



March-April 2018

Interested? Sign Up Soon for a Plot

Anyone interested in obtaining a plot for 2018 at the Charmaine Nymann Community Garden should call John Poyzer (719) 576-2664 or Karen Stith (719) 634-4433 as soon as possible. Plots are now being assigned to new gardeners on a first come, first served basis.

Plot sizes and fees are:

20 feet x 40 feet \$120.00
20 feet x 20 feet 75.00

The plot fee includes water. First year gardeners pay a \$25 cleanup deposit which is returned if the plot is adequately cleaned at the end of the season in October. More information about the garden can be found at www.bearcreekgardens.org



Spring planting. Larry Booth is an advocate for Square Foot Gardening.

Reminder: BCGA Spring Garden Class March 17th

Experienced BCGA gardeners and Mike Estes of Rick's Garden Center will present "Organic Vegetable Gardening—Tips for Success" on Saturday, March 17 from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon at the Bear Creek Nature Center, 245 Bear Creek Road.

Once again, we are part of the Nature Center's sustainability program, so the Nature Center will charge \$4 per person for the class. You are welcome to attend. You can sign up online at the Bear Creek Nature Center website: <http://bit.ly/1jzhwq1> or just come and pay at the door.

New gardeners are strongly urged to attend this class, especially if they have not gardened in our high and dry environment before. Returning gardeners and the general public are all welcome to attend.

New Gardener Orientation

New gardeners are required to attend an orientation. The orientation for new gardeners will be held on Saturday, April 14, from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon and again from 2:00—4:00 p.m. at the Creekside Room in the Parks Building adjacent to the garden, 2002 Creek Crossing. New gardeners may attend either session.

Free garden handbooks will be provided. For those who can't come on that day, the orientation will be repeated on Saturday, April 21 at 1:00 p.m. and privately thereafter.

Opening Day

The garden will open on April 21, weather permitting. Returning gardeners may come at any time between 10:00 a.m. and 12:00 noon to purchase their badges and keys.

New gardeners come at 1:00 p.m. Those who attended orientation on April 14th will purchase keys and badges and will have a brief onsite orientation inside the garden. They will then be and will be shown to their plots. A repeat of the classroom orientation will be provided for those who did not attend orientation April 14. They can then purchase badges and keys and participate in an onsite orientation. Keys and badges are \$2.50 each.

Garden Centers Offer Discounts for Our Gardeners

Rick's Garden Center, located at 1827 West Uintah Street, has given our gardeners a 10% discount for many years. Mike and Gail Estes have supported our Goat Fund and Mike presents a portion of our spring class. Thank you, Mike and Gail, for your ongoing devotion to our garden.

This year, Good Earth Garden Center, located at 1330 North Walnut, has offered to give our gardeners a 10% discount as well. Thank you to owner Wayne Fisher, for his kind offer. Items already on sale at Good Earth are excluded.

To receive a discount at these garden centers, you must present your 2018 Charmaine Nymann Community Garden badge at the time of purchase.

E-Mail!

We rely on e-mail to keep our 175 + gardeners up to date. Please read your e-mail regularly and carefully. Gardeners without an e-mail account will be contacted in other ways, but e-mail is by far our best hope of maintaining connections with all of you.

- The BCGA Board

HAS Plant Sale

The Colorado Springs Horticultural Art Society will hold its gigantic spring plant sale on May 18-19-20 at the Demonstration Garden in Monument Valley Park. This is a great place to find healthy vegetable starts and herbs. A couple of weeks after the sale, HAS usually donates leftovers to our gardeners. Stay tuned...

Calendar

Mar. 17 — "Organic Vegetable Gardening—Tips for Success"—class taught by BCGA gardeners at Bear Creek Nature Center 10:00 a.m.—12:00 p.m. 245 Bear Creek Road.

Apr. 14 — New Gardener Orientation, 10:00—12:00 a.m. and 2-4 p.m. at the Parks Department Building adjacent to the garden. (Choose one.)

