

BITTERSWEET GARDEN CLUB

*Growing Flowers and Friendships
Since 1973*



FEDERATED GARDEN CLUBS OF MISSOURI

Jefferson City, Missouri
2025

WWW.BITTERSWEETGARDENCLUB.COM

BITTERSWEET GARDEN CLUB

FEDERATED GARDEN CLUBS OF MISSOURI
JEFFERSON CITY
2025

Affiliated Organizations

- ◆ National Garden Clubs, Inc. · Central Region
- ◆ Federated Garden Clubs of Missouri, Inc. · Central District
- ◆ Missouri Prairie Foundation
- ◆ Missouri Botanical Garden



History

- ◆ Organized: June 1973
- ◆ Federated: August 1973
- ◆ Club Flower: Bittersweet

Current Membership

- ◆ Active Members 90
- ◆ Emeritus Members 5

Meeting Schedule

- ◆ Meets Monthly
- ◆ Third Thursday
- ◆ 6:00 p.m. Social
- ◆ 6:30 p.m. Program followed by Business Meeting
(unless otherwise noted)

History of Bittersweet

American bittersweet (*Celastrus scandens* L.) is a twining, woody vine that scrambles over low vegetation or trails along the ground. It can climb 20 feet. This strong, hearty, and enduring plant is exactly the type of foundation needed for our club.

The dark green leaves of the **Bittersweet** are oval, finely toothed, smooth and two to four inches long. Clusters of small yellowish-green flowers bloom in May or June and can often be spotted along banks of streams or in moist thickets.

Fruit of the **Bittersweet** is a dull orange, ball-shaped capsule that splits open in September, exposing the bright scarlet, fleshy-coated seeds. The fruit is eaten by several species of birds and other wildlife.

Bittersweet depicts our club: A strong organization dedicated to the conservation of our streams and the protection of our wildlife.

Club Objectives

The objectives of this club shall be: To study the basic art of gardening; to promote interest in and knowledge of horticulture, gardening and civic beautification; to encourage conservation of our natural resources; and to cooperate with other clubs and agencies, which have interest in horticulture and conservation.

Conservation Pledge

I pledge to protect and conserve the natural resources of the planet Earth and promise to promote education so we may become caretakers of our air, water, forests, land, and wildlife.

"To cherish what remains of the earth and to foster its renewal is our only legitimate hope of survival." — Wendell Berry

Fundraising

Proceeds from our annual fundraiser support our community initiatives, along with the club's diverse projects and operations.

Community Initiatives

- **SCHOLARSHIPS:** Supporting high school students pursuing majors in horticulture, agriculture, environmental science, ecology, natural resources, or related fields.
- **GARDEN THERAPY WORKSHOPS:** Promoting physical and mental well-being among seniors in our senior living communities while fostering a sense of community and purpose.
- **K-12 TEACHER GRANTS:** Providing funding and resources for innovative teaching methods in horticulture, agriculture, environmental science, ecology, and natural resources.
- **CIVIC BEAUTIFICATION:** Enhancing our community, with a focus on the Jefferson City Parks system, including maintenance of the Memorial Park entrance garden and annual tree planting initiatives.

MEETING ORDER OF BUSINESS

- | | |
|------------------------|--|
| A. Call to Order | H. Reports of Officers, Board, and Standing Committees |
| B. Program | I. Reports of Special Committees |
| C. Opening Exercises | J. Unfinished Business |
| D. Approval of Minutes | K. New Business |
| E. Financial Statement | L. Announcements |
| F. Bills | M. Adjournment |
| G. Correspondence | |

JANUARY

JANUARY 11 (Saturday)

Game Day

Come join your Bittersweet Buddies at McClung Park from 9 AM to 1 PM for a day of fun, food, and fellowship! We'll enjoy games that sharpen our minds and lift our spirits. After the tree comes down and the family heads home, it'll be time to reconnect with our Bittersweet friends and enjoy the day together.

JANUARY 16 (Thursday) *MONTHLY MEETING*

Social 6:00 p.m. · Program 6:30 p.m.

Location: Center for Soy Innovation · 734 S Country Club Dr, JC

Host: Barb Miltenberger

Co-Hosts: Karen Basel, Debbie Boyce, Barbara Brennaman, Heather Brown, Jeanette de la Torre, Shirley Gassen, Ginni Griffen, Alice Hansen, Sandy Hiatte, Merrilee Holzhauser, Jacki Johnson, Marcia Reed, Rosella Reinkemeyer, Judy Schepers, Jenelle Schwieterman, Tina Spillers, Susan Stork, Marge Talken, Ronda Thompson, Jennifer Urich, Donna Weiss, Claire West

Program: *“Federated Garden Clubs of Missouri (FGCM)—
Exploring the Benefits of Membership”*

Presenter: *Diane Neterer, Second Vice President of FGCM*

Diane will share how membership in FGCM can enrich both gardening knowledge and community involvement through educational offerings, networking and fellowship, flower shows and competitions, access to resources, leadership opportunities, garden tours, and much more.

