

# The Dirt

FALL 2022



THE NEWSLETTER OF THE MONTROSE BOTANICAL SOCIETY



**COVER CROP EXPERIMENT** - Weed Warriors Tim, Alan and Norm chop and till the cover crop plot.  
Article on page 6

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE by Tim Edgar

Greetings Botanical Society members. It has been a busy, challenging, and productive summer at the Garden and I hope you have enjoyed the beauty you have all contributed to.

Please remember our annual meeting November 9th 7:15 PM at the Centennial room. There will be an election for Vice President and Treasurer and you will be able to vote either by mail or in person. Information about the candidates for Vice President is coming to you via email, and also to those who are getting the hard copy Dirt newsletter. A postcard meeting notice and ballot is being mailed out to all members, which contains more information about the meeting and how to cast your vote.

Our holiday potluck and silent auction will be at the Ute Indian Museum December 14th 5:15 to 8:00 PM. Please come celebrate with members and the board, bring a dish to share, and something for the auction, such as gift cards, gardening décor or tools, artwork, etc.

The garden has been beautiful this year thanks to the hard work of our many dedicated volunteers and the participation of all members. The Historic Homestead project is being worked on diligently by our volunteers, and we are proud of all that has been accomplished to date using Colorado Garden Foundation grant funds, including: selecting, purchasing, planting and watering of the orchard trees and row crops, surveying and constructing the irrigation ditch and getting ditch water delivered to the row crops. All in all, this has been a year of amazing progress on keeping the garden lovely and vibrant for our community to

enjoy and learn from.

We provided several educational programs including our big one, Gardening on the Western Slope. We were also able to partner with the Montrose Library District and the Recreation District to provide programs this summer. There were several programs for the kids including planting the pizza garden in the spring and then enjoying the harvest in September.

On the financial front the board has been vigilant in controlling costs, but it is a challenge to maintain the gardens on our austere budget. Please see the financial report in the newsletter.

The board made the decision not to hold the Garden of Lights event this year for various reasons. While it has been a significant fundraiser, it requires a tremendous amount of volunteer time especially in setting up and manning during the nights that we are open. We have heard from several members who are ready for a break and we saw a decrease in the number of volunteers who showed up to help set up last year. Also, no matter how careful we are, there is always an impact to the soil, the plants and irrigation system. We sincerely appreciate all of our volunteers, the teams of horses, the Scouts, High School students, and donors for past Garden of Light events. In light of this, we ask you to please consider the Garden in your year end giving. Donations of any amount are so appreciated. We have an anonymous donation of \$2500.00 that will double your contribution.

Thank you for all your help and support and happy fall gardening.

## SOCIETY FINANCIALS by Steve Manis, Treasurer

### OFFICERS

#### President

Tim Edgar

#### Interim Vice President

Kathy See

#### Treasurer

Steve Manis

#### Secretary

Liz Mauch

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#### At Large

Linda Bentley

Rob Clapper

Debby Ingram

Peggy Justis

Sheri Smyth

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#### Board Meetings:

3<sup>rd</sup> Wed. of each month

4:30pm - 6:30pm

First Presbyterian Church

1840 E Niagara Rd

Montrose, CO

*Please check online calendar for changes in time and location.*

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#### Website and Newsletter

LaBree Shide

Email Address:

montrosebotanical

@gmail.com

Website:

**MontroseGardens.org**

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Montrose Botanical Society

P.O. Box 323

Montrose, CO 81402

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We are always looking for additions to newsletter!

Please send your articles, photos, and tidbits to [thedirt.mbs@gmail.com](mailto:thedirt.mbs@gmail.com)

Hello Society members, I wanted to start this financial reports by reminding us all of the cost to maintain the gardens, which is approximately \$3,000 per month.

As of August 31, 2022, we have \$117,623 in assets, and \$180,453 in an Endowment Fund administered by the Montrose Community Foundation. Excluding the CGF grant, which is addressed below, our income was \$17,066 and our expenses were \$29,036.

The board has not drawn from our reserves for general operating expenses, and has been vigilant in keeping a lid on our expenses this year. We are grateful for those who have donated monetarily to the Gardens this year. Through August, we have received \$8,439 in donations, and \$737 from City Market Community Rewards. Membership dues of \$7,385 and a \$500 grant round out the income to date. For various reasons addressed in the President's Message, we have chosen not to hold the Garden of Lights this year; instead, we are encouraging our members to give a little extra this year. More information about ways you can give are explained in this newsletter.

The Society received a \$14,500 grant award from the Colorado Garden Foundation (CGF) this spring for the horticultural components of the Historic Homestead project, and for interpretive signage. The board is committed to the timely and responsible stewardship of the grant funds. As of September 18, 2022, we have spent \$4,764, and will be using the remaining funds to order additional plants this fall for late spring planting, and for the design and fabrication of interpretive signs. The CGF project has required significant time, focus, and volunteer resources.

