

“Columbia Underground”

Member: National Garden Club, Federated Garden Clubs of Missouri, and Central District

Editor: Marie Pasley

Upcoming Events CANCELLED

April 13 CGC meeting

April 11 Clean-up Columbia

April 24-25 CGC Plant Sale

April 26-May 2 Bloomin Bus Tour

May 4-6 FGCM State Convention

May 11 CGC meeting

May 11-16 NGC Convention

May 14- Central District Spring Meeting.

May 22-24 Flower Show School Course 3

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“Rose-breasted Grosbeak”

Description: 8” male-black & white with red patch on breast & underwings. Female-heavily striped brown on white above & below

Habitat: Moist woodland adjacent to open fields

Nesting: 4-5 purplish spotted whitish eggs

The following articles are from the Leaflet, Friends of the MU Botanic Garden newsletter. The articles highlight a couple of CGC members.

Donna Puleo

President, Friends of Mizzou
Botanic Garden Board

Welcome. As we begin a new decade, I am honored and humbled to begin my role as the president of Friends of Mizzou Botanic Garden (MUBG). As an MU alumna, donor and retiree, I am passionate about the beauty of the campus garden, in addition to its role as an educational resource and point of pride for the university. The year ahead offers all members the opportunity to stay involved and continue the hard work others before me have bravely started.

One board-approved task ahead that is integral to the future of MUBG is the process of long-range planning beyond the garden’s just-celebrated 20-year anniversary. As the university continues to face various challenges, it is necessary to have a strategic plan in place addressing the value of the garden to not only the university — student, faculty and staff recruitment and retainment are dependent upon the beauty and safety of the campus environment — but to the public as well.

If you were unable to attend MUBG’s co-sponsored “Hometown Habitat” film-screening and panel discussion on March 5, you missed a good one! The very successful event focused on how and why native plants are critical to the survival and vitality of local ecosystems and was attended by more than 100 people (see below). This is just the first of MUBG’s 2020 sponsored events. Stay tuned for additional beneficial offerings!

I would like to thank our outgoing president, Susan Heinsz, for her time and effort in keeping the board on task with its mission. The Legacy Oaks of the Francis Quadrangle project is still a priority. Please encourage alumni, staff, faculty,

students and members of the community to understand the importance of preserving this iconic campus site.

As we celebrate the last hurrah of winter and rejoice in the first whisper of spring, my hope is that all our spirits reawaken along with the natural world.

Donna Puleo, President, MUBG Advisory Board

MUBG PROFILE: Barbara Rothenberger

Curiosity and a love of horticulture led to a life learning and teaching about plants Mizzou Botanic Garden (MUBG) board member, *Barbara (Heins) Rothenberger's BS AF&NR '61, M Ed '77, PhD Ag Ed '95, spark of curiosity and love of plants and gardening have influenced her life from an early age. Introduced to Luther Burbank's experiments in plant genetics as a young girl, Rothenberger proceeded to paint lima bean seeds blue, believing the effort would influence the beans to produce blue blooms.*

"When I was very young, my family moved to a big house on a huge lot in Carrollton, Mo. I just loved that place. The yard was full of big ferns, old-fashioned white hydrangeas and an enormous red oak," Rothenberger said. "My mother always had roses and like things. My parents had a Victory Garden in the deep backyard."

A graduate of Carrollton High School, Rothenberger attended the University of Missouri, earning a bachelor's degree in agriculture and horticulture, a master's in education and a doctorate in vocational education.

"I have a minor in journalism," she said. "I was going to be a garden writer and photographer."

As a student, Rothenberger became a member of MU's flower-judging student team and was set to attend her first intercollegiate flower-judging contest at Penn State as an alternate when her advisor, MU Horticulture Professor Marlin Rogers, pulled her aside.

"He told me there was going to be a young man at the contest who was thinking about getting his master's degree at MU and asked me if I would help recruit him and I agreed," Rothenberger said.

"He turned out to be so cute that even though I was dating someone else, I told my friends I wouldn't mind going out with him," she said laughing.

In September, that young man, Ray Rothenberger, MS AF&NR '61, PhD AF&NR '64, arrived on campus and he and Barbara were married the following June. Rothenberger took up typing theses and then dissertations for her husband and others, and the couple began a family. They moved to Clemson, S.C. when Ray took a position as a professor of horticulture at Clemson University. Four years later, they returned to Columbia when he joined the faculty at MU.

Rothenberger completed her master's degree and accepted a position to teach horticulture at Hickman High School, a position she held for 16 years.

"I took a position teaching at MU and after a year, the department offered me an assistantship to teach horticulture to teachers around the state," she said. "I got my doctorate during that time and afterwards, wrote curricula in floristry."

