

Vol. 92 No. 3

The Colorado Garden Connection

RMR CEGC Awards



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Cover: Vivid flowers at the Albuquerque Botanical Gardens

Centerfold: An array of flowers from Old Town Albuquerque



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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 My Garden to Yours

Happy New Year! Hoping this finds you and your loved ones doing well, staying safe and healthy. Now that the major holidays are behind us, hopefully we can relax a little and think about what this new year will bring and where our efforts and energies will go.

The weather, as you all know, has been extremely warm and I know that all of us were worried about our garden clubs where the fire happened across Boulder County on December 30th. I want to thank those of you who reached out to me asking if there was anything we could do for those that may have been affected.



After speaking with the President of the Boulder Garden Club and various others around that area, it seems that no one from any of our garden clubs was harmed and for that we are thankful.

So what types of "new" things does CFGC have for its members? I will break this down for you by month for the next six months.

February 11-20, Colorado Home and Garden Show. If you/club or a group of you would like to enter a table-top design and learn what Judges look for, sign up now. There are four spots open and it is on a first-come, first-serve basis. Entrants will not only receive valuable information to help with their future design aspirations, but also a thank you gift card will be given out to each group. This year's show is being crafted to encourage club members who have an interest in exhibiting their designs not as a judging event, but as an event that will be informative, hands on and a learning experience. This event will be critiqued, not judged, and the capacity for learning will be at an all time high!

March holds the CFGC board meeting on the 8th at Emerson House and via Zoom. On the 18th a one hour Zoom Leadership meeting will be held for all Presidents, Officers and Committee Chairs. This is great time to get to know more about one another and share

ideas that we can take back to our clubs.

On April 2, the Northern Front Range District will be holding their annual meeting and then on April 23rd the Southern District will be holding theirs.

May brings the National Garden Club annual convention. Please see the either the CFGC or NGC websites for further information.

June will be the month for our own State's annual convention. This will be a one day event and promises to not only be informative, but fun as well. Much attention, detail and concentration will be given on bringing value to those that choose to attend. More information is forthcoming on venue, date, time and cost. On June 24th from 3-4 PM, all Club Presidents, Officers and Committee Chairs are encouraged to attend the quarterly Leadership Round Table. If a President cannot make it to this meeting, they are welcome to pass the Zoom link to another one of their club officers so that someone can attend from their club.

I am hoping that the near future brings an increased surge of energy not only to our daily lives, but also to our garden clubs, programs, outreach activities, and of course, to our gardens.

Oh by the way, there is some exciting news coming your way - so please be on the lookout for additional communications from me and or your Club Presidents!!!! It is EXCITING!

Thoughts to leave you with written by H.W. Longfellow:

- Kind hearts are the gardens,
- Kind words are the roots,
- Kind thoughts are the flowers,
- Kind deeds are the fruits.

*Take care of your garden
And keep out the weeds;
Fill it with sunshine,
Kind words and kind deeds.*

From my garden to yours,
Nancy



From the Editors

My Dear Fellow Gardeners,

First, a little Connection etiquette: when you submit information, an article or a report for publication, don't forget to put your name in the body of text. We had to look up some authors by going back to email messages and it takes time.

It's January, but it's 70 degrees out and I can't help thinking that I need to do some real gardening this year, not just pulling weeds and trimming bushes and making sure the peonies are looking healthy. Why are ants so attracted to them, anyway?

I'm not much of a gardener, really. If it's not a weed with stickers, and I'm not allergic to it, and it's green, I'm okay with it. Although I actually get a lot of satisfaction from pulling weeds, maybe because I'm allergic to all four varieties of ragweed and it's one of the few gardening chores I really feel confident doing.

During the last Board of Directors meeting, Nancy Griffin had us write down what we were most thankful for in our gardens. You know what I wrote? Strawberries. We didn't plant them, we didn't even notice them until we were looking at the bushes for pruning, but I looked down and there were these little red balls, the size of a large pea. I don't know how they got there, but strawberries are covering the ground under some of the bushes. I ate one, and it didn't have much flavor, which is probably why the squirrels left them alone, but they are just so darn cute. So one goal for gardening is to preserve and nurture those little plants.

It seems to me that gardeners are some of the few people who really look forward to change. They know that as the seasons change, things in the garden change and it's all good. If a certain plant doesn't work out, doesn't thrive, then that's just an opportunity to try something else next season. It's literally an opportunity for growth.

