

# 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



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## Calendar

Year-long native garden calendar:

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

**May 2- Oct 15:** Chihuly in the Garden (Missouri Botanical Garden)

**August 12-13:** 9-5pm Greater St. Louis Iris Society plant sale at Missouri Botanical Garden

**August 14:** CGC member meeting: making mini-bouquets for Meals on Wheels program

**August 16:** State Fair Federation Day

**August 24:** 11am-1pm CGC volunteers at the food bank

**August 26:** Webster Groves Herb Society display at Missouri Botanical Garden

**September 2-4:** Japanese Festival at Mo Botanical Gardens

**September 13 and 14:** Mizzou Botanic Garden hosts Joe Lamp'l (see more info in newsletter)

**September 15-30:** "Terra Luna" at Overland Park Arboretum

### 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

# A note from President Betty:

July 19, 2023

Hello fellow members,

I am excited to write this because I did not have to get up and hit the garden at 6:00am to water pots and flower beds. A miracle occurred and some decent rain fell on my yard! I hope it fell on yours, too.

I hope to see all of you at our August meeting. The fun part will be the making of tiny bouquets for the Meals on Wheels clients. This is a fun meeting, and you certainly don't have to be a designer to do it.

Our business meeting is a very important one. We will be electing our officers for 2024-2025. The nominating committee has worked hard to find a slate of officers. Now it's your turn to do your job of voting.

If you haven't looked at the summer issue of National Gardener, I urge you to look through it. There are several timely articles. "Brenda's Journal" introduces us to our new NGC President. Her motto, "Go Green, Plant America" fits with some of our recent discussions. If you don't have it in your inbox, just go to the NGC website click on Get Involved and then NGC Publications.

Betty



# July CGC meeting

The Columbia Garden Club met at 1 p.m. on July 10, 2023 with Betty Connelly calling the meeting to order with 17 members present. Our scheduled speaker was unable to attend so this time was used to discuss and review our current projects and to plan for next year.

New member, Jane Jacobs was introduced. She attended the June garden tour and then joined. July birthdays were recognized: Karen Battjes and Barbara Rothenberger. Mary Nesladek gave the inspiration "Planting Your Spring Garden" which was given to Mary by Connie Blackmore. (This will be at the end of the minutes.) Minutes of the previous meeting were approved as presented. Carolyn Oates, treasurer, reported the balance of \$13,721.26. The big expense we had was the \$600 donation to CCUA. Mary read a thank you note from them.

Horticulture tip: Marie Pasley said we need to water due to our lack of rain. Water deep slow and long. It is important to feed container pots with half strength fertilizer once a week.

Committee Reports: Betty thanked the home owners for having their yards on tour in June. Ann O'Dell reported the July Yard-of-the Month as two yards at 110 and 204 Russell Blvd; they are next to each other. Mary Nesladek reported that the nominating committee with Marie Pasley and Patty O'Neal are working on the slate of officers for 2024 through 2025 to be presented at the August meeting. Nominations for officers are most welcomed. Food Bank dates for volunteering will be Tuesday, July 25 from 11-1, and again on Thursday, August 24. The State Fair Federation Day is August 16 and members are encouraged to exhibit. Tiny bouquets will be made at the August meeting for recipients of Meals on Wheels. Marie Pasley, chairman, reported that we will only be making 55 bouquets divided into 11 groups. Each bouquet will be made in small glass containers that Karen Blackmore has and put in a bag with a handle along with pink tissue paper. Groups of bouquets need to be in styrofoam coolers for easier delivery. Members should bring appropriate size flowers and cutting tools.

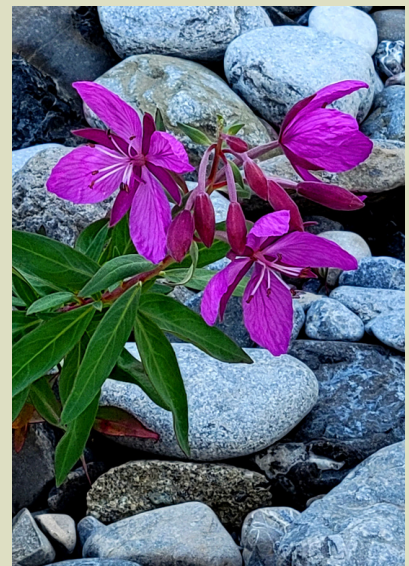
"Green" Product: Betty Connelly has a floral foam alternative called Sideau—Agra Wool. This is a 100% biodegradable and reusable product. This is non-toxic and made from 97% basal mineral rock fibers. This can be used for fresh, dry, and silk flowers. It absorbs water quickly and can be re-used and can be safely disposed of in landfills and will quickly compost in small quantities. Betty has purchased this to use in the tiny bouquets.

