

THE COLORADO GARDEN CONNECTION



Colorado Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc., 1556 Emerson Street, Denver, CO 80218-1450
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President's Message Winter 2017

By Louise Niekerk, President, CFGC



Greetings Gardeners,

One of the things I love best about the Colorado Federation of Garden Clubs is their emphasis on education. We never stop learning and there is always much more to learn. Having said that, I hope all of our garden club members take advantage of the two schools we have planned for this spring. On April 20 and 21, there will be an Environmental School at the Mesa Water Building in Colorado Springs. My thanks to Trudie Layton for coordinating this school. Then on May 3 and 4, Margie Soileau has coordinated a Gardening Study School at the Colorado State Extension Office in Colorado Springs. Because the Colorado Federation of Garden Clubs has received a grant from the Colorado Garden Foundation, we are able to offer these schools at a very low cost. More information on these schools will be forthcoming, so be sure to look for it.

The National Garden Club President, Sandra Robinson, is planning to

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attend the CFGC Flower Show at the Convention Center in downtown Denver on February 3. The theme of the show is "A World of Music." We are honored to have our national president come to Colorado and serve on a panel of judges at the flower show.

I look forward to attending the Southern District meeting on April 22 and, also, the Colorado State CFGC Convention, June 9 through 11. Hopefully, I will see many of you there!

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

Serving the Community

By Katie Rigert and Marianne Nagel



The Table Mountain Garden Club added a philanthropic twist to their annual holiday potluck and floral workshop this year. Twenty-six floral arrangements were given to Meal on Wheel's clients and Meal's route drivers in Lakewood. Helen Damouth created three design prototypes in plastic champagne flutes and contributed greenery from her garden. Cindy Shook, Katie Rigert and Swiss Hoffman bought flowers, prepared oasis and coordinated all the logistics necessary to make this project successful. Marianne Nagel delivered arrangements to her Monday Lakewood 2 route clients and to the other Monday delivery volunteers. Recipients were delighted with their gifts and Table Mountain Garden Club members and guest thoroughly enjoyed utilizing their creativity and skills in the true spirit of Christmas.



A Happy Recipient!

*approval of photo use received.



Colorado Garden and Home Show

Many thanks to club members who have reached out to Nancy Griffin and volunteered to help with the 2017 Home and Garden Show. Volunteers are still needed starting at 5 PM, February 4, 2017; and every day during the rest of the show. If you, your club or any club member would like to help, please email Nancy with your contact information, name(s) and phone number along with the requested date and shift time. Remember the added bonus of volunteering is that you are

admitted to the Show free, which allows you to come early (or leave late) and enjoy the show. Another option is to carpool with a partner and split your time between the volunteer table and enjoying the Colorado Garden and Home Show. Nancy can be reached at this email address: mysticmoongardner@gmail.com Nancy plans on calling volunteers 48 hours in advance of their shift as a friendly reminder.

Becky Elder, CFGC Horticulture Chairman...Musings

Finally! Snow! Seems we were waiting a long time, didn't it? The snow outside brought the peace and stillness of December into the room. Woodstove warming the room and snow gently falling outside... perfect peace. Juncos and sparrows hopped around in the snow under the feeders snapping up the tidbits dropped from the seed trays. Woodpeckers worked the suet in the company of the local flock of bush tits. Chickadees and nuthatches played around the suet feeder while taking turns cracking black oil sunflower seeds. They love both. Snowy, cold weather is an excellent happening to really see native birds up close and personal!