Installation of Officers: *Diane Neterer, Second Vice President of FGCM*

OFFICER INSTALLATION—JANUARY 2024



FEBRUARY

FEBRUARY 7 (Friday)

Felt From the Heart

Familiar to our Bittersweet Group is Artist Janis Burgin, who will be hosting a class for us creating our own unique felt heart on a 5x7 fabric square that we can take home and frame. During this 2-hour session Janis will be sharing a bit about Art Therapy and how different colors affect our brain health. Art supplies and setup will be provided.

FEBRUARY 20 (Thursday) *MONTHLY MEETING*

Social 6:00 p.m. · Program 6:30 p.m.

Location: Center for Soy Innovation · 734 S Country Club Dr, JC

Host: Jeannine Brickey

Co-Hosts: Barbara Brennaman, Heather Brown, Marilyn Curtit, Jeanette de la Torre, Sherry Fitzpatrick, Shirley Gassen, Ginni Griffen, Jacqueline Huhman, Chris Krautmann, Linda Oligschlaeger, Marcia Reed, Rosella Reinkemeyer, Kristi Rhoads, Linda Samson, Judy Schepers, Tina Spillers, Susan Stork, Marge Talken, Ronda Thompson, Grace Tipton, Sue Tipton, Jennifer Urich, Marcia Willing

Program: "Trees and Shrubs for Missouri Gardens"

Presenter: Alice Longfellow

Alice is the founder of Longfellow's Garden Center which she operated for 33 years. With a BS degree in Plant and Soil Sciences, her specialties are in greenhouse growing and landscape design. However, her main passion is to help people become better gardeners through her radio show, "The Garden Spot," as well as her website and e-newsletter, "Life in the Garden," and garden tours. Alice will share a PowerPoint and handouts featuring the most resilient trees and shrubs for our Missouri gardens.

GILLIGAN'S ISLAND—FEBRUARY 2024



MARCH

MARCH 24-28 (Monday-Friday)

Pawhuska, Bricktown, Dallas, Waco, Tulsa Road Trip

Enjoy this 5-day bus-trip as we visit some favorite spots in both Oklahoma and Texas. We will shop in the Mercantile Store of Food Network star Ree Drummond (Pioneer Woman), visit Bricktown, the industrial, hip part of Oklahoma City, and stroll on the River Walk. A tour of the Oklahoma City National Memorial Museum is next before heading to Dallas. We will spend one day in Waco, the home of HGTV's "Fixer Upper," and visit Magnolia Market, the Silos Baking Company, and tour a few of the Gaines' remodeled homes. We will not leave Dallas without a morning stop at the Dallas Arboretum and a visit to the Tulsa Foundation for Architecture on our way home.

MARCH 20 (Thursday) *MONTHLY MEETING*

Social 6:00 p.m. · Program 6:30 p.m.

Location: Center for Soy Innovation · 734 S Country Club Dr, JC

Host: Marge Talken

Co-Hosts: Mari-Anne Antweiler, Karen Basel, Linda Block, Debbie Boyce, Barbara Brennaman, Heather Brown, Barb Crader, Marilyn Curtit, Jeanette de la Torre, Sherry Fitzpatrick, Shirley Gassen, Ginni Griffen, Alice Hansen, Jacqueline Huhman, Chris Krautmann, Kris Leech, Marcia Reed, Kristi Rhoads, Jatha Sadowski, Sheila Scott, Amanda Simpson, Jennifer Urich, Donna Weiss

Program: "Seed Propagation: How? When? Where? It's Easy!"

Presenter: Gail Cummins

Gail, a Bittersweet Garden Club member and Master Gardener for over 20 years, loves to propagate plants. She will demonstrate simple techniques that will help you successfully grow new plants from seeds.



APRIL

APRIL 17 (Thursday) *MONTHLY MEETING*

Social 6:00 p.m. • Program 6:30 p.m.

Location: Center for Soy Innovation • 734 S Country Club Dr, JC

Host: **Judy Schneider**

Co-Hosts: Carol Bowdoin, Jeannine Brickey, April Burger, Marla Clark, Barb Crader, Rita Esterly, Brenda Hancock, Jacki Johnson, Nancy Kaiser, Kathy Kolb, Chris Krautmann, Ann Lane, Kathy Laur, Tracy Leonberger, Kristi Rhoads, Pat Roberts, Evelyn Samson, Linda Samson, Niki Schulte, Amanda Simpson, Evie Starr, Marge Talken, Cris West

Program: *“Orchids for Dummies”*

Presenter: *Kris Leech*

Kris Leech is a member of the Central Missouri Orchid Society, Bittersweet Garden Club, and the Central Missouri Master Gardeners. She will reveal intriguing statistics, showcase some beautiful orchids through a PowerPoint, and offer practical tips for successfully growing orchids in your home.

APRIL 30 (Wednesday)

Central Missouri Produce Auction — Latham, Missouri

In the spring, the auction is bursting with perennials, bedding plants, and colorful hanging baskets. Join the excitement as members team up to bid on their favorite plants. You’ll also find delicious homemade pies, bread, and other baked treats making their way to the auction block. Quick thinking and fast decisions are a must, making it an event you won’t want to miss—whether you’re bidding or just soaking in the lively atmosphere!