We enjoyed delicious refreshments and then divided into groups to brainstorm for projects and committee ideas for next year, and then presented ideas.

Meeting adjourned at 3:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted

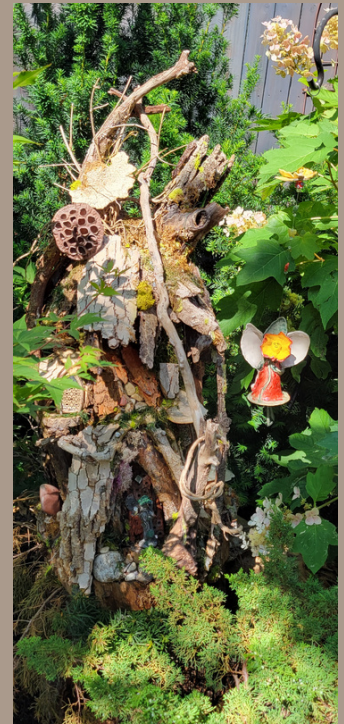
Mary Nesladek



# ImagC 2023

International Master Gardener Conference June 12-22, 2023

Report from the meeting:



Sunday  
private gardens  
tour photos:



# International Master Gardener Conference



June 18 – 22, 2023  
Overland Park, Kansas

CELEBRATE • EDUCATE • GROW

\*The 2023 conference was attended by 1130 people from 44 states, Canada and England.

\*The first international conference was in 1999. There were >200 volunteers in "Volunteers do not necessarily have the time, they just have the heart." -Elizabeth Andrews

- Keynote speakers included:
  - National Geographic Photojournalist, Jim Richardson. His presentation entitled "*Feeding Planet Earth*"
  - Abra Lee, author and historian, "*Conquer the Soil: Legendary Stories in American Horticulture*"
  - Dr. Charles Rice, Nobel Peace Prize winner, "*Challenges of Gardening in a Changing Climate*"
  - Jessica Walliser, Horticulturist and award-winning author, "*Plant Partners; Science-based Companion Planting Strategies for the Vegetable Garden*"
  - Scott Beuerlein, Horticulture speaker, writer, and humorist, "*Why Gardens and Gardening Matter*"
- Evening Events also included:
  - Leigh Hunt, Royal Horticultural Society, "*Making the United Kingdom a Greener and More Beautiful Place*"
  - Sara Dykman, author of "*Bicycling with Butterflies*"
  - Dan Hinkley, Herronswood Gardens in Kingston Washington, "*The Forgotten Elements of Good Design*"
- Classroom sessions were diverse in content and included many experts including: university faculty, Audubon experts, occupational therapists, nutritionists, entomologists, horticulturists, and extension agents around the country. Our own local expert, Dr. Nadia Navarrete-Tindall, Native Plant Educator at Lincoln University spoke on Growing Edible Natives in Your Garden.

\*I learned that loss of water from aquifers has altered the tilt of the planet!

\*That former enslaved peoples after the civil war saved cuttings and seeds from old world plantings found on the plantations they had served and preserved them in their gardens.

\*10 "Olympic Oaks" were given to Jesse Owens and other gold medal winners.

\*"Crevice Gardening" is a thing and instructions were given for building one. The plants used are referred to as "chasmophiles".

\*There is a professor in Oklahoma compounding a database of indigenous plants used in the diet to help decrease the high prevalence of diabetes in the native population. Amaranth seeds will pop (like popcorn) and the word "turkey" in the chocktow language can cause problems (fukit).

\*Essential oils may be less harmful to humans and the environment, but hardly any efficacy against pest insects, and are often harmful to bees. Mosquito dunks DO work. Neem oil suffocates insects.

# ImGC 2023

|



Garden Thyme Marketplace



Hosted by the Johnson County Extension Master Gardeners (EMG's).

\*515 EMG's are in Johnson County

\*Volunteer hours served by EMGs in 2022 = 53,204

\*22,263 people received horticulture information through our EMG program in 2022

\*50+ presentation were given to community groups on a variety of horticulture topics

\*9 demonstration gardens are maintained to provide the public with ideas on garden design, planting and maintenance.



