

# 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



## December 2023

Editor: Melissa Kouba

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## Calendar

**December 11:** at **NOON**, CGC meets at 1600 W Rollins for  
Holiday Tea and gift exchange...also bring donation for  
Food Bank

Eagle Days  
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Looking forward to next year....

**May 6-9, 2024:** State Garden Clubs meeting at Stoney  
Creek Hotel Columbia, 2601 S Providence Rd, Columbia,  
MO 65203, USA

### 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



## President's Message

I would like to thank everyone for giving me the opportunity to serve as president of Columbia Garden Club for the last four years. It has been a real honor. You have been wonderful to work with. Because of your cooperation and willingness to do things differently, we survived Covid. You even learned how to attend the dreaded zoom meetings even though some of you never mastered the mute button! We all learned that we can do things in different ways and still enjoy them. The garden tours became even better by limiting our numbers at each house. I guess we have to thank Covid for that.

I know that each of you will join me in welcoming our new president, Donna Puleo, and be cooperative, flexible, and fun because that's who you are!

.....  .....

## Peace

Christmas is a time of peace.  
With all our loved ones near.  
A chance to count our blessings  
At the end of every year.

Gathered round the table.  
Together having fun.  
Happiness and love.  
The party has begun.

The season of goodwill.  
It's a time for giving.  
Peace for everyone on earth.  
That is what I'm wishing.



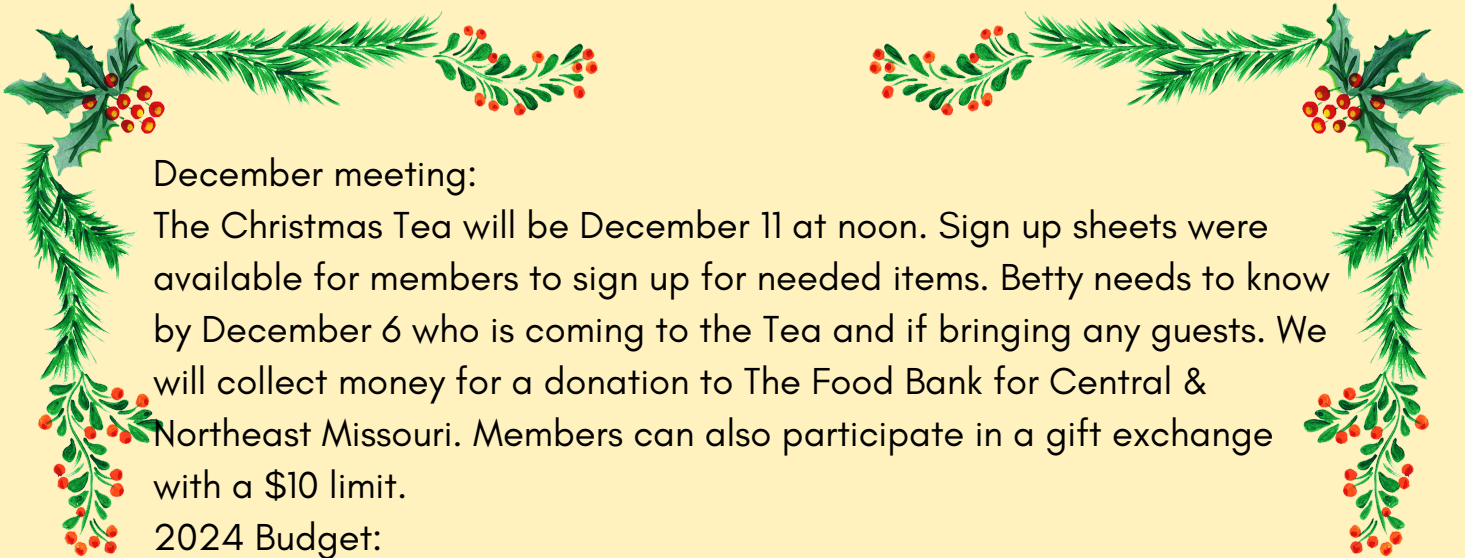
## November meeting minutes:

The Columbia Garden Club met on November 20, 2023 with Betty Connelly calling the meeting to order at 1 p.m. 25 members were present.

