

Vol. 88 No. 4

The Colorado Garden Connection



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Cover Picture:

Poinsettia Leaves.

Centerfold:

Something to brighten the gray days of Winter: Miniature Golden Mums

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How to Contact Us “Officially” & Other Information:

The Colorado Garden Connection is the official quarterly publication of Colorado Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc., an affiliate of National Garden Clubs, Inc. Known office of publication: 1556 Emerson, Denver, CO 80218-1450. Editorial, subscription, advertising and all other information available through The Colorado Garden Connection, same. Contents COPYRIGHT © 2017 by the Colorado Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc., or individual authors/artists. Permission is granted to clubs of the Colorado Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc., to reprint material not otherwise copyrighted by an individual author, providing wording similar to the following is also printed: “By (author name) Reprinted from The Colorado Garden Connection, the newsletter of the Colorado Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc.”. Please send two (2) copies of reprints to Editor at 425 W 18th St, Pueblo, CO 81003. All opinions expressed herein are those of the individual authors and do not necessarily reflect the opinions of Colorado Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc., or its officers and members.

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 and/or 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 appear in the events section.

Visit Our Web Site: coloradogardenclubs.org

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

From the President

Season's Greetings

Our holiday season doesn't seem quite as bright at this writing as it did a short week ago. That was before I learned that our webmaster, Lorayne McGovern, didn't respond favorably to cancer treatment and is now in hospice. Please keep Lorayne in your prayers and know that her family has requested no visitors at this time.



Realistically, we will need to address a vacant webmaster chairmanship. If you or someone you know might be interested in filling this very important position, please know that a resume stating website experience and aspirations for dealing with the website would be extremely helpful in naming a webmaster. I shall accept resumes starting immediately.



When I wrote my Christmas letter, I ended with the following:

As we embark upon a new year, please plan to help in fulfilling My Project as President of the Colorado Federation of Garden Clubs: "Befriend Our Pollinators". Concern for the survival of our helpful friends increases dramatically. We can help by including plants in our gardens that will provide a safe habitat and food for bees, butterflies, and birds. Plants like milkweed and agastache attract pollinators and add beauty to our gardens. Try it, you'll like it!

During the cold months ahead, think about our pollinators as you plan your 2018 garden. Making changes to your landscape should be a fun project, and you will be aiding an important and necessary cause. Those of you attending our December meeting were treated to a delightful and very informative program on pollinators by Becky Elder.

Michele Gustin, 2018 Convention Chair, has announced that the 2018 meeting will be held in Aurora on Saturday, June 2. Look for the registration form in The Colorado Connection.

At our last meeting, Trudie Layton pointed out that annual conventions are hosted by Southern District and the Northern Front Range District on a rotating basis; however, the responsibility of a two-and-a-half day convention falls upon the Southern District while the Northern Front Range District will host the one-day convention. A committee has been formed to explore the possibility of having a more equitable convention sponsorship. If you have ideas about this or wish to join the committee, please let me know. Lynn Cleveland, Michele Gustin, and Margie Soileau are on the committee, and I will be serving as an ex-officio member.

Read Lynn's minutes to learn more about our December meeting. Our March 12 meeting will feature a Welby Gardens speaker on "What's New for 2018". See you then!

Your friend in gardening,
Betty



My Dear Fellow Gardeners,

I work for the local community college and we've had a lot of discussion about "soft skills" and how to make sure our students have them. Most soft skills aren't really skills at all, but what our mothers would have called good manners: showing up on time, paying attention, being respectful in word and deed and so on.

I've been mulling over the soft skills gardeners exhibit. To begin with, we're people who plan ahead. We think about what new plants we want to try, where we're going to plant them, when we're going to plant them, and whether we need any soil augmentation before we plant.

Another soft skill gardeners exhibit is flexibility or adaptability. That plant won't grow there? We'll find another one and find a new spot for the first one. The hose is leaky? We'll carry water in a can.

Gardeners are patient. They're willing to wait for their rewards. The need for instant gratification is satisfied by the glass of iced tea when they go back inside. They're willing to try new things, and take risks.

Gardeners are willing to share. They share plants, advice, seeds, mulch.

Garden club members have additional soft skills. I don't think I've ever heard of a garden club member being late to a meeting. They're willing, no, eager, to learn more and improve their gardening. They're focused on their goals and their fellow members. And garden clubs provide their members the opportunity develop teamwork, meeting and presentation skills.

