



Plots Are Available  
for 2019

For more information, call:  
John Poyzer 576-2664 or  
Karen Stith 634-4433

**January-February 2019**

## Welcome Back to the Garden

Happy New Year! The winter solstice has passed, the days are getting longer and the seed catalogues are starting to arrive in the mail. We're looking forward to seeing you at the garden.

Registration packets will be e-mailed to returning gardeners on January 15. If you do not have a way to print the forms, please send an e-mail to BCGA and the forms will be sent to you by U.S. Mail. Gardeners may request the same plot, or a different plot, or more or less space. Returning gardeners must mail their forms and fees to the BCGA post office box by February 28 to reserve their plots. On March 1 we will begin assigning available plots to new gardeners. Returning gardeners do not pay a cleanup deposit unless one is specifically requested. Returning gardeners do not need to sign an Unconditional Release because they already have one on file with BCGA. Returning gardeners who have a new helper are responsible for



Tate Striegel (5) wheelbarrowed vines to the dumpster during garden closing.

making sure that the helper signs an Unconditional Release. The Unconditional Release form is available on the BCGA website.

## Film: "A Garden Experience"

Filmmakers Nancy Bentley and John Atkinson released their 30-minute film about the Charmaine Nyman Community Garden with a premiere private showing for the gardeners at the Bear Creek Nature Center on November 3.

They were a familiar sight in the garden as they filmed and interviewed gardeners over the past two years, even flying their cameras over the garden with a drone to capture unique aerial views. BCGA wholeheartedly thanks John and Nancy for making this beautiful film. Gardeners who ordered copies of the film at the showing received them before Christmas.

The film will be shown at the Winter Potluck. Copies of the film will be available at the potluck for \$20. Copies will soon be available for purchase from the distributor online at [www.chiptaylor.com](http://www.chiptaylor.com)

*A Garden Experience* will also be shown at the Bear Creek Nature Center, 245 Bear Creek Road, on March 2 at 2:00 p.m., and at the Fountain Creek Nature Center, 320 Peppergrass Lane in Fountain, Colorado, on March 16 at 2:00 p.m. BCGA thanks the nature centers for providing these showings to the public at for free.

## Growing Micro-Greens and Sprouts in Winter



### The Garden Father

When spring fever hits and it's snowing outside, try growing some micro-greens or sprouts at home.

Former Pikes Peak Urban Gardens founder and executive director Larry Stebbins writes a website blog called "The Garden Father" at [www.thegardenfather.com](http://www.thegardenfather.com). His November 3 message, titled "Update on My Mini-Greenhouse, Broccoli Microgreens" is a good place to start. (see this short link to it)

<https://bit.ly/2BStmcD>. He also provided a primer on growing sprouts on December 11: (short link)

<https://bit.ly/2F4D9jL>

Larry's most recent posting on the blog lists his favorite vegetable varieties (short link):

<https://bit.ly/2F4Du61>

Gardener's Supply Company has provided a more detailed description of growing microgreens on its website at (short link)

<https://bit.ly/2OwqV4X>

**Note:** Larry Stebbins has retired from teaching his immensely popular series of spring vegetable gardening classes at Horace Mann Middle School. He will be missed.

## Winter Potluck at Gold Hill Mesa

Gardeners and their families are invited to get together for a Winter Potluck on Sunday, February 17 at 12:00 noon at the Gold Hill Mesa Community Room, 142 South Raven Mine Drive.

Please bring a main dish serving 6-8 people, plus a salad, vegetable or dessert to share. BCGA will provide plates, utensils, napkins, cups, coffee and lemonade.

So that we know how many people to plan for, please RSVP by e-mail to [bearcreekgardens@yahoo.com](mailto:bearcreekgardens@yahoo.com) by February 14th.

## Garden Calendar

Jan. 15 - Registration packets are e-mailed to returning gardeners

Feb. 17 - Winter Potluck at Gold Hill Mesa

Feb. 28—Deadline for returning gardeners to sign up for plots

Mar. 2 - "A Garden Experience" will be shown at Bear Creek Nature Center – 2 p.m.

Mar. 16 - "A Garden Experience" will be shown at Fountain Creek Nature Center - 2 p.m.

Mar. 23 - Bear Creek Garden Class at Bear Creek Nature Center 10:00 a.m. - noon. Fee: \$4.

Apr. 13 - Orientation for New Gardeners at Creekside Room in Parks Building 10:00 a.m. The Orientation is repeated at 2:00 p.m.

Apr. 20 - Garden Opens

May 25 - Spring Plant and Tool Sale (Saturday of Memorial Day Weekend)

## Gardeners Seek Out Good Sources for Seeds

Are you ready to ramp up that garden fever?

