

The Columbia Underground

Newsletter from the Columbia Garden Club
A century club, established in 1919
Member of National Garden Club
Federated Garden Clubs of Missouri
Central District



Calendar

April: Plant America Month

- 7-** FGCM District meeting in Eldon, Carpools meet at commuter lot on Hwy 63 at Grindstone/AC exit at 7:30 am.
- 11-** CGC meeting at church, then to Strawberry Hill
- 14-** the Bluffs with Barb R. at 2pm
- 22-** Earth Day -challenge go waste-free for a week
- 23-** Cleanup Columbia, McKee Park, 9:30am
- 29-** Arbor Day -plant a native tree (or two)
 - Deliver plants to Church set-up plant sale 12-4 pm.
- 30-** CGC Plant Sale 9 - 2pm (prep on 29th)

May:

- 2-5** - FGC State Convention, St. Joseph, MO
- 9** - CGC Meeting via Zoom 1-3 pm.
- 16-19** - NGC Annual Convention, Orlando, FL, Karen Blackmore will be attending.

June:

- 6** - CGC Meeting at Church 1-3 pm
- 12-18** - Bloomin' Bus Tour

Membership form

If you are interested in joining Columbia Garden Club, complete the information below and mail it to:

Carolyn Oates, 6302 S. Old Village Road, Columbia, MO, 65203. Include a \$25 check payable to "Columbia Garden Club."

Name: _____

Preferred phone: (circle) cell or home _____

Address: _____

Email address: _____

___I approve of the above information being printed in the annual club yearbook.

For questions about membership, feel free to contact Linda Antal at 573-819-4502 or lga4588@yahoo.com

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Notes from President Betty:



Hello everyone,

I hope you all have been able to get outside and enjoy the sunshine on the few days it has been possible. I've cleaned a bed or two, but I seem behind. Maybe, I feel that every year.

It looks like a busy April coming up so be sure to look at the calendar here in the Newsletter for dates and times for Clean up Columbia and the Plant Sale as well as the April meeting/field trip.

The District meeting is Thursday April 7. We will be meeting at the carpool lot on New Haven Rd. It's off Hwy 63 at the Grindstone exit. (East side of 63). We need to leave by 7:30am so get there a few minutes early so we can get everyone into a car!

A plant sale reminder- please bring small boxes 4/29 when you deliver your plants on plant sale set up day. Not too big. We need them for carrying plants to cars.

I hope all of you are planning on attending the next meeting. We will meeting at the church at 1:00 and having a short business meeting. Then we'll go to Strawberry Hill for an informal tour. I can't wait! (You can't go crazy though! Wait for the plant sale to do that!) It's always fun to see the new plants.

See you soon,
Betty



March Program Notes:



The Columbia Garden Club met at 1 p.m. on March 14, 2022. Our speaker was Mike Szdlowski, the K-12 Science Coordinator for CPS. His presentation "Invasive Species" was very interesting and included the following points:

- Providing place-based learning for students leads to global learning. This learning style incorporates ecology, culture and commerce into the existing standards and is occurring in several classrooms in the school district.
- The community becomes the classroom. Fairview was an early adopter of place-based learning. Students in the 4th grade science class went to the nearby Fairview Park to remove honeysuckle plants. Adults followed behind them to cover the stumps with glyphosate. (When cutting or pulling honeysuckle, any remaining plant must be treated within minutes with glyphosate or it will grow back. Generic glyphosate is cheaper than Roundup, but the cost of these chemicals has skyrocketed.) Many students gave up their recess to perform the work as they enjoyed it. Even parents came to help after school hours. The before and after pictures of the park were remarkable. This activity taught the students how cleaning out the honeysuckle enabled native plants and flowers to grow and greatly reduced the trash in the area. The cleaned-up park can now be used by the school for activities. Students were found to care about what they learn and have better attendance with place-based learning. (The brush pile was left in the woods to decompose but could be used for mulch, walking sticks, forts and art.)
- There were some issues and concerns raised by the outdoor activity - using glyphosate is controversial, but there is no substitute and it was used carefully. Of course some students had small injuries: insect bites, scrapes, bruises while working outdoors.
- Other place-based school activities include: a carbon sink study, aquatics study (pond algae), and other agriculture projects (chicken coops, goats and beehives).
- Boone County 4th grade students go on the Missouri River for "A River of Change" program to study the effects of climate change and other changes in the river.
- The Boone County Nature School is a partnership between Columbia Public Schools (CPS), the Missouri Department of Conservation (MDC). It is being developed on 207 acres south of Columbia on Highway 63, adjacent to the Three Creeks Conservation Area. The land was donated by the late former Columbia Daily Tribune Publisher Hank Waters and his wife Vicki Russell. The school includes an 8,230 square foot school building with 4 classrooms and a wet lab. There will be a mini-farm and trails in the woods. When completed, every fifth-grade student in Boone County (public, private or home schooled) will be eligible to be at the school for seven school days a year.
- Some stores are still selling invasive plants such as Bradford Pears. You can write to their headquarters and ask them to stop.



