

BITTERSWEET GARDEN CLUB

Jefferson City, Missouri
2026



*Growing Flowers and
Friendships Since 1973*

Federated Garden Clubs of Missouri
WWW.BITTERSWEETGARDENCLUB.COM

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Yearbook Information.....Page

Club Summary, Bittersweet History	1
Bittersweet Garden Club Officers.....	2
Bittersweet Garden Club Past Presidents	2
Club Objectives, Pledge, Fundraising, Initiatives	3
Meeting Order of Business.....	3
National Garden Clubs, Inc.....	4
Federated Garden Clubs of Missouri, Inc.....	4
FGCM Central District Officers	4
National & State Life Memberships	4
Bonnie Bowles Memorial	5
Calendar of Meetings, Programs, and Activities	6-17
Calendar of Events—National Garden Club, Federated Garden Clubs of Missouri, and Central District	18-19
Bittersweet Activity Photos.....	20-21
Bittersweet Garden Club Bylaws.....	22-23
Bittersweet Garden Club Standing Rules	24-27
Bittersweet Garden Club Projects and Committees	28-30
2025 Bittersweet Garden Tour.....	31
Perennial of the Year.....	32
Past Perennials of the Year	33
Membership Directory	34-43
Bittersweet Activity Photos.....	44
Members' Birthdays.....	45
Members Phone Index by First Name.....	46-47

BITTERSWEET GARDEN CLUB

FEDERATED GARDEN CLUBS OF MISSOURI
JEFFERSON CITY
2026

Affiliated Organizations

- ◆ National Garden Clubs, Inc. · Central Region
- ◆ Federated Garden Clubs of Missouri, Inc. · Central District
- ◆ Missouri Prairie Foundation
- ◆ Missouri Botanical Garden



History

- ◆ Organized: June 1973
- ◆ Federated: August 1973
- ◆ Club Flower: Bittersweet

Current Membership

- ◆ Active Members90
- ◆ Emeritus Members....10

Meeting Schedule

- ◆ Meets Monthly
- ◆ Third Thursday
- ◆ 6:00 p.m. Social
- ◆ 6:30 p.m. Program followed by Business Meeting
(unless otherwise noted)

History of Bittersweet

American bittersweet (*Celastrus scandens* L.) is a twining, woody vine that scrambles over low vegetation or trails along the ground. It can climb 20 feet. This strong, hearty, and enduring plant is exactly the type of foundation needed for our club.

The dark green leaves of the **Bittersweet** are oval, finely toothed, smooth and two to four inches long. Clusters of small yellowish-green flowers bloom in May or June and can often be spotted along banks of streams or in moist thickets.

Fruit of the **Bittersweet** is a dull orange, ball-shaped capsule that splits open in September, exposing the bright scarlet, fleshy-coated seeds. The fruit is eaten by several species of birds and other wildlife.

Bittersweet depicts our club: A strong organization dedicated to the conservation of our streams and the protection of our wildlife.

Club Objectives

The objectives of this club shall be: to study the basic art of gardening; to promote interest in and knowledge of horticulture, gardening, and civic beautification; to encourage conservation of our natural resources; and to cooperate with other clubs and agencies, which have interest in horticulture and conservation.

Conservation Pledge

I pledge to protect and conserve the natural resources of the planet Earth and promise to promote education so we may become caretakers of our air, water, forests, land, and wildlife.

"To cherish what remains of the earth and to foster its renewal is our only legitimate hope of survival." — Wendell Berry

Fundraising

Proceeds from our annual fundraiser support our community initiatives, along with the club's diverse projects and operations.

Community Initiatives

- **SCHOLARSHIPS:** Supporting high school students pursuing majors in horticulture, agriculture, environmental science, ecology, natural resources, or related fields.
- **GARDEN THERAPY WORKSHOPS:** Promoting physical and mental well-being among seniors in our senior living communities while fostering a sense of community and purpose.
- **K-12 TEACHER GRANTS:** Providing funding and resources for innovative teaching methods in horticulture, agriculture, environmental science, ecology, and natural resources.
- **CIVIC BEAUTIFICATION:** Enhancing our community, with a focus on the Jefferson City Parks system, including maintenance of the Memorial Park entrance garden and annual tree planting initiatives.

MEETING ORDER OF BUSINESS

- | | |
|--|----------------------------------|
| A. Call to Order | G. Reports of Special Committees |
| B. Program | H. Unfinished Business |
| C. Approval of Minutes | I. New Business |
| D. Financial Statement | J. Announcements |
| E. Correspondence | K. Adjournment |
| F. Reports of Officers, Board, and Standing Committees | |

IN MEMORY OF BONNIE BOWLES



Bonnie joined Bittersweet in 2024 and was enthusiastic about becoming fully involved in club activities. She attended her first event shortly after returning from a hiking trip to Colorado with her family. At 81, Bonnie maintained an active lifestyle, exercising with Silver Sneakers, walking two miles daily, and enjoying hiking adventures out west.

Tragically, soon after joining, Bonnie's health took an unexpected turn. True to her character, she faced this challenge with determination and a wonderful attitude.

Despite her fighting spirit, her condition worsened, and she was unable to return to the active life she cherished.

As a community leader with a warm personality and zest for life, Bonnie would have been a valued member of our club. Though her time with us was brief, she left a lasting impression.

BITTERSWEET GARDEN CLUB HONORED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF JEFFERSON CITY



Bittersweet Garden Club was presented with a Certificate of Appreciation by the City of Jefferson City Council for our service to the community through beautification, education, and outreach. This recognition stands as a testament to the dedication of our members and the meaningful impact we've been able to make together.

Our mission has always been rooted in service: beautifying civic spaces, nurturing minds and spirits through therapeutic garden workshops, supporting aspiring students with scholarships, and empowering educators with grants that help them bring the wonder of gardening into their classrooms.

JANUARY

JANUARY 15 (Thursday) *MONTHLY MEETING*

Social 6:00 p.m. • Program 6:30 p.m.

Location: Center for Soy Innovation • 734 S Country Club Dr, JC

Host: Jeaninne Brickey

Co-Hosts: Barbara Brennaman, Heather Brown, April Burger, Anita Feldman, Shirley Gassen, Ginni Griffen, Brenda Hancock, Alice Hansen, Chris Krautmann, Stacy Landwehr, Ann Lane, Sharon Lowder, Marcia Reed, Rosella Reinkemeyer, Kristi Rhoads, Jenelle Schwieterman, Amanda Simpson, Ronda Thompson, Grace Tipton, Sue Tipton, Jennifer Urich

Program: "Cutting Flower Garden is in Your Future"

Presenter: Megan Rudroff

Megan Rudroff is a USDA Soil Conservationist and owner of Rudy Lane Flower Farm, where she specializes in peonies, dahlias, and various annuals. She'll guide us through growing a cutting garden—from bed preparation and plant selection to care, harvest, and arranging blooms. Perfect timing for spring planting dreams!