Wow, we're a great bunch!

In future issues, we look forward to hearing about your gardens, the projects you undertake, and the fun you've had.

Susan Pelto
Pueblo, CO

Squirrels In the Attic! Gophers in the Earth!

Gads! Is there anything they can't mess up?

Some time back I heard a distinct gnawing sound from somewhere above me. Then, last week, while digging around in the attic, we found squirrel droppings. Later, I heard the little beast muttering and chuffing to itself—or rather at me—from behind a portal door in the attic.

So I've ordered some ultra-sonic devices that will hopefully drive the beast back out, before it breaks loose into the house proper.

But that's not the point of this article. Rather, in my searching for something to deal with the pest, I discovered another device that I can use in my mountain gardening.

Up there, we have gophers. LOTS of them. And they are VERY active little pests. You can sit in a chair enjoying the great outdoors in a dead calm, and you'll see tall grass moving back and forth. The gophers are obviously either digging near the roots or eating them. So they'll be going after garden plants we intend to grow there next Summer.

What to do about them....

Unlike the bizarro greens-keeper Bill Murray played in the 1980 comedy, [Caddyshack](#), plastic explosives are definitely out.

Here is a less destructive technique: Solar Powered Gopher Chaser Stakes.

Amazon carries a wide variety of these devices. Some of which carry a 5-Star approval rating—the max—by every customer who has purchased and posted a review. One line claims a 95 foot radius of effectiveness. That's about 7000 square feet. Which sounds rather impressive.



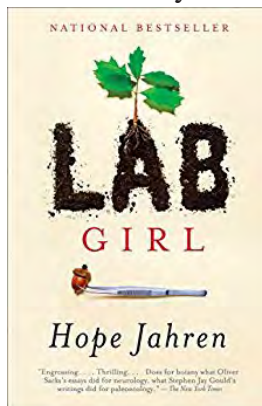
They pulse and vibrate at a range that greatly annoys and even frightens the little pests.

The Colorado State Forest Service (CSFS) is offering plants and trees to the various mountainous counties of the state. We're seriously considering getting some of the fruit-bearing varieties and starting an orchard or three. These stakes would go far to letting the young trees survive the ravages of these critters.

They're also effective against other burrowing pests, such as moles. Might even be effective against mice and rabbits.

Book Review Lab Girl by Hope Jahren

As a child, Hope Jahren played after hours in a lab where her father taught science at a community college, and dreamt of the day when she would have her own lab. She pursued a career as a research scientist and professor studying plants. She wanted to know, how do plants grow? Why do they grow the way they do? What effects do external factors have? Throughout all her fascinating, funny, or disastrous experiments, she battled the perception that she couldn't really be a serious scientist because she was a woman. She also battled some personal demons, but was aided by a brilliant misfit colleague whose wry wit and practical solutions often saved the day. Chapters concerning her life alternate with powerful descriptions of the life of a tree from seed to demise.



Lynn Cleveland

[Editor's Note: [Lab Girl](#) can be found at Amazon.....]

Announcements & Pronouncements

- Congratulations to Doris Duckworth on receiving a grant to support the CFGC participation in the 2018 Colorado Garden and Home Show.
- Photographic Submissions — A number of photos have been provided for use in The Connection. Unfortunately many of them are of formats and sizes that do not come across well when enlarged for use. For the best results, we recommend the use of an advanced smart phone or a real digital camera. Try to avoid sending '.jpg' or '.pnt' images. Go for the original or 'RAW'. TIFF images work fairly well also. We can always 'shrink' the image. But if we try to enlarge a .jpg, serious 'pixilation' makes the image look bad.



Garden Club Ames Tool Grant

by Trudie Layton

Several members of the Southern District of the Colorado Federation of Garden Clubs recently participated in a joint pollinator garden project with children of the El Paso County Red Shield After-School and Summer Programs. The garden was a culmination of a 7 week long environmental education program called 'Wildlife Explorers' that Bear Creek Nature Center & Friends of El Paso County Nature Centers provided at no cost to the Salvation Army Community Center students.

