



INSIDE

THE GARDENS

SUMMER 2023 A QUARTERLY MAGAZINE FOR
MEMBERS OF DENVER BOTANIC GARDENS

We all want our communities to have a healthy tree canopy and beautiful gardens. We need plants to soften the harsher impact of concrete and asphalt. As buildings become dense, some with no setback from sidewalks, we yearn for a bit of nature to keep us grounded.

Alas, in many Colorado cities, the best intentions have not been matched with best practices. A pet peeve of mine has long been street medians. Near my home, the medians can best be described as disasters. Wrong trees, bluegrass filled with weeds and mostly dead shrubs are lessons on what not to do. It makes me wonder how much time and money it takes to manage a failed landscape – mowing in the middle of a busy thoroughfare, weed killer, irrigation and tree replacement.

Why not do it right? There is a movement afoot to create sustainable landscapes and the Gardens' team has taken the lead. Smart soil prep and plant selection can lead to easy maintenance, usually with only one year of irrigation. How is this possible? There are several gardens at York Street (Laura Smith Porter Plains Garden and Dryland Mesa are two) that receive no irrigation. They thrive because the plants are either native to Colorado or are selected from similar steppe regions around the world. They are tough, beautiful and render great habitat resources.

Every year at our Spring Plant Sale, I purchase a couple of xeric plants and place them in what I call my trial garden. It's a four-foot strip along my driveway with a dry-stacked rock frame. It has a bit of soil combined with gravel and mulch. After placing each plant, I simply leave them alone. No water. I've lost a couple over the years, but most are flourishing.

Of course, our incredible horticulture team has taken sustainable landscape design and implementation to all new heights. Examples can be found all over Colorado, including Fort Collins, Lakewood, Littleton and Greenwood Village. The east side of York Street along the Gardens' parking structure was just renovated with water-smart gardens to replace bluegrass. It already looks good; after a year it will look stunning.

Turf replacement is here. The state of Colorado, individual cities and water districts are all on board. Communities like Sterling Ranch, in Littleton, have incorporated sustainable landscapes from day one. You may be pondering what you can do, and the good news is that we have resources to help.

Check out our [water-wise resources page](#) on our website. You will find everything from links to collaborators to an array of free landscape designs.

Let's create a new aesthetic for landscape in Colorado that is both beautiful and responsible.

Onward.

Brian Vogt
Denver Botanic Gardens CEO



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INSIDE THE GARDENS

ISSUE 3, 2023

Denver Botanic Gardens

1007 York St., Denver, CO 80206

Pre-purchased tickets and advance member passes only.

Hours: Through Sept. 4, 9 a.m. – 9 p.m., last admission 8 p.m.

Denver Botanic Gardens Chatfield Farms

8500 West Deer Creek Canyon Rd., Littleton, CO 80128

Pre-purchased tickets and advance member passes only.

Hours: 9 a.m. – 5 p.m., last admission 4 p.m.

[Check the website for early closures](#)

General Information: 720-865-3500

Class Registration: 720-865-3580

Donations: 720-865-3528

Gift Shop: 720-865-3595

Membership Services: 720-865-3525

Private Events: 720-865-3551

Volunteering: 720-865-3609

Helen Fowler Library: 720-865-3570

Tours: 720-865-3539

Visit Our Website for More Information:

[Gardening Help from Colorado Master Gardeners](#)

[Kathryn Kalmbach Herbarium](#)

[Sam Mitchel Herbarium of Fungi](#)

Editor: Tiffany Coleman

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Photographer: Scott Dressel-Martin

The mission of Denver Botanic Gardens is to connect people with plants, especially plants from the Rocky Mountain region and similar regions around the world, providing delight and enlightenment to everyone.

DENVER BOTANIC
GARDENS

botanicgardens.org



The Gardens is grateful for funds from the Scientific & Cultural Facilities District (SCFD), which enable us to expand services and enhance the quality of our programs and exhibits.



BUILDING SOIL HEALTH

Through Partnerships with Higher Education

By Rutger Myers, Soil Health Technician, and Josie Hart, Associate Director of Farm Programs

Without life, soil is dirt.

For the last two seasons, with the help of a University of Colorado Denver independent study program and the university's School of Geography, the [Chatfield Farms](#) Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) team has been testing the stability of our soil aggregates (sand, silt and clay particles that are cemented together by chemical, biological and physical forces).

