



*May 2026
Newsletter*

We will hold our next meeting on Thursday, May 14

Noon to 2:30 p.m; Lunch is \$15.00

Idaho Springs Elks Lodge

RSVP is not required. Potential members are welcome!

In partnership with CCCLD, CGC is creating a Seed Library which will be housed in the Idaho Springs Library. We have purchased an antique 36 drawer cabinet to be used to hold seeds, the library has also purchased a small 4 drawer antique card catalog that will likely hold supplies. We have a lot of bulk seeds that came from Wildlands Restoration Volunteers' (WRV) seed giveaway in Ft Collins last fall which need to be put into individual seed packets. At our May meeting we will fill, label and organize the various types of seeds. The cabinets will be on display at the meeting for all to see. Any of the bulk seeds from WRV will also be available for members to take at the meeting. If you have seeds you would like to contribute please bring them as well and we can also have a seed exchange! Also, we will discuss new location for our meetings next year. Official installation of Officers: Kris Miller, President; Tobi Howell, Vice-President; Anne English, Treasurer, and Michelle Tyler, Secretary.
Looking forward to seeing everyone!

2026 MEETING AND EVENT SCHEDULE

May 9, 2026

Plant Giveaway and Bake Sale from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Make plans now to donate something for the bake sale, or plants. Please save your small boxes to put sale items in.

Project Support Senior Center, 1402 Miner St., Idaho Springs

June 5-6, 2026

The Annual Plant Sale is on Friday and Saturday, June 5 & 6 from 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. Plant delivery is Thursday (probably morning), June 4th. The Member/Guest sale is that night from 3-4:30 p.m. followed by Happy Hour at Slaymaker Cellars from 4:30 to 6 p.m. **The plant sale will be held at the Idaho Springs Visitors Center parking lot.** Please save these dates as volunteers will be needed. If you have already signed up to work, Kris will be in touch to remind you.

June, July, August – no meetings.

APRIL CGC MEETING HIGHLIGHTS



Welcome to our newest members – Bonnie Reimer and Colleen Cunningham



Danny Tomlinson accepts the club's donation for a new flagpole and other improvements at the Alvarado Cemetery, which is near the Easter Seals Camp in Empire.

Danny is the current "maintenance and sales manager" at this beautiful mountain cemetery. There will be a Spring Clean-up at Alvarado on Sunday, May 17th at 9 a.m. Bring gloves, loppers, clippers and/or weed eaters if you can help out. Plots are available! [Click here](#) to contact Danny.



Club members Marie Sarkissian, Linda Campbell and Pam Lewis made beautiful glass mosaic projects at the April meeting. Thanks to Tobi and Michelle for all the prep work and great advice.

WANTED!

Hosts for the 2026 "Blooms & Beverages" garden tours
Please contact Tobi if you would like to host the club at your home garden for an evening this summer. You pick the date and time.

tobiannh03@gmail.com

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



*The love of gardening is a seed that once sown,
never dies*



Got A Little Extra Sugar?

To make hummingbird feed that is as close as possible to the nectar that the birds consume naturally, only use refined white sugar and water. Do not add anything else, especially not red dye, which can be harmful to hummingbirds. Only use white sugar, not brown sugar, powdered sugar, honey, agave syrup, or corn syrup. The ideal ratio for your ingredients is one part sugar and four parts water (tap water is fine). Mix the ingredients thoroughly until the sugar is dissolved. After filling your feeder, extra sugar water can be kept in a sealed container in your fridge for up to a week. Clean the feeder regularly, especially in hot weather.

Clear Creek County is taking proactive steps to manage the recent increase in pine beetle populations

Safe Disposal: The Transfer Station will continue to accept slash and mountain pine beetle-infested logs from Clear Creek County landowners and residents through Sept. 30th. Slash and logs will be accepted at **HALF PRICE (\$10 dollars per cubic yard for residents)**.

Containment: Bringing infested wood to the sort yard helps concentrate beetles in one already-impacted area, preventing them from spreading to healthier parts of the county.

Important Reminder: Moving infested wood as firewood, etc. is the fastest way to start a new infestation. Please be aware when moving or sorting logs.

[Click here for the Spring issue of the Clear Creek Connection Newsletter, March 2026](#)

ANOTHER COLUMBINE GARDEN CLUB PROJECT IS COMPLETED

We have completed the memorial garden sign at the Idaho Springs cemetery! Thank you so much to everyone who helped with the project especially Larrice Sell, who created a beautiful painting!





FOR MOM!!!



Annual Plant Give Away

**And
Social Ethics Club
Bake Sale**



**Saturday, May 9th
10 a.m. to 3 p.m.**

Project Support Porch

Idaho Springs, Colorado



Idaho Springs Phase One Water Use Restrictions

Beginning May 1

(Resolution Number 9, Series 2026)



**LIMIT WATERING GRASS TO THREE DAYS A WEEK
BEFORE 10 A.M. OR AFTER 6 P.M.
NO MORE THAN 15-20 MINUTES**



**WATER TREES, SHRUBS, VEGETABLES
AND OTHER PLANTS AND LANDSCAPING
WITH A HAND-HELD HOSE OR LOW-VOLUME
NON-SPRAY IRRIGATION BEFORE 10AM OR AFTER 6PM**



An irrigation system may be operated outside the watering schedule for installation, repair, or reasonable maintenance, so long as the system is attended throughout the period of operation and water waste does not occur.



