



President's Message

According to the meteorologists, March 1st is considered meteorological spring. I will agree with that, and the past few days felt like the early days of spring. I hope most, if not all of you, have had a chance to at least step outside and breathe in some fresh air. Daffodils are popping out of the ground and a few crocuses are in bloom. Even my Vernal Witch Hazel put on a show for me during the last stretch of February's cold temperatures. Each season brings a little special something to our environment. Speaking of special, several CGC members are headed off to the Philadelphia Flower Show March 4th as part of the Bloomin' Bus Tour. I am confident we will have stories and photos to share at our April meeting.

There is a change for our club meeting in March so please disregard what is printed in the membership directory. Our very own Marie Pasley will deliver a presentation on plant propagation this month since we will be potting succulents in April the day before the Central District Spring Meeting. On Wednesday, April 9th, we will be potting succulents at the Community United Methodist Church in the morning followed by set up for the meeting in the afternoon. Details will be confirmed at our March meeting but on April 9th, I will ask for "all hands on deck!"

Each of you should have received an invitation to the Central District Spring Meeting. Please remember to register and bring your \$20 payment to the March club meeting so Mary, our treasurer, can send a single check for the Columbia Garden Club.

We all survived our first real winter in a few years. But March winds and warmer temperatures usher in a whisper of hope for brighter days ahead. Buds will appear on bare tree limbs; bird songs will be louder, and color will pop on the landscape. Soon it will be time to dig in the dirt again!

Donna



February Minutes

The Columbia Garden Club met on Monday, February 10, 2025. Tim Moloney, our guest speaker was introduced by Donna Puleo. Tim is an instructor at the University of Missouri Columbia, Division of Plant Science and Technology within the College of Agriculture, Food and Natural Resources. Tim's main focus is on landscaping and design. He presented a very interesting and informative program "365 Days of Amazing! Gardening Through the Seasons".

Following the program refreshments were enjoyed and Donna Puleo called the meeting to order. 31 members, three new members (Linda Rexroth, Linda Houston and Marsha Magnino) and 1 guest (Nancy Kassabaum) were present. Lana Baker, Cindy Deegan, Julie Deering and Linda Houston were recognized as having February birthdays. The January minutes were approved as distributed. Mary Nesladek gave the treasures report with a balance of \$12,591.46 as of 1-31-25. A copy of the inspiration was given to each attendee. Karen Blackmore gave out CGC t-shirts to members who had purchased one.

Committee Reports

Plant Sale - Betty Connelly requested that anyone who has extra flower pots available to please bring them to our next meeting. She also reported we will not be having a bake sale this year. Everyone was reminded CGC members can purchase plants on Friday before the sale.

Flower Show – Betty Connelly noted the Flower Show is on September 20, 2025. Think about what you will have available to show in September. Plan on a single specimen per container. The container should not be bigger than 12 inches.

Yearbook Evaluation – Betty Connelly announced evaluations for the district were done this past Saturday and will now be sent to state.

Clean Up Columbia – Carolyn Oates announced this will take place on 5-17-2025, location to be announced. The city provides everything we will need but you might want to bring your own gloves.

June Garden Tour - Karen Blackmore reported our Garden Tours are June 9th, 2025. We will be viewing 5 gardens.

Charitable Giving – Linda Antal reported for Patty O'Neal that the letter is written and ready to send with the checks to recipients. Recipients are being asked to report back in October to let us know how the money was spent. The four organizations are being contacted about where and how to send the checks.

Food Bank – Marie Pasley noted we are continuing to volunteer at the Food Bank on the 4th Tuesday of each month from 11-1.

*Donna Puleo reminded everyone to check their email since they should have an email from Evette about the Stephens Lake Park Arboretum, Winter Lecture Series 2025.

*We will not be planting succulents at our March meeting. Marie Pasley will give a presentation on plant propagation.

*Spring District Meeting – Thursday, April 10, 2025.

