

THE COLORADO GARDEN CONNECTION



Colorado Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc., 1556 Emerson Street, Denver, CO 80218-1450
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President's Message Spring 2016

By Louise Niekerk, President, CFGC



Greetings to all Gardeners,

Are we there yet? Is Spring finally here? I see the light at the end of the tunnel; and also at the beginning and end of each day. I live at the base of Lookout Mountain in Golden; so my winter backyard landscape is acres and acres of varying shades of brown mixed with patches of blah. I am not ungrateful; only yearning for a more dynamic color palette. I went outside yesterday and surveyed the area around our deck. Lo and behold! Two inches of green (green!) was peeking up just above the soil line. I now know what shock and awe feels like! Those Narcissus are putting up their periscopes and testing the waters, so to speak. I am reminded of scenes of the Pope descending the stairs of a plane and upon reaching the bottom bending down and kissing the ground. I did not kiss the ground around my Narcissus, however, the sight of their emergence was no less holy. Nature truly is sacred.

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We have some exciting times coming for CFGC: District meetings, our annual meeting and garden tours. I am looking forward to seeing many of you! In the meantime, relish the miracle of Spring!

*Louise Niekerk, CFGC State President
Colorado Federation of Garden Clubs*



2016 CFGC Annual Meeting – Helping Butterflies and Bees

By Jacque Gustafson, CFGC Northern District President



The members of Boulder Garden Club, Greeley Morning Garden Club, Loveland Garden Club, and Front Range Designers Guild invite all members and friends of Colorado Federation of Garden Clubs to come and spend a wonderful spring day with us in Longmont. We will be meeting at First Lutheran Church, 803 3rd Avenue, on June 4, 2016. The doors to the Fellowship Hall (northwest side of building) open at 8:30 AM. Come and have coffee, and breakfast snacks before the opening of the Annual Meeting starting at 9:15 AM. There will be books from the CFGC Library for sale. **See Attachment for Registration Form.**

With a Theme of “Helping Butterflies and Bees”, there will be a lot to learn. Our first guest speaker is Richard Maxfield, speaking on “Habitat Enhancements Which Support Our Wildlife Natives”. We all have wildlife of some sort that enjoys what we plant in our gardens and landscape.



Kathy Keeler,
“A Wandering
Botanist”

After lunch, Kathy Keeler, from Loveland, will educate us with stories about some of those plants we see in the world around us. Kathy is known as “A Wandering Botanist”, and will tell us about “Stories of Common Plants, Milkweed, Iris, and More”. This widely traveled plant expert has traveled to over 25 countries and all 50 states searching out stories about travel, history, and plants. She is the author of “A Wandering Botanist” Blog, as well as the author of books, essays and technical publications.

Nancy B. Jones, a beekeeper, is our last speaker and she will talk about how she started planting a garden then invited the bees to come and enjoy. Nancy lives in the Loveland area; and she is just the person to talk to us about planting a garden that will invite ALL of the pollinators to come and spend the summer with you.

COME AND HAVE FUN WITH US!

Travel Directions

From I-25 north bound, exit at Longmont – Boulder (highway 119). You can either exit highway 119 at the junction for 3rd Avenue and downtown, or continue on the highway. Stay on the highway until it becomes the Boulder Diagonal. Stay in the right lane, go 2 blocks then turn right onto Pratt. Before you get to 3rd Avenue, there will be an entrance on your right to the lower church parking lot and garage. It is best to park on the west side of the building. The entrance to the Fellowship Hall faces 3rd Avenue. There are 3 handicap parking places in front of the building.

If you want to spend the night, there are 2 motels on the diagonal going toward Boulder. One is the Holiday Inn Express, the other is Spring Hill Suites

Letter to CFGC Members Regarding Pinterest and Facebook

Dear CFGC Members,

NGC is developing their social media in order to reach out to members and the public to increase awareness of NGC goals and benefits. I am organizing the Pinterest Boards showcasing some of the areas of interest to the members. Of course, one of the major areas is floral design. I am gathering pictures of all types of design to post on the Boards. If you would like to share your award-winning designs, please send pictures in electronic format to this email address, along with the name of the designer, the name of the design class, and the type of design. [You may add other info such as the name of the show or award name, if you wish.] If it is a petite, please tell me the size, too, because it is hard to estimate from a picture with no reference. I can crop the pictures, if necessary. You are welcome to send any amount, but they must be very clear and large enough resolution in order to display well. This offer is open going forward so please send your designs at any time.

You are encouraged to follow the NGC Facebook page and the Pinterest Boards, too! You'll find many gardening ideas and wonderful designs.

