018 and allows Director Scott McElwain and staff to install lighting for plant materials as well as structural back lighting. The Friends’ Board matched this grant of $6,000 with another $6,000 to complete the project. Secondary walkways will also be illuminated with the use of this grant money.

Tim Lindemuth
2017-2018 Friends President

Daylily Daze
Join us for the first ever Gardens Daylily Daze on July 7, 2018. Members of the Flint Hills Daylily Society (FHDS) will be available to answer questions and discuss daylily habits and needs from 8 am to noon. The Daylily Collection will be ablaze with color, shape and form. See Doubles, UFOs and Spiders! (Oh my!) It’s your chance to pick out some favorites and maybe they will be available at the FHDS Farmers Market Daylily sale in August. Visit the Gardens throughout the months of June and July to enjoy the many different varieties in the Daylily Collection. You will be WOWed each time by the ever changing blooms and colors! Hope to see you at the Daylily Daze!

Annual Master Gardener Tour Set for June 10
The Riley County Extension Master Gardeners are hosting their annual garden tour on Sunday, June 10 from 1-5 pm. Purchase your tickets at the Gardens on the day of the event and see all five of the beautiful Manhattan gardens featured this year. Tickets will be available beginning May 7 at the Riley County Extension office or local garden centers.

Daylily Sale April 7
The Kansas State University Gardens daylily collection is ready to be divided again. Student employees and garden volunteers will be digging and dividing many plants. What they don’t plant back into the collection will be sold to the public. Mark your calendars for April 7 from 10 am – noon (during K-State Open House) when divisions will be sold near the collection on the north side of the conservatory.
Cash or check only. Come early for the best selections!

Dirt(y) Dancing Garden Party
Mark your calendars! The 14th annual Garden Party will be held on Friday, June 1, 2018. This event is designed for you to have fun and to raise money to support the Kansas State University Gardens interns. Projects to keep the K-State Gardens growing and beautiful require countless hours of manpower, and the proceeds from this yearly event help fund the interns who receive hands-on experience in all aspects of planning, maintaining and growing a public garden.

Our theme this year is “Dirt(y) Dancing”. As in previous years, we offer you an evening filled with food, drink and music. There will also be a silent auction with garden themed items and some surprises. So, please plan to join us on June 1. We’ll do all we can to make it a memorable evening.

To purchase tickets ($100 per person), become a sponsor, or ask questions contact the KSU Foundation at 785-532-6266.

Horticulture Club Open House Activities
Horticulture Club will offer activities on K-State Open House Day, Saturday, April 7th in the Kansas State University Gardens. The activities are from 9 am – 3 pm and will include a kids’ booth, tree climbing and irrigation booth.
The Club will also hold the annual bedding plant sale on the north side of the Gardens. Prices for the sale are $4 for 4” pots, $6 for 6” pots, and $8 for grasses. The bedding plant sale will go until 4 pm!
From the Director of The Gardens

After the winter we’ve had, it is so nice to be working on a spring newsletter and planning for the upcoming growing season. The plants in the greenhouses are looking great and as I look through plant catalogs and make selections for new displays, I can’t help but get excited about 2018 in the Gardens. Bring on the color!!!

In addition to improving and expanding the plant display beds for 2018, we are excited to announce that we will be adding walkway lights in the Conservatory Garden and landscape lighting to the Cottage Garden. When the sun goes down, these lights will enhance our visitor experience by highlighting specialty plants and architecture that previously were hidden in darkness.

Pictured above is a nighttime perspective view of the Gardens future reflecting pool. The design, shown here with all the features and planting areas highlighted with walkway and landscape lighting, is almost completed. When this new design is finalized, we will have accurate figures to use for our fundraising efforts.

As we continue to work on our fundraising efforts, if you or someone you know would like to help us continue to light up the Gardens, please let us know. It’s a great time (day or night) to grow with the Gardens.