Wildlife Explorers is a turnkey initiative developed by NRPA (National Recreation and Park Association) in cooperation with National Wildlife Federation and the Cornell Lab of Ornithology. Wildlife Explorers is a program for children in underserved urban areas that do not have much experience with nature. The garden project is located at the Salvation Army Red Shield Community Center, 908 Yuma Street, Colorado Springs, CO 80909.

The members of Gardeners With Altitude Garden Club, Pikes Peak Designers Guild and Cheyenne Mountain Garden Club assisted in the planning of the garden and spent a windy, cold afternoon on May 3rd selecting pollinator-friendly native perennial plants that were suitable to the project location. The weather cooperated enough to allow the children and gardeners time to prepare the beds with tools donated by Ames Tools. After amending the soil, the students arranged the plants, readying them for the following week's planting. Mrs. Carol Neil, a member of the Cheyenne Mountain Garden Club, generously donated the funds for the plants and soil amendments.

Planting day, May 10th, turned out to be too stormy and rainy to work but delaying one day did little to dampen the spirits of the children. The raised bed garden full of potential pollinators trickled over to a protected courtyard with many native xeric plants. Seeds donated by the Manitou Springs Garden Club were being planted in newly turned beds along the building. The project grew with the enthusiasm of the workers.

Continued on page 10.....



JUNE 02,2018 SATURDAY

“GROW AND SHARE COLORADO”

CFGFC ANNUAL CONVENTION

Hosted by the Northern Front Range District

Program by D.U.G.- Denver Urban Gardens

Nearby Activities-

Aurora Xeriscape Garden Delaney Farm

Plains Conservation Center

Picken’s Tech Rose Garden Nick’s Farm Market

**Summit Conference
and Event Center
4011 S. Sable Blvd.
North
Aurora, CO 80011**

Pasta Buffet

REGISTRAR

LOWANNA MORGAN

11288 W. 102nd Pl.

Northglenn, CO 80260

\$25.00 Members

\$30.00 Non-members

Club _____

Phone _____

Registration form -----

Name _____

Email _____

Member’s Credentials- Please mark all that apply:

____ Past State President ____ Club President ____ Club Officer

____ State Officer ____ State Chairman ____ State Life Member

____ Regional Officer, Chairman/Committee Member

____ Regional Life Member ____ Flower Show Judge

____ Gardening Study Consultant ____ Club Delegate

____ Environmental Studies Consultant

____ Affiliate member

____ District President

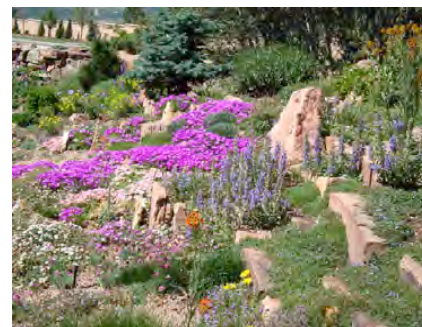
____ Headquarters Trustee

____ Landscape Design
Consultant

____ First Time Attendee

Please complete and return by May 20, 2018 to the Registrar

Checks made payable to CFGC 2018 Convention



PENROSE HOUSE
1661 Mesa Avenue
Colorado Springs, CO

80906

SOUTHERN DISTRICT ANNUAL MEETING
Colorado Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc.

APRIL 21ST, 2018

AN ELEGANT GARDEN INTERLUDE

hosted by PIKES PEAK DESIGNERS GUILD

9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

MEETING in the CARRIAGE HOUSE

A Continental Breakfast

LUNCH in the DINING ROOM

Chicken Primavera Casserole,

Tuscan Beef Casserole, Salads, Rolls

Prince William Vegetables, Tiramisu

PROGRAM, "Xerically Speaking",

Jean Morgan

TOUR follows program



REGISTRATION FEE

\$25.00 for CFGC members

\$30.00 for Non-members

+ \$5.00 additionally, IF LATE, \$30/member, \$35/non-member

NO REFUNDS

MAIL check before March 31st

MAIL check before March 31st

MAIL by April 6th

Registrar must receive Registration Fee by April 1st, NO LATER than Apr 10th

Club President brings three copies of Annual Report & Auction basket

REGISTRATION FORM distributed to each CFGC Member

Name _____ CFGC Officer (circle) State District

Garden Club _____

Phone _____ E-Mail _____

of Guests _____ (# of non-CFGC members coming with you)

Check made payable to CFGC SDM 2018

MAIL to REGISTRAR by March 30th. The LATEST mailing is April 6th.

