

Vol. 89 No. 4

The Colorado Garden Connection



**2017 CFGC
Executive Committee**

President
Betty Roberts
719-282-9642
bettyroberts@gmail.com

Vice President
Margie Soileau
719-648-8025
margie.soileau@gmail.com

Secretary
Lynn Cleveland
303-295-8097
johnandlynn@comcast.net

Treasurer
Kathy Petersen
303-422-2505
kpetersen303@q.com

Assistant Treasurer
Sue Parker
303-699-2534
sbparker@besteffort.com

Editors
Chuck & Susan Pelto
719-543-4502
cbpelto@pcisys.net
smpelto@pcisys.net

Cover:
Clematis from the
Editors' backyard garden
wall.

Centerfold:
Crysanthemum from
floral display at the 2017
CFGC Annual Meeting

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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 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

"Reflections" by Betty Roberts

*Grow and Share Colorado
Befriend Our Pollinators*

In less than two months I will be turning over the reins of our Colorado Federation of Garden Clubs leadership to Margie Soileau, and it hardly seems possible. It has been an incredibly enriching experience. I'm grateful for the way our garden clubs embraced my theme and project in club program presentations and in individual gardens. Our environment is better for the effort! I am especially grateful for the effort when we learn at alarming rates that our bee population is on the decline. Please, everyone, continue your vigil and your commitment to preserving our pollinators.



The Spring 2019 issue of *The National Gardener* includes an interesting article entitled a mission for monarchs - THANK YOU, PLANTERS OF MILKWEED: OUR EFFORTS MAKE A DIFFERENCE! According to the article, "monarch butterflies only lay their eggs on milkweed." I know that many of our Colorado garden club members made a special effort to plant milkweed, and this is such happy news. Thank you a thousand times over for all you have done and will continue to do in this area. Another bit of good news: "monarchs wintering in Mexico are up 144 percent from last year". On the sad side, "numbers are down for monarchs wintering in California". Scientists warn us that the good news doesn't mean that monarchs are out of danger. Let us all recommit our efforts to "Befriend Our Pollinators".

Our state convention planning committee under the capable leadership of Aurora Glaze promises to be an enriching experience for all who attend. Our newly installed National Garden Clubs President, Gay Austin, will be joining us. She will have words of wisdom for us, and she will also be installing our new officers.

Aurora plans to have lots of neat prizes on hand, and the drawings will help make this a fun time. On the educational side, Panayoti Kelaidis, Senior Curator and Director of Outreach at Denver Botanic Gardens, will be delivering the Saturday evening address. I am really looking forward to this. Panayoti is always an engaging speaker, and his "Stephen Long Expedition" promises to be educational, as well as entertaining.

Ever since my high school days in New Mexico, I have had an interest in parliamentary procedure. Robert's Rules of Order is designed to help meetings run smoothly; however, our club members aren't always trained in the rudimentary principles. At our Rocky Mountain Regional last fall, we had a session on parliamentary procedure which was surprisingly fun and very educational. I returned with lots of pages which I hope to distribute to our members which should help with the most elementary rules that aid in running meetings efficiently.

We have been saddened by the news that Trudie Layton, a CFGC past president and enthusiastic garden club member of Gardeners with Altitude, has sold her home and has moved to Arizona. Trudie, we shall miss you and your expertise, but we know you'll be lending your talents to some fortunate group in Arizona.

To each and every member of our Colorado Federation of Garden Clubs: I am very proud of your commitment to garden club work. You are truly making this world a much better place.

On a personal note, I'd like to thank each and every one of you for the outpouring of love, kindness, and concern during my recent health issues. I could not have asked for more supportive friends, and I shall be eternally grateful.

Please remember, **National Garden Week** is June 2-8, 2019.

Your friend in gardening,

Betty

My Dear Fellow Gardeners,

Spring Has Sprung

*Spring has sprung.
The grass has ris.
I wonder where the flowers is.*

It's been a reasonable Winter this time. Mother Nature has provided adequate moisture for the flowers; consequently, they are already coming up in their turn, and the trees are putting on their greens and blossoms.

For those who thrive on arranging the blooms and foliage to come, there's anticipation of the coming colors and forms.

