



*An association of private donors, public participants and the City of Steamboat Springs*

## President's Letter

In the summer of 1996 I had the honor of planting the first garden at the Yampa River Botanic Park. Since then our Park has evolved into one of the premier botanic parks in the country. Many thanks go to all who have made this possible; generous donors, hardworking staff and many volunteers.

Our founders, Audrey and Bob Enever, had a vision, which has blossomed into the gem that lies between the town and the mountain. A walk or bike ride on the Yampa River Core Trail will take you to a place of serenity, celebrating the trees, shrubs, plants and birds of the Yampa River Basin. A short walk from the Emerald Field parking lot will bring you down the Botanic Walk into the Park.

Donations from the Capital Development Fund insure older gardens will flourish with new design and construction under the guidance of the Horticultural Committee. The Facilities Committee is dedicated to constantly upgrading the Park to the highest standards. The Development Committee is always coming up with new ideas and funding sources to make the Park a better place to visit. Mr. Bill Sauter has

Kerry Kaster, Board President

donated his time and efforts for many years to make sure the Park's finances are in order.

More and more locals and visitors are taking advantage of our Park's activities from Music on the Green, Yoga on the Green and Meditation on the Green, to renting the Trillium House for functions. This accounts for over 25,000 visits a year! We are first and foremost a botanic park where you can note different varieties and cultivars of plant material to make your own garden more colorful and interesting. Take a walk around our five acres and enjoy over fifty gardens!

New volunteers are always welcome! Social gardening is every Wednesday. Come to the Park to make new friends and catch up on what a small town like Steamboat Springs can offer. Share in the pride of this wonderful local amenity and become a member of the Yampa River Botanic Park!

Sincerely,

*Kerry Kaster*

## Birds in the Park: Northern Flicker

Article by Bob Enever

The flicker is a spectacularly beautiful and quite common bird in the Park. It is a woodpecker, but unlike other woodpeckers it mostly forages on the ground or sits on the branches of trees instead of climbing up the trunks. Many of these birds migrate.

Our 'red-shafted' flicker was fairly recently joined in one species with the 'yellow-shafted' flicker of Eastern North America, many of which summer on the tundras of Alaska and Northwest Canada; the two sub-species were made one because they inter-breed. The 'shafts' refer to the undersides of the wings and tail that can clearly be seen when they fly, but otherwise the two sub-species are very similar. The yellow-shafted bird is the state bird of Alabama, and is known there as a 'Yellowhammer'.



Both sub-species eat a lot of ants, up to 80% of their diet, but they also eat other insects, berries and seeds. They do not hammer on trees as much as other woodpeckers, but when they do, they hammer loudly to announce their territory. They occasionally find other things to hammer on loudly, as one of them did on our chimney pipe a few years back...every morning for a week!

Our red-shafted flicker is found mostly in the mountains of Western US and Canada, summering in the more northern mountains and wintering in the southern mountains into Mexico. But there are populations in the middle that do not migrate and live there year-round. Our flickers breed in open areas of forests all the way to tree line. They dig nest cavities in trees in soft wood like dead and diseased aspens. The parents are thoroughly modern: both sexes excavate the nest, sit on the eggs, feed the young and clean the nest.

**Northern Flicker** Photo Credit: Bob Enever

*"A place of serenity, celebrating the trees, shrubs, plants and birds of the Yampa River Basin."*

# Gayle's News From The Shed

Gayle Lehman, Park Supervisor

Webster defines compost as "a decayed mixture of plants that is used to improve the soil in a garden". This is true, but compost and the process of composting are not that simple. The science of making compost is fairly basic. Take equal parts of nitrogen rich plant cuttings, grass clippings or weeds and carbon materials such as dry leaves, straw or shredded paper; mix well with water and air and POOF – you have compost. But wait...its not quite that easy.

As the growing season winds down, I find myself spending a lot of time at the compost pile. The tasks of cutting back perennials, pulling annuals and raking leaves must be coordinated to get the layering of the pile correct. It is somewhat like making a giant layer cake of all the fabulous things that grew this summer. As the one who decides what to cut back when and where, I have to consider what is needed in the pile next. There is some method to my madness!

