



## Summer 2023

### Greetings from Our President

I'm so incredibly grateful to all our dedicated and willing club members. This year's plant sale was another outstanding success thanks to Bob Bruett and all the volunteers who donated their time and service to plant, set up, consult with customers and help out as cashiers. Thank you all!

We have a busy summer ahead of us. The Garden Walk is almost here, along with our summer meetings in member's yards, and the August Picnic.

Lots of Civic opportunities exist, so be sure to reach out to Dee Schurman or Mike Relaz if you can spare time to help at the post office, a giving garden or the Clearbrook House. Other volunteer opportunities are posted on the website.

Please find time to join us as you can to enjoy each other's company.

I'm looking forward to all that summer brings— especially my garden, and I'm sure you are, too!

*Beth Ligenza*

### Summer Meetings

- June 26
- July 24
- August 28 Picnic

See page 2 for meeting details

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## AHGC Summer Meetings and Hosts

- Monday, June 26 - Pat & Mike Dennehey's Backyard
- Monday, July 24 - Mary Kiepura's Backyard
- August 28 - Picnic at the Historical Society

During the summer months the Garden Club holds informal meetings in the gardens of our members. We meet at 7pm. Please bring a lawn chair and bug spray to each of these meetings. Although we do not have a program presentation at our summer meetings, the garden meetings are a great opportunity to socialize, meet new members, visit another member's garden and get some of your gardening questions answered.

### Monday, June 26

On June 26th @ 7pm we will meet at Mike and Pat Dennehey's garden located at [1411 N Hickory in Arlington Heights](#). Phone (847) 255-0133

### Monday, July 24

On July 24th @ 7pm we will meet at Mary Kiepura's garden located at [12 N Gibbons Ave in Arlington Heights](#). Phone (847) 334-9701

### Monday, August 28

On August 28th we are having our annual picnic at the Historical Society across from the library. More information about the picnic can be found on page 14.

If it rains on the June or July meeting date, the meeting will be cancelled.

Many thanks to Pat, Mike, Mary and Mark for hosting our Summer Meetings!

We look forward to seeing everyone at the summer get-togethers.



*Pat and Mike Dennehey*



*Mary and Mark Klepura*



Can You Name This  
Native Plant?



*Answer can be found on page 15*



## Gardening at the American Legion



*Pete Landwehr*



*Jim Spannagel*



*Steve Skiber, American Legion Officer*



*Volunteers include: Pete Landwehr, Steve Skiber (American Legion Officer), Jim Spannagel and Mike Relaz*

During the Garden Club presentations to our three military groups (American Legion, VFW and Marine Corps), our club was asked to help plant some flowers in the garden in front of the American Legion Hall to improve the garden for Memorial Day. All four volunteers helped remove weeds and spruce it up. Mike Relaz purchased red, white and blue/purple petunias that Pete and Jim planted in the garden a few days later. By Memorial day, the garden looked *very patriotic*. Steve Skiber continues to water the flowers during the current dry spell.



# Gardening at the Post Office



Dee Schurman, Sharon Rudy, Dale Strum



Judy Otis



Marty Landwehr

## Tentative Programs Scheduled for 2023-2024 Club Season

Sept 25, 2023	Landscaping with Natives: The why & how of landscaping with Native Plants Pete Landwehr
Oct 23, 2023	Japanese Gardens Ken Benson
Nov 27, 2023	The New Invasives: Jumping Worms, Stink Bugs, Viburnum Leaf Beetles Nanette Kalscheur
Jan 22, 2024	Literary Gardens (In partnership with the AH Memorial Library. Virtual presentation) Cindy Crosby
Feb 26, 2024	Roses: How many do you have in your Yard? Jackie Kosbab
March 25, 2024	Lady Bird Johnson (In partnership with the AH Memorial Library, Virtual/Live in Library) Leslie Goddard
April 22, 2024	Birding in Barrington and Beyond Luke Dahlberg
May 20, 2024 (change due to Memorial Day)	SWANCC Reducing our Carbon Footprint