Installation of Officers: Karen Blackmore, Former State President FGCM

JANUARY 18 (Sunday)

Game Day

Join your Bittersweet Buddies for the annual Game Day at Bones in Jefferson City from 12:00 to 3:00 PM. Gather in the banquet room for an afternoon of fun games, great food, and warm fellowship. It's a perfect opportunity to sharpen your mind, lift your spirits, and enjoy camaraderie with friends!

OFFICER INSTALLATION—JANUARY 2025



FEBRUARY

FEBRUARY 12 (Thursday)

Lunch and Cocktails at Canterbury Hills Winery

Join us for a delightful afternoon at Canterbury Hills Winery in Holts Summit. This is a wonderful opportunity to relax, connect with fellow garden enthusiasts, and toast to the season ahead. Come ready for good food, refreshing cocktails, and great conversation among friends! This is a self-pay activity.

FEBRUARY 19 (Thursday) *MONTHLY MEETING*

Social 6:00 p.m. • Program 6:30 p.m.

Location: Center for Soy Innovation • 734 S Country Club Dr, JC

Host: Pat Roberts

Co-Hosts: Debbie Boyce, Barbara Brennaman, Jeannine Brickey, Heather Brown, April Burger, Jean Campbell, Marilyn Curtit, Jeanette de la Torre, Shirley Gassen, Ginni Griffen, Alice Hansen, Merrilee Holzhauser, Jacki Johnson, Kristi Rhoads, Judy Schepers, Judy Schneider, Jenelle Schwieterman, Evie Starr, Jennifer Urich, Susan Vaughn, Donna Weiss

Program: *"Amazing Flowers of Canada and Alaska"*

Presenter: *Ronda Thompson*

Ronda, a ten-year Bittersweet Garden Club member and retired educator, combines her passion for travel with her lifelong love of flowers by visiting botanical gardens and parks. She'll share vibrant blooms discovered and photographed during her 5,000+ mile journey through Canada and Alaska.

GALENTINE'S DAY—FEBRUARY 13, 2025



MARCH

MARCH 18 (Wednesday)

Heart of Missouri Tour: Disney Dreams & Fragrance Creations

Join us for a delightful day exploring the Heart of Missouri! Discover Walt Disney's boyhood inspiration in Marceline, savor a homemade Amish lunch in Jamesport. Tour the Farm House Collection, and unleash your creativity if you choose to blend your own custom fragrance and make the product of your choice. Wrap up the day with a delicious meal at the famous Pear Tree Kitchen & Bar. It's a perfect mix of nostalgia, small-town charm, and hands-on fun you won't want to miss!

MARCH 19 (Thursday) *MONTHLY MEETING*

Social 6:00 p.m. · Program 6:30 p.m.

Location: Center for Soy Innovation · 734 S Country Club Dr, JC

Host: Kris Leech

Co-Hosts: Mari-Anne Antweiler, Barbara Brennaman, Jeannine Brickey, Heather Brown, April Burger, Jean Campbell, Jeanette de la Torre, Linda Ennis, Anita Feldman, Shirley Gassen, Ginni Griffen, Ann Lane, Kristi Rhoads, Jatha Sadowski, Linda Samson, Niki Schulte, Jenelle Schwieterman, Ronda Thompson, Donna Weiss, Cris West, Marcia Willing

Program: “Cultivating the Solution to Plastic Pollution”

Presenter: Dana Ripper

Dana holds an MS in Ecology from Arkansas State University. As a wildlife ecologist, she focuses on conservation through ecosystem health, with a major emphasis on the systematic reduction of single-use plastics and their environmental impact.

OKLAHOMA & TEXAS TRIP—MARCH 2025



APRIL

APRIL 8-10 (Wednesday-Friday)

Hot Springs, Arkansas: Where History Meets Indulgence

Enjoy a two-night getaway at the historic Arlington Hotel in Hot Springs, Arkansas—once a favorite escape for celebrities, baseball legends, and notorious gangsters. Relax with a spa or thermal bath, take in the horse races or boutique shopping, and explore the Gangster Museum and stunning Garvan Gardens. It's a hot time in Hot Springs, where history and indulgence come together.

APRIL 16 (Thursday) *MONTHLY MEETING*

Social 6:00 p.m. • Program 6:30 p.m.

Location: Center for Soy Innovation • 734 S Country Club Dr, JC

Host: Marge Talken

Co-Hosts: Carol Bowdoin, Debbie Boyce, Marla Clark, Jeanette de la Torre, Sherry Fitzpatrick, Merrilee Holtzhauser, Brenda Hancock, Alice Hansen, Jacki Johnson, Nancy Kaiser, Chris Krautmann, Sharon Lowder, Nelly McKay, Linda Samson, Judy Schepers, Judy Schneider, Sheila Scott, Amanda Simpson, Evie Starr, Jennifer Urich, Claire West

Program: “Botanical Silhouettes: Sculpting Evergreens and Wire Frames into Living Art”

Presenter: Stacy Landwehr

Stacy, a longtime Bittersweet member and Jefferson City Parks Supervisor for Landscape and Beautification, will guide us through the art of living sculpture using evergreen topiary and wire-framed design. Learn how pruning and structure transform garden favorites into botanical showpieces—from timeless shapes to imaginative forms.

PRODUCE AUCTION—APRIL 2025



MAY

MAY 15 (Friday)

St. Louis Day Trip

Embrace spring with a walk through "Little Italy" and the oldest botanical institution in the U.S.—our beautiful Missouri Botanical Garden. Our day begins with a 3-hour Food and History Tour of The Hill in St. Louis, exploring this unique Italian immigrant community. We'll stop at five establishments to enjoy traditional Italian cuisine, visit market and bakery shops, rest by the fountain in the Piazza, and savor your favorite gelato. Then, a short bus ride takes us to discover spring blossoms in the Garden, where you can explore your favorite spots, shop, and enjoy a light meal at the café before heading home.

MAY 21 (Thursday) *MONTHLY MEETING*

Social 6:00 p.m. • Program 6:30 p.m.

Location: Center for Soy Innovation • 734 S Country Club Dr, JC

Host: Judy Schneider

Co-Hosts: Patty Bax, Linda Block, Karen Enloe, Merrilee Holzhauser, Brenda Jones, Chris Krautmann, Kathy Laur, Anne Lock, Nelly McKay, Linda Oligschlaeger, Rosella Reinkemeyer, Pat Roberts, Sonya Ross, Judy Schepers, Niki Schulte, Susan Scovill, Jo Storey, Grace Tipton, Sue Tipton, Laura Van Zandt, Susan Vaughn, Marcia Willing

Program: *"Garden Tour Preparation"*

Presenter: *Heather Brown and Alice Hansen*

Heather and Alice, co-chairs for the Bittersweet Garden Tour, will conduct an informational meeting regarding the garden tour.

Tickets, signs, and flyers will be distributed, and final details of planning will be discussed.

