

A close-up photograph of several orange chrysanthemum flowers. The petals are layered and have a vibrant orange color with some yellow highlights. The background is a soft, out-of-focus green, suggesting a garden setting. The lighting is bright, highlighting the texture of the petals.

INSIDE

THE GARDENS

FALL 2023 A QUARTERLY MAGAZINE FOR
MEMBERS OF DENVER BOTANIC GARDENS

How do people connect with plants? Even though plants are ubiquitous in our lives, many of us have a superficial relationship with them. When we hike in the mountains, they are a stunning backdrop. When they are in our yard, they vacillate between success story to obnoxious weeds. We eat them every day. We use them to celebrate and to grieve. Yet, we often don't consider how profoundly we are linked.

The deeper connection comes when they represent something meaningful. I have a columnar white pine in my backyard that the Gardens' staff gave me upon my first anniversary. It has grown from three feet to 30. Every time I look up, I am grateful for the incredible colleagues I work with.

Plants give us a multi-sensory diary of our adventures – the lavender that smells like your grandmother's house. The perfect amount of garlic in your favorite restaurant's marinara. We usually have just one memory of encounters with stinging nettle, poison ivy or Russian olive. One is enough. Plants are intertwined with our language. We hear it through the grapevine, cover it up with a fig leaf and offer an olive branch.

One of the Gardens' most important purposes is to get a little deeper in storytelling. It's funny how, when you get a slight shift in perspective, a whole new world opens up. If you devote an hour every now and then to truly experience all the plants in your life, asking yourself about their histories and purposes, your bond will grow.

In our time, few means of storytelling come close to film. That is why we launched Denver Botanic Films 18 months ago. "Amache Rose," the first documentary by Billy Kanaly, film director and producer at the Gardens, was picked up by four film festivals and has been applauded by an international audience. It reveals the history of Japanese American prisoners in the Amache concentration camp in Granada, Colorado, and the amenity gardens they planted there to feel a sense of control and normalcy. The rose becomes a symbol of persistence and, eventually, long-awaited joy.

Billy's second documentary premiered in September. "A Branch of Us" highlights several stories about the impact trees have on us. We see a tree that survived Hiroshima and is now a symbol of peace. We hear about trees that orbited the moon and trees spread by a man with a pot on his head. And we visit Pando, a single plant that is the heaviest living organism on Earth. These stories remind us that we all have a tree, like my white pine, that means the world to us.

Enjoy all your newfound connections.

Onward.

Brian
Denver Botanic Gardens CEO



Contents

Chatfield Farms.....	2
Featured Garden.....	3
Center for Global Initiatives	4-5
Education	6
Family Corner.....	7
Volunteer	8
Special Events.....	8-10
Private Events.....	11
Research and Conservation.....	12-13
Exhibitions, Art and Learning Engagement.....	14-15
Tours.....	15
Helen Fowler Library.....	16
Featured Programs.....	17
Plant Portrait.....	18
Donor Spotlight.....	19
Donors	20
Tributes	21
Trustees	21

INSIDE THE GARDENS

ISSUE 4, 2023

Denver Botanic Gardens

1007 York St., Denver, CO 80206

Pre-purchased tickets and advance member passes only.

Hours: Through Nov. 14, 9 a.m. – 5 p.m., last admission 4 p.m.

Holiday hours: Nov. 15 – Jan. 6, 2024, 9 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.,
last admission 2:30 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

Graphic Designer: Jessica Lammert

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.



PUMPKIN SEASON *on the Farm*

By Jennifer Trunce, Associate Director of Chatfield Farms Horticulture

Fall is a magical time of year at [Chatfield Farms](#). The huge cottonwoods that tower over Deer Creek shimmer bright yellow. The prairie gardens surrounding the Earl J. Sinnamon Center are a sea of soft shades of pinks, reds, purples and golds. The air is cool and crisp, a reminder that winter is on the way. It is a time for soaking up the beauty of the landscape before it hibernates for the winter.