The inspiration was given by Mary Nesladek: "It is good to be alone in a garden at dawn or dark so that all its shy presences may haunt you and possess you in a reverie of suspended thought" by James Douglas. The minutes of the previous meeting were accepted as distributed. Carolyn Oates gave the treasurer's report showing a balance of \$12,972.90.

### Committee Reports:

The next Food Bank date is Tuesday, November 28 from 11-1. Marie Pasley said everyone should save one gallon plastic jugs (such as milk or distilled water jugs, etc.) These will be used at the February 2024 meeting as we learn how to plant seeds in gallon jugs. Bring extra jugs if you have them; they can be donated to Mobility Worldwide. Art in Bloom will resume on the MU Campus on April 27-28. Carolyn Oates passed out flyers for the Blooming Bus Trip "Southern Charm" from April 7-13, 2024. The cost for double occupancy is \$1,999. Trip will be to Savannah, GA and Charleston, SC and a tour of the Biltmore Estate in Asheville, NC. A deposit of \$250 is required to make a reservation. This trip is also open to others—spouses, friends, etc. If interested, signup soon.



December meeting:

The Christmas Tea will be December 11 at noon. Sign up sheets were available for members to sign up for needed items. Betty needs to know by December 6 who is coming to the Tea and if bringing any guests. We will collect money for a donation to The Food Bank for Central & Northeast Missouri. Members can also participate in a gift exchange with a \$10 limit.

2024 Budget:

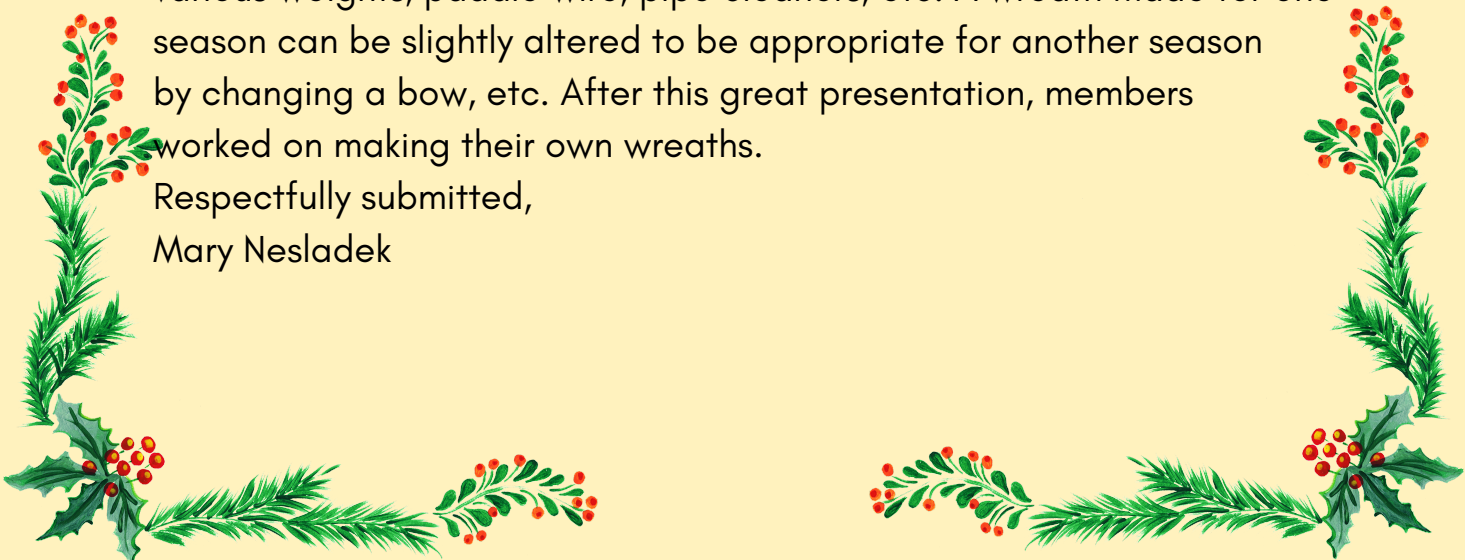
Carolyn Oates presented the revised 2023 budget and the proposed 2024 budget. Carolyn Doyle moved to accept the 2024 budget as presented; Kay Kern seconded. Motion passed.