2025 BITTERSWEET GARDEN CLUB SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

GRACE LUBBERING • EMMA GOETZ • AUTUMN ALLEN



JUNE

JUNE 11 (Thursday) *MONTHLY MEETING*

Garden Tour Preview

In lieu of our regularly scheduled monthly business meeting, the garden tour co-chairs, Heather Brown and Alice Hansen, will lead members and homeowners on a preview tour of the five gardens featured on the 2026 Bittersweet Garden Tour. Meeting location and schedule will be announced later.

JUNE 14 (Sunday)

Bittersweet Garden Tour

Our 2026 fundraiser is a public tour of five gardens. Members help homeowners prepare and are available on tour day to facilitate the tour. Proceeds fund community initiatives, including scholarships for local students, teacher grants, garden therapy workshops for seniors, and beautification projects in Jefferson City parks.

JUNE 17 (Wednesday)

After-the-Garden-Tour Celebration

Join the Bittersweeties at El Espolón on Highway 179 for a patio celebration of our successful 2026 Garden Tour. Enjoy margaritas or your drink of choice (self-pay).

GARDEN STROLL—JUNE 2025



JULY

JULY 10 (Friday)

AMERICA250 Dinner Party

Join us for a star-spangled evening as we celebrate America's 250th birthday and the spirit of independence! The festivities kick off with live music, followed by a BBQ buffet dinner. Our DAR and SAR friends will share fascinating stories from our historical past. The evening concludes with a "Dessert Dash," where you'll select from tables of spectacular red, white, and blue sweet delights to share with your tablemates. Patriotic costumes are encouraged!

JULY 16 (Thursday) *MONTHLY MEETING*

Social 6:00 p.m. • Program 6:30 p.m.

Location: Center for Soy Innovation • 734 S Country Club Dr, JC

Host: Sharon Burnett

Co-Hosts: Karen Basel, Lee Bunch, Marilyn Curtit, Linda Ennis, Rita Esterly, Brenda Hancock, Nancy Knipp, Kelly Kuensting, Tracy Leonberger, Anne Lock, Becky Miller, Diane Neterer, Linda Oligschlaeger, Sonya Ross, Niki Schulte, Jan Schwaller, Evie Starr, Jo Storey, Laura Van Zandt, Cris West, Marsha Wilson

Program: "Tips for Easier Planting, Harvesting, and Canning"

Presenters: Christa Daume

Christa, a Master Gardener, is passionate about growing fruit, vegetables, and flowers. She'll share practical tips and techniques to make gardening tasks easier and more efficient, with special focus on processing tomatoes without heating up your kitchen during the hot summer months.

JULY 20 (Saturday)

Bittersweet Garden Stroll

Enjoy a sampling of five of our own Bittersweet members' gardens. We like all gardens: large or small, perfect or not-so-perfect, and even those works in progress. A leisurely garden stroll is the perfect opportunity to connect with fellow Bittersweet members—and who better to exchange gardening tips with than someone who shares your passion?

JERSEY BOYS AT THE NEW THEATRE IN OVERLAND PARK, KANSAS



AUGUST

AUGUST 19 (Wednesday)

Legally Blonde at the New Theater—Overland Park, Kansas

Join us for another fun day trip to the New Theatre in Overland Park, Kansas, to see the romantic comedy *Legally Blonde*. Follow Elle Woods, a sorority girl who pursues a law degree at Harvard to win back her ex-boyfriend, Warner Huntington III. Along the way, she overcomes stereotypes about blondes and triumphs as a successful lawyer. Our motor coach trip includes a delicious lunch buffet at the New Theatre before the matinee performance.

AUGUST 20 (Thursday) *MONTHLY MEETING*

Social 6:00 p.m. · Program 6:30 p.m.

Location: Center for Soy Innovation · 734 S Country Club Dr, JC

Host: Barb Miltenberger

Co-Hosts: Patty Bax, Carol Bowdoin, Gail Cummins, Karen Enloe, Anita Feldman, Sherry Fitzpatrick, Sandy Hiatte, Nancy Kaiser, Joan Keth, Kathy Kolb, Tracy Leonberger, Alice Longfellow, Diane Neterer, Jatha Sadowski, Evelyn Samson, Jan Schwaller, Amanda Simpson, Tina Spillers, Claire West, Rosalyn Wieberg, Marcia Willing

Program: *“Adapting Landscapes to Changing Climates”*

Presenter: *Chris Starbuck*

Chris is an Emeritus faculty member with the MU Division of Plant Sciences and Technology, where his expertise and teaching have focused on woody ornamental plants. His extensive knowledge includes selection, care, and management of trees and shrubs in the landscape.

GARDEN THERAPY IN SENIOR LIVING COMMUNITIES—2025



SEPTEMBER

SEPTEMBER 17 (Thursday) *MONTHLY MEETING*

Social 6:00 p.m. · Program 6:30 p.m.

Location: Center for Soy Innovation · 734 S Country Club Dr, JC

Host: Gail Cummins

Co-Hosts: Karen Basel, Linda Bledsoe, Shelley Chruma, Marla Clark, Lisa Dulle, Sherry Fitzpatrick, Brenda Jones, Nancy Knipp, Kathy Kolb, Kelly Kuensting, Kathy Laur, Kris Leech, Susan McAdams, Becky Miller, Linda Oligschlaeger, Sheila Scott, Susan Scovill, Marge Talken, Laura Van Zandt, Rosalyn Wieberg, Marsha Wilson

Program: *"Planting Spring Bulbs: The Keukenhof Way"*

Presenter: *Alice Longfellow*

Alice Longfellow, a Bittersweet Garden Club member for 40+ years and former owner of Longfellow's Garden Center, will showcase the massive gardens of bulbs in bloom at Keukenhof in Holland and share the secrets behind their fabulous displays. Alice will also explain Great Dixter's bulb planting techniques and share practical tips for growing tulips in Missouri.

SEPTEMBER—TBD

Activity and date to be determined.

GARDENS OF THE SEASON 2025

Spring—Peggy Salmons · Summer—Pat Roberts

Specialty—Capital Region Medical Center · Fall—June & Chris Baker



OCTOBER

OCTOBER 8 (Thursday)

Augusta, Missouri

We'll travel through the vibrant fall countryside to Augusta, Missouri, where we'll board the Miss Augusta, a luxury yacht, for a relaxing Missouri River lunch cruise with narration by the captain. After disembarking, we'll visit one of Augusta's charming local wineries—possibly including a tour. A brief stop at a pumpkin patch or apple orchard may also be part of our day before returning to Jefferson City.

OCTOBER 15 (Thursday) *MONTHLY MEETING*

Social 6:00 p.m. • Program 6:30 p.m.

