

Overheard at the Winter Potluck ~

"I can't decide which I'm enjoying more, the food or seeing the people. I guess it's both."

January-February 2020

Come Grow With Us!

Anyone interested in renting a plot at the Charmaine Nymann Community Garden is asked to call Karen Stith at (719) 634-4433 or Mary Smithey at (719) 375-5224 as soon as possible to get registration information

Plots available for new gardeners are assigned on a first-come, first-served basis.

Plot sizes and fees are: 20 feet x 20 feet \$ 75.00 20 feet x 40 feet \$ 120.00

The plot fee includes water and spring tilling. First year gardeners pay a \$25 cleanup deposit which is returned if the plot is adequately cleared at the end of the season.

The garden is scheduled to open on April 25, weather permitting, and will close on October 18. More information about the garden can be found at www.bearcreekgardens.org.

Garden Class March 7

Experienced BCGA gardeners will provide a spring garden class titled "Organic Vegetable Gardening ~Tips for Success" on Saturday, March 7th from 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. at the Bear Creek Nature Center, 245 Bear Creek Road.

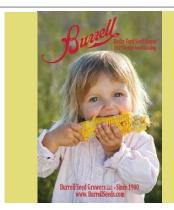
The fee is \$3 per person for Nature Center members and \$4 for non-members, payable at the door.

Topics covered include seed starting, vegetable varieties that grow well in this region, square foot gardening, early spring plant protection and favorite tools.

Dan Farrell from Rick's Garden Center will talk about fertilizer and pest control products that are appropriate in an organic garden.

Participants are asked to register in advance online at www.elpasocountynaturecenters.com or by calling the center at (719) 520-6387.

Gardeners Recommend Favorite Seed Sources



On a winter day, go online and browse the seed company websites that are recommended by some of our BCGA gardeners. It will be fun to try something new this year.

<u>Baker Creek Heirloom Seed Co.</u>
Provides rare and unusual heirloom vegetable varieties. They publish a stunning printed catalogue. www.rareseeds.com

<u>Burrell Seed Co.</u> Colorado's oldest seed house, founded by D.V. Burrell I 1896. Vegetable varieties suited to Colorado. Rocky Ford melon seed. https://burrellseeds.us

<u>E & R</u>, a Mennonite group located in Indiana (816) 510-3337. E & R does not have a website. Call to request a catalogue, then order seed by mail or by phone. Good varieties, low prices. Dave Ridnour's favorite.

<u>Farm Direct Organic Seed</u>, from Hobbs Family Farm east of Pueblo. This certified organic, open pollinated non-GMO seed is grown in Southern Colorado and Northern New Mexico. Rick's Garden Center carries it.

www.farmdirectseed.com

Johnny's Selected Seeds (Maine) www.johnnyseeds.com

<u>Kitazawa Seed Company</u>, Oakland, CA. America's oldest seed company, specializing in Asian vegetables since 1917. One of the best. http://www.kitazawaseed.com

Native Seeds/SEARCH A seed-

saving and sharing cooperative in Tucson. This organization focuses on plants that are native to the southwest. It promotes agricultural diversity in the southwestern U.S. and northern Mexico. www.nativeseeds.org

Penn and Cord Mountain Seeds. Penn and Cord Parmenter have been developing vegetables suited to Colorado mountain growing in Westcliffe for many years. They're well known In the Colorado gardening community. Website: www.pennandcordsgarden.com/

<u>Seed Savers Exchange</u>, Decorah, lowa. Provides heirloom, untreated, non-hybrid, non-GMO seeds. SSE identifies varieties that are not commonly available to the public and makes every effort to offer these varieties in its catalog and Exchange. See: www.seedsaversexchange.org

<u>Seeds From Italy</u> Imported Italian favorites. <u>www.growitalian.com</u>

<u>Territorial Seed Company</u> (Oregon) <u>www.territorialseed.com</u>

Terroir Seeds Heirloom and open pollinated seed. Since 1993. Sign up for monthly seed newsletter. www.underwoodgardens.com

Gardeners Use Badges to Receive Discounts

Remember to show your 2019 garden badge at checkout to receive the following discounts:

- Rick's Garden Center 10%
- Good Earth Greenery 10%
- Ace Hardware (<u>Uintah Gardens only</u>) 15% on purchases and 50% on tool sharpening.

BCGA thanks our friends at these garden centers for offering the discounts. The 2019 badge will be accepted until the garden opens on April 25, when the 2020 badges will be distributed to current gardeners. Starting on April 25, you will need to show the new badge to get a discount. Note: Sale items are usually not eligible for the discount.

