

September 2025

Columbia Garden Club



COLUMBIA GARDEN CLUB

Columbia Underground

President's Message

I trust everyone had a safe, enjoyable Labor Day weekend. We could not have asked for better weather to celebrate the unofficial end of summer. But buckle up because September is going to bring a bumpy ride!

By the time you are enjoying this spectacular newsletter, some club members will have attended the Fall Central District Meeting on September 4th in Laurie, MO and Betty Connelly will have been inducted as our next Central District Chair. Congratulations, Betty! Our next September escapade is the membership potluck and club meeting on September 8th which begins at **noon**. Bring your favorite food item, bring a friend who might be interested in joining the Columbia Garden Club and bring your appetites. Yard of the Month winners are invited to our potluck so bring your smile and say hello to faces you might not recognize. This is also the time when new officers of the club will be elected to office.

Our September program follows the potluck and will get you prepared for the horticulture section as part of the September 27th Flower Show at the Columbia Public Library. We will again break into small groups for this exercise. Additional details are included in this newsletter or an eblast will be sent out before the meeting.

Marie is doing her best to finalize Meals on Wheels centerpieces for their annual Volunteer Appreciation Dinner on September 11th. Hopefully, she will have an update to share at our club meeting with a call for volunteers that afternoon. Please be ready to help!

September is Hunger Action Month, a time to raise awareness and make an impact for those experiencing hunger in our community. Please think about volunteering at the Foodbank for Central and Northeast Missouri. If it were not for the generosity of members' husbands, the crew for packaging food in the Volunteer Room would be minimal. This is an impactful project that could help your neighbor and is fun to do. The next date is Tuesday, September 23rd from 11 am – 1 pm.

And that is a wrap for September! Now go outside and breathe that crisp fresh air.

Donna



August Meeting Minutes

The Columbia Garden Club met on Monday, August 11, 2025. Donna Puleo called the meeting to order. 30 members were present with no visitors or new members in attendance. Wendy Seaberg was recognized for having an August birthday. The July minutes were approved as distributed. Mary Nesladek presented the treasurers report with a balance of \$13,290.05 as of July 31, 2025. In Central District news Carolyn Oates will be retiring as “Central District Director” and Betty Connelly will be the 2026 “Central District Director”.

Betty Connelly reported Barb Schuette had a leg injury which required surgery, and is doing well. Vanita Johnson is home post surgery and is recuperating on immuno suppressant therapy. She is experiencing nausea and fatigue but is doing ok.

Committee Reports:

“Marvelous Missouri” Flower Show: Mary Nesladek shared birdhouses that could be used in the Flower Show. Mary Nesladek and Karen Blackmore reviewed designs that need to be represented and several members signed up to enter designs.

Meals on Wheels: Marie Pasley reported she had received an email this week concerning their volunteer banquet, which is scheduled on September 11, 2025. They really liked the centerpieces we provided last year and wondered if we were interested in doing it again this year. Last year we had planned ahead of time to do this project so there was time to prepare. It is too late this year to do pumpkins again but if we are interested in doing something we could get some small mums. If we wanted to do this, there are 14 tables and it would probably cost around \$60. Linda Houston noted she thought this was a good idea. A show of hands was taken and the project will go forward, spending up to \$100.

Flower Show Symposium: Karen Blackmore reported there are 25 people registered to take the course.

Food Bank: Marie Pasley noted we are continuing to volunteer at the Food Bank on the 4th Tuesday of each month from 11-1.

Reminders: Mary Nesladek will be collecting dues at the September meeting with the deadline being the October meeting. This will be added to the newsletter.

Disposable Goods: Leigh Speichinger will bring the tub of disposable goods to the September meeting. If nobody wants them they will be donated to the Salvation Army.

September Meeting- This is our potluck and membership meeting. We will start at **12 noon**. Please bring a guest. Ann O’Dell will be inviting all the Yard of the Month winners.

Patty O’Neal – Provided information on the “Stonebridge House” plant sale on September 1st from 9am-1pm.

