

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: Larry@thegardenfather.com. Larry regularly posts interesting notes on the Blog he maintains on his website: www.thegardenfather.com

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: bearcreekgardenscs@gmail.com

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.

“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

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”



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>