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The Colorado Garden Connection

2022 Convention & More



**2022 CFGC
Executive Committee**

President
Nancy Griffin
720-936-5785

mysticmoongardener@gmail.com

Vice President
Victoria Schimdt
303-646-1741

vschmidt@cybertraininc.com

Secretary
Susan Pelto
719-369-6599

smpelto@pcisys.net

Treasurer
Margie Soileau
719-648-8025

margie@soileau.org

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 in our yard.

Centerfold: Decorative Grass 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

Welcome Summer and welcome Members of the Colorado Federation of Garden Clubs to the quarterly newsletter. Can you believe that summer is here already? Half the year has gone by and I know many of you are working hard in your yards and gardens. Thankfully the winter weather didn't have too hard of a grip on our Spring and we didn't have too many May snow storms to contend with.



I need to report that some of your Executive Board members made the trip to Orlando, Florida, to attend the National Garden Club's Annual meeting. We were able to meet many people, experience new things and have fun. We also got to see what it all looked like so that when it is our turn to host that meeting in 2024, we will be able to meet, and hopefully exceed, current standards.



On June 5th we did have our annual State Convention located at the Denver Botanic Gardens. We had 59 people register and were filled to capacity. With events such as this, due to caterer and cost demands it is imperative that you register on or before the deadline to reserve your spot. We had a great meeting and I want to extend a heartfelt thanks to those that came to support your State Board. The food, the camaraderie, the speaker and the fact that we were able to all gather and actually be with one another was the highlight of the whole meeting. The energy that day was electrifying! Not to mention that we approved a brand-new club called "Young Buds" to our state federation. So total club count is now at 18. I hope for those who got to walk around the gardens and see what was coming into bloom enjoyed their time in the sunshine. Also, please take the time to read all the reports from the Club Presidents and some Chairmen. You will be amazed at all the great things and work they have been doing.

There have been some additions to the website, www.coloradogardenclubs.org. We have added a "Handy Guide for Presidents" link in purple located under the Garden Clubs tab. Once you click that, it will take you to a tab entitled "creating a new club". From there if you scroll ALL THE WAY DOWN the screen, you will find the link. All you have to do is click that link and you

will find samples of agendas, budgets, all sorts of great information to help your club run more efficiently. The last page, page 23, talks about dues and how they are currently handled. Gentle reminder: Dues were due to the State Assistant Treasurer on June 1 of this year. If you have not sent in your roster and check, please do so as soon as you can. Once the Assistant Treasurer receives the information, she can print off your membership cards and get them in the mail to your President.

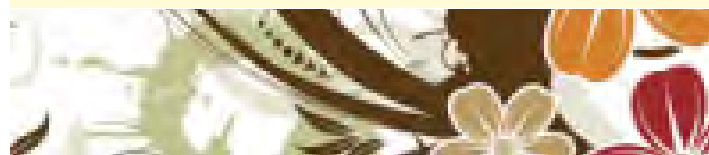
Also-----DRUM ROLL- on the website under "Resources", middle of the page in purple, if you click the word "Resources," you will find topics to help you plan activities, outings and other helpful information. You will find FaceBook groups and pages, Phone Apps, Places & Spaces, different seed catalogs, YouTube Channels, websites, and blogs. BTW- if you come across a new speaker, activity, tour, phone app, anything garden related, that you think may be of help to others, please email me the information and we will get it on the website. This is your website, created for and by you. Please use it and let us know what you think of it. There is always a way to improve on something!

There are also a few clubs whose leadership has changed. These changes are being made now so that all club information is current and correct. Another update is the new club information and forms section. If you are asked or want additional information on how to start a new club you will find current information there to help establish a new club.

Our next Board meeting is scheduled for Sept 13th, 2022. Place is yet to be determined, so keep an eye/ear out for the location. I want to shake things up a bit and get more of the Club Presidents and their members to attend. We do have business meetings, important agenda items that may need to be voted on and we do try to book a superb speaker during/after lunch.

Until next quarter, keep your feet firmly planted on the ground, enjoy your summer and remember that you have a friend, many friends in gardening. If I can be of assistance to you and your club do not hesitate to contact me. I will more than happy to help where I can!

