



INSIDE

THE GARDENS

SUMMER 2024 A QUARTERLY MAGAZINE FOR
MEMBERS OF DENVER BOTANIC GARDENS

It's fascinating to wonder when it happened. For millions of years of human development, consciousness was deeply integrated into daily experiences within what we now call the natural world. Of course, it is and has always been, well, the world.

Then, as we learned more about fungi, flora and fauna, and especially about how to cultivate them for our ease of use, many populations began to think of human and nature as two distinct groups of life. We started to think of ourselves as dominant.

That's where science came to play. Trial and error, developing best practices and of course making huge mistakes along the way – all led to procedures and protocols for rudimentary agriculture and more reliable success at tracking and hunting.

As the relationships with other life changed, so did our ability to express the feelings we had toward all types of life, especially those who resisted our urge for control. Animals and plants became powerful characters in human cosmology. Our myths included daring tales of encounters and beautiful visions of balance. Throughout the early stages of this changing relationship, humans maintained a powerful sense of respect for the rest of the natural world. We were still a part of it.

Then, around 5,000 years ago, some emerging human civilizations, though still not all, began to craft a world view that there was *human* nature and *nature* nature. Two different and often opposed constructs of life. In most of our society, the distinction of nature from ourselves is deep in our psyche now and has daily consequences. On the one hand, everything that builds our actual lives comes from the rest of the natural world because we are co-created. On the other hand, much of what we contribute to the rest of earthly life has been less than beneficial.

Let's take horticulture as a germane example. In the arid high steppe of Colorado, we long ago decided that an East Coast or European aesthetic was somehow a good idea. We laid out our yards, gardens and parks with inappropriate trees and shrubs, and massive bluegrass lawns. We overuse scarce water, destroy habitat (except for pariahs like Japanese Beetles), and roll up high costs for chemicals and maintenance. Yet, when we wander the foothills of our mountains, if we came across a broad meadow of bluegrass, we would be appalled.

The most amazing things begin to happen, though, when we remember that we are indeed part of the natural world. When we respect that fact and work to restore the land around us, life comes roaring back. Indigenous animals, insects, plants and fungi reappear, seemingly overnight. Health is refreshed.

These lessons, it turns out, are not that difficult. They often save time and money. The result is more than appropriate, it is truly joyful. So, let's do it.

Onward.

Brian Vogt, CEO



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INSIDE THE GARDENS

ISSUE 3, 2024

Denver Botanic Gardens

1007 York St., Denver, CO 80206

Hours through Sept. 2, 9 a.m. – 8 p.m., last admission 7 p.m.

Sept. 3-29, 9 a.m. – 7 p.m., last admission 6 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.



NATURE-BASED SOLUTIONS FOR AGRICULTURE

AT CHATFIELD FARMS

By Larry Vickerman, Director of Chatfield Farms

Working with, and being a part of, nature can offer solutions to address societal challenges while supporting human well-being and biodiversity. At [Chatfield Farms](#), we have adapted a nature-based approach to augment and sustain our crop production for public events, the [Community Supported Agriculture](#) program and the many nonprofits to which we contribute produce in support of their low-income programs.

How do we do it? We look at our agriculture production fields as just one piece of an entire system. In the agriculture fields, it starts with soil fertility and water relations. The bulk of organic material produced on the farm is composted and returned to the fields. We also extensively cover crop our fields to minimize bare ground

and add nitrogen and other essential nutrients back into the soil. Composting and cover cropping help maintain fertility and improve water retention in crop soils while also reducing wind and water erosion.

We have gone even further by restoring Deer Creek, which winds through the middle of our crop fields. This restoration has increased water-holding capacity of the floodplain and restored diverse riparian vegetation, enhancing wildlife and insect habitat. Adjacent to Deer Creek, we are also restoring a meadow. By adding native grasses and wildflowers, we can support a wide array of pollinators and beneficial insects that prey on pest species. Native bees and butterflies are essential to successful crop pollination and production of fruits and vegetables.