One test that repeatedly submerges a sieve filled with soil into water allows us to observe how well our soil retains water while also keeping its structure. By conducting a soil test that can be performed at home with a kitchen strainer, we are hoping to inspire other small-scale farmers and gardeners to evaluate their own soils for aggregate stability. Check out this [short video of the soil-testing process](#).

Why does aggregate stability matter? Soil aggregates behave differently than dirt clumps (generally formed by clay-rich soils that are disturbed or tilled when wet). Aggregates are resilient but flexible. They absorb and store large amounts of water but are also resistant to disruptive weather events such as wind and hail. Soil aggregates also reduce nutrient leaching and runoff, cleaning water instead of contaminating our waterways, just like a carbon filter you'd use to purify drinking water. Essentially, soil aggregates create stability to protect our topsoil, while adding structure to retain water and nutrients for our plants.

Healthy soil grows healthy food. There are 18 essential nutrients that are responsible for plant and

human growth that can be found in a basic healthy soil sample. The more we build these nutrients into the soil, the more we consume them in our food.

In addition to having interns on the farm conducting regular physical soil tests and recording their progress on a digital soil map, we also conduct annual worm counts to look at the health of the soil through monitoring our best soil allies – earthworms.

Worms are decomposers. They feed on the predators of bacteria, keeping the soil ecosystem balanced. Worms do not actually "eat" the veggie scraps in a worm bin or the plant matter on the soil's surface. As omnivores, worms consume fungi, nematodes and protozoa. Fungi and bacterial predators indicate that the soil can transport nutrients to healthy plants. Therefore, a healthy worm population indicates a healthy soil ecosystem.

By comparing yearly worm counts in a sample area, farmers can track the biology within their soil.

We recently compiled the numbers from this year's worm count and the results are stunning. Overall, we counted 135 worms in 2022 and 392 worms in 2023. That's a 190% increase! We are seeing an increase in our earthworm activity as we cover-crop more and apply the rich, small-batch compost that is made onsite. This compost was focused to one field in particular last season that yielded the highest number of worms this season – confirming that great compost leads to more worms, which leads to long-term soil improvements.





Photos by
Rutger Myers



Hit the Trail in MORDECAI CHILDREN'S GARDEN

By Elena Shtern, Horticulturist

Although originally built for kids and families to explore plants and the natural world, this three-acre oasis will impress even the most experienced garden visitors. Relaxing and scenic, the trail through **Mordecai Children's Garden** is considered an easy route. It takes about 15 minutes to complete at a leisurely stroll and walks you through all of Colorado's major life zones.

Start your journey at Trailhead Terrace located on a green roof (over our parking garage) that emulates the alpine environment. Enjoy your walk on wooden bridges surrounded by a variety of dwarf and cushion plants with Colorado blue spruces (*Picea pungens*) pruned to mimic windblown krummholz (the stunted vegetation shaped by continuous exposure to fierce conditions) found at tree line.

From there, take the meandering path through the montane forest where you will encounter aspens (*Populus tremuloides*) and ponderosa pine (*Pinus ponderosa*). Continue past the Glorious Grasslands,

short grass prairie planted with buffalo grass (*Bouteloua dactyloides*), to Pipsqueak Pond, which is surrounded by native willows (*Salix irrorata* and *S. amygdaloides*), red dogwoods (*Cornus sericea*), as well as numerous aquatic plants like cattails (*Typha latifolia*) in the pond itself. The waterfall is a popular background for selfies.

Next, the trail briefly weaves back into civilization where hikers can take a break in the Morrison Discovery Center greenhouse or Home Harvest Garden. On your return journey, take the side path to enjoy the tall grass prairie planted with big blue stem grass (*Andropogon gerardii*) and yellow prairie grass (*Sorghastrum nutans*) and marvel at the local wildlife (other kiddos!) frolicking in the sandpit and the Springmelt Stream.

As you re-enter the alpine zone, take another detour and climb to Marmot Mountain and Pika Peak, enjoying subalpine plants on the way up as well as an amazing view of the real mountains at the end of the climb.

MORDECAI Children's Garden

Trail: Mordecai Children's Garden

Round trip: .25 miles

Trail type: Out and Back

Elevation gain: 35 feet

Difficulty: Easy

Trailhead directions: Across the street from the main Gardens

Gather in the Kitchen

By Helena Nitz, Family and Children's Program Coordinator

Have you heard the saying "kitchen time is family time"? Cooking together is a great way to not only bond with your family but also to help children learn basic math skills, work on language development and build hand-eye coordination with fine and gross motor movements. The next time you are in the kitchen, find some tasty and healthy recipes that feature a summer garden's delicious harvest and try these tips to get even the youngest members of the family involved:



Read recipes together.