As the days grow shorter, our 10 acres of pumpkins glow orange in the fall sunsets. School groups laugh and play as they pick their very own mini pumpkin from the vast patch, as visitors of all ages explore the seven-acre [Corn Maze](#).

Excited for a new season on the farm, the horticulture team assembles displays of mums, pansies and kale in celebration of autumn. Pumpkins are harvested right out of the pumpkin patch and included in the autumn displays. There is quite an assortment to choose from, as the Operations Department grows over 40,000 pumpkins, with more than 30 different types.

Pumpkins are members of the squash family, Cucurbitaceae, which also includes cucumbers, gherkins and melons. This fruit originated in North

America about 9,000 years ago and is one of the oldest domesticated plants. The oldest pumpkin seeds have been found in Mexico and date back to somewhere between 7000-5550 BCE. Historically, it was an important food staple among the Indigenous peoples of North America, long before the cultivation of corn or beans. Tribes would grow pumpkins along creeks and riverbanks where they made their camps. Once harvested, the seeds were scooped out and dried or roasted. The flesh was often baked in ovens or over fires and sometimes mashed to make a thick soup. Dried pumpkin was hung and stored for winter sustenance.

According to legend, Irish immigrants brought the practice of carving jack-o'-lanterns to America from their homeland. Originally, these lanterns were carved out of potatoes or turnips but using pumpkins became the norm due to their ease of carving.

With a plethora of pumpkins, corn and vibrant fall gardens, Chatfield Farms is the perfect location to experience the autumn season. Fall vegetables are distributed to CSA shareholders, and seasonal fall displays are in full bloom. A visit to our [Pumpkin Festival](#) and a stroll through the gardens will entice all who visit to celebrate the change of season.





Photo: Kevin Williams

TAKE ME TO THE RIVER

By Kevin Philip Williams, Assistant Curator

The recently opened Willow Glade in Celebration of Brandon Mandelbaum, part of the larger habitat gardens reimagining, spotlights water-loving plant communities found throughout Colorado. These riparian habitats can be found at different elevations along the banks of rivers, creeks, streams and their related wetlands. Although riparian habitats make up less than one percent of the land area of the Western U.S., around 75 percent of all wildlife species depend on them for some part of their lives.

Willows (the genus *Salix*) are abundant in these wet worlds and serve as important food and shelter for wildlife as small as flies and as big as moose. Dozens of willow species grow in Colorado, and in order to preserve and showcase their unique regional variations, the willows in Willow Glade were wild collected in Colorado in cooperation with the United States Forest Service, the Bureau of Land Management and The Nature Conservancy.

Although willows are the titular star of this garden, they have stiff competition in the gorgeously sculpted babbling brook – awash with black, pink and red granite – which flows through two pools. Just a few weeks after being completed, the water was filled with tadpoles. The garden is now home to Woodhouse's toads (*Anaxyrus woodhousii*), very welcome new residents.

As the collections in this garden mature, and the flowers of the wet meadow begin to stitch together with the lush willows, we hope that this will become a welcoming space for even more species seeking the necessities of life.

Plant Conservation with **THE CENTRAL ASIAN STEPPE**

By Phillip Douglas, Director of Horticulture & Center for Global Initiatives





In May of this year, Gardens staff members Elena Shtern, Panayoti Kelaidis and I joined Johan Nilsson of Gothenburg Botanic Garden on an expedition to Uzbekistan. A trip five years in the making, representatives from the Plant Collecting Collaborative established a working agreement with the [Institute of Botany of the Academy of Sciences of the Republic of Uzbekistan](#) back in 2018. The abundant flora of the Central Asian steppe is a key component of our own collections and is highly adaptable to our climate here on the Front Range.

Over the course of 18 days, we were treated to amazing hospitality and immersed in the culture and heritage of this incredible region. From delicious lunches at the Central Asian Pilaf Center to tours of the Sher-Dor Madrasah, the rich history of the proud culture of the Uzbek people was constantly on display.

