

Quarterly Garden Update

www.Amarillobotanicalgardens.org



Exciting Events

Let us help you plan your events for 2023! Our staff can help you design everything from business luncheons to the most elegant soiree. Challenges welcome!



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.

New Year New Events

Join the Amarillo Botanical Gardens for our first annual Valentine's dinner on February 14th, 2023, from 6:00p-8:30p.

Dinner will be catered by Pescaraz Italian Restaurant, with the relaxing musical offerings of Esquire Jazz Band. Each couple in will be presented with a bottle of wine for their table and complementary red roses. In addition, Bar Z Winery and Soiree planners are providing a cash wine bar. Join us for a one-of-a-kind private experience.



Poinsettia Luncheon & Style Show

Thank you to all of our amazing partners and sponsors that brought our poinsettia luncheon to the next level of elegance! Janey's at 2500, Market Street, Briar L. Wilcox law firm, Simply Adorable, Marcella's Fur and Leather, Anderson Modeling and Talent Agency and Street Toyota. A special mention to all of our members and non-members who created the tablescapes for the event. The decorations and table settings were absolutely captivating. We look forward to seeing you all in December for our next one!!



Christmas in the Gardens

Christmas in the Gardens, 2022, was an enormous success and provided much needed entertainment and joy to the community. With a generous donation from our title sponsor, Amarillo National Bank, we were able to increase our lights, add new decorations and offset expenses! With another generous sponsor, Exceptional Community Hospital, we were able to add a new ABG feature and event to the mix, The Grinch!! We also hosted our first ever "Bruch with The Grinch", sponsored by Graham Brothers' Jewelers; the event was a huge success, especially with our younger members. We received so much support from a host of new sponsors and donations from our community this season and are humbled and grateful for all of the support. Look out for Santa and The Grinch to return December 1st, 2023.

Christmas Volunteers

It is no question that at the gardens go all out for the Christmas season, but none of our Christmas magic is brought by Santa Claus as much we would want it to be. It is brought by our wonderful hardworking community of volunteers. Thank you to all those who volunteered this past Christmas. A special thank you to all of our schools and students who came and did an amazing job on concession stands and greeting the public with grand smiles.



Spring Events 2023

That's Amore Valentines Day Dinner: Tuesday, February 14th | 6:00pm - 8:30pm | Romance is in the air at the Botanical Gardens join us for dinner, wine, and Jazz

Mad Hatters Ball: Friday, March 24th | 7:00p - 11:00p | Go absolutely bonkers at this years mad hatters ball. Go insane in your membrane at our silent auction, bar and buffet tables while Futterwacken like a mad hatter.

Garden Fest: Saturday, April 29th | 8:30a-3:00p | Join us for GardenFest the biggest event of the year. With vendors galore there isn't anything that your garden will want for after you visit GardenFest.

Hungry for Spring?

We got you covered. This twist on Italian cuisine is a hearty and easy meal that the whole family will love.



Chicken Piccata Pockets:

Ingredients:

- 1 package (8 ounces) cream cheese, softened
- 2 tablespoons lemon juice
- 1/4 teaspoon salt
- 1/4 teaspoon pepper
- 2 tablespoons capers, drained
- 1 large shallot, finely chopped
- 1 sheet frozen puff pastry, thawed
- 4 chicken tenderloins, cubed
- 1 large egg, well beaten
- 1 tablespoon water
- 4 thin lemon slices
- 2 tablespoons chopped fresh parsley

Directions:

1. Preheat oven to 425°. Beat cream cheese, lemon juice, salt and pepper on medium speed until well combined. Fold in capers and shallot.
2. Unfold puff pastry; roll into a 12-in. square. Cut into 4 smaller squares. Spread cream cheese mixture over squares to within 1/4 in. of edges; top with chicken.
3. Fold a corner of each pastry square over chicken, forming a triangle. Pinch triangle edges to seal and flatten with fork for tighter seal. Whisk egg and water; brush over pastry pocket, including edges. Discard leftover egg mixture. Pierce each pocket twice with a fork to vent.
4. Bake on a parchment-lined baking sheet until golden brown, 18-25 minutes. Remove from oven; cool 5 minutes. Serve pockets with lemon slices and parsley.

