

Happy  
New  
Year

## President's Message

*As we begin the New Year, it feels to me like a time for reflection and renewal. Please join me as we reflect and applaud Betty on her leadership for the past four years as president of the Columbia Garden Club. She willingly and cheerfully donated her time and energy to keep the club's legacy alive. I have huge shoes to fill and fear I will make many mistakes. My palms are sweating already as I prepare for our January meeting. I welcome your comments, suggestions, and creative criticism as I begin my journey as your incoming president. Members have commented they would like to have more "fun" in the club so please know that you are welcome to email ([puleod@missouri.edu](mailto:puleod@missouri.edu)) or call me, (573) 808-6079 with ideas you might have. I have to say I had fun at our Christmas Tea as I enjoyed the beautiful table displays, delicious refreshments and lively conversation. Betty's Pavlova's stole the show!!*

*My theme for the year is "Keeping the Heartland Green" which will include not only gardening in general but also tips on how to personally contribute living in a greener world. With that in mind, our January speaker, Co-founder/Director of the Missouri River Bird Observatory Dana Ripper will present a compelling presentation on the impact plastics have in our daily lives. If you choose to renew a few habits for the New Year, you will not want to miss Dana's presentation.*

*January, the month of new beginnings. Let's look forward to the year ahead together with kindness, patience, and laughter.*

*Donna*

And now let us welcome the New Year, full of things that have never been – Rainer Maria Rilke, Simple Abundance, Sarah Ban Breathnach

Happy New Year 2024!

# December Minutes

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## COLUMBIA GARDEN CLUB MEETING

December 11, 2023

The Columbia Garden Club hosted a Christmas English Tea at noon on December 11, 2023 with 31 members in attendance along with two guests, Jane Vansant and Kathy Ellsworth. Tables were set with lovely decorations and beautiful place settings. Everyone enjoyed delicious sandwiches, scones, dessert, and hot tea.

Business meeting: Betty Connelly called the meeting to order at 1:15 p.m. Betty thanked all those members who prepared food and decorated tables. December birthdays were recognized: Betty Connelly, Vanita Johnson, and Maggie Sherburne. Mary Nesladek gave the inspiration of decorating ideas using elements from the garden: 21 Christmas Decoration Ideas. Use pinecone branches in arrangements around place settings; make a table runner using leafy branches; make pinecone trees by dusting the ends with a bit of white paint and place upright on tables in groups to look like trees; paint pinecones to use for ornaments, and make tiny wreaths from sage or rosemary and place on table napkins. There were many more ideas at this internet site. Minutes of the previous meeting were approved as distributed. Carolyn Oates presented the treasurer's report showing a balance of \$12,741.50 as of November 20, 2023. Marie Pasley said Thursday, December 28 from 11 to 1 is the time to work at the food bank. Since The Bluffs had an outbreak of Covid, the last project was canceled; we will get notified when we can resume going there. Betty Connelly and Karen Blackmore presented Brightest Bloom awards to the following members: Kay Kern and Leigh Speichinger for hospitality, Ann O'Dell for yard of the month, and Donna Russell for yearbook and garden tour booklets. The 2024 yearbooks were passed out. Betty quizzed members by having members find various things in the yearbook, showing us that there is a lot of information in this booklet. Donna Russell was thanked for doing a wonderful job in compiling this booklet. A gift exchange was done with many interesting gifts given.

Installation of officers for 2024-2025 was held. Carolyn Oates wrote the installation program and decorated rose bouquets for each officer. However since Carolyn was unable to talk, Karen Blackmore performed the installation. Officers are: Donna Puleo President, Dina Cooksey First Vice-President, Linda Antal Second Vice-President, Diane Linneman Secretary, Mary Nesladek Treasurer, and Carolyn Doyle Parliamentarian.

Meeting adjourned at 2:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted

Mary Nesladek



# Christmas Tea December 2023



## Installation of Officers December 2023

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## Christmas Tea (continued)

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## Gardening Tasks for January

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- ◆ Sow pansy seeds indoors now.
- ◆ Clean and sharpen your garden tools.
- ◆ Test leftover seeds for viability.
- ◆ Cut branches from spring flowering shrubs and force them to bloom indoors.
- ◆ Prune trees and shrubs. Don't prune spring flowering shrubs.



Perennial Plant of 2024  
Phlox Paniculata 'Jeana'

Zone: 4-8  
Height: 2-4 feet  
Spread 1.5-3 feet  
Bloom Time: July to September  
Bloom Description: Lavender-Pink  
Sun: Full sun to part shade  
Attracts: Hummingbirds and Butterflies



#### 4 Bird Feeding Mistakes

1. **Offering the Incorrect Food**—Different birds prefer different seed. Using the wrong kind can discourage certain species from stopping by.
2. **Choosing Complicated Feeders**—A simple design makes a feeder easier for birds to access and is simpler to maintain and clean. You should clean your bird feeders twice a month to prevent the spread of disease. Use a solution of one part bleach to nine parts water to clean, rinse and let dry before refilling.
3. **Placing Feeders the Wrong Distance From a Window**—Avoid placing a feeder between 3 and 30 feet from a window. Closer than 3 feet and a bird won't be able to gain enough speed to injure itself if it flies into it. Further than 30 feet and there's enough space to escape predators and more easily see the window to avoid a collision.
4. **Using Just One Style of Feeder**—Some birds are happy to eat from tube feeders, while others prefer platform or hopper feeders. Some species would rather pick up seeds scattered on the ground or from an elevated tray.

#### Must-Have Birding Resources

**Merlin:** A mobile bird identification app. The sound ID is really helpful.

**feederwatch.org:** Identify birds, match houses, feeders and food with birds.

GardenGate Magazine Issue 174

## Common Chickweed (*Stellaria media*)

Chickweed is a winter annual, reproducing both by seeds and by rooting along stems. It typically sets seed in fall. Stems usually grow 4-12 inches long. Plants are bright green and grow in a loose mat on the soil surface. Stems branch from the central crown, which grows from a shallow root system. Leaves are small and oval, are pointed at the tip, and are opposite each other on the stem. Flowers are white. Seed capsules are oval and hold many red-brown ridged seeds. Pull or hoe plants before they set seed. Because stems root easily, remove plants from the garden and allow them to dry in the sun before composting them. Use dense mulches to smother seedlings. Grows vigorously during cool weather when soil moisture is high.

Insect, Disease and Weed ID guide



## Native Spotlight

### Harbinger of Spring (*Erigenia bulbosa*)

Harbinger of spring is a small, early blooming member of the parsley or carrot family. Flower clusters appear before the foliage. The flowers are tiny white flowers and the dark reddish-brown anthers are prominent. This flower is sometimes called pepper and salt because of the white flowers and dark anthers. It blooms January-April. This species opens the spring flowering season. Leaves are divided and fernlike, sometimes reddish. The root is a small round tuber. Grows in bottomland forests and moist upland forests, mostly in ravines and valleys, protected areas at the bases of wooded slopes, and along streams and rivers. Missouri Department of Conservation





# Winter Learning Series 2024

All conservation, all the time

Every Monday @ 6:30 pm CT January 8th - March 25th,  
All on Zoom - join us from anywhere!

- January 8th - Intro to the Learning Series: Why These 11 Topics Matter for Wildlife Conservation - Dana Ripper & Ethan Duke, MRBO
- January 15th - The Missouri Legislature's 2024 Session and the Environment - Charles Miller, Missouri Confluence Waterkeeper
- January 22nd - Nearby nature: Trends in Urban Biodiversity From the Global to Local Scale - Dr. Christine Brodsky, Pittsburg State University
- January 29th - The Problems with Plastics - It's Worse Than You Think! - Rebekah Creshkoff, Beyond Plastics
- February 5th - Rare Insects of Missouri and Their Conservation - Steve Buback, Missouri Department of Conservation
- February 12th - Light Pollution and Birds - Travis Longcore, UCLA Institute of the Environment and Sustainability
- February 19th - What Does Coffee Have to Do With Birds?! - Sarah Kendrick, US Fish & Wildlife Service
- February 26th - Your food - Prairie, Birds, and Beef Production - Steve Clubine, Rancher/Grassland Biologist
- March 4th - Nature's Best Hope - Doug Tallamy, University of Delaware, Award Winning Author
- March 11th - Dicamba/2,4-D and Trees: Old Chemicals Causing New Problems - Robbie Doerhoff, Missouri Department of Conservation
- March 18th - Creating Safer Passages for Migrating Birds - Krystal Anton, Johnson County Community College
- March 25th - The Swine Republic: Struggles With the Truth About Agriculture and Water Quality - Chris Jones, Research Engineer/Author

## Registration



[bit.ly/winterlearning2024](https://bit.ly/winterlearning2024)

## National Garden Clubs

One of the 2023-2025 administration President's projects is a campaign to help feed the hungry across America. Called **Plant America-Feed America** the project will encourage every NGC member to participate in one of several ways to help fight food insecurity.

Fighting chronic hunger in America is an ongoing problem. According to latest statistics from the U.S. Department of Agriculture, 33.8 million people in America are food insecure – 5 million of them are children. Whether it's due to inflation, the after effects of the long-running Covid virus, or a financial issue, more and more families are showing up at food banks to ask for help. Even our elderly population on a fixed income suffer from a lack of nutritious food.

How can you help? If you grow your own vegetable garden, fruit or other food items, we encourage you to donate some of this bounty to a local food bank or any other organization that helps fight food insecurity. If you don't have your own garden, then how about volunteering at a local community garden where food is donated. This could be a town-sponsored garden, a school garden, a church garden, or any garden that supports feeding the hungry. Not only will you feel better about being part of the solution of fighting food insecurity, but it's a chance to promote gardening to those around you!