Whether you are reading the recipe to a child or encouraging them to try reading the recipe on their own, you are helping to improve reading comprehension.



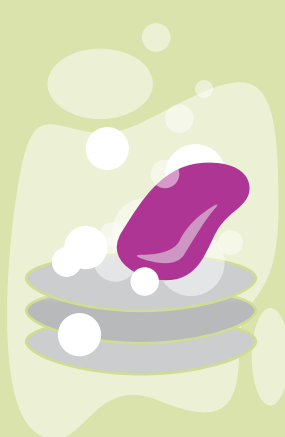
Measure and pour ingredients together.

Measuring ingredients is a great way to work on math skills and children even as young as 18 months can improve their motor skills by scooping and pouring ingredients into containers and bowls.



Chop and mash soft fruit and veggie ingredients.

Using the proper tools, children can get involved in ingredient prep! The next time you make hummus, try giving your child a potato masher to help prepare chickpeas. They will have plenty of fun improving their motor skills while preparing a yummy snack.



Clean up together.

Encourage children to help stack dishes in a sink to improve their sense of responsibility and work on hand-eye coordination by rinsing off dishes before washing or placing them in a dishwasher.



For even more learning fun, plan and plant a garden!

Cooking together doesn't have to start in the kitchen, it can start with growing your own tasty fruits and veggies either in a community garden, backyard or even a sunny window. Planting seeds and plants is a wonderful sensory experience for learners of all ages and helps children to gain a sense of responsibility as they care for the plants.

The next time you are working on a meal or healthy snack, remember that everyone in the family can get involved and lend a helping hand. You may even find that by cooking together, you can also learn and grow together.

GROWING COLORADO-SENEGAL CONNECTIONS

By Jennifer Riley-Chetwynd, Director of Marketing & Social Responsibility, Co-Director One World One Water Center

It was fitting to be greeted by baobab trees upon arrival at Dakar’s Blaise Diagne International Airport. Native to the sub-Saharan region of Africa, the iconic baobab is known for its regenerative properties – the ability to self-heal.

In early February, Gardens board member Papa Dia led a [Denver delegation](#) on a visit to his native Senegal to assess the opportunity for a horticultural greening and urban agriculture project in and around his hometown of Thies, located just outside the capital Dakar. Along with the Gardens’ Director of Horticulture Phillip Douglas and Film Director Billy Kanaly, I witnessed how the effects of climate change coupled with lacking and under-funded infrastructure have hampered economic growth. But I also witnessed the palpable desire of the Senegalese people to not only heal but thrive.

We saw schoolchildren in Thies attending “extra-credit” night classes to learn English (French is the official language, and Wolof is the predominant

native language). We met with dozens of motivated entrepreneurs who formed the Thies sister chapter of Papa’s Denver-based [African Leadership Group](#). We visited villages and spoke with farmers keen to grow food for local markets. We discussed possibilities for Colorado-Senegal collaborations with local politicians as well as several federal government ministers. We started a conversation about joint research and project management with faculty at the National Secondary School of Agriculture (ENSA by its French acronym). And we learned about technical and financial support opportunities through the [United Nations Food & Agriculture Organization’s Dakar office](#).

Now back in Denver, we continue to develop these connections via email and Zoom and will welcome several Senegalese collaborators to Denver in August for meetings on next steps. In the meantime, a framed photo of a baobab hangs in my office as inspiration.





Victoria cruziana

SANTA CRUZ WATERLILY

By Tamara Kilbane, Curator of Aquatic Collection

One of three species of giant “water platters,” *Victoria cruziana* is native to the still waters of the Amazon in Bolivia, Paraguay and Argentina. This species is unique from the other two *Victoria* species, *V. amazonica* and the newly described *V. boliviana*, in that its leaves are a solid, light-green color with taller upturned edges. Among the species, it is also considered to be the most tolerant of cooler temperatures. Like all water platters, the undersides of the leaves along with the flower and leaf stems are covered in large, sharp thorns.

At the Gardens, we start this impressive waterlily from seed each spring in heated tubs in our aquatics greenhouse. A water temperature in the high 80s is required for germination, which normally takes about seven to 10 days. The

seedlings are grown in the greenhouse until mid-to late-June, when the outdoor temperatures have warmed enough to place them outside.

Water platters are heavy feeders, requiring weekly fertilization throughout the summer months in our display ponds. Specially formulated fertilizer tablets are pushed into the soil around each plant at increasing rates as the plants grow. The plants are night-blooming, with the first pineapple-scented flowers appearing in August. Blooms last only two nights and are white the first night before transitioning to a light pink on the second evening.

