

The Colorado Garden Connection

Awards



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Cover: A Honeybee on and Alum Bloom

Centerfold: Clematis in Sun and Shadow

**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.

Hello fellow gardeners and happy harvesting. Fall is my favorite time of year with the cooler days, elk rut, leaves turning colors and pumpkin spice. I will soon start visiting local clubs throughout the state. We currently have 17 unique garden clubs in Colorado and two more on the horizon. These clubs focus on community projects like beautification, seed and plant swaps, educational workshops and socialization. It's easy to see why the benefits of belonging to your local club feel immediate and tangible, while district and state benefits seem distant, bureaucratic or non-existent.



District and state meetings foster connections with nearby clubs, building friendships and providing opportunities for clubs to collaborate on regional issues such as conservation issues or larger projects. Clubs within a district take turns hosting district meetings. While hosting a district meeting might seem like a daunting task, it is also time for your club to work together. It's your club's opportunity to invite other clubs to your neighborhood and choose a theme that demonstrates your club's passion. Take this opportunity to share your passion and inspire other garden clubs.

Isolation can breed dissatisfaction, but district and state meetings combat this by fostering connections. District and state level activities usually provide greater educational speakers and workshops. These higher-level meetings serve as hubs for collaboration where ideas from one club can inspire others. These elements add up to a richer membership experience.

Since I joined my garden club three years ago, I have gained so much by volunteering within my club and



at the district and state levels. By taking advantage of the educational opportunities offered by NGC, my passion for gardening and caring for our environment has grown tremendously. I've built friendships in other clubs and other states. I've received so much more than I have given. The knowledge, experiences and friendships I've gained by actively participating and volunteering a little of my time are immense. I hope you will consider actively participating and volunteering in your club as well as at the district and state levels. Embrace the opportunities you are presented with.

I hope your harvest was plentiful this fall and I look forward to meeting you in the future.

From the Editors

My Dear Fellow Gardeners,

Declining membership is something that concerns most clubs in CFGC and CFGC itself. We are not alone. Declining membership is a problem facing most organizations from churches to professional groups to social clubs and this has been the case for decades. Younger folks just aren't joiners. Whether they object to the "formality" or "rules" of paying dues, showing up at meetings, taking your turn at holding office, or whether they simply don't see the point, they tend not to join. Social interaction takes place in bars, fitness centers, and to a limited degree, coffee shops and social media.

Organizations that had a lot of female members started declining when more women started working outside the home. They simply weren't available for daytime meetings and evenings had to be spent doing other things.

While professional groups and service clubs were important for networking and developing relationships, that importance declined as businesses became more global, de-emphasizing local contacts. Businesses started to require more overtime, and no longer saw any benefit to allowing employees a long lunch hour to attend the Rotary Club or the Optimists. Studies show that young folks, in their thirties and younger, have fewer friends than previous generations, and lack social skills to form relationships, skills formed in organiza-

Garden Gadgets

tions.

But I think things will be turning around, soon. Covid put a lot of people in isolation and demonstrated the value of clubs and organizations. If you wanted to talk to people, you had to organize an online meeting for a specific time, and not rely on running into someone at the gym. People got used to new ways of meeting. People started taking up constructive projects and hobbies, like gardening, and needed information and moral support, and started looking for groups to supply them. Oddly enough, I think the decline in broadcast television will also start people looking for things to do, groups to join, in their free time.

The pendulum will start swinging the other way, and the key for garden clubs is to not mess it up. Some things I've learned from other organizations facing declines in membership are these:

- 1) Be welcoming. Talk to visitors and newcomers. Don't spend all your time visiting with your old friends in the club.
- 2) Be open to people who are ...well, the vast majority of CFGC members are pale and female.

Think about what that means in terms of expanding membership. Our club had to change its bylaws a couple of decades ago to allow men to join. On the other hand, I've often thought Pueblo could use a Men's Garden Club. So let's be open to men's clubs, ladies' clubs, couples' clubs, coed clubs, and the neighbor down the street with the cute accent.

- 3) Be clear about your purpose. Ours is educating people about, and sharing the joys of gardening.

Let's all look forward to a wonderful year in 2026!

Chuck & Susan Pelto
Pueblo, CO

8-in-1 Yardcart

It's a yardcart. It's a seat. It's a dolly. It's a wagon. And more.