Photos by Chatfield Farms staff

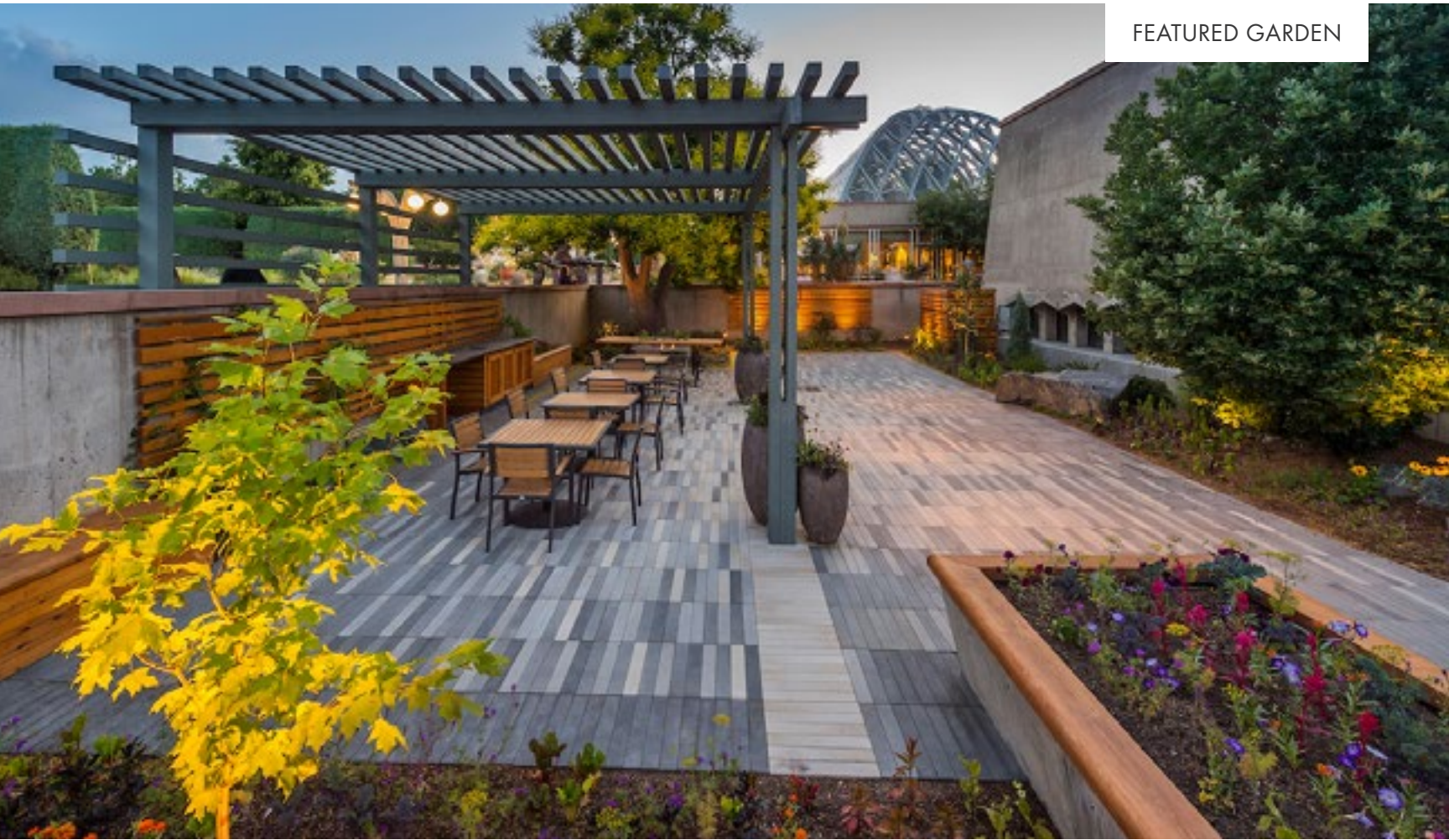
Beyond this, our extensive natural habitat gardens provide support for pollinators all season long. Farm staff grow flowers adjacent to crops to attract beneficial insects. They also plant trap crops such as blue Hubbard squash, timed to flower slightly ahead of the other squash and pumpkins. These earlier-producing Hubbard squash have particularly sweet sap that attracts squash bugs and cucumber beetle away from the crops to be harvested. We sacrifice some for the good of the many.

Restored habitats adjacent to fields create nesting sites for numerous predatory birds like Red-tailed Hawk, Cooper's Hawk, American Kestrel and Great-horned Owl. These raptors

are frequently seen swooping into crop fields to devour rodents, including highly destructive gophers and voles: nature's pest control at work!

We do this work on a small scale at Chatfield Farms, but our methods have great potential to help sustain much bigger crop producing farms. In the last 40-50 years American agriculture has turned toward an industrial production model with a reliance on chemicals and synthetic fertilizers. We are only now beginning to understand the contribution to farming that has been lost from the natural environment.





