



INSIDE

THE GARDENS

SPRING 2021 A QUARTERLY MAGAZINE FOR
MEMBERS OF DENVER BOTANIC GARDENS

The depth of art programming at the Gardens received a dramatic and obvious boost when galleries in the Freyer – Newman Center opened. At last, we have perfect spaces to display works, with climate control, lighting options and a spacious, clean design. The themes of exhibits tie back to plants, to fungi and the natural world, all with a sense of humanity. Already, we have featured artists from our own community and as far away as the Canary Islands.

You might notice a large office area near the galleries that houses the research and conservation staff and the art and exhibitions team. Together. It is a powerful statement that we are not in the business of bifurcating the human experience, right brain vs. left brain. Instead, it points to a collaboration of disciplines to provide, as our mission statement mentions, delight and enlightenment.

Art has many purposes – to mark important events, convey a feeling, tell a story, to immortalize observation. We use it to frighten and inspire, to worship and to motivate. Gardens are in their own way an artform, horticulturists co-creating environments with nature. When you incorporate pieces of bronze or glass, something like a visual dance seems to happen.

This magical combination leads to something else essential to public gardens – the attraction of community. Most of the living tableaus change slowly, by season or gradual shifting design. An infusion of art, appealing to a variety of tastes, draws in new audiences who start with a connection to art and end up enthralled by plants.

In countless ways, these conjoined expressions of human experience and imagination are at the heart of all public gardens.

Brian Vogt
Denver Botanic Gardens CEO



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INSIDE THE GARDENS

ISSUE 2, 2021

Denver Botanic Gardens

1007 York St., Denver, CO 80206

Pre-purchased tickets and advance member passes only.

April 2 – May 2, 9 a.m. – 8 p.m., last admission 7 p.m.

May 3-8, 9 a.m. – 5 p.m., last admission 4 p.m.

Starting May 9, 9 a.m. – 9 p.m., last admission 8 p.m.

Member Appreciation Mornings, April 3 – September 5,
Saturday and Sunday, 8-9 a.m.

Denver Botanic Gardens Chatfield Farms

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

Pre-purchased tickets and advance member passes only.

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

Contact Us

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

[Gardening Help from Colorado Master Gardeners](#)

[Kathryn Kalmbach Herbarium](#)

[Sam Mitchel Herbarium of Fungi](#)

Editor: Tiffany Coleman

Graphic Designer: Nick Elias

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

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.

Science & Art, CURIOSITY AND WONDER

By Jennifer Ramp Neale, Ph.D., Director of Research & Conservation

For some the intersection of art and science is obvious, whereas others find the connection to be more elusive. Within the Freyer – Newman Center for Science, Art and Education we now have the opportunity to demonstrate this intersection in new and wonderful ways.

Before even entering the Gardens, visitors are greeted by *Leaf* from Jason Klimoski and Lesly Chang of STUDIOKCA. The sculpture features laser-cut silhouettes of 251 plant specimens housed within the Kathryn Kalmbach Herbarium just inside the Freyer – Newman Center atrium. This sculpture, which so beautifully blends the wonder of art and science, opens our visitors' minds to this intersection.

The natural history collections document plant and fungal diversity across the Southern Rocky Mountain region and beyond. Each specimen serves as a valuable snapshot in time, capturing the biodiversity of a particular place at a specific moment. These specimens, in and

of themselves, are often works of art carefully pressed or preserved to showcase important traits to aid in identification. Together, these collections provide precious evidence of how landscapes, ecosystems and populations change over time.



These natural history collections serve as an invaluable tool for artists. The Gardens has long championed the scientific practice of botanical illustration through our School of Botanical Art and Illustration. Our courses are in high demand and students take credits in botany in addition to artistic methods.

Curiosity and the pursuit of knowledge motivate both scientists and artists. Both fields problem-solve through creativity, trial and error and repetition. Whether we are collecting data on cactus populations over time or assessing DNA of fungal samples to determine how they are related, we are tapping into our curiosity. As scientists we are investigators, constantly developing hypotheses, collecting and analyzing data, and asking more questions based on the outcomes. The artistic process differs little.