Despite the recent, ferocious wind storm here—blizzard, elsewhere—which did severe damage throughout the city, life returns in the turn of the season.

That means it's time to go out into this moderate weather and clean up the detritus of last years desiccated foliage at homes and civic display garden projects. Clearing the brown away to make room for the coming green and blooms of red, gold, blue, purple and myriad other colors.

In an earlier life, where I wore nothing but green, I used to deal in dirt and foliage for cover and concealment. It was a matter of life or death. Nowadays since my Mother-in-Law—God rest her soul—got me into gardening, I've found the artistic side to the Earth and all that grows upon it. Spring brings with it a reminder of the blessings of renewed life. I live again.

I hope you do, too.

Chuck & Susan Pelto
Pueblo, CO

Wood Chippers

Mulch can be an important part of gardening and tending to newly planted trees and shrubs. It performs a number of useful purposes, among which are:

- In early Spring, retaining heat in soil at night to allow young plants to start growing.
- In Summer, cooling the ground around the roots of new plantings against the heat of the sun.
- Retains moisture in the soil for the new plantings.
- Keeps the uninvited weeds and grasses down.
- As it is worked into the ground by the passage of people tending the garden, it decays and provides fertilizer to the plants.

On that last item, over the ten years of mulching our display garden, the soil is now the richest in the area. And the plants thrive.

But it can be somewhat expensive to purchase from gardening outlets. It seems inexpensive for two cubic feet per bag, but it adds up. To mulch our club's civic display garden, an island on a heavily trafficked boulevard, would cost over \$300 a year.

So, why not make it yourself?

For an initial investment of about two-thirds of what it costs to buy mulch for our civic project, around \$200, one can get an inexpensive wood chipper/shredder and make your own.

We bought such a machine years ago to deal with eliminating trimmings from the eleven 100-year old trees and assorted shrubs at our home. It has served us well. And we use the chipped and shredded wood for mulch around the house and at the civic project.



With this, we have the added benefit of saving money from having the wood hauled away by our trash ser-

vice. Besides, one needs to spend similar time to cut the wood up to go into the trash bin.

Admittedly, some wood is too thick to put into the chipper we have. The machine we have is limited to wood no thicker than one's thumb. But there's plenty of that. Wood that is too thick to process is preserved for the back porch fire pit.

Bark is also good mulch material. The chipper we have will handle chunks of bark five inches wide quite well.

Depending on the type of wood, the processed wood comes out in chips like rough saw dust or shredded into narrow strands. Wood from trees chips well. From shrubs you get strands. Together, they make for excellent mulch as it holds together better against being blown away in a strong wind.

All in all, we've found having a good wood chipper to be an excellent tool for gardening and well worth the investment.

Fort Logan Cemetery Gold Star Memorial

The request for a dedication has been sent to the Directors at Ft. Logan. We are waiting for their response at this time.

The marker is in place at the Visitors Center and the Gold Star Mothers are aware of our efforts and Mrs. Silvia Bouniconti, Gold Star contact shared this with us.



To be killed in a war is not the worst.

To be lost is not the worst.

To be forgotten is the worst.

-- Pierre Claeysens (1906-2003)

Jeanette Hunt

A Riddle of Houses:

There was a green house.

Inside the green house there was a white house

Inside the white house there was a red house.

Inside the red house there were lots of babies.

Answer: See Page 6.

Submissions for Publication Request

A Request from the Editors and Web-Meister

About Pictures:

We and the CFGC Web-Meister continually receive offerings of articles and photos for publication in our respective medium: The Colorado Garden Connection and the CFGC Web Page.

We regret that we cannot present everything provided, but we ask a favor of you who provide such items.

Please:

- Do not provide items that are protected by copyright laws, unless you have written permission from the person(s) who created the original work.
- Photos should be cropped to provide only the portion on which you want to focus attention.
- Photos should be accompanied with what verbiage you wish to accompany the image, if we can present it.

Regarding Articles:

Items of interest submitted as articles in to be published in The Connection should be limited to approximately 500 words. If you wish to contribute something that is much longer, please contact the Editors to coordinate it. We may be able to do it in installments.

