



November – December 2023

### Greetings from Our President

*“Let us be grateful to the people who make us happy; they are the gardeners who make our souls blossom.”*

----Marcel Proust

This season of thanks and giving finds AHGC wrapping up another outstanding year! I’m deeply grateful to everyone who has contributed to the success of the club and all of our civic and educational endeavors.

If you are able to join our holiday tree decorating, a civic project clean up, our monthly meeting or the holiday party, I look forward to seeing you and appreciate your engagement with the club.

If you expressed an interest in a committee recently, you can expect to hear from the committee chair soon to learn more and add your expertise and energy to the many outstanding projects underway.

Best wishes to you all!

*Beth*

### Fall / Winter Meetings

- November 27
- December 11<sup>th</sup> Holiday Party
- January 22
- February 26

### Inside This Issue

- Presidents Message ..... 1
- Name This Native Plant ..... 2
- Monthly Meeting ..... 2
- Flowering Cactus ..... 3
- Fall Cleanup ..... 4
- Holiday Tree Decorating ..... 5
- Daily Herald Article..... 5
- Pumpkin Smash ..... 5
- Book Review ..... 6
- Conservation Corner ..... 7-8
- January Program Information... 9
- Homegrown National Park..... 9
- Champion Pumpkin ..... 10
- Club Donations ..... 10
- Committee Spotlight ..... 11
- Holiday Party ..... 12
- Education ..... 13-14
- U of I Extension Winter ..... 15
- Native Plant ..... 15
- Treasurers Report ..... 16
- Board Meeting Notes ..... 17

## November Program

November 27 @ 7:30 PM, St. Simon's Church

### The New Invasives:

**Jumping Worms, Stink Bugs, Viburnum Leaf Beetles**

Presented by Nanette Kalschuer

Nanette will bring our garden club up-to-date on our newest garden challenges: Jumping Worms, Viburnum Leaf Beetles & Brown Marmorated Stink Bugs. She will provide an explanation of these invasives, their ecological impact and how to prevent their spread. Come and be an INFORMED GARDENER!

Nanette has a Master's Degree in Natural Resources & Environmental Science from the University of Illinois. She is retired from the Department of Agriculture as a Plant & Pesticide Specialist where she conducted diagnostic inspections of commercially grown nursery & greenhouse stock. She continues to share her knowledge of plants, horticultural pests and disease as a guest speaker at conferences, garden clubs and as a course instructor at colleges.



## About Our Monthly Meetings

Our monthly general meetings are held on the fourth Monday of each month, September through May.

During the summer, June and July Meetings are held in Members' Gardens.

### Meeting Agenda (*NOTE: time change below*)

6:30-7 PM Social time

7-7:30 PM Business meeting

7:30 PM Speaker program begins

### Meeting Location

Our meetings are held at [Saint Simon's Episcopal Church](#) in their basement meeting space.

Saint Simon's is located at 717 West Kirchoff Road, Arlington Heights, IL 60005, and is right next to NW Community Hospital. There is ample parking next to the building. Enter the large west side parking lot and proceed to the west side of the building. You will see a sign, "Parish Hall," next to the stairs. Take the stairs down to the basement entrance. For those who are "stair challenged," you will enter at the parking level entrance to the right of the stairs and take an elevator down to the basement. There is a sign outside indicating the West elevator entrance. A club member will be there to assist you with the elevator. Click on [map](#) for directions.

We look forward to seeing you at our next meeting.

### Can You Name This Native Plant?

( Answer can be found on [page 15](#) )



Photo taken by June Miller



# Flowering Cactus

Bev Krams

The holidays are upon us. Do you know where you left your flowering cactus *and* which type of cactus you have?

Do you wonder why your Christmas Cactus is blooming now? Must be a Thanksgiving Cactus! Take a look at the **leaves** on your plant to know what you have growing on your windowsill.

