

THE COLORADO GARDEN CONNECTION



Colorado Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc., 1556 Emerson Street, Denver, CO 80218-1450
www.coloradogardenclubs.org (303) 832-6390

President's Message Fall 2016

By Louise Niekerk, President, CFGC



Greetings Gardeners,

The vibrancy of autumn has passed. Our focus now goes elsewhere. We look inward and turn our hearts toward home. We fill our yearning for color with shiny lights on Christmas trees and ribbons on holiday wreaths. We fill our senses, not with blooming roses or the smell of freshly cut grass, but with home baked goodies fresh out of the oven. Ah.....

The radiance of a blanket of snow covering my yard whispers to me, "Relax." There are no seeds to plant, no weeds to pull and no gardens to tend. Nature bids me to rest a while. How did she know I needed it?

It has been said that no two snowflakes are alike. These tiny mosaics of ice crystals are individual and unique. A snowflake by itself is delicate and short-lived. But place them all together and look what a force they can create!

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The Colorado Federation of Garden Clubs is similar to those snowflakes. Each of us is individual and unique. We are all different. Therein lies our beauty. Only when we combine our talents and energies do we create a force, a force for our common good and the good of our communities. Once again, we bow before the wisdom of nature. Just as snowflakes, WE ARE BETTER TOGETHER!

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

Summer Garden Tour

By Louise Niekerk, CFGC President



"What a special day August 20, 2016 was! The Black Forest Gardeners hosted a garden tour in The Pinery near Parker, Colorado. Their club had been planning this tour for a long time and their time and effort paid off! Six stunning gardens were featured on the tour. Each one was different from the others in unique and special ways. We saw bonsai, many water features, much yard art and a myriad of plants suited to our Colorado climate. Most of the homeowners were on site, telling whomever they could about their passion for plants! Each of them reminded me how we are all creatively different but, at the same time, united in our love of gardening and the outdoors. A huge thank-you to the Black Forest Gardeners for an outstanding garden tour!"



2016 Northern District Annual Meeting

By Louise Niekerk, CFGC President

The Northern District held their annual meeting on Saturday, September 17 at the All Saints Episcopal Church in Loveland, CO. The three clubs – Loveland, Greeley Morning and Boulder – shared what their clubs were involved in. Each club has made an impact on their communities although in different ways. We enjoyed a delicious lunch. After lunch, we toured the Benson Sculpture Park. This is a park that features wetlands and numerous creative sculptures. A big thank-you to the members who made this meeting possible!



Jacquie Gustafson and Janet Wagner of the Loveland Garden Club

Emerson House



This summer and fall has been busy for the Emerson House Trustees. Thank you Trustees for the time and energy you have spent! The headquarters building is almost 100 years old and requires a lot of maintenance. In addition, thank you North Central District for donating money to Emerson House landscaping. This money was used to purchase a Mini-Man Manchurian Viburnum. As the “home” of the Colorado Federation of Garden Clubs, our outdoor space should look pristine, but it has become overwhelming. So, Emerson House Trustees are once again requesting individual garden clubs volunteer a couple hours during the 2017 summer season to help get the outdoor area in shape. Make working in the garden at Emerson House part of your clubs other reasons for going into Denver, i.e. meeting at Emerson House, Denver Botanic Gardens, visit Denver’s attractions, lunch in Cherry Creek, etc. Can your club donate a couple of hours? Evergreen Moonlight Garden Club has already committed to spend time at Emerson House, how about your club? Emerson House Trustee, Janet Tetterer, email stardust8385@gmail.com will be contacting all CFGC Presidents to ask your club about putting the Emerson House garden on your calendar.

Calendar of Events

February 3, 2017 – Flower Show Set-up and Judging

Colorado Garden and Home Show, Colorado Convention Center, Denver, CO

NGC National President Sandy Robinson will be attending the show and serving as a judge.

All CFGC Members are welcome to attend and welcome our new NGC President.

The CFGC Flower Show theme is “A World of Music”. CFGC hosts for the show will be needed.

Nancy Griffin is coordinating the host/hostess schedule and will be contacting clubs for volunteers.

For further information contact the General Flower Show Chair, Louise Niekerk,
lniekerk@comcast.net

February 4 – February 12, 2017 (Open to Public)

The Colorado Garden Foundation is a non-profit organization that provides scholarship. It is the Rocky Mountain region’s largest, oldest, and most prestigious garden and home show.

