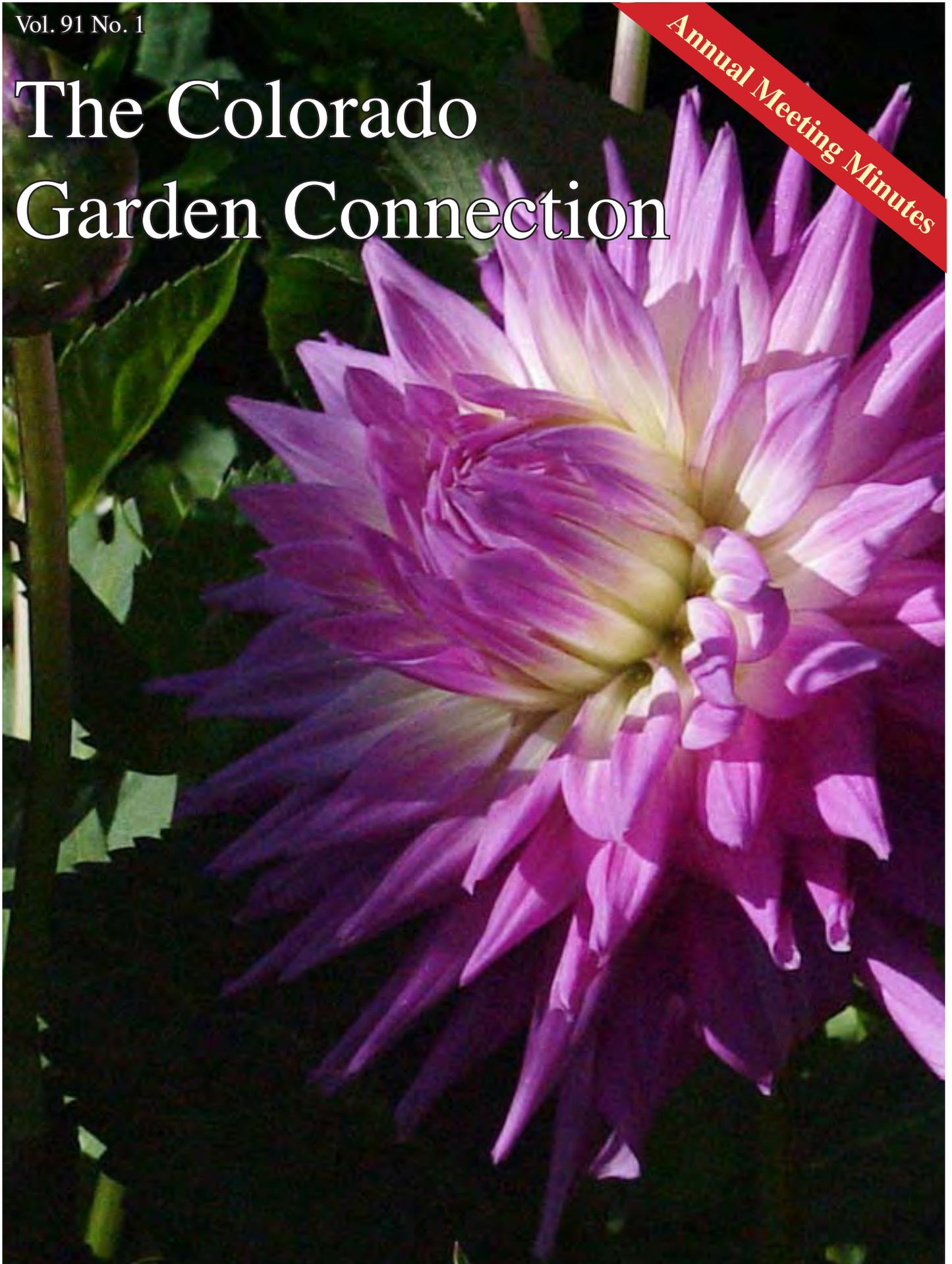


Vol. 91 No. 1

# The Colorado Garden Connection

*Annual Meeting Minutes*



**2019 CFGC  
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**Cover:** Pretty spiky purple flower, photographed as we hosted garden tour in Colorado Springs.

