

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



February,
2023

Editor: Melissa Kouba

Calendar

Year-long native garden calendar:

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

January 28: 11 a.m. Cydney Ross, MDC native landscape specialist, will discuss what plants work well over winter to register, visit

<https://short.mdc.mo.gov/4fA>

February 5: Discovery Garden Club's Winter Garden Forum at Daniel Boone Regional Library.. With John Graham, Callaway Fields, "Shrubs for All Seasons" and "Saxton Brown, Columbia Center for Urban Agriculture, "Small-space gardens"

Feb. 9: at 2:00. The Bluff's We'll be helping to make Valentines

February 13: at 1:00pm Pruning Presentation at monthly CGC meeting, 1600 W Rollins R

March 20-24 Environmental School 4- \$30-35 via Zoom (Contact Betty if interested.)

April 16-Central District Meeting in Fortuna; carpools; Bring \$15 to Feb or March meeting checks made out to CGC.

April 17-20 Federated Garden Clubs of MO State Convention, St. Louis, MO.

April 28-29 CGC Plant and Bake Sale

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

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A note from President Betty:

Hello Everyone!

I am really looking forward to our presentation on February 13 on "Pruning Techniques" by Todd Lorenz. He's a very good speaker, and I'm sure we'll learn a thing or two! I hope it gives me a bit more confidence in myself as I sometimes think I do more harm than good.

The Flower Show Committee is working on the schedule for the Flower Show on May 20. It will be here before we know it. We did a complete section of Botanical Arts since we had such a great response with good participation last year. Our March 13 meeting will be a Design Workshop to make sure that everyone knows what designs and Botanical Arts we'll have in the show.

The theme of the show is "Summer Camp." I think that will be really fun! As they did last year, the Central Missouri Judge's Council will be bringing designs, doing some work so you can see how they figure things out when designing. We will also have some material to use for you to try out some of the designs and even some Botanical Arts.



*Dreaming
of
Summer?*

January CGC meeting



The Columbia Garden Club met at Songbird Station at 1 p.m. on January 9, 2023.

Diana Cooksey introduced Mel Toellner (Bird Man Mel). Members were given packets full of pamphlets on birding. Mel discussed attracting various birds to yards and showed various bird feeders, etc. A yard can be certified for birds by having: food supply, water supply, place for reproduction, and protection from predators (outside cats are deadly for birds). Mel answered many questions from members on birding.

Members traveled to our regular meeting place for refreshments. Betty Connelly called the business meeting to order at 2:20 p.m. with 26 members and 2 guests attending. Mary Nesladek gave the inspiration: "Nature does not complete things. She is chaotic. Man must finish, and he does do by making a garden a building a wall" by Robert Frost. December birthdays were recognized, Betty Connelly and Vanita Johnson. January birthdays are Brenda McGavock, Evette Nissen, and Rebecca Smith. Minutes of the previous meeting were approved as distributed. Carolyn Oates, treasurer, reported the balance as of December 30, 2022 as \$13,161.73. Members received their 2023 CGC Yearbook, and we appreciated all the hard work by Donna Russell in compiling this beautiful yearbook. Barb Rothenberger is hoping to have a work day at The Bluffs in February. Ann O'Dell and Betty Connelly will chair the Yard of the Month. Everyone should be looking for great yards, as long as they are not commercially done, and report to the committee. We need five members to volunteer to have their yards available for the June garden tour; contact Betty to volunteer.

Meals on Wheels Bouquets—Marie Pasley is asking everyone to think about planting seeds this spring to have flowers for our August project of tiny bouquets. Zinnias and other small flowering annuals will be great cutting flowers.

The Spring District meeting will be on Friday, April 14 in Fortuna, MO. Members should think about attending this as it is a great way to get to know other gardeners. The 90th Annual State Convention is April 17-20 in St. Louis. Betty has registration forms and they are also available in The garden forum. Environmental School will be via zoom on March 20-23.

