

Vol. 92 No. 2

The Colorado Garden Connection



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Cover:

Peony from the Flower Fad Garden Club civic display garden.

Centerfold:

Something captured from a Colorado Springs Garden Tour, years ago. Yes. It has been part of a cover picture, but the whole thing is impressive for a Centerfold.

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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 appears 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

Hello and Happy Fall.

By the time you get this, we will have passed the Autumn Equinox and will find our days getting shorter and hopefully a little cooler! I know I will be working in my garden getting ready for the snow and cold temperatures. I also need to get my garlic in the ground before the end of the month and see how many potatoes I have grown in my 30 gallon trash can!



I want to thank all the attendees that were able to make either/both the Board meeting on Sept 8th and or the Leadership Roundtable on Sept 17th. While we did have some "technical difficulties" on the 8th, it was super nice to see those faces on the screen and those in person. For the Zoom call on the 17th, I sent out approximately 36 invitations and had 13 people attend. That was an awesome turn out for the first time and hopefully people will find it beneficial enough to attend again and encourage others to do so.



For those who could not attend, let me share with you some of the important items that were discussed at both meetings.

Updates were given on Emerson House, Colorado Gives Day (December 7th, 2021), and the Rocky Mountain Region meeting held in August 2021 along with a couple of club reports. Our Assistant Treasurer gave us a report on how many clubs and members we now have for our new fiscal year. Our Blue/Gold Star Chairman gave us a report on a new marker that we are involved with on the Western Slope.

We talked about forming a new Technology Committee and the reasons why, the different donation categories that are now available for our once

yearly fundraiser - aka Colorado Gives Day, the Calendar of Events showing how many people/ other clubs use Emerson House, the Flower Show Symposium that is coming in October 2021 and how to sign up for that, along with the benefits of attending. We also spoke about Certificates of Liability for club meetings/outings and what to do if you need one, or how your club members can be covered when using Emerson House as a venue. At the Leadership Round Table Zoom call, those attending talked about speakers, field trips their clubs had done or were going to take, new members being on-boarded and what was working and not working for their clubs. It was an open forum where people had the opportunity to share, listen, and ask questions, all while keeping it at a little over an hour.

Your Executive Team is working hard to make things more transparent, easier, user friendly, updated, educational and fun. We want to be a resource for all members and clubs and encourage participation, phone calls and emails.

I also want to take this time to thank Becky Elder, who is not only the President of Manitou Springs Garden Club since 1995, but also the CFGC Chairman for Horticulture who braved the traffic to be our Guest Speaker at the September 8th Board of Directors meeting. Her knowledge, extensive expertise, information, and passion for what she does certainly brought insight, helpful hints and new ideas to the attendees. I am grateful to have her as a resource as her resume shows just how much she gives back to her community and fellow gardeners. Thank you, Becky, for being there for us!

I look forward our next Board of Directors meeting, which is slated for December 8th, 2021, place TBD and of course our next quarterly Leadership RoundTable Zoom call slated for December 15th, times, place and Zoom invite all to follow as we get closer to those dates. Hopefully our technical difficulties will not be troublesome, and more people will be able to share in the fun.

Until then, please stay safe and healthy! Happy gardening. Nancy

From the Editors

My Dear Fellow Gardeners,

As was mentioned at the September ExComm and BoD meetings, we've prepared guidelines for submissions to the Colorado Garden Connection. We're announcing them in this issue, so we can facilitate production and make life easier on all of us.

Copyrighted Materials

Please do not submit any material that is protected by any form of copyright, unless you also provide written permission from the holder of the copyright to use their material.

Photos and Other Images

We like photos, especially pretty ones of gardening-related activities and garden club events. To facilitate incorporation of the photo into the Connection please:

- Provide a 'blurb' regarding what the photo is about.
- If sending a photo of people doing things, please provide the names of people of significance in the photo, with names provided from left to right and front to back.
- Size of the photo is important. We can scale down large photos to fit into the Connection. But really small photos, e.g., 'thumbnails,' cannot be increased in size without the image appearing 'pixelated,' i.e., made up of blocks, which destroys the quality of the image.
- If the photo is of a flower or display garden, please provide the identity of the image and who took the picture.