Volunteer Opportunities

With spring fast approaching take the chance to be apart of all the planting fun. Spring is the starting point for gardens all over the world, so why not take the opportunity to be a part of the gardens floral success. We need volunteers to help pull up the old so we can make room for the new this up coming spring. For more information give the gardens a call at (806) 352-6513.



New and Upcoming

- Art has been the cornerstone of our rise in civilization from the geometric designs of the Egyptian pyramids, to the golden cities of ancient Mesoamerica, can't forget the great renaissance paintings of 13th century Europe. We are excited to announce our own contribution to the world of art. An installation of wind powered spinners located behind the conservatory in front of Flora Carnivori Gigantis.
- Our newest completed project is our Party Pavilion located in the Learning Garden sponsored by Larry and Sharon Oeschger . This new addition is the perfect place to host all your summer parties and events. Shielded from the blazing sun and pouring rain this area of the gardens is perfect for all your outdoor event needs. Give the gardens a call and speak with the new event coordinator Mason Whiteside at (806) 352-6513 for all booking inquiries!
- We have a new addition to the ABG avian family who has found a home in our conservatory. Atlas is a yellow winged parakeet with a voice that needs to be heard. We are very thankful to Katie and Aspen Collins for donating him to us for all to enjoy.

Garden Wish List

Dry erase calendar
cork board for watering
schedule
Staff Microwave

In Memorial

This past December we lost a member of the Amarillo Botanical Gardens avian family. Our resident all the way from Asia, Hayhay the golden pheasant, passed this last year due to unknown causes. When visiting our gardens please make sure you don't feed any of our birds no matter how convincing or persuading they maybe. Please come visit his feathery friends, as they miss their vibrantly colored companion.



Volunteer Spotlight

Say hey to Ms. Susie Wheeler!!!!

Susie started off here in our gardens as a visitor in 2015 being apart of the Texas Master Naturalists. Coming to view how the gardens is not only plants but a habitat that serves us all. Susie got her start volunteering here at ABG helping the education volunteers. Susie has helped plenty a student and visitor here in the gardens by listening to their stories and helping them find the connection from people to plants using the five senses, so they may better connect to the world of flora around them. Susie's motto when volunteering here at ABG is, " Learn something, help someone," she truly has the heart for educating others on how, and why plants are more than leaves and stems, they are memories and feelings. Susie has and continues to inspire all who come in contact with her, an we are so privileged to have her as one of our volunteers.

Thank you once again for all you do for us and the gardens.



Sprouting up in the Garden

Linda, Fred, and Ben Kersh, of east Texas walked into my office several weeks ago and inquired about donating some very nice outdoor art to ABG. The art is created by Lyman Whitaker a renowned motion metal artist who has many pieces around the world, in some very interesting places like Disney, university campuses, other botanical gardens and large business parks. The wind sculptures are kinetic art that responds to the changing currents of the wind. Lyman Whitaker creates sculptures that are innovative, artistic, and responsive to their surroundings.

Linda grew up in Amarillo and her grandfather, John Armstrong, was our mayor from 1957 to 1959. Both John and grandmother Earline Armstrong were members and volunteers here at ABG. Six large pieces will be installed in May in our new learning garden where they will be visible from the park, the hospital district, as well as our gardens. We are very excited to have been chosen, by the lovely Kersh family, to receive this generous community gift.

Keep a watchful eye out for the announcement of the unveiling of such a generous gift from the Kersh family.

Grandfather
John Armstrong



Grandmother
Earline Armstrong

Did the Ground Hog See his Shadow??

Yes, so sadly we are still in our winter hours.