Location: Center for Soy Innovation • 734 S Country Club Dr, JC

Host: Linda Block

Co-Hosts: Mari-Anne Antweiler, Lois Bax, Debbie Boyce, Sharon Burnett, Jean Campbell, Gail Cummins, Marilyn Curtit, Karen Enloe, Linda Ennis, Joan Keth, Kathy Kolb, Stacy Landwehr, Alice Longfellow, Diane Neterer, Pat Roberts, Linda Samson, Jan Schwaller, Susan Vaughn, Donna Weiss, Cris West, Marsha Wilson

Program: *"The Science of Composting: Just a Little Understanding Leads to Amazing Compost!"*

Presenter: *Brenda Peculis*

Brenda is a Master Naturalist, City of Columbia Recycling Ambassador, and Compost Instructor. A retired MU Biochemistry Professor, she has been composting for over 20 years and appreciates the science happening in her pile. She continues to discover better ways to support the organisms that feed her plants, and in turn, the insects and birds in her yard.

Food Bank Collection—Members are asked to make monetary donations to the Mid Mo Samaritan Center Food Bank. Any checks should be made payable to the Samaritan Center.

NEW MEMBER WELCOME—NOVEMBER 16, 2025



NOVEMBER

NOVEMBER 5 (Thursday)

"Christmas My Way"—Capital City Productions

Join in the fun and kick off the holiday season with *Christmas My Way*, a Capital City Productions presentation! This festive musical revue is sure to stir your holiday spirit. Featuring Sinatra's signature songs alongside holiday classics, the show delivers a swinging "Sinatra-style" celebration filled with witty banter, unforgettable tunes, and plenty of cheer. Audiences will be transported by the charisma of the legendary crooner, making it a holiday experience you won't want to miss.

NOVEMBER 19 (Thursday) *MONTHLY MEETING*

Social 6:00 p.m. • Program 6:30 p.m.

Location: Center for Soy Innovation • 734 S Country Club Dr, JC

Host: Barb Miltenberger

Co-Hosts: Mari-Anne Antweiler, Karen Basel, Linda Bledsoe, Sharon Burnett, Rita Christgen, Shelly Chruma, Julie Cook, Lisa Dulle, Rita Esterly, Sandy Hiatte, Nancy Kaiser, Nancy Knipp, Kelly Kuensting, Becky Miller, Ronda Myers, Jatha Sadowski, Evelyn Samson, Sheila Scott, Jo Storey, Marge Talken, Ronda Thompson

Program: "Bittersweet Bingo"

Presenter: Grace Tipton and Sue Tipton

When was the last time you won a prize? Here's your chance! Join us at our November meeting for a fun, nostalgic round of Bingo—laughter, good company, and prizes included.

INTRODUCING OUR NEW EMERITUS MEMBERS DURING GAME NIGHT—NOVEMBER 2025



DECEMBER

DECEMBER 6 (Sunday)

St. Charles Day Trip

Celebrate the season with a festive getaway to St. Charles, Missouri. Wander the charming historic district, browse unique shops for holiday gifts, and enjoy delicious local dining. The town's nostalgic atmosphere—complete with lights, music, and seasonal cheer—makes it a perfect place to kick off your holidays. An overnight stay is optional.

DECEMBER 17 (Thursday) *MONTHLY MEETING*

Social 6:00 p.m. • Program 6:30 p.m.

Location: Center for Soy Innovation • 734 S Country Club Dr, JC

Host: Claire West

Co-Hosts: Patty Bax, Lois Bax, Linda Block, Carol Bowdoin, Lee Bunch, Rita Christgen, Shelley Chruma, Julie Cook, Lisa Dulle, Sandy Hiatte, Brenda Jones, Susan McAdams, Barb Miltenberger, Ronda Myers, Marcia Reed, Evelyn Samson, Tina Spillers, Grace Tipton, Sue Tipton, Rosalyn Wieberg

Program: "Trivia Night"

Presenters: Grace Tipton and Sue Tipton

Get ready for a fun, fast-paced night of trivia! We'll be covering a wide range of topics so there's something for everyone. It's time to brush up on your trivia, and come ready to play. Don't miss out on the fun!

DECEMBER MEETING 2024



FEDERATED GARDEN CLUBS OF MISSOURI

2026 State Activities Calendar

And Other Dates of Interest

January

- *20 Smokey Bear/Woodsy Owl posters to FGCM Chair**
- *31 Deadline: *The Garden Forum* Spring Issue (April-June)

February

- *1 Deadline: Presidents' Annual Reports to District Director FGCM Club Ratings Chair
- *1 Deadline: Club Yearbooks due to District Director, District Awards Chair, FGCM President, & FGCM Club Programs Chair**
- *1 Deadline: Scholarship Applications to FGCM Scholarship Chair**

March

- 23-29 Bloomin' Bus Tour—Arizona Desert Adventure
- 21 Bird Appreciation Day

April

- 27-30 FGCM State Convention—Stoney Creek Inn, Independence, MO
- *3 Missouri Arbor Day (1st Friday of April)
- 24 National Arbor Day (last Friday of April)
- *30 Deadline: *The Garden Forum* Summer Issue (July-September)

May

- 4-6 NGC Convention · St. Louis, MO
- 14 Central District Spring Meeting · Eldon, MO

June

- *7-13 National Garden Week (1st full week in June)
- 14 Bittersweet Garden Tour

July

- *31 Deadline for *The Garden Forum* Fall Issue (October-December)

August

- *19 FGCM Day at Missouri State Fair (Wednesday of 1st full week)
- *15 Deadline: Bird Sanctuary and Bluebird Trail Applications due to District Chair**

September

- 3 Central District Fall Meeting · Ashland, MO
- 15 Deadline: Butterfly/Hummingbird Application to FGCM Chair*

October

- 5-7 Central Region Annual Convention · Holland, MI
- 31 Dues to District and FGCM Treasurer**
- 31 Club Roster to Dist. Director, FGCM Treasurer, FGCM Membership Chair and *The Garden Forum* Circulation Manager **
- 31 Youth Contest Entries to District Youth Chair
- *31 Deadline for *The Garden Forum* Winter issue (January-March)

November

- 8-10 FGCM Fall Board Meeting
- *30 Deadline: Project Award Applications to State Chair**
- 30 Books of Evidence to Designated Awards Chairs **
- *30 Following Award Applications due to assigned chair:
 - Flower Show Book of Evidence to FGCM chair**
 - Smokey Bear/Woodsy Owl Posters due to District chair**

December

- *20 Deadline: Garden Club Award of Honor Apps to FGCM Chair**
- *20 Deadline: Holiday Flower Show Books of Evidence FGCM Chair**

*** Same dates every year, **Contact information is in *The Garden Forum***

WONDERS OF THE MIDWEST TOUR—SEPTEMBER 2025



BITTERSWEET GARDEN CLUB BYLAWS

Amended and Approved September 18, 2025

Article I - Name

The name of this organization shall be Bittersweet Garden Club.

Article II - Objectives

The objectives of this club shall be: To study the basic art of gardening; to promote an interest and knowledge of horticulture, gardening and civic beautification; to encourage conservation of our natural resources; and to cooperate with other clubs and agencies which have interest in horticulture and conservation.