Rosemary Rice, 1815 Paseo Del Oro, Colorado Springs, CO 80904-1687

**Emerson House Trustees
Board of Director's Report
December 4, 2017**

This fall the Emerson House Trustees have been concentrating their attention on house maintenance in addition to the usual on-going yard maintenance. October was the last Trustee meeting and workday for 2017. Starting 2018, Trustees will be meeting the 4th Monday of the month from March thru October 2018. The next Emerson House Trustee meeting and workday is scheduled for Monday, March 26, 2018. Any CFGC club member who would like to attend a meeting/workday is welcome.

Yard maintenance:

In late October the front garden was cleaned up, the spent geraniums were pulled out and additional bulbs were planted for spring color in 2018. But the time of the BOD meeting Doug Curley, who does the lawn care, will have shut off the water valve for the sprinklers.

Speaking of Doug Curley, in the past, his company had ensured that the Emerson House sidewalks were clear of snow; this year he informed us that he is no longer doing snow removal. Many may not know, and special thanks goes to Doug, all the work that he has done was gratis to Emerson House. Emerson House has hired a contractor to do snow removal.

House maintenance:

For years there has been water leaking into the basement during heavy snows and/or rains. This year the window well and covers were replaced which makes the windows to the basement completely sealed. After the first heavy snow there was no leakage in the basement but Trustees will continue to monitor for moisture in the basement.

Additional work needs to be done in cleaning, repairing, and/or repainting the south inside wall. This work is put on hold until we go through the winter to see if the walls stay dry. When fixing the wall, Emerson House will also replace the cellar door.

The roof and ceiling has been checked for leaks. The gutters were clean and the inside of the roof is dry.

A big thank you goes out to Louise Niekerk and Gail

Fischer for reviewing and cleaning out old files that were in filing cabinets around Emerson House.

Additional comment:

Trustees would like to thank the Greeley Morning GC for their generous donation to Emerson House.

Once again, the Trustees are asking CFGC clubs to support their Emerson House Headquarters buy planning a workday this 2018 summer season, in particular to do work in the gardens. Please speak to your club members about putting an Emerson House workday on your 2018 schedule. Contact Joyce Cassidy – 720-234-0476; joyce.cassidy@cassidycm.com to schedule. We'd, also, like to thank the 2 clubs that worked this past summer.

Joyce Cassidy, Emerson House Trustee, Chair pro tem

Garden Club Ames Tool Grant

Continued from page 5.....

Bear Creek Nature Center/Friends of El Paso County Nature Centers and Southern District of the Colorado Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc., will use this experience as a "pilot" project. Together we will monitor and evaluate this project and consider other urban after-school care or summer programming that we can serve with Wildlife Explorers programming and pollinator garden (or vegetable garden) improvement projects.

The Southern District of the Colorado Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc., covers the southern part of Colorado extending from Centennial to the New Mexico state line. The Ames Tool Grant was made available through a joint project with National Garden Clubs, Inc., of which CFGC is a member. El Paso County Bear Creek Nature Center Supervisor Mary Jo Lewis facilitated many project details along with Trudie Layton, a member of the Woodland Park club.



Minutes of the Board of Directors Meeting
Colorado Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc.
Emerson House – December 4, 2017

Call to Order by President Betty Roberts at 11:20 a.m. A quorum was present. In the absence of the Chaplain, Mary Fagerberg offered the invocation. The minutes of the September meeting were approved as published.

Financial Report. Treasurer Kathy Petersen reviewed the Balance Sheet and Profit & Loss statement. As of December 1, CFGC's income for the fiscal year (since June 1) exceeded expenses by \$1,830. CFGC's income tax return was filed and is available for review by any member.

Membership. Sue Parker reported a total of 459 individual members, not yet counting the new club.

Ways & Means Chair Margie Soileau emphasized the importance of Colorado Gives Day tomorrow. Clubs have come up with various creative ways to raise funds to donate on this day.

Grants. Doris Duckworth announced that once again, the Colorado Garden Foundation has awarded a \$5,000 grant to CFGC to support our educational schools. Please submit photos taken at our schools; the Foundation has requested them. Doris emphasized plans for a Flower Show School and Symposium next year. Margie will hold a Garden Study School as well. Doris has managed our grants process for 15 years; a new volunteer would be welcome.