Apr. 21 — Opening Day. Returning gardeners come between 10 a.m.—12 noon. New gardeners come 1:00 p.m.

May 26 — Plant and Tool Sale 10:00 a.m. and Picnic 12:00 noon. (This is not open to the general public.)

Friends of the Goats

Please consider supporting the BCGA Goat Fund by Using (and reloading) a King Soopers Gift Card. Sixteen gardeners and other Friends are now using them. For details, and to get a card, send an e-mail to Bonnie MacLachlan at bearcreekgardens@yahoo.com or call her at 720-276-5151.

Click links in newsletter to see websites

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 thousands of pounds of produce to the Cheyenne Mountain Zoo, the Springs Rescue Mission and Colorado Springs Food Rescue each year.

Contact us: John Poyzer 576-2664
Karen Stith 634-4433

E-mail:
bearcreekgardens@yahoo.com

Website: www.bearcreekgardens.org

Facebook:

[Bear Creek Garden Association](https://www.facebook.com/BearCreekGardenAssociation)

Desert Canyon Farm

Tammi Hartung is an experienced herb grower, lecturer, author and enthusiastic cook. She also writes a blog called "Green Thoughts" on her website: <http://bit.ly/2lqakww>



Several BCGA gardeners enjoyed her presentations at the Spencer's Garden Center (in Fountain) Spring Show on March 9-10-11. She and her husband run Desert Canyon Farm in Canon City, providing plants to locally owned garden centers in Colorado Springs.

The farm will be open to the public for just nine weeks this spring, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., Saturday through Thursday (closed on Friday) from April 14 to June 10. On Saturdays and Sundays during this time they also provide free workshops. See her website and the Desert Canyon Farm Facebook page for details.

Gardeners Donate Extra Produce to Charities



In the 2017 gardening year, you, our gardeners, helped Colorado Springs Food Rescue (CSFR) distribute 1,200 pounds of healthy, local food to the Colorado Springs community. Your donations provided meals for the Relevant Word Ministries, as well as fresh, local food to those in need. Your generosity supported CSFR in meeting three goals:

- * to increase health equity and support a more just and less wasteful food system through education, advocacy, and the redistribution of surplus nutritious food;

- * to cultivate healthy, equitable food systems in the greater Colorado

Excellent Veggie Classes

Larry Stebbins of Pikes Peak Urban Gardens will be providing two more classes for the public at Horace Mann Middle School this spring:

March 24 - "Getting Started With Cool Season Veggies"

April 28 - Warm Season Veggies

Larry is a joyful gardener and a wonderful teacher. The cost is \$10 per class, and everyone pays at the door. You must register in advance online at <http://www.ppugardens.org> to attend.

Doors open at 9:00 a.m. so participants can talk with the many vendors in attendance, and we always have a BCGA table to hand out information about our garden. The class runs from 10-11:30 a.m.. Register soon! The February class was sold out. Thank you to Larry Booth and Kate Keeley for managing our table in February.

Springs Community through Food Access and Food Education;

- * to increase food-system literacy training and community-driven projects for a healthier Colorado Springs.

Thank you to everyone for your garden donations. Our partnership with CSFR will continue this year. We look forward to another successful donation partnership. More information about CSFR can be found at:

www.coloradospringsfoodrescue.org

Cheyenne Mountain Zoo

The Bear Creek Gardeners have been donating significant amounts of produce to the Cheyenne Mountain Zoo for over 25 years. Kay Gray, who is both a docent at the zoo and a gardener, manages the Zoo Plot at the garden with the help of garden volunteers. Gardeners donate generously to the zoo from their own plots as well. During the 2016 garden season, an astonishing 6,000 pounds of produce went to the zoo.

Once the garden opens, Kay will post a list on the gate to remind gardeners of the many varieties of vegetables the animals love. Fresh produce is as good for animals as it is for humans. Some even enjoy cornstalks.