Article III - Standing Rules

The business of the club shall be conducted in accordance with the Standing Rules as adopted by the membership. Adoption requires a two-thirds (2/3) majority of the Active members voting.

Article IV - Membership

There shall be two categories of membership: Active and Emeritus.

Section 1. **Active membership** shall be limited to 90 members. Exceptions to the limit shall be homeowners whose garden is on tour during the current year or Emeritus members who choose to reinstate their active membership.

- A. To be a member in good standing, (s)he must have a desire to further the interest of horticulture and conservation, take an active interest in the club, and be current with club dues.
- B. Membership is granted when an applicant pays dues.

Section 2. Active members may request **Emeritus membership** provided they have been an Active member in good standing for a minimum of 10 years. Emeritus members:

- A. Must pay annual dues by October 1.
- B. May attend up to two meetings per year. They may also be invited to attend special activities or meetings.
- C. Do not have voting privileges.
- D. Will not be reported as a member of the district, state, and national garden clubs. If a member wishes to retain those memberships, they must reimburse the club for the amount of the total dues.
- E. May not hold office in the club.

Article V - Dues

Section 1. The fiscal year of the club shall be from January 1 through December 31 of the same year.

Section 2. Active members' annual dues shall include district, state, and national dues. The membership year shall be October 1 to September 30.

Section 3. Annual dues are payable to the club Treasurer prior to October 1 of each year. Members failing to remit by October 1 shall be notified that they are delinquent. If dues are not paid by October 15, membership will be forfeited.

Article VI - Officers

Section 1. The officers of this club shall be: President, Vice President of Programs, Vice President of Activities, Vice President of Fundraising, Secretary, and Treasurer. These officers shall constitute the Executive Board.

Section 2. The President shall preside at all meetings, call special meetings, appoint necessary chairpersons, and carry out all duties which pertain to this office.

Section 3. The Vice President of Programs shall be chairperson of the Program Committee and shall perform the duties of the President in his/her absence.

Section 4. The Vice President of Activities shall be chairperson of the Activity Committee and shall perform the duties of the Vice President of Programs in his/her absence.

Section 5. The Vice President of Fundraisers shall be chairperson of the annual fundraiser and shall perform the duties of the Vice President of Activities in his/her absence.

Section 6. The Secretary shall keep minutes of meetings, both special and regular, and shall take care of all correspondence.

Section 7. The Treasurer shall collect all dues for membership and shall pay all bills. By October 25, (s)he shall mail all required dues to the state and district Treasurers.

Section 8. The Compliance Officer is an appointed position designated by the Executive Board and shall be reaffirmed annually. The Compliance Officer shall be responsible for ensuring the organization remains in good standing with State and Federal regulatory agencies.

Section 9. In the case of an officer vacancy, the Executive Board may appoint a replacement.

Article VII - Meetings

Section 1. Regular meetings of this club shall be held on the third Thursday of each month unless otherwise scheduled by the President.

Section 2. Where necessary, *Roberts' Rules of Order, Revised* shall govern the club.

Section 3. Special meetings may be called by the President upon reasonable notice given to all members.

Section 4. Each Active member present and in good standing shall have one vote.

Section 5. The regular meeting in September shall be known as the Annual Meeting and shall be for the purpose of electing officers.

Section 6. Installation of officers shall be held at the regular meeting in January. Officers shall take office following their installation.

Section 7. Any motions presented at meetings shall be determined by a simple majority of the Active members voting.

Article VIII - Committees

Project and standing committee members for the following year shall be solicited beginning in September of the current year. The President may establish additional committees.

Article IX - Dissolution

Section 1. The Bittersweet Garden Club shall remain a non-profit organization under the 501(c)(3) status in accordance with the Internal Revenue Code.

Section 2. In the event of dissolution of this club, and after payment of all bills, the assets shall be transferred to a local non-profit organization whose purpose is to further the interest of horticulture and conservation. The allocation of funds will be determined by the current membership at the time of dissolution.

Article X - Amendments to Bylaws

These bylaws may be amended at any regular business meeting of the club, provided the amendment(s) have been submitted and read at the previous regular business meeting. Amendment passage requires a two-thirds (2/3) majority of Active members voting, providing the number of voting members constitutes a quorum. A quorum is defined as a simple majority of the current Active membership.

BITTERSWEET GARDEN CLUB STANDING RULES

Amended and Approved September 18, 2025

I. MEETINGS

- A. Meetings are the third Thursday of each month unless otherwise specified.
- B. Meetings begin with a social time, including food and beverage, at 6:00 p.m., followed by a program and business meeting beginning at 6:30 p.m.
- C. A \$50 stipend is offered to non-member program presenters.
- D. Host/co-hosts
 - 1. Each Active member is expected to serve as a host or co-host three times per year. A signup sheet will be made available in August and September for the following year.
 - 2. Host/co-host duties include bringing food and beverages, setting up the meeting room, setting up the serving area, and leaving the building as we found it.
 - 3. Each co-host is responsible for bringing a dish to serve 16.
 - 4. When unable to fulfill host/co-host responsibilities, Active members are expected to arrange for a substitute and notify the host of the change.
- E. Members should check off their name on the attendance sheet, which is distributed by the Secretary at meetings.
- F. Minutes are taken by the Secretary and are distributed via email as soon as possible after meetings. Active members are invited to review and suggest additions and/or corrections before the minutes are accepted into the record.
- G. Active members who are present at meetings may vote on motions presented. Under certain circumstances, voting may be allowed electronically. A motion will be passed by a simple majority of the Active members voting.
- H. Emeritus members and non-members may attend up to two meetings per year.

II. ELECTIONS

- A. A Nominating Committee consisting of the current President and four past Presidents shall propose a slate of officers for the following year. Active members are welcome to submit a name for consideration to the committee.
- B. The Nominating Committee shall present a slate of officers to the membership at the August meeting. Nominations will also be accepted from the floor.
- C. Elections will be held at the September meeting. Officers are elected by a simple majority of the Active members voting.

III. OFFICERS

- A. Officers are President, Vice President of Programs, Vice President of Activities, Vice President of Fundraisers, Secretary, and Treasurer. These officers constitute the Executive Board.
- B. Officers are elected for a term of one year.
- C. A list of officer responsibilities is maintained by the Executive Board.
- D. The outgoing President is presented with an engraved commemorative stone.

IV. MEMBERSHIP

- A. There shall be two categories of membership: Active and Emeritus.
 - 1. Active Membership
 - a) Active membership shall be limited to 90 members. Invitations to new members will be extended when openings occur. Exceptions to the limit shall be homeowners whose garden is on tour during the current year or Emeritus members who choose to reinstate their Active membership.
 - b) Mentors are assigned to new Active members to help familiarize them with our yearbook, meetings and activities, our web page, and to facilitate introductions to ensure they feel welcome.