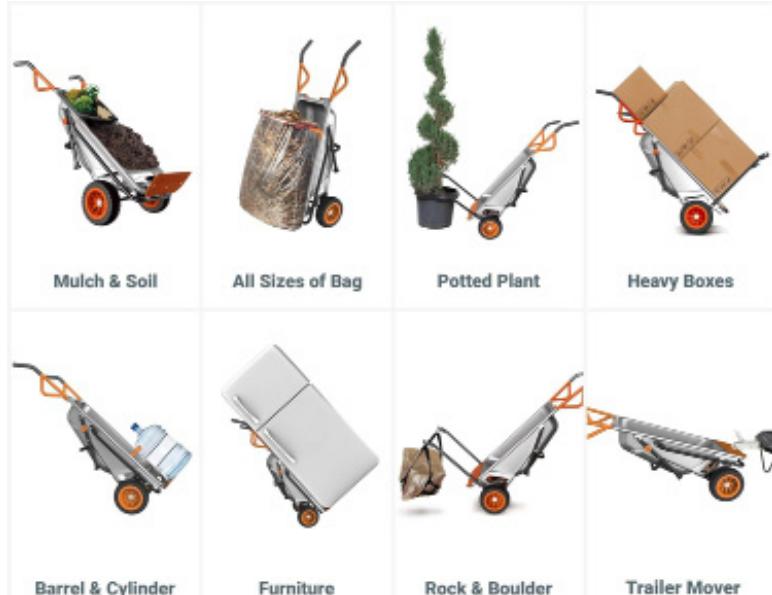
A clever transformer for home and garden needs.

It's good for transferring bulky and/or heavy stuff such as peat/soil.

It's a seat as well as a dolly.

You can even wash your cat or dog in it.

Get it for HIM to move big heavy stuff for YOU.

**8-IN-1 CONFIGURATION**

*TRAILER HITCH BALL NOT INCLUDED

Culinary Corner

Summer is over and the bounty of the harvest is upon us. If you still have some good-sized zucchini on hand, here is a way to enjoy them in a unique way, stuffed.

Ingredients:

2 ea	Zucchini Squash, 9" long
1 ea	Italian Sausage, mild
8 oz	Soft Mozzarella or Provolone
1/3 Cup	Pine Nuts or Slivered Almonds
1 Can	Diced Tomato, drained
2 Cloves	Garlic, minced
1/2 Cup	Basil Leaves, fresh, minced
	Olive Oil
	Lemon Juice
	Salt
	Pepper

Directions:

Works best in a good toaster oven.

- [1] Heat oven to 400°F.
- [2] Toast the nuts for a few minutes, until they are lightly browned. DO NOT OVER COOK. Then remove and

cool before they overcook.

- [3] Slice zucchini lengthwise into halves.
- [4] Scoop out seeds and flesh of zucchini, leaving at least 1/2" of flesh on each side.
- [5] In a cake pan of proper size, drizzle olive oil in pan.
- [6] Place zucchini halves in the pan, cut side up. Drizzled with olive oil. Salt and Pepper.
- [7] Bake in the oven for 15 minutes, until flesh is soft and skins are crisp.
- [8] Meanwhile, split open the sausage, scoop out the meat and fry in skillet until cooked.
- [9] Combine the meat, nuts, cheese, tomato, basil, lemon juice and garlic in a bowl. Mix thoroughly.
- [10] Take the zucchini from the oven and let cool.
- [11] Stuff the zucchini halves with the mixed ingredients.
- [12] Drizzle the stuffed zucchini with olive oil and put back in oven, cooking for 25 minutes.
- [13] Serve on a bed of cooked rice or pasta with marinara sauce.



Blue Star Memorial

Dedicatiaon of a Grand Junction Veterans Blue Star Memorial





Colorado Federation of Garden Clubs Board Meeting

September 5, 2025
Zoom meeting

The meeting was called to order by Pat Smit at 1:07 pm.

Since there were only 10 members present, there was no quorum for doing business.

Pat presented the minutes from the June meeting. There were no changes or additions to the minutes. After discussion it was determined that a motion was not necessary, and the minutes could be approved as submitted.

