

# “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 Editor: Melissa Kouba

## January 2022 Calendar:

-January 10, 2022 1:00pm

CGC monthly meeting with speaker  
1600 W. Rollins Road  
Chris Egbert, Master Naturalist

-January 10, 2022

Children's committee meeting to follow club meeting  
Assemble kits at Kouba garage workroom 3801 Daylily

-Sunday, January 30 1:30-3 p.m.

Discovery Garden Club's 2022 Winter Garden Forum  
Growing fruit trees and Growing Lavender  
Register for webinar through Library:

[https://dbri-org.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_31FaeaMqSLC5NozPriTp2A](https://dbri-org.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_31FaeaMqSLC5NozPriTp2A)

**January Question:** Why do some oaks retain their leaves through winter?



The retention of dead leaves on a tree, or leaf marcescence, is discussed in Douglas Tallamy's book "The Nature of Oaks". He presents several interesting reasons for this phenomenon in his book (chapter titled "December" pp 27-30): Marcescence may be advantageous because it makes the tree less desirable for foraging by browsing animals. Buds of the trees cannot easily be eaten without also eating a mouthful of dead leaves. Possibly browsing on trees with dead leaves is too noisy--and therefore too risky--as browsers may be noticed by predators. These dead leaves may help trees which grow on poor soils by trapping more snow. This helps increase soil moisture beneath the tree in spring. It also slows the decomposition of leaves, so they may act as mulch in the spring once they have dropped.

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## Notes from our President:

Happy New Year to you!

I hope all of you were able to spend time with your loved ones during this holiday season. Personally, I was a slug for several days and had 2 pajama days! I spent one binge day on PBS's "Call the Midwife". I watched all of the tenth season and a Christmas Special. That's only about 8 episodes, so it wasn't too guilt-inducing!

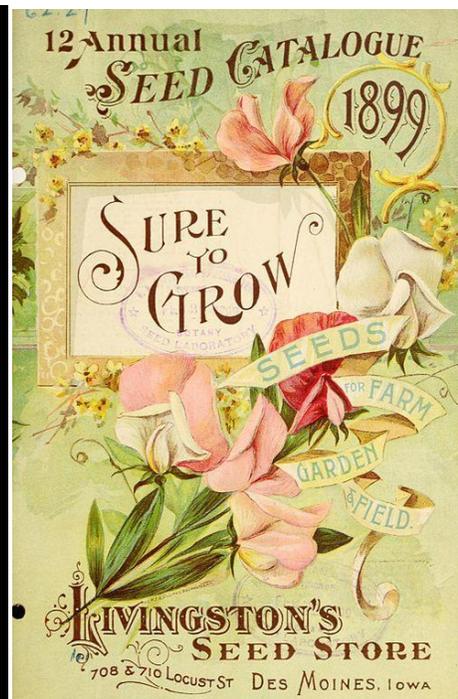
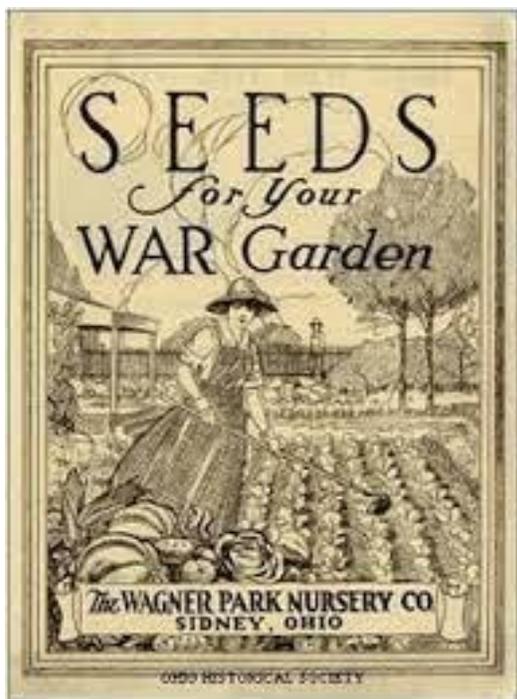
I want to thank all of you who helped with the Christmas luncheon. It was delicious and plentiful. Special thanks to Kay Kern and Leigh Speichinger for their planning and getting everything ready for the luncheon.

