

AMARILLO BOTANICAL GARDENS



Newsletter

3rd Quarterly Garden Update



GARDEN FEST!!

Thank you to all those in attendance, participation, and partnership for this year 2023 Garden Fest. A special thank you to our sponsor Hillside Storage. Coffee Memorial Blood Bank had a tremendous turnout for blood donations. We look forward to seeing all of those donors for the upcoming Music in the Gardens.



Garden Wish List

Our Garden wish list continues to grow as we identify more areas for beautification and education. Your contributions, on every level, enable us to expand our Oasis in the Panhandle.



Newsletter Sponsored by:

Green Plains Design

www.greenplainsdesign.com

Fun Plant Facts: Rose's

*"A rose by any other name would
smell as sweet"*

- William Shakespeare.

Did you know that some of your favorite fruits are actually in the rose family (Rosaceae).

Apples, peaches, and pears - oh my! Plus cherries, raspberries, strawberries and more are Rosaceae, making them relatives to the very roses in your own garden at home!



What's New on the WEB?

We are excited to announce that the gardens has a Youtube channel!! Join our beloved director Greg Lusk every week on Fridays for exclusive gardening secrets and techniques that will help your garden to flourish this summer season. In The Gardens with Horticulturalist Greg Lusk walks you through the various steps of garden preparation and cultivation for those of us without a green thumb.



Online Memberships!!

The Gardens has implemented a new membership system in place this year that will make managing your membership a breeze. Using Jointit's membership software you are able to customize your own member portal. Visit the link on our website under the 'Become a Member' tab to see all of what's new. Have a question on how to get your member cards or to set up your member portal call our Event Coordinator Mason Whiteside at (806) 352-6513.

Iris Society



North Plains Iris Society
RHIZOME SALE
Only \$5
per rhizome
Saturday, July 8
8 am - noon (or sellout)
Amarillo Botanical Gardens



May 13th we had our annual iris show. We had 65 iris on display. We also had 10 single blooms on display that were a sight to see. The weather this past winter and early spring was not beneficial to our Iris garden and really hurt our iris count. The queen iris of the show was 'Grafnau remembered' a tall bearded iris. Its namesake, a tall plum purple plicata, presents demurely closed standards as the backdrop for the captivating cascade of cream coating the plum-encircled falls. This iris variety was showcased by Jonnie and Daphne Fetsch from Idalou Texas. First place silver metal went to our very own head of the Iris Society Bill Pittman with 8 blue ribbons. Second place with a bronze metal was a tie between Dawn Boyer and Jonnie and Daphne Fetsch with 6 blue ribbons each just barely under Mr. Pittman by 2 blue ribbons. To break the tie between the two competitors was how many red ribbons each of their iris's had won. Dawn Boyer had 1 but Johnnie Fetsch did not win any red ribbons for their other varieties. Our esteemed judges traveled from Lubbock and Midland to judge our wonderful show and we would like to extend a special thank you to all of them for their time.

July 8th we had our annual Iris Sale. The sale started at noon and continued to sell out!! All identifiable Iris's were \$5.00 but no ID were \$1.00. Hope everyone that could come to support our club as well as ABG. Please come by in April or May to see your Iris's in Bloom in 2024!!



SATURDAY
MAY 13, 2023
2:00 - 4:30 PM
Celebrating
the Holidays
with Iris
FREE ADMISSION
AMARILLO BOTANICAL GARDENS
1400 STREET DRIVE • AMARILLO, TEXAS

Herb Society Update



Our purpose is to protect and conserve the natural resources of the earth and will endeavor to promote education so that we may become reliable caretakers of our air, water, forests, lands and wildlife.

Our meetings are held the third Tuesday of every month at 11:30am to 1:00pm at the Amarillo Botanical Gardens.

Lunch will be provided by one of the volunteer hostess's/hosts followed by an informational program about the different variations of herbs and their uses.

Interested in a membership with us, but not sure if you'll like it? Your first meeting is free!! Membership is only \$30.00 for the year!!

Contact us via email at amatxherbs@gmail.com

We look forward to seeing you!!

Herb of the Month!!

June: Thyme

Thymus species:

Thymus may derive from the Greek word thymon, meaning "courage" and many traditions relate to this virtue. There are MANY varieties of Thyme to choose from.

