



*FEBRUARY  
2026  
Newsletter*

**We will hold our next lunchtime meeting on Thursday, February 12**

**12:00; LUNCH IS \$15.00**

**Idaho Springs Elks Lodge**

**RSVP is not required. Potential members are welcome!**

**The topic will be Hydroponic Gardens**

**Presented by Club Member Debbi Novotny**

**Please bring suggestions of worthy causes that the club might want to contribute to, so we can discuss this at the meeting**

**If we had no winter, Spring would not be so pleasant.**

## **2026 MEETING AND EVENT SCHEDULE**

March 12, 2026

Pam Carlstrom from Sundance Gardens. The topic will be "Pollinator Gardens"

April 9, 2026

Make your own Stepping Stones -Tobi Howell & Michelle Tyler. There will be an evening meeting on this date also. Location TBD.

May 9, 2026

Plant Giveaway and Bake Sale from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Location TBD due to construction at the Project Support Senior Center.

May 14, 2026

Annual Meeting & Installation of Officers; Seed Library assembly.

June 5-6, 2026

The Annual Plant Sale is on Friday and Saturday, JUNE 5 & 6. Plant delivery is Thursday morning, June 4, and the Members Only Party is that night from 3-6 p.m.

[columbinegardenclub.com](http://columbinegardenclub.com)

*Check our website for info on all of our past and future events!*

If you would like to add the garden club events to your own calendar use the "Subscribe to Calendar" button at the bottom of the "What We're Planning" page. There are four calendar types that are supported. If you have trouble and need help adding to your calendar, please contact Tobi Howell for help.

[tobiannah03@gmail.com](mailto:tobiannah03@gmail.com) or 772-341-2349

### **"Undercovered: Colorado's Home Insurance Dilemma."**

Rocky Mountain PBS recently aired this 26-minute video highlighting some of the most current home insurance issues in Colorado.

- Knowing what the replacement cost of your home is and how that relates to what it is actually insured for,
- The need for ongoing fire mitigation and how to get advice for what needs to be done
- What is driving rates higher every year – it's not just fires

[click here to stream it on YouTube](#) if you missed it!

### **COLORADO GARDEN & HOME SHOW**

**FEBRUARY 14-22, 2026**

COLORADO CONVENTION CENTER

- M-F 12 – 6, SATURDAYS 10– 6, SUNDAYS 10 – 5
- \$15 ADULTS, \$12 SENIORS, UNDER 12 FREE

### **Landscaping with Colorado Native Plants Conference**

**Saturday, Feb 28, 2026**

**CSU Spur campus, Denver CO**

The Landscaping with Colorado Native Plants Conference will offer a full day of educational programming promoting the cultivation and maintenance of native plants in the landscape. [Visit Landscaping with CO Native Plants website](#) for a complete schedule, session descriptions, registration, speaker bios and volunteer opportunities. If you have questions about the conference, please reach out to Allisa Zurbuchen ([allisa.zurbuchen@colostate.edu](mailto:allisa.zurbuchen@colostate.edu)) or Deryn Davidson ([deryn.davidson@colostate.edu](mailto:deryn.davidson@colostate.edu)).

## UPDATE ON MEMORIAL PARK IMPROVEMENTS AT THE IDAHO SPRINGS CEMETERY

Here is what is being discussed:

1. Paint the structure (we will do that)
2. Hire someone to redo the roof. Estimates are being obtained.
3. Create a glass mosaic to replace the existing sign.

- The mosaic will be approximately 44 X 46 inches
- Larrice Sell will paint the image on hardie board once we settle on a design
- Michelle Tyler and Tobi Howell will create the mosaic by gluing the glass over the painting.