Treasurers report was given at an earlier meeting. Since Margie Soileau, the treasurer, had to leave early, Pat reviewed the written treasurer's report with the board. Highlights of the report are that we receive income each month of over \$2000 from the sale of Emerson House. We have received \$6287 between June 1, 2025, and August 24, 2025. Other income has come from dues, donations, and investments. At present there is approximately \$31,000 in the checking account.

There are several items in the budget are under consideration to be observed into other budget lines: butterfly, garden therapy, and garden tours

Jeanne Ricci-Poiry is the secretary pro temp until the board has a quorum to vote on the appointment. There was discussion about the hosting of district meetings. Northern District has a dilemma because the Dig and Dream Garden Club has voted not to host even though it's their turn. Northern District is looking at other possibilities.

Pat Smit mentioned that there is a need to update the Standing Rules and Procedures to include how to handle a situation like the present one.

Scholarships

An applicant for a scholarship was rejected because of attending an out of state school. The website had different information. The Scholarship Committee needs to reevaluate because of the misinformation.

The Garden and Home Show Foundation has been sold. By participating in the annual event CFGC has been fortunate enough to be granted \$5000 for educational purposes. The new company is Market Place Events. Pat Smit and Stacy Shockley negotiated with the company to try to get the same opportunities. It seems we will be able to apply for the grant as usual. If CFGC participates we would have to pay for electricity. Pat thinks we would not need to have electricity.

Another consideration would be to participate in the fall garden show instead of February when the weather can be bad.

Stacy and Pat participated at the fall show in a booth, "Ask a Gardener" since they had negotiated so fiercely for continued support from the organization. Pat has applied for the \$5000 grant since she and Stacy participated in the fall show.

Doris Duckworth has written the grant applications for 20 years and has turned in her materials and wants to be relieved of that position.

Pat reported that NGC has a new website and is having challenges. They are working slowly to improve it. The members' section does have many resources. Victoria Schmidt will be the editor of the NGC newsletter.

CFGC Calendar: Pat will show club presidents or district presidents how to add information to the calendar.

Technology: A new laptop was purchased for the treasurer. Margie preferred to use her own computer. Debbie Martin needed one to use for her work as district president. She is borrowing it currently.

Ways and Means: Stacy reported that since there is not a quorum, recommendations from Ways and Means Committee will be presented in December if there is a quorum at that time.



- Northern Front Range: Debbie Martin reported that Dig and Dream has decided not to host the northern district annual meeting. Debbie is working on an alternative plan since it was Dig and Dream's turn to host.

- Southern District: Sandy Bateman said the accommodations for the southern district annual meeting are almost settled and plans are underway.

- Western and Southwestern Districts did not attend.

- Flower Show: Audrey Coyle announced the September flower show will be at the Black Forest Lodge on September 12, 2025, from 11:00 am to 12:30 pm.

Unfinished Business:

- Membership Report: Sue Parker reported that Evergreen has disbanded, Denver Mile High Club meets in the evenings, and Berthoud, Colorado, might be a possible new club.

- Stacy Shockley, 1st VP, is working on the CFGC website.

- Pat Smit, President, reminded club presidents, committee chairs, district presidents to contact her with information to put on the calendar.

- NGC classes can be found on the NGC website under the Education tab. Some zoom classes might be more helpful for our area.

- Chuck Pelto reminded us of the deadline for the Garden Connection is September 19, 2025.

Meeting dates:

- Quarterly meeting, December 12, 2025

- Annual meeting, April 25, 2026

- NGC annual meeting, May 4-6, 2026

CFGC annual meeting, TBA

The meeting was adjourned by Pat Smit at 2:40 pm.

Respectfully submitted Jeanne Ricci-Poiry



Holidays

By Henry Wadsworth Longfellow

The holiest of all holidays are those
Kept by ourselves in silence and apart;
The secret anniversaries of the heart,
When the full river of feeling overflows;--
The happy days unclouded to their close;
The sudden joys that out of darkness start
As flames from ashes; swift desires that dart
Like swallows singing down each wind that blows!
White as the gleam of a receding sail,
White as a cloud that floats and fades in air,
White as the whitest lily on a stream,
These tender memories are;--a fairy tale
Of some enchanted land we know not where,
But lovely as a landscape in a dream.



