



# Castle Pines Village Garden Club

## Board 2017-2018

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## OLD GARDEN ROSES BELONG IN YOUR GARDEN

**FRIDAY MARCH 2  
10 AM  
AT COUNTRY CLUB AT CASTLE PINES**

**Details on page 3**

### SAVE THE DATE

See Pages 3+ for details

- Fri Mar 2** - Old Garden Roses @ CCCP
- Fri April 6** - Planning a Garden Party @CCCP
- Tues April 24** – Field Trip Cherokee & Serenity Gardens + Picnic
- May 11** - Luncheon & Style Show
- Fri May 25** - Opening Day Cherokee Castle
- Wed May 30** - Opening Day for Serenity
- June 11 – 15** – Return to Santa Fe, New Mexico
- Tues Aug 7-** Field Trip B. Ford Alpine Gardens

### SIGNUP & PAYMENT DEADLINES

- Fri Feb 23** Deadline for Mar 2 Lunch
- Fri Mar 30** Deadline for April 6 Lunch



## NOW, A WORD FROM OUR PRESIDENT, LIZ LIVELY

OUR MARCH/APRIL PRESIDENT'S LETTER

As I type this, the snow is melting and watering everything. Hoping for a lovely blanket of wildflowers on our hill in the Spring.

Our January meeting on Birds, Bees and Butterflies by LuAnn Akin was so interesting, we were very much standing room only for this stellar program. Thank you again **Beverly Carr** and **Betty Ziemann** for putting together our speaker events, each one is fascinating.

And what a wonderful meeting we had for February!! Peggy Cummings taught us much about our local history. I will always be listening for a whistle from Happy Jack as I drive up Happy Canyon from now on.

We do want to look ahead to our Friday, May 11<sup>th</sup> Spring Lunch and Style Show, which uses models drawn from our very own members. This takes place at the beautiful Castle Pines Golf Club, so please mark your calendar for this event.

And looking even farther ahead, our Field Trip team has been planning an April visit to our very own Garden Club Gardens (and a lunch too, of course), a May visit to Vail, and June trip to Santa Fe.

It is hard to say which is better, looking back at the great events we have had recently, or looking ahead to experiences to come.

Happy last of winter,

Liz Lively



WHAAAT?

## OLD GARDEN ROSES BELONG IN YOUR GARDEN

We are EXCITED to hear Matt Douglas, owner of High Country Roses, present an historic overview of the rose with a focus on groups and varieties of roses that thrive in our mountain west. Matt will help us understand the importance of own-root roses, correct zone plant selection and give an explanation of High Country Roses efforts to promote and protect the rose.



Please bring cash for our door prize tickets: 3 for \$5 to support our charities, \$5 for food/gas cards for Crisis Center clients. Our \$20 menu includes: New England Clam Chowder; Cobb Salad~ Chopped Romaine, Diced Turkey, Diced Egg, Chopped Bacon, Bleu Cheese Crumbles, Diced Avocado with Ranch or Balsamic Dressing; Lemon Mousse Martinis with Assorted Berries.

**Please note our new policy for lunch reservations.** All reservations must be received by Jennifer Dengler by **February 23, 2018**. If you are **NOT** a member of the Country Club, please send your \$20 check made to the Castle Pines Village Garden Club (CPVGC) to Jennifer. If you **ARE** a member of the Country Club, please email Jennifer your name and your Country Club Member Number. No email reservations are confirmed until you receive a confirmation email reply from Jennifer.

**Cancellations will be accepted up to 4:00 PM Friday, February 23, 2018** by calling Jennifer and will be confirmed with an email from her.

*Jennifer Dengler, 4224 Morning Star Drive, Castle Rock, CO 80108*

[jenniferdengler@me.com](mailto:jenniferdengler@me.com), 410-693-8477

**What: High Country Roses Presentation**

**When: March 2, 2018 10:00AM**

**Where: Country Club of Castle Pines, 6400 Country Club Dr.  
Castle Pines Village**



# PLANNING A GARDEN PARTY

WITH

## TASHA CARRINGTON

JOIN US FOR FLORAL AND STYLING TIPS TO USHER IN SPRING!