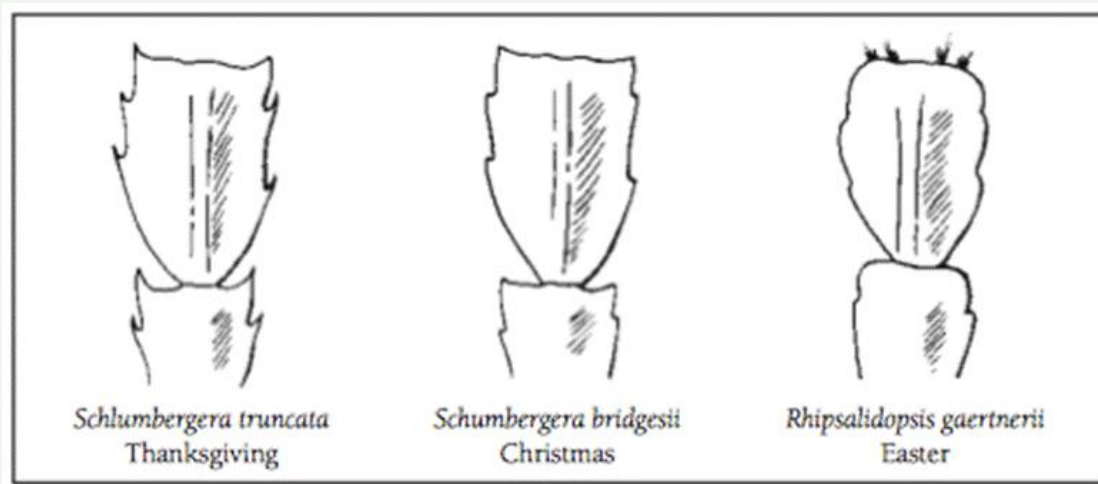
These plants are known as short day plants. In order to get them to bloom they must have 12-24 hours of darkness and they like cool temperatures. I am sure you have brought this plant into the house if you summered your plant outdoors.

Christmas and Thanksgiving plants require 6 weeks of short days to bloom while the Easter plant requires 8-12 weeks of short days.

Once the buds start to set in the cool temperatures the plant can be brought into a warmer room with no drafts, no hot temps, no direct sunlight, and no fertilizing. Take it easy on the watering (dry to 1" below surface). Oh, and these plants like to become root bound!

Do you want your plant to bloom again for Easter? it will not bloom as profusely, but return the plant to its 'short day' cool conditions and try it again.

For more information, visit the Iowa State Extension and Outreach [website](#).





# Fall Cleanup at The American Legion and St. Simon's

## BEFORE



## AFTER





## Holiday Tree Decorating

*Kathy Wolan | Civics*

It is our garden club tradition to decorate the holiday tree at the Village Hall, Arlington Heights Library and Senior Center. Join us to spread the magic of the season by helping the club decorate the holiday trees at the following locations:

### SENIOR CENTER

Tuesday, November 21, 10 AM Theme--Home Tweet Home

### LIBRARY

Saturday, November 25 at 10 AM Theme--Joyful Noise

### Village Hall

Monday, November 27 at 10 AM Theme--Holiday Cookies

It typically takes 1-2 hours to decorate. Many hands will make it faster and festive. Please leave a message for Mike or me and let us know the days you wish to join us. We look forward to hearing from you and sharing the fun.

Email [Kathy Wolan](mailto:Kathy.Wolan@ahgardenclub.com) or text her at 847-302-9957

Email [Mike Relaz](mailto:Mike.Relaz@ahgardenclub.com) or text him at 847-322-8591

## 5.89 Tons of Pumpkin

*Terri Passolt*

The Green Team wants to thank everyone who participated in the Pumpkin Smash hosted by First Presbyterian Church of Arlington Heights.

A total of 5.89 tons of pumpkins will become compost instead of going into a landfill. A special shout out to Our Saviors Lutheran Church who brought all of their unsold pumpkins to the smash.



**Daily Herald**  
Suburban Chicago's Information Source

## Daily Herald Article on Fall Clean Up

In early November, the AHGC was offered an opportunity to provide information for an article on fall clean up for the Daily Herald. It was a last minute, same day request and Pete Landwehr kindly jumped in and met up with the reporter and had a photographer come to his yard for photos.

On November 3, 2023 Pete and Connie woke up to find Pete on the front page of the Daily Herald newspaper!

Here is a link to the article, [How to Put Your Garden to Bed This Year](#). This article reminds all of us on best practices for our flora and fauna.



## PLANT SALE

Saturday, June 1, 2024 (tentative)

## GARDEN WALK

Sunday, June 23, 2024

## Bev's Book Review: The \$64 Tomato

Bev Krams

How much did you spend on your tomato crop this year?