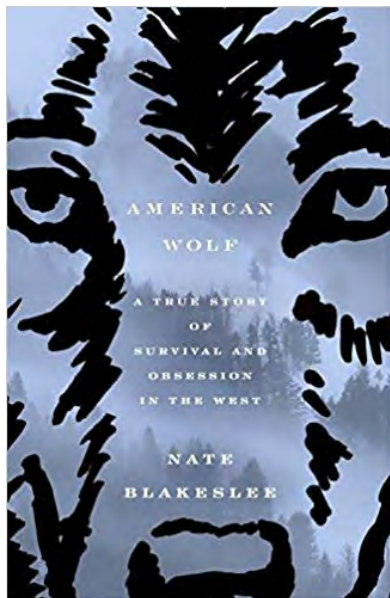
We greatly appreciate your enthusiasm and your sharing of your joys in gardening. Please keep up the good work.

Courtesy of Lynn Cleveland

American Wolf: A True Story of Survival and Obsession in the West

by Nate Blakeslee

Wolves were reintroduced into Yellowstone National Park in 1995 in an attempt to re-establish a certain ecological balance. Elk would ordinarily be wolves' main



prey in that area of the country. With no predators and no hunting in the Park, elk were proliferating and eating up all the vegetation that other species depended on, as well as reducing themselves to starvation rations. When wolves re-entered the mix of wildlife, elk numbers declined and a better balance seemed to be achieved. Of course, there was plenty of opposition to the idea from nearby ranchers who feared predation on their livestock

from wandering wolves. This book follows a dedicated wolf-watcher named Rick McIntyre and a feisty, courageous female wolf designated "O-Six" that he observed daily for years. O-Six and her mate led a pack and raised many litters of young wolves. Blakeslee's book is not for the faint of heart as it includes graphic descriptions of wolves' hunting and killing techniques, which are sometimes even used on other wolves. Nevertheless, you are bound to go away with a higher respect for the species when you are finished reading it.

Dig and Dream Garden Club supports the President's Project and Pollinators !!

Dig and Dream's Butterfly Garden Tours at the Smoky Hill Library is a project that supports "Befriend Our Pollinators." Demonstrating the club's involvement with the community to increase environmental awareness through a fun, educational activity for all age groups, Dig and Dream Garden Club partnered with Smoky Hill Library to offer five Butterfly Garden Tours for the spring and summer of 2018. Three were adult tours and two were for children, one for ages 9-11 and one for ages 5-7. The adult tours were appropriate for teens.

In 2016, the Dig and Dream Garden Club planted a butterfly garden at the Smoky Hill Library, a branch of the Arapahoe Library District. The district serves a community of 250,000 people. The Butterfly Garden at Smoky Hill Library is certified by NABA and is listed on the Pollinator Partnership Million Pollinator Garden Challenge map (S. Biscay Cir and Smoky Hill). The library and garden are on the historic Smoky Hill Trail. The Dig and Dream Garden Club and Smoky Hill



Adult Tour

Library offered five Butterfly Garden Tours in 2018, three adult tours, July 20, 2018, August 17, 2018 and September 21, 2018 and two children's tours, June 19, 2018 for ages 9-11, and August 7, 2018 for ages 5-7. The library promoted the tours, listed them in their summer calendar and registered the participants (limited to 10-20 per tour) and tracked attendance. The library provided flyers.

The club provided handouts, information from Colorado State University and the Butterfly Pavilion. The project team of garden club members worked with the library to provide docents, promote the events, and maintain the butterfly garden, markers and signs. Our goals were

Answer to Riddle on page 5: A Watermelon.

to increase community awareness of the need for butterfly habitats and provide participants with guidelines for making their own yards butterfly friendly. The tours strengthened community ties and created a partnership with the library. The docents had opportunities to share knowledge and skills with the community. Our club provided butterfly garden friendly plants for sale at the tours and offered milkweed, parsley, and sunflower plants and seeds to the participants of the children's tours. Tours were well attended with fully booked online registration for 2018. We plan to offer tours again for the summer of 2019 in partnership with the library.



Children's Tour Class

The six tour docents were Dig and Dream Club member volunteers, three for the children tours and three for the adult tours. We also had three other volunteers from our club supporting the tours. Tours lasted about one hour, with another 30 minutes before and after to set up and tear down. Preparations began in 2017. There were three workshops of three hours for script development and practice for the nine volunteers. A total of 120 hours was used to develop and present the tours. Other members volunteered time to maintain the butterfly garden by weeding, mulching and planting (40 hours). One volunteer, using member donated plants and recycled pots, provided plants for sale after the tours.