March – Date TBD

Landscape Design School

May 16 – 21, 2017

NGC Convention
Richmond, VA

June 9 – 10, 2017

CFGC Convention
Colorado Springs, CO

2016 – 2017 CFGC Directory Changes

CHANGE: p 13; Jacque Gustafson's phone number to 970-225-2869

DELETE: p 8; Carol Neil as Historian, position vacant at this time

CHANGE: p 12: Pamela Graves' address and phone: 303-875-0560, 740 Teal Circle, Longmont, CO 80503

ADD: p 11; Civic Development Chair is now Barb Gardner, 653 West Birch Court, Louisville, CO 80027. 303-926-1512

CHANGE: p 15; Black Forest President is John Quade, 9908 E.Derby Way, Parker, CO 80134

CHANGE: p 8,11,12: Lynn Cleveland’s email to johnandlynnc@comcast.net

Becky Elder, CFGC Horticulture Chairman...Musings

Outside my window this past autumn, I watched as an eagle rode warm thermals, soaring up in broad circles in the sky. While the eagle spirals above, there is a tiny bushtit, moving through the understory in the garden. No fear of an eagle, he is checking around for the suet feeder. All the migrating birds have cleared the scene, leaving the native, year-round feathered friends to reclaim their home territory.

What a spectacular season this autumn has been! The colors were deep. Familiar warm oranges, red-hot reds and screaming yellows; the trees exploded with color then faded to the browns and golds of winter. While the other trees, especially the elms, stood in full green. Perhaps they will, once again, freeze on their stems. Oaks do this often, but the elms seem to have only recently adopted this.

The warm season continued into November with dragonflies flitting around the gardens. The dahlias kept going and going. The flowerpots seemed to be immortal! And Bambi keeps on munching what's left. Deer are stealth on cloven hooves! A gardener can never let their guard down.

With warm weather, and lack of moisture, gardeners were forced to supply supplemental water. We all know that most plants do well with cold weather if the soil and root systems are deeply watered before the cold hits. Dutifully, in service to our plant friends, gardeners were out with hoses, sprayers and sprinklers. Most systems were down by November, so hand watering is the thing.

So seasons change, sometimes not like we expect, and we are all working to adapt to unprecedented weather. The permaculture teachings are all about adaptations on a changing planet. Enjoy this day in your life!

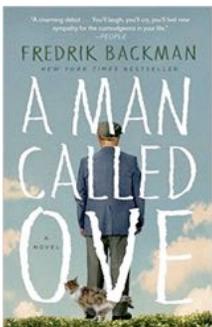


Becky Elder PCD, EC; is CFGC Horticulture Chairman and owner of Blue Planet Earthscapes.
rselder@comcast.net
BluePlanetEarthscapes.com;
PikesPeaksPermaculture.org

Check out the 2017 PERMACULTURE Design Certification Course starting in January. For more information contact Becky Elder: rselder@comcast.net

Book Review – *A Man Called Ove* by Fredrick Backman

By Lynn Cleveland, Book Review Chairman



It's not a gardening book; in fact, the protagonist, a 59-year-old Swedish widower, keeps planting pink flowers in midwinter and blaming the nursery when they freeze. But it's such an enjoyable book that I have to recommend it. Ove is a man who lives by rules

(some of which he made up himself). It drives him crazy when others won't do the same. But now, life's misfortunes have gotten Ove down – to the point that he wants to end it all. Enter a pesky but caring new neighbor and some other quirky neighborhood characters, and the result will have you reaching for the tissue box for your tears of laughter and joy.

Boulder Garden Club

By Molly Morton, President Boulder Garden Club



The Boulder Garden Club has had a delightful fall. In September we were treated to a tour of the garden of Mary and Larry Scripter. This is a spectacular prairie style garden designed by Lauren Springer and is planted and maintained by the owners. The garden is on a farm near Niwot and backs onto farmland with a view of the mountains in the distance. It contains too many plants to name them all but has numerous grasses, sedums, gallardias, coreopsis etc. Some of the plants are quite unusual and were ordered for the Scriptors by Lauren. Martha Stewart Living Magazine has photographed the garden and it was featured in their magazine in the fall of 2015. Following the tour many of us lunched at the Celestial Seasonings Café in nearby Gunbarrel.

We moved to our new location, the meeting room of The Egg & I in October. This will save the club nearly \$1000 per year in space rental and has available video equipment, not to mention wonderful breakfast and lunch menu items. Our presenter Virginia Scott, Manager of the Entomology Collection at CU's Museum of Natural History, talked about the amazing number of bee varieties in Colorado and their unusual habits. Virginia also consults on *The Bees' Needs*, a Citizen Science Program investigating native wood nesting bees and wasps in Colorado's Front Range. She spoke about this and how to support the program through our gardening efforts.

Our November meeting featured Brett Stadvold, who coordinates the emerald ash borer programming for Boulder County Parks and Open Space. Although EAB has consumed much of his professional career in urban forestry, Brett is passionate about utilizing volunteers for urban forestry and developing neighborhood tree nurseries to help diversify the urban forest.