**Centerfold:** A flock of daffodils in Pueblo

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**How to Contact Us “Officially” & Other Information:**

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**The Colorado Garden Connection Submission Policy:**

The Colorado Garden Connection, the dues-supported magazine/newsletter of The Colorado Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc., welcomes all points of view relating to horticulture, gardening, floral arranging and landscaping. Please submit articles, letters, graphic materials, if possible via e-mail, to editor at [cbpelto@pcisys.net](mailto:cbpelto@pcisys.net) and/or [smpelto@pcisys.net](mailto:smpelto@pcisys.net). The editor(s) reserve the right to edit any submission for suitability and space. Names may be withheld from publication for good reason, however, the author’s full name, address, phone number, and where possible, e-mail address, must accompany every submission. We welcome your letters, articles, poetry, graphic artwork and other such items for inclusion in this newsletter. No hard-copy submissions will be returned without SASE. Uncopyrighted materials may be reprinted in other Colorado Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc., publications. The deadline for the next quarterly submissions appears in the events section.

**Visit Our Web Site:** [coloradogardenclubs.org](http://coloradogardenclubs.org)

Check it regularly for late news and changes to the Calendar and Events.

A Note from the President

The COVID-19 pandemic has altered our lives in small and large ways. I believe it is up to us to find ways to not only cope with the mandate of social distancing, isolation, and the inability to move about as freely as we have in the past but also to find the hidden joys of these constraints. What a blessing it is to have more time to spend with family. We can enjoy hobbies, read a good book, or take the time to appreciate our surroundings.



I do hope all garden club officers are keeping in touch with their members. A short note, a phone call, or an email can mean so much during this time of isolation.

May each of you have peace and joy in your lives despite the enormous challenges we now face, and I wish all of you safety, health, and happiness.

Your Friend In Gardening,

Margie Soileau



Taking walks, listening to the chirping birds, or watching their antics as they peck around gathering nesting materials is such a soothing pleasure. Yes, my friends, making lemonade out of lemons!

The greatest lament I have is that my group gardening activities have been canceled. For example, the Cheyenne Mountain Garden Club Board has canceled all program activities until September. This includes all the fantastic speakers we had booked for this coming year. My one consolation is assisting with the maintenance of the three flower garden beds at Memorial Park. This is a community project that is so fulfilling.

The one saving grace in today's world is our ability to communicate within our organizations and with each other. We have had several Zoom meetings to include the business meeting and annual meeting combined in one to make sure all necessary business was reviewed and voted. We now have a budget for the 2020-2021 garden year.

The purchase of a Zoom Pro meeting plan was approved and purchased. Please read the minutes of the meeting to be aware of all items discussed.

## Check out this little beauty!



Hummingbird on nest at Colorado Springs Garden Your, while we were playing host and hostess.

## From the Editors

My Dear Fellow Gardeners,

Do you have any idea how badly I don't want to write about COVID-19 and how it's messing things up? Sure you do. But it's like getting married or having a baby. It's almost all you can think about.

Except the heat wave we're having in Southern Colorado. I just checked, and in eight days we might have temperatures that don't reach 90. I may have to put on a sweater.

But that's one of the great things about gardeners. I haven't met one who isn't willing to go outside at dawn's first light to take care of gardening before it gets too hot. I don't think I've ever met one who wasn't willing to go outside in the heat to check on the plants, either. As one of our members used to say, "The housework can wait if there's gardening to be done." Then she'd grin.

If there's anything good about the current health situation, it is that people are thinking about what they really want to do with their time. The challenge to garden clubs is figuring out how to bring gardening and the benefits of garden clubs to their attention. The social benefits of garden clubs really shine in these times. Sure, we stress education and community service, but it is the opportunity to share that keeps clubs strong. Elsewhere in the newsletter you'll read how Dig and Dream GC is still active and sharing, despite stay-at-home orders.

Now is the time to plan for the growth of your club. Now is the time you'll discover your club's real strengths. How are you going to spread the word to folks who have decided gardening is more important to them than hanging out in a coffee shop? How are you going to make sure those folks feel welcome when they first attend a meeting, face to face or virtual?

Meanwhile, enjoy the fact that you can spend more time in the garden because you're expected to be somewhere else.

Susan Pelto  
Pueblo, CO

## Garden Gadgets

This issue, we'll address the use of cordless, powered gardening tools. I've been using such for years in gardening, lawn care, shrub and tree trimming. They work just fine at home where I have electricity but don't care to wrestle electrical cords around. Or away at the club's display garden on a heavily trafficked boulevard, where to get electricity, I'd have to set up a portable generator. Which I've done....once. And why I got into the cordless tools.