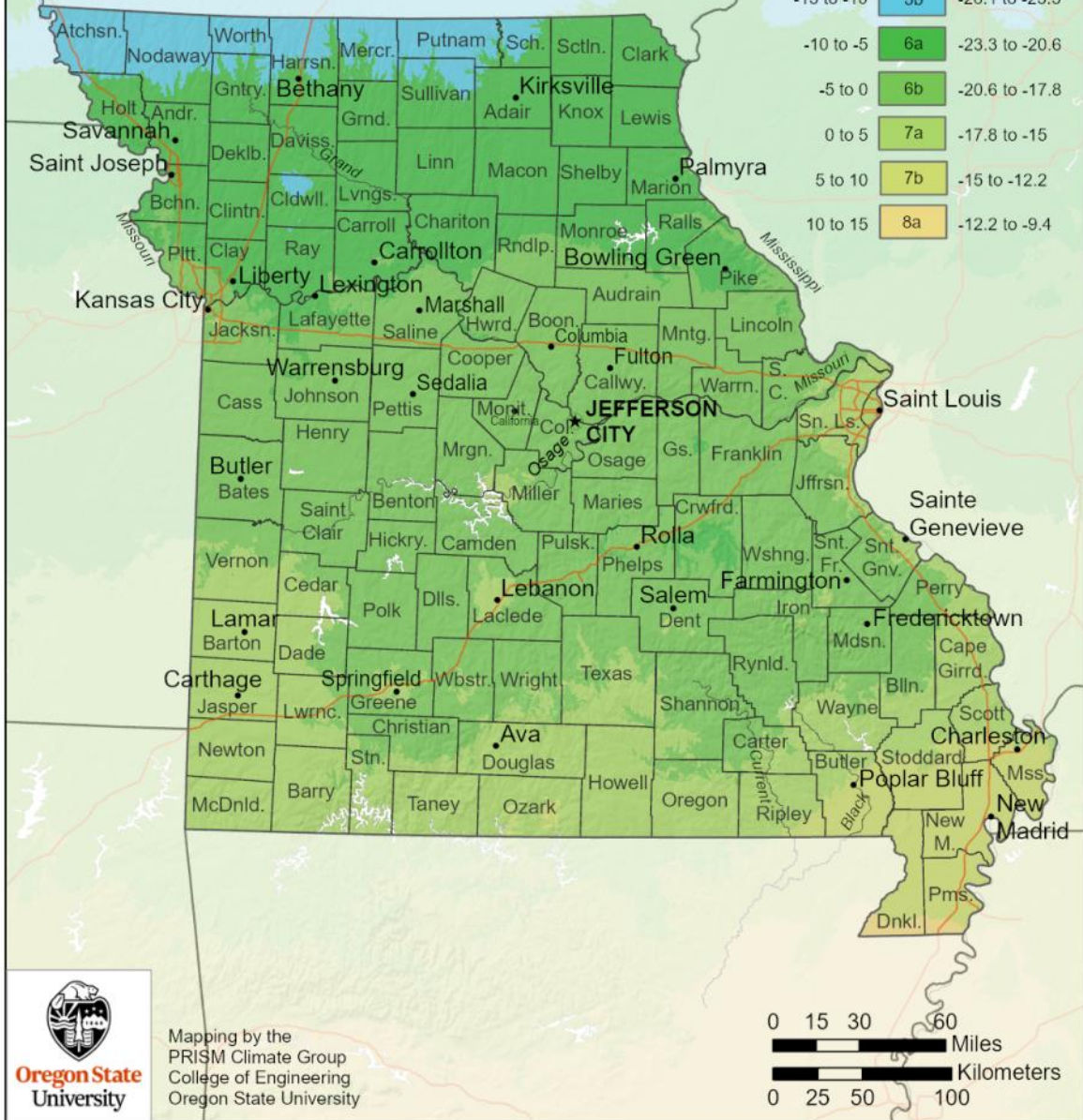
During the 2023-2025 term, we will be keeping a running total of how much fresh fruit, herbs, produce, etc. is being donated by our members. We want to spotlight how the NGC is making a difference across America! Just fill out the **[PLANT AMERICA-FEED AMERICA DONATION FORM](#)**, and then submit it electronically. The form is short and the directions are easy to follow. Some members may donate on a more frequent basis, while others may donate once or twice in a season. **Every donation counts!!** So, let's get growing as we continue to **PLANT AMERICA** and **FEED AMERICA** too!

From the NGC Website

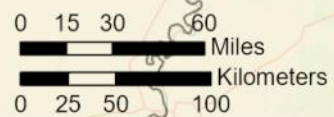
# 2023 USDA Plant Hardiness Zone Map Missouri

## Average Annual Extreme Minimum Temperature 1991-2020

Temp (F)	Zone	Temp (C)
-15 to -10	5b	-26.1 to -23.3
-10 to -5	6a	-23.3 to -20.6
-5 to 0	6b	-20.6 to -17.8
0 to 5	7a	-17.8 to -15
5 to 10	7b	-15 to -12.2
10 to 15	8a	-12.2 to -9.4



Mapping by the  
PRISM Climate Group  
College of Engineering  
Oregon State University





## January Meeting

We will meet at 1:00 on January 8th at Trinity Presbyterian Church.

Our speaker will be Dana Ripper-Director, Missouri River Bird Observatory. Her topic- “How plastics impact our environment”.

Snacks will be provided by Julie Deering and Marie Pasley

## Upcoming Events

January 28, 2024—Winter Garden Forum—Daniel Boone Regional Library

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

### A Day Well-Lived

Greet each morning with anticipation,  
Tackle your job with determination,  
Let others be your first consideration,  
Kindness and service your aspiration.  
Be tolerant and resist temptation,  
Live each day filled with inspiration,  
Run life's race with hope and expectation,  
Then close each day with quiet meditation.

*Elsie M. Brownell*

### 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

Newsletter Editor-Evette Nissen-  
enissen57@gmail.com

