

April 2026

Columbia Underground



COLUMBIA GARDEN CLUB

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President's Message

April is an “all hands-on deck” kind of month. We are going to kick it off by going on our first field trip of the year for our monthly meeting. If you plan to visit Longfellow's Garden Center and Shirk's Country Market/Deli/Greenhouse, please plan to arrive at Trinity Presbyterian Church at 8:30 am on Monday, April 13th.

We will have plenty of drivers if you need to carpool. If you are leaving your car at the church for the day, please park on the side in the spaces that front Maplewood Dr. You are also welcome to drive yourself and bring a friend and meet us at our first stop, Longfellow's Garden Center, 12007 Lookout Trail, Centertown, MO, 65023. By the time we arrange carpooling and leave the church, we should arrive at Longfellow's around 10 am. We will have a short tour followed by your own exploration of the garden center. Then we head to Shirk's Country Market/Deli/Greenhouse, 341 Route U, Centertown, MO, 65023 around 12:30 pm for lunch, shopping, and our business meeting. The distance between the two sites is approximately one mile. Dress appropriately for outdoor weather, wear comfortable shoes, and plan to experience beautiful plants and deli type food in a relaxed environment.

Our plant sale is on Saturday, April 25th so I hope everyone is planning to donate at least one plant for the good of the cause. Linda Antal and I are co-chairs this year and will have more information to share as we get closer to the event. As in past years, we look forward to all members pitching in in some capacity.

Art in Bloom is also sandwiched at the same time as our plant sale. Viewing hours for the public are on April 25th and 26th from 10 am – 5 pm at the Museum of Art and Archaeology. If possible, try to stop by and see what a few of our members have created for the exhibition. I trust it will be spectacular! Some of us will be attending the 93rd Annual FGCM State Convention in Independence, MO, April 27-30. While we are gone, please remember to volunteer at the Food Bank on Tuesday, April 28th from 12-30 – 2:30 pm if you are not going to the State Convention.

Please remember to bring \$20 to our April meeting if you plan to attend the Central District Spring meeting in Eldon, MO on May 14th. Buckle your seat belts ladies and gentlemen! We are on a roll!

Donna

March Meeting

CGC met on March 9, 2026. Darlene Rasberry introduced our guest speaker Brenda McGavock, Clinical Psychologist/Master Gardener/Former president of Heart of Missouri Master Gardeners. Brenda presented a very interesting program on "Willow Fencing". Darlene also reminded everyone our meeting next month will not be at the church. We will be going to Longfellow's Garden Center and Shirk's Country Market in Centertown, MO. Gather at the church at 8:30 a.m.

Following the program Donna Puleo called the meeting to order. We had 29 members and 1 guest in attendance. Our guest Rosalind Drager came with member Julie Deering. Those recognized for March birthdays were Carolyn Doyle, Jane Jacobs, Diane Linneman, Marie Pasley, Darlene Rasberry and Leigh Speichinger. Inspiration was contributed by Darlene Rasberry and read by Leigh Speichinger. Minutes were approved as distributed and Mary Nesladek gave the treasurers report with a balance of \$11,578.61 as of February 28, 2026. Mary also shared the book CGC donated to DBRL. Donna Puleo shared horticulture information about Hydrangeas. Hydrangea roots grow horizontally, panicles have elongated (cone shaped) flowers, and the round (snowball) shaped flowers are called macrophylla. Hydrangeas like water but don't soak them or let them sit in water.

Committee Reports:

Flower Show – Marie Pasley reported the committee has finalized the Flower Show schedule, which is July 18th, 2026, at the DBRL. The theme is "Celebrate the United States of America". Marie reviewed categories and sections of the show. Karen Blackmore requested everyone think about designs they would like to do and sign up with her. Mary Nesladek is in charge of Botanical Arts Design, please let her know what you would like to do.

Plant Sale -Marie Pasley requested 4" containers for plants for the plant sale which is April 25th, 2026.