You can find Santa Cruz waterlily growing in the Romantic Gardens, Annuals Garden and Monet Pool this summer.

LAVENDER FESTIVAL

at Chatfield Farms

Saturday & Sunday, July 15 & 16,
9 a.m. – 4 p.m.

\$7-\$13, must purchase tickets in advance

Experience more than 2,000 fragrant lavender plants in peak bloom at this two-day festival. Admission includes live music and wagon rides, plus a craft area and barrel train rides for kids. Vendors selling a variety of food, drinks and lavender-themed products for purchase will be onsite. [Get tickets online.](#)



EVENINGS AL FRESCO

Mondays & Wednesdays, Aug. 7, 14, 16
& 21, 4:30-8:30 p.m.

\$20-\$30, must purchase tickets in advance

Revel in the golden hour at the Gardens with live music. Local artists perform various kinds of music throughout our York Street location that you can enjoy at your own pace. Bring a picnic or purchase food from the Hive Garden Bistro or Offshoots Café. No two evenings are the same. [Get tickets online.](#)

FETE DÊS FLEURS

Friday, Aug. 25, 5:30-11 p.m.

The *Fête des Fleurs* is a late summer tradition in Denver. For 39 years, Gardens' patrons and their guests have gathered for a black-tie dinner and dancing at the lovely gardens of York Street. Join us on Friday, August 25.

Mareill Kiernan and Lindsay Morton Gaiser, co-chairs of this year's *Fête*, along with the *Fête* committee, have created an elegant gala with traveling cocktail reception and dinner set among the gardens. There are still limited tables and tickets available. For more information [visit our website.](#)

Many thanks to presenting sponsor GH Phipps and supporting sponsors Andrisen Morton and Polestar Denver as well as media sponsor Colorado Homes & Lifestyles magazine.

AGRICULTURE FESTIVAL

at Plains Conservation Center

Saturday, Sept. 16, 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.

\$5 per vehicle, advance registration required

Celebrate the rich future of food in our community! During the festival, which highlights regenerative agriculture and a more sustainable way of growing food, the prairie is filled with engaging educational opportunities for all ages, local food trucks and exciting vendors working toward a sustainable future. Last year, festival attendees tasted local honey samples, heard from champions of regenerative agriculture—including Chatfield Farms staff—and met a variety of farm animals. There are opportunities to learn about the history of land use and agriculture on the prairie, from Indigenous ethnobotany to tours of the 1880s replica sod homestead village. Hosted by the City of Aurora in partnership with the Gardens. More information at Auroragov.org.



FALL PLANT & BULB SALE

Friday & Saturday, Sept. 22 & 23, 8 a.m. – 4 p.m.

Free admission, reservations required

Continue your gardening season past summer's end. Fall is for planting, and at Fall Plant & Bulb Sale, you'll find a wide variety of standard and specialty bulbs, seed mixes curated by our horticulturists and plants grown right here at the Gardens. Horticulturists will be onsite to answer questions and spark inspiration for gardens both big and small. [Get full details online.](#)

Fall Plant & Bulb Sale Preview Party

Thursday, Sept. 21, 4-6:30 p.m.

\$50 advance tickets, \$55 at the door (if available)

Access the sale early for the best selection and fabulous treats, wine and beer.



Reservations for Fall Plant & Bulb Sale and tickets for Corn Maze available:

Gardens Plus members: **Wednesday, Aug. 23**

Friends & Family members: **Thursday, Aug. 24**

Dual Plus – Individual Plus members: **Friday, Aug. 25**

Public: **Monday, Aug. 28**

CORN MAZE at Chatfield Farms

Fridays – Sundays, Sept. 15 – Oct. 29, 9 a.m. – 5 p.m.

\$10-\$16, must purchase tickets in advance

Get tickets to Colorado's best corn maze! This year's seven-acre maze has a sea-creature theme for fun twists and tricky turns. Included with admission is the mini-maze and barrel train rides for kids. Grab a snack from our food vendors with festival favorites like freshly squeezed lemonade, funnel cakes dusted with powdered sugar and salty-sweet kettle corn. For an additional onsite fee, you can see if you have what it takes to solve the puzzle and get out of one of our escape rooms. [Get full Corn Maze details online.](#)



Take a trip with Gardens staff members for guided excursions that will delight and inspire with botanical highlights, geographical wonders, culture, food and history. [See the itineraries and register.](#)

CAPE OF SOUTH AFRICA

September 23 – October 8

Explore the magnificent landscapes of the western Cape of South Africa, a botanical holy grail. With an exceptional level of biodiversity, this is the richest of the world's five Mediterranean climate regions in terms of species per square kilometer. Led by Denver Botanic Gardens' Director of Horticulture Phillip Douglas, this 15-day tour includes visits to Scarborough, Redhill, the Tienie Versveld Reserve, Paarl Mountain and Kirstenbosch Botanic Gardens.