Phacelia formosula by Carol Till. One of Colorado's endangered species.

Spaces within the Center were designed to bring art and science together, and to the public, in a more overt way than we were previously able to. With classrooms, galleries and open work areas, we work within glass-walled spaces allowing more transparency to our processes.

We aim to not only learn from one another, but from our visitors as well. Both science and art are creative processes involving tinkering and observation. As scientists within the Center we aim to not only enjoy the art on exhibit, but to bring more creativity into our science as well.



Russula decolorans specimen.



ART & SCIENCE MEET: Renovating the O’Fallon Perennial Walk

By Bridget Blomquist, Horticulturist Specialist

One of horticulture’s many exciting disciplines includes the art of garden design. Here, two worlds collide. Science determines what type of plants to use in certain conditions and which environmental offerings our steppe climate provides. Design employs concepts bound to the time-honored principals of art: color, texture, harmony, balance, contrast, movement and repetition.

At nearly 30 years old, the Gardens’ O’Fallon Perennial Walk is ready for transformation and revitalization through a new garden design. The renovation begins this fall and is scheduled for completion in summer 2022.

The Perennial Walk renovation team is working carefully and thoughtfully to give this garden new life. One of the concepts implemented in the original garden design will be retained: that of a Rocky Mountain aesthetic inspired by classic European perennial borders. Thus, the juniper hedges on the east and west sides will remain. New design elements include vignettes

showcasing plant combinations driven by color. These pockets of seasonal color and interest incorporate new perennial cultivars. To give the garden continuity, a mass planting we internally refer to as the “The Backbone” will thread in and out of these vignettes. The Backbone creates seasonal interest using a limited plant palette. This includes plants that thrive here in Denver, some of which we think of as being some of the Gardens’ signature plants, like *Eremurus*, or foxtail lilies.

The refreshed O’Fallon Perennial Walk will be an inspiration to visitors, showcasing how our semi-arid steppe climate provides a unique opportunity to embrace underused plants. Get excited, Denver—this design will be uniquely ours, demonstrating that world-class perennial borders happen in our region. We can’t wait to show you what beauty is found in the collision of art and science.

FEATURED GARDEN

ART EXPLORATION Discover Your Inner Artist

By Jessica Glombick, Manager of the
School of Botanical Art & Illustration

Have you always wanted to take art classes but feel intimidated because you’re not an artist? Or perhaps you just want something casual, a creative outlet. Maybe you are an accomplished illustrator looking for an expressive way to complement formal training. Our new Art Exploration courses may point you in the right direction.

What is Art Exploration? These made-for-everyone courses are fine art offerings that encourage relaxation, reflection, observation and a deeper appreciation of nature. Materials and processes not used in traditional botanical illustration are explored—from pastels to batik. These investigations offer an opportunity to try a variety of art forms inspired by the natural world—from collage to sculpture to nature journaling.

Courses take an assortment of formats, from short morning workshops to more in-depth five-week programs. They are open to anyone regardless of experience—the only requirement is an interest in growing as an artist or learning a new skill.

While these courses are offered through the [School of Botanical Art & Illustration](#) (SBAI), you do not need to be enrolled in the certificate program to participate. Take as few or as many as you like. No pressure. Current SBAI students are welcome to participate,

