

Happy Valentine's
Day



Columbia Underground

President's Message

The sun shining after a snowstorm seems to calm one's nerves. I would like to thank the twenty-one brave club members that attended the January meeting and hope everyone arrived home safe and sound. I checked in with Dana late Monday afternoon to find out if she made it home in one piece and she said the journey was "gnarly" and was worried her old Camry would not get up her driveway. But she made it, and all was well. I found out the Columbia Garden Club members are warriors!

Hopefully, February meeting's weather forecast will be brighter. I suppose we will have to wait and find out. Marie's program, "Winter Seed Sowing" will give us a little jump start on the growing season of vegetables or flowers. I hope to see many of your friendly faces there.

For those of you that did not attend January's meeting, the 2024 Yearbook evaluation time is here. We need two representatives from the club to attend and help evaluate. Betty has reserved the Mark Twain room at the Missouri River Regional Library in Jefferson City on Saturday, February 10 at 1 pm. Mary Nesladek was kind enough to volunteer so we need one more member. Please let Betty Connelly, Assistant Director, Central District, know if you can help evaluate.

Stay safe and warm until the next time we meet!

Donna

Please bring the following items to the February meeting:

- ◆ 1-empty, clean 1 gallon milk jug
- ◆ 1-package of seeds for sowing (cool season crops are best-lettuce, cabbage, snapdragons, sweet William or Perennials)
- ◆ Scissors or box knife for cutting jug

Club will provide soil and tape

January Minutes

The Columbia Garden Club met on Monday, January 8, 2024, with Donna Puleo calling the meeting to order at 1pm. 21 members were present including our new member Kathy Ellsworth (Welcome Kathy). Inspiration was given by Dianna Cooksey "If you have a garden and a library, you have everything you need." Members having birthdays in January were recognized. These members included Evette Nissen, Donna Russell, and Rebecca Smith.

Mary Nesladek and Carolyn Oates surprised our past president, Betty Connelly, with a \$50 contribution to the State Scholarship Fund. Many thanks to Betty for her wonderful leadership over the past 4 years.

The minutes of the previous meeting were approved with no changes. The treasurer's report was given by Mary Nesladek with a balance of \$12,617 as of 12-31-23.

Committee Reports: State Convention updates were given by Marie Pasley. Dana Ripper, our presenter today will be doing a program, and another presentation will include information on landscaping with native plants. Marie Pasley also gave updated information concerning the Food Bank. We will now volunteer on the 4th Tuesday of each month. Our time will remain the same, 11am – 1pm.

Up coming events: Carolyn Oates shared that The Federated Garden Club of Ohio is offering two Zoom classes. The classes are next week and February 2nd and 3rd, the cost is \$55. There is a landscaping class and an environmental class offered. Sign up is available through the web site. Carolyn Oates also reported that the Blooming Bus Trip scheduled April 7-13, 2024, is "a go". 16 people have signed up to go with 2 more signing up today. The bus will hold up to 25 so they will be opening up this opportunity to others.

New Business: The 2024 Yearbook Evaluation will be on Saturday, February 10, 2024, in Jefferson City at 1pm, at the Missouri River Regional Library in the Mark Twain Room. CGC needs two representatives to review the yearbooks. Mary Nesladek has volunteered to be a representative. Donna will put a note in the CGC newsletter to alert members that might want to represent our club.

Our program today was given by Dana Ripper ~ Director, Missouri River Bird Observatory ~ "How plastics impact our environment," an informative and thought-provoking program.

