

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



May, 2022

Editor: Melissa Kouba

In this issue:

Notes from Pres. Betty
And Calendar note
page 2

April Meeting Notes
page 3

April Meeting and Program
page 4

Spring Ephemerals
page 5

Member Spotlight
page 6

Editor's finds
page 7

Calendar

May:

- 2-5** - FGC State Convention, St. Joseph, MO
- 4** - Native Plant sale at Songbird Station 3-6pm
- 7** - Birds and Bees Festival at Arrow Rock
- 8** - Mother's Day
- 9** - CGC Meeting **at church**, but speaker via Zoom 1-3 pm.
- 14** - Daylilies on Sale at both of Columbia Farmers Markets
- 16-19** - NGC Annual Convention, Orlando, FL, Karen Blackmore will be attending.
- 21**- Native plant sale at Bass Pro Shop on North Hwy 63 in Columbia from 10am to 1pm
- 26**- Last day of School at CPS

June:

- 6** - CGC tour of members' gardens!
- 12-18** - Bloomin' Bus Tour

Future:

October 1 - Flower show at DBRL

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

Notes from President Betty:

Dear Members,

Thank you for everyone's contribution to the plant sale! Most special thanks go to Marie Pasley and Leigh Speichinger for their massive efforts!



For the meeting on Monday the 9th. Remember our meeting will be at the church and we plan to use the projector and WIFI to watch Maggie McCoy's presentation. If you are not able to attend, but attend from home, I will send out the zoom invitations on Friday.

We hope to have interesting information to share after we attend the state meeting!

Member garden tours are coming up!

Calendar note:

this Saturday at the **Birds and Bees festival** from 10am-4pm in Arrow Rock. You won't want to miss out on our expert guided nature experiences at our annual Birds and Bees Festival in Arrow Rock, MO! You can find out more about the walks and sign up at

<https://mrbo.org/festival/>.

Guided Experiences Schedule:

7:30 am - Morning Bird Walk

9:30 am - Later Morning Bird Walk

10:30 am - Guided Insect Exploration

11:30 am - New-bee Beginner Bird Walk

1:30 pm - Guided Insect Exploration

April Meeting Notes:



The Columbia Garden Club met on April 11, 2022 with Betty Connelly calling the meeting to order at 1 p.m. with 23 members in attendance.

New member Vanita Johnson and guest Patty O'Neal were welcomed.

Inspiration from Mary Nesladek: "I myself am quite absorbed by the delicate yellow, delicate soft green, delicate violet of a plowed and weeded piece of soil" by Vincent van Gogh.

Minutes of the previous meeting were approved as distributed.

Treasurer's report Submitted by Carolyn Oates with a balance of \$10,255.11 as of March 31, 2022.

Plant Sale: Set up is Friday, April 29 starting at noon; plant sale Saturday, April 30 from 9-2 with clean up to follow. Bring small to medium size boxes suitable for carrying plants. For the horticulture tip: Members should bring plants from their own garden and pot them up. If dividing plants such as hostas, have smaller clumps and put them in a plastic bag. We will also have a white elephant sale with gardening type items. There will be a bake sale with organizers Leigh Speichinger and Kay Kern. They will price the items so our prices will be uniform. Smaller items sell best, especially brownies and cookies in small packages, etc. When working at the plant sale, members will be wearing the red aprons with a CGC logo.

The Bluffs: Barb Rothenberger has a greeting project planned for Thursday, April 14 at 2 p.m. Bring items for making cards and decorating them.

Cleanup Columbia: This is scheduled for Saturday, April 23 at 9:30 a.m. at McKee Park; bring gloves to wear. There was some discussion about a different location for this in the future due to the neighborhood safety issues. (location was later changed)

Flower Show at the Daniel Boone Regional Library: Set up will be Friday, **September 30** at 3 p.m. and the show will be Saturday, **October 1**.

New Business: The Central District set up a fund raiser to sell Atlas gardening gloves. CGC was given 25 pairs of gloves to sell at \$6 each (cost is \$3); 24 pairs of gloves were sold at the meeting.