APRIL 2024 MEETING— GARDEN PARTY PREPARATIONS



MAY

MAY 14 (Wednesday)

"The Jersey Boys" at The New Theatre in Overland Park, Kansas

We'll take a bus trip to Overland Park, where we'll enjoy lunch before the afternoon performance of *The Jersey Boys*, featuring the iconic 1960s rock 'n' roll hits of Frankie Valli and The Four Seasons. As we are "working our way back" to our parked cars that evening, we'll all be singing, "Oh, What a Night!"

MAY 15 (Thursday) *MONTHLY MEETING*

Social 6:00 p.m. · Program 6:30 p.m.

Location: Center for Soy Innovation · 734 S Country Club Dr, JC

Host: Sheila Scott

Co-Hosts: Sandy Allen, Lee Bunch, April Burger, Linda Ennis, Jacki Johnson, Millie Jones, Nancy Kaiser, Kathy Kolb, Kathy Laur, Tracy Leonberger, Abby Luebbert, Nelly McKay, Linda Oligschlaeger, Sharon Pennington, Sonya Ross, Evelyn Samson, Judy Schneider, Jo Storey, Susan Stork, Claire West, Marcia Willing, Marsha Wilson

Program: "Garden to Gourmet"

Presenter: Chef Cory Hoss, the Culinary Clinic in Jefferson City

Chef Cory, owner of the Culinary Clinic, will lead us on a culinary journey exploring the art of cooking with fresh herbs. He'll demonstrate how to elevate flavors with garden-grown herbs and share recipes and growing tips with members.

MAY (Pop-up) (Date TBD)

Unique Local Garden Tour

We will have a special opportunity to tour a rare and unique local garden, showcasing a delightful mix of horticultural techniques, diverse plant collections, and sustainable gardening practices—all within a compact, postage-stamp-sized yard. Join us as we explore cactus collections, espaliered fruit trees, a vegetable garden, and even chickens, while learning about a truly functional working garden.

FIRST TEACHER GRANT AWARD—ELLEN ROMERO, RUSSELLVILLE HIGH SCHOOL



JUNE

JUNE 5 (Thursday)

Garden Tour Preview

The garden tour co-chairs, Alice Longfellow and Judy Schneider, will lead members and homeowners on a preview tour of the five gardens featured on the annual Bittersweet Garden Tour.

JUNE 8 (Saturday)

Bittersweet Garden Tour

Our 2025 fundraiser is a public tour of five gardens. Members help homeowners prepare and are available on tour day to facilitate the tour. Proceeds fund community initiatives, including scholarships for local students, teacher grants, garden therapy workshops for seniors, and beautification projects in Jefferson City parks.

JUNE (Date TBD)

After-the-Garden-Tour Celebration

Join us at Canterbury Hill Winery for an “After-the-Garden-Tour” celebration. Our garden teams will gather to toast the success of our 24th year of garden tours with a pop-up cocktail hour!

JUNE 19 (Thursday) **MONTHLY MEETING**

Social 6:00 p.m. · Program 6:30 p.m.

Location: Center for Soy Innovation · 734 S Country Club Dr, JC

Host: Lee Bunch

Co-Hosts: Sandy Allen, Linda Block, Bonnie Bowles, Sharon Burnett, Jean Campbell, Lisa Dulle, Linda Ennis, Anita Feldman, Nicki Jungmeyer, Joan Keth, Kelley Kuensting, Anne Lock, Sharon Lowder, Abby Luebbert, Diane Neterer, Marcia Reed, Judy Schepers, Jo Storey, Grace Tipton, Sue Tipton, Laura Van Zandt, Susan Vaughn

Program: “Garden Tour Reflections”

Presenters: Alice Longfellow and Judy Schneider, garden tour co-chairs

Alice and Judy will lead a discussion of our recent garden tour, providing an opportunity for feedback and ideas to help improve future tours. We’ll discuss highlights from the event, including what went smoothly and areas that could use improvement. Alice and Judy will share a full report on tour profits as well as insights on ticket sales.

JUNE 28 (Saturday)

Bittersweet Garden Stroll

Enjoy a sampling of five of our own Bittersweet members’ gardens. We like all gardens: large or small, perfect or not-so-perfect, and even those works in progress. A leisurely garden stroll is the perfect opportunity to connect with fellow Bittersweet members, and who better to exchange gardening tips with than someone who shares your passion?

JULY

JULY 17 (Thursday) *MONTHLY MEETING*

Social 6:00 p.m. • Program 6:30 p.m.