Food Bank: Marie Pasley presented the idea of CGC members volunteering at The Food Bank. The day will be Thursday, January 26 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

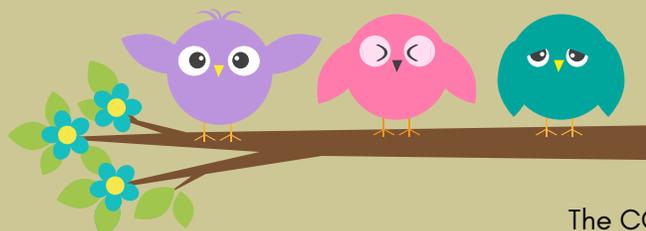
Carolyn Doyle has a lot of old supplies from the club such as books of evidence, ribbons, etc. She and Karen Blackmore, Historian, will look over these items.

Betty Connelly will be making an educational display for Central District on Pawpaw trees. Contact Betty to help with this project.

Membership: Members volunteered to call anyone who was not at today's meeting to check up on them.

Meeting adjourned at 3:04 p.m.

Respectfully submitted
Mary Nesladek



From XPlor Magazine,
Missouri Department of Conservation:

- What's a duck's favorite pasta?
Quack-aroni and cheese.
- How do snakes stay so skinny?
They have lots of scales.
- What do bobcats eat for breakfast?
Mice Krispies.
- Why did the deer need braces?
To fix his buck teeth.
- What's more amazing than a talking butterfly?
A spelling bee.



* My grandson a few years ago!

Q: Why do coyotes howl at night? — From Lily, age 9

A: Because no one would hear them if they whispered! Coyotes also bark, yip, yelp, whimper, and growl. You usually hear them at night, but they sometimes let loose during the day. When one raises a ruckus, nearby coyotes often join in. Their racket can be heard more than 3 miles away! Although it sounds spooky, there's nothing to fear. Howling is how coyotes talk to each other. It's how they say, "I'm lonely," "Stay away," or "Let's find some rabbits to eat."

More about native plantings



Soft Landings

Soft landings is a term that refers to “diverse native planting under keystone* trees (or any other regionally appropriate native tree). These plantings provide critical shelter and habitat for one or more life cycle stages of moths, butterflies and beneficial insects.” Create these soft landings under the drip line of native trees. The caterpillars are feeding on the foliage of the trees and are eventually ready to pupate. Some of them will pupate in the tree, others will leave the tree and look for a more suitable place. The soft landing under the tree (instead of bark mulch) will provide a place for the caterpillars and insects to live. Let your plants do the weed suppression with living/green mulch. Leaving the leaf litter under the tree will also provide insulating materials and habitat for other insects to over-winter. Care must be taken when planting under trees – especially older established trees – to ensure the roots are not injured. Small starts should be used rather than digging deeply into the ground.

See the paper on soft landings at <https://rdcu.be/caKj5> including tips for not damaging the tree roots.

*Keystone plants are native plants that support a significant number of caterpillars. Keystone trees include oak, willow, cherry, pines and poplar. 14% of the plants support 90% of the caterpillars, so it is important to ensure keystone plants are part of our garden.



Pesticides

Most gardens do not need pesticides. Even if you follow the label it is often written to protect honey bees and other bees and insects will not be protected. Alternatives to pesticides can be found at xerces.org.

If you **MUST** use them,
Minimize their use.

Read directions and guidance carefully.

Be warned – even when the label instructions are followed, there is limited protection for native bees or other insects.



Instead of using pesticides, look for signs of life in your garden. Try to look at your chewed, eaten, munched on, nested-in, dug-out, burrowed-in and generally lived-in garden differently. It is proof that it is home to many life-sustaining creatures!

Pull up a chair and watch!

If the nursery where you buy your plants uses pesticides, you are bringing those pesticides home. Be sure to ask before you purchase!



Plant an Oak!

(But not a Pin Oak!)

