

Vol. 90 No. 3

# The Colorado Garden Connection



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**Cover:** Monarch on Miniature Mums taken by Chuck Pelto at the 2018 Colorado State Fair.

**Centerfold:** Lilies taken by Chuck Pelto during a 2008 Colorado Springs Garden Tour.

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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 President

Happy New Year Greetings to All:

I wish everyone a fun, happy, safe, and blessed New Year.

Though I enjoy the holiday season it is always wonderful to put away the Christmas decorations.

Once I have put my home back in order, I am ready for new projects. In reviewing my "to do" list, I realized how much I look forward to garden club meetings, meeting new fellow gardeners, preparing for Spring, and planning my gardens.



One of the projects I have on my list is the NGC project, "Plant America with Trees: Each One Plant One." This project is so worthwhile and rewarding. Victoria Bergensen, NGC Climate Change Chairman, provided the following

information:

*"NGC members are encouraged to reach out to members of their communities in the Plant America with Trees effort as we hope to plant at least 165,000 trees in each year in the 2019-2021 administration. All it takes is for "Each One" (member) to "Plant One" (native tree)."*

The complete article can be found on the NGC website, [gardenclub.org](http://gardenclub.org), under the tab of "Ongoing Projects" / "Environmental Concerns and Conservation". As I receive information regarding this project, I will forward on to all CFGC garden clubs.

Our beautiful state of Colorado will benefit fully from this project. There is a need for reforestation in areas of wildfires that have plagued our state in the last several years. Please pass this information on to all garden club members. Form a committee to review this plan. And lastly, let's all plant a tree!

Margie Soileau,  
CFGC President

## From the Editors

Dear Fellow Garden Club Members,

We're starting a New Year and a new decade. I have often thought that Americans love beginnings. We celebrate the day we began the country, not the day when the last battle was fought. We celebrate graduations and commencements. Gardeners love planning and planting in the spring as much as the harvest.

So what will your club do that's new this year? Start a children's gardening program? I remember an out of state visitor at the state convention describing how they grow their clubs by nurturing and leading programs for youngsters. While the idea of trying to recruit and lead a children's club is daunting, there are many children's organizations who would like help with programming. Just last week we drove by a school in Colorado Springs with little gardens, many with their own little greenhouses, laid out next to the playground.

There are Boys' and Girls' Clubs, 4H, scouts, church groups, home school groups. If your club is looking for something more short term, how about a class at the local Kids' College this summer? The community college I work for sponsors one.

While some folks may look at this as just keeping youngsters occupied, my experience at the college and articles I read indicate that it would be much more than that. Younger people, "millennials," interact via social media, and don't always have the social skills needed for face to face interactions at work. They don't understand why they should be on time, pay attention to the person speaking, be appropriately dressed. They don't see these things as being supportive of their employers or their co-workers. But these are things garden club members demonstrate at every meeting, at every interaction with each other. While the focus is on gardening, the side effects are just as important.

But now is the time to plan your club's new projects for the year, whether it's a project with youngsters, a new civic project, a field trip to a new destination. And make sure you share what you're doing in the Connection. We all need the inspiration.

Susan Pelto  
Pueblo, CO

## Gardening On the Grand Scale

For the SERIOUS gardener, someone with lots of space and ambition, this issue we look into a mechanical seed planter.



Maybe for someone more interested in veggies. Maybe for someone who doesn't like to spend a lot of time bent over. These things will help you cover lots of ground, planting lots of seeds with little effort whatsoever.

They come with a variety of discs used to plant the most common produce seeds at their proper interval. And some manufacturers offer additional disc sets for a much wider variety of plantings.

Put the proper disc on. Load the hopper with dry seed and push it along. The machine will plow, plant and cover the seed to permit the greatest opportunity for successful germination. The rest is up to Mother Nature and you.