Location: Center for Soy Innovation • 734 S Country Club Dr, JC

Host: Sharon Burnett

Co-Hosts: Linda Bledsoe, Lee Bunch, Sherry Fitzpatrick, Brenda Hancock, Sandy Hiatte, Merrilee Holzhauser, Jacki Johnson, Millie Jones, Stacy Landwehr, Kris Leech, Nelly McKay, Sharon Pennington, Rosella Reinkemeyer, Sonya Ross, Judy Schneider, Niki Schulte, Jan Schwaller, Jeanne Schwaller, Jenelle Schwieterman, Grace Tipton, Sue Tipton, Cris West

Program: *“Show What You Grow”*

Presenters: *Karen Basel, Marcia Reed, and Marge Talken*

Karen, Marcia, and Marge are all Master Gardeners and Bittersweet Garden Club Members. They will each bring flowers and foliage from their own gardens and demonstrate how to make casual arrangements for your home or to share with others.

JULY 24 (Thursday)

St. James, Missouri

Join us for a shared-ride trip to St. James, where we'll enjoy lunch and shopping at Sybil's new, enlarged boutique. After browsing a few local shops, we'll head to Spencer Manor Winery for a taste of Napa right here in Missouri. Perched on a hill with stunning views, this winery offers a great selection of wines, bourbons, and signature desserts like Tiramisu and Bourbon bread pudding. The contemporary building is beautifully designed inside and out, and we may even get a behind-the-scenes tour of their wine-making process.

HOSTAS ON THE BLUFF—JULY 2024



AUGUST

AUGUST 13 (Wednesday)

Federated Garden Clubs of Missouri Flower Show—State Fair

Caravan with us to Sedalia for a fun-filled day at the State Fair and the biggest event in the Floriculture Building—FGCM Federation Day and the Federated Garden Clubs Flower Show themed “Old Time Rock-n-Roll.” Enjoy floriculture programs and much more! You never know what you might find!

AUGUST 21 (Thursday) *MONTHLY MEETING*

Social 6:00 p.m. · Program 6:30 p.m.

Location: Center for Soy Innovation · 734 S Country Club Dr, JC

Host: Pat Roberts

Co-Hosts: Mari-Anne Antweiler, April Burger, Sharon Burnett, Rita Christgen, Shelley Chroma, Linda Ennis, Rita Esterly, Sandy Hiatte, Nicki Jungmeyer, Kathy Laur, Tracy Leonberger, Anne Lock, Alice Longfellow, Nelly McKay, Barb Miltenberger, Sharon Pennington, Sonya Ross, Jan Schwaller, Jenelle Schwieterman, Amanda Simpson, Laura Van Zandt, Marcia Willing

Program: “Growing Elephant Ears”

Presenter: Jenelle Schwieterman

Jenelle has been a Bittersweet Garden Club member and a Master Gardener for over 20 years and has worked at Gardens to Go for 18 years. She has also cultivated a variety of tropical plants in her own garden over the years. Jenelle will share her knowledge of these hardy plants, including how to grow them and tips for overwintering them.

AMAZING GRAZE CHARCUTERIE—BONE’S RESTAURANT—AUGUST 2024



SEPTEMBER

SEPTEMBER 4 (Thursday)

Capital City Productions—Jefferson City, Missouri

A rare September pop-up has us going to our local Capital City Productions Theater where we have a very special show in store for you—more details to come.

SEPTEMBER 18 (Thursday) *MONTHLY MEETING*

Social 6:00 p.m. · Program 6:30 p.m.

Location: Center for Soy Innovation · 734 S Country Club Dr, JC

Host: Linda Block

Co-Hosts: Sandy Allen, Linda Bledsoe, Carol Bowdoin, Bonnie Bowles, Jean Campbell, Rita Christgen, Marla Clark, Barb Crader, Marilyn Curtit, Lisa Dulle, Alice Hansen, Merrilee Holzhauser, Nancy Kaiser, Kelley Kuensting, Ann Lane, Abby Luebbert, Linda Oligschlaeger, Evelyn Samson, Niki Schulte, Sheila Scott, Jo Storey, Marsha Wilson

Program: *“Cultivating Containers: A Season of Discovery”*

Presenter: *Three presenters will be selected in early spring.*

Volunteers will share their findings after planting and caring for a container garden throughout the season. Participants will: 1) choose a container to design their garden, 2) nurture it over the summer, 3) document progress with photos and a journal, 4) create a PowerPoint on lessons learned, and 5) present their experience to the group. If you're interested in volunteering, be ready! If more than three members sign up, names will be drawn at random.

SEPTEMBER 23-26 (Tuesday-Friday)

Wonders of the Midwest: A Scenic Fall Journey

Join us on a fall Midwest adventure, starting with a tram tour of the internationally acclaimed Morton Arboretum in Naperville, IL, known for its stunning stone and wood sculptures. Next, we'll visit the Olbrich Botanical Gardens in Madison, WI, where you'll enjoy the magical Gleam Light Show and explore charming downtown shops and lakeside dining. Our journey continues with a tour of the historic town of Galena, IL, along the Mississippi River, followed by lunch and a wine tasting at Wild River Winery in Clinton, IA, with breathtaking river views. We'll finish with an overnight stay in Moline, IA, one of the Quad Cities and home to John Deere. Don't miss this chance to experience the beauty of fall in the Midwest!