Children's Tour Walk-About

The Children's Tours provided various learning experiences suitable for the age groups, 9-11 and 5-7. Before the participants visited the gardens, the life cycle of the butterfly was explained and illustrated on a bulletin board with colorful photos. The participants then watched a video of a monarch butterfly emerging from

a chrysalis. Participants were encouraged to identify host and nectar plants in the butterfly garden and learn about the importance of plants for shelter and the need for a gentlemen's pool. The children learned fun facts about butterflies and about the migration of butterflies.

The children were able to take home plants such as parsley, milkweed and sunflowers to plant in their gardens. Butterfly friendly plants were also offered for sale to the parents.

The Adult Tours provided handouts on the garden plan of the Butterfly Garden, which identified various host and nectar plants that were chosen and explaining why they are butterfly-friendly. The tour covered metamorphosis and migration, the importance of shelter and sun in garden design, colors that butterflies can't resist, succession planting, and how adding a tiny "gentlemen's pool" can help kick off the butterfly life cycle. Participants also learned how they can create their own butterfly garden in a corner of their yard. The club offered a selection of very reasonably priced-nectar and host plants at the end of the tour.



Children's Tour Nectar Plant flyer

Dues Coming Due

Fellow Colorado Gardeners:

We garden in a difficult climate with many extremes of temperature, precipitation, sun light, soil, and many other challenges including hail and deer. But somehow each year we manage to figure out ways to overcome these difficulties and produce beautiful vegetables, fruit, and flowers.

Let's use that same Colorado ingenuity to solve an ongoing problem for The Colorado Federation of Garden Clubs.

Continued on Page 11.....

**Minutes of Meeting
CFGC Board of Directors
March 11, 2019**

The CFGC Board of Directors met March 11, 2019, at Emerson House. A quorum was present. In the absence of President Betty Roberts, Margie Soileau called the meeting to order and led the Pledge of Allegiance. Mary Fagerberg offered the invocation. The minutes of the September 4, 2018 meeting, previously published, were read and approved.

Treasurer Kathy Petersen reported that CFGC received \$6,892.51 from our only annual fundraiser, Colorado Gives Day. Current accounts are: checking \$16,699, of which \$2,000 is to be transferred to the Scholarship Fund; Special Funds \$43,392; Vanguard Funds \$100,671. The report was filed. (See separate report for full details.)

Secretary Lynn Cleveland read a letter from Trudie Layton resigning as Environmental Studies Chair because she is moving to Arizona. CFGC accepted her resignation with regret. A new Environmental Studies Chair will be needed, as well as a Facebook Chair to replace Trudie.

Margie has studied the records of Colorado Gives Day. She found that most of CFGC's donors are the same people year after year. We need to broaden participation in order to increase our fundraising results.

At the Home & Garden Show, Membership Chair Nancy Griffin collected five sheets of names of people interested in garden clubs! She is calling them trying to match them with clubs. A map or other tool is needed to show the general geographic area for each club. Nancy would also like to follow up with clubs afterwards to see how many new people tried them out and how many decided to join. Margie agreed that many people stopped by CFGC's table at the flower show. We even ran out of membership brochures on the last day! Nancy and Margie thanked everyone who participated. Ideas: Signup sheet should have space to indicate geographical areas; clubs' own membership pamphlets could be made available at the Show.

Assistant Treasurer Sue Parker reported that we have 474 paid members (which includes 19 who belong to more than one club, therefore 455 individuals total), 19 active clubs and one inactive club. Membership has

increased by 87. Club sizes range from 4 to 51. Sue reminded clubs that it is important to pay dues as closely as possible to June 1, when CFGC's fiscal year begins. Margie emphasized that CFGC must send dues in to National Garden Clubs (NGC) on time each year, and this is not easy if clubs haven't paid yet. Sue suggested beginning to remind members about dues as early as March, and collecting in April and May. She also asks that clubs highlight any changes in their membership lists when they send them in. She and Chuck Peltó are working on a system to track these records more easily.

