

August 2024

Columbia Underground



COLUMBIA GARDEN CLUB

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President's Message

Feels like we are amid the dog days of summer with the current heat wave. I hope everyone is keeping hydrated if you are in the garden picking produce or cleaning beds, which is a never-ending task. But the heat, mosquitoes and chiggers are winning and keeping me from weeding. At least for now.

If you could not visit the flower show in July, you missed a good one! The designs were remarkably interesting and creative. I only wished I could have been invisible just to hear and understand how they were judged since I am the queen of "honorable mention" club. I know that blue ribbon is somewhere in my future. And the horticulture specimens were fantastic! I learned so much this year and look forward to next year's show. I want to thank everyone who helped or participated in any way with the show from set up to clean up and everything in between.

This month's program is Garden Journaling 101 presented by Linda Antal. It sounds like an enjoyable way to spend an afternoon with gardening friends. I am confident Linda will make it fun, too! Our next big project is working on the 2025 Spring Central District meeting hosted by our club in Columbia. The committee has been successful in securing a location and a speaker for the event. More details will be announced at the August meeting.

Wishing you a pleasant rest of the summer!

Donna

National Garden Clubs has a Pollinator Garden Certification Program. Our gardens can support birds, bees and other insects, and this program provides the incentive to take additional steps to make sure we're providing all the components to help pollinators thrive. Following are the three things you need to have in your yard to be considered for certification.

1. Food source
2. Water source
3. Areas to raise young



If you are interested in applying to have your garden certified as a Pollinator Garden, use the following link.

<https://gardenclubwebsite.wufoo.com/forms/zt7pbyz17msloz/>

July Meeting Minutes

The Columbia Garden Club met on July 8, 2024 with Donna Puleo calling the meeting to order at 1 p.m. There were 30 members present, and one guest: Verna LaBoy who was our club's Yard of the Month winner for July. Minutes of the previous month were corrected with the date of July 8 as the next meeting and not July 10. Carolyn Oates gave the inspiration: "God almighty planted a garden and indeed it is the purest of human pleasures" by Frances Bacon. Mary Nesladek gave the treasurer's report with a balance of \$13,850.54. We had previously discussed putting some money in a C.D. but decided we would wait for recommendations from a committee regarding projects. We welcomed new member, Darlene Rasberry who visited at the June garden tours. We recognized July birthdays: Karen Battjes, and Barb Rothenberger (birthday today).

Project ideas: Carolyn Oates said we had a request from the Food Bank for monetary donations. We decided we would consider that in December along with members donating individually. Someone suggested donating to St. Jude's, but members preferred to donate locally to groups. The Nature School with Columbia Public Schools was another suggestion for donating. However, they have contracts for landscaping in place until the school is up and going. Carolyn Doyle suggested forming a committee to decide on projects or groups. This will be the Charitable Giving Committee, and consists of: Melissa Kouba, Linda Antal, Jane Jacobs, Carolyn Oates, and Patty O'Neal.

Committee Reports: Marie Pasley discussed the mini bouquets for Meals on Wheels that we have done in the past. Our club has also been asked if we would be interested in making floral table designs for the thank you dinner for their volunteers in September. There would be 15 designs and the event would be outside at the Historical Museum. Karen Blackmore thought this would be a good project for the club. There was discussion of not doing the mini bouquets and just the designs for the dinner, and there was discussion of doing both things. Melissa Kouba suggested paper cranes to put in the bouquets or origami butterflies. Marie will follow up on details for the dinner and we will discuss this in August.

Food Bank: Marie reminded the club to help with volunteering at the Food Bank on Vandiver Drive on the 4th Tuesday of each month from 11 to 1. Only five people volunteered in June. Next date is July 23.

Flower Show is Saturday, July 13 at the library with set up on Friday starting at 2 p.m.

Fall District Meeting is in Centralia on Thursday, September 5. Cost is \$20 and money will be due at the August meeting. If paying by check, make check out to Columbia Garden Club as one check will be mailed for the club.