Emerson House. Joy Kancir reported that the Trustees have hired a new person to shovel snow when needed. A note from Janet Tettemer was read, thanking the three clubs who provided garden maintenance help this year (Evergreen Moonlight, Dig & Dream, and Douglas County.) Clubs are urged to volunteer a few hours or a day to help out. There are currently 7 Trustees; another volunteer is needed.

Awards Chair Michele Gustin delivered corrected RMR award certificates to the previously named winners. She reminded clubs to submit their yearbooks for judging. Send at least one to Michele and one to CFGC President Betty Roberts. Yearbooks will be judged after the March 2018 Board meeting.

Blue/Gold Star marker has been approved for Fort Logan. Funds are still being accumulated for it.

Southern District Annual Meeting will be April 21, 2018, Nanc Halverhout announced.

CFGC Annual Convention will be June 2, 2018 at the Aurora Summit Conference and Event Center, with a speaker from Denver Urban Gardens and pasta bar lunch, Michele Gustin announced.

Denver Botanic Gardens. President Betty spoke of the value of CFGC's seat on the Board at DBG. She urged members to enjoy the Blossoms of Light display there this season.

Books. Audrey Coyle reminded clubs that NGC's children's books "The Saved Seed" and "The Frightened Frog" are available for \$10 per copy. She urged clubs to donate books to elementary schools, with the club's name and CFGC written inside.

Recommendations from Executive Committee were presented:

To form a committee to study solutions for the current State Convention hosting situation under which one District always hosts the long convention and the other District always hosts the short one. Initial members of the committee will be Betty Roberts, Lynn Cleveland, Michele Gustin, Margie Soileau. Others are welcome. To grant \$500 to support a "High Mountain Educational Event" planned by Gardeners with Altitude. The event will provide 8 hours of classes in Teller County free to the public, to encourage saving seeds and growing one's own food. The recommendation was passed.

The meeting adjourned at 11:55 a.m. Following lunch, guests were treated to a program on Pollinators by Becky Elder.

Lynn Cleveland, Recording Secretary



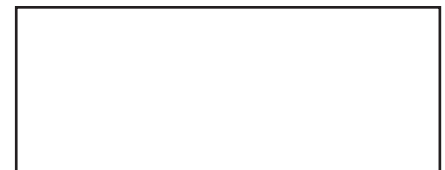
Coming Events of Interest:

- CFGC 2018 Convention Planning meeting at Emerson House, January 8, 2018 1-4 pm, Michele Gustin
- Colorado Garden and Home Show Flower Show “Let’s Play a Game!” at the Denver Convention Center, February 23-March 4, 2018.
- CFGC Ways & Means, Ex. Bd. & BOD meeting, Emerson House, Denver, March 12, 2018 9 am.
- **Deadline for submissions for the Spring 2018 issue of the Colorado Garden Connection**, March 26, 2018.
- CFGC Northern Front Range District meeting at Applewood Canyon Golf Club House, 14002 W. 32nd. Ave, Golden, CO 80401, Sunday April 8, 2018 9 am.
- CFGC Southern District Meeting, Penrose House, Co Springs, CO. Saturday April 21, 2018.
- CFGC Garden Study classes at El Paso County Extension office, Colorado Springs, CO. May 2-3, 2018.
- CFGC Ways & Means, Ex. Bd. & BOD meeting, Emerson House, Denver, May 7, 2018 9 am.
- CFGC Flower Show Symposium, Emerson House, Denver. May 15-16, 2018 8 am.
- NGC Convention, Philadelphia, PA, May 21-24, 2018
- CFGC Annual State Convention, June 2, 2018 at the Summit Events Center, 411 Sable Blvd., N. Aurora, CO 80011
- CFGC Ways & Means, Ex. Bd. & BOD meeting, Emerson House, Denver, September 4, 2018 9 am.
- NGC National Fall Board meeting Orlando, Florida, September 25-30, 2018.
- CFGC Ways & Means, Ex. Bd. & BOD meeting, Emerson House, Denver, December 3, 2018 9 am.

For additional information on events without a Point-of-Contact (POC), please check the CFGC web-site at 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: