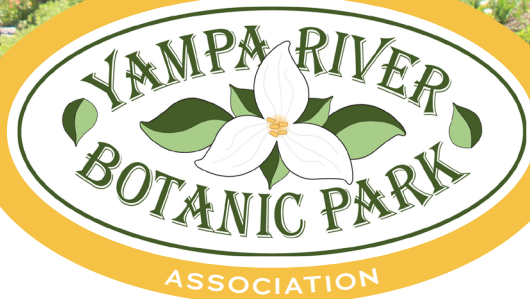




SUMMER 2023

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Dear Friends of the Botanic Park,

Everything seems late this season, including this newsletter which normally hits your mailboxes by May. The Park of course opened late due to this year's heavy snowpack and the gates construction project. And of course, construction is always delayed too! But the final product was well worth the wait. The new gates combined with the massive spring clean up the gardeners did while the Park was still closed made for possibly the best-looking opening day in the Park's history! If you haven't had a chance to visit yet this season, I encourage you to take some time to "stop and smell the roses." I'm humbled and honored to have the privilege of working in such a beautiful and serene place every day.

I'd like to thank all who donated to our capital project, the new entrances. In less than a year we raised \$455,000 thanks to our donors. Everyone is recognized on our website and once we determine our campaign is completely funded, we will create a brass relief plaque that will be installed on one of the new columns. People are in awe of the difference these entrances have made. They match the beauty of what you see inside. When our Co-Founder Bob Enever looked at the entrances with me for the first time he said, "Jennifer, this place looks important." I said, "yes, Bob, this place IS important!" Thank you to all who made this project possible.

Speaking of our founders, it is with a heavy heart that I share with you Audrey Enever passed away in March. Audrey suffered a stroke in 2021. She is remembered for her great leadership and love of gardening and plants. The Botanic Park truly would not be what it is today without Audrey's vision, dedication, and hard work. I will manage the Park always keeping in mind, "what would Audrey do?" Please join the Botanic Park and Audrey's family to celebrate her life on June 25 at 4 pm on The Green. Everyone is welcome.

On top of the beautiful gardens and plants, this season brings back all your favorite programs and events, found inside in our Calendar of Events. I encourage you to take advantage of the programs and events we host with our community partners. Don't forget to bring family and friends when they are in town too! A new program this year is The Garden Conservancy's Open Days program. The Botanic Park was asked to participate in this program with The Garden Conservancy, a national organization that promotes gardening and garden-based tourism. Gardens in Colorado have not been a part of this since 2018. Routt County is the mountain region that is being featured this season. Learn more inside and get your tickets. Proceeds support the Botanic Park too.



I hope to see you in the gardens this season. If we haven't met, please stop by the office and say hello. I truly enjoy meeting and getting to know our members, donors, and volunteers.

With Gratitude,

Jennifer MacNeil
Executive Director



TO CREATE A PLACE OF SERENITY THAT CELEBRATES AND CONSERVES THE PLANTS, TREES AND BIRDS OF THE YAMPA RIVER VALLEY AND SIMILAR ECOSYSTEMS WORLDWIDE.

PLANT SPOTLIGHT

BLACK SAMSON ECHINACEA

ECHINACEA ANGUSTIFOLIA



By: Madeline Perigaut,
Assistant Horticulturist

Echinacea angustifolia has become a staple perennial in gardens because of its beautiful color, unique cone shape, and popularity among pollinators.

The word *Echinacea* is derived from the Greek word 'ekhinos', translating to hedgehog or sea-urchin; appropriately named when observing the soft spikes found at the center of the flower. *Echinacea angustifolia* has a more conical shape and narrower leaves than the Purple Coneflower.

Echinacea angustifolia is native to North America and has a range spanning from central Canada down to the central and southern United States. Found in dry prairies, grasslands, and open wooded areas, its adaptability to heat, drought, and poor soil makes it a great option for any gardener here in Routt County.

However, its popularity came long before its ornamental uses: it is a frequently used plant medicine amongst Native American Plains tribes. Though its first formal documentation wasn't until



the 19th century, most of the medicinal knowledge of this plant come from North American Indigenous peoples. *Echinacea angustifolia* produces many beneficial bioactive compounds that help to stimulate the immune system. Extracts of this plant have been shown to inhibit the production of Nitric Oxide, a compound that causes inflammation. The popularity of this plant continued to grow when homeopaths brought it to Europe at the beginning of the 20th century. Early publications listed its uses from insect bites and eczema to colds and typhoid.

