Dear Botanic Park Members:

On this day of golden leaves, I reflect on the golden partnerships that helped us make this a glorious summer at the Park.

Our thank you to the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation and to Horizons. Job Coach Amy Wharton gave us the opportunity to train a gardener who not only learned about plants but also about new life skills.

Our thank you to the Denver Botanic Gardens who continues to provide us with new plants to experiment at altitude and with advice and support to improve our Park.

Our thank you to Strings in the Mountains who has partnered with us for 20 years to sponsor the Thursday concerts, more popular every year in what is the most spectacular noon setting in town.

Our thank you to the Rocky Mountain Youth Corps. This group who initially helped build some of our paths came back to repair the path around Peter’s Pond.

Our thank you to Community Cultivation groups for harvesting and sharing their work with the community.

Our thank you to the CSU Extension for their Junior Master Gardener program and for hosting their members in the Park at their state conference.

Our thank you to Yampatika for educating so many people on the Park’s trees, shrubs, flowers and birds.

Our thank you to Patti Zimmer and Yoga on the Green for bringing so many participants to the Park three times a week.

Our thank you to the North American Rock Gardeners for making us a part of their association.

Our thank you to the Bud Werner Memorial Library for reading books in the Children’s Garden under the new canopy.

Our thank you to Parks and Recreation, City of Steamboat Springs for all their cooperation and support and a special welcome to our new Director of Parks and Recreation, Angela Cosby.

But above all, we thank you, our members and volunteers; you, the donors and supporters who make us a priority in your giving; you, our volunteers who got your hands dirty and accepted any job needed all summer long.

This summer we have a new brochure, a new legacy gift, we hosted ZZ, the father of crevice gardens, we planted a new garden, Maddy’s Garden of Light and held our first evening event, Glow in The Park.

The osprey came back and raised three chicks, the last one left during the second week in September after delighting us with an all-summer show.

As always, we had happy weddings by Peter’s Pond. These moving ceremonies in this serene setting bring us tears every time. We are taking reservations for next year; let your friends and family know.

Audrey Enever gave her last tour of 2018 on Sunday, September 23rd and a large improvement project started the next day. The rocks are piled all over the Park and we cannot wait to show off the new borders.

Until we meet again next spring, enjoy the winter in Steamboat. Greetings from all of us at the Yampa River Botanic Park and my most sincere thank you for all you do for us and with us!

Sincerely,
Sonia Franzel, President of the Board
2018 YAMPA RIVER BOTANIC PARK ANNUAL MEETING

As is often the case, the weather for our annual meeting is the best that September offers. Sunday, September 16th was warm and golden; the aspen leaves seemed to add even more sunlight.

President Sonia Franzel called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m. and the minutes of the 2017 annual meeting were approved.

Bill Sauter, YRBP Treasurer, thanked the association’s 305 new and renewing members for their support. The Park opened earlier this spring as the weather permitted. The Park benefitted from Yoga in the Park and the new Glow in the Park events. A project to commence this fall will be replacing the cobble along the roads with strip stone. The Park received $130,000 from the estate of Julie Holt Merkle. This money is earmarked for the Park’s Endowment Fund. With payroll accounting for 75% of expenses we expect to end the season drawing about $20,000 from the Enever Endowment. It was noted that many members donate at the end of the year.

Bob Enever, Chairman of the Nominating Committee, gave his report. The following Board Members’ terms expire this year: Russ Atha, Mike Baran, Audrey Enever, Sally Hertzog and Kerry Kaster. They have all agreed to remain on the board and were duly re-elected. No Board Members resigned and no new candidates came forward.

The Officers this year have been: Sonia Franzel, President; Kerry Kaster, Vice President; Bill Sauter, Treasurer and Audrey Enever and Emily Seaver have been serving as Secretary pending finding someone to fill the position. These officers will be staying on in 2019.

The business meeting was adjourned at 4:20 p.m.

Sonia introduced Angela Cosby, the City’s new Director of Parks and Recreation and welcomed her as a new Board Member representing the City of Steamboat Springs.