Food Bank – Marie Pasley reported we are continuing to volunteer at the Food Bank on the fourth Tuesday of the month from 12:30-2:30.

Clean Up Columbia – Carolyn Oates reported this is scheduled at Flat Branch on June 6th, 2026, at 9a.m.

Charitable Donations – Linda Antal reported the letters are ready to go to the organizations that are receiving donations, they will be given to Donna Puleo for signature and then to Mary Nesladek to mail. The check for Mizzou Botanic Garden will be given to Karen Blackmore.

Member Garden Tours – Karen Blackmore reported this will be on May 11, 2026, and we will be visiting five gardens.

Jane Jacobs, Maggie Sherburne, Nicole Kilgore, Pam Weagley and Diana Cooksey will be sharing their gardens.

Bloomin' Bus Tour - Carolyn Oates reported the tour is full, (don't be late, the bus leaves at 4 a.m.).

Central District Spring Meeting –Betty Connelly reported the meeting is May 14, 2026. The cost of \$20.00 is due in April, give your check or cash to Mary Nesladek and she will send in one check.

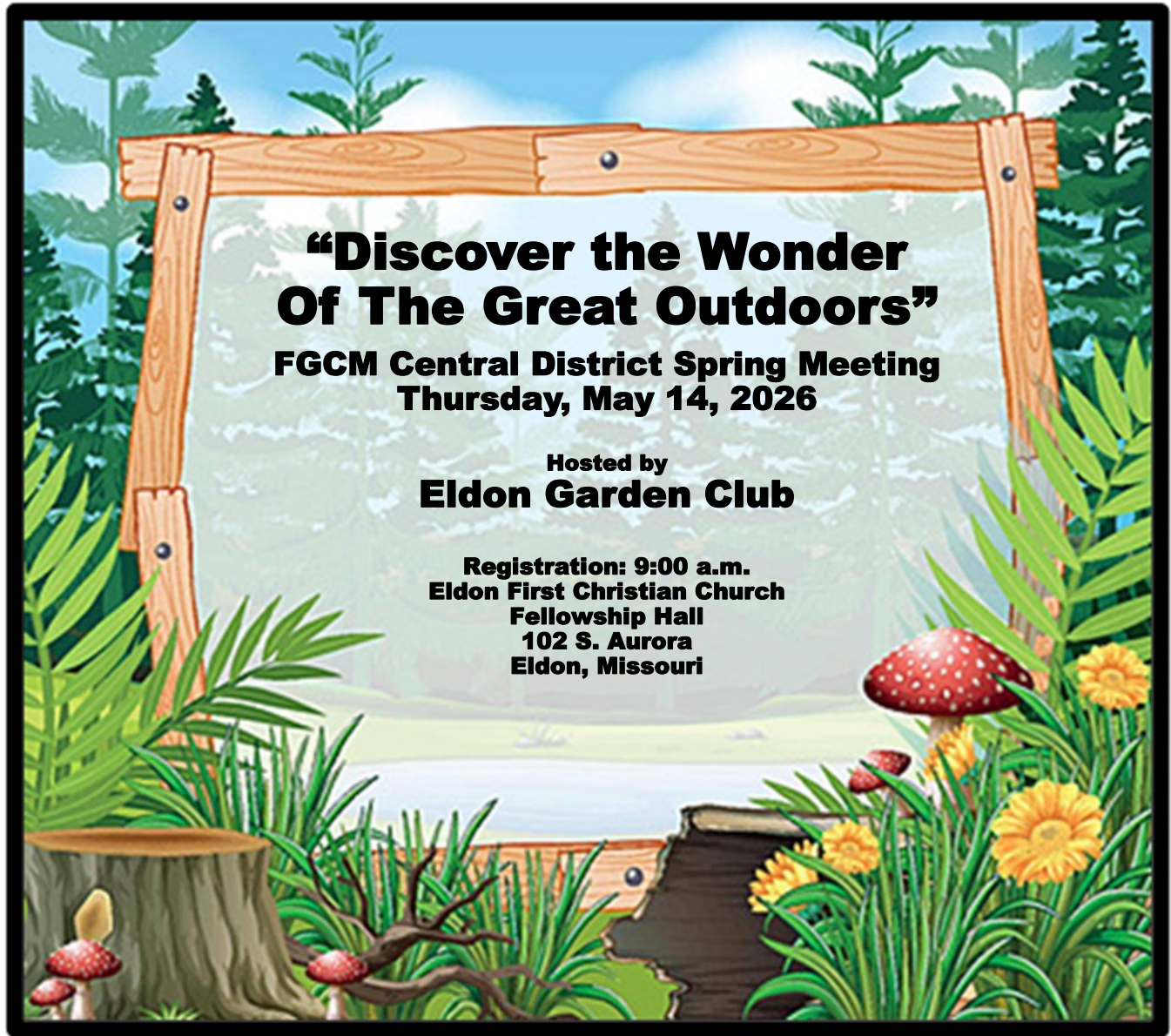
Results for the yearbook evaluation – Scored 100 points.

