

June 2026

Columbia Underground



COLUMBIA GARDEN CLUB

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President's Message

It is hard for me to believe that it is June already! The days will be warming up with plenty of sunshine. We have not had to water our gardens due to the abundance of rain so far. Graduation ceremonies and parties have ended. With school finished, summer camps start up and families are making plans for their vacations. And mowing never ends!! So much to look forward to this month beginning with our June program speaker.

Third grader Nora Kilgore will deliver a presentation on fairy gardens. If you went on the member garden tours in May, you would have had the chance to see a preview of Nora's handy work. The spider walking across the bridge was adorable as well as creative! I am looking forward to learning how to create my very own fairy garden and finding my inner child.

After Nora's presentation and refreshments, we will start preparing for the upcoming flower show on July 18th celebrating the 250th anniversary of America. There will be samples of a few of the design entries, (i.e., reflective, underwater, luminary) to get our juices flowing and our courage stimulated. We need to get design section and classes filled; education and botanical arts designs filled and do not forget horticulture. We all pitched in for the plant sale, so let us do the same thing for the flower show. We can do this. Remember what we are celebrating!

Cleanup Columbia is Saturday, June 6th. Please meet at Flat Branch Park at 9 am. June 23rd is our monthly volunteer opportunity at the Food Bank from 12:30 to 2:30 pm. Last month we chipped away and packaged frozen quinoa. It was a great bicep workout! This monthly civic project is a terrific way to get to know fellow club members while packaging food for seniors, veterans, and members of the community in need of food. We are looking for volunteers!

What is blooming in your garden now besides love and laughter?

Donna

May Minutes

Columbia Garden Club met on May 11, 2026 at 9 a.m. to start our member Garden Tours. We toured five wonderful, unique gardens.

A big thank you to Jane Jacobs, Maggie Sherburne, Nicole Kilgore, Pam Weagley and Diana Cooksey for sharing their gardens.

Following the garden tours we returned to the church for lunch and our business meeting. Donna Puleo called the meeting to order, 26 members and 5 visitors were present. Three visitors were with Mary Nesladek, Catherine Morgan, Mary Ann Thompson and Patty Freeman. Dione Parrish and her mother were guests of Carol Tummons. Aileen Boyd attended our plant sale and joined CGC.

Linda Houston gave the inspiration "Share Your Plants". Lynn Birkby, Charley Blackmore, Karen Blackmore, Diana Cooksey, Hugh Harrison and Linda O'Keefe were all recognized as having May birthdays. April minutes were approved as distributed. Mary Nesladek gave the treasurers report with a balance of \$12,572.52 as of 4-30-26. The profit from our plant sale was \$3266.79. Mary shared we received a thank you note from UMC for the charitable contribution from CGC. Donna will be looking into laying a wreath on the Blue Star Memorial at Stephens Lake Park.

Committee Reports:

Marie Pasley - Reported on the state convention. Celebrating 250 Years of American Backyards.

Awards CGC received:

Purple Ribbon, which is the highest ribbon available

100% yearbook award

Karen Blackmore applied for the Marlene Whiteman Garden Tour Award and CGC received \$75 for that award

Note: if we would take pictures and put in a form we would be eligible for more awards.

Donna Puleo - Reported we also received an award for the Flower Show: Kim Peterson Standard Flower Show Award to Centralia and Columbia garden clubs. \$50 award which we split with Centralia.

Next year Donna would like to get the garden club of the year award which is based on the president's report. Ideas as far as making this happen were discussed.

Cathy Fulkerson asked for sanctioning of the idea that she would work with students from Cedar Ridge Elementary next year in doing a children's garden. She works at Cedar Ridge and already has the principals permission, land and students. Just needs some plants and sanctioning.

Donna asked if members were working on growing mini pumpkins for the Meals On Wheels volunteer event. Plants can be started from seed or seedlings.

Karen Blackmore reported we had an entry in Art in Bloom. "We did not win anything but it was fun"!

Karen Blackmore asked if anyone was interested in ordering CGC t-shirts. She will also look into the availability of sweatshirts.

Horticulture tips for the Flower Show - Marie Pasley presented information on entry tags, presentation and guidelines of horticulture entries. Questions on other categories were asked and answered.

Meeting was adjourned by Donna Puleo.

Respectfully submitted,
Diane Linneman

Flower Show-July 18, 2026 Division II Design-"Land of the Free"

Class 4. *'The Rockets Red Glare'* A Reflective Design Featuring Red. A creative design containing reflective materials giving back images of light to the viewer. (mirrors not permitted) Reflective materials are an integral part of the overall design.



Class 5. *'Let Freedom Ring'* A Traditional Mass Design Featuring White. Consists of a large quantity of plant material in a closed silhouette. The silhouette is closed, so that no large spaces exist on the outer edges of the design. The geometric forms are still clear, so expect a Mass Design to have an outline in the shape of a sphere, oval, triangle, or other geometric form as well as rhythm to lead the eye.