July: Basil

Family Lamiaceae (mints):

"Basil" comes from the Latin basilius, and the Greek, meaning "royal/kingly plant" possibly because the plant was believed to have been used in production of royal perfumes. The Latin name has been confused with basilisk, as it was supposed to be an antidote to the basilisk's venom.

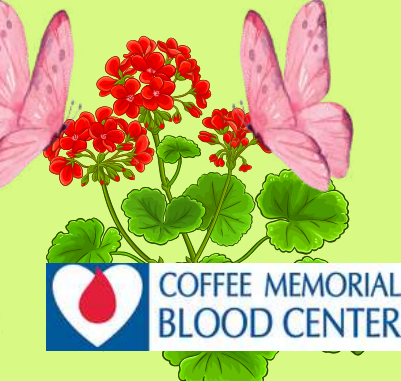
GARDEN FEST 2023!!

Thank you to all members, non-members, sponsor, and vendors for making this years garden fest one for the books. Over 30 wonderful local vendors joined us this year and had almost anything you could think of from confections to Beehives. Garden Fest is a time to bring our community together to support small and local businesses.

Thank You 2023 Vendor's!!

**Amarillo Herb Society
Cimarron Organics Worm Farm
Bye Bye Blues Boutique
Crosses and More
Kismet Clay Creations
Sherri's Country Cupbard
SWGC
Hefley Hives
Lauies Pottery and Infused Glass
David Clawson Photography
The Soap Box
Loveliest of Lovelies
Brie and Bread
Mother Mettle
Eric Martr Designs
Blind Bird Designs
Scentsy
Color Street**

**Quilters Guild
LL Clay Works
Stacked
Yellow Sky T-Shirts
Creative Chaos
Fairly Wild
Haute Mess Creations
The Planting
Leaf Filter
Extreme Martial Arts
Schick's Strawberry Patch
Sher's and More
Cross Diamond Farms and Ranch
Crafty owl
Sweet tooth Babe's**



Music IN THE Gardens



Last Concerts of the season!!

Every Thursday from 7:00pm to 9:00pm

Admission: \$5.00 for Members | \$10.00 for Non-members | 1400 Striet Dr. Amarillo Tx, 79106

August Line Up:

- 08/03/2023: Texas Junction
- 08/10/2023: Kayla Richardson and Byron Roberts
- 08/17/2023: Touching Voo Doo
- 08/24/2023: Tennessee Tuckness
- 08/31/2023: Geezers Gone Wild



Sponsored By:



UPCOMING EVENTS!



AMARILLO BOTANICAL GARDENS

A Day with the Butterflies

September 9th, 2023

Join the botanical gardens this upcoming fall for a extravagant experience with our annual butterfly release. We are adding some new and exciting things!! Everything from Art, Education, Shopping, Brunch and so much more!!

Location: 1400 Striet Dr. Amarillo 79106
 Time: 9:00am to 4:00pm
 Price: \$15 for Breakfast and a butterfly | \$12.00 for per person admission



AMARILLO BOTANICAL GARDENS

PUMPKIN FEST!!

October 7th, 2023

Join the botanical gardens this upcoming fall for a day of fun and pumpkin madness!! We are adding some new and exciting things!! New Games, Bounce House's, Shopping, and so much more!!

Location: Whole Garden
 Time: 10:00am to 2:00pm
 Price: \$10.00 General Admission | ABG Members \$8.00

AMARILLO BOTANICAL GARDENS

HALLOWEEN BALL!!

October 27th, 2023

Calling all Ghosts, Ghouls, and Goblins. Halloween Ball is back!! Grab your best witches and join the Amarillo Botanical Gardens for an open potions bar, dead silent auction, and food to die for.

Location: ABG Ballroom
 Time: 7:00pm to 11:00pm
 Price: \$75.00 General Admission | ABG Members \$70.00 | Table of 8 \$400

Volunteer Spotlight: Sue Pennington!!

For those who are not aware of the education programs here at the Amarillo botanical gardens I would like to introduce to you our current head of education Sue Pennington!! Sue was brought to us back in 2013 by fellow education volunteer Becky Reeder. She retired from teaching 7th grade science at Travis middle school after 21 years, but her love for teaching didn't. After Jane Myers the past head of head of education stepped down the torch was passed to Sue who took it and ran. She has worked very closely with the WOW program to insure that our local schools have the opportunity to give their kids an alternate fun and safe way to learn about plants, bees, insects, and our garden. Through this program and working with schools directly Sue over the last 10 years that she has been with us has educated and helped an estimated 25,000 students!! During her time here in the gardens she has cultivated new and exciting programs with the aide of fellow volunteers to keep the students engaged and interested while she teaches. As most parents reading this know things with kids almost never seem to go as planned, each time a bus was late or students aren't cooperating she is able to stay level headed and take control of the situation. The depth of Sue's knowledge not just about our garden, but of science itself continues to impress and improve all who come to meet and know her as the amazing woman and volunteer she is.



