

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

February, 2022

Editor: Melissa Kouba

Calendar

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February:

2 - 4pm Join Missouri Prairie Foundation's Bruce Schuette discussing prairies -webinar at:

secure.lglforms.com/form_engine/s/xvX3DZcx0kulEJfOyhmnuq

10-2pm Meet at The Bluffs to make Valentines.

14- CGC Monthly Meeting 1:00pm Meet via **Zoom**

16- Webinar makes birdwatching easier and more fun at:
birdcount.org

18-21- The Great Backyard Birdcount.. Watching and Counting Birds is Fun: Tips for the Great Backyard Bird Count

Join Livestream webinar on Feb 16, and learn how to participate

* **Looking ahead** National garden club:

- May 2-5: FGC State Convention, St. Joseph, MO

- May 16 - 19: NGC Annual Convention, Orlando, FL

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 _____

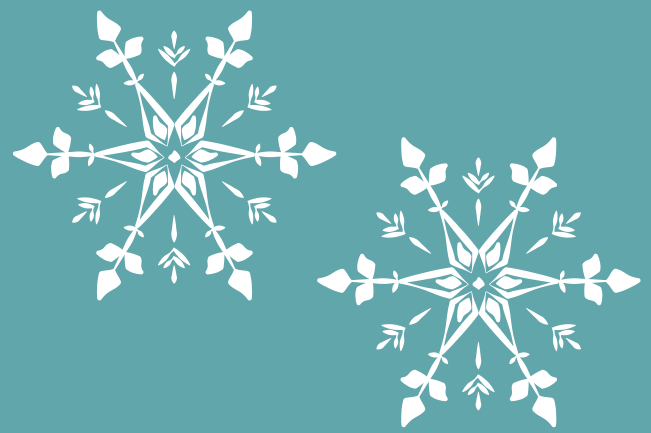
Address: _____

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

February question:



Have you ever seen a **frost flower**? They are thin layers of ice (credit card thickness) that are formed when sap in the stem of a plant expands through slits in the stem of a plant. Capillary action draws water through the cracks, which freezes upon contact with the air, and the thin layers of ice form a ribbon-like frosting. These layers of ice are often formed into exquisite patterns that curl into “petals” resembling flowers.

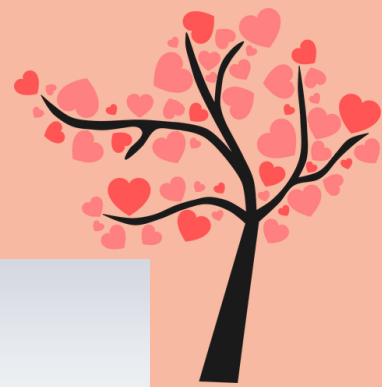
Their formation requires freezing air temperatures, soil that is moist or wet but not frozen and a plant’s stem that has not been previously frozen. They are therefore most commonly seen in late fall and early winter. They're quick to melt, so look for them in the early morning in shaded areas.

The plants most likely to create frost flowers are *Verbesina virginica* (white crownbeard, white wingstem); *Verbesina alternifolia* (yellow ironweed, yellow wingstem); *Cunila origanoides* (American dittany); and *Helianthemum canadense*.

This winter, when conditions are just right—the ground is not frozen but the air is—you might see papery-white blossoms unfurling from long-stemmed plants.



Notes from President Betty:



Hello to everyone!

Thank you to all who attended the Zoom Meeting on January 13. It was well attended. I think 21 in all. I am sorry for the last minute change. The Executive Committee made the decision to hold the Feb. 14th meeting via Zoom also. Hopefully, we'll be able to gather in-person in March.

I am so happy to thank Amanda Schoenfeld for volunteering her garden for our tour in June. Only one more to go! Please let me know soon if you can show yours so I don't have to call and beg. It's not pretty when I do that!