Sonia thanked Members, Volunteers and Sponsors and especially the Enevers for giving us the Park!

Gayle Lehman, Park Supervisor, spoke briefly and expressed her gratitude for the support she receives from everyone while performing her “dream job”.

Mike Baran, General Manager of Gecko Landscape and Design, YRBP Board Member and sponsor of one of our gardens was our speaker for the evening. His topic was the Best Garden Ever, which began with the dictionary definition of “garden”. He took us from design and intent of a given garden through the 15-20 years when it is time to renovate that original garden. His talk was accompanied by a slide show of all manner of landscaping possibilities.

Attendees proceeded to the patio of the Trillium House to socialize and enjoy drinks, appetizers and yummy desserts.

COLORADO GIVES DAY OF CARING - TUESDAY, DECEMBER 4, 2018

Colorado Gives/Yampa Valley Gives is an annual statewide movement to celebrate, increase and facilitate philanthropy through online giving. Won’t you please join people across Colorado and the Yampa Valley in “giving where you live” on this day? It’s online, it’s secure and it’s easy.

To donate on this special giving day, go to coloradogives.org/yampariverbp. Your support is boosted by State Incentive Funds, which increase the value of every dollar donated. 100% of your donation will help maintain the Park, keeping it beautiful and free for all!

Thank you for your generosity and for supporting the Yampa River Botanic Park!
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 the 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
Lynn Abbott
Patti Bender
Hans Berend
Heidi Berend
Sabina Berend
Leonard Berg
Evlyn Berge
Orah Blank
Karen Bomberg
Brenda Brachais
Barbara Bradley-Rutz
Catherine Carson
Valerie Clark
Jessica Collier
Mike Cook
Helen Curd
Lois Davidson
Carol Dowden
Barb Dowski
Susan Dreska
Audrey Enever
Monica Fenton
Jack Ferguson
David Franzel
Sonia Franzel
Alden Globe
Susan Globe
LuLu Gould
Julie Griffiths
Frankie Hannah
Heidi Hannah
Steve Hayes
Sally Hertzog
Grace Holt
Holly James
Annie Jeckel
Kerry Kaster
Brad Kindred
Cheryl Kindred
Cindy Kinnear
Elaine Kopf
JJ Kopf
Wendy Kawynina
Mike Kuldanek
Linda Lewis
Erica Lindeman
Karen Linsky
Libbie Mathes
Beth Melton
Donna Minyard
Jeff Morehead
Susie Mumby
Georgianne Nelson
Candace Noriega
Mary O’Brien
Kathy Olsen
Steve Otis
Michael Phalen
Julie Reid
Stu Roberts
Carol Rothchild
Richard Sanford
Susan Scott
Emily Seaver
Dena Shively
Molly Shreve
Lynn Sidman
Jo Smith
Victoria Strohmeyer
David Studer
Paul Studer
Sean Studer
Amy Wharton
Karen Whitney
Molly Wilson
Von Wilson
Sue Winters
Kyle Wisinski
Christi Wood

Our Hard-Working Board Members
Sonia Franzel - President
Kerry Kaster - Vice President
Audrey Enever - Secretary
Emily Seaver - Secretary (shared)
Bill Sauter - Treasurer
Gayle Lehman - Park Supervisor
Russ Atha
Mike Baran
Evlyn Berge
Karen Bomberg
Kathy Connell
Angela Cosby - Parks & Recreation Director
Carol Dowden
Bob Enever
Sally Hertzog
Ernie Jenkins - Parks Supervisor
Jaye Kopf
Georgianne Nelson

Advisors/Committee Members
John Duffey
Ernie Jenkins
Jeff Morehead
Kathy Olsen

In-Kind Donations
Ace at the Curve - Denny, Joy & Marc Swanson
Big Air Catering - Steve Carlson
Hale’s Landscape Supply
JDB Technology Solutions
North American Rock Garden Society
Northwest Graphics - Jeff Swoyer
Steamboat Brochure Delivery - Scott & Crystal Maughan
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 and Recreation, Finance, City Manager and City Council.

