

“Columbia Underground”

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

Editor; Marie Pasley

Upcoming Events

November 9- NOTE date and location change: CGC meeting at 1 pm at Stephens Park to place a wreath at the Blue Star Memorial. We may have a short meeting if permitted. We also will collect monetary donations to the Food Bank-cash or checks made out to Food Bank

December 14-CGC Christmas Open House tour.
We will follow the same pattern that we used for the Garden Tour in June-staggered times, masks, distancing, small groups (more info later)

2021

April 23 set up, 24 Plant Sale date (this may be a bit different than normal if Covid is still running rampant!)

May 10-a Small, Standard Flower Show at Karen Blackmore’s home. Staggered times to visit, small groups, masks, and distancing required.

June 14-Member Garden Tour-same as last year, small groups at each garden at one time.

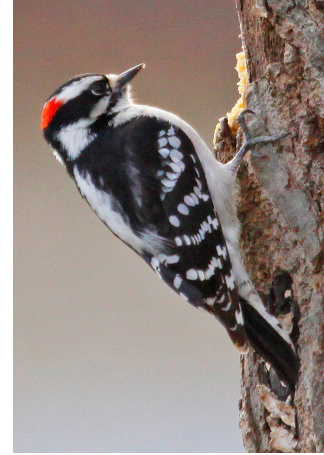
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CGC November 9th Meeting

We will meet at the front entrance (off Old 63) at 1pm to place a wreath at our Blue Star Memorial.

We may also drive by the memorial at the VA hospital.

You may also bring money donations for the “food bank”. Checks should be made the Food Bank. We may have a brief meeting in the memorial area.



“Downy Woodpecker”

Description: 6 " black & white with small red patch on nape in males. Smallest of the eastern woodpeckers.

Habitat: Wood lots, parks, & gardens. Suet feeders in winter.

Nesting: 4 to 5 white eggs in a tree hole.

Fall is for Apples

With the plethora of apple cultivars available year-round, it's hard to imagine what new size, shape, color, and flavor could be developed. As astonishing as it may seem, there will be new apples with incredibly different flavors available at your local farm markets and orchards this fall. Several new introductions have Honeycrisp as a parent. Honeycrisp apples grown under high summer temperatures like those in Missouri are not generally of high quality. However, this limitation is overcome when Honeycrisp is crossed with another heat-tolerant cultivar, resulting in crisp, juicy, and flavorful apples.



Figure 1 A basket of Ludacrisp apples. Photo credit: Midwest Apple Improvement Association (MAIA).

One of the most anticipated new apple cultivars is Ludacrisp (**Figure 1**). These large apples have a scarlet red peel and crisp texture, but its most striking feature is its flavor. Ludacrisp apples have a tropical-like flavor similar to Juicy Fruit chewing gum. The flavor drivers are pineapple, grape, and strawberry. This cultivar was discovered at in Pataskala, Ohio. Sweet Sixteen is one of the parents of this cultivar, but the other is unknown. While the name of this apple and its unique flavor may seem ludicrous to some, it will surely be unique. Ludacrisp apples will be available in mid-October.



Figure 2 An Evercrisp apple ready for harvest. Photo credit: MAIA.

Evercrisp apple is a cross of Honeycrisp and Fuji that originated in Roann, Indiana (**Figure 2**). Fruit grown in full sun is nearly all red, while slightly shaded apples have a yellow background color at peak harvest in mid-October. It has a sweet flavor and a hard fruit texture. The first Evercrisp apples came to market in 2018, but its availability is growing as trees in commercial orchards mature. It consistently ranks high in taste panels with cultivars grown in Eastern production regions in the United States.



Figure 3 A Sweet Zinger apple. Photo credit: MAIA.

For those who appreciate a slightly tart apple, look for Sweet Zinger (**Figure 3**). It has an orange-red peel and a honey-citrus flavor. This fruit ripens in October and is generally available for a short time in markets. Also, these apples tend to have a short shelf-life so refrigeration is recommended. This cultivar originated from a Goldrush and Sweet Sixteen cross.



Figure 4 A Summerset apple. Photo credit: MAIA.

Two other releases that will have limited availability in the Midwest are Summerset and Rosalee. Summerset ripens in mid-August and has a short two-week harvest period (**Figure 4**). It is a Honeycrisp x Fuji cross, with large fruit size, a crisp texture, and tangy flavor. While Rosalee has similar parentage as Summerset, it ripens in mid-October. Rosalee has a medium fruit size, red skin color with prominent dots, a floral flavor, and a firm fruit texture (**Figure 5**).



Figure 5 A Rosalee apple. Photo credit: MAIA.

Ludacrisp, Evercrisp, Sweet Zinger, Summerset, and Rosalee were all developed by the Midwest Apple

Improvement Association, which consists of grower-members from the United State and Canada. Thus, apples will be available for purchase, but trees of these cultivars are not sold to non-members.

Scarlet Crush originated in Winchester, Illinois. It is a Honeycrisp x Cripps Pink cross that ripens in late September. The peel color is a pinkish-red color with a sweet flavor and a citrus-like note. Ruby Darling is another new apple selection from Illinois. It is a Honeycrisp x Gala cross ripens in early October. It has a medium to large fruit size with a crisp texture. Like Honeycrisp, these apples are juicy and have a sweet and sub-acid flavor. Scarlet Crush and Ruby Darling trees can be purchased from Stark Bro's Nurseries and Orchards Company.