A GARDEN FOR THE SENSES

By Angie Andrade, Associate Director (Therapeutic Horticulture)

Our senses provide a direct link to the physical world. They help us find joy, create memories and make sense of the spaces around us. When we experience gardens, our senses come alive. Notice the bright colors of leaves. Inhale the sweet fragrance of blossoms. Run your fingers over rough bark.

While you can have this experience in any garden, the [Sensory Garden](#) is deliberately designed to engage with the senses. In this garden you're encouraged to reach out and touch the plants, massage the leaves and smell their scents. Plants are displayed with accessibility in mind, which brings them closer so that you won't miss these small delights.

Explore the Sensory Garden this summer and encounter plants like *Senna didymobotrya*, or popcorn plant. To some, this plant smells like movie theater popcorn and to others, peanut butter—you be the judge. *Mimosa pudica*, or sensitive plant, is another garden favorite. Touch this plant and the leaves close inward to expose less surface area. This is a defense mechanism for the plant, but we like to think that it is a bit sensitive, too. Look through the lens of the garden kaleidoscope. This feature highlights a variety of annuals planted in a spinning bowl that will thrill your eyes with an ever-changing, polychromatic effect.

Experience these natural wonders and engage your senses. Discover how this helps root you in the present in the moment and helps you slow down from life's distractions.



SUPPORTING WELLNESS

WITH THERAPEUTIC HORTICULTURE

By Alyssa Scott, Horticulture Coordinator (Greenhouse Production)

Nature benefits and enhances well-being. Throughout history, there are accounts dating as far back as 2000 B.C. of gardens in Mesopotamia designed to soothe the senses, while modern “healing gardens” gained popularity in the 18th and 19th centuries for treating patients with mental health issues and developmental disabilities.

Therapeutic horticulture is the use of plant-based activities to support healing. Not only has research on its benefits demonstrated improvements in stress levels, motor skills, cognitive abilities, self-confidence and socialization through interaction with nature, there is a mountain of anecdotal evidence that our overall condition improves by simply spending time in the garden.

Denver Botanic Gardens partners with a variety of organizations to use therapeutic horticulture to connect people of all ages and abilities with plants. These organizations include the Rocky Mountain Cancer Centers, The Joshua School, Craig Hospital, the Parkinson Association of the Rockies and others.

Activities developed for the program can be tailored to create a unique experience for each group and their specific goals. We also offer offsite programming like [Sensory Adventure on the Road](#) and provide internships for patients recovering from traumatic brain and spinal cord injuries. This assortment of opportunities helps connect people from all backgrounds and abilities with the healing nature of gardens.

FINDING HEALING THROUGH THE NATURAL WORLD

By Mele Avery, On Call Librarian

Showstopping wildflowers, beautiful gardens and enchanting encounters with wildlife and wilderness: Regular contact with the natural world can be a healing balm for our stress-filled lives. The [Helen Fowler Library](#) offers resources and more to connect readers with the profound, healing powers of nature. Enjoy these book recommendations:

“The Nature Fix: Why Nature Makes Us Happier, Healthier, and More Creative” by Florence Williams

This book breaks down decades of research into everyday language, summarizing what we know about the therapeutic benefits of nature.

“The Biophilia Effect: A Scientific and Spiritual Exploration of the Healing Bond Between Humans and Nature” by Clemens G. Arvay

Another popular press title exploring the complex relationship between nature and the human psyche.

“Outdoor Kids in an Inside World: Getting Your Family Out of the House and Radically Engaged with Nature” by Steven Rinella

Practical recommendations on how to connect kids to the great outdoors, including such activities as camping, fishing, gardening and foraging.

“Mini-Forest Revolution: Using the Miyawaki Method to Rapidly Rewild the World” by Hannah Lewis

A guide to bringing green spaces back to our communities. Converting urban heat islands into biodiverse mini-forests helps heal cities and their inhabitants, one vacant lot at a time.

“Windowsill Whimsy: Gardening & Horticultural Therapy Projects for Small Spaces” by Hank Bruce and Tomi Jill Folk

For readers without a back 40, this book offers ideas for garden therapy you can do in any sized abode.

“Bird Brother: A Falconer's Journey and the Healing Power of Wildlife” by Rodney Stotts

One man's journey from addiction to recovery through the ancient art of falconry.





OUTDOOR EQUITY ADVOCATES

By Ashley Guesman, M.P.A., CFRE, Major Gifts Manager

For sisters Caroline McMorrow and Christina Brickley, supporting the Gardens' [therapeutic horticulture](#) programing is an opportunity to engage in meaningful philanthropy and give back to the community.