**TASHA IS OUR EVER-POPULAR PRESENTER, OWNER OF L'ARRANGEMENT CUSTOM FLORALS AND EVENT STYLING, MEMBER OF THE PRESTIGIOUS CHAPEL DESIGNER, FEATURED IN MARTHA STEWART WEDDINGS, AND CURRENTLY A FULL-TIME REALTOR WITH COLDWELL BANKER. SHE IS NOW ASSISTING CLIENTS WITH THEIR REAL ESTATE NEEDS, ENJOYING STYLING AND STAGING THEIR HOMES FOR LISTING, AND FINDING THEIR NEW DREAM PROPERTIES.**

**April 6, 2018**  
**10:00 AM**

**County Club of Castle Pines**  
**6400 Country Club Dr.**  
**Castle Pines Village**  
**Please bring cash for our**  
**door prize tickets: 3 for \$5**  
**to support our charities,**  
**\$5 for food/gas cards for**  
**Crisis Center clients.**

Our \$20 menu includes:

Vegetable Minestrone Soup  
with an Assortment of Early  
Spring Vegetables.

Deconstructed Garden Raw  
Salad: Fresh Mesclun Mixed  
Greens, Oven Roasted Cherry  
Tomatoes, Grilled Yellow  
Corn, Diced English  
Cucumber, Roasted Nante  
Carrots, Balsamic Braised

Cipollini Onions, Served with  
Herb Vinaigrette.

Three Sisters Salad: Roasted  
Summer Squash, Marinated  
Haricot Verts, and Grilled  
Corn Tossed with French  
Chateau Vinaigrette.

Herbed Chicken Breast with  
California Wild Mountain  
Sage and Roasted Creamer  
Potatoes topped with  
Roasting Jus.

Dessert: Assorted Petit Fours  
and Small Bites.

Please note our new policy for  
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**Dengler by March 30, 2018.**

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your \$20 check, made to the  
Castle Pines Village Garden  
Club (CPVGC) to Jennifer.

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Country Club, please email  
Jennifer your name and your  
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No email reservations are  
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**Cancellations will be**  
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**Friday, March 30, 2018**

By calling Jennifer and will be  
confirmed with an email from  
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**Jennifer Dengler**  
**4224 Morning Star Drive**  
**Castle Rock, CO 80108**  
**jenniferdengler@me.com**  
**410-693-8477**

**FIELD TRIP TO VISIT CHEROKEE RANCH,  
TWEET KIMBALL MEMORIAL GARDEN AND SERENITY GARDEN  
TUESDAY, APRIL 24, 2018**

The Field Trip Committee is planning an event in late April open to all interested members, to introduce the gardens our club maintains to our new members, and provide our new and ongoing gardeners alike, the opportunity to make plans to work together next year. We'll have an opportunity to learn about the history of Cherokee Ranch and its mission through a private tour of the Castle, and we'll also hear from our seasoned gardeners about how the gardens are maintained throughout the summer months.

We're planning for a picnic lunch at the Canyon Club Pavilion following our garden tours.



**STYLE SHOW AND LUNCHEON FRIDAY, MAY 11<sup>TH</sup>**  
**WATCH EBLASTS AND NEXT NEWSLETTER FOR DETAILS**

**TENTATIVE DATES FOR WORK DAYS IN BOTH GARDENS**

**Cherokee – Fridays:**

**June 8, June 22, July 13, July 27, August 10, August 24, September 7,  
September 21**

**Serenity – Wednesdays:**

**June 13, June 27, July 18, August 15, August 29, September 12, September 26**

**CPVGC Sixth Annual Away Trip  
JUNE 11 – 15, 2018  
Return to Santa Fe, New Mexico  
(Registration Closed)**



**Monday, June 11: drive to Santa Fe**

It is about a 6-hour trip down to Santa Fe. We will be coordinating carpooling.

Once again, we are staying at The Inn on the Alameda. Its central location, free on-site parking, free breakfast and daily complementary happy hour make it the best deal in Santa Fe. Dinner tonight is on your own. We will provide a list of great restaurants within walking distance.

**Tuesday, June 12: Tour of the Santa Fe Botanical Gardens on Museum Hill**

We will start the day early with a guided tour of the Santa Fe Botanical Gardens on Museum Hill. This small, newer garden area has matured and grown in size since a few of us visited in 2014. The mission of the garden is to celebrate, cultivate and conserve the rich botanical heritage and biodiversity of the region. After our tour, we will head over to the Museum Hill Café for lunch. You can then tour one or more of the four world-class museums presenting the art, history and culture of the Native American Southwest, the Spanish colonial past and folk traditions from around the world. The museums have great gift shops!