National Gardener magazine is sent to club presidents based on officer lists sent to NGC. Kathy Shafer is Chair for the publication.

Colorado Garden Connection Editor Chuck Peltó reminded everyone that submissions for the next issue are due two weeks after Board meeting.

Trudie Layton requested that members sending pictures to Lorayne McGovern for the website should include identifying captions, and not send too many photos at once.

Secretary Lynn presented four recommendations from the Executive Committee:

1. That CFGC return the \$375 in the June Wurtsmith Memorial Bluebird Fund to Cherry Emerson, as she requested.
2. That CFGC send the \$10 in the Habitat for Humanity Fund and the \$20 in the World Gardening Fund to NGC, and close those accounts.
3. That the registration fee for the Annual Convention will be \$25, with \$30 for late registrations and non-members. (It was explained that Convention expenses are turning out to be less than expected, and therefore the \$35 fee previously approved can be reduced.)
4. That CFGC replace the roof, gutters, and downspouts on Emerson House at a cost of up to \$20,000, the funds to be taken from the Emerson House Vanguard fund. (It was explained that the roof is leaking in the auditorium and must be repaired; the Trustees have obtained three bids.)

All four recommendations passed.

Michele Gustin announced the Northern Front Range District's Annual Meeting will be April 6th, and Jeanne Falletta announced the Southern District's Annual Meeting will be April 13th.

Delegates to the 2019 NGC Convention in Biloxi, MS, will be: Betty Roberts, Audrey Coyle, Margie Soileau, and Doris Duckworth. Gay Austin, who is from Mississippi, will be the new NGC President.

Audrey Coyle chaired the Nominating Committee, consisting of herself, Joy Kancir, and Louise Niekerk. She presented the following slate of officers for 2019-2021:

:

President	Margie Soileau
Vice-President	Nancy Griffin
Recording Secretary	Lynn Cleveland
Treasurer	Kathy Petersen
Assistant Treasurer	Sue Parker

Nominations may also be made from the floor at Convention.

Audrey gave an update from Aurora Glaze, Convention Chair, about our 2019 Annual Convention (June 7, 8, and 9). The registration form will appear in the Colorado Garden Connection. Panayoti Kelaidis, senior curator at Denver Botanic Gardens (and always a popular speaker) will be featured at the Saturday night dinner. Douglas County G.C. will provide table decorations. The post-convention Board meeting will be held Sunday morning at Holiday Inn Express, with complimentary continental breakfast.

Michele Gustin announced that Awards Committee will meet April 18th at Emerson House; volunteers are welcome!

Due to illness, Jeanette Hunt has not yet been able to arrange the Blue/Gold Star memorial marker installation ceremony at Fort Logan, but still plans to do so.

The meeting adjourned. Afterwards, a St. Patrick's-themed lunch was provided by the Ways & Means Committee with the help of Hospitality Chair Swiss Hoffman. Jeanne Falletta won the drawing for a shamrock in full bloom.

Lynn Cleveland, Recording Secretary

Continued from Page 7.....

Our fiscal year runs from June 1 through May 31. And just like with an on-going fitness club subscription, you have to keep renewing your membership on time to keep getting the benefits. Unlike the fitness club, we won't throw you out on your ear, but we would like to tighten up the procedure so that clubs are not sending in their dues and membership lists in December.

Here are some suggestions for sending in dues and membership lists by June 1.

- * In March, start reminding your members that dues are due in April and May.
- * Collect dues in April and May. Make reminder phone calls and/or send emails to members who have not paid.
- * Update any member information that may have changed over the year. This is easiest to do in a simple Xcel spreadsheet. If anyone needs help with this, contact me and I will be happy to send you a copy you can use. Also let me know if anyone will not be returning.
- * When your club has all the information and dues collected, the treasurer should send the following items to the CFGC assistant treasurer:

- 1) a check made out to CFGC or Colorado Federation of Garden Clubs for the correct amount (this will need to be mailed)
- 2) a current membership list, as of June 1, (if you can, please highlight any new members and any changed information for continuing members) (this can be emailed)
- 3) a list of officers for the coming year with their contact information (this is very important for state and national officers to be able to contact the individual clubs)

* If you have new members join after you have sent in your club information or you elect new officers, please send that information to the assistant treasurer.

