

*Friends of the*  
KANSAS STATE UNIVERSITY



GARDENS

# NEWS

Spring 2023



# Kansas State University GARDENS

Constructed and maintained by the  
Department of Horticulture  
and Natural Resources

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## Student Gardeners

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Andrew Littlefield

## 2023-2024 Board of Directors

Cheryl Yunk, *President*  
Greta Berg, *student*  
Rosemary Boggs  
Mike Butler  
Nancy Cole  
Val Converse  
Marcia Cooper  
Libby Cyr  
Nancy Farrar  
Don Glaser  
Tim Lindemuth  
Jo Lyle  
Susan Martin  
Cindi Morris  
Terry Olson  
Sharon Snyder  
Jenne Streeter  
Beth Unger

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## Photo Credit

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

# From the Director of the Gardens

## *2023 Kicks off with significant changes to the Gardens*

Change is coming to the K-State Gardens. Phase I of the reflecting pool project's construction is underway. The Quinlan Visitor Center will be getting new windows, an HVAC system and exterior paint, and the conservatory will be removed. These projects are all anticipated to be completed by the end of May. We are actively fundraising for Phase II of the reflecting pool project and will continue construction to finish that project when funds are secured.

The announcement of the conservatory removal is bittersweet for the Gardens. Since its closure in 2008, we have been working on ways to raise funds for extensive asbestos abatement. During that time, we developed an exciting conservatory renovation and expansion plan. Since the abatement and structural needs are vast, the university decided the best course of action is to remove the building and salvage historical components that can be used when the conservatory is rebuilt. While removing the building and clearing the site will leave a void in the gardens, it will eliminate significant safety hazards and allow us to prepare the site for the rebuild. When reconstructed, the conservatory will have environmental controls, ADA accessibility, historical embellishments that were lost over the years and an addition to the north to accommodate numerous educational activities. We are excited about the expansion plans, and we hope those who love the conservatory will help us secure funding for its reconstruction in the near future.

Please help us spread the word about all the great things happening in the Gardens. We will continue to post Garden project updates on Facebook and our website. As always, thank you for your support, and if you have any questions about the Gardens, please let us know.

## Scott McElwain

*K-State Gardens Director*

# Supporting the GARDENS

Please email us at [ksugardens@k-state.edu](mailto:ksugardens@k-state.edu)  
or call 785-532-3271.



1 SOUTHWEST PERSPECTIVE : RAISING THE ROOF

## From the President of the Friends

### *Exciting things are happening at the Kansas State University Gardens*

Changes are coming, and soon there will be new things to see! Throughout the winter months, progress has been happening at the Gardens. Surveyors were on-site recently preparing for the construction of the reflecting pool. The Friends of the Gardens board of directors has been hard at work planning activities for 2023. Volunteers planted more than 10,000 tulip bulbs in the fall, and they will soon burst with color in the spring. We can't wait for our Garden Friends to see all that is happening at the Kansas State University Gardens!

The reflecting pool will be a beautiful addition to the Gardens, and the multitude of tulips will add a pop of color, in addition to the other flowers, trees and bushes that will begin budding and blossoming throughout the spring. We hope you can stop by for a visit and check out the progress in these beautiful gardens, which are for everyone to enjoy. The generosity of our Garden Friends helps to "make the Gardens grow." We can't begin to thank you enough for your support.

Please join us this year for the Second Annual Run for the Roses 5K run and 1K walk on April 29, a Gardens bus trip in May, the Garden Party on June 2, the Gardens Stroll in September and the poinsettia sale in November, along with numerous other activities at the K-State Gardens.

Please watch for details on the Gardens website, Facebook and Instagram.

Have a beautiful spring, and join us in the Gardens!

**Cheryl Yunk**

*President*

*Friends of the K-State Gardens Board of Directors*



## Tulips in the Spring

A welcome sign of spring is colorful blooming bulbs. This year, more than 10,000 tulips will announce the start of spring in the Gardens. In November, beds were prepared for planting, and volunteers arrived to help. It took several days with volunteers on their knees digging and planting for hours on end in less-than-ideal weather. Just when all 10,000 bulbs were planted, Blueville Nursery donated 2,000 more. The volunteers came back and got to work planting the additional bulbs. Many thanks go out to all who helped. Be sure to plan a visit to the Gardens in April to see the spectacular display of colorful tulips.



## September Stroll

The 2022 September Stroll had a new feature — an exotic plant sale. The Horticulture and Natural Resources Department worked with the Gardens' Purple Thumb volunteers to set up and sell aroids from the Araceae family. Visitors strolled the Gardens and lined up for the sale, which was very popular. The Purple Thumbs' share of the proceeds will benefit the Gardens.

*Photo: Aroids from Araceae family*





## Run for the Roses

The second annual Run for the Roses 5K race and 1K walk is scheduled for April 29, 2023, from 9-11:30 a.m. New this year is a \$25 student 5K rate and a virtual 5k race for those who can't be there in person. There will be face painting and balloon artists for kids and more than 10,000 tulips in bloom. The 5K race course starts in the beautiful K-State Gardens, winds through the campus and finishes back at the Gardens. Walkers can take a tour of the Gardens.



