

Vol. 94 No. 4

# The Colorado Garden Connection

!!! Conventions !!!



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**Cover:** Gold among Purple.

**Centerfold:** Double Blossum Bechtel Crabapple



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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](mailto:cbpelto@pcisys.net) and/or [smpelto@pcisys.net](mailto: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](http://coloradogardenclubs.org)

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

## From the Editors

My Dear Fellow Gardeners,

Well, Murphy's Law seems to be in effect for CFGC right now. Several of our leaders (privacy concerns keep me from saying who) are recovering from surgeries, have had deaths in the family, and/or are dealing with those pesky house repairs, just when we're doing our final list checking for "Convention Season."

Fortunately, gardeners are the grass roots kind of people who pitch in when needed, and plans are complete. So what's needed?

First, get your reservations and payments in early for the District, State and National Conventions. The District Conventions both have great programs and they're always a great time to visit with other gardeners. Those deadlines are coming up rapidly, and registration forms and details are located in the Connection and on the website, [coloradogardenclubs.org](http://coloradogardenclubs.org).

The State Convention is just one day, but it has important activities: the annual business meeting (required by law), preparing centerpieces for the National Convention and learning more about plants and how to use them. The committee did a great job of keeping the cost down (about the price of an airport hamburger and fries and preflight calming beverage), but they do need a certain minimum number of people to cover expenses and conduct business.

We could still use a few volunteers as pages, general helpers and so forth for the NGC Convention in June, to be held in Westminster. Check our website for more information or contact Nancy Griffin. This is a great opportunity to experience a national convention without having to travel several hundred miles.

Ease someone's stress levels by registering early.

Meanwhile, CFGC's participation in the Colorado Home and Garden Show was a huge success, thanks to great organization and participation. Audrey Coyle led the effort on a "micro" flower show featuring table displays, Victoria Schmidt organized booth sitters and displays, and the Iris Society and Rose Society helped

out. A slide show from the event will soon be on the website if it isn't already.

And, it's spring. "To plant a garden is to believe in tomorrow" and tomorrow has arrived. The fruitless pears, hyacinths, tulips and daffodils are blooming, and we have a season of wonderful gardening events coming up.

Susan Pelto  
Pueblo, CO

## Garden Gadgets

Raising vegetables indoors is easy with the proper equipment and plants. You can get materials for doing hydroponics. Or just use soil as a medium.



Herbs and green leafy plants are easily grown. But if you want to raise fruit-bearing plants such as tomatoes and peppers indoors, pollination can be problematic without indoor bumbly bees.

Oh. You can use little paint brushes, brushing each blossom to pollinate the bloom so it will bear fruit. But here's a little gadget that makes it even easier. A little

## 2024 Columbine Scholarship Winner

This year's Columbine Scholarship Winner is Kelly Tobin.

Kelly is a graduate student of Biology at the University of Denver, emphasis on Ecological issues. She earned her undergraduate degree in the same from Boston University. Her cumulative GPA is 4.0.

She intends to graduate in the Fall of 2025 and enter into a career working in the arena of land restoration in a government or a non-governmental organization.



## Culinary Corner

## National Garden Clubs Convention

Spring is finally upon us. And none too soon, at that.

The grass is greening. Buds are on the trees. And asparagus is coming up in the produce farms along the Arkansas River. I like my fresh asparagus with Hollandaise Sauce and Eggs Benedict.

I also like it in quiche, as in Asparagus Quiche.

Ingredients:

.5 lbs Asparagus Spears

.25 Cups Scallions

1 Tbls Butter

1 Cup Half & Half

2 Ea Eggs

.5 tsp Salt

.25 tsp Pepper

.25 tsp Savory

.5 Cup Gruyere Cheese, shredded

Paprika (for garnish)

Directions:

Chop the asparagus into 1/2 inch pieces and parboil for 5 minutes then drain.

Chop the scallions coarsely.

Combine all the ingredients in a bowl and mix thoroughly.

Pour into an 8-inch pie crust of your choice.

Bake at 375°F for 25-30 minutes or until a toothpick thrust into the middle of the pie comes out clean.

Dust with paprika powder.

For variety add cooked chicken and some cooked bacon crumbs.

TIP: For a flavorful and flakey crust, instead of water when making the crust, use a dry white wine. You'll be pleasantly surprised.



We are thrilled to extend a warm welcome to each of you to the upcoming 2024 National Garden Club, Inc. Convention! As we prepare for this exciting event, we wanted to provide you with some updates and important information to ensure that your experience is both enjoyable and productive.

