

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

March,
2023

Editor: Melissa Kouba

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Calendar

Year-long native garden calendar:

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

March 13: 1:00pm, 1600 W. Rollins Rd, Design Workshop

March 3-April 16: Orchid Delirium at Powell Gardens

Catalog of classes and events at Missouri Botanical Garden .

https://www.missouribotanicalgarden.org/Portals/0/Education/Youth%20and%20Families/PDFs/EDU_catalog_ss_2023.pdf?ver=8KDBY8R5tGt5dGPTs4eohg%3d%3d

March 18: 11:30-1pm Missouri Brown bag Seminar at Statler Lounge, see flier on page 5 of this newsletter

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

April 1: Seasonal events return at Missouri Botanical Garden

April 14-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

May 2- Oct 15: Chihuly in the Garden (Missouri Botanical Garden)

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

A note from President Betty:

I hope all of you have had an opportunity to put some of Todd Lorenz's pruning tips to good use. I pruned my Red Twig and Yellow Twig Dogwoods and tried to follow at least some of his instructions. The problem is the 5 years of me just whacking away at it makes it difficult now. In my defense it has to be cut back to get the bright colors for next winter since it is the new growth that has the beautiful colors. At least this year I got it done while it was still dormant.

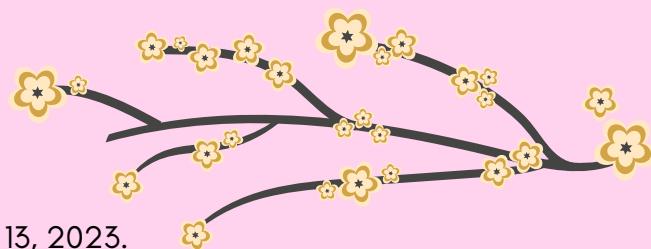
At our March meeting we will give everyone a copy of the schedule for our May 20 flower show. There will be a short business meeting at 1:00 followed by Hospitality. The meeting will be led by Linda Antal our 2nd VP. I somehow scheduled 2 appointments in St. Louis for Garden Club Day! Then several members who are also members of the Central Missouri Flower Show Judges Council will present some examples of designs and Botanical Arts exhibits that are in our schedule. Then you all can practice designs and/or a Botanical Artistic Craft. I hope many of you will decide to participate in the show. Karen Blackmore will be glad to sign you up for your choice. Even if you don't think you're ready to sign up, please come and enjoy the fun of playing with friends and flowers!

We will have some flowers and greenery to "play" with, but you are welcome to bring some, too. You might have a container you want to use so be sure to bring that, too. There is a section of petite designs so if you have any very small containers (2 classes of 8" in all directions, and 1 class of 6" in all directions.) Alice and Carolyn Doyle will have examples of some so don't worry.

In Botanical Arts, one class is decorating a ball cap so if you have an extra plain cap any color you can bring that if you want.



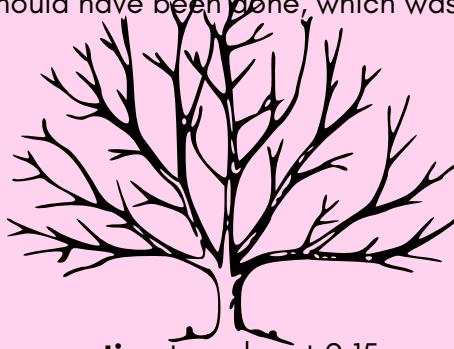
February CGC meeting



The Columbia Garden Club met at 1 p.m. on February 13, 2023.

The program included a speaker.