Reminder, please support the stores that offer our members a discount.  
Remember to show your member card when you shop at these stores:

Abel's Ace Hardware: 10% on gardening items

Camelot Gardens: 10% on nursery trees and shrubs

Chelsea Nursery: 10% on plants, shrubs and trees

Cooper Soils: 10% on soils and mulch

San Juan Gardens: 10% on plants

### MEMBER SPOTLIGHT: Sally & Ellery McClintock



The Gardens' success is largely due to our wonderful volunteers who have contributed so much over the past 26 years. Here is an example of this dedication and support:

Since their marriage in 1986, Ellery and Sally McClintock, both teachers, have spent part of each summer vacationing in Ouray. Sally and her sister owned a summer vacation home there. In 2006 it was time for Ellery and Sally to return to their winter home in Atlanta and allow Sally's sister and brother-in-law (also teachers) to enjoy the Ouray house. Instead of returning to "Hot'lanta", they decided to purchase a vacation home in Montrose so they could spend all summer in Colorado and a small house was purchased in an older section of Montrose.

The following summer, Ellery made the acquaintance of Joan Shank, a member of the Montrose Botanical Society and a Weed Warrior volunteer. She convinced him to come to the Gardens and join the Weed Warriors. During the same summer Ellery and Sally began a project to transform their Montrose yard from grass to drought-tolerant plants. In addition, they used extensive stone in their backyard to create a shaded and private Zen-like oasis. While Ellery continued as a Weed Warrior each summer, Sally started learning how to be a gardener in their own yard. In 2013 and 2018 their home was featured on the Montrose Garden Tour.

Although Ellery has retired from being a Weed Warrior, each summer he and Sally reconnect with the volunteers. They often stop by the Gardens on Wednesdays to 'hobnob' with the crew and renew friendships. Sally is also known for providing a fabulous array of snacks.

# THE PLANT SELECT PROGRAM, AND A FEW PS PLANTS SHOWING OFF THEIR FALL BEAUTY AT THE GARDENS by Sara Ungrodt

PLANT SELECT IS CELEBRATING 25 YEARS!



Plant Select - PS © is a program designed to seek out and distribute the very best plants for gardens from the High Plains to the intermountain region. This cooperative program is administered by the Denver Botanic Gardens and Colorado State University together with landscape and nursery professionals from throughout the Rocky Mountain region and beyond. The plants are tested and evaluated at 55 Demonstration Gardens. We are proud to be one of those Demonstration Gardens, since 2009! We were honored to receive the “Golden Shovel” Partner Award in 2012.

Here are brief profiles on a few PS plants that are looking beautiful in the Gardens now!



**Golden Storksbill**  
*Erodium chrysanthem*  
2011 PS choice: they bloom practically all year! Several are in the west promenade.



**Silverheels Horehound**  
*Marrubium rotundifolium*  
2009 PS choice - this semi evergreen soft silvery ground cover can tolerate various soil types and conditions. It likes to be clipped and shaped.



**Fernbush or Desert Sweet (native)**  
*Chamaebatiaria millefolium*  
2006 PS choice - Wonderful late summer and fall flowers and bronze inflorescence. Doesn't like much water!



**Kintzley's Ghost Honeysuckle**  
*Lonicera reticulata*  
2006 PS choice - This plant can be used as a shrub or bushy vine.

Two are growing on the Rotary shade bench near the cobble creek water feature. The tubular flowers open pale yellow and fade to pale orange followed by red orange berries in the fall. Silver dollar size bracts house the flowers and serve as the backdrop

to the striking red berries in Fall.

There is a great story behind this plant. William “Ped” Kintzley was a natural horticulturist who worked at the Iowa State Greenhouses in the 1880s. The family clan received plant propagules, and some grew on the graves of Ped’s parents near Cherokee Iowa. A Fort Collins nurseryman Scott Skogerboe found this plant in Ped’s grandsons’ yard in Fort Collins in 2001.



**Vermilion Bluffs Mexican Sage Salvia**  
*darcyi 'Pscarl'*  
2007 PS choice- Vibrant red, blooms late summer-fall, a hummingbird magnet!



**Apache Plume (native)**  
*Fallugia paradoxa*  
2002 PS choice - a wonderful showy, water-wise plant. Silvery rose seed heads and full season cream rose like flowers. Loves to be pruned and shaped.

Want to learn more? Visit the Plant Select website ([plantsselect.org](http://plantsselect.org)), or their book entitled *Pretty Tough Plants*, available at the library. And watch for plants with white and green plant labels and/or the PS logo.