Our December meeting will be a holiday celebration at our Vice President, Connie Farnbach's home with a special program on chocolate making from Growing Gardens.

This past summer was just as fun visiting gardens, local spots, and a plant sale. Our May Luncheon was at Vice President Connie Farnbach's backyard garden. Carolyn Toole brought plants that members won in a drawing as well as a choice of plants for each member to take home. We also distributed "Watch Your Ash" coasters to promote awareness and slow the spread of the Emerald Ash Borer.

The June meeting was a garden tour at the home of member Mary Stewart who is both a gardener and a bird watcher. Then a July meeting at Boulder Walden Ponds Wildlife Habitat and the August meeting at the home of Riri Win who lives up Flagstaff Road, with a talk by a Boulder County Wildfire Mitigation Specialist who is part of the Wildfire Partners Program. What a great year for the Boulder Garden Club!

“The Printed Page”– A Standard Flower Show

August 4–7, 2016, Adams County Fairgrounds, Brighton, CO

By Louise Niekerk, CFGC President; Pictures by Michele Gustin



What a treat for exhibitors and judges alike! “The Printed Page” brought to life classic books, poems and music. An entrance exhibit featured a scene of yesteryear, complete with old books, music and artifacts. A vintage box of popcorn brought back memories of watching a movie from my childhood. A softly colored picture of a rose lying atop a book graced the schedule cover. The picture seemed true – roses and books; both speaking to the soul.

The horticulture division, “Under The Sun,” displayed the best of Colorado. Placed on the top awards for horticulture table were varied selections, ranging from orchids to evergreens. The design division, “Best Sellers,” was filled by our best designers. “Flight Behavior,” a novel by Barbara Kingsolver, reminded us of our national president Sandra Robinson’s project to protect the monarch butterflies. An op art design in “Anything Goes” took the top award. The Petite Award was awarded to “The Red Flower,” a poem by Henry Van Dyke.

The artistic crafts division featured decorated bookends and book marks. Real books, undoubtedly the exhibitors’ classic favorites, stood between the bookends. The book marks were crafted from plant material and lovelier bookends you have never seen! Truman Capote made an appearance through his novel, “Breakfast

at Tiffany’s.” Jewelry made from plant material was staged in creative ways. All entries deserved placement in the Fifth Avenue window. Passersby would stop and stare, all with a smile on their face!

In the youth section, Eric Carle’s “The Very Hungry Caterpillar,” came to life with green bell peppers and carrots. The very hungry caterpillar looked good enough to eat! All youth entries are so encouraging. They reassure us that tomorrow’s gardens will be cared for.

Of note was the photography section. Photography seems to be gaining interest as gardeners try to preserve a picture of their efforts. One class was entitled “Heaven in a Wildflower.” This reminds us that a taste of heaven is possible, even in remotest areas on earth.

Memories have been created. “The Printed Page” conveyed images of light, patterns of flight, and designs of height. Which is to say, the show was “ALL RIGHT!”



Paul's Gift

By Susan Buckingham, Dig and Dream Garden Club

As conscientious gardener I am concerned about the decline of the bee population in our country. When a bee moves from plant to plant collecting nectar, he pollinates each plant. This pollination process sustains our eco system and is vital for the beautiful gardens we enjoy and the production of the foods we eat.

Paul is a local beekeeper who invited members of our Garden Club to his home to learn what is involved in keeping beehives and how to harvest their honey. He lives in a Denver suburb that allows homeowners to have beehives but his HOA limits how many he could have. He no longer uses pesticides because they not only kill the bees, but he believes they interfere with the bee's radar system which prevents them from finding their way back to their hive. Paul wants to encourage other gardeners to eliminate pesticide use and establish beehives on their property to help bring back the bees.

Paul's backyard was lush and overgrown with many varieties of flowers, trees and vegetables. It was certainly not the well-manicured garden many of us strive to achieve. Everything seemed to explode in a sea of color and there was an abundance of vegetables and hearty and dazzling flowers surrounded by a variety trees, especially fruit trees. In addition to the vibrancy of the vegetation, you noticed the constant humming of honeybees as they flittered from flower to flower. It reminded me of Giverny, Monet's garden in France.

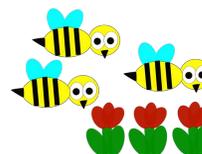
Paul led us through his Monet-like garden to the beehives at the back of his yard where he instructed us to stand in two lines perpendicular to the hives. He explained that it was late afternoon and he didn't want anyone in the bee's flight pattern as they made their "bee-line" back

to the hive after their day of collecting nectar and pollinating plants.