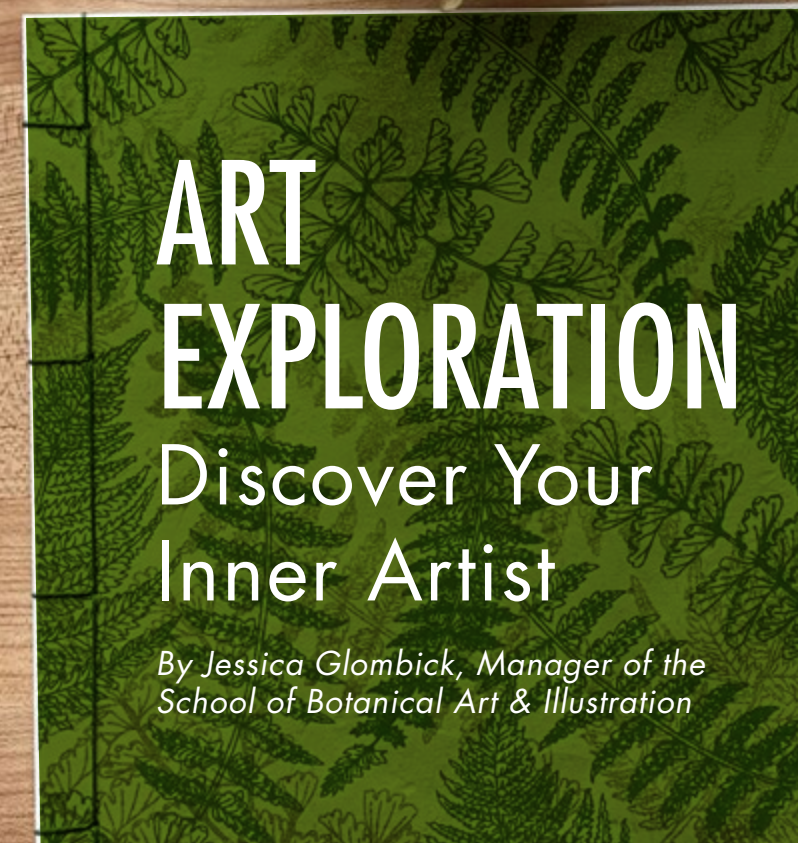
too—think of them as purely optional, recreational classes that can take the pressure off and break open your creativity.

“Whether you are in the School of Botanical Art & Illustration program or not, the Art Exploration classes are a creative way to express your love for the subject. I found it enjoyable to learn about many aspects of historic botanical art, along with a variety of techniques and apply that knowledge to well-thought-out projects.”

Milvi Gill, SBAI Certificate Program student

Whatever your artistic journey may be, the SBAI looks forward to taking it with you.

Denver Botanic Gardens has been home to the SBAI for more than **40 years**. The program has grown from a handful of staff and volunteers, teaching occasional illustration courses, to a world-renowned program, focused on helping people learn everything they need to know about the science art of botanical illustration. The School offers more than 160 illustration courses each year and the scientific rigor of the certificate program isn’t changing. Thank you to everyone who has supported this program through the years.



CREATIVITY IN YOUR GARDEN

By Cassie Doolittle, Horticulturist

Edible Landscapes

Edible landscapes are not a new concept, but they are certainly gaining in popularity. Lack of space in our urban settings has many people seeking ways to include them, but not in the traditional sense. Gone are the days of vegetable rows and raised planters. Enter the new edible and perennial shrub borders.

This year try your hand at mixing edible plants with ornamental ones in the same space! Instead of planting in a row, try planting a group, with a repeating pattern to increase crop yield as well as creating rhythm in your garden design. Use leafy greens, such as Bright Lights Swiss chard, dinosaur kale, leeks, or my favorite — cardoon, as a foliage element in your back yard or container designs. Add edible flowers such as calendula, nasturtium or chives to your

perennial borders, which will re-seed to be enjoyed next season. Mix some purple cabbages next to your dusty miller and orange marigolds to make a stunning combination in front of your lavender shrub, which has edible buds and flowers.

Think seasonally and try interplanting cool-season plants with warm-season plants so you can have a continuous eye and stomach feast! Herbs such as sage, oregano and lemon balm are wonderful additions to your perennial border, which you can glean off all year. Got bare space on a fence? Try planting low-maintenance climbers like backyard grapes, Malabar spinach or a climbing bean.

The possibilities are endless!

TWO WAYS

Decades of Artful Inspiration

Every year, I tend to design my gardens with pinks, reds, blues, purples and many shades of green. While I enjoy a soft, creamy yellow, you'll typically find it accenting my gardens, rather than dominating them. Finally, Jen Trunce, horticulture manager at Chatfield Farms said, "Why don't you add some orange?"

