

# “Columbia Underground”

## Upcoming Events

### December 12 CGC Noon Christmas Tea

Members are to bring a favorite food to share with the group. We will again have a \$5 gift exchange. Wrap the gift for the wrapped gift contest; most attractive wrapped gift, most creative wrapped, most colorfully wrapped. Remember to bring non-perishable food items for the Food Pantry. Hope everyone is enjoying this Holiday Season.

### December 8- Flower arranging at the Bluffs at 2 pm

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### 2017 CGC Committee Sign-up

It's not too late to sign up for committees. All members please sign up for one or more of the following committees-

- Garden Therapy at the Bluffs-** Barb Rothenberger, chair
- Boone County Historical Society Pocket Garden-** Alice Havard, chair
- Women & Children’s Hospital Storybook Garden-** Marie Pasley, chair
- Clean Up Columbia Day –** Janet Lasley, chair
- Art in Bloom –** Karen Blackmore, chair
- Member Garden Tour –** Carolyn Adams, chair
- Plant Sale –** Karen Brook, Betty Connelly, chairs
- Welcome Home Veterans Landscape-** Marie Pasley , chair
- Hospitality:** January, February, March, April, May, (June everyone), (September everyone), October, November, (December everyone). – Alice Havard, chair



*“Flower of the Month for December is Poinsettias”*

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### Flower Arranging at the Bluffs

Barb Rothenberger is planning to do a Christmas project at the Bluffs on December 8 at 2pm. She needs Christmas mugs if you have extras, please contact her.

She needs a lot of assistance with making arrangements in the mugs for the patients, so please come and help.

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### Patriot Home Landscape

US Bank employees turned over the planting area on November 19 and applied compost. We will be meeting with interested CGC members this winter to draw up a landscape plan. Please contact Connie Blackmore or Marie Pasley if you have an interest in working on this.



## Protect Plants from the Elements of Winter

Preparing the garden for winter marks the end of the growing season. There are several tasks that must be performed to protect plants from the harshness of winter weather.

Start with cleaning up the garden. Remove spent flowers and vegetables, and if not diseased or insect infested, add them to the compost pile. Cut back faded or dead foliage on perennials after the first hard frost; unless, they add color to the garden in the dreary winter months or provide seed for the birds. Leave dead foliage on chrysanthemums.

Research has proven chrysanthemums not cut back over-winter better than those whose foliage has been removed.

Apply a 2-4 inch layer of mulch around perennial plants, shrubs and bulb beds to protect them from the elements of winter. Sources of organic mulch include shredded leaves, pine needles, wood chips, or gravel. Do not use unshredded leaves which may mat down and suffocate plants. Bulb beds can be covered with evergreen boughs.

Modern, bush-type roses (hybrid teas, floribundas, and grandifloras) require protection during the winter months. Exposure to low temperatures and rapid temperature changes can severely injure and often kill unprotected roses. Hilling or mounding soil around the base of each plant is a way to protect bush-type roses. Mound soil 10 to 12 inches high around the base of the canes. Place additional material such as straw or leaves, over the mound of

soil. A small amount of soil placed over the straw or leaves should hold these materials in place. Prepare modern roses for winter after plants have hardened from several nights of temperatures in the low to mid-twenties. Most of the time 'Knockout' roses typically do not need this kind of protection, but some 'Knockout' roses have been winter killed. 'Knockouts' which have experienced winter damage in the past should be protected.

Strawberry plants are susceptible to winter injury. Temperatures below 20°F may damage the roots and crowns of unprotected plants. Repeated freezing and thawing of the soil through the winter months can heave unprotected plants out of the soil and cause considerable damage. Apply 4-5 inches of straw mulch in late November or early December to strawberry beds. Allow strawberry plants to harden or acclimate to the cool fall temperatures before mulching the bed.

Southwest Injury is a very common winter injury to young trees in northern Missouri. Prevent Southwest Injury to young trees by wrapping newly planted, smooth barked trees, especially sensitive varieties like maples, crabapples and fruit trees with a light colored tree wrap. Late November or early December is the ideal time to wrap trees. Oak trees and other native hardwood trees typically do not need to be wrapped. Tree wrap can be purchased from a garden center or farm supply store. When wrapping trees, start at the bottom of the trunk and wrap up, overlapping the wrap. Wrap up to the first branch and then tape it off.

