



Reminder:
Fresh Produce is picked up by
Cheyenne Mountain Zoo
Thursdays at 9:30 a.m.
Colorado Springs Food Rescue
Saturdays at 10:00 a.m.

September-October 2018

Garden Rebounds—Abundant Harvest

Many plots are overflowing with produce in this warm September weather. After a dry, hot start in May and June, followed by three hail events in July and August, gardeners who kept on watering and weeding are now being rewarded generously.

Congratulations to the many first-year gardeners who have persevered. It's not usually this challenging!

Please don't let produce go to waste! Share what you can't use with friends or donate to the Zoo and Colorado Food Rescue or the charity of your choice. If you can't be at the garden to pick fresh vegetables on the Zoo or Food Rescue pickup days, ask a neighboring gardener to do it for you.



Doug Green/ Jerusalem Artichoke

Cleanup is Underway

The two Bestway dumpsters arrived on the Labor Day weekend. They will be in place until the garden closes, and are emptied on Monday, Wednesday and Saturday.

Gardeners are encouraged to start clearing out plots now. Heavy roots like broccoli and cabbage, vining plants like squash and tomatoes and anything that is diseased should go into the dumpsters. Don't wait until the last weekends when dumpsters fill up fast.

If the dumpsters are full, keep the refuse on your plot until they have been emptied, and come back later to carry your refuse to the dumpsters. PLEASE DO NOT EVER pile any refuse around the gates or dumpsters.

Ordering Garden Mix — Rototilling Your Plot

Garden Mix is a blend of compost and manure created by Don's Garden Shop. BCGA gardeners have used it on their plots for many years. If you want Garden Mix for your plot, the price is \$45.00 per cubic yard (\$22.50 for a half yard) and it must be paid for in advance, before the order is placed with Don's Garden Shop. The recommended amount is one cubic yard for a full plot, but some gardeners like to use more. A cubic yard will be 1/2" thick when spread over a full plot. The price is a slight increase over last year's price.

To order Garden Mix: Mail your check, payable to Bear Creek Garden Association, to Post Office Box 38326, Colorado Springs, CO 80937. Your check must arrive in the box no later than Monday, October 1. Checks that arrive after the deadline will miss the order and will be returned.

The Garden Mix will arrive on October 5th or 6th, and will be dumped inside the truck gate on the BCGA plot. The Parks Department will bring a skid loader into the garden on Octo-

ber 10 to move Garden Mix onto the plots of those who ordered it. There is no additional charge for this service, but gardeners must clear a space on their plots where the worker can dump a load.

Depending on the number of yards ordered, a second truckload may arrive after the first pile has been moved onto plots.

Of course, gardeners can opt to move their Garden Mix using a wheelbarrow if they wish, preferably before the backhoe arrives. A special white 5 gallon measuring bucket and directions for measuring the Mix will be provided by the pile. Forty level-full buckets are equal to one cubic yard. Please measure responsibly if you are moving the Mix yourself. Do not use any other bucket for measuring!

Remember that plots must be down to bare dirt by October 21. Garden Mix must be tilled into the soil. Two tillers from Rick's Garden Shop will be available the last

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Friends of the Goats Fundraiser

All of the gardeners and the Friends of the Goats group recently received an orange invitation card in the mail for a fundraiser on Friday, September 28th at the beautiful home of Bonnie MacLachlan.

Gardeners are welcome to bring friends and family. A \$7 per person donation will be requested at the door. This event is not suitable for children under 11 years old. Bonnie is providing light hors d'oeuvres and beverages, and needs to know how many people are coming.

Please RSVP to her by September 21 at the Friends e-mail address: friendsofthegoats@gmail.com

Participants will get to see a short film about the goats made by CC student Will Sardinsky.

New Gardeners — 2019

If you have a friend who would like to rent a plot next year, ask them to call now to get on the list of new gardeners for 2019. There are currently six new gardeners on the list.

