Play with color at the gardens

Local artist Elaine Kuntz teaches watercolor Wednesday at Betty Ford Alpine Gardens

Daily staff report
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VAIL — There’s just no better place at which to play with the colors of summer than America’s highest botanical garden.

Betty Ford Alpine Gardens, celebrating its 22nd season in Vail’s Ford Park, resumes its Art in the Gardens series Wednesday with Elaine Kuntz demonstrating her realistic approach to location and feeling atmosphere in watercolors. The demonstration, conducted free of charge, takes place within the gardens from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

“I am very much influenced by what is around me,” said Kuntz, a product of the California College of Arts & Crafts whose career has included painting, illustrating and graphic design.

Kuntz, who specializes in using the latest printing technology to offer limited editions of her work, also will be displaying some of her favorite pieces as part of the Alpine Treasures Trunk Show on Thursday from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the gardens’ Alpine Treasures Gift Shop on the Gore Creek Promenade in Vail Village.

Art in the Gardens continues with Kuntz on Aug. 4, local photographer Jon Sheppard on Aug. 11, plein-air watercolor artist Cheryl St. John on Aug. 18 and local painters Joan Norris, Nancy Rondeau and Lynn Cohagan on Aug. 25, Sept. 1 and Sept. 8, respectively.

The gardens are a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization for which operations and programs are funded entirely through the generosity of donors. Conserving plants of the American West, its mission is to inspire passion for plants in high-altitude communities through beautification, conservation, education and research programs. For the complete 2010 events schedule or more information, call 970-476-0103, ext. 3, or visit www.bettyfordalpinegardens.org.

“Garden Gate,” by Elaine Kuntz.

“Indian Paintbrush,” by Elaine Kuntz.

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