Different companies offer different disk sets. The one I got for doing produce gardening up at our mountain property has a set that comes with the planter which will work for the following plants:

- Sweet Corn
- Radish
- Leeks
- Spinach
- Carrots
- Lettuce
- Turnips
- Beans
- Small Peas
- Jumbo Peas
- Beets
- Okra
- Swiss Chard

They offer optional disk sets which will work for additional plants:

- Cucumber
- Lima Beans
- Popcorn
- Lettuce
- Cabbage
- Mustard
- Kale
- Carrot
- Turnip
- Cauliflower
- Broccoli

Journals are kind of a diary without the deeply personal-emotional exposure of oneself. They're more like a scientific log of what one has done in a given area such as experiments in cooking or gardening. You make entries either on a daily basis or when specific events or activities or conditions arise.

Daily entries might be weather conditions. Or soil moisture. Events might be that the irrigation system malfunctioned. Or you spotted your first butterfly or Japanese Beetle of the season. Maybe how effective or ineffective a pesticide was. I know that I've been very disappointed with certain ant-related products.

Planning a journal doesn't take much. It could be something as simple as making notes on a good calendar. Or keeping it on a computer spreadsheet. Be sure to allow for expansion of the journal. All good things, like a good story, grow in the telling. Or in this instance, doing. You start with a limited application, you might want to expand it. So, if you're doing a journal in book or ledger form, consider a loose-leaf notebook. Or you can buy something in a good book store or on Amazon.

Were I doing it, I'd use a FileMaker Pro database. I find databases are by far superior to spreadsheets. That's especially true when you want to retrieve, examine or share information. The formatting of the information is particularly important.

So, plan what you want to keep track of in your journal. Then decide what sort of medium—book, calendar, spreadsheet, database, etc.—will work best for keeping your notes, data, ideas, musings. You might want to have different sections for the information. If the latter, a database is the best option. You can even include digital images taken with a digital camera. I take pictures of our civic display garden every time I pull up to it for work, during the season.

If you're taking your journal out with you to the garden, be sure to protect it against the impact of weather, e.g., rain.



I don't have a journal for gardening. I DO have one for my adventures in cooking. The database keeps track of my favorite recipes. With parts of each recipe/record for notes on what variations I tried and how they turned out.

Now that I've thought about this, I'm going to set up a database-journal for gardening, to help me keep track of how much supplies and materials cost and what does or does not work.

**“Every garden is unique with a multitude of choices in soils, plants and themes. Finding your garden theme is as easy as seeing what brings a smile to your face.”**  
- Teresa Watkins

### The Solstice Is Coming!

by Becky Elder

This season, for my family, is solemn as we watch our beloved mother decline and begin to leave us behind in her passage to her heaven. She is still here, but only partially. Her own sadness these days are for our country's condition and the ongoing onslaught of bad news. She has always been a news junkie. Always “environmental protection inclined” and a nature lover. The collapse of the living planet sears deep into her heart. She raised a family of green hearted, nature-bonded children, now adults.

I try to protect her from much of the “news.” But, yes, she is a news junkie. Still tries to read her newspaper with glasses and magnifying glasses. This past vote, she misplaced her mail ballot and was unable to vote in her Manitou community. She has forgotten that, thankfully. She forgets many things in the moment.... The dog's name, where the bathroom is, who her daughter is... not all the time, but sometimes. She is “experiencing her old age” she says.

But Donna still remembers much more than she will ever forget. She is still a soft-hearted and very

kind person. She still loves her friends, both here and now, and those long gone. Her biggest heart-break in life was the loss of her partner in life. He waits for her in her heaven, along with her mother and father, sister and friends. She is content for the most part. She lives in a bubble now. Looking outward while pulling inward as she goes along.

Can feel the coming of the Solstice. Feel the approach in the rise and setting of the sun. Short days. Longer nights. Late mornings, early evenings. How I love the quiet of it and the peace of the winter that comes with the Solstice. People tend to soften a bit. They tend to be more loving. They celebrate together. Another year is passing. Accomplishments are celebrated and fresh plans and goals are presented for the coming new year. Passing of loved ones' lives are celebrated. Garden harvests are being processed into jams, jellies, preserves, fermented treats, and baked into pies and cakes. Braids of garlic hang from the ceiling, winter squash hides in dark, chilly corners, bags of potatoes join them. Herbs are bottled in tinctures and oils. Just so easy to find bounty enough to enjoy and to share.