MENNONITE TOUR—AUGUST 2024

OCTOBER

OCTOBER 16 (Thursday) *MONTHLY MEETING*

Social 6:00 p.m. • Program 6:30 p.m.

Location: Center for Soy Innovation • 734 S Country Club Dr, JC

Host: Evie Starr

Co-Hosts: Betsy Bax, Linda Bledsoe, Bonnie Bowles, Debbie Boyce, Rita Christgen, Shelley Chruma, Gail Cummins, Sandy Hiatte, Millie Jones, Joan Keth, Stacy Landwehr, Kris Leech, Alice Longfellow, Sharon Lowder, Nelly McKay, Linda Samson, Jan Schwaller, Jeanne Schwaller, Susan Vaughn, Donna Weiss, Cris West, Marsha Wilson

Program: *"Succulents and Pumpkins Together? Yes!"*

Presenter: *Andii Kreek Irwin*

Andii, owner and plant enthusiast of Little Leaf Essentials in Jefferson City, will demonstrate how to create beautiful holiday table arrangements by combining pumpkins and succulents. She also offers workshops where participants can make their own unique arrangements.

Food Bank Collection—Members are asked to bring non-perishable food items or monetary donations for the Samaritan Center Food Bank. Any checks should be made payable to the Samaritan Center.

OCTOBER 23 (Thursday)

Hermann, Missouri

What better way to enjoy an October day than with a scenic bus trip to Hermann, MO? We will spend the day visiting their wineries, restaurants, and boutiques. It's the perfect opportunity to relax, socialize, and soak in the beauty of the season. Always a beautiful drive

BITTERSWEET GARDEN CLUB MEMBERS' GARDENS OF THE SEASON

HEATHER BROWN—SPRING

SHELLEY & ROSIE CHRUMA—SUMMER



NOVEMBER

NOVEMBER 20 (Thursday) *MONTHLY MEETING*

Social 6:00 p.m. • Program 6:30 p.m.

Location: Center for Soy Innovation • 734 S Country Club Dr, JC

Host: Gail Cummins

Co-Hosts: Mari-Anne Antweiler, Karen Basel, Linda Block, Carol Bowdoin, Jeannine Brickey, Sharon Burnett, Marla Clark, Rita Esterly, Anita Feldman, Brenda Hancock, Jacqueline Huhman, Kathy Kolb, Anne Lock, Nelly McKay, Barb Miltenberger, Diane Neterer, Pat Roberts, Jatha Sadowski, Jeanne Schwaller, Marge Talken, Ronda Thompson, Claire West

Program: *“Game Show Night”*

Presenter: *Cris West*

In place of our discontinued auction, we’re excited to introduce “Game Show Night”—entertainment with a twist! Get involved as the “audience” of some of the most popular game shows appear before your eyes.

NOVEMBER (Date TBD)

Holiday Centerpieces: Create a Stunning Table Display

Join this hands-on class to learn how to create a stunning centerpiece perfect for your holiday table. Our talented Karen Basel will be the instructor, bringing her creativity and fresh ideas to life for us!

THE FABULOUS FOX THEATER—NEIL DIAMOND: A BEAUTIFUL NOISE—NOVEMBER 2024



DECEMBER

DECEMBER (Date TBD)

Historic Main Street—St. Charles, Missouri

One last car trip of the year! We will caravan to downtown St. Charles to explore all that their historic main street has to offer for the holiday season. Each car can choose to return home at the end of the day or stay over at the Drury Inn.

DECEMBER 18 (Thursday) *MONTHLY MEETING*

Social 6:00 p.m. • Program 6:30 p.m.

Location: Center for Soy Innovation • 734 S Country Club Dr, JC

Host: Ann Lane

Co-Hosts: Karen Basel, Jean Campbell, Barb Crader, Shelley Chroma, Gail Cummins, Lisa Dulle, Nicki Jungmeyer, Joan Keth, Kelley Kuensting, Stacy Landwehr, Tracy Leonberger, Alice Longfellow, Sharon Lowder, Nelly McKay, Diane Neterer, Jatha Sadowski, Tina Spillers, Evie Starr, Susan Stork, Grace Tipton, Sue Tipton, Laura Van Zandt

Program: *"Merry Christmas!" Dinner & (optional) Gift Exchange*

Presenter: *Linda Oligschlaeger*

President Linda will facilitate an *optional* gift exchange. Members may bring a \$20 gift and participate in an exciting exchange game that brings laughs and smiles as we steal presents and hide them behind our chairs. Always lots of fun so don't miss the banter even if you decide to just watch and not participate in the gift exchange.