Set up begins Wednesday, April 9th at 10a.m. succulents will be potted at that time. Marie has a sign up sheet and will need at least 10 people to help. The rest of the set up will start at 1p.m. and everyone should plan to help. An email will be sent out with all the details.

Respectfully submitted,

Diane Linneman



New Annuals for 2025

Emerald Isle Alocasia

3-4' height; 3' spread

Sun or shade

At maturity, each leaf can easily measure 12 inches wide and 18 inches long.



Space Age Europa Begonia

15-18" height; 15-18" spread

Part shade to shade

Large leaves are flooded with silver, rimmed in black, and splashed with lavender.



Color Blaze Mini-Me Chartreuse

12-20" height; 10-18" spread

Sun or shade

A small but mighty coleus. It forms a densely branched clump of feathery textured leaves.



Supertunia Tiara Blue Petunia

4-12" height; 18-24" spread

Part sun to sun

Violet blue flowers which emanate a white luminescent glow from the center.



Monarch Magic Floss Flower

6 to 12 in. tall, 8 to 16 in. wide

Full sun to part shade

Grow it near the front of the border, in a hanging basket or container.

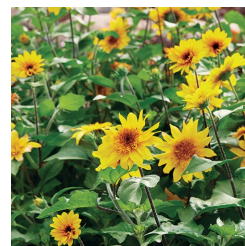


Sunfinity Double Yellow Annual Sunflower

32 to 40 in. tall, 24 to 30 in. wide

Full Sun

Lots of double yellow blooms early summer to fall



Minifamous Uno Funtopia Blue Calibrachoa

8 to 10 in. tall, 10 to 12 in. wide

Full Sun

Double flowers in lavender-blue and white. Each plant has a variety of patterns.

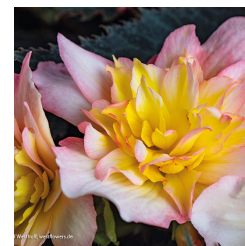


Beaugonia Saffron Glow Begonia

12 to 15 in. tall, 15 to 18 in. wide

Full sun to part shade

More heat- and drought-tolerant than traditional tuberous begonias.



Environment and Conservation Column by Melissa Kouba

Save energy/costs:

And protect the environment at home. Consider trying an induction cook top. Traditional cooktops use a flame or a burner that radiates and conducts heat to your pots and pans. Induction cooking uses an electromagnetic field that transfers currents directly to the cookware placed on the glass surface. The heat is created from within the cookware itself; as soon as you remove it from a burner, the heating stops. This way, you can cook your food without the cooktop getting as hot as it would on a traditional gas or electric cooktop. Any pots or pans with a flat bottom that a magnet sticks to will work with an induction cooktop.

Induction only creates heat through pots and pans on their surfaces. They are up to three times more efficient than gas stoves, and up to 10% more efficient than conventional smooth top electric ranges. This improved efficiency performance results in lower energy costs as well as lower rates of air pollution associated with energy generation. Cooking is free of the indoor air pollutants that come from gas stoves: burning gas for cooking produces nitrous oxides (NOX), carbon monoxide (CO), and formaldehyde (HCHO), which can have negative health effects and exacerbate respiratory conditions.

Additional features:

1. When pots and pans are removed from the cooktop, their surfaces are not as hot as they would have been on a gas or electric burner. An induction cooktop heats up your cookware – and your food – more efficiently, because it heats your cookware directly.
2. Induction cooktops can boil water 20-40% faster than gas and electric cooktops.
3. The electromagnetic field also provides more precise, even heating compared to traditional cooktops.
4. Cool down and cleaning time is also quick and easy; the glass top is only as warm as it gets when you place a hot object on top of it, and the smooth flat surface means you don't have to reach into crevices and under burners to wipe up spills.

If you are a renter or want to try the induction cooking experience before swapping out your entire cooktop, consider a single-burner induction appliance. I purchased one at IKEA for \$60.