Challenge accepted.

When designing a garden space, choosing the color is just as important as determining the style, function and sun exposure. Color dominates rhythm and mood and is usually the first thing people notice when they visit.

The easiest way to choose your color palette is to select warm or cool colors, monochromatic, complementary or harmonious. Pastels set a tranquil mood, while primary colors bring a pop of color to an otherwise dark and green garden. Bonus artistic tip: Include foliage, which increases texture.

For my garden designs, I still struggled choosing a color palette. Then someone suggested that I think back to a time when oranges, yellows and greens ruled popular culture. This led me to remember a velour couch I had while growing up in the most orange decade ever. You got it, the 1970s. Immediately I pulled out my color wheel and started exploring colors that reminded me of my youth. After including some accents of avocado green and harvest gold to my list, finding my favorite plants in these shades was easy.

This spring before buying your go-to standards to brighten up that patio or shrub border, try a new palette of old favorite colors. It's a challenge worth accepting.



MEMBERSHIP Matters

By Molly Sullivan, Membership and Resource Center Manager

In the Gardens this time of year, the air is crisp and full of the sounds of nature. During this seasonal shift from winter to spring, it is both a time to reflect and a time to plan for what is yet to come. As we consider the impact COVID-19 has had on our community, we want to thank you for choosing to support Denver Botanic Gardens by renewing your membership. The continued support from our members is inspiring.

What does your membership mean to the Gardens? Your support allows us to fulfill our mission of connecting people with plants through impactful initiatives such as therapeutic horticulture, food programs, classes for all ages and research.

The Gardens changes daily, whether through nature or with the help of our staff and volunteers. As a nonprofit organization, we cultivate and nurture our grounds not only for members but also the community at large. Members, however, have the unique opportunity to experience this change first-hand with free, unlimited general admission. Our York Street location blends nature, science and art into an oasis in the middle of Denver. Chatfield Farms is an escape from the city, where you can spot wildlife and explore Colorado-inspired gardens and crops. Whether you are a weekly, monthly or occasional visitor, your membership is always in season.

Reflecting on the past year, our members persisted. The Gardens became a place of respite, to step outside of one's day-to-day life and return to the core of what matters most. The future is looking bright; we are so happy you chose to join us. Your membership means the world to us.

EMBRACING CHANGE

A Creative Response to Challenging Times

By Melissa Schaap, Corporate Partnerships Manager

Change. The only predictable element of 2020.

As Denver Botanic Gardens reimaged countless events, education programs, exhibitions and general visitation, our community of **corporate partners** demonstrated tremendous flexibility, patience and generosity. RBC Wealth Management was no exception.

RBC Wealth Management's unwavering commitment to the Gardens and the arts and culture community of Denver has been exemplary and inspirational. In 2020, RBC was the planned presenting sponsor of the exhibition, *Ursula von Rydingsvard: The Contour of Feeling*. When plans changed to move the exhibition to 2022 and the Freyer – Newman Center was closed due to COVID-19, RBC graciously agreed to delay their sponsorship until 2021.

This year RBC Wealth Management's sponsorship supports the full suite of exhibitions featured in the Freyer – Newman Center, including *Salvador Dalí: Gardens of*

the Mind. The iconic artist once pointed out, "A true artist is not one who is inspired, but one who inspires others." RBC advisors inspire creative philanthropy with their clients in our city, country and around the globe.

Denver area RBC Wealth Management leaders live out RBC's commitment to inspire and give back to our community through significant strategic giving to impactful organizations, selfless volunteerism, board leadership of local nonprofits, stewardship of the environment and a passion for access to healthy food for all.

The "silver lining" coincidence of this one-year delay in RBC's presenting sponsorship of the 2021 exhibitions now coincides with the celebration of their 105th year of serving Denver as one of the top wealth management firms in the Rocky Mountain Region – and the world.

Strengthened by the faithful, generous support of our corporate partners, the Gardens celebrates the healing and hope that comes through connecting people with nature and the arts.