Articles

Articles are an important part of the Connection, they tell us what is going on and who is involved. They are informative to all of CFGC.

We prefer them in a Word, Pages or Rich Text Format (rtf). We can translate these formats into what we will publish.

Keep the article focused on activities of CFGC or other NGC organizations, or articles of general gardening interest to members. State or local government notices can be applicable. For example, several years ago a state forestry agency was offering sales of fruit-bearing saplings that would grow at high altitudes. Such would be useful information to disseminate amongst the membership. Please try to limit articles and announcements to 500 words.

Minutes of BoD meetings should be submitted in Word, Pages or RTF formats. Financial reports can be submitted in such formats, but can be provided in PDF if they are in 'Portrait' orientation.

Reviews of books, web-sites and products can be submitted in those formats. Images and links would be greatly appreciated, since most members get the newsletter via email, and can easily get more information that way.

Articles and announcements about club activities past and future are greatly appreciated. Short pieces about field trips along with one or two pictures are always informative and fun.

Puzzles and games are also appreciated. They provide fun and intellectual stimulation. But do remember, nothing that is copyrighted without written permission from the owner of the copyright.

Please be timely in your submission of materials. The deadline for submission is published in the 'Coming Events' on the back page of the Connection.

The editors reserve the authority to edit submissions for spelling, grammar and length, with the exception of official CFGC documents, e.g., Board of Director and Convention Minutes and financial reports, which can only be modified by an action of the officials responsible for such documents.

Chuck & Susan Pelto
Pueblo, CO

Garden Gadgets

by Chuck Pelto

Well, not quite a 'garden' gadget, but definitely related.

I mention in this issue's Culinary Corner that our kids bring us fresh vegetables from a local produce farm where they work. One of the unintended additions to the vegetables are fruit flies. And those little buggers really get annoying.

We'd rather not chase them around with spray insecticides. And they are too small for the electrified swatters we use during the annual miller moth migration. I prefer passive techniques.

One such technique is fly strips. They really like those. But they are unattractive. So here is a different approach: mason jar traps.

The mason jar trap is simple, inexpensive and we've found it effective. Here's how to make one:

- One regular mouth pint-sized mason jar with ring.
- One flexible funnel with a narrow tip that fits the mouth of the jar.
- Put a piece of over-ripe fruit in the bottom of the jar.
- Add about a half-inch of fruit-flavored liquor in the jar.
- Put the funnel in the jar and secure it with the ring.
- Place the assembled trap in the vicinity of where fruit flies are frequently seen.

The alcohol in the liquor will preserve the fruit from mold attacking the fruit, and thus preserving the effectiveness of the trap. But it will make the trap somewhat ineffective until the alcohol evaporates. However, once it does, the fruit flies will be drawn to the aroma of the fruit and go down the funnel to the bait. Once inside the jar, they cannot find their way out and subsequently die.



We used a slice of over-ripe banana for fruit. And Pimms #1 Cup for the liquor. However, any sweet fruity liquor should work.

We keep ours near our compost bucket. It works great and we don't have to smell insecticide, use aerosols, or look at ugly fly strips hanging from the ceiling.

To Autumn

by John Keats

*Season of mists and mellow fruitfulness,
Close bosom-friend of the maturing sun;
Conspiring with him how to load and bless
With fruit the vines that round the thatch-eves run;
To bend with apples the moss'd cottage-trees,
And fill all fruit with ripeness to the core;
To swell the gourd, and plump the hazel shells
With a sweet kernel; to set budding more,
And still more, later flowers for the bees,
Until they think warm days will never cease,
For summer has o'er-brimm'd their clammy cells.*

*Who hath not seen thee oft amid thy store?
Sometimes whoever seeks abroad may find
Thee sitting careless on a granary floor;
Thy hair soft-lifted by the winnowing wind;
Or on a half-reap'd furrow sound asleep,
Drows'd with the fume of poppies, while thy hook
Spare the next swath and all its twined flowers:
And sometimes like a gleaner thou dost keep
Steady thy laden head across a brook;
Or by a cyder-press, with patient look,
Thou watchest the last oozyngs hours by hours.*