The goal of this trip was to collect seeds from endemic (native) geophytes in the region and bring them back to the Gardens for conservation in ex-situ collections. Geophytes are bulb-producing plants like *Iris*, *Fritillaria* and *Eremerus*. The global diversity of these plants occurs in the Central Asian steppe, with many new species being described to science each year. With the help of our guide, Orzimat Turginov, and countless other staff from the Institute of Botany, we were successful in collecting 92 accessions from the Tien Shan and Pamir-Alay mountains.

Expeditions like this supported by the Gardens' Center for Global Initiatives assist with capacity-building at partnering institutions, develop critical partnerships in plant conservation and help to bolster the diversity of global plant collections at public gardens.



Photos: Panayoti Kelaidis



Photo: History Colorado Center

CONNECTING COLORADO TO ITS HISTORY

By Julie Reiske, Assistant Manager of School and Plains Programs

Denver Botanic Gardens' Education Department is committed to offering new and exciting programs about the plants, animals and people who call Colorado home now and in the past. We acknowledge that the land known as Colorado is the traditional homeland of Indigenous peoples since time immemorial. We have much to learn from their deep relationships to and intricate knowledge of this land. As we develop research, programming and interpretation to benefit humankind, we continuously seek out reciprocal collaborations and partnerships with Native peoples to learn from and honor their traditions and practices.

A partnership with [History Colorado](#) is helping us share about Indigenous people. History Colorado worked closely with the Ute tribes in Colorado to design an educational toolkit of activities to teach about their culture, history and stewardship of the land. The kit, "Ute Knowledge: Colorado's Original Scientists," includes several lesson plans with hands-on exploration, pictures, games, artifacts and a large floor map of Colorado showing how the Ute territory has changed since European settlement. With these materials, students can explore how the Ute people used and continue to use science, technology, engineering and math to thrive in the Rocky Mountains.

This kit has allowed us to expand our current anthropology and ethnobotany programming to include the natural resources used by the Ute people. Currently, at the [Plains Conservation Center](#) in Aurora, we have a replica tipi camp to represent the Cheyenne people in the early 1800s. This kit comes with an engineering activity to show students how to build a Ute home. Through this teaching opportunity we can better reflect the diversity of Colorado's history. Another wonderful activity we have used many times is a matching game about the uses of native plants, many of which can be found at our Gardens locations. This allows us to teach about the traditional and modern uses of these plants and then go into the field to explore and harvest them.

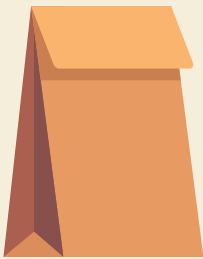
Visitors are often shocked by the innovations and knowledge of Indigenous people and gain a deeper respect for their way of life and connection to the land after interacting with the kit. These diverse lessons truly inspire students to reflect on the original scientists, engineers and astronomers of Colorado and beyond. The kit and everything that comes with it has been a great addition to our school, camp, homeschool, family and adult programs and we are extremely grateful to History Colorado for allowing us to share it with our audience.

Exploring Nature's COLOR PALETTE

By Helena Nitz, Family and Children's Program Coordinator

As summer fades into fall, we experience a swirling shift of color. Gone are the vibrant blooms of summer and taking their place are the deep, earthy hues of harvest and change. Fall offers a delightful opportunity for families to immerse themselves in nature while unleashing their artistic talents. Welcome to the wonderful world of leaf art!

GATHER



Gather your family, grab a paper bag or two and head out to your nearest park, hiking trail or even your backyard. Encourage everyone to look closely at the leaves, exploring their colors and textures. Newly fallen leaves may feel soft, while older ones tend to feel crunchy. For more fun consider bringing a tree identification guide for older family members. Remember to respect nature as you explore—only collect leaves that have naturally fallen and stay on designated hiking trails.

CREATE



Once you have collected an assortment of leaves, let your creative side shine! Look closely at the different shades of color that can be on just one leaf. After exploring your leaves, transform them into a unique work of art by adding colors using paint or markers, shred your leaves into natural confetti or make fun leaf creatures by gluing them onto paper.