By Chelsey Bardgett, Family & Children's Program Instructor

Have a creative team at home? Gather the family and look at how you can all experience art and nature in your favorite outdoor space!

Nature and art are one of our favorite combinations at Mordecai Children's Garden. Found year-round in the Gardens, nature becomes unique during the changes of the seasons. In Colorado, springtime gives us so many ways to interact with our outdoor spaces. We can trudge through snow in the morning and meander through mud in the sun by the afternoon. We can gaze out the window and spy clues of animals or watch plants dance in the wind. Any way you look at it, nature gives us many opportunities to interact with it – especially when you want to be creative!

Create Land Art

Pinecones, sticks, seeds and rocks are a few of the things to use to build yourself land art. This artform requires your imagination and exploration skills to build a temporary

sculpture outdoors. Take inspiration from nature and create a pattern in the snow with rocks or build a fairy-inspired village with twigs and fallen leaves. You and yours can spend time together creating in the outdoors and then watch your sculpture change through the seasons.

Does your land art look different in snow?

How will it look wet from rain?

Did you use seeds? Will something new grow from your creation?

Add to your art exploration by taking photos of your creation during different times of the day or weather. Think about how you or your family can cast shadows in the photos, creating new perspectives of your art! Capture the art, nature and your creative team in a photograph, then share it on social media and use #MyDBG so the Gardens can see it!

International Year of FRUITS AND VEGETABLES

By Sarada Krishnan, Ph.D., Director of Horticulture & Center for Global Initiatives

Even though we think of ornamental plants when we think of horticulture, this represents only a small segment of the field, which also includes fruits, vegetables, spices, plantation, medicinal and aromatic crops. In general, horticulture contributes to the social, cultural, nutritional and well-being aspects of life. Fruits and vegetables are a significant part of our diet, and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) has designated 2021 as the International Year of Fruits and Vegetables (IYFV 2021). Through this designation, the UN aims to promote a balanced, diversified and healthy diet and lifestyle.

Fruits and vegetables are rich in vitamins, minerals and fiber. The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) dietary guidelines for Americans suggests making half our plates fruits and vegetables. **Key outcomes from the promotion of IYFV 2021 include:**

- Raising awareness of the nutritional and health benefits of consuming fruits and vegetables.
- Diversifying diets by consuming fruits and vegetables in adequate amounts.

- Reducing food loss and waste along the supply chain through innovation, improved technologies and infrastructure.
- Fostering sustainability by enhancing availability and safety, and affordable and equitable access.
- Improving best practices in fruit and vegetable cultivation and supply chain.
- Improving food and nutrition security and livelihoods of farmers and their families through cultivation of fruits and vegetables.


You can commit to getting healthier and more sustainable in 2021:

- Consume more fruits and vegetables.
- Minimize food waste.
- When possible, buy locally grown produce to support local farmers and reduce food travel miles.
- Educate yourself on the nutritional value of various fruits and vegetables.



PROGRAMS AT A GLANCE

Denver Botanic Gardens offers a range of programming for all ages, as well as certificate programs and online learning.

Click the links below to learn more. 



Science

The City Nature Challenge takes place April 30 – May 3 and this year, organizers are encouraging participants to embrace the healing power of nature and to get outside and document the nature around them. Use the challenge to learn the name of the biodiversity near you.



Classes & Workshops

Choose from workshops, lectures, fitness and wellness, photography, gardening and more. Scroll or search by category or date.

Helen Fowler Library

The library may be closed, but that won't stop us from offering online programs for readers, writers and everyone in between.

Join our [Literature of the Land: Spring Book Club](#) or pen some words of your own in our [Nature Writing with Lighthouse Writers Workshop](#) or [Plein Air Poetry Writing Series](#).

We hope to see you soon!

Trips & Travel

Oaxaca: Art, Culture and Cuisine July 18-24

Join us as we explore one of the most culturally rich places in Mexico, Oaxaca City. Immerse yourself in traditions, culture and cuisine, and learn what makes this region so unique.