## 2023 Chicagoland Garden Walks

DATE	NEIGHBORHOOD	INFORMATION
June 21 - 22	Crete Woman’s Club	<a href="#">Website</a>
June 24	Porter County Master Gardeners Association	<a href="#">Website</a>
June 24	St. Charles	<a href="#">Website</a>
June 24	Libertyville	<a href="#">Website</a>
June 25	Arlington Heights	<a href="#">Website</a>
June 25	North Center Neighborhood	<a href="#">Website</a>
June 25	Oak Park/River Forest	<a href="#">Website</a>
June 25	Evanston	<a href="#">Website</a>
June 25	Lake County Indiana	<a href="#">Website</a>
July 8	McHenry County Master Gardeners	<a href="#">Website</a>
July 9	Beverly Area	<a href="#">Website</a>
July 9	Elmhurst	<a href="#">Website</a>
July 14	Hinsdale	<a href="#">Website</a>
July 15	Forest Park	<a href="#">Website</a>
July 15 – 16	Bucktown	<a href="#">Website</a>
July 15	Downers Grove	<a href="#">Website</a>
July 15	Midwest Koi/Pond Southwest/West Region	<a href="#">Website</a>
July 15	Bowmanville	<a href="#">Website</a>
July 16	Midwest Koi/Pond South Region	<a href="#">Website</a>
July 16	Dearborn	<a href="#">Website</a>
July 16	Southland Community	<a href="#">Website</a>
July 22	Lincolnshire	<a href="#">Website</a>
July 22	Westchester	<a href="#">Website</a>
July 22	Midwest Koi/Pond North/Northwest Region	<a href="#">Website</a>
July 23	Midwest Koi/Pond Central Region	<a href="#">Website</a>
July 23	Roseland	<a href="#">Website</a>
August 27	Avondale	<a href="#">Website</a>

## Blood Drive

### AHGC Nancy Asquini-Dean Blood Drive: We Need Donors!

Each year, nearly 5 million Americans need blood transfusions. Blood helps trauma and burn patients, premature infants, heart surgery patients, organ transplant recipients and those fighting cancer, among others. In emergencies, it is the blood already on hospital shelves that saves lives. Your participation in our blood drive will ensure a ready blood supply for patients who need it. Summer is a particularly challenging time for the national and local blood supply. Demand is normally up and supply declines. The need for blood increases with higher driving travel for vacations and holidays. College and University Blood Drives, the largest suppliers to the system, are down with few students on campus.

### What you can do to support the drive! Please consider donating.

The process is easy and from check-in to departure takes about 60 minutes. You’ll learn your blood type and provide a valuable, lifesaving gift to someone in need.

**Please share news about the drive with friends and family.** Many of us are unable to donate but by sharing news of the event with friends and family, you may very well facilitate someone else in donating.

**How to Register as a donor.** Click on [Nancy Asquini Dean Blood Drive at Vitalant](#), answer a few brief questions to register and select an appointment time. Walk up appointments are accepted on the day of the event but pre-registration saves you time the day of and helps in our planning. The Blood Drive is July 8<sup>th</sup>, 8:00 AM to 2:00 PM at a mobile donation unit in the First Presbyterian Church parking lot, across from the Library and Farmers Market parking lots in downtown Arlington Heights.

*Lew and Sheila Coffin*  
Blood Drive Coordinators  
847-917-1437 or 847-917-1436

Amaranth



# REPLENISHMENT BLOOD DRIVE



Nancy, recipient

Nancy Asquini-Dean was not expecting the results she received when taking an emergency visit to the hospital. After having severe back pains and being treated for osteoporosis, her visit to the hospital took an unexpected turn. What she thought was osteoporosis turned out to be a diagnosis of multiple myeloma. While multiple myeloma is not curable, it is treatable. Nancy has not been a recipient of blood products, but she has undergone many treatments. Nancy has been transparent with her diagnoses and has spoken with many people battling similar diseases, which has been one of her ways of helping. Nancy has built resilience in the face of adversity.

The Arlington Heights Garden club has leaped into action by hosting a blood drive for Nancy, The Nancy Asquini-Dean Blood Drive. Nancy has been a board member of the Arlington Heights Garden Club for over 18 years and expressed, "I never expected anything in return, and I am surprised by all of the support. The best part about this is it will benefit so many people." Nancy recognizes the importance of blood donation and wants to help others that are in an alike set of circumstances. Nancy says, "It's like when life gives you lemons, make lemonade."

Please join the Arlington Heights Garden Club by donating blood to help replenish the community blood supply and support individuals with diagnoses such as Nancy's.

