



On March 23 an early killdeer was spotted in the garden. By May, these ground nesting birds will have little groups of babies trailing them as they



forage for insects and seeds among the garden plots.

March-April 2019

New Gardeners Welcome—Plots are Available

The community garden is currently accepting new gardeners for the 2019 growing season. Anyone interested in renting a plot should call John Poyzer (719) 576-2664 or Karen Stith (719) 634-4433.

The Charmaine Nymann Community Garden in Bear Creek Regional Park is run by the gardeners of the Bear Creek Garden Association (BCGA) a Colorado 501(c)(3) tax exempt nonprofit corporation.

Plots are assigned on a first come, first served basis. The garden season runs for six months, from April 20 to October 20.

Fees:

Full Plot - 20 feet x 40 feet - \$120
Half Plot - 20 feet x 20 feet \$75



Water is included in the plot fee. First year gardeners pay a \$25 cleanup deposit which is returned if the plot is completely cleaned off at the end of the season in October.

This is an organic vegetable garden where members of the public can grow vegetables for personal use and for donation to friends and charities. Flowers are planted as well, to attract bees and butterflies for pollination.

Our Garden Class

Fifty three people, including a number of new gardeners who have already registered for plots, attended the BCGA Garden Class at the Bear Creek Nature Center on March 23.

Thank you to Dan Hopper, co-owner of Rick's Garden Center, for presenting information on fertilizers and insect control products that are suitable for use in an organic garden. A copy of the list he handed out is included in the BCGA Handbook.

Other presenters included gardeners Larry Booth, Rose Bergles and Sharline Arellano.

Classes at Phelan Gardens

Phelan Gardens, 4955 Austin Bluffs Parkway, will present three classes pertinent to vegetable gardening:

"Tomato Lab" - Sat., April 20 - 1 p.m.

"Attracting Pollinators to the Urban Garden" - Sat. Apr. 27—10:30 a.m.

"Habitat Heroes—Protecting Pollinators" - Sun. Apr. 28—1:00 p.m.

Tickets are \$10 for the tomato class, \$5 for the others. Purchase tickets online through their website:

www.phelanguardens.com

Phone: (719) 574-8058

Please Read Your E-Mail

BCGA relies on e-mail to keep its 175+ gardeners and their helpers up to date. Please read these messages regularly and carefully to stay in tune with what is coming up at the garden.

To communicate with the garden board, send an e-mail to : bearcreekgardens@yahoo.com

Thank you to Don Brooks, who directs our BCGA e-mail traffic year-round. Don has been a gardener here for twenty-seven years.

New Gardener Orientation and Opening Day

New Gardener Orientation. New gardeners are required to attend an orientation. The orientation will be held on Saturday, April 13 from 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon and will be offered again on the same day from 2:00 – 4:00 p.m.

The location is the Creekside Room in the Parks Building adjacent to the garden, 2002 Creek Crossing Street. Gardeners may attend either session. Garden handbooks will be provided.

For those new gardeners who are not available on April 13, the orientation will be repeated at the same location on Opening Day, Saturday, April 20, from 1:00 – 3:00 p.m. and privately thereafter.

Opening Day – April 20. Weather permitting, the garden will open on Saturday, April 20.

Returning gardeners are asked to come between 10:00 a.m. and 12:00 noon to purchase their badges and keys. Keys and badges are \$2.50 each (\$5.00 for a set).

All new gardeners come at 1:00 p.m. on Opening Day. Those who attended orientation on April 13th will purchase keys and badges and will have a brief onsite orientation with a BCGA volunteer before being shown to their plots.

A repeat of the classroom orientation will be provided for those who did not attend orientation on April 13. They can then purchase badges and keys and go into the garden for a brief onsite orientation with a BCGA volunteer before being shown to their plots.

Straw—Film—King Soopers

On opening day, gardeners will also have an opportunity to order bales of straw to use as mulch. Straw is delivered at the end of May. Gardeners also can purchase copies of our 2018 film "A Garden Experience" for \$20 each, and sign up for the completely revised King Soopers fundraising program to help bring back the goats.

Garden Calendar

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

Mar. 16 - "A Garden Experience" 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. and again at 2:00 p.m.

Apr. 20 - Garden Opens

May 25 - Plant and Tool Sale. This small sale is for gardeners only, not advertised to the public. The sale begins at 9-11:30 a.m. Bring a picnic lunch and take a break from gardening at noon to enjoy talking with other gardeners.

Jun. 29-30— Friends of Extension (FOX) Garden Tour. 9 a.m.—3 p.m. Our garden will be included in this annual community event. We need gardeners to be at the garden those days.



Garden Badge Provides Discounts

Rick's Garden Center, 1827 West Uintah Street, has offered BCGA gardeners a 10% discount for many years and will continue to do so in 2019. Mike and Gail Estes, long time friends of BCGA, have retired and Dan and Jeana Hopper are the new owners of Rick's. Thank you, Dan and Jeana, for your support.

Good Earth Garden Center, located at 1330 North Walnut Street, is also offering our gardeners a 10% discount again this year on garden items. Thank you to owner Wayne Fisher for supporting BCGA. Reduced price (sale) items at Good Earth are not eligible for the discount.

Ace Hardware, located in the Uintah Gardens Shopping Center, will begin offering discounts to BCGA gardeners on Opening Day, April 20th, when the new badges come out. Gardeners will receive a 15% discount on garden items purchased, and a 50% discount on tool sharpening. Board member Bill Harmon has had very good experiences with the Ace tool sharpening service. Thank you to Ace manager Travis Bayer and Assistant Manager Jamie Falcon for supporting our gardeners.

Gardeners must show their current year garden badges to receive these discounts. The badge must be shown to the clerk at the register when paying for purchases. Please do not expect them to remember that you had a badge last time you came in if you forgot to bring it with you today!

No badge in hand, no discount...

Toss Out Your 2018 Keys

The 2018 keys will not work in 2019. Please discard them and purchase new keys on Opening Day.

Special Note for New Gardeners

Paths Between Plots. When the garden opens, the 4-foot wide main aisles will already be in place. Where your plot touches a main aisle there is nothing more to be done.

HOWEVER, where your plot touches another plot, you must give up one foot along the edge of your plot and raise a berm inside that line along your plot. Your neighbor will do the same.

This creates a two foot path between adjoining plots for easier access. Do this first, before starting to work on the plot. Please don't plant vegetables in the paths.

King Soopers Program Changes

Farewell to gift cards! On April 1, King Soopers terminated the



fundraiser program through which BCGA gardeners have been earning money for the Goat Grazing Program to bring back our weed eating goats each year. If you still have a balance on your reloadable gift card, you can spend it for groceries, but 5% of the purchase will not come to BCGA.

Instead, King Soopers will let its customers link their personal King Soopers Loyalty Cards to BCGA. When you shop, the amount you spend at the store for groceries, prescriptions and gas will trigger a donation to BCGA, and you don't even have to reload a gift card to support the goats.

If you do not have a Loyalty Card, you will need to get one from Customer Service in order to participate.

To link your card to BCGA:

- Go to www.kingsoopers.com
- If you don't have an account, create one.
- Click on "Welcome/ Sign In" (top right)
- Click on "Savings and Rewards"
- Scroll down to "King Soopers Community Rewards."
- Click on "Enroll Now"
- Use Search to find BCGA by its full name or by its number—T1166
- Click on "Enroll"

All done! Click on Logout (upper right)

On Opening Day, we will have laptops available. Bring your card and your password and we'll help you link up your card. Thank you.

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

Website: www.bearcreekgardens.org

Facebook:

Bear Creek Garden Association