AMARILLO BOTANICAL GARDENS

Summer Hours

Stop and Smell the Rose's

Monday - Friday: 9:00am to 7:00pm

Saturday: 9:00am to 5:00pm

Sunday: 1:00pm to 5:00pm

Admission

General: \$8.00

Senior: \$6.00

Military and Kids under 5yrs: Free!!

Coming Soon to ABG!

BIRD GARDEN!

NEW EVENTS!

NEW ART!

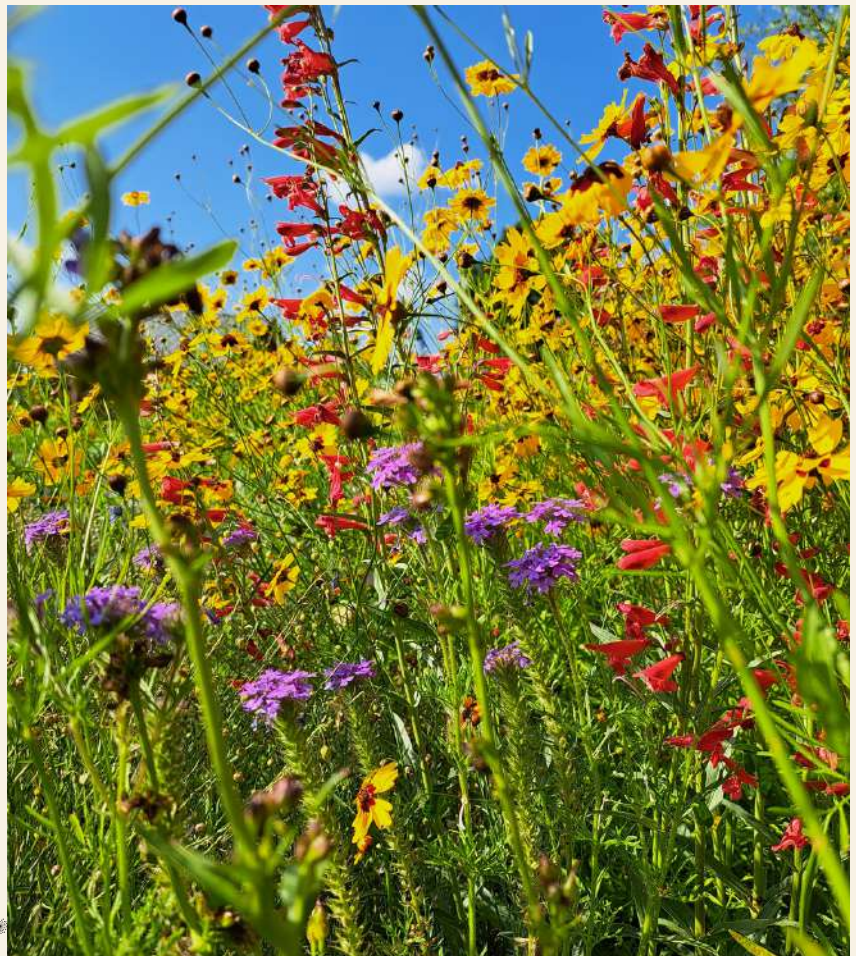
NEW SUCCULENT GARDEN!

This year we are expanding and changing Breakfast with the Butterflies to A Day with the Butterflies, a full day of art education and fun!! The event will still be breakfast and the popular butterfly release but will now include a day long event for the family, art, education, vendor booths, music, and food trucks. Please prepurchase your breakfast tickets which include the butterfly release this helps with the food preparation and the butterfly order. There will be two times for breakfast, first will be at 10:00am and the second at 11:00am. The event will run all day with food trucks available to you after breakfast.

If you are artistic or crafty, please consider helping us with an art project for the public. It doesn't have to be complicated, simple is best, easily replicated preferably butterfly, garden, or pollinator related. Please call the office at (806) 352-6513 if you are interested in helping.