Nancy Griffin
President
CFGC



From the Editors

My Dear Fellow Gardeners,

What can I say? I'd rather be outside doing something in the yard than writing about it, but here I am.

Our speaker at the Annual Meeting, Ms. Barrows, emphasized selecting plants that will be happy in the natural environment you'll be providing. So, how come, in my yard, only a few feet from each other, grass likes to come up in the flower beds, and broad-leaved plants (weeds, mostly, but ivy and Virginia creeper, too) like to come up in the lawn? Same soil, same watering system, same sun and shade, but why is the grass happier in the flower beds and ivy and dandelions happier in the grass? Or is everything happy where it is, but likes to visit?

Plants are mysteries, aren't they? At garden club meetings I've heard one person describe using fertilizer, watering on a certain schedule, planting when the soil is a certain temperature, etc., with fabulous results. The member next to him or her will throw seeds or plants in the ground whenever they have time, discover their fertilizer is out of date and also have fabulous results. One person orders plants from a top nursery and another buys the leftovers at the local big box, and they both have gorgeous yards.

Gardening, when you come down to it, is about experimenting, trying different things, learning, being willing to take chances on something new, and seeing what happens. It's about being curious, wanting to know more, putting the shovel in the dirt. It's about committing to see the experiment to the end of the season.

When I was looking at embroidery designs I found a slogan I really like: To plant a garden is to believe in tomorrow.

Happy planting and believing!

Chuck & Susan Pelto
Pueblo, CO



Garden Gadgets

by Chuck Pelto

Do you have a lot of house plants? Are you getting tired of wondering whether they need watering and going from plant to plant with a probe to find out?

Here's a possible solution. There are sensors that tell you—at a glance—whether you need to water that plant.

This particular one you stick in and leave in the pot. When it changes color, it's time to water the plant.



It comes in long- and short-stemmed versions.

Look for Water Sensors at Amazon.

Culinary Corner

Got a lot of zucchini coming in? Want something different to do with it, other than baking bread or giving them away?

Maybe you could try making Zucchini Soup like they do in India.

Ingredients:

- 1 ea Large Onion, pureed in a food processor
- 4 ea small or 2 ea medium whole Zucchini, pureed in a food processor
- 1 qt Chicken Stock
- 2 Tbls Curry Powder — Sweet or Hot, your choice
- 1 clove Garlic, minced
- 3/4 tsp Cumin Seed
- 3/4 tsp Coriander Seed
- 3/4 tsp Fenugreek
- 2 Tbls Olive Oil
- Fresh Cilantro leaves - for garnish
- Sour Cream - for garnish
- Salt to taste

Directions:

In a good-sized pot, heat olive oil and saute the onion and garlic in it until onion is translucent

In a dry skillet, roast the cumin and coriander seed until their aroma is obvious then remove from heat and pro-

cess in a food mill to a powder. Set aside.

Add zucchini, chicken stock, curry powder, cumin, coriander and fenugreek to the pot of onion and garlic. Simmer for 30 minutes.

Serve with a dollop of sour cream and fresh cilantro leaves.

Goes great with naan bread and various chutney sauces for dipping the naan. My favorite chutney for this is cilantro and mint.



As with most Indian cuisine, it tastes even better the next day.

Using Biochar

by Ben Parker

Biochar is an amazing material and brings properties to soil that cannot be achieved with other traditional soil amendments. However, it is part of a dynamic living system and needs to perform in conjunction with the other soil constituents, the soil microbiology and, above all, the growing plants. This guidance is intended to describe how those synergistic relationships can best be established when adding biochar to an existing growing system. While the ultimate benefits of adding biochar will manifest over time, there are some practices that allow any drawbacks to be avoided and the benefits to be realized sooner.

Typically home gardeners use 5-10% biochar in the top 6 inches of their soil. However, you can see results from using just 2% biochar in your soil.

The product we recommend, LESCO CarbonPro-G Soil Optimizer 40 lb.,

is already mixed 50/50 with compost and microbiota. It is “ready to use” out of the bag. However, the following explanation is included for your information only:

An essential step to properly using biochar is to charge your biochar with nutrients and microbiology. This means that you must mix biochar with fertilizer, usually compost, before applying it to your garden. Charging is required because of biochar’s ability to soak up nutrients.

