

# "Columbia Underground"

Member National Garden Club, Federated Garden Clubs of Missouri, and Central District

## Upcoming Events

January 14 - CGC Monthly meeting 1pm  
Trinity Presbyterian Church, Program  
"Landscaping for Water Conservation" by Tim  
Maloney, Instructor UMC Plant Science Dept.

January 27- Discovery G.C. presents Winter  
Garden, 1:30-3:30- at the Columbia Public  
Library. See below for details

February 16-Mid MO Expo-at Battle High  
School 9-3 Small Farm to backyard gardening  
workshops

May 17-19 Flower Show School- Course 1 at  
the Boone County Extension Center

May 28 to June 4 FGCM "Bloomin Bus Tour"  
to New York and the Hudson Valley- Always  
Fun- contact Carolyn Oates for further info

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### Columbia Garden Club January 14 Meeting

The January 14 CGC meeting starts at 1 pm. The program "Landscaping for Water Conservation" will be presented by Tim Maloney, UMC instructor with Plant Science Dept. Tim is a great presenter and always very informative.

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Rita has said "the 2019 CGC Yearbooks will be available at the January meeting."

### Featured Photo & Stories for 2019

This year I will be featuring stories on how garden plants got their names. My reference material will be from "Of Naked Ladies and Forget-Me-Nots" by Allan M. Armitage. It is a wonderful book. If you haven't read this book you should, it is a great read.



*"Bachelor Buttons"*  
*(Centaurea cyanus)*

The public mores of Victorian England dictated that young men and women not commingle freely. So that young women would know which young man was available young men would put a certain blue flower discreetly into the buttonhole of his jacket.

That flower became known as the bachelor button.

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### Gardening Calendar for January

#### Houseplants

- **Weeks 1-4:** To clean heavily encrusted clay pots, scrub them with a steel wool pad after they have soaked overnight in a solution consisting of one gallon water to which one cup of white vinegar has been added. After the deposits are removed rinse the pots in clear water. A brief soak in a solution of one gallon of water to which one cup household bleach has been added will help sanitize the pots.
- **Weeks 1-4:** Some plants are sensitive to the fluorine and chlorine in tap water. Water containers should stand overnight to allow these gases to dissipate before using on plants.
- **Weeks 1-4:** Wash the dust off of houseplant leaves on a regular basis. This allows the leaves to gather light more efficiently and will result in better growth.
- **Weeks 1-4:** Set the pots of humidity-loving houseplants on trays filled with pebbles and water. Pots should sit on the pebbles, not in the water.
- **Weeks 1-4:** Allow tap water to warm to room temperature before using on houseplants.
- **Weeks 1-4:** Fluffy, white mealy bugs on houseplants are easily killed by touching them with a cotton swab soaked in rubbing alcohol.
- **Weeks 1-4:** Insecticidal soap sprays can be safely applied to most houseplants for the control of many insect pests.
- **Weeks 1-2:** Quarantine new gift plants to be sure they do not harbor any insect pests.
- **Weeks 2-4:** Amaryllis aftercare: Remove spent flower after blooming. Set the plant in a bright sunny window to allow the leaves to fully develop. Keep the soil evenly moist, not soggy. Fertilize occasionally with a general purpose houseplant formulation.

#### Ornamentals

- **Weeks 1-4:** Gently brush off heavy snows from tree and shrub branches.
- **Weeks 1-4:** Limbs damaged by ice or snow should be pruned off promptly to prevent bark from tearing.

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### Winter Garden Forum

Discovery Garden Club will again sponsor a Winter Garden Forum at the Columbia Public Library on January 27, 2019 at 1:30 to 3:30. Presentations will be "Plants for Missouri Shade" by Victoria Hatfield, horticulturist and garden designer along with "Containers for 4 Seasons" by Tanner Jones, manager of Helmi's Garden Center.

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### Mid-Mo Expo

Mid-Mo Expo- Small Farm to Backyard Garden Symposium will be on February 16 at Battle H.S. Full day of educational workshops. Also vendors, food, demos, raffles, and silent auctions.