Garden Sponsors
Carol’s Garden - Carol Fox Endowment
Community Cultivation Garden - Community Cultivation
Coreopsis Garden - Philip Lloyd Family
Corner Garden - Yampa Valley Community Foundation
Crevise Garden - Doug & Heidi Shurtleff
Culinary Herb Garden - Mambo & Besame
Doris’ Arbor Garden - Georgianne Nelson
Dorothy’s Garden - Carol & Rick Dowden Endowment
Eagle Garden - Erica Lindeman
Fairy Garden & Stumpyland - Perry & Laura Kaster
Foliage Garden - Anne & John Halverson
Garden for All Seasons - Over the Hill Gang
Grove Garden - Michelle DenBleyker and Brad & Sarah Dekoter
Hidden Garden - Pat Wessel Endowment
Jeff’s Garden & South Berm - Jeff Morehead
Junior Master Garden - Junior Master Gardeners
Lynne’s Garden - Russ & Shine Atha
Maddy’s Garden of Light - Susan & Alden Globe Endowment

Medicinal Herb Garden - Mary O’Brien
Murphy’s Blue Garden - Stu Roberts & LuLu Gould
Painter’s Garden - Barb Sanders
Penstemon Garden - Audrey Enever
Pioneer Garden - Virginia & John Amato
Rainbow Garden - Orange/Red - The Strangis Family
Rainbow Garden - Purple - Ted & Patty Grossman
Reflecting Pond Garden - Buddhist Community - Barbara Bradley-Rutz
Rose Garden - Bob Alter
Sascha’s Garden - David & Sonia Franzel
Sensory Garden - Deb Babcock & Dave Wierman Endowment
Spring Bulb Garden - Susan Dreska
Sundial Garden - Kae Jenkins
Garden Endowment
Tranquility Garden - Bush Family
Waterwise Garden - Janet Kilby & Rick Healy Endowment
Windigo Garden - Sally Hertzog
Yin-Yang Garden - Geoffo Landscape & Design

Music on the Green Volunteers
David Franzel
Sonia Franzel

Trillium House Volunteers
Orah Blank
Susan Dreska
Audrey Enever

Guided Tour Volunteers
Evlyn Berge
Audrey Enever
Sonia Franzel
Emily Seaver

YRBP lost a good friend in October. David Howell loved the Park from the first moment he came to an event here. He spent many hours pulling weeds, planting, helping to construct paths and building rock gardens. He served as Board President from 2005 to 2007. His quiet humor, consistent calm and almost childlike delight in everything around him will be missed. We extend our deepest condolences to his wife Donna and to the rest of his family.
THE WINDIGO GARDEN
By Sally Hertzog and Carol Dowden

You’ve no doubt noticed, following the Loop Walk through the Park, that you are gently enclosed by tall Quaking Aspens. Some of the most beautiful of these trees are located in the Windigo Garden.

The Windigo Garden is located in the Wind Neighborhood, bordered by the Native Medicinal Herbs, Culinary Herb Garden and Sensory Garden to the north, and the Waterwise Garden (with wind sculpture) to the south and west. You might miss this garden as you walk the Loop, so be prepared to follow the path from either the Sensory Garden, or the Waterwise Garden, up the gentle hill. There you will find a beautiful space.

The Windigo Garden was established to celebrate the life and spirit of Nathan Robert Hertzog, after his death in 1999. Nathan was 25 at the time of his death. He had worked at the Yampa River Botanic Park one summer while in college. He loved the garden and the hard work. His aunt, Cece Hall, designed the original garden, selecting flowers that Nathan liked and that were native to the Yampa Valley. In the summer of 2000 Nathan's family and friends gathered at the YRBP to plant the Windigo Garden. A wooden bench, constructed by Wayne Kakela, was placed in the garden. A Silver Maple tree, donated by one of Nathan's friends has thrived in this garden. Those helping with the establishment of the garden were asked to bring a rock from a spot they had been with Nathan. Each person spoke about Nathan and the significance of the rock. A cairn was built with all the rocks. Over the years, the cairn has grown in size as people continue to add rocks to its bulk.