MAGICAL MEXICO: Oaxaca

December 4-11

See Oaxaca through the lens of art and cuisine. Known for its vibrant mestizo heritage, rich artisan culture and smoky mezcal, this is one of Mexico's most interesting states.

BOTANIC WONDERS OF ECUADOR – Two Options

Mainland Portion: January 11-19, 2024

Galápagos Islands Portion: January 19-25, 2024

Ecuador is home to more than 10% of the world's plant species. This eight-day trip hosted by Panayoti Kelaidis showcases the country's staggering flora. Visit a variety of habitats from the Andean Highlands and Cotopaxi Volcano to lush rainforest and cloud forest reserves. Enjoy Quito's historic center, Quito Botanical Gardens and a rose production facility.

A five-day Galápagos extension with stays on Santa Cruz and Isabela Islands is also available.

MAGICAL MEXICO:

Monarch Butterflies, Mexico City and Valle de Bravo

February 5-11, 2024

Every winter, montane cloud forests in central Mexico host millions of over-wintering monarch butterflies, creating one of the most impressive wildlife spectacles on the planet. Spend two days at monarch butterfly sanctuaries. Then, explore vibrant Mexico City, known for its thriving art scene, charming neighborhoods, world-class gastronomy and unique blend of old and new.



YO SOY:

Continuing to Celebrate Latino Culture

By Yvonne Garcia Bardwell, Associate Director of Community Relations

Building on more than a decade of our Día de los Muertos celebrations, the Gardens, in partnership with local organizations, hosts a wide range of experiences this fall that highlight Latino cultures locally and globally. “Yo Soy,” which means “I am” in Spanish, is a new curated series that celebrates the rich and diverse cultural history of the Latino community.

Instead of a day-long festival at the Gardens, there will be a combination of onsite and offsite events that include art exhibits, cultural performances, workshops and conversations – elements you’ve come to expect from the Gardens’ Día de los Muertos festival, but expanded and, in some cases, happening in the community.

As we embark on this new chapter in uplifting and celebrating Latino cultural heritage, we remain committed to educating and inspiring the community at large and to creating new connections to a shared past. More details to come! Keep an eye on our website and social media for updates.



VOLUNTEER with the Gardens

Now is a perfect time to consider joining us as a volunteer. Volunteers support special events, horticulture, educational programming, the visitor experience and so much more. For more information on the Gardens’ volunteer program and specific details on both ongoing and special event volunteer opportunities at York Street, Chatfield Farms and Plains Conservation Center please visit botanicgardens.org/volunteer or email us at vol@botanicgardens.org.



NATURAL AREAS RESTORATION AND SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE

Support Healthy Soil Together

Rebecca Hufft, Ph.D., Associate Director of Applied Conservation

Healthy soils are critical for essential ecosystem services. Large-scale agricultural practices can degrade soil health and reduce capacity for supporting healthy crops. Likewise, many of the practices used in large-scale restoration, including tilling and herbicides, can breakdown healthy soil communities critical to seed germination and native plant community success. Unhealthy soils in both agricultural and natural fields can lead to erosion, reduced water infiltration, acidification and reduced organic matter.

We are researching several aspects of restoration techniques that can impact not only plant restoration success but also soil community health. In addition to water availability, one of the biggest challenges in restoration in our area is removing weeds that prevent the establishment of native species. Traditionally, the only way to succeed in this effort is using herbicides. In addition to the research on soil aggregates being conducted by the CSA team, we are also partnering with the University of Colorado Boulder to investigate the impacts of herbicide use on soil communities. These studies found that while the herbicide use was successful at removing the desired non-native plants, there were reductions in diversity in soil microbial and nematode communities.

While successful restoration can be done at a small-scale without herbicides, this becomes much harder at larger scales. We are working to understand when techniques like tilling and herbicide use are necessary and when other practices like mowing, grazing,

solarization and fire can be used to prepare areas for reseeded. We want to understand when the benefits of each management strategy outweigh the costs. Sharing site preparation, seeding and management techniques across disciplines is also allowing us to improve planting success while at the same time reducing undesired consequences. We are also looking into ways to improve soil communities when they have been degraded by management techniques (e.g., through inoculating the soil with fungi).