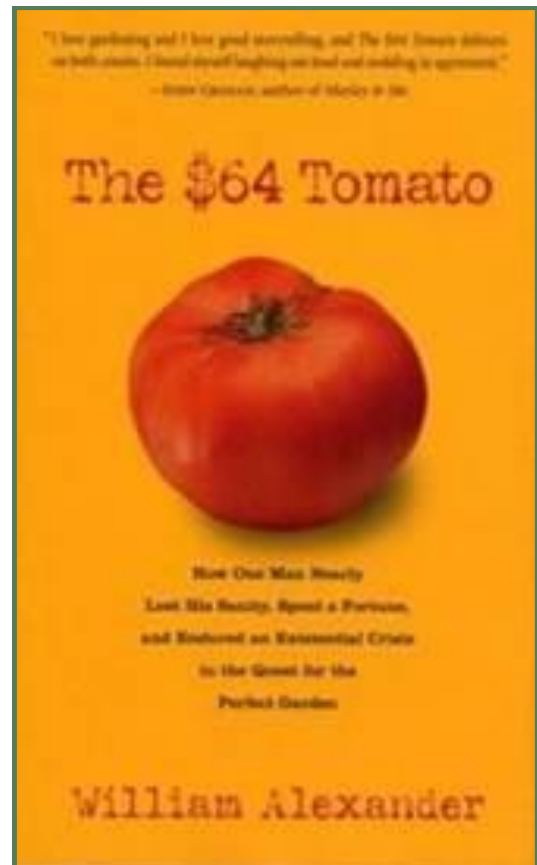
William Alexander has written the book The \$64 Tomato. The author, like all of us, dreamed of having a veggie garden and small orchard in his back yard to provide food for his family. We all know it can lead us to battles with weather, weeds, squirrels, deer and skirmishes with the neighbors!

How many of us have planned their vacation around a harvest? Have you needed to negotiate with a friend to water the garden while you are away.

Well, Bill Alexander provides us with chapters of entertainment as he writes about his gardening experience and the limitations of his own middle-aged-body! Can we all relate to that!

One year he made the decision to do a cost analysis for ONE tomato. From Velcro tomato straps to a live animal trap, he is shocked to learn just ONE of his Brandywine tomatoes was \$64! Read this hilarious accounting of Bill's cost account of his tomato.

As any gardener will tell you, you can't put a price on a HOME GROWN TOMATO!



The author has also written:

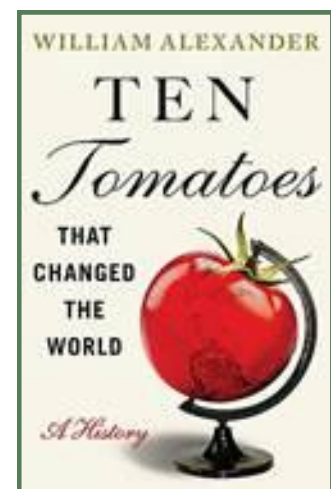
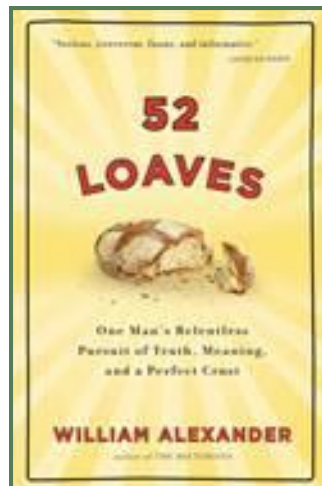
### 10 Tomatoes that Changed the World: A History

(Published June 2022)

### 52 Loaves: One Man's Relentless Pursuit of Truth, Meaning, and a Perfect Crust

(Published May 2010)

The AHML carries all three books.