And all the while, the couple shared their love of horticulture and gardening together and with others. They collaborated on the text and photographs for the Missouri Department of Conservation book Missouri Urban Trees, and operated a horticulture consulting service, Rothenberger Designs. The travel bug bit them when they began to lead RFD horticulture tours to Europe.

"Some were farm tours, and some were gardens," Rothenberger said. "We got to see a lot of places and loved it so much we started traveling all over the world."

Rothenberger lost Ray in 2006, after 46 years of marriage. One of their daughters, Rachael, lives with her husband — one of Ray's former students — three children and lots of parent-donated plants near Columbia. Daughter Ronna is at home in Portland, Ore.

Rothenberger relocated to a single-level home with an even larger garden space.

"It was hard to decide what to bring," she said. "You don't want to completely destroy the garden. I'm still a little sad I didn't bring some of my re-blooming iris with me. I've always loved iris."

Rothenberger said she enjoys her role as a board member for MUBG very much. "I bleed black and gold and am happy to support their efforts."

Additionally, Rothenberger serves on the board of Federated Garden Clubs of Missouri —representing MUBG — and is active in her garden club, and in the Master Gardener's program as a volunteer at MU's Jefferson Farm. She is a member of the Missouri Symphony League and the Daylily Society and continues her long tenure as an accredited flower show-judge.

Though she still loves to garden, Rothenberger said she is doing so a little differently these days.

"I mostly have pots of flowers on my deck," she said. "But even now, I still think, 'Good Lord, I can't find space for another plant,' but always find something new and somehow find space for it."

Story by Jan Wiese-Fales • Photos courtesy of Barbara Rothenberger

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Columbia Garden Club Minutes

The Columbia Garden Club met on March 9, 2020 at Trinity Presbyterian Church at 1 p.m. with 26 members attending.

Club member, Marie Pasley an Advanced Master Gardener, presented an extensive informative program on plant propagation. Seed propagation is an economical way to grow plants. Be sure to buy seeds from a reliable source and read and follow the directions on the package. Take into consideration: temperature, heat, moisture, light, soil mix, fertilizer, and using clean containers. Use markers identifying the plants and the date planted. When fertilizing, use half the strength listed on the package directions. Be sure to "harden off" seedlings before planting them outside. Vegetative propagation can also be done—cloning of the mother plant. Can do stem tip cutting, leaf cutting, air layering. By-pass pruners cause less injury to plants than regular pruners. Use clean sharp tools and use a rooting hormone before planting. Plants can also be divided, which is a very successful method of propagation. In the Spring divide plants when they are 3 to 4 inches tall. Can also divide plants in the fall, making sure to do so three or four weeks before frost date.

Refreshments were served and hostesses were Ann O'Dell, Betty Connelly, Barb Schuette, Connie Blackmore, and Leigh Speichinger.

The business meeting was called to order at 2:15 p.m. by President Betty Connelly. Design tip was presented by Barb Schuette—Proportion and Scale. Proportion is the relationship between amount and quantity of one area to another or to the whole. It does not refer to individual sizes. Scale is the size relationship of one object in a design to another. It deals with individual parts to each other on a one-to-one basis.

Business: Minutes of the previous meeting were approved as presented. The balance of funds is \$9,039.08. Betty thanked Ann O'Dell, Marla Mueller, Karen Blackmore, and Diana Cooksey for helping at the Mid-Mo Expo on Feb 29. The 87th Annual State Convention will be in Cape Girardeau May 4-7. Rita Gerka will be a delegate. (The State Convention has been canceled). The Symphony League has asked the Garden Club to decorate the Troxel home for the Holiday Home Tour in December. Alive Havard and Barb Rothenberger will go to this house to check it out to see how much decorating would be involved. They will report at a future meeting and the Club can decide if this is something we want to do. Marsha Taylor does a face book page for the Garden Club. If you do not want to allow a picture of you in this, let Marsha know.

Committee reports: Barb Rothenberger reported that **Garden Therapy** at the Bluffs will be March 19 at 2 p.m. in the Activities room; we will be doing carnation bud vases with the residents. (This has been canceled). Melissa Kouba reported that a committee has been formed for "**Teaching Columbia's Children to Plant America**" and this will be working with children at Russell Boulevard School. They have developed a three-year plan for this project and have applied for a grant to help with their \$950 budget.

Janet Lasley reported that April 11 is the date **Clean-Up Columbia**. We will meet at 9:30 at McKee Park. More volunteers are needed for this.

Art in Bloom at the Museum of Art and Archaeology is March 13-15. (This has been canceled).

The Club plant sale will be April 24-25. (This has been

canceled).

Rita Gerke reported that only one person applied for the **scholarship** and it has been awarded to Grace Anderson, a freshman at MU.

Meeting adjourned at 2:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted

Mary Nesladek