They come in many forms from hand-held clippers to chain saws. And pretty much everything in between. This includes soil tillers, limb loppers and a high-reaching, tree-trimming saw. The weed-whacker has an attachment that turns it into a lawn mower, suitable for small to medium yards. I save about \$600 a year doing my lawn myself with that. And that went to over \$1000 this year with the rate the latest lawn service just gave us.



These tools are powered by batteries. The tools have many manufacturers. And that means many different batteries. And one company's battery probably doesn't work in another company's tool. So finding a company with a set of tools that all work from the same battery is something to consider. It saves money and is easier on the mind. For instance you don't need many different battery chargers. One will do it all.



My preference is the Black and Decker line of 20-Volt Lithium Ion. Not only are the batteries interchangeable with all their garden tools, but also with many other of their cordless power tools, such as the Matrix drive unit with interchangeable attachments. It has different pieces to drill, sand, cut, saw, etc. And it uses the same batteries as the gardening tools.



We use these gardening tools at our display garden. The hedger is great for trimming back the Red Hot Pokers at the beginning of the growing season. Their leaf growth is dense. The hedger cuts right through it and we scatter it about for mulch. One of the batteries—a brand new one with a full charge—worked 2 hours straight at that task.



The weed-whacker does great work on the Snow-In-Summer, deadheading the browned blossom stalks.



Additionally, I've just discovered and purchased that cultivator and a pole-saw. These 100+ year-old trees need trimming now and then and professionals cost hundreds a visit.

All in all, these tools can save time and ourselves.



**Planting Time!**

Three of the Emerson House Trustees, Louise Niekerk, Lowanna Morgan, and Debbie Martin, spent their day planting impatientes in the front yard at Emerson House.



As you can see, Debbie and Lowanna are smiling as Louise takes the picture. Great work ladies!

**Speaking of Benefits**

These tools make life a lot easier as I mature and things don't work quite as well as they used to. For instance, fingers. Long ago, when I wore nothing but 'green', my hand was abused by a large, hard object. Of late, it's been catching up with me, aching.

Not having to repeatedly clench hand shears to dead-head plants is highly beneficial. Or lots of hand, elbow and arm work while trimming shrubs. The same is true for not having to stand so long as necessary to saw through a tree limb.

Speaking of aching fingers. I've found quick relief for the pain in the form of homeopathic ointments. For the fingers it's Triflora.



For stiff or strained muscles, it's Arnicare. Both are available from places like Whole Foods, Natural Grocers and Amazon.

Dig and Dream Garden Club Is Busy

The Dig and Dream Garden Club has been keeping busy during this trying time by holding virtual meetings and doing our workdays in shifts - following proper social distancing guidelines of course!

Although not all members have joined all of our virtual meetings, but we have had a quorum at all but one meeting since March!

We also had virtual educational programs to include one on gardening for butterflies with a virtual garden tour, which was a lot of fun.

We also were able to celebrate our cherished member, Dorothy Muir's, 100th Birthday this year with a fun drive by parade!

We have also expanded our website and added the ability for our member to pay their membership dues online.

We have been working hard to find creative ways to keep our members engaged. We look forward to learning tips from the other clubs on how you've been doing this as well!

The photos were taken at a work day at the Smoky Hill Library National Butterfly Garden that we designed, put in and maintain.



*Left to Right - James Pickering, Michele Gustin, and Marilyn Sotelo.*



*Left to Right - James Pickering, Victoria Schmidt, and Marilyn Sotelo holding tools we got from Ames as a grant this year.*



Walking Through the Gardens

by Becky Elder

We woke feeling particularly inspired this morning! Our resident robin is singing his head off in the early morning. He begins about 4:30 am and continues until his day starts about 6am when he flies off to get



busy in his bird day. Feeling deep gratitude for being a gardener and participating in the dance of nature, the day starts happy. Waking in the morning, especially with

the world in partial shutdown, feels peaceful and more meaningful than ever before. Michael and I stay aware of our progress going forward through this on-going happening of uncertainty.