The business meeting adjourned at 1:45 p.m. for refreshments and fellowship, followed by a wreath making presentation.

Wreath Making:

Marie Pasley and Karen Blackmore presented tips and ideas for making various types of wreaths. Wreaths can be made out of almost any material—straw, wire, styrofoam, cardboard, grapevines, etc. Tools needed include paddle wire, wire, glue gun, tin snips, needle nose pliers, picks with wire, and pruners. Wreaths can be decorated with many things, including bows, fresh and or dried plant material, etc. Pinecones can be cut and painted. Filler materials can be silk items, pin cones, grass, moss, etc. Items can be attached to the wreath with wire of various weights, paddle wire, pipe cleaners, etc. A wreath made for one season can be slightly altered to be appropriate for another season by changing a bow, etc. After this great presentation, members worked on making their own wreaths.

Respectfully submitted,  
Mary Nesladek







# Holiday





A decorative string of warm white lights is arched across the top of the page against a dark green background. The lights are connected by thin, glowing yellow lines that curve across the top.

# Environmental Concerns and Conservation

## Wrapping paper

When I was a child I remember the magic of waking on Christmas morning to a sparkling tree with lots of presents for us under it. Our gifts were not wrapped and we saw all the wonder at once. My mom and dad had done everything Christmas night, the tree, the assembly of bikes, and many other treasures. Mom told me that is how it was done at her childhood farmhouse in Nebraska. St. Nikolaus brought sweet treats on the night of December 5 and were found in stockings or boots the next morning. On Christmas morning after midnight mass, the dining room was opened to the lighted tree surrounded by gifts and the table was laid with Christmas breads and new fancy handkerchiefs were at each plate for the girls.

That was the custom we followed when our children were little. As they grew to adulthood and we had grandchildren coming on Christmas day, we began to wrap presents and open them after our dinner. In the past couple of years after my daughter started doing it, I have used recycled bags and have sewn some cloth bags for gifts. Last year as I walked our neighborhood after the Christmas holidays I found piles of trash bags bound for landfill. I have considered these past years how much wrapping paper we have used, it must be a lot!

Most Christmas wrap, especially the glossy stuff is not recyclable. The glittery and metallic papers contain plastics, so they must go to landfill. If they contaminate the batch of paper sent for recycling, the whole batch is thrown out.

There must not be tape or plastic ribbons either!

So what to use?

- \* fabric (scarves or furoshiki cloths)
- \* brown kraft paper and cotton string
- \* old magazines or newspapers
- \* old maps
- \* eco-friendly, recyclable paper
- \* cloth ribbons that are used year after year



# Environmental Concerns and Conservation

## Winter Wonders

If you've ever seen a seedhead swaying in the breeze on a snow-covered winter day, you know how welcome the subtle color and texture are. Maybe a hungry bird flew in looking for a quick snack. Who says the winter garden is boring?

Seedheads are a lot like flowers--they come in all kinds of sizes, shapes, and colors. You'll find everything from the large, smooth pods of false indigo to fine, wispy switchgrass. Colors are usually subtle, from pale, almost white, to dark brown and black. But set them against dark evergreens or give them an icing of snow, and they take on a magical quality.