February Meeting: Marie Pasley will be presenting our program; "Winter Seed Sowing." She will email members a list of supplies to bring to the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Diane Linneman



Rare or Unusual Plants



Primrose Victoriana Gold Lace Black (primula elatior)

- Perennial zones 4 - 8
- Ideal Temp: 65 - 70 days
- Seed Depth: Surface Sow
- Plant Spacing: 12 - 18"
- Frost Hardy: Yes
- Part Sun

Vegetable Spotlight

Rhubarb-Growing and Harvesting Tips

- Find the best site to plant. Rhubarb likes full sun with fertile, moist, well-drained soil. Rhubarb is a perennial, so find a spot where it will be able to stay for a long time.
- The easiest way to start a Rhubarb patch is to buy 1-year-old crowns or get divisions from a friend. Plant crowns 3 feet apart and 4 inches deep. Crowns are best planted in early spring.
- For thick stems and big leaves, sprinkle a balanced granular fertilizer or spread aged manure around plants in early spring.
- Do not harvest rhubarb the first year and only harvest a few stalks the second year. Stalks are ready to harvest when they are 12-18 inches long. Hold firmly at the base and twist and pull to harvest. Cutting increases risk of disease and pests. Harvest just a few stems at a time to avoid exhausting the plant. Remove leaves and wrap the stems in a damp paper towel inside a plastic bag and store in the refrigerator until ready to use. Fresh rhubarb can be stored in the refrigerator for 2-4 weeks. Stop harvesting in early summer.
- Rhubarb plants are very large. One plant is enough for fresh eating and preserving for a family of four.
- Rhubarb leaves are poisonous. Do not eat the leaves, just the stalks.
- USDA Zones 3-8



Garden Gate Magazine

Environment and Conservation Column

My husband and I took a road trip to Chicago a few weeks ago and traveled the back roads. I love to see the countryside at different times of the year, but was disappointed this time by all the trash I saw in the fields, roadside, in the trees and bushes, in the overhead wires and hanging off the fences and fence posts! There were lots of plastic bags, intact and shredded—EVERYWHERE! I think much of the year it is hidden by green plants, but winter cannot hide it unless it snows. Since we had the plastics talk at our January meeting, I have been doing some research.

Ideally, we should avoid single-use plastic bags and plastic film. Failing that, we should **reuse** them as much as possible. But not all bags are reusable. And most can be reused only so many times before they tear. Plus, plastic wrap and plastic film are near-impossible to reuse around the house. Eco-conscious folks don't want to put them in the trash, if avoidable — and we certainly don't want to strew them on the streets or grounds, where they will foul the environment and endanger animals, birds, and fish. Plastic bags don't biodegrade, meaning it will take hundreds of years for them to decompose in a landfill. Recycling a ton of plastic bags (about 450,000 bags) saves 11 barrels of oil! You can, thankfully, recycle many — though not all! — of your plastic bags. But you **cannot** put them into the same recycling bins where you put paper, cans, bottles, etc. Putting plastic bags in the wrong bin contaminates the other recyclable materials and can create dangers for recycling workers because the thin plastic film can become tangled in machinery and jam equipment.

Recyclable Plastic Bags, Wraps, & Film



According to the American Chemical Council's Plastic Film Recycling site, "Plastic film — also known as plastic film packaging — is soft, flexible polyethylene (PE) packaging such as grocery, bread, zip-top, and dry cleaning bags. It's also the wrap around many products including paper plates, napkins, bathroom tissue, diapers, and more." Some plastic bags are labeled with the plastic resin number used to make it, typically with a "2" or "4" or a graphic such as How2Recycle's shown at right. Most of these should be recyclable. For everything else, however, you need

to look and think to decide. Some won't even be plastic!

Plastic Bag Recycling Process

Plastic bag recycling involves chipping the bags into pellets. While pellets can then be reprocessed into new bags, they most likely will be shipped to a company like Trex to be manufactured into plastic lumber.

Don't Include These in Your Plastic-Bags-to-Recycle Pile

- NO Biodegradable or compostable bags. When mixed with other bags, the additives used in these bags can contaminate the plastic which becomes unusable in new products.
- NO Plastic bags used for packaged frozen foods, which contain food preservatives that contaminate the other recyclable bags in the batch.