Land managers that diversify agricultural outcomes, including more diverse ecosystem services in addition to food production, will create systems that have better soil health, more ecological resilience and adaptive capacity in the face of climate change. For example, we have found that supporting diverse plant communities in agricultural areas helps support pollinators and beneficial insect predators and allows for a reduction in the amount of pesticides that are needed. Staff across the Gardens working in different disciplines (agriculture, ecological restoration and natural areas management), are working together to learn from each other. We are sharing setbacks and successes to coordinate the best methods to improve soil health and planting success across scales and purposes. Linking healthy habitats from grasslands to riparian areas to agricultural fields helps create a more holistic system that can work together to support healthy soils, water, food and wildlife.

Discover exhibitions and experiences celebrating the fusion of science and art.

The Freyer – Newman Center houses art galleries, classrooms, herbaria and much more. Visit an exhibition to see artworks highlighting the beauty of nature, take a tour to learn how art and science intersect, rediscover your artistic side with a class and discover a multitude of other programs.

Current and Upcoming Exhibitions and Related Programs

INDIGO

Through Nov. 5

Discover contemporary artists from the United States, Mexico, Nigeria, Japan and South Korea highlighting this plant-derived dye. With a winding history that spans millennia and traverses thousands of miles, indigo holds a complex and influential place in global art, trade and culture.



Rowland Ricketts, *Drawings*, indigo-dyed wool felt, 2016-2019, installation at the Museum of Craft and Design, 2019. Photo: Henrik Kam.

INTERSECTIONS LECTURE:

African Blues: My Life in Indigo

ONLINE – Wednesday, Sept. 13,
6 p.m.
\$12, \$10 member

Learn from artist Gasali Adeyemo, featured in *Indigo*, about the history of fiber art, Yoruba designs, the use of indigo dye and the artist's personal life and art practice.

Make Your Own Indigo Dye

Sunday, Aug. 27,
9 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.
\$185, \$155 member

This is a unique opportunity to **make your own natural indigo** jars for dye projects at home. Local botanical dye fiber artist Maki Teshima shares tips to mix, store and use indigo, even in a small space. Get an introduction to various shibori techniques on cotton and silk to create a jumping-off point to develop your own surface designs on textiles.

This course is part of the Art Exploration program and open to everyone. The course fee includes some materials.

Bundle Dyeing at Chatfield Farms

Sunday, Sept. 10, 10 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.
\$150, \$125 member

Come to beautiful Chatfield Farms for an **experimental dyeing workshop** with Maki Teshima. Use locally grown plants and explore other natural materials that can be used in bundle dyeing or *Tataki* (pounding) dyeing. Create your own unique and abstract surface designs with cotton and silk fabrics.

This course is part of the Art Exploration program and open to everyone. The course fee includes some materials.



Photo by Maki Teshima

ANSEL ADAMS: EARLY WORKS

Through Oct. 1

Featuring photos from the 1920s – 1950s, this exhibition features many of Adams' finest photographs of Yosemite National Park and other Western landscapes.

Ansel Adams: Early Works is organized by art2art Circulating Exhibitions, LLC. All photographs are from the private collection of Michael Mattis and Judith Hochberg.

Ansel Adams and the American West

Thursday, Sept. 28, 6 p.m.
\$12, \$10 member

Join Assistant Curator of Art Kara Felt, Ph.D., to learn about the photographs in *Ansel Adams: Early Works* and explore Adams' life, artistic process and passionate advocacy for America's wilderness. The galleries remain open until 8 p.m. for this program.