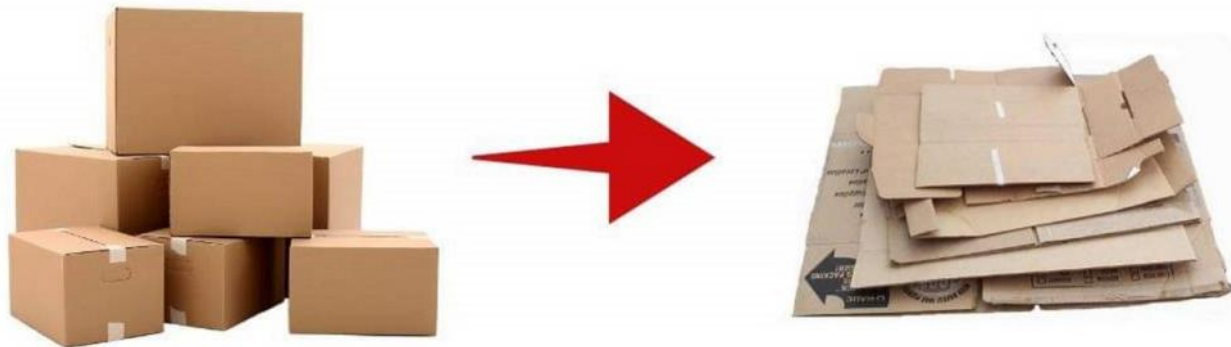


Amaranth

# Conservation Corner

June Miller | Conservation

## Recycling Tip from SWANCC



Many items we purchase in stores or online come in boxes. What is the recommended way to recycle them? Cardboard and paper boxes (such as cereal, granola bar, and pasta boxes) need to be **clean, dry, and flattened**. **Why?**

- Saturated cardboard is difficult to recycle as food and wetness affects the integrity of the material.
- If the box is not flattened, the sorting machine can mistake the shape for something else and sort it incorrectly.
- When not flattened, boxes can take up valuable space.

Tape and labels can be left on the box. Remember to take the time to flatten the boxes and keep them dry by keeping the lid closed on your recycling cart. Thanks for caring!

---

## Arlington Heights Christmas Tree Collection

Christmas trees will be collected on your solid waste collection day from January 2nd through January 12<sup>th</sup>. Landscape stickers are not necessary for Christmas trees. Plastic bags must be removed from them.



Christmas Garlands and wreaths will be disposed of as refuse. No sticker is required.

---

## Holiday Lights Recycling Program



 Solid Waste Agency of  
Northern Cook County  
swancc.org

### Arlington Heights Public Works

222 N Ridge Avenue  
Monday - Friday: 7:30 am to 3:00 pm  
November 13, 2023- February 23, 2024  
(847) 368-5800

### Arlington Heights Health Department

33 S Arlington Heights Road  
Monday - Friday: 8:00 am to 5:00 pm  
November 13, 2023- February 23, 2024  
(847) 368-5760

Special thanks to Elgin Recycling



# Conservation Corner

June Miller | Conservation



## 2024 EMG Seed Expo

This a very popular event so plan to attend early! There will be native plant seeds available.

## Winter Sowing Using Milk Jugs

Be sure to stop by the *Conservation Corner* table at the next Garden Club Meeting (11/27) to learn how to sow seeds this winter using a milk jug!





## January 2024 Program Information

Our January program, "Literary Gardens" presented by Cindy Crosby, will be hosted by the Arlington Heights Memorial Library, who is our partner for this event. You can join the "watch party" at the Library or view the presentation from home via Zoom. Cindy Crosby will be presenting on Zoom. Registration is required. You can register using the links below, or on the Library's website.

- Registration [link](#) to the **in-person watch party**
- Registration [link](#) to the **virtual zoom option**

Cindy Crosby is the author, compiler, or contributor to more than 20 books, none self-published. Recently published is "Chasing Dragonflies: A Natural, Cultural, and Personal History" (Northwestern University Press) with 16 full-color images by Peggy Macnamara, artist-in-residence at the Field Museum of Chicago. Cindy gives natural history programs for The Morton Arboretum, Wild Ones Native Landscape groups, Sierra Club, The Illinois Extension, Illinois Garden Clubs, and other organizations. She also regularly speaks to conservation groups, natural areas conferences, book groups, and gardening clubs. Cindy graduated from University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point in 2014 with her master's degree in natural resources, with a focus on environmental interpretation. She is a Master Gardener and teaches in the Master Naturalist program.

Join master gardener and natural history writer Cindy Crosby for a fun look at gardens in literature and poetry. From Agatha Christie's mystery series, to Brother Cadfael's "Medieval Herb Garden", to Michael Pollan's garden in "Second Nature," to the "Secret Garden" beloved in children's literature, there are so many gardens that helped shape the books we love to read. Discover how gardens and garden imagery figure in the works of Mary Oliver, Henry Mitchell, Barbara Kingsolver, Lewis Carroll, and many more. See your garden with new eyes – and come away with a list of books you can't wait to explore.

