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COVER

The Gardens in the Community

ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1976

Prepared and published by the
Editorial Committee
and
Denver Botanic Gardens Staff
Gilberta T. Anderson
Editors

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DENVER BOTANIC GARDENS
1976

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The East Entrance
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*Left before end of 1976.
DENVER BOTANIC GARDENS
1976

PRESIDENT’S REPORT

The past year has been an eventful one at Denver Botanic Gardens with a number of new records made and other interesting events, and I am pleased on behalf of the Trustees to report to the membership regarding them.

Although the Trustees are listed elsewhere, changes which have occurred since the last annual meeting of the board should be reported. Mr. Joe Ciancio, Jr., Manager of Parks and Recreation of the City & County of Denver, has been elected for an unexpired term expiring in 1979. Dr. John R. Durrance, Mrs. George H. Garrey, Mrs. Jess Gibson, Mrs. Robert M. Kosanke, Mr. Lawrence A. Long, Mrs. Graham B. Morrison, Mr. Charles C. Nicola, Mrs. Theodore B. Washburne, and Mr. Kenneth G. Wilmore were re-elected to terms expiring in 1980. Mr. Alexander L. Kirkpatrick who has served as a Trustee and Treasurer since 1972 will retire from those offices in January. Our many thanks are due him for his capable service through those years. Mr. William J. Lunsford, elected a Trustee during the year, has been elected to the position of Treasurer as well. Thanks are due to the entire Board of Trustees for their faithful and effective interest.

Membership reached a new high, and as of year end was 3,046, an increase of 10% over last year. Membership dues have amounted to $43,496, also a new high, and provided most necessary assistance to our program. Growth in membership, of course, is an indication of acceptance of our program, and it is hoped that membership will continue to grow as the public becomes more aware of the scope and excellence of this program.

Also at a new high was attendance at 275,779 persons as recorded at the turnstile at the east gate. This is approximately an 18% increase over last year and marks a distinct turnover from the slowdown that occurred following the gasoline shortage of 1974. Although the west gatehouse has now been completed, and certainly might have been expected to facilitate greater attendance, budgetary restrictions have been such that it has not been possible to open this gate. The number of persons taking advantage of the educational program, conservatory tours, and meeting room facilities is growing to the extent that these facilities are becoming overtaxed, and all requests for use of them cannot be filled.

A new high was reached also in the plantings, both inside and out. The conservatory-greenhouse complex had a grand total of 890 additions made during the year. This included 341 different varieties added to the general collection, 282 orchids, 141 cactus and succulents, and 126 bromeliads. In the outside gardens, in which plantings over the past few years are beginning to be much in evidence, there were some 189 different varieties of perennials, shrubs, and trees added to the display areas, and 904 different varieties went into the propagation area for future plantings. The beauty of these plantings in addition to their botanical interest is becoming more and more apparent each year. We are watching with interest the plantings in the Hildreth Garden and the preparations for the lilac garden in the south central portion of the York Street gardens. The two major areas still to be completed are in the far western section, but they are substantial undertakings and must await funding. These are the Rock – Alpine Garden, in the southwest, and the Japanese Garden in the northwest corner.

Support of Denver Botanic Gardens, as an agency of the City & County of Denver, through the budget of the city has continued at approximately the same level as last year. A budget of $529,000 compares with $530,400 in 1975, virtually unchanged. This budget provides for the basic maintenance of the gardens, the expense of which, of course, is growing as the gardens are expanded and inflationary forces work. The stringency of budget conditions has required this level figure, which in fact is being reduced by 15% for 1977, calling for a serious reduction of personnel and supplies, in common with the budgets of other city agencies. Our board and staff is determined to operate our program at the highest level possible under these restrictions, cooperating with the City administration during this difficult period. It is hoped that other avenues of support can be developed to compensate in part, and that City support will increase in the future.

The operating budget of Denver Botanic Gardens, Inc., representing funds privately raised through dues, gifts, grants, and contributions, amounted to $234,000. This supplements City-provided operating funds and also may provide capital funding to a limited degree. Included in these figures is $61,650 contributed by the Associates representing the results of their many vital efforts to support the Gardens, for which
we are most grateful. Not included in these figures is a bequest under the will of Mr. David H. Krohn consisting of the house and furnishings at 790 Gaylord Street for use by the Gardens as a home for the Director. This was the gracious residence of Mr. and Mrs. Krohn who had been longstanding supporters of Denver Botanic Gardens.

In order to retain the option of extending the Children’s Garden or providing additional parking in future years, it was necessary to purchase during the year most of the properties to the north of the Children’s Garden between York and Josephine Streets and Eleventh Avenue. Twelve and one-half lots were involved in this acquisition program at a cost of slightly in excess of $300,000. The existing houses are being maintained on a rental basis sufficient to cover debt service involved in their purchase. This required the expenditure of funds needed in the operation of the Gardens, but it was felt that the opportunity to acquire this property at a later date was extremely uncertain.

The children’s garden program in the Ruth Porter Waring Children’s Gardens on York Street entered its 17th year, and that at Barrett School at 2900 Jackson Street started its 2nd. The popularity of these gardening programs and provision for their possible expansion indicated the need to purchase the property mentioned above. During the past year the area to the north of Boettcher Memorial Center has been developed for gardening programs for older youths. Ninety-eight youths were enrolled in the Ruth Porter Waring Youth Gardens and 61 at the Barrett School.