## Arlington Heights Garden Club Nancy Asquini-Dean Blood Drive






Saturday, July 8  
8 a.m. – 2 p.m.  
Vitalant Bloodmobile – Arlington Heights  
First Presbyterian Parking Lot  
302 N. Dunton

Please click [HERE](#) or scan QR Code to make an appointment. Questions contact Lew Coffin – [lew.coffin@gmail.com](mailto:lew.coffin@gmail.com)

Appointments recommended. Walk-ins welcome.

SCAN HERE  
TO SCHEDULE



For more information or to schedule a donation, call 877.258.4825 or visit us at [vitalant.org](http://vitalant.org) Find us @vitalant:   

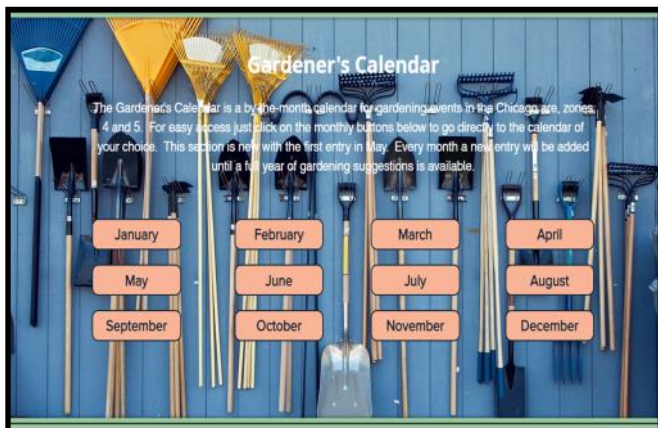
-EAT WELL  
-STAY HYDRATED  
-BRING ID

vitalant 

## Gardening To-Do List

Our website includes a month-by-month to do list for all your gardening chores. Be sure to check it out.

[Gardener's Calendar](#)



“Your mind is the garden,  
your thoughts are the seeds.  
The harvest can either be flowers or weeds.”

– William Wordsworth



## PLEASE NOTE

This publication is our **Summer** issue of the AHGC newsletter and it covers June, July and August.

The next issue of our newsletter will not be published until September.

## Membership Update

*Sheila and Lew Coffin | Membership*

The AHGC currently has 116 members. A warm welcome to all our new members and welcome back to our returning members!

### Membership Information Changes

Have you moved recently, set up a new email, or changed your phone number? Have you checked your AHGC membership information lately? It's easy to do. On the AHGC website, sign in on the [Members Only Page](#) and go to the AHGC Membership List page. Send membership information changes directly to Lew and Sheila Coffin at [ahgcmembers@gmail.com](mailto:ahgcmembers@gmail.com) and we will take it from there and make your changes! Having your correct information ensures that you receive our monthly newsletters, state publications, and other club communications.

### Membership Panel Opportunity

Do you have ideas on membership involvement and outreach? Would you like to brainstorm ideas for recruiting and retaining members? Do you want to see data related to club activities? If so, please join the Membership Panel. This panel will meet to discuss membership ideas. It is a short-term time commitment but promises to be an interesting way to provide your ideas and to connect with other AHGC members.

If you are interested and would like to share your ideas, please contact [Lew and Sheila](#) no later than July 15, 2023.



Amaranth



## Blue Star Memorial Marker

*Beth Ligenza*

One of the activities that the Garden Clubs of Illinois sponsor are the roadside Blue Star Memorial markers you may have noticed anywhere you drive in Illinois. Did you know that only Garden Clubs can sponsor these markers?

The Arlington Heights Garden Club voted during this past year to sponsor a marker in partnership with the local VFW, Marine Corps and American Legion groups. These groups donated funds to cover the majority of the marker's cost and we were able to place our order in late spring.

The veteran's groups selected a location the Village offered along Northwest Highway by the train station, and the Village will coordinate installation when the marker arrives, likely in fall. We will plan a dedication ceremony for late fall or next spring. Please reach out to Beth Ligenza should you have any questions about the marker. Thank you to Nancy Asquini-Dean and Jim Spannagel for all their work to have the marker approved and coordinated with the Village and our local veterans.



Everbearing Strawberries, June 2023



## Pollinator Gardens

*Pete Landwehr*

With the assistance of the garden club, Emily Pawlak planted a pollinator garden at South Middle School on June 17th for her Girl Scout Golden Award Project. Emily designed the garden around the athletic track sign on the north side of the school and planted approximately 75 perennials, many of which were supplied by garden club members.