- c) To be a member in good standing, a member must: have a desire to further the interest of horticulture and conservation, be current with club dues, have signed and submitted the "Acknowledgement of Risk and Release of Responsibility" form, and take an active interest in the club, which may include:
 - 1. attending monthly meetings
 - 2. hosting or co-hosting at least three times per year
 - 3. assisting with civic beautification projects (e.g. Memorial Park or others)
 - 4. serving on a committee
 - 5. assisting with the annual fundraiser
- d) Each new member is given a nametag paid for by club funds. The Treasurer orders a name tag immediately after a new member pays dues. Replacement nametags will be at the member's expense.
- 2. Emeritus Membership
 - a) Active members may submit a request for Emeritus membership to the president providing they have been an Active member in good standing for a minimum of 10 years. Emeritus members:
 - 1. Must pay annual dues by October 1
 - 2. Will not be reported as a member of the district, state, and national garden clubs. If a member wishes to retain those memberships, they must reimburse the club for the amount of the total dues.
 - 3. May attend up to two meetings per year. They may also be invited to attend special activities or meetings
 - 4. Are exempt from serving as a host or co-host at meetings
 - 5. Will receive copies of minutes, treasurer's reports, budgets, and all other club communications
 - 6. Will receive a copy of the club's yearbook
 - 7. Do not have voting privileges
 - 8. May not hold office in the club
 - 9. Are exempt from participating in fundraisers
 - 10. Are exempt from serving on committees
 - 11. May participate in club activities only after all interested Active members have registered. Then, if there are still openings, Emeritus members will have the opportunity to register followed by non-member guests.
 - b) Emeritus members may reinstate their Active membership at any time upon request and may do so prior to any proposed new member.
- B. The History Committee chair maintains a database of members' information including members' full names, addresses, emails, phone numbers, photos, year joined, emergency contact information, and Master Gardener status.
- C. The History Committee chair maintains a waitlist of prospective members which includes date received, name, contact information, and current member (if any) who submitted name. Membership opportunities will be made available in the order the names were received.
- D. Personal member information is included in the yearbook but is not shared on our website or anywhere else outside of the club.
- E. Yearbook design and printing is managed by the Yearbook chair and is paid for by club funds. In December, each member receives a yearbook which includes a list of meetings and activities, a member directory, project and committee descriptions, and other pertinent information.
- F. Memorial gifts will be extended for deceased members only and will be limited to \$100. Sympathy cards will be sent to members who have suffered the loss of a spouse, child, grandchild, or sibling.

V. PROJECTS AND COMMITTEES

- A. A list of project and committee descriptions is included in the yearbook.
- B. Active members may sign up for projects and committees in August and September for the following year.

STANDING RULES—CONTINUED

- C. A full list of project and committee responsibilities is maintained by the Executive Board.

VI. ACTIVITIES

- A. A list of activities is included in the yearbook.
- B. Activities are open to all Active members followed by Emeritus members, if space is available
- C. Due to space constraints, maximum participation limits may be determined by the V.P. of Activities.
- D. Members may invite guests after all Active and Emeritus members have had sufficient time to sign up, providing there is space available.
- E. Invited guests must be accompanied by a member. No one under the age of twenty-one will be included as a guest on a Bittersweet trip.
- F. Guests may be charged an increased participation fee.
- G. Registration
 - 1. Members may register for activities through an online signup form.
 - 2. Advance notice will be given to members prior to opening registration for activities when demand is expected to exceed available space.
 - 3. Registrations will be accepted in the order they are received.
 - 4. Once maximum registration is reached, a waitlist will be maintained to be referenced in the event of cancellations.
 - 5. Registrations will be completed when payment is made in full.
 - 6. Activity payments are generally non-refundable. Any expenses the club is able to recoup may be returned to the member or guest. Trip refunds of \$25 or less will not be made and will remain in the Activities account.
 - 7. If a member or guest has paid in full for an activity and is unable to attend, they must contact the V.P. of Activities. If there is someone on the waitlist who is able to participate, a refund may be possible.
- H. Contracts for activities shall be signed by the President or by the V.P. of Activities with the President's authorization.
- I. All members and guests taking part in Bittersweet Garden Club activities must sign an "Acknowledgement of Risk and Release of Liability Form" prior to participation.

VII. FINANCIAL

- A. Dues
 - 1. Annual dues for Active members are \$50 and are payable to the club Treasurer prior to October 1 of each year. The membership year shall be October 1 to September 30. Annual dues for Emeritus members are \$20 unless the member wishes to remain a member of Federated Garden Club, in which case dues will be what active members pay. Active and Emeritus members failing to remit by October 1 shall be notified that they are delinquent. If dues are not paid by October 15, membership will be forfeited.
 - 2. Dues may be raised at any regular business meeting of the club by a two-thirds (2/3) majority of the quorum, provided the proposal has been submitted at the previous regular business meeting. A quorum is defined as a simple majority of the current membership.
 - 3. If approved, any change in dues will take effect beginning the following year.
- B. Budget

The incoming Executive Board will electronically send Active and Emeritus members a proposed budget prior to the January meeting. The budget must be approved at the January meeting by a simple majority of the Active members voting.
- C. Expenditures
 - 1. Proposed expenses not itemized in the budget must be approved by a majority of Active members in attendance at a business meeting.

2. Payment/Reimbursement
 - a) To pay a vendor directly, an Active member must submit a payment request form to the Treasurer.
 - b) To be reimbursed for expenses incurred, an Active member must submit a reimbursement request form to the Treasurer.
 - c) To request a credit card payment, an Active member must submit a credit card approval form to the Treasurer.
 - d) Payment/Reimbursement forms are available from the Treasurer and on the Bittersweet Garden Club website.
3. Checking Accounts
 - a) There are two checking accounts: a Club account for all club-related expenses and an Activity account for optional activities.
 - b) Two signers are required for checks for \$250 or more. Checks over \$250 will be co-signed by both the Treasurer and President.
 - c) Both checking accounts will undergo a review by the Audit Committee in January of each year.
 - d) Online access to the bank accounts in View-Only mode may be given to the Auditor and the VP of Activities. The President and the Treasurer will have full access to online bank accounts.
4. Credit Card
 - a) The club credit card is issued in the name of Bittersweet Garden Club and the current President.
 - b) The credit card may only be used for club-related expenses.
 - c) Any cash-back earned from credit card use will be deposited into the Activity account.
- D. Bittersweet Garden Club is registered as a non-profit corporation with the Missouri Secretary of State's Office. This registration must be renewed in August every two years. It is the responsibility of the Compliance Officer to file the biennial registration in accordance with State requirements. The Compliance Officer shall have access to all necessary financial and organizational records in order to fulfill these duties.

