



“Though I am an old man,
I am but a young gardener.”

- Thomas Jefferson

May-June 2021

BCGA receives Generous Donation From ACE

In March, ACE Colorado Helpful Place offered to run a special fundraiser for the garden.

In the month of April, one dollar for every bag of Whitney Farms Organic Raised Bed Mix sold was earmarked for BCGA.

ACE recently provided Todd Hegert with a check for \$750.00. BCGA thanks Sage Marler and ACE for this very generous support.



ACE has donated \$750.00 to the Bear Creek Garden Association for the Goat Fund. L to R: Danny White, Todd Hegert, and Aaron Diaz (holding photo of the goats)

Notes for New Gardeners

Watering. Once plants are up and growing, always be sure that you are watering deeply. The water needs to get down to where the roots are, to encourage them to go deeper. After you water, try sticking a finger into the soil to see how far down the water has penetrated. Right now there is a nice bank of moisture deeper in the soil from all the rain we have had, but the plants will be using that up and needing more as the weather warms. Hold the hose low and water at the base of the plant. Don't send a big spray all across your plot because a lot of it will evaporate from plant leaves rather than penetrating the soil.

Remember that the watering rule (no hose watering between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m.) has been suspended again this year. It's OK to water at any time of day, but please try to do it in the morning and evening when the wind is calm and the sun is not blazing. That conserves water and keeps our water bill down.

Wire Pins. Some of the wire pins that are used to hold down weed cloth and Remy fabric are overlooked when the cloth is pulled up, and the spring tilling throws them down into the soil and back up to the surface. Watch for them, pick them up and don't go barefoot!

Berms. Remember to keep berms across the east-west aisles near your plot built up so they slow the flow of water in a rainstorm.

New Helper

Any plot owner who invites a new person to participate in gardening activity on their plot must first provide BCGA with an original signed and notarized Unconditional Release before that person does any work on the plot. This is an El Paso County legal (liability) requirement, and we take it very seriously.

Garden Shop Discounts. Remember to take your garden badge with you when shopping at these stores: ACE Hardware (only the one located in Uintah Gardens Shopping Center) 15% discount on purchases and 50% discount on tool sharpening; Rick's Garden Center 10% discount; Good Earth Garden Center 10% discount.

Straw. Straw orders are in, and a very large load of straw bales will arrive on June 4 or 5. If you ordered straw, please check your name off on the list posted on the truck gate when you move your bale(s) to your plot. Please move them promptly.

Farm Notes. (1) Farmers harvest the barley seed heads before making a second pass to cut the stalks for straw but there are always some barley seeds in the bales we receive. When the seeds sprout, just pull them up and add them to your mulch.

(2) Straw does not include seed heads and it is used for bedding for animals, not food. Hay usually does have seed heads, and it is used for animal feed. We do not use hay in the garden.

Thank you to everyone who chooses to use straw. As mulch it conserves water, and when it is tilled into the soil in the fall it adds a significant amount of organic matter. Straw-mulched plots are soft.

Don's Favorite Tool— A Water Wand

During the new gardener orientation this year, Don McFadden enthused about one of his favorite garden tools, the water wand. It's also used by Dave Ridnour to deliver water to just the right spot.

Water wands are easy to find, and come in varying lengths, with a choice of spray patterns.

The link to the recorded orientation is in an email sent to all gardeners on April 21st



regarding the opening of the garden.

Garden Calendar

May 29 — Plant and Tool Sale 9:00 a.m.—11:30 a.m.

June 19—Garden Workday— 8:00 —11:00 a.m.

The Summer Picnic Supper scheduled for June 22 has been postponed until August.

Locking the Gates

Some garden gates have been left unlocked recently. If you are the last person working in your area, please lock the gate when you leave. When you go in and out, always pull the gate closed and hang the padlock through the gate to secure it. Do not leave it swinging wide open.

Last week a man was discovered walking his big dog inside the garden because the gate was wide open and he felt welcome to come in. Gardeners can bring in visitors, but we don't want the general public wandering around unsupervised inside the garden. After July 15th the garden gates are kept locked at all times to protect our produce.

How Much Did it Rain at the Garden?

The Weather Underground has a weather station near the garden which reports recent rainfall and provides local forecasts. Here is the link: <https://bit.ly/3wHdxjA>.

Scroll down to the list of "Nearby Weather Stations" and choose Crown Hill Mesa. The site provides frequent updates.

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: Karen Stith 634-4433
Todd Hegert 329-8873

Email: bearcreekgardenscs@gmail.com

Website: www.bearcreekgardens.org

Facebook:
Bear Creek Garden Association



This year there are three group plots in the garden:

The Place. (I-10) Staff members from The Place are planting Char's Plot on the south fence again this year and will take produce from the plot to the kitchen at The Place. The Place is a shelter and outreach program designed to bring youth experiencing homelessness off of the street for good. In the past two decades, 2,525 young people have permanently exited homelessness after engaging with The Place.

The Center on Fathering. (D-5) This program of the El Paso County Health Department, will be with us again this year. The Center coaches fathers in parenting skills and provides activities for fathers and their children.

Cheyenne Mountain Zoo. (F-11) The Education Department at the Zoo will be bringing a dozen teens in its leadership program to the garden to plant the plot and learn about soil, water, plants and wildlife this summer. Our gardeners donate a lot of produce to the Zoo, but this will be the first year that a Zoo summer program will be carried out at the garden.

Covid Update

On May 12th, the following message was sent to all gardeners:

"Gardeners are encouraged to wear masks and observe six feet of social distancing inside the garden but they are not required to do so. Please be very considerate of gardeners who choose to continue masking up and social distancing and make sure you stay six feet away from them. Please be particularly respectful of older gardeners and the children, and do not come to the garden if you are sick."

BCGA warmly thanks all of the gardeners who faithfully wore masks and observed social distancing throughout the 2020 garden year and also in the weeks since the garden opened on April 24.

The Garden is All Planted — Now What?

Even with the relatively short growing season in Colorado, it's perfectly possible to do succession planting. As the early lettuce, radishes cilantro, arugula and other greens are harvested, replant the space with the same seeds and bring in vegetable plants that like cool weather. Phelan Gardens will have starts of broccoli, small cabbages, kale and chard in July, or you can start them at home from seed now.

Here's a link to a good article about succession planting: <https://nyti.ms/394u46X> and a link provided by Mary Beth Edwards to a CSU Extension / Master Gardener chart on cool season/ warm season vegetables: <https://bit.ly/3wDuJqh>

Killdeer Nesting in the Garden



The killdeer are pretty, brown, black and white ground-nesting birds in the plover family. Simple nests holding 3-4 eggs appear in the garden in June and July.

If a gardener or a predator approaches, a nesting killdeer performs a conspicuous distraction display, dragging itself across the ground as if injured, tail fanned out, calling out pitifully and moving steadily away from the nest. When the human or predator moves away from the nest, the killdeer flies off.

The babies can run as soon as they hatch, and are delightful to watch as they forage for bugs or run to hide under the mother's wings. Please be careful not to disturb nests or upset the protective parent birds.

Vacation Watering.

Gardeners often water for each other when they are out of town.

Plan ahead. If you plan to have a neighbor or friend water for you, please give them your badge and key and make sure they understand how to handle locking the gate. They are permitted to water, but not to weed or do other garden work. Vacation watering helpers do not need to have an Unconditional Release on file with BCGA.