

January 2026

Columbia Underground



COLUMBIA GARDEN CLUB

Columbia underground

President's Message

Happy New Year! For some, January signals a fresh start filled with resolutions to make this year better than the last. In the words of Ellen Goodman, "We spend January 1st walking through our lives, room by room, drawing up a list of work to be done, cracks to be patched. Maybe this year, to balance the list, we ought to walk through the rooms of our lives...not looking for flaws, but for potential."

In case you have not read our By-Laws, peek at Article II Objectives. The objectives of this club shall be to stimulate knowledge and love of gardening through sharing of ideas and education, to encourage and participate in civic beautification, to support horticultural institutions and to aid in the protection and conservation of our natural resources, forests, wildlife, and native plants. As CGC members, we have the potential to learn more and inspire more while serving our community.

At our September meeting, I handed out index cards and asked members to make a list of programs they would like to have and places they would like to go. CGC officers and committee chairs read each card so we could design this year's programming with your wish list while incorporating FGCM President Tanya Stanley's project of "Restoring and Reconstructing Biodiversity." My hope is you will enjoy this year's programming and learn something new or inspired to try something new in the coming year.

Our January program will feature professional photographer Elaine Bezold in creating terrariums. Now doesn't that sound intriguing on a winter's day? I am keeping fingers and toes crossed as the weather continues to be as pleasant as it has been. We will also have an update on club members' generosity to The Food Bank for Central & Northeast Missouri. Another example of the potential each of us is fortunate to have.

Cheers to another year of gardening bliss with you all!

December Minutes

CGC met on December 8, 2025, for their Holiday Tea and Officer Installation. Following the Tea, Donna Puleo called the meeting to order. 31 members and 1 guest (Pat Prejean, Julie Deering's mom) were present. Betty Connelly, Vanita Johnson, Maggie Sherburne and Linda Rexroth were all recognized as having birthdays in December. The November minutes were approved as distributed, and Mary Nesladek gave the treasures report with a balance of \$11,871.10 on 10-31-2025. Members were given the opportunity to give to the Food Bank for Central and Northeast Missouri. Mary will combine the donations and send a check from CGC. The 2026 Yearbooks were distributed.

Committee Reports:

Garden Tours: Pam Weagley, Nicole Kilgore, Maggie Sherburne, Jane Jacobs, and Diana Cooksey have all volunteered to have their gardens on tour.

Charitable Donations: Linda Antal offered to send a ballot to anyone who has not voted. She will follow up on the outcome of the ballots at our next meeting.

Cleanup Columbia Day: Carolyn Oates reported this is scheduled at Flat Branch Park on June 6, 2026, at 9a.m.

Food Bank: Marie Pasley reported we will be volunteering on December 23, 2026, from 11-1. In January we will continue to volunteer on the 4th Tuesday of the month, but our time will change to 12:30-2:30.

New Business:

Carolyn Oates presented Donna Puleo with the "Life Membership Award." Donna has done an amazing job as our CGC president for the past two years and will continue to be our president for the next two years!

Ann O'Dell suggested we have a contact list for members willing to share their gardening knowledge. A signup sheet was provided.

Carolyn Oates shared information on Zoom Environmental Schools and the 2026 "Bloomin Bus Tour". Pick up will be at the Drury Inn. Cost: \$2599.

Two members, Mary Nesladek and Carolyn Doyle volunteered to do yearbook evaluations on Saturday, February 7th in Jefferson City.

Installation of Officers: Officiated by Betty Connelly

Donna Puleo - President

Darlene Rasberry - 1st Vice President

Linda Antal – 2nd Vice President

Diane Linneman - Secretary

Mary Nesladek -Treasurer

Alice Havard -Parliamentarian

Respectfully submitted,

Diane



2026 Master Gardener Training

2026 Extension Master Gardener Training

Dates: Wednesdays, Jan 28 – April 18, 2025, from 6:00 to 9:00 PM

Location: 1012 N Highway UU, Columbia, MO 65203

[Registration](https://pears.io/events/mu/2104/) (<https://pears.io/events/mu/2104/>)