Pollinator gardens seem to run in the family. Emily's oldest brother, Dominick, planted one at Olive elementary school in 2018 and her middle brother Christopher planted one on the south side of South Middle School in 2022. Both were Eagle Scout projects, with the assistance of the garden club. The seeds that we helped to sow have resulted in an impressive harvest.



*Christopher's Eagle Project | 2022*



*Emily's Girl Scout Golden Award Project | 2023*



# Memorial Day Parade 2023 *Brenda Catardi | Parade Coordinator*

A BIG thank you to all the Garden Club Members, Family and Friends who walked in the A.H. Memorial Day Parade and handed out seeds and flyers! The weather cooperated and gave us such a beautiful day.

The walk offers a fun activity for family, friends and members, plus creates a huge promotion opportunity for the Plant Sale and Garden Walk, the primary fundraising activities of the club. We have participated in the event since 2018 (except Covid years when the parade was cancelled). Again, thanks to all who participated and we hope you had a great time!





# Plant Sale on June 3, 2023

Bob Bruett | Plant Sale

Our Plant Sale this year was amazing. In light of the challenging issue with Asian Jumping worms all our members pitched in with so many home grown plants that we sold over \$5,000 of plants. This could only have been accomplished with the volunteer efforts of all those who contributed plants and accessories, those in publicity, those who volunteered in set up take down and of course the sale. I can't forget to thank all our customers who purchased items as well.

Our successful plant sale allows our cub to contribute to the community in many ways this year. My sincere thanks to *all of you!*





# Prairie Sites to Visit This Summer

June Miller | Conservation

National Pollinator Week is June 19-25<sup>th</sup>. This annual event is celebrated internationally to support pollinator health. One way to appreciate the wonderful result of pollination is to take a leisurely stroll through a local prairie. There are so many native prairie plants blooming now! Be sure to visit one or all three of these prairie sites with your family or friends.



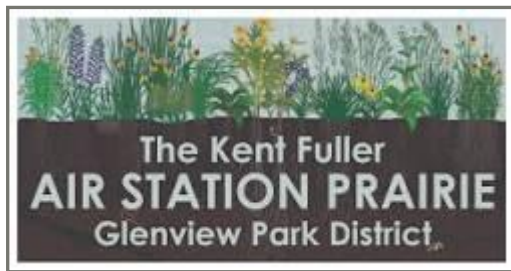
## Kent Fuller Air Station Prairie

2400 Compass Road, Glenview, (847) 299-6096

The Naval Air Station Glenview was an operational air base from 1923 to 1995 which operated training aircraft and seaplanes on nearby Lake Michigan during World War II. The Navy only mowed the fields once or twice a year so the prairie plants were able to flourish. In 1998, The Village of Glenview purchased the site from the Navy and, with the help of the Glenview Park District, further restoration began.

This 32 acre site includes a tall grass prairie, wetlands, and interpretive nature trails. It supports more than 160 native plant species, grassland birds, many prairie dependent insects, and 5 species of crayfish. The **Evelyn Pease Tyner Interpretive Center** (a “green building”) is a unique facility located on the prairie that promotes and teaches the benefits of sustainable living. There are many nature exhibits inside and interpretive panels on the outside walls that provide information on local plants and animals, soil conservation, wetlands, and the history of the site.

Visitors can enjoy the trails year-round but check the [website](#) for the Center’s open hours.



## Spring Valley Nature Center

111 East Schaumburg Road, Schaumburg, (847) 985-2100

Spring Valley is a 135 acre living landscape and nature sanctuary which opened in 1983. There are 3 miles of smooth and well-marked trails which meander through native prairies, wetlands, streams, butterfly conservation station, gardens, and interactive displays. You will see tall grasses, colorful wildflowers, and designated areas to bird watch. Other attractions include:

- **Bison’s Bluff Nature Playground** with a faux rock bluff, meandering stream, and sand play area on one acre. (Small admission fee required.)
- **Vera Meineke Nature Center** with an indoor turtle farm.
- **Vokening Heritage Farm** — a living history with authentically dressed interpreters of the lives of Schaumburg’s 19<sup>th</sup> century farm families.

Walking trails and grounds are open throughout the year.

Visit their [website](#) for new programs, exhibits, and special events.



# Prairie Sites to Visit This Summer

June Miller | Conservation

## Midewin National Tallgrass Prairie

30239 S. State Route 53, Wilmington (near Joliet), (815) 423-6370

Established in 1996, Midewin became the first national tallgrass prairie in the country. Midewin is the Potawatomi name for “Grand Medicine Society” who were healers and leaders. The name represents “healing the natural world and providing balance to our urban, technology-filled lives”.