DISCUSS



During your creative process, discuss the important things that trees give us, like food, shelter and oxygen. Through leaf art you can not only encourage your family members to explore creativity, but also foster a sense of wonder and connection to the natural world.



Fall and winter are full of special events at York Street and Chatfield Farms. Tickets for all events must be purchased in advance. Purchase early so you don't miss out.



Ghosts in the Gardens Open Air Scare

Oct. 13-15 and Oct. 26-29
5:30-10:30 p.m.
\$34, \$29 member

Conjure your courage and capture your fear as you walk our dimly lit paths after hours and listen to the haunting stories that lurk throughout the Gardens' 100 years of history. You won't want to miss this experience! [Get full details online.](#)

VOLUNTEER WITH US

Denver Botanic Gardens' magical event season is here! Our amazing events are successful thanks to a great deal of volunteer support. Now is the time to get involved as a volunteer and connect with others while helping to make our special events enjoyable for all. Get more information on our website about [volunteer opportunities](#) at York Street and Chatfield Farms. You can also email us at vol@botanicgardens.org. Hope to see you on our team soon!

AT YORK STREET



Glow Before Dark

Oct. 14-22

General Admission Hours

Included with admission,
free for members

Glow at the Gardens™ is sold out, but you can enjoy enchanting vignettes during the day. Many of the decorations from the nighttime event are equally spooktacular during the day. Enjoy scenes that embody the spirit of the season, such as skeleton displays, a graveyard, a field of scarecrows and more. [Get full details online.](#)



Yo Soy: Arte at York Street and Aurora Public Libraries

Through November

Included with admission/free

Yo Soy Arte: Calacas y Catrinas is a captivating exhibition that brings to life the *calacas* (skeletons) and *catrinas* (elegant skeletons satirizing high society) found in Mexican traditions. Translating to "I am" in Spanish, this curated series serves as a platform to showcase the multifaceted aspects of Latino cultures, both locally and globally. Visit the Gardens for a collection of calacas interpreted by Colorado artists and visit branches of Aurora Public Library to view stunning catrinas on display. [Get full details online.](#)

Blossoms of Light®

Nov. 17 – Jan. 7, 4:30-9 p.m.

(closed Nov. 23 & Dec. 25)

\$18-\$25

Brighter and more spectacular than ever before, Blossoms of Light transforms our York Street location into a twinkling winter wonderland. Consistently ranked as one of the top holiday light displays in the country, this dazzling display of light and color always offers something new to see for even long-time visitors. At the end of the mile-long path, enjoy the debut of our thrilling new light stick display in the UMB Bank Amphitheater. Most nights sell out, so get your tickets early! Tickets go on sale in November. [Get full details online.](#)





Pumpkin Festival

October 6-8, 9 a.m. – 4 p.m.
\$10-\$16

Family fall favorite Pumpkin Festival promises three days of fun. Pick the perfect pumpkin to purchase from our 10-acre patch and enjoy carnival games, wagon rides, local vendors, live music, food trucks and autumn-inspired beer and cider selections. Additional activities such as pirate-themed escape rooms, Nerf Turf and Ninja Nation obstacle courses are available as add-on purchases. Pumpkin Festival tickets include Corn Maze admission. [Get full details online.](#)

Corn Maze

Fridays – Sundays through Oct. 29
9 a.m. – 5 p.m.
\$10-\$15

Be sure to get lost in 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 details online.](#)



Trail of Lights

Nov. 24 – Jan. 1, various evenings, 5-8:30 p.m.
(closed Dec. 25)

\$10-\$16

Follow a winding path glistening with lights that illuminate the Colorado countryside. Warm up with kettle corn and a hot chocolate at the start of the path before taking in a dancing light show in the amphitheater. Pass through tunnels of lights and find our singing trees. New this year is a fun photo op in front of our barn, which will be illuminated with ornaments. Escape the chill in our warming hut halfway through the path. There will be a holiday market on select evenings that is sure to help you find the perfect last-minute stocking stuffer. Tickets must be purchased in advance. Tickets sell out fast; get yours early. Tickets go on sale in November. [Get full details online.](#)

Connecting Community with Nature Through Private Events

By Joshua Riggs, Associate Director of Private Events

In the Welcome Garden at our York Street location, an inscription on a stone in the landscape spells out our commitment to be a “garden for all people,” and this commitment is manifested through private event celebrations.