Blooming Bus Trip is March 4-8, 2025 to the Philadelphia Flower Show plus other sites. If interested, members need to contact Sunrise Tours. We will be flying from St. Louis to Philadelphia. Cost is \$1,999 per person for double occupancy.

Spring District Meeting: This will be hosted by our chapter in April 2025. The committee is looking at places to host this meeting, creating a theme, and getting a speaker for the event. An invitation for this needs to be presented on September 5 at the Centralia meeting.

The club had great refreshments and a short time to visit before more business.

Flower Show Details: Club members presented ideas for members to have great horticulture displays for the flower show. Betty Connelly gave horticulture tips on conditioning and hydrating specimens. Marie Pasley talked about grooming the exhibits—making sure specimens look clean and fresh without bug bites, etc. Clean and clear containers are necessary. Alice Havard discussed wedging, necessary so specimens stand up straight in their containers. Clear plastic wrap is good for this, or even celery. It is important to have the container "fit" the plant material; the size of container to scale of the plant. Karen Blackmore discussed the importance of having the entry card as complete as possible with plant names with botanical or common names for horticulture. For design entries a 3x5 card needs to list all the plants in the design. Scientific names need to be underlined.

Meeting adjourned at 3:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted

Mary Nesladek
Substitute Secretary

NEW MEMBER
Darlene Rasberry
213 Orleans Ct.
Columbia, MO 65203
drasberry75@outlook.com
405-774-0675

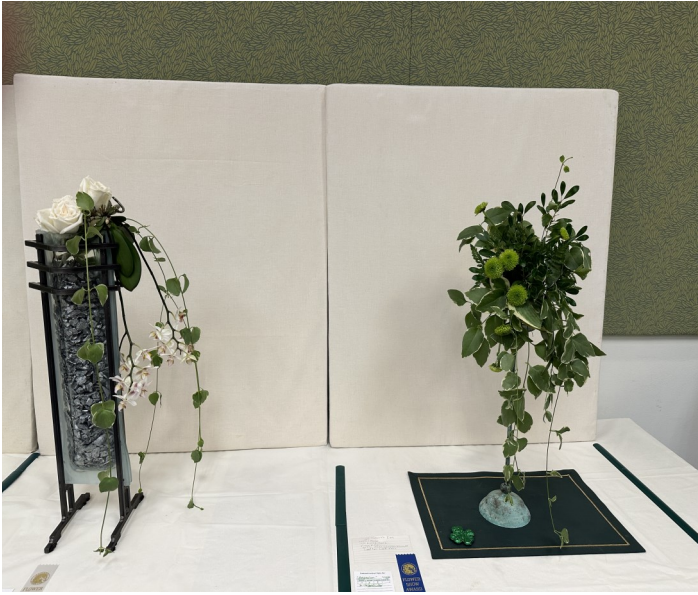
Flower Show 2024



Flower Show 2024



Flower Show 2024



Environment and Conservation Column

Dear Garden Friends.

This month I would like to share the information I found at two meetings I attended recently.

The first meeting was at the end of June and was held at the University Agriculture school. It was the 8th International Conference of URBIO (Urban Biodiversity and Design for Local Communities). Presenters came from all over the world. The Keynote speaker on Wednesday spoke of the history of this organization. She indicated that urban biodiversity plans must attempt to promote genetic species and habitats which can be found in and on the edge of cities with “Urban Greening Strategies” using ideas such as green roofs, green walls and “street-verge gardens”. This is in contrast to the current findings of “lawns” which are the largest urban greenscape around the world and demonstrate poor diversity. She predicts that by 2030, 5 billion people will inhabit the world’s cities, impacting biodiversity and she called this “the battle for life”. Following her talk, I found a break out session with a morning-full of researchers from the University of Florida and University of Central Florida who reviewed their interesting project. It was a project with a home builder/developer and a collaboration with 14 other non-academic partners (including the Nature Conservancy, a commercial compost-maker, and a native plant nursery). They called it an experiment in “translational ecology”.