DECEMBER MEETING 2023



FEDERATED GARDEN CLUBS OF MISSOURI

2025 State Activities Calendar

And Other Dates of Interest

January

- *20 Smokey Bear/Woodsy Owl posters to FGCM Chair**
- 27-Feb 25 Missouri Botanical Garden Orchid Show
- *31 Deadline: *The Garden Forum* Spring Issue (April-June)

February

- *1 Deadline: Presidents' Annual Reports to District Director FGCM Club Ratings Chair
- *1 Deadline: Club Yearbooks due to District Director, District Awards Chair, FGCM President, & FGCM Club Programs Chair**
- *1 Deadline: Scholarship Applications to FGCM Scholarship Chair**

March

- 4-8 Bloomin' Bus Tour
- 21 Bird Appreciation Day
- 24-27 Environmental School 2 — Land

April

- 10 Central District Spring Meeting · Columbia, MO
- *4 Missouri Arbor Day (1st Friday of April)
- 21-24 FGCM State Convention—Springfield, MO
- 25 National Arbor Day (last Friday of April)
- *30 Deadline: *The Garden Forum* Summer Issue (July-September)

May

- 18-22 NGC Convention · North Charleston, SC

June

- *1-7 National Garden Week (1st full week in June)
- 8 Bittersweet Garden Tour

July

- *31 Deadline for *The Garden Forum* Fall Issue (October-December)

August

- *13 FGCM Day at Missouri State Fair (Wednesday of 1st full week)
- *15 Deadline: Bird Sanctuary and Bluebird Trail Applications due to District Chair**

September

- 4 Central District Fall Meeting · Laurie, MO (Lake Bloomers)
- 15 Deadline: Butterfly/Hummingbird Application to FGCM Chair*

October

28-29 Central Region Annual Convention · Elkhart Lake, WI

31 Dues to District and FGCM Treasurer**

31 Club Roster to Dist. Director, FGCM Treasurer, FGCM Membership Chair and *The Garden Forum* Circulation Manager **

31 Youth Contest Entries to District Youth Chair

*31 Deadline for *The Garden Forum* Winter issue (January-March)

November

9-11 FGCM Fall Board Meeting

*30 Deadline: Project Award Applications to State Chair**

30 Books of Evidence to Designated Awards Chairs **

*30 Following Award Applications due to assigned chair:

- Flower Show Book of Evidence to FGCM chair**
- Smokey Bear/Woodsy Owl Posters due to District chair**

December

*20 Deadline: Garden Club Award of Honor Applications to FGCM Chair**

*20 Deadline: Holiday Flower Show Books of Evidence FGCM Chair**

*** Same dates every year, **Contact information is in *The Garden Forum***

GARDEN THERAPY AT SENIOR LIVING COMMUNITIES



BITTERSWEET GARDEN CLUB PROJECTS

"PLANT AMERICA: SHARE THE BEAUTY"

President's Project:

Member Plant Exchange

Organize member plant exchanges for spring and fall.

*Location: The Soy Center -
Jefferson City, Missouri*

Chair: Linda Oligschlaeger

Committee: Karen Basel, Jacki Johnson, Kathy Kolb, Kris Leech, Nelly McKay, Pat Roberts, Marge Talken, Ronda Thompson

Food Bank Donation

Members bring nonperishable food or monetary donations to the October meeting. Members deliver the donations to the Samaritan Center in Jefferson City to help meet the needs in our community.

Location: 1310 East McCarty Street Jefferson City, Missouri

Chair: Marge Talken

Committee: Jean Campbell, Kelley Kuensting, Barb Miltenberger, Rosella Reinkemeyer, Tina Spillers, Susan Stork

Civic Beautification

Coordinate club activities pertaining to civic beautification with the primary emphasis being on the entrance garden at Memorial Park. Purchase a tree and plan an Arbor Day tree-planting with the JC Parks & Rec department. All members participate in the planting and maintenance of the garden throughout the growing season.

Location: Jefferson City Parks

Co-chairs: Sherry Fitzpatrick and Ann Lane

Committee: All Bittersweet GC Members

Garden-of-the-Season

In coordination with Central Missouri Master Gardeners, members identify outstanding gardens in the Jefferson City area. Each season the committee will highlight one or more gardens based on identified themes. The selected garden(s) will be recognized with a feature article in the local newspaper and a sign in the homeowner's front yard.

Location: Gardens within a 10-mile radius of Jefferson City, Missouri

Chair: Barb Miltenberger,

Committee: Heather Brown, Kristi Rhoads, Linda Bledsoe, Claire West, Gail Cummins, Jeanette de la Torre, Jatha Sadowski, Niki Schulte, Kathy Kolb, Marcia Willing

Garden Therapy

Provide hands-on crafts and gardening workshops to residents in senior living communities to aid in improving social, psychological, and physical well-being.

Location: Senior living communities in Jefferson City and the surrounding areas

Co-chairs: Evelyn Samson & Tina Spillers

Committee: Linda Block, Barbara Brennaman, Lee Bunch, April Burger, Marla Clark, Barb Crader, Gail Cummins, Marilyn Curtit, Jeanette de la Torre, Sherry Fitzpatrick, Ginni Griffen, Brenda Hancock, Alice Hansen, Nicki Jungmeyer, Nancy Kaiser, Chris Krautmann, Kelley Kuensting, Ann Lane, Joan Keth, Kathy Laur, Kris Leech, Tracy Leonberger, Sharon Lowder, Nelly McKay, Rosella Reinkemeyer, Pat Roberts, Jatha Sadowski, Linda Samson, Jan Schwaller, Susan Stork, Donna Weiss

Gardening Resource Project

Review and select children's gardening books for the Missouri River Regional Library to inspire the new generation to recognize and appreciate the value and benefits of gardening.

