

Columbia Gardeners Fall Meeting  
October 19, 2023

There was a social hour between 6-7 p.m. that gave gardeners a chance to mingle and enjoy refreshments. The business meeting and speaker followed the social hour.

**Board members in attendance:**

Betty Miller  
Amod Bhide  
John Spencer  
Diane Stack  
Cleve Chick  
Ebele Onwueme  
Susan Levi-Goerlich  
Bill Small  
Joe Reyes  
Carol Cannon  
Carole Graves  
Guy DiRoma  
Sara Kaman

**Welcome and Opening Remarks**

Betty Miller called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m. She introduced herself as the President of Columbia Gardeners and thanked everyone for coming. She explained that we would have a short business meeting, the election of officers, a presentation by Kent Phillips (Master Gardener, University of MD Extension, Grow-It/Eat-It program) and a raffle before concluding the meeting.

Betty announced that John Spencer resigned as Columbia Gardeners Treasurer in September. John has been the Treasurer of Columbia Gardeners since 2013. Betty commented that John has been a wonderful Treasurer and the Board has truly appreciated all the time that he put in. We will truly miss him.

Carol Cannon volunteered to be our new Treasurer and was appointed to that position in September. She subsequently resigned from her position as Elkhorn Member-at-Large.

Betty also announced that Bill Small would be resigning from his position as West Side Member-at-Large. Susan Levi-Goerlich thanked Bill for all the years he has put in as Member-at-

Large. She commented that Bill is an amazing gardener, has been her right-hand man for a long time, took over when she was out of town, is very detail oriented, always puts the gardeners first and is also a great proof reader.

Betty turned the meeting over to Heather Richardson (Nominating Committee Chair) who conducted the election of Officers.

### **Election of Officers**

Heather thanked the two other members of the Nominating Committee (Allison Esrig and Alice Jackson) for their help, as well as the site managers.

She explained that each year, Columbia Gardeners elects a President, Vice-President, Treasurer, Secretary and a Member at Large from each site at our annual Fall meeting. She presented the requirements Board members and nominees must meet in order to serve on the Board.

Specifically,

- Board members must attend at least seven of the eleven yearly Board meetings which are held on the second Tuesday of each month, except December.
- Board members must contribute to the operation and success of Columbia Gardeners, Inc. by fully participating in Board meetings, sharing views on the issues being considered by the Board, proposing solutions and voting on these issues.
- Board members must have access to email and read their email regularly to keep up to date on matters related to Columbia Gardeners.
- Board members and nominees must be in compliance with Columbia Gardeners Rules and Regulations and have no adverse rulings from Columbia Gardeners, Inc.

Heather presented the slate of officers that the Nominating committee put together. The slate included Betty Miller for President, Amod Bhide for Vice-President, Carol Cannon for Treasurer, Diane Stack for Secretary, Ebele Onwueme for Long Reach Member-at-Large, and Carol Cannon for Elkhorn Member-at-Large. Heather pointed out that all of the nominees are currently serving Board members and that nominations for any of the elected positions can be made from the floor.

Heather asked for nominations from the floor but there were none. Voting was conducted by a show of hands. People were asked to raise their hand if they approved of the current slate of officers; then people were asked to raise their hand if they did not approve of the slate of officers. The slate of officers was unanimously unopposed. Thus, all elected members will continue in their current positions for another year.

Betty thanked Heather for running the election of officers.

## **Presentation**

Kent Phillips (Master Gardener, University of MD Extension, Grow-It/Eat-It program) gave our presentation. The title of his presentation was “Better Yields Through Better Soils.” His presentation contained a LOT of useful information and can be found at the following link:

<https://www.columbiagardeners.com/Better%20Yields%20through%20Better%20Soil.pdf>

Some of the additional side comments he made during the presentation included:

- Garlic is a heavy feeder. Add Nitrogen when you put it in and also in the spring.
- Leaf Gro sucks up Nitrogen in the soil.
- To benefit the garden, add organic material every year to improve the soil's structure.
- The University of MD recommends adding 6 inches of organic material in a new garden and 2 – 4 inches in an already established garden.
- The University of Delaware charges \$17 for a soil test.
- The Alpha Ridge Center sells compost for \$24/yard and have people who will deliver it to you (for a charge)
- Compost can be added at any time. It is good to do it now so that it works its way in.
- Kent does not rotor till his garden since it brings up more weeds.
- He does not pull up his beans. He cuts them at the ground level and leaves the roots in the ground.
- Maryland soils generally contain sufficient phosphorous.
- Kent uses Round Up to kill wire grass. He was asked about the safety of using Round Up. He said that he only uses a drop or two and puts it on the tip of the plant.
- [www.extension.umd.edu/hgic](http://www.extension.umd.edu/hgic) is a useful website. There are links to soil tests, fertilizer, mulch, compost, cover crops and vegetable facts at this site.
- Weed whack cover crops in the spring and plant seeds right in the mass of vegetation.
- Horse and cow manure has seeds in it. Kent prefers to use chicken manure and puts it in his garden in the fall.
- The University of MD has a rake and take program but you need a large vehicle to transport the leaves.
- 12 inches deep is plenty for a raised bed.
- You cannot compost whole dead leaves. You need to water them down.

## **Poison Hemlock, Spotted Lantern Fly and Mosquitos**

There were posters at the meeting showing information on Poison Hemlock, Spotted Lantern Fly and Mosquitos. Additional information can be found at:

- Poison Hemlock

<https://extension.umd.edu/resource/poison-hemlock-identification-and-management>

- Spotted Lantern Fly

<https://mda.maryland.gov/plants-pests/Documents/MDA-SLF-Pest-Alert-web.pdf>

Mosquitoes

[https://www.cdc.gov/chikungunya/pdfs/control\\_mosquitoes\\_chikv\\_denv\\_zika.pdf](https://www.cdc.gov/chikungunya/pdfs/control_mosquitoes_chikv_denv_zika.pdf)

### **Door Prizes and Close of Meeting**

A number of door prizes were awarded and the meeting ended around 8:40 p.m.