Business meeting:



Call to Order: Betty Connelly called the business meeting to order at 2:05 p.m. after wonderful refreshments and social time was enjoyed. It was great to see members in-person!

Welcome New Members & Guests: Re-joining members Leslie Rosenkrans and Lynda Blades were welcomed as well as one guest - Zetta Bettman, granddaughter of Amanda Schoenfeld. 28 members were present.

Inspiration: Mary Nesladek gave the inspiration: "Weather means more when you have a garden. There's nothing like listening to a shower and thinking how it is soaking in and around your lettuce and green beans," by Marcelene Cox.

Approval of Minutes: Carolyn Doyle moved to approve the February minutes as submitted. Karen Blackmore seconded. Motion carried.

Treasury Report: Carolyn Oates submitted the treasurer's report showing a balance of \$10,255.00 as of Feb 28.

Design/Horticulture Tip: Carolyn Doyle demonstrated how to create a "pot e fleur" for the Botanical Arts division of a flower show. The design is created from a combination of two or more flowering and/or foliage plants with roots growing in soil or other medium; and fresh cut flowers. Carolyn demonstrated designing the arrangement and placing materials appropriately for best viewing by judges.

Committee Reports:

1. Helping Columbia's Children Plant America: Melissa Kouba provided an update on the Russell Blvd School project. The garden must be accessible to students in wheelchairs. There is funding available to CPS to create gravel pathways. An AMES grant application has been submitted for hand tools, but there has not been a response yet. The teachers have requested step-by-step directions with pictures for each of the kits. Kits will not be used until after students complete MMAPS testing. A work day for the kits is being planned.

2. Cleanup Columbia: Connie Blackmore, chair, announced this will occur on April 23 at 9:30 AM at McKee Park, 1900 McKee St. Members need to bring gloves to wear.

3. Plant Sale: Setup will be Friday, April 29 for the sale Saturday, April 30. Members should be checking their own plants to see what can be divided and brought to the sale. Garage sale garden items are also needed.

Member Garden Tours: One more garden is needed for the June Member's Garden Tour. Contact Betty to volunteer.



Business meeting, cont.



Old Business

1. Calendar reminders

(see Page 1)

2. Linda Antal passed out the new Columbia Garden Club brochures she designed and got printed very reasonably at MBS. The brochure, which includes a membership form, will be used to recruit new members and can hopefully be placed next to CGC sign at nurseries, the library, etc.

3. Melissa Kouba created a logo that could be placed on aprons to advertise the club when we are working in the community. Karen Blackmore reminded the club that we already have several red aprons. She will get the aprons to Linda Antal.

4. Melissa Kouba has also created some posters for CGC. Members suggested their favorite.

5. We are hoping to have some "mini" field trips when there are interesting things to see in public gardens. Emails will be sent out when these are scheduled. The field trip to Baker Creek is not available yet due to COVID restrictions.

New Business

1. Melissa Kouba passed out Member Biography forms for everyone to complete. Please bring back your completed form to a future meeting. The information will be used in future newsletters to help us get to know everyone better.

2. Marla Mueller provided dried seed pods to give away for decorative purposes.

3. Leslie Rosenkrans provided aloe plants to give away.

4. Karen Blackmore reported that the Handbook for Flower Shows is available on the internet at NGC.org.

Action Items

1. Garden Therapy: Barb Rothenberger is hoping to have an activity at The Bluffs in April. She asked members to start growing flower seeds for this.

2. Russell Committee work day will be scheduled. Melissa Kouba will coordinate.

3. Next Meeting: We will meet at the Church on 4/11/22 at 1 p.m. for a short business meeting and then carpool to Strawberry Hill for a tour.

Meeting adjourned at 2:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Mary Nesladek



Member spotlight:



Are you wondering what we would do with the member survey we handed out? Well, we thought we would like to get to know each other better after so many Zoom meetings! Since we are still collecting that information, here is a little taste of what is coming.

Garden Stories:

"I planted lima beans blue and then planted them thinking they might come up blue!"

Barb R

"My siblings and I would uncover corn that the tractor would cover as it was tilled. We hoed, planted and harvested together. I remember trying to go as fast as my brothers to keep up with the tractor."

