

September 2026

Columbia Garden Club



COLUMBIA GARDEN CLUB

Columbia Underground

President's Message

Sweet September. A mix of late summer leaving and early fall arriving. The students are back on campus, and kids are back in their classrooms with open minds like little sponges. Our gardens are being harvested and at the point of early preparation for their winter sleep. I expect everyone to be taking care of themselves during these triple digits' days lingering into weeks. Hopefully, we will receive some rain and cooler temperatures in the coming days.

This month our member potluck starts at noon. Please remember the time change from our normal club meeting time. Ann O'Dell has done an exceptional job with Yard of the Month this year. We are expecting four of the five recipients to join the member potluck. One couple has generously donated \$100 before joining the club. So, we might have an additional 8-10 visitors attend our potluck. You might want to think about adding a few more cookies or expanding your dish just a tad although we always have enough delicious food for everyone.

Linda Antal has a fun project to do during the potluck. Everyone will be making and taking home a garden wand. I will be out of town for this month's meeting, but you will be in capable hands with Darlene Rasberry. She will be asking you for program ideas for next year, so please help her out and put your thinking caps on. Next month, I will bring committee sign-up sheets so please be thinking of ways you would like to get involved with the club. We have many club members, and are growing, but it would be great to see more of you actively involved in our projects. Maybe we will have new projects next year that will interest you. As you all know, I am working on the Club of the Year award so I have faith you all will join me in that endeavor!

As a friendly reminder, Tuesday, September 22nd is our monthly volunteer opportunity at the Food Bank from 12:30 to 2:30 pm. I will be back in time to volunteer and look forward to seeing you there!

Even though it is hot outside, try to get out and watch the late season butterflies feeding on the fall blooming plants that are providing a food source. The ruby-throated hummingbirds are gathered at the feeders in abundance getting ready for their long trip to Mexico and Central America. Enjoy them while they are here!

Donna



August Minutes

On 8/10/26, Columbia Garden Club members enjoyed a tour of Charles Paxton's beautiful yard – a retired professional horticulturist and an active Master Gardener and Master Naturalist. Seventeen members and one visitor was present. Following the tour we met at the Presbyterian Church for a short business meeting.

August birthdays were recognized: Wendy Seaberg and Pam Weagley.

The July minutes were approved as distributed.

Mary Nesladek gave the Treasure's report.

Old Business:

Marie Pasley thanked all who assisted on the Flower Show Committee, all who helped with the set-up and all who entered.

Flower shows function to educate ourselves and the public. The food for the judges was excellent and they really appreciated the gift bags. Thank you notes were received from judges Diane Neterer, Kim Peterson and Cindy McAvity.

New Business:

Linda Houston has agreed to chair the Nominating Committee for the Central District (CD). Betty is seeking 2 others to volunteer on the committee. Open CD positions Fall 2027 will be 2nd Assistant Director, Secretary and Treasurer.

A Small Standard Flower Show is being organized at Tiger Place on 10/21. It will be open to the public. Marie Pasley will be responsible for filling the classes and CGC will judge the show. The theme will be "Fun and Games" and there will be three design classes with four designs in each class, plus Horticulture. Designs include Creative Line Mass (Board Games), Creative Design (Card Games) and Angular Designs (Puzzles). Entries should be delivered to Tiger Place between 8:00 am and 9:30 am on 10/21 via the back door. More details will be available at the September meeting.

Garden Therapy: Barb Schuette, who lives at Tiger Place, taught a flower design class there, with the assistance of Karen Blackmore. The class was very well received and the next class is planned for 8/20 at 3:00. Any members who wish to assist would be appreciated.

Missouri Master Gardeners State Conference is scheduled for 10/2 - 10/3/26 via Zoom. A watch party will also be held on Saturday at Jefferson Farm and Gardens if you wish to attend in person. (Friday evening will be available only via Zoom.) Five speakers will present on topics such as composting, sustainability, garden myths and a 3-step recipe to gardening that works. Registration can be done on-line via the link sent to all members by Evette Nissen.

Carol Skinner passed away December 2025. She was a long-standing member of Ashland Garden Club.

The Fall CD Meeting will be held on 9/3/26 in Ashland. We will be voting on by-law changes, most of which include removing references to a Spring CD Meeting since we voted at the last CD meeting to only hold meetings in the Fall.

Heart of MO Master Gardeners will be organizing a Tomato Festival 8/27 from 4:00pm – 7:00pm at the Red Barn at Jefferson Farm and Gardens. It is a great time to plant fall tomatoes.

The annual native plant sale at Bass Pro in Columbia is scheduled for 9/19/26.

Entries to the Smokey the Bear and Woodsy Owl contest are due 1/22/27.