## An innovative education to Plant Diagnostic Trainings for Master Gardener Volunteers

Mary Ortiz Castro, Cassey Anderson, Katia Dunker, and Alison O'Connor  
Office of Engagement and Extension, Colorado State University, Fort Collins, Colorado, USA

COLORADO STATE UNIVERSITY  
EXTENSION

**ABSTRACT:** Continuing education (CE) is a requirement for all Extension Master Gardeners. Making CE offerings more meaningful, flexible, accessible, and distributed among EMGs engaged as learners and up to date on environmental horticulture. In 2021 & 2022, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, many CE opportunities were cancelled leaving our volunteers in limbo. Coordinators were then tasked with offering relevant continuing education, even at a distance. As a result, over the past three years, there has been a noticeable increase in enrollments and inquiries about plants and plant issues. The current proposed Colorado Horticulture staff to coordinate CE needs to address the increasing number of inquiries. The response: Colorado Master Gardener Continuing Education plan focused on general plant diagnosis for 2021, plant pest diagnosis for 2022, and tree diagnosis for 2023. In this poster, we share how we delivered the two-part training using a mix of in-person and remote-online opportunities. This program demonstrates both high-tech and low-tech approaches to meet the diverse needs of volunteers and staff. Here, we share the training needs, course layout, feedback, and feedback from volunteers.

### I. Training Model

- Increase diagnostic skills for volunteers
- Month-by-month continuing education plan for Extension Master Gardeners and staff focused on diagnosing plant problems.
- 100% remote with a year-by-year approach
- Who are the instructors?
  - Extension and experts outside of Extension

### II. Training Format

**MONTHLY THEMED SESSIONS**

Intro class to start the year

Lecture (webinar presented by an Extension expert)

Practicum (virtual small group session)

February 25, 2021: CMG DIAGNOSTICS: An Introduction

April 12, 2021: CMG DIAGNOSTICS: Plant ID

April 26, 2021: CMG DIAGNOSTICS: Plant ID Practice

Lectures and practicums were delivered through the Zoom platform

### III. Training Topics

2021 – Year of Plants	2022 – Year of Pests (or not)
February: Overview of Plant Diagnostic Process	January: Demythologizing Pathogens - Myth Busting & Resources
March: Soil	February: Nuisance Invasives
April: Plant Identification	March: What's Been Bugging Your Neighborhood?
May: Woody Plants	April: Tree Pests
June: Lawns	June: Plant Pests - Nuisance Weeds
July: Vegetables	July: Vegetable Garden Pests
August: Weeds	August: Native Bees & Pollinators
September: Fruit Trees & Small Fruits	September: AHHH Spiders!!
October: Environmental Issues - Invasive Trees	October: Most Unwanted Pests in Colorado
November: Composting	
December: Houseplants	

### IV. Extension Volunteer Participation

Participation Level in 2021

Participation Level in 2022

There was a correlation between month and attendance but not between topic and attendance. Summer months influenced participation

### V. Online Diagnostic Toolkit

- Dynamic, evolving resources for ALL Colorado Master Gardeners and for Coordinators/Specialists
- Password protected for volunteers and staff only
- Website Link: <https://cmg.extension.colostate.edu/ce-toolkit/>

Contents of the Toolkit:

- Recorded lectures – to increase access
- Resources:
  - Fact sheets
  - Help desk templates
  - Other Extension Publications
  - Real-world questions and answers (i.e. "practicum")

Offline Toolkit Usage in 2021: Total 1,784

Offline Toolkit Usage in 2022: Total 919

### VI. Volunteer Feedback

Survey Attributes	Average 2021	Average 2022
Improved participant's knowledge of topic	5	4.9
Length of program/ Adequate time allotted	4.5	4.7
Information was relevant & useful for CMGs	4.8	4.8
Overall quality of the webinar technology	4.6	4.4

Survey evaluation is sent after each lecture session

Rating scale 1 = terrible, 5 = excellent

Limitations:

- No survey for practicum (breakouts)
- Low response rate (21.8% overall survey participation in 2021)
- Need more robust evaluation plan

A lot of great information to help me in identifying newly introduced plants in the community. Thank you for the resources.

There was one issue with the audio during the webinar.