These beautiful midsummer bloomers are a can't miss here at the Botanic Park. Come by and observe them to see for yourself why pollinators and people love them.



BIRDS IN THE PARK



By David Moulton,
Local Birder

My wife, Tresa, and I love the Botanic Park. While we greatly enjoy the magnificent gardens, we are usually looking up ... with binoculars. Tresa and I have found that the Park is an excellent place to find a great variety of birds. Tresa has recorded seeing 96 different species of birds in and adjacent to the Park. Birds are inextricably related to plants for feeding, roosting and nesting opportunities. The Park includes a great mixture of tall trees, mid-level bushes, lower-level plants, grassy areas, water features, and of course, flowers. This mixture provides fabulous feeding and nesting opportunities for many species of birds. Some birds feed on parts of the plants themselves including flowers, berries and other fruit. Others feed on the many insects and other invertebrates that live on and around the plants.



Many of the birds provide services to the plants. Some serve as pollinators. When they poke their bills into flowers to gather nectar or bugs, they frequently get pollen on their faces that is then transferred to another flower. When birds eat berries and other fruit, some of the seeds from the fruit are then dispersed in the birds' droppings, thus helping to propagate the plants.

One of my favorite species in the Park is the Broad-tailed Hummingbird. This gorgeous little gem can often be seen zipping around among the flowers. Hummingbirds have the unique ability to hover and fly not only forwards, but backwards and sideways. The male Broad-tail makes a high-pitched trill that sounds a bit like a referee's whistle. This sound is created by the air passing over some very specialized feathers and is unique to the male of this species. Hummingbird nests are made of spider silk and bits of leaves and lichen. On a couple of occasions, I have been fortunate enough to video hummingbirds building their nests in and near the Park.

The next time you visit the Park, take a few minutes to observe the birds that are enjoying it with you.

NEWS FROM THE SHED



By Emma Friedland,
Lead Horticulturist

If you have taken a walk through the Park this spring, you may have noticed that the Park seems quite a bit more colorful at this time of year than usual. This is directly due to the major bulb planting effort we put forth last fall, bringing hundreds of new flowering bulbs into the gardens! The many new varieties of tulips are particularly spectacular. We are grateful for the opportunity to display such a wide array of showy tulips, which are protected from wildlife.

Our summer 2022 garden renovations of the Blue, Purple, and Corner Gardens have weathered the winter with gusto, pushing forth new growth. We are especially excited to see the Mekanopsis 'Lingholm' and 'Betonifolia' (Prickly Blue Poppies) blooming! These plants were shipped to us from Alaska last fall during their dormancy. Keep an eye out for their large light blue blooms in the Blue Garden.

The Annuals Garden is now chock full of warm colored annuals such as calibrachos, gerberas, and orange angelonias. We have many folks to thank for making this garden possible year after year. Tagawa Greenhouses generously donates the plugs to the Park, while SOROCO High School's horticulture students grow them to maturity over the winter in their greenhouse. Last, but not least, we are always grateful for the volunteers that help get these plants into the ground!



If you are one of the many visitors who loves to gawk at the beautiful Crevice Garden, you are in luck! We plan to install a new crevice garden at the top of the Waterwise Garden this summer. Ryan Keating, who constructed the original Crevice Garden, will install the new rock work that will provide a space where we can showcase a variety of waterwise plants that weather the harsh climate of the southern Rockies.

Our beloved Windigo Garden will also be seeing improvements this season, with a fresh supply of soil amendment, and an increase in the variety of shade plants. We plan to use thoughtful selections of foliage and flowering plants to bring new color, texture, and movement into this shady grove garden.

On the opposite end of the Park we will install a Steppe Region Display Garden along the fence adjacent to the Core Trail, near Sascha's Rock Garden. The purpose of the Steppe Garden is to celebrate and showcase the plants of the North American Steppe Region, which includes parts of Routt County.

These are a few of the many projects we have on our plate this year at the Yampa River Botanic Park, so please stop in, say hi to me or any of our friendly staff, and enjoy the progression of the seasons with us as each day brings something new to enjoy.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Social Gardening*
Wednesdays, 9 am. Meet at the Shed.

Yoga on the Green
Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Saturdays 9 to 10 am.
On The Green. Suggested donation

Stories in the Garden
Fridays beginning June 9, 10:30 am in the
Children's Garden. Free.

Guided Walking Tours*
Fridays & Sundays 10 am. Meet at the
Emerald Park Entrance. Free

Music on the Green
Wednesdays, June 28 - August 16 at 10 am.
On The Green. Free.