Delights and gifts arrive, smelling of fresh baked, homemade love. Hot chocolate. Chocolate cookies, chocolate bars, chocolate cheese cakes... just about anything can be improved with chocolate. Chai and healing teas are welcomed. Wassail fragrances the house with cinnamon and cloves making the feel of the season come alive! Fresh bread baking, roasting and braising, mixing and creating. Such fun! Activity in the kitchen warms the house in more than just one way. The warmth of the oven, of course, but the warmth of creating loving gifts for friends, or for donating, warms the heart and the home. Hand written cards carry love and remembrances into the future. Family boxes of fresh fruit and baked goodies arrive at her door. Donna revels with each visitor. She loves this time of year.

On this chilly morning Donna sits quietly in her chair listening as the world presents itself in her

Pamela Marie Pearson (1943-2019)

window. Climate collapses, large protests, greedy episodes move across the screen. Good grief, she says. She notices the anger of the collective consciousness of the planet and feels the pain and despair in her soul. Now, in her nineties, she understands what this “modern” world of consumption has done to the natural world she loves. She gets irritated with the endless spam and scams that try to ensnare her life. She is glad to go... she is sad to not be able to fix the world she leaves behind. Her desire to leave her body with a tree to grow will be a final testimony to her life of love, light, generosity and kindness. I would wish for Donna’s final chapters to be peaceful and full of the deep love that she so freely gave to her family and friends in her long life. In gratitude and love.

And, as always, Peace.

Blue Planet Becky the gardener

*“Your life is yours to live, no matter how you choose to live it. When you do not think about how you intend to live it, it lives you. When you occupy it, step into it consciously, you live it.”* Gary Zukav



We are saddened to announce that former CFGC president Pamela Pearson (1997-1999) passed away at her home in Boulder. She was born Dec. 25, 1943 and died Dec. 12, 2019. She was preceded in death by her parents and her husband Frederick Pearson. She is survived by her son Christopher, his wife Erica and by four siblings.

Pam was a member of Boulder Garden Club and a Northern District officer. She served as the Landscape Design School Chairman for some years. Pam was elected president of the Colorado Federation of Garden Clubs in 1997. The highlight of her term was hosting the National Garden Clubs Annual Convention in Denver in 1998.

She will be remembered for her patient and meticulous approach to all of her positions.

Pam will be interred on Sat., Dec. 21, 2019 at Pacific View Mortuary & Memorial Park in Corona Del Mar, California. Condolences may be sent to Christopher Pearson at 5640 Olde Stage Road, Boulder CO 80302-9405.

(J. Maynard & R. Persichetti)

Pikes Peak Designers Guild Christmas Luncheon

Pikes Peak Designers Guild garden club enjoyed a Christmas soup and salad luncheon at a member’s home. They were pleased to have our State President, Margie Soileau, as a guest.



*There is Doris Duckworth, Rosemary Rice, Audrey Coyle, Jean Nicks and Margie Soileau..*



PIKES PEAK PERMACULTURE PRESENTS:

*Through The Seasons*

# PERMACULTURE DESIGN

## CERTIFICATE COURSE 2020

### Course topics include:

- Permaculture Ethics & Principles*
- Ecosystem Patterning    Forest Systems*
- Organic Food Production    Soil Building*
- Alternative Economies    Full Loop Waste Systems*
- Microclimates    Medicinal Herbs    Water Catchment*
- Earthworks    Cold Season Growing & more....*

### Instructors:

- Becky Elder    Marco Lam    Jason Gerhart*
- Sara Foster-Berry    Tara Rae*
- And other Colorado guest instructors.*