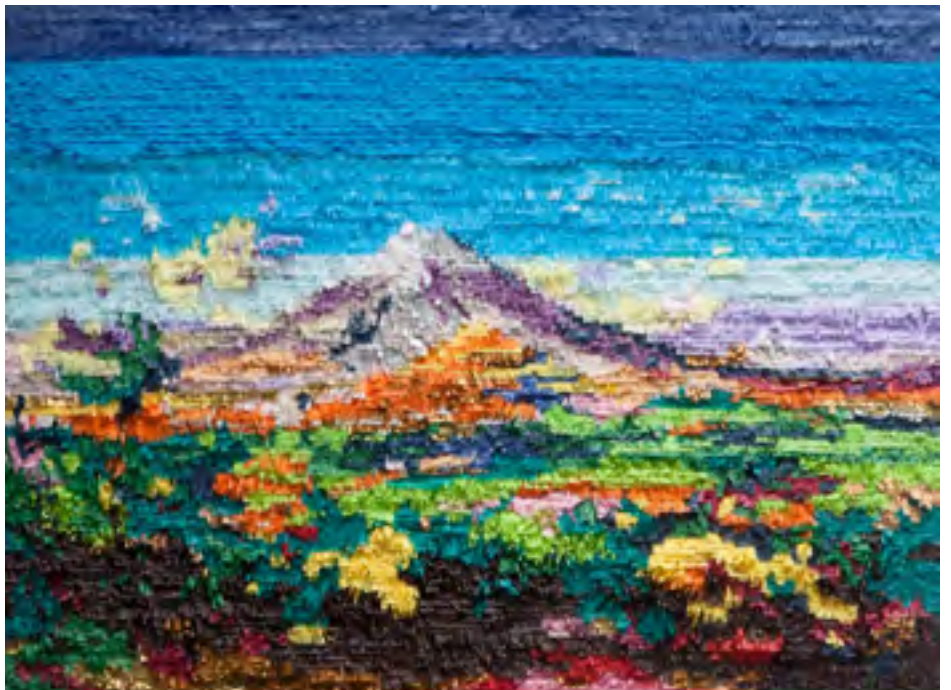


Ansel Adams, *Clearing Winter Storm*, Yosemite National Park, California, gelatin silver print, 1940. Center for Creative Photography, Ansel Adams Archive © The Ansel Adams Publishing Rights Trust.

JUSTIN FAVELA: VISTAS IN COLOR

Through Oct. 1

Vibrant, immersive and subtly humorous, ***Vistas in Color*** honors the sweeping desert landscapes of the U.S. and Mexico and the role that they play in Latinx identity.



Justin Favela, *Popocatepetl e Iztaccíhuatl vistos desde Atlixco, after José María Velasco*, paper, glue and cardboard, 2015. Photo: Mikayla Whitmore.

Find programs and register through the [calendar](#) on our website.

School of Botanical Art & Illustration

Creative Convenings

Friday, Aug. 18, 5-8 p.m. in the Freyer – Newman Center

Free; advanced registration required
Artists, scientists, dancers, cooks, gardeners—all are welcome! During this free informal gathering, meet with fellow creatives and celebrate the fusion of science and art.

Food for Thought – Online

Fridays, July 7, Aug. 4 & Sept. 1, noon – 1 p.m.

Free; advanced registration required
Seeking advice about how to take your creative practice to the next level? This new online series addresses professional practices in the art world and shares skills that will help our creative community thrive.

Sketching in the Galleries

Select Sundays in the Freyer – Newman Center | \$15, \$12 member

Bring your favorite pencils, paper and an open mind. We supply the inspiration.

Adult Education

Lavender Festival: Scale-up Your Lavender Planting

Sunday, July 16, 10-11:30 a.m.
\$48, \$43 member

Macro Photography with Mike's Camera

Tuesday, Sunday & Thursday, July 18, 23 & 27 or Sept. 12, 17 & 20, 6:30 p.m.
\$179 public

Vinyasa, Violins and Vino

Thursdays, July 20, 27 or Sept. 28, 6:30-8:30 p.m.; Tuesdays, Aug. 8, 22, Sept. 5 or 12, 6:30-8:30 p.m.
\$24 public



Alex Boersma

Intersections: Conversations on Art & Science – Online

\$12, \$10 member

Herbals, Murals and Myth: The Artforms of Ethnobotany

Wednesday, July 12, 6-7:30 p.m.

Join ethnobotanist Maeve Bassett to explore human relationships with plants including herbals, beer recipes, herbaria, painting and folklore.

Understanding Color for Mass Printing

Wednesday, Aug. 9, 6-7:30 p.m.

Kelly Roy, graphic designer and art coordinator at [Botanical Interests](#), provides suggestions to take your artworks from paper to print ready!



The Japanese Garden Approach Lecture

Thursday, Aug. 31, 6-7:30 p.m.
\$26, \$22 member

Mindfulness-based Stress Reduction – Short Course

Tuesdays, Aug. 8, 15, 22, 29, Sept. 5 & 12, 5-7 p.m.; Sunday, Sept. 10, 9:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.
\$350, \$300 member

TOURS

Explore our gardens or galleries with a knowledgeable guide to gain fresh insight and inspiration. Get full details and register through the [tours page](#) on our website.