Botanical Wonders of Brazil's Estrada Royal October 3-11

This trip to Brazil offers a rich cultural and botanical experience, exploring 17th-19th century architecture, local cuisine, natural history, art, culture and landscapes.

Día de los Muertos in Oaxaca October 28 – November 3

This eight-day journey takes you to Mexico City, Puebla and Oaxaca, a unique opportunity to explore the rich history and long-standing traditions of this beautiful celebration.

Children and Family Programs

Family programs engage children and their grownups to learn about the natural world, discover the importance of plants and spark creativity.



Special Events

Virtual Spring Plant Sale

Ready your shovels and your gardening gloves! Spring Plant Sale goes virtual again for 2021 with a broad selection of plants for gardeners of every skill level. Browse thousands of individual plants or choose from our newly expanded Garden in a Bag selections. Modeled after the popular Container Garden in a Bag division and curated by our expert horticulturists, these collections take the guesswork out of planning your next gardening adventure. Each bag includes detailed care instructions and an assortment of plants selected to create a unique garden design, culinary mix or container display.

Shop online April 27-29, then pick up your order May 6-9 on the top deck of the parking structure. "Last chance" shopping will be available in-person May 10-11 for any remaining plants; reservations required. Details and link for online shopping to come; watch your inbox and check botanicgardens.org.

Want first pick of the plants?
Early access shopping takes place April 26 for a \$25 fee.

Dreams in Bloom: Photos by Fares Micue Through May 16

Photographer Fares Micue creates dreamlike self-portraits that integrate natural and surprising objects in vibrant hues. Set against a dark, mysterious ground, her images document the hope and positivity of the human spirit. Micue's first solo exhibition, *Dreams in Bloom* celebrates the individual beauty of the human form and the universal creative optimism within.

Kevin Sloan, *The Constellation of St. Helios*, 2020, acrylic on canvas.
© Kevin Sloan.

Radiant Season: Paintings by Kevin Sloan Through July 11

A reverie on the imperiled natural environment, *Radiant Season* invites you to observe the silent inhabitants with whom we share our world. Sloan's paintings elevate the often-overlooked plants, animals and discarded objects inhabiting the edges of the urban landscape—thistles, traffic cones, sparrows and the like. These works transform the quiet denizens of the natural (and unnatural) world into mysterious icons—radiant and quietly powerful.

Fares Micue, *Cultivate Your Mind*, 2020, digital photograph.
© Fares Micue.

SALVADOR DALÍ Gardens of the Mind

April 10 – August 22

Experience rarely seen fanciful color lithographs on loan from The Dalí Museum in St. Petersburg, FL. Mixing flora with the artist's signature motifs, two series of prints, *FlorDalí* and *Surrealist Flowers*, underscore Dalí's ongoing infatuation with his native landscape of Catalonia and the intriguing images of his Surrealist works. The images of fruits and flowers unsettle what we think we know about reality by juxtaposing seemingly incongruent elements. The exhibition of nearly 40 works is organized by Marie Selby Botanical Gardens and The Dalí Museum.

Marguerite (Chrysanthemum frutescens) from *FlorDalí*, 1968, photolithograph with original engraved remarque and color. Collection of The Dalí Museum, St. Petersburg, FL (USA) 2021, © Salvador Dalí Fundació Gala-Salvador Dalí (ARS), 2021.

ONLINE TALK

Dalí's Spain: A Geological Delirium with Peter Tush

April 15, 6 p.m.

Join Peter Tush, curator of education at The Dalí Museum in St. Petersburg, FL, for an online talk about the landscapes of Dalí's homeland on Spain's "wild coast" and their influence on his work and life.



Golden Opportunity: Botanical Illustration

May 29 – August 15

Explore the world of yellow plants through illustrations created by students and faculty of Denver Botanic Gardens' School of Botanical Art & Illustration (SBAI). From daffodils to daisies and buttercups to bananas, discover a world of yellow growing all around you. Yellow is found throughout the natural world—making its way to our tables and our gardens and offering pigments for a range of golden-hued paints and dyes.

