

Front Range Organic Gardeners, Inc.

Veteran and novice gardeners who have shared knowledge and enthusiasm since 1987

February 2018 Volume 30, No. 2

NEXT MEETING

Tuesday, February 27, 2018 7:00pm

Platt Park Church, 1601 S Clarkson, Denver CO 80210

(Entrance off the well-lit alley -- for further details see next page)

What's New in 2018?

Guest Speaker: Harriett McMillan, Echter's Garden Center

Ms. McMillan will speak to the group about new introductions in flowers, vegetables, woody plants, organic fertilizers and more. Please join us!



BIO: Harriett McMillan has been learning about and growing perennials for nearly 30 years. She draws on her experience as an avid home gardener and as horticulture specialist at Echter's Garden Center. Harriett has been associated with Denver Botanic Gardens as a volunteer and a teacher and was formerly Horticulture Information Specialist. She is a Certified Colorado Nursery Professional through the Colorado Nursery Association.

Our Meeting Location

Parking is available behind the church, off the well-lit alley, and also on side streets in the neighborhood. Please enter the main church building at the rear entrance, in the alley, at the door marked "Church Offices". The stairs lead down to our meeting room.

Special Needs Access

Members and guests who need access via ramp and/or elevator may enter the church at the front, which faces Clarkson Street and has a long ramp. The doors are generally locked, so we need to coordinate with a member to open the door. Once inside, there is a small elevator to go to the meeting room on the lower level.

For parking, two clearly-marked handicapped-accessible spaces are available at the very north end of the alley behind the church (enter from Iowa Avenue).

If you or your guest needs to enter this way, please contact FROG treasurer Linda Tegtmeier at by Sunday, February 25, to make arrangements for this meeting.

Upcoming FROG Meetings – generally 4th Tuesday of the month

March 27, 2018	Jodi Torpey: Heirloom Kitchen Gardening
April 24, 2018	Janis Kieft: Seed Science
May 19, 2018	(Saturday) FROG Plant Sale!
June 26, 2018	Garden Tour: Paula Szilard, FROG member
July 24, 2018	Garden Tour: Sabine Bauer
August 28, 2018	Garden Tour: Carol LaRocque at Denver Mental Health

Echter's Echxpo – March 2, 3, & 4

FROG Organizer: Joslyn Green,

The spring gardening event at Echter's, 5190 Garrison Street in Arvada, is coming up fast. Can spring be far behind?! FROG will participate, thanks to volunteers who will staff one of the tables made available to non-profit gardening organizations.

Dates and times:

Friday, March 2	3 - 5:30 pm
Saturday, March 3	10 am - 5:30 pm
Sunday, March 4	noon - 4:00 pm

FROGs familiar with Echter's know it as an appealing local nursery, long-established, family-owned, and a fine place to see daffodils in bloom.

Plant Sale Updates – Please read through – there are some changes!

SAVE THE DATE! Pop-up Seed-starting Party **March 10** at Molly O'Malley's home (thank you Molly!). Time still to be determined.

HERB SOCIETY OF AMERICA (HSA) – As you heard during the January meeting, HSA has decided to take a one-year hiatus from the plant sale. They hope to rejoin us in 2019.

WHAT ARE YOU PLANTING? We know that people love our sale because of our variety of tomatoes, peppers, vegetables and perennials. And we know what happens when we have a billion of one variety (ok – a bit of an exaggeration) – But seriously, we usually have to discount our plants when we have too many of one variety. So... it would be great to know what you are planning on planting for the Club. That way – when Trish and Anne are asked, "What should I grow", they can stay away from varieties members are already growing. Send Anne a quick note with your possible list. Don't worry – you can change your mind – but more information always helps.

STICKS! Please start collecting strong straight sticks – 12-24 inches long for staking the peppers and tomatoes. Bring them to future FROG meetings.

THREE GREENHOUSES! The Club has secured three small greenhouses to replace April Romero's greenhouse that we have used in recent years. This means we'll need everyone's help opening and closing them between mid-April and May 18th. More details to come soon.

CARTONS/CONTAINERS! Continue to collect waxed cardboard milk/juice cartons – half gallon and quart. Be sure to rinse them and cut the lid off. Bring them to a future FROG meeting or contact Anne and we'll arrange to pick them up.

