



# COLUMBIA UNDERGROUND

## President's Corner

I was sad to miss Alice Longfellow's presentation, as I have heard many of you were. (I was happy not to be out in the snow!) We will try to get her back again next year. Spring is so close! I have daffodils with small buds and my Iris danfordiae bloomed February 22<sup>nd</sup>, too early as it should bloom with the crocus and they are not in bloom yet. I am just glad to see something in bloom and anxious, as usual, to get going with spring cleaning and grooming. We have several things in the works already. Hopefully you have made note on your calendar to attend Art in Bloom some time during March 16-18. If you plan to attend the Spring District meeting, you must give your \$15.00 to Evette no later than our meeting on the 12<sup>th</sup>. If you are planning to attend the state convention in Cape Girardeau April 24-26, that registration is due by March 24<sup>th</sup>.

Jennifer Sieradzki works for the City of Columbia and will be our guest speaker at the March meeting. She is the horticulturist working on the Discovery Garden for the city and will give us an update as well as discuss other projects in the City. I want to know how the beds around town are maintained and stay so pretty in the concrete planters when I have so much trouble in my garden! Two more important projects are gearing up. The plant sale will be here sooner than we realize! Please be thinking of what you can donate this year. In fact, if you have more than you can manage, let's talk about helping each other where we can, to get as many great plants to the sale as possible. Also the flower show will be here before we know it. Since we are having it with the Show Me Iris Society this year, we will have a lot of help but will still need designs as well as iris entries in the horticulture division. We will start talking more about the show at our meeting.

I am busy trying to figure out how to make watermelon slices in flowers for Art in Bloom. So far, still puzzled!  
See you on the 12<sup>th</sup>!

Karen

### Calendar of Events

March 12th—Meeting

Program—Columbia Parks and Recreation Horticulturist, Jen Sieradzki

March 16th-18th

Art in Bloom

March 28th

Central District Spring Meeting

April 9th—Meeting

Program-Charles Paxton, MU Container Gardening

## HOSPITALITY

### March

Linda Rubin  
Mary Redders  
Wilma R Levy

### April

Dee Bauer  
Marie Crenshaw  
Linda Lowenberg

# HAPPY ST. PATRICK'S DAY

### Spring District Meeting

The Central District meeting is March 28 in Mexico, MO. The program is Garden Inspired Art. The cost to attend is \$15.00. If you wish to attend, please bring your money to our March meeting. Also if you plan to take some "Garden Inspired Art" I will need to send in how much space you need for your exhibit.

### Floral Arrangements Schedule

If you would like to furnish flowers for the open spots, please contact Lynn Birkby at 573-443-8704.

Month	Boone Library	Wyatt Guesthouse
March	Kay Egbert	
April	Margaret Sullivan	Kay Egbert
May	Barb Rothenberger	Jane Sadler

