



An association of private donors, public participants and the City of Steamboat Springs

President's Letter

In the summer of 1996 I had the honor of planting the first garden at the Yampa River Botanic Park. Since then our Park has evolved into one of the premier botanic parks in the country. Many thanks go to all who have made this possible; generous donors, hardworking staff and many volunteers.

Our founders, Audrey and Bob Enever, had a vision, which has blossomed into the gem that lies between the town and the mountain. A walk or bike ride on the Yampa River Core Trail will take you to a place of serenity, celebrating the trees, shrubs, plants and birds of the Yampa River Basin. A short walk from the Emerald Field parking lot will bring you down the Botanic Walk into the Park.

Donations from the Capital Development Fund insure older gardens will flourish with new design and construction under the guidance of the Horticultural Committee. The Facilities Committee is dedicated to constantly upgrading the Park to the highest standards. The Development Committee is always coming up with new ideas and funding sources to make the Park a better place to visit. Mr. Bill Sauter has

donated his time and efforts for many years to make sure the Park's finances are in order.

More and more locals and visitors are taking advantage of our Park's activities from Music on the Green, Yoga on the Green and Meditation on the Green, to renting the Trillium House for functions. This accounts for over 25,000 visits a year! We are first and foremost a botanic park where you can note different varieties and cultivars of plant material to make your own garden more colorful and interesting. Take a walk around our five acres and enjoy over fifty gardens!

New volunteers are always welcome! Social gardening is every Wednesday. Come to the Park to make new friends and catch up on what a small town like Steamboat Springs can offer. Share in the pride of this wonderful local amenity and become a member of the Yampa River Botanic Park!

Sincerely,

Kerry Kaster

Kerry Kaster, Board President

Birds in the Park: Northern Flicker

Article by Bob Enever

The flicker is a spectacularly beautiful and quite common bird in the Park. It is a woodpecker, but unlike other woodpeckers it mostly forages on the ground or sits on the branches of trees instead of climbing up the trunks. Many of these birds migrate.

Our 'red-shafted' flicker was fairly recently joined in one species with the 'yellow-shafted' flicker of Eastern North America, many of which summer on the tundras of Alaska and Northwest Canada; the two sub-species were made one because they inter-breed. The 'shafts' refer to the undersides of the wings and tail that can clearly be seen when they fly, but otherwise the two sub-species are very similar. The yellow-shafted bird is the state bird of Alabama, and is known there as a 'Yellowhammer'.



Both sub-species eat a lot of ants, up to 80% of their diet, but they also eat other insects, berries and seeds. They do not hammer on trees as much as other woodpeckers, but when they do, they hammer loudly to announce their territory. They occasionally find other things to hammer on loudly, as one of them did on our chimney pipe a few years back...every morning for a week!

Our red-shafted flicker is found mostly in the mountains of Western US and Canada, summering in the more northern mountains and wintering in the southern mountains into Mexico. But there are populations in the middle that do not migrate and live there year-round. Our flickers breed in open areas of forests all the way to tree line. They dig nest cavities in trees in soft wood like dead and diseased aspens. The parents are thoroughly modern: both sexes excavate the nest, sit on the eggs, feed the young and clean the nest.

Northern Flicker Photo Credit: Bob Enever

"A place of serenity, celebrating the trees, shrubs, plants and birds of the Yampa River Basin."

Gayle's News From The Shed

Gayle Lehman, Park Supervisor

Webster defines compost as "a decayed mixture of plants that is used to improve the soil in a garden". This is true, but compost and the process of composting are not that simple. The science of making compost is fairly basic. Take equal parts of nitrogen rich plant cuttings, grass clippings or weeds and carbon materials such as dry leaves, straw or shredded paper; mix well with water and air and POOF – you have compost. But wait...its not quite that easy.

As the growing season winds down, I find myself spending a lot of time at the compost pile. The tasks of cutting back perennials, pulling annuals and raking leaves must be coordinated to get the layering of the pile correct. It is somewhat like making a giant layer cake of all the fabulous things that grew this summer. As the one who decides what to cut back when and where, I have to consider what is needed in the pile next. There is some method to my madness!

"There is some method to my madness."