*Taken from IPM University Extension

Gardening in October

Gardening isn't as much fun as it was a couple of months ago, but don't let up quite yet! Take care of those fall garden chores before it gets too cold. Keep in mind, time flies and spring will be here again.

- Now is the time to get tulips, daffodils, allium and other spring bulbs in the ground.
- Mow the lawn once more this season. Lower the blade a notch or two so sunlight and air can reach the roots.
- Remove leaves regularly. Pile them in an out of the way spot or use a mulching mower and let the leaves decompose back into the soil.
- Protect tender shrubs and perennials with a generous layer of straw, wood chips or pine needles.
- Clean and sharpen pruners and other garden tools. Replace cracked or broken handles.
- Empty hoses and store them for the winter. Repair or replace old, damaged hoses.
- Rake leaves and other plant debris from under roses to eliminate breeding spots for insects and fungal diseases.
- Water roses deeply after the first frost to ensure plants are hydrated during the winter.
- Dig gladiola, cannas lilies, dahlias and other tender bulbs. Let the bulbs dry for a few days, then store them in vermiculite or peat moss for replanting next spring.

- Pull dead or dying annuals. Dispose of them safely and don't allow them to remain over the winter.
- Clean up overgrown areas and brush piles to discourage weeds and insect pests.
- Empty hanging baskets and other containers. Give the pots a thorough scrubbing and spray them with a bleach solution before you store them for the winter.
- Plant a cover crop of rye grass, clover or vetch in your garden after vegetable harvest is complete.
- Spread mulch around shrubs and trees, but be sure mulch doesn't pile up against the trunk.
- Put outdoor furniture away for the year.
- Take stock of your garden. What worked and what failed? Take pictures for easy reference. Jot down notes about changes you want to make and new plants you want to try.

*Taken from Pro-Mix newsletter.

Columbia Garden Club October Minutes

The Columbia Garden Club met by Zoom on October 12, 2020 with 15 members attending. President Betty Connelly called the meeting to order at 1:10 p.m. Mary Nesladek gave the inspiration: "Gardening really has no beginning and no end. In particular, pleasures of the sense of smell really know no seasons. By Tovah Martin." Minutes of the previous meeting were approved as presented. Evette Nissen, treasurer, reported that our balance is \$8,707.73.

Membership: Karen Blackmore reported that 28 people have paid dues and 15 have not. It is not too late to pay dues of \$20.

New Business: For the November 9 meeting, we plan to meet at Stephens Lake Park on the Hwy 63 side at 1 p.m. by the Blue Star Memorial which is at the entrance to the walking trail. Later we will drive by the marker at the VA Hospital and maybe the one at MU. Bring a cash donation for the food

bank. The December 14 meeting will be a member's holiday home tour. The State Convention for 2021 has been cancelled due to Covid-19. Betty has several varieties of flower seeds from Bernadine Canfield; contact Betty if you would like seeds. Betty needs members to volunteer their yard for the June 2021 garden tour.

Program: Karen Blackmore presented information about the Blue Star Memorial Markers. Columbia has three markers: Stephens Lake (on the Hwy 63 side), VA Hospital (left of the front door), and on the MU campus (near the Memorial Union). These markers honor our past, present and future veterans in all branches of the U.S. Military. This program began with the planting of 8,000 Dogwood trees by the New Jersey Council of Garden Clubs in 1944 as a living memorial to veterans of World War II. In 1945, the National Council of State Garden Clubs (now NGC, Inc.) adopted this program and began a Blue Star Highway system that covers thousands of miles across the U. S. The Blue Star was adopted because it had become an icon in World War II. Missouri has 109 markers. There are three different kinds of markers: Blue Star Memorial Markers, Memorial Highway, or Memorial By-Way Markers. Dedication programs are planned by local garden clubs and councils and are attended by veteran's groups, state and national officers, chairman and state and local public officials. Gold Star Memorial Markers were also created to provide support to those who have lost a loved one in service to our country through the U. S. Armed Forces. Their mission is to offer honor, hope, and healing through remembering fallen heroes by coming together. Karen has made wreaths with red, white, and blue flowers. One wreath will be placed at the Stephens Lake Blue Star Memorial at our November 9 meeting. Karen will place the other wreaths later. A Blue Star Memorial Marker is planned for the Missouri Capital and hopefully will be dedicated in August 2021.

Betty Connelly and Carolyn Oates presented information on gardening schools sponsored by NGC. The costs for these schools are nominal now since they are presented on Zoom; thus no traveling and hotel costs. Each school has four courses and can be taken in any order, except the Flower Show School must be taken in sequence. Reading is required for each school, and tests are taken with each school. Environmental Studies School Series is designed to study the process of the earth, and the impact of man on earth. Flower Show School is for the purpose of training and accrediting flower show judges, and to increase interest and knowledge in the fields of horticulture and design. Gardening Study School is designed to stimulate interest in all phases of horticulture. Landscape Design School is for the purpose of educating garden club members and the public to recognize good landscape architectural practices.

Diana Cooksey also presented ideas on dried flowers from her garden. She showed dried arrangements of hydrangeas, ornamental grass, and allium. She also made a wreath from contorted filbert twigs by getting them wet and making the wreath. She decorated the wreath with small Halloween items. She did not spray anything on these items, and they were items she made last fall.

Karen Blackmore showed some big, beautiful dahlias from her yard. It is good to know that deer do not eat dahlias. Karen also mentioned that there are some openings for officers at the district level; contact Karen if interested.

Meeting adjourned at 2:06 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by

Mary Nesladek