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Environment and Conservation Column (continued)

- NO Bags that aren't completely dry: The water interferes with proper processing.
- NO Bags that aren't completely free of food residue or other contaminants: If there are a few crumbs, you can rinse it clean, and make sure you dry it. But if there's a peanut butter smear, throw it out
- NO Pre-washed salad mix bags
- NO Six-pack rings
- NO Plastic bags, film, or wraps that:
 - are stiff rather than stretchable – if you can't poke your thumb into it and feel it stretch, don't include it
 - tear like paper
 - crinkle loudly when you scrunch it up in your hand, for example, candy wrappers, snack bags, or flower bouquet wrap
 - are silvery or metallic, such potato chip bags and printer ink cartridges bags

How to Recycle Plastic Bags:

1. Remove anything inside the bags, such as receipts, stickers, or crumbs. All these items will contaminate your bag load. Plastic must be clean and dry.
2. Keep a bag collection bin in your house. Since they compact easily, you should be able to fit a lot of bags inside one bag.
3. Make sure any bags you are recycling have a #2 or #4 plastic label on them, or the recycle emblem on it. If not, you can't be sure what plastic resin the bag is made from, so you'll want to reuse it instead, before eventually throwing it away.

How do I find a bag collection bin?

The following retail stores take plastic bags, #2 and #4 in Columbia:

- The three Walmart supercenters at Conley, West Broadway and Grindstone
- Kohls, JC Penney and Target
- Sam's club and Lowes

I called most of these stores and found that yes, they have bins for recycling, but many of the employees have no idea what happens to the bags after that. City refuse personnel on the phone indicated that many of the bags are made from already recycled material and can not be recycled again. (which is not accurate) Two folks told me that plastic was bundled and sent back on the store truck to the warehouse but did not know where they went from there. I did find that in Missouri, the Trex company obtains bundles of plastic bags from Hyvee, Kohl's, Gerbes and Schnucks to make their products.

(The manufacturer [Trex](#), collects and turns bales of collected bags into composite lumber for use in decks, fences, benches, and more, or into smaller pellets that can be used to make crates, shipping pallets, and other objects.)

Good luck! I am trying to be better about using my cloth bags...I've made some from old heavy cloth curtains that faded in the sun!

Melissa K.

- Weed ID

Henbit, Dead Nettle (*Lamium amplexicaule*)

Henbit is a biennial or winter annual, reproducing by seeds and by rooting stems. Plants grow 4-16 inches tall. They tend to root where the lower joints of the stem come in contact with the soil. Flowers are small and pink or purplish with two lips and a long, tubular neck. They bloom from April to June and again in September. Apply dense mulches to smother seedlings. Hoe or pull plants, making sure that all pieces of the root are removed. Look for henbit early in the season and control it before it drops seeds. Remove pulled plants to prevent them from re-rooting; allow them to dry in the sun before composting. Henbit prefers good soils and high moisture levels. It is most troublesome in early spring and fall.

Insect, Disease and Weed ID guide



February Gardening Tasks

- Prune summer flowering shrubs from late February through early March.
- Sow seeds of larkspur, sweet peas, poppies, and snapdragons outdoors now.
- Be sure to cut back liriope in late February or early March before new growth begins.
- Now is a good time to start controlling cool-season weeds, such as chickweed and dandelions. Manually remove or use an appropriate herbicide.
- Sow seeds of broccoli, cauliflower, cabbage, celery, kohlrabi, kale, collards, mustard greens, and bok choy, indoors now to transplant in the garden in March and April.
- Branches of pussy willow, quince, crabapples, forsythia, pear, and flowering cherry, may be forced indoors. Place cut stems in water and change the water every few days.

Missouri Botanical Garden

Planting for Pollinators

National Garden Clubs President Brenda Moore wants to encourage NGC members to make our gardens more than just beautiful. That's why she created the National Garden Clubs 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.