Current assistant treasurer:

Sue Parker
 5766 S Truckee Ct
 Centennial, CO 80015-5913
 Email: sbparker@besteffort.com
 Phone: 303-699-2534

Let me know if you have any questions or suggestions.

Thank you for your cooperation.

Sue Parker

Emerson House Trustees Needed

Emerson House Trustees are responsible for Emerson House and we are currently short 2 Trustees. If anyone in your club would be interested in volunteering to be a Trustee (2 year commitment) please let Nancy Griffin know. A lot of Trustees' hours are spent working on house maintenance, which limits the amount of time that can be spent on garden maintenance. The grass in the front yard required a lot of attention last summer and the issue was resolved by retro-fitting the sprinkler boxes, installing 5 new sprinkler heads and reseeding the grass. At the end of the season it was starting to come back and look nice again. Here is a list of some of the Trustee projects from this past year:

- Ensured building is “up to code” by scheduling Inspections, testings, and certifications for fire extinguishers, back flow pump, boiler, etc.
- Installed new metal cellar door and painted trim
- Scraped lime deposits and painted indoor south wall
- Fixed cracked concrete and front steps/railing
- Cleaned out file cabinets to remove old files
- Planted annuals in the spring for additional color, removed in fall, and planted bulbs for the next year
- Researched and hired contractor for roof leaks and ceiling tile replacement
- Cleaned out the gutters
- Ensured the Emerson House and CFGC calendar is updated monthly

- Ensured organizations using Emerson House have the proper insurance (Rocky Mountain Orchid Judges, Ultra Violet Club, Swallow Hill Condo Assoc., and Swallow Hill Neighborhood Assoc.)
- Provided parking permits for clubs meeting at Emerson House
- Renewed office tenant lease
- Coordinated volunteer help

As you can see, in addition to the outside lawn and gardens, Emerson House Trustees have many activities and projects to handle.

Emerson House Volunteers Needed

CFGC clubs are asked to volunteer a workday this summer to help with garden maintenance at Emerson House.

The Colorado growing season is almost upon us and the Emerson House yard needs continual attention during the season. The Trustees value your time and commitment on the garden! Sumac, thistle, and bindweed are prolific, and deadheading and mulching are needed. Maybe your club can make a “field” trip to Denver and include lunch, or a visit to the Denver Botanic Gardens after you have volunteered at Emerson House.

The Trustees would like to thank Floral Art Study Club and Douglas County Garden Club for stepping up and already volunteering to work the garden this summer. They would also like to recognize and thank the 6 clubs that worked in the garden last summer: Cheyenne Mountain GC, Dig & Dream GC, Evergreen Moonlight GC, Happy Transplants GC, Floral Arts Study Club, and Douglas County GC.

We need to ensure that Emerson House looks like the Headquarters for the Colorado Federation of Garden Clubs.

Please bring this volunteer request up at next club meeting if you haven't already. Contact Joyce Cassidy, joyce.cassidy@cassidycm.com, with a date your club would like to volunteer.



Calendar

Coming Events of Interest:

- **Deadline for submissions for the Winter issue of the Colorado Garden Connection**, Month Day, Year.
- April 30-May 5, 2019 NGC National Convention (Installation) Biloxi, Mississippi
- May 6, 2019 CFGC Ways & Means, Executive Committee, Board of Directors Meeting at Emerson House 9am-3pm
- May --, 2019 Dig & Dream Garden Club to plant Geraniums at Emerson House, 9am-1pm
- May 15-16, 2019 CFGC Flower Show III held at EH from 7:30am-5pm – Contact Louise Niekerk
- June 7-9, 2019 CFGC State Convention –The Pinery at the Hill- Colorado Springs, Colorado
- June 17, 2019 Douglas County Garden Club work Emerson House gardens
- June 26, 2019 Happy Transplants Garden Club work Emerson House gardens
- July 31-Aug 4, 2019 Adams County Flower Show & Fair
- August 23-24, 2019 Rocky Mountain Region meeting, Missoula, Montana
- Sept. 13, 2019 Cheyenne Mountain Garden Club work gardens at Emerson House 9am-1pm
- Sept. 18-20, 2019 NGC Fall Board Meeting

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: