

Pacific Horticulture Society and
Sterling Tours present

Denver

July 26-30, 2018

Escorted by Scott Borden

Join Pacific Horticulture in the Mile High City. We have invitations to visit spectacular private gardens and a behind the scenes look at Denver's famed Botanic Garden. The Garden contains plant collections that illustrate an ever-widening diversity of plants from all corners of the world. Distinctive gardens define and celebrate a Western identity and a unique high altitude climate. We'll also visit Denver Botanic Garden's Chatfield Farm, a native plant refuge and working farm located along the banks of Deer Creek. We've included a day trip to Boulder to visit private gardens and the fascinating tropical plant collection in the University Greenhouses.

Thursday, July 26 Independent arrivals to Denver. Meet your escort and the other guests for a welcome dinner at our hotel, the *Westin Denver Downtown*.

The property is perfectly placed for exploring Denver. The Westin is situated steps from the 16th Street Mall and just five blocks away from Union Station, with fashionable shops, restaurants, and the Museum of Contemporary Art nearby.



The Four Diamond property amenities include a rooftop pool, Fitness Studio, and spacious guestrooms with Westin Heavenly Beds.

Dinner

Friday, July 27 Today we start with a docent led tour of Denver's Botanic Garden.

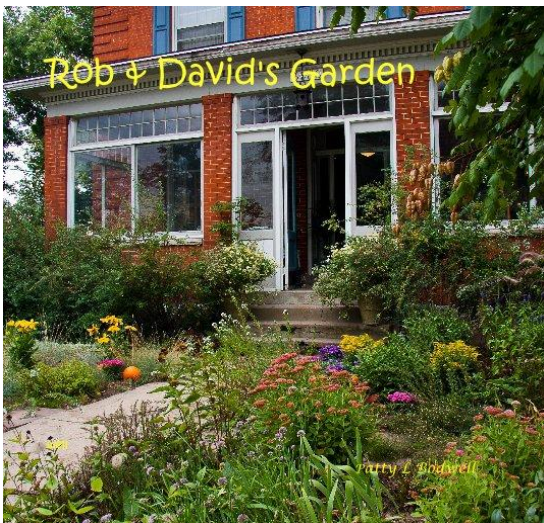


Many of the innovative gardens are models of drought-tolerance and showcase native and adapted plants that thrive in Western gardens. Throughout the Gardens, the time-honored traditions of European horticulture merge with a dynamic diversity of plants and design that represent the best in horticultural achievement. The *Gardens of the*

West include 17 arid gardens that showcase plants that thrive in Colorado's climate, and provide color and texture. The *International Inspired Gardens* feature garden designs from countries such as Japan, China, South Africa and the Tropics. The *Ornamental Gardens* are full of color, including many favorites, such as roses, daylilies and irises. There is a *Shady Garden* with a diverse plant palette that thrives in moisture conditions and a *Water Garden* with a series of pools. We will have lunch in the Garden's Café.



This afternoon we visit the Proctor-Macke Garden. Now 23 years old, the garden surrounds a 1905 late Victorian house on about a third of an acre. The antiques-filled house will also be open. A xeric front garden contrasts with the lush borders behind the house. Notable are the nearly 700 containers to be found on the main patio, shade patio and what used to be a driveway. Features of interest include the sunken garden, herb parterre, vegetable garden and the "folly." Rob Proctor is a prolific author, TV personality and is former director of Horticulture at Denver Botanic Gardens. David Macke is a retired geologist from the U.S. Geological Survey. Their collaborative book "Herbs in the Garden" was named Best Nonfiction Book by the Colorado Book Awards. We will enjoy another private garden visit before returning to our hotel.



Breakfast/Lunch

Saturday, July 28 Our first visit today is to Karla Dakin's personal garden.

An avid gardener as well as a landscape architect, Karla maintains her own garden as an ongoing design inquiry. The garden contains perennial and annual food crops, trees, ground covers, flowers and ornamentals. Karla believes that one of the chief pleasures of cultivated landscapes is their harvest: fruits, vegetables and flowers. The multiple ecosystems present in this garden represent various exposures onsite: sun to shade, dry to wet. Karla has focused on creating a space that brings pleasure year round, incorporating a crevice garden, a “creamsicle” garden, and a gravel garden with rotating sculptures centered around a 100-year old apple tree.



Our next stop is to the University of Colorado Boulder Greenhouse. We will enjoy an exclusive private tour with the Greenhouse Manager highlighting some of the important and interesting plants. The Greenhouse is not typically open to the public. The facility houses a diverse collection of plants and is used for university research and teaching. The staff also works with the K-12 schools in the Denver Metro Area. The plants in the collection have taken years to acquire. Many are wild collected and

irreplaceable. Some were acquired decades ago, prior to the construction of the facility itself.