Location: Jefferson City, Missouri
Chair: Jan Schwaller

Scholarships

Distribute information to area schools, review applications, and present scholarships to selected recipients. Scholarships are made available to area students who meet established criteria and who plan to further their studies in the area of horticulture, agriculture, conservation, forestry, and/or fishes and wildlife.

Location: Cole County and eligible surrounding Missouri counties

Chair: Amanda Simpson

Committee: Sandy Allen, Mari-Anne Antweiler, Shirley Gassen, Jeanne Schwaller, Jenelle Schwieterman, Claire West

Teacher Grants

Distribute grant information to area teachers, review applications, select and award grants to recipients. The grant is designed to support K-12 teachers in implementing innovative projects that enhance students' understanding of horticulture, agriculture, environmental science, ecology, and natural resources.

Location: Cole County and eligible surrounding Missouri counties

Chair: Linda Block

Committee: Mari-Anne Antweiler, Jacki Johnson, Tracy Leonberger, Sharon Pennington, Susan Vaughn, Claire West



ADDITIONAL COMMITTEES

Activities

Determine and arrange field trips and other club activities.

Chair: Cris West

Committee: Karen Basel, Linda Block, Jeannine Brickey, Sharon Burnett, Sherry Fitzpatrick, Ginni Griffen, Alice Hansen, Evelyn Samson, Tina Spillers, Grace Tipton, Sue Tipton

Accounts Review

Review the club's accounts with the treasurer and share the findings at the January meeting.

Chair: Lee Bunch

Budget

Prepare and submit an annual proposed budget for approval by the membership.

Chair: Linda Oligschlaeger
Committee: Board Members

Bylaws & Standing Rules

Review bylaws and standing rules and propose recommended changes to membership for a vote.

Chair: Sandy Hiatte

Committee: Lee Bunch, Rita Esterly, Alice Hansen, Barb Miltenberger, Sheila Scott

FGCM Delegates

Attend district meetings, identify and apply for pertinent awards and grants.

Chair: Jeannine Brickey

Committee: Jacqueline Huhman, Diane Neterer, Jeanne Schwaller

ADDITIONAL COMMITTEES—CONTINUED

Garden Selection

Identify gardens to be included on the next garden tour.

Chair: *Alice Longfellow*

Committee: *Linda Block, Heather Brown, Shirley Gassen*

History

Maintain the current and historical club membership database and garden tour history.

Chair: *Marcia Reed*

Hospitality

Coordinate monthly meeting hosts and arrange for necessary supplies.

Co-chairs: *Sharon Burnett
Judy Schepers*

New Member Mentors

Familiarize new members with our yearbook, meetings, and activities and facilitate introductions.

Chair: *Linda Oligschlaeger*

Committee: *Karen Basel, Linda Block, April Burger, Rita Esterly, Shirley Gassen, Ginni Griffen, Alice Hansen, Merrilee Holzhauser, Pat Roberts, Niki Schulte, Evie Starr, Sue Tipton, Ronda Thompson*

Photography

Document each meeting and activity with photos.

Chair: *Marcia Reed*

Committee: *Lee Bunch, Shelley Chruma, Sandy Hiatte, Tracy Leonberger, Abby Luebbert, Nelly McKay, Marge Talken*

Programs

Determine and arrange programs for monthly meetings.

Chair: *Rita Esterly*

Committee: *Marge Talken, Gail Cummins, Kristi Rhoads, Linda Samson*

Public Relations & Publicity

Request media coverage of special events. Prepare articles and press releases for the media and FGCM *The Garden Forum*.

Chairs:

Committee: *Carol Bowdoin, Alice Longfellow, Abby Luebbert*

Garden Stroll

Plan tours of at least five members' gardens and communicate the tour information to the members.

Chair: *Tina Spillers*

Committee: *Gail Cummins, Ginni Griffen, Merrilee Holzhauser, Nicki Jungmeyer, Rosella Reinkemeyer, Pat Roberts, Sonya Ross, Evie Starr, Jo Storey, Susan Stork, Marge Talken, Ronda Thompson, Jennifer Urich*

Sunshine

Send cards to hospitalized members and send memorials to members who have a death in their immediate family.

Chair: *Debbie Boyce*

Committee: *Barbara Brennaman, Marla Clark, Marge Talken*

Website & Social Media

Maintain the website and Facebook pages. Post and update program and event information.

Chair: *Marcia Reed*

Committee: *Marge Talken*

Yearbook

Design and prepare yearbook, facilitate printing and distribution.