I have a district project that I would like help with. Since I am the 2nd Asst. Director of Central District, it is my job to form a committee to make an educational display for our State Convention in May. Each district will make one which will be shown and judged at the convention and then on to the State Fair. I have all of the guidelines to follow so I'm sure we'll be okay, but I need some brain power to help. The theme is Turtles and our assigned turtle is the Three-toed Turtle. Are you excited yet? Please let me know quickly so you get to help. We only need 2 or 3 at most. (You don't have to go to the convention or fair unless you planned to go anyway.)

See you at the next meeting! Happy seed planting or dreaming!

Betty



Meeting Minutes:



The **Columbia Garden Club** held a Zoom meeting at 1 p.m. on January 10, 2022 with 21 members present. Betty Connelly welcomed two prospective members: Anjolie Grindrod and Belinda Masters.

Program: Chris Egbert, who is a member of the Boone's Lick Chapter of Missouri Master Naturalists gave a very informative program of what Master Naturalists do and how they impact the environment. The State group was organized in 2004 and the Boone's Lick Chapter was the first chapter organized. It is a community-based program for adults sponsored by Missouri Department of Conservation and MU Extension. There are twelve chapters in the state of Missouri, covering most areas of the state. In 2021 over 49,000 hours of volunteer work were completed, and over 715,000 hours since 2004. The volunteer work was valued at over \$1 million in 2021 and \$17 million since 2004. Volunteers participate in 40 hours of training in ecosystems, etc. with basic recruit training and 8 hours of advance training. Monthly meetings are held with speakers and additional training. Chris has participated in a pollinator project for 3 years for the Fish and Wildlife office by collecting pollinators. In another 10 years this will be repeated; changes will show what plants are still there over this time period to show changes in the eco system. Another project is conservation of pallid sturgeon fish. They existed on earth before the dinosaurs and are listed as endangered since 1990. Chris has helped with Raptor Rehab Project; he brought an injured raptor to the MU Vet School for rehab. When the bird was healthy, he took it back to the area where it was found, and the family and friends had a "party" to let the bird fly away. Raptors can be owls, eagles, hawks, turkey vultures, etc. People can also adopt a bird for a fee. There are 12 resident birds there for educational purposes. Missouri Master Naturalists also help with the Big Muddy Wildlife Refuge area, which is less than a mile south at the I-70 Overton Wooldridge exit. It is also a nice area for a picnic. Some other partners include: MO Dept of Natural Resources, Eagle Bluffs on Rt K, Univ of MO Bradford Research Farm, MO River Relief (river cleanup), Audubon Society, and Columbia Center for Urban Agriculture (CCUA). There are also projects such as cutting grass, goose roundup, removing fescue and planting prairie grass, and many more projects.

Meeting Minutes. cont.

Business Meeting: President Betty Connelly called the meeting to order at 1:56 p.m. Minutes of the previous meeting were accepted as distributed.

- Treasurer Carolyn Oates,, reported our balance of \$10,303.92.
- Environmental School, Course 3 will be March 7-10.
- The FGC State Convention will be May 2-5 in St. Joseph with the cost of \$175 for registration and meals.
- National Convention will be in Orlando, FL in May. Registration forms will be in The Garden Forum.

- Committee reports:

- *The Bluffs* Barb Rothenberger reported that we will meet at The Bluffs on February 10 at 2 p.m. to make valentines with the residents, everyone welcome.
- *Programs* Carolyn Oates obtained information on Melinda Hemmelgarn who is an award-winning dietitian, writer, speaker, a nationally syndicated radio host, and gardener who lives in Columbia. She would be available to present at a future program. Betty suggested that we organize field trips occasionally in between regular meetings. Melissa Kouba volunteered to organize a trip to Baker Creek Seed Company in Mansfield, MO. Members will be notified of details when they are available. Look at the website to learn about this company. Members should think of other field trip opportunities.
- *Garden Tour:* President Betty indicated that two more member gardens are needed for the June garden tour. Current 2022 volunteers are Rebecca Smith, Donna Puleo, and Kay Kern.
- *Membership:* Recent new members met at Betty's house for a new member's orientation. Linda Antal presented information on Membership Monday—a National Garden Club zoom meeting she attended. The purpose was to help increase and maintain membership in garden clubs. Discussions noted that we need to update our CGC business cards and consider additional promotional materials

- Yearbook additions:

September 17 - flower show.