*"There is some method to my madness."*

As each garden reaches the pile, we carefully layer the cuttings to keep the air spaces. As the pile becomes taller, we need a layer of leaves to add the carbon. I use the pitchfork to keep the pile square so it can reach the height it needs to be to hold the entire Botanic Park's bounty. The sprinklers water it for us. The smells are pungent and familiar – lavender, sage, geraniums, leaves. I like to lie across the pile and breathe in the fragrances.

The process is universal – sprouting, growth, flowering, death. Each season I am privileged to witness this. I know next spring as snow melts and plants emerge again the compost pile will reveal the black gold which will enrich another garden. The cycle is complete.

*See you in the Spring!*



**Fall Compost Pile** Photo Credit: Gayle Lehman

## Yampa River Botanic Park 2015 Annual Meeting

The by-laws of the Association stipulate that we invite all members to an annual meeting to elect board members and officers and transact other business. This year our annual meeting was held on September 13th.

A short business meeting was conducted that included election of board members and officers. Kerry Kaster was elected President and Jon Quinn was elected to serve on the Board for three years bringing our board to sixteen members.

We said thank you to Emily Seaver for successfully guiding the Park as President for the last eight years.

Gayle Lehman introduced our speaker, Mike Bone, Curator of Steppe Collection and Head Propagator of the Denver Botanic Garden. His presentation covered various methods of propagation.

All present then enjoyed drinks and a catered buffet on the Trillium House patio in the late afternoon sunshine.



**Delicate Dragonfly**  
Photo Credit: Gayle Lehman

*"...a plant is only worth growing if it looks good when it's dead!"* Piet Oudolf

# Volunteers – Our Grass Roots

**Our fall newsletter traditionally honors the many volunteers who make the Park a very special place. Whether gardening, helping with Music on the Green, answering visitors' questions in Trillium House or being on our Board making the decisions that guide our future – volunteers define the Park.**

**Hundreds of hours spent by volunteers have helped create a Park that is loved, and it shows. Thank you all!**

## Garden Volunteers

Charlotte Allen  
Jon Alubowicz  
Tim Amsted  
Linda Andrews  
Ruth Balestra  
Lucia Barnes  
Andoni Cameron  
George Dahellis  
Claudia Dausman  
Dorthea Dawkins  
Win Dermody  
Lou Dolman  
Carol Dowden  
Richard Eberhart  
Audrey Enever  
Helen Ernst  
Ronni Fitzgerald  
Barb Flowers  
David Franzel  
Sonia Franzel  
Erik Gilbert  
Erica Glient  
Maggie Glueck  
Estella Heitman  
Sally Hertzog  
Annie Jeckel  
Kerry Kaster  
Kevin Kaster  
Elizabeth Kehm  
Diane Kelly  
Patti Kelly  
Sandy Kent  
Elaine Kopf  
J.J. Kopf  
Erica Lindemann  
Huque Manuella  
Meme Mastoras  
John Matheson  
Colleen McGovern  
Jeff Morehead  
Georgianne Nelson  
Mary O'Brien  
Chris Pearson  
Gail Reed  
Barb Sanders  
Susan Scott  
Emily Seaver  
Jo Smith  
Laura Spicka  
Pat Tormey  
Anita Trautman  
K VanDeren  
Yage Varela Bienda  
Dan Wearsch  
Leigh Whittum

## Outstanding Volunteers

Susan Scott  
Colleen McGovern

## Our hard-working Board Members

Emily Seaver - President  
Renea Cowman - Vice President  
Georgianne Nelson - Secretary  
Bill Sauter - Treasurer  
Russ Atha  
Karen Bomberg  
Evlyn Berge  
Kathy Connell  
Carol Dowden  
Audrey Enever  
Bob Enever  
Sonia Franzel  
Kerry Kaster  
John Overstreet  
Jon Quinn  
Leslie Steen

## Volunteer Committee Members

Jeff Morehead  
Kathy Olsen

## In Kind Donations

Ace at the Curve - Denny & Joy Swanson  
Big Air Catering - Steve Carlson  
Colorado Event Rentals  
Gecko Landscape & Garden Center  
Hale's Landscape Supply  
JDB Technology Solutions  
Brad Kindred  
Kim M. Kline  
La Porte Avenue Nursery  
Mary O'Brien  
North American Rock Garden Society  
Northwest Graphics - Jeff Swoyer  
PostNet  
Steamboat Brochure Delivery -  
Scott & Crystal Maughan  
Steamboat Magazine  
Steamboat Springs Chamber Resort  
Western Tree & Lawn Management -  
Dan Jendral  
Windemere Landscape & Garden Center

## City of Steamboat Springs

We gratefully acknowledge the help of every City department especially Parks, Open Space & Recreation, Finance, City Manager and City Council.

