



“Most of the time that I’m in the garden, my eyes are looking down for weeds or produce. This season, more than any garden year in the past, when I stand up for a stretch, especially mid-morning, I’m in awe of all the butterflies, bees and other pollinators fluttering and flying around, visiting our garden plants! I’m always so tempted to pull up a chair and just sit and watch the magic happen.”

- David Ridnour

September—October 2021

The Goats Are Coming—Donations Are Needed

Lani Malmberg’s herd of weed-eating cashmere goats will be coming back to Bear Creek Park after the garden closes in the fall. We are raising funds now so that BCGA can pay for this 22nd annual grazing. The goats are a great attraction in the community, with hundreds of people coming to see them during their ten-day visit.

The goats eat broad leaved weeds in the twenty acre area around the community garden so that the Parks Department can avoid spraying herbicide near the garden for weed control. The herder stays on site full time, along with several border collies that manage the movement of the herd. The 400 goats sleep each night inside the garden fence for safety.

In late August, Lani and her smaller herd were working on fire mitigation on the mountain above Silverthorne, Colorado. Her son, Donny Benz, was working with 1,300 goats near Carbondale. Their company, Goat Green LLC, has recently established the Goatapelli Foundation, a nonprofit organization dedicated to training individuals to work their own herds for weed management: <https://goatapellifoundation.org/>

The *Summit Daily* newspaper printed an article about Lani’s personal history and the Silverthorne grazing on August 22. Follow this link to read it:



Lani’s Goats Grazing at Silverthorne

<https://bit.ly/3zJ59SK>

BCGA needs your help to bring the goats back to Bear Creek Park each year. Those who make donations become Friends of the Goats and receive advance notice of the arrival of the herd.

Checks should be made out to Bear Creek Garden Association, and mailed to Bear Creek Garden Association, Post Office Box 38326, Colorado Springs, CO 80937. BCGA is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, so donations are tax-deductible.

BCGA thanks the Parks Department for its generous, ongoing support (fencing some trees and shrubs for protection and hauling water to the herd) while the goats are here.

Dumpsters Facilitate Garden Cleanup

There is a huge amount of vegetation to be cleared out of the garden this year, so gardeners are encouraged to start using the dumpsters right away to begin the cleanup. Don’t wait until the last minute when dumpsters will be overflowing!

If possible, please try to fill the back of the dumpster first, since that space is often less filled. If a dumpster is full, please do not get inside to stomp the vegetation down to make more room. This dumpster packing overloads the dumpsters and makes it harder for the

trash company to empty them.

If dumpsters are full, please keep any refuse on your plot until there is room. Do not ever pile it on the ground around the dumpsters.

The dumpsters will be emptied on Monday, Wednesday and Friday. They will remain in place until the garden closes.

Please don’t park too close to the dumpsters or park along the island on pickup days before the pickup has happened. Those big trucks need room to maneuver.

Ordering Garden Mix

The price for Garden Mix, a compost/manure product put together by Don’s Garden Shop and used for many years in the garden, is \$50.00 per cubic yard again this year. A half yard is \$25.00. The recommended amount is one cubic yard for a full plot and a half yard for a half plot, but some gardeners apply more.

Gardeners are not required to order Garden Mix. However, plots where straw and Garden Mix have been added faithfully over the years are noticeably softer and retain moisture better than those in which the soil has not been as well amended.

To order Garden Mix, mail a check payable to Bear Creek Garden Association to P.O. Box 38326, Colorado Springs, CO 80937. The deadline for receipt of the checks by BCGA is Friday, September 24th.

Checks received after that date will not be accepted and will be returned. Gardeners will receive an acknowledgement by email as soon as the check has been received.

The Garden Mix is scheduled to arrive on Friday October 1. It will be dumped inside the fence by the truck gate. Please do not try to measure or move it yourself. A Parks Department skid loader will deliver it to plots the following week, so if you have ordered Garden Mix, please clear a space on your plot for it by Sunday, October 3.

Be aware that the skid loader driver unavoidably runs over the edges of some plots when he is delivering the Garden Mix, so please harvest things you want to keep from the perimeter of your plot and remove any stakes or other items from edges ahead of time.