More than the beauty and summer shade of a majestic oak, the oak family (*Quercus*) supports a large variety of vertebrate and invertebrate wildlife species. Oaks are "keystones" in the food web, especially as an element in the creation of an essential food source for baby birds. The oak group supports over 500 species of moth and butterfly caterpillars, worms and insects (baby birds cannot eat bird seed). visit: www.BngingNatureHome.net.

Our great state of Missouri is the native home to a variety of native oak species adapted to a variety of site conditions - from the hilltops of the Ozarks, to the rich soils of the valleys and the fertile basins of our rivers and streams.

Why NOT a Pin Oak, a Missouri native species?

Pin oaks thrive and prosper in their native habitat of rich and acidic soils of river bottomlands, trees planted in alkaline (high calcium) soils develop iron chlorosis, which leads to poor health and yellow to yellowish-green foliage - a common condition seen in many urban and suburban landscapes where soils contain significant deposits of crushed limestone remaining from construction site activities.

Choose the right tree for the right place. With Missouri's native oaks, there are alternative species to choose which are better adapted to the challenging conditions of urban sites with significantly disturbed soils - with high clay content and high soil PH (alkaline) - along with the rigors of our diverse climatic environment.

Top Oak choices for Missouri landscapes

White Oak Group

- **Swamp White Oak** (*Quercus bicolor*) – although growing in low, wet areas in the wild, this long-lived (up to 350 years!) oak species can withstand drought conditions once established. Tolerant of diverse landscape site conditions.
Acorn volume: medium **Acorn size:** medium
- **Overcup Oak** (*Quercus lyrata*) – another oak native to flooded sites, this species can tolerate somewhat drier conditions. An excellent shade tree for low-lying areas.
Acorn volume: low **Acorn size:** medium
- **Swamp Chestnut Oak** (*Quercus michauxii*) – Another attractive shade tree for low-lying sites adaptable to a variety of landscape conditions. Fall foliage color ranges from reddish to yellowish-brown. Highly deserving of great use in the landscape as a shade tree.
Acorn volume: low/medium **Acorn size:** large
- **Chinkapin Oak** (*Quercus muehlenbergii*) – occurring naturally in alkaline, rocky soils, this oak species is highly adaptive to urban site conditions. Forms an attractive shade tree and relatively resistant to insects and disease.
Acorn volume: medium **Acorn size:** small

Red Oak Group

- **Cherrybark Oak** (*Quercus pagoda*) – a relatively fast growing oak, native to bottomland sites growing with tulip tree, shellbark hickory, Shumard oak, swamp chestnut oak, red mulberry and red buckeye. Quite adaptable to urban site conditions.
Acorn volume: low **Acorn size:** small
- **Northern Red Oak** (*Quercus rubra*) – a long-lived, fast growing species first introduced to cultivation in the late 1600's. Found growing naturally throughout the state of Missouri growing in well-drained soils of moist ravines, north and east facing slopes, and on slopes at the base of bluffs.
Acorn volume: medium **Acorn size:** large
- **Nuttall Oak** (*Quercus texana*) – grows naturally on poorly drained clay flats and floodplains. Quite similar in appearance to the Pin Oak but much more adaptable to varied soil conditions of Missouri and exhibits a better branching habit.
Acorn volume: low/medium **Acorn size:** medium
- **Shumard Oak** (*Quercus shumardii*) – a moderately fast growing, long-lived tree highly adaptable to sites ranging from wet to dry. One of the first oaks to turn color in the autumn with vibrant red tones.
Acorn volume: medium **Acorn size:** large

NOTE: In the spirit of planting for diversity, many other highly beneficial tree genera, beyond oaks, should be considered for accommodating the conditions of your landscape site. However, oaks form the foundation of our strong and long-lived urban forest and deserve priority consideration when planning for shade trees for your landscape.



For more information about native oaks and other excellent native tree choices for your landscape:

www.grownative.org