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### Flower Show School

Want to know more about exhibiting for a flower show? Maybe you want to learn about color theory, design elements, or design principles, these are the same for all art forms, not just floral design. Perhaps you want to study plants more in depth and learn how to show them. Well if this sounds interesting to you, join us for Flower Show School- Course 1 on May 17 & 18, 2019 here in Columbia. Contact Marie Pasley or Barb Schuette for more information.

- **Weeks 1-4:** Check stored summer bulbs such as dahlias, cannas and gladioli to be sure they are not rotting or drying out.
- **Weeks 1-4:** To reduce injury, allow ice to melt naturally from plants. Attempting to remove ice may damage plants further.
- **Weeks 1-4:** Use sand, bird seed, sawdust or vermiculite to gain traction on icy paths. Avoid salt or ice melters as these may injure plants.
- **Weeks 1-4:** Make an inventory of the plants in your home landscape. Note their location and past performance. Plan changes on paper now.
- **Weeks 2-4:** Sow pansy seeds indoors now.

- **Weeks 2-4:** Try sprouting a test sample of left over seeds before ordering new seeds for spring. (Roll up 10 seeds in a damp paper towel. Keep moist and warm. Check for germination in a week. If fewer than half sprout, order fresh seed.)
- **Week 4:** Swap seeds and plant information with your gardening friends.

*Gardening Calendar supplied by the staff of the William T. Kemper Center for Home Gardening located at the Missouri Botanical Garden in St. Louis, Missouri. ([www.GardeningHelp.org](http://www.GardeningHelp.org))*

## Miscellaneous

- **Weeks 1-4:** Avoid foot traffic on frozen lawns as this may injure turf grasses.
- **Weeks 1-4:** Make a resolution to keep records of your garden this year.
- **Weeks 1-4:** Store wood ashes in sealed, fireproof containers. Apply a dusting around lilacs, baby's breath, asters, lilies and roses in spring. Do not apply to acid-loving plants. Excess ashes may be composted.
- **Weeks 1-4:** Check all fruit trees for evidence of rodent injury to bark. Use baits or traps where necessary.
- **Weeks 1-4:** Cakes of suet hung in trees will attract insect-hunting woodpeckers to your garden.
- **Weeks 1-4:** Brightly colored paints applied to the handles of tools will make them easier to locate in the garden.
- **Weeks 1-2:** Seed and nursery catalogs arrive. While reviewing garden catalogs, look for plants with improved insect, disease and drought-tolerance.
- **Weeks 1-2:** Old Christmas trees can be recycled outdoors as a feeding station for birds. String garlands of peanuts, popcorn, cranberries, fruits and suet through their boughs.
- **Week 1:** Christmas tree boughs can be used to mulch garden perennials.
- **Week 1:** If you didn't get your bulbs planted before the ground froze, plant them immediately in individual peat pots and place the pots in flats. Set them outside where it is cold and bury the bulbs under thick blankets of leaves. Transplant them into the garden any time weather permits.

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## COLUMBIA GARDEN CLUB DECEMBER 10, 2018 MEETING MINUTES

The Columbia Garden Club met December 10<sup>th</sup> at Trinity Church for the annual Christmas dinner, gift exchange and meeting with 29 members and 1 guest, Kay Kitch.

Following the dinner President Carolyn Oates called the meeting to order.

Minutes of the previous meeting were read and approved.

The Treasurer's book has been sent for the annual audit.

Karen Blackmore was presented with an Award of Distinction by the National Garden Club.

The theme for our 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary will be "A Century of Beauty."

Karen Blackmore announced that she would be attending a Blue Star Memorial dedication on Dec 15<sup>th</sup> in Higginsville, Mo. To date there are 105 Blue Star Memorials in Missouri. The goal is to have a marker in every national cemetery and veteran's home in the state. Karen asked for club members who could go with her.

The January meeting will be on Jan 14<sup>th</sup> at the church with Tim Malone (?) a program on water conservation and native plants.

There being no other business to conduct the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted, by Secretary

Lynda Blades

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