### VII. Takeaways & Benefits

- Developed a Statewide
- Created a Robust
- Offers Advanced &
- Opportunity for Partnerships with Campus

ImGC 2023

Poster session a few:

There were 7 categories of award-winning projects!

The first place winners all provided a video showing/explaining the projects.

The awards were given in two sessions before keynote speakers.

## Using Nature-Themed Scavenger Hunts and Geocaching Activities to Teach Horticulture to Youth and Families

### Green Spring Gardens Extension Master Gardeners, Fairfax County, Virginia

**Abstract.** Extension Master Gardeners created self-guided, nature-themed scavenger and geocache hunts to expose youth and families to horticulture. The scavenger hunts, arranged in table form, show thumbprint images of natural items common to the park. As families wander the park looking for a clover, cattail (hint: go to the ponds), butterfly, or other items on their cards, they learn to observe, identify, and connect with nature. The multi-stage geocache hunts take seekers from waypoint to waypoint as they answer questions leading to the location of the hidden geocache. When tackling the *Tour of Green Spring Gardens* search, families begin their journey at the composting station where they learn about "black gold", then travel to the monarch waystation where they learn how to attract monarch butterflies to their gardens. The *Tree Identification* geocache search takes seekers from tree to tree where they use clues about bark, leaf shape, and seed/fruit type to identify each tree and its importance in our ecosystem. The hardest part is hiding the geocache so it's publicly accessible yet unlikely to be disturbed by curious animals and non-geocaching humans!

[www.FairfaxCounty.gov/park/greenspring](http://www.FairfaxCounty.gov/park/greenspring)

**What is Geocaching?**

- It's an outdoor treasure hunt!
- Use your phone (or hand-held GPS device) & geocaching.com app to select a location.
- Follow clues to find a hidden cache.

**Geocaching with a Horticultural Twist**

- Carefully constructed clues with multiple stages that escort seekers to various themed gardens in the park.
- Garden-themed instructions at each waypoint teach horticultural principles.
- Sleuthing skills are challenged as they root out the location of the geocache

The Glasshouse controls the weather so plants that couldn't survive our climate (cold winters, warm summers) can grow. Find:

- Plant that live on air, not soil
- Tree that lives in the tropics
- Child flower
- Cactus
- Plant that hangs over the sides of its pot. (Look up!)
- Planter that looks like a head with "green" hair
- Flexible tube used to water.
- Measures the temperature

## BLOCKS In Bloom

### PROGRAM GOALS

- Beautify blocks in lower-resourced neighborhoods through front yard gardens
- Build sense of community on blocks
- Build gardening skills

### HOW IT WORKS

- Block Captain agrees to sign up at least 6 households
- We provide 2 Mentors to coach the block
- We provide plants and materials for a front yard, perennial flower garden
- All plants, compost and mulch are donated
- Each participant plants their own garden
- All activities designed to build community bonding

### RECRUITMENT

Blocks Recruited Through:

- Neighborhood Association
- Community Organizations
- Churches
- Schools
- Tabling at community fairs

Volunteers Recruited Through:

- Master Gardeners
- Former Participants
- Garden Club members (for plant donations)
- Friends of Master Gardeners
- Community Members

### INDICATORS OF SUCCESS

- Improved gardening knowledge & skills
- Increased sense of community bonding on each block
- Increased skill among Master Gardener Volunteers to work with residents of under-resourced neighborhoods
- Number of block residents who take a next step toward community leadership

### RESULTS

- Ready-to-Replicate Model
- 86 blocks, 884 households participating since 2014
- 3/4 of participants learned "a lot" or "a fair amount" about gardening \*
- 2/3 of participants know their neighbors "a lot" or "a fair amount" better \*

### PARTNERS

- City of Rochester (compost, mulch, annual bedding plants)
- Monroe County, NY
- Area garden clubs
- Lowes (home center chain)
- Individual gardeners (plant donations)

**Cornell Cooperative Extension Monroe County**

Blocks in Bloom

This project was from an extension group in Monroe County, NY and was presented in video format as the First place winner in the "Innovative Projects" section of presentations of the "Search for Excellence Winners". I thought it looked like a fun project!

# CGC Yard (s) of the Month - July

Roy Hartley

110 Russell Blvd

"Roy and his wife Elaine moved into the house on Russell Blvd and in 2011 Roy started the garden in the fall. Roy has been a gardener for at least 45 years. As a child his father had a vegetable garden and his mother grew flowers. In high school he lived with his grandparents in Germany for a summer, spending time working in their garden where he learned a different method of gardening than his parents used.

