



The “Show-Me” Gardener

JANUARY 2026

Webster Groves Garden Club

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January Guest Speaker Douglas Ladd

JANUARY MEETING

Smarter Than We Think?

Guest Speaker: Douglas Ladd

Monday January 12 • 7:00pm

Webster Groves Recreation Center

We'll explore some recent advances in our understanding of the plant world, and what this means for conservation-friendly gardening.

Douglas Ladd: Douglas Ladd is a conservation biologist and plant ecologist and served as conservation director for The Nature Conservancy's Missouri program for 32 years. Since retiring in 2018, he continues lichen and plant studies as a research associate at the Missouri Botanical Garden and teaches botany, ecology, and conservation biology classes at Washington University. In addition to numerous scientific reports and publications, he has also written two plant field guides — *Tallgrass Prairie Wildflowers* and *North Woods Wildflowers*, and in 2019 received the Garden Club of America's Conservation Award.

PHOTOS FROM THE HOLIDAY BANQUET

Photos courtesy of Kathy Johnson

Other

Plant Sale

Plant-Sale@mgcwg.org

Turn Around Garden

Turn-Around-Garden@mgcwg.org

Facebook

<https://m.facebook.com/WebsterGrovesGardenClub>

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GARDENER'S CORNER – JANUARY 2026

(aka Carol's corner)

Happy New Year! Hope you all have had a happy holiday season and are ready to think about new ideas for your garden this spring.

Tasks and tips from the **Missouri Botanical Garden** this month are largely about indoor plants. One of those tips includes keeping leaves of houseplants free from dust so they get the most light. With lower humidity levels during the winter, the use of pebble trays, a humidifier and putting plants closer together may help to increase moisture levels. New houseplants should be quarantined and inspected carefully before integrating into existing plants. Remove flowers from amaryllis after they have bloomed and put the leaves in a sunny spot. Soil should be kept evenly moist and plants can be given a general purpose fertilizer.

Evenly water plants with tepid water. Uneven watering can lead to oedema, and watering with cold water can shock the plant. Since harsh chemicals in tap water can harm some plants (most notably spider plants, dracaenas, calatheas, and peace lilies), it is a good idea to water with distilled or filtered water. An alternative is to let tap water sit for about 24 hours to let chemicals dissipate.

Check occasionally for common pests such as aphids, spider mites, scale, mealybugs, whiteflies, thrips and fungus and treat plants when necessary.

What is on the horizon for gardeners this year? The **University of Minnesota Extension** has a short article entitled *Sustainable gardening trends for 2026*. While it may be specific to Minnesota, it may have some utility here, as well. You can find it at:

<https://extension.umn.edu/yard-and-garden-news/sustainable-gardening-trends-2026>

Another trend article, *2026 trends in garden design*, is available from **Garden Design**. You can find it here:

https://www.gardendesign.com/trends/2026.html?utm_source=article-newsletter&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=trends-jewel-tone-1-1-26

While you are planning your garden for this spring also check out **Garden Design's** article titled *21 small evergreen shrubs for low-maintenance color*. It can be found here:

https://www.gardendesign.com/shrubs/small-evergreen.html?utm_source=article-newsletter&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=elf-12-18-25