Walking through the gardens, we can dine on early spring greens, fresh off the plant and way before breakfast. We have been eating out of the gardens since April, when plants began to emerge, with the early spring greens, lamb's quarters, dandelion, salty orach and the fabulous garlic mustard. We trim and eat the stinging nettles, which are moving about the yard and expanding the harvest for us (and also provide our arthritic wrists and joints some relief). Broccoli, beets, and basil are growing like, well, weeds, and I look for successful harvests. Also coming on are the walking Egyptian onions, bush beans, scarlet runner beans, garlic planted last fall, and much more. The dark kale is sown in a big spiral in the bed. Seeds don't care if they are in a straight line, like a bunch of little soldiers, or in a free flowing artsy pattern. Then, I tossed the arugula onto the entire back bed, as if a big wind had dispersed them across the soil. Topped with our neighbor's chicken yard straw for mulch, we are already seeing results.

Michael built our new grow areas. We set up new cold frames and large pots, plus ordered the farm produce box from the Arkansas Valley Organic Growers. We understand food insecurity and work to support our local producing farmers.

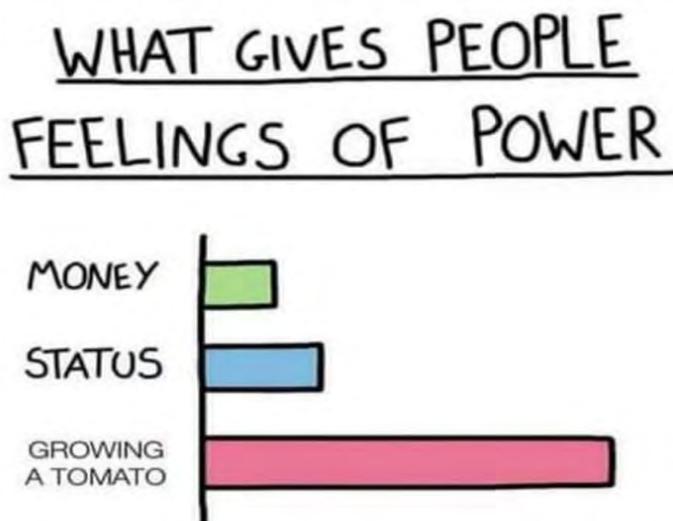
The rhubarb has been pulled and processed, and I see there may be a second harvest. The other fruits will come in their proper order - first the cherries, both sour cherry and the Nanking cherries, followed by the apri-

cots, peaches and finally apples. We are waiting for the Chinese date jujube tree to leaf out. We know they come late. If all goes well, we will get something from each plant. The nectarine may surprise us... it always does, but we don't count on it. Nectarines can be too tender most years.

We enjoy fresh goat milk from the neighborhood farm and have ordered new chickens to start another young flock. We miss having our own fresh eggs! In October the grass fed/grass finished beef will come in and we already have made our order. Local food is no joke and is superior to anything one could purchase from corporate sources.

Corona virus has put Michael and I into closer relationship with the earth and our producer friends. Growing food is a huge part of making significant changes in our culture and becoming more self-reliant on our own work, our own soils. Anyone can do it. So, what about the rest of Manitou? The virus has offered our culture an opportunity to make positive and smart changes in how we live on the planet. In a closed-system planet, everything we do has impact and reports far into the future. Changes made now may take years to come to fruition. Non-profits are working hard on this in the region. So, what is our local government envisioning for significant, positive change? How does Manitou view this whole issue and what is the outcome that Manitou might want? Manitou took a giant step with the tree planting in the community orchard at the Flying Pig Farm. Yes! But there are miles to go to impact food security.

Continued on Page 10.....



Minutes of Combined Meeting  
CFGC Annual Meeting and Board of Directors

June 23, 2020

The members of CFGC held their Annual Meeting combined with the Board of Directors on June 23, 2020. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the meeting took place via Zoom. Approximately twenty members participated. A quorum was present. President Margie Soileau welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order at 2:12 p.m. CFGC Chaplain Jerry Brown offered the invocation. Margie introduced Officers, District Presidents, and Past Presidents who were present. The minutes of the 2019 Annual Meeting and the March 10th Board meeting were approved as published.

**Budget.** Treasurer Kathy Petersen presented CFGC's proposed budget for 2020-2021. It is based on last year's budget, as well as figures provided by the Emerson House Trustees. It anticipates total income of about \$39,000 and expenses of \$22,000. (See Budget for details.)

Kathy made the following motion, which was seconded:

MOTION: That the 2020-2021 budget, as presented, be approved.

The motion passed.