*Where are the songs of spring? Ay, Where are they?
Think not of them, thou hast thy music too,—
While barred clouds bloom the soft-dying day,
And touch the stubble-plains with rosy hue;
Then in a wailful choir the small gnats mourn
Among the river-sallows, borne aloft
Or sinking as the light wind lives or dies;
And full-grown lambs loud bleat from hilly bourn;
Fledge-crickets sing; and now with treble soft
The red-breast whistles from a garden-croft;
And gathering swallows twitter in the skies.*

Culinary Corner

by Chuck Pelto

One of the blessings of having friends and family working at a family-run produce farm is sudden supplies of fresh vegetables. These are items that were left in the hands of the farm because a commercial deal fell through, or the vegetables were not up to par for retail sales.

This year we've received cucumbers, sweet corn and LOTS of tomatoes.

Speaking of the latter, in the previous issue I offered a recipe for salsa. Here is another recipe for tomatoes and chilis....gazpacho.



Gazpacho is a tomato-based soup, usually served cold, like a Mexican version of Russian borscht. Many of gazpacho's ingredients are also found in salsa, but some

additional vegetables are included for more bulk and nuance. It is very tasty, especially when served with a dollop of sour cream and garnished with fresh basil leaves. It is not necessarily an entree, but a cup of it with a Mexican main course adds a refreshing contrast to the meal.



Ingredients:

6 ea Large Tomatoes Peeled, Seeded and Diced
 .5 ea Cucumber Peeled, Seeded and Diced
 .5 Cup Bell Pepper Seeded and Finely Diced
 .25 Cup Red Onion Minced
 1 ea Jalapeno Pepper Seeded and Minced
 2 ea Garlic Cloves Minced
 1 tsp Sea Salt
 .5 tsp Cumin Seed Toasted and Ground
 1 pinch Oregano
 1 pinch Cayenne Pepper
 .25 Cup Olive Oil
 1 ea Lime Juice
 1 Tbls Red Wine Vinegar or Balsamic Vinegar
 1 tsp Worcestershire Sauce
 Black Pepper To Taste
 2 Tbls Basil Leaves Fresh, Chopped [Optional]
 Sour Cream [Optional]

Zucchini can be substituted for the cucumber.

Instructions:

- Combine all the ingredients, less the basil and sour cream, and mix thoroughly.
- Refrigerate overnight. Or if in a hurry to enjoy, several hours, until chilled.
- Serve in appropriate bowls.
- Garnish with sour cream and/or freshly chopped basil leaves.

Whereas it is usually served fresh, it can be pressure-canned for future use.

Six large tomatoes equates to 32 ounces. Our kids brought us 15 pounds of tomatoes. We canned five quarts of Gazpacho made with this recipe.

CFGC Photo Contest Table



Colorado Gives Day

Save the Date!



Colorado Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc. (CFGF) is excited to announce Colorado Gives Day is set for Tuesday, December 7th, 2021.

On this date, Colorado comes together to raise funds for local nonprofits and we're excited to be part of the day! If you are not comfortable with donating online, you can just mail a check to the CFGF Treasurer in advance with a note about what it is for – CO Gives Day - CFGF.

On Colorado Gives Day, we'll be celebrating our accomplishments and continue our work in promoting the love of gardening, floral design, civic and environmental responsibility through your generous donations to CFGF. We invite you to join us by helping us share the news about Colorado Gives Day and invite your family, friends and your personal network to participate.

Every gift is tax-deductible and helps us reach our goal of \$10,000.

Our mission to serve and support our community through education, conservation, horticulture and landscape design is more vital now than ever before. This day of giving is one of the many ways you can make a real difference. Visit our site at <https://www.coloradogives.org/ColoradoFederationofGardenClubs>, for information and to checkout our new video.

For detailed instructions for making a donation online can be found at <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1gcByNhtOkliXNayzIvPsVVGkswNrpdaF/view?usp=sharing>.