As each garden reaches the pile, we carefully layer the cuttings to keep the air spaces. As the pile becomes taller, we need a layer of leaves to add the carbon. I use the pitchfork to keep the pile square so it can reach the height it needs to be to hold the entire Botanic Park's bounty. The sprinklers water it for us. The smells are pungent and familiar – lavender, sage, geraniums, leaves. I like to lie across the pile and breathe in the fragrances.

The process is universal – sprouting, growth, flowering, death. Each season I am privileged to witness this. I know next spring as snow melts and plants emerge again the compost pile will reveal the black gold which will enrich another garden. The cycle is complete.

See you in the Spring!



Fall Compost Pile Photo Credit: Gayle Lehman

Yampa River Botanic Park 2015 Annual Meeting

The by-laws of the Association stipulate that we invite all members to an annual meeting to elect board members and officers and transact other business. This year our annual meeting was held on September 13th.

A short business meeting was conducted that included election of board members and officers. Kerry Kaster was elected President and Jon Quinn was elected to serve on the Board for three years bringing our board to sixteen members.

We said thank you to Emily Seaver for successfully guiding the Park as President for the last eight years.

Gayle Lehman introduced our speaker, Mike Bone, Curator of Steppe Collection and Head Propagator of the Denver Botanic Garden. His presentation covered various methods of propagation.

All present then enjoyed drinks and a catered buffet on the Trillium House patio in the late afternoon sunshine.



Delicate Dragonfly
Photo Credit: Gayle Lehman

"...a plant is only worth growing if it looks good when it's dead!" Piet Oudolf

Volunteers – Our Grass Roots

Our fall newsletter traditionally honors the many volunteers who make the Park a very special place. Whether gardening, helping with Music on the Green, answering visitors' questions in Trillium House or being on our Board making the decisions that guide our future – volunteers define the Park.

Hundreds of hours spent by volunteers have helped create a Park that is loved, and it shows. Thank you all!

Garden Volunteers

Charlotte Allen
Jon Alubowicz
Tim Amsted
Linda Andrews
Ruth Balestra
Lucia Barnes
Andoni Cameron
George Dahellis
Claudia Dausman
Dorthea Dawkins
Win Dermody
Lou Dolman
Carol Dowden
Richard Eberhart
Audrey Enever
Helen Ernst
Ronni Fitzgerald
Barb Flowers
David Franzel
Sonia Franzel
Erik Gilbert
Erica Glient
Maggie Glueck
Estella Heitman
Sally Hertzog
Annie Jeckel
Kerry Kaster
Kevin Kaster
Elizabeth Kehm
Diane Kelly
Patti Kelly
Sandy Kent
Elaine Kopf
J.J. Kopf
Erica Lindemann
Huque Manuella
Meme Mastoras
John Matheson
Colleen McGovern
Jeff Morehead
Georgianne Nelson
Mary O'Brien
Chris Pearson
Gail Reed
Barb Sanders
Susan Scott
Emily Seaver
Jo Smith
Laura Spicka
Pat Tormey
Anita Trautman
K VanDeren
Yage Varela Bienda
Dan Wearsch
Leigh Whittum

Outstanding Volunteers

Susan Scott
Colleen McGovern

Our hard-working Board Members

Emily Seaver - President
Renea Cowman - Vice President
Georgianne Nelson - Secretary
Bill Sauter - Treasurer
Russ Atha
Karen Bomberg
Evlyn Berge
Kathy Connell
Carol Dowden
Audrey Enever
Bob Enever
Sonia Franzel
Kerry Kaster
John Overstreet
Jon Quinn
Leslie Steen

Volunteer Committee Members

Jeff Morehead
Kathy Olsen

In Kind Donations

Ace at the Curve - Denny & Joy Swanson
Big Air Catering - Steve Carlson
Colorado Event Rentals
Gecko Landscape & Garden Center
Hale's Landscape Supply
JDB Technology Solutions
Brad Kindred
Kim M. Kline
La Porte Avenue Nursery
Mary O'Brien
North American Rock Garden Society
Northwest Graphics - Jeff Swoyer
PostNet
Steamboat Brochure Delivery -
Scott & Crystal Maughan
Steamboat Magazine
Steamboat Springs Chamber Resort
Western Tree & Lawn Management -
Dan Jendral
Windemere Landscape & Garden Center

City of Steamboat Springs

We gratefully acknowledge the help of every City department especially Parks, Open Space & Recreation, Finance, City Manager and City Council.

Garden Sponsors

Blue Garden - Stu Roberts & LuLu Gould
Butterfly Garden - Dave & Donna Howell
Carol's Garden - Carol Fox Endowment
Community Cultivation Garden -
Community Cultivation
Coreopsis Garden - Philip Lloyd family
Corner Garden -
Yampa Valley Community Foundation
Crevice Garden - Colorado Group Realty
Culinary Herb Garden - Mambo Italiano
Doris' Arbor Garden -
Georgianne Nelson
Dorothy's Garden -
Carol & Rick Dowden Endowment
Eagle Garden - Erica Lindemann
Foliage Garden - Anne & John Halverson
Garden For All Seasons -
Emily Seaver & Over The Hill Gang
Grove Garden - Michelle DenBleyker and
Brad & Sarah Dekoter
Hidden Garden - Pat Wessel Endowment
Jeff's Garden & South Berm -
Jeff Morehead
Lynne's Garden - Russ & Shine Atha
Medicinal Herb Garden - Mary O'Brien
Painter's Garden - Barb Sanders
Penstemon Garden - Audrey Enever
Pioneer Garden - Virginia & John Amato
Rainbow Garden -
Orange/Red - Ralph & Grace Strangis
Rainbow Garden - Yellow -
Ace at the Curve
Reflecting Pond Garden -
Buddhist Community - Erik Gilbert
Rose Garden - Bob Alter
Sascha's Garden - David & Sonia Franzel
Sensory Garden -
Deb Babcock & Dave Wierman
Endowment
Stumpyland - Kerry & Laura Kaster
Sundial Garden -
Kae Jenkins Garden Endowment
Windigo Garden - Sally Hertzog

Wednesday Wondering Instructors

Chris Bradley
Kim Brooks
Barb Flowers
Kathy Hockin
Mike Kintgen
Gayle Lehman
Jeff Morehead

Wednesday Wondering Instructors

Mary O'Brien
Bill Sanders
Karen Vail

Music on the Green Volunteers

David Franzel
Sonia Franzel

Trillium House Volunteers

Laura Anderson
Orah Blank
Karen Bomberg
Susan Dreska
Audrey Enever
Jean Ray
Bill and Tosia Sauter

*Our
Volunteers
define the
Park.
Thank
you all!*



A very special Thank You to Emily Seaver, whose eight-year tenure saw in Trillium House, the Capital Development Fund and the Stage on the Green, among other things. She has stepped down as Board President. Fortunately for us, she is still on our board and has assumed the chairmanship of the Horticulture Committee.

Summer...In So Many Words

*Tall yellow iris ringing Peter's Pond
Fireworks going off in Doris' Garden (Shubert's Onion)
Sun-brellas in rainbow colors shading concertgoers
Stumpflyland makes its debut to everyone's delight
Colorado Blue Skies...Downright Downpours
Lollipop Asiatic Lilies... smiling clown faces
Bushes flowering in profusion... the Mock Orange and
the Japanese Lilac
Peonies! Pendulous with petals
Hummingbirds streaming by with a buzz and a whirr
Jazz rendition in brass of "Summertime" to cool down
a hot midday in July
Iridescent blue-grey dragonflies on zigzag maneuvers
over the pond
Images on the pond that look like an Impressionist's
painting*



Iris on the Pond Photo Credit: Gayle Lehman



Peonies Photo Credit: Gayle Lehman

*The grapevines on the arbor producing fruit
and ripening purple
September Charm anemones blooming
again...feels like summer is starting all over
Perfect Hydrangeas!
Prickly purple echinops looking battle ready
for a Star Wars sequel
Colossal candy-apple-red rosehips
Autumn crocus emerge and signal the end of
summer*

**The holidays are coming! The holidays are coming!
Please consider a Park membership for your gift giving.
They come in all sizes! Ho! Ho! Ho!**