**Financial Report.** Kathy provided CFGC's balance sheet and profit & loss statements. At the end of its fiscal year (May 31, 2020), CFGC had \$14,766 in checking, \$37,754 in general fund money market, and \$107,782 in Vanguard. Total income exceeded expenses by \$10,442. "Income" includes dues, Colorado Gives Day proceeds of \$8,498, and a \$5,000 grant from the Colorado Garden Federation. The report was filed. (See Balance Sheet and Profit & Loss for details.)

**Ways & Means Chair Nancy Griffin** reported that Colorado Gives Day resulted in more donations this year than last. The fundraising goal for this year will be \$10,000.

**Emerson House.** Nancy stated that Doug Curley continues to provide lawn services for no charge. No clubs have worked in the yard recently, but three (Dig & Dream, Evergreen Moonlight, and Harveyette Harvesters) are scheduled later this year. Dottie Vickland has donated a Cheyenne Mock Orange for Emerson

House's back yard.

Assistant Treasurer Sue Parker said that the deadline for dues this year has been extended to September 1. (It is usually June 1.)

Recommendations from Executive Committee. Secretary Lynn Cleveland presented the following recommendations from the Executive Committee:

1. That the 2020-2021 budget, as presented, be approved.

2. That Standing Rule 18 be amended as follows:

18. Standing Rules for E-Meetings (telephone, video-conference, or other electronic means):

a. Regular and special meetings of boards and committees and the Annual and District Meetings may be held via E-Meetings.

b. Once a quorum is established, the quorum remains in effect until the E-Meeting is adjourned.

c. Background noise should be kept to a minimum.

d. All participants must be able to simultaneously hear in order to participate and will be counted in the quorum.

e. When joining or leaving an E-Meeting by audio/telephone only, and when seeking recognition, members address the chair and state their names. In E-meetings with video, members seeking recognition may raise their hand or use some other visual signal.

f. If several members seek recognition at one time, the presiding officer will note their names and call on each one in turn.

g. Members using cell phones need to be sure phones are fully charged. If a cell phone call is dropped, the member needs to call back.

h. [18h is deleted entirely]

3. That CFGC pay \$347 for 100 Heart Warmer pins from Pinmart.

4. That CFGC reimburse Margie Soileau \$149.99 for the Zoom account.

5. That the \$5,000 grant from the Colorado Garden Foundation be allocated as follows: Flower Show School: \$2,000; Gardening Study, Environmental Studies, and Landscape Design Schools, \$1,000 each.

The recommendations were offered individually, and

all passed.

Chairmen needed. Margie has been seeking volunteers to chair the Facebook committee and Environmental School. Sue and Ben Parker expressed interest in the latter. Contact Margie or Nancy Griffin if you would like to head up Facebook.

Awards Chair Michele Gustin said that CFGC clubs and Judges Council have won several National awards. (See separate list.) Michele hopes to present these awards, together with Colorado awards, at an in-person meeting in September.

Flower Show. Doris Duckworth has been asked by the Colorado Home & Garden Show whether CFGC wishes to have its Flower Show space again next year, and the answer is yes. The Show will take place February 13 to 21, 2021, with CFGC's entries and judging on February 12th. Doris asked: What kind of show do we want? A full standard flower show, which allows judges to keep up their credentials? Or just a floral exhibition? What about design and horticulture? Some kind of specialty show? We need ideas! Therefore, a preliminary committee meeting will be held July 9th at 10:00 a.m. at Emerson House, with social distancing rules in place. Nancy Griffin volunteered to co-chair and Sharon Tracer also indicated an interest. Everyone interested is invited. Contact Doris if you need more information.

Annual Convention. The 2021 Convention will be hosted by the Northern Front Range District.

Blue Star Markers. Audrey Coyle reported that the marker for Pikes Peak National Cemetery is being made now, and may be installed this fall at the Visitors Center.

Zoom Account. Margie noted that CFGC's new Zoom account is for the use of all of CFGC, including Districts and Committees.

Grant Application. Doris said that our application for a grant from the Colorado Garden Foundation is due August 31. We did not hold many schools this year, so can only write about Landscape Design School last November and Flower Show School scheduled for this October (Louise Niekerk, Chair) in our grant request.

Margie concluded this E-Meeting by thanking all the

participants and looking forward to the time that we can see each other in person again. The meeting adjourned at 3:12 p.m.

Lynn Cleveland  
Secretary

### Standing Rule 18 Changed for 'The Age of ZOOM'

Please Update Your Standing Rules  
for the Age of ZOOM

Standing Rule 18 was written in the days when teleconferences were new. At our June 23rd meeting, the Rule was updated to cover Zoom and other remote methods for getting together.

