In addition to the excitement of the new entryway pergola being constructed in the Ottaway Rose Garden, visitors to the rose garden this year and next will also be entertained with the growth and flowering of new climbing roses that will soon be planted on the pergola. In stark contrast to the once-blooming Dr. Huey rootstock that graced the old pergola, the refurbished pergola will feature the climbing roses ‘Darlow’s Enigma’ and ‘Improved Blaze’ with hopes that they will provide overarching entry color and fragrance in a few short years.

‘Darlow’s Enigma’ is a white continuous blooming climber that is still a rare plant in the rose world. In keeping with its name, ‘Darlow’s Enigma’ is a rose of unknown parentage found growing in Eugene, Oregon by Mike Darlow and introduced to commerce in the early 1990’s by Heirloom Roses. It is labeled a hybrid Musk rose by some authorities and a Modern Shrub rose by others, but regardless, it is completely winter hardy to zone 4 and should be well able to withstand the dry cold Kansas weather. As a garden plant, ‘Darlow’s Enigma’ is a triple performer. The small white single and semi-double blooms come continuously and open flat to display a center of golden stamens, it has a exceptionally strong and sweet perfume that should captivate garden visitors, and in winter it will carry small bright red hips through the holiday season.

Many visitors will be familiar with our second new climber but may not have had the space or conditions to give ‘Improved Blaze’ its opportunity for full glory. ‘Improved Blaze’ is an old rose garden workhorse that has a reputation as a reliable performer throughout North America. ‘Improved Blaze’ is a large-flowered scarlet red double rose that also blooms repeatedly throughout the season and on the pergola we expect it to provide a handsome combination with its white companion. ‘Improved Blaze’ is only slightly fragrant, but nonetheless has exceptional disease resistance and is perfectly cold hardy in our Kansas climate.

—Dr. James Roush

Climbing to an Improved Rose Garden

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.

Upcoming Events

5th Annual KSU Gardens Gala

Luncheon Series:
D R. JAMES ROUSH

July, date TBA
More information will be emailed

Annual Iris Sale

July 95, 2009 • 8 a.m. to noon
KSU Gardens, 1500 Denison Ave.

Darlow’s Enigma

From the Friends Fundraising Committee

In March, the fundraising committee hosted a Gardens Luncheon Series presentation by Mike DeRee of Ball Seeds. He shared a slide show of new and favorite annual flower cultivars with an excited audience of 16 avid gardeners. The next Luncheon Series presentation will be in July, date to be announced, featuring Dr. James Roush speaking about his new book, Garden Musings, old roses, and garden journaling. Invitations will be emailed and posted on the KSU Gardens website when the date is confirmed. The Little Cottage Gift Shop is set for the Gardens will be opening weekends for the summer season. The committee is looking for volunteers to staff the gift shop. Interested individuals should contact Lori Levin at levin@ksu.edu, and when we have a list of volunteers we will hold a training session and set a schedule.

Looking forward to June, the committee helped to generate silent auction items for the Gardens Gala. Some exclusive items include a gift basket from Emerald City Market, a BBQ Extravaganza set-up from Varney’s Book Store, dinner for six in their own home by Ralph Diaz of Gaia Salon featuring produce from La La’s Heirloom Produce, a Ralph Fontenot painting, and a wrought iron bistro set from Lee Creek Gardens. We look forward to seeing you at the Gala June 5th!

Lori Levin, Chair
Fundraising Committee
Friends of the KSU Gardens
Special Note: The cooler temperatures have dramatically prolonged the Iris Collection's beautiful display. The anticipated peak will be around May 23 which is about two weeks later than usual. Come see the wonderful colors and pick your favorites that can also be purchased at the annual Iris sale which is always the last Saturday in July (July 25, 2009) from 8 a.m. to noon.

From the Friends Membership Chair

May is a wonderful month in Manhattan as the warmer temperatures of spring launch the growing season. Trees bud and bloom, spring flowers show their brilliant colors, and the lawns green and grow with vigor. Morning walks are invigorating, not just for the exercise, but for the beauty of the new life and color of spring.

One of those activities that everyone should put on their “can’t miss” list is the Garden Gala scheduled for June 5. See the “Taste of Tuscany” announcement in the newsletter and make sure you get tickets to this wonderful spring garden party. You’ll also find information in the newsletter about becoming a Friend. If you are not a member, we would love to have you join us. Or perhaps you can pass the newsletter to a friend, and ask them to consider Friends membership. We are excited about our growing Friends memberships and look forward to the continued growth and expansion of the Kansas State University Gardens.

The Lindquist Family Annual Flower Garden is always a highlight. This year, the Garden Gala will be held on Saturday, June 6. We hope to see you at one or both of these events this year in the KSU Gardens.

Scott McElwain, Director, KSU Gardens

From the President of the Friends of the KSU Gardens

Dear Friends,

This past year has been one of refining and defining who we are and what our mission is as a Board. A strategic planning meeting in July helped us set up a framework for this effort and a direction for achieving our goals. We began the year by revising and fine tuning our Constitution to accurately reflect our mission and purpose and to give us the means to accomplish our goals. We also focused on establishing a budget designed to provide timely and detailed information at our monthly meetings.

Other goals which have been reached this year are as follows:

1) We have increased the number of Board members from 16 to our maximum of 21.
2) A membership calendar has been created and our mailing list has been increased. There are now over 98 Friends, up 34 members from 2007.
3) A new brochure has been developed for the Gardens.
4) Our newsletter is now produced three times a year by Art Craft Printers and has changed format and added color.
5) Our fundraising efforts from the Gala raised monies to fund three student scholarships ($18,000). The gift shop, luncheon series, plant sale, and poinsettia sale generated additional revenue for the Gardens and provided exceptional opportunities for our Friends.
6) A reception to welcome our new K-State President and his wife to the Gardens has been planned for our Sponsors’ Party on September 27, 2009.

As this year comes to a close for the Friends of the KSU Gardens Board, a new one begins. In addition to the 16 current board members, we welcome six new members to our board: Marilyn Galle, Melissa Jones, Tim Lindermuth, Marti Meek, Polly Stockeclin, and Cheryl Yunk. Ruth Ann Wefald will become our first honorary board member. Next year’s officers are: Jim Lindquist, President; Mitzi Richards, President-elect; Jo Lyle, Treasurer, and Deborhs Berland, Secretary.

Thank you to our hardworking board and to our generous Friends. We look forward to serving and promoting the K-State Gardens in the coming year.

Sincerely,

Sharon Snyder, President, Friends of the KSU Gardens

---CLIP AND RETURN LOWER PORTION---

Garden Gala:

The Lindquist Family Annual Flower Garden is always a highlight. This year, the Garden Gala will be held on Saturday, June 6. We hope to see you at one or both of these events this year in the KSU Gardens.

One of those activities that everyone should put on their “can’t miss” list is the Garden Gala scheduled for June 5. See the “Taste of Tuscany” announcement in the newsletter and make sure you get tickets to this wonderful spring garden party. You’ll also find information in the newsletter about becoming a Friend. If you are not a member, we would love to have you join us. Or perhaps you can pass the newsletter to a friend, and ask them to consider Friends membership. We are excited about our growing Friends memberships and look forward to thecontinued growth and expansion of the Kansas State University Gardens.

Jim Lindquist, Chair, Membership Committee, Friends of the KSU Gardens