Date	Topic	Presenter
Wednesday, Jan 28	Orientation, Policies and Procedures	Debi Kelly, Field Specialist in Horticulture
Wednesday, Feb 4	Plants and Their Environment	Debi Kelly, Field Specialist in Horticulture
Wednesday, Feb 11	Introduction to Soils	Justin Keay, Field Specialist in Horticulture
Saturday, Feb 14 (weather date is Feb 21)	Tree Pruning	Debi Kelly, Field Specialist in Horticulture
Wednesday, Feb 18	Turf	Debi Kelly, Field Specialist in Horticulture
Wednesday, Feb 25	Insect Management	Dr. Emily Althoff, MU State Extension Urban Entomology Specialist
Wednesday, March 4	Disease Management	Dr. Peng Tian, Director of MU Plant Diagnostic Lab
Wednesday, March 11	Plant Propagation	Marie Pasley, Heart of Missouri Master Gardener
Wednesday, March 18	Vegetable Gardening	Dr. Juan Cabrera, MU State Horticulture Specialist
March 21 (weather date March 28)	All American Select Plug Planting	Cindy Willford and Jan Ivey, Heart of Missouri Master Gardeners, at Jefferson Farm and Garden
Wednesday, March 25	Fruits (Zoom only)	Katie Kammler, Field Specialist in Horticulture
Wednesday, April 1	Establishment and Care of Herbaceous Ornamentals	Debi Kelly, Field Specialist in Horticulture
Wednesday, April 8	Establishment and Care of Trees and Shrubs	Dr. Hank Stelzer, MU Extension State Forestry Specialist
Saturday, April 11 (weather date April 18)	Pesticide Safety	Sam Polly, Director of MU Pesticide Safety Education Program
Wednesday, April 15	Residential Landscape Graduation	Debi Kelly, Field Specialist in Horticulture

Questions, please contact: [Debi Kelly](mailto:kellyd@missouri.edu), MU Extension Field Specialist in Horticulture (kellyd@missouri.edu)
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Holiday Tea



Holiday Tea



2026 Perennial Plant of the Year

The Perennial Plant Association has selected *Andropogon gerardii* 'Blackhawks' as its 2026 plant of the year. It's commonly known as Blackhawk's big bluestem. Unlike some of the other big bluestems, this one is more compact in size, reaching just five feet tall and about two feet wide. Its green leaves emerge in spring and darken in summer into a reddish hue at the tips. By late summer, flower clusters appear, and in early fall, the entire plant transitions into a deep purple hue. Blackhawks offers refuge for birds and is a larval food source for several skipper butterfly species. It has no major pest or disease problems, and once established, it's quite drought tolerant. Hardy in USDA zones 3-9. Big bluestem grass, is a tall, Missouri native warm season grass that was the dominant grass of the tallgrass prairie which once covered large parts of the Midwest.



Gardening in January

There are many flower and vegetable seeds that should be started inside in January so they are ready when it is time to put them outside. Below is a list of some of them.

Flowers

Snapdragons
Begonias
Geranium
Dianthus
Lobelia
Sweet Peas
Petunias
Coleus
Impatiens
Pansies
Verbena

Vegetables and Herbs

Rosemary
Oregano
Thyme
Sage
Kale
Broccoli
Cauliflower
Cabbage
Onions
Bok Choy
Swiss Chard

January Meeting

Our January Meeting will be Monday, January 12th at 1:00 p.m. at Trinity Presbyterian Church. Elaine Bezold will be giving our program; "Creating Terrariums". Hospitality will be provided by Jane Jacobs and Linda Houston.

January Events

Thursday, January 15th—Grow Native! Master Class: Seeded Tree Islands for Beauty, Shade, and Native Diversity-Zoom Webinar-4:00

Saturday, January 17th—Native Plant Seed Stratification Workshop-CCUA-2:30

Wednesday, January 21st—Spring Garden Planning Workshop-Daniel Boone Regional Library-6:00

Sunday, February 1st—Winter Garden Forum-Daniel Boone Regional Library-1:30



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

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