

# 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



October,  
2022

Editor: Melissa Kouba

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## Calendar

Year-long native garden calendar:

<https://grownative.org/learn/native-landscape-care-calendar/>

### September

**30-** Flower Show set up at DBRL: 3pm

### October

**1** - Flower show at DBRL theme of "Nature's Splendor", bring exhibits at 7:30, judging begins at 10am

**11** - **CGC meeting** at 1 p.m. as usual at 1600 W. Rollins, then carpool to see the Mizzou Botanic Garden followed by trip to Buck's Ice Cream Shop at Eckles Hall on the MU campus.

**16-18** - Central Region Meeting, Bloomington, MN

**31** - Butterfly/Hummingbird applications to State Chair

### November

**7** - **CGC meeting**

### 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:

Why do we have flower shows, anyway???

Good question!

To educate the club members and public

To stimulate interest in horticulture and floral design

To provide an outlet for creative expression

To communicate NGC goals and objectives

What are the objectives?

Columbia Garden Club addresses these objectives in Article II of our By-laws: The objectives of this club shall be to stimulate knowledge and love of gardening through sharing of ideas and education..... (pg.20 Yearbook)

Are there other benefits?

You can participate in many ways even if you don't do a design! You can work on the staging crew, set-up, provide flowers for designs and staging, help break down and clean up, bring a horticulture specimen, or get crafty in the Botanical Arts, and many more. Share the fun and the comradery you feel when you work with a group of friends to accomplish a goal.

We have the opportunity to get the word out about Columbia Garden Club!

I hope to see everyone on Oct 1 at the Daniel Boone Library. Open from 1-4pm.



# September CGC meeting

**The Columbia Garden Club met** on September 12, 2022 at noon for the Annual membership meeting and pot luck luncheon. A delicious luncheon was enjoyed by 20 members and guest, Julie Deering.

**“Getting to know Betty Connelly.”** A fun game designed by Karen Blackmore! Karen provided multiple facts about Betty and then gave the members a quiz to test our memory and listening skills! Karen passed out prizes to members who had the most correct answers.

**Meeting called to order** at 1:19 p.m. by Betty Connelly.

**Thanks** to those members who decorated for the luncheon: Kay Kern, Mary Nesladek, and Carolyn Oates.

**Samples for plant identification** were provided by Alice Havard.

## **Announcements:**

-Leigh Speichinger is having surgery on her achilles tendon after a fall on her trip to England.

-Linda Houston’s (State Garden Club president) husband passed away on September 8. (A sympathy card was circulated at the meeting for signatures and then mailed)

**Inspiration:** from Mary Nesladek “Advice from a Rainbow: Live a colorful life, be an inspiration, bring unexpected joy, see beauty in life’s curves, be someone to look up to, live in the moment, and reflect your true nature.”

**September birthdays:** Alice Havard, Ruthanne McCoy, Marla Mueller, Mary Nesladek, Ann O’Dell, Patty O’Neal, and Donna Puleo.

**Minutes** of the August meeting were approved as distributed.

**Treasurer’s report:** balance of \$13,240.99. It is time to pay dues of \$25 for 2023; payment goes to Carolyn Oates treasurer. We have donations of \$325 for a memorial for Amanda Schoenfeld, and more donations are expected to come in the mail. Mary Nesladek has obtained information from the City of Columbia Memorial Tree Program. A tree costs \$400 and there are some options about choosing a tree and the location for planting the tree.

The next planting time would be in the Spring of 2023.

Mary will follow up on this donation. CGC will make a donation for a garden related book in Amanda’s name.



# September CGC meeting. cont.:



## **New Business:**

-On September 8, several CGC members attended the Fall District meeting in Ashland: Linda Antal, Karen Blackmore, Betty Connelly, Carolyn Doyle, Alice Havard, Elaine Keely, Melissa Kouba, Mary Nesladek, Carolyn Oates, Marie Pasley, Barb Rothenberger, and Carol Tummons.

-Ongoing CGC Projects for the club were reviewed (described starting on page 4 of the Yearbook). We will keep all existing projects, but decided that the Web Page, Facebook Page and Monthly Newsletters are not projects but on-going items. Art in Bloom is questionable as we do not know when the Museum will be ready to host this again and how much space would be allocated for this event. Members need to sign up to be on committees for 2023.