Please replace Standing Rule 18 in your Manual with the following. You will notice that the old 18h was deleted completely.

18. Standing Rules for E-Meetings (telephone, video-conference, or other electronic means):

- a. Regular and special meetings of boards and committees and the Annual and District Meetings may be held via E-Meetings.
- b. Once a quorum is established, the quorum remains in effect until the E-Meeting is adjourned.
- c. Background noise should be kept to a minimum.
- d. All participants must be able to simultaneously hear in order to participate and will be counted in the quorum.
- e. When joining or leaving an E-Meeting by audio/telephone only, and when seeking recognition, members address the chair and state their names. In E-meetings with video, members seeking recognition may raise their hand or use some other visual signal.
- f. If several members seek recognition at one time, the presiding officer will note their names and call on each one in turn.
- g. Members using cell phones need to be sure phones are fully charged. If a cell phone call is dropped, the member needs to call back.

Lynn Cleveland

## How Do You Know You Are a Master Gardener?

- There is a decorative compost container on your kitchen counter.
- You would rather go to a nursery to shop than a clothing store.
- You prefer gardening to watching television.
- You plan vacation trips to arboretums and public parks.
- Dirt under your fingernails and calloused palms are matters of pride.
- You have a t-shirt that states.....

*....My Favorite Sport Is Gardening*

**You might not have that piece of paper issued by Colorado State University, but you're right up there with them.**



## Walking Through the Gardens

Continued from Page 7....

Food security is far more important to survival than on-going tourism. Even so, food can still have an agricultural-tourism bend to it. From community gardens to compost production to farm tours, people are interested in such systems. "Modern grocery outlets" are not even 100 years old yet. Our human communities are not so far away from days when all the food was growing within the community. Our ancestors knew about local food. Manitou could re-learn some of the basics and strengthen our response to calamities now and for the future.

I'm just saying. This is not California, but, with good design, and support from the community, Manitou could be growing the future right here! We can create "California" with integrated greenhouses. Remember that there are Colorado Grown bananas, avocados, papayas, and year round vegetables! Let's increase the support to local farmers and encourage our farms to expand! Where did the idea of edible parks go? Could our farms expand onto public land? Open space? Edible parks are all over the country. More people have the awareness of how delicate our food security is. Edible parks are popular. I would hope Manitou will take this up seriously and work to do more. More, each year. Our future may require it. Just like the tree planting effort, food security will and should continue to grow. This isn't California, but it is Colorado. We can do this. We just need to be the ones who cared enough.

## Suggested Books for Gardening

- Diary of a Mad Gardener
- The Grumpy Gardener's Handbook
- Little Book of Alternative Garden Wisdom
- Clichés and One-Liners for Gardeners
- You Know You're a Gardening Fanatic When...
- White Trash Gardening

**Coming Events of Interest:**

- **Deadline for submissions for the Fall issue of the Colorado Garden Connection**, September 22, 2020.
- Sept. 8, 2020      CFGC Ways & Means, Ex BD & BOD meeting at EH, 9:30am-3pm
- Dec. 8, 2020      CFGC Ways & Means, Ex BD & BOD meeting at EH, 9:30am-3pm
- Dec. 8, 2020      CFGC Colorado Gives Day
- March 9, 2021      CFGC Ways & Means, Ex BD & BOD meeting at EH, 9:30-3pm
- May 16-22, 2021    NGC Convention – Meadowlands, New Jersey
- Sept. 21-24, 2021    NGC Fall Board meeting, St. Louis, Missouri
- Oct. 4-6, 2021      CFGC Flower Show Symposium at EH, Design Types: Abstract, Armatures, Allied Topics: Techniques, Fantasy Forms, Horticulture: Mums and geraniums. Chair, Louise Niekerk.

For additional information on events without a Point-of-Contact (POC), please check the CFGC web-site at [coloradogardenclubs.org](http://coloradogardenclubs.org). Or, if no access to the internet, call or write Joy Kancir at 303-814-0679 or 2195 Pine Wood Road, Sedalia, CO 80135-8043.

**The Colorado Garden Connection**

The Newsletter of The Colorado Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc.  
1556 Emerson  
Denver, CO 80218-1450



**To:** \_\_\_\_\_

A large empty rectangular box with a black border, intended for the recipient's name and address.