During the year, leasing from the Corps of Engineers of the Chatfield Arboretum area by the City & County of Denver for use of Denver Botanic Gardens was completed, and some initial development was accomplished under the direction of the Chatfield Committee. A grant of funds received under the Colorado Land and Water Fund under the Bureau of Outdoor Recreation program, which must be matched with privately raised funds, is being utilized to further this development. The old school house has been moved to the parking lot area for remodeling as an interpretive center. Plantings along the entrance road will be started this year although any significant amount of planting must await the completion of a master plan for the arboretum.

The development of a sufficient water supply will be a major consideration over the next few years.

Although the completion of the York Street Gardens is of primary importance, the development of the Chatfield Arboretum will add another dimension to Denver Botanic Gardens. Chatfield will take its place along with the Mount Goliath Unit, the Bear Creek Unit, and the York Street gardens in providing the variety of situations and growing conditions offered by this region.

On behalf of the Board of Trustees I wish to here record our continuing gratitude to the Mayor and City Council, to the Manager of Parks and Recreation and his staff, to our own loyal staff, and to the hundreds of volunteers, who all are responsible in one way or another for the progress which we are making. The thousands of hours of volunteer time which have been contributed by the Associates, the Guild, the Around the Seasons Club, and the Garden Club of Denver members are essential to the development of the Gardens and to our over-all program.

The year 1977 will be, I hope, a most successful year benefiting from the momentum which has been gathering in our program. We welcome your interest and support and hope that you will urge others to join with us in accomplishing our mutual purposes.

John C. Mitchell
President

DIRECTOR’S ANNUAL REPORT
1976

The Botanical Gardens Foundation of Denver was incorporated on February 3, 1951. In the 25 years since then the Denver Botanic Gardens has grown in beauty, in service, and in prestige to be a great institution as the horticultural center of the Rocky Mountain West. Its Silver Anniversary year was one of activity and continued growth. The Director is proud of the progress made and of the dedicated and diligent people who are responsible for it. He hereby expresses his gratitude for the fine cooperation and excellent work of the City and County Officials, the Department of Parks and Recreation, the Board of Trustees, the Membership, the Volunteers, and the staff. What follows is a brief report on the activities and progress in 1976.

Dr. William G. Gambill, Jr.
Director

Construction and Development of Physical Facilities.

Of major importance to the York Street Unit was the installation in 1976 of a sprinkler system to irrigate a large portion of the east one-half of the grounds. Areas covered during the year included the grass and flower beds around the parking lot between York and Josephine Streets, around the conservatory, horticultural hall, the amphitheater, and the youth garden, between the east fence and York Street, between the Boettcher Memorial Center and Botanic Gardens House, the herb gardens and surroundings. It is estimated that this installation covers at least one-third of the irrigable area in the unit.

All the work was done by Botanic Gardens staff members under the direction of Jerry Lehr who is the maintenance supervisor.

After selection of the area needing irrigation, controls can be set for the time the system will turn on and the length of time it will operate. The watering can be programmed for two weeks. Usually the automatic system is operated for 15 to 20 minutes at a time three times a week. It is designed to use the minimum amount of water necessary to keep the plants in good condition without waste. A major article in the April 16, 1977 issue of The Denver Post described the system in detail.

Some 35,000 feet of pipe and a large number of sprinkler heads were installed, as well as 15,179 small fittings and 10 control stations. The electrical lines and equipment to operate the system were also put in place.

The structural work on the Hildreth Garden was completed during the year (see description in 1975 Annual Report) and planting will be continued in 1977.

Use of the turf mound as designed originally proved impracticable and a new turf demonstration area, adjoining the Demonstration Vegetable Garden, was laid out in 27 framed plots, each 10 feet by 10 feet, for the growing and testing of selected grasses. The soil here was prepared by the application of compost, wood chips, sulphur (to bring the pH down from 8.3 to about 7.3) and “Surface” — a sand-like calcined clay — after which it was plowed and roto-tilled. Some 50 kinds of grass seed are on hand at Botanic Gardens for testing. Ten of these are native grasses such as buffalo and western wheat, which are becoming more and more important as the water supply dwindles. Planting will begin in May of 1977.
The conversion of what was formerly a shade house into a fiberglass structure now used as a greenhouse (#1a) was completed in 1976, and a new style of bench was installed by the staff. Called "E" benches, the unique arrangement, jutting out from the wall of the house in a series of E-shaped forms, increases the bench space by more than 30% over the standard forms of long parallel rows previously used. The increase in bench space was so valuable that Greenhouses #1 and #2 were remodeled in this style during 1976.

Construction of the long pergola near the lilac and rose gardens was started in the summer of 1976 and will be completed in the spring of 1977.

Much work was done last year on preliminary plans for the Rock and Alpine Garden to be located in the southwest part of the grounds. Herbert R. Schaaf, working out of the Fort Collins office of EDAW, Inc. is in charge of this new planning. Planning also progressed on such future units as the Fragrance Garden, the Lilac Garden, and the Plains Garden. The addition of a projected Japanese Garden in the northwest corner of the grounds will complete the York Street unit.

Property Acquisition

The donation of the David H. Krohn home at 790 Gaylord Street for use as a home for the Director, and the acquisition of lots and houses south of 11th Avenue between York and Josephine Streets are covered in the President's Report.