Protect young trees from hungry rabbits which often gnaw on the bark of many woody plants. The best way to prevent rabbit damage to young trees is to place a cylinder of hardware cloth ( $\frac{1}{4}$  inch mesh wire fencing) around the tree trunk. The hardware cloth cylinder should stand about 1 to 2 inches from the tree trunk and 20 inches above the ground. The bottom 2 to 3 inches should be buried beneath the soil. Small shrubs, roses, and raspberries can be protected with chicken wire fencing.

For more information, contact your local University of Missouri Extension Center @ 573-445-9792

Source: Jennifer Schutter, Horticulture Specialist

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### Garden Club Manual

FGCM has reviewed and revised the Garden Club Manual. Just about everything you want to know about garden club is in this book, Karen Blackmore has several for CGC members, so contact Karen for your copy. The new inserts are \$3.00.

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### Decorating the Chancellor's Home

CGC members spent a fun couple of days, November 28 & 29 decorating trees for the Chancellor's home for the Symphony Society's Holiday Home Tour on December 2,3,4.

### Grow CGC Membership

"Like a plant you're either growing or dying". Let's choose growth for CGC. Invite a friend to join us. Garden club gives us the opportunity to make lifelong friends while sharing knowledge and conserving the beauty of our community.



Wishing  
Everyone a Very  
Merry  
Christmas

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Columbia Garden Club Meeting Minutes  
November 7, 2016

The Columbia Garden Club met at 12:30 PM at HyVee Grocery Store meeting room on Nifong.

**The program was** conducted by Kent Shannon, Natural Resource Engineering Specialist and CPD with Boone County Extension. He gave a Power Point presentation detailing many of the gardening apps available to download on a cell phone or tablet. The presentation was helpful for members to have an easy way to access gardening information.

**The meeting was called to order** by Marsha Taylor at 1:30. 24 members attended and our new member Ann Ricketts.

Lynda Blades read the inspiration.

**Gardening Tip:** Birds begin gathering at feeders.

**Hospitality** Thanks to Lynda Blades, Leslie Rosenkrans, Donna Russell.

**October Minutes** were approved as written.

**Treasurer's report** will be filed for audit.

**Old Business:**

**Committee Sheets** are available for members to sign up for next year projects.

Alice Havard reported the **Symphony Home Tour** will be held on December 2, 3, and 4<sup>th</sup>. Sign up to help decorate the chancellor's home. Alice will send e-mail to verify dates to decorate.

Marie Pasley reported the **landscape for Patriot House** will be completed in the Spring. US Bank has a group of volunteers to help turn the ground this fall. We plan to have compost applied after that. Marie and Connie Blackmore met at the Patriot House and measured and marked the space for the landscape area. The residents seem excited about this project.

Barb Rothenberger took pumpkins to **the Bluffs** to decorate for October. The next project in December will be decorated Christmas Mugs. An email will be sent prior to the date.

**New Business:**

Leigh Speichinger reported on the expense allowance for next year projects. After a discussion for Urban Agriculture expenses, Karen Blackmore moved we donate \$200 for Urban Ag and \$200 to be used for Patriot House landscape. Carolyn Doyle 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion, the motion was discussed and Karen Blackmore amended motion that **we will donate \$200 to Urban Ag and up to \$400 for Patriot House landscape expenses.**

**Announcements:** -Karen Blackmore has Garden Club Manual s for sale for \$3.00 each.

-Karen also needs committee chairs for the state, let her know if you are interested.

-Carol VanVranken will not be a member this year due to health issues. We will miss her presence and knowledge at our meetings.

-A Parliamentarian is needed if anyone is interested.

-Rita Gerke requested photos for the yearbook in 2017 and also any information for the yearbook for next year.

-Christmas Luncheon is December 12, 2016 at noon. Members are asked to bring a decorated gift a limit of \$5.00, and also a side dish for the meal. Food is needed for the food bank. Connie Blackmore, Secretary

