

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



November 2023

Editor: Melissa Kouba

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Year-long native garden calendar: **Calendar**

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

November 18-January 6: Garden Glow transforms the iconic setting of the Missouri Botanical Garden into an enchanted wonderland

November 20: 1:00 at 1600 Rollins road CGC monthly meeting. Create a wreath

Nov 24- Dec 31 10:00 am - 4:00 pm: Winter Jewels: An Enchanted Celebration
Sophia M. Sachs Butterfly House 15050 Faust Park Chesterfield, MO 63017

December 7- 9, 5:30 - 8:00 pm Whitmire Wonderlights at Shaw Nature Reserve >
Whitmire Wildflower Garden

May 7-9, 2024: State Garden Club meeting at Stoney Creek Inn, Columbia

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

President's Message!



Hello Everyone,

Did you get your garden "put to bed?" I'm afraid mine is just napping and will be so sad when it wakes up freezing. It does look like I'll get a chance to save plants if I get "with it" over the weekend. I'll get that extra hour back so maybe I'll use it to gather my pots, cut back some perennials, clean my porch...doesn't that sound fun?

I want to remind you that November is when we vote on our 2024 budget. This is a really important responsibility we have as members of Columbia Garden Club. Please try to attend the meeting.

Where does our money go?

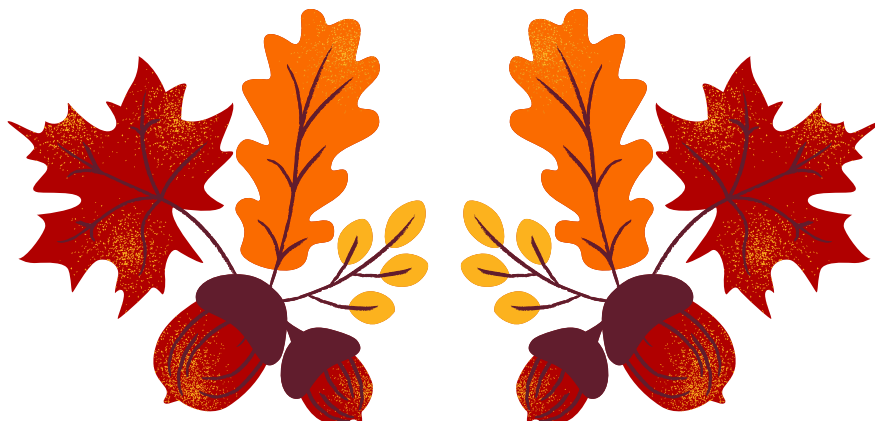
\$1,000 scholarship to MU student majoring in fields set out by NGC and FGCM
Donations to FGCM projects-Mizzou Botanic Gardens, Powell Gardens, World Gardening/Disaster, DBR Library

Maintenance and planting beds at Historical Society. These are not all of the recipients of CGC money. It's important that we meet, discuss, and vote on what we would like to see done with our funds.

After our business meeting, we deserve some fun. So Karen Blackmore and Marie Pasley are going lead us through the wreath-making process. So, bring a wreath of your choice, a paddle wire, real or faux material for putting on the wreath. It might be fun to share some of your extras. If you have ornaments, ribbon, etc that you don't need bring them, and someone may put them to use.

I'm looking forward to seeing everyone, and their wreaths!

-Betty



October CGC meeting minutes

The Columbia Garden Club met on October 9, 2023 with Betty Connelly calling the meeting to order at 1 p.m. with 27 members present.

Two **new members** were welcomed: Cathy Fulkerson and Myron Kern.

Inspiration was given by Mary Nesladek: "In every gardener, there is a child who believes in the seed fairy" by Robert Brault.

Birthdays for September were recognized: Mary Nesladek, Alice Havard, Ruthanne McCoy, Ann O'Dell, Patty O'Neal, and Donna Puleo. October birthdays were recognized: Connie Blackmore, Kay Kern, and Barb Schuette.

Minutes of the previous meeting were accepted as distributed.

Treasurer's report shows a balance of \$14,102.90. Dues of \$25 for 2024 were collected (this is the deadline for dues).

The Central Fall District meeting was held in Fulton on September 28 and 11 CGC members attended. Three CGC members were installed as Central District Officers: Carolyn Oates, Central District Director, Betty Connelly 1st Assistant Director, and Mary Nesladek, Treasurer.