Plantings and Acquisitions

Over 1,000 trees and shrubs were planted by Botanic Gardens' staff on the grounds of the York Street Unit in 1976. Most of the large-sized trees, two-inches in diameter or more, were planted on each side of the main walks which circle the grounds. Among these were common and unusual varieties of: Acer (Schwedler maple), Aesculus (red horsechestnut), Betula (paper birch and weeping birch), Carpinus (American hornbeam), Cercidiphyllum (Katsura-tree), Cercis (redbud), Crataegus (the hawthorns), Fraxinus (green ash), Ginkgo, Gymnocladus (Kentucky coffee-tree), Hamamelis (witch-hazel), Larix (European larch), Malus (flowering crab-apple), Nyssa (black gum or black tupelo), Ostrya (hop-hornbeam or ironwood), Phellodendron (cork-tree), Picea (blue spruce), Pinus (Swiss stone, Austrian, white, and Scots pine), Platanus (London plane-tree), Pyrus (pear), Robinia (locust), Sambucus (blue elder), Sophora (Japanese pagoda-tree), Sorbus (European mountain-ash), Ulmus (Copper mountain elm). Altogether, there were about 180 trees in the planting.

There were no less than 124 cotoneasters of 24 different varieties planted during the year, 300 Euonymus coloratus, 25 native Mahonia, 140 Potentilla, 175 mountain currant, and some 263 (60 varieties) other shrubs. These trees and shrubs will form the background for the Botanic Gardens of the future.

More than 70,000 annuals were grown at Denver Botanic Gardens for the 1976 season in its own facilities by its own staff. Most of these were set out in beds at the York Street unit, making a spectacular display. Outstanding were the floral designs carrying out the Centennial-Bicentennial theme, using such symbols as: a pair of crossed American flags (13 star and 50 star) with gold trimmings, a series of white stars set in red and blue backgrounds, the liberty bell (complete with crack), the Colorado state flag, the figures for the dates, 1776 and 1876. Most of the plants used in these unusual arrangements were alyssum, marigold, petunia, ageratum, verbena, and geranium. Visitors who had seen similar displays in gardens all over the country...
maintained that Denver Botanic Gardens' Bicentennial display was superior to all others.

Some of our established gardens were renovated during the year, bringing the over-all appearance to greater beauty and effectiveness.

A total of 128 rose plants (33 different varieties) was planted in the All-America Rose Selection test garden. There were 16 varieties of hybrid teas, 7 grandifloras, 7 floribundas, and two climbers. No additions were made to the rose display garden and the count remains at 27 varieties totaling 436 plants. Over one hundred miniature roses (in 13 varieties) including 'Baby Darling,' 'Cinderella,' and 'Lavender Lace,' came to the Gardens from the Denver Rose Society and will be planted in 1977.

The gladiolus display garden last summer contained several thousand (69 varieties); of these 38 were All-America selection test varieties. The All-America glads were in bloom from July until September. 'Lambkin,' a small ivory white from the Botanic Gardens display, was grand champion at the Greeley show, and 'Rudolph,' a rich, dashing red, aroused much interest. 'Spectacular,' a pure golden yellow surrounded by a rosy-red corona, lived up to its name. All of these were 1976 introductions.

The dahlia display garden was planted in May with a total of 360 plants representing 158 varieties. The dahlia beds, with some of the most beautiful blooms Denver has seen, were a dazzling sight from August into October. Among the beauties were 'Edna C.' a lovely light yellow, formal-decorative variety, and 'Frontispiece,' a straight cactus type, already the winner of many ribbons.

Twenty-five new varieties were added to the chrysanthemum collection, making a total of 54 varieties (1,350 plants) in the outdoor gardens. New ones ranged from 'Autumn Beauty' to 'Yorktown'.

The narcissus collection was augmented by 11 new varieties (100 of each) which brought the total to 100 different ones.

Extensive rehabilitation of the soil in the peony garden to provide for better drainage and better plant growth has improved this garden greatly. During the year 55 varieties were added to the 22 originals, and there are now 144 plants. Of these, 18 varieties are Japanese tree peonies, including 'Age of Gold,' 'Black Pirate,' 'Fuji-No-Akebona,' and 'Jitsu-Getu-Nishiki.'

The sempervivum collection was increased to 49 varieties with the addition of 32 new varieties, 16 of which are named cultivars. The planting is located in the sunken garden area.

A new bed of tetraploid hemerocallis, consisting of 99 varieties, was added in 1976. The diploid hemerocallis display bed was increased by 38 new varieties during the year, making a total of 377 varieties. Among the new ones appear such intriguing names as 'Amazing Grace,' 'Buddha,' 'Doxology,' 'Green Glitter,' 'King of Kings,' 'Moment of Truth,' and 'Oh Holy Night.'

The soil in the iris garden was completely reconditioned and the garden was replanted in 1976. Two hundred and eighty-two new varieties were set out and the spuria and Siberian collections were expanded. At the end of the year the garden contained a total of 429 varieties of iris: six arilbred, 12 border bearded, 20 intermediate bearded, 29 miniature dwarf bearded, 38 miniature tall bearded, 41 standard dwarf bearded, 136 tall bearded, 82 Siberian, and 65 spuria.