Diane Linneman -email is: dilinneman@mac.com

New member: Christopher Nesladek

1363 S. Mesa Dr. Columbia 65201

573-268-2331 christopheron@hotmail.com

Meeting adjourned at 2:45 -----notes submitted by Mary Nesladek



Membership

from a webinar on membership, Linda Antal found these helpful ideas for our club:

Membership Monday

Garden clubs across the nation are noting a decrease in membership. We need to focus upon increasing and maintaining membership.

Attitude

- Invite, invite, invite – invite friends, fellow-gardeners to join. Initiate a campaign during which each member talks to people about their garden and invites them to a meeting.
- Host a program open to the public and follow-up with attendees.
- An attitude of inclusion and openness is essential – ensure ALL feel welcome.
- Flowers come in all shapes, sizes, colors and have different scents, just as we do.
- Diversity provides a variety of points of view that will make the club better – religions, races, ages, ethnicities, genders, cultures, abilities and sexual orientation
- Openness – share love of gardening, friendships, good works
- Be kind and welcoming – have an existing member sit with a new member to help them feel welcome.
- Consider having a greeter at each meeting and give all name tags.
- Provide orientation for new members
- Provide a refresher to current members reviewing all the projects, changes, etc.
- Introduce new members at meetings.
- Be flexible; to attract, be attractive



Membership. cont.:

Always be Recruiting

- Everyone should be an ambassador to ensure the continuation of the club
- Eliminate a maximum on membership, if one exists. Consider actual and honorary memberships.
- Share the love of gardening, share the good works the club is doing
- *Advertise:* in local nurseries, newspapers, print brochures, flyers, bulletins, letters to the editor, special interest stories, etc. National Garden Club has a free brochure explaining why you should join a garden club. Use social media: Facebook While doing things in the Community, post a Columbia Garden Club sign or wear club hats, T-shirts or aprons; print garden club business cards to hand out.
- Promote with a theme: "Come for the knowledge and stay for the friendship." and/or "We are not your grandmother's garden club!"
- Give new members a packet of seeds collected by members
- Provide new members with a welcome packet – like realtors distribute to welcome new people to the community

Retain members:

Have fun!

Have all members subscribe to the National Gardener – a digital, quarterly publication free to all members. Contains articles of interest to environmentalists, gardeners, landscapers, floral designers, educators as well as nature photographers. Feature columns provide our readers with leadership advice, seasonal recipes and garden club lore.

"Linda will submit a spreadsheet with all our names to receive the National Gardener."





A look out my window



Editor's Hints, I see some work to do!

A relative told me years ago that he did not like the superbowl. He said that he always did his tree and shrub pruning that day of the year. He did not have much of an audience to watch him and he got the job done yearly that way!

"The best time to prune is during the dormant season, from the time of leaf fall in the autumn until they leaf out in the spring," said Hank Stelzer, University of Missouri Extension forestry specialist. "You can do some pruning in the summertime, but there you want to do it very lightly and only for corrective purposes after a storm or something of that nature."The University Extension service has several good horticulture guides.

The following information is from <https://extension.missouri.edu/g6866>

A regular pruning schedule should be developed to care for young trees. Eliminate undesirable branches while they are young. Many of the problems that require extensive repair work in old trees can be prevented by early corrective pruning. Look for and prune out the following problems:

- Dead, dying or unsightly twigs and branches.
- Sprouts growing near the base of the trunk.
- Crossed branches and branches growing toward the center of the tree.
- Narrow crotches. If it is possible to do so without ruining the appearance of the tree, remove one of the members forming the weak crotch. This helps to prevent future storm damage.
- Multiple leaders. If more than one leader develops on a tree that normally has a single stem, cut out all but one to encourage the tree to develop its normal shape.
- Remove branches that may develop into potential hazards such as low-hanging branches that interfere with traffic and weakened or dead branches that may break.
- Single branches other than the leader sometimes develop faster than the rest of the tree. They need to be cut back to allow the tree to develop its normal shape.