

# 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



May,  
2023

Editor: Melissa Kouba

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## Calendar

Year-long native garden calendar:

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

**April 27 and 28**- 9am-4pm plant sales at Ag building University of Missouri

**April 28-29** CGC Plant and Bake Sale

**April 29:** Arrow Rock, all day Birds and Bees Festival

**April 28-30:** MO Birding Society Spring Meeting Missouri Birding Society Spring Meeting in Cape Girardeau, Missouri.

**May 5:** 8-11am Columbia Audubon Society First Friday bird walk, meet at Songbird Station parking lot

**May 8:** 1:00pm CGC monthly meeting with speaker Alice Longfellow

**May 10:** 11:30-1pm Mizzou Botanic Garden presents 2023 Brown Bag Seminar Series: Bird-Friendly Landscapes

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

**June 18-22:** International Master Gardener Conference in Overland Park

**July 9-14:** Blooming Bus Tour to Niagra Falls...see Carolyn Oates for info

### 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:

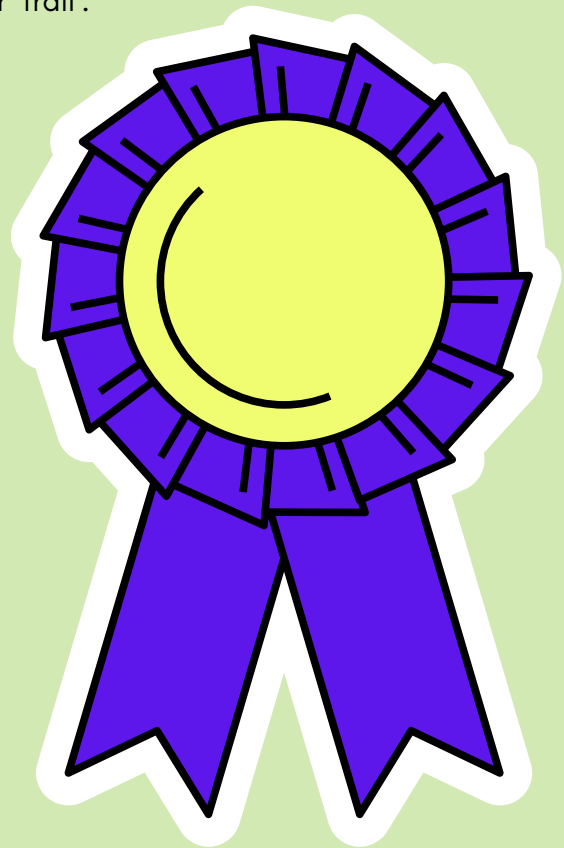
Hello to all,

We just got back from a fun, frantic, and informative FGCM meeting in St. Louis. We were represented well by Karen Blackmore, Carolyn Doyle, Rita Gerke, Alice Havard, Melissa Kouba, Carolyn Oates, Marie Pasley, Barb Rothenberger, and myself.

I was happy to pick up the Betty Hardin Flower Show Award and \$50 for us. We also received the Mae Jean Nothstine Program Award for innovative programs. Thanks to Diana Cooksey and the planning committee. The \$50 check is "in the mail" for that one. We received our Purple Ribbon for 2023! And Central District received 3rd place and \$50 for their Education Exhibit on Persimmon Trees. Now it's on to the State Fair in August.

Central District also invited all FGCM members to Columbia for next year's Convention. This was done by a never to be repeated appearance of many Old Woodland Fairies and Mother Earth. You'll have to use your imagination! Our theme is "Plant America Leading the Way for a Greener Missouri."

Speaking of Purple Ribbons, we still need one yard to make our tour complete. These members are sharing their gardens: Patty O'Neal, Julie Dearing, Ann O'Dell, and Betty Connelly. Please let me know soon. We need map our 'trail'.



# April CGC meeting



The Columbia Garden Club met on April 10, 2023 at 1 p.m. at the Shelter Gardens Gazebo with tour guide, Katrina Monnig. This five-acre garden has been here for 48 years and is kept as organic as possible with weeds pulled and not sprayed. Japanese beetles are sprayed, however. Various areas of the garden include: tree sculpture, conifer mound, Japanese garden, rock garden, succulent garden with 49 varieties, sensory garden, butterfly garden, rose garden with almost 50 plants, and lily pond. The river area has Koi fish that clean up the algae so the water stays very clean. The fish spend three seasons outside and then have to be moved indoors for the winter months. The tulip beds have about 4,000 to 5,000 flowers that were planted with a power auger drill. The tulips will be replaced with annuals that come from Vintage Hills Nursery in Boonville. There is a one-room schoolhouse that is a replica of one in Brunswick. There is also a Vietnam Memorial Wall and an Inspirational Wall where names are on plaques of deceased employees who have worked for Shelter at least 20 years.

**The business meeting** was called to order by Betty Connelly at 2:30 with 26 members attending and enjoying refreshments. Mary Nesladek gave the inspiration: “Flowers are like human beings, they thrive on a little kindness” by Fred Streeter. April birthdays were recognized: Carolyn Oates, Linda Antal, and Carol Tummons.

