

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

October,
2023

Editor: Melissa Kouba



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Calendar

Year-long native garden calendar:

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

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

September 15-30: "Terra Luna" at Overland Park Arboretum

September 28: all day District Garden Club meeting in Fulton Southside Baptist Church 395 Country Meadows Lake, "Living on a Tree farm"

September 25-October 25: Harvest Fest Crafts & Pumpkins -Branson

October 6-8: Best of Missouri Market - MO Botanical Garden in St. Louis

October 9: 1pm CGC meeting

October 12: Music at the Market, Washington

October 13-21: Maple Leaf Festival in Carthage

October 13-15: Apple Butter Makin' Days - Mt Vernon

October 14: Pumpkin Festival in Caledonia

October, last 3 three weekends: Legends and Lanterns -St. Charles

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:

October, 2023

Hello fellow members,

I hope you have been able to get outside and enjoy this wonderful weather. I'm not going to complain about the lack of rain, but we sure could use a drop or two soon.

I wanted to make sure that you are clear about our October 9 meeting. **We will meet at the church at 1 o'clock just like always.** We'll have a short meeting and refreshments and then head over to CCUA (the Farmers Market.) You can leave your car at the church and ride with someone else if you want. It's totally up to you. Our meeting is over after the tour.

Also make note of the November meeting date **November 20.**

While I'm at it, note the time on our **December Tea, 12:00 Noon.**

Carpool to Fall District Meeting-Thursday, September 28

Meet at Carpool Lot at Hwy 63, Grindstone Exit. Lot is East side of 63

We'll meet at 8:00 and leave at 8:10

-Betty

August CGC meeting minutes

The Columbia Garden Club met at noon Sept 11 for the potluck and membership meeting. Betty Connelly decorated tables with vases of various colored coleus plants.



After a delicious luncheon, Diana Cooksey introduced the guest speaker, Mike Szydowski. He was the K-12 Science Coordinator for Columbia Public Schools and is currently with Columbia STEAM Alliance (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Math). Mike presented the **JMS Zoo** (Jefferson Middle School Zoo). In the hallways of the Science Department are about 100 animals of all sorts—snakes, birds, hamsters, guinea pigs, rabbits, and others. About 80 students at JMS become tour leaders after learning how to feed and clean up after the animals. About 2,000 students from other schools toured the zoo last school year. It costs about \$10,000 yearly to maintain the zoo. They rely on donations from individuals, and grants, and especially Hy-Vee donating produce to feed the animals. Two fundraisers are the Boo at the Zoo (near Halloween), and a Spring Open House. Animals have to be taken care of on weekends and during school vacations, including the summer.

Betty Connelly called the business meeting to order at 1:40 p.m. with 22 members present and three guests. Minutes of the previous meeting were accepted as distributed. There was no treasurer's report. Today was the deadline to pay \$15 for the Central Fall District meeting on September 28 in Fulton. Dues of \$25 for 2024 were collected. You can also pay dues at the October meeting or send a check to Carolyn Oates made out to Columbia Garden Club. The Fulton Garden Club is sponsoring a trip to Eckert's Orchard on October 12 in Belleville, IL. Check email for details on this trip. Marie Pasley reported a temporary change in dates for working at the Food Bank on Vandiver Drive due to scheduling. Times will be from 11-1 on the fourth Tuesday (not Thursday) in September, October, and November.

October meeting: Note change in schedule. Meeting will start at 1 p.m. at Trinity Presbyterian Church for a business meeting. We will then go to CUA for a 2 p.m. meeting with the farm manager.

Meeting adjourned at 2 p.m.

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.

Plastic Greenwashing

A recent presentation by the Plastic Pollution Coalition (PPC) introduced the concept of “plastic greenwashing.” It is defined as the practice of falsifying or overstating the green credentials of a product. Some companies advertise words such as “recyclable,” “compostable,” “non-toxic” and “low-carbon” instead of working to reduce the amount of single-use plastics they generate. Greenwashing *shifts the blame* from the corporation to individuals - **us!**



They get us to believe their greenwashing by:

- Using misleading terminology such as *advanced recycling, renewable plastic, ocean-bound plastic*.
- They hijack concepts and change definitions - circular economy, renewable feedstock.
- They may call things a ‘solution,’ ‘green’ or ‘climate-friendly’ based on no evidence
- These companies use flashy media announcements for new products with no documentation or follow-up information

A five year audit of the plastics being wasted in 87 countries identified the companies with the largest amount of plastic waste. The top 5 were:

1. Coca-Cola
2. Pepsico
3. Nestle
4. Unilever
5. Mondelez International

Many companies resort to greenwashing as a response to public pressure to produce less plastic. They initiate false plastic solutions instead of reducing plastic production or changing the single-use system:

1. Claims that Beach cleans everything (no)
2. Use of novel packaging such as “plant bottles” or “ocean plastic”. (what?)
3. Proposing unfeasible chemical recycling, waste to energy or advanced recycling. (Many of these are actually some form of burning plastic, releasing pollutants into the air and climate.)
4. Marketing refill plastic bottles instead of eliminating the plastic all together.
5. Stating that products are made from recycled plastic, ocean plastic or plastic bottles.
6. Using the terms ‘biodegradable’ or ‘ecofriendly’



Plastic Greenwashing, cont.



Plastic Facts

Plastic production is set to double by 2040. The plastic used in the packaging of food and consumer goods accounts for 44% of the total plastic used. Companies producing the packaging claim to care about their pollution impact while increasing the amount of plastic they use every year. A huge amount of plastic is also going into fiber, much of this is the clothing we wear. Polyester is a good example, 69% of total fiber production is synthetic, most of which is polyester.

Why Are Plastics Harmful?

Bisphenols and Phthalates are Endocrine Disrupting Chemicals (EDCs) which give plastic the properties which make it transparent, flexible and/or rigid. EDCs, also known as "environmental estrogens," mimic our bodies natural hormones, but can turn growth off and on at the wrong time and in the wrong place, causing serious health problems. Scientific evidence has shown that EDCs have strong links to cancer of the breast, prostate and brain, as well as obesity, diabetes, infertility and other conditions.

Why is Important to Be Aware of Greenwashing?

- Greenwashing delays, distracts and deflects from real, just, equitable solutions to the plastic pollution crisis.
- It allows companies to continue to produce more & more plastic instead of addressing solutions.
- It misleads us and convinces us to make purchases.
- We can be lead into a false sense of security that we are effecting change; reducing our sense of urgency.

How Can We Fight Greenwashing?

Consumer knowledge - be aware of what it is so you recognize it.

Boycott the major single-use plastic producers - don't give them your money

Support organizations which are trying to hold businesses accountable such as PPC, Earth Island Institute, Break Free from Plastic and Changing Markets Foundation. They are working to hold companies responsible for their misleading campaigns with lawsuits and legal action.



This month's column contributed/written by Linda Antal ---thank you!

October CGC meeting Preview and other announcements:

Fall District meeting: Carpool -Thursday, September 28
Meet at Carpool Lot at Hwy 63, Grindstone Exit. Lot is East side of 63
We'll meet at 8:00 and leave at 8:10

October 9 CGC meeting: at 1pm at 1600 West Rollins Road .
Regular meeting time and business meeting. Followed by trip to
CCUA farm/gardens next to the ARC on Ash street.



Members:

We are looking for a new
newsletter editor!!
I will continue the column on
Environment,
Conservation and
Sustainability!

I can train or help the next
editor!