For the next step we need to come up with a design for the mosaic. Here are items we would like included:

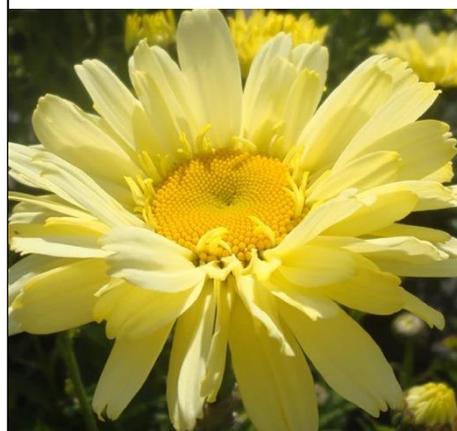
- Columbines
- the words "Columbine Garden Club Memorial Park"
- our club logo if it works

If you have design ideas please communicate them to Kris Miller.



### Realflor Real Dream Shasta Daisy

- Blooms are semi-doubled and fade from butter yellow to cream
- Long-blooming, easy-to-grow, reliable
- Zone 5 perennial
- Flowers attract beneficial insects and Pollinators
- Available at High Country Gardens Spring 2026



Happy Valentine's Day  
February 14, 2026



Take your sweetheart out to dinner  
at our celebration of



# Mardi GRAS



at the Dumont School  
150 Dumont Lane, Exit 9-70 W 235, E 234



Valentines Day, 5:00 to 9:30  
Cajon-Creole Southern Food



**\$20.00**  
Have seconds  
while available

**Cash Bar**  
Louisiana drinks:  
Hurricanes, Beer, Wine



**Drawings**

Prizes for best costume



Proceeds benefit MCVHS



## Rooted in Resilience – Webinar Series by Evergreen Fire

Evergreen Fire/Rescue Wildland Division presents an online five-part speaker series, taking a deeper dive into our forested environment. Join online for these free webinars:

### •Forest History and Fire Ecology on the Colorado Front Range

Presenter: Matt McLemore, Senior Forester - Jefferson Conservation District

Date/Time: **Monday Feb. 9, 6-7pm**

Overview: Learn about the striking change in Colorado's Front Range forests over the last 150 years - how people have altered natural fire regimes, why we care about our forests, why we experience catastrophic wildfires today, and what we can do about it. We'll answer the counter-intuitive question, how can cutting down trees be conservation work?

Attend virtually - [Zoom Link for Feb. 9, 6-7pm](#)

### •Mountain Pine Beetle along the Colorado Front Range

Presenter: Dan West, PhD Entomologist, Colorado State Forest Service

Date/Time: **Monday Feb. 23, 6-7pm**

Overview: Dr. Dan West will provide an overview of emerging mountain pine beetle activity along Colorado's Front Range, with an emphasis on current population trends and the conditions contributing to their increase.

Attend virtually - [Zoom Link for Feb. 23, 6-7pm](#)

### •Effects of disturbance on tree level resistance in ponderosa pine trees along the Colorado Front Range

Presenter: Kelby Woodard, Clear Creek Watershed and Forest Health Partnership, Forest & Mitigation Program Manager

Date/Time: **Monday March 2, 6-7pm**

Overview: My thesis research shows that thinning and low-severity wildfire not only reduce fuels, but significantly increase growth and resin-based defenses in ponderosa pine trees, strengthening resistance to beetles and drought.

Attend virtually - [Zoom Link for March 2, 6-7pm](#)

### •Co-Benefits of Fuel & Restoration Treatments

Presenter: Caden Chamberlain, Senior Forest and Fire Ecology Research Associate, CO Forest Restoration Institute

Date/Time: **Monday March 9, 6-7pm**

Overview: I will discuss recent empirical research from across the western US exploring the effects of fuel reduction and restoration treatments on outcomes including burn severity, infrastructure survival, containment success, landscape resilience, and wildlife habitat.

Attend virtually - [Zoom Link for March 9, 6-7pm](#)

### •Aspen as a Green Fuel Break: Opportunities & Challenges

Presenter: Max Cook, Senior Wildfire Analyst and Research Associate, CO Forest Restoration Institute

Date/Time: **Monday March 16, 6-7pm**

Overview: Aspen trees have long been considered less flammable than conifers, especially across the intermountain West. Still, they do burn when the conditions align. This presentation will highlight the recent science on fire behavior in aspen forests and focus on the opportunities and challenges associated with using targeted aspen management to create and maintain green fuel breaks.

Attend virtually - [Zoom Link for March 16, 6-7pm](#)