## Homegrown National Park

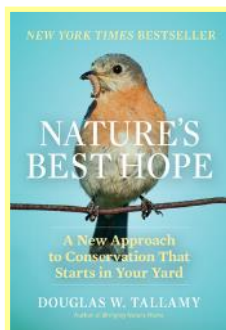
Juli Cicarelli | Horticulture



Every member's lawn can become part of the [Homegrown National Park](#) movement cofounded by Douglas W. Tallamy, a professor in the Department of Entomology and Wildlife at the University of Delaware. One of his research interests is how insects ("the little things that run the world") interact with plants and how such interactions determine the diversity of animal communities.

In his book, Nature's Best Hope, Tallamy quotes biologist E.O. Wilson, Harvard University Research Professor Emeritus, "humans would last only a few months if insects disappeared from the earth." Tallamy cites disturbing statistics about the alarming decline of insects globally. He says nearly all insects are harmless and beneficial. Bees may sting, he writes, but we could not exist without their pollination.

Insects are given as just one example given of the biodiversity needed to support animals, plants, unpolluted air, and clean water. America has our great national system of National Parks, and in Chicago we have our nature preserves. But Tallamy writes conservation confined to parks will not preserve our species in the long run. We need to provide good habitat outside our parks, starting with our lawns.



The book "Nature's Best Hope" gives homeowners "A New Approach to Conservation that Starts in Your Yard." The Homegrown National Park, movement with over 21 thousand followers, is praised as one of the great conservation projects of our time.

Doug's message is a SOLUTION BASED ACTION - *small efforts by many people*. Together we will create new ecological networks that will enlarge populations of plants and animals enabling them to weather normal population fluctuations indefinitely.

We can do this!  
One person at a time \*

\* No experience necessary

--- Doug Tallamy

## 2023 Champion Pumpkin - 2,749 lbs.

On October 10, 2023 Travis Gienger, a 43-year old Horticultural Teacher from Anoka, MN broke the record for the largest pumpkin at 2,749 lbs.!

Travis won \$30,000 for breaking the record, a trophy ring, and \$9 for each pound of pumpkin —for a total of \$24,741.

The seeds from the winning pumpkin can also sell for \$50+ each. It was the 50th year for the contest held in Moon Bay, California. Travis named the pumpkin “Michael Jordan”

Illinois grows the most pumpkins in the USA!



## Financial Update

### Club Donations to Charitable Organizations

*Beth Ligenza | President*

The AHGC is fortunate to have several events that raise funds that allow our club to support its mission of conservation, horticultural enrichment and education. As a result of these events, a portion of the annual budget is designated for donation to charitable organizations with similar missions. The recipients of our discretionary funds this year were determined in a meeting that was open to all members. We had 8 participants from the club assist in deciding where these donations went this year.

The following organizations are receiving our financial support:

- Arlington Heights Historical Society
- Alliance for Great Lakes
- Archeological Conservancy
- Citizens for Conservation
- Garfield Farm Museum
- Greener Good
- International Crane Foundation
- Missouri Botanical Garden
- NW Compass (Community Garden Project)
- Openlands
- Save our Monarchs
- St Simon Church (host of our monthly meetings)
- The Grove Heritage Association
- Tree Fund

Suggestions for future donation recipients are always welcome and can be shared with the club president or treasurer.



## Committee Spotlight

The AHGC has grown rapidly over the last few years to a current membership of 143. Some members have been with the club for decades and many new members have joined over the last year or two. When you join a new club, it takes time to fully understand all the activities of the club and to find opportunities that align with your interests.

We will feature a committee in each newsletter in a new section called Committee Spotlight. Prior to their active season, committee chairs will include information in the Committee Spotlight column to explain what the committee does and to inform membership about upcoming events and volunteer opportunities. In addition, committee chairs will share information at the General Meeting to help members get to know the work of the committees. All these extra communications are geared at helping all members to get the most out of their membership and increase awareness of the many volunteer opportunities.

The AHGC [website](#) is also a great resource for information about the club. Feel free to reach out to us at the email provided below if you have questions about how to get the most out of your membership.

Email: [Sheila and Lew Coffin](#), Membership Co-chairs



### SPOTLIGHT ON THE HOSPITALITY COMMITTEE

The Arlington Heights Garden Club has a wonderful **Hospitality Committee** aimed at the friendly and generous reception of all its members and individuals from the community. The committee coordinates treats/beverages for General Meetings, the Summer Picnic in August, and the Holiday Party in December. Prepackaged breakfasts are also provided and delivered to each of our wonderful vendors participating in the Unique Boutique/Garden Walk in June.