**In the spring, at the end of the day, you should smell like dirt. ~Margaret Atwood**

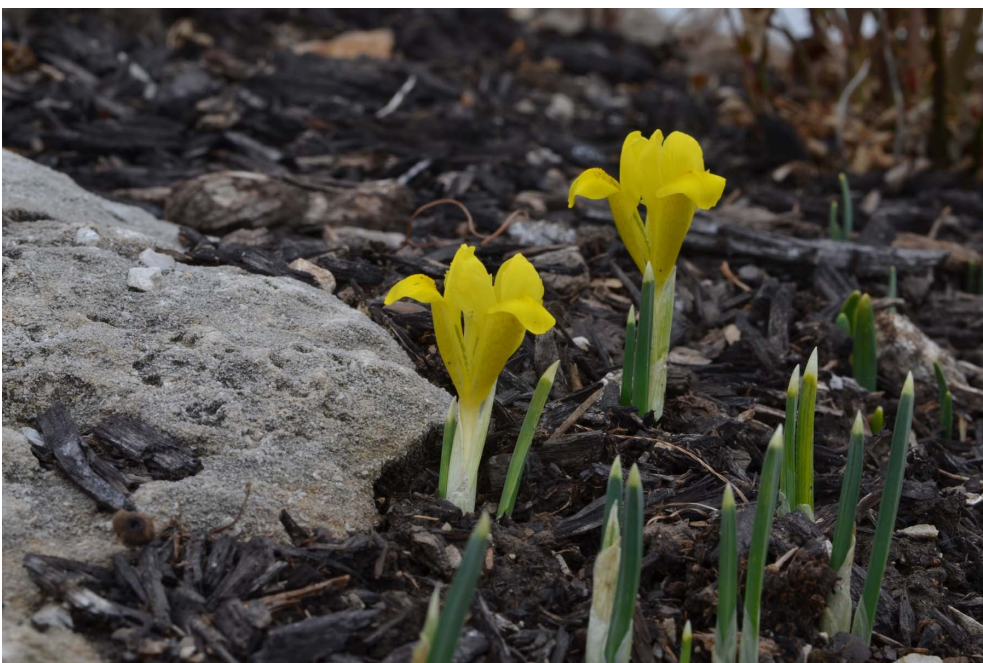


**SCIENCE HAS NEVER DRUMMED UP QUITE AS EFFECTIVE A TRANQUILIZING AGENT AS A SUNNY SPRING DAY. ~W. EARL HALL**

**A LONG BLOOMING IRIS BED** BY DOROTHY ANDERSON

As I was writing this, I began to wonder if I had a 10 x 10 foot garden space how could I plan an iris bed that would have bloom for the longest period of time. The thought sort of intrigued me so I decided that I would mentally see if I could plan for some continuous bloom and for how long. If one had a rock border one could use *Iris danfordiae* and *Iris reticulata* tucked into the rocks plus one could add some miniature dwarf bearded. Dwarf bearded iris could be placed in clumps around the edges. Some of the newer varieties have interesting colors, ruffled edges and rounded falls also you could choose a couple of varieties that rebloom. We now have color for the month of April. Beginning the last of April and first of May is the Intermediate bearded iris. I sometimes feel hybridizer's neglect IB's because many of the cultivars are not fertile. Saving pollen from the early season to tall bearded time takes time and storage. One doesn't usually go out in the morning and make the cross. Now it is about Mother's day and the tall bearded and miniature tall bearded should be blooming. If one would choose only reblooming TB's one could probably add almost another month of bloom in the fall. As the TB's are beginning to fade one could plant Siberians. One of the characteristics of Siberians is that their foliage stays green all summer. Spurias might also be added except that their foliage dies back and would leave an empty space. Louisiana iris would be the next addition. With their interesting color patterns and shape people would stop and look. Last but not least in June would be the Japanese iris. The last spring that we were at 1016 Maplewood my iris around the fire hydrant caused more people to stop and look. I just had a couple of LA and couple of Japanese iris; but they made the walkers stop and take a second look. I think with the addition of a big rock or two and/or small dwarf evergreens one would have an area that people would stop and look at. If you were given a 10 x 10 foot space to plant just iris, what would you plant?

Excerpted from the Show Me Iris Society Newsletter by Dorothy Anderson



Danfordiae Iris  
(Danford Dwarf  
Dutch Iris)  
Growing in Karen  
Blackmore's Yard.

## March Gardening Chores

### Pruning

Cut back or prune the following by Mid March:

Ornamental Grasses

Liriope

Perennials

Roses-Hybrid Tea Roses to 6-8" tall, Knockout Roses to 12" tall

Hydrangeas-Mop-head and Endless Summer types to 6-12" tall

### Fertilizing

Trees should be fertilized in February or March before they leaf out. If trees have been in the ground longer than 5 years, they probably don't need to be fertilized.

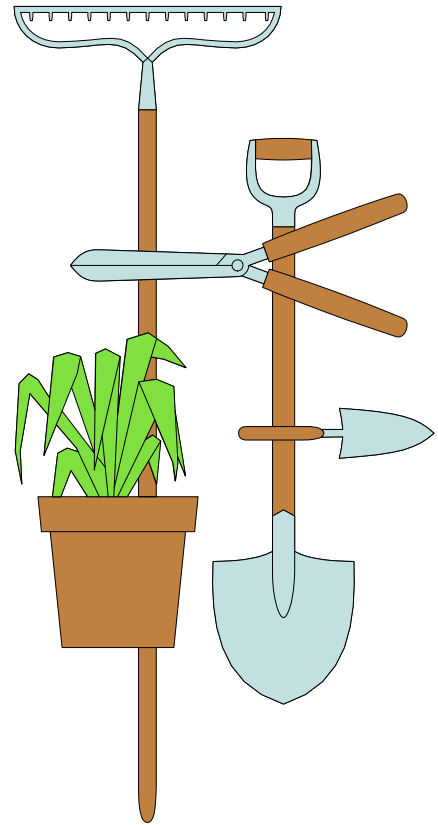
Shrubs should be fertilized in March or April. If you prune them, that is a good time to fertilize.

Perennials can be fertilized as soon as new growth appears. Apply a balanced fertilizer such as 6-12-12.

All perennials, roses, mums and strawberries should be uncovered by March 15, as long as temperatures are above 15 degrees. Summer and fall blooming perennials should be divided in spring.

Set up nesting boxes for bluebirds.

Taken from Longfellow's Garden Center and Missouri Botanical Garden Websites.



### Treasurer's Report

There were no transactions for the month of February, so the balance in our account remains at \$5,870.18.





## PERENNIAL PLANT OF THE YEAR

The Perennial Plant Association has announced *Brunnera Macrophylla* 'Jackfrost' as the 2012 Perennial of the Year.