We've created a checklist to make sure you have everything you need to support pollinators:

1. Food sources
2. Water Source
3. Areas to raise young

You probably already have several plants that provide pollen and nectar. But could you add a few native plants that are perhaps a better source of food? Could you add a shrub that has berries for wintertime nutrition? You don't have to install a pond, but what about a birdbath? Consider adding a heater for fresh water in the winter. Many of us have birdhouses in our gardens, but if not, a small, inconspicuous log or brush pile can provide a safe place for insects to nest.

In addition to providing food, water, and shelter, think about your gardening practices and what you can do better to support pollinators. Naturalists are encouraging us to "leave the leaves" in the fall for insects that overwinter in leaves, and to wait until spring for garden clean up since some insect larvae stay in hollow stems until spring.

We all want to do what we can to support pollinators—their lives depend on us. By making a few tweaks to our gardens we can make them feel right at home!

You can go to the National Garden Clubs website to apply to have your yard recognized as a National Garden Clubs Certified Pollinator Garden.

From NGC Website



Native Plant Corner

Successional Native Planting for Continuous Blooms, by Cydney Ross

Successional Gardening means planting your garden so it contains blooms, textures and visual interest year-round.

Shade:

- Spring/early summer (April – June)
 - o Violets – great ground cover, but can spread quickly. Consider thinning them out and planting them away from newly planted plants.
 - o Roundleaf Groundsel – great ground cover, creating green mulch. Leaves stay semi-green throughout the year, even in the winter. Versatile in relation to sunlight requirements. Blooms in April. Consider pairing with blue flowers such as Wild Sweet William which blooms at the same time.
 - o Sedges - Consider sedges like Oak Sedge as a transition from the flowers to the yard. Provides textural interest throughout the year.
 - o Virginia Bluebells – (spring ephemerals can be difficult to cultivate, but Virginia bluebells do well.) Blooms in mid-April and dies back completely and is dormant for the rest of the year. Seed them or buy plugs. Bumblebees love them.
 - o Jacob’s Ladder – delicate with beautiful foliage that lasts through the season.
 - o Woodland spiderwort – goes dormant when it is hot, but may re-bloom. Plant in clusters because they are very small plants.
 - o Golden Currant – shrub with a great smelling blooms at the end of April/early May. Not a full shade species, so consider planting it on the edge of your bed where it might get morning sun.
 - o American Beakgrass – great food for birds. Taller than sedges (12-18 in) and drapes over.
- Late summer/Fall (July-October)
 - o Woodland Pinkroot – Can tolerate medium shade. If you cut it back, it will grow shorter with more prolific blooms. Great in a container too!
 - o Jumpseed (Knotweed) – Little white flowers on a long stalk that add texture with broad leaves
 - o Elephant Foot – Tiny white flowers on 18” stalk. Provides nectar for pollinators, blooms late summer/early fall.
 - o Elm-Leaf Goldenrod – Blooms late summer, early fall. Crucial for insects and birds.
 - o Woodland Aster – Blooms late summer, early fall, providing crucial nutrients for insects and birds as it gets colder.

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Native Plant Corner (continued)

Sun:

- Spring/early summer (April – June)

- o Prairie Pussytoes – Full sun with dry situations. Attractive to the early spring bumblebees (April/May). Host plant to American Painted Lady butterfly – if shredded and eaten up by summer, you are lucky!

- o Fringed Blue Star – Waves in the wind, beautiful blue flowers. Blooms in May for a couple weeks. Foliage turns yellow in fall

- o Bee Balm (*monarda braduriana*) – Shorter than other bee balms. If it gets white chalky growth on it – not enough sun or too wet. Square stem.

- o Coneflowers: Glade Coneflower blooms first, Pale Purple Coneflower blooms next and Yellow Coneflower blooms third. Beautiful and supportive to wildlife. Coneflowers also provide a great environment for insects through the winter

- o Whorled Milkweed – Delicate foliage and easier to grow than other milkweeds; spreads with rhizomes. Only 12 inches tall and monarchs love it. It has one of the highest toxicity levels so other insects are deterred.

- o Rock Pink – Blooms in June – September. Great plant for a pot too.