Thanks for participating

Phyllis C. White

RMR Alternate Director

NGC Editor, Keeping in Touch Newsletter

NGC Pinterest and Facebook Media

[National Garden Clubs, Inc.](#)

406-586-0400

Metamorphosis

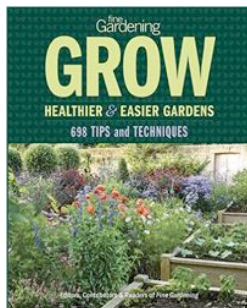


“Metamorphosis” A Standard Flower Show presented by CFGC Judges Council was open to the public February 13 - 21, 2016 at the 2016 Colorado Garden and Home Show. It received rave reviews! CFGC would like to thank all participants and volunteers for their hard work and dedication ensuring another successful CFGC Flower Show.



Book Review

By Lynn Cleveland, CFGC Book Review Chairman



Fine Gardening's Grow Healthier & Easier Gardens: 698 Tips and Techniques

Fine Gardening magazine collected suggestions

from its readers and editors to make up this attractive new book. Unfortunately, just as too many cooks spoil the broth, sometimes too many authors spoil the gardening advice. One tip says to plant

perennials close together to thwart weeds; another says to plant them far apart to allow air circulation. The book's lists of the "ten best colorful spring-blooming plants," or whatever, would have been much more useful if accompanied by photos. And many of the so-called helpful hints are so basic they could have been penned by any fourth-grade Junior Garden Club. In sum, you might want to borrow *Grow Healthier & Easier Gardens* from the library, but you may not wish to allot space for it on your permanent bookshelf.

2016 Calendar of Events

April 16, 2016

CFGC Southern District Meeting
Pueblo, CO

May 2 – 7, 2016

NGC Annual Convention
Grand Rapids, MI

May 16 – 17, 2016

CFGC Flower Show School IV
Emerson House, Denver, CO

May 20, 2016

CFGC Flower Show School IV Exam
Emerson House, Denver, CO

June 4, 2016

CFGC Annual Meeting
First Lutheran Church, Longmont, CO

June 4, 2016

Deadline for The Colorado Garden Connection; send articles to joyce.cassidy@cassidycm.com

July 9, 2016

Co Springs Garden Tour
Colorado Springs, CO

August 3 – 7, 2016

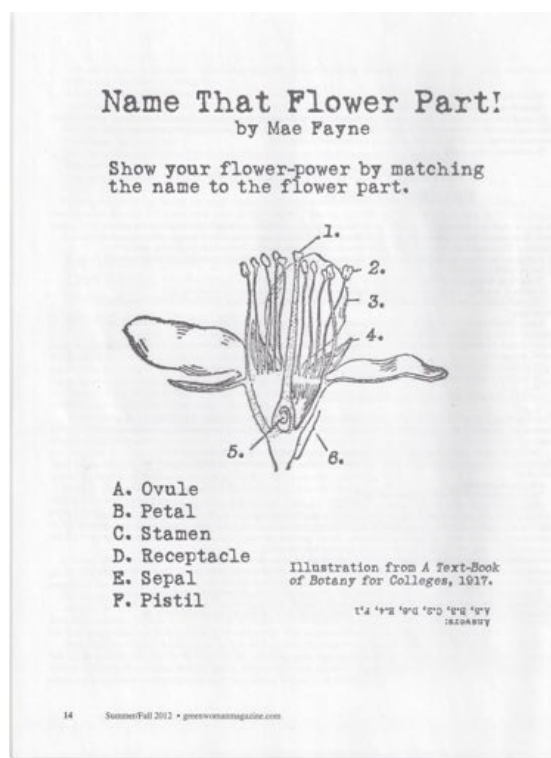
Adams County Flower Show
Set-up/Judge Aug 3rd
Brighton, CO

August 20, 2016

Black Forest Garden Tour
The Pinery, CO

September 9 – 10, 2016

RMR Annual Conference
Riverton, WY



Book Review

By Lynn Cleveland, CFGC Book Review Chairman



Blue Ribbon Vegetable Gardening: The Secrets to Growing the Biggest and Best Prizewinning Produce
by Jodi Torpey

Jodi Torpey, a Denver gardener, is a serious competitor at State and County Fairs with her peppers, beans, onions, and other vegetables. She's carried home many blue ribbons by paying attention to what judges look for: specimens that exemplify the ideal form, size, color, and other attributes for a

particular veggie. And now she reveals her secrets in a gorgeous book full of color photos, *Blue Ribbon Vegetable Gardening* (Storey Publications, 2015). Whether you're just learning the basics of bean culture or trying to keep your cucumbers perfectly straight, this book has the information you need. It's also chock-full of history and garden lore about competitive gardening. Jodi spoke to the CFGC Board of Directors meeting in March. If you were lucky enough to be there, you went away with new enthusiasm to try entering one of your vegetables in a fair this summer.

Queens of Spades Share Some Photos



Jeanne Falletta and Cindy Zahler working on a craft project at the last Queens of Spades Garden Club meeting.



Alys Wathen and Jenna Dunlap serving refreshments at Queens of Spades meeting.

Save the Dates!