It was fascinating to learn that for a hive to survive the inside humidity must be at least 19% and an inside temperature of 72 degrees F maintained in the summer as well as the winter. The bees work tirelessly to sustain these optimal living conditions, sealing any tiny hole or crack in the hive. They bring moisture to the hive then buzz around and flap their wings to create their own heating and air conditioning system. If the beehive conditions are optimal, the bees begin to make honey to support the hive and feed the queen bee.

After observing the hives, Paul took us to his garage where he showed us how to extrude honey from his beehive frames. The bees first produce a layer of bees wax on both sides of the frame, which is called the comb, and then create the honey on top of the comb and cap it with a protective coating. To extract the honey, two frames at a time are placed in a centrifuge which spins, extruding the wax, capping's and honey. There is a spigot near the bottom of the centrifuge that releases this concoction into a bucket. A wire colander placed just under the spigot catches the wax and capping's and the pure honey flows into the bucket. We were so appreciative when he very graciously gave each of us a small jar of this precious honey to take home.

I rushed home, honey in hand, and made a batch of homemade biscuits, slathered them with butter and honey and thoroughly enjoyed an exquisite treat. Thanks Paul for doing your part to increase the bee populations in our neighborhoods.



MINUTES
COLORADO FEDERATION OF GARDEN CLUBS, INC.
BOARD OF DIRECTORS
Emerson House -- November 21, 2016

Call To Order by President Louise Niekerk at 10:42 a.m. Mary Fagerberg offered the invocation. Louise presented a bouquet to Mary in honor of her long service to CFGC and her upcoming 90th birthday. Louise introduced officers and asked Club Presidents to stand and introduce themselves. A quorum (14) was present.

Minutes of the June 4, 2016 meeting were adopted as published.

Financial Report: Treasurer Kathy Petersen presented the financial report (see separate report) as of the end of CFGC's first quarter, August 31. The second quarter will end November 30th. The report will be filed.

Membership Report: Assistant Treasurer Margie Soileau reported 435 members statewide.

President's Report: Louise urged members and clubs to donate to CFGC on Colorado Gives Day, December 16, either online or by mail. Last year CFGC obtained \$11,000 from this fund-raising effort. Northern District has voted to combine with North Central District. If North Central agrees to the merger, it will be voted on at the annual State Convention in June. Rocky Mountain Region has voted to pursue 501(c)(3) status; the Region will then no longer be under the umbrella of National and can maintain its own treasury. Current NGC President Sandy Robinson will visit the Colorado Garden & Home Show (Feb. 4-14, 2017) and assist with judging.

State Convention: Margie Soileau announced that we will have a 2-day convention June 10-11, 2017, at the Marriott in north Colorado Springs. The theme will be "Plant and Share Colorado." The incoming President of NGC, Nancy Hargroves, and the President of Rocky Mountain Region will attend. Margie's committee will have a planning meeting December 5th.

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

MOTION: That the \$5,000 grant from the Colorado Garden Foundation be allocated to the Flower Show School Fund.

The motion carried.

Gail Fischer reminded that Landscape Design School will be necessary soon.

Committee Reports: Janet Tettermer reported on Emerson House: the blighted Hawthorn tree has been removed, bulbs were planted in front of the building, and the office renter has renewed for two years. The Trustees ask that clubs sign up for a couple hours of work one time next summer to help maintain the grounds. There are currently 7 Trustees; one more is needed. Awards Chair Michele Gustin urges each club to submit at least one award application next year. Fort Logan Chair Jeanette Hunt reported that 24 members from 6 clubs worked at the cemetery's garden this year. Membership Chair Kay Rolfe introduced Kaye Ehalt, President of CFGC's newest club - "Groundbreakers" in Thornton and Brighton, in the Northern District. The new club has 11 members and meets at Pinnacle Nursery on the 3rd Saturday of the month from 1 to 3 p.m. They already have three projects going on. Next Board meeting will be January 16, 2017.

Meeting adjourned 11:11 a.m. Following adjournment, those in attendance enjoyed a program on "Making Paper from Plants" by Helen Heibert, a handmade-paper artist and author of several books including [The Papermaker's Companion](#). Box lunches from Tony's were available by advance order.

Lynn Cleveland, Recording Secretary

**Colorado Federation of
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1556 Emerson Street
Denver, CO 80218-1450

Phone:

303-832-6390

The CO Garden Connection

Editor: Joyce Cassidy

Phone:

(720) 234-0476

E-Mail:

joyce.cassidy@cassidycm.com

CFGC is on Facebook

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

Check it out!

Save the Date!

June 9 & 10, 2017 CFGC Annual Convention



We're on the Web!

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