Monday - Friday: 9:00am - 5:00pm

Saturday: 1:00pm - 5:00pm

Sunday: CLOSED





A Christmas Overview

By: Greg Lusk



Christmas in the Gardens was a great success again, had good crowds of happy families of all ages who enjoyed our creation in the beautiful setting of ABG. The board of directors and staff want to thank everyone who helped make Christmas possible through their generous help and donations. We are a very small staff who could not pull off such a large event all by ourselves, therefore your volunteer time is imperative for us to do well and be successful. We were blessed with adult volunteers from our community, our Board of Directors, faithful ABG volunteers, and performers each night. High school students from around Amarillo from various academic clubs did an outstanding job rounding out our volunteer needs. We also had some key sponsors, Amarillo National Bank, Graham Brothers Jewelers are to be commended for their generous contributions to ABG's Christmas season. Our jolliest of elves was sponsored by Phillips 66 and The Grinch was sponsored by Exceptional Community Hospital. Please see full list of wonderfully gracious sponsors later in this publication.

Each year we add a few new items to our Christmas season and this year we added The Grinch as well as Breakfast with The Grinch. Among what we've added is a few thousand more lights making our count well over 400,000 Christmas lights!! Next year we will hit half a million lights and I have several new items in mind to add to our extraordinary and beautiful light display.

Which of the 12 days of Christmas would your family like to sponsor? Our new Oeschger Learning Garden Pavilion was the home to our second concession stand where thousands of cups of cocoa, smores, and popcorn were served. Thank you to Sharon and Larry Oeschger for providing a wondrously beautiful space and the garden around it.

Wedding Season

As the weather begins to warm and flowers begin to bloom look no further than ABG for all your wedding venue needs! Where else in the panhandle can you take the pictures that will last a life time under a jungle waterfall or surrounded by lush greenery and flowers? Not in a cold metal barn that's for sure. Here at ABG we strive to give you the feel of a destination wedding all from your home town with competitive prices that are sure to make you say I DO!! Don't wait and save the date, book now as our weekend dates for May, June, and July are already booked up. Give the gardens a call and speak with our New Event Coordinator Mason for all your wedding and event needs at (806) 352 - 6513. Want summer weather for a wedding, but not summer pricing book a weekday and get 25% off your package!!





Getting a Head Start

By : Greg Lusk

I am often asked what can I be doing in the gardens during this time of year. I'm ready for spring and wish there was something to do... well there is, quite a bit, actually. One of the best gardening activities is simply planning for the coming growing season and getting a jump on certain garden activities that will make a great impact later in the season. If you didn't make notes on last years garden, you can do so now. Picture what went well and what did not. Then decide if there was a clear reason for your success. Can the reason be something you did or didn't do? If you felt like a plant did well, then plan on using it again and building around it. Tired of the same old thing? Maybe try a different color scheme using those same garden worthy plants to revamp your plantings, or if you're a vegetable gardener you may want to try new varieties bred especially for container gardening. There are some clear advantages to container gardening in our climate, but you must do some research to determine just what you will grow. Also, it's time to order seeds if you will be growing some of the bedding plants yourself. Keep in mind the local nurseries may not carry varieties for specialty gardening such as container vegetables. Take a little time to read the information on the back of the seed packets. Starting seeds too early may result in low quality transplants that are leggy and weak and be sure to harden them off before planting them out. Our last average frost date is April 12th so use the information on the back of the seed packet or the plant label to determine the proper time to plant.

Other garden activities that can be done now are garden cleanup and soil preparation. You can cut your perennials back 2 to 4 inches and apply a fresh layer of mulch. Mulch can be applied any time of the year but applying mulch now will help keep the soil from warming too fast which forces early growth, and the mulch will help to deter weeds from getting a strong hold while conserving soil moisture. If you are doing your soil amending, you can do that now and get it out of the way. This will allow soil microbial activity to be well underway at the time of planting resulting in quicker root establishment and therefore stronger plants before hot weather arrives.

Now is also a good time to inspect and make repairs or upgrades to our watering system. If you need professional help, you will have a better chance of getting them out now rather than in May when everyone else needs their professional attention.

Whatever you decide to do, do it with passion and joy, and look at it as an opportunity for a new season of life. Gardening is good for us physically and mentally and an opportunity to improve the space around us and educate our minds. There is no such thing as a grumpy gardener.



2022 Donors and Sponsors!!

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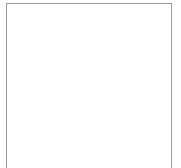
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