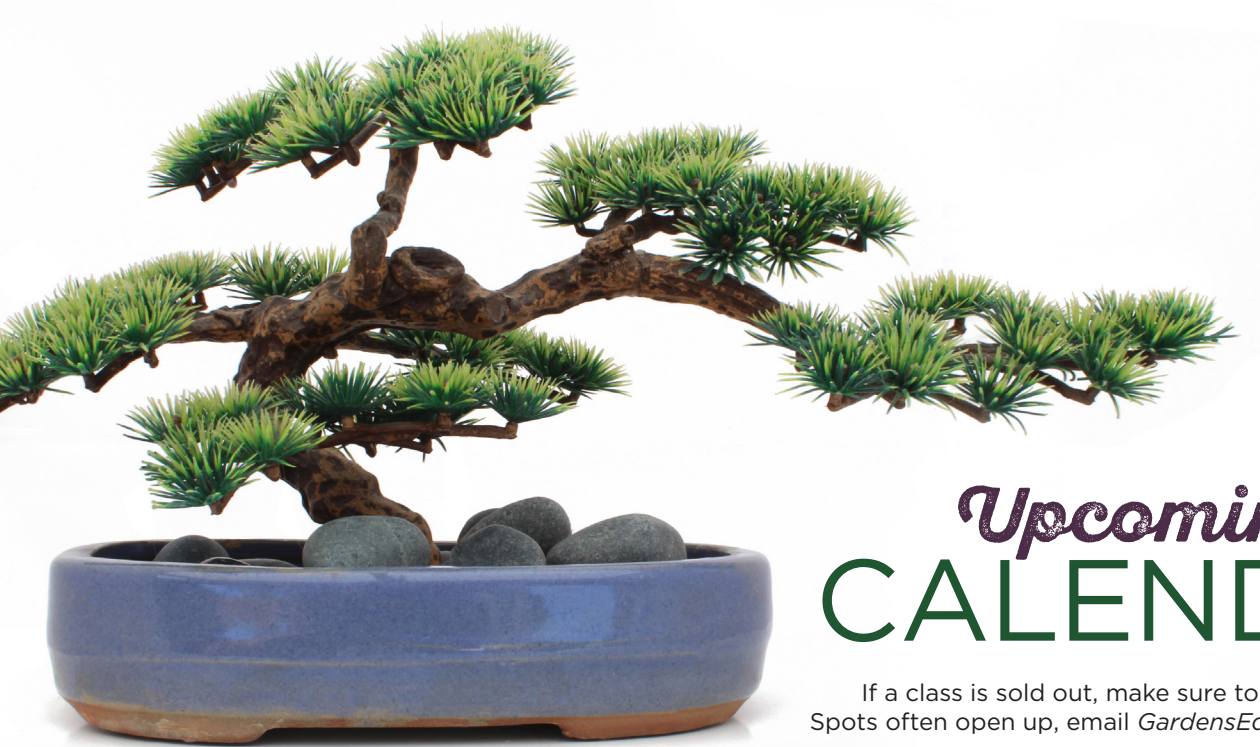


SUMMER 2024
NEWSLETTER

Dig in



FRIENDS OF
THE GARDENS
ON SPRING CREEK



Upcoming CALENDAR

If a class is sold out, make sure to join the waitlist!
Spots often open up, email GardensEducation@fcgov.com.