Please share this information with your friends, family and co-workers so they can get involved, too! We look forward to having you join us for this special campaign. Together, we can make the world a better place for all

of us!

Colorado Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc. (CFGF)
Conservation Pledge:

I promise to protect and conserve the natural resources of America.

I promise to educate future generations so they become caretakers of our water, air, land and wild-life.

Mail Checks to: CFGF Treasurer, Margie Soileau @ 8555 Freemantle Dr., Colorado Springs, CO 80920 OR Give ONLINE. (You can schedule in advance starting November 1)

Thank you in advance for your generosity!

Regards,
Victoria Schmidt

Secret Quote

The following quotation about Fall is by a famous poet. But it has been translated into a secret code, just for CFGF members. Each letter represents another letter. Solve the code to discover the quotation and the author.

Djph dcod idj rplmj1'h kesilw dzplb!

Djph dcod idj ozgbjs ezls!

Sz lcedjl ocrl dph Pqiqxs hzqljb

Rlzx zui dj1 gpnchd dzls!

Idj Ezls-Hzso, Nzds Oljjsgjpr Kdcicjl

Answer can be found on page 12.





Sept. 8, 2021 via ZOOM/In Person at Emerson House

Present: Nancy Griffin, Susan Pelto, Margie Soileau, Audrey Coyle, Michele Gustin, Ellen Fernandez, Rose Persichetti, Jeanne Falletta, Pam Dorsett, Debbie Martin, Joyce Cassidy, Mary Ellen Montgomery, Beck Elder, Victoria Schmidt, Ben Parker, Joy Kancir, Louise Niekerk, Chuck Pelto

Special Guests: None.

The meeting was called to order at 11:27 am by Nancy Griffin, President.

Nancy welcomed everyone and explained that the late start was due to some technical issues.

The March 9, 2021 Meeting Minutes were approved as corrected. The correction is that under New Business, Membership, not every club with an increase in membership would get an awards certificate.

Financial Report: Margie Soileau reported that she is having issues with the computer program. She will email the report by the end of the month. She gave a verbal report on the checking account. We have received several donations in memory of Geneva Holmes.

New Business:

Certificate of Liability/ Insurance, Margie Soileau reported that this is not available to garden clubs. Clubs will need to get their own insurance when it's required. Our insurance is for events at Emerson House. Ellen Fernandez said that her club got coverage through Hartford for \$492.00/year. It covers their regular meeting venue.

Rocky Mountain Region Meeting Report: Margie Soileau reported that the business meeting was wonderful. Installation of officers were held. She will have quarterly Zoom meetings to disseminate information about RMR.

Emerson House update, Debbie Martin, Chairman: They have been trying to get things in shape. She

described plantings. The trustees appreciate all the hard work of clubs who have done work at the House. The trustees themselves had a work day and took care of 18 of 19 items on their task list. They still need someone to repair old screen windows. They will have a garage sale on June 25, 2022. They had a record number of volunteers this year.

2021 Colorado Gives Day, Victoria Schmidt, VP: Links and specific designations for donations have been updated. More information will be sent soon. Officially, with matching funds, we have received \$1223.70, calendar year to date.

Blue/Gold Star Update, Audrey Coyle: We have another Blue Star to be installed in Grand Junction at a Veterans Home.

Penny Pines Allocation and Report, Margie Soileau. We have received donations in memory of Geneva Holmes as well as other donations.

Chair and committee member vacancies: The following positions are available: Landscape Design Chair, Chaplain, Hospitality Chair, Membership and Emerson House Trustee, Nominating Committee members: 5 total, 3 quorum, 2 not on board. Contact Nancy if you're interested.

Debbie Martin gave a report on her club's activity with the Adams County Fair, club meetings and other events.

Ben Parker described his club's activities with teaching vegetable gardening.

Some club reports were missed due to technical issues with Zoom.

Unfinished Business

Dues, Sue Parker, Assistant Treasurer:

Reminder to pay dues if outstanding- also to send her club member information changes and or updates. They are due June 1, but are not delinquent until October 1.

