

# "Columbia Underground"

Member National Garden Club, Federated Garden Clubs of Missouri, and Central District

## Upcoming Events

July 8 – CGC Monthly meeting 1pm Trinity Presbyterian Church- Program: "4 season containers", more below

August 15- FGCM Day at the State Fair in Sedalia come to the fair, enter a design or horticulture

September 27- CGC celebrates 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary @ Olivette Church

Nov. 1 & 2- Flower Show School Course 2, at the Boone County Extension Center.

\*\*\*\*\*

## Columbia Garden Club July 8 Meeting 1pm

We will met at Trinity Presbyterian for a presentation by Helmi's Garden Center employee Tanner Jones, on creating beautiful containers for all season. Containers are a great way to extend your growing season. Come joins for an informative program and meeting.



*"Woundwort" (Yarrow)*

Yarrow was used as a poultice to treat wounds, hence the common name of woundwort. Plants are still used today to treat cuts, rashes, and burns.

## August 15, 2019 FGCM Day at the State Fair in Sedalia, Missouri

Have you gone to the Missouri State Fair lately? Attending the State fair is a great way to spend a summer day and there is no better day than FGCM Day at the State Fair Floriculture Building. It is the day that we FGCM members can "strut our stuff" to show the rest of the state our growing and design abilities. So join me in attending FGCM Day at the State Fair in Sedalia on August 15.



## Powell Gardens

We had a wonderful time on the Powell Gardens trip. Along with the many beautiful flowers we saw, there was an awesome "lego exhibit". Some of the lego exhibits we enjoyed; life size buck, doe, and fawn, peacock, man and son in the garden, along with several other lego pieces, well worth the trip. Amazing what you can do with legos. Thanks to Betty Connelly for arranging a beautiful day in the gardens.

=====

## Flower Show School

Central Missouri Judges Council sponsored Flower Show School Course 1 on May 17 & 18 here in Columbia. It was attended by 32 full time garden club members. 42 attended the design session. 17 members tested, it is our hope that members testing will continue the school to become accredited flower show judges. Flower Show School course 2 will be this fall November 1&2 again here in Columbia. Evette Nissen and Betty Connelly attended the full school, while Leigh Spechinger and Rita Gerke made designs and attended the design session. In Course 2 table and petite designs, along with succulents and needled evergreens will be studied. You do not have to become a judge to attend the school. Attendees gained helpful knowledge in making designs and exhibiting horticulture. Just in: Congratulations to Betty for passing her tests! Of course no one doubted she would.

\*\*\*\*\*

## Sustainable Gardening

The right thing to do these days in your yard and garden is to practice sustainability. Here are six practices that can help you do your part for sustainability:

### **1. Conserve water and control water runoff**

#### Lawn

Water plants only when they need it. Lawns only need about 1

inch of rain a week. Set up a rain gauge to record weekly rainfall.

- Position watering devices to prevent water loss by water falling in storm gutters, walkways or in the street.

#### Garden

Use drip irrigation or soaker hoses instead of oscillating sprinklers as they result in less water loss due to evaporation.

- Mulch beds to help retain soil moisture
- Set up a rain barrel to collect rain water for watering plants.
- Plant a rain garden or develop a swale to help retain water in the soil and prevent runoff.
- Investigate the use of grey water use in your area.
- Remove hard surfaces in your landscape to allow water to percolate into the soil and not run off in storm gutters. Replace with a porous surface if needed.
- Don't use the hose to wash off your driveway, deck or walkway. Instead use a broom or an electric blower. Gas-powered blowers produce more pollutants.

### **2. Reduce fossil-fuel energy use**

#### Lawn

Reduce the size of your lawn by replacing some of it with beds of shrubs or drought tolerant perennials.

- Have your lawn mower serviced regularly so it runs efficiently and pollutes less.
- Don't mow your lawn more frequently than required. Keep the mower blade sharp.
- Replace your gas-powered mower with an electric one or switch to one of the new, user-friendly push mowers.

#### Garden

Get some exercise and do some hand digging.

- Pull weeds by hand. This is often more effective and less damaging than resorting to chemical sprays.
- Add [landscape lighting](#) only where it is really needed. And when used, use compact fluorescent bulbs or solar-powered lights. Low voltage lighting also uses less electricity and is safer for outdoor use.
- Cut down on holiday lights and invest in the new LED lights that use a lot less energy.

### **3. Deal with yard and garden "waste" in a sound way**

## Lawn

Collecting lawn clipping is not necessary and actually depletes the soil of [nutrients](#) and organic matter. Grass clipping do NOT lead to thatch buildup. Instead, use a mulching lawn mower so lawn clippings don't have to be collected.. If collected, lawn clippings can be added to your compost pile.