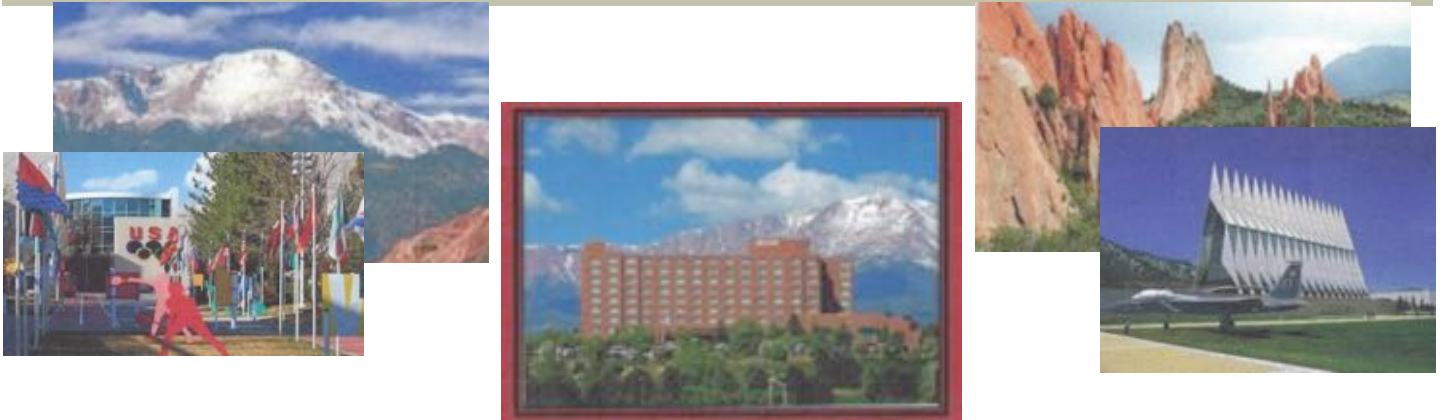
Next day I am standing out in a Broadmoor garden, with a majestic American Elm, naked against the sky, singing in the wind. All the trees are whispering... they creak and snap as they twist. The trees are talking! Perhaps it feels good to get your trunk snapped in a brisk wind. Perhaps it is like a chiropractic adjustment to the whole tree's system. Like to think that it is. Certainly want our trees to be happy and healthy! Trees are friendly supporters of life here on Planet Earth. Not only are they climate mitigators, providing windbreak and shade on hot days, they also sequester carbon from the air. Trees mediate toxins and pull pollution from the soil. Trees work to build new soil, layer upon layer. Keepers of life on the land.

Solstice has come. My favorite time of the year, perhaps because I work a bit less, enjoy my time, read into the night, stay in the kitchen, cook and create. There is much to love about the Solstice. Longest, deepest night of the year... brings quiet times of contemplation and sends our intentions to the far side of the Universe. Casting aspirations, dreams and manifestations far into the stars. Prayers for peace on our little planet.

Reach out to family and friends. Help each other stay connected to the real world, the natural world... The world outside the door that is beyond our human control, or should I say, in spite of our human controls. This world is moving through time. We belong to an evolving family of animals. We depend on soil, the leaves, rocks, the weather, rivers and beloved trees. This world needs us to remember that. Humanity needs to remember, to remember we are connected to it all. We are not separate from the rest of the planet and the Universe beyond. Our fate is their fate. Be the best earthling you can be; be kind, be forgiving and stay loving. Keep faith in yourself. Live joyfully. Be grateful. Pray for peace.

Becky Elder PCD, EC; is CFGC Horticulture
Chairman and owner of Blue Planet
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PikesPeaksPermaculture.org





Grow and Share Colorado

When: June 9 - 11, 2017

Where: Colorado Springs Marriott Hotel

What: 2017 CFGC Annual Convention

Come and enjoy the fun on June 9th and June 10th, at the Marriott Hotel in Colorado Springs. CFGC Southern District is delighted to host the annual convention and have planned a “Meet and Greet” on Friday evening for all garden club members and guests. This will be a great time to catch up with wonderful garden friends and meet new ones. Saturday will consist of informative and interesting speakers, excellent food, and an opportunity to view beautiful and tasteful arrangements. A great time to be had by all!

**Fee: \$30.00 for members of CFGC
\$35.00 for non-members**

**Chairman: Margie Soileau
Southern District President
margie@soileau.org**

Some wonderful things to see and do in Colorado Springs!!

**Pro Rodeo Hall of Fame
Garden of the Gods
Cog Railroad
Seven Falls
US Olympic Complex**

**US Air Force Academy
Pike's Peak
Cheyenne Mountain Zoo
Glen Eyrie Castle
Old Colorado City**

**Visit the Colorado Springs website to find out more activities at:
<http://www.visitcos.com/>**

ATTENTION ALL GARDEN CLUB MEMBERS! EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES!

Taken from the 2017 winter edition of The National Gardener, page 27 – provided by Trudie Layton

News from NGC Schools

National Garden Clubs Inc. is a not-for-profit educational organization. As we begin the new year, what better way to help NGC carry out its educational mission than to leap into action by planning, scheduling, conducting and attending NGC schools and refresher events? Recent input to our committees that is food for thought:

- All of the NGC schools complement each other.
- These schools, Environmental Studies, Gardening Study and Landscape Design, apply and appeal to rank and file garden club members, more than Flower Show Schools do.
- Every flower show judge should attend GSS. If they did, judging horticulture would be improved 100 percent. The same goes for Environmental Studies – what a difference it would make in judging educational exhibits. Educating the public is one of the primary goals of NGC. Learning how to make a compost

pile or grow a rose bush successfully may be of as much value to a flower show visitor as seeing a beautiful floral arrangement on a table.

