



MAY 2024
Newsletter

CGC Annual Meeting Notice

Thursday, May 9, 12:00 p.m.

Elks Lodge/Idaho Springs

Here is the proposed

Slate of Officers:

President: Kris Miller

Vice President: Irene Kincade

Treasurer: Anne English

Secretary: Linda Yowell

Nominations from the floor will be taken at the meeting.

**2024 CGC
MEETING SCHEDULE**

Second Thursday of the month at noon at the Elks Lodge in Idaho Springs

Thursday, May 9

Sundance Gardens

“High Altitude Trees and Shrubs”

This is our last meeting until September

Please RSVP by May 5th to

303-898-8017

Please bring your dues to the May meeting - \$12 for a single and \$20 per couple

Welcome to our new member - Elizabeth Ryan!

Speed Dating with Local Garden Experts

Saturday, April 20th

Weather is always a factor; but we had a fair turn out. The Presenters rotated instead of the participants. We have the hand-outs from our two new presenters - Dave LaCroix from Summit Tree Service and from Bruce Bell's presentation. Please ask for them at the May club meeting if you would like to add them to your journal from last year.

Thank you to Wendy Binniger for taking the reins on this event!

Columbine Garden Club/Social Ethics

Plant Giveaway and Bake Sale

Saturday, May 11, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Project Support Senior Center,
1402 Miner Street, Idaho Springs

Contributions of plants and baked goods are needed. Houseplants, vegetables, succulents, seeds, perennials or other plants are welcome contributions. Bake sale items should be cut or plated and wrapped or bagged for our grab-and-go buyers.

To volunteer to work the sale, contact
Kris Miller at 303-567-9653

CGC PLANT SALE

At the Argo Mill in Idaho Springs

Thursday to Saturday

June 6-8, 2024

Thursday, June 6th is Members Only Day!

Plan on getting beautiful hanging baskets, color bowls, herbs, tomatoes, peppers, perennials and more!

We have lots of volunteers for the sale on Friday and Saturday.. Help unloading the plant delivery truck on Thursday morning will be needed. It could be 7 or 8 a.m. A few volunteers are needed for the Members-Only event on Thursday evening. If you are available for Thursday morning or evening, please contact Kris Miller at 303-567-9653 so you can be notified of the times.

More info coming soon!

Key Features of a Good Butterfly Garden

Food for Butterflies and Caterpillars

Water

Shelter from Weather and Predators

A Place to Warm Up

A Place to Lay Eggs

A Chemical Free Environment

Types of plants that attract butterflies

To give butterflies the right food sources, gardeners should plant both nectar and host plants. Nectar plants will attract and then feed them. Host plants are meant to be a place for adult butterflies to lay their eggs, then the host plant's foliage is used as a source of food for the resulting caterpillars to eat. Since the leaves of butterfly host plants serve as a food source for caterpillars, it is very important that you don't spray insecticides on them. A chemical free environment is vital to butterfly survival! As Martha Stewart says, a well chewed butterfly garden is a good thing. Growing both butterfly host and nectar plants is guaranteed to sustain a large butterfly population in your garden.

Add a water feature for butterflies

Butterflies will need a source of water to drink. Bird baths are too deep for them, as they prefer shallow puddles of water with mud, sand or rocks. These locations will provide them with the necessary salts and minerals. You can turn a bucket, bird bath or any decorative pot into a butterfly watering hole by filling it with gravel or sand and keeping it continually moist. Butterflies will suck the water out from between the rocks with their straw-like feeding tube, their antennae. It is best to keep their drinking water cool by partially burying the water pan in cool soil.

Make sure butterflies have a place to warm up

Butterflies are cold blooded so they appreciate a flat, open, sunny site where they can bask to warm up in the morning. That is what they do in the morning instead of drinking coffee like us humans. An ideal location is a flat rock or bare patch of ground positioned in the warm morning sun.

Provide protection from weather and predators

Butterfly wings are large and fragile so they appreciate protective shelter from the weather and predators. The site must be able to protect them from strong winds and rain as well. We all need a safe cozy place to relax, especially if you're lugging around those giant wings. You can provide this in your garden with piles of loose brush where butterflies can hide to escape heat, rain and predators. So there is no need to keep your butterfly gardens as neat and tidy as you would a formal garden. You can also add a butterfly house as a place for butterflies to rest, be protected from heat, wind, rain, and predators. They are similar to a bird house, but with narrow slots that only butterflies can pass through.

Key Features of a Good Butterfly Garden, continued

Plant plenty of butterfly host plants

It is important to provide butterflies with a place to lay their eggs because it is a critical part of their life cycle and reproductive process. Butterflies lay their eggs on specific plants, known as host plants, which are necessary for the survival of their caterpillars. Different butterfly species have different host plant preferences, and without access to these plants, they cannot lay their eggs or complete their life cycle. Providing host plants in your garden or outdoor space can therefore help to support butterfly populations and contribute to their conservation.

Consider providing additional food sources

There are plenty of other food sources that butterflies love. Some butterflies like to eat fruit after it ferments, so feel free to toss your old apples and bananas into the butterfly garden. Those with horses may know that some butterflies feed on manure, so sling some around your butterfly garden, preferably in a hidden spot, and preferably downwind! Not only is manure a source of food for certain butterflies, but it also provides nutrients for each butterfly plant in its vicinity once it ferments.

High Altitude Plants for Butterflies
Butterfly Bush, Milkweed, Daylilies,
Echinacea, Penstemon, Agastache
Sweet Pea, Sunflower, Cosmos, Lilac
Marigold, Verbena, Nepeta

Avoid the use of pesticides

It is important to avoid using pesticides on butterfly-attracting plants because these chemicals can be harmful or even lethal to butterflies, both in their adult form and during their earlier stages of development. Butterflies lay their eggs on host plants, which their larvae will then feed on. If these plants have been treated with pesticides, the larvae may consume the chemicals along with their food, which can disrupt their development or even kill them.

Why are butterflies attracted to certain plants?

Butterflies cannot focus their eyes, so the world appears blurry. Therefore, they are more attracted to mass plantings of brightly colored flowers than those planted individually. Butterfly eyes are sensitive to different colors than humans and they see blue, purple, green, yellow and orange far better than they see red. So the plants for your butterfly garden should lean away from shades of red. They can also see ultraviolet light, so a key feature of a butterfly flower is to have distinct patterns that only appear under ultraviolet light.

Butterflies have a great sense of smell due to their antennae so fragrant flowers are a favorite. Butterflies reproduce by laying eggs on the leaves of butterfly host plants so it is best if you do not remove spent leaves right away as you may inadvertently be removing butterfly eggs. It's best to leave perennials standing over the winter, or at least to pile them into a loose pile in some out-of-sight corner of the butterfly garden.