-The FGCM Annual Convention will be May 6-9, 2024 at the Stoney Creek Hotel in Columbia. This is hosted by the Central District and two representatives are needed from each garden club chapter in our district. Betty Connelly will be a representative and another person is needed. Marie Pasley is the overall chair, Karen Blackmore the assistant chair, and Linda Antal the treasurer. The first day of the convention will be tours and design shows and an auction. The second day will have meetings, speakers, workshops, and a banquet with an awards ceremony. The third day will consist of meetings.

-Flower Show. All members are expected to help set up at 3 p.m. September 30 at the Daniel Boone Regional Library. On October 1 exhibits can be brought starting at 7:30 a.m.; judging will begin at 10 a.m.

-October 11 meeting. We will meet at 1 p.m. as usual. After a short business meeting, we will carpool to see the Mizzou Botanic Garden and then later go to Buck's Ice Cream Shop at Eckles Hall on the MU campus. A few people will be able to ride golf carts for the tour if needed.

Meeting adjourned at 2:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted

Mary Nesladek



# Is Fall a Good Time to Plant Native Perennial Plants?

Yes, fall is a great time to plant some native perennials. You probably know planting bulbs in the fall is the best time of the year; native perennials are very similar.

As the cooler temperatures of fall start to arrive and bring us a little relief from the hot days of summer, you might wonder if it's too late to plant. It's not. In fact, fall is the perfect opportunity to plant more native plants. The soil and temperatures of fall bring great conditions for root establishment such as better vigor and greater weed suppression. Planting in the fall can also give you a jump on the spring gardening season. Here are a few tips that will help.

The best time to plant in the fall season is typically September 1 through the end of October. Avoiding the hot temperatures is good, but getting them in too late will not allow them to root in. In the fall, you can easily see the holes that need to be filled in your existing native garden. Seeing what is missing in your garden, allows you to plant or replant what is needed to fill the holes. Or it may be that you are beginning a new garden and planting in the fall allows you to install a fresh garden to get an early start on the spring.

## Care

Care will be very minimal for the fall and winter. Keep them watered, lightly, in the fall so they do not dry out. Let them sit over the winter, while occasionally checking on them during thaws. They should not need water in the next growing season unless we experience drought conditions. You do not have to worry about covering them when it snows. Perennials need the snowfall for their growth.

## Be Patient

Now you will need to be patient, as the native plants will not start sprouting until spring. Most full sun prairie plants will bloom this first full growing season. Some woodland plants may take a few years to get to maturity.

## What Not to Plant in the Fall

While Whorled Milkweed and Swamp Milkweed are great to plant in the fall, some milkweeds are not. Some milkweeds do not do well over winter if they're not large enough to survive and are best planted in the spring. The following plants are not good for planting in the late fall: butterfly milkweed, short green milkweed, poke milkweed, prairie milkweed, common milkweed, purple milkweed, and green antelopehorn milkweed. Most other common native plants thrive with fall planting in the Midwest and upper Midwest.

Source: Natural Communities Bring Nature to Life



# 13 FUN FACTS ABOUT OWLS



- Many owl species have asymmetrical ears. When located at different heights on the owl's head, their ears are able to pinpoint the location of sounds in multiple dimensions. Ready, aim, strike.
- The eyes of an owl are not true "eyeballs." Their tube-shaped eyes are completely immobile, providing binocular vision which fully focuses on their prey and boosts depth perception.
- Owls can rotate their necks 270 degrees. A blood-pooling system collects blood to power their brains and eyes when neck movement cuts off circulation.
- A group of owls is called a parliament. This originates from C.S. Lewis' description of a meeting of owls in *The Chronicles of Narnia*.
- Owls hunt other owls. Great Horned Owls are the top predator of the smaller Barred Owl.
- In fact, owls are insanely good hunters.

- The tiniest owl in the world is the Elf Owl, which is 5 - 6 inches tall and weighs about 1 ½ ounces. The largest North American owl, in appearance, is the Great Gray Owl, which is up to 32 inches tall.
- The Northern Hawk Owl can detect—primarily by sight—a vole to eat up to a half a mile away.
- In fat years when mice are plentiful, usually monogamous Boreal Owls are apt to be promiscuous. Because easy prey means less work for parents feeding their young, males have been caught mating with up to three females, while females have been seen with at least one beau on the side.
- Barn Owls swallow their prey whole—skin, bones, and all—and they eat up to 1,000 mice each year.
- Northern Saw-whet Owls can travel long distances over large bodies of water. One showed up 70 miles from shore near Montauk, New York.
- Not all owls hoot! Barn Owls make hissing sounds, the Eastern Screech-Owl whinnies like a horse, and Saw-whet Owls sound like, well, an old whetstone sharpening a saw. Hence the name.
- Owls are zygodactyl, which means their feet have two forward-facing toes and two backward-facing toes. Unlike most other zygodactyl birds, however, owls can pivot one of their back toes forward to help them grip and walk.