# WAYS YOU CAN SUPPORT THE GARDENS

Great News! We have an anonymous donor who has offered an undesignated \$2,500 matching challenge to the gardens. Help us reach our goal of getting at least \$2,500 in donations so that we may enjoy the full benefit of the donor's offer.

The deadline for the matching funds is December 20, 2022.

There are many ways you can support the gardens financially:

- MAIL in an additional donation, above and beyond your membership to support our operating expenses. Our mailing address is on the bottom of the banner on the second page.
- Donate online to our GENERAL OPERATING FUND, the HISTORIC HOMESTEAD PROJECT or the ENDOWMENT fund managed by the Montrose Community Foundation. To donate, go to [MontroseGardens.org](https://www.MontroseGardens.org), click on "Donate" and select the fund you are interested in supporting.
- COLORADO GIVES DAY, an annual day of philanthropy to Colorado Nonprofits is fast approaching! The Montrose Community Foundation is in the process of setting up a new giving platform called Uncompahgre Gives for western Colorado. The kickoff for early giving is November 1. We will share more details about the platform and how to give as they become available.
- Become a PATRON: Consider giving annually at an elevated level: Pinon: \$250+; Juniper: \$500+; Bristlecone \$1,000+; Blue Spruce \$2,500+; Ponderosa \$5,000+. In addition to member discounts at local garden and hardware vendors, patrons are recognized in The Dirt newsletter.
- Commemorate important people in your life with a customized MEMORIAL GIVING BRICK to be placed in the Shavano Plaza area. For more information, go to <https://www.montrosegardens.org/donate>

*The Montrose Botanical Society is a nonprofit, tax-exempt charitable organization (tax identification number is 84-1331789) under Section 501 (c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code. Memorial donations are tax-deductible as allowed by law.*

**Thank you for all your support!**

# WE CAN'T SAY THANK YOU ENOUGH FOR SUPPORTING THE MONTROSE BOTANIC GARDENS

**Groundskeeper:** Leah S.

**Bookkeeper:** Rhoda H.

**Linda Bentley**, always willing to help with garden needs.

**Liane Muller** for coordinating our Weed Warrior projects, taking extra care of entry gardens, and watering new plants through the heat of summer.

**Story board post and sign installation:**

Charlie Winger, Alan Morris, Sheri Smyth, Tim Edgar, Norm Baker, Rob Clapper

**The ditch construction team:**

Tim Edgar, Alan Morris, Bryan Cashion, Jim Prendergast, Norm Baker, Rob Clapper, Charlie Winger

**Lorraine Shide and Liane Muller:**

Organizing and running children's programs

**Scarecrow Festival planning team:**

Sheri Smyth, Liane Muller, Lorraine Shide

**Donations:**

Tim Edgar - providing mulch for Homestead row crops  
Altrusa - supporting childhood literacy and the story board project  
Alpine Lumber - supporting childhood literacy story board project  
Denise and Steven Gaffney  
Charlotte and Roger Duckett  
James and Mary Mulholland - in memory of Mary and Judy  
Jean Granberg - in memory of son Daniel

**Last but not least, thank you to the many volunteers who keep the gardens looking beautiful. You are priceless!**

*Thank You*

## Upcoming Society Events

Check website - [www.montrosegardens.org](http://www.montrosegardens.org) - for additional information on these events.

November 9<sup>th</sup> • **ANNUAL MEMBER MEETING**

7:15pm

*Centennial Room west side of Centennial Plaza downtown Montrose*  
Annual member meeting and election of officers to the board

December 14<sup>th</sup> • **HOLIDAY POTLUCK & SILENT AUCTION**

5:15pm - 8:00pm

*Ute Indian Museum • 17253 Chipeta Rd, Montrose, CO*

Please come! Bring a dish to share and something for the auction.

### PLEASE WELCOME OUR NEWEST 2022 SOCIETY MEMBERS!

Genie Alfano

Ellen Angeles

CJ Angell

Teresa Brown

Karen Conrad

Virginia Kintner

Aleta Lebak

Cindy & Ted McCord

## MANY THANKS TO OUR 2022 PATRON MEMBERS

PATRONS DEMONSTRATE A HIGH LEVEL OF COMMITMENT  
TO THE GARDENS BY GIVING AN ELEVATED AMOUNT.

\$2,500+ Blue Spruce

Sue Frank (TEI Rock Drills)

\$1,000+ Bristlecone

Matt and Janine Fredell

Darnell and Catherine Hartigan (Welcome!)

Jim and Becky Waugh

\$500+ Juniper

Gayle and John Brooks

Jennifer Douglas

Don and Jenny Horn

Michiko Hitchcox

Trenton Kimminau

Ellery and Sally McLintock

Chris McNatt

\$250+ Pinon

Sally Baumann (Welcome!)