Their connection to the Gardens began just after college, when Caroline and Christina shared an apartment in the neighborhood on the other side of Boettcher Memorial Tropical Conservatory. The location served them well, as the sisters find a sense of comfort and calm in nature, a sentiment shared by their late father, John Winthrop Robinson.

John was an avid outdoorsman and a supporter of Chicago Botanic Gardens. When the sisters were young, the family often spent time at their lake house in Wisconsin. The sisters recall the pungent pine aromas that filled the surrounding air in this special place. These trips, and their father's fondness for the outdoors, sparked their love of nature.

During the last 25 years of his life, John used a wheelchair due to multiple sclerosis. Of course, this made accessing the rough terrain of his favorite hiking trails and cookout spots a challenge. The family created a new picnic area by the lake that was accessible. John was instantly surrounded by the forest again and back sitting by the campfire. This is when John began educating the children about the different types of pines and the history of the forest, forging lifelong memories while offering the family a new way to interact in the woods together.

After his passing, Caroline and Christina searched for a fitting way to pay tribute to their father and his love of the outdoors. A tall pine with a quirky lean in the southeast corner of the Gates Montane Garden called to the sisters. They made a gift to dedicate the tree in memory of their father.

Through their support of therapeutic horticulture at the Gardens, Caroline and Christina are helping people of all abilities access and connect with the natural world.



Don Ed Hardy, *Surf or Die*, color lithograph, 2004. Photo CU Art Museum © Don Ed Hardy.



Workshop of Jacobo and María Ángeles, *Camel-Eagle* (detail), fiberglass and acrylic paint, 2024.



Current Exhibitions

Process Makes Perfect: Printmakers Explore the Natural World

Through July 28

Featuring color lithographs and process works from the University of Colorado Art Museum's Sharkive, *Process Makes Perfect* presents works by Don Ed Hardy, Hung Liu, Emmi Whitehorse and Red Grooms. Experience prints inspired by the natural world and the unique artistic practices that went into creating them.

Spirit Guides: Fantastical Creatures from the Workshop of Jacobo and María Ángeles

Through September 8

Encounter fantastical creatures sited throughout the living galleries of the Gardens. Created by the workshop of Mexican artists Jacobo and María Ángeles, these brightly colored and richly patterned sculptures depict imaginary hybrid animals that act as both spirit guides and embodiments of human character.

River's Voice: Textiles by Alexandra Kehayoglou

Through December 8

Step into the fragile beauty of vanishing landscapes through monumental textile artworks. *River's Voice* features Alexandra Kehayoglou's carpet works highlighting the Paraná de las Palmas River in Argentina and the surrounding wetlands. Including a work that spills onto the floor, the exhibition invites visitors to remove their shoes and literally walk through the Argentinean wetlands.

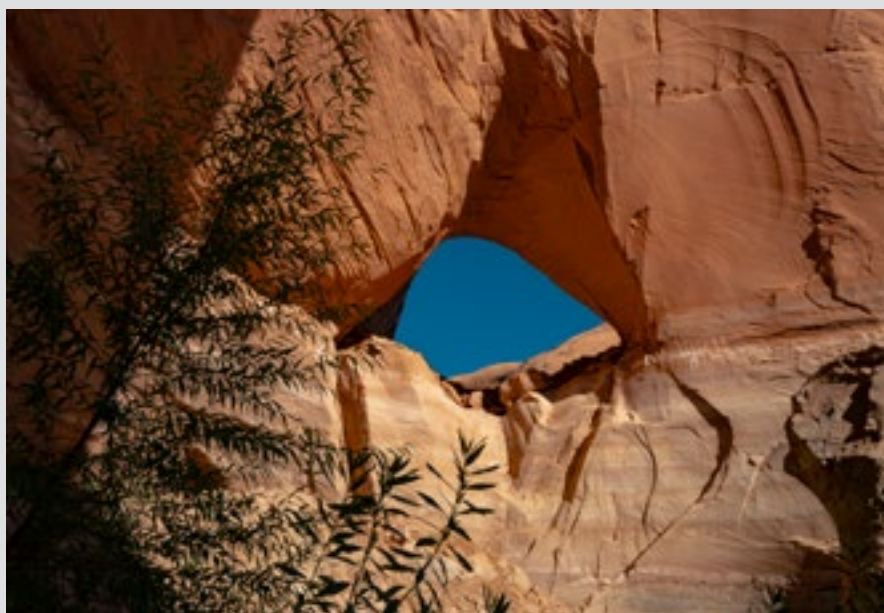
Elliot Ross: Geography of Hope

Through February 2, 2025

Discover the resilience and beauty of Glen Canyon's ecosystem through the large-scale photographs of Elliot Ross. Dammed and flooded in 1963 to create Lake Powell, the desert walls of Glen Canyon have recently emerged from the water after decades of drought in the American West. Ross' photographs invite us to experience the beauty of this landscape in flux.