August

- 7** Storytime with the Poudre River Public Library District
- 13** Garden to Fork: Cooking with Three Sisters
- 14** Garden to Fork: Cooking with Three Sisters
- 16** Plein Air in The Gardens
- 16** Member Morning
- 17** **Bonsai Show**
- 17** Watercolor Journaling Series: Late Summer Gardens
- 20** Garden to Fork: Berries and Stone Fruit: Bursting with Flavor
- 21** Garden to Fork: Berries and Stone Fruit: Bursting with Flavor
- 23** **Garden a'Fare: Flappers & Flowers**
- 24** Beekeeping Series: Beginning the Wind Down—Fall and Winter Management
- 27** Garden to Fork: Chilies—Sweet and Spicy
- 28** Garden to Fork: Chilies—Sweet and Spicy
- 29** Twilight Garden Series: Blooms

September

- 3** Garden to Fork: Tomatoes: Sweet and Savory
- 4** Garden to Fork: Tomatoes: Sweet and Savory
- 7** Autumn Reflections Insight + Sound Workshop
- 7** Intro to Watercolor: Beginning Watercolor
- 10** Garden to Fork: Rich and Robust Roots
- 11** Garden to Fork: Rich and Robust Roots
- 12** Member Morning
- 13** Plein Air in The Gardens
- 15** **The Armory Presents An Evening with Tank and The Bangas**
- 17** Garden to Fork: Brassicas: Brilliant and Bright
- 18** Garden to Fork: Brassicas: Brilliant and Bright
- 22** **The Armory Presents An Evening with Grace Potter**

September

- 28** Exploring the Seasons with Yoga & Breathwork: Fall Equinox Workshop
- 28** Embodied Climate Action: Gathering the Seeds of Critical Hope
- 28** Goat Yoga in The Garden

October

- 11** Plein Air Showcase
- 17-20** **Pumpkins on Parade**



Tai Chi and Yoga in The Gardens are held most Saturdays through September.



Garden **Strolls** are offered every Saturday and Sunday at 10:30 a.m.



Read and Seed is offered most Mondays and Tuesdays at 10:15 a.m. and 11:15 a.m. throughout the year. Wednesdays are also offered through August.



TIME FLIES, WE'RE MORE THAN HALFWAY THROUGH THE YEAR!

Greetings members! Can you believe we're more than halfway through the year? And what a first half it has been! A 20th Birthday Bash, another extraordinary Plant Sale, a new art exhibition opening, ongoing summer camps, plus all the other classes and workshops that continue to thrive and engage visitors on a weekly basis.

As The Gardens continues to grow, so too does our membership program. It's thrilling to see our community embrace the value and importance of this beautiful space in their lives with their commitment to membership. I was lucky enough to attend many of the aforementioned events and it's never been more evident that The Gardens provides a place for connection, learning, and memory making!

Please note that our annual fundraising event, Garden a'Fare, is coming up on August 23. In celebration of our 20th birthday, we decided to theme this year's event after the Roaring 20s. Similarly to past events, this year's soiree will feature an incredible plein art auction. It's truly a one-of-a-kind night when you have

the opportunity to watch masterful local painters create original works of art right before your eyes. Please consider donning a fedora or feathers, polishing your pearls, and putting your dancing shoes on. You don't want to miss this fun and impactful evening. We promise there will be some fun surprises!

Make sure to page carefully through this issue of *Dig In*. It's jam-packed full of insights into The Gardens, including some awesome staff plant picks and an enlightening guest author feature from Plant Select's Ann Kendall. You'll also find information about our remaining Member Mornings and fun facts about the sculptures featured in ORIGAMI IN THE GARDEN.

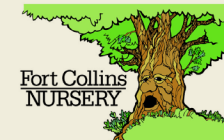
Stay curious and stay cool,

MARY ATCHISON

*Friends of The Gardens
Board President*



Friends of The Gardens on Spring Creek is the nonprofit partner of The Gardens on Spring Creek, a City of Fort Collins cultural services facility.



THANK YOU TO OUR PROPAGATION PARTNERS

ORIGAMI IN THE GARDEN is here and it is magnificent! Thank you to all of you that made it out for our Member Preview Night (despite the weather!). If you haven't had the chance to explore the exhibition, it's here until Nov. 3, 2024.

Every sculpture in the installation tells a unique and interesting story. Here's a sampling to whet your appetite!