Scott McElwain
Director of The Gardens
An Evening Extraordinaire

On the evening of December 7, 2017, the Kansas State University Gardens hosted an evening extraordinaire at the Hilton Garden Inn. “Planting a Seed to Grow the Gardens” was a first of its kind fundraiser for the Gardens. Attendees were treated to a wonderful assortment of beverages and delicious food. $69,066.46 was raised in one night!

A highlight of the evening included Mitch Holthus, voice of the Kansas City Chiefs, introducing and honoring our special guests, Bill and Sharon Snyder.

Dave Lewis, our Master of Ceremonies for the evening, introduced our special Gardens Honorees, the Westervelt Family. Keith, Sheri, Darrell and Lea Westervelt were all in attendance. They were honored for their years of commitment and continued support of the Kansas State University Gardens. Since 1989 they have made many gift-in-kind contributions to the Gardens and helped install the Rose Garden. They make annual financial contributions to support operations and special projects. In 2001 they made a significant contribution to sponsor the Westervelt Family Gate that serves as the main entrance into the Gardens. They are also putting patents on unique plants and have designated a percentage of the royalties go to the Gardens.

There was an extraordinary live auction with many fabulous items:

- an instant wine cellar with over 100 bottles of fine wine (all donated or collected by our board members), a wine cooler and a wine tasting for 20 guests in your home with provided hors d’oeuvres
- 8 days at a luxurious beachfront villa in Belize complete with a personal chef
- a spectacular week stay for 10 in a home in Burgundy, France with many extras
- a week in a 16th century Italian home in Tuscany for 10 with a private cook
- a week vacation in the Colorado mountains for 8 people
- VIP experience at the Kansas State University Performance Table, giving 10 people the exclusive opportunity to dine with one of Sodexo’s leading executive chefs
- a romance package with monthly delivery of a floral arrangement from Steve’s Floral, fruits from Harry and David’s, and superlative chocolates from Sweet Granada topped off with a romantic weekend at the Raphael in Kansas City
- an ultimate Christmas lighting package professionally designed by Master Landscape
- An enchanted summer evening package for you and 24 of your friends to gather in the beautiful setting of the Gardens complete with cocktails, hors d’oeuvres and dessert

The evening concluded with a paddle raise. All of the funds from the auction and paddle raise benefit the Kansas State University Gardens.

The Gardens Fundraising Committee, the entire Gardens Board, and Director Scott McElwain want to thank all of those who generously donated their time, money and other talents which contributed to the amazing success of the evening.
KSU Foundation Hosts Trustees Reception in The Gardens

The Foundation hosted a reception for its Board of Trustees in September, 2017 with almost 300 guests in attendance. Food, drinks and entertainment were enjoyed by all on a sunny evening in the Gardens.

Thank You

This time of year is the perfect opportunity to reflect on the past, and refocus on the future. I want to personally express my gratitude for the generous support given to the Gardens the past year. The Gardens have truly flourished from the contributions of our friends, alumni and corporate partners. We are excited for what 2018 has in store, and invite you to continue to dream with us, and hope you are inspired to renew your support of the people, programs and places that make the Gardens a beacon on the Kansas State University campus and Manhattan community.

Contact Emilie Fink at the KSU Foundation at 785-532-7571 or emilief@found.ksu.edu.

Supporting the Gardens

As the Gardens grow, so does the need for support. Consider becoming a volunteer – join the newly named “Purple Thumbs” group of volunteers who do many jobs like planting, weeding, mulching, watering and pruning. You can also support the Gardens by attending Garden events, joining the Friends of the Gardens or making a donation. These are some but not all of our important needs. Come grow with us!
The Friends of the Gardens sponsored another successful poinsettia sale this year with proceeds of $2,500+, with sales of 450 poinsettia and 40 amaryllis plants.

Volunteers and students (photo at left) joined Director Scott McElwain in December for a holiday party with a potluck lunch, lots of sweet treats and door prizes.

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

www.k-state.edu/gardens

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