During the annual membership signup, all members are requested to indicate a month where they can provide 2-3 dozen treats for the General Meeting. The committee chair provides the beverages but can use additional assistance preparing for these meetings. We are looking for committee members who would arrive early to the General Meetings, held at St. Simon's Episcopal Church basement, to assist with the set-up of chairs and the removal of the chairs at the end of the meetings. Many committee hands make light work!

Another opportunity to contribute to the warm and welcoming atmosphere of the AHGC occurs during the Summer Picnic and Holiday Party. Committee members help with the set-up and clean-up. The committee recruits 40-50 members via volunteer signup sheets to bring sharing dishes on the day of the event. The Hospitality Committee coordinates the ordering and pickup of the main dishes for both the events. Together the committee plans for each of the table decorations for the picnic and party. We are always in need of members with a creative flare who enjoy creating these decorations.

The Hospitality Committee is always looking for volunteers to work with the committee chair to continue to create a friendly, welcoming club atmosphere and to contribute new ideas. Please contact [Cathy Kostal](#), Hospitality Committee Chair.

## Did You Know?

Whenever you see text in red font underlined in our newsletter, this is a link to direct you to a specific website or email address. Links are elements within the document that allow you jump to another location -- including website, or email address.

This feature gives you immediate access to related information. To open any link simply move your mouse over this text and click on it to open the link.

### Officers

President	Beth Ligenza
Vice President	( open position )
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	Jean Kengott ( co-chair open position )
Horticulture	Juli Cicarelli
Hospitality	Cathy Kostal
Membership	Sheila Coffin Lew Coffin
Newsletter	Mona Frisbie
Plant Sale	Bob Bruett
Programs	Nancy Asquini-Dean ( co-chair open position )
Publicity	Connie Landwehr
Scholarship	Sheila Coffin Emma Visee
Website	Rose Marie Lesniak-Mendez

### Project Coordinators

Lew & Sheila Coffin	Northwest Compass Garden
Claudette Norwell-Philipp	Student Partnership
Brenda Catardi	Parade

## AHGC Holiday Party

*Cathy Kostal | Hospitality*

Our Holiday Party will be held on Monday, December 11th @ 5:30 pm at St. Simon's.

I am looking for volunteers to help with set-up, clean-up and to bring a dish to share. There will be a signup sheet at our November meeting and an electronic signup sheet will be posted on our website.

We have booked the John Hersey High School Charles Dickens Carolers to perform at 7pm. They will perform secular and popular Christmas songs in Dickens costumes.

Agenda for Party will be as follows:

5:30-6:00	Appetizers
6:00-7:00	Dinner
7:00-7:30	Entertainment
7:30-8:30	Dessert and Coffee

I look forward to seeing everyone.



Porter County Master Gardeners Association



**SAVE THE DATE**  
**18th Annual GARDENING SHOW**  
 January 20, 2024 8 a.m. - 4 p.m. CST  
 Porter County Expo Center  
 215 E Division, Valparaiso, Ind.

**Save the Date! Saturday, January 20, 2024, 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. CST (Chicago time).**



# Gardening Knowledge

Bev Krams

## EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

### ARLINGTON HEIGHTS MEMORIAL LIBRARY

#### MUSEUM AND GARDEN PASSES

Your library provides you with passes to Museums and Gardens in our area

[Check it Out](#)



### SPRING VALLEY NATURE BOOK CLUB through HARPER COLLEGE

Join a group of nature enthusiasts for an evening of books

November 30 @ 7-8:30 pm FREE

Click [here](#) to enroll



### ARLINGTON HEIGHTS MEMORIAL LIBRARY

#### LOTUS FLOWER LANTERNS

December 12 @ 2-3:15pm

[Registration](#) required



### CHICAGO BOTANIC GARDEN

#### LIGHTSCAPE

November 10 through January 7

Visit [website](#) for details



### THE MORTON ARBORETUM

#### ILLUMINATION

November 18 through January 6

Explore 50 acres of the Arboretum's majestic trees during this one-of-a-kind spectacle of color, light, and sound.