**Minutes of the previous meeting** were corrected as follows: Design Workshop—Barbara Rothenberger also presented tips for designing bookmarks and bracelets for the flower show in May.

The **treasurer’s report** submitted by Carolyn Oates shows a balance of \$12,811.33.

Betty had a question about various kinds of **mulch** to use in beds. Marie Pasley suggested contacting the City of Columbia solid waste facility, which is located near the Bioreactor Landfill. They collect food waste and combine that with yard waste which decomposes over 2-4 months. The fee is \$20 plus tax per cubic yard with a minimum of one cubic yard. Call the contact center at 573-874-2489 to check for compost availability.

**Committee Reports:** Clean-Up Columbia—We will meet at 9 a.m. on Saturday, April 15 at the MBS parking lot, 2711 West Ash St. Food Bank -working at this facility will resume soon.

**CGC T shirts**—Karen Blackmore has a sign up sheet for anyone wanting to purchase a shirt.





# April CGC meeting, cont.:

**Flower Show** sign up sheet was passed around for those wanting to enter designs/botanical arts; date is May 20.

**Garden Therapy** will be at The Bluffs on Thursday, May 18 at 2 p.m. We will be decorating hats; bring artificial flowers to use.

Carpools were planned for attending the **Spring District Meeting** on April 14, and for the State Convention.

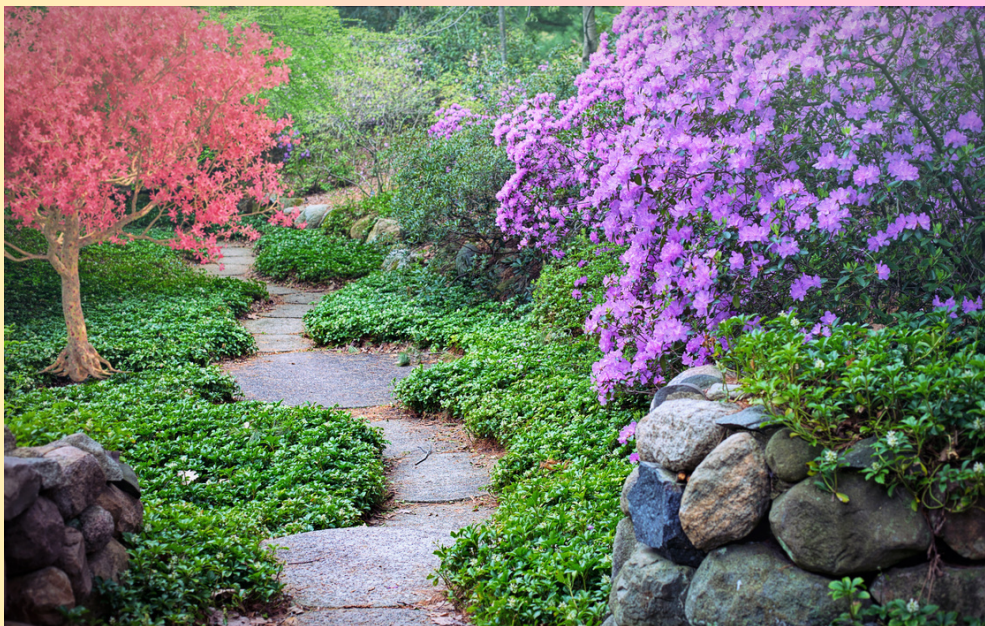
**Plant Sale:** Friday, April 28 from noon to 4 is the set-up time. Saturday, April 29 sale is from 9-2 with clean up following. Do not price your plants, but do price white elephants, bring boxes, bring goodies for the bake sale and do not price them. Label plants but do not use colored popsicle sticks as they will be used for pricing plants.

**State Convention 2024:** Marie Pasley and Karen Blackmore are co-chairs for this from May 7 to 9, 2024 at the Stoney Creek Hotel. There will be two tours available: One tour to the Columbia Ag Park, Shelter Gardens, and Strawberry Hill and another tour: Fulton and the Westminster Churchill Memorial and Callaway Fields garden center. There will also be some workshops, guest speakers, and vendors. All garden clubs in the Central District will be helping with this convention. All CGC members are encouraged to attend and to help with the many tasks that need to be done.

Strawberry Hill Farms is donating 10% of sales to **Caring Hearts and Hands** through May. A flyer has been emailed to everyone; bring the flyer or mention this when making a purchase.

Meeting adjourned at 3:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted Mary Nesladek



## From the Editor:

Dear CGC members,

I have done some research and am presenting my point of view regarding the current practice of flower shows at National Garden Clubs and Federated Garden Clubs of Missouri. I begin with information from our Manual regarding our club mission and the stated purposes for a flower show. In brief, I feel that these two directives are in opposition to each other as they are currently practiced.

Don't you think this deserves a good conversation and discussion?

OH! and remember our slogan for next year's convention:

"Plant America: Leading the Way for a Greener Missouri"

Garden Club policies:

### **Environmental mission statement:**

The environmental mission of National Garden Clubs, Inc. is to review environmental problems and their possible solutions, to promote environmental literacy and to advocate sound environmental stewardship.