#### Date and Venue:

The Garden Convention will take place from June 2-5th at The Westin Westminster in Westminster CO. The venue boasts beautiful surroundings and ample space to accommodate all of our guests comfortably.

#### Agenda Highlights:

Our agenda is packed with engaging sessions, insightful discussions, and hands-on workshops led by your national leadership and gardening enthusiasts. Whether you're a seasoned gardener or just starting out, there will be something for everyone to enjoy and learn from. A detailed schedule of events can be found on [www.gardenclub.org](http://www.gardenclub.org) and will be provided upon registration.

#### Networking Opportunities:

One of the highlights of the Garden Convention is the opportunity to connect with fellow gardeners, horticulturists, and gardening professionals from around the region, nation and even internationally. We encourage you to take advantage of the networking breaks and social events to exchange ideas, share experiences, and build lasting connections within the gardening community.

#### Exhibition Hall:

Be sure to visit our Exhibition Hall where you can find additional information on sponsors and their programs. Don't forget to visit our vendor room where you'll find an array of vendors showcasing the latest gardening tools, equipment, plants, and accessories. Explore the exhibits, meet with suppliers, and discover new products and innovations to enhance your gardening endeavors.

#### Safety Measures:

The health and safety of our attendees is our top priority. We are aware of the possibility of "Altitude Sickness" and will be implementing appropriate safety measures in accordance with local guidelines to ensure a safe and enjoyable experience for all participants. At

the registration tables you will find additional information on how to keep hydrated and on top of your gardening game!

### Registration and Additional Information:

If you haven't already done so, please register for the NGC Annual Convention by May 2nd, 2024. After that date you can register up until May 24th, 2024 but will incur a \$50.00 late fee. Register early to secure your spot. For more information about the event, including registration details, accommodation options, please visit our website at [www.gardenclub.org](http://www.gardenclub.org) or contact your Convention Chair directly at 720-936-5785 or email me at [mysticmoondgardener@gmail.com](mailto:mysticmoondgardener@gmail.com).

We are truly excited to welcome you to the 2024 National Garden Club Inc., Convention and look forward to sharing this enriching experience with each of you. Together, let's celebrate our shared passion for gardening and cultivate inspiration, knowledge, friendships, and growth!

Warm regards,

Nancy Griffin,  
CFGC 2024 NGC Convention Chair

### Why Attend an NGC Convention

#### From NGC.....

National Garden Clubs (NGC) holds a yearly convention, typically in May. In 2024 the NGC Convention will be the first week of June in Westminster, Colorado, just outside of Denver. I'm often asked if this is open to members to attend. Not only is it open to members, but it is also open to guests. Attendance should be encouraged.

With that being said, I cannot encourage you enough to attend NGC Conventions. You might ask "why should I attend NGC Conventions?"

The future direction of National Garden Clubs is decided at the general meetings. Our governing documents are ever changing and voted on. Leaders and projects are voted on. It is so important for our members to have a vote on NGC's future. The Board of Directors' members already have a vote, but every state may appoint delegates who also have a vote. These votes are vital for us to know the thoughts of our members and to steer NGC in the right direction. I've heard members say, "I'm no longer a Board of Directors' member so I'm not planning on attending." That comment is discouraging to the state that is hosting the meeting and the

officers. Those members need to set an example by showing support for NGC.

Conventions are a time of fellowship amongst our membership. We make friendships during these meetings that often form life-long relationships. It is a time to network with like-minded individuals.

Conventions are a time of learning about our organization. Most members don't realize the relationships between their club, their state and National Garden Clubs. Members are often unaware of what NGC offers its membership.

Future National Garden Club leaders are mentored and encouraged during conventions.

Conventions should inspire our members. I remember returning from an NGC Convention in Buffalo, NY and creating a succulent quilt, which included a small metal headboard and footboard in one of my flower beds. A seminar speaker inspired me.

Conventions are educational. We should leave conventions with more knowledge than we had before. I always learn something new, or I leave inspired. After seeing a Rachel Carson impersonator at the convention in Richmond, VA, I reread the book *Silent Spring*.

Attending these conventions helps us to step out of our comfort zone. After becoming used to Zoom meetings during covid, we often need to push ourselves to get out in the real world. Zoom has been a wonderful tool for meeting with others, but nothing replaces live meetings.

State delegates and club members that attend conventions often have a stronger organization than those that don't. That's because ideas and concerns are shared. It creates a connection. Conventions often give membership and leadership tips to make clubs stronger.

Most of all, attending conventions shows your support for National Garden Clubs and all it stands for. It encourages the host state members, NGC staff and officers.

