



July-August 2018

“Bleating Hearts” Fundraiser Aug 7 at Goat Patch Brewing

Summer Potluck—August 22

Plan to attend the “Bleating Hearts” fundraiser for BCGA at Goat Patch Brewing, located in the renovated Lincoln School at 2727 North Cascade Avenue on Tuesday, August 7th from 5—9 p.m.

Gardeners are invited to come to this pub to learn more about Goat Patch and try some of their excellent beer. Bear Creek Garden Association will receive \$1 for each pint of beer sold, so long as participants tell the waitress that they are there to support the fundraiser.

Proceeds of the event will go to BCGA’s Goat Fund to bring our herd of weed-eating goats back this fall for their 20th anniversary grazing in Bear Creek Park.

Goat Patch does not serve food, but the Mira Sol Food Truck will be parked outside to provide supper items, and Smorbrod, serving open



Scandinavian sandwiches, has now opened up its restaurant next door to the pub.

Goat Patch has just celebrated its first anniversary. The owners express their strong commitment to the nonprofit community by hosting a “Bleating Hearts” fundraiser for a local nonprofit group every Tuesday night at the pub. BCGA signed up in mid-March to get this slot in August.

Gardeners will gather at the beautiful Gold Hill Mesa Community Room, 142 Raven Mine Drive, for our summer potluck supper on Wednesday, August 22, starting at 5:30 p.m.

BCGA will provide plates, cups, tableware, napkins and lemonade. Gardeners, please bring a main dish plus a salad or dessert. Tables and chairs will be set up indoors so the August late afternoon thundershowers will not affect the potluck.

Families and children may wish to bring a blanket or camp chairs for the lawn.

Plot owners, their helpers and families are all welcome. There is no RSVP for this event, just come. There is plenty of parking at the building and on surrounding streets.

King Soopers gift cards will be available at the potluck. Gardeners can help raise funds to bring back the goats by using and refilling a card.

Rains Bring Abundance— Please Donate Excess to the Zoo and Food Rescue

Monsoon rains have boosted energy in the garden, and many plots are awash in greens, cabbages, zucchini and other produce. Please don’t let it go to waste—take the time to harvest what you can’t use or give to friends and donate it to the Zoo and to Food Rescue.

It takes time, and a little planning, to have produce rinsed off, freshly bagged and ready to go for the weekly pickups. The animals and the folks who receive veggies from Food Rescue, really appreciate your generosity.

The Zoo will gladly take overgrown vegetables and also broccoli stems and leaves, lettuce that has bolted (we have plenty of that at the moment) and corn stalks. No dirt or roots, please.



Lion cubs enjoying ripe cucumbers

Select produce for Food Rescue that is not overripe or damaged. If you pick the evening before pickup, please bag the produce to keep it from wilting overnight.

Tarps and baskets are placed on the ground inside the Truck Gate the evening before a pickup. Weekly pickups are:

Zoo: Thursday 9:30 a.m.

Food Rescue: Saturday 10:00 a.m.

Gardeners have been sending vegetables from their plots to both groups since the first of July. The volume always increases substantially in August and September when tomatoes and corn are ready and the zucchini just keeps on coming.

Take a look at Food Rescue online at www.coloradospringsfoodrescue.org Or see the recent *Gazette* article at: <https://bit.ly/2Apr5YZ>

Calendar

August 7 — Fundraiser for the Goats at Goat Patch Brewing — 2727 North Cascade Avenue, 5-9 p.m. See p. 1 for details.

August 22— Summer Potluck at 5:30 p.m. at Gold Hill Mesa Community Room, 142 Raven Mine Drive. See p. 1 for details.

September 25— BCGA Annual Meeting — 7:00 p.m., Cheyenne Branch Library, 1785 South 8th Street.



Master vegetable gardener Larry Stebbins recently retired from his post as founder and director of Pikes Peak Urban Gardens. Many BCGA members have attended his spring classes at Horace Mann Middle School. He is continuing to mentor gardeners through his new website:

<https://thegardenfather.com/> Check out his frequent posts on the website blog. Best wishes, Larry, from BCGA!

Bear Creek Garden Association

BCGA runs the Charmaine Nyman Community Garden located in Bear Creek Park East, Colorado Springs, Colorado. It is a Colorado 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 hundreds of thousands of pounds of produce to the Cheyenne Mountain Zoo, Colorado Springs Food Rescue and other charities each year.

Contact us: John Poyzer 576-2664
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Website: www.bearcreekgardens.org

Facebook: [Bear Creek Garden Association](#)

Bee House Experiment



Gardeners Jennifer Dastur and James Burke each mounted a bee house on their plots this spring. Jennifer is an experienced beekeeper who is active in the local beekeepers' association. The houses are not to be confused with bee hives, which are inhabited by honey bees. A bee house is small enough that it could be mistaken for a bird house.

The resident bees are mason or carpenter bees, good pollinators that are relatively docile and do not produce honey. The board approved these two houses in 2018 and may approve more in the future if Jennifer and James feel that they have proven effective in the community garden.

HAS Orphans Find a Home

Plants left over from the Horticultural Art Society (HAS) Spring Plant Sale were donated to BCGA and given away to gardeners in June. BCGA thanks HAS for its ongoing generosity.

Next May, be sure to check out the plant sale, which is held at the HAS Demonstration Gardens in Monument Valley Park at 222 Mesa Road.

HAS maintains a website at www.hasgardens.org with information about monthly meetings and speakers, local garden resources and newsletters. Consider visiting the Demonstration Gardens and becoming a member of HAS to support its work in the community. Facebook users are encouraged to check out and "like" the HAS Facebook page.

Garden Notes and News

Vacation. Please plan ahead and make arrangements with a friend or fellow gardener to water your plot if you are going to be away for more than a few days. When heat suddenly returns, even established plants will need help.

Thank You. Thank you to Dorothy Erli, Rose Bergles, Christy Spicciati and Candace Hall, who provided strong and sustained help with her plot for Edie DeMio when she has needed it recently.

Wiersema/McEneaney Cooperation When the McEneaneys got behind on planting this year because family matters required a lot of traveling, their plot went downhill. Volunteers weeded it, and Steve and Gloria Wiersema offered to plant part of it for the Zoo. McEneaneys are back and are helping.

Plot Stats. There are 104 full size plots in the garden. This year, 108 individuals rented a total of 82 full plots and 44 half plots. We have lost four gardeners. On July 31, there are two vacant half plots and one vacant full plot. Not bad, for a year in which Mother Nature has provided heat, drought and heavy rain challenges!

The Film. Editing continues, and now music is being added. Nancy and John pop by the garden now and then to gather more footage. When it is ready for release, John and Nancy will thank gardeners for their cooperation by arranging a special showing of the film for us. Stay tuned...



Gardener/ Inventor
Bill Carter and his bicycle plow