Added to the Hammer Garden during the year were 300 Lysimachia nummularia L., 150 Thymus sp., and 40 Vinca minor L. plants.
Of special interest in 1976 were the ten varieties of rhododendrons (three of each) planted in the area just east of Botanic Gardens House. Also planted near the house were three Artemisia pontica L. and four Dicentra spectabilis L. plants.

Eleven varieties of oriental poppies were received in 1976 and will be planted in 1977.

Plantings on the grounds which were not changed or added to during the year are not mentioned here.

There are 150 water plants established in the ponds and waterways at Denver Botanic Gardens, including 50 water lilies, made up of over 30 varieties, both tropical and hardy. Experiments are going on with bog and shallow water plants, including the papyrus and primrose willow. 1976 was the first year of experiment with over-wintering tropicais. About 20% survived. In the spring 20 goldfish were placed in the water and in the fall the number had increased to 200. Of these some 25 were kept for breeders and the remainder went to ponds in Washington Park.

The President’s Report contains a summary of plants added to the conservatory-greenhouse complex.

Seed Exchange

In 1976 Denver Botanic Gardens joined other institutions of this kind in the happy custom of exchanging surplus seeds. A list of 100 subjects was issued. If only 20 interested establishments ask for seeds it will mean sending out some 2,000 packets.

The work would be impossible without the work of the volunteers who helped in the greenhouses. This kind of seed exchange has been going on since 1682 when Leyden in Holland and Chelsea Physic Garden in England started the custom.

Lobby Court Display

Our Centennial-Bicentennial year in the Lobby Court was ushered in by a beautiful show of both red and white poinsettias, featuring a large poinsettia tree at the back and an even larger one in the foreground. Following that came the pre-spring display of paperwhite narcissus, hyacinths, and blue and white cinerarias. Then came the spring daffodils, tulips, hyacinths and azaleas against a background of vivid green shamrocks to remind us of St. Patrick.

Plant Sale and Mother’s Day were recognized jointly with a pink and white color scheme — mums in the border and carnations floating in the pool. Later, a Japanese garden welcomed the Ikebana Show. Gesneriaceae followed with the display focusing on the showy, velvety, bell-shaped blooms of the Gloxinia. Favorite of many visitors in the summer were the tuberous begonias in a riot of color — pink, salmon, peach, orange, and yellow — grouped on pillars and ties.

The fall Chrysanthemum display around the pool in the Lobby Court was perhaps the most stunning arrangement of the year. Scores of varieties varying in color, size, and arrangement were grown in Botanic Gardens’ greenhouses under the expert guidance and planning of Nancy Collins. The excellence of this show was recognized by photographs and a write-up in The Rocky Mountain News.

In November, a change of pace was provided by the epiphytes. These plants, often bromeliads, orchids, and ferns, grow upon other plants but are not parasites. Finally, the full circle of the year was completed with the poinsettias again, featuring hanging baskets of white-flowered plants, with pure white cyclamen in the foreground.

It was a year of interest and beauty in the Lobby Court.

Plant Give-Away

Again, in 1976, members received bonus plants from the Gardens. Over 300 members showed up on May 14 and 15, presented their membership cards and invitations, and received, as you might guess, over 300 free plants.

Plant Sale

The 1976 Plant Sale, held May 7 and 8, was more successful than ever. This annual affair, managed and staffed by over 400 volunteers, continues to grow in volume and quality and has become an important yearly event to gardeners of the area. Entire families come from the cities and towns of Colorado each year to obtain their spring stock of top grade plants. It was necessary, in 1976, to provide 15 check-out stands to handle the crowds of purchasers.

Through the Sale, the gardening public learns about a huge variety of locally grown plants suitable for this area; residents of Denver, of Colorado, and of nearby states are made aware of services and facilities available here, and essential funds beyond those budgeted by the city are raised to promote, develop, and operate Denver Botanic Gardens.

Crowds at the Plant Sale
Children’s and Youth Gardens

Prior to the beginning of its 17th year of operation the Children’s Garden was officially named the Ruth Porter Waring Children’s Garden, honoring one of Botanic Gardens’ most generous and valued supporters. With Dr. James Jackson as instructor, 98 children (56 beginners and 42 advanced) were enrolled, starting indoor instruction in April and outdoor gardening in May. At the graduation program in September those children completing the work received certificates. They had earned them by producing bounteous crops of vegetables and flowers.

At the Barrett School children’s garden, another established by Denver Botanic Gardens, Mrs. Irene Vitteto instructed 61 children (36 beginners and 25 advanced) in a most successful second year program. The manually operated sprinkler system installed in part: of this garden in the previous year was completed for the whole garden in 1976.

The new Youth Garden, for 7th grade through high school students, began its first year of operation on the tract of land at 11th and York, just north of the education building. A chain link fence was erected around the entire area and a garden shed on a concrete pad, housing tools and supplies, was constructed. The ground had been under a cover crop of perennial rye up until that time. An appeal for organic material for the soil brought an abundant supply of leaves, mostly from the city. These were applied to the garden in a thick layer, then plowed in, disked, and rototilled. Under the direction of Dr. James Jackson an exuberant harvest of vegetables, bordered by flowers, was produced in the first season. Twenty-two young people completed the work, including a series of outdoor classes, indicating much interest and the sure development of expert gardeners for the future.

Separate articles on the Chatfield Arboretum and other units of the Gardens appear elsewhere in this annual report.