Be sure to be back at the Inn for the 4 – 5 PM cocktail hour. We will draw names to break up into smaller groups for dinner at several local restaurants



### **Wednesday, June 13: Tour of the Allan Houser Sculpture Garden**

We will drive about 30 minutes south of Santa Fe for a two hour private tour of the Allan Houser Sculpture Garden complex. The 50-acre parcel of land in southern Santa Fe County is covered with juniper and yellow twig rabbit brush with extensive views in all directions. The Houser family built a group of studios and an extensive outdoor garden and gallery. Over 80 monumental works are displayed.

After our tour, you can return directly to Santa Fe or get lunch nearby. You may also want to visit the Turquoise Trail Sculpture Garden in the small town of Cerrillos, which has an unusual Origami in the Garden collection. Suggested donation is \$10 per vehicle.

Once again, be back at the Inn for the 4 – 5 PM cocktail hour. We will draw names to break up into smaller groups for dinner at several local restaurants.

### **Thursday, June 14: Free day to enjoy Santa Fe and the surrounding area.**

There is so much to do! The Santa Fe Tourism website <http://santafe.org> is an excellent resource. Here are some of the additional places you may want to visit:

- Art galleries on Canyon Road
- Sculpture garden at Nedra Matteucci Gallery in Santa Fe
- Palace of Governors and Museum (oldest public building in the USA)
- New Mexico Capitol Building (designed as a Kiva)
- Taos (1 ½ hours north of Santa Fe)
- The Village of Chimayo (El Santuario de Chimayo, Rancho de Chimayo Restaurant)
- Ten Thousand Waves, (Japanese-style spa), 20 minutes from The Plaza
- The Cliff Dwellings at Puye (30 miles north of Santa Fe)
- Bandelier National Monument (1 hour northeast of Santa Fe)
- Shop, shop, shop

Planning is still being done, but we may drive to Rancho de Chimayo Restaurant in nearby Chimayo for a farewell dinner.

### **Friday, June 15: Return to Castle Pines Village**

**FIELD TRIP TO BETTY FORD ALPINE GARDENS  
(World's Highest Botanic Garden)  
TUESDAY, AUGUST 7, 2018**



The Field Trip Committee is planning a great day trip, with optional overnight, in early August of 2018 to visit the beautiful and expanded Betty Ford Alpine Gardens in Vail. Our members will enjoy a private morning tour of the gardens, guided by seasoned docents. We will then have an opportunity to visit the Educational Center located next to the Gardens (pictured above right), where we'll have the opportunity to learn more about the alpine environment and its plants through self-guided displays and a state of the art alpine house featuring plants from around the world. We might even enjoy a cooling drink on the rooftop terrace of the Center. Our committee has arranged for a private group lunch at a locally owned restaurant named Big Bear Bistro within easy walking distance of the Gardens where we'll enjoy their wide selection of gourmet sandwiches and salads. For those who choose to stay the night, we will suggest a hotel offering AAA and other discounts. Members will have free time on Tuesday afternoon to peruse the shops or maybe go for a hike beside beautiful Gore Creek. We'll arrange for dinner in smaller groups at local restaurants on Tuesday evening. More details coming later!



# SUMMARIES OF PAST MEETINGS

## CPVGC MEMBERS LEARN ABOUT THE BIRDS AND BEES (AND BUTTERFLIES)!

By CPVGC Member Kathy DeFore

Photos by Dianne McOmie

Thank you ladies!

On January 12, 2018, CPVGC President Liz Lively introduced Luan Akin, Master Gardener and Tagawa Gardens Ambassador, who gave a very informative and enjoyable lecture to 45+ attendees, on the birds, bees, and butterflies common to Colorado. Cindi Needleman was also introduced, and she talked about Tagawa Garden's classes and distributed handouts.

Luan described some of the 500 species of birds found here in Colorado and told us how important it was for them to have adequate food, water, and shelter during the winter. She said that robins are meat eaters (insects) and love fresh water, and she explained that a plastic container could be used to freeze water which could then be popped out for use. She indicated that water is a huge attraction for all birds and described how a winter birdbath could be constructed using a planter, dirt still inside, with a plastic tray placed on top.