Our clubs are opportunities for growth, too. Growing in knowledge about gardening. Growing in knowledge about flower arranging. Growing in presentation skills. Growing in leadership skills. Growing in friendship. Growing in support of members giving their first public

speech since school, or taking a club office for the first time.

Happy garden and club planning!

Chuck & Susan Pelto
Pueblo, CO

Garden Gadgets

By Chuck Pelto

It may be Winter, now, but sooner than most think, it will be time to plan Spring planting.

There are a number of clever ways to get the start on growing things earlier than Mother Nature allows.

Indoor starting is one technique, especially with grow lights, as was mentioned in an earlier edition of the Colorado Garden Connection. Cold frames are another popular way to jump start. But what about row crops?

For row crops, or other plants that you can grow in a row, here's something to help: a Tunnel Garden Cloche.



It is a series of hoops with fabric that can be expanded along a row of starters to protect them from some harsher conditions before the colder weather is no longer a threat to their survival.

Economical, easy to set up and allowing convenient access to plants, they make a great way for gardeners to get a quick start on spring planting in environments where a sudden, unexpected cold snap could ruin summer plans. A large variety are offered for sale, or you can check online for videos on how to make your own from recycled materials.

By Chuck Pelto

This installment of the Culinary Corner will deal with making a delicious garnish for main dishes from root vegetables. The sort that you harvested last Fall.

Garnishes add an enhanced spectrum to your culinary adventures, providing body and/or zest to the entree.



This garnish consists of small boiling onions, carrots and turnips. The quantities depend on the size of the

main dish. But the mix is equal parts of each vegetable.

Peel and cut the carrots and turnips. Cut them to be a similar size as the small, boiling onions.

A bit about 'boiling onions.' There is no cultivar for such onions. They are your regular onions that were harvested before becoming full grown. They measure between 1 1/2 and 1 3/4 inches in diameter. But commercial enterprises use the Southport White Globe cultivar for white boiling onions and Australian Brown, Stuttgart, or Yellow Ebenezer for yellow.

If you don't have or can't find boiling onions, you can use full-grown onions, but cut them into chunks of 1 1/2 to 1 3/4 inches.

Preparation is simple. Bring a lightly salted pan of water to a boil. When the entree is about 30 minutes from finished cooking:

- Parboil the vegetables for 5 minutes.
- Drain the water from the pan. [NOTE: You might save it to make a gravy.]
- Add butter to the vegetables in the pan and cook over low heat for about 10 minutes.
- At 15 minutes before the entree is finished, add the vegetables to the entree. This way the vegetables retain

their appearance.

- Finish cooking the entree and serve.

It goes great with Osso Buco—Veal Shanks—especially served on polenta.



For additional zest, try adding an additional garnish, a Gremolata, made of freshly minced parsley, lemon zest and garlic on the top of the completed entree.



Enjoy....

Name a Food 🍷
for each letter
of your name 😊

Let's see your
chef level.



Smokey the Bear/Woodsy Owl Poster Contest

Bicycling with Butterflies



The annual Smokey Bear/Woodsy Owl Poster Contest is in need of participants.

Children from first through fifth grade are invited to participate and must be sponsored by a local garden club in the Colorado Federation of

Garden Clubs, Inc.

Currently, Northeast Elementary School in Brighton, Colorado, is sponsored by the Greeley Morning Garden Club. The students from various grade levels have participated in the Smokey Bear/Woodsy Owl Poster Contest for at least ten years.

Are you interested in sponsoring a specific grade level in an elementary school? If so, please give me a call or an e-mail so that I may send you a list of the Poster Rules. I would need to receive the completed posters by February 1, 2022.

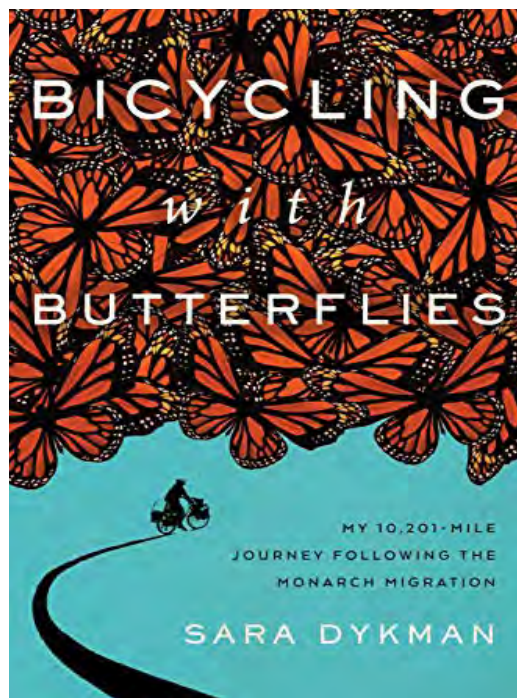
Thanks so much!