## Garden Sponsors

Blue Garden - Stu Roberts & LuLu Gould  
Butterfly Garden - Dave & Donna Howell  
Carol's Garden - Carol Fox Endowment  
Community Cultivation Garden -  
Community Cultivation  
Coreopsis Garden - Philip Lloyd family  
Corner Garden -  
Yampa Valley Community Foundation  
Crevice Garden - Colorado Group Realty  
Culinary Herb Garden - Mambo Italiano  
Doris' Arbor Garden -  
Georgianne Nelson  
Dorothy's Garden -  
Carol & Rick Dowden Endowment  
Eagle Garden - Erica Lindemann  
Foliage Garden - Anne & John Halverson  
Garden For All Seasons -  
Emily Seaver & Over The Hill Gang  
Grove Garden - Michelle DenBleyker and  
Brad & Sarah Dekoter  
Hidden Garden - Pat Wessel Endowment  
Jeff's Garden & South Berm -  
Jeff Morehead  
Lynne's Garden - Russ & Shine Atha  
Medicinal Herb Garden - Mary O'Brien  
Painter's Garden - Barb Sanders  
Penstemon Garden - Audrey Enever  
Pioneer Garden - Virginia & John Amato  
Rainbow Garden -  
Orange/Red - Ralph & Grace Strangis  
Rainbow Garden - Yellow -  
Ace at the Curve  
Reflecting Pond Garden -  
Buddhist Community - Erik Gilbert  
Rose Garden - Bob Alter  
Sascha's Garden - David & Sonia Franzel  
Sensory Garden -  
Deb Babcock & Dave Wierman  
Endowment  
Stumpyland - Kerry & Laura Kaster  
Sundial Garden -  
Kae Jenkins Garden Endowment  
Windigo Garden - Sally Hertzog

## Wednesday Wondering Instructors

Chris Bradley  
Kim Brooks  
Barb Flowers  
Kathy Hockin  
Mike Kintgen  
Gayle Lehman  
Jeff Morehead

## Wednesday Wondering Instructors

Mary O'Brien  
Bill Sanders  
Karen Vail

## Music on the Green Volunteers

David Franzel  
Sonia Franzel

## Trillium House Volunteers

Laura Anderson  
Orah Blank  
Karen Bomberg  
Susan Dreska  
Audrey Enever  
Jean Ray  
Bill and Tosia Sauter

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*Our  
Volunteers  
define the  
Park.  
Thank  
you all!*

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**A very special Thank You to Emily Seaver, whose eight-year tenure saw in Trillium House, the Capital Development Fund and the Stage on the Green, among other things. She has stepped down as Board President. Fortunately for us, she is still on our board and has assumed the chairmanship of the Horticulture Committee.**

# *Summer...In So Many Words*

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*Tall yellow iris ringing Peter's Pond  
Fireworks going off in Doris' Garden (Shubert's Onion)  
Sun-brellas in rainbow colors shading concertgoers  
Stumpflyland makes its debut to everyone's delight  
Colorado Blue Skies...Downright Downpours  
Lollipop Asiatic Lilies... smiling clown faces  
Bushes flowering in profusion... the Mock Orange and  
the Japanese Lilac  
Peonies! Pendulous with petals  
Hummingbirds streaming by with a buzz and a whirr  
Jazz rendition in brass of "Summertime" to cool down  
a hot midday in July  
Iridescent blue-grey dragonflies on zigzag maneuvers  
over the pond  
Images on the pond that look like an Impressionist's  
painting*



***Iris on the Pond*** Photo Credit: Gayle Lehman



***Peonies*** Photo Credit: Gayle Lehman

*The grapevines on the arbor producing fruit  
and ripening purple  
September Charm anemones blooming  
again...feels like summer is starting all over  
Perfect Hydrangeas!  
Prickly purple echinops looking battle ready  
for a Star Wars sequel  
Colossal candy-apple-red rosehips  
Autumn crocus emerge and signal the end of  
summer*

**The holidays are coming! The holidays are coming!  
Please consider a Park membership for your gift giving.  
They come in all sizes! Ho! Ho! Ho!**