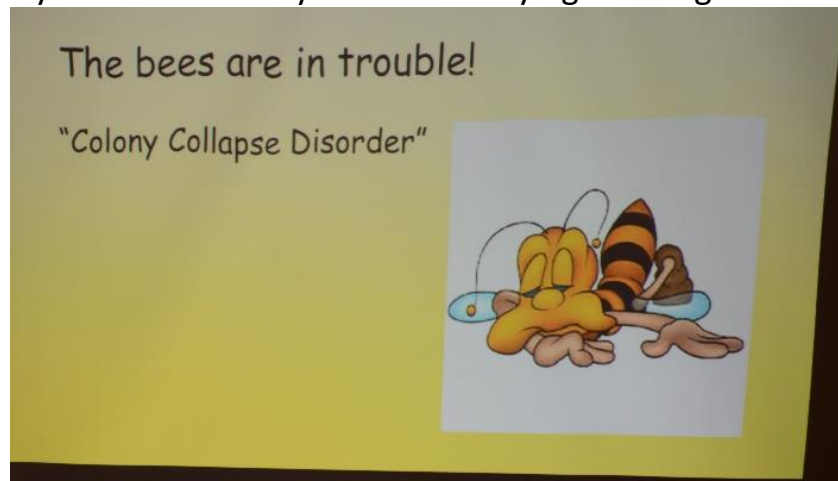


Luan also told us about blue jays, who typically like seeds and peanuts, and she described a treat comprised of a pinecone stuffed with peanut butter and rolled in bird seed which could then be hung. She said that chickadees like tiny seeds and American goldfinches like thistle which can be placed in a special Nyger thistle feeder. Luan indicated that a tube feeder may be the best

simple device to accommodate a wide variety of birds when filled with mixed seed. Peanuts can be placed in an open tray feeder and should be roasted and unsalted.

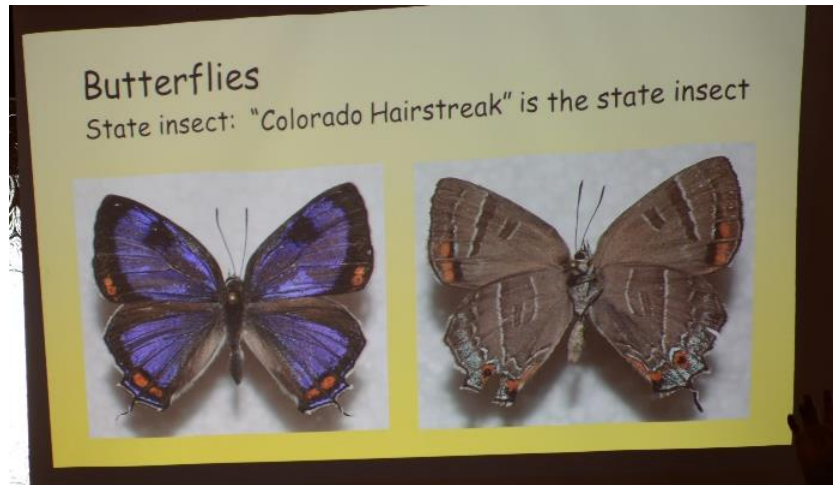
Luan gave us some rules for the safe feeding of the birds, and she indicated Suet Plus is not good if you have bears nearby. She explained that finches are attracted to yellow. She stressed that feeders should be kept in plain sight but close to cover. She told us not to hang them in trees but rather place them in the near vicinity. It is a good idea to keep feeders above possible predators and to separate different types of feeders by several feet (10 ft. or more). If you have bears and deer, it is best to take all feeders down at night. Luan said to throw out seed that has not been eaten or that gets wet. It might be bad. It is also a good idea to clean the feeders monthly, washing them with a 10% bleach solution.

Luan said that hummingbirds only live in North and South America. She indicated that their special feeders should contain a solution which is 1-part sugar and 4 parts water. This does not have to be boiled, as warm tap water can be used to dissolve the sugar, as well. She cautioned against using honey or food coloring and stressed the importance of separating feeders by 20 feet if you have multiple units. It is a good practice to clean the feeders and replace the syrup every few days. They can be placed outside from mid-April to mid- October. Hummingbirds love red and they also love fragrance. They go into a state of torpor at night and in cold weather so don't presume they are dead when you see them lying on the ground motionless!