Marjorie Leggitt, *Squash Flower*, 2020, mixed media. © Marjorie C. Leggitt.

Café Botanique Online: Creative Expressions of Crops & Their Wild Relatives

April 14, 6:30 p.m.

Join research scientist Colin Khoury, who specializes in food crop diversity and the sustainability of food systems, and artist/curator Carol Woodin to understand more about crops and their wild relatives. Learn the importance of the wild ancestors and cousins of today's cultivated plants and view a selection of artworks part of an exhibition organized by the American Society of Botanical Artists, *Abundant Future: Cultivating Diversity in Garden, Farm and Field*. Hear participating artist Susan Mintun share how she approached the project to depict emmer wheat in a scientifically accurate and visually compelling way.

Café Botanique Online: Contemporary Mexican Handcraft & Natural Materials

May 19, 6:30 p.m.

Gain insight into Mexico's unique handcraft traditions influenced by the diversity of natural materials in ecosystems across the country. Join Walther Boelsterly Urrutia, director of the Museo de Arte Popular in Mexico City, a museum dedicated to contemporary and traditional folk art, to discover how artisans rely on and sustain the raw materials used to create unique craft objects, including hats, textiles, furniture and more.

Presented in partnership with the Mexican Cultural Center in Denver, and the Museo de Arte Popular in Mexico City. This project is supported in part by the National Endowment for the Arts.

YORK STREET TOURS

Salvador Dalí: Gardens of the Mind

April 10 – August 22 *Select Dates and Times*

Explore botanically themed Surrealism in the artwork of Salvador Dalí, with a docent or a curator as your guide. (includes admission)

Docent-led tours: \$16, \$12 member

Curator-led tours: \$19, \$15 member

Exploring Exhibitions

Select Dates, 11 a.m. & 1 p.m.

Enjoy the current gallery exhibitions with a docent as your guide. Exhibitions change regularly. Learn about [current and upcoming art exhibitions](#).

\$16, \$12 member (includes admission)

Seasonal Discoveries: Spring

April 10, 18, 24, May 22, 30, 2 p.m.

Delight your senses with the new blossoms of spring on this tour of gardens that are awakening from their winter slumber. \$16, \$12 member (includes admission)

Container Gardens

June 13, 5 p.m.

Explore a variety of unique and unexpected container gardens with a docent-led tour, including edible, fragrant and pollinator-attracting. You'll be inspired to take your own container gardens to the next level with what you learn. \$16, \$12 member (includes admission)

Midsummer Nights

June 24, 25, 26, 27, 29 & July 1, 2, 6 p.m.

Come enjoy a Shakespeare-inspired summer stroll infused with poetry and plants.

\$16, \$12 member (includes admission)

Tropical Trails – ONLINE

April 17 at 11 a.m. & April 23, 1 p.m.

Travel to the tropics through this online tour of the Gardens' Boettcher Memorial Tropical Conservatory.

\$10, \$8 member

For more information or to register, visit the [tours web page](#) or call 720-865-3500.

PRIVATE TOURS AT YORK STREET OR CHATFIELD FARMS

Looking for a special experience for your group of 5 or more? Schedule a private guided in-person tour at York Street or at Chatfield Farms or a virtual tour of the Boettcher Memorial Tropical Conservatory at least three weeks in advance. For more information, contact info@botanicgardens.org or 720-865-3500. (includes admission)

Docent-led: \$14, \$6 student

Staff-led: \$17, \$6 student

Virtual tours: Prices vary

HIKES AND TOURS AT PLAINS CONSERVATION CENTER

Saturday Guided Hikes

March 6 & April 17, noon

See the beautiful transition to springtime on the prairie during an engaging and educational hike with an experienced guide. \$10, public

Saturday Evening Guided Hikes

March 6 & April 17, 3 p.m.

Join us for engaging and educational evening hikes on the prairie with an experienced guide and end with one of the most spectacular sunsets in the Front Range. \$10, public

Sunset Wagon Tour

April 10 & April 24, 5 p.m.