- o Blue False Indigo – Stunning plant with gorgeous leaves and bluish/purple flowers. Blooms end of May/early June. The seed pods rattle in the wind and are home to a weevil. Fountaining shape that dies back every year.

- o Cream, Yellow and White Wild Indigo – varying heights and fullness

- Late summer/Fall (July-October)

- o Blazing Stars - Consider planting multiple species. Bloom from the bottom up and hold onto their seeds through the season. Provide endless sources of nectar for bees and butterflies. Prairie blazing star blooms 1st, Eastern Blazing star 2nd (monarchs love it) and Dotted Blazing Star blooms last.

- o Slender Mountain Mint – Loved by wasps and many other insects. It is a mint that will not take over the garden like most mints. Make tea or use as dried mint.

- o Hairy Mountain Mint – Also loved by wasps and bees. Persists late into the season with nice seed heads and upright appearance in the fall/winter.

- o Brown-Eyed Susan – Blooms in the heat of summer. *Rudbeckia hirta* is a species that spreads less aggressively than some others.

- o Goldenrods - Riddell's Goldenrod, Rigid Goldenrod and Cliff Goldenrod – These goldenrods are not the ragweed that causes allergies! Cliff has a different structure than the others. It is a little shorter, lifts off the ground and arches over to hang down. Cut goldenrods back in June if they are too tall. Don't forget to water them after cutting them back.

- o Asters – Silky Aster (smaller, blooms more spread out), New England Aster (tall), Sky-Blue Aster (can handle slight shade, blooms more spread out.) Asters are easy to maintain. If you don't want them too tall, cut them back 2/3 in June and then water.

- o Aromatic Aster – Blooms through October. If you don't want it to spread, cut it off before it goes to seed. This eliminates the seeds for birds, though.

Contributed by Linda Antal



BITTERSWEET Garden Party

A Bloomin' Good Time!

SUNDAY
APRIL 28, 2024
10:00 AM - 2:00 PM

WINDSTONE ENTERTAINMENT CENTER

Fun with a purpose!

Join us for a fun and inspiring event featuring a **Proven Winners®** representative who will unveil the much-anticipated 2024 plant introductions. Enjoy a delicious **brunch**, refreshing **mimosas**, engaging **vendors**, **live music**, exciting **door prizes**, **raffles**, talented **local artists**, **plant sales**, **ask-a-gardener** booth, **demonstrations**, *...and much more!*

Proceeds support our community initiatives including:
Student Scholarships · Teacher Grants · Garden Therapy for Seniors
Civic Beautification Efforts · Youth Poetry Contests



Scan for Details

TICKETS: \$35
--Open Seating--
For Reserved Seating,
Purchase a Table for 8

Hosted by
**BITTERSWEET
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www.BittersweetGardenClub.com

44 DAYS UNTIL
SPRING



GOOD MORNING AMERICA

February Meeting

We will meet at 1:00 on February 12th at Trinity Presbyterian Church.

Our speaker will be Marie Pasley, Master Gardener and Columbia Garden Club Member. Her program will be "Planting in a Milk Jug." Please see page 1 for items to bring to the meeting if you wish to plant seeds.

Snacks will be provided by Ann O'Dell and Diana Cooksey

Upcoming Events

January 27-February 25—Orchid Show-Missouri Botanical Garden—St. Louis

Wed. February 21, 7:00 -"How to Find An Owl in Your Neighborhood" by Mark Glen-shaw at Boone Electric Cooperative.

Scarlet Friends

I saw two cardinals in the snow,
Upon a fallen tree.
Their scarlet coats looked soft and warm,
Quite beautiful to see.

Though cold winds blew above their crests
And whirled the flakes about.
They perched there in defiance,
To wait the season out.

They come each day for the offerings
That folks strew along the way,
Royal beggars in velvet coats,
Reminders of a balmy day.

They swoop down from the skyway,
And land with easy grace,
King and queen, an ermine throne,
Rubies in a crystal case.



Shirley Sallay

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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