



2020 Garden Party: An Enchanted Evening

The Friends of the Gardens' annual event was cancelled this year due to the corona virus pandemic. We were disappointed not to be able to share the beauty of our special collections, annual flowers, and perennial plantings with our steadfast supporters on a special evening in June. Instead, we sent a mailing requesting that donations still be contributed to our student intern fund directly. Thanks to our generous donors we collected over \$17,000!

Next year we look forward to hosting another special event in the magical evening hours at the Gardens.

Thanks to all who supported us this year.



2020 Planting a Seed

Unfortunately, our annual fall fundraising event was also cancelled due to the corona virus pandemic this year. We were sorry not to be able to host our fun filled evening of dinner with a live auction, but the Friends of the Gardens are still actively promoting and fundraising for the new reflecting pool and surrounding area in the conservatory garden. Please email our director, Scott McElwain at mcelwain@ksu.edu or call 785-532-1397 for more information.

Look for a new event in fall 2021!



Kansas State University GARDENS

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

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2019–2020 Board of Directors:

Jenne (Andrews) Streeter, President
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Deloris Berland
Mike Butler
Nancy Cole
Marcia Cooper
Libby Cyr
Nancy Farrar
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Don Glaser
Kathy Hasler
Sally Lindquist
Jo Lyle
Cindi Morris
Sharon Snyder
Beth Unger
Sue White
Cheryl Yunk

Jordan Robinson, Student Member

From the Director of the Gardens

Last fall The Gardens asked K-State Facilities Planning to help us move the reflecting pool project forward by completing the final design, construction drawings and cost estimating. We needed to know exactly what our final fundraising needs were before breaking ground on this highly anticipated and exciting project.

Facilities Planning submitted a project approval request near the first of the year to get both University and Board of Regents' approval and green light to move forward with the project (nearly \$950,000 in site improvements). We received approval acknowledgement in June, delayed due to the COVID-19 outbreak.

I am pleased to announce that a contract has been finalized with Confluence to complete the design. As Confluence finalizes the design, they will look at various ways we can complete the whole reflecting pool project in phases. The closer Phase I cost estimates are to \$645,000 (the amount we have raised and hold pledges for) the sooner we can start construction. If Phase I design cost estimate is over \$645,000, then we know exactly what we'll have to raise before we can begin.

Our goal is to wrap up the final design and cost estimates as soon as possible so we can set final fundraising goals that will allow us to begin the construction process in the spring of 2021.

We will also be working with the K-State Foundation to create unique naming opportunities within the reflecting pool project to raise additional funds for an endowment. A \$350,000 endowment will ensure the future maintenance of all the Gardens' water features.

If you have an interest in learning more about this project, please let me know. I would be happy to visit with you about the progress and various naming opportunities available with this project.

As always, thank you for your support and continued interest in the Gardens and this project.

–Scott McElwain

Supporting The Gardens

The Gardens continue to grow with your donations and pledges. The Friends of the Gardens are actively promoting and fundraising for the new reflecting pool and surrounding area in the conservatory garden. Please email us at ksugardens@ksu.edu or call 785.532.3271 for more information.

We'd love to get you involved with our latest project.

Thanks to Joan Wasser who provided many of the photos for this newsletter.

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“Sharing” Kaleidoscope

A new garden kaleidoscope called “Sharing” was donated by the Riley County Extension Master Gardeners to the K-State Gardens this summer. It is located directly across from the rose collection and was created by Bob Anderson of Sturgeon Bay, Wisconsin. Thank you to the master gardeners for their continuing support of our Gardens!



From the President of the Friends

As we all have learned to slow our lives down and appreciate the simple things, and many of us have found ourselves spending more time outside and more time in our gardens, we are reminded of the good work that takes place at the Kansas State University Gardens. As your new President of the Friends of the K-State Gardens, I want to say how much it has meant to me during these last few months to regularly walk through the Gardens and see each new exhibit. The peonies had never been so beautiful and they were followed by spectacular roses, day lilies and even more. We all have so much to enjoy at the Gardens. A peaceful respite in nature during these interesting times. Even as we create social distance, nature persists. Research has shown that spending time outside is good for our bodies and our minds. I'm sure you've experienced these benefits: After feeling stressed out or bored indoors, you step outside and your spirits lift. Our Garden at Kansas State offers a place of quiet, a place to sit and observe and feel a sense of ease. None of this would be possible without the support of our visitors, volunteers, staff and donors like you! You help us connect people to nature.

Thank you.

Jenne (Andrews) Streeter
2020-2021 Friends Board President



Purple Thumbs

The Purple Thumbs are the K-State Gardens' special volunteers who assist in every aspect of maintaining our beautiful grounds. Volunteers work year round in small groups planting, watering, weeding and managing the landscape. They work with our student employees every day of the week. Please contact Laura Hall at gardens.laura.hall@gmail.com for more information. No experience required.



The Flint Hills Iris Society hosted their annual sale in a new location this year. Featuring divisions of iris dug from the K-State Gardens, the sale was moved to the Riley County Fairgrounds due to social distancing restrictions imposed by COVID-19. Many of our 300+ varieties were dug, divided and sold by our faithful volunteers. Over \$3,600 was raised to help support our Iris collection. Thanks for your generosity and flexibility this year!

Friends of the Gardens Annual Appeal

To all of you who help make the Kansas State University Gardens a beautiful space, we THANK YOU!