Alexandra Kehayoglou, *Paraná de las Palmas River* (detail), textile wool, 2021. Photo by Alexandra Kehayoglou Studio.



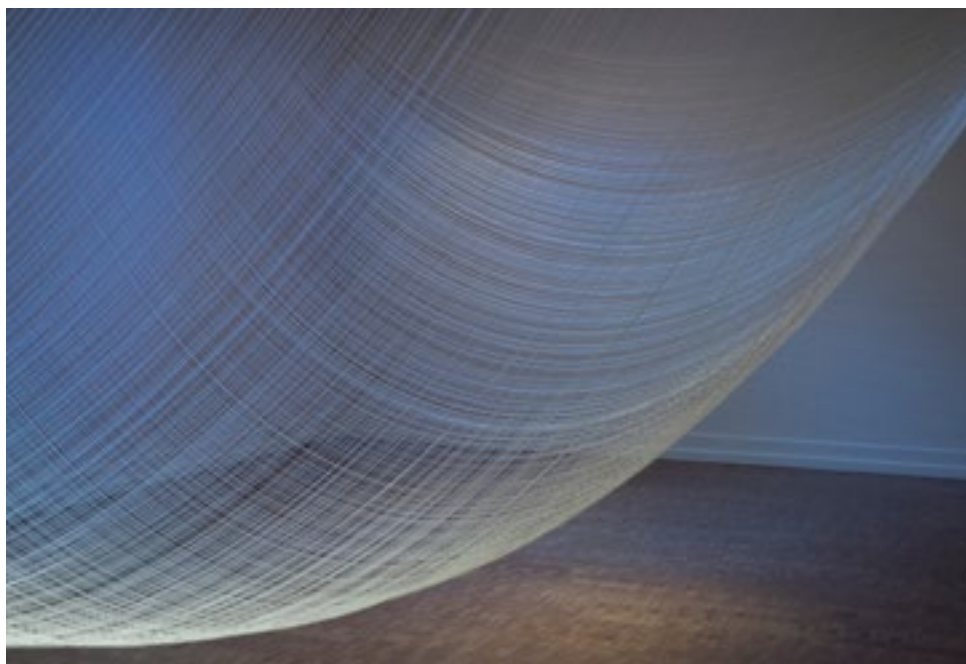
Elliot Ross, *Portal*, digital exposure produced with archival inkjet, 2021.

Opening Soon

Shadow and Light: Patrick Marold

August 11, 2024 – January 5, 2025

Explore a site-specific installation highlighting the ever-changing qualities of light and shadow. Created specifically for Denver Botanic Gardens, *Shadow and Light* is a sculptural installation integrating the poetics of space with the luminosity of light.



Patrick Marold, *String Work*, nylon thread, 2011.

RELATED PROGRAM

Artist Talk with Patrick Marold: Creative Responses to Environmental Conditions

Onsite and Online | Wednesday, Sept. 18, 6-7:30 p.m. | \$12, \$10 member

TOURS

Various days, dates and times
\$5-\$20, includes admission to the Gardens

Get closer to nature and enrich your garden experience with one of our many tours led by staff or docents highlighting the collections at [York Street](#) or [Chatfield Farms](#).

Seasonal Discoveries

No matter the time of year, botanical treasures await your discovery with these guided tours of gardens at their seasonal peaks. Experience the Gardens' landscape at its best, whether through the early bulbs of spring or the crackling beauty of fall.

Expert Exploration Tours

Gain insight into our living and non-living museum collections, art exhibitions and history with a staff member as your guide. Summer topics include bonsai, birds and poisonous plants.

Tropical Trails Tours

Enjoy lush vegetation, vibrant flowers and tropical vibes as you take a tour through the Boettcher Memorial Tropical Conservatory.

Spirit Guides Outdoor Art Tour

Experience the wonder and awe of Spirit Guides on this tour that explores the outdoor sculpture exhibition as well as related plant themes.



PLANT PORTRAIT

FALLUGIA PARADOXA, CANYON PLUME

By Elena Shtern, Horticulturist

To fall in love immediately and forever, approach this shrub in July while the sun is behind it, low in the sky. From afar, it's a muted cloud of texture and gentle color. Up close, the backlit tangled jumble of small twigs and the graceful arching of the six-foot branches is covered by an abundance of feathery mauve seed tufts, punctuated by simple, elegant, rose-like, white flowers.