Education Program

Because of the popularity of the botanical and horticultural courses offered at Denver Botanic Gardens, it became necessary to limit the enrollment in all classes and most were over-subscribed soon after their announcement. Members receive quarterly schedules of the educational courses taken with a registration form.

The following classes were taught during the year: General Botany for non-majors (Mrs. Steele), Landscape Horticulture (Mr. Rollinger and Mr. Watson), Hobby Greenhouse Management (Mr. Briggs), Use of the Library (Ms. Gignac), Vegetable Gardening (Mr. Latta — two classes and Mr. Hannigan — two classes).

Evergreen Walk — Cheesman Park (Dr. Gambill), Dried Flower Arrangement (Mrs. Kosanke), Soil and Plant Growth Relations (Dr. Jackson), Solar Energy Greenhouses (Mr. Wiegand), Bonsai (Mrs. Neil), Basic Taxonomy (Dr. Zeiner), Rose Symposium (Rose Society Members).

Plant Identification Field Trips — March through September (Dr. Brunquist), Identification of Shrubs (Dr. Feucht), Basic Flower Arrangement (Mr. Ashley), Home Landscaping (Mrs. Hyde), Field Trip to Balarat (Mrs. Toll), Tree Walk in Boulder (Mr. Robertson), Dyeing with Plants (Mr. Hoffman), Field Trip to Pawnee Grasslands (Mr. Pease), Biological Control of Garden Pests (Mr. Keenan), Trip to Reed Property (Mrs. Richards).

Field Trip to Colorado Springs (Mr. Long), Field Trips to Mt. Goliath (Mrs. Ash and Mrs. Shepherd), Walk in Auraria (Mr. Luebbers), Field Trip to Camp Freeman (Miss White), Canning and Freezing Garden Produce (Ms. Anderson), Technique of Collecting and Drying Flowers (Mrs. Kosanke), Herb Garden Walk (Mrs. Falkenberg), Basic Mushroom Identification (Mr. Grimes).

Chrysanthemum Culture (Mrs. Collins), Hydroponics (Mr. Novitt), Tour of Outside Gardens (Mr. Park), Field Trip to Adams County Nature Preserve (Mr. Ratzloff), Fruit Trees for Our Area (Mr. Gundell), Unusual Container Plants (Mr. Pierce), Guiding is Fun (Guides), Applewood Seed Company Tour (Mr. Milstein).

The Gardens also offered six classes in conjunction with the National Junior Horticulture Association and six Art Workshops for Children. They were taught by Mr. Lewis.

Two lectures were offered: Mr. Eickhorst spoke on “Rhododendrons and Azaleas in Denver — Why Not?” and Mr. Hagener on “Wild Flowers of Northern Montana and Southern Alberta.”

Mrs. Hayward taught two guide classes — Tropical Plants of the Conservatory, and volunteers conducted tours of the Conservatory for 9390 people.

A series of 11 free films was shown monthly (except May) to an average attendance of 33 people.

Christmas Comes to the Lobby
Use of Facilities

The facilities of Botanic Gardens were used constantly and fully in 1976. The
turnstile at the East Gateway recorded 275,779 visitors during the year, again a new
record. Meetings, lectures, programs, and shows in Horticulture Hall were attended by
10,896 persons. Attendance at classes and meetings in the lecture rooms of the
Education Building reached 10,197, while 4,896 persons attended meetings in Botanic
Gardens House.

Several hundreds attended such events as the Membership Dinner, Rose
Symposium, Gladiolus and Bulb Sale, Historic Denver Tour of the House, Membership
Plant Give-away, Colorado Watercolor Society Exhibition, and the Children’s Garden
Graduation.

Visitors numbered in the thousands at each of the following: African Violet
Show and Sale, Annual Plant Sale (estimated at more than 19,000), Ikebana
International Show, Iris Society Show, Denver Bonsai Club Show, Gladiolus Show,
Rose Society Show, Dahlia Society Show, Potter’s Guild Show and Sale, Denver
Orchid Society Show, Gift Shop Christmas Sale, and the Audubon Society Exhibit and
Sale.

Denver Botanic Gardens was host to the western regional meeting of the
American Association of Botanical Gardens and Arboreta in July, acquainting many
prominent horticulturists with the facilities and accomplishments of our institution.
Registrants were taken on an all-day field trip including the Pesman Nature Trail on
Mount Goliath, Summit Lake, Mt. Evans, Idaho Springs, and Central City.

Publications

*The Green Thumb*, quarterly magazine of Denver Botanic Gardens, observed the
Centennial - Bicentennial year by presenting a number of articles pertaining to
horticultural history that were outstanding. Included were “Old-fashioned House
Plants,” “Harrison’s Yellow Rose,” “The Garrison Frieze,” “Cemetery to Con-
servatory,” in two parts, “About Seeds and Seedsmen,” “Exotics of Colorado —
Peach,” and “Bur Oak,” “Colorado’s Horticultural Pioneers,” “The Clements in
Colorado,” “Centennial Tree Watching,” and others. On the first of April Dr. William
H. Anderson, Jr. and his wife Mrs. Gilberta I. Anderson, became editors of *The Green
Thumb*, succeeding Dr. Patricia Smith.

The monthly *Green Thumb Newsletter*, featuring instructive and timely articles
on gardening by Dr. J. R. Feucht, was published regularly during the year edited by
Miss Margaret Sikes.