Elaine K

"The first house I moved into had a large area with allium planted. I thought they were weeds so I pulled them all up"

Ann O

"My mother-in-law kept a vine (she called a potato vine because of the small nodules that it grew from) in a small planter in her house. She gave me a cutting that I planted outside near a down spout of the house gutter. It did very well, the leaves were 10 time larger than the ones on her house plant and it grew about 8 feet up the spout! In the late summer it produced the most fragrant blooms all over the vine. She had not known that it could bloom. Many years later, Alice Havard identified it as a Madera Vine. I usually keep some to over-winter in the house, but for several years it came back on its own outside where I originally planted it."

Lynda B

"When I was 8 or 9, we had a babysitter who had a huge garden across the road from us. She grew everything, even peanuts! She let us help when she dug them, and I was fascinated by the way they grew.

Betty C



Editor's notes:

Spring is coming! My "star magnolia" is blooming.

Oh but the flower petals also look like large snowflakes!

Magnolia is a large genus of about 210 to 340[a] flowering plant species in the subfamily Magnolioideae of the family Magnoliaceae. It is named after French botanist Pierre Magnol.

Magnolia is an ancient genus. Appearing before bees evolved, the flowers are theorized to have evolved to encourage pollination by beetles.

Magnolias are spreading, evergreen or deciduous trees or shrubs, characterised by large fragrant flowers which may be bowl-shaped or star-shaped, in shades of white, pink, purple, green or yellow. In deciduous species the blooms often appear before the leaves, in Spring. Cone-like fruits are often produced in Autumn.



Southern Magnolia (*Magnolia grandiflora*)

When people think of magnolias or read about them in novels

of the antebellum South, the southern magnolia is very likely the plant that comes to mind. This magnolia's flower is the state flower of Louisiana and Mississippi. Southern magnolia is a large evergreen tree that needs lots of space. The elliptical leaves are large and leathery, up to 10 inches long, and the white flowers appearing in mid-summer to early autumn can be as much as 12 inches across. While most magnolias prefer full sun but tolerate some shade, this is a magnolia that actually does best in part shade.

- Native Area: Southeastern U.S, USDA Growing Zones: 7 to 9, Height: 60 to 80 feet

Star Magnolia (*Magnolia stellata*)

Star magnolia is a deciduous small tree or large shrub that produces star-shaped white flowers in later winter or early spring, even before any other flowering tree, and even before most spring bulbs. When possible, plant it in a sheltered location to help it flower in the spring, as the buds are easily damaged by frost.

- Native Area: Japan, USDA Growing Zones: 4 to 8, Height: 15 to 20 feet

Saucer Magnolia (*Magnolia x soulangiana*)

Created by crossing the lily magnolia and the Yulan magnolia, the saucer magnolia can either be a large shrub with multiple stems or a small tree. The white blooms with pink interiors typically appear in early spring before the leaves appear. Many cultivars are available offering different flower colors, ranging to a deep purple. This is the most commonly grown magnolia in the U.S., sometimes known as tulip tree.

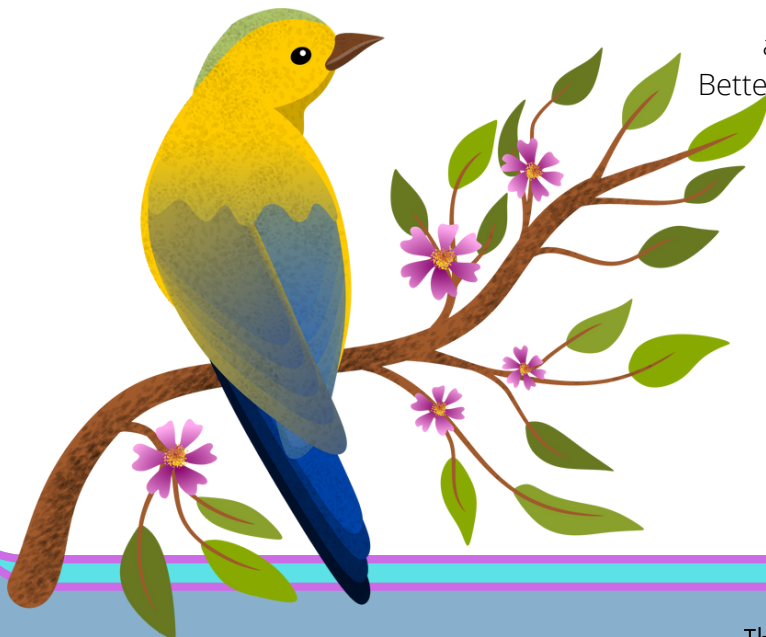
- Native Area: hybrid plant; no natural range. USDA Growing Zones: 4 to 9, Height: 20 to 25 feet

Arbor Day:



A Slight Mistake:

"Three little children across the way,
Were hard at work on Arbor Day,
Their spade was sharp,
And the soil was fine,
The tree was a dear little baby Pine.
But it never will grow,
For oh, dear me,
They have planted the top,
Where the roots ought to be!"



a song from 1927
Better Homes and Gardens