Chair: *Marcia Reed*

Committee: *Abby Luebbert, Marge Talken*

INAUGURAL BITTERSWEET GARDEN PARTY

Windstone Entertainment Center · April 28, 2024
EVENT CHAIRS: LINDA OLIGSCHLAEGER & MARCIA REED

COMMITTEE CHAIRS

BITTERSWEET PLANT BOOTH

Chair: Kris Leech

BITTERSWEET DÉCOR BOOTH

Chairs: Alice Hansen & Niki Schulte

BRUNCH

Chairs: Marge Talken & Pat Roberts

BEVERAGES

Chairs: Grace Tipton & Thalia Irvin

DECORATIONS

Chairs: Sherry Fitzpatrick & Cass Bates

ENTERTAINMENT

Chairs: Cris West & Ronda Thompson

FINANCE

Chair: Nancy Kaiser

MARKETING

Chair: Marcia Reed

POST EVENT

Chairs: Jane Davis & Jatha Sadowski

PROGRAM

Chair: Jennifer Urich

REGISTRATION & TICKETING

Chairs: Marcia Reed & Jeannine Brickey

SPONSORSHIPS/AUCTIONS/DRAWINGS

Chairs: Marcia Reed & Linda Oligschlaeger

VENDORS

Chairs: Barb Miltenberger & Tina Spillers

VENUE & LOGISTICS

Chairs: Brenda Hancock & Ann Lane

Bittersweet Garden Party – A Bloomin' Good Time!



2025 PERENNIAL PLANT OF THE YEAR

Pycnanthemum muticum

Common Name: clustered or blunt mountain mint



Clustered mountain mint (also known as blunt mountain mint) is a tough and adaptable perennial native to meadows and open woodlands across much of the eastern United States west to Texas. It is not a true mint (*Mentha* spp.) but belongs to the same family and has similarly scented leaves. A must-have for pollinator gardens, heads of tiny white to light pink blooms attract butterflies, wasps, and bees from July to September.

~ *Perennial Plant Association*, July 2024



Zone: 4 to 8
Height: 34"-36"
Spread: spreads widely by rhizomes
Bloom Time: July to September
Bloom Color: White to light pink
Sun: Full sun to part shade
Water: Medium
Maintenance: Low
Tolerates: Drought
Attracts: Butterflies, Bees, Wasps

Past Perennial Plants of the Year

The Perennial Plant of the Year® program began in 1990 to showcase a perennial that is suitable for a wide range of growing climates, requires low maintenance, has multiple-season interest, and is relatively pest/disease-free.

- 2024 *Phlox paniculata* 'Jeana' - Garden Phlox
- 2023 *Rudbeckia* 'American Gold Rush' - Black-eyed Susan
- 2022 *Schizachyrium scoparium* (and cultivars) - Little Bluestem
- 2021 *Calamintha nepeta* subsp. *Nepeta* - calamint
- 2020 *Aralia cordata* 'Sun King' - Japanese spikenard
- 2019 *Stachys monieri* 'Hummelo' - betony
- 2018 *Allium* 'Millenium' - ornamental onion
- 2017 *Asclepias tuberosa* - butterfly weed
- 2016 *Anemone* 'Honorine Jobert' - windflower
- 2015 *Geranium x cantabrigiense* 'Biokovo' - hardy geranium
- 2014 *Panicum virgatum* 'Northwind' - switch grass
- 2013 *Polygonatum odoratum* - variegated Solomon's Seal
- 2012 *Brunnera macrophylla* 'Jack Frost' - Siberian bugloss
- 2011 *Amsonia hubrichtii* - Arkansas Blue Star
- 2010 *Baptisia australis* - blue false indigo
- 2009 *Hakonechloa macra* 'Aureola' - Japanese forest grass
- 2008 *Geranium* 'Rozanne' - cranesbill
- 2007 *Nepeta* 'Walker's Low' - catmint
- 2006 *Dianthus gratianopolitanus* 'Feuerhexe' (Firewitch) - pinks
- 2005 *Helleborus x hybridus* - Lenten rose
- 2004 *Athyrium niponicum* 'Pictum' - Japanese painted fern
- 2003 *Leucanthemum* 'Becky' - shasta daisy
- 2002 *Phlox* 'David' - garden phlox
- 2001 *Calamagrostis x acutiflora* 'Karl Foerster' - feather reed grass
- 2000 *Scabiosa columbaria* 'Butterfly Blue' - pincushion flower
- 1999 *Rudbeckia fulgida* var. *sullivantii* 'Goldsturm' - black-eyed Susan
- 1998 *Echinacea purpurea* 'Magnus' - purple coneflower
- 1997 *Salvia* 'Mainacht' (May Night) - wood sage
- 1996 *Penstemon digitalis* 'Husker Red' - beardtongue
- 1995 *Perovskia atriplicifolia* - Russian sage
- 1994 *Astilbe* 'Sprite' - astilbe
- 1993 *Veronica* 'Sunny Border Blue' - speedwell
- 1992 *Coreopsis verticillata* 'Moonbeam' - threadleaf coreopsis
- 1991 *Heuchera micrantha* 'Palace Purple' - coral bells
- 1990 *Phlox stolonifera* - creeping phlox