Visit [website](#) for details



### LURVEY

#### WINTER OUTDOOR CONTAINER & PORCH DÉCOR DEMONSTRATION

December 2 @ 10-11am

Click [here](#) for more information

Free



# Gardening Knowledge

Bev Krams

## CHALET

HOLIDAY EVENTS

Click [here](#) for more information



## UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN

Webinars for Gardeners

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



## NATIONAL GARDENING ASSOCIATION

November Newsletter

Click [here](#) to open



## NATIONAL GARDEN BUREAU

[Register](#) for upcoming programs | Review past programs



## GARDENING KNOW HOW

Articles, Tips and Information

Visit the [website](#) and [featured articles](#)







## Gardeners Corner Winter 2023-24 [Read the current issue](#)

- Bloom in the winter with an amaryllis bulb kit
- Protect your pets: keep paws off overwintering indoor plants
- Cutting back branches for healthier tree outlook
- Low maintenance succulents
- Use weed clues to dig up environmental issues
- Podcast: Last minute gifts for gardeners

## Switchgrass

*(Panicum virgatum)*

*June Miller / Conservation*

**Switchgrass** is a flowering perennial grass native to North America. This is an important prairie grass that is often used in landscaped yards as a border or for soil erosion and is used in pollinator and ornamental gardens as well. There are many cultivars that have more blue or burgundy foliage. Switchgrass is most attractive late summer to fall, with purple cloud-like, airy seed heads with tiny attractive flowers and dried golden foliage in fall. During the winter, switchgrass has the ability to remain upright and creates a valuable habitat, providing food and shelter for birds and other wildlife. Also, planting switchgrass is becoming more popular recently because the plant can sequester carbon dioxide from the atmosphere and contribute to prevent furthering global warming. Switchgrass is easy to grow, low maintenance, drought tolerant, and deer resistant.



Switchgrass in Autumn



Switchgrass flowers and seeds  
Courtesy of Wisconsin Horticulture

Growth	3-6'
Sun Exposure	Full sun
Hardiness	Zones 4-9
Soil	Dry to moist clay, loam or sandy soil
Invasive	A self seeder so it should be used with caution in very small landscapes. However, it spreads slowly and can be controlled with heavy mulch.

# Treasurer's Report

Sharon Rudy | Treasurer

## Arlington Heights Garden Club Treasurer's Report October 2023

			Checking	Savings	
<b>Account Balance 9/30/23</b>		<u>Stmt Date</u>	\$ 1,604.62	\$ 13,033.57	
<b>Receipts:</b>					
Transfer in from old checking		10/10/2023	1,012.28		
Interest Income				43.49	
less: Credit Card Fees			-		
Total receipts			1,012.28	43.49	
<b>Disbursements (cleared):</b>	<b>Check #</b>	<b>Ck Date</b>			
Jim Spannagel - water wand	1	9/11/23	13.99		Civics
Sieg Marketing - AHGC Shirts	1001	10/9/2023	569.48		Gen & admin
J Spannagel - zoom & Clearbrook bulbs	1002	10/9/2023	171.88		Gen & admin 149.90 civics 21.98
United States Liab Ins D&O 1 year	1003	10/17/2023	525.00		Gen & Admin
Total Disbursements			1,280.35	-	
<b>Checking Account Balance 10/31/23</b>	<b>Per Bank</b>		<b>\$ 1,336.55</b>	<b>\$ 13,077.06</b>	
<b>Receipts to be deposited</b>					
Total undeposited receipts			\$ -	\$ -	
<b>cleared</b>	<b>Check #</b>	<b>Ck Date</b>			
Ken Benson - Japanese Gardens	1004	10/23/2023	200.00		Speaker fee
GCI (overpaid by \$6... credit on account at GCI)	1019	10/24/2023	12.00		Schroeder & Callahan
Total outstanding checks and invoices			\$ 212.00	\$ 13,077.06	
<b>ADJUSTED CASH POSITION NFP</b>	10/31/2023		\$ 1,124.55	\$ 13,077.06	
<b>ADJUSTED CASH POSITION Old acct</b>	10/31/2023			\$ (17.88)	Kate Doane outstanding check
Total Adjusted Cash at	10/31/2023			<b>\$ 14,183.73</b>	

# AHGC Board Meeting Notes - November 13, 2023

Halina Zbilski | Recording Secretary

## President - Beth Ligenza

- 14 Discretionary Donations were issued on Nov 1st, and thank you letters are coming in. 10 members met at the Discretionary Donation meeting on Oct 17th. Because we are now a NFP club, any donations must be made to 501(c3) organizations, and they must also be aligned to our mission based on our bylaws. Discretionary Donation recipients will be published in the newsletter. Connie will add the thank-you letters to a poster for viewing.
- Any committee needing volunteers to signup at any general meeting should let Beth know in advance, so Beth can prepare the signup sheets. "Volunteer Signup" will continue to be done at general meetings in a specific location, and on the website. Beth will transfer the printed signups to the website.
- Standardized email addresses for board positions were added to the website. They are located in the "About Us" section.
- Lew and Sheila have set up a spreadsheet which lists volunteers per committee, indicating volunteer new member status. Long standing members who are on any committees should contact membership to add them if their name is missing on this list.