I also want to thank Karen Blackmore for installing our new officers. She didn't find out until that morning that she would be doing it and did a great job. She also gave us all something to think about with her sack of helpful hints as we move forward and try to grow our membership. I especially liked the eraser and bandaid. (Do you remember what they were for?)

At our next meeting, Linda Antal, our membership chair, is going to pass along some of the ideas that she picked up when she attended a Zoom meeting of *Membership Mondays* sponsored by NGC. Before that, Chris Egbert will give a presentation on the Boone Slick Master Naturalists.

I look forward to seeing you on Monday, June 10 at 1:00pm.

–Betty



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## Note from Editor:

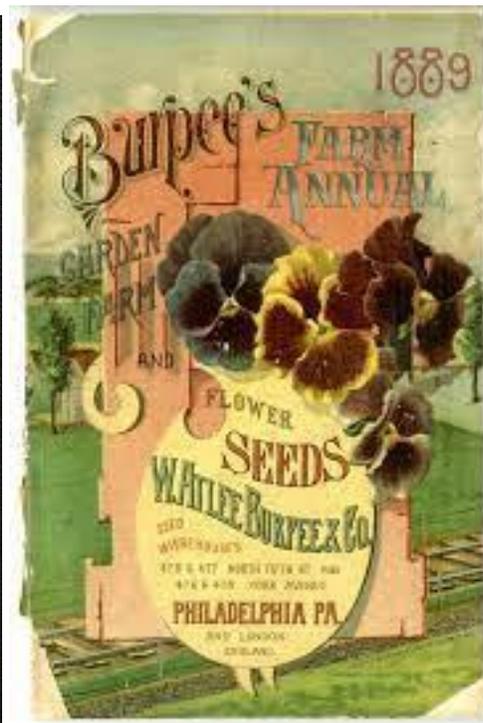
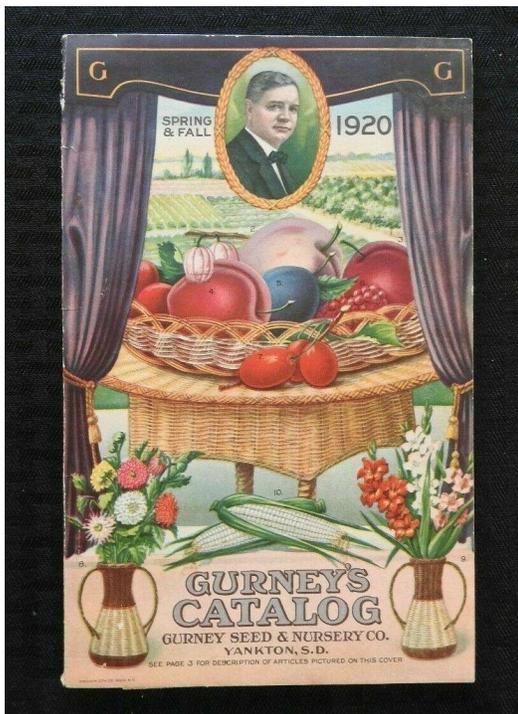
Happy New Year dear members. I would love to hear any suggestions and gratefully accept any contributions for this newsletter! This month I am having fun looking in my mailbox for old fashioned seed catalogs! I received the Baker's creek beauty just a few days ago. It is truly lovely with wonderful color photos! I remember looking through the old catalogs during snowstorms when I lived in South Dakota. Mom and Dad let us pick seeds. We grew popcorn and Indian corn. I remember going to a huge seed nursery in Yankton. I think it may have been the famous Gurney's Seeds, before it moved to Indiana in 2000.

This recollection drove me to look into the origins of the famous seed companies.

