



DECEMBER
2023
Newsletter

MEETING NOTES FROM
NOVEMBER 9, 2023

Ruth Mill Park Progress Report

Kris Miller reported that the picnic table is in. The City of IS is paying for that and a bike rack. Yet to be delivered is the Ann Hector Memorial bench.



The club voted not to sell plants at the Elks Club Craft Sale this year due to low profit margins and other events on the same day. The club voted to donate \$300 to Loaves & Fishes for much-needed Thanksgiving food bank items.

Several members presented their time-saving tips. See column on page 2.

2023-2024 CGC MEETING SCHEDULE
Second Thursday of the month at noon at
the Elks Lodge in Idaho Springs

Saturday, December 16

CGC Holiday Party

Thursday, January 11

Darby O-Rourke Movie

Thursday, February 8

Flower Arranging

Bring cash donations for Senior Center Love Offering

Thursday, March 14

Air Plants

Thursday, April 11

Thursday, May 9

CGC PLANT SALE June 6-8 - Thurs - Sat. - (T)

To stay up to date with club activities,
go to www.columbinegardenclub.com



THE HORI HORI KNIFE

Hori hori knives originated in Japan as a dependable digging tool for foraging and harvesting root vegetables. Thick stainless steel gives this tool the strength to resist bending while digging and prying in heavy soil. The double-edged blade features smooth and serrated edges on the convex face. The hardwood handle is triple riveted to the blade. It is narrower than a garden trowel, The practical benefit of the hori hori knife is that it performs digging and cutting tasks well enough to take the place of multiple tools. Several brands are available, priced in the \$25-\$30 range. Thanks to Linda Campbell for this great time-saving tip!



CAN YOU IDENTIFY THIS SPIDER, PART II

According to an entomologist, this is *Araneus Cavaticus*, an orbweaver. They use a web to catch their prey and are important predators in our ecosystem. Only females build webs. Charlotte, a primary character in the much-loved *Charlotte's Web* tale, was an orbweaver. The 1952 E.B. White novel tells of a livestock pig, Wilbur, and his friendship with a barn spider named Charlotte.

When Wilbur is in danger of losing his life, Charlotte writes messages in her web praising Wilbur, such as "Some Pig", and "Humble", which resulted in Wilbur becoming a tourist attraction! Wilbur lived a long life due to the fame created by Charlotte.

TIME-SAVING TIPS

Nancy Carray – Cut the rims off of plastic pots to use as plant supports. As the plant increases in height and girth, bring the ring up to support the foliage.

Amy Tomlinson – water timers with single or multiple hose bibs can be set to water on a specific schedule. Frequency and duration can be set for each hose location.

Nancy Spletzer – crop rotation is important, as is regular tilling of soil. Tilling occurs over time as plants are removed in the Fall.

Wendy Binninger – Use old carpet for weed barrier in walkways.

Linda Campbell – When dividing iris, write the variety on each fan with a marker. Full strength vinegar can be used as a vegetation killer. It kills all though! Wildflower seeds – sow in early Spring for a late Spring bloom.

Kris Miller – Dollar store clippers are a great tool.

Peech Keller – Don't pull spinach plants in the Fall. With a little snow cover they will overwinter and return in full glory and flavor in the Spring.

USDA UPDATES PLANT HARDINESS ZONE MAP

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) just released a new version of its plant hardiness zone map, updating this valuable tool for gardeners and researchers for the first time since 2012. USDA's plant hardiness zone map is the standard by which gardeners and growers can determine which plants are most likely to thrive at a location. The new map, jointly developed by USDA's Agricultural Research Service (ARS) and Oregon State University, is more accurate and contains greater detail than prior versions. The USDA 2023 map is based on 30-year averages of the lowest annual winter temperatures at specific locations, is divided into 10-degree Fahrenheit zones and further divided into 5-degree Fahrenheit half-zones. The 2023 map incorporates data from 13,412 weather stations compared to the 7,983 that were used for the 2012 map.

Plant hardiness zone designations represent what's known as the "average annual extreme minimum temperature" at a given location during a particular time period. The designations do not reflect the coldest it has ever been or ever will be at a specific location, but simply the average lowest winter temperature for the location over a specified time. Low temperature during the winter is a crucial factor in the survival of plants at specific locations.

By going to planthardiness.ars.usda.gov, users can enter a zip code to see the map and zone for their area. Many zones have changed to warmer zones due to small changes in average temps. However,

Clear Creek County has not changed. The low areas are Zone 5b, which is classified by low temperatures ranging from -15 to -10 degrees. Higher elevations, including Georgetown, are rated as 5a, with lows ranging from -20 to -15 degrees.

As most of us mountain gardeners know though, microclimates exist in every landscape, so it's really still a matter of "right plant, right place".

UPCOMING EVENTS

63rd Annual Georgetown Christmas Market, December 2-3 & 9-10, 10:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. daily. For more information go to <http://www.historicgeorgetown.org>

Mill Creek Valley Historical Society Annual Christmas Sale
Saturday and Sunday, December 2-3, 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at the Dumont School

Clear Creek Library District Kids Winter Craft Workshops
John Tomay Memorial Library , December 2-3 and 9-10, 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. All kids are welcome at the John Tomay Memorial Library for creative crafts and fun during the Georgetown Christmas Market. Volunteers may be needed – contact chris@ccclld.org.

Idaho Springs Elks Lodge Craft Fair
Saturday, December 2, 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.
Craft vendors, bake sale and \$10 lunch. To donate to the bake sale, email Kayla at Weichel.kayla@gmail.com

Christmas at the Hamill House
305 Argentine Street, Georgetown
December 9 & 16, 6-9pm
Enjoy hearty appetizers, cocktails, desserts and toast the holiday with a cup of wassail and good cheer! The evening includes the Yule Log Procession, a special reading of T'was the Night Before Christmas, caroling by the Silver Plume Singers, and the enchanting lighting of the Christmas Tree candles. \$35 per person. Tickets available at tinyurl.com/b43andac

Wreaths Across America
Saturday, December 16. Teams disperse throughout Clear Creek and Gilpin counties to place a natural pine wreath on the grave of every known veteran in each of these cemeteries – G'town Alvarado, Idaho Springs, Nevadaville Masonic, Mill Creek, Silver Plume and Empire. Meet at the United Center in Idaho Springs at 10:00 for wreath pick-up.



CGC HOLIDAY PARTY AT DEBBI NOVOTNY'S

***121 MILL CREEK ROAD, DUMONT
SATURDAY, DECEMBER 16, 2023
1-4 P.M.***

***BRING A SIDE DISH FOR 8 PEOPLE
TO GO WITH TURKEY AND HAM.
BEVERAGES WILL BE PROVIDED.***

***PLEASE RSVP TO LINDA YOWELL AT rickyowell7682@msn.com or call
303-898-8017 not later than December 12th.***

***SPOUSES, PROSPECTIVE MEMBERS OR SIGNIFICANT OTHERS
ARE WELCOME!***