Luan told us that bees are friendly creatures and she described how the all-female worker bees "do all the work," carrying the nectar and pollen back to the hive. The drones are males whose only function is to mate with the queen (at which time they die). The worker bees feed the drones during all seasons but the winter when they die. The queen mates with 10-12 drones and then lays eggs in the hive. She usually lives 2-3 years. She has been fed a special food for 3 days, called royal jelly, by the worker bees, which transformed her into a queen. Bees are in trouble, at present, with 30-50% of hives dying. Luan listed colony collapse, mite infiltration, and pesticide problems as potential causes.

Butterflies include the Colorado Hairstreak, which is our state insect, painted ladies, and two tailed swallow tails. They need host plants and nectar crops for their larvae and typically live for 2-3 weeks.



We all enjoyed Luan's talk and learned a lot. Some of us actually went out and purchased feeders for the first time! Attendees appreciated Luan's enthusiasm and humor which she perfected while on the CBS4 News helicopter for thirty years prior to taking gardening up seriously.



Following the lecture, Liz introduced Ginny Winston, a new member, and told us that our February meeting will include a presentation on the history of Castle Pines. She also indicated that we raised \$4750 for the Task Force at the annual Christmas party. An additional \$506 came from raffling Liz Clarke's beautiful flower arrangements as door prizes. Well done, ladies! All the money went to charity.

Liz told us that a bylaw change will take effect on June 1. We are no longer going to allow "household" members. From June forward, if both individuals in a home are gardeners, they both must become individual members. At this time, we have 109 individual members and 34 household members. Liz thanked Kim Watson for her fantastic job on the Newsletter and praised the photography of Carol Kingsley and Dianne McOmie.



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We then adjourned for a delicious lunch at the Country Club. A great presentation for a great bunch of ladies!

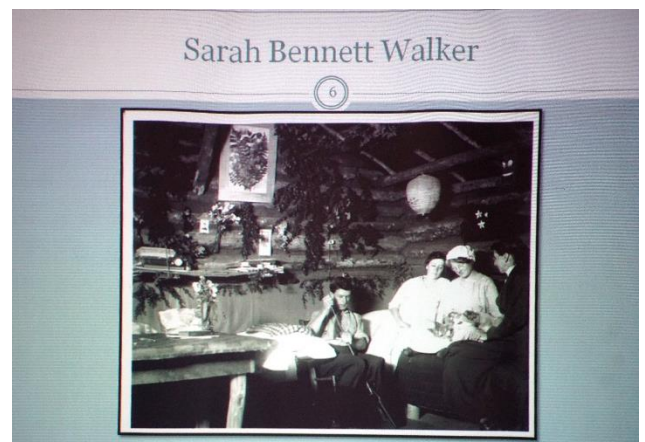
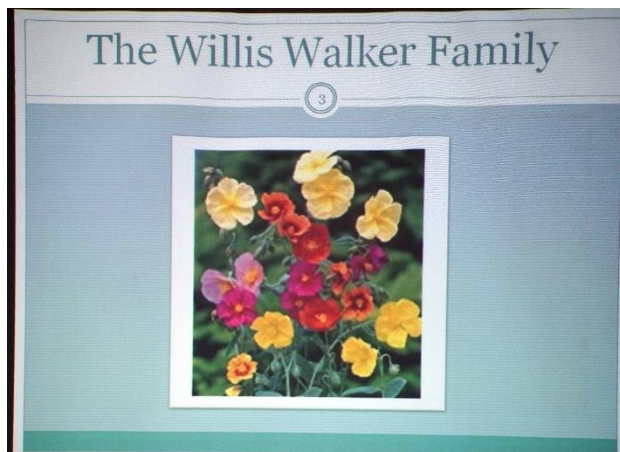
## FASCINATING FAMILIES OF THE WILDCAT MOUNTAINS

Summary by CPVGC Member Kathleen DeFore



On February 2, 2018, the Castle Pines Village Garden Club had the pleasure of attending a lecture by Peggy Cummings, Founder and President of the Literary Research Company of Sedalia. Mrs. Cummings is a lecturer, researcher, and writer who is well versed in the history of the Highlands Ranch, Daniels Park, Castle Rock, Sedalia, and Castle Pines areas. We all learned a great deal about the land we call home and were able to acquire even more knowledge from her writings in *Horses and Their Women* and *Images of America: Douglas County* which were available for purchase on site.