*Third weekend  
March through November  
Friday, Saturday, Sunday*

*March 13-15  
April 17-19    May 15-17  
June 19-21    July 17-19    August 14-16  
Sept 18-20    Oct 16-18  
Nov 13-15*

*Cost: \$700  
Includes: books materials &  
organic locally sourced meals.*

*Discounts:  
\$620 if paid by Nov. 1, 2019  
\$550 if paid by Jan 15, 2020*

*Some scholarships available!  
1/2 price for return students*

*Permaculture is a design process to meet human needs  
while enhancing ecosystem health.*



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Minutes of Meeting  
CFGC Board of Directors

December 10, 2019

The CFGC Board of Directors met December 10, 2019, at Emerson House. A quorum (14) was present. President Margie Soileau called the meeting to order at 11:14 a.m. She introduced Jerry Brown, CFGC's new chaplain, who offered the invocation, including an amusing anecdote entitled "I'll Plant Anything" from Chicken Soup for the Gardener's Soul. Margie led the pledge of allegiance.

President Margie welcomed everyone. She pointed out two beautiful Peace Lilies (*Spathiphyllum*) donated by Emerald Leaf, brought by Kathy Petersen for door prizes. An array of gardening books donated by the Durango Garden Club were laid out on a table to borrow or take. Updated Awards rules and other pages for the 2019-2021 Directory were also available for those who had paid for paper copies. The charge is \$8 for a set.

The minutes of the September 19th meeting were approved as published.

Financial Report. Treasurer Kathy Petersen provided a summary of the balance sheet and profit & loss statements. She also provided full detailed reports. CFGC has \$5,775 in checking, \$38,766 in general fund money market, and \$111,173 in Vanguard. Total income for the second quarter exceeded expenses by \$3,603; however, Kathy cautioned that the majority of CFGC's expenses occur in the second half of the year. Emerson House income year to date is \$4,870 and expenses are \$5,587, of which \$2,414 is annual insurance expense. Kathy also reported that we paid \$875 for tax preparation, but because of high expenses for roof repair we do not owe any state or federal income tax. Kathy moved the adoption of the report, which was seconded. The report was filed.

Assistant Treasurer Sue Parker reported that CFGC currently has 444 paid members. This number includes some duplicates (people who belong to more than one club.)

Trustees Report. Nancy Griffin said that Xcel conducted an energy audit of Emerson House, which concluded that the building is in good shape overall. She

has a copy if you wish to view it. She thanked Louise Niekerk for obtaining the audit. She also thanked Lowanna Morgan for recruiting a new Trustee, Debbie Martin. In 2020 the Trustees will meet 3/23, 4/27, 5/26, 6/22, 7/27, 8/24, 9/28, and 10/26 at approximately 9:15 a.m. Any CFGC member is welcome to attend.

New Business. Two recommendations were forwarded from the Executive Committee:

MOTION: That the registration fee for the 2020 Annual Convention shall be \$30 for members, \$35 for non-members, and \$5 additional for late registrations.

The motion passed.

MOTION: That CFGC grant \$400 to the Durango Garden Club for their 2020 Arbor Day "Plant a Tree" program, the funds to be taken from the Gibson fund, on condition that the Club send a summary report and photos to CFGC after the planting project.

The motion passed.

Positions Available; Grant for Schools. Could you volunteer as Facebook Chair for CFGC and/or Rocky Mountain Region to post information about our activities? A Chair is also needed for Environmental School. CFGC has been awarded a \$5000 grant from the Colorado Garden Foundation to support our schools, so it is important to find a Chair. If you are interested, let Margie know.

Nominating Committee consisted of Louise Niekerk, Doris Duckworth, and Aurora Glaze. Louise was pleased to announce that Victoria Schmidt has agreed to accept the First Vice-President position for the 2021-2023 term.

Colorado Gives Day is today, December 10th, and CFGC hopes it will be fruitful.