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

“A Garden Experience—Growing Organic”, a 30 minute film about our garden made in 2018, can be watched on Amazon. It’s free for Prime members.

Calendar

September 15—Annual Meeting of BCGA Members 7:00 p.m. (Zoom)
 September 18—Garden Workday 8:00 a.m.—Noon
 October 9-10-16 — Garden Closing Workdays 8:00 a.m. until done.
 October 16—Garden Closes

Annual Meeting

The BCGA Annual Meeting on September 15th will be carried out on Zoom this year. Reports from the President and Treasurer will be provided, and the board for 2022 will be elected.

Gardeners who wish to attend the meeting must email BCGA to request a Zoom link. The link will be sent by email to participants the day before the meeting.

CNCG Badge is Valid Until Spring

The 2021 Charmaine Nymann Community Garden badge will remain valid right through the winter until the new badges come out at the opening of the garden in April of 2022.

Remember that you can show your badge to get discounts at Rick's Garden Center, Good Earth Garden Center and ACE Hardware (in Uintah Gardens store only).

Keys

The winter locks are placed on garden gates when the garden closes. Gardeners should discard their 2021 keys because the keys will be different next year.

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

Silver Key Newsletter Features BCGA Gardeners



Senior gardeners Jim and Joanne Summerville

New gardener Dianne Reitan, who works for Silver Key, has put an article about Jim and Joanne Summerville in Silver Key's fall newsletter and has also included a photo of Jade Lahman with the wheelbarrow full of lettuce that she donated to Silver Key.

Jim is an original member of this community garden, having first rented a plot when the garden opened in 1975. Joanne joined him a year later. She is a Colorado native. Jim grew up on a family farm in Minnesota and came to Colorado after his military service. He has a farm in Penrose where he raises sheep and enjoys experimenting with growing goji berries, fruit trees and garlic.

This is Jade's third year at CNCG. It's easy to spot her plot because her zinnias shimmer with color, and she gets an amazing amount of produce.

This is Dianne Reitan's first year at the garden. She quickly made friends with the Summervilles, whose plot adjoins hers. Thank you, Dianne, for such good publicity for our garden, and also for facilitating weekly pickup of the vegetables that are being donated to Silver Key.

Get tools sharpened at Ace Hardware in Uintah Gardens for fall clean-up. Remember, CNCG gardeners get 50% off the regular price.

Requests

Gardeners who have managed their plots well and wish to return next year are entitled to keep the same plot.

Those who want to rent more, less, or different space in 2022 should email a request to BCGA now to get on the Requests List. If a plot is available and two gardeners request it, the earlier request prevails.

Saving Seeds

To save seed for next year, gather it when it is mature and make sure it is completely dry before storing in a cool place.

Seeds of hybrid plants will not produce a plant with the same characteristics because the plant in your garden is a cross between two different varieties made by a plant breeder. The seed hybrid plants produce will revert to characteristics of one of the parents.

Seeds from open pollinated plants, including heirlooms, should produce the same plant the next year, but there are exceptions. Squashes, pumpkins and cucumbers happily cross-pollinate in the garden. Gardener Doug Green enjoys saving squash and pumpkin seeds to see what they will produce the following year. The results are interesting, but not always tasty!

For more information on saving seeds, see: "How to Save Seeds"-Seed Savers Exchange <https://bit.ly/2GoUpST> and "Saving Seed" - Colorado State University Extension - <https://bit.ly/2GoUpST>

Tilling

There is no charge for tilling this year. Tilling will be done after the garden closes and before the goats arrive.

It is important that all gardeners clear off the following items and place them in the dumpsters:

- Cornstalks, including the roots.
- Cabbage, broccoli, brussels sprouts and any other tough-stemmed plants, including the roots.
- Tomatoes, squash and cucumber vines and any other vining plants that would tangle in the tines of a tiller.
- Any other large flowers or woody plants, and all weeds that are scattering seed.

Decomposing straw, Garden Mix and light vegetable refuse that is not diseased should be left on the plot to be tilled in, as the addition of this organic matter will improve the soil.