WASH VEHICLES WITH A BUCKET
At locations other than commercial car washes, washing of personal vehicles shall be done using a bucket or a hand-held hose equipped with an automatic shut-off nozzle.



Power washing is limited to three (3) days a week, except for immediate health or safety reasons. Cleaning without water should be done prior to power washing.



Little changes make big differences!



for more information: www.idahospringsco.com 303-567-4421



UPCOMING EVENTS IN OUR REGION

Composting in the Mountains Workshop

May 29, 2026, 5-7pm, in person

Gilpin County Exhibit Barn, 230 Norton Drive, Black Hawk, CO

Participants will learn various outdoor composting systems that work in the mountains, including indoor vermicomposting (composting with worms). We will discuss how to avoid problems with critters, bears, and other composting issues. Learn how to build and maintain a successful compost. Workshop includes a demonstration of worm composting, and building an outdoor compost pile to apply the composting principles discussed. Dress for the weather, compost pile building will be outside. Presented by Gilpin CSU Extension. Free workshop. [Register here to save your spot](#)

Native Gardens at High Altitude

June 16, 2026, 9:30 am - 12:00 pm, In Person

Mountain Native Demonstration Garden, Hiwan Heritage Museum

28473 Meadow Drive, Evergreen, CO

Tour and explore Mountain Native demonstration garden in Evergreen, CO where the Colorado Master Gardeners will teach uses for native plants in our gardens and landscapes that are adapted to our elevation, soils, and climate. Sponsored by Jefferson County CSU Extension. Free. All ages welcome. [Click Here to register for this workshop.](#)

SUMMER IS "TICK-TIME"

Tick-borne Diseases

Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment ([CDPHE](#)) wants residents to send them ticks as you start to find them this spring and summer. Visit the CDPHE website for information on submittal and tick-borne diseases.

What To Do If You Find A Tick Nest In Your Yard

So you're strolling through your yard and notice something strange. It's about an inch in diameter and made up of tiny red or black dots. That strange, sticky cluster may actually be a tick nest. In the late spring or early summer, female ticks produce a single nest, known as an egg mass. It can contain thousands of eggs and mark the start of a serious infestation. Not only that, but people and pets can contract several diseases from a tick bite -- including Lyme disease and spotted fever -- depending on the type of tick.

If you spot an egg mass or tick nest in your yard, don't panic and don't touch it, even if you're tempted to remove it. In fact, you're better off calling a professional to have the area checked by a pest management professional, who can provide recommendations on the best course of action. At the same time, you can make your yard in-hospitable to the little pests through natural pest control remedies to protect yourself, your family, and your pets from tick bites. Either way, don't forget to always perform tick checks after outdoor activities.



Bluff Lake Nature Center
From an irrigation pond to an airport buffer zone
to a wildlife refuge...

Plans for building an airport at the Stapleton site began as early as 1929. The 123-acre Bluff Lake area was purchased by the Aviation Department from the Clayton Institute (which was transporting the water from Bluff Lake to Clayton College through a piping system) in the 1940's and became part of the airport. The land became a "crash zone," required at the end of all runways to shield the surrounding community from airplane activities. For the next fifty years, Bluff Lake remained undisturbed, surrounded by barbed wire fence and virtually ignored by Stapleton. During those fifty years, wildlife such as deer, red foxes, badgers, snakes, turtles, coyotes, owls, hawks, rabbits and a variety of waterfowl found their homes at Bluff Lake.

After Stapleton Airport closed in 1994, Bluff Lake Natural Area was established and protected under the terms of a settlement agreement between the City and County of Denver and the Sierra Club. The Sierra Club's successful lawsuit against Denver's Department of Aviation was due to the inadequate retention ponds for ethanol glycol (the de-icing chemical for airplanes). During heavy rains, ethanol glycol would spill into Sand Creek and dramatically lower the dissolved oxygen levels, leading to fish kills. As part of the settlement, Denver agreed to preserve the Bluff Lake area and invest over three million dollars to enhance wildlife habitat, restore the banks of Sand Creek, build an interpretive trail system and construct open-air shelters.

The Bluff Lake area is the cornerstone of the Sand Creek Regional Greenway trail corridor along Sand Creek. The trail, which runs adjacent to Bluff Lake, will connect the Highline Canal in Aurora with the South Platte River in Denver.

As the Stapleton Redevelopment continues to approach Bluff Lake's boundaries, visitor numbers are rising steadily. Bluff Lake now offers a variety of new programming, ranging from summer programs such as our Fireside Chats and Junior Naturalist camps; Science Speakers; and corporate team-building work days providing service-learning projects that help us restore our land. Special events, such as our "Boo on the Bluff," "Brews and Blues on the Bluff," and Earth Day events, as well as our yearly "Wine and Cheese on the Bluff" event, are drawing more visitors to our site. We continue to emphasize our role as a community amenity in the context of our work as an environmental education center and wildlife refuge.

The Bluff Lake Nature Center is located at 1255 E. MLK Jr. Blvd, Denver, CO 80238
[Click Here](#) to visit the Bluff Lake Nature Center website for more info, or visit them on [Facebook](#) to view upcoming events, videos and more.