## Poinsettia Sale

Once again, the annual poinsettia sale was a success. Fifteen volunteers, along with Garden staff, arrived to assemble orders after the last Greenhouse Operations Management class in November. Multiple orders with a mix of cultivars were gathered from four greenhouse rooms, placed in the requested color of foil, dropped in sleeves and moved to receiving rooms. More volunteers loaded them into buyers' cars the next morning. The sale raised approximately \$2,500 to support the K-State Gardens.



## Welcome Emily to the Gardens!

Emily Hall, landscape technician II, began working at the K-State Gardens on August 25, 2022. She began her career writing instructional manuals and marketing campaigns until she decided to follow her career passion in the landscaping industry. "There is nothing as rewarding as tending to the seasonal needs of a beautiful space like the Gardens and working with others who feel the same way," said Emily. "I learn something new every day. I'm very lucky!" The Gardens are lucky, too.





## Iris Dig

The iris display will be different this spring. One bed needed to be moved to the exterior of the Gardens' stone wall to make room for the construction of the reflecting pool. It will be stunning for the people driving by in May.

## Bittersweet News

As you know, the Gardens' once spectacular conservatory has been closed since 2008 due to public safety issues. Recent infrastructure studies led by the Kansas Board of Regents determined that the conservatory received an "F" rating on the facilities condition index. Fortunately, the university allocated funds to rectify the situation. The conservatory will be removed in the spring 2023 semester. The area will be turned into green space until funding is available for a new conservatory.



## Rose Garden

The Gardens are always worth a visit. Be sure to check out the rose garden in 2023 — the new healthy plants will put on quite a show.



# Reflecting Pool Groundbreaking

September 28 was a glorious day in the Gardens with the groundbreaking for the new reflecting pool. Gardens Director Scott McElwain, K-State President Richard Linton and Friends of the Gardens Board President Cheryl Yunk gave remarks. They joined First Lady Sally Linton and major donors Dan and Beth Bird, Warren and Carol Weibert, Leland and Janice Reitz, and Don and Linda Glasser for the exciting event, which had plenty of shovels!



## Support the Gardens

The following funds support specific areas of the Kansas State University Gardens. Please contact Director Scott McElwain if you wish to contribute to any of these important areas.

- **Gardens Director's Excellence Fund,\* D61020**, assists with critical day-to-day operations.
- **Bidwell Family Excellence Fund,\* D17850**, provides maintenance for Gardens' water features.
- **KSU Gardens Projects, D14610**, supports expansion and development of the Gardens.
- **KSU Gardens Conservatory Project, D29735**, helps with future renovation/expansion.
- **KSU Gardens Internship Program, D29740**, supports students maintaining the Gardens.
- **KSU Gardens Friends, D25860**, provides maintenance, educational, expansion and promotional support.

\* This is an endowed fund. Contributions can be directed toward income, which would be available for immediate use, or principal, which would be invested to build endowment.

## Garden Party

The 2023 Garden Party will be held Friday, June 2. We plan for the perfect weather, gorgeous gardens, generous sponsors and delighted guests. Requests for sponsors will be sent soon, and invitations will go out in April. Be sure to save the date.

Department of Horticulture  
 and Natural Resources  
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 Manhattan, KS 66506-5506

**UPCOMING EVENTS**

**April 2023**

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						

**K-State Open House  
 and Gardens'  
 Plant Sale**  
*April 9*

**Run for the Roses**  
*April 29*

**May 2023**

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			

**Iris Day**  
*May 14*

**Garden Party**  
*June 2*

**June 2023**

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	

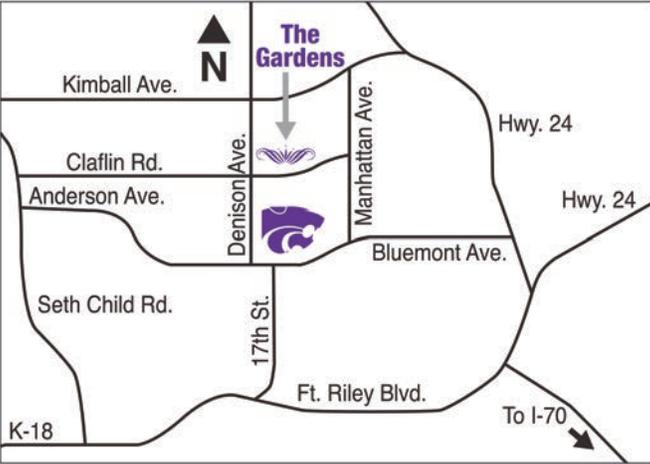
**Riley County Master  
 Gardeners' Tour**  
*June 10*

**Iris Plant Sale**  
*July 29*

**July 2023**

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					

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

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