



NEWSLETTER

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A BUSY, EXHILARATING, RECORD-BREAKING 2021 EDGES TO A CLOSE

Our gardens are preparing for a long winter's nap and many of our board members, docents, and volunteers could use a little breather as well. We and our beloved members and donors produced records all year long.



Membership absolutely soared in 2021, hitting 275, a whopping 70% gain. Our 2021 membership effort kicked off in March with our first Member Week, produced entirely online. Member Week also introduced the new Member Portal, crammed with interesting videos and articles exclusively for members. Visit Member Portal. Not a member yet? Seriously? Join here



Gardens on Tour 2021 was enjoyed by a record 300-plus attendees, the biggest Tour in our history. This event, led by co-chairs Kathy Ballew and Carol Wallace, and helped by scores of volunteers, will have 9 residences and our own gardens on the 2022 Tour.



Wall Flowers, our new botanically themed mural, was dedicated in July. This mural, supported in part by the Creative Economy Commission and the Durango Creative District, is already a popular destination.



We have raised nearly \$120,000 in 2021 for the Literary Garden. At the beginning of 2021, we had \$3,680 in the capital account for this project. Thanks to a still anonymous donor, the city of Durango, and over 150 individual donors, we were able to begin construction of the Literary Garden on August 16. A little more is needed to complete this amazing new garden but we trust in Durango to help us get it done. [Read More](#)



Record-breaking year for bookcase and pathway stones. Camilla Potter, former secretary of the board and long-time board member, handles sales of our bookcase and pathway stones. Camilla reports a record year for sales of both. Bookcase and pathway stones have inscriptions with peoples' names, meaningful quotes, or names of loved ones. Read how you can purchase one [here](#).



Mountain Thyme Herb Society continued planting herbs surrounding its popular Sundial, one of the most visited, commented upon features in our gardens. While the hourly sections within the Sundial reflect a variety of thyme specimens, new sections surrounding the Sundial now reflect the amazing variety of herbs and their uses: culinary, sensory, decorative, and in folk medicine.

**Thank you DBG members, board of directors,
docents, and volunteers for making
2021 one for the record books.
With a potential completion and dedication of
the Literary Garden next year, 2022 looks like
another amazing year.**

[LEARN MORE](#)

Why is the Number 55 So Magical for Bulb Planting?

Hundreds of Durangatangs are picking up their bulbs from our online bulb sale and their timing couldn't be better. Couple of tips: Don't forget to water them and don't forget the magic of 55, as in 55 degrees Fahrenheit. Mike Smedley reminds us that this is the temperature the soil needs to be in order for bulbs to start root production. Ideally, grounds temps should be even cooler.

Mike adds: “So the mid-to-late distribution of sale bulbs is perfect timing, if not on the early side. Bulbs should be planted, as a loose rule, between Halloween and Thanksgiving, more toward Halloween if in elevations such as Edgemont or Glacier Club or Hesperus. Recently we’ve seen some nighttime lows in the low 20s and those lows will persist for several days. Even still, highs will be in the mid-50s, so there will be some solar gain. But the lows will absolutely get the cooling cycle going and provide ideal conditions for bulb planting in a couple of weekends! Please feel free to share the data with other gardeners. Keep them stored in a dry, cool area and wait for that magic 55F reading!”

[Mike Smedley’s PDF on Bulb Basics 2021](#)



Do You Eat? Do You Shop? Do Both AND Help DBG

If you shop at the City Market stores in Durango and you do some online shopping on Amazon, you can do both while assuring that both stores will donate a percentage of your spending to the Durango Botanic Gardens.

[LEARN HOW](#)

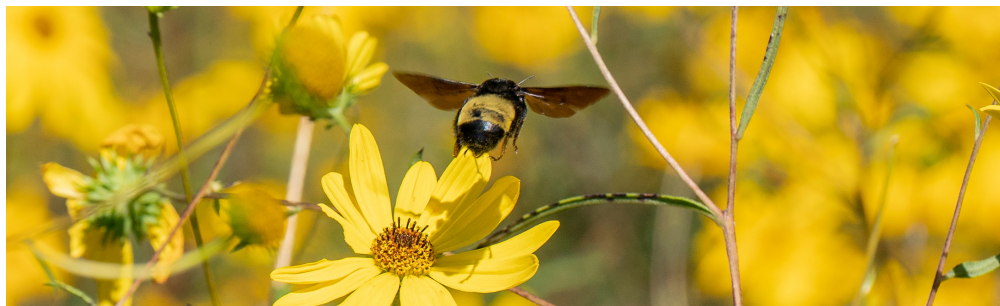
John Wickman Retiring From Native Roots, Will Concentrate on Native Plant Propagation

John Wickman, owner of Native Roots, a longtime mainstay of retail nurseries in the Four Corners, is retiring from Native Roots but will maintain his wholesale grower business, Pine River Plants in Bayfield.



[READ OUR BLOG POST](#)

American Bumble Bee Threatened by Extinction



Visitors to the Durango Botanic Gardens may hear our docents talk about the importance of pollinators and producing a solid pollinator food base and habitat. Here's a reminder of why that is.

According to a report in the USA Today, the American bumble bee, one the most common bumble bee species in North America, is on the verge of extinction. The situation is sufficiently dire that there is a call for the bee to gain Endangered Species Act (ESA) protection as soon as possible.

Population levels of American bumble bees in Maine, Rhode Island, Idaho, Vermont, North Dakota, Wyoming, and Oregon are especially impacted. A host of factors represent the threat: Climate change, pesticides, disease, habitat loss, and competition from honeybees are listed as driving this bee to extinction.

When planning your garden, learn more about incorporating pollinators into your garden design.

LEARN MORE

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