



*July 2026
Newsletter*

columbinegardenclub.com

There are no monthly meetings until September.



The Seed Library has been installed at the Idaho Springs Public Library. It is chock full of seed varieties that will thrive in our environment. Grasses and wildflowers would be likely finds. If you have seeds to contribute, please contact Anne English at anneenglishco@gmail.com. Stop by and check it out!

CGC PLANT SALE REPORT

The Member/Guest Plant Sale was held at the the Idaho Springs Visitors Center June 5th and 6th
We made \$4800 which is almost \$1000 more than last year
Happy Hour was at Slaymaker Cellars – Thanks Chris!
Thanks to all who volunteered for the sale!
Thanks to the IS Visitors Center for hosting us!

“Blooms & Beverages” Garden Tour

Tuesday, July 28 from Noon to 3 p.m.

12-1 p.m. – Debbi Novotny 121 Mill Creek Road

1-2 p.m. – Stephanie Blocher 852 Mill Creek Road

2-3 p.m. - Sandy Meier 1167 Mill Creek Road

Members and their guests are welcome.

RSVP not required. Carpool if you can.

Contact Tobi Howell if you would like to be a host on a future date.

tobiannh03@gmail.com

CGC DONATIONS GO TO CEMETERY IMPROVEMENT

Kris Miller and Anne English recently presented checks to Eric Grant for the Empire Cemetery and Chelsea for the Silver Plume Cemetery.



UPCOMING CLASSES AT THE DENVER BOTANIC GARDENS

4 Seasons of Native Beauty at Chatfield Farms

C-470 and Wadsworth Blvd.

Friday, July 10, 11 – 12:30 p.m.

\$38, \$32 member

Landscape Design with Perennials

Saturday, July 18, 9:30 – 12:30 p.m.

\$38, \$36 member

Foundations of Permaculture

Tuesday and Wednesday, July 21 & 22, 10 a.m. to noon

\$44, \$38 member

Mushroom Cultivation Workshop

Thursday, July 23, 6-7:30 p.m.

\$63, \$58 member

Gardening for Wildlife

Saturday, July 25, 9:30 – 11:30 a.m.

\$38, \$30 member

[Register Here](#)



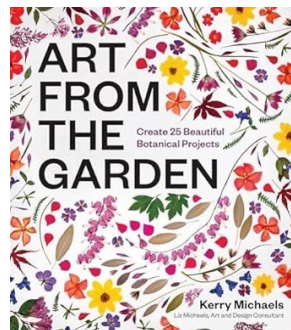
Above : Ray Miller and Mark Bilbo.

TREE PLANTING AT THE DUMONT CEMETERY

Thanks to a donation from CGC, several Dumont Cemetery supporters were able to purchase and plant a number of new trees. Good job!



Left: Mark Bilbo, Russ Novelle, Allen Baird, John and Debbie Dhyne



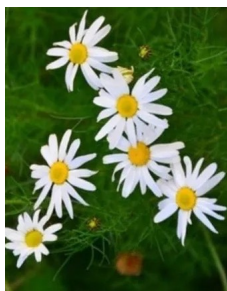
“Like all good adventures, (gardening) is a journey where you begin in one place and sometimes end up where you expected, and sometimes you end up someplace very different than you thought you would. Starting a garden is an act of faith and joy, and to be honest, a bit of an act of insanity.”

- Excerpt From “Art From The Garden” by Kerry Michaels

Art from the Garden is your guide to creating works of art with materials from nature and your own backyard. Learn how to transform natural materials—flowers, leaves, stones, twigs—into artful pieces that bring warmth and character to your home. Through 25 beautifully photographed, fully illustrated, step-by-step projects, artist and photographer Kerry Michaels shows how to create works that capture the textures and colors of the garden. Follow her clear and engaging instructions to create visually stunning frozen floral luminarias, flowing sun printed silk scarves, striking vases using twigs, a playful arrangement of gilded weeds, and so much more. Find the book on Amazon. FYI a Kindle version is available.

The Perennial garden at the IS Elks Club is still in need of plants. If you have something to contribute, please contact Amy Tomlinson at ahtomlinson@me.com. We will be having an iris division party in late July – watch your email for the announcement.

SCENTLESS CHAMOMILE IS EVERYWHERE!



Scentless chamomile is an annual, biennial, or short-lived perennial that is native to Europe. It is considered a noxious weed (Class 3) in Colorado. Seedlings emerge in spring and can produce a dense mat, outcompeting other species. Each flower head can produce 300 seeds and a single plant can produce 300,000 seeds. The flowers are white $\frac{3}{4}$ inch daisy-like flowers that are solitary on each stem. Leaves are fernlike, finely divided, and odorless when crushed. The stems can reach 6 inches to 3 feet tall and have numerous branches. Pull, bag, and dispose of flowers. Mowing, chopping, and deadheading leaves roots behind, stimulating more flower production, and are not recommended methods. Look around Idaho Springs – this plant is starting to bloom in un-developed areas or un-tended gardens, in sidewalk cracks and it may be in your garden as well!

There are many varieties of chamomile, and those interested in the tea-making variety should do their research carefully before using any plant material. Check your surroundings – if you see this plant, remove and permanently dispose of it to prevent further spreading. Do not put it in your compost pile or in the manure/leaves pile at the Transfer Station.

