

October 2026

Columbia Underground



COLUMBIA GARDEN CLUB

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President's Message

October is a mixed month of temperatures, and it might be a clever idea to go outdoors to enjoy the warm weather while we still have it. I saw the last, sole hummingbird at my house on Saturday, October 3rd which signals to me that cooler conditions are on its way. I suppose our first frost is just around the corner but if you look around some leaves are dropping and showing just a tad bit of color. I think we might all agree we need some rain!

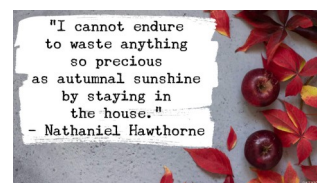
We have a great October program planned to feature Emily Althoff, Assistant Professor of Urban Entomology at the University of Missouri and Lincoln University and her topic is "Beneficial Insects in the Urban Garden." I had the pleasure of attending one of her "bug" presentations earlier this year and she will fill the room with energy and information. We will also be talking about the October 21st small standard flower show, "Fun Games at Tiger Place." Earlier this month, an e-blast was sent which included the information we will be reviewing. This will be another chance to get your feet wet before our standard flower show next year.

Great ideas were submitted at last month's meeting for 2027 programming. I will have committee sign-up sheets available at our October meeting, and I might be looking for some new chairs. One member has already stepped up to chair Scholarships relieving Rita Gerke who chaired that committee for many years. I plan to propose a new concept for Garden Therapy that might be of interest to some of you. If members agree, I will be seeking help!

I have not had the opportunity to get to know our new members, so I plan to do that and would love to see them get more involved in club activities and/or future leadership. In my own experience, I have found that seasoned members have been very willing to help guide me through unfamiliar territory. So please join me in that endeavor!

I turned my air conditioner off last month giving the unit a little bit of a break before the heat pump starts its job. I am enjoying the cooler mornings and evenings catching an occasional breeze through the house. I hope all of you are experiencing some good fresh air!

Donna



September Meeting Minutes

Columbia Garden Club met on 9/14/26 for our annual potluck. Darlene Rasberry called the meeting to order. 30 members and 5 guests attended. Ann O'Dell introduced our guests all of whom were recipients of our yard of the month award. Leigh Speichinger shared an inspiration. Members with September birthdays were recognized including, Alice Havard, Myron Kern, Mary Nesladek, Ann O'Dell, Marie Heuer, Patty O'Neal and Donna Puleo.

Horticulture/Design Tips: Marie Pasley gave a reminder to water our gardens before the first frost if we continue to have dry weather.

August minutes were approved as distributed. Mary Nesladek gave the treasurer's report with a balance of \$11,066.35 as of 8/31/26.

Committee Reports:

*Meals on Wheels - Marie Pasley encouraged everyone that was available to meet at the Community Center by the Farmers Market on Thursday, September 17th from 1-3 to help make decorations for the tables at the Meals on Wheels volunteer appreciation dinner.

*Foodbank: Marie Pasley noted we are volunteering the 4th Tuesday of each month from 12:30 to 2:30.

Old Business:

*Linda Antal brought Loofah Seeds to share from the Central District Fall Meeting.

*Betty Connelly thanked everyone that came to the Central District Fall Meeting and gave an overview of the meeting.

*Flower Show at Tiger Place Assisted Living - Marie Pasley provided information on the Small Standard Flower Show that is planned on October 21st. The Theme is Fun and Games. Schedules and information will be sent out per email.

New Business: *Darlene Rasberry - gave out 3x5 cards to members so they can share their ideas for programs next year.

*Darlene Rasberry - shared information about upcoming meetings:

-October 12th at 1p.m. - Emily Althoff- Assistant Extension Professor will talk about "Beneficial Insects in the Urban Garden".

- **Tuesday**, November **17th** at 9:30 a.m.- We will be going to Runge Nature Center in Jeff City to learn about bats. Info will be sent out about car pooling.

-December 14th - our Christmas Celebration.

