



# The “Show-Me” Gardener

## Webster Groves Garden Club

Email: Webster-Groves-  
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[Plant-Sale@mgcwg.org](mailto:Plant-Sale@mgcwg.org)

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**May Meeting**  
**Monday, May 9, 2022 – 7:15 pm**

**Speaker: Erin Goss**

**Topic: The Perks of Being A Wallflower**



#### ***May meeting:***

Erin Goss, will be our speaker for May. The topic of her talk is, The Perks of Being A Wallflower-The art and science of successful garden design.

Erin is a former bookseller turned all-things-plant enthusiast and is a graduate of the St Louis Community College's Horticulture program. She works as the Design Studio Supervisor for WFD, Wallflower Design, a boutique design-build firm in St. Louis, and as the Outreach Specialist for St Louis Audubon's Bring Conservation Home. Her talk will focus on harnessing the power of natural plant communities in residential landscape design. She will walk us through the design process by using specific case studies, and attendees will take home tips on plant selection and arrangement, as well as, inspiration and motivation for enhancing their own gardens. She welcomes questions about your gardens.

#### ***Annual Plant Sale 2023:***

Please take photos of any blooming plants which are thinking about donating to the 2023 Annual Plant Sale. Plants sell better when they are either blooming or we can show photos of them in bloom. If you put your name on the back of the photo, we will return it to you. If possible, make note of the dates the plant blooms in your yard,

If you have any small or medium pots from the 2022 plant sale or from any other nursery or store,, please save them for us. We could use pots where the diameter at the top is at most 7". Please contact Joan Tilford at [JTilford@Charter.net](mailto:JTilford@Charter.net).

### **Annual Dues:**

Club dues for 2022 are \$15 per person or \$20 per family. If you have not yet renewed for 2022, please make your check payable to "Webster Groves Garden Club" and send to: Steve Seele, 223 Rosemont Ave, St. Louis, MO 63119.

### **President's Corner – May 2022**

First, I want to extend a big thanks to all the volunteers, plant donors and garden enthusiasts who attended our Spring 2022 Plant Sale. After a 2-year hiatus, we were able to have a very successful sale at the Webster Groves Recreation Center this past week. We appreciate your support!

May is finally here and we can begin gardening in earnest. Some helpful tips from the **Missouri Botanical Garden** for the month of May: remember to pinch the blossoms from your azaleas and rhododendron after flowers fade and prune them, if needed, after they bloom. Also pinch your chrysanthemum plants back to promote growth and now is the time to plant gladiolas, caladiums, dahlias, cannas, and elephant ears. (Some information about planting and growing these summer bulbs can be found here:

<https://www.flowerbulbs.com/2917/your-own-cutting-garden>). You will want to check your evergreens and conifers for bagworms (some Integrated Pest Management strategies here:

<https://www.missouribotanicalgarden.org/gardens-gardening/your-garden/help-for-the-home-gardener/advice-tips-resources/pests-and-problems/insects/caterpillars/bagworms.aspx>. Finally, remember that the foliage on your spring bulbs helps to feed the bulb for next season, so don't remove it too soon.

With not much sun and limited space in the garden, I grow several vegetables in pots and other containers. If you are in a similar situation, this site from **GardenDesign** has some good tips for growing vegetables:

[https://www.gardendesign.com/vegetables/container-growing.html?utm\\_source=article-newsletter&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=Container-Veg-Garden-4-28-22](https://www.gardendesign.com/vegetables/container-growing.html?utm_source=article-newsletter&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Container-Veg-Garden-4-28-22)

Have you had your soil tested? If not, this is a good time to consider doing so. Here are some easy steps from the **University of Missouri Extension**. Collect samples by: (1) making one cut into ground as deep as your shovel will go; (2) making another cut 1 inch behind the first; (3) tilting the shovel back to lift out the soil slice; (4) keeping the middle of the slice and cutting any grass or other plant material off the top; and (5) repeating 8 to 10 times in the area. Then, mix the samples together; air-dry and place about 1 pint of soil into a plastic bag. You can take the sample to the **St. Louis County Extension Office** at 132 S. Monroe in Kirkwood. The results are usually back with 10 to 14 days unless they are busy, and the cost for analysis is \$25. You can find more information at: <https://extension.missouri.edu/programs/soil-and-plant-testing-laboratory/spl-soil-analysis/spl-garden-landscape-lawn-soil-test>

Finally, for those of you who use gardening as a form of exercise (don't we all?!), you may be interested in a **PBS** program called **GardenFit**. You can find more information at: [https://www.pbs.org/show/gardenfit/?utm\\_source=gd-](https://www.pbs.org/show/gardenfit/?utm_source=gd-) Some virtual programs at the **St. Louis County Library** that may be of interest to you are:

**May 5 – 2 p.m. - 3 p.m. Gardening for Butterflies.** Presented by **Sophia M.**

### **Sachs Butterfly House**

How you can build a successful butterfly garden. Register at: <https://slcl.evanced.info/signup/EventDetails?EventId=296587>

**May 12 - 11 a.m.- noon. Top 10 Sensory Plants** presented by the **Missouri Botanical Garden** Therapeutic Horticulture Program. Learn about different uses and growing conditions of popular plants that provide a sensory experience, like enticing scents or smooth textures. Register at: <https://slcl.evanced.info/signup/EventDetails?EventId=295298>

### **Notes from the Metro Garden**

This white-flowered common lilac, *Syringa vulgaris* 'alba,' was donated by a member in order to provide a safe and convenient roost for the smaller birds visiting the birdbath at the Metro garden located at the corner of Rock Hill Road and Lockwood. The garden is maintained by WGGC volunteers.

The next big job will be removing the many many seedlings of the cup plant, *Sylphium perfoliatum*, which was allowed to go to seed two years ago. Lesson learned. Coarse leaves join the stem with a cup shaped petiole that holds water after a rain. The cup plant gets over eight feet tall before flowering in late summer. A magnet for bees who do not seem to mind the height, the cup plant does not lend itself to cutting back as it will abandon the cut stem in favor of sending up a new shoot. Enjoy the garden.



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