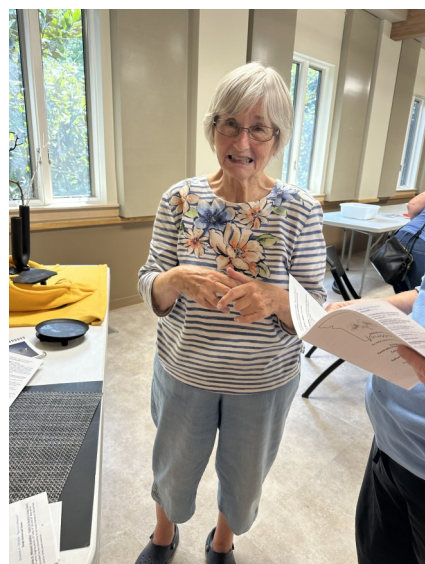
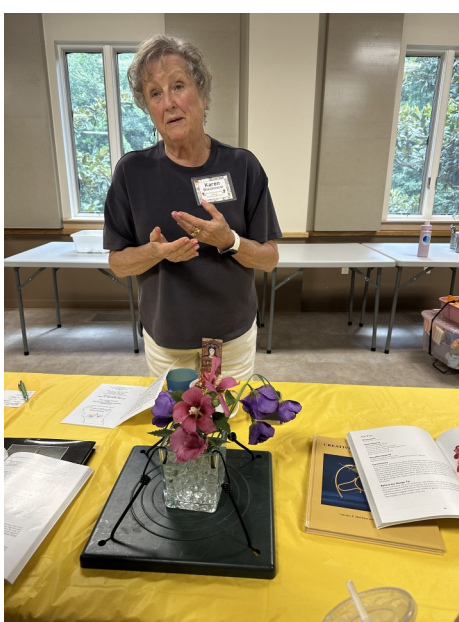
The business meeting was adjourned, refreshments were served, we divided into small groups and several members of the Central Missouri Judges Council set up stations and demonstrated different aspects of design.

Respectfully submitted,

Diane Linneman



August Meeting Presenters



Hummingbirds are migrating! Although there are differing views in the birding community as to what triggers the start of fall migration, it is generally thought that hummingbirds sense changes in daylight duration, and declining numbers of flowers, nectar and insects. Instinct, their internal biological calendar, and cooling weather conditions also play a role in making the decision to migrate.

The male hummingbirds are the first to leave, as early as mid-July, followed later by the females. Lastly, the young hummingbirds begin their migration, for the first time, alone to navigate the long trek to their winter grounds.

Leave feeders up longer than you think: Keep them out at least two weeks after you spot your final bird to help late migrants (or until after Halloween),.

September Yard of the Month by Ann O'Dell

The September 2025 Yard of the Month belongs to Nicole Kilgore, her husband and their eight year old daughter. It is located at 1210 Sunset Dr. Nicole does the design and planting with the help of her daughter, while her husband does the heavy lifting and the watering. It is a different yard than when they moved in eleven years ago when the yard was full of gravel, mulch and a row of honeysuckle.

Nicole learned to garden while helping her mother, but she says that taking garden design classes at the Missouri Botanical Gardens in St. Louis really inspired her passion for beautiful and colorful flowers. She loves to go plant shopping with her daughter at Callaway Fields in Mexico, MO. In fact, she has run out of room to plant, so she gives away plants to make room for the new ones she wants to try. She says that she is not planting anything practical, just the most beautiful flowers she can find.

The major challenges Nicole faces are the large amount of deer that wander the neighborhood, mosquitoes, and the unexpected challenge of the height of black-eyes Susans which are so tall that the irrigation system can't water over them to reach the grass.

The best part is that her daughter is interested in insects and in digging in the dirt around the flowers. Unfortunately, she hasn't dug out any weeds as of yet. Besides enjoying shopping for plants with her mom, she likes making fairy gardens in the flower beds. This is a fun yard to look at with all the personal touches like the stones and geodes, and of course, the fairy gardens.



September Yard of the Month (continued)



Environment and Conservation Column by Melissa Kouba

Hello club members,

Our family had a trip to the Upper Peninsula of Michigan, enjoying Lake Superior and the beautiful woods and falls in the area. I found the following on a walk to Tahquamenon Falls, carved on a snag along the trail.



Prayer of the Woods:

"I am the heat of your hearth on the cold winter nights, the friendly shade screening you from the summer sun and my fruits are refreshing draughts quenching your thirst as you journey on."

"I am the beam that holds your house, the board or your table, the bed on which you lie and the timber that builds your boat."

"I am the handle of your hoe, the door of your homestead, the wood of your cradle, and the shell of your coffin."

