



*NOVEMBER
2025
Newsletter*

We will hold our next meeting on Thursday, NOVEMBER 13
12:00; LUNCH IS \$15.00
Idaho Springs Elks Lodge
RSVP is not required. Potential members are welcome!

Wendy Binninger will help us make wreaths for the holidays.
All materials will be provided. The cost is \$10 per person to cover the
cost of supplies, payable at the meeting.

2025 – 2026 MEETING SCHEDULE

December 13, 2025

Christmas Party @ Debbi Novotny's, 121 Mill Creek Road. 1-5 p.m. The club will provide turkey, ham and beverages. Bring a side dish or dessert to share.

January 8, 2026

"Dinner & a Show" - Kris Miller

February 12, 2026

Pollinator Gardens – Amber/Sundance Gardens

March 12, 2026

Stepping Stones -Tobi Howell & Michelle Tyler

April 9, 2026

Hydroponic Gardens - Debbi Novotny

May 9, 2026

Plant Giveaway and Bake Sale from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Location TBD due to construction at the Project Support Senior Center.

May 14, 2026

Annual Meeting & Installation of Officers

June 4-5, 2026

Annual Plant Sale

columbinegardenclub.com

Check our website for info on all of our past and future events!

If you would like to add the garden club events to your own calendar use the "Subscribe to Calendar" button at the bottom of the "What We're Planning" page. There are four calendar types that are supported. If you have trouble and need help adding to your calendar, please contact Tobi Howell for help.

tobiannah03@gmail.com or 772-341-2349

FREE PLANTS AVAILABLE!

As the weather cools off, if anyone would like to dig up geraniums from the Idaho Springs Elks Lodge garden and bring them to your home, feel free to do so.

Chee Chee Bell Garden Clean Up

Thanks to Susy Foley, Jeff Ricklefs, Kevin Donahue, Anne English and Kris Miller. It looks so much better and is ready for another fantastic year.

-Nancy Spletzer



CGC October Meeting Notes

The October CGC meeting was well attended with festive decorations and yummy food. We enjoyed a presentation by Annemarie Fussell of Wildlands Restoration Volunteers. WRV works with land agency partners across the state to restore sensitive alpine areas, rehabilitate parklands and replant wetlands. Their mission is to heal the land while building a diverse community dedicated to the care of our natural resources. WRV has been working around Summit Lake at Mt. Blue Sky for over ten years. Go to <http://columbinegardenclub.com/> to view some projects with before and after pictures.

The Western Fence Lizard ([Sceloporus occidentalis](#))

Have you seen these guys in your garden?

Colorado is actually home to two closely related species, *S. occidentalis* (plateau fence lizard) and [S. consobrinus](#) (prairie fence lizard), which were once considered subspecies of the same species. These lizards are diurnal, meaning they are active during the day, and are often seen basking on rocks, fences, or logs.

Appearance:

They are typically brown or black with a sandy or greenish hue and have sharply keeled scales. Males are distinguished by bright blue patches on their bellies and throats, a feature that is fainter or absent in females and juveniles. The ones in Amy T's garden are about 6-10" long.

Habitat:

They live in a variety of habitats, including grassland, chaparral, woodland, and open coniferous forests. They can be found in areas with rocks and logs, which provide climbing and hiding spots, and are commonly seen on human-made structures like fences and walls.

Behavior:

They are active from around April through early November but may emerge on sunny winter days. During cold weather, they hibernate in rock crevices or under boards. They are insectivores and eat a diet of insects and spiders. Males will bob their heads to challenge rivals and show off their blue "bellies".

Defense:

They can change color to help with thermoregulation and have fast reflexes to escape predators. A defensive tactic they employ is the ability to drop their tails.

Lifespan:

The lifespan of a western fence lizard in the wild is 5 to 7 years. They reach sexual maturity in the spring of their second year and lay their first clutch of eggs at around 21 to 23 months old.



RED HOT POKER



A STAR PERFORMER IN THE ELKS CLUB GARDEN!

Found wild in South Africa, this eye-catching plant was first brought to England in 1707 and is also commonly known as the Torch Lily. Small, tubular flower buds start out red, mature to orange and then fade to yellow. Dense spikes rise 48" in height on stout stems providing a dramatic display when grown in a space where the entire plant is visible. For best effect, plant in full sun directly in front of an evergreen background or as a stand-alone specimen. Thrives in zone 6-9 but did well over the summer here in Idaho Springs.

NoCo Native Seed Swap and Giveaway

Sunday, November 16 from 11 AM - 2 PM

17 slots remaining as of 10/25/25

Gardens on Spring Creek, Centre Avenue, Fort Collins, CO

Hosted by Wildlands Restoration Volunteers and community partners, this event promotes the use of native plants in backyards and small-scale restoration projects on private land. Bring your regionally native seeds to donate OR just drop by to learn how to collect and grow native seeds. During the event, attendees are welcome to explore the Gardens on Spring Creek property, featuring extensive native prairie and foothills gardens.

No Seeds? No Problem! You do not have to bring seeds to attend or to take seeds home with you.

[CLICK HERE FOR MORE INFO OR TO REGISTER](#)

UPCOMING EVENTS AT ECHTER'S GARDEN CENTER

Glass at the Gardens - Glass Artists of Colorado Show & Sale NOVEMBER 7-16

Hours

Friday, November 7 | 12:30 to 6:00
Monday - Friday | 10:00 to 6:00
Saturday | 9:00 to 6:00
Sunday | 10:00 to 5:00

Join us as we welcome the [Glass Artists of Colorado](#) back to our greenhouse for their annual show and sale *Glass at the Gardens*! This unique event features an incredible selection of handmade glass artwork --- from jewelry and ornaments to sculpture and even bookmarks --- all created by talented local artists. It's the perfect chance to find one-of-a-kind holiday gifts while supporting Colorado's art community. Mark your calendar and save the date!

Gal's Night Out NOVEMBER 20

4:00 - 8:00 P.M.

Join us for our one-of-a-kind charity event in support of [Ralston House](#) while celebrating the magic of the season! Echter's Garden Center will transform into a sparkling winter market, featuring over 50 local vendors and artisans with unique treasures, handmade goods, and holiday delights. Spaces are limited, so gather your friends and get your tickets today for a night of winter magic, community, and giving. Together, we can bring warmth and hope this holiday season! Tickets are \$45 per person. [CLICK HERE for more info and tickets.](#)



The Idaho Springs Elks Lodge #607

PRESENTS

*Rocky Mountain Holiday
Market!*

Kick Off the Holidays in the Heart of the Rockies!

Get ready for the Rocky Mountain Holiday Market at the Idaho Springs Elks Lodge! On Saturday, November 15th, our historic lodge will be transformed into a cozy mountain wonderland filled with handcrafted gifts, festive décor, and one-of-a-kind treasures from local artisans.

Stroll through rows of holiday cheer, sip warm cocoa, and discover the perfect finds to make your season magical. From rustic décor to unique gifts you won't see anywhere else, this is the place to shop small, support local, and start your holidays with Colorado charm.

**Rocky Mountain Holiday Market
Saturday, November 15 | 9 AM - 4:30 PM**

**Idaho Springs Elks Lodge #607
1600 Colorado Blvd, Idaho Springs, CO 80452**



Vendor Inquiries Contact Shannon Huffman (719) 470-3799
or email EvgElks2363Webmaster@gmail.com