Speaker: Todd Lorenz, Horticulture Agronomy Specialist at the University of Missouri Extension gave a program on Pruning Woody Plants "Out On a Limb." Todd had slides showing examples of pruning. Pruning is an art and a science. Science is thinking about how the plant grows and what will it look like in the years to come; think ahead as to what the plant will look like. Art is how you would like the plant to look like in the future. Pruning is the judicious removal of shoots. Reasons for pruning: enhance survival after transplanting, develop strong structure of plant, promote flowering, remove dead or diseased wood, direct growth and utilize space efficiently, and invigorate old plants. No more than 20% of a plant should be pruned at one time; except suckers can be pruned anytime. Pruning should begin at planting; look up, look down, and look all around the plant. Pruning stimulates vegetative growth behind the cut. It is better to prune a little every year than to prune a lot every five years. Hand shears are the only pruning tool you need. There are anvil shears and bypass shears, which are better. It is best to prune in spring or early summer. For flowering shrubs, trim after blooming and before flush of growth. For lilacs, cut one-third of oldest wood every year. For summer shrubs, trim in the dormant season before flush of growth. It is important to clean tools with bleach (1 part bleach to 9 parts water) or denatured alcohol. Oil tools after cleaning. When staking a tree, only do this for about one year as roots should be established by six months and can then stabilize the tree. Todd had a handout "Pruning Ornamental Trees and Shrubs" for everyone. Todd and members then went outside around the parking lot to look at examples of good pruning and examples of where pruning should have been done, which was very helpful.



Refreshments were served.

Betty Connelly called the **business meeting** to order at 2:15 p.m. with 25 members and two guests present.

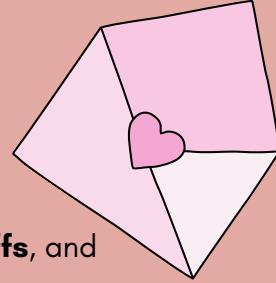
We welcomed Nancy Rold as a **new member**.

Mary Nesladek gave the **inspiration**: "Nature will bear the closest inspection. She invites us to lay our eye level with her smallest leaf, and take an insect's view of its plain" by Henry David Thoreau.

Minutes of the previous meeting were approved with the correction of Betty not being a co-chair of Yard of the Month (but is a member of that committee), and a change from a Paw Paw tree to a Persimmon Tree for the educational display for the Central District.

Carolyn Oates sent a **treasurer's report** showing a balance of \$13,136.73.

February CGC meeting, cont.



Volunteering:

February 9, twelve CGC members helped make valentines with residents at **The Bluffs**, and we hope to have an event there in March. Marie Pasley reported that CGC members packaged food at **The Food Bank** on January 26, and will plan on doing so again on February 23. We hope to continue doing this new project on the fourth Thursday each month from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Marie also reported that we are planning on doing mini bouquets for **Meals on Wheels** at the August meeting; remember to plant flowers this Spring with small blooms.

Connie Blackmore will sign our group up for **Clean Up Columbia** to be held in April.



Committee Reports:

The June **garden tour** only has one garden; let Betty know if you can volunteer your yard.

Melissa Kouba reported that **Russell Boulevard School** is on board for working with the science learning kits with the science department helping. Documentation for two kits have been sent to the school.

Old Business:

Karen Blackmore will investigate getting more red **T shirts** with our logo for members to order. Donna Russell would like everyone to be taking pictures for the **yearbook** for next year.

Mary Nesladek reported that she has been in contact with Craig Schoenfeld and a Tulip Poplar tree in Bethel Park will be purchased in **memory of Amanda** at a cost of \$400 from donated funds. Mary will take a check to the Parks and Recreation Department. The tree will be planted this Spring, and we will get a map of the planting location. The family decided on the wording of the plaque and that will be installed 6 to 8 weeks after the tree planting. We will have \$380 left in donations to spend in the future.

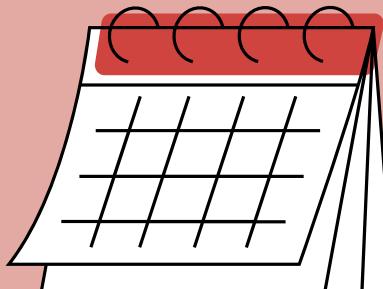
Calendar:

Environmental School is March 20–23 from 1–4 p.m.; deadline to sign up is March 8. The Central District Spring meeting is April 14 in Fortuna. Members need to register online, and pay Carolyn Oates the \$15 fee by April 3. Carpool arrangements will be made later. The FGCM State Convention is in St. Louis from April 17–20.