Garden Wish List

- Volunteers to help with everyday garden needs.
- Mini-Refrigerator for the sale of bottled waters in the ticket booth.
- New Carpet for basement floors
- New electric push mower for the lawns in the garden
- New rototiller for the grounds
- YOWHICK Projector with 5G Wi-Fi and Bluetooth, Full HD 1080P Outdoor Portable Video Projector



-Xeriscape Garden in full bloom

ABG Benefit and Art Unveiling!!

We are excited to announce the formal unveiling of the new kinetic wind sculptures that were announced at the beginning of this year!! This relaxed evening of wine and hors d'oeuvres on October 21st, 2023 is hosted by Fred and Linda Kersh with food from your favorite brunch spot Girasol Café and Bakery with wines provided by United. We are so thankful to Fred and Linda Kersh for donating such beautiful works of art by Lyman Whitaker. For those who might need to refresh their minds as to why the Kersh family is donating these works of art to our garden I will gladly explain.

As a born Amarillo local Linda grew up with an outstanding role model her grandfather, John Armstrong, who was a mayor of Amarillo back in 1957 to 1959. Both her grandfather John and grandmother Earline Armstrong were members and volunteers here at ABG for many years. In tradition, for her family's legacy, she is leaving her own permanent mark here at ABG just as her grandparents did with their hard work, dedication, and donations to our garden. She has commissioned the installment of six large kinetic wind pieces to be installed in our new learning garden behind the Mary E. Bivins conservatory where they will be visible from the park, the hospital district, as well as throughout our gardens. There has been some delay on the installment which was to occur in May, but being one of the windiest cities in the country there were some adjustments had to be made due to high winds by their designer Lyman Whitaker.

We are very excited to have been chosen, by the lovely Kersh family, to receive this generous community gift. This will be a gift that inspires all who come to see our gardens for years to come. Truly we thank the Kersh family for their seemingly never ending generosity to our gardens.

Pictured Below:
Grandfather John Armstrong



Pictured Below:
Grandmother Earline Armstrong



Pictured Below:
Lyman Whitaker - Art Sculptures



Thank you and Farewell From ABG

Adrian Avila has been with the Amarillo Botanical Gardens since he was 14 years old and came here as a volunteer. Adrian began his journey here at ABG with his Boy Scout Troop 87 when they came to volunteer for our annual pumpkin-fest. Later that same year he and his troop came back to help with the biggest and most impactful event we put on Christmas in the Gardens. Working closely with all the other volunteers, Staff, and troop members helped sprout his love for ABG as a whole and not just its individual parts. One year later he was hired to take admissions on the weekends and got the opportunity to work closely with our director and build leadership and management skills that are carrying him further into his future. While working here at ABG Adrian was approached by our director Greg and was asked if he would spearhead the making and editing a Youtube channel showing those at home a step by season guide on how to make your garden as beautiful as our own. Sadly his time with ABG has come to an end. He is becoming a rising Freshman at the Catholic University of America in Washington, DC, where he will study Philosophy Pre-Law and dual major in Theology. In addition, he will be an active member in the Army ROTC Program as a Simultaneous Membership Program and recipient of the Minuteman Scholarship. Adrian's journey with the botanical gardens started when he was an Eagle Scout with Troop 87 and Vigil Member with the Order of the Arrow. Knowing his love for the gardens and always wanting it to succeed, his parents Armando and Laura Avila hosted his Court of honor from Life Scout to Eagle Scout in the ABG Ballroom. Notably, his Eagle Scout Project consisted of installing smoke alarms into the San Jacinto Area – he accomplished installing 306 alarms into 148 homes. While continuing to work diligently on his studies and his time spent in our gardens, he co-founded Freedom First of West Texas, which aims to promote youth to become politically active and engaged. As the Founder and President of Freedom First, the organization has hosted several candidate forums and their first mayoral debate took place at the Amarillo Botanical Gardens with 200 citizens in attendance and gained local news coverage. Adrian also served as a Congressional Intern for Congressman Ronny Jackson in Washington DC during the fall semester of 2022. He gave tours of the United States Capitol Building to constituents and met with heads of state including the Nuncio, His Excellency, Archbishop Christophe Pierre during a visit to the Apostolic Nunciature in Washington, DC. We are proud of all he has accomplished while working with us here at ABG, and look forward to seeing all the great things that have yet to come for his future. Adrian with heavy hearts we are sad to see you go, but we know that you have worked hard to get where you are, and whatever may come your way don't forget your ABG family will always be there to help you just as much as you have helped us. Godspeed and good luck on your new adventure in Washington , DC.