Mrs. Eileen Bloustein continued as editor of the *Jolly Green Gardener* for junior
members, working with Ms. Beverly Nilsen.

A revised edition of the *Conservatory Plant Guide*, in constant use by visitors to
the conservatory, was produced this year under the supervision of Mrs. Peg Hayward.

Helen Fowler Library

The Helen Fowler Library continued its steady growth and that meant increased
activity in every way.

Of the 26,296 people who came to the Library during the year, over 10,000
used its books and services in some way. Members of the staff of Denver Botanic
Gardens used those books and services 1194 times. Volunteers, who are indispensable
to the library operation, put in 4,449 hours. There were 3089 phone calls for
information, and 5543 books and 451 pamphlets were circulated.

New memberships in Denver Botanic Gardens, originating in the Library, totaled
328.

During the year, 796 books and 40 periodicals were added to the Library
collection, bringing the total number of books to 7043. New acquisitions included the
Proceedings of the International Plant Propagators’ Society from the beginning — 1952
through 1975, complete; the new *Encyclopedia Britannica* (15th edition); and
many new books, reflecting an increased interest in many areas, particularly on
orichids, bromeliads, and the plants of South Africa. Centennial and Bicentennial
articles in Botanic Gardens’ publications stimulated some fine gifts to the Library, such
as the Barteldes seed catalogs since 1906 and the horticultural manuscripts of D. M.
Andrews.

A large part of the Library’s income came from the annual sale of donated used
books, held in conjunction with the Plant Sale. Persons and organizations who donated
funds and gifts of books during the year included the Associates of Denver Botanic
Gardens, Tremont Foundation, Applewood Seed Co., National Science Foundation,
Mrs. Grace Ramsey Memorial, Cherry Hills Heights Garden Club, John Clark Coe,
Extension Club Rangerettes, Helen White, Crestmoor Garden Club, and Coors Memorial
(Perennial Garden Club).

“Doctor Green”

The popular program of answering questions on gardening and horticulture
during two two-hour periods each week, gets larger and larger. The Gardens received
3,500 recorded calls (perhaps 5,000 calls in all) during the year, in addition to the
hundreds of inquiries from people who appeared in person to obtain help. This service
required the time and expertise of three competent members of the staff during those
periods.

Samples from an abbreviated list: My jade plant, one foot tall, has started
dropping leaves. I’ve had it a month and haven’t watered it . . . How to plant a
coconut . . . What to do about mealy bugs, gnats, aphids, mites, drooping or dropping
of leaves, brown spots, black spots . . . Landscaping with evergreens for a car dealer . . .
Swedish ivy turns my hands red . . .

Kathryn Kalmbach Herbarium

In addition to the routine work of any herbarium, the volunteer staff of Kathryn
Kalmbach Herbarium has spent many hours in public relations, answering numerous
questions about plants and helping individuals identify plants from a few unknowns to
large collections. Several slide collections were also identified.
Several classes, both high school and college level, came to learn about the Herbarium and to learn how to prepare and mount specimens. The display balcony, the seasonal exhibit of fresh materials, changed weekly, has been a valuable aid for plant identification and always interests visitors.

Because of Colorado’s Centennial year, several old private herbaria were displayed for their historical interest, and one case featured Alice Eastwood, an early Denver botanist.

During the month of January, approximately 2000 visitors came to the display balcony to view the Pemberton collection of botanically accurate plant paintings, on loan to Botanic Gardens from the University of Colorado.

Mycology Laboratory and Herbarium

Under the direction of Dr. D. H. Mitchel, Honorary Curator of Mycology, the Mycology Laboratory and Herbarium continued its vigorous activities in the areas of research, education, and community service.

During 1976 over 1000 specimens of fungi were collected, described, photographed, studied microscopically, dried, labeled, indexed, and stored for further study. Specimens were exchanged with other herbaria and specimens of species of poisonous mushrooms were collected, dried, and shipped to biochemists at the University of Michigan and the University of Washington to assist them in research projects in isolation and identification of mushroom poisons.


Work has continued with the Rocky Mountain Poison Center in the annual updating of the section on mushroom poisoning in Poisindex and, in collaboration with Dr. A. H. Smith, in continuing the series of publications on Colorado fungi. The manuscript has been completed for a book on mushroom poisoning which will be published in 1977.

Dr. Mitchel was appointed Director of the Central and Southern Rocky Mountain Region in a national project for the collection and study of the fungus flora of the continental United States, and Denver Botanic Gardens Herbarium was selected as the repository for collections from this region.

Student Intern Program

The student intern arrangements, whereby high school and college students put in various periods of time working at Botanic Gardens is of obvious benefit to the students and to the Gardens. In 1976 these young people took part in the program:

Sue Scobal of East High School in Denver came to the Gardens through the Denver Public Schools program. She worked here four days a week, eight hours a day, from January to June, serving in many different phases of our operations. Maureen O’Shea of Bear Creek High School and Toni Arnold of Mountain Open High School in Evergreen, also worked some months at the Gardens.

In the summer two young women, Judy Golden of the University of Northern Colorado, and Anita Hall, a graduate of Colorado State University, worked regular 40-hour weeks at every level, getting complete exposure to all phases of botanical gardens work. They weeded and watered in the outside gardens, they worked in the herb garden, in the children’s gardens, in the mycology laboratory, in the library; they went on field trips and attended classes (reporting on both); they worked in the greenhouses, conservatory, and the lobby, and wrote for the newsletter. They even learned about the administration by assisting the director. They did their work well, made many friends, and made themselves very useful.