March 13 meeting will be a design presentation workshop to get ready for the May 20 flower show. Schedules will be available at the March meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 2:52 p.m.

Minutes Respectfully submitted by Mary Nesladek



You may be Interested:





Mizzou Botanic Garden presents 2023 Brown Bag Seminar Series

Please join Mizzou Botanic Garden for our inaugural brown bag seminar series featuring presentations by speakers on current environmental topics. The series will lead up to MUBG's 2023 Jacquelyn Jones Lecture in September.



The Ecological Imperative to Move Beyond Plastics

March 16 • 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m.
Stotler Lounge on the first floor of the Memorial Union
on the MU Campus

Featuring Dana Ripper, a wildlife ecologist who co-founded the Missouri River Bird Observatory (MRBO), a nonprofit organization dedicated to conservation of Missouri's migratory and resident birds via science, education and advocacy. As an affiliate organization of Break Free from Plastic and Beyond Plastics, one of Ripper's major emphases is systemic reduction in single-use plastics. She is a certified presenter with the Beyond Plastics.

Cosponsored by the Missouri River Bird Observatory.



Bird-Friendly Landscapes

May 10 • 11:30 a.m. - 1 p.m.
Center for Urban Agriculture's Schoolhouse at 1769 W. Ash St.

Featuring Dana Ripper, a wildlife ecologist who focuses on birds and their conservation and a co-founder and director of the Missouri River Bird Observatory.

Cosponsored by the Missouri River Bird Observatory and the Columbia Center for Urban Agriculture.



Adapting Home Landscapes to a Changing Climate

July 18 • 11:30 a.m. - 1 p.m.
Daniel Boone Regional Library Friends Room

Featuring Chris Starbuck, an emeritus faculty member with the MU Division of Plant Science & Technology, whose emphasis is woody ornamental plants.

Cosponsored by Daniel Boone Regional Library.

Free and open to the public.
For more information, please call (573) 882-4240.



Mizzou Botanic Garden
University of Missouri



Daniel Boone
Regional Library





Thoughts on Spring

Lawn

Though mowed turf has become the default ground layer choice for the majority of residential gardens, its functionality is very narrow. For high use areas in full sun, turf is sometimes the sturdiest, simplest option in terms of installation and maintenance. The stereotypically perfect lawn kept free of forbs (broad-leaved herbaceous plants) and critters by use of toxic herbicides and pesticides is injurious to the health of humans and wildlife ; however, it is possible to maintain functional but much less uniform turf without these materials.

However maintained, mowed turf contributes little or nothing to the cover, shelter and sustenance necessary to sustain wildlife. Grass turf, especially on ground compacted by heavy riding mowers, is relatively impermeable. Very little rainfall is absorbed and therefore most runs off much like it does over a paved surface. No-mow lawn areas planted with low-growing hard fescue grasses are an alternative, offering better absorption and therefore better ground-water recharge, but they will not tolerate heavy foot traffic or play.

If the goal is to design and manage for a wide range of ecosystem services, the sensible approach is to restrict mowed turf to areas that truly require its utility. A more imaginative creative approach to the ground layer will add immeasurably to the beauty, diversity and functionality of all layers in the garden. (From; *The Living Landscape* ...Rick Darke and Doug Tallamy

Natural Lawn Care can be done!

here are my first steps:

Lawns will be healthy if grass is healthy and thick with normal soil organisms not killed with chemicals. It is not instant and requires a long-term commitment. And it is not perfect!

-test soil

-use corn gluten for pre-emergent weed suppression and for nitrogen source fertilizer

-top-dress with compost

-raise mower, keep blade sharp and let clippings fall into lawn (short clippings)

-proper watering and let go dormant if really hot and long spell

-aerate in fall and overseed

-Limit lawn to the play area! plant more perennial beds, some annuals, wildflower beds, native bushes and trees and vegetable and/or herb gardens.

The university has a great article:

<https://extension.missouri.edu/media/wysiwyg/Extensiondata/Pub/pdf/agguides/hort/g06749.pdf>

CGC Volunteers at The Food Bank!