The Windigo Garden has undergone many changes. It was originally a spot receiving lots of sun, but now with lovely tree growth it has become a shade garden. In early summer the Windigo is awash with Columbines and in late summer one sees daylilies and coneflowers. The original bench became the home for carpenter ants, and thus was replaced with the current gorgeous wooden bench constructed by Bob Enever and Jeff Morehead. The upper section of the Windigo Garden was redone several years ago, incorporating a beautiful rock wall constructed by staff member Ryan Keating.

Not only is the Windigo Garden a tribute to Nathan, but a spot of beauty and peace. People often sit on the bench, enjoying the shade, while listening to music during Music on the Green, reading a book or just enjoying the glory of the YRBP. Nathan's family and friends maintain the Windigo Garden. Mother's Day has become an annual workday, when Nathan's mother, Sally, and friends gather to pull weeds, spread mulch and prepare the garden for summer.

Gayle Lehman, Park Supervisor, was on site at the garden planting back in 2000. She says, “Someone brought a little guy, in a little pot.” That turned out to be the Silver Maple. “They don’t grow here,” she says. But it was planted. Today it is still doing great. “VERY good juju going on in this garden.” Sit on the bench awhile. You’ll feel it.
Talking to our featured volunteer, as she sat on the ground working in the Garden for all Seasons, I noted she had arranged in front of her, in a neat straight line, a weeding tool, a pruner and a pair of snippers. Occasionally one loses a tool and someone else finds it again next season. That will NOT happen to Helen Curd.

This was Helen’s first season volunteering as a Wednesday social gardener at YRBP. Thirty years ago she and her husband came to Steamboat Springs on a vacation. Now that they are retired, they split their time between Steamboat and Houston, spending June through early September here in the Yampa Valley.

Helen has loved the YRBP from the start. She is currently learning weeds from other plants, a process we can all relate to if we’ve come from elsewhere. She grew up on an Illinois farm, fourth in line of six kids; so digging in the soil is part of her. Put that together with taking care of people in her lifelong career in the hotel business, taking care of the Garden for all Seasons is a natural fit. She and her husband recently joined the Over the Hill Gang, the organization that sponsors this garden. This summer she also contacted the Parks Department and did some volunteer work along the Core Trail. She and her husband walk it everyday.

Helen retired from the hotel business in 2007. She had thought she would move to another job, but Helen quickly learned that volunteering could keep her busy as much or as little as she wanted it to. In Houston she is very involved with the American Cancer Society Relay for Life and with the Alzheimer’s Association. When Helen isn’t taking care of everyone around her, she collects pottery, reads, dabbles in flower arranging and loves to cook.

Thank you, Helen Curd, for sharing a part of your life with the YRBP. Have a wonderful winter. We look forward to seeing you in the Park next summer!
We have many beautiful species of conifers in the Park. Our conifers have persistent leaves called needles. In the fall, the older needles turn yellow-brown before they shed.

All conifers produce cones. The cones are made up of scales attached to a center stalk. In between the scales is where we find the seeds. The scales on a cone help us identify the tree.

How do these trees reproduce? The male pollen is spread by the wind in the spring. The females open their scales for a short amount of time, allowing the pollen in. They hold the seeds in their scales to protect them until the seeds mature. The scales stretch and open again later in the summer to release seeds that grow into the next generation of trees.

Our native Colorado Blue Spruce is stiff with rigid horizontal branches. The needles are sharp, unbending and stick out straight. The strawberry-colored cones have thin, flexible scales that hang down from the branches.

The Douglas Firs have very thick bark, allowing them to withstand fires. Their tall straight trunks were used to build sailboat masts. Their prickly needles are unappealing to deer and elk, but squirrels and voles rely on their feathery cones, which are easily distinguished from other cones. There is a wonderful story about mice and Douglas Fir trees. In the spring, when you visit the Park, I will tell you the whole fable.