Through partnership with local organizations, we are home to many perennial celebrations such as the African Leadership Group’s Afrik Impact, the Hispanic Chamber of Commerce’s Sabor, Judaism Your Way’s high holidays services and YouthSeen’s annual Black Pride celebration. Our blossoming

spaces create a sanctuary for many nonprofits, like ARC Thrift Stores, Girl Scouts and Rocky Mountain Children’s Health Foundation.

The beauty and variety of the Gardens provides a serene setting that offers a break from the hustle and bustle of everyday life. This is especially important for events like weddings, milestone moments and celebrations of lives lived — where the focus is on making lasting memories with family and friends.

Learn more about [private events](#) at York Street and Chatfield Farms.



Connecting People with **PLANTS AND FUNGI** Through Science

By Alissa Iverson, Floristic and Outreach Coordinator



In the Research & Conservation Department, we connect people with the captivating world of plants and fungi by showcasing our scientific endeavors and involving folks in the scientific process. We lead field trips and tours, engage with local communities and provide opportunities for volunteers and interns to work alongside our scientists.

For example, at the Crested Butte Wildflower Festival, our head curator of natural history collections leads guided hikes to discuss topics such as plant defense and survival strategies and identifying flowers using the nonprofit social network [iNaturalist](#). Our assistant curator of mycology assists students with mushroom collection and identification at the Sierra Nevada Field Campus, leads forays for the Telluride Mushroom Festival and coordinates the Colorado Mycological Society Fair. In addition, our scientists present their research to various community organizations on topics such as plant diversity of the High Line Canal and the impacts of heat stress on rare alpine plants.

Herbarium tours are an essential cornerstone of our outreach efforts. [The herbarium](#) houses approximately 100,000 collections of dried plants, fungi and insects, which serve as valuable resources for studying and

documenting biodiversity. These specimens are also an important tool for research in taxonomy, climate change impacts and conservation. On tours, staff and docents show examples of these collections and explain their significance in advancing scientific knowledge. Just this year alone, staff have already given more than 50 tours of the herbarium to various organizations and school groups!

In addition to engaging with the public, we also work with volunteers and high school interns to encourage a connection with the science of plants and fungi. Volunteers and interns participate in the scientific process through activities such as specimen collection, plant and fungal identification, and DNA extraction. Their contributions are instrumental in the Research & Conservation Department's accomplishments.

Through these community events, herbarium tours and collection forays and by working with volunteers and interns, we hope to cultivate a shared sense of wonder and responsibility for our natural environment. By fostering connections between people, plants and fungi, we aim to nurture and train a future generation of stewards who will cherish and protect the natural treasures that enrich our lives.