## Treasurer - Sharon Rudy

- Sharon presented the Treasurer's Report, which was approved.

## Artistic - Gail Abbott

- Email sent to members to contact Kathy Wolan or Mike Relaz to choose which day they would be present for Holiday tree decorating. 3 sites are the Senior center on the 21st, the Library on the 25th, and the Village Hall on the 27th. All dates will take place at 10 am.
- The Holiday Container Workshop is full to capacity with 40 members attending, with two-thirds of attendees paid so far. It will be held at the Historical Museum on Nov 28th at 6:30 pm.

## Civics - Mike Relaz and Dee Schurman

- Jim and Mike cleaned up at the Post Office on Oct 13th. The Post Office hires to have their lawn cut, and a postal worker trims the bushes, but we are encouraged to pick up any debris on the premises if we ever visit the post office. Dee will reach out to volunteers to help with fall clean up one afternoon this week at the Viatorian garden, and Jim will reach out to volunteers to help clean up at Clearbrook one day this week, and thankfully the weather is agreeing.

## Conservation - June Miller

- June asked board members to bring gallon-sized milk jugs to the November general meeting, and any native seeds we may have in order to educate us on winter seed sowing. She will supply the soil and instructions on how it is done. This is open to any member who wishes to take one home.

## Garden Walk - Jean Kengott

- Garden Walk date is June 23rd and has been approved.
- Actively collecting new vendors for our Garden Walk Unique Boutique.
- We are still seeking a Garden Walk co-chair to assist Jean.

## Hospitality - Cathy Kostal

- Cathy obtained a group from Hersey High School to provide entertainment at the Holiday party. They will perform for 1 hour at 7 pm. The same caterer as last year has been booked. St. Simons approved Dec 11th as the date of the Holiday party.
- Signup sheet will be available at the November meeting for those who will be attending the party. The last date to sign up is Dec 3rd.

## Membership - Sheila Coffin and Lew Coffin

- Our count of GCI members is now 143 members.
- A brainstorming session took place with a small group of club members to discuss ideas on what the membership committee can do to support the club. They came up with 4 actions plans. 1) Develop member surveys, one for 1st year members, and one for remaining members to discover members' expectations, interests, and favorite activities. 2) Find out areas of expertise of committee chairs and future chairs. Add these skill areas to committee job descriptions, examples of which include accounting background, fund raising, carpentry, office skillset, etc. 3) Highlight a committee each month in the newsletter, and/or a general meeting speech on their committee activity to coincide with activities that month. 4) Organize a social event, such as a coffee get together, for new members to meet each other and share information about club activities from committee chairs.

## Plant Sale - Bob Bruett

- Beth thanked Bob, Pete, Mike, Jim and Bev for all their work in checking for the Asian jumping worm. Bob said it is difficult to identify the worm, but suggested the November meeting program to shed more light about the Asian jumping worm.
- Plant sale is tentatively scheduled for June 1st. Bob will obtain the date approval from the Historical Society this week

## Programs - Nancy Asquini-Dean

- Thank you to Ken Benson presenting the October program "Japanese Gardens". The Nov 27th program is "The New Invasives: Jumping Worms, etc." by Nanette Kalscheur.
- The January program "Literary Gardens" is a public program to be registered via the library. 250 people can attend in person, and 1000 additional people can attend via Zoom. No hospitality will be provided at the January meeting, but there may be a short business meeting. The March library program "Lady Bird Johnson" is live to the public with 250 people max. Registration starts Feb 1st with Garden Club members receiving precedence.

## Publicity - Connie Landwehr

- Daily Herald is now sorting their event calendar by date, so the AHGC meeting information is no longer first on the list, since our meetings are at the end of the month. Connie will advertise the January library program on the GCI website Facebook page since zoom attendance can accommodate 1000 people.

## Business/Old Business/Announcement

- We are still waiting for IDOT approval on the Blue Star Memorial marker.
- Rose Marie is donating a 50 foot garden hose which will be used and stored in the Post Office storage box.

Next Board Meeting: January 8, 2024