Awards Chair Michele Gustin has finalized the new awards program rules to coordinate with RMR and NGC. The rules are all on CFGC's website now. Michele reminded us that Heart Warmers Award nominations should be submitted to her by March.

Membership Chair Victoria Schmidt gave several ideas for increasing club membership: 1. Does your club have a project? If so, can it be made more "public-facing" so others learn about it? 2. Try using the Next-Door app to invite visitors to your next club meeting. 3. Consider starting a Junior Gardeners program of

some kind. (Victoria noted that anyone working with children should be background-checked first.) 4. Your club might help to form and mentor a new club -- for example, for interested gardeners who can't attend at the time your club meets.

Colorado Garden Connection Editor Chuck Pelto sent a reminder that the deadline for submissions for the next issue is December 24th. Write an article about your club activities (about 300 words and perhaps a photo or two) and send it in!

Plant America with Trees. Audrey Coyle described the NGC President's project for 2020, "Plant America with Trees" (PAT). Under this initiative, every member is urged to plant a tree, preferably a native variety or something that will do well in our area. If all NGC members did this, it would result in 165,000 new trees!. The trees should be larger than seedlings -- exact rules to be announced in Keeping in Touch (KIT) later. NGC may conduct a competition of some kind among states. This project is completely separate from Penny Pines. The city of Colorado Springs is currently promoting a big tree planting program of its own.

The meeting adjourned at 12:05, followed by a holiday lunch provided by the Executive Committee.

Lynn Cleveland, Recording Secretary

### Annual Awards Reminder

It's that time of year when you need to gather all your great projects, people and photos to submit those Awards Applications!!!

Check your CFGC Directory or the CFGC website for the complete information on the Awards program, forms and Book of Evidence needs.

We are looking forward to seeing the many categories full of great competition. I also need 2 copies of your Yearbook and the Heart Warmer application.

The deadline for submission is March 10th so just bring them with you to the Board of Directors meeting that day at Emerson House.

Thanks so much for all your hard work, dedication, time and talent in helping us learn, grow and bloom!!

The Western Landscape Symposium is an educational forum to promote the creation of appealing and sustainable landscapes in southeastern Colorado, incorporating water wise garden practices and plants adapted to local climate and soil conditions.



The fourteenth Annual Western Landscape Symposium will be held Saturday, March 14, 2020. The Symposium will be held at Pueblo Community College in the Fortino Ballroom and is an all day event beginning at 9:00 a.m. until 3:30 p.m.

The keynote speaker will be Panayoti Kelaidis, Senior Curator and Director of Outreach at the Denver Botanic Gardens. He will present a session entitled "Plant Explorers". Other session topics include drip irrigation, plant propagation, medicinal plants, buffalograss lawns, rock gardens and the Plant Select Program.

The full lineup including speaker's bios will be posted online at the committee [Facebook Page](#) and at their [web page](#) in the coming weeks.

Advance tickets are \$20.00 each. Purchase tickets online starting January 15th at [Eventbrite.com](#) or purchase tickets (with cash or check only) at CSU Extension-Pueblo County, 701 Court Street, Suite C, Pueblo, CO 81003. Tickets will not be available at the door and this annual event sells out.

[Editor's Note: We've attended this event several times and each has been a highly enjoyable and educational opportunity. Considering our mountain property and plans to grow produce up there, as the original homesteader once did, the year of the presentation by [Penn and Cord \[High Altitude\] Gardening](#) provided us with many seeds acclimatized for our situation.]