Art in Bloom (April 25th and 26th 2026) – Karen Blackmore reported the invitation has been received. Karen Blackmore, Linda Houston, Betty Connelly and Carolyn Oates will be participating.

Respectfully submitted,

Diane Linneman

Central District Spring Meeting



If you are planning to attend the district meeting, the cost is \$20 which includes lunch. Registration and refreshments starts at 9 a.m. with the business meeting starting at 10 a.m. The program will be on Fund Development for Wonderland Camp.

If you are coming to the CGC meeting on April 13, you can pay then with \$20 exact change or a check made out to Columbia Garden Club.

If you are not coming to the April meeting, mail your \$20 check made out to CGC by April 20 to:

Mary Nesladek, 1365 S. Mesa Dr., Columbia, MO 65201

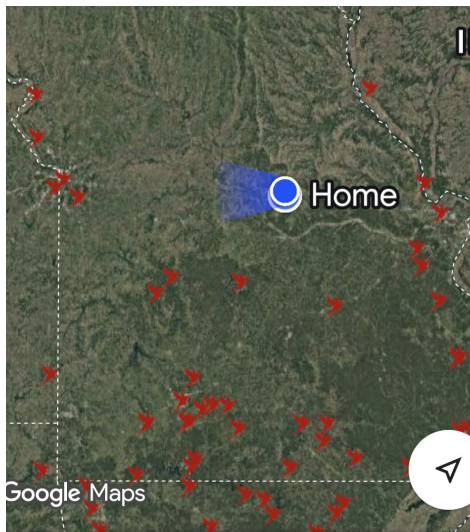
New Members

Elaine Bezold
1302 W. Lexington Circle
Columbia, MO 65203
enbty5@gmail.com
417-499-7775

Rosalind "Roz" Drager
4807 Castlewood Ct.
Columbia, MO 65203
romeodelta117@yahoo.com
573-825-4731



Hummingbirds are Getting Closer



As of April 6, this map shows where hummingbirds have been spotted in Missouri.

The 2026 migration map from Hummingbird Central tracks real sightings across the country, which provides a clear, real-time picture of when birds actually arrive back from their winter migration.

Here is the link to track the hummingbirds.

<https://www.hummingbirdcentral.com/hummingbird-migration-spring-2026->

Hosta of the Year 2026-Halcyon

Color – Blue

Size – Medium (24"ht × 47"w)

Habit – Mounding

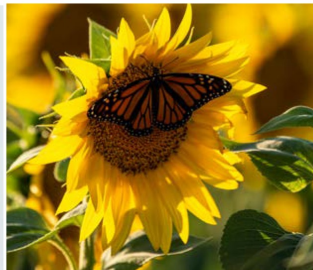
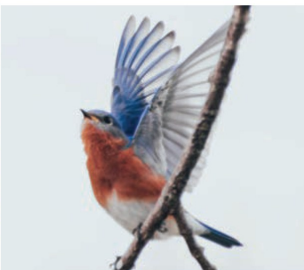
Bloom – Pale Lavender



GARDEN GATHERINGS

Spend an Evening with Mizzou Botanic Garden

Join Mizzou Botanic Garden for Garden Gatherings, a series of evening programs that explore plants, wildlife and the natural world around us. From trees and birds to bugs and beautiful container gardens, these engaging programs combine expert knowledge with hands-on experiences, perfect for curious learners of all ages.