Trip to Great Britain

The Botanic Gardens sponsored a tour of thirty of its members to visit gardens in the British isles from May 24 through June 14, 1976. Each person in the party obtained a membership in the Royal Horticultural Society which enabled him to attend the famed Chelsea Flower Show in London, acknowledged as the world’s finest, on the special day reserved for members only. Tour conductor for Tourizons International was Mr. Herbert I. Jones, member of the Gardens’ Board of Trustees. Tour leader for the Gardens was Dr. William G. Gambill, Jr., Director. In Britain the group was highly favored by the presence of Mr. T. Hope Findlay, recently retired Head Gardener to the Queen. Mr. Findlay served as horticultural interpreter in the various gardens visited, where he was well known because of his fine reputation in the British Isles.

The group travelled over 2,000 miles by private motor coach in England, Wales, and Scotland, visiting 24 famous gardens in those countries. From London the tour visited the Royal Botanic Gardens at Kew, Hampton Court Gardens, Chartwell, Sheffield Park Gardens, and the Savill and Valley Gardens in Windsor Great Park, surrounding Windsor Castle. In the London area the travellers visited the Royal Horticultural Society’s gardens at Wisley, and Exbury hybrid azaleas. Travelling through the Cotswolds in western England made possible visits to the Roman ruins at Bath and to Westonbirt Arboretum. Bodnant Gardens in Wales was enjoyed on a side trip from Chester. A brief stay in the Lake Country was followed by a three-day visit to Edinburgh, the Royal Botanic Gardens there, as well as several historic sites in that city. Among other gardens visited were those in Oxford, Cambridge, Harrogate, and Stratford-on-Avon, where the group attended a Shakespearean play. Cathedrals at Durham, Coventry, Lincoln, York, and in London were included in what was considered a truly memorable tour.
Personnel

A new Superintendent of the Conservatory came to Denver Botanic Gardens at the beginning of 1976. Andrew Pierce was put in charge of all aspects of growing and displaying plants in the tropical conservatory, four greenhouses, and the lobby court display area of the Education Building. Mr. Pierce was fittingly introduced to our members as the featured speaker at the Annual Membership Dinner in March.

A native of England, Mr. Pierce had been employed for the previous twelve years as the horticultural officer with the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries in Bermuda. His training includes a certificate in General Horticulture from the Kent Horticultural Institute; the National Diploma in Horticulture and the National Certificate in Elementary Horticulture, both from the Royal Horticultural Society; and the Student Gardener’s Certificate from Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew.

All the members of the staff deserve commendation for their loyalty, dedication and hard work during the year. They are the ones upon whom the great responsibility rested to carry out the endless day-to-day tasks which kept the Gardens growing and thriving. It was due to these people that 1976 was a great year for Denver Botanic Gardens.

At the end of December, 1976, due to a cut in the 1977 City budget of around 16%, the Botanic Gardens was forced to drop four permanent employees and one temporary employee from its roster. The loss of these employees and their positions will be keenly felt, as will the cut of 50% in the City budget for supplies, materials, and services. It is certain that continued expansion of projects in the Gardens dependent upon the City budget will be sharply curtailed.

Authors’ Autograph Party

Chatfield Arboretum

Chatfield Arboretum is a 750-acre parcel of land along the western edge of the Chatfield Recreation area which the Gardens, through the City and County of Denver, leases from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. The Trustees have determined that it will be developed as an arboretum. The biggest portion is in a 350-acre piece straddling lower Deer Creek; the remaining 400-acres is a “tail” of varying width running south for several miles.

Several events of real significance occurred in 1976 that bring the Arboretum closer to existence. Perhaps the most important was the adoption by the Board of Trustees of a Statement of Purpose for Chatfield Arboretum:

Statement of Purpose — Chatfield Arboretum

The Chatfield Arboretum of the Denver Botanic Gardens is to be planned and developed as a permanent collection basically of trees and shrubs gathered with the broad purpose of providing information and pleasure to the public. The collection of plants should include native and introduced species from as large a range of habitats as possible, and should include endangered and exotic species. Educational programs should be conducted which could range from classes to tours to experimental trials of various plants and scientific research in botany, horticulture, ecology, and related areas.

The Visitors’ Center shall include displays to further the educational programs.

The historic Hildebrand Farm buildings shall be restored as a reminder that long range environmental changes have occurred and will continue to do so — from the development of virgin prairie to productive farm land through and beyond the 20th Century urbanization.

The Chatfield Arboretum is to be planned as a facility which will benefit our community through its aesthetic value and as an important information center.

It is the intention of the Trustees of Denver Botanic Gardens that the development at the Chatfield Arboretum be conducted in accordance with the highest professional standards.

This is expected to guide the planners and designers who will be developing the Arboretum’s ultimate form.

Progress was made on several fronts which are interesting:

- A very detailed contour map, with two-foot contours, was prepared of the Arboretum site. This is expected to be invaluable to planners and designers.