Mrs. Cummings told us about the Willis Walker Family, the first homesteaders in the area, who built their cabin in the 1880s. Sarah Walker loved the landscape and became a world-renowned expert on local flowers. She was called “Mrs. Colorado Wildflowers” and had a large exhibit at the Chicago World’s Fair in 1893. She died at the age of 61 and her land (Elich Gardens—the first botanical garden in Denver), sold for \$386.



Some of the more random facts we learned were that Glenn Miller was from Colorado and played at the Trocadero, frequented by many celebrities, during World War II, and that the Castle Pines area is on the Wildcat Plateau. We also learned that the first gold in the Colorado land rush was found in Douglas County and that there is a tree on Cherokee Ranch that is found nowhere else in the world. There are 25-35 petrified logs on the ranch and a rare scrub oak that is not native to this area.

Hearing about the Native Americans, who roamed this terrain before the White settlers arrived, was very interesting. Apparently, tribes came here from far and wide to create a truce during their travel to the spiritual site of Manitou Hot Springs. They couldn't fight along the way! Mrs. Cummings also told us about the Fred Flower family who homesteaded 157 acres on mountainous terrain and built a house they called "Sleepy Hollow."

Daniels Park Rd. was the first territorial road that led from Cheyenne to Taos. There was a stage stop here which permitted travelers to "freshen up" on their way to Denver. A nearby ranch, called Happy Canyon, was settled by the Swiegerts, who had cattle, wheat, and apples. The ranch house exists to this day and is supported by the city of Lone Tree. Happy Canyon was named for "Whistling Happy Jack", a cowboy who routinely whistled while he rode his horse, so you could hear him coming before you saw him.

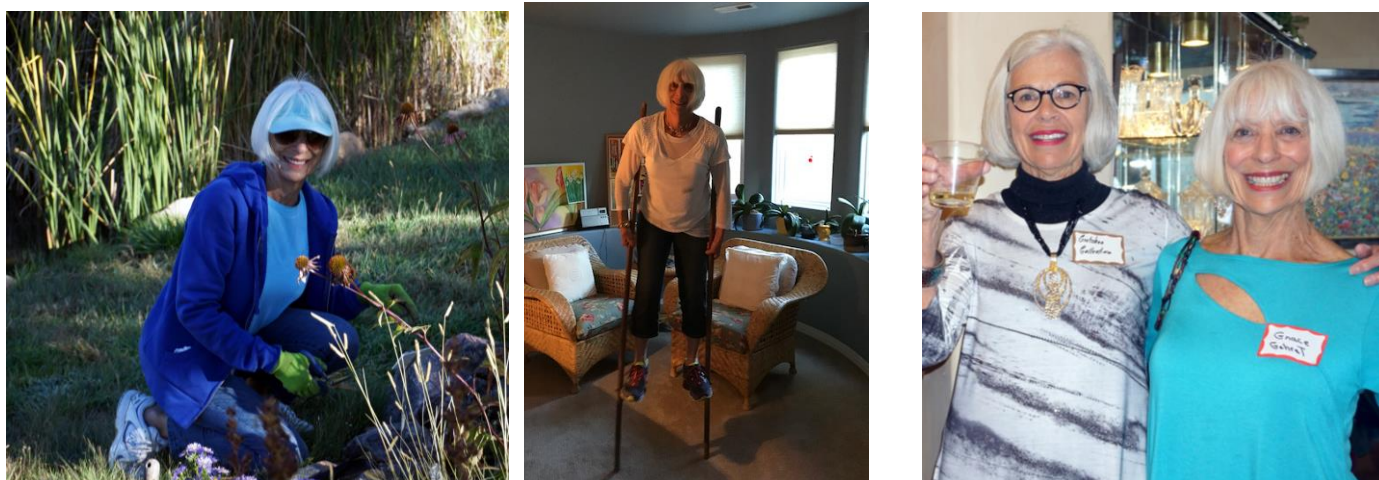
We all enjoyed the presentation and many expressed a desire to hear more from Mrs. Cummings' series of lectures in the near future. Following an update from Liz Lively, and our customary door prize drawing, we adjourned to a delicious Mexican lunch at the Country Club.