Upcoming Events

Small Trees for Home Landscapes

Thursday, April 2 | 6 p.m.
Gwynn Lounge

Celebrate Arbor Day with an urban forester led discussion about 21 mid-Missouri friendly small trees growing in the campus garden and arboretum. **Registration required at garden.missouri.edu. Limit 30**

An Introduction to Birdwatching for Families

Thursday, June 11 | 6 p.m.
A.L. Gustin Golf Course

A fun, family-friendly birding experience for families with children 8 or older, including expert guidance from the Columbia Audubon Society. **Registration required beginning May 12, at garden.missouri.edu. Limit 30.**

Things That Bug You

Thursday, July 9 | 6 p.m.
Daniel Boone Regional Library

Discover the fascinating world of insects, and learn why these tiny creatures play such a big role in our ecosystem, presented by Emily Althoff, MU Extension assistant professor of urban entomology.

Big and Beautiful Container Gardens

Thursday, August 13 | 6 p.m.
Thursday, August 20 | 6 p.m.
Jesse Hall (South Steps)

Join a walking tour showcasing Mizzou Botanic Garden's stunning container plantings. **Registration required beginning August 11, at garden.missouri.edu. Limit 20 per session.**



Learn more at garden.missouri.edu

April Meeting

We will be going on a field trip for our April 13th meeting. If you wish to carpool, meet at Trinity Presbyterian Church at 8:30 a.m. We will be traveling to Longfellow's Garden Center in Centertown, MO. If you are driving yourself, plan to be at Longfellow's by 10:00. Lunch and our business meeting will be at Shirk's Market at 12:30.

Upcoming Events

April 11-10:00-1:00-Native Plant Sale-Bradford Farms

April 24-Plant Sale Set Up

April 25-Plant Sale-9:00-2:00

April 25-10:00-Attracting Spring Arrivals with Native Plants—Songbird Station

April 25-2:00-3:30-Natural Garden Pest Management-Daniel Boone Regional Library

April 27-30-FGCM State Convention-Independence, MO

April 28—Food Bank Volunteer—12:30

An April Song Author unknown

Earth's heart with gladness glows again,
Gone is all wintry gloom;
The sun peeps through my lattice-pane,
And fills my little room
With life divine, and bids me fly
My books and pens awhile,
To wander forth beneath a sky
That wears an April smile.

Old loves at every step I meet,
Sweet fragrance fills the air;
Such songs of praise that birds repeat,
As move my soul to prayer.
E'en primrose clusters on the banks,
And violets nesting low,
To Him uplift a look of thanks,
From whom all blessings flow.

The hyacinth hangs her languid head,
And waits the gentle May,
Now drawing near with noiseless tread,
To kiss her tears away;
The fields with daisies are besprent,
As white as flakes of snow;
And from the whispering woods are sent
Joy-murmurs, soft and low.



Columbia Garden Club

President: Donna Puleo

1st VP: Darlene Rasberry

2nd VP: Linda Antal

Secretary: Diane Linneman

Treasurer: Mary Nesladek

Parliamentarian: Alice Havard

Columbia Garden Club meets the second Monday of each month at 1:00 at Trinity Presbyterian Church

Website:

<https://www.kewpie.net/colgrdnclub/cgc.html>

Facebook: Columbia Garden Club

Newsletter Editor-Evette Nissen-
enissen57@gmail.com