July 9, 2016 Colorado Springs Garden Tour

August 20, 2016 The Pinery Garden Tour

Gardeners With Altitude

By Trudie Layton, President, Gardeners With Altitude Garden Club

The Gardeners With Altitude Garden Club is a small mountain club located in Woodland Park and draws members from Teller and Park Counties. The average elevation of members' gardens is over 8400' that presents unique challenges along with the usual wildlife and weather of Colorado. The club has adopted a large garden bed in downtown Woodland Park located on busy Highway 24. After three years of hard work, members have brought a semblance of order to the overgrown plant material by weeding, planting and mulching. Several members volunteered to help a local floral designer decorate a home for the very successful Holiday Home Tour. A rather informal group, the out and about meetings this year have included visits to a growing tunnel, a Thymekeepers greenhouse to learn about growing herbs and a floral shop for design. Meetings are held the 2nd Saturday morning of the month or somewhere there about.



Volunteers weed, plant and mulch the garden.



Member Jennifer Musgrave gives a tour of her grow tunnel.



HWY 24, Woodlawn Park garden bed adopted by Gardeners with Altitude.

Fort Logan National Cemetery

By Mary Fagerber, Co-chairman, Fort Logan



We are looking forward to a beautiful garden again this year for the visitors who come to the cemetery. Thanks to all CFGC garden clubs who have volunteered to maintain the garden this season, April to October. We begin at 9 am. Bring your usual garden tools and a bucket. The garden is a great project to honor our veterans and other military as well as enjoy a morning with other gardeners. I would also like to thank Jeannette Hunt for taking over as Chairperson.

MINUTES
COLORADO FEDERATION OF GARDEN CLUBS, INC
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
Emerson House, Denver, CO
March 7, 2016

Call To Order by President Louise Niekerk at 10:42 a.m. Mary Fagerberg offered the invocation. Louise introduced officers. A quorum was present. The Douglas County club brought copies of its cookbook for sale.

Minutes of the December 11, 2015 meeting were adopted as published.

Convention: Jacque Gustafson spoke of Northern District's plans for the State Convention on June 4, 2016 at First Lutheran Church in Longmont, starting at 8:30 a.m. Attendees will enjoy programs on habitat enhancements for wildlife, botanical lore, and beekeeping. A salad and sandwich luncheon will be served. Registration is \$20.

Financial Report: Louise reported briefly on CFGC's assets, budget, and expenses. Rental income so far this year has been \$5,465; dues \$2,680; and the total received from Colorado Gives Day was \$11,161. The neighbors whose tree fell on Emerson House, damaging the roof, have agreed to make a charitable donation to CFGC of \$6,415, the entire cost of repairs.

Membership Report: Assistant Treasurer Margie Soileau reported 469 members statewide.

Vice-President Betty Roberts reported that the Ways and Means Committee forwarded two recommendations to the Executive Committee. Secretary Lynn Cleveland presented the recommendations:

MOTION: That CFGC pay \$100 for services already rendered and \$80 every three weeks going forward for cleaning services.

Louise explained that a new cleaning service has been hired. The motion passed.

MOTION: That CFGC hire a CPA for up to \$2,000.

Louise explained the CFGC's tax and accounting situation has become more complex due to new anti-terrorism laws and increased IRS scrutiny of non-profit organizations. Following discussion, the motion passed. Treasurer Kathy Petersen will select a CPA.

Committee Reports: Mary Fagerberg reported that the 2016 work calendar for Fort Logan Cemetery is completely filled. Jeanette Hunt is taking over from Mary as Chair of the Fort Logan committee. Jessie Boyer stated that all three clubs in Northern District (which is hosting the Convention this year) have applied for and received Tree Grants of \$125 each. The deadline for Tree Grant applications is the March Board meeting each year. Joyce Cassidy's report from the Emerson House Trustees was read; she urged clubs to help maintain the grounds by weeding and cleanup.

Announcements: Maureen Kazmer announced that Greeley Morning Garden Club will celebrate its 60th anniversary this year with a public open house May 20th. Louise gave the dates for CFGC's two garden tours: July 9 in Colorado Springs, and August 20 in the Pinery. Audrey Coyle promoted "Bee a Wildlife Action Hero (BWH)," a NGC project. Clubs can win prizes if members commit to garden for wildlife by applying to beckyhass@aol.com.

Next meeting will be June 4, 2016 at the State Convention.

Meeting adjourned 11:22 a.m. Following adjournment, those in attendance enjoyed a program on how to raise prizewinning produce by Jodi Torpey, a Denver gardener. Jodi is the author of [Blue Ribbon Vegetable Gardening](#). A scrumptious lunch was provided by the Executive committee.

Lynn Cleveland, Recording Secretary

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CFGC is on Facebook

<http://www.facebook.com/pages/Colorado-Federation-of-Garden-Clubs/177497272343002>

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We're on the Web!

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