The ORIGAMI IN THE GARDEN art exhibition is created by Santa Fe artists Jennifer and Kevin Box in collaboration with origami artists Tim Armijo, Te Jui Fu, Beth Johnson, Michael G. LaFosse and Robert J. Lang.

ORIGAMI IN THE GARDEN

1. EMERGING PEACE
Depicts the entire lifecycle of a butterfly, from egg to butterfly; is 13' tall and 930 lbs!

2. FLYING FOLDS of the most complicated origami cranes folded from a single uncut piece of paper; features lifelike details, including feathers and toes.

3. SEED SOWER AND SEED
The acorn, designed by Beth Johnson, pushes the limits of traditional origami by using multiple sheets of paper and digital design aids.

4. BOTANICAL PEACE
Hand-painted; represents mutualism in the world.

5. WHO SAW WHO
Features the smallest piece in the exhibition at 7" long.

6. STAR UNFOLDING
An abstract self-portrait of the artist.



BOARD NEWS

Your Friends of The Gardens Board is growing! We're elated to welcome these new members:

ERIC BLEWITT

Eric is a graduate of Colorado State University with a Bachelor's degree in Natural Resource Management and a focus on Conservation Biology. After graduating, Eric spent almost seven years working at the High Plains Environmental Center managing restoration and habitat creation projects. The mission of these projects was to 'restore nature where we live, work, and play.' A major focus of this work was based around native plants, which is where Eric fell in love with plant propagation and plant nursery work. He currently manages a wholesale plant nursery in Fort Collins where he has the privilege of connecting people to plants. "My favorite part about working in the Nursery industry is being able to educate people about plants and to help create more sustainable and responsible landscapes in Northern Colorado." Outside of work, Eric is a passionate outdoors person, always has his hands in the garden, and is a husband and dog dad.



DOUG ODELL

Doug and his wife Wynne moved from Seattle to Fort Collins in 1989 to start Odell Brewing Company. They had a good 30-year run and retired in 2020. Through the years, they have seen many quality-of-life improvements in Fort Collins, and believe The Gardens has contributed to those advancements. Doug is pleased to be able to do his part to help The Gardens continue to improve and evolve.



LORI GAFNER

Lori chose CU Boulder for a degree in Environmental Design in preparation for an architectural career and for its proximity to skiing! She returned to CO, settling in Fort Collins in 2000, with no intention of leaving. Working full time and raising three kids didn't leave much time for volunteering, but when she did, it was with The Gardens, especially for Garden of Lights, her favorite event. Being outdoors, tending her plants and garden, hiking in the mountains, and biking on a lovely day bring her a sense of connection, and she hopes The Gardens on Spring Creek can offer that same connection to others.



JEFF O'BRIEN

Jeff O'Brien is a Senior Manager at HP Inc., where he leads a supply chain program management team in new product introductions and product lifecycle management. He is a graduate of Miami University and The Ohio State University and brings over 16 years of business experience and knowledge to the board. Jeff gained a passion for plants and gardening while working summers at the Possum Run Greenhouse in Bellville, Ohio. He has been a longtime member of The Gardens on Spring Creek and is excited to join the board to help the Friends of The Gardens on Spring Creek in carrying forward their mission of cultivating a world class botanical garden. In his spare time, Jeff enjoys spending time in the outdoors with his wife and two children, hiking, and gardening at Twin Silo Community Garden.



SAVE THE DATES! MEMBER MORNINGS

There are still a few chances to explore The Gardens as only a member can! Member Mornings provide a behind-the-scenes look into Gardens operations and initiatives with our expert horticulture staff.

Join us from 8-10 a.m. for each event. Lectures start at 8:30 a.m. No reservations are needed, simply show proof of membership to enter.

Friday, August 16
Chelsea Mclean: Children's Garden

Friday, September 13
Bryan Fischer and Mitchell White: Site inventory and APGA Accreditation Effort



STAFF PICKS IN THE GARDENS

Have you ever wondered about the experts behind the beautiful plants at The Gardens?