**Photos by Carol Kingsley**

# CPVGC MEMBER INTERVIEWS

## GRACE GEHRET



Grace and Peter Gehret have lived in Castle Pines Village for 25 years, and have lived in Colorado for over 40 years!

Grace has been enjoying garden club since 1993. She is CPVGC secretary and Grace enjoys being on the Board with some very hard working ladies. Grace likes everything about garden club, especially the wonderful women who make up the membership. Grace likes to garden and her favorite flowers include the peony, lilac, and lily.

There are several interesting things we have not known about Grace. August 28, 1997 was proclaimed as “Grace Gehret Day” in Denver, as part of Grace receiving the Minoru Yasui award for her hospice volunteer work!! Grace has been retired for years, but has a B.S. in Nursing, and she feels that she could not have asked for a more satisfying profession.

Grace is very active and when not gardening she keeps busy skiing, walking, knitting, reading, doing yoga, biking, and apparently walking on her stilts!! Pete and Grace’s favorite restaurants are Sienna and Chinook. Pass the tissues... Grace’s favorite movie is “An Affair to Remember”.

Pete and Grace have “two sons, a lovely daughter-in-law, and a feisty red-headed 2 ½ year old granddaughter, who lives in Switzerland”, so that is where they travel.

## RUTH CLARK



Ruth lived in the Village for 6 years and has lived in Highlands Ranch for 1 ½ years, and been in garden club for 6 years. Ruth headed the Membership Committee for many years, and has passed the baton to Ethel Parrington, who now heads that committee. Ruth liked her time as committee chair, meeting and greeting, and being with all the friendly ladies!

Ruth's favorite flower is the Iris and she loves to garden. She also likes dining at Gabriel's and her favorite travel destination was visiting Paris. When not gardening, Ruth likes to do needlepoint, knitting, embroidery, reading, and most of all being with family.

Ruth has two children, one daughter and one son. Her daughter is married and Ruth has a wonderful son-in-law. They have two sons, Ruth's only grandchildren. One grandson is married and is a policeman, the other is a school teacher. Ruth's son is unmarried, and he is an airplane mechanic at Centennial Airport.

Many who have met Ruth know that she lived on a working cattle ranch in Texas for over 12 years - with a good looking cowboy! But we did not know about one of her biggest accomplishments. Her cowboy husband was a pilot and had his own plane. Ruth took flying lessons and soloed, so she could land the plane, if needed!





### **Jomie Heftye– in her own words:**

Wayne and I have been married 27 years. Wayne has one son who lives in St. Joseph, Missouri with our daughter-in-law and two grandchildren, Madison is 15 and Evan is 12. We moved here in June of 2013, so not quite 5 years. Time flies!! We met and lived in Houston (where I grew up) for many years before moving to Santa Fe, where we lived for 9 years before moving to Colorado.

I have been in garden club since July of 2013. I love the Field Trip committee and feel so lucky to have been able to work closely with Terri and Kathy Dennis, both of whom are seasoned travelers, great organizers and tireless contributors. I will always miss Kathy (she will be moving full time to Bend Oregon), but am enjoying working with new committee members and am honored that Terri is still working closely with our committee. I have so enjoyed getting to know the ladies much more intimately on our field trips, and wouldn't give that up for anything. I'm always looking for and thinking about what might be a fun and educational outing for all and making adventures happen makes me happy! I personally adored our trip to Charleston. We worked really hard on that one, but it all paid off with a wonderful experience that I'll never forget.

I love most every flower because I love color, but I guess I would have to say that Peonies in all their different varieties and colors would be my favorite, with a close 2nd being Magnolias. I enjoy gardening but I don't know a lot about it. I have actually learned a lot from our garden club trips and programs and am grateful for that!

Besides being in garden club I enjoy walking, reading, and most of all traveling. I have just started going back to the gym so let's see how that goes! 😊 I love to go out to dinner, so it's hard for me to pick a favorite one. We are enjoying Season's 52 at the moment. Another thing we love to do is we still go out to the movies, but too many favorites to select just one!

Wayne and I have traveled together all over Western Europe, Canada, and the US. We took a fantastic trip to New Zealand and Australia in September on 2016, and are now looking forward to a cruise in May of next year that will take us to Germany, Austria, Hungary and the Czech Republic. As a teenager I spent many summers in Argentina and Chile with my family since my dad was an avid trout fisherman!