VIII. FUNDRAISERS

- A. Bittersweet Garden Club holds a tour of gardens in the Jefferson City area as a club fundraiser. Other fundraisers may be considered in addition to or in lieu of a garden tour. Proceeds fund our community initiatives such as: scholarships offered to area students, garden therapy workshops, K-12 teacher grants, gardening resources, as well as the club's other activities.
- B. All members are expected to participate in the annual fundraiser(s).
- C. For garden tours, a preview tour is held the Thursday prior to the garden tour, and is for Bittersweet Garden Club Active members and current tour homeowners only. Potential exceptions must be approved by the President and the Garden Tour Chair. Emeritus members may be invited to the preview tour.

IX. WEBSITE & FACEBOOK PRESENCE

- A. The Website and Facebook Committee chair maintains the website which contains club information, upcoming activities, necessary forms, garden tour information, scholarship forms, and other pertinent information.
- B. The Website and Facebook Committee chair maintains the Facebook page, posting information and photos of activities.

X. FEDERATED GARDEN CLUBS OF MISSOURI (FGCM) – Bittersweet Garden Club has been an affiliate member of FGCM since August 1973. This affiliation includes membership in National Garden Club (NGC), NGC Central Region, and FGCM Central District.

XI. STANDING RULE AMENDMENTS – The standing rules will remain in force from the time of adoption until they are amended or repealed. They may be amended or repealed by a two-thirds (2/3) majority of Active members voting, provided a thirty-day notice has been given.

BITTERSWEET GARDEN CLUB PROJECTS

PLANT JEFFERSON CITY: CELEBRATING AMERICA'S SEMIQUINCENTENNIAL

President's Project: Celebrate

America's Semiquincentennial

We will celebrate America's 250th Anniversary by planting red, white, and blue flowers at key locations throughout Jefferson City.

Location: *Jefferson City, Missouri*

Chair: *Debbie Boyce*

Committee: *Lisa Dulle, Shirley Gassen, Merrilee Holzhauser, Stacy Landwehr, Kris Leech, Barb Miltenberger, Linda Oligschlaeger, Niki Schulte, Ronda Thompson*

Food Bank Donation

Members make monetary donations to the Samaritan Center in Jefferson City to help meet the needs in our community.

Location: *1310 East McCarty Street Jefferson City, Missouri*

Chair: *Marge Talken*

Committee: *Marilyn Curtit, Barb Miltenberger, Sonya Ross, Sheila Scott, Tina Spillers*

Civic Beautification

Coordinate club activities pertaining to civic beautification with the primary emphasis being on the entrance garden at Memorial Park. Purchase a tree and plan an Arbor Day tree-planting with the JC Parks & Rec department. All members participate in the planting and maintenance of the garden throughout the growing season.

Location: *Jefferson City Parks*

Co-chairs: *Sherry Fitzpatrick and Ann Lane*

Committee: *All Bittersweet GC Members*

Garden-of-the-Season

In coordination with Central Missouri Master Gardeners, members identify outstanding gardens in the Jefferson City area. Each season the committee will highlight one or more gardens based on identified themes. The selected garden(s) will be recognized with a feature article in the local newspaper and a sign in the homeowner's front yard.

Location: *Gardens within a 10-mile radius of Jefferson City, Missouri*

Co-chairs: *Linda Bledsoe*

Laura VanZandt

Committee: *Heather Brown, Rita Christgen, Kelley Kuensting, Stacy Landwehr, Alice Longfellow, Pat Roberts, Jatha Sadowski, Amanda Simpson, Claire West, Marcia Willing*

Garden Therapy

Provide hands-on crafts and gardening workshops to residents in senior living communities to aid in improving social, psychological, and physical well-being.

Location: *Senior living communities in Jefferson City and the surrounding areas*

Co-chairs: *Evelyn Samson*

Tina Spillers

Committee: *Lois Bax, Linda Bledsoe, Barbara Brennaman, Lee Bunch, Jean Campbell, Marla Clark, Julie Cook, Marilyn Curtit, Jeanette de la Torre, Linda Ennis, Anita Feldman, Brenda Hancock, Merrilee Holzhauser, Nancy Kaiser, Nancy Knipp, Chris Krautmann, Kelley Kuensting, Ann Lane, Kathy Laur, Sharon Lowder, Nelly McKay, Rhonda Myers, Rosella Reinkemeyer, Pat Roberts, Jatha Sadowski, Linda Samson, Laura Van Zandt, Donna Weiss, Rosalyn Wieberg, Marsha Wilson*

Gardening Resource Project

Review and select children's gardening books for the Missouri River Regional Library to inspire the new generation to recognize and appreciate the value and benefits of gardening.

Location: *Jefferson City, Missouri*

Chair: *Jan Schwaller*

Scholarships

Distribute information to area schools, review applications, and present scholarships to selected recipients. Scholarships are made available to area students who meet established criteria and who plan to further their studies in the area of horticulture, agriculture, conservation, forestry, and/or fishes and wildlife.

Location: *Cole County and eligible surrounding Missouri counties*

Chair: *Claire West*

Committee: *Shirley Gassen, Anne Lock, Diane Neterer, Linda*

Oligschlaeger, Jenelle Schwieterman

Teacher Grants

Distribute grant information to area teachers, review applications, select and award grants to recipients. The grant is designed to support K-12 teachers in implementing innovative projects that enhance students' understanding of horticulture, agriculture, environmental science, ecology, and natural resources.

Location: *Cole County and eligible surrounding Missouri counties*

Co-chairs: *Linda Block*

Susan Vaughn

Committee: *Mari-Anne Antweiler, Lisa Dulle, Rita Esterly, Merrilee Holzhauser, Jacki Johnson, Kristi Rhoads*

ADDITIONAL COMMITTEES

Activities

Determine and arrange field trips and other club activities.

Co-chairs: *Grace Tipton*

Sue Tipton

Committee: *Karen Basel, Linda Block, April Burger, Sherry Fitzpatrick, Brenda Hancock, Sharon Lowder, Judy Schneider, Cris West*

Accounts Review

Review the club's accounts with the treasurer and share the findings at the January meeting.

Chair: *Millie Jones*

Budget

Prepare and submit an annual proposed budget for approval by the membership.

Chair: *Debbie Boyce*

Committee: *Board Members*

Bylaws & Standing Rules

Review bylaws and standing rules and propose recommended changes to membership for a vote.

Chair: *Sandy Hiatte*

Committee: *Lee Bunch, Rita Esterly, Alice Hansen, Barb Miltenberger, Sheila Scott*

FGCM Delegates

Attend district meetings, identify and apply for pertinent awards and grants.

Chair: *Jeannine Brickey*

Committee: *Kris Leech*

Garden Selection

Identify gardens to be included on the next garden tour.

Chair: *Heather Brown*

Committee: *Shirley Gassen, Alice Hansen, Judy Schneider*

ADDITIONAL COMMITTEES—CONTINUED

Garden Stroll

Plan tours of at least five members' gardens and communicate the tour information to the members.