- The U. S. Soil Conservation Service completed detailed soil tests and has provided complete information on its findings. The Service has published a manual describing the soils. One type of soil not previously encountered was named Botanicum after the Denver Botanic Gardens.
The most apparent on-site progress made during the year was the moving of the old schoolhouse from its location near Deer Creek to a site near the paved parking area. This move took place in the late fall, and we hope that renovation will begin sometime in 1977 to convert what are now small dark rooms into a Visitors' Reception and Interpretive Center. Having the schoolhouse moved took a great deal of work, but at last it is finally moved. This is the first visible progress toward creating the Arboretum.

The Chatfield Committee was, at the end of the year, in the process of selecting a planner/designer to develop a long range plan for the Arboretum. The selection of that planner/designer, and the guidance we expect will surely be 1977’s most important event for Chatfield Arboretum.

The Gardens learned that their application for matching funds from the Land and Water Conservation Fund was approved. This fund, which is made up of federal revenues from the sale of offshore oil leases and similar sources, is available for distribution to provide community outdoor recreation areas. It is administered in Colorado by the Board of Parks and Outdoor Recreation. The Chatfield application was filed for funds to renovate the schoolhouse and to begin planting and landscaping the entrance road. We have already ordered about 1,340 trees and 2,110 shrubs to be planted in spring of 1977; planting will be done by the Gardens. Please let us know if you would like to help! The amount of the grant is half of what we spend, up to a total of $65,000.

Another application was filed just before the end of the year, with the hope that we would receive another grant. This was filed to help with further planning and landscaping costs, to start development of a suitable watering system, and to construct some nature trails and work access roads.

The Prospects for 1977

The year of 1977 promises to be very important in the development of the Arboretum. The first planning efforts will be begun, and we should begin work towards implementing elements of that planning. We have described above our efforts to seek matching funds for the Arboretum development; the expenditure of those funds will be a major event which will propel the creation of the Arboretum much closer to reality. And nothing, of course, will make it more credible than actually beginning planting.

And, in conclusion, one small event offers a glimpse of the excitement that we feel the Chatfield Arboretum will hold. Dr. Gambill and I became aware, late in December, of a small group of individuals, not then members or volunteers of the Gardens, who had discovered the beauty of the site and the schoolhouse. They were very enthusiastic and eager to help in any way they could to further the project. To me, the heartening thing about this was the realization that Chatfield Arboretum has also infected others – not otherwise associated with the Gardens – with its beauty, and that it offers a very large potential for broadening the activities and community support for the Denver Botanic Gardens as a whole. We fully intend to do all we can in 1977 to deserve that support.

Hildebrand House — Chatfield Arboretum

Bear Creek Cabin
DENVER BOTANIC GARDENS, INC.
909 York Street
Denver, Colorado

FINANCIAL STATEMENT
December 31, 1976

ASSETS

Current assets:
- Checking Account 23,478
- Savings Accounts 216,668
- Investment Trust Account 101,630
- Tax Reserve, Etc. 3,746

Other Assets:
- Conservatory 882,894
- Education Building 861,454
- Greenhouses 159,001
- Other Real Estate 617,239
- Master Plan Development 899,823
- Equipment Owned 19,775

TOTAL 3,725,708

EQUITY ACCOUNTS

Liabilities:
- Notes Payable 195,679
- Rent Deposits 1,370

Fund Accounts:
- Represented by Current Assets 345,522
- Represented by Other Assets 3,183,137

TOTAL 3,725,708

ACCOUNTANT'S OPINION

I have examined the balance sheet of the Denver Botanic Gardens, Inc. as of December 31, 1976. The examination was made in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards and accordingly included such tests of the accounting records and such other auditing procedures as were considered necessary in the circumstances.

In my opinion, the accompanying balance sheet presents fairly the financial position of the Denver Botanic Gardens, Inc. at December 31, 1976.

J. D. Vander Ploeg
Certified Public Accountant

MEMORIAL GIFTS

Memorial contributions have been received during 1976 for the following persons whose names have been inscribed in the Denver Botanic Gardens Book of Memories.

Helen S. Beise
Mrs. Robert G. Bosworth
Anna Emily Bruderlin
Agnes Burright
Mrs. Adolph Coors III
Mrs. Gilbert Davis
Geneva Eldridge
Florence Fry
Ethel Gillette
Ruth Millett Goodyear
Mrs. David F. Hall
Marmaduke B. Holt, Jr.
Dona Jaeke

David Krohn
Cora B. Mayo
Thomas M. McAndries
Mrs. Margaret Mead
Mrs. Wm. P. Mellen
Hazel Moore
Bertha Mossman
Isabel T. Peel
Mrs. Grace Ramsay
John Scott
Howard H. Sidwell, Jr.
John Stein
Verla Wiscombe

Memorial Sundial
THE VOLUNTEERS

Their Organizations and Committees.

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Mrs. Mary Secrest .................................................. Gift Shop Committee Chairman
Mrs. Richard W. Hanselman ........................................ Guide Schedule Committee Chairman 1975-76
Mrs. Julian Duxbury ................................................ Guide Schedule Committee Chairman 1976-77
Mrs. William M. Falian, III ...................................... Information Desk Chairman

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Mrs. Harry Wadsworth .............................................. President 1976-77
Mrs. Loring Brock .................................................. Terrace & Garden Tour Chairman 1976

GARDEN CLUB OF DENVER

Mrs. Donald C. Campbell .......................................... President 1976-77

A Worker's Hands

DENVER BOTANIC GARDENS

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Mr. Herbert J. Jones
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