



NOVEMBER
2024
Newsletter

NOVEMBER MEETING - THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 14
IDAHO SPRINGS ELKS LODGE
1600 COLORADO BLVD.
12:00 LUNCH AND MEETING

Lunch cost is \$13.00, payable at the meeting

If you "plant" to attend, please RSVP not later than **Sunday, November 10** to Linda Yowell at 303-898-8017 or via email, rickyowell7682@msn.com

UPCOMING EVENTS & MEETING TOPICS for 2024/2025

Thursday, November 14 – Native Gardening and Landscaping by Casey Grimm

Saturday, December 14 – Holiday Party at Debbi Novotny's from 1-5 p.m.

Bring a side dish for 6-8 people.

Thursday, January 9 – "Dinner & Movie"

Thursday, February 13 – Tree Trimming & Pruning by David LaCroix

Thursday, March 13 – Make a Terrarium with Debbi Novotny

Thursday, April 10 – Rain Barrels

Thursday, May 8 – Rock Painting with Larrice Sell and Wendy Binninger

RECAP OF THE OCTOBER 10 MEETING

- New bylaws were voted into place
- Members voted to plant a lilac bush at the Hector/Miller Garden in Ruth Mill Park in honor of Mary Valdez. The cost will be shared by the Social Ethics Club.
- Welcome to new members Sheila White, Michelle Tyler, Patricia Quine, Marie Sarkissian, Kerry Tierney and Barb Downing
- Clear Creek Advocates will be bringing Santa Shop mittens to the November meeting.
- **There will be a weeding party at the Chee Chee Bell Garden (IS Visitors Center) on Monday, October 28th at 3 p.m. Bring your weeding implements.**
- CGC has been asked to assist the Elks Lodge with renovation of the front yard at the Lodge
- Library Director Libby Kaplan and club member Kandy Lukow gave a presentation on the Clear Creek County District Ballot Issue 6A
- Master Gardener Linda Campbell presented "Putting Your Garden to Bed"

Do I Have A Christmas, Thanksgiving or Easter Cactus?

EXCERPTED FROM AN ARTICLE BY BONNIE L. GRANT, FEATURED ON [GARDENINGKNOWHOW.COM](https://www.gardeningknowhow.com)
NOVEMBER 20, 2023



Fall and winter bring out the Christmas cactus, Thanksgiving cactus, and Easter cactus stock in garden centers. While all typically bloom in the cooler seasons, they are not the same cactus. The Easter cactus is somewhat different from the other two varieties. Differentiating among the three is relatively simple with a few tips.

Christmas and Thanksgiving cacti are in the *Schlumbergera* genus. Both are short day cacti, which means they need long periods of cool temperatures and darkness to bloom. Both these plants need six weeks of at least 12 hours per day in cool, dim conditions before they set buds. Each is in a separate species designation and have different leaf structure.

Thanksgiving cactus, has clawed edges on the leaf and is sometimes called Crab cactus. *Schlumbergera bridgesii*, Christmas cactus, has notched edges but they are not as pointed. Aside from the leaf differences between holiday cactus, both have tubular, brightly colored flowers. The Easter cactus is in the genus *Rhipsalidopsis* or *Hatiora*. It is also sometimes added to the same genus with species name *russelliana*. Easter cactus have smoother leaf edges with no notches and need a much longer cool and low light period to form flowers.



Thanksgiving cactus

Schlumbergera truncata



Christmas cactus

Schlumbergera bridgesii



Easter cactus

Rhipsalidopsis gaertneri

These are not true cactus - they are succulents that grow wild in South American jungles.

As already mentioned, the Christmas and Thanksgiving cactus have differing leaves but the same flowers. Easter cactus plants have flat, star shaped flowers, easy to set apart from the other holiday cacti's elongated blooms.

Christmas cactus flowers are drooping with purple-brown anthers. Thanksgiving cactus blooms grow horizontal to the stems and have yellow anthers.

All three plants come in a variety of colors, although red to fuchsia are the most common. You can also find them in white, orange, and yellow. Regardless of their designation, holiday cacti are fairly easy to grow and will produce blooms annually provided they have their low temperature, dim light period.

Day of the Dead Trees - Mountain Pine Beetle Workshop

November 2, 2024

10 – 11:30 am

527 West Dory Way, Black Hawk, CO 80422

Participants will view a ponderosa pine that has recently been hit by mountain pine beetles. Learn the signs of mountain pine beetle infestation in trees, and what to do if trees are infected. What are the signs of healthy versus unhealthy trees? We will also review some easy pine tree identification tricks.

Mountain pine beetles are native to our forests. What's the big picture and what can we expect for fire risk and forest health in the future?

Bring your questions and dress for the weather. We will be outside. Speakers include Kelby Woodard, Forest & Mitigation Program Manager with Clear Creek Watershed & Forest Health Partnership and Jennifer Cook, Gilpin CSU Extension Educator.

Free workshop. No need to register.

Contact Jennifer.cook@colostate.edu or 303-582-9106 with questions.

Historic Society of Idaho Springs Rocktober Fundraiser

2060 Miner Street, Idaho Springs

October 1 – November 8

Bring in your favorite rock or mineral to enter into our Best of Show contest. Judging and prize awards will be November 16 at Noon. Entry fees are \$15 for adults and \$10 for kids under 12. Rocks must weigh more than 50 grams and less than 10 lbs. Winners in each category will receive a prize basket and the winning rocks will be displayed in the museum for one year.

Miner Street Winter Conversion

Wednesday, November 6

Downtown Idaho Springs

Miner Street in downtown Idaho Springs will be converted back to one-way traffic with parking on both sides.

Idaho Springs Elks Lodge Craft Fair

Saturday, November 16, 10 a.m.. To 4 p.m.

1600 Colorado Boulevard

The Holiday Craft Fair is on and they are looking for vendors. Booth space ranges from \$25 to \$35 per table. Call 303-567-9996 for more info.