Co-chairs: *Barb Miltenberger*
Marge Talken

Committee: *Jeanette de la Torre, Ginni Griffen, Merrilee Holzhauser, Joan Keth, Kathy Laur, Rosella Reinkemeyer, Pat Roberts, Judy Schepers, Evie Starr, Jo Storey, Jennifer Urich*

Garden Tour

The community is invited to tour five outstanding gardens in the Jefferson City area. Proceeds from the tour will help support our community initiatives including scholarships, teacher grants, garden therapy, and civic beautification projects.

Co-chairs: *Heather Brown*
Alice Hansen

Committee: *All members*

History

Maintain the current and historical club membership database and garden tour history.

Chair: *Marcia Reed*

Hospitality

Coordinate monthly meeting hosts and arrange for necessary supplies.

Co-chairs: *Sharon Burnett*
Judy Schepers

New Member Mentors

Familiarize new members with our yearbook, meetings, and activities and facilitate introductions.

Chair: *Debbie Boyce*
Committee: *Lee Bunch, April Burger, Sharon Burnett, Shirley Gassen, Jennifer Urich*

Nominating

The current president and the four most recent past presidents, shall prepare a slate of officers for consideration for the coming year.

Chair: *Debbie Boyce*

Committee: *Linda Oligschlaeger, Jeannine Brickley, Marcia Reed, Judy Schneider*

Photography

Document each meeting and activity with photos.

Chair: *Marcia Reed*

Committee: *Rita Esterly, Sandy Hiatte, Nelly McKay, Marge Talken, Ronda Thompson*

Programs

Determine and arrange programs for monthly meetings.

Chair: *Gail Cummins*

Committee: *Barbara Brennaman, Shirley Gassen, Sandy Hiatte, Merrilee Holzhauser, Kristi Rhodes*

Sunshine

Send cards to hospitalized members and send memorials to members who have a death in their immediate family.

Chair: *Debbie Boyce*

Website & Social Media

Maintain the website and Facebook pages. Post and update program and event information.

Chair: *Marcia Reed*

Committee: *Marge Talken*

Yearbook

Design and prepare yearbook, facilitate printing and distribution.

Chair: *Marcia Reed*

BITTERSWEET GARDEN TOUR · JUNE 8, 2025

TOUR CO-CHAIRS: ALICE LONGFELLOW & JUDY SCHNEIDER

MARI-ANNE AND BOB ANTWEILER

Chairs: Sherry Fitzpatrick & Ronda Thompson



JOHN GLENN

Chairs: Pat Roberts & Jennifer Urich



KAREN & KEN ENLOE

Chairs: Shirley Gassen & Brenda Hancock



DIANE & DAVE NETERER

Chairs: Jeannine Brickey & Gail Cummins



CAROL DAVIT & MIKE LEAHY

Chairs: April Burger & Ginni Griffen



LINCOLN UNIVERSITY OUTDOOR LAB

Chair: Sandy Hiatte



PLANT SALE BOOTH

Chair: Kris Leech



*Let the
garden inspire you
—every bloom is a reminder
that renewal is always possible.*



2026 PERENNIAL PLANT OF THE YEAR

Andropogon gerardii 'Blackhawks'

Common Name: Blackhawks big bluestem



With near-black coloration and a strong vertical habit, 'Blackhawks' big bluestem adds drama to the fall garden. Foliage emerges dark green, developing reddish-purple tips as the summer progresses. In August, three-parted "turkeyfoot" inflorescences arise and by September the leaves, stems, and blooms take on a deep purple hue. More compact than other big bluestem cultivars, 'Blackhawks' reaches five feet tall by two feet wide.

~ Perennial Plant Association



Zone: 3 to 9

Height: 5'

Spread: 2'

Bloom Time: September-February

Bloom Color: Purplish-red

Sun: Full sun

Water: Dry to Medium

Maintenance: Low

Tolerates: Deer, Drought, Erosion

Attracts: Birds

Past Perennial Plants of the Year

The Perennial Plant of the Year® program began in 1990 to showcase a perennial that is suitable for a wide range of growing climates, requires low maintenance, has multiple-season interest, and is relatively pest/disease-free.

- 2025 *Pycnanthemum muticum* - Clustered mountain mint
- 2024 *Phlox paniculata* 'Jeana' - Garden Phlox
- 2023 *Rudbeckia* 'American Gold Rush' - Black-eyed Susan
- 2022 *Schizachyrium scoparium* (and cultivars) - Little Bluestem
- 2021 *Calamintha nepeta* subsp. *Nepeta* - calamint
- 2020 *Aralia cordata* 'Sun King' - Japanese spikenard
- 2019 *Stachys monieri* 'Hummelo' - betony
- 2018 *Allium* 'Millenium' - ornamental onion
- 2017 *Asclepias tuberosa* - butterfly weed
- 2016 *Anemone* 'Honorine Jobert' - windflower
- 2015 *Geranium x cantabrigiense* 'Biokovo' - hardy geranium
- 2014 *Panicum virgatum* 'Northwind' - switch grass
- 2013 *Polygonatum odoratum* - variegated Solomon's Seal
- 2012 *Brunnera macrophylla* 'Jack Frost' - Siberian bugloss
- 2011 *Amsonia hubrichtii* - Arkansas Blue Star
- 2010 *Baptisia australis* - blue false indigo
- 2009 *Hakonechloa macra* 'Aureola' - Japanese forest grass
- 2008 *Geranium* 'Rozanne' - cranesbill
- 2007 *Nepeta* 'Walker's Low' - catmint
- 2006 *Dianthus gratianopolitanus* 'Feuerhexe' (Firewitch) - pinks
- 2005 *Helleborus x hybridus* - Lenten rose
- 2004 *Athyrium niponicum* 'Pictum' - Japanese painted fern
- 2003 *Leucanthemum* 'Becky' - shasta daisy
- 2002 *Phlox* 'David' - garden phlox
- 2001 *Calamagrostis x acutiflora* 'Karl Foerster' - feather reed grass
- 2000 *Scabiosa columbaria* 'Butterfly Blue' - pincushion flower
- 1999 *Rudbeckia fulgida* var. *sullivantii* 'Goldsturm' - black-eyed Susan
- 1998 *Echinacea purpurea* 'Magnus' - purple coneflower
- 1997 *Salvia* 'Mainacht' (May Night) - wood sage
- 1996 *Penstemon digitalis* 'Husker Red' - beardtongue
- 1995 *Perovskia atriplicifolia* - Russian sage
- 1994 *Astilbe* 'Sprite' - astilbe
- 1993 *Veronica* 'Sunny Border Blue' - speedwell
- 1992 *Coreopsis verticillata* 'Moonbeam' - threadleaf coreopsis
- 1991 *Heuchera micrantha* 'Palace Purple' - coral bells
- 1990 *Phlox stolonifera* - creeping phlox

FELTING HEARTS—FEBRUARY 2025



GAME DAY—JANUARY 2025



MEMORIAL PARK ENTRANCE GARDEN SUMMER MAINTENANCE