- Whatever you do, don't send leaves to a landfill. Instead, compost them or use, support, or work to develop a yard waste recycling program in your neighborhood.

## Garden

Develop your own compost pile so you can return the valuable plant material back to the soil in your yard.

- Don't send plant-based garden waste to a landfill. Instead support your local yard waste recycling program for any materials you can't compost and use in your own yard.
- Reuse plastic, clay and other pots in your garden. Don't send them to a landfill. And, when a plastic pot has enjoyed a good life, send it to be recycled. In St. Louis the Missouri Botanical Garden has offered a pot recycling service since 1998.
- If you want to use a chipper-shredder for light use, electric ones result in less air pollution than gas-powered.

## 4. Plant Selection

### Lawn

- Select more drought tolerant grasses that require less mowing.

### Garden

Replace plants that require a lot of watering with plants that are more drought tolerant. Native plants may be good choices.

- Select plants that perform well in your area and have few problems. In the lower Midwest the Plants of Merit program offers some excellent plants for the area.
- Promote diversity in your yard and garden. Plant a wide variety of plants, which can provide habitats for beneficial insects and reduce damage from periodic diseases. You are also helping to preserve genetic diversity.
- Avoid planting invasive plant species.

## 5. Garden Design

Lawn --Reduce the size of your lawn.

## Garden

Locate trees to help shade and cool [your home](#) in the summer to reduce energy costs. By selecting deciduous trees you can still benefit by receiving warming winter rays.

- Plant a windbreak to reduce winter heating bills.
- Support movements that preserve corridors of native plants in your area.
- Incorporate rainscaping features such as rain gardens, bioswales and rock dams to manage stormwater. ([see our Rainscaping Guide](#))

## 6. Plant Maintenance

### Lawn

Get a soil test before you add fertilizer and or lime to your lawn and follow the recommendation. Over fertilizing can lead to excess plant growth, which can be more susceptible to diseases. Trying to grow grass in soil outside a grass's recommended pH range will result in poor growth.

- Fertilizer runoff can pollute streams and groundwater. Apply them properly.
- Learn to tolerate minor insect damage in your lawn. Spraying with a pesticide can place harmful chemicals in the environment and may also kill beneficials or damage nearby plants.
- Don't over water your lawn as this can lead to soft growth that is more susceptible to disease.
- Follow a proper maintenance schedule for your area.
- Tolerate low levels of weeds in your lawn. Seek to develop a strong, healthy lawn that can out compete the weeds.

### Garden

Learn to tolerate minor insect damage in your yard and garden work to increase the number of beneficials. Learn to distinguish the good from the bad! Spraying with a pesticide can place harmful chemicals in the environment and may also kill beneficials or damage nearby plants.

- Learn which plant diseases are harmful to your plants and may warrant control and which are just a cosmetic nuisance that will not affect the health of your tree, shrub, or perennial. For example, leaf spot diseases and leaf galls are very common on trees but few if any require treatment.

*Taken from Missouri Botanical Garden web site*

+++++

## CGC 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration

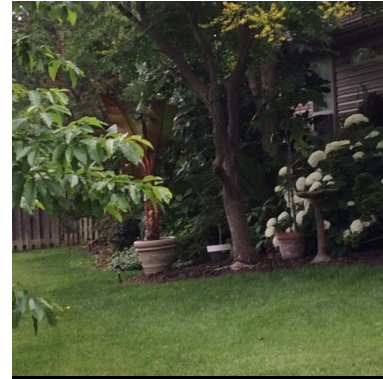
CGC will celebrate 100 years as a club on September 27th, 2019. The planning committee met on June 26. Monica McMurry from Stephens College costume department met with us to discuss the many accessories we will be provided for the celebration. We looked at the venue at Olivette Church and determined placement for tables, food, etc. We will set up on Thursday, September 26 and hope to get lots of help from membership. Expanded report at the July 8<sup>th</sup> CGC meeting.



\*\*\*\*\*

## June Yard of the Month

Ed and Carol Zieba live at 404 Parkwood Ct. Ed is the gardener, but Carol is his very proud cheerleader. His front yard reminds one of a mini-arboretum, but after stepping into the back, I would leave off the “mini!” The front has many beautiful specimen trees and shrubs, which Ed has managed to make it look very cohesive. He uses in ground plants mixed with potted plants to contrast sizes, shapes and colors. He says that although he enjoys the landscaping aspect of gardening, he is also a plant collector. He likes the challenge of growing semi-tropical and tropical plants like Rodgersia, palms, banana, elephant ears, and many more.



Ed has been gardening at this location for 20 years after starting with a completely blank slate. In that time, he has not only collected many unusual plants, but also built a tranquil sanctuary in his backyard. His inspiration comes from pictures in garden books and he has developed his skills by reading, trial and error, and talking to other gardeners. Congratulations, Ed!