Originally the land was part of the Joliet Army Ammunition Plant. The Department of Defense transferred 19,161 acres to the U.S. Forest Service. The Forest Service, along with other agencies and volunteers, actively led the restoration of this site with more than 13,000 acres open to the public. There are over 34 miles of trails for hikers, bicyclists, and equestrians. An experimental herd of 27 American bison was added to a 1000 acre part to see how they can aid in native prairie restoration. There is a bison overlook to see them as their pastures are closed to public access.

The **Midewin Welcome Center** has displays on the natural and cultural history of Midewin and provides trail maps for visitors. The areas of Midewin are open daily. Visit the [website](#) for more details.







5+ Inspiring  
Gardens!

# Garden Walk 2023

## & Unique Boutique

**Sunday, June 25**

*10am-4pm*

*110 W Fremont, Arlington Heights*

**The Garden Walk includes 5 distinctive gardens.**

Advance tickets are available at

[www.ahgardenclub.com](http://www.ahgardenclub.com)

Arlington Heights Village Bank & Trust

Arlington Heights Farmers Markets in June

**The Unique Boutique at the Arlington Hts Historical  
Museum is FREE AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC.**

Booths with arts, crafts, products & plants, Master Gardeners  
Ask the Arborist, Arlington Heights Memorial Library,

## Viatorian Garden

Dee Schurman | Civics

Do you have an extra 45 minutes to donate your time this summer to help weed, water and harvest our **Viatorian Garden** for the Food Pantry?

**DON'T LEAVE DEE out there ALONE!** We have two raised beds at St. Viators for volunteers to maintain. If you can help out, please send Dee an [email](#) or call 847-902-9280 to get your name on her volunteer list. Any help would be *GREATLY appreciated!*



*Dee Schurman*



*Dee Schurman, Paul & Diane Culhane*

## August Picnic — Save the Date

Cathy Kostal | Hospitality

Our August Picnic will be held on Monday, August 28th at the Arlington Heights Historical Society. We will be ordering chicken from Mariano's again this year and are looking for volunteers to bring appetizers, side dishes, desserts and drinks. You are also welcome to bring a guest. Members are free but there will be a \$5 fee for each guest. There will be a sign-up spreadsheet on the website for this. You will also be able volunteer for set-up and clean-up, if at all possible, on the same spreadsheet. Please check it out. Looking forward to seeing everyone!

Amaranth



## Blue-Eyed Grass

*Sisyrinchium angustifolium*

Blue-eyed grass is a small perennial plant native to Illinois and is unique for its clusters of violet-blue flowers with yellow centers. Though this plant has narrow grass-like leaves, the plant is actually part of the iris family. The flowers open during the day and close at night and sometimes on a cloudy day. It is an excellent low maintenance addition to any garden and is used in borders, rock gardens, and as edges for paths and walkways. The beautiful flowers attract bumble bees, blue azure butterflies, and other pollinators.

**Growth:** 6-20"

**Bloom Time:** May-July

**Sun Exposure:** Sun, part shade

**Locations:** Meadows, low, open woods, and native gardens

**Hardiness:** Zones 4-8

**Soil:** Moist, well drained

**Invasive?** Self-seeds but can become "weedy" if used in the lawn with turf grass.



### Officers

President	Beth Ligenza
Secretary	Halina Zbilski
Treasurer	Sharon Rudy

### Committee Chairs

Artistic	Gail Abbott
Civics	Mike Relaz Dee Schurman
Club Awards	Kathy Hendricksen
Conservation	June Miller
Garden Walk	Karen Reeb Jean Kengott
Horticulture	Juli Cicarelli
Hospitality	Cathy Kostal
Membership	Sheila Coffin Lew Coffin
Newsletter	Mona Frisbie
Plant Sale	Bob Bruett
Programs	Nancy Asquini-Dean
Publicity	Lesley Jackson Connie Landwehr
Scholarship	Sheila Coffin Emma Visee
Website	Rose Marie Lesniak-Mendez

### Project Coordinators

Lew Coffin	Blood Drive
Claudette Norwell-Philipp	Student Partnership
Brenda Catardi	Parade

## Garden Walk & Unique Boutique Countdown

*Karen and Jean | Garden Walk & Unique Boutique Co-Chairs*

The planning committee is in its final week of preparation for our 2023 Garden Walk and Unique Boutique scheduled for Sunday, June 25th from 10am – 4pm. Thank you to the club members that have already signed-up to volunteer to work at the event and Farmers Market. As we go to press, we still have a few openings for the walk, so please sign up! From the members only page on our website, please review the volunteer openings for our Garden Walk. Remember that members who volunteer for activities related to the Garden Walk will have their admission price waived.