Our dedicated horticulture team members each oversee specific gardens, bringing their intimate knowledge and passion to every corner of their space. We thought it would be fun to highlight a few of their favorite plants for you to find the next time you visit.

While we only are spotlighting a few staff members here, our entire horticulture team is integral to curating, designing, and managing our 12 acres of gardens.

Thank You to:

Finn Beckman, Jean-Luc del Valle, Bryan Fischer, Dillon Hancock, Kelly Kellow, Sara McLaughlin, Chelsea McLean, Mary Miller, Eliza Post, Madi Schartz, Andrew Scott, Lauren Springer, Armando Villa-Ignacio, and Grace Willis

**Jean-Luc del Valle**



**7,235 LIKES**
A towering bunch of cafe creme foxglove! #droughttolerant

NORTHWEST GROVE

Jean-Luc del Valle (2 years)
Oversees the Northwest Grove and provides light management of the lateral lawn.

I've been able to add some of my favorite drought-tolerant plants to our Northwest Grove. I really appreciate the **cafe creme foxglove** (*Digitalis lanata* 'Cafe Creme') for its soft white flowers that tower over other plants. These beauties are great for bees and are quite hardy once established.


A newer addition filling my days with wonder and joy is the **Japanese pagoda tree** (*Styphnolobium japonicum*). Part of the pea family, it provides great shade, which is what Northwest Grove is all about.


My final favorite is our **'Jelena' witch-hazel** (*Hamamelis x intermedia* 'Jelena'). A unique and rare plant for our region, this plant has an early bloom from February to March. It's one of the few witch hazels that grows in our climate and, even then, requires special attention to ensure it doesn't dry out.


BUTTERFLY HOUSE

Kelly Kellow (12 years)
Oversees all greenhouse propagation and plants in the Butterfly House.

One of my favorite plants in the Butterfly House is the ***Jatropha integerrima* or Jatropha**. Its tiny clusters of bright pink flowers provide the perfect perch for visiting butterflies. I especially appreciate that it's always flowering, maintaining its stunning beauty all year round.

**Kelly Kellow**




**8,741 LIKES**
Jatropha provides the perfect perch for visiting #butterflies! #beauty


COLOR WALK


Andrew Scott (2 years)
Oversees six of our gardens including the Entrance, Welcome and Theme Gardens, Color Walk and Everitt Pavilion. He is also developing a native flora garden.

When I saw the **'City Lights Purple' dahlia** at the CSU Flower Trial Gardens last summer, I just knew I had to have it! Its bloom is a spectacularly deep winy burgundy with an explosion of elegantly cupped petals that give its eye an almost shadowed ombre effect. The foliage is a gunmetal gray-green that offers pops of contrast within the usual sea of greens.

Sure, you can use white or pale blooms and foliage to introduce negative space to a design, but when surrounded by these bright purples, happy oranges, and fiery reds, this merlot goth misfit takes things in the opposite direction and breaks up the cadence of the bed to really drive home that contrast. It's different yet familiar, so it isn't jarring or out of place; it's just right. The display is a celebration of secondary colors.

**Andrew Scott**





**9,562 LIKES**
'City Lights Purple' #dahlia is an unusual deep burgundy #color!


ROCK GARDEN

Bryan Fischer (9 years)
Oversees the Prairie Garden (which he designed), the Rock Garden, and is Curator of Plant Collections for the institution.

So named for its almost see-through, glowing blue flowers, ***Salvia cyanescens*** is a very xeric sage originally from Anatolia. I was first introduced to the plant at Denver Botanic while working there, and I just loved the dual offerings of this tough plant; in addition to those delightful, airy flower spikes, the plants produce broad and silver, fuzzy leaves all season long.