You may be familiar with “The Villages” in Florida. The Villages is in central Florida. It is a large master-planned, age-restricted community. We drove through some of it last fall. It is a huge area of homes surrounded by lawns, some trees and bushes, golf courses and golf cart trails and commercial buildings. A set of restrictions has been created for each neighborhood, which regulates the design and operational aspects, such as landscaping, repairs and maintenance, placement of satellite dishes, hedges, etc. An architectural review committee controls the composition and consistency of the exterior of the residential properties within The Villages. As of the 2020 census, the population of the villages was 79,077. The Villages covers an area of approximately 32 square miles, and is expanding! Between July 1, 2021, and July 1, 2022, The Villages metro area grew by 7.5% or 10,103 people! The area was the fastest-growing metropolitan area in the United States.

The Tavistock development company sought out the University researchers and proposed that a way to decrease water use must be found as they are worried that they will not be able to supply enough water for the community they have been developing nearby (Sunbridge is a planned 24,000-acre community of 137,000 homes across Orange and Osceola Counties and is next to 13,000 acres of conservation land). They found that the landscape consumed 50-60% of the water used in their developments. In 2022 an experimental plot was set up with a variety of native plants rather than turfgrass. The land was typical of large construction with degraded soils from grading and compaction from equipment. The soil had a high pH, low bioactivity, decreased root penetration, poor drainage and aeration. The researchers decided to set up sections of the plots with some improved soil (added compost), different percentages of native plants, and variable amounts of irrigation. The plots were monitored for response to water and compost. Some researchers monitored pollinator density and sampled flower counts, finding that year-round bloom from diversity supported multiple species. The developer had conventionally planted and treated (herbicide, pesticide, fertilizer and irrigation) lots nearby to provide control data. The data showed what we all would expect...success with a native plant protocol, compost and irrigation only as needed in the first year of planting. The plan is to collect at least 3 years of data, but the developer has been happy with the results so far and is going ahead with the most successful protocols.

Environment, cont.

Unexpected results included: home-owner/occupants who watered more than was designed in the experimental plots, control-plot owners who wished to replant their lots with natives! The research team hopes to determine how long the compost they used to install the plantings lasts and if supplemental compost will be needed as they do not plan to fertilize otherwise.

The second conference was just last Saturday at the Missouri River Bird Observatory headquarters in Arrow Rock and included participants from Missouri Master Naturalists, Missouri Wildflower Nursery and other like-minded folks. It was a program designed to support anyone who wishes to make a difference in our communities and was entitled “Becoming a Resilient Activist.”

You may remember our speaker Dana Ripper from a garden club meeting on a snowy day in January. She talked about how plastics impact our environment. I remember a feeling of hopelessness when she reminded us not to blame ourselves or stress-out about forgetting our cloth bags when shopping. At times it really is difficult to think our small efforts can make any difference. The articles in this newsletter come from the club mandate (The environmental mission of National Garden Clubs, Inc. is to review the environmental problems and their possible solutions, to promote environmental literacy and to advocate sound environmental stewardship. -from the NGC website). This mission is large!

The leaders of this session pointed out that the role of an activist sometimes leads to overwhelming feelings of hopelessness, frustration, and increasing anxiety. Their effort was to bring a 4-step process which shifts the focus and help keep activist friends from giving up or giving in to the difficulties.

These steps are:

1. REVIEW current actions and goals
2. REJOICE and celebrate the things which are working
3. REFLECT on those things that are difficult/stressful and determine what makes them so.
4. REIMAGINE a way forward or an alternative goal

So with these steps in mind, I report on our club efforts!

Project: reusable tableware use for our meeting refreshments:

Approximate “Costs” of disposable place settings

- = range from \$13.00 to \$33.00 (3 meetings, 30 participants)
- = landfill waste (with methane release into atmosphere)
- = cost of recycling items such as plastic cups?