Thank you to everyone on the Garden Club Committee who have done such a wonderful job to put this event together – you are an amazing group. And thanks to the club leaders and to last year's chairs for answering all of our questions!

We have 12 sponsors that have donated \$3,300, so please be sure to thank them in person when patronizing their business. Please visit our website and review the 38 vendors that will be selling their wares at our Unique Boutique. Come enjoy our various community partners, enjoy live music and try some Arlington Club soda from the Museum. The best publicity is you encouraging family, friends and neighbors to attend the Garden Walk. Please post any information the Garden Club has on social media onto your page and pass along the flier for the Garden Walk so we can do a final push on ticket sales. Thank you for all your support in helping to make our events successful!

Karen Reeb (630) 643-3746  
Jean Kengott (847) 738-1654

# Gardening Knowledge

Bev Krams

## EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES for June, July and August

### ARLINGTON HEIGHTS MEMORIAL LIBRARY

#### GARDEN & PRODUCE SWAP

- Sunday, June 25 @ 10am-12pm
- Sunday, July 23 @ 10am-12pm
- Sunday, Aug 27 @ 10am-12pm

Location: Markerplace Building

(Event takes place 4th Sunday of each month)

Arlington Heights Memorial  
**LIBRARY** ▶

#### MUSEUM AND GARDEN PASSES

AHML provides you with passes to Museums and Gardens in our area

[CHECK IT OUT](#)



### MORTON ARBORETUM

#### OF THE EARTH

A new exhibit of large scale sculptures opening May 26

Visit [website](#) for more information



### FERNWOOD Events & Programs

Visit [website](#) for information



### CHICAGO BOTANIC GARDEN

#### EVENTS + CLASSES THIS SUMMER

Visit [website](#) for more information



### CHALET

#### EVENTS + CLASSES THIS SUMMER

[Register](#)





# Gardening Knowledge

Bev Krams

## EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES for June, July and August

### SCHWEIKHER HOUSE TOUR

#### TAKE A TOUR

Take a tour of the Schweikher House, on the National Historic Register in Schaumburg. It will provide you with history, architectural design and a tranquil landscape all hidden off a wooded stretch on Meacham Road in Schaumburg. It is a gem!  
Visit their [website](#) for more information



### BLUMEN GARDENS

UPCOMING EVENTS + WORKSHOPS  
Visit [website](#) for more information



### FOREST PRESERVES OF COOK COUNTY

[River Trails Nature Center](#) | Northbrook  
[Busse Woods](#) | Take a Hike in Ned Brown Preserve  
[Crabtree Nature Center](#) | Barrington



### OLBRICH BOTANICAL GARDENS

Located in Madison, WI  
Free and open daily  
[www.olbrich.org](http://www.olbrich.org)



### ILLINOIS EXTENSION

#### Four Seasons Gardening Webinar Series

June 20 @ 1:30  
[Beyond the Beauty: The Global Impact of Sunflowers](#)  
July 11 @ 1:30  
[More than Shade: Explore Summer Blooming Trees](#)  
August 22 @ 1:30  
[Considerations for Backyard Greenhouses](#)



## Gardening Knowledge

Bev Krams



**Illinois Extension**  
UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS URBANA-CHAMPAIGN

### Gardeners Corner Summer 2023 [View the guide](#)

- Go green with eco-friendly lawn care
- Reduce storm damage by looking for tree defects before bad weather strikes
- Care for perennial gardens with 3 proven pruning methods
- Elevate your expectations with raised bed gardening
- What more from your garden? Plan a fall crop of cucumbers
- How to grow tropical ginger
- Make flowers and memories last forever with drying for design
- Build privacy with plants and secret gardens



*Lance-leaf Coreopsis — Photo by June Miller*



## Scholarship Recipients 2023

In 2023 the Arlington Heights Garden Club awarded three scholarships of \$2,000 each to these students. We received a record number of applications this year for our scholarship program. The scholarship winners plan on attending one of our summer meetings.