This Colorado creature leafs out by the end of May and begins gifting you with fresh white flowers by mid-June. As the flowers



fade, they are transformed into pinkish mauve, gently curling, fluffy plumes. Don't fight the urge to touch them.

What's in a name? *Paradoxa* means unusual and unexpected, like the irresistibly soft seedheads and the crisp flowers together, going all summer long and into fall. The tiny, deeply lobed green foliage adds to the feeling of the shrub being a fluffy cloud alive with a profusion of pollinators. Close your eyes and listen to the hum.

One of our showiest native shrubs, the seedheads will remind you of some other favorites in the rose family: *Geum triflorum*, *Purshia tridentata*, *Cercocarpus montanus*.

To experience its full glory, let this disheveled shrub be. Give it plenty of space to grow. Don't fuss, don't primp, don't shape. Even leave the twiggy dead branches that tend to collect at the base of the plant as habitat for tiny critters. Water only during establishment and lengthy dry spells. And diseases—what diseases? Also, *Fallugia paradoxa* is Plant Select® approved.

SPECIAL EVENTS



EVENINGS AL FRESCO

Select dates in July, 4:30-7:30 p.m.

\$22-\$32, must purchase tickets in advance

Produced in partnership with Swallow Hill Music, Evenings al Fresco provides visitors with a delightful way to spend a summer evening at our York Street location. Each night features a vibrant mix of talented local musicians performing unamplified against a stunning backdrop of peak summer blooms. Pack a picnic or grab a tasty bite at one of our restaurants. Gather your friends and family and wander the Gardens during the golden hour on these relaxing musical evenings.



LAVENDER FESTIVAL AT CHATFIELD FARMS

Saturday & Sunday, July 20 & 21, 9 a.m. – 4 p.m.

\$7-\$15, must purchase tickets in advance

More than 2,000 lavender plants in peak bloom set the scene for this festival. Vendors sell all types of lavender-themed products. Enjoy live music, food and beverages, demonstrations, classes, kids' activities and the chance to chat with our gardeners and farmers. This festival continues to grow in popularity so be sure to get your tickets early.



FÊTE DES FLEURS

Friday, Aug. 23, 5:30-11 p.m.

Must purchase tickets in advance

The 2024 *Fête des Fleurs* marks a splendid milestone as Denver Botanic Gardens proudly presents its **40th annual** black-tie fundraising gala. The distinguished gathering of over 650 esteemed guests includes cocktails, dinner, live music and dancing. The Fête contributes over \$500,000 annually to Denver Botanic Gardens' core outreach programs including food security, horticulture, children's education, public outreach, research and conservation.



AGRICULTURE FESTIVAL AT PLAINS CONSERVATION CENTER

Saturday, Sept. 14, 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.

\$5 per vehicle, registration required

Celebrate the rich future of food in our community! Learn about where food comes from and how you can support healthy environments with regenerative agriculture and sustainable eating. Enjoy wagon rides, 1880s homestead and tipi camp tours, meet farm animals and check out food trucks and vendors. Hosted by the City of Aurora in partnership with Denver Botanic Gardens.

CORN MAZE AT CHATFIELD FARMS

Fridays – Sundays, Sept. 20 – Oct. 27, 9 a.m. – 5 p.m.

\$10-\$18, must purchase tickets in advance

Mountain lions and moose and bears, oh my! This year a Colorado wildlife theme is woven into the maze. Navigate your way through seven acres of twists and turns. Kids can enjoy a mini maze and barrel train rides. Don't forget to grab your favorite festival snack from our food vendors!



HOP FESTIVAL AT CHATFIELD FARMS

Saturday, Sept. 21, 11 a.m. – 3 p.m.

\$10 add-on fee with purchase of Corn Maze ticket; purchase in advance

Kick off the fall season, sip samples from some of Colorado's favorite breweries and learn all about the hops and other crops we grow onsite. Get tips on home brewing, enjoy acoustic performances by local artists and grab a bite to eat at food tents. Corn Maze ticket required.



FALL PLANT & BULB SALE

Friday & Saturday, Sept. 27 & 28, 8 a.m. – 4 p.m.

Free admission, registration required

The spring garden you've been dreaming of starts at Fall Plant & Bulb Sale! Shop hundreds of varieties of flowering bulbs, plants grown at the Gardens ready for planting, a selection of garlic grown at Chatfield Farms and custom seed mixes curated specifically for Colorado's climate. Outdoor plants not your style? We'll have plenty of houseplants and succulents available to spruce up your desktops and windowsills. Members save 10% on all purchases.

