



JANUARY 2026
Newsletter

We will hold our next lunchtime meeting on Thursday, January 8

12:00; LUNCH IS \$15.00

Idaho Springs Elks Lodge

RSVP is not required. Potential members are welcome!

The program will be “Desert Superbloom” by Amy Tomlinson

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

*HAPPY NEW YEAR
AND BEST WISHES FOR YOUR GARDEN IN 2026!*

2026 MEETING AND EVENT SCHEDULE

February 12, 2026

Pollinator Gardens – Pam Carlstrom/Sundance Gardens

March 12, 2026

Hydroponic Gardens - Debbi Novotny

April 9, 2026

Make your own Stepping Stones -Tobi Howell & Michelle Tyler

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.

CGC HOLIDAY PARTY AT DEBBI'S

THANK YOU DEBBI!



Susie Foley, Rich Lewis and Chad Tyler



Pam Lewis, Debbi Novotny and Kris Miller



Peech Keller and Illeana Lavender



Kerry Tierney and Marie Sarkissian



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 or 772-341-2349



***Centranthus ruber* 'Coccineus' (Red Valerian)**

Red Valerian is a hearty perennial with clusters of tiny dark red or hot pink flowers lasting for months.

A tough, durable plant, it thrives with minimal water and care once established. Butterflies are frequent visitors, benefiting from the abundant nectar and pollen. Drought resistant/drought tolerant plant (xeric).

24-36" tall x 30" wide at maturity.

This is such a versatile plant, being equally at home in both the xeric garden and traditional perennial border.

Not fussy about its growing conditions, it has showy rose-red flowers that are continuous from late spring through summer.

Prefers a well-drained garden soil. Will self-propagate via seed but seedheads are easily recognized and removed.



***Scrophularia macrantha* (Redbirds in a Tree)**
A High Country Gardens Introduction and a 2008 Plant Select® selection

Scrophularia macrantha (Redbirds in a Tree) is a very rare relative of the penstemon.

First introduced by High Country Gardens in 1996. The dark green, angular foliage is quite handsome, and with a tall, informal habit, Redbirds in a Tree will lean over and intertwine with tall neighboring plants for support.

A hummingbird's delight, this rugged xeric wildflower blooms all summer with spires of small red, white-lipped flowers that resemble a flock of red birds perched on a tree branch. Native to the mountains of New Mexico, this impressive wildflower has shown great adaptability in perennial gardens and xeriscapes in Zone 5 and above 7000'. 36 – 48" tall and 18" spread when mature. Unlike other species of *Scrophularia* which are insect pollinated, Redbirds in a Tree is pollinated by hummingbirds.

Preferred growing conditions:

1. *Scrophularia macrantha* grows well in a wide range of soil types, be sure to amend heavy clay soils to provide a fast-draining substrate.
2. Prefers crushed gravel mulch, or other non-water retentive mulch materials like crushed pecan shells. Avoid bark mulch and wood chips, as these can cause fungal disease in moist conditions.
3. Drought tolerant once established, but benefits from supplemental watering during long periods without rainfall.
4. Plant in full or part sun conditions. Afternoon shade is best in hotter climates. Full sun with regular irrigation is fine in moderately hot summer regions.
5. Avoid rich highly amended soils, as *S. macrantha* prefers lean soil with minimal fertilizers.

Just this week, High Country Gardens chose this plant for its
2026 PLANT OF THE YEAR!

MEMBER UPDATES



CGC Life Member Walt Weiss passed away in November.
Our condolences go out to Marka and the Weiss family.

In a garden, we bury our worries and watch them
transform into something beautiful!