CGC to host the State convention in **2024** as suggested by Marie Pasley. We will need to set a date soon and book a location. CGC will be organizing many things; with other clubs helping with the convention.

Gardening biographies: Please complete for publication in future newsletters.

Other Business: Marie Pasley moved to have CGC pay the registration fee for Linda Antal for the FGCM convention; Elaine Keely seconded; motion passed. Linda is 2nd VP and since 1st VP could not attend, she is taking that spot. Rita Gerke will be attending as the second delegate. Linda Antal (membership chair) handed out a corrections addendum page for our handbook with new members contact information.

April meeting cont:

Plant sales:

- Daylillies will be for sale on Saturday, May 14 at both of the farmer's markets in Columbia. Karen Blackmore says these are named plants.
- Kimmswick, MO will have a daylily plant sale on Saturday, June 25 from 9-5 (but plants sell out quickly).
- Discovery Garden Club is having a "Friends and Family Plant Sale" on Saturday, May 7 from 8-11 a.m. at 2306 Bluff Creek Dr.

New member: Vanita Johnson, 1301 Glasgow Dr., Columbia 65203 319-530-0356
vanitalue@gmail.com

District meeting: On April 7 eleven CGC members attended the FGCM Central District Spring meeting in Eldon. The speaker was Gabrielle Branstetter with "Living Your Dream" speech. She did office work for 15 years, and then turned her gardening hobby into a career. She raises vegetables in a high tunnel to sell to consumers.

Meeting adjourned at 1:30

Program:

Strawberry Hill Farms: Members traveled to nursery and met with owner, Steven Sapp. The business was started in 1980 by Steve's parents and in 2011 Steve and his wife, Amy took over the business. They have 28 greenhouses with almost 90,000 square feet for plants. They are a retail store only. This year they tore down eight greenhouses and rebuilt them for more energy efficiency, and plan to do more in the future.



They specialize in vegetables, hanging baskets, tropicals, annuals, perennials, some shrubs, some fruit trees (but not landscaping trees). Geraniums are a big seller, and this year they have 18,000 hanging baskets of various varieties of plants. CGC members then roamed the greenhouses and shopped at their own leisure.

Strawberry Hill is supporting Columbia Christian Academy when shoppers mention this school and shop from April 23 - May 8. They will donate 10% of purchases.

Respectfully submitted; Mary Nesladek



Spring Ephemerals:

An ephemeral plant is one marked by short life cycles. The word ephemeral means transitory or quickly fading.

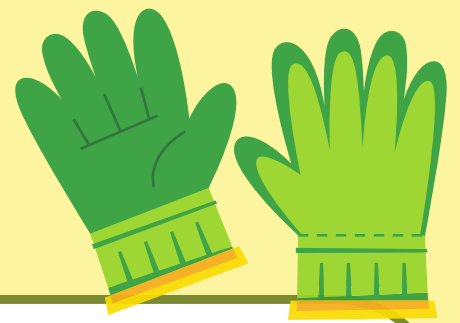
Spring ephemerals are a sublime gift of nature at the end of a long cold winter. These early woodland wildflowers occupy a short yet glorious interval in the woodland, blooming and setting seed during a small window of time between snowmelt and when the trees leaf-out. Their brief presence in the woodland is connected to the lives of numerous other members of a community, all participating in beneficial exchanges at a critical intersection in their lives.

The first to bloom in spring, ephemeral flowers are a critical source of nectar and pollen for bumblebees, mining bees (andrena bees), various flies and gnats. An abundance of these early blooms helps to lay the foundation for healthy bee numbers all season long. Unlike bumble bees, which can feed from a wide range of flowers, many early pollinators are picky eaters that collect nectar and pollen only from one group of closely related plants. Numerous mining bee species are specialists, and are out foraging strictly for their partner plants, such as **Trout Lily** and **Bellwort**. Since the competition for nectar and pollen isn't quite as intense in the early spring, some wildflower species such as Bloodroot and Hepatica don't bother producing any nectar at all.