In the mid 1970's Roy and his wife started reading Robert Rodale's "Organic farming and Gardening" magazine. They have been using poison free, organic gardening methods ever since. He includes Vandana Shiva, the Organic Consumers Association, and Regeneration International as inspiration. Their understanding of the relationship between plants, soil bacteria, fungus, and the rest of the microbes alive in healthy soil has continued to grow over the years.

Roy says that he gardens to participate in the miracle of life. *"From sunlight and a symphony of plant and animal lives come clean, healthy and nutritious food. It is a matter of participation and fostering rather than one of domination and exploitation."*

Roy saves seeds and tries to promote and maintain varieties that they enjoy. One problem that he has had lately is that he is having trouble finding straw that has not been contaminated with herbicides. Every year has it's unique challenges."

-Ann O'Dell





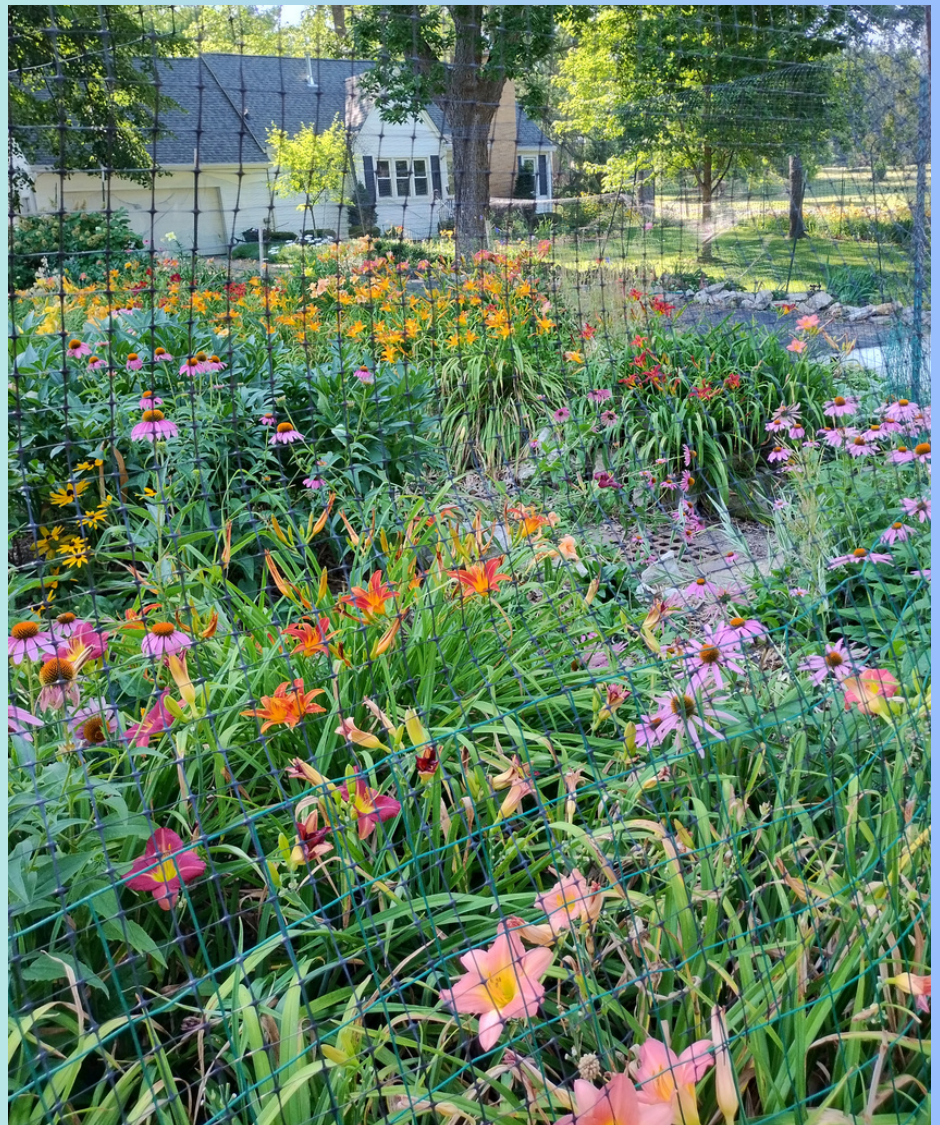
# CGC Yard (s) of the Month - July



""Next door to 110 Russell Blvd is Sylvia Matter's beautiful yard filled with flowers. It is a familiar sight to those who have watched it develop over the years. When I greeted her and asked her if she would let us give her the yard of the month, she was on her hands and knees fighting voles. She was happy to have the sign in her yard, complimented her neighbors with their vegetables, but declined to answer questions about her