The most typical way is to mix your biochar with compost, water lightly, and let it sit for at least 10 days. A 50/50 mix of biochar and compost will work well for charging purposes. Some farmers mix 20% biochar in their compost blend and add the “compo-char” blend as necessary.

If you do not charge biochar before adding it to soil, the biochar will soak up the nutrients and microbiology from the soil, which can actually reduce the effectiveness of the soil and may limit plant growth for a time.

Top dressing – simply sprinkle your charged biochar on top of the soil and wet it. This is most effective if you layer the top of your soil with a compost and biochar mix. It is also common for gardeners to build up their soil fertility over time by adding an 80% compost and 20% biochar mix to the top of their soil, as required.

Tilling – A conventional way to work soil amendments in is to use a tiller and mix it right into the soil.

Hand Mix – If you are planting in pots, feel free to work the charged biochar around in your soil with your hands or a small rake or trowel.

In conclusion, don’t be afraid of biochar, but do proceed with the natural instincts and observational prowess of any seasoned grower. The crops will tell you if something is excessively wrong and generally an extra watering or a bit of organic compost will correct any issues in short order.

<https://www.nextchar.com/wp-content/uploads/2016/04/Understanding-Biochar-5.pdf>

<https://www.nextchar.com/category/resources/>

The vendor is Siteone Landscape Supply <https://www.siteone.com/en/>

They have 8 branch stores in Colorado:
Englewood CO #338

Broomfield CO #335

Castle Rock, CO - C&C Sand and Stone Co. #412

Brighton CO- Harmony Gardens #330

Colorado Springs CO #336

Colorado Springs, CO - C&C Sand and Stone Co. #410

Colorado Springs, CO - C&C Sand and Stone Co. #411

Windsor CO #3291

Members can get a discount if they order online or in listed stores by using the Colorado Federation of Garden Clubs for the account and using the Emerson House address, 1556 Emerson Street, Denver, CO, 80218.





**Colorado Federation of Garden Clubs
Annual Membership Meeting Minutes**

June 5, 2022

Gates Hall, Denver Botanic Gardens

The meeting was called to order at 10:18 am by Nancy Griffin, President. Nancy welcomed the group and thanked them for coming. During her opening remarks she read a segment from the book "Braiding Sweetgrass: Indigenous Wisdom, Scientific Knowledge and the Teachings of Plants" by Robin Wall Kimmerer, a Native American woman who is a botanist.

An invocation was offered by Pam Dorsett. She announced that Mary Fagerberg is in rehab after a fall. She brought two cards for members to sign.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Ben Parker.

Nancy described the contents of the "swag bags" which are actually pots for planting. Ben Parker described Biochar, a fine grained charcoal that helps hydrate soils. A 40 pound bag will cover 10,000 square feet. You can get a contractor's price if you use the "Colorado Federation of Garden Clubs" account at sign in on the SiteOne website, using the Emerson House address.

Nancy led the group in the CFGC Conservation Pledge.

The preliminary Credentials Report was given by Margie Soileau. There were 14 first time attendees and a total of 53 club members. A quorum was declared.

Marge Koerner, Parliamentarian, presented the convention rules. Annie Mollock moved to accept the rules. There was a second and they were adopted. We would like more volunteers for parliamentary duties.

Margie Soileau presented the treasurer's report and the Budget for fiscal year 2023. Ben Parker moved to pay the Zoom renewal fee of \$125. There was a second. Nancy explained that the Zoom account can be used by all member Garden Clubs. The motion passed. Pam Dorsett moved to accept the budget. There was a second and the motion passed. The treasurer's report was accepted and filed.

Susan Pelto read the minutes of last year's meeting. June Wray moved to accept the minutes. There was a second and the minutes were accepted.

Nancy announced that Reports were received for every club in the Federation. Reports will be published in the

Connection.

Debbie Martin presented a report for the Emerson House trustees. Louise Niekerk, Joyce Cassidy and Lowanna Morgan have resigned as trustees. Carol Grant has volunteered and been accepted as a trustee by the Executive Committee. Three trustees are still needed for the Board of Trustees. Volunteers should contact Debbie. Ben Parker moved to accept Carol Grant as a trustee. There was a second and the motion passed.

