



Every seed is a story waiting to be told.

Try planting something new this year. Perhaps strawberries, shallots, beets, arugula, or kale?

Flowers and herbs that will attract pollinators include mint, borage, rosemary, dill, fennel, cosmos and cleome, aka spider flower.

March - April 2022

Plots are Available

Plots are available for this season at the garden. If you or someone you know is interested in renting a plot, please call Todd Hegert at (719) 329-8873 as soon as possible.

Each year some BCGA gardeners relinquish their plots because they move away, have a new baby, change jobs, or have other demands on their time. This frees up space for new gardeners.

The garden will be tilled in the last week of March and volunteers will stake out plots in early April. The garden opens (weather permitting) on Saturday, April 16th.

Advice from Gardener Scott

On March 5, Scott Wilson gave a free online webinar on "Water-Wise Vegetable Gardening" sponsored by the Horticultural Art Society.

His first advice was to improve the soil by adding organic matter every year. The organic matter retains water for plants to use and also opens up small spaces for air in the soil. At the community garden, use bagged compost and manure from garden centers. No homemade compost, please.

A summary of his further recommendations will be included in the May-June issue of this newsletter.

As the Master Gardener at the Galileo Garden Project (see website: <https://bit.ly/3txRDkt>), he managed and coordinated the garden activities for a school garden with 105 raised beds, a 42' dome greenhouse, and over 20,000 sq ft of growing space. This program educates students in gardening activities and produces thousands of pounds of healthy produce for the school district's lunch program.

Check out his website for for garden advice appropriate for our climate: www.gardenerscott.com.

He has also established a YouTube channel where he posts vide-

Don Brooks Retires From the Garden



Don working on plot layout in 2016

Don Brooks, who will be 88 in May, has decided to retire from the garden, giving up plot B-12 by the main garden gate which he has tended carefully since he and his wife, Mary, arrived at the garden in 1993.

Char Nymann was running the garden at that time. The only current garden members who were also here then were John and Marie Poyzer, Sharline and Ray Arellano, Kay and Mac Gray and Randy Rickey.

Over the years, Don served on the board and he developed a special niche job – leading the crew of gardeners who measure and mark out all the plots after the garden is tilled each spring. He figured out a way to make the garden look squared off and orderly, even though the garden fence and the watering system layout do not line up evenly with each other and neither one lines up with the compass. Don McFadden has taken over this responsibility and works to keep us lined up properly.

Since BCGA started using email in 2014, Don Brooks has been BCGA's

Notes for New Gardeners

As we say every year, the early bird rarely gets the worm at the Charmaine Nymann Community Garden! Be careful with early planting. Watch the veteran gardeners

Planting seedlings of cool weather lovers such as broccoli, brussels sprouts, cabbage and kale purchased in a garden shop is OK in mid- April, but they must be covered with a white plastic milk jug or other protection until they start to grow vigorously. Get jugs by asking at coffee shops. Cut off the bottom and a little of the top and stake down in the garden so they don't blow around. Don't use clear plastic or glass containers — they heat up too much on a sunny day.

Sun, wind and cold spring nights will take a heavy toll on greenhouse-raised plants that are not provided with this protection. Don't leave tender plants struggling—protect them.

Don't hurry into planting tender tomato, pepper, eggplant and tomatillo plants in May when freezing temperatures are still likely in our area. Tender plants can be set out around the first of June.

Likewise, hold off on planting seeds for beans, squash and corn until the soil has a chance to warm up. Chilling can permanently damage these vegetables. They may survive, but they probably will not produce well.

The BCGA Garden Handbook, now available on our website, lists recommended vegetable varieties and planting dates.

Walls of Water. Experienced gardeners know that a tomato plant must be protected with a Wall of Water in order to survive and thrive at this garden. Peppers love them too.

Purchase them now (the brand name product is best) since they can be hard to find later in the spring. They can be repaired and re-used for many years and are available at garden centers, big box stores and online. It is best to leave them in place all summer.

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Garden Calendar

April 9-10—Orientation for New Gardeners—on Zoom. Saturday 10 a.m. - 12 p.m., repeated on Sunday 2-4 p.m.

April 16 —Garden Opens (weather permitting) Returning Gardeners come in the morning, New Gardeners come in the afternoon.

May 21—First Garden Workday 8 a.m. —11 a.m.

May 29 — BCGA Plant and Tool Sale 9:00—12:00 at the garden.

Gardener Scott

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os on vegetable gardening that are suitable for both novice and experienced gardeners:

<https://bit.ly/3CWwfrP>

A good spring series on this channel is "All About Seeds" :

<https://bit.ly/37uT4r1>

Don Brooks

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email manager, which he will continue to do, keeping track of the 230+ current plot owners and their helpers and launching the BCGA email blasts .

Don has a degree in Atmospheric Science. He served for many years in the Air Force and retired in 1976 as a senior weather officer. He's given us lots of good weather advice over the years at the garden.

He plans to grow his favorite tomatoes, Caramello and Park's Whopper, at home this year. And visit us.

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 us: Todd Hegert 329-8873

Email: bearcreekgardenscs@gmail.com

Website: www.bearcreekgardens.org

Facebook:

Bear Creek Garden Association



CNCG Badge for 2022

Plant for the Zoo and Silver Key

When the garden really starts producing in July, the Zoo and Silver Key will be picking up produce each week. Please plant extra to share.

Garden Class Kicks Off 2022

"Organic Vegetable Gardening – Tips for Success", an annual class for the public presented by CNCG (Charmaine Nymann Community Garden) gardeners at the Bear Creek Nature Center, was attended by over forty participants on March 12.

Thank you to Dan Hopper of Rick's Garden Center for his discussion of Organic Fertilizers and Pest Control Products and Larry Booth for his infectious enthusiasm in explaining Square Foot Gardening.

Bill Harmon covered Seed Starting, Don McFadden discussed his Favorite Tools and Todd Hegert showed and explained vital Plant Protection items from Walls of Water to Remay and hardware cloth.

These topics are covered in the BCGA Garden Handbook which is available on the BCGA website.



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. BCGA's number is TI 166. Thank you!!!

Kate Keeley Joins the Board

BCGA is pleased to announce that the board welcomed Kate Keeley as a new board member in January. Kate brings business as well as garden experience to the group.

Karen Stith retired from the board at the end of December, and has joined John Poyzer as an advisor.

Todd Hegert, Secretary, has assumed many of Karen's responsibilities. Sharline Arellano continues as President and Bill Harmon is the Treasurer who manages our funds.

The other board members are: Rose Bergles, Justin Zabor, Heather Moser and Don McFadden.

In Memory of Sarah Obarsky

Sarah Obarsky, who brought great energy and enthusiasm to the garden when she arrived in the spring of 2020, died on February 13, 2022 after a fall while hiking. She inspired a group of volunteers from The Place, a local youth shelter, to plant a plot to provide vegetables for the shelter's kitchen.



The plot she managed for The Place is the plot that was gardened for many years by Charmaine Nymann. This plot is always given at no charge to a non-profit organization. Sarah's good friend, Karen Henschel, will lead volunteers from The Place as they continue to garden this plot in 2022.

In memory of Sarah, Karen has asked that we strongly remind our garden community that one should never hike alone.

Sarah was a familiar sight at the garden, bouncing in often to work on the plot and chat with friends. She thrived on physical activity, rock climbing and sleeping under the stars.