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.

Fall is such a beautiful time in the Kansas landscape with cooler temperatures, moisture perking up the foliage and the changing colors. What a battering the gardens took through the summer with too much rain, not enough rain, brutal heat, excessive humidity and wind! For a while it seemed like we would never have another beautiful day like July 8 when we had the luncheon in Mateo Tipi Garden. Steve and Maureen Thien shared their daylily garden with 40 attendees who appreciated and thoroughly enjoyed their beautiful garden and delightful hospitality. To top it off everyone in attendance received a special daylily from Mateo Tipi Garden. Blueville Nursery, Horticultural Services, Eastside Market, Lee Creek Gardens and Stephanie’s Café also provided gift certificates for door prizes. We sincerely appreciate the effort of the Thiens and the support from these retailers. With support like this we will continue to grow the luncheons so we can grow the gardens! Thank you!

The weather trials of summer force one to enjoy the small things in the garden such as a tree frog nestled in a Mandevilla flower or a toad sheltering on a leaf of a huge cabbage. The “dog days of summer” are also a great time to become knowledgeable about the natural functions a garden can provide such as a habitat and food source for butterfly and other insect eggs, their larvae and caterpillars, and later the butterflies and insects that drink the nectar from beautiful flowering plants. Soon, the gardening season will be winding down and we will be moving inside and preparing for the holiday season.

The function of the Friends of the KSU Gardens Luncheon Series is to provide you with a comfortable setting to enjoy a box lunch and water along with an opportunity to learn or be inspired. You don’t want to miss the next Luncheon on Thursday, November 11, 11:45 am – 1 pm at the beautiful new Colbert Hills Clubhouse. Bromwyn Douglas from Kistner’s Flowers will be the presenter.

Forty people attended the luncheon and tour of Mateo Tipi Garden (photos above). Ideas for holiday decorations will be the topic at the next luncheon on November 11 (photos at right). Bromwyn Douglas from Kistner’s Flowers will be the presenter.

Visit the beautiful gardens of England and Wales

with K-State students and Friends!
For more information:
www.dce.k-state.edu/conf/gardens/

Next Luncheon: Holiday Centerpieces & Table Decorations

Thursday, November 11

Annual Poinsettia Sale

Nov. 20, Dec. 1 (Open House), Dec. 4 • 11 am – 3 pm

Garden Gala
Sponsor Party

A reception was held Sunday, September 19 at the home of K-State President Kirk and Noel Schulz to thank the sponsors of the 2010 K-State Garden Gala.

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

Get more information:
www.dce.k-state.edu/conf/gardens/
From the Director of the Gardens

As mentioned in the summer newsletter, this past spring, horticulture students taking a Contracts & Construction class made several improvements in the Conservatory Garden. Limestone tailings were used to raise and define new display beds for the iris collection and several turf display plots.

In July, the iris collection was relocated to its new bed which is parallel to the KSU Gardens’ visitor parking lot and sidewalk. Of the four new turf display plots, one was planted with Bermuda, Buffalo and Zoysia to showcase our hardy warm season grasses. There will be seven cool season grasses planted by students this fall in the remaining three display plots.

Another project that was finished this summer was the rose garden arbor. Students have worked on the lattice and trellis fence the last couple of years in various lab classes and this spring they worked on the arbor that serves as the rose garden main entrance. Students working in the KSU Gardens this summer completed the project and new climbing roses will be planted around it this fall. Since a jackhammer had to be rented to remove the old arbor footings, it was so much fun to use, the students also removed the old brick steps that were in disrepair. The rose garden now has new ramped walks for easier access.

August kicked off the beginning of a couple of new projects in the KSU Gardens. The first is a new demonstration area near the parking lot that will showcase various mulch products and landscape rock. This display will have educational signage that will benefit both the students and the visiting public. Scaffolding has been setup around the Beck Dairy Barn and Quinlan Visitor Center in preparation for roof, gutter and window replacements. While it is anticipated that the project will take two-three months to complete, the improvements will be spectacular!

This fall we will be working on plans for the Conservatory renovation project and finalizing the specifications on the construction drawings for the Bidwell Family Fountain. Funding for the fountain project has been secured and construction is anticipated to begin in late winter to early spring of 2011. This fountain will be the center piece for the Conservatory Garden and its installation marks the beginning of Phase II development of the KSU Gardens.

— Scott McElwain, Director
KSU Gardens

Kansas State University GARDENS

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

Stuart Warren
Department Head
Scott K. McElwain
KSU Gardens Director

Run for the Roses: Scenes from the 2010 Garden Gala

From the President of the Friends of the KSU Gardens

Dear Friends,

It is with great pleasure that I serve as President of the Friends of the Gardens Board. Working to support the Gardens with such a passionate group, dedicated to providing an exceptional educational environment for our K-State students, is a privilege.

The funds raised and outreach efforts of the Friends of the Gardens provide necessary resources to underwrite a living laboratory experience for horticulture students. I am pleased to share personal notes from two horticulture students who have benefited from the generous support from Friends members.

Bridget Baker writes:

I am currently in my fourth semester working at the gardens and I have loved every minute of it. I am a junior in greenhouse management and working in the gardens has taught me many things that will be applicable to my career in the future. In the gardens I have learned firsthand how run irrigation and deal with problems that arise with the system; before I started at the gardens I have no prior knowledge on how to deal with anything irrigation. The gardens has also taught me how to manage pest problems whether they are in the greenhouse, vegetable beds, or in the adaptive/native gardens. Scott has taught me how to divide and plant many plants such as iris and daylilies. I know that I still have much to learn and that each day at the gardens brings me a new opportunity for growth and learning. Working in the gardens is like working with family, we help each other out when it is needed and teach one another when it is necessary. I love working in the gardens and am glad to be part of its expansion. I will always be able to use the knowledge I learned there in my future job.

Neil Lednickly writes:

I have had a great experience working at the Kansas State Gardens. It has helped to reinforce concepts learned in the classroom. Besides just working with the plant material I have got to work on many different construction projects. For my student project I have got to do more extensive work on the turf areas of the gardens and the irrigation systems that we use which is my greatest interest. I would like to send a special thanks to Friends of the Gardens for making this possible.

Please know that your continued and future support are critical in the lives and futures of our K-State horticulture students. On behalf of the Board, please know we appreciate your generosity.

Wildcat proud,

Mitzi Richards, President
Friends of the KSU Gardens

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