Doris E. Duckworth
Colorado Chairman
Smokey Bear/Woodsy Owl



My 10,201-Mile Journey Following the Monarch Migration

by Sara Dykman



We humans have not solved many of the mysteries of migration. We do know that Monarch butterflies perform amazing feats, leaving their Mexican wintering grounds and traveling north to lay eggs, then back south over the course of

three or four generations. Sara Dykman, a long-distance hiker and biker who is truly passionate about the plight of the butterflies, decided to follow the entire route of the Monarchs on her bicycle.

She started at El Rosario, Mexico, in early spring and biked through the Midwest into Canada. She followed the fall migration back via New England and the Midwest. Some days she saw only a couple butterflies, but they reassured her that she was traveling along with their migration. Other days the road was littered with dead Monarchs.

She kept an eye out for milkweed and grieved when she saw it being mowed down. Along the way she taught people about the Monarchs and met other naturalists who were working hard to protect them. She even saved lizards and bugs by moving them off the road so they wouldn't be smashed by cars! Her fearlessness comes through on every page of this gripping true-life account, which Joyce Cassidy recommended to me.

Thanks, Joyce

Lynn Cleveland

Greeley Morning Garden Club Plant A Tree

Greeley Morning Garden Club has been very busy this fall. In support of National Garden Club's Plant A Tree – Each One Plant One, we planted a Bristlecone Pine, Kentucky Coffee Tree, Centurion Crabapple and Hackberry at a site that used to house our Greeley Fire Station No. 2, which is now behind this newly landscaped area.



Left to Right: Bruce Carlisle, Mary Fagerberg, Pam Dorsett, Lyn Carlisle

In November, we prepared dried flower arrangements for Bonell Retirement Center residents to use as residential room décor. For this annual project, flowers are dried and donated by members, and we apply for a Colorado Federation of Garden Clubs Garden Therapy Grant to offset the cost of other items. This year we designed and delivered 70 arrangements.

Loveland Garden Club Awards Scholarships

The Loveland Garden Club, Loveland, CO, in conjunction with an ongoing commitment to the Front Range Community College Foundation, awarded scholarships in 2021 to two deserving FRCC students in the unique "Scholar Success Program". Scholarships are awarded to majors in horticulture or other related horticultural fields.

Two scholars were awarded 2021 scholarships funded by the Loveland Garden Club as they began their academic year this September. One scholar's area of study is horticulture,

greenhouse and nursery management. The other scholar is pursuing an A.G.S. degree with an interest in horticulture. Scholarship awards have been an enduring program within the LGC.

Each year we renew our commitment with FRCC, if possible with our fund-raising activities, for a three-year term.

As a non-profit organization, all members participate in a major fund raising sale each spring for scholarships. The annual Loveland Garden Club Plant Sale is dedicated to funding our program and is generally scheduled in early May before Mother's Day. At least one scholarship is awarded annually and sometimes, with adequate funding, additional awards can be made to two or more qualified and deserving students.

During the LGC president's term a Scholarship Chair is appointed. The general scholarship committee consists of 3 to 5 members. Responsibilities of the scholarship committee are to review all qualified applications from the FRCC Foundation, agree by majority vote on viable candidates, and make a recommendation to LGC members for voting on scholarship awards. At an appropriate monthly LGC meeting, the Scholarship Committee moves acceptance of the candidate or candidates and the membership votes approval. The Scholarship Chair contacts the scholar(s) and receives formal acceptance of the award.

Our Loveland Garden Club, founded and federated (CFGC, Inc.) in 1994, is proud to continue our scholarship program as part of our objectives "to operate for benevolent, charitable, scientific and educational purposes conducive to the well-being of the community and useful to the public."

A lady grows a great patch of potatoes. In fact, to get them off to a good start, she plants each seed potato in a small paper bag. It keeps the dirt out of their eyes.