Lulie's Wildflowers and Watercolors
June 13, July 18, August 8 10:30 am.
Meet on The Green. Free

Passport Through the Botanic Park.
June 17. 4:30 pm. Tickets are sold out.

Celebration of Life for Audrey Enever
Sunday, June 25, 4 pm. On the Green.
Everyone is welcome.

The Garden Conservancy Open Days
Saturday, July 8
Visit five unique Routt County gardens.
Purchase ticket at
[https://www.yampariverbotanicpark.org/
programs-and-events/](https://www.yampariverbotanicpark.org/programs-and-events/)

Piknik Theatre on the Green
July 30 & 31, August 1-3, 7-19 6 pm.
On The Green. Free

Annual Meeting & Celebration
A Members Only event, by invitation only.
September 17. 5 pm.

Fall Bulb Benefit
Sponsored by Mountain Valley Bank
October 5-7. Trillium House Patio.

***Sign-up Requested**
<https://signup.zone/yrbp-volunteers> &
<https://signup.zone/yrbp-programs>

Thank you to our Many Donors, Members and Volunteers in 2022! We Appreciate Your Support!

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THE SERENITY WALK IS ALSO NOW PASEO DE LA SERENIDAD



By: *Sonia Franzel,*
Board Member

When the Serenity Walk first opened, I took a long walk and stopped at each garden to reflect on each theme. I thought how great this walk would be for our visitors who had been isolated during Covid. The photos were inspiring, and the words made people think of their own experiences in difficult or traumatic situations and times. I was delighted when I learned that the Craig-Scheckman Family Foundation was sponsoring the re-printing of the Brochure as many people were taking it home and enjoying it.

Then, a few months ago, Jennifer asked me to translate it. I often volunteer as a medical interpreter for a large group of surgeons and doctors. Translating involves a different slate of skills. I told Jennifer that I could not translate it literally because Spanish expresses feelings in a different way and as a language is not as direct as English. She gave me carte blanche to get the work done.

It took me two weeks of evening writing and re-writing, often until late at night after work, to come up with a readable version. Once finished, I sent the draft to a dear friend, Marcela Sanchez, the Director of INTA, the experimental Botanical Garden in Argentina and the President of the Association of all Botanic Gardens in Argentina. Marcela had visited the Botanic Park a few years ago and could visualize what I was trying to express.

Marcela made some corrections and realized how inspired she was to do something similar. Now, our Park's Serenity Walk is going international! I will assist her in July to write

something similar that is adapted to the Buenos Aires Botanical Garden. Designed by French architect Carlos Tays, the Buenos Aires Botanical Garden opened in 1898 and is located next door to where my Mom used to live in Buenos Aires. An oasis of tranquility in the middle of this city of over 15 million people. My Mom and I spent many late afternoons wondering among the sculptures and fountains, listening to tango, to poems, to singers.

The INTA, where Marcela works is just a few blocks away from my grandfather's weekend house. My family and I spent summers and weekends there for most of my early life. A gardener himself, my grandfather used to take me by sulky, donkey, or by horseback to visit the INTA to learn about what was growing and being preserved. Little did I know that I would return decades later to connect our Yampa River Botanic Park with my childhood.

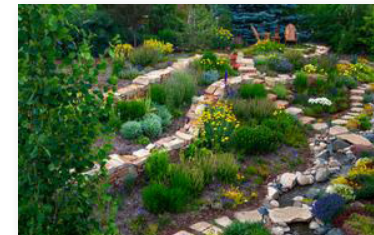
Writing the Serenity Walk in Spanish was an extremely emotional experience for me. I had to think and to feel what each line meant. I confess I was in tears most of the time. Some pages had a personal connection to me, others were just inspiring. I hope that when you take the Serenity Walk this summer, you can call onto your senses to let it guide you into an unforgettable experience.

Be well, stay on the path, wander with wonder!



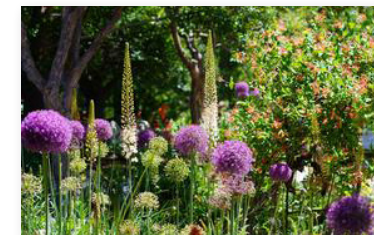
THE GARDEN CONSERVANCY OPEN DAYS TICKETS ARE ON SALE NOW!