**Bryan Fischer**



**6,893 LIKES**
Delightful, airy flower spikes of the Salvia cyanescens! #xeric #fullsun

Cyan sage is hard to find at nurseries but is occasionally sold in our plant sale, or can be grown easily from seed. It can be short-lived, so is best grown in gravel mulch and by allowing it to seed around the garden a bit. *Salvia cyanescens* does best in full sun and in hot sites, though will tolerate part shade if it still receives afternoon sun and gravel mulch.

**Chelsea McLean**



**5,633 LIKES**
Check out this alpine paradise! #conifers #childrensgarden

CHILDREN'S GARDEN

Chelsea McLean (1.5 years)
Oversees the Children's Garden and Rose Garden.

In the dog days of summer, I like to escape the heat of the city and run to the mountains, but often can't find the time. The vignette of 20-year-old **conifers** at the south end of the Children's Garden gives the feeling of being immersed in a montane environment—shaded, cool, and towering. From native bristlecone pines and cork bark firs to exotic Japanese weeping pines and dwarf spruce, the collection creates a stylized version of an alpine paradise.





GARDEN A'FARE ROARS INTO THE 20s

Join us for an unforgettable evening as we transport you to the dazzling era of the Roaring 20s, a time when jazz was king, flappers redefined fashion, and speakeasies ran rampant. Dust off your feathers and fedoras, polish your pearls, and shimmy over to The Gardens on Spring Creek for the not-to-miss party of the summer, Garden a'Fare: Flappers & Flowers.

THIS YEAR'S HIGHLIGHTS

- Dance the Charleston and Lindy Hop to the jazzy beats of Colorado Swing
- Bid on original paintings being created in real-time by masterful local artists
- Dine on delectable cuisine provided by Fiona's Deli
- Sip on a signature garden-themed cocktail created by Copper Muse Distillery
- Enjoy beer and wine from Odell Brewery
- Say cheese at our 20s-themed photo-op
- And so much more!



Tickets are now on sale and all proceeds benefit Friends of The Gardens on Spring Creek. Get ready to share a magical night. We promise this year's event will be the bee's knees.

WHY WE VOLUNTEER

Nancy and Mike Behney began volunteering at The Gardens in June 2022. Being new to the Fort Collins area at the time, they were looking for ways to get involved, give back, meet people, and have fun. The beauty of the grounds and myriad volunteer opportunities attracted them to The Gardens.

After completing their volunteer training, both started out as gardening support, gradually increasing their hours to include the Butterfly House, the Summer Concert Series, and special events.

Nancy's time in the Butterfly House is a source of personal fulfillment. The tranquility, beauty, and learning opportunities are not only a joy for her, but also a delight to share with guests of all ages. One particularly memorable occasion occurred when a young girl, initially disappointed by the lack of butterflies landing on her, had her wish granted just

before leaving. It was a magical moment that Nancy was privileged to witness.

Mike's enthusiasm is fueled by the positive impact he sees on a daily basis. From engaging conversations with guests waiting in line for concerts, to the awe-inspiring reactions of visitors discovering the magic of a special exhibit or the Butterfly House, he cherishes these shared moments.

The opportunity to meet and talk to people from all over the Northern Colorado region has been a rewarding experience for both of them.

Thank you, Nancy and Mike, for your commitment to The Gardens!



NUTRIEN CELEBRATES THE GARDENS' 20-YEAR ANNIVERSARY

For more than half of The Gardens on Spring Creek's 20-year history, Nutrien has been a proud supporter of the organization's mission to "enrich the lives of people and foster environmental stewardship through horticulture." The Gardens and Nutrien both aim to bring people together to learn more about how their food gets to the dinner table.

Recently, Nutrien and The Gardens have teamed up to offer an outdoor kitchen, which provides culinary classes that teach children and adults about cooking nutritious foods.

CONNECTING WITH OUR COMMUNITIES

Collaborating with organizations like The Gardens is one way we like to connect with the communities where our employees and customers live and work across the globe. When seeking out involvement opportunities, we look for causes that align with three focus areas: Sustainable Agriculture, Environmental Footprint, and Diversity and Inclusion. Support is provided in various forms including financial, outreach, joint programming with stakeholders and employee volunteer time or donations.