Board Meeting Minutes

Dec. 8, 2021 via ZOOM/In Person at Emerson House
Start at 11:15

Attending: Louise Niekerk, Debbie Martin, Chuck Peltó, Susan Peltó, Joy Kancir, Doris Duckworth, Annie Molloch, Audrey Coyle, Victoria Schmidt, Nancy Griffin, Sue Parker, Ben Parker, Rose Persichetti, Michele Gustin, Mollie Morton, Ellen Fernandez

Special Guests: None

The meeting was called to order at 11:25 am by Nancy Griffin, President. She welcomed everyone and thanked them for attending.

The Minutes of the September 8, 2021 were approved as submitted.

Financial Report: Margie Soileau reviewed the Profit and Loss statement. She then reviewed the Balance Sheet. Overall, we're doing well financially.

New Business:

Emerson House update: Debbie Martin, Chairman, thanked the trustees for their work on a maintenance day, reported on housekeeping duties and the hiring of the housekeeper, reviewed the budget, and reported on snow removal arrangements, inspections, tree trimming, etc.

Update on Colorado Gives Day, Victoria Schmidt: \$6881.06 was received online, plus about \$1500 sent directly to the treasurer. The numbers do not reflect matching funds. She thanked everyone who donated.

Technology Committee Report, Victoria Schmidt:

Zoom is working better, due to new internet and wifi services installed. Costs were \$217.62 for the modem purchase and \$50 a month for the subscription from Century Link. It was clarified that CFGC does not have a land line. It was removed about three years ago. Ellen Fernandez moved to ratify the expenses. There was a second and discussion. The motion passed unanimously.

YouTube: the committee has researched having our own YouTube channel. There is no cost for a channel. The

committee would be responsible for setting guidelines, reviewing items for posting for suitability, etc. NGC does have a channel. Discussion indicated the Board is generally in favor of having our own channel. The committee will move forward with developing a channel.

Data Storage: The committee has decided to separate video and document storage. Video storage needs more research because it is expensive. The document storage service recommended is Google G Suite at about \$10/month for a terra byte of data. (\$12.81 with tax.) Advantages are that documents are easily accessed by those with permissions, they can be accessed with links without the need for attachments. Annie moved to go forward with not spending more than \$15 / month for storage. There was a second and the motion passed.

Web Site: Victoria said that we would like a couple of tech committee members who are knowledgeable to update the web site for minor edits, thus conserving our contract hours with the web master. She commented that it is not possible for clubs to have a web site via CFGC, but there are free website services available, although they are generally limited in what they will do. Clubs can make their own Facebook page. Victoria said that it might be desirable to accept payments online on our web site. She also said we need to review our website security. It does contain a lot of personal information. She recommends having a "members only" area on the web site that would require a password to view.

Technical training: The committee is looking into providing some technical training for members. Please let Victoria know what training you would like. NGC offers tech classes online.

Chair Vacancies: Landscape Design is now being co-chaired by Ben and Sue Parker. CFGC still needs an Environmental School Chair, Chaplain, Hospitality Chair, Membership Chair and Emerson House Trustees. Please contact Nancy Griffin if you are interested.

Blue/Gold Star Update, Audrey Coyle: Pikes Peak Cemetery for Veterans finally gave permission, and the Blue Star Memorial was installed there in October. Aurora Veterans Home has also requested and received a memorial and a dedication will be scheduled later. A Gold Star Mothers Memorial has been installed in Greeley Cemetery. The Larkspur Rest Stop memorial will be restored.

Audrey Coyle announced that the author of *The Saved Seed and Frightened Frog* has written *Network With Nature* and she has them for sale. Each book is \$10. Contact Audrey to purchase.

Nominating Committee needs 5 members total. At least two members cannot be on the Board. Please talk to your club members to volunteer.

Colorado Garden and Home Show 2022: Nancy announced that we will be doing an exhibition show at this event. More information will be forthcoming. It will be discussed at the Leadership Round Table on December 17. Judges Council members will not make awards, but will critique exhibits. Incentives will be offered as well as stipends from the Show to cover expenses.

The Executive Board has discussed being the hosts for the NGC Convention in 2024. NGC has contracted with a company to assist with planning and management.

Unfinished Business:

Dues, Sue Parker, Asst. Treasurer:

The number of clubs and members paid thus far: 17 clubs, a few potential clubs, dues for 386 members, a few less than on May 31. Quite a few new members, especially from Loveland.