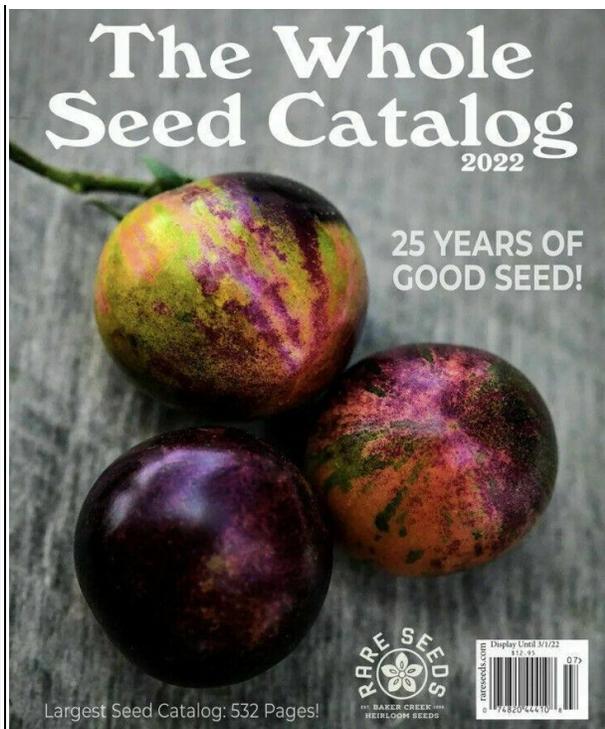
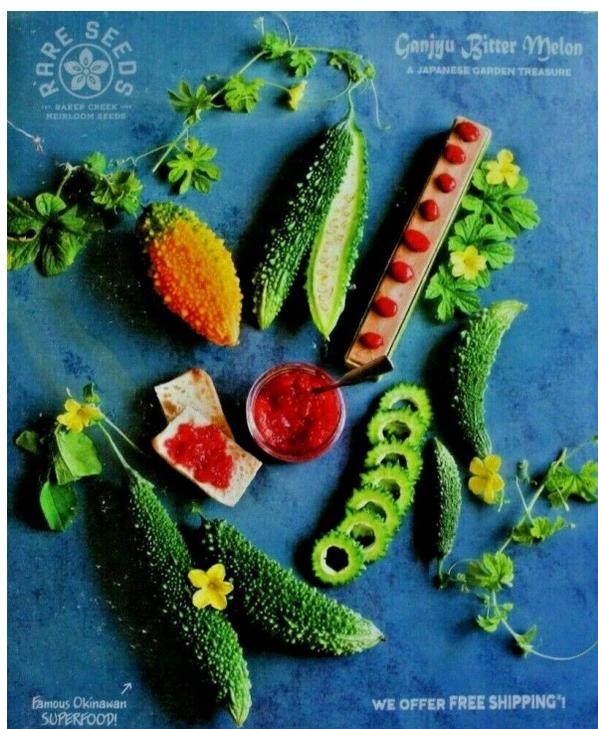
--**Gurney's seed** was started by Charles Gurney at age 26 in Monticello, Iowa just after the civil war in **1866**. His nursery moved first to Nebraska, then Yankton S Dakota in 1897.

--**Park seed** was started in **1869** by 15 year old George Park at his kitchen table, hoping to sell seeds from his own garden. He considered gardening a spiritual delight as well as a useful and pleasant activity. In early catalogs he promoted clubs and seed swapping. He printed nature poetry his customers sent in.

--Atlee **Burpee** became interested in agriculture at the Centennial Exposition in Philadelphia in 1876. He bred poultry at age 14, left medical school to begin a mail-order poultry and livestock business and then by **1877** at age 19, began his seed company.



-- Jeremiath Gettle, known as Jere, collected many things as a child — stamps, coins and, after flipping through a seed catalog at age five, seeds. Jere spent most of his youth in Montana where his father's love for gardening wore off on him. Since those early days, Jere's passion for seeds has continued to grow, eventually into a thriving seed company of his own. In **1997**, at the age of 17, Jere started **Baker Creek Heirloom Seeds** in Mansfield, Missouri. (These seed purveyors were all young whippersnappers!)



Baker Creek Heirloom seeds sits on 176 acres, most of which is land for his father's Angus cattle operation. The farm is made up of three different homesteads dating back to the 1850s, 1860s and 1870s for which the Gettles hold the original papers signed by the presidents in office at the time. Also on the land is a replica pioneer village, complete with a mercantile, bakery, gristmill and a large barn for meetings and speeches. Baker Creek hosts a monthly gathering to promote awareness and teach about everything from genetically modified crops to how to properly save seeds.