We will enjoy some free time in downtown Boulder for lunch and browsing. At the heart of Downtown Boulder is Pearl Street, a wonderfully charismatic four-block-long pedestrian mall. Colorful, bright flowers fill the mall and street performers, with a multitude of talents, make Pearl Street one of the best people-watching destinations anywhere. Bon Appetit magazine labeled Boulder "America's Foodiest Town." Its list of award-winning, innovative restaurants continues to grow. The downtown area offers over 100 dining options. Pearl Street also provides a wide array of shopping from vintage clothing shops and trendy boutiques to independent book stores.

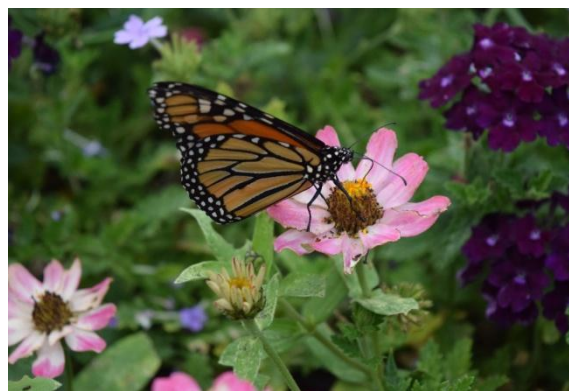
If time permits we will visit another garden on our way back to Denver. **Breakfast**



Sunday, July 29 After a leisurely breakfast we will tour Denver Botanic Garden's Chatfield Farms, a 700-acre native plant refuge and working farm. The property includes *Gardens for the West*, cultivated gardens with the very best of design and gardening technique, from the informal Prairie Garden beds to the formal Lavender Garden.

There is a colorful *Native Plant Garden* composed entirely of plants native to Colorado. The state's wide range of elevations and climates provide habitat for a diverse array of plants.

Also of interest is the *Survival Garden* with wild edible plants which provide nutritious food in both urban living and survival situations.



We'll visit two private gardens this afternoon. One is a garden in Greenwood Village, designed by Karla Dakin. It is a 5 acre site that Karla has been working on since about 2004. It is a park-like, multi-use environment that includes a walking labyrinth, restored prairie, a Japanese garden, an orchard, vegetable beds, berry brambles, a croquet lawn and a charred wood outdoor shower. Dakin created an arboretum of diverse and rare trees that she based on Olmsted's design for Central Park. Trees were selected to display a variety of seasonally shifting delights: spring blooms, fall berries, winter branch structure. Mature trees onsite were preserved and sometimes moved to new locations. In addition to its diversity of garden types, this permacultural paradise is home to chickens, ducks, and bees. A complex irrigation system was designed to draw alternately from wells and cisterns.

Our day includes a special farewell lunch in a local restaurant.

Monday, July 30 Return, or stay on for additional nights in the Denver. **Breakfast**

TOUR LAND COST PER GUEST BASED ON DOUBLE OCCUPANCY:

Based on double occupancy and a minimum of 18 guests per trip:

\$1598.00 per person for members of Pacific Horticulture Society

\$1698.00 for non-members*

Supplement for single occupancy of a bedroom with private bath: \$498.00.

**Membership starts at just \$32 so if you are not a member, we strongly encourage you to join before you register for the tour as you can then receive the member price.*

To join visit: <http://www.pacifichorticulture.org/join-renew/to-join>.

COST INCLUDES:

- 4 nights accommodation at the Westin Denver Downtown
- 4 breakfasts, 2 lunches, 1 dinner with wine
- Transportation as specified in the itinerary
- All sightseeing and entrances as per the itinerary
- Portfolio of documents
- Escorted by Scott Borden
- Donation of \$250 to Pacific Horticulture Society

COSTS DO NOT INCLUDE:

- Airfare
- Travel insurance
- Tips to your driver

FLIGHTS - Denver is served by Denver International Airport 24 miles and about a half hour from the Westin. We suggest booking flights to arrive no later than 4pm so you will have sufficient time to reach the hotel before the welcome dinner. If meeting this schedule is a problem, please consider coming a day early and adding an extra pre-tour night to your hotel reservation.

PHYSICAL CAPABILITIES -This tour includes a SIGNIFICANT amount of walking, frequent use of stairs and sloped pathways on uneven or unpaved surfaces. Guests with limited mobility MUST consult with Sterling prior to tour registration.

For reservations and information, please contact:

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