



Potluck/ Picnic Time!

July-August 2022

Great Workdays!

Thank you to everyone who has participated in the May, June and July workdays at the garden. Good turnout meant that the weeds were kept under control, several plots that had been abandoned by their owners were cleared and made ready to be re-assigned, and multiple small tasks were accomplished as well.

Recent rains will spark more weeds, so please put the August workday (Saturday August 20) on your calendar and plan to help. In the summer the workdays start early, at 7:00 a.m., because the mornings can be hot.

More help will be needed in the fall, when we will have four workdays (Sept. 17, Oct. 8, 9 and 15) before the garden closes on October 15.

If you have not logged any volunteer hours yet this year, please plan ahead and help.



Amy Nelson at July Workday

BCGA Summer Potluck Sunday, August 14

Gardeners, their helpers and their families are invited to come and socialize at the Summer Potluck on Sunday, August 14, starting at 12:30 p.m.

The picnic will be at the Community Center at Gold Hill Mesa, located at 142 South Raven Mine Drive.

This is a potluck, so please bring a main dish AND a salad or dessert to share. BCGA will provide plates, cups, tableware, napkins and lemonade. (Alcohol is not permitted at this event.)

Please RSVP by email if you plan to attend the potluck. RSVPs must be received by Wednesday, August 10 so that organizers know how many people will be coming.

Tables will be set up under an awning for protection from August thunderstorms. Families with children may want to bring a blanket or camp chairs to use on the lawn. No pets, please.

Group Gardens

This year there are four group plots being gardened by The PLACE, The Center on Fathering, UC Health Children's Hospital and the teen education program at the Cheyenne Mountain Zoo. If you garden near a group plot, we hope you will get to know them.

Gates Are Locked at all Times

From July 15 until the garden closes, gardeners must lock the gate behind them every time they go in or out. Please be vigilant about this to reduce the chance of theft of produce or garden equipment. Visitors are not welcome inside the garden unless they are accompanied continuously by a gardener.

Unfortunately, thefts do occur once in a while. As you know, we recently lost a beautiful new garden cart. Please don't let people you don't know into the garden. (PS – Lock your car too.)

Zoo and Silver Key Are Picking Up Produce Weekly

The garden is starting to produce armloads of veggies at this time of year. Please don't let any of it go to waste!

The Cheyenne Mountain Zoo and Silver Key are delighted to receive our extra produce, and they are picking up weekly now at the garden.

Put vegetables and herbs (bagged if you wish) on the tarp or in baskets



Lion Cubs at the Zoo eating squash from our community garden

that are laid out on the BCGA plot by the wheelbarrows in the evening before pickup days. Or put veggies out on the tarp before 9 a.m. the next morning.

The Zoo picks up on Thursday mornings. Silver Key will pick up on Friday, July 29 and will change to Saturdays starting on August 6.

The Zoo is happy to have cabbage and broccoli plants and corn stalks (no roots or dirt, please) if they are freshly pulled and not bug-ridden. Be sure to take a look at Kay Gray's lists of what the Zoo animals appreciate, posted on the north fence of the garden. Thank you to everyone who helps to make these donation programs so successful.

BCGA Garden Handbook

Now that the garden season is well underway, it's a good time to take another look at the Handbook, which includes board information, planting guides and the events calendar. It's online at: <https://bit.ly/3RZZd1g>

Garden Calendar

August 14 — Summer Potluck 12:30 p.m. Gold Hill Mesa Community Center (see p. 1 for details).

August 20 — Workday 7:00 a.m.—11:00 a.m.

Sept. 14 — BCGA Annual Meeting—7:00 p.m. Location to be announced.

Sept. 17—Workday 7:00 a.m.—11 a.m.

Oct. 15 —Garden Closes at 5:00 p.m.

Stats—Just FYI

At this time we have 87 returning gardeners and 40 new gardeners who are working on their plots. Two gardeners recently relinquished their space, so 1 and ½ plots are vacant and will be maintained by volunteers for the rest of the season. Gardeners are receiving updated maps with this newsletter.



King Soopers Rewards Program

If you have a King Soopers loyalty (discount) card, you can link it to Bear Creek Garden Association to help raise funds for our goat grazing project, and it costs you nothing. Here's how:

If you don't already have one, get a discount card from the service desk. Go online to www.kingsoopers.com and set up your personal account.

Next, go to "Kroger Community Rewards" at the very bottom of the web page and [link your card](#) to Bear Creek Garden Association. Its number is TL 166. BCGA gets ongoing donations.

Bear Creek Garden Association

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

Individuals can rent plots to grow organic vegetables for personal use and donation to friends and charities.

Contact: Todd Hegert (719) 329-8873

Email: bearcreekgardenscs@gmail.com

Website: www.bearcreekgardens.org

Facebook:

Bear Creek Garden Association

Live and Let Live



Gardeners always find that they are giving something back to Nature. It's just the way Nature works. A bird pecks a strawberry, a corn borer takes kernels at the top of the cob, a mouse nibbles on a pumpkin. It's OK. We still get an abundance of vegetables from our gardens.

Today a tomato hornworm was munching on the leaves on my tomato plant. (This photo shows one on dill, which it favors even over tomatoes.)

A little pruning isn't going to hurt the tomato plant. I don't want to eat the leaves, and the hornworm is not interested in eating my tomatoes. A hornworm is a fierce-looking creature, and it can reach a fat three+ inches long, so gardeners often react instinctively and kill it.

But wait, remember that a caterpillar is in the first stage of its life. Left alone, it will drop to the ground, form a chrysalis and be transformed into a beautiful black swallowtail butterfly!



There's another benefit to accepting some damage to our plants and leaving caterpillars undisturbed. Birds depend on soft squishy caterpillars to feed their babies while they are in the nest, and they need lots and lots of healthy (not poisoned) caterpillars. Let nature work in this beautiful garden.

P.S. The large bull snakes are valuable too! Please read the bull snake story posted by the garden gates.

Notes for All Gardeners



Missing Berms. The occasional downpours in July-August thunderstorms will cause water to flow rapidly through the garden from west to east. Gardeners at the east end are most vulnerable to flood damage on their plots. For this reason, please build and maintain these berms:

(1) Around your plot. They keep flood water from washing into the plot and also keep water from flowing into the aisles when a gardener is watering.

(2) Across the east-west aisles at every intersection. In the eastern half of the garden an extra berm mid-way between main aisles will also slow the east-west rush of water in a thunderstorm.

Even our experienced gardeners have not done a very good job on the berms across aisles this year. (Maybe we just couldn't believe it would ever rain hard again!) Please make an effort to get these berms in place (bring soil from inside the plots) before fast downpours in July-August thunderstorms cause damage to our gardens.

Folks in the west half of the garden must protect those in the east half by being diligent about this.

Be aware that once a berm is in place, foot traffic will wear it down so it must be rebuilt once in a while during the rest of the season.

Rampant Pumpkins and Squashes. These vining plants should be trained to stay within your plot. Please don't let them run into the aisles or into the two-foot paths where plots adjoin each other. Be kind to your neighbor by maintaining those two-foot paths all season.

The Straw Deadline is July 31. Thank you to everyone who is using straw mulch this year to reduce water consumption and provide good organic matter for their soil. Please spread out the straw by July 31 so that it has time to start softening and decomposing before it is tilled into the plots in the fall. Bales of straw not spread out by July 31 will be removed from the garden.

Dumpsters. Two large dumpsters will be placed by the gates in the north parking lot on Labor Day weekend and they will remain in place until Closing Day. They are emptied two to three times a week, as they fill up with garden refuse.