UPCOMING EVENTS IN OUR REGION

Noxious Weeds and Their Look-Alikes

August 8, 2026, 10:30 am - 12:00 pm

In Person - Gilpin County Public Library, 15131 CO-119 in Blackhawk

Attendees will learn about Colorado's noxious weed laws and why they matter. Presenters will provide identification tips and discuss management strategies for the noxious weeds common to our area while also highlighting native look-alikes.

Free educational event. No registration required. Presented by Gilpin County Extension.

Local Farmers Markets in Evergreen

Original Farmers Market

Hiwan Park, 28253 Meadow Drive

Evergreen Farmers Market

Center for the Arts Evergreen

31880 Rocky Village Drive

Both feature a variety of vendors on Tuesday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Native Plants, Reimagined: The Rise of Nativars

Garden-ready cultivars of native plants can balance the needs of gardeners and wildlife

By Erica Browne Grivas

Small Leaved Pussytoes

Antennaria parvifolia



Lanceleaf Tickseed

Coreopsis

lanceolata

In recent years native plants have become stars for the home garden. They are prized for their resilience in local soils and climate and their unmatched value for wildlife, from fungi to butterflies to birds.

American native species are typically defined as those occurring within a region before European settlement. They perform best when matched to their home ecoregion. A native plant may be the straight species, a variety that occurred naturally or an intentionally bred cultivar, often called a “nativar”.

Nativars are garden-ready cultivars of native plants

Because straight species aren’t always suited to home landscapes, today’s breeders are introducing garden-ready native varieties and cultivars with tidier habits, longer-lasting blooms or showier flowers and foliage. But as natives move from conservation to the mainstream, how can we maintain ecological integrity while bolstering beauty and performance?

Why native plants now?

Native plants are the foundation of healthy ecosystems,” says Krista De Cooke, Strategic Partnership and Science Lead at Homegrown National Park. Initiated by entomologist Doug Tallamy, it’s a movement encouraging people to increase biodiversity by planting more natives and removing invasive plants in their own properties and community spaces.

“They evolved alongside local insects, birds and other wildlife, forming the food webs that sustain life,” De Cooke explains. In addition, natives filter and manage stormwater, thrive without fertilizers or pesticides and improve our connection to nature.

Support local wildlife

“As we invite nature back into our neighborhoods, we gain something too: more songbirds, more butterflies, more life outside our windows,” De Cook says. “Research shows that time spent in nature improves mood and mental health, so in many ways, native gardening is good for our well-being as much as it is for the environment.”

Straight species are a good choice for wildlife-friendly gardens, but the nativars being introduced from plant breeders can play a role, too—especially those selected for a more compact size or specific habit, two details that make them easier to incorporate into any garden.

Add keystone plants

Pick one native keystone plant and add it this season. Keystone plants are the backbone of ecosystems because they support the greatest number of insects, birds and other wildlife. For example, native oaks, goldenrods and asters each sustain hundreds of species. Prioritize regionally adapted plants that have been grown without pesticides and pay attention to which traits have been altered in cultivars.

Ask local nurseries for locally grown stock

Local natives can be hard to find, but ask your favorite nursery for locally grown stock, because this can help expand regional offerings over time.

By including native plants, gardens of all sizes become vital links in the web of life. This simple shift can boost your garden’s resilience and vitality. Multiplied across millions of yards, it can restore ecosystems on a grand scale.

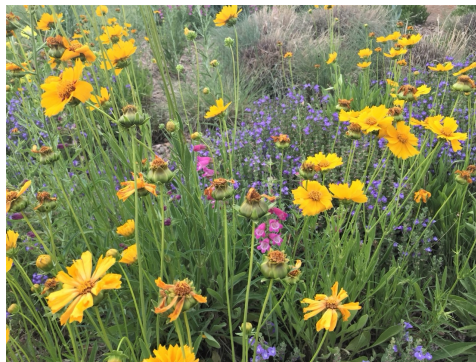
Erica Browne Grivas is a gardener and journalist based in Seattle, Wash. Find her on Instagram: [@ebgrivas](https://www.instagram.com/ebgrivas).

The Gorgeous Rose Garden In Colorado That Most People Don't Know About



The War Memorial Rose Garden is located at 5804 S Bemis St, Littleton, CO. It features free admission, 24-hour access, over 200 rose varieties, mountain views, a lion-head fountain, a gazebo, and a functional sundial.

HIGH PLAINS ENVIRONMENTAL CENTER



Come explore the trails, gardens, and open space at High Plains Environmental Center! When you visit, you're experiencing SUBURBITAT in action — a place where recreation, education, and wildlife habitat thrive side by side. Our grounds are open to the public year-round, offering opportunities to connect with nature while learning about native plants and sustainable landscapes.

What is on site?

Our 3.5 miles of trail, as well as our demonstration gardens, are open to the public from dawn to dusk daily. Our visitor center at 2698 Bluestem Willow Drive, Loveland, is where you'll find our exhibits including native plant demonstration gardens, interpretive signage, and even videos embedded within the signs! Grab a trail map out front and enjoy your stroll. Our visitor is generally open from 8:00 to 4:00 daily but *may close at any time* due to staff being off site. The visitor's center contains our staff offices, a small museum, and our classroom. The real sight to see is outdoors!

The native plant nursery is not open to the public with the exceptions of tours, volunteers, and select in-person plant sales.

The next open nursery day is Friday, July 3rd from 9 to noon. The online catalogue can be viewed now - [Click here](#). To view the HPEC website, [Click here](#).