



## 2020 Garden Party: An Enchanted Evening

The Friends' annual celebration in the Gardens features "Enchanted Evening" on Friday, June 5 at 7 pm. This year's event will again start a little later to take advantage of the evening light. We will offer hors d'oeuvres and dessert with an open bar. Live music will be provided by Solars Trio. Proceeds of the event and silent auction will support our student internship program. This year we have several new items for the auction including a potting bench, garden bench, birdhouses and more created and donated by our own Awl Thumbs volunteers. Please plan to attend! Check our website for more information.



## Planting a Seed: An Evening Extraordinaire

On the evening of October 25, 2019, the Kansas State University Gardens hosted an evening extraordinaire at the Alumni Center. The third annual "Planting a Seed" fundraiser celebrated another amazing evening. The live auction and paddle raised over \$65,000 in one night! All proceeds will go to the Reflecting Pool project in the Conservatory Garden.

Special honored guests Dan and Beth Bird and Carol and Warren Wiebert were recognized for their generosity to the Gardens. The fundraising committee, the Board of the Friends of the Gardens, and Director Scott McElwain want to thank all of those who generously donated their time, money and other talents to this wonderful event. *(continued on page 3)*





# Kansas State University GARDENS

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

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Sally Lindquist  
Jo Lyle  
Deanna Moeder  
Cindi Morris  
Barbara Pearson  
Sharon Snyder  
Beth Unger  
Sue White  
Cheryl Yunk

Jordan Robinson, Student Member

## From the Director of the Gardens

A few improvements were made to the Gardens this past fall which we hope you'll enjoy visiting this spring. In the conservatory garden, we expanded the Iris marsh by adding a water feature that includes a blue heron sculpture, bubbling rock and water loving plants. Two new benches were installed nearby along the main walkway. In the visitor center garden, changes have been made to many of the plant displays and the first of two stone posts was added to the cottage garden's annual flower display beds.

We hope you discover and connect with something new every time you visit the Gardens. Over the years many Garden visitors have told us how much they love the Gardens and how it has impacted their lives. We know our Gardens go far beyond being a valuable education resource for visitors. For many it's a place for calming, relaxing, recharging. Simply said "It's food for the soul." One recent visitor said "I love the Gardens; it just makes me feel good just to walk through here." We've had many visitors discover the Gardens for the first time while waiting on their four-legged loved one's results at K-State's Veterinary Health Center. For them it's a peaceful place to relax and reduce a great deal of their stress.

If the Gardens at Kansas State University have touched your life or made an impact on you and/or your family or friends, we would love to hear your story. Contact us at [ksugardens@ksu.edu](mailto:ksugardens@ksu.edu) and let us know how we have impacted your life.

As always, thank you for supporting the Gardens. –Scott McElwain

## Annual Master Gardener Tour on June 7



Tickets for this year's Riley County Extension Master Gardeners tour will be on sale at the Riley County Extension office or local garden centers after May 1. They are \$8 if purchased in advance and \$10 on the day of the event. Come and see the K-State Gardens and all five beautiful local gardens!



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# Planting a Seed: An Evening Extraordinaire *(continued from page 1)*





## Dedication of Dayton Family Blue Heron Sculpture

There is a blue heron in the Gardens! This new sculpture was donated by the Dayton family to honor their mother, Lavonia, for her birthday celebration. The dedication took place on October 25, 2019 and was attended by the family and several Friends of the Gardens.

The blue heron was created by Kwan Wu who is responsible for the majority of the Gardens' sculptures, several of which were commissioned by the Daytons. The life size bronze heron stands in a small rock lined pool with a bubbling rock fountain surrounded by grasses, irises, and other plants in the Gardens' northeast corner marsh area. Director Scott McElwain designed the site and built the pool with assistance from student workers and Purple Thumb volunteers. The work included moving large rocks, drilling the rock bubbler, revising plant placement and installing the sculpture. The result is stunning!



## From the President of the Friends

Once again I want to thank everyone for their support of our Kansas State University Gardens. That support continues to grow as more people become aware of the gem of a display garden that we have here in Manhattan on the grounds of Kansas State University! Our donors, staff, students, volunteers, and Friends' board take great pride in all the ways they contribute to make this place grow.

We had a very successful "Third Annual Planting a Seed to Grow the Gardens" fundraiser in October. Some fortunate people left the evening with a fabulous trip to take or a really nice collection of bourbons, all while supporting the Gardens! Others were equally fortunate to enjoy a beautiful evening with friends while learning more about the Gardens' future plans and projects. More recently, many homes and businesses looked festive thanks to our annual poinsettia sale that was held on three different days in November and December.

As you can tell, even during these winter months when the plants become dormant, much is still happening in the Gardens. Our Gardens board remains busy! Along with funding student interns, our main fundraising focus is to raise money for the completion of phase II of Gardens' development with the construction of a reflecting pool. Please check the Gardens' website and Facebook pages for more information on our events and educational programs. Again, thank you for your support!