Source: Audubon Society

# Pumpkins!



A pumpkin is a cultivar of winter squash that is round with smooth, slightly ribbed skin, and is most often deep yellow to orange in coloration. The thick shell contains the seeds and pulp.

Native to North America (northeastern Mexico and the southern United States),<sup>[1]</sup> pumpkins are **one of the oldest domesticated plants**, having been used as early as 7,000 to 5,500 BC. Pumpkins are widely grown for food, as well as for aesthetic and recreational purposes

The color of pumpkins derives from orange carotenoid pigments, including beta-cryptoxanthin, alpha and beta carotene, all of which are provitamin A compounds converted to vitamin A in the body.

According to the Illinois Department of Agriculture, 95% of the U.S. crop intended for processing is grown in Illinois. And 41% of the overall pumpkin crop for all uses originates in the state, more than five times the nearest competitor (California, whose pumpkin industry is centered in the San Joaquin Valley), and the majority of that comes from five counties in the central part of the state. Nestlé, operating under the brand name Libby's, produces 85% of the processed pumpkin in the United States, at their plant in Morton, Illinois.

Pumpkins are a warm-weather crop that is usually planted in early July. The specific conditions necessary for growing pumpkins require that soil temperatures 8 centimetres (3 in) deep are at least 15.5 °C (60 °F) and that the soil holds water well. Pumpkin crops may suffer if there is a lack of water or because of cold temperatures (in this case, below 18 °C or 65 °F). Soil that is sandy with poor water retention or poorly drained soils that become waterlogged after heavy rain are both detrimental. Pumpkins are, however, rather hardy, and even if many leaves and portions of the vine are removed or damaged, the plant can quickly grow secondary vines to replace what was removed.

Pumpkins produce both a male and female flower, with fertilization usually performed by bees. In America, pumpkins have historically been pollinated by the native squash bee, *Peponapis pruinosa*, but that bee has declined, probably partly due to pesticides. Ground-based bees, such as squash bees and the eastern bumblebee, are better suited to manage the larger pollen particles that pumpkins create, but today most commercial plantings are pollinated by hives of honeybees, which also allows the production and sale of honey that the bees produce from the pumpkin pollen. One hive per acre (0.4 hectares, or 5 hives per 2 hectares) is recommended by the U.S. Department of Agriculture. If there are inadequate bees for pollination, gardeners may have to hand pollinate. Inadequately pollinated pumpkins usually start growing but fail to develop.



# Jack-O'-Lanterns

Pumpkins are commonly carved into decorative lanterns called jack-o'-lanterns for the Halloween season. Traditionally Britain and Ireland would carve lanterns from vegetables, particularly the turnip, mangelwurzels, or swede. They continue to be popular choices today as carved lanterns in Scotland and Northern Ireland, although the British purchased a million pumpkins for Halloween in 2004.

The practice of carving pumpkins for Halloween originated from an Irish myth about a man named "Stingy Jack". The turnip has traditionally been used in Ireland and Scotland at Halloween, but immigrants to North America used the native pumpkin, which are both readily available and much larger - making them easier to carve than turnips. Not until 1837 does jack-o'-lantern appear as a term for a carved vegetable lantern, and the carved pumpkin lantern association with Halloween is recorded in 1866.

In the United States, the carved pumpkin was first associated with the harvest season in general, long before it became an emblem of Halloween. In 1900, an article on Thanksgiving entertaining recommended a lit jack-o'-lantern as part of the festivities that encourage kids and families to join together to make their own jack-o'-lanterns. Association of pumpkins with harvest time and pumpkin pie at Canadian and American Thanksgiving reinforce its iconic role. Starbucks turned this association into marketing with its pumpkin spice latte, introduced in 2003. This has led to a notable trend in pumpkin and spice flavored food products in North America. This is despite the fact that North Americans rarely buy whole pumpkins to eat other than when carving jack-o'-lanterns. Illinois farmer Sarah Frey is called "the Pumpkin Queen of America" and sells around five million pumpkins annually, predominantly for use as lanterns.