PREVIEW PARTY

Thursday, Sept. 26, 4-6:30 p.m.

\$55 advance tickets, \$60 at the door
(if available)

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



SPECIAL EVENTS (CONT.)



YO SOY

Immerse yourself in the vibrant tapestry of Latino cultural heritage through Yo Soy, a series featuring a diverse array of experiences celebrating art, culture and community.

MINI FAMILY FIESTA

Saturday, July 27, 9 a.m. – 1 p.m.

Included with admission

Join us for engaging activities for children, craft vendors, and a group viewing of *Spirit Guides: Fantastical Creatures from the Workshop of Jacobo and María Ángeles*.

CALACAS Y CATRINAS

September 13 – October 20

Included with admission

Celebrate Mexican culture and the artistic traditions of Día de los Muertos while honoring the memories of loved ones. To kick off Hispanic Heritage Month (September 15 – October 15), a collection of *calacas* and *catrinas* hand-painted by Colorado Latinx artists will be displayed onsite at the Gardens and in Aurora Public Library locations.



VOLUNTEER

LOOKING FOR A MEANINGFUL WAY TO SPEND YOUR SUMMER?

Join our vibrant volunteer community! For more information on the Gardens' volunteer program and upcoming special event opportunities please visit: botanicgardens.org/volunteer or email us at vol@botanicgardens.org.

TRAVEL THE WORLD

WITH DENVER BOTANIC GARDENS

Guided excursions feature botanical highlights, geographical wonders, culture, food and history. [See full itineraries and register.](#)

Magical Mexico: When Wine Meets Art

August 10-16

In the cities of Querétaro and San Miguel de Allende, wine and art converge in August – the time when the annual harvest in one of Mexico’s most exciting wine regions coincides with San Miguel de Allende’s Arts Festival. Join us for a sensory experience that combines the flavors of fine wine with the visual beauty of art in a region rich in history and culture. Associate Director of Community Relations Yvonne Garcia Bardwell is your host.

Botanical Wonders of Argentine Patagonia

December 3-16

Argentine Patagonia is famous for its rugged beauty, massive glaciers, towering mountains and windswept plains. Patagonian flora showcase remarkable adaptability and resilience, reflecting the diverse microclimates and ecological niches found throughout this breathtaking landscape. Travel along famous Route 40, the longest route in Argentina, crossing from north to south parallel to the Andes Mountains, with Director of Outreach and Senior Curator Panayoti Kelaidis and renowned Argentinian botanist Marcela Ferreyra.

Magical Mexico: Mexico City, Monarch Butterflies and Valle de Bravo

January 25-31, 2025

Every winter, montane cloud forests in central Mexico host millions of over-wintering monarch butterflies. When masses of butterflies are in flight, it sounds like rain falling. Their cumulative weight can even bend branches of towering oyamel fir trees. Spend two days at monarch butterfly sanctuaries, then explore vibrant Mexico City, known for its thriving art scene, charming neighborhoods, world-class gastronomy and its unique blend of old and new. Associate Director of Community Relations Yvonne Garcia Bardwell is your host.

Botanical Wonders of Eastern Turkey

May 8-21, 2025

Explore the steppes of Turkey with Curator of Steppe Collections Mike Bone and renowned plantsman Christopher Gardener. Turkey is at a convergence of two different floristic regions, the Mediterranean and the steppes of Asia. The result is an incredibly diverse plant palette. Begin in Cappadocia with its ancient cultural and geological wonders and floral treasures. Then explore the montane steppe in eastern Turkey, where many transition zones give rise to wildflower displays. Travel through Turkic villages and explore mountains and fertile valleys in search of natural wonders.

THE LISTENING WALK

By Helena Nitz, Family and Children's Program Coordinator

Embarking on a nature journey with family can be about more than adventure; it can be healing, too. Yet, engaging our youngest explorers and older children accustomed to fast-paced activities can pose a challenge. Enter the "Listening Walk," a simple yet powerful activity for all ages!

There is no need to trek through the wilderness; a park or neighborhood will do. Just pull on a pair of comfortable shoes and bring a water bottle.

HERE'S HOW:

BREATHE

Begin with a deep inhale. This will clear your mind and sharpen your senses.

STEP WITH STYLE

Ever wonder how your footsteps sound? Try different styles like dragging your feet or tiptoeing. Hear a difference?