From the NGC, FGCM manual, section on objectives:

To aid in the protection and conservation of natural resources, to promote civic beauty and encourage the improvement of roadsides and parks;

### **The four primary purposes for staging a Standard or a Small Standard Flower Show:**

1. Educate - both the garden club members who enter and the general public who visit the show
2. Stimulate interest in horticulture
3. Promote an outlet for creative expression and
4. Convey to the community the objectives of FGCM and NGC.

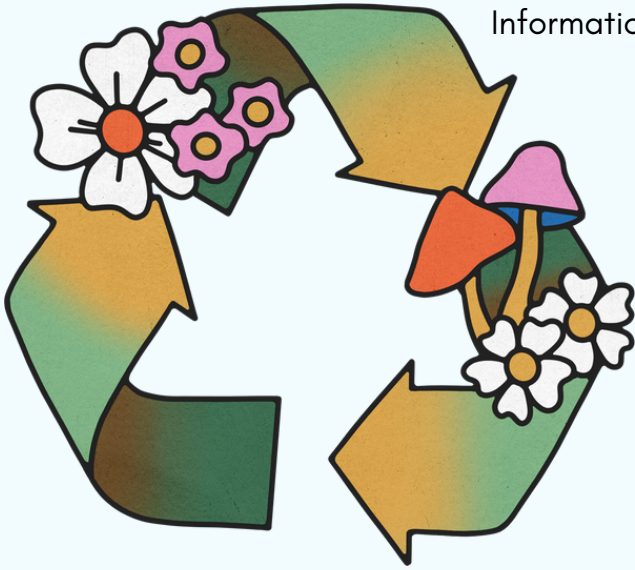
Current Flower Show practices:

The rulebook or show guidelines for flower shows currently do not have any provisions to require the sustainability of flower (or container) use. I would suggest that current practices are environmentally destructive. Tropical flowers and flowers that are out of season for the area are often used in these displays. Flowers are often shipped long distances (contributing to carbon footprint). Flower field workers are exposed to fertilizers and pesticides, while being paid very low wages (worker exploitation). Lands used may destroy natural habitats. Irrigation may divert water from food production. All imported flowers have been chemically treated (per import regulations) affecting everyone who touches them and those who sit around the table they are displayed on. Arrangements are often short-lived and not biodegradable, adding more to the landfill. Plastic decor and non-reusable items are often used in arrangements. Americans and other "first world" countries display very high rates of consumption. Garden clubs with these practices cannot model the good choices that minimize the environmental impact of cut flowers with the current model of flower shows. I would suggest that this is not following the mission of community education.



## From the Editor, cont.

Information from Washington University's sustainability program:



### Environment

- **Energy:** The farther the flowers are grown from the end consumer, the more time spent in transit. Air freighting and trucking flowers long distances is energy intensive. Cut flowers must be refrigerated after harvest to ensure freshness. Cold-chain shipping in airplanes, trucks, warehouses and storage rooms require more energy than flowers grown close to the client.
- **Chemicals:** Imported flowers must be dipped in fungicides to comply with import regulations. Domestic flowers aren't subject to foreign pest chemical protocols. Flowers grown with minimal pesticides and fertilizers protect the land, workers, and all who touch flowers.
- **Land use:** Some farmers steward their lands in more ecologically sound ways than others. For example, using minimal irrigation during growing and handling; protecting surrounding aquifers; making decisions that take biodiversity and habitat protection into consideration are ways to protect the health of the land.
- **Florist Chemicals:** Sprays, sheens and stabilizers used in florist studios to enhance the look and vase life of arrangements are often health hazards. In particular, floral foam (also called green foam or Oasis) doesn't reasonably biodegrade and contains known carcinogens.
- **Waste:** Sustainable florists minimize landfilled debris by composting botanical scraps; choosing reusable, recyclable or compostable vases and containers; avoiding plastic decor in arrangements; and opting for recyclable, minimal packaging.
- **Consumption:** From field to vase, sustainable floristry means doing more with less, and making choices that minimize the environmental impact of cut flowers.

### Society

- **Wages:** Fair pay for workers in the field and at the florist, while understanding the need for competitive pricing.
- **Working conditions:** Safe, healthy environments for workers in the field and at the florist.
- **Exploitation:** treating workers with respect and giving fair compensation.
- **Education:** Sharing information with suppliers, colleagues, consumers and the public about ways to promote sustainability in the flower trade.



## From the Editor, cont:



### **Recommendations**

Locally grown flowers, when seasonally available, are more sustainable than alternatives. (Flowers native to your area are the most sustainable, as they protect biodiversity and require minimal inputs.) Domestically-grown, organically-grown, sustainably-certified flowers are a reasonable second choice. Choosing flowers based on their sustainability sometimes means making aesthetic choices based on seasonal availability rather than color or varietal preferences. (Luckily, all flowers are beautiful.)

This guide was produced by students in the Sustainability Exchange course at Washington University, under the supervision of faculty member Suzanne Langlois.