Central Region (includes 8 states) is organizing its regional meeting in St. Louis on October 5th and 6th. Registration will be \$75 and details are available in the Garden Forum.

Our next meeting will be held at Trinity Presbyterian Church on 9/14/26 at noon. (Please note the time change.) This will be a pot luck. In addition to bring a dish to share, members are encouraged to bring a guest. We will make garden wands and please be prepared to pay your annual dues of \$25.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Antal

August Meeting Pictures photos by Darlene Rasberry



September Yard of the Month

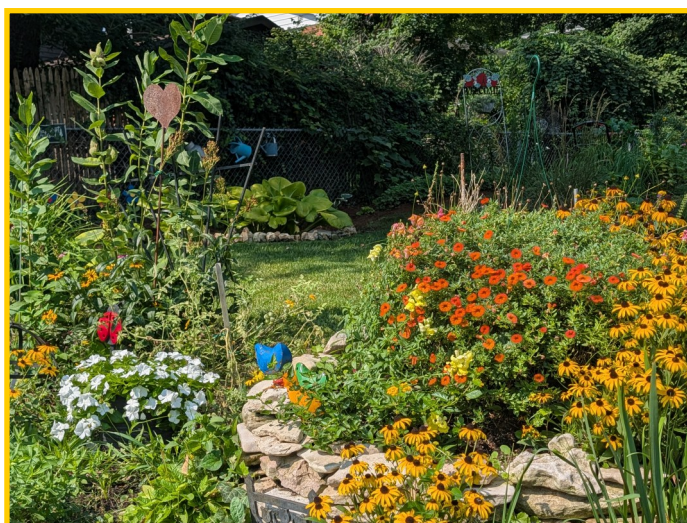
The September Yard of the Month is gardened by Marilyn Toalson at 305 S. Greenwood. She moved there to be close to her mother and helped her mother with her garden. Since Marilyn has lived in this house since 1994, she has changed what once was a yard of bushes and grass into lush flower and vegetable garden in which she includes flower pots and garden décor that is placed among the flowers.

Marilyn learned most of her gardening knowledge from her grandmother and mother. Her grandparents owned the land that is now Rockbridge State Park and her grandparents lived where Rockbridge High School has been built. For many years, Marilyn has participated in a volunteer group that seeds wildflowers in the park and gets rid of invasive plants such as honeysuckle. She also gives history hikes in the park for school children in the area. She also volunteers at the Pinnacles park keeping the park maintained.

In her own garden, Marilyn grows vegetable plants alongside flowering plants, such as a tomato plant next to rose mallow. She tries to plant as many natives as possible, but she does have a favorite Mexican petunia that is one of the most interesting flowers in the garden. She likes Black-eyed Susans, but the challenge is to keep away the deer who enjoy being fed by neighbors and then amble over for dessert in her yard.



Yard of the Month (continued)



New Members

Frances Busby
1022 E. Fairview St.
Centralia, MO 65240
adobe1mo@gmail.com
573-296-8501

Karen Davis
9793 Audrain Rd. 232
Centralia, MO 65240
kldavis1949@gmail.com
573-296-8501



Time to Pay Dues

It is time to pay CGC dues of \$25 for 2027. This can be done at the September 14 or 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; 1365 W. Mesa Dr.; Columbia, MO 65201.

If you have any questions, please contact Mary 573-424-3603.

September Meeting

The September meeting is Monday, September 14th at **12:00 (Noon)**. We will have a potluck meal, so please bring a dish to share with everyone. After our meal we will be making garden wands. Darlene Rasberry will be asking for program ideas for next year, so please think about what you would like to see as a program and bring your ideas to the meeting.

Upcoming Events

September 10—5:30—Vermicomposting Workshop—Capen Park

September 19—10:00—Harvest Days—Boone County History and Culture Center

September 19—10:00—Native Plant Sale—Bass Pro Shops

September 19—4:00—CCUA Harvest Hootenanny

September 22—12:30—Volunteer at Food Bank

September Poem By Helen Hunt Jackson

*The goldenrod is yellow, the corn is turning
brown.
The trees in apple orchards with fruit are bending
down.*

*The gentian's bluest fringes are curling in the sun.
In dusty pods the milkweed, its hidden silk has
spun.*

*The sedges flaunt their harvest, in every meadow
nook;
And asters by the brook-side make asters in the
brook,*

*From dewy lanes at morning the grapes' sweet
odors rise.
At noon the roads all flutter with yellow butter-
flies.*

*By all these lovely tokens, September days are
here,
With summer's best of weather and autumn's best
of cheer.*

*But none of all this beauty which floods the earth
and air
Is unto me the secret which makes September fair.
"T is a thing which I remember; To name it thrills
me yet: One day of one September I never can for-
get.*



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

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