Nancy Farrar  
2019-2020 Friends Board President



# Iris Day and Sale

It wouldn't be Mother's Day without a tour of the Iris collection at Kansas State University Gardens! Vote on your favorites from an assortment of 300 varieties from 1-4 pm on Sunday, May 10 with the Flint Hills Iris Society. The annual Iris sale will be held on Saturday, July 25 from 8 am to noon so you can purchase many or all of your favorites for \$1-\$7 each. Cash or checks only, please.



# Friends' Annual Poinsettia Sale

The 2019 annual Friends' poinsettia sale was a rousing success with sales of over \$9,000. Thanks to Dr. Kim Williams and her floral crops greenhouse production class who grew the poinsettias and amaryllis for the annual sale.



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

# Purple Thumb Volunteers

Every garden needs a team of helpers to plant, water, weed and manage the landscape. The Purple Thumbs at the K-State Gardens volunteer to help with these tasks and more. They are an active group year round, working outside in fair weather and in the greenhouses in foul weather. Contact Laura Hall at [gardens.laura.hall@gmail.com](mailto:gardens.laura.hall@gmail.com) for more information. April and May are especially busy times with the planting of annuals. Come join our group of volunteers – no experience required.



## Digging in the Gardens

Several talks are planned at The Gardens for 2020 Digging in the Gardens' participants including: Waking Up Your Garden; Good or Bad Insects – What to Do; Invite Pollinators; Putting Your Garden to Bed; and others. Of course, tours are always a possibility. Watch The Gardens website at [k-state.edu/gardens](http://k-state.edu/gardens) for details.

## Kids K-State Garden Club

Plans are underway for the second year of the Kids K-State Garden Club. Graduates of the 2019 sessions will be invited to help plant, maintain, and harvest a cold crop garden; experiment with gardening activities; and learn more about The K-State Gardens with a scavenger hunt. The original program with gardening basics will be offered for a new group of kids which will include planting flowers in the Butterfly Garden.

Gardening activities that can be done at home will be posted to the Gardens' website and also sent home with club members.



## Daylily Daze in July

Join us for the **3rd annual Daylily Daze Celebration** on July 4 from 9–11 a.m. See website at [k-state.edu/gardens](http://k-state.edu/gardens) for more information.

# September Stroll Will Be September 11

We hope you can join us on September 11 for the September Stroll in The Gardens when new Quinlan Society Members (lifetime giving of \$10,000+) will be recognized. The September Stroll will take place from 5:30–7:30 pm with the Quinlan Society recognition at 6:00 pm. Light refreshments will be served by our Friends' board and Garden volunteers.



## 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](mailto:ksugardens@ksu.edu) or call 785.532.3271 for more information.

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



GARDENS

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## Docent Training

Information sessions for volunteers along with new or experienced docents will begin in March. There will be two or three sessions covering the Gardens' history, layout, specialty gardens and collections, interpretation, and sample tours. If you are interested call 785-532-3271 or email us at ksugardens@ksu.edu.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### March 2020

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

### Kansas State University Open House

Saturday, April 18, 9 am – 3 pm. Fun in the Gardens, activities and games, Hort Club plant sale, daylily sale from 9-11 am. Cash or check only.

### Kids Garden Club

Activities and learning in the Gardens for K-3rd graders. Starts on Sat., March 21. Check website for more information.

### Iris Day

Sunday, May 10, 1-4 pm, K-State Gardens. Come admire the Iris and pick out your favorites.

### "Enchanted Evening"

Friends of the Gardens' annual garden party. Friday, June 5, 7-10 pm in the K-State Gardens. Enjoy appetizers, cocktails and a June evening outdoors.

### Riley County Extension Master Gardeners Annual Garden Tour

Sunday, June 7 from 1-5 pm. Tickets on sale from May 1 at local garden centers and Riley County Extension office (\$8 in advance; \$10 at the door).

### Daylily Daze

Saturday, July 4 from 9-11 am. Meet members of the Flint Hills Daylily Society and talk to local master gardeners.

### Iris Sale

Saturday, July 25 from 8 am – noon. Bring cash or check to buy your favorite iris from the Flint Hills Iris Society at the Gardens.

### May 2020

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

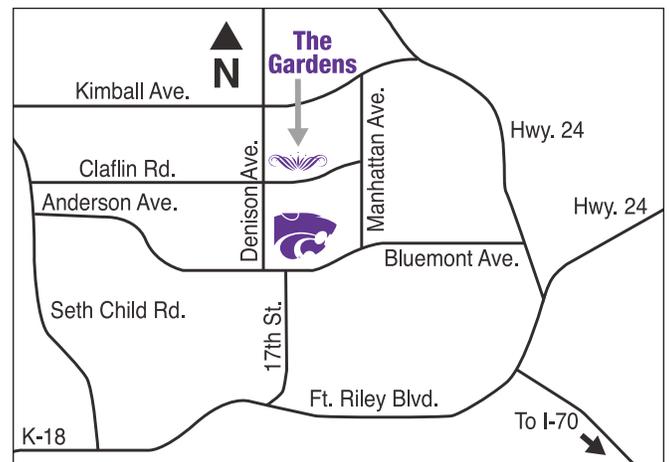
### June 2020

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
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14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

### July 2020

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

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](http://www.k-state.edu/gardens)

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