Calendar

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

September 28 — Fundraiser for the Goats at the home of Bonnie MacLachlan, Private event for gardeners, their families and friends and the Friends of the Goats group. See p. 1.

October 13-14 and 20-21 — Workdays 8 a.m.—Noon.

October 21 — Garden Closes 4 p.m.

November 7 — Garden Film Premiere — Bear Creek Nature Center 2-4 p.m. Free. Private event for BCGA gardeners, families and friends.

Annual Meeting

Bear Creek Garden Association

The annual meeting of members of the Bear Creek Garden Association will be held on Tuesday, September 25 at 7:00 p.m. at the Cheyenne Mountain Branch Library, 1785 South 8th Street.

Annual reports will be provided, board members will be elected for 2019 and garden issues will be discussed.

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 pounds of produce to the Cheyenne Mountain Zoo, Colorado Springs Food Rescue and other charities 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

Gardeners are Invited to Garden Film Premiere November 3rd

It has been two years since Nancy Bentley, John Atkinson and Mona Adलगren began filming in the garden, from spring tilling, gardeners planting, board meetings, potlucks, wildlife and harvest, all the way to fall cleanup and closing.

They spent months reviewing many hours of film, editing, polishing the audio track and incorporating music. As recently as Sunday, September 16th, they came to the garden again and engaged Don Brooks in opening and closing the gate multiple times so they could pick up the sound of it to match the final scene in the film when John Poyzer locks the gate for the winter!

John and Nancy are delighted to announce that the film, titled *A Garden Experience*, is now complete.

To thank our gardeners for sharing their diverse garden experiences, they have arranged a free private showing of the 30-minute film at the Bear Creek Nature Center on Saturday, November 3rd from 2-4 p.m. for gardeners, their



families and friends.

A question and answer session with the filmmakers after the film will be followed by refreshments.

Gardeners will receive an invitation for this event by e-mail in early October and will be asked to R.S.V.P. so that the Nature Center can plan accordingly.

The Nature Center plans a showing of *A Garden Experience* to the public next spring.

Garden Mix—Tilling

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two weekends (October 13-14 and 20-21) so that gardeners can till in straw, light weeds and vegetable remains as well as the Garden Mix.

There is no charge for using the tillers, but a \$10 donation to the Goat Fund will be requested for each plot you till yourself. If you are unable to run a tiller, a volunteer may be able to do it for you. There is a charge for this service: \$10 for a half plot and \$20 for a full plot. Please include a request for tilling help in your e-mail and include the donation or fee for help in your payment when you send in your check for Garden Mix.

Tiller Liability Release Required

Every person who operates a rototiller or other motorized equipment at the garden must have a Motorized Equipment Liability Release on file with BCGA. A list of Motorized Equipment Releases currently on file, together with the Release form, is being sent to gardeners with this newsletter.

If you plan to run a tiller and your name is not on the list, please print the form, sign it before a notary and have it notarized, then mail it to the garden post office box right away.



Edie DeMio 1934-2018

Expert gardener and former board member Edie DeMio passed away on August 23. She had gardened at this community garden for over twenty years and served as treasurer for much of that time.

She is missed. Her plot on the main aisle remains vibrant, cared for by Candice Hall, Cindy Spicciati, Rose Bergles, Chuck Thompson, Dorothy Erli and Bonnie MacLachlan. They are delivering the produce regularly to charities..

BCGA gardeners offer heartfelt sympathy to Edie's family.

Garden Notes

Water Usage. Relentless heat in June pushed water usage up to record levels at the garden. By August 31, usage exceeded the number of gallons used for the whole season in 2017. It appears that we will exceed our \$4,500 line item in the budget for water in 2018. However, this is OK. We have funds to pay the water bill. Please continue to use all the water you need to keep vegetables producing as we harvest. Always water in the coolest parts of the day—morning and evening, and never with a hose from 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Goat Patch Brewing Co. The Friends of the Goats fundraiser at Goat Patch Brewing on North Cascade Avenue was a good success. The patrons of this vibrant pub learned about the garden and the goats and nearly \$300 was raised for the goat fund. Thank you to everyone who participated. Missed it? We'll do it again next year. In the meantime, check out Goat Patch.