So, take a moment and register for the 2024 Convention.

The views and opinions expressed in the National Garden Clubs, Inc. (NGC) blog and podcasts are solely those of the original author(s) and other contributors. These views and opinions do not necessarily reflect those of NGC.



# 2024 CFGC State Convention

May 18, 2024

Hilton Garden Inn, Denver South Park Meadows

9290 Meridian Blvd, Englewood, CO 80112



**Hosted by**

**CFGC Northern Front Range District**

**Registration Fee \$30 per garden club member**

**Registration fee includes catered lunch.**

**Business meeting, lunch, program, breakout workshops and silent auction.**

**Decorate and wear your Spring Garden Party hat.**

**An award will be presented to the garden member with the best decorated Spring Garden Party hat.**

**Hilton Garden Inn has set aside a limited number of rooms for 5/17/2024 for \$127.**

**Here is the web link to book sleeping rooms: - <https://www.hilton.com/en/attend-my-event/the-federation-of-garden-clubs/>**

**Link to Registration form: [2024 CFGC registration form.pdf](https://www.hilton.com/en/attend-my-event/the-federation-of-garden-clubs/)**





**CFGC Annual Conference May 18, 2024  
Hilton Garden Inn, Denver South Park Meadows  
9290 Meridian Blvd, Englewood, CO 80112**

Please complete all and mail with your check payable to "2024 CFGC Annual Convention" at Deb Martinez, 2016 27<sup>th</sup> St, Greeley, CO 80631. For questions, call 970-397-1415

**Registration Information**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address: [City, State, Zip] \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_  
 CFGC Club: \_\_\_\_\_ District: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Registration Fee (includes lunch): \_\_\_\_\_ \$30 \_\_\_\_\_  
 Late registration after May 5<sup>th</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ \$35 \_\_\_\_\_

**Workshops: choose 2**

Google app training <sup>■</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ paper flower workshop \_\_\_\_\_  
 Centerpiece workshop \_\_\_\_\_  
 \*must bring your laptop to participate

The Hilton Garden Inn has a small block of rooms set aside for 5/17/2024 for \$127/room. Reservations need to be made by April 17, 2024, to get this rate. Click on this link to reserve a room:

<https://www.hilton.com/en/attend-my-event/co-federation-of-garden-clubs/>

**Please circle all that apply to you:**

- |                          |                      |                      |
|--------------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| First Time Attendee      | Flower Show Judge    | Regional Life Member |
| Club Member              | Gardening Consultant | Regional Officer     |
| Club President           | Headquarters Trustee | State Life Member    |
| District Officer         | Landscape Consultant | State Officer        |
| District President       | National Chairman    | State Past President |
| Environmental Consultant | National Life Member | State President      |

**There will be a silent auction and a contest for the best decorated Spring Garden party hat.**



## Board of Directors Meeting

March 8, 2024 via ZOOM

Present: Victoria Schmidt, Susan Pelto, Chuck Pelto, Pat Smit, Jeanne Ricci, Audrey Coyle, Joy Kancir, Margie Soileau, Debbie Martin, Stacy Shockley, Sue Parker, Jeanne Falletta, Louise Niekirk, Deb Martinez, Michele Gustin, Ben Parker, and one other. One guest.

The meeting was called to order at 12:30 pm by Victoria Schmidt, President.

Minutes Approval: Susan Pelto, CFGC Secretary: Chuck moved to accept the minutes of the last quarterly meeting as presented. There was a second and the motion passed.

Joy Kancir reported the amounts in Vanguard.

Financial Report: Margie Soileau, CFGC Treasurer. Margie reviewed the report. Chuck moved to accept the report. There was a second and the motion passed. Budget Requests for next year should be given to Margie and Victoria before the Budget Meeting in April.

New Business: Victoria Schmidt, CFGC President

CO Garden and Home Show: Victoria Schmidt thanked everyone who participated. Victoria is preparing a slide presentation featuring the Home and Garden Show. If you have pictures you would like to share, please send them to her. We did receive \$5000 for the Education Fund from the Garden Foundation. Over \$800,000 in grants were awarded by the Garden Foundation. We had help from the Iris Society and Rose Society who helped set up, host, and supply a few speakers. Victoria told the group that Jim Fricke has won the Award of Excellence from NGC, and it was announced at the Garden and Home Show. Almost 60 people signed up wanting information about CFGC garden clubs. Club presidents will receive contact information for interested people in their areas.

2024 CFGC Annual Convention: Pat Smit, NFRD President & Deb Martinez chair. Registrations are only at 11. It is our annual business meeting, so it is very important. Google Apps training and a workshop for NGC centerpieces are planned, as well as a Spring Garden Hat decorating contest. Registration, including

lunch, is \$30.