### DESIGNING WITH SEEDHEADS

There's no need to design your entire garden around seedheads -- they're more of a charming byproduct from not deadheading. But there are some easy ways to get a big impact from them.

Just as you design your flower borders, you'll get the best show by leaving large clumps or masses of seedheads. And mix up the head shapes, too. Grow spike forms, such as goldenrod, near rounded heads, such as coneflower.

I like seedheads near paths where I walk in the winter. That way I can enjoy them up close. But if you're trapped indoors, you'll want to have larger seedheads, such as false indigo, out in your borders so you can see them from the window.

Most seedheads last well into winter, almost until spring. That is, many of them will until they are eaten by birds or animals. Leave some seedheads standing near bird feeders so your feathered friends will find them.

### A WORD OF CAUTION

Some plants may be aggressive seeders, even to the point of becoming pests. If your garden is small, or you don't want to deal with lots of spring seedlings, deadhead at least some of the spent blooms, leaving just a few for winter interest....

--Jim Childs  
the Garden Gate Magazine



# Environmental Concerns and Conservation

## From the Missouri Conservationist:

### A Butterfly in Winter?

Your eyes are not playing tricks on you — you just may be seeing a butterfly in the dead of winter. Mourning cloak butterflies overwinter as adults and may be seen flying on warm winter days. They need a body temperature of about 65 degrees to fly. Most butterflies bask in sunlight to raise their body temperature, but mourning cloaks can truly shiver, rapidly contracting muscles with only minimal wing movement. This can raise their temperature 15-20 degrees in just a few minutes.

### Holiday Decorating

Add some Missouri nature to your holiday decorating this year! Eastern red cedar is a great choice as greenery for outdoor holiday decorating. It is abundant, it has a beautiful natural juniper scent, and boughs of female trees are decorated with blue, berrylike fruits.

### Head to the Water

If you like to birdwatch, winter is truly your season, and the waterfront is the place to be. Missouri is blessed with many wetlands, lakes, ponds, and rivers where you can go with your binoculars and a field guide and watch a variety of winged animals.

Considered critically imperiled in Missouri, trumpeter swans are a rare winter resident at marshes, lakes, and rivers. They are a breathtaking sight to see.

Look for seagulls along the Mississippi and other large rivers and lakes from December through February.

Winter is a good time to look for bald eagles. The majestic bald eagle forages for fish and carrion near lakes, rivers, and marshes during the winter. Their return to the Lower 48 is a conservation success story.



# Events for your Calendar?

## Eagle Days:

Dec 2.3 at Loess Bluffs Wildlife Refuge

Jan 6 at Lake of the Ozarks, programs a 2 locations viewing at 4 locations

## Holiday Festivals:

Dec 1: Downtown Living Windows in Columbia, the District

Dec 1: Downtown Living Windows in Jefferson City and candlelight tours of Missouri Governor's Mansion

Dec 1-2: Sikeston

Dec 2: Moberly in Depot district

Dec 2: Hannibal

Dec 2-3: St. Genevieve

Dec 9: Cheese and Wine Trail in Hermann at 7 wineries

also the Kristkindl Markt, an Old-World holiday market.

Dec 10: Saturday in Rocheport

Dec 2-4, 8-10, 15-17: St. Charles Christmas Traditions -Downtown in Historic Main Street, Santa Parades noon Sat and Sun

Dec 2-3, 9-10, 16-17: Weekends at the Merry Market -City Market, KC-

## Holiday Lights:

- Grant's Farm
- Powell Gardens
- Missouri Botanical Garden's Garden Glow
- Branson
- Warm Springs Ranch - Holidays with the Clydesdales
- Plaza Lights, KC
- Branson
- + 20 more through the state

*Christmas*  
TIME



Next meeting of CGC on December 11  
Starts at NOON!

- \*Celebrate our members
- \*Initiate our new officers
- \*Enjoy refreshments
- \*Donate to the food bank
- \*Bring a gift to exchange (limit \$10 value)

DESSERT  
*christmas cake*