In 2020, Nutrien set a goal for employees to log 25,000 volunteer hours by the year 2025. This year, through the dedication of our team, we were able to surpass this goal. Nutrien remains committed to finding ways to continue moving forward on our sustainability strategy and commitment to the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals in alignment with our purpose of Feeding the Future.

PROVIDING AN EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION

Nutrien also looks for ways to engage with local youth agriculture and environmental education programs, reaching more than a million students each year.



Nutrien's unique science- and inquiry-based curriculum is offered for free and developed in collaboration with teachers, program partners and industry experts. Today's youth are tomorrow's leaders, so having a strong foundation is crucial for their future success.

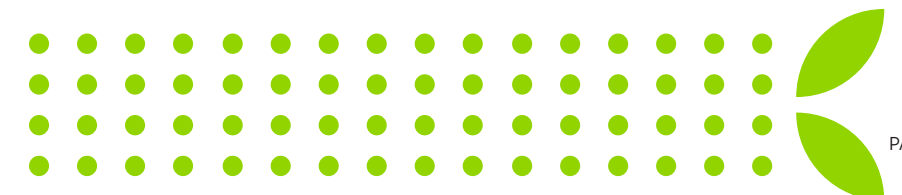
Journey 2050 challenges students in grades seventh through 12th to explore the complex question of how we will feed a growing population sustainably by 2050. This gamified program includes up to seven hours of flexible learning on key sustainability topics through teacher lesson plans and a virtual guest speaker opportunity.

Seed Survivor teaches elementary students (with a focus on third and fourth grades) how to grow healthy plants and the importance of agriculture. Nearly 100,000 students are reached with this program annually through our hands-on displays and complementary online activities.

Caring for Our Watersheds is an environmental contest where students in 9th through 12th grades research their local watershed, identify an environmental concern and develop a realistic solution. In addition to cash prizes, community partners help turn the students' ideas into reality with funding from Nutrien. This contest is open to students in the Cache la Poudre River and Big Thompson watersheds in Colorado and has implemented nearly 600 student-led projects around the world since 2009.

Learn more at nutrien.com.

Nutrien
Feeding the Future™



TRANSFORMING THE WESTERN PLANT PALETTE

Wee One dwarf English lavender is a compact beauty that's great for small spaces. Photos: Ann Kendall

Guest Author: Ann Kendall, Western garden writer



For most of our horticultural history, Colorado gardeners have grown plants designed to thrive in places like the East Coast and England—rainier climates with rich, loamy soils.

This mismatch of eastern plants to our semi-arid steppe has produced a lot of unnecessary headaches for local gardeners, and it becomes painfully apparent during times of watering restrictions and drought. (Hello, crispy plants!)

Since 1997, the local non-profit, Plant Select®, has been creating a unique plant palette tailored to the Rocky Mountain region, transforming western landscapes into waterwise beauties.

“Plant Select is trying to show people you can have spectacular western gardens,” explains Panayoti Kelaidis, senior curator and director of outreach at Denver Botanic Gardens. “Our yards no longer have to be a glaring contrast to the western environment in which we live.”

JOINING TOGETHER IN A COMMON CAUSE

Plant Select isn't a company. It doesn't even have a greenhouse. Rather, it's a non-profit collaboration of like-minded people who are passionate about

Winecups is a locally native perennial that thrives in naturalistic designs and ColoradoScapes.



finding smarter plant choices inspired by the Rocky Mountain region—plants that use fewer resources and make a positive environmental impact.

Led by Colorado State University (CSU), Denver Botanic Gardens and professional horticulturists, Plant Select finds and rigorously tests plants for three or more years in gardens across the region, including in Fort Collins.

The plants are evaluated on diverse criteria—like water use, resiliency, beauty and disease resistance—so gardeners of all skill levels can be successful. Plant Select has even begun using Native Bee Watch findings from citizen scientists in its evaluations.