Please let her know if an email address bounces back. Ellen is temporary treasurer of the Loveland Club. Chuck Pelto added that if you have not received an electronic copy of the Connection in the last 6 months, email Sue Parker so she has a good email address on file.

Other Business: None.

Nancy led the group in a Gratitude Tree exercise. Participants completed the phrase "As this year comes to a close, I am most grateful that my garden gave me..." The answers went on cards and were hung on Christmas Trees.

Save the Date/announcements/Reminders:

Chuck Pelto: Connection etiquette: please supply information for photographs such as who are the

people, what are they doing, etc. Please forward public announcements of interest to members.

Joy Kancir, Calendar of Events: If you want to reserve Emerson House, or if you change the date, please let her know ASAP so we don't interfere with renter's appointments.

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

Set your calendar for the Sept Leadership Roundtable zoom call- open to all Committee Chairs, Officers, Presidents and Distr. Presidents 12-17-21 @ 3 PM, Need helping hands at Fort Logan and Emerson House gardens.

Thank you to Connie Ellefson, Today's Guest Speaker!

The meeting was adjourned at 12:34 pm. The meeting was followed by Connie Ellefson with Dig and Dream Garden Club who spoke on "What's the biggest weed in your life?"

Submitted by Susan Pelto
Secretary



BUTTERFLIES, OTHER POLLINATORS AND BIRD PHOTO CONTEST CFGC 2021-2023



Always wanted to enter a photo contest and you love butterflies and birds? Enter the CFGC Butterflies, other Pollinators and Bird Photo Contest for 2021-2023. Here are the rules:

1. Photo must be taken between May 2021 and May 2023.
2. Photo may be of any stage of their life.
3. Butterflies, other Pollinators, or birds must be the focus but any stage of life, other items or people may be included.
4. Photo must be no less than 8x10 inches and no greater than 11x14 inches.
5. Photo may be black and white or color print (digital or film).
6. Photo may not be retouched or “photo-shopped” for effect.
7. Location and date taken must be on entry information on back.
8. Photo must be matted: mat cannot be wider than three inches.
9. Photo must be sent or delivered to CFGC Chairman for judging before May 15, 2023.
Photo Contest Chairman: Audrey Coyle, 484-459-9052 or afloris@stratusiq.net
10. Photo may not have been entered in any other photographic competition.
11. Photographer may be any non professional photographer, member of CFGC or non member.

Prizes will be awarded at the 2021 State Convention.

1. First Prize-Category: Bird
2. First Prize-Category: Butterfly or other Pollinator
3. Second Prize-Category: Bird
4. Second Prize-Category: Butterfly or other Pollinator

Coming Events of Interest:

- **Deadline for submissions for the Spring issue of the Colorado Garden Connection, March 22, 2022.**
- Feb. 12-20, 2022 CO Garden and Home Show, “Colorado Outdoors,” Denver
- Mar. 8, 2022 CFGC Ex. Bd, Ways & Means & BOD meeting - Emerson House & Zoom
- March 18, 2022 CFGC Leadership Round Table, Invitation & Zoom only
- March 22, 2022 CFGC Trustees meeting – Emerson House
- April 2, 2022 CFGC Northern Front Range District Annual meeting – Emerson House
- April 11, 2022 CFGC Judges Council meeting – Emerson House
- April 23, 2022 CFGC Southern District Annual meeting – Cheyenne Mountain GC
- April 25, 2022 CFGC Trustees meeting - Emerson House
- May 15-21, 2022 NGC Annual Convention, Orlando, Florida
- May 23, 2022 CFGC Trustees meeting – Emerson House
- June TBD, 2022 CFGC (one day) Annual Convention meeting – Denver
- June 7, 2022 CFGC Ex. Bd., Ways & Means and BOD - Emerson House & Zoom
- June 27, 2022 CFGC Trustees meeting – Emerson House
- July 11, 2022 CFGC Judges Council meeting – Emerson House
- July 25, 2022 CFGC Trustees meeting – Emerson House
- August 22, 2022 CFGC Trustees meeting – Emerson House
- August 26-27, 2022 Rocky Mountain Region Annual meeting, Park City, Utah – Margie Soileau
- September 12, 2022 CFGC Judges Council Meeting – Emerson House
- September, TBD, 2022 NGC Fall Board meeting
- Aug. ??- 2023 CFGC to Host the RMR meeting in Denver – Margie Soileau, RMR Chair 2021-23

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

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