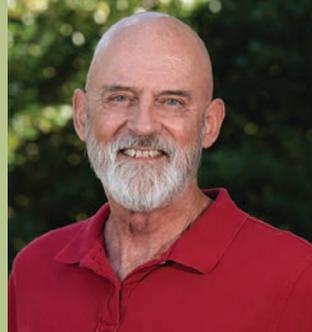


Our in-house horticulturist/arborist, Craig Miller, dispenses practical advice for those seeking to simultaneously conserve water and grow thriving, high-visual-impact, drought-tolerant (xeriscape) gardens and landscapes. Please email your questions to craig@cpnmd.org.



CONTAINER GARDENING

Healthy plants start with healthy soil. Use a good well-drained soil, or mix your own by combining 1/3 peat moss, 1/3 vermiculite or perlite, and 1/3 organic material. Fill the container two inches below the rim of the pot to allow room for planting and avoid overflow when watering. Choose plants that have compatible light and moisture requirements.

Start with a container that is large enough to maintain the plant or combination of plants through the whole growing season. If the container is too small, it will dry out much faster during the hot days of summer. The bigger the better – but keep in mind that you may have to move it. Clay pots are heavier, porous, and dry out faster than metal, plastic, or wooden pots.

Be sure your container has adequate drainage. Place a fabric filter or mesh over the drain hole and fill the bottom of container with gravel or broken clay pots to fill the space. Leave the top eight to twelve inches to fill with soil. Mix in a slow-release fertilizer (Osmocote) that will feed your plants up to four months.

Your container garden will need at least five hours of direct sunlight each day, and many plants will benefit from even more. As a general rule, leafy vegetables such as cabbage and lettuce can tolerate the most shade, while root crops such as beets and carrots will need more sun. Fruiting vegetables such as tomatoes and cucumbers need the most sun.



XERIC PLANT OF THE MONTH



Mohican Viburnum (*Viburnum lantana* 'Mohican') is an introduction from the U.S. National Arboretum. This compact variety of Wayfaring Viburnum is more useful in the landscape due to its smaller size (up to eight feet tall and wide, usually smaller). Creamy white flower clusters and expanding pale green leaves appear together for a week in early May. The foliage turns dark green and is leathery in appearance, but the most outstanding ornamental attribute of this plant is the fruit, which retains their orange-red coloring for a month or more in mid-summer before they darken to blue and black in the fall. Leaves turn maroon-to-red in the fall.

Like all viburnums, 'Mohican' grows well in many exposures and soils, but is especially well suited for full sun, drier situations, and alkaline soils. It works well in the landscape as a specimen plant, or in a hedge, shrub border, or as a foundation planting for large buildings. Hardy to 7,500 feet.

Board Update

The voter-approved Inclusion of our water and wastewater utilities with the Parker Water & Sanitation District (PWSD) is progressing beautifully and as planned. Five months remain until Day One (January 3, 2022), at which time PWSD will officially assume ownership responsibilities and operational control of our water and wastewater utilities, infrastructure, and services.

Separately, the people of Castle Pines entrust us and our in-house professional horticulturists with stewardship responsibilities for the community's network of parks, trails, and open space amenities west of I-25. Those outdoor amenities include: 352 acres of open space; fourteen miles of eight-foot-wide trails; and three parks including Coyote Ridge Park, The Retreat Park, and Daniels Gate Park.

BAD NEWS: We've seen an uptick in resident complaints about irresponsible dog owners who fail to pick up and dispose of their dog poop (both bagged and unbagged) in our parks, trails, and open space. *Come on, folks, it's beyond disgusting!* **GOOD NEWS:** We've authorized our own Craig Miller (see above) to promptly erect large, easy-to-read, humorous signs throughout our trails and open space system. A poop-bag dispenser and disposal bin will accompany each sign. We hope the combination of funny signs and more readily accessible bags and bins — combined with ongoing public education and occasional doses of inevitable peer pressure from neighbors — will prompt dogs owners to *pick it up and place it in the bin!*



David McEntire
 President
 Cell: (702) 303-8081
dmcentire@cpnmd.org



Robert Merritt
 Vice President
 Cell: (303) 717-2852
rmerritt@cpnmd.org



Denise Crew
 Secretary/Treasurer
 Cell: (303) 523-8285
dcrew@cpnmd.org



Chuck Lowen
 Director
 Cell: (303) 898-3056
chuck@cpnmd.org



Christopher Lewis
 Director
 Cell: (303) 641-5249
clewis@cpnmd.org