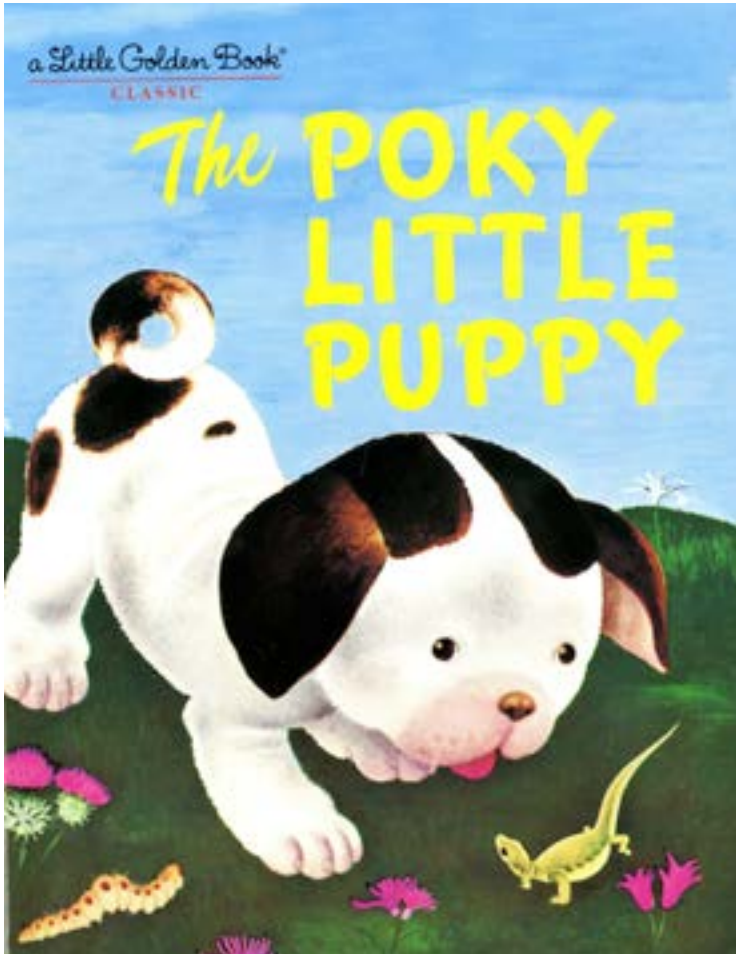


Photo: Jennifer Ackerfield



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



Gustaf Tenggren, illustration from *The Poky Little Puppy*. Story by Janette Sebring Lowrey, published by Golden Press, NY, 1942. Courtesy of the Kerlan Collection, University of Minnesota.



Manabu C. Saito, *Couroupita guianensis*, watercolor, 1969.

GOLDEN LEGACY: Original Art from 80 Years of Golden Books October 15, 2023 – February 18, 2024

Explore whimsical children's book illustrations highlighting nature as a source of wonder and joy. Featuring colorful illustrations from the Little Golden Books series, *Golden Legacy* displays works from some of the best-known children's books of the past 80 years.

This exhibition was organized by the National Center for Children's Illustrated Literature, Abilene, Texas.

THE TROPICAL PAINTINGS of Manabu Saito October 22, 2023 – February 11, 2024

Experience Manabu Saito's passion for botanical art in this exhibition featuring watercolor paintings of tropical flora. Mostly created at the Wilson Botanical Gardens in Costa Rica, the paintings in this exhibit highlight the striking beauty of tropical plants.

The Tropical Paintings of Manabu Saito is on loan from the Tucson Botanical Gardens.

Tanya Marcuse: LAWS OF NATURE

November 19, 2023 –
March 31, 2024

Tanya Marcuse's large-scale photographs evoke awe of the natural world. Interspersing flowers, fruits and other plant components, her artworks resemble both abstract paintings and still lifes. Marcuse's works hover between beauty and decay, inviting viewers to reflect on the laws of nature.



Tanya Marcuse, *Woven No. 16*, pigment print, 2016.

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

DOCENT-LED TOURS

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

At Home with Your Houseplants

Colorado Connections

Exploring Exhibitions

Seasonal Discoveries

Nature-inspired Design

LIMITED! Fiendish Flora:

Select dates in October & November

DROP-IN TOURS

Included with admission

Garden Highlights: Select days, 10 a.m. & 11 a.m.

Guided Introduction to the Gardens

in Spanish: Select Fridays, 10 a.m.

Visita guiada de introducción a los Jardines

en español: Viernes selectos, 10 a.m.

Chatfield Farms

DOCENT-LED TOURS

\$20, \$10 member \$5 student

See website for dates and times

Seasonal Discoveries

Colorado Connections

DROP-IN TOURS

Included with admission

Garden Highlights: Select Saturdays – Sundays,
10 a.m. & 11 a.m.

NEW TOUR!