Bryan Cashion and Sara Ungrodt

John and Nancy Eloe

Steve and Eileen Field

Cheri MacDonald

Lisa McKee

Constance Roth

Molly and Chuck Shaver

Al and Alicia Tuck

Cathy Williams

Please support the Gardens as you  
shop at these places:

#### CITY MARKET COMMUNITY REWARD PROGRAM

[citymarket.com/i/community/community-rewards](http://citymarket.com/i/community/community-rewards)  
Set up an account there, go to My Account, then  
to Community Rewards and enter "Montrose  
Botanical Society", or search by our organization  
number XF529.

#### AMAZON

The Amazon Smile program donates 0.5% of every  
purchase to the MBS. Use this link to get there, or  
go into your Amazon account via  
[smile.amazon.com](http://smile.amazon.com) and search "Montrose  
Botanical Society"  
<https://smile.amazon.com/ch/84-1331789>

# HISTORIC HOMESTEAD COVER CROP EXPERIMENT by Kathy See

Can we improve soil tilth using cover crops and green manure?

This summer we did an experiment on one of the historic homestead garden plots. As most of us are aware, we have a hard adobe soil, so the idea was to plant a green manure/cover crop with the purposes of a) holding the soil in place with cover crops and b) adding nutrients to the soil by tilling the plants into the soil and letting them decompose (green manure). We wanted to share information on what we did and what we have learned so far.

The Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS), recommended a seed mix of 4 agricultural species containing: a) Two big rooted plants (daikon radish and a turnip) to help break up the clay and leave spaces as they decompose, b) oats for quick germination and to provide shade, c) a pea inoculated with microrhiza to enhance the soil microbial activity and to help fix nitrogen in its roots.

In early summer, before planting, we tilled compost into the plot. In late September, the Weed Warriors weed-whacked the tops off the plants, spread them evenly across the plot and then tilled everything into the soil, leaving a rough and uneven surface. Conveniently, a rainstorm watered the plot immediately after tilling which will help

start the decomposition.

Hopefully, the uneven surface will capture more snow over the winter, prevent loose topsoil from blowing away next spring, and the decomposing plants will add organic matter to our adobe soil. Next spring we will examine the plot and learn if the experiment was worth it.

Things we have learned so far:

Planting and watering was easy, although we did overseed the plot and the water application was uneven. The pea was outcompeted and barely showed up by the end of the experiment. The tilling was more challenging, and required a tiller strong enough to chew through the turnips and radishes.

A CSU County agent is interested in whether this kind of soil improvement method would be useful in a homeowner-sized yard so I took pictures and a bit of observational data to pass on to her.

Although the seed was cheap, the time involved - about a year by the time we plant next spring, and the efforts of the many WW who worked the tiller and did the weeding might make this a labor of love as opposed to a viable technique for small yards.



Liane hawking turnips grown in cover crop plot.

## GARDEN MUSINGS by Liz Mauch



As my husband Tim and I are slowly working to reduce water usage and create a beautiful, pollinator friendly, low water landscape in our yard, we are learning a few things along the way. There are many avenues for learning about gardening here on the western slope. One of the best ways is to make frequent trips to observe the Botanic Gardens and see what's growing. Or, attend educational events sponsored by the gardens or CSU Cooperative Extension, read CSU Extension Fact Sheets or Plant Select information, and talk to other gardeners with more experience.

Tidbit 1: Plant Select is my go-to place for considering which plants to put in my garden. Most of them work well, but last year I planted and then killed a Wild Thing Autumn Sage (*Salvia greggii* 'Wild Thing'). This plant made me happy because the bright pink flowers continued from summer until frost. After its' untimely demise over the winter, I learned that in cooler climates, they need a warmer microclimate. So I am not deterred! Next year, I'll plant another Wild Thing Sage but this time, I'll place it where it can enjoy some warmth from a rock or a wall.

Tidbit 2: Did you know you can save money when buying plants and support the businesses that support the gardens? How? By showing your MBS membership card you'll receive discounts. We saved enough this year to pay for our membership many times over.

Thank you, MBS business sponsors!

# PHOTO PATCH



*Pizza Harvest at Happy Hollow*



*Weed Warriors: Janice, Kathy, and Mary.*



*The Dancing Scarecrows*



*Windwalker Salvia Desert Rose in the Shavano Plaza.*



*Parade of Garden Critters at the Scarecrow Festival.*



*Annual Member Picnic on August 17, 2022.*



*Dorothy at Scarecrow Festival*



*Story boards installed.*



*Entry Garden this fall.*



*Alien at Scarecrow Festival*