Committee sign up sheets will be available in October. Please consider serving on a committee.

*Rita Gerke - has decided not to be chairman of the Scholarship committee so that position will need to be filled. Thank you Rita, you've served it well.

Betty Connelly gave out three "Brightest Bloom" awards. Recipients were:

Mary Nesladek

Diane Linneman

Linda Antal

Darlene Rasberry

Garden Wands: Linda Antal provided instructions and supplies to make garden wands, which turned out beautiful.

Respectfully submitted,
Diane Linneman

September Meeting



Time to Pay Dues

It is time to pay CGC dues of \$25 for 2027. This can be done at the October 12 meeting. Pay by check made out to Columbia Garden Club or bring cash with exact change. The deadline for dues is October 15.

You can also mail a check to Mary Nesladek at: 1365 S. Mesa Dr., Columbia, MO 65201. If you have any questions, please contact Mary 573-424-3603.

Meals on Wheels Banquet Marie Pasley

Teri Walden with Meals on Wheels said that attendees of the banquet enjoyed our table favors at their "thank you" banquet. Special thanks to Donna Puleo for growing 50 adorable tiny pumpkins. Strawberry Hills donated the gourds that we used for the tables. Thanks to Diane Linneman, Leigh Speichinger, Connie Blackmore, Roz Drager, Karen Blackmore, Linda Antal, Karen Davis, Frances Busby, Alice Havard, and Julie Deering for decorating the pumpkins and gourds, 100 in total. It was a fun and productive event.

Potential Invasive Plants-Missouri Invasive Plant Council

Two plants have been tagged as “emerging threats” in Missouri. The first is kochia (*Bassia scoparia*). Kochia has been found in northwest Missouri soybean fields. It is a highly competitive weed that can reduce yields by 70%. Kochia threatens yields, grows rapidly and aggressively outcompetes crops for water, nutrients and sunlight. It tolerates drought, produces up to 30,000 seeds per plant and germinates quickly – within two or three hours with the right conditions. The biggest concern is that kochia may already be herbicide-resistant. Kochia is highly branched and up to 5 ft. tall. Blue-to gray-green, linear, hairy leaves are 1 inch long when mature. It was introduced to the U.S. as an ornamental because of its red fall color. Kochia is a “tumbleweed,” which is an adaptation for seed dispersal.



The second emerging threat is *Cephalaria transylvanica*. *Cephalaria transylvanica* is a tall, annual wildflower in the Caprifoliaceae family and native to the Old World. According to biologists in southwest Missouri, *Cephalaria transylvanica* is aggressively spreading in many locations. How this rapidly spreading plant was introduced here is unknown. This is the first report of the species growing wild in North America. Plants are recognized by their pretty flowering heads with blue anthers atop long, spindly stalks, spiny fruiting heads, and opposite, deeply pinnatifid lower leaves. Although this plant could be considered attractive with its interesting flowering and fruiting heads, it should not be deliberately planted. Plants can be controlled by mowing before seeds are set.



Fiskars 4-Claw Stand-Up Weed Puller-BobVila.com

The Fiskars stand-up weeder is an excellent choice for those seeking an eco-friendly way to remove weeds like dandelions and thistles without kneeling or using chemicals. In our tests, it effectively pulled weeds out by the roots, making it a reliable tool for keeping lawns tidy. This stand-up weeder is lightweight at just 2.5 pounds, has a 39-inch aluminum shaft to accommodate different heights, and features an easy-eject lever that prevents unnecessary back strain.