The Art of Science: Gallery to Greenery

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

Oct. 27, 1 p.m. and Nov. 16, 10 a.m.

Join along for this special tour to witness a mash-up of green thumbs and creative minds. A horticultural curator provides insights on current art exhibitions and an art curator brings their perspective to the gardens and greenhouses.

NEW PROGRAM! From the Vault

\$15, \$12 member

Oct. 27, 10 a.m. and Nov. 3, 2 p.m.

Enjoy a unique opportunity to see works from the Gardens' art collection up close—from 19th-century botanical prints to work by contemporary artists in our Land Line Artist Residency program and recent exhibitions. Join Manager of Exhibitions and Art Collections Megan Farlow in the Edward P. Connors Rare Books Reading Room to learn more about the Gardens' non-living collections.

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](#).

HELEN FOWLER LIBRARY

HOW DO YOU CONNECT TO NATURE?

*By Allaina Wallace, Associate Director
of Education and Library; Head Librarian*

The Helen Fowler Library offers multiple ways to learn about the environment and connect to plants. We invite you to explore our collection, where you will find titles such as these.



FIELD GUIDE:

Medicinal Herbs of the Rocky Mountains: A field guide to common healing plants by Blake Burger, Denver Botanic Gardens assistant curator

FOR THE INDOOR PLANT ENTHUSIAST:

You Grow, Gurl! Plant Kween's lush guide to growing your garden by Christopher Griffin, educator, gardener and social media star

YOU'VE ATTENDED ONE OF OUR CLASSES AND WANT TO EXPAND ON WHAT YOU'VE LEARNED:

The Wildcrafted Cocktail: Make your own foraged syrups, bitters, infusions, and garnishes by Ellen Zachos

FEELING MORE MEDITATIVE OR NEEDING TO RELAX:

Garden for the Senses: How your garden can soothe your mind and awaken your soul by Kendra Wilson

HIDDEN HISTORY:

Becoming Kin: An indigenous call to unforgetting the past and reimagining our future by Patty Krawec

FICTION

MYSTERY:

The Walled Garden by Robin Farrar Maass

YOUNG ADULT:

When Life Gives You Mangoes by Kereen Getten

GRAPHIC NOVEL:

The Secret Garden on 81st Street by Ivy Noelle Weir and illustrated by Amber Padilla (a twist on the classic)

KIDS:

Humongous Fungus, Plantopedia, Inspector Flytrap and **My Hair is a Garden**

We also have games, magazines, plant society newsletters and even Master Gardeners with onsite hours accessible to all library visitors. Members of the Gardens can check out most materials for three weeks. [Search these titles and more.](#)

ADULT EDUCATION

Orchid and Air Plant Living Sculpture Workshop

Dec. 9, 9:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.
\$86, \$76 member

In this course, you will take what you know about orchids and air plants, and create a free-standing, living sculpture to take home. Bring some tropical beauty into your home this year!

Finding Inspiration in Photography

Dec. 15, 1-2:30 p.m.
\$26, \$22 member

Energize your photography and find sources of inspiration all around you. In this course we will cover places where you can find inspiration, subjects to inspire your photography and challenges to get you to see the world with fresh eyes.

Singing Bowls at the Gardens

Dec. 16, 12:30-2 p.m.
\$24, \$22 member

Float on waves of gentle resonance from the crystal harp and singing bowls. Wrap yourself in layers of sonic harmonics from the om gong as it warms body, mind and spirit.



SCHOOL OF BOTANICAL ART & ILLUSTRATION

FOCUS ON PICTURE BOOKS

Each class \$60, \$50 member

Don't miss these School of Botanical Art & Illustration workshops featuring the world of illustrated books. Inspired by the exhibition *Golden Legacy: Original Art from 80 Years of Golden Books*, this series highlights the styles and techniques of narrative-based illustration. Each one-day workshop is available either online or onsite at the Gardens and can be taken individually or in sequence as a series.

Introduction to Picture Book Layout and Design

Jan. 17, 5-8 p.m.