LISTENING EARS

Turn on your listening ears and tune in. Can you hear a bird chirping or an insect humming?

MAKE AN ORCHESTRA

Can you hear the difference between the melodies of nature and the hum of the city? How do the differences make you feel?

Each step will immerse you in nature, creating family memories.

Lace up, listen and let nature work its magic!



ADULT PROGRAMS

2024 Global Steppe Symposium **Rooted in Stone: The Interplay of Geology and Plant Diversity**

Friday, July 12, 8:30 a.m. – 4 p.m.
\$100, \$90 member

From deep shale formations to protruding igneous extrusions, the steppes are remarkably diverse. Here, flourishing flora offer far-reaching implications spanning from plant conservation to home gardening.

Join us as we traverse this rocky terrain and discover the captivating connection between geology and the vibrant plant life that graces the steppes. All are welcome.

Photo by Kevin Philip Williams



SCHOOL OF BOTANICAL ART & ILLUSTRATION

CLASS OFFERINGS

July – December
From beginners learning drawing skills to experienced artists expanding upon techniques, there are classes for every stage of an artistic journey.

Inspired by *Spirit Guides*?

Take a class with the School of Botanical Art & Illustration!

Sketching *Spirit Guides* in the Garden

Saturday, July 20, 9:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

\$60, \$50 member

Sketch the fantastical creatures in the exhibition. Bring your choice of art materials.

Ceramic Animal Planters

Sundays, July 21, 28 & August 4,

9:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

\$216, \$180 member

Learn different clay hand-building and sculptural techniques to create an animal-shaped ceramic planter.

Vinyasa, Violins and Vino

Select dates July – Sept., 6:30-8:30 p.m.

\$24 public

Flow through a one-hour yoga class and then enjoy a picnic and wine (you bring both) during a live violin performance.

Mindful Birdwatching

Saturday, Aug. 17, Sept. 21 or 28, 8-10 a.m.

\$32, \$27 member

Join a guided, leisurely outing through the Gardens while finding and identifying different birds.

Connection Within: One Day Yoga Immersion Retreat

Friday, Sept. 20, noon – 5 p.m.

\$175 public

If you're ready for some time for you, this is the place for it.

The Japanese Garden Approach – Mountain Sceneries Design Intensive

Thu-Sat, Sept. 26-28, 9:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

\$350, \$320 member



Workshop of Jacobo and María Angeles, Crane (detail), fiberglass and acrylic paint, 2024.

Culturally Inspired Design

Saturday and Sunday, July 27 & 28,

9:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

\$210, \$175 member

Explore motifs, symbols and designs from around the world to create a colorful, unique work of art.

Ceramic Candleholders

Sundays, Aug. 18 & 25, 9:30 a.m.

\$140, \$120 member

Learn the pinch pot method to create a candleholder inspired by animals in the Gardens.

THE RENEWING IMPACT OF NATURE

By Jennifer Neale, Ph.D., Director of Research & Conservation, with Jennifer Ackerfield, Ph.D., Head Curator of Natural History Collections, Associate Director of Biodiversity and Rebecca Hufft, Ph.D., Associate Director of Applied Conservation

We think our team has the best jobs at the Gardens. As stewards of the environment, we are driven to document and study biodiversity, a mission that inevitably brings us into nature. Outside—whether it be the wild spaces of Colorado or our own gardens—we are reminded to slow down and notice the little things. Our senses are heightened, and our minds are calmed.

As scientists we are observers, and being in nature helps us see and appreciate the biodiversity and interconnectedness of our natural world. It is during everyday experiences and observations, like described below, that our passion for plants, biodiversity and protecting the natural world is renewed.

“As my family hiked along the pass, wandering in the sea of aspen trees, I was transfixed by the beauty of the trees and the rustling leaves as the aspen quaked in the wind. The experience likely helped shape my career path.”

Jennifer Neale, recalling a family hike along Independence Pass outside of Aspen, Colorado she took as a child





“Watching the plants sprout in pots on my porch or observing the grasshoppers hanging out on blades of grass in my backyard reminds me of the magic of nature. I am astonished when unexpected things survive the winter, and I admire the tenacity of bindweed to not be stopped by anything.”

Becky Hufft, who appreciates the nature in her own garden



“The crisp mountain air invigorates my senses, and the gentle sway of grasses on the plains calms my mind. In the field, I am surrounded by the very things that captivate me, that have been my passion since I can remember – plants!”

Jennifer Ackerfield on feeling a sense of renewal in nature

Donors of Distinction

Gifts Received February 1, 2024 - April 30, 2024

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