Here are a few of our favorite seed sources. If you would like to suggest other seed companies or particular vegetable varieties, please send an e-mail to BCGA and your information will be included in the March-April newsletter.

Baker Creek Heirloom Seed Co. Provides rare and unusual heirloom vegetable varieties. They publish a stunning printed catalogue. [www.rareseeds.com](http://www.rareseeds.com)

E & R, a Mennonite group located in Indiana (816) 510-3337. E & R does not have a website. Call to request a catalogue, then order seed by mail or by phone. Good varieties, low prices. Dave Ridnour's favorite.

Farm Direct Organic Seed, from Hobbs Family Farm east of Pueblo. This certified organic, open pollinated non-GMO seed is grown in Southern Colorado and Northern New Mexico. Rick's Garden Center carries it. [www.farmdirectseed.com](http://www.farmdirectseed.com)

Johnny's Selected Seeds (Maine) [www.johnnyseeds.com](http://www.johnnyseeds.com)

Kitazawa Seed Company, Oakland, CA. America's oldest seed company, specializing in Asian vegetables since 1917. One of the best. <http://www.kitazawaseed.com>

Native Seeds/SEARCH A seed-saving and sharing cooperative in Tucson. This organization focuses on plants that are native to the southwest. It promotes agricultural diversity in the southwestern U.S. and north Mexico. [www.nativeseeds.org](http://www.nativeseeds.org)

## Pick a Carrot, Any Carrot!

Gardeners who are looking for a particular vegetable variety may be able to locate the harder-to-find ones at the website [www.pickacarrot.com](http://www.pickacarrot.com)



Pick a Carrot is a unique site that helps gardeners find sought-after varieties. It is run by Jason Grauer and Mark Cerritelli, who comb seed sources and continually update this database that not only locates vegetable varieties, but also provides direct links to the websites of an astonishing number of seed companies.

Seed Savers Exchange, Decorah, Iowa. Provides heirloom, untreated, non-hybrid, non-GMO seeds. SSE identifies varieties that are not commonly available to the public and makes every effort to offer these varieties in its catalog or through its Exchange. [www.seedsaversexchange.org](http://www.seedsaversexchange.org)

Seeds From Italy Imported Italian favorites. [www.growitalian.com](http://www.growitalian.com)

Territorial Seed Company (Oregon) [www.territorialseed.com](http://www.territorialseed.com)

Terroir Seeds Heirloom and open pollinated seed. Since 1993. Sign up for monthly seed newsletter. [www.underwoodgardens.com](http://www.underwoodgardens.com)

## BCGA Garden Class in March

Experienced BCGA gardeners will provide a spring garden class titled "Organic Vegetable Gardening – Tips for Success" at the Bear Creek Nature Center, 245 Bear Creek Road, from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. on Saturday, March 23. This event is part of the Nature Center's "Sustainability" series. There is a \$4.00 per person charge (\$3.00 for Nature Center members). Gardeners are encouraged to attend.

## A Lovefest with the Goats

Approximately 500 goats arrived for a ten-day grazing in park around the garden in late October. The herder brought along two orphan goats which he staked out near the herd with collars and leashes. The baby goats were the hit of the week, as children took turns cuddling, petting and walking them on the leashes.

Once again, students in Kari Merritt's fifth grade class from Gold Camp Elementary were treated to a talk by the herder and a performance by the border collies who manage the herd.

BCGA extends special thanks to the Parks Department and to our gardeners who volunteered to walk the trails and talk to park users and dog owners about our grazing program and the importance of keeping pets on leash. Dog owners were extremely cooperative again this year.

BCGA thanks Fox 21 TV News <https://bit.ly/2s9Soja>, The CS Independent <https://bit.ly/2AtKghH> and El Paso County <https://bit.ly/2QmtQgb> for coverage that brought hundreds of people to the park to see the herd.

## Bear Creek Garden Association

BCGA runs the Charmaine Nymann Community Garden located in Bear Creek Regional Park in 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 thousands of pounds of produce to the Cheyenne Mountain Zoo, the Springs Rescue Mission and Colorado Springs Food Rescue each year.

Contact us: John Poyzer 576-2664  
Karen Stith 634-4433

E-mail: [bearcreekgardens@yahoo.com](mailto:bearcreekgardens@yahoo.com)

Website: [www.bearcreekgardens.org](http://www.bearcreekgardens.org)

Facebook:

[Bear Creek Garden Association](https://www.facebook.com/BearCreekGardenAssociation)