Garden Calendar

Feb. 9 Winter Potluck

March 7 BCGA Garden Class

April 4 New Gardener Orientation

April 25 Opening Day

May 23 Plant and Tool Sale

Larry Stebbins—Garden Classes

Larry Stebbins, the founder of Pikes Peak Urban Gardens is once again providing a series of vegetable gardening classes at Horace Mann Middle School.

The classes are scheduled on January 18, February 15 and March 14. Larry is a veteran vegetable gardener, engaging showman and excellent teacher. The cost is \$10 per class, payable at the door. Doors open at 9:00 a.m. so participants have time to browse in the vendor area before the class begins. Vendors include garden centers, the Horticultural Arts Society, beekeepers, folks promoting worm castings and more. BCGA has an information table staffed by gardeners. The class runs from 10-11:30 a.m.

Reserve a place by sending an email to: <u>Larry@thegardenfather.com</u>. Larry regularly posts interesting notes on the Blog he maintains on his website: <u>www.thegardenfather.com</u>

Bear Creek Garden Association

BCGA runs the Charmaine Nymann Community Garden located in Bear Creek Regional Park in Colorado Springs, Colorado. It is a 501(c)(3) tax exempt nonprofit corporation.

Members of the public can rent plots to grow organic vegetables for personal use and for donation to friends and charities.

The gardeners grow and donate thousands of pounds of produce to the Cheyenne Mountain Zoo, Colorado Springs Food Rescue and other charities each year.

Contact us: Karen Stith 634-4433 Mary Smithey 375-5224

Email: <u>bearcreekgardenscs@gmail.com</u>

Website: www.bearcreekgardens.org

Facebook:

Bear Creek Garden Association



Snowy Goats!

Lani Malmberg brought her herd of 500 goats to Bear Creek Park in early November to eat weeds in the 20 acres around the community garden. They were scheduled to provide ten days of grazing. However, wintry weather snarled trucking schedules and forced the goats and their herder, Michael Padilla, to hang out in the park for nearly three weeks. They did more grazing work than usual, and had visits from hundreds of local residents who enjoy seeing them every year. BCGA thanks the dog owners who kept their dogs leashed for the safety of both dogs and goats.

BCGA is raising funds to bring the goats back again this year. Please send a donation to become a Friend of the Goats. Make checks payable to Bear Creek Garden Association and mail to PO Box 38326, Colorado Springs, CO 80937.

February 29 Deadline

Returning gardeners have until February 29 to send in their forms and fees to claim their plots. BCGA will begin assigning plots to new gardeners in the first week of March.

Growing Microgreens

When you have spring fever and it is still snowing outside, try growing microgreens indoors. Use seed starting mix, which is finer than potting soil and is available at garden centers.

Salad greens, leafy vegetables, herbs and even edible flowers can be grown as microgreens, though some varieties are better suited than others.

Beginners often start by growing one type of seed, such as broccoli, cauliflower, cabbage, mustard, chia, sunflower or buckwheat — among the easiest-to-grow varieties of microgreens — in a single container. (You can easily grow different seeds in several containers, and mix your microgreens after harvesting.) You can also find specially selected microgreen mixes that combine greens with similar growth rates, compatible flavors and beautiful coloring including reds, purples and greens.

Rick's Garden Center and Good Earth Garden Center both carry microgreen seed packets prepared by the Botanical Interests seed company in Boulder.

Detailed directions for growing microgreens indoors are provided by Gardener's Supply Company on its website: http://bit.ly/2SDF0R6

Plant Seedlings for BCGA Sale

Beginning in March and April, some of our gardeners start tomato, pepper, broccoli, kale, flowers and other seedlings at home under lights, to later be transplanted to the garden. Please plant a few extras for our small plant and tool sale on Memorial Day weekend. Here's a good guide to starting seedlings: http://bit.ly/37im5AG

"A Garden Experience" is Streaming on Amazon

This lovely film about the Charmaine Nymann Community Garden is now streaming on www.amazon.com. The film traces the garden year, and the impact that growing vegetables in a community garden has on the gardeners themselves.

It was created by Nancy Bentley and John Atkinson and has been shown at film festivals in Ohio, Florida, and Mexico. Streaming is free to Amazon Prime members, others pay \$.99. A copy on a DVD can be purchased from Chip Taylor Communications: www.chiptaylor.com

"A Garden Experience"



John and Nancy have completed a new film about well-known local muralist Eric Bransby, whose work graces the Pioneers Museum and the Fine Arts Center. It was shown locally at the Women's Film Festival in November and can be watched on the Rocky Mountain PBS website at http://bit.ly/31NYDd6