Approximate “Costs” of dishwasher and laundry (3 meetings and 30 participants)

- = \$4.32 to \$5.19
- = food waste which is compostable

Have a Green August! —Melissa Kouba reporting!

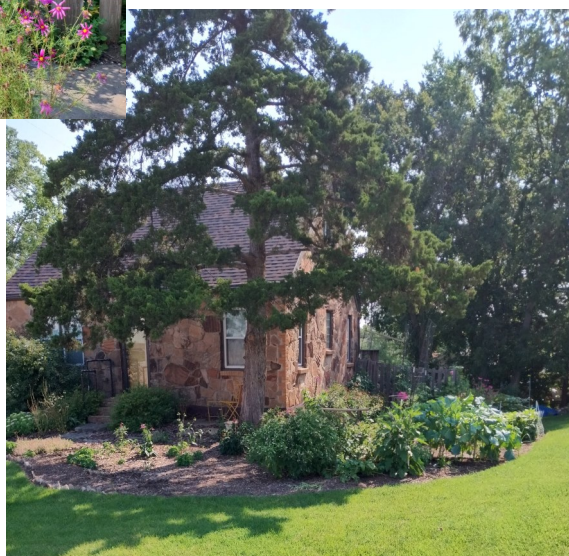
August Yard of the Month

Mary Wardenburg moved into 1104 Charles St twenty-three years ago and started gardening about 21 years ago. She has had to start over after foundation damage and after the city laid a sewer line. Her yard is full of a variety of flowers, numerous vegetables and herbs, and rock walks that she constructed herself after finding and lugging the huge rocks into place.

Mary said that when she was a child, she was expected to weed the cucumber patch. Somehow that led to a life of always having plants. She said that she lived in an apartment before moving to her current house and planted flowers there. The children who lived there called her "the plant lady".

Mary has herbs, lettuce, rutabagas, beets, peppers, tomatoes, eggplants, and okra, but they are planted within so many flowers that all a person sees is lushness and color. The challenge that is greatest is the problem of moles. She has a worm farm and thinks the moles may be attracted to the aerated soil.

Mary has offered to donate starts of plants for the Garden Club plant sale in the spring. We should certainly take her up on that generous offer! Photos and Text by Ann O'Dell



Central District Meeting



Central District Fall Meeting
September 5, 2024
at
Centralia First Christian Church
229 South Rollins Street
Centralia, MO 65240
(573) 682-3215

Registration 9:00 a.m.
Meeting starts at 10:00 a.m.



Please send \$20 and the names of individual that
plan to attend to:
Majorie Mortley
906 Booth Street
Centralia, MO 65240

This is an invitation to the Centralia District Fall
Meeting. We'll have plenty seating.
There will be coffee and other nice goodies
Remember, registration is at 9:00 am and the
meeting will begin at 10:00 am.
We've planned a day that's rather exciting
So, you, we are personally inviting.
Come for the day - stay till the end.
Will sure be nice being with friends.

August Meeting

Our August meeting is Monday, August 12th at 1:00 at Trinity Presbyterian Church. Linda Antal, Columbia Garden Club member, will give the program—"Garden Journaling 101". Hospitality will be provided by Alice Havard and Barb Rothenberger.

Upcoming Events

August 6-18th—Powell Gardens-Waterlily Wonders

Monday, August 12th—Columbia Garden Club Meeting

Wednesday, August 14th—Federation Day Flower Show-Missouri State Fair

August 31st-September 2nd-Japanese Festival-Missouri Botanical Gardens



Horticulture at Flower Show

Columbia Garden Club
President: Donna Puleo
1st VP: Diana Cooksey
2nd VP: Linda Antal
Secretary: Diane Linneman
Treasurer: Mary Nesladek
Parliamentarian: Carolyn Doyle

Columbia Garden Club meets the second Monday of each month at 1:00 at Trinity Presbyterian Church

Website:
<https://www.kewpie.net/colgrdnclub/cgc.html>

Facebook: Columbia Garden Club

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