CFGC Convention Awards

RMR Awards to CFGC

Heartwarmer Awards

Victoria Boswell - Cheyenne Mountain Garden Club

Connie Ellison - Dig and Dream Garden Club

Teri Ficken - The Boulder Garden Club

Eleanor Scott - Floral Arts Study Club-

Lu Stofer - Queen of Spades

Alice Gardner - Douglas County Garden Club

Kathe Jackson - Douglas County Garden Club

Barbara Broderius - Greeley Morning Garden Club

Linda Case - After Hours Garden Club

Club AwardsQueen of Spades Garden Club Awards

1. Award #4 - CFCG President's Award (1st place)- Growing Our Pollinator Population With Passion - Year 2

2. Award #7 - Pollinators

Dig and Dream Garden Club Awards

1. Award #2 - Special Achievement Certificates - The Club is involved in many community gardening projects, buying and planting plants, and maintaining gardens throughout the growing season.

2. Award #4 - CFCG President's Award - (2nd Place) the Butterfly Garden at Smoky Hill Library- the club designed and created the garden in 2016 and have maintained it

3. Award #5 - National President's Project - Plant America- Feed America- Vegetable and Herb Garden at Ronald McDonald House

4. Award #12 - Garden Clubs Program- Sow and Grow programs-

5. Award #27 - Website – [Https://www.diganddream.com](https://www.diganddream.com) fabulous website!

AwardAward Name Club

1st Place Queens of Spades
3A-Montana Award Yearbook

1st Place Queens of Spades
3E-Montana Award-Lynn Cleveland Article on Emerson House

1st Place Queens of Spades
11E,F,G Conservation and Environmental Concerns - Pollinators projects

1st Place Top o'the World Garden Club
3A-Montana Award Yearbook

1st Place Dig and Dream Garden Club
25 National Garden Club Programs-Ronald McDonald House garden

1st Place Dig and Dream Garden Club
3A-Montana Award Yearbook

1st Place Greeley Morning Garden Club
24 Kansas Award- Conservation- Newly Planted Native and Plant Select gardens

1st Place Greeley Morning Garden Club
5E North Dakota Award- Slide Show- Community Garden Slide Show

1st Place Greeley Morning Garden Club
8a Utah Award-Garden Yours -Open to the Public-



5:56 PM
08/24/25
Accrual Basis

CFG C
Profit & Loss
June 1 through August 24, 2025

	Jun 1 - Aug 24, 25
Ordinary Income/Expense	
Income	
2025 Income from Conv SA	157.00
2025 Registration Income	875.00
CFG C	
Contributions	
Club donations	287.00
Colorado Gives Day	60.00
Total Contributions	347.00
Dues CFG C portion	
Dues family	3.00
Dues single	1,315.00
NGC portion	264.00
President's travel	795.00
Total Dues CFG C portion	2,377.00
Total CFG C	2,724.00
Emerson House	
Fundraising	
State life memberships	50.00
Total Fundraising	50.00
Other Income	6,287.50
Total Emerson House	6,337.50
Special Funds	150.00
Special Funds Accounts	300.00
Total Income	10,543.50
Gross Profit	10,543.50
Expense	
2025 Conv Flower Arrangements	129.77
2025 Convention Activities	4,930.26
2025 State Conv Ex[ense	6,481.95
CFG C expenses	
Administrative	
Accounting	45.84
Bank charges	21.00
CFG C Technology Expenses	103.06
Zoom	50.97
Total Administrative	220.87
Officer expenses	643.00
President Expenses	1,538.34
Speakers	160.00
Supporting donations	
Denver Botanic Gardens	100.00
Rocky mountain region	100.00
Total Supporting donations	200.00
Total CFG C expenses	2,762.21
CFG C Investment	314,000.00
Total Expense	328,304.19
Net Ordinary Income	-317,760.69

Coming Events of Interest:

- **Deadline for submissions for the Winter 2026 issue of the Colorado Garden Connection**, December 23, 2025.
- 12 Dec — CFGC Board Meetings; ExComm, W&M, BoD
- 13 Jan '26 — Care to Share
- 21 Jan '26 — W&M (Virtual)
- 11 Apr '26 — NFRD Annual Meeting
- 25 Apr '26 — SD Annual Meeting

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