Michele pointed out that each club in the hosting district is eligible for a \$125 tree grant. The amount needed will come up for approval at the next meeting. Margie commented that we don't get donations for the Tree Fund like we used to.

### District Updates

Southern District: Stacy Shockley, President: The Southern District Annual Meeting will be hosted by the Harveyette Harvesters Garden Club. Speaker topics will include Manitou's designation as a the first Pollinator City and a speaker from the Butterfly Pavilion. It will be held April 20, in Colorado Springs.

Northern Front Range District: Pat Smit, NFRD President and Debbie Martin, President, Happy Transplants Garden Club: The NFRD Annual Meeting will feature Olivia Wiley speaking on the theme "The Language of Flowers." Margaret McCandless is the Chair.

Chairs & Clubs: Michele Gustin, Awards: Applications are due today, as well as Heart Warmer nominations. Please copy Michele on NGC Award Applications.

Unfinished Business: 2024 NGC Annual Convention: Nancy Griffin reported that vendors are still welcome to request booths. The agenda is being finalized. We have 19 people from Colorado signed up so far. Attendees must register online. Three of the workshops are full. Volunteers will be needed to assist presenters. She announced that the special rate at the hotel will be honored for 3 days before and 3 days after the convention.

Membership Report: Sue Parker, Asst. Treasurer - We have 17 clubs and 362 members. Other clubs have new members but will report them later.

Technology: Victoria Schmidt: We have registered with Tech Soup, a nonprofit which approves other nonprofits for Tech donations including discounts on applications such as Zoom, as well as hardware. If your club is planning a purchase, check with the tech committee first to see what's available through Tech Soup.



Blue/Gold Star: Audrey Coyle, Committee Chair - Waiting to install the refurbished memorial until the ground is warmer.

Colorado Gives Day: We received close to \$4000.

Emerson House: Debbie Martin, Chairman. Emerson House Update: Leaks have been taken care of. We have had snow removal expenses on two occasions. Meetings have been moved to Tuesdays. Next meeting will be March 26 at 10 am. The Executive Committee recommends approving \$510 for repair of a burst pipe. Joy had a question about an overflowing bucket catching leaks. It was clarified that that leak was associated with the sprinkler system and the back flow preventer. The only repair needing approval is the burst pipe. Audrey moved to approve. There was a second and the motion passed.

EH Sale Investigation: Margie Soileau A meeting was held at Emerson House with a walk-through so they could compile a plan to discard unneeded items. The renter is overflowing his area and that will be addressed. Research has been done on storage costs.

Speakers List: Victoria Schmidt – Send Victoria your speakers to add.

NGC Schools: Victoria announced that we have a chair for each school EXCEPT Environmental.

Announcements:

Sign up for the free NGC newsletter at [www.garden-club.org](http://www.garden-club.org).

NFRD Annual Meeting: April 6, 2024 @ Westminster Christian Church & Zoom

Southern District Annual Mtg: April 20, 2024 @ Fellowship of the Rockies Church in Colorado Springs

Next Ways & Means Meeting: May 13, 2024 at 11:00 am, via Zoom.



CFGC Convention is May 18th, 2024 near Park Meadows at the Hilton Garden Inn.

Chuck announced that we have a scholarship winner: Kelly Tobin, majoring in Biology with an emphasis in Ecology at Denver University.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:20 pm.

Submitted by Susan Pelto,  
Secretary

## Blue- Butterfly Day

by Robert Frost

*It is blue-butterfly day here in spring,  
And with these sky-flakes down in flurry  
on flurry*

*There is more unmixed color on the wing  
Than flowers will show for days unless  
they hurry.*

*But these are flowers that fly and all but  
sing:*

*And now from having ridden out desire  
They lie closed over in the wind and cling  
Where wheels have freshly sliced the  
April mire.*



## Coming Events of Interest:

- **Deadline for submissions for the Summer issue of the Colorado Garden Connection, June 1, 2024.**

April:

4/20 SD Annual Meeting POC Nanc Halverhout

4/23 CFGC Trustees POC Debbie Martin

May:

5/18 CFGC Annual Meeting POC Deb Martinez or Victoria Schmidt

June:

6-2 through 6-6 NGC Annual Meeting POC Nancy Griffin

6/25 CFGC Trustees POC Debbie Martin

For additional information on events without a Point-of-Contact (POC), please check the CFGC web-site at [coloradogardenclubs.org](http://coloradogardenclubs.org).