The leaves of pines are needles arranged in bunches of two, three or five. The number in a bunch is used to differentiate between the pine species. Needles of spruce and fir are attached individually to the branch.

The Pinyon cones are roundish, light brown cones that grow in clusters on mature trees. Native Americans steeped the Pinyon needles for tea. The Pinyon is very water efficient. The trees like dry locations on hillsides. Inside the cones that look like roses one can find pine nuts, a major food source for Native Americans.

The Lodgepole Pine cones have sharp prickles at their tips. They are cylindrical or egg shaped. The needles occur in bunches of two and are often twisted in a spiral with sharp points. The Lodgepole Pine is usually the first tree to grow after a wildfire. Its wood is excellent for lumber, used to make doors, furniture, railway ties and fence posts.

The Ponderosa Pine needles are five to ten inches long, occurring in bunches of three, forming tufts at the end of each branch. The cones are oval with outwardly curved spines that make them prickly. Ponderosa Pines can grow in dry sites because of a vigorous root system.

The Bristlecone Pine branches have the unique appearance of bottlebrushes. Its needles, which grow in bunches of five, can remain on the tree for forty years.

Next Christmas when you look at the tree in your home, you can appreciate a little more than just its beauty and smell.

"Every leaf speaks bliss to me, fluttering from the autumn tree."
Emily Bronte, Author
The relentless hot weather in late August broke and we enjoyed a sunny but cool late afternoon at the Trillium House where we gathered to hear internationally renowned crevice gardener, Zdenek Zvolanek, discuss “Balkan Treasures”. Panayoti Kelaides of Denver Botanic Gardens facilitated ZZ’s appearance in Steamboat and his subsequent tour in the region.

Gayle Lehman, YRBP Supervisor, mused that the talk would likely only appeal to “plant nerds”. Well, there were at least 50-60 of them as the audience spilled out the doors of the Trillium House and onto the patio.

“Balkan Treasures” are not precious metals or stones mined in those mountains but exquisite flora. Of course, a breathtaking slide show accompanied his talk and included photos of varieties of Edrianthus (Campanula family), iris, lilies, gentian, dianthus, cyclamen, saxifrages, geranium, sempervivums (hens and chicks), genista, globularia, daphnes, crocus and ramonda.

ZZ’s influence is on display at YRBP in its showy Crevice Garden, Jeff’s Garden, the recently remade Sundial Garden and in other nooks and crannies you can explore. The benefits of plants adapted to growing in porous limestone and tufa rocks in those gardens are moisture, nutrients, minerals and more stable temperatures.

ZZ left us with words of wisdom for rock and crevice gardeners: Use Dolomite limestone for good mineral balances in your garden, and if plants are sowing in your garden, be glad!

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ZZ COMES TO TOWN
By Georgianne Nelson

ZZ and Ryan Keating in the Sundial Garden | Photo: Gayle Lehman
Membership Renewal Reminder

To donate with a credit card, please visit www.yvcf.org and click on “Donate Now”. Choose Yampa River Botanic Park Fund from the local non-profit funds list. Call 970-879-8632 with questions. To donate with a check, please send your check with this form.

Name ___________________________________________ Business Name ________________________________

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Make checks payable to Yampa River Botanic Park and mail to:
Yampa River Botanic Park
PO Box 776269
Steamboat Springs, CO 80477

Volunteer Opportunities, please check your interest
___ Gardening ___ Concerts ___ Trillium House ___ Other Duties

___ Check here if you would like us to contact you regarding other sponsorships or memorial/tribute giving.
___ Check here if you would like to receive your newsletter electronically.

Donation Levels
___ Forget Me Not - $20,000 and over
___ Sego Lily - $10,000 - $19,999
___ Shooting Star - $5,000 - $9,999
___ Sunflower - $1,000 - $4,999
___ Trillium - $500 - $999
___ Columbine - $100 - $499
___ Glacier Lily - $30 - $99
___ Business Supporter - $100 and over
___ Garden Sponsor - $900 and over
___ Capital Development Fund - $1,000 or more annually for 5 years
___ YRBP Endowment Fund - $500 minimum