Garden club members who complete these schools and fulfill all requirements become consultants.

Colorado Federation of Garden Clubs is holding Environmental Studies, Gardening Study and Flower Show Schools soon! Check in this issue for more information. Nebraska Garden Clubs is hosting a Landscape Design School in April too.



Fort Logan Update

By Jeannette Hunt, Fort Logan Chairman

The workdays at Fort Logan National Cemetery were well attended in 2016. Six clubs donated time from May thru October. 24 CFGC Members and 4 guest workers spent a total of 49 hours in the gardens. A few Japanese Beetles were found on the roses. The group Saluting Branches, which consists of volunteer tree experts from across the nation, have been at Fort Logan on a

yearly basis. They advised CFGC to keep an “eye out” for our Colorado Blue Spruce since it has had Spider Mite damage to several of the branches on the tree. Looking forward to the 2017 season and getting to know each of the clubs better. If you or your club is interested in volunteering please contact: Jeanette Hunt, 303-627-9709.

CFGC Environmental Study School

Save the Date!!

Want to learn more about the environment we live in? Then plan on attending the Environmental Studies School scheduled for April 20 and 21, 2017. This will be Series 3 Course 4; and the topic is water. Course will be held in Colorado Springs at the Mesa Water Treatment classroom the first day. The second day participants will meet at the classroom, take a field trip, drive to Woodland Park for lunch and conclude at the Woodland Park Library. More information regarding instructors will be available at a later date.

Calendar of Events

February 3 - 12, 2017

Colorado Garden & Home Show

Denver, CO

(opens to Public February 4)

March 6, 2017

<u>Ways & Means</u>	9:00 AM
<u>Executive Committee</u>	9:30 AM
<u>Board of Directors</u>	10:30 AM
<u>Speaker on Emerald Ash Borer</u>	11:00 AM

Emerson House,
Denver, CO

March 6, 2017

The Colorado Garden Connection

Deadline for newsletter articles

Send to: joyce.cassidy@cassidycm.com

April 20 - 21, 2017

Environmental Studies School

Mesa Water Building, Colorado Springs, CO

April 22, 2017

Earth Day

April 22, 2017

Southern District Annual Meeting

Congregational Church,
Manitou Springs, CO

May 3 - 4, 2017

Gardening Study School, Course II
CSU Extension Office,
Colorado Springs Campus,
Colorado Springs, CO

May 16 - 21, 2017

NGC Convention

Richmond, VA

June 9 - 11, 2017

CFGC Convention
Colorado Springs, CO

June 23 - 24, 2017

Westminster Flower Show

July 28, 2017

Weld County Fair

August 2 - 6, 2017

Adams County Flower Show

CFGC Gardening Study School

Save the Date!!

There will be a two-day school on May 3rd and May 4th, 2017 in Colorado Springs, Colorado. The content is for Course II which consists of: "Understanding Plant Diseases and Garden Pests", "Container Gardening", "Techniques for Growing Vegetables", "How New Plants are Developed and Evaluated", and "Techniques for Growing Lawn and/or Lawn Alternatives".

For further questions please contact Margie Soileau, State Chairman at (719) 648-8025 or margie@soileau.org.

Registration and instructor information will be available in the near future.

MINUTES COLORADO FEDERATION OF GARDEN CLUBS, INC. BOARD OF DIRECTORS Miller Library, Castle Rock – January 24, 2017

Call To Order by Vice President Betty Roberts at 12:05 p.m. Betty led the Pledge of Allegiance and offered the invocation. Nine members were in attendance; however, a quorum is fourteen.

Minutes of the November 21, 2016 meeting were adopted as published.

New Business. Lynn Cleveland briefly described five Motions that were forwarded from the Executive Committee. Lacking a quorum, no action could be taken. These will be tabled until the next Board meeting. In brief:

1. To purchase Quickbooks 2017 software for up to \$200.
2. To add \$43 to \$25 collected at Adams County Flower Show to buy a Penny Pines unit (\$68).
3. The registration fee for the 2017 Convention to be \$30.
4. To amend the Bylaws regarding allocation of dues, without increasing dues.
5. To transfer \$1,250 to the Tree Fund to support Southern District.

Announcements. Several items have been placed on the calendar. See attached list.

Getting to Know You. Following the business meeting, those present each shared an interesting fact about themselves that the others did not know.

Lynn Cleveland, Recording Secretary

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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!

Visit us at:

www.coloradogardenclubs.org

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Member Name
Street Address
City, ST Postal Code