BLINDS! Thanks to Beverly and Joe – we're set for this year on blinds. THANK YOU!!!! But keep your eyes open for garage or yard sales selling mini-blinds (super cheap and vinyl only, please – we can't use metal ones). You don't have to cut them up or clean them, just bring them to a FROG meeting or contact Anne

PLANT SALE COMMITTEE! As the saying goes, many hands make light work! The Plant Sale Committee would love help with the many tasks leading up to our sale, which have begun. Contact Trish Griffin or Anne Brinkman to discuss further.

TOMATO TRIVIA – DID YOU KNOW?

- There are more than 3,000 varieties of heirloom or heritage tomatoes in active cultivation worldwide and more than 15,000 known varieties. (on average, FROG members grow 40 heirloom or heritage varieties...)
- If you want to grow quality plants, select the most plump, regular-shaped seeds and reject the weirdos.
- Seeds and seedlings abhor cold water so always use lukewarm.
- Plants grow stockier if you brush the tops of larger seedlings lightly with your hand every day.
- Color - Tomatoes can be yellow, pink, purple, black and even white, as well as red.
- Cooking vs Fresh: An ounce of cooked tomato contains double the amount of vitamin C, as well as almost 20% higher beta-carotene, as compared to the equivalent sample of fresh tomato. The jelly-like substance around the seeds contains the highest concentration of vitamin C.

FROG Dues Are Due... or no more newsletters to you...

Treasurer Linda Tegtmeier reports that of the 48 people who were FROG members in 2017, about 20 have not yet paid dues for 2018.

We need you! We want you! And we don't want you to miss the great speakers, the Plant Sale, the scads of freebies and bargains, the garden tours, the wealth of advice from other members, the fun-and-tasty Holiday Party, and more!

To insure that you get the March newsletter, Linda needs to receive your dues by about March 11, when the next issue goes out. Also, be sure to include any changes to your contact information. If you're not sure if you've already paid, contact her.

In the News

Contributed by Martin Buchanan:

Hunting for the ancient lost farms of North America

2,000 years ago, people domesticated these plants. Now they're wild weeds. What happened?

<https://arstechnica.com/science/2018/01/hunting-for-the-ancient-lost-farms-of-north-america/>

Contributed by Linda Tegtmeier:

History of the Opium Poppy – from *Heirloom Gardener* magazine

The opium poppy has a long history of medicinal use, although now it is mainly cultivated as a striking ornamental.

https://www.heirloomgardener.com/plant-profiles/medicinal/opium-poppy-history-zmaz15fzcvil?newsletter=1&spot=headline&utm_source=wcemail&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=HGR%20eNews%2002.08.18&utm_term=HGR_eNews&wcsid=4F7B4B75FA4B66D49C78B64C425568B3CF53BA77BA156446

Ornamental Annuals Seeding Chart – from Betty Cahill's blog *Colorado Garden Punch List*

[https://gardenpunchlist.blogspot.com/2018/02/ornamental-annuals-seeding-chart.html?utm_source=feedburner&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Feed:+GardenPunchListByBettyCahill+\(Garden+Punch+List+by+Betty+Cahill\)](https://gardenpunchlist.blogspot.com/2018/02/ornamental-annuals-seeding-chart.html?utm_source=feedburner&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Feed:+GardenPunchListByBettyCahill+(Garden+Punch+List+by+Betty+Cahill))

2018 Board Members and Committee Chairs

President Trish Griffin

Vice President Rose Ann Bennett

Treasurer Linda Tegtmeier

Secretary Suzanne Walter

Board Members-At-Large

Meredith Bossert

Betty Jo Page

Maggie Rice

Plant Sale Co-Chairs

Anne Brinkman

Trish Griffin

Programs Betty Jo Page

Rose Ann Bennett

Grants Carol LaRocque

Beverly Longe

Diane Kocis

Webmaster Anne Brinkman

Refreshments Gigia Kolouch

Newsletter Editor Trish Griffin

Mail your \$15 membership check (payable to FROG) and the below information to:
FROG, 950 South Milwaukee Way, Denver CO 80209-5125

Your Name _____

Telephone #s _____

Address (street, city, zip) _____

E-mail address _____

FROG uses e-mail addresses only to send newsletters or special announcements between meetings. We do not sell, swap, or otherwise share your e-mail address with outside entities. However, all of your contact information except your email address will be included on a FROG Membership Roster which will be distributed only to FROG members. Please check here _____ if you prefer to not be included on this membership roster.

PLEASE NOTE: Submission Deadline for February Newsletter is Mar. 5, 2018