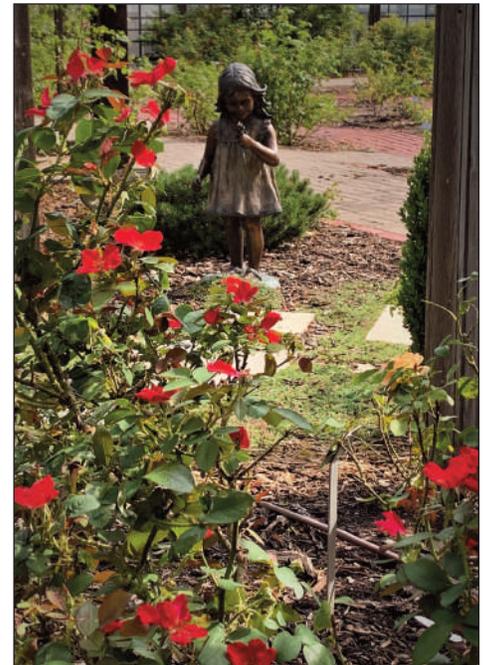
Did you know that approximately 80% of the funding for the K-State Gardens comes from donations? We very much appreciate your support in helping the Gardens grow and also in providing funding for the student interns who work in the Gardens as a learning laboratory.

Our current enhancement priority in the Gardens is to complete the **Reflecting Pool** project. The Reflecting Pool will be located between the two existing arbors, north of the Conservatory. Both the Reflecting Pool and the Conservatory were prominent features in the original gardens. Donors have already begun contributing to the Reflecting Pool project. Would you be interested in joining them? Naming opportunities are also available. Consider a family group gift or honoring a loved one.

We realize that during these times of COVID-19, things are not the same but we want to let you know that the Gardens are always open for you to view. The Gardens are outside and social distancing is easy to achieve, plus the Gardens have free parking! The Gardens are especially beautiful this year with the rains and the hard work of the students in the display gardens. As the temperatures begin to cool in September and the mature plants have time to recover from the summer heat, it's a perfect time to enjoy the beauty of the Gardens. So, **take a Stroll through the Gardens in September** and be sure to check out our newest enhancement to the Gardens, the "Sharing" Kaleidoscope Sculpture in the Rose Garden Plaza.

Watch for our letter in your mailbox! We hope you will consider a donation to the Gardens. **THANK YOU for your continued support of our mission.**

Cheryl Yunk, Chair
Development Committee



Poinsettia Sale

This year's sale may look a little different from previous years due to the corona virus, but we will have an amazing assortment of 500+ poinsettia plants and over 100 amaryllis to offer. Pricing remains similar to other years at \$10 per poinsettia and \$15 per amaryllis. Approximately 30 centerpieces will also be offered at \$20 each. Check out our upcoming events calendar for dates and specifics.



Thank You Outgoing Board Members!

Two amazing Friends of the Gardens board members have finished up their terms of office: Barbara Pearson and Deanna Moeder. Barbara and Deanna have been incredible assets to our board and to the K-State Gardens as a whole. They have brought unique and valuable insight to all of their work. Their commitment, enthusiasm and high energy have made them great to work with and I know I'm not alone in saying how much they have been appreciated. Thank you for all you've contributed to the Friends of the Gardens board.

Jenne (Andrews) Streeter, President



Sharing a Recipe for the Season: Skillet Zucchini

- 1 lb ground beef
- 1/4 chopped onion
- 1 tbsp whole wheat flour
- 1 cup seasoned tomato sauce
- 3/4 cup water
- 1/4 cup chopped green pepper
- 1 tsp oregano
- 1/2 tsp chili powder
- 1/2 tsp salt
- 3 cups zucchini, thinly sliced
- 1 cup parmesan cheese



Brown beef and onion. Spoon off excess fat. Sprinkle flour over meat and stir. Add tomato sauce, water, green pepper, oregano, chili powder, and salt. Mix well. Season zucchini with salt and pepper. Arrange over meat. Cover and simmer until zucchini is tender, about 15 minutes. Top with parmesan cheese. Serves 6.





GARDENS

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Honor and Memorial Gifts

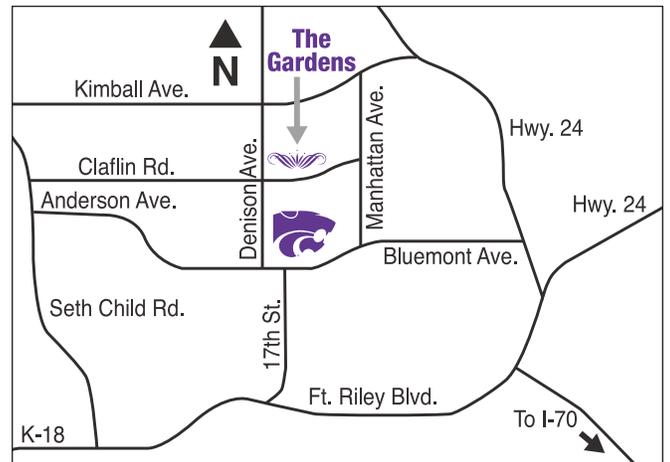
A recent bride and groom asked for donations to be made to the Gardens for the reflecting pool project in lieu of gifts. Are you looking for a meaningful gift for an avid gardener, plant lover, or someone who just loves gardens? A gift to the K-State Gardens in honor or memory of a loved one is a wonderful tribute for any occasion.

Consider asking your friends and family to make a gift in your honor, in lieu of gifts to you, for your birthday, anniversary, wedding, or retirement; commemorate the birth of a child or grandchild or pay tribute to the memory of a friend or loved one.

Please contact director Scott McElwain at mcelwain@ksu.edu or 785-532-1397. We appreciate your generosity!



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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