York Street

DROP-IN TOURS

Included with admission

Garden Highlights: see website

Herbaria: Mondays – Fridays, 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.

Visita guiada de introducción a los

Jardines en español: Viernes selectos a 10 a.m.

STAFF-LED TOURS

\$30, \$15 member, \$5 student

Expert Explorations

Intro to Paleobotany: July 21, 2-3 p.m.

Plants & Play: Aug. 23, 6-7 p.m.

Bonsai 101: Aug. 25, 10-11 a.m.

Exploring Our Senses: Sept. 19, 10-11 a.m.

DOCENT-LED TOURS

\$24, \$12 member, \$5 student

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Select Thursdays – Sundays at 10 a.m. & 11 a.m.

Included with admission

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Seasonal Discoveries

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Mount Goliath

Free drop-in tours at the Dos Chapelle Nature Center are available every day, weather permitting.

Please [check online](#) for current information and [reserve tickets in advance](#).

Plains Conservation Center

For more information, call 720-739-0870 or contact

pccinfo@botanicgardens.org.

PRIVATE TOURS AT YORK STREET OR CHATFIELD FARMS

Looking for a customized experience for your group of six or more? Schedule a private guided tour at York Street or Chatfield Farms. For more information, contact tours@botanicgardens.org or [complete our form](#).



VISIT LOCAL, PRIVATE GARDENS

With Open Days

By Panayoti Kelaidis, Director of Outreach & Senior Curator

There is no better way to learn how to garden than to visit gardens. Through the Garden Conservancy's Open Days program, outstanding private gardens from coast to coast are highlighted for the public's viewing.

Denver Botanic Gardens is a presenting partner with the Gardens Conservancy for Colorado's Open Days, and four exceptional local gardens are on tap this summer: the garden of Keith Funk and the garden of Jim Borland, hosts of The Garden Wise Show on 810 AM and 95.3 FM and the podcast of the same name; the garden of legendary plant expert Kelly Grummons; and SummerHome, a unique xeriscape in the Washington Park neighborhood created by Gardens member Lisa Negri and Horticulture Department staff

members Kevin Williams and Sonya Anderson.

Denver gardens are showcased on August 26. Be sure to [reserve your tickets](#) now for this extraordinary opportunity to visit four of our area's finest private gardens and find inspiration for your own landscape.

Beyond Denver, you can visit private gardens in Steamboat Springs on July 8 and in Fort Collins on September 9. Decide which gardens to visit by looking on [GardenConservancy.org](https://www.gardenconservancy.org) and sorting by date and state.

Registration must be made in advance. Garden hosts cannot collect payments or verify membership onsite. Registration is \$10 for the public and \$5 Garden Conservancy members. More information can be found online.



Kelly Grummons' garden,
photo by Panayoti Kelaidis

Chris & Jerry Ross: HELPING FOOD PROGRAMS FLOURISH

Ashley Guesman, MPA, Major Gifts Manager

“Nothing is better than planting something and having it grow out of the ground and flourish. It does wonders for one’s self-esteem,” muses Chris Ross. Chris and her husband, Jerry, are longtime supporters of the Gardens with a passion for our [Urban Food Initiatives](#) (UFI). As a former public health nurse, Chris witnessed many instances of low-income community members struggling to provide healthy, fresh food for their families.

Chris and Jerry moved to Denver in 1970 and sometime thereafter, at the urging of Jerry’s mother, Chris became involved with the Gardens. Years later, Chris joined [Denver Botanic Gardens Guild](#), an affiliate volunteer organization that has supported the Gardens for more than 60 years. Through her work and eventual role as president of the Guild, Chris deepened her passion for and knowledge about culinary herbs.

Fast forward to 2014, the Rosses engaged with UFI in multifaceted ways, providing both financial support and the gifts of their time and labor. Jerry began working with Gardens staff at the urban garden at Mariposa, refurbishing old planting beds, helping with the greenhouse and cutting up wood for raising beds. Chris has volunteered at farm stands at Mariposa, where she shares her knowledge with residents about using herbs in approachable ways.

In addition to their work at Mariposa, Chris and Jerry highly regard the [Chatfield Farms Veterans Farm Program](#) and the opportunities it provides veterans. Jerry’s involvement has included reviewing business plans created by program participants.

The Gardens’ partnership with [SAME Café](#) and Chatfield Farms’ commitment to regenerative agriculture practices are other aspects of UFI that the Rosses deeply appreciate.

With support from donors, members and volunteers like the Rosses, programs like UFI, and the Gardens in general, can flourish—and that indeed is wonderful.



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