Mayapple flowers compensate for a lack of nectar by offering a very generous pollen reward. Pollen is an essential source of protein that bees use to feed their young, so even without nectar, bees will avail themselves of the pollen. **Bloodroot** unfurls in the warmth of the sun for a short period of time, and the stamens start releasing pollen within a few hours of opening. The petals drop quickly once pollination has occurred.

Another "pollen only" producer, **Jack in the Pulpit** is a dioicous species. Which means that each plant bears one or the other, male or female, flower parts. These unique looking ephemerals are pollinated by fungus gnats, which are attracted into the "pulpit" by a slight fungal odor. The unsuspecting gnats lay their eggs on what they believe to be a fungus. When they are finished laying eggs the gnats are unable to crawl out of the plant because of the slippery interior. However, if the plant is a male, they can exit through a small opening at the base of the chamber. By the time they finally exit the plant they've been dusted with pollen from the male flowers. The gnats eventually enter a female plant, where the accidentally gathered pollen brushes off on the stigmas and pollinates the female plant. The bright red berries that appear in later summer are the result of a pollinated female plant.

Member spotlight:



Our member survey is slowly trickling in. I hope to have more data to share with you. It looks like many members have gardened with family since childhood, but some came to gardening after growing up! I will have the numbers when everyone submits!

A few more Garden Stories:

"My husband built me a greenhouse during the pandemic. The only seeds I had started before the green house were in the ground. It was so much fun to see the seedlings come up and then grow in the garden."

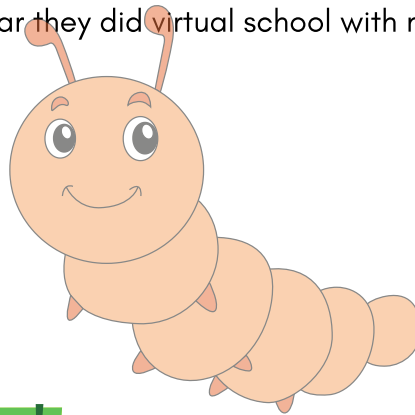
Brenda M

"Last year I got a garden "Grow Box. They are supposed to be wonderful. I had a beautiful plant and there were quite a few tomatoes. But every one had bottom end rot. I never had one tomato to eat from that plant and no telling how much water I used!"

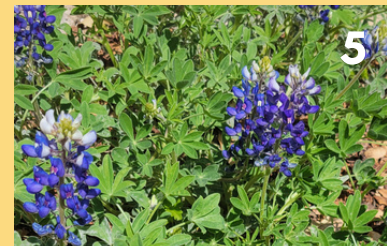
Karen B

"A long time ago, I was out digging a trench to plant a row of hedge. One of my children was with me - "helping". We had been working for a while, when he asked me, "mom, do we eat worms?" I said no, and then looked up to see him with a worm hanging out of his mouth!"
A couple of weeks ago, two of my grandsons (one of them the son of the "worm boy") came to me and whispered that we needed to go to the pet store and get some frogs for the yard. They had found several frogs the year they did virtual school with me and were not yet finding frogs in the yard."

Melissa K



Editor's finds:



Blue flowers blooming nearby (and seen in Texas -5 or Montana -8!).

1. Larkspur (*Delphinium elatum*) --blooming now from nursery planting
2. Speedwell (*Veronica persica*) --soon to bloom in my neighbor's yard
3. Shining Blue Star (*Amsonia hubrichtii*) --just beginning to bloom in my raingarden
4. Bearded Iris (*Iris germanica*) - with *Packera Obovata* the yellow in the background --now
5. Texas bluebonnet (*Lupinus texensis*) --blooming in Texas in March
6. Spring Blue-eyed Mary (*Collinsia verna*) -- found this week blooming in Rockbridge park
7. Forget-me-nots (*Myosotis sylvatica*) --in yard now
8. Forget-me-not (*Myositis arvensis*) -- non-native seen in Glacier National Park trail

HUMM! I was told that there were not really many true blue flowers!

Not so it seems this past week...

Try to go see the blanket of blue-eyed Mary in the woods now- Rockbridge has large carpeted areas!