Hosts & Hostesses Wanted

The 61st Annual Colorado Home & Garden Show

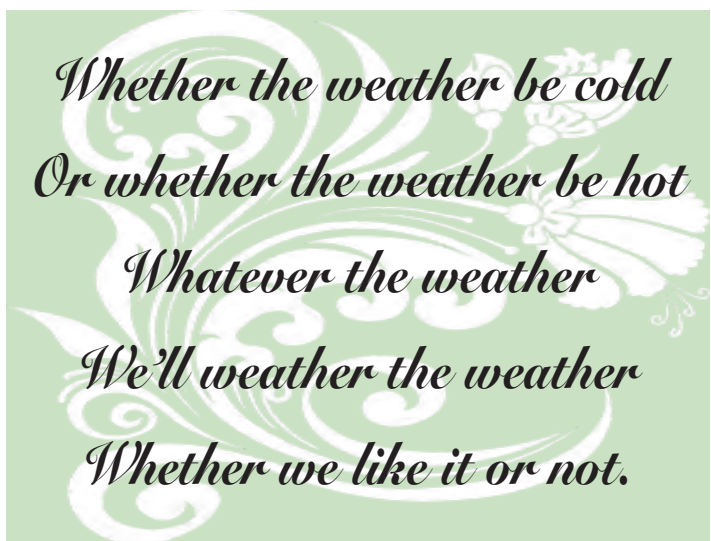
From Victoria Schmidt

I've created a link (below) that you can click to see the CO Garden Show Hosts/Hostesses online sign-up sheet. I've set this up so that you don't need anything special to see the document, just a web browser.

You will be able to view, save and/or print the document with this link. But, you can also add text/edit by just putting your mouse where you want to add your name/info to sign up, click once with the mouse, and start typing. It saves automatically. Your update is immediately visible to everyone else. Hopefully this will make it easy for you all to see what spots are in need of a Host/Hostess and which ones are already filled as people sign-up on the document online. Please pass this information along to your club members and encourage them to volunteer as Hosts/Hostesses.

Here's a link to the sign up sheet....

[Hosting Sign-up Sheet for Garden Show](#)



Speaking of the forthcoming Colorado Home and Garden Show....

...that will be coming up next month.



The Rocky Mountain region's oldest, largest, and most prestigious garden and home show. It is a major, annual convention where you can visit with the region's gardening gurus from many different companies. You can learn innovative gardening techniques, products, and services, featured in more than a thousand booths.

- Display Gardens
- Flower Shows
- Flower Sales

And that's just the gardening aspect. If you're a home owner or dream of becoming one, here you can get ideas.

Here is a [link to their web-site](#) for those wishing to attend.

You can even buy tickets, on-line.....



**Coming Events of Interest:**

- **Deadline for submissions for the Spring issue of the Colorado Garden Connection, March 24, 2020.**
- Feb. 22-March 1, 2020, CFGC Flower Show “Hats Off To Gardening” Audrey Coyle, Chair, at CO Garden & Home Show
- March 10, 2020, CFGC Ways & Means, Ex BOD and BOD meeting at EH 9:30am-3pm
- March 14, 2020, Western Landscape Symposium, Pueblo Community College, 9:00am-3:30pm
- April 18, 2020, CFGC Northern District Annual meeting – Dig & Dream GC, Michele Gustin
- May 2, 2020, CFGC Southern District Annual meeting – Penrose House, CO Springs, After Hours GC, Jane Fitzgerald
- May 6-7, 2020, CFGC Gardening School at EH- Margie Soileau POC. 7:30am-5pm
- May 11-16, 2020, NGC National Convention, Milwaukee, WI
- May 19, 2020, CFGC Ways & Means – Budget Review at EH 10am
- June 13, 2020, CFGC State Convention Co-Chairs- Nancy Griffin & Victoria Schmidt
- Aug. 5-9, 2020, CFGC Adams County Flower Show
- Aug. 28-29, 2020, Rocky Mountain Region annual meeting, Lake Melford, Kansas
- Sept. 8, 2020, CFGC Ways & Means, Ex BD & BOD meeting at EH, 9:30am-3pm
- Sept. 16-17, 2020, CFGC Flower Show Symposium at EH, Chair, Louise Niekerk
- Sept. 24-26, 2020, NGC Fall BD meeting, Fargo, N. Dakota
- Dec. 8, 2020, CFGC Ways & Means, Ex BD & BOD meeting at EH, 9:30am-3pm
- Dec. 8, 2020, CFGC Colorado Gives Day

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