Get to know the prairie in a whole new way. Wagon rides are scheduled to coincide with the spectacular sunsets at the Plains Conservation Center. \$10, public

For more information or to register, visit the [Plains Conservation Center tours page](#) or call 720-865-3500.

The Art of Designing a CONTAINER

By Mike Holloway, Horticulturist

They say art is subjective, so by that reasoning, designing a container could also be considered subjective. My philosophy is “Design something that makes you happy.” That said, there are a few recommendations to help you create a happy and healthy container.

First, let’s think about **your choice of containers**. Whatever container you decide on, the most important thing is to make sure you pick a container that has good drainage. Other considerations are its durability and how easy it is to move. Some containers don’t do well outside during our cold winter months and need to be stored inside to prevent cold damage.

Now let’s talk about picking out plants. Are you planting for the sun or the shade? The plants you choose need to have similar light requirements. The same goes for your plants’ water needs. If you’re shopping at a garden center, the plant labels should provide you with that information, but if for some reason the information isn’t listed, don’t hesitate to ask for help.

So, what are your favorite colors? Mixing and matching colors is all up to you. Pick the colors that make you smile. If planting for a shady area, pick colors that will brighten up the space. Also keep texture in mind. I like to pick foliage that adds different textures to my container. Some examples are ferns, fennel fronds or even dill. Another thing to think about is symmetry. You could add plants that spill over the edge, mounding plants and plants that give the design height.

Allow the pursuit of happiness to guide you – after all, you are the artist!



Where There’s a Willow THERE’S A WAY

By Jennifer Miller, Horticulturist

Do you put metal cages around plants, only to wish the plants would hurry up and grow over them? Then woven willow plant supports might be just for you. Willow obelisks, cloches and trellises blend in with other plant material and add charm to gardens – so much so, you might be tempted to trim back vines just to keep the supports in view.

Though willow weaving can get complicated, you don’t have to be an artisan to make basic supports. All you need are sticks of basketry willow, a patch of ground and a little patience. Basketry willows are species of willow or *Salix* that are pliant enough to weave. One of the best is *Salix purpurea* and can be purchased as cuttings. Simply push cuttings, buds pointing up, into the ground, then hook up a water drip, mulch, weed and wait. After the first season, cut the willows to 2-3 inches. This is called coppicing and results in new growth with few side shoots, known as rods.

Over the next two years, continue to coppice until the willows produce enough quality rods of similar lengths to weave supports for your plants. Quality rods are straight, long, supple and branchless. While you wait, think about the type of supports you want to make, learn the basic weaves used to make them and gather the rods you do have to practice.

Little by little your knowledge will grow and before you know it, you’ll have a renewable supply of rods – and a garden full of supports you won’t want to hide away.



HELEN FOWLER LIBRARY

The Fine Art of CARING FOR OUR BOOKS

by Kathryn Downing, Technical Services Librarian

The Helen Fowler Library's rare book collection has been in the making for almost 75 years, but individual items in the collection have histories that extend back much further. Our oldest item is nearing its 500th birthday, and many others have lived through centuries already.

The art of conservation is a meticulous one. Caring for rare books is often about balancing the needs of today with the potential for scholarship tomorrow. While we want to facilitate access to these resources as much as possible, physical handling or exposure to certain environments can irreparably damage items until the histories they hold are lost forever. Luckily, trained conservators can help with interventive conservation to address any

damage that has already occurred, as they did with our copy of Manuel Blanco's "Flora de Filipinas" (six volumes, published 1877-1883).

This work likely spent a lot of time in hot or humid areas under less-than-ideal conditions before arriving in our collection. Its original binding had evidence of bugs not even found in the U.S.! A conservator helped us stabilize the work by rebinding the individual volumes, cleaning the plates and pages of mold and re-sewing the text block where needed.

Due to the fine work of that conservator, our copy of "Flora de Filipinas" was finally stable enough able to undergo partial digitization, resulting in the Gardens' contribution to this year's [Color Our Collections](#) annual coloring festival.



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