Every year, Plant Select selects a small set of plants that have excelled in the multi-site trials. Once plants are chosen, the program collaborates with more than 100 cooperating nurseries and botanic gardens to grow the plants and bring them to market.

PRETTY, TOUGH PLANTS

Plant Select was founded 27 years ago, but its plant palette is just as relevant now, particularly as Colorado's weather patterns grow more extreme. The program has introduced more than 160 plants, from low-water turf grass to shrubs and trees.

Nearly 50 percent of the plants in the program are native to the western United States. These plants include wild species, like SUNSET® hyssop (*Agastache*

Sarada's Greek mountain tea is a striking replacement for traditional lamb's ear plant with soft, silver-gray foliage with a light yellow flower.



rupestris), winecups (*Callirhoe involucrata*), chocolate flower (*Berlandiera lyrata*) and Apache plume (*Fallugia paradoxa*), as well as cultivated natives that offer useful traits for home gardens, such as compact growth or greater winter hardiness. More than 45 plants in the Plant Select program have native origins in Colorado.

Some of these western natives are so commonplace now—like hyssops (*Agastache* species) and winecups (*Callirhoe involucrata*)—it's easy to forget they were nearly non-existent in garden centers before Plant Select.

“Plant Select was one of the earliest promoters of native plants on a large scale,” shares Ross Shrigley, executive director of Plant Select. “The question was, how do you get these plants into the market? It's something we continue to work on.”

The Plant Select program also includes well-adapted plants from parts of the world that share our region's tough growing conditions and erratic precipitation.

DEEP ROOTS IN FORT COLLINS

Much of Plant Select's research and management has taken place through CSU. The program is headquartered on the CSU campus.

KANNAH CREEK® buckwheat has masses of yellow flowers that turn orange as they age.



Several of Plant Select's significant greenhouse partners are based in Fort Collins. Many of the respected horticulturists who've contributed to the Plant Select program call Fort Collins home.

And then there's **The Gardens on Spring Creek**. It's an active regional partner for Plant Select, playing a key role in identifying new and overlooked plants, testing plants, propagating plants and sharing public feedback.

“When people see what looks good at a botanic garden, it helps shift their perception of horticulture and the plant palette they're willing to try at home,” observes Bryan Fischer, curator of plant collections at The Gardens.

“The Gardens is helping shape the future of Plant Select, and that's exactly how the program is designed to work.”

If you're looking for plant inspiration, The Gardens is a wonderful showcase of Plant Select. You can find the plants woven throughout the site—from the Plant Select Garden, to Lauren Springer's Undaunted Garden, to the Children's Garden. Just look for the Plant Select logo on the plant tag.



Red birds in a tree is a hummingbird's delight.



Apache plume is a glorious native shrub with pale pink to white blossoms and feathery seedheads.

OPEN DAILY!
TICKETS REQUIRED

**Members receive free admission
during normal business hours.**

The Gardens is open daily
from 10 a.m. – 5 p.m. during
the growing season, with final
entry at 4:30 p.m. For more
information, please visit
fcgov.com/gardens/admissions.

CONTACT US

Phone: 970-416-2486
Email: gardens@fcgov.com
Web: fcgov.com/gardens

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LUNA MOTHS ARE IN THE HOUSE

Luna moth caterpillars and moths are in the House! Stop by and see how many you can find! These beauties have a few interesting tricks to help protect them from predators.

Camouflage: These caterpillars are light green, allowing them to hide in the leaves of their host plant.

Clicking: Luna caterpillars are known for percussively hitting their mouthparts (called mandibles) together to produce an audible clicking sound when they feel threatened.

Smell: Typically, a luna moth will first make clicking sounds as a warning to a predator, but if the threat persists, it will throw up the contents of its stomach. This vomit smells and tastes terrible, discouraging a predator's appetite. It is a disgusting but effective self-defense.