Common Name: Siberian bugloss

Type: Herbaceous perennial

Zone: 3 to 8

Spread: 1 to 1.5 feet

Bloom Time: April to May

Height: 1 to 1.5 feet

Uses: Groundcover, Will Naturalize

Sun: Part shade

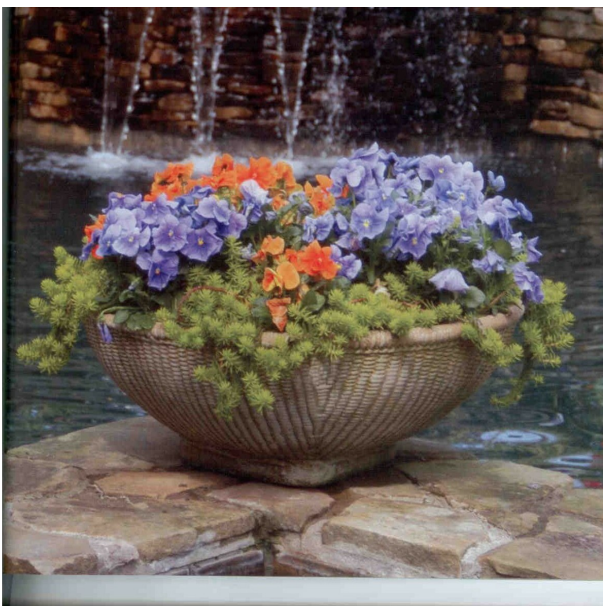
Tolerates: Rabbits

Water: Medium

Bloom Color: Blue



From Missouri Botanical Garden



This 16" container is planted with 6 Blue Pansies- from 4" pots, 6 Orange Pansies from 4" pots and 8 Sedum from 4" pots.

It can stand light shade to full sun.

Since the pansies like cooler weather, this is a good spring or fall planting.

Planting Plan: Plant the blue pansies in a line along the center. Plant the orange pansies in a line perpendicular to the blue pansies. Fill in along the edges with the sedum.

From Easy Container Gardens by Pamela Crawford

## Attracting Songbirds To Your Yard



- The single best thing to do to attract birds is to plant native shrubs, vines and trees.
- Provide a water source near protective shrubs
- Create a songbird border along your property edge by planting trees and shrubs that meet the needs of birds throughout the year. Include at least one species of thorny tree, such as hawthorn or raspberry, for nesting. Also include evergreens, such as spruce, holly, or juniper, for cover. Plant berry-producing shrubs such as dogwood, serviceberry, and viburnum that will provide fruit throughout the seasons.
- Rake leaves under shrubs to create mulch and natural feeding areas for ground-feeding birds such as sparrows, towhees, and thrashers. Earthworms, pill bugs, insects, and spiders will thrive in the decomposing leaf mulch, and will in turn be readily eaten by many songbirds. In general, overly tidy gardeners are poor bird gardeners!
- Take the “[healthy yard pledge](#)” to avoid lawn pesticides and wasteful sprinklers. Currently, 50 percent of U.S. households treat their lawns with chemicals that kill about 7 million birds each year. These chemicals also leach into our groundwater where they move to wells, streams, lakes, and oceans.
- Clean out old bird and mouse nests from nest boxes in early spring.
- Clean tube feeders with a bottle brush and a 10 percent solution of non-chlorine bleach solution. Rinse thoroughly and dry in the sun before refilling. Rake up soggy seed from under feeders that could grow deadly mold. Move feeders close to the house to avoid window strikes. Collisions with windows may kill as many as a billion birds in the United States each year. Birds at feeders that are spooked by a hawk or other predator will scatter in all directions. Move feeders within three feet of a window. At such close distances, birds are less likely to gather lethal momentum when startled. The birds will be safer, and you’ll get a better view!

From Cornell Lab of Ornithology



Use a strawberry jar to create a miniature herb garden for your deck or patio. This example used chives, tricolor sage, pineapple mint, chamomile, lemon balm, marjoram, oregano and basil. Mix a time-release fertilizer into the soil when planting your strawberry jar. One dose can last all summer.

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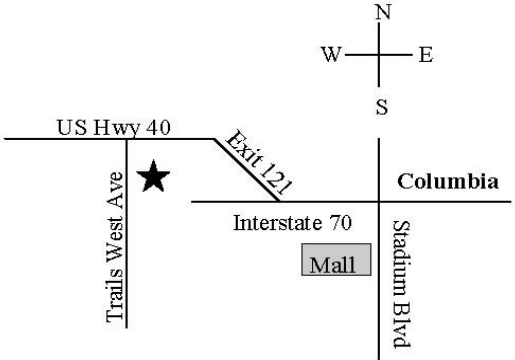


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