gardening history because she was just too busy gardening. She is a true gardener! She says that people stop by and visit with her about her yard, so if you can catch her when she's taking a breath, you would probably enjoy a visit, since she is obviously one of Columbia's most devout and skilled gardeners. She said that she thinks the garden club is a good idea and that everyone should be out gardening."

-Ann O'Dell



*Everybody needs beauty as well as bread, places to play in and pray in, where nature may heed and give strength to body and soul.. John Muir*

# August CGC meeting Preview

**August 14:** 1:00 pm at 1600 West Rollins Road .

\*Tiny bouquets will be made for recipients of Meals on Wheels. We will only be making 55 bouquets divided into 11 groups. Each bouquet will be made in small glass containers and placed in a bag with a handle along with pink tissue paper. Groups of bouquets need to be in styrofoam coolers for easier delivery. Members should bring appropriate small size flowers and cutting tools.

\*Elect officers for next year.

## Mizzou Botanic Garden

### 2023 Jacquelyn Jones Lecture featuring Joe Lamp'l

**Friday, Sept. 14:** at 6:30PM | Monsanto Auditorium

Book signing at 6 PM (copies available at the event and in advance at The Mizzou Store)  
topic "Gardening as an Ecological Endeavor"

As gardeners, we plan, plant, tend and harvest based on personal preferences and needs. In this lecture Joe Lamp'l invites us to expand the lens we use to approach our efforts using the perspective of our ecosystems. In the light of habitat loss, increases in threatened insect and animal species and looming climate change, it's time to think beyond gardening for just ourselves. A new ecological gardening ethic considers gardening in a way that enhances the surrounding environment for the benefit of all that share our gardening spaces.

Co-sponsored by the Columbia Center for Urban Agriculture.

With support from Vintage Hill Farm.

Public Workshop: Seed Starting Success

**Wednesday, September 13:** at 2 PM | Columbia Center for Urban Agriculture

Successfully starting seeds can be such a gratifying gardening experience. But it also can be a source of frustration. At this hands-on mini-masterclass workshop, Joe Lamp'l will demystify all aspects of seed-starting: light, temperature, soils/mediums and timing.

Pre-registration is required.

# CGC August newsletter: Addendum!

## Planting Your Spring Garden

For the Garden of your Daily Living:

Plant Three Rows of Peas

1. Peace of Mind
2. Peasce of Hert
3. Peace of Soul

Plant Four Rows of Squash

1. Squash Gossip
2. Squash Indifference
3. Squash Grumbling
4. Squash Selfishness

Plant Four Rows of Lettuce

1. Lettuce be Faithful
2. Lettuce be Kind
3. Lettuce be Patient
4. Lettuce really Love one another

No Garden is Complete without Turnips

1. Turnip for Meetings
2. Turnip for Service
3. Turnip to Help one another

To conclude, we must have Thyme

1. Thyme for each other
2. Thyme for Family
3. Thyme for Friends

Water freely with Patience and Cultivate with Love. there is much Fruit in your garden because you Reap what you Sow.

(This was shared by Mary as the inspiration at the July club meeting and shared by Connie)  
I am sorry that I missed it when I sent our the last newsletter!.

# August CGC yard of the Month!:



Our August 2023 Yard of the Month is at 715 W. Stewart Road on the corner of Lindell and Stewart where Karla Wentzel has developed her combination flower and vegetable garden for 5 years. Karla grew up on a farm and learned how to garden from her parents, family and friends. She is a life-long gardener.



Karla has worked at Wilson's Garden Center and considers Chuck a mentor when she was employed there. She also has appreciated her husband's encouragement and physical assistance. Her 10 year old son Timothy is an interested gardener and likes to help choose plants for the yard.

Karla tries to plant native plants and trees for the environment, shade and beauty. She likes to plant a variety of native plants, although she does battle the traditional challenges of bugs and drought.