An unforgettable experience: I went to the University of Hawaii to get my Masters Degree and spent the weekends on the Island of Lanai with my boyfriend, who was a contractor building houses there at the time. One weekend we ventured out to fish in his small motorized boat (only about 8-10 foot long) and ended up a little further out than normal. All of a sudden there was a tremendous displacement of water around us as we realized that a wandering whale was very nearby and had decided to breach not far from our little boat! We held our breath and held on for dear life, petrified that the whale would land on us on the way down or throw us into the air on the way back up! It only lasted for a couple minutes or so, but trust me, time stood still. It was such an incredible feeling to be so close to that enormous, gorgeous creature that the beauty of the experience almost outweighed the fear! It made a tremendous impression and I'm forever grateful to have survived to tell the story.

### Kim Watson



My husband, Don and I have been married for 48 years. I grew up in Wisconsin, and Don grew up in Illinois. We met in college in Indiana, and have lived in Indiana (three times), Illinois (twice), Texas (twice), California, and for the past 15 years, Colorado. We lived in Cherry Creek for 2 years and have lived in Castle Pines Village for over 13 years, and have loved every minute here. We love entertaining, and spending time in our yard, both working and relaxing. In good weather we spend a lot of time adding flowers, trees, and shrubs, as well as weeding and raking pine needles, in every corner of our yard.

I have been in garden club for 13 years, and have been on the board for over 12 years. I was chair and co-chair of the Special Events Committee for 2 years and I've been doing the newsletter ever since. I have formed many great friendships by working with the board, and participating in garden club events. And creating the newsletter has made me become so much more computer savvy it's amazing! Every meeting, party, and field trip I've attended, I have enjoyed, and I am looking forward to experience what the field trip committee has planned for this year's Santa Fe trip.

My favorite flower is the hydrangea, but I have not had any success growing them in our cold climate. I do love my peonies and iris here. I have beautiful iris from our garden club field trip to Long's Iris Farm in Boulder, I have iris from when we thinned them at Cherokee Castle, and I also have iris from our dear departed garden club friend LoJuana Davis, from when she was thinning out her iris. I am happy to see the iris return every spring, which makes me think of LoJuana, and I like that they can grow in junky soil, and that they take minimum effort on my part!

We have 3 grown children, who live in Dallas area and Austin, and we have 3 grandchildren – girls 9 and 12 and grandson 8. Since we don't want to miss out on too much of their lives, we make trips to Texas about 6 times a year. We also love to travel, and have been to many spots in Europe (especially Italy, France, the Greek Islands and the Adriatic), China, Japan, Australia, New Zealand, Mexico and the Caribbean. In the US we have enjoyed Alaska, Hawaii, Florida, with Maine in the fall being a US favorite, as well as Southern California where we spend anywhere from several weeks to a month each year. When not entertaining, gardening or traveling, I like to read and participate in my book club, play tennis, golf, play cards, go snorkeling and scuba diving (our whole family was certified when our youngest was 13 – over 20 years ago).

I had a similar encounter to Jomie's whale experience (see previous interview). We were in a 30 foot sailboat, in Southern California. We were coming back to shore on a lovely afternoon out, when it looked like a giant submarine was immersing from the deep. I screamed, more than alerting the other 4 passengers, because of the proximity to our boat. Our captain was also surprised, and reported that it was a blue whale, the first one she ever had seen. Blue whales, the biggest mammal, are about 90 feet long, so our little boat was pretty insignificant. Every time we are in California, we either go out on a sailboat or a whale watching boat, where if we don't see whales, we most often see schools of dolphin.

Another sea life experience I had was when I swam with the dolphins in the Florida Keys. I'm happy to say I've done this twice. It is a little local owned baby sea world type of place. After a short instruction, on our part, we had dolphins jumping over us, dolphins pulling us across the lagoon by us hanging on to their dorsal fins, and while we were floating on our backs, the dolphins pushed us across the lagoon by putting their noses on the bottoms of our feet. We were in the water about an hour, including free swimming with the dolphins, and it was an outstanding experience.



Powerscourt, Ireland

According to National Geographic the 3<sup>rd</sup> best garden in the world!  
A little far for a future CPVGC field trip!

The End