Committee Reports: Sign up sheets were available for members to sign up for *Clean Up Columbia*, *Hospitality*, *Garden Therapy*, and *Bouquets*. Evette would like someone to take over the Facebook page. CGC members will volunteer at the Food Bank on the fourth Tuesday from 11 to 1 in October and November. (The usual date of Thursdays was not available).

The State Convention will be May 7-9, 2024 at the Stoney Creek Inn in Columbia. Full registration will be \$160 which includes several meals and speakers. Linda Antal is the treasurer for the convention; registration forms will be available soon. There will be two tours at an additional cost. CGC members will be needed to help with various tasks: registration, collecting tickets, name tags, etc. Leslie Cravens, Director of Tiger Gardens floral shop, will be a speaker showing floral design techniques on Tuesday evening. The Wednesday morning speaker will discuss revamping a garden, eliminating plastics, and landscaping with native plants. Chris Starbuck will also be a guest speaker.

Meeting adjourned at 1:35 p.m. with members visiting and enjoying snacks and then going to CCUA for a 2 p.m. tour.



CCUA—Columbia Center for Urban Agriculture.

Tony Minnick gave us a walk about tour of the facility which shares space with the Columbia Farmers Market. A new Welcome Center will open soon that will have a commercial kitchen. School children in third and fifth grade come to field trips at CCUA. We saw the herb spiral garden which increases the total growing surface of herbs. There were many 4' x 8' raised beds. The detention basin is the largest in Columbia for storm water issues; native edible plantings surround the basin. In the greenhouse, seeds are started at the end of January. Everything is grown from seed. Volunteers are needed for many gardening tasks from March to late November. Compost is purchased from St. Louis and can be sold to the public for \$60 a yard. CCUA is a food forest; a production field for the Food Pantry where produce is grown with quality over quantity emphasized. Although 50,000 pounds of food have been donated from the very beginning.

Meeting adjourned at 3 p.m. with members enjoying the walk around CCUA.

Respectfully submitted,
Mary Nesladek

Environmental Concerns and Conservation

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

Central Region Tree Planting Extravaganza

Central Region Project 2023-2025

Plant a tree!

This is a part of the “Plant America” theme of our National Garden Club. Fall is a great time to plant a tree. Trees are a bit of a miracle in more ways than one!

- Trees are good for our health and our planet’s health
- Trees lower energy bills and air temperature
- Trees purify the air, help control flooding and improve soil quality
- Trees sustain wildlife, especially essential pollinators
- Trees fight the climate crisis and remove Carbon dioxide from the atmosphere

How about an oak tree?

The ecological, economic and cultural significance of white oak makes it a good choice!

White oaks are bountiful mast producers – some trees can produce between 2,000-7,000 acorns per year – serving as a substantial food source for wildlife such as blue jay, black bear and wild turkey. The tree’s bark is very flaky and has a lot of surface area. In fact, a study of the species in the Mid-Atlantic found that white oaks provide habitat for more than 500 species of moths and butterflies – more than any other woody plant in the region.

White oak trees can reach more than 100 feet tall and 4 feet in diameter, an impressive size that helps sequester large amounts of carbon. The abundance, deep roots and broad canopies of white oak also mean the species plays an important role in producing clean and steady streams of water and providing aquatic wildlife habitat. Factor in that some white oaks can live for many centuries, thus offering benefits for generations of people and wildlife.

Each state is responsible for planting trees. There are no rules as to the type of tree, the number of trees planted in each state begins June 2023, and additional points will be given for pictures submitted to the Central Region website.

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Blue Jays

from the October issue of Missouri Naturalist

Blue jays are among the most recognizable backyard birds in Missouri and play a role in increasing the population of oak trees!

These intelligent birds like to chatter a lot . They frequently mimic the calls of hawks, especially the red-shouldered hawk.

There are eight species of jays in North America; however, blue jays are the only jays in much of the eastern United States. Although they are much prettier looking, blue jays are closely related to the crow. They are identifiable by the crest on their heads and their blue, white, and black plumage. The dark pigment in their feathers is melanin. A trick of the light causes the blue color in their feathers. Scattering light through modified cells on their feather barbs' surface makes their feathers appear to be blue.