Definition/category of old vs new member: there are no "old" and "new" categories of members in CFGC bylaws. Club bylaws may be different.

Handling of deceased paid members dues (dues vs contribution): they are dues.

Only one club has not turned in dues.

Technology Committee Update, Victoria Schmidt:

Volunteers are Victoria Schmidt, Ben Parker, Joy Kancir, Chuck Pelto.

Rationale/need: it's not going away, so we might as well embrace it. Zoom is an important tool, our Wi-fi is iffy, so we need a Mission/goals of Committee.

First meeting will be tomorrow.

Other Business:

Emerson House, Joy Kancir: Calendar of Events: We need clubs to schedule Emerson House events well in advance so they don't interfere with other events. Contact Joy to schedule at joykancir13@msn.com.

Colorado Connection Etiquette, Chuck Pelto: Chuck reviewed guidelines for submission of items to the Connection. The full list will be sent out via email.

Save the Date/announcements/Reminders:

Don't forget to sign up for the free NGC newsletter at www.gardenclub.org,

September Leadership Roundtable Zoom call- open to all Committee Chairs, Officers, Presidents and Distr. Presidents 9-17-21 @ 10 AM.

Need helping hands at Fort Logan and Emerson House gardens.

Nancy apologized for all the technology issues we had today.

Michele reported on the awards we received at the Rocky Mountain Region meeting.

Margie Soileau thanked Michele Gustin for her work on Rocky Mountain Region awards.

Audrey Coyle asked the presidents to remind members to plant trees.

Flower Show Symposium, Louise Niekerk:- Oct 5 and 6, 2021: Watch for details.

Thank you to Becky Elder, today's Guest Speaker!

The meeting was adjourned at 12:48 pm.

Submitted by Susan Pelto.

Radon: The Creepy, Seepy Danger of Radon Gas

by Chuck Pelto

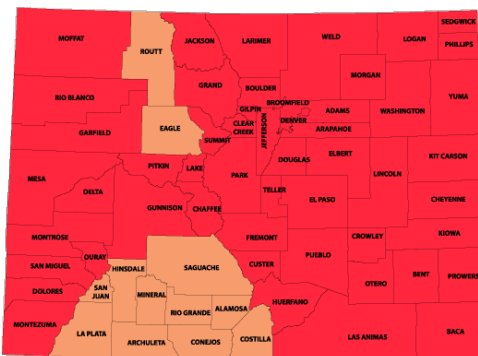
I was reading the latest edition of our affiliates in Nebraska's newsletter and noticed an interesting item on the dangers of radon gas in homes. The article started off with an account of an unfortunate woman who was diagnosed with lung cancer, despite her being a non-smoker.



It turns out that radon gas in residences and businesses is the second leading cause of lung cancer in the developed world, right behind cigarette smoking.

I decided to do some research on the matter myself.

Much to my dismay, I found out that here in Pueblo County, 61% of the homes tested had unpleasantly high levels of radon. Radon concentration gets into the danger zone at 4 picocuries—really tiny bits—per liter of air. The average readings taken in Pueblo are 8 picocuries. Which is bad. Realtors I know in Colorado report readings of 21! Which is Bad x 3!!!



Here's a map showing the EPA's 'Radon Zones' from their web-site. Red zones are those most at risk.

ZONE 1 High radon potential (probable indoor radon average >4pCi/L) ZONE 2 Moderate radon potential (probable indoor radon average 2-4 pCi/L)

Radon is a gas emitted from the slow decay of uranium and thorium ore in the ground. It's associated with granite in the soil. Lord knows with

all those mountains, there's a lot of granite around Colorado. It seeps into the air through the soil, and into homes and businesses through cracks in the foundations. And where there is little or no air circulation, it concentrates. Therein lies the problem. We encounter it in the air outside. However, because of the winds and lack of containment, we are not at risk

As it is a heavy element, so it settles into the deep places of a building, a.k.a., basements.. The point is that in our homes, with leaks through cracks in the basements and foundations, it can become a problem. If you do a lot of laundry and ironing or workshop activities in your basement, you might want to look into this.