Class 6. *'Sea to Shining Sea'* An Underwater Design. Some or all plant material and components submerged in/under water. Plant material and other components under water must contribute to the overall design and are selected for their lasting quality.



June Yard of the Month

Melinda and Jerry Lee have gardened at 1302 Woodhill since 2017 when they bought the house. Melinda provides the planning and design, and Jerry provides the substantial help she needs to make the planning a success. He claims to be the shifter and mover.

Melinda grew up as a farm girl near Brookfield. She remembers her grandparents' gardens, and her parents had a huge garden in which the whole family worked together. She still picks her parents' brains for advice about what and how to plant. She recalls that she loved her mother's peonies as a child because when they bloomed it meant, "Hey I'm out of school!" (When she grew up she became an elementary teacher.)

The front yard at 1302 Woodhill has a focus on color flow and an emphasis on plants which are pollinators, native to Missouri and are perennials. Melinda adds plants to enhance the visual beauty of the areas she gardens. She pays attention to the different soil needs of different plants and has found a good fertilizer that suits most of the garden areas. Last year she started to use rain barrels for watering.

In her back yard Melinda has built a fenced in area for a vegetable garden with a sign reading "Melinda's Garden—and into the garden I go to lose my mind and find my soul". Her next project planned for the back yard is an area for Missouri wildflowers.

Melinda's passion for gardening continues to evolve each year. It's her daily therapy and she absolutely loves it!



June Yard of the Month



Garden Tour—Pam Weagley



Garden Tour-Nicole Kilgore



Garden Tour—Jane Jacobs



Garden Tour—Maggie Sherburne

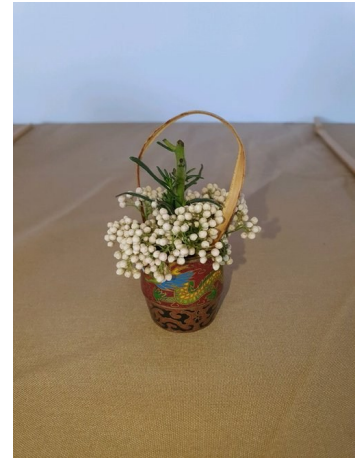


Garden Tour—Diana Cooksey



Flower Show-July 18, 2026 Division II Design-"Land of the Free"

Class 7. 'Yankee Doodle Dandy' Creative Design of Designer's Choice of Design Type. Space allotted: eight (8) inches in all directions. To be staged on 10" clear pedestal provided by committee. This design uses fresh and/or dried materials which may be of any design style, Creative or Traditional. Plant material must be small as scale and proportion are very important. A photograph of the mini design should appear to be a full size design.



Flower Show-July 18, 2026 Division IV Botanical Arts Design "Star Spangled Banner"

Class 1. 'Freedom Shall Stand'- Collage. An abstract design created on a background panel with a dominance of components attached in a non-realistic arrangement. Components include plant material and other found objects. No larger than 11"X14". Table easel provided.



Class 2. 'O'er the Land of the Free' - Pot-et-Fleur. Design with an emphasis on a combination of two or more flowering and/or foliage plants with roots growing in soil or other medium. Fresh cut flowers must be included. Container not to exceed 12" in diameter. All components are to be artistically arranged together as a design, and are to be judged by the Design Scale of Points. They are not to be organized as a landscape or a combination planting (dish garden, planter, or terrarium). It must look like a floral design.



Class 3. 'Home of the Brave'- Wreath. No larger than 12"X12".



June Meeting

We will meet on Monday, June 8th at 1:00 at Trinity Presbyterian Church. Nora Kilgore-a third grader who loves to be outside and dig in the dirt-will be giving the program "Designing your own Fairy Garden". Hospitality will be provided by Alice Havard and Marie Pasley.

Upcoming Events

June 6- 9:00 Clean up Columbia-Flat Branch Park

June 6-8:00 Daylily Sale-Hallsville Farmer's Market

June 13-9:00 Butterfly Festival-Jefferson Farms

June 20-1:00 Daylily Show-Columbia Public Library

June 23- 12:30-Food Bank Volunteering

JUNE

By Lottie Brown Allen

*Oh what is more sweet than the month of June
When our senses thrill and our hearts keep tune
To the song of the birds and the rose in bloom?
Oh what is more joy than the early gray
Of the dewy morn and the sun's first ray
That herald the dawn of a perfect day?
Oh what is more fair as the sun climbs high
Than the azure hue of the summer sky
And the snow-white clouds drifting idly by?
Oh what is more pure than the summer air
That wafts from the woodlands and gardens fair
A fragrance and perfume so rich and rare?
Oh what is more dear than the twilight hour
When the daylight fades and each nodding flower
Is kissed by the moonbeams' mystic power?
O, Summer Queen! you are gone too soon
With your sunny days and your shining moon,
With your golden grain and your wealth of bloom.
And if we could hold in some magic way
To your trailing robes for a single day,
Dear month of June, we would bid you stay.'*

NEW MEMBER

Aileen Boyd
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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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