Discover how to use layout and composition to develop narrative and explore a variety of picture book genres.

[In Person](#) [Online](#)

Illustrating Expressive Characters

Jan. 24, 5-8 p.m.

Join us for a lecture about how to draw engaging characters and how composition can tell their tale.

[In Person](#) [Online](#)

Sequenced Illustrations to Build Narrative

Jan. 31, 5-8 p.m.

Learn how illustration sequencing techniques can guide narrative structure in picture books through pacing, plotting, succession and more.

[In Person](#) [Online](#)

Illustrating Educational Books for Children

Feb. 7, 5-8 p.m.

We live in a golden age of children's nonfiction. Learn how to use illustration to bring educational materials to life.

[In Person](#) [Online](#)

Mark your calendar! [Registration](#) for 2024 courses opens at 10 a.m. on Friday, November 17.

Scholarships are available thanks to ongoing support from Botanical Interests.

CEROPEGIA CIMICIODORA

By Scott Preusser, Assistant Curator

I like weird plants. The harder they are to grow, the better. For me, *Ceropegia cimiciodora* fits that description wonderfully. Part of the family *Apocynaceae*, *Ceropegia cimiciodora* is native to Eswatini and KwaZulu-Natal in southern Africa.

Ceropegia cimiciodora, with its thick, mottled stems and tiny, insignificant leaflets, is quite an ugly plant when not producing one of the coolest flowers known to humankind. Fortunately, this plant and its species allies produce a heavy number of flowers from about March – November. They start out as a closed, five-pointed, glabrous star speckled purple and white. Frankly, it could stop there and leave no one disappointed. But there's more – much more – to see. When it opens, it has the appearance of a large (five-legged) spider, complete with dark, fuzzy, purple legs. The center is a lovely fuzzy white.

The odor of this species is another unique characteristic. The species name *cimiciodora* translates to "the smell of the bed bug *Cimex lectularius*." I encourage you to learn what this bed bug smells like. Spoiler alert: It's not like a rose.

This was the first plant I picked from the succulent collection to put in the display in the Crossroads Garden this past summer, and it worked out very well. As we shift into fall, it's moving indoors to the Cactus and Succulent House in the Rock Alpine Garden. I hope you have the chance to check it out along with all the other unique plants and gardens when you visit.

Photo: Scott Preusser



THE OPTIMISM OF NATURE

By Ashley Guesman, MPA, Major Gifts Manager

"Nature is resilient, and you learn that as you work with it." This is something Linda Zaparanick has observed over her decades immersed in nature. Linda and her husband, Bob, are longtime volunteers and supporters of the Gardens.

The Zaparanicks moved to Colorado in 1972 in search of an outdoors-oriented lifestyle and they have found that and more. Linda and Bob cite their interest in nature and the environment as one that has existed since childhood and grown thanks to their enduring curiosity. Bob began volunteering at the Gardens in the 1980s, with Linda joining shortly thereafter. Linda recalls the influence of Larry Jackel, bonsai specialist, who uses his biology background to explain how plants grow from seeds. "His enthusiasm captures everyone's attention—from five-year-olds to adults!"

Linda and Bob's keen observational skills prove incredibly useful, especially when performing volunteer seed scouting work. Seed scouting or locating a plant when it starts to be in bloom and monitoring other conditions, such as snow, assists researchers and scientists in monitoring plant species.

"Bob and Linda have been volunteering in the alpine with me for the past few years," says Alex Seglias, seed conservation research associate at the Gardens. "I show them rare plants and they tell me about pika scat. They are so passionate about conserving our beautiful Colorado alpine and the plants and animals that call it home. It is always a joy to have them in the field with me—and let me just say that they have no problem keeping up on tough hikes!"

Whether passionately discussing pikas' habitats, their favorite alpine lakes at Horseshoe Mountain or the changing climate's impact on bird migration, one thing is certain: Linda and Bob Zaparanick have an infectious sense of optimism. "Humans are generally sensitive and tuned into the environment," Linda says. "Just do any little positive thing you can do!"



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