Nancy reviewed some features of the website, including lists of speakers, links to other websites, etc. The website is ColoradoGardenclubs.org.

Nancy announced that videos you've made about gardening should go to Victoria Schmidt who will review and post them on CFGC's Youtube channel.

New Business:

Nancy announced that a new club, "The Young Buds Garden Club," has applied for federation membership. Pam Dorsett moved that we accept Young Buds as a federated garden club. There was a second and the motion passed.

Unfinished Business:

Joy Kancir led the Memorial Service.

The meeting recessed for 15 minutes.

A thank you was offered to life members.

Audrey Coyle offered a blessing before lunch.

During lunch the Awards Ceremony was held. Michelle Gustin, Awards Chair, presented lots of awards and encouraged people to contact her for help submitting award applications, although information is available on the website. Nancy emphasized that you must apply for awards by the March Board meeting.

Audrey Coyle invited the membership to the 2023 Annual Convention to be held in Central City in early June. The theme will be "Colorado Gardening is a Gamble." It will be a two day convention.

Victoria Schmidt announced that Colorado has been chosen to host the National Garden Clubs convention in 2024. She is part of the local planning committee. The specific venue will be selected next week. It will be in the Denver area. Attendees were asked to fill out 3x5 cards with ideas for tours and speakers.

Awards Presented at the 2022 Convention

Annie Barrows, Manager of Horticulture Outreach Programs at Denver Botanic Gardens spoke on Best Practices for Colorado Gardens.

Margie Soileau presented the final Credentials report. We had 55 members attend.

vGail Fischer offered a courtesy resolution on the fact that the day was enjoyed by all.

Nancy Griffin led the give aways of door prizes.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 2:16 pm.

The meeting was followed by a wine and cheese reception provided by an anonymous donor.

Submitted by Susan Pelto
Secretary

In Memorium

The following were remembered during the 2022 Convention's memorial:

- Marie Ann Leslie, Boulder Garden Club
- Ila Sheahan, Boulder Garden Club
- Susan Buckingham, Dig & Dream Garden Club
- Swiss (Helen) Hoffman, Dig & Dream Garden Club
- Dorothy Muir, Dig & Dream Garden Club
- Dwight Jensen, Cheyenne Mountain Garden Club
- Jackie Suppi-Mochol, Harveyette Harvesters Garden Club
- Arlene Ruth Waddell, Manitou Springs Garden Club
- Myrna Graham, Pikes Peak Designers Guild

1 "Helen Clifford" Civic Achievement: Dig and Dream for Painted Prairie, \$300.00

#3 Presidential Citation to Doris Duckworth for helping with CFGC booths at the Colorado Garden & Home Show

3 Presidential Citation to Pikes Peak Designer's Guild for helping with the same

4 CFGC President's Project: 1st Place Dig and Dream for Native Plants, \$50.00

7 Pollinators: 1st Place Queens of Spades for Butterfly Puddlers, \$25.00

7 Pollinators: 2nd Place Dig and Dream for the Bee's Story

#11 Literary Production of Horticulture Interest: Connie Ellefson, Author of two Xeriscape books

12 Garden Club Program: 1st Place Dig and Dream for "Biochar," \$25.00

13 Outstanding Horticulturalist: Dr. Kim Reineits as an avid Iris propagator

#14 Significant Contribution to Landscape Design: 1st Place Dig and Dream for Ronald McDonald House, \$50.00

#20 Increase in Membership: Loveland

#27 Website: Dig and Dream

#28 Social Media: Dig and Dream Facebook page

Heart Warmer Recipients, 2022:

Maryellen Vialpando, Harveyette Harvesters-

Victoria Schmidt, Dig and Dream

Marion Ceruzzi, Manitou Springs

2021 Recipients

Rebekah Nix, After Hours

Carol Ihli, Douglas County

Alys Wathen, Queens of Spades

Anita Ketcham, Floral Art Study

Tessa Perrin, Happy Transplants

#25a. Yearbook, under 20 members: 1st place, Happy Transplants

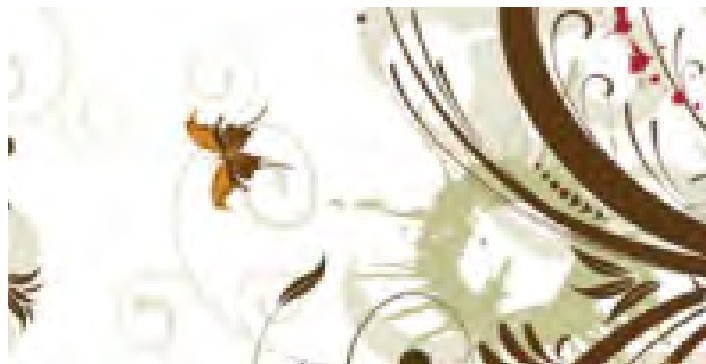
2nd place, Queens of Spades

3rd place, Greeley Morning

25b. 21-29 members: 1st place, Dig and Dream (digital)

25c. 30-44 members: 1st place, Manitou Springs

25d. 45-69 members: 1st place, Douglas County (digital)



CFGC Trustee Biography

Carol Grant

I was born and raised on a small farm in central Kansas. I feel privileged to have lived my childhood in the country, learning about nature and responsibility by working in our large vegetable gardens, tending the animals and helping my dad in the fields.



I graduated from Colorado State University with a degree in Housing and Design. That led me to careers in home furnishings and kitchen and bath design. I have two sons, who are now grown.

After retiring, I joined the Douglas County Garden Club. I met so many wonderful ladies with the same love of gardening. That same year I attended the CSU Master Gardening Training Program, and I am now in my twelfth year of service. My hobbies include sewing, gardening, bike riding and hiking.

I served four years on the Douglas County Garden Club Board, two years as secretary and two years as president. During my time as a garden club board member, I learned the importance of the state, regional and national garden club organizations. The many education programs and service projects have a positive effect on adults and children throughout our country. I look forward to supporting the work of the Colorado Federation of Garden Clubs by volunteering as a trustee.

Carol Grant
carolynjgrant@msn.com
720-394-2040



Blue Star Memorial Dedication



Pikes Peak National Cemetery has a new marker to honor all who have served in the military. The Blue Star Memorial marker is a tribute to military service members of the past, present and future. This is the 24th such marker in Colorado.

Here's a link to the article at KOAA.....

<https://www.koaa.com/news/covering-colorado/everyone-invited-to-2022-memorial-day-ceremony-at-pikes-peak-national-cemetery>

A Riddle:

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: A Watermelon.



Calendar

Coming Events of Interest:

- **Deadline for submissions for the Fall issue of the Colorado Garden Connection, September 29, 2022.**
- July 9, 2022 Evergreen Moonlight to work EH Gardens
- July 11, 2022 CFGC Judges Council meeting – EH
- July 25, 2022 CFGC Trustees meeting – EH
- August 3-7, 2022 Adams County Fair Flower Show
- August 22, 2022 CFGC Trustees meeting – EH
- August 26-27, 2022 Rocky Mountain Region Annual meeting, Park City, Utah – Margie Soileau
- September 12, 2022 CFGC Judges Council Meeting – EH
- September TBD, 2022 CFGC Ways & Means, Ex BD, BOD meeting
- September 14, 2022 Happy Transplants GC work EH Gardens
- September 19-22, 2022 NGC Fall Board meeting, Saint Louis, Missouri
- September 26, 2022 CFGC Trustees meeting – EH
- October 12, 2022 CFGC Harveyette Harvesters Work EH Gardens
- October 24, 2022 CFGC Trustees meeting – EH
- November 14, 2022 CFGC Judges Council
- April 1, 2023 CFGC Southern District Meeting
- May 2-5, 2023 NGC Annual Convention, White Sulphur Springs, WV
- June 9-10, 2023 CFGC 2023 Annual Convention, Southern District Host, Audrey Coyle, Chair
- Aug. 25-26- 2023 CFGC to Host the RMR meeting in Co. Springs – Audrey Coyle, Chair
Margie Soileau, RMR Director 2021-23
- May/June 2024 CFGC to host the National Garden Club Annual Convention in CO

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.