Fueling America's passion for gardens, **The Garden Conservancy's program Open Days** is coming to Routt County in partnership with the Yampa River Botanic Park **Saturday, July 8**, with five unique gardens that promise to inspire! **Tickets are on sale now.** Don't miss your chance to visit and learn about five beautiful and unique local gardens. <https://www.gardenconservancy.org/open-days/open-days-schedule/routt-county-co-open-day>



Rancho Relaxo STEAMBOAT SPRINGS

This garden features stone terraces, stream, variety of plants, views, private sitting areas, pergola, South African braai (or outdoor barbecue), and cottage garden.



Yampa River Botanic Park STEAMBOAT SPRINGS

The 2023 Open Days in Routt County are presented in partnership with Yampa River Botanic Park.



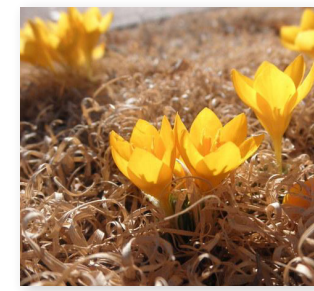
KK Garden STEAMBOAT SPRINGS

Not designed but constantly evolving and built exclusively by hand...



Karen's Growing Ideas STEAMBOAT SPRINGS

Nature is welcome here! This small urban plot invites pollinators of all types to dine, and it encourages birds and other wildlife to enjoy the offerings (including occasionally a moose and her two calves!)



High Elevation Garden SAND MOUNTAIN NORTH, ROUTT COUNTY

Situated with spectacular views of the Park Range and Sand Mountain, Mike Kintgen, Denver Botanic Garden's Alpine Rock Garden Curator, started the garden in 1987 at age 7.

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

Cales Givens, Gate Keeper

By *Georgianne Nelson*
Board Member



Serendipitous circumstances brought Cales Givens to the Yampa River Botanic Park Board.

Walking the road near their house one day in the spring of 2020, Cales and his wife, Annie Warhover, encountered Sally Hertzog, a very persuasive woman and vice president of the YRBP board. An ensuing conversation revealed that Cales was a recently retired Landscape Architect of considerable talent and renown. The Park was searching for new board members at the time and there was a design project for new entrance gates on the drawing board. Voila! He joined the Park's volunteer Board and took on the project.

Cales has an extensive resume of projects from the time he graduated from college in 1975 to the present. Three projects hold favorite status for him:

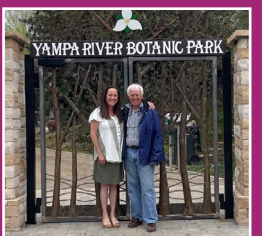
*As a college graduate in 1976 he took a one-year appointment to work for the National Park Service in Washington, D.C. on a project replacing the original security gates at the White House dating to 1818 with the new steel gates.

*Meadowlark Botanic Gardens in Fairfax County, Virginia, a place and circumstance that reminds Cales of Bob and Audrey Enever's gift of the Botanic Park to the City of Steamboat Springs. In 1980 a 95-acre farm owned by two environmentalists since 1935 was donated as public lands. He worked there five years during the entire park implementation of Phase I of the Master Plan which included the entire garden and entrance.

*Stapleton/Central Park project turned a decommissioned airport within the city of Denver into an area of renewal and redevelopment. Cales designed a primary park for the Stapleton Metro Park District.

The Givens family has vacationed and held family reunions in Steamboat since the 1990s. A son will be married in Steamboat this year as well. They really love the mountains and the real-town experience of living in Steamboat Springs.

Cales and Annie bought a house in Strawberry Park in 2016 and are now tackling big renovation. They split their time between Steamboat and Denver. Cales is a member of the Art Students League of Denver where he spends time oil painting. When they do travel, they prefer trips that take them to National Parks and historic towns like Williamsburg, Virginia. Their favorite city abroad is Paris, France. They visit the Lovelock Bridge which crosses the Seine and where couples inscribe their names on a padlock, lock it on the bridge and throw the keys into the river. Apparently, the tradition has been discontinued because the weight of the locks was causing structural damage to the bridge!



I asked Cales if the YRBP design challenged him. Yes, he said, Covid, hiring contractors and understanding the importance of the gates to the Park were challenges in getting the project off the ground. He praised all the people who worked on the gates – and who can now add this project to their own resumes.

On May 24, 2023, the Park festively marked its opening day and welcomed the public through the new entrance gates on the Core Trail and Main Entrance ... thanks in large part to the talent, experience, patience and direction of Cales Givens.



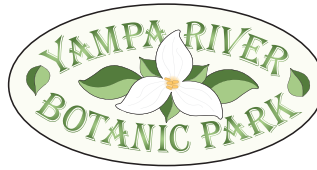
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