### Etienne Sirois

Etienne Sirois is a 2022 graduate of Prospect High School and has completed his freshman year at University of Illinois at Urbana/Champaign. He is majoring in Landscape Architecture and minoring in Museum Studies. He was elected by his peers to be on the Department of Landscape Architecture Curriculum Advisory Board. He was on the Illinois Solar Decathlon team as lead hardscape designer. Etienne was a James Scholar in the College of Fine Arts at UIUC and on the Dean's List. This is Etienne's second year as an Arlington Heights Garden Club scholarship recipient.



### Jennifer Suszek

Jennifer is the recipient of the Wendy Landwehr scholarship, administered by the Arlington Heights Garden Club for Marty Landwehr. She was also the 2022 recipient of this scholarship. She is enrolled at College of DuPage and plans to receive her AAS of Horticulture in 2024. As the mother of two sons, Jennifer is also a volunteer with the Boy Scouts. She is employed as a Landscape Specialist by the Park District of Oak Park. Recently Jennifer received her Illinois Pesticide Applicator license. With help from her sons, Jennifer cares for a plot at the community Serenity Gardens near their home. Jennifer's future goal is to be an arborist.



### Elise Slowinski

Elise Slowinski is a 2023 graduate of John Hersey High School who will be attending Purdue University. She is enrolled in the College of Engineering to study Environmental Engineering. She was a 4-year member of the bands at Hersey and President of the Band her senior year. She was a member of the Scholastic Bowl team and selected to be a member of National Honor Society. She was a member of the Hersey Engineering Club and worked with the Mount Prospect Public Works to transform an empty lot into a garden and walking path. Throughout high school she has worked at Lutheran Home as a Diet Aide. Elise has worked as an assistant to her father, an environmental engineer, in various landscaping and gardening projects since she was young.



## Jim Spannagel Receives VIP Award from GCI

Jim Spannagel has led our Garden Club for the last six years and it was a GREAT 'run'! We sincerely appreciate all his leadership, guidance and patience with us. The Garden Clubs of Illinois also agreed and awarded Jim the **VIP Recognition Award** at the April 2023 Conference. Jim was awarded a special GCI pin which was presented to him by Carol Ohrn, the Vice President of the GCI.

CONGRATULATIONS Jim! This award is well deserved.



Jim Spannagel and Carol Ohrn, VP of GCI

## Recycling Tips

June Miller | Conservation

Here's a summer recycling tip from SWANC.

With this simple action, you can help beat plastic pollution this summer. Eat ice cream in a cone! National Geographic states that single-use plastic items like ice cream spoons count for more than 40 percent of plastic most of which end up in our landfills. Now, you just have to decide if you want your ice cream in a sugar, wafer, or waffle cone!



What to do with all those leftover school supplies? Rescue Them!

Instead of throwing away unwanted school supplies, take a moment to evaluate their use for next year. Keep what you will reuse and consider donating the rest. Doing so diverts waste from the landfill and saves money. If your local school cannot use the supplies, **Greener Good** in Palatine will gladly take them. Contact them for hours and for more information:

Greener Good, 106 S. Northwest Hwy, Palatine (847-250-7185).





## SUMMER WEEDS

Bev Krams

It's SUMMER and it's WEED SEASON! "How do I kill weeds?" A question gardeners have been asking since time began! Just like your favorite plants, weeds are competing for water, light and the nutrients in the soil. If there is an 'open spot', they are going to 'go for it'!