There's a good web-site for information specifically for Colorado at <https://cdphe.colorado.gov/understanding-radon>.

Various test kits and sensors can be found on Amazon. Just search on 'Radon Detector for Home.'

Time for different beauties from our gardens

By Susan Pelto

Thanksgiving and Christmas will soon be upon us (holidays on your calendar are closer than they appear) and it's not too early to think about table decorations.

Traditional for Thanksgiving are cornucopias arranged with fruits and vegetables representing the fall harvest. Cornucopia containers, baskets and ceramic pieces, can be found in craft stores, thrift stores, and at garage sales. There probably won't be a huge selection, but smaller might be better, since the finished horizontal arrangement will be 50% to 100% longer than the container.

Many of the traditional flower arranging rules won't apply, because the container is such an odd shape, but keep in mind a focal point near the mouth of the container, and other elements which are smaller or less attention getting. Trail out the arrangement on the opposite side of the cornucopia's point to maintain balance. Youngsters can help pick out the most perfect fruits and vegetables to use.

If you're not in the mood for fruits and veggies, flowers can be used to spill from the horn. I might try sticking a bouquet in the horn, letting the flowers trail out. Both dry and fresh flowers would be effective.

If you don't have a cornucopia, I have been known to use a container I have that's shaped like a swan. The back of the swan is open. I gather dry grasses, autumn

leaves, and twigs with berries from my yard. Starting with the stiffer grasses and twigs, I lay them in the swan, with the ends under the neck. These support the shorter pieces of autumn leaves, so the whole thing looks like a swan with a peacock's tail. Again, because it's not a traditional vase, you don't have to worry that much about balance and shape, and the mechanics are easy.

If you don't have much room for a centerpiece, strings of vines, e.g., English ivy, curled around candle sticks, can dress up a table without much more effort than rinsing off the dust and picking off damaged leaves. Add some autumn leaves for color and you're good to go.

The growing season may be over, but you'll still find plenty in your garden to decorate for the holidays.

Coloring Book Page Instructions

Something new! A contest for coloring the cornucopia on page 13.

Extract the page by whatever means you have available to you: screen shot, scissors, whatever.

Color it with whatever you've got: crayons, chalk, watercolors, graphic art applications, Photoshop, whatever.

Send the finished art work—with identification of the artist—by whatever means you please to Susan Pelto at smpelto@pcisys.net or 425 W 18th St, Pueblo, CO 81003, by 1 December, 2021.

We'll publish the winners—by category—in the Winter 2022 edition of the Colorado Garden Connection. The categories are:

- Pre-Teens
- Adults

Who knows? Maybe there's another Salvador Dali with Photoshop out there. Or a Leonardo da Vinci?

Answer to the Puzzle:

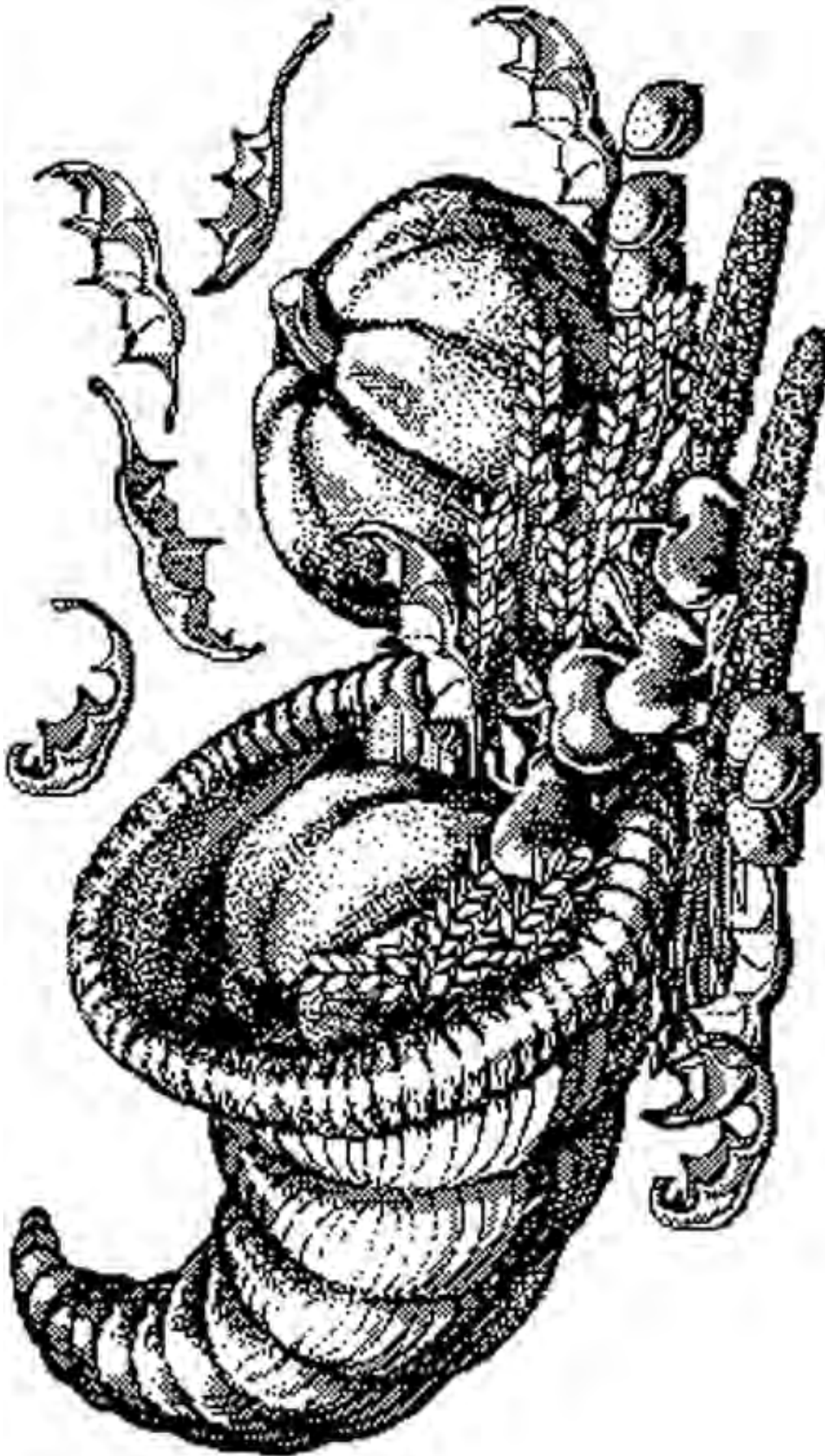
From Page 7:

Heap high the farmer's wintry hoard!
Heap high the golden corn!
No richer gift has Autumn poured
From out her lavish horn!

The Corn-Song, John Greenleaf Whittier



Coloring Book Page



Coming Events of Interest:

- **Deadline for submissions for the Winter issue of the Colorado Garden Connection, December 22, 2021.**
- Oct. 4-6, 2021 CFGC Flower Show Symposium at EH, Design instructor, Jo Kollman: Types: Abstract, Featured Plant Material (family-Sunflower), Allied Topics: Floral Techniques. Horticulture instructor, Karen Booker: Mums and geraniums. Chair, Louise Niekerk.
- Oct. 25, 2021 CFGC Trustees meeting - EH
- Nov. 8, 2021 CFGC Judges Council meeting - EH
- Dec. 7, 2021 Colorado Gives Day - CFGC
- Dec. 8, 2021 CFGC Ways & Means, Ex Bd, BOD meeting at - EH and ZOOM
- Dec. 16, 2021 CFGC Leadership Round Table, Invitation & Zoom only
- Jan. 10, 2022 CFGC Judges Council - EH
- Feb. 12-20, 2022 CO Garden and Home Show, Denver
- Mar. 8, 2022 CFGC Excom, Board of Directors, Ways & Means & BOD meeting - EH & Zoom
- Mar 22, 2022 CFGC Trustees meeting - EH

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
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To: _____
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