Fall Gardening Tasks-Proven Winners

1. **Do an honest evaluation of your garden.** What worked this year, what wouldn't you repeat next year. Start a list of what you want to purchase next spring. Evaluate which plants should be moved to a better spot and where you might need more privacy or screening. Now is a good time to see where you could use more plants with fall color/interest.
2. **Remove annuals from containers and landscapes.** Clean and store your pots away for winter. Healthy annuals can be composted but any diseased plants should be disposed of.
3. **Fall is for Planting!** Warm soil and relatively cool temperatures promote healthy root growth in perennials, trees and shrubs. Plant new plants or divide and move perennials that are already in your garden. Give the roots six weeks to settle before the ground freezes.
4. **Plant spring blooming bulbs.** Fall is the best time to plant tulips, daffodils, crocuses and other bulbs that bloom in spring.
5. **Cut select perennials back.** Once your perennials have gone dormant, it's a good idea to clean at least some of the foliage out of garden beds. This is especially important around hostas that have received slug damage. Slugs lay their eggs in the dormant foliage. Do not cut back these perennials: evergreen or semi-evergreen perennials (dianthus, coral bells, creeping phlox, red hot poker, bugle weed, foam flower; perennials with woody stems (rose mallow, Russian sage, lavender, butterfly bush); perennials with winter interest (baptisia, coneflowers, ornamental grasses, sedum, allium, helleborus).
6. **Dispose of diseased foliage.** Do not compost diseased foliage. Bag and seal it and dispose of it in the trash.
7. **Bring the outdoors in.** Hydrangea flowers, berried branches, ornamental grass plumes, and plants with seed pods can all be brought indoors for decorating projects.
8. **Continue to water the garden.** Evergreen perennials, shrubs and trees, as well as anything you've recently planted will need to be watered until the ground starts to freeze.
9. **Rake, shred, and mulch with leaves.** Finely textured leaves from willow trees or honey locusts will easily degrade on their own and don't need to be raked. Broadleaves from maple, sycamore, and oak trees become matted down and take a long time to decompose, potentially smothering your grass and perennials. These leaves should be raked and shredded and then put back into your garden beds. This will keep weeds down, insulate your plants over the winter and enrich the soil as the leaves break down.
10. **Protect sensitive and newly planted perennials and shrubs.** If you have some plants that might be bordering on our hardiness zone, you can pile shredded leaves or evergreen boughs on top of them once they are dormant. Mulch newly planted perennials and shrubs to prevent the rootball from heaving out of the ground during the freeze/thaw cycles of winter.

"Anyone who thinks fallen leaves are dead has never watched them dancing on a windy day." - Shira Tamir

September Meeting

The October meeting is Monday, October 12th at 1:00. Emily Althoff-Assistant Extension Professor of Urban Entomology at the University of Missouri and Lincoln University will give the program "Beneficial Insects in the Urban Garden". Hospitality will be provided by Vanita Johnson and Wendy Seaberg.

Upcoming Events

October 12—CGC Monthly Meeting

October 21—Flower Show at Tiger Place 1:00 pm—8:00 p.m.

October 27—12:30—Volunteer at Food Bank

Pleasant Sounds

By John Clare

The rustling of leaves under the feet in
woods and under hedges;
The crumpling of cat-ice and snow down
wood-rides, narrow lanes, and every
street causeway;
Rustling through a wood or rather rushing,
while the wind halloos in the oak-top
like thunder;
The rustle of birds' wings startled from
their nests or flying unseen into the
bushes;
The whizzing of larger birds overhead in
a wood, such as crows, puddocks, buzzards;
The trample of robins and woodlarks on
the brown leaves, and the patter of squirrels
on the green moss;
The fall of an acorn on the ground, the
pattering of nuts on the hazel branches
as they fall from ripeness;
The flirt of the groundlark's wing from
the stubbles- how sweet such pictures on
dewy mornings, when the dew flashes
from its brown feathers.



Columbia Garden Club

President: Donna Puleo

1st VP: Darlene Rasberry

2nd VP: Linda Antal

Secretary: Diane Linneman

Treasurer: Mary Nesladek

Parliamentarian: Alice Havard

Columbia Garden Club meets the second Monday of each month at 1:00 at Trinity Presbyterian Church

Website:

<https://www.kewpie.net/colgrdnclub/cgc.html>

Facebook: Columbia Garden Club

Newsletter Editor-Evette Nissen-
enissen57@gmail.com