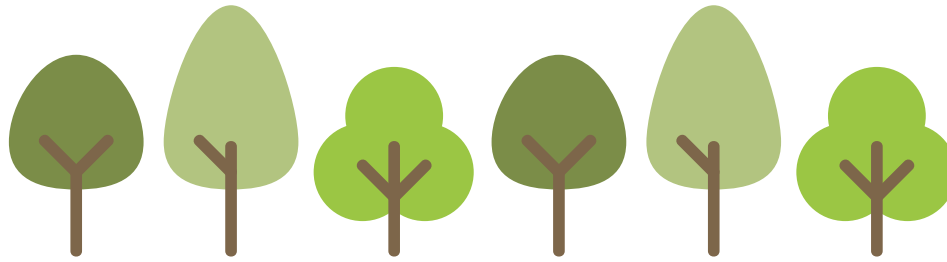
Blue jays are known for their intelligence and complex social systems and have tight family bonds. They often mate for life and remain with their social mate throughout the year. Only the female incubates – her mate provides all her food during incubation. Both male and female work together to build a nest for their young, and then when the female is sitting on her eggs, the male will feed and take care of her. Once the young are about 17 to 21 days old, the whole family will then leave the nest together.

Blue jays are known to take and eat eggs and nestlings of other birds, but it isn't common. In some studies of blue jay feeding habits, only 1% of jays had evidence of eggs or birds in their stomachs. They are not the carnivorous bird predators that they are made out to be. Birds' eggs and baby birds are far from their favorite meal. Most of their diet was composed of insects, nuts, and mostly acorns.

Speaking of acorns, **blue jays are acorn specialists.** Typically living on the edge of forests, they enjoy acorns tremendously. A small hook at the pointed end of a jay's beak is designed to open an acorn's husk. Blue jays are one of the most ecologically important species for a forested environment due to their acorn-loving sweet tooth. Because blue jays routinely carry acorns for winter storage for a long distance, a single jay can gather and bury up to 4,500 acorns each fall, but it remembers where only a quarter of them are buried before springtime. So, **each jay plants somewhere around 3,000 or more oak trees every year!** By dispersing acorns further away from parent trees, blue jays provide oaks with enormous ecological service, where there will be less competition for light, nutrients, and water.

By Noppadol Paothong | October 1, 2023
From Missouri Conservationist: October 2023





Proud to be a Tree Hugger

September through November is the ideal time for tree planting because it allows the roots to become established before the ground freezes and winter sets in.

WHY PLANT IN FALL?

- Still-warm soil promotes good root growth.
- Cool weather eliminates the threat of heat stress on new plants.
- Increased rains help plants establish stronger root systems before winter.
- Many pests and diseases that plague gardens in spring and summer aren't as big of a threat in fall.

Additionally, "The more we accomplish in fall, the less hectic things will be in the garden next spring". "It's prime time for setting out new plants, moving those that are out of place, and planting bulbs to brighten our gardens next year. It's also a super opportunity for stocking up on new plants at clearance sales, dividing overgrown clumps, taking cuttings, and sowing seeds."

Planting tips:

- Most trees, shrubs, and perennials planted in the fall are no longer producing new top growth. Focus on providing ideal conditions for root growth by keeping them well watered until the ground freezes.
- Cover garden beds with several inches of organic mulch, such as shredded bark or leaves, to keep the soil warm longer and to minimize damage from winter freeze-thaw cycles.



Notes

Remember the **date change!** November meeting is third Monday of month, November 20!

Hello fellow gardeners!

For the CGC program in November, we will be creating wreaths or swags to use in our own homes over the holidays! Two of our members, Karen and Marie, will be there to share their expertise as we assemble our masterpieces!

Please bring the following items to our November meeting:

- * paddle wire
- * wreath or swag
- * real or faux materials to put on your wreath/swag

I'm looking forward to seeing everyone's creations!

-Diana



Happy Thanksgiving



Are You a Chair of a committee?

If you are the chair of a committee or project, you are supposed to write a report of the year's activities. This doesn't need to be long—just a few sentences to summarize what you/your committee did this year. You may email it to me or bring a hard copy to the November meeting.

Thank you!
Betty

