

“Columbia Underground”

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

Editor; Marie Pasley

Upcoming Events

July 13 CGC meeting per Zoom- Diane Cooksey will host the meeting, further info to follow

August 10 @ 8:30 CGC meeting in the yard of Marie Pasley “Making Concrete-Draped Pots”

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July 13th CGC meeting

CGC July 13th Meeting will be held on Zoom. Betty Connelly will instruct those not familiar with Zoom on how to get onto Zoom and participate in the meeting, PLEASE contact Betty the week of July 6th at bettyconnellywi@yahoo.com. Betty will send out the invitation the week before the meeting to membership.

June 8th CGC Garden Tour Report

The Columbia Garden Club had the Annual Members’ Garden Tours on June 8, 2020. 25 members attended along with two visitors—Myron Kern and Barbara Harrison, Central District Director. Five gardens belonging to Donna Russell, Carolyn Oates, Hugh Harrison, Ibbby Burggraaff, and Diana Cooksey were on the tour. Due to social distancing guidelines, members were divided into five groups and directed to which garden to visit at a specific time so each garden only had a few visitors at any one time. Home owners gave guided tours of their gardens, pointing out many interesting plants. Donna Russell and Betty Connelly coordinated this event and prepared the

booklet describing each garden along with maps and directions to each garden.

After the tour, there was no business meeting to keep within social distancing guidelines.

The tours started at 8:30 and ended by noon. There were no Columbia Garden Club meetings during April or May.

Respectfully submitted
Mary Nesladek



“Blue Jay”

Description: 12” long, bright blue above w/black & white in the wings & tail, white below, black face

Habitat: Predominately oak forest in suburban areas & parks

Nesting: 4 to 6 brown spotted greenish eggs in a coarsely built nest of sticks.

August 10th CGC Meeting @ 8:30 am

We will meet for a "Draped Cement Pot Party". This will be a fun but messy process, so it is perfect for socially distancing and being outside. The club will provide the cement mix. **Members will need to bring a cloth to drape over an 8" or under plastic pot.** An old towel works best but you could use t-shirt like fabric also. Bring a pair of dish washing gloves (disposable gloves won't hold up to the harsh mix) and a large garbage bag to cover the pot when completed. The pots will probably need to be left to dry for a few days before you can take them home. Betty is planning to make some stepping stones for those that don't want a pot. The stepping stones will be used in the Russell Blvd. School Garden.



This is a picture of the draped pots. We will be making the smaller ones at this time. Once the pots have been cured you can paint them a color if you prefer.

Coping with Japanese Beetles by Scott Aker

The Japanese beetle is probably the most destructive pest in the eastern half of the United States because it can damage

turfgrass and a wide variety of ornamental plants, as well as field crops. It was discovered in 1916 in New Jersey and are spreading westward.

Adult Japanese beetles are easy to spot, with glossy and metallic green appearance. These pests appear in June or July on a variety of plants. When they feed, they emit an aggregation pheromone, a scent that attracts nearby adults to newly discovered host plants. In just a few days, one beetle may be joined by many others eating around the large veins on leaves, creating lacelike skeletons.

The beetle's main defense mechanism is dropping to the ground, avoiding most predators this way.

In August or September, the adult female beetles seek out grassy areas and lay their eggs just below the soil surface. The young larvae hatch quickly if temps remain warm and there is sufficient moisture in the soil. The white grubs feed voraciously on the grass roots, sometimes causing patches of grass to brown and die. When temps drop with the onset of winter, the grubs burrow deeper in the soil to protect themselves from the cold. In spring they resume feeding on grass roots before moving upward to the soil surface to pupate and transform into adults.

Following are several methods of control. Beetles are strongly attracted to floral scents and green and yellow colors. Commercially available are Japanese beetle

traps used to lure beetles in with a floral scent and synthetic aggregation pheromone. These bag containers must be emptied or replaced every 2 days to remain effective. The downside to traps is that they often attract many more beetles to your garden than they actually capture.

Hand picking if you don't want to risk the lures can be useful. Shaking plant branches, dropping the beetles into a bucket of soapy water works well. For best results, start your routine early in the season and make it a daily task.

A spray deterrent of kaolin clay, mixed with water and applied as a spray, creates a coating that deters the beetles from feeding. Kaolin clay is easily washed off leaves, so avoid overhead watering and reapply after rain.

Methods to control the grub will lead to reduced numbers of adults the following year.

Non-chemical nematodes and a fungus known as milky spore have been shown to be effective.

Withholding watering your lawn in late summer for 4 to 6 weeks can eliminate Japanese beetle grubs. Most of the eggs will desiccate and die before they can hatch.

(provided to newsletter by Barb Rothenberger)



Blue Jay eggs in nest.