Summer Potluck. The gardeners are also wonderful cooks. The BCGA potluck at Gold Hill Mesa featured abundant food with lots of desserts, conversation, and an update from filmmakers Nancy Bentley and John Atkinson on the garden film. Thanks to Rose Bergles and her crew for doing the potluck.

It's a Jerusalem Artichoke! Doug Green grows Jerusalem Artichokes, which have small edible underground tubers, on his plot. At this time of year they can reach 7 feet high. They look like sunflowers but they are not sunflowers. (See photo, page one)

Dropouts. There are always a few gardeners who give up on their plots mid-season for reasons that range from family emergencies, job changes and health issues to simply a lack of time. As of September 15 four full plots were vacant. Nearby gardeners offered to manage them. Thank you, Randy Rickey, Carol Marshall, Mac Gray, Brad Pelton, Doug Green, Susan Freeman, Sara Anderson and the group managing Edie's plot for stepping in to take care of these plots and for continuing to donate the vegetables to charity.

Volunteer Work. Thank you to the gardeners who have been working to keep the front fence, parking lot and island clear of weeds this summer and have been reporting their volunteer hours by e-mail. The area looks great!

Goats to Arrive in Late October for 20th Grazing



Lani Malmberg and Donny Benz will bring a herd of 500 weed-eating cashmere goats to Bear Creek Park in late October after the garden closes for their 20th year of grazing.

Make Requests Now for 2019 For More or Different Space

Gardeners in good standing can keep the same plot from year to year, reaping the benefits of the work they do to improve the soil. If you want to keep your same plot, there is no need to do anything now.

However, some gardeners may want to pick up an adjacent half plot if it becomes available, or move from a half plot to a full plot or from an interior plot to a fence plot.

The board is now keeping a list of requests for 2019. Send an e-mail to BCGA to put your request on the list.

Saving Seed for Next Year

Some gardeners save seed from their favorite plants at this time of year. Seed from open pollinated or heirloom plants is reasonably likely to produce similar plants next year. Seed from hybrid plants probably will not, because it will emulate one or the other parent. Squashes joyfully intermingle in the garden and saved seed can produce real surprises.

To learn more about the fascinating process of saving seeds and seeing what they do in the garden next year, click on these links:

Modern Farmer

<https://bit.ly/2MSRVtu>

Seed Savers.Exchange

<https://bit.ly/2O4UPQF>

University of Minnesota Extension

<https://bit.ly/2N58ash>

BCGA raises the money every year to bring in the goats. They clear out noxious weeds and brush in an 18-acre area around our two-acre community garden under a Weed Management Agreement between BCGA and the County Parks Department. Parks managers have agreed to use no chemicals to control weeds in these 18 acres.

The work done annually by the goats protects the garden from chemical sprays. Because goats favor plants with broad leaves, including brush, the grazing (and the poop and pee goats distribute over the ground) enhances the grasses wild grasses and helps with wildfire mitigation.

A film about Lani and the goats made by the El Paso County information office is available on the BCGA website: www.bearcreekgardens.org

Bear Creek Garden Association is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. Donations for the goats are tax-deductible. Please help to bring the goats back next year by sending your donation to BCGA at the address on page two of this newsletter.



Support the BCGA Goat Fund— Use a King Soopers/ City Market Gift Card for Groceries, Rx and Gas

The free card is already loaded with \$2.50 for groceries. You add money to the card by using your credit card, and then use the gift card to pay for purchases. King Soopers will donate 5% of your total grocery, gas and pharmacy purchases to BCGA to support the goats.

Keep re-loading the card to ongoingly send 5% of your purchases to BCGA for the Goat Fund.

Now, that's an easy, powerful fundraiser! To get a card, send an e-mail to bearcreekgardens@yahoo.com or call Bonnie MacLachlan at (720)276-5151.