Betty and I talked about a possible field trip to Mansfield! Stay warm and dream of sprouting seeds, bulbs and sleeping plants! Melissa

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## Meeting minutes:

The Columbia Garden Club met at 1 p.m. on December 13, 2021 with 26 members present. Betty Connelly welcomed everyone to the holiday luncheon. Charley Blackmore presented a video of the Troxell house where CGC members decorated the home for the MOSY Holiday tour December 3-5. Members enjoyed a delicious carry-in luncheon.

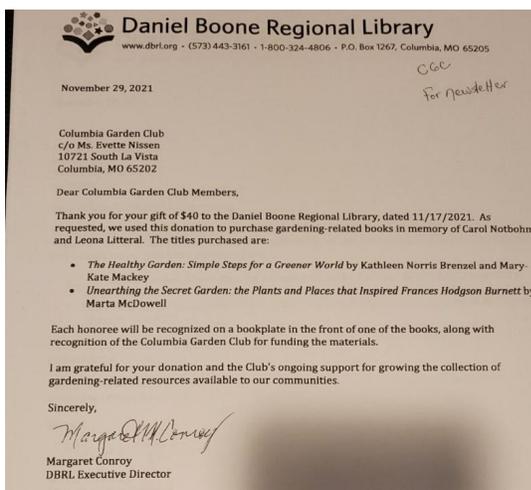


**Entertainment:** CGC members sang the song *12 Days of Christmas* with 12 members leading each new verse. Karen Blackmore presented an activity by giving everyone a bag of various items to develop leadership: Toothpick-pick out the nominating committee, rubber band-be flexible, band aid-heal hurt feelings and be careful, eraser-just erase mistakes we all make and go on, candy kiss-everyone needs a hug, mint-everyone is worth a “mint,” bubble gum-stick with it, post-it-note-list your blessings, and tea bag-make a cup of tea, sit back, and count your blessings. You can accomplish a lot. Karen then presided over the installation of officers for 2022-2023. She presented each new officer a beautiful bookmark on advice from “Your True Nature.” Officers are: President, Betty Connelly, First V-P, Diana Cooksey, Second V-P, Linda Antal, Secretary, Mary Nesladek, and Treasurer, Carolyn Oates. Carolyn Doyle will be Parliamentarian.

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**Business:**

- Evette Nissen reported a treasury balance of \$10,171.52.
- CGC yearbooks for 2022 were passed out to members. Donna Russell was thanked for preparing a beautiful yearbook; others who helped were Karen Blackmore, Betty Connelly, and Mary Nesladek. Karen Reed from Jefferson City also assisted.
- Betty thanked Kay Kern and Leigh Speichinger for hospitality at the luncheon.
- We welcomed Charley Blackmore as a new member and Marla Mueller as a returning member.
- A thank you was given to co-chairs Alice Havard and Barb Rothenberger and club members who made decorations for the Troxell house. The Troxell house owners gave CGC \$150 to purchase the decorations on the staircase Karen Blackmore made. Karen had \$40 in expenses making the bows; the club will keep the \$110 and it was decided to put it in the treasury to use as needed.
- Money donations were collected from members for a donation to The Food Bank for Central and Northeast Missouri.
- Flower seeds were available for members to take home; these were donated by Bernideen Canfield.
- Marie Pasley was thanked for years of doing the newsletter; Melissa Kouba will be taking over this task. Karen Blackmore was thanked for being second V-P, and Evette Nissen for being treasurer for several years. Evette will take over the CGC Facebook page. We need a new page but this requires the previous person to grant permission for this. It would be good to have two people as co-administrators.
- On December 9 CGC members met at The Bluffs and helped residents make Christmas mugs with greenery, ornaments, flowers, and a bow.



(Editor's note ☺ We also received a receipt and thank you from the Library for the purchase of books in the memory of Carol Notbohm and Leona Litterel. Titles are: *The Healthy Garden: Simple Steps for a Greener World* and *Unearthing the Secret Garden: the Plants and Places that Inspired Frances Hodgson Burnett*).

**Yearbook additions:**

Charley Blackmore

Barb Rothenberger—home phone 573-446-3262

Marie Pasley-home phone 573-474-5245

Marla Mueller- cell phone 573-424-0531 home phone 573-445-3757

8860 West Route D, Rocheport 65279 [mparkmueller@gmail.com](mailto:mparkmueller@gmail.com)

Meeting adjourned at 2:57 p.m.

Respectfully submitted

Mary Nesladek