Is Artificial Intelligence (AI) energy greedy?

(I heard a segment on National Public Radio which discussed this topic)

The energy required to run an artificial intelligence program can vary greatly depending on the complexity of the AI model, the amount of data it processes, and the specific task it performs, but generally, training and running large AI models like ChatGPT can consume a significant amount of electricity, equivalent to the power used by hundreds of homes in a year, with a single query potentially using several times the energy of a standard web search.

Key points about AI energy consumption:

High computational power: AI models, especially large language models, require massive amounts of computing power to process large datasets, leading to

Environment and Conservation Column (cont.)

high energy consumption. (A "large language model" (LLM) is a type of artificial intelligence that has been trained on a massive dataset of text, allowing it to understand, generate, and manipulate human language by performing tasks like answering questions, summarizing text, translating languages, and creating different kinds of creative content, all with a high level of fluency and context awareness; essentially, it's a powerful AI system that can process and respond to complex language prompts in a human-like manner.)

Training phase is energy intensive:

The process of training an AI model, where it learns from data, is particularly energy-demanding compared to its operational phase.

Data center impact:

Most AI is run on data centers, which are already major energy consumers, and the increasing use of AI is projected to significantly increase data center power demands. Data centers are projected to consume 9% of total U.S. electricity demand by 2030. Greenhouse gas emissions at Google have already increased more than 20% in the past 2 years.

In fall 2024, a power-hungry META/Google data center located in Omaha threatened to overwhelm the local power company that was converting to a clean energy system and had planned to close its coal powered plant. The plant's continued use of coal has raised health and environmental justice concerns. The North Omaha area has a high incidence of asthma and has experienced severe air pollution. The community here has some of the region's worst air pollution and high rates of asthma. "The coal plant is still open because they need all this energy to grow." Coal is now planned to burn in North Omaha through 2026, according to the utility. Some are skeptical it will stop then.

Oct 12, 2024 (from The Washington Post)

New Members and Updates

Linda Houston; 1405 Jake Ln.; Columbia, MO 65203;
Unity_4_every1@yahoo.com; cell-573-489-8309

Linda Rexroth; 5110 N. Route E; Columbia, MO 65202; Clairw@centurytel.net;
Cell—573-823-9589; Home—573-443-4003

Marsha Magnino; 703 Kingsbury Pl.; Columbia, MO 65203;
mmagnino@comcast.net; Cell—847-567-2909

Jolie Russell—Address Correction—**16681** N Highway 124

March Meeting

The next meeting of Columbia Garden Club will be Monday, March 10th at 1:00 at Trinity Presbyterian Church. Marie Pasley will be giving the program which will be about plant propagation. Our hospitality hosts will be Wendy Seaberg and Vanita Johnson. If you will not be able to attend the meeting, but are planning to go to the Central District Meeting, you will need to send your registration check to Mary Nesladek; 1365 S. Mesa Dr.; Columbia, MO 65201. Checks should be made to Columbia Garden Club and the amount is \$20. Mary needs the check by March 15th.

Upcoming Events

March 26-4:00-Grow Native! Webinar: Native Cool-Season Grasses & Sedges for Landscaping, Forage, and Wildlife Benefits

March 29-10:00-2:00-Jefferson City Native Plant Sale – Binder Park Sports Complex

March

By John Updike

The sun is nervous
As a kite
That can't quite keep
Its own string tight.

Some days are fair,
And some are raw.
The timid earth
Decides to thaw.

Shy budlets peep
From twigs on trees,
And robins join
The chickadees.

Pale crocuses
Poke through the ground
Like roses come
To sniff around.

The mud smells happy
On our shoes.
We still wear mittens,
Which we lose.



Columbia Garden Club

President: Donna Puleo

1st VP: Diana Cooksey

2nd VP: Linda Antal

Secretary: Diane Linneman

Treasurer: Mary Nesladek

Parliamentarian: Carolyn Doyle

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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