Green Plains Design[✓]

Our goal is to provide unequalled outdoor living and recreation areas through professional landscape design and installation.

Green Plains Design is a fully-staffed landscaping company that specializes in residential and commercial landscape design, installation and maintenance, tree-trimming, irrigation and installation. We are committed to staying on the cutting edge of design and technology to ensure that we are providing the best final project possible. We are dedicated to our clients and take pride in our work. We are K & K Inc. company and well-known in our community and proud to have some of the best employees around!

Services:

- Irrigation Systems Design & Installation
- Custom Concrete Work
- Custom Water Features
- Pergola Design & Construction
- Landscape Design
- Xeriscapes
- Custom Outdoor Living Spaces
- Rock Work & Hardscapes
- Flowers, Trees and Shrubs
- Synthetic Grass
- Outdoor Kitchens
- Recreation Areas
- Outdoor Fireplaces
- Paver Patios & Driveways
- Water Features
- Fences
- Comprehensive Maintenance Services
- Lawn Care
- Tree, Bushes and Shrub Care
- Irrigation Systems Repair



Want your garden looking as beautiful as ours next year? Contact the professionals at Green Plains Design they will work with you on the customization of your garden to turn it from garden variety to your very own garden of Eden.

AMARILLO TEXAS OFFICE

Phone:
806.883.2488

Address:
709 S.E. 46th St.
Amarillo, TX 79118



Jessica Needham

Amarillo Office Manager

Certified Landscape Architect.

In The Garden

By: Greg Lusk

What a roller-coaster these last three months have been for a gardener. A cool, wet late spring and early summer, followed by extreme heat with no rain. Nevertheless, the gardens are looking beautiful here at ABG. The staff has never worked harder to make sure each event and garden space has been improved in some noticeable way. While the abundant rain presented some challenges it was also a blessing. Plants that often struggle to perform were given the opportunity to shine while old standbys were pushed to their limits. The hollyhocks took the show this year with towering 9 foot stalks loaded with flowers. Improvements to the gardens and structures are always an ongoing part of the Gardens and this year we have focused on completing the back of the property. We were able to add some fantastic kinetic wind art by Lyman Witaker through a very generous gift from Linda and Fred Kersh. The eight metal sculptures add life and movement to the Learning Garden by harnessing the power of our winds in a mesmerizing way that captures and holds the attention of all who pass by.

The Bird Garden, sponsored by Tim Jayroe in memory of Cindy Jayroe, Diane Capel in memory of Ruth Phillips and Green Plains Design, is a garden that is based on education, supplying habitat, food, shelter, and water to one of our favorite garden visitors, the birds. It will include signage to identify birds of our area, and plants that benefit them. Visitors will learn firsthand how to attract birds to their own backyards, identify them and assist them by providing the habitat they need.

Our Barbara Wagner Vegetable Garden is another improved area. Nathan Brantley has worked hard to showcase a large variety of heirloom vegetables providing a valuable resource for the residents of our area to learn from. It's amazing how much produce can be produced in a garden that is managed well. The tomatoes, 17 heirloom varieties, shed light on varieties that do well, or not, in our area.

I have never had a better staff to work with, full and part time employees put the Gardens first in an effort to help each guest have a positive experience. Indoors, Laura Avila and Mason Whiteside quickly assist visitors as well as myself in a never ending number of special requests. They wear multiple hats, usually at the same time. Outdoors I have Mark Spielbauer and Gary Morganflash maintaining everything from the buildings to landscapes while Nathan Brantley and Lacy Johnson focus on horticulture and all the different facets that the Gardens provide. Together we are focused on improving the Gardens and their relationship to our community.

As we look forward to three more months of growing season, we hope for cooler temperatures, rain, and we hope to see you enjoying the gardens or some of our many fall activities outlined in this newsletter. Please remember we are a nonprofit organization which does not receive any tax dollars, but are dependent on the support of our members and generous donations from our community.

2023 Donors and Sponsors!!

Monetary:

Mr. and Mrs. Kersh
Ms. Rareen Calahan
Mrs. Ben Bruckner Jr.
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Barbara Noah
Marian Cole
Kathleen Bruckner
Tina Sturgess
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Tori McMennamy
Shirley Gibbons
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Seth and Susie Thomason in
memory of Mr. Aaron Azcarraga

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