"I am the bread of kindness and the flower of beauty."

Ye who pass by, listen to my prayer:

"Harm me not"

I thought this information might be of interest:

Sun Day is a day of action to celebrate the power of clean energy. On September 21st, people everywhere will be showcasing solar installations, electric homes and vehicles running on clean power. By organizing thousands of events on the fall Equinox, Sun Day will help accelerate the ongoing clean energy revolution: we have the technology and the solutions, all we need is to build the political will to scale-up and accelerate clean energy and make it accessible to all. The clean energy revolution is here. Solar, wind and batteries are the cheapest form of power on the planet, lowering costs, creating new jobs, and strengthening our communities.

Environment and Conservation Column by Melissa Kouba

Solar power combined with battery storage is now the cheapest form of energy generation in the world. It's also a huge and fast-growing part of the electricity grid. Nearly five million U.S. homes already have solar panels, and last year alone the U.S. installed 50 gigawatts (GW) of solar power, more than 80% of all new electric generating capacity added to the grid. Solar energy – large and small installations – currently generates enough electricity to power 28 million homes in the U.S. Wind energy is growing too: more than 42 million U.S. homes are now powered by 150 GW of installed wind, and wind turbines often work best at night when the sun isn't shining. Add in innovations like local or large-scale batteries, and you have a recipe for transitioning towards 100% clean energy, around the clock - no carbon pollution required.

In Columbia there will be an event aligned with SUN DAY on Sept. 21, Walk for the Climate. Mid-Missouri Sierra Club is cosponsoring this event with Mid-Missouri Peaceworks, who is the lead organizer. Registration begins at 1 pm, the rally begins at 1:30 pm, the walk will kick off around 2 pm. There will be music and organization tables to check out during registration and there will be speakers during the rally. Interested people do not have to go on the walk to support the event. The event begins at Boone County Courthouse Plaza near 8th and Walnut. The walk is a 5K through downtown and the MU Campus on the sidewalks.

Items to Bring to September Meeting

Monday, September 8th is our next meeting. We will have a potluck lunch at **12:00 Noon**. Please bring a food dish to share .

Mary will also be collecting dues for next year. Please bring cash or check for \$25.00. Checks should be made payable to Columbia Garden Club.

Everyone should bring a few specimens of plants from your yard. Try to bring bottles to hold the specimen. Smaller necked bottles can be useful. In small groups we will go through the process of cleaning (grooming) and trimming and conditioning the plants. If you still have the plant tag from when you bought it, bring it. It may help you with the identification. Please try to bring something from your yard!

We will also be voting on new officers for 2026-2027. Following are the nominees:

President
1st Vice President and Program Chairperson
2nd Vice President and Membership Chairperson
Secretary
Treasurer

Donna Puleo
Darlene Rasberry
Linda Antal
Diane Linneman
Mary Nesladek

Nominations will be taken from the floor at the meeting.

September Meeting

Our meeting on September 8th starts with a potluck which begins at 12:00. **(Please note time change.)** Please bring a dish to share. Our program will be *Getting Ready for a Flower Show, Part 2 Horticulture*.

Everyone should bring a few specimens of plants from your yard. Try to bring bottles to hold the specimen. Smaller necked bottles can be useful. In small groups we will go through the process of cleaning (grooming) and trimming and conditioning the plants. If you still have the plant tag from when you bought it, bring it. It may help you with the identification.

Please try to bring something from your yard!

Thank you!

Betty

Central Missouri Flower Show Judges Council

September Events

Thursday, September 4th—Central District Fall Meeting-Laurie, MO

Thursday, September 4th-Tomato Festival-Jefferson Farms

Saturday, September 6th-Native Plant Sale-Bass Pro Shops-10:00

Tuesday, September 23rd-Volunteer at Food Bank-11:00

Saturday, September 20th-Harvest Hootenanny-CCUA-4:00

Saturday, September 27th—Flower Show-Daniel Boone Regional Library

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

Columbia Garden Club

President: Donna Puleo

1st VP: Diana Cooksey

2nd VP: Linda Antal

Secretary: Diane Linneman

Treasurer: Mary Nesladek

Parliamentarian: Carolyn Doyle

...some of the rarest days of the year come in
September, days when it is comfortably cool but
pulsing with life. ~Hal Borland