- ◆ So the number one rule in gardening is to **LEAVE NO ROOM FOR WEEDS**. This means you need to plant densely, yet prevent overcrowding which can lead to poor air circulation and subsequently plant disease.
- ◆ **PLANT GROUND COVERS** to keep out weeds.
- ◆ **MULCH, MULCH MULCH** Organic mulch and compost is the best way to help smother the soil by depriving weed seeds of the light they need to germinate, maintain moisture and feed your soil.
- ◆ **SMOTHER DIRT BEDS** by covering the ground with cardboard or thick layers of newspaper (does anyone still have newspaper)? Wet the area. This will deprive weeds of sunlight and the decomposing cardboard and paper is compost to your soil.
- ◆ **KNOW YOUR WEEDS** to be a knowledgeable gardener. Know what you have growing. When they flower you can remove the seed heads rather than dispersing them in the wind. Know how they need to be disposed of. If you are growing invasive garlic mustard weed, those need to be disposed of in the trash and not in the weed compost. Garlic mustard is a biennial and you probably will find it in your yard next season. Be aware of what you are working with.
- ◆ **DO NOT STIR UP THE SOIL** as this will bring the weed seeds to the top of the soil where they will have the much needed light and moisture to start germinating. Did you know Canadian thistle can remain in the soil for up to 20 years. That's not good. If you need to do a lot of digging, plant as soon as possible and mulch to keep the weeds from growing.
- ◆ **USE THE CORRECT TOOL TO REMOVE WEEDS**. Your goal is to remove the entire plant and root. Do you need the dandelion tool, or the trowel or the large shovel to make sure you are reaching the entire root.
- ◆ **VINEGAR AND SOLARIZATION FOR NATURAL WEED CONTROL**. Remember those pollinators out there! Be kind!! Solarization with sheets of plastic works well and vinegar works best on annual weeds.
- ◆ **DON'T GIVE UP!** You control them, don't let them control you! Now get out there and get to WORK!







# AHGC Board Meeting Notes - June 12, 2023

Halina Zbilski | Recording Secretary

## President - Beth Ligenza

- New board members were introduced and welcomed.
- The June general meeting on June 26<sup>th</sup> will be hosted by Mike and Pat Dennehey. The June general meeting will be run by Sharon Rudy in Beth's absence. The July general meeting on July 24<sup>th</sup> will be hosted by Mary Kiepura.

## Treasurer – Sharon Rudy

- Sharon presented the Treasurer's Report. Balance in the checking account as of May is approximately \$5640.
- A new email address to reach Sharon is [gardenclubsharon@gmail.com](mailto:gardenclubsharon@gmail.com)

## Civics – Mike Relaz and Dee Schurman

- Petunias were planted at the Post Office, but with the dry weather about 20% didn't make it. Mike has made various repairs to the hose and has been watering. Others will be stepping in.
- Dee will be setting up and sending out a watering schedule for all the volunteers.
- Thank you to the small group that went to Clearbrook House garden in Mt. Prospect recently.

## Conservation – June Miller

- June is working on setting up a tour of Stevenson High School Horticultural Club gardens in September.

## Garden Walk – Karen Reeb and Jean Kengott

- Dale Sturm needs to fill the Garden Walk volunteer list with many tasks. Free admission is being offered for Garden Walk volunteers who work on Saturday and Sunday. Beth will do an email blast on open positions.

## Hospitality – Cathy Kostel

- Breakfast menu for Unique Boutique vendors is set up.
- Spreadsheet for August picnic is setup and will be posted to website.. A charge for additional guests to the picnic will be determined, and will need to be paid in advance via check to Sharon.
- Musical entertainment in the background will be provided by Cathy's husband who has a PA system.

## Membership – Sheila Coffin and Lew Coffin

- Our count of GCI members is now 116 members at the end of May, 66 single and 25 couples. The member list was submitted to GCI along with payment for membership renewal.
- All members have access to the website member information, but only the membership chair and website chair can edit data. The membership team has an [email address](#) to contact them about corrections and membership inquiries.
- A small committee will be formed to outreach for new members, assist in greeting and connecting with new members and guests at meetings, and obtain member goals and feedback.

## Plant Sale – Bob Bruett

- Thank you to all for making the Plant sale very successful in spite of the notorious jumping worm. Total sales amounted to \$5,390, and members donated approximately 1100 plants. Sales included many miscellaneous items and seed packets. Sharon sold a walking sprinkler online due to its value, and Mary Kiepura took leftover miscellaneous items to Goodwill.

## Programs – Nancy Asquini-Dean

- The list of Programs for the new 2023-2024 year was presented.

## Scholarship – Emma Visee

- Scholarship winners will be present at the June and July general meetings. Emma will provide scholarship names to Rose Marie for website update.

## Website – Rose Marie Lesniak-Mendez

- Rose Marie has set up a new website for all garden club website requests: [gardenclubrosemarie@gmail.com](mailto:gardenclubrosemarie@gmail.com)

## Business/Old Business/Announcement

- The Nancy Asquini-Dean Blood Drive is on July 8<sup>th</sup>. There are 29 slots available, and 5 have signed up so far on the Vitalant website. It is being promoted